

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 16 JUNE 1986

SOLDIER





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FRONT COVER: Lieutenant James Potts describes his pet snake as lovable. Based at Rideau in Belize, he is 2 i/c of 50 Fd Sqn (Construction) RE and will hand Fluff on to his successor. See BELIZE Special Report Page 24.

INSIDE COVER: Section Commander Lance Corporal 'Dinger' Bell leads an eight-man Queens patrol out of the jungle. His companions were Privates 'Del' Lambert, Graham Monks, Dave Ash, Mark Kingston, Dave Gibson, Richard Head and Jimmy Cooke. Both pictures: Les Wiggs

BACK COVER: A new bird's eye view of rebuilt Checkpoint Charlie, as seen from West Berlin's Friedrichsstrasse. Gone are the old concrete block chicanes, but the familiar Western Sector Allied cabins remain as points of entry. Picture: Paul Haley.

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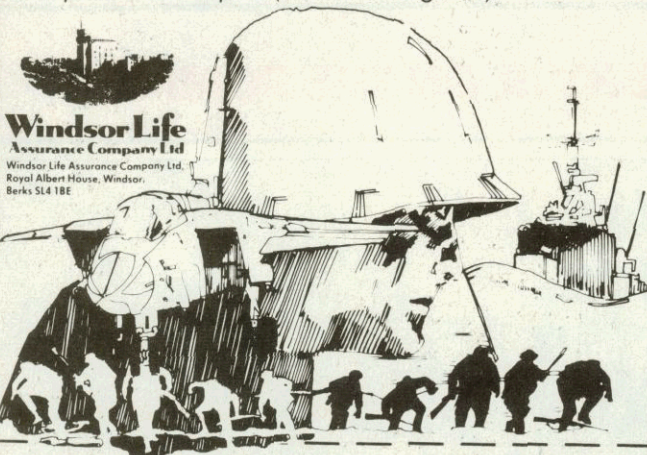
SLAUGHTER ON THE SOMME



Seventy years ago this week the Battle of the Somme erupted. Within one day 60,000 British troops were either killed or wounded, and many thousands more were to suffer the same fate in the months that followed. SOLDIER is visiting the battlefield and in its next issue sets the scene of the slaughter that was the Somme.

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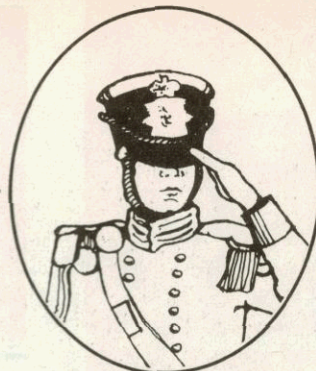
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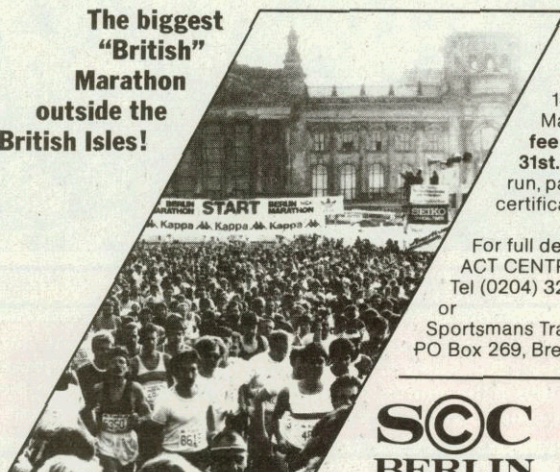
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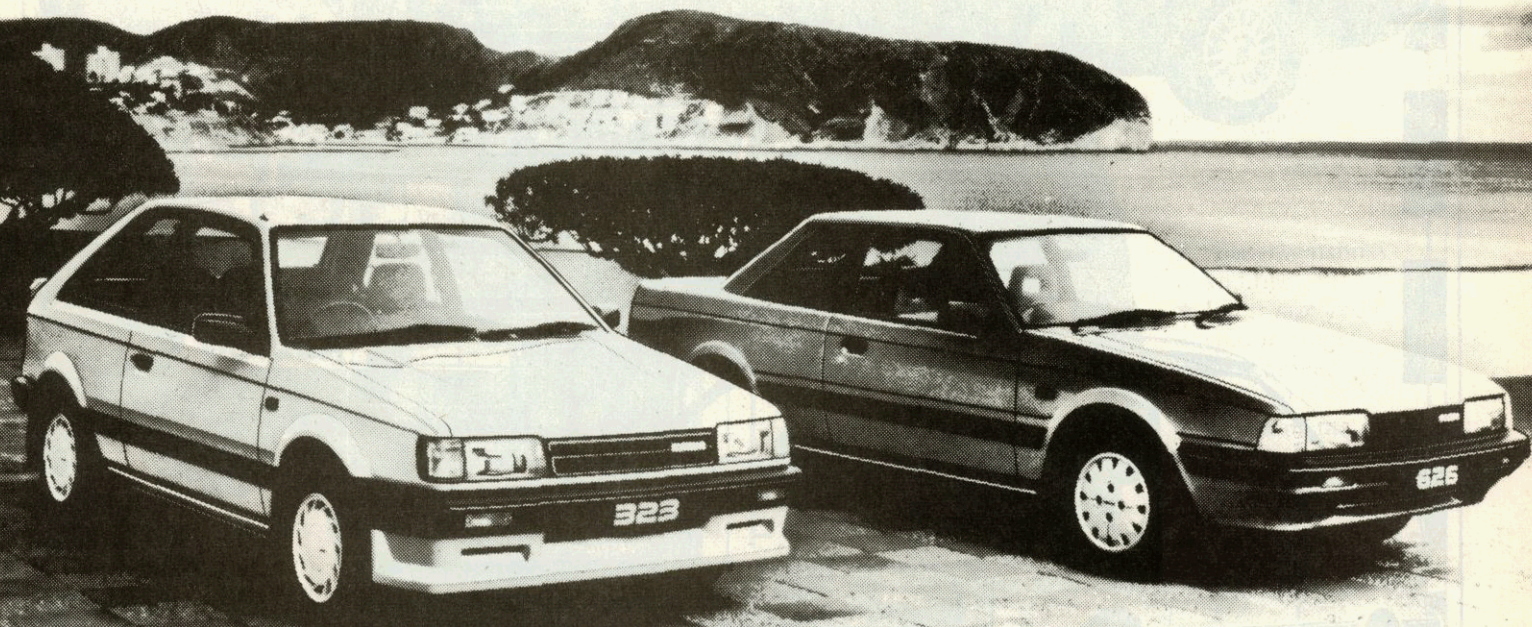
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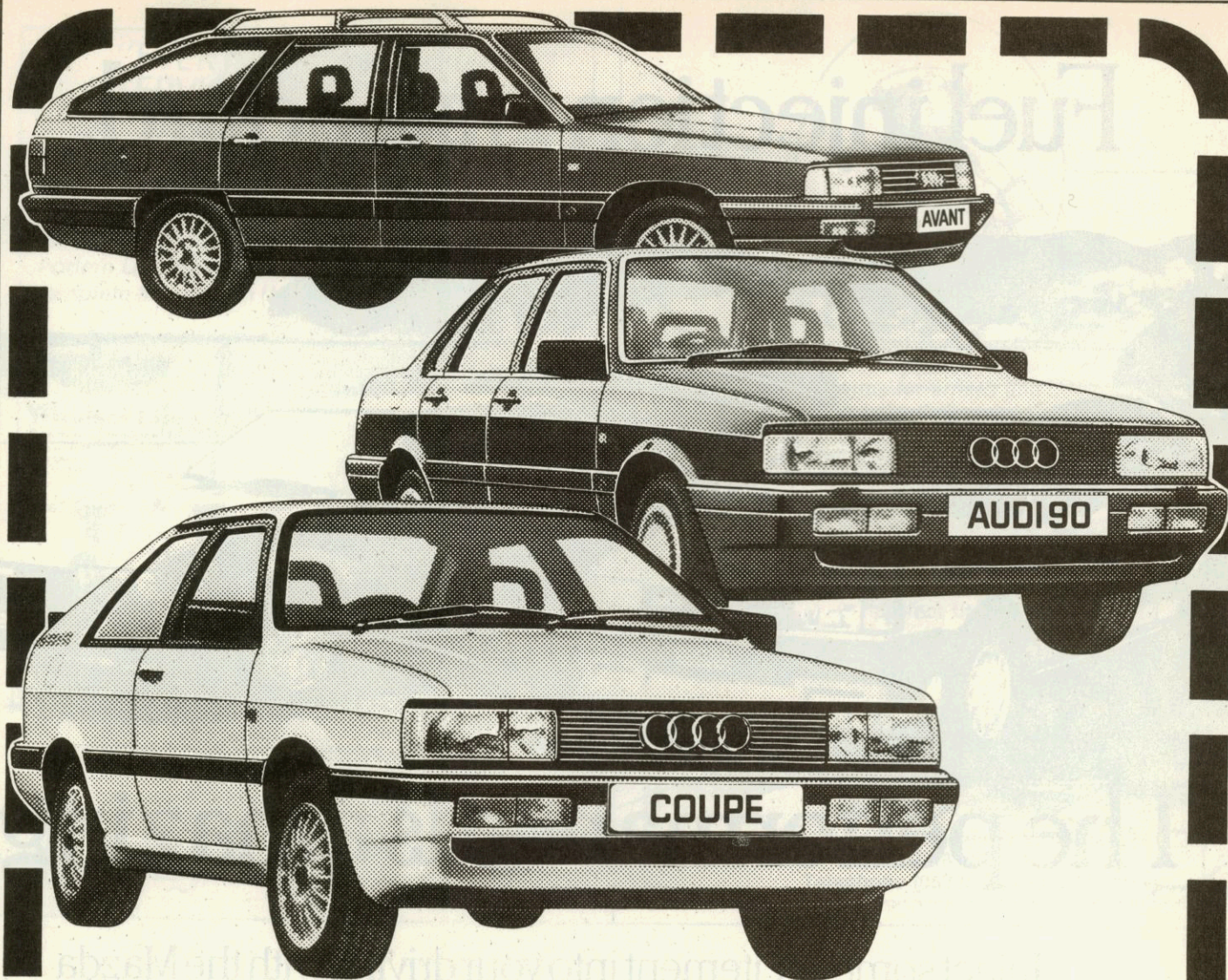
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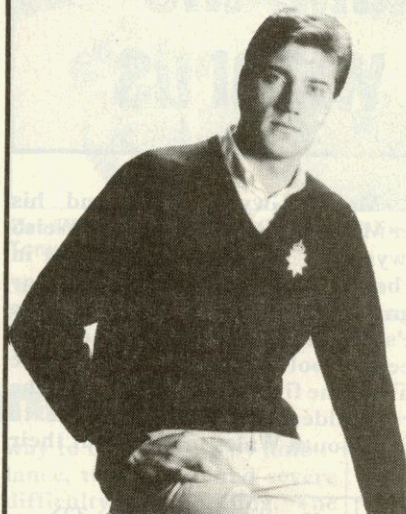
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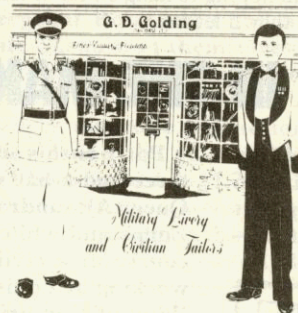
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Gwynne and Myrddin, the Welsh wizards

COLLEAGUES call Major Gwynne Hall and his watchkeeper partner Major Myrddin Davies the 'Welsh Wizards.' At 57, Gwynne — an industrial chemist in civilian life — must be one of the oldest and most senior TA majors in the Royal Signals. But far from seeking to wave goodbye to wavelengths, he's still very much 'switched on'.

As long-serving Watchkeeper Pool members, both Gwynne and Myrddin are by now part of the fixtures and fittings at the Royal Signals headquarters in Aldershot which they travel to regularly from their homes in South Wales to carry out their duties.

And retirement is one signal they don't want to tune into.

Major Hall is an ex-National Service Royal Signals officer who has been in the TA since demob from whole-time service in 1953. He's been with the same firm in Barry, Glamorgan, since he left college.

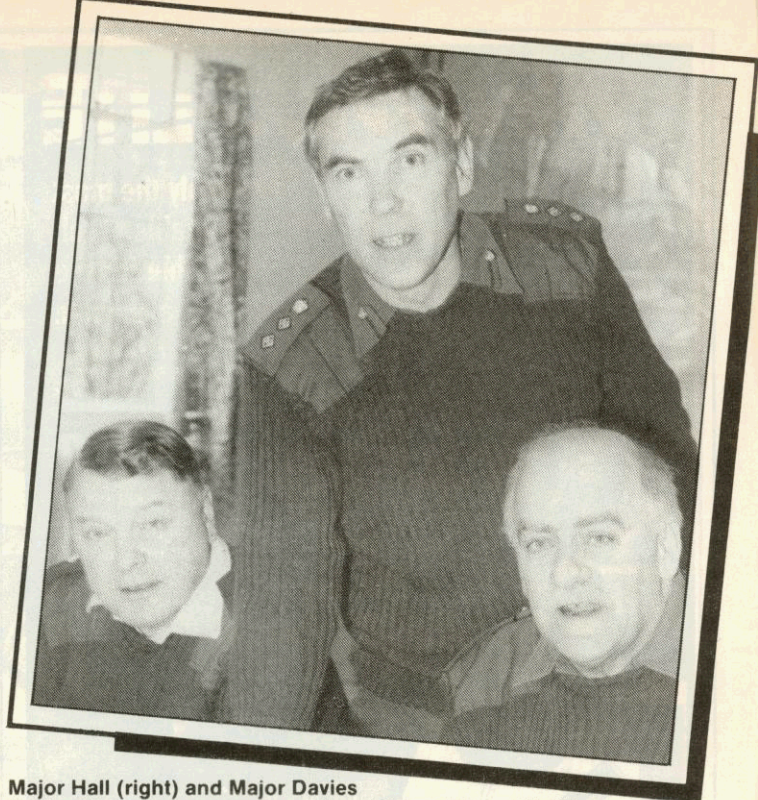
Since joining the TA he has served in just about every TA Signals appointment available, from Radio Troop Officer to Squadron Commander and Regimental Second-in-Command before coming a watchkeeper.

These appointments were all at Cardiff, Bristol, and finally at Aldershot where he has been since 1975.

He already has the TD — Territorial Decoration — awarded for 12 years' continuous service, plus the Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve Medal with Bar for a further 18 years' service with the TA.

"To achieve another bar I would have to do another six years but I don't think the Army will allow me to soldier-on that long," said Gwynne who lives at Penarth, near Cardiff.

"I wouldn't have gone on so long in the TA if I hadn't been so intensely interested," he added, "and believed in what I was doing. I'm hoping to hang on for as long as they'll let me."



Major Hall (right) and Major Davies (left) with their commanding officer, Colonel Peter Myhill

When Gwynne's pal, Major Myrddin Davies, 53, isn't in uniform, he's deputy manager at the Department of Health and Social Security in Aberdare. He's been in the civil service for 30 years.

Myrddin joined the TA in 1958, after four years' Regular RAF service followed by three years' auxiliary service with the post-war RAF Volunteer Reserve.

He originally joined the Intelligence Corps, transferring to the Royal Signals TA in 1961, and

was commissioned that same year.

He has been in the Royal Signals ever since, serving in Cardiff, with 53 (W) Signals Squadron, Royal Signals (V), and then with 55 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals, further north. He returned to Cardiff in 1974 to command 53 (W) Signal Squadron, and in 1981 took up his current appointment.

He also has the TD plus two bars — for 24 years' commissioned service, and lives at Hirwaun, Mid-Glamorgan.

MIDWIFE IN THE MAKING

Captain Patty Aucoin of the Canadian Forces Medical Services is training in the United Kingdom for something that she could not do in her own country — midwifery.

Patty is this side of the Atlantic on a three-and-a-half year exchange visit from Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and while awaiting a midwifery course at a civilian hospital has been working at Louise Margaret Maternity Wing of Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

In Patty's country — her parents live in Eastern Passage, Halifax County, Nova Scotia — demarcation, it seems, starts from the womb with only male doctors doing the deliveries where babies are concerned.

Patty is a 1980 graduate of the Halifax Infirmary School of Nursing. During the past five years she has been a nursing officer in the intensive care unit at the National Defence Medical Centre, in Ottawa, and before that was a staff nurse at Halifax Infirmary, Halifax County.

"I am flattered to have been chosen to represent the Canadian Armed Forces in my profession," she said. "Hopefully this will enhance my career in an area of nursing sought after by so many other Canadian nurses who, as yet, do not have the opportunity to train as midwives in Canada like their counterparts do in the United Kingdom."

One of her friends and colleagues at Aldershot is Lieutenant Judith Jones, a midwifery sister and a fellow-traveller in more

ways than one. For Judith, who first met and befriended Patty during basic training at the QA's Training Centre, Aldershot, is also something of a globe-trotter, having worked in the USA before joining the QAs in February.

Since she arrived in England in January Patty has already spent some time touring Wales. Now Judith, who comes from Carmarthen, South Wales, is planning to show her pal some of the beauty-spots around her home in Dyfed, when on their next leave she takes Patty on a whirlwind tour of the Principality.

Judith, who was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Girls, Carmarthen, trained as a State Registered Nurse at the Bristol and Weston School of Nursing before going on to qualify as a midwife at Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey.

She spent four months in America, working at a summer camp in the Smokey Mountain National Park, Tennessee, before taking up a midwifery appointment at the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen, where she worked until joining the QAs.

"I was looking for 'fresh fields' and new experiences, and that's why a career as a nursing officer with the Army appealed to me," said Judith, whose parents live at Waterloo Terrace, Carmarthen.

Judith's mum, also a midwife, is a senior nurse at the hospital in Carmarthen where Judith last worked.



Captain Patty Aucoin (right) and Lieutenant Judith Jones, trainee and sister

CANNON RETURNS TO WATERLOO

THE SIR TRISTRAM, survivor of the attack on Bluff Cove during the Falklands war, came to the aid of a fellow war veteran on its way home — a French cannon that had been captured by the British more than 170 years earlier at the Battle of Waterloo.

Thanks to the Royal Corps of Transport the ancient cannon, called the 'Souffisant', arrived at the docks in Antwerp nearing the end of a journey which began days before at the Tower of London.

It was because of the Corps'

historical connection with the famous battle that Corporals Ian Duffy, Paul Duggan and Bruce McLaren found themselves transporting the rather unusual cargo on the back of a four-ton truck.

Collecting the cannon from the Tower they took it to the Regiment's own military port, Marchwood in Southampton. The Sir Tristram, a Landing Ship Logistic now in full working order after it was badly damaged in the Falklands, was used to carry the



Cannon carriers, Second Officer Bob Fielder, Lt Col Stanley Simms, Sgt Tony Hooper, Cpl Ian Duffy

cannon across the Channel. At Antwerp RCT Movement Controllers unloaded the veteran and

it began the next phase of its journey to the Wellington Museum in Waterloo.

HORSES TAKE THE STRAIN

SOLDIERS IN CYPRUS have been trying out an old form of transport — horse power.

Other Nato armies, who often have large areas of mountainous terrain in their operational theatres, still maintain pack transport regiments, and the British Army has recently started training with pack horses.

In Cyprus, it was decided to see if suitable animals from the Joint Services Saddle Club at Episkopi could be trained as pack animals, and then to train members of various island-based units in the art of pack handling to provide a cadre of trained personnel.

Soldiers of 30 Regiment RCT took part in the training by instructors of the RAVC Training Centre, although an alert state forced a premature end.

Medics commended

TWO RAMC PRIVATES whose medical attention saved other men from death have been presented with GOC's Commendations by Brigadier John Wilsey.

Private Simon Leake attached to 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment, saved the life of another soldier who had fallen 40 feet and was complaining of chest pains. On the

Brigadier's surprise

Brigadier C E Van Orton, Commander of Deepcut Station, proudly watched his 19-year-old daughter Helen pass out at the end of her two-week TA recruit course at the WRAC Centre Guildford.

Little did he know that he would be presenting one of the two proficiency certificates to her after the parade — it was a very closely guarded secret right up to the time of the announcement.

Helen has only recently joined HQ RAOC as a clerk and is currently studying combined sciences at Leicester University.

way to the hospital by ambulance, the soldier had severe difficulty in breathing. The soldier's breathing stopped on four occasions but recovered again when Pte Leake gave artificial respiration and external heart massage.

