

SOLDIER

FEBRUARY 19, 1990

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Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland. Photograph: Photogenic.

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FEBRUARY 19, 1990

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

It'll pay to stay!

BONUSES and incentives to encourage experienced people to stay in the Army were announced on February 1 along with an overall average pay rise for the Armed Services of almost 9.5 per cent.

In these and all other aspects, the Government accepted in full the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. But in line with current wage policy the rises will be in two stages – 7 per cent from April 1 and further increases of between 1.7 and 2.5 per cent next January.

In general the higher rates have been awarded to the lower ranks. The range is from 9.1 to 10.1 per cent for trained soldiers and from 9 to 9.2 per cent for officers.

Retention incentives for Army officers and committal bonuses for soldiers have been agreed with effect from January 1, 1991. Officers will receive £6,500 at the six- and nine-year reckonable service points, subject to promotion to captain and major respectively. The payments will be linked to a three-year time bar.

From January 1, 1991 soldiers will be recruited on an open engagement. All soldiers will be eligible for bonuses of £2,000 at the five- and eight-year points, subject to commitment to serve for at least a further year.

Other points:

● The X factor will rise by 0.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent for men and 9.5 per cent for women. There will be no change for the TA.

● Food charges will rise in line with pay, except for single soldiers, for whom there will be no increase.

Retention bonuses:

- **Officers – £6,500**
- **Soldiers – £2,000**

● The rates charge for accommodation in England and Wales will end from April 1 on the introduction of the community charge.

● Rules for flying pay have been revised for senior ranks. The under-training rate has been abolished.

● Overseas daily allowances will rise from £2.95 to £3.20 for Falklands and Northern Ireland duty.

● A pay-as-you-dine system will be studied, to replace weekly flat-rate food charges.

● See new rates in Page 5.

FRONT COVER: Sgt Jim Grey of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, in action during the Infantry Alpine giant slalom championships at Tignes in France. Jim, who is based at Caterham Barracks, Surrey, finished fifth. Full story in the sport pages.

Picture: David Roman

Little 'b's' who won the war

READING in **SOLDIER** (January 1 issue) of Fd Marshal Slim's leaning towards the Gurkhas took me back to 1945.

Just after the capitulation of the Japanese the situation was rather dodgy as we didn't know what the enemy might do to us (they were still armed and

remained so until the Allies finally took over).

We were in a POW camp in Saigon and, to our surprise, a jeep came through the gates one day with Bill Slim and three Gurkhas on board.

We gathered around the vehicle and he told us how the

Japanese had been thrashed in Burma.

On finishing his speech he tapped his Gurkha driver on the head and said: "These little buggers beat 'em." — **H J Hall, ex-9 Bn Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, 17 Broughton Drive, Wollaton Park, Notts.**

Alive and kicking

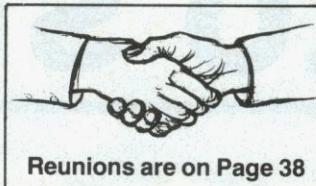
IN REPLY to the letter from Charlie Gay (**SOLDIER**, Jan 22), I hate to correct an old soldier but the rank of trumpet major is very much alive and kicking in all cavalry bands.

Regarding the actual rank held, this may differ from band to band as it is an honorary appointment and may vary from sergeant to WO2 depending on band policy and who is best suited to the job.

As an ex-trumpet major myself I can tell you he stills controls the day-to-day running of the regimental trumpeters who are all members of the band, unlike in years gone by. His responsibility includes daily practice and arranging the duty trumpeter roster.

As for the RA and RCT, they also have trumpet majors at their Junior Leader establishments. — **AH Carcary, Sgt (ex-trumpet major), Regimental Band Scots DG, Lumsden Barracks, BFPO 38.**

MAY I add to the reasons for drum majors being classed as warrant officers (no matter



Reunions are on Page 38

what their actual rank may be)?

From the safety of retirement I can put forward the view that the lead is normally set by the Guards, and drum majors of the Household Division are normally, by Royal Warrant, drummers to the Royal

Household.

As such they invariably enjoy the status and position of other warrant officers sporting crowns on their sleeves.

I was Drum Major of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards until late 1960, and my own Royal Warrant (signed by the Earl of Scarborough) was issued in May 1958.

I would be happy to hear from any old comrades who read this. — **Rodney (Spot) Baker, 8 Church Lane, Gomersal, W Yorks.**

McGrigor viewpoint

ON a trip to Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot I asked some medics (strange to see them in camouflage uniforms) if they were actually stationed there. No luck, I'm afraid.

Can you confirm that the barracks opposite the hospital was McGrigor Barracks where we medics were stationed. I noticed the old dining room

still in existence. I remember standing on the parade ground to watch the 1,000 bomber raid 'planes passing overhead, and I often wonder what happened to my old mates when they scattered to units all over Europe and the Far East. — **H Skeggs, 15A Seven Acres, Wickford, Essex.**

● You are right, Mr Skeggs. The barracks opposite the hospital was McGrigor Barracks. It is now the site of Buller Barracks, home of the Royal Corps of Transport. — Editor.

Troops only

YOU may already have been told that the Empire Fowey was purely a troopship and to my knowledge had no tanks on board ("Churchill tank discovered," **SOLDIER**, Nov 27).

I was on board with C Squadron, 7 RTR, and believe there were separate ships carrying the equipment. — **A E Leggatt, ex-8th Hussar, 32 Park Terrace East, Horsham, W Sussex RH13 5DN.**

SSAFA needs you . . .

ONE naturally assumes that readers of **SOLDIER** would be concerned about the welfare of serving and ex-Service men and women and their families.

If you would like to help, SSAFA — the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association — would like to hear from you. SSAFA has integrated its national network of voluntary helpers with volunteers from the Forces Help Society and is seeking volunteers.

Of the ten million UK residents eligible, as ex-Service people, to call on us, about 50,000 people a year currently do so, and this figure is expected to double over the next 20 years.

As well as volunteers of any age we would like to hear from anyone who may qualify for help. — **Mrs Ann Needle, 16-18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP (tel 01-222 9221 ext 223).**

Jankers search

"JANKERS" was a slang name used in the British Army to describe defaulters or confined to barracks. It was in general use as far back as 1880. Some veterans of the Second World War say that the name was unknown in the units with which they served, so perhaps it was not so ubiquitous as first thought.

It would be greatly appreciated if any reader of **SOLDIER** who knows the origin of the name, or a reasonable explanation, would write to me. Any letters received will be published in *Paraphernalia*, the magazine of the British Airborne Forces Association of Canada, who originated the question.

It would also be of interest to know what form punishment takes in the present day British Army. — **Terry Lawton, Editor *Paraphernalia*, 434 Marybay Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4C 2X4.**

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The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, meets men of the 1st Battalion during her visit to Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry

New pay rates

CURRENT salaries and those which will apply from January 1 1991 are compared in the following table:

	Current	New		4 years	29,525	32,237		2 years	17,060	18,630
Field Marshal	89,500	95,750		6 years	30,262	33,043		3 years	17,498	19,108
General	72,000	77,000		8 years	30,999	33,850		4 years	17,936	19,586
Lt General	50,400	55,300						5 years	18,374	20,064
Major General	43,100	47,300						6 years	18,812	20,542
Brigadier	38,748	42,358		2 years	21,411	23,378		Lieutenant	12,713	13,885
Colonel	32,346	35,255		3 years	21,915	23,929		After 1 year	13,049	14,250
After 2 years	33,197	36,182		4 years	22,418	24,481		2 years	13,385	14,615
4 years	34,047	37,110		5 years	22,922	25,032		3 years	13,720	14,980
6 years	34,898	38,037		6 years	23,426	25,583		4 years	14,056	15,345
8 years	35,748	38,964		7 years	23,929	26,134				
				8 years	24,433	26,685		Second Lieutenant	9,662	10,549
Lieut Col	28,050	30,624		Captain	16,184	17,673		Officer Cadet	6,782	7,406
After 2 years	28,788	31,430		After 1 year	16,622	18,151				

Other ranks

Scale B (men committed to 6 years' or more but less than 9 years' service)

	Band 4		Band 5		Band 6		Band 7	
	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New
WO 1	14,337	15,655	15,512	16,940	16,801	18,345	18,192	19,863
WO 2	13,450	14,688	14,626	15,972	15,914	17,378	17,305	18,896
Staff Sgt	12,585	13,742	13,760	15,027	15,049	16,432	16,440	17,951
Sergeant	11,906	13,001	13,082	14,286	14,370	15,691	—	—

Scale B (men committed to 6 years' or more but less than 9 years' service)

	Band 1		Band 2		Band 3	
	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New
Cpl I	10,903	11,932	11,990	13,122	13,169	14,414
Cpl II	10,162	11,122	11,249	12,311	12,428	13,604
L/Cpl I	9,446	10,362	10,534	11,552	11,713	12,844
L/Cpl II	8,778	9,629	9,866	10,819	11,045	12,111
L/Cpl III	8,136	8,946	9,224	10,136	10,402	11,428
Pte I	8,136	8,946	9,224	10,136	10,402	11,428
Pte II	7,504	8,253	8,592	9,443	9,771	10,735
Pte III	6,716	7,384	7,804	8,574	8,983	9,866
Pte IV	6,063	6,665	—	—	—	—

Scale A (men committed to less than 6 years' service) – deduct £109.50 a year from the above rates.

Scale C (men committed to, or who have completed, more than 9 years' service) – add £164.25 a year to the above rates.

A full round-up of the new pay and allowances will be contained in the next issue.

Princess calls on Tigers

THE Princess of Wales braved storm-force winds and blizzards to visit officers and men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry. Because of the bad weather air movement was prohibited, so the Princess was driven by car to the city.

Wearing designer tailored Army combat clothing, with the epaulettes of a full colonel, she rode "top cover" in a patrol Land Rover within sight of the fiercely republican Creggan and Bogside estates.

With Princess Diana in the vehicle was Cpl Robert Burt who had served as her stick orderly during her last visit to the battalion at Tidworth, Hants. He was also presented to the Princess in Berlin.

She was met at Ebrington by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Paul Davis, and the Colonel of the Regiment, Brig Bob Long.

Two miniature Army jumpers, name-tagged for Prince William and Prince Harry, and two small helmets as worn by soldiers on patrol in Northern Ireland, were given to the Princess for her children.

Emergency cover spreads

MILITARY ambulances have deployed to three more areas – West Sussex, Berkshire and Warwickshire – bringing the total to 16 in the 20-week-old dispute.

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Sol/Fin/08

Army to the rescue as gales lash Britain

SOLDIERS up and down Britain helped the emergency services cope in the immediate aftermath of the high winds which struck the country at the end of January.

Typical of the assistance given by the Army was that involving members of 76 (Maude's) Battery, 14 Field Regiment RA based at Larkhill, near Salisbury, Wilts.

They were out all night after the gales,

helping electricity board engineers to reconnect power sources. The gunners cleared fallen trees from roads all over the area as SEB teams struggled to return electricity to half the homes in Wiltshire.

Others involved in the big clean-up operation in the South included 70 men from Tidworth Garrison who worked with Salisbury and Swindon Fire Brigades to

clear roads, and 40 men from 9/12 Lancers who used Land Rovers and heavy recovery vehicles to clear fallen trees in East Anglia.

Students from the Army Apprentices College Chepstow helped to clear fallen trees and in London 30 people made homeless spent a night at Hounslow Cavalry Barracks. Army mobile generators were used to assist S W Water and Colchester Zoo.

Namibia signals group praised

A PARTY of 43 signallers returned from Namibia at the end of January and were warmly congratulated by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton for the part they played in the smooth transition of the African country to independence.

The soldiers, from 30 Signal Regiment based at Blandford, Dorset, had been in Namibia since August last year. Working as part of the United Nations force sent to the country in advance of independence, they provided radio communications linking UN units throughout a country the size of Western Europe.

The first British troops from 30 Sig Regt flew to Namibia in March last year and were soon involved in crisis when there were confrontations between Swapo forces and South African units.

The British contingent manned assembly points on the border with Angola, so helping to prevent the UN initiative from foundering.

Later the Blandford signallers provided crucial communications during Namibia's first free elections. Thanks to their efforts the results of an election that had a 97 per cent turnout were transmitted to UN headquarters within two days - a remarkable achievement for a country with only basic communication facilities.

The bulk of the British contingent has now returned to the UK. A small element, including the Commander, Lt Col Andy Whiddett, will remain in Namibia in an advisory capacity until the UN presence ends in April.

In his welcoming message, Mr Hamilton said: "The part played by the British Servicemen has been outstanding. I congratulate and thank them all for their achievements for Britain and the United Nations."



Custodianship of the Keys of Portsmouth pass from the Royal Corps of Transport to the Corps of Royal Engineers. From left are

Lt Col Roger Mundy, Lord Mayor Cllr Miss Gladys Howard, Col Guy Yeoman (Commander of Solent Station) and Lt Col John Davies

Sappers in key role

THE Keys of the Ancient Fortress of Portsmouth are to continue to be held by the Army, which has been their guardian for hundreds of years.

There was some speculation as to where the keys would go after 20 Maritime Regiment RCT, which had been the nearest Army unit at Gosport, was moved to Marchwood Military Port, Southampton.

The keys have always been in the possession of soldiers traditionally responsible for manning the fortifications and guarding the fleet at anchor.

In the event they were taken over by Lt Col Roger Mundy, CO of the Royal Engineers Diving Establishment at Gunwharf. The CO of 20 Maritime Regiment, Lt Col John Davies, attended a ceremony in the Lord Mayor's parlour at Portsmouth to pass on the keys.

The keys are normally held in the safe-keeping of the city on the understanding that should the Queen visit Portsmouth they are returned to the senior Army commander for presentation to her. They are produced on other traditional occasions.

Scottish gunners mark Accession

A 21-gun salute was fired at noon on February 6 from Edinburgh Castle to mark the 38th anniversary of the Accession to the Throne by the Queen.

The salute was fired from the Fore Wall

Battery by 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers). Inspecting officer before the gun salute was Col Kim Ross, Chief of Staff at Army Headquarters Scotland.

Financial Service to the Services

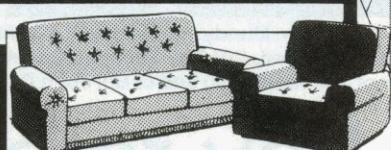


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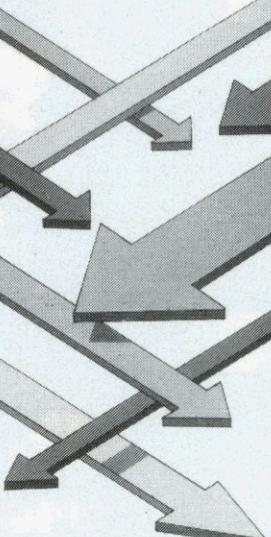


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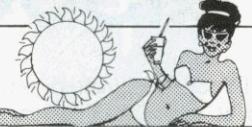


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Escape to Galloway for 3 Queens' junior NCOs

THE members of a junior NCOs cadre run by the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, at present serving in Northern Ireland, crossed to Scotland by minesweeper for a final exercise. They marched 26

kilometres to practise their skills – including living off the land and escape and evasion techniques – in the forests of Galloway.

Students on the cadre pass-off parade of 23 Engineer Regiment, stationed at

Osnabrück, arrived by 432, deployed and attacked a gun position under cover of smoke. Later the "Close Support Sappers" marched past to the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers.

HOTELMPIA 1990

Cooks in golden form at top event

ARMY cooks left their competitors with few crumbs of comfort at the British open cookery championship – Le Salon Culinaire International de Londres – at Britain's largest hotel and catering exhibition, Hotelympia 1990.

