

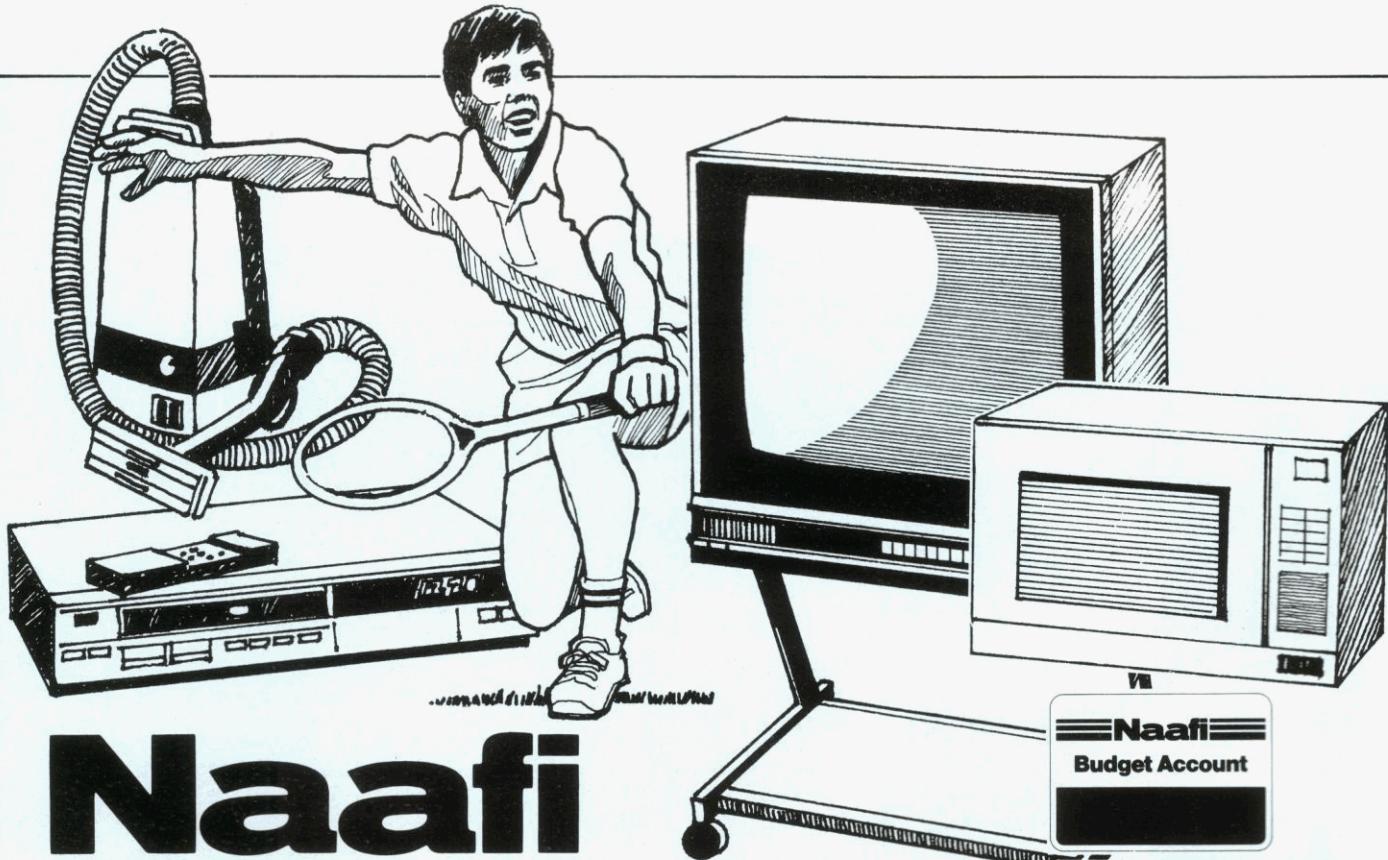
SOLDIER

6 APRIL 1987

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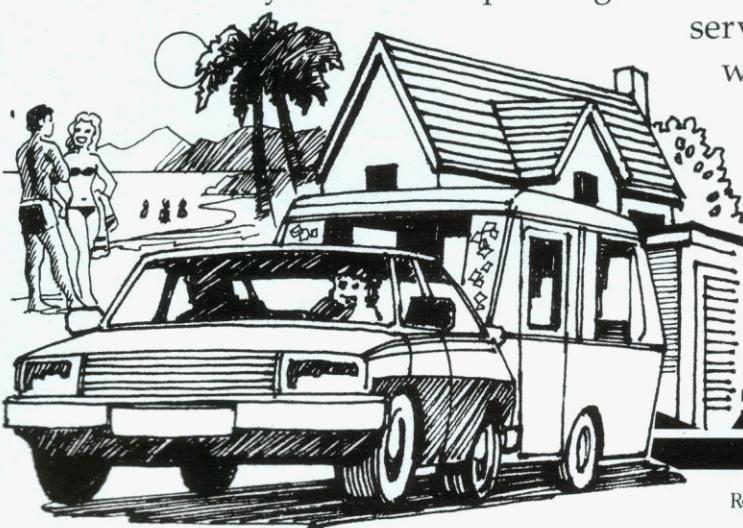
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FRONT COVER: A soldier of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force pictured during Exercise Hardfall in northern Norway. Stories and pictures on pages 24 and 25.

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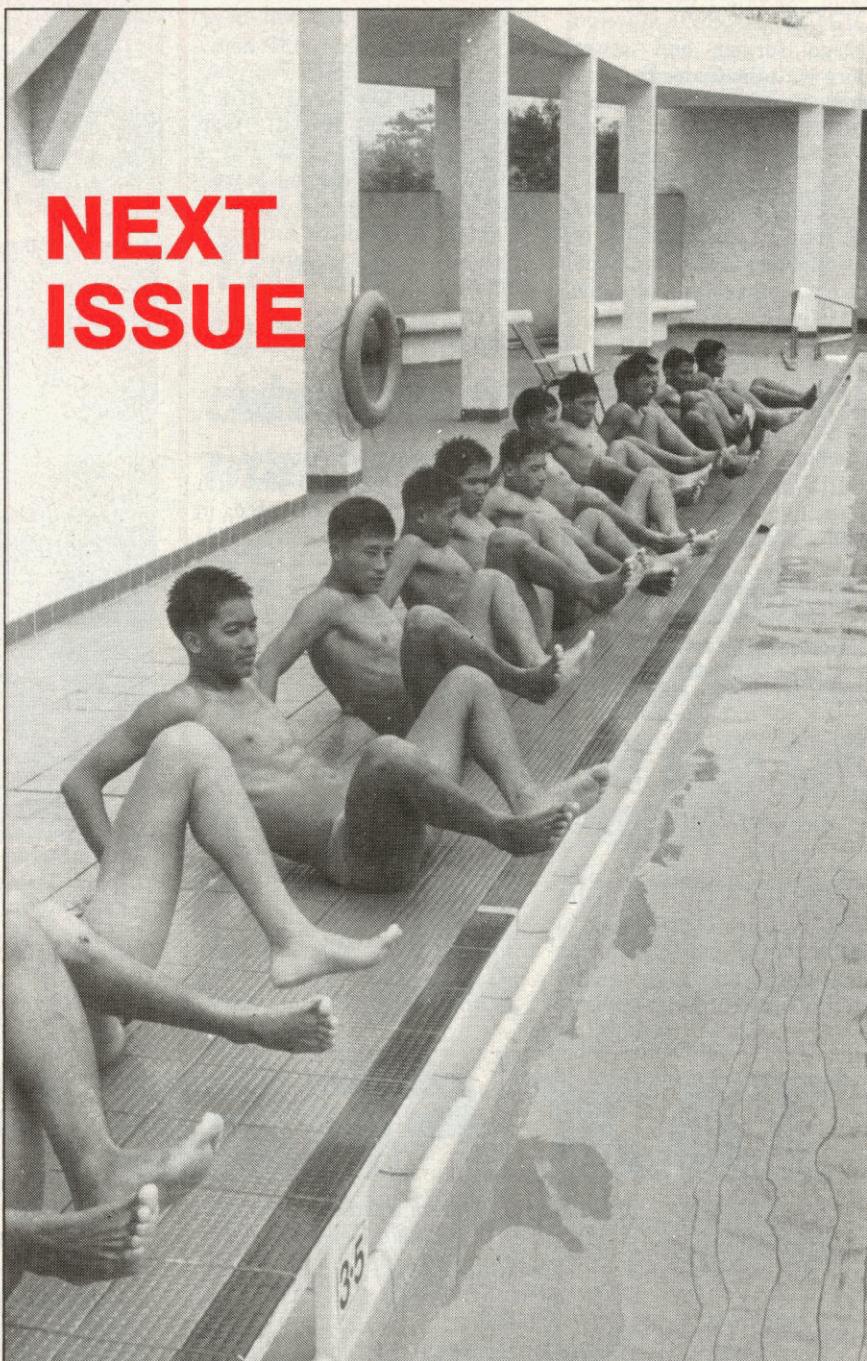
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Subscriptions Annual (25 issues) - UK £14.05, BFPO £8.75, elsewhere £17.80. Send UK postal order or international money order expressed in sterling and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF, giving date when subscription is to start and name and address of recipient. Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to the appropriate department at SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants GU11 2DU, phone Aldershot (0252) 24431, or military network Aldershot Military. SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Greenaway Harrison, Printing House Lane, Hayes, Middlesex. Phototypeset by RSB Typesetters, Worplesdon, Surrey. Crown copyright 1987.

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**NEXT
ISSUE**



Young men from the mountains of Nepal prepare to dip their toes in a swimming pool for the first time. SOLDIER has been visiting the Training Depot of The Brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong. We have also been to Brunei and the no-man's-land along the 38th Parallel which separates North and South Korea. Don't miss our Far East special in the next issue of SOLDIER.

WAR MEDALS CONTENDER

Regarding Major Baldwin's letter about war medals (SOLDIER March 9), if we go a stage further and count service with the Cadet Forces I would certainly be able to count myself as a contender, having served in the TA pre-war, Regular Army for almost 26 years (Coldstream Guards), and until June 1 I am a member of the Combined Cadet Force and also a member of the Oxfordshire RGJ Battalion Army Cadet Force. When I finish on June 1 I will have served for 51 years 151 days.

I hold the GSM Palestine pre-war, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal also the Cadet Force Medal and Bar having served with cadets over 24 years. — Captain R Bond, St Edward's School CCF, Oxford OX2 7NN.

Commonwealth brigade

In your article on Korea (SOLDIER March 9) you make no mention of 28 Commonwealth formation until disbanded in January 1976 in Singapore. — Lt Col D C R Ward, Regimental Secretary, Regimental HQ, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1DG.

DLI not forgotten

The 1st Battalion Light Infantry mentioned was one of three Light Infantry battalions formed out of the old county regiments. R.I.P. but not forgotten. — Albert Owens, Almar, 38 South Meadows, Wrington, Nr Bristol, Avon.

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S7



Refurbishment of the regimental museum of the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) is nearing completion within the walls of Fort George near Inverness. The museum is housed in what was originally the Lieutenant-Governor's House at the 18th century fort and what was later to become the officers' mess of The Depot Seaforth Highlanders.



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Army to cook up a career for youngsters

The Army is offering 104 young men the chance to train as drivers or cooks as part of an Armed Services Youth Training Scheme which starts this month.

The youngsters – who must be at least 17 years old – will receive four weeks of top class Army trade training, plus another three weeks of basic military training at the start of a two-year stint of work experience

with the Regular Army.

There are 80 places on the driving course, leading to a Class A driving licence, and 24 places on the cookery course. All the trade training will be in Aldershot, after which the trainees, usually in small groups, will work in the UK, although a lucky few may have the opportunity to travel overseas.

Trainees who enjoy the Army life are eligible to transfer to the Regular Army after they have completed three months on the Youth Training Scheme.

They will be paid during their two years with the Army under arrangements made by the Youth Training Scheme, but will have to make a contribution towards their food and accommodation.

Soldiers missing in ferry disaster

FOUR people connected with the Army have been confirmed as dead and another nine are missing presumed dead from the Zeebrugge ferry disaster.

Those who are known to have died are LCpl Guy Thomas, 24, REME, attached to 47 Fd Regt, RA, at Gütersloh; LCpl Bryan Smith, 29, 38 Sqn, RCT, based at Mulheim; Sean Smith, his 22-month-old son; and Mrs Diane Bunker, wife of Capt Brian Bunker, 29, 7 Int Coy, Bielefeld.

Missing, presumed dead, are: Pte David Scott, ACC attached to 1 QLR, Paderborn; Maj James Stanier, REME, 15 Maintenance and Advisory Group (MAG), Woolwich; Gnr Wayne Davies, 49 Fd Regt, RA, Lippstadt; Maj Eddie Crofton, RE, 26 Engineer Reft, RE, Iserlohn; Bdr John Gaylard of 22 AD Regt, Dortmund; Mrs Donna Smith, wife of LCpl Bryan Smith; Nadine Bunker, infant child of Capt and Mrs Bunker; Mike Smith, son of LBdr Smith, of 15 Missile Regt, RA, Menden, who survived the disaster; and Mrs Catherine Mason, wife of LCpl Stan Mason of 1 QLR, Paderborn.

Two killed in Lynx

AN Army Lynx helicopter crashed in a village near Soest, headquarters of the 3rd Armoured Division, killing two soldiers and seriously injuring a third. Two other men were able to scramble from the wreckage of the aircraft after it crashed into a garage behind a house in Schallern.

The dead men were the pilot and a crewman of 662 Squadron, 3 Regiment AAC, based at Soest. The pilot was Sgt Michael J Toman, 31, of Cumbria; his crewman was Cpl Peter R Burnett, 30, of Sheffield. Both men were married.



Scimitar crew (left to right) LCpl Peter Evans, Pte Tony Frazier, and LCpl Gary Roebuck watch their Colonel-in-Chief squeeze himself into the driving seat during his visit to the 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales in Germany

More SA80s ordered

AN ORDER for a second batch of SA80 rifles is to be placed by the Ministry of Defence with Royal Ordnance. Initial issue of the SA80 was delayed because of production difficulties but these have now been resolved and manufacture of the second order will be at Royal Ordnance Enfield where the first were made.

The value of the contract will depend on how many the MoD decide to order but will include the individual weapon, the light support version, the bayonet and scabbard, ancillaries and spares.

Prince visits 1RRW

THE Prince of Wales squeezed into the driver's seat of a Scimitar tank during a private visit to the 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales at Lemgo in Northrhine Westphalia, Germany.

During the visit Prince Charles, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, met officers and soldiers of the battalion.

The Princess of Wales is to represent the Queen at the Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade on April 10 when 390 men and women are commissioned or have their commissions confirmed.