Private Michael Barry was on attachment to Basingstoke ambulance service when a man cut his own throat in a public house. The man ran away but Pte Barry found him, bleeding from the jugular vein and extremely violent. Pte Barry calmed him and gave medical treatment.

THE CUBITTS STRIKE GOLD

Sergeant Bob Cubitt and his wife Susan won themselves a unique Egyptian amulet plus £250 in cash in a Benson & Hedges cigarette promotion. They found the gold amulet had been valued at £1,750.

The competition, in Naafi shops in BFG, attracted more than 20,000 entries and the Cubitts were lucky

enough to win fifth prize after correctly answering the locations of treasure hunts all over the world.

"It's the first time we've ever won anything as exciting as this" said Bob of 28 Amphib Engineers Regiment, Hamelin, "It was certainly worth hunting through all the encyclopaedias to find the answers!"

Princess at the wheel

PRINCESS ANNE took the controls of an Army trenching machine when, as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, she spent two days with 16 Signal Regiment at Krefeld and 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) at RAF Wildenrath.

It was during her visit to 21 Signal Regiment that she accepted the challenge to drive a Smalley Crab Digger and put on a dazzling display as a digger driver in a race against the Master of Signals, Major General J M W Badcock.

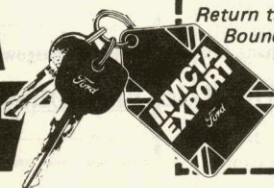
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Crackshots compete

THE 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders and its associated Territorial Army battalion, 2/51 Highland Volunteers, between them lifted every major trophy and most of the minor awards as well as the Army's most important annual Scottish shooting event.

Around 200 of Scotland's top regular and TA marksmen, including 35 teams, took part at Barry Buddon ranges, near Dundee in ASSAM — the Army in Scotland skill-at-arms meeting.

First three team places went respectively to crackshots of A, B and D Companies of the Queen's Own Highlanders, stationed in Fort George. Fourth, sixth and seventh places went to teams from 2/51 Highland Volunteers.

Top overall shot on aggregate with the various personal infantry weapons was Private Ronald Harper of the Queen's Own Highlanders from Fort George, who was also supreme rifle champion. Top TA individual shot was LCpl Roddie Martin, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and TA rifle champion was Captain John Anderson, Elgin.

IT'S OUR TANK, FRANK

TWO OLD SOLDIERS have met an old friend, a Mark VI light tank of the 1939/40 era.

The last time Cyril Clarke, aged 76, (left) from Fritwell, Oxfordshire, and Frank Taylor, 74, from Chingford, Essex, had anything to do with a Mark VI they were fighting in them during the pre-Dunkirk battles.

Cyril, a former Warrant Officer, drove the first Mark VI of his regiment into Belgium but was later captured by the Germans and Frank, a sergeant, also drove one and made it through to Dunkirk.

Both men, members of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars' Regimental Association, renewed their acquaintance with the Mark VI, which was on an outing from its museum, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne where the 15th/19th Hussars held a Freedom march with Princess Margaret, their Colonel-in-Chief, taking the salute.

Fourteen armoured vehicles of the 15th/19th Hussars roared through the city centre as the regiment exercised its Freedom rights.

Not since 1977 has the regiment held such a parade in Newcastle.



Frank, left, and Cyril, and an old friend

Later this year the 15th/19th Hussars leave Bovington for several years in Germany, and it may be ten years or more before a similar parade is held again.

A total of 250 soldiers — on horses, on foot and in tanks and armoured cars — marched past

Princess Margaret.

Marching with them were the TA — two squadrons of Northumberland Hussars, part of the Queen's Own Yeomanry — and 200 members of both regimental associations from all over the country.

TAMMY'S A STAR



Tammy, with Argyll George

Tartan Tammy, the 'military mongrel' of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has decided that the chance of understudy in a Colchester production of 'Annie', the hit musical, is too good to miss.

So while the Argylls have gone

off to Northern Ireland, Tammy has this time stayed behind.

After almost two years' experience in Ireland, all with The Argylls, Tammy recently decided that the stage is a much better place for a mother of six — one of her sons Bengie is also serving in The Argylls.

Tammy's owner, Colour Sergeant Victor Lees, whose son, George, 18, is also serving in The Argylls, said "The only time Tammy has been absent was during a tour of Cyprus when quarantine would have been too unfair. But she did stay with parents of an Argyll during that time."

Tammy beat 20 other dogs to get the part as understudy for 'Annie' in Colchester. But she takes it all in her stride. After all, anyone who can survive being the only girl amongst seven hundred kilted Highlanders needs to be a tough lady indeed.

Veterans meet

SOME 500 EX-MEMBERS of the 2nd 'Cross Keys' Division from throughout the UK mingled with those now serving in the division, at Imphal Barracks, York, at celebrations to mark the decisive part played by the division in the battle for Kohima in 1944.

Veterans of the campaign had the opportunity over the weekend to renew old friendships, look at some of the latest military equipment and weapons, enjoy military music and arena displays.

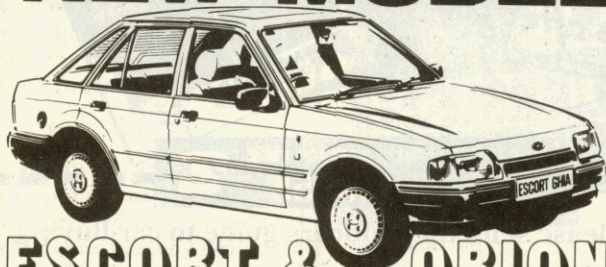
Bishop meets Abbot

THERE was a chance for the Bishop to meet the Abbot when the Bishop in Ordinary to HM Forces, the Right Reverend F J Walmsley, visited 19 Fd Regt RA.

The Bishop met several soldiers from 25 Bty and HQ Bty and had a chance to see the regiment's 105mm Abbots at close hand.

He was also shown the field artillery computer equipment in the command posts and the regimental fire direction centre.

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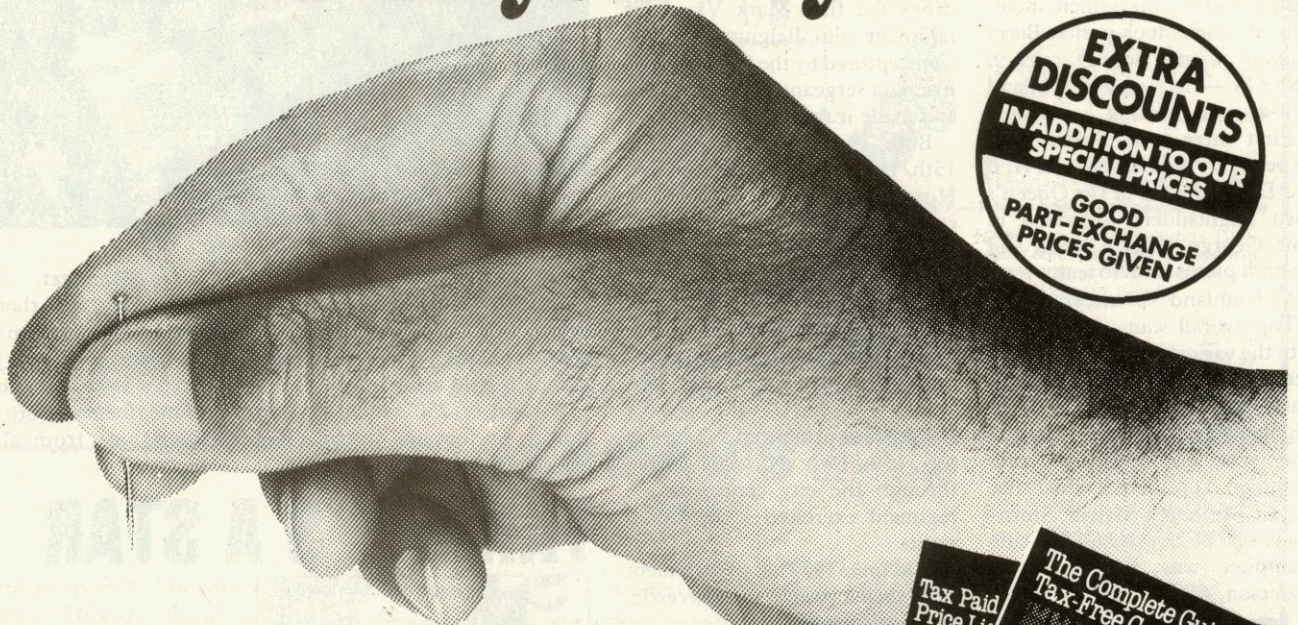
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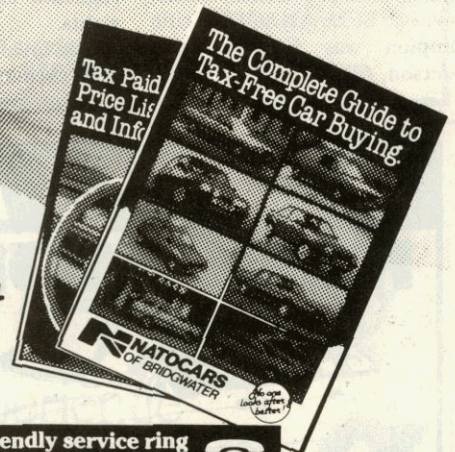
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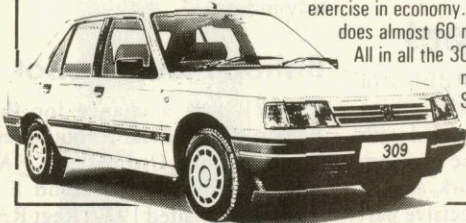
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SOLDIER to Soldier

The different languages of the NATO nations have always posed a potential communication problem for the military. But it comes as something of a surprise to learn that one of the problems is of American servicemen not understanding or speaking English.

According to a report in the American Armed Forces daily newspaper *Stars and Stripes*, at least 3,000 US soldiers in Europe have needed "English as a second language" courses during the past three years.

The language barrier arises from the fact that the American forces include soldiers from such places as Guam, the Philippines, Vietnam and Puerto Rico who apparently don't know enough English either to understand or be understood.

The US Army headquarters in Europe is reported to have spent about £1 million in the past seven years teaching its soldiers English as a second language, and it is to require all recruits whose native language is not English to take a fluency test before they enlist.

The newspaper cites the case of one driver who was told by his commander to "go back to the same place where we were yesterday", and promptly started driving back down the road in reverse. When asked what he was doing, he replied: "I driving backward to where we were yesterday..."

This is not an excuse for British soldiers with some of the broader accents to misunderstand the sergeant's orders!

★ ★ ★

At Spandau in Berlin, Rudolf Hess still languishes in captivity in his 93rd year, guarded on a rotational basis by British, American, French and Russian soldiers (see page 14 for story on British TA soldiers in Spandau).

But Spandau prison has gained itself another claim to fame as well. It has become a unique wildlife area.

Because much of the prison complex has been undisturbed by man for many years, wildlife has flourished.

A writer in the *Berlin Bulletin* tells how the prison has become the haunt of insects, other invertebrates, small mammals, birds, and in some cases larger mammals. Trees, shrubs and grasses have regenerated and spread throughout the complex.

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

There is a fairly large population of rabbits, there are mice, voles and rats, hedgehogs, weasels, possibly a polecat or pine marten, and birds of many varieties including a pair of breeding kestrels which have apparently been nesting in a window of the main building for at least two years.

They all have one advantage over the other inhabitant, of course. They have the choice whether to stay in the natural habitat of their prison "island" — or leave.

★ ★ ★

Second Battalion The Queen's Regiment started early to get acquainted with the German people, in preparation for their move to Clifton Barracks, Minden this summer.

The Queens invited a party of six west German journalists and a senior member of the Stadt from Minden to visit Oakington Barracks, near Cambridge, to see at first hand how the battalion is preparing for the move.

Particular emphasis was placed on the magnitude of the move, the importance of the training for driving in unfamiliar conditions

— and the efforts being made to learn the language.

For those who have lived with the problems of mechanised conversion and unit moves, it would be understandable to think that there was little to interest foreign pressmen in this visit. But, say the Queens, over the two-day visit the journalists were extremely interested in the battalion's training, their attitude to moving to Minden, and the problems of schooling and baggage. They were particularly interested in the training being given to APC drivers and even tried out the APCs themselves during a day at the Infantry Wing at Bordon.

The Queens found that the attitude of the German community to the garrison at Minden seems to be friendly and respectful, and concluded after the visit that a very necessary friendship with the Press and Stadt had been forged.

The visit seems to have been a very worthwhile effort to be on the best of terms with the locals at Minden right from the start.

★ ★ ★

It's 40 years since the Com-

mandos were disbanded.

In the dark days of 1940 with the German Army poised to invade Britain Winston Churchill decreed that we must hit back and three weeks later the first cross-channel raid took place.

The ideas of lightning raids by teams of tough, well trained men stealing in from the sea under cover of darkness, striking hard at the enemy, and slipping away before dawn, appeals to the traditions and temperament of a maritime nation such as the British.

In 1940 it was the only way in which the Army could impress its offensive spirit on the thousands of German soldiers guarding the European shore from Narvik to Bordeaux.

The Commandos were all picked volunteers.

They came from every regiment and corps, and from the armed forces of our allies.

In five years of war they won 38 battle honours and six Victoria Crosses.

To commemorate their disbandment, the National Army Museum in London is mounting an exhibition from July which will illustrate Commando training, tactics and organisation, and recount their raids and campaigns undertaken in Scandinavia, North West Europe, Africa, the Mediterranean and the Far East.

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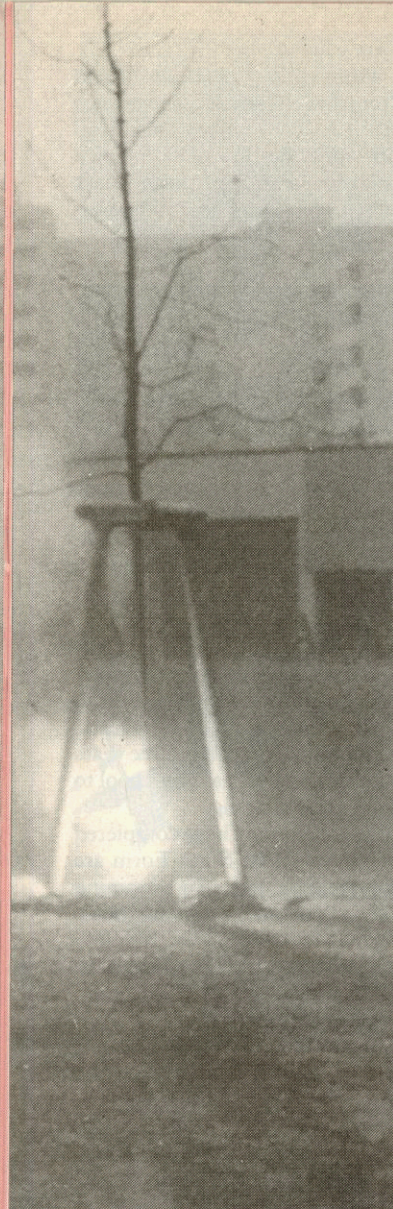


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TA SAPPERS IN THE...

Story: GRAHAM SMITH
Pictures: PAUL HALEY

SHADOW OF SPANDAU



◀ A tripwire mine is detonated

Planting a mine ▶



IN THE surface they look, talk and sound just like any other TA unit. They boast a weekly drill night attendance with, they claim, twice the attendance of the national average for an outfit of its size. They go to annual camp and they practise bridge demolitions just like their regular sapper colleagues do.

They, in this instance, comprise a young TA unit in the once-blockaded and now divided city of Berlin, surrounded by the Iron Curtain. 408 (Berlin) Field Troop (Volunteers), RE. A 30-strong squad who train just 500 metres from the famed redbrick Spandau Prison where the world's most well-attended prisoner-in-solitary, Rudolf Hess, recently celebrated his 92nd birthday.

No 408 Field Troop — one of four TA units in Germany — was set up on April 1 last year; recruiting had taken place some six months before. The unit was declared operational on October 1 after holding an annual camp at Hamelin.

◀ Classroom lecture. The academic as opposed to practical on booby traps

Currently, they number 30 but have permission to overbear to 34. They are also still seeking an officer to lead the unit; a job 'double-hatted' since its formation by Permanent Staff Instructor (PSI) Staff Sergeant Eric Scholey, 18 years in the Army and formerly with the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RE, at Dover, as an instructor.

In November next year this band of part-time sappers — three of them ex-regulars — move into a four million Deutschmark renovated block with all the facilities they need.

The volunteer soldiers are based at Smuts Barracks, Spandau, already home to the 89-strong regular unit, 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, RE (under its OC, Major Bob Sinclair) who have encouraged their spare-time sapper colleagues in their efforts.

For 408 is seen as an enhancement to the Berlin Brigade's regular Royal Engineer unit.

Most of 408's enthusiastic members have a mix of personnel just like their UK counterparts with a wide range of tradesmen. Men like former sapper Mike Gibson, 33, now a computer technician, and city dustman, 40-year-old Lance Corporal Bill Hind, formerly Army Air Corps ground-crew.

Among their motley number are a painter, four storemen, a maintenance man, a gravedigger, teacher, BMW mechanic, electronics technician, carpenters and a plumber.

Annual turnover among the men

is about seven a year. They get the same pay as a UK TA soldier, but not LOA. They also get a bounty and are currently a 'bit sore' about being taxed on their pay.

All put in two weekends during most months. All are going to be trained as qualified combat engineers. Most will be helped by their previous military service experience or family associations with the military to achieve success in the planned training modules.

Basic training skills such as lashings, the use of simple hand tools, leading up to work with explosives in the realm of bridge demolitions, mine warfare and field defences. They will also do watermanship training and be involved in familiarisation with Medium Girder Bridge (MGB) work.

Some of these engineering modules, said one regular, could be achieved in a weekend.

Once they have acquired proficiency in their skills 408 (Berlin) Field Troop would become an extra sapper troop under the command of 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron in war.

This would give vital extra manpower in addition to the help already on hand from Assault Pioneers serving with the three resident infantry battalions.

Yet the engineering tasks and drills for the Berlin volunteer sappers are clearly identifiable.

As Major Sinclair said: "The men get some sense of identity themselves because they know they are a here for a specific purpose.

There does tend to be a quick turnover in Berlin because of work and family reasons. People leave. The initial selection in late 1984 was strict. In all, 110 men applied. Twenty-five were accepted.

"Enthusiasm is a volatile thing. It's there one moment and can dribble away quite quickly. This has been particularly noticeable in a small unit. Our TA men meet every Tuesday and usually put in 14 to 16 training weekends each year. Last year's summer camp was at Hamelin. The next will be at Vogelsang.

"It's important to get the men out of Berlin, rather like getting people away to camp. It's good for morale.

"There was some difficulty in the initial stages keeping up people's enthusiasm. They didn't expect to pay UK tax because they were working outside the UK. We are hoping to write direct to the tax authorities asking why the men are paying tax and if they will get a rebate. But they are not in the TA in Berlin to make money."

Lance Corporal Mike Gibson, former sapper and out of the Army for 12 years, the computer technician said: "I left the sappers when stationed at Hamelin. The Army has changed completely since I was in. I'm learning new things all the time. Things like off-route mines, booby traps and their combination switches. I speak German but coming to drill nights keeps me in communication with other British people in the city."

continued on page 16

Staff Sergeant Scholey — he is off to Brunei eventually — said: "They belong to a unique TA unit here in Berlin surrounded by the Iron Curtain."

"Not only that but they are getting a renovated block in November next year and they

already have their own vehicles. Three 4-tonne lorries, three ¼-ton Land Rovers and trailers."

Visitors to the Berlin part-time sapper unit are frequent. They have included a dozen-strong deputation from the House of Lords!

But the TA Royal Engineers

growth in Germany does not stop there. Another, 410 Plant Troop (Volunteers), Royal Engineers, is currently being formed at Osnabrück.

Yet another TA unit, this time one comprising signallers, is also recommended for Berlin; for an

officer and 22 men.

Meanwhile, 408 (Berlin) Field Troop has already reached its own and, as yet, minor historical milestone. Berlin reaches its own major chapter in world history next year. Celebrating its 750th anniversary.

EARNING WHILE LEARNING IN BERLIN



Sharon Tucker: with PI branch

BERLIN, it seems, is not only a coveted posting for Army and RAF personnel. The fascinating, sophisticated city which caters for everything from the crass to the cultured is one where youngsters of Service dependants have been getting a sort of chance-in-a-lifetime of job training during the past four years.

Nearly 140 of them since Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) which started it all off in October 1982 to the current two-year Youth Training Scheme (YTS) which is now in force.

