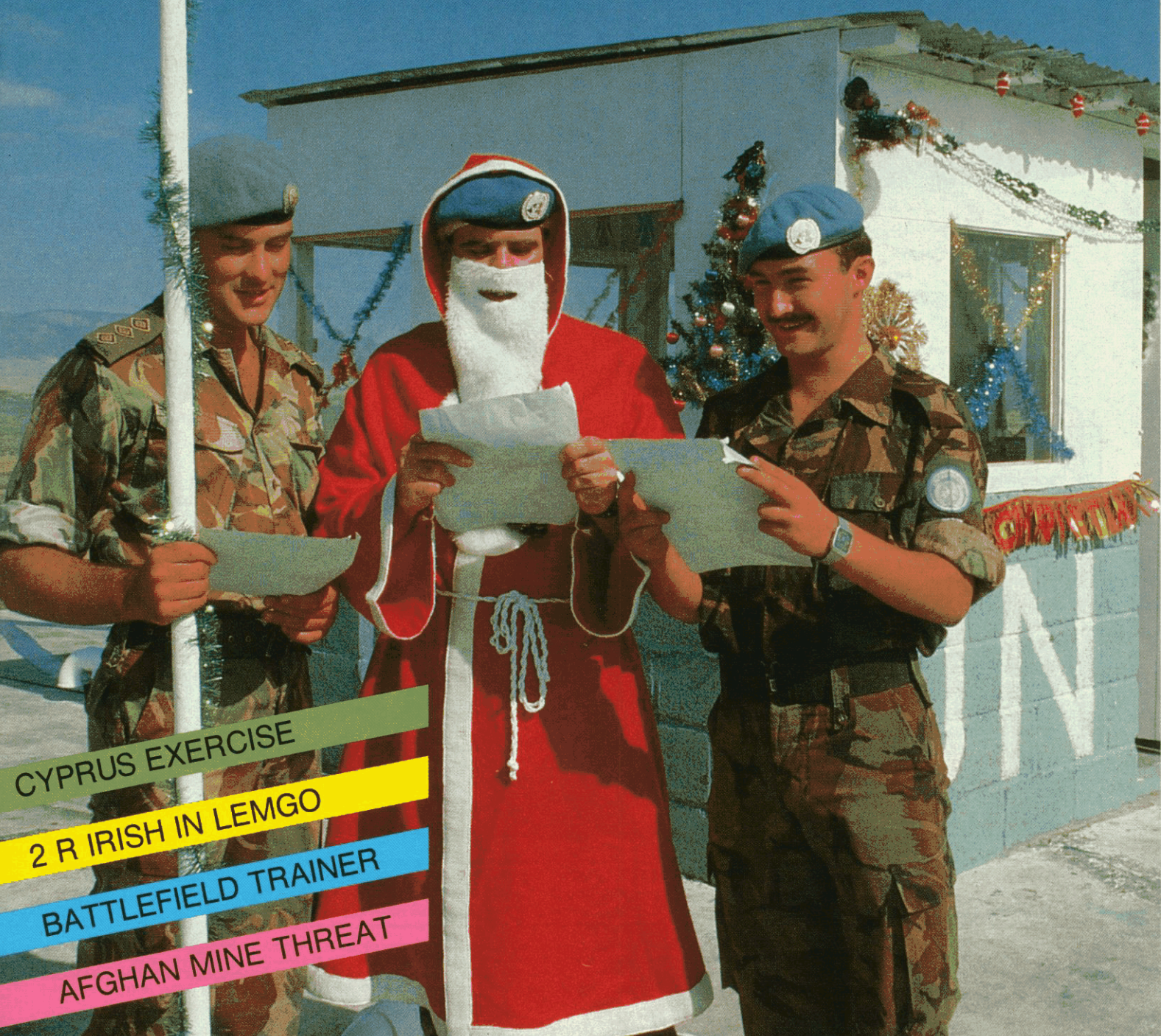


# SOLDIER

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John Clark, Aconcagua 1987. Foto: Norman Lomax



FRONT COVER: This remote United Nations observation post in Cyprus – manned by 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards – was suitably decorated for an early visit by Father Christmas (alias Cpl Michael Robinson). Joining him in a few carols are Capt Angus Brown (left) and Tpr Tommy Clarke.

Picture: Mike Weston

# SOLDIER

**THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY**  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



"It's quite obvious to me what happened! You've had 300 men through here stirring the Christmas pudding – and they've all added something to give it body..."

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## VOL. 44/25

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The staff of SOLDIER wish all readers and advertisers a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. SOLDIER's next issue will be dated January 2, 1989 and will contain a comprehensive round up of Exercise Iron Hammer, more on British Servicemen in Cyprus, plus all the regular features.

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# Special brew soothes London sewer bomb!

TWO aluminium tea pots played an important part in the defusing of the 500lb German bomb which halted work on a new sewer in Poplar, London, recently. They belonged to the crash crew from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

When Capt Tony Crawford, RE, finally got down to the delicate business of drilling the fuse, LCpl Keith Porter used the pots to pour hot salty water over the vital spot.

Crash crew sappers supplied refills by crawling along the 135ft sewer pipe holding a plastic bucket borrowed from the police.

Capt Crawford, an experienced operator, said the task was one of the most difficult he had faced because of the age of the bomb and its position. Though the pipe-way made access possible, once he and LCpl Porter reached the end of it they had to dig the bomb out of virgin earth, crouching on their knees, shoring up the roof as they worked.

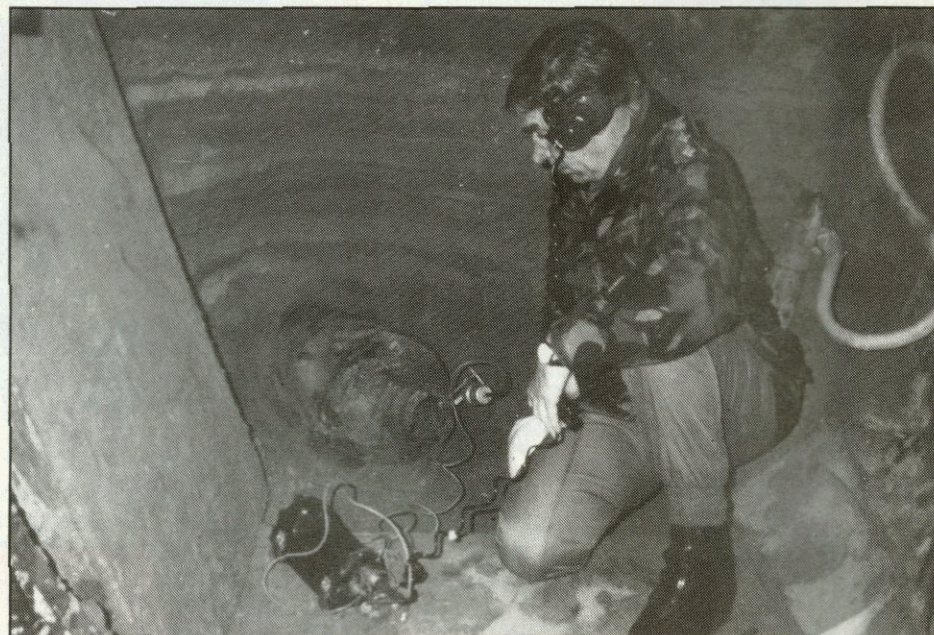
The corroded 1942 bomb was about an inch larger all round than its original size and the rust had to be chiselled and scraped away. About six cubic metres of earth had to be removed, gradually filling the pipe-way

until Cpt Crawford and LCpl Porter were sweltering in a cocoon which contained themselves and their lethal "client".

The roof collapsed three times - once while Capt Crawford was actually "immunising" the bomb.

"There were lots of unstable crystals (of explosive) about," he said, "which is why we used the tea pots. Salt water disperses and desensitises them."

Even when harmless with a rope around the bomb there were problems. A trolley on rails was not very successful and the bomb was withdrawn by winch and the muscle power of the crash crew - who were no doubt happy to put their teapots back to their proper use once the bomb had been lifted out by crane and removed!



Capt Tony Crawford works on the 500lb bomb at the end of a 135ft sewer pipe

## Double trouble in Ron's quarry

CAPT Ron Moody, RE, of 33 Engr Regt EOD based at Chattenden, Kent is getting to know his way about Tyttenhanger quarry near St Albans, Herts rather well. In the space of five weeks he has defused two Second World War German 250kg single fuse bombs discovered within 20 yards of each other.

The first operation, in which he was assisted by LCpl Andrew Whitby, took 13½ hours to complete. Back again barely a month later when a quarryman found a second bomb, Capt Moody completed the job in 12½ hours, assisted by LCpl Alan Livingstone.

## Return of IRHF

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, are returning to England for the first time in 17 years. They are to move from Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, to Oakington, Cambridgeshire, early next year.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Christmas cheer**  
 Christmas has started well for Miss J Chaplin of Stoughton Avenue, Cheam, Surrey, with a cheque for £50 for winning SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 450. Runners-up book prizes go to Mr D Coe, Fairfield Park, St Austell, Cornwall, and J Ashworth, Manchester Road, Clifton, near Manchester. Why not start 1989 by trying your hand at winning £50? This issue's HOAY is on Page 43.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



Happiness is the warm nose of an old friend. Ramillies nuzzles Sea Breeze, held by Tpr Malcolm Bowden. Sea Heritage (left), held by Tpr Kevin Mason, seems to be saying "What about me?" LCpl John Anderson (centre) enjoys the horsey joke

## Sea horse Ramillies is just a big softie

RAMILLIES, one of the finest animals to leave the Queen's stables, should be a sea horse by now. He was due to sail for Germany to continue his career as Drum Horse of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards - a move which presented Stables Troop Leader Lt Johnny Finlay with a hefty problem.

Ramillies weighs about a ton, stands 18 hands high and is very selective about his travelling companions. Though he himself is black with a couple of splashes of white he regards the grey horses which are traditionally part of the regiment's history

(harking back to the Scots Greys) as his best pals. They stood by him at the Edinburgh Tattoo and seem to have a calming effect on him when he is on duty.

Ramillies is still only a young soldier having joined the regiment at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 1987 when the Queen presented him to his new masters. So when he boards the regimental horse box (occupying two stalls because of his size) Sea Breeze and Sea Heritage will share it on the journey from Tidworth, Hants to Fallingbostal, West Germany.

● The Band and Pipes and Drums of the regiment have returned from a successful tour of the United States, their last public engagement before joining the regiment at Fallingbostal. They toured ten major American cities and enjoyed the unusual experience of performing in Disneyland.

## Nine slightly hurt by bomb

THE NOISE was great, the dust thick, but the 600lb IRA car bomb which exploded outside North Howard Street SF Base, Belfast, did not interrupt operations for a moment. Nine soldiers were slightly hurt - the worst injury was a dislocated shoulder - but returned to duty after treatment.

The base is occupied by men of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and supporting arms.

Local inhabitants were seriously shaken by the incident.



Safely home: Capt Mark Leigh-Howarth

## Plucked from icy South Georgia

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment based on South Georgia were involved in a difficult rescue operation when their medical officer badly injured a knee during a skiing patrol to locate a survival hut on Glacier Col.

Capt Mark Leigh-Howarth, RAMC, a medical officer attached to 1 Cheshire during a four month tour of duty on the remote Antarctic island of South Georgia - catalyst of the Falklands War - badly ruptured knee ligaments when he fell during the patrol on difficult terrain.

Other members of the patrol lashed together a sledge from skis and hauled him overland to a point where he could be picked up in a rescue boat sent from the base across King Edward Cove.

Medical authorities in the Falklands decided on immediate evacuation and an

RAF Sea King helicopter was flown to rendezvous with the RFA Black Rover in a Force 9 gale. Black Rover closed to within 200 miles of South Georgia to fly off the Sea King.

The aircraft was forced by bad weather to remain at low level, negotiating fog banks and icebergs, but the casualty was successfully recovered to Black Rover which reduced the distance to the Falklands before the MO was flown off to Port Stanley and subsequently to RAF Brize Norton in the UK and hospital at Wroughton.

Involved in the rescue on South Georgia were Maj Philip Jennings, OC detachment; Sgt Sam Healey, RM attached; Cpl Mark Philpott, LCpls Haden Lipscombe, Sean Fox, Robert Ward, Mark Threadgold and Kevin Smith; and Ptes Terry Latham and Michael Grady.

## Minorities' recruitment disappointing

THE Ministry of Defence is to look at ways to attract more people from ethnic minorities into the Armed Services following the publication of statistics which suggest there is a disappointing level of recruitment from the minorities.

Armed Forces Minister Mr Roger Freeman told the House of Commons that the first year of ethnic monitoring of formal applicants and recruits to the Armed Forces revealed "a substantial under-representation of ethnic minorities". They accounted for 1.6 per cent of applicants whereas they form 5.7 per cent of the total GB population.

Main conclusions drawn from the MoD's report were:

- Blacks had a higher application rate than Asians and other ethnic minority groups;
- The Army attracted more ethnic applications than either the Royal Navy or the Royal Air Force;
- The success rate of ethnic minority applicants was lower than for white applicants;
- There was little difference in success rates between black and Asian applicants, but the success rate from other ethnic minority groups was significantly higher and closer to that for white applicants.

## King misses Howards' big party

THE EXPECTED guest of honour was missing when officers of The Green Howards sat down to a dinner commemorating the 300th anniversary of the raising of the regiment. King Olav of Norway, 85 this year, was in bed with flu. From his room in the Norwegian ambassador's home he phoned his best wishes to the company assembled at Dunster Castle, Somerset, where The Green Howards were raised in 1688, and granted an audience to Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge, Colonel of the Regiment.

Lt Gen Inge, Commander 1 BR Corps, was received later in the week in the King's bedroom!

The celebrations of The Green Howards began at Dunster with a torchlight procession in which eight members of the regiment dressed as 17th century musketeers and pike men took part.

The 1st Battalion is currently serving in Northern Ireland. Further tercentenary celebrations will take place during the next 12 months - the battalion returns to its home in North Yorkshire next year.



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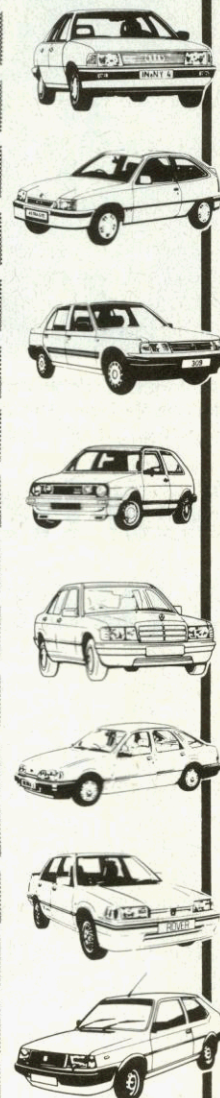
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## Alert sappers foil incendiary attack

LCPL Robert Sowden and Spr Alistair Williams, RE, have been praised for their alertness in preventing an incendiary attack. It happened as they were travelling to Chatham, and had stopped at the Bean junction layby on the A2 where they saw three men acting suspiciously near a car, appearing to handle a cable which was lying

across the road. The three men drove off at speed.

Further investigations showed the cable led to a packet that had, according to the proprietor, been stuffed under the wheel arch of his layby refreshment caravan, but had been pulled down by passing traffic hitting the cable.

The incident was reported to Kent Police, who are continuing their inquiries.

Meanwhile Tiger Watch, the scheme launched in the SE District to encourage alertness in military and civilian personnel to combat the increased attack on Army bases, is receiving up to eight calls a day on a special hotline, Freefone 7772.

## Ton up for marathon marchers

TWO soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry based at Iserlohn, West Germany have achieved a remarkable feat of marching. Lt Richard Fullerton and Sgt Paul Cocoran completed 100 miles non stop in a shade under 24 hours to beat a challenge laid down by a Second World War veteran.

On a visit to the regiment two years ago, retired King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry officer Maj Andrew Rutherford claimed that veterans had marched 50 miles in 12 hours and achieved 100 miles in 24 hours. Maj Rutherford presented the battalion with a solid silver rose bowl to be awarded to anyone who could march 100 miles in 24 hours.

Last year on Sennelager Training Area the then Cpl Paul Cocoran came within four miles of his goal when time was called. He was the closest of 26 challengers.

Forty men set out in chill autumnal winds this year having completed a rigorous training schedule and thorough medical examinations. Each individual and group of marchers was accompanied at all times by safety supervisors who also acted as morale boosters during the long hours of darkness.

By dawn only 12 soldiers were still going, but leading contender Paul Cocoran had been joined at 30 miles by Lt Fullerton and these two kept up a punishing pace. By 10am the field was down to six marchers and



Joint winner Sgt Paul Cocoran gets his feet up at the end of 100 miles for Regimental Medical Officer Capt Kate Doran to treat his blisters

by noon the leaders had ten miles to do with 2½ hours remaining.

With 15 minutes to go Cocoran and Fullerton appeared in sight of the finishing line and, with the cheers of the rest of the battalion and the musical encouragement of the bugles of 2 LI and the Salamanca Band urging them on, broke into a run as they crossed the tape together.



Lt Richard Fullerton

Their time for 100 miles was 23hr 47min 53.08sec and has been passed to the Guinness Book of Records for verification as a world record.