They won ten gold, ten silver and seven bronze medals as well as 19 certificates of commendation and two special awards.

Sgt Roy Patterson and civilian instructor Mr Brian Jones of the Army School of Catering won the Table D'Honneur award, with Mr Jones also earning the Arthur Hope Trophy for best exhibit on the table of honour.

AT Tony Sargison of the Army Catering College produced the best exhibit for the junior salon display.

Outstanding performance in the competition was that of SSgt Mike Hunt and Mr Paul Rowland of the Army school of Catering who took top honours in the Master Chefs Grand Prix, while WPTe Fran Moody (PC Depot RE) won the Madame Prunier Trophy. She paired up with Cpl Andrew Clements to gain a silver medal in the Inter-Service cook-and-serve competition.

The prestigious contest attracted entries from chefs, cooks and students world-wide.

ACE force warms up

LIKE much of Europe, Exercise Hardfall in Norway has been experiencing unseasonably warm temperatures.

It was shuffle order on camp, where walking conditions became treacherous after the snow repeatedly melted and froze, forming sheets of ice.

Soldiers, training to survive and work in temperatures that could drop to minus 30 degrees or more, found themselves almost basking in temperatures sometimes hovering around freezing. But it did not affect the objective of the exercise, which is a rehearsal



Little and large are the trophies won by SSgt Mike Hunt (left) and Mr Paul Rowland at Hotelympia. The duo cooked their way to victory in the Master Chefs Grand Prix

Good shepherds

MEN of 1/9 UDR using an assault boat supplied by 33 Field Squadron rescued 17 sheep and newly-born lambs marooned on a hillock when the Six Mile Water river burst its banks in County Antrim. It took them three and half hours to ferry the animals across swirling waters 4ft deep and 400 yards wide.

Regiment gets its own back

IT was a case of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment getting its own back when two members of the 4th Battalion won the Territorial Army's national general purpose machine gun sustained fire competition. The trophy was presented by the regiment in 1984. Previous winners were the 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The 4 Kings Own Border team consisted of two part-time soldiers from West Cumbria, Cpl Ray Bulman and LCpl John Fisher.

A team from 4 Kings Own Border was placed third overall in Defender 89, the 18th International Military Competition held at Leopoldsburg, Belgium.

They shared the position of joint first British team with a squad from RAF Marham and completed a circuit of 25 kilometres in freezing conditions – "we were told it had registered -11 degrees" – in eight hours.

for the role of the units of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) deployed to the flanks of Nato.

The UK units taking part are D Sqn 13/18 H, 94 Loc Regt RA, 5 (Gibraltar) Bty RA, 148 Cdo Bty, 249 Sig Sqn (AMF (L)), 2 RRF, Indep Fd Tp AMF (L) RE, 2 Flt AAC, Log Sp Bn, 42 Sqn RCT, AMF (L) Coy RAOC, AMF (L) Wksp REME, 50 Mov Control Sqn RCT, Det 16 Fd Amb, 263 (A) FCO RAPC, 21 Postal and Courier Sqn RE, HQ RMP UKLF and 84 Int and Sy Sect.



Picture of happiness

This was obviously one of those occasions when you could please all the people ... Sheffield artist **Pauline Shearstone** (centre) was chuffed to bits with the response to her painting of the 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers receiving new Colours from the Duchess of Kent. And Col **Anthony Gaynor** (left), Colonel of the Regiment, and Lt Col **Tim Isles**, the commanding officer, were delighted with the finished work, which had been commissioned by the battalion.

Boys in Berlin

The Mayor of Wakefield, Cllr **Frank Ward**, and Mrs Ward have a son in the 8th (Yorkshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) based in Wakefield, and a son serving in Berlin with A Company, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry. So proud Mum

and Dad, plus TA son **Neil**, hopped over to Berlin to visit Regular soldier son **Lee** as guests of 1 LI.

They met officers and men of the battalion, visited the Berlin Wall, travelled into East Berlin and watched the battalion training.



BERLIN REUNION: From left are Pte Lee Ward, Dad, Mum and brother Neil



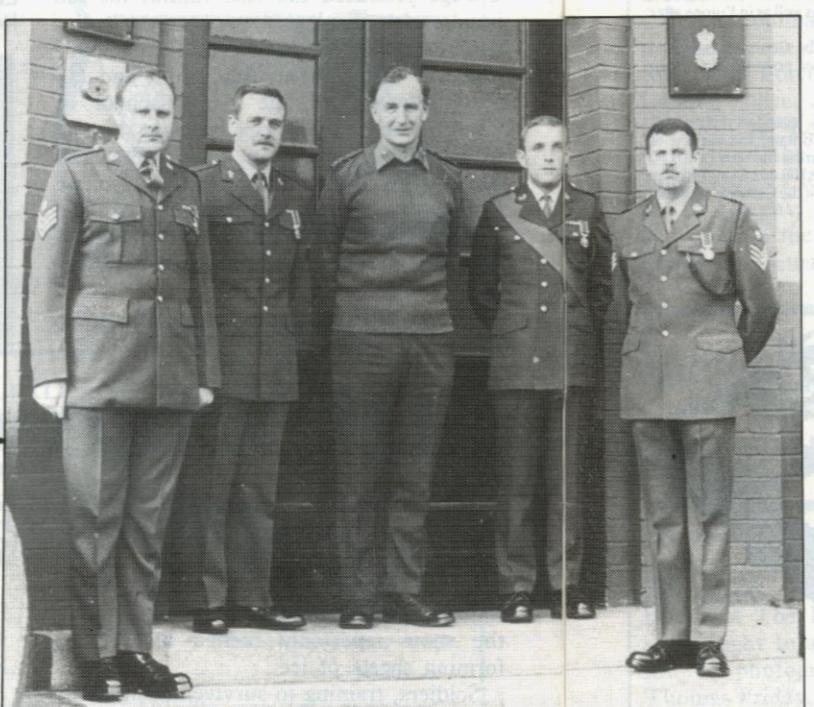
Field Marshal Lord Bramall (right) presents a Territorial Army certificate to WH Smith's Director of Staff and Training, Hank Bowen. WH Smith has pledged its support for the TA by encouraging members of staff to join.

1 QLI on the move

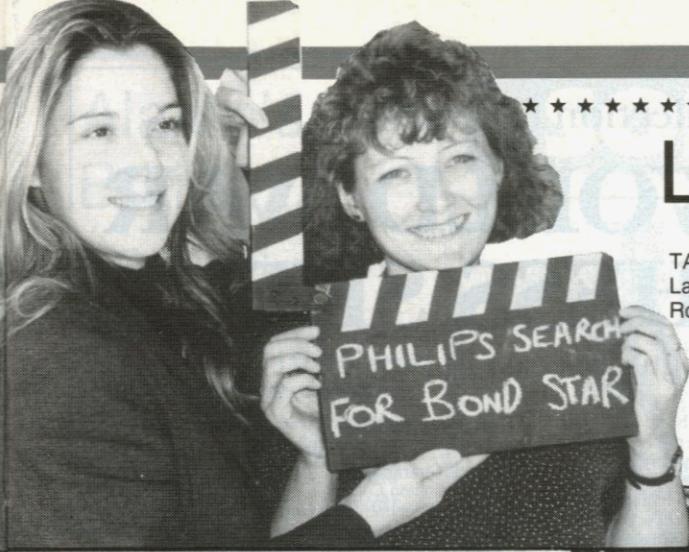
Four long-serving members of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment received LS and GC medals when **Brig Gary Barnett**, Commandant of the School of Infantry, Wimborne, visited 1 QLR at Paderborn, West Germany. The medal men were WO2 **Tom Sturdy**, WO2 **Dave Mitchell**,

CSgt **Dave Quinton** and CSgt **Dave Pennington**.

The battalion is due to return to Wootton Barracks in Lancashire in a straight swap with the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, which moves to Paderborn to take over 1 QLR's role in 33 Armoured Brigade.



MEDAL PARADE: From left are CSgt Dave Quinton, WO2 Barnett, WO2 Tom Sturdy and CSgt Dave Pennington



Linda's a Bond girl

TA corporal **Linda Outterside**, a Lancashire lass who serves with the Royal Army Pay Corps in Winchester, has been chosen to appear in the next James Bond film.

Lucky Linda beat 2,000 other would-be Bond girls in a competition run by Philips, the electronics

people. She was picked out from ten finalists by 007 associate producer **Barbara Broccoli** after a special screen test at the Savoy Hotel, London. Linda, who will join actor **Timothy Dalton** at an overseas location, was singled out for her "personality, Bond film knowledge and ability to handle weapons."

PEOPLE

The last patrol

British Frontier Service officer **Tom Jones** has completed his final patrol on the Inner German Border at Helmstedt.

After 47 years in the British Army and Civil Service he has retired to become a Chelsea Pensioner.

Tom joined the Royal Artillery in 1943, took part in the D-Day landings and, apart from three years in Hong Kong after transferring to the Royal Military Police, has been in Germany ever since. He joined the British Frontier Service in 1960. On his retirement Tom was made

an honorary life member of the Army Air Corps in recognition of the 1,600 hours he is reckoned to have flown with the corps. He received the MBE in the New Year Honours List.



Aintree sings in spotlight

Maj Gen **Bob Cook**, Signal Officer-in-Chief, signs the visitors' book at 55 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) headquarters at Aintree, Liverpool. Watching is Maj **Andy Bowering**, the officer commanding. Gen Cook was one of three VIPs to visit the squadron within a few weeks. The red carpet was also rolled out for Brig **Conrad Garton**, Merseyside Garrison Commander, and Gen Sir **Charles Huxtable**, Commander-in-Chief UKLF.

Brig Garton presented the Territorial Decoration Second Clasp to Capt **Chris Dennis**, and efficiency medals to Lt **Rob Davies**, SSgt **Jimmy Webb**, Sgt **John Campbell**, Cpl **Don Titherington** and Cpl **Phil Farley**.



Dave Mitchell, Brig of 1 QLR

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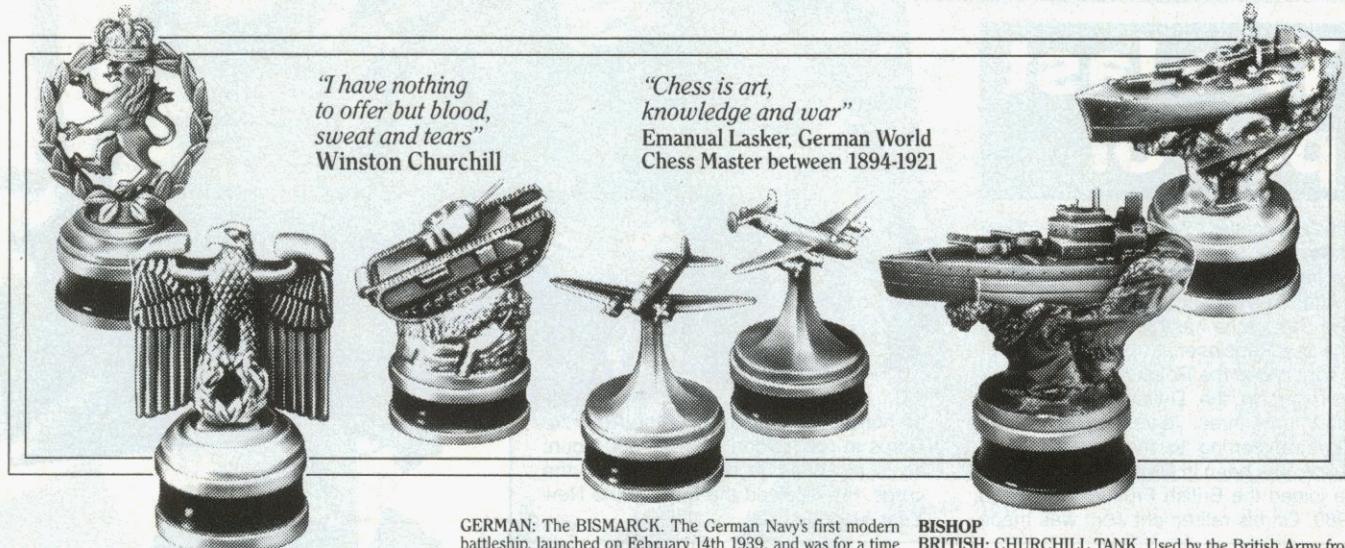
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GERMAN: THE GERMAN EAGLE. Ancient symbol of the Holy Roman Empire which remains the national symbol of Germany today.

QUEEN

BRITISH: H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. On December 11th 1940, this great British battleship joined the successful hunt for the Bismarck, and was deeply involved in the Bismarck's sinking.

GERMAN: The BISMARCK. The German Navy's first modern battleship, launched on February 14th 1939, and was for a time undoubtedly the world's most feared vessel.

CASTLE

BRITISH: ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN. Installed around London and along our coastline to repel air attacks.

GERMAN: ACK-ACK GUN. Developed by the famous Krupps armament factory and feared by pilots on all fronts.

KNIGHT

BRITISH: HALIFAX BOMBER. Produced by Handley Page from 1940 onwards, it was a mainstay of Bomber Command in air-strikes on Germany.

GERMAN: HEINKEL BOMBER. The He III, built in 1939, caused much damage in Poland and France in the early war years.

BISHOP

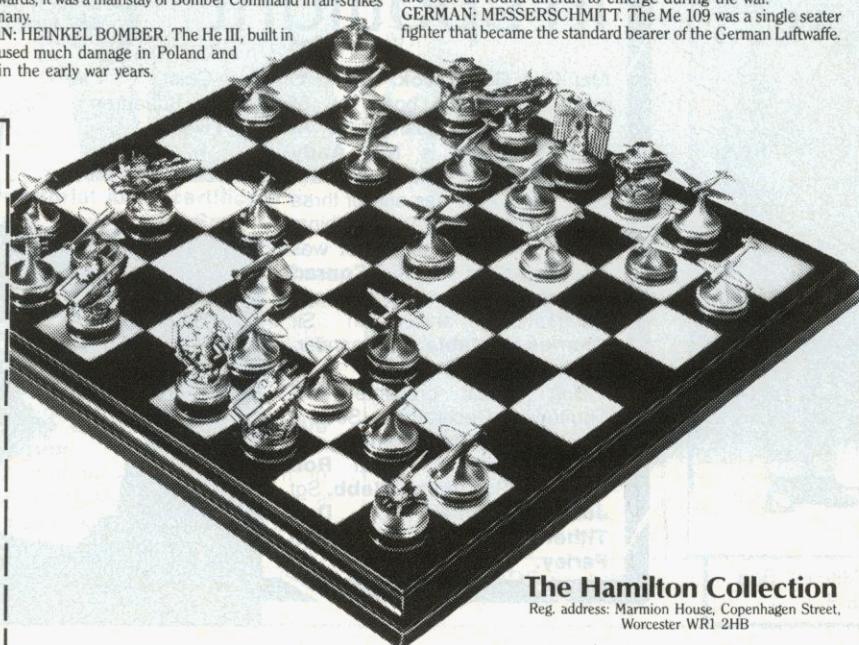
BRITISH: CHURCHILL TANK. Used by the British Army from 1941 to 1952, and fought at El Alamein as well as in Europe after D-Day.

GERMAN: PANZER IV TANK. Used by German Army from 1936-1948, the longest serving and most powerful of German wartime tanks.

PAWN

BRITISH: SPITFIRE FIGHTER. This legendary fighter will forever be associated with the Battle of Britain, and was one of the best all-round aircraft to emerge during the war.

GERMAN: MESSERSCHMITT. The Me 109 was a single seater fighter that became the standard bearer of the German Luftwaffe.



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Alamo's British heroes recorded

It is good to know the Brits are represented at that most American of shrines - the Alamo, where Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie carved their niche in history.

