

SOLDIER



AUGUST 22 1988

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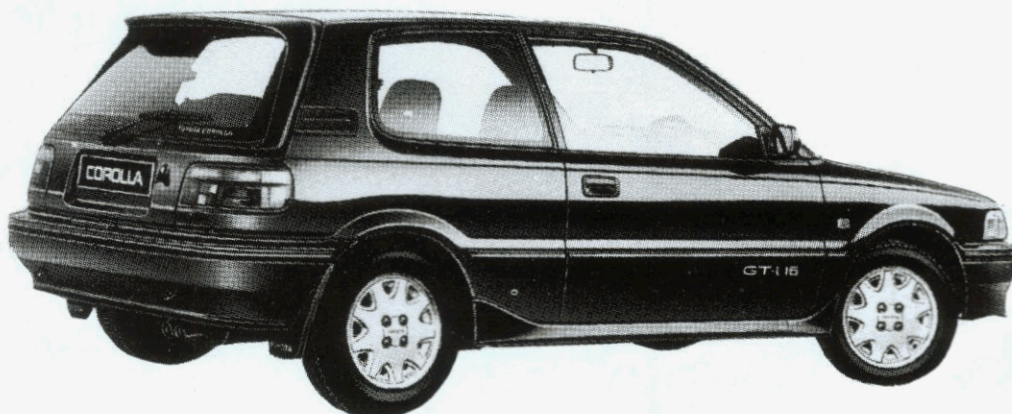
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



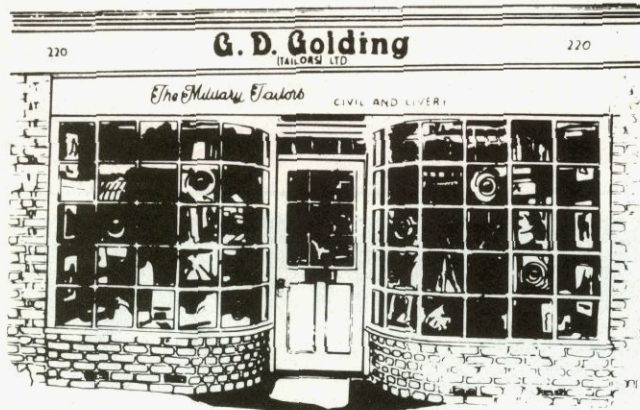
**NEXT
ISSUE**

West Pointers like to win – new games or old. This group have just carried off a challenge cup after taking part in a combat survival game in which the weapons were loaded with paint pellets. Behind them is the Battle Monument to the US regulars who died in the Civil War. SOLDIER has been to West Point and the next issue will include the first part of an in-depth look at this famous institution.

● Our advertised feature on the Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London had to be held over but will appear in the next issue.

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We waited for H-bomb island to disappear!

Thirty years ago next month – on September 11, 1958 – Britain exploded her last H-bomb on Christmas Island to complete Operation Grapple. A long debate has followed on the effects of radiation on Servicemen taking part in the tests.

I took part in three H-bomb and two A-bomb tests, and was stationed just down the road from Hiroshima in 1953, and am extremely glad to write that I have suffered no ill effects.

I served with 2 Special Engineer Workshops REME and worked in an Albion machinery truck until they moved the machinery to a static location and my vehicle became the swimming truck.

The atomic bombs were placed in a basket suspended below four balloons which vaporised as the bombs exploded. For many reasons the last test on September 11, 1958 remains more in my memory although at that time we didn't realise that it was to be the last.

Christmas Island consisted of three pillars with a thin coral crust on top and it had been predicted by an American professor that any further tests would weaken one of the legs and down we would go. Sitting there waiting for the big bang was some experience.

H-bombs were dropped from a Valiant aircraft of 49 Sqn RAF and after being told over the public address system that the weapon had left the aircraft, we could only say a silent prayer that their aim was good.

We turned away with hands over our eyes to reduce the brightness as it exploded, and were then able to see the



Grapple Zulu, last of the H-bomb tests

tremendous energy released by the explosion before the mushroom cloud obscured it.

We would see the blast wave coming towards us which produced one very large bang. We didn't envy the planes flying through the cloud to collect samples but once the all clear was given it was back to our tents. New Year 1959 saw me on leave in Hawaii but that's another story. – **Steven Johnson, Parsons House, Ordnance Rd, Aldershot.**

● The MoD has always maintained that safety measures taken at Christmas Island were effective and that in the absence of proof it could not compensate ex-Servicemen who believed they had contracted cancer from the tests. Ex-Servicemen do have the right to pursue their claims through the courts, as allowed under a recent House of Lords ruling. – Editor

There first

You really must start a whoops column. It was claimed in the May 30 issue that 4/7 DG was the first regiment from BAOR to be posted to UNFICYP.

1 Cheshire did seven months there, direct from Munster to which garrison we returned. September 1964 to April 1965 – 24 years ago! – **Maj (Retd) AFW Astle, RHQ Cheshire, The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN.**

Reunion

● The Gordon Highlanders London Association annual reunion will be held in London on November 11. Details from M H Burge, 19 Barricane, Woking, Surrey GU21 1RB.

FIFE TENNERS!

SOLDIER's £50 prize for HOAY competition No 442 goes north of the border in Britain. The winner is Mrs Plaice, of Pitcairn St, Dunfermline, Fife. Runners-up prizes of books go to Mrs W I Hawkins, Gatton Way, Gloucester, and Mr A J Overd, Tudor Drive, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.



Gurkha Museum trustee Gen Sir John Chapple (right), C-in-C UKLF, receives a £25,000 donation towards the museum's appeal fund from Mr Fred Emery-Wallis, leader of Hampshire County Council. The Gurkha Museum at Church Crookham near Aldershot is to close next spring and reopen in Peninsula Barracks, Winchester.

IT'S JUST NOT SPORT

Thank you for publishing the report of the success of the Army shooting team in Australia in your issue of July 11, 1988. However, I would take issue with your decision to place the article in the sports section!

Is it not about time that SOLDIER (and indeed a large number of serving personnel) appreciated that Service rifle shooting (as opposed to target rifle shooting) is a deadly business not a sport? I do not imagine that SOLDIER would dare depict RAMC or RCT basic skill competitions in the sports pages.

To the observer or non participant most shooting events, with the possible exception of falling plates type matches which provide spectator appeal, are as interesting as watching paint dry but to the serious professional - in all arms - it is a demonstration of their ability to "knock the enemy down" which hardly qualifies as a sport. - Lt Col Norman West (Captain Army VIII), Principal Commandant FHWS, HQNI.

● Is Service rifle shooting a deadly business or a competitive sport? Perhaps other readers have a view. - Editor.

Obsolete eliminators were flash in the pan

I HAD to chuckle when I read the article about Milan, the Army's most important anti-tank weapon (SOLDIER, July 25). My mind went back 48 years to the time when as an infantry layer on the six pounder A/T gun, I was severely reprimanded along with our gun team, for damaging an armour piercing round by allowing one of the trail legs to drop on it.

"Do you know how much these rounds cost, soldier?" the brigade major shouted, "Yes sir, thirty shillings," I replied, which rather deflated him. Now I read that the missiles cost £11,000 each.

I also wonder if the present anti-tank teams have an A/T grenade as we did. If all else failed the drill was to produce "the sticky bomb" - a monstrous lollipop grenade - dash up to the side of the Tiger tank, smash it against the side of the tank, pull the detonator

ring, then bail out by doing four back somersaults into some non existent ditch! Anyway that's what the instructors told us.

As I remember, the six pounder A/T gun replaced the old two pounder. The trouble was that no one had thought to design or produce the flash eliminator, which also acted as a balance weight. So we went into 1945 before 20,000 badly needed flash eliminators arrived in Italy for use on the six pounder.

What the powers that be in the UK didn't know was that the 17 pounder A/T gun operated by the RA had made the infantry A/T gun obsolete. I often wonder what happened to all those flash eliminators. Incidentally, I'd love to see a Milan fired. - John Clark (12 Brigade), Secretary, The Monte Cassino Veterans Association, 41 Aldermanbury Rd, Manchester M21 2QW.

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Security review follows Mill Hill bomb attack

SECURITY at so-called soft military establishments has been reviewed after an explosion killed a soldier and injured nine others, three seriously, at the Forces' postal service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, North London. The IRA claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed LCpl Michael Robbins (23) who had worked there for three years. It was the first mainland terrorist outrage since the Brighton Tory conference bomb nearly four years ago.

The explosion, at 6.55am, was in a two-storey block, housing 70 single soldiers. Fifteen men, some still in bed and others showering, were buried in rubble as the roof collapsed. Soldiers dug out colleagues with their bare hands and firemen used thermal

image intensifiers to search for survivors trapped under the debris.

● Six soldiers from a UDR patrol escaped with superficial injuries after an explosion at Dungannon. Shots were also fired at the patrol, but caused no casualties.

● Two more soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment have been murdered in Northern Ireland, bringing the total to ten this year. Latest victim was Pte Raymond McNicol, 30, who had served in the regiment since he was 18. He was shot as he drove to work near Cookstown, Co Tyrone. His death followed the shooting of off-duty Cpl Roy Butler, 26, in a Belfast shoe shop.



The Queen Mother presented Colours to the recently formed 8th Battalion The Light Infantry (TA) at Nostell Priory, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and is pictured inspecting the parade

Back from Falklands

MEMBERS of The Light Infantry's 3rd Battalion have returned to Weeton Barracks, Blackpool after a successful Falklands tour which started with Exercise Fire Focus, the largest-ever North Atlantic reinforcement exercise.

Variety was the spice of life during their three months on the Falklands. Most had the chance to work with the Royal Navy at sea, and plenty of chances to fly over the remoter parts of the islands.

As members of the resident infantry company, they befriended local farmers as they hiked around the settlements on patrols lasting up to six days. There was also a Light Infantry contingent 800 miles away on South Georgia island, where the senior officer, Maj Graham Whitmore, had the extra jobs of harbourmaster, customs and immigration officer, magistrate, and assistant postmaster.

Currently in the Falklands are 250 members of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, expected back in Catterick in November in time to start Warrior Conversion Training for their battalion role in BAOR in March 1989.

Royal visitor

THE Princess Royal had a full diary when she visited the 14th/20th King's Hussars in York Barracks, Munster, West Germany. She is their Colonel-in-Chief and it was her first visit since the Hussars arrived in Germany in March.

Governor installed

LT GEN Sir John MacMillan, GOC Scotland, has been installed as the 119th Governor of Edinburgh Castle in a colourful ceremony, during which the 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders, whom he commanded in 1971-73, were on parade.



Maj Gen Sir Laurence New, Lieutenant General of the Isle of Man, inspects the Guard of Honour mounted by C Company, 3rd Bn, The Light Infantry on the Isle of Man for the 1,009th Tynwald Day ceremony, the annual open-air gathering of the world's oldest parliament

MOBB

by Mouse





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Home Service Force out in strength

LT GEN Sir David Ramsbotham, Commander UK Field Army, has pledged that the nine regional military home defence exercises being held throughout Britain this autumn will cause minimum disruption to the public.

Each district is holding its exercise separately to practise procedures for home defence during a period of tension with particular emphasis on the guarding of key installations, such as power stations and communications centres.

About 70,000 people, including Regular and part time soldiers will be involved. The general said that there were 78,200 members in the TA, while the Home Service Force had recruited 70 per cent of its 4,000 target.

Running from September through to the beginning of November, the exercises are code-named Autumn Tiger (South East); Eastern Shield (Eastern); Strong Link (North West); Northern Crusade (North East); Drake's Drum (South West); Capital Guard (London); Triple Crown (Wales); Western Encounter (Western); and Bonnie Dundee (Scotland).

Women for HSF

WITH effect from this month, female members of the Home Service Force (HSF) may be recruited as WRAC (TA) for certain dual role posts with ranks up to corporal. Until now the HSF has been purely a male preserve but now it will be possible for units to recruit former Servicewomen who have had two years satisfactory Regular or volunteer service in any of the three Services or the volunteer reserves.



Gen Sir John Akehurst, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, inspects recruits during a visit to the Depot, the Queen's Division at Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Hertfordshire. Gen Akehurst was the inspecting officer at the passing out parade of Anzio, Blenheim and El Alamein Platoons. El Alamein Platoon was made up of ex Junior Soldiers from Shorncliffe

1 RRW tour in BAOR is over

THE 1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales start work at their new posting in Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, on September 2, and have been saying "auf wiedersehen" to Stornaway Barracks, Lemgo, BAOR.

More than 1,000 people attended a Beating Retreat ceremony to mark the end of a busy six year tour in West Germany. It included two operational tours in Northern Ireland, four exercises in BATUS, as well as numerous divisional and brigade exercises and internal training.

Tokyo fanfare

A GARDEN party, hosted by the British Ambassador in Tokyo to celebrate the Queen's Birthday was opened with a fanfare played by Cpl Jim Calcut and Drummer Gary Ormandy, and conducted by Drum Major Phil Harrill, of the 1st Bn The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

Dundee medics take to rafts

225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC (V) from Oliver Barracks, Dundee, took part in the annual raft race at Chester on the River Dee. It was part of the activities during their annual camp at Saighton Training Camp. During Exercise Nitty Gritty they practised skills of casualty collection and evacuation, communications and command control. They also visited Holcombe Moor to try out the Krypton Factor assault course.

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N.B. Reception at Victory
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6113



These five Liverpool Scottish cooks with Sgt Michael Molyneaux in the centre kept V Company 1/51 volunteers marching on their stomachs during an annual test exercise in preparation for their annual camp in Germany



Hot off the presses . . .

BRIG Derek Brownson, 29 Engineer Brigade, is taking up a senior staff training appointment with a well-known multiple newsagents – hence the bike, bowler and newsboy's delivery bag – as he ended a visit to 72 Engr Regt (V) at their annual camp in Lydd, near Folkestone in Kent

WHILE most dignitaries opt for a genteel tape cutting, Lt Gen Sir Peter Inge decided it was far more appropriate to open a new road on the Potzen Training Area, BAOR, with the jaws of an 18 tonne digger. The road was built by 35 Engineer Regiment's Plant Troop from 44 Field Support Squadron



BRIG Ian Christie, the new Deputy Commander for the Army's South West District, based in Bulford, Wiltshire. He was commissioned into the King's Own Scottish Borderers in 1955, and his most recent appointment was Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, British Forces Hong Kong. He succeeds Brig Michael Evans at SW District.

PEOPLE

FINAL WAVE: Drum Maj Stephen Ward with the Coldstream band in the Curium Amphitheatre

LAST CHORD

CUTTING a dash with the director's baton, Drum Maj Stephen Ward marks his last public performance in Cyprus by conducting the Band of the Coldstream Guards in the Curium Amphitheatre.

Drum Maj Ward, of the 2nd Battalion's Corps of Drums, has a reputation throughout the Household Division for his bearing on parade. He has now left Cyprus to spend his final months in the Army on tour with the Band of the Coldstream Guards in Australia.



MA'AM, DEAR: Dianne and Alan Shepherd at Sandhurst

WHO salutes who in the Shepherd household? Well, when husband Alan donned his uniform at the start of his commissioning course at RMA Sandhurst the first officer he had to salute was wife Dianne. She pipped him to the post by passing out at Sandhurst just as Alan was starting his course.

Salut-ations

Alan, a sergeant in the TA, and Dianne are both in the 4th Bn The King's Own Royal Border Regiment based at Workington, Cumbria.



Jim's girls double up to tie the knot

QUARTERMASTER Maj Jim Sharp of the Gordon Highlanders had more reasons than most for getting to the church on time – he was walking down the aisle of St Mary's Church, in Dhekelia, Cyprus, with a daughter on each arm. Daughter Angela was marrying Sgt Thomas

McGirk, of The Royal Scots based in Werl, Germany, while Geraldine was marrying Spr David Riseborough from Plant Troop 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE. Pictured are (from left) proud mum Mrs Angela Sharp Thomas, Angela, David, Geraldine and Jim.

Old key unlocks a new friendship

FORTY years ago the Intelligence Officer of the 22nd Bn, The Middlesex Regiment locked the water tower at Nahariya in Northern Palestine, put the key in his pocket and drove away.

As insurgent Arab armies were moving into the area it was no time for returning the key of the tower – used as an observation post by the British – to its owner.

But 40 years on the now retired Capt Patrick Pielou has returned that very same key, handing it over to the Mayor of Nahariya (the town is now much bigger than it was in 1948) in a good humoured ceremony beside the original water tower.



