

SOLDIER

25 JANUARY 1988

35 PENCE



**Sandhurst's
new uniform**

**How Tigers
won the cup**

**Hong Kong's
Volunteers**

**Shorncliffe
JIB feature**

Another battle at Otterburn . . .



With bayonets fixed to their SA 80s, men of the 3rd Bn, The Light Infantry attack across Otterburn Ranges during Exercise Rolling Thunder. Six hundred years ago ancestors of the North Country soldiers who make up the bulk of the battalion were using cold steel in earnest near the same spot.

In 1388 the English under Sir Harry Percy made a risky night attack on a Scottish force camped in the area under James Earl of Douglas. It was one of the goriest battles fought on British soil.

Douglas was killed, Percy was captured and the field was said to be so slippery with blood men pulled off their boots and fought in their socks. The Scots won a costly victory.

Relationships on the Border have improved since then but the moors remain as inhospitable as ever.

VOL. 44/2

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FRONT COVER: Women officer cadets at the Royal Academy Sandhurst parade for the first time at a Sovereign's Parade in their new ceremonial uniform. The SA 80 rifle also made its Sovereign's Parade debut. Story in Page 7.

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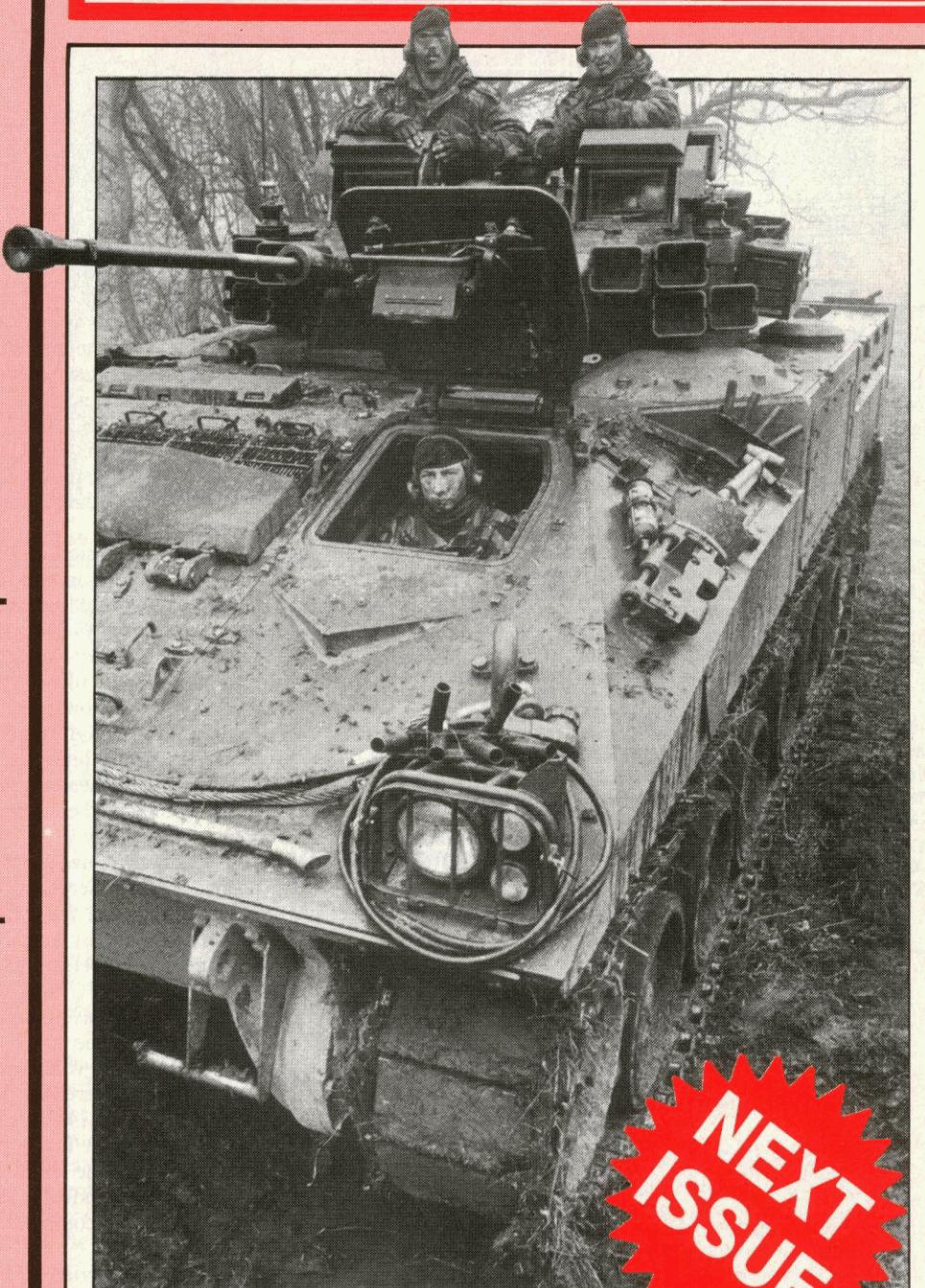
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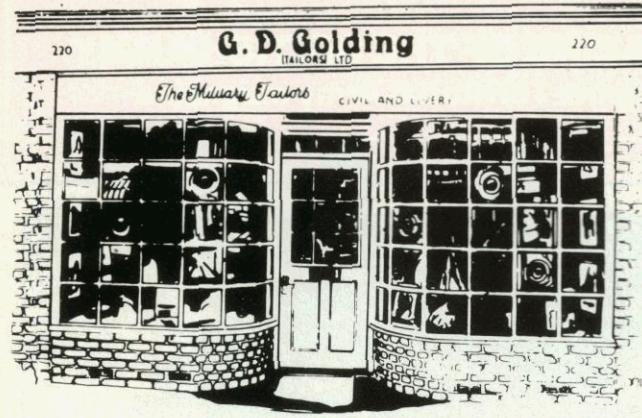
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Mud spattered but standing up to the test. A Warrior and its crew pause during trials on Salisbury Plain. The Army's new Infantry Fighting Vehicle has been put through its paces by the 2nd Bn, The Royal Green Jackets, the School of Infantry's demonstration battalion at Warminster. Read all about it in the next issue of SOLDIER.

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**PRIZE
LETTER**

Anne Armstrong conveys the impression that the modern Army is poorly paid and that some soldiers struggle to make ends meet. She has used the expression "financial hardship" in some articles.

But a study of revised rates of pay, published periodically in **SOLDIER**, suggests that, on the contrary, the Army is very well paid.

When I enlisted in 1931 as a Class III clerk in the RAOC I was on two shillings and nine pence a day - 19s 3d a week all to myself! Most privates were on the flat rate of two shillings.

Marriage allowance (7s) was payable only on reaching the age of 26, while the Ration Allowance (when you were not being fed by the Army) was a mere 9d a day.

On war time promotion I made staff sergeant and I remember the pre-war rates were boosted by a grant of 6d war pay in 1941 and a further 6d in 1942.

But there was no substantial increase for me until the last year of the war when my rate as a WO2 was increased by half a crown a day to 14s 6d. Someone asked me what I was going to do with all the extra money! And that included a 3d a day increment on completion of 13 years' service.

When I married in 1945 my wife received 24 shillings a week Marriage Allowance. It was not until 1950 that new rates put me on over £1 per day.

That was when I was in BAOR and I would stress that none of the wives occupying married quarters were employed or had ever been employed since marriage even when with their husbands in the UK (Anne Armstrong makes it appear that wives need to be working to supplement their husbands' meagre pay). There was no entitlement to

Overseas Allowance in Germany.

The first time I really came into the money was on promotion to WO1 bringing me on to 29s a day plus 56s a week MA. More so when my wife joined me to occupy a quarter in the Canal Zone when I became entitled to a very generous 17s per day OA.

There was one final increase in my last year of service in 1958 when my total assets were £21 a week - and I thought I was being very well paid.

I never thought I would live to see the day when the rate of pay of a private on enlistment rose higher than that of a full general. When I first saw a Pay Warrant in 1932 a general's rate was £10 a day.

It will therefore be seen that today's soldier is far better paid than those serving 50, 40 or 30 years ago, even allowing for the fact that the pre-war men in barracks were "all found" and the considerable difference in the value of the £.

I am not taking anything away from today's soldiers. What pay they get they certainly earn. From reading **SOLDIER** I get the impression they undergo more strenuous training and need more technical skill in handling weapons and equipment.

But I do wish Anne would lay off pleading poverty on behalf of soldiers. To my way of thinking, they should have no complaint on the subject of pay. - A Worley (ex RAOC), 42 Yatesbury Crescent, Nottingham NG8 3AW.

● Mr Worley wins our prize letter book. - Editor



Christmas presence

Pte Wayne and Sharon Horner and son Ricki celebrate the Christmas Day birth of daughter Emma at the Royal Naval Hospital Gibraltar. With them is Sister Lynne Melly, QARNNS, who delivered Emma. Wayne, a medical assistant, is serving with the 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment, the Rock's resident battalion.

Book closes on Médaille Libérée

The Médaille de la France Libérée created in 1947 is not an ordinary service medal but a special award for distinguished services.

Official decorations are no longer awarded for deeds relevant to the Second World War. This is in application of a decision taken by the French authorities in October 1954.

Moreover, the Foreign Office whose authorization would be necessary in order to reward a British national has

decreed in August 1954 that no application would be considered for a deed prior to five years.

One can only claim an award now if it was officially gazetted at the time of the action and if it was not presented.

It is with great regret that the sacrifices consented by soldiers during the Second World War can no longer be acknowledged – Ambassade de France a Londres, 58 Knightsbridge, London SW1.

A review too far!

It is very interesting to read Col Rodney Bashford's record reviews.

The record reviewed in the edition dated December 14 (Marching Through the Years – Grenadier Guards) should be quite something. I have yet to hear music from a piece called "A Bride Too Far". One

wonders what the film it purports to come from is about!

I entirely agree with Col Bashford about the Grenadier Guards Band. It is THE Band for marches and I hope they had a successful tour in the US. – Mrs Averil Skinner, 39 Ashbrook Road, Old Windsor, Berks SL4 2LT.

Angie's a winner!

Here's good news for Angie Brooksbank of Manchester Road, Thurlstone, Sheffield. Angie is the latest winner of £50 in SOL-DIER's HOAY competition (No 427). This issue's competition is on page 39. Why not try your hand at winning £50. It could be your lucky day!

Reunions

● A reunion of old comrades of Liberation Force 135 is to be part of celebrations for the anniversary of the liberation of Guernsey on May 9. Details from Channel Islands Occupation Society, 110 Fort George, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

● The 105th anniversary reunion of The Royal Canadian Regiment will be held in London, Ontario, on July 1-3. Enquiries to William Norman, 1585 Ernest # 810, London, Ontario N6E 2V7.

● The National PoW Association first annual reunion will be held at Ladbrokes Holiday Centre, Middleton on Sea (near Bognor Regis) October 21/24. Details from reunion secretary Mr C Jago, 72 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HE (tel 0722 333599).

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S 25/01/88

Sandhurst's new uniform on parade

FEMALE officer cadets and student officers have paraded for the first time in their new Sandhurst ceremonial uniform – their equivalent of the men's Sandhurst Blues – at the Sovereign's Parade.

The uniform is issued to officer cadets at Sandhurst and used for ceremonial occasions and church parades before being handed back to the Royal Military Academy

after their final Sovereign's Parade.

Before the new uniform, women wore their light or lovat green Service dress on parade.

The parade was reviewed by Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett, C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe. It was the first occasion on which the SA 80 was carried by male officer cadets and students.



Maj Richard Matters and Ivy, led by Lt Gilly Wright, followed by Maj Peter Fairgrieve on more traditional mount

Mutiny VC returns to RAOC

A Victoria Cross won during the Indian Mutiny of 1857 has found a home in the RAOC Museum at Deepcut, Hampshire, where it now hangs alongside another one from the same action.

The medal was presented to the museum by Mr William Raynor, great grandson of Lt William Raynor who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in defending the ammunition magazine at Delhi on May 11, 1857.

Three officers and six men of the Bengal Ordnance fought off the rebels until they were almost overcome, at which point they deliberately blew up the magazine with themselves inside it.

Four of the heroic nine survived the explosion though one was to die within hours. The other three, including Lt Raynor – an Assistant Commissary of Ordnance – were awarded the Victoria Cross.



Mr William Raynor (left), great grandson of Lt William Raynor, presents the Victoria Cross to Maj Gen Gerald Berragan, Director General Ordnance Services for safekeeping in the RAOC Museum at Deepcut

Lt Raynor's VC remained in his family's possession for many years before being bought by an American collector. When it came up for auction recently it was bought by Mr Raynor on behalf of the RAOC who must now raise the £11,000 needed to pay their benefactor.

How to give a CO the hump!

WHEN the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Bn The Royal Green Jackets, Lt Col Vere Hayes, instructed that his field officers should be mounted for a battalion muster parade at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, he may have been somewhat surprised by OC A Company's beast.

While in days gone by infantry officers were expected to be competent riders, the CO's order was obeyed with some trepidation by the company commanders who, for a time, lost their normal confidence and composure.

All, that is, except for Maj Richard Matters who paraded calmly aboard Ivy, a camel. Ivy's normal haunt is nearby Longleat Safari Park, but ably encouraged by Lt Gilly Wright, WRAC, she behaved impeccably on parade.

She was completely unperturbed by the stamping of the soldiers' feet, which in fact is more than can be said of some of the horses. As other company commanders tried to follow Maj Matters some were carried, involuntarily, off parade.

Gurkhas busy in New Territories

THE New Territories were the venue for a field training exercise held by units of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade to mark the end of the training year. Exercise Polne Jire (meaning Burning Chilli) involved the moving of 2,500 troops and transport.

This large scale field training exercise was undertaken to maintain the Brigade's capability to operate in other theatres. It is normally employed in an operational role in Hong Kong.

