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FRONT COVER: A jet of Britain's unique Harrier Force takes off from a road during Exercise Hill Foil held in Germany. Among the men who make the operations possible are the "Tin Kickers" of 38 Engineer Regiment. Their story begins on Page 23.

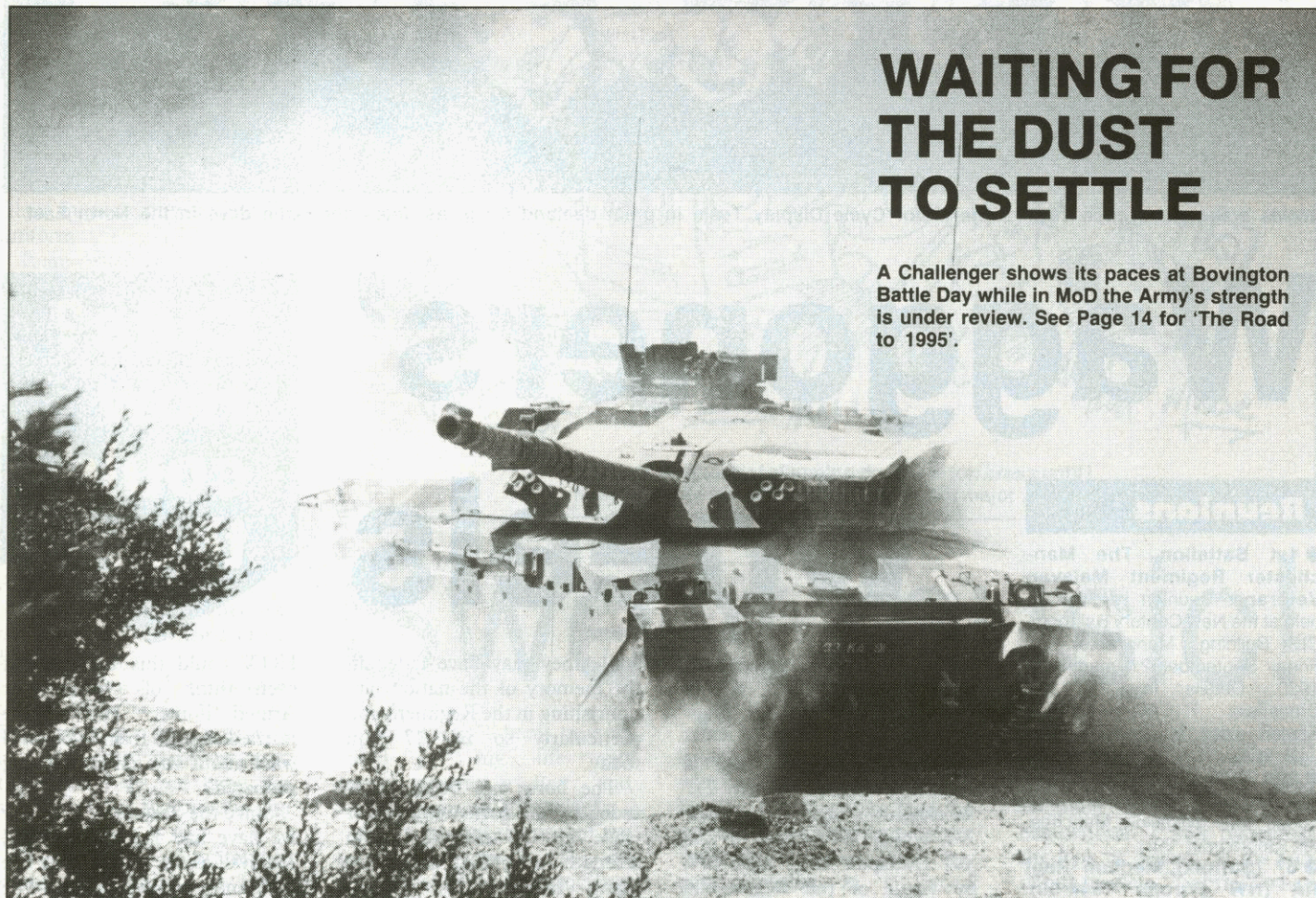
Picture: Mike Perring

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

WAITING FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE

A Challenger shows its paces at Bovington Battle Day while in MoD the Army's strength is under review. See Page 14 for 'The Road to 1995'.



Picture: Mike Weston

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AUGUST 20, 1990

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LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
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Wolds Waggoners, circa 1990... the Motor Cycle Display Team in great demand for galas, fetes and open days in the North East

Waggoners' wheels

Reunions

● **1st Battalion, The Manchester Regiment Malayan Veterans:** Reunion ball will be held at the New Century Ballroom, CIS Building, Manchester, on Friday September 21, starting at 1930. Details from Mr W Dransfield, 7 Arlies Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester OL6 9QW.

● **209 RCZ Workshop REME (V):** Reunion dinner dance, Valley Lodge Hotel, Wilmslow, Manchester, September 29.

● **67 (Suffolk) Medium Regt RA (NW Europe 1944-50):** Reunion at Victoria Hotel, 27 Latimer Road, Eastbourne, September 15. WO1 (RSM) R Schmidlin please make contact. Details from D A Knight, 18 Lough Court, Blackheath SE3 8UD (tel: 081-858 3747).

● **ULOTC Regimental Association:** Annual dinner will be held in the Officers' Mess, Handel Street, London WC1, Friday November 2. Details from ULOTC Regimental Association, FREEPOST WC 5227, London WC1N 1BR (no stamp required).

Searchline

● **Robert Beattie RA, 1943-45:** Information for a family history sought on Robert Beattie, who served with RA (Heavy Anti-Aircraft) in India. Please contact Mrs R Barham, 74 Bell Lane, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 0JX.

● **Sgt Barry Dutch,** last known address Reading, sought by sister, Miss Hester Dutch, 17 Leeder Close, Holbrooks, Coventry CV6 4EB.

I READ with interest the letter (July 9) from Mr T Wilson regarding the Wolds Waggoners.

The Waggoners have a historical connection with 217 (Yorkshire) Squadron RCT (V), which forms part of 150 (N) Transport Regt RCT (V), by virtue of the Regimental Motor Cycle Display Team that rides under the name of the Wolds Waggoners.

Comprising all TA volunteers, the team is in great demand in the North East of England at galas, fetes, open days and the like, and it may interest other SOLDIER readers that the Wolds Waggoners,

while they may have faded in the memory of the nation, are flourishing in the Regiment and particularly so in 217 Sqn today.

The horse has been superseded by the Armstrong motor cycle but the team goes from strength to strength and holds many trophies, the prized possession being the Army Motor Cycle Championship Cup. — Maj K O'Sullivan, 217 (Yorkshire) Sqn RCT (V), Churchill Barracks, Leeds.

● Miss Kathleen M Potts, of Guiseley, Leeds wrote on the same topic, describing the various memorials to the East Riding Waggoners in Sledmere.

Cuts?
How
could
they!

HOW could this Government even think of cutting our Armed Forces? Haven't we learned enough from two world wars about the value of being prepared?

Since the Second World War we have had Palestine, Aden, Malaya, Suez, Korea and the Falklands, to name a few. The world now seems more aggressive than ever.

Apart from this, the rehousing of Service families has to be considered.

If you ask any old soldier he will say he has heard it all before ("A land fit for heroes to live in"). — F H Jennings, Great Barr, Birmingham.

Bridge of nostalgia

I MUST have missed that "first Bailey Bridge in Europe" (Letters, July 9) but crossed one the other day over the River Eden at Langwathby, outside Penrith in Cumbria.

Driving slowly over one of these bridges is pure nostalgia and takes you right back to wartime. It made me wonder just how many Bailey Bridges are still in use around the

country. On the same page was a fascinating sniff of the past. Of our five senses, smell is the one to evoke an instant flashback.

May I add a few of my own to Peter Fowle's list:

- Coke fumes from our primary school heating system
- Chlorine in the command swimming baths
- A troopship's engine room

● Mile upon mile of orange blossom in Palestine

● A certain street in Cairo

● ... and Egyptian cigarettes

● A Sicilian almond grove before the fireworks started

● Hot fresh bread made from chestnut flour.

I am sure there will be many more from other theatres. — Geordie Taylor, Aldershot.

Keeping in step with history

I AM researching instruments used by the Army to ensure that the length and pace of steps in marching should be uniform.

Items such as plummets, drums, metronomes and so on spring to mind and can be dated fairly accurately as to first use but I can find no reference to the use of pace-sticks before the official drill book of 1877.

It was first thought that the pace-stick evolved from a measure used by gunners to space their pieces correctly on the gunline but this is repudiated by the Royal Artillery Institution.

Can readers help? When was the pace-stick first used in the British Army?

Quite a few military innovations came to us from the Prussian Army but apparently no such instrument was used there and I do not know for sure whether it was used in any other country.

Incidentally, I am grateful to readers for letting me know that the mysterious medal ribbon sold by Arab street vendors in 1945-46 as the "Allies' Victory Medal" was, in fact, a copy of the Second World War United States Victory Medal! — James Cramer, 7 Invergordon Road, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hants.



"I was much in favour of slimming down the top brass until I found out they were starting at the rank of major..."

Sweet music!

I AM writing a book broadly based on my life and experiences as a Boy, and Drum Major in the Guards.

As I approach the part of my script which recalls the odd (but likeable) traits associated with directors of music, I wonder if any of your readers can recall instances from their own encounters with these gentlemen, which may make useful additions? The more I remember, the more it amuses!

I remember Sam Rhodes of the Scots Guards, resplendent

in his uniform as a lieutenant-colonel, and wielding a baton which would have graced any balustrade, suddenly stalking across the band playing in the Buckingham Palace forecourt, and shouting in a broad Rochdale accent to a trembling tuba player, "E flat, you darned fool!"

All Grenadier musicians will remember the beatific smile on Fred Harris's face during Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and his cries of "A quartet of horns, the most beautiful sound in the world!" (He celebrates his 90th birthday this year.)

How about "Jigs" Jaeger and his secret sucking of sweets while conducting the Irish Guards band — depositing the discarded wrappers in the bell of the nearest euphonium?

I used to gaze in wonder at Maj Statham (Arnold Steck) and his pirouettes on tiptoe, while he conducted the band of the Welsh Guards through the upper registers.

Some directors I met in their previous lives of course, when they were bandmasters.

Trevor Sharpe of the Coldstream Guards made a

great impression while Bandmaster of the Buffs and acting as adjudicator of my annual Battalion Champion Bugler's competition. I will remember the look of dismay on the face of our resident "Gabriel" when his three-year unbroken record was shattered, as Bandmaster Sharpe declared "The bugle must move'em, not lull them to sleep!" and promptly awarded that year's championship to our most strident and brassy bugler (previously a non-starter).

And so the list grows, as it always does when I start looking back over the years with my fingers poised over my typewriter keys.

Come on you old Bandsmen reading this, how about writing to me with one or two incidents you can recall?

Yes — you, the old Argyll and Sutherland Highlander at the bar — can you remember when Jimmy Howe was your bandmaster before taking up the director's baton with the Scots Guards? Tell me about it! — Rod Baker (former Drum Major, Gren Gds), 8 Church Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire BD19 4QQ.

What about us?

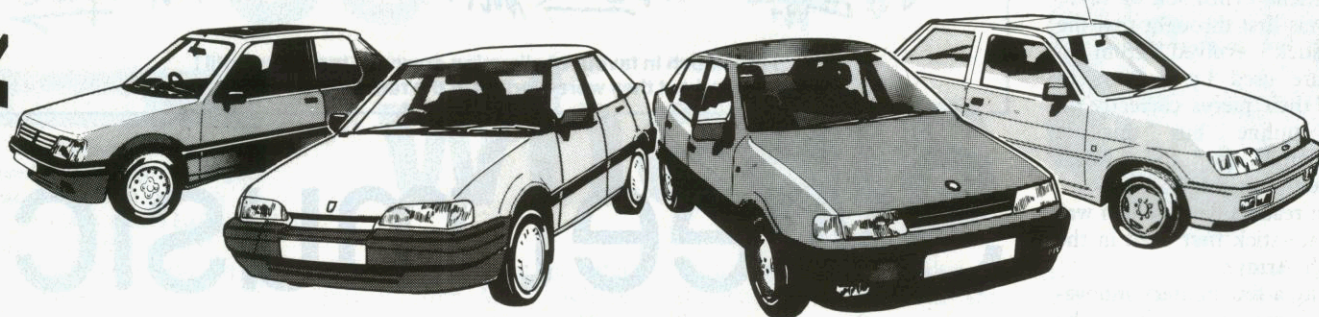
I AGREE that a medal should have been awarded for Suez — but what about all the other campaigns where medals were not given?

I served with the 5th Indian Division throughout the Eritrean, Ethiopian and Abyssinian campaigns in conditions far worse than the Suez Canal. Temperatures were well into the 100s in mountainous country where the only transport was mules and ammo

was humped. At a guess I would say our casualties were double those of the Falklands and Suez combined during the 12 months we were in action there.

No medal came our way — not even a Bar to the Arica Star, which was awarded for the Desert Campaign. Likewise there were medals or bars awarded for Crete or Greece. — Charlie Gay, ex-Worcestershire Regt, Worcester.

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S/FIN/2/34

35 Service men held

AS SOLDIER went to press, negotiations were under way for the release of 35 British Servicemen being held in Baghdad following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Servicemen, who had been in Kuwait in an advisory and training capacity, were taken to Baghdad with 11 American oil workers. They were said to be well and staying in a hotel "in temporary custody".

