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FRONT COVER: Princess Anne, visiting 1st Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, enjoys driving MCV80. See page 15.

Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER: Men of the Army Physical Training Corps display some of their many skills during the Assault at Arms at Aldershot. See page 14.

Picture: Terry Champion

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SOLDIER

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NEW-LOOK COMPETITION

Frank Finch's popular *How Observant Are You?* appears on page 39 — and this time there is a £50 prize at stake. Readers who enjoy the picture poser just for fun can still do so, of course, but we wonder how many will find the thought of a prize appealing.



Centenary year for 21 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport in Duisburg and they marked their 100-year existence with the purchase of a special sword, being presented (left) to Officer Commanding, Major Philip Bell, by the General Officer Commanding 3rd Armoured Division, Major General David Ramsbotham. See page 17.

MORE MILESTONES

The Army Physical Training Corps marked their 125th anniversary with an Assault at Arms (below) in Aldershot. See page 14.



CENTENARY YEAR 1985

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War of the Worlds at RAF Wildenrath

"SUDDENLY there was a violent explosion and the ground heaved. The young soldier screamed, 'Look there they are, what did I tell you.'

"One after the other the fighting machines appeared — monsters hovering, bloated bodies of throbbing metal. Each machine emitted a searching penetrating beam of light and the savage ghostly heatray was ready to follow... Altogether the machines raised their menacing bodies and as they did so exulted, emitted a deafening roar," shouted the narrator.

It was like something out of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' as the helicopters emerged out of the darkness, their eerie silhouettes lit only by electric flashes of white and coloured light which sprang up from the airfield. Music filled the hangar and the tension rose — the audience was captivated.

They had come to see a military tattoo at RAF Wildenrath — what they got was 'The War of the

Worlds' a spectacular display of flying, pyrotechnics and above all imagination.

And they had the officers and men of 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support), under their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Ayrton to thank for it all.

The event was arranged, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer RAF Wildenrath, Group Captain Ian McBride, to highlight the close working relationship which the Regiment enjoys with the RAF — they provide tactical communications support for all RA FG airfields and HQs including communications for the Harrier force and support helicopters.

Six weeks of preparation had gone into the event which took as its theme Jeff Wayne's musical adaptation of HG Wells' classic, 'The War of the Worlds.'

The result was magic — a show which left the 2,500 or so people who attended absolutely spell-bound.



Eerie lights — part of the Wildenrath spectacular

The evening began musically with a special appearance by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals who Beat Retreat. They played a varied programme lasting some three quarters of an hour and during the final Sunset ceremony three flags — the Union Flag, RAF Ensign and the Regimental flag of 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) — were lowered.

Following a short interval 'The

War of the Worlds' began with the Band of Royal Air Force Germany providing the music.

Suddenly as the RA FG Band played 'Eve of War' there was a spectacular flash of white light, the first Martian missile to strike the earth which beautifully illuminated two Phantoms from 19 (Fighter) and 92 (East India) Squadrons which sat patiently on the runway.

Then out of the darkness came the giant flying machines — two Chinooks from 18 Squadron at Guttersloh — and Gazelles from 12 Flight Army Corps which flew towards the crowd.

It was very dramatic and as the band continued to play Jeff Wayne's excellent score the whole event turned into something of a spectacular!

Out of the gloom came the Martians — members of 1 Squadron 21 Signals Regiment who had done much of the ground work for the event — carrying eerie lights and with their faces blanked out by masks. And just when you began to think the Martians had won the battle the Phantoms flew over to try and win the day.

NEVER MIND YOUR EXERCISE...



We couldn't resist using this photograph — which arrived from Dutch agency ANP via Press Association — of a West German woman going about her business near Munster — seemingly oblivious to the Leopard tank. The exercises must go on... and this lady is obviously quite used to it all!



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MARIE STOPES SEND NOW

JUST OFFICIALLY opened (as **SOLDIER** went to press) at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, is its new Air Defence **Tactical Training Theatre** already dubbed as a "giant-sized space invaders" and housed in a large white globe.

The theatre is an adaptable computer-based indoor training system with multiple targets for training air defence weapon operators and crews — the men who operate tracked and towed Rapier, Blowpipe and the incoming Javelin shoulder-launched system.

Training will take them through all the phases of engaging an aerial target.

Colonel Mike Shellard, who had just taken up the appointment of Commander 1st Artillery Brigade in Dortmund, with 1 (BR) Corps AD regiments under his command said: "This system will allow AD artillery men to train detachment

AIR DEFENCE THEATRE OPENS

commanders to a degree of realism never before achieved. It's a step forward using current computer technology linked to five projectors on the British Aerospace Rapier AD system.

"Instructors are very enthusiastic and the soldiers are finding it an interesting challenge."

During the opening ceremony a memorial to General Sir Frederick Pile was unveiled, a link with the past. He commanded Anti-Aircraft Command during the Battle of Britain. The ceremony was due to be performed by his widow, Lady Pile.

The memorial features the name plates from the first two Battle of Britain class locomotives — "Anti-Aircraft Command" and the "Sir Frederick Pile" — which were

originally presented by British Rail to the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Manorbier in Pembrokeshire when the class was taken

out of service in the late 60s.

Anti-aircraft instruction moved from Manorbier to the AD Wing, Larkhill, in 1970.



Tracked Rapier

Home ownership 'boom' poses some problems

INCREASING numbers of serving soldiers are opting to buy their own homes.

But according to the Adjutant General, Lieutenant General Sir Roland Guy, it is not necessarily a good thing for families as it tended to encou-

MUNIFICENT GETTY GIFT FOR IWM

MR PAUL GETTY has given £500,000 to the Imperial War Museum Redevelopment Appeal.

The Appeal is for £2½ million which, when achieved, will trigger £6½ million of government funds to allow the first stage of the Museum's redevelopment, costing £9 million, to go ahead.

The Museum moved into the present building, the former Royal Bethlem Hospital, in 1936, when it covered only World War 1.

There has been no increase in gallery space in the intervening 50 years, although the Museum's terms of reference have expanded to include World War 2 and subsequent conflicts.

The redevelopment scheme will provide new public galleries and facilities, such as an education centre, cafeteria, and provision for disabled visitors.

The new galleries will be designed in such a way as to give the public increased access to the Museum's immense archive collections of film, photographs and sound recordings.

With Mr Getty's munificent donation the Appeal passes the £1½ million mark, leaving a further £1 million to be raised.

rage separation, writes **JOHN MARGETTS**.

Conversely, he said earlier that housing for Servicemen at the end of their service was a major problem, as was matching a man to a job near to his home.

Sir Roland was speaking at the hundredth annual meeting of the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

He forecast, too, that future resettlement courses were likely to come under scrutiny along with cuts in the defence budget.

But overall it was a bright picture that Sir Roland and other Service chiefs presented with "employers queuing up for electronic experts leaving the Services. They are snapped up," said Association President Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson.

"Last year 10,500 ex-Regulars

were assisted — about half of those who left the Services — and more than 4,000 were placed in jobs. This is an 11 per cent improvement on 1983-84," he said.

"We have some confidence this upward trend will continue as job placings to the end of August are up by seven per cent on last year."

But he warned that the challenge of finding jobs for ex-Servicemen will get tougher because more men and women are expected to leave the Forces this year and next than before.

General manager of the Association, Major General Michael Hogge reported that most jobs for ex-Regulars were found in the industrial and commercial sectors with increased placings in security work, supervisory positions and transport drivers.

But although successful job placings were up on past year and

look like continuing the trend there is "no cause for complacency," said Sir Derek Hodgkinson.

He was paying tribute to the 40 employment officers throughout the UK. "Each is responsible for a large area varying widely as regards job opportunities and the available talent to fill them. They are on their own in a challenging market with frustrations abounding."

And, while pointing out that their finances were in a "sound state" with more than £80,000 in the bank, "we still need all the help and support we can get."

Bomb survivor dies of cancer

MR KEITH LEWIS, former sergeant and trombonist with The Royal Green Jackets who was injured in the Regent's Park terrorist bombing three years ago, has died of cancer, aged 42.

RARE DSO FOR AUCTION

A RARE World War 2 DSO group of eight medals awarded to Major A Greville-Bell of the SAS, then newly-formed, is to come under the hammer at Sotheby's on 7 November. They are expected to fetch in the region of £1,500 to £2,000.

Major Greville-Bell, commanding a party of six men, was dropped by parachute near enemy-occupied Florence in September 1943 with the object of disrupting enemy railways.

The major sustained two broken ribs and other injuries on landing. Despite lack of food and poor weather, Greville-Bell and his men succeeded in de-railing three trains around Florence thus effectively coinciding with the Allied landings

at Salerno and halting the rapid deployment of German tanks which could have halted the Allied advance in Italy.

After walking more than 250 miles in 73 days, organising local partisan activity, destroying a couple of German trucks and taking two prisoners after a brisk exchange of fire, Major Greville-Bell regained Allied lines. His party was intact.

With two other parties they had totally paralysed the railway system in Central Italy. The Germans had to use precious fuel and tank-tracks to move their armoured vehicles south only to arrive too late.

General Alexander remarked that a prompt arrival of enemy tanks at the Salerno landings could



easily have changed the whole outcome of the war in Italy and would have certainly prolonged it.

Major Greville-Bell (above) had thwarted any such event.

Why the Colonel gave his wife a gong!

IT'S not often a man shakes hands with his wife and hands her a medal.

But Colonel Paul Daly did when he reired as CO of 202 (Midland) General Hospital RAMC (V).

His wife, Pamela, has a civilian job in a Birmingham hospital, but spends most evenings and weekends with 202 General where for the past 13 years she has combined teaching nurses and acting as theatre superintendent and deputy matron.

So when the CO retired, Pamela, who is a Lieutenant Colonel (V), received from her husband the Territorial Decoration which goes well with her Red Cross Class Two medal awarded her in 1983 for

hospital organisation during the Pope's visit to Coventry.

A general practitioner in Birmingham, Dr Daly joined 202 five years ago having previously been with a parachute field ambulance.

It was while serving with the field ambulance he gained his parachute wings, making his last para-jump in 1981 at the Arnhem pilgrimage.

He had been CO of 202 for the past four years when he called it a day last month.

Among the many

medals Colonel Daly wears with pride is the BEM for his services as senior medical officer to 44 Parachute Brigade, and the Order of St John for teaching first aid.

At his farewell parade, held at Nesscliff camp, Shropshire, more than 150 Territorials with 11 different cap badges lined up to wish him well.

And as it was his last day with the hospital, he and Pamela, helped by some officers, served 'gunfire'—tea well spiced with rum—to all ranks in bed.



DR AND MRS PAUL DALY: colonels both

Mayor's medal

CLOSE links between Bielefeld and locally-posted soldiers have led to Mayor Klaus Schwickerdt being awarded the BEM. "Nothing could have been achieved without the co-operation of the town and the British troops," he said.

Neil throws a mean Javelin

A HOT-SHOT with the Javelin is the proud boast of Gunner Neil Schearer, 20, of 10 (Assaye) Air Defence Battery Royal Artillery.

Neil, who serves with the Battery at Hohne in Germany has scored a 100 per cent hit rate using the new hand-held air defence missile, knocking out his target eight times in eight shots.

Made by Shorts Missile Systems of Belfast, Javelin is the successor to the Blowpipe missile that destroyed several enemy aircraft in the Falklands, and Assaye Battery, attached to 40th Field Regiment RA with the job of providing air defence support for 1st Armoured Division, have had a busy 1985 converting from Blowpipe to Javelin.

Neil was found to have such a keen eye that he hit the target every time during practice firing of the Javelin. His target each time was a 'Skeet', a 12 foot wing-span, radio-controlled model aircraft. Once the missile has left its shoulder-supported cannister the operator guides it to its target simply by keeping his aiming sight firmly fixed on the target—an automatic guidance system linked to the missile keeps it on track.

"It's a very simple system to operate," says Neil. "During practice shoots I scored three direct hits and five technical hits."

Run record

FOUR runners from The Royal Regiment of Wales have broken a relay record from John O'Groats to Lands End set by Paras two years ago. WO1 Alan Harrhy and CSGTs Ron Foley, Vince Hampton and Martin Herbert also raised £2,500 for charity.

Loyal service

Since 1945 Horst Ziller, George Lekscha, Heinrich Westerwelle and Otto Zanker have worked for the Army in BAOR. Former soldiers and sailors, they were presented with 40-year certificates by Brigadier Rory O'Connor, Commander Herford Garrison.

Heroes of the North West Frontier are remembered by General

A FOLLOW-UP story to an In Memoriam notice in the *Daily Telegraph* has yielded a sad, yet fascinating account of life and death on the North West Frontier 50 years ago.

The notice was placed by Major General Godfrey Hamilton, 73, in honour of two heroic British Army officers and 20 soldiers of the Corps of Guides 12th Frontier Regiment, who died in a futile, and seemingly needless operation.

The 22 were killed by rifle fire from thousands of tribesmen on top of a hill near a

village called Wucha Jawar, which is now part of Pakistan.

Now, on the 50th anniversary of their deaths, General Hamilton, who at the time was a 23-year-old lieutenant leading a rear company, has recalled the battle with his memoriam notice.

The notice read: "QVO Corps of Guides FF. In proud and loving memory of Godfrey Meynell, VC, MC, and Tony Rendall, MC, and the

twenty other soldiers of the Guides Infantry who, on September 29, 50 years ago, gave their lives for the honour of the Regiment on the slopes of pt. 4080 on the North West Frontier."

A former Chief of the Joint Services Liaison Organisation, BAOR, General Hamilton retains sharp memories of the event and is reported as saying: "I thought it only right that somebody should remember these men. You

notice I said 'gave their lives for the honour of the regiment,' for there was no other reason as far as I could see."

The battle and the deaths of his fellow officers, Captain Meynell and Lieutenant Rendall and the 20 soldiers had a profound effect on the young Godfrey Hamilton, for it transpired that he was the only officer not killed or wounded in the fight and found himself commanding the rest of the battalion.

With Rendall and Meynell dead—the latter was posthumously awarded the VC for his part in the action—Hamilton's company gave covering fire to the remnants of the forward company.

But it was during the retreat that Godfrey Hamilton suffered a severe stomach wound which left him lying without help for some hours. For his part in the battle he was awarded the DSO.

The whole tragedy apparently stemmed from the order: "Let's bring these tribesmen to heel."

It left 22 brave men lying dead, the company in full retreat and a crack unit humiliated.

Falcons fly for 'Fletch'



A YEAR ago a young soldier, 19-year-old Private 'Fletch' Fletcher—real name Laurence—was struck down with paralysis. He can communicate only by using his eyes. But his illness didn't stop him from continuing his interest in parachuting.

'Fletch', of the Prince of Wales's Division is in hospital at Princess Alexandra Hospital, RAF Wroughton, and that was how the RAF Parachute Display Team, the Falcons, heard about him and laid on a special show just for him.

Ripping yarns from Hari's days in the Boer War



EMANOEL LEE, HARI WILLIAMS: absorbing tales (photo: Chris Lord)

THE aged gentleman, pictured below, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest 'old soldier' still around today.

He is Mr Hari Williams and at 102 still tells with startling clarity ripping yarns of his time as a scout with the

British Army in the Boer War.

He was 17 when the war started in 1899 and now, after a lifetime of soldiering around the world, and between times training as a doctor in the USA, he lives in a home for old people in Birmingham.

When he's not typing up his memoirs of those far-off days, he spends time talking to friends such as surgeon and author Emanoel Lee (left) and Professor Richard Cobb.

A surgeon at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, South African-born Mr Lee has just published his book, *To the Bitter End* (Viking £12.95), which tells the story of the Boer War in words and pictures.

It is through the book the third one of the trio fits in — Professor Richard Cobb, well-known author and professor of history at Worcester College, Oxford, who supplied many of the photographs for the book.

They were taken by his father, Lieutenant Francis Cobb of the Royal Engineers who 'snapped' characters and scenes by the score with his Kodak box camera between skirmishes, building bridges and accommodation.

The surgeon met the Professor when the latter entered hospital for an operation by Mr Lee.

Subsequent chats revealed a common interest which led to Professor Cobb offering the pictures as illustrations which have gone a long way to producing an absorbing and informative book.

At the launch at the National Army Museum, London, Professor Cobb formally handed over to the museum his father's two albums of photos adding greatly to their collection.

In a short talk to introduce his book, Mr Lee made the point that 400,000 troops took part in the South African campaign. "It was a major war, the repercussions of which are still being felt today," he said.

"Incidentally," he added, "it was the first and last campaign in which British soldiers were allowed to carry cameras into war."

He may well be right. Who knows? But if he is then large numbers of squaddies broke the rule during the Falklands campaign. For scores, possibly hundreds, took cameras to the South Atlantic snapping pictures of their voyages, not to mention the ensuing battles.

QUICK

Husbands and wives and their children from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based at Bulford have raised £1,500 by sponsored relay race for Wiltshire branch of NSPCC.

SPOT

PEOPLE

Cooper cops a banger!

BOXING idol Henry Cooper looks thoughtful, food magazines editor Jenny Green tastes daintily while champion sausage maker David Burns from Bangor (!) Northern Ireland, makes ready to express his professional opinion.

The trio were filming a sausage-tasting test for the TV show *Food and Drink* presented by food-lover and travel expert Chris Kelly.

Each of the team sampled two dozen British-made bangers awarding marks out of 30 for taste, texture and appearance.

The results of their survey on the great British banger, together with their personal remarks, were screened on BBC2 last week.

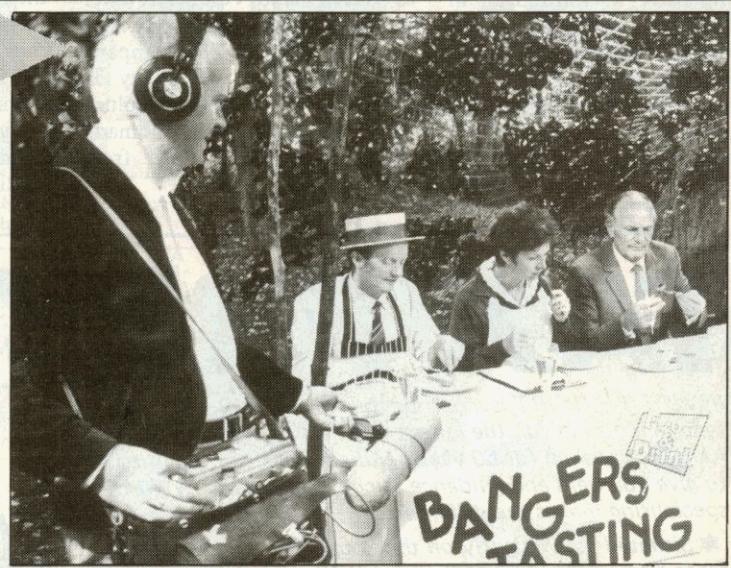
Preparing the bangers for the

celebrities were three cooks from the ACC Apprentices' College at Aldershot.

Led by instructor Staff Sergeant Steve Pickup, Lance Corporal Tony Bennett and Apprentice Richard Bredin set up a field kitchen to fry and grill the 72 sausages for Henry and his team to prod, smell, inspect taste and mark.

While the preparation and service of the sausages was of five-star quality, what did the cooks think of the products?

Said Staff Sergeant Pickup: "Some of the sausages were awful and the overall standard not very high. But the three that came top of the celebrities' list were fit for my field kitchen and would be acceptable to most soldiers." Doesn't say much for the other 21 bangers.



HENRY AND COMPANY: prodding, smelling, tasting, marking

SWIMMING and water polo ace WO2 Ted Martin, 34, has raised £3,000 to help protect the 175-mile long barrier reef off Belize.

Now in Hong Kong he was, till recently, chief instructor at the Forces adventure training centre on the island of St George's Cay, and was worried about damage by

Ted's swim helps save underwater wonder

underwater swimmers and boat anchors.

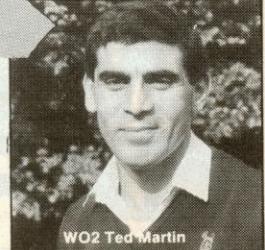
Ted collected the cash with a sponsored challenge: canoeing, sailing, and windsurfing from St George's to Belize City followed by an 11-mile swim.

Said Ted: "Belize is now really switching on to tourism and it is good to know I have been able to do something towards protecting one of their best assets.

