

# SOLDIER




27 JULY 1987

35 PENCE

**CAT 87 challenge**  
— Pages 20 to 26



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27 JULY 1987

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**FRONT COVER: A muddle of masts and rigging as Army crews and their boats gather at the Joint Service Sailing Centre, Gosport, Hants for the Army Sailing Association's four-day regatta.**

**Picture: Paul Haley**

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# SOLDIER

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



**He's looking at us looking at him! An East German border guard takes more than a passing interest in a Berlin Wall patrol mounted by 1 Bn The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Read about some of the units that make up the Berlin Infantry Brigade in the next issue. There will also be a feature on the Ruhleben fighting city at Spandau. Don't miss it!**



## Good LAD

Well done Cpl Nigel Hughes! You have won our latest HOAY competition and a cheque for £50 is speeding to you at LAD REME, 29 Cdo Regt RA, The Royal Citadel, Plymouth, Devon.

There is another "big money" opportunity with HOAY on Page 43.

## Call signs

● Ex-members of the YMCA staff at Heldebrand Barracks, Penny Pot Lane, Harrogate, W Yorks from 1940 to 1944 wish to hear from Army personnel and helpers from that time. Write to Ex-members of YMCA Staff, YMCA, Lord Street, Huddersfield, W Yorks, marking envelope "To be collected".

● A trip to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine being organised by Capt J A Pielou (ret'd), Regimental Association of the Middlesex Regt (DCO), 2 Emperors Gate, London.

● Ex RSM W E Potts RASC, 7 Tower House, Burlington Avenue, Slough, Berks SL1 5LA, wishes to trace men of 73 GT Coy RASC or 1 Brit Inf Div RASC who served with him in Italy and Palestine.

● Lynne Silsby, 9 Middlemore, Northampton NN3 5DE, wants to hear from past or present members of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Band who knew her father, Bandsman Richard Silsby.

# GI instruct guards in drill? Never!

A GI teaching guardsmen how to drill (SOLDIER, June 29)! I joined up in 1950, am still serving and was always led to believe that the British Army never carried out any movements, drill or otherwise, that were not contained in some British Army regulation or publication, and also standard throughout the Army.

PRIZE  
LETTER

I agree that it is acceptable for the Americans to "pose" with their patent leather boots, chrome helmets and so on, but how come our men have to

carry out *their* drill? Frankly I have never seen such sloppy drill, albeit different, as that performed by any other country, let alone the Americans.

Is this going to be another case like the decimal currency/sterling, litres/gallons, and ton/tonne episodes?

I, and the majority of my comrades, are absolutely horrified at the prospect.

Just imagine a guardsman on public duties with a mouth full of chewing gum, rifle slung, and hands in pockets. The mind boggles! - J W Jones, 1 Back Lane, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

At the risk of starting a new War of Independence we are awarding our prize book to Mr Jones for his forthright views. - Editor.

## He's just talking to them!

Your picture (SOLDIER, June 29) of guardsmen being taught drill by an American instructor and bearing the caption *It cannot be true! But it is...* isn't! The guardsmen are in the wrong formation to be taught drill and they are all standing to

attention - and therefore looking to their front. The GI is, I suggest, merely talking and not teaching the guardsmen anything! - WO1 (RSM) D J Stone RE, 1 Trg Regt RE, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.



GI DRILL: the picture that started the row

## Malta veterans qualified for Africa Star

Ex-Sergeant F Kisby asked about a medal for service in Malta 1941-1943 (SOLDIER, June 29). Service in Malta between June 10, 1940 and May 12, 1943 qualified any soldier stationed on the island to the award of the Africa Star (without emblem).

If Mr Kisby served for more than six months in Malta during the period outlined, he would be eligible for the 1939/45 Star as well, so perhaps he should write to the Army Medal Office in Droitwich and claim his medals - first giving full details of service.

Incidentally, I hesitate to contradict such a distinguished authority on headdress badges of the British Army as Hugh King, but the badge requiring identification by the reader in Australia (letters page, April 20) is not that of the Guards Machine Gun Regiment.

It is the badge of The Guards Division Machine Gun Battalion 1916-1918, and if in brass, is most probably a "restrick". The badge itself was in white metal, held in place with two copper loops. - A J Sudlow, 10 Westway, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2SD.

That truth was sacrificed for the sake of drama in the film *Zulu* (repeated recently on BBC Television) will surprise no one. Truth, though, can be stranger than fiction and far more interesting.

While the Swedish missionary Otto Wilt did leave in some haste, a British priest remained and to good effect. The Rev George Smith busied himself throughout the action handing out ammunition, and from his report on the action we can read that two Buffs were also present.

"The pont men Daniells and Sgt Milne (3rd Buffs) offered to moor the ponts in the middle of the stream and defend them from the decks with a few men. But our defence force was too small for any to be spared and these men subsequently did good service within the fort."

It would be interesting to know of the

## Rorke's Drift hero wasn't a film villain

subsequent service careers and lives of these two East Kents.

Pte Henry Alfred Hook VC was most ill-used by the film makers, who portrayed him as a drunken malingering. He was in fact a lifelong teetotaler! Portrayed as a thief forced to join the Army to avoid prison, he had in fact served in the Monmouth Militia before joining the 24th Foot.

After leaving the Army he became an attendant at the British Museum and

served as a sergeant in the Royal Fusiliers Reserve. He died in 1905 just short of his 55th birthday and was buried in his native village of Churcham, Glos.

Colour Sgt (later Lt Col) Frank Bourne was the last survivor of all. He died in May 1984 just after the German surrender and is buried in Elmers End Cemetery at Beckenham, not far from the grave of the great cricketer W G Grace - Howard Dodsworth, 15 Mereworth Road, Tunbridge Wells.

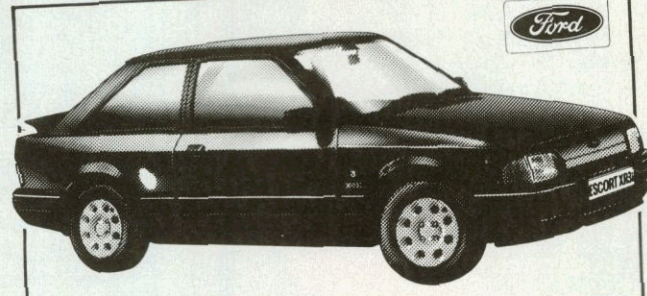
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## HAC is the oldest, not the most senior

In your article concerning the HAC march past entitled "Pikemen parade for the Queen" you say that "The Honourable Artillery Company is the oldest regiment in the British Army and is the most senior unit of the Territorial Army."

Your first statement that the HAC is the oldest regiment in

the British Army is correct but your second is not.

I would like to draw your attention to Chapter 8 of The Queen's Regulations for the Army (Ceremonial), para 8.001 (Precedence of Corps and Regiments), Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia). - T D Smith, 19 Moffat Road, Tooting, London.

## If you want swagger, watch Boys' Brigade

"What about the swagger?" asks Major Barrow (SOLDIER, June 29). I would suggest you send one of your photographers to the Music Wing of The Guards Depot at Pirbright this month and show him how The Boys' Brigade do it.

I have arranged with Drum Major Dean at the depot for

one of our drum majors to spend the day with his Corps of Drums. Simon is only 15 years old but I would be surprised if Drum Major Barrow was not delighted with his performance. - Eric R Waters, Brighton, Hove and District Battalion PRO, The Boys' Brigade, 55 Roedale Road, Brighton BN1 7GB.





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## In memory of 2nd Division

The Queen Mother unveiled a memorial to the 2nd Division in York Minster's Dean's Park and later took the salute at a march past of contingents representing the present division and the divisional old comrades.

The divisional memorial is a seven-arched arcade, the sole surviving fragment of the medieval palace of the Archbishop. Behind the centre arch is a replica of the Kohima Memorial, the scene of the division's greatest battle.



The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards, inspects the regiment at Buckingham Palace before presenting new Colours to the 1st Battalion

## Sappers defuse whopper

WORKMEN on a building site in South London got the shock of their lives when they excavated a 1,000kg German wartime bomb. They gently laid it on the ground and called the police. A Royal Engineers bomb disposal team from 33 Engr Regt (EOD) based at Lodge Hill Camp, Chattenden, Kent was tasked by the Joint Services EOD centre at Didcot, Oxon to make it safe.

A team led by Maj Robin Swanson was quickly on the scene and Bomb Disposal Officer Capt Chris Goddard identified the device, immunised the fuse and began the process of steaming out 640kg of high explosive.

"They are still highly dangerous," he said. "Explosives in the bomb and the fuse decay with time and become more sensitive and therefore we have to treat them with extreme care."

The fuse was later removed and detonated on site, and from first call to return home the operation took 32 hours.

Destination of the impressive 6ft long bomb casing is likely to be a museum.



Royal Engineers led by Capt Chris Goddard (third from left) with the 1,000kg wartime bomb they defused in South London

## They liked it!

THE WRAC Staff band has made its first appearance in Hong Kong. Under Director of Music, Capt Ena Forster, the band played in the city's shopping centres, at military functions and schools.

The band also played on the Sino-Anglo border which divides the New Territories from China. During the 30-hours they were there 300 illegal immigrants trying to reach the Colony were detected – an increase of 1,000 per cent.

● The band's new record is reviewed on Page 42.

## Tidy brigade

THOUSANDS of Regular and TA troops from the West Country have completed a military exercise with a difference, a week-long clean-up called Operation Wyvern Eye.

Their efforts were co-ordinated during a Training Areas Enhancement Week as part of the Army's contribution to the European Year of the Environment.

The south-west campaign was centred on various garrisons, training areas and camps. Tasks included removing litter and other debris.



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A mixed column of British and American anti-tank vehicles makes its way across a plain in the Anatolian mountains, Turkey

## ACE team in Turkey

THE British contingent of the eight-nation Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force has been taking part in a major Nato training exercise, Aurora Express, in Eastern Anatolia.

The British contingent trains at least twice a year in likely deployment areas ranging from Norway – where it spent two months earlier this year – to Turkey on the southern flank. It consists of men of the Logistic Support Battalion and other supporting units based in the Bulford area, as well as artillery from Larkhill,

helicopters from Netheravon and armoured cars of D Squadron 13/18th Hussars from Tidworth, Hants.

Aurora Express was set in the remote north eastern corner of the Anatolian mountains, a sparsely inhabited region, parts of which have scarcely been touched by the 20th century. The region borders with Iran, Iraq and the USSR.

Operations took place all along the valley of the Aras Nehri River which provides the only route through the eastern mountains separating Turkey from

the USSR and Iran. The road which runs alongside this river was used by Alexander the Great on his way to the east and since time immemorial has carried caravans of silk traders from the Orient to the Mediterranean.

A Force spokesman said "This is a very important exercise which provides the British contingent with a chance to work and train alongside many of their Nato partners in a harsh environment.

● Turkish bath – see Page 41



Ready and waiting – the anti-tank platoon of 1 Wessex

## 1 Wessex dodge the hippies!

MEN of the 1st Bn The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers), members of the only TA battalion permanently attached to a Regular infantry brigade, have completed an exercise on Salisbury Plain during which they had to avoid elements of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers – the official enemy – and columns of hippies on their way to Stonehenge.

The battalion is part of the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF) based on the 1st Infantry Brigade. Changing from combat greens into

infantry scarlet, the bands and drums of 1 Wessex – which has just marked its 21st year of existence – performed a Beating Retreat ceremony in the market square in Devizes, Wiltshire.

## Guard of honour

THE 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers provided a guard of honour when the Queen arrived at Holyrood House, Edinburgh for the start of the summer royal visit to Scotland.

## Thunderbirds are here

MEN of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry played host to 120 men of the Oklahoma National Guard at Knook Camp, near Warminster, for a fortnight's reciprocal exercise.

The visiting US cavalymen, part of the

45th Infantry Brigade, are known as the Thunderbirds and are based at two towns south east of Oklahoma City. Current role of the brigade is as an infantry formation committed to form part of the US reinforcements to Europe and Nato.



# NEWS ON TAP (10)

In Portsmouth to watch the arrival of the historic ironclad battleship HMS Warrior were these three warriors. From left to right are Capt Barry Hawgood, Capt Anne Larsen Burnett and Maj Peter Rhodes. All three are members of the UKLF pool of TA Public Information Officers, and the Portsmouth visit was made during their annual camp at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham. The 47-strong pool of TAPIOs is on call to give the Army a positive image and its members have served all over the world.



**JIM AND ANN:** their chauffeur awaits . . .

## Back seat role for driver Jim

CPL Jim Denson and his bride Ann had a wedding day to remember. Jim, who serves with the 4th (V) Battalion of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, is the CO's driver and was the first TA soldier to be married in the regimental chapel, but Lt Col Bernard Stam insisted on a bit of role reversal – and drove the happy couple to their reception.

The CO's Regular Army driver, LCpl Bill Gee, was best man.



## Great Dane



Making his mark with 36 Engr Regt at Invicta Barracks, Maidstone, Kent has been Danish sapper Lt Torben Ronsov (pictured above). He started off as a National Serviceman before signing up as a Regular and gaining a commission in the engineers. Torben spent a fortnight learning the ways of his British counterparts, who are this year celebrating the 200th year of their Royal Charter.

## THAT'S OUR DAD . . .



**YOUNG** Allan Shepherd (8) and sister Rebecca (6) were pleased as punch when Dad went along to their school at Warton, Lancashire, with his tank! Dad is Sgt Roy Shepherd of the 14th/20th King's Hussars and he is currently serving at the Army Careers Office in Preston.

Roy arranged for Scorpion and Scimitar armoured recce vehicles to visit St Paul's Church of England Primary School during a regimental "meet the people" tour.

Youngsters from the school needed no second invitation to swarm all over the two ironclads – and it was a fine way for Allan and Rebecca to impress their friends!

**and he came  
to our school  
with his tank**

**PROUD DAD:** and even prouder children



Top shot,  
Graeme!



**HIGH BALL:** Maj Cooper hits his way into the record book

# PEOPLE

## THE HEIGHT OF ACHIEVEMENT

MOST golfers would do anything to avoid a rough lie. Not so Maj Graeme Cooper of the Green Howards. He has just gone to extraordinary lengths to find himself the most difficult shot possible – from 17,100 feet up Mount Salcantay in the Peruvian Andes.

Graeme, from the BAOR adventurous training branch, carried his No 7 iron to Peru on Expedition Paddington Green. After a nine day

trek at lung-busting altitudes, he split from the main party and climbed another 600 feet to smash the Guinness Book of Records highest golf shot entry, held by a Capt Shand who played at 16,000 feet in Tibet in 1937.

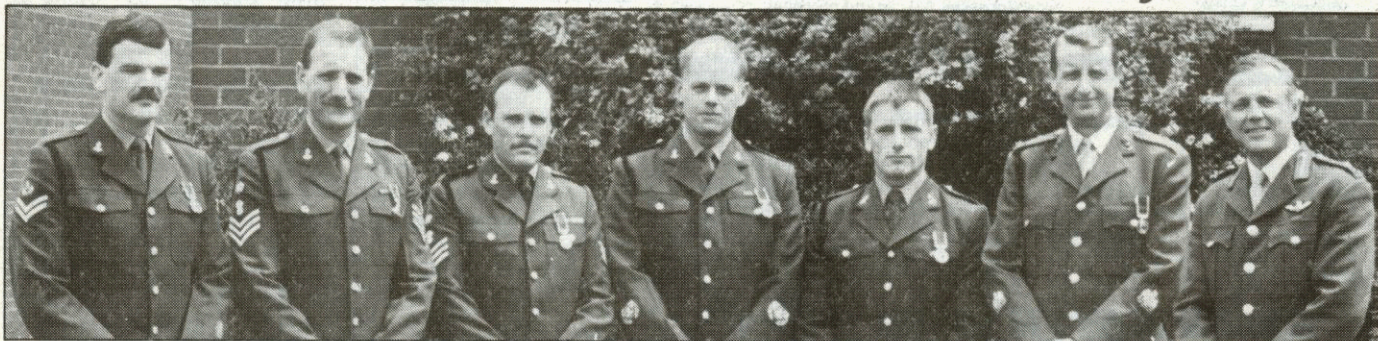
In the thin air of the Andes, Graeme's bright yellow ball landed about 1,000 feet below his makeshift tee at the foot of the Mount Salcantay glacier.