Not only job experience but job opportunities have come the way of some of the teenagers who have been earning-while-learning in the divided city.

One of eight YTS centres — the other seven are in BAOR known as The Zone — the Berlin scheme presently caters for a dozen youngsters, nine girls and three boys involved in any one of the ten possible chosen training programme disciplines.

The annual average for the city, 104 miles into the East German hinterland, has been 15 candidates.

There has been only one girl who failed to respond adequately to the challenge of the YTS offer.

Employment success for the teenagers, all of whom must be unemployed school-leavers with military or UK-based civilian parents stationed in Berlin, has been good.

In the twelve months ended this May, for instance, 12 out of 32 trainees left to take up full-time work. Six left the British sector on parents' posting and just two still found themselves out of work.

Training co-ordinator Mrs Jenny Potter, wife of Major Guy Potter, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, explained: "Certainly the girls training here have a very good chance of finding a job. We check all trainees' progress every four weeks to see how much they have achieved."

"They are not prisoners of the scheme and are encouraged to go out for job interviews provided they don't apply for them without having a chance. But interviews in themselves are good experience."

The Berlin scheme, in common with that in BAOR, also offers off-the-job training. This ranges from health and safety seminars to the care of horses (the latter, courtesy of the Saddle Club). From computer course, typing and word processing to office practice.

"All get a chance to work for and towards specific qualifications such as the RSA for clerical attainment or the City and Guilds series of tests," said Mrs Potter. "All students are given assessment reports every four weeks and finally leave with a Certificate of Achievement at the end of their time."

Berlin, she said, had an added bonus for the youngsters in the form of its excellent public transport system. Many had been asked to apply for jobs in the city.

Mrs Potter added: "The youngsters get known. Work placement is within their reach. In the Zone I think it's quite difficult. The ten-programme scheme is as much as would be possible in Germany."

"Some are very wide like community health services, hotel and catering services. Others have local advantages like Edinburgh House, the Services' hotel, the British Military Hospital and BFBS for the media services scheme."

Mrs Potter is well qualified in the latter. She was executive marketing director for the Egon Ronay organisation and once worked for the English Tourist Board's publicity and promotions department.

"The YTS provides a planned programme of work experience and high quality training, offering both

the opportunity to acquire a wide variety of skills needed both at work and in the world outside," she said. "The YTS does not guarantee a job but it does increase the chances of getting and keeping a job."

Young people who have left full-time education before completion of a full two years in the Sixth Form are entitled to two years' YTS training and have three years from the time of leaving school to finish their training.

Teenagers who have completed two years in the Sixth Form are eligible for a year's YTS training and have 18 months from school-leaving time to finish their training.

One of the YTS trainees in Berlin is 19-year-old Sharon Tucker, step-daughter of Sergeant Willie Duncan who is in the QM stores with the resident 1st Battalion. The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment).

Sharon opted for the media services side of training with particular interest in photography. She started out as a "cub" reporter, proof reader, production member and occasional "snapper" or photographer on the Berlin Bulletin (circulation 4,500 serving the Services community).

She had taken 'A' levels in English literature and sociology. "I was not quite sure whether to go to college or get a job," she said. "The YTS seemed the only alternative. I joined the Bulletin for a few months acquiring the usual editorial skills and now I am working with the Public Information branch."

In August, Sharon moves on yet again. This time possibly to the Resources Centre, part of the Army Education Centre set-up in its realm of printing, reproduction and small binding facility.

After that? More "exciting projects are planned for Sharon," said Mrs Potter.

Sharon's military placement sponsor was Command Education Officer Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Horsfall, Royal Army Educational Corps. He said of his protégée: "We shall miss Sharon when she leaves. She is very reliable. Very competent. She has a lot of ideas. Whatever she is given to do she gets on with it."

RECOGNITION IS VITAL



KEEN SIGHT and a surefire reaction time of four seconds are just two of the respective natural and highly-tutored talents required of any self-respecting ground-based air defence operator using nothing but his own eyes and an instant recall memory to make an unerring decision. Is that incoming fighter friendly or hostile?

Not easy. Not an enviable task identifying, for certain, the exact type of ground attack fighter hurtling towards you head on at tree-top level and eight miles a minute. Positive identification of its intentions has to be made with crystal clear confidence at 1,000 metres!

Error and mis-identification have been two of the biggest — and saddest — burdens of aircraft recognition since the ever increasing sophisticated development of high-speed aerial warfare with bombs, rockets or machine gun fire strafing targets with precision.

As often as not the incoming marauder cannot be heard. It was difficult, too, during the Second

World War when, for instance, 16 of our venerable Beaufighters were shot down by our own air defences. One was shot down by another Beaufighter. In all, 19 pilots died because of hesitant-yet-hasty identification.

During the Arab/Israeli War, the Egyptians later admitted that 30 per cent of their aircraft were downed by their own surface to air missiles (SAMs). During the Falklands conflict at least two Argentinian aircraft suffered the same horrifying fate at the faltering minds and hands of their own AD operators.

Technology in the world of air defence is ever improving and entering a new dimension. That of thermal imagery identification. The onerous task of positive aircraft identification by its heat emissions.

Down at the Royal School of Artillery's Air Defence Wing, Larkhill, they have long accepted that the development of air defence self-preservation techniques forms part of a healthy growth industry. And it's getting tougher. Quicker demands in fleeting seconds of assimilation.

The AD Wing runs courses for instructors, young officers, senior ranks gunnery courses and officer gunnery career courses. The Gurkhas have been put through their paces, too, in the well-endowed training room.

A room split into two. One with all manner of aircraft dangling in suspended flight from the ceiling backed by dozens of table-top recognition publications and Warsaw Pact AFVs parked in showcases.

The whole enterprise and much of its success is largely due to the efforts over the past three years of Staff Sergeant Jim Rimmer, Royal Artillery, an instructor who puts maximum enthusiasm and interest into his classroom presentations.

Not only is he an expert on

Staff Sgt Jim Rimmer shows a key view picture to one of several students in the training room

aircraft — he has 150 models on hand — but AFVs as well. For aircraft, students are trained initially on key views and end up with 1,000-metre target objectives made possible by the use of calibration slides. For AFVs, students are trained on slides backed up by video tests and diorama with 1/100 scale models.

His basic and advanced courses are held over five working days. Fun learning is injected into a serious subject. Lectures are sprinkled with competitions and others have a bingo-card type of format questionnaire to keep that vital interest on the boil.

Look-alike or "joker" aircraft are introduced at suitable slots in the tutorials on the same basis. The advanced student instructors have to identify up to 40 aircraft on 80 slides; the basic course candidates just half that number by proportion.

There is a degree of leniency during the intense bouts of split-second concentration. Students are allowed a ten per cent non-recognition of type.

"This does not force them to make a decision they are not absolutely sure about," said Staff Sgt Rimmer. "Why shouldn't the man on the ground using his naked eye have the same choice as the man using an AD system fitted with IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) which takes all the guesswork away. A man on the ground does not have that benefit."

Each of his 40-minute lessons deals with just two aircraft. Experience has shown that is about as much as a student can take in. Gone are the old days of aircraft recognition involving 20 main features taken on an airframe from front to rear.

Nowadays it is just three main features. This gives the students time to write them down.

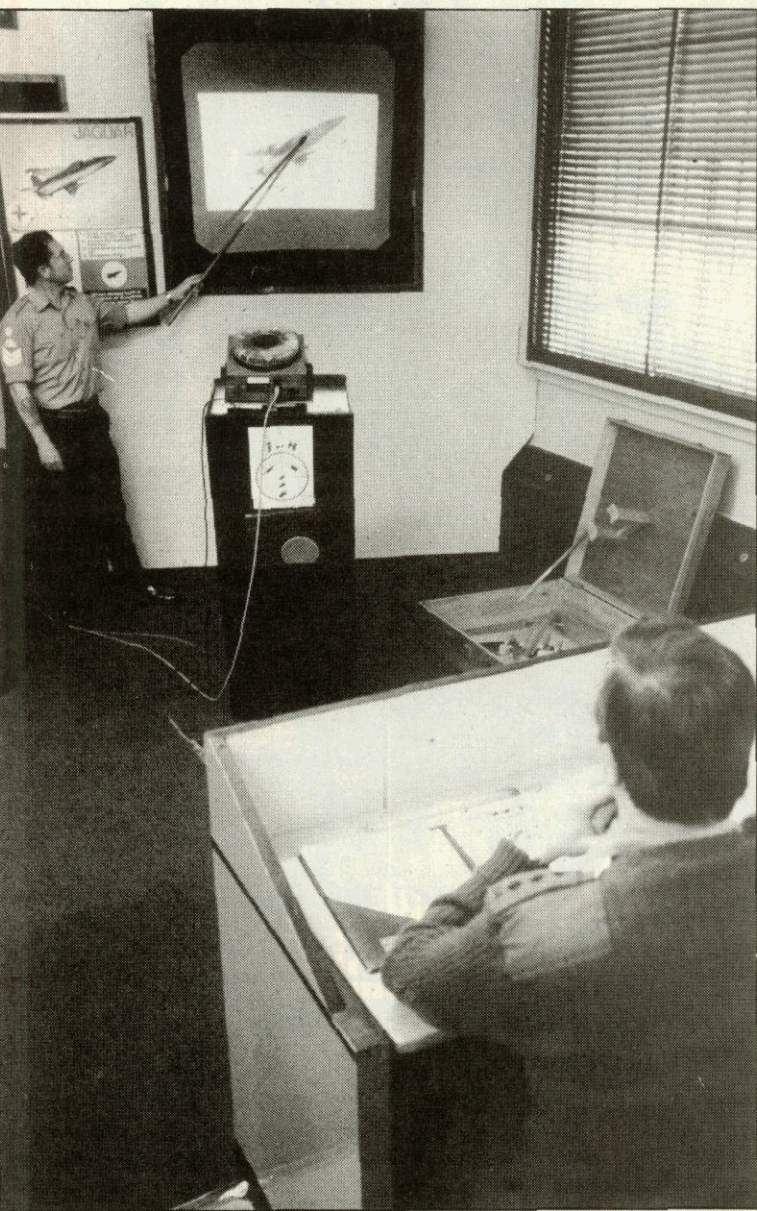
"For the identification of AFVs we expect 100 per cent results but allow them to mis-identify 25 per cent of them by name," said Staff Sgt Rimmer. "But it's not as difficult as it seems. It just takes practice. In my three years here I have had just one failed student."

His well-subscribed classroom is host to at least one TA unit a year. The Gurkhas, he said, were "very keen." Unable to pronounce their names, they were allocated numbers!

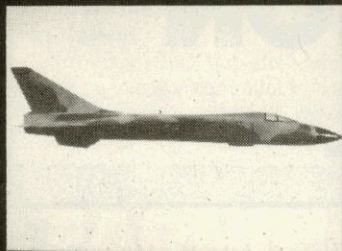
continued on page 18



A MiG 21 'Fishbed' seen through the cross-hairs of an aiming device



HOW GOOD IS YOUR AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION?



a



b



c



d

These are four identification slides which might be shown to students at Larkhill, with just a few seconds to supply the answers. To check your own skill, see the end of this story on p19.

In the early days of AD aircraft and AFV recognition batches of Airfix models were bought in. Later, the RAF's Joint Air Reconnaissance Interpretation Centre at Brampton helped out with Warsaw Pact models.

A progression from that valuable help was the making of the requisite models on the premises, as it were. Current modelmaker is Mr Phil Freemantle. A man who says he has "more than two years, work" in hand, and a artisan deft at his craft who makes miniature furniture for a hobby.

One of his latest creations from line drawings only was the Soviets' latest gunship the Havoc or Mi-28, which has been likened to the American Apache. Another likely type to pass through his workshop in time is the Soviet T-80 tank.

Wonders are achieved with the models. Weapon loads, for instance, can be added to them. Clever camera techniques used by a contracted London firm simulate target objectives of 1,000 metres and even half of that for slides

purposes.

The aircraft are filmed from differing angles and against differing backgrounds. Many visual aids of the past were unsatisfactory in many ways, according to Staff Sgt Rimmer.

"Backgrounds used to be cluttered, distracting from the aircraft and its main features. These are kept vague now so that students

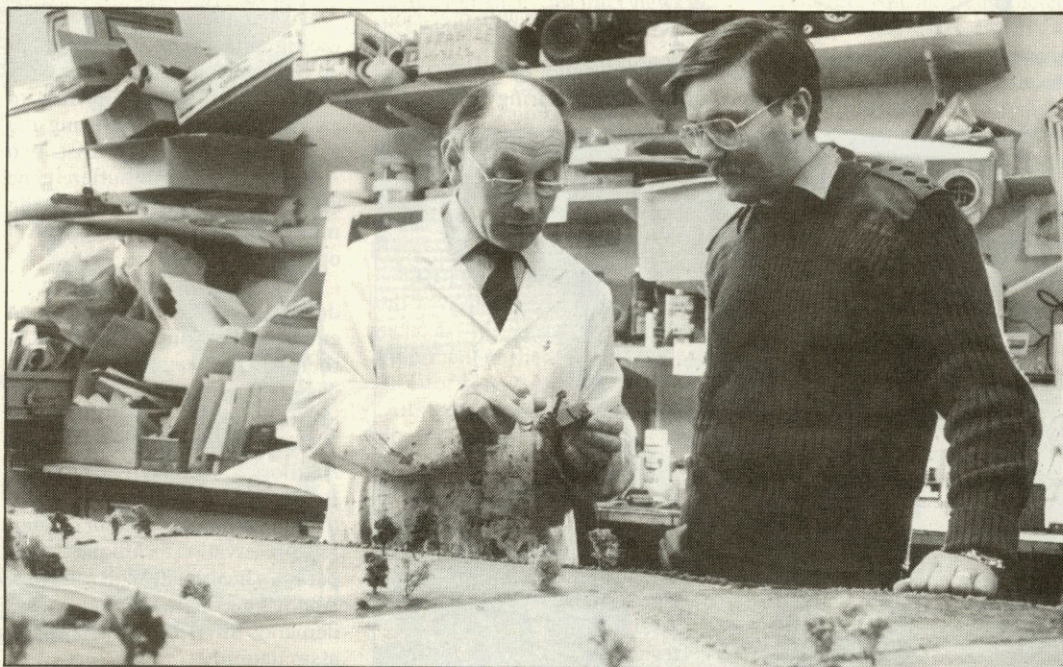
will not associate the aircraft with a particular background. We had one, for instance, of four Mirage 11s passing over Sydney Bridge. The bridge took their attention from the aircraft.

"Another was a Harrier near a small wood. This was a bad combination of ideas because of the traditional link between the aircraft and its hide. Students really

have to concentrate now."

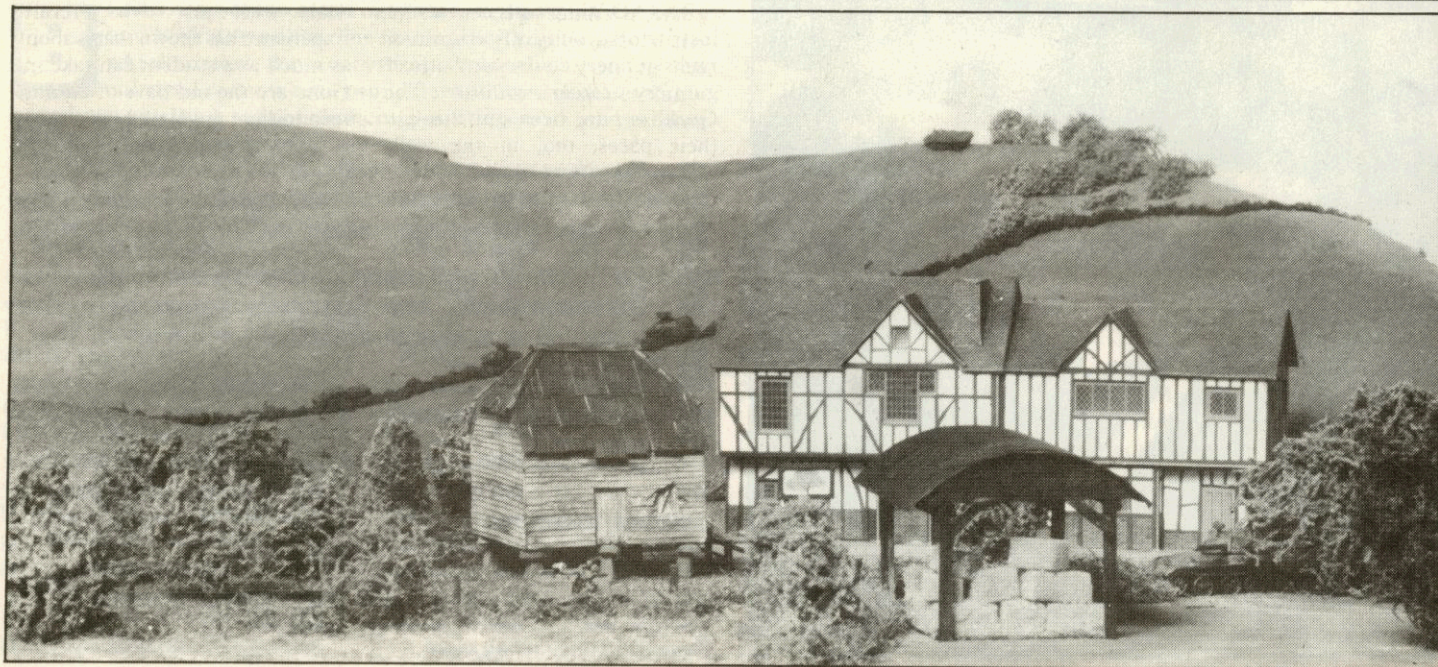
Around him, as he spoke, were his training "theatre" aids. Overhead 16mm film projectors, two TV screens incorporating CCTV, posters — these drawn by the resident graphics section — video cassettes, posters, boxes of assorted slides, tapes, tape recorders, spotlights and the master console.

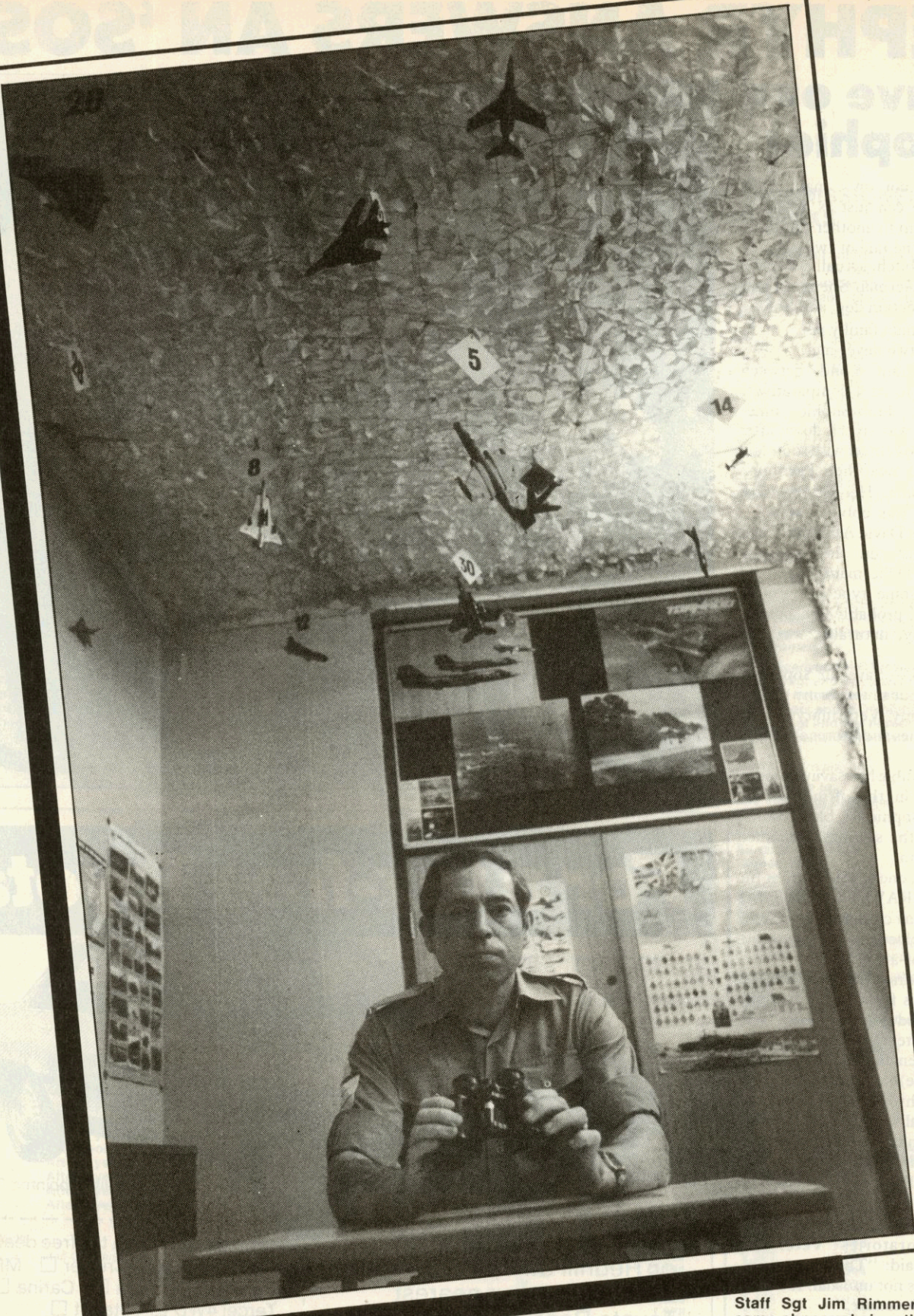
"Videos of aircraft in flight are



Modelmaker Mr Phil Freemantle discussing a diorama model with Captain Jay Tate of the Air Defence Wing, Larkhill

A model diorama with fine AFVs. How many can you spot? ▼





Staff Sgt Jim Rimmer beneath some abnormal air activity in his training room

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Terry Champion

WERE YOU RIGHT?