Polne Jire also gave the new Brigade Commander, Brig Vernon Beauchamp the opportunity to meet his troops for the first time.

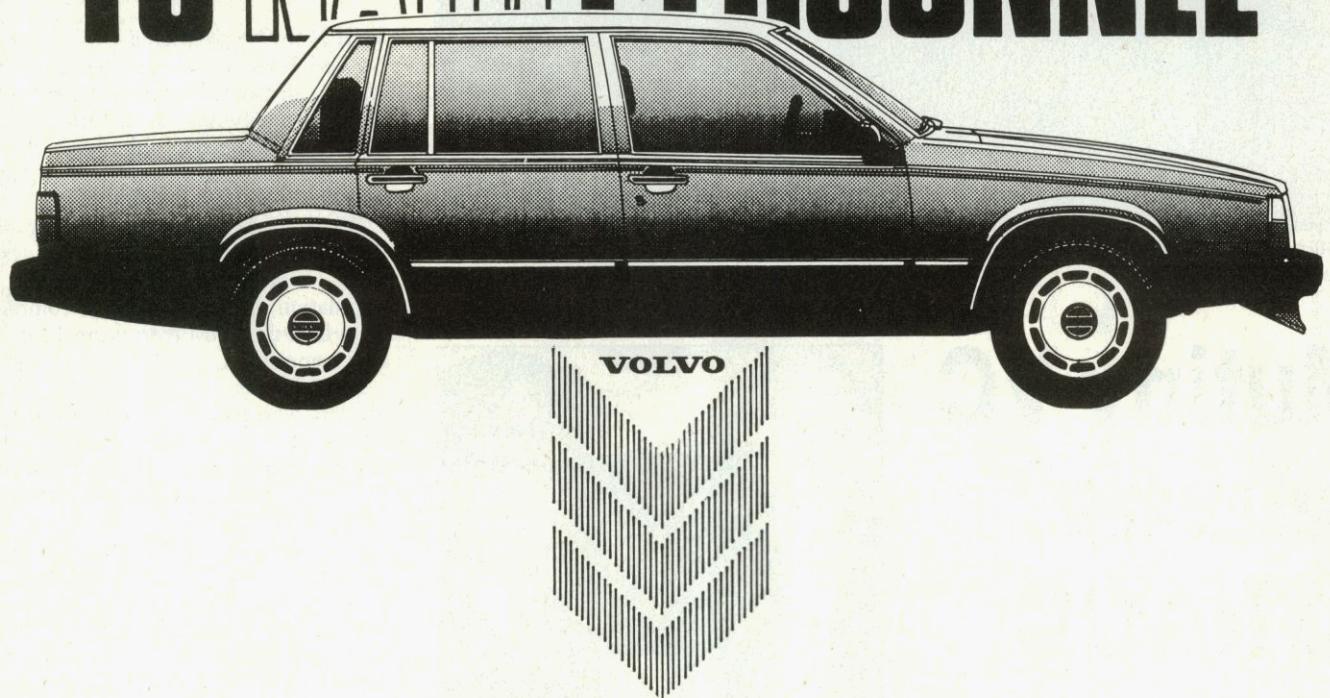
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Young medic kept his cool

TROOPER Robin Brownlow, serving with 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers in Herford, Germany, as a crew member of a Scorpion light tank, has received the Commander 4th Armoured Division's Commendation for administering first aid to a fellow soldier who had collapsed with heat stroke during an exercise in the Sauerland last summer.

Robin, the medical assistant for his

squadron, had only recently completed his four week medical course at the time of the exercise.

A craftsman working on a tank engine collapsed, and 18-year-old Tpr Brownlow immediately diagnosed heat stroke. He doused the young craftsman with water to bring down his body temperature. After several days in intensive care the man made a full recovery.



Tpr Robin Brownlow



A mobile patrol of C Coy, 1 RS is introduced to the Princess Royal by Cpl Bob Welsh

Princess calls on Royal Scots

THE Princess Royal made a flying visit to Belfast four days before Christmas to see the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, of whom she is Colonel in Chief.

Pipe Major Rab Burns played the Princess Royal's March as she arrived by helicopter at the regiment's Belfast base where she was met by the Commanding Officer Lt Col Martin Gibson and the city's Lord Lieutenant, Sir Robin Kinehan.

Briefed about operations and the

battalion's role in Northern Ireland, the Princess Royal later spoke to a team of soldiers preparing to go on patrol and then met other Security Force personnel working with The Royal Scots.

The Princess Royal became Colonel in Chief of The Royal Scots on their 350th anniversary in 1983 and has since visited the battalion on several occasions, the last being in September to Werl in West Germany where the battalion is normally based.

Paderborn jig for Enniskillen

PIPES and drums aren't usually on the programme for pop concerts, any more than Irish jigs. But a ten hour musical marathon held in Paderborn, West Germany to raise funds for the Enniskillen Appeal was different.

It was organised by the Paderborn based 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards who enlisted other Irish regiments stationed in Germany. As a result pop music gave way to the combined Pipes and Drums of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, from Münster, and 1 Bn, The Royal Irish Rangers, from Osnabrück. The concert raised more than £8,000.

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WO1 John Wright

One of the few!

WO1 John Wright, one of only three test pilots in the British Army and the only one serving in Germany, has received an unusual award for a soldier — the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air.

John, a keen sailor, has served in Germany since 1980 and is at present at Detmold with 71 Aircraft Workshop REME.



OLDEST HIGHLANDER: Mrs Baxter receives a gift from Maj Frank Blincow (fourth from right) while Pipe Maj Alistair Reese (left) plays the bagpipes and Capt Dougie Shepherd (right) looks on

QO Hdrs honour oldest pensioner

THE Queen sent a telegram, Mrs Thatcher sent a personally signed birthday card and Provost Allan Sellar went along to convey his own good wishes.

And Pipe Major Alistair Reese of the Queen's Own Highlanders arrived to salute soldier's widow Mrs Catherine Baxter of Bruce Avenue, Inverness, with *The March of the Cameron Men*, when she reached her century.

In addition, Queen's Own Highlanders Regimental Association deputy secretary Maj Frank Blincow, accompanied by Capt Dougie Shepherd, also appeared to pay tribute to the lady they believe to be

the regiment's senior widow.

In 1910 she met and married Cameron Highlander Willie Baxter from Airdrie. Nine years later Willie, having survived the First World War, was posted to India, and Catherine and their family of four accompanied him.

Sadly their happy union wasn't to last. In 1922, Willie, by this time a physical training sergeant instructor, died from sunstroke, aged only 35.

Her older son Willie, now dead, followed in his father's footsteps, joining the Camerons as a boy drummer and retiring as a captain.



AUSSIE BLESSING: The Rev Peter Dillon pictured with Sgt Ross Clark and the new Mrs Laura Clark after officiating at their wedding



Picture: Terry Champion

Brig Pat blows for full time . . .

AFTER nearly half a century's association with the Army, Brig Pat Thursby has retired as Director of the Army Sport Control Board which he headed for 15 years.

His successor is Maj Gen Alan Yeoman who was Commander Communications BAOR.

Brig Thursby left the Army with a stern warning to commanding officers — "Neglect sport at your peril!"

He explained: "Shortage of money is no new problem for Services' sport and we are fortunate to have gained so many sponsorships from industry which allow us to run competitions in style rather than on a shoestring.

"Sport in the Army is in good shape but I see danger approaching in the form of overstretch and shortage of funds. We are dropping behind with the provision of up-dated facilities.

"We learnt in the First World War the value of sport as a morale booster and nothing has happened to alter that invaluable asset."

New Army Sport Control Board supremo Maj Gen Yeoman has wide sporting interests including rugby, cricket, skiing and golf — he won the General's Cup in that sport last year.

ALL YOURS: Brig Pat Thursby (right) passes his "badges of office" to Maj Gen Alan Yeoman

PEOPLE

Picture: Mike Weston



GOLDEN LANYARD: LCpl Annette Heaton with the coveted lanyard

BACK "Down Under" after a tour with the Junior Leaders Regiment, RE, at Dover, is Australian Army Chaplain Peter Dillon who exchanged pulpits with Padre Bob Mitchell for four months under the Exercise Long Look scheme. Peter, in the Royal Australian Army Chaplains' Department for 19 years, is the Staff Chaplain to Headquarters Training

A vicar of the world

Command, Sydney.

Before entering the Ministry he worked in agriculture in New Guinea.

Golden jump for Annette

LCPL Annette Heaton, WRAC, jumped into the record books when she became only the second woman to earn a coveted golden lanyard for achieving more than 1,000 parachute descents.

A member of the Army's famous Red Devils freefall parachute display team since 1985, Annette (24) jumped out of a helicopter with a dozen team members to land precisely on the parade square fronting the Para Depot at Aldershot where she was presented with her lanyard by Gen Sir David Thorne, Director of Infantry.

Annette who was making her 1,052nd jump, was one of eight Red Devils to receive the lanyard in front of proud parents, friends and families.

She joined the army in



West Lancashire Evening Gazette

Blackpool beauty Fiona Slack, the reigning Miss Queen's Lancashire Regiment, gave herself a festive wrapping for a special Christmas card for the men of the 1st Battalion based at Paderborn, West Germany.

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Naafi shapes up to the 90s

NAAFI's new image for the 1990s includes up to date decor for its clubs and shops and new working clothes for the staff.

Chairman Mr Malcolm Field, announcing that more than £17m was returned to members of HM Forces and their families by Naafi in the 1986-87 trading year, said the new image was part of an initiative to improve the range and quality of service.

The annual report and accounts of the Forces' own trading organisation for the year ended May 2, 1987 reveal that its "shareholders" - Service personnel and their wives - benefited by the return of more than £17m.

- £6.4m to individual customers at the checkout
- £3.4m to units in rebates
- £1.6m in extra rebate to central welfare funds
- £5.8m to units from gaming and amusement machine.

Turnover was up by £19.8m to £370.7m with a final surplus on trading of £10.8m.

Commenting on the five year plan to shape Naafi for the 1990s, managing director Mr James Rucker said the extension of opening hours, including Sunday openings, had

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Armed Forces Minister Mr Ian Stewart witnessed first hand the power of the Royal Engineers when he visited the Falkland Islands.

During his day long tour of Mount Pleasant, the Falkland Islands Field Squadron - better known in Tidworth as 8 Field

Squadron - showed off their giant machines used for airfield damage repair.

Among them was a mighty weight normally used for compacting fill in craters - but which also does an equally effective job of crushing unwanted Land Rovers! Mr Stewart had a grandstand view as the sappers showed off the quick way to dispose of worn out transport.

Roman sites saved

Two rare examples of Roman-British villages, Chisenbury Warren and Chapperton Down, both situated on the Salisbury Plain Training Area, have been saved by the Army from damage.

Archaeologists from English Heritage and Wiltshire County Council consider the sites among the best preserved examples of villages of the Roman period, largely because military use of the land has prohibited intensive cultivation.

No more than a few bumps on grassy slopes to the uninitiated observer, Chisenbury Warren boasts 80 house platforms, flanking a wide street, or hollow way, while a few miles away across the Plain, Chapperton Down is a large village, with many traces of its surrounding fields still surviving.

Long distance cheer

Thanks for the many seasonal messages of goodwill that arrived at the office.

Typical of the warmth of greeting - although not the delivery! - was that from long time reader Sgt Jim Clarkson of

Wellers Hill, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, who rang in the early hours of a cold and dark winter's morning to convey some precious minutes of Aussie sunshine.

Good on yer, Jim!

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... Shorncliffe's graduates stand three times the chance of becoming a WO2 after 12 years' service ...

Story by
Graham Smith
Pictures by
Mike Weston

Promoting boys into soldiers for our leaders of tomorrow ...

EVERY year more than 1,000 teenage boys embark on Army careers as potential NCOs from the Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent, home of the re-styled Junior Infantry Battalion.

They go on from there to meet the section commander needs of 18 battalions from the dozen regiments within two client divisions, the Queen's and the Prince of Wales's. The battalion also serves The Royal Pioneer Corps.

Last year about half of the Army's recruits were juniors of which Shorncliffe can claim its fair share. It is claimed that Shorncliffe's graduates stand three times the chance of becoming a WO2 after 12 years' service than an adult signing on in the Army in the same year. The mature recruit takes an average 17 years to reach the same rank.

In the light of reports on bullying at Army units, Lt Col Peter Harry, The Royal Regiment of Wales, CO of the JIB for just over a year, is the first to admit that his own boy soldier battalion had difficulties last year.

"But nothing has been swept under the carpet," he says. "My staff are approachable leaders doing a thoroughly good job."

Under his command are four training companies - two each for the Queen's and Prince of Wales's Divisions plus two 12-strong annual intakes for The Royal Pioneer Corps.

His battalion has two annual intakes of 218 Junior Leaders and four 162-entrant intakes of Junior Soldiers. The Junior Leader syllabus calls for 42 weeks of training while Junior Soldier training lasts 20 weeks followed by 12 weeks at an adult depot.

Sixty per cent of the time is spent on basic military training and the rest on



An introduction to arms - Cpl Andrew Longbottom of the Glosters instructs junior soldiers, now nine weeks into their training at Shorncliffe, in rifle drill

THE SHORNCLIFFE WAY



Left - Lt Col Peter Harry stands before the statue of Sir John Moore who trained his Rifle Corps at Shorncliffe and encouraged his men by example rather than subduing them through barbaric discipline

Right - The lad deserved an Oscar! A moaning, groaning "casualty" is dragged out of harm's way during a casevac exercise at Shorncliffe

adventurous and physical training and education.

Col Harry said the attitude among his teenage soldiers was very positive. They were youngsters who responded with enthusiasm and were willing to learn.

"Nevertheless, there are considerable difficulties that we and the boys face when they get here. They are basically emotionally under-developed and this

obviously varies from boy to boy.

"This is a very critical phase of their development as adolescents.

"Our aim is to produce self-disciplined, tough and skilled soldiers at the end of their training and there are enormous difficulties in the execution of that aim - emotional aspects, home sickness and the experience of communal living for the first time in their lives.