Top Brass see BFG

THE MOST senior officers of the British and German forces have made a joint visit to British Forces Germany.

Chief of the Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, and Inspector of the Bundeswehr, Admiral Dieter Wellershoff, called first at JHQ for briefings and the following day travelled to the Soltau-Lüneberg Area to watch an exercise.

The two senior officers were greeted at JHQ by the Commanders in Chief BAOR and RAFG, General Sir Peter Inge and Air Marshal Sir Roger Palin. The briefings covered NORTHAG and TWOATF matters as well as solely British matters.

Moving to Soltau by helicopter, the visitors were escorted by Commander 1 (BR) Corps, Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, given a further briefing by Corps COS Brigadier Mike Walker and met Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, who is responsible for Soltau.



ARGYLLS AND TWO GIRLS COMBAT READY

THE SCOTLAND Squad taking part in Combat 90, a television knockout competition, was selected by the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, currently stationed in Minden, BAOR. They will be vying for the title against The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (England), The Royal Welch Fusiliers (Wales) and the Irish Guards (Northern Ireland). The competition, which has a growing following and tests initiative, physical fitness, infantry skills, leadership and team work, runs until September 12.

The Scotland Squad comprises ten soldiers from A and SH, and two Scottish WRAC soldiers, LCpl Sharon McCormick and Cpl Jackie Gilchrist.

NETWORK FAR EAST

ARMY and Navy recovery teams worked side by side when Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway, the local suburban network, decided to test emergency procedures.

The teams, one from 50 Hong Kong Workshop, REME, and the other from the Naval Dockyard at HMS Tamar, were given the task of righting an overturned shunting locomotive and setting it back on the rails.

Getting the crane in the correct position to lift nearly its maximum load proved a bit of a problem in the limited space, and nearly three hours of sweltering labour under a very hot sun were needed to get the job done.

9-foot long memory

MAJ GEN Tony Crowfoot, GOC North West District, has unveiled a nine-foot obelisk at Chester's Saighton Army Camp to mark its new medical role.

Thousands of soldiers will recall the wooden hutted camp which, until about four years ago, had been home for numerous infantry battalions.

They are now housed in the showpiece Dale Camp in the city.

The obelisk features badges of the RAMC, RADC and QARANC on its base.

It marks the completion of an extensive renovation converting the camp to a medical services field training centre.

Camp Commandant, Brig Bryn Francis, was presented with a tree by the PSA to mark his appointment as the RAMC's Representative Colonel Commandant.



Mrs Forgrave with the picture, Brig Geoffrey Durrant, RAVC Director, and artist.

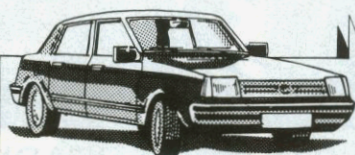
Books of Remembrance

A ROYAL Army Veterinary Corps officer who did much to promote the Corps' history has had a library named after him.

At the time of his death last December, Lt Col Bryan Forgrave was Co-ordinating Officer, Headquarters Directorate of Army Veterinary and Remount Services, in Aldershot. He was preparing a definitive history of the Corps, following earlier publication of a condensed version. Now the office he used has been converted into a library.

His widow, Mrs Gloria Forgrave, unveiled a commemorative wall tablet and presented the Corps with a painting by Christopher Morley. Among those present was Col Forgrave's younger son, Martyn, who is serving with the Cheshire Regiment.

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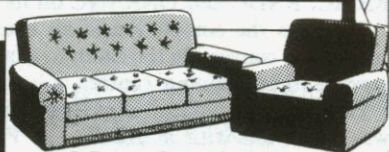


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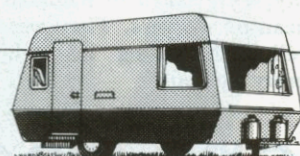


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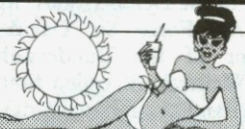
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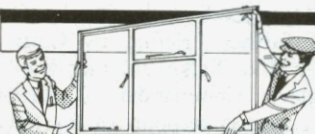
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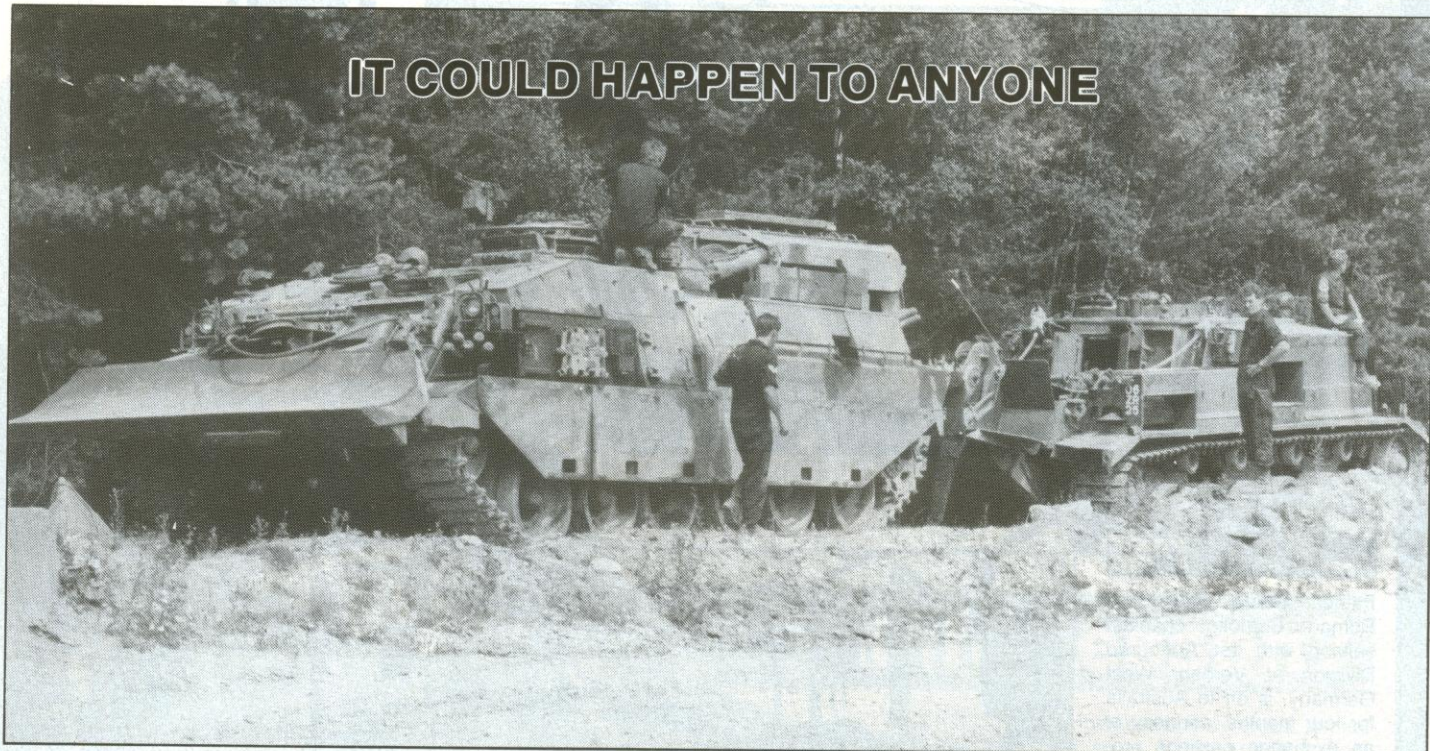
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IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE



Picture by Terry Champion

IT WAS a bit infra dig, really. When Ministry of Defence trotted out the new Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle for the press at Aldershot it covered the ground for a few hundred yards then conked out with a broken drive shaft. In the end it

was towed off the road by a mature Centurion and then back to the workshops. Vickers Defence Systems the makers, were not too put out. The 62-ton vehicle that broke down was a workhorse with nearly 3,000 miles on the clock and was due for a complete

overhaul in any case. Vickers Defence Systems regard the production model as the finest of its type and have orders for 80 of them. For the record the official Army initials are CRARRV (ChallengeR Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle).

Girl cops book CO

A STYLISH VIP arrival by helicopter was somewhat marred when a parking ticket was slapped on the aircraft's windscreen!

It happened when Lt Col Andrew de Lukacs Lessner, CO of 4th (V) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, visited B Company (Neath) on exercise in the USA.

They were attached to 153rd Infantry Battalion of the US National Guard, based in Arkansas.

During their final two days R and R on the Buffalo River the CO dropped in, but, within five minutes of his landing, a patrol car drew up and two women police officers made out the ticket because the helicopter was parked in an out-of-bounds area.

The CO joked: "Am I about to be arrested as well?"

It is believed that any fine imposed will be met by the National Guard.

Capt Simon Lewis, 4 RRW unit Press officer, said the area was designated a wildlife sanctuary, which had been disrupted by a previous helicopter crash – hence the policewomen's vigilance.

During Exercise Rattlesnake, the 150 soldiers from Llanelli, Swansea, Neath and Bridgend had found conditions rather different from Sennybridge. The temperatures did not drop below 90 degrees, and snakes, scorpions and spiders plagued them. But training was varied and exciting.

SAPPERS IN AIR CRASH DRAMA

AS members of 236 Field Squadron (Airfield Damage Repair) (Volunteers) gathered for a drill night at RAF Kinloss, the public address system began to broadcast details of a real emergency.

A Canberra of 100 Squadron RAF had crashed on the approach to the base. The crew had ejected.

QSMI Peter Coulson RE reported the unit available to assist and was tasked to provide two medium-wheeled tractors to extricate ambulances and fire engines which were bogged down in a cornfield on the approach to the crash scene.

Metal planks were called for to assist in the work and these were sent along with

every available man to lay them, including an officer visiting 236 Squadron prior to joining it. Wreckage recovery continued during the week.

The pilot of the Canberra died in the accident on June 27 but the navigator was flown to a helipad at Raigmore Hospital linked to reception by a track laid by the sappers earlier this year.

The OC of 236 Sqn, Maj Malcolm Luing visited the injured man in his capacity as a hospital social worker.

The squadron is part of 12 Engineer Brigade and a number of its men work at RAF Kinloss, said to be the most northerly airfield in Britain.

HRH HARD HAT!



HIGHLIGHT of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) annual training camp near Weymouth was a visit by their Honorary Colonel, the Duke of Gloucester, who presented them with various awards.

Later the Duke got into the swing of things by trying out a motorcycle, operating a Light Wheel Tractor and firing on the range. Escorting him is SSgt Peter Troke.

Medics on safari

Sheffield-based Territorial Army medics present a special elephant cake to senior keeper **Neil Spooner** at Chester Zoo to mark their visit. The 212 Field Hospital medics, (from left) Capt **Paul Ryan**, Capt **Janet Cocking**, Maj **Marion Young** and Capt **Richard Vincent**, were entertained at the zoo while they were on their annual camp.



Father **Steve Alker**, a Roman Catholic chaplain serving with 1st Armoured Division at Verden, West Germany, is off to Australia for four months, courtesy of an exchange postings programme for military clergy from Commonwealth countries.

Father Steve, who has never been Down Under, will be swapping jobs with Father **Creig Flynn** at the Australian Army Apprentice School in Bonegillo, Victoria.

And with a bit of luck he hopes to do some diving on the Great Barrier Reef.



Well spoken

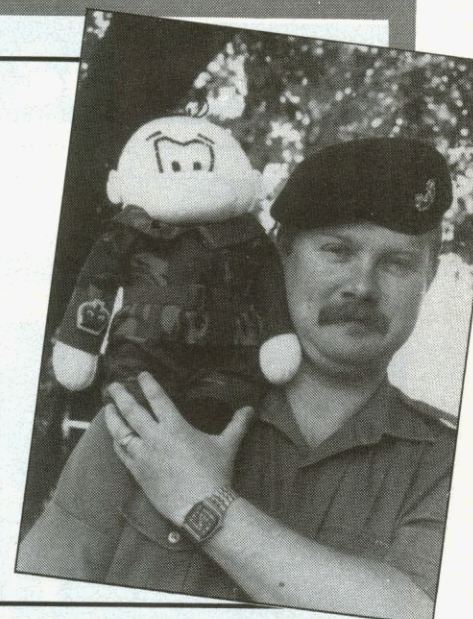
Pte **Gerard Powdrell** has just passed out of the Light Division Depot at Winchester having scored 94 per cent in his colloquial German exam. It is a feat which should stand him in good stead in Paderborn, West Germany, where he will be joining the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

PEOPLE

Who's your little friend?

When WO2 **Shane Marriot** from Barnsley's newly-formed D Coy, 8th (Yorkshire) Bn, The Light Infantry represents UKLF in the famous Nijmegen marches, he will be carrying a little pal, parrot-fashion, on his pack.

Perched up there for the 100-mile hike will be **Sam**, mascot of the Barnsley Chronicle where Shane works. Also involved in the Nijmegen event is Cpl **Ian Spence** of D Coy, 8 LI.



Painful lesson?

A soldier member of the Verden combat club gets some first-hand tuition from **Brian McCarthy**, one of the world's leading exponents of the Japanese warrior art of Ninjutsu. More than 100 Servicemen attended a weekend course staged by Brian at Verden, headquarters of the 1st Armoured Division.



Say cheese...



Heaven's Angel!

That's my boy!

Sgt **Jim Beeley** (left) pauses for a family photo with his son **Andy**. Jim is serving with 1 Wessex and Andy is a private with 219 Field Hospital. The two reservists found themselves working together in uniform for the first time during a charity event at Gloucester docks.