Of the 189 defenders of the Alamo, 22 are known to have been British. Their names are recorded, alongside that of *David Crockett, Tenn*, in the official Alamo guide prepared by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

And the Union flag is kept flying at ceremonial occasions by the San Antonio Scottish Rifles Colour Guard, a company of former British and American Servicemen whose uniform gives a clue to their past allegiances.

It includes items from various British regiments. The cap badge, for example, is the single star of the Cameronians, chosen because Texas is known as the Lone Star State.

The guard wears the kilt of The Gordon Highlanders and the belt plates of The Queen's Regiment.

They drill with Lee Enfield Mark 4 rifles in the British manner.

Officer commanding the unit is Mike Bourne, formerly of the Royal Air Force and City of London Police, and his troops include CSGT Rodger Bourne, formerly of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment and 2 and 4 Queens; and Pte Pete Sait, once of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Well done, readers

Our readers certainly came up trumps following the appeal (*SOLDIER*, December 11) on behalf of The King's Shropshire Light Infantry Museum for a photograph of Cpl Thomas Priday, said to be the first British Army casualty of the Second World War.

First of many replies with photographs of Cpl Priday were Mr W G Hornsby of North

SOLDIER to Soldier



The San Antonio Scottish Rifles Colour Guard steps out in front of the Alamo



Cpl Thomas Priday

Shields and South African-domiciled retired Army Capt Laurie Pasco (ex-KSLI). The pictures first appeared in the popular *War Illustrated* magazine of the time.

There was also a letter from Mr Mike Reynolds of Beaconsfield enclosing a press cutting referring to the death of a Pte William Roper of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who died on volunteer guard duty in France almost two months before Cpl Priday on October 14, 1939, but not in the front line.

A copy of the picture has been passed on to the *KSLI* Museum.

French troops attended the funeral of Pte Roper, who is buried in Janval Cemetery, Dieppe. He was in a labour company and had been in France little more than three weeks before his death.

Seventh Cavalry quest

Here's another story with a strong Texas connection.

The Seventh United States Cavalry Association is trying to trace the whereabouts of an Edinburgh church said to contain a memorial plaque to a Scot who died with Gen George A Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

John Mc Camley, RSM retired of the 7th US Cavalry, says the plaque reads: *In loving memory of John Stuart-Stuart Forbes, killed in action 25th June, 1876. Seventh United States Cavalry.*"

Stuart-Stuart Forbes was a

bit of a mystery man, believed to have fled Scotland because of gambling debts and enlisted in the Seventh under the name of his brother-in-law, John Hiley, an important member of the Scottish church.

Now the Seventh want a colour picture of the plaque for their regimental headquarters at Fort Hood in Texas. RSM McCamley can be contacted at 1401 Short Street, Copperas Cove, Texas 76522, USA.

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



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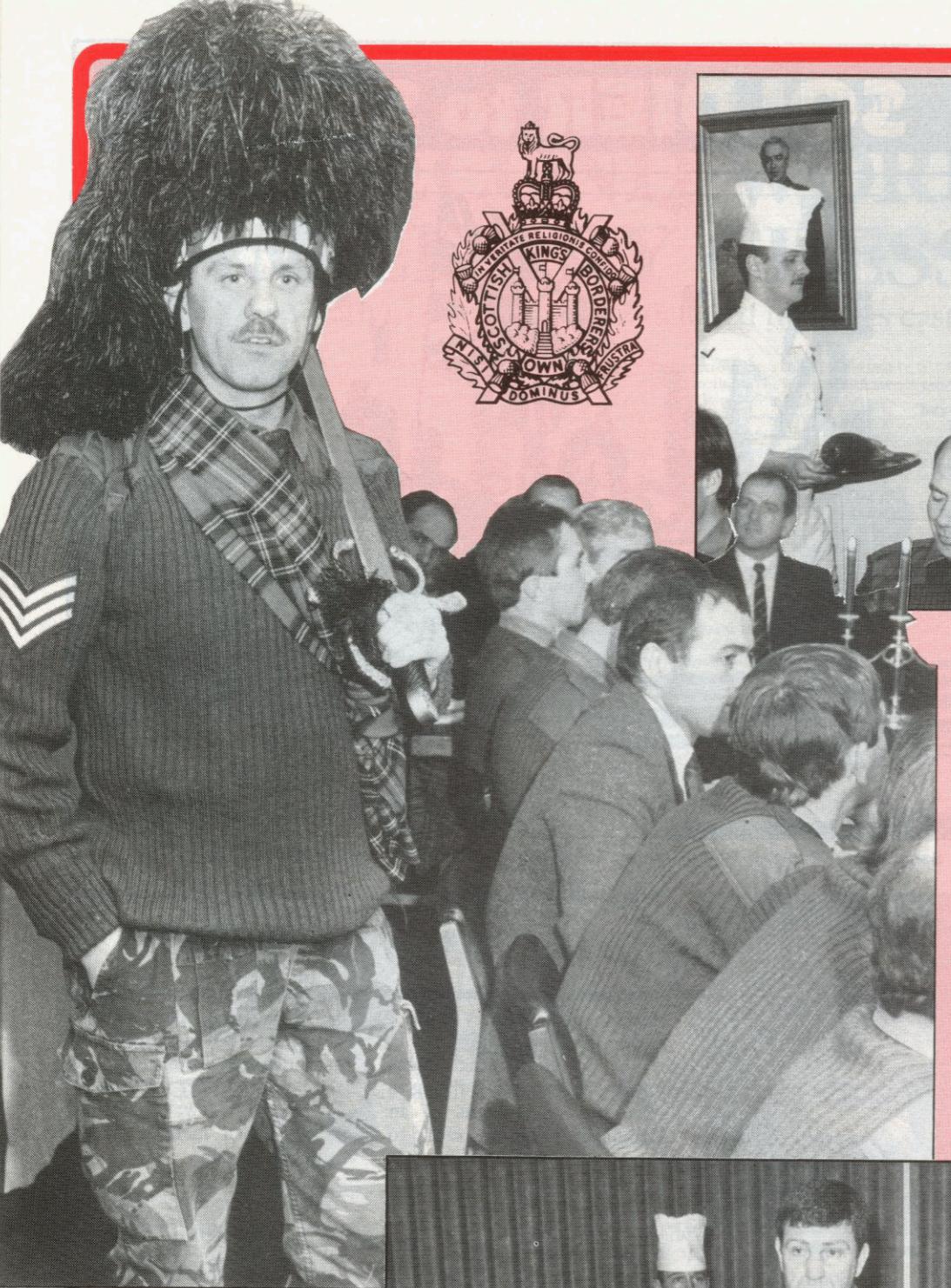
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1 KOSB celebrates link with the Muse

Burns border

Sodgers all . . .

Above - Claymore in hand, Sgt Sammy Campbell makes an imposing figure as he recites "The Sodger's Return".

Right - RSM Frank Morton makes the first ritual cut in a haggis before sending it off to be dismembered. Seated on his right is the guest of honour, Mr Enoch Powell, once a brigadier.

Above right - Cpl Drew Bunyan pipes out the haggis to be cut into portions alongside its fellows. Seated in the centre are CSM Jumbo Reid and the Padre Maj John Dailly.



BEFORE the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers began their ninth Northern Ireland tour there was some talk of cancelling the annual Burns Night supper.

But tradition dies hard and though, for operational reasons, numbers were reduced and the warrant officers and sergeants wore "woolly pully" order, the Scottish Muse was commemorated in the time-honoured fashion.

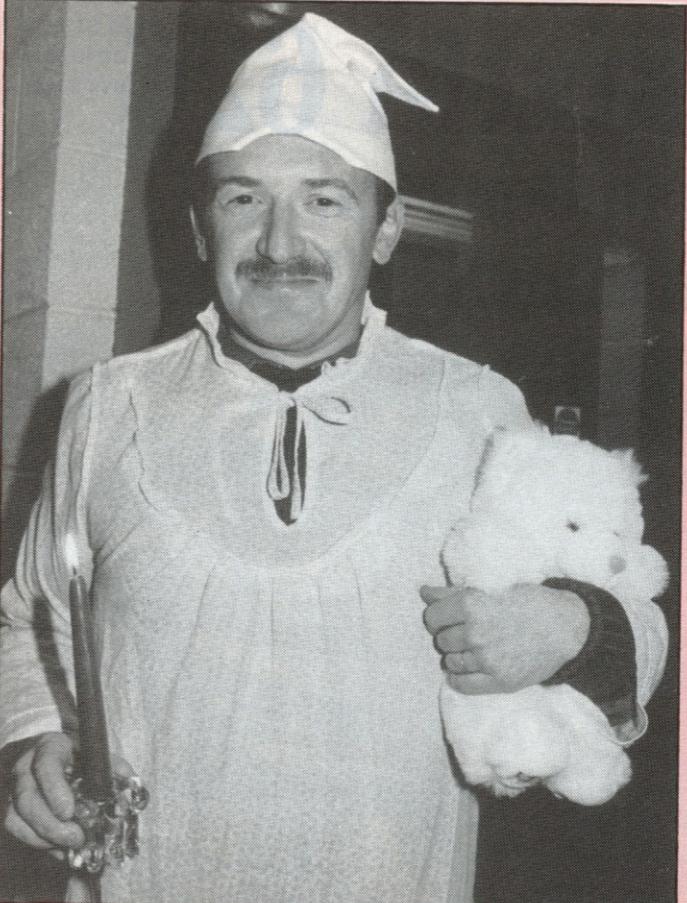
To the KOSB, Burns is someone special.

It seems that during his service as an Excise officer Burns clashed occasionally with smugglers and in 1792 braved musket balls and grape shot leading dragoons to capture a grounded schooner loaded with contraband.

Three years later when the French threatened invasion he joined the Dumfries Volunteers (for local defence duties).

According to one source he drilled twice a week in uniform - a short blue jacket with red

Above - CSgt Billy Heaney prepares to deliver the satirical "Holy Willie's Prayer". Above right - Sgt Ernest Ross recites "I'll go and be a Sodger". He knows what he's talking about. He has four brothers in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess



ON THE
OTHER



Master Chef WO2 Alan Jenkins (note the ACC badge in his Glengarry) had a problem obtaining the recipe for "Cloutie Dumplings", an 18th Century dessert. It was supplied by HQ Scotland

cuffs, buckled breeches and "a round stiff hat, turned up one side with a gilt button and surmounted by a cockade and black feathers".

Short of cash because the Napoleonic Wars disrupted trade, Burns was dunned by his tailor for the price of the uniform - £7 4s - and this is believed to have been one of the worries that burdened him when he died aged 37.

It can have been little consolation to his family that he was given a military funeral at which the escort was provided by the Volunteers and two regular regiments which "happened to be stationed in the town".

The Dumfries Volunteers were the forerunners of the Militia which later became the King's Own Scottish Borderers' 3rd Battalion.

As the sleet lashed Enniskillen 1 KOSB did The Immortal Memory proud in a candlelit mess made available by 4 UDR at Grosvenor Barracks.

The supper took the form of a series of 18th Century dishes, the most important of which was a haggis.

To the Sassenachs (literally "Saxons") present - such as the SOLDIER team - it seemed

somewhat unkind of RSM Frank Morton to laud the object of his verses as the "Chieftain o' the Puddin' Race" then ceremonially slash it and sent it off to be dismembered.

But Brig Bob Riddle, Colonel of the Regiment, looked on approvingly as did the Comd 3 Brigade, Brig Charles Vyvyan (late Green Jackets) and the guest of honour, a wartime brigadier at the age of 32, Mr Enoch Powell. One got the impression Mr Powell had seen grimmer sights in the Commons.

As each course was cleared away a mess member did a quick change act and recited his piece.

Feather bonnets, claymores and knapsacks came and went with "I'll go and be a Sodger" (Sgt Ernest Ross); "The Dumfries Volunteer" (WO2 Brian Irvine) and "The Sodger's Return" (Sgt Sammy Campbell).

And the Greenfinches on the

mess staff had to choke back their laughter when CSgt Billy Heaney appeared draped in a nightcap and what looked suspiciously like a lady's nightie.

To the Southron ear Burns sometimes sounds as soothing as the clash of Scottish spears at Bannockburn but the KOSB senior ranks are a kindly lot.

When CSM Robbie Ross recited the 15-minute-long humorous epic "Tam o' Shanter" his brother Jimmy (CQMS) made all clear by means of a projector and coloured slides.

"We wouldn't want you to miss the sense of it," said Sgt Geordie Glendinning.

For which kindness at least one Sassenach was truly grateful.

Words:

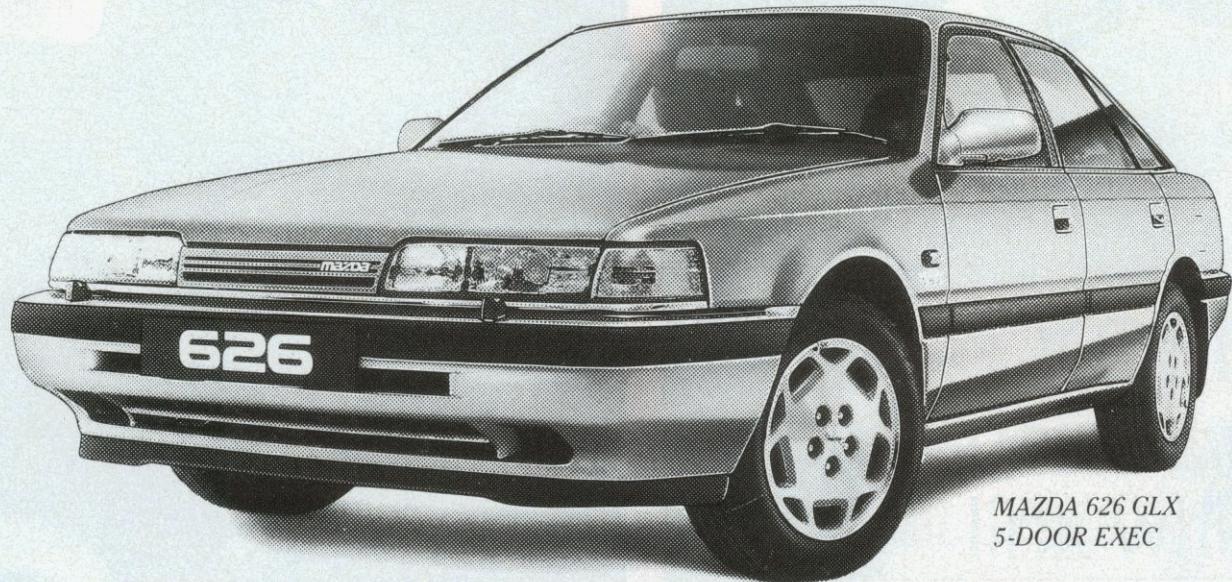
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When it came to winding up the troops, nobody did it better than "Bishop" SSgt Robert Walker

How 3 RGJ coped with 'bovver' on the Rock

PLAYING a major part in Gibraltar's fortress deployment exercise were the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, who like all participating units, had to endure inclement weather of a severity rarely seen on the Rock.

Aim of Exercise Calpe's Key was to test the reactions of the Rock's defence forces to a number of sticky situations, including seaborne special force invasion, air attack, terrorist activities and civil unrest.

Members of the Gibraltar Regiment played an active part, not only in a defensive role but by providing "demonstrators" who popped up at intervals to harass Servicemen at the most inconvenient times and places.

Chief and most realistic demonstrator was the "bishop" played by SSgt Robert Walker. A vastly different role to his normal job as manager of the Gibraltar Regiment's officers' mess.

SOLDIER joined the ranks

of the disreputable dissidents when they marched defiantly to the main gates of Lathbury Barracks, home of the resident British battalion - 3 RGJ.