"I continually tell my staff that ill discipline is a very inefficient way to train soldiers. We don't want cowed and frightened little boys. We want tough, upright, skilled soldiers. Clearly, you don't abuse somebody and then expect him to follow you into battle."

Col Harry, who was once a speechwriter to former Nato supreme commander Gen



Bernard Rogers, said the motivation among most of his youngsters was good because the entrants had wanted to become infantry soldiers. But it is not always so.

"I regret we do have a certain percentage who simply want to dip their elbows in the bathwater, such is the nature of modern youth. They are quite prepared to look at us for 24 hours."

"We lose for one reason or another about 25 per cent of recruits - about 90 of those through Discharge as of Right (DAOR) after 28 days' service - within the first six months having first given 14 days' notice.

"The long term future is not particularly healthy on demographic grounds because available manpower is going to reduce and the infantry may have to lower its standards.

"It's highly regrettable in the context of the Director of Infantry's Agenda for Action, and particularly of the need for a more technical bent in our infantry soldiers.

"I lay great stress on parental involvement with the battalion and good communications with the parents from us, but I regret the facts of life show that about 35 per cent of our boys come from turbulent backgrounds which, I would suggest, is in many cases the main reason for them joining the Army."

Parents, he said, had established good relations with his permanent staff.

"The modern day company sergeant major spends as much time on the phone talking to mums as he does on the square," said Col Harry.

Shorncliffe JIB has a permanent staff of 183 comprising 43 officers, 76 senior NCOs and 64 corporals, many of them ex-Juniors. In support is a civilian staff of

● Turn to Page 17



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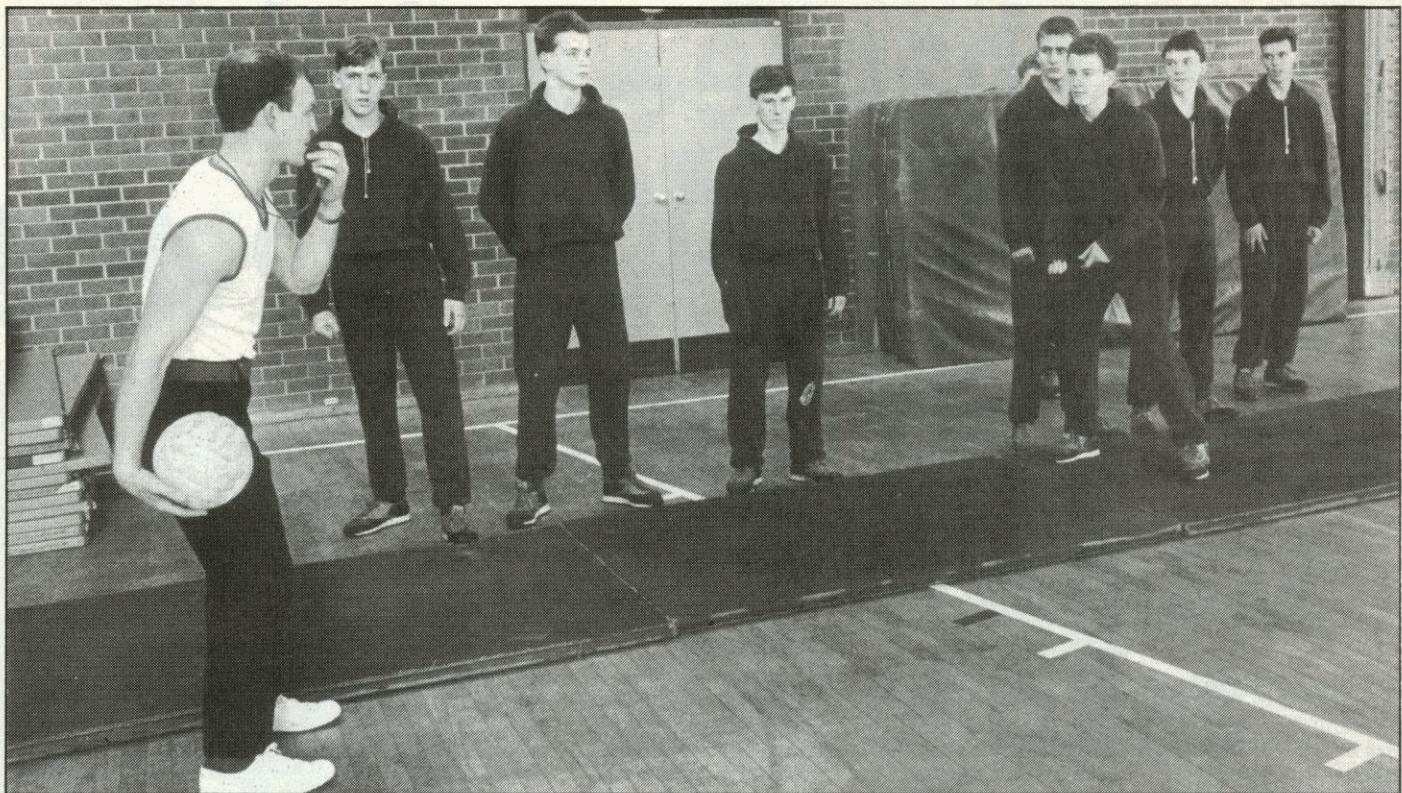
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Instructor Cpl Phillip Woodcock, R Anglian, leads a PT session for junior soldiers in the gymnasium

Shorncliffe – the way ahead

● From Page 15

106 including three retired officers and eight Burnham lecturers.

From their bracing 400-acre site above the white cliffs of Kent the Junior Leaders go on exercise 12 times a year to places like Otterburn, Stanford, Brecon and Cornwall.

The Junior Soldiers carry out eight exercises annually using the facilities of the nearby Cinque Ports Training Area's 63 ranges.

Back at barracks the NCOs of the 90s have more than 30 hobbies from which to choose.

A £4 million "facelift" starts at Shorncliffe in September to refurbish living quarters at the purpose-built barracks.

Of recent accounts of bullying in the Army Col Harry said his battalion had felt "somewhat aggrieved" towards certain sections of the popular media.

"As far as Shorncliffe is concerned most of the allegations have been mis-reported or taken out of context.

"Nevertheless I regret there have been some instances which I deplore and which have been thoroughly investigated. In the main, I would say the vast majority of officers and NCOs thoroughly understand the ground rules here.

"I continue to support the chain of command and good communications to root out this small minority of incidents of ill discipline. We have reviewed many of our procedures, particularly in the communications level between staff, boys and the parents.

"Certain members of the press have associated Shorncliffe in a fairly malicious way with very serious incidents including the deaths of soldiers not serving here.

"I'm glad to say that some sections of the press have acknowledged that the reporting in many cases has not been as balanced as it could have been. I am comforted by the fact that relations with the local community have remained good.

"We have a lot of talented boys; 14 per cent are national or county level sportsmen. I'm optimistic about the future. The only difficulty we have is reorientating the boys from the relevant affluence that they come from to the preparation of somebody for the rigours of battle.

"That's not a new problem but it's an increasing problem as society becomes more vulnerable to home comforts which mitigate against producing tough soldiers."

Col Harry said he put great store in the "female dimension" at Shorncliffe where his boys could talk to the WRVS representative, a female doctor and a female physiotherapist.

"I have also instituted a system of keeping daily journals during their first six weeks of service," he said. "It's not an opportunity to grass on their corporals – that's against regulations – but is useful to record their feelings and reflections on their new lives. I nicked the idea from Sandhurst's Rowallan Company."

Col Harry said he vets his incoming permanent staff and was dependent on their supply from the 18 client battalions.

"My staff must not only be good, knowledgeable, professional instructors but approachable leaders as well. I recognise that not all NCOs or, indeed, officers are suitable for a junior unit. We have made an increased effort to vet the staff to make sure we have got it right.

"I would like to emphasise that the vast majority of nationwide training depot officers and NCOs in the Army are well-motivated, well-balanced and totally understand how to deal with adolescent boys.

"While I am never complacent I am satisfied that the Shorncliffe Junior Infantry Battalion is in good, healthy, vigorous shape."

WHERE THE BOYS GO . . .

QUEEN'S DIVISION
The Queen's Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
The Royal Anglian Regiment
THE PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION
The Devonshire and

Dorset Regiment
The Cheshire Regiment
The Royal Welch Fusiliers
The Royal Regiment of Wales
The Gloucestershire Regiment
The Worcestershire

and Sherwood Foresters Regiment
The Royal Hampshire Regiment
The Staffordshire Regiment
The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt (Berkshire and Wiltshire)

It's all change - so let's get our word in edgeways fast

WILL 1988 really be a happy year? For it heralds a mass of new legislation which will affect everyone including the Serviceman, woman and their families.

In many cases the changes will affect us profoundly.

My research last year led me to believe that once again Service people have not been fully consulted.

On the other hand, have we responded to Government requests for comments on, for example, the proposals in *Rented Sector, The Government's Legislative Proposals?* The paper says comments would be welcome on its proposals but I fear no

54 NOW AGE OF DECISION

THE GOVERNMENT is to reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which a "pound for pound" abatement in respect of unemployment benefit is activated.

This will have the effect of debarring Servicemen at the end of their career from drawing unemployment benefit, notwithstanding that most of them will have paid Class I National Insurance contributions since they left school.

The Government aims to save £60 million a year with its plan.

It is understood that the police and fire services have already made representations.

But the Armed Forces, who will probably be more affected than almost any other group, appear to be prepared to take this issue without any form of complaint or even question.

Servicemen are usually obliged to retire at the age of 55 with a pension of 48.5 per cent of pay (Terminal Grants are compulsory commutation which reduce the theoretical top rate pension to this percentage).

A Serviceman often needs to buy a house; the

answered.

Can you apply for Income support?

Will all the present rules for Family Income Support apply?

Can you claim if overseas?

These and many other questions are still to be answered.

Educational changes are numerous. This year will be a testing time for those at school as they move to and fro between UK and British Forces schools overseas during the assessment period.

Another problem for this year is the proposed Poll Tax. How will the charge be levied on the Services as they travel the globe or if they own a house in UK? The year will also see the completion of the introduction of the Social Security Act yet there are still a great number of outstanding questions to be

Perhaps a thought should be given to leaving in the 54th year and claiming unemployment benefit for the year spent in looking for a job.

Of course, financial advice ought to be sought as to whether it will pay you to leave at 54.

The police and fire services have registered their worries; did the Services?

So 1988 needs to be a year of careful monitoring on all new Government legislation.

I hope the Serviceman, his wife and family will not finish up in a forgotten group.

The Armed Forces Pension Scheme is a rapid build up early start scheme.

There is comparatively little increase in pension between ages 54 and 55.

In the circumstances Servicemen seeking a second career may, in future, be well advised to consider leaving the Service at the age of 54 (repeat 54) so as to be able to draw unemployment benefit.

Then proposed legislation could be interpreted and all those who need this information worldwide kept abreast of current regulations.

If a Serviceman retires at 55, he must, however, still sign on in order to ensure continuity of National Insurance contributions without cost to himself (i.e. the cost is met by the State).

So maybe some thought will be given to this approach as the year progresses.

In my view ...

Comments were submitted by the relevant authorities. Even if we do submit comments there is no guarantee that the Government will take any notice but at least our feelings will be made known.

Another problem for this year is the proposed Poll Tax. How will the charge be levied on the Services as they travel the globe or if they own a house in UK? The year will also see the completion of the introduction of the Social Security Act yet there are still a great number of outstanding questions to be

civilian counterpart has invariably already made provision for his housing.

It takes the average Serviceman about three months to find employment so without unemployment benefit it may be difficult to make ends meet.

Yet individuals will be debarred from drawing Supplementary Benefit (a means tested benefit) because of his "capital assets" (i.e. Terminal Grant).

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So maybe some thought will be given to this approach as the year progresses.

Chance for children

THE GUILD of St Helena 1988 children's holiday will be from 17-27 June at St Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe, Kent. All children who are registered with SCEA and have special needs may apply for one of the 20 places.

Details from Maj George Bradbury (SCEA 1b) MoD, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR. Priority will be given to first time applicants.



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

EDUCATION GRANTS - A MOTHER'S PLEA

Help! We're lost in a maze of rules

Dear Anne,
MAY I ask, through your column, for a change in the rules for student grants for the children of Servicemen living abroad.

We have been on postings outside the UK for 4½ years and own a house in Stirlingshire on which we continue to pay rates.

We have been trying to get grants for both our children since last February, but owing to the very slow replies from local authorities and being shunted from one authority to another, one child has started at the Oxford Polytechnic without a grant, and the other got an agreement to pay just a few days before going up to Cambridge from East Sussex.

At the time of writing we have had to pay over £600 to the Oxford Polytechnic to ensure that our daughter can enrol.

The LEA, who we hope are considering this case, are refusing to answer the telephone because they have such a backlog of work, they say.

All the authorities with whom we dealt have agreed that we are entitled to mandatory grants for both offspring. All (except East Sussex) have hoped that they would not have to pay it. All (except Scotland) cannot understand why the authority where we pay

PARENTS' GUIDE

A NUMBER of parents have written for advice on finding special or boarding schools for handicapped children. Some are expecting overseas postings. They should write to SCEA (Service Children's Education Authority) - Special Needs.

The address is MoD, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR. Or they can ring 01-854 2242.

rates should not accept responsibility.

There seems to be a web of bureaucratic rules through which one fights for what one is undeniably entitled.

The Serviceman's family just does not fit into the system. The easiest way through the maze is to lie on all the forms about the movements of the hopeful student.

Presumably this is not what the designers of the forms intended.

Could I suggest three different possible changes in the rules governing the application of student grants in order to accommodate the children of Servicemen?

• EITHER it could be stated that the children of Servicemen living abroad

would be the responsibility of the local authority where the parents pay rates. This, however, would not suit non-householders.

• OR it could be stated that the local authority where the student goes to study should take automatic responsibility.

• OR a sum of money could be handed over to the Army education authorities who would then administer grants for Service children.

