

SOLDIER

MARCH 19 1990

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MARCH 19, 1990

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CONTENTS

4 Letters

7 Newsline

10 People

13 3 LI and 1 QLR in swap

15 Bernard Cornwell interview

19 SOLDIER anniversary

20 Camera at war

23 SOLDIER to Soldier

25 KOSB in Ulster

30 Saxons on Dragon's Fire

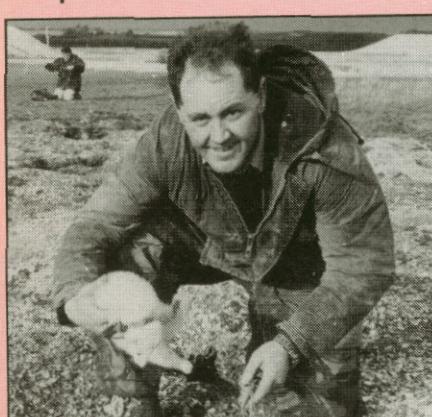
33 Falklands pilgrimage

34 Anne Armstrong

36 Book reviews

43 HOAY competition

52 Sport



What is WO2 Jock Kelly up to? SOLDIER has been to 1 PWO to find out. Read about it in the next issue.

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

Card will slash third off price of coach travel

A FORCES discount Coachcard similar to the popular Railcard has been worked out with National Express and, with the full blessing of the Ministry of Defence, is to be launched on April 1.

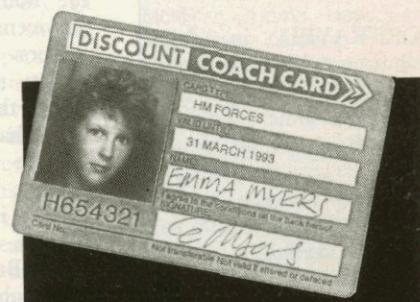
It will entitle all Regular Servicemen and women and their spouses (but not their children) to a third off the price of a normal coach ticket for nearly all National Express and Caledonian Express services in mainland Britain.

National Express points out that its standard fares for children aged five to 16 are already discounted by 33 per cent from the full adult fare. Dependant children aged 16 to 23 are eligible for the Young Person's Coachcard which offers similar benefits to the Forces Coachcard for a nominal charge of £5.

For Service personnel, some restrictions may be placed on the level of discount offered when special or local fares already apply, but National Express agents can advise on these exceptions.

Negotiations, which have been carried out by PS10(A) on behalf of all three Services, are now continuing on the possibility of developing discounts for Euroline coach services for travel in Europe.

An MoD spokesman said it was unlikely that any significant discount would be offered on routes from



- 33 per cent discount
- Available from April 1
- Europe may be included

Germany to the United Kingdom because these fares were already heavily subsidised.

The scheme is to run initially for three years from April 1, although National Express is to review it after the first year.

Details of the Coachcard have already been circulated to all units and a DCI is to be published soon.

National Express says many of its services from Penzance in Cornwall to Thurso in Scotland have special stops serving Forces establishments. The normal adult return off-peak coach fare from London to Manchester is currently £15. For Forces Coachcard holders it will reduce to £10.

FRONT COVER: A dramatic shot of one of the bobs which took part in the 1990 Foster's Inter-Services bobsleigh championships at Breuil Cervinia

in the Italian Alps. The famous Matterhorn is in the background. Another picture and story in Page 54.

Picture: Geordie Smith, PInfo BFG

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

LI river rescue happened at night

YOUR article "Chopper pilot plucked LI pair from flash flood" (January 22) gives an accurate description of Capt Wiebe's actions but omitted one vital fact - the rescue took place at night.

The incident took place many miles away from the training areas normally used by the Army, in terrain which was mostly unfamiliar. Flying a Gazelle helicopter at night, with no discernible horizon,

Capt Wiebe and his crew displayed extraordinary skill and bravery.

None of us who were with the battalion at the time will forget what they did. - Lt Col Richard Sale, LI, Oxon.

Trumpet was also a fiddle

BELATEDLY reading your article (September 4, 1989) on the reunion of ex-Boy Trumpeters - The Fiddlers Club - I noticed with some amusement that the reason for the title "Fiddler" was "lost in the mists of time" and that as we had so little to eat it may have been that we spent a great deal of time "on the fiddle" to supplement our rations and pay!

Keeping the record straight I would like to point out that the trumpet was more often than not referred to as a fiddle. My RSM always called me "Fiddler" and he was not one given to frivolous terms of address, nor likely to have done anything other than incarcerate me had he thought the other was applicable!

This misunderstanding would probably not have arisen if we had called our association The Badges Club - the trumpeters I knew in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps were also called "Badgie".

Obviously to make our views heard we must speak with a concerted voice. We believe that through discussions with the Ministry of Defence and membership of various bodies (one of which is at Government level) the Federation of Army Wives provides that voice. - Judy Street, Chairman, Federation of Army Wives (UKLF), c/o FHWS, UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts.

After all that, thank you for your article - it was great publicity. - Lt Col A J C Taylor, Chairman, The Fiddlers Club, 43 Wellington Way, Salisbury, Hants.

FAW voice heard on housing

I HAVE been interested in various articles in SOLDIER over the past few months about the housing problems facing Servicemen at the end of their careers.

You may be interested to know that this is a subject which has been well researched by the Federation of Army Wives. Last year we were closely involved in the Ten-Minute Rule Bill tabled by Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, about home ownership for the Services.

The Federation is also a member of the Government-sponsored body, the Women's National Commission, which is currently investigating homelessness as it affects women in general. I am a member of their Working Group which started taking evidence in December 1989 and which is due to publish its report in June 1990.

You can rest assured that after full discussions with the Ministry of Defence I am putting across the particular

problems faced not only by estranged Service wives but also by Service families.

At the Federation's Conference last year we had two resolutions concerned with housing at the end of a Serviceman's career, both of which were well supported.

It is clear that the problems are not going to be cured overnight and, being inclined to pessimism occasionally, I feel they are going to get worse as council housing stock continues to decrease. It is essential that our specific problems are aired in the right quarters.

This misunderstanding would probably not have arisen if we had called our association The Badges Club - the trumpeters I knew in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps were also called "Badgie".

A number of our older members have written to me saying they were concerned that the term "Fiddler" might imply a roguish or swindling character to the uninformed and I hope this letter has put the record straight - High Court action is not anticipated!

Obviously to make our views heard we must speak with a concerted voice. We believe that through discussions with the Ministry of Defence and membership of various bodies (one of which is at Government level) the Federation of Army Wives provides that voice. - Judy Street, Chairman, Federation of Army Wives (UKLF), c/o FHWS, UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts.

Buller did not overlap old McGregor Barracks

MAY I correct an answer you gave Mr H Skeggs (February 19). You said the barracks opposite the Cambridge in Aldershot was McGregor Barracks, now the site of Buller Barracks.

For the record, McGregor Barracks stopped at the married quarters, which are still standing; the old guard room is still standing; and the GU unit of the hospital was one of the married quarters.

What has been called Buller Barracks for the past 90-odd years is the site of lines occupied by the Military Train in the mid-1850s and it has been the home of the Army Service Corps, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport since.

No part of Buller Barracks overlaps the old McGregor Barracks. - J C Atlee, Archive Friend of RCT Museum, Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

Pipe drill

IN the report on the EOD pipe mine removal operation (SOLDIER, February 5) it was stated the pipes were packed with gelignite and driven into the ground. In fact, the pipes were drilled into position and then the gelignite inserted. We didn't fancy blowing ourselves up! - Bill Ralph, Ex-179 Special Tunnelling Coy RE, 113 Station Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hants.

• We are assured that the haggis, supplied by Naafi, did not suffer. - Editor.

£50 on its way

Mr D Faulkner, of Griffiths Road, High Green, Sheffield, has won £50 first prize in HOAY competition No 480. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs P Croft, of Glenside, Wraghington, Wigan, and Mr S J Wilson, of Haigh Street, Cleethorpes.

REUNIONS

• The Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades Association Beccles and District Branch standard dedication and parade, Beccles Town Centre, Sunday May 20, 1990, 2.30pm. All ex-Suffolks welcome.

• Gordon Highlanders Regimental Gathering and Reunion, Sunday April 29, 1990, Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. All who have served in the Regiment welcome. Details from RHQ, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 7XH (tel: 0224 318174).

• 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards annual OCA dinner will be held on Saturday May 12, 1990 in The Surrey Banqueting Suite, Kennington Oval, London. Tickets and details from Maj (Retd) K D McMillan, Home Headquarters, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 227611 ext 8213/8227).

• Canadian Women's Army Corps Veterans from the Second World War are invited to attend the 32nd annual reunion in Toronto, Canada, September 28-29, 1990. For brochure, write to CWAC Veterans Reunion Chairman, Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1C9 (tel: 781-2872/781-3821).

SEARCHLINE

• Cloth beret: Mr S T Nuttall, 5 Alexander Gardens, Cawthron, Barnsley, S Yorks S75 4EW, seeks information on when the cloth-type beret, of a khaki gaberdine type material, was first issued in the Second World War.

• Steamer Point, Aden: All ex-members of 51st Coast Regt RA please contact Ken (Taffy) Price, 57 Elm Grove South, Barnham, Bognor Regis, W Sussex PO22 0EJ.

• Burma-Siam Railway: In connection with the writing of a Book of Remembrance for school friends who died in the Second World War, contact is sought with PoW survivors of the railway who were at Tarsa Camp June-July, 1943. Information please to Victor Redfern, White House, Ludford, Lincoln LN3 6AD (tel: 050781 608).

• German Servicemen in the Second World War: First-hand accounts of personal contact with German servicemen are sought for a compilation of experiences entitled *Far From Being All Bad*. Contact Gerald Rowe (formerly Grenadier Guards), 34 Emmanuel Road, Hastings, Sussex.



SSgt Andrew Mudd RMP, who was seriously injured by a car bomb blast in Colchester last November, pictured with his wife Maggie after receiving the British Empire Medal and a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. His BEM, announced in the New Year Honours, was awarded for his leadership of an RMP Close Protection Team in Beirut from November 1988 to May 1989

Forces' pay rise is 'a disgrace'

THE pay rise for the Forces is a disgrace, so how you can print "It'll pay to stay" (February 19) is beyond me.

What should have been printed is "Forces pay a disgrace" or words to that effect, in bold red letters. In fact, something like that should make the national papers.

I am more than confident that the majority of Servicemen will back me up. It is about time the Armed Forces were looked after better instead of being treated like dirt.

I am an avid reader of SOLDIER, but your headline to the article in question made me boil. - A Disillusioned Soldier (name and address supplied), Liverpool.

• We make no apology for the headline, which referred to the new retention bonuses - Editor.

'Sniffers' trained by Army

MAY I deprecate the wearing of casual dress by senior officers on ceremonial occasions?

In the past, SOLDIER has carried photographs of quarter guards who have spent many hours preparing their No 1 or No 2 dress being inspected by some senior officer dressed as for an exercise or a day in the office.

The latest example is on Page 10 of the February 19 issue, where four long-serving members of 1 QLR in No 2 dress have received their honourable awards of the LS and GC from a brigadier in a "woolly pully" and barrack trousers.

Contrast this with the adjacent picture of Field Marshal Lord Bramall! - Col G P Wood, 3 Polmont Road, Falkirk.

Cold War recognition

IN the light of the ending of the Cold War would it not be a good idea to issue some form of medal or award for all those who have served their country between 1945 and 1990, including all National Servicemen and those who have served two or three years or more?

The term "war dog", which conjures up images of dreadful beasts, is no longer used and has been replaced by the less emotive "Army" or "Service" dog. - Lt Col P G H Jepson, for Director, Ministry of Defence Army Veterinary and Remount Services, Gallwey Road, Aldershot.

Letters

IN the report on the EOD pipe mine removal operation (SOLDIER, February 5) it was stated the pipes were packed with gelignite and driven into the ground. In fact, the pipes were drilled into position and then the gelignite inserted. We didn't fancy blowing ourselves up! - Bill Ralph, Ex-179 Special Tunnelling Coy RE, 113 Station Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hants.

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Scale of BFG exercises to be reduced

SIGNIFICANT reductions in the programme of major exercises conducted by British Forces in Germany have been announced by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Tom King, who said that the size of two essential exercises will be greatly reduced.

Exercise Keystone (September 1-25) will now involve only 9,000 troops, compared with 18,000 originally, while Exercise Quarter Final (October 5-28) has been

reduced from 29,000 to 13,000 troops, of which only 8,000 will exercise at any one time. In addition, Keystone will be confined to designated military training areas and Quarter Final's exercise area will be cut by half.

The change in plans is a reflection of developments in Nato exercise philosophy, and recognition of the social and environmental impact of major exercises on

the German people. The decisions relate to the 1990 exercise programme only. Plans for future years will be considered on their merits and MoD will not rule out large scale exercises in the future, especially those designed to practise reinforcement.

The decision will mean disappointment for many Territorial Army soldiers who will have lost their major overseas training exercise - Keystone - this year.



Pictures: Terry Champion
The smiling Queen talks to a company commander about to receive a box of imitation leeks. On the Queen's left is Maj Tony Davies, on her right Lt Col Paul Belcher



Laura-Jane Harvey (9) presents a bouquet to the Queen

Royal start to Welsh Guards celebrations

THE 75th anniversary celebrations of the Welsh Guards were given a royal start when the Queen visited Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright on St David's Day to present imitation leeks to members of the 1st Battalion.

Although the Warrant creating the regiment was signed by King George V on February 26, 1915, the first time a body of Welsh Guardsmen was formed was when it mounted King's Guard at Buckingham Palace a few days later on St David's Day.

It was the Queen's first official visit to the regiment. She was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, who was Colonel of the Welsh Guards until he was succeeded by the Prince of Wales five years ago. The regimental tradition of presenting imitation leeks on parade began in 1922.

Leeks were given to the Queen and Prince

Philip by the quartermaster, Maj Tony Davies. It was the last parade to be taken by Lt Col Paul Belcher, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, before he was posted to the Ministry of Defence on promotion to colonel.