The answers from page 18 are
a. The Key View of Soviet Su-24 Fencer. b. Key view of the American F-111. c. The Soviet Fencer. d. Its American look-alike the F-111. Just four seconds to spot for sure at 1 km!

popular with the students,” said Staff Sgt Rimmer. “It’s much more of interest to see the real things flying around though we do have up to 90 slides on some aircraft showing varying profiles and manoeuvres.”

Such is the quest for improved skill in speed, distance and target acquisition judgment that even the two rows of classroom benches are in “scaled calibration” from the lecturer and his equipment in front

of the students.
 With so many Warsaw Pact and even Nato aircraft looking alike — the F-111 and the F-4 Phantom or the F-15 Eagle and the MiG-25 Foxbat — that four-second exposure to the air defender is not an easy one.
 If an aircraft streaking towards you at 450 knots has an air intake filling the width and depth of its nose then...get ready to duck. It’s hostile!

ZEPHYR ANSWERS AN 'SOS'

(Save our Sophie)

DOG IS not only man's best friend. He can just as easily be such a chum to another canine.

This is the tale of two dogs. A dog and a bitch, actually. Zephyr the black German Shepherd and Army protection dog, and Sophie the Doberman family pet.

Yet the two never met.

The distant bond between them was to be a comparatively short one. For Sophie, nine-years-old, was struck down after coming into contact with some laid rat poison near her Farnham, Surrey home. Her bright-eyed, active life was ebbing away.

Local vet David Ashworth ruled out pleurisy on the suddenly sickened Dobermann but did diagnose some type of virulent poisoning, probably rat poison. The family, naturally, was distraught.

An SOS — Save our Sophie — call went out to the Army and its Royal Army Veterinary Corps Laboratories and Stores at nearby Aldershot.

One possible life-saving remedy remained in the offing for the stricken Sophie. A blood transfusion to the seemingly doomed Dobermann.

Zephyr, one of four dogs at the Aldershot RAVC Labs and Stores section, was chosen to give some of his blood. In all, three-quarters-of-a-pint.

It was extracted from two shaved areas of his front legs. The four-year-old did not even flinch.

He is, after all, a protection dog. One nomenclature as 'Security (Arm True)'.

Vet Ashworth and blood bag with revitalising agent in it hurtled back down the Aldershot by-pass system to link up with the fretting family in Farnham.

But sadly, Sophie died.

Captain Andrea Gallard, RAVC, the Laboratories' Veterinary Officer, said: "The blood transfusion was not unusual. It's fairly routine procedure."

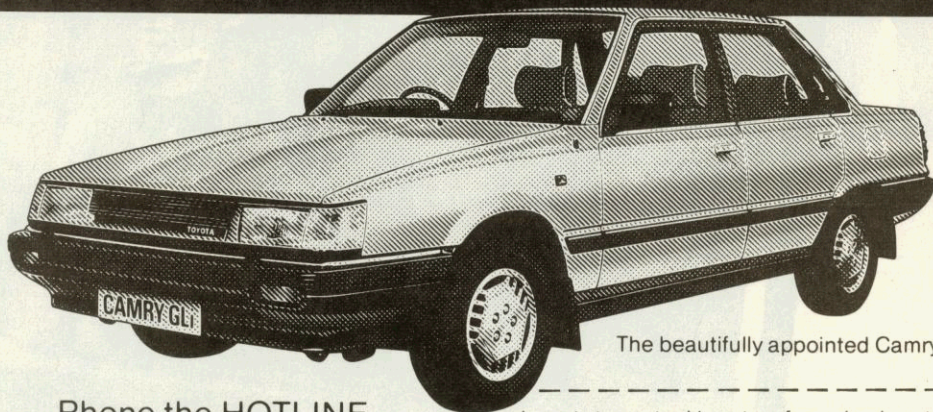
And what is the difference between an 'Arm True' dog and a guard dog?

Captain Gallard explained: "Zephyr is really a protection dog and trained in this role of security to go for the arm. A guard dog ... bites."

Picture shows: Handler Private Nigel Brown, Zephyr the donor, and Captain Andrea Gallard, RAVC, Veterinary Officer



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Home Tel No. _____

TOYOTA

That's motoring

Words:
Graham Smith

YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

FROM 1 JULY 1986

SOLDIERS — MALE

	Less than 6 years			
	Scale B			
	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	
	£	£	£	
Private Class 4	14.45	—	—	
Private Class 3	15.69	18.09	—	
Private Class 2	17.29	19.69	—	
Private Class 1	18.66	21.06	23.63	
Lance Corporal Class 3	18.66	21.06	—	
Lance Corporal Class 2	20.00	22.40	—	
Lance Corporal Class 1	21.41	23.81	26.38	
Corporal Class 2	22.92	25.32	—	
Corporal Class 1	24.53	26.93	29.50	

	Less than 6 years			
	Scale B			
	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
	£	£	£	£
Sergeant	26.83	29.47	32.31	—
Staff Sergeant	28.54	31.18	34.02	37.09
Warrant Officer Class 2	30.51	33.15	35.99	39.06
Warrant Officer Class 1	32.64	35.28	38.12	41.19

(Rates for Servicewomen may be calculated by multiplying male rates by 0.9772727).

MALE OFFICERS COMMISSIONED FROM THE RANKS

Years of commissioned service Lieutenants and captains only	Years of soldier service		
	under 12	12 but under 15	15 and over
	Daily rate of pay	Daily rate of pay	Daily rate of pay
	£	£	£
On commissioning	39.29	41.29	43.29
After 1 years service	40.29	42.29	44.04
After 2 years service	41.29	43.29	44.79
After 3 years service	42.29	44.04	45.54
After 4 years service	43.29	44.79	46.29
After 5 years service	44.04	45.54	47.04
After 6 years service	44.79	46.29	47.79
After 8 years service	45.54	47.04	48.54
After 10 years service	46.29	47.79	48.54
After 12 years service	47.04	48.54	48.54
After 14 years service	47.79	48.54	48.54
After 16 years service	48.54	48.54	48.54

MALE OFFICERS — MAIN SCALE

	Daily rate of pay	£
Second Lieutenant (UC)	On appointment	14.69
Second Lieutenant (UC)	After 1 years service	16.46
Second Lieutenant (UC)	After 2 years service	18.24
Second Lieutenant (UC)	After 3 years service	20.25
Second Lieutenant (SSLC)	On commissioning	16.52
Second Lieutenant (SSLC)	After 9 months commissioned service	17.64
Second Lieutenant	—	22.02
Lieutenant	On appointment	28.57
	After 1 year in the rank	29.32
	After 2 years in the rank	30.07
	After 3 years in the rank	30.82
	After 4 years in the rank	31.57
Captain	On appointment	36.04
	After 1 year in the rank	37.01
	After 2 years in the rank	37.98
	After 3 years in the rank	38.95
	After 4 years in the rank	39.92
	After 5 years in the rank	40.89
	After 6 years in the rank	41.86
Major	On appointment	45.81
	After 1 year in the rank	46.95
	After 2 years in the rank	48.09
	After 3 years in the rank	49.23
	After 4 years in the rank	50.37
	After 5 years in the rank	51.51
	After 6 years in the rank	52.65
	After 7 years in the rank	53.79
	After 8 years in the rank	54.93
Lieutenant Colonel (Special List)	—	62.56
Lieutenant Colonel	O/A with less than 19 years service	63.19
	After 2 years in rank or with 19 years service	64.85
	After 4 years in rank or with 21 years service	66.51
	After 6 years in rank or with 23 years service	68.17
	After 8 years in rank or with 25 years service	69.83
Colonel	On appointment	73.19
	After 2 years in the rank	75.12
	After 4 years in the rank	77.05
	After 6 years in the rank	78.98
	After 8 years in the rank	80.91
Brigadier	—	88.11

·UC = University Cadet

SSLC = Short Service Limited Commission

MALE OFFICERS OF THE QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

	Daily rate of pay	£
Captain and Major	On appointment	43.29
	After 1 years service	44.04
	After 2 years service	44.79
	After 3 years service	45.54
	After 4 years service	46.29
	After 5 years service	47.04
	After 6 years service	47.79
	After 8 years service	48.54
	After 10 years service	49.29
	After 12 years service	50.04
	After 14 years service	50.79
	After 16 years service	51.54
Lieutenant Colonel	On appointment	58.08
	After 3 years in the rank	58.90

ADDITIONAL PAY

Officer Pilots and Flying Instructors	£	Special Air Service Regiment (including personnel of the SAS Signal Squadron filling posts that are annotated 'must be SAS trained').	£
While under training	1.86	All Officers and WO1 lower rate	8.98
All ranks lower rate	5.86	WO2, SSgt and Sgt lower rate	7.19
2 Lt-Lt Col Higher rate	9.00	Cpl and below lower rate	5.85
Colonel	6.76	All Officers and WO1 higher rate	12.58
Brigadier	4.50	WO2, SSgt and Sgt higher rate	10.79
		Cpl and below higher rate	9.42
Soldier Pilots and Flying Instructors and REME Servicing Test Pilots	£	Northern Ireland Pay	£
All ranks while under training	1.86	All ranks up to and including Brigadier	2.45
Lower rate	3.81		
Higher rate	5.86		
Parachutists (other than Gurkhas)	£	Hard Lying Money	£
All ranks	2.02	All ranks lower rate	0.70
		Higher rate	1.40
Parachute Jumping Instructors	£	Falkland Islands Pay	£
All ranks	2.69	All ranks	2.45
Air Despatch Pay	£	Gurkha Service Pay for Regular Officers of Gurkha Rifle Regiments	£
While under training lower rate	1.86	Lieutenant Colonel and above	3.10
Higher rate	3.01	Major	2.70
Royal Corps of Transport, Helicopter Crews	£	Captain	2.30
All ranks aircrewmén	1.86	Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant	1.95
All ranks while under training	1.86		
Lower rate	3.81	Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst	£
Higher rate	5.86		3.07

ANNUAL ACCOMMODATION CHARGES MARRIED QUARTERS

Type	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
	£	£	£	£
Oftrs I	2,712	2,456	1,938	1,358
II	2,435	2,201	1,737	1,215
III	2,161	1,953	1,544	1,080
IV	1,869	1,690	1,336	934
V	1,639	1,486	1,172	821
ORs DWO	1,278	1,157	912	639
C	1,142	1,033	818	573
B	1,022	923	730	511
A	683	617	489	343

SINGLE ACCOMMODATION

	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
	£	£	£	£
Oftrs Maj and above	1,080	978	770	540
Capt and below	909	821	650	456
ORs WO/SNCO	642	580	456	321
Cpl and below	347	314	248	172
Young Svcman	259	234	186	131

NEW FOOD CHARGES (WEEKLY RATES)

Single MUA	All ranks	15.68
	All ranks	8.00

IN MY VIEW

It was not long after I started writing in SOLDIER in 1975 that I received my first two letters, one from a wife and one from a single soldier.

The wife wrote about a discrepancy in hand-over charges, the single soldier about the baggage allowances he received when he moved from UK to Germany. Now, ten years on, the

mailbag and 'phone calls have increased substantially covering a wide variety of subjects — but the top ten subjects have not varied significantly. Last year housing, DHSS benefits, allowances, employment, school leavers, education, medical and personal matters featured regularly.

My postbag is filled with such letters. The ones which worry me most are the anonymous ones; also those who have been unable to find or seek help from other sources.

"Are all the letters genuine?" I am often asked. They most certainly are.

The most worrying aspect

Never take no for an answer

is that the writers have a fear that their identity will be discovered — that in writing to SOLDIER there will be repercussions both for husband and wife.

I have to keep a totally confidential line. That is why in published letters the barest minimum of personal information is given. If asked to disclose personal details, I refuse to give them. This is not always understood, and is the reason why I am writing this piece.

Of course it all comes down to sensitivity in the main by those in positions of authority. A criticism or a suggestion should not be a reason for believing authority is being undermined, but rather welcomed as a means of improving and strengthening the organisation.

No organisation is infallible, no system is perfect, so when a member of an organisation uses an alternative, but sympathetic and aligned means to overcome a problem, it should be welcomed by those in

authority rather than looking at it askance.

Life in 1986 is complex, no one organisation can be all things to all people. There are many agencies who can help, SOLDIER being just one of many. We can all be a partnership to help our Servicemen, women and their families. No individual person has fallen down if the reader writes to SOLDIER.

Those who write can be assured I will protect their confidentiality, and that I will pursue issues even if it takes six months, a year or ten years to find a satisfactory answer.

My father said to me "Never take no for an answer."

Many readers' letters have raised issues, many have led to improvements, suggestions have been acted on and I have tried with individual problems to put right the matter in question.

Keep writing. Your letter may help someone else as well as you.

YOU WRITE — ABOUT . . .

NHS 'specs'

I was posted to Germany in October 1983 for a full length tour with my unit. My son was at that time using NHS glasses which he needs to wear all the time. He started boarding school in the summer of 1984.

While with me prior to starting school in the UK, he underwent an eye test at the local BMH. The result of this was he was issued with another pair of glasses by them. They were the basic style as given to all children in BAOR, with no specials or funnies.

Not long after he started the Autumn Term of '85, I received a phone call from his school saying he had broken a lens in a fall. They informed me that the local optician had quoted a price of £40-£50 (incl VAT) for the repair as they were not of the NHS issue.

The school also informed me that they had already had an ear piece replaced at a cost of £7. This bill was, of course, sent to me and I have had to pay.

I have spoken with my local pay office who have tried, without success to find any way for me to recover this money. The sum of £7 is not a hardship to me, but it would appear that there is some kind of anomaly within the system.

I would be grateful if you could investigate this query before anyone ends up with a larger bill than I did.

Thank you for your time and keep up the good work. — **AMG, BAOR.**

The Royal Army Medical College say: "National Health glasses are available to children of Servicemen from opticians in the UK or opticians attached to British Military Hospitals abroad. Repairs to these glasses are, we are informed, free, but a standard charge is raised for lens replacements. Glasses purchased under private arrangement must be repaired or replaced at full cost to the owner.

"I suggest that your correspondent speaks first with his Senior Medical Officer (GP) and reads the NHS pamphlet on glasses and

their issue, and then speaks with his nearest Service ophthalmologist to uncover the channel he requires for repayment of his disbursements."

DHS Leaflet 911/April '85 (check for current leaflet).

This leaflet explains who can get NHS glasses free, how to claim and what you pay, also about NHS frames and lenses, special lenses, repairs and replacements, refunds. Leaflets available at overseas BFPOs.

Benefits in Cyprus

I will be accompanying my husband on a posting to Cyprus later this year and hope to find employment there in the garrisons at either Episkopi or Akrotiri.

I hope to work where my insurance contributions would be paid to England and count towards claiming unemployment benefit in the future.

If you have any information concerning this I would be very grateful. — **Mrs M, BFPO Germany.**

The problems of DHSS benefits in Cyprus are very complicated because of the difference in where you live and work, either on a Sovereign Base or outside. This problem has not yet been resolved.

Secondly, the chances of finding a job sadly are very remote, so write in advance to the PCLU and enquire about the job situation, both on the bases and on the Cypriot economy.

Write to the Overseas Branch, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE 98 1YX. On who is to safeguard your National Insurance contributions read DHSS Leaflets NI 42, NI 208, NI 48, FB 9, NI 12 and ask DHSS overseas how you can safeguard your state pension. Sadly, you will most probably lose entitlement to other benefits.

Twins

I have four year old twins, a boy and a girl, but not identical. We are due home shortly and I have heard there is a club which parents of twins can belong to. Can you send

me the address!

Get in touch with The Secretary, Katy Gow, The Twins Club Association, 292 Valley Road, Lillingdon Spa, Warwickshire CV32 7UE.

This is a self help organisation founded in 1978, linking clubs and individual members throughout the United Kingdom and is also concerned with parents who have triplets or more, twins with special needs, bereaved parents, single parent families and adopted twins.

The association has many leaflets and booklets, has a medical and educational group and much more besides. Well worth writing for more information.

MQ damages recoveries

Four wives sent me a letter saying they had faced the same difficulties but wanting to know what happens to monies recovered from outgoing tenants for losses or damage, and how charges for marked mattresses are assessed.

What happens to monies recovered from outgoing tenants for losses or damage?

The monies are credited to the RAF-controlled Accommodation Stores Vote or the PSA Works Vote as "Appropriations-in-Aid".

It is sometimes the case that damage, against which recoveries are made, is not immediately rectified. Any charges made by the Estate Warden for marked walls, on the basis of unfair wear and tear by the occupant, help to pay for the re-decoration which may have to be brought forward. It would be very costly, and far in excess of any charges to the occupant, if PSA arranged for redecoration on every occasion that walls were marked.

Stained carpets are rarely left stained after an occupant has been charged. They are generally cleaned by contract. Severe staining over a number of years will, of course, reduce the life of the carpet and result in its replacement before it has achieved its minimum life expectancy. Any charges therefore help to pay for the costs of this early replacement.

The non-replacement of

a cracked window is the concern of the District Works Office and the Estate Warden. The occupant should remind the Estate Warden of the need for the replacement window.

Charges for marked mattresses.

There are two types of charges for soiled or damaged mattresses. These are a full charge, but allowing for 25 per cent depreciation, and a recovering charge which is approximately one third of the full charge.

It is rare for a full charge to be made. It would only occur if the mattress was structurally damaged (e.g. broken springs) or was so extensively soiled that it would be unhygienic to handle and transport it for recovering (by contract in UK).

The mattress will only be removed for recovering when it is worthwhile to do so. If the mattress is marked due to unfair wear and tear, but is still considered to be hygienic, the ASA may decide to leave it in the Married Quarter. As soon as soiling renders it unhygienic or aesthetically unacceptable, the mattress will be removed for recovering. Any charges for marks due to unfair wear and tear will go towards the cost of replacement and recovering. It is often the case, however, that the mattress will be exchanged as soon as a charge is made.

Husband's rank

When I was told I could not have a job with the unit because of my husband's rank, I went back to the job centre where I was interviewed. They told me to get in touch with ACAS who told me to go back to the firm. I wrote to the firm giving dates and details of interviews.

I was next seen by the regional manager and passed on all the details to him. The firm accepted liability at a verbal contract was given at the interview. They accepted that their company had dealt badly over the matter and that I would be able to take the firm to court for loss of job and would win the case.

The manager then went back to the Service employer and various phone calls were made and it was established that there was no reason why I could not work there.

The manager then re-offered me the job and I accepted. A few points that may help.

- Make sure you know your rights in the matter and that you have a case.
- Keep records of dates.
- Make copies of any letters written.
- If offered another job by the company say you will consider it.
- Don't lose your temper.
- Be strong and determined.

People who may be able to help are Citizens Advice Bureau, ACAS, Equal Oppor-

Anne HERE TO HELP



Armstrong WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Home tel: Camberley 29653



THE SAMUEL WHITBREAD, A GREAT ADVENTURE

CHALLENGE OF THE TALL SHIPS

Why not help sail Samuel Whitbread, the Ocean Youth Club's boat, back from Copenhagen to Chatham after the Tall Ships' Race — it's an offer open to boys and girls from 16-24 years.

You don't need any sailing experience to join and sail with the Ocean Youth Club. Try this great adventure for yourself. If you are broke and

/or on the dole and want to sail but can't afford it, don't give up — OYC will try to help you.