KEY POINT: Capt Patrick Pielou and the Mayor of Nahariya

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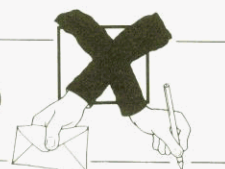
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ISSUED BY THE HOME OFFICE

Staff car returned to Sussex museum

A massive 8-cylinder 1942 Steyr Daimler-Putsch German army vehicle, formerly the staff car of Gen von Arnim during the Tunisian campaign, has been returned to The Royal Sussex Regiment by Lord Montague of Beaulieu.

The car was captured in 1943 by The Royal Sussex Regiment who were trying to prevent Axis forces escaping into the Cape Bon peninsular in Tunisia.


"It was a most sophisticated vehicle for those days," says Brig Jack Glennie, then commanding the 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, "with 28 different gear combinations for going forward and six in reverse."

When The Royal Sussex Regiment's depot at Chichester was closed in 1960 the car was given to Lord Montague for display in the museum at Beaulieu and will now take its place as one of the war trophies of The Royal Sussex Regiment at their Regimental Association museum at Redoubt Fortress in Eastbourne.

RWF dated

The Royal Welch Fusiliers – "the oldest regiment in Wales" – celebrates its tercentenary next year, and has produced a special

SOLDIER to Soldier



Mouse insights


SOLDIER readers who have enjoyed the strip cartoons drawn by Mouse have been curious as to how he obtained his insight into Service humour.

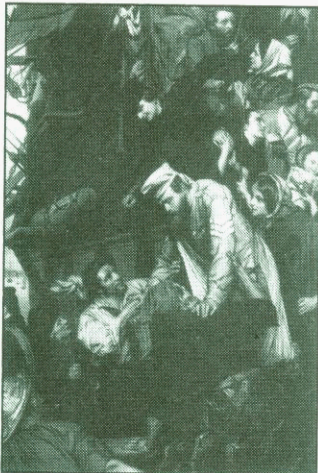
It came, in fact, from his own service in the Army for six years.

Bryan "Mouse" Parsons was in 3 RTR from 1958-64 and also had two tours of duty at FVRDE (MVEE) as a tank test driver. After demob, he was a civilian test driver until 1973 and then moved to a commercial firm which manufactures military equipment.

Mouse found an old photograph of himself (above) flanked by two National Service colleagues known as Cudley Dudley and Scouse Profit. The picture was taken at Detmold in 1958 by Ginger Harrison.

Mouse, who lives near Aldershot, wonders where they are now?





Detail from the Henry Nelson O'Neill painting

Homecoming on canvas

Slightly different from the scenes of Portsmouth when British Forces came home from the Falklands conflict, but the sentiments were the same.

Victorian painter Henry Nelson O'Neill captured the intense bustle and excitement at a Gravesend dockside when families greeted the arrival of a troopship with soldiers returning from active service during the Indian Mutiny of 1857-59.

The painting, "Home Again", has just been bought for £30,000 by the National Army Museum in Royal Hospital Road, London.

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

calendar to commemorate the occasion, with pictures depicting scenes from the regiment's service.

The calendars are obtainable from regimental HQ at High-town Barracks, Wrexham.

£5m worth of benevolence

More than £5 million was disbursed by Army benevolent

organisations during the financial year which ended in March.

Almost half of it (£2,391,175) was given out by the Army Benevolent Fund in grants to serving and ex soldiers and their families and to national charities providing for soldiers' and families' needs.

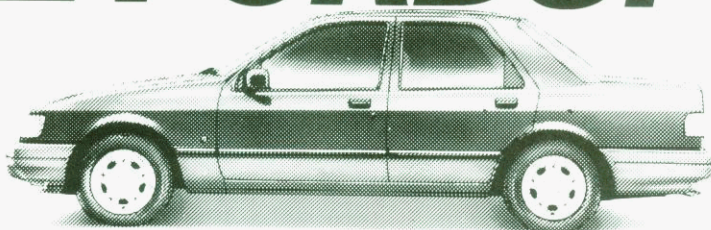
The remaining £2,829,789 was disbursed by corps and regimental associations.

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THEIR

Chums gather for the Queen Mother

FINAL REUNION?

THIRTY EIGHT chums of the Old Contemptible Association mustered at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for a reunion in the presence of the Queen Mother, their Patron in Chief. Their average age was 94 and it could well be their final such gathering.

They came to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of the First World War, these remarkable old gentlemen who travelled from all over Britain to attend. They were joined in their celebrations by one chum, as they call themselves, who made the long journey from Canada to be there.

Despite their advanced age the chums maintained a military air, that indefinable quality that marks the bearing of all who have served the Crown.

**Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Sgt John Harding**

They all had a story to tell about their experiences under fire during the early months of that terrible conflict that saw the sacrifice of so much of Britain's manhood during the four years of war between 1914 and 1918.

Among their ranks was Mr Archibald Stanley, the only surviving Old Contemptible in Dover. He served in the 1st Battalion The Buffs continuously in France and Flanders from September 1914 until August 1918 when he was seriously wounded at Dick-ebusch.

Much to his annoyance, it was one of our shells that did

the damage!

He had taken part in a night raid on German trenches and was just getting the last man of his patrol back into his own lines when a British 14pdr shell exploded prematurely on its way out over his position.

"And that," remarked Mr Stanley, matter of factly, "was the end of my career as a soldier!"

Mr Bill Thompson, 94, was another. He remembers being encouraged to sign on for the duration by being offered £20 and a month's leave, plus another £20 when the war ended.

If he lived long enough to collect it!

Survive it he did, winning the Military Medal on the Somme in 1918 while serving with the Middlesex Regiment.

The reunion of chums was organised by the London and South East Area Council of the Association which is the only official body surviving from a once flourishing organisation founded in 1925.

To be eligible for membership, chums must have qualified for the bar to the 1914 Star. The Star was the first campaign medal authorised for service in the First World War and was awarded to those who served in France or Belgium between the qualifying dates of August 5 and November 22, 1914.

The all-important bar was only awarded to those who had been under fire during that period, and although 378,000 Stars were issued less than two thirds of the recipients qualified for the bar.



Clutching a bouquet presented to her on behalf of the Old Contemptibles, the Queen Mother greets the "chums" with a smile. Second World War veteran Brig George Sprake MC, MM (right), a member of the reunion organising committee, looks on



A royal thank you

A poignant moment as 94-year-old Jack Cambell from Dublin leans forward to receive the thanks of the Queen Mother. In 1914, as a RAMC private attached to The Black Watch, the young Jack Cambell had dragged the Queen Mother's badly wounded brother, Capt Patrick Bowes-Lyon, to safety and dressed his wounds



Bill Thompson, 94 (ex-Middlesex Regiment), from Dunnington, York. Besides his Military Medal, he wears the three First World War campaign medals nicknamed "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred"



Follow that ship!

Jack Gearing (below left), 93, from Folkstone, presents old postcards of Thames barges to the Queen Mother. He enlisted in 1914 as a member of the Royal Naval Division and saw the barges transporting stores and ammunition at Gallipoli.

A former Thames waterman, he was working for the Port of London Authority when the Second World War started. Too old to rejoin the Royal Navy, he enlisted in the Royal Engineers and was involved in the construction of the Mulberry harbour used in the Normandy invasion.

When his officer fell sick he was tasked with piloting a heavy lifting crane across the Channel on D-Day. As he was unable to read a chart, the Admiralty detailed a destroyer to lead the way, telling him to "follow that ship".



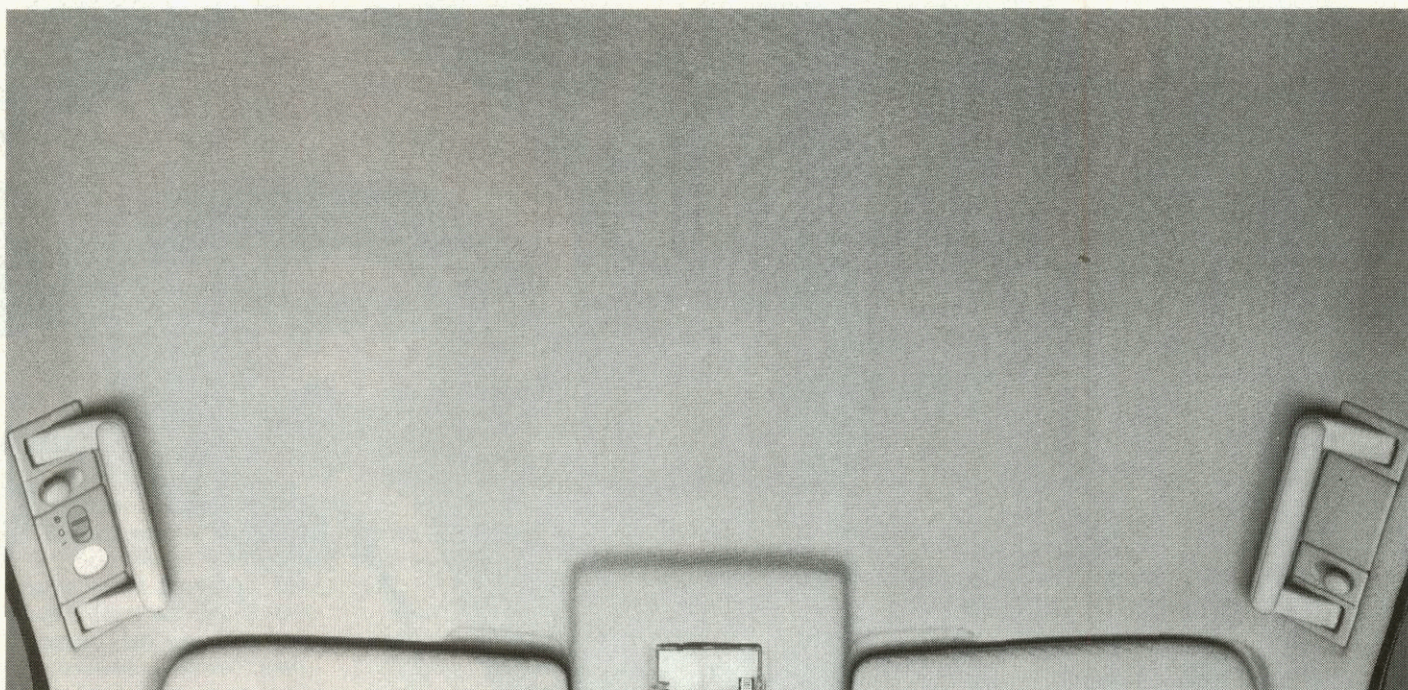
Too late to be a chum

Brig Arthur Clough (left), late Royal Engineers, attended as a guest. He arrived in France just a week too late to qualify as an Old Contemptible.

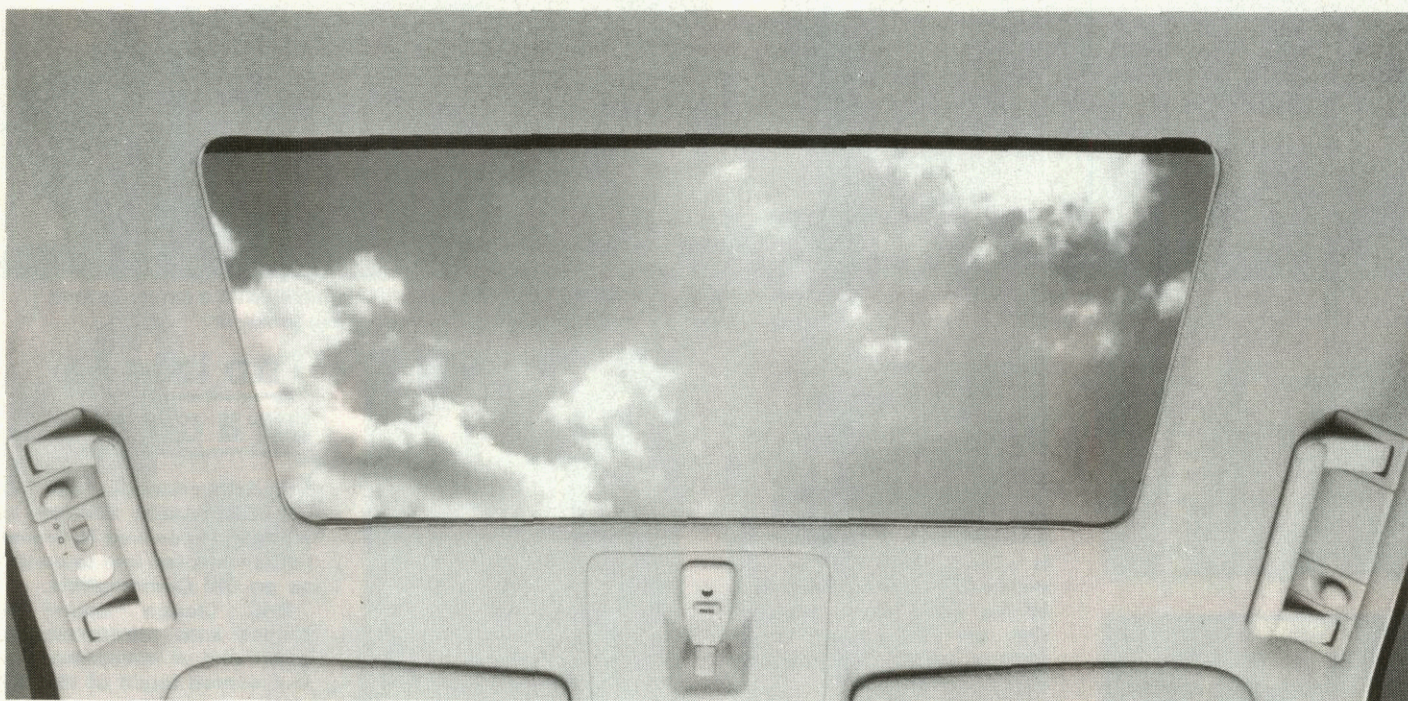
Brig Clough landed in France with reinforcements at the end of November 1914 and served much of the war with sapper field companies.

About to celebrate his 100th birthday, he is possibly the most decorated surviving veteran of the First World War, holding the CBE, the French Legion d'honneur and Croix de Guerre and the American Legion of Merit.

He also has the unusual distinction of winning a marine decoration, the Sea Gallantry Medal, during landing operations in the Camerons in October 1914. In the Second World War, he was Director of Survey, Allied Forces Europe.



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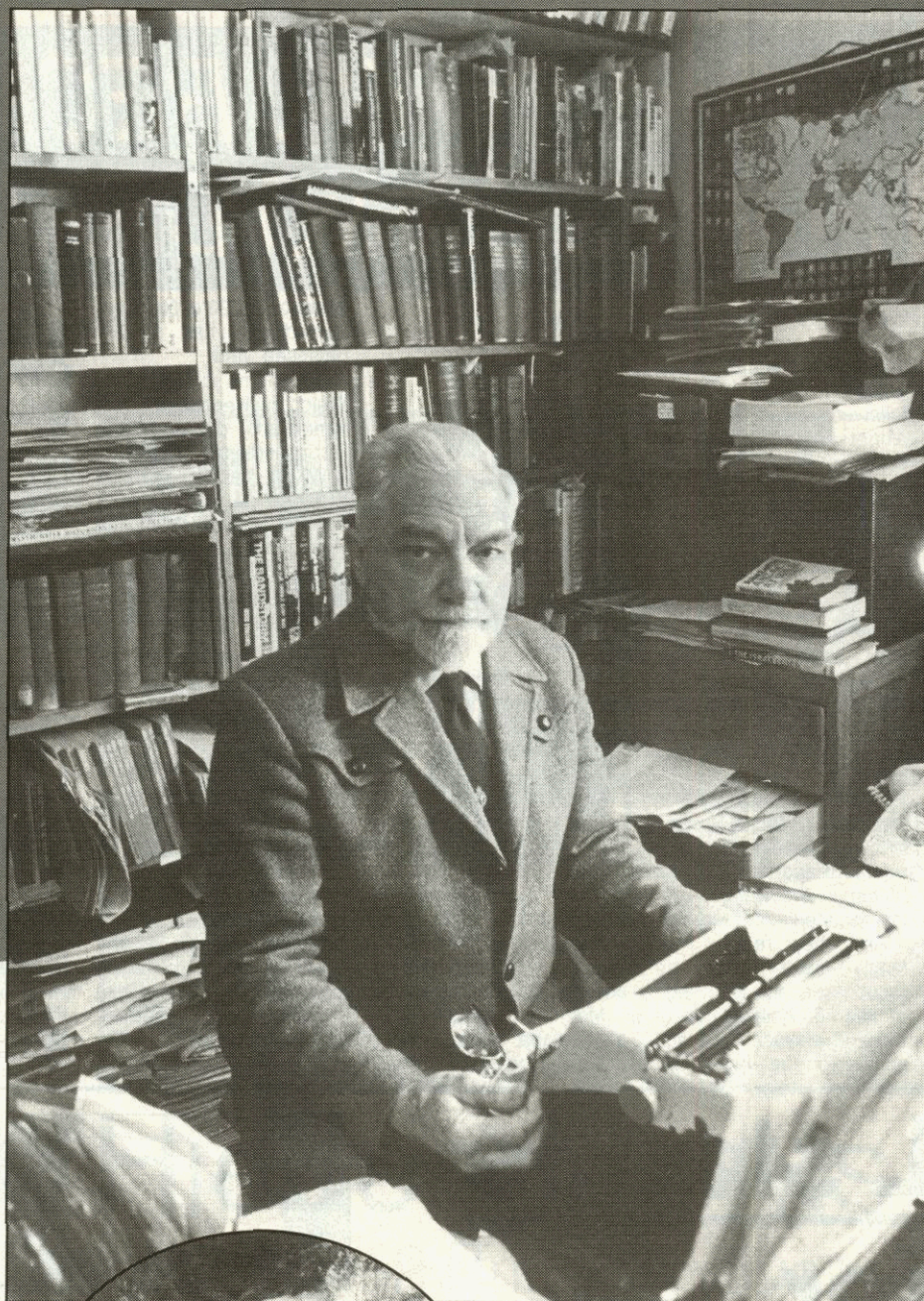
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S22/8

Welsh home for fabric of war

Words by
Laurie Manton
Picture by
Terry Champion



WHAT possible connection could there be between the battlefields of the First World War and the picturesque Welsh town of Knighton?