Andy was there to provide medical cover while Jim's anti-tank platoon launched the event by firing a 120mm gun borrowed from the Gloucestershire Regiment Museum.



Transport is never a problem to the Rev **Charles McCartney**, chaplain with 26 Engineer Regiment at Iserlohn, West Germany. His previous experience as a vehicle and driving examiner means he can turn his hand to most things on the road.

Which is just as well when he returned from four weeks at RMA Sandhurst to find his beloved black Army Metro had been squashed by an armoured personnel carrier.

The Land Rover he was given developed mysterious complaints so the versatile vicar took to the highways on an Army motor cycle.

Orderly lot!

Lining up for their awards are members of the General Officer Commanding's staff at Western District headquarters. They were presented by Maj Gen **Peter Bonnet** (centre) with certificates for serving "with distinction" on Operation Orderly when the Army took over during the national ambulance dispute.

From left to right are P Info officer **Peter Hicks**, **Richard Paddock**, Miss **Julie Cook**, Maj Gen **Bonnet**, WO2 **Keith Richardson**, Mrs **Jean Davies** and Lt **Roy Gregson**.



Friendly forces

Thirty-five German Army reservists from Backnang near Stuttgart stayed at the home of men of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron during a four-day exercise on Colchester ranges to celebrate the twinning of Backnang with Chelmsford.

The exercise culminated in a shooting competition on Colchester ranges. Our picture shows Sgt **Mick Fidgeon** (left) supervising German NCO **Volker Zell** as he gets to grips with the SLR.

Explaining the finer points of bridge-building to an SSVC film team is Cpl **Jim Reid** of 9 Troop, 42 Field Squadron, 35 Engineer Regiment. The troop constructed an eight-bay double storey medium girder bridge over the River Emmer for the benefit of the "Scene Here" crew.

The filming had to be quick because most of the regiment's five-bay world record team are members of 9 Troop.



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Anglians' birthday treat for the Queen Mother

As one of her 90th birthday engagements the Queen Mother visited the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment at Roman Way Barracks, Colchester.

The Queen Mother, who is Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, had specifically asked to meet wives and children – and she is pictured mingling with families who had eagerly awaited her arrival.

Met from her helicopter by the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir John Akehurst, and the commanding officers of both battalions, she was presented by seven-year-old Claire Atkins with a bouquet composed – appropriately for the Vikings – of red and yellow Minden roses.

After inspecting the Royal Guard, found from both battalions and commanded by Maj Johnny Rollins, the Queen Mother presented medals to a selection of Vikings and Pompadours.

True to form, she took great care to chat to each recipient.

The battalions' combined Bands and Drums rounded off the parade with an impressive display of music and counter-marching.

Then – after visiting both

messes and lunching with the officers – the royal visitor set about meeting as many families as she could.

Perhaps the most magical moment of the day came when four soldiers of the Pompadours abseiled from a helicopter, made their way through the crowd and, to the delight of the Queen Mother, presented her with a birthday card and a box of chocolates.



Picture: Bryan Long

Catering for a need

Stanley Museum in the Falkland Islands had an overwhelming response to its appeal (SOLDIER to Soldier, May 28) for Service paintings of activities in the 1982 conflict.

It can now mount a permanent exhibition of 40 items representing the three Armed Services – but there are two important gaps. Works depicting the Army Catering Corps and the RAF Vulcan bomber are still sought.

"That's all we need," said curator John Smith. "I would like to thank all military units for their contributions. The exhibition will be yet another reminder of what the British forces did for us."

Anyone able to help Mr Smith complete his collection should contact Arthur Murray at the Ministry of Defence Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (tel: 071-218-9000 ext 87931).

SOLDIER to Soldier

Tribute to Gurkhas

Sixteen years after first opening in a small wooden barrack block in Church Crookham the Museum for The Brigade of Gurkhas has completed a £500,000 move to Peninsula Barracks, Winchester.

The museum, opened by Field Marshal Lord Bramall of Bushfield, former Chief of the Defence Staff, pays tribute to

the Himalayan hillmen who have served the crown since 1815.

Their story is told through an imaginative series of tableaux, model dioramas, photographic displays, weapons, uniforms and artifacts.

There is also a unique medal display which includes the miniature medals of 26 Victoria Cross holders.

Excellence on show

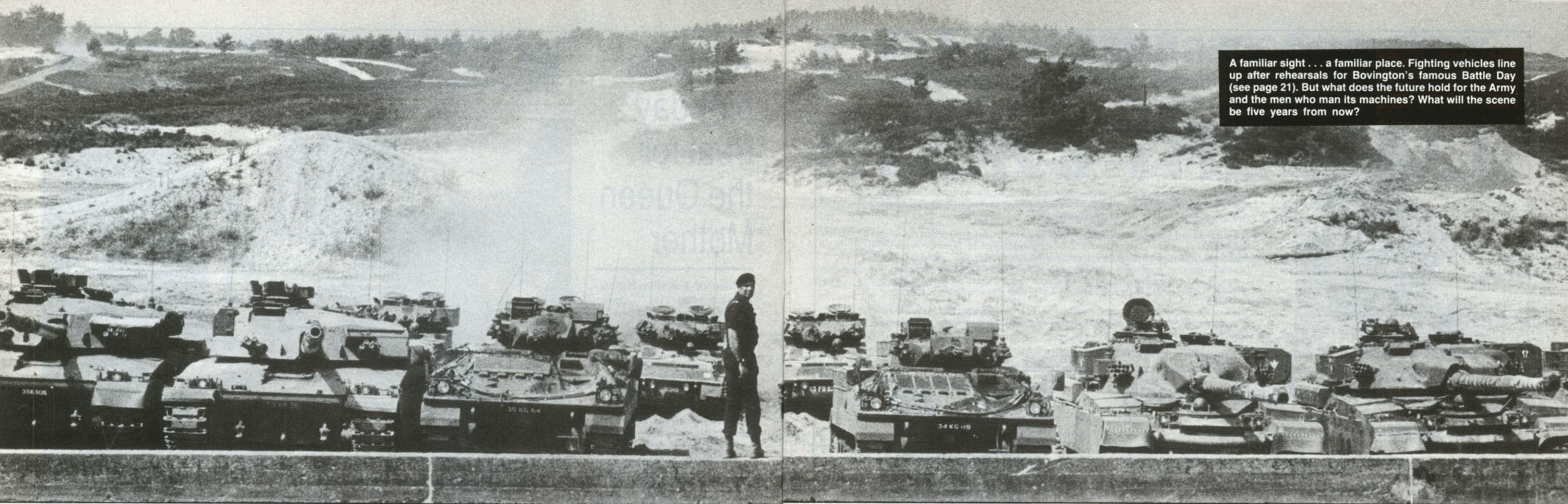
Just how excellent a standard of craftsmanship can be achieved by severely disabled war pensioners will be seen at an exhibition in London in September.

The War Pensioners' National Homecrafts and Art Exhibition, an annual event, will be open to the public on Wednesday September 5 from 12.30pm and the following day from 10.30am in the

Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Services Club, in Seymour Street, near Marble Arch.

Among exhibits on show – some of which will be for sale – will be oil paintings and water colours, woodwork, leatherwork, pottery, basket weaving, tapestries and rugs. Admission is free.

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



A familiar sight . . . a familiar place. Fighting vehicles line up after rehearsals for Bovington's famous Battle Day (see page 21). But what does the future hold for the Army and the men who man its machines? What will the scene be five years from now?

The road to 1995

Getting down to the nitty gritty

THE SECRETARY of State having given Parliament the broad outline of the Defence cuts envisaged in the wake of the political changes in Eastern Europe, the Staff is now getting down to the "nitty-gritty".

No-one will envy them their task over the next five years.

For the ordinary soldier two main questions arise.

1. Is his job on the line?
2. How will the changes affect his cap badge?

Many will put the fate of regiments, battalions, squadrons and batteries on a par with their own.

No-one expects this sensitive area to be charted quickly and the latest indications from MoD are that the identity of units to be involved may not be revealed until early next year.

Arms and Service Directors, Colonels and

Colonels Commandant are to be brought into full consultation.

At the end of the day the Executive Committee of the Army Board will put forward recommendations to Ministers.

The preservation of the Regimental System is not in doubt and is recognised as being fundamental to morale but it needs to be considered in context.

The basic problem facing the planners is how to make force reductions while retaining Britain's capability to fight a

high-intensity war while, at the same time, carrying out commitments at a lower level.

Mr King has announced that:

- The total strength of the Army is to be around 120,000.
- The British Army of the Rhine is to be reduced to about 25,000 effectives (from 55,000). One division is to remain in theatre with another in the UK prepared to reinforce the Army in Europe.
- A strategic reserve division HQ is to be formed and based in the UK. An

armoured, an airborne, and an airmobile brigade will be dedicated to it and the Commando Brigade may be allotted to it according to circumstances.

- Broadly speaking, it will be business as usual in Northern Ireland, Belize, Cyprus, the Falklands, Brunei and (until 1997) Hong Kong.
- Until the Soviet forces (388,000 troops at the moment) pull out of East Germany, Berlin will retain a British garrison (at the request of the West German government). As Russian force levels decline it is likely to be phased out.

As far as the Army in Germany is concerned one of the major changes anticipated will relate to brigades.

No longer will they vary in strength according to their location and presumed tasks, but revert, in general, to a standard size.

At home, in Mr King's words, the Staff "is looking again at the future requirement for the United Kingdom Mobile Force".

If the title UKMF goes, the brigade is likely to be assigned to one of the two home-based divisions.

It is understood that the ACE Mobile Force (Land) will be retained.

As an immediate measure, the recruiting target for the Army this year is to be reduced from 20,000 to 16,000.

What is regarded as inevitable is a reorganisation of Districts within the United

Kingdom Land Forces which will have an effect on home defence regional responsibilities.

Reserve forces are likely to play an even more important part in the proposed scheme of things and there is likely to be much closer integration with Regular units.

When the *Options for Change* were first mooted there was talk of manpower reductions being achieved by natural wastage.

Questioned on the BBC Today programme, Mr King was still hopeful that natural wastage would account for many reductions but accepted that some directed redundancies might be necessary.

This is a view shared by some Service chiefs who are anxious to ensure that fair

and proper provision is made in all cases where jobs have to be sacrificed.

One thing they are determined on is that the reorganised Army will offer a worthwhile career to all ranks and that promotion prospects will at least be equal to present opportunities.

The changes are to affect teeth and tail, men and equipment.

Mr King: "The aim is smaller forces, better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well motivated. They will need to be flexible and mobile, and able to contribute both in NATO, and if necessary elsewhere."

Just how he achieves this goal is going to be of compelling interest to every soldier in the weeks and months ahead.

It was worse in the 1690s!

THE SIZE of the British Army has fluctuated continuously since it took modern shape on the Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

After the Treaty of Ryswick ended King William's wars it was proposed to disband it entirely. In the end 7,000 men were retained for home service and 12,000 to "police" Ireland.

Marlborough's campaigns and the Jacobite Risings of 1715 and 1745 saw a period of growth and by 1780 there were 28 cavalry and 70 infantry regiments in existence.

From time to time some units bore remarkably high numbers - like the 115th

(Ogle's) Foot and the 31st and 32nd Light Dragoons.

One of the most celebrated reformers of modern times was Mr Edward (later Lord) Cardwell who, as Secretary of State, abolished commission by purchase (1871) and introduced the linked battalion scheme (one serving abroad one at home).

Shades of today - in the period 1869-70 he brought back 25,000 troops from the colonies!

Lord Haldane, Secretary of State in Edwardian days, created the TA (1908) which put nearly 280,000 men into camp in the first year of its existence.

When war came in 1914 six highly

professional regular divisions were in the field by September and the "home service" TA volunteered en masse to serve abroad amply justifying their existence.

In 1939 the BEF could field only four regular divisions and the unfortunate TA formations were reduced to fighting panzers with rifles.

The amalgamation of cavalry regiments began in 1922 and was repeated in the period 1958-60.

The last merger was in 1971 - when the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) were formed.

The amalgamation of infantry regiments also began in 1958 and continued until 1970.

AMMO AND FUEL TRIMMED

IMMEDIATE savings amounting to £160m are having to be made by the Army as part of short-term changes to the defence programme necessary to keep spending within agreed limits.

These include the reduction in the recruiting target from 20,000 to 16,000 announced by Mr King in his *Options for Change* measures.

Savings will also be found by

reducing planned quantities of ammunition and fuel, trimming training costs, and deferring major works and maintenance programmes, particularly in Germany.

A total of £600m savings need to be made in the current year's defence budget. The Royal Navy will find £170m, the RAF £200m, and the rest will be made in Procurement Executive, research and central costs.

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COLONEL BOGEY ROCKS THE WALL

BERLIN rocked last month to the sound of the world's biggest-ever pop concert when a multi-national audience of more than 200,000 fans gathered on waste ground between East and West to witness the £5m "konzertspektakel" by Roger Waters, former leader of Pink Floyd.

Staged at Potsdamer Platz on 35 windswept, dusty acres of what was once no man's land, The Wall concert – based on Pink Floyd's best-selling album of the same name – boasted a musical guest-list that read like a Who's Who of popular music.

The performers included – to the delight of the early-afternoon crowd – the Corunna Band of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, which was asked to take part in the warm-up.

"The crowd was already about 100,000 strong when we took to the stage," said Bandmaster WO1 Ed Keeley.

"There really was the most incredible atmosphere, what with the size of the crowd, the size of the set and the air of excitement and anticipation building up.