The parade consisted of men of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards staff and recruits of the Guards Depot, retired officers and Welsh Guards Association members.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented by the Duke of Edinburgh to WO2 John Downes, CSgt Clive Reeves and Sgt David Jenkins. Later the Queen and the Duke visited both Guardsmen's and Sergeants' messes before lunching with the officers.

Laura-Jane Harvey, nine-year-old daughter of RQMS Neil Harvey and wife Tina, presented a bouquet to the Queen.

Financial Service to the Services



Buying a car

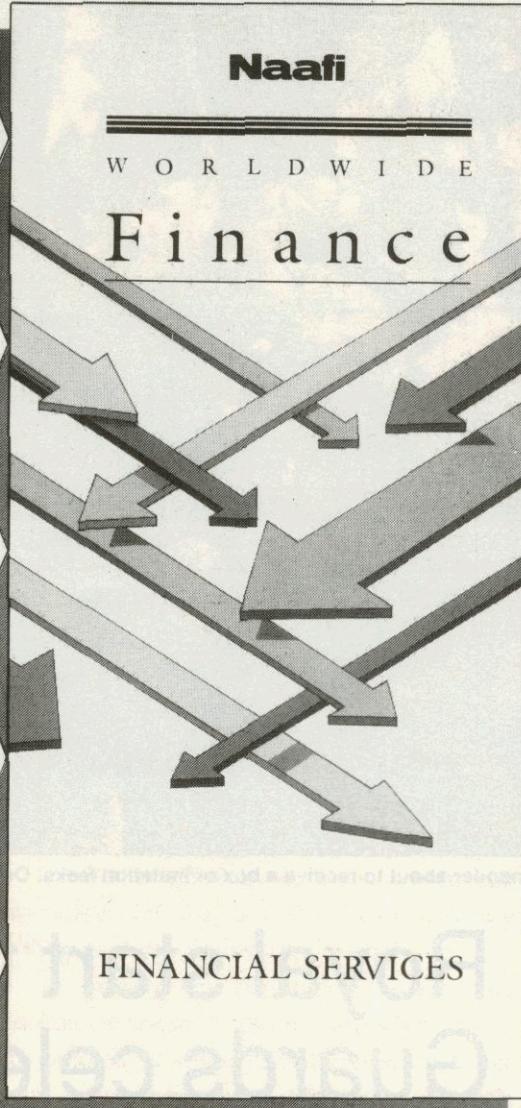
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Maj Gen David Quayle, Major General Royal Artillery, inspects the troops and 155mm M109A2 guns of 40 Field Regiment RA at Hohne, West Germany during a visit to mark his retirement. Gen Quayle commanded the regiment from 1976 to 1978

Sappers fly out in wake of cyclone

TWENTY sappers from 32 Squadron Royal Engineers, stationed in Belize, left by RAF Hercules aircraft for Western Samoa to begin work on the restoration of water and electricity supplies and to carry out repairs to hospitals and schools damaged in the wake of Cyclone Ofa.

A reconnaissance party of three Queen's Gurkha Engineers from Hong Kong arrived in Western Samoa soon after the disaster at the request of the Overseas Development Administration and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Their assessment of the situation in the aftermath of the cyclone was that UK military assistance would be extremely valuable. The sappers will be in Western Samoa for about four weeks.

EOD team to instruct Afghans

THE LATEST team of sappers to train Afghan refugees in mine disposal left Britain at the beginning of March and are expected to be based in northern Pakistan for several months. Led by Lt Col Noel Mulliner, the nine Royal Engineers will join French,

RGJ freshens up 'German' reserves

MORE THAN 50 ex-Regular soldiers now living in West Germany have taken part in a training exercise, staged by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, based in Osnabrück. The men, all reservists who in time of conflict would be recalled to the ranks, have made their homes in West Germany and many have married German girls.

The refresher course, staged by 1 RGJ, consisted of training in general military skills and physical outdoor activities.

Climax of the week was Exercise Green Star during which the reservists practised mechanised infantry battle drills on a training area and patrols were mounted to snatch prisoners from a series of enemy observation posts.

Duisburg barracks breached

DESPITE a heroic last stand by 2nd Lt Mark John and SSgt Tony Dadd and their men the gates of Glamorgan Barracks in Duisburg, West Germany were stormed and the barracks invaded.

But the attackers were welcomed as friends by the 3rd Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT and the ensuing celebrations lasted late into the night. It was the 25th annual storming of the gates, part of Duisburg's carnival celebrations, and the event has become a major local event.

Before the attack, the Band of the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), based in Munster, put on a display and Beat Retreat for guests and spectators. The tradition dates back to 1965.

Some medics withdrawn

ARMY crews providing emergency cover in Somerset, Surrey and Hampshire have been withdrawn, following a return to work by NHS teams. There has been a partial withdrawal in Essex and Manchester, but with the settlement of the dispute still incomplete, more than 100 Army crews were still deploying elsewhere in the UK.

Italian and Yugoslavian EOD experts in teaching returning Afghans how to recognise and dispose of mines.

It is estimated that as many as six million unrecorded mines have been scattered in Afghanistan.

That's a big bunny!

Cupboard love. **Harvey**, regimental pet of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, gives an affectionate peck to Lt **Helen Bishop**, WRAC, who makes sure she (so they made a mistake when they christened her Harvey!) is fed. Harvey used to be tiny – now she must be in the running for the title of biggest bunny in North Germany.

She owes her life to the soft hearts of an officer's children who were stroking "pets" in Hamburg fish market when they learned the animals were being fattened up for the dinner table. When Maj Pat Clarke was posted, Harvey remained and the CO, Lt Col Alwin Hutchinson, promoted her (then thought to be a him) lance-corporal.



PEOPLE



Lancers in the limelight

Some Very Important People have been calling on 9th/12th Royal Lancers at Carver Barracks, near Saffron Walden in Essex.

They include Lt Gen Sir **David Ramsbotham**, Commander United Kingdom Field Army, and Maj Gen **Mike Swindells**, the new Colonel of the Regiment.

Gen Swindells, who is now controller of the Army Benevolent Fund, commanded the regiment between 1969 and 1972. He is pictured meeting Cpl **Duncan Raith** and Sgt **Chris Tofts**.



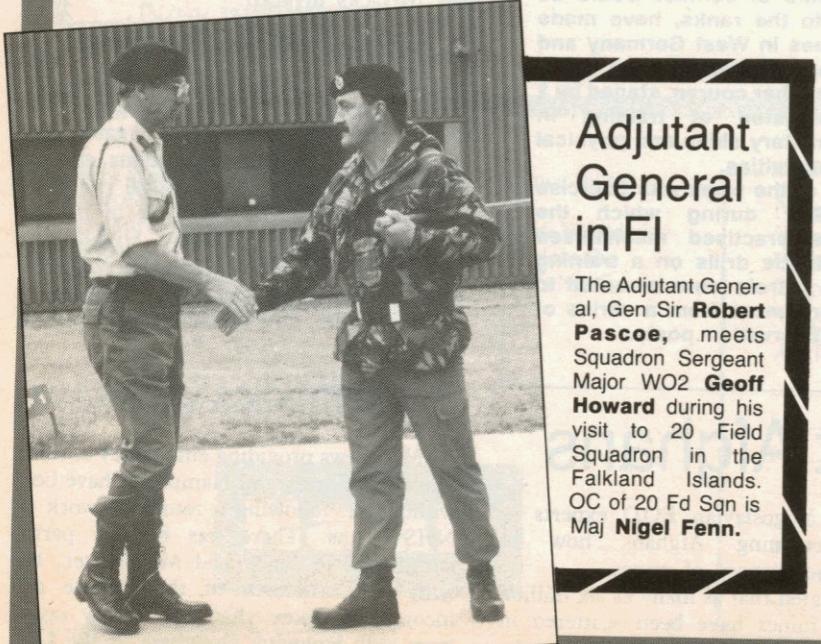
It's for yooo

Craftsman **John Orton** (right) and Herr **Emil Werner**, Mayor of Soltau, polish one of the eight traditional English red telephone boxes shipped to West Germany for local streets.

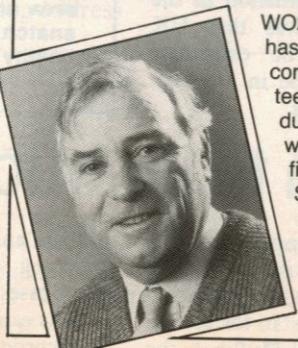
One box is destined for Soltau as a gift from HQ 7 Armoured Brigade to mark the Army's 40th anniversary in the town. The Soltau telephone box was restored by 7 Armoured Workshop at Fallingbostel. John is a metalsmith serving with the unit.

Adjutant General in F1

The Adjutant General, Gen Sir **Robert Pascoe**, meets Squadron Sergeant Major WO2 **Geoff Howard** during his visit to 20 Field Squadron in the Falkland Islands. OC of 20 Fd Sqn is Maj **Nigel Fenn**.



Colin notches up 37 years



WO2 (SSM) **Colin Wilson** (left) has just completed 37 years of continuous service. He volunteered as a Regular in 1953 during National Service and was enlisted into the RAC. His first posting was to the Royal Scots Greys, and subsequently with the 3rd Dragoon Guards. He then served with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as the new regiment's first chief clerk.



TWO UP, TWO DOWN: SSgt Dick Kalinski (top) and Paul Maxwell

It was his 16th jump of the weekend and his passenger was potential AAC officer **Paul Maxwell** from Zimbabwe.

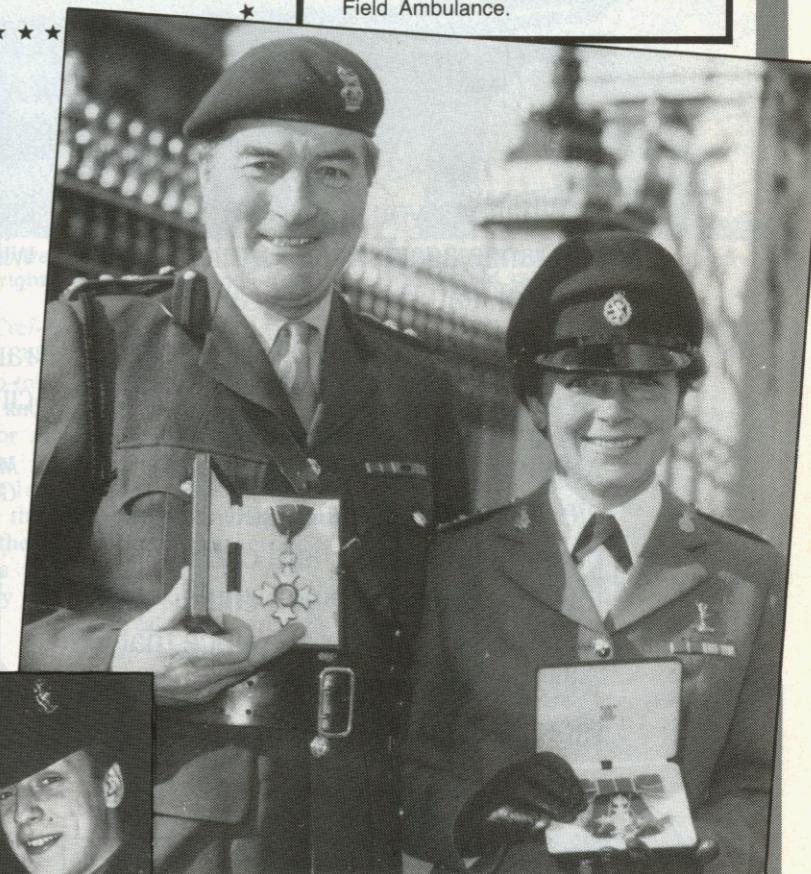
Dick, chief instructor AAC free fall parachute team and helicopter pilot with 7 Regiment AAC at Hereford, has just completed his 350th tandem jump, more than anyone else in Europe.



Frau Ursula Michalak drinks a toast to retirement on hanging up her mop and bucket after 27 years of domestic service with the British Army in West Germany. To mark the occasion, she was presented with an engraved wall clock by Hohne-based 1st Armoured Field Ambulance.



Lt Gen Sir **David Ramsbotham**, Commander United Kingdom Field Army, discusses the finer points of the job with Drum Major **Tam Walt** of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers during his visit to the battalion at Oakington Barracks near Cambridge.



Father and daughter Col **Graham Owens** and Capt **Philippa Owens** travelled together to Buckingham Palace to receive awards from the Prince of Wales. Both had been named in the military list of the New Year Honours.

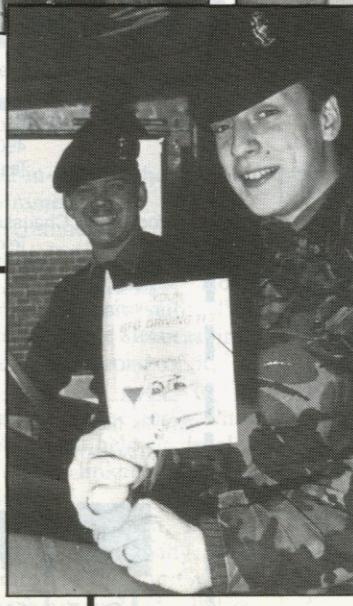
Philippa received the MBE for her work with the United Nations Transition Assistance Group as part of the peacekeeping force in Namibia. She was troop commander of the advance party of 30th Signal Regiment from Blandford, Dorset which flew to Namibia in March 1989.

Col Owens, a Royal Engineer, received the CBE for his work at the Joint Air Transport Establishment at RAF Brize Norton.

In the two days that followed the investiture, Philippa could claim to having the best-known face in Britain. Her portrait, complete with MBE, was used in full page recruiting advertisements placed in national newspapers.