NEWSLINE

New TA battalion planned

AS part of the planned expansion of the TA, a further battalion is to be raised in the south-west to be known as the 4th (Volunteer) Bn, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

The new unit, 4 D and D, will comprise three rifle companies and an HQ company. New rifle companies will be formed at Plymouth – the location of its TA centre yet to be decided – and in the Torbay area based on the TA Centre in Paignton.

The third company in Exeter will be the existing E Company of the 1st Bn, The Wessex Regiment, which will re-badge and transfer next year.

Battalion and elements of HQ Company will be based on Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, the regiment's traditional home, with elements at the rifle company locations and Weymouth which will have a mortar platoon.

The new battalion, along with others recently formed for the purpose, will be committed to Home Defence within the UK. It is also planned that the new battalion will parade alongside its Regular 1st Battalion which has recently arrived in Bulford from Berlin.

The Devon Band of 1 Wessex is to re-badge and will become the band of the new TA battalion early next year.

CO designate is Maj Robert Steptoe who will assume command in October. The new battalion will be offering vacancies for officers, NCOs, soldiers' TA enlistments and civilian support staff.

Army chief in Venezuela

MILITARY ties between Britain and Venezuela dating to the South American country's struggle for independence early last century were reaffirmed when Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall, Chief of the General Staff, laid a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Carabobo.

The Battle of Carabobo on June 24, 1821 proved decisive in Venezuela's bid for independence and a British battalion fought alongside the Venezuelan national hero Simon Bolivar and his army.

Gen Bagnall visited the monument at Carabobo commemorating the spot where the British commander, Col Farrier, fell. The Chief of the General Staff was visiting the scene of the battle during a three week visit to South America which took him to Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela and Colombia.

SARAH WILL BE THE ONLY WOMAN

FEW westerners have ever travelled to the remote north-east corner of the Indian Karakoram known as Little Tibet where a joint British and Indian Army expedition is due to arrive early this month.

Studies of the culture, ecology and geography of the region are high on the agenda of the joint team of 36 mountaineers – 18 of each nationality – who will attempt to conquer two high-altitude peaks in the region.

The performance of the British climbers and their ability to cope with altitude sickness will determine whether they are selected for a place on the 1988 British Services Everest Expedition.

Little Tibet is a particularly rugged and scenic area which has developed a culture of its own. It is cut off from the rest of the world for most of the year by high passes



Capt Sarah Dennis, a doctor by profession and the only woman on the expedition

and heavy snowfall. It lies close to the ancient trading route between India and Tibet and its existence was recorded in 1909 for the first time by an Englishman, Dr Longstaff.

The team, led by Col Ivar Hellberg, 44,

of the British Army and Col Darshan Khullar of the Indian Army, will attempt to conquer the unclimbed west ridge of Sasar Kangri (25,317 feet) and the unclimbed Sasar Kangri IV (24,123 feet).

The British team members were chosen from 200 applicants. The selected volunteers later flexed their climbing skills on an expedition to Peru.

They include one WRAC, 27-year-old doctor Capt Sarah Dennis, RAMC, who joins the expedition not just as an accomplished climber but as one of the team's integral medical element.

Capt Dennis told SOLDIER before the team's departure: "I have always been an athlete and am only too aware that I have got to pull my weight on this one. If you can't hoist your rucksack then you are a waste of rations.

ON THE MOUNTAIN

"It does not bother me that I am the only woman on the expedition and I am pretty sure it does not bother them either. The only way to handle it is to be yourself."

Lord Hunt, leader of the 1953 expedition that conquered Everest for the first time, wished team members well at a farewell luncheon in London's Royal Geographical Society.

The 1988 Services expedition to Everest will celebrate the 35th anniversary not only of the first ascent of the world's highest peak but also of the Queen's Coronation.

● A cycling expedition through the Himalayas has already begun, under the leadership of Maj John Gamlin of The Queen's Regiment, whose team of nine consists of six men from the same regiment



Lord Hunt (left) points out features on the world's highest peak to Col Ivar Hellberg

plus one Gurkha NCO and a 17-year-old junior soldier from the Junior Infantry Battalion at Shorncliffe.

Their route will take them from Delhi past several Himalayan peaks to Lhasa in Tibet.

Goodbye to that pinch of salt

IN less than three years, the Army on exercise will no longer be taking its food with the proverbial pinch of salt.

For the Army Department's Ration Committee has decreed that future supplies of ration packs – about four million are assembled annually for the three Services – will no longer contain the fine-grained commodity.

But will soldiers – they eat about 92 per cent of all issued ration packs – mourn the passing of the familiar blue, 100-gramme container which has seasoned their food fare in four-man and ten-man ration packs?

It's doubtful, says the Army's Logistic Executive at Andover. It is all part of a healthy eating approach for the squadrons.

Food within the packs already contains enough salt – or sodium chloride to the pedants – and its properties are only needed in small quantities.

The removal of the salt packs – from April 1 – is part and parcel of Army's dietary concern for its fighting men. Over recent years it has, for instance, quietly shifted the emphasis from animal fats to vegetable oils such as sunflower, cornflower and rape seed.

Maj Henry Fleming, RAOC, said: "Some may say the salt is being taken from the packets on cost grounds. It does save a small amount of money but it is not being done for that purpose but on medical advice, because it would be wrong to put in an additional quantity which could be harmful."

SHAMROCK SMILES...



Mrs Diana Burke, wife of 2Bn The Royal Irish Rangers CO Lt Col Willy Burke, presents a sprig of shamrock to Mrs Debbie Downie and two-year-old Kirsty. Debbie's husband Jim

is serving with the battalion in the Falkland Islands.

Because their menfolk were in the South Atlantic the wives of the battalion marked St Patrick's Day

at Connaught Barracks, Dover, standing in for their husbands at the annual battalion shamrock parade.

The shamrock was flown from Ireland for the occasion, as were



1,000 sprigs which arrived at Port Stanley in the Falklands by courtesy of the Royal Air Force.

Story and picture:
Col Sgt Leo Callow

Everyone look at the camera, please... The Queen Mother pictured with Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks, London, after presenting St Patrick's Day shamrocks

Squadron disbanded

266 Signal Squadron (South Atlantic) – formed after the 1982 conflict to provide communications for the Falkland Islands and South Georgia – has been disbanded. A tri-Service unit, the Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCUFI), has been formed to take its place and will continue to provide all tactical radio and telephone links around the islands.

New barracks opened

HOME Secretary Douglas Hurd has opened the new Slade Park Barracks at Headington, Oxford, home of the newly formed 5th Bn The Royal Green Jackets (V). The battalion is recruited in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and has its headquarters at Slade Park and rifle companies in Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and High Wycombe.

Pensioner's parade

CHELSEA Pensioner George Cairns, a 71-year-old former Colour Sergeant of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was inspecting officer at the pass off parade of 60 recruits at the Scottish Division Depot, Glencorse.

It was the first time in Scotland that troops paraded ceremonially with the SA80 rifle.

Royal Tidworth

THE Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Educational Corps, brought cheery smiles to the faces of a village's school children when she visited the corps at Tidworth.

The Duchess was visiting Zouch Primary School followed by a look-in on 10 Army Education Centre, Lucknow Barracks, including the language lab.

Musicmen blow to raise notes



PLAY ON: Shane with bandsmen of 3 Queens and nurses Wendy Fullick and Kate Gibbons

DOUBLE ST PATRICK'S DAY 'DO' FOR MICK

IT was a double celebration for Dublin-born Catterick Garrison Sergeant Major Mick Kinana when he travelled to Chelsea Barracks, London, to be presented with the Meritorious Service Medal at the 1st Battalion Irish Guards St Patrick's Day Parade.

Mick (46) renewed his acquaintance with HRH the Grand Duke of Luxembourg who made the presentation.

He first met the Duke, the regiment's colonel, while on the instructing staff of RMA, Sandhurst, where he was involved in training the Duke's son, Prince Henry.

Fire heroes save man

SMART work by two soldiers in Lemgo saved the lives of the two occupants of a blazing house.

Privates Kevin Macey (29), and Peter Brown (18), both of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, were on guard outside the officers' mess when Kevin saw flames through a window of a nearby house.

They alerted a woman occupant of the house who told of a man in the downstairs flat.

Kevin crawled through the smoke-filled and blazing room to the bedroom and dragged 43-year-old Dietmar Koller, who was unconscious, to safety. A Lemgo police chief said: "Without the quick actions of these two soldiers Herr Koller would undoubtedly have died."

THE Army has joined the campaign to stamp out theft by stamping soldiers' bicycles with their Army number.

This move to put the brake on bike thieves and cop the criminal, came when the Royal Military Police at Tidworth staged a coded cycle service inviting not only soldiers and their families to have their bikes marked, but anyone else who wanted to take advantage of their free offer.

EXPERTISE

Backing all this expertise was Sgt Jimmy Gibson, military crime prevention officer for the area and LCpl Barry Coulson (right) of the RMP who showed Debbie Wooliscroft how to secure her bike with a simple lock.

RMP PUT A BRAKE ON CRIME



LCPL BARRY COULSON, DEBBIE WOOLISCROFT: free offer to beat the crook

BLOWING musical notes they hope will raise those of the financial variety are bandsmen of 3 Queens.

They were at Odstock Hospital with a dual purpose... to help celebrate the third anniversary of the opening of the spinal unit at the Salisbury hospital and to help raise funds

for Pte Shane Cox now confined to a wheelchair.

Shane, 22, was among a group of soldiers from his battalion preparing a helicopter landing site in the Belize jungle.

He and his pals were felling a tree when a branch fell on him seriously injuring his back.

He was airlifted to Miami and

underwent an emergency operation and soon afterwards was flown to the UK and the Duke of Cornwall's Spinal Unit at Odstock.

Now, while he adjusts to a new lifestyle and awaits his medical discharge, his Army pals are busy raising cash to make life a little easier for him.

Before his unit left Belize they raised £4,500 with a 230-mile sponsored run through the jungle and the battalion is to pay £1,200 towards an expensive operation.

Batwoman takes off!

AFTER 30 years as personal secretary to nine lieutenant generals and seven major generals at Army HQ, York, Miss Edna Shann has transcribed her final shorthand note for her last senior officer, Maj Gen Charles Guthrie, GOC North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division which came to York from Germany in 1983.

Now Edna, 63, who has been a civil servant for 47 years, plans to devote more time to her voluntary work as coordinator of the Bat Section of the Yorkshire Mammal Group.

Navy son signals and Dad gets the message

WHEN HMS *Minerva* arrived to take up patrol duties around the Falkland Islands, Royal Navy Lt Ewan Kelbie found getting around presented no problems — he just hitched a lift from Dad.

Captain Bob Kelbie of the Royal Signals met his naval son on the quayside at East Cove, after *HMS Minerva*'s voyage south to take up the task of patrolling the Falkland Islands protection zone.

Bob, 46, has seen many overseas tours during his 27 years with the Army, including Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong and Germany. This latest posting is with headquarters on the islands.

Conversely Ewan, 23, has been in the Navy for 2½ years and before joining *Minerva* served on *HMS Gloucester*.

Like Pte Amanda Page (right) of the WRAC, they hope to see some of the islands' wildlife during their

time in the South Atlantic.

For HQ staff clerk Amanda life isn't all work. She likes to make the most of her time out of the office by visiting other units which help guard the islands, including *HMS Ambuscade* which has just ended its protection zone tour. Amanda also finds time for hockey, football, running and keep fit.

As with most of her colleagues, she has found an interest in wildlife since being posted south. The next expedition she plans is to Sea Lion Island, famed for its penguins and seals.



PTE AMANDA PAGE: ships, sport and wildlife



CAPT BOB KELBIE, LT EWAN KELBIE: quayside meeting yields the key

PEOPLE

Gonged 25 years late!

WHEN Pte Richard Lee joined the 7th Royal Anglian Regt TA, he mentioned he had once served in Borneo with the 1st Royal Leicesters and that he had never received his "gong".

Now, 25 years later, Richard has his medal and

proudly holds it aloft for all to see.

It was thanks to his OC, Maj Albert Price Howells, that he now has the medal.

The major then topped off his efforts by formally presenting the medal to a beaming Pte Lee.



Larkhill trio in ferry rescue bid



Bdr Tony Allcroft



Maj Howard Crosse

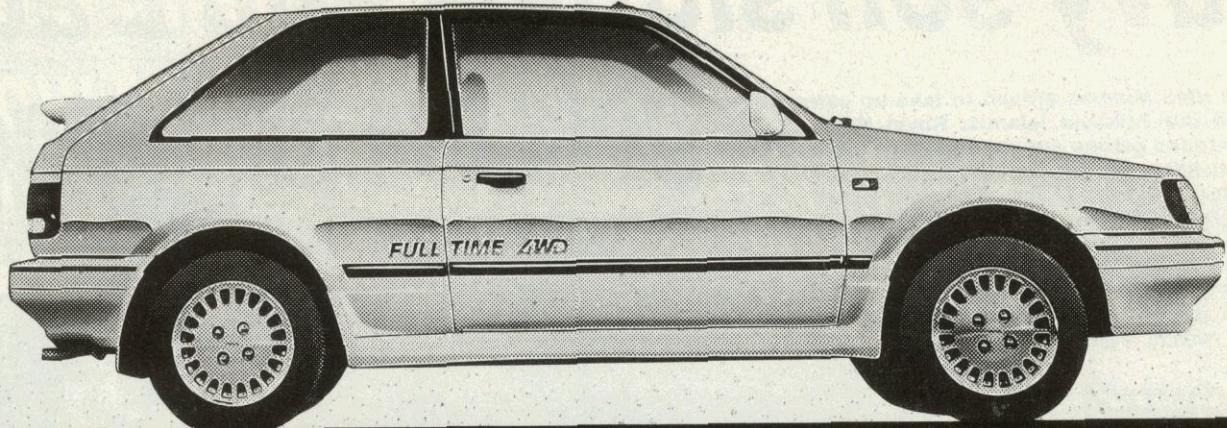


CSgt Chris Wood

This trio moved fast when news of the Zeebrugge disaster came through, but even though Maj Howard Crosse, CSgt Chris Ward and Bdr Tony Allcroft were swiftly flown by RAF helicopter to the stricken ship, they were too late to help.

A specialist team at the Surveillance Target Acquisition Night Observation and Counter Surveillance Centre — STANOC for short — at Larkhill, they took their thermal imaging gear to monitor for signs of people trapped inside the capsized ferry.

Said Maj Crosse on their return from Zeebrugge: "Unfortunately our checks showed no signs of life."



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Flynn's old Hong Kong mob seek memorabilia

Hong Kong's own 133-year-old army unit, The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), in which film-star Errol Flynn served briefly in the 1930s, has launched a world-wide appeal for memorabilia connected with its history.