"We did half an hour of march and display with a few of the old favourites like *Colonel Bogey* and got quite a cheer when we came off. The lads were tickled pink – quite unlike anything any of us had done before," he added.

Band members then changed into civilian clothes and joined the crowd for the rest of the performance.

They watched, with particular interest, the Marching Band of the Combined Soviet Forces in Germany who were performing alongside the likes of Sinead O'Connor, Cyndi Lauper, Jerry Hall, Marianne Faithfull, Joni Mitchell and Van Morrison.

As much a rock-opera as a pop concert, the climax of its musical theme – inhumanity caused by alienation – was the destruction of a massive wall of styrofoam bricks 600ft long and 60ft tall built during the performance by an army of workmen.

The venue was significant and the symbolism undeniable.

by Mervyn
Wynne Jones

Balconies on nearby blocks of East Berlin flats were packed with people watching the bizarre spectacle.

Also watching – and helping – were a group of 20 soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who had spent much of the previous week on site during the construction of the set.

Concert organisers had asked for their assistance with the levelling of the ground in front of the stage (where East German munitions experts uncovered a variety of Second World War ordnance during an earlier sweep) and the digging-in of cables and wires.

On the evening of the performance – after changing into civilian clothes – many acted as security guards around

the VIP stand and helped with the transfer of medical cases to the first-aid tent.

"It was quite a busy evening but we had a marvellous time," said Cpl Adrian Thomas, D Company. "One of the most interesting aspects was being able to meet Russian soldiers and talk to them – one of them spoke a little English and we managed to get by with some very limited German."

The concert was staged in aid of the Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief, the worldwide charity founded by Group Capt Leonard Cheshire VC.

Aim of the fund is to raise £500 million over the next five years – £5 for every life lost in major wars this century – to relieve natural and man-made disasters throughout the world.

Even in a city rapidly becoming used to the unexpected, The Wall concert was a spectacle of awesome dimen-


sions.

Towering above the 60ft styrofoam wall – held together by 130 tons of metal scaffolding – were two huge inflatable puppets each six-storeys high and each manipulated by two 150ft high cranes.

"It was an incredible sight," said Capt Pete Crosby, a pilot with Berlin's 7 Flight, AAC, who, with crewman Cpl Gavin Rose, flew above the set in his Gazelle helicopter as an integral part of the performance.

"They wanted two helicopters originally but there were problems with flying into East German airspace and so we hovered over the nearby Tiergarten park and played our searchlights across the crowd.

Roger Waters had, earlier in the week, been filmed in one of 7 Flight's Gazelles and the film clip was projected on to a large screen while Capt Crosby and Cpl Rose flew overhead.



SOLDIER

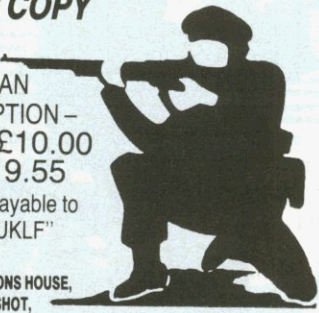
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Maj Richard Bounsall, Englishman in charge of a Welsh choir



Welsh Gunners in Cyprus



Capt Mark Pinches, a TA officer attached to the Welsh Gunners, assists Sisters Veronica and Antonella at Nicosia's Terra Santa School. He is BRITCON's Humanitarian Officer

GENTLY DOES IT!

AS THE Dortmund-based gunners of 22 Air Defence Regiment begin their six-month tour with the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), much seems to have changed in the way the job there gets done.

Gone is the "hob-nailed boot diplomacy" of the British squaddie, its place taken by a more interested and caring attitude from the soldiers

towards the people of the divided island.

The Mobile News Team from UKLF has been to Cyprus to visit this Rapier missile regiment from 1 (BR) Corps – better known as the Welsh Gunners – tasked with the dual role of UN peacekeeping, west of Nicosia; and providing security for the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) at Dhekelia Garrison.

As the news team made a whistle-stop tour of the Welsh Gunners – who have elements of 50 Missile Regiment RA from Menden on attachment – it became evident that the lads intended to get stuck in, even though infantry skills called for were very different from their usual job in BAOR.

"The mixed posting to Cyprus calls for a high standard of soldiering and extremely hard work," said Lt Col Keith Prentice, the commanding officer.

In the 16 years since the Turkish invasion of the island, UNFICYP has held the balance of a difficult and uneasy peace between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish armies. Although the tensions thrust upon the UN peacekeepers have variously tightened and slackened, they seem to have mellowed in recent years.

Meetings between Turkish and Greek Cypriot army



Lt Col Keith Prentice

commanders assigned to border patrolling duties are regularly set up and "refereed" by UN commanders – with many compromises being reached for the benefit of all.

Military compliments are paid to each other by UN troops of all nationalities, and any visitor to an observation post, of whatever rank, is given a very thorough brief by the duty soldier – quite often a private soldier – demonstrating knowledge, alertness and commitment.

And the Welsh Gunners seem to possess a natural skill for the work.

There is now a refreshingly human touch to duties "on the line".

The news team was escorted by 2nd Lt Heather Moon, who

recently joined 22 AD Regiment as assistant adjutant and unit press officer. Although one of the few "blue beret" women ever to serve in Sector 2 – the section of the buffer zone covered by the Welsh Gunners – she is unlikely to be the last.

If you doubt the caring role of UNFICYP you ought to meet Capt Mark Pinches, a TA officer. On special attachment to the Welsh Gunners for one year, Mark is UN Humanitarian Officer – a role he carries out with a team of three SNCOs. The job involves providing a daily link between the Greek and Turkish communities still isolated on the wrong side of the peace line of 1974.

Where life for these small enclaves – especially north of the line – is all but impossible, and self-sufficiency fails, Mark and his team are able, by diplomatic agreement, to carry medical supplies, food, money from world-wide charities, and even mail and old age pensions between the communities.

They ensure that electricity and water supplies are maintained and bring much relief to many disadvantaged people.

Mark is able to bring great credit to the UN peace ethic and also upon the British Army as a result.

In contrast to the long hours in the baking sun of the Cyprus central plain, the Dhekelia detachment of the Welsh Gunners were engaged in water sports, military skills and rest and recreation.

Because of the island's proximity to war-torn Lebanon, the Gunners carry out security duties in barracks, VCPs in the garrison, patrols – both foot and mobile – and man the main crossing point from ESBA to the Turkish sector at Ayios Nikolaos.

Although the Welshmen don't actually sing while they work, the musical director/conductor of the regimental choir, one Maj Rick Bounsall, is an Englishman!

"E can't help that though," said their top tenor, Gnr Keiron Llewellyn. "E don't know much about music, but 'e do know when to get the beers in!"

Maj Bounsall commands the UN detachment at Bravo 18 of Sector 2, and he's looking forward to getting some rehearsals together later in the tour.

Perhaps they will be able to put on a concert for the much missed wives and families when they return to Dortmund in early December – just in time for some Christmas Carols.

**Words: Capt
Chris Robinson
Pictures: Sgt
Dave Miles**



Gunners cool down in the buffer zone west of Nicosia



2nd Lt Heather Moon, the assistant adjutant



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How they kept their cool at 'Bovvie'

OLD DESERT hands would have swung the lamp if they had dropped in on the Press and rehearsal day for the Royal Armoured Corps Battle Day at Bovington.

The dust rose in dense choking clouds and drifted away across Dorset's scorched acres.

Metal was too hot to touch as the temperatures neared 90 degrees.

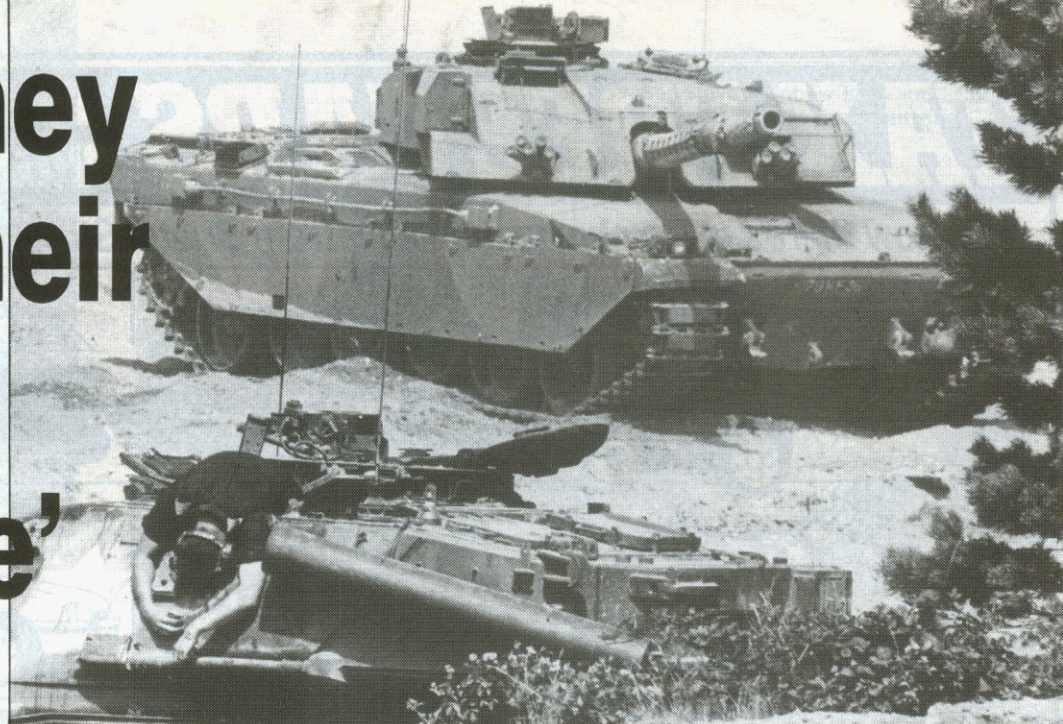
The men who were doing all the work came as usual from the Driving and Maintenance School RAC and the resident armoured regiment, in this case the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

Back in 1941 2 RTR were raising the dust at another hot spot - on the airfield at Sidi Rezegh as the Eighth Army advanced to the relief of the beleaguered port of Tobruk.

The unit was part of the 7th Armoured Brigade - the tank element of the 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats).

The airfield lay on a desolate plain on which the Axis forces had scraped a landing strip between low ridges.

Though the brigade took the enemy by surprise and captured 18 planes before they could take off . . . according to one report 2 RTR broke them up with sledgehammers . . . the enemy struck back heavily



Above: A "casualty" sprawls out of the hatch of a knocked out vehicle (cooler outside than in . . . or was it?)

Right: An officer's dog was the envy of everyone when it jumped into the water splash for a swim

Below: A Combat Engineer Tractor throws up a great bow wave as it plunges through the water

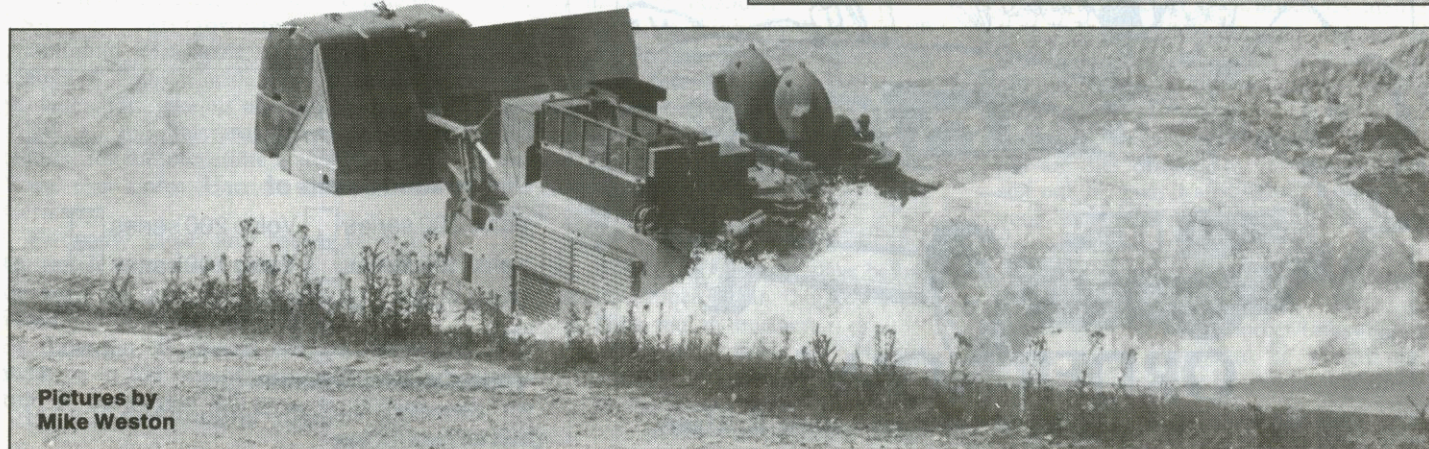
the next day. The brigade - which also included the 7th Hussars and 6 RTR - was reduced to a handful of tanks within 24 hours.

The battle at Bovington fought by Badger and Huntsman Squadrons of 2 RTR plus the supporting arms was a much pleasanter affair only one self-propelled gun breaking down in the rehearsal.

The weather was slightly cooler on the actual Battle Day when 14,000 visitors went through the turnstiles.

Service and civilian charities are expected to benefit to the extent of £15,000.