## Turkish delight!



It takes two to take advantage of the officers' exchange au pair scheme, which is how 23-year-old Lt Penny Dickens (left) found herself whisked out of the WRAC Centre at Guildford to spend a fortnight with the Turkish Army in Ankara and Istanbul. Her place at the centre was filled by Lt Tuba Canli, a mathematics teacher who is one of just 25 girls in the Turkish Army.

## ★ *Medals galore for six of the very best*



One pace forward the likely lads! Maj Gen Leslie Busk (right), Director of the Army Air Corps,

and a former sapper, presented long service and good conduct medals to six Royal Engineers

with nearly 100 years of service between them. On parade at Gibraltar Barracks, Hawley were

(from left) Cpl Bradbury, SSgt Ryan, SSgt King, WO2 McNeil, WO2 Millar and RSM Brooks.



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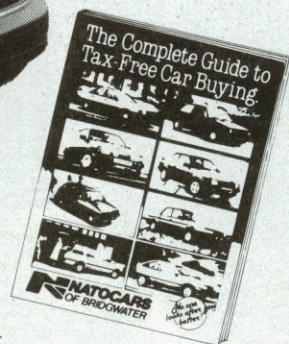
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# Artists Rifles club in at Bisley

Twenty years after the Artists Rifles clubhouse at Bisley Camp was sold following the withdrawal of Army funding, it is back in business.

A group of ex-Artists have inaugurated the Artists Rifle Club and the clubhouse will be run as an independent civilian shooting and social club.

The Artists were hoping to have the clubhouse open for the National Rifle Association event at Bisley this month.

The Artists Rifles dates back to the mid-19th century when it was formed to include painters, sculptors, engravers, musicians, architects and actors. The corps was officially named The 38th Middlesex (Artists) Rifle Volunteers, and although over the years the regiment has been reformed and renamed it has always retained the word Artists in its name.

# An improved Challenger

What went wrong with Challenger's challenge in the Canadian Army Trophy competition? (see page 20).

One of the problems was the lack of training time available to British crews, but The Royal Hussars competitors were also quick to point out that although Challenger may not do well in competition, it is a superb battle tank. It's a great compliment to Challenger for its crews to say: "There is no other tank I would rather be in in combat."

Now the House of Commons has been told by The Hon Timothy Sainsbury, Under Secretary for Defence Procurement, that improvements to Challenger are in hand.

A new thermal imaging and observation sight is presently being fitted to all Challengers. And new developments well under way include a new gun, improved ammunition and elevation gearbox, improved computer sighting system and a new target acquisition and solid state electronic gun control system.

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

# SOLDIER to Soldier



What's new?

Notice anything unusual about the helmet apart from the fact that it is the new design? Well spotted! The Gloucestershire Regiment has stitched its famous backbadge to the webbing securing camouflaged helmet covers.

The honour of wearing their cap badge front and rear was granted to the Glorious Gloucesters after they fought successfully back-to-back against Napoleon's men outside Alexandria in 1801.

# A range of choice for artist

Artist Lincoln Rowe was granted a TA commission in the Royal Corps of Transport – so he could paint pictures of mountains and their wildlife.

He joined 13 Servicemen and one woman on the successful joint British-Indian Army expedition to the 7,410 metre Himalayan peak of Saser Kangri IV.

The British team brought back film of the seldom seen snow leopard, and also captured on film other rare animals and birds. Studies endorsed by the Royal Geographical Society were undertaken in ecology, geology and human studies.

British Army climbers were Col Ivar Hellberg RCT, Capts Sarah Dennis RAMC and Martin Bazire RAOC, SSgt Dave Orange APTC and Gnr David Torrington RA (V).

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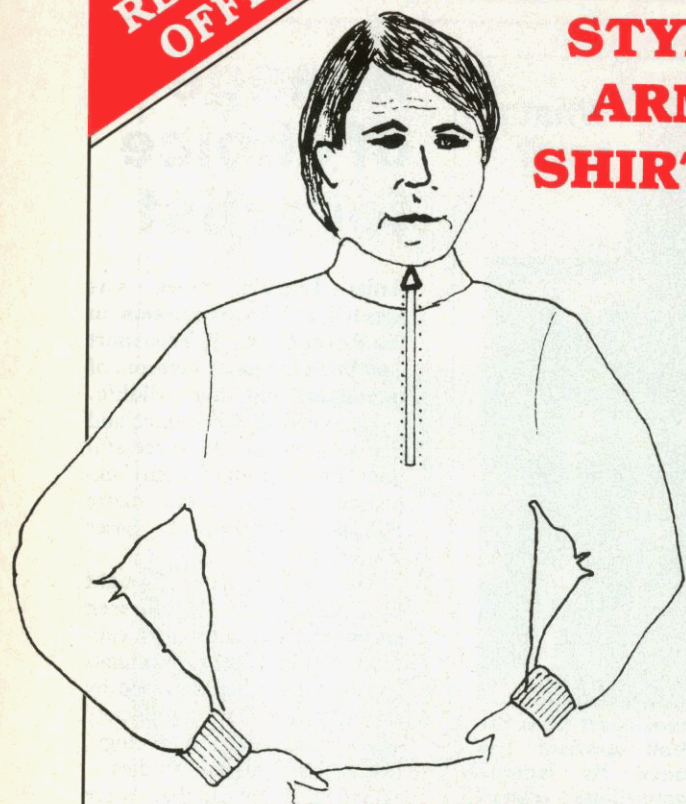


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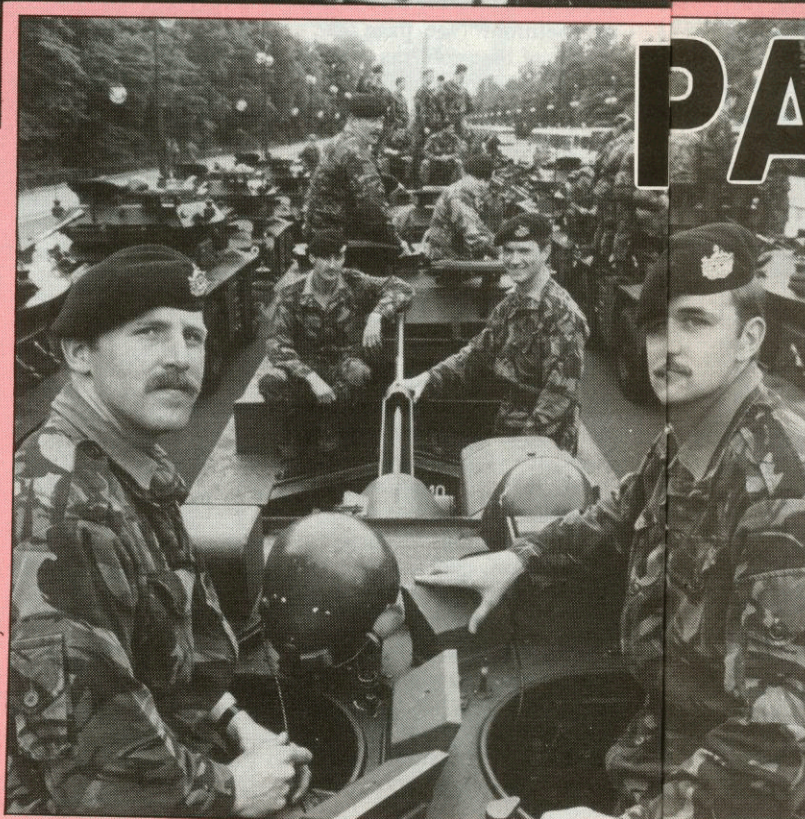
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# BERLIN ON PARADE



Waiting for the off! Fox light recce vehicles in the hands of 1 Gpsters all set for a full parade rehearsal the day before the big event

Pictures: Paul Haley



Left – American GIs join the parade

A US Army helicopter hovers in front of Berlin's famous Victory Column for an abseiling demonstration

BERLIN's annual military spectacular, the Allied Forces Day Parade, drew thousands of spectators to the streets around the Tiergarten.

Stands lining the arrow-straight Strasse des 17 Juni from the Brandenburg Gate into the heart of the city were packed as the massed forces of the British, French and American allies paraded past.

Taking the salute at a parade designed to display allied solidarity and commitment to the defence of West Berlin was the French Commandant, General de Division Paul Cavarrot.

The British units taking part were the first battalions, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Black Watch each with their bands, pipes and drums, the reconnaissance platoons, armoured personal carriers and anti tank platoons of each battalion, and the Chieftain tanks of B Squadron, 14th/20th King's Hussars.

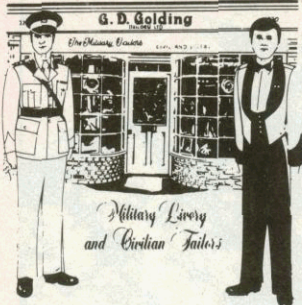
The parade ended with a fly-past of the three Gazelle helicopters of Berlin-based 7 Flight AAC streaming red, white and blue



On parade in Berlin, the 1 Bn The King's Own Scottish Borderers march past the reviewing stands



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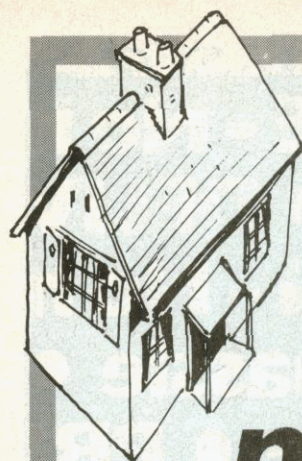
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# DON'T GET LEFT OUT

## Put your names on the housing list now!

**SERVICEMEN and women on council housing lists could find themselves out in the cold when allocation time comes round.**

For as a recent official Army publication on council housing warns, "times and circumstances have changed".

While reiterating the well-known fact that council housing is scarce, the

document reveals a worsening problem.

In eight short paragraphs it tells a bleak story and says: "Many local authorities are short of accommodation and have long waiting lists. Recently

the situation has become worse due to council house sales to tenants, the reduction in new housing projects and the obligation on the part of the authorities to re-house homeless persons

irrespective of the numbers on the waiting list.

"Some local authorities are sympathetic to Servicemen and their housing needs; others are not. Whether or not there is any sympathy, if no accommodation is available then none can be allocated," it

says bluntly, and adds: "This is happening more and more often."

The news does not improve with paragraph four which says: "Even if a Serviceman is extremely lucky and gets a council house, it may not be in a good location or in a good



**WITH FAMILIES IN MIND**  
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# IN THE COLD

condition."

Para five offers nothing better except the advice to get on the list. "To have any chance of getting a council house it is essential to register with one or more councils. Most authorities will only accept registration from people who have

some local connection, such as a family living in the area or if it is an area the Serviceman or his wife came from. Even better is a written offer of a job in that area. But all of this only gets entry to the waiting list and it could be months or even years before a house

or flat is offered."

What the document did not say was that the wife's name should be on the list as well.

This could avoid the type of shock endured by a widow whose husband had been on the list for 15 years, but she was refused

housing because her name wasn't listed.

This particular case was resolved, but severe stress could have been avoided had her name been there with his.

Other hazards abound, too high an income being just one: "If the gross salary of an applicant exceeds £9,000 then he does not qualify for the list," says one local authority. Another pushes the base line up to £10,000. This came as a shock to one soldier who

received a letter telling him he was no longer listed as his gross pay exceeded the limit.

Yet another authority keeps a wary eye on senior NCOs who now have grown-up families and the benefit of a gratuity or pension and income from a civilian job — they, too, can be barred from the list.

As the document says, times are changing and councils can and do ask all sorts of questions to reduce their lists.

But despite all of these hurdles it is vital to get your names on to a housing list. Check with your local authority regardless of length of service.

**Do it now and don't get left out in the cold.**

## 'Singles' want homes, too!

SINGLE Servicemen and women face housing difficulties, too, as not all councils accept them on their waiting lists.

Even if they are accepted they come well down the list when being considered for accommodation.

Stoke-on-Trent is one of the few to consider single people for one-bedroom flats and, significantly, is the only West Midlands district listed in SRB 2 1987 indicating an awareness of the housing problems faced by such people.

Conversely, Surrey Heath council recently refused a single prison officer who had lived in the borough for 21 years and had been on the list for 16 years.

His request for a house was thrown out because he was not disabled, had no dependent children, was not elderly and it was possible for him to buy his tied house under a Home Office scheme.

In addition it was pointed out that, after 21 years in employment and living in a

tied house, he must surely have made some provision for his retirement.

Few councils actually mention unmarried Service personnel in their housing policies, so it is vital for these people to examine their housing needs well in advance and keep up to date with local policy.

## Homemaking — US style

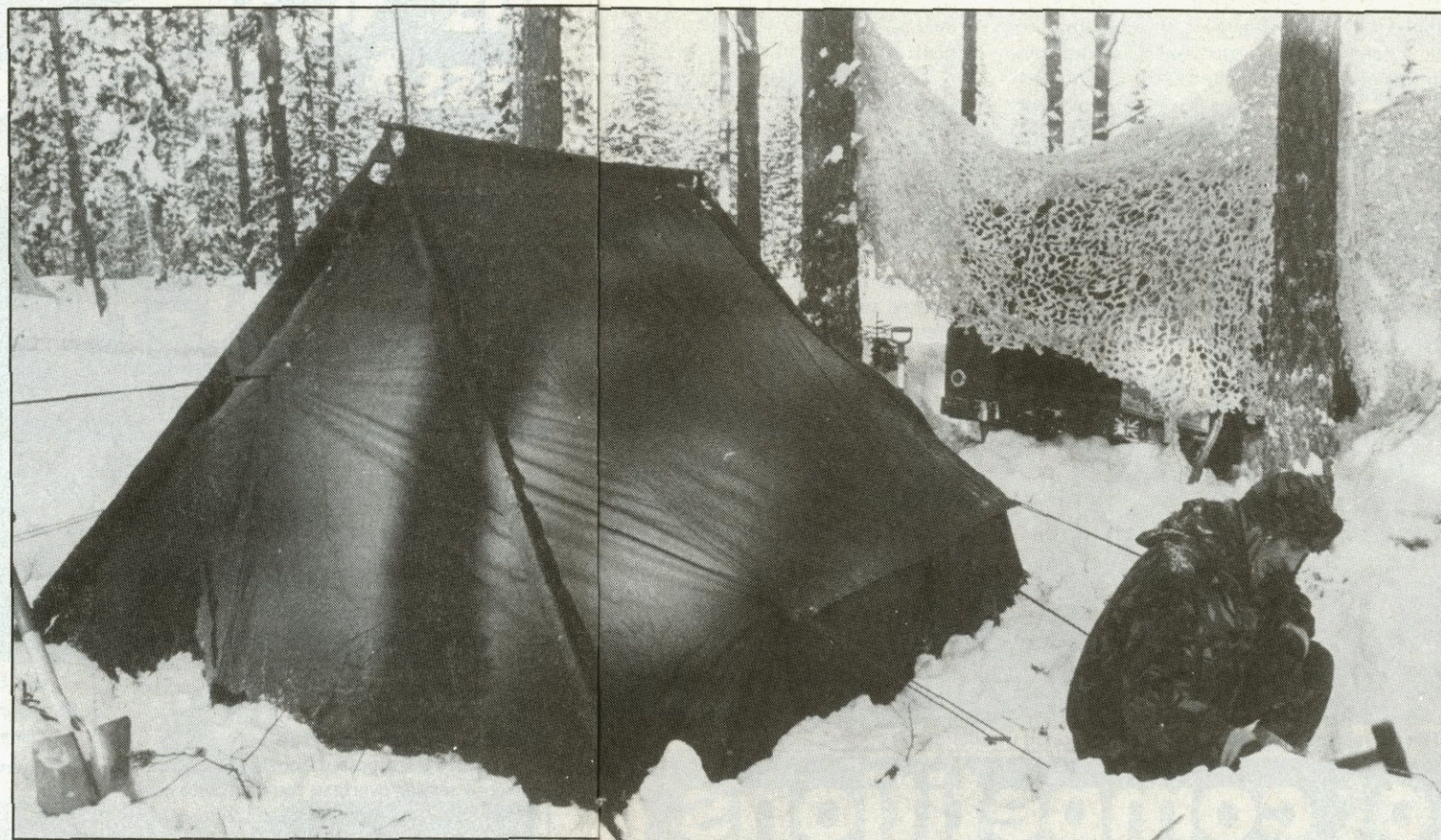
WHEN a US Army MQ in Germany is renovated the family get an extra living allowance to help pay the cost of eating out.