Any of these changes would save considerably on bureaucratic time, a disadvantage to military service would be removed and any one of these changes would be at no extra cost to the government. - Mrs D., Name and address supplied.

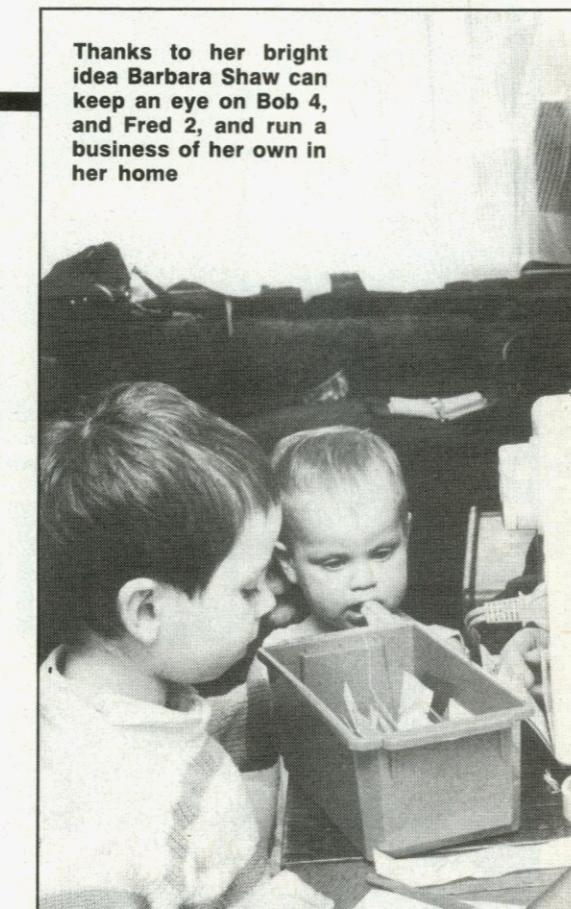
Ministry's line ...

THE Department of Education and Science has been good enough to write to me on this subject, the nub of their argument appearing to be that "each case should be considered on its own merits".

This is part of the general advice given by the Department to local education authorities.

Decisions on the temporary or permanent nature of employment abroad "should be based on all the relevant factors, including the length of time spent abroad, the nature of the work and the employment pattern of the applicant".

My advice: Get your application in early - at least a year in advance of moving.



Busy Barbara - so busy Bees

ENTERPRISE is the name of the game. Barbara Shaw lost her job when her husband was posted and was desperate to start earning again. She found it difficult to find work in Aldershot and then she learned how she could go into business on her own. She started Bumble Bees.

Through the Enterprise Allowance Scheme she put forward a plan for a home dressmaking/hire business entitling her to £40 a week for a year.

And because it was soundly thought out she obtained a £1,000 loan from her bank manager.

After four months she is beginning to pay off the loan and the business is buzzing.

"There are problems in running your own business - cash flow being one of them," she said. "So before anyone approaches the EAS they should make sure they have a sound business plan. Otherwise they are not likely to accept you."

For wives interested in returning to work or studying new skills the Equal Opportunities Commission has produced a booklet "Signposts" which is available from Job Centres or from Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.

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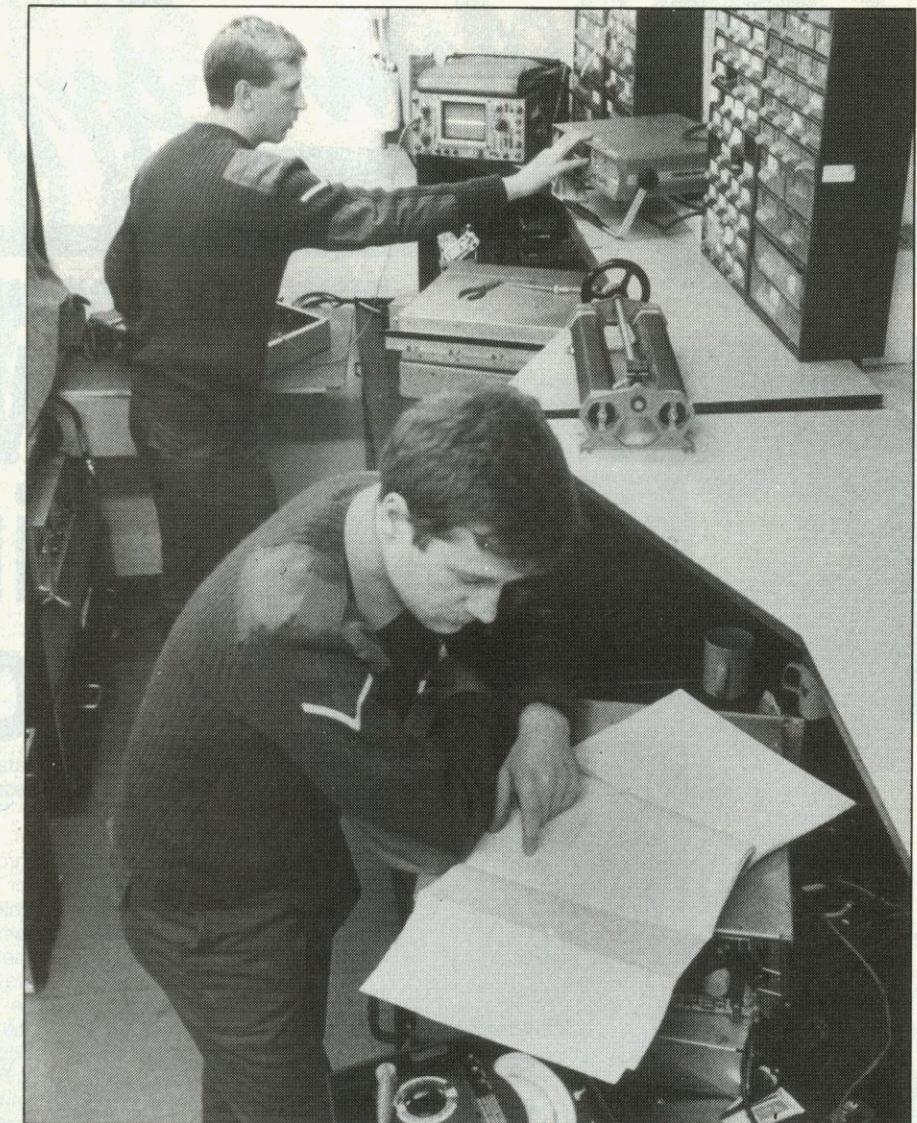
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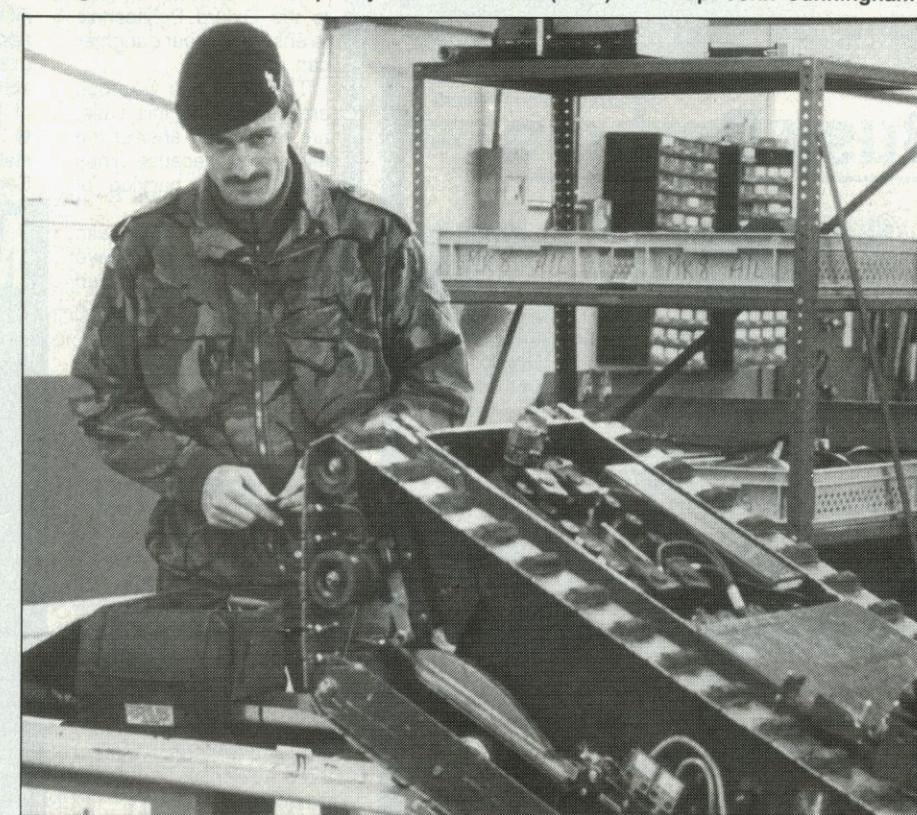
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All the specialist kit is repaired at the Northern Ireland Electronic Workshop at RAF Aldergrove. Pictured are LCpl Glyn Davies REME (front) and LCpl John Cunningham



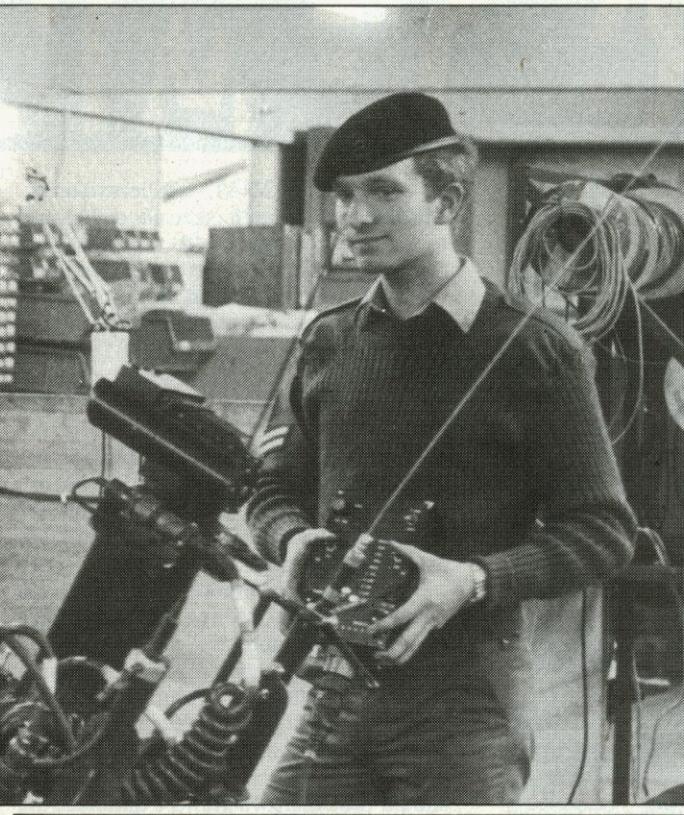
A Wheelbarrow is manoeuvred on to an inspection ramp by LCpl Mark Hopson (left) and Cpl Richard Pigg in at the REME workshops at Kinnegar outside Belfast



Covered in rust and grease,
Maj Doug Matheson - OC 46
NI Workshop - is in the
throes of restoring two very
decrepit old Daimler Dingo
Scout cars.

Fascinated by mechanics
since he was a youngster,
Maj Matheson has been
renovating old military vehicles
for many years, including Austin Champs, Humber
trucks, Dingos and one of
the original Pigs.

"My friends probably
think I am out of my mind!"
chuckled Maj Matheson,
"But I see it as a paying
hobby."



Story by Mervyn Wynne Jones

Any old iron! REME fixits will repair it

BROKEN DOWN, bent or
burnt, the craftsmen and Mr
Fixits of 46 Northern Ireland
Workshop REME will tackle
any mishap that befalls the
green vehicle fleet used
throughout the Province.

Based at Kinnegar near
Belfast - with a detachment at
Ballykelly in support of 8
Brigade - the workshop
provides secondline repair
support for a range of
equipment as diverse as Pigs
and armoured Land Rovers to
standard fleet cars and sapper
equipment.

It is also the sole repair
agency in the Province for small
arms and instruments such as
radios.

The men of 46 provide first
line support for units in their
own vicinity and in-depth
secondline back up for those
units who do not have the
ability to carry out major
repairs.

Scammell recovery vehicles
are permanently on hand to

retrieve breakdowns, and an
emergency platoon is ready to
tackle priority tasks.

Ever since the present
troubles began there has been a
need for a unit of military
tradesmen to cope with
additional units in the area and
the emergency repairs that
resulted.

This evolved into the
emergency platoon which now
numbers 46 roulement REME
soldiers representing 12 different
trades and each spending
five months in Northern
Ireland.

They generally spend a
month at Kinnegar getting to
know the equipment used in
Northern Ireland before moving
out to Londonderry and
Armagh where they take on
priority repairs to vehicles such
as those belonging to the bomb
disposal teams.

The unit's Northern Ireland
Electronic Workshop is based
at RAF Aldergrove and
specialises in the repair of
instruments used by the
Security Forces.