You would be surprised, for artefacts from those terrible fields of conflict abound in Knighton in what is probably the world's foremost battlefield archaeology museum, housed in the home of the well known military historian and writer Dr John Laffin.

During the 40 years he has been writing and researching, Dr Laffin and his wife Hazelle have gathered an extraordinary collection of military archaeological remains, found during many visits to the battlefields of France and Belgium.

The minutiae of war is woven into their fascinating and moving Battlefield Museum and War Collection. It includes bayonets, barbed wire, trench dominoes and snipers' shields. Rum jars and fragments of boot are displayed alongside printed ephemera connected with the war.

Among the most poignant items are the identity discs recovered from overgrown trench systems, pocket watches, pipes and other personal items.

Not all the material is from the First World War. Some artefacts date from the 1939-45 war, including Arnhem, and there are even battlefield remains from the modern conflict in Lebanon – a trouble spot still fresh in the news.

Many of the items displayed in the museum are described and illustrated in Dr Laffin's book *Battlefield Archaeology* which explains how the finds were made and gives useful advice and information for intending battlefield archaeologists, as well

as warnings about the dangers of handling explosive material.

The author gives advice on how and where to search for artefacts, with the emphasis placed on the First World War battlefields of France, Belgium, Gallipoli and Palestine.

Selected fighting areas of the Second World War are also dealt with, albeit to a lesser extent since artefacts from this war are less abundant.

John Laffin told **SOLDIER** that the museum came into being after he read the last two lines on the memorial scroll given

Above – A man and his books. Dr John Laffin at work surrounded by just some of the 10,000 books in his reference collection. He is a prolific author with over 100 books to his name and many more in the pipeline

Left – Dr John Laffin carefully extracts a German shell found in an old trench on the Somme. It is a practice that should not be attempted by amateurs, for it is risky work even for the professionals! In 1986 four highly trained members of the Belgian Army's bomb disposal team were killed when a First World War gas shell they were handling exploded

to the next of kin of those killed during the First World War: "Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten."

"Sadly people still need to be reminded every so often that nearly a million British soldiers were killed during the First World War. I don't want that sacrifice being forgotten, or the slaughter either, because to forget would be to run the risk of repeating it", he said.

The museum is private but Dr Laffin is willing to show Service groups around by arrangement.

RIGHT ROYAL RECIPE FOR FEEDING DRAGONS



WE COULD have been almost anywhere... drinks in the garden, sheep grazing in nearby fields, followed by a candlelit dinner hosted by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

But we were in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland and the security fence was a constant reminder that life here is not quite normal.

Restaurant nights are very popular, with lively parties enjoying a raffle and disco, wine and food and an excellent waiter service overseen by the Families Officer.

Family spirit was much in evidence, sons having followed fathers into the regiment and wives contributing to the wellbeing of this isolated community.

And they reckon that family spirit must be responsible for the regiment's 400 children, 68 of them in playschool and a number on the way! Is it a

And
there are
more little
dragons on
the way

record for one regiment, they want to know?

"It must be the air," said Jackie Ross, who introduced me to the wives.

Wendy and Martin Hargreaves, who run and help in so many of the youth activities, catalogued a long list of events planned to fill the days.

Many jobs have been found on a self generating cost basis within the camp.

Mrs Lyn Davies explained the various activities. Having spent eight

years out of 20 in Northern Ireland she has a very balanced view.

You name it, the Royal Welch Fusiliers do it! Sport, handicrafts, outings - the list is endless.

Wives do experience difficulties, although through Belinda Ross, the FAW housing representative, there is now a channel to the authorities.

Perhaps one can best sum up the spirit of the Royal Welch wives with an extract from their own cookery book, *How to Feed a Dragon*:

The problems of feeding their Dragons

Face many a Royal Welch wife,

And, regardless of Army procedure

Bad feeding leads always to strife.

Tucked away in the cakes section is a recipe for Gooney Chocolate Cake supplied by the Colonel-in-Chief of the RWF - the Queen. Read on:

GOOEY CHOCOLATE CAKE

8 oz butter
1 tblspn orange marmalade
2 teaspn baking powder
5 eggs (separated)
8 oz caster sugar
8 oz plain flour
2 oz ground sweet almonds
5 oz cooking chocolate

Beat the butter and sugar to a light cream. Add egg yolks and marmalade. Stir in the chocolate, previously melted over a low heat. Add the flour, baking powder and almonds. Whip egg whites and fold in lightly. Pour into a greased tin and bake in a low oven for one hour 15 minutes. When cool, cut into three layers and fill and top with the following icing mixture:

Note: The recipe originally appeared in a book by Mrs McKee, celebrated cook to the Queen.

Chocolate Butter Icing
½ lb icing sugar
1 egg
4 oz butter
¼ lb unsweetened plain chocolate
A few drops of vanilla and almond essence
1 tblspn rum (optional)

Melt the chocolate over a low heat. Sieve the icing sugar into a bowl, stir in the soft butter, add the chocolate and egg and stir until smooth and light. Add the flavouring and spread immediately between the layers of chocolate cake and on the top with a palette knife. Some of the icing can be piped with a forcing bag.

L stands for Lpful!



A BRIEF visit to the 1st Battalion the Light Infantry emphasised how each camp in Northern Ireland differs. Each has its own pluses and minuses.

Omagh, with 240 married quarters in 160 acres, is virtually self-contained but has a wide variety of interests for families. And nearly everyone tries to be helpful.

One wife, Amanda, was insistent that if you wanted to do nothing except complain you could, but there were plenty of opportunities for those who wished to take them.

"We have more activities for the whole family and there is more care and welfare here than on the civilian estate I lived on previously," she said. "It's easy to raise problems when the families office is not a bus ride away."

Norma, who has spent four out of the past seven

When you meet 1 LI!

years in Northern Ireland, was enjoying Omagh.

People could spend the whole tour on the camp if they liked but anyone with any sense of adventure would take advantage of the excellent Tour Guide which lists 57 good restaurants, and a number of attractive leisure activities and excursions suited to all tastes.

There was even water



Youth leader Erika plans summer holiday activities with families of the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry in Omagh

sports and for wives who like to follow the example of the Queen Mother, fishing! How about salmon, by the way, at £1.50 a pound?

During a coffee morning Penny Philp introduced Erika Bracegirdle recently appointed local Youth Project Leader.

She has just produced Issue No 2 of Omagh Youth News full of good humour and ideas. The

Saturday morning picture show is apparently very popular and also the Rough and Tumble Gym Club.

Perhaps the new burst of youth activities will help siphon off some of the energy expended on vandalism - £500 worth to the playground fencing.

I would suggest that in such an enclosed area it would have been better

Sterile play areas

value to spend £500 on updating the playground or putting in safer surfaces.

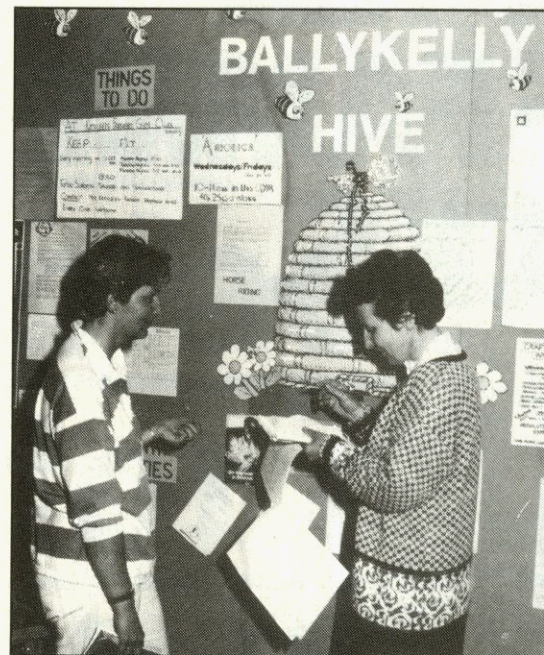
I found the play areas all over Northern Ireland sterile and lacking in play value.

One thing that puzzled me at Omagh was the new



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WITH FAMILIES IN MIND Anne Armstrong



Anne Armstrong (right) interviews Eileen Jones, one of the organisers of the HIVE at Ballykelly



Service children enjoy themselves in a playgroup at a quarter at Ballykelly

tarmac road which now joins two parts of the camp.

There are white lines down the middle and cats' eyes but... it is only wide enough to allow one vehicle at a time and cars or lorries have to drive down astride the white line!

Penny Philp did not have any trouble with the road as she gets around the camp on a bicycle.

"There is so much going on and the men are away

quite a bit so every little bit of help... helps."

Some families, she said, find it hard to adjust and a few never really settle but, as she pointed out, each individual views a Northern Ireland tour differently.

At Omagh families are lucky to have an office where a wealth of information has been put together over the years. The camp is really a town within a town.

These HIVEs of activity...

IN
MY
VIEW

TWO major initiatives in Northern Ireland that have become runaway successes are the HIVEs opened in Lisburn and Ballykelly, each quite individual and both very busy.

Both offer information on a wide variety of topics ranging from travel to jobs, are easily accessible, and open to anyone with time or skills to share. Or you can just pop in for a coffee and a chat.

Lisburn organisers Chris Middleton and Sue McGu-

ness have just produced their second newsletter, in which they asked for a volunteer typist and quickly found one. One soldier's wife who had much to thank the HIVE for is German-born and speaks

little English. HIVE - Help, Information and Volunteer Exchange - was able to put her in touch with a compatriot.

Funds are limited, but donations from individuals and wives' groups have helped the Ballykelly HIVE buy a carpet shampoo machine which can be hired out.

HIVES really do have a lot to offer. If you ask their help they will have an answer or will find one for you.

Hidden talents 8 Brigade wives abound with ideas

THERE have been numerous changes at 8 Infantry Brigade, Northern Ireland thanks in no small way to the groundwork laid down by Colin and Greta Mattingly and Col Mark Tarver in the early 80s.

I visited the brigade playgroup and Ballykelly Community Centre where, in discussions with wives from the 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1st Bn The Green Howards, RMPs, AAC, Signal Squadron, the Dog Unit, 5 UDR and 8 Brigade wives, it became apparent that German wives are having difficulty getting unemployment benefit.

A successful innovation has been the opening of a craft workshop in the community complex where wives with no previous experience are finding they have untapped talents.

Gay Bennett, the light behind the venture, told me there is an open invitation for wives to have a go at such crafts as making candles, patchwork, enamelling, beadwork and pottery.

The HIVE across the road proved an eye-opener for Eileen Jones and Linda Aspery, who started to run it without any previous experience. They, too, are surprised at what they have achieved, making it in a very short time a much sought after information cell.

There are hidden talents abounding, and Ballykelly is one place where dormant ideas can bear fruition, ranging from obtaining RSA qualifications to running a transport scheme.

Elsewhere, plans are under way for an adventure playground and a thrift shop. There are also playschools and the very popular Images, the youth club for teenagers.

Shops are fairly close at hand and there's the seaside to enjoy so life at

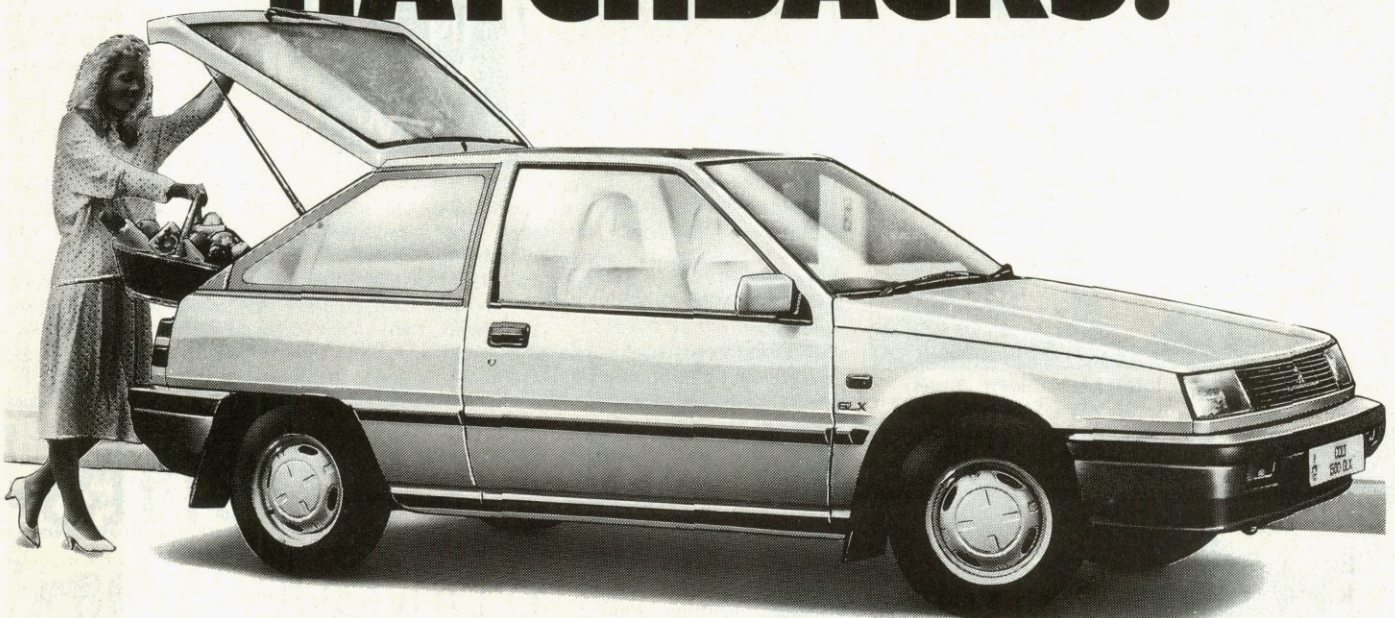
Ballykelly is not dull.

I went on to Clooney Base Community Centre to meet more wives and to see Gay Constantine, chairman of the Federation of Army Wives, 8 Brigade, receive a £2,179 cheque on behalf of the Great Ormond Street Hospital appeal. It was raised by Green Howard wives at quiz nights and other events.

One wife summed up life there like this: "Londonderry is often in the news and life is not easy, but you have just got to make the most of it. At least when I go home I will have a few more skills."

And my fleeting impressions? Headquarters staff are backing the wives' initiatives all the way and this has made all the difference to families' morale.