If repairs take three months or more, the army pays for the family to move out until the work is finished.

A GI can even get leave to supervise the

work being done. It's all part of the US Army's plan for better homes and barracks in Germany by updating their 1950-style quarters to the standards of the 80s.

Barracks, too, are getting a facelift with extra facilities such as stereo radio, TV and computers, plus an increase in space.



ARCTIC CONDITIONS IN NORWAY... a bitter cold experience best avoided when living at home

## HOME IN ON THIS NEWS...

INDICATING to those leaving the Army how bad the housing problem is, the 1987 Services Resettlement Bulletin 2 provides an analysis of the West Midlands.

Each town and district is covered for private housing for sale or rent and local authority policy on housing Servicemen and women.

The picture is grim with Solihull, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Oswestry among the worst places; long waiting lists; no special concessions for Servicemen; few if any council houses in the foreseeable future; must have a definite

job in the area; must have previously lived in the area.

It's a similar story further south. Arun District Council in West Sussex was, in 1981, sympathetic to Service applicants.

In 1984 it was giving priority to Servicemen with families who had served for a reasonable period and who had lived in the district for three years before joining the Service.

Today, Arun DC still gives priority to end-of-service soliders, but they can only get on the waiting list if they cannot afford to buy a house and have the minimum residential qualification.

## IN MY VIEW

**SYMPATHY'S FINE BUT IT WON'T PROVIDE A HOUSE**

**THE Government has in the Queen's speech stated that housing will be one of the major issues during this parliament.**

They will tackle homelessness, rented accommodation, continue the right-to-buy scheme and increase building programmes. A laudable list indeed, but will it help the Serviceman about to leave the Army find a home?

Before I am accused of being alarmist and causing unnecessary

worry to those who are soon to leave Her Majesty's Forces and seek either local authority or private housing, I would draw attention to the D987 DCI and SRB 123 of 1987.

The problem is more acute when a family has been overseas for three or more years during which time the housing and land market will have changed considerably in an upward direction.

Every day reports show soaring

prices and earlier this month a national newspaper revealed the increases in residential land prices since April 1986.

The increase in northern land prices was 12.3 per cent with

## MAKE A KEYMOVE SOON

Wales next at 12.7 per cent. East Anglia was 39.1 per cent and outer London 44.5 per cent.

It goes without saying that higher land prices mean higher home prices and as I have come across families and unmarried soldiers and those who are separated and divorced — all of whom are faced

personnel and those about to leave.

I urge all those who are not absolutely certain of having a home at the end of their service to read the current DCI and the SRB of 1986 and 1987. Write to your local council for information on their policy for HMF.

Ask for the current number of people on the various housing lists and each year write again and confirm your place on the waiting list. It pays to make sure.

Ask the council to notify you of any changes in policy, which is especially important if you are overseas.

Verbal requests and answers have no authority. Do everything in writing and ask for written answers to all questions — even if you call in at the housing office.

But the sad fact is that however sympathetic local authorities are most councils insist a Service applicant has completed a minimum of nine months on the waiting

list; can provide a CO's certificate of discharge; and, where applicable, has had a notice to quit a MQ.

This tougher policy for HMF has completely changed the prospects of a house for a Service family.

There will be families who have no difficulties and there will be councils which will help, but if they don't have the housing stock, they won't be able to.

If you wish to buy, rent or seek council housing then start early. It doesn't pay to hang about.



# What went wrong with Challenger's challenge?

**WHAT went wrong?** That was the question being asked in the British camp after Challenger's disappointing first appearance in NATO's showcase tank gunnery competition, the Canadian Army Trophy.

The answer throws up two main branches of discussion, firstly the combat as opposed to the competitive attributes of Challenger and, secondly the sheer dedication of other teams trained single mindedly in pursuit of the trophy.

The Canadian Army Trophy (CAT) is a biennial event in which British, German, American, Canadian, Dutch and Belgian tank crews pit their wits against each other during a week of sharp-shooting battle runs.

Held this year at the American training area in Grafenwohr, southern Germany, CAT 87 proved one of the toughest competitions to

date with targets blending into the surrounding woodland.

Firing at ranges of between 800 metres and 2,400 metres, crews must hit as many of the tank-size hessian screen targets in the shortest possible time. Targets are engaged in three bounds while falling plates representing enemy infantry are engaged by machine gun while on the move.

British representative this year was B Squadron of The Royal Hussars, based at Fallingbommel, who pipped 2 RTR to the firing line when team names were drawn out of a hat in April.

Unable to match the accuracy they achieved during practise sessions, The Royal Hussars trailed in last.

Nevertheless they were up against some keen and canny competition and the British approach to CAT fell far short of other nations in terms of

**duration of team training and the specific grooming of crews earmarked for CAT.**

Drawn from a front line combat unit, B Squadron simply uprated its annual live firing programme from the beginning of the year and did not begin preparation in depth until selection in April.

From then on they immersed themselves in CAT and arrived at Grafenwohr feeling they had done as much as they could.

This short training programme can be compared with the Americans and Germans who dedicate teams to an intensive schedule 12 months beforehand, and the Dutch who pick the cream of their conscript recruits and then train them solely for CAT.

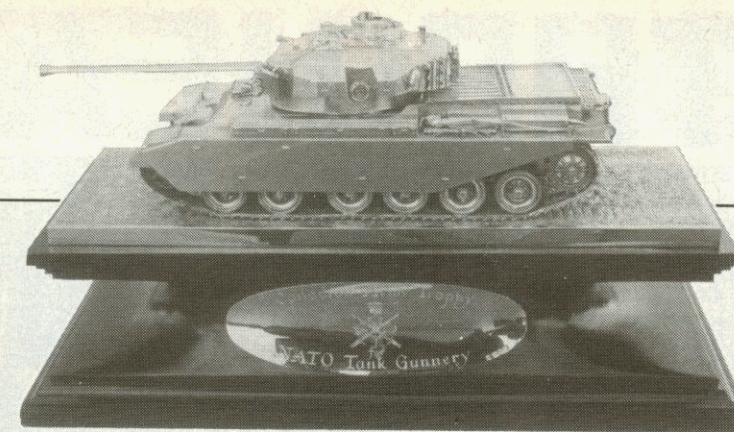
**Split seconds mean points and a number of time factors meant the balance was not in favour of Challenger.**

British armoured regiments

operate in troops of three tanks whereas all the other competing nations operate in troops of four. Target acquisition takes less time when a competition range is split into four arcs of fire rather than three.

The British tank uses bagged charges separate from the round whereas other nations employ a single round with cartridge case. A bagged charge means there is less clutter in the turret during combat but in competition a crew is only as fast as its loader who has to place two items in the breech.

The Challenger's fire control system is basically an uprated computerised version of Chieftain's and could not compete in terms of speed with the state-of-the-art gunnery systems of the M1 Abrams and Leopard 2. Its sophisticated TOGS thermal imaging sight was of limited use at CAT but would come into its own in combat.



**Reports by**  
Mervyn Wynne Jones  
**Pictures by**  
Paul Haley



**ANXIOUS:** Members of The Royal Hussars (above right) team watch Challenger in competition

## Not a lot! It's built for battle, not competitions

MAJ Charlie Darrell OC B Squadron told SOLDIER: "Challenger is a superb battle tank but as far as competition goes clearly the modern fire control systems of Leopard 2 and Abrams have the edge.

**"But Challenger is reliable in all conditions and there is no other tank I would rather be in combat."**

Lt Harry Offer, troop leader, said: "It is simply not a competition tank. The main

features of British tank design have always been firepower and a greater emphasis on armour. We have a heavy tank which can take a lot of punishment but the turret takes some moving round."

He added: "I suppose there is a lot to be said for training well in advance but with all our commitments we were unable to do so."

Watching the week's events was The Royal Hussars' RQMS

WO2 Robert Balch who competed in CAT 75 at Hohne with Chieftain.

"It was a lot simpler then," he said, "because you were firing at fixed targets at known ranges."

"An element of realism is lost because you are only firing one type of ammunition, the discarding sabot training round, and you do not adopt normal combat techniques."

"In battle, if presented with

two targets, you would take out the nearer, more dangerous, enemy tank but here you have to take out the furthest first so that you do not obscure the nearer target with dust.

"It is certainly quite an experience for the lads."

"Quite apart from anything else they are firing rounds costing more than £1,000 each - and you can be sure they do not get too many of those to play around with!"



**SALUTE:** American tankmen cheer a M1 Abrams as it enters the competition range



# THE HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDERS

**LEOPARD 1A1:** First delivered to the Belgian army in 1968, it has a 105mm rifled gun which is trained to its target by a computer linked to a laser rangefinder. Weighing 40 tonnes, it has a water-cooled 830 hp diesel engine turning in a top speed of 65 km/h.

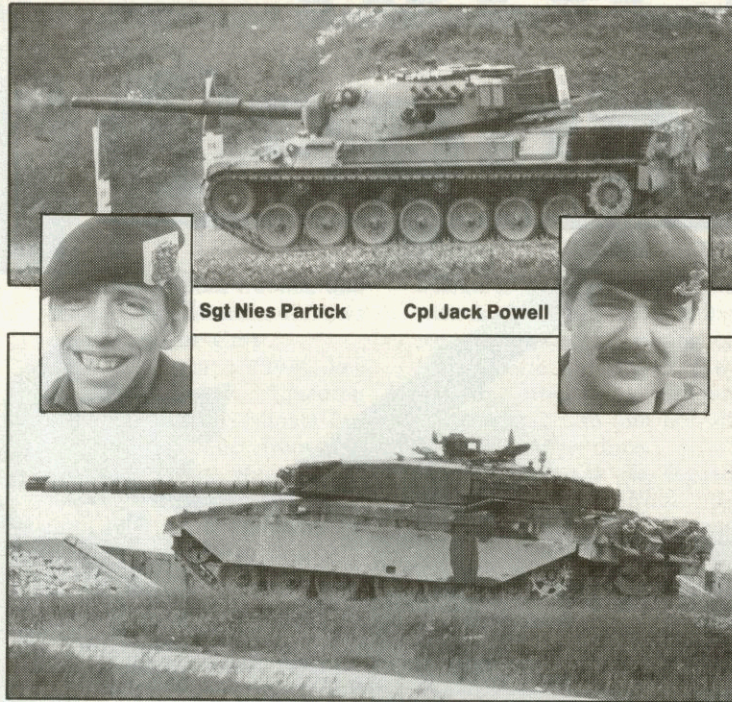
**Crew Commander:** Sgt Nies Patrick, A Company 4th Lancer Regiment, Belgium.

*"Despite being 20 years old it can still do its job well. The main armament is a British gun. It's a good weapon and we can acquire and take out targets quickly. It is a fast tank and our laser rangefinder is excellent, but if I were to be given the choice of any of these tanks I would choose Leopard 2."*

**CHALLENGER:** A replacement for Chieftain, it is armed with the same 120mm L11 rifled gun backed up by a computerised fire control system and TOGS (Thermal Observation and Gunnery Sight). Protected by the latest Chobham armour, it weighs 60 tonnes and is powered by a 1,200 bhp Rolls-Royce diesel engine. Maximum road speed 56 km/h. Bagged charge means longer loading time but crew can kill target in six seconds.

**Crew Commander:** Cpl Jack Powell, B Squadron The Royal Hussars, United Kingdom.

*"We are 10 to 20 tonnes heavier than any of the other tanks but are still very mobile. The hydrogas suspension is a big improvement on the spring packs of the Chieftain and its cross country performance is excellent. The gunnery sight system dates back from Chieftain and though it is computerised there is still room for improvement. Weighing it all up there is no other tank I would rather be in in battle."*



**LEOPARD 2:** In service with the Dutch and West German armies, it has a 120mm smooth-bore gun which when fired automatically recoils into the loading position with breech open. Weighing 55 tonnes, it can develop a maximum speed of 72 km/h. Well trained crew can get three rounds off in 15 seconds.

**Crew Commander:** Stabsunteroffizier Reiner Hoefer, 4th Company Panzerbataillon 124, Germany.

*"The stabilisation system is an update on Leopard 1 and the optics are excellent. The commander has a periscope so while the gunner is taking out a target he can be looking for the next. Loading is quick because our rounds have a semi-combustible cartridge case with a metal base stub which is ejected from the gun after firing."*

**M1 ABRAMS:** First delivered to the American army in 1981, it has a 105mm rifled gun and a turbine 1,500 hp air cooled engine which provides a maximum road speed of 72 km/h. Weighing 54 tonnes, it has no NBC capability though its successor, the M1A1, will have. Ability to kill two targets in five seconds.

**Crew Commander:** SSgt Willie Powell, D Company 4/8 Armoured Cavalry Battalion, USA.

*"It is a very simple tank, you can elevate, traverse, lase and fire all from the same piece of equipment. We have got more room, we are faster and we can put out more fire power than any of the other tanks. They have got more penetration power but we have got more firepower, and the M1A1 with its 120mm cannon will be the icing on the cake."*



## How some crews had 'seen' it all before!

TANKMEN in Germany will soon be doing battle with opponents in America – without ever leaving their bases.

The trick is a new American simulator which with microchip and satellite makes full scale engagements possible even when the combatants are thousands of miles apart.

Dubbed SIMNET, short for Simulation Network, the system heralds a new style of mass training for American service personnel according to its designers, the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Just a blank sheet of paper and a spark of an idea five years ago, SIMNET has now entered service at Fort Knox in Kentucky and at Grafenwohr Camp, the American base east of Nuremberg, West Germany.

A total of 320 SIMNET simulators are being installed at US Army bases across America and in Germany. At a cost of 250,000 dollars each the US defence department feels it has got a bargain.