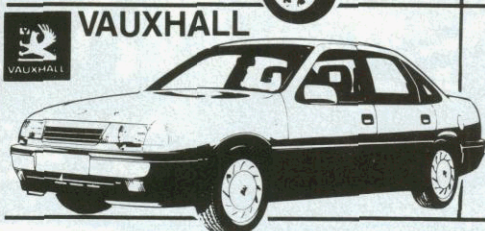
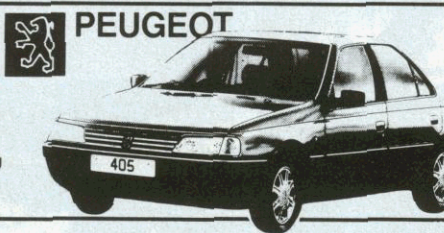
About 400 men sweated to put on the show which, for 2 RTR, was "different". The regiment returned from Fallingbistel in the spring.



**Pictures by
Mike Weston**

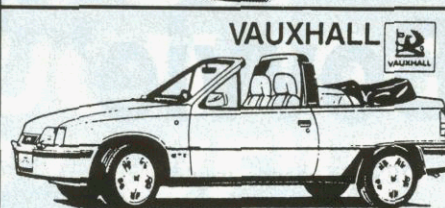
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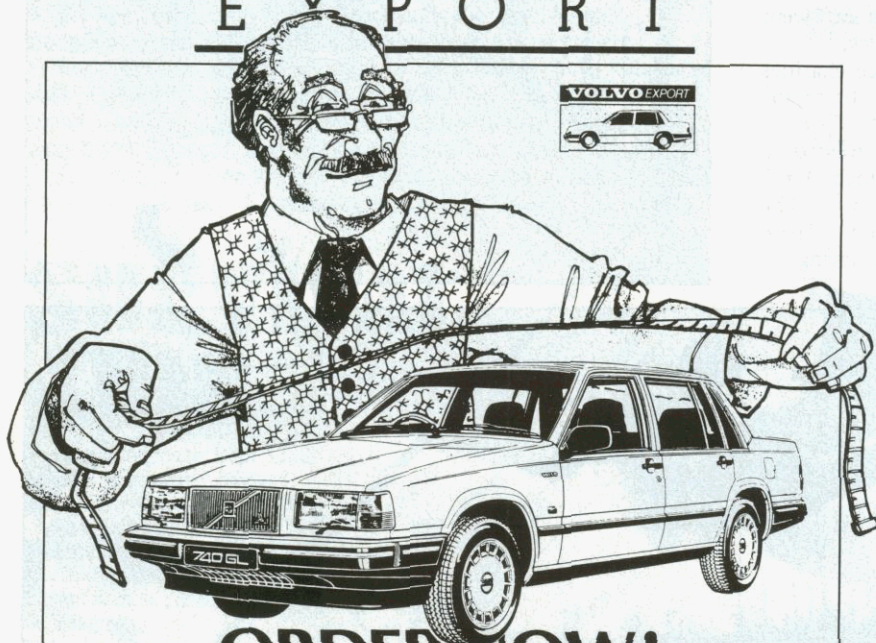
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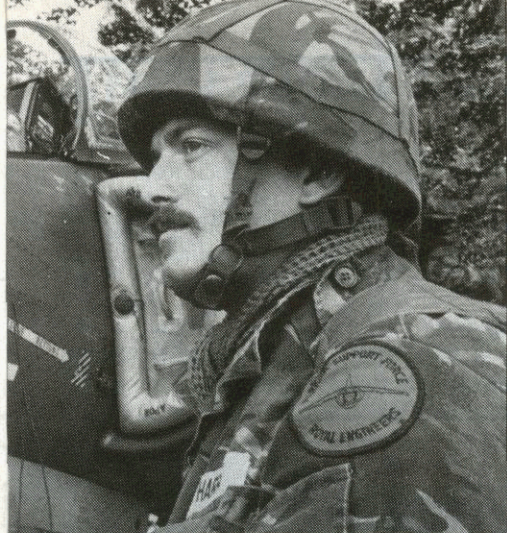
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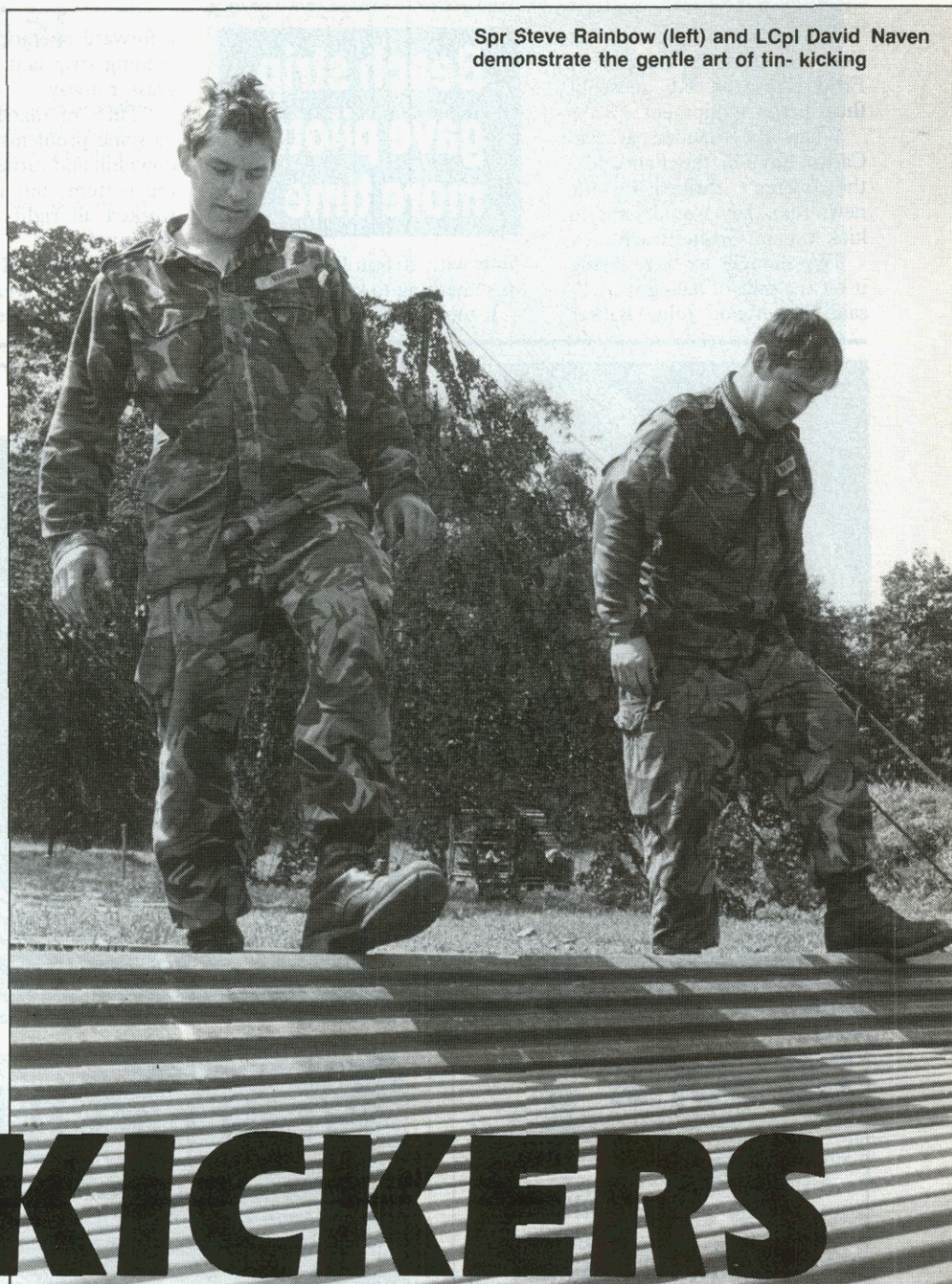
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Harrier Force sapper LCpl Nigel Harris guards a "friend"



Spr Steve Rainbow (left) and LCpl David Naven demonstrate the gentle art of tin-kicking

A day in the lives of the **TIN-KICKERS**

THE khaki patch on the left shoulder is businesslike. It says simply "Harrier Support Force Royal Engineers" around a silhouette of the jet.

The sappers who wear it are a doggedly patient lot. Anyone who "kicks tin" for any length of time has got to be.

And there seemed to be a remarkable amount of tin on the training area during Exercise Hill Foil.

It comes in planks officially designated PSA 1 (Prefabricated Surfacing Aluminium) measuring in the main 2.74 metres x 250mm wide, and is used to provide short take-off and landing strips (STOLs) and forward operating pads (FOPs) for the peacetime activities of the Royal Air Force Harrier squadrons in Germany.

Normally these are based at RAF Gutersloh but three times a year they deploy in the field, supported by the Army including substantial elements of 38 Engineer Regiment which must be in the running for the title of the largest RE unit.

With its HQ at Ripon, Yorks, are 11, 32 and 51 Field

Squadrons, plus 15 Field Support Squadron.

When the HQ and elements deploy in Germany, 10 Fd Sqn which is based permanently at Gutersloh in support of the Harriers comes under command of the CO (currently Lt Col Gordon MacDonald, one of many Scots in the regiment).

On Hill Foil 32 Sqn joined with 10 (11 being in Belize, 15 on exercise in Britain and 51 in the Falklands).

They don't do things by halves in 38 Engr Regt - 56 waggons were loaded with 900 tons of stores at Hamm and transported to the exercise railhead.

Two corporals and two plant operators worked 20 hours almost non-stop to transfer the stores to a dozen 16-tonne RCT vehicles.

A small mountain of hardcore was dumped (1,500 tons) and two days before the exercise proper began the Resources Park was in business.

In the past the Harrier Support sappers have laid their tin some days before an exercise . . . on Hill Foil preparation was cut to a minimum.

The basic idea was to provide 3 and 4 Squadrons RAF each with three small airfields for up to eight aircraft.

The sites were selected and designed by the Gutersloh Harrier Plans officer, Sqn Ldr Bob Marston.

First the FOPs went down so the Harriers could land vertically. Where suitable, roads were used as runways once the sappers had removed obstacles. Otherwise take-off strips about 350 metres long were built with trackway running off to take the nose and main wheels as the aircraft taxied to its camouflage netting hide.

Laying the planks is not heavy work, nor are they difficult to fit - bend down, slot one in, give it a couple of bangs with your boots and you're ready for the next . . . and the next . . . and the next.

Eight to ten hours later you might have a 350 metre long strip for your pains.

There are, of course, other tasks - grass to be rolled, bumps to be ironed out, and the planks to be secured by yard-long pins placed by sappers wielding sledgehammers and driven home by a

● Turn to next page

Words:
Bill Moore
Pictures:
Mike Perring

THE sinking of the Atlantic Conveyor cost the men of 11 Field Squadron RE most of their heavy equipment.

When they landed at San Carlos Bay, in the Falklands, they weren't thrilled by the news that they would have to kick tin on Green Beach.

"We thought we were laying it for the sake of laying it..." said Sgt Major John Barker

Beach strip gave pilots more time

(now with 10 Sqn RE) "finding us something to keep us busy." It took two days to complete

a forward operating pad and a landing strip laid on a disused grass runway.

"Tufts of marsh grass gave us some problems and it went downhill and turned a corner at the bottom, but it must have worked all right as it was in continual use."

The carriers HMS Hermes and Invincible were able to lie off the islands at sufficient

distance to cut down the Argentine air force's air time.

By contrast the Harriers – depending on their loads – had up to 30 minutes extra flying time for operations by using the Green Beach landing facilities.

The planks proved their value in more ways than one. Covered with sandbags and turf they provided excellent head cover for trenches!