The regiment is seeking uniforms, medals, equipment, books and other items to help it set up a regimental museum.

Its Honorary Colonel, Mr John Heywood, says: "The story of the regiment is an integral part of the story of Hong Kong. The Volunteers of today can directly trace their history back to 1854, only 13 years after Hong Kong was founded.

The regiment was formed when the Crimean War led to a reduction of the British military presence in Hong Kong. To help bolster the defences when marauding pirates were still a hazard on the China Coast, local volunteers were sought. A total of 99 Europeans were recruited - mostly British, but with some Portuguese, Scandinavians, Dutch and Germans.

Today, most of the 947 part-time soldiers and the 300 strong Junior Leaders unit for boys, are local Chinese volunteers. But in the past it was usual for members of the expatriate community at all levels to serve with the regiment. Top businessmen, some of them millionaires, or with titles, would serve as private soldiers in the unit.

Errol Flynn is believed to have been a member for some nine months before going on to find fame and fortune in Hollywood.

Mr Heywood says that because of the transitory nature of Hong Kong's expatriate population a lot of old regimental materials have been taken overseas.

Unfortunately all regimental records and items of interest were lost during the Japanese occupation from 1941 to 1945.

Anyone with appropriate material should contact the Commanding Officer, Lt Col J Hutchins, Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), Happy Valley, Hong Kong.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Kitt-ed out in scarlet

How the Army has changed!

New stamps which have been issued for the Caribbean island of St Kitts show British soldiers resplendent in their scarlet uniforms, but the standard of life in the Army at that time did not match the standard of their appearance.

The soldiers are depicted around the turn of the 18th century, a time at which the last fighting took place on the island before it was passed back to British rule by the

Treaty of Versailles.

A soldier's pay at that time was poor, food and conditions were bad and treatment was harsh. Peacetime enlistment was for life, and recruits were often criminals and fugitives together with the unemployed and the gullible.

There were few barracks in England and soldiers lived either in tents or were billeted in public houses; they officially had two meals a day with a pound of salt beef and 1½ pounds of bread.

Six new stamps have been issued, three with illustrations of British soldiers and three French.

The British ones show an officer of the East Norfolk Regiment in 1792, a sergeant of 3rd Foot The Buffs in 1801, and a private of the Light Company 5th Foot in 1778.



Salute the Paras

Not so many years ago, everything came to a halt when a funeral cortege drove along the road. Other vehicles waited behind the procession, pedestrians stood still and faced the hearse. Not any more . . .

But two unknown soldiers of the Parachute Regiment sprang to attention and smartly saluted as a coffin passed Depot PARA at Browning Barracks, Aldershot.

It was the only mark of respect paid to the civilian funeral cortege on its seven-mile journey.

This so impressed the man whose wife was being borne to her funeral that he decided to recognise the gesture by presenting the Controller of the Airborne Forces Charitable Trusts, Major Malcolm Steggles, with a cheque for £50.

Well done the Paras!

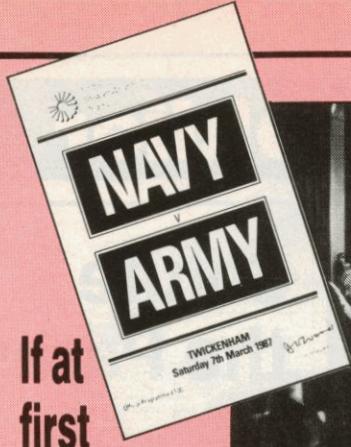


Agony and ecstasy

Are those expressions of ecstasy on the faces of Ptes Michael Newell and Paul Cuff? Well, perhaps not. Eating a raw leek is not necessarily the most enjoyable of sensations.

But on St David's Day the leek eating ceremony is tradition, an entertaining one for most of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of

Wales, but not for the youngest soldier in each company. Standing on chairs with their right foot on the dining table, and urged on by their colleagues, the soldiers compete to see who can eat his leek the quickest - and then drink a pint of beer. At least the ceremony has some final consolation.



If at first
you don't
succeed...



Guests of sponsors Stewart Wrightson sit down to lunch at headquarters before the big match

TRY AND TRY AGAIN!



Above - Order restored, Maj Gen Tony Trythall (second from left) and Mrs Trythall are pictured in front of the RAEC tent. Included in the group are Lt Col Noel Thomas (centre) and Maj Richard Bartle (right)

Left - Members of the Royal Australian Navy Under 21 rugby team from Sydney - well armed with tubes of the golden nectar - invade the RAEC tent in the Twickenham car park

Have transport will party for RAOC rugby players from Blackdown and their guests. For them it was a champagne occasion



Story: John Elliott
Pictures: Bob Brodie

Dateline Twickenham

IT seems a simple enough assignment. Take pen and camera into the Twickers car park and record the annual champagne and ale ritual that traditionally precedes the Army-Navy rugby match. From an Army viewpoint, naturally.

Thousands of cars, hundreds of tailgate parties to choose from. Let's start with that jolly crowd laughing off the raw cold with a warming cocktail of brandy and pâté de foie gras.

"Army? Sorry, old boy, never heard of it. Is it anything to do with that lot we're playing this afternoon?"

Photographer Bob Brodie and I move on quickly to a Range Rover extended by a trestle table on which plates of cold meat, salads and cheeses fight for space with an impressive collection of chateau wines. Enjoying it are a dozen elegantly flat capped, wax cotton coated men and their ladies. Must be the cavalry!

"Actually, we're Royal Navy, but do stay for a bite to eat. There's plenty..."

We make an excuse and leave. There is work to be done.

Aah! A red pennant fluttering bravely from the aerial of a Porsche. That's what we're looking for. Wrong again. It is a red silk handkerchief, a Senior Service red silk handkerchief, signalling, for the use of.

Three more wrong assumptions and Bob and I are getting desperate. Where is the Army?

We turn to the far side of the huge car park... and there it is! A beacon of salvation. The flag of the Royal Army Educational Corps, flying proudly from atop a well populated marquee.

There is a warm welcome from Maj Gen Tony Trythall, father of Army flanker Lt Peter Trythall, but as soon as Bob focuses his camera, the tent is invaded by the green and gold of the entire Royal Australian Navy Under-21 rugby touring team from Sydney.

Lt Col Noel Thomas, chairman of RAEC rugby, tells us the tent was put up by lads from the Sandhurst Wing at Beaconsfield, Bucks.

"It's the first time we've had a tent here. Perhaps it will encourage other corps to do the same. We are rather outnumbered."

Corps rugby secretary Maj Richard Bartle agrees: "We

hope to be back next year." Nearby we find the Royal Army Ordnance Corps display team van, full of corps rugby players from Blackdown and bottles of Moet et Chandon. There is also a contingent from the Ammunition Technical Officers Course at RMCS Shrivenham and 20 cadets from the Virginia Military Institute on a rugby tour of the UK.

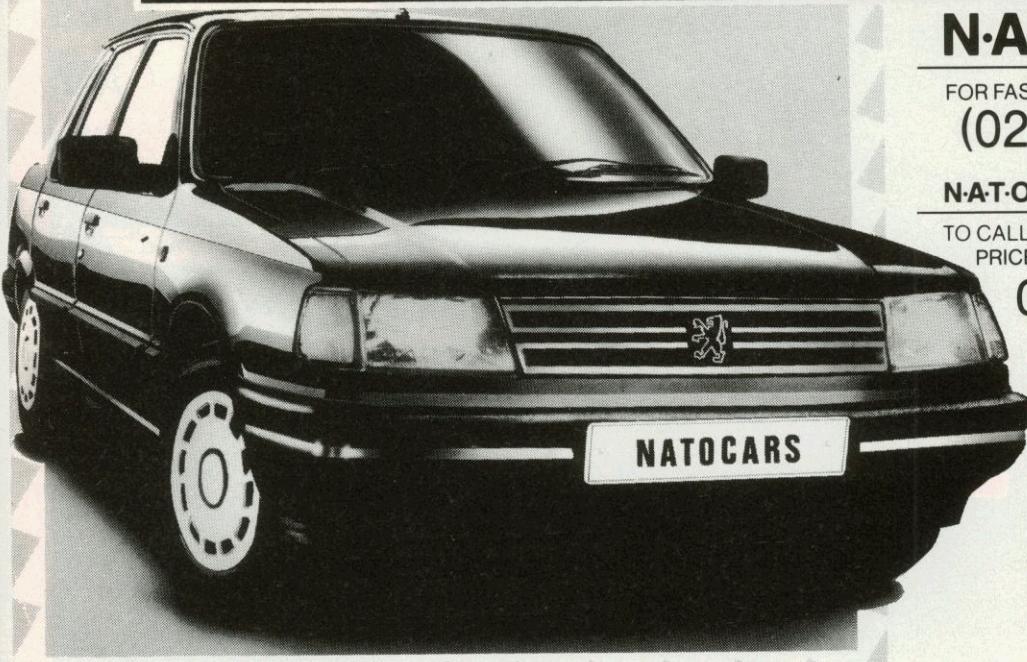
2nd Lt John Sheehy, oic rugby in the battalion, organised the party.

● Match report see sports pages.



The opposition: Mr Robin Rankin (centre) Naval Sales Manager of BMARC, who make anti-aircraft guns for the Royal Navy, and his party. His guests include Commodores Jeremy Read and Nick Kettlewell, and Cdr Richard Lord, all of the Royal Navy, and Cdr Ed Hagee, USN, who is on exchange in the MoD

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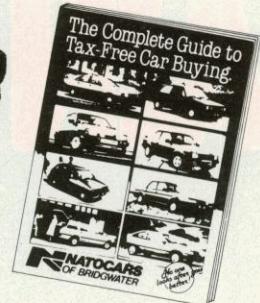
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SILENCE shrouds row upon row of trucks and motorcycles beneath a roof that once rang to the deafening clatter of the railway repair shop it sheltered.

Built in 1911, the vast repair shop was acquired by the Army in 1964 and is now part of the Forward Vehicle Depot at Recklinghausen where 2,400 vehicles are stored.

There are 1,300 inside the shed and the remainder outside are rotated under cover to ward off the elements.

Maintaining so many vehicles is an administrative headache of mammoth proportions, especially after big exercises when hundreds are drawn from the depot.

It can take more than a year after a major exercise like Crusader and Lionheart to process vehicles through the depot maintenance and overhaul system and reclassify all as being Fit For Issue stock.

Batteries have to be

Silent fleet of Recklinghausen

charged and engines turned over regularly to ensure that all vehicles are available at a moment's notice.

Nearly every class of military wheeled vehicle stock is stored at the Forward Vehicle Depot (FVD) and old stock is

constantly being replaced by new. Recent additions include the Land-Rover 110 and the Armstrong motorcycle which is to replace the Canam.

The depot is run by the RAOC and comes under the technical control of 15

Ordnance Group. There are several REME personnel and many civilians in the workshops.

The depot exists to equip units travelling from the UK to reinforce 1 (BR) Corps in war and for the replacement of vehicles lost in combat.



The RCT truckers line up with some of their vehicles. Read all about the long distance drivers of 38 Sqn RCT on nextpage.

RCT truckers are million mile men

ONE million miles of European highway are notched up each year by the long distance drivers of 38 Squadron RCT.

Working long, irregular hours and often having to make their own sleeping, feeding and refuelling arrangements, the drivers of 38 Sqn are often on the road for a week or more and have been dubbed the "RCT Truckers".

These BAOR truckers perform a variety of tasks including the support throughout BAOR of exercises and the provision of heavy general cargo transport.

By far their greatest and most time consuming role is the day by day provision of support to the BAOR freight service which takes the squadron's vehicles from Antwerp to Berlin and all points in between.

Carrying military stores such as ammunition, tyres and spares, their vehicles have been tasked to travel to France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, UK and southern Germany.

On mobilisation much the same tasking would be carried out, but efforts would be concentrated within the Rear Combat Zone.

The squadron operates 66 16-tonne Fodens which form the backbone of their strength but also ply the roads of BAOR on the new 500 cc Armstrong motor cycles and in Land-Rovers and in addition have four four-ton bulk refuelling vehicles.

The squadron is almost 200 strong and has its own workshop with a 23-strong REME contingent. Vehicles are inspected every month to

ensure their roadworthiness and drivers joining the unit have to do a spell in the workshop to familiarise them with the mechanics.

"We are one of the most sought-after postings in the corps," said Maj Max Alexander, OC, "not just because we get out and about and see different places but because we do actually get a lot of driving done. Everyone is very enthusiastic about their job here."

The unit, which is part of 23 Transport Regiment whose regimental headquarters are at Monchengladbach, has been stationed at Mulheim since March 1970.

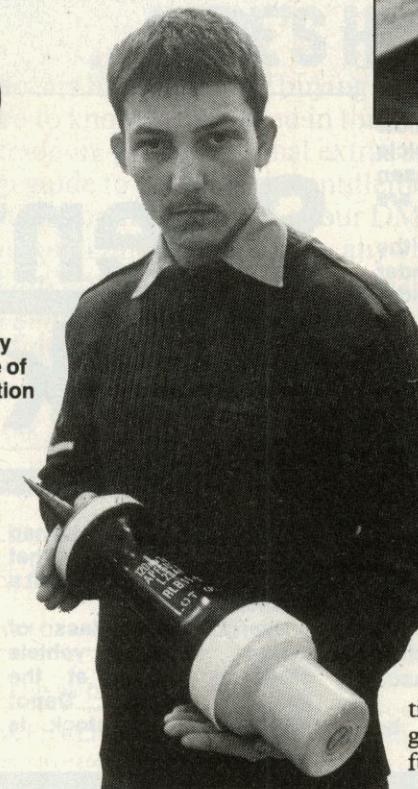
Its history goes back to 1892 when it was formed as a supply depot in Aldershot before moving with its horses to South Africa during the Boer War.



Bits 'n pieces by the million - racks of smaller items at the Forward Ordnance Depot, Dulmen

Catastrophe? That's routine!

A shell with awesome destructive capability, the APFSDS round held here by Pte Colin Finnemore is one of the many kinds of ammunition stored at 3 BAD



Hey, buddy, can you spare us a spare?

CATASTROPHE exercises feature prominently in the training calendar of the largest ammunition depot in BAOR.

Twice a year firemen race to the 3,500 acre Base Ammunition Depot at Bracht to tackle a mock emergency within its 20 km perimeter fence.

A derelict Lightning jet is wheeled out among the railheads and storage sites and smoke cannisters and burning oil ignited around it.

The exercise represents an air crash, the accident most feared by safety officers at the depot where 46,000 tons of ammunition are stored in reinforced sheds surrounded by

a network of earth and concrete blast embankments.

A vital cog in the BAOR fighting machine, 3 Base Ammunition Depot stores the complete spectrum of shells and rounds from .22 calibre to 175mm and in time of war would replenish by road and rail the forward combat units.