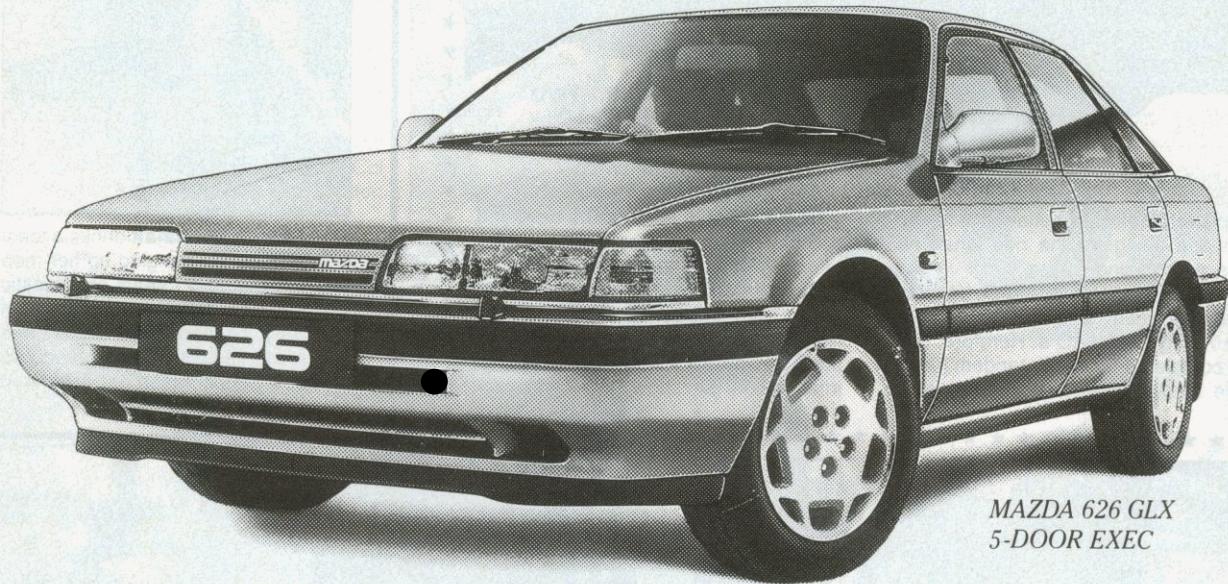
Highway-man

Ranger **Jim McDowell** of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers based at Osnabrück, gets to grips with the German Highway Code. New EEC regulations will mean that almost every infantry soldier will be required to have a full driving licence if serving in Germany in the 1990s. Not only must the driver of a tracked vehicle hold a full A and B vehicle licence, but the vehicle commander must also hold both licences as well.



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3 LI moves to Paderborn in swap with 1 QLR

Farewell to Weeton

THE Light Infantry has said farewell to Weeton Barracks, near Blackpool, after a nine-year association involving all three of its Regular battalions.

The last residents, the 3rd Battalion, have just completed a move to Paderborn in West Germany to become part of the British Army of the Rhine in a direct swap with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

Making sure they received a good send off was Maj Gen Tony Crowfoot, GOC North West District, who said his goodbyes during a special visit to the unit.

His host was 3 LI commanding officer Lt Col Robin Brims, who in 1981 was one of the first Light Infantrymen to arrive at Weeton when he was serving as the 2nd Battalion's adjutant.

The Light Infantry's connection with Weeton began in 1981 when the regiment's 2nd Battalion took over the old hatted camp, originally built for the Royal Air Force at the beginning of the Second World War.

The 2nd Battalion stayed for three years before moving to Germany in 1984. It was replaced by the regiment's 1st Battalion, the first soldiers to enjoy the modern facilities of the new £18m camp.

The new barracks were opened in May 1986 by



Maj Gen Tony Crowfoot (centre) says goodbye to soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry. Looking on (second from right) is 3 LI commanding officer Lt Col Robin Brims

Defence Minister Lord Trefgarne after four years of construction. It provides up-to-date living, working and training accommodation for a complete infantry battalion.

No sooner had men of the 1st Battalion put their feet in the door of the new camp than they were re-packing their bags to start a two-year tour of duty in

Northern Ireland.

First unit to benefit from the new facilities was the 3rd Battalion, which took over from 1 LI later that year.

Soldiers of 3 LI have built up strong links with the local Fylde community since arriving in November 1986. About 20 of them have married Lancashire lasses, who have also said their farewells as they swap breezy Blackpool for a new life in Germany.

During their tour the soldiers took part in many major exercises in the UK, Germany, Kenya, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands.

Crete trek

MEMBERS of 7 Troop, 42 Field Squadron of 35 Engineer Regiment exchanged their West German barracks for two weeks of adventurous training in Crete.

Highlights included trekking through the Samaria Gorge, the biggest natural gorge in Europe. The sappers paid their respects at the grave of Spr R A Toms RE of 42 Fd Coy, who was killed in Crete on May 22, 1941 aged 19.

WELCOME TO LANCASHIRE

HOME for the first time since the formation of the battalion are the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

They have taken over Weeton Barracks, near Blackpool, from 3 LI in a straight swap which has taken the Light Infantrymen to Paderborn, home for the past five years to 1 QLR.

The overwhelming majority of men serving with the battalion are Lancastrians, and their move back to Britain happens, appropriately, as they celebrate the regiment's tercentenary and prepare to receive new Colours from their

Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen, this summer.

The commanding officer, Lt Col Alex Birtwistle, a former pupil at Lancaster Royal Grammar School, said: "We are very much Lancashire's regiment and proud of it."

"It will be good to be stationed at home for a while because it will help us develop even closer links within the community."

Since its formation, 1 QLR has served in Germany, with the United Nations in Cyprus, in Northern Ireland, Belize, Canada and the Falklands – but never before in its native Lancashire.



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13. SPRINGBOK (BOTTLE/WHITE, BOTTLE COLLAR)
14. NEW ZEALAND (BLACK/WHITE, BLACK COLLAR)
15. AUSTRALIA (GOLD/BOTTLE, BOTTLE COLLAR)
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★★★DETAILS AND PRICES OF PLAYING SHIRTS ON REQUEST★★★

Love gave author the Sharpe edge

by Jennifer Griffiths

CUPID's arrow has been roundly blamed for starting the writing career of Bernard Cornwell, whose eleventh book in the Sharpe series – *Sharpe's Waterloo* – is now on the bestseller list. Total sales of the military saga, launched ten years ago with *Sharpe's Eagle*, are 700,000 paperbacks and 70,000 hardbacks.

The love bolt found its target when Bernard saw an attractive woman getting out of a lift in Scotland. "I had no idea who she was, but I fell instantly in love and I decided I was going to marry her," he explains.

He was successful in persuading Judy, a visiting American travel agent, to marry him, but it meant giving up his successful television editor's job and moving to America, where he could not get a work permit.

There was one job that did not need the US government's permission – writing. And so Richard Sharpe was born . . .

Bernard was adopted at birth into a family belonging to a curious, now extinct, religious sect, known as the Peculiar People. Followers had a Puritan fear of anything outside the sect, and forbade such things as smoking, drinking, the theatre, dancing and the cinema.

At 17 he was determined to join the Army. His family were pacifists and the forbidden fruit of a career in soldiering seemed an attractive alternative.

"I wanted to be an infantryman for all the wrong reasons – an entirely adolescent idea of military glory, and in defiance of my parents.

"If my father had been a bloodthirsty commando I probably would have been a flower-arranger or the leader of CND by now."

It was a big blow when he was turned down for the infantry because of an eye defect, and he turned down the offer of a career in the Royal Army Pay Corps.

Bernard said his father would have preferred him to become a builder, like himself.

"I suppose in that sense I might have



Picture: Terry Champion

Bernard Cornwell with his latest Napoleonic blockbuster

been a disappointment, but I suppose he is relieved I am not worse than I am. I give him a copy of all my books. I don't know if he reads them, but he always thanks me."

Bernard's grandfather was a conscientious objector who served a sentence in

Dartmoor for his beliefs. "I wouldn't be a conscientious objector, but I don't think I have a right to make a judgement, as we are not faced with the

dilemma and the feeling of being so out of step. I admire them because the easy thing to have done would have been to join up."

After studying for a degree in theology, Bernard went into television. His abiding outside interest was the Napoleonic Wars, germinated by reading the Hornblower books. He also read non-fiction on that era and became enthralled by Wellington.

"I was fascinated by his extraordinary series of victories and amazed nobody had written a comparable series to Hornblower

to celebrate Wellington's army."

He vowed one day he would write such a series, believing Wellington to be the greatest general of the past 1,000 years.

He researched the Peninsular War and gave his hero a working name – Richard Sharpe, after the former England fly-half. He really did plan to write the novels "one day", and it could have stayed as vague as that had romance not forced him to produce his first book.

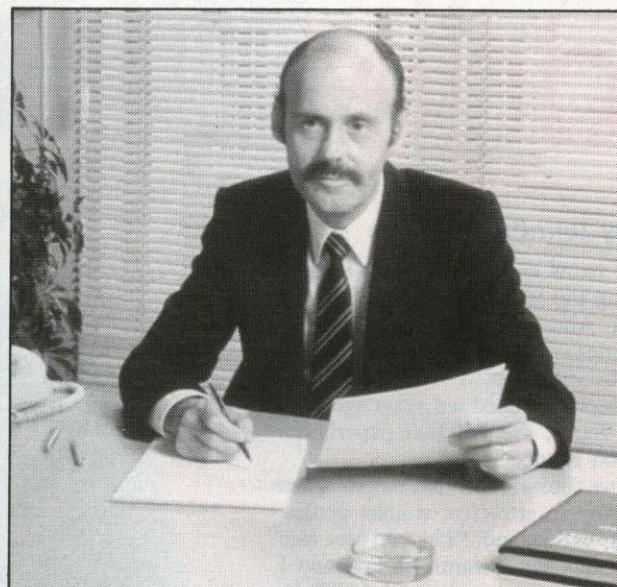
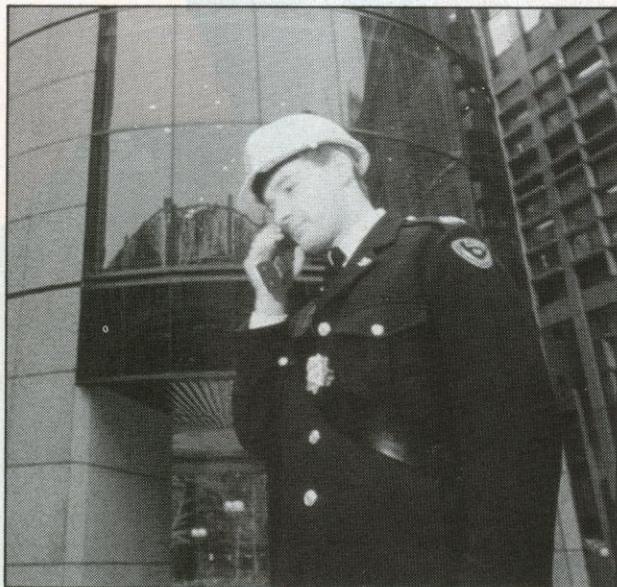
Collins and Fontana were the publishers who received the first completed Sharpe novel, and he was quickly signed up for a ten-book contract.

Bernard, 45, who also writes thrillers, works to an office routine and admits to "making a comfortable living". He jokes that his books are "wholly inspired by my mortgage". His real name is Wiggins, and he took his mother's maiden name as a *nom de plume*.

He likes to think he would have survived Waterloo, and believes there is a great difference between people who have been in combat and those who have not.

● Turn to Page 17

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	B2	21.84	22.32	Cpl 1		B1	30.52
	B3	25.13	25.68			B2	33.56
Pte 2	B1	21.00	21.48			B3	36.85
	B2	24.04	24.58	Sgt		B4	33.32
	B3	27.34	27.94			B5	36.60
Pte 1	B1	22.77	23.29	SSgt		B6	40.21
	B2	25.81	26.39			B4	35.22
	B3	29.10	29.75			B5	38.51
L/Cpl 3	B1	22.77	23.29	WO2		B6	42.12
	B2	25.81	26.39			B7	46.01
	B3	29.10	29.75			B4	37.64
L/Cpl 2	B1	24.57	25.06			B5	40.93
	B2	26.61	28.16			B6	44.53
	B3	30.90	31.52			B7	48.43
LCpl 1	B1	26.44	26.97	WO1		B4	40.13
	B2	29.48	30.07			B5	43.41
	B3	32.77	33.43			B6	47.02
Cpl 2	B1	28.44	28.95			B7	50.91

TA/UDR

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2 Lt	27.04	27.46	Col	On appointment	92.20
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	37.45	38.05		6 years	99.68
	38.39	39.00		8 years	102.17
Capt	39.33	39.95	Brig		112.29
	45.28	46.01			114.58
	46.51	47.25			
	47.74	48.50			
	48.96	49.74			
	50.19	50.99			
	51.41	52.23			
	52.64	53.48			
Maj	57.10	57.99			
	58.51	59.43			
	59.91	60.86			
	61.32	62.30			
	62.73	63.73			
	64.15	65.17			
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Sgt	38.35	39.14
SSgt	40.34	41.17
WO2	46.65	47.61
WO1	53.33	54.42

* For Scale A subtract 30 pence.

* For Scale C add 45 pence.

Love and the Sharpe edge

From Page 15

"I always think the person who should have written the Sharpe series should have been a soldier who had been in battle. This criticism has not been levelled at me, I try to make it first. I'm always terribly aware of it. I don't want to be accused of glorifying war, and I try not to."

"I'm quite sure, for instance, soldiers came back from the Falklands different people, with a whole new idea of what their career was about. Truth to tell, there is an envy in it, and I agree with Samuel Johnson's comment 'Every man thinks meanly of himself for not having been a soldier.'"

Ideally, he would have served with The Royal Green Jackets, whom he considers the best. He says there is a lot of himself in Sharpe, who has the singular honour of being the first fictional character to become an honorary member of the RGG's

Regimental Depot Mess. He predicts Sharpe will become "very crusty, will think the modern army is awful and will die in honour".

The research material is now firmly locked in his memory.

"My job is not to reveal anything new about Waterloo. I am not an academic. My job is to make people think 'Gosh, this is what it was like to be there.'"

He says today's Waterloo battlefield is "a veritable monument to Napoleon and his army, so much so that an ignorant visitor could be forgiven for thinking they had visited the scene of a great French triumph."