"I would like to go back in a couple of years to see

how they are getting on. In the meantime, I am sure those who follow are keeping up the good work."

He has seen the damage that can be done, unwittingly or negligently, in other places and hopes Belize can avoid a similar fate.



WO2 Ted Martin

PARAS DROP IN GERMANY

ONE OF The Parachute Regiment's heroes of Goose Green led his battalion of 'weekend' soldiers in a para descent into West Germany.

The Commanding Officer of 15 (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Keeble, was the man who as a major took command of 2 Para when his Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel 'H' Jones, was killed in action which was marked with a posthumous Victoria Cross.



TWO prominent Highland Brigade officers are moving up the Territorial Army career ladder.

Colonel Ian Sim, 42, (left) from Dunblane, who for the past three years has held the appointment of TA Colonel 51 Highland Brigade becomes TA Colonel Scotland, while Lieutenant Colonel Alex Murdoch, 45, is promoted as Colonel Sim's replacement.

Colonel Sim, a native of Glasgow and a banker in Edinburgh in civilian life, was commissioned into the 8th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1962 while serving as a bank apprentice in Lochgilphead, Argyll.

Promoted lieutenant colonel in 1979, he commanded 1/51 High-

land Volunteers until 1981 being promoted colonel the following year in his present appointment.

Lieutenant Colonel Murdoch, a chartered secretary and assistant managing director of a large Dundee wholesale business, belongs to Perth.

He was commissioned into the 6/7th Battalion Black Watch in his home town in 1964, transferring to the local Black Watch company of 51 Highland Volunteers after the 1967 reorganisation. He later commanded both HQ Company in Perth and A Company in Dundee of 1/51 Highland Volunteers, before taking over command of the battalion in 1981 from Colonel Sim.

Col Keeble has a team of Territorial Army volunteers from every part of Scotland dedicated enough to travel long distances to discharge their military commitments.

One of them is his Second in Command, Major Alistair Hutton, a Member of the European Parliament when not in uniform. The others include Capt Jim MacDonald an architect, while a third, Private Neil Henderson works in Glasgow's Fruit and Vegetable market; landed in Germany with his canopy draped in an apple tree.

They and the other 150 who leapt from three RAF Hercules aircraft in near-windless conditions are looking for other potential recruits of the right calibre. Whitehall shares their hopes: the TAVR is to be increased by 11,000 men by the end of the 1980s.

The 'right stuff' is tough. After a full days civilian work on Thursday and a sleepless night, the men began three gruelling days and nights soldiering with little prospect of sleep when they jumped from 800 feet.

There are two other Territorial parachute battalions in Britain, 10 Para, centred around London and the crowded South-east, and 4 Para, whose men are drawn from the northern counties of England. All receive their parachute training from Royal Air Force professionals at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, men who are themselves qualified physical education teachers before they learn parachuting.

The fact that No 1 Parachute Training School is still in business is significant: it means that despite of many changes in the art of soldiering since 1945, accompanied

by regular cuts and defence reviews, successive governments have not lost faith in the need for parachute-trained forces and the expert aircrew required to fly them. Although modern anti-aircraft missiles would be deadly to slow-moving transport aircraft in hostile, unprotected air space, it is clear that the fastest way to reinforce a sensitive area on the friendly side of any battle line would be by air. Nothing matches the flexibility of tactical air power in this sort of situation.

"The other reason" says Col Keeble, "is that Parachuting builds the soldiers self confidence and morale, and welds us together."

In the exercise, 15 Para enjoyed support from the 37th US Cavalry and US Medical command, as well as the Federal German Bundeswehr.

The para descent was only the first trial for the Scots. Immediately afterward, they assembled for a 25 km (15 mile) march to a 'combat zone'. Some carried loads of 80 lbs or more, including anti-tank missile launchers; mortars; radios and even grappling equipment. As one of them said wryly, hauling on his back-pack, "It's a man's life. I hope I'm still man enough, that's all."



TOPICS

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S20

POTENTIAL recruits hoping to earn a much sought-after place in Rhine Army's youngest unit have been provisionally cutting their training teeth at a tough two-day assessment session at Sennelager.

The 17-strong squad — all qualified dog handlers — are aiming to become the first members of the Defence Animal Support Unit, Royal Army Veterinary Corps (Volunteers).

It is the latest force to be raised under the Continental TA Scheme and has an establishment ceiling so far of 40 troops ranging from Private to Staff Sergeant.

The unit was formed to enable the invaluable asset of 350 first rate guard dogs within the parent organisation to be used with maximum effect during a period of transition to war or mobilisation.

On top of this it is planned that the unit would be a viable framework on which experienced reservist dog handlers could form up and rapidly deploy should such transition occur.

The initial batch of volunteers, 12 of whom are former soldiers, already work for the DASU as members of the Mixed Service Organisation (MSO) which took over routine dog handling duties from military personnel a long time ago.

At their familiarisation course which included basic weapon training, map reading and NBC drill the prospective candidates were closely scrutinised.

Presentations on topics such as the security threat and care of dogs also formed part of the two-day stint which gave those individuals with little practical military background a chance to see at close quarters what Army life demands.

Recruiting so far has come from within the parent body, and the main criteria is that applicants must be British passport holders between the ages of 18 and 40 years, be physically fit and be permanently living in West Germany.

But there looks like being no shortage of capable contenders anxious to be collared to play a leading defensive role in BAOR's future.

DASU's Commanding Officer Colonel Geoffrey Durrant outlined his evidence for such optimism. "Already we have 30 to 35 people keenly interested and we are processing their application forms as quickly as we can. When we get up to 40 we will consolidate and start developing which will take about a year to 18 months.

"Then by that time the whole pilot scheme of which we are part will be reviewed by Headquarters. But we are pretty confident from our experiences to date that this

NEW PACK SCENTS SUCCESS!

unit has a very bright future indeed.

"Although the candidates here at Sennelager are obviously still potential members we believe that all will be tested. Another 17 or so newcomers will come through the same process in January and that is an indication that we are getting onto a strong foundation."

The speed at which the new Terrier force roared into action so soon after its recent launch took even the organisers by surprise. "Having our first tentative get-together after just less than four

weeks from day one was to say the least a pleasant surprise," said the Colonel.

In a period of TTW the soldiers would be deployed to various selected so-called key points, a calculated move that would have considerable in-built advantages, said Colonel Durrant.

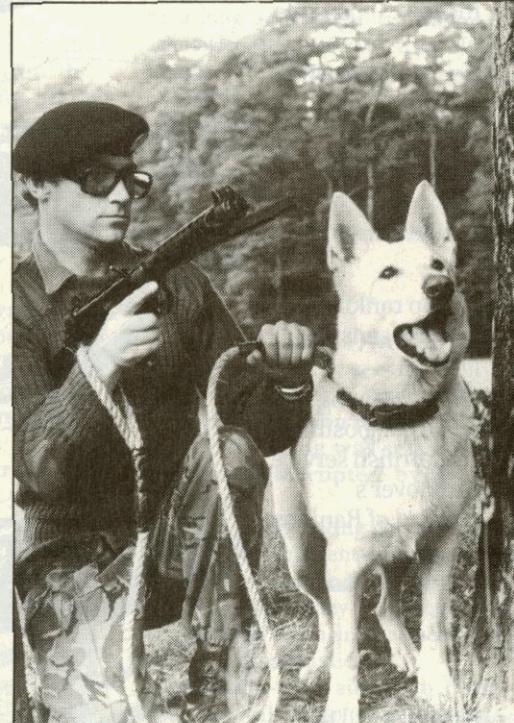
"They would know the security requirements and be familiar with the duties as well as knowing where the dogs are kept and of course being familiar with the animals and their behaviour and characteristics.

"Moreover, they would be

reinforced by contingents of UK reservists who would be former dog-handlers and as we showed on Exercise Lionheart last year it is possible to re-team and deploy dog handlers within two days. With the TA being the focal point on which the reservists would form up we would hope to mobilise the whole thing in a very short space of time indeed if necessary."

No time will be wasted either to maintain the current momentum to get the latest Terriers fully equipped, trained and ready for action.

"We will be holding another similar training period in February next for those unable to attend this time and we will start proper TA training in the Spring followed by summer of two weeks intensive duration here at Sennelager," said the Colonel.



Chief Dog Handler Eddie Nugent and his temporary working partner Stanley



Wes Shelton, one of the new unit's prospective recruits, teams up with his canine chum Jason



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NOVEMBER is well-established as the month for remembrance; a timely reminder of what we owe to forebears who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Whether it be at the Cenotaph in Whitehall or a garrison overseas, the many services of Remembrance provide the opportunity to think of fallen relatives or comrades — and serve as a reminder to younger generations of the dreadful cost of war, and the debt that still remains owed to those who ensured our freedom.

Remembrance Day means a lot — once a year. For the rest of the year no one works harder at ensuring the debt is repaid than the Royal British Legion.

Last year a record £7,400,000 was raised by the Legion's Poppy Appeal. A record sum, and despite the diminishing numbers of veterans as the years roll by, more and more people are turning to the RBL for help. Last year there were 50,000 pleas for help.

In our last issue we printed the annual appeal from the Legion for collectors and we hope this played some part in bringing forth volunteers for this excellent cause.

Last year only seven pence in every pound raised went to administration — a figure that would be considerably larger but for nearly 5,000 local organisers and 380,000 collectors who gave their services free.

With such splendid spirit around there is little danger, thankfully, of anyone forgetting...

★ ★ ★

THIS is a rare picture in more ways than one — not only does it show our most prolific TA contributor with his newly-presented (and thoroughly deserved) MBE, it also catches Major Chris Vere in front of the camera for once.

Chris has been North West District's TA Public Information Officer for eight years.

On an historical note, Chris — seen here showing his award to his wife, Joan, and his mother, Mary, in the Buckingham Palace



courtyard — wore the collar dogs of his former battery — HQ (The King's) Battery, 103 Air Defence Regiment. The Battery inherited some of the traditions of the 6th (Liverpool Rifles) Battalion of The King's Regiment on their conversion to searchlights and later anti-aircraft artillery at the beginning of World War 2.

Chris, who received his award from The Queen, was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his services to Army Public Relations. In civilian life a marketing manager, he is a Gunner by inclination, having joined the RA (TA) in 1958. Chris served with 271 Field Regiment (TA) in Sheffield, 274 (Northumbrian) Field

SOLDIER to Soldier

Regiment, 100 Medium Regiment and then 103 Air Defence Regiment before transferring to the TA Public Information Officers Pool.

★ ★ ★

A 28 year association between 2nd Division and the town of Lübeck has come to an end. The occasion was marked by a lunch at Cross Keys House hosted by Major General Peter Inge, General Officer Commanding 2nd Infantry Division.

Guests at the lunch included the Bürgermeister, Herr Steinmeyer, the Stadtdirektor, Herr Tiemeyer, Polizei Hauptkommisar Spilker and Freiherr von der Recke.

HQ 2nd Armoured Division first moved to Lübeck in 1958 to commence what was to be a long and happy association. This was acknowledged in 1977 when the HQ and Signal Regiment was honoured to receive the freedom of the town.

Although remaining part of BAOR the major elements of 2nd Division moved to York in 1983, being redesignated 2nd Infantry Division, but leaving a small Forward HQ in Lübeck. The Forward HQ has now moved to Bielefeld.

★ ★ ★

A SAPPER officer, Major Hilary Nash, RE, is leading the second delayed phase of an expedition to find an 18th century ship off Ascension Island in the Atlantic. Its final tracing was scheduled for 1982 but was interrupted by the Falklands conflict.

Apart from locating the 292-ton vessel, the Roebuck, which went down in shallow waters in 1701, the expedition members will be continuing what they describe as an 'ambitious programme' both in marine biological and archaeological studies.

The long-term aim is to determine the geographical origin of Ascension's animals and to compare hypothetical and actual effects of Atlantic currents on the colonisation of marine animals around the island's shores.

But the first objective will be to raise the memorabilia from the 26-gun ship built in 1690 by Edward Snellgrove at Wapping. The 96-foot vessel, says Major Nash, is a one-off vessel and information on her is scant.

★ ★ ★

PRUSSIAN war refugee of 40 years ago, Maria Rogalski, now living in Winnipeg, Canada, has just one wish left before she dies in her adopted country. To find the British 'Tommy', the driver of an Army jeep, who had a mouth-watering penchant for chocolate bars. In particular round 'Chocacola' bars, high energy emergency rations originally destined for Luftwaffe air crews.

Maria had watched this soldier on several occasions munching his way through the bars. She had watched him 'with longing eyes and deep envy.'

Her persistence was to pay off on her 12th birthday in 1945. It would prove 'memorable and significant' because of a special deed of an enemy soldier with a 'human heart.'

The soldier regularly drove an officer to a farmhouse in Arrild, Schleswig-Holstein, a small village near the Danish border.

On her birthday Maria put on her new white dress made from cotton and trimmed with red piping, brushed and braided her long hair with extra care, summoned up her courage and uttered the first English words she would ever use. "Today is my birthday. Please give me chocolate."

Tuition from other refugee ladies had paid off. The soldier just looked at her and laughed at first. The nervous Maria was stroking her pet chicken. Then, the kindly 'Tommy', gesticulating at his wrist watch, said he would be back that afternoon — with the chocolate.

Her friends said he would not return. Maria was convinced he would. He did.

Now aged 52, Maria said: "This chocolate soldier's heart was not made of stone or iron but of genuine warm flesh and blood.

SOLDIER has been asked to help Maria in a nagging quest to soothe her nostalgia.

She says: "My dear chocolate soldier, whoever and wherever you are — I want to thank you again."

Does anyone remember being in Arrild that particular day of 12 August, 1945, crunching his way through a 'Chocacola' bar. A middle-aged woman in Canada has still not forgotten you... and we will be happy to pass on her address.

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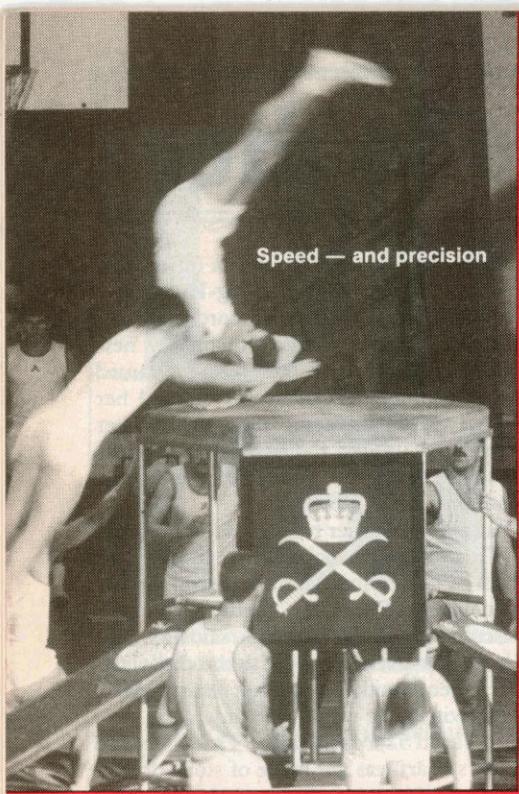
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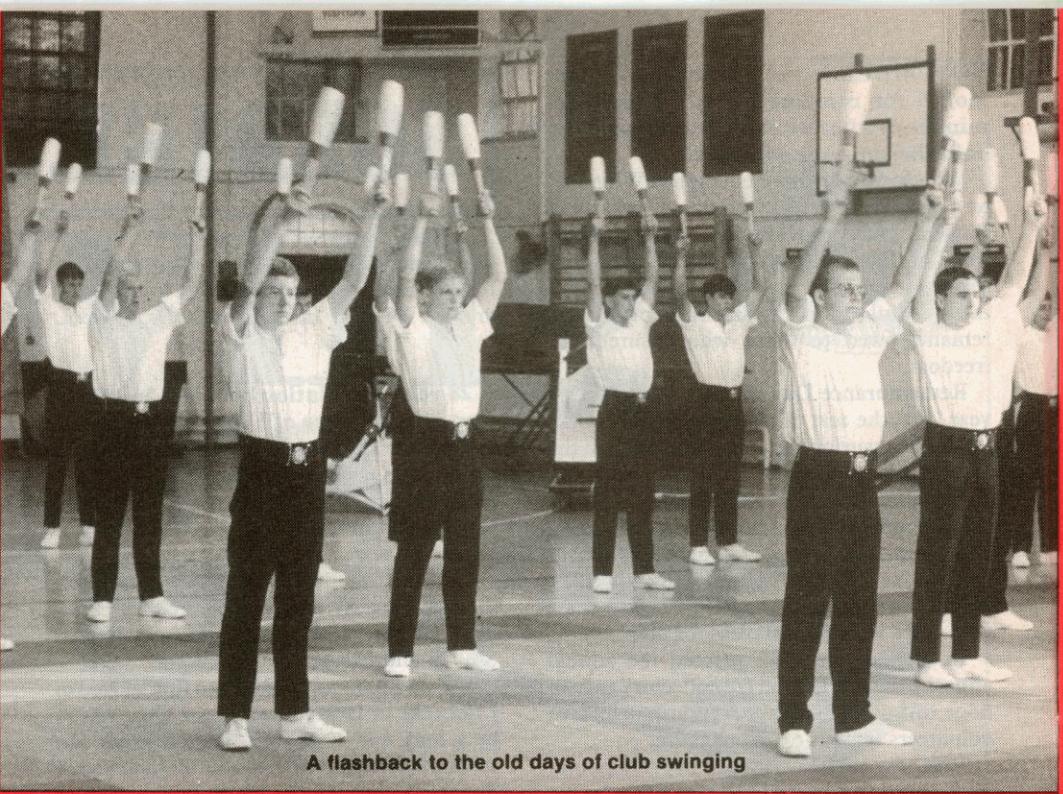
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A flashback to the old days of club swinging

ASSAULT AT ARMS

ALDERSHOT, "home of the British Army", had its first Assault at Arms demonstration in 1863 comprising competitions in combat events such as fencing, boxing, single stick and sword versus bayonet.

On the 125th anniversary of the Army Physical Training Corps an audience of some 500 revelled at considerably more than that in the Garrison town's Fox Gymnasium, when 240 superbly fit young men and women put on a 70-minute display covering eleven events.

Club swinging to commemorate those formative years, fitness in the Army, the Edwardians, log exercises involving 12-foot-long timber cylinders weighing 180 lbs, adventurous training, a comic trampoline act

and an emotive set-piece, and Rehabilitation.

Therapists were shown tending the recuperative needs of luckless Servicemen who had sustained head injuries, leg and back damage.

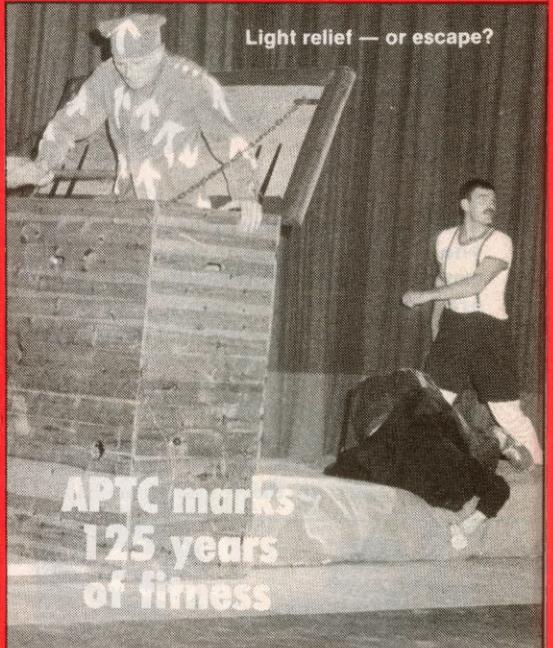
The APTC showed off its eight sports — boxing, basketball, athletics, fencing, gymnastics, soccer, judo and swimming.

Light topical relief was brought into the proceedings with a Rambo-style invasion, a young individual with "machine gun" showing off a one-man all action self-defence capability.

Filing out of the gym one spectator was heard to say: "In my opinion, that show was good enough, in some acts, to take up to the West End!"