Of the 40 starters six completed more than 80 miles within the allotted time. Capt Neil Cockroft achieved 84.5 miles, and LCpls Marcus Lock and Tony Nesbitt and Pte Micheal White completed just over 80 miles in the 24 hours.

## Gurkha bridge helps village

A FOOTBRIDGE designed and built by sappers of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong to help villagers living in Ma On Shan Tsuen in the New Territories has been opened. Initiated by the Sha Tin District Office and financed by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, the project took 15 sappers of B Troop 67 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE about two months to complete.

The footbridge crosses a stream through which villagers – many of them retired miners – had to walk, which was inconvenient and dangerous in poor weather conditions.

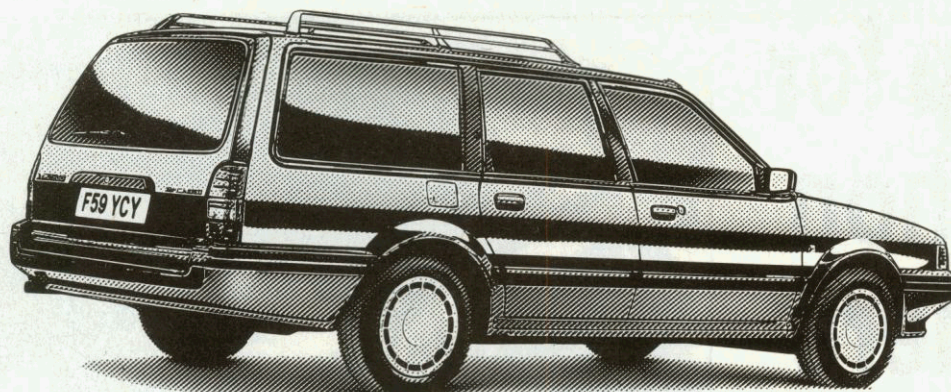
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## Para combat medics take top TA trophy

NOTTINGHAM's part-time Red Berets proved they are the best volunteer combat medics in the country – with no special training. "We're Paras – we don't need to practise!" said Maj Donald Campbell after

his Nottingham Detachment, No 144 (Parachute) Field Ambulance won the annual Walkover Trophy for the best medical unit in the TA. About 850 men and women from all 24 general and field

hospitals and field ambulance units in the TA took part in the competition, staged over three days at the Army Medical Services Field Training Centre at Saighton Camp, near Chester.

## Drugwatch streamlined

THE ARMY's Drugwatch scheme launched a year ago has been streamlined. Two answerphones at Aldershot and Tidworth have been replaced by a central number – callers with information about drug abuse need only dial 100 and ask for Freefone Army Drugwatch. Callers do not have to reveal their identity.

The incidence of drug abuse among military personnel is small compared with that of the civilian community but the Army is aware of the potential danger and sees the scheme as a means of protecting the health and welfare of its soldiers.

● 16 TANK Transporter Squadron, RCT, has been granted a Partnerschaft (partnership) by the Gemeindebezirk Osterheide, the local non municipal community. The day at Oerbke, West Germany was marked by an Anglo-German parade.



Picture: Mike Perring

For the first time SA 80 appeared on a cavalry parade when the 1988 JNCOs' Cadre, 13th/18th Royal Hussars passed out at Assaye Barracks, Tidworth after three gruelling weeks. The salute was taken by the Commander RAC Centre, Brig Arthur Gooch, who presented the award for the best student to Tpr Anthony Gilmore

## Beaver leads wine race

GREAT Ormond Street Hospital's Wishing Well Appeal was given an £800 boost when an AAC Beaver aircraft from Middle Wallop and a Royal Yeomanry Ferret scout car joined forces to help a GOSH team win the annual beaujolais nouveau race.

Former motor cycle champion Dave Bickers collected the wine at Macon, near Lyon in France when it was released at midnight, drove 400 miles in 4½ hours to Lille airport and handed it to Capt Leslie Harris, WRAC, serving with the RAEC at Beaconsfield, who jumped into the waiting

Beaver piloted by Middle Wallop instructor Sqn Ldr (Retd) Reggie Crumpton, RAF.

They flew the wine to Southend airport from where former Lancashire Fusiliers officer Lawrence Stacey rushed it to Horseguards. Cpl Gary Tomlin and LCpl Ray Batten of the Royal Yeomanry met him there in a Ferret and drove to the finishing line at Earls Court, which they reached 25 minutes ahead of the next competitor.

The wine was auctioned at a London nightclub for £500 and a collection by yeomen outside the door added £300.

## Fusiliers mark tercentary

BURY honoured its local regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, with a special dinner and medal presentation to mark the tercentenary of the Lancashire Fusiliers, predecessors of the RRF.

The mayor of Bury and his councillors entertained representatives from the regiment at the Town Hall on Armistice

Day, and Col Ian Cartwright, Deputy Colonel (Lancashire) of the Fusiliers, was presented with a gold medal in the shape of Bury's coat of arms attached to a ribbon bearing the red rose of Lancashire. It will be displayed at RRF headquarters and worn on official occasions in Bury by the senior officer.

## NEW COUNTY TITLES GRANTED TO LI

TWENTY-ONE years after their reorganisation, the Light Infantry has been granted new titles which include the names of its home counties. 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) will now be known as 5th (Shropshire and Hereford-

shire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers). 5 LI was formed from the Light Infantry Volunteers, which in turn had succeeded the 4th Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry in the late sixties.

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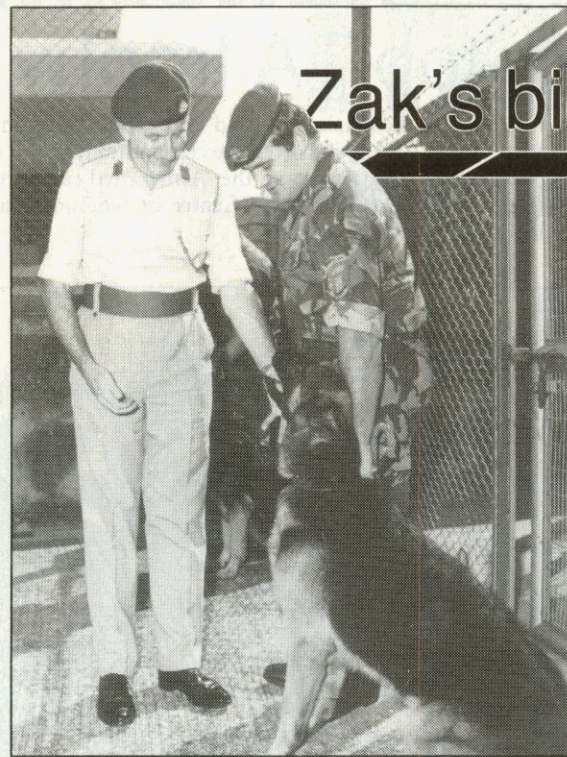
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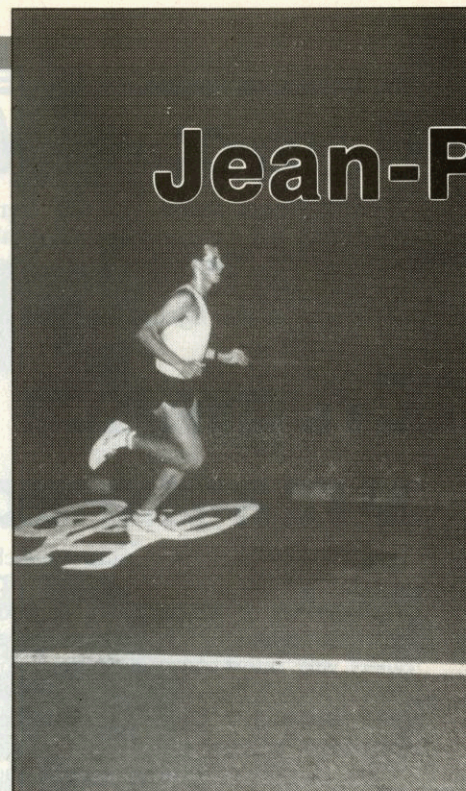
## Zak's big moment

Cpl John Sreenan, RMP, introduces Police Dog Zak to the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Military Police, Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge.

Gen Inge was visiting Hong Kong to inspect the members of his corps. His other responsibilities include commanding the British Army of the Rhine's fighting formations, the First British Corps.

John joined the Royal Military Police in 1983 and has visited Germany, Norway, Denmark, Crete, Thailand and now Hong Kong.

Although his father was in the RAF, his grandfather is an ex Argyll and Sutherland Highlander.



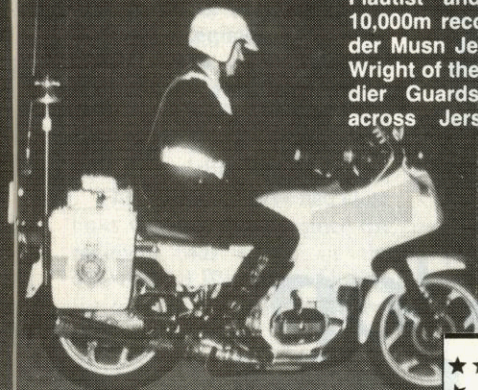
NIGHT RUNNER: Musn Jean-Paul Wright has a police escort for his Jersey island dash

## Jean-Paul in cash dash

Flautist and Army 10,000m record holder Musn Jean-Paul Wright of the Grenadier Guards raced across Jersey on

the spur of the moment and raised £842 for Jersey Hospice Care.

His ten mile dash in under 50 minutes was done as a "thank you" to Jersey for the hospitality shown to the Band of the Grenadier Guards during a short concert season on the island



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ Lt Col Mike Evans and his wife Delia floated away from ★  
 ★ 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment at Munsterlager, West ★  
 ★ Germany at the end of two years in command. ★  
 ★ Their short flight in a hot air balloon provided by a club in ★  
 ★ Hemmingen Im Dorffeld ended with a German custom ★  
 ★ during which a strand of Mrs Evans's hair was set alight ★  
 ★ and doused with champagne ★  
 ★ by Col Evans. In the German tradition, the couple were ★  
 ★ made Lord and Lady of Bergen Hohne for the duration of their flight. ★  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



## Sustainer – in person!

Readers of the *British Army Review* have long chuckled at the insights of that quarterly magazine's Sustainer column. Sustainer is, in fact, the pen name of Brig **Tank Nash**, new man in charge of the Army Catering Corps Training Centre at Aldershot.

His new post, as head of one of the most sophisticated training organisations in the industry, comes at a time when military catering and the training system is undergoing radical change in the light of new technology.

## Framed appreciation

Lord Buxton, Chairman of Anglia Television, has presented a framed photograph to the Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Garry Johnson, as a "thank you" for the Hong Kong Garrison's assistance in making a *Survival* film about kites on Stonecutters Island, a tiny island south east of Hong Kong Island used exclusively by the British Forces in Hong Kong.

Lord Buxton was in Hong Kong for an international council meeting of the World Wide Fund for Nature International.



WATCH THE BIRDIE: Lord Buxton and Maj Gen Johnson

## Falklands flavour

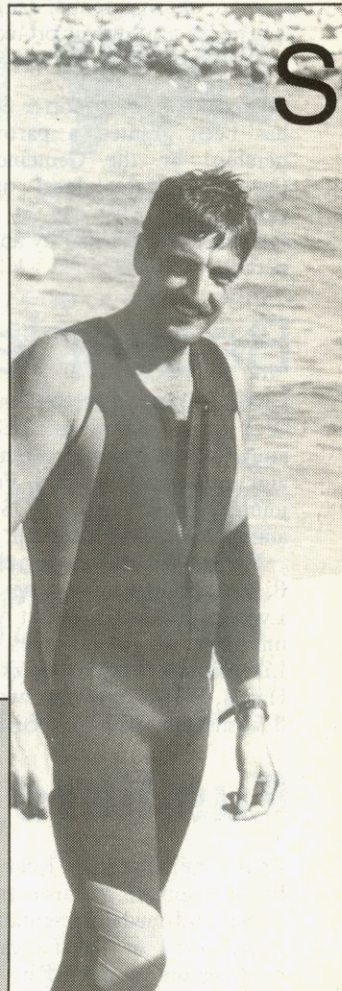


DOWN SOUTH: Terrier Dave Newton

Part time soldier Dvr **Dave Newton** has been getting the flavour of life in the Regular Army down in the Falkland Islands. He is one of six members of RCT TA squadrons in the North West who volunteered to spend four months 8,000 miles from home driving vehicles for the current resident Falklands sapper unit, 11 Field Squadron, RE.

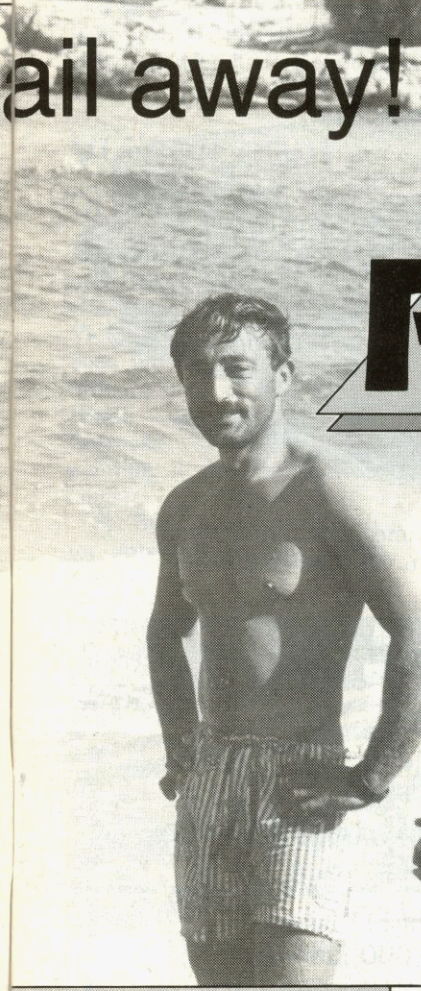
Dave lives near Liverpool and is a member of the Bootle based 238 Squadron, RCT (V). Others in the party belong to 236 Squadron from Chorlton in Greater Manchester.

Like the rest Dave is resigned to missing Christmas with his family. "But we'll make up for it," he promised. "We'll have a Christmas party in January."



WO2 (AQMS) **Harry Page** (left) and Sgt Tony Barlow, of 48 Cyprus Workshop REME in Akrotiri surfed around the Republic of Cyprus on sail boards from Green Line to Green Line (Pomos on the west coast to Fig Tree Bay on the east

## Sail away!



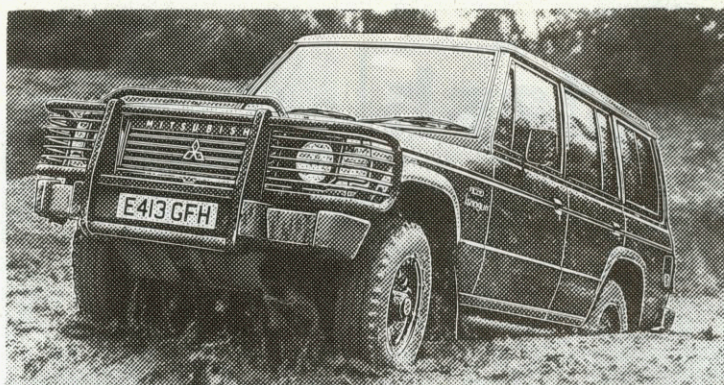
coast) in four days, slashing the record by two days. The intrepid duo were also thinking of others – they got themselves sponsored and raised more than £4,000 for the NSPCC (UK) and a Cypriot charity, Saint Stefanos, Limassol.

# PEOPLE

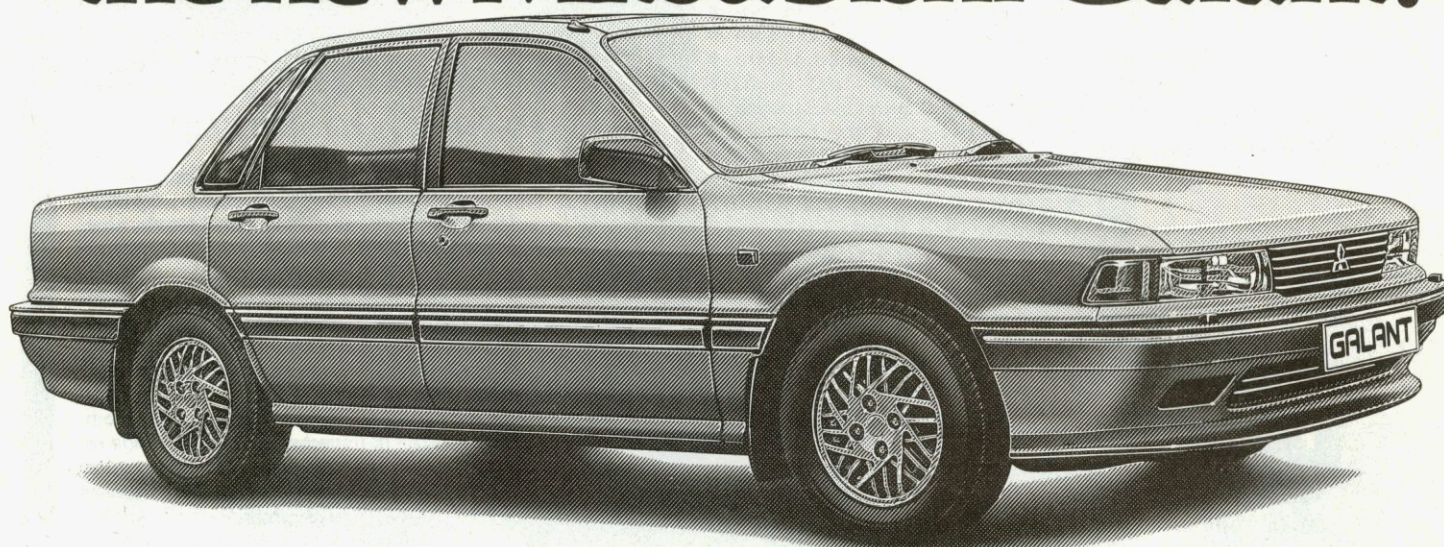


Apprentice Tradesman **Andrew Dickie** (16) secures a sign pointing to Offa's Dyke during a two week training exercise by apprentices from the Princess Marina College, Arborfield. The lads, all first year students, took time off to tackle a number of environmental jobs in the Brecon Beacons National Park.