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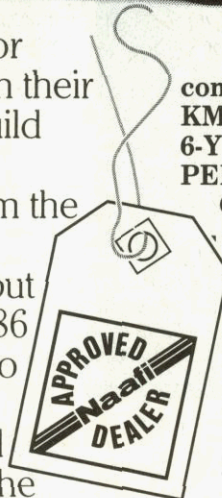
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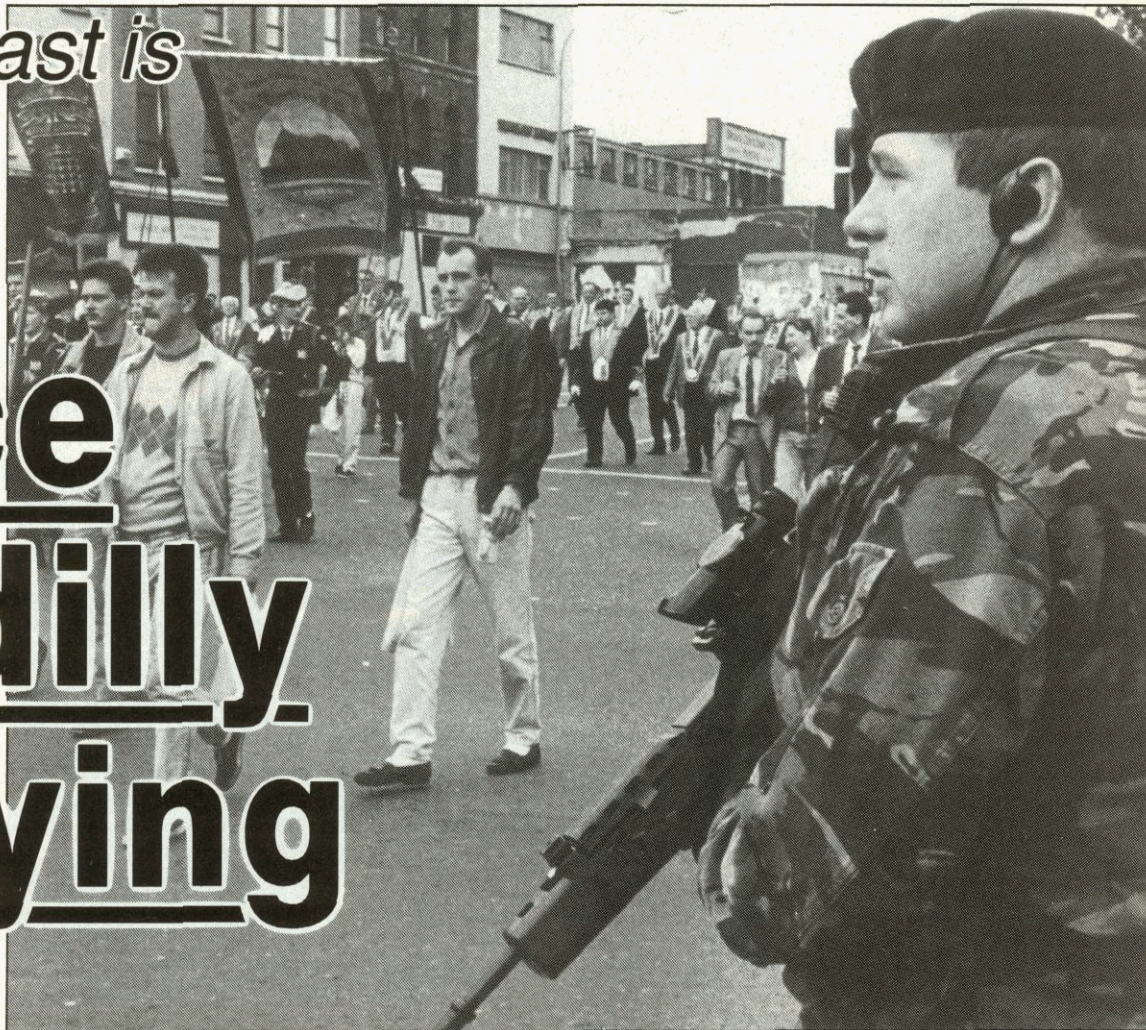
**LEADING THE WAY IN
CAR TECHNOLOGY.**

The battalion on duty in West Belfast has probably the most demanding role in the Province. Anniversaries and other events regularly provide the populace with the excuse to parade or demonstrate, providing cover and opportunity for terrorists of all shades. The summer marching season which stretches throughout July and August means long hours and intense activity for the troops involved. SOLDIER has been to see the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment at work.

Queensmen Londoners discover West Belfast is

No place for dilly dallying

Words:
Bill Moore
Pictures:
Terry Champion



An Orange Lodge makes its way to the meeting place at Belfast City centre under the gaze of a Queensman

THE population on both sides of the divide being entitled to a lie-in because of the public holiday, men of the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment resigned themselves to doing without sleep. The night was noisy, the towering bonfires on the edges of the Republican areas set a couple of houses alight, petrol bombers and stone throwers came out and the RUC called for support.

By the time the patrols returned to their bases past staggering groups of drunks some streets were littered with bricks, baton rounds and the rubbish of makeshift barricades. It was nearly 4.30 am.

An hour or so later every man the battalion could spare from guard duties was out again clearing the routes to the city centre, ATO was checking out likely trouble spots, and a company of the Dukes from

Palace Barracks in Belfast was deploying in support.

Four-tonners blocked off the end of some streets and Queensmen swung massive fabric screens into position to spare resentful eyes the sight of the Big Parade. Belfast abounds in sensitive souls and a stout lady who summed up the character of SOLDIER's representative in a few sharp words was obviously moved by the occasion.

Perhaps it was the approach of the distant thudding heralding the appearance of the Orangemen with their Lambegs, side drums, fifes, accordions, drawn swords, lodge banners and orange lilies.

Fifty-nine bands and 1,700 bandmen (according to local radio) led 3,700 Loyalists in the traditional celebration of William III's victory at the Boyne in 1690.

A lively version of the old

Cockney favourite: "My old man said follow the van . . ." shrilled from the procession but Londoners in 2 Queens (the battalion has quite a few), were not impressed. The West Belfast battalion never has any time for dillying or dallying.

The task of helping to keep the opposing factions apart and fighting terrorism in the turbulent city has changed over 18 years but it is still one of the most exacting facing the Army.

For 2 Queens the role is a re-make of an old documentary.

They were the residential battalion at Palace Barracks in 1969 and claim to have been "the first on the streets of Belfast".

"It took the colour sergeant four days to find us to feed us," said RSM Terry (Jack) Daw, who was then a very young soldier. We just scrounged what we could. No one knew

where anything was."

Today most people know where they are most of the time; radios are plentiful.

Saracens have gone though Pigs are still plentiful and some have had more birthdays than the young soldiers they carry. The battalion has its quota of armoured personnel vehicles built on a Land Rover chassis.

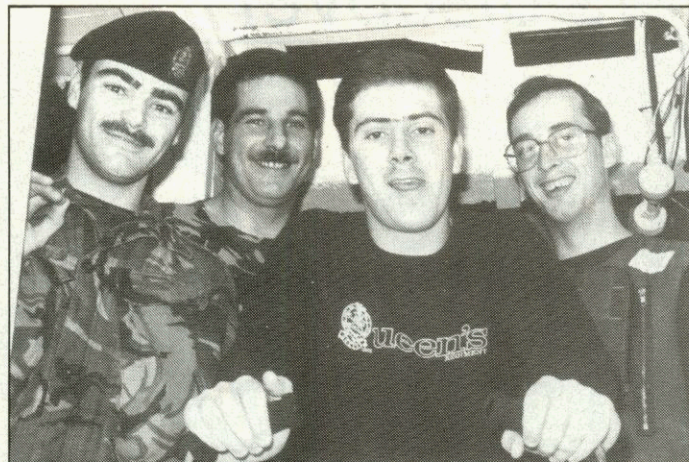
Some things don't change. In 1969 Lt Merrick Willis of 11 Platoon helped to establish an OP in Divis Tower overlooking a block of flats which has since gained a colourful reputation. He now visits it regularly as CO 2 Queens.

The OP has improved with age (at least as far as equipment is concerned) and so have most SF bases.

Though it has a distinctive air all of its own, especially in hot weather, even North Howard Street Mill is spotless

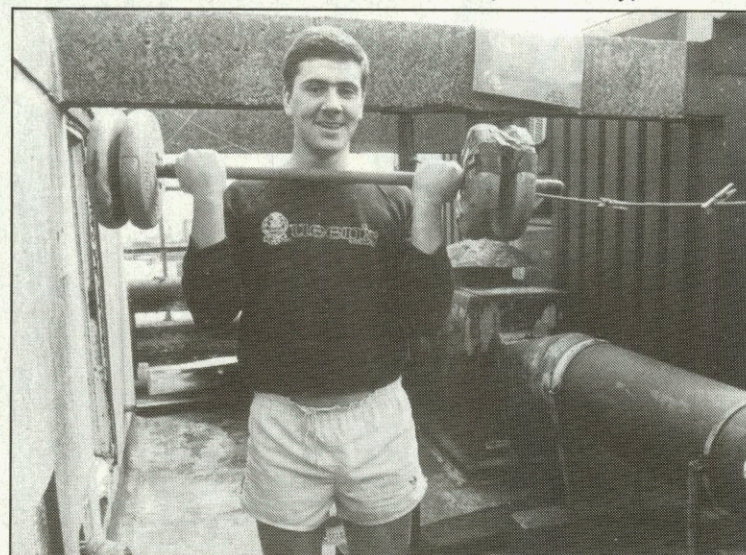
● Turn to next page

They're pedalling to Abu Dhabi – via the Divis OP!



Above – Abu Dhabi here we come. In their spare time the men who man the Divis Tower OP are "cycling" from London to the Gulf, which means more than 3,400 miles in four and a half months. Left to right are LCpl Kevin Croft, Sgt Steve Hannington, Pte Ryan Offer (in the saddle) and Pte Martin Swannell

Right – Recreation area on top of Divis Tower. Pte Ryan Offer with weights



YOU never know what sort of a welcome to expect if you arrive at the Divis Tower in a vehicle with the RUC confidential telephone number on the side. It could range from cool to warm or very warm.

The armed lift men wear uniforms more suited to a country life and residents met in the hall are apt to ignore strangers.

It is only when you reach the top floor and a cup of tea is thrust into your hand that you realise you are back among good old British eccentrics of which, fortunately, the 2nd

Battalion The Queen's Regiment has its share.

Eccentric? How else can you describe the antics of CSgt Tony Robinson and his crew who are combining one of the most important observation duties in Belfast with cycling from London to Abu Dhabi?

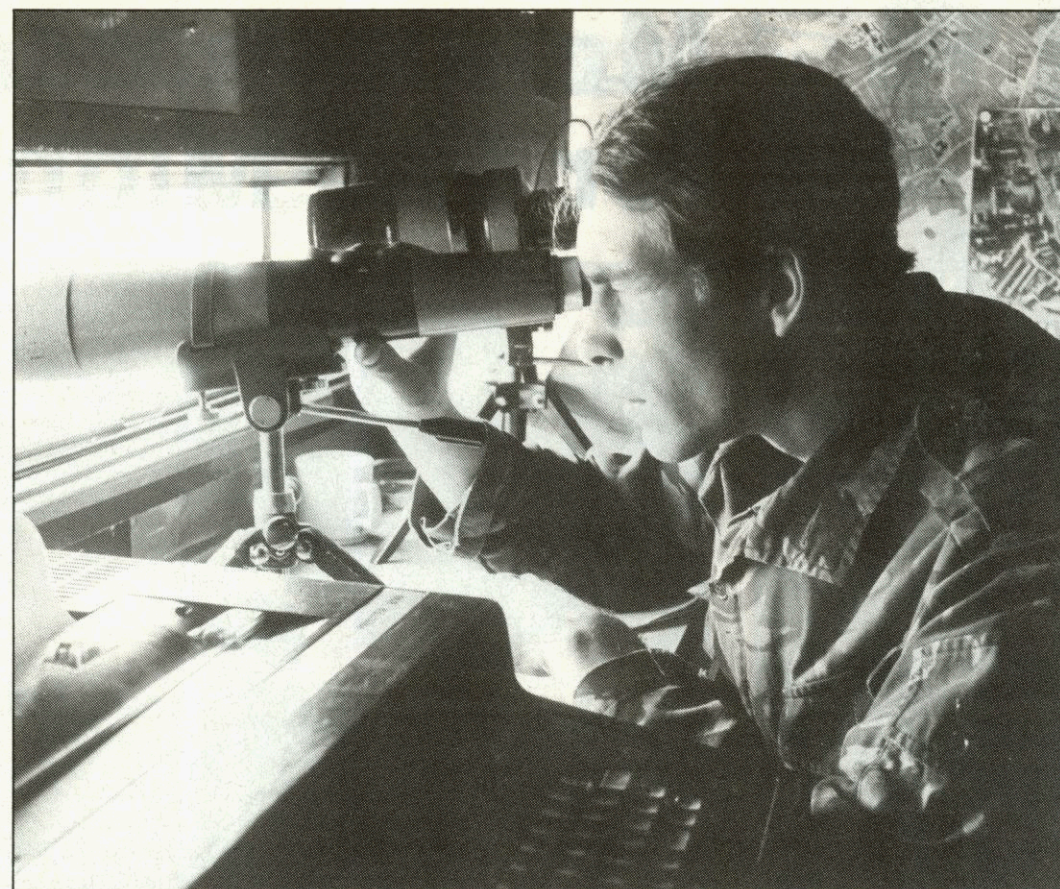
The detachment manning the OP is pedalling the 3,550 miles on an exercise bicycle (the second – the first wasn't up to it) parked at the end of a cupboard masquerading as a corridor.

In a sponsored ride to raise cash for the Acorn Trust which builds special homes for crippled children, the troops have so far covered more than 2,000 miles.

And this in their spare time, generally after having done a shift which requires all their attention.

The riders clock up around 30 miles a day and their problem is not punctures but finding something fresh to listen to on their personal stereos. Whitney Houston and Tina Turner are "in" at the moment.

"You've got to have something to take your mind off things," said Sgt Steve Hannington, 13 years a Queensman.



Eyes over Belfast. Pte David Laing on duty in the observation post on top of the Divis Tower

Service in the OP is demanding. The conditions are cramped, red hot in high summer and clammy in winter when a small paddling pool forms at one spot.

Apart from the Abu Dhabi ride the only other opportunity for recreation is on a roof criss-crossed with pipes and studded with brick boxes covering ventilation and lift machinery.

"I call this place a shore-based ship," said CSgt Robinson. "We can see all the places out there but can't go anywhere."

He and Sgt Hannington spend the whole tour "inside". The troops in the detachment (many from the 2 Queens Milan platoon) get breaks – doing street patrols.

One of these caught the blast of the bomb which killed two

civilians outside the local swimming baths. That hasn't stopped them carrying on. Or doing their 30 miles an hour stint cycling for the benefit of sick children.

Note: Suggestions by a certain officer that more funds could be raised by installing a rowing machine and returning from Abu Dhabi afloat have not been received with any enthusiasm!

Threat is never far off

LT COL Merrick Willis, CO 2 Queens, pinpointed a problem which faces all soldiers who serve with the West Belfast battalion.

"Belfast has become an unforgiving place over the years; terrorists want to take advantage of our mistakes.

"Sometimes it is difficult for soldiers to see that the threat is always there. When nothing happens it is only because they are doing their job well.

"The training for the tour is complex and thorough and there is great satisfaction for us all in feeling we are properly trained and doing a worthwhile and demanding job."

Finds made by his battalion so far include:

- three rocket propelled grenade launchers plus their warheads;
- nine rifles
- eight pistols
- four shotguns
- one drogue grenade
- five 36 grenades (Mills bombs)
- a nail bomb and more than 500 rounds of ammunition.

The 36 grenades did not take much finding. They were thrown at a Queens patrol but failed to go off.

NO PLACE FOR DILLY DALLYING ...

● From Page 21

with polished floors.

The troops call it "The Submarine" – among other things! They are crammed into small rooms with three tier bunk beds and with pipes running the length of the corridors and a minimum of natural light one can see why they feel submerged.

The presence of Capt Jim Hutton, Royal Marines, adds to the naval atmosphere. His attachment is mildly traditional and harks back to the time when one of the parent battalions of 2 Queens served on men o' war.

Officers still drink the Monarch's health sitting – in "The Submarine" round a table with a silver rearing horse centre piece dated 1935 inherited from another ancestor, the Royal West Kents.

Selected silver ware and regimental pictures are features



2nd Lt Tom Major checks a vehicle at a VCP. The WRAC member is on hand should a suspect woman be encountered

of the company HQ messes reflecting a sense of style and hopefully having a civilising influence on the subalterns.

"Bull" is not a fetish with 2 Queens but their locations and billets are a credit to the men based there. It would be easy for them to make the workload an excuse for neglecting things but it doesn't happen.

The sight of CSM David Wilson making a quick inspection of the phone boxes at Musgrave on (his words) "dog-end patrol" explains why. From time to time smokers sweep the area.

A young rifleman at the Mill thought it "diabolical" to be kept from his bunk "to do the bogs" on return from patrol – but he would have more to say if CSM Dick Akehurst, who does his share on the streets, didn't keep the place up to Queens standards.

Living conditions are not

holiday camp grade. No one gets a room with a view at Whiterock, Girdwood Park or anywhere else. Blast walls a foot thick shield the windows.

At Woodburn the men have to squeeze into tiny rooms into which two double-tier bunks have been juggled. Body armour lined up to air steams in the sun. And to think there used to be a hotel on the site.

Platoons spend four or five days at a time at Woodburn – a month during their emergency tour.

The Twelfth is just one of the more interesting periods which the West Belfast battalion has to prepare for every year; there are plenty more to come.

