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21 SEPTEMBER 1987

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**FRONT COVER:** SSgt Anthony Bokenham, Drum Major of 1 R Anglian, cuts a dash in his floral attire for the regiment's Minden Day parade in Gibraltar. See Page 25.

Picture: Sgt Arthur Thomson, UKLF

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# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

## THIS ISSUE

"You put your left hand in, your left hand out . . ." No, the Red Devils weren't involved in an impromptu hokey cokey - members of the famous parachute display team were doing a "dirt dive" when photographer Paul Haley visited them at the Army parachute championships. While Sgt Steve Slater RAOC (left) calls out the order of patterns, team members practise on the ground tactics which make more sense in the sky. There is a full report on the championships in Pages 48 and 49.



## NEXT ISSUE

You can read the first instalment of a special report on the Belize Garrison. SOLDIER has been visiting the men who make up the garrison at work and at recreation. From the steamy jungles to the sandy white beaches . . . in the next issue of SOLDIER.

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## LETTERS

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## Medal mania devalues the currency

I find it rather difficult to understand why Mr Cavadino (SOLDIER, August 24) feels he should have been awarded a medal for all the notable occasions during his 22 years' service.

No disrespect intended, but surely this is the same principle as keeping a list of the amounts one has donated to various

### Mention for Gunner Ellis

I have come by a certificate recording that 777989 Gunner L T Ellis RA was mentioned in a dispatch for distinguished service. His name was published in the *London Gazette* Jan 11, 1945.

I should be pleased to pass the document to either his family or any other person with an interest in this soldier. — Dennis Pillinger, Military Historical Society, Ringinglow, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2QR.

### Reunion

• Sussex branch of 8th Army Veterans will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Battle of Alamein with a reunion at Hove Town Hall on October 24. Details from Mr D Dacey, 87 Staplefield Drive, Brighton BN2 4RH.

### Call sign

• Mr James B Saunders of 119 Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Nr Leicester LE8 3DX, wishes to contact Wallace "Wally" Edgar who was with 53rd (Worcestershire Yeomanry) Air Landing Light Regt RA during the Second World War, to complete his contact with the Command Post team which flew across the Rhine in 1945.

charities over the years just to look back on now and again to remind oneself of one's generosity!

I have nothing whatsoever against the Americans, but it is widely accepted that their Servicemen are awarded medals for everything — in my opinion this only serves to lessen the value of them simply because they are so easily gained.

Are medals such as the LS and GC, the Northern Ireland and UN medals not valued more by the British Army recipient simply because they are not handed out like sweets to a child?

I certainly do not believe that the British Government are "loath" to issue medals, as Mr Cavadino states. It is just that the policy seems to be that one must earn one's decoration and not be awarded a 'gong' for every conceivable reason.

My goodness me, if that were the case there would be many a British Army Serviceman past and present with vast collections of medals on their chests, that's for sure! — Name and address supplied.

## Wrong place for medals

Reading Mr Cavadino's letter Medals Galore (SOLDIER, August 24) it would appear he was in the wrong place to be awarded any medals.

I enlisted in 1931 and served for over 30 years. I took part in King George V funeral parade, I was on the abdication parade of the Prince of Wales, the proclamation parade, Jubilee parade and was in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation of George VI but I didn't get any medals and indeed didn't expect any.

I did get one for the Palestine troubles prior to 1939.

After our battalion moved to



I thought you had printed in a recent issue of SOLDIER a photo of recruits from the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, so similar were the cap badges. So I've sent you this copy of a picture taken in 1938 at Cowley Barracks, Oxford, the regiment's training depot. Soon after it was taken we did guard duty at the Tower of London before joining the second battalion in India where they called us the "Shower from the Tower". The NCO in the centre was Sgt Girdler.

I am on the ground second from the right and I'd like to know what became of the others. — JJ Powers, 64 Edgar Street, Bankstown 2200, NSW, Australia.

World War if you would do an article on the Royal Garrison Artillery. — John Gallacher, 114 Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

## No word of this fine gunner unit

Even the late King George V said of the RGA in 1919: "No Artillery Regiment has done better." You always mention the Honourable Artillery Company, The Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery. Why? My father used to say it was as though his regiment had been dismissed by the War Office!

I know that their smallest gun was the 60-pounder and that their largest gun was a 16 inch naval gun, mounted on a railway truck. I have tried to get information on the master gunner, which I believe was a commissioned warrant officer rank in RGA, equal to that of a second lieutenant in a line regiment.

If Mr Cavadino looks up *The Emperor's War* (page 37, SOLDIER, August 24), he will see it was a bit longer than India and Iraq.

As a point of interest, during my first spell of seven years abroad, I had one week's leave!

— Charlie Gay, 63 The Hill Avenue, Bath Road, Worcester WR5 2AN.

It would be a wonderful tribute to all the officers, warrant officers, NCOs and men who served in the First

## Rock on!

Hello Gibraltar! Calling Pte S Robinson of Anti-tank Platoon, Support Company, 1 Royal Anglians. There's a cheque for £50 on its way to you for winning SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 418. Why not try your luck again in this issue (see Page 39) and get your mates to have a go too?

## A long line of fallen

Regarding casualties suffered by the Glider Pilot Regiment in the Second World War (SOLDIER, August 10), they were indeed heavy (560 killed and missing in three years), but I think something should be said about casualties suffered by Infantry of the Line regiments in NW Europe.

For example, our battalion, 6th KOSB, 15 Scottish Division suffered 1,300 casualties from Normandy to the Baltic in 11 months, including 372 killed and missing and 908 wounded. Only two members of the Pipe Band survived unscathed.

I don't think these casualties were untypical in Line regiments at the sharp end of the war in which a comparatively small proportion of soldiers were involved. — J Roche, Rose Cottage, Grange Weint, Liverpool L25 5JX.

## SOLDIER

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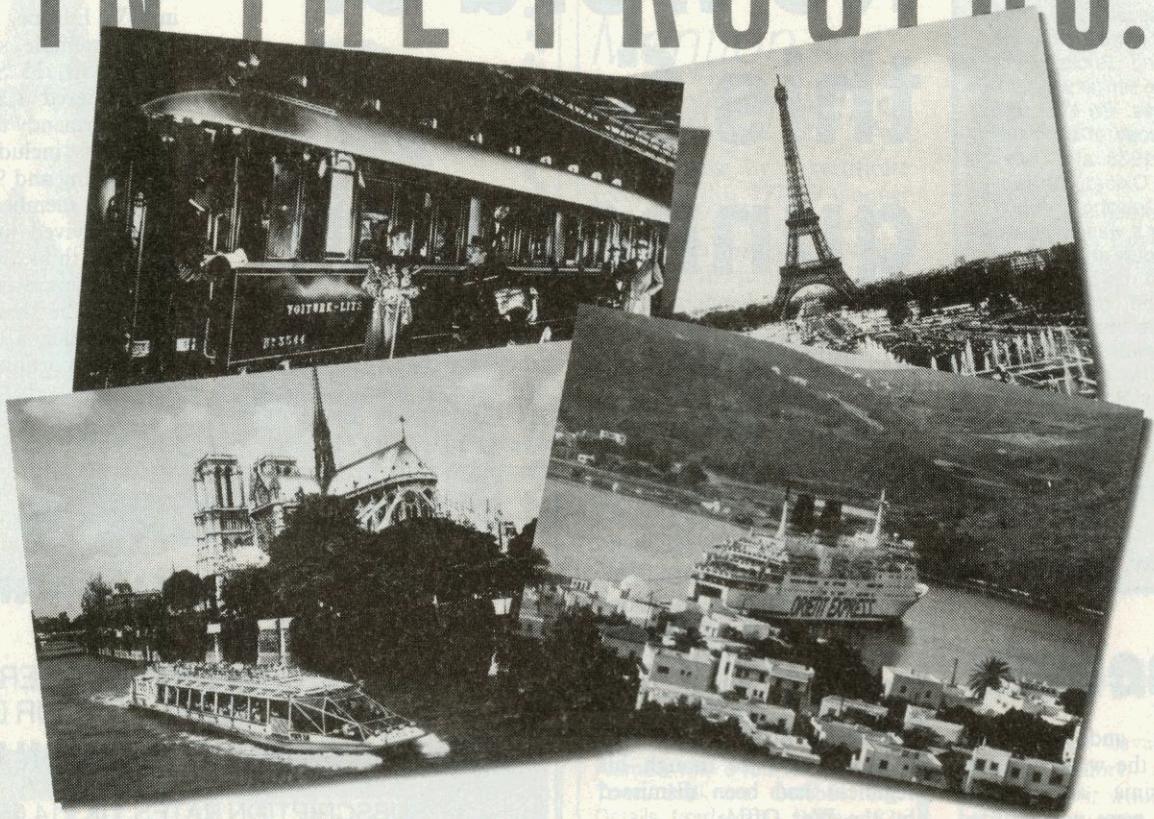
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# Thanks, buddy...

NORMALLY a "behind the scenes" man keeping an eye on the day-to-day running of the BMH Berlin, Administration Officer Capt Alan Sanford RAMC found himself more a medic when he saved the life of a seven-year-old boy at the American Community's Cole swimming pool.

The boy was floating motionless in the pool when Alan rapidly got him to the side and applied first aid, with good results.

Now the American Community has presented him with a signed certificate, whose citation reads: "Your quick thinking and response to a life threatening situation was instrumental in assisting in resuscitating (the boy). Because of your efforts the child is alive and well today."

Alan, whose medical knowledge is the normal Army first aid qualification, is posted to the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, next month.



Capt Sanford (right) receives his citation from Mr Monte C Nelson, US Chief of Recreation, Berlin



Joan Collins with the tiger statuette presented to her by the men of 132 Heavy Battery

## Joan brings out the tiger in 132 Battery

WHAT connection has superstar Joan Collins with 132 Heavy Battery, Royal Artillery? Not a lot . . . until she visited a safari park near Sennelager, West Germany, to open a compound for a pair of rare white tigers.

132 Battery started life in 1816 as the Rocket Troop, Royal Bengal Artillery. On ceremonial occasions their M110 guns still bear a commemorative emblem - a tiger and a Congreve rocket.

So it was only proper that when Joan set off for the safari park she should be

escorted by eight gunners in their best blues, if only to protect her from the hordes of media men.

During a lull in the mêlée, the battery presented her with a statuette of their tiger emblem. She is pictured above with it and (from left to right) Gnrs Austin Walsh, Ian Lavers, Andrew Robbins, Keith Wood and Jock Connor.

Members of the battery will have a chance of seeing tigers in the wild next month when they visit Sikh War (1848-9) battlefields and trek in the Himalayas.

# Ptarmigan wing gets Royal treatment

THE Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, was due to officially open Catterick Garrison's new £30m Ptarmigan Training Wing on September 10. The wing houses one of the most advanced communications training centres in the UK and is specially designed to support the Royal Army's tactical communications network.

The building cost nearly £3m and the equipment £27m. Its role is to train corps system operators and technicians in the use of Ptarmigan.

Earlier, the Princess Royal visited 11 Signal Regiment to take the salute at a pass out parade of 41 junior signallers from Iron Troop after their 26 weeks' basic training. She also visited 8 Signal Regiment.

Second part of the visit included the 14th/20th King's Hussars of which she is Colonel-in-Chief.

## Mercians lead off

THE West Midlands claims to be in the forefront of the Territorial Army's national expansion plan.

"While some associations are still looking for sites, we have planned, built, and taken over two of the finest new TA centres in Britain," says Lt Col Denis Kane, deputy secretary of the Birmingham based West Midlands TA Association.

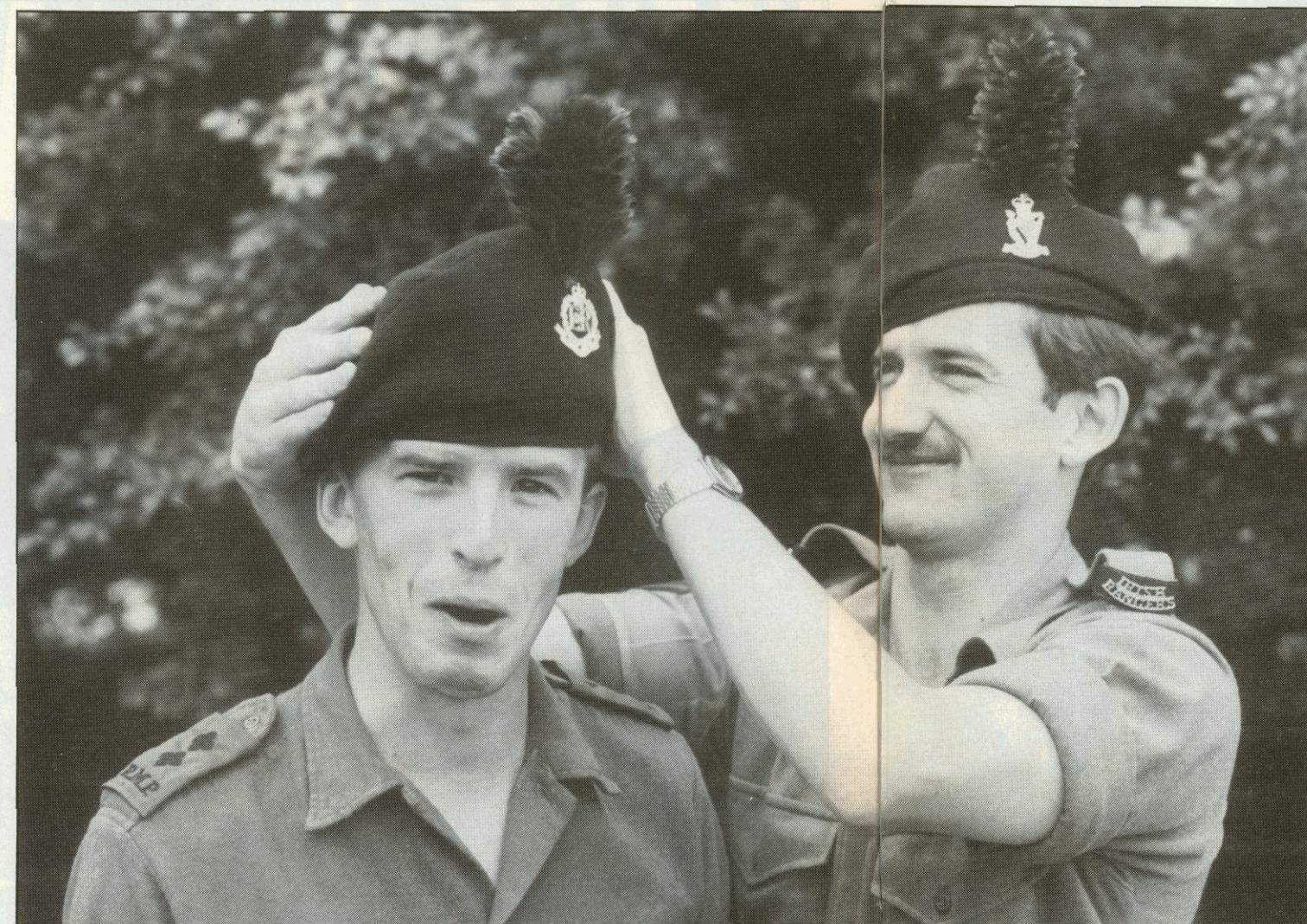
The first is the £800,000 Caen House at Tamworth, home of the newly-formed T Company of the 1st Bn Mercian Volunteers (the 'T' is for Tamworth).