OYC is offering a unique opportunity for 12 girls or boys to sail Samuel Whitbread home starting August 17 to August 30.

Trevor Jones the Director of OYC writes:

"To anyone in Germany who might be willing to

organise a BFG crew of 12 young people, I will offer him/her a free trip as their leader. This will be the first time an all BFG crew has sailed on a OYC boat."

Cost: Each crew member will be given a £175 bursary so leaving £205 to find. Travel: From Germany to Copenhagen. Perhaps a mini-bus could be arranged, or use of the Deutsche

Bundesbahn German Rail Rosy Red ticket programme deals — the dates fall in the low season. From UK to Germany — Transalpine travel. Of course you can stay in UK after August 30. Write to: Trevor Jones, Director OYC Central Office, the Bus Station, Gosport PO12 1EP. Tel: Gosport 0705 528421/2, if you are interested as leader or crew.

Licence fee lost

I have lost nearly all my licence fee for my colour TV as I had had it for only three months when our posting was brought forward. If we had been posted to Germany I would not complain as we still get BBC and TV programmes and for the rest of the tour we receive it free.

But we were not posted to Germany. The lost TV licence and my installation of the 'phone for just three months has lost us a considerable amount of money. What can be done?

I agree with you that there is no cause for complaint regarding posting to Germany. However, your loss of the money has caused a considerable dent in your disturbance allowance and the incoming occupant has the benefit of the 'phone, presumably the unexpired rental and the connection charges. Have you made a claim to the Post Office?

Are you covered?

New regulations concerning industrial accidents abroad are likely to be approved soon.

The scheme covers work accidents in Great Britain, the European Community, and those countries with whom there are reciprocal agreements in force.

The 1981 White Paper recommended that the scheme should be extended to cover any employment abroad while the employer has to pay contributions for the employee concerned.

The Government will introduce this extension before the other measures discussed in this paper and will be laying regulations to implement it in 1986, and, at the same time, proposes to extend the scheme to cover voluntary service workers overseas who continue to pay UK contributions.

I received this reply from the DHSS: ● Servicemen and women. These people will not be covered as HMF personnel are specifically excluded from industrial injuries cover. ● UK based member already covered for industrial injuries. ● Dependants of the above will only be covered if they are liable to pay UK contributions in their occupation. ● Dependants of UK based civilians who are

I wrote immediately to clarify various points and to ensure that Service dependants should not lose out yet again when new regulations were being proposed.

The operative words were that the scheme would cover all those whose employers pay Class I contributions into the UK scheme. This, therefore, would cover all Service dependants in countries where Class I contributions are paid.

I received this reply from the DHSS:

● Servicemen and women. These people will not be covered as HMF personnel are specifically excluded from industrial injuries cover. ● UK based member already covered for industrial injuries. ● Dependants of the above will only be covered if they are liable to pay UK contributions in their occupation. ● Dependants of UK based civilians who are

Get help on Aids

Aids — What Everybody needs to know, is a new free booklet which the Health Education Council has published to help explain the fears, worries and medical terms connected with this disease.

"People can get Aids virus through intimate sexual contact, or by getting infected blood into their bloodstream," says the booklet which deals with such questions as "What is Aids, its causes and symptoms, where did Aids come from, how many people are affected, how it is passed on, what you can do to reduce the risk, and how can you tell if you have the virus."

The booklet explains what is being done and concludes with useful addresses.

Free copies are available from Health Education units or District Health Authorities or single copies from Dept A, PO Box 100, Milton Keynes MK1 1TX. Or by phone, Healthline Telephone Service (01) 981 2717, (01) 980 7222, (0345) 581151; if phoning outside London use 0345 and you will be charged at the local rates.

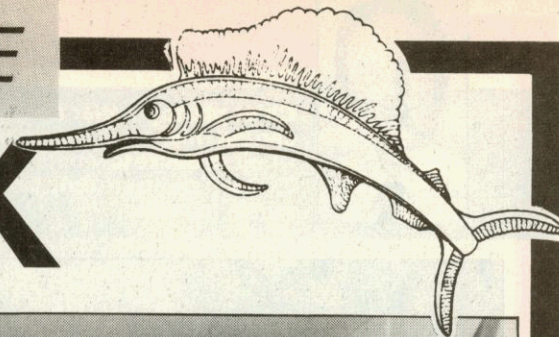
This Healthline will give you up-to-date recorded information on Aids and advice on safer sex, drug abuse and blood transfusions. This is a confidential 24-hour service started by the College of Health.

So with 305 cases in the UK — and it is certain there will be many more — get help and advice sooner rather than later. Any incurable disease is frightening, especially when it is infectious and when so much about the disease is still unknown.

working on an EEC economy while husbands are serving with forces in an EEC, dependants of wives of UK servicemen working in either the UK or EEC will be covered so long as they are liable to pay UK contributions.

This does leave the grey areas of Hong Kong, Gibraltar and Cyprus. I am seeking further clarification on this. But there is no doubt that the scheme 'should be extended to workers abroad whose employers continue to be liable to pay national insurance contributions'.

SHOPPING TEAM'S SHOCK



A BIG black cloud is looming over Servicemen in Belize and is due to burst on July 1. For then the latest LOA cut for the Central American posting will come into effect.

It will mean, unless Force Commander Brigadier David Webb-Carter is successful with his appeal to MoD, a 47 per cent reduction in the daily allowance.

Currently the mean average is about £2.70, but the new rates will see all-round reductions of nearly half.

Said the brigadier: "The visit by the MoD 'shopping basket team' has been a severe shock to us."

"A year ago a soldier's daily rate was £5.20. Now, if these recommendations go through, he will receive £1.53."

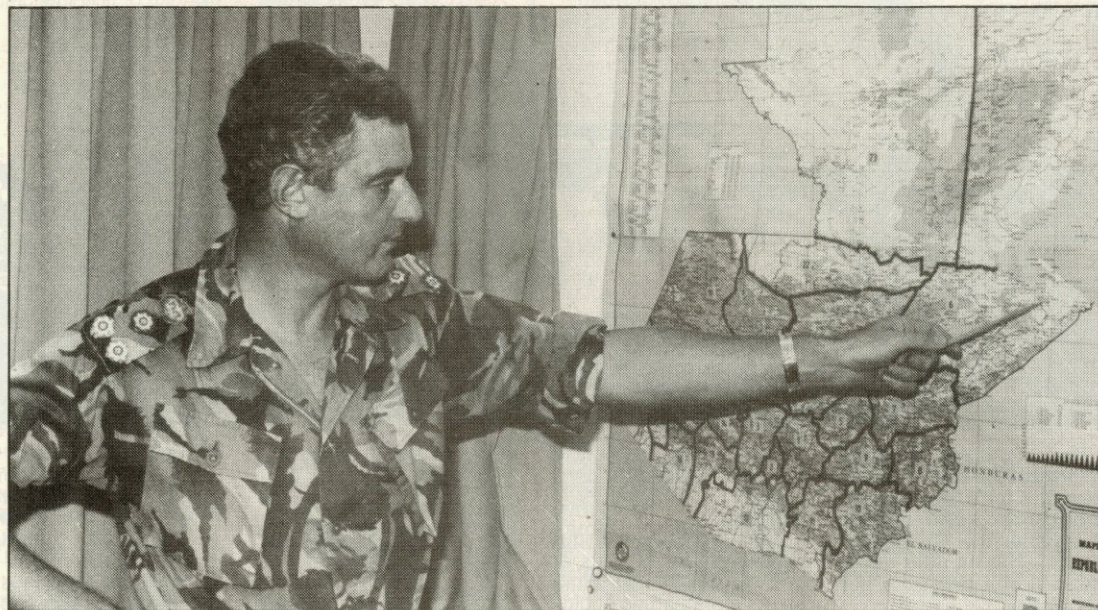
"While the 'shopping basket team' can make out a case for these cuts, I feel they have not taken everything they might have into account."

"That is why I am appealing against their recommendations in a bid to try and claw something back."

He said he encouraged everyone in his command to take advantage of R-and-R and see as much of Central America as they could. Many go to exotic places such as Miami, Mexico and Acapulco and it was the brigadier's view that the LOA reduction would severely curtail this type of activity.

"It will discourage people from travelling and encourage them to stay in camp, but I am anxious they should take advantage of their time

LOA cuts will hit at troops' travel hopes



BRIGADIER DAVID WEBB-CARTER: shopping basket claw-back bid

here and see as much of Central America as they possibly can."

The brigadier's views are vociferously supported by officers and men of 3 Queen's, the current duty battalion.

They are there until October and are somewhat bitter at having endured an

LOA cut in BAOR — they were in Fallingbowl for five years and left there earlier this year — and now here they are about to be 'hit' again.

But that's not all. They are also about to be asked to cough up nine Belize dollars each month to pay for satellite TV.

"It's a pity that welfare items such as television are not free," said the brigadier.

"But we have to borrow money from the MoD to pay for the dish aerials and the loans have to be repaid over a period of two years."

Currently the garrison has two aerials, one at Salamanca camp, an isolated

jungle base, and the other at Rideau camp.

But the plan is to extend the service to Holdfast camp and to Force HQ near Belize City.

When that is complete every one of the 1,700 Servicemen in the Garrison will pay the nine dollar levy — about two days' LOA.

Possibly the repayments could have been considerably more but for the fact that the aerial at Rideau was a gift from a film company.

The filming of *Mosquito Coast* starring Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford of Indiana Jones fame, was helped by the Royal Marines — the previous roulement battalion.

In gratitude the company offered an aerial for Rideau camp which, with the aerial already sited at Salamanca, gave Battle Group South round-the-clock television from the USA.

Now it only remains for Force HQ at Airport Camp (APC) and Holdfast to be fitted with the equipment and they, too, will be able to enjoy non-stop TV.

But they will have to pay for it — unlike the Marines who allegedly refused point-blank to fork out in their last weeks of deployment.

Good news though is that the Forces have been awarded a pay rise (see Page 21) and this, plus the fact there are no food and accommodation charges in Belize for unaccompanied soldiers, will go some way to off-setting the LOA cuts and TV charges.



HELEN BURTONSHAW (right): more like a travel agency than a shop

Fly now pay later with Captain Ron's holiday plan

THERE ARE 21 cap badges serving in Belize and in due course all of them find their way to Captain Ron Goodwin (Cheshire Regiment) the adjutant of Force HQ.

Popularly known as 'Mr Fixit', he has a constant daily flow of R-and-R inquiries and bookings.

Currently popular among the lads is San Jose, a

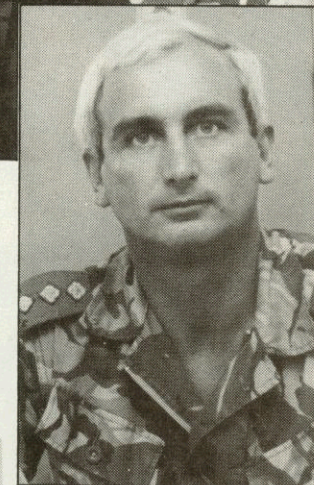
purpose-built resort in Costa Rica.

Equally in demand are places in the Mexican resort of Can Cun, another sun-soaked holiday centre with white sands and stacks of

entertainment. And, despite the LOA cuts about to hit the pockets of the 3 Queen's, demand for holidays in the land of

senoritas is high at 15 US dollars a night for accommodation — without food — and 14 Belize dollars for travel. "The lads are getting the

'Mr Fixit' fits 'em all up



CAPTAIN RON GOODWIN: Constant flow of bookings

best out of Belize," said Ron. Helping him organise flights and accommodation — and suggestions where to go — is Mrs Helen Burtonshaw who runs the PRI shop.

The wife of Major Peter Burtonshaw, OC of the RCT section at APC, she opens daily and answers personal and phone-in callers with instant price and hotel charges covering the whole of Central America.

"It's more like a travel agency than a shop," she said. Added Ron Goodwin: "Our job is to see the soldiers get the best deal from buses, airlines, hotels, vehicle hire and all the other incidentals which make up a holiday."

"It's a constant battle against the US dollar, but with our fly-now-pay-later scheme we get a tremendous response."

WHY WE'RE IN BELIZE

CAPTAIN Simon Jackson of the Queen's Own Hussars unfurled a map of Central America, pointed at Belize and said: "We (the Army) are here because Guatemala sees Belize as their 23rd Department (state)."

The intelligence officer at Force HQ, he said it is a traditional claim of Guatemala's since possession of Belize would provide them with extra gateways to the Caribbean and the Atlantic.

"And that's why we're in this country and we shall stay as long as necessary," he said.

'We shall stay as long as necessary'

Heavily jungled, Belize is about the size of Wales with a population of about 160,000. A tiny place.

Conversely, Guatemala is one of the largest countries in Central America with a population of eight million.

For 32 years they had military leaders, but now they have a civilian

government with a civilian president.

They have a huge debt of some three billion US dollars, high inflation and unemployment. They have also been fighting rebels for the past 25 years. So they are not without problems.

But they keep up pressure for occupation — if not

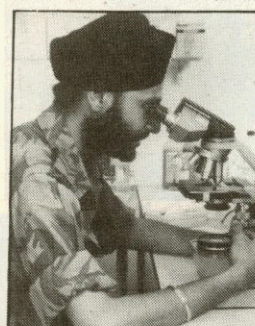
for all of Belize, certainly for bits of it such as tiny off-shore cayes — and have armed forces of about 35,000 to pose a threat.

While their equipment is fairly old, they do have a specialist force of paras who regard themselves as elitist. "And we don't underestimate them," said

Captain Jackson. "They have been brought up in the jungle, are used to living in these conditions and are good, basic soldiers."

Dakotas are still in use as air transport supported by Israeli transport aircraft and a variety of US helicopters and aeroplanes. In the maritime role they have some patrol craft and a battalion of marines.

"Britain has always had a presence in Belize, but since 1961 it has been considerably reinforced. We shall stay as long as necessary," he reaffirmed.



CPL HUNJAN: looking for 'nasties'

Snakes alive — it's a worm!

Corporal Rashpal Hunjan pointed to an illustrated medical reference book and said: "These are just some of the nasties you can pick up in Belize."

He was talking about intestinal worms. Not that the Airport Camp hospital had any current cases, but the occasional patient does appear like the hospital's own WO Brian Wilson who confessed to having the "shock of his life."

A graduate with a medical science degree, Corporal Hunjan was examining a specimen of hookworm under the microscope in the laboratory of the 12-bed hospital.

Around the room preserved in jars of formaldehyde were several snakes — just a few more of the "nasties" to be found in Belize.

Said hospital CO Lieutenant Colonel David Hartley (see picture next page): "Although there are a number of snakes

in Belize, the chances of being envenomed are slight since most snakes are quite small. "If someone does get bitten it's a big help if they can kill the snake and bring it back with them."

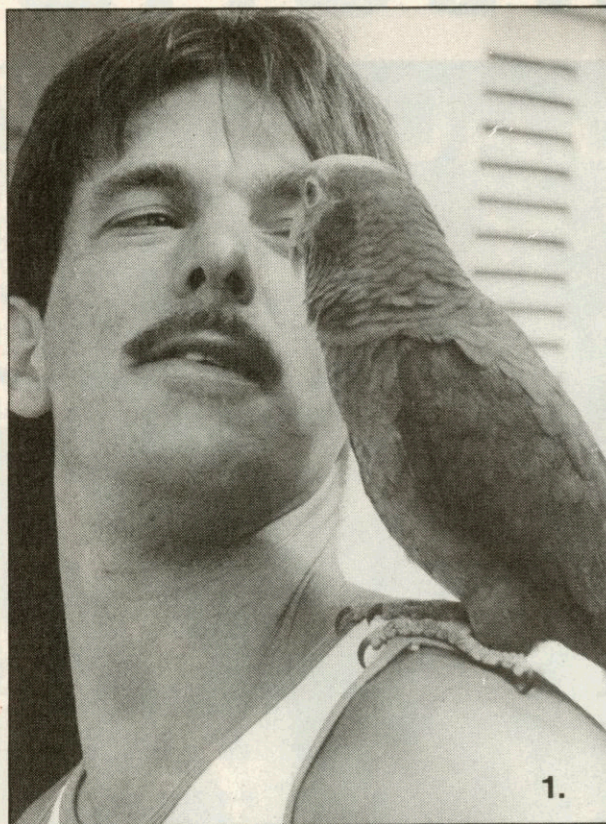
"That way we can tell if it is venomous or not. If it is, we then know what anti-serum to give otherwise it means relying on the patient's description, and that could mean waiting to see what symptoms the victim develops."

Words: JOHN MARGETTS — Pictures: LES WIGGS



PICTURE PARADE IN BELIZE ★ See pages 28 and 29

Chief photographer Les Wiggs carried his cameras over the whole of Belize to record life with 3 Queen's who are duty battalion for six months.



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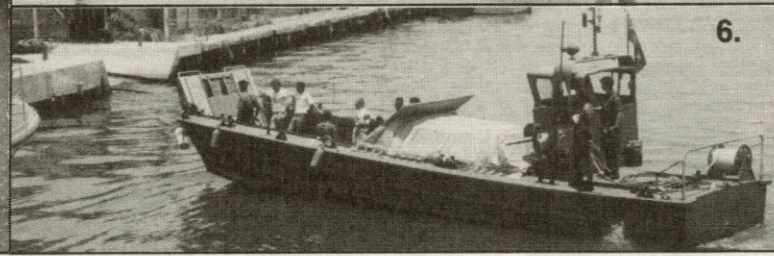
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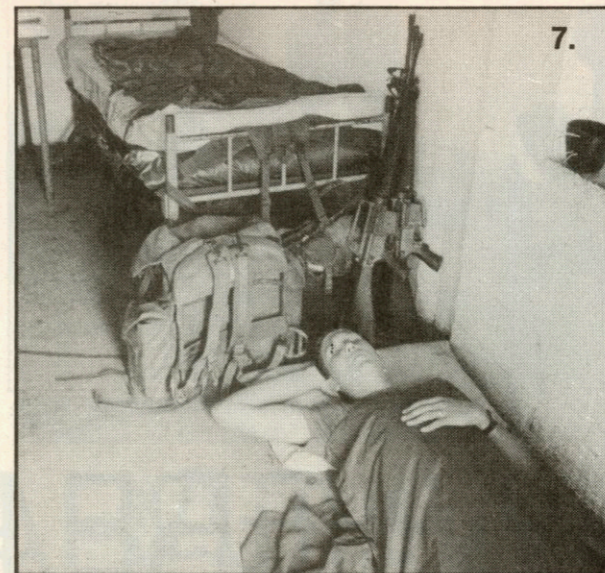
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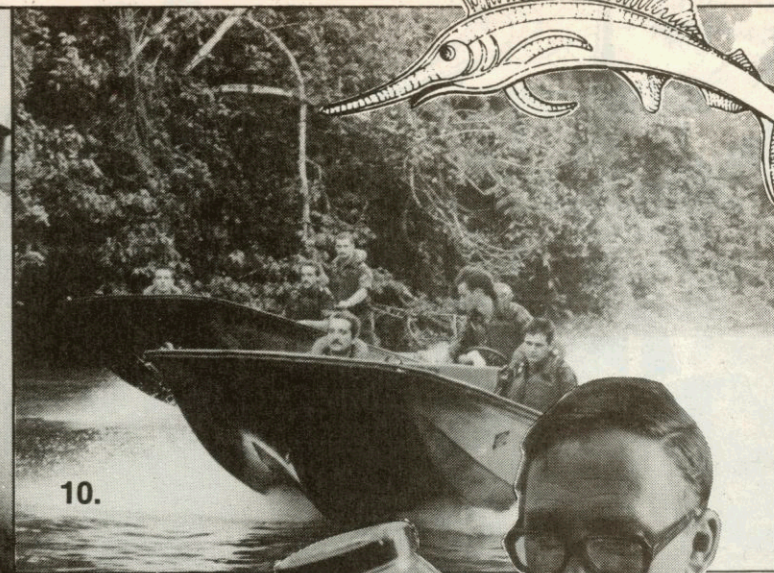
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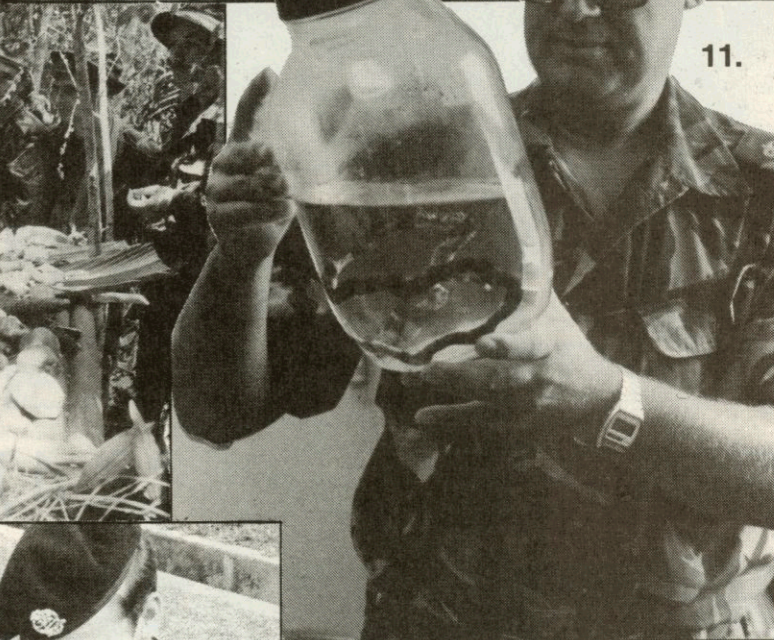
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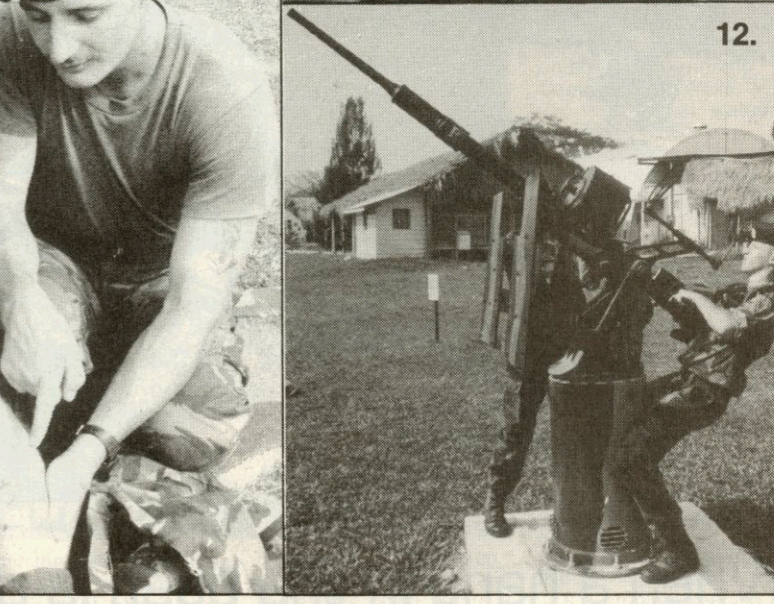
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1. According to Corporal Terry Crosby of 11 Platoon, FSC 3 Queen's, the parrot's name is Desperate Dan. "He flew in about a week ago," said Terry, "and lives in our room." But Terry could be mistaken because the RCT section just 100