"The biggest change to the scene is, sadly, on the British right, on the ridge where the French cavalry was destroyed and where the Imperial Guard was defeated. The Dutch scraped four or five feet of soil from the top of that ridge to

make their vast lion monument which now dominates the field.

"Nevertheless, the ridge remains, and is now graced with a car park, cafes, museums and shops, which sell a variety of the most vulgar and shabby souvenirs.

"There's a new statue of Napoleon in an awful public urinal green, guarded by men in replica Imperial Guard uniforms. It is just tacky. There is no battlefield centre to explain events to visitors, the majority of whom are tourists passing through who know nothing about the battle."

Eventually Bernard would like to write about Agincourt, but his next work is to feature the American Civil War.

He admits to missing England: "American beer is awful, and there is no Radio 4. But I love America, its optimism and its generous people. I would love to live in England, but you can't control whom you fall in love with."

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WRITER Laurie Manton and librarian Bill Stroud have been 'dusting off the cobwebs in SOLDIER's archives and have a surprise in store for readers.'

Said Laurie, who is interested in all things military: "It's been an exciting venture. A bit like opening an historic time capsule." The fruits of their labours

will appear in an occasional series ranging from the curious to the bizarre and drawing heavily on SOLDIER's valuable archive of historical material.

Hot news – from Goebbels press

EXACTLY forty-five years ago, as the war in Europe was drawing to a close, SOLDIER rolled for the first time from the presses of a Brussels printing works and was rushed to the men of the British Liberation Army, then preparing to assault the Rhine.

During the Second World War there were Army-sponsored newspapers and magazines aplenty, especially overseas, but this was the first magazine – in peace or war – produced officially for the whole Army.

Although SOLDIER was born in Brussels, the idea had been conceived in Bagdad by two officers engaged in the production of Army newspapers in that theatre.

They prepared the first "dummy" and then sought to sell the idea of a British Army magazine for all theatres of war.

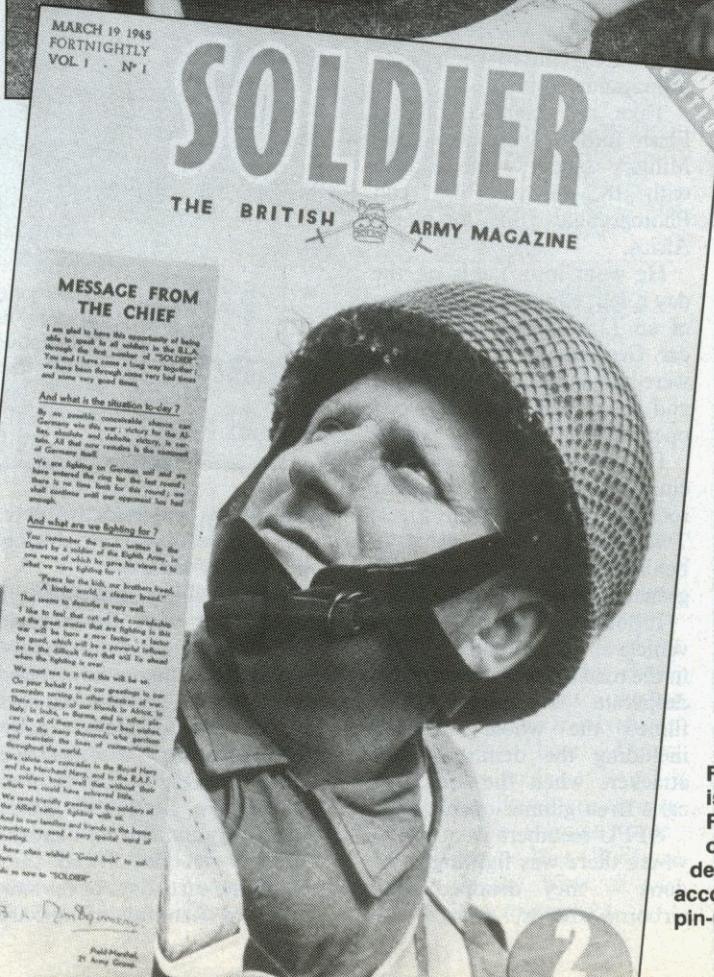
Finally, the project was agreed by no less a figure than Field Marshal Montgomery.

Almost all the original staff of SOLDIER had fought in overseas campaigns. Most were ex-newspapermen. The combination of professional journalistic experience and the fighting man's outlook made it an immediate success.

Among the magazine's early stalwarts were Robert Blake, a tank driver at El Alamein; Sgt C Waterhouse, who took pictures on the Normandy beaches; Monty Berman, war photographer who covered the Middle East, Africa and Europe; and Eric Earnshaw, corporal in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, whose sketches in SOLDIER were both delightful and distinguished.

Although launched for the British Liberation Army it was intended that the magazine should reach the Army as a whole. By the end of the war SOLDIER's

• Turn to next page



Earliest known shot (June 1945) of a SOLDIER team of scribbler and snapper in action. Unidentified sergeant photographer and writer Sgt Paul Irwin interview the Rev J W J Steele, Hampshire fast bowler, who saw service in France before Dunkirk and afterwards in Tunisia. It was taken during an interval at Lord's while the 2nd Army took on a team raised by Sir Pelham Warner.

Sgt Irwin was a Fleet Street sports editor before the war. Note the AFPU shoulder flash worn by the photographer. For more about the Army Film and Photographic Unit, see Camera at War on next page.

First cover

Front cover of SOLDIER's first issue. It carried reports of the Reichswald battle, an appreciation of Hitler's three inner fortresses designed to stave off final defeat, an account of a families club and a pin-up, Miss Ida Lupino



From our archives

Left - A classic war photograph purporting to show the attack on Tobruk. It was later revealed to be a posed shot taken by Sgt Len Chetwynd who lead a team of roving photographers nicknamed "Chet's Circus" in the Western Desert

Right - Nothing posed about this photograph, which shows wounded being evacuated by landing craft during the British raid on German-occupied Norway in December 1941. The raid on Vaagso and the Maaloy Islands resulted in the destruction of 15,650 tons of enemy shipping and the entire German Maaloy garrison was either killed or taken prisoner



Hot news

From Page 19

circulation had been extended to other overseas commands.

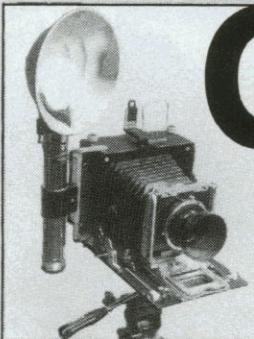
The sixth issue was a Victory-in-Europe number - complete with a special colour cover. As German cities fell officers of the Printing and Stationery Service went through the ruins looking for undamaged printing presses and stocks of paper.

In Hamburg they found one of the largest and most modern plants in Europe. It had suffered bomb damage, but lying untouched on the ground floor was a big capacity rotogravure press which, earlier in the war, had printed copies of Dr Goebbels's international colour magazine *Signal*.

The plant was idle, so SOLDIER moved from Brussels to Hamburg to make use of it. From then on the magazine, edited from London, appeared regularly with its familiar coloured cover.

By the close of 1945, SOLDIER had an all-military staff of 40, including three drivers, four packers and a cook! There were also nine reporters, four artists, four photographers and three experienced sub-editors to shape copy sent back by reporting teams.

Forty-five years on, SOLDIER, with a much smaller all-civilian staff, continues to fulfil its purpose as the British Army's own house magazine, keeping the soldier of the 1990s informed on what is going on around him and in other theatres, keeping him posted on new equipment, vehicles, weapons and the work of other regiments and corps.



CAMERA AT WAR



Now and then

RAOC photographers (above) who formed "Gallagher's Circus" during Exercise White Rhino in West Germany last year. Left to right are SSgt Angus

Beaton, WO1 Jim Gallagher (Master Photographer BAOR), Cpl Rick Kerbyson and SSgt Chris Young. "Chet's Circus" (above right) a team of

commandos and waded ashore from the leading craft during amphibious landings.

Their thrilling films and still photographs were flown back to London and within hours were on the cinema newsreels. Their material was collated and used in the production of many outstanding wartime documentaries, including *Desert Victory*, *Left of the Line*, *True Glory* and *Burma Victory*.

AFPU members went everywhere there was fighting to be done - they dropped with airborne troops, raided with

cameramen who, hampered by lack of transport and equipment, had little chance of securing a proper record of the first days of battle and the subsequent German breakthrough.

They were generally regarded as rather a nuisance.

Most were evacuated before Dunkirk so the epic on the beaches was never filmed except for a few long shots taken by a newsreel cameraman from a destroyer.

Out of these experiences was



cameramen and photographers who thought nothing of bribing troops in rear echelon rest areas with bottles of whisky to re-enact battle scenes. Sgt Len Chetwynd would sit on top of a tank with a box of grenades at his feet. When other tanks came into frame, he would hurl the grenades to add realistic explosions to his filming. Such measures were approved by the War Office, but other photographers disliked his technique.

Sgt Chetwynd (second right with bandaged hands) with his team - Sgts John Herbert, Jim Mapham and Chris Windows and Dvr Dempsey

the unit received its first casualties.

Sgt Bill Smith, after only 14 days in the desert, was captured at Derna while taking pictures.

The project he was working on was abandoned by Rommel's attack, but during Montgomery's great advance a few months later *Desert Victory* was made.

The first British picture to counter such German propaganda films as *West Wall* and *Victory in the West*, it was

Turn to Page 23

Snapper 'spy' risked Nazi firing squad

THE success of the Army Film and Photographic Unit depended on the work of individual cameramen on the various war fronts. Their activities are best recounted by a few contemporary accounts:

• Sgt Maxie Slade made an untimely arrival at Tito's headquarters, parachuting in with the British Mission just before an SS raid in which he was captured with two war correspondents.

The Germans wanted to shoot them all as spies. They were grilled by the Gestapo and suffered long periods of solitary confinement before being taken to Vienna where it was established that they were bona fide prisoners-of-war.

• Sgt Mike Lewis was at Arnhem with Sgts Dennis Smith and Jock Walker. He dropped with the 2nd Bn Parachute Regiment. After trying in vain for two days to reach the advance party holding the bridge in the town he fell back with the main body into the perimeter formed about Oosterbeek.

"What impressed me more than anything else," he said later, "was the extraordinary transformation from peace to war in that little Dutch village.

"My two colleagues and I found billets with a friendly Dutch tobacco manufacturer and his family. Life was perfectly normal on the first day. You could go into the kitchen for water, ask someone for a meal.

"Then the shooting came nearer. A window pane was broken. A statuette in the front garden was chipped.

"It became an adventure to go into the kitchen for water and no longer safe to go out of the door.

"Each day more pieces were knocked off the statuette until finally it disappeared and one by one the houses around us crumbled into rubble."

Sgt Lewis photographed the parachute drop after the Rhine crossing from the doorway of a plane and flew back to England with his pictures. He later returned to Germany and took official films of Belsen which were shown at the Nuremberg trial.

• Films lacked realistic sound backgrounds, so Capt P T Handford took a recording van to Normandy to get battle noises. He parked his van in the front line and ran out a microphone on the end of a cable.

He became so expert that from his listening-post he could not only identify the sounds but could tell the calibre, range and make of the weapon that made them.

• Among the war souvenirs of Sgt Stan Wootton was a gold diamond and sapphire ring. He was photographing King Farouk on the Maadi golf course outside Cairo.

"I saw a poisonous snake going towards the King and struck it with my camera-tripod, killing it. The King came up to me, and taking off a ring he was wearing, handed it to me, saying, 'You have saved my life'."

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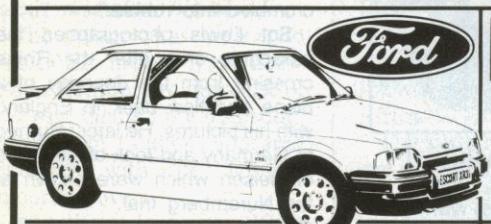
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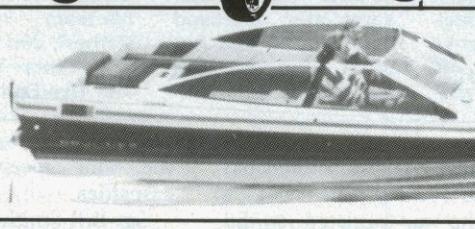
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CAMERA AT WAR

● From Page 21

shown in 81 countries in 15 different language versions.

United Kingdom contracts totalled £89,000 and Britain's share of the American showings was more than £100,000.

By now established at Pinewood Studios outside London, the unit was steadily growing. More and more men were transferred from infantry, tanks and other arms, and another field force was organised to accompany the First's Army's landings in North Africa.

Having exhausted all available men with experience of cinematography and "stills" work, keen amateur photographers were recruited and a special training course was devised.

There was a battle, complete with obstacles and firecrackers, and trainees carried bricks instead of cameras in their small packs to save breakages. Intensive battle training with the Irish Guards at Lingfield brought the training to an end.

Technicians at headquarters designed a special camera for battle. It was clockwork, weighed 14lb and took a 100ft spool of film which could be exposed in about one minute. Recommended method was to take sequences in bursts of about 30ft each. It had three lenses with fixed distances.

Apart from campaign films, the unit made a number showing the normal routine activities of the Army for public consumption.

These included *Tank Battle*, *Street Fighting*, *Troop Ship* and *17-Pounder Gun*.

Army photographers were also used for confidential work, filming the performance of secret weapons and recording the stresses and strains of new apparatus. They worked with scientists trying to improve the accuracy of anti-aircraft fire. Thousands of negatives were taken of shell bursts in relation to targets to study fusing problems.

The operational strength of AFPU in the field at any time was never more than about 200 officers and men, about 80 of them cameramen.

Casualties were proportionately high: 15 killed, 21 wounded, nine taken prisoner. Decorations gained were three MCs, six MMs, five MBEs and one BEM. More than 20 were mentioned in dispatches.

Chavasse VC medals loaned to IWM

Third anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Imperial War Museum was marked by the handover on loan of a remarkable group of medals awarded to medical officer Capt Noel Chavasse, one of only three men to be awarded the Victoria Cross

twice, the bar posthumously.