# It took the World's top Off-Road vehicle to develop the new Mitsubishi Galant.



For more than 70 years Mitsubishi have been building fine cars. But it is, perhaps, since 1983 that more and more people in Britain have become increasingly aware of Mitsubishi's engineering excellence with the world's top 4 wheel-drive 'off-road' vehicle - the Mitsubishi Shogun.

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Now Mitsubishi has another winner - the exciting new Galant. Already 1988 "Car of the Year" in Japan, the Galant has been styled to take on the best in the world with an advanced level of engineering sophistication and technology.

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After all, if Mitsubishi can build the world's top 'off-road' vehicle they should also know how to make an award-winning car like the Galant.

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**Leading the way**



## Cheshire birthday

Calling all ex soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment . . .

Next year the regiment celebrates its 300th anniversary and the hunt is on for thousands of old comrades to join the celebrations.

The Cheshires have had close links with the county since the regiment was raised in the Chester and Wirral area during the reign of William and Mary. During the First World War the regiment raised 38 battalions, and seven in the Second World War.

For the first time in its history, Regular soldiers of the 1st Battalion are based in Cheshire, at Dale Barracks, Chester, during the tercentenary period. The battalion had not served as a fully-formed unit within the county boundaries since the day it marched away following its formation in 1789.

## VC sergeant on canvas

A newly commissioned painting of Sgt Robert Bye, Welsh Guards, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917, has been unveiled in the warrant officers' mess at 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright. The painting is by David Rowlands.

Sgt Bye was awarded the VC for attacking enemy block-houses.

## SOLDIER to Soldier



Four teddy bears decorate this cake presented to Terry Wogan for a London children's hospital. It was made during hobby periods by students at the Army Apprentices' College, Army Catering Corps, Aldershot. Terry also received a cheque

for £800 for the BBC Children in Need fund. Pictured are (l to r) App Scott Docherty, App Sgt Chris Gibson, App Cpl Jason Cresswell, WRVS lady Miss Margaret Metcalfe, App Cpl Jason Brown and App Stephen Bankhead

## Sailor sappers?

The Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Base at Chattenden, Kent, has been renamed HMS Chattenden RE - but only for one night.

The occasion was Trafalgar Night, when nearly 200 soldiers paid tribute in the sergeants' mess of 33 Regiment EOD to the Royal Navy's most famous battle.

The Trafalgar Night dinner was organised by CPO Diver Howard "Yorky" Knowles, one of three CPOs teaching underwater disposal at the base, complete with RN style decoration of the mess.

## Make a date . . .

Have you bought your SOLDIER calendar for 1989?

Several thousand people have, and stocks are running down.

The calendar features 12 full colour Chas Stadden prints of British Army uniforms from the past three generations. An ideal Christmas present.

Details on Page 49.

## Clean plate in BAOR

About 95,000 car number plates previously used by

soldiers in Germany are on their way to the scrap yard.

The easily identifiable BFG plates were condemned after the shooting by the IRA of RSM Richard Heakin, RWV, while driving to the Ostend ferry.

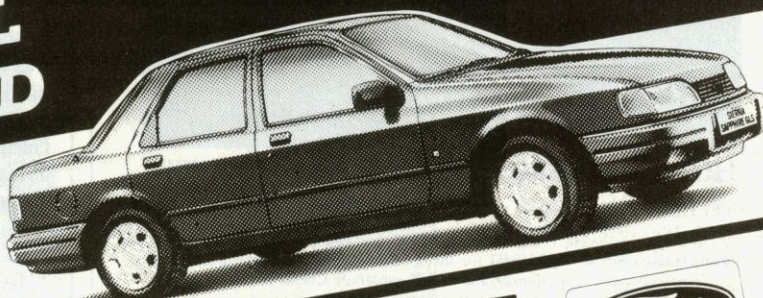
The change to new inconspicuous plates will be completed by Christmas.

The BFG plates are being handed in to the RMP and will be destroyed. "They have to be disposed of properly because of the security threat although they are only valid until mid-December," said a BAOR spokesman.

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

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EXERCISE Iron Hammer involved almost 25,000 troops and 275 main battle tanks.

Another 2,000 tracked vehicles including Warrior and 4,500 other vehicles were also involved in the exercise area which extended from Brunswick and the Harz Mountains in the east to Osnabrück and Unna in the west and from Hanover in the north to Kassel in the south.

# WARRIOR BATTALION IN ACTION

Seventy helicopters ranging from the light Gazelle to the twin rotor Chinook were tasked to the exercise.

The exercise was the first involving a fully equipped Warrior battalion and the division was equipped with an

all-Challenger tank fleet.

In addition to the British troops taking part (including 1,600 TA), a German panzer brigade, a Belgian reconnaissance battalion and a Canadian field ambulance platoon were involved.

Phase 2 which involved brigade exercises for 4, 6 and 33 Brigades, was successfully completed, but as the final phase began, weather conditions deteriorated leaving troops located on higher ground to battle against snow,

ice and sub-zero temperatures as well as opposing forces.

The exercise had been notified under the terms of the Conference on the Disarmament in Europe (CDE) and a large number of CDE observers viewed the action.

## Tankmen honour fallen

REMEMBRANCE Sunday did not go unmarked by the 27,000 British troops taking part in Exercise Iron Hammer, for most of the young men and women involved paused briefly during manoeuvres to remember the dead of past wars.

Especially poignant was the tribute paid by men of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment who in a dramatic gesture of reconciliation gathered at the appropriate hour to honour their fallen former enemies at the German war memorial in the tiny Lower Saxony village of Vinsebeck.



The seven British soldiers who rushed to answer the SOS for rare blood. From left to right are Capt Luke Soar RA, Maj Simon Reed RA, Cpl Keith Clayton R Sigs, LCpl Fraser Brown RCT, Bdr Jeffrey Walford RA, Capt Nigel Smith RE and Dvr Wayne Gambrill RCT

## Baptism of fire for MLRS

THE British Army has deployed Nato's most effective conventional artillery weapon on exercise for the first time.

A Battery from Paderborn-based 39 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery was evaluating the US-designed Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) in simulated battle conditions on Exercise Iron Hammer – the British Army of the Rhine's largest exercise this year.

Already in service with the US Army, it can lay down a devastating barrage of armour-piercing bomblets at ranges of over 20 miles. A batch of six rockets can deliver more than 3,000 bomblets in a single salvo!

Reports by  
Laurie Manton  
Pictures by  
Mike Weston



As a British Challenger tank (background) dips its gun barrel in a sign of respect and remembrance, men from 3 RTR stand in tribute at the German war memorial. From left to right are Capt Simon Allen (giving a smart butt salute on his sub machine gun), LCpl Darrin Abbott, Tpr Chris Radmore, LCpls Mark Jones, Simon Perkins, Jeff Elson, Paul Brewer, Dennis Hull and Nick Ruddy

# Hammered – by the weather!

BLIZZARDS, heavy snow and an increasing wind chill factor led to the main Exercise Iron Hammer battle being called off in mid action as Challenger regiments were involved in a furious tank action against Leopard 2 units.

As the action intensified, the weather deteriorated sharply and the scene took on the appearance of tank battles fought on the Eastern Front during the Second World War.

Finally snow stopped play as the order went out for all vehicular movement throughout the exercise area to be halted.

The divisional exercise proper began with West German infantry, acting as Orange (enemy) Forces, landing at first light in the 6 Armcd Bde area during a helicopter assault at Lauenberg.

Orange Forces were heavily engaged by troops of the 1st

Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders who had dug in for the night and endured sub-zero temperatures as low as minus 14 degrees C. Soon afterwards Orange Forces crossed the line to attack the Division. The "enemy" in this instance was provided by 20 German Panzer Brigade equipped with Leopard 2 and Marder.

In the area of 4 Armcd Bde, the action culminated in the Battle of the Einbeck Bowl, where the brigade's Warrior-mounted infantry battalion (1 Gren Gds) and its Challenger regiments fought a ferocious tank battle against the Leopards.

Then came the dramatic worsening of the weather, and the entire exercise ground to a halt as everyone sought shelter from the extreme conditions.

After a 24 hour break the exercise continued on a much reduced scale. Because of the weather conditions and to minimise damage to the environment, much of the action was curtailed and the cross-country movement of tanks and the final battles were cancelled.

Said the Commander of the 3rd Armoured Division Maj Gen Mike Wilkes: "I was very pleased with the exercise. In spite of the sudden onset of winter the division managed to achieve its aims."



It ain't half cold 'ere, Mum! A soldier on Iron Hammer covers up

● Full Iron Hammer round-up in the next issue

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# TROOPS IN SEARCH FOR RARE BLOOD

A DRAMATIC appeal for supplies of a rare blood group was answered by troops participating in Exercise Iron Hammer. A seriously ill German civilian was undergoing a major operation at St Ansgar's Hospital at Hoxter, West Germany when complications arose.

In a desperate search for 'O' Negative blood, the hospital contacted a nearby German army unit but only one donor could be found. The hospital then put out a late night SOS call to the Army's Exercise Control Headquarters at Allersheim.

Seven suitable donors were taken by minibus to the hospital where three of the volunteers each gave a half-litre of blood, enough to stabilise the

condition of the patient.

But the man's condition began to deteriorate and another five soldiers were rushed back to the hospital before breakfast to give more of the life-saving rare blood group.

Later a hospital spokesman confirming the operation had been a complete success said: "We were very grateful for the speedy response from the British Army. The patient, surgeon and the entire emergency team are indebted to the donors who so readily offered their blood."

Said senior volunteer Maj Simon Reed, RA: "We were very conscious of the burden that Exercise Iron Hammer was placing on the local people and were only too glad to help."



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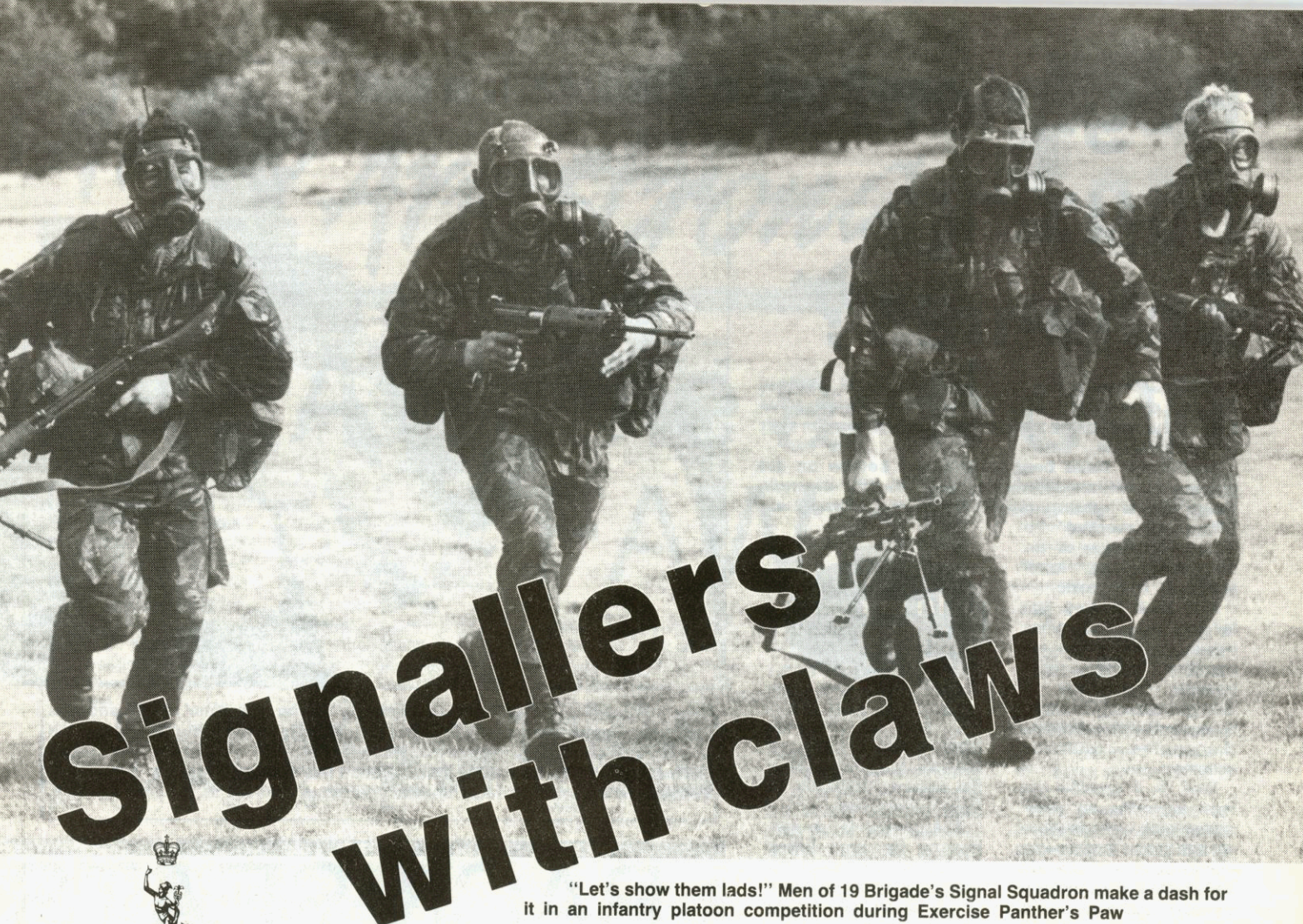
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BRITAIN'S LEADING SUPPLIER OF KIT TO THE PROFESSIONALS







# Signallers with claws



"Let's show them lads!" Men of 19 Brigade's Signal Squadron make a dash for it in an infantry platoon competition during Exercise Panther's Paw

**EXERCISE** Panther's Paw gave SOLDIER the opportunity to catch up with one of the busiest units in the Royal Signals – 19 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron – which was busy practising its role on Salisbury Plain, writes **Laurie Manton**.

It supports 19 Bde which is the rapid front line reinforcement brigade for 1st British Corps in BAOR.

In the event of armed confrontation in Europe, the signals squadron would be among the first to deploy so that it could prepare communications for when the remainder of 19 Bde arrived in Germany.

Said unit OC Maj John Davies, R Signals: "Because of our early deployment role we concentrate a great deal of our training time on our infantry skills and military training.

"As we are part of an infantry brigade we don't have armoured vehicles. Hence, if we should get into trouble in the front line, we have to be able to fight our way out on foot!

"Training for the role keeps us all very busy and already this year we have spent 187 days out



**Maj John Davies, Officer Commanding 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**

in the field, including five major exercises in BAOR, supported SIMEX which was the UK Field Army Commander's priority exercise this year, as well as assisting Eastern District with their big Home Defence exercise Eastern Shield."

During a break in Panther's Paw, the squadron entered a guest team in the brigade's infantry platoon competition and such is the competitive spirit of the signallers that they beat more than half the infantry teams, finishing 12th out of 30 platoons taking part.

Their reputation for high

Pictures: Terry Champion



**Data telegraphist Sig Chris Glover displays the calm face of confidence. Eighteen years of age and just five months out of training, he is responsible for £1m worth of equipment in the SAS/MC (Secondary Access Switch/Message Centre)!**

morale was confirmed during the "march and shoot" competition by the range officer who remarked that they were "the perkier team to come through".

Not satisfied with their already heavy workload, the unit also found time to mount the first Army unit diving expedition to Ascension Island,

as well as putting a team into training for the 4th Division skiing championship.

An Army cannot function properly without good communications so the role of signals is very important. The men of 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn are proving themselves to be tip-top communicators, as well as competent infantrymen!



# Regimental housing schemes?

THE SAGA continues over the selling of surplus Service quarters. It is appalling that houses have been returned to the civilian market and lost forever to the Services.

The losses have been particularly severe on old estates on which communal services (for example roads, street lighting, power, water and sewage) are either connected to Service facilities or do not meet the local authority standards.

MoD says houses that fall into these categories would require major expenditure, putting them beyond the reach of Service personnel hoping to buy a property under the discounted quarters scheme.

Why is it possible for local authorities to make agreements with developers and yet the MoD seems unable to follow that lead? For example, quite recently a local authority in a garrison town had 58 pre-war council houses and wished to develop the site.

Formal negotiations were started with developers and housing associations to enable the site to be redeveloped with a mix of houses for rent by the local authority and the housing association and also some for sale on the open market.

The option that this local authority went for was to receive a quota of free houses in exchange for giving the company the land.