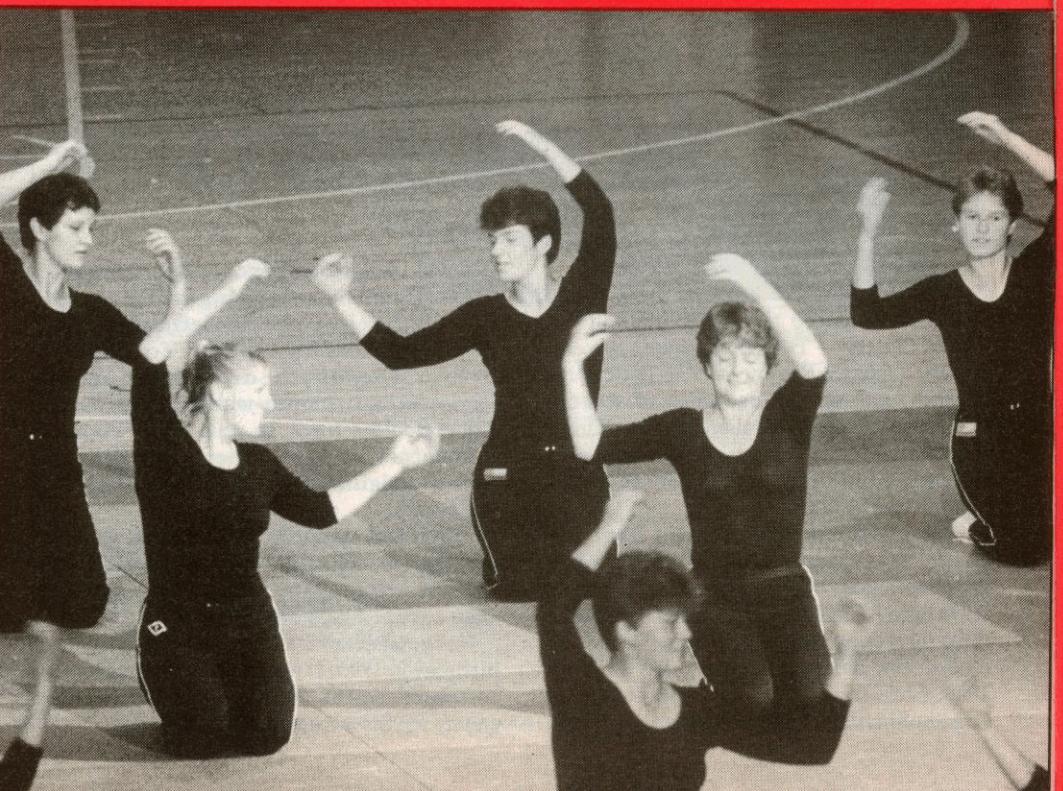
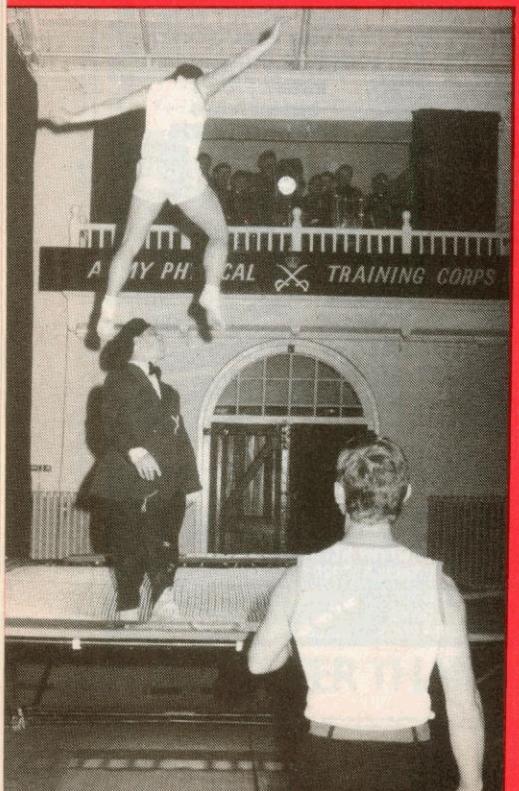
WO2 Scott — a touch of clowning

Pop mobility — courtesy of WRAC personnel



Light relief — or escape?

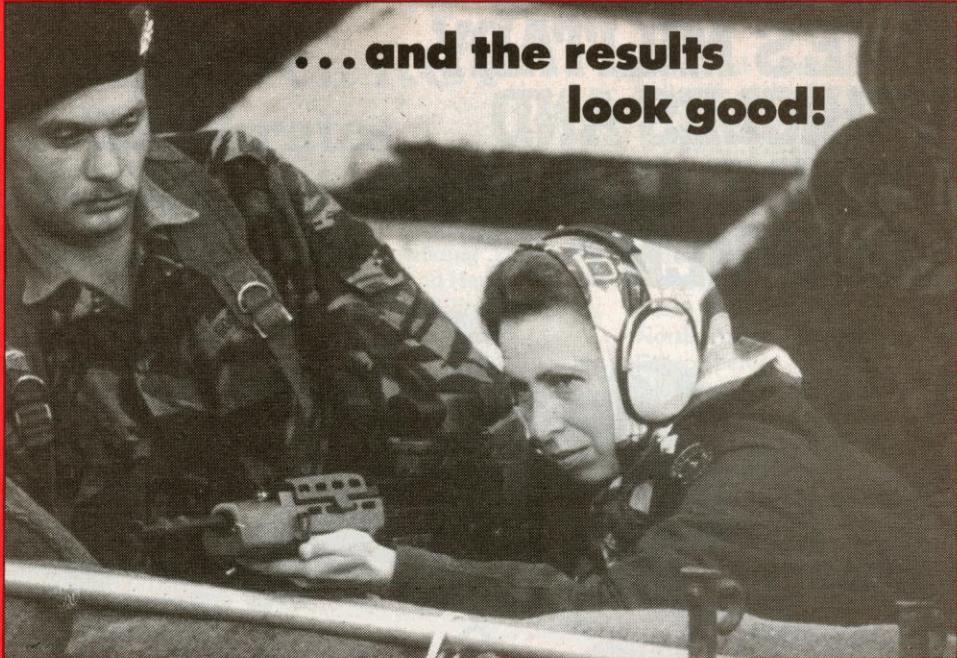
APTC marks
125 years
of fitness



PRINCESS ANNE TRIES NEW RIFLE



The target after...



...Princess Anne had fired the new rifle for the first time

A WEEK after men of 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters became the first soldiers to receive the new rifle, Princess Anne tried the new weapon.

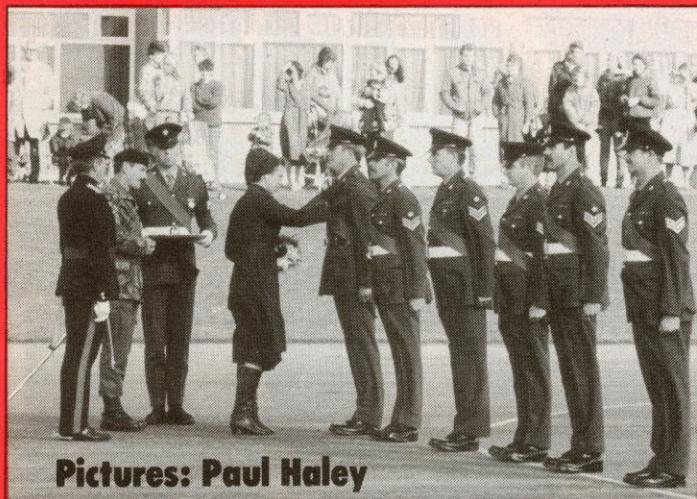
As the target shows, the Princess did very well at her first attempt with the Endeavour, as the new SA80 has been named.

Princess Anne visited the regiment in Battlesbury Barracks,

Warminster, Wiltshire, in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief and fired other weapons in addition to driving the new armoured personnel carrier, MCV 80.

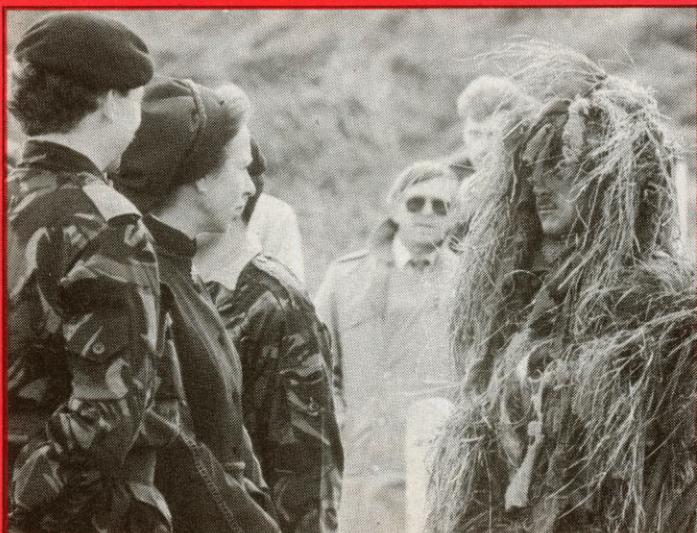
Commanded by Lieutenant

Colonel J R M Townsend, the battalion is serving as demonstration battalion at Warminster for the second time since amalgamation in the early 70s.



Pictures: Paul Haley

Princess Anne presents the British Empire Medal to Warrant Officer 2 Keith Seddon



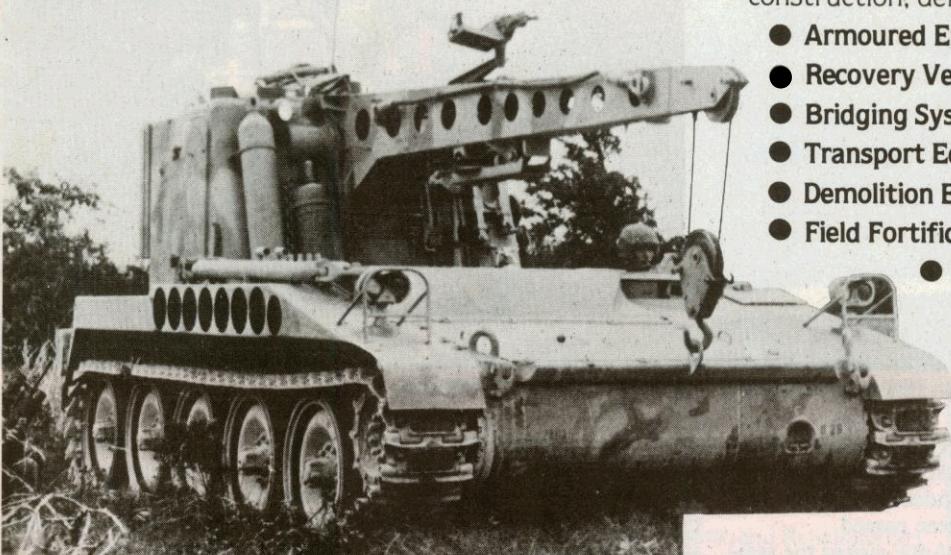
Underneath all the camouflage, the subject is sniping!



THOUGH we included a brief mention in our last issue of the 'Woofers' being the first regiment to receive the new rifle, we couldn't include a picture of the first man in the British Army to be handed the new weapon.

We can now — and Sergeant Gary Gavin is seen with the SA80, left, and the SLR which is being replaced.

JANE'S MILITARY VEHICLES AND GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT



1985 marks the sixth year of publication of this important work, containing completely revised worldwide surveys on non-combat military vehicles and support equipment.

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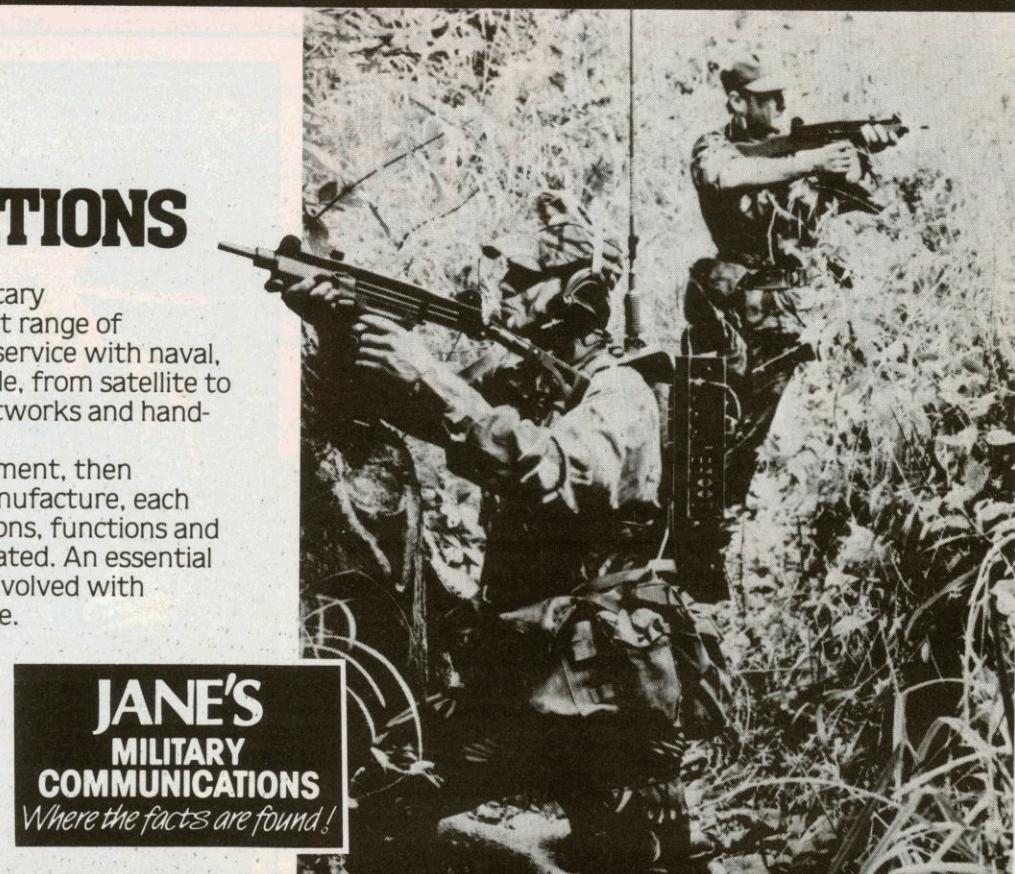
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MEMORABLE DAY IN DUISBURG

IT WAS a great day in Duisburg, West Germany, for the officers and all ranks of 21 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, one of the units of 3 Armoured Division Transport Regiment.

They were marking their centenary year in grand style at Glamorgan Barracks, beginning with a review and march past in the presence of Major General David Ramsbotham, GOC 3 Armoured Division.

This was followed by a Drum-head Service taken by the division's

senior chaplain, the Reverend Peter Denton.

Then General Ramsbotham presented a sword, purchased by the squadron to mark the event, to the Officer Commanding, Major Philip Bell.

Included among the guests were many former members of the

squadron, including Pensioners Jim Connolly and Harry Simpson from the Royal Military Hospital, Chelsea.

It was very much an affair for old and young, as the newest driver, Driver Craig Hunt discovered when he was invited to cut the commemorative cake — using the

new sword — with Mrs Gillian Bell, wife of the OC.

The squadron began in 1885 in Woolwich, as 21 Horse Transport Company, Commissariart and Transport Corps, since when it has seen service in the Boer and two world wars. In World War 2 it was involved in the evacuation from Dunkirk, then served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece before Germany.

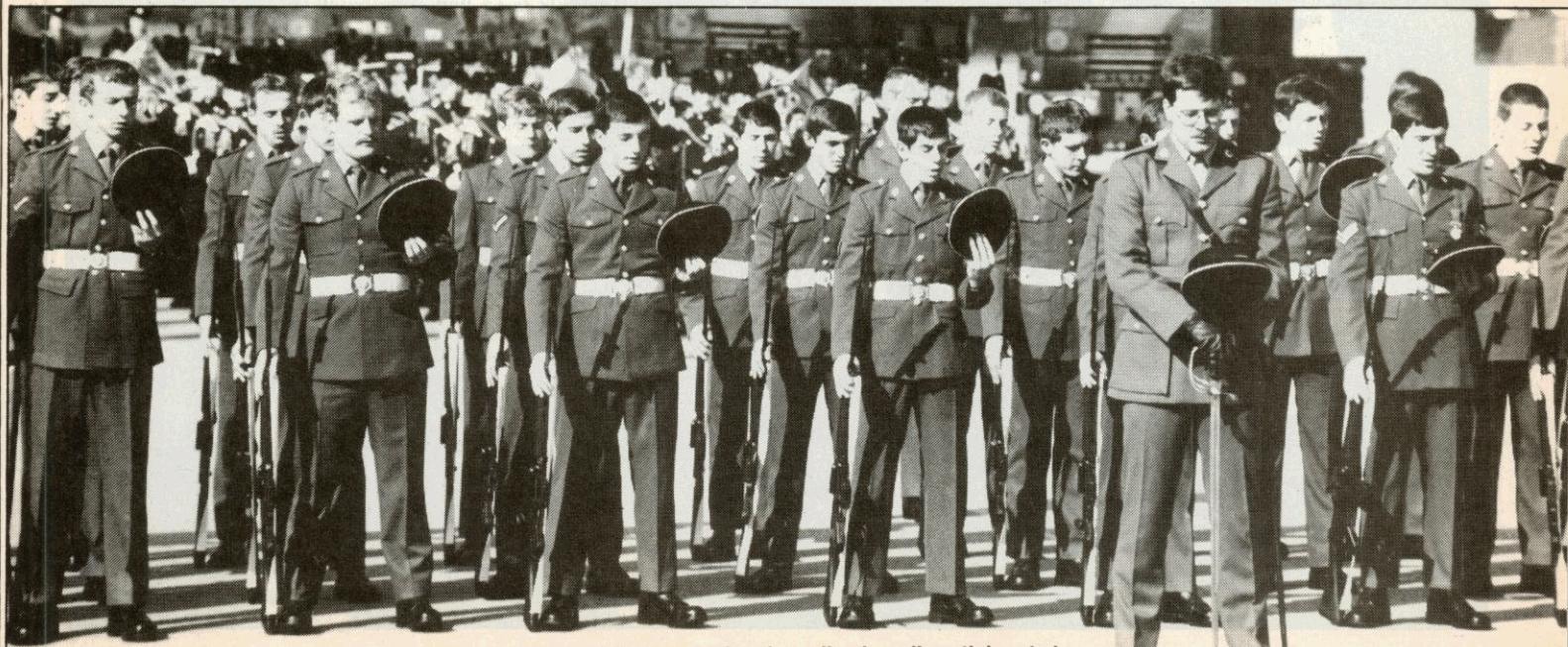
Since 1969 21 Squadron has completed six tours of Northern Ireland duty and is now training for the seventh.



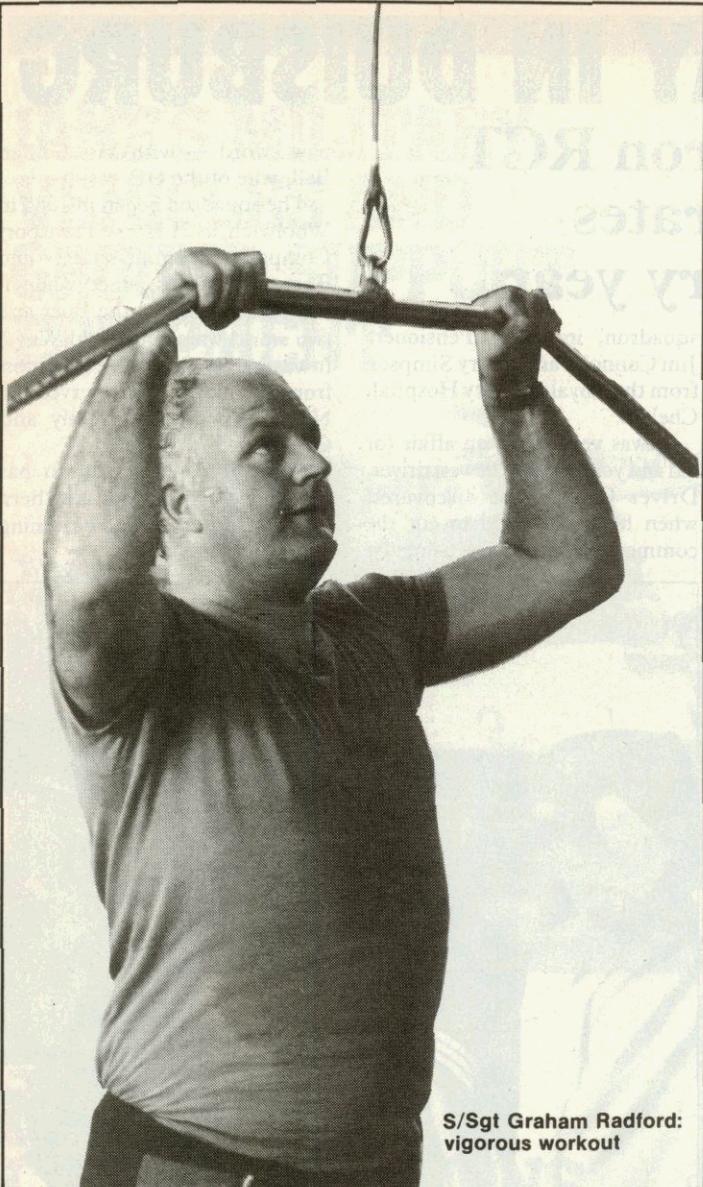
Cutting the cake: Mrs Bell is assisted by the youngest driver in the Squadron, Dvr Craig Hunt



General Ramsbotham welcomes two special guests, Jim Connolly and Harry Simpson, Chelsea Pensioners



Head dress is removed for the service thus allowing all participants to join in singing the hymns!