It was, on reflection, a less than sensible idea, for the Bishop produced an Oscar-winning performance which created an unusually tense situation.

His brief described him as a gay clergyman with dissident tendencies, and his tirade of insults about the soldiers' parentage, soliciting and throwing water in their faces left

them feeling more than a little hostile!

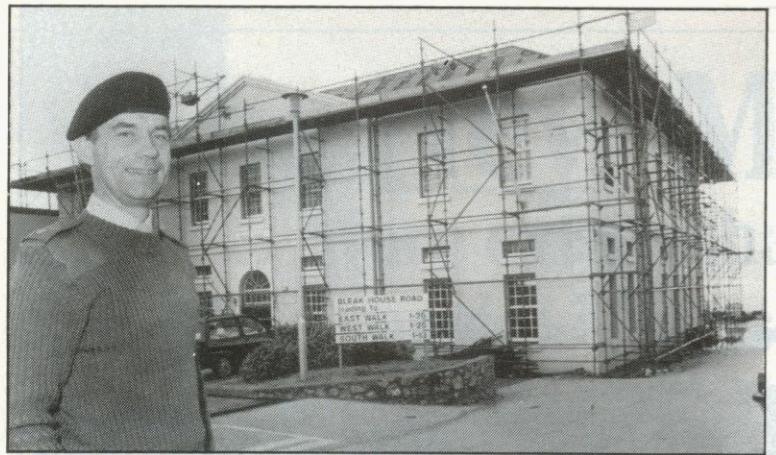
Matters were not made easier by the presence of a television news team on loan from the local broadcasting company, but the squaddies coped magnificently, as they usually do, in the face of extreme provocation.

Bishop Wallah asked for permission to lead his followers to the far side of the barracks to make an act of homage at a memorial to a friend "killed" in a demonstration some years before.

He was escorted to the spot, but more incidents followed during the return to the main gates. At a given signal just as they were leaving a tunnel ahead of their escort, the demonstrators ran off in different directions, shouting slogans and determined to cause maximum disruption to the normally smooth-running barracks complex.

Internal security is up to scratch in 3 RGJ and it was not long before all were recaptured and escorted off the base, albeit

● Turn to next page



Left - Refurbishment of Bleak House will soon be completed much to the relief of its occupants including Maj Tim Moore RAEC pictured here



Right - Librarian Mrs Sue Robertson lays out more books to tempt the library's many customers

Far Right - Lt Jaqui Davidson conducting a lesson for soldiers requiring qualifications for promotion



Not a bleak prospect in sight . . .

THERE is nothing bleak about Bleak House - home of 76 Army Education Centre and 21 Command Library - as its contingent of Royal Army Education Corps personnel are keen to point out.

The centre provides Army education promotion courses for Gibraltar Garrison personnel from 3 RGJ, the Gibraltar Regiment and a number of minor units.

It also organises a wide variety of day and evening classes for soldiers and their families during a ten-week term and provides resettlement courses for those about to leave the Army.

Ideally situated close to the Naafi and post office in the centre of a married quarter area, the library has an issue rate of more than 35,000 books a year.

Keen to provide a good service to families, staff make great efforts on behalf of their 2,500 borrowers to spread the message that a library can be a fun place.

"We circulate a list of newly-acquired books for everyone to see and have many more visitors during the summer months when Service children are doing their GCSE course work," said the centre's SO2 Education, Maj Tim Moore.

Maj David Beaman, OC 76 AEC, and SO3 Ed, Lt Jaqui Davidson, form the other two-thirds of the trio of educators who run the organisation, and take responsibility for the administration of St Christopher's pre-school playgroup located nearby in a converted married quarter.

Alive with activity, Bleak House today holds few clues to its original role.

It was built in 1828 as a sanatorium for officers suffering from yellow fever, but was never actually used in that role.

Bovver

● From Page 17

a little battered and bruised. Elsewhere, 3 RGJ were involved in guarding vital installations, including the water supply, power station and the naval base. After an attack on the airfield, they captured and guarded enemy airmen who had been shot down by ground defences.

Manning OPs was a specialty of the Green Jackets. One detachment passed a warning that a small boat heading close to the Rock could be landing enemy special forces.

Imagine the horror on the faces of its occupants when they found a welcoming party waiting for them at the quayside, for they were real-life smugglers intending to land contraband goods.

Tunnels honeycomb the inside of the Rock, so it came as no surprise to find many members of the battalion engaged in what was described as very "internal" internal security duties.

SOLDIER's reporter and photographer were looking forward to visiting the tunnels if only to get away from the incessant rain that clouded their impression of Calpe's Key - but were sadly disappointed. Such is the porous nature of the rock, water seeps through until it drips from the roofs of the tunnels.

For the troops in the tunnels, it meant operating in a continual and relentless downpour. Such is the spirit of 3 RGJ that the men remained damp but undaunted.

Those who took part were not to know that history was in the making and that this was the last time British troops would take part on a fortress deployment exercise.

Two weeks later it was announced that the British Army's presence on the rock was to be scaled down and that the resident battalion would be withdrawn in March 1991.

Behind the scenes on the Exercise Calpe's Key



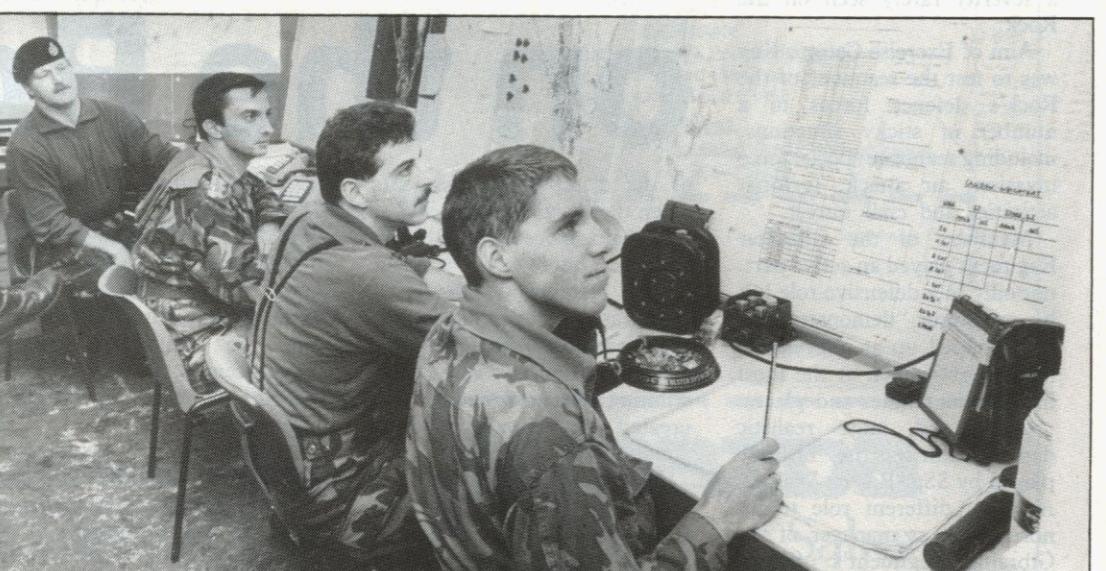
Going down! Troops of 3 RGJ double down a stairway linking two levels of tunnels to reinforce guards on an access point under threat



Maj James Cunliffe used his moped to move between detachments along many miles of tunnels inside the Rock



The seaborne warrior involved in harbour patrol duty is Rfn Colin Park



Battle Group Ops Room under Lathbury Barracks. Pictured from left to right are Maj Mike Smith, 3 RGJ, Capt Dennis Duarte and Lt Mark Delliapi of the Gibraltar Regiment and Rfn Richard Barker



Tunnels in the Rock provide adequate cover from attack. Men of R Company's 10 Platoon keep a low profile during an air raid

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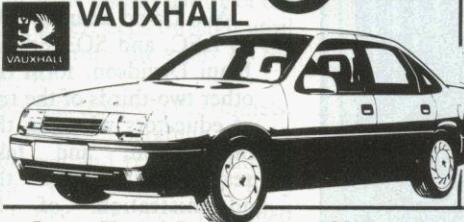
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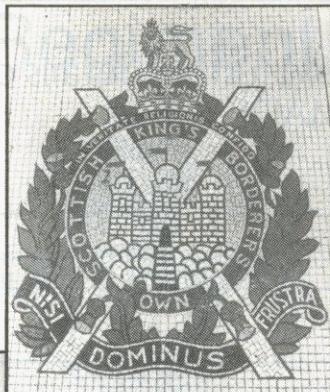
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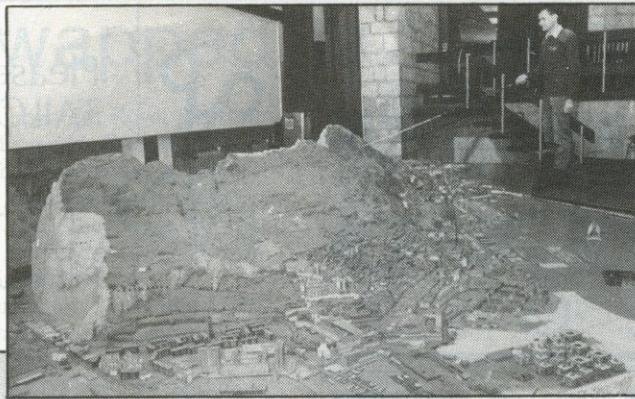
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From left: KOSB badge in mosaic; Capt Stephen Croft, R Signals with the huge Rock model; Sikorski memorial



A bit of military history at every corner

DOMINATING the skyline above Lathbury Barracks on Gibraltar is O'Hara's Battery, a huge gun perched precariously on the southern summit of the Rock.

The battery is named after General O'Hara who was Governor of Gibraltar from 1787 to 1791. The site was previously known as Sugar Loaf Hill before O'Hara's Tower was built in 1787.

MORE than 280 years of British military presence on Gibraltar has left its mark on the Rock in historical terms. Wherever the visitor goes there appears to be a memorial, old gun emplacement or imposing building to interest the curious.

● Inside Fortress Headquarters is a massive 50ft: 1in scale model of the Rock and town of Gibraltar. It was made of plaster of Paris on a wooden frame in 1865 following a survey made by Lt Charles Warren, RE. The colouring was applied by Capt B A Branfill of the old 68th

The then governor claimed that such a tower would enable the garrison to keep an eye on Cadiz Bay, so giving early warning of enemy shipping activities. After the tower had been completed it was discovered that this was not the case and the edifice was dubbed O'Hara's Folly.

The tower was later demolished and a 6in breech loading gun on a central pivot

Regiment (Durham Light Infantry) in 1868.

Over the years, it has been regularly updated and provides a valuable briefing aid for fortress staff.

Curiously, there is a similar model in the town's museum. The answer is that two models were made, the one in the museum remaining unaltered.

● Following a tour of the Middle East, Gen Wladislaw Sikorski, Prime Minister of Poland and Commander in Chief of the Polish Forces, was aboard an RAF Liberator aircraft that crashed shortly

mounting was installed in 1890.

The gun was removed between 1897-1900 and a 9.2in breech loading Mk IX on a Mk IV mounting was constructed. This battery was mobilised for active operations in July 1914 by the Royal Garrison Artillery.

During the First World War, its main task was to engage enemy vessels attempting to attack ships in Admiralty

after take-off from Gibraltar's airfield on July 4, 1943.

Sikorski's death was a grievous loss to the Allies and a brass memorial plaque was erected at the end of the runway.

Today it has been moved to the wall outside the Royal Air Force Station Headquarters at Gibraltar.

● The town centre piazza reveals an unusual record of some of the many regiments who have served on the Rock. Their badges have been immortalised in mosaic on the floor.

waters and commercial anchorages. In 1935 it was again reconstructed – this time with a 9.2in breech loading Mk X on a Mk VII mounting.

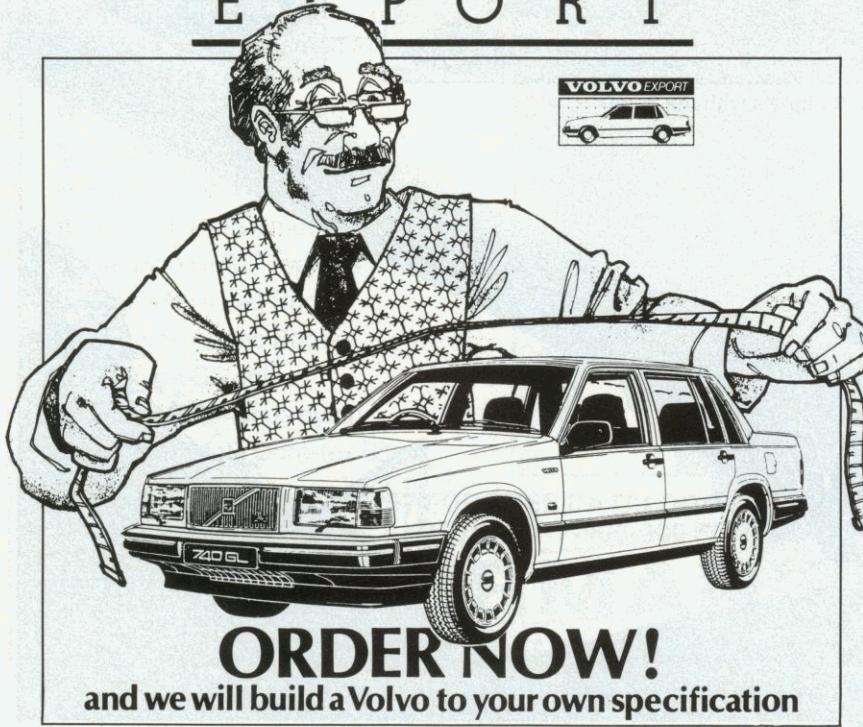
During the war, the battery was subjected to frequent air raids by the Vichy French from Morocco, but no damage was sustained.

O'Hara's Battery remained in use after the war and was manned by the Gibraltar Defence Force. Training lasted two months and culminated with a live firing. This system continued until the end of National Service in Gibraltar in 1971 when the structure of the regiment changed, but the Heavy Troop continued to train on the equipment.

Training was carried out weekly and their annual two-week camp ended with live firing.

Gibraltar last echoed to the sound of O'Hara's Battery on June 1, 1970. In all, 466 rounds were fired from the gun, but none in anger. Today it is maintained in working order as a showpiece.

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Regiment swapped its armour for SA 80



THE latest 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards tour of Northern Ireland has brought four firsts for the regiment.

- In 1981 they were the first Irish regiment to go to the Province
- They are the first Irish regiment to do a second tour there
- They are the first armoured regiment to return in an infantry

role to Northern Ireland.

- They are the first armoured regiment to receive the SA 80.

The regiment, based in Paderborn, BAOR, for three years and expecting to be there for a further seven, underwent a professional metamorphosis from armoured soldier to infantry during three months of special training.

During the Northern Ireland

tour, the 420 men were spread across the Province's three brigade areas under the operational command of six different battalions - The Royal Hampshire Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and 2, 6 and 8 Ulster Defence Regiments.

It means that Lt Col Brian

- **Turn to next page**

Have a nice day with the Skins!

AN OFFICER, who encourages his soldiers to use the "McDonald's Approach" when meeting local people in Northern Ireland (by wishing them "Have a nice day"), believes the cheery greeting is helping improve community relations.

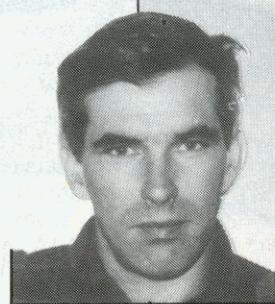
Maj Johnny Torrens-Spence is OC A Sqn, 5 Innis DG based at Fort George, Londonderry. The squadron's time is divided between supporting the RUC, snap vehicle checkpoints, permanent vehicle checkpoints and searches.