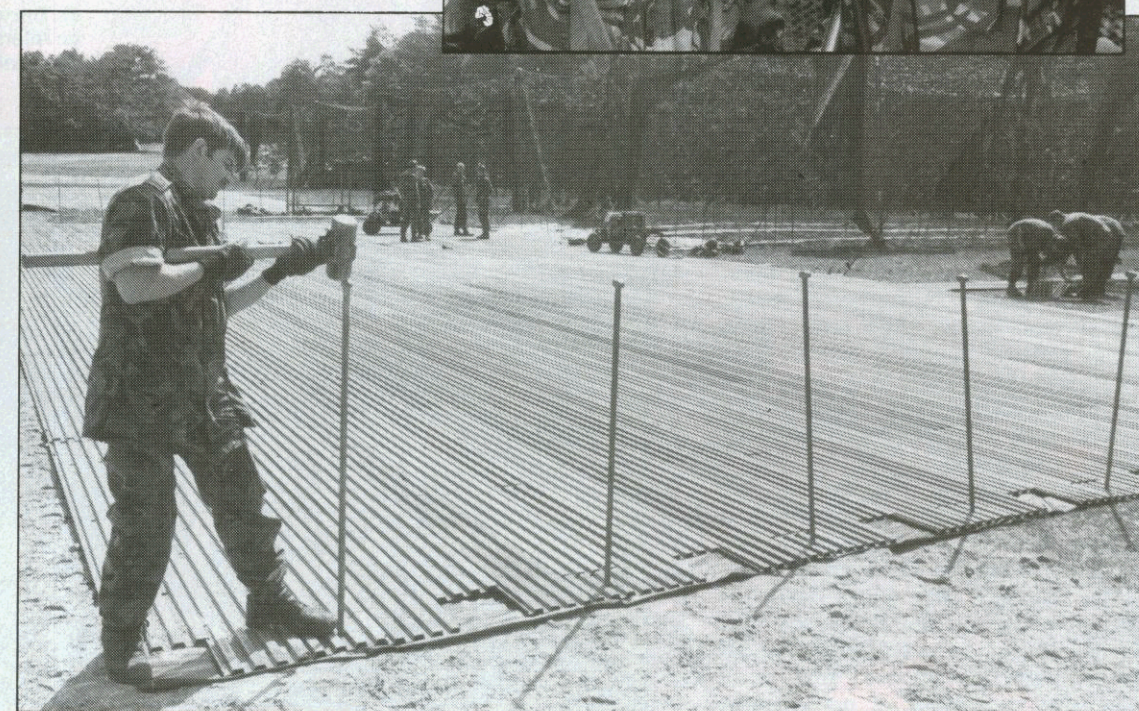
They did it for real

Right – Two men who kicked tin when it really mattered are QMSI John Hopwood (left) and Sgt Maj John Barker. They built a strip on the beach at San Carlos Bay which was a key factor in winning the Falklands war

Below left – A strip goes down. Tin "planks" are laid by the thousand

Below centre – Sappers pin the metal to the ground using a medium breaker with an attachment

Below right – The metal track is about to be pinned down while a line of camouflaged Harrier hides take shape in the background



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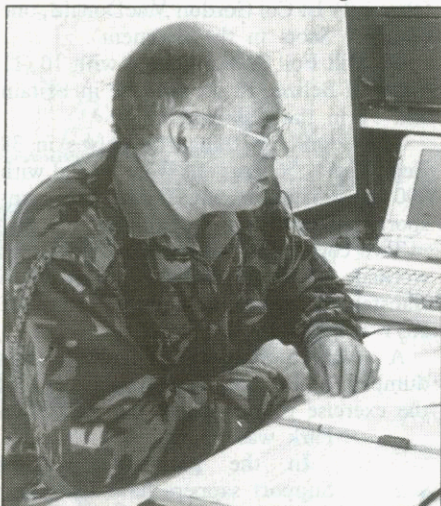
'Man your poles'

● From Page 23

medium breaker (a tool like a pneumatic drill with a blunt blade).

While the planks are going down the RE plant operators are 'dozing' earth banks (bunds) into rectangles ready to take the rubber style "pillows" the RAF technicians lay and fill with 10,000 gallons of aviation fuel.

Hides come in kit form. Light metal



Lt Col Gordon MacDonald, the CO, pictured inside his custom-built pressurised command post

tubes are joined to make 15ft poles forming a frame which is covered with a camouflage net while flat on the ground. Raising it is something of a nautical occasion.

"Man your poles," shouted LCpl Gary Chudley, on a 3 Troop site.

"Take up your weight."

Then heave-ho and up she rose like a giant cricket net.

"It's not easy when there's a wind," observed SSgt Chris Campbell. "If it's too strong we don't try."

Not so long ago the sappers had to use 15ft one-piece poles which sometimes snapped.

"The tubes make it much easier," said Spr Nick Hollings, who shinned up the built-in hand and footholds to adjust the scrim on top of one hide.

Lt Col MacDonald and Capt John Bruce, the training officer, inspected all sites before they finally came into operation and the site commander, a RAF squadron leader who also flies sorties, was satisfied.

RE sections remained at the sites throughout flying, always ready to make repairs and adjustments. Others prepare standby sites.

Some junior NCOs have established reputations and it is not unusual for a site



A GR5 Harrier, with pilot in the cockpit, at the ready in its hide

commander to ask for them by name to be attached to their site.

As far as most sappers are concerned "Endex" is not greeted with the usual unrestrained joy. The tin having gone down has to come up, and that can take up to 12 days depending on the circumstances and the weather.

Handling cold, wet muddy metal planks

in a German forest is miserable work.

The pins are removed mechanically but each plank has to be given the once-over and packed on a pallet.

The pallets go through a washdown and the planks are unloaded again and inspected by a team of specialists before final re-loading.

Anything suspect is set aside. A bent

plank or jagged piece of tin could cost a pilot's life.

Nearly everyone mucks in to pick up the tin regardless of rank, but it is a solid slog and days after the last Harrier has zoomed back to Gutersloh a section of sappers will give a soldier's farewell to the last piece of prefabricated surfacing aluminium.

Some artificiality is unavoidable on exercises like Hill Foil. As felling is unacceptable, hides were erected along the edge of the tree line and the jets pushed backwards into them (very convenient for the refuellers in the woods behind).

In a European context Harriers would operate in semi-urban conditions, and though the size and shape of the plane would probably require hides to be erected, the logistic support units would be concealed in buildings.

Instead of the metal strips, jets would take off along roads from which the sappers had shorn lamp-posts, telegraph poles and overhead cables... a practice not exactly encouraged in Germany today.

Confined to conventional training areas such as Hohne ranges, Harrier exercises are bound to have limitations.

They are nevertheless essential for maintaining the skills of the RAF squadrons and though few sappers expect tin to be laid by the mile in future operations they cannot forget its importance. The only time it has been used on active service was in the Falklands conflict when its influence was vital to victory. And that's always worth training for.

Harrier Force Germany

UNIQUE IN THE FAST LANE

HE would be a dull dog indeed who failed to get a kick out of seeing Harrier Force Germany in the field.

One moment the shady forest road was empty, the next the menacing nose of a combat aircraft emerged from the trees. The plane swung round, gathered speed, flashed past a few yards away, lifted steeply and was gone.

Four planes took off in what seemed like as many minutes, the RAF Police re-opened the road and silence descended on the countryside.

A deer peered out of cover.

In the words of Sqn Ldr Bob Marston, Sqn Ldr Harrier Plans Gutersloh – “the HF is still unique in the fast jet world”.

The Russians with Forger and the Spaniards, Indians and Americans with Harrier fly from carriers, though the US Marine Corps has operated from small shore sites in support of naval assault units, a technique developed by Britain in the Falklands conflict.

The Harrier Force is a brigade-sized big-punch formation under command of HQ Supreme Allied Commander Europe. It could be dedicated to 1st British Corps (which has direct means of tasking it) if required.

It is commanded by an airman – currently Gp Capt Ian Stewart.

The cutting edge is two Harrier Squadrons – the 3rd with the redesigned GR5 and the 4th with the older GR3, soon to be replaced with the GR7, a night-flying variant.

Both are based at RAF Gutersloh. Not far away is 10 Field Squadron RE with 2 Squadron of 21 Signals Regiment ready to come up from RAF Wildenrath.

On deployment, units of 38 Engr RE based at Ripon, Yorks join the Force and its CO commands the sapper element.

An integral part of the protection in the field is supplied by the 1st and 2nd Light Armoured Squadrons, Royal Air Force Regiment, which has Scorpion.

“There are no separate Services,” said Sqn Ldr Marston. “Everyone works for the same boss.”

The Force philosophy is commendable for its clarity.

Sqn Ldr Marston: “There is certainly a doubt whether fixed air bases can survive in a war no matter how much you harden them – the weapons to take them out are getting better and better.”

“We believe we can survive by dispersal, concealment and mobility. We don’t have prepared airfields – we rely on



A Harrier pilot of 3 Sqn RAF which is equipped with the GR5. Pilots remain in the cockpit while standing by for another mission and are briefed by radio

using ordinary roads and, if necessary, green fields.

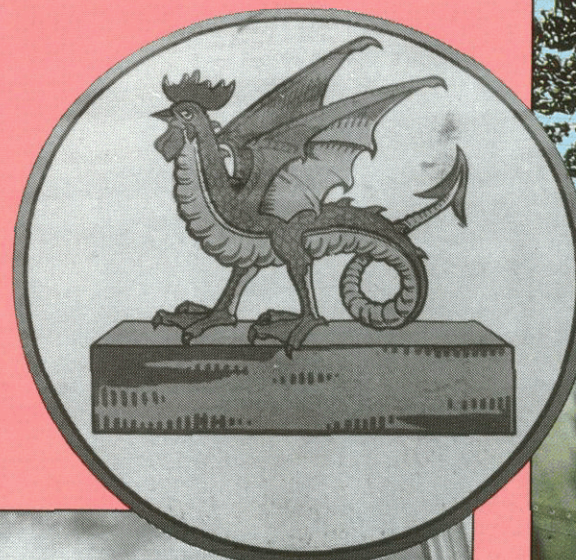
“The only way we can do that is with the help of the sappers.”

Victory in the Falklands had been possible through the use of sapper-built metal strips at San Carlos – a land base on the enemy’s doorstep.

Rather than lay “tin” in a European environment, the Royal Engineers would be more likely to be clearing public utilities, lamp standards and obstructions such as kerbs in urban areas to safeguard the Harrier’s drooping wings.

Locations would be changed every 48 hours, the RE squadrons building “Step Up Sites” where RAF teams would stock with fuel and weapons.

Early bird? The cockatrice badge of 3 Sqn RAF, which flies the GR5 (the potent Harrier Mk II). The monolith it is standing on refers to its pre-1914 association with Stonehenge



The GR5 (in simple terms the Harrier Mk II) has more weapons pylons than its predecessor and a bigger fuel capacity. It can carry either twice as many weapons the same distance as the GR3 or the equivalent of the GR3’s combat load twice as far.

The load is not as large as, say, Tornado’s. The difference is that the Harriers, operating immediately in support of the front, keep returning to the target.

Even as a pilot taxis into a hide on return



Left – Group Capt Ian Stewart RAF. “Without the sappers we can’t really do what we have to do.”

from a sortie the ground crews plug in a land line and he is immediately talking to the air operations cabin or the Army ground liaison officers who brief him on the situation on the ground.

To save energy, pilots do not leave their cockpits but are briefed in them.

“Ask a pilot on the telebrief if he is fit for another sortie and he always says yes,” said Sqn Ldr Marston. “They live on their adrenaline so it is up to the site commander to keep a close eye on his men. Immediately after a task a flyer’s adrenaline level will be high for a time. After a break you see signs of fatigue.”

In hot weather a pilot may lose pounds sitting in his cockpit in a hide.

Relationships on the ground on Exercise



Having “kicked tin” and erected the hide, the sappers are ready to defend the area. From left are Cpl Nigel Harris, Spr Wayne Probate, Cpl Davy Cross and (kneeling) Sprs Phil Poole and Hooly Hoolihan

Hill Foil appeared to be excellent . . . 33 RAF Regiment (CO Wing Cdr David Bremner) speaking the same language as the soldiery, and the ground crews somewhat envious of the ability of the sappers to make a hole in the ground a home from home.

Gp Capt Stewart summed it up neatly: “We rely heavily on the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals. Without the sappers we can’t really do what we have to do.”

“But it’s a reciprocal process because we take the aircraft into the field to support the Army and they in turn send both the RE and the Royal Signals to us.”

The Harrier Force in some respects is following a good old tradition. In 1917, when the British brought off their surprise

attack at Cambrai, RAF biplanes – including Sopwith Camels of 3 Squadron – made low-level bombing attacks on enemy positions and landed and rearmed at a number of temporary airfields which had been constructed by Royal Engineers.

When 4 Squadron get their GR7s they will be reverting to a nightflying role they pioneered before 1914.

At that time they were the proud possessors of a wireless which might account for their badge – “A sun in splendour . . . divided by a flash of lightning.”

The squadron motto is certainly appropriate – *To see into the future.*

What did they know in 1914 about night vision goggles?



A patrol boat manned by Gurkhas pictured at speed in the Starling Inlet



A flashing light indicates someone is trying to get through the security fence. Sgt Khem Bahadur Pun (right) indicates the location to Rfn Thakabhadur Sen

THE BMX BRIGADE

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago, officers and men of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles were fighting for their lives in the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. Their current battle is against the heat and humidity of the New Territories of Hong Kong where they are helping to preserve the integrity of the Sino-Hong Kong border against continual assault by illegal immigrants.

Taking responsibility for guarding the 16 kilometre long western sector of the border were the men of D (Mandalay) Company commanded by Maj David Bredin, 6 GR.

Much of the ground in the vicinity of their Sandy Sour base is marshland and the area contains a mass of fish and duck ponds. The sector also includes the international rail crossing point and a recently opened border crossing.

Climbing the watchtower ladder, the SOLDIER visitors saw for themselves the extent of the area under observation by OP commander Cpl Prem Bahadur Thapa and radio operator Rfn Gyan Bahadur Gurung.

The officer commanding 10 Platoon, Lt (QGO) Kulbahadur Thapa, explained that OPs were manned around the clock. "By day my men observe activity through binoculars, but at night they use thermal imaging equipment that turns night into day."

Sometimes the lookouts spot smuggling activity and are able to summon the Hong Kong Police to investigate.

Should an II evade the

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

watchful eyes of OP teams based along the border, he has another obstacle to overcome — the border fence.

It is fitted with an electronic protection system which indicates to monitoring watchkeepers not only that someone is attempting to get through, but at which part, allowing the quick reaction force to be dispatched without delay.

The quick reaction force arrives on BMX bikes, a sight which normally brings a smile to the face of the first-time observer. However, the unusual mode of transport makes sound military sense. The bikes run silently, allow the Gurkhas to reach the incident rapidly and require very little maintenance.

One area of operational difficulty for the troops is the internationally renowned Mai Po Marshes bird sanctuary. It



Taking a turn to service the battalion's BMX bicycles is Rfn Bharatraj

lies within their sector of responsibility.

Not only is the area full of oriental "twitchers" festooned with cameras and binoculars, but the IIs have cottoned on to the fact that if they manage to reach the sanctuary it proves a

relatively safe haven.

Because of the birds, the sanctuary has never been cleared, and the tall and uncontrolled growth of mangrove trees make it difficult for troops to spot the movement of illegal immigrants.