The medals included another group awarded to Chavasse's twin brother, Bishop Christopher Chavasse, who in keeping with the family tradition of bravery was awarded the Military Cross and French Croix de Guerre.

Bishop Chavasse's nephew, John, presented the medals on behalf of St Peter's College, Oxford, who offered the museum the medals on permanent loan.

Patron of the Friends is the Queen Mother, who was at the presentation ceremony.

SOLDIER to Soldier



ENSA veterans Spike Milligan and Paul Eddington at the launch of *Gas Masks and Greasepaint*

Stars pay tribute to

ENSA

THE work of ENSA in entertaining troops was commemorated at a week-long run of *Gas Masks and Greasepaint*, a nostalgic music and dance show, at the Imperial War Museum.

Former ENSA (it stands for Entertainment National Service Association) stars Spike Milligan, Paul Eddington and Joe Loss were among those who attended the launch.

Guests included Christabel Leighton-Porter, the inspiration behind the Daily Mirror's Jane cartoon strip, and Forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn.

ENSA, the entertainment branch of Naafi, was formed on September 5, 1939 and just four days later raised the

curtain on its first concert at Pirbright Camp, Surrey.

Barely a month later it opened overseas, with Gracie Fields topping the bill at ENSA's first concert in France for men of the British Expeditionary Force.

After brightening the lives of soldiers all over the world, ENSA ran down rapidly at the end of 1945 and its role was later taken over by Combined Services Entertainment.

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

This story gets longer

Any magazine in which space is at a premium has to think twice about starting a debate about longest titles.

Hard on the heels of claims about the longest name given to a BR locomotive comes a note from Owen A O'Neill, of Sheffield, who picked up our passing comment that the 67th (Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) was "another longest title".

He writes: "I would like to nominate the unit I served in after our original regiment, 513 LAA/SL Regt RA (TA), was disbanded when AA Command broke up in the mid-50s.

"This was 'R' (Sheffield) Battery, 629 (The Cambridgeshire Regiment) Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (Territorial Army)."

BARV not so endangered

Our friends the Royal Marines tell us that Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicles are not quite as endangered a species as we were led to believe ("The Last of the Dinosaurs?", February 5).

There are five rather than three still in existence, writes Maj Geoff Rees RM, of the Amphibious Trials and Training Unit Royal Marines in Bideford, North Devon.

Two are held in captivity at his unit, a third lives on board the assault ship HMS Intrepid, a fourth is being repaired at 27 District Workshops REME and the fifth, which we featured, is at the Armoured Vehicle Sub Depot, Ludgershall.

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Lt Jamie McKinlay and 3 Platoon 1 KOSB prepare to leave Derryard on patrol. The permanent vehicle checkpoint has been restored since the attack

DERRYARD

... where
the training
paid off

NORTHERN Ireland training may not be a picnic – but it pays off.

For this take the word not of the officers and NCOs who plan and direct it but of Max, Snowy, Billy, Doogie, Clive (after a character in "Dad's Army") and Grayspub (there's a story behind his nickname too!).

All are Jocks in Support Company of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

All were involved when a dozen well-armed terrorists attacked the Derryard permanent vehicle checkpoint in Fermanagh, killing two of their comrades.

Chatting to them at Sp Coy HQ at St Angelo Camp, SOLDIER got a new slant on the incident.

Four of them were on rest in their sleeping quarters when the terrorists reversed a heavy lorry into the checkpoint's double doors, bursting them open.

Leaping from their beds and



Words:

Bill Moore

Pictures:

Mike Weston

seizing their weapons, they thought at first that they were under mortar attack, then as bullets flew, that it was a hit-and-run raid, and as the noise increased, that it was something more serious.

But, as one of them put it: "Naebody flapped. We just went through the drills automatic-like."

Pinned down behind the mortar protection wall they realised their attackers were using street-fighting techniques similar to those they had learned themselves in Berlin.

"It was just like being in the FIBUA village at Ruhleben."

After the raiders withdrew under fire from a patrol operating near the base other drills came into play.

In retrospect the Jocks felt that tending simulated wounded during training helped them to cope with the real thing on December 13, 1989.

They did all they could for their casualties and – "automatic-like" – sealed off the area.

One of the Jocks used a piece of mine tape, while another improvised a barrier from workmen's ladders.

The defence of the post cost the lives of LCpl Michael Paterson, 21, and Pte James Houston, 22.

A third soldier suffered fragmentation wounds.

The affair was a media sensation – for a couple of days.

The British public received a sharp reminder of the threat which faces the Army constantly on the Ulster Border before its attention was drawn to new sensations.

The incident will make a lasting impression on the Jocks involved. It was a test of their training, determination ... and comradeship.

All the men who had been concerned in the action were on patrol again within 24 hours.

Special arrangements were made so that all attended the funerals of the murdered men.

"They grieved ... and then came back and got on with their job," said Lt Col Chris Darnell, CO 1 KOSB.

In his view discipline and personal conduct make a soldier and the strong "family" feeling makes a Lowland regiment what it is.

He is rightly proud of the fact that after the cost had been counted for Derryard there wasn't a single case of over-reaction by the men manning the VCPs.

Battalion with a strong religious tradition

THE 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers has seen unbroken service since 1689 when it was raised in Edinburgh by David Leslie, Lord Leven. Its dress still features the Leslie tartan.

It became the 25th Foot in 1751 and, for a while, had "Sussex" in its title, which became King's Own Borderers in 1805. The present title dates back to 1881.

As Sempill's Foot, the battalion fought under Butcher Cumberland at Culloden (1746)

and one of its men is reported to have fired the first fatal shot in the battle which destroyed the power of the clans. Its casualties featured in the list of "English dead".

In both world wars 1 KOSB served in a famous assault division. It was one of the first units to land at Gallipoli (1915) with the 29th Division (on 'Y'



beach) and was in the leading waves of the 3rd Division in the D-Day landings (1944).

The regiment has a strong religious tradition and unlike English battalions 1 KOSB has a chaplain (Church of Scotland) permanently attached (currently the Rev John "Skippy" Dailly).

Wherever it goes the battalion takes over the Regimental Kirk - in Edinburgh a proper building, in Northern Ireland a corner of the cookhouse.

Which was why at St Angelo

SOLDIER saw a cross and a hassock in the quartermaster's stores - CSgt "Ackie" Murray is one of the elders ordained by the Kirk. Elders assist the padre and take services in his absence.

Once a week (on a weekday) the commanding officer holds a non-denominational church muster when the battalion forms a hollow square and prayers are said. Every soldier is issued with a leaflet containing seven prayers including the regimental collect.



Nice to have your company

UDR part-timers impress the Jocks



Maj Bob Andrew, OC Bravo Company. He had nothing but praise for 8 UDR with whom his men worked

IT IS always a cause for rejoicing when one good soldier acknowledges another.

At Cookstown, Co Tyrone, relations between the old hands of B Coy 1 KOSB and the part-timers of C Coy 8 UDR could serve as an example to the Army throughout the Province.

As Maj Bob Andrews, OC of Bravo Coy, said of the men with whom he operates out of the Security Forces Base: "You've got to admire their dedication and skills."

The Cookstown area has had more than its share of terrorist incidents.

With its video libraries, DIY centres and fast food shops it could be anywhere in the UK were it not for the steel sangars at each end of the high street.

And there are good reasons why the buildings in the police station are cased in reinforced concrete slabs.

The place has been mortared and missed in the past.

The sangars are the most obvious sign of The Troubles. They stand in the middle of the road and are portable - the record for moving them is 15 minutes - and are the most photographed in the Province.

At Christmas a Jock in a Santa Claus outfit joined the teams carrying out the vehicle checks and parents came from miles around bringing their children.

Gifts for the soldiers piled up:

"I don't know how we're going to get them back to Edinburgh," said Maj Andrews.

There was a different sort of welcome in certain parts of the surrounding countryside where, very early in their tour, B Coy, with the UDR under operational control, were involved with the complications created by the discovery of a fake body in a car and a 500lb bomb.

Smaller but very effective

Foot patrol in High Street, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, on a wet day. The helmeted soldier is carrying an SA 80 and radio



Metal sangar with wire surround in the main street of Cookstown where terrorists have used mortars in previous attacks

improvised anti-armour grenades were hurled in Stewarts town only a short distance from the war memorial with its long list of Inniskilling Fusiliers killed in two world wars.

Tit-for-tat shootings and sectarian murders led to endless searches during which the KOSB protected sappers using light wheeled tractors to dig for arms caches.

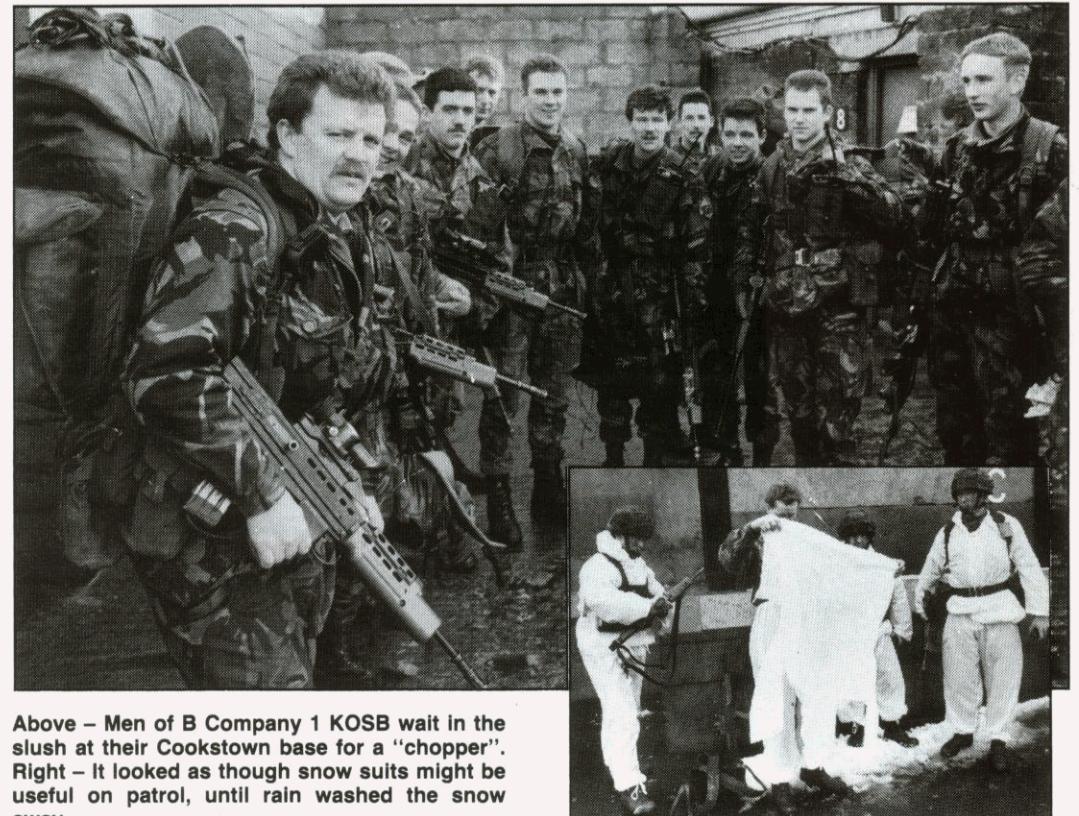
Underground hides are a speciality of the local "players". One was marked by a tree which, when pulled up, revealed a large plastic bucket - underneath which was the real hide.

A variety of ammunition found included 12.7 heavy machine-gun rounds.

The surveillance of "ODS" was another regular task.

The Off Duty Soldier of the UDR has his job to do and his home to go to when he is not in uniform. Many of them live in isolated hamlets where they are vulnerable.

SOLDIER accompanied Maj Andrews on one ODS patrol with teams under Sgt Mac



Above - Men of B Company 1 KOSB wait in the slush at their Cookstown base for a "chopper". Right - It looked as though snow suits might be useful on patrol, until rain washed the snow away...

MacGregor (4 Platoon) and Sgt Brian Cruickshank (5 Platoon).

There had been some talk of wearing arctic snow overalls but when the patrol set out driving rain was washing the snow from the hills.

"I doot whether they'd ha' lasted," said one Jock looking

ruefully at the tears in his trousers after climbing a barbed-wire fence.

The ODS, a senior NCO, welcomed the major and sergeants as old friends. They share the same joint officers'/SNCO's mess at Cookstown.

After a brew and a chat the

patrol moved on - teams out of sight but always in contact with each other. The ODS soldier went back to his work.

The younger Jocks looked thoughtful as they plodded on. "It brings home that it's for real," said one on his first tour. They were learning...

Why vehicle checkpoints cause a spot of 'schinfin'

A PERMANENT vehicle checkpoint on the Ulster border is not every soldier's idea of a cushy job, but it is vital to anti-terrorist operations.

By rapidly checking the registration numbers of vehicles, the Security Forces monitor traffic movement in the Province, note sightings of suspect individuals and, through selective searches, inhibit the activities of arms smugglers.

The success of the PVCP system may be gauged by the terrorists' propaganda campaign against them and their efforts to open up illegal border crossings.

Ostensibly these are intended to make life easier for the local farmers – but they would also provide convenient through-routes for gunmen and bomb

makers (not to mention opportunities for the flourishing smuggling fraternity moving spirits and cigarettes from the North to the South).

PVCPs have changed considerably during 20 years and rebuilds are in progress at the moment. The Browning .50 machine-gun is now part of their armament.

In the main, however, the Army still relies on a weapon that has stood it in good stead for more than 300 years – the British soldier's sense of humour.

"Corporal, there's yin schinfin' oot here," shouted the road sentry at Wattle Bridge. "Ye'd better have a word with him."

The corporal, a mild-mannered man with nine years

service, put on his Tam o' Shanter, said he'd better be off to do his hearts and minds thing and went "oot".

A driver complained that he had been kept waiting for ten minutes and this had happened to him the previous week.

"Well, sir," said the corporal, "the only thing holding up the flow of traffic at the moment is yersel . . ."