S/Sgt Graham Radford: vigorous workout



WO Ken Albrighton keeps an eye on a running exercise

The Army's new approach to heart disease problems seem to be working...

FITNESS IS THE KEY!

ARMED medical experts at The Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, are pioneering a new strenuous exercise approach to heart disease sufferers.

They believe the innovation may ultimately prove to be the biggest ever breakthrough in the battle against diseases like angina.

Patients on the three-week long courses are told on arrival to throw all of their pills on the table and are soon stretched to the limit with physical exercise.

Recently the Army had its first fatality on a course when a 52-year-old angina sufferer, a civilian, collapsed and died while on the exercise bicycle on the last day of his course.

But says Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lynch, the Army cardiologist behind the new approach: "We

have done six years of research with hundreds of patients and we have had only one fatality."

Several years ago the Army discovered that soldiers had more heart attacks than civilians of a similar age. As soldiers are in active jobs and have to keep fit there has to be a reason.

The conclusion was that it was cigarette smoking which was to blame for the heart attack rate being roughly double that in civvy street.

Only one in fifty soldiers with heart disease was not a smoker and the average soldier with heart disease smoked 28 cigarettes a day! This compares with a smoking soldier average of 21 a day and a civilian smoker average of 16.

Says Colonel Lynch: "The reason these people smoke so much is because in BAOR you can get cigarettes at a quarter the normal price and that is the big bugbear."

WO Ken Albrighton keeps an eye on a running exercise

'We have got to carry on with the exercise'



Fun time in the pool

Just to get things into perspective Colonel Lynch is only talking about small numbers — there are only about 200 cases a year of heart disease of which about half suffer heart attacks. And only 30 soldiers die each year from heart attacks, which is just 15 per cent of those who die from all causes.

The courses began six years ago at Woolwich but they have gradually increased in numbers as the effective results became more apparent. About 70 per cent of the patients are soldiers and the rest civilians — either from military hospitals or referred by cardiologists to a course which does not exist outside the Army.

People who have noticeably benefited have been angina sufferers. The disease means that they have a narrowed artery and as soon as they begin to exercise they get severe pain.

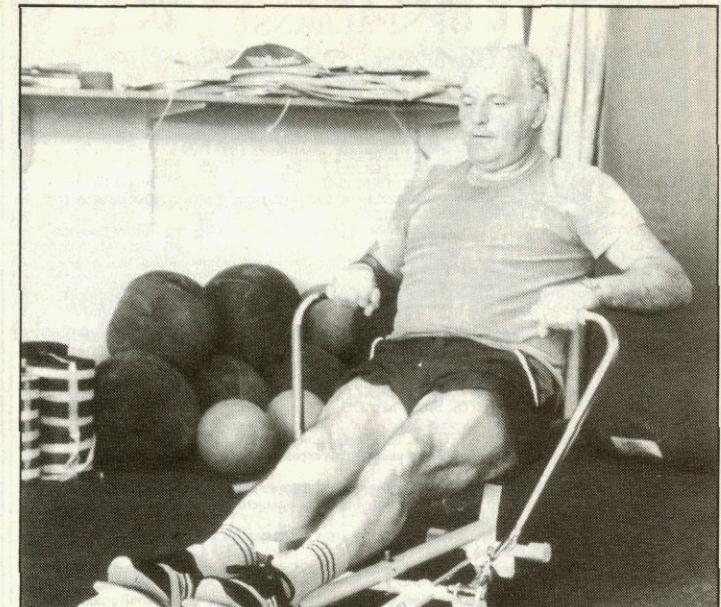
Says Colonel Lynch: "Everybody else treats this by giving tablets. What we do is to examine people and then tell them to continue exercising into the pain.

"We ease them until it becomes quite painful and then ease off before starting again. By doing that we can change a chap who cannot walk 100 yards up hill to one who can pass his basic fitness test within

three weeks."

And tests have shown that it is not just a reduction in the pain — the affected area of muscle gets smaller and thus the risk of a heart attack is reduced.

"If it is true that you can cure



S/Sgt Radford: rowing exercise

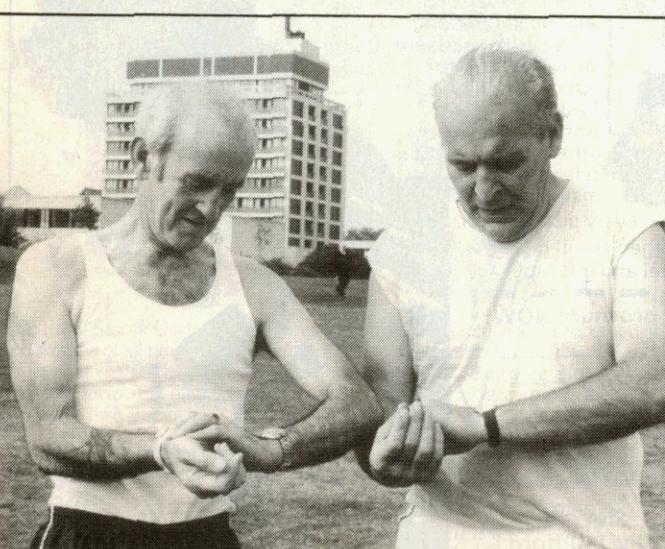
Fred Perry, ex-RAMC, suffered a massive heart attack in 1983 and was on eight pills a day before going to Woolwich.

She admits: "There were times when I was really shattered. It was damned hard going but I do feel better for it and I hope to keep up the swimming, PE and running.

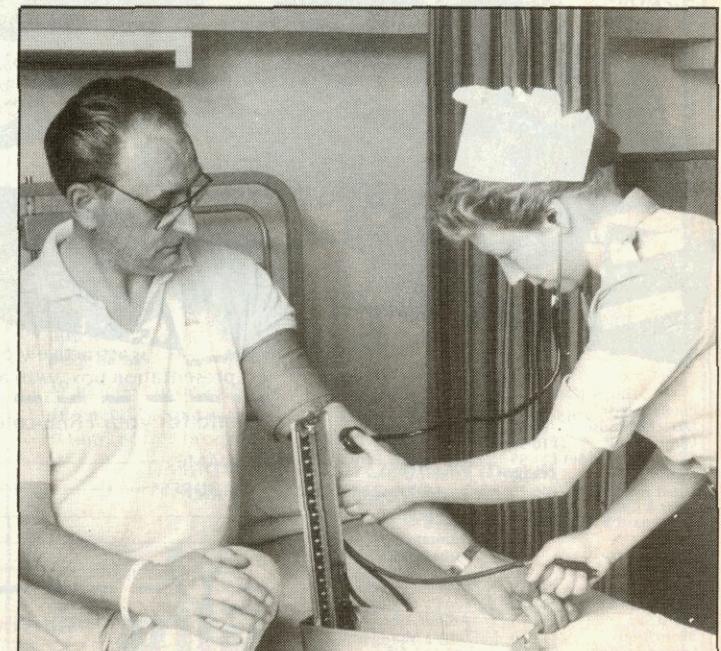
"We were doing press-ups, holding onto a rope in the gym and, as practically a non-swimmer, I was told to jump in the deep end and tread water for five minutes. You just cannot believe the things we were told to do."

Colonel Lynch believes that heart attacks are a shocking waste of manpower and that with a big drop in smoking plus the strenuous rehabilitation courses this could be greatly reduced.

"In many cases an old heart attack has little more meaning a year later than a broken leg," he declares.



Jim Freeman, left, and John Ashley-Barker check pulse beats. All patients are encouraged to do this



Sgt Tena McMeahan checks the blood pressure of Sgt Barry Elliott, RAF, before the day's exercises begin

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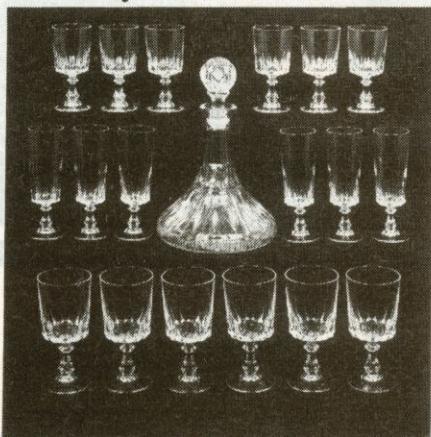
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LETTERS you write...

I AM writing to you for some information concerning unemployment benefit and tax rebates.

My husband is serving in the Army. We have just returned to England after spending 22 months in the Far East. I gave up my job to go with my husband.

I worked from November 1977 to May 1983 paying full national insurance and tax.

I have been to the unemployment office where I was told unemployment benefit is paid according to contributions paid by me in the year January 1983 to January 1984.

As I only paid contributions

from January to May 1983 I do not qualify for any benefit.

The fact that I had worked for 5½ years does not count. I did not leave my job by choice. My husband was posted to the Far East for two years. I had to go with him.

Is there any provision for Service wives in these cases? It is very unfair that we should be treated in this way.

I applied for a tax rebate at the end of 1984. When I first applied I was told I had to wait until I started work again.

It is near impossible to get work in Brunei unless you are a permanent resident.

I applied again and was given a rebate of £111 which was the amount of tax I paid in the tax year of 1983. Am I entitled to a rebate on the previous years?

I would be very grateful for any advice you can give me on both these matters. Even if it is negative at least I can then put it out of my mind.

It makes me so cross the way we are treated. We have to fight for what we should be entitled to. It is so unfair!

Mrs T. Oxon.

Just one of many letters on this vexed question. An excellent guide for tax help, The Daily Mail Guide 1985/86, gives the answer to your question in detail.

However, the stark facts are you have lost your entitlement to unemployment benefit and perhaps credits if you have no children of school age.

The total could well be in the region of £1,000 plus.

For tax queries write to: Income Tax Service Dept, Public Dept 5, Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF4 5OT.

For DHSS queries: Overseas Branch, Dept of Health and Social Security, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1YX.

A lifeline for your old folk

THREE million elderly people in Britain live alone. A great many have close relatives serving with the Forces and at some stage the inevitable posting overseas will happen.

Sadly the problems of loneliness, illness, accidents, the vulnerability and anxiety about break-ins, violence and muggings are as much a worry to relatives and friends as for the elderly person.

One way to ease that worry is to enable them to have their own 24-hour emergency communications system to help in a crisis.

Help the Aged has launched a lifeline appeal to extend the Tunstall Telecom's Piper Lifeline to 50,000 needy, elderly people. The Piper network already links

250,000 old people who live in local authority dwellings, these are connected to 110 control centres.

The Lifeline is a two-way speech communication sys-

tem with telephone facilities linked to a manned 24-hours a day control centre. It is so designed that even if you are two closed rooms away, or 25 yards down the garden the user only has to press

the pendant button round

their neck or carried in the

pocket or placed on a

bedside table for the system

to be activated.

Control centres are

OVER the next two months a team from *Help the Aged* will visit British Forces schools in Germany to put over the message to Service children that care of the elderly is an important part of growing up. It is

hoped the visits will help strengthen relationships between the young and old as many will have grandparents and relations over 65 years of age.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

already established in London, Bristol, Norwich, Totnes, Birmingham, Petersfield, Gateshead, Folkestone, Glasgow, Newport, Colwyn Bay and Birkenhead and other local authorities and

interested, but even if there is no near centre this does not prevent an elderly person from having the system.

Anyone can purchase the system (£334) but if there is someone in need local authorities can advise.

However, the British Legion can help ex-Servicemen and women who

may be needy, so contact your local branch.

Help the Aged hopes that within three years to have raised enough for 50,000 people to live peacefully in their own homes.

Badge plan

AN 'Orange Badge' scheme — despite what I said in *Soldier* (September 25) — is available for disabled Service people in Germany. All you have to do whether renewing your badge or applying for the first time, is write to: Chief Police Advisor, Dusseldorf, BFPO 34.

The relevant forms will be sent to you with advice on what information the German authorities require.

Steps have been taken in BAOR to publicise this information and from now on those eligible should have no difficulty.

The badges are valid all over Europe, which means, hopefully, that holders will have no trouble parking — even on those yellow lines!

Don't be shy of asking for help

TO BE in the Services and have handicapped children adds extra stress and difficulties to life.

However, the tri-Service branch of the Service Children's Education Authority (SCEA) does a tremendous amount to help families as it does for those who may possibly think their children are physically, intellectually or educationally impaired.

Many families with affec-

ted children are not on the SCEA's voluntary register and so are unaware of the help and advice available.

For example, of the 150 or so families in Germany with children with special needs, only 105 are on the register.

It should be emphasised that being on the register does NOT mean a husband's promotion will be hindered, as is often rumoured.

It may not be generally known, but there are a number of senior ranks whose names appear on the list.

Get on the register

The fact is the branch is there to help.

Major Mike Parks, until recently of the Special School Advisory Branch, has just left to take up the

headship of the Forces school in Naples.

His leaving coincided with the publication of his eye-

seeing and moving.

All families registered with SCEA will receive the booklet as will all new parents asking for help.

The poster will be widely available for wives' clubs, pre-school playgroups and notice boards.

All inquiries to: SCEA 1B, MoD, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR. For a free copy of the poster send a 12 x 8½ inch SAE.

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HERE
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HELP



Anne Armstrong

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29653

Hammer home this list of house repair costs

A NEW list of repair and replacement charges put out by the PSA reads like something from the quarter-master's stores.

Door handles, plastic ball £3.58 a set; door handles brass lever on plate a set £28.58; fire guard clips and chains each £2.50; hat and coat hook, any type each £1.79; rotary clothes dryer £70.

The list goes on... if your



YOUNG Stuart Horton gets to grips with a rope during a lesson run by the British Weser Yacht Club at Drakenburg, Germany.

He was one of 41 Service youngsters taking the club's week-long dinghy course which runs every summer.

lavatory hand basin needs replacing it will cost officers £37.21 and soldiers £28.10; for a new loo it will cost officers £45.68 and soldiers

£31.57. Nail holes in plaster needing repair cost 0.22p per hole; in wood it will set you back 0.36p per hole. But if you have more than 20 in

any one room a charge will be made to repair and redecorate with one coat of emulsion at a cost of £73.25. So take care where you bang

IN MY VIEW

Wives and low pay

CLOSE on three million low-pay workers are benefitting from changes in National Insurance contributions.

National Insurance is related to earnings. The more you earn the more you pay. Fair enough. But I am particularly worried about Service wives who work in a variety of jobs for the MoD overseas.

You start paying contributions once your wage reaches £35.50 a week.

From 7 October the rate of National Insurance for the lowest paid dropped from nine per cent to five per cent for those paid between £35-£55.

But this could have repercussions in many areas, not least when seeking entry into Government training schemes where you have to

be unemployed and receiving benefit to qualify.

With the start of the new NI rates, those on the lowest earnings will be £1.42 a week better off; the NI contribution dropping to £1.77. At £50 the saving is £2, the weekly stamp coming down to £2.50. At £80 a week the stamp is £5.80 instead of £7.20 — a saving of £1.40.

The other important change affecting Service wives overseas is the reduction of £1.25 a week in the voluntary stamp.

The new voluntary stamp now costs £3.40. Even so, I find this iniquitous when this amount would not be paid by the wife for the first nine months or one year if unemployed in the UK. So the wife has to ask her husband to pay up to £176.80 in Hong Kong and Cyprus and other overseas stations, and £132.60 in the EEC.

The initial worry is that, when a wife starts a new job overseas, her pay is sufficient for her to pay Class One NI contributions, enabling her to claim UK State benefits.

Wives should not be used as second-class citizens who can be hired as cheap labour just because they are overseas, so saving the employer from paying a NI contribution.

With more than 30 dinghies the club is well equipped and is open to all Forces-connected personnel in the 1st Armoured Division area.

How to get in a knot

For the past seven years it has been organised by PSA man Bob Foyle from Hanover, with back-up from 21 Engineer Regiment. "We teach boat handling, safety and basics such as rigging, capsizing, knot-tying and first-aid," said Bob.

nails.

A full replacement gas cooker with four burners costs £320.17; a grill pan grid £1.75. An electrical cooker plate runs out at £295.37 and a grill pan grid at £3.55.

Your vacuum cylinder cleaner including accessories and plug costs £111.38 and a pane of glass can be anything from £4.44 to £26.64.

Another interesting item listed — specially for parents of young children — is pencil marks.

If walls are marked with a pencil a redecorating charge of £1.56 a square metre is levied.

Gardeners, too, come expensive. Making good neglect in a garden, digging, weeding, grass-cutting and the like can cost £1.10 a square metre. Leave a pile of refuse and it can cost you £7.08 for the removal of three square metres.

It's worth checking the charges listed above as they do change. And to possibly save heartache and cash it's worth checking your household insurance policy to see if you are covered.

To replace a lavatory basin or to pay for the redecoration of a room is an expensive business. It could also be worth your while to hammer home that lesson to your family.

Charges for Losses and Damages in Married Quarters — published by the Directorate of Building and Quantity Surveying Services, Department of the Environment, PSA.

House call

THE Institute of Housing, the organisation representing the professional side of estate agents, is organising a return to work project for women who want to return to that type of work, but have been bringing up a family and are out of touch.

If you are interested contact: Rosalind Dean, Coordinator, Institute of Housing, 12 Upper Belgrave St, London, SW1X 8BA.

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G**r*e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew. But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Home and, for those who are homeless and cannot look after themselves in the community, our Hostel gives permanent accommodation. For others there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can."

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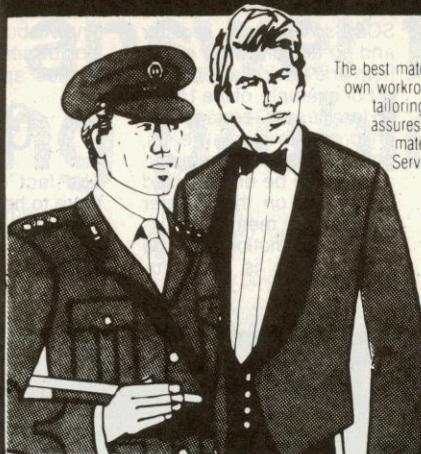
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SILVER JUBILEE FOR AMF

SOME 5,000 men of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force Land component—AMF (L)—have been in action again for the second time this year. This time on Nato's southern flank of Turkey in this, the Force's Silver Jubilee Year.

Six member nations flew in their men and equipment for training in Turkish Thrace, once the campaign ground of Alexander the Great, to take part in Exercise Archway Express, writes Graham Smith.

Men from Belgium, Canada, West Germany, Italy, the USA and, of course, the UK. Men comprising a Force which trains as a deterrent factor on northern and southern flank countries, where there are no Allied forces permanently stationed in numbers.

Countries like Norway where they endure bitter cold and long darkness above the Arctic Circle. Denmark and its windswept lowlands. Northern Italy and Greece where they are challenged by high altitude and forested terrain.

And, now Turkey where they could deal with eastern barren plains and jagged mountains. As hot as it is cold in the Viking north.

The concept of AMF was developed by Nato in the late 1950s. Authorities recognised that the Central Region was relatively secure due to the presence of the Forces from six member nations.

The same security, however, could not be said of Nato's vulnerable flank regions. Nato recognised the growing Soviet

Union and Warsaw Pact potential to act more rapidly than the Alliance's reinforcements could respond from an unalerted state.