The second is the £1.2 million Kohima House at Redditch, which will provide a new HQ for the 2nd Bn Mercian Volunteers.

The TA is currently being expanded from a strength of about 70,000 to more than 85,000 by 1990.

### Turkey talking

NATO's Military Committee has spent ten days visiting military installations and armed forces in Italy, Greece and Turkey. Chiefs of Staff held one of their three annual meetings while in Turkey.



### Hackle happy

A FEATHER in his cap for Lt Mark Burgoine, Royal Military Police, who has just joined the 2nd Royal Irish Rangers at Dover on a six-month attachment to see how the infantry operates. One of his first tasks was to swap his red RMP beret for the famous green Caubeen complete with hackle. But he is keeping his own corps cap badge. The fitting is being done by Sgt Ken Fox.

### S10 on order

A CONTRACT worth more than £10 million has been awarded by the MoD to Avon Industrial Polymers Ltd for the supply of face-pieces for the new General Service respirator, the S10. The new respirator will replace the current model, in service for more than 20 years.

### Numbers down

THERE are 3,000 fewer Service personnel than there were a year ago when the summer total was 318,694. Army strength has dipped by 2,000 and outflow from the Army rose by 6.6 per cent. Army Servicemen exits rose by 342 according to Government Statistical Service figures.



A surprised young Edward Household (right) talks to Lt Gen Sir Antony Walker

## Spandau sappers

SAPPERS from 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron RE stripped the roof and removed windows to begin the dismantling of Spandau Prison. A West Berlin firm is expected to begin the major demolition work shortly.

The prison, where Rudolph Hess was held for 41 years until he committed suicide on August 17, is being pulled down to make way for a Naafi shopping and recreation centre for 4,000 British troops and their families.

Rubble from the prison is to be disposed of secretly to prevent souvenir hunters collecting Hess memorabilia.

38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn moved to the city almost exactly 30 years ago and has been there ever since.

## All the Queen's ponies

SOLDIERS on horseback clattering through London's streets are not an unusual sight – but these mounted men are neither cavalry nor in London. They are the pony men of The Royal Highland Fusiliers who form part of the Royal Guard at Balmoral.

All infantry soldiers, the pony men are trained to ride and look after the Royal ponies used for recreation and to carry deer from the hillsides after a hunt. In charge of the unit is Col Sgt James King of the signals platoon.

## Household connection

EDWARD Household was the most amazed teenager on the Royal Armoured Corps passing out parade from the Junior Leaders Regiment at Bovington Camp when the Reviewing Officer and Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments) suddenly stopped in front of him and addressed him by name.

Lt Gen Sir Antony Walker, who is also Colonel Commandant of The Royal Tank Regiment quickly explained that he knew the young man's father, Mr Graham Household. They had been school chums at Merchant Taylor's School, Northwood, in 1952.

Mr Household and Gen Walker renewed their acquaintance after the parade.

Proud dad, a senior marketing executive with British Gas, had let the connection be known at a parents' reception on the eve of the pass out parade and Gen Walker was subsequently briefed by the adjutant.

## Robert's in tune with Colombia

PIPE Major Robert Pinkman KOSB, currently serving with the Army Apprentices College ACC, has been given an unusual assignment - to instruct Colombian naval students in the art of piping.

Pipe Major Pinkman is off to South America for two months.

Colombian Navy pipers serve a four year apprenticeship and the country is justifiably proud of its pipe band. The presence of a Scottish Division pipe major should ensure a bond between them and pipers all over the world.

Pipe Major Pinkman has composed a tune called *La Escuela Naval Almirante Padilla* and a slow air entitled *Laura Bruce* which the band is to perform in October.



COLOMBIA BOUND: Pipe Major Robert Pinkman

### Corner spot

From National Serviceman to Major General and now to Chief Executive of the newly created Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, Maj Gen Barry Lane, former GOC South West District, takes up his new Welsh post on October 8.

## THE MARCH OF TIME

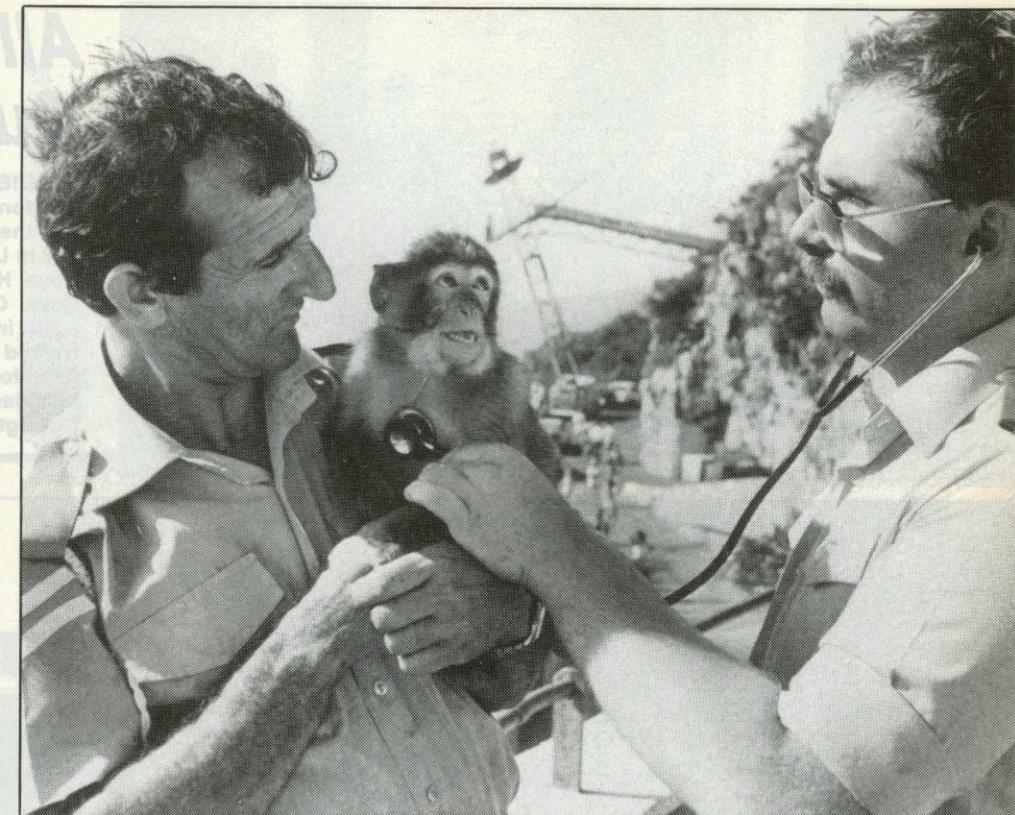


NAPOLEON's Army of autumn 1805 numbered 176,000 men as it marched from the Channel coast to cross into Germany heading for the Upper Danube. But 2nd Lt Alan Deer's army numbered just eight men as they donned period costume to march the 750-km route between Koblenz and Ulm, a 15-day footslog.

The eight, from 43 Ordnance Company, RAOC, based at Hanover, decided to follow in the steps of Napoleon. Boney's men had just

eight days' rations and those were not issued until contact was made with the enemy! Deer's marchers fared better but slept in barns and woods, lived off locally bought produce and cooked chickens and rabbits over camp fires.

At the end of it all, their knowledge of Napoleon's campaign had been vastly improved, two charities had benefited from donations along the way and the uniform wearers learned all about getting a pain in the neck - from those high-collared uniforms!



## Breathe in . . .

Monkey business took Aldershot based Capt Rick Carver (right) of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps to Gibraltar when a lung virus struck the Rock's famous Barbary apes. Pictured with Cpl Ernest Asquez of the Gibraltar Regiment - the locally recruited TA equivalent who are responsible for the care of the apes - Capt Carver administered antibiotics to both packs.

# PEOPLE

## Scamper takes pot luck

A chinchilla called Scamper has commandeered the giant play teapot of the children's ward in the British Military Hospital, Rinteln, Germany. He uses it as his personal residence - well it's made to look like a house isn't it.

Maj Marjory Bandy, QARANC, is seen here feeding the little squatter with a monkey nut. The children don't mind Scamper's antics - well-wishers have sent them a replacement teapot. Scamper, by the way, is a South American chinchilla and not a rabbit.

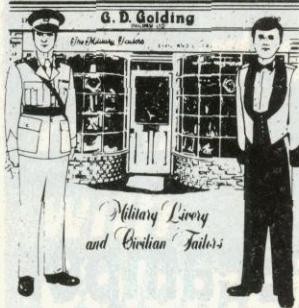


Heather's quite an arm full!



FOR WREN HEATHER DANIELS (Miss Maritime Portsmouth) it's a case of all the nice boys love a sailor. Two members of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, Gnr Ian Michie (left) and Gnr Simon Kelly, gave her a "lift" during the Royal Tournament.

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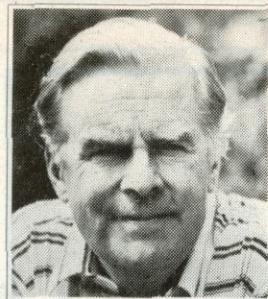
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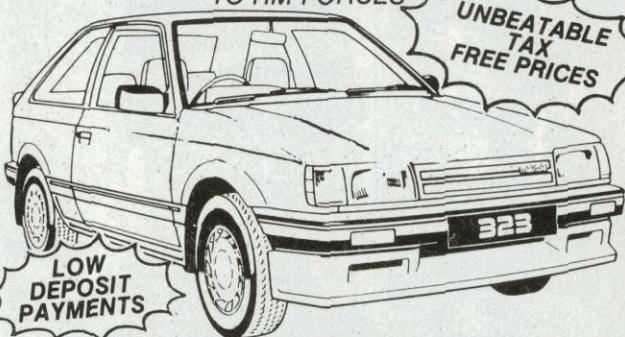
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# Video star!

Who among **SOLDIER**'s readers is the most knowledgeable about the Army?

Mr P S Thurlby of 61 Collingwood Road, Horsham, West Sussex, must have a claim to the title after winning top prize in **SOLDIER PUR-SUITS**, the 25-question quiz about military matters which offered readers the chance to win prizes worth £1,000.

**SOLDIER** asked readers to answer the questions and then, in 20 words, say what they thought made the British Army today a top professional organisation.

Not a single reader answered all the questions correctly, but most of those who entered slipped up on only one answer, among them Mr Thurlby. His tie breaker was judged the most appropriate, so Mr Thurlby receives the top prize of a Philips video recorder.

The second prize, an Hitachi microwave oven, was won by Mr C P Dickens, of 196 Foxlydiate Crescent, Redditch, Worcs, and the third prize, a Toshiba colour television, by Robin Charley, c/o Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Irish Rangers, 5 Waring Street, Belfast.

The next five entrants have each received a set of Trivial Pursuit, the general knowledge quiz game.

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

Picture: Paul Haley

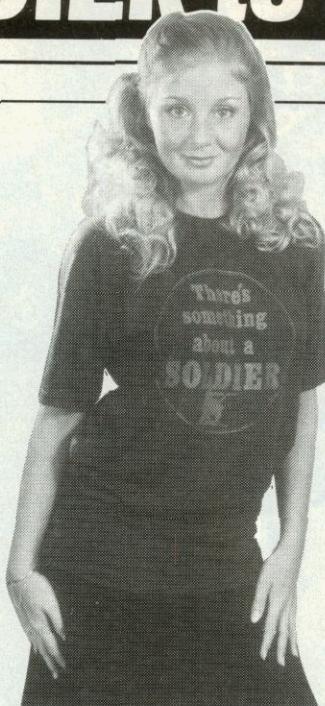
## In tune with Lavinia

What a nice way to fill a **SOLDIER** T-shirt - with Lavinia Ritchie-Haydn.

A five-feet-two-inches bundle of energy, she sings and dances. She used to tour with an Army group, the Salsations, but they broke up. Then a civilian group, Dynamite, took her to Israel, Athens and Corfu. Now she finds her own bookings - and works at a garage in Aldershot between engagements.

Lavinia (24), is a bachelor girl living with her mum in Farnborough, Hants.

**SOLDIER** sweatshirts and T-shirts are available in navy blue or white overprinted in red. T-shirts come in small, medium and large sizes and cost £3.90 (children £3.10) including postage, while sweatshirts are £6.50 for the



children's sizes (24, 26, 28 and 30) and £8.20 for adults in small, medium and large.

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## You can trust a soldier

Soldiers, sailors and airmen are top of the trust pops in America.

Two survey organisations, Gallup and Harris, have recently found that Americans trust the US military more than any other institution, according to a report in *Soldiers*, the US Army official magazine.

They rate higher in the polls than the Supreme Court, Congress, the church and banks!

And 36 per cent of Americans expressed "a great deal of confidence" in US military leaders.

## World's top paddlers?

Eighteen thousand feet up a Chinese mountain seems a strange place to paddle a boat.

The Army led party of 19 who planned to enter Tibet on September 18 to climb Xixabangma, the world's 13th highest peak, have a lightweight inflatable boat among their 8,000lbs of expedition stores, all carried up to the mountain by a train of yaks.

To reach the ascent point, an ice strewn stretch of water has to be navigated, and there the equipment will be loaded on to the 30lb boat and ferried across the mile-wide waters.

## Sick parade pensioned off

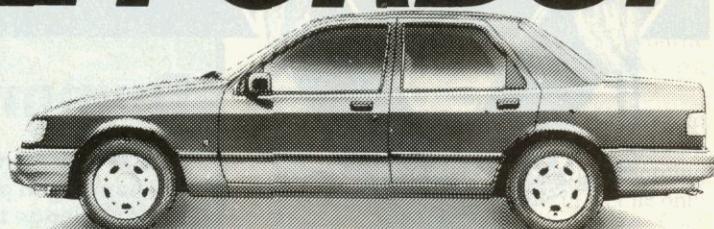
The Army dentists of Aldershot, home of the British Army, have deftly extracted two time-honoured words from the Army's vocabulary of decades . . . sick parade!

Instead, they have filled the cavity with three more words to update their image - early morning clinic.

A spokesman at Aldershot Dental Centre said: "It has been felt for several months now that we ought to update our image and hence the change of name."

One corporal said: "They can call it what they like, it will always be plain sick parade as far as I am concerned."