yards away has an identical bird who goes by the name of Driver Oscar

2. Spud-bashing is still in as Lance Corporal Simon Lenthal RCT discovers aboard 24 Squadron's RPL en route to

Chapel Caye (say key). Simon was elected chief cook and bottle washer as his name was next on the rota

3. Corporal Mark Parrish of C Company at Holdfast notes a movement over the border

from the Caye observation post while Pte Dean Horner logs the information

4. B Company's Combat platoon run out their guns for practice on a nearby river. Headed by Lance Corporal

Dave Phillips, the team is Privates Martin Russell, Philip Roberts, Gordon Lambert, Frank Lawson, Alex Humby and Laurie Ward

5. A spot of R-and-R for some of the lads from 3 Queen's... a

week on nearby San Pedro at Ambergris Caye. Meeting them from their Maya Airways flight is former Royal Anglian RSM George Veitch who runs the Barrier Reef Hotel where many of the lads spend some of their leave

6. Pride and Joy of 24 Squadron RCT based at APC is their latest LCVP, pictured entering Belize City harbour

7. Private Andy Osborn sleeps after his spell of duty at the Cayo OP

8. How to live off the jungle. "You can last for weeks if you know where to look," says local guide Julian to an attentive class from C Company based at Holdfast

9. Snake bite victims... all

three of them. Pointing with some awe at Private Andy Hine's double nip are Cpl Dave Rudman (left) and Pte John Walker

10. They only know two speeds in some non-firing practice on the 20mm Oerlikon at B company's base at Rideau

11. Lieutenant Colonel David Hartley, CO of the APC hospital, examines one of the poisonous snakes of Belize

12. Private Mark Theobald puts in some non-firing practice on the 20mm Oerlikon at B company's base at Rideau



DUTY TIME AND PLEASURE TIME ON HUNTING CAYE:
No blondes or booze on this desert island

WHERE PARADISE IS A COCONUT ISLAND

Words: JOHN MARGETTS
Pictures: LES WIGGS

Hunting Caye looks like a cartoon coconut isle where an unshaven castaway is often depicted marooned with a smashing blonde.

But for the boys of B Company, 3 Queen's — the current duty battalion in Belize — the 300-yard strip of sun-splashed sand 36 miles off the shanty town of Punta Gorda is paradise after a week of jungle patrols.

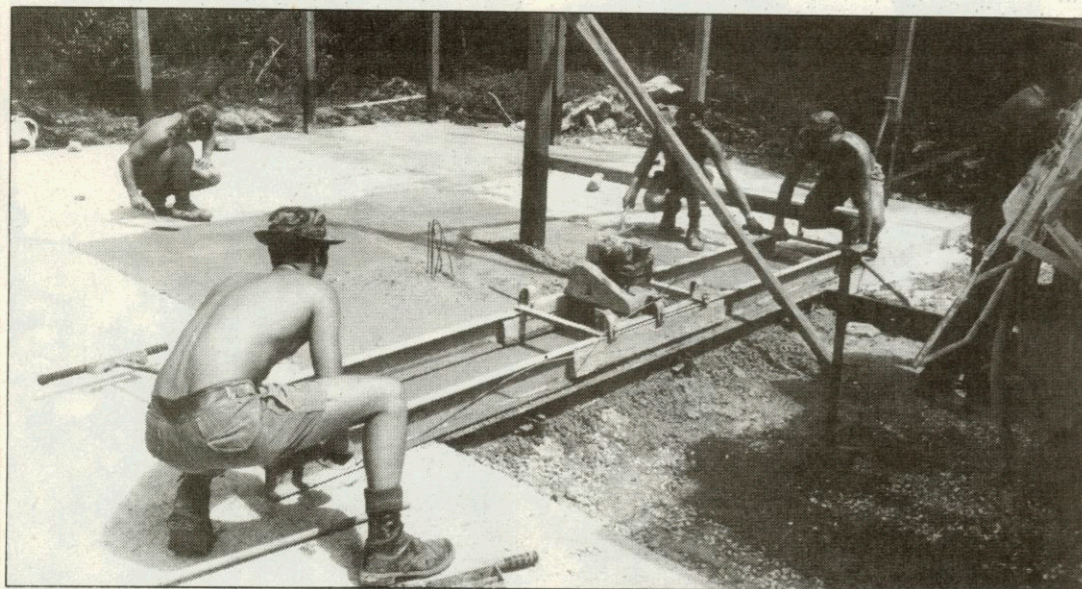
"There are no blondes and no booze," said Corporal Andy Waller, "but we make do on fresh fish and soft drinks."

Ostensibly their role on the tiny sun-bleached isle is to maintain a military presence, record passing shipping and keep check on other nearby islands.

On this occasion the six-man team on this week-long "duty" under Andy Waller were Privates Mick Blythe, Nick Brooks, Micky Tunnicliffe, Mark West and Basilio Baeza who speaks fluent Spanish and acted as the team interpreter.

Not that they needed one as the only inhabitants were two lighthouse keepers who showed the lads, in off-duty moments, the best fishing spots and the locations of

DANGER! SAPPERS AT WORK



HOT WORK IN 100 DEGREES: Corporal Steve Thorogood and his RE team. No time to talk

When a hand in the bush is a painful business!

When WO2 Steve Hinton (picture on opposite page) tried hacking his way into 500 yards of jungle, he knew it could be a painful business, but he didn't expect to get a fistful of

thorns while doing it. B Company's sergeant major Steve and OC Major Nick Grant were leading a weekend's jungle exercise in their Battle Group's area, when Steve caught

his hand in a thorn bush. "It wasn't too bad going in, but withdrawing my hand left me with a legacy of wooden spikes. Something I could well do without," he said.

And so that's how he came to be pictured with Rideau camp MO Captain Richard Cooper, who, when he's not tending soldiers, is either swotting up with the local snake

doctor on anti-serums, or riding his horse into jungle villages attending the sick. Watching is Colour Sergeant John Costan, then Captain Cooper's assistant.

Skipper Staff Sergeant Alan Marchant steers his craft into Chapel Caye for an RE loading operation



CAPTAIN RICHARD COOPER, RAMC, WO2 STEVE HINTON, COLOUR SERGEANT JOHN COSTAN: painful thorn extraction at Rideau's centre

wrecks on the nearby barrier reef.

But paradise, and it is just that after a week in the jungle asserted Andy Waller, can get extremely crowded.

Like their second day on the islet when 300 Guatemalan day trippers came ashore from motor boats for a day's picnicking, barbecuing and swimming.

"We couldn't move for tourists," said Andy Waller. "And they left their litter behind." Paradise, it seems, could easily become a tip.

But even surrounded by empty beer cans and food wrappers, B Company are grimly hanging on to their post jungle perk.

And the OC, Major Nick Grant, gave the distinct impression that he was going to dig his toes in on any moves to share with other companies the bonus of a week on a coconut isle.

Such are the rivalries between the battalions to retain what is generally agreed to be the best observation post in the Army, let alone Belize.

"It is possible to get a bit bored with the place. But we'd rather be bored here than back in Rideau camp," said Andy Waller. "Any day."

meanwhile, back at Airport Camp (APC), four Sappers of 50 Fd Squadron RE (Construction), under the direction of Corporal Steve Thorogood, were laying six inches of concrete for an oil store in nearly 100 degrees

of baking sun. "Can't stop," said Steve Thorogood, "got to get this down before it goes off. It's solid almost as soon as we pour it."

Going to Mexico and the USA is for most of the lads an R-and-R trip. But for Captain Richard Elwell,

RAOC, it is a regular duty event. Every four weeks he flies to Miami of beach and beauty fame to arrange the delivery of fruit, and to Mexico for vegetables.

"We buy in from these places as there is no producer in Belize who can supply the quantity and quality we require. The only items we buy locally, apart from petrol, are milk and chickens. We get those from the Mennonites, a religious group who have settled in Belize. They are good farmers providing us with first-class produce," he said.

While Captain Elwell ensures the supply of fresh food, preparation comes under the umbrella of Captain Geoff Wells, ACC — the Force Catering Advisor.

With 63 caterers, including 17 RAF, he had, when he first arrived in Belize, ideas of producing exotic menus for the garrison.

But demand, plus his experience, soon told him that squaddies like to "eat the food they're used to."

So menus in messes are similar to those in the UK except that they cost about three times as much — about £3 a head a day. This adds up to a food bill of about £2.5 million a year.

Ice cream is a favourite with everyone, but at more than £5 a gallon it is very expensive and is restricted to three or four times a week. "It's a problem keeping up with demand," said Captain Wells.

So while the food is excellent and plentiful providing it's prepared in the messes by cooks, it's not always so hot at some of the observation posts.

MORE ON BELIZE SEE OUR NEXT ISSUE

FOOD

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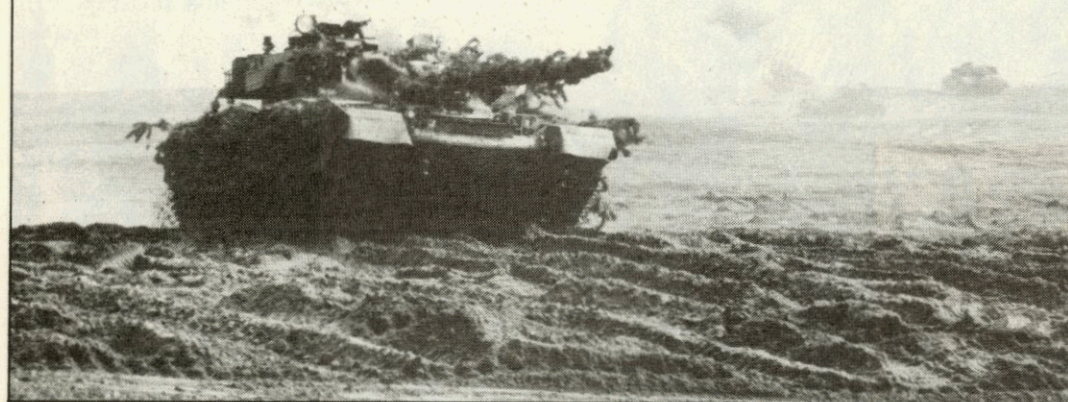
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An enemy's eye view of a battlegroup attack was one of the highlights for visitors at this year's demonstration for the Service staff colleges of the latest in the Rhine Army's tactics and equipment.

It was the first time that 3rd Armoured Division, the Iron Division, had assumed responsibility for running the annual event and a great deal of effort had gone into ensuring that the demonstration debut would be memorable as well as informative.

Previously the job fell to 4 Armoured Div as the controller of British interests in the Sennelager Training Area, but a recent reorganisation of control put the Iron Division for once firmly in the chair marked 'Producer.'

For the tactical demonstration on Stand 9, Brigadier Walter Courage, Commander 4 Armoured

Brigade, came on as a modern battlefield prologue in a Challenger of the 17th/21st Lancers to make the introduction from the tank turret with the help of a radio microphone.

Current ideas on resisting attack, he said, called for the holding of key terrain with strong mobile forces held in reserve to strike at the enemy, a concept frequently referred to as the shield and the sword.

These mobile forces could be used for counter-penetration, to block an enemy breakthrough, counter-attack, to recapture lost ground, or counterstroke to destroy an enemy on the move, or, if halted, before he had time to co-ordinate his defences.

Counterstroke was the subject of the staff college demonstration. It was, according to Brigadier Courage, an operation which

required a high degree of air-ground co-ordination, precise timing and a lot of nerve.

The mobile forces would need to be well skilled in moving under electronic silence at night and they would require first-rate intelligence to ensure that their hammer blow fell on the enemy at the right time and in the right place.

"The shock effect and the destruction of the enemy are what we are after," the brigadier said. "Once we decide to mount the operation there is no room for hesitancy. Commanders must be well forward and act boldly. The initiative must be seized and the momentum maintained. By being well forward, commanders can direct the battle as it develops, as very detailed orders and tight control measures will stifle initiative and opportunities will be lost.

"Our aim must be to synchronise

COUNTERSTROKE!

3 DIV SHOWS THEM HOW...



Brigadier Courage — the armoured prologue

our arrival to achieve the maximum concentration of force on the selected target which should be the soft underbelly of the enemy."

Spectators were invited to imagine that they were standing in the path of the left hand flank guards of an enemy column as it moved westwards. Before them a battlegroup was poised out of sight to fall upon the enemy's second tactical echelon — the first having already passed by to be dealt with by 1 Armoured Division, further east.

Close reconnaissance troops of Scorpions, working covertly forward, gave the final details to the intelligence picture and then the artillery poured in concentrated fire. This overture was followed in quick succession by low level strikes by Tornado and Harrier aircraft and a massed broadside of wire-guided TOW missiles from the tank-busting Lynx helicopters of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps.

Then Chieftains from 3rd Royal Tank Regiment swept in out of

cover against the flank of the supposed column with the armoured personnel carriers of Queen's Company and an anti-tank Milan section of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, in close support.

While all this was happening a team of sapper battle simulation experts was happily detonating the appropriate effects in front of and behind the spectators, who included not only 500 students from the Service staff colleges but, at the dress rehearsal, also London based military attaches, a touring party of UK journalists and 50 American cadets from a US high school in Heidelberg.

As it was explained at the time, they saw only a part of what was supposed to be an entire battlegroup operating within the framework of a full-scale divisional operation.

The only infantry on show, from 1 Gren Gds, were showing the flag, as it were, for the rest in only their fourth month of duty in BAOR.

Lynx of 3 Regt. AAC fly across a broken enemy



At the beginning of the year the battalion swapped places with the Irish Guards, leaving public duties in London for a five-year stint as a mechanised unit in Germany.

But this wasn't the Grenadiers' only contribution to the demonstration. On Stand 3, the First Battalion's 2 Company provided a comprehensive illustration of the composition of a battlegroup.

It started with the lone figure of 20-year-old Guardsman Graham Wagstaff, in full combat kit, rising from the ground, as the representative of "the fundamental element of any company group — the infantryman."

Then the other members of his section appeared, followed by the platoon and eventually the whole company, all with their APCs the AFV 432. They were joined by support groups, like the REME light aid detachment, the combat

engineering troop from 25 Field Squadron, RE, and a troop of their battlegroup brothers-in-arms, three Challengers of 17th/21st Lancers.

Other stands — there were nine altogether — illustrated the whole divisional set up from logistic HQ, supply, transport, maintenance right through to artillery and aviation and command and control.

Stand 1 was devoted to the display of a full divisional headquarters with a brigade HQ for comparison alongside. They were purely static exhibits; there was no attempt to illustrate the step up and change over procedures from one HQ to the alternative which happens in most exercises once every 24 hours.

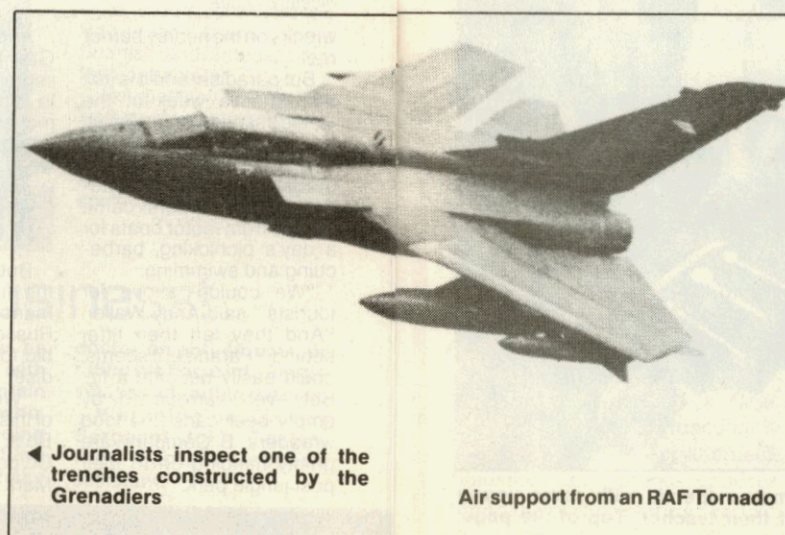
But the staff officers were there in their command armoured vehicles ready to field any questions from staff college students or

visitors. In front of them they had market maps to illustrate their particular function and alongside them glowed VDTs from the Wavell computer system as an indication of the latest in battlefield information services.

Wavell is the data base component of the Ptarman communications revolution which 1 Armoured Division Signal Regiment introduced to the Army.

This January 3 ADSR became the last divisional signal regiment in Germany to convert to Ptarman. But the fact that they were on show with it to the staff colleges only a few months later didn't seem to be causing too many worries.

As Staff Sergeant (Yeoman of Signals) Samuel McElreavey, of 2 Squadron, explained, coming late to Ptarman meant they were able to profit from the mistakes of others.



Journalists inspect one of the trenches constructed by the Grenadiers

Air support from an RAF Tornado



A sniper of 2 Company, 1 Gren Gds, merges into the background

Gordons in Japan...



EXOTIC WEST GOES EAST

THE EAST is often thought of as mysterious and exotic, so it shouldn't come as any surprise that in the East they frequently feel the same way about us.

For example, it seems that to the Japanese there is nothing quite so exotic, and perhaps even mysterious, as a Guardsman in a bearskin or a Scotsman in full Highland kit.

At any rate the Nippon Kanko Dream Corporation was sufficiently impressed by the idea of skirling pipes and swinging sporrans to offer to take the Drums, Pipes and Band of the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, all the way from their base in West Germany to Japan for a three-week engagement.

The Corporation has wide-ranging interests in the entertainment industry and runs Nara Dreamland, a sort of Disneyland of the Rising Sun, in Osaka, Japan's second largest city.

They also hired the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, from the rather closer location of Hong Kong to add more splendour to the novel attraction of British military music for visitors to the park.