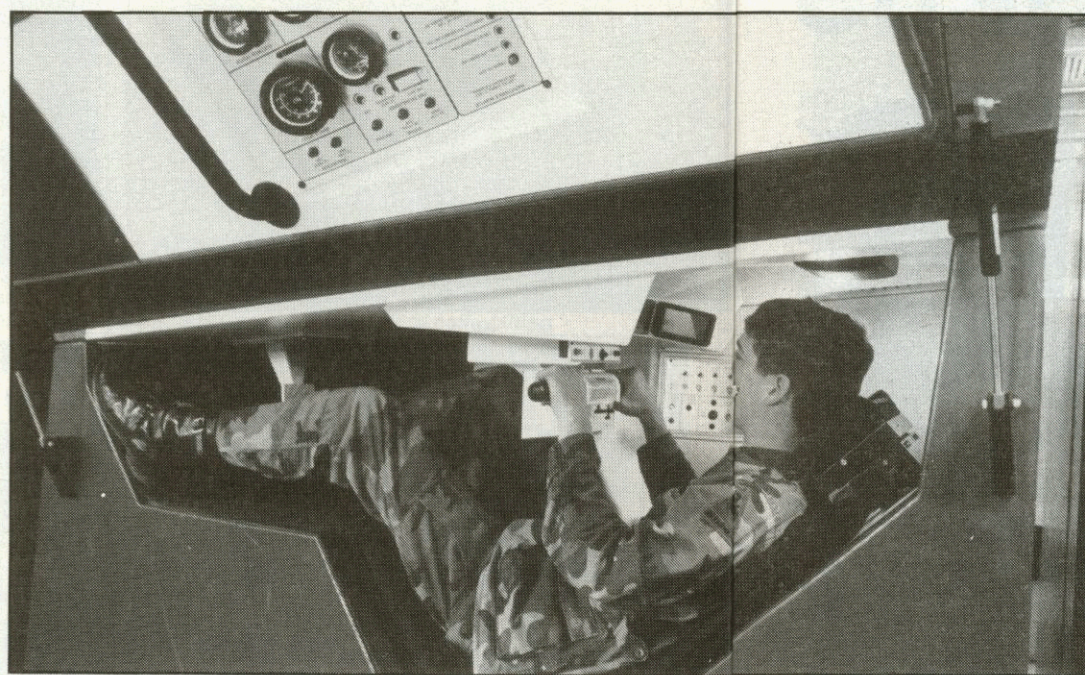
Cost is all relative of course

and when one considers that the training simulator for the Marine Corps' Harrier aircraft costs 16.6 million dollars – about the same as the aircraft itself – then SIMNET seems a good buy.

It is tailored for the training of M1 Abrams crewmen, but additional programmes for other US Army aircraft and vehicles are in the pipeline and an all-arms battle environment will soon be feasible, said Lt Col Robert Clover (retd), SIMNET sites manager for one of the prime contractors, Perceptronics.

When the whole system is set up, it is not unlikely that a tank crew in Grafenwohr could engage another operating its own SIMNET at Fort Knox with close air support provided by a helicopter pilot from Fort Rucker, Alabama, and a Bradley Fighting Infantry Vehicle crew from Fort Benning, Georgia, all linked by satellite.

Engagements are fought on 50 by 50 kilometre square data terrain bases, built up digitally from maps, aerial photographs, colour charts and ground



**SIMNET: electronic reality at the touch of a button**

surveys. They are perfect to the last detail.

Sounds of battle echo through the simulator as it is "driven"

across country, and the special effects of airburst and ground barrage are startlingly realistic. SIMNET simulates the loading

and firing of both HEAT and sabot rounds which speed towards their target with exactly the same characteristics of

velocity and flight as the real thing.

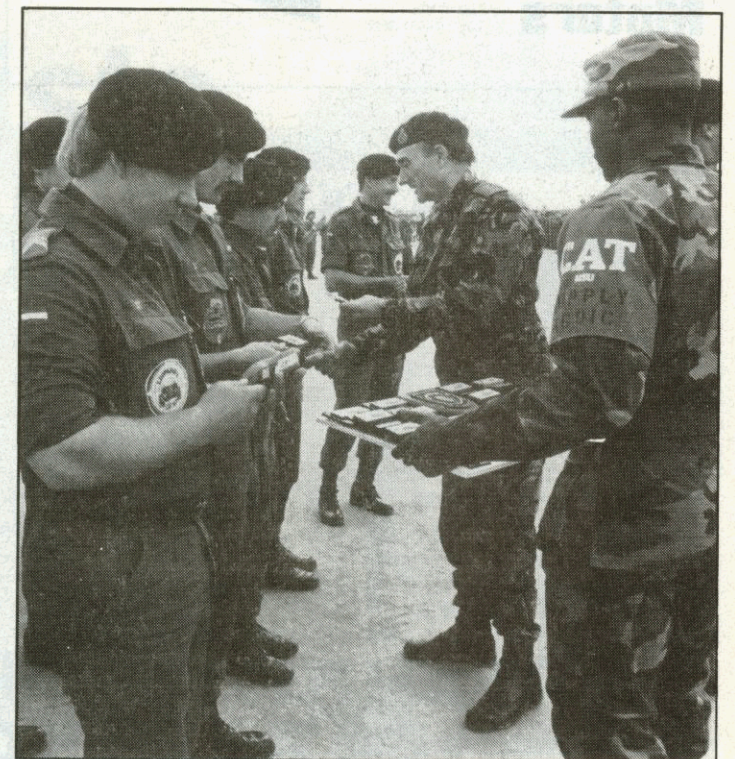
Introduced to Grafenwohr earlier this year, the SIMNET simulators had an obvious application in the training of American crews competing in CAT 87. While no tanks were allowed to practise on the competition range from January 1, there was no block on feeding all its details into SIMNET.

**The result was that the American and Canadian crews were almost fully conversant with range 301 before they ever reached the firing line during CAT week.**

Crews knew where to look for targets, and though they could not predict the permutations in which they appeared, once spotted they could call out individual targets by number to alert others on the firing line.

Lt Harry Angel, troop leader with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, said: "We were lucky I guess and it was certainly a help. It was quite creepy going out on the range and recognising it from SIMNET."

## TOP CATS



NORTHAG tankmen receive their medals from Gen Sir Martin Farndale, C in C BAOR and Commander NORTHAG

## Central Triumph

The Canadian Army Trophy competition was contested by Central Army Group – the eventual winners – and Northern Army Group, both of which fielded five teams.

The three highest scoring teams in CENTAG were 4/8 Armoured Cavalry Bn (US), Panzerbataillon 124 (D) and 3/64 Armoured Bn (US), and the three highest in NORTHAG were 43 Tank Bn (NL), 4th Lancers (BE) and 2/66 Armoured Bn (US).



# EXTROT ROMEO ECHO ECHO

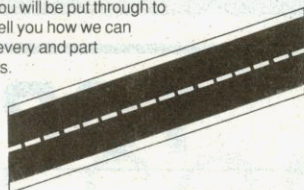
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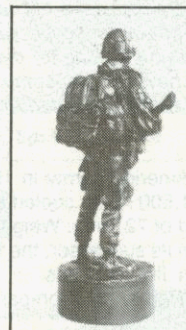
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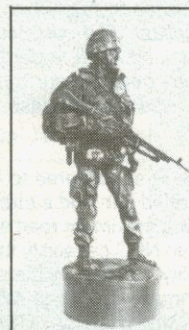
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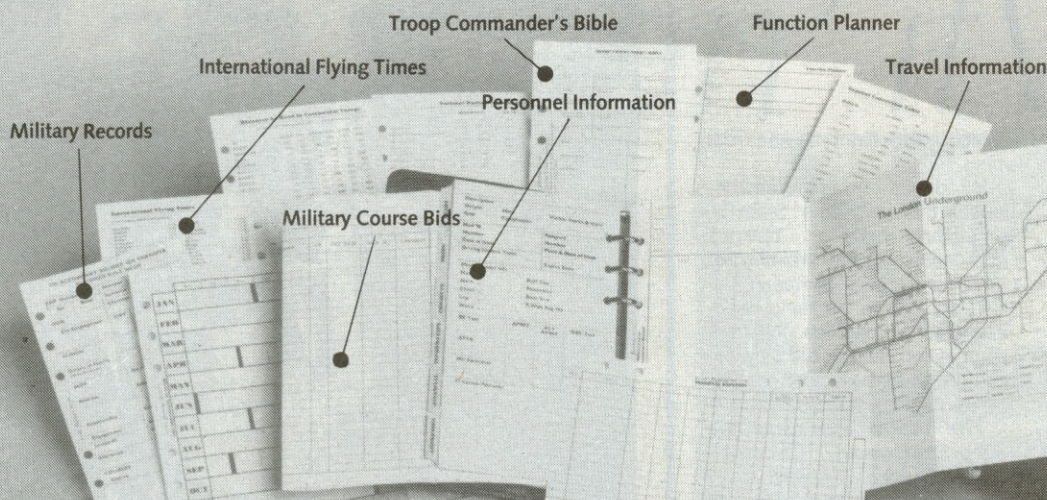
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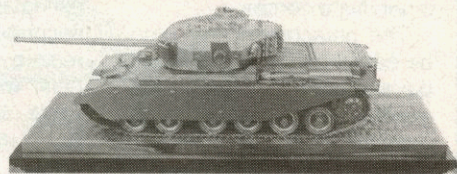
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RELAXED AND SMILING: Canadian crewmen on their Leopard 1A1

# Psychologists ease Canadian jitters



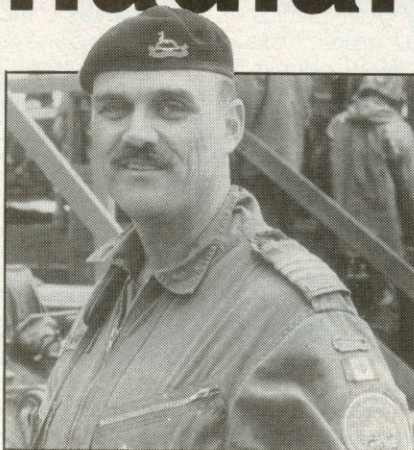
BILLED the armoured Olympics of the NATO alliance, the Canadian Army Trophy competition brings great pressure to bear on competitors.

Despite a change in rules which means that units contest the trophy under the multinational umbrellas of either Central Army Group or Northern Army Group, individual squadron and national pride are still uppermost in crewman's minds.

Aware that months of training are at stake and that they are the focus of attention for everyone who is anyone in the field of tank warfare, competitors are – understandably – both eager and apprehensive.

The CAT competition started in 1963 with the aim of improving the overall standard of tank gunnery in the Central region of the European allied command, and while this is still the case it has also taken on the mantle of a competitive sales pitch.

Thus the pressures have increased over the years and with them an awareness that competition jitters can be a problem. The need to reduce tension has been tackled in depth by several CAT teams.



Lt Col Bob Meating

Adopting an idea already in use by the Germans and Americans, the Canadians this year hired two university sports psychologists to coach their team, C Squadron of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, in relaxation and concentration exercises.

Bottom of the table at the end of the last competition, the Canadians felt CAT 87 would be an opportunity to test the techniques of sports psychology in a military context.

The two psychologists were hired at a cost of \$50,000 (CAN) and RCD CO Lt Col Bob Meating – delighted at the performance of his Leopard 1s in comparison with teams using all three of the other, more advanced, types of tank – was full of praise for them.

"They have been of great benefit to all of us," said Lt Col Meating. "The crews quickly accepted them when they arrived in January and they have been of enormous help in learning how to relax, concentrate and refocus if something goes wrong."

"Crews work within a chain of command and tempers can fray. Soldiers have been going to them to iron out niggles such as a colleague's bad voice procedure and even seemingly petty things such as someone eating too much garlic."

An analysis of the Canadians' performance in CAT 85 showed that crews were overkilling targets and the RCD planned a structured approach to their training for this year's competition.

A team roster had to be fixed by the end of last year and Lt Col Meating put

● Turn to next page



# Black Hawks of mercy

BASED in one of the busiest training areas in West Germany, the paramedics of the US 15th Medical Detachment fly more missions from Grafenwohr than any of their colleagues in Europe.

Recently equipped with six specially converted UH-60A Black Hawks, the detachment flies 50 missions a month to incidents within 100 nautical miles of Grafenwohr, east of Nuremberg.

One helicopter is kept on 24 hour standby every day of the year and can be airborne in six minutes to attend training or road accidents involving US Servicemen, their dependants and all other Nato forces.

The detachment can also be called on by the German government to help in medical evacuation during emergency situations involving German civilians.

Equipped with full trauma and emergency first aid kit, the aircraft can carry a portable incubator for the movement of new-born or premature babies.

It is also equipped with a

forced entry tool set and fire extinguishers to fulfil its secondary role of crash rescue. An internal rescue hoist with 256 feet of steel cable can be mounted for pick ups in inaccessible areas where landing is impossible.

The Black Hawk conversion, which can carry six litter patients and two ambulatories plus medics, replaces the slower, less advanced, UH-1V Hueys.

The new helicopter is able to fly blind in bad weather and has de-icing aids to prevent its rotor blades from freezing.

Part of the Stuttgart-based US 421st Medical Coy, the paramedics deliver most of their patients to the American Army Hospital at Nuremberg.

The detachment comprises 42 aircrew, ground maintenance crew and airmedics. The medics

join the unit after a month's specialist training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, over and above their normal medical training.

Detachment OC Maj Gerald Nagel told SOLDIER: "The job certainly keeps us on our toes. It's an odd one though because we want to fly and do our mission but on the other hand we don't want anyone to get hurt."

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones  
Picture: Paul Haley



**SPECIAL CONVERSION:** One of the US paramedics' six UH-60A Black Hawks

## Canadian jitters eased

● From Page 25

forward all three of his squadrons to give everyone a chance at being picked out of the hat.

Each squadron commander was given the mandate to have his crews ready for CAT 87 if and when chosen in April, and for the first four months of this year an intensive gunnery training programme was carried out.

A simulator was sent from Canada to their base at Lahr, unit gunners were taught their craft from scratch to eliminate any biases, dry battle runs were carried out regularly, attack plans were developed to eradicate the overkill of targets and live firing was carried out at the Bergen-Hohne ranges.

C Squadron was eventually chosen as the Canadian entry but Lt Col Meating said his whole regiment were better tankmen as a result of the training programme.

Since April the life of C Squadron has

revolved around CAT and the number of crews was gradually whittled down as training continued. A series of "quickie" tests honed individual knowledge of the rules of the range and competition.

"Right now my battalion is on a real high," said Lt Col Meating, "and it just shows what can be done after such a disappointing performance as the one we put in last time."

RCD troop leader Lt Harry Angel enthused: "I think we were rated the underdogs and we have proved that this is not true."

He and the other Canadian crew men had several practice sessions on the American SIMNET tank simulator at Grafenwohr.

This was also true of the American teams who were able to benefit from an intimate knowledge of range 301, the CAT 87 range, gained from regular sessions on SIMNET.

Based at Schweinfurt, the American

3rd Battalion, 64th Armour, were well prepared for CAT 87 having started their training programme last summer.

Veterans of three CAT competitions and the first American unit to receive the M1 Abrams, the 3/64th knew exactly what to expect and how their tanks handled. Their crews had been hand picked during the course of the year's training.

Two companies from the battalion were trained from the word go but only one was eventually chosen. What were the benefits of such a long training programme, asked SOLDIER?

Capt John Tisson, company commander, replied: "We aim to win but at the very least we will be better tankmen. When you first start training everyone is all geared up but it can be difficult keeping the motivation going."

"The secret is to expect a lot of them and set high standards so that they know exactly where they stand."



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†Measured by the VDA method.

\*Ford computed figures.