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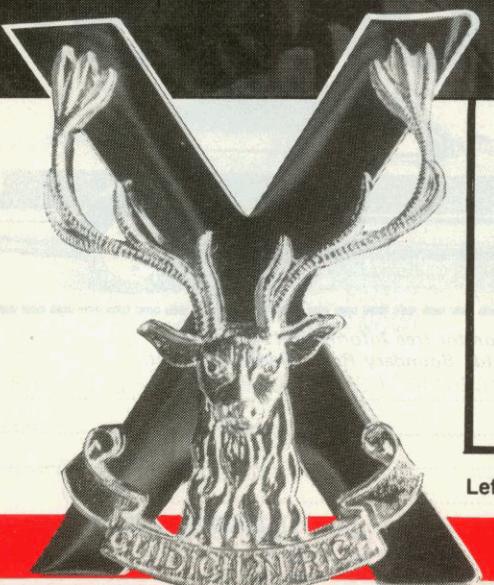
Story: Martin Paterson  
Pictures: Sgt  
Arthur  
Thomson



### Dummy run

LCpl Gillian Porteous and Cpl Katriona Ryan put their first aid knowledge to the test in front of one of the world's most famous landmarks - the Rock of Gibraltar. Both girls are from Stirling in Scotland

Left - 3/51's cap badge



Left - Wearing his SAWES equipment, Pte Duncan Stewart prepares to attack an "enemy"

# JOCKS ON THE ROCK

THE rugged terrain of the Rock of Gibraltar provided the setting for this year's annual training camp for the hundred or so men and women of B Company, 3rd Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers (3/51), a Territorial Army unit based at Cumbernauld.

The two week camp gave Maj Stewart Robbie and his men ample opportunity to improve their military skills, such as weapon handling, nuclear, biological and chemical training, first aid skills, fieldcraft, watermanship and adventure activities, and they also took part in rock climbing, canoeing, potholing, sailing, abseiling and swimming.

It was an early start for the soldiers of 3/51 - reveille sounded each morning at half past five, and for those not fully awake the brisk morning runs up the steeply sloping roadways blew away the night's cobwebs. After a hefty British Army breakfast the training began in earnest.

The Cumbernauld based Terriers, taking part in Exercise Marble Tor, were fortunate to hit the Mediterranean summer, and throughout most of the exercise trained in temperatures of up to 95 degrees Farenheit, certainly a good deal more pleasant than at home in Central Scotland.

There was still time despite the hectic

training programme for most of the company to visit the many interesting places on the tiny 2 1/4 square miles of Gibraltar, where evidence of the many previous civilisations which have inhabited the Rock - Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Moors, Spanish and British - can be seen.

The peninsula's most famous locals - the Rock apes - proved a popular attraction for the Jocks.

Said Maj Robbie, the Company Commander: "The Rock gives us an opportunity to train in a number of different skills with the help of the Regular Army and everyone worked incredibly hard to achieve their best."



Men of B Coy. From left to right are Ptes Vick Gibson, Kenny Andrew, John McPhee and William McCall

Royal Anglian Regiment celebrates Minden Day on the Rock - see Page 25



Piper Thomas Currie

**Tom's  
dawn  
chorus  
out of  
favour**

When Piper Thomas Currie was asked if he would like to play his beloved pipes on the Rock of Gibraltar he jumped at the chance.

Thomas, who has been playing for longer than he cares to mention, said: "It's well over forty years and I have played all over the world but this is the first time here."

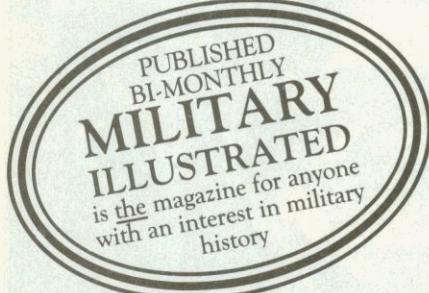
When not piping, Thomas's favourite pastime is making shepherds' crooks and ornamental carvings.

Thomas had been looking forward to playing reveille during the two-week camp in Gibraltar but his early morning renditions were short-lived; in fact he only played for one morning before local residents next to the Jocks' accommodation complained at the noise at so early an hour and Thomas was effectively silenced.

He accepted it in good humour. "Some people have no love of music," he said. Thomas is a former piper with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

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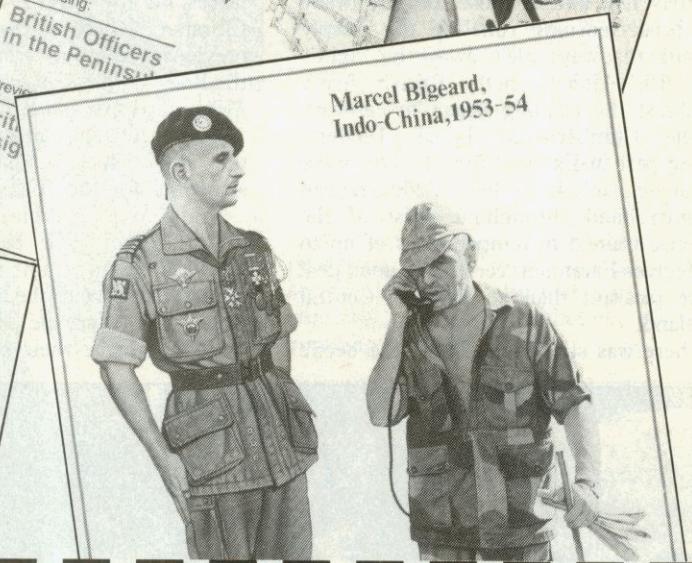
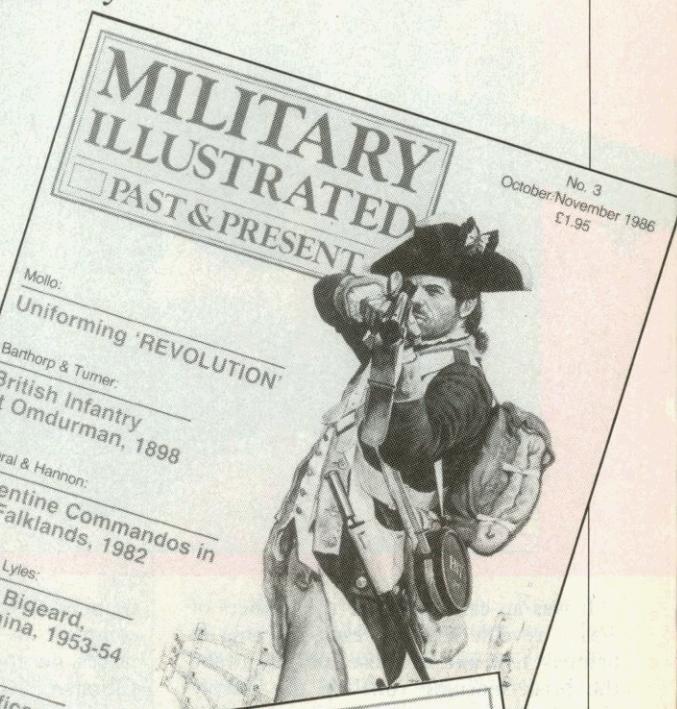
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# GUNNERS AND QUEENS SHARE PEACE AWARD

THE Wilkinson Sword of Peace Award 1986 for the Army's contribution to establishing good and friendly relations with the inhabitants of communities at home and overseas has been won by two units, writes **Graham Smith**.

Sharing the honour are 25 Engineer Regiment, RE for ridding Port Stanley of its Falklands war debris, and the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment for helping the Belize Defence Force operationally in its training and aid with natural disaster relief operations in Jamaica.

25 Engr Regt, reinforced by 518 Coy, RPC, served in the Falklands from November last year until March, with the principal task of recovering 7,000 tons of stores and equipment from the site of RAF Stanley after the opening of the Mount Pleasant Airfield. The objective was achieved in two months.

The regiment then turned its hand to clearing all the military scrap from the area of the old airfield and other areas around Stanley.

About 15kms of barbed wire was removed and dumped at sea. More than 100 derelict vehicles were buried while 150 lorry loads of rubbish were removed from Whalebone Cove.

From Stanley itself 500 loads of rubbish were shifted and many sites landscaped. Detached to South Georgia to build a jetty, A Troop also renovated the post office at King Edward Point.

3 Queens served in Belize from April until October last year.

Each company held an open day for the villagers and helped with projects such as church repairs, water pump installation and the rebuilding of clinics.

In addition to flood relief in the capital, the battalion was represented in a tri-Service



Queensmen from the 3rd Battalion on patrol in the jungles of Belize

disaster relief team sent to Jamaica.

The citation says of the battalion: "It earned a well deserved reputation for its friendliness and co-operation with the local population and its efforts were always directed to achieve the best for the community as a whole.

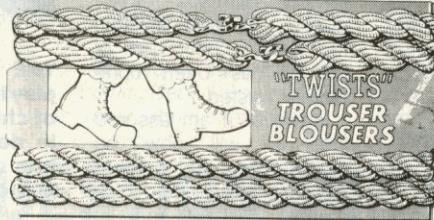
"Much of its time was spent in patrolling, bringing the battalion into daily contact with the local population in isolated jungle villages. Soldiers provided basic

Sappers from 35 Engr Regt tear up the fabricated runway surface constructed at RAF Stanley

medical support for the inhabitants and were able to convey messages to others.

"The battalion generated a tremendous amount of goodwill and did much in maintaining good friendly relations with the inhabitants of Belize, including many recently arrived Guatemalans."

Lt Col Bob McGhie, CO of the 650-strong regiment said: "We are delighted and honoured to receive this very prestigious award. It really is a tangible award which all the soldiers, irrespective of rank, can share for their efforts in Belize. That is the nice thing about the Wilkinson Sword, it is an award which all can share rather than an award to an individual."



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# It's time for fair play by kids like these



HAVING worked for years to spotlight the dangers built into children's play areas in MoD residential areas, I can find no excuses for the mistakes which are still being made on both new and refurbished sites.

It is my belief that we are threatened with a series of accidents of varying degree.

From the safety point of view a lot of thought goes into furnishing a kitchen – the position of plugs, cookers, cupboards etc – but how much is given to the planning of playgrounds which are potentially just as dangerous? Very little if the following examples are anything to go by.

Over a period, and quite recently in some cases, I have come across:

A play area next to a busy road without a protective fence.

A slide placed at the junction of three paths.

A slide where the run-out ends in front of a seat.

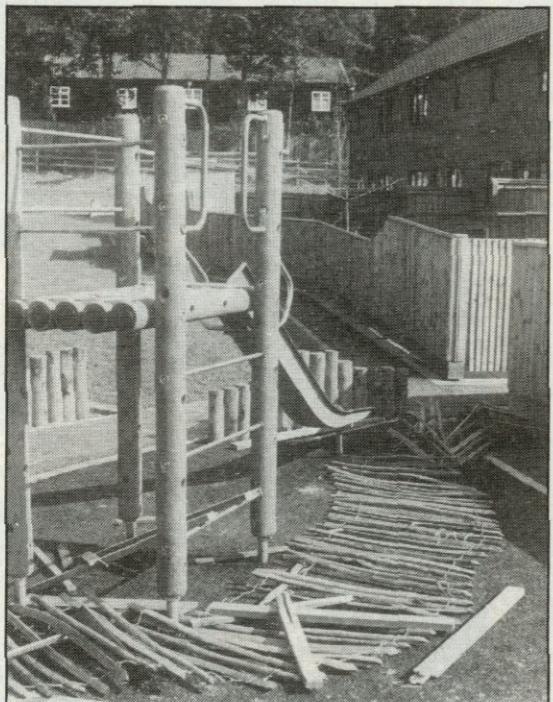
Defective, obsolete equipment reinstalled on expensive, safer surfaces.

Equipment which does not meet British Standards

## BENEFIT SPOT

A NEW leaflet 'Child Benefit for children aged 16 and over' is available from DHSS offices. Normally benefit stops when a child reaches 16 but it can go on if a son or daughter is in full-time education. There are other circumstances which may enable you to claim. Ask for Leaflet CH 7. And about time too!

Typical under-fives – sometimes forgotten by play planners



## Doing it by the book...

THE IMPORTANCE of play in the development of children is dealt with in depth in a book by two experts on the subject.

Peter Heseltine, former Playground Advisor of the National Playing Fields Association, and John Holborn, Technical Director of the NPFA, are co-authors of 'Playgrounds', a book covering the planning, design and construction of play environments which will be altered to conform to the regulations.

Institute requirements. Play areas without provision for five-year-olds. Swings which do not meet BSI standards.

From Germany to Gibraltar, from Northern Ireland to Aldershot, Canterbury to Catterick, there is evidence of a lack of planning and of weaknesses and faults in design, sterile layout, landscaping and the choice of equipment.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds are involved and in an attempt to ensure the taxpayer gets value for money I arranged for representatives of the National Playing Fields Association to visit certain sites; a seminar was held at Aldershot; a meeting was held at the National Playing Fields Association HQ and I campaigned in articles and on the radio.

No one in authority took any notice of the suggestions made – at least there is little sign of it so far. I am still shaken at what I have seen on play areas in military garrison areas during 1986 and 1987. In my view a great deal of money has been completely wasted.

However, I am assured that all will now be changed and that in future new and refurbished play areas will take into account the points I have raised. And that they will conform to British Standards Institute Code 5696.

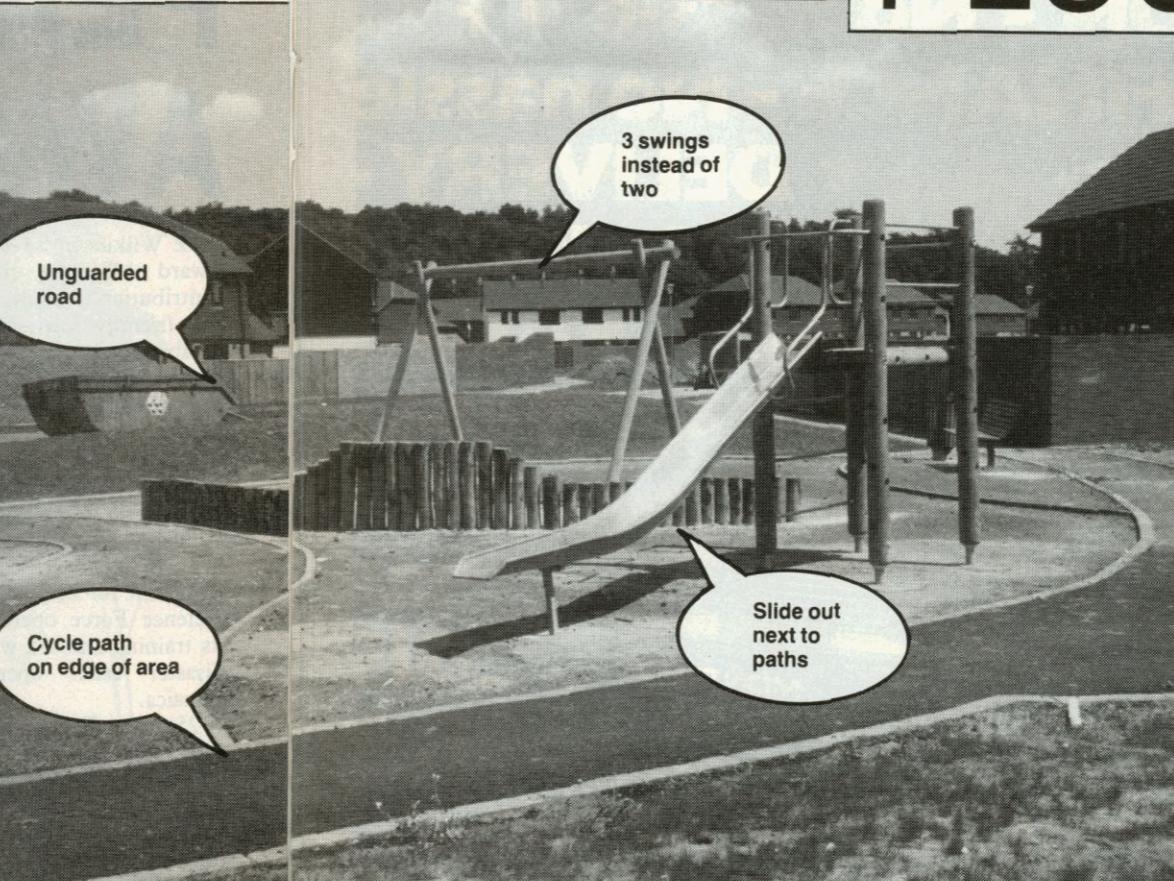
I have even been told that where possible the most recently-built playgrounds will be altered to conform to the regulations. And about time too!