Pictures by Mike Weston

Pictures: Mike Weston

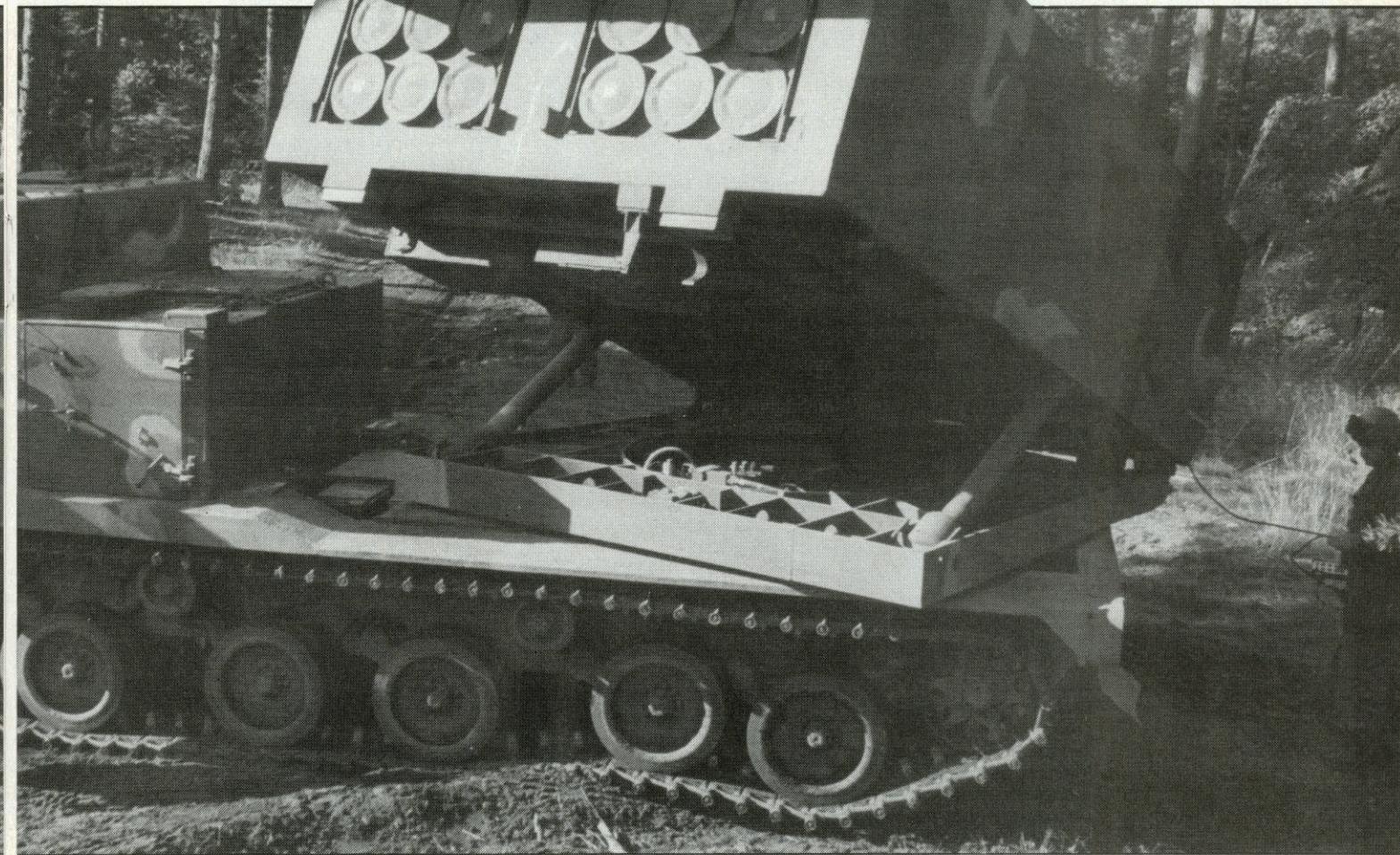
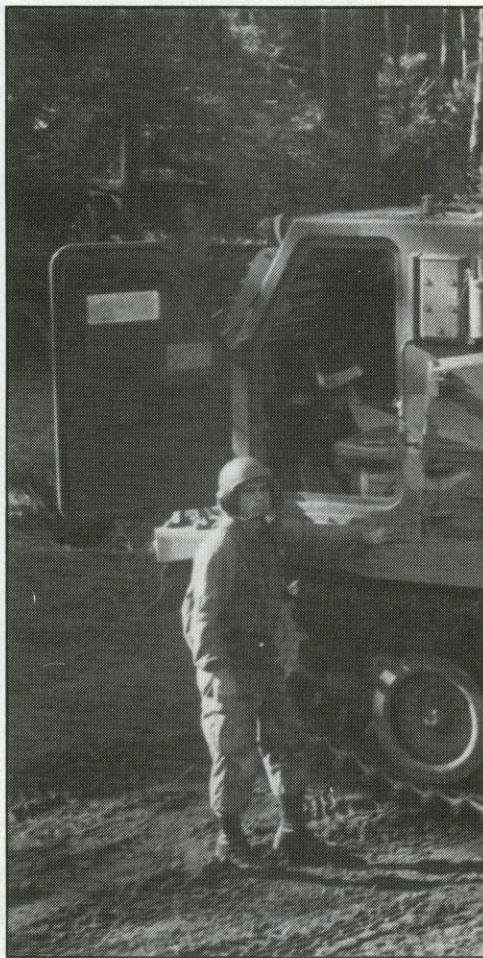
It's big, awesome and accurate – and it can be fired by one man

Pictures: Terry Champion



Above – The rear of one of the twin six-rocket pods

Right – Part of A Battery, 92 Field Artillery, 2 Armoured Division prepares for action on the edge of a woodland. The driver is Spec 4 Vincent Taylor



Picture: Sgt Steve Slater RAOC

CADILLAC OF MILITARY VEHICLES!

CADILLAC OF MILITARY VEHICLES!



Men of the US 92nd Field Artillery from Fort Hood, Texas, camouflage their MLRS while on exercise in Germany

A CONVENTIONAL artillery battery with six guns would have to shoot 36 times to achieve the same effect as just one Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) warhead, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

The system can saturate one square kilometre at mid-range with 2½ tons of high explosive or destroy separate targets more than 30 kilometres away with each of its 12 rockets.

“Awesome” is the word heard most often in connection with MLRS, whose firepower was unleashed by the Army for the first time last year on Otterburn ranges in Northumberland.

The Army has ordered 71 MLRS for deployment in BAOR in a deal worth more than £600 million.

The MLRS launcher unit comprises an Armoured Vehicle Mounted Rocket Launcher (AVMRL) loaded with 12 rockets in two six-rocket pods.

Designed for operation by one man should the other two crew be disabled, the AVMRL is highly automated to ease load and launch procedures.

An onboard land navigation system

pinpoints the AVMRL's geographic coordinates at all times and the launcher is self-aiming.

Rockets can be fired individually or in ripples of two to 12 with consistent accuracy because a fire control computer re-aims the launcher between rounds during ripple firing.

Its cross country capability and a road speed of about 70 kilometres per hour mean that it is highly mobile and can move from one fire position to another with ease to avoid detection.

The basic MLRS warhead contains 644 M77 anti-material or anti-personnel bomblets which are dispensed and armed in mid air above the target.

Each MLRS launcher can deliver 7,728 M77 munitions in less than one minute to ranges beyond 30 kilometres.

Other warheads in development include the AT2 – which dispenses 28 anti-tank mines over its target area – and the Terminally Guided Warhead (TGW) which dispenses six smaller missiles that can seek, track and home in on hard targets such as tanks.

The crew need not leave their NBC-sealed cab at any time during the deployment and launching phase of an operation.

A computer prompts the crew step by step through each operation, constantly checks that the launcher is functioning perfectly, displays fire control instructions on a screen in either English, French, German or Italian and, should the crew make a mistake, instructs them to repeat the steps correctly.

In a typical fire mission a command post transmits all target data directly into the launcher's computer which, when activated, aims the launcher at the target and prompts the crew to arm and fire the preselected number of rockets.

Up to three fire missions can be stored in the onboard computer with up to 12 aiming points plotted within each target area for maximum effectiveness.

“This is the Cadillac of military vehicles,” said SSgt Bernard Zimmerman of the US 92nd Field Artillery during Exercise Reforger in Germany.

A Cadillac with clout . . . !



“If you want to sway the tide of battle, MLRS is your answer. Its firepower is massive and just awesome to watch” – SSgt Bernard Zimmerman



TIGERS ON THE PROWL



Warrant officers and colour sergeants of the Tigers drill under the RSM with the SA 80. The "slope" (familiar to anyone brought up on the old Lee-Enfield .303) is back

Stories by
Bill Moore

Pictures by
Mike Weston

How the



The R Hamps have a long shooting tradition said to stem from the presence of so many poachers in the ranks before 1914

IF THERE is any truth in the old saying that there is no peace for the wicked then the 1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regiment must have been up to something.

Somebody somewhere kept them busy throughout 1987 – and 1988 doesn't look like being a rest cure!

They began the year with an emergency tour of Northern Ireland being deployed in South Armagh.

The period covered some particularly nasty incidents such as the finding of victims of the internal Irish National Liberation Army feud.

On April 16 PIRA unleashed a 16-tube mortar attack on Bn HQ at Bessbrook seriously injuring an NCO and causing

● Turn to next page



Another drill at Tidworth – in preparation for fire fighting duty

Royal Hampshire's beat the Booties into second place . . .

NECIC trophy triumph was all hard work

IT IS an irony that if the squad from the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment had come last in the Northern Europe Command Infantry Competition the whole world would have heard about it. The media would have broadcast it to the heavens.

When they beat nine other teams to win one of the most gruelling international tests of a foot soldier's skills there was a deathly hush and the Tigers learned the hard way that virtue has sometimes just got to be its own reward.

The Royal Marines who won in 1986 and expected to win again were left wondering how they finished in second place by a telling margin.

Well, how did they do it, these Hampshire men? Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, the celebrated Second World War corps commander, once described soldiers of the regiment

as lacking perhaps the élan of the Highlander or the quickness of the Cockney but graded them as: "tough stubborn fighters with a natural eye for the country and very good shots".

The answer to the NECIC success would appear to be hard work, hard thinking and... good shooting.

Ten teams took part in the 1987 contest - two German, two Danish, and two Norwegian from the Northern European Command, plus the Royal Marines and one squad each from the nations tasked to reinforce the region in an emergency - Canada, Holland and Britain. (The US are eligible to compete but did not enter a team.)

The British entry is supplied by 1 Inf Bde which provides the United Kingdom Mobile Force. Battalions get only one chance and thus start from

The question was how to

● Turn to page 29

Despite this they still managed to win the NECIC infantry skills competition, the first British Army unit to do so in 16 years.

There was something of the Nelson touch about the battalion's receipt of the Freedom of Christchurch in mid-October as the town is in Dorset nowadays - though the local Old Comrades' Association is mainly made up from men who served in the Hampshire Regiment.

It is the only unamalgamated Royal County regiment left after the changes of the past few years.

Its Tiger badge was awarded by George IV in 1826 after the 67th Foot had spent 21 years continuous service in India.

The Royal Hampshire officers wear a different badge from their men - a rose within a star. Other ranks wear the tiger and rose badge.

The occasion was the ceremony to lay up the Old

● From page 25

two slight casualties. All recovered.

A few days later the Hampshire men were called out after the murder on the border of Lord Justice and Lady Gibson.

Returning to their base at Tidworth, Hants, the battalion under Lt Col Tim Glass began training with Saxon, the new wheeled APC found a guard of honour for their Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess of Wales, when she received the Freedom of the City of London and rearmed with the SA 80.

In October they manned 20 Green Goddesses and took over fire fighting duties in West Glamorgan during an industrial dispute.



Trophies of victory. Capt Chris Warren, team trainer, holds the shield awarded to the overall winners. Helping to hold up the cup for the best of the Northern European Command reinforcement unit is Cpl Andrew Marshall who comes from Zimbabwe and whose grandfather served in the Hampshire Regiment during the First World War

Tiger tasks - from Northern Ireland to the Green Goddesses...



Position in the field near Crossmaglen



Weapon instruction on the SA 80. The man in charge is Pte Jason Lewington

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Terry puts a gloss on the Tigers' history

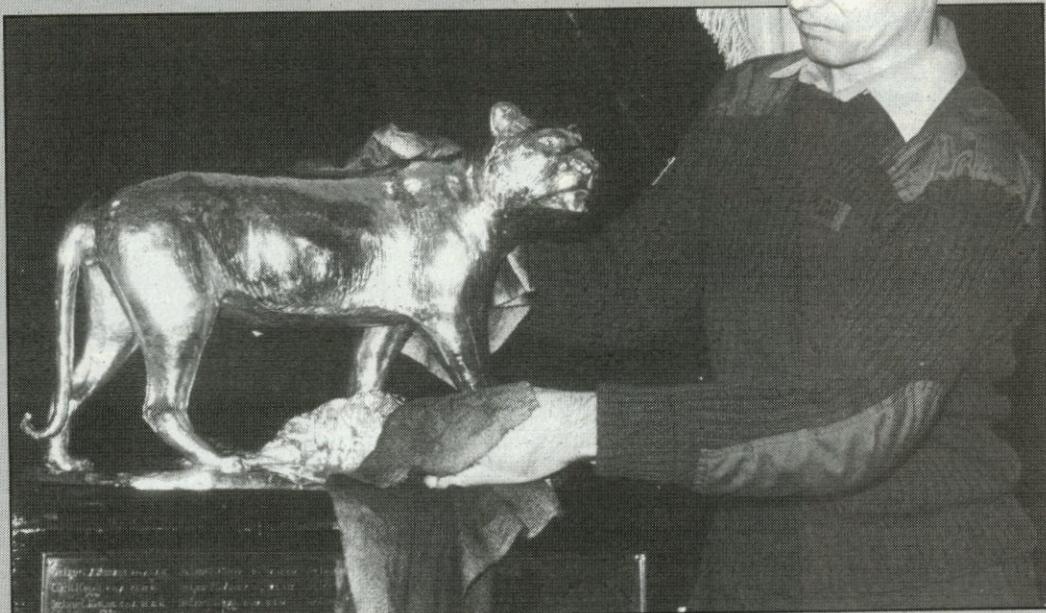
A SOFT cloth in each hand and a frown of concentration on his face — portrait of a mess silverman at work.

Cpl Terry Prior has been keeping this magnificent piece of solid precious metal gleaming for nearly 20 years.

It stands today in the entrance to the officers' mess of the 1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regiment at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, and is a moving reminder of the sacrifice of the regiment in the First World War.

Each name inscribed on the silver-plated plinth is followed by the motif "K. in A." or "D. of W." and a date. The fact that 2nd Lt Westmore, at the head of one column, was killed in action on July 1, 1916 — the first day of the Battle of the Somme — seems grimly appropriate.