Manned by more than 260 military personnel and 320 civilians, the depot issues all training ammunition for BAOR in peacetime.

Ammunition returned unused after a training exercise has to be checked round by round, repaired and reconditioned where necessary and

repackaged before being stored.

By and large ammunition can be stored untouched for years once it has been sealed but periodic inspections are held and rounds randomly selected and test fired.

A Senior Ammunition Technical Officer (SATO) is responsible for inspection and, if needs be, repairs. Malfunc-

tions are few and are generally to be found in the fuses.

Old rounds and types of shell are phased out eventually and disposed of either by sale, demolition or deep sea dumping.

With so much ammunition stored in so many different locations over an area greater in size than an international airport, it is necessary to keep precise records on computer of where everything is.

The amount of ammunition

ALMOST everything from tank engines to the humble nut and bolt are stored at the Forward Ordnance Depot in Dulmen, Germany.

Of the four Central Distribution Points (CDPs) in BAOR the Dulmen depot is the busiest handling 6,000 inward and outward bound packages a day.

It supports the whole of BAOR and does so by supplying direct to units or via the other CDPs and, in the case of 1 (BR) Corps, through divisional ordnance complexes.

Wartime reinforcement units from the UK would first pick up their vehicles from the depot at Recklinghausen and then

equip themselves for battle at Dulmen.

Sprawling across more than 70 acres and surrounded by five kilometres of perimeter fence, Dulmen Forward Ordnance Depot (FOD) is manned by 200 military personnel - mostly RAOC - and about 500 civilians.

The depot is the local community's biggest employer and has been given the freedom of the town.

The constant flow of material out to BAOR means that stocks have to be replenished daily by the so called Donnington and Bicester Expresses.

Two juggernaut container lorries arrive morning and afternoon each day full of

stores from the UK ordnance depots at Donnington and Bicester.

Supplies of many descriptions from tyres to cotton wool also arrive regularly by train after being disembarked at ports to the west.

The main stores area at Dulmen FOD has a checklist of more than 7,000 items, details of which are logged on computer.

There are vast sheds, too, containing much of the adventurous training equipment used by servicemen in BAOR - canoes by the hundred, tents by the thousand. Ancillary workshops repair a constant stream of torn and battered items such as sleeping bags.

driver with a peculiar sense of humour dropped them off at the fence and told them that Germany lay beyond!

Road and rail communications link the depot with forward units and forward ammunition dumps and within the depot itself there are 13 km of rail, five sidings and 88 km of road.

Ammunition outloading exercises are also held at the depot, often running concurrently with the twice-yearly catastrophe scenario.

WHY STUDENT GRANTS GET BLOCKED

A NUMBER of Service families report difficulty in obtaining mandatory and discretionary awards from local authorities for their student children. In most cases refusal by the authority is on residential grounds.

In a recent case, after much correspondence, the local authority reversed its decision not to grant an award and accepted that 15 years abroad as a UK-based teacher did not disqualify the teacher's son from an award.

Residence, or alleged lack of it, seems to be the main obstacle in getting a grant. This is what the Department of Education and Science says: "To be eligible for a mandatory award a student must have been ordinarily resident in the British Islands for the three years preceding the start of the academic year in which the course commences. This applies irrespective of a student's nationality, citizenship or family background.

"The local authority has to be satisfied the residential condition has been met, if not there is no duty on an authority to bestow an award, unless the authority is satisfied the student's parents are temporarily employed abroad."

I queried the time students spend out of UK as local authorities were using this as a reason for not awarding a mandatory grant.

Regulations do not lay down a period of time

beyond which a parent's employment cannot be considered as temporary. The department has issued general advice, in ACL 2/85, to authorities on the provisions relating to temporary employment abroad and does not propose to provide further guidance.

When a local authority has refused a grant application, I asked if it would be possible to establish a pool fund, to which students could apply

ly when refused on grounds of residence.

But, said the ministry: "If their parents had been in UK they would have been eligible. To introduce specific provisions into the regulations, including the setting up of a special fund such as you suggest, would attract criticism from parents in other employments who would argue that they too should receive preferential treatment. Such arguments would be difficult to resist

More information can be

and costly to implement." The minister's reply to the growing number of students, Service and UK-based civilians, who are refused discretionary awards was: "As their name implies these awards are made at the authorities own discretion and expense. It is for each authority to determine its own discretionary awards policy and ministers cannot seek to influence them."

Overseas applicants should ask their education office for the Dept of Education's circular - Temporary residence and employment abroad. Alternatively, write to Elizabeth House, York Rd, London SE1 7PH.

A job-hunter's guide to work in Germany

AS A guide for job hunting wives and dependants in BAOR, the Pioneer and Labour Service Unit (PLSU) indicate in question and answer guidance a few useful points in answer to your queries.

Remember from UB671 requires evidence that you are seeking work abroad. The questions and answers read:

■ Who advertises jobs? A. The PLSU should be seen as the personnel office of a firm (the Army). A personnel office decides when to advertise and so do PLSUs.

■ Are there job waiting lists for dependants? A. We do not have such things, but rather we have waiting lists of job seekers

with different qualifications.

■ Who decides who goes for interviews, the PLSU or the employer?

A. In some cases the PLSU is also the employer, but generally the PLSU determines the short list of candidates.

■ Who can go on courses in north-west Europe and UK?

A. The responsibility for proposing course attendance for dependants lies with the OC of the unit and will be related to the need to improve skills for present or pre-planned employment.

■ How does the promotion system work? A. We do not have such things, but rather we have waiting lists of job seekers

A. The unit considers employees and informs the PLSU of its intention to promote.

If current employees are unsuitable, it will tell PLSU who will consider other employees in the same geographical area.

■ What are the different grades for clerical, catering and teaching.

A. Grades for dependants are laid down in the Collection Tariff Agreement and are: clerical, C grades; catering, H grades; teaching, scales as laid down by a civil secretariat.

■ How does someone wanting work get on the list while still in UK?

A. To ensure fairness dependants do not register for employment until they are in BAOR.

DID YOU KNOW?

POSTED overseas? Are you receiving Family Income Supplement - FIS? FIS is paid overseas through your husband's pay account as is cash in lieu of milk tokens.

Before you are posted check with your pay office that action has been taken for you to receive FIS and cash for milk tokens while overseas.

A NEW edition of the Highway Code, the first since 1978, contains advice on alcohol, car telephones and children in cars. It is available from HMSO, booksellers, and your local library. More than 5,000 people are killed and 300,000 injured on our roads every year and yet 95 per cent, of all these

accidents are caused by road user error - failure to follow the Highway Code.

MANY parents look for ideas to fill the long summer holidays. Independent Schools Information Services, ISIS, have published their new summer schools guide for the whole family.

So if you fancy winemaking in Wiltshire or canoeing in Warwickshire now is your chance.

Thirty of Britain's leading independent schools open their doors for both day and residential courses.

The brochure is free from Summer Schools, ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, London W1E 6AG. Two first class stamps

Taking a new view of your health

A NEW initiative has been taken by the Army's Department of General Practice to make TV health videos available to families in UK and overseas.

But Brig A Billinghurst needs some ideas as to the best way these excellent Channel 4 videos can be made available at minimum cost with easy accessibility.

The scheme is being trail-blazed in the Army's largest BAOR garrison at Osnabrück.

Among the titles are *Pain, Pain Go Away*, *A Women's Lot*, *Distress in Life and Addiction*.

"Most subjects are covered," said Brig Billinghurst.

Libraries as one point for distribution spring to mind, or perhaps the Federation of Army Wives in UK. So, wives, let's have your suggestions.

Anne
HERE TO HELP



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BUZZING AT THE HIVE

WHAT do you do when stuck in Fallingbostel and need to check the medical centre opening times, find out about the Youth Opportunities Scheme in Germany, where to go for a day out and how to book a ferry back to England and all in half-an-hour?

The answer is to rush to the newly-opened HIVE, of course.

The HIVE - Help, Information and Volunteer Exchange - is the fourth to be established in the BAOR.

They have been set up with funds from SSAFA and their aim is to provide help and information on all manner of things for both single soldiers and "pads" alike. In short, they act as a citizens advice bureau to BFG personnel.

Housed in the old SSVC cinema, the Fallingbostel HIVE is run by Army wives Vanessa Morgan and Lynne Smith who know the problems and pitfalls of life in Germany.

They have an extensive range of Government leaflets on subjects such as welfare and employment as well as BFBS teletext.

As Lynne says: "All this information was available before, but not in the same place and, although we do not promise to supply an answer to every question, we can certainly point people in the right direction to get an answer."

Collocated in the old cinema is a travel agency, managed by Rachel North and Sara Allen. They offer a full travel service arranging everything from ferries and flights to the most exotic package holiday.

They are also agents for ADAC (the German motor-ing organisation) and Was-teels (cheap train tickets for those under 26 throughout Europe).

Within the next couple of months a hairdressing salon will be opening bringing another much needed service to Soltau Garrison.



LYNNE SMITH, VANESSA MORGAN: instant answers to problems and warnings of pitfalls

DON'T LEARN A LESSON THE HARD WAY

IN MY VIEW

Correspondence comes in waves; letters about housing, pay, DHSS and education, usually triggered by something read or heard.

Party's Shadow Chancellor, told Paul Ham of *Resident Abroad Magazine*: "We certainly will initially reduce and eventually abolish fee-paying education."

So when mention was made that the boarding school allowance might be abolished, parents as well as heads of independent schools were naturally concerned. Even alarmed.

Any move to abolish Boarding School Allowance or any hint of a threat to remove the assisted places scheme, would send shivers down the spine of any Service parent with offspring at boarding school.

In November '86 Mr Roy Hattersley, the Labour

But the conference did not take a card vote so the proposal will not necessarily be included in Labour's election manifesto.

However, for Service families any talk of such moves leads to worries, as many parents would not be able to fulfil the Army's policy of accompanied service unless sufficient

of all the possibilities which could affect a child's chosen educational pattern.

Currently it's a wait and see game, but the fact remains, any change in the existing rules and regulations could spell out a heap of trouble for Service parents, both in terms of finance and accommodation.

They are also agents for ADAC (the German motor-ing organisation) and Was-teels (cheap train tickets for those under 26 throughout Europe).

Within the next couple of months a hairdressing salon will be opening bringing another much needed service to Soltau Garrison.

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON

More information on this subject can be obtained from the ISIS Association, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

Don't be complacent, keep ahead of what is going on. Don't learn the hard way.

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*Prices correct at time of going to press.

Cornet mystery

I noticed on television that the Last Post and Reveille sounded at Lord Stockton's memorial service was played on the cornet by a Grenadier bandsman.

Surely, in keeping with tradition it should have been a bugle? — **D J McLeod, Beachcroft Place, Lancing, Sussex.**

Traditionally the bugle is used by the infantry, the trumpet by the cavalry and others. Perhaps an erudite reader could explain the significance of the cornet. — **Editor.**

Malay postings

I refer to Mr Travers-Bogusz's letter (February 9 issue) on the subject of The Malay Regiment and service in Malaya by British battalions. The Indian Army List for October 1939 shows the 1st Bn The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as having arrived in India on October 31 1938 "from Malaya".

With regard to the posting of British personnel to The Malay Regiment, other than officers, I recall that Harold Foster, Gordons, our RSM in the 1st Bn The London Scottish, was posted to Port Dickson, the regiment's depot in, I think, 1952. — **John Gaylor, hon secretary Military Historical Society, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT.**

Not sappers

As Press Officer for the school I am duty bound to bring to your attention an old chestnut of an error in your article "Getting to grips with Army life" (SOL-DIER March 9).

At SEME there are currently 1,532 mean and hungry soldiers who claim the skills they are learning are those of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and not those of sappers (Royal Engineers)! — **Captain J C B Deane, REME, School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Regiment, Prince Philip Barracks, Bordon, Hants GU35 0JE.**

Paras scale Mount Kenya's twin peaks

REST and recuperation took on a new meaning when a group of paras decided to make the most of their week off by scaling the twin peaks of Mount Kenya — both more than 17,000 feet high.

Nine men, all members of 2 Para, were on exercise in Kenya when they decided to make the impromptu ascents.

Acclimatisation to altitude proved to be the immediate problem and the team catered for this by taking three days to walk the short distance of 12 km, climbing 4,000 ft in height each day.

On day three they reached the mountain refuge hut (Austrian Hut) at 15,720 ft where they teamed up with a civilian climber from Newcastle who had already scaled the lower of the twin peaks, Nelion (17,022 ft).

His compatriots had opted out of tackling the higher, Batian (17,058 ft), but Cpl Chris Jackson agreed to partner him in return for route-finding assistance on Nelion.

The team needed to use a complex 25 pitch rock climb, including two traverses and two crack climbs graded "hard-severe" to reach the summit of Nelion, and another five pitches with two traverses to cross the steep sided Gate of Mists to Batian.

Altitude sickness took its toll and two men had to return to a lower camp while three others decided to acclimatise themselves further before tackling the summits.

Two pairs, the civilian Dave Ladkin and



LCpl Bob Cole belaying LCpl Iain Brown on the south face of Mount Kenya

Cpl Jackson and Sgt John Johnson and Spr Paul Hart, tackled the twin peaks and abseiled 1,300 ft down to Lewis Glacier and Austrian Hut by nightfall.

Over the next two days several of the team climbed and scrambled up and on to the peaks and for most the high point of the week was the sight of Kilimanjaro poking above a sea of cloud more than 200 miles south in Tanzania.

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Why the British soldiers are a sure welcome in little Dombas

THE schoolchildren of Dombas in far-flung north-west Norway like the British "squaddie" so much, and the efforts they have made to help local charity, that they have shown their thanks to the 180-strong unit 59 Independent Commando Squadron by a series of "thank you" letters.

Harold Hansen wrote: "I like the English soldier because they are very okey boys and if it will be war they will help us. The chef is very good to make food. I like them special when I get chocolate and other goodies from them. Thank you very much for coming. Come back soon."

Another wrote: "There are English soldiers at Dombas. They can speak little Norwegian. They can go to ski. David is an Englishman. I have an English friend. They live in Dombas Hotel. They have an exercise in the mountains. They have a green uniform. Some have a black moustash. They drink milk. They eat fish. Dave is all right."

Hilli likes the Englishmen, their weapons and thanks them for coming to Norway but hates helicopters. "They are screaming at our cows!" says her letter!