The Queensmen are under no illusions as to the extent of the problem. A variety of weapons has been found, a number are known to be circulating, and "bricks" are becoming commonplace.

Driving past a police station 2nd Lt Tom Major pointed to a nasty rat hole which a rocket-propelled grenade had gnawed in the concrete sanger. White splash marks on the wall opposite showed where the RUC had returned fire. An RPG and a rifle were picked up by the Queens in the follow up.

No one needed to convince either Pte Jack Stedman or Pte Stuart Gordon of the difficulties to be encountered. The first was blown across the road by the blast from the bomb that killed two locals walking past the swimming baths. Pte Gordon tried to give the kiss of life to one of the victims.

A day or two later Pte Stedman, not the biggest Queensman, could be seen doubling past the same spot – back on duty.

Momentarily stirred by Pte Gordon's first aid attempt, local inhabitants returned his beret,

stolen while he was bending over their dying neighbour. The Press said his action had improved the atmosphere.

The fact remains that the half bricks are still being hurled, the bombers are placing small but powerful wire-controlled devices intended to cut down foot patrols and lure their comrades into snipers' sights and booby-trap situations. And the blast walls at the bases are not there to keep out the gnats.

Some soldiers will claim "No one likes it here." Others appear genuinely to enjoy the challenge. None of them gets much rest; all of them get stuck into it when they have to.

There is only one thing that beats the Londoners and many of the lads from Middlesex, Surrey and Kent – a call sign with the figure 3 in it. After all, 'ammersmiff is still 'ammersmiff, even in the bleedin' province, innit?



CSM John Vann has a final word with LCpl Gary Leece before he sets out on duty with Matthew. Matthew, of mixed parentage, was training to be a guide dog for the blind but fell into the bad habit of fighting with other

Not such a guide dog!

dogs. Now he is a search dog. Good dog Matthew!

Mouth-watering prospect for The Midnight Team!



Belfast street scene - CO 2 Queens, LtCol Merrick Willis with (right) his "shadow" Sgt Derek Kennedy

EVEN in Turf Lodge the smell of cooking can make a soldier's mouth water.

As the CO of 2 Queens led a mobile patrol on a routine walk-about down a street where middle aged gardeners gave a guarded response to his cheery "good morning", whiffs of something savoury drifted from assorted kitchens.

It was a bit too much for LCpl Dusty Miller.

When one of his mates asked the time he replied spontaneously: "It's lunch o'clock."

But no one took the hint.

The patrol returned to its vehicles and set off for its next location with LCpl Miller sharing boiled sweets with the RSM and the rest of his crew.

RSM 'Jack' Daw has a lot of time for what is sometimes called The Midnight Team. LCpls Miller, John Carty and Bov Bovelle are black. They come from London or its environs and have a dry sense of humour that goes with their vaguely Cockney accents.

LCpl Carty has been a Queensman for 12 years, the others for around ten. All three are old Ulster hands.

In June LCpl Miller became the Army's Northern Ireland Athlete of the Year for the second time. This time his high jump equalled the Northern Ireland record.



LCpl Dusty Miller, Queensman and Northern Ireland Army athletics champion

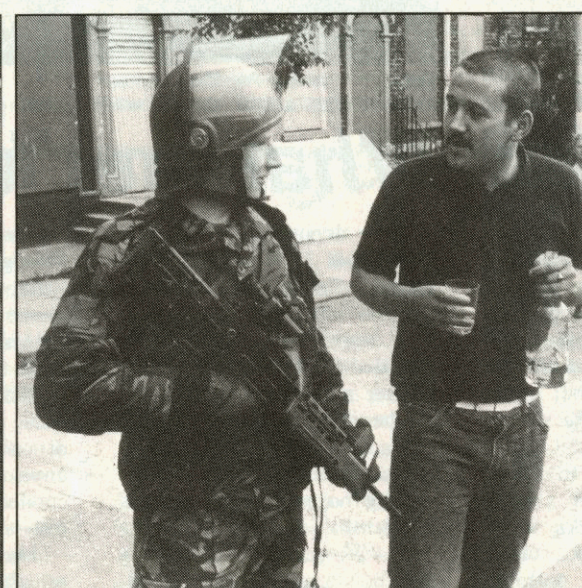


Men of 10 Platoon, C Coy, 2 Queens under 2nd Lt Giles Clapp (extreme left), pause for the camera just as they were about to set off on patrol. These cheery Queensmen don't look as though they have been up most of the night...

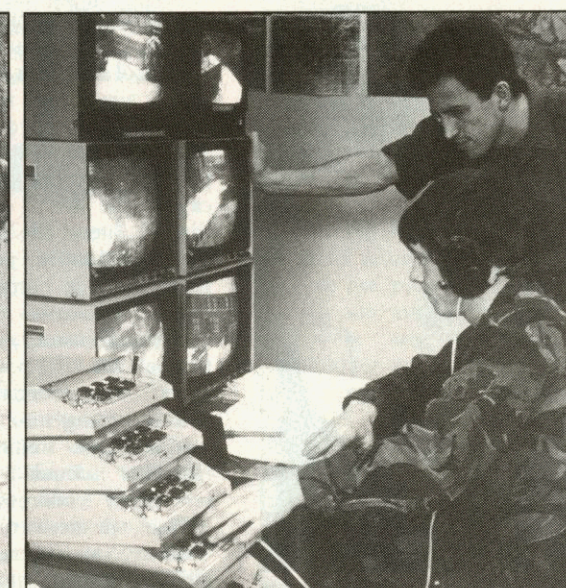
A sense of humour comes in handy on the streets



Two Joannes - Pte Kennealy (left) and LCpl Gilliot, WRAC, spend the whole tour in the SF location working with the ACC. The only break is a chance to attend the occasional RCT disco



LCpl Paul Carter politely declines a drink offer from a convivial holidaymaker on "The Twelfth" - an extremely busy time for the West Belfast battalion



Ops Officer Sean Duggan and watchkeeper Pte David Joy study the world through their remote controlled cameras

An IRA bomb attack at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London thrust the sapper posties who work there into the national headlines. This feature, compiled by writer **Jennifer Griffiths** and photographer **Mike Perring**, was prepared for publication before the outrage took place. See also news story in Page 7.

OPEN ALL HOURS

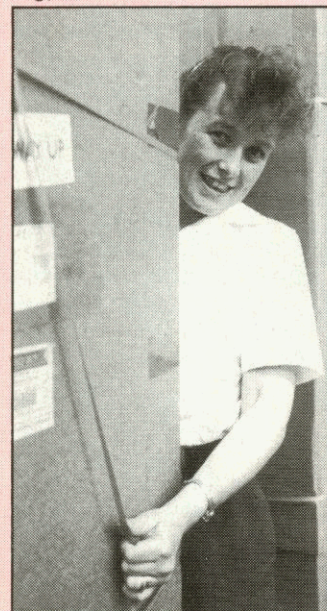
THE WINDMILL Theatre's proud boast that even during the London Blitz it stayed open is the sort of commitment the Posties have in Mill Hill, London.

One hundred and forty male soldiers and 130 WRACs are based at the Postal and Courier Depot, RE, at Inglis Barracks, where they sort out the mail posted in the UK and destined for the three Services wherever they are serving abroad.

They work a shift system of 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and, in a war situation, would have a home defence role. It was succinctly explained by the adjutant, Capt Jim Donovan: "Regardless of difficulties, our motto is that the mail must get through."

During a time of intense military activity, the courier would come into his own, delivering sensitive classified mail, vital at a time of radio blackouts or jamming.

And even in today's highly sophisticated technological era of facsimile machines, and so on, Lt Col Frank Lea, OC Courier Wing, said there is nothing to beat the one-to-one personal, hand-to-hand service. He has a team of 40 defence couriers carrying, or supervising, the delivery of the most



Pte Karen Gronow measures up to some of the huge parcels that pass through PCD RE at Mill Hill, London

sensitive items.

The posties, however, provide a less glamorous service, but it is a behind-the-scenes role that is vital to every soldier. Occasionally they feel ignored, except when something goes wrong! When you

● **The Commandant, Col Peter Wescott told SOLDIER: "Despite the tragedy, our morale and spirits are high, we are all pulling together and life is going on as normally as possible."**

look at the volume of items that pass through the depot it is surprising there are not more hiccups.

Each day more than 70,000 letters are sorted, along with 40,000 packets and 6,000 parcels. The weight of airmail moved in a month is nearly 200,000 kilos, and 40,000 bags of surface mail are moved during the same period. During the last Christmas period 70 of the 40-ft containers carrying parcels to BAOR were moved.

As in civilian life, Christmas creeps up earlier each year, and in Mill Hill, the run-up starts in September. Many soldiers' wives act as agents for mail order firms, and hundreds of catalogues go through the system. This makes for an early choice of Christmas presents, which again travel via Mill Hill.

Lt Col Bill Butt, OC of the postal wing, said that mail is most frequently delayed because it is not addressed properly. It was vital that it carried the BFPO number on the last line of the envelope as during sorting the address was read from the bottom up.

If it had the country or destination instead, it could go through the civil postal service in a very roundabout way before getting into the Army system. One soldier is permanently detailed to sort incorrectly addressed mail. "What we need to know is number, name, rank, unit, BFPO number, and nothing else. The worst thing is giving too much information," said Col Butt.



Lt Col Bill Butt and just a few of the items unclaimed in heartbreak corner



Busy at work are Pte Sharon Leat and Spr David Jack. The posties in Mill Hill work a shift system of 24 hours a day, seven days a week, moving Service mail to all parts of the world

Whatever happens, the mail must get through

The depot has its own heartbreak corner – a room set aside for the hundreds of burst parcels that will never reach their destination, and cannot be returned to the sender, because neither is known.

The current stock includes half a dozen sporrans, a child's two-wheeler, fishing rods, an ironing board and two wheels for an adult cycle. Lt Col Butt said: "We get accused of being over-boisterous in our handling. But it is simply not true. Parcels are not packed properly, there's wear and tear, and

by the time they get to us the damage has occurred."

Anyone who thinks their parcel may be in the heartbreak corner should contact their local forces post office.

Badly packed parcels can cause problems. Like the bottle of shampoo, put in an envelope, that smashed and spoiled hundreds of other letters.

The mail goes from Mill Hill on scheduled civil flights to all areas except the Falklands and Ascension Island, whose deliveries are courtesy of the

RAF. In certain cases where there are only a few soldiers, and it does not justify sending the mail in a container by sea, or it cannot go RAF, Mill Hill will pay the extra for it to go by civil air on a cheap fill-up freight basis.

And, if the RAF has some spare room, mail which is paid for at surface freight rate can jump the queue and go by air. Sometimes that brings problems. "We have had complaints of Christmas mail arriving too early," said Col Butt.

The Commandant, Col

Peter Wescott, said his soldiers did sometimes feel unappreciated. "If something goes wrong, they get it in the neck. We work a very hard round-the-clock system. It is a unique unit because we do not control anything. We react to what comes along. For instance, as soon as the first sailings left for the Falklands, within a few days we were inundated with mail. We are a customer related organisation and have to react accordingly."

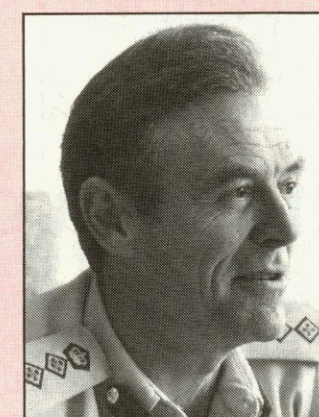
Posties have the opportunity of serving in exotic places –

such as Washington, Seoul, Kathmandu, Bangkok and Canada. And if they are working as counter staff, there is the chance of meeting Army top brass.

Col Wescott said: "That's the beauty of the job – as a young soldier you can be involved in meeting anybody from a GOC down."

He was particularly pleased with the special rapport they enjoyed with their civilian neighbours who had awarded them the Freedom of the London borough of Barnet.

The Postal and Courier Depot, RE, operates a round-the-clock service in the Mill Hill Depot



Above left – The Commandant, Col Peter Wescott. Above right – Adjutant Capt Jim Donovan posts a commemorative cover. He is pictured with two of the philatelic museum's spoils of war – an Argentinian post box and postal communications shield brought back from Port Stanley in the Falklands



The soldiers are continuing a long tradition of good works and have raised more than £5,000 for the current civic charity, MIND and the John Groom charity.

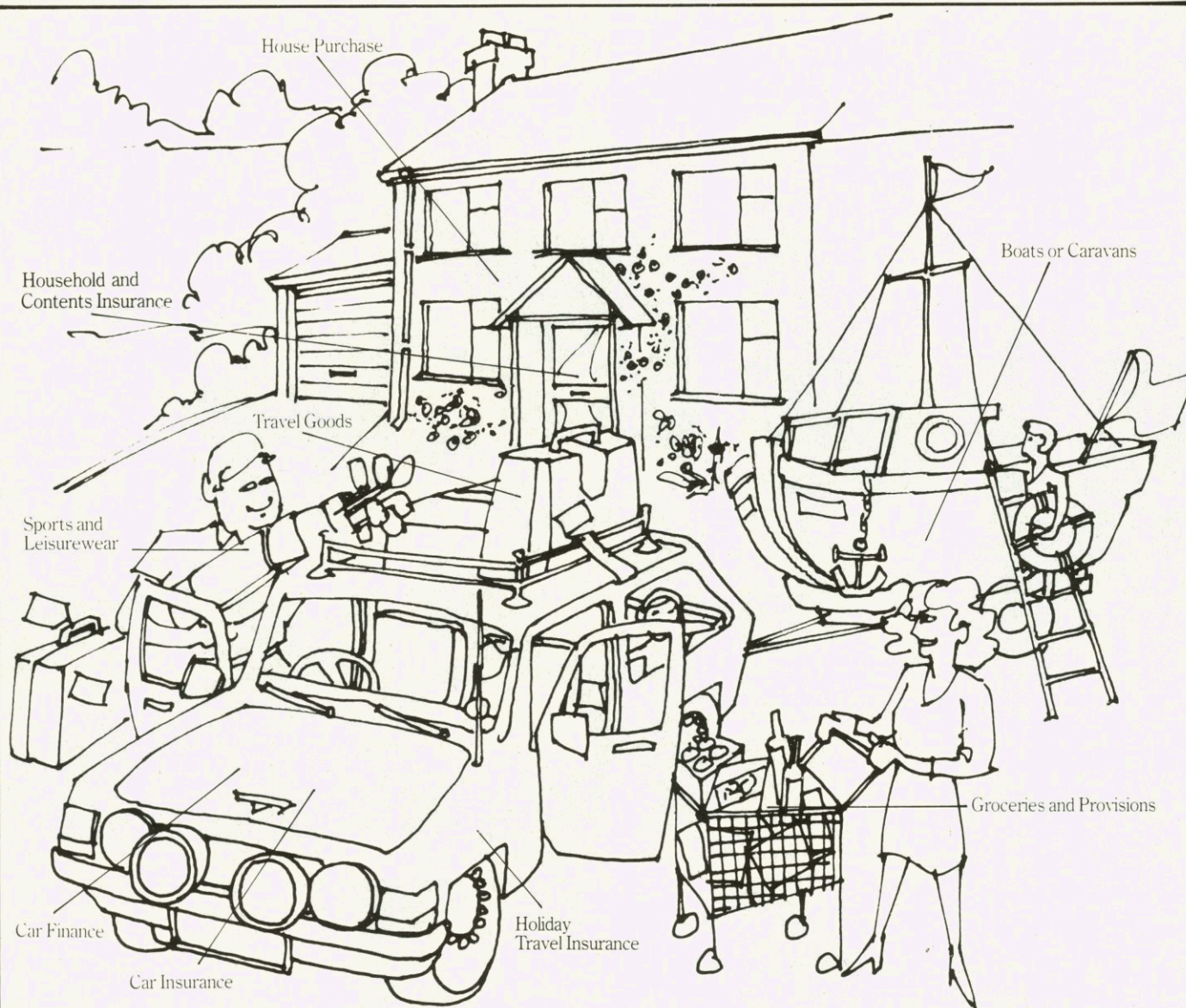
PCD RE is especially proud of its sporting success. Among the Minor Units championships they won the athletics in 1986 and 1987; were winners and runners up in the cross country in 1986 and 1987; winners in the UKLF and BAOR soccer in 1988; and runners-up in the UKLF cricket the year before. The adjutant, Capt Donovan said: "We have achieved more in the last eight to ten years than most units have in their whole sporting history."

"People don't immediately think of us in the same popular light as a combatant engineer or mainstream sapper. They think of us as simply pen-pushers, and we are putting the lie to that by our sporting prowess. We were unsung and unheralded for so many years, and then it suddenly took off."