Happily much of the mess silver recalls better times. There are quite a few tigers to remind officers of the years



spent in India by the 1st Battalion's predecessors.

One spell of the 37th Foot lasted 20 years (1857-77); the 67th were in India from 1805 to 1826 and took part in the Afghan War just before they were linked with the 37th in 1881.

Pride of place probably goes to the huge table candelabra, one of which has six branches, the other eight (though there can be variations).

"It takes two weeks to

prepare them for a function," said Cpl Prior who reckons "dedication" is essential to a mess silverman.

To keep such a fine collection in condition requires method and he has a book and a rota for cleaning each piece.

Only Goddard's silver powder and finest silver cloths are used.

The mess silver has travelled the world — where the battalion goes it goes. It has been to the Falklands and

to Northern Ireland. And it will continue to travel — unlike Cpl Prior.

At 39 he has less than a year to serve. When he leaves the Army he will be retiring with his wife Lily and their two children Martin 3, and Lucy 4, to Leicester.

With him will go some small pieces of silver he has collected — having become something of a connoisseur over the years.

"They'll keep my hand in," he said.

How they won the NECIC trophy

From page 26

marry the qualities of brain and brawn, for NECIC tests 14 skills, primarily weapon handling, physical fitness and fieldcraft — plus vehicle and helicopter recognition and NBC drills.

When the rest of the Tidworth Garrison went on block leave in the summer the squad remained at its own request at Lucknow Barracks.

For once they had the training area to themselves, able to book ranges at will and with free access to all PT facilities.

While most people relaxed, they sweated.

Aware that Britons in general have strong legs but weaker arms the trainer concentrated on improving the squad's upper body strength with lots of rope climbing and circuit training to build up muscle.

Whatever NECIC was likely to ask of his men he asked more. The actual cross-country

phase is 18 kilometres — the Tiger squad trained for 25.

With Lt John Eldridge, the non-competing captain, and Sgt Colin Cockram as team leader, the Hampshire trained relentlessly for two months knowing that whatever it might be like on the day it couldn't be worse than the rehearsal.

The real thing proved to be tough enough. Anyone who wants a taste of it has only to try carrying two water containers weighing a total of 100lbs for 800 metres up and down hills and through a hole in a wall.

Required to paddle a dinghy 1,500 metres against a fast flowing stream, it took the team six minutes simply to cross the start line. But they did it — and more.

Perhaps inheriting the flair of the Hampshire poachers who were once said to be common in the ranks (the 1st Battalion won four challenge cups for marksmanship at Aldershot in 1913) the team used the SA 80 to

great effect though the weapon had been issued to the unit only in June.

Of 100 targets at ranges from 50 to 450 metres the entrenched squad hit 99 in daylight. The night shooting score was 89 out of 100.

"I think we were the only team to use arc markers," said Capt Warren (who was not allowed to accompany the team because of his previous role as umpire).

"Each man was allotted his own field of fire and stuck to it whatever happened to the right or left of it."

Total score of the Tigers squad over the whole competition was 900 points ahead of the team which came last.

The training paid off.

Who were the men who saw it through?

The squad leader, Sgt Cockram, comes from Devon; Cpl Andrew Marshall from Zimbabwe — but his grandfather served in the Hampshire

Regiment in the First World War.

The six soldiers were all Hampshire Hogs — Pte Dale Allen from Gosport; Pte Michael Domingo from Southampton, and Ptes Steve Ashmore, Andrew Cooper, Paul Stratton and Leslie Walton from Portsmouth, and Pte Roger Wake from Andover.

Capt Warren and Lt Eldridge are also Hampshire men. As were the reserves.

The squad took six out of the seven trophies to be won.

Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett, C-in-C AFNORTH, said after the contest at Borris Camp, Denmark, that the only thing that had not been tested in the competition was cunning.

In respect of the Tigers, who happily use *The Farmer's Boy* as an unofficial regimental march, he just could have been wrong.

If there were any hayseeds in their hair they were definitely for camouflage purposes.

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AS TALKS continue on how the British administration will be replaced when Hong Kong becomes a Special Administrative Region of the Chinese People's Republic in 1997, there is speculation as to what will become of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment? Who are "The Volunteers"? SOLDIER has been to their HQ to find out.

THE Volunteers

TWO faded strips of silk hang from their pikes in the cool shade of St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong. They are there only by chance.

For 16 years after the Japanese overran the colony in 1941 they lay buried in a hiding place chosen by men who were soon to find their own graves.

Building workers found them as they dug foundations on a site not far from the cathedral in 1957.

Survivors of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force paraded proudly to see them laid up.

The Volunteers have had a variety of official titles but that description has stuck to them throughout.

The first corps was formed on the outbreak of the Crimean War when the fleet was ordered away. Volunteers were called for who would be prepared to defend lives and property in an emergency.

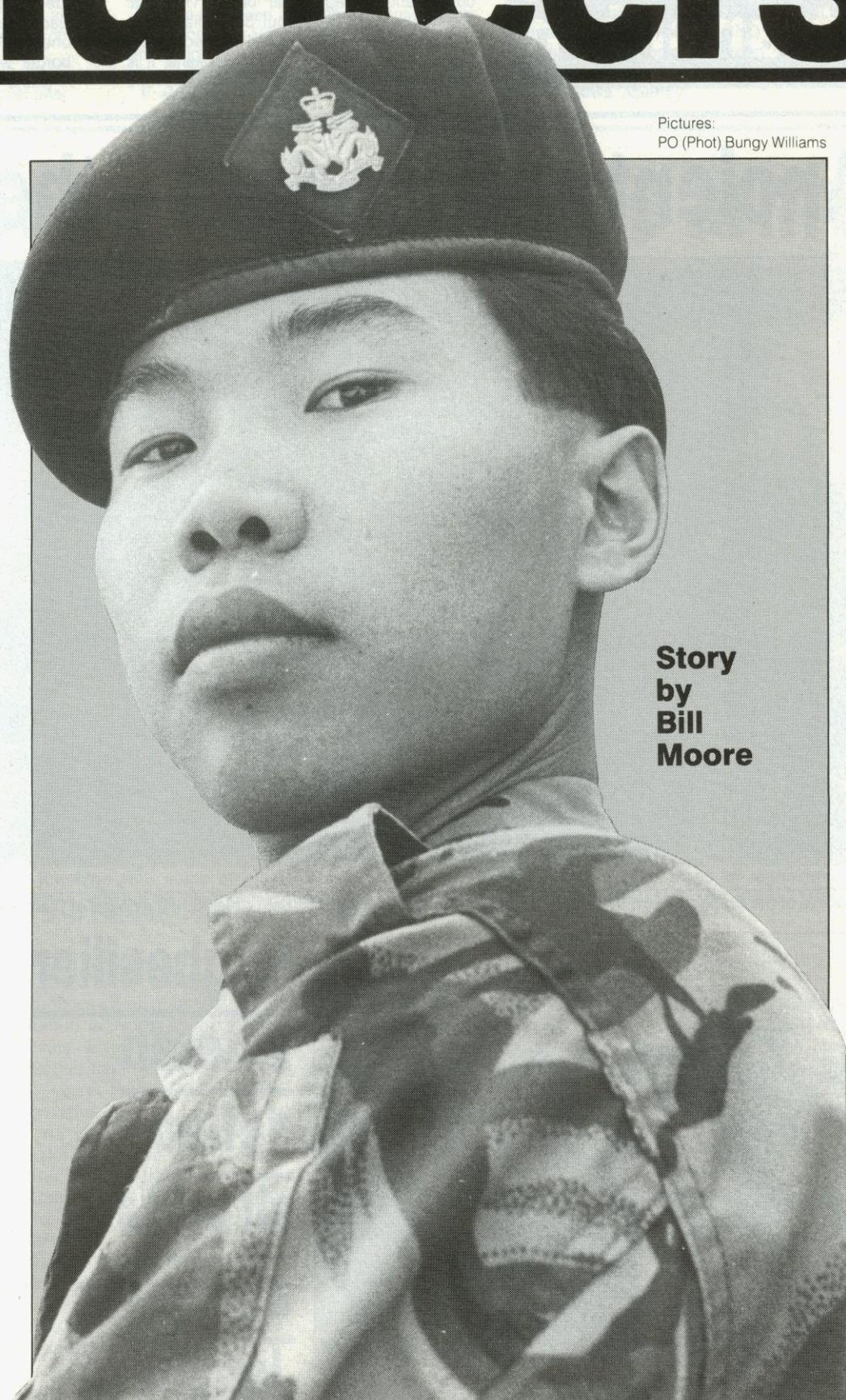
In May of that year 99 men responded to the call of the colonial authority. They were a mixed bunch, predominantly British but with a number of Portuguese, some Germans, and a handful of Scandinavians. There were individuals from other countries.

The Crimean War over without an emergency arising, a period of disbandment and reorganisation followed until in 1878 a unit of apparently quarrelsome residents was formed. It was almost disbanded again because of its behaviour, before settling down to become two companies of artillery.

Being Hong Kong Government inspired and improvised, the corps met its own expenses in the early years by raising its own funds.

It developed into what became the colony's private army with all branches of the service represented and at one time even had a mounted troop raised by the Governor, Sir

Pictures:
PO (Phot) Bungy Williams



Story
by
Bill
Moore

A soldier of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment

● Turn to next page

Uncertain future in a time of transition

THE TITLE Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) became official in 1970 when the Royal Hong Kong Defence Force was disbanded.

Up to 1961 it had been an infantry regiment but then took on a reconnaissance role with four squadrons equipped with Land Rovers.

An HQ squadron administers the regiment and contains some specialists. There is a female troop with a strength of 52, a Home Guard squadron for men between 39 and 60, a training squadron, a strong junior leaders corps, and a regimental band. The total strength is 950 with about 50 civilian staff.

Despite the media regularly projecting the regiment as a club for rich Europeans, it is comprehensively Hong Kong Chinese and

drawn from all walks of life.

A recent check on the Home Guard Squadron found it contained – an undertaker and a pathologist; an office assistant and a managing director; a night soil collector and a dai pai dong (street restaurant) owner; a bar tender and a teetotaller!

The present role of the regiment requires and obtains a high standard of fitness and keenness. The part-time soldiers train two evenings and one weekend each month.

Like the British TA they are paid while they are training and receive an annual bounty. Each year the Volunteers complete two one-week camps, one of which is spent on the border where they relieve a Regular unit.

Rather like the Ulster Defence Regiment

uses its local expertise to good effect in Northern Ireland, the Hong Kong born soldiers can quickly detect a strange accent and their command of the language and knowledge of the countryside has enabled them to score a high success rate in the search for illegal immigrants. In 1987 the score was more than 90.

The regiment's permanent British cadre includes CO, QM, training major, RSM and four permanent staff instructors.

To cater for the recce role the Royal Armoured Corps provides the officers and all bar three of the other staff – all of whom are on loan service.

Lt Col Jeremy Hutchins, the present CO, is a 9th/12th Lancer and took over the post after

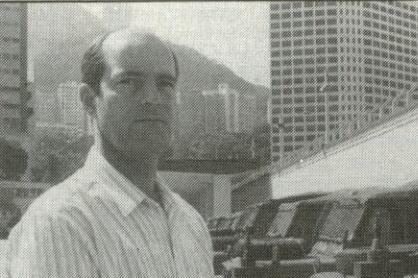
the 15th/19th Hussars had filled it for five years. "The Volunteers are splendid material," he said, "and extremely enthusiastic."

Until recently applications to join the regiment vastly outnumbered the places vacant. Not unnaturally, with Hong Kong going through a transitional period, recruiting is falling off.

No one knows what the future fate of the regiment will be. Only the Hong Kong Government can decide that.

Its role has been and still is to support the British Forces in Hong Kong in the event of an emergency. Its skills are undoubtedly in the internal security field.

It would be a shame if they were lost.



RSM Dennis Stone, 3 RTR, with Land Rovers of the RHK Regt. RHQ is in Happy Valley, Hong Kong, between the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and the New China News Agency

Ancient and modern – the changing face of Hong Kong's private army



Defenders of the Empire's High Summer – Volunteers in Queen Victoria's day. At least half a dozen of them are wearing campaign medals



Lt Col Jeremy Hutchins with some of his staff pausing for an informal picture on the steps of regimental headquarters. Left to right are Maj George Hancock Scots DG; WO2 Philip Hefford QOH; WO2 Melville 9/12 L; Lt Col Hutchins; WO2 John Cracknell, Para; WO1 RSM Dennis Stone RTR; WO2 Alan Hughes RRW



The "Hong Kong Cavalry". Possibly taken between the wars. The troopers are mounted on hardy Chinese ponies. The nearest has a Lee Enfield (short magazine) without a sling. Note the rifle bucket

Hughesilier veteran defied all odds against Japanese

From Page 31

Matthew Nathan. Their critics called them "Matthew's mounted mugs".

For a long time the strength was mainly European and included representatives from many of the wealthy families on the island happy to serve in the ranks.

Chinese were recruited only gradually and the first may have been Sir Mankam Lo, an Oxford educated barrister of whom a 1926 picture exists in the uniform of a private.

In 1941 the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps (as it was then) was able to mobilise 2,200 of all ranks and included three rifle and four machine gun companies (one Scottish,

another Portuguese), five batteries including an anti-aircraft battery, and the usual ancillary units.

There were four armoured cars – steel plates mounted on a Ford chassis by the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company – each armed with two machine guns.

Unique to the corps at that time was the Hughes Group named after a former commander. It contained 72 veterans who had seen service in the First World War or, in one or two cases, the Boer War. All were over 55. Locally they were known as the Hughesiliers.

The Volunteers played an important part in the battle for Hong Kong and inflicted severe casualties on the Japanese.

The spirit of the corps was perhaps best shown by the stubborn defence of the Power Station at North Point. There seems little doubt that the Hughesiliers were posted there to spare them more mobile operations.