An Arctic warfare instructor tests the depth of the snow with an avalanche probe

Stories by Martin Paterson
Pictures by Sgt Rick McDonald,
UKLF P Info



Men of 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE with their cheque for NOK 10,000 (about £1,000) which the unit raised for the local air ambulance service. The 180-strong unit has made many friends in the little town of Dombas, north-west Norway, over the past five years



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Ace force on Norway's mountainous backbone

ABOUT 2,000 soldiers from the British contingent of the eight-nation Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force have been carrying out arctic training as part of Exercise Hardfall along the "backbone of Norway", the vast mountainous reaches between Bergen in the south and Trondheim in the north.

The British contingent with its infantry, artillery, armoured, signals and logistics units operated in company-sized groups, enduring the

realities of living and working in the harsh but breathtaking beauty of an Arctic winter.

The most basic lesson taught to the soldiers during a ten-week stint was that of simply staying alive.

Arctic Survival Training, or AST, is designed to give the soldier the elementary skills needed for survival in one of the earth's most hostile environments.

Norway is a beautiful country but the curves of its wild topography are decidedly



dangerous. Damp clothing, over-exertion, concentration lapses,

the handling of metal with bare hands all add up to cold-inflicted injuries. In extreme cases the result is death.

The buddy-buddy system – one soldier looking out for another during training sequences – is widely practised. A glimpse at a partner for signs of cold inflicted injuries ensures that no one is caught unawares.

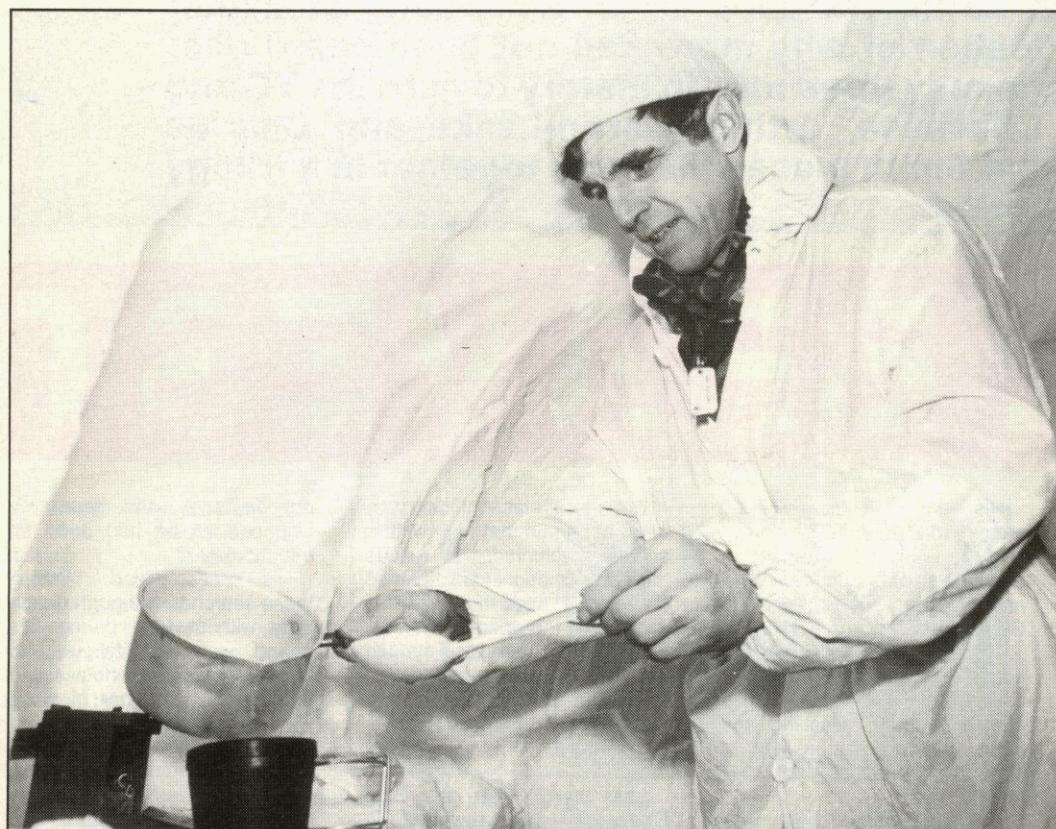
Each soldier in the snows of Arctic Norway knows that his survival kit is made up of elements. Portable items like high energy rations, compass, dry gloves and emergency pack make up the first part. Basic survival kit is stowed in the pockets of his windproof Arctic smock.

The second element is carried in his back-pack – spare clothes, a sleeping bag, entrenching tool, more rations and cooking equipment.

Training is conducted in units of up to seven soldiers called "tent groups" which transport the bulkier third piece of survival kit on an Arctic sledge called a pulk. On it, tents, tent sheets, extra rations, fuel for the stoves.

A tent group has to dig a one-metre deep snow hole sufficient in size to accommodate a tent. They also discover it takes a great deal of snow to make a little water!

Arctic warfare instructor Sgt Bill Phillips of 1 Para summed up: "To survive and work out here is relatively easy if you put into practice what you've learned. Don't over-estimate your abilities and work with the weather – not against it."



Cpl Geoff Horton organises a "cuppa" in his little home in the snow

SAPPERS BOOST AIR AMBULANCE COFFERS

SOLDIERS of 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers, have been training each winter for the past five years in the mountains of north-west Norway.

During that time they have become friendly with the denizens of Dombas. The squadron has taken part in civic events and has contributed to a local charity.

This year the unit handed over a cheque

for 10,000 Kroner – about £1,000 – to the local air ambulance service. Dombas has no hospital and is sited farther away from a hospital than any other town in Norway.

Organising fund-raising by the 180 strong unit was Cpl Martin Smith, a crane operator, who also heads the squadron's entertainment committee.

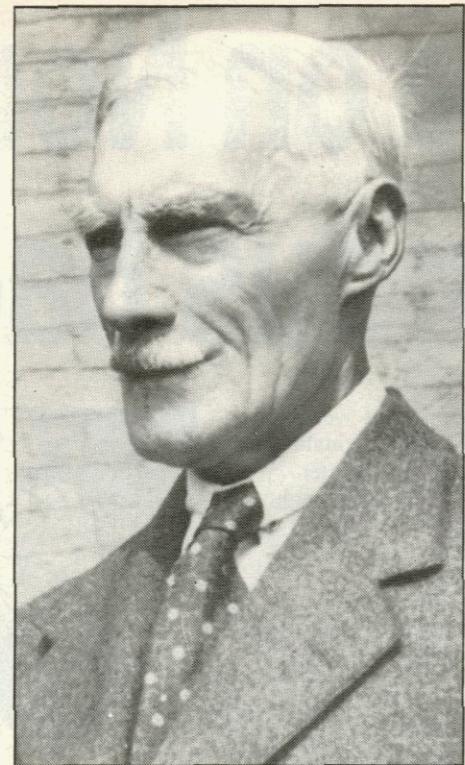
He said: "The money was raised by

putting voluntary premiums on low scores in darts, playing the 'German log game' (banging nails in a log at a kroner-a-go) and betting on paper horse races."

Marketing director of the Norsk Luftambulanse, Mr Arne Kaldstadstuen, said: "The British soldiers are very generous. This gift will be of great use to us in our work."



Capt Upham



Surgeon Capt Martin-Leake



Capt Chavasse

IN our March 23 letters page Mr D. Scholfield, of Exeter posed the question of why more had not been heard over the years of the only three men in history to earn the VC and Bar — Noel Chavasse, Arthur Martin-Leake and Charles Upham. Graham Smith pieces the facts together in a trilogy of bravery stories.



THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

THREE men only have ever won a VC and Bar and, amazingly, two of them are said to have family connections spanning two world wars. Two of the three were doctors, and one treated another for his ultimately fatal wounds.

Capt Noel Chavasse, RAMC, Medical Officer to the 10th (Scottish) Territorial Battalion, The King's Liverpool Regiment, won his VC at Guillemont, France, on August 9, 1916 gaining the Bar to it at Wielte, Belgium, a year later.

Capt Chavasse, who also won the Military Cross in 1916, was to become distantly related to a Capt Charles Upham, a New Zealander, who won his VC in Crete in 1941 and the Bar to it in the Western Desert in 1942.

Son of the Bishop of Liverpool, Capt Chavasse was 32 when he gained Britain's top military honour for gallantry on the battlefield.

An Oxford double Blue, he qualified as a doctor in 1912.

His act of "conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty" was the tending of wounded in the open all day under heavy fire and often in full view of the Germans.

The next night he spent four hours giving what succour he could to the wounded. He carried a torch, whistling and calling out to the men lying in shell holes or draped over enemy wire.

Day dawned and he took a stretcher bearer to the advanced trenches, and under heavy fire retrieved a soldier 500 yards out. Chavasse was hit in the side of the head by a mortar splinter during this Samaritan act.

TWIN

• Capt Chavasse's twin brother, Christopher, won an MC in the First World War and eventually became the Bishop of Rochester as the Rt Rev Chavasse. Their twin sisters, younger by two years, last year celebrated their 100th birthdays on July 29.

HEROES

But the tireless officer ventured out again that night with a score of volunteers to rescue three wounded men pinned down in a shell hole just 36 yards from the enemy trenches. German machine guns homed in on the rescue party, but Chavasse and his volunteers managed to bury two officers and retrieve a number of ID tags.

Less than a year later Capt Chavasse was awarded a posthumous Bar to his VC.

Badly wounded in the fighting at Wielte while carrying a wounded soldier to a field dressing station, Chavasse firmly refused to leave his post. For two days he repeatedly went

out to seek and tend the wounded as he had done so often before.

His citation read: "During these searches, although practically without food during this period, worn with fatigue and faint with his wound, he assisted to carry in a number of badly wounded men over heavy and difficult ground. By his extraordinary energy and inspiring example he was instrumental in rescuing many wounded who would have otherwise undoubtedly succumbed under the bad weather conditions. This devoted and gallant officer subsequently died of his wounds."

He was treating men in a captured German trench when a shell landed in it. Chavasse was taken to a field hospital at Brandhoek and treated, it is said, by Surgeon Captain Martin-Leake.

Capt Chavasse passed away near Ypres on August 4, 1917. His grave can be seen in the

new Brandhoek military cemetery close to the Sword of Sacrifice cross. There is a memorial window to him in Liverpool Cathedral.

Connected by family ties, and, incredibly, gallantry, was Capt Charles Upham, who 25 years later won his VC while serving with the 20th (Wellington) Bn, 2nd NZEF (The Canterbury Regt).

Upham's VC, for gallantry in Crete on May 22-30, 1941, was the third to be won by the Kiwi battalion during that particular campaign.

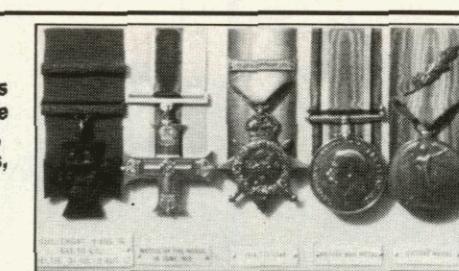
He led a night counter attack on the enemy at Maleme airfield.

The battalion was armed only with personal weapons. Guns, mortars and machine guns had been lost earlier.

But the Germans were entrenched too strongly.

Upham (32) sustained two mortar bomb splinters in his shoulder and his arm was in a sling. His foot was also injured.

The battalion fell back and on



Capt Chavasse's medals: from the RAMC Museum, Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, near Aldershot

on June 27, 1942.

The Kiwis were attacked on three sides. A breakout was necessary and, after hand-to-hand fighting the Kiwis finally broke out of their wadi position.

Their next objective, on July 14, was Rusweisat Ridge overlooking the Alamein battlefield.

During the fierce engagement Capt Upham offered to go forward by jeep to see what was happening when contact was lost with forward battalions.

He succeeded but was later wounded in the left arm when his company attacked a German

force with bayonets fixed. Upham refused to go to hospital.

A German counter-attack the next day broke through and Capt Upham was taken prisoner. His Bar was gazetted in September 1945 following some confusion and criss-crossing of medals in transit.

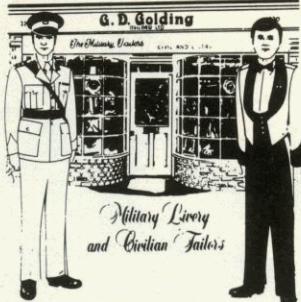
The original award had been sent to his native New Zealand, by which time he was a POW. Released from captivity in the spring of 1945, he was presented with a duplicate VC on May 11 by King George VI.

The original VC was subsequently returned to the War Office in London.

But the first man ever to win a Bar to his VC was Surgeon-Captain Arthur Martin-Leake born near Ware, Herts, of a distinguished family including an Admiral of the Fleet in Queen Anne's Navy.

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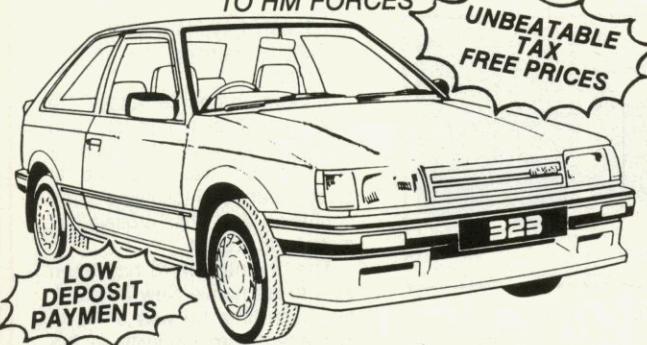
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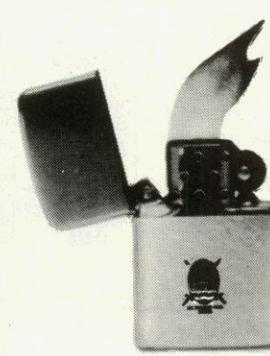
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BLown AWAY!

Arctic gales stop skiers in their tracks

GALE force winds brought the Army ski championships in Aviemore to an abrupt halt for the first time in its 27-year history.

Never had skiing time been lost before at the Aviemore championships because of bad weather - but never before had competitors been faced with such arctic conditions.

Chief of Race Brig Ian Purves-Hume, Commander 51 Highland Brigade, decided to curtail the meeting early on the final day after a tree narrowly missed two Army vehicles when it was blown over.

By then two days' skiing had already been lost but careful juggling ensured that the majority of trophies were presented that evening based on the results of the first three days.

Of all the long faces few can have been longer than those of the 66 Sqn RCT team whose tent blew down twice.