Other local authorities have made similar arrangements, giving a mixture of flats and houses, some of which will be rented by a housing association on an assured tenancy basis.

This means the local authority can nominate the tenants, with other properties being available for sale on the local market.

Why cannot the MoD enter into similar agreements with developers? Since the start of the Joint Services Discounted Scheme in 1983 more than half of the surplus married quarters have been lost to the Services. There have been many suggestions in the past that individual regiments form a housing association.

The British Legion, SSA-

In my view ...

FA, and Ex Services Mental Welfare all run different types of residential accommodation for ex Service personnel.

The government is also pushing for more house ownership, yet one of the groups for whom owning a house would solve many worries, especially on leaving the Services, is being denied the opportunity to buy some of the surplus married quarters.

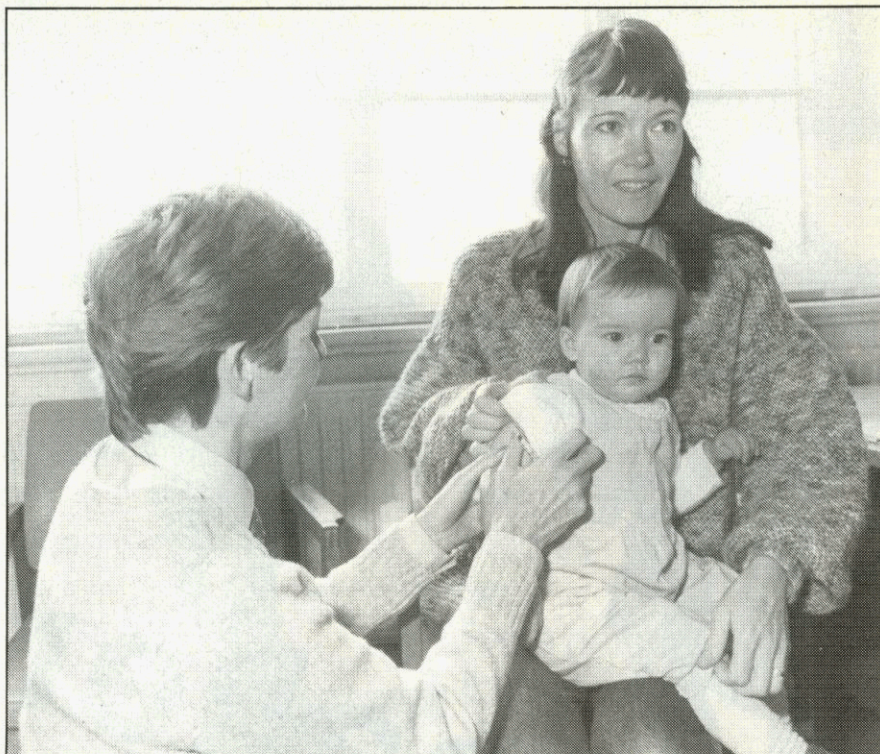
The Treasury wants to reclaim the money from the sale of surplus quarters as fast as possible, but it appears that not enough thought has been given to the needs and requirements of the Serviceman who has just four months to view and complete details for a purchase.

In Aldershot £3.6 million is paid in rates by the Army to the council during this fiscal year.

The council has been extremely helpful in housing ex Service personnel but their housing stock has been severely dented by the "right to buy" scheme. This problem is echoed in every local authority area, so what are the Services doing to satisfy the Serviceman's housing needs?

Selling off the surplus quarters to meet Treasury requirements is to the detriment of Service personnel.

Even a national charity enters into partnership with developers to satisfy the housing needs of its clients, so why should more than 2,000 surplus quarters be lost to the Services and sold to civilians on the open market?



Who's a brave girl, then? Young Catherine Shorer, daughter of Maj and Mrs Jonathan Shorer receives the first Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine at the Families Medical Centre in Caithness Barracks, Verden Garrison, West Germany where the new triple immunization has become available. Families in Verden are reported to have shown enormous interest in the new vaccine

## BACK SEATS FOR THE TOP BRASS

THE frankness of this year's eighth UKLF wives' seminar would, I am sure, have been applauded by both Gen Jimmy Helliwell and Lady Kitson who organised the first one to the amazement of some senior officers who viewed it with great scepticism, even discouraging wives from attending.

The wives who did attend that first gathering feared for their husbands' careers - with some justification.

None of us knew what to expect. None of us had much idea of what was expected other than that we were going to be given a chance to put across the wives' point of view.

It was wrongly said that with few soldiers' wives present the occasion would turn into a gripping session for officers' wives!

The birth of a women's union was

widely reported and there was genuine fear of repercussions on husbands if the voice of the "feminist lobby" was heard in the open.

Outside, the military watched and waited. But those first UKLF seminars laid the foundation on which subsequent gatherings progressed and, I hope, have done away with those sceptics whose fears were so unfounded.

This time the military support sat at the back of the conference room instead of in a formidable and intimidating array in front. The chairman asked for comment and explanation as points arose. Replies were honest and frank, and in no way patronising.

Subjects raised by the wives had been researched and questions formalised. Suggestions and views stemming from the

AGM and conference were consolidated into constructive questions.

If there was difficulty in providing a sufficiently detailed explanation, this was noted and wives present knew that at a later date the answer would be forthcoming.

I think it is vitally important that this form of communication continues to exist.

Over the years the wives have not misused their new freedom of speech and have not become militant. However, such freedoms - on both sides - take time to become generally accepted. At this year's seminar wives spoke of pockets of resistance from both the military and the wives. They are encountering the teething problems which the new born federation encountered.

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND  
**Anne Armstrong**  
Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653



## All FAW one and one FAW all

TWO hundred and fifty wives from all over the UK and Germany gathered in the Alanbrooke Hall of the Staff College, Camberley for the sixth annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives which was again sponsored by Abbey National.

Guests from the Royal Navy and RAF and national organisations including SSAFA, the Samaritans, and the Women's Institutes heard how FAW has

progressed during the past year.

Consolidation had been the aim of the retiring chairman, Lady Reilly. She confirmed that all districts now had FAW co-ordinators. More HIVES (Help Information Voluntary Exchanges) had been opened in the UK and overseas. Highlight of the year had been FAW arrival in BAOR. Lady Reilly and vice chairman Mandy Hall had both visited BAOR during the year.

Jennifer Swaby was now in post as FAW BAOR secretary. Members of the Central Executive Committee had been busy, speaking at Bristol and Exeter universities and to people attending welfare and estate wardens' courses.

Two FAW projects, FOCUS (Federation of Office Computer Updating Skills) and FRED (Federation of Army Wives Register for Employment Database) both required urgent funding if they were going to continue in business to the benefit of wives, said Lady Reilly. Sixty per cent of those attending FOCUS courses had found jobs.

A glance at the FAW report, which gives a comprehensive rundown on all the many activities undertaken by committee members, district representatives and individual wives, quickly reveals that FAW has played and will play an increasing role in life within the military community.

Shirley Gillberry, the handicapped wives' representative, who knows the difficulties they face as she is blind, asked other handicapped wives to get in touch with her.

Anne Cowan, the representative for children with special needs, reported they now had contacts in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus. For both wives and children there were all kinds of help available through support groups.

Val Macfarlane, the education representative, had had a particularly busy year with all the many educational changes which affect children at GCSE. Boarding School Allowance problems and dyslexia also were raised. The Primary Education Study day held at Tidworth had been very successful, said Val.

Housing featured high on the agenda. Lindsey Parsons, the housing representative raised a number of issues, including the provision of full central

heating, improved storage space, and the updating of bathrooms and kitchens.

Lindsey urged wives to get involved in all refurbishment and new building programmes.

"There appears to be a growing awareness of the significance that the condition of MQs has on those considering whether or not to remain in the Army and new emphasis is being put on raising standards," she said.

Judy Newell's report as the furnishing representative covered defurnishing and the new wharfing policy. The provision of fitted carpets for soldiers' married quarters was being pursued.

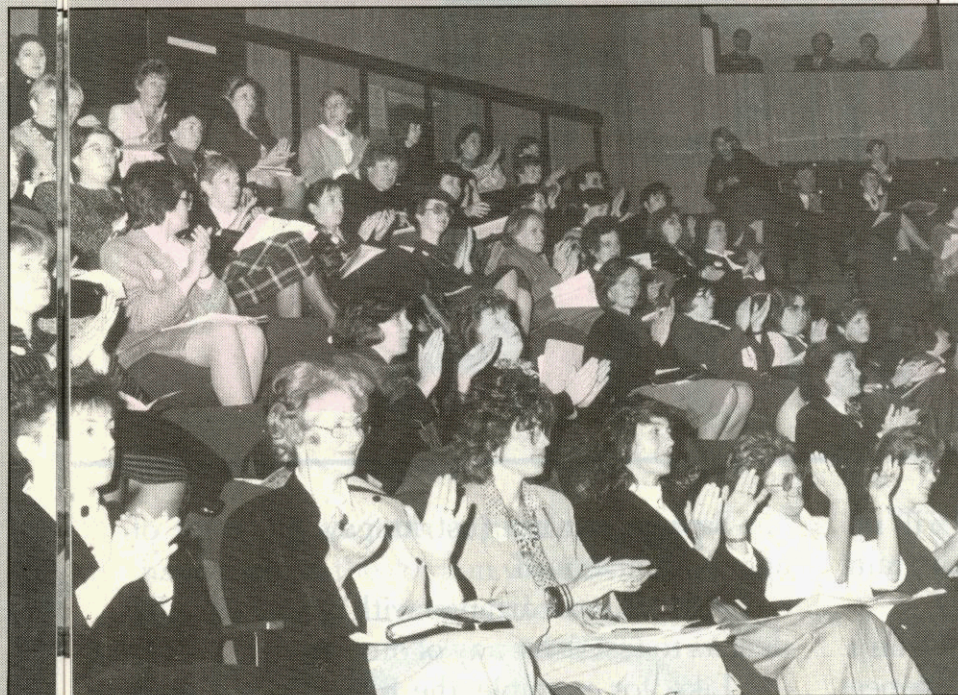
Anne McNally has taken over as Naafi rep from Andre Sinclair who compiled the report. Anne urged all present to complete the NAAFI questionnaire. NAAFI is still working on ways to improve its image but already changes had been made.

Improved clubs, longer opening hours, sale of newspapers and other extended services, better quality fresh produce, budget accounts and travel agents in some shops were mentioned.

Jan Tebbitt of *Neighbours* said 70 wives had worked on the magazine since it was first published and there were roving reporters as far apart as Cyprus and Belize. The editorial team had helped Royal Navy wives to launch their own magazine, *Naval Wives*.

All nine District representatives reported on their issues, achievements and activities, including art and craft fairs.

Co-operation from the military HQs and units had been universal as had been the enormous effort to raise £12,000 for the Great Ormond Street Appeal. So great had been the response that FAW eventually raised more than twice that - £26,000!



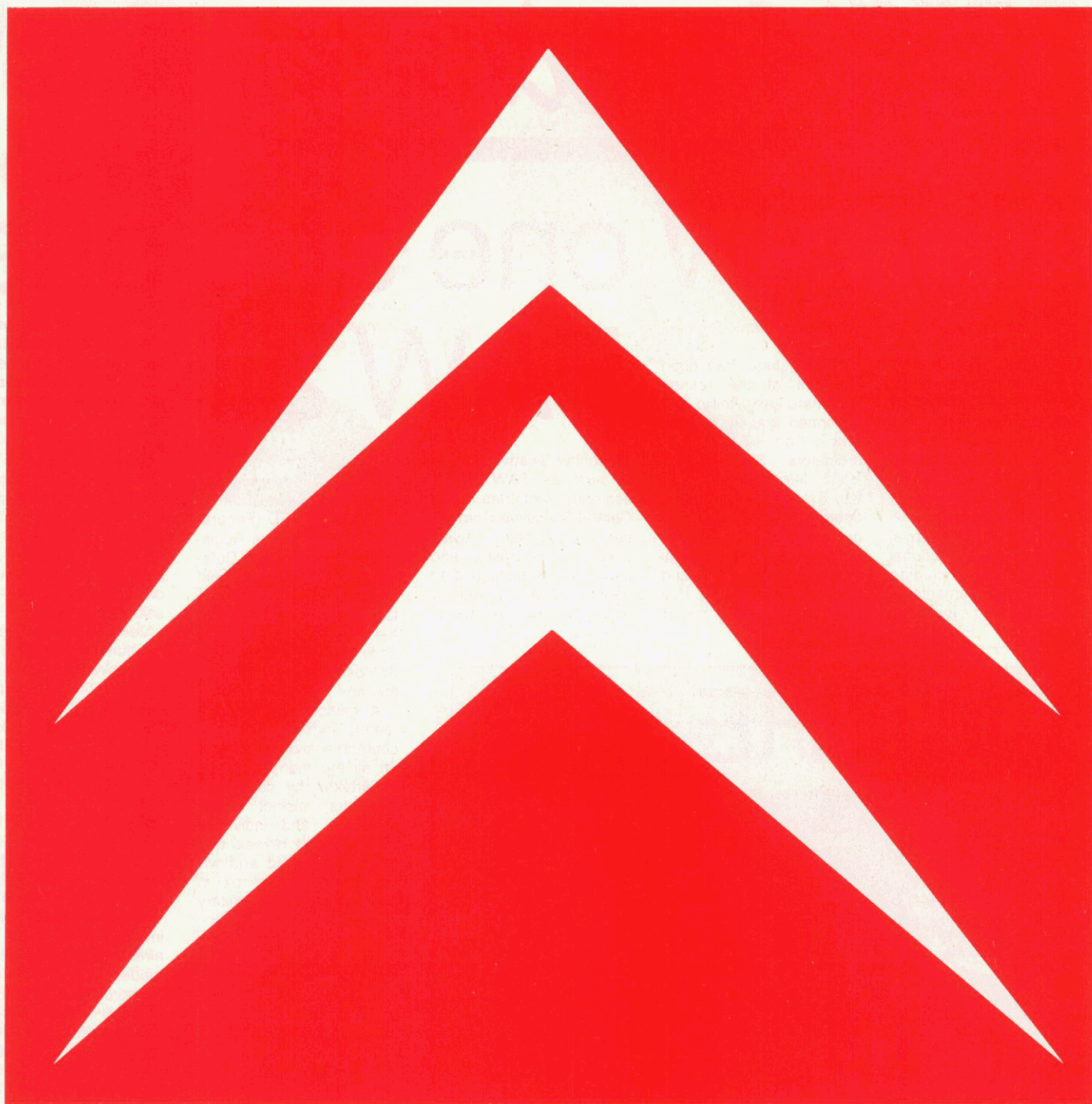
Delegates to the Federation of Army Wives annual meeting at the Staff College, Camberley applaud a point made by one of the speakers

Eight years have passed since the first seminar, six since the first FAW conference. During these years progress has been slow but steady. Yet from a small beginning of just 50 wives, now 250 wives came to the Staff College at

Camberley for their annual get-together. Perhaps their highest recognition is that three Army Board members attended at Camberley and Bagshot to speak and listen to the two days of wives' deliberations.

Long may this recognition continue, for unless the words of the wives are heeded now, there will continue to be suggestions that wives are to blame for the continuous drift of soldiers who are prematurely leaving the Army.





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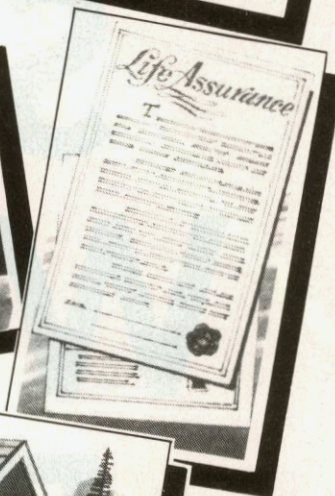
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Pictures: Mike Perring

A couple find a name for which they have been looking. Note the reflections, the wreaths and the Washington Memorial obelisk in the distance

# WALL OF WOE

ONCE it seemed that the grim list of Americans who died in Vietnam was going to be filed and forgotten; hidden in a dark corner as too painful to be scrutinised, writes **Bill Moore**.

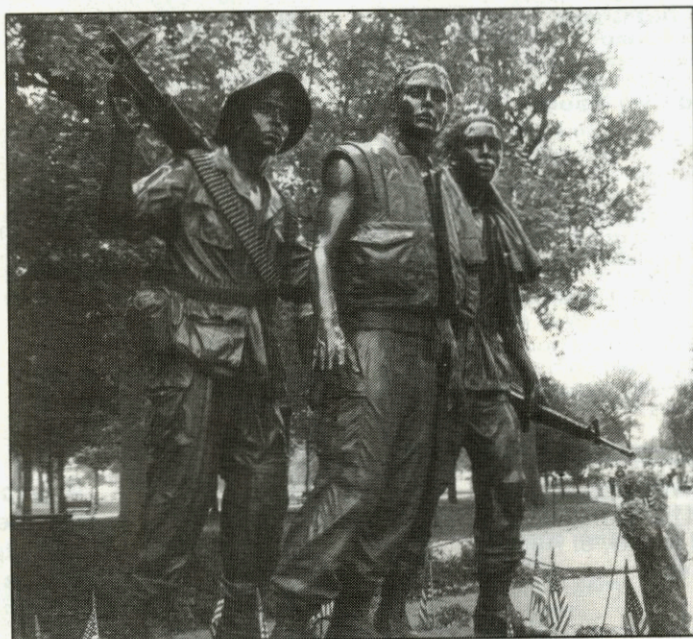
More than 58,000 men and women lost their lives in the 15-year conflict which ended in 1975 with the nation divided and Vietnam in Communist hands.