He insists on a policy of courtesy. On the rare occasions when local people have been inadvertently upset, a personal visit to explain the Army's side of events is followed by a letter of apology.

Two householders also got a box of chocolates after soldiers trampled down their gardens while using them to vary patrol routes.

Maj Torrens-Spence said: "We have found the response very positive. People appreciate that somebody has taken the trouble to say sorry and explain the reason for what has happened.

"We operate very much inside the community and every soldier is trained to say 'hello' or 'good morning' when he meets someone on patrol. Soldiers in their kit become very impersonal. Sometimes I find it difficult to tell them apart, and I know them well. I want to show local



Maj Torrens-Spence

Early morning reveille with a difference at Bessbrook Mill, South Armagh, provided by Cpl Hammy Hamilton, who, before transferring to the Skins, was a member of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Pipe Band for seven years. He is teaching eight soldiers how to play the bagpipes

people that we are human beings and soldiers underneath, doing a job of work.

"We make a big effort to try and be nice to people, explaining as far as we can why we are doing certain things, and

minimising the disruption to people's lives."

During searches of back gardens and outbuildings, a patrol will call at a house to

- **Turn to next page**



Words:
Jennifer
Griffiths

Armour swapped

● From Page 23

Anderson, CO 5 Innis DG, based at Omagh, was not responsible for the detailed tasking of his men. He joked "I'm known locally as the colonel with no troops."

But he was always very much aware of what was going on. He would regularly turn out on patrol, accompanied by RSM Eddie Spence. For the colonel this was a complete change for a boss more used to arriving at the action in his own Chieftain.

He said: "I enjoy getting out. You can't monitor how things are going unless you go out on patrol. At the beginning of the



Lt Col Brian Anderson

tour I told my soldiers I was looking forward to going out with them and had no doubt they'd give me the heaviest piece of equipment to carry!

"It is important that you see the difficulties they are facing, whether it is scrambling through blackthorn hedges in South Armagh, or patrolling in Londonderry.

"They certainly enjoy it. We are not professional infantry soldiers, but I had no doubt when we started our training that we would adapt. It is very much to their credit that they have adapted so well. You could not tell the difference between my soldiers on rural and urban patrols and a professional infantryman.

"The thing that makes it so successful is that they are highly motivated and very enthusiastic to get on with anything new. They treat it as a challenge."

The Skins found that previous working patterns were an advantage in their new role.

The colonel explained: "They are used to working in small groups of tank crews of four soldiers. Here, on the ground, they work in teams of four."

Another plus is that 30 per cent of the regiment is Irish.

"It is a huge advantage. It helps when we are talking to local people.

"I hear nothing but praise of how well soldiers are getting on with the local people and understanding their problems, which is important here where part of our job is to reassure the population."

He said their tour in Northern Ireland and the challenges it produced "can do nothing but good for motivation and retention. It gives a very nice break from our normal armoured role. With long tours in BAOR, you need a change occasionally."

probably surrounds an embankment topped off with a drystone wall and a hedge. On either side is a ditch. Ideal for a fall, a submission or both.

Bogged down? That's what pals are for

RURAL patrolling in the Province is tough and presents many problems, exacerbated by cold, wet winter nights . . . and a 60lb bergen! The in-joke is that should the Northern Ireland Tourist Board ever need guides, Skins soldiers would be well qualified to apply.

Picture the scene. The going is soft to waterlogged. First you come across the inevitable barbed wire fence. That

probably surrounds an embankment topped off with a drystone wall and a hedge. On either side is a ditch. Ideal for a fall, a submission or both.

Most soldiers quickly become adept at crossing such obstacles, but some invariably take tumbles. The famous Irish peat bogs can be particularly dangerous. Tpr John Preston can testify to that.

He explained: "This particular night it was pitch black. I put one foot forward and found myself up to my neck in a bog,

sinking fast with my bergen."

Fortunately, 2nd Lt Tony Hood and other members of the patrol were able to help him out. He dried off in a local police station.

As one wag observed: "The game of hop scotch is still very much in fashion on patrol. The loser is the first to disappear up to his neck in a bog. To date the bogs have come out the winners."

Soldiers are regularly subjected to verbal abuse, often from children, and are regularly hit by bottles and stones.

Soldiers are regularly subjected to verbal abuse, often from children, and are regularly hit by bottles and stones.

Major Torrens-Spence said: "Having said that, I do believe the majority of people in this area understand why we are here, and that if we were not, things would be a great deal worse for them."

"Most are very understanding of why we have to search their homes and cars. Although it is a nuisance, it has become a way of life for them, and they are prepared to tolerate it."

Complaints against soldiers are rigorously investigated. For instance, following one house search, a householder complained that a wallet and brass padlock had been stolen.

Statements were taken from the soldiers involved, and a search of their rooms made before they were allowed back. Later the complainant rang to say the items had been found - they had been taken into the garden by his children.

When he arrived in the Province, Maj Torrens-Spence wrote to all the local clergy and later spoke to many of them. He said: "I'm keen they should understand I'm not trying to interfere with the life of their parishioners, and I'm keen that my duties don't cut across parish community activity."



Tpr John Preston has every reason to look uplifted. While on rural patrol in the dark and carrying a loaded 60lb bergen he suddenly found himself up to his neck in a peat bog, and sinking fast. He lived to tell the tale after a helping hand out from 2nd Lt Tony Hood (pictured with John) and other patrol members

Cpl Stephen Sobers from the quartermaster's department, said: "On average we go through 150 sets of combat each month because of rips from barbed wire. A lot cannot be repaired and has to be exchanged."

Soldiers will make minor repairs themselves, but for the more complicated work they can call on the sewing skills of a tailor employed by The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the resident infantry battalion.

Maj Julian Wathen, OC C Sqn in Omagh, said the local people they came across on patrols were understanding, "providing we adhere to the country code, such as shutting gates, and we are polite. Despite the difficulties on patrol, soldiers enjoy getting out and meeting people."

He added they enjoy an excellent rapport with 6 UDR, their parent battalion, with whom they integrated on various duties, and with the RUC which was "exceptional through all ranks".



Patrolling takes its toll on combatants, and showing a deft hand with the needle is Tpr Neil Hunt

Nice day

● From Page 23

ask if the occupier objects. "Ninety-nine per cent will say they don't and will accompany us, which is something we encourage."

Soldiers are empowered to cut padlocks securing sheds, for instance. If the householder is out they will call again in the hope he has returned and can unlock it for them. As a last resort, they will cut the lock, leaving a special form detailing the damage and explaining how a compensation claim can be made.

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"It is very unseemly, for example, for a patrol to pass a funeral. When I am aware of them, and if it is possible, I make arrangements to avoid them. We are also very aware of the sensitivities of Sunday mornings."

The squadron's efforts have paid off. A local clergyman told one of the Skins subalterns that the word on the streets was that the regiment was the most considerate and best behaved to have served in Londonderry.

It is something of a joke that Sgt Don Grant's mother doesn't believe he is getting enough to eat! She keeps posting him delicious cakes wherever he is serving. Her latest culinary delight went by helicopter to a remote observation post. Don (centre) said: "The lads can't get at the cakes quick enough. If they start teasing me, they don't get a piece!" He is pictured with Tpr William Kilpatrick (left) and Tpr Sticks Nicholls

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards made a number of important and interesting finds during their Northern Ireland tour.

The successes included a 5kg bomb in a parked car, and para-military clothing in a cemetery, found by B Sqn, South Armagh.

Found!

C Sqn, in Omagh, found AKM rifles, revolvers and ammunition in pipe hides and a septic tank hide.

D Sqn, at Armagh City, found an Army webbing belt, a sheath knife, a machete and a

torch hidden on public ground, a rifle and ammunition at a mushroom factory, and a sawn-off shotgun concealed under refuse.

A Sqn, based in Londonderry, found two empty pipe hides, a bomb timer, a replica pistol, four Balaclava helmets and a bottle of concentrated acid.

On a bicycle made for two

THE joys of riding on a bicycle made for two are something Maj Colin Wilson, the Skins' Press officer, and his wife, Lindsay, firmly advocate.

They reckon they are among the few to have completed the Land's End to John o'Groats

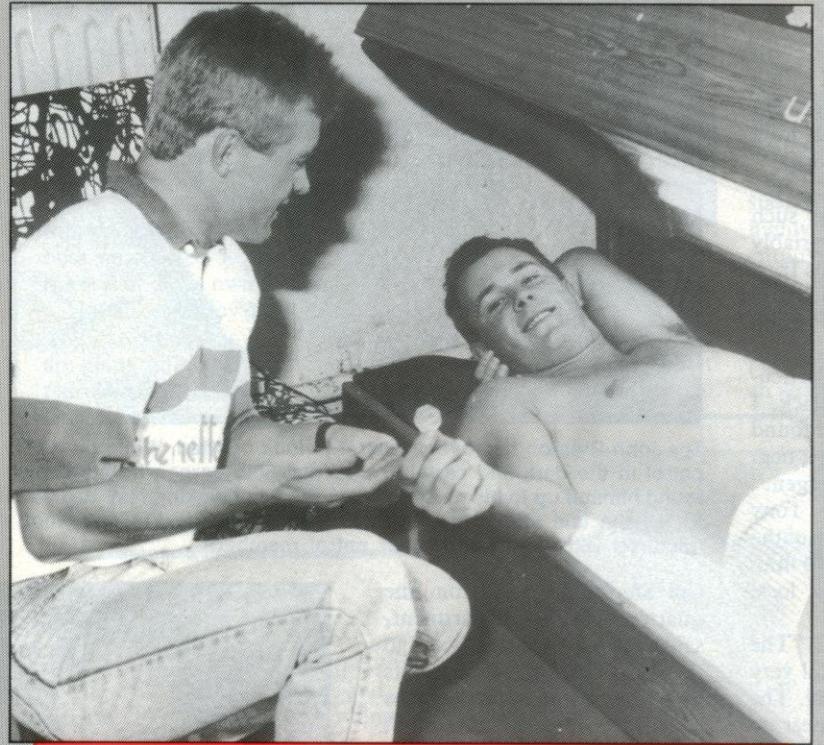
run without being sponsored by anyone for anything.

They made it their summer holiday. Maj Wilson said: "We just enjoy cycling and weren't out to break any records." They added a few diversions to the usual route so they could

visit friends, and completed 1,000 miles in 19 days, four punctures and 33 replaced spokes.

They had had practice runs between Paderborn and Guttersloh, and Paderborn and Hanover, in West Germany, and believe riding tandem is more sociable, and safer.

For now they've put their two-seater in store while they await the birth of their first child. After that? They may possibly cycle across the Continent or America.

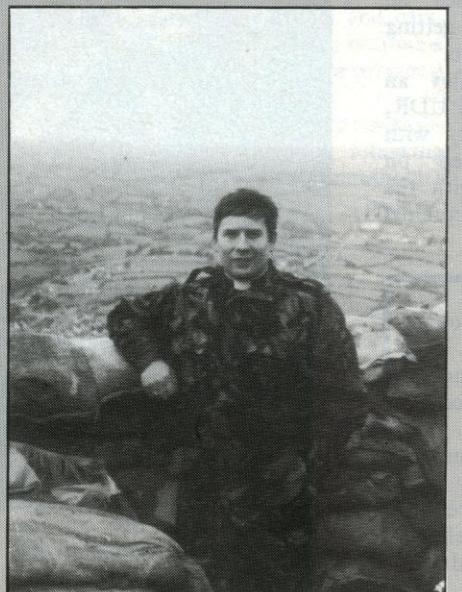


You can serve with the British Army in places other than Hong Kong and Belize and still go home with a sun tan. It is even possible in Northern Ireland, more readily known for its heavy rainfall! Not a lot of daylight gets into the Colditz-like Bessbrook Mill, South Armagh, but Skins, for 50p a session, can work on their tans on this sun bed.

Sunshine posting?

Collecting the cash, which is ploughed back into Skins' funds, is LCpl Fritz Holland. Lt James Carr-Smith lies back and enjoys it

Padre came prepared



PADRE Tony Cumberland's visit to a hilltop OP turned out to be rather longer than expected - thanks to some Irish mist, but not the alcoholic variety! An overnight stopover became two days.

He was flown to the mountain retreat in - to use his own words - "a borrowed combat suit and armed only with a sleeping bag, a spare pair of underpants and two packets of cigarettes."

The next day the fog closed in and there was no flying, but the padre said it was a good way to get to know some members of the regiment, and to teach them the art of making custard, using two tablespoons of powder, NOT two cups!

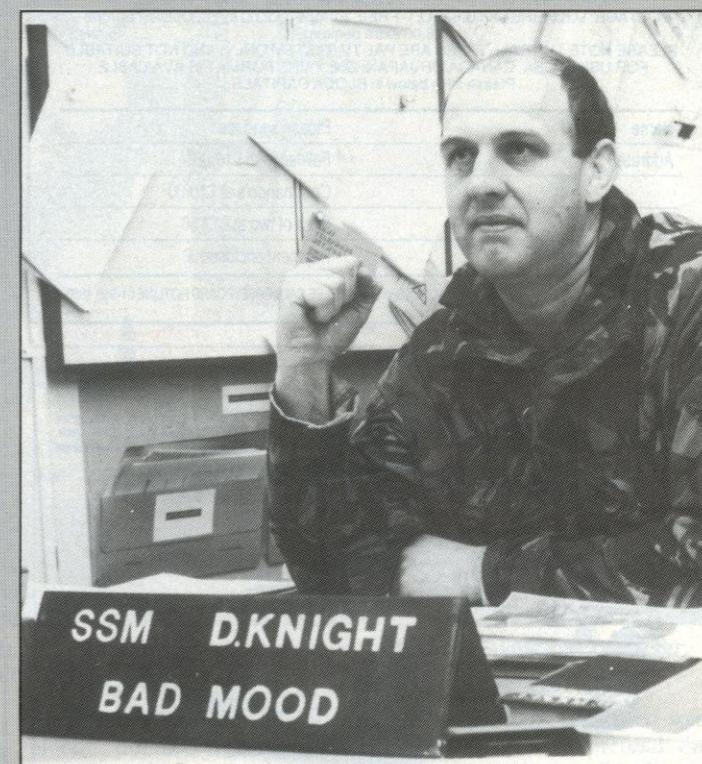


Left - The departure lounge for some exotic destination? Alas, only the prospect of a week's stay at an isolated observation post for these soldiers waiting to fly from Bessbrook Mill, South Armagh. Pictured (from left) are (back) Tprs Mark Walkers, Billy Kelly and Jez McKeown; (front) Tprs Paul Tabbitt and Jim Lindsay

Above - LCpl Brian Bailey and his team at a loading bay

Above left - Off duty relaxation for (from left) Tpr Stephen McCleanhan, Cpl Graham Willis, Tpr David Lindop and LCpl Paul Kendall

Right - Visitors to the office of SSM David Knight in Bessbrook Mill, are left in no doubt how to approach him - he has a notice on his desk advising them whether he is in a good or bad mood. "It was designed by the lads as a joke and I just kept it going," he explained



Not just any old Buzzard!



WHEN WO2 (SSM) Chris Howcroft (left) was given the job of Buzzard, his first question was: "What is a Buzzard?" He soon discovered he had become one of a select group in Northern Ireland with whom everyone wants to ingratiate themselves.

Buzzard is the nickname for the motor transport warrant officer with helicopters. He joked: "I'm more usually known as 'Sir' or 'Your Majesty'."

As helicopter traffic controller, he tasks all helicopters for the central part of the Province, though he

rarely flies in one himself. WO2 Howcroft is on 24-hour call, and finds circumstances can change at the drop of a fog. Weather reports are fed to him by the Met Officer at Aldergrove and the pilots.