In their view there is an urgent need for increased awareness of the requirements of good playground design, which will get the best out of play spaces for children.

They believe that many play environments are damaging or negative in their effect.

To illustrate their argument the authors print 345 photographs. Many show accidents suffered by children because of poor planning and design.

In my view ...



Four black marks for the new playground pictured above. The site is surrounded by paths along which children (and adults) can cycle. There is a road right beside it. Note the skip placed there. Left

the picture shows not so much an example of indifferent planning but carelessness during construction, fencing lying about where children, being children, are likely to fall over it and hurt themselves.

## DON'T FORGET MUM'S SEAT!

FOR everyone concerned with the installation of new play sites or the replacement of old ones:

DON'T confine your choice of equipment to a manufacturer's catalogue, excellent though many of them are. Seek independent advice that the apparatus conforms to the British Standards Institute requirement.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the age bracket of the children who will use the playground and ensure it is suitable for safety and access and offers good play facilities. Equipment manufacturers usually give free advice and help with the planning.

SURFACES and equipment should conform to the BSI standard – the depth of the foundation laid under the equipment should be compatible with the surface material.

SITING equipment is most important and should not in itself form a potential danger. SEATS should be placed so parents can watch the play area.

LITTER will disfigure an area unless there is a bin available!

A WIFE whose husband died in Germany asks why it took so long for a headstone to be placed on his grave. She had left for the UK before it was erected.

In fact, the MoD explains, it usually

takes at least six months for the ground on any grave to settle enough to take a stone.

Furthermore, headstones have to come from the Crown suppliers in the UK and are shipped out to BAOR.



# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653

## PLSUs give our girls the blues!

WHEN we moved to Germany my wife took with her excellent references from the large firm of solicitors for whom she had worked in London. In nine months the only job she was offered was that of a cleaner.

Declining on the grounds she wished to continue in her own line, she eventually took a job which is dreary and in which she feels she has no rights at all.

When she complained to the Pioneer Labour Support Unit about the conditions (which I consider to be unhealthy), she was told to either "Be happy" or "Quit for good".

When she asked if they could find her a different job she was laughed out of the office.

I feel one of the major problems facing working wives in Germany is the way they are treated by the PLSU staff – who work in pleasant surroundings and are almost all German civilians.

There also appears to be discrimination against ORs' wives in favour of officers' wives.

Can you use your influence to have the PLSUs sorted out? Then our wives will have better opportunities.

● Anyone else had any difficulties? I would like to hear about them.

## Readers' letters

THOUGH the authorities do seem to be taking more notice of Army wives these days, one thing seems to me to remain unfair. Why should an allowance be paid to a woman who has chosen to be separated from her husband?

I have accompanied my husband on all postings for 16 years. Wives are officially encouraged to do this. Why then should an allowance be paid to those who don't?

This point was mentioned briefly in the Gaffney Report (an officially sponsored report on aspects of family life) but I would like to know if the separation allowance is likely to continue.

I look forward to hearing any views on this subject.

● The MoD tells me that the Review into Services Pay and Allowances has not yet been completed and Separation Allowance is one of the subjects under review.

## SAD QUESTION ANSWERED

There is also a certain amount of administrative work to be done before a headstone can be prepared, such as checking the engraving schedule and obtaining family wishes regarding an inscription.

A black and white photograph of a Ford Montego sedan, shown from a front three-quarter angle. The car is positioned in the center of the frame, set against a dark background. The word "MONTEGO" is visible on the front license plate area. The background is filled with large, bold, white text that repeats the phrase "No hassle" in various contexts such as "PRICE - No hassle", "SHIPPING - No hassle", "DELIVERY - No hassle", "COLLECTION - No hassle", "REGISTRATION - No hassle", "ADMINISTRATION - No hassle", and "PRICE - No hassle" again. The overall composition emphasizes the car and the "no hassle" theme.



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Forums in the Classroom (continued)

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# A HEAD

# FOR HEIGHTS

EVERYONE has their ups and downs but in the case of Bdr Leslie Carroll of 7 RHA more than most, writes Bill Moore.

The British National Parachute Accuracy champion who can put a foot on a tiny marker after dropping thousands of feet, he had brought his grand total of descents to 2,320 by the time the Army championships drew to their close at Netheravon, Wilts.

He expects to make it 2,500 by the end of the year, but the distance covered going up only to come down again is nothing compared with the mileage totted up at ground level.

By the time the Army championships began, Les, who is 30, had already taken part in five major meets.

When the final ceremony ended on the Plain on a Thursday morning, he set off immediately for Peterborough, Northants, for a two-day practice and publicity session with the Royal Artillery parachute team at a local aerodrome.

From there he went to a wedding - of a fellow parachutist, LBdr Tim Pape, at Beverley, Yorks.

A lie-in on Sunday? Not likely. He was scheduled to be up early to hurry back to Woolwich, where he is stationed, but only to pack.

The next day he was booked



CHAMPION ON THE MOVE: Bdr Leslie Carroll, whose feet hardly touch the ground

on a plane for Yugoslavia to take part in the European championships - the Adriatic Cup. Les, who comes from Liverpool, is the only soldier in the British national team.

The champ was required to be back in Woolwich for three days on September 7 before leaving for Germany for a training session, this time at the Rhine Army parachute

centre at Sennelager.

His diary noted that he had to pick up his car at Dover at the end of this commitment. But only so that he could drive with his team mates to take part in the 'Three Days at Strasbourg' international competition - "one of the best going," he said.

Strasbourg is a three day affair due to end on September 20. Two days later Les ("I must be back in Woolwich to pack up my kit") planned to leave for Korea to represent Great Britain in the Champion of Champions competition at Seoul.

More than 100 countries are sending teams of two individuals. Les will work with the country's woman champion, Chris Clements, a civilian.

Crowds are expected to watch on video screens as the competitors make their descents into the arena prepared for the 1988 Olympics.

If the spectacle does pull in enough people - and the Olympic Committee representatives are satisfied with it - the sport could be an approved event in the 1992 Olympics.

The Koreans are confident they will have good parachuting weather for a week. Why?

"It's supposed to be guaranteed," said Les looking thoughtfully at the rain driving across Netheravon airfield.



## Annette misses out on golden lanyard

RED Devil freefall parachute team member LCpl Annette Heaton, 24, has notched up 1,000 parachute descents after three years with the Army's famous freefall parachute display team. But she has missed out on the award of a coveted gold lanyard which is awarded to members of The Parachute Regiment who attain 1,000 descents - because she is a member of the WRAC.

Army parachute championships - report and pictures in the sports page

## The Second



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# Army launches answer phone scheme so soldiers can ring up in confidence . . .

## DRUGWATCH

A SLIGHT hiccup with the tape recorder made the small group of senior officers gathered in a room at Wilton all the more attentive. There was a brief silence and then a pleasant female voice put over the message:

*"Hello, this is the Drugwatch answer phone. Anything you tell us will be treated in the strictest confidence and if you are willing to leave your name and contact number, please do so."*

*"In any case, leave your message now . . ."*

There was the usual bleep, the usual whirring which answer phones give. Someone said: "Just right . . ."

It was the final touch in preparing the launching of the Army's own Drugwatch pilot scheme. The Royal Military Police who are responsible for it had taken great care to set the right tone, to get a clear voice, writes Bill Moore.

There was no trace of an accent because the drug threat menaces the whole of the community and is neither regional, class conscious or choosy.

Most common-sense and realistic employers recognise that there is a drug abuse problem in Britain and that the crooks behind it are trying to spread it.

The Army is luckier than the great majority of industrial concerns. With discipline and regular supervision fundamental to its very nature, anomalies are quickly identified. Drug abuse has not been allowed to flourish because positive measures have been taken to guard against it.

"However, we cannot be complacent," said Brigadier Dennis Shaw, the officer at HQ United Kingdom Land Forces responsible for the scheme, "and that is why we are trying out an initiative which has proved useful to many civilian police authorities.

"To keep the drug abuse scene under constant surveillance you have to use the latest means. It's rather like reconnaissance in military terms. It's no good waiting until the enemy is on you. You collect intelligence as to his movements and intentions in advance."

To help in collecting this 'int' two answer phones will operate 24 hours a day starting on October 1.



**The Army is luckier than most employers. Discipline and supervision have not allowed drug abuse to flourish - but there is no room for complacency . . .**

The Army has always taken a robust attitude towards this offence. Detention and almost certain dismissal face a person found using, handling or dealing in drugs.

But the Army is not only concerned with the reduction in effectiveness that abuse may cause. Time and again cases are cited in the civil courts in which a person has turned to crime to raise cash for drugs.

Though it is unlikely that any soldier would reach such a stage without being spotted, it is not an impossibility. Once known to 'pushers', once reduced to dependency, he could become a security risk, exposed to blackmail.

Evidence of the Americans in Vietnam and reports of the Russian experience in Afghanistan make it quite clear that there is no place



One will be at Aldershot - Tel no Aldershot (0252) 343464.

The other at Tidworth, Hants - Tel no Stonehenge (0980) 46606.

Obviously they are accessible to callers in any part of the country.

The new service is also breaking fresh ground in that a soldier is being given a line of communication in addition to the usual chain of command reporting upward through his superiors.

This is because it is felt that the average man or woman recognises that drug abuse is a mug's game in any walk of life.

In someone who regularly handles weapons and may be responsible for heavy vehicles and costly and complicated machinery, it amounts to selfish and criminal indulgence.



for a junky in any man's army - let alone one like the British Army which trains and fights in small, tightly-knit groups.

Contrary to what its Imperial heritage might lead one to expect, the British Army has no history of drug abuse.

Though the Victorian soldier and his successors served regularly on the North-West Frontier, bordering a region notorious for its production of hashish, the troops had too much self respect to become involved. So there was no question of the habit being brought back to the UK by returning regiments or time-expired men.

It was the same with the old Burma and China stations where opium was readily available. The problem was almost non-existent.

Today the very fact that the Army is professional gives it an inherent protection. There is no flow of conscripts with the potential to import habits from, literally, the seedier side of the community.

But that, as has been said, is no reason for complacency. As the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, pointed out only a short time ago, the whole of civilised society is threatened by the worldwide traffic in illicit and dangerous drugs.

The pushers are interested in only one thing . . . money. Their targets are young people because they seek to create an expanding market of addicts or customers for their product.

All the plausible arguments produced in favour of liberalising the use of narcotics cannot conceal the fact that the producers' aim is cynically commercial, and the proceeds line the coffers of international crime syndicates.

Pot, grass, the reefer and the needle are all part of the real world, and are to be found at all levels.

In a recent BBC broadcast a doctor revealed that after the stockbroking scene in the City of London was computerised a number of share dealers quickly graduated from one to three cups of coffee when they switched on their video screens at 7am. From that point they quickly went on to amphetamines, and even cocaine, to find relief from the strain.

The consultant, on Radio 4, made it sound almost acceptable. Just another

news item along with the weather forecast and the traffic jams on the M6. The fact that the situation was anti-social, unlawful and outrageous was not mentioned.

Such is the price of complacency. It is not one the Army is prepared to pay.

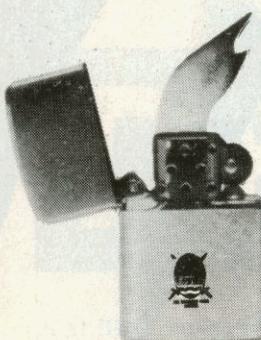
The introduction of two confidential telephone lines is not going to make the Guinness Book of Records. And the RMP team responsible for monitoring the drugs scene have much more interesting pieces of

equipment at their disposal if required. But, like their civilian counterparts the most potent weapon they can ever possess is information.



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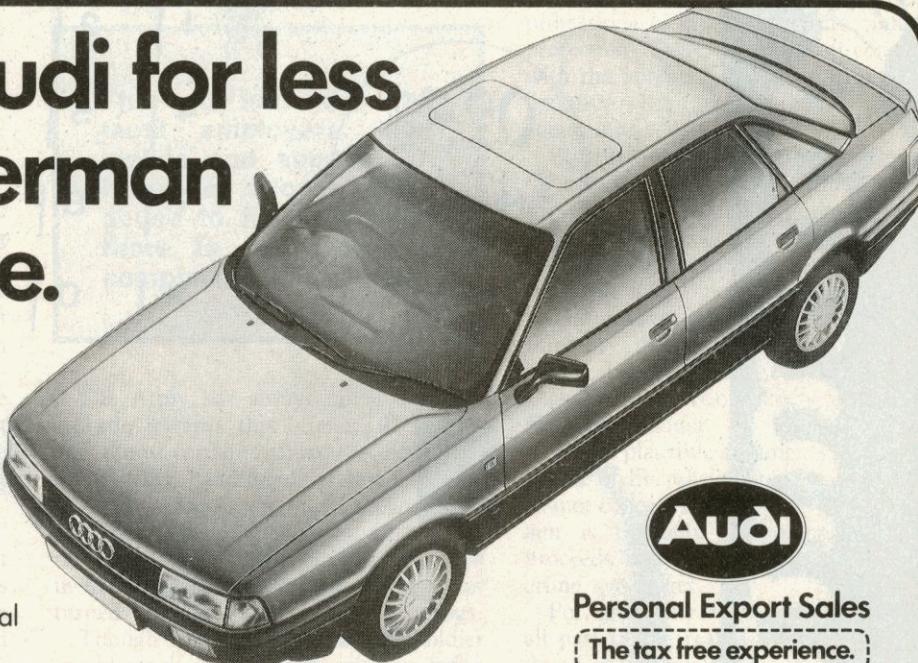
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# Vikings' day of roses on the Rock

EVERY year, wherever they might be in the world, the First Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment celebrate Minden Day.

Minden Day commemorates the Battle of Minden in 1759 when British infantry, subjected to a withering crossfire, marched on enemy cavalry and routed them. It was the first time in the history of military warfare that infantry had managed to impose such a defeat on cavalry.

Among those present at Minden were an East Anglian Regiment, the 12th Regiment of Foot, who according to history, as they passed through gardens on the day of battle, plucked roses and fastened them to their hats.

To recall this event and in honour of Minden, the battalion continues the custom of wearing red and yellow roses in their head-dress on the anniversary and by carrying the battle honour "Minden" on their regimental Colours.