Veterans received little recognition on their return home.

It was not until 1980 that Congress authorized the use of a site near the Lincoln Memorial for the erection of a monument.

A 21-year-old girl student, Maya Ying Lin of Yale University, won a national contest with a design that has provided Washington with a poignant landmark since it was dedicated in 1982.

The names of the dead are inscribed in gilt on 70 polished black granite panels which form walls 246 feet long running at a wide angle so that one points to the Lincoln



Their faces are turned towards the monument which bears the names of 58,007 dead. Their expressions seem to ask "Why?"

Memorial, the other to the Washington Memorial obelisk.

Where the walls meet they are ten feet high.

"Up there," says a middle aged woman guide to a

coachload of tourists, "is the name of the first man to die - Maj Dale R Bus. He was shot by a sniper while sitting in a tent watching a camp movie."

Cameras click.

She points to the bottom of another panel. The cameras follow her finger.

"Richard van de Geer was the last man killed. He was a helicopter pilot."

She explains that though Maj Bus was in his 30s and van de Geer was 27 "most of the boys were around 19 or 20".

Not far from the gleaming black walls is a striking bronze group of three young soldiers carrying weapons.

Still further on pamphlets are handed out by bearded members of a veterans group which insists that the Vietnamese still hold many American prisoners and wants the public to put pressure on Congress to do something about it. A stall offers T-shirts publicising the plight of the missing.

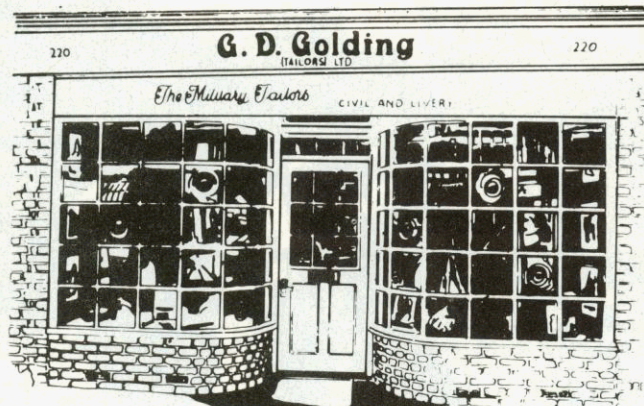
"How many on it," asks a girl who had taken a sort of brass rubbing of a name.

"Well," said her companion, consulting a guide issued by the National Park Service, "it says here 58,000 and seven." Enough to make anyone think.



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● 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guard are the first cavalry regiment for at least 30 years to take on an infantry role as the Cyprus Emergency Reinforcement Regiment. They are on a six-month unaccompanied tour based primarily with the United Nations and on the Eastern

Sovereign Base Area (ESBA).

As the establishment of an armoured regiment is less than the required 600, they have been reinforced by G Sqn 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars. They, like 4/7 DG are normally stationed at Detmold, BAOR and also had to

re-train for their new role.

● 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards is the resident infantry battalion at Salamanca Barracks, Episkopi. 17th/21st Lancers provide the armoured recce squadron, also on a two-year accompanied tour. They are equipped with Ferrets and Saladins and

patrol the Sovereign Base Areas at Episkopi and Dhekelia. ● D Sqn 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) provide armoured reconnaissance to the United Nations along the Green Line.

CYPRUS

# FLAMING G DIFFERENT!

## Wild thyme and grapes make change from North German plains

WHEN you are surrounded by floppy eared goats, the local farmer arrives bearing gifts of freshly picked grapes and sweet smelling straw to line your foxhole, and the air is heady with the fragrance of wild thyme (but where snakes can be as deadly as the enemy), the ambience of soldierly pursuits is quite different from that found in North West Europe.

Such was the scenario for Exercise Flaming Dragon staged in Cyprus for the resident 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards. Men from B Sqn 17th/21st Lancers acted as both enemy and friendly forces.

Under the Treaty of Establishment, which allowed Britain's two Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) to be formed on the island, a battalion is permitted to exercise once a year outside the SBAs.

Flaming Dragon is the first such exercise in three years and took place in an area north of Episkopi and as far west as the outskirts of Paphos.

The CO, Lt Col Charlie Lomer, had decided the Coldstreams would train in conventional warfare with the "enemy" being given a free hand.

Maj Shane Alabaster, 2ic, explained: "When the enemy is serialised, they are directed to a particular grid reference and they normally don't get much training value out of the exercise because it is organised for the friendly forces.



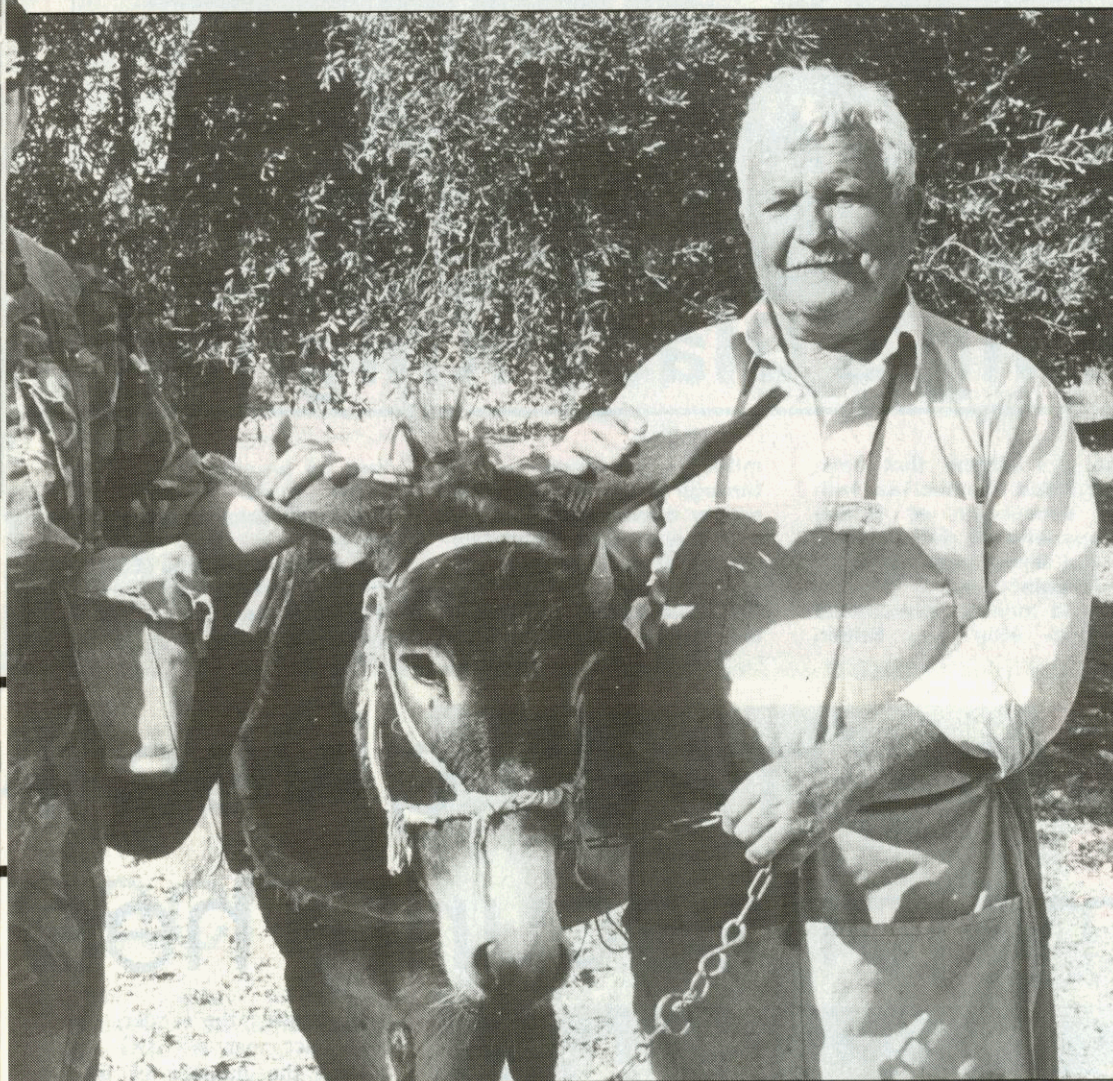
While the 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards on as normal. Tpr Jerry Lavender

"But, with the enemy being freeplay they had to find the opposing soldiers, and make the best judgement of how to attack them, bringing more realism for both sides."

"Obviously some aspects have to be serialised, such as the use of helicopters and boats, but nobody knows what is happening except for the CO and myself."

The terrain, which included a stone quarry and a few reminders of a long since

● Turn to Page 31



and B Sqn 17th/21st Lancers got to grips with Exercise Flaming Dragon, life for local Cypriot farmers carried of the Lancers lends a helping hand to Kyriakos Varnavos who was working on his olive crop



Pictured on Exercise Flaming Dragon are (from left to right) LCpl Stephen Walker (medic), Gdsman Barry Wilkinson, Gdsman Martin Roberts, Gdsman Dean Common and Gdsman Paul Knight of Cyprus's resident battalion, 2 Coldm Gds

## Squadron with a dual role

THOUGH serving with D Sqn 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) in Cyprus meant a Christmas away from their families, soldiers have used the island as a springboard for foreign travel to exotic destinations such as Egypt and Israel.

During their six-month tour, there has been plenty of opportunity for adventure training, and everyone has managed to see their families for two weeks.

The Lancers have had two roles, to help implement the United Nations mission by detaching a reconnaissance troop to each of the four international sectors for patrol duties, and to form the force reserve when required.

This is the Force Commander's military reserve in time of tension. The Lancers were called out to one minor incident involving bottle and stone throwing.

Maj James Mackaness, OC, agreed that patrolling duties were low key, but warned: "You have always got to be alert and be prepared for the unexpected."

"I think that is probably the most difficult facet of serving in the UN - you can be lulled into a false sense of security through your smiling, your diplomacy and your tact."

"One or two things have happened - fortunately not to us - between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. But, it could so easily have happened to us."



Maj Mackaness





Black Knight OP is the only British-manned checkpoint abutting the self-claimed state of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and when LCpl Steven Dixon and his soldiers from G Sqn 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars arrived for duty they found they had inherited an unusual pet.

It is a tame chicken that regularly pops in to steal food from the family of two cats

## King's Black Knights!

and five kittens that have ingratiated themselves with the succession of British troops who do duty there.

LCpl Dixon explained their checkpoint task: "We are here to monitor movements and to stop any British

military personnel going through unless they have the proper documents.

"We also stop Greek Cypriot or Turkish military personnel crossing to the other side, and advise tourists of the various complications if

they go on ahead."

The route is used by Turkish Cypriot workers employed on the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). Pictured above is Maj Marcus Bromwell and part of G Sqn at the checkpoint.



CYPRUS

# Tourist highway gives 4/7 DG major security headache

TASKS confronting the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, reinforced by G Sqn 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, are many and varied.

During their six-month, unaccompanied tour as the Cyprus Emergency Reinforcement Regiment, they have been divided into two - with one section on United Nations duties, and the other providing static defence at the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). After three months, they swapped duties.

One of the main security headaches is that the main Larnaca-Ayia Napa Road carries 5,000 tourists past the garrison gate every day during the height of the holiday season. Middle Eastern terrorists and the IRA are considered major threats.

ESBA has a refugee camp unlikely to have a match elsewhere in the world. It boasts swimming pools, three soccer pitches and six-



Villagers living in Athna Refugee Camp often have a small gift as well as time for a chat with visiting soldiers from 4th/7th DG. Pictured is LCpl John Jones and Cpl Brian "Molly" Sugden with ESBA police constable Kyriacos Photiou, and shopkeeper Metros Loizou Prastiti

bedroomed villas!

It grew in 1974 when the Turks moved down to ESBA's northern border and Greek Cypriot families living in Athna abandoned their homes, moved into a forest and formed a

refugee camp, giving it the same name as their original village. It now has about 1,000 inhabitants. Some threatened to form vigilante groups because, they claimed, people from the Turkish occupied area

were crossing the border. To counteract that 4/7 DG increased the number of foot patrols in the area.

When soldiers visit Athna there is often a cup of tea or the gift of fruit for them from villagers always ready for a chat.

Drug smuggling is one of the island's biggest problems as Cyprus is a staging post between the Middle East and Europe. 4/7 DG patrols the numerous coves to show the Army has the capability to put to sea at short notice.

4/7 DG has had to handle with diplomacy Turkish Cypriot sensitivity about water boreholes close to the border. The Turkish Cypriot community argues that boreholes dug at an angle are taking water from their territory.

## 4/7 DG dache

The security of ESBA includes high profile patrolling, with ESBA police in outlying areas and with Ferret scout cars making their presence known on the border.

Another task for 4/7 DG is to provide a quick reaction force on ten minutes notice to move. They've had to deal with two suspect bombs, and on another occasion swooped on a man acting suspiciously on the ranges. They found he was picking figs!

There are also helicopter patrols providing transport for teams out with ESBA police.

Final task for 4/7 DG is liaising with the Turks once a month. The Turkish commander, through his interpreter, discusses a variety of subjects, ranging from water bores to smuggling.



## Spot the Santa!

Father Christmas seemed to be lurking everywhere the SOLDIER team went on an extensive tour of Cyprus!

Above - B Sqn 17th/21st Lancers pose with him at Curium Theatre.

Meanwhile it was the busiest time of the year for the 'Posties'.

Left - Father Christmas (Staff Sgt Graham Grill) collects the parcels he's going to deliver from LCpl Karen Lincoln (right) and LCpl Yvette Saunders.

We join British Forces Cyprus in wishing all our readers a Happy Christmas



# Sierra standards raised again.

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Option price £97\* Now it's standard on Sierra Ghia and Sapphire Ghia and on the Sierra 4x4. So you won't have to wait for your engine to warm up before you can defrost your screen.

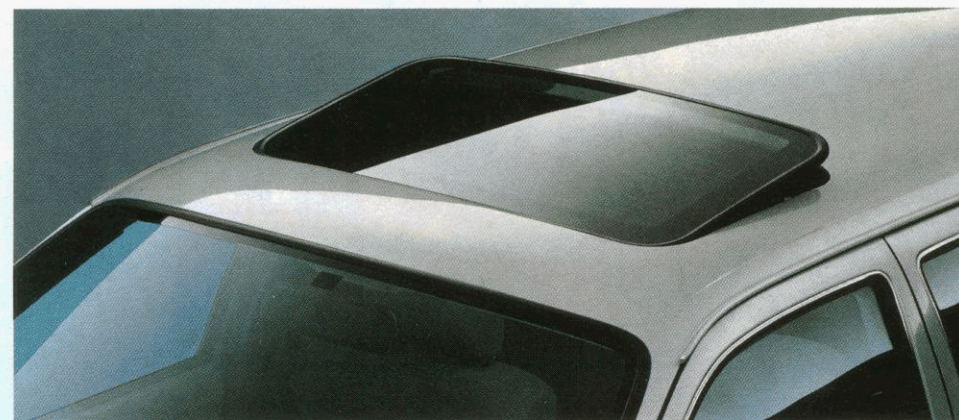


**New wheels.** 185/65x14 wheels and tyres now standard on Sierra LX and Sapphire LX. The new wheel trims look good, too.



### Headlight wash/wipe.

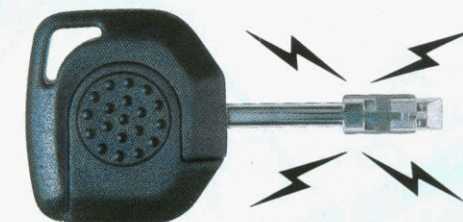
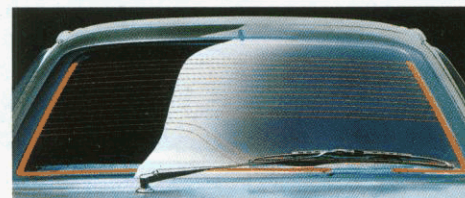
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\*Maximum tax-free retail price at 15th August 1988.

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You don't get these sorts of backdrops during an exercise on Salisbury Plain! The typical Cypriot scene above brought colour and atmosphere to Exercise Flaming Dragon. Pictured in the Saladin are commander, Lt James Daly; gunner, LCpl Peter Lee; and driver, Tpr Graham Atkinson, 17th/21st Lancers. Part of the

battle raged at a long abandoned and demolished village, Ayios Efstathios, where only one building remains, this charming, lovingly maintained church (below), complete with beautiful icons. "Casualty" Gdsmn Matthew Hogan is treated by battalion medic LCpl David Brown of the 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards



Maj Charlie Buxton, CC B Sqn 17th/21st Lancers

Right - Mounting a joint infantry armoured enemy attack with a Ferret in the background are Drill Sgt WO2 Ian Wadley, ColSgt Graham Yates and Tpr John Scanlon

Below - Sgt Keith Woodhead (right, back) with a team from 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, was the Forward Observation Officer responsible for co-ordinating and calling of all artillery in the battle. In the same cell co-ordinating the mortar fire was LSgt Mark Seton (left, back) and also at the back is LBdr Tony Boyd. In the front are Bdr Kevin Fewkes and Gnr Richard Dunlop

Below right - Because of the rugged nature of the ground, it was not always possible to dig deep. Gdsmn Darren Hope and Stephen Ducker make use of camouflage to disguise their foxhole



CYPRUS



## COLDSTREAM ON FLAMING DRAGON

● From Page 24

abandoned village, was very rough, putting special demands on fitness and map reading.