Additionally, Nato began the shift of its strategy from massive retaliation to a more flexible and graduated series of responses to crises and aggression.

AMF was established in 1960. Its role in a sentence: to deploy immediately to any flank country exposed to pressure or threats.

As Major General Andrew Christie, Canadian Armed Forces and Commander of AMF (L) puts it: "The arrival of the AMF conveys to any potential aggressor the certainty that if he carries out his threats, they would be met not only by national Forces in the area but also by a coalition of Nato Forces."

Each year, AMF (L) exercises as a unique 'club' on Field Training Exercises (FTXs) to strive for more cohesion of effort and procedures. Earlier this year, the Force took its live firing expertise to Portugal.

The Commander AMF (L) does not like the term 'Fire brigade' applied to his eight-nation Force which numbers 9,000 men; the whole backed up by a seven-nation air support fighter and transport squadrons.

He says: "To accomplish our role successfully, the AMF is structured to be activated during the development of a crisis, deploy at very short notice, to be compact, highly mobile, lightly armed and to be very visible so that its presence would not by itself prove provocative.

"AMF (L) is a physical expres-

sion of Nato's intent to withstand political and military pressures and a visible sign that any attack on one Alliance country will be regarded as an attack on all of them."

General Christie reports directly to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and oversees a small international, permanent staff headquartered in Heidelberg. A staff comprising Ops, Intelligence and Logistics departments.

Of its 9,000 strength about half — brigade strength — actually deploy to any one of the nominated contingency areas on the two flanks.

The HQ and the Force troops go to all areas while the Infantry Battalion Groups are earmarked specifically to either the north or southern theatres.

Force troops are made up of two groups. The first comprises HQ Company and Aviation Department furnished by the USA; radio squadron, Force Artillery HQ, Force Air Support Centre (FASC) and an Intelligence detachment provided by the UK; and the Wire Company — radio links etc — supplied by West Germany.

The second Force group giving specialised operational capabilities

General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, salutes as he strides to meet the British contingent on parade in Turkey for the 25th Anniversary



comprises a recce squadron and Logistic Support Battalion provided by the UK; an engineer company from the USA; a joint UK/West Germany helicopter unit, the Force Helicopter Unit (FHU); a composite military police unit; and a field hospital provided by West Germany in the northern region and Italy for the southern region.

The battalion groups committed specifically to the north are drawn from Canada, Italy, Luxembourg and the UK. The southern units are from Belgium, West Germany and the USA.

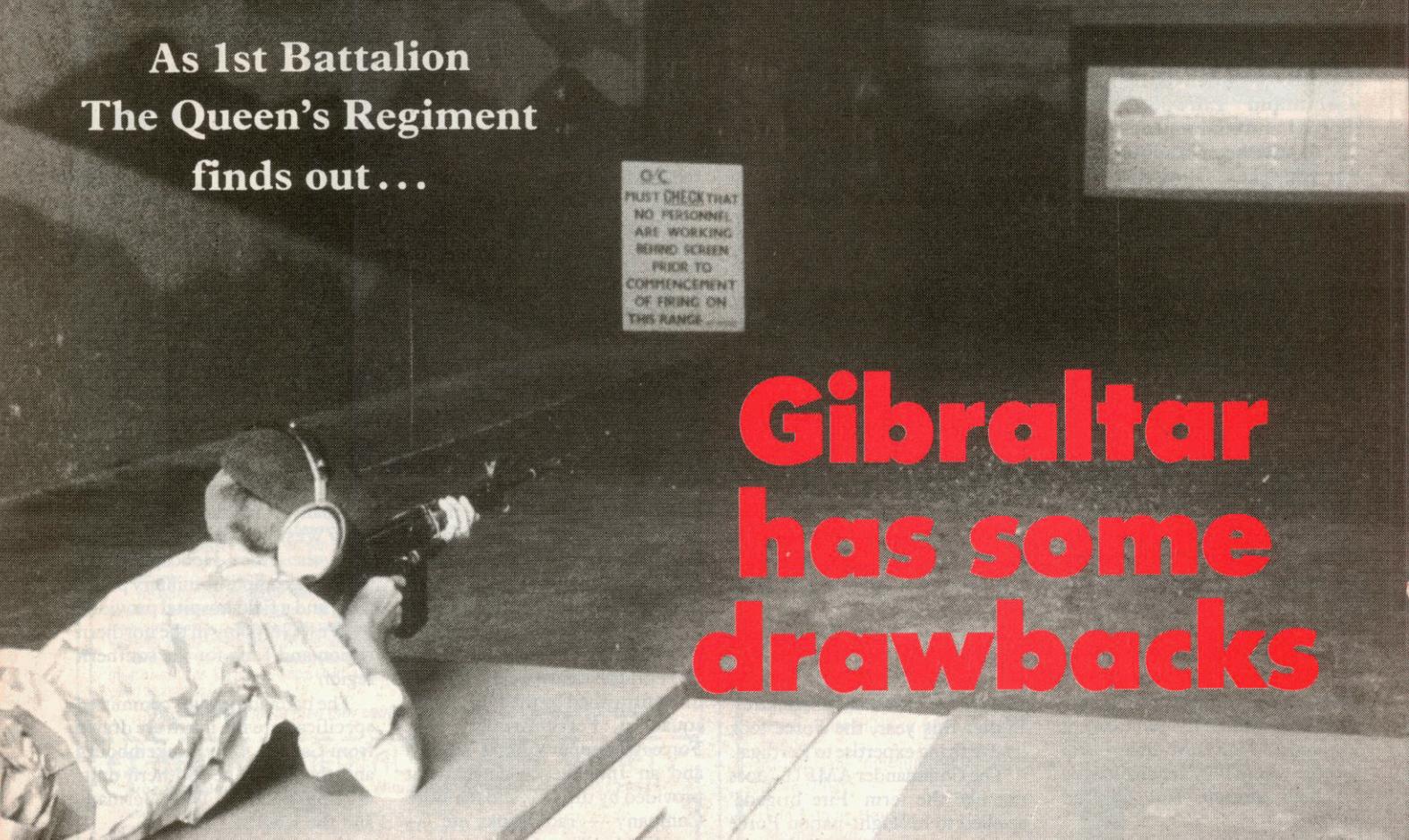
Northern air squadrons — AMF (A) — are drawn from Canada, The Netherlands, the UK and the USA. The southern squadrons are supplied by Belgium, Italy and Germany.

General Christie reminded: "By forming a single combat unit from eight nations, the solidarity of Nato is manifested in the strongest possible manner both on land and in the air. Rapid deployment is one of the key objectives of the Force."



SOLDIER writer ROBERT HIGSON and **photographer TERRY CHAMPION** have been in Turkey for Exercise Archway Express. Their special reports and pictures will be in our next issue.

**As 1st Battalion
The Queen's Regiment
finds out...**



Gibraltar has some drawbacks

Historical connections are at all significant Gibraltar ought to be an ideal station for its present resident battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment.

Gibraltar is just across the Strait which bears its name from Tangier, a very important name in Regimental history. The Battalion's distant ancestor, the 2nd Foot, was raised by King Charles II in 1661 for the defence of this North African port acquired by him in a marriage settlement.

"Tangier 1662-80" is today proudly borne by the Regiment as the oldest Battle Honour on any Colour, while 1 Queen's A Company is named in honour of that ancient city.

Morocco, if not Tangier itself, still has an important role to play for the troops on the Rock in the provision of that essential ingredient of a tour in Gibraltar — adventurous training.

In fact Lieutenant Colonel Mike Ball, the CO 1 Queen's, is hoping to organise a bit of skiing in the Atlas Mountains early next year to cover what he calls the low period which seems to hit everyone half way through a tour.

Colonel Ball was speaking immediately after the hectic activity of the Gibraltar Tattoo (SOL-DIER 7 October) which had directly involved at least two thirds of the Battalion, either in performance or general donkey work, and which had, he said, provided some very useful stimulus.

This was important because Gibraltar has one very fundamental drawback as a military station — space, or rather the lack of it.

The Colonel indicated the view from his office window at Lathbury Barracks. Down below could be

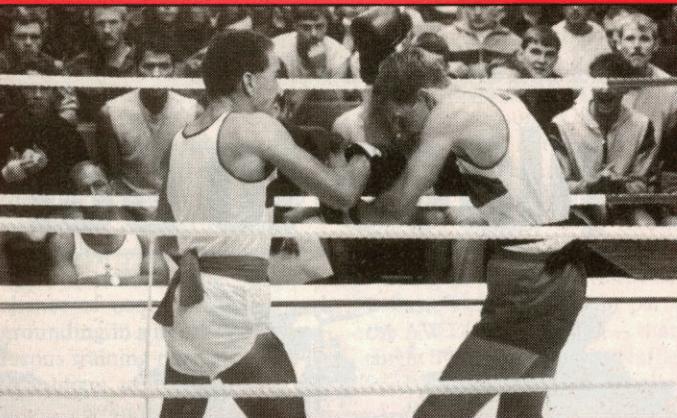
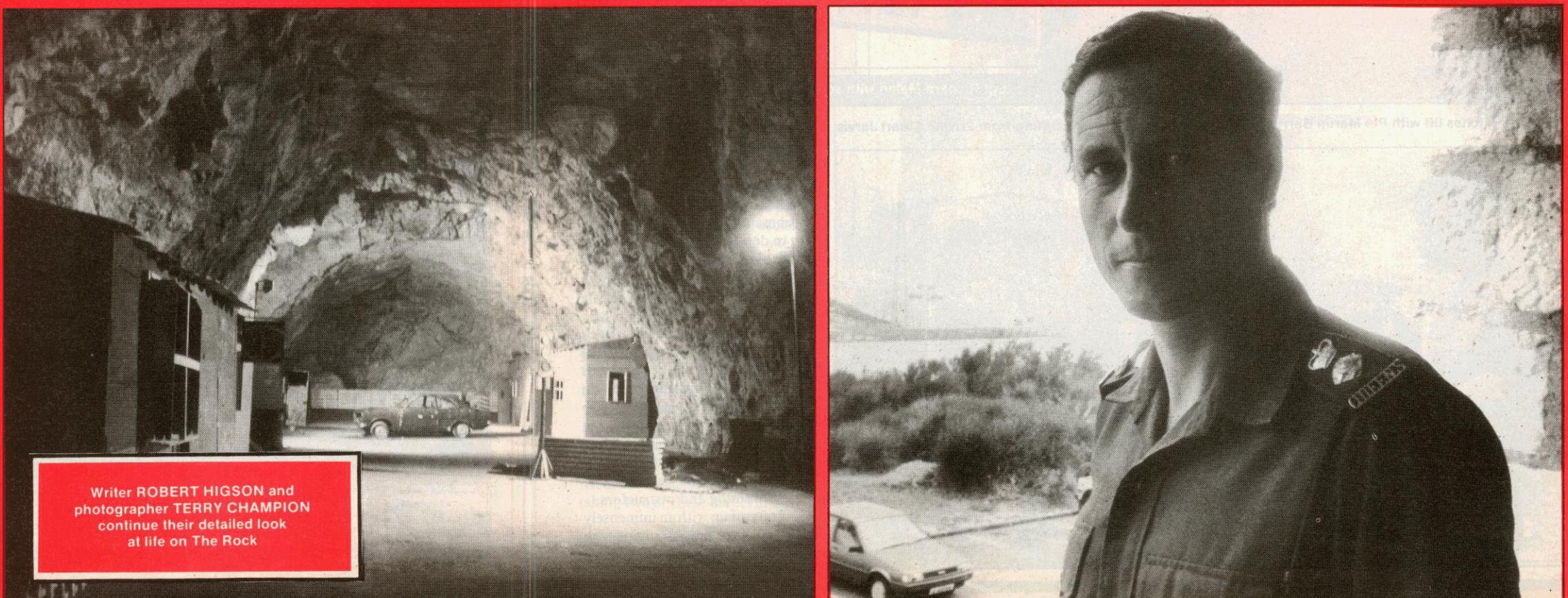
guard, Convent Guard, on the Governor's Residence, adventurous training and military training.

The company on military training has first call on the available facilities. These include use of the Windmill Hill training area, and any ships or helicopters which might be available for a bit of scaled down combined ops.

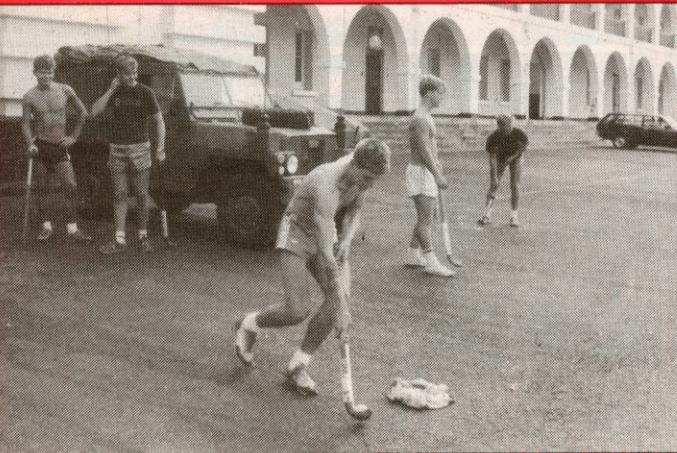
There's also a well equipped indoor training theatre at Lathbury

Lathbury Barracks: firing at moving pictures or slides of scaled ranges with sub calibre SLRs

Barracks where SLRs, reduced to .22 with Heckler and Koch conversion kits, as well as sub-calibre Carl Gustav anti-tank weapons, can be fired at projected images. The ability of the system to freeze a single cine frame and then use back projector to indicate the bullet hole provides an



Whatever the limitations in military training, Gibraltar provides 1 Queens with plenty of time for their annual Kirke's contest to find the champion company. Named after an 18th Century CO, Lieutenant Colonel Piercy Kirke (of "Kirke's Lambs" fame) the title is decided on a total of 10 competitions involving sports, drill and shooting. The pictures show: Private Deer, of C (Sobaron) Company, who have been Kirke's Company for the last three years, and Private Marsh of A (Tangier) Company, hammering away at each other in the novice boxing, while outside South Barracks, members of A Company train for the hockey.



immediate and dramatic indication of accuracy.

On the surface there is the 135 metre ETR, which at present can be used only for firing .22, and a 30 metre pipe range.

Weapons can be fired out to sea. Only recently 1 Queen's Mortar Platoon had a go at some off shore targets with all the attendant fuss that makes such an exercise in Gibraltar anything but tactical. First, shipping has to be warned well in advance, then 8 Surveillance Troop, Royal Artillery (the only Gunner unit in the Army with a coast watch role) has to attend with its mobile marine radars to spot any boats straying into the danger area. And finally the gallery of inevitable spectators has to be kept well out of the way.

Despite the difficulties, the sea remains a vital range area and Fortress HQ is presently trying to design a raft to provide marksmanship practice at moving targets.

Finally there is the great Rock itself which dominates this tiny British outpost. Over the years room for an enormous range of different facilities have been hacked into the Rock.

Today there are, thanks to the dedicated hard work of visiting sappers, and members of 187 (Tancred) Company, Royal Corps of Pioneers, from Tidworth, two .22 ranges inside the Rock. Successive teams of Pioneers have been engaged on a gigantic clean up operation in Gibraltar's tunnels and part of their work involved demolishing some ancient and decrepit Nissen huts for their replacement with two modern

ranges.

Nearby in the old Beefsteak Magazine there are plans to turn what has been a simple FIBUA (fighting in built up areas) complex into something more sophisticated.

Live firing in an underground close quarter battle range presents obvious hazards from ricochets. With careful planning and the installation of bullet boxes in the target areas it is hoped to be able to introduce the facility for live firing to realistic training programmes.

Captain Peter Anthony, the training officer of 1 Queens, spoke of the hopes of completing a fire discipline range next year where a man in an observation post will have to make rapid and important decisions, based on his briefing, about which of the targets presented to him is likely to be dangerous.

The targets, said Captain Anthony, would be electrically operated humanoid shapes on rails. Ideally there would be sufficient of them to prevent the test becoming too familiar too quickly.

Nearby there were plans to establish a MUF (for man under fire) range. Here a round would be fired into a bullet absorption box above a man in an OP. He would then be required to file a report on what type of round was fired and from which direction it had come. No easy task, you would imagine, in the confines of an echoing cavern.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Ball, CO 1 Queens, with Windmill Hill and its resident aerials. Space is the big problem



If it is adventure a soldier seeks...

The Rock is the place to be!



▲ Fenz hitches lift with Pte Martin Berrystone ▼ Instruction on windsurfing from Private Stuart Jarvis



GIBRALTAR may have its limitations as a training ground for soldiers. As Brigadier Dick Hume, the Deputy Fortress Commander, points out — you try to deploy a section on the only available training ground, as you might in Germany, and the flank men are likely to end up in the water.

But in other respects the Rock has some formidable advantages.

"This is one of the best stations going for a battalion to do individual training," said Brigadier Hume, the senior Army officer in Gibraltar. "They have an uninterrupted two years to be able to build up what I call the seed corn of course training and instructors.

"You end up with an immensely fit battalion — simply bulging with muscles and ready for anything."

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Ball, the CO of 1 Queens, the resident battalion, endorses this view.

"We will leave here," he said, "with the most marvellous courses under our belt because we've been able to do lots of the little things that there is never time to do in England or Northern Ireland."

The big plus in Gibraltar is adventurous training and the chance of acquiring a thorough grounding in a number of adventurous training pursuits.

Soldiers of the resident battalion, and indeed all Servicemen and women stationed on the Rock, together with their dependants, have a unique facility at their disposal in the form of the Army Watermanship Training Centre.

The AWTC comes equipped with a resident chief instructor, WO2 John Fairbairn, Coldstream Guards, and a resident dog — large, friendly animal of doubtful pedigree who answers to the name of Fenz and seems to think most humans live in water.

For the rest the centre is in the hands of the resident battalion which means that at any one time 16 members of 1 Queens are spending at least part of their service in Gibraltar as sports instructors.

"Some people prefer to stay with the companies," said WO2 Paddy Ryan, the warrant officer in charge, when asked whether AWTC duty was considered to be a bit of a perk. "Only the most sports minded end up here. They all have to be qualified as instructors in various sports."

Every fortnight the regular cycle of battalion activities brings in another 1 Queens company for a two week stint on adventurous training. At the weekends the facilities remain open for Servicemen and their families.

As an indication of the demand WO2 Ryan reckoned that during the height of the summer with visiting troops from the UK, both regular and TA, there were up to 100 people using the centre every day.

There is the chance to learn windsurfing (the most popular choice with most soldiers, according to WO2 Ryan, who is one of the windsurfing instructors), there is canoeing and there is sailing. The centre has sailing dinghies as well as two yachts, a Sabre 27 and a Sonata 21, for voyages around the Strait and up the Spanish coast.

Recently the sailing side was boosted by the presence of the yacht "British Soldier" (SOL-DIER 21 October) from the Joint Services Sailing Centre in Gosport which spent the second leg of its Mediterranean programme undertaking two or three-day cruises on

Members of Support (Quebec) Company try on their caving lamps

behalf of the AWTC.

Fishing is also on the curriculum and those who fancy a crack at the mullet, bream and scorpion fish in the waters around Gibraltar can take advantage of the centre's two longliner boats. It is reported that Sergeant Major Chalky White, 1 Queen's signals WO, recently achieved some distinction by landing an enormous Moray eel.

Basic swimming is not part of the AWTC programme — that is taught by companies at the Nuffield Pool. But as the ability to swim is an obviously important aspect for safety in all water sports, everyone gets a test, swimming a set distance in the waters around the boatshed, and duck-diving under a canoe, before they are allowed to commence training.

Despite its name the AWTC even caters for those who prefer their adventurous training on dry land. Under Captain Ken Hames, a 1 Queen's platoon commander

who was seconded to 40 Commando, Royal Marines, during the Falklands Campaign, those with sufficient energy can tackle some of the 100 registered climbs on the Rock itself, or try their hand at caving in its rugged interior.

Not far from the AWTC there is a Joint Services Sub Aqua Centre where Sergeant Richard Malan, the 1 Queen's SNCO in charge, and three assistants run novice diving courses as well as supporting expeditions coming from UK.

"It certainly improves your own diving working here," Sergeant Malan said, "because you've got to do it properly. It's also very rewarding to see the guys diving around there."