This year the battalion is in Gibraltar and it was there that the East Anglian soldiers proudly paraded their Colours as they always do.

As the battalion band played their march *God Speed The Plough*, every officer and man of the regiment was presented with a red and yellow rose to place in his hat. The regimental Colours were wreathed in red and yellow roses and were paraded.

This year the Minden Day parade had a special significance because it was almost the final day that Lt Col Michael Walker was in command of the regiment before posting to Germany as a brigadier.

## PROUD JANET

FOR 2nd Lt Janet Bridle, Minden Day, high up on Gibraltar's famous Rock, was a happy and proud occasion.

Janet is the first ever WRAC officer to serve with the First Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and she shares in all their traditions – including the Minden Day parade.

Janet, who is assistant adjutant, has been with the battalion since joining the WRAC in September last year.



Men of 1 R Anglian receive their roses on Minden Day



Mr Jonathan Buckle and Pte Wayne Ward

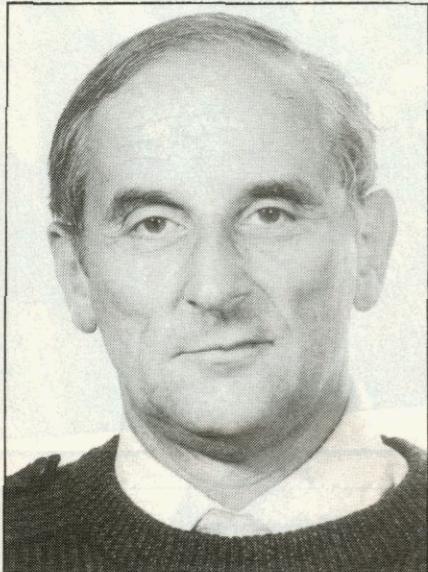
## I knew your dad . . .

MEMORIES came flooding back for Jonathan Buckle of Bradfield St Georges, Newmarket when he visited the First Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment on Gibraltar's famous Rock for the Minden Day celebrations. Jonathan came face to face with present day "Viking" Private Wayne Ward of Bury St Edmunds, and

after a few minutes chatting together it became clear that they had a lot in common – Wayne's father Peter and Jonathan had served together in such places as BAOR, Berlin, British Guyana and Aden.

Wayne has been a Viking now for eight months and is a keen sportsman.

# On the defence: how we protect and detect



Maj Dann: Think again, he says

ARMY planners are being urged to adopt a new style of thinking to combat chemical warfare.

And until they do the Army cannot consider itself fully trained and ready to go to war according to a lengthy article in the *British Army Review* by Maj Keith Dann RA.

Maj Dann attacks official thinking with a barrage of facts and claims, and warns that until planning, training and equipment take more account of chemicals, and defence against them becomes part of everyday training, the Army is, in "philosophy, doctrine and practice, unready for war."

In his "concept for operations in a hostile environment," he lists mustard and nerve gas and hydrogen cyanide as the main threat in a chemical attack.

He says attacks with weapons such as these should be thought of as normal battlefield hazards and not as one-off or sporadic affairs.

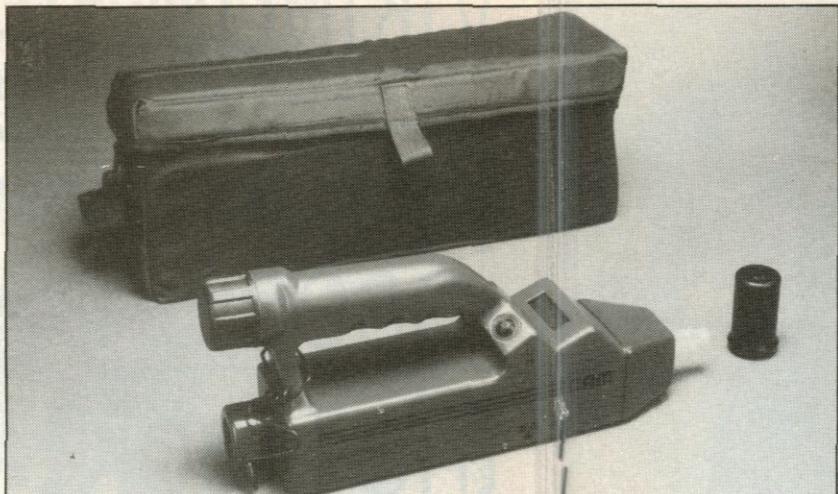
Chemical weapons, he says, are cheap to make, easily delivered on target and can be manufactured by almost any potential enemy.

Anti-chemical planning, training and equipment must become the norm, he insists.

He also advises a move away from the



NAIAD: Nerve Agent Immobilised Enzyme and Detector



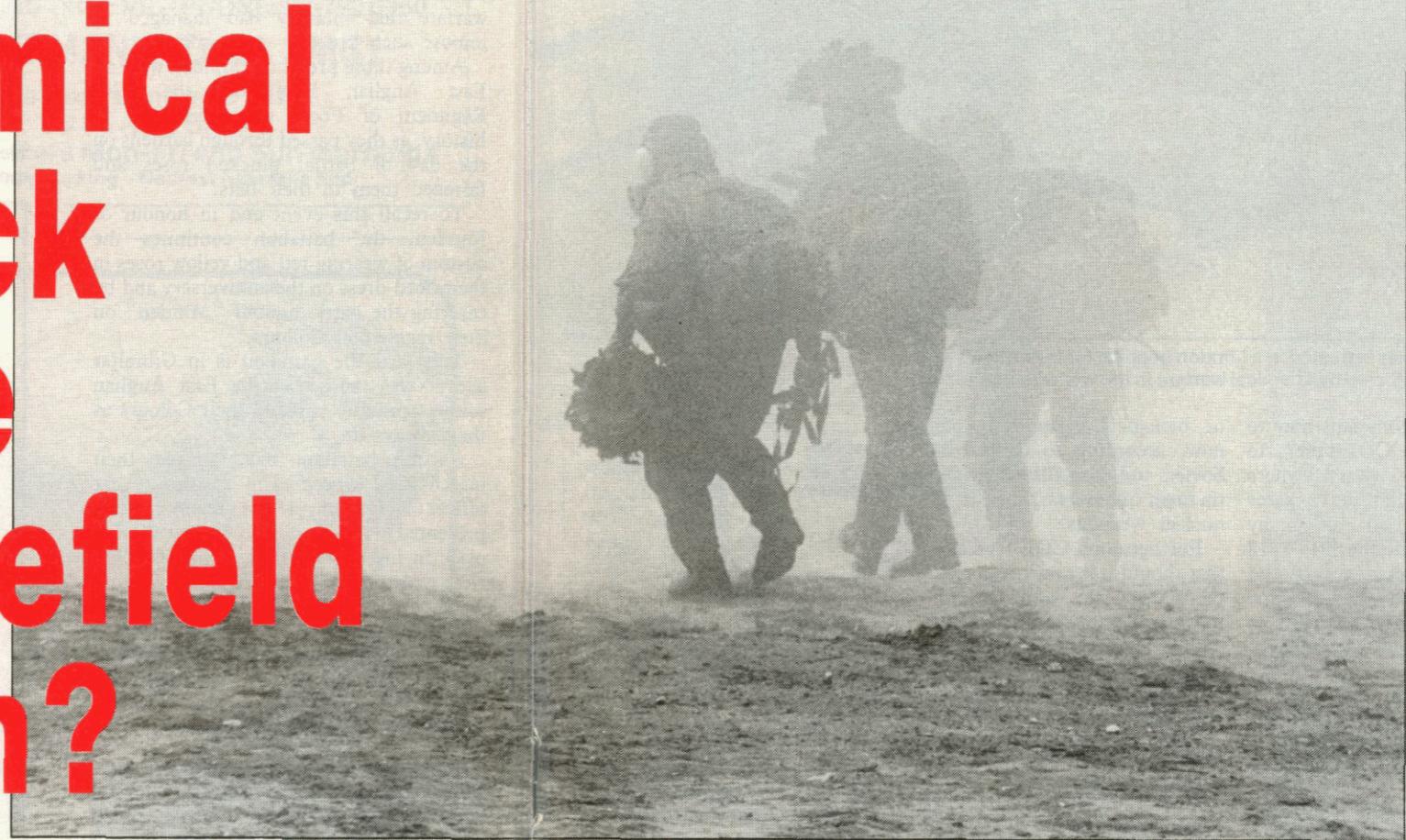
CAM: Chemical Agent Monitor



NODDY SUIT: plus respirator, overboots and gloves

# Chemical attack – the battlefield norm?

**Has the Army got it right when it comes to chemical warfare? No, says Maj Keith Dann. Not until training and attitudes change ...**



"absolute priority to provide full protection to all troops at all times."

Instead, he says, "the overriding priority should be to reduce to a minimum the length of time each individual is required to spend in full protection."

This can be achieved with two pieces of equipment widely distributed in BAOR during the past two years – NAIAD (Nerve Agent Immobilised Enzyme and Detector) and CAM

(Chemical Agent Monitor) which will warn of a chemical attack in time for protective action to be taken.

NAIAD and CAM should obviate the need to don protective clothing before it became absolutely necessary, enhancing efficiency, mobility and comfort.

Summing up, Maj Dann says: "Present thinking within the Army on operations in a hostile chemical environment does not go far enough towards realism. It does not take

sufficient account of the effects that the use, or even the threat of the use of chemical weapons would have on our operational capability, especially our tactics, logistic parameters and methods of command and control.

"We continue to view the chemically contaminated battlefield as a special environment – like the desert, jungle and arctic – despite the fact that, unlike these a chemical environment can be imposed and controlled at will by an enemy.

"In the absence of a retaliatory capability, it would be a one-sided adverse environment which could be decisive."

But while Maj Dann recommends a new look at chemical warfare protection and training, Porton Down's boffins have kept pace with defensive measures and both NAIAD and CAM have been widely distributed.

NAIAD gives visual and audible warnings of chemicals and gas, and

## Chemical countdown

1811 – Lord Cochrane, distinguished sailor, proposes using sulphur fumes in Napoleonic Wars. Proposal declined.

1854 – Cochrane (then Lord Dundonald) suggests sulphur attack (plus smoke) on Sevastopol. Proposal declined.

Mar 1915 – Lt Gen Lord Dundonald, Cochrane's grandson, suggests Sir Douglas Haig might use gas. Haig declines.

Apr 1915 – Germans release chlorine gas cloud at Ypres.

Sep 1915 – British use chlorine cloud at Loos.

Dec 1915 – Germans using phosgene to add to lethal properties of gas cloud.

1916 – Germans turning to shells for gas warfare. French using prussic acid gas in shells.

July 1917 – Germans introduce mustard gas shells at Ypres, plus shells with arsenic compound.

Jun 1918 – French produce and fire mustard gas shells.

Sep 1918 – British fire their first home produced mustard gas.

Dec 1935 – Italians spray mustard gas from aircraft in Ethiopia.

Feb 1936 – Italians drop gas bombs on Ethiopians.

Dec 1940 – Britain has bulk stocks of 1,500 tons of mustard gas.

1945 – Though gas not used during war, nerve agents found in German ammo dumps (Soman and Sarin).

1980s – Reports of mustard gas bombs and missiles in Gulf War confirmed. Gas bombs reported in use by Red Army in Afghanistan.

CAM, a hand-held device, gives a continuous reading of the level of contamination in an area.

An official at the Defence NBC Centre in Wiltshire expressed agreement with Maj Dann's views and said NBC training in BAOR was increasing and people were becoming more aware of the dangers of chemical warfare.

Equipment was constantly being appraised and the whole concept was an "ongoing thing," he said.

Maj Dann wrote that article for the *British Army Review* some time ago and it has only recently been published.

"Everything I said then still stands, except that I do believe official thinking is beginning to change," he said.

An MoD spokesman commented: "The views are those of an individual. But our tactical doctrine concerning operations in a chemical environment is constantly evolving in accordance with the perception of the current and future threat."

# Porton's task is to counter threat

BRITAIN neither manufactures nor stockpiles chemical weapons says the 1987 White Paper on Defence Estimates. The UK gave up its chemical warfare capability more than 25 years ago and research now centres round defensive and protective measures.

Conversely, the Warsaw Pact produces and stores a large range of lethal agents and incapacitants including blister, blood and choking chemicals. And it has the means of delivering them.

These are chilling, one-way facts so far as the Army is concerned as it cannot retaliate in kind, but it must be able to defend itself, fight and survive.

Maj Keith Dann (see previous page) says the Army is "unready" for this type of warfare.

The Chemical Defence Establishment (CDE) at Porton Down disagrees.

Scientists there are well aware that Warsaw Pact armies have huge stocks of hydrogen cyanide, mustard gas and nerve agents and that they can "deliver" them.

But they believe the "defensive equipment provided to the British Services is as good if not better than any in the world . . . but as new chemical warfare (CW) systems are developed by potential aggressors, it is essential the protection afforded by this equipment is continually reviewed."

And this they do in a non-stop attempt to keep pace with the development of new and more lethal substances introduced by Warsaw Pact armies into their arsenals.

But to protect an army from chemical attack is one thing; for it to fight and survive is another.

To help their investigations into the effects of modern



An Iranian soldier is treated in a London hospital for burns said to have been inflicted by chemical warfare in the war with Iraq

chemical weapons and how to combat them, CDE refers to the Iraq-Iran war, where mustard gas and nerve gases have been used on many occasions, and to the 1914-1918 war, although gases and chemicals used then are no longer considered "suitable to the requirements of a modern battlefield."

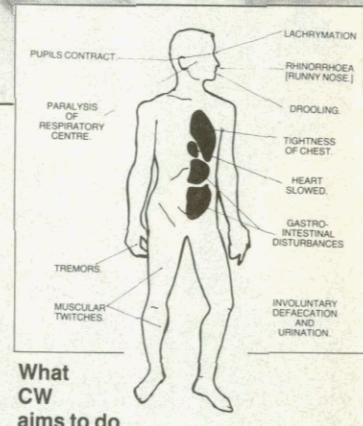
Furthermore, CDE forecasts that should war ever break out, the Warsaw Pact would attempt to win within ten to 12 days and without the use of nuclear weapons.

"The Soviets see the need to win before the West could mobilize and before a nuclear exchange," says CDE.

"In a purely conventional war could they achieve this aim, or would they need to use the chemical weapon option in order to win?"

Until recently chemical weapons have been regarded by the Warsaw Pact as weapons of mass destruction - like nuclear

While still at the prototype stage, this early-warning system is reported to send out four laser signals of varying wavelengths. On contact with a gas cloud a signal is reflected back to its source and the distance measured. A computer then analyses the type of gas encountered and its concentration.



What CW aims to do

"How else could the forces of Nato be prevented from organising and reinforcing?" CDE asks.

Listing the effects of a chemical attack, CDE says it



Noddy suited soldier, safe but uncomfortable

would cause casualties but not necessarily corpses; it would delay, disorganise, reduce morale and military performance; contaminate terrain and combat supplies; and create panic and disillusion among civilians.