The invitation reached the Gordons in Deilinghofen via the British defence attache in Tokyo and when all the arrangements had been completed a 50-strong party, under Major James Finlay, the Band President and battalion 2i/c,

left for the other side of the world — appropriately in a British Airways Jumbo named "The City of Aberdeen."

Their arrival was complicated by the dubious view the Japanese customs took of two Claymores, 16 dirks and 17 Sgian Dubhs (the small dagger worn inside the stocking) that the Gordons took with them.

After much inspection and measurement and many assurances about the purely ceremonial nature of the offending items they were each granted a Japanese Firearms Certificate and let through.

The accommodation, once they could get to it through the traffic which seethes in Japan as it does in few other places, was superb. The Gordons, home from home was the five-star Miyako Hotel where the only drawback seemed to be the prohibitive prices — over £3 for a small bottle of beer!

The main task, for both Gordons and Coldstreams, was the staging of daily performances at Nara Dreamland, a 30-minute journey



Above Bandsman John Beaumont makes friends with some young admirers, much to the amusement of their teacher. Top of the page: Geishas and Gordons



Fancy seeing you here. The Prince and Princess of Wales arrive at the Embassy in Tokyo to be greeted by Private Eddie Collie (left) and Bandsman Duncan Clark. Right: Getting to know you, Coldstream style

by train from the hotel. Considerable flexibility was needed as the Japanese weather during this season has a tendency to swing from temperatures well into the 70s to pouring rain with the thermometer 20 degrees lower.

In addition to the scheduled performances there were various other engagements including separate displays by the two regiments in Kyoto (the former Japanese Imperial capital) and Osaka. At Dreamland itself they appeared with two local high school bands, one of which dressed as Guardsmen in honour of the visitors.

But the undoubted highlight of the performances at Dreamland was a joint display with children from a local school on themes from Alice in Wonderland.

To get the thing staged at all was something of an achievement, for the Gordons Bandmaster, WO1 Dave Knox, had to plan everything from a music cassette sent to him in Germany. And there was time for only one very brief rehearsal before the actual performance.

In the event everything seemed to work perfectly — the children sang and danced beautifully, the bands played magnificently and everyone was so pleased that someone suggested, light-heartedly, that they should make a record of the performance.

Not for nothing is Japan one of the world's most enterprising nations. What might have been a casual thought elsewhere was soon translated into action: a large recording studio was immediately booked and the following afternoon bandsmen and school children found themselves cutting a record, the proceeds of which will go to

local children's charities.

The final event in Nara was a combined Beating of Retreat in a vast modern sports stadium close to Dreamland before a crowd of 20,000. Then it was on to Tokyo for a very different type of engagement.

The tour coincided with the visit to Japan of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince is better known to the Gordons as the Duke of Rothesay, their Colonel-in-Chief, so what could have been more appropriate than Gordon music at the British Embassy reception for the royal visit?

Those members of the party not playing acted as footmen, escorts, and as a sort of supplementary reserve of embassy staff.

The Prince himself had no idea the Gordons were in Japan and during the evening he called over WO1 Dave Knox, Drum Major Bert Tomkins and Pipe Major Ronnie Henderson to chat with him and the Princess of Wales.



Above: Bandmaster WO1 Dave Knox entertains with his Mad Hatter impression during a break in recording. Below: Saluting at the end of another Dreamland performance



Story and Pictures: Roger Lortie

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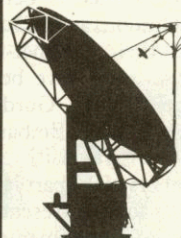


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Lt Col Norman Clayden

THE ARMY'S first full time conservation supremo, Lt Colonel Norman Clayden — known to his friends as Mr Natterjack — is retiring after 13 years in office.

Lt Colonel Clayden was given his nickname because of one of the Army's best known conservation projects, the establishment of a colony of natterjack toads in the Bordon (Hampshire) area.

He was also awarded the MBE for his work in all fields of conservation. As the Ministry of Defence's Chief Conservation Officer — a Civil Service post — Lt Col Clayden has overall responsibility for 600,000 acres of land used by all three British Services, the Third US Air Force and various MoD research and development establishments in the UK.

"The first steps were to set up communications with the many hundreds of agencies who were already very active in the conservation field, and to educate and motivate Service personnel.

"Of course training needs and safety requirements are the overriding priorities which govern our land management policies, but conservation aims are generally compatible with these.

"We don't use pesticides and troop movements do not disturb wildlife nearly as much as modern farming methods or unrestricted public access."

He also has some responsibilities with remaining overseas garrisons such as Belize, Cyprus and the Falklands.

Working from an office at Chessington, Lt Colonel Clayden has a full time administrative staff of four, but the bulk of his work is done by conservation volunteers, both military and civilian.

A classic example of how wildlife can thrive among intensive military activity can be found at the Stanford PTA in Norfolk.

Sharing the land with the troops are no less than 498 species of birds, 637 species of plant, 34 species of butterfly and six species of deer — not to mention 10,000 grazing sheep.

Stanford PTA is the last site in Britain where the great bustard still nests, and it also boasts East Anglia's only other haven.

Stanford Lake is a refuge for ducks and the shy great crested Grebe.

Another good example of military conservation is the 6,000 acre coastal range of Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire, which between March and October is used for live firing by 11 battalions of tanks and also by helicopters and infantry.

The area is a paradise for bird watchers with rocks covered with auks, fulmars, razorbills and guillemots.

It is the second most populated nesting site for chuffs in Britain, and peregrine falcons are among the 99 species of bird which thrive there.

The Shoeburyness ranges in Essex have the biggest shell beach in the country and are a favourite stopover for migrating birds en route to and from the south of France.

In fact the Shoeburyness ranges provide a habitat for ten per cent of Britain's tern population.

Lt Col Clayden said: "We particularly pride ourselves on the way in which we manage wetlands — we currently have 45 such sites under management.

"A good example of what can be achieved is the former RAF airfield at Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire, now used for waterborne training by the Royal Engineers.

"We planted 59,000 trees on this site, and what was formerly a bare airfield now has colour, movement and sound.

"Only skylarks and meadow pipits nested there when it was an airfield, now there are 71 species of birds including three types of owl, and 150 types of plant.

CONSERVATION TO LOSE 'MR NATTERJACK'

"Within three weeks of constructing watercourses at Barry-budden ranges near Aberdeen there were 40 pairs of Eider ducks nesting there, plus fresh water fish which we had not put there.

"One of our most attractive sites in the Bordon area is the 66-acre Woolmer Lake, which was mentioned by Gilbert White in his Natural History of Selborne.

"We have restored 30 acres to increase the duck population, and there are now three species of duck, plus Canada geese, curlews and redshanks.

"It is also the only site in Britain where the graph oredus zonatus beetle is found.

"Over the last 10 years we have planted five million trees in the South of England, 90 per cent of which are hardwood varieties. We design our woodland to skirt roads and to have plenty of scrub and low lying vegetation, with tracks wide enough for vehicles.

In all the MoD own about 100,000 acres of chalk downland, much of which is covered with kidney vetch and juniper — in fact these areas support about 20 per cent of the juniper bushes in the South of England.

Lt Col Clayden said: "These downland training areas hold about 50 per cent of this country's successful breeding stock of stone curlews, some 200 species of spider and 44 species of butterfly, including the silver washed fritillary.

"At one Surrey training area we have nine species of bat, including the greater horseshoe bat.

"The heathland areas support an equally rich treasury of wildlife including the Dartford warbler,

the emperor moth, sand lizards, smooth snakes and some 150 varieties of spider, many unique to these areas.

"Sixty per cent of Britains breeding pairs of hobby falcons live in our heathlands, which also support 397 different types of caterpillar."

Without a doubt the Army's most publicised conservation campaign has been the building of a colony of natterjack toads in the Bordon area over the last 11 years.

The Army created a pond with shallow spawning beds, which are kept well supplied with water even in hot dry summer periods, and have stocked them with tadpoles and spawn.

As a result of these efforts there is now a stable population of about 200 natterjacks, ranging in age from one to eight years, which are in a position to look after themselves.

As a beneficial spin-off to Operation Natterjack, one of the country's finest dragonfly colonies has been constructed with 24 different species — the nymphs of the dragonflies preying on the tadpoles.

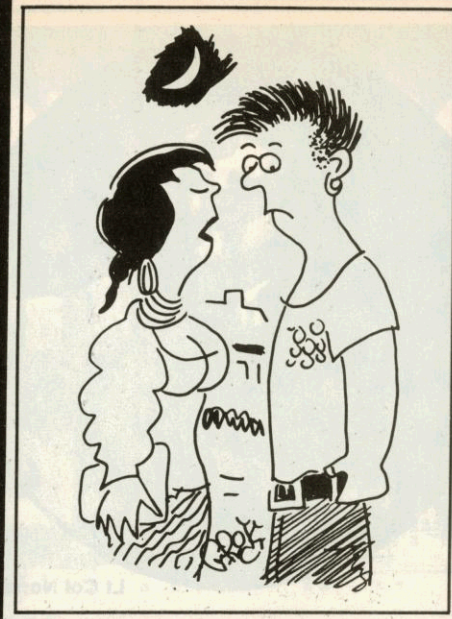
Wildlife seems to be adept at making use of the military bric-à-brac left around training areas.

Recently Lt Col Clayden found a bank vole which had raised a litter in a mortar case, and a tank hull which had a pair of tree sparrows nesting in the gun barrel, and wagtails in the breach.

Lt Col Clayden said: "There is great enthusiasm for conservation in all three Services today."

The natterjack toad, now there is a colony of 200



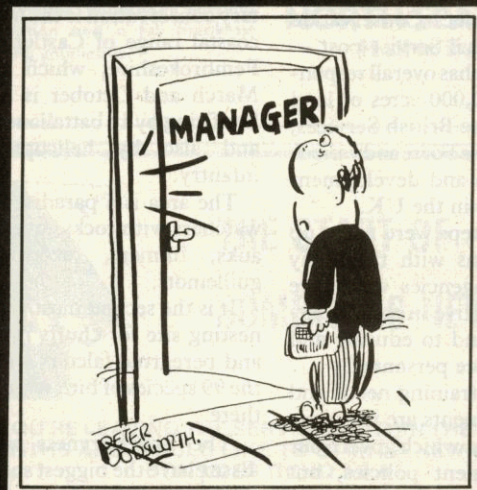


"I'd like to thank you for a wonderful evening Duncan, but it was awful."

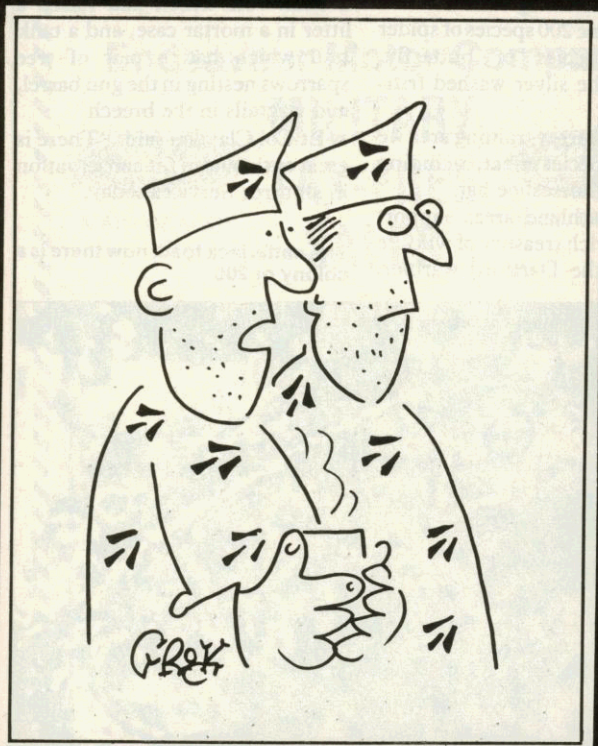
Humour



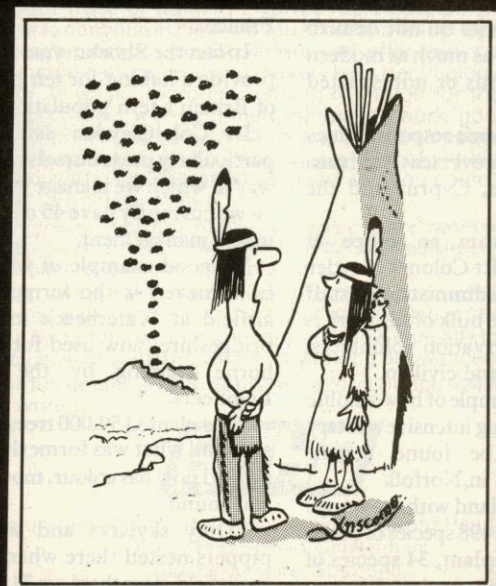
"I don't care what your old boyfriend said - I'm not away on that sort of dirty weekend."



"Crawl in!"



"Get married! Not flipping likely. I value my freedom, mate."



"It's your mother."

BOOK

REVIEWS

THE OTHER 'BULGE'

There was a second 'Battle of the Bulge', less well known but almost as costly in casualties as the much publicised great attack by the Germans into the Ardennes in December 1944.

The other Battle of the Bulge, writes Charles Whiting in *Operation Northwind*, the latest of his many books both fiction and non-fiction on the subject of war, strategically and politically was much more significant than the Ardennes battle.

It involved another 'last stand' by the German forces, in the area north and south of Strasbourg, that much fought over city near the banks of the Rhine.

It lasted a month longer than the Ardennes battle and cost the lives of some 16,000 American soldiers and perhaps twice that number of Frenchmen serving under United States command.

The German's 19th Army was stubbornly dug in around the French Rhineland town of Colmar — the Colmar Pocket — and the French were engaged in containing it.

One day before General George Patton began his attack into the Ardennes bulge, Hitler ordered his forces to advance in the Strasbourg area. If the attack succeeded it was reasoned, it would provide a much-needed shot in the arm for the war-weary German people; the recapture of Strasbourg would be a tremendous propaganda coup.

Mr Whiting describes in gripping detail the fierce fighting which followed and the military and political complications as General Eisenhower ordered his forces to retreat, after token resistance, into the Vosges mountains, and to surrender Strasbourg.

It resulted at one stage in General de Gaulle ordering his soldiers to take matters into their own hands to ensure the defence of the city.

The author suggests that if the second Bulge attack had succeeded, the whole Western military alliance might have broken up and France been plunged into political anarchy. Even though it did not succeed, the battle did in the long term influence Franco-American relations and probably led to de Gaulle's decision to leave Nato, he says.

It is a story which, says Mr Whiting, has never before been recorded. —AT.

Operation Northwind by Charles Whiting. Published by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price £12.95.

TOWARDS ETERNAL WINTER

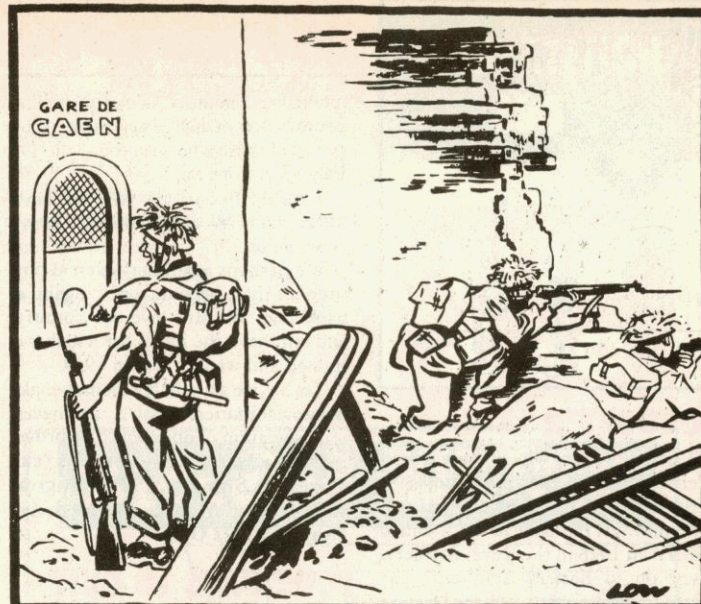
Technology in War by Kenneth Macksey is a most interesting and educational book which details the development of all kinds of weapons used in modern warfare, showing how science has influenced progress and expanded military thinking during the past 200 years.

From Bushnell's one-man-powered spheroid submarine 'Turtle' of 1776 to today's 25,000-ton Russian Typhoon class there has been an explosive technological advance — especially in this century. The rapid development of the aeroplane, the warship, the tank and other land armour, the hovercraft, the rocket, metals, radar, electronics, and now lasers, have all transformed the way war is, and can be, waged.

These tremendous developments, inspired by the necessities of war, have inevitably given great impetus to advances in industry in peacetime. War has stimulated invention and hastened development and the results have benefitted the world in the years of peace.

Practically every page of this volume contains a photograph, a design or a map to illustrate dramatically features of weapons, vehicles, ships or aircraft. Strategy and tactics come under discussion, and both sea and land battles, such as Jutland and Cambrai and the campaigns in Vietnam, are reviewed.

The book ends with an imaginative forecast of the immediate future — if there is to be one for the human race. The author, while declaring that from now on everything is conjecture, gives three possible options for the years 1987-2000: a subversive struggle for world key points, limited nuclear war,



"Oi! Gimme a first class single to Paris, vite!"

Not unexpectedly, the British Serviceman features prominently in *Years of Wrath*, a re-issue of the political cartoons by David (later Sir David) Low published mostly in the London Evening Standard between 1932-45.

They are captioned by the cartoonist himself; this one appearing in 1944 at

the time when the British attack had been stalled west of Caen where von Rundstedt had concentrated the bulk of his armour.

Years of Wrath, more than 300 pages of entertaining humour, is published in paperback by Victor Gollancz Ltd, price £5.95.

conquest of Europe by the Soviets.

Always, like a spectre beyond mankind's misty mind, is the frightening possibility of Eternal Winter — the blotting out of sunlight for several years by the huge amount of debris and smoke that would be thrown up by a nuclear attack, and the consequent lowering of Earth's temperature to -30 degrees centigrade. — GRH.

Technology in War by Kenneth Macksey. Published by Arms & Armour Press. Price £12.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Punjab Mail Murder by Roger Perkins. Re-published story of the murder of a young officer in the Indian Army, Lieutenant George Ramsey Hext, on the Punjab Mail express train in 1931 at the time of many politically motivated murders in India. Published by Picton Publishing. Price £11.95.

The Escaping Habit by Joseph Orna. Remarkable story of the author's escape from a prisoner of war camp in Italy dressed as a monk and his subsequent experiences, still in the same disguise, as he travels down Italy to rejoin the

British Forces. First published in 1975, re-issued by Leo Cooper/Secker and Warburg. Price: £9.95.

Special Deliverance by Alexander Fullerton. Fictional story built around the fact that a British helicopter was found burned out in Chile at the time of the Falklands War. The novel's story has four Special Boat Service men and a civilian attacking an Exocet base in Argentina. Published by Macmillan. Price £9.95.

Scorpion by Simon Dunstan. No 22 in the Tanks Illustrated Range, published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £3.95.

Tommy Goes to War by Malcolm Brown. The mud, rats, lice, fear, injuries, death and bravery of the First World War trenches, re-issued by J M Dent and Sons Ltd to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Price £6.95.

The Middle Parts of Fortune, by Frederick Manning, the life of an infantryman on the Western Front in 1916, first published in 1929, re-issued by Buchan and Enright in the Echoes of War series. Price £5.95.

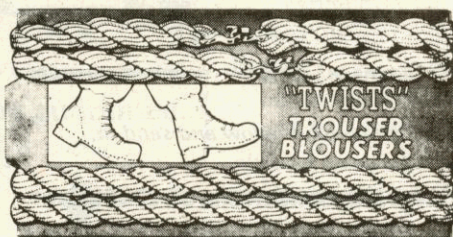
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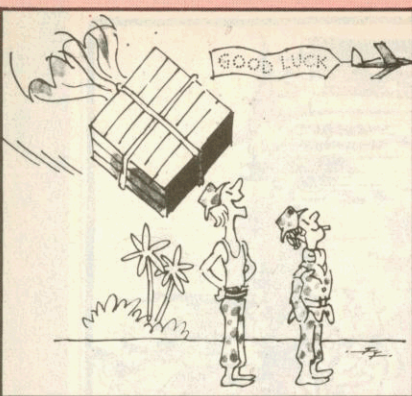
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MAIL DROP

FORGOTTEN EX-TA?

AT times I wonder why so many retired Territorial Army men are forgotten. I write on behalf, no doubt, of thousands who may feel the same as me. I joined the TA in 1928 in the Royal Artillery, went on to Battery Staff with the horsedrawn regiment, saw the creation of the first mechanised 18-pounders, and when war broke out in 1939 had almost served 12 years, had risen to AIC then eventually transferred to RCS and was demobbed 1945.