The driver glanced in his mirror, flushed and allowed himself to be waved on.

"Schinfin," the corporal explained, was a battalion word for grumbling or complaining.

He didn't know where it came from but thought it might have originated during a tour in Osnabrück.

Cpl Kelvin Parker is a thoughtful man, keen on ancient history. He visited the famed Jewish fortress of Masada last year and hopes to go again.

"It's warmer than this place," he said.



Right – Mirror image. A picture of a PVCP taken in the early morning

THOUGH the soldiers are mainly from the country, 1 KOSB carried out exercises in rural areas of Scotland during their Northern Ireland training . . . "to give the urban Jocks among them a flavour of it".

What no one could do was prepare them for the weather in Ulster.

"You never know what is coming next," said Sgt Charlie Cann as he led a team from 2 Platoon across a flooded meadow a mile or so from the PVCP.

A prominent landmark – a ruined church – which had been bathed in bright sunlight vanished from sight as squalls

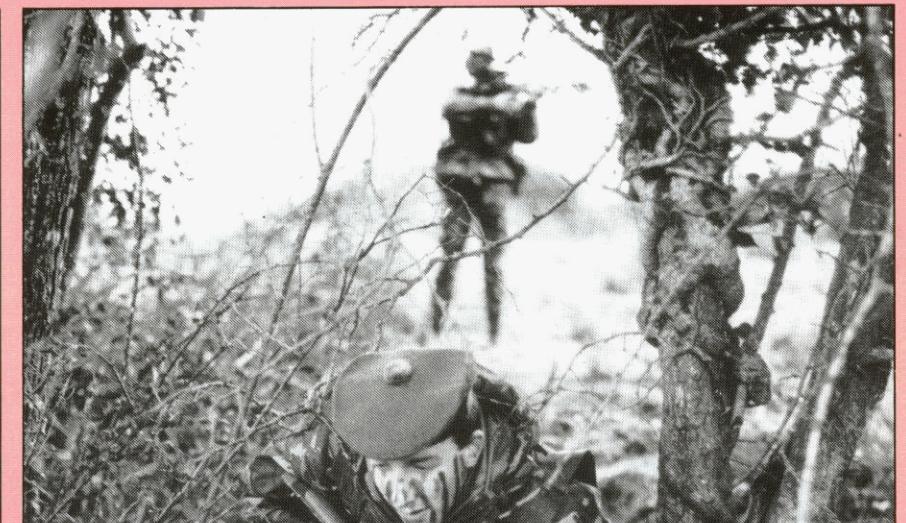
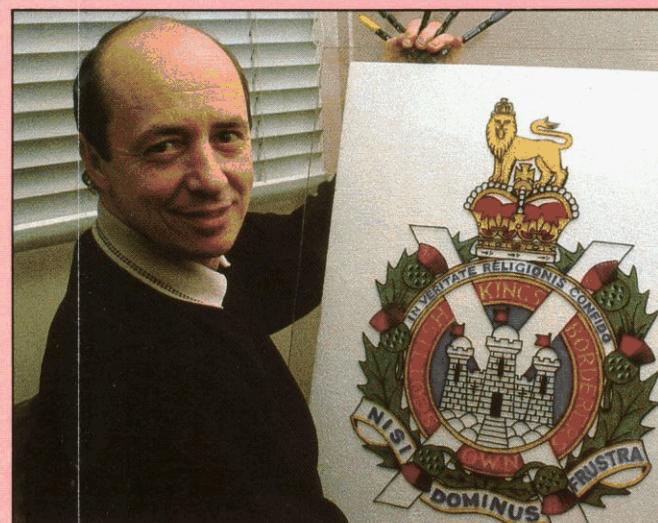
Surprised . . . by the weather

swept the countryside. When the sky cleared the Jocks climbed a wall into a long-abandoned graveyard.

A tombstone marked the last resting place of the only son of the Rev William Moffat (a good border name), once rector of the parish. The weatherworn



Above – A .50 Browning heavy machine gun in position near a PVCP. Below left – Capt Jimmy Young indulges his pastime as he completes a KOSB badge on clear plastic and fits it to a white mount. Below right – KOSB soldiers on patrol through blackthorn and briar



inscription gave the date of death as 1813 or 1818.

By the time the patrol returned to the PVCP it was beginning to snow. Sgt Cann did his rounds then took over from the corporal in the sangar.

As the night wore on the traffic eased.

In the little rest room-cum-kitchen where the Jocks cook for themselves one of them made a brew for his pals.

Pte Paul Brooks from Edinburgh and Pte Darren Kay from Dumfries, stamping up and down the road in the biting cold, were glad of it.

Later another brew appeared.

As daybreak approached the cars and lorries started to re-circulate and the chanting, symbolic of the troubles, began – doubtless being repeated at posts all along the border. "Bravo . . . India . . . Juliet . . . 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . ."

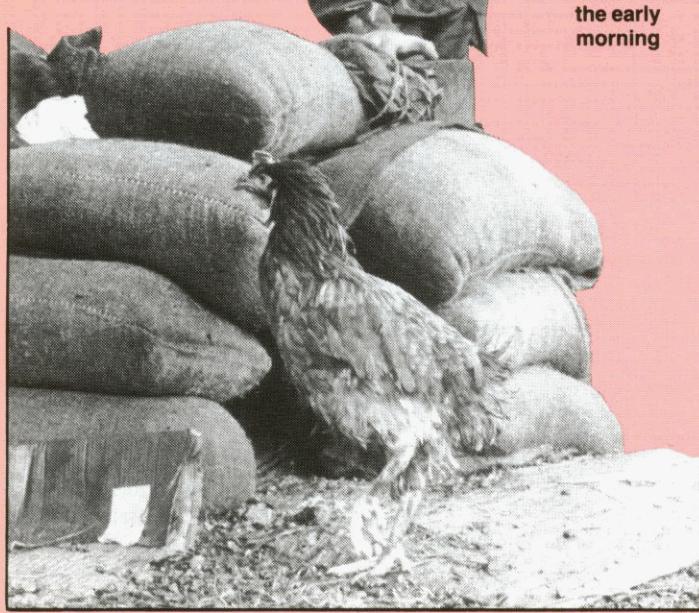
The man in the sangar checked and the first vehicles were waved through.

PVCPs operate 24 hours a day, 52 weeks a year.

For the people who complain about being held up there is a notice which gets to the heart of the matter: "We apologise for the delay . . . Do not blame the Security Forces – Blame the terrorists".

Hen house

Jock with friend. At Kilturk PVCP, which is undergoing reconstruction, troops have built a sandbag sangar for four pet chickens given to them by a local. The hens use the sangar – and have left two eggs in it





The Saxons are coming

DRAGON'S FIRE

MAKING an impression on the Highlands of Scotland were men of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment on Exercise Dragon's Fire. They broke new ground with their deployment techniques, and gave the residents of John o'Groats their first glimpse of Saxon.

Since joining 19th Infantry Brigade at Colchester, the men had had little opportunity to practise their role as a Saxon-equipped infantry battalion, although they had been working up their individual fighting skills and undergoing company training in the months prior to the exercise.

The battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col John Westlake, felt that too often there was a predictability about unit exercises.

He asked battalion 2iC Maj Dennis Flynn to plan a surprise exercise that would be not only demanding but out of the ordinary. Apart from a small planning team no one was to know of the exercise until 48 hours before it began.

Maj Flynn approached the air movement cell at HQ UKLF to see if Hercules aircraft might be available to fly his troops somewhere.

"No chance," said the movers at RAF Lyneham, "but try writing to the commander of RAF Strike Command's Taceval team."

Maj Flynn did so, and a joint meeting was held with his Royal Air Force counterparts.

By chance, his request coincided with a change in restrictions on the aircraft load-carrying tie-down policy.

The rapid deployment by air of a Saxon battalion, complete, was a practical proposition. Exercise Dragon's Fire had been given the green light.

Members of the battalion got wind that something was up and rumour control decided that Stanford training area must be the likely venue.

In the event, 1 Kings Own

Border Saxon crews must have been bemused to find themselves driving to RAF Wattisham in East Anglia, where more than 20 Hercules aircraft were waiting to airlift them to Scotland.

It has to be said that the RAF's loadmasters looked on with furrowed brows as the tricky job of loading the Saxons went on.

Clearances were minimal and manoeuvring skills were tested to the full during the loading operation. With 1in clearance on top and 3in each side, the loadmasters held their breath. All the Saxons were loaded without a scratch.

With just one Saxon section allotted to each aircraft, it looked as if the whole move, involving more than 60 sorties, would be completed in less than 24 hours, but gales struck part way through the lift.

The ensuing break in flying meant an eventual 36-hour completion time. The 2iC was one of those airborne when the weather broke and he described the experience of sitting in the aircraft with a Saxon swaying and straining at its shackles as "exhilarating!"

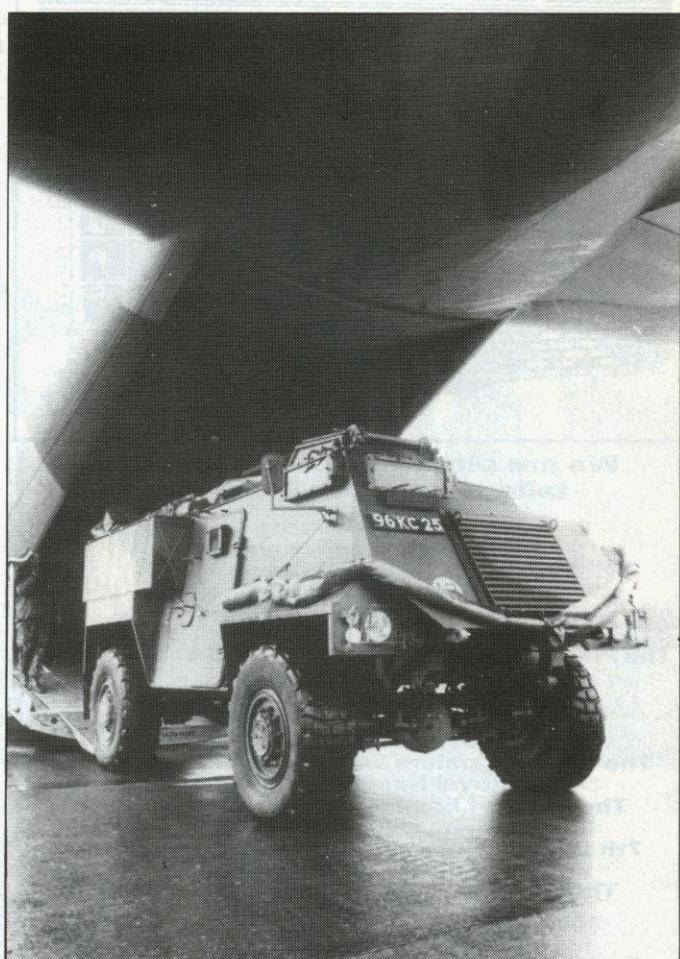
"It was very much an experiment for all concerned and the Royal Air Force were magnificent," he said.

Having arrived in Scotland, it was time for 1 Kings Own Border to get on with the aims of the exercise. They operated independently as platoon groups (four Saxons, each with a crew of six) in the fictitious overseas country of Caledonia, which stretched from John o'Groats to Carlisle.

The rapid deployment by air of a Saxon battalion, complete, was a practical proposition. Exercise Dragon's Fire had been given the green light.

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In the event, 1 Kings Own



Hercules and Saxon, a flying combination



Above - Snow posed few problems for the Saxons of 1 Kings Own Border during Exercise Dragon's Fire

Left - Are we downhearted? No! Men of 5 platoon, Burma Company pictured at the end of another yomp across the Highlands

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion

1 Kings Own
Border fly
north in
Herc fleet

Moments after the first boats full of novice sailors set off across the freezing waters of the loch, a blizzard hid them from view.

But they all crossed safely, ready to start another yomp to the final checkpoint.

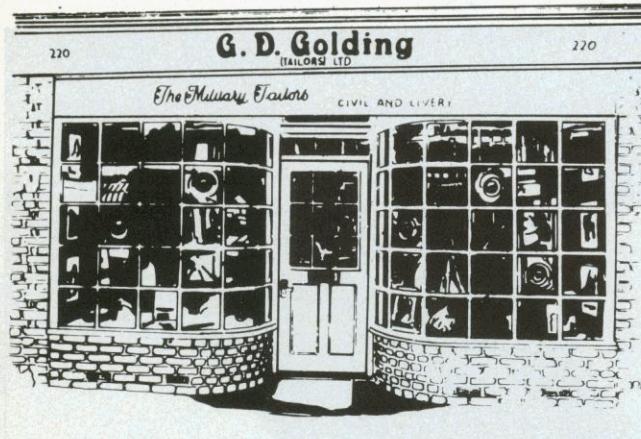
The troops drove to Garelochhead for a final attack before "endex" allowed them to travel to Regimental Headquarters at Carlisle Castle before the long drive back to Colchester.

By the end of the exercise, the troops had yomped more than 100km and the drivers had driven more than 1,000km in weather ranging from sunshine to snowstorms.

More importantly, it had been proved that it is now possible to move an entire Saxon battalion by air - a potential second role for the battalion should it ever be called upon as second-line airportable reinforcement in the event of rapid deployment of Army units to hot-spots around the world.

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Islanders open their homes for pilgrimage

RELATIVES of British Servicemen killed during the Falklands war of 1982 have paid a nine-day visit to the Falkland Islands. The visit of 57 members of the Falklands Families Association (FFA) was assisted by the Ministry of Defence and the people of the Falkland Islands.

The party was conducted on tours of the battlefields and memorials throughout the islands. There was an Act of Remembrance in Stanley Cathedral and wreath-laying ceremonies at battlefield cairns and the Liberation Monument in Stanley.

The party was greeted by the Governor

of the Falklands, Mr William Fullerton, the Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Paul Stevenson, and local representatives of the FFA, Mr and Mrs Norman Clark and Maj Tony Bleakley.

The visitors were accommodated in the homes of islanders.