In addition, there are a number of small ferry points where people cross from China to work in the fields each day before returning at night. They are classified as "tolerated border crossers".

"As far as IIs go," said Maj

Bredin, "my three platoons captured more than 300 during the first month of our tour of duty. As the summer progresses, we'll get more of them attempting the crossing as they don't mind swimming across when the water is warm."

Boatmen's success is catching

MAKING a real success of their tour of duty are the men of B (Medicina) Company who are keeping watch at the eastern end of the Sino-Hong Kong border.

They cover the Sha Tau Kok area which includes the Starling Inlet. Their operations are different from the norm of other sectors because they have to employ boats to carry out their role. This involves making joint patrols with craft manned by men from Boat Troop "Tolo" of 67 Squadron, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Authorities reckon themselves lucky to capture just one "aider and abettor" (AA) each year, but such was the success of B Company under their commander, Maj Tony Groves, that they caught five in their first four weeks in the area.

AAs make fortunes out of other people's misfortunes.

● Turn to Page 31

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Cpl Prem Bahadur Thapa keeps a sharp lookout for illegal immigrants from his border watchtower vantage point. The OPs are manned day and night



Gurkhas demonstrate a capture on the border fence. They use BMX bikes to reach suspected breaches



The Union Flag flutters over the frontier post at Sandy Spur as Lt (QGO) Kulbahadur Thapa (left) is briefed by Maj David Bredin

The BMX Brigade

● From Page 29

They help IIs to enter Hong Kong, even transporting them to the centre of the Colony and finding them employment.

"Our boat patrols deploy by night or day depending on the operation being carried out against the IIs," said Maj Groves.

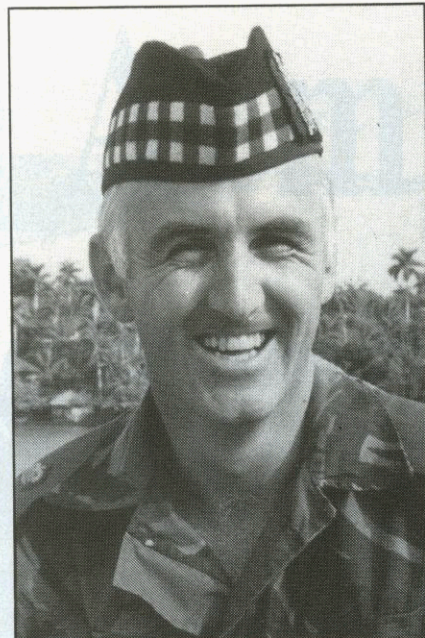
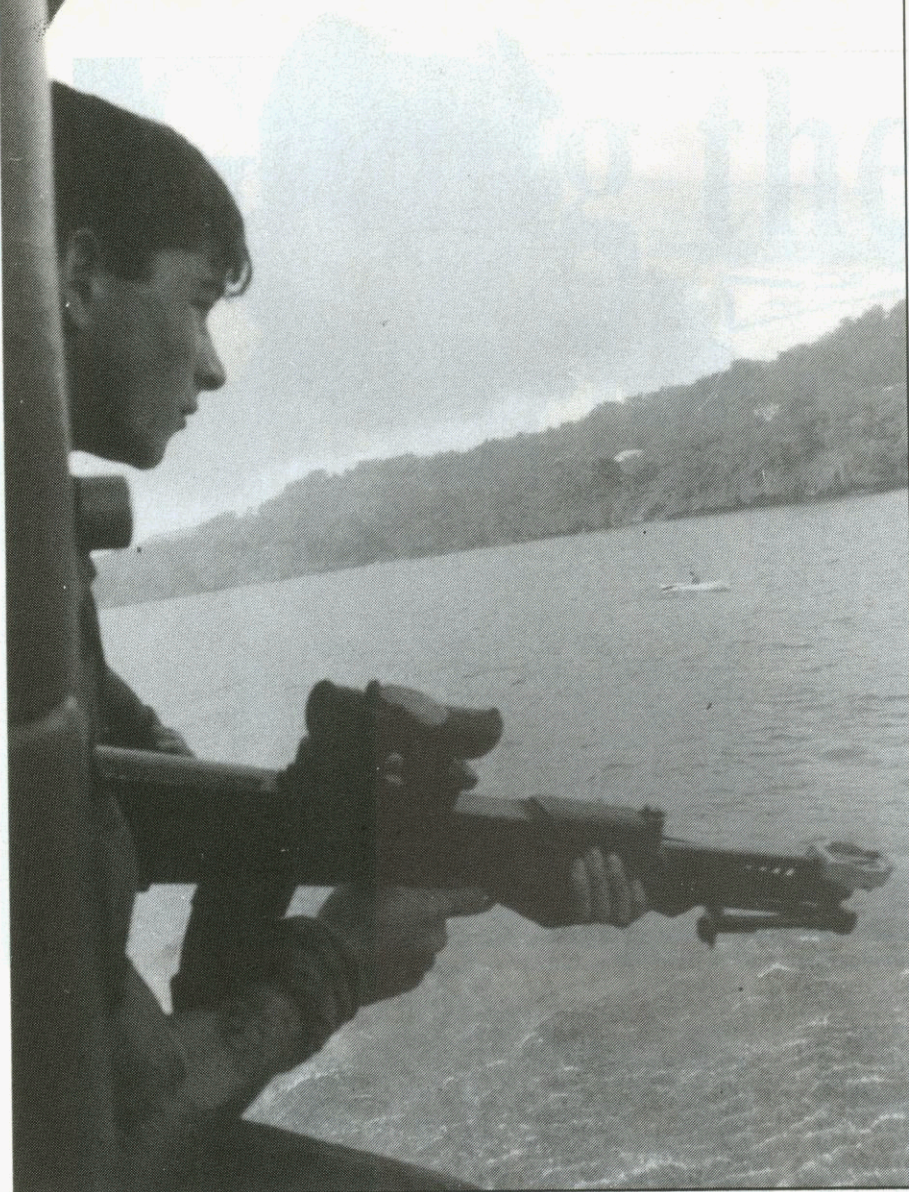
"Both the IIs and AAs are getting much more professional about the way they go about their business, and we are having to go into a lot more covert operations to ambush boats, which is why we are

actually being so successful in catching them."

The company recently caught a family of illegals, a mother and four children, who had paid 10,000 Hong Kong dollars to be smuggled in.

Much sought after by the authorities, the aiders and abettors face a jail sentence of up to seven years if caught.

"Patrolling the border is a boring and repetitive task at the best of times, but with the captures of AAs, success has bred success and morale is high," said Maj Groves.



Maj John McCurdy, oc A Coy



High sea arrest. The drug-running yacht is detained during a company exercise



JOCKS IN JAMAICA

IN October 1983 the United States and a handful of Caribbean troops invaded the island of Grenada, writes **Steve Bargeton**.

The action against a Commonwealth country caused acute embarrassment in the UK. At the highest level it was decided that closer military links must be forged between the UK and key Caribbean forces.

From that moment Exercise Red Stripe/Calypso Hop, the annual exchange between the British Army and the Jamaican Defence Force (JDF), took on a new significance.

This year A Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers had the good fortune to spend a month training in Jamaica (the Red Stripe of the exercise) while B Company, 2 Jamaica Regiment travelled to Scotland for the Calypso Hop part of the exchange.

Although a small force consisting of two battalions, a reserve battalion, an air wing and coastguard, the JDF is well trained and organised along British lines. Elements of the JDF acquitted themselves well during the Grenada episode.

For the Jocks, Red Stripe (named after the famous Jamaican beer) was a golden opportunity to learn the special skills of living and fighting in a hot weather environment . . . and to take in some first-class adventure training.

After three days' acclimatisation, platoons embarked on a nine-day training package followed by a platoon exercise. The first phase involved some tough jungle training under specialist instructors.

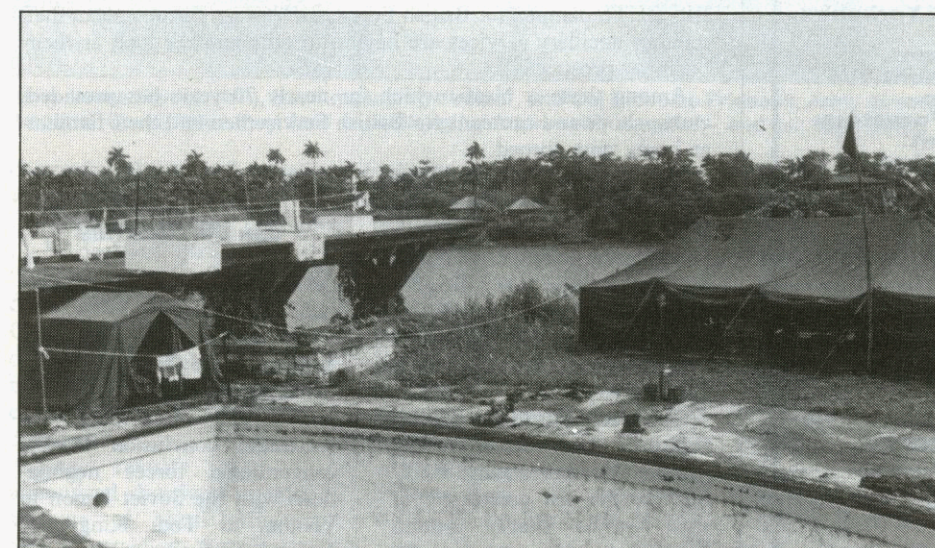
Throughout July the temperature soared to over 95°F in the shade. Heat was the main problem.

"Jamaica is classified as secondary jungle in that it has no top canopy," explained Maj John McCurdy, officer commanding A Coy.

"This meant there was no hiding from

Even in paradise weapons have to be cleaned. Jocks tidy up at the end of the exercise

Pte Iain Hamil prepares for the final phase of the company's "drug-bust" exercise



Home sweet home for the Jocks. Their tented accommodation was in the grounds of the ruined Tichfield Hotel at Port Antonio. Hollywood legend Errol Flynn once owned the hotel

constant exposure to the sun. "This, and the difficulties of navigation in thick bush, presented the platoons with their greatest problems. It was nothing for a man to drink 20 or more pints of water per day while in the bush."

It is a credit to the company that during the month in Jamaica, there was not a single case of heat exhaustion.

The remainder of the package involved the platoons in some community work - Jamaica is still recovering from Hurricane Gilbert - and some water-orientated adventure training . . . water skiing, snorkling, swimming and sub aqua in some of the best conditions to be found anywhere in the world.

Jamaica has a serious drugs problem in the illegal growing and exportation of ganja - marijuana. For the final company exercise Maj McCurdy devised a fitting scenario revolving around an 'enemy' drugs base deep in the jungle and the efforts to get their illicit haul to the coast

and a waiting yacht.

After days of careful recce work, the final attack sequences had all the ingredients of a James Bond film. Heliborne quick reaction forces intercepted the smugglers, while seaborne forces took the "enemy" yacht. It was an exciting exercise which captured the imagination of both the Jocks and the JDF fliers and soldiers who took part.

There can be no doubt that Red Stripe is a plum job for any unit to land. One would argue that the 1 KOSB deserved a 'good trip' having just completed a gruelling programme celebrating their tri-centenary and a tour of Northern Ireland during which, tragically, they lost two men.

But what did A Company learn? "Unquestionably it broadened the professional skills of the soldiers," said Maj McCurdy. "I can honestly say we would feel quite confident about going to operate in a tropical environment now. We have learned things you simply cannot

learn from a book."

Another key aspect of Red Stripe was the contingent of 18 attachments who, based mainly in Kingston, spent the month teaching JDF skills in the field of demolitions, transport, engineering, specialist diving and other disciplines.

The casual observer might be forgiven for thinking that this month spent in a Caribbean paradise is little more than a Jamaican jaunt.

But, even setting aside the valuable training lessons that were learned, the overall aim of cementing links between the British Army and the JDF was achieved.

In August JDF Coastguard Captain Peter Brady (the rank is equal to full colonel) takes over as commander JDF. As such he will be Jamaica's top military figure.

He is convinced that Red Stripe is an exercise of enormous importance and one that must continue and be expanded if possible.

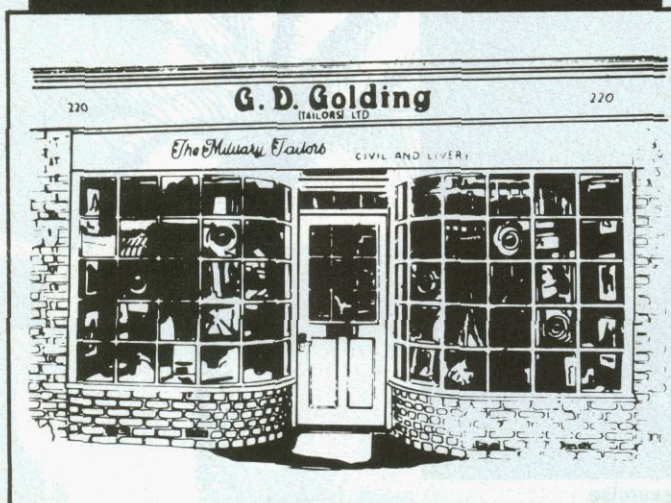
"It is so important to give our soldiers a chance to interact with British soldiers, to learn their skills and ways," he said. "It is equally important for your soldiers to broaden their horizons and learn something of our skills and culture."