In 1939 we formed many 2nd line regiments because in all these years previously we had studied, worked, loved our fellow TA members, met during the weeks at every drill time we could muster.

In those very great days we were a very very proud knit society. We respected very much our units.

We did not receive tremendous bounties — mine was £1 a year! Our pay was about 2/- a day with ration allowances! But we were loyal, true,

and trusted members of our units. The country has or had every cause to be proud of those who wear today the TA long service medal.

I would like to ask why we have never had an ex-Territorial Army Association.

We perhaps again may even at our time of life become once again a backbone. We still love our country and still have the ideals for which we trained and went to war in 1939.

Yes Sir, we are still those same people but now forgotten by you... and never an association of our own to be proud of! — **Arthur C Bennett ISM (ex-Foreman Signals), 15 Pennington Rd, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset, BH22 0JQ.**

FOUR DAYS TO QUIT

The recent interest in Swaziland because of the Coronation of its new King prompts me to recall that it is now 20 years since the last major unit of the British Army was stationed in that country.

During its tour in Southern Africa, the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers which was based in Swaziland, maintained one company in Francistown, Bechuanaland, to guard the BBC relay station there, and another in Aden.

The battalion took part in the ceremonies which marked the freedom of Bechuanaland, now Botswana, and Basutoland, now Lesotho, both of which were presided over by Princess Marina of Kent.

In November 1966 a decision was made at short notice to wind up the British military base in Swaziland and the battalion was officially given four days in which to make its preparations and evacuate the country.

The battalion, less its two detached companies but with band, drums and pipes, sailed to Aden in HMS Fearless, en route to the UK, having embarked at Durban, where it was given a marvellous reception and send off by the local populace. — **Brigadier D L Ormerod, Alt Grange, Hightown, Liverpool L38 7JD.**

STAFF SERGEANTS

May I refer to the letter by Mr Worley Why private soldier?, in SOLDIER (May 5) and in particular his reference to Colour Sergeants.

Below is an extract of a letter from the Director of Infantry dated June 22 1981 which is self explanatory. Use of the term 'Staff Sergeant' in the infantry:

There is a growing tendency to incorrectly classify some of the colour-sergeants in our battalions and depots as 'staff sergeants'. I believe the origin of this is the general use of this term in establishment tables throughout the Army in combination with computerisation of pay and records.

An additional cause of misunderstanding has arisen from the increment of colour-sergeant vacancies which, again for purposes of establishment reckoning and records, has referred to

'staff sergeants'. In some units, there have been muddled ideas that a 'colour sergeant' is dedicated to QM administrative duties while those of this rank performing command or instructional duties are 'staff sergeants'.

The fact is that the rank title connected with three chevrons and a crown in the infantry is 'colour-sergeant'. Indeed, this title is unique to the infantry as 'bombardier' is to a corporal in the Royal Artillery. A colour-sergeant employed on company Q duties has the appointment of 'company quarter-master-sergeant'. A colour-sergeant appointed to command a platoon does not change his rank title on that account.

There is, of course, no question that other Army staff sergeants serving with battalions — RAMC, RAPC, APTC, ACC etc — should bear the title 'colour-sergeant'. It is not their custom or privilege so to do.

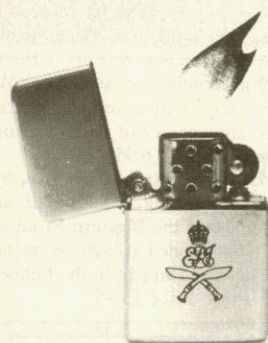
In sum therefore infantry colour-sergeants whatever their duties are to be correctly classified as colour-sergeants. — **Major (Ret'd) J A Barrow, 26 Ladysmith Rd, Lipson, Plymouth, Devon.**

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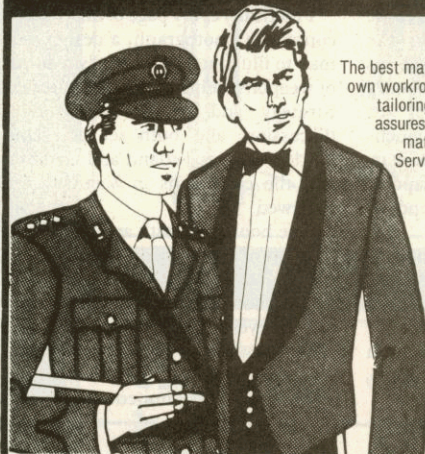
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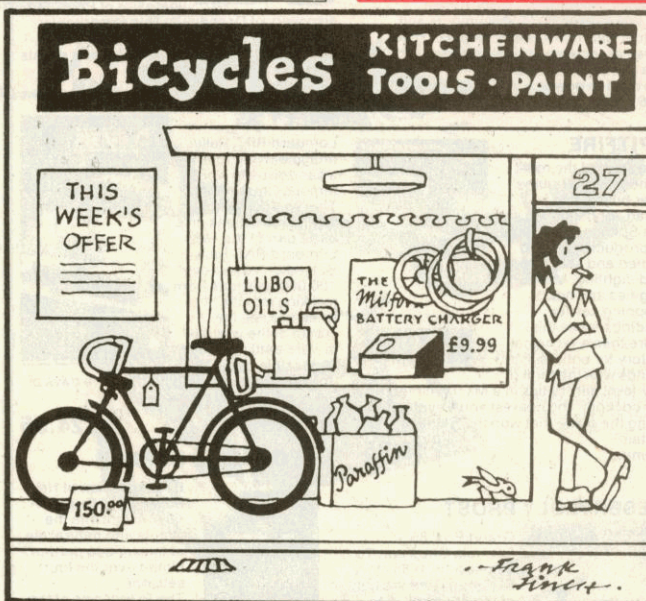
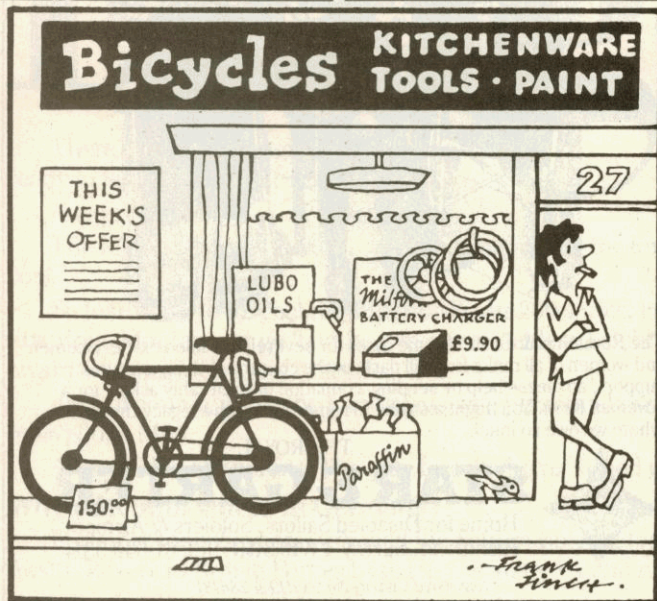
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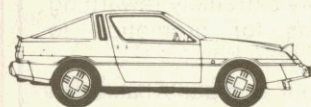
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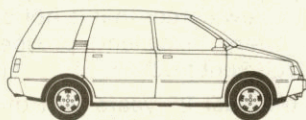
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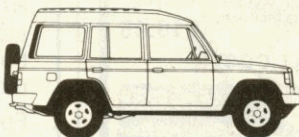
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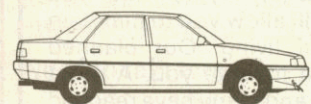
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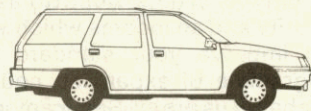
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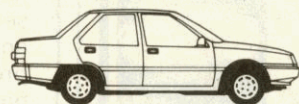
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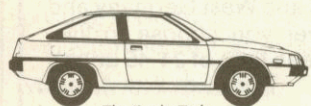
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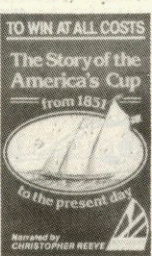


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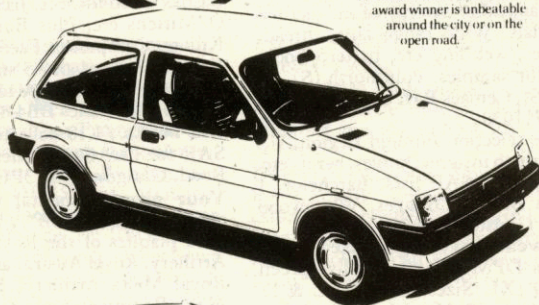
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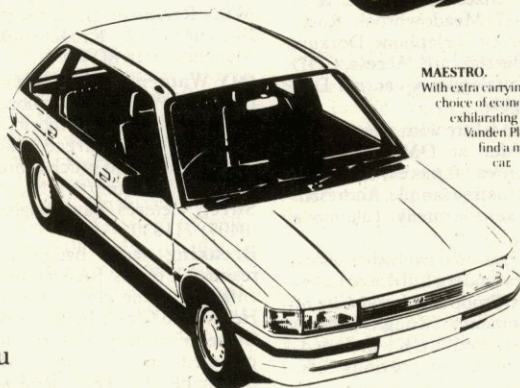
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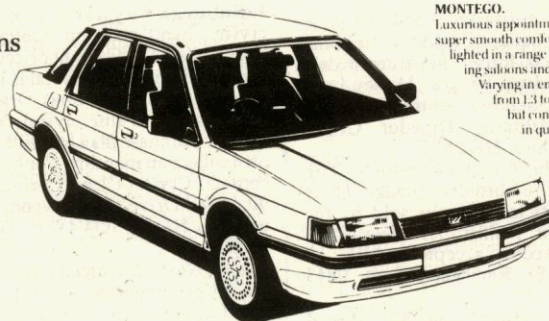
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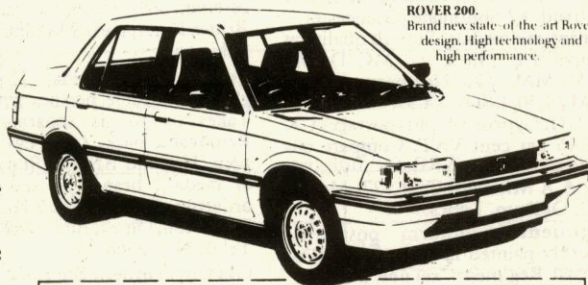
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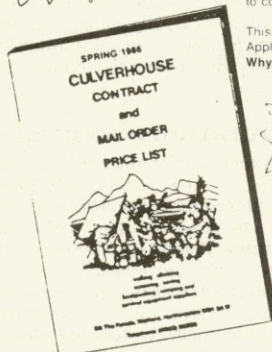
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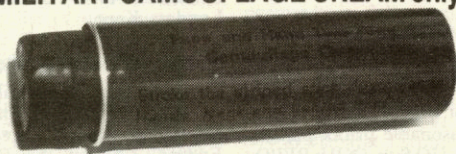
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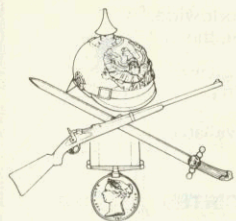
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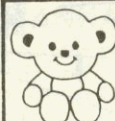
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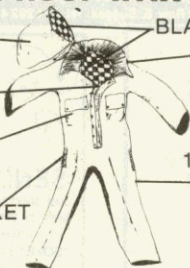
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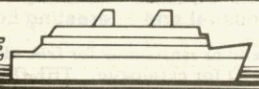
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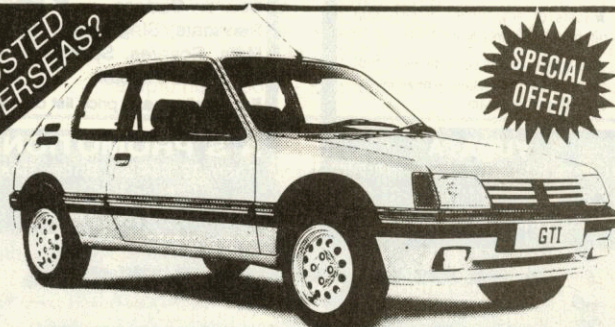
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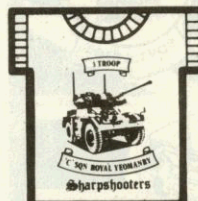
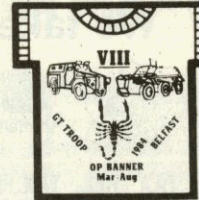
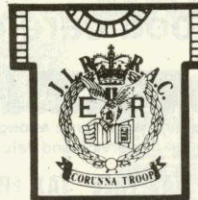
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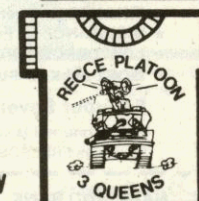


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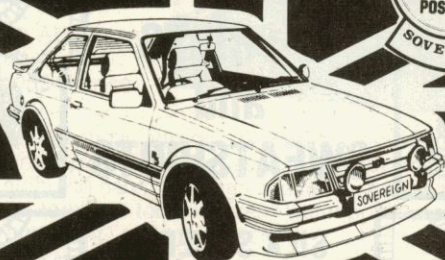
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ARMY SCORES WITH YOUNG TALENT

ARMY cricket is on the up and up. That was the message to emerge from the three-day Army festival at Aldershot

which launched the summer game for this year.

The festival, which started last year, has a dual role. In

addition to providing three days of competition for all of the best UK-based players it also acts as an Army trial.

Army cricket chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Salisbury, told SOLDIER afterwards: "For me the most heartening thing about the weekend has been the large amount of young talent on view. They may not make the Army Under-25 side this year but could well do so before long.

"There is no doubt this event is paying dividends and things will only get better."

Army skipper Major Barry Bennett was also confident of the chances of retaining the Inter-Services title with his young squad.

Among the newcomers will be Second Lieutenant Matthew Fleming, now with The Royal Green Jackets but until recently a regular Kent 2nd XI player. He is described as "a fine all-rounder".

Other Army stars available for this summer include opener Lieutenant John Willatt, Corporal Steve Durston, and the immaculate stroke maker

Captain Edward Gordon-Lennox. Bowler Corporal Andy Taylor also impressed over the three days.

The winners of the competition were again South-West, Wales and West. In a low scoring final they put out South East for 90 (Fleming 48) and scored the runs for the loss of eight wickets.

The third and fourth place play-off saw victory for London (Bennett not out 53) with 115-5 in reply to 113 from North-East, North-West and Scotland.

Major Bennett is also Combined Services captain this year and their programme includes some high class games. They were following up their successful Kenyan tour last autumn by entertaining the Kenyan national side at Uxbridge on June 9.

The Kenyans will be using the match as a warm-up for the ICC trophy contest for the non-Test status cricket playing nations.

At the end of the season on August 28 the Services meet a Sri Lankan touring team at Uxbridge.

Superstar Tony wins again

Sergeant Instructor Tony Mims, last year's 4 Armd Division Superstar, has repeated his victory — this year competing for 3 Armd Divi-

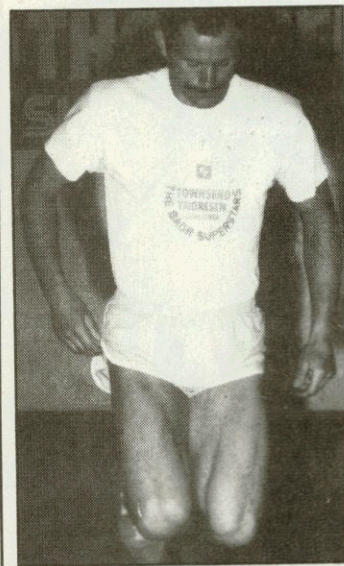
sion/Rear Combat Zone and went through to the final of Townsend Thoresen's BAOR Superstars Challenge.

Tony, of the School of P and RT at Sennelager Training Camp, will be joined in the final by Lance Corporal Adrian Smith, 13/18H, who is 4 Armd Division's new Superstar.

Tony and Adrian beat off stiff opposition from other competitors in the divisional finals at Sennelager Training Camp in a range of tough sporting disciplines.

Tony, who obtained a total of 43 points, came first in gym tests, cycling and canoeing and second in the biathlon. Adrian's strongest sports proved to be cycling, gym tests and the obstacle race, where he came first, giving him 46 points.

◀ Sgt Instructor Tony Mims, victory again



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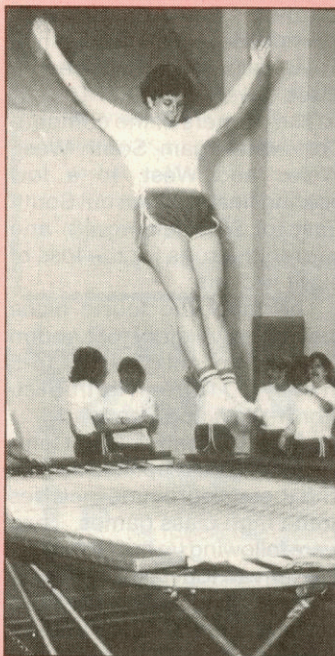


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24-hour bounce



A team of women's Services personnel at British Forces Headquarters in Hong Kong have been bouncing about for charity in a trampolining marathon.

Picture shows Captain Chantal Bailey WRAC airborne while taking part in the 24-hour bounce.

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YORKS TA TOP SHOTS

It was a good weekend's shooting for The Yorkshire Volunteers during the North East District Skill at Arms competition on the North Yorkshire Ranges.

A team from the Huddersfield-based 3rd Battalion took the prize in the rifle competition and they also won the falling plate contest. A 1st Battalion (HQ at York) team won the sub-machine gun shoot.

Individual prizes also went to men from the 1st Battalion. Sergeant Bernard Appleton was the Champion Pistol Shot for the North East and Corporal John Thwaites was the Champion Rifle Shot.

Private Bob Brown, 1st Battalion, won the prize for the Best Young Soldier Rifle Shot. He was also the best young soldier on the SMG.

Other major prize winners: Rifle: Best individual (Infantry) 3 Yorks (L Cpl Webb); Non-Infantry, 15 Fd Wksp REME (L Cpl Eggleton. LMG/GPMG pairs: 150 Tpt Regt RCT (V). SMG: Team winners 1 Yorks; best individual (Infantry) 4 PARA (LCpl Steven); non-Infantry, 38 Engr Regt Wksp, (WO1 Nesbit); Women's team winners, Northumbria UOTC; Best woman shot W L Cpl Fletcher, 7 LI. Pistol: Team winners, 38 Engr Regt (Wksp); Best individual (Infantry) 7 LI (WO2 Edgecombe); Non-Infantry, 150 Tpt Regt RCT (LCpl Rowley); Women's team, Northumbria UOTC; Best woman shot Northumbria UOTC (SUO Gregory). Minor Unit Championship: 15 Fd Wksp REME. Major Unit Championship: 150 Tpt Regt RCT. NEDSAM Rifle Champion: Cpl J Thwaites 1 Yorks. NEDSAM SMG Champion: WO1 R Nesbitt 38 Engr Regt Wksp. NEDSAM Pistol Champion: Sgt B Appleton 1 Yorks. TA Minor Unit from North of England; Northumbria UOTC.



Private Allison Archer (left) gives Lance Corporal Tina Whitmore a helping hand before her bout at the Army Fencing Championship at Aldershot

ARMY SINK RN

For this first time ever, a Six-a-Side football competition was included in the programme for the Armed Forces Arena at Biggin Hill air show. The Army met the Royal Navy in the final tie, and beat the matelots 4-1.

The Army opened briskly with Cpl Kevin Parkins threatening but the move was blocked and the ball cleared. It was quickly returned

for Cpl Sandy Brown and SI Pat Russell to combine well before the latter scored.

Two minutes later, Russell was on the mark again when the big striker curled the ball into the corner of the net.

Russell completed a fine personal hat-trick of goals just before the interval and the contest, as such, was virtually over.

Cpl Steve Tusz put the Army further ahead early in the second half.



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There was almost as much water in the sky above as in the canal beneath when 5 Airborne Brigade Logistics Battalion from Aldershot paddled their dragon boat north on the second day of a marathon from London to Nottingham.

The paddlers were planning to cover 20 miles a day along the Grand Union Canal and River Trent to raise money for the Sport Aid appeal. They reached Nottingham as planned and raised at least £4,500.

Watchers from the banks were invited to 'sink the dragon boat' with their donations.

Picture: Terry Champion.



SOLDIER