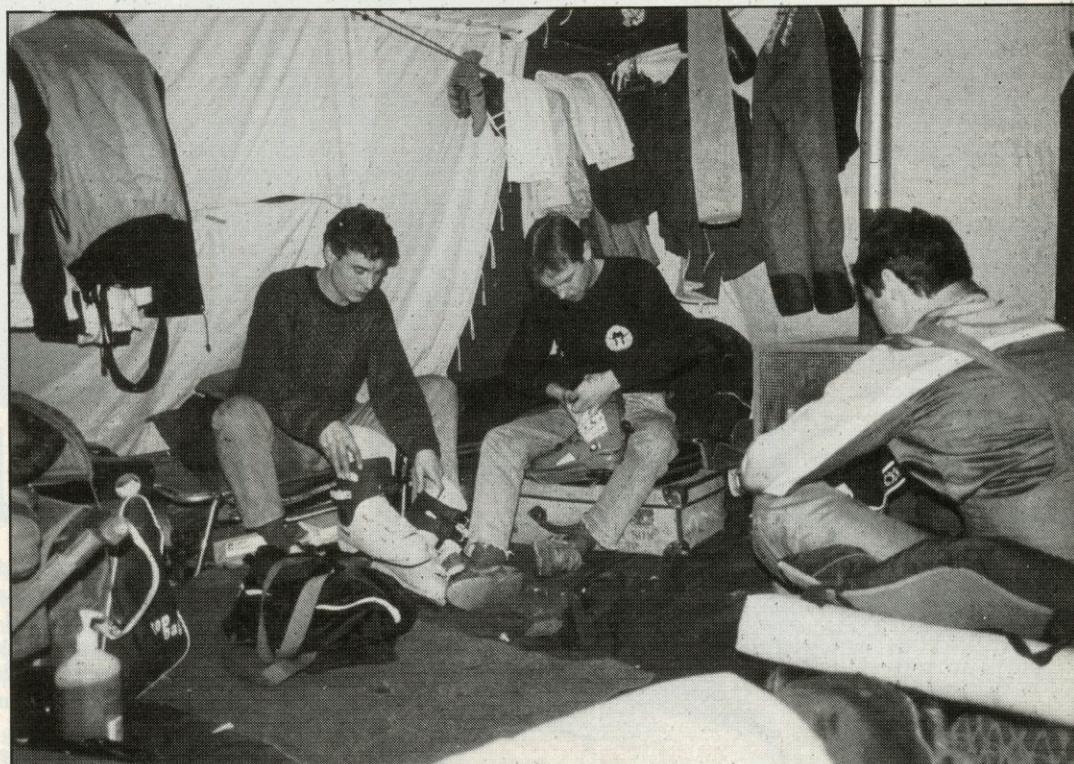
One of just two of the 89 teams to brave a Cairngorms winter under canvas, Tidworth-based 66 Sqn RCT vowed they would have a proper roof over their heads next time.

"It was absolute hell," said team leader Sgt David Thomas, whose team were entering the championships for the first time and had done so at the last minute when all accommodation in the area was fully booked.

Fellow campers were the Catterick-based 24 Field Ambulance team who were spending their fourth week under canvas while staying on for the championships after a unit training exercise in the Cairngorms.



A tough course by most people's standards, especially with so much ice coating the surface. Wind-driven snow blurs the picture as SSgt R Betts (REME) from Larkhill tackles the giant slalom



Chaos reigned among the 66 Sqn RCT camp when their tent blew down twice during storms

Words by Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures by Paul Haley

NINE WEEKS ON THE PISTE IS NOT ALL A BED OF ROSES!

NINE weeks training and competition at a variety of European ski resorts may seem the ideal way of spending a winter but it is not the bed of roses you might think it to be, according to one of its practitioners.

"We are not just swanning around on the piste," said Lt Alex Baille-Hamilton, 1st Bn The Black Watch. "There is actually a lot of hard training involved."

Before the Aviemore meeting, his team had spent six weeks early in the season training at Verbier in Switzer-

land before spending ten days at the BAOR divisional championships in Galtur, Austria, and another ten days at Fulpmes, also in Austria.

"This amount of effort and training is not uncommon among several Regular units, particularly the cavalry," said Lt Baille-Hamilton. "It is a lot of fun but a lot of hard work.

"We get up in the morning, have a run and then ski all day. Physical fitness and determination are essential and the sport is also very competitive which is what the Army is all about.

"It does cost me a lot of

money but we all enjoy it and it is a challenge. It also gives the regiment a good name when we pick up a trophy," added Lt Baille-Hamilton whose team budget runs into several thousand pounds, a proportion of which is met by sponsorship.

His story is in stark contrast to that of the slalom team of the 5th Bn The Light Infantry who, like many other TA units, found difficulty not only in training together as a team but in raising any sort of funds.

"Training as a team was virtually impossible because we were all spread so far apart," said 2nd Lt Ian Galliers, "and we had to liaise by phone and letter which was by no means ideal.

"Much of our training was done alone, at our own expense, at the nearest available dry-ski slope and because the battalion only has one pair of skis we have to buy all our own equipment.

"It was very difficult before-hand to seed everyone within the team and it took some pulling together, I can tell you. It really has got to be a hobby first and foremost," added 2nd Lt Galliers.

Medics kept on the alert

CALLED on to provide cover for all manner of adventurous training pursuits, Aberdeen-based 252 Field Ambulance were the obvious candidates for medical support during the Aviemore championships.

The two-man team of SSgt William McKenzie and Sgt Harry Porter were not kept idle and dealt with a fractured pelvis and various strains and pulled muscles during the few days skiing.

252 Field Ambulance (V) cover much of the Army activities in the north of Scotland while their TA colleagues in 225 Fd Amb (V) based at Dundee cover the south of the province.



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Early Jocks put skiers on course

CLAD in layers of warm and waterproof clothing, the Jocks of the Queen's Own Highlanders administration party took to the slopes early each morning to prepare the slalom course.

First up to the mountainside storage hut, several of them were on hand to dish out equipment to competitors while others made the tortuous ascent to the start line

to establish communications by radio between course officials.

Responsible for the issue and collection of competitors' bibs, the party were also tasked with setting up the timing devices for racers, recording results, providing hot drinks for competitors and officials and digging snow holes for themselves and observers.

Why skiing is in the blood for Ladi

AUSTRIAN skier Ladi Karasek helped a team mate escape Nazi persecution during the 1930s and in gratitude his friend named a son after him.

Joiner Ladi Broadman, now a lieutenant with 5 LI (V), was born with skiing in his blood and met his namesake just weeks before going to Aviemore.

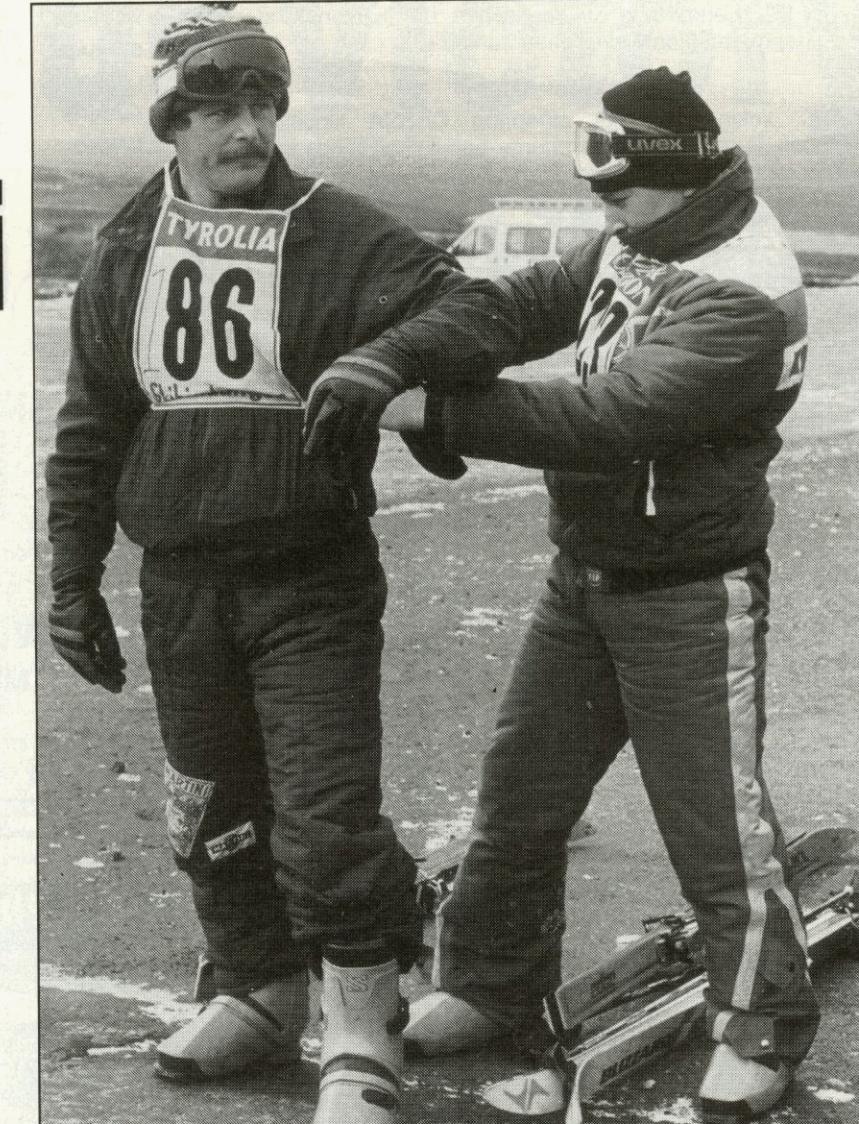
Both his father and Mr Karasek – who recently retired as a ski maker – were members of a top Nazi skiing club in Vienna before the Second World War.

His father, who changed his name to Geoff Broadman when he made England his home, was a member of the Austrian national youth team but Jewish blood and socialist tendencies earned him a place on the Nazis' wanted list.

Mr Karasek heard of this and warned his friend who fled to England where he joined the Commandos to fight against his former persecutors.

Now living near the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, Geoff Broadman was a British inter-Services skiing champion during his post-war Service years and still skis regularly in Austria with his good friend Ladi.

Ladi Karasek was enlisted into the German army during the build-up to hostilities but was eventually discharged as a conscientious objector.



Lt Ladi Broadman, 5 LI, gets a helping hand before taking to the slopes

So long as it's warm and wet, who cares what it tastes like?
Members of the Queen's Own Highlanders admin party shelter from the elements



An injured arm gets the once over from TA medic SSgt William McKenzie

"Many of those who were in the party last year wanted to come back and do it again," said Cpl Mark Yenson, "and it is certainly an enjoyable week when the weather holds out.

"Running up and down hills gets pretty tiring but morale is quite high and we have a saying that suggests a smile a day keeps the blues away," chuckled Cpl Yenson.

The 25-strong party on

secondment from Fort George near Inverness were housed in an outdoor pursuits lodge beside the approach road to the ski lifts.

The lodge is called Norwegian Lodge in memory of the men of the Norwegian Linge Company who trained in the area between 1941 and 1945 in preparation for clandestine operations in their occupied homeland.

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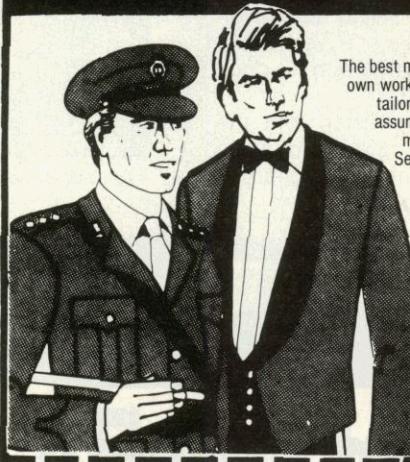
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UNIFORMAL

Vimy Ridge – a glorious victory



AS military action fought in mud, driving sleet, snow and crunching ice, the fight for Vimy Ridge 70 years ago turned out to be a triumph for a young Commonwealth Army and a humiliating débâcle for the defending Germans.

The assault had been meticulously planned, even rehearsed, with cavalry officers riding ahead to simulate fall-of-shot. A model replica of the 470-ft ridge was used to familiarise the men who would soon be striving to take the defensive position.

Yet, it could have all gone wrong. A written plan of the proposed attack was found on a French sergeant unlucky to have been captured by the Boche.

The assault of Vimy Ridge 70 years ago this month – April 9, 1917 – turned into a famous victory. At the end of it a captured German brigadier was seen weeping with shame.

Thousands of men from Gen Sir Edmund Allenby's Third Army and Gen Sir Harry Horne's First Army, which included the Canadian Corps, had advanced to the start line in the safety offered by a series of caves and tunnels. Everything was set for the icy, inhospitable dawning of Easter Monday.

The action was part of the second battle for Arras. The ridge lay about five miles to the south east of the town.

The plan was to mount a nine-mile wide attack by ten infantry divisions, four of them Canadian, to be followed the next day by three cavalry divisions which had been waiting eight miles to the rear.

It was to be an all-out effort to take the elusive ridge which had been tenanted by the Germans for three years and denied to the French who lost 130,000 men trying to capture it in June and September 1915.

The Canadians' task was to attack the left flank of the ridge, the most heavily and stubbornly defended. It's

taking, a magnificent first victory for the Canadians, would cost them 10,600 casualties, 3,000 of them fatal. But the Germans would pay a heavier penalty with the loss of about 21,000 men and more than 100 guns.

To the rear of the Canadians the air was positively festive. Victory was in the nostrils. Pipe, fife, bugle, drum and brass bands opened up with their own musical barrages.

The taking of Vimy Ridge was paramount. Seven miles of downland had been transformed by two years of Belgian slave labour into the powerful northern bastion of the Hindenburg Line.

A bombardment of the ridge began three weeks before the advance. A

by
Graham Smith

total of 2,817 artillery pieces, including 15-inch howitzers, crescendoed along a 14-mile front. The results were devastating.

For the actual advance a creeping barrage was supplied by 983 guns and mortars and the combined efforts of more than 400 Canadian machine guns.

Estimates on the amount of ordnance whistling overhead to pulverise the Germans vary, but one source suggested 88,000 tons of it were expended in just one week. Another says that for the attack 42,609 tons of artillery ammunition was allocated in bulk in addition to the daily 2,465 tons!

Zero hour was set for 0530. Driving snow and sleet did not help the German defenders as it slaked into their tired, red-rimmed eyes. Ice still covered pools of water with their horrific debris temporarily hidden from human view.

A bone-chilling breeze was blowing. The Canadians moved off punctually at the appointed minute that Easter Monday dawn across scenes of

desolation.

Wire and trenches had gone.

As the artillery thundered in raucous chorus and the supporting machine guns stuttered and spewed out their rounds towards the German defenders, the attack went in.

Defenders who, it transpired, seeing the overnight preparations for attack, had been unable to make contact with reserves, artillery and aircraft. OP parties were dead, telephone wires cut.

Weeks of bad weather had played havoc. The Germans had had to survive without food for up to three days at a time because of chronic logistic breakdown. Food which normally took 15 minutes to reach them was now taking six hours.