Contamination by hydrogen cyanide would leave victims with weak legs, nausea and headaches. Speech becomes difficult and there is a booming in head and ears. Depending on the degree of exposure, breathing, hearing and vision are also affected.

Meanwhile politicians keep talking about how to institute a global ban on the production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical weapons.

A high-level dose can kill within a minute or so. Mustard gas is no less deadly as First World War casualty figures testify, and in the case of nerve agents, reference to the Iran-Iraq war shows the efficacy of such weapons.

Nobody is putting a date on that happening. It's a question of talking, waiting and hoping.

With no chemical warfare

## Laser could be way ahead

REPORTS from America say scientists in California have invented a laser-beam system for detecting poisonous chemicals up to three miles away on a battlefield.

## Yellow Cross was scourge of Ypres

THE anniversary of the creation of a genuine chemical warfare battlefield may not be something to celebrate but it is certainly to be noted and its lessons studied, writes Bill Moore.

Seventy years ago British soldiers fighting their way up the ridges east of Ypres had to contend not only with muck and bullets but mustard gas which was introduced for the first time.

It was a German triumph. The Allies had already learned to cope with cloud gases such as chlorine, first released in 1915, and with the lethal gas shells fired since 1916, but mustard gas was something horribly new.

In general, masks were effective and fumes (a shell held a very small amount of chemical) might disperse in a matter of minutes or hours. Hence the classification as non-persistent.

Mustard gas changed the scene completely. The liquid contents of shells could give off dangerous fumes for days and the agent itself inflicted blisters wherever it came into contact with the skin.

The chemical deterrents only slowly in water and the craters were full.

To add to the unpleasantness, the Germans also introduced a shell containing an arsenical compound which caused sneezing followed by severe depression.

Thus the grandfathers and great grandfathers of the present day soldier had to contend with tear gas which made their eyes stream, sneezing gas which might prevent a man adjusting his respirator, poison gas which could choke or suffocate him and mustard gas which contaminated ground, clothing and weapons.

Allied leaders were not thrilled by the news that the Yellow Cross (mustard gas shells were marked with a Lorraine Cross for easy identification in battery positions) was something

the Germans could produce in bulk from their dye industry. British, French and Americans together could not fill a tin hat.

The German advantage lasted almost a year during which they used mustard gas defensively and offensively. It is arguable that at Ypres the chemically polluted environment did as much to halt the British attacks as pillboxes, 5.9s, mud and machine guns combined.

Yellow Cross was used tactically during the great German offensives in spring and early summer 1918, strongpoints being saturated with mustard gas as storm troops went round them over uncontaminated ground.

Not until 1918 did the French come up with their own brand of a blister agent. No British made version was available until September of that year, when it was used to help the storming of the Hindenburg Line.

Gas was an integral part of the offensive operations planned for 1919, along with the extensive use of planes and armour.

For a variety of reasons gas was not used in the Second World War so the Western Front provides the only historical example of battlefields in which the environment was regularly contaminated.

For want of experience no new tactics seem to have developed. The reappearance of gas shells and bombs in the current Gulf war bears comparison with Flanders 1917 - the Iraqis using it defensively against masses of infantry attacking across such places as the swamps and lagoons of Magnoon Island.

NATO commanders can be expected to take a close interest in CW developments in the Middle East. The West does not possess a fighting chemical warfare capability but the Warsaw Pact forces are believed to contain units amounting to 100,000 CW assault specialists.



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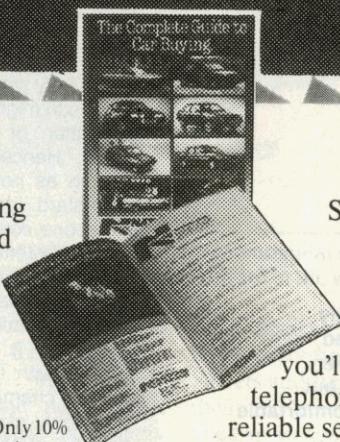
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# FROM BUGLER TO AIR ACE

BRITAIN's most decorated air ace of the First World War started his illustrious career as a teenage sapper bugler, **writes Graham Smith.**

Capt James "Jimmy" McCudden, VC, DSO and Bar, MC and Bar, MM, Croix de Guerre, won those honours in just 18 months of sky-high daring, achieving 57 "kills" against the cream of the German flying circuses, the Jastas, by the time he was 22.

Ironically, Jimmy McCudden, General List and RFC, died needlessly. His 56 Sqn SE5A developed an engine failure and he crashed trying to return to his airfield at Marquise, France, on July 9, 1918 to take command of his new squadron.

In his short stint of flying he became the recipient of a record clutch of gallantry awards unequalled in the war, gaining more decorations than any other aircrew of the Royal Flying Corps, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Air Force.

McCudden joined the Corps of Royal Engineers as a 15-year-old bugler in 1910. He was the son of a quartermaster sergeant in the corps.

He transferred to the embryo RFC in May 1913 as a 3 Squadron mechanic, moving to France with the unit the next year.

McCudden started as an observer and then learned to fly, making his first operational flight in July 1915. Bravery awards quickly followed.

He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre on January 21, 1916. He shot down his first German aircraft on September 6, and forced down two others not far from Ypres to win the Military Medal.

In January 1917 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. On February 16, he won the Military Cross, adding a Bar to it in the October. Two months later he won the DSO and the Bar followed three weeks later.

He won his VC for flying services in France between August 1917 and March 1918.

Gazetted on April 2, 1918, and referring to his then total of 54 "kills", his citation said: "On two occasions he has totally destroyed four 2-seater enemy aeroplanes on the same day and, on the last occasion, all four machines were destroyed in the space of one hour thirty minutes."

Between April and September 1917, McCudden's 56 Sqn downed nearly 200 aircraft.

Seventy five years ago this month he and five 56 Sqn colleagues in SE5As clashed with the German air ace Werner Voss, who was flying alone on



Air ace McCudden, with a Bristol M1c at Turnberry, West Scotland

the way back from a Jasta 10 mission. It was late afternoon on September 23, 1917.

Voss was a skilled flier and anticipated the attack. In a frantic ten-minute dog fight the British at first took him on as a team but then resorted to individual attacks.

The German dodged and climbed, firing at and hitting all six of his assailants. But he was outnumbered.

Voss was badly wounded and his stricken tri-plane plummeted earthwards in a dive from 1,000 feet to "smash into a thousand pieces."

After this brisk encounter, Capt McCudden climbed out of his bullet-spattered SE5A at base to record in his log that he had fought "a really clever Hun. He knew his business all right, turning far faster than we could manage."

The log continued: "The last time he was within 50 feet of me I could swear he was grinning all over his face."

December 3, 1917, turned out to be a very busy day for young McCudden. His patrol attacked eight German aircraft between 1430 and 1550 hours. Two of the Germans were shot down by Capt McCudden behind British lines. And already that morning McCudden had downed two enemy aircraft!

On January 30 he took on five enemy scout aircraft single handed, destroying two of them. McCudden returned home only when the enemy aircraft had been driven far to the east. He had run out of Lewis gun ammunition and the belt of his Vickers gun had broken.

Before his death in July 1918, McCudden had been made up to temporary major.

Tragically, he was the third member of his family to die in the First World War. His elder brother had been killed in the summer of 1915 and his own death followed by just four months that of his younger brother.

His VC citation said "As a patrol leader he has at all times shown the utmost gallantry and skill, not only in the manner in which he has attacked and destroyed the enemy, but in the way he has, during several aerial fights, protected the new members of his flight, thus keeping down the casualties to a minimum."

A modest man, McCudden once wrote: "I consider it a patrol leader's work to pay more attention to the main points affecting the fight than to do all the fighting himself."

## THE VALIANT THIRTEEN

The following 13 RFC pilots won the VC. Their average age was 22.

**Lt William Rhodes Moorhouse**, (27), 2 Sqn, RFC, April 26, 1915.

**Maj Lanoe Hawker**, (23), Corps of Royal Engineers and 6 Sqn, RFC, July 25, 1915.

**Capt John Liddell**, (26), 3rd Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and 7 Sqn, RFC, July 31, 1915.

**Lt Gilbert Install**, (21), MC, 11

Sqn RFC, Nov 7, 1915.

**Maj Lionel Rees**, (31), MC, Royal Regt of Artillery and 32 Sqn, RFC, July 1, 1916.

**Capt William Leefe Robinson**, (21), The Worcestershire Regt and 39 Sqn, RFC, Sept 2/3, 1916.

**Sgt Thomas Mottershead**, (24), DCM, 20 Sqn, RFC, Jan 7, 1917.

**Capt William Bishop**, (22), MC, Canadian Cavalry and 60 Sqn, RFC, June 2, 1917.

**Lt Frank McNamara**, (22), MC, 1 Sqn (Australian Flying Corps), in Palestine, March 20, 1917.

**Capt Albert Ball**, (20), DSO and 2 Bars, MC, CG, L'd'H, 56 Sqn, RFC, June 8, 1917.

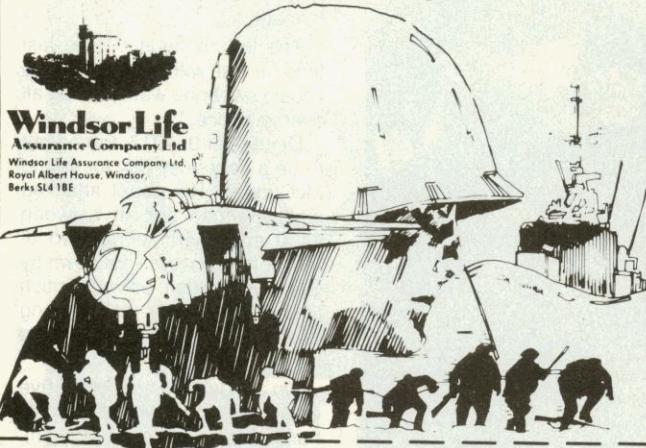
**Lt Alan McLeod**, (18), 2 Sqn, RFC, March 27, 1918.

**Lt Alan Jerrard**, (20), 2 Sqn, RFC in Italy, March 30, 1918.

**T/Capt James McCudden**, (22), DSO and Bar, MC and Bar, MM, Aug 1917/March 1918.

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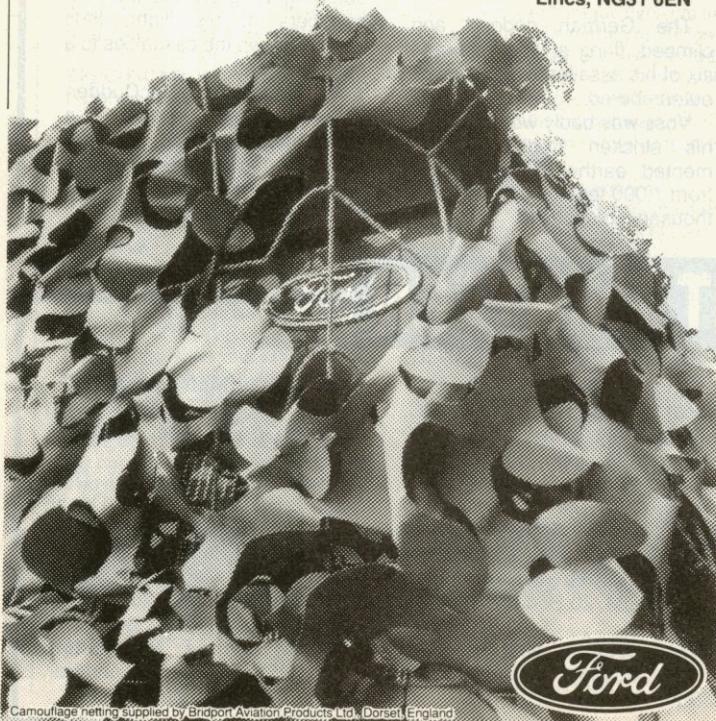
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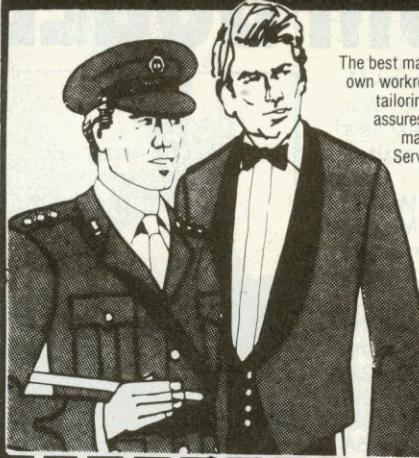
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# A high profile project

AMONG the busiest soldiers this summer have been the 19 members of the RAOC Mobile Display Team who have covered about 4,500 miles and 33 towns in 135 days as part of a corps KAPE - Keep the Army in the Public Eye - recruiting tour.

The team travelled to locations as far apart as Cornwall and Inverness. Nine team members are on the permanent staff which, during winter months, visits schools, CCF detachments and universities to extol the virtues of the corps.

Lt Samantha Steele, WRAC, said: "We have visited many popular events in Britain ranging from big county shows like the Royal Welsh and the Royal Cornwall, and the Army exhibition for schools at Bassingbourn, right through to the smaller galas. In Scotland we visited four towns in ten days.

"The team assembled in May for a month of intensive training before going out on the road. It included rock climbing and abseiling, vehicle maintenance, equipment training, a short KAPE course at the Army School of Recruiting and some hard physical training."

Main attraction carried by the team is its 45-ft climbing tower built of concrete and moulded fibreglass and which boasts three graded climbs of



TOWERING PRESENCE: the display team's mountain

## RAOC shows the colours

increasing difficulty.

Successful "mountaineers" receive a certificate at the end of the ascent.

But life on the road is not all play, as Lt Steele points out.

"Once on location at least four hours are spent before any show bringing all the vehicles and kit up to the high standard expected of the team. Vehicles are washed and polished, tyres and display equipment are painted.

"At the end of this month the team returns to its Blackdown base - just in time to start the schools and universities presentations programme!"

## London lasses take to the hills

EIGHT WRAC girls wanted to get away from it all and achieve new heights as a break from their support role to 18 minor units dotted around London. So they are completing a ten-day, 120-km foothill walking expedition on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees.

Led by Capt Margaret

Pratley, the assistant commandant of the West London Admin Unit, the trekkers were Ptes Suzanne Richardson, Emma Williams, Karen Davies, Jane Grainger, LCpls Lisa Walker, Beverley Crawford and Cpl Ruth Leslie.

About half were venturing abroad for the first time.

## Six into three has 1 RRW on the hop

SIX soldiers from the 1st Bn, The Royal Regiment of Wales were returning to Cardiff from their base of Lemgo, BAOR on the way to completing three marathons.

In the first, four of them ran in relay over 36 hours the 242 miles from Cardiff to Dover. The second involved a six man cross-Channel relay swim with a target time of less than 12 hours. The last segment was a four man cycle marathon over 300 miles from Calais to Lemgo.

Two organizations will benefit, the St David's Trust which supports a Gwent hospice, and a German charity.