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**The new Sierra Sapphire. 2.0i Ghia.**

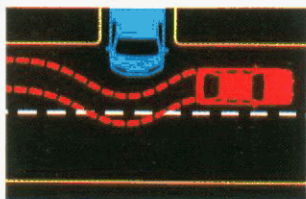
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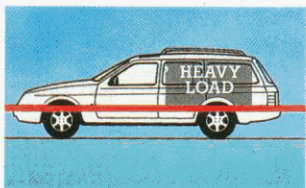
**The new Sierra Sapphire.**



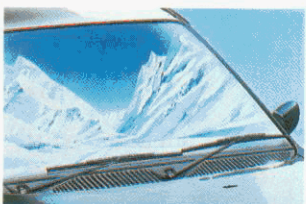
the available grip. So if you ever have to really stand on the brakes, they could help you steer safely out of trouble. They're now



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# WIPERS

**They called it Wipers. A 14-week battle which claimed the lives of nearly half a million men. If the enemy didn't kill you, there was always the clinging, suffocating mud. Graham Smith has researched an event described by a participant as 'mere unspeakable suffering'.**



A field gun in difficulties

THE third battle of Ypres – “Wipers” to the stubborn, heroic Tommies and their Empire allies of 70 years ago – and its 14 weeks of desperate fighting which transformed battlefields into vast bogs with bottomless shell-hole lagoons topped up by torrential rain, was described by one German general as “the greatest martyrdom of the war”.

The savage struggle which preceded the successful capture of Passchendaele village by the Canadians was chronicled by General Erich Ludendorff as “mere unspeakable suffering”.

The third Ypres offensive in

Flanders turned into an action for which military and political leaders such as Field Marshal Douglas Haig and Prime Minister Lloyd George attracted stern criticism for poor intelligence gathering and unnecessary delay.

One of their few allies was the atrocious weather which did its utmost to hamper progress across the “moonscape” battlefronts.

Few leaders came out of the inquest well. Those who did were the exhausted Tommies and their Canadian, Australian and New Zealand comrades who were supporting the

French and Belgians.

Estimates vary on the carnage of the 3½-month campaign. Figures range from 300,000 to more than 400,000. It was a blood-letting which achieved its object; the capture of Passchendaele village, seven miles north-east of Ypres, by the Canadians on November 6, 1917.

The fighting was soon to rank with that of the Somme, a year before, and Verdun in terms of sheer savagery and loss of young life.

● Turn to next page







A wounded soldier is retrieved from the muddy horror of the battlefield

● From Page 31

So intense was the battle that 159,000 Germans from 63 divisions were killed between July 1 and October 10.

A rain-sodden summer – five times the annual average rainfall – played an horrendous part.

Allies and Germans alike had to advance, withdraw and counter-attack over a quagmire of shell-hole craters – water-filled abysses into which men and horses lost their footing and drowned in great numbers. The mire permeated everything in killing grounds randomly excavated by intensive artillery fire.

Passchendaele, it was commonly agreed, was the key to Ypres.

To grasp it, the British and their allies had to break out of the Ypres Salient.

They had been defending it for 30 months and the Germans had to be dislodged from the strategically vital Messines Ridge.

Some 957,000 lbs of gun powder and ammonal packed into 21 great mines was laid by sappers under the Messines-Wytchaete Ridge. At 0310 on June 7, all but two of the devices exploded, hurling mud, men, weapons and equipment skywards. About 10,000 Germans were said to have been

dismembered or buried under the tons of falling debris resulting from the Western Front's mightiest simultaneous detonation.

To this violent overture was added a 16-day bombardment by 2,266 field guns lobbing more than four million shells into the German lines along an eight mile front.

The British had planned to take three objectives that day but the German Fourth Army, ordered to withdraw, counter-attacked and slowed down the impetus of the British initiative.

Gen Ludendorff later wrote: "The 7th June cost us dear and owing to the success of the

enemy the drain on our reserves was very heavy. It was many days before the front was again secure. The British Army did not press its advantage; apparently it only intended to improve its position for the launching of the great Flanders offensive."

By July 22, German artillery fire on Ypres had become persistent and heavy.

A few weeks later the Australian 4th and 5th Divisions were to suffer 5,471 casualties while driving back the Germans from Polygon Wood.

An entry in Field Marshal Haig's diary at that time suggested that the enemy's

artillery had been "cowed" by a preliminary bombardment starting on July 16. The British Fifth Army brought into concerted action 2,174 howitzers and field guns. Against them were ranged 1,500 German field pieces. During the following fortnight 4,283,500 rounds were fired.

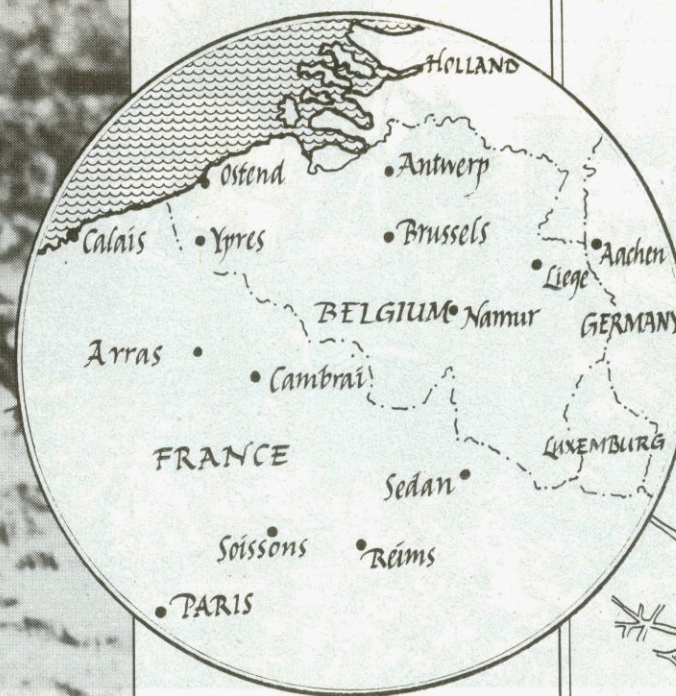
On the eve of the main battle planned for July 31, Brig Gen John Charteris penned: "Before this reaches you we shall have attacked again..."

"My one fear is for the weather..."

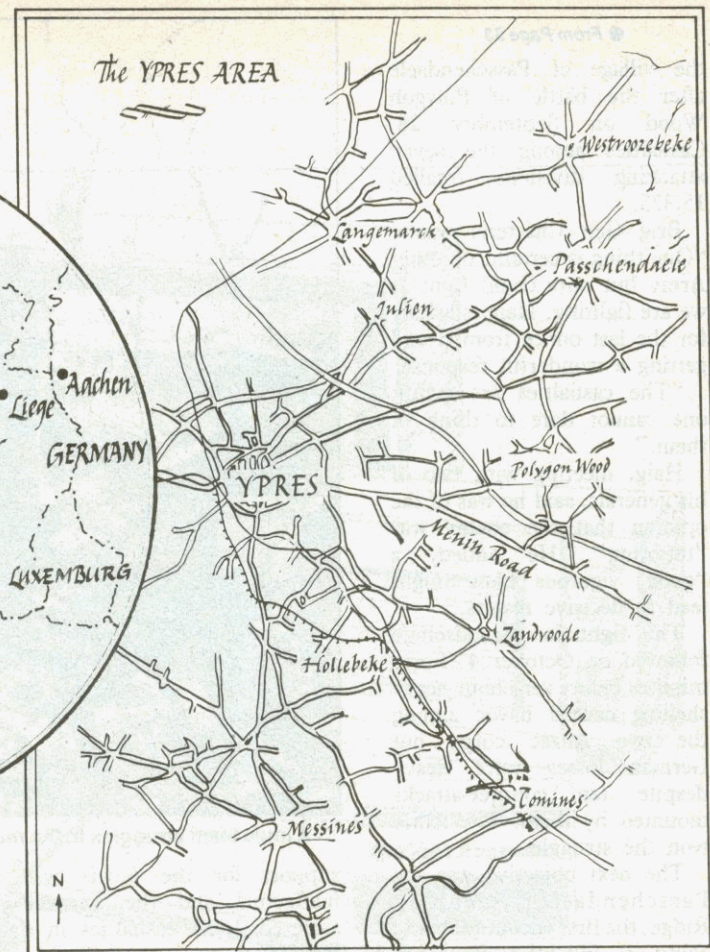
Zero hour was 0350. The third battle of Ypres had begun. British, Empire and French troops went over the top at 0630 supported, according to one German report, "by the heaviest drum fire".

Twelve hours later heavy rain had the Germans up to their knees in brackish water as they made their last abortive attack. It rained non-stop for four days, and men and animals drowned in deep, water-filled shell-holes.

General Hermann von Kuhl, General der Infanterie, wrote: "In the early morning a storm of fire broke out the like of which had never been experienced before. The whole Flanders earth moved and appeared to be in flames. It was no drum fire any longer, it was as if Hell itself had opened.



The "cockpit" of Europe. Terrain fought over since Roman times



The debris of war back-dropped by a pall of shellfire smoke

"Deep into the farthest corners of Belgium one could hear the mighty thundering of the battle. It was as if the enemy wanted to announce to the whole world: 'We are coming, and we shall overcome.' The British and French troops moved into the attack."

So it was. The British Fifth and Second Armies and the French First Army broke out of the Ypres Salient. By the end of the day 6,000 German prisoners and 25 guns had been taken. The gain was just 3,000 yards!

But the weather intervened. Rain slowed down the offen-

sive. Pastures turned into swamps. German morale worsened. Artillery pieces became unserviceable and inaccurate because of mire seeping into their mechanisms.

The news was not encouraging for the British either. Haig noted in his diary: "The country will never forgive the Government in its failure for this vital matter."

Still it rained. At last, on August 16, the British Fifth Army attacked, and four days later Marshal Pétain attacked at Verdun.

In the Ypres Salient another

mile had been taken by September 20 with the capture of the Menin Road Ridge involving the British Second and Fifth Armies in concert with the Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions. The Aussies suffered more than 5,000 casualties.

The Germans retaliated with mustard gas. They also adopted the tactic of setting up machine gun posts in shell craters. Pill boxes or concrete emplacements also appeared on the battlefield.

A race against time and atrocious weather was on for

● Turn to next page

## Cemeteries remain as tribute to Ypres dead

MEMORIES of the Commonwealth dead are far from faint in the Ypres Salient. From Langemarck to Messines and from Poperinghe to Dadizele there are 137 cemeteries filled with the remains of the fallen. In them are the graves of 40,000 unidentified soldiers. They, and 50,000 others whose graves are unknown and unmarked, are commemorated on four huge memorials in Flanders.

The Menin Gate was a natural site for a memorial. Hundreds of thousands of fighting men passed through it to the killing grounds of the Ypres Salient.

The picturesque town of Ypres was no stranger to warfare. To its north and east were gently sloping hills known to the Tommies as Pilckem Ridge, the Passchendaele Ridge and the Menin Road Ridge.

At the Menin Gate memorial, the names of

55,000 officers and men are engraved on Portland stone panels.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot cemetery between Passchendaele and Zonnebeke. The cemetery is the resting place of nearly 12,000 Commonwealth soldiers.

The name "Tyne Cottages" was given by the Northumberland Fusiliers to a group of German blockhouses sited near the level crossing on the Passchendaele-Broodseinde road.

Three of these pill boxes still stand in the cemetery. The largest, captured on October 4, 1917, by the 2nd Australian Division, was chosen by King George V in 1922 as the site for the Cross of Sacrifice.

The memorial is on high ground from which the whole country to the English Channel lies open.



the village of Passchendaele after the battle of Polygon Wood on September 26. Casualties among the seven attacking divisions totalled 15,375.

Brig Gen Charteris wrote: "One thing is certain, no other Army but ours could fight as we are fighting. Haig is asking for the last ounce from it and getting a wonderful response.

"The casualties are awful; one cannot dare to think of them."

Haig, meeting with two of his generals, said he was of the opinion that the enemy was "tottering". He added, a "good, vigorous blow might lead to decisive results."

The fight for Broodseinde followed on October 4. Forty minutes before zero hour heavy shelling caused havoc among the two Anzac corps but German losses were heavy despite ten counter-attacks mounted by them. The Allies won the struggle.

The next objective was the Passchendaele-Stadenburg Ridge, the first encounter being along a five-mile front on October 12.

Fd Marshal Haig wrote to his wife: "I expect we will have Passchendaele village by today all right. The New Zealand and 3rd Australian Divisions are to put the Australian flag on the church there!"

Conditions under foot were bad for men, guns and pack animals. Ammunition covered in mud became unusable until it was cleaned off. Artillery



A mule team struggles in the mud and squalor of the battlefield

support for the Kiwis was ineffectual and the advance suffered 2,735 casualties in a few hours.

The Canadians entered the fray for Passchendaele on October 13.

Prime Minister Lloyd George sent a telegram to Haig, stating: "The War Cabinet desire to congratulate you and the troops under your command upon the achievements of the British Armies in Flanders in the great battle which has been raging since 31 July."

Ludendorff, in sombre con-

trast, later wrote: "The fifth act of this great drama in Flanders opened on 22 October. Enormous masses of ammunition, such as the human mind had never imagined before the war, were hurled upon the bodies of men who passed a miserable existence scattered about in mud-filled shell-holes.

"It was no longer life at all. It was mere unspeakable suffering.

"And through this world of mud the attackers dragged themselves, slowly, but steadily, and in great masses . . .

"What the German soldier experienced, achieved and suffered in the Flanders Battle will be his everlasting monument of bronze, erected by himself in the enemy's land.

"The enemy's losses were also heavy. When we occupied the battlefield in the spring of 1918 we encountered the horrible spectacle of many unburied corpses. They lay there in thousands. Two thirds of them were enemies, one third German soldiers who had found a hero's grave there."

On October 30, the British Second Army advanced 300 yards towards Passchendaele. The Canadians were counter-attacked five times but all assaults were successfully rebuffed.

A week later, on November 6, the village was taken within three hours with the loss of fewer than 700 men for the Canadians.

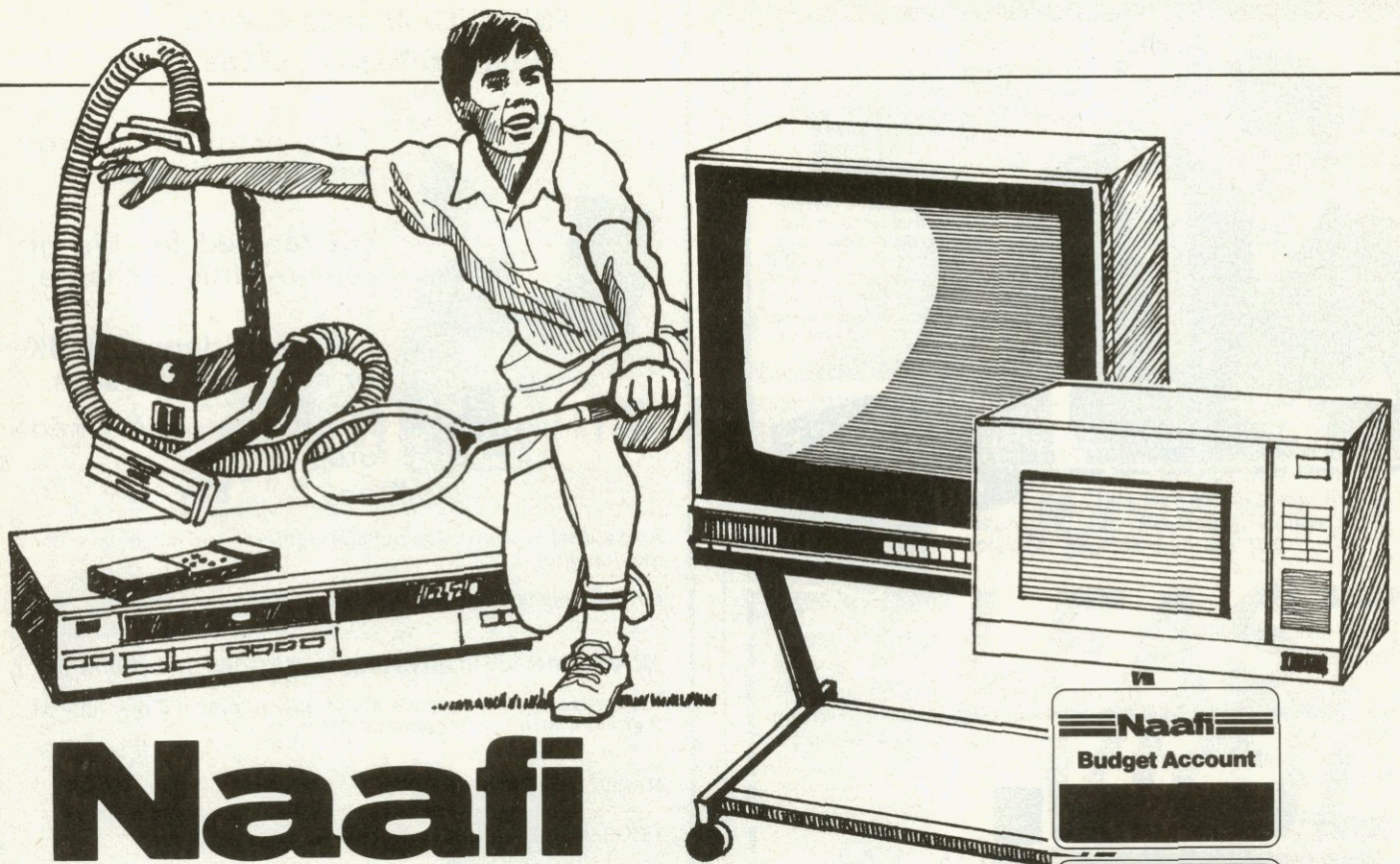
Brig Gen Charteris summed up: "We have now got to where, with good weather, we should have been in early September, and with two months in front of us to carry on the operation and clear the coast. Now, from the purely local point of view, it is rather a barren victory, and if the home people decide on a defensive next year, it will be almost altogether lives and labour thrown away. We have beaten the Germans nearly to breaking point."