The unerring attentions of the allied field guns had not helped either. Vimy Ridge's bunkered defences were soon demolished. Isolated pockets of men and machine gun posts were bombed or bayoneted out by the advancing Canadians.

Tanks polished off other pools of German resistance and troublesome strongpoints.

By 1300 that day – even allowing for a two-hour "interval" for shelling – the assault troops were battling their way more than three miles deep into the German lines, sending back batches of disconsolate prisoners from a ten-mile front. One estimate puts the number of prisoners taken at 13,000.

German morale and resources were severely dented. Easter Monday, April 9, 1917 was a great day for the allies. Particularly for the Canadians.

Historians heralded Vimy Ridge as the finest victory of the war and a tremendous boost to British morale after the bloodletting of the Somme offensive just a year before.

More than 60,000 Canadians died in the First World War. Near Vimy Ridge, acquired at such high cost, stands a monolith memorial on which are recorded the names of 11,925 fallen.



G AND T TIME AT THE QDG OFFICERS' MESS TENT: freezing cold weather, but the atmosphere was warm

A royal day at the races with writer John Margetts and photographer Terry Champion

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THE QUEEN MOTHER AND BRIG C B HARVEY: never a winning rider

FRIDAY the 13th held no fears for LBdr Phillip Nicholson taking part in the Grand Military Gold Cup steeplechase at Sandown Park.

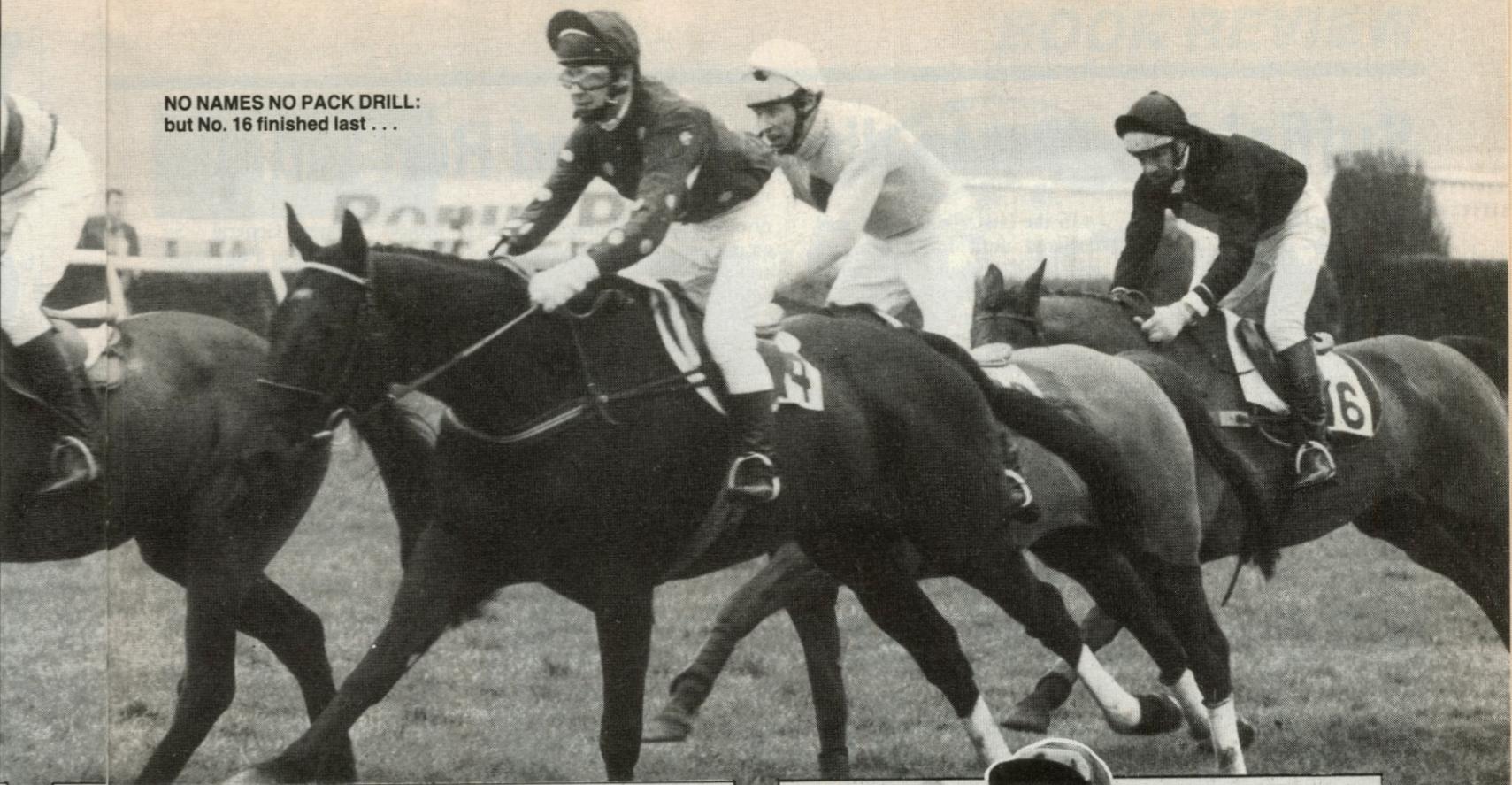
Only his eighth public appearance as a rider, he dismissed the date from his mind and went out to ride a superb race leading all the way and romping home a comfortable winner against a top field which included Princess Anne. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious races for amateur steeplechasers in the racing calendar.

Phillip, 23, whose father David trained both his mount Burnt Oak and Princess

Anne's horse, Cnoc Na Cuille, is based in London with the King's Troop RHA and only took up racing when he joined the Army five years ago.

Now he has made a name for himself by collecting the *Horse and Hound* gold cup and a reputation as a formidable opponent.

Owner of Burnt Oak is Brig C B Harvey (10th Hussars) who rode two winners and clocked up a double at this meeting 60



NO NAMES NO PACK DRILL:
but No. 16 finished last ...



LBDR R NICHOLSON AND BURNT OAK: Golden winners



PRINCESS ANNE: riding under the WRNS' banner

Phillip's cup of gold!

years ago. But although he never rode a winner in the Grand Military Gold Cup itself, he has won it twice with Burnt Oak, this year and in 1983.

Between then and now his horse has lost to the Queen Mother's horse Special Cargo which was ridden then and again this year by Lt Gerald Oxley of the 13th/18th Hussars. This year he came fourth.

With the cost of keeping a racehorse

She finished a commendable eighth out of 15 runners which was better than her brother, Prince Charles, whose horse fell at the 18th fence when he took part in the race six years ago.

Lt Col Christopher Price, CO of the 14th/20th King's Hussars had a similar experience this year at the 13th fence. His 15th ride in the race, he was one of three 14th/20th riders, the others being Princess Anne and Capt Johnny Beardsall.

"No, I'm not giving up. I'm definitely going for my third win," he said. With two wins, second place twice and third once to his credit he has a fine record.

THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

From Page 27

into the medical profession in 1898 and was in charge of Hemel Hempstead's District Hospital when the Boer War started the following year.

He promptly enlisted in the Imperial Yeomanry's Hertfordshire Company as a trooper.

Martin-Leake won his VC on February 8, 1902, at Vlakfontein, and the Bar to it as a 40-year-old lieutenant on October 29-November 8, 1914, near Zonnebeke, Belgium. The Bar was gazetted on February 18, 1915.

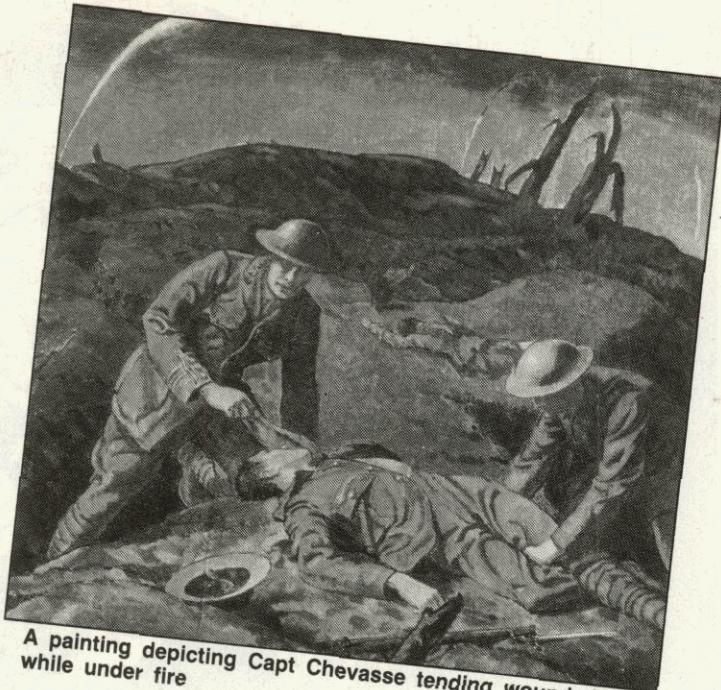
During the Boer War he saw service with the RAMC while attached to the 5th Field Ambulance, and his award-winning bravery emerged when he moved forward under heavy fire from 40 Boers 100 yards away to attend a wounded soldier.

Moving on to help a severely wounded officer he was shot three times.

Martin-Leake stayed with the officer until exhaustion forced him to give in.

Invalided back to England, Martin-Leake received his VC from King Edward VII at St James's Palace on June 2, 1902.

His days of heroism were not yet over.



A painting depicting Capt Chevassie tending wounded

He was in India as chief medical officer with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Calcutta, when the First World War broke out.

He had already served with distinction in a British Red Cross unit with the Montenegrin Army during the Balkan conflict of 1912, winning a top military award from that country's king.

Martin-Leake rallied to his country's call again and served as a lieutenant with the 2nd Division's 5th Field Ambulance.

It was at Ypres after the retreat from Mons during the first battle that he was to earn the Bar to his VC.

For three weeks he continuously tended and rescued

wounded men lying marooned in no-man's-land, braving withering fire as he moved forward.

The coveted Bar was presented to him at Windsor Castle on July 24, 1915, by King George V.

In March of that year he had been promoted to captain, by November he was major.

Yet, this unique man's contact with the battlefield was not over. The British Medical Association had awarded him its Gold Medal in recognition of his services and, two years later, he was made CO of a field ambulance unit with the acting rank of lieutenant colonel.

He then became CO of a casualty clearing station and was Mentioned in Dispatches. At the war's end, Col Martin-Leake went back to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Still, the call of his country when it needed him motivated this remarkable man.

In his mid-sixties, having retired to England in 1937, Martin-Leake took command of an ARP unit during the Second World War.

Arthur Martin-Leake, VC and Bar – the first double recipient of his most gallant kind – died at the age of 79 near the place where he was born, Ware, on June 23, 1953.

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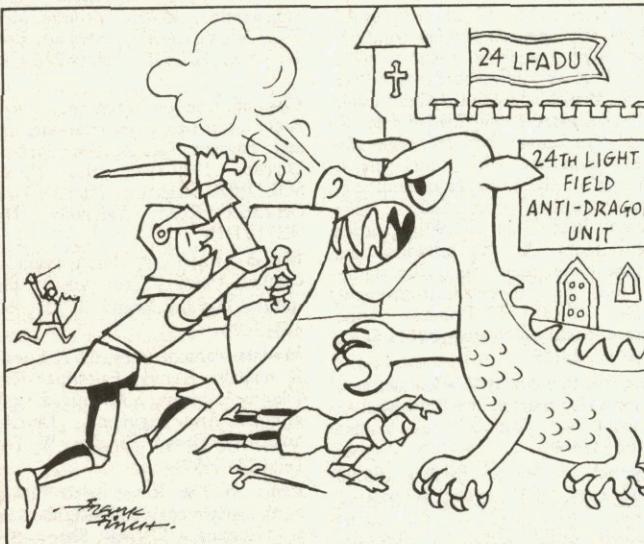
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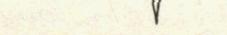
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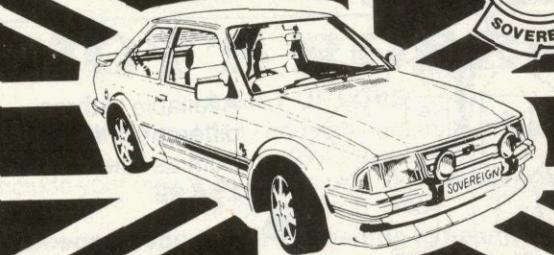
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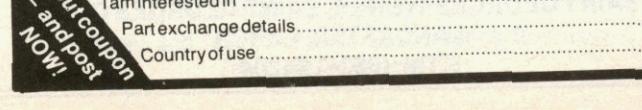
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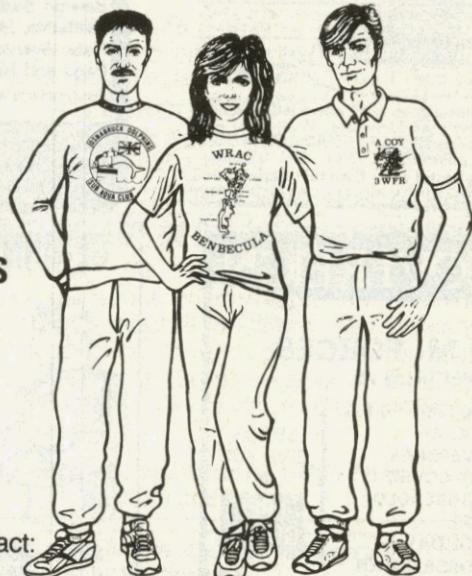
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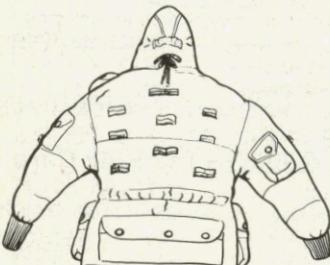
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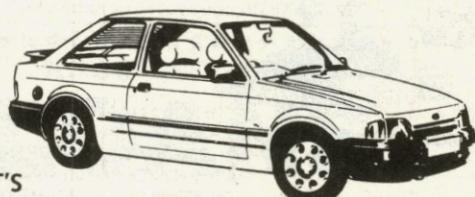
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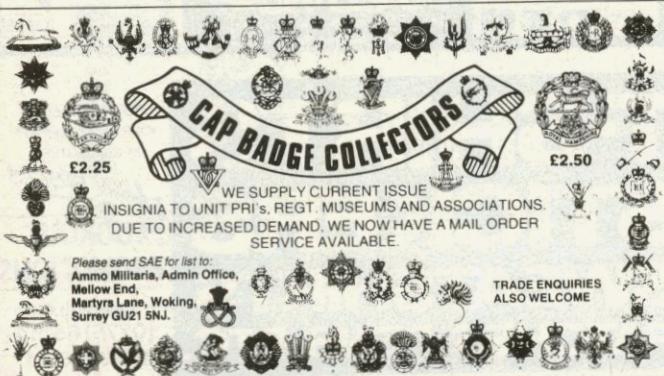
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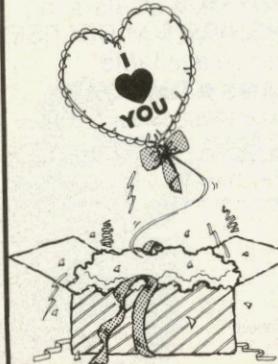
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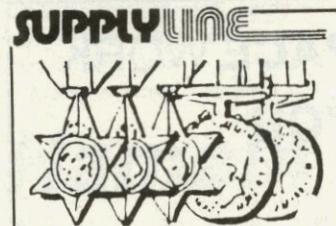
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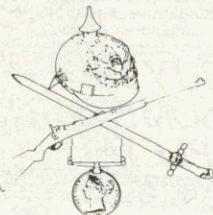
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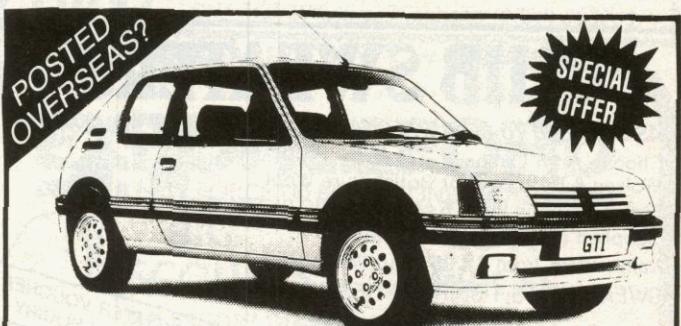
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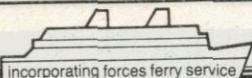
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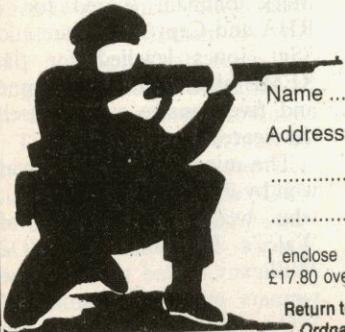
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**McLean, Coyle
on ABA trial**