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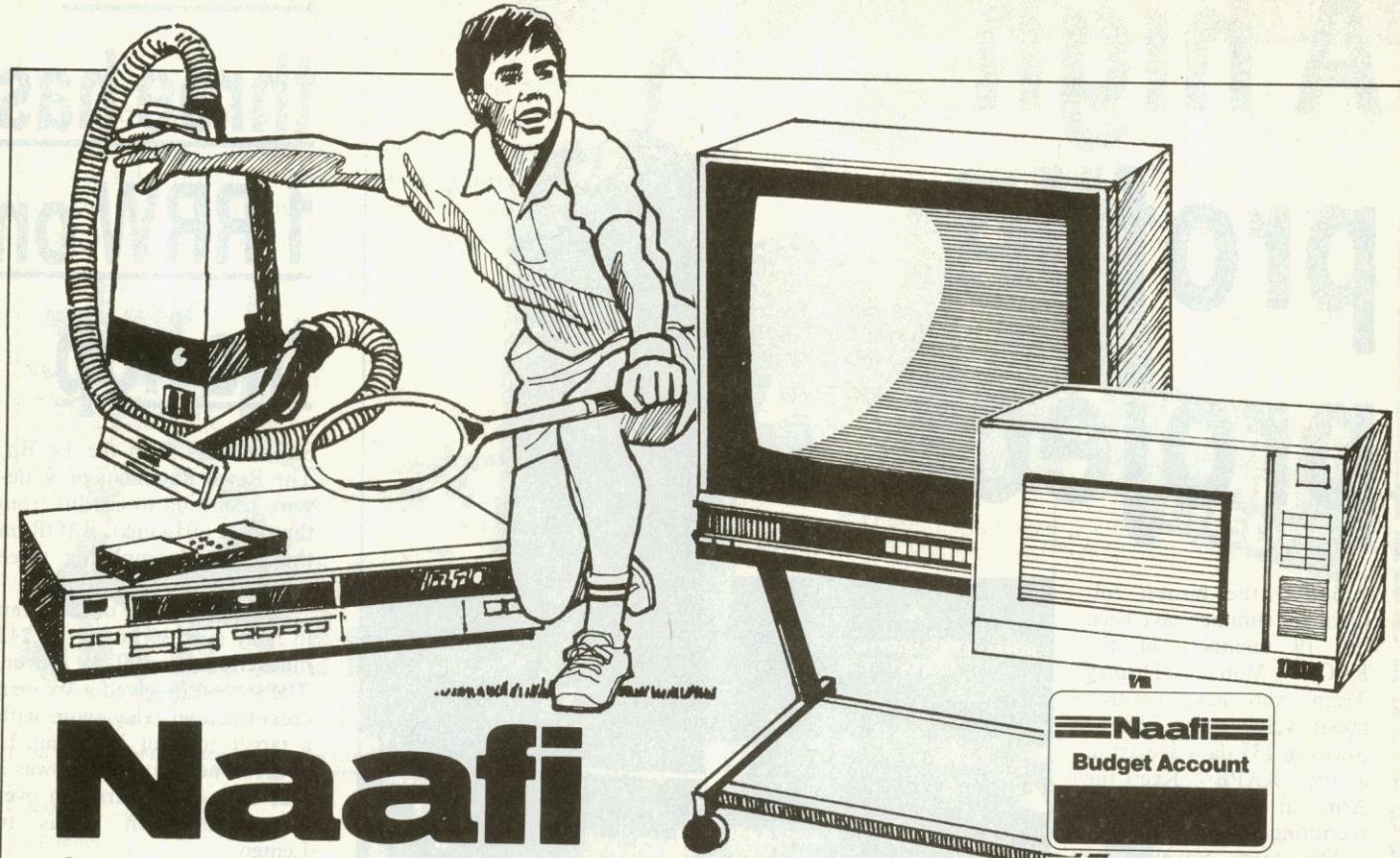
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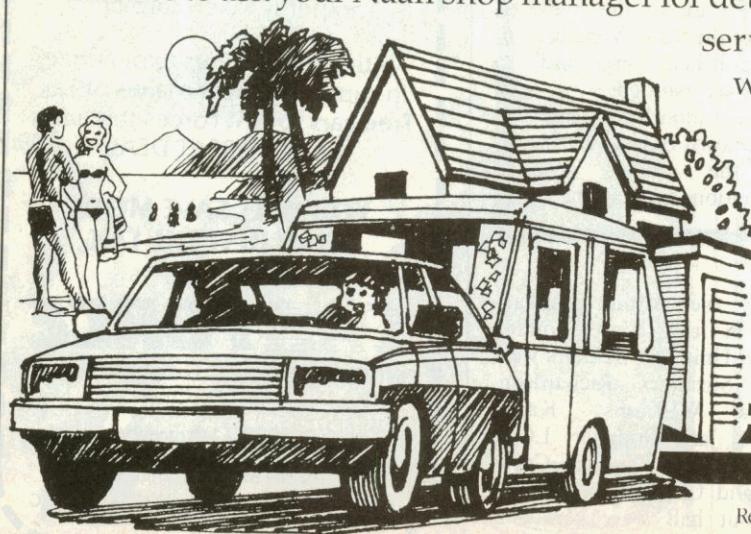
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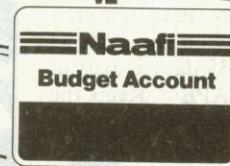
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# THE HERC'S A HERO... BUT SHOUT IT!



THE veteran troop-carrying and globe-trotting Hercules transport has just proved its adaptable worth again 20 years after it came into squadron service. This time, ferrying the body of Hitler's deputy leader, Rudolf Hess, from Berlin's Gatow airfield to the American base of Grafenwoehr in Bavaria not far from Nuremberg where his 40-year Spandau stint all began.

The squat, "Herky bird" as it is known to its passengers over two decades and simply as the "Charlie One-Thirty" to its Royal Air Force aircrews has proved indispensable to thousands of soldiers whatever their reasons for overseas duty, writes *Graham Smith*.

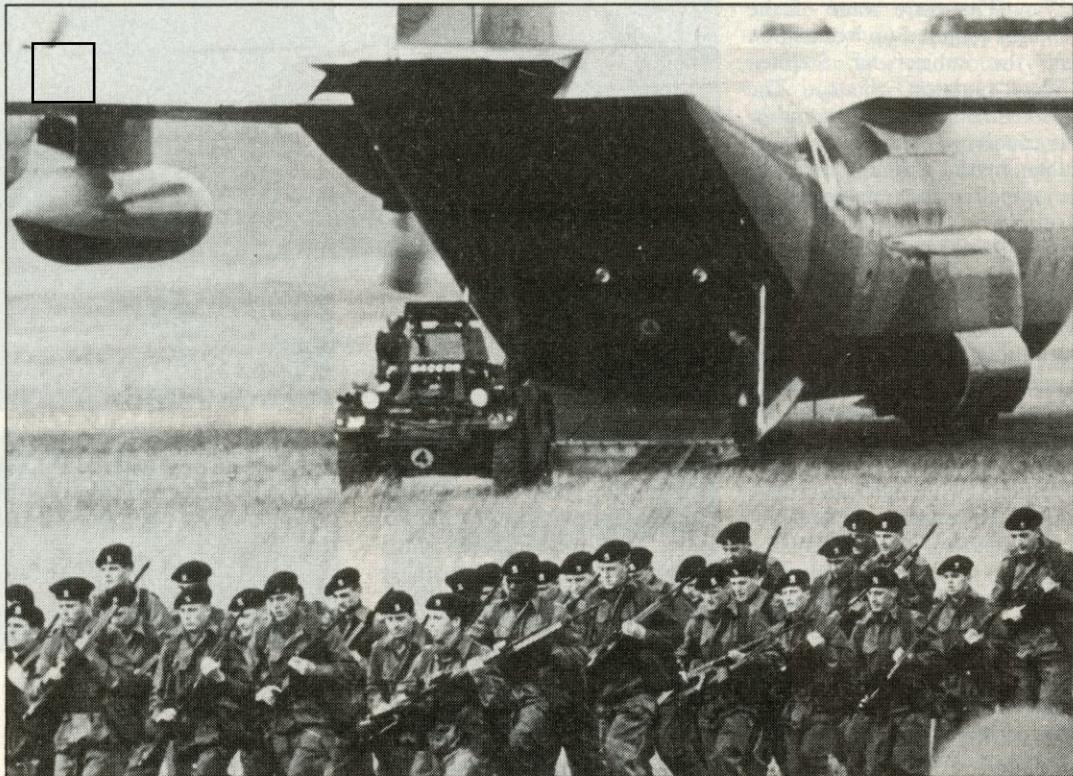
The Hercules is always on call for short term detachments, exercise scenarios, battalion para drops, re-supply sorties, mercy missions, rescue bids, hearts-and-mind projects, famine relief or regimental roulement moves.

The aircraft – and its sleeker jet-powered sister, the VC 10 – are survivors of airborne troopship operations, years of yore that had seen, and mourned, the passing of the Hastings, Beverley, Argosy, Britannia, Comet, Belfast and Andover.

In recent years the sole two newcomers in glistening new livery to the world of air trooping have been the massive TriStar and the smaller HS 146.

Anywhere in the world, trouble spot or tourist haven, where the British soldier has found himself at short notice, the chances are that a "Herc" will have ferried him there.

Names from the past such as



Twenty years ago, soldiers disembark from a Hercules on Salisbury Plain

Singapore, Gan, Muharraq (Bahrain), Khormaksar (Aden), Masirah and Salalah (Oman).

The rugged and robust Hercules first entered service with 36 Sqn at RAF Lyneham.

For the RAF it was a startling advance in performance, the Hercules taking over from the Hastings and the twin-boomed Beverley.

The Hercules was equally suited to tactical and strategic roles and 66 of the type were bought initially.

Its exploits are legion over the years. A spartan workhorse, it was certainly not picked for its looks in the films *The Wild Geese* or *The Dogs of War*. It

had been picked as a functional flying platform because real life situations benefited from it in exactly the same way.

The subsequent relationship between Hercules and soldier has been one of love-hate over the years. An uncomfortable ride sitting on red, lattice-worked canvas seats. Freezing down at the back, baking up at the front. A mass of twitching cables and lagged pipes. A veritable flying boiler room.

An aircraft whose noise drowns good or indifferent conversation. Flights where hand signals or lip reading come into their own.

Soldiers who have flown in the Hercules have become as

stoical as the aircraft themselves.

The Hercules has been something of a hero during its own operational lifetime. Operating in the icy wastes of Antarctica, traversing the sweltering heat of the Sudan, strike-breaking in the Orkneys, evacuating Cypriots, bringing succour to the typhoon-thrashed Philippines, the flood-ravaged tracts of Bangladesh, the earthquake-riven cities in Nicaragua and Mexico.

Perhaps the unkindest remark about the Hercules was: uttered by the wit who said: "They've solved the noise problem of the Herc... they've put it all inside!"

# Ladies from hell – the reality and the romance

A KILTED piper... a member of a marauding horde... one of the "ladies from hell" as their enemies called them in the First World War. These are some of the images conjured up by mention of the subject of Stephen Wood's latest book, *The Scottish Soldier*. But the author is concerned more with reality than myth, although with an eye open to the romance of the subject.

Mr Wood tells the story of the North Britisher from a time well before Scotland "grew to nationhood slowly and painfully", during which the role of warrior was thrust upon him as a means of survival. He deals with 2,000 years of Scottish soldiers' history in chapters with such evocative titles as *Spearman of Scotland*, *Mercenaries and Regulars*, *Loyal or Rebellious*, *The Wellington Years*, *The Flowers of the Forest*, *Brasses*, *Blanco and Bull* and *Total War*.

The mercenary role, which they often elected to take and for which they were long famous, inevitably brought Scots face to face on the field of battle.

"King Gustavus Adolphus of

Sweden was believed to have had 20,000 Scots in his forces... Gustavus Adolphus was the champion of the Protestant cause... France represented the foremost Catholic protagonist and, at one point, 10,000 Scots served her King."

In his foreword, Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur, the General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle, writes:

"This is the story of countless servants of Scotland and of the British Empire, and of the famous bodies in which for the past 300 years, and still, they have served."

"Impressed man and conscript, yeoman, volunteer and career soldier, all merit their inclusion in this enduring brotherhood."

It is a reasonably priced, profusely illustrated tribute, with more than 30 colour plates interspersed through its 200 pages to give a graphic and memorable impression of the evolution of the Highland and Lowland fighting men. – BJ

**The Scottish Soldier** by Stephen Wood, published by Archive Publications Limited. Price £9.95.

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Scots Guards lead Argentine prisoners away from Mount Tumbledown during the climax to the Falklands war in 1982. This picture by SOLDIER photographer Paul Haley is reproduced in *The Scottish Soldier*

## THE BRAVE, RICH MEN WHO SERVED NAPOLEON

NAPOLEON ruled his marshals with a rod of iron that no mere baton could counter.

They stood while he sat, even in battle conference. They were the recipients of orders, not participants in the making of them. Possibly they preferred it that way, thereby being relieved of the responsibility when thousands of their men were committed to well-nigh impossible tasks. Soult, Ney, Bernadotte and Murat are well remembered, but they are merely a few; there were in all 26 of them.

Napoleon knew them for their bravery, their failings and their ability, and rewarded most of them richly. He kept them sweet and under control with awards of money, honours and titles.

Berthier, for instance, received eight "endowments" totalling over 1,250,000 francs;

Ney almost as much. Yet he led the revolt against Napoleon in 1814 and was shot by firing squad the following year.

Others received large amounts and some, including Soult and Brune ("the intrepid looter") looked after their own interests when on campaign.

Napoleon fed their vanity to maintain his hold. Berthier received 13 major orders in three years – yet the Emperor was later to reminisce that he had found him a "gosling" and made him into "a kind of eagle". There was "not in the world a better Chief of Staff" but "he was not capable of commanding 500 men".

Murat was made a prince in 1805, Berthier and Bernadotte in 1806, and the following year Napoleon began to create a nobility about his throne. This included the ennobling of 897 generals; 16 of the marshals

became dukes and six princes.

Many of the marshals were uncouth but all were chosen for their soldierly attributes, their forceful characters and their ability to lead, inspire and control the fighting men.

Whatever their failings they showed courage in the field, taking part in hand-to-hand fighting and even charging alone towards the enemy. All but four were wounded in ten major battles and was wounded in four of them, mortally at Essling, Austria in 1809: "He had truly become a superior being by the time he perished. I found him a pygmy, but I lost a giant."

Two of the marshals became kings: Murat of Naples, and Bernadotte of Sweden and Norway – the Swedish dynasty still stands. Bernadotte later fought against France, and Napoleon was to say of him: "He let me down... he became a sort of Swede." Yet: "I can accuse him of ingratitude but not of treason."

These were thoughts that

## Books in brief

**Fields of Death** by Peter Sloane and Richard Woods. The authors relate soldier's stories from the First World War to the precise areas where the action from their stories occurred. Published by Robert Hale. Price £12.95.

**Hitler's Teutonic Knights** by Bruce Quarrie. The Fuhrer's seven SS Panzer Divisions. Republished in paperback by Patrick Stephens Ltd. Price £7.99.

**Shades of Fear** by John Newhouse. Novel based on the author's experiences in the Malayan jungle in 1945. Republished by Star Books. Paperback price £2.95.