Company Headquarters was established in the middle of a quarry where CSM Kevin Nolan and his men had been in a foxhole for three days and three nights. Thanks to a friendly local farmer it was lined with straw.

Bdr Nick Owen said: "It is very comfortable even though six of us are sharing it. Last night I managed about five hours sleep."

Domestic chores are shared. Brewing up was LBdr Harry Spencer, who dared to mention

that the CSM snored rather loudly!

Rainstorms earlier in the exercise had spurred on the digging of a trench by Gdsmn Peter Wilkinson, Brian Stoker, Steven Wellsbury, Kevin Hopkins and David Brown.

When they came across what appeared to be a natural hole they followed the line it took, and came to the conclusion it might have been the route of a natural spring, leading into a man made well.

Their excavations threw up a mystery - a large, shaped stone with markings. One theory was that it was some sort of symbol, while another speculated it had

been used for crushing olives.

Because of the rugged nature of the ground, it was not always possible to dig deep. Gdsmn Darren Hope and Stephen Ducker became expert in disguising foxholes built mostly above the ground, making the best use of camouflage.

Meanwhile LSgt Vincent Horsfall reckoned he had been in his foxhole for 96 hours "but I stopped counting after 48." He went on: "You get harassed by the enemy every couple of hours, and it stops you getting bored! In between times we read or listen to BFBS."

It had been an eventful few days for B Sqn 17/21L, who

had been on their own exercise before joining 2 Coldm Gds.

Their OC, Maj Charlie Buxton, said: "Our own exercise was restricted by poor weather with rain making the going difficult. Tracks which I had reced previously were impassable, and we were slightly restricted."

"But it was good to be allowed to train in Cyprus federal territory and very useful to get the whole squadron out for only the second time this year. The local people seemed to welcome our presence. Several brought food and invited us to use the water on their farms and other facilities."





Everybody out! Members of Defence Platoon leap into action at BHQ. Rgr Ian Barnard holds the door as LCpl Robert McGeehan (front) and Rgr Michael Cullum exit their 432



While LCpl Micky Daly (background) repairs a headset, Sgt Norman Haggart of Signal Platoon takes the opportunity to catch up on the paperwork by doing a little open air typing at A2 Echelon



2nd Lt Sarah Basford-Ward raises a smile during her first exercise with the battalion since assuming the post of assistant adjutant



Lt Col Willie Burke Commanding Officer of 2 R Irish



Pipe Cpl Davie Shields provides the battalion with musical accompaniment during the river crossing



Sgt 'BA Barracus' Kelly



Inside the Int Cell the overall intelligence picture is built up by (left to right) LCpl John Lee, Cpl Willy Jones, Ranger Chris O'Sullivan and CSgt Don McBride

THE APTLY named Exercise Rhine Ranger saw the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers take part in their first battalion exercise since their move from Dover last August to their new home at Stornoway Barracks in Lemgo.

Since 2 R Irish arrived in BAOR, the Rangers have had a busy time as they have come to terms with operating from armoured personnel carriers in their new role as a mechanised infantry battalion.

SOLDIER caught up with 2 R Irish in the field on the Soltau-Lüneburg Training Area where the battalion's FV 432s were backed up waiting for sappers to lay fascines over a river ford.

It came as a shock to discover BA Barracus of the A Team guarding the perimeter, but closer investigation revealed that the man behind the mask was Sgt Jim Kelly of A Coy doing his bit to keep morale high!

Once the sappers had finished their task the battalion crossed in style with the pipe corporal atop one of the 432s piping them across to the strains of *Sailing*.

Not everyone showed the cheery confidence of the pipe corporal for one vehicle carried the chalk-written slogan "Where's me \*!?.;£! lifejacket" on its side!

Elsewhere on the training

area, one company had just completed a "replen" topping up with fuel and ammunition. As the company prepared to carry out a counter-penetration task, Lt Edmund Freely explained that everyone was getting used to the 432s and finding out who does what on the vehicles.

"We have the Mk 1 version - the antiques of the 432 fleet - and are probably the last battalion in Germany to be issued with them. Nearly everyone else changed to the Mk 2 some years ago or are taking over Warrior.

"It is certainly a completely different way of soldiering to what we have been used to for the past five years at Dover. There we travelled in four-tonners or LPCs," he said.

For the uninitiated an LPC is a Leather Personnel Carrier - a boot!

Milan and mortar elements are attached to the company,

# Rangers swap LPCs\* for armoured role

Words by  
Laurie Manton  
Pictures by  
Terry Champion

\* that's a boot to you!

which has four APCs per platoon plus an assortment of Command Vehicles (CVs), REME support and a tracked ambulance.

In the Int vehicle back at battalion headquarters, Lt Peter Hayburn and CSgt Donald McBride were busy putting their chinagraph pencils to good use building up a picture of enemy activity.

Explained CSgt McBride: "Our role is to brief the commanding officer on the enemy threat and the tactical deployment of our own troops in relationship to that.

"The intelligence comes in from the troops on the ground. Any sightings or contacts they have are relayed to us and the overall intelligence picture can be drawn on the map."

The Int Cell also monitors

the nuclear, biological and chemical warfare situation and any other threats to the battlegroup.

Also doing her bit on the exercise was the battalion's Assistant Adjutant, 2nd Lt Sarah Basford-Ward, whose many hatted role is mainly administrative, including the posts of unit press officer, badminton officer and assistant unit records officer, to name but a few.

She is the first female officer permanently posted to the battalion and in the event of mobilisation would report to the Families Officer to help organise the evacuation of Service families.

Her presence on the exercise was so she should find out what goes on in an infantry battalion and have a greater under-

standing of the workings of the Army.

"It's my first exercise with the battalion, and hopefully it won't be my last," enthused 2nd Lt Basford-Ward.

Medical support is provided by Capt David Williams, RAMC, and his team of medics who man a Regimental Aid Post run from two APCs marked with Red Crosses.

Each company has a tracked ambulance in which it can bring wounded to the RAP.

The sight of medics carrying weapons raised a question about the use of the Red Cross but Capt Williams explained that although they carried weapons they did so only to maintain the status of the RAP.

"We would use our weapons as a last resort to defend the casualties, defensively not offensively, otherwise we would lose the privileges held under the Geneva Convention," he said.

No battalion can operate without a good back-up team and with the Rangers that role is carried out by the echelon under the command of Maj Brian Meeke. His unit operates in two parts.

A2 Echelon sits back in the Brigade Admin Area to where all the bits and pieces the battalion needs are delivered. It has a large LAD section, a URS (Unit Repair Scales) detachment, and ammunition and ration trucks, as well as other service support elements required by the battalion.

"A2 then ferries the stores forward to A1 which is right up close behind the fighting troops. From there the stores can be fed forward into the system," said Maj Meeke.

Next task on the agenda for 2 R Irish was during Exercise Iron Hammer when they provided manpower for the umpires and simulated casualties.

Many Rangers were made up with gore to resemble battlefield casualties. The wounded were also wearing tags describing the nature of the wound and it was up to other units to take the appropriate measures in first aid and evacuation practice.

If the enthusiasm shown by the Rangers on Rhine Ranger was any indication the troops taking part in Iron Hammer were in for a bloody surprise!



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## Descriptions of "new" Soviet mines baffle Army team in Peshawar



SSM Chris Duncan and Capt Tim Curtis (seated, centre) meet Afghan refugees, including members of the Mujahideen, in Shamshatoo refugee camp



SSM Chris Duncan (centre) and Capt Tim Curtis (right) take an interest in mines and munitions seized by Peshawar police

SO GREAT is the problem with mines in Afghanistan that its inhabitants will still be being maimed and killed by the deadly devices 50 years from now, say the British Army team of explosives experts who drew up a report on the problem for the United Nations.

The three man advisory team of Royal Engineers went to Pakistan at the behest of the British Government following an appeal for help from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, UN Coordinator for Economic and Humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

The Commanding Officer of 3 Training Regiment RE, Lt Col Cedric Sloan, accompanied by Capt Tim Curtis and SSM Chris Duncan of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), made the journey to Peshawar in Pakistan.

The frontier town is seen as the centre of Afghan resistance, being the area where the Mujahideen and other political parties have their "safe houses" from where they back up the Afghan refugees and resistance fighters.

Aim of the sappers was to attempt to assess how great the mine problem is in Afghanistan and to make recommendations for the United Nations before Afghan refugees stream home in the wake of the withdrawing Soviet Forces who have occupied the country since 1979.

Unable to enter Afghanistan themselves to gather information, the sappers talked to Mujahideen field commanders and Afghanis who were recovering in the refugee camps after operating in Afghanistan. Some had actually defused mines and bombs.

On a visit to Darra Adam Khel, a tribal village where most types of arms and ammunition could be bought, they were shown new types of mine which the team had not appreciated were being used in the war.

Said Col Sloane: "There has been war in Afghanistan since 1979 and a great number of mines have been laid in most areas of the country, especially around garrisons, defended localities and

# DEADLY HARVEST



Lt Col Cedric Sloan takes a closer look at a Soviet POMZ fragmentation mine. Lethal devices like this could inflict heavy casualties among returning Afghani refugees

anti-personnel mine which is very easily concealed and difficult to detect.

"There are millions of these all over Afghanistan!"

Another major problem is the sheer variety of mines in use for, besides the three main types of mine deployed by the Soviet Army, the Mujahideen themselves have used mines manufactured in Italy, China, America, Pakistan and even the UK.

The Soviets have also used other mines, some of which are almost unknown in the West and extremely complicated to defuse.

Talks with the Mujahideen about the mines they had encountered during their fight against the Soviet Army revealed the alarming possibility that the Russians had deployed a new and deadly variant.

"They explained to us about various mines which we did not understand and could not visualise, and we believe that Soviet Special Forces may have used some remotely controlled or remotely sensed mines which detonate as the Mujahideen approach them," explained Col Sloan.

"Because we were working through interpreters and because no one had a photograph or could draw a picture of it in the sand, we cannot really say what it is, but there is a strong possibility that the mine does exist."

The team's report recommends that the United Nations sets up an awareness programme to educate returning Afghanis not to touch mines, and suggests a selection of Afghan people could be trained so that when they return there would be a few people in each community who would have enough knowledge to be able to remove mines safely.

"The aim of the UN mine clearance

training programme would be to minimise casualties, as opposed to preventing casualties for ever. I am afraid the Afghanistan people will still be suffering mine casualties, probably for another 50 years," warned Col Sloane.

Asked whether a major international military effort might be able to remove all the mines, Col Sloan commented: "Probably not. It would need brigades of engineers working over many years to remove all the mines."

"The Vietnamese had this problem and have overcome it, and Western Europe had exactly the same problem after the Second World War and dealt with it. It is a matter of time and perseverance," he said.

## Tea with the Wild Bunch!

DURING their stay in Peshawar the team had a number of experiences and encounters very different to their everyday work.

They described the town as being like something from an *Indiana Jones* film, with bearded, scar-faced, turbanned tribesmen armed with Kalashnikov rifles to be seen everywhere in streets crowded with camels, donkeys and bullock carts.

They visited Darra Adam Khel, a village where it was possible to buy nearly anything in the line of arms and ammunitions, as well as boot-leg Scotch!

The tribesmen treated the British trio as potential customers, openly showing off the variety of weapons they had for sale

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Terry Champion

A CONSTANT battle is raging around a farmstead which has never seen a chicken.

In the past ten years more than 175,000 men have fought for the stretch of Dorset countryside around it – an area eight by 12 kilometres – but despite rolling barrages, air strikes and clashes between squadrons of main battle tanks, the five barred gate is undamaged, the solitary milk churn is intact.

"The Farm" is an integral feature of Bovington's Battle Group Trainer which was the first of its kind when opened in the winter of 1978.

Its title today is Battle Group Trainer (South) – others having been opened at Sennelager, Germany (BGT BAOR) in 1980 and at Catterick, Yorkshire (BGT North) in 1986.

Few systems have been more effective than the original product master-minded by Lt Col Teddy Kent, RTR, and installed by a small team of enthusiasts in Bovington's old Red Shield canteen.

"Blood and Fire" is the unlikely motto on the Salvation Army cap badge and that is exactly what is portrayed within the modest BGT (South) building tucked away behind a trim privet hedge.

Much equipment has been

updated since it became operational but the concept remains the same.

The facility enables battalion (including TA) and regimental commanders to spend two or three days at Bovington training their staffs in the operational command and control procedures.

There are around 20 scenarios to choose from – variations on positional defence, advance to contact and counter penetration.

All are set in the context of the immediate area of Bovington which the visiting all-Arms battle group staff recce by Land Rover (or by helicopter if flying is possible).

Battles are fought according to the weather prevailing.

Recces completed, the "players" get down to business – about 70 officers and men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were in attendance during a recent visit by SOLDIER.

The BGT consists of two main sections. In one room is a table-top map covering most of the floor space. On each side in pew-like rows sit the lower control staff wearing headsets as if in the field.

Symbols representing men, vehicles and weapons systems are moved around the map at a

speed compatible with reality.

At one end of the room is the BGT controller – currently Lt Col Evelyn Webb-Carter, Gren Gds – with his aides.

A large computer stands at the other to assess the effects of, say, a helicopter strike.

So much for the schoolroom battlefield laid out under fluorescent lights with soldiers in boots combat high walking gingerly on polythene squares to protect the map board.

"The Farm", on the other side of a locked door, is not so cosy. It is as gloomy as a real German barn, draped in cam nets, would be in wartime.

Sweating fusiliers in NBC suits hurried from one cramped cell to another as the action warmed up. The CO, Lt Col Joe Gunnell, sat in a mock-up Land Rover "on his way" to visit a company commander.

His route was plotted and not until the appropriate time was up could an officer be released to speak to him.

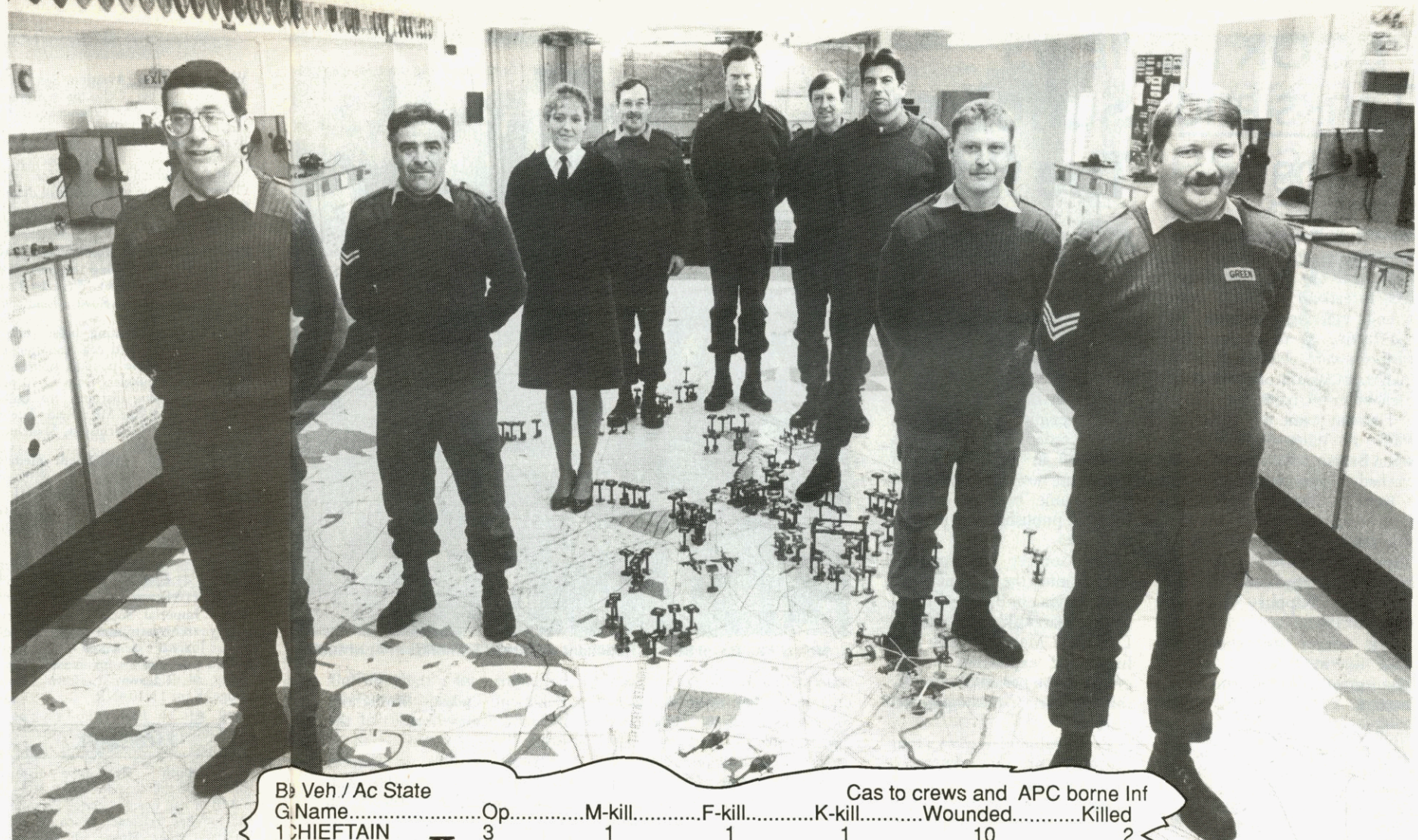
An hour or so later after a detailed debrief the 2 RRF party left for its barracks at Bulford on Salisbury Plain.