All the hard-fought ground was lost to German counter-attacks in March and April of 1918.



Passchendaele Ridge in October. Men and mules wend wearily through the bleak moonscape of devastation





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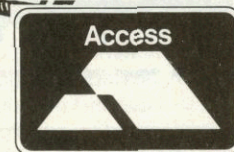
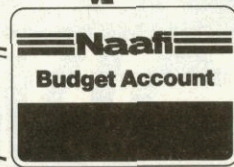
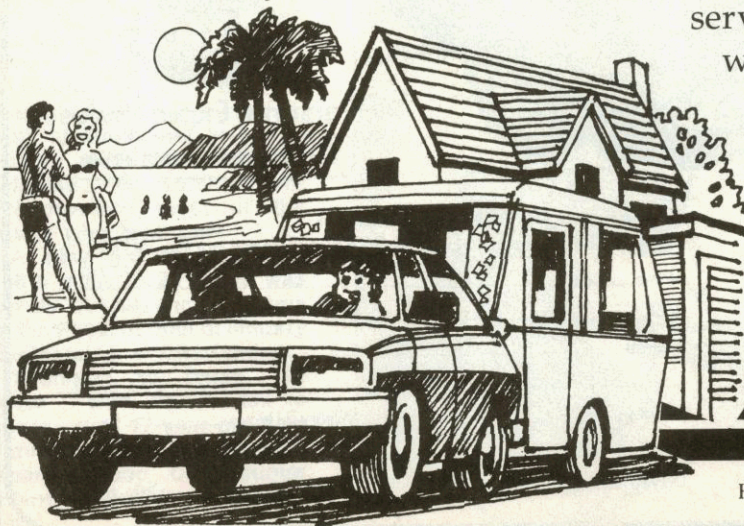
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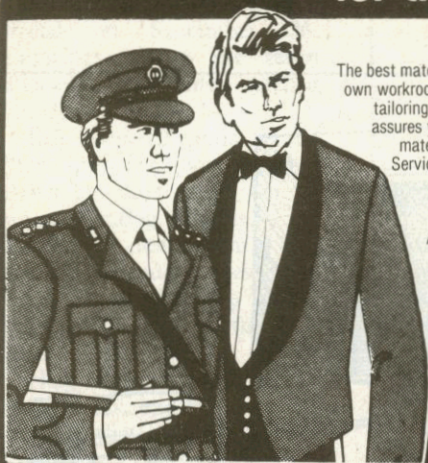
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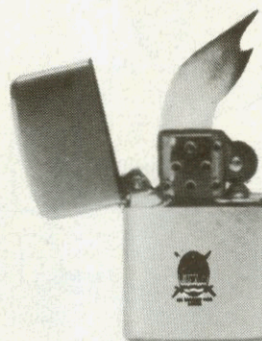
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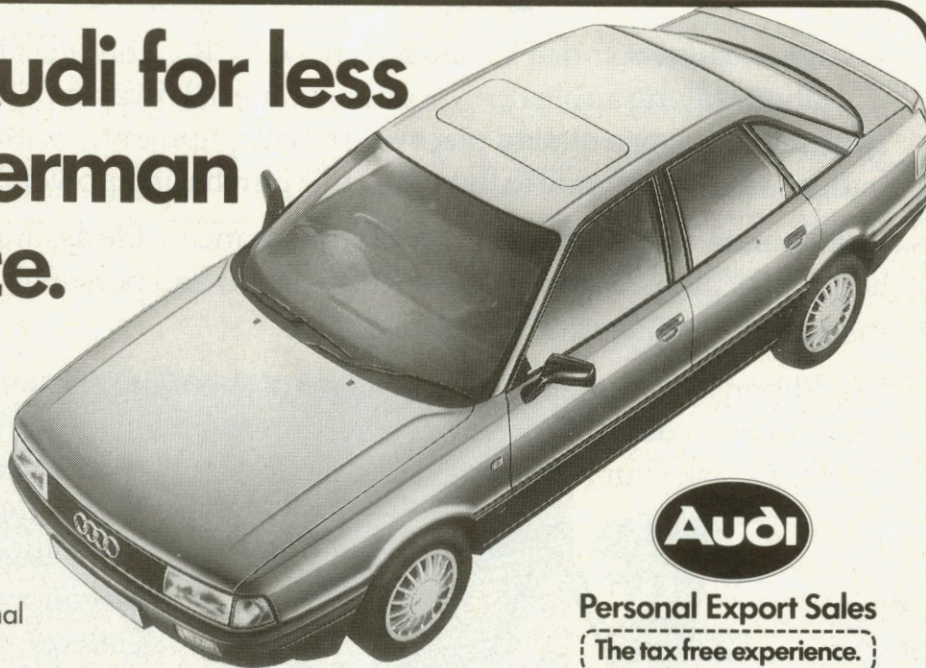
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Above - The GOC shares "war stories" with the lads of C Company at North Howard Street Mill. From the left are LCpl George Briscoe, Pte Mick Newsham, the GOC, Maj Chris Howard OC, and Pte Al Wormald. Left - Pte Reddy Redman of 10 Platoon gets on with the job

## BELFAST VIGIL

The 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, normally based at Paderborn in Germany, is now more than half way through its six-month stint as the Belfast roulement battalion.

One of the battalion's VIP visitors was Maj Gen C E W Jones, GOC 3rd Armoured Division, BAOR. The arrival of 1 QLR coincided with an increase in violence in the province.

## POOR SOLE!

STAFF Sgt Marie Watson of the QARANC gets some sympathetic treatment from Cfn Robert Armstrong and Lee Emery of SEME Bordon after setting a women's record of 77 miles in the 11th Starlight 24-hour marathon walk at Maidstone in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child. Army personnel provided most of the teams who took part.

A new men's record of 108½ miles in 24 hours was set by Lt Lawrence Williams of the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chattenden.

Youngest to finish 100 miles - with 30 minutes to spare - was 17-year-old Alan Timmons, one of a team of 20 from Cassino Coy, Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe.





# Burma: a lost cause

To "tell it as it was" is always a hard task and Alfred Draper's self-imposed brief for his latest book, *Dawns Like Thunder*, must have been particularly demanding. He has had to draw on the recollections of ordinary people who were involved in the retreat from Burma in 1942, avoiding the accounts, published and unpublished, of "top" people who "adjust their memories to justify their actions."

The focal point of the book is the disastrously misjudged demolition of the Sittang Bridge which split the forces defending against the Japanese invasion. Seldom has a commander been so humiliated as Sir John Smyth was by Wavell.

Sir John always felt he was

unjustifiably blamed for his action (or inaction, depending on the viewpoint) over the decision to blow the bridge at the particular time.

It was a moment that marred an otherwise illustrious career. Alfred Draper has, because of Sir John's recent demise, been given the opportunity to re-examine the Sittang Bridge disaster, and emphasises that Sir John's very poor health at that time was, at least, a contributory cause.

It is certain that Burma would have fallen to the Japanese irrespective of the Sittang incident. The country had always been considered a military backwater, as graphically explained by the author in the telling of this unhappy but

sometimes comic story.

The air raid spotting system, apart from a well-worn and near obsolete RDF set, "consisted of a chain of sentinels, perched on platforms, whose job it was to shin down at the sight of approaching aircraft and telephone a warning to Rangoon. They provided such a ludicrous spectacle that the natives at one post had mistaken the observer for a holy man and had placed food at the base of the tree..."

Further quotes from the book illustrate how relentless the author has been in bringing out the lethargic attitudes of the ruling class, both civilian and military, before the invasion.

"One English woman who

applied for a matron's post for which she was well qualified withdrew her application when she learned that her personal equipment should include an enamel plate and mug. She considered it below her dignity."

All too often there has to be a scapegoat for failure and defeat and, in the welter of blame throwing, Sir John Smyth happened to be the victim to whom the mud stuck.

Alfred Draper is to be congratulated on a revealing book which provokes second thoughts on of the Burma defeat. — BJ

**Dawns Like Thunder: The Retreat from Burma** by Alfred Draper, published by Leo Cooper Limited. Price £17.95.



Passchendaele: gunners up to their knees in mud on Pilckem Ridge

added the smell of putrefaction to the horror of the slime.

The British called it Passchendaele, the Germans the Battle of Flanders. It was a slow piecemeal advance on a wide front from Ypres to the little village of Passchendaele, six miles to the north-east. It cost 500,000 casualties — British,

French, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and Germans.

The General Staff under Haig planned and directed the battle entirely from the map. Montgomery, who fought on the Western Front and who in the Second World War made a point of getting around among

# Gas! Gas! Gas!

ANYONE of an age to remember the Second World War will recall the precautions against poison gas: the carrying of respirators, the gas capes and the wearing of smelly battle-dresses that were said to give a degree of protection against blister gases.

Tops of pillar boxes were coated with a greenish-yellow gas detecting paint, similar paint to that used on the bonnets of military and civil defence motor vehicles, intended to warn the driver that he was entering a gas contaminated area.

From the outbreak of war until the threat began to peter out as the war went on, anti-gas precautions were a part of everyday life.

Poison gas has the unique distinction of being the only weapon to be conceived in one major war and not used in the next, even when all combatant powers had stocks available.

That is not to say that countries have never used gas since the First World War; it was employed by the Italians in Ethiopia in 1935-36 and, by generally accepted evidence, what was once called "Yellow Cross" has caused casualties to both sides in the Gulf War.

It is this latest use that has brought the ethical issues of chemical warfare back into sharp focus and William Moore's latest book, *Gas Attack!* provides a reappraisal of what has, in the past, been largely discussed only in

scientific and learned works of little appeal to general readers.

This is a well researched book with a detailed examination of the types of gas that have been employed, methods of delivery and the effects.

It must not be thought that chemical warfare is anything like a dead duck; the technology is well known, if not perfected, and stocks exist.

*Gas Attack!* puts poison gas into historical and moral context and thereby is a valuable documentation of an insidious weapon. — BJ

**Gas Attack! Chemical Warfare 1915-18 and Afterwards** by William Moore, published by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.



his troops, said he never saw a general officer in the fighting area.

Haig had great problems because the French had mutinied, throwing extra pressure and responsibilities on to the British.

Haig's Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Kiggell, who had never held

any post other than a staff appointment, did not see the battlefield until the breakthrough had been made. He broke down and wept, saying: "Good God, did we really send men to fight in this?"

Consider this single incident reflecting the stoicism and suffering of the men who did,

eventually, win through. One unit was early at the start line and "had to stand ten hours up to their knees in mud and slime, all the while being shelled." And in drenching rain. Ponder each word. — GRH

**Passchendaele** by Philip Warner, published by Sidgwick & Jackson. Price £13.95.

# Rommel's lot — in every detail

THIRTY years ago Dal McQuirk, then a lad of 15 living in Queensland, Australia, was fascinated by the souvenirs brought home by veterans who had fought against Rommel in North Africa.

He had read much about the campaigns but felt compelled to put substance to the printed word and the black and white photographs in histories and magazines.

Over three decades he assembled a vast amount of material that he persuaded the old soldiers to rediscover in lofts, suitcases and kitbags.

McQuirk's collection grew but this did not satisfy him. He recorded the veterans' stories. He traced some of the Germans whose army books, letters and photographs had fallen into his hands, and he listened to their accounts of the fighting.

It followed naturally that he now had a unique story, as well as a vast historical collection based on the Afrikakorps commanded by Rommel from 1941 to 1943. Material of interest to modellers, collectors, historians and all fascinated by the Desert War and its militia.

The 250 photographs in his book are previously unpublished and many of them are in colour, which emphasises the various shades of desert wear.

The reminiscences make good reading, even about everyday normalities. The Germans thought the British rations better than their own, especially the bully beef. Italian food was disliked.

From Tobruk the Australians sent back to the Italian lines a large number of prisoners "with the seats of their trousers cut out." A psychological action not recorded in any "normal" history, to the best of my knowledge. — GRH

**Rommel's Army in Africa** by Dal McQuirk, published by Stanley Paul & Co Ltd. Price £16.95.

# Flanders' killing grounds

THE "Cockpit of Europe", the Flanders area centred on Ypres, well deserves its name. Campaigns were fought there in Roman times and repeatedly throughout the centuries. Flanders is the killing ground in which the fate of the countries of Europe has been decided for hundreds of years.

Yet, surely, it is the least suitable terrain for infantry and guns.

In Marlborough's day, when there were only men, horses and horse-drawn vehicles, it was difficult enough to march across the low lying water-fed countryside and then to stand and fight pitched battles. Campaigns normally ceased during winter.

From 1914 to 1918 the static nature of the First World War presented inconceivable problems in Flanders. The area

around Ypres is crossed by streams and canals which serve irrigation channels. The land lies practically at sea level. The famous Hill 60, fought over so many times, is not really a hill; merely some slightly rising ground only 60 metres above sea level.

It is possible to dig only a foot or so before striking water.

The first shells fired in 1914 disturbed the equilibrium and the ground became a morass. Movement of troops and wagons turned it into thick mud in which it was difficult to stand.

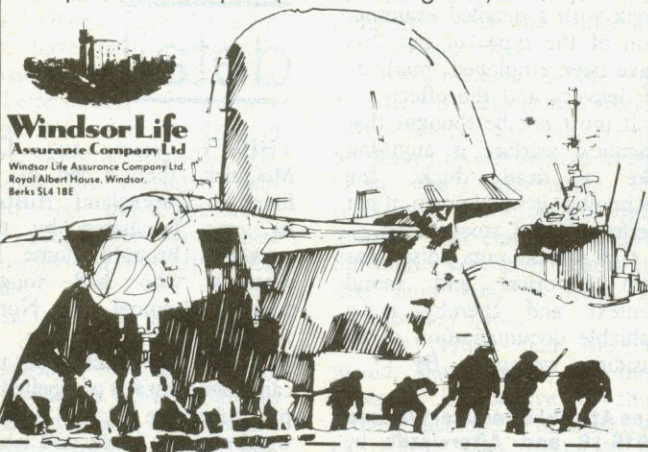
Then the rains came. Shellbursts produced pits in which men drowned. The slime developed into areas like quicksands in which men and horses were sucked down to inevitable death.