TWO Army boxers, Spr John McLean and Fus Danny Coyle, are through to the All England semi-finals of the George Wimpey ABA championships at Gloucester, acknowledged as the toughest round in the national competition.

Both men earned their tickets to Gloucester by winning on the England quarter-final bill between Combined Services and Western Counties at Salisbury.

Flyweight McLean (26 RE) was well ahead when opponent Darren Thompson was stopped with a cut in the third round, and light heavyweight Coyle (1RWF) worked well inside to earn a bruising points victory over Brian Lee.

Army boxing captain Spr

Keith Howlett (39RE) staged a tremendous third round rally against title favourite John Sillitoe but dropped a majority points decision that could have gone either way.

That was also the case for Pte Lee Jenkins (3 Para) who in the contest of the night lost a majority decision to experienced welterweight campaigner Dean Miller. Middleweight LCpl Karl Greenwood (36 RE Cdo) was beaten by Peter Vosper.

With RAF superheavyweight Darren Crawford getting a walkover and all the Royal Navy boxers - Colin Day, Brian Kearney, Andy Ellison and Gary Sanderson - winning, Combined Services had a 7-3 win over Western Counties.

**Hameln sappers
in ski triumph**

FOR only the second time in their history, 35 Engr Regt from Hameln, BAOR, have won the prestigious Princess Marina Duchess of Kent Cup for the champion ski unit of the British Army. The cup was hotly contested for by 14 regiments representing the cream of the Army.

Pre-selection took place at the respective divisional ski meets, from which only the best eight teams go forward to the Army championships.

To enter the Marina competition a regiment must run both a Nordic/biathlon team

and an Alpine team. Which reduces the numbers emerging successfully from the divisional meets still further.

16 Fd Amb dominated the Nordic events in the Army Medical Services ski meet at Gunzesried in Bavaria, but Queen Elizabeth's Military Hospital, Woolwich, took the Alpine/Nordic combination, the first time a hospital has achieved this.

WO1 (RSM) Slaney of 5 Armed Fd Amb won the special slalom and veterans' races, and Capt Simpson (RMO 3 RHA) took the giant slalom.

In brief

HAVING beaten the Life Guards and 2 Bn Coldstream Guards in earlier rounds, 2 Bn Scots Guards beat 38 Engineer Regiment by six bouts to three in the final of the Army (UK) Inter Unit team novice grade three boxing championships.

The Scots Guards now meet the winners of the BAOR competition, the final of which is between 1 Staffords and 1 Glosters.

● A Royal Engineers team from AA Coll Chepstow won the Junior Soldiers' inter-corps/division small bore target rifle match at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

● A Joint Services polo team led by Cdr Robert Guy RN and including Lt Col Carter from BAOR lost to a West Falkland team in the world's southern-most polo tournament. The ponies are usually used by shepherds to round up sheep.

● Cpl Pete Paine, REME, retained the Army (Cyprus) ten pin bowling championships at Limassol Bowling Centre. Paine, from LAD 1 RRF, then teamed up with WO1 Mike Harrison, RAPC, to reach the doubles final which was won by singles finalist Sgt Mark Coton and Cpl Tony Sigsworth of LAD F Sqn 3 RTR.



Picture: Terry Champion

Sgt Niel of 8 Sig Regt (No 4) makes a defensive block in his team's early round match against The Queen's Dragoon Guards. 8 Sig Regt went on to reach the final of the UKLF volleyball championships at Aldershot

Signallers' courage can't stop Gurkhas

IN A thrilling volleyball final at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 2/2 GR established themselves as worthy UKLF champions, writes Gordon Walker.

Day one of the competition saw volleyball newcomers battling against units with long traditions of play.

RAC Trg Regt, JL Regt RA, PCDRE, QDG and 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt were all appearing in a UKLF final for the first time while old campaigners 8 Sig Regt and 233 Sig Sqn were trying to assess the dangers of the unknown quantity of 2/2 GR.

Surprise of the first day was to see 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, ably captained by Cpl Cliff Smith, take a well earned place in the semi-finals, but their joy was short lived when they were matched against 2/2 GR who

were in superb form throughout.

They put up a spirited performance, but the all round power of the Gurkhas was too much for them, and 2/2 GR moved on remorselessly to the final.

In the other semi-final 233 Sig Sqn were paired against 8 Sig Regt and despite the hard hitting and mature control shown by their two Army players, John Birchall and Mick Wheater, they were overcome by an 8 Sig Regt team who hit top form at just the right time.

While these exciting semis were going on, the remaining four teams were playing off for minor places.

It speaks volumes for Army volleyball to note that their play offs were just as keenly

contested as either of the semi-finals.

In the final confrontation between 8 Sig Regt and 2/2 GR, the Gurkhas seemed to change up a gear and produced volleyball that was a delight to watch. 8 Sig Regt, for their part were not overawed, and stuck courageously to their task causing much concern on the Gurkha bench.

Courage, however, was not enough and despite the presence of two Army players and several others with Army potential, 8 Sig Regt finally succumbed to an exceptional Gurkha team. They received the ULKF trophy from the President of Army Volleyball, Brig R N Maddy.

2/2 GR now play the winners of the BAOR finals for the Army title on April 8.

Colts too good for the Navy

THE Army Colts rugby team, continuing their good form of recent weeks, defeated the Royal Navy at Esher prior to going to Twickenham to watch the senior teams in the afternoon.

The margin of victory, 13-3, was greater than the score suggests. The Army were very much on top for long periods but could only manage a goal, a try and a penalty to a penalty, all the points coming in the first half. If anything the Army were more on top in the second half but could not convert their superiority into points. Cold weather made handling difficult.

Try scorers were No 8 Cfn Simon Bradbury (SEME Bordon) who went over from a shortened line out and full back Gnr Tony Howard (17 Trg Regt and Depot RA) who scored following an excellent handling move, the best of the match. Howard also converted his own try and kicked a penalty.

7 RHA in at the death

A sudden death penalty shoot out finally separated the 7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and the School of Electronic Engineering REME in an action-packed major units (UK) hockey final at the Officers' Club, Aldershot.

7 RHA won in the end after normal time and extra time had finished in deadlock.

Capt Nick Gordon and Capt Mark Banham scored for 7 RHA and Capt Mike Bate and SSgt Jones levelled for the REME side. After extra time and five penalty strokes each the scores were still level.

The minor units trophy was won by 9 Ordnance Bn RAOC, who beat Depot Prince of Wales's Division 2-1. WO2 Mulligan scored twice for the winners in a close game and WO2 Salwey pulled one back for the depot.

Superb 7 RHA overrun the Welshmen from Germany

Army Challenge Cup Final
7 RHA 25, 1 WG 16

THE Military Stadium at Aldershot was at its best when the Welsh Guards came from

Germany to compete, as BAOR rugby champions, for the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup against local residents 7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, the United Kingdom

champions, writes John Quin.

It was apparent from the start that here was a clash of two distinct styles; the mature gunner side against the young, largely unknown, guardsmen.



Picture: Paul Haley

Supporting 7 RHA players (dark jerseys) applaud another try on their way to a 25-16 win over 1 WG in the major units cup final at Aldershot

MateLOT pack pushes over Percy Pongo

Army 10, Royal Navy 21

THE Royal Navy arrived at Twickenham to do battle for the Stewart Wrightson Trophy with the Army having won all their warm up matches, writes John Quin.

The Army, who had been quietly building up a head of steam, were struck a cruel blow when two of their young stars, LCpl George Graham (A and SH) and Spr Dean Ryan (39 Engr Rgt) had to withdraw at the last minute through injury.

This not only was a blow to the Army, but cost the two players their first caps. Both were hoping to have recovered in time to face the Royal Air Force.

It became clear very quickly that the Navy plan was to dominate up front and work the

ball around the big, fast mateLOT pack. It was not an edifying sight for any self-respecting rugby Pongo to see the red pack being shoved around the park at times.

The Navy too, certainly in the early stages, dominated the line outs, and any ball the Army won was often given to the scrum half under pressure.

It was not the Army's day with the boot either, and four kicks at goal were missed which, in a game of this nature, were expensive failures.

So the Navy ran out winners by a goal, three tries and a drop goal (21 pts) to a goal and a try (10 pts) to retain the Stewart Wrightson Trophy and to look forward to their encounter with the RAF for the Inter-Services championship.

As for the Army side, the

And what a final it was!

From the moment Mr Harding, the Devonian referee, blew his whistle, he unleashed a gunner bombardment of such ferocity that the Welshmen were driven back and back.

After a continuous battering, the excellent gunner back row broke through the Guards defence and Sgt Andy Symes went over for a try near the corner, Gnr Andy Vicary's conversion attempt hitting the upright.

Three minutes later it looked as though the young Welsh Guardsmen were going to be sunk without trace when the second RHA try came, again from their back row, with the predictable touch down by experienced Army player Sgt Martyn Lewis.

To their credit the Guardsmen fought like tigers, but the only time they saw the 7 RHA half was when they walked across it for the National Anthem!

But come back they did and an early recce into enemy territory brought them a penalty by talented Welsh fly-half Gdsm Ian Morgan. The gunners hit back twice, once through a penalty by LBdr Stevie Commander, who had won his Army cap against the Navy the Saturday before, and then through flanker Gnr Charlie Charlton who scored a tactical try to make the half time score 17 points to three.

After the interval Bdr Louis King scored a try, having been put over by Sgt Martyn Lewis. But Gdsm Morgan kicked a penalty and then proceeded to finish off a good running movement by the Welsh which left them with a three man overlap. At this point the players were using most of the available space on the park and the gunner skipper, Lt Chris Freeman, rounded off probably the best attacking move of the day by scoring a try.

The copious amount of injury time meant that the Welshmen were able to have the last word when their very talented and hard working No 8, Gdsm Simon Hill, drove over for a try under the post, converted by Morgan.



The Army (dark shirts) attack the Royal Air Force goal during their Inter-Services clash at Aldershot. Substitute LBdr McIlvenna equalised for the Army in a 1-1 draw. With the RAF and Royal Navy also drawing their game, the outcome of the tournament depended on the Army-Navy game at Portsmouth as SOLDIER was going to Press.

TWO SLOPPY GOALS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

GROUP A of the South West Counties football championship had to be decided by the match between the Army and Gloucestershire, with the Army

needing to beat the county by three goals to nil to qualify ahead of Devon for the final, writes Pat Massey.

As it turned out they did win

by a three goal margin, but conceded two early goals and so lost out on goal difference.

Johnson and Maynard scored before the interval, with Carmichael, Parkins and Brown adding three more. But the final whistle came too soon for the Army and although winning this game 5-2, their chance of entertaining the Royal Navy – the Group B winners – in a final at Aldershot was gone.

A pity, because they really were the best side in Group A, which also included Sussex and Dorset.

Sloppy goals conceded in the Army's 4-3 win over Sussex were ultimately responsible for that goal difference heartbreak.

Maynard and Greenwood put the Servicemen two up against Sussex at Lancing, but their dreams of a cup final turned sour when the county scored three times. Parkins subsequently equalised and a Sharpe penalty in the last minute gave them the points.

Three fine goals in the closing ten minutes resulted in a hard and uncompromising 2-2 draw between the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy in the Inter-Services championship opener.

JUBILEE CUP DATES SHUFFLED

The postponed Kentish Cup match against the Belgian Armed Forces has had a knock

on effect on the Foster's Lager-sponsored Naafi Jubilee Cup competition.

With SEME Bordon – winners of the competition six times in 16 years – and the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines involved in this year's play-offs and also providing almost half of the Combined Services team, it has been necessary to reschedule the Jubilee Cup dates.

The new programme matches RAF Kinloss against CTCRM at Kinloss on April 29, SEME Bordon against Kinloss at Bordon on May 6, and CTCRM against SEME Bordon at Lymington, Devon.

Former Wolves and England star Stan Cullis has agreed to present the Jubilee Cup, which is played for annually between the UK major unit champions of the three Services.

NAVY HIT FOR SEVEN

The Army's junior players smashed seven goals past the Royal Navy in their Inter-Service youth championship match. Despite a muddy pitch, the Army youngsters played with great skill.

Coleman scored a hat-trick and with Kelly, who also scored, had a hand in every goal. Goldsbury and Stafford (2) were also on target.

The win was the Army's third in a row over the Navy at this level.



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SOLDIER



Army number eight W02 Dick Travers, RAOC, takes on the Royal Navy at Twickenham, but the Army were beaten by 21 points to 10. See match report in sports pages and the car park scene in pages 14 and 15

Picture by Bob Brodie