The exercise is by no means a test and the comments of the BGT staff were delivered in a relaxed and positive manner.

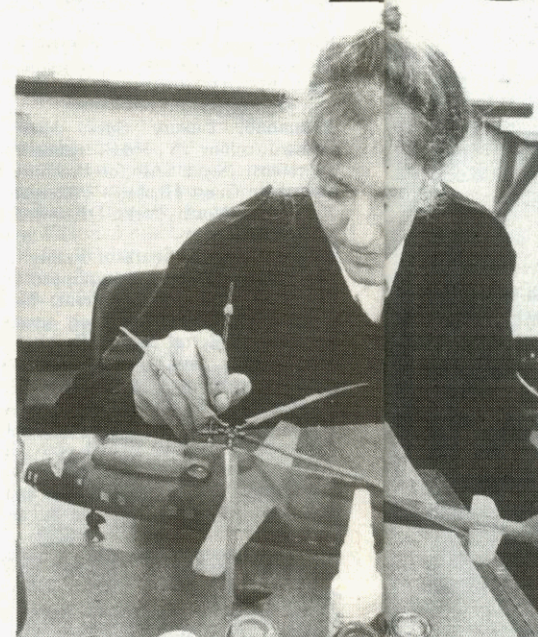
Said Lt Col Gunnell: "Seventy-two of us came down – 72 of us leave wiser men."

They were the 42nd battle group to go through the trainer this year.

THOUGH more homespun than its custom-built counterparts, though its ageing wiring (currently driving Sgt Mick Green, R Signals, mad!) interrupts communications as successfully as any simulated ECW, BGT (South) is popular with units.



Above – Where angels fear to tread – the map board of Battle Group Trainer (South) after an exercise, symbols still in position (L to R) WO2 Colin Farnell Int Corps; Cpl George Westwood 16/5L; LCpl Julie Wells WRAC; Maj Steve Court RE; Lt Col Evelyn Webb-Carter Gren Gds; Maj David Hobday RA; Maj Andrew Hill RTR; Cpl Brian West RH; Sgt Mick Green R Signals. The print-out shows how the computer battle is run



Left – LCpl Julie Wells paints a model of a Warsaw Pact helicopter



Right – Maj Andrew (or should he be Andrei?) Hill lends impact to his debrief by appearing in Soviet uniform



## Why the BGT(S) staff doesn't stand on ceremony

Over the years a tradition of friendliness has been maintained, the emphasis being on encouraging battle group commanders to train themselves and their staffs rather than judge them.

The team is a round dozen. Under a lieutenant-colonel

there are four officers, two WO's, a sergeant, a corporal, lance corporal WRAC, a civilian typist and an indispensable lady cleaner.

They are a cheerful bunch who do not stand on ceremony. The CO has been known to mow the lawn; the SO2s to clip

the privet.

SOLDIER came across the chief clerk, Cpl Brian West, RH, painting the gate, while LCpl Julie Wells, WRAC, was smartening up a Soviet helicopter with a lick of paint under the direction of WO2 Colin Farnell, Int Corps who is

always on the side of the "baddies".

With the BGT in demand on weekends by the TA and University OTCs, plus an increasing requirement for home defence exercises and an occasional visitation from the Dutch Marine Commandos, it

is a posting that requires stamina as well as a sense of humour.

It may be situated in an old ex Salvation Army hut but rather than Blood and Iron its motto could really be that of the old Windmill Theatre – We Never Close.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### Tanks and tactics

WHEN the British Mk I tanks first went into action on September 15, 1916 they faced the threat of artillery and armour piercing bullets.

Effective as these counter-weapons were, it was apparent that tanks would one day face each other in battle.

This day came on April 24, 1918 at Villers Bretonneux when British and German tanks clashed for the first time.

Kenneth Macksey examines this revolutionary tactical development in *Tank versus Tank*, exhaustively covering armoured engagements up to the Yom Kippur War of October 1973.

The author has compiled what is in effect a plain language manual of armoured warfare. — BJ

**Tank versus Tank: the illustrated story of armoured battlefields in the twentieth century** by Kenneth Macksey. Published by Bantam Press. Price £14.95.

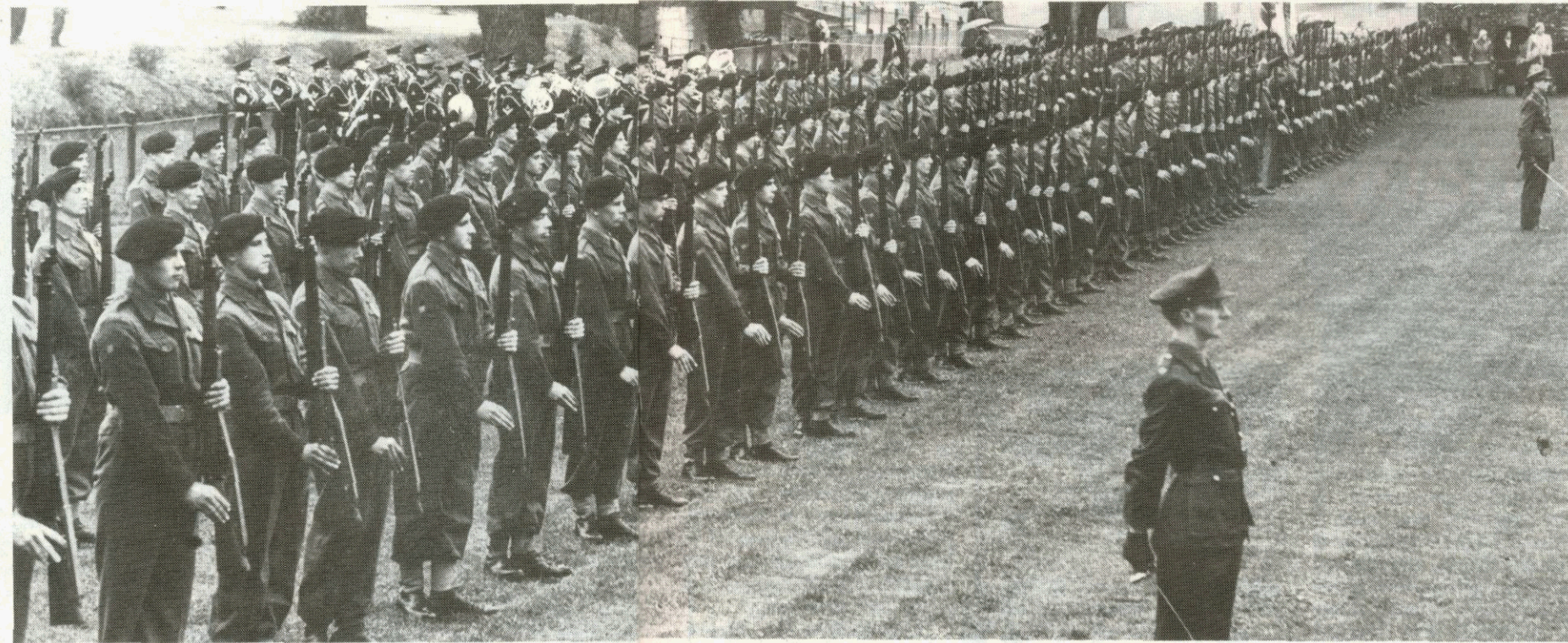
## Suffolks: The final chapter

THE Suffolk Regiment was raised in 1685, numbered 12th Regiment of Foot in 1751, given its county title in 1881, and ceased to exist as a separate element of the Army in 1959.

The regimental history has been recorded in three volumes published in 1914, 1928 and 1946, and now the fourth and final volume, by F A Godfrey, has been published to complete this story.

Maj Godfrey was commissioned into the regiment in 1949, serving in BAOR, Berlin, Cyprus, Sarawak, Aden, Malta, Libya and Malaya, giving him first hand experience of the events in the period covered by this last part of the regimental history.

Each chapter describes a tour of duty of one battalion, including a general picture of its role, why it was there, and a coverage of events during the



Men of The Royal Suffolk Regiment at Bury St Edmonds in April 1953 or their return from Malaya where the 1st Battalion's reputation was unequalled

tour, with a second part of each chapter containing a chronological account of the battalion's experiences.

This must have been a demanding task as, in the author's words: "The end of the Second World War saw

battalions of the Suffolk Regiment spread throughout the length and breadth of the world."

There is also a chapter devoted to the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Territorial battalions.

Although there were no world wars or major conflicts in the period covered by Maj Godfrey's history, members of the regiment won 18 awards for gallantry, and 70 mentions in dispatches for distinguished and gallant service.

It is the regiment's service in Malaya between 1949 and 1953 that provides the core of the book, naturally so as the 1st Battalion's reputation was unequalled by any other British battalion throughout the 12-year emergency in that land.

The Suffolk Regiment traditions and legends live on in *The Royal Anglian Regiment*. — BJ

**The History of The Suffolk Regiment 1946-1959** by F A Godfrey. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £17.50.

## A great escaper

MAJ Jack Pringle was one of the great escapers of the Second World War.

During the 3½ years that he spent "inside", he contrived to spend quite a lot of time "outside", escaping no fewer than six times and becoming one of the few officers to be awarded the MC for his escaping efforts.

He was captured while with the 8th Hussars in Libya in late 1941 and from then until he was released from the notorious Colditz Castle in Saxony saw the inside of 11 prisons ranging from the south of Italy to Czechoslovakia.

One of his partners in four escapes and in setting up escape organisations within prisons was Col David Stirling, founder of the SAS. The exciting story of Maj Pringle's exploits is recalled in his book *Colditz Last Stop*. Published by William Kimber. Price £13.50.



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## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**O'Kane's Korea** by Henry O'Kane. The author's tale of three years of combat and captivity in Korea 1950-53. Published privately and available from the author, South Lodge, Honiley, near Kenilworth, Warwicks CV8 1NP. Price £5.75.

**British Army Cloth Insignia, 1940 to the present** by Brian L Davis. Illustrated reference guide for collectors. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £7.95.

**The Bullet Catchers** by Tony Geraghty. The author looks at the "bodyguard boom" brought on in the '80s by the risk of terrorism, political assassination and kidnapping. The first attempt, says Geraghty, by a professional author to analyse the craft of the bodyguard. Published by Grafton Books. Price £14.95.

**Louis XIV's Army** by René Chartrand. How Louis and his commanders transformed a virtual disorderly rabble into an empire building weapon. No 203 in the Men-at-Arms series published by Osprey. Price £4.50.

**A Soldier of the Company** by Capt Albert Hervey. Abridged version of the memoirs of Capt Hervey, recounting his experiences as an Indian Ensign 1833-43. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £15.95.

**All Spirits** by John Vaughan. Recollections of the author, from schooling at St John's, Leatherhead, to landing by glider in Normandy as a medical officer in the 2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Published by Merlin Books. Price £6.95.

**That Last Mountain** by Terence Strong. Thriller in which SAS and Spetsnaz teams clash in a battle over a Soviet scientist with Star Wars secrets. Published by Hodder and Stoughton. Price £12.95.

**Panzers in the Desert and Waffen-SS in Russia**, both by Bruce Quarrie. Re-publications by Patrick Stephens. Price £4.99 each in paperback.

**Nothing of Importance** by Bernard Adams. Detailed description, first published in 1917, of the everyday routine of infantrymen in France and Flanders in the "quiet" period between the Battle of Loos and the Somme offensive. Published by Strong Oak Press with Tom Donovan. Price £11.95.

**Northern Ireland Soldiers Talking** by Max Arthur. Reissue in paperback of soldiers' experiences in and thoughts on the Northern Ireland 'troubles'. Published by Sidgwick and Jackson. Price £8.95.

**Weapons of the Waffen-SS** by Bruce Quarrie. Development and tactical use of the vast range of weaponry employed by the Waffen-SS, from small arms to tanks. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £14.95.

**Chronology of the Great War**, with introduction by Gwyn Baylis. Eight hundred page day-by-day and theatre-by-theatre record of the complex events of the First World War. First published under the auspices of the Ministry of Information soon after the war ended. New edition by Greenhill Books. Price £25.

● More briefs on next page

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# Versatility from Germany

## RANGERS ANNIVERSARY

1st Bn Royal Irish Rangers, Band,  
Pipes, Bugles and Drums  
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Pipe Major: J Oakes  
Bugle Major: A G Pitman  
Drum Major: B Keys

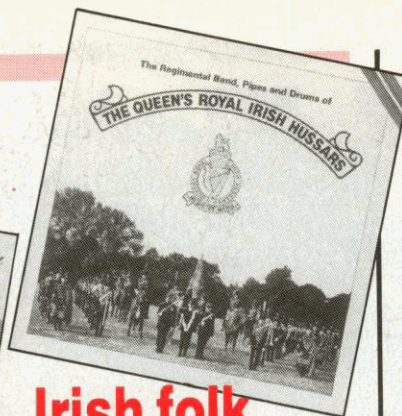
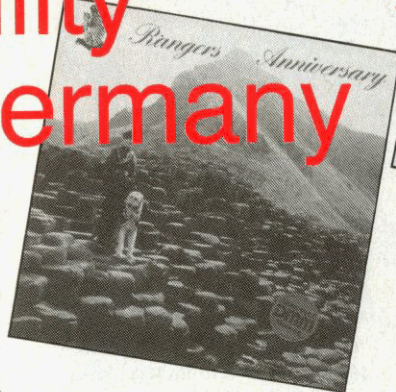
THE GERMAN population, and of course the regiment, have been enjoying the musical versatility of the Rangers for some time now, and this disc was recorded in Germany. Due to their past amalgamations the regiment have three of the four musical elements of the British Army, a luxury they make very good use of by various permutations of these elements, and also producing what seems to me a creditable Irish folk group.

After the *Kerry March* arranged by ersatz Irishman Lt Col Mike Lane, there is a pipe set of eight well known tunes, a piece I hadn't heard before by Derek Kimberley aptly named

*Piping Hot* for pipes and band, and the *Sunset Salute* which combines all three elements in an attractive arrangement. A solo piper with band plays a *Ranger's Lament* in memory of a famous Ranger, and side one ends with the regimental march *Killaloe* which I found rather too restrained. I've heard it rendered, on parade admittedly, enough to make your hair stand on end.

Then some light music to vary the menu. All piping hot stuff, with very acceptable tuning between pipes, bugles and band.

● From PRI, 1 RIR, BFPO 36. Price £6.



## Irish folk and cavalry trumpets . . .

### The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars

Band and Pipes and Drums  
Bandmaster: D W Cresswell  
Pipe Major: J Walker  
MM 0645

A SIMILAR record to The Royal Irish Rangers in that there is a mixture of Irish folkish music, light music, and pipe numbers. Instead of bugles the Hussars, of course, have cavalry trumpets, though they are not used here.

Unlike the Rangers' buglers though, the cavalry trumpeters must come from the ranks of the band, whether they play cornets, clarinets or flutes, a cross to be borne by all concerned. A cross lightly borne on the evidence of this programme, nicely varied and played with spirit.

Goff Richards' now famous march *The Jaguar* gives it a rousing start, with such lively items as *Carnival of Venice* as a cornet solo, *Phil the Fluter's Ball*, and a medley *Irish Festival* to follow. An especially lively concoction is *Galop Humoresque* by C T Smith whoever he may be; he should certainly be heard more of if he can produce the goods like this.

With the pipes we have the band playing *Carlingford Loch*, *Highland Cathedral*, and a real treat if you've never heard *Abide With Me* on bagpipes with band accompaniment! It's amazing and graceful what the pipes can be made to do ever since a well publicised contretemps with a certain reviewer.

There is one of those upward whiners here, but on occasion they can be acceptably atmospheric.

On their own the pipes and drums play *Green Glens of Antrim*, *Star of the County Down*, *Minstrel Boy* and three other tunes before joining the band in the *Regimental March*.

● From Music Masters, £6.05 inclusive, disc or cassette.

# AFGHAN MINES

● From Page 35

while providing the team with endless cups of tea.

At one of the Shamshatoo refugee camps, the three sappers sat down to an open air meeting and were surprised to see individuals walking in from over the rocky hillscape to talk to them.

Said Col Sloan: "It was quite an odd feeling being surrounded by all these seemingly rogues and bandits. In fact, they turned out to be extremely polite and very interested in what we were doing and just wouldn't stop talking to us and giving us information."

"They made us feel extremely welcome and gave us a great send off."

Peshawar they described as quite a wild place. Evidently the inhabitants celebrate by going into the streets and firing their Kalashnikovs, Lee-Enfields and even old Martini Henry rifles into the air.

"In the event, the wise thing to do is to get indoors or get rained on by a hail of bullets," he said.

Much has been made of the thousands of amputees who abound in the refugee camps, and an encounter with one left a deep impression on the team.

He was a Mujahideen whose operational role inside Afghanistan was mine removal. In the course of operations he had lost not only an arm but both legs.