Corpses and parts of bodies



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The friendly staff at your neighbourhood Field Bath Unit. From left to right are LCpl Murray, Dvr Dalton, Sgt Collett, Pte Emptage and Cpl Drohan. Behind them is their field shower unit

# BATH TIME BEAUTIES!

Pictures: Cpl Dave Snow, UKLF

ONE of the most welcome sights along the banks of the sluggish Aras Nehri river in the mountains of Eastern Turkey, during Exercise Aurora Express was the camouflaged collection of tents and tracks which make up the Field Bath Unit, **writes Martin Paterson.**

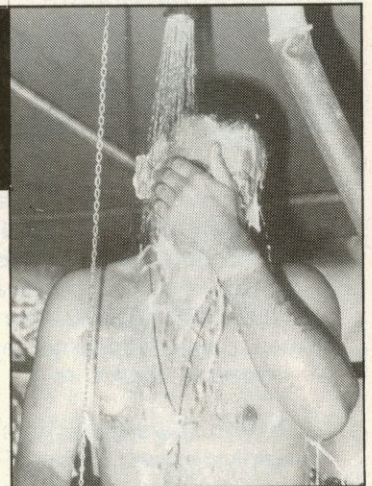
Exercises in a country

where the drinking water has to be sterilised and where the average temperature is in the 80s in June, are always going to be short on the little luxuries of life.

The scorpion infested, dusty hills of Anatolia offered little scope for personal hygiene, and so a trip to the Field Bath Unit was greatly appreciated

by men of the British contingent of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force.

Drawing and filtering water from the nearby river and capable of pushing through 800 soldiers per hour if necessary, the AMF(L) Field Bath Unit refreshed the parts . . .!



## Chaplain on the move

FATHER Christopher Keen (pictured left) must surely have the largest parish in the world. The cheerful 36-year-old Roman Catholic priest ministers to his multi-denominational flock of British Servicemen in tents pitched in the snows of Norway's Arctic north and among the scorpion infested rocks of Turkey's eastern border country . . . and almost everywhere in between!

As the RC chaplain for the Army's South West District, Bulford-based Chris has responsibility for the spiritual welfare of British members of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force.

To the more than 2,000 British soldiers who have spent three months in the Arctic and a month in Turkey this year, Father Chris is a welcome and familiar comrade.



# Dragon with verve

## THE RED DRAGON

Band of the 1st Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers  
Conductor: Bandmaster E G Mooney  
BND 1028

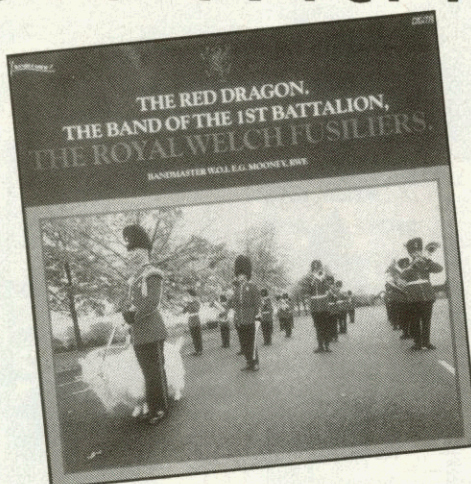
THE BAND, which has not been heard on record for some years as far as I remember, is shown off in the now customary scheme of a series of marches followed by a programme of light music where its versatility is displayed.

I'm afraid I still judge the bandmaster, if not the band, by the marches. That's where the personality comes through, and with his name I just wondered!

Mr Mooney is no mooner, and old and modern marches come across with verve and a good sense of characterisation, characterisation getting short shrift from a few of his colleagues. After the regimental slow march, *Men of Glamorgan*, we have Sousa's rarely played march dedicated to and named after the regiment; after all, why should any other regiment play it?

*Great Big David* is an old classic based mainly on the lovely Welsh tune *David of the White Rock* by a doubtful Welshman named Adolf Lotter, and *The Red Dragon* is a jazzy one by the ubiquitous Cy Payne.

*Glorious Victory* and *The Great Little Army* have no obvious national connec-



tions but *The Jaguar* by Geoff Richards could have, and *Impressions on a Welsh Air (All Thro' the Night)* certainly has.

The *Regimental Marches* and *Land of My Fathers* end this pleasant trip among the valleys.

George Gershwin's *Strike Up the Band*

in a concert arrangement leads to a medley I fear we may hear too much of in the next year or two – an extended series of themes from most of the James Bond films, called 007 of course. Not bad stuff though, and by some of the leading film composers of today in imaginative arrangements.

The old favourite *Misty* has long been popular as a trombone solo and Cpl Neil Taylor gives it a suitably misty-eyed and gentle performance à la Don Lusher out of Arty Shaw. *Brass Fever* is misnamed though effective, while *Echoes from an Era* is very aptly named.

It is a medley of a dozen Beatles tunes which indeed emote those elusive Sixties and prove what geniuses those "long-haired louts" were, especially with *The Fool on the Hill* and *Michelle*.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR and dealers, £5.60 inclusive.

# LADIES OF REFINEMENT

## RESOLUTE

Staff Band of the Women's Royal Army Corps  
Conductor: Capt Ena Forster  
BND 1036

THE old ATS band and the early WRAC band were conducted by men. How could a woman possibly cope with the rigours of a bandmaster's life, and these delicate flowers of womanhood perform with the vigour and stamina of bandsmen?

The male conductors, begging their pardon, asked very little in the way of expertise, dynamism, virility, and indeed oomph from their fragile and gossamer charges. How wise it was of someone to put a fragile little thing in charge some 30 odd years ago, only to have second thoughts, then finally (I hope) settle for a woman.

Only a woman will demand enough of the players – knowing exactly what she herself is capable of. I know their lips were made for other and better things, but they are capable of more than the men, in their smitten state, ever demanded.

As witness this record with Capt Ena Forster in charge. No aspect of it would lead you to believe it is a female band, except perhaps an extra refinement where that quality is needed. How things have changed since the war years when an audition tape (which is now famous and still going the rounds) was made by the ATS band for the BBC.

Offers of broadcasts were not

forthcoming. In addition to the full band there is a cabaret quartet which gives a slick performance of Paul Desmond's *Take Five*, and the *Dixie Belles* who at least equal if not outplay all comers in the band world I have reviewed.

The marches include both the old and new corps quicksteps; *Greensleeves*, the slow march; *Girls in Green* written by one of the smitten mentioned above; *Resolute* by Capt Forster herself, the corps motto being "Gentle in Manner, Resolute in Deed"; Arnold Steck's *Drum Major*; *Sons of the Brave*; Henry Mancini's *Swing March*; and Malcolm Arnold's fine *HRH The Duke of Cambridge*. Alfred Reed's *Festive Overture*, the theme from *The Rockford Files*, Clare Grundman's *Waltz in Blue*, and two outrageously masculine performances of Terry Kenny's *Trombones Trocadero* and Harold Walters' *Trumpets Wild* merely prepare you for SSgt Annette (Annette, I ask you) Peters giving the *Post Horn Galop* its comeuppance and the full band signing off with the symphonic portrait of *Cole Porter*.

Try this one on your friends, especially foreign ones, and see their reactions. There must be some damn things we are best at in the world!

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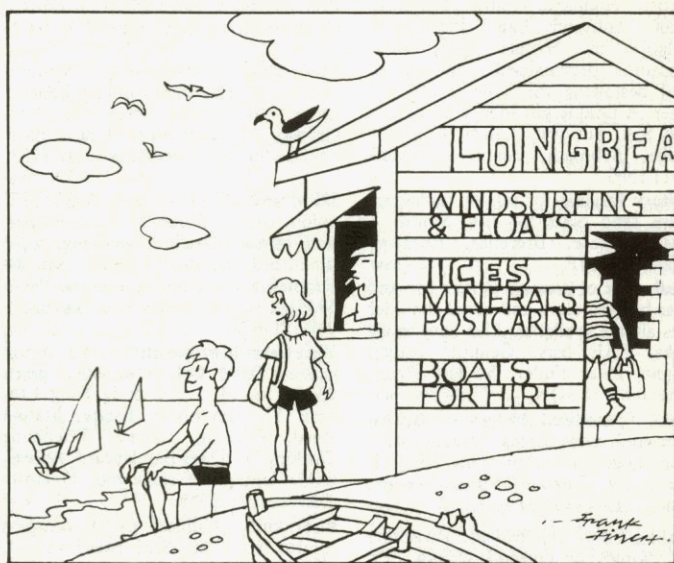
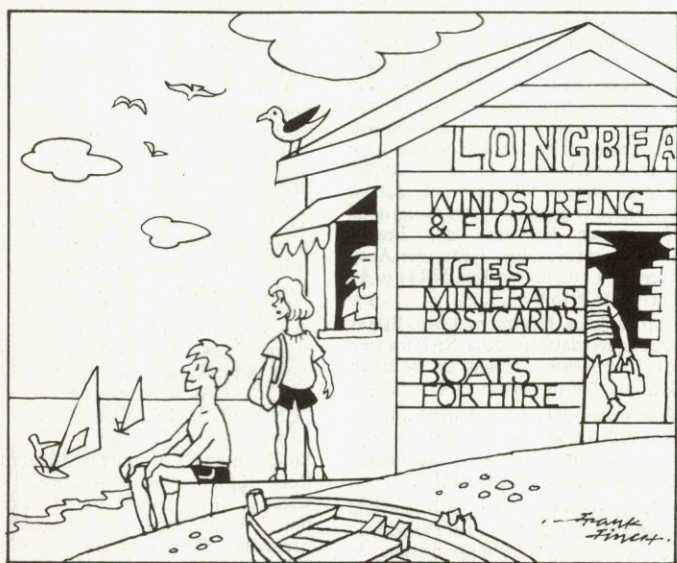
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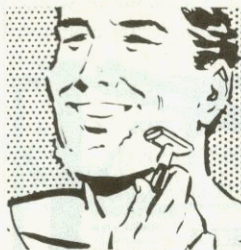
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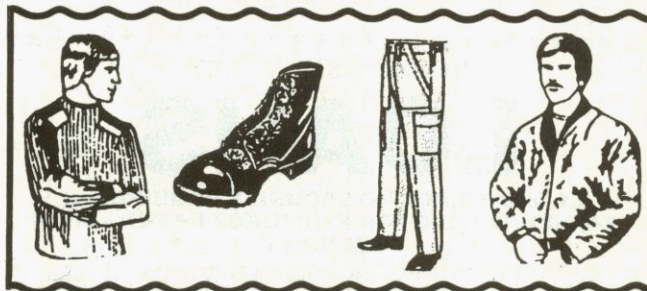
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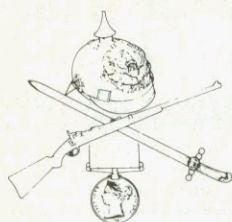
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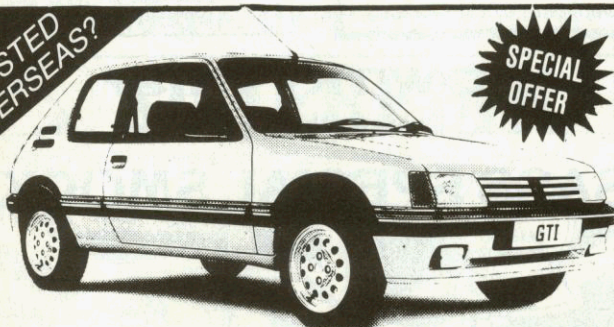
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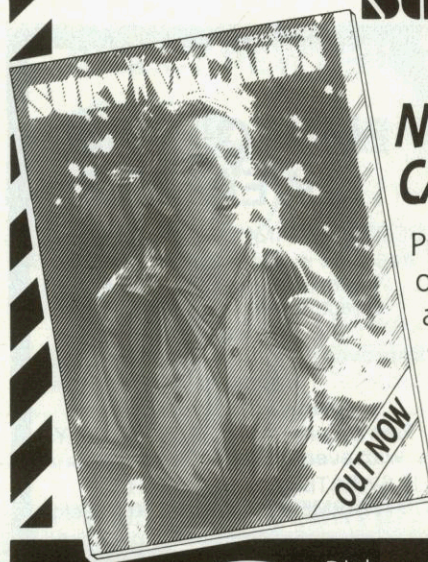
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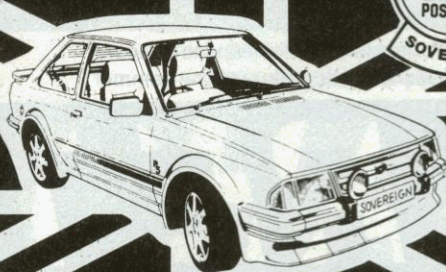
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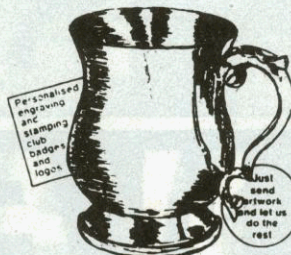
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"I think I'd rather play football," said first-time yacht crewman Kevin, who had just come ashore after five days of off-shore sailing, much of it in rough water.

"Although I quite enjoyed it, I think I prefer running around the football field," he said. "I like my feet on the ground."

He was one of the crew on the Royal Corps of Signals yacht which left the Joint Service Sailing Centre, Gosport, for a week's adventure training, cruising from port to port along the south coast before venturing across the Channel to Guernsey and Cherbourg.

With him on the £35 a head voyage were other rookie mariners Pte John O'Neill from 2 Ordnance Battalion RAOC at Catterick, and

Pte Diane Berwick of the Royal Signals at York, Kevin's base.

Said John, 19, and six months in the Army: "I thoroughly enjoyed the week and would go again like a shot if given the chance."

Diane, too, while admitting cautiously to having a good time, expressed the desire for more sleep, calmer seas and meals at normal times rather than at 2am and other outlandish hours when night sailing.

She was one of two girls on the six-strong crew, the other being Lt Ruth Littlejohn, assistant adjutant at 2 Inf Div and HQ Signal Regt at Imphal Barracks, a qualified day skipper who was mate on the week-long voyage skippered by Brig John Russell.

Sea training for the three novices was confined to a couple of trips out of Gosport on Day One "just to get to know the ropes a bit." And then it was yo-ho-ho for the open sea.

"But we did put into port each night, except one," said Ruth Littlejohn. "That made life a lot more comfortable and a little less hazardous. Although the weather was foul at times, it was a good trip with visits to Cherbourg, Alderney, Cowes and Southsea and everyone was sick at least once - except me - it was that rough."

Organised by Ruth at a cost of £40 a day for the boat, plus victuals, it cost each of them £35 for the week with a rebate to come as they were on a training exercise.

For those contemplating adventure training at sea Ruth advises plenty of woollen jumpers and thermals, "no matter how warm it is."

As for sea boots and oilskins they can be hired, she says. But of "sea legs" she had no word of comfort. They have to be acquired the hard way.

With a week's sailing behind them and time

to consider whether to drop anchor ashore or set a course once more down the Solent, the three novices headed north to York while 30 Army Sailing Association boats and 200 crew tied up at HMS Hornet, headquarters of the ASA at Gosport, for a four-day regatta.

They were set fair for three races - two one-day local events and an overnight competition to Poole and back which, in the

Army regatta results: Dolphin Trophy - 1, Seahorse of REME II; 2, Patroller (both REME boats). Sabre Bowl - 1, Kukri (ASA); 2, Bugler (RAPC).