As it turned out it was a major target of the Japanese after they landed on Hong Kong Island on the night of December 18/19. Aided by the survivors of a machine gun platoon of the Middlesex Regiment each man of whom was wounded, the grizzled Volunteers held off the enemy throughout the night. When driven out of the plant itself the party held the main office building until it went up in flames over their heads. A

furious battle raged round an abandoned bus in nearby King's Road.

When all hope was gone and the survivors were trying to withdraw, one private soldier refused to flee. Sir Edward Des Voeux, then in his 70s and nephew of a former Governor, simply said: "No damn' Japs are going to drive me out."

A crack shot, he lay in the debris picking off the enemy one after the other until the inevitable bullet found him.

Recent research into corps records show that he had left no indication as to next of kin and it is assumed that the line died with him.

The Volunteers lost 289 killed in the fighting. Many were wounded and scores went

into captivity. But their fight went on.

A number of men escaped to the mainland and served with the British mission to the Chinese Nationalists. Another group joined the Burma forces and served with the Chindits.

After the war the Volunteers were reorganised to become part of the Hong Kong Defence Force alongside a naval and air unit.

In 1957 what was then the Hong Kong Regiment was granted the battle honour "Hong Kong" to be carried on the Queen's Colour. Today it is born on the scarlet Guidon of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment. "The Ninety-Nine" – the originals – are still toasted at regimental dinners.

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Surrey, Sussex, East Hampshire and London for all landlord/tenant enquiries: Christopher St James Rentals PLC, 51/53 High Street, Guildford, Surrey, (0483) 574812. 22/88

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Party pieces with spirit from the Queen's Own Highlanders

CEILIDH LINES

Pipes and Drums of 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders
Pipe Major A E Reese
Drum Major W D Hudson
EMI GRALP 22

ONE of the Scottish regiments usually manages to come up with a disc of good highland party pieces in time for Hogmanay, so very nice timing with this selection of over 50 tunes. It comes with an assurance by the Director of Army Bagpipe Music that the tone and execution by the players is of the highest calibre, and who am I to argue.

As always there are far too many items to name individually, but again as always the titles attract me even more than the music, naming as they do wondrous events in past Scottish history, once famous highlanders, and many beautiful places which make the heart of Surrey with its



stockbroker tudor, showbiz luminaries, its Oxshott, Dorking, Leatherhead and Woking seem a very dull place to live.

What awesome conflict took place at the

Bridge of Bogie or in Glendale I wonder; who is lucky enough to live in Barra, South Uist, or Kintail; and what gave the likes of Shona, Lillie Long, Macphail, Angelena, the Maid Behind the Bar, and a One Horned Cow the honour of a tune to themselves?

Cutting Bracken, The Kissing Reel, Scarce o'Tatties, Rabs Loon, Dick Gossips and Rakish Paddy makes one wish this could come with a video which so many undeserving pop tunes acquire these days.

Yes, it's beautifully played and interestingly compiled, with a fine mixture of marches, airs, strathspeys, jigs, reels and hornpipes. I'll try it out on the family on New Year's Eve, hoping there will be a bottle of Glenmorangie among my Christmas presents to accompany it.

● From EMI or the regiment at Fort George, Inverness, price £5.60 inclusive.

DERR BACK IN BUSINESS WITH THE OLD PANACHE

THE FARMER'S BOY

Band of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster K Hatton
MM 0635

A LONG time since we heard from this particular regimental band, although in the old days of the Royal Berkshires under the "great" Joe Needham it was probably the best known, if not the best, of the bands to corner the market on South Coast bandstands.

By the sound of it, much of the skill and panache has survived from their predecessors in a programme requiring a versatile technique.

An interesting addition to the regiment's music is the resurrection of five pieces

composed by Princess Charlotte of Wales and presented by her in 1816, arranged from the manuscript by Mr Hatton. They comprise a *Duke of Wellington's March* and four short quicksteps played in the form of a medley.

Not bad for a princess even if one of her tunes is, unfortunately, a bit like a modern bawdy song. I can just imagine Her Royal Highness picking out these pretty little tunes on her fortepiano.

Two other marches are Sousa's *Hands Across the Sea* and one called *The China Dragon* by the bandmaster, and to end the programme *Dashing White Sergeant* for the Royal Berkshires, *The Wiltshire* for the other half of the amalgamated regiment, and *The Farmer's Boy* and *Rule*

Britannia for the present one.

Solo items are Major Jerry McColl's trombone trio *Free An' Easy* and one featuring bass guitar and drums which give Grieg's *Dance of the Imps* a very pleasant run around the halls of the mountain king. Finally a couple of fine works to give the band something to get their teeth into with Holst's *Moorside March* and Alfred Reed's popular overture *Festive*.

Since the band are at present packing their instruments and spare socks before leaving for Hong Kong write to RHQ, DERR, The Wardrobe, Salisbury SP1 2EX, disc or cassette £5.60 inclusive. For those not of the cloth The Wardrobe is the regimental headquarters and museum, once the Bishop's robing rooms and stores.

Heroes of the Poor Bloody Infantry

THE men who "carried the can," sometimes heavier than the load on their backs, were the infantry, the Poor Bloody Infantry.

The men who marched and marched all over France, and Belgium, North Africa, Abyssinia, Italy, Greece, Burma, Malaya; and when they stopped they dug and dug, in rock and mud, under blistering sun and biting snow-filled wind.

They carried their crippling packs, their guns and mortars,

their ammunition and rations over countless invasion beaches, through rushing torrents, over steep stony mountains, and in the close bocage country of Normandy.

They fought for mountains and for isolated mounds, for towns and for farmhouses, and death came just as easily and final in any square yard of this earth. The infantry, the PBI.

In victory they were often unrecognised, praise going to the armour "who broke

through", or perhaps the paras "who surprised the enemy in his rear", but the Poor Bloody Infantry were the men who stolidly held the ground, the essential field force who consolidated the gains and denied them to the enemy when the counterattack came. They patrolled and infiltrated and did it on foot, by day and by night, often desperately tired, wet and hungry.

Before they were hardened battle knowledgeable fighting

men they had suffered the lash of the sergeant's tongue on the barrack square, and even on leave in the garrison towns of Britain had walked upright and in step under the gaze of patrolling Red Caps.

Their training brought them close in their squads and platoons and they learned to trust their comrades and their leaders.

In the hours of stress and torment in the field this comradeship lifted them to

high endeavour, to courage and self sacrifice and to noble effort.

What does the researcher and observer think of the infantry in the Second World War?

In *Poor Bloody Infantry*, which is not compiled as a history of the war, Charles Whiting follows the recently called-up civilian-soldier, and the peacetime trained Regular, around the world. Sometimes flattering, sometimes condemning, frequently sym-

pathising, often praising. Cowardice, courage, comradeship, despair and exhalation all come under review, but overall the PBI comes out just like one of the chapter headings: "These men of the British Infantry are heroes. These are the men who with their flesh and blood buy victory." - GRH

The Poor Bloody Infantry
1939-1945 by Charles Whiting, published by Stanley Paul. Price £14.95.

Plain Soldiering: A history of the Armed Forces on Salisbury Plain by N D G James, published by Hobnob Press, £20.



Plainly fascinating!

very end of the 19th century when 40,000 acres of chalk farmland were bought.

He traces the Plain's busy development through the Boer War, two world wars and the continually changing technology which have ensured the country's most famous military training area of a role in the nation's affairs.

Mr James, who lives in Devon, consulted every conceivable source for his research - government committee minutes, barrack records, newspapers, soldiers' memoirs and residents' accounts.

Mr James recalls the heydays of the Tidworth Garrison Theatre where, in 1926, the Australian operatic star Dame Nellie Melba appeared. During the last war stars from across the Atlantic included James Cagney and Bob Hope.

He also recalls the 1943 training film made at Warminster for which the late David Niven was recalled from the Western Desert.

On the first evening Niven was the guest of the Lothian and Border Horse at their mess. Reports suggest they "drank the place dry". Next day Niven got a "very large rocket" from the film's director, Carol Reed.

Plain Soldiering: A history of the Armed Forces on Salisbury Plain by N D G James, published by Hobnob Press, £20.

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Dorset area, including Bournemouth, Poole, New Forest. Long established specialist letting agents take care of your home. Brochure from: Michael Scott, 745 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Phone (0202) 37321. 16/88

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Author requires amusing service anecdotes from all ranks. Credit given in book to be published and all correspondence acknowledged. Postage reimbursed, Box No 008, SOLDIER Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. 05/88

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Speeches written (all occasions), CV's prepared. Derek Cross, 7 Chervil Walk, Wigan WN3 6AR. Tel: 0942 223163. 5/88

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£50.00++ per day if you are leaving HMF we can offer casual security work. Are you good enough? Details: NRSO, PO Box 13, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 8SU. 13/88

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Collector seeks Glengarry badges of 10th, 31st, 35th, 48th, 50th, 56th, 58th, 107th foot. VGC or good fox's only. Write Gray, 32 Minster Drive, Croydon CR0 5UP. 5/88

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TA shoulders to the wheel

TWO units of the Territorial Army pulled a 25 pounder field gun 26 miles in aid of a young girl suffering from cerebral palsy. The aim was to raise money towards the mammoth £60,000 needed to send Danielle Gray to the Peto Clinic in Hungary.

73 Ordnance Company (V) of Romford, Essex and 289 Commando Battery RA(V) of East Ham made their marathon pull from Southend to Romford.

It is estimated that more than £10,000 will have been raised by the gun runs.

Jumbulance pilgrimage to Lourdes

SICK and handicapped children and adults will be seeking comfort and cure at Lourdes in the summer thanks to the efforts of Mrs Caroline Statham, wife of Maj Philip Statham who is based at the Shoeburyness Proof and Experimental Establishment.

Mrs Statham is among many helpers who are raising cash to buy a Jumbulance, a specially designed, coach-type ambulance capable of carrying 24 passengers including eight beds.

Mrs Statham is a member of the Across Trust which specialises in sending pilgrims - young and old - to Lourdes.

In 1975, Mrs Statham was taken to Lourdes by one of the trust's early Jumbulances following a very serious car accident in which she and Maj Statham lost their daughter.

Mrs Statham said: My femur was broken and pelvic girdle cracked but at the grotto I felt some of the strength return to my leg and found complete peace of mind to face life again. This is something I cannot explain."



THE QARANC Training Centre in Farnborough Road, Aldershot, raised £2,162 for a variety of charities last year. A dozen good causes were helped by members of the 45 strong permanent staff.

With £8,953 brought forward from our previous Good Causes total, and including the marathon gun pull reported on this page and £2,300 raised by the WRAC at York and 3 LI for the Children in Need Appeal, that brings the running total collected by Servicemen and women to £23,415.

Timbuktu . . . or bust!

BEDOUIN tribesmen could well be forgiven for rubbing their eyes in disbelief as RMP Lieutenants Jim Borrows and Ken Livingstone tore past them across the Sahara desert in a Citroen Dyane.

The Chichester based officers set off from the RMP Training Centre on December 13 and were due to reach Timbuktu in Mali by Christmas Day, in the process raising money for the RMP Corps Benevolent Fund.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, and add your name and address.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is February 15. The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our March 21 issue.

Name:

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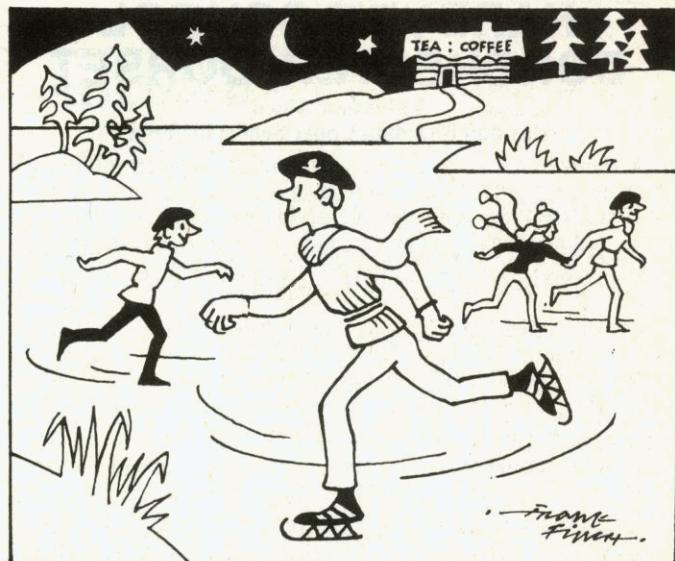
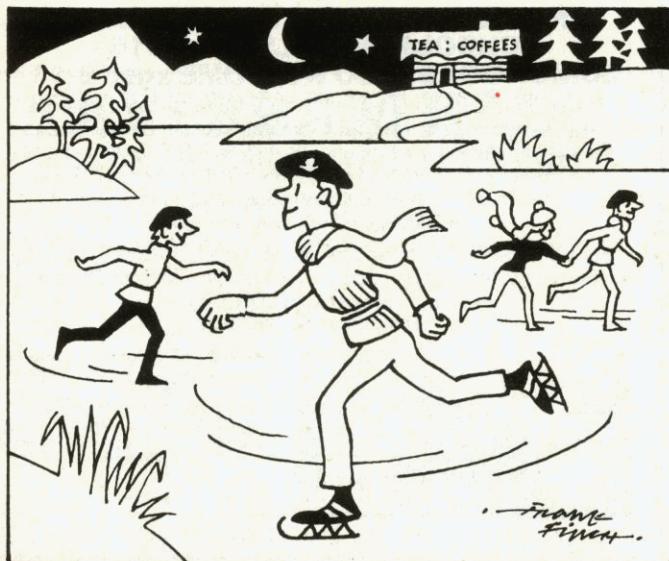
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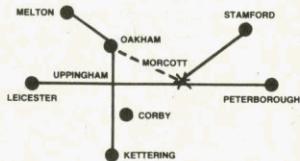
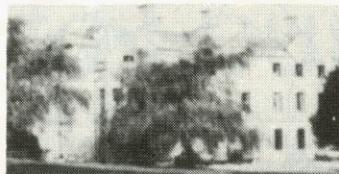
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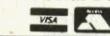