WO2 Howcroft's role back in BAOR is HQ Squadron sergeant major and regimental gunnery warrant officer.

Of his Buzzard role he said: "You have got to have patience, good humour and diplomacy. No matter how carefully you plan it somebody will want to change the flying programme."

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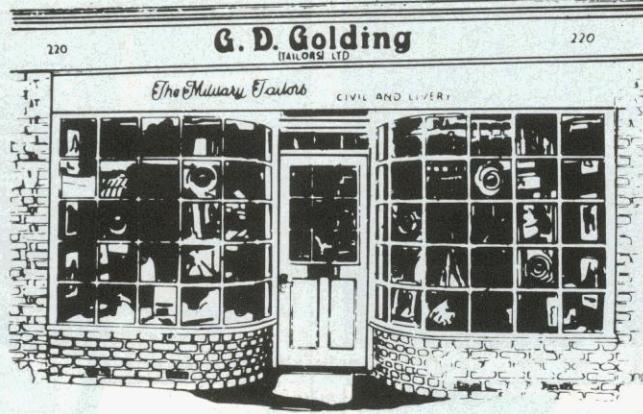
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RCT's oldest son notches up 105 years

DANIEL PILCHER is 105. Though deaf and confined to a wheelchair, he is sharp and mischievous and recalls with an impish sense of humour his First World War days as a Royal Army Service Corps driver, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

Mr Pilcher, a widower for 61 years, led a fit and active life, living with his daughter Elfrida, until he was 101. But, after a bad fall, he moved into a residential nursing home at St Leonards, near Hastings, East Sussex where he is a popular and engaging character.

His birthday was marked by members of the RCT Association, who visited him with gifts.

Lt Col Mike Young, curator of the RCT museum in Buller Barracks, Aldershot, and editor of the corps magazine, *The Waggoner*, said:

"As far as we know he is by at least five years the oldest member of the corps. He can't be far short of being the oldest man in the country."

Daniel worked as a baker and confectioner until he was 75 and regularly cooked until moving into the nursing home.

Miss Pilcher (76) said: "When I prepared a meal, he took a keen interest. Even now I have to watch what I say about recipes, because he will correct me."

Daniel volunteered for service, joining up with thousands of others at Crystal Palace skating rink. He recalled: "We were issued with kit in a thin material, so I guessed we were going somewhere warm."

He was right – his eventual



Daniel Pilcher, who at 105 vividly recalls his First World War experiences, and his 76-year-old daughter, Elfrida, pictured with his medals and embroidery

Picture: Mike Perrin

destination was Mesopotamia.

"We left by train for Plymouth, and the officers had locked the toilets in case anyone had ideas about deserting through the windows. Because of that, it was a very difficult journey."

He recalls a very humid sea passage.

"It was so warm and we were sweating such a lot, we went up on deck in our birthday suits and the NCOs hosed us down to keep us cool."

Before joining up he had had a few driving lessons and had been issued with a licence on payment of five shillings. In Mesopotamia as a private with the Royal Army Service Corps, his job was to drive supplies to the front line.

In 1915, he went down with malaria. Even now it is one of his main regrets that it

precluded him from being a blood donor. During his convalescence, he completed two painstakingly embroidered Army badges.

Mr Pilcher became the officers' mess cook, though, as a vegetarian, it did pose the occasional problem.

"Once, when we acquired a whole sheep, I had to get someone else to butcher it."

On another occasion, officers very much enjoyed his "chicken" rissoles.

"Actually, I prepared them from tinned rabbit meat, and powdered sage, rolled in breadcrumbs. But they would have turned their noses up at rabbit."

Mr Pilcher has been a lifelong member of the Unitarian Church, and always refused to go on church parade with members of the Church of

England. This prompted some of his friends to pretend they were Unitarians so that they too could get out of parades.

Mr Pilcher rarely talks of friends who died in action, but remembers with horror seeing one of them burn to death after an accident involving paraffin.

Sailing home after the war, a number of friends died from 'flu and were buried at sea. "It was a great shame to have got so far, and for that to happen before they were reunited with their families."

"There was very little food on board. We lived on packs of supply biscuits, and what the crew shared from rations."

To what does Mr Pilcher attribute his longevity? "I believe it is because I have been a non-smoker, a non-drinker and a vegetarian all my life," he says.

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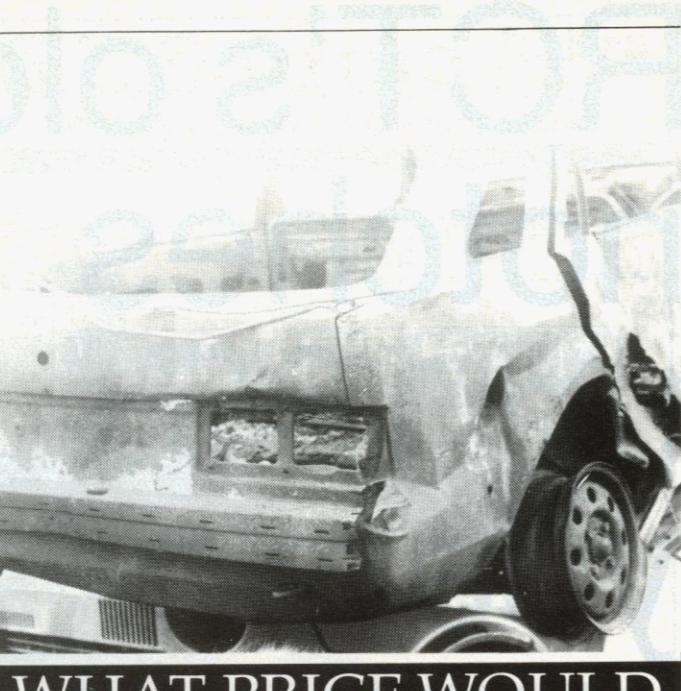
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Above - Cpl Colin Burgess terminating a line along the pole route

Right - Sgt Gaz Copley and Cpl Frank Nevens erecting the new cable lay

Signallers put their jobs on the line

IN these days of high technology and modern, computerised communications systems it is not too often you find the Royal Corps of Signals erecting telegraph poles and laying cable from the back of a train.

However, for members of 39 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron based in Lisburn, Northern Ireland that's exactly what they have been doing. It was all part of Topham Hatt, a four-day exercise during which 12 members of the squadron helped the Swanage Railway provide communications along a new section of track.

After the closure of the rail link between Swanage and Wareham by BR in 1972, a private group started work with a view to re-opening the line. Three-and-a-half miles of track have so far been laid and are open to the public.

Within the next two years it is hoped to have the track laid to Corfe Castle.

One of the Swanage Railway volunteers is Sgt Frank Roberts, whose idea it was to run the exercise. For some years he has been responsible for the signals and telegraph on the railway.

"By getting the squadron involved," said Sgt Roberts,



ventures of this kind," he said.

"Most of the team are more used to maintaining radio equipment than rigging pole routes. However, it's rewarding for us to know that, as communications are an integral part of the railway, our work will be in use for years."

The whole exercise had a "railway flavour". Accommodation was in a sleeping car and a buffet car was the location for the hard-earned meals.

Exercise commander Lt Matt Fensom was pleased with the way things had gone. "It's not often the corps gets involved in



The team (from left to right) Sig Stig Richards, Cpl Colin Burgess, LCpl Jason Kiely, Sgt Frank Roberts, Sgt Mick Murphy, Cpl Colin Williams, Sgt Gaz Copley, Cpl Frank Nevens, WLCpl Sue Wilson, LCpl Mick May, Sig Dave Gough, Cpl Gaz Clapham, Cpl Vince McNaught and Lt Matt Fensom.

Phantom ERNIC records

I HAVE received a number of letters and 'phone calls from wives who have returned from Germany and found that ERNIC contributions are not being credited to their records in the UK.

This came to light when wives returning from Ger-

many claimed Unemployment Benefit and were refused on the grounds that they had made insufficient or no Class I contributions.

Since the change in the DSS rules, two years' contributions are taken into account.

It appears that although

a soldier's pay slip shows ERNIC deductions, they do not appear on the defendant's National Insurance contribution record, so when the DSS checks the record insufficient (or nil) contributions are revealed.

Dependants may also not realise that two years' contributions are now required before they are eligible to claim Unemployment Benefit.

New-look tax rules welcomed

REVOLUTIONARY changes in how married couples are taxed start on April 6, 1990. They will affect all women, wives and dependants of Servicemen world-wide, whether they work or not. It will become their own responsibility to complete their own tax forms.

This is a welcome change as for years wives have been annoyed that their income has been taxed with their husband's. However, the new rules will mean some radical re-thinking if married couples are to get the maximum benefit from the tax changes.

Each spouse will have their own single person's tax allowance (currently £2,785) which is not transferable, and the married couple's allowance (currently £1,590) will be granted to the husband. The married woman will have her own basic rate tax rate band and will receive relief for any tax deductible payments she makes.

April will shortly be with us and unless wives have started to make some provision now and know what to do - such as keeping records and writing to the Inspector of Taxes about any changes - they may well be no better off at the end of the financial year.

Crown Agent Mike Adler explained that a wife will be liable to tax on her own capital gains but will have her own exemption (currently £5,000).

"Income arising in joint names will be allocated 50/50 between husband and wife unless a declaration is made to reflect the

IT firms focus on FOCUS

THE valuable work being done by FOCUS (Federation of Army Wives Office and Computer Update of Skills) is being increasingly recognised in the information technology industry.

Latest evidence of this is a software donation from Open Technology of Leeds amounting to £5,870. The package is called Uniplex and Open Technology installed it in the FOCUS computer at Bulford last month.

They have also provided a user licence and promised training and a year's support.

FOCUS is providing a very worthwhile service by retraining Army wives in IT and needs all the support it can get from the industry.

true facts of ownership," he said.

He added: "Mortgage interest relief will be given to the spouse who pays interest, or be allocated 50/50 for a joint mortgage unless an election is made to the contrary."

It has been estimated that about £50m will be transferred to wives and that many married couples will gain from independent taxation.

To obtain maximum benefit from these changes Mike gave me some advice which the Army Agents are



Self-help is the key to the success of the St Christopher's pre-school playgroup in Gibraltar, which is based in a converted married quarter. Here Mrs Denise Reekie reads from a book to an attentive audience of Service children

recommending to those who seek their help:

- Utilise a wife's personal allowance and basic rate tax band by transferring income produced by investments to her name.
- Allocate mortgage interest relief to the 40 per cent tax payer rather than to the 25 per cent tax payer by sending an election to the Inspector of Taxes.

- Remember that the tax deducted from bank or building society interest is not refundable so consider investing in the National Savings Bank.

Wives seeking advice can call Mike Adler on 0252 544355 ext 216 or Bill Nelson on 01-389 5238. The changes are also explained in an important new booklet available to tax practitioners from The Public Enquiry Room, In-

Change in MQs for sale bulletin

THE Joint Services MQs Sales bulletins are now published monthly. Valuation of discounted MQs in the past were assessed some months before the publication of the bulletin.

In future, valuations of properties will be assessed much closer to the publication date (whenever possible). This will give a more accurate valuation.

Suggestion: Why not print the month of the valuation alongside the discounted price.



Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley 29653

Maintaining an alternative

'Excellent schools at a third of the cost ...'

SERVICE parents who are struggling to afford school fees as a result of the change in Boarding School Allowance should consider looking at maintained schools. They offer excellence at a third of the cost of private schools.

Fees in the maintained sector range from £2,000 to £3,000 a year compared with up to £3,000 a term for public schools and up to £2,000 a term for preparatory schools.

Sixty maintained schools offer boarding places, with the local authority paying for tuition and parents meeting the cost of residence. Fees should fall within the BSA grant, although a small top-up might be required when new legislation is enacted.

This will make parents

know more about it should send a medium-sized stamped addressed envelope to Dr E W Anderson, 75A Claypath, Durham DH1 1QT (tel 091-384 2783), asking for a copy of the directory of maintained boarding schools.

And don't forget, both SCEA and ISIS have sets of very sensible questions you might want to ask headmasters when visiting their schools.

Here's some advice from inside the system on how to satisfy yourself that a boarding school is right for your child.

I gleaned it during a discussion on the maintained sector at the conference.

First of all - and most obvious - visit the school. Don't be hasty and accept the first place on offer, unless of course you think your child would be "at home" in the school.

Staff are usually asked about pocket money, uniforms, health care, excursions and so on, but the less immediate issues are probably just as important - and certainly more so to your child.

Ask if you can visit the dining room and kitchens and see the previous week's menu.

When looking around dormitories and study areas, make sure you see the toilets, washing facilities and storage space. Ask if a telephone is available for the boarders to use.

You will quickly get an idea as to the school's suitability for your pride and joy.

Covenant go-ahead

GOOD news for Servicemen abroad who wish to make deeds of covenant.

The Inland Revenue has always maintained that payments under such covenants constituted a foreign source of income and were not eligible for repayment of tax.

But a test case before the General Commissioners found against the Inland Revenue which did not appeal against the decision.

A number of changes have taken place in the past few years, so take the trouble to write to your LEA in advance.

For example, Service families on Family Credit may be eligible to apply for

Swot up on those changes at school

IF you are about to return to the UK with school-aged children after a lengthy posting abroad, it is worth contacting the local education authority (LEA) in the area to which you will be moving.

A number of changes have taken place in the past few years, so take the trouble to write to your LEA in advance.

For example, Service families on Family Credit may be eligible to apply for

grants to help pay for school uniforms, PE kit and so on.

Children who have been educated abroad may expect to be bussed to school. But in the UK local education authorities are obliged to provide free transport only to the nearest school if it is more than two miles away for children under eight years or three miles for children over eight.

Past experience might

A celebration of the Red Devils

LEAPING out of an aircraft flying at up to 12,000ft and plummeting earthwards at 120 miles an hour, carrying out various complicated manoeuvres on the way down in company with other jumpers, may not be everyone's idea of pleasure, but it does make a subject for exciting reading and spectacular photography.

Graham Smith's book, *The Red Devils*, has been published to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Parachute Regiment Freefall Team which carries out some 200 displays and 100 training sessions each year.

The text is based on interviews with team members and the numerous full-colour air-to-air photographs are the work of the team photographers, Robbo Robertson and Ian Barraclough, who, apart from having to concentrate on their freefall proce-

dure, have to think about taking shots with video and stills cameras mounted on their helmets, operating the Nikon via a cable and switch worked by the tongue.

The author, a recent member of *SOLDIER*'s editorial staff, describes what is involved for the recruit from the moment of joining the Parachute Regiment to the time he becomes a member of the freefall team which, as well as a heavy programme in Britain, has operated all over the world.

As Graham Smith tells us: "The Red Devils' three main stated aims, as laid down in October 1964, are not only to keep the Army and the regiment in the public eye, nor even just to provide a pool of freefall experts for regimental use, but, just as important, to win military, national and international competitions."

In this latter aim the team has gained some considerable successes.

The team also provides instruction for civilian parachutists. Oldest man ever to take the 12,000ft tandem dive with the Red Devils was 82-year-old Chick Clayton.

What we see at a performance is the tip of the iceberg. Behind the scenes is the meticulous organisation that backs what can be several shows in a single day, the maintenance of parachutes and aircraft and, when necessary, the seeking of sponsorship to cover essential expenses, for the team has to be self-supporting.

The Red Devils can be justly proud of their achievements and equally proud to be the subject of this attractively produced book. — BJ

The Red Devils: Red on, Green on — Go! by Graham Smith. Published by W H Allen. Price £14.95 hardback.

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IN BRIEF

The Collector's Book of Badges and Emblems of the British Forces 1940. A case-bound reprint of the original wartime booklet which illustrates more than 300 examples of badges and emblems. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £8.95. Four new titles from the Men-At-Arms series of uniform guides published by Osprey Publishing. All priced £4.95 each.