Flopsy's 'mine' has EOD on hop

A PET rabbit called Flopsy caught Falkland Islands bomb disposal experts on the hop when it unearthed what appeared to be an anti-personnel mine in the dirt floor of its hutch. Flopsy's owners, Haley Baggs (8) and brother, Daniel (6), whose Stanley home was occupied by Argentinian troops in 1982, raised the alarm.

The Army's EOD team from 33 Engineer Regiment, rushed to the scene, cleared the area and gingerly lifted the hutch to one side. Said a military spokesman: "Lucky for Flopsy it was only the cap of a 45-gallon oil drum. Otherwise the fur would really have flown! But you can't be too careful; the object was identical in dimensions to an SB 33 anti-personnel mine."

Since 1982 the detachment has cleared about 2,600,000 items of ordnance. Flopsy was rewarded with a crisp lettuce for her vigilance.



C Coy of 1 Green Howards, the Resident Infantry Company in the Falkland Islands, stands guard at the cairn to mark the 300th anniversary of the first landing on the islands by the English privateer Welfare

Cairn unveiled

Author at large

THE Falkland Islands military theatre may be immortalised by one of the world's best known adventure writers.

Hammond Innes (left), writer of a galaxy of best-sellers, visited the Falklands for ten days in search of inspiration.

He met officers and men of the 34 Field Squadron (RE) and the resident infantry company, C Coy, 1 Green Howards.



THE 300th anniversary of the first recorded landing on the Falkland Islands has been commemorated near the settlement of Port Howard, West Falkland.

A cairn has been erected where Capt John Strong, commander of the English privateer Welfare, landed at Bold Cove on the mainland of the island.

In a ceremony involving the three Services and the Falkland Islands Government, the Governor of the Falklands, Mr William Fullerton, planted the Union Flag and unveiled the cairn and its commemorative plaque.

The log of the Welfare is

kept in the British Museum and is an accurate account of the ship's voyage. It's navigational records are meticulous.

Before the unveiling ceremony the Royal Navy patrol ship HMS Leeds Castle positioned itself where the privateer anchored in Bold Cove.

The Army was represented by a section of C Company, 1 Green Howards, currently the resident infantry company in the Falklands, and the Royal Air Force provided transport to the remote cove in a helicopter of No 78 Squadron. Present was the Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Paul Stevenson.

Report from Zimbabwe turns the spotlight on TEAMWORK

IT SEEMED a little odd to be sitting in a beautiful garden in a summer dress when the news from home was of gales and lashing rain.

But there I was enjoying a cool drink with the wives of the British Military Advisory and Training Team, Zimbabwe.

Jane Toyne Sewell, whose husband Tim commands the BMATT, was our hostess in their home about 15 minutes' drive from the centre of the town.

The wives live in three centres – at Harare, at Nyanga, four hours' drive away and near the Mozambique border, and Giveru, where there are only two of them, Jan Gethin and Henriette Harris.

The HQ of BMATT occupies a group of long low huts in a corner of the Zimbabwe Army's compound in Harare.

In all 39 officers and 22 senior NCOs serve on the team. All are volunteers for loan service.

One of the busiest is SSgt Stuart Tennyson who runs a one-man field post office.

In a week he deals with five air mails in and five out plus two surface mails.

When I saw him he had dispatched 26 bags of mail and returned with 16.

"I had 325 kilograms in this morning," he told me.



Sarah Morgan, a voluntary helper at Borrowdale School, with son Edward and friend

The wives raised a point about the post.

Someone had sent a parcel to the UK stating on the certificate of posting that it contained goods to the value of £36. It was lost and the Post Office said the maximum compensation paid was £22. I have asked the Post Office for details of

their insurance cover.

They also said they had problems with ordering goods on the Naafi order sheets. I suggested that the ordering problem could be solved by use of Fax machines both ways and the Naafi has said that such a system would be welcome.

The wives in Zimbabwe at present are re-writing the printed guide to the country to help families going out in future.

I was interested to discover that nearly half of them had given up jobs and careers which had been bringing them salaries of between £5,000 and £20,000 a year, to accompany their husbands.

One felt rather aggrieved because, having worked out the financial implications, "we were told after a year that there would be allowance cuts".

I asked MoD about the cuts and was told:

"The allowances can go either way. It does clearly state in the information supplied that financial adjustment can be made up or down during a tour. Everyone is warned, for example, that LOA must not be considered as an amount to base financial commitments on."

Loan service pay is an allowance to help overcome the disadvantages

Wives gather for an informal picture in the sun (left)



The BMATT "postie" – SSgt Stuart Tennyson RE with his precious sack of mail and (right) his essential sign

Jenny Bullock joined the Harare Clothing and Patchwork Guild.

"All my Christmas presents were patchwork," she said. "It has taken the place of the Wives' Club of which I have always been a member."

Tricia Reeves, newly-arrived from the UK, was on her second tour. A computer trainer, her skills will certainly be utilised.

Rosie Cargen has started a nutrition/dietary therapy course but another wife said firmly: "I'm having a two-year sabbatical." Clearly morale was high.

Before I left, Jane Toyne Sewell took me round Harare, where one craftsman makes exquisite animals in silver.

I bought a crocodile to remind me of the Sunday we went to Victoria Falls, got wet, had lunch on the Zambezi and visited a crocodile farm. Holding a young one was an experience.

Facing up to a 58-year-old was a different matter.

Chance for a change

which such a posting entails.

As one wife explained, all properties are enclosed and most have a security guard. But domestic help makes it possible to enjoy the opportunities of travel, voluntary work with local charities and to learn new skills and hobbies.

I asked MoD about the cuts and was told:

"The allowances can go either way. It does clearly state in the information supplied that financial adjustment can be made up or down during a tour. Everyone is warned, for example, that LOA must not be considered as an amount to base financial commitments on."

Some wives help in the hospice, others at a charity which enables handicapped children to ride.

Susan Alcroft did a five-day Vidal Sassoon course in hairdressing before she went out and will be sorely missed when, shortly, she returns home.

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
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Breaktime at Highlands School



Going home

Right – Susan Alcroft did a hairdressing course before going out. Now she's leaving, she'll be missed. Her friend is Mary Reid

Educational? No problem!

FAMILIES with children of primary school age need have no fear of education problems if they volunteer for service in Zimbabwe. Now she is taking up bird-watching as a hobby.

Some wives help in the hospice, others at a charity which enables handicapped children to ride.

Once a posting is confirmed, parents should obtain forms from BMATT. Do not try to get forms from the school itself.

are highly sought-after. BMATT will know which catchment area the incoming family belongs to.

There is no entrance exam but a photostat copy of a birth certificate is required and a copy of the last school report.

The proportion of pupils is equally divided between Africans and Europeans and school day starts at 7.45am and finishes between 12 and 1pm.

Maternity pay bill in July

UNDER Secretary of State for Social Security Mrs Gillian Shephard may consider back-dating Statutory Maternity Benefit Pay for Servicewomen when the Bill goes through the House in July.

I asked her if it could be implemented from April 6 when independent taxation for all women comes into effect, and she told me she would look at the suggestion but gave no promises.

Under the proposed changes, Servicewomen could claim up to 90 per cent of their average earnings provided they fulfil the criteria laid down.

Visiting rooms

Sleeping accommodation for short-stay visitors to patients in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital and other London hospitals is available at Woolwich.

The rooms are in Squire House situated in the grounds of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital.

Applications should be made to The Warden, Squire House, Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich SE18 6XN.

Children can get into the Borrowdale or Highlands schools providing they are five years old by January 1 or the beginning of the first term.

Pre-education schools are in great demand so it is necessary to book early. The family pays the fees for these, not BMATT.

Senior school education can be obtained in private schools.



Complete guide to today's TA

WHICH is the oldest Territorial Army regiment? Who is Royal Honorary Colonel of 100 (Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery? How many VCs were won by Territorials in the two world wars? Which TA regiment has "Sugar and Spice" as its quick march?

All good Mastermind material – and all answered in one new book, Bob Peedle's monumental work, *Encyclopaedia of the Modern Territorial Army*.

For once, the publisher's blurb about a "fascinating reference book" is not hype. The author, a TA major whose job involves liaison with all branches of the organisation, has built on his considerable inside knowledge of the subject to compile a hugely-detailed but nonetheless absorbing volume.

In 225 packed and well-

illustrated pages the reader will find everything from an exhaustive analysis of each of the TA's functional arms – their role, structure, deployment, weapons and equipment – to studies of regimental histories and traditions which provide an engrossing link with the origins of the British Army.

In short, everything anyone ever wanted to know about the Territorial Army – and much, much more.

● Answers to questions in the first paragraph: The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), which dates from 1577; King Olav V of Norway; an estimated 85 in the First World War and 17 in the Second; Army Catering Corps.

Encyclopaedia of the Modern Territorial Army by Bob Peedle. Published by Patrick Stephens Ltd. Hardback, £22.50.

Badges of the French Foreign Legion 1923-1989 by Philippe Bartlett. For the enthusiast, a 64-page hardback with 429 colour plates, each briefly annotated in French and English. Available from Sabre Sales, 75 Castle Road, Southsea, Hants. Price £25 inc. postage.

Fields of Death by Peter Sloane and Richard Woods. Anthology of soldiers' recollections from the First World War, newly available in paperback. Published by Hale. Price £8.95.

Defence of Duffer's Drift by Ernest Swinton. First published in 1907, this 74-page hardback deals with the defence of an imaginary river crossing in South Africa during the Boer War, in which the author served with distinction as a captain in the Royal Engineers. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £9.95.

Tracks in Europe by Capt C Boardman. Story of The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, 1939-46, with a foreword by the Prince of Wales. Copies may be obtained from HHQ 5 Innis DG, The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN. Cheques or postal orders for £9.95 plus £1.15 postage and packing should be made payable to 5 Innis DG Regimental Association.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Raiders by Robin Neillands. Paperback version of the British Army Commandos' story from 1940 to 1946. Published by Fontana. Price £3.99.

Paris Under the Occupation by Gilles Perrault. Hundreds of photographs, many previously unpublished, from French and German archives document the extent of the compromises made by the conquered, with a commentary. Published by Andre Deutsch. Price £19.95.

Dibbens' Diaries by Harold Dibbens. Softback account of the author's four careers – in the Royal Navy, Army, Metropolitan Police and Security Services. Timely publication, with the SIB, in which he served, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Profits to Service charities. Available from author at 2 The Estuary, Littlehampton, W. Sussex BN17 6NF, price £6.95 plus 65p post and packing. Also obtainable from RMP Museum Shop, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester PO19 4BN, with cheques in this case payable to RMP Corps Fund.

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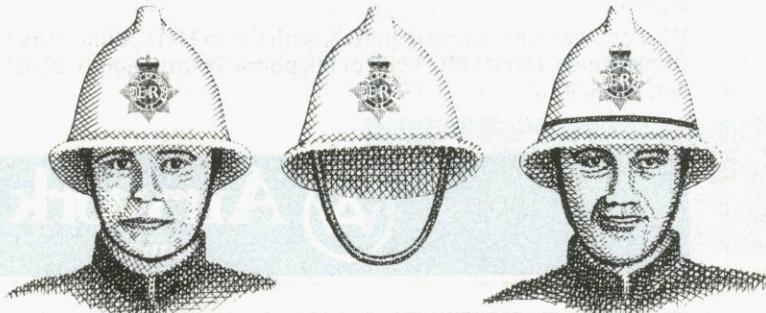
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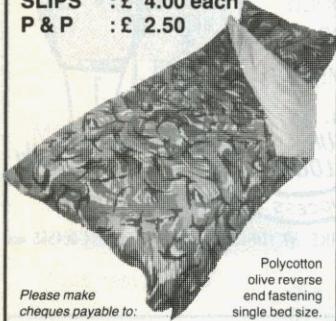
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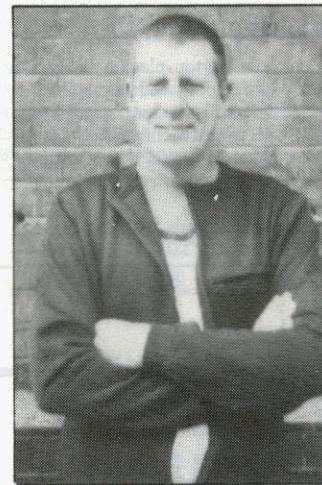
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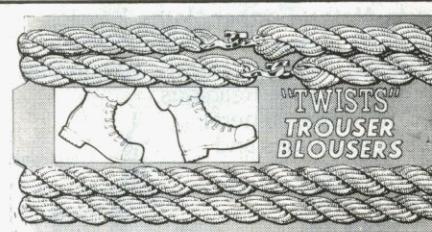
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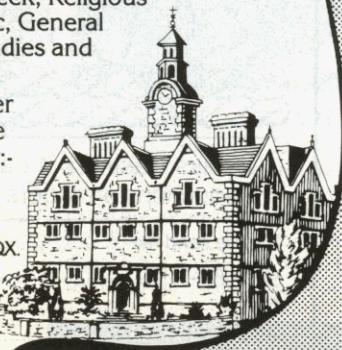
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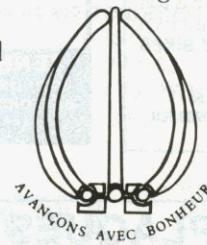
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Sports Notices

208 RAMC - 208 Roadwalking and Marching Club - more marchers wanted for 'Chadwick Trail' on the Wirral, Saturday 31st March 1990. 42km, 21km or 13km. Entry fee and medal - £3.00. British Walking Federation rules apply. Full details from: G P Karran, 5 Orton Grove, Rhyl, Clwyd LL18 1DG. SAE please. 13.90

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Wanted - Worldwide prison service cap badges, also any badges of the Grimsby OTC. S Johnson, 8 Cliff Road, Hessle, N Humberside HU13 0HB. 13.90

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Regimental tie wanted - Rhodesian African Rifles - Alex McCoy, 23 Rutland Avenue, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8LE. Tel: 0946 65299. 11.90

Book - Cash paid for good copy of "The Paras" by Frank Hilton published by the BBC from the TV series. Tel: 0293 542752. 15.90

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Wanted by enthusiast, original military or civilian Kukris, any condition, prices negotiable. Please ring Jack Mawson on 0305 779857. 15.90

Combat and Survival magazine will pay for personal stories of military action, extra for photographs. We also need cartoonists and some stories on the lighter side of army life. Contact Ian Drury, Aerospace Publishing, 179 Dalling Road, London W6 0ES. Tel: 01-749 2425. 15.90

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Seven to ski for GB teams

THIRTY SIX teams from BAOR and the United Kingdom took part in the 11th national, Inter-Service, Army and BAOR Nordic ski championships at Zwiesel, Bavaria, near the Czechoslovakian border.