Those who achieve the necessary British Sub Aqua Club standard can then join the diving club and do their share of exploration of such notable local wrecks as the steamer "Excellent" (1898) and the Spanish battery ship "La Pass-

tora", sunk during the Great Siege of Gibraltar (1779-83).

The AWTC retains yet another responsibility — that of sponsoring expeditions to the Moroccan sector of the Upper Sahara Desert, a ready made adventurous training ground on the other side of the Strait.

"This is," said WO2 Ryan decisively, "the best opportunity in the Army for the ordinary soldiers to get experience of adventurous training without exception."

Nevertheless Gibraltar is not universally popular with the resident Queensmen. Quite a few state a distinct preference for their last posting — Omagh, Northern Ireland.

A lot of this has to do with financial considerations. The spending opportunities, especially now that the border with Spain is open, are considerable in Gibraltar but single soldiers get no LOA and have to pay for their messing and accommodation.

On active service in Northern Ireland, however, where the opportunity to spend anything is very limited, they get allowances and free living.

Some reckon they are £60 a month worse off in Gibraltar. As Private Stephen Fooks, of Support Company, put it: "You need the money out here when you haven't got it. And you've got it in Northern Ireland when you don't need it!"

But there is also the feeling in some quarters that Gibraltar for all its advantages doesn't provide quite the style of soldiering they have come to expect.

WO2 John Fairbairn, chief instructor, watches Pte Phil Blackman ascend the mast of the Sabre 27



For the Army's most dramatic role in Gibraltar... THE CURTAIN IS COMING DOWN

LATER this year the curtain will be coming down on what could be called the Army's most dramatic role in Gibraltar.

For as long as anyone can remember the local drama festival has been run by the Army Education Centre at Bleak House and held in Ince's Hall, the Garrison Theatre.

"The man who sits behind this desk has been Mr Drama Festival," explained Major David Magee, RAEC, from his office at Bleak House. "He is the festival administrator and organises the entire thing with a small team of supporters."

But now that Ince's Hall has become part of the policy of handing back to the civil authorities a number of areas of military activities and land, the AEC's entrepreneurial days are numbered. Next month will see the 42nd and last Gibraltar Drama Festival put on by the Army.

In some respects it was sad to see the tradition ended said Major Magee, "because it has involved us very closely with the civil community for a very long time.

"Bleak House has a fairly high profile with regard to local people. They see a lot of us by virtue of the things we do, and when those ties are reduced, it not cut, it will be sad."

On the other hand, given the priority of the AEC's tasks, the decision was not a matter for regret.

Major Magee explained: "During the drama festival we cannot complete the things we are supposed to do which is essentially education of the troops. We haven't enough people and so the soldiers' education has to take second place, which is the second main reason why the Army is giving up the festival. The Deputy Fortress Commander (Brigadier Dick Hume) is quite clear about that."

Education for promotion was the bread and butter of AECs everywhere, he added. On top of this

there were responsibilities to provide education in support of training — courses in communications for instructors — help for individuals doing correspondence courses or those needing remedial teaching, and leisure classes for Servicemen and their dependants.

It was a pretty full programme without having to drop virtually everything once a year for the drama festival.

The ending of the Army's involvement will also mean the end of a secondary job for one of Major Magee's officers. Captain David Burn, RAEC, combines his work as a teacher with the appointment of manager of Ince Hall which means he has to concern himself with the security of the 100 year old building as well as handling bookings for the auditorium and the rehearsal room downstairs.

At the festival he dons a dinner jacket, like all good theatre managers, and patrols the foyer. But with the imminent arrival of civilian management he will presumably have more time in the future for teaching Spanish, a subject on which he is the AEC's chief authority, and which has become particularly important now that the border is open.

In the meantime there are still preparations to make for the Army's farewell appearance.

"This year we hope to have up to a dozen entries," Major Magee said. "Essentially they are one act plays, or single acts taken out of longer plays, often those which have been successful in London or on

Broadway. But more frequently they are locally produced. We have a number of people who write their own plays especially for the drama festival."

Entries ranged from very professional amateur companies who performed several times a year and took the business very seriously to more ad hoc groups who came together only for the festival. ("One last year consisted of a single person and his granny," Major Magee said).

The Resident Battalion usually has an entry, although last year The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was unable to take part as they were moving. And the Gibraltar Regiment, the Rock's own formation of largely TA soldiers, always appears as a strong competitor. A couple of years ago their CO, Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Britto, received the best actor award.

Amateur theatre is noted for its drama off the stage as well as on it. Fortunately Major Magee and his team never face the wrath of disappointed competitors as far as the results are concerned. A professional adjudicator is brought in from London to shoulder the



Ince's Hall —
going to the people of Gibraltar

burden.

"But we get involved in some of the passions that are raised in the sense that we have to resolve administrative problems," Major Magee admitted. "We don't concern ourselves with the contents, only with the smooth running of the festival. We tend to act as referees — 'Come on chaps, let's be sensible about it.'

"In fact everybody is usually very reasonable, but they do get a little bit frayed as the festival draws near."

BEAK HOUSE?

BLEAK HOUSE, the Army Education Centre in Gibraltar, has seen a few changes in its time. Built in the 1930s as an isolation hospital it became one of two Royal Artillery officers' messes in the days when the Rock bristled with batteries.

At present it is a teaching establishment which also offers recreational facilities to Servicemen and their families and houses one of the best libraries in Gibraltar.

This year Bleak House discovered another function — that of wild life preservation post. For seven years a pair of Peregrine falcons have nested on the cliffs below its western walls, but the chicks have never been able to flex their wings in the wild.

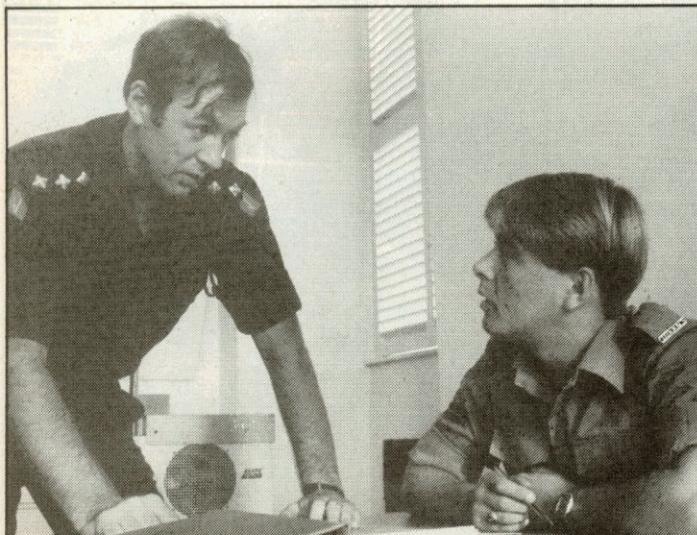
Falconry is a very popular pursuit in both North Africa and Spain and chicks from the nest can be worth a great deal. They are no good once they fly as you need to catch them young to train them.

So Brian Thomas, the deputy head of St Christopher's School for Service children, had an idea. He approached Major David Magee and the great Bleak House falcon watch was organised with relays of children taking turns to observe the nest site from a conveniently placed window.

The result of the co-operation between the AEC and the children is that there are now a couple more Peregrine falcons at large around Gibraltar.



Major Magee at Bleak House



In the classroom, Captain David Burn...last of the Army's theatre managers

Gunners on The Rock dwindle in number but,

HAVE VITAL COAST WATCH ROLE

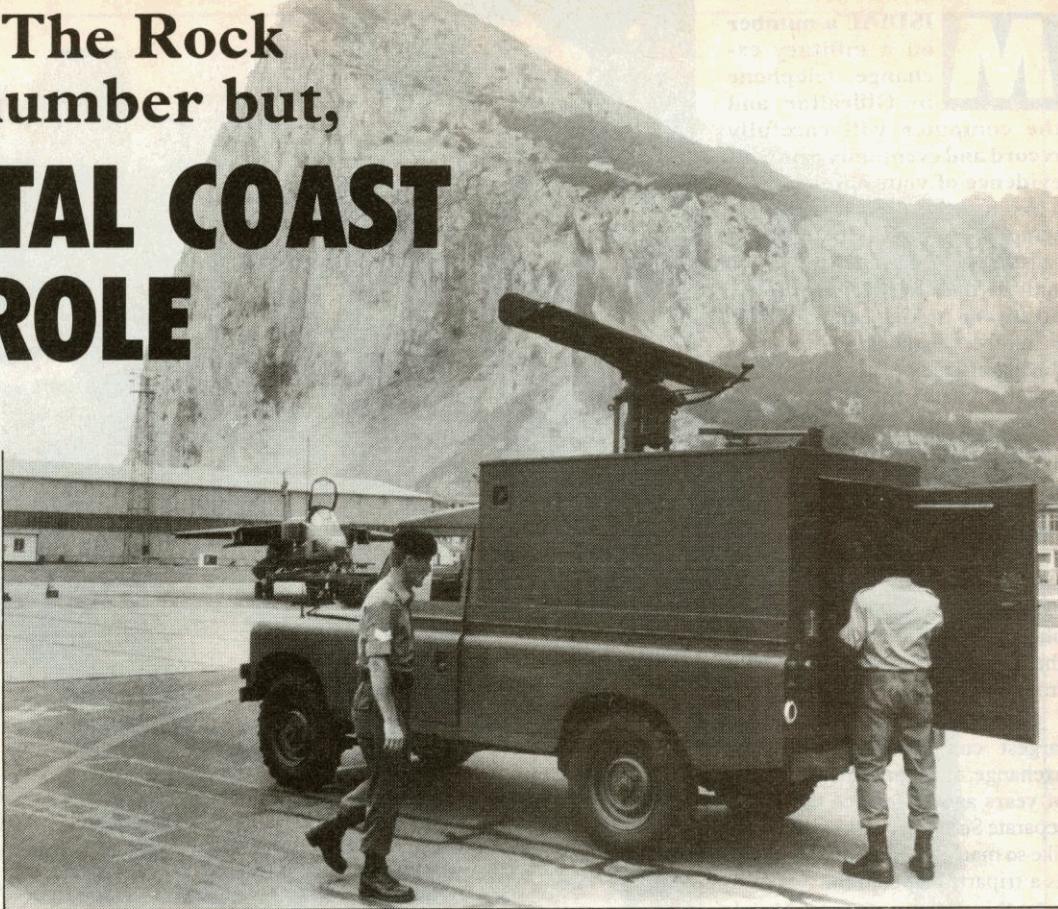
APART from the Royal Engineers perhaps no other branch of the Army has had as much to do with Gibraltar as the Royal Artillery.

The place fairly resounds with the names of defunct batteries and memories of the days when the Rock was a fortress bristling with guns. Alongside Fortress HQ the massive 100 ton gun, once capable of hurling a 2,000 lb muzzle-loaded shell a distance of eight miles, is kept in immaculate condition as a memorial to those times.

During the last great conflict, from 1939 to 1945, there were on average six Gunner regiments stationed on the Rock at any one time with a total of some 1,500 men.

But today the RA presence is sadly depleted. Only one Gunner unit remains, consisting of no more than 11 men and an officer commanding. Next year they are due to be cut even further — down to six men and one officer.

As 8 Surveillance Troop, Royal Artillery, these gunners deploy radar rather than guns and have the distinction of being the only formation in the Corps with a coast watch role.



A mobile Decca Marine radar of 8 Surveillance Troop

The troop has one static radar station and three mobile Decca Marine radars mounted on Land Rovers which can pick out a swimmer at 75 metres or a large ship at the maximum range of 64 nautical miles.

These mobile units provide safety cover whenever the light guns of Thomson's Battery (The Gibraltar Regiment), or the mortars of 1 Queens' mortar platoon, or anyone else uses the sea for range practice.

As BSM Andrew Nuttall ex-

plained the main job was to spot boats straying into the danger area. But there were hopes of doing radar observed missions — in other words spotting the fall of shells — even though the radar they were using was not designed for the task.

On a more domestic note 8 Troop has found itself with another unrelated responsibility — the sort of thing which happens quite frequently with Gibraltar's limited Service manpower.

The troop looks after four Bedford and two Sherpa campers,

and three Land Rover safari vehicles, provided by the Nuffield Trust for the use of Servicemen who fancy a holiday in Spain or in the wilds of Morocco and the Upper Sahara.

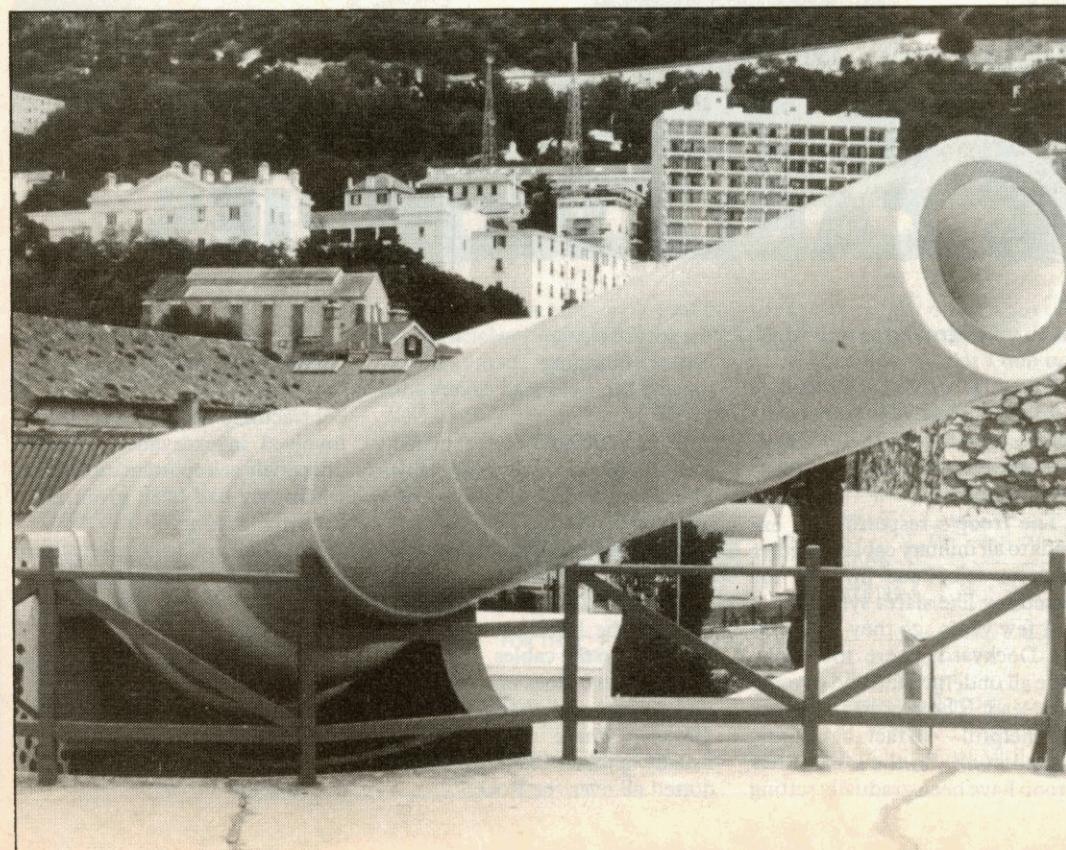
The job of maintaining the vehicles and hiring them out (soldiers get priority but any Servicemen can get a guaranteed booking with two months' notice) involves a fair bit of the troop's time.

Recently there has been welcome reinforcement in the person of a member of 1 Queens, the resident battalion, who has joined the troop to help with upkeep and maintenance.

Despite the demands the job still had some advantages, said Captain J R Bond, 8 Troop's OC, by putting them in touch with the entire British community on the Rock, civilian as well as Service.

But gunners are still gunners despite the other tasks they are required to do and occasionally the men of 8 Troop turn out to fire the 25 pound guns of Thomson's Battery for ceremonial salutes.

Thomson's Battery is of course the principal saluting unit on the Rock, a privilege jealously guarded by the men of The Gibraltar Regiment. But in deference to their cap badge the gunners of 8 Troop are the first reserve.



The 100 ton gun — impeccably preserved reminder of Gunner greatness in Gibraltar

MISDIAL a number on a military exchange telephone in Gibraltar and the computer will carefully record and eventually print out evidence of your clumsiness.

As a matter of routine the computer also notes the time all calls are made, the numbers dialled, and the duration of connections. So anyone making extended calls to numbers he shouldn't be ringing during office hours is quite liable to get a "please explain" message when the print-outs reach the comms officer at Fortress HQ.

In addition the computer calculates the charges for people making calls from their quarters to numbers outside the network, and prepares the bills. It can be used to alter the facilities of a particular phone, for example by changing the number or preventing calls from being made say to the UK.

Gibraltar has the Services' largest computerised telephone exchange. It was installed a couple of years ago to replace the three separate Service networks, and run, like so many facilities on the Rock, as a tripartite operation.

It lives in the former Naval exchange deep inside the Rock itself in part of the complex originally built for Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa in World War 2.

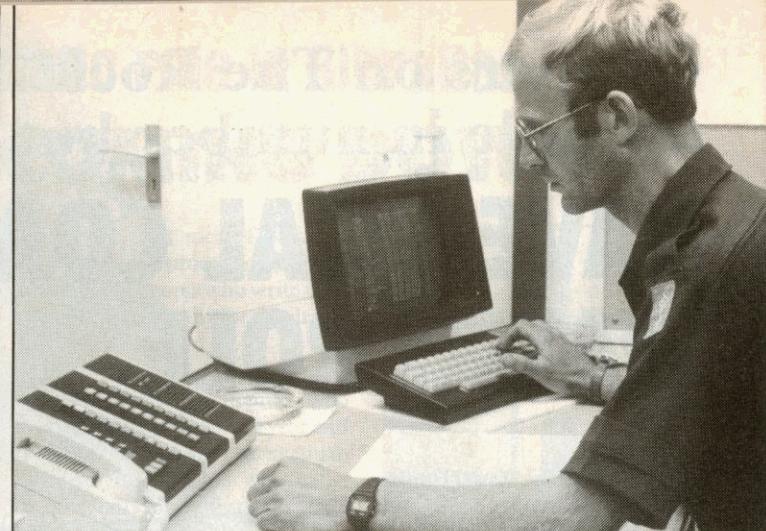
The operators, who have a computerised directory service at their fingertips, are RAF, while the technicians and linesmen who maintain the system come under 642 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals.

"The difference between this and the traditional automatic exchange," said Major John Hammonds, OC 642 Troop, "is basically that little plungers don't whirr or click or spin round. The apparatus operates on printed circuit boards and just sits there quietly. The only noise really is the air-conditioning plant."

Major Hammonds has three technicians to look after the 1,800 line exchange for although the computer can protect itself by shutting down damaged components, it isn't able to do repairs — at least not yet!

To maintain the outside plant he has a mixed military and civilian workforce who have to work in a rather more disordered environment due largely to the fact that until quite recently the three services installed their own cables independently of anyone else.

"We've got kilometre upon kilometre of cables," said Major Hammonds. "All over the top of the Rock you will see cables running down the side of the road — as many as five in some cases — the same in all the tunnels. Each of these cables carries 100 circuits. It is astronomical. And there's so



Clockwise: Cpl Craig Wrath and Mike Brown work on cables; WO2 Paul Cross — VDT and instant information; Maj John Hammonds; Sgt Keith Mardling checking a component.



Gibraltar's communicators have a fine computer and...

OLD FASHIONED CABLE WORRIES

much underground as well which you don't see."

The first cables were laid in Gibraltar to Rock Battery shortly before World War 1. Since then they have multiplied like oversexed rabbits.

The troop's responsibility extends to all military cables whether used for telephone lines or for something like alarm systems.

A few years ago they took over the Dockyard where the cables were all underground and covered with lead. The records were not very helpful — in fact they hardly existed at all. So the men of 642 Troop have been gradually setting

the record straight — locating the cables, mapping them and replacing their old lead covers with PVC.

As Major Hammonds explained the old practice of covering cables in lead presented something of a seasonal headache.

"It is great all summer," he said. "But when the first rains come in January I've got people crawling all over the Rock because water has got into the cables. It buckets down when it does rain — all the pits fill up and that's when we discover where our faults are, usually in joints and jumper fields dotted all over the Rock."

The other major problem, common to cable network all over the world was the ability of contractors, builders and others involved in excavation to strike unerringly at important cables even when they had been given plans showing location.

It added up to a pretty busy programme for Major Hammonds' troop of 11 Army Signallers and 63 civilians.