"Work, of course, comes first, and we don't enjoy the luxury of preparation that other Regular units have."

"The WRAC team has enjoyed sporting success and are the inter-units hockey champions. There is no way we are out winning trophies, while they are doing the work."





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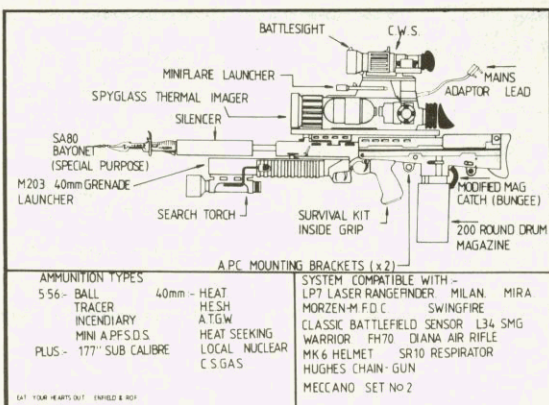
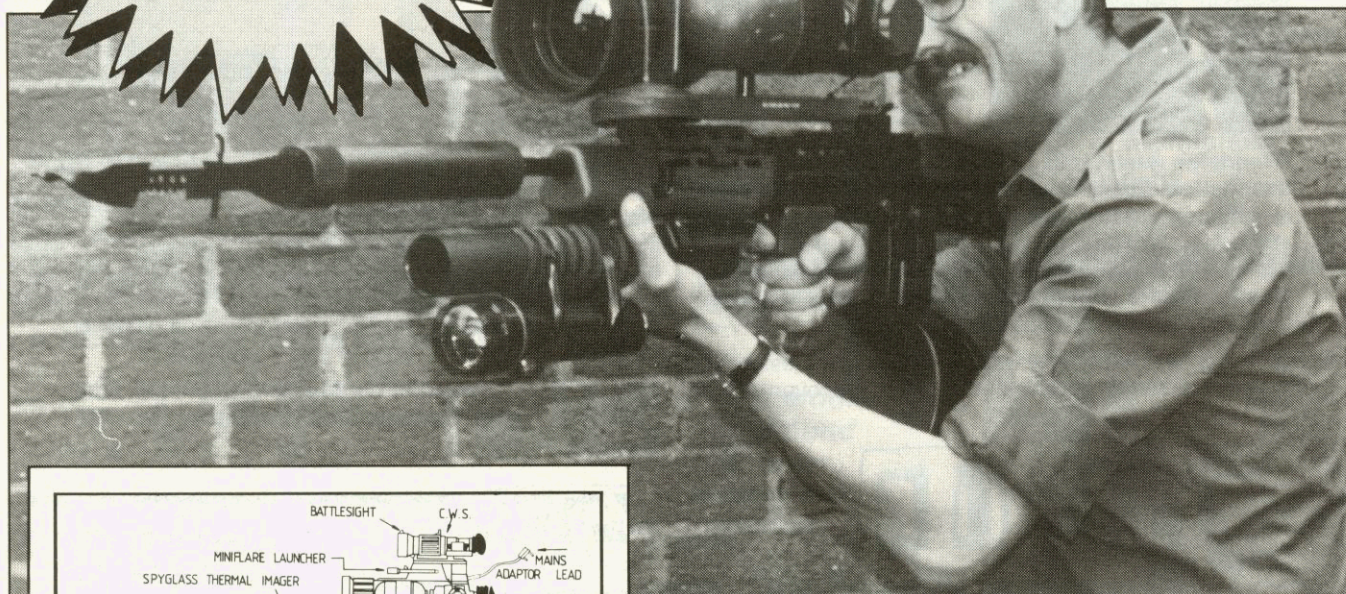
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Cpl John Clarke demonstrates the Omagh armourers' futuristic SA 80¹/₂



ORDERS have poured in for the SA 80¹/₂ – the weapon of the future. Its special refinements have attracted international attention, but this one-off was quickly dismantled after its photographic debut. During its short life, it had pride of place at the Armourers' Shop, LAD REME, in Omagh, Northern Ireland where visiting infantrymen did more than a double-take.

SSgt Brian Harding, who designed the modifications with LCpl Mike Wakeling, said: "It was made from bits and bobs borrowed from in-service equipment. We are now looking at a prototype for a new sniper rifle, featuring a two-mile long barrel!"

1 RTR TROOP TESTS COMPETITION

Steady as you go, Sir!

MAJ GEN Richard Swinburn, Commander 1st Armoured Division, put his own driving skills on the line when he visited 1 Royal Tank Regiment's troop tests competition at Soltau, West Germany.

The general is a former specialist in the driving and maintenance field and used the

opportunity to test his driving in the commanding officer's Chieftain tank.

But LCpl Barry Clare, the CO's usual driver, was taking no chances and made sure the general knew where everything was before they drove off with Lt Col Mark Goodson commanding and Brig Hew Pike,

Commander 22 Armoured Brigade, in the second-in-command slot as loader-operator.

Sixteen Sabre troops had their individual and collective battle skills rigorously tested in two gruelling phases, the first at Tofrek Barracks, and part two at Soltau Training Area.

Winners of the competition were 3 Troop, C Squadron, led by Lt Nick Marshallsay, who had to fight for the Cock Troop 1988 title.

Lt Rob Brown and 4 Troop, C Squadron, were the runners-up, and Lt Jerome Nunan and 3 Troop, D Squadron took third place.



Brig Hew Pike, Commander 22 Armoured Brigade, presents Lt Nick Marshallsay with the trophy while WO (RSM) Alan McGinn looks on



LCpl Barry Clare, CO 1 RTR's usual driver, ensures Maj Gen Richard Swinburn has got it right

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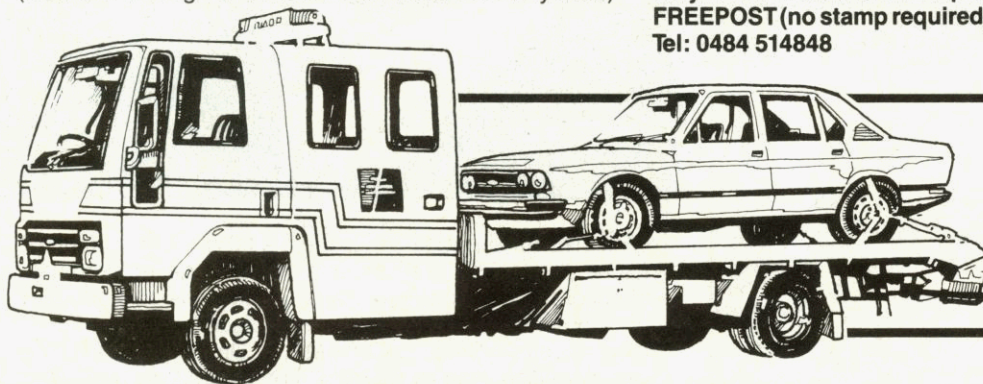
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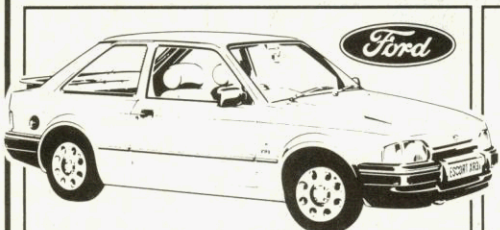
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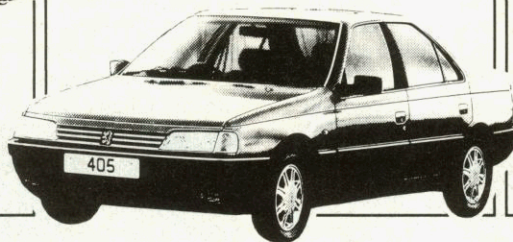
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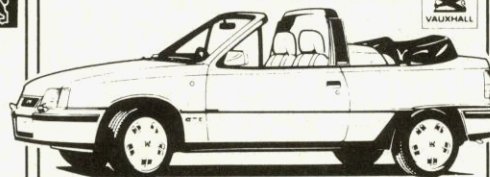
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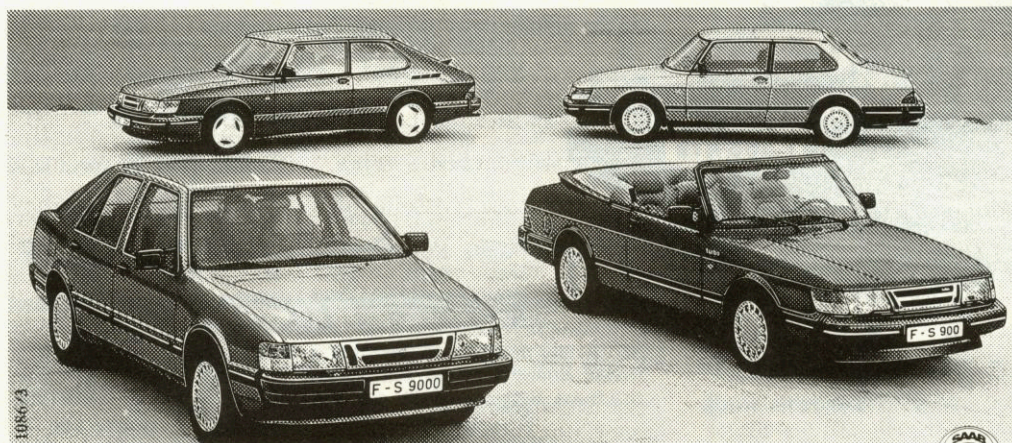
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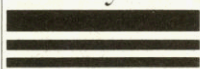
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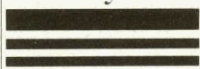
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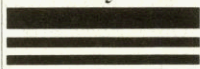
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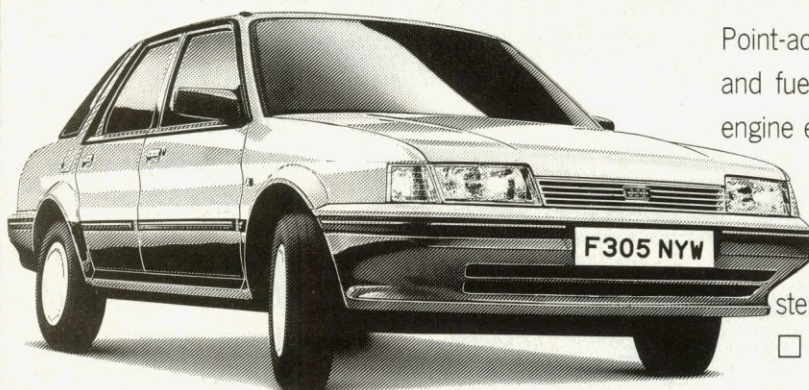


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These nine soldiers from the Yorkshire Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, based at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland, have raised £1,000 in a 43-mile sponsored canoe expedition from Donaghadee, County Down to Portpatrick, on the west coast of Scotland, and back. The money will go towards the cost of special care for Chris Lloyd, a former battalion private crippled in a hit and run accident in Gibraltar

HOT FOOT!

A TEAM from C Coy 4 Para (V) based in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, picked up nearly £5,000 by competing in the Great Northern Run. The money will go to the Northern Cancer Care and Research Society.

The part time paras of C Coy have ambitious plans to raise around £25,000 for their chosen good cause, which is to fund a new women's cancer centre in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

They are planning to break the world speed marching record on October 21, aiming to carry 40lb packs over the marathon distance of 26 miles 365 yards in less than 4 hrs 35min.

★ ★ ★

Exercise JOGG – a relay run from John o' Groats to the Garden Festival in Glasgow undertaken by 60 members of 71 Engr Regt (V) – has raised more than £3,000 which has been divided among the British Olympic Appeal, the Erskine Hospital for Disabled Ex-

★ ★ ★

The Countess of Eglinton and Whinton, area organiser for the Great Ormond Street Hospital appeal, has received a £550 cheque, the proceeds of a 24-hour darts marathon by 8 Sqn, 27 Regiment RCT, Buller Barracks, Aldershot. It was presented by Drivers Ian Biggins and Steve Cowell. They also gave £80 to the Army Benevolent Fund.

★ ★ ★

Lads from The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars who pushed a 36-gallon barrel from Cambrai Barracks, Catterick to the Golden Lion, in Richmond have raised £400 for the



Lt Col Frank Freeman, RTR, CO of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington, has received a £650 cheque from Cpl Colin McDonald, RRF, a physical training instructor with the regiment, who, with Cpl Lee Mawson, QDG was sponsored on a cycle from John o'Groats to Land's End, and also took part in the Poole

Marathon. The cash is for the British Kidney Patients' Association, Cancer Research, and the Dorset MacMillan Nursing Service.

Part time paras out to beat world record

Servicemen and the Royal Engineers Museum Foundation Appeal.

Children's Heart Unit at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle.

★ ★ ★

Lance Sgt George Turner, Coldstream Guards, who completed a 350-mile sponsored walk from the border town of Coldstream to London, has raised about £400 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The route followed that taken by General George Monck and his army in 1660.

★ ★ ★

More than £700 raised by nine members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Provost Branch in a sponsored cycle ride from Edinburgh to York is to be divided between a fund for a WRAC Provost stained glass window in the RMP Chapel at Chichester and the Humber-side Patients' Association.

★ ★ ★

Capt John Saville of the 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards presented a £500 cheque to Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, patron of the Muscular Dystrophy Research Trust of Cyprus. The money was the proceeds of a Coldstream band concert at the Curium Amphitheatre.

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BOOK REVIEWS

SEINE ASSAULT: A COSTLY CROSSING

RIVER crossing assaults in war are invariably turning points, and those who take part in them can never forget the anticipation, the dread, the surge of excitement, and the relief of survival.

The crossing of the Seine at Vernon in August 1944 was one of the most important of the North West Europe campaign and arguably of the entire war, although those who took part in the assaults on the rivers Scheldt and Rhine may take issue.

On paper the participating forces were of even strength, one division against another. However, on the British side the 43rd (Wessex) Division was

a fully equipped tank supported and battle hardened unit, whereas the German 49th Infantry Division was a depleted second-rate and static formation comprising mainly conscripted men.

Assault Crossing: The River Seine 1944 is a highly readable account of this battle which, despite the favourable odds, proved to be very costly to the British, largely due to the terrain and poor pre-battle intelligence.

The Germans were waiting in defensive positions on high chalk cliffs overlooking 700ft of open water; as was usual in the Second World War inadequate maps did not show the shallows

that are a feature of the wide river.

Author Ken Ford tells the story of the assault from all levels, successfully mixing eye-witness accounts of the men who took part in the actual fighting, and at the same time assessing divisional and brigade commanders' positions.

He shows how, like almost every battle that has been fought, the crossing degenerated into a shambles but again, as in most battles, how order eventually grew out of confusion. — BJ

Assault Crossing: The River Seine 1944 by Ken Ford. Published by David and Charles. Price £8.95.

A classic look at infantry weapons

A BOOK concerned with the operations of the US Eighth Army in Korea during the winter of 1950-51, in which the author summarised his investigations into the behaviour of infantry in the use of their weapons, the behaviour of the weapons themselves, and the use of information in augmenting fire power, was tagged Restricted and was published in a very limited edition.

Whether or not Brig Gen Samuel Marshall intended it, his work proved to be of political and military importance, becoming something of a classic of military history.

It became much sought after but, because of its classification and short production run, was virtually unobtainable and rarely seen outside military libraries and top brass offices.

Now, in association with The Institute for Research on Small Arms in International Society in Washington, "Slam" Marshall's book has been published for a wider readership.

Frankly, it is not an easy book to read with a dated and somewhat stuffy style.

But it is an important historical document and the descriptions and assessments of weaponry of the period makes it valuable to students of military equipment in that era. — BJ

Infantry Operations and Weapons Usage in Korea by S L A Marshall. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Accrington Pals by William Turner. A paperback pictorial history of the men of Accrington and district, Blackburn, Burnley, Chorley and the neighbouring villages who volunteered, fought and died in the First World War. Published by The Lancashire Library, and available from Accrington Library, St James St, Accrington. Price £2.50 plus 50p p and p.

Great Battles of the American Civil War by John Macdonald. Fourth in a series of illustrated books which look at the great battlefields of world history, making use of computer graphics besides contemporary prints and photographs. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £19.95.

The United States Infantry by Gregory J W Urwin. The American foot soldier from the 18th century to the dawn of the 20th with colour plates of uniforms and arms. Published by Blandford Press. Price £16.95.

Duelling with Long Toms by David Martin. An account of the 16th Battery Southern Division, Royal Garrison of Artillery during the Boer War. Published by the author, 51 Hanover Gardens, Ilford, Essex IG6 2RB. Price £4.95.

Israeli Elite Units Since 1948 by Samuel M Katz. No 18 in the Elite Series published by Osprey. Price £5.50.