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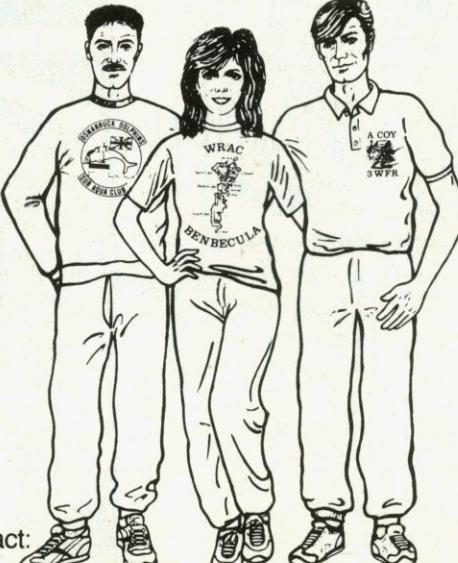
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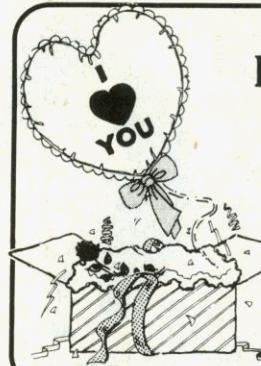
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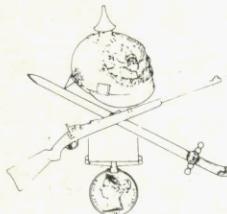


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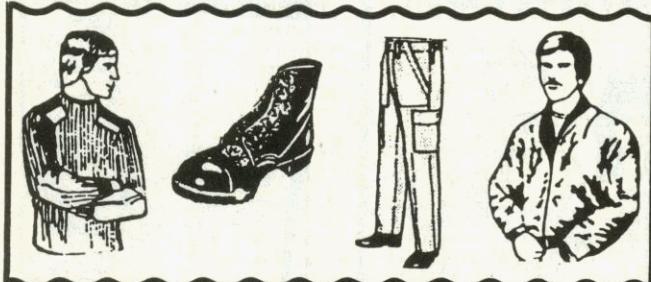
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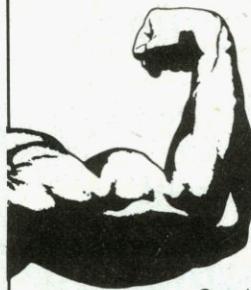
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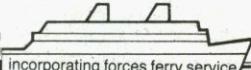
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Terriors take sweet revenge

THE ARMY's senior rugby side opened its season with the now annual clash against the Territorial Army under lights at the Military Stadium in Aldershot, writes John Quin.

The Army side was selected after a rather disjointed trial in which the numbers who made it were disappointing to say the least. Sixty players were carded for the trials but on the day, for one reason or another - mostly injuries - only 35 players turned up. To make any sort of trial match possible local players had to be drafted in.

The TA had been well beaten last year and arrived in Aldershot determined to do better. The score of 15 points to 11 gave the Terriers a well deserved victory and left the Regulars kicking themselves, literally.

To miss seven kicks at goal and then to lose by four points speaks for itself and emphasises the need for someone on the team who can slot them over!

From the Army point of view it was a useful opportunity for



Action in the match between the Territorial Army (hooped shirts) and the Regulars at Aldershot Military Stadium

the selectors to see various combinations and some up and coming players. The lads in red met a much better TA team than last year with many of their players turning out regularly for good club sides.

The Army side should have made the game safe before half time but only managed to turn around 4-0 up at half time.

In spite of a second half Army try and penalty, the boys in green scored a try and converted all their kicks to give the TA well deserved revenge.

Lt Will Carling's meteoric rise culminates in his first full cap for England against France in Paris. Carling, who is on a

university cadetship at Durham and is due to join The Royal Regiment of Wales on graduation this summer, has already played twice for the England B team.

The 22 year old centre won his first Army cap against the

Royal Navy at Twickenham last year and has also represented Combined Services.

His father, Maj Bill Carling, served in the RRW and subsequently the Army Air Corps.

Warm welcome for Services sailors

THE people of Fremantle and from all over Western Australia turned out in their thousands to welcome the Tall Ships armada which swept into the bustling port and yachtsman's paradise to mark the start of the country's bi-centennial celebrations.

British Armed Services contribution to this sailing spectacular were Sabre and Adventure, two Gosport based vessels which sailed from the UK, changing crews from the three Services at Gibraltar, Cyprus, Bombay, Singapore and at Fremantle.

They are almost halfway

through a round-the-world, adventurous sail training deployment which is giving nearly 300 Servicemen and women a taste of hardship and excitement on the high seas.

Australian hospitality to Army personnel on board the two yachts has been overwhelming. Maj Simon Salter, a former Army Air Corps pilot who is now the skipper of HMSTY Sabre, led the troops ashore for a social programme fit to exhaust even the most robust bon viveur.

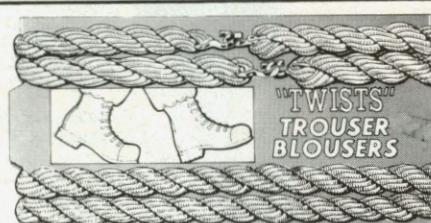
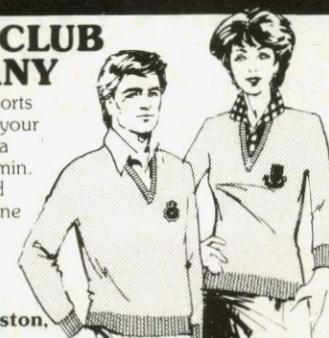
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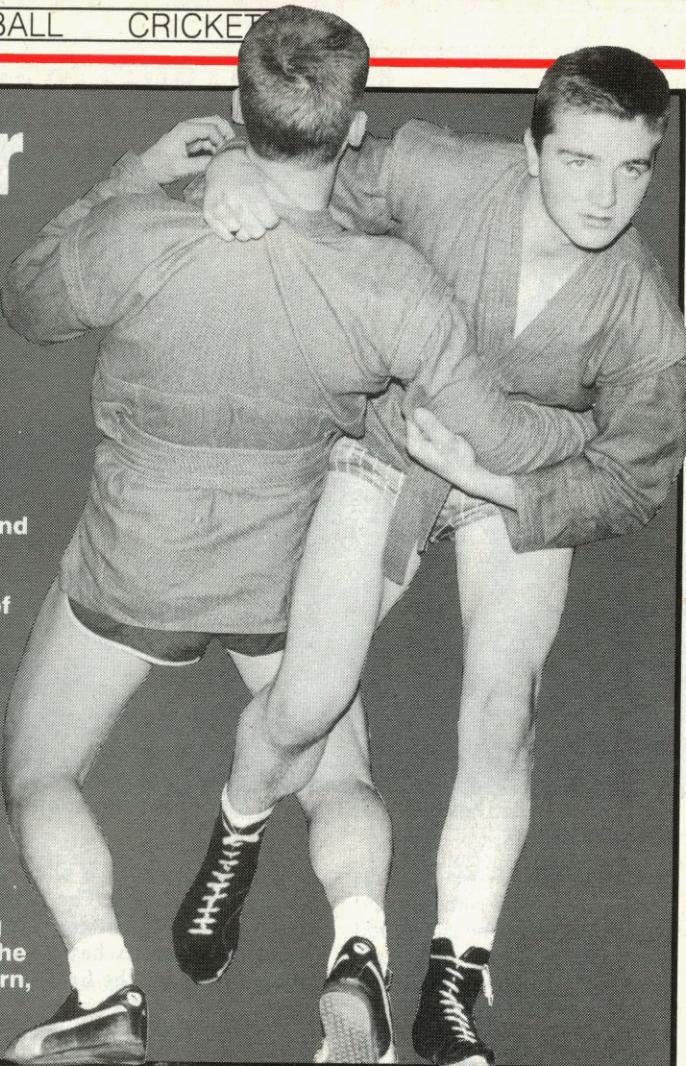
Wrestler Roy in action

BRITISH Sombo wrestling champion Pte Roy Cauldry (right) was beaten in the second round of the junior world championships in Milan, Italy.

Roy, who took up the form of wrestling from Russia only a year ago, already holds the British open gold medal in the espoir class (under 21s).

He was sponsored by the Army for his trip to Milan where he lost in the second round of the four day competition to the man who eventually took the world title.

Roy is presently undergoing recruit training at the Depot, The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn, before joining his battalion, 3 Queens, in Northern Ireland.



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Over to the umpires...

LAWS of the game will be very much to the fore at the 1988 cricket umpires and scorers courses being held at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot on March 14-18 and 16-18 respectively. More information can be obtained from Maj M J Charman REME, Rm 5-04 St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TD (tel St Christopher Mil 1634).

A winning start to counties campaign

THE ARMY opened their South West Counties campaign with a convincing 3-0 win over a strong Sussex team at Aldershot, writes Pat Massey.

They were determined to eliminate the silly defensive errors that have cost them a place in the finals in each of the two previous seasons. This they did, although they missed enough chances at the other end to have beaten Sussex out of sight.

The home side went ahead in the 18th minute when Sgt Mick Johnson RE floated a corner kick straight into the roof of the net.

Sussex came back strongly, but the Army survived the assault and went further ahead just before the interval through Bdr Clint Webbe RA after a sweeping move involving Cpl Sandy Brown R Signals, Sgt Kevin Parkins RCT and LCpl Steve Welsh R Signals.

The second half belonged entirely to the Army, with a third goal coming from Sgt Mickey Spencer APTC after Johnson had created space for him.

Spencer could easily have had three more goals as Sussex pushed forward and left their defence exposed. He mis-hit the first good chance, rounded the goalkeeper and then lost his balance on the second, and just failed with a lob when given a third chance.

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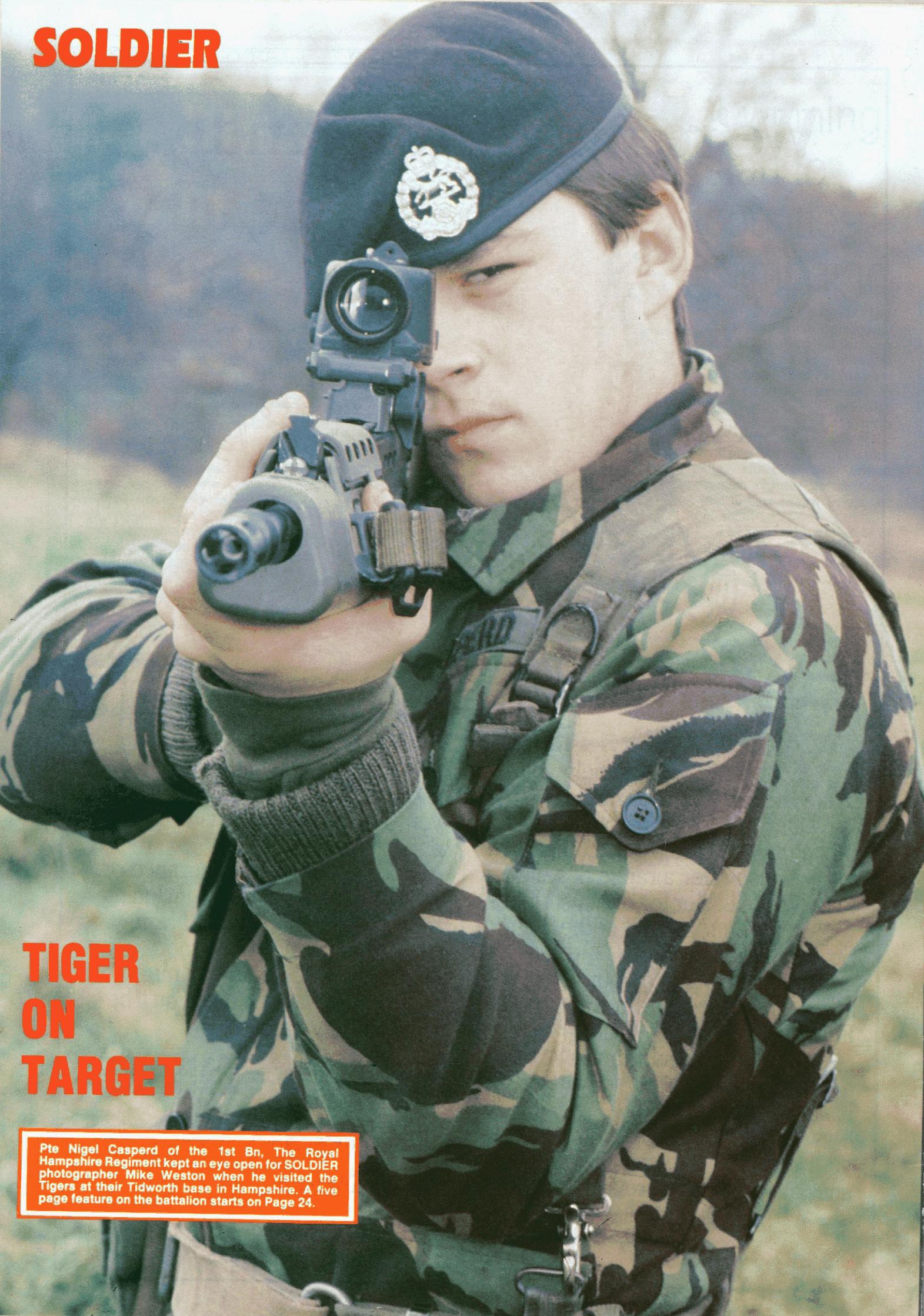
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SOLDIER



TIGER ON TARGET

Pte Nigel Casperd of the 1st Bn, The Royal Hampshire Regiment kept an eye open for SOLDIER photographer Mike Weston when he visited the Tigers at their Tidworth base in Hampshire. A five page feature on the battalion starts on Page 24.