"I'd always thought Gibraltar was a gin and tonic posting before I came here," he said. "Now I don't believe it. There's plenty of it about, but it's getting the time to drink it!"



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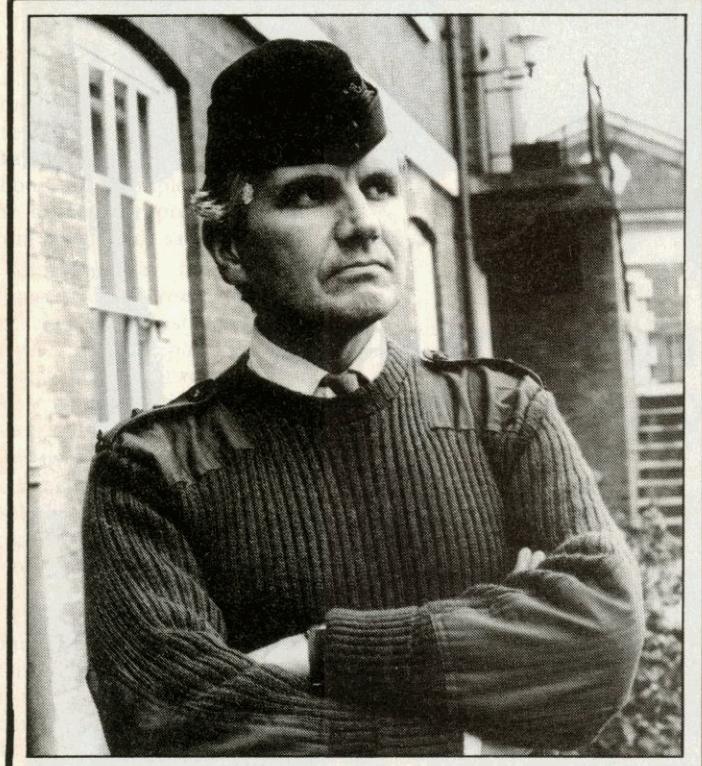
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At ease with sword or pen...

LIEUTENANT Colonel Michael Kenneth O'Malley Dewar is a rare being — a serving officer who has writing as a hobby and who gets works published.

His third published work (reviewed below) is also rare — an account of the British Army's role in Northern Ireland — because it is written by a man still serving.



RGJ OFFICER GETS THIRD PUBLICATION

The Royal Green Jackets officer explains: "There have been innumerable books written on Northern Ireland but really none by a serving soldier which encompasses

the entire campaign from the point of view of the British Army.

"I think the simple answer is that for some unknown reason very few serving officers seem to have as a part-time hobby the business of writing.

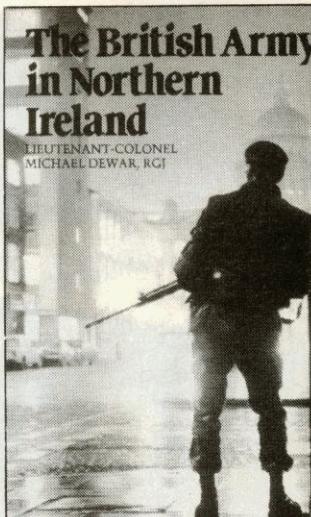
"I was encouraged many years ago by John Keegan, himself a successful author, and who is a military history lecturer at Sandhurst and a friend of mine."

Colonel Dewar believes men of the British Army are largely unsung heroes in Northern Ireland. "As I say in the introduction to the book, I do not believe that any other Army could have so consistently carried out their duty despite appalling provocation.

"I wanted to publicise that part played by the British Army and their achievements there and I believe that I was reasonably well qualified to do this.

"There are people who have been to Northern Ireland much more often than myself and whose operational experience there is much greater.

"However, I have had some experience of Northern Ireland. I think I can write, which not all of the people who have had more



The cover — with a photograph taken for SOLDIER by Doug Pratt

operational experience in Northern Ireland can."

Colonel Dewar was commissioned into the 3rd Green Jackets in 1962 after obtaining an honours degree in history at Pembroke College, Oxford.

He has considerable experience in Northern Ireland and warmer climates.

When he is not soldiering or writing, he enjoys game shooting, fishing, tennis and squash.

Two previous works published are *Internal Security Weapons and Equipment of the World* (Ian Allen, 1978) and *Brush Fire Wars* (Robert Hale, 1984).

It will be interesting to see what he chooses for his next subject.

AND THE BOOK REVIEWED

Something to please Tommy Atkins!

AFTER a period in which few books had been published on the Northern Ireland 'troubles', Lieutenant Colonel Michael Dewar's soberly titled 'The British Army in Northern Ireland'* is the second to appear within a few months, both of them purporting to give the soldier's story of the Army's involvement.

Colonel Dewar's book has an entirely different approach from its predecessor (Desmond Hamill's 'Pig in the Middle') in that it is based partly on his own service as a soldier in the trouble-torn province.

A "compelling study of military intervention in civil affairs, told with the authority of first-hand experience by a serving soldier — one who was there", says the publisher's jacket.

Colonel Dewar, author of two previous military subject publications, describes the tactics, methods and equipment evolved by the Army in Northern Ireland from the start of the present 'troubles' in 1969 until the early 80s relating in considerable detail some of the incidents, interspersed with some of the political moves.

On occasion the book becomes

something of a catalogue of events, some of the significant ones being treated almost summarily.

The Ballykelly Droppin Well bombing which killed 17 soldiers and civilians, for instance, is given only 12 lines, half of which are devoted to the Prime Minister's condemnation of the slaughter, whereas the author suddenly introduces a 1,000 word plus quote from a speech by Harold Wilson on the Ulster Workers' Council strike in 1974.

Most of the incidents described were experienced by The Parachute Regiment, The Royal Green Jackets, Royal Artillery and Royal Marines, and half way through the book Colonel Dewar is concerned that he has overdone the involvement of the Green Jackets (of which he commanded a company while in Northern Ireland).

So what of the future? All that can safely be said is that conditions are more propitious today than at any time since 1969 for an end to the terror, is his conclusion.

"The people of both communities in Ulster are weary of the violence; the primacy of the RUC has been restored; the violence has been drastically reduced; the Ulster economy is picking up; tourism is enjoying something of a boom again; relations with the republic are much improved; troop levels are lower; more convictions are being secured; large numbers of IRA men are safely locked away; there is a growing realisation among some IRA sympathisers in the USA that their financial support is counter-productive; cross-border co-operation between the RUC and Garda has never been so good — and much else has improved or is improving. Given all this, perhaps the end is in sight", the author ventures.

It almost sounds too good to be true!

But, as Colonel Dewar concludes, if the end is in sight, no-one will be more pleased than Tommy Atkins.

This is a book primarily about Tommy Atkins, a very readable and well illustrated account of some of his involvement in a tragic situation. — AT

**The British Army in Northern Ireland*, by Lt Col Michael Dewar, RGJ, Arms and Armour Press, London, £12.95.

SOLDIER

BOOKS

SERGEANT Colin Evans, Royal Pioneer Corps, is well known as the Provost Sergeant of Headquarters Regiment, 1st British Corps, based at Ripon Barracks, Bielefeld. What is less well known is that he is also an author.

His first "The Auslander Brigade" is a hard back novel which describes how some British prisoners of war were press-ganged into the German Army to fight on the Eastern Front against the Russians.

The book was published in August and has already been reprinted.

Sergeant Evans is delighted with the book's success. He explained: "Unless you are already established as an author, it can be very hard to get the first book published. I know, I have a drawer full of non-committal replies and rejection slips to prove it!"

He said that the idea for the book came from talking to friends who had served in the war, and who had been prisoners in Poland. In order to try to accurately portray the detail of the period, he spent many hours researching the subject. He is quick to point out that the book is a work of fiction, although, as in many modern novels, the story has a basis in fact.

"I could then review the manuscript the next morning. If it read well and had the right feeling, I would file it. If it didn't, it ended up in the waste bin! My wife, Debbie, got pretty used to emptying the bin, as I tried to find the right approach."

Sergeant Evans has had a long and interesting career. He enlisted in 1959 as a junior leader and spent six years with the Royal Signals. Newly married, he decided to try civilian life, but after

an eight-month spell driving trucks, he decided that he preferred service with the Colours.

He re-enlisted and joined the Royal Pioneer Corps, seeing service in North West Europe, Canada, Africa, the Middle East and the South Atlantic.

He decided to leave the Army again in 1973, and set himself up in business. He admits that this period in his life was not a great success.

He calculates that with the Army moves added to the time when he moved his family from choice, he has completed a staggering 40 moves in

the last 22 years.

His wife and two younger sons live in the family home in Anglesey, with eldest boy Colin, an officer in the Royal Marines, and the next, Darren, serving with the RCT in Hohne.

Sergeant Evans has already begun work on a sequel to "The Auslander Brigade," and he is looking forward to publishing his latest book "Yesterdays Men" a novel about the men who built the Manchester Ship Canal.

**The Auslander Brigade* by Colin D Evans (The Book Guide, Lewes, Sussex, £9.25).



PROVOST NOVELIST!

Brigadier Bryan Collie, Commander Bielefeld Garrison, displays a copy of *The Auslander Brigade*, donated by author Sergeant Colin Evans (left) to Bielefeld Garrison Library shelves.

HUMAN FACE OF THE "TIGER"

THINK of Malaya — and you must think of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. If you don't, then there is something wrong, for the two are synonymous.

A new biography* on one of the United Kingdom's most underrated soldiers is well worth reading, not only to tell the uninitiated why the name Templer means so much to the peoples of that admirable Far Eastern country, but to show the fascinating range of Gerald Templer's talents and achievements.

It could not have been an easy task. Templer did not keep a diary — surprising for a man who always had a sense of history and who was centre stage in so many important events. He had, however, started to sort out what few papers he had retained... shortly before his death.

At least before he died Templer had the satisfaction of seeing the National Army Museum establishing itself and growing fast. A dream fulfilled, especially satisfying after putting so much personal drive into the always tricky business of fund raising.

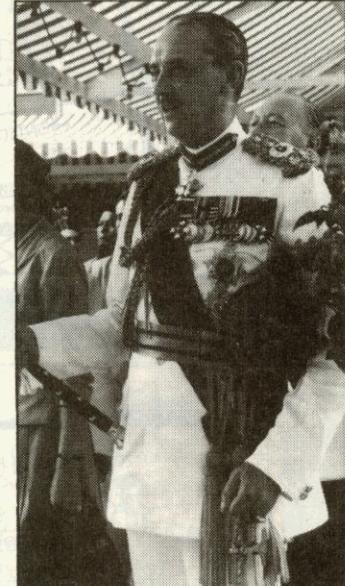
For a man who was determined that the new museum was for the nation, rather than the Army, it was gallant to be embarrassed by a national newspaper

report which stressed "New Museum for Army" (not the point at all) and in a separate piece which suggested a deal was struck with the Sultan of Brunei at a cocktail party who agreed to make a donation of £100,000 in exchange for rifles the Field Marshal was said to have presented to Brunei free of charge. The Sultan, a strict Moslem, did not attend cocktail parties and there was no question of a gift of rifles! A correction was carried but such was Templer's fury, relations with the paper remained "strained".

Templer's unfailing honesty in all things sometimes meant he hurt people — but it was always done with the good of the Army, regiment, or individual in mind.

His eye for detail was unerring. One officer, whose Sam Browne had suffered in the war, had ordered a new one from his tailor — and in the meantime was spotted by the then VCIGS walking down Whitehall without belt or stick. Templer explained facts in a letter to the offender — "If I am wrong I will apologise. If I am right will you please ensure that while you remain in the Regiment you never appear like that again. In Service Dress we wear Sam Browne belts and carry sticks. I hope I have made myself quite clear!"

People who pay such attention to detail often fail when it comes to wider vision. Not so Templer, who could always see the broad picture and never more so in Malaya when his ruthless determination to beat the communist menace was coupled with a genuine



desire to benefit the peoples for the future of their own country. Winning the shooting conflict was but a part of his overall strategy — and it says much for his electric effect on the nation (and indeed for Lady Templer's contribution to hearts and minds) that he is remembered there with genuine affection.

Cloake wanted to depict "without hiding the blemishes, the very human person behind the crusty exterior". He can be well pleased with his efforts.

**Templer, Tiger of Malaya*, by John Cloake (Harrap, London £14.95).

IN OUR review (Books in Brief, SOLDIER 23 September) of "For the Love of Elizabeth" we named Mr Albert Paice as secretary of the Sheffield Branch, Dunkirk Veterans Association. In fact, his co-author of the book, Mr Alwyn Ward holds the post. Mr Ward has also moved and people wanting the book should write to him at: Flat 27, Birchcroft, 17 Nether Edge Road, Sheffield S7 1RU.

We also erred in the caption to the photograph on the books pages which showed, or course, the Headquarters of South East District — not South West.

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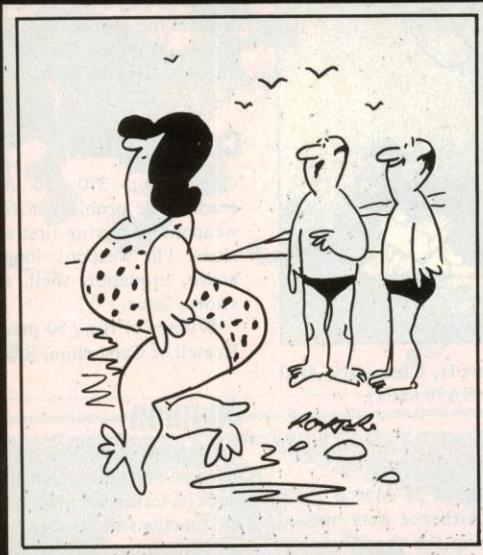
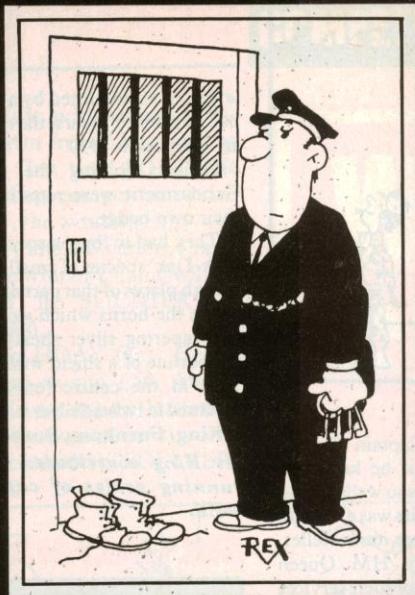
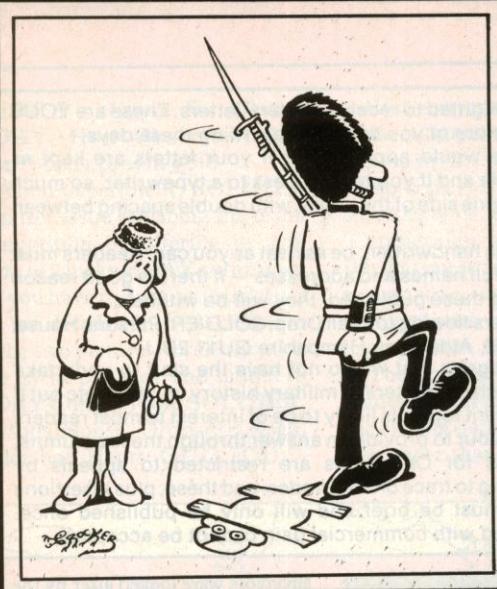
SOLDIER IN THE POSITION

ROUNDTIME SOLDIER

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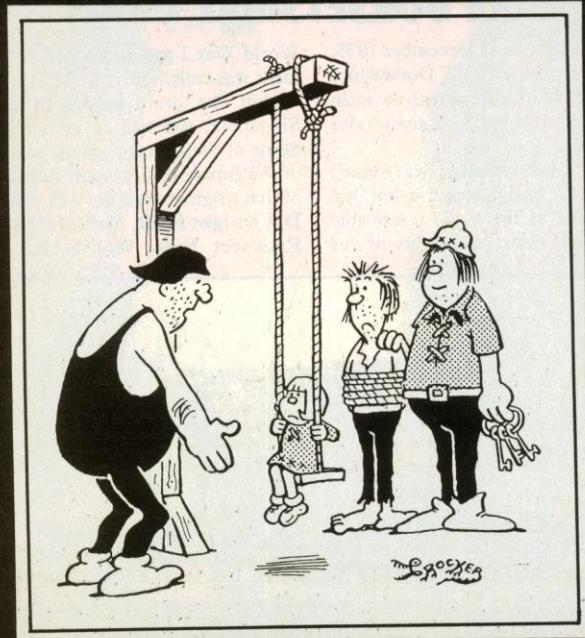
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DESIGN



"We'll let her go in first to scare off the sharks."

Humour



"Sorry kid, but Daddy has some work to do."



"Of course he likes us. He's just not very good at showing his feelings."

MAIL DROP



SURPRISED

I am surprised that Captain Thomas (Mail Drop 29 Jul), if he knew the South Wales Borderers so well, should have forgotten that theirs was a wreath, not a laurel but of silver immortelles, awarded to them by HM Queen Victoria in recognition of their services in the Zulu War of 1879. **John Gaylor** Hon Sec, Military Historical Society, 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2UA.

PARA SAPPERS

There was a slight inaccuracy in SOLDIER (7 October) with reference to 9 Para Sqn being the "only Sappers with parachute capability."

I write not to slight the good men of 9 Sqn. I served with them myself for some years, but to point out that there are some 22 other men of the Sappers with "parachute capability."

These men comprise Recce Troop, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE and qualify as parachutists (having done 'P' Coy, I hasten to add) in order to support forward elements of 3 Cdo Bde RM.

So although small in number, I feel we're entitled to a bit of a mention as "Sappers with Parachute Capability."

— **S/Sgt G Howard RE, Recce Troop, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Seaton Bks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth, PL6 5DL.**

Quite so. Sorry! — Ed.

SOME BADGE!

I reply to the letter (SOLDIER 26 August) under the heading 'Rare Badge'.

An earlier unit operating in the Somaliland Protectorate wore a badge which is far more interesting than the

All in support

D Chamberlin (9 September) sparked a heavy response to his query about Warrant Officer Class 3... which definitely existed!

We used four replies in our 7 October issue and have since received another 14 letters.

As they all say more or less the same thing, we haven't space to use them but would like to express our gratitude to the following: I M Scrivener, 59 Roundwood Road, Ipswich, Suffolk; F Palfrey RA, 157 Kingston Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1PE; Major (Retd) J A Barrow MBE, 26 Ladysmith Road, Lipson, Plymouth, Devon; Major R A J Tyler MBE (Retd), Commandant, Families Housing and Welfare Service, Inglis Bks, Mill Hill, NW7 1PX; F R Reed, 104 Cherry Garden Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8HG; S/Sgt D Bevan, 2 Tp A Sqn, 15/19 Hussars, BFPO 53; G Percival, East Dean, Old Damson Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 9ED; D C L Rutt, 18 Down Avenue, Foxhill, Bath, BA2 5QH; Mr P L Foss, 69 Northmead Road, Allerton, Liverpool, L19 5SN; Capt J C Atkinson (Retd), Seahaven, Cauldwell Close, Whitley Bay, NE25 8LP; P Howling, 17 Moorview Court, Northlea Avenue, Thackley, Bradford, BD10 8LY; S Atkins, 7 Park View Road, Heaton, Bradford, West Yorks, BD9 4PA; Lt Col J Whitehead (Retd), 50 Hull Road, Withernsea, N Humberside, HU19 2RG; Harry B Brand, 133 Ranworth Avenue, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 9NU; Kenneth W S Goodson, 16 Almond Crescent, Swanpool, Lincoln, LN6 0HN.

Mr Chamberlin should be well satisfied! — Ed.

letter 'S' surmounted by a crown on a pair of crossed spears, the crown being an addition in 1950.

Officers joining the Somaliland Gendarmerie were required to shoot their own badge.

They had to 'bag' a specimen of the 'Dik-Dak' species of small deer found in high places of that part of Africa and to use the horns which were enclosed in a tapering silver sheath on which the outline of a shield with the letters 'SG' in the centre (entwined) was mounted in twisted silver wire. — **Hugh L King, Farnham, Surrey.**

Mr King contributed our long-running series of cap badges.
— Ed.

SIR GALAHAD



We were most interested to read in SOLDIER the short piece referring to RFA Sir Galahad and I enclose a photograph of the Third Tyne class lifeboat now stationed at Padstow.