In Zululand by Charles L Norris-Newman. Reissue with additional illustrations. Originally published in 1880, the only account by a professional journalist of the first phase of the famous campaign. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

Wildtrack by Bernard Cornwell. The author of the Sharpe novels writes his first contemporary novel about a Falklands hero who falls on hard times and runs into danger when he tries to get away from it all at sea. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £11.95.

The Register of the Victoria Cross compiled and researched by Nora Buzzell. Revised and enlarged edition, listing all 1,350 VCs with details of the recipients and their deeds of valour. Published by This England Books. Price £18.

Battlefield Archaeology by John Laffin. How and where to search for artefacts, with photographs of battlefields and relics. Written by an acknowledged expert. Published by Ian Allan. Price £12.95.

To Hell and Back with the Guards by Norman D Cliff. The author's experiences with the Grenadier Guards in the First World War trenches in France. Former Foreign Editor of the News Chronicle, he died in 1977. Published by Merlin. Price £3.95.

Ten Million Bayonets by David C Isby. A detailed picture of the Soviet army. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £14.95.

Tank Papers. Series of nine four-page papers about First World War tanks published by The Lincoln Tank Group. Available from Ray Hooley, 16 Alexandre Ave, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8NR. Price £5.95 set or £4 set for ten or more.

The Zulu War by David Clammer. Reissue of the story of the Zulu war, told through the personal recollections and correspondence of soldiers and official reports. Published by David and Charles. Price £3.95.

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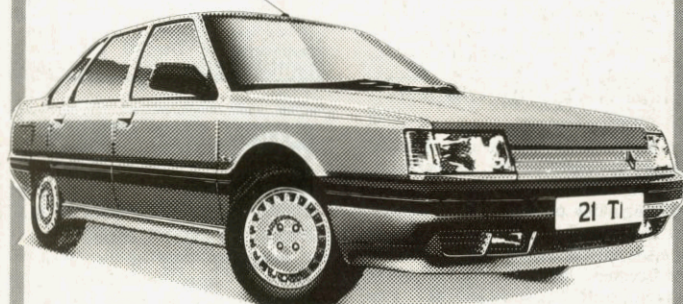


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Intense activity during the CIOR military first aid competition at Sandhurst. Two Canadian reserve officers tend to a "casualty" provided by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

CIOR CONGRESS

Reserve officers gather in London

MORE than 1,000 delegates from 11 countries attended the 1988 annual congress of Nato's Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London.

During the congress, which was being hosted by the UK for the first time since 1977, reserve officers from member countries competed in a military skills competition in the Camberley area, Surrey.

Britain was represented by 30 Territorial Army officers drawn from units all over the country. They took part in shooting, orienteering, swimming, obstacle courses and military skills tests.

The importance of reserve officers to Nato is reflected in the fact that the western alliance relies on reservists to provide more than half the

forces needed to defend Europe from a Warsaw Pact attack.

Delegates to the congress were welcomed by Defence Secretary Mr George Younger.

A keynote speech was given to the congress by Gen Sir John Akehurst, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse, presented prizes at the closing ceremony.

Gen Sir John Chapple, C-in-C UKLF, opened the military competition at Sandhurst.

Delegates to the congress also spent a day at Portsmouth as guests of the Royal Navy.

A major campaign sponsored by the National Employer Liaison Committee to improve the status and public awareness of the TA is planned for the autumn.

Picture: Mike Weston

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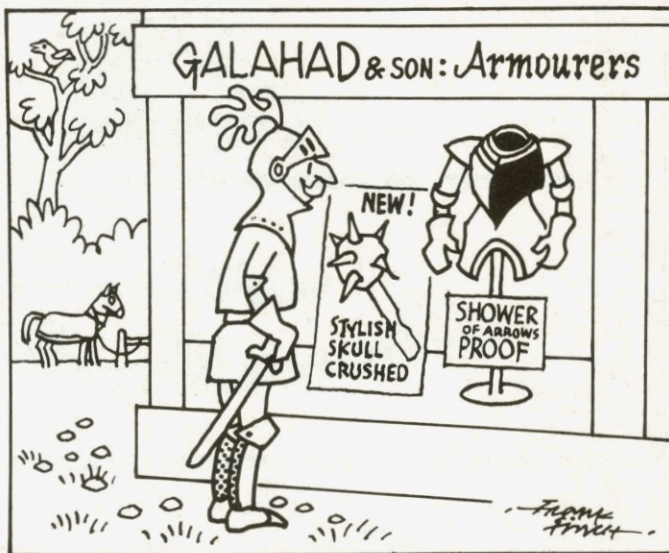
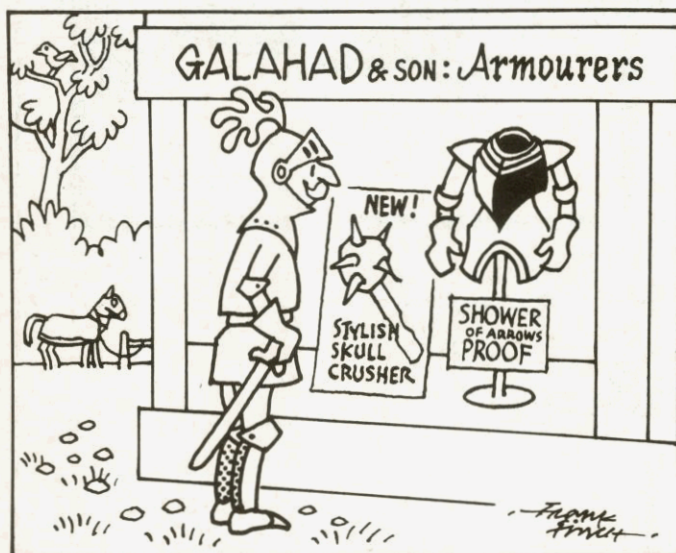
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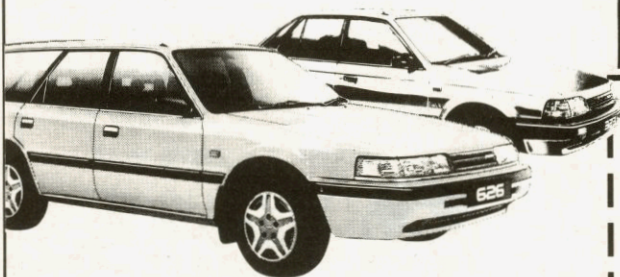
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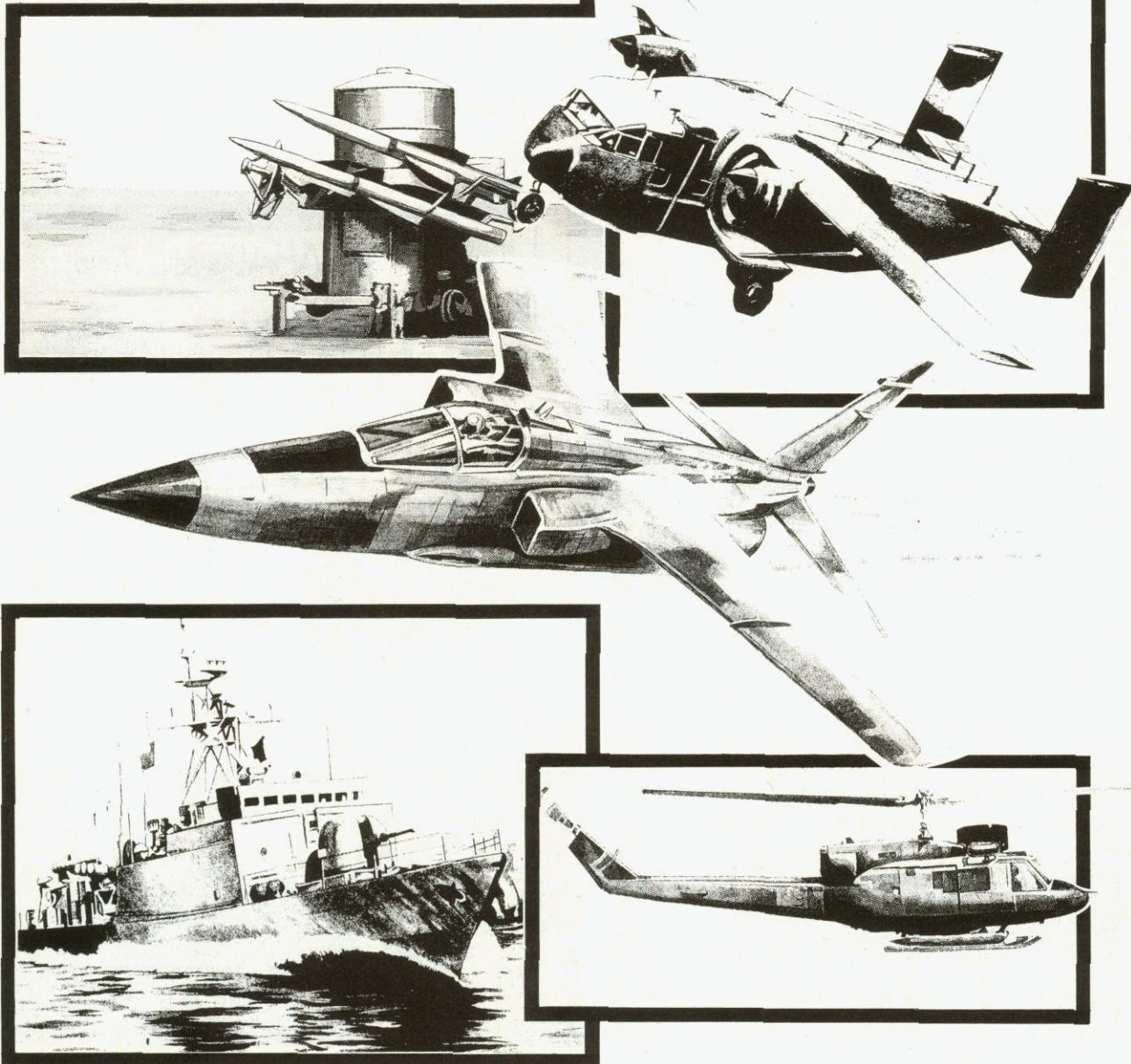
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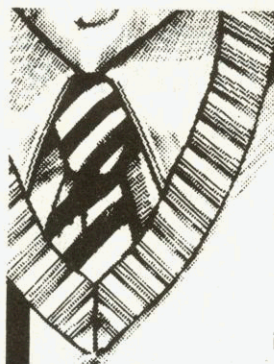
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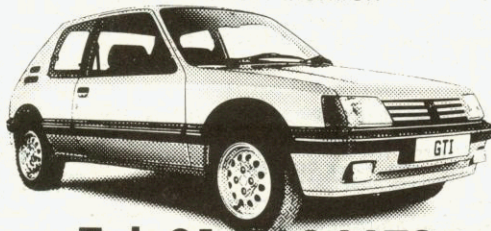
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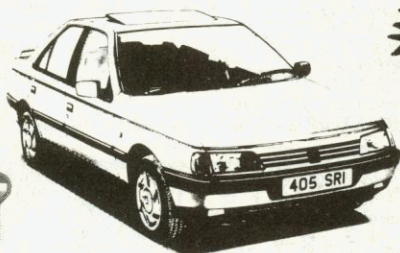
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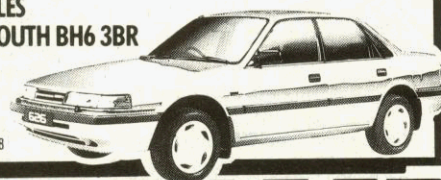
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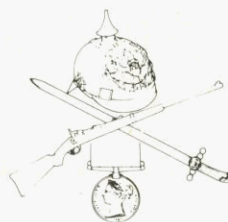
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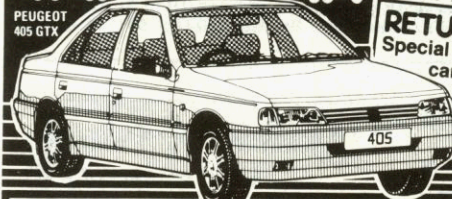
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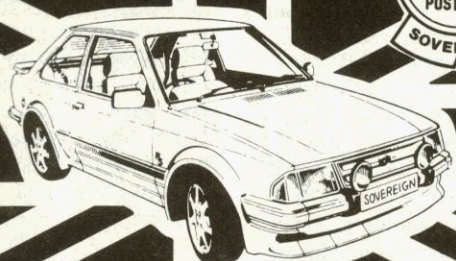


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Airmen have the last laugh

THE Army and RAF comfortably defeated the Royal Navy on the first two days of the Inter Services Under 25 festival at Portsmouth but unlike last year the RAF had the upper hand on the final day, writes **Peter Salisbury**.

The Army's match against the Navy saw the sailors dismissed for 91 thanks to some good Army bowling notably by Cpl Andy Ingham (Light Div Depot) who took 4-15. Lt

Matthew Fleming took 3-26, Pte Greg Taylor (1 Green Howards) 2-26 and Lt Charlie Redmayne (1 IG) 1-11.

Cpl Graham Summersgill (1 DWR) (32), Lt Alistair Lamb (JIB Shorncliffe) (24) and Fleming (25 not out) had no difficulty seeing the Army home by seven wickets.

On the final day the RAF's running between the wickets was excellent and put pressure on the Army fielding which was

not as good as it should have been. The RAF were nevertheless bowled out for 224 in 54.4 overs. Taylor took 3-56 and Fleming 2-35.

A sound start by Summersgill (22) and Lamb (16) put on 47 for the first wicket. There was then a bit of a collapse but Fleming (43) and Lt James Ford (1 WG) (25) added 59 for the fifth wicket. There was little further resistance and the Army were all out for 142.



MCTC Colchester's 680 kilo tug of war team begins to take the strain during their Inter-Services final against 22 AD Regt RA. But in a virtual repeat of the Army finals, the men from West Germany got the better of the MCTC team. Watching intently is MCTC coach Lt Col Peter Andrews



The 22 AD Regt RA 680kg tug of war team in action during the BAOR championships. They capped a fine season by going on to success in the Army and the Inter-Services championships

Police nicked!

THE Army cricket team achieved an excellent victory against British Police at Aldershot, writes **Peter Salisbury**.

They were given a sound start by Capt Jonathon Willatt (17 Trg Regt and Depot RA) (21) and Capt David Bolus (2 Para) (16). The good work was carried on by Lt Julian Barrett (Light Div Depot) (47) and Lt Matthew Fleming (18). Once these two were out, however, there was a monumental collapse and the Army were all out for 158.

On a wicket that favoured the bowler, good accurate bowling was the order of the day. This was achieved and the Police were dismissed for 105 leaving the Army victorious by 53 runs. Bolus took 5-46, Fleming 2-15, Lt Charlie Redmayne (1 IG) 2-18 and Capt Mark Banham (RMA Sandhurst) 1-22.

Surprisingly, this was only the Army's second ever victory

over the British Police.

The Army took on new opponents at Aldershot when they entertained a strong Harlequins side made up largely of Oxford blues. The visitors batted on a wicket which favoured the bowlers, as a result of water seeping under the covers.

Nevertheless the Army did well to dismiss the opposition for 132 in the 47th over of a match which had been reduced from 55 overs to 50 overs. Cpl Andy Taylor (17 Port Regt) and Capt Paul Presland (AAC Centre) bowled particularly well taking 5-19 and 3-16.

The wicket became easier as it dried but sadly the Army put up their most disappointing batting display of the season. They were all out for 124 with only Cpl Graham Summersgill (1 DWR), who made 51, putting up a real fight.

The Army was well represented in two Combined Services games against Club

Cricket Conference at Vine Lane, Uxbridge and against NCA Young Cricketers at Lords.

At Vine Lane, CCC were dismissed for 139 with Presland taking an impressive 3-11 in 11 overs and Lt Charlie Redmayne (1 IG) 2-28. A second wicket stand of 142 between Lt Julian Barrett (Light Div Depot) (66) and Flt Lt Andy Arundell (RAF) (61 not out) was largely responsible for Combined Services coasting home by eight wickets.

At Lords, after losing a wicket first ball, Combined Services again had a second wicket stand of 142, this time between Barrett (73) and Cpl Neville Doherty (RAF) (50).

Army skipper Lt Matthew Fleming (2 RGJ) (51) and Capt Edward Gordon Lennox (2 Gren Gds) (22 not out) were involved in a brisk stand of 69 before the declaration at 228-5. Sadly, after the Young Cricketers had scored 113-4, the game became another victim of the weather.