Lack of snow did not prevent seven of the 250 competitors from impressing the British Ski Federation selectors.

As a result, Cpl Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt), Cpl Carl Davies (22 Sig Regt), LCpl Ian Woods (26 Engr Regt) and Pte Malcolm Hamilton (1 KOSB) were chosen for the Great Britain team to compete at the World Championships in Minsk, USSR at the end of February, and Cpl Neil Danby (28 Amph Engr Regt), LCpl John King (1 Armd Div Tpt Regt) and Mne Croasdale (45 Cdo) were selected for the GB team to compete in the pre-World Championships at Val di Fiemme, Italy, and at the World Cup at Le Brassus, France.

Individual winners at the Zwiesel meeting, which was sponsored by Clerical Medical Investment Group, were Cpl Dixon, the Army Nordic champion, and Gnr Lee Greaves (19 Fd Regt RA), the junior champion.

Champion unit were 35 Engr Regt, followed by 19 Fd Regt who also won the RA team championship trophy.

In the military combination, 19 Fd Regt were best Service unit and champion Army unit; JLR RE won the junior leaders' team trophy; and 35 Engr Regt, 2 Queens and 17/21 L won, respectively, the RE, Infantry and RAC cups.

Infantry yachts available

INFANTRY units hankering after a life on the ocean wave can make their dreams come true by chartering the Infantry Sailing Association's two Sadler 34 yachts, each of which sleeps seven and comes complete with resident qualified bosun if required.

Details of cost and charter periods still available for Bold Warrior and Bold Fusilier can be obtained from the yacht manager, Maj Paul Norrington-Davies, 2iC 1 RRW, Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, Wilts (tel: Warminster Mil 3238).



Great Britain representatives for the world biathlon championships in Russia. From left are Cpl Michael Dixon, LCpl Ian Woods, Cpl Carl Davies and Pte Malcolm Hamilton

Brian wins UK Nordic ski title

THREATENED for a time by unseasonably good weather, Exercise Snow Country, the Army's UK Nordic ski championships in the Scottish Grampians west of Aberdeen, was saved in the nick of time by a heavy fall of snow.

Sponsored by The Famous Grouse Scotch whisky, the event attracted 340 entrants.

The championships also saw the official opening of the new rifle range built specially for the competition.

After four days of tough competition, the prizes were awarded by the GOC Scotland, Lt Gen Sir John MacMillan.

Major prizewinners were:

15km cross country champion, 10km senior biathlon champion and overall open winner, LCpl Brian Muirhead (1 KOSB); 3x5km ladies' biathlon and Inter-Service champions, Army ladies' Nordic team; 5km youth cross country winner, Jldr Stephen Greenwell (AAC Harrogate); 10km youth cross country winner, Jldr Powell (AAC Harrogate); 10km junior biathlon sprint, Pte Hamilton (1 KOSB); junior leaders' champion team, AAC Harrogate; UK minor unit team champions, Depot King's Division; TA Nordic team champions, 211 Amb Sqn RCT (V).



LCpl Brian Muirhead (1 KOSB), the UK Nordic champion with some of his trophies



A long way to Auckland

THE road to Auckland was a very long – and occasionally discouraging – one for Commonwealth Games skeet marksman WO2 David Goude, a Royal Anglian currently on loan service in Swaziland.

David, of 2 R Anglian (appropriately known as the Poachers), found himself in line to represent Swaziland after taking part in local skeet competitions.

He and a Swazi farmer were chosen – only to discover that there were insufficient funds to fly the team to Auckland. Dave promptly emptied his bank account and, with

generous help from 2 R Anglian and local business, departed for New Zealand via London, Tokyo and Melbourne, a marathon journey that took five days. Having arrived late, the skeet team had just 14 hours sleep before their first competition. In the pairs event they finished a creditable tenth, and in the individuals Dave survived the qualifying stages before achieving 27th place overall.

BOTH the UK and BAOR Challenge Cup competitions were being decided as SOLDIER went to press, writes Pat Massey.

At Sennelager, 10 Regiment RCT were still on course to retain the Army's premier football trophy after beating 28 Signal Regiment 3-0 in their semi-final. They were due to

Great eight!

THE current balance of power in Forces boxing was accurately reflected in the division of titles at the Combined Services individual championships at HMS Dryad near Portsmouth, writes John Elliott.

Eight of the 11 divisions were won by Army boxers, with the Royal Navy picking up two and the Royal Air Force one.

At stake is more than an entry on the CSBA roll of honour – the championships also constitute a preliminary round of the George Wimpey ABA competition.

Combined Services title-holders are potentially just four bouts away from becoming national champions.

For the Army's successful eight, next step on the ABA trail is against Western Counties at HMS Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent on March 15. That will be an England ABA quarter-final.

Another Army-Navy re-

SCOTTISH international flyweight LCpl John McLean (39 Engr Regt), Army captain and super-heavyweight LCpl Dave Abbott (Gren Gds), bantamweight LCpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), and light-middleweight Pte John Culwick (23 Para Fd Amb RAMC) earned their titles the comfortable way – on walkovers.

It was a lot harder for Cpl Alan Lesbirel (2 RGJ). He took the featherweight title on a majority decision after a desperately close contest with SAC Colin McAuley (RAF).

Lesbirel, who had beaten Cook John Miller (RN) in a preliminary contest, worked very hard in the third round to get the nod.

Sgt Lee Innes (22 Engr Regt) won his first CS title and the best boxer award with a composed, mature performance against SAC Mark Shepherd (RAF). The young welter-

Judo

WINNERS at the UKLF senior intermediate individual judo championships at ASPT Aldershot were: Sgt McDonald, Depot RAOC (under 60kg); Pte Latus, 1 PWO (under 65kg); AT Edmundson, AAC Chepstow (under 71kg); OCdt Platt, RMAS (under 78kg); Pte Lund, 1 PWO (under 86kg); and SSgt Chapple, 11 Sig Regt (under 95kg).

CUP OF GOLD

Lugers lead UK challenge

ARMY lugers are flying the flag for Britain in Europe – and they are doing it with considerable distinction.

Despite the British Racing Toboggan Association having virtually withdrawn from the ice tracks, the Army has a team sponsored by civilian firms taking part on the World Cup B circuit.

And in the final international meeting of the season at the fast and dangerous Kongisee track in Bavaria Army sliders swept the board, winning gold, silver and bronze medals in both men's and women's events. The Rover Germany/Flowerscene Army championships ran concurrently.

In the men's competition Cpl Ian Whitehead (101 Pro Coy RMP) won the gold medal, Cpl Keith Yandell (12 Armd Wksp REME) the silver, and Capt Mark Armstrong (REME, attached 1 RS) the bronze.

Cpl Vicki Fry (101 Pro Coy RMP) won her second World Cup gold medal – she also won at Imst in Austria – with Capt Stephanie McGowan (Mov Control Hanover) taking silver and Lt Sue Broom (BMH Hanover) bronze.

Marc wins luge title

WINNERS of the inaugural RE luge championships were 35 Engineer Regiment, followed closely by 21 Engineer Regiment.

Individual winner was 2nd Lt Marc Finch (35 Engr Regt), who went from rank novice to corps champion inside the space of three terrifying days.

Newcomers were helped by Great Britain team coach and Olympics veteran QMSI Jim Evans. First to beat the "25 second" barrier was Lt Dave Taylor (21 Engr Regt), who finished second overall.



Members of the Army squad which won the 1990 Foster's Inter-Services bobsleigh championships at Breuil Cervinia in the Italian Alps line up for a photograph. In the background is the famous Matterhorn. A consistent Army performance edged out the defending champions, the Royal Air Force, by a margin of 2.54 seconds.

The Royal Navy were third, just 6.65 seconds behind the Army.

The RAF effort was undermined by crashes but their crew of Tom De La Hunty and Keith Brown recorded

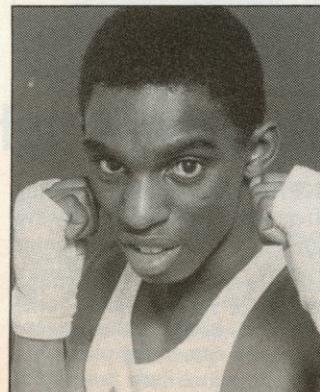
Champions in the fast lane

the fastest time over four races. 1 Para's LCpls Sean Olssen and John Sowerby were second fastest. The top Army racers were taking part in the World Championships at St Moritz.

Generous sponsorship allowed the Army to get in "ice time" before the event and this proved crucial in

their successful challenge. Lt Col Duncan Jones, manager of the Army team, explained that the Cervinia track is regarded as the most challenging in the sport. It is a natural rather than refrigerated course and produces speeds up to 80mph on its 17 vicious bends.

Howlett calls it a day



DOUBLE ABA bantamweight boxing champion Sgt Keith Howlett (pictured left) has hung up his gloves. He plans to become involved in coaching.

Howlett, who turns 28 this year, is a member of the APTC, currently attached to the Light Division Depot at Winchester.

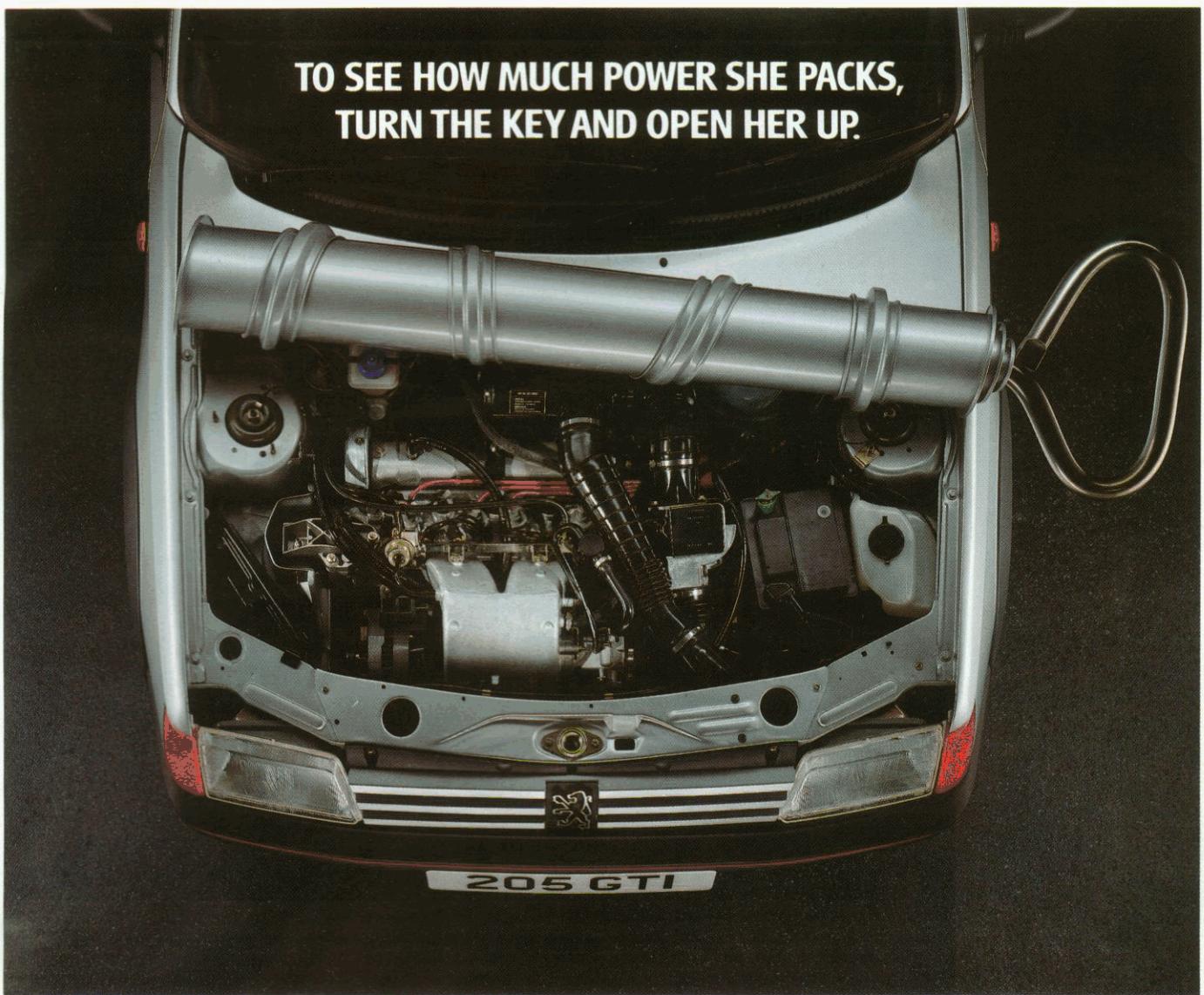
He won his first Army title in 1983, the same year that he picked up the first of five Combined Services titles.

Howlett won the national bantamweight title at Wembley

Arena in 1988 and retained it a year later. He boxed for England on 15 occasions and represented his country at the European Championships in Greece and, more recently, at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand.

Howlett plans to concentrate on his Army career and earn his ABA club coach award. Mne Mark Edwards, the 1989 ABA middleweight champion and Commonwealth Games bronze medal winner, has also retired.

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There are a hundred other little things that go towards making the 205 GTi 1.9 a special creature.

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SOLDIER



History made... history in the making.
A derelict church stands out in the evening sun and a young soldier of 1 KOSB crouches in the shadows on Ulster's border. A colour feature on 1 KOSB begins on Page 25.

Picture: Mike Weston