## One man's war in Norway

THERE is many a story of Allied raids on occupied Norway, often poorly supported by documented evidence and subjected to dubious speculation. But now and then an exception arrives in the bookshops.

Kenneth Macksey in his latest book, *Godwin's Saga*, concentrates on the war experiences of one young RN Volunteer Reserve Officer, John Godwin who led an intrepid band of Royal Navy and Army commandos on infiltrations of Norway in 1943.

By submarine, motor torpedo boat (MTB), and fishing boat they came and went, with the occasional party slipping in by parachute and glider and out via Sweden. *Godwin's Saga* is an account of two such operations by MTBs *Crackers* and *Checkmate*.

It is a story of bravery and endurance, of the heroic local population who assisted the raiders, of the tragic failures that resulted in capture, imprisonment and ultimate transfer of the commandos to Sachsenhausen, Germany, where most of the party died in an uprising while being marched to certain extermination.

This was a time when the war was nearing its end and the Nazis were thinning out prisoners who could later have given evidence of war crimes. None of the *Checkmate* party survived the war.

Official recognition of the ordeal that lasted from May 1943 until February 1945 was two Mentions in Despatches, one for John Godwin and the second for Keith Mayer, another member of the *Checkmate* party.

The author has researched the story through a great many sources and claims "... it has been possible, I estimate, to reduce the amount of conjectural material to about five per cent of the whole text..." How many "official" historians could justly make such a claim? – BJ

**Godwin's Saga: A Commando Epic** by Kenneth Macksey, published by Brassey's. Price £10.95.

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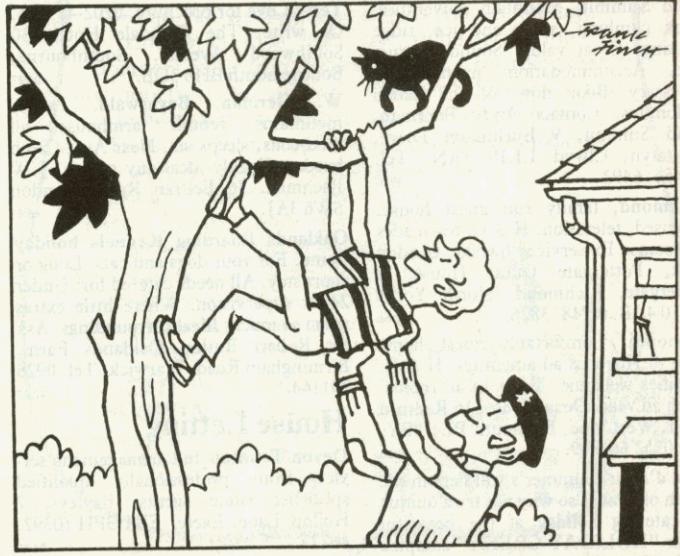
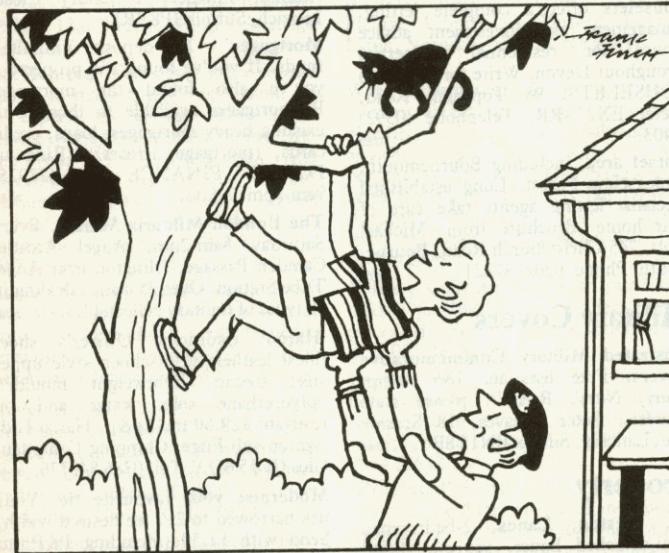
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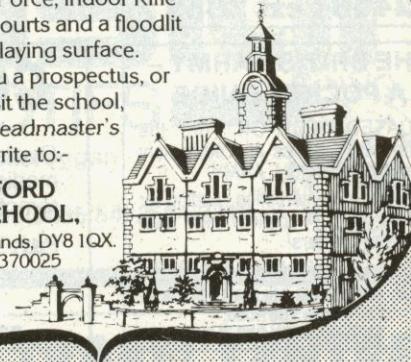
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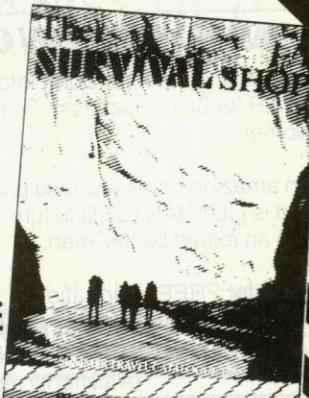
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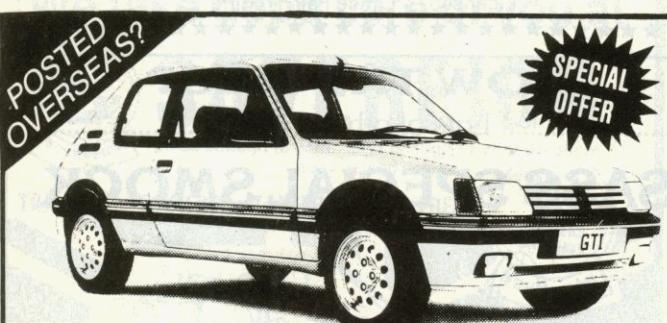
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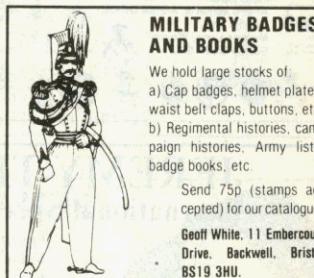
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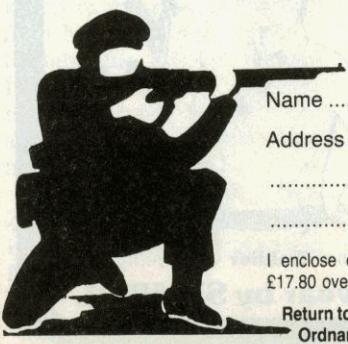
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S6

# Sean takes on the ultimate challenge

SUPER-FIT athlete Lt Sean Armstrong completed his first triathlon only a year ago but will soon be participating in the ultimate test of physical strength and endurance - the Ultraman Triathlon in Hawaii.

Lt Armstrong RAOC - backed up by crewman WO2 Mike Joss RAMC - faces three days of mind-over-matter grit determination when he attempts the six-mile ocean swim, 250-mile bike ride and 52.4-mile double marathon.

The 23-year-old lieutenant, who is serving with the Ordnance Company at BATUS, Canada, has raised thousands of dollars for charity during marathon training sessions near Medicine Hat and even within the Arctic Circle.

Now he is looking for sponsorship to help foot the bill for his journey to Hawaii where he hopes his efforts will raise more cash for charities in the UK, Germany and Canada.

"Those are the three countries where most of the British Forces are," said Lt Armstrong, who is among 65 athletes taking part in the triathlon.

Each of the three days' gruelling events is tackled with only the support and advice of a one or two-man crew and there are no well trained, high tech aid stations to offer water and assistance.

"It is just you and a couple of friends out to see what your limits really are," said Lt Armstrong.



Lt Sean Armstrong



Above - Just as it was in the song the rain was mainly on the plain. Maj Jim Steel in typical stance during the Army parachute championships

Left - Pictured after dropping beside Stonehenge at dawn are two of the finest parachute teams in the world. Standing are the US Army's Golden Knights (left to right) Female Sgt Jan Captain, Sgt Kevin Breaux, Sp4 Bill Jackson, Sp4 Randy Kern and Sgt Rick Albritton; and seated, the Red Devils (left to right): Cpl Jim Scarratt, LCpl Phil Richmond, Pte Eddie Carroll, LCpl Julian Spencer and Pte Graham Robertson



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# Plain frustration!

THE ARMY Parachute Association championships turned into an exercise in frustration this year, writes Bill Moore.

A full jumping programme could be carried out on only two of the ten days.

"Some days chaps were able to sunbathe happily on the airfield but up there . . ." Maj Jim Steel, Commandant of the Joint Services Parachute Centre (Netheravon), pointed to the clouds as he spoke, "the winds were distinctly hostile."

In the end, the weather prevented the completion of the style and canopy relative work events and there was no award for them or for the overall champions for combined style and accuracy. But 1,715 competition (plus 1,050 training) jumps were made and

there were only two injuries. One competitor twisted a knee, another bruised his back.

The high regard in which the competition is held may be gathered not only from the variety of teams and individuals from Nato and other armies - though the French Foreign Legion team was missing, required for duty in Chad - but also from the international nature of the judges.

They came from New Zealand, Portugal, Denmark, Holland and the USA as well as Britain.

Not only does such an engagement keep them in touch with latest trends but puts them

in good standing for duty at other international meets.

One event they were not required to sit in judgment on was a final dramatic gesture to beat the weather.

At dawn on the final day of the competition the Golden Knights, the fine team from the USA, and the British Army's Red Devils, took advantage of the morning calm to make a team descent on Stonehenge . . . with permission from the National Trust.

They landed just in front of the monument.

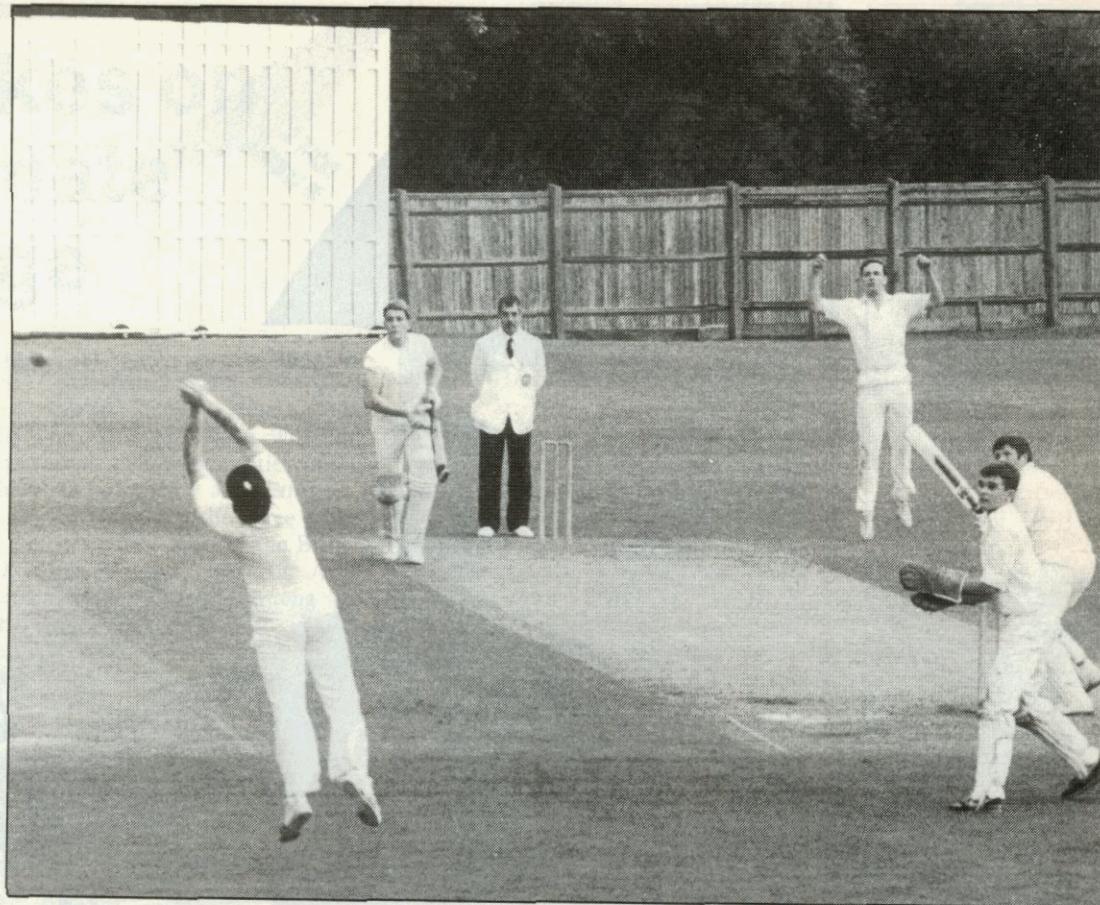
Prizes were presented by the Rt Rev John Austin Baker, Bishop of Salisbury.

# Akabusi seventh in world

STAFF Sgt Kriss Akabusi of the APTC finished seventh in the final of the 400m hurdles at the world athletic championships in Rome and promptly declared himself pleased with his performance.

Akabusi, who is based at Marchwood near Southampton, has converted to the hurdles event after several seasons as one of the United Kingdom's best quarter milers. In the semi-finals at Rome Akabusi scorched home in third place behind eventual champion Ed Moses in a personal best of 48.64 sec, the fastest time ever recorded by a British runner.

But Akabusi did not return home empty handed. He won a silver medal as a member of the British 4 x 400m relay team which set a UK record in the process.



A near thing for a PCD batsman in their Minor Units final against 3 Fd Wksps

Picture: Paul Haley

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## 2 RGJ claim a major triumph for infantry

LED by Army skipper Lt Matthew Fleming, the 2nd Bn The Royal Green Jackets comprehensively beat 1 Cheshire in an all-infantry Major Units cricket final at Aldershot.

It is only the third time this keenly contested knock-out competition has been won by an infantry unit - the first occasion was 3 Bn The Rifle Brigade's success in the inaugural competition in 1920, and the second in 1980 when 3 R Anglian triumphed.

Fleming's leadership was stamped all over the 2 RGJ performance and the men from the demonstration battalion at Warminster were too strong in all departments for the Caterham based Cheshire, winning by 79 runs.

Fleming's rapid 54 was the highest score in 2 RGJ's total of 177-5 in 40 overs. But there was good support from the adjutant, Capt David Homer (37),

Capt Peter Balls (32 not out) and WO2 Wright (25).

LCpl Powdrill was the pick of the Cheshire's bowling with three wickets for 32 runs.

Sgt Brain snapped up five wickets for 21 runs in eight overs as the Cheshire were dismissed for 98 in 32 overs.

Another Army player led the way in the Minor Units final on an adjacent pitch, where 3 Field Workshops RE from Tidworth beat the postmen of the Postal and Courier Depot RE Mill Hill by eight wickets in a low scoring game. Skipper of 3 Fd Wksps was Army opener ASM Peter Wood.

The men from Mill Hill batted first and were bowled out for 82 in 35.1 overs, Cfn Spinks (5-12) and LCpl Bishop (3-22) doing the main damage.

That was never likely to be enough and 3 Fd Wksps duly knocked off the runs in 28 overs, Wood contributing 14 and LCpl Dove 24.



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# SOLDIER



There's something about a soldier—and SOLDIER's T-shirt model is quite something as well. See her again on Page 13.

Picture: Paul Haley