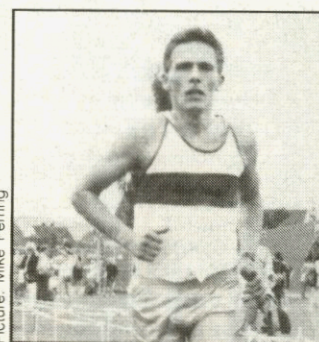
Earlier the Army had three representatives in the Combined Services under 25 side against English Schools Cricket Association (South) at Aldershot.

The three, Lt Alistair Lamb (JIB Shorncliffe), Fleming and Redmayne were the three leading scorers in Combined Services total of 179. They made 44, 55 and 21 respectively. In reply, the schoolboys were dismissed at regular intervals and were eventually left hanging on for a draw at 152-8, Fleming returning 3-35.

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TWO battalions of the King's Division did the friendly thing when they met in successive cricket cup finals in Northern Ireland - they won a trophy each.

1 Bn The Green Howards beat 1 Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment by three wickets in the final of the NI District Army Cup, at Lisburn, and the next day at Hollywood Cricket Club 1 DWR beat 1 Green Howards by seven wickets in the NI Infantry Cup final.



Cpl Jeffrey Martin (R Signals) crosses the line to win the first Minden half marathon in a time of 1hr 8min 52.1sec. Organised by 19 Sqn RCT at St George's Barracks, Minden, West Germany with the help of the Minden Athletic Club, the event attracted more than 1,000 competitors

Sappers on target in NRA championship

SERVICE competitors stayed on at Bisley to take part in the National Rifle Association's championship competition and it was the turn of the sappers to come out on top.

Cpl Paul Quilliam (65 Corps SP Sqn RE) won the NRA Service rifle championship using the iron-sighted SLR, beating Capt Keith Cunningham (Canadian Forces) and Capt Alwyn Mclean (6 UDR) who was firing the SA 80 with its optical sight.

In the Service Rifle United Services Cup, there was triumph for the Canadian Forces who were streets ahead of the rest with the Royal Marines pipping the Regular Army to second place by just one point. The Territorial Army team came fourth.

Results of the National Rifle Association Meeting.
Inter Services Long Range Cup - 1, RAF; 2, Regular Army; 3, Royal Navy.
Burdwan Challenge Cup - 1, Regular Army; 2, RAF; 3, Royal Marines; 4, (tie) Royal Navy and Territorial Army.
Kinnaird Prize - 1, 2nd Lt R Morwood 2 UDR; 2, Sgt S Meaker SCHINF; 3, Sgt J Prasad 2 GR.
Wantage Cup - 1, Cpl D Ross 51 Highland.
Malta Challenge Cup - 1, Canadian Forces B; 2, Canadian Forces A; 3, 2 UDR.
BSA Cup - 1, Rfn G Sherka 6 GR; 2, Pte R

Weir Q O HLDERS; 3, Capt A Mclean 6 UDR.
Service Rifle Championship - 1, Cpl P Quilliam RE; 2, Capt K Cunningham Canadian Forces; 3, Capt A Mclean 6 UDR.
Service Rifles United Services Cup - 1, Canadian Forces; 2, Royal Marines; 3, Regular Army.
Queen Mary Trophy - 1, LCpl D Sutton 1 QLR; 2, Sgt D Jennings 5 R Irish; 3, Sgt J Head 37 Sig Regt.
Cambridgeshire Shield - 1, Sgt J Head 37 Sig Regt; 2, Sgt D Jennings 5 R Irish; 3, Cpl C Bateman 6 R Anglian.
Llewellyn Cup (international) - 1, Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces; 2, Great Britain; 3, Canadian Forces.
Sub Machine Gun Cup - 1, Capt R Hare 6 R Anglian; 2, Cpl M Frape 1 RGJ; 3, Cpl G Robinson Depot RCT.
Team: 1, Depot RCT.
Roberts Cup - 1, Trg Res and Spec Forces RM C; 2, 6 GR; 3, TR and SF RM A.
Inter Service SMG Cup - 1, Regular Army; 2, RAF; 3, Royal Navy.
Mappin Cup - 1, Canadian Army A; 2, 6 GR; 3, Canadian Army B.
Service Pistol Medal - 1, WO2 D Ward SEME.

TA MEETING

Results of the Territorial Army Skill at Arms Meeting.
City of Westminster Cup - Cpl A de Cross 151 TBT Regt RCT.
Wessex Regiment Cup - 3 Yorks.
Hong Kong Dragon Trophy (inter-unit championship) - 1, 6 R Anglian; 2, 4 RGJ; 3, 37 Sig Regt.
China Cup - 1, 10 Para; 2, 1 Wessex; 3, 150 TBT Regt RCT.
ARA Cup - 6/7 Queens.
South Wales Trophy - Cpl D Allen CVHQ RE.
Pym Trophy - Cpl P Savides 4 RGJ.
Jubilee Cup - WO2 P Neal 5 R Anglian.

Following the Regular Army championships, junior soldiers from all over Britain had a chance to prove their mettle in

the Junior Soldiers Skill at Arms meeting at Bisley.

In a closely fought contest, the Junior Soldiers' Rifle Championship saw JLCpl David Galloway (Kings) of the Junior Infantry Battalion Ouston take the top prize by just two points from JSgt Paul Dunn (RRF) JIB Shorncliffe.

These two promising shots finished streets ahead of the rest with their nearest rival finishing over 30 points behind.

JIB Ouston capped this success by taking the unit championship.

Results of the Junior Soldiers Skill at Arms Meeting.

Junior Soldiers Service Rifle Championship - JLCpl D Galloway Kings. **The Iraq Cup** - JLCpl J Calvert Kings Own Border.
The Green Howards Cup - JLCpl J Graham R Hamps. **The Boileau Cup** - JSgt P Dunn RRF. **The Hotchkiss Cup** - SMG A/LCpl K Davies RE, FIBUA JLCpl L Onslow Guards Dept.
Junior Soldiers Sub Machine Gun Championship - A/Cpl J Cassidy RE. **The Western Command Cup** - JIB Shorncliffe A. **The Coldstream Cup** - JLR Royal Engineers. **The Devonshire Regiment Cup** - JIB Shorncliffe E. **The Junior Soldiers Championship** - JIB Ouston.
The Mahon Cup - JIB Ouston. **The Royal Engineers Cup** - JIB Shorncliffe A. **The Junior Soldiers Parachute Regiment Cup** - AAC Chesham. **FIBUA** - Guards Depot.

Army too strong for the others

HEAVYWEIGHT champions at the Army tug of war event staged at Larkhill, Wilts were 22 AD Regiment RA from BAOR. In the 680 kg competition they beat MCTC Colchester by two pulls to one.

Both units reached other finals, 22 AD Regt losing to 14 Fd Regt RA in the 560 kg class, and MCTC going down by two pulls to nil to 4 UDR in the 640 kg decider.

Winners of the plate competition were: 560 kg - 1, 39 Engr Regt; 2, 5 Ord Bn. 640 kg - 1, 14 Fd Regt RA; 2, 40 Fd Regt RA. 680 kg - 1, 50 Msl Regt; 2, RAC Bovington.

Champions and runners up in the main competition went on to represent the Army in the Inter-Services championships at Aldershot, and for the fourth year running swept the board.

The Royal Air Force and Royal Navy were simply swept aside in each of the three weight categories, with the finals turning into an exact repeat of the Army finals, 14 Fd Regt beating 22 AD Regt at 560 kg, 4 UDR beating MCTC at 640 kg and 22 AD Regt beating MCTC at 680 kg.

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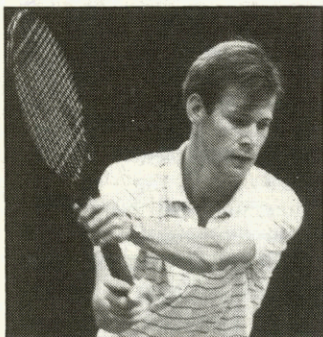
Lisa's final bid foiled by illness

EIGHTY-FOUR players took part in the Army tennis tournament held at the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club. Most of the players were UK based but quite a number came from BAOR and WO2 Bill Herlihy RAPC from Cyprus.

The weather was not good but games were played on open air hard courts, in the Army's indoor dome and on grass. The weather on finals day was so bad the last seven finals had to take place indoors.

Sadly, defending ladies' champion Lt Lisa Richardson had to retire at one set all in the final against Maj Julia Dixon because of illness. But Lt Richardson did win the mixed and ladies' doubles titles partnered by Lt Nigel Shaw 13/18 H and LCpl Helen Baughan.

On the men's side Lt Nigel Watts AAC showed he is the best Army player by beating Nigel Shaw 6-1, 6-2.



LT NIGEL WATTS

Results were:

Men's open singles - Lt N Watts AAC beat Lt N Shaw 13/18 H 6-1, 6-2.

Inter arms and corps doubles - Lt Col S Pettigrew and Lt N Watts AAC bt Lt N Shaw and 2nd Lt R Determeyer 13/18 H 6-1, 1-6, 8-6.

Men's open doubles - Lt Col D Hughes RAEC and Lt N Watts AAC bt LCpl E Simpson ACC and Sig I Dunworth R Signals 7-6, 6-4.

Ladies' open singles - Maj J Dixon WRAC bt Lt L Richardson WRAC 2-6, 6-4 retired.

Ladies' open doubles - Lt L Richardson WRAC and LCpl H Baughan WRAC bt Capt A Greer WRAC and Capt K Ogden-Swift WRAC 6-1, 6-0.

Mixed doubles - Lt N Shaw 13/18 H and Lt Richardson WRAC bt Lt N Watts AAC and Maj J Dixon WRAC 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Veterans' handicap singles - Lt Col R Dennis bt Maj J McManus 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Veterans' open singles - Lt Col J A Woodliffe bt Brig B Reeves 7-6, 6-4.

Veterans' open doubles - Brig B Reeves and Maj A Hilton bt Col J Prince and Maj J McManus 6-0, 6-1.

Men's plate - Dvr Ward RCT bt Capt N Morgan RCT 1-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Ladies' plate - Winner SSgt J McMahon Men's U-21 - Rfn Rothwell bt Pte Ransom 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.



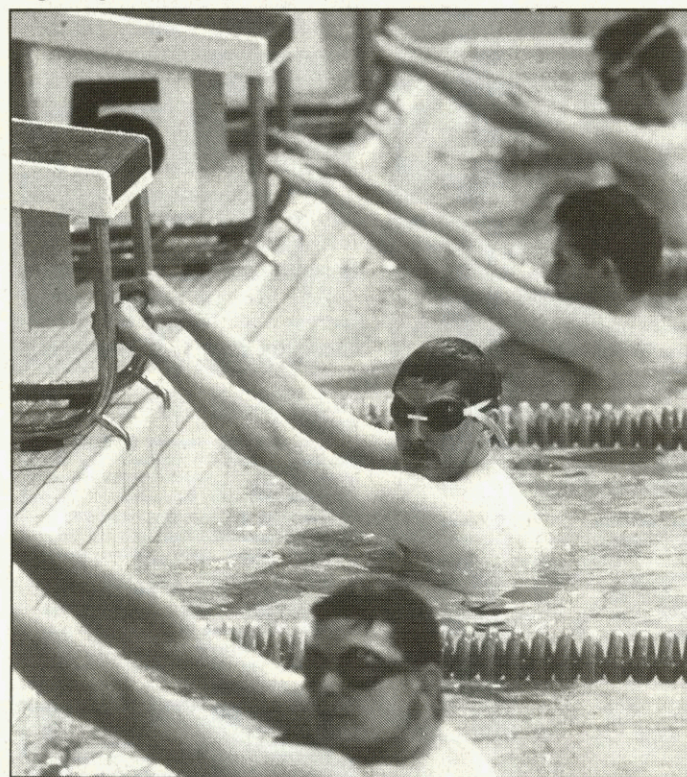
Picture: Mike Weston

LCpl Jackie Gilchrist goes clear to win the high jump on her way to the individual gold medal at the Inter-Services heptathlon championships at Aldershot. Jackie, of the Postal and Courier Depot, Mill Hill, won five out of the seven events to set a new Services record of 4,472 points. The Army women won the team event by 9,961 points to the WRAF's 8,934 and the RN women's 8,423.

The Army men easily won the decathlon team title, with Sgt Neil Killen (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) first with 6,105 points, Winter Olympics bobsleigher Cpl Mark Tout (2 RTR) second with 5,895, and Sig Trevor McSween (2 HQ and Sig Regt) third with 5,715

In the swim!

SAPPER swimmers dominated the major units competition at the Army senior championships held at Minley and Guildford, Surrey. Winners were 21 Engr Regt on 82 points, 16 ahead of sapper rivals 36 Engr Regt. And they finished well clear of third team SEE Arborfield. 1 LI were fourth.



Poised for action are the 100m backstroke finalists at the Army swimming championships. Winner was Lt Boyd of 21 Engr Regt

7 Regt AAC triumphed in the minor competition, holding off 12 Armd Wksp. Berlin HQ and Sig Regt were third.

First in the women's championships were Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, just ahead of 29 Coy WRAC and third placed 12 RSME.

The water polo final was an all-sapper affair, 21 Engr Regt beating 36 Engr Regt 15-5 to take the title. Third was SEE Arborfield and fourth 16 Sig Regt.

ARMY INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS, 1988

MEN

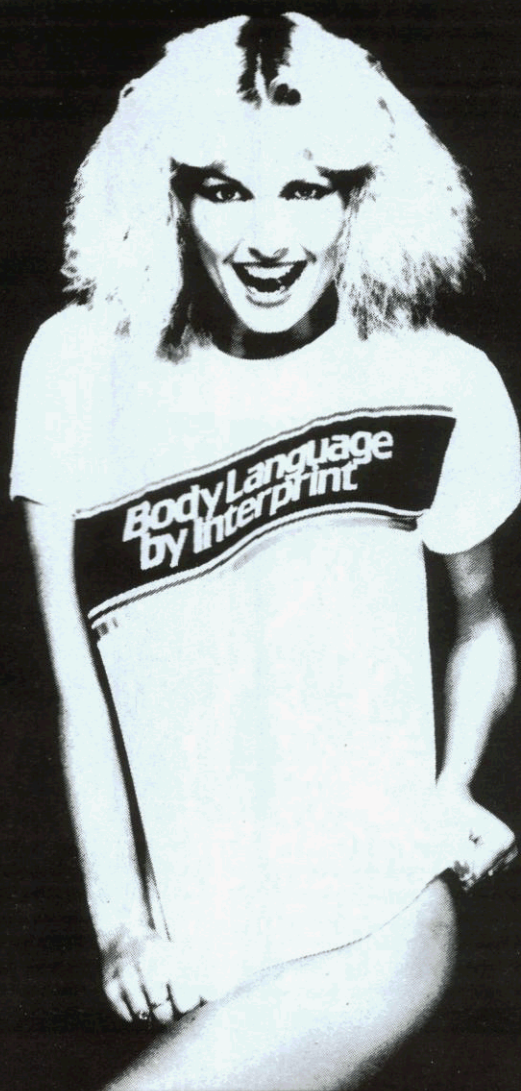
Freestyle - 66m sprint Cpl Walker (AVSD), 26.01; 100m, Cpl Walker, 56.56sec; 200m, ATCpl Taylor (Princess Marina Coll), 2.12.11; 400m, ATCpl Taylor, 4.42.08; 800m, ATCpl Taylor, 9.44.47. **Backstroke** - 100m, Lt Boyd (21 Engr Regt), 1.07.18. **Breaststroke** - 100m, LCpl Ledger (Berlin HQ and Sig Regt), 1.10.72; 200m, Spr Jones (21 Engr Regt), 3.02.99. **Butterfly** - 100m, Cpl Walker (AVSD), 1.01.83. **4 x 66m ind medley** - LCpl Melville (1 Gren Gds), 2.25.10.

WOMEN

Freestyle - 100m, Cpl Murray (2 RMP), 1.08.29; **Breaststroke** - 100m, Capt Bradley (QEMH), 1.28.84; **Backstroke** - 100m, LCpl Wild (13 Sig Regt), 1.25.12; **Butterfly** - 100m, Cpl Murray, 1.21.24; **4 x 33m ind medley** - Cpl Murray, 1.19.09.

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SOLDIER



Mt McKinley conquered

Cpl Mick Roche 4/7 DG stands triumphant on the summit of Mount McKinley in Alaska. He was one of a team of eight Army Mountaineering Association members, led by WO2 Fred Salt of 3 Regt AAC, who attempted to climb North America's highest mountain. The expedition was a tremendous success, with six out of the eight reaching the summit.

The mountain has a reputation for hostile weather and fewer than half the climbing expeditions make it to the top.

Others in the party were deputy leader WO2 Andy Holman Int Corps; Capt Dave Jackson RE; Lt Patrick Hickie RA; SSgt Mick Jennings RAMC; and LCpls Steve Wilson and Graham Green of REME.

Picture: Lt Patrick Hickie