● **US Infantry Equipments 1775-1910; The War in Laos 1960-75; Queen Victoria's Enemies (2): Northern Africa; The Red Army of the Great Patriotic War 1941-5.**

● **Red Phoenix** by Larry Bond. A "geopolitical techno-thriller", this novel shows how the Third World War might begin, and exactly what might happen. Published by Macdonald. Price £13.95.

● **The British Army in WWII — A Handbook on the Organisation, Armament, Equipment, Ranks, Uniforms, etc. 1942.** This useful work of reference is a facsimile reprint of a confidential wartime handbook titled *Handbook on the British Army with Supplements on the Royal Air Force and Civilian Defense Organisations* issued in 1943 by the United States War Department. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £14.95.



Drinks all round! This picture was taken by a *SOLDIER* photographer visiting 2 War Dog Training Unit in Malaya in 1966

Cloak and dagger stuff

IT IS inevitable that one should have reservations about a work based on interviews with the person who is to be the subject of the book. As Michael Paul Kennedy says: "In the course of many meetings, in hotels all over the country, the full extent of this drama began to emerge."

The result is *Soldier 'T' SAS*, the story of a member of the Special Air Service over a surprisingly long period — 1970 to 1987.

The reservations stem from doubts that a writer, no matter how competent — and Kennedy is undeniably highly competent — can never fully reflect the true

feelings of the subject, particularly in a work written in the first person and resorting to much soul-searching and self-analysis.

Soldier 'T', the name given him at the inquest that followed the Iranian Embassy Siege, served through a time when SAS activities were given more public exposure than hitherto, his involvements being in the Battle of Mirbat, Belfast, the Embassy Siege, and the Falklands.

Members of the SAS will immediately identify with Soldier 'T's experiences: the unlimited high-protein food, socks soaked in olive oil, Mars

How Prince became a dog of war

THERE is an extraordinary but reliably verified story about a dog named Prince who, in late 1914, disappeared from home in Hammersmith. Mrs Brown wrote to her husband, serving in France, to tell him of the loss of his pet and, to her amazement received a reply saying that Prince was safe with his master at Armentières.

This is one of the many case histories recorded by Ernest A Gray in a new book, *Dogs of War*. As the title indicates, it is more concerned with dogs that served with armies than with animals, like Prince, which were soldiers' pets or companions.

Dr Gray goes back to early history to trace the origins of war dogs. We learn that Cambyses, King of Persia, used packs of dogs to cause confusion among enemy cavalry in his conquest of Egypt in 526 BC, and that packs of dogs were employed as shock troops through the Dark Ages.

E E Bennett, of the Army Veterinary Department, in a lecture given in 1899, divided into five categories the military uses to which dogs could be put: "auxiliary sentinels,

scouts, messengers, carriers and searchers". An accurate forecast, as it turned out.

When hostilities were declared in August 1914, the German Army had 6,000 trained dogs ready for action. By contrast, the British Army was slow to realise the value of trained dogs at the front and it fell to one man to evangelise their cause, Col Edwin H Richardson, who was eventually commissioned by the War Office to establish the War Dog Training School at Shoebury.

Here, Richardson and his wife trained dogs and keepers that were later to comprise the Messenger Dog Service Royal Engineers.

It was not only in forward areas abroad that dogs saw service.

"Guard dogs were extensively used all over the country to protect factories, magazines and arsenals, and it was found that as a result the number of sentries could be reduced by half, an economy the authorities greatly appreciated."

With such proven success, it is surprising that it was not decided until March 1942 that 2,000 dogs were required to guard Second World War factories and airfields. The result was the Ministry of Aircraft's Guard Dog Training School which became, in 1944, the Royal Air Force Training Centre. The centre, now at Newton, Nottingham, currently concentrates on training sniffer dogs for detecting drugs, firearms and explosives.

Dr Gray praises the value of the bond between man and dog, but our ancestors surely went a bit over the top when the Greeks built Cynopolis, "City of Dogs", in honour of the species... and in Ethiopia a dog was elected king and attended by guards and courtiers. — BJ

Soldier 'I' SAS by Michael Paul Kennedy. Published by Bloomsbury Publishing Limited. Price £14.95 hardback.

Dogs of War by Ernest A Gray. Published by Robert Hale. Price £12.95 hardback.

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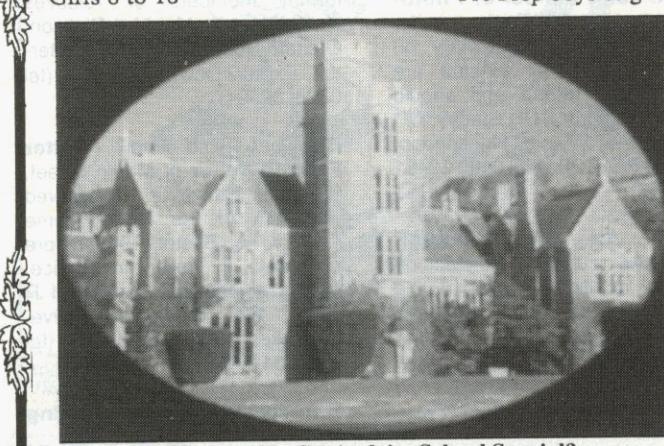
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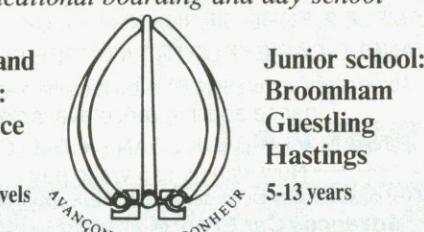
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Reunions

● The ninth annual reunion of the **2 RHA/2nd Field Regiment RA OCA** (all ranks) will be held at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess, Le Cateau Barracks, Colchester, Essex on May 4-5. Details from the Secretary, 24 Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 3AA (enclose SAE) or telephone 0206 768306 days, 0206 864333 evenings.

● A reunion of **ex-Harrogate Apprentices** will be held at Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, on May 5. All welcome, especially Intake 52B. Details from Doug Bell, 108 Villa Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5RN (tel 0206 540930).

● The **Joint School of Photographic Interpretation** celebrates its 50th anniversary on August 10-11. All ex-staff are welcome to attend and should contact Sqn Ldr CCD Stacey, OC JSPI, RAF Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 2EA (tel 0480 52451 ext 246).

● **656 Air OP Squadron RAF/AAC** reunion takes place on July 22 at Middle Wallop during International Air Show weekend. Details from H C (Nobby) Clark, 1 Marlborough Buildings, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR (tel 0458 250009).

● **Tarrant Rushton** reunion at the former airfield near Bournemouth on June 10. Details from Sam Jardine, 1 Hilliers Yard, Orchard Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7RB.

● **138th (City of London) Field Regiment RA Association**

annual reunion will be held on April 30 at the Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2. Details from Frank H Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Heston, Hounslow, Middx TW5 0PW.

● **Ex-Services** reunion concert

and dance at Fairfield Hall, Croydon, on September 29. Programme includes parade of standards, Band of Life Guards, songs of 1940s and Act of Remembrance. Details from FE Walter, 48 Essendene Road, Caterham on the Hill, Surrey CR3 5PA (tel 0883 342525).

Calling . . .

● Former members of the **1st Army, Algeria/Tunisia 1942-43** or RN, RAF or MN units who supported them. A 1st Army Association has been formed and former members or relatives should contact Maj M J Dickson, Orchard House, Woodbury Salterton, Exeter, Devon EX5 1EN (tel 0395 32594).

● Anyone who knew **Walter Francis Baker** of Martin Street, St Pauls, Bristol or who served with him in the Royal Horse Artillery TA, Bristol, 1939 before his death in action in France. Please contact his brother, H R Baker, 64 Wroughton Drive, Hartcliffe, Bristol BS13 0LR (tel 0272 641906).

● Ex-cadets of the **Air Training**

Corps, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. Following information wanted for a Roll of Honour: ADCC or ATC squadron number/name, rank, service, decorations, awards. Contact Wing Commander B H Swallow RAFVR(T), HQ Dorset/Wiltshire Wing ATC, 16 Main Road, Boscombe Down, Amesbury, Wilts SP4 7JY.

● Former **RASC boy apprentices** stationed at St Peter's Barracks, Jersey between October 1938 and June 1940, and subsequently at Deepcut Barracks, Blackdown and Buller Barracks, Aldershot. Joe Gutteridge, New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel 0278 422806), is organising a reunion on Jersey from June 16 to

23. So far 105 have been traced.

● Anyone who can remember a lone sailor embarking for the Arnhem operation, September 1944. **Air Mech 2nd Class LA Hooker** of HMS Daedalus is the only sailor buried in Oosterbeek cemetery. Lt Cdr DOV Hubbard RN, SETT, HMS Dolphin, Gosport, Hants PO12 2AB, who is in touch with Naval Airman Hooker's family, wants to learn more about him.

● Frank Sheppard, Harry, Jock Lythgoe, Sgt Shaw, Capt Riddle or any members of the **MT Section, RE, 164 Rly Opr Coy** 1939-45. Please contact LR Swindale, 6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapehill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL.

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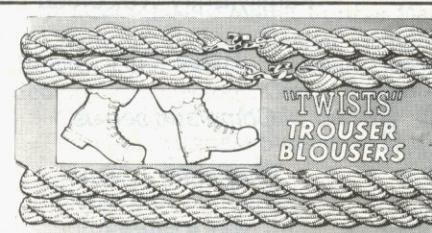
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More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

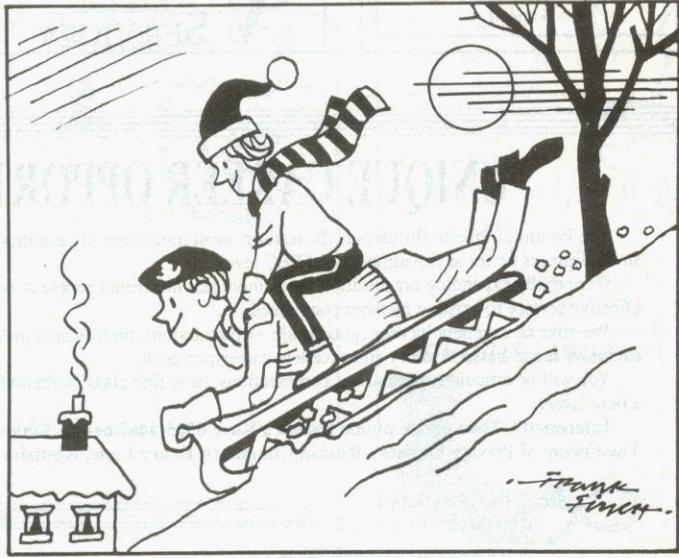
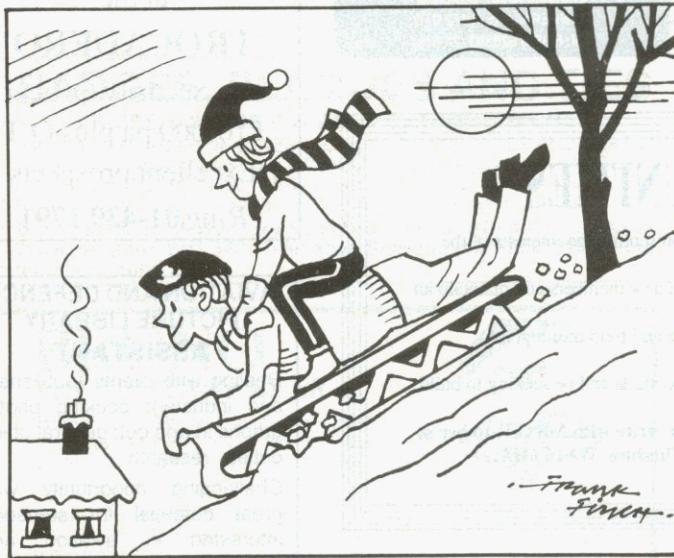
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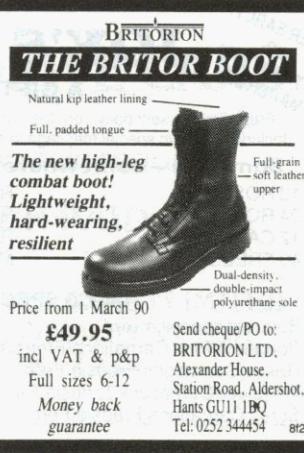
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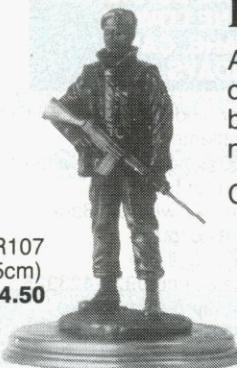
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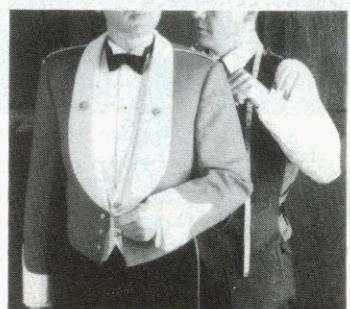
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Infanteers take to the ski slopes

AFTER years of watching the sappers and the Royal Armoured Corps take the lead in Alpine ski racing, the Infantry bit the bullet and established a race training camp at Val D'Isère in France.

Object of the exercise was to give infantrymen the intensive training needed in Alpine racing to make them competitive against other corps already enjoying a high standard of training.

More than 50 infantrymen from BAOR, UKLF and Northern Ireland turned up, with 11 teams taking part and 14 regiments represented.

Five weeks of hard work under the expert guidance of former French racers Jean and Patrick Zimmer were to culminate in an infantry Alpine ski championships at neighbouring Tignes.

Maj Colin Martin (RWF) co-ordinated the races at Tignes where the favourites were JLdr Nigel Barton (JIB Ouston), Capt Jonathan Stichbury (1 Gordons), and former Army ski team captain Capt Bertie Grotrian (IG).

Tony leads Engineers in training

EIGHTY young sappers, all competent downhill skiers if new to racing, joined a training camp at Fulpmes, Austria, as the Royal Engineers began their campaign to retain their position as the dominant corps in Army Alpine skiing.

The camp was run by current Army champions 35 Engineer Regiment.

Two races were organised to give the novices some competition experience. Former Army champion Sgt Tony Mortimore (35 Engr Regt) won the giant slalom, Spr Pond (35 Engr Regt) took the slalom and the overall combined championship, and the best junior was JSpr Scott (JLR RE).



Capt Jonathan Stichbury

honours at the expense of 1 RGJ. The Green Jackets were considerably strengthened by the arrival of their assistant adjutant, 2nd Lt Tana McQuoid, who had been training with the Army women's team.

Hopes of a Barton hat-trick in the final day's super giant slalom were dashed when he fell on the second run and Stichbury led Grotrian past the post by one hundredth of a second.

In the team event 1 RGJ took first place, closely followed by 1 Gordons. Davidson was fastest novice, as he had been in the previous day's giant slalom.

Champion Infantry Alpine team for 1990 were the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, with Bertie Grotrian hooked a tip, straddled a gate and was disqualified on the second run. JIB Ouston won the team prize ahead of 1 Gordons with JIB's JLdr Robert Owenson unexpectedly emerging as best novice.