In the Services Offshore Regatta, which followed the ASA event, the Royal Engineers boat Ilex of Upnor was the winner in a race to Guernsey and back.

event, fog made them abandon.

"Although we have 30 or so entrants, we could do with a lot more," said ASA secretary Capt Gordon Russell of 20 Maritime Regt, based at nearby St George's Barracks.

"We could handle double this number and at £2 for life membership we're hoping to attract more people."

As the day drew on more yachts slid into their berths, gleaming red and dazzling white hulls amid a forest of masts and jingling rigging. Crews polished and buffed at fittings while skippers consulted charts and maps ready for the briefing on the three races.

With a gentle breeze rippling the wavelets and seagulls squawking overhead, life for the off-shore sailor-soldiers was about as far from the khaki-clad world as was possible.

But the test, and the rest - maybe even their best - was to come over the next four days.

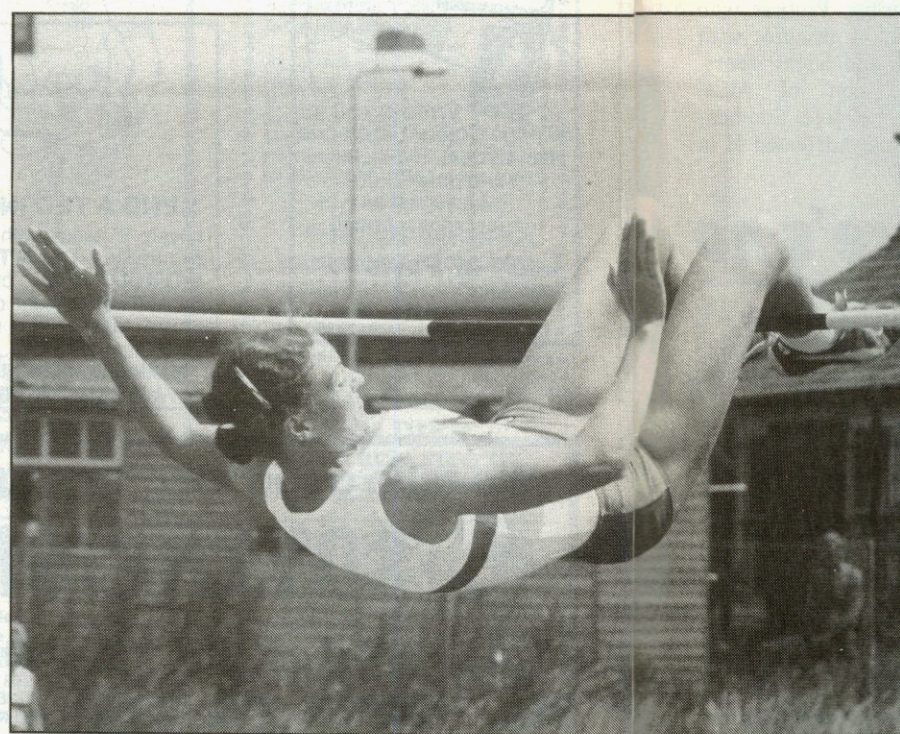
## Golfers' clean sweep

THE ARMY golf team of Lt Col Nick Fleming, WO2 Chris Carveth, SSgts Ian Gray, Dave Cromie and Nigel Calladine, and Cpls Duggie Spiller and Bruce Manners, supported by AGA captain Capt Mike Everton and Col Mike Watts (chef de mission) took every prize in the annual international against the French and Belgians at Salon de Provence in the South of France.

Because of their national service, the opposition were able to field young professional golfers, and the French team included four scratch players who spend all but six weeks of their service playing golf.

Competition was over 36 holes with prizes for team and individual gross and net scores. The temperature was touching 90 degrees F with the mistral

● Turn to Page 54



UP: Jackie Gilchrist leaps to a record  
OUT: Mark Sterling winning the hammer



DOWN: Trevor McSweeney comes to rest in the long jump  
OVER: Kris Akabusi powers on to a 400m hurdles record



Pictures: Paul Haley

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A powerful Army men's athletics team pulled out all the stops at a sun-drenched Royal Navy athletics stadium in Portsmouth to win the Allied Breweries sponsored Inter-Service championships by a handsome margin over the Royal Air Force, so often the victors during the past 40 years.

International one lap specialist SSgt Kris Akabusi led his crack squad by example, winning the 400m hurdles in a new Services record time of 51.9sec, 0.5sec ahead of team mate LCpl Paul Beaumont. The first four all bettered the old record.

Akabusi made it a double by winning the flat 400m in 48.4sec.

SSgt Malcolm Edwards improved his 1985 Services record in the 800m with a winning time of 1min 50.1sec. Again it was a one-two for the Army, with Maj Glen Grant taking the second place points. Edwards also won the 1,500m.

A third Inter-Services record fell to Scottish international high jumper LCpl Jackie Gilchrist in the women's match. She recorded a season's best 1.72m. LCpl Stephanie Bell made it maximum points for the Army in that event,

although the women's team eventually conceded championship honours to the RAF by a narrow 113 points to 107.

The men's competition - won 32 times in the past 41 years by the RAF - was a close run thing until the Army stormed away in both 100m and 400m relays to win by 170½ points to the RAF's 144½. The Navy were third in both matches.

The Army's speedy lance corporals, Clarence Callender (10.7sec and 21.3sec) and Lenny Paul, finished first and second in both 100m and 200m sprints, while Sgt Geoff Wade

and Cpl Ray Keeney were second and third in a highly competitive 5,000m. Wade finished in 14min 11.5sec behind RAF star Steve Jones.

Pte Richard Simpson ran well in the 3,000m steeplechase for second place.

There was a family double in the pole vault, with LCpl Steve Lyons, a Kent-based sapper, recording 4.1m to finish ahead of younger brother Rob, a private in the PWO at Catterick.

Spr Mark Sterling won the hammer with a throw of 55.26m, fellow sapper Mark Parker took the shot with

15.06m, and WO1 Mick Johnson was second in the discus (46.46m).

Rgr Edward Lewis cleared the same height in the high jump as winner Stuart Gibbs of the Royal Marines, but was placed second on countback, and there was a second place for Pte Sammy Sammerson in the triple jump.

In the women's competition, Jackie Gilchrist added a second in the long jump to her high jump victory, but pride of place went to Capt Sue Bevan who won the 400m (57.0sec), the 800m (2.08.4), and the 1,500m (4.44.6).

LCpl Nicki Charlton was second to Sue in the one and two lap races while Sgt Maggie Smith was second in the 1,500m after winning the 3,000m in 10min 3sec.

● Kris Akabusi, who received the trophy from Navy athletic's president Rear-Admiral Jock Slater, has been named as the SSVC-Wilkinson Sword Service's sportsman of the year. RAF sprinter Joan Baptiste is the sportswoman of the year, and the RAF's incomparable swimming team takes the team honours.



THE ARMY under 25 team had a most successful cricket week before moving on to the Inter-Services tournament at Aldershot, writes Peter Salisbury.

The cricket week opened with a match against the Western Australia Public Schools at Aldershot. The Army were put in to bat and thanks to an excellent 81 by Cpl Graham Summersgill (1 DWR), managed 164. Only two other players reached double figures.

The Australians were 139-5 with five overs to go when they suffered an unnecessary run out, lost four wickets for six runs and had to hang on for a draw at 147-9.

Lt Julian Barrett (3 LI) took 3-10 and Pte Greg Taylor (1 Green Howards) finished with 2-18.

Next opponents were Wiltshire U-25s at Tidworth. They

# Barrett in fine form for U-25s

made 225 for five in their 55 overs, Cpl Ian Collyer (CAD Kineton) taking 2-33. The Army replied with 229 for five in 48.1 overs, despite four batsmen failing to get off the mark! Julian Barrett compensated with an undefeated 139, Summersgill got 31 and 2nd Lt Ian Fielding (Sheffield University) 42 not out in an unbroken stand of 153 with Barrett.

Back at Aldershot the Fire Service were restricted to 151-9 in 55 overs – Lt Matthew Fleming (2 RGJ) 2-36, 2nd Lt

Charlie Redmayne (1 IG) 3-40, Barrett 2-34 – and the Army knocked off the runs with two wickets and 12 overs to spare. Barrett, inevitably, scored 75.

Against Buckinghamshire U-25s the Army scored 254-7 in 55 overs with Barrett's purple patch continuing. He scored 72 and LCpl David Gill 64 not out. Bucks were bowled out for 118 in 35.1 overs with Redmayne taking 3-36, Fleming 2-30 and 2nd Lt Tom Thicknesse (1 RGJ) 3-30.

In the final match against RMA Sandhurst the Army

made 218-5 declared with Lt Peter Germain (1 PWO) getting 66, the same score as Matthew Fleming.

Fleming's runs included four sixes and five fours.

Sandhurst's good effort to get the runs ended at 203-7 (Redmayne 4-54). Sandhurst got as close as they did thanks to their skipper Probert who scored 73 in 45 minutes with three sixes and eight fours. Stephenson, son of MCC secretary Lt Col John Stephenson, scored an undefeated 41 in 48 minutes.

## Cavalry triumph

A BRITISH polo team which included Majors Michael Vickery and David Woodd of the 14th/20th King's Hussars and James Scott, formerly of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, beat Germany in an exciting play-off to win the European polo championships staged in Berlin.

Organized by the British Sector in conjunction with the Berlin Polo Club as part of the Maifeld Horse Show, the polo tournament was the biggest in Berlin for 50 years.

The horse show, organized by the British Berlin Saddle Club, attracted 837 entries, including 11 horses from BAOR. Best overall British rider was Mrs Lorraine Young, wife of Maj Young, HQ Royal Artillery 1 (BR) Corps.



Champions of Inter-Service women's golf, the Army ladies' team poses for a victory photograph after hammering both the RAF and the Navy ladies at the Army Golf Course, Aldershot. Back row (from left) are Sgt Sarah Stonier, Capt Anne Phillips, Cpl Carol Hampshire, 2nd Lt Kathrine Toal, Pte Doreen Allison and Sgt Lisa Eadie. Front, Maj Sheila Johncey, Capt Lesley Hope (captain), and Capt Kate Bettison. WO1 Pat Swalles is missing from the photograph.

## There's no stopping these ladies!

THE standard of the Army ladies play matched the brilliance of the weather when they sunk the Royal Navy and blew the RAF out of sight to win the inter-Service women's golf championship at the Army course at Aldershot.

"Don't call us the WRAC team," said secretary Capt Kate Bettison. "We're representing the Army against the Navy and the RAF and our best player is Capt Lesley Hope, handicap three, of the QARANC."

A Scottish international, Lesley didn't have too much luck, going down in both her single matches. But it made no difference to the final result of the three-way three-day knockout competition, with the Army girls slamming the opposition in both foursomes and singles matches.

Day one set the scene when they saw off the Navy 7½ to 4½ and followed that up on day three with an 11-1 win over the RAF.

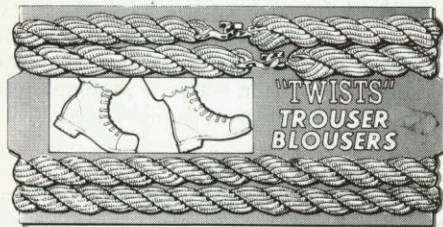
Sponsored by the Car Information Centre, Cambridge, this was the fourth year of the contest. The Army and RAF have each won twice.

## Clean sweep

● From Page 52

blowing hard and after 18 holes the French were in the lead. However, with splendid individual performances from all the players, the British team, who were sponsored by Allied Breweries, soundly thrashed the opposition and took both team gross and net events.

Cpl Duggie Spiller won the individual gross and SSgt Dave Cromie the net. To crown it all Col Mike Watts beat the French and Belgian generals in the "combat des chefs" match.



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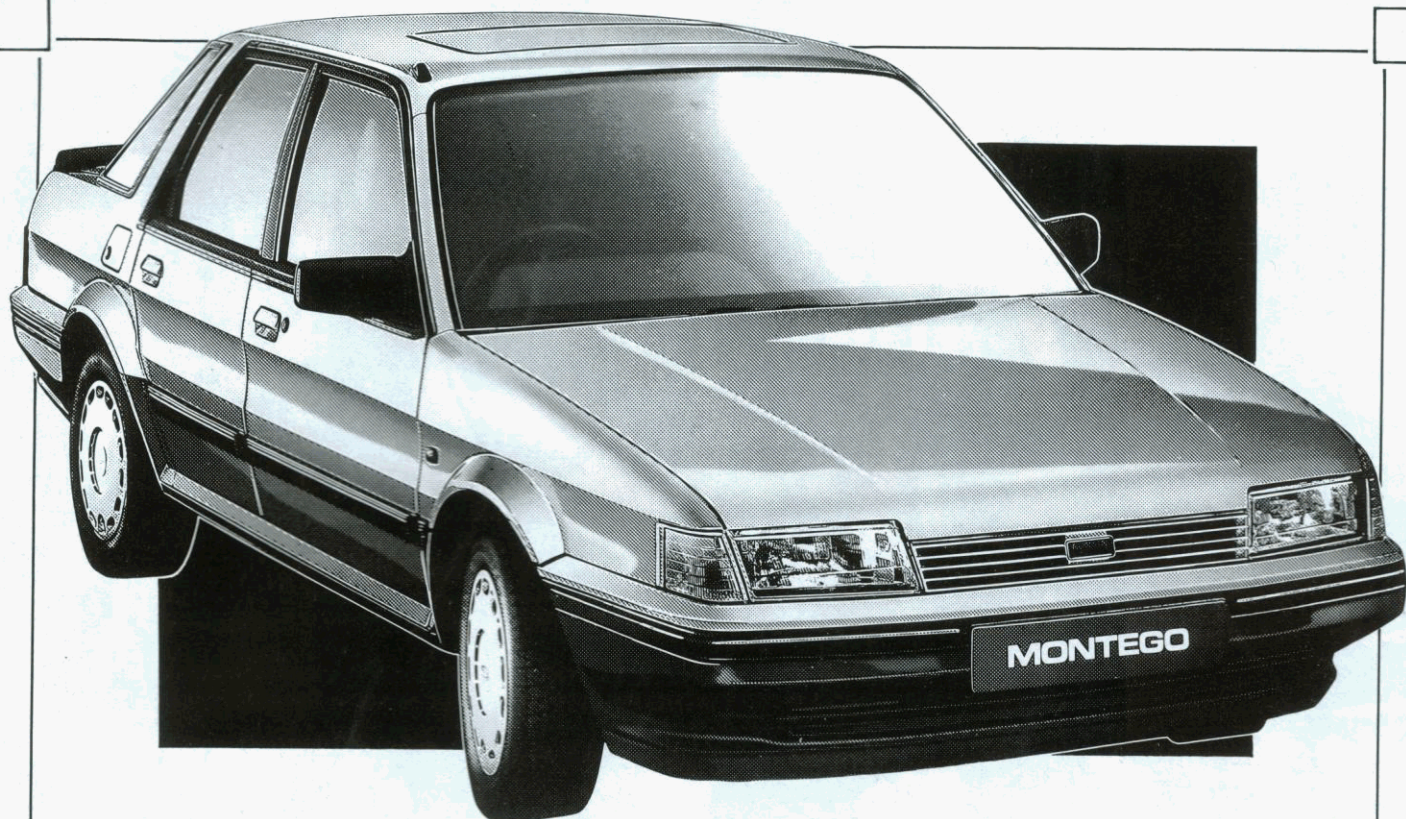
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# SOLDIER



American, French and British soldiers march side by side during the Allied Forces Day Parade in Berlin. See pages 14 and 15.

Picture: Paul Haley