But his spirit remained undaunted. Recovering in hospital from his ordeal he pleaded with medical staff to provide him with artificial limbs to he could carry on with his mine removal work!

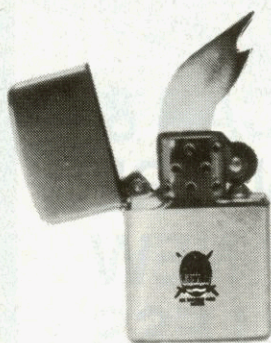
## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**Inside the US Army Today** by Gordon L Rottman. Recruitment and training techniques, clothing and equipment of the modern US Army. No 20 in Elite series published by Osprey. Price £5.50.

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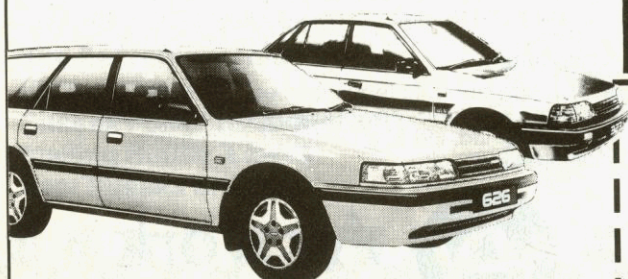


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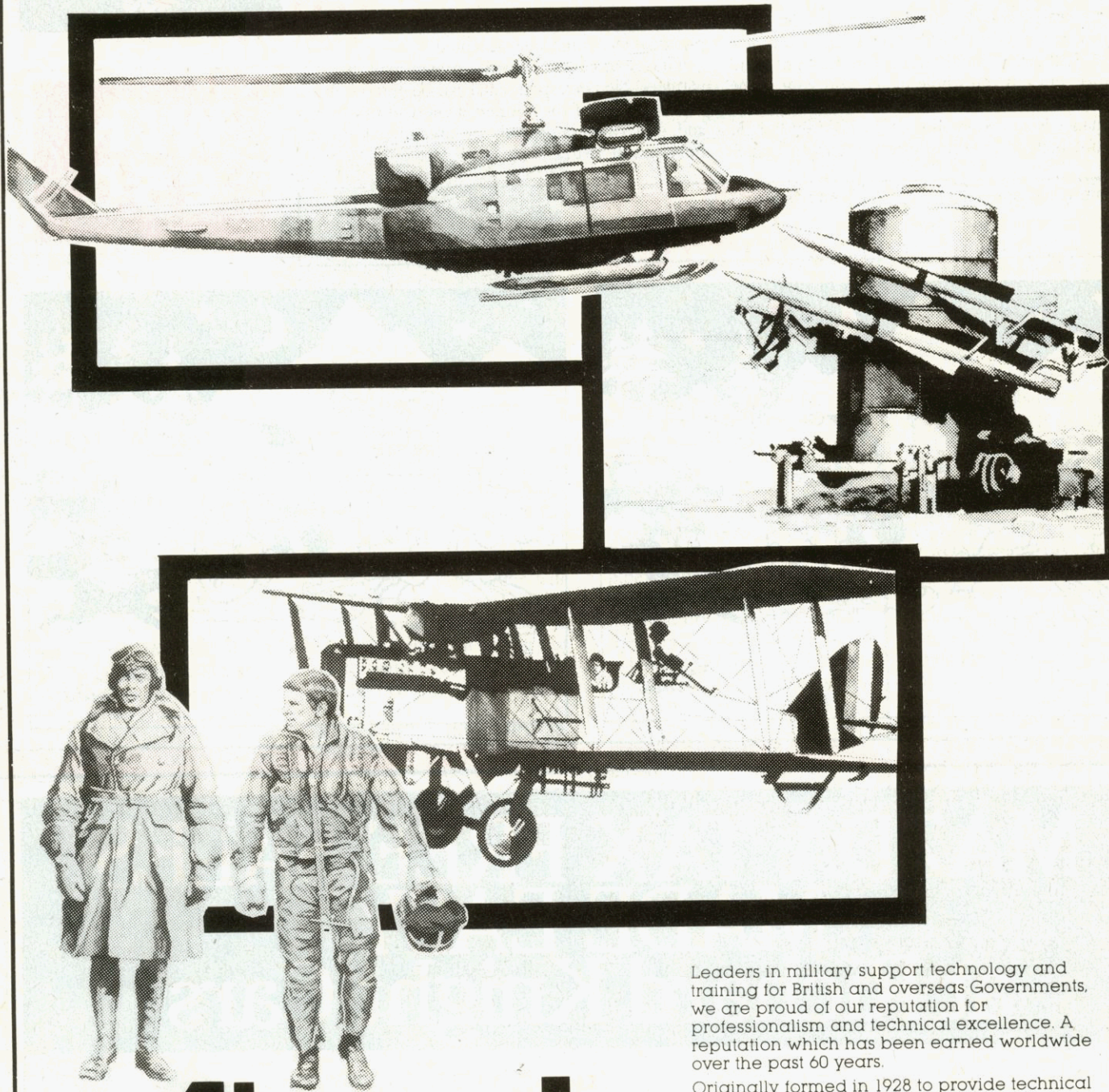
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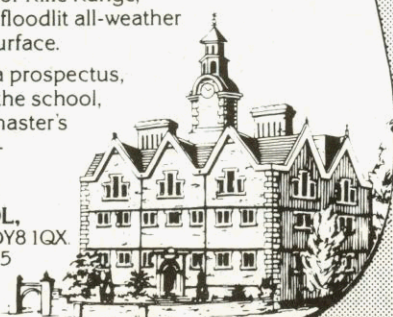
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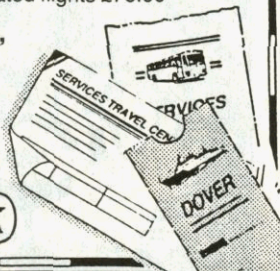
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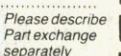
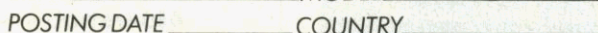
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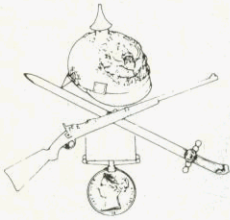
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LCpl George Graham surges forward with the ball, supported by 2nd Lt Bob Wainwright, Sgt Brian Richardson (RAF), SSgt Graham Morgan and SSgt Stevie Peacock



Lineout concentration from the Combined Services forwards. At the front of the line are LCpl George Graham and Cpl Colin Hall



SAC Paul Hull of the RAF makes a desperate attempt to stop the speedy Australian centre Brad Girvan during one of his many attacking runs

## Gunners pull their weight

THERE was a first place and two seconds for 19 Fd Regt at the BAOR indoor tug of war championships at Ubique Barracks, Dortmund in a competition dominated by gunners.

19 Fd Regt won the 640kg

class with 40 Fd Regt as runners up and themselves were runners up in the 680kg and 560kg classes. The heaviest category was won by 40 Fd Regt while 3 RHA nipped in to take the lightest class.

## Roger up against Seve & co

EVERY golf lover's dream – a free golfing holiday in Spain – came true for REME officer Capt Roger Crook.

He won his sporting trip after outscoring 60 fellow military competitors during a keenly contested competition in Northern Ireland sponsored by Volvo Tourist and Diplomatic Car Sales.

Most exciting part of his prize was a place in the Pro-Am competition which preceded the Volvo Masters tournament at Sotogrande in Spain. He played with Welsh professional David Llewellyn and had the opportunity to rub shoulders with world class golfers such as Seve Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo.

## Sappers take badminton title

FOLLOWING their success at the RE Games, 35 Engr Regt won the BAOR Inter Unit badminton doubles championships through the 42 Fd Sqn pairing of LCpl Leslie McMillan and LCpl James Maxwell.

They emerged as the champions after three days of tough competition involving teams from all over Germany.

THE Combined Services entertained the touring Wallabies in front of a large crowd at Aldershot military Stadium on a bitterly cold night, writes John Quin.

The Australians, with nine of the team that lost to England on view and with a recent victory over Scotland still tingling in their blood, turned the night into a hot showpiece of swift running and fast passing.

After a fiery start by the Combined Services which saw them open the scoring when SAC Paul Hull of the RAF struck a good penalty, the Australians came fully into the game.

After 20 minutes Services led 3-0 and were playing "out of their skins", defending like madmen as hordes of yellow shirts swept down on them.

The Wallaby scoring

machine opened up and ran in nine tries, six of which were converted by full back David Knox who also scored two tries.

But the Services (three Royal Navy, five Royal Air Force and seven Army) battled on to the end and the large crowd gave flanker 2nd Lt Bon Wainwright, RAMC, probably the loudest cheer of the night when he crashed over for the only Services' try minutes from the end.

The Army lads showed great promise for the Inter Services tournament to come as they will undoubtedly form the nucleus of the 1989 Army XV.

Sgt Chris Spowart, APTC, was excellent in the centre, especially in defence, skipper Lt John Steele, RA, and SSgt Graham Morgan, REME, provided a busy half back pair. Of the forwards, prop LCpl

George Graham, A and SH, and the ageless hooker WO2 Bobby Matthews, RE, fought bravely in the heat of the front row while young policeman Cpl Colin Hall, RMP, and Wainwright stuck to trying to win the ball against the massive Australian pack.

On the departure of injured RAF Cpl Dave Parsonage, a warm reception was given to replacement SSgt Stevie Peacock, APTC, who, as Signalman Peacock, played his first Combined Services game, also against the Wallabies, way back in 1975. Not a bad record!

The Services, though, can claim to have won the third half at the now traditional regimental guest night after the game. As the Aussies climbed on to their coach, exhausted, the Combined Services lads were just warming up in the bar!

## Hunt cup back in the family

place over a course riders do not see until the off.

This year it was held at Down Farm, Westonbirt, Gloucestershire, the 22 obstacles including stone walls, hedges and post and rail fences.

Though straying briefly off the course while he was in the lead Maj Andrew Phillips still finished second.

THE TOUGH Regimental Sprout Hunt Cup Race of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards provided a family triumph for Capt (Retd) Luke Borwick.

His grandfather won the cup the year it was presented to The Royal Scots Greys – 1906 – and his father won it between the wars.

The three-mile race takes

DUE TO an exceptionally large number of injury problems the Army colts rugby team had to struggle in their first two county championship games, writes Peter Salisbury.

Against Hampshire at Basingstoke there were eight changes to the selected side and after 20 minutes the Army lost their scrum half with concussion, adding further to their problems.

However, replacement scrum half Cfn Rob Pemberton (SEME Bordon) had a good game as did some of the other reserve players, so much so that several of them deservedly kept their places the following week.

Hampshire were strong up front and dominated the first half to lead 16-0 at the interval. But the Army proved the fitter side and hit back strongly in the second half scoring two tries, both converted by Cfn Mick Cotton (SEME Bordon) to make the final score 16-12.

The Army back row of Spr Martin Canton (22 Engr Regt), AT SSgt Jason Jeffrey (PMC Arborfield), the new captain, and Gdsm Peter Morris (2 Gren Gds) played particularly well with Canton scoring one of the tries. The other try scorer was AT Sgt Lee Morris (PMC Arborfield) who again showed

## Colts hit by injuries

his pace on the left wing.

Kent were much stronger than Hampshire, particularly at forward, and the Army did well to hold them to 17-3 at half time, Cotton scoring the Army's points with a penalty. For a while in the second half Kent continued to dominate but towards the end the Army began to hold their own and scored a consolation try through Pemberton after good work by fly half Cotton. The final score was 34-7.

A feature of the Army's play was some courageous tackling, notably by full back Pte Lee Roberts (1 Glosters), which helped to keep the score within reasonable bounds.

With several first choice players still on the injured list the Army are up against it but hopefully matters will improve soon.

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## Jordanians hold off Cyprus challenge

A LARGE crowd at Happy Valley saw the Cyprus Polo Association (CPA) defeat for the first time ever the Royal Jordan Polo Club, and since then the visitors have been waiting to avenge their defeat.

Their opportunity came when the two teams again met, this time at Zetqa, 30 miles north of the Jordanian capital, Amman.

CPA captain, Maj Johnny Rogers said: "The Jordanians do not take defeat lightly and go to considerable lengths to ensure this does not happen on their home ground."

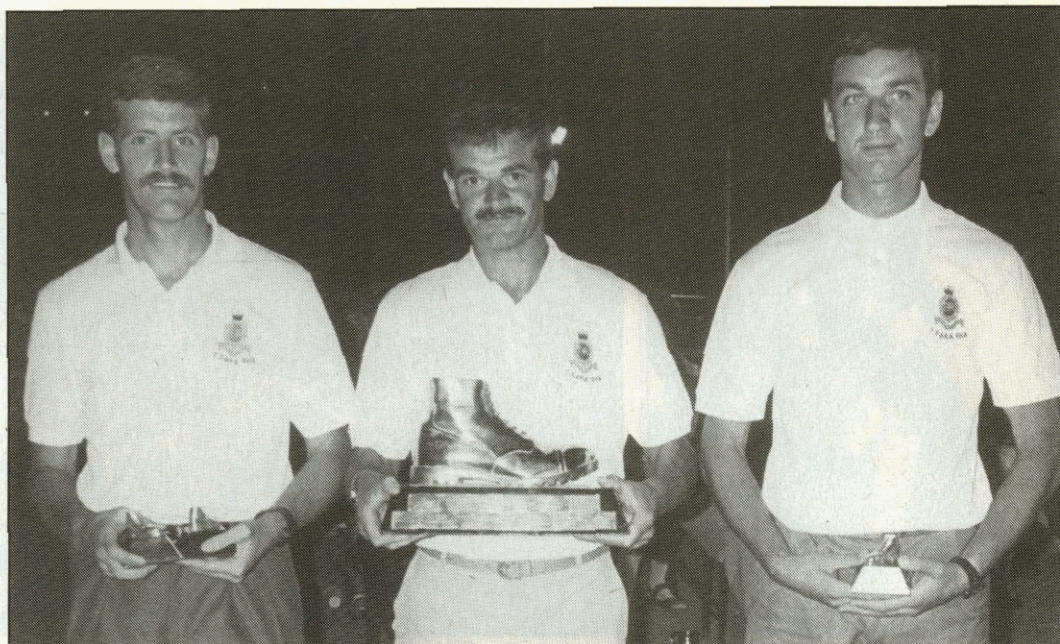
Within two minutes Cyprus scored and the vast and partisan crowd was stunned. Their sense of shock was further intensified when the British Forces team scored again and went off at the end of the first chukka leading 2-0.

During the second chukka, Maj Sean Mahony, power house of the British team, broke his hand and although he bravely played on, he could not produce his best form.

At half-time the score was level at 2-2.

The Jordanians managed two goals in the third chukka although the British team rallied in the final period.

Crown Prince Hassan, who played a solid game, received the magnificent trophy on behalf of his team, while the British team pondered on how close they had come.



### Flying gunners triumph

7 RHA beat 76 teams from the UK, Germany and Cyprus in the now famous Cyprus Walkabout, renowned as the toughest and most prestigious orienteering competition of them all. This year for the first time a women's team competed, and seven of the top teams came from overseas. Pictured are the 7 RHA winners - Sgt Maj Douglas Condy, Sgt Maj Philip Stuart and Bdr Ken Fewkes with their silver boot trophies

# GOAL RUSH

Army 4, Essex 0

PLAYING some delightfully attacking football, the Army trounced Essex by four goals to nil at Aldershot, writes Pat Massey.

It might have been a massacre if Chelmsford City 'keeper Paul Casey had not been in inspired form, including one brilliant save from Cpl Alan Higgins, R Sigs.

Before the match the soldiers had been worried about their lack of height in the middle of the defence, but as it turned out

## Army trounces Essex and Oxford University

the visitors were so busy themselves defending that the Army defence was seldom tested.

Sgt Pat Russell, APTC, opened the scoring when he walloped home a chance laid on by Cpl Steve Welsh, R Sigs, and Sgt Mickey Spencer, APTC.

Several chances went begging as the Army swarmed all over the Essex defence, and Casey brilliantly saved a well struck penalty by Higgins. But Russell put the Army two up before the break.

After the interval skipper Sgt Sandy Brown, R Sigs, scored twice to cap a fine performance by his team.

**Army XI 5, Oxford University 2**

FOR the annual fixture with Oxford University the Army turned out a Reserve XI with only one of the senior squad in the party.

They were still good enough

to win with a margin to spare.

Two goals mid-way through the opening half gave them a cushion which they never looked like losing. Pte Paul Rogers, Inf, slotted in the first and three minutes later, Fus Ivan Steel, 1 RHF, split a rather square defence for Cpl Sean Gilman, RAOC, to fire home from the edge of the penalty area.

In the 58th minute, Pte Mark Jenkins, Inf, squeezed a free kick under the visiting 'keeper and, after Oxford had pulled one back, Steel restored the three goal lead when he raced down the right, danced his way into the penalty area, and shot into the roof of the net from close in.

After Oxford skipper Mark Crawley had scored his second, Sgt Gavin Wood, REME, the sole member of the senior squad on duty, had a couple of whacks at the ball before forcing it home in a goalmouth mêlée.



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Testing the waters! A Spartan mounted with Milan gets its tracks wet during Exercise Rhine Ranger, which involved the men and machines of 2 R Irish based at Lemgo, West Germany. Turn to Pages 32 and 33 for a story and more pictures.