At the time of writing our Sir Galahad is on schedule and is due for self righting trials in early December, possibly due on station in March 1986.

Tenby Station Branch appeal has already benefitted from the efforts of 14 Bty 16 AD Regt and should any other units feel that they should like to be associated with perpetuating the memory of those lost in the Falklands we should be pleased to hear from them.

— **A R Squibbs, Deputy Launching Authority, RNLI Tenby. (Hon Sec:**

SOLDIER is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are YOUR pages — and more of you seem to be writing these days.

However, we would appreciate it if your letters are kept as brief as possible and if you have access to a typewriter, so much the better. Use one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines please.

If your letter is handwritten, be as neat as you can. Readers must also give their full names and addresses — if there is good reason for not wanting these published, they will be withheld.

Keep the letters flowing to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

The Editor regrets that we do not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military history, militaria etc but if a query on current topics is likely to be of interest to most readers we shall endeavour to provide an answer through these columns.

Contributions for Call Signs are restricted to appeals by individuals trying to trace old comrades, and these, plus insertions for Reunions must be brief and will only be published once. Items connected with commercial gain cannot be accepted.

survivors were looked after by the 7th tank crews.

Could someone add any more to the story? The identity of the dead airman?

Did he stay with the aircraft trying to avoid the oncoming gliders? — **R J Caley, 33 Fitch Court, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2ND.**

Competition

Competition 370 (26 August) set readers the problem of finding nine weapons — having first solved some clues. The weapons: longbow, fusil, arrow, arquebus, shell, rifle, spear, sword, lance.

Winner of the £50 prize: **Mr H E Russell of Carshalton, Surrey.**

Reunion

An all ranks association is being formed for those who have served in BRIXMIS since its formation in September 1946 and functions are being planned to mark the 40th anniversary. Anyone who has served in the Mission and would like more information about the association should contact the secretary, Lieutenant Colonel J N Cormack, HQ RSME, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4UG.

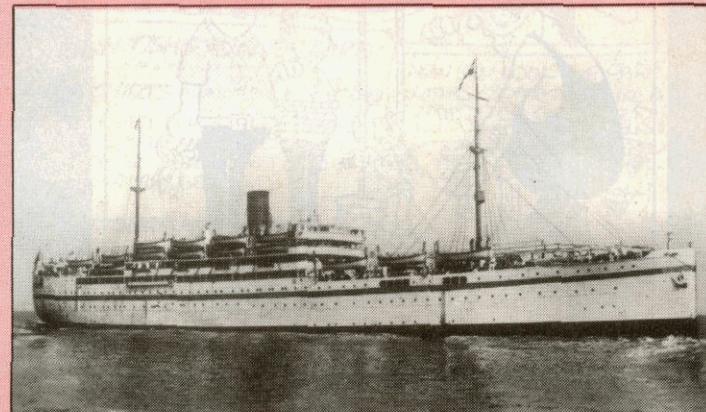
RARE DORSETSHIRE DRAFT

Fifty years ago, on 12 December 1935, the old Troopship HMT Dorsetshire sailed from Southampton with the main draft on board warned for active service in Ethiopia.

When it got into the Red Sea (Xmas!) the Italians had started using gas warfare and as there was reasonable doubt about the serviceability of our

World War I gas masks our involvement was called off.

Half the draft were sent on to Singapore, and half to Hong Kong. Some of these later became prisoners of the Japanese. I wonder how many of that original draft are still alive? — **D A Knight ERD, 7 Jutland House, Prospect Vale, Woolwich.**



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION 375

HERE'S a chance for all our HOAY (How Observant Are You?) fans to win £50!

As an experiment, SOLDIER is in this issue replacing the usual competition by offering its £50 prize to a lucky HOAY enthusiast. All you have to do is, as usual, find the ten details which are different in the two pictures, circle them on one of the pictures, and send it to HOAY Competition, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

Each entry must be accompanied by the 'Competition 375' label from the top of this page, and although photo-copies of the HOAY pictures are acceptable, photo-copies of the 'Competition 375' label are not. But you can send in as many entries as you like, as long as each is accompanied by an original 'Competition 375' label.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 3 January 1986.

If more than one correct entry

is received, the lucky winning entry will be drawn from a hat. And as this is the first time SOLDIER has offered its competition prize for HOAY, the winning entry will be drawn by HOAY's artist, Frank Finch. The winner's name will be announced in SOLDIER 27 January 1986.

Come on HOAY fans. Here's your chance to win £50. And if enough of you are enthusiastic, there may be more prizes to come in subsequent issues of SOLDIER.

**WIN
£50**



NAAFI SPECIAL OFFER!

THERE'S no doubt about it, model Erica Preston does something for a T-shirt.

You too can wear a T-shirt like the one Erica is wearing printed with 'The Professionals' slogan, just by taking part in an easy-to-enter SOLDIER competition, so easy in fact that all you have to do is write your name and address.

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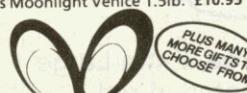
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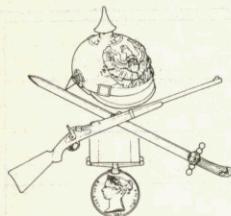
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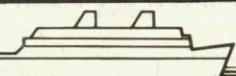
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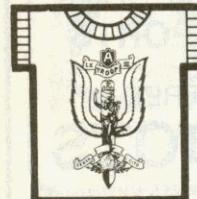
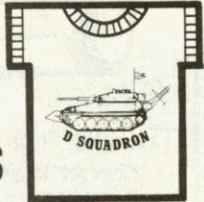
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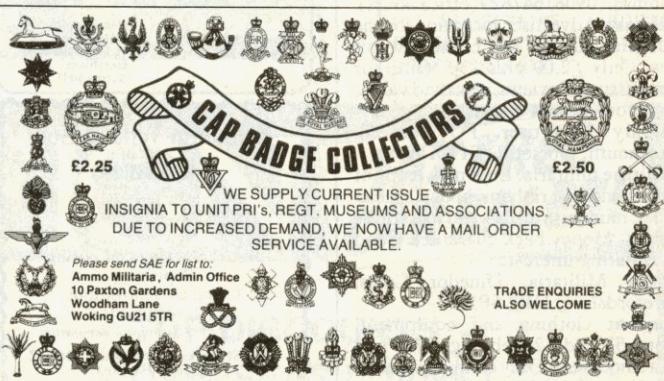
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ARMY BOBSLEIGH GETS BOOST

Following the support for Army bobsledding in February by Save & Prosper the Army Bobsleigh Association have been involved with a recruiting drive to broaden the range of Army interest.

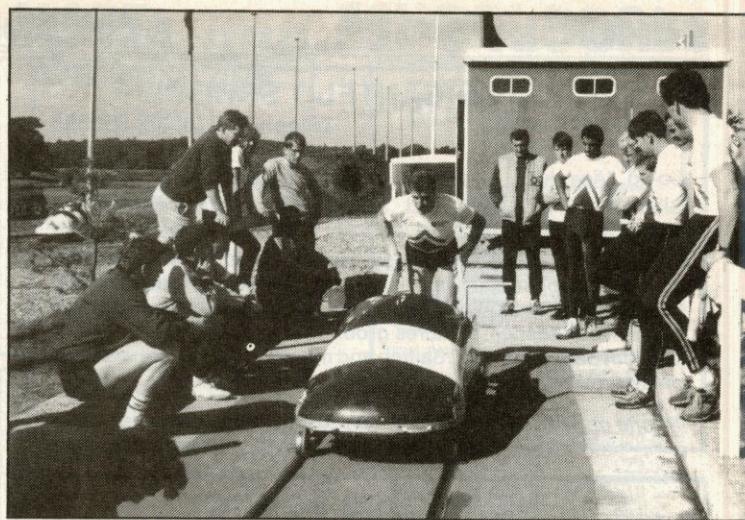
The first productive phase of the recruiting drive took place when the Army Bobsleigh Association staged a training North London and the British Bobsleigh Association Dry Start at Thorpe

Park, Chertsey.

The weekend was well attended by potential bobsledders from BAOR and UKLF.

The first day of the competition was run by Sergeant Roy Hunte, RAF, physical training coach for the British bobsleigh team, and based on a series of tests specifically developed by Sgt Hunte to assess a bobsledder's performance.

The Saturday phase was fol-



Eyes down — for a push-start

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- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
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| 2 Gdsmn Armstrong (18 pts) | 2 Gren Gds |
| 3 Gnr Richards (25 pts) | 88 Bty, 4 Fd Regt |
| 4 LCpl Tout (27 pts) | 2 RTR |
| 5 Cfn Smith (34 pts) | REME att 2 Gren Gds |
| 6 Lt Carr (36 pts) | 3 RTR |
| 7 Lt Boag (38 pts) | 50 Eng Regt |
| 8 Capt Pugh (52 pts) | 2 RTR |
| 9 LCpl Packman (56 pts) | 2 RTR |

Chepstow team in triathlon triumph

THE ARMY took its first glimpses at the new sport of triathlon with the first West Area Triathlon taking place at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow.

The competition took the form of a 600 metre swim in the college pool followed by a 22 mile cycle race and finishing with a gruelling six mile cross country run.

Teams came mainly from the west area but there were individuals from as far afield as Aldershot, Sandhurst and Pirbright.

Winner was Mr Bill Pegler, an

ex-APTC instructor who is working at the gymnasium at the Army Apprentices College Chepstow, who also provided the winning team: Mr Pegler, Warrant Officer 2 Phil Watkins and Sergeant Jack Horn, all members of the College PT staff.

The team have also won the Winchester Triathlon and the Dorking Triathlon.

The winning team, from left: Mr Bill Pegler, WO2 Phil Watkins and Sgt Jack Horn.



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HANG GLIDING

THE ARMY did better than in 1984 when the Joint Services Hang Gliding Championships took place in South Wales.

Once again the RAF showed their dominance in the advanced section; the Army improvement was reflected in the first three places in the novice section.

This year over 60 pilots produced an exceptionally high standard of flying in the three sections; novice, intermediate and advanced.

To give an indication of the level of skill this year, the intermediate pilots were attempting tasks which were similar to those set for the advanced pilots last year and the advanced pilots were tackling tasks normally reserved for international competitions.

In the advanced section the pilots were faced with the problem of having to take off and then fly around a number of turn points some up to 50 kilometres apart. Each turn point had three different scores depending on where the pilot landed and the scores were loaded so as to encourage the pilot to attempt to return to the take off

ARMY IMPROVEMENT, RAF DOMINANCE

point or to land in a designated landing field some 20-30 kilometres away from the take off point. The lowest scores were reserved for those pilots that landed elsewhere.

Service pilots were faced with the problems of calculating and working out their own route based on the weather conditions, their own ability and their glider.

All pilots found the competition, designed and run by Jim Bowyer, Chief Flying Instructor of the Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre, to be challenging and exciting.

All pilots were faced with the problem of map reading in the air and of photographing turn points from two directions to show the judges that they had in fact followed the route claimed.

The top Army pilot, as last year, was Warrant Officer 2 Bernie Reeby of the Commando Logistic Regiment, Royal Marines. He was well in contention with the two top RAF pilots until he was given

a zero score on the second day of the competition having forgotten to photograph his own glider in the landing field. Despite this, WO2 Reeby came fourth overall.

Captain Adrian Hicks of Royal Engineers was leading the intermediate section with maximum points right up until the last task when he failed to turn up in time for the take off thereby finding himself with zero score for that task. He came second behind Flight Sergeant Sid Power, RAF.

The novice section was won by Sergeant Charlie Brown of the Army Air Corps closely followed by Steve Stevenson and Capt John Aldridge of the Royal Engineers.

Signals communications for the Championships, always vitally important in hang gliding championships, were provided by 244 Signal Squadron. Hiway Flight Services sponsored the event.

The flying was the most impressive ever seen in a Joint

Services Championship with many pilots staying in the air for over two or three hours each day and flying over 50 or 60 kilometres across country.

Prizes were presented by the President of the Joint Services and Army Hang Gliding Association, Major General Mike Matthews, who is also Engineer-in-Chief Army.

This gave the Service hang glider pilots a chance to say farewell to a man who has done so much for hang gliding.

It was General Matthews who used his influence to support hang gliding in its quest for official status as a sport within the Services, which it achieved within a short time of him taking over as President.

He was also behind the formation of the Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre, which has now trained over 2,000 Servicemen as hang glider pilots.

TOM COBLEY AN' ALL JUST LOVE MARATHONS

MEN OF The 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, based at Colchester, have run in three marathons this year and loved every footslogging minute of it under the inspired leadership of a descendant from an old English folk song character, the famed Tom Cobley of Widdicombe Fair. Namely, Major Tom Cobley, a British-born Australian, now serving with the British Army.

Their latest and most demanding sponsored run for charity took a dozen battalion members the 424 miles from Colchester to Scotland via Lichfield. Lichfield was a 'must'; birthplace of The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of

Wales's). It is also the location of The Prince of Wales's Division Depot.

This time, the undaunted dozen were out on the road in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Gateway Home for Special Children, Elmhurst.

The team comprised Major Cobley, Captain Terry Ellison, Lieutenant Simon Chandler, Warrant officer 2 Jack Chandler and his 18-year-old son, Mark, Corporals Gino Pullizzi, and 'Tank' Stalker, Lance Corporal Steven Ford, and Privates 'Apple' Pye, 'D-Day' Dawson, Phil Donnel and Pte 'Jock' Stewart.

Admin back-up was provided by Sergeants Jim Cowie and Derek

Whitemore and Corporal 'Ski' Dabrowski.

Each charity benefited to the tune of £1,000, this sum enabling the Guide Dogs for the Blind to buy one dog. To do it, the team and back-up squad gave up one week of their annual leave, living up to the regimental motto of Ich Dien or I Serve.

The team ran the 153 miles from Colchester to Lichfield in 18 hours completing it through the night. The run eventually ended in Morebattle, Scotland, a village chosen as the finish point because it has a Guide Dog for the Blind as its major charity.

Furthermore, the team was invited to run into the Morebattle Games at noon to open, officially, this annual Scottish athletics meeting. In return, the team was presented with a silver tray.

Earlier this year the battalion entered a six-man team in the Tacoma Dome Fun Run while on

After the civic reception at The Kings Head Lichfield. Left to right Pte Phil Donnelly, Capt Terry Ellison, WO2 Jack Ferguson, Pte 'D-Day' Dawson, Mr Mark Ferguson, Lt Simon Chandler, L Cpl Steven Ford, Pte 'Apple' Pye, Maj Tom Cobley, Pte Jock Stewart, Cpl Gino Pullizzi and Cpl 'Tank' Stalker.

exchange at Fort Lewis, Washington State, in the Trumpet Dance series of exercises. They were competing against the 2nd Ranger Battalion, this time, in aid of the American Red Cross.

Tom Cobley — an' all — had no recourse to an old grey mare for this one but did it in boots carrying light scale fighting equipment.

Back in the UK, the Staffords later entered the Colchester Marathon, 22 of them this time, in aid of the Prince Philip Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans.

So, what next for the battalion and its sponsored run zest? The regiment is posted to BAOR in January next year and... well, you've guessed it. A team will run to their new barracks at Fallingsbostel. From the Hook of Holland of course! The entrants will be running in BFT dress with an overnight in Arnhem.

But that is not all. In the middle of next year the sleek-footed Staffords are aiming to make an attempt on the run from John O'Groats to Land's End. Drawn from men who compete in the 1986 London and Berlin marathons.

Time enough, perhaps, for Major Tom Cobley an' all to drop in on Widdicombe Fair, old grey mare or not.



ARMY BRASS HATS RULE!

In perfect weather and sailing conditions, 19 crews took part in the Brass Hat Regatta on the Möhnesee.

The Brass Hat Regatta, so-called because both senior Army officers and soldiers take part, has become an annual event in Germany.

The winner of the Brass Hat trophy, open to all ranks, was Brigadier David Canterbury of HQ 1 (BR) Corps.

His day was highly successful in that he also came second in the Star Plate event, won by Brigadier Mike Wilkes of 22 Armoured Brigade. This event was only open to brigadiers and above.

The day, organised by Major Miles Shepherd and the Möhnesee Sailing Club, was a success.

People from all over BAOR, representing every rank from staff sergeant to lieutenant general, came to take part.

The racing was very exciting and it was obvious that several had done it before. However, unfortunately for some, a few came into closer contact with the Möhnesee water than they would otherwise have wished!



Brig R D Grist crews for Maj Gen C J Waters



Cutting corners means paying penalties!

SEME BACK ON TROPHY TRAIL

SEME BORDON, notable Army Cup campaigners of the 60s, 70s, and 80s, scored a rare success in the Army football six-a-sides when they beat the current Army Cup holders 1st Bn The King's Regiment 3-2, after extra time, in a dramatic final tie.

SEME scored twice in the opening half and looked to be coasting to a comfortable win, but the Kings were determined not to be denied a unique double.

They reduced arrears early in the second half and equalised just before the end sending the game into extra time.

It was virtually with the last kick of the game that SEME grabbed the winning goal.

Drawn in Group A, SEME won five matches in a row before closing their group programme with two drawn games.

45 Fd Regt RA, always just out

of reach of the group winning spot, chased SEME home beating 206 Coy RPC on goal difference when both ended up with 10 points.

In Group B, 1 Kings won all seven of their matches but the surprise qualifiers from this group were 30 Signal Regt, from Blandford Camp, who edged out local favourites Training Regiments Royal Engineers.

With the last matches being played, both had to win to qualify and a win for both would have meant the Sappers moving into the semi-finals. In the event, 30 Signal Regt beat 2 R Anglian 5-2 but the Training Regiments could only draw with 3 LI 3-3.

Both semi-finals were hard fought. SEME beat 30 Signal Regt 3-1 but 1 Kings had a desperate fight before they conquered 45 Fd Regt RA 3-2, after being two goals behind.

Major General John Boyne, Chairman of the Army Football Association invited Mr Michael Bowler, Director of sponsors Aston, Martin Lagonda to present the trophies.

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DOWN
BUT NOT
OUT!

FORMER MEMBERS of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, went down 3-1 when they met the present 1 DERR soccer team at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, but have vowed to have another go next year.

"The old boys left the pitch, battered, bruised and having lost, but with the memory of taking their younger opponents the whole way," writes Mr S McIntyre who organised the team with members from as far away as Blackpool.

The match commenced in driving rain and after 10 minutes, according to Mr McIntyre, the Old Boys looked the most dangerous side. However 1 DERR scored first with a well taken volley from outside the penalty box.

This only inspired the visitors (ages ranging from 27 to 45) to greater things and when fork lift driver Kevin Hilliar collected a pass from golf course assistant Terry Iles, they equalised with what Mr McIntyre describes as the goal of the match. It was sufficient to bring 1 DERR's manager, Sergeant Ian Tait, to the touchline to tell his young players to follow suit.

They did with two more goals, leaving the old boys a little bloodied but certainly unbowed.

In the bar afterward somebody commented that it would be a nice change to see some of the younger ex-members of the battalion coming forward rather than having to rely on former members of the sergeants' and officers' messes. Any of them who feel like doing so for next year's encounter are invited to contact Mr McIntyre at 20 Iver Court, Canonbury Park South, London N1 2JP.

DESPITE losing 3-0 away against Uxbridge in the opening match, the Army Soccer team has had an encouraging start to the 1985-86 season.

The team went on to draw with the Amateur Football Alliance (goals from Craftsmen Tony Wright and Stuart Greenwood) and beat on successive days Carshalton Athletic 4-3 (Lance Corporal Mickey Spencer, 2, Sapper Johnny Johnson, Guardsman Bob Sharpe, pen.) and the Prison Service 2-0 (Captain Peter Wikeley and Corporal Neil Rothey).

Following on, Woking were beaten 3-1 with Army Scorers Greenwood, Spencer and Edwards.

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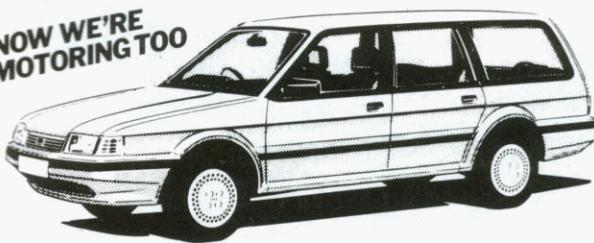
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