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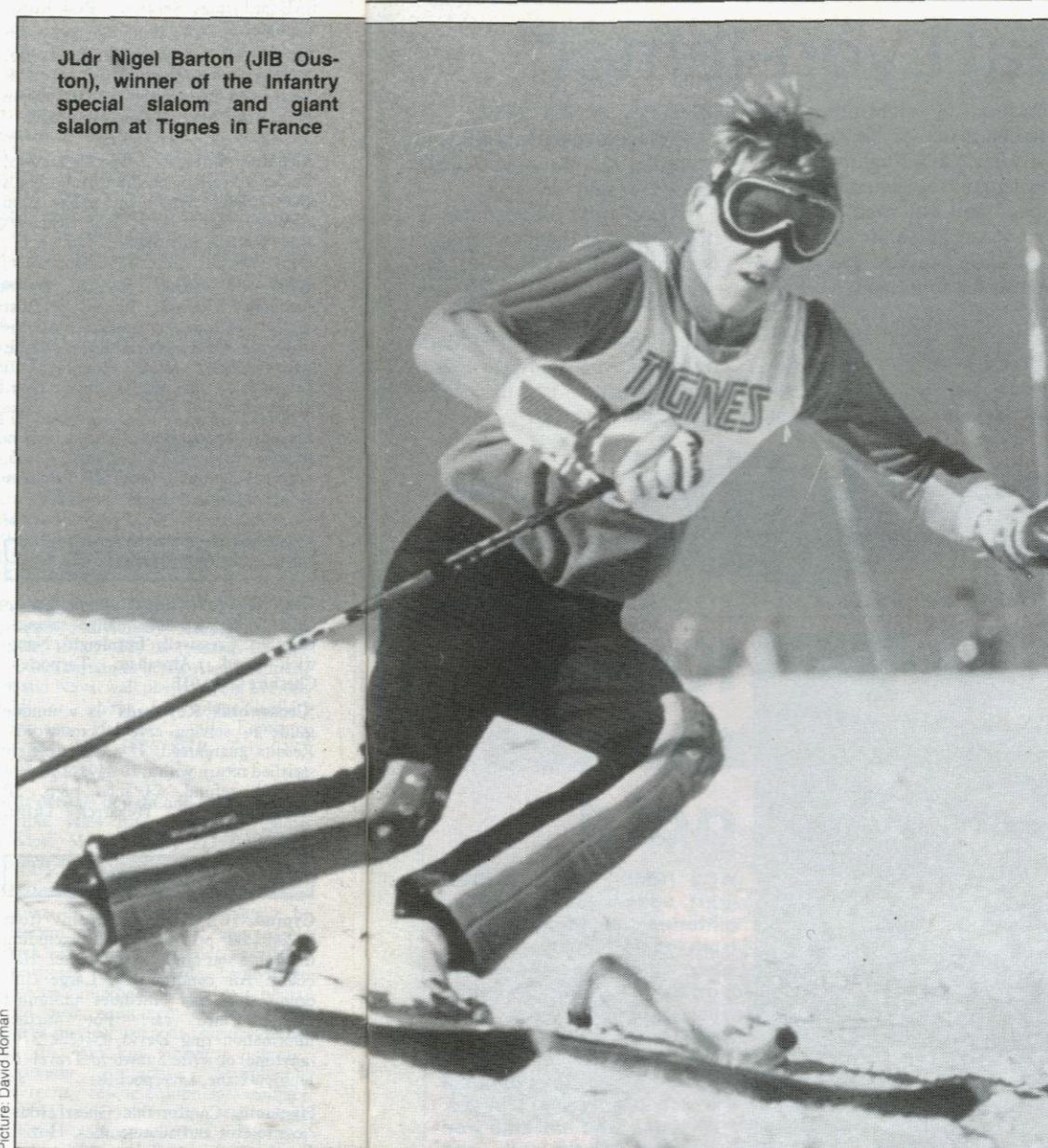
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JLdr Nigel Barton (JIB Ouston), winner of the Infantry special slalom and giant slalom at Tignes in France



Picture: David Roman

1st and 4th Division championships

The 30km military patrol race was won by 45 Cdo RM, followed by 42 Cdo. But there was a surprise in the patrol race as far as 4 Div was concerned, with 2 Queens finishing ahead of 3 RHA, 28 Amph Engr Regt and 35 Engr Regt.

The sappers were the champion unit overall, with 4 Armd Fd Amb winning the minor units' competition. Most successful of the UKLF teams were 13/18 H with 1 Gordons a close second.

The 1st Armoured Division

ski championships moved from Axams in Austria to Le Grand Bornand in France, the first change in location for 16 years. Lack of snow below 3,000m reduced the championships to a north-facing slope in the Vallee du Marly, with the Nordic course set at a higher altitude than the Alpine events! Slalom events were substituted in place of the downhill, a victim of the dearth of snow.

Both Nordic and Alpine disciplines were dominated by the 1 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT team. They won the 10km relay, the 7.5km biathlon relay, and the 15km race through LCpl King.

Gnr Bell of 4 Fd Regt won the 10km individual title and 2 RTR took the patrol race.

Sappers set the standard

In the giant slalom 1 ADTR won both team and individual gold, LCpl Lock and Cpl Knight taking first and second places. Lock was also first in the slalom, leading 1 ADTR to another team victory. The Queen's Own Hussars from Hohne were second in both slalom events.

Lock also won the individual Alpine combination trophy ahead of veteran SSgt Phileman (Berlin Sigs). 1 ADTR and 12 Armd Wksp respectively took the major and minor unit combination titles in both Alpine and Nordic disciplines, with Cpl Watkins of 1 ADTR winning the individual Nordic combination.

The RA Cup was won by 4 Fd Regt RA and the RCT Cup by 1 ADTR.

Judo

WINNERS in the Army junior novice individual judo championships held at ASPT Aldershot were: U-60kg, AT Taylor (AAC Harrogate); U-65kg, AT White (AAC Harrogate); U-71kg, JSpr Straw (JLR RE); U-78kg, JSpr Fahey (JLR RE); 0-78kg, AT Digweed (AAC Chepstow).

Boxing

AN Army Select boxing team beat a Welsh team by four bouts to two on Guernsey. There were wins for LCpl Carl Baker (5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Regt), Gdsm Shane Grant (2 Coldm Gds), Gdsm Jimmy Brennan (1 IG) and Pte John Yule (1 PWO).

In the UKLF minor units' novice Grade 3 team boxing finals, 9 Para Sqn RE beat 15 Bn RAOC by six bouts to one.

Thirty minutes into the

Monastery life is hard for Dukes

THE prediction we made earlier in the season as to the likely finalists in the 1990 Army Major Units challenge Cup rugby competition has turned out to be spot on, although only by the proverbial skin of the teeth, writes John Quin.

The Military Stadium in Aldershot will again play host to a UK final between those two old Army Cup veterans, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and 7th Regiment RHA, the Airborne Gunners, in a match which will decide who meets the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the BAOR-UK final in Germany on April 4.

The Glosters and Tps Hereford will have to wait another day, but how close they came.

The semi-final between Tps Hereford (guess who?) and the Dukes finally went ahead thanks to some inspired planning by the home side and the generosity of a local monastery-based boarding school which loaned its pitch.

On one touchline were the soldiers of 1 DWR, opposed on the other touchline by the home supporters, also in works dress, mingled with monks and schoolboys, making it difficult to tell who was who!

Never mind, apart from a mix-up over the identity of the home side CO and the local abbot, all went well.

Referee WO1 (RSM) Martin Gorwin of 47 Fd Regt RA handled the game very well indeed. He needed to because it was volatile, to say the least.

Everything the Dukes tried was cut down at source with a ferocity which frustrated – and frequently annoyed – the Yorkshiresmen.

Even after the Dukes had gone ahead through an early try by WO2 (CSM) Phil Elwell, the home side refused to lie down. When Hereford scored on half time it was just reward for their endeavours.

second period the Dukes got the vital break via the boot of impressive fullback Cpl Jonah Jones. Minutes later he made the game even more secure with a superb try-saving tackle on a flying Hereford winger.

Congratulations are due to the home team for doing so well with virtually a scratch side – their last player arriving by helicopter minutes before the match began.

In the minor units competition holders 33 Indep Fd Sqn are through to the final again, although their opponents will not be known until 9 Ord Bn and the School of Infantry have sorted out their semi-final.

On the Army front the senior game against the Territorial Army had to be called off because of a waterlogged stadium. With two defeats behind them, Maj Brian McCall's men must be hoping for good displays against the two universities.

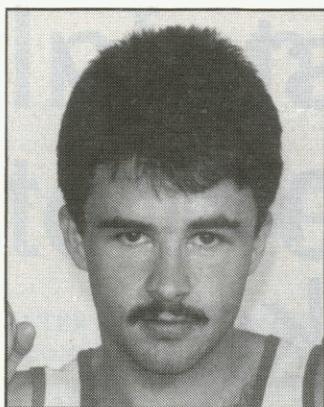
Oxford and Cambridge are generally regarded as a good gauge of progress as the other Services also play them in the build-up to Twickenham.

Finally, congratulations to 2nd Lt Tim Rodber (Green Howards) on his selection for England B against France B in Paris.

East-West encounter

RUGBY-playing members of the Berlin-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers beat the East Berlin Post Office XV 38-0 in an historic encounter at Montgomery Barracks.

The event was seen as another significant link in the new relationship between East and West. It took place 74 days after the Wall was opened, and ended with the young East Germans being entertained in the Red Dragon Club. They have invited 1 RWF to a return fixture.



John McLean

John's a real Lyon-tamer

ARMY and Scotland flyweight LCpl John McLean (1 Trg Regt RE) recorded a famous victory over England's legendary John Lyon in the preliminary round of the boxing tournament at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand.

McLean was in superb form during the opening two rounds, catching Lyon again and again with jolting punches that

knocked the eight-times AB champion out of his stride.

Lyon had a slightly better third round but could not stop sapper McLean from taking a well-deserved points victory.

McLean's success was all the sweeter because Lyon, a bronze medal winner in the Brisbane Games, has lifted two of his ABA crowns at the Army boxer's expense. The two last met in the ABA finals at

Wembley in May 1989.

In the quarter-finals McLean went out to a Tanzanian boxer on a 3-2 split decision.

There was disappointment for Army and England bantam-weight Sgt Keith Howlett. He went out in the preliminary round, beaten by Uganda's Muteweta. Royal Marine Mark Edwards won a bronze medal for England in the middleweight division.

Big guns still firing

10 Regt in last four

ALL the big guns are still in contention in the BAOR Challenge Cup competition, which for once is further advanced than the United Kingdom draw, writes Pat Massey.

Former winners 28 Amph Engr Regt RE were due to meet the survivors of the 5 Ord Bn-1 RHA quarter-final, with the sappers seen as favourites for a place at Sennelager.

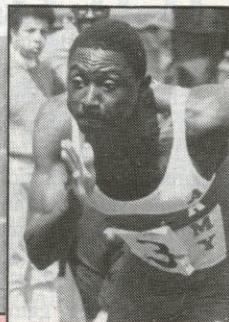
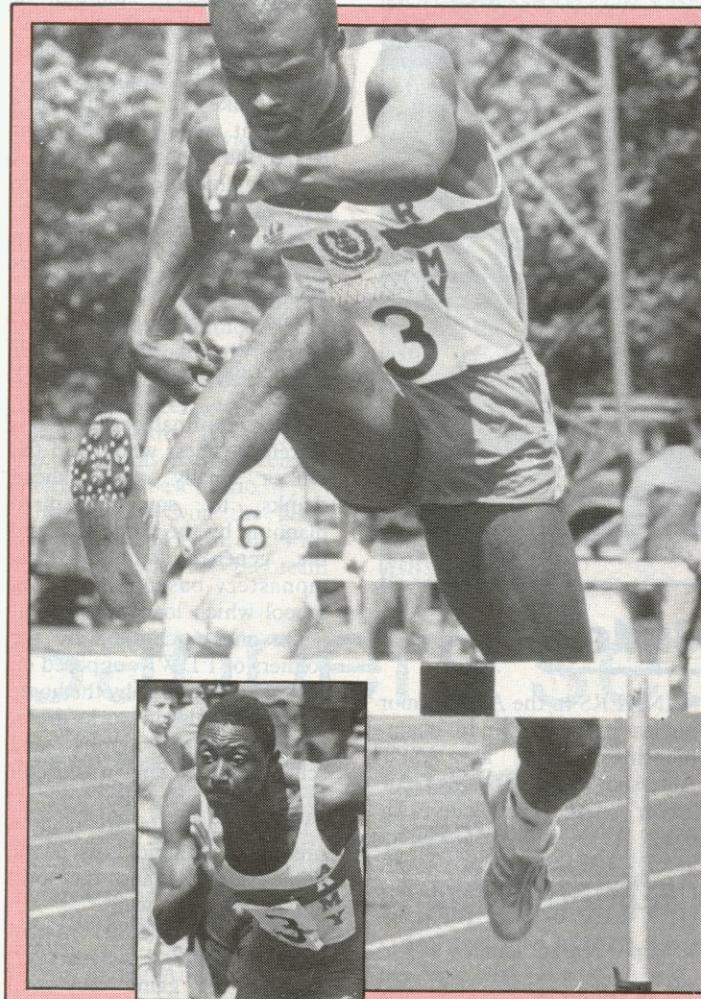
Also through to the last four are 10 Regt RCT (the BAOR and Challenge Cup holders). They are due to meet the winners who emerge from the group left in the other half of the draw - 28 Sig Regt, 1 QO Hldrs and 1 RS.

Local pundits have put their Deutschmarks on 10 Regt retaining both trophies.

SEME Bordon are safely through to the UK semi-finals thanks to a 15th minute goal which settled their home tie against the resolute 1 RHF.

But my predictions of further progress for the much-fancied 1/3 Trg Regts RE came off the rails when they went down by the odd goal in three to the School of Signals, the centenary year Challenge Cup winners and last year's UK champions. But the Blandford signallers met their match in 7/10 UDR, losing 1-0.

Another of my tips bit the dust when 38 Engr Regt RE went out 3-2 to a last-minute goal against Comms and Sy Gp



Kriss strikes gold

WO2 (QMSI) Kriss Akabusi (left) added to his already glittering collection of medals from major championships when he won the 400m hurdles in the Commonwealth Games at Auckland, New Zealand.

Akabusi led from the halfway stage to dominate the race in a time of 48.89sec.

Akabusi, who has also won European, World Cup and Olympic medals, missed out on another medal when the England 4 x 400m relay team was controversially disqualified in the heats.

After the Games, Akabusi was joining his GB squad colleagues for training in Los Angeles to prepare for the European Championships in Split, Yugoslavia, in September.

Army sprinter Cpl Clarence Callender (inset) of 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt anchored the England 100m relay team to victory in a Games record.

(UK), who drew 1-1 with 1/2 Gurkha Rifles at Crookham in their first meeting for a place in the last four. Winners of that tie take on 94 Loc Regt RA, 2-1 victors over 1 DWR, in the semi-finals due to be played on February 21. SEME and 7/10 UDR meet in the other semi.

London University 0, Army XI 3

When the Army's South West Counties tie against

Hampshire fell foul of a waterlogged pitch, they rerouted the best part of their first team squad - desperately in need of a match - to Motspur Park for the annual tilt against London University.

Although the soldiers were never really tested, the game provided them with a valuable workout before the serious stuff starts.

The Army cut out the early pace and opened the scoring on

the quarter hour when Sgt Sandy Brown (R Signals) curled a shot home after the 'keeper had parried a Cpl Shaun Gilman (RAOC) effort.

Five minutes later skipper Brown punished a sloppy student back pass to put the Army two up, and in the second half the side's other Brown - Sig Paul Brown (R Signals) - completed the scoring after a superb pass from Cpl Steve Welsh (R Signals).



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SOLDIER



RSM Frank Morton makes the first ceremonial cut in the haggis at the 1 KOSB warrant officers' and sergeants' mess Burns Night supper at Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. Looking on is Brig Bob Riddle, Colonel of the Regiment. The piper is Cpl Drew Bunyan. Story and more pictures in Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Weston