"On a practical note, the attachments have been able to show us how to deal with certain problems, like the efficient demolition of illicit airfields used by drug smugglers and dealing with the cylinders they attach to the bottom of ships. We now know that we must develop a centre for divers to increase our capability to combat drugs in that area."

Capt Brady pulled no punches when he touched on the diplomatic aspect of Red Stripe. "We feel this is an exercise of tremendous value and we would like to see it stay," he said. "I hope the powers-that-be see it as valuable to both sides. We would be at a great loss if it stopped."

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CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

Naafi takes stock

BIG CUTS planned for British Forces in Western Europe mean that military ancillary services are having to take another look at their business prospects.

Among these is Naafi, which for nearly 70 years has provided clubs, shops and canteens for British Servicemen and their families at home and abroad.

The proposed axeing of the two Army divisions and two RAF stations in Germany will, in theory, halve Naafi's customer base in BAOR, hitting turnover and profitability and, in turn, Naafi's annual contribution to the Services in extra rebate.

This contribution to General Funds is spent on improving leisure and recreational facilities for Service personnel; of the Army's share, around £100,000 each year goes on sport.

Ironically, the thrust of Naafi's endeavours in Europe in recent years has been providing major shops – described as “centres of excellence” – and improving clubs to meet the demand of current troop levels. So how will it cope with the reductions in the pipeline?

Brig James Rucker, Naafi's managing director, is quick to point out that Naafi's response will be agreed with the Services who, at the end of the day, determine which facilities should stay open or shut.

“The withdrawal of Naafi facilities is likely to go hand-in-hand with troop pull-outs: as bases go, so will Naafi's operations be run down. In any event, changes are unlikely to be sudden but step-by-step.

“We will consult closely with

by
Jennifer Griffiths

the Services, and vice-versa,” said Brig Rucker.

He added: “In any case, nothing is likely to happen until Britain gets the agreement of its NATO allies and there is a successful conclusion to the conventional forces negotiations with the Soviet Union in Vienna, as Tom King, the Defence Secretary, said in his Commons statement.

“Meantime, the Services are anxious that we should not simply cut off investment in Germany. But we will not sponsor the building of new shops or the complete redecoration of clubs until the future has been properly mapped out.”

The opening of Naafi's new shop in the PSA-funded Britannia Centre, Berlin, will thus go ahead on September 18. The outcome of the so-called “two-plus-four talks” will determine what its uses will be in years to come.

A far-reaching idea – and a possible response to changes in Europe – that Naafi should extend its customer base from Service families and certain civilians to a wider market has not been discounted. Agreements would mean that the

AS THE NEW-LOOK EUROPE TAKES SHAPE



Brig James Rucker (left), Naafi managing director, and Col Nicholas Prideaux, Army director on the Naafi Board, pictured in the museum at Imperial Court. Now they face a challenging future with a smile – and all flags flying

charter by which Naafi operates would have to change.

“That is a distinct possibility,” declared Brig Rucker, “but not something we would do without careful thought. Obviously, it is one of many options to be considered as we take stock of how our trading circumstances will be changed.”

The results will be announced shortly of an MoD scrutiny of Naafi efficiency which looked at the financial relationship between Naafi and MoD.

Brig Rucker said that generally the scrutiny had been very supportive of Naafi.

“It is really saying the system is excellent and well-proven in comparison with other country's systems. The American system, for example, costs its government millions of dollars a year in subsidies.”

Naafi is three years into a five-year business plan which includes investment in technology. Centralisation at Amesbury in Wiltshire will bring substantial annual savings while the London Headquarters, the impressive Imperial Court, will be sold.

Whatever the outcome of changes in Western Europe, Naafi, often misunderstood, frequently berated and for years the butt of music hall

jokes, would be going into the future with all flags flying, said the brigadier.

He acknowledged that in the nearly 70 years Naafi had been operating, a continuous problem was getting over their message to Army wives, often little interested in the detail of a complex, multi-million pound business, but usually Naafi's most vehement critics.

But there are important differences between Naafi and normal commercial businesses. Naafi is a co-operative returning its profit to its customers – the Services – in rebate and extra rebate.

Individual units decide how rebate will be spent, usually on improving recreational facilities.

The Forces have ultimate

control of the business through the Naafi Council and Naafi Board on which the three Services are represented.

It means that unlike multinational firms Naafi does not only set up shop because a good commercial proposition presents itself.

It opens up to provide a service – however remote the area and few the customers – where it is decided there is a welfare need.

Worldwide Naafi, with 10,055 staff, operates 300 family shops, 395 clubs and canteens, 300 Service shops, 60 ship's canteens, and 60 other establishments.

These include mobile shops and canteens, sub post offices and insurance centres.

Pricing policy is fixed by the Naafi Council and is designed not to be necessarily the cheapest, but fair and competitive. There is continuous price testing with comparable shops.

Brig Rucker said Naafi buying power did not match its competitors.

“We do not claim to be always cheaper, but then neither can any of our competitors.”

The value of Naafi is best succinctly illustrated by the fact that in its near-70 years it has returned £340 million – almost £2,500 million in today's values

– making possible welfare amenities the Forces could not otherwise have provided.

In its efforts to get its message over it undertook a massive survey.

Many suggestions have been implemented, others are being evaluated.

Col Nicholas Prideaux, as Army director on the Naafi Board, represents the customer's view to Naafi, and vice versa.

He visits Naafi establishments and Army units to sound out families' needs worldwide.

He said: “There is not a particular problem that seems prevalent or surfaces regularly though young soldiers do tend to be concerned about the standard of their clubs, especially abroad.

“We don't know what the future holds, but we are trying to ensure that whatever happens Naafi has the ability to respond positively to ensure customers continue to get the best possible service.

“We place a very high value on customer liaison, and there are direct lines of communication unheard of in some commercial organisations, giving soldiers and their families a unique opportunity to air their views.

“Naafi should never be taken for granted.”



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For security reasons Eddie Williams is a fictitious character.

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BEWARE WHEN A VOICE SAYS –

'It's that awful Anne Armstrong'

ANNE Armstrong, our Families Page correspondent, has had so many dusty answers in her time when she asks awkward questions that she frequently announces herself as "That awful Anne Armstrong".

She has heard more than one senior officer and a number of civil servants call her that in the past.

Today because of her relentless battle on behalf of soldiers and their wives she is respected at the highest levels.

The media itself paid an unconscious tribute to her recently by its demand for her comments when the Defence cuts were announced in the Commons.

A recent day in the life of 'Our Annie' began at 4.30am when she

drove to London and parked at LBC. From there she went by cab to the TV am studio where she was interviewed for the 6.20 slot. Back to LBC for the 7.20 programme – fitted in a news item for IRN – followed by another live broadcast (LBC) at 8.45am.

At 9.45 she arrived at one of the Ministry of Defence buildings to conduct "normal" business and was told BBC and Sky TV were looking for her.

Off by taxi to Portland Place (after finishing her business) and interviewed at 11.15. This was followed by a GLR piece at 11.30 and then she took a cab to Sky for a live programme at 12.15.

After lunch at the House of Lords (where she was involved with a housing association

meeting) she was interviewed by the *Daily Telegraph* ... followed an hour later by *The Star*.

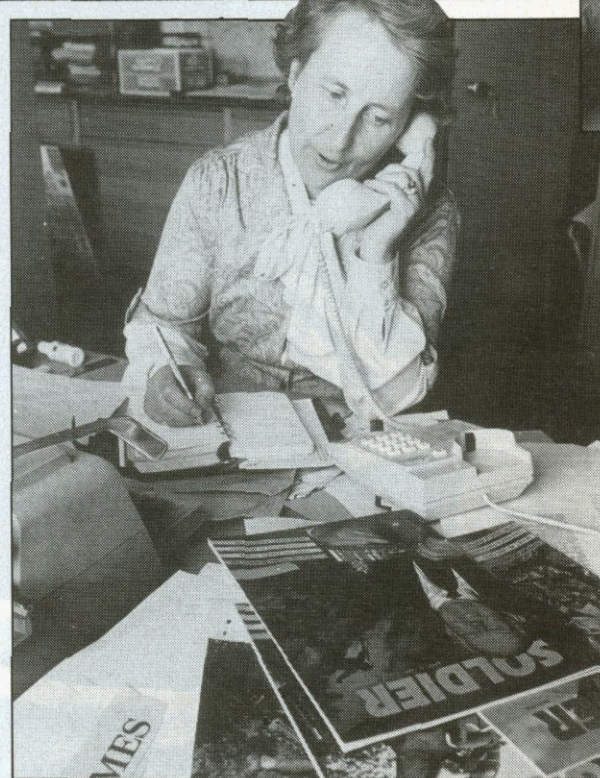
Back to the Lords she went, to talk to a peer about severe disablement allowances for Service families ... then to the MoD to see a branch about housing problems.

She drove from London at 5pm ... caught up with phone calls on her answering machine ... helped her husband move some furniture ... the decorators had been in ... dropped in at a farewell party at Aldershot Garrison Officers' Mess ... and so to bed at 11.30pm.

Anne had spent another busy day ... just slightly busier than all the others.

Words: Bill Moore

Pictures: Mike Perring



The many faces of Anne Armstrong – above left, concern as she listens to the problems of an NCO who wants housing advice; below, answering another telephoned query. She never tries to dodge a call; above, where it often begins, in her pigeon hole in SOLDIER's post room. Despite a schedule that would exhaust most people she still finds time to represent Army wives at various tribunals ... and she runs a home.



ANOTHER PROBLEM SOLVED

PROBLEMS related to the distribution overseas of DSS leaflets appear to have been resolved.

Following a recent plea from a SSAFA social worker in Germany unable to obtain a particular leaflet, I contacted Gillian Shephard, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security.

It seems that the DSS Information has now solved the distribution problem with the help of the Postal and Courier Service at Mill Hill.

Cpl Charles Timothy is the central figure in setting up the new system.

"I'm facing bins of DSS leaflets at the moment," Cpl Timothy told me. "Shortly the first stocks will be on their way to all BFPOs. I am sure the system will work."

If your BFPO doesn't have the pamphlet you want, ask them to indent for it.

A HANDFUL OF HOMES TO LET

IF YOU are a married ex-Serviceman or woman with children and are under notice to quit married quarters the Haig Homes have the following flats and houses to let.

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Sheffield: First floor newly modernised flat comprising three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bathroom with full gas central heating and double glazing. Rent £27 per week.

Carlisle: Semi-detached house comprising three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bathroom with garden. Rent £20 per week.

Hull: Semi-detached house comprising three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom with garden. Rent £30 per week.

RA ONLY

Dartford: Semi-detached house comprising three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom with garden. Rent £20 pre week.

Wimborne: Semi-detached

THE FAMILY PAGES

Anne Armstrong's home number is Camberley 29653

DILEMMAS THAT WON'T GO AWAY

CONTINUING speculation on the detailed future of the Army is having the obvious effect on my post bag. Take two examples –

Letter 1: "My husband wants to stay in the Army but I want him to leave now so we can get a house and settle down. We have three children and I don't want to be left homeless if he is suddenly told to go."

Letter 2: "Where will we go if they bring back our battalion to the UK when the MoD is selling off MQs? Only one of us on our patch has a home to go to. Do we stay in, leave early, or wait for our run-out time?"

These dilemmas are very real and will not be eased until the situation becomes clearer.

Housing is a matter for serious concern inside and outside the Forces.

There are 1,700 irregular occupants in married quarters in the United Kingdom and marriage break-ups are not helping the situation.

But the number of civilian homeless registered is 125,000.

With only 13,000 houses having been built by local authorities in the past year the prospects do not look good.

The target of 44,000 homes to be built by housing associations for the next three years seems to have run into trouble because of the financial problems of the Housing Corporation.

The only scheme specifically designed to help the Serviceman is the Joint Services Discounted Housing Scheme and that is beset with difficulties.

The sale of land and buildings raised £150m in the period 1988-9; last year due to the depressed market the figure was only £70m.

So, looking at it from the Treasury's point of view there is an argument on purely commercial grounds against disposing of the available surplus housing stock at least until the property market picks up.

With the prospect of a large number of families being brought back from Germany under the reorganisation of the Services over the next five years, as described by Mr Tom King, the Defence Secretary, in the commons, there is an even better argument for retaining married quarters to cope with the problems bound to occur.

No one knows what the

figure will be but if, say, 5,000 families are added to those multitudes at present searching for homes, they will have a serious impact on demand.

I believe that there are 14,700 married quarters now vacant within the three Services.

Some, I understand, are in a sad state of repair, and others in isolated positions.

But the cost of restoration of the most promising must be worth considering.

Many returning families are going to be looking for rented accommodation and if this was available in the shape of converted married quarters, the value of the Ministry of Defence's housing stock and land would be undiminished. Maybe, as with council houses, ex-Service tenants could be given the same options to buy at a later date.

Now we know roughly the size of the reduction in the Army, provision should be made for the problems it will create.

Where it is decided to go ahead with the sale of major sites the Ministry of Defence should make it a condition that a proportion of any houses built on them should be reserved for Service families.

One thing that must be done by the MoD is to identify the likely extent of the problem.

I am pleased to see that at Aldershot the Garrison Commander, Brig Nigel Richards, has approved the distribution of a simple questionnaire to sound out local needs.

I hope he gets a positive response. No-one should be put off as names can be withheld.

Might this not be something for MoD Cell established to look at housing problems to take up on a Service-wide basis? The time to do it is now.

Fight to keep FOCUS afloat

FOCUS, the Federation of Army Wives Office and Computer Update of Skills, opened its doors for an Open Day at Bulford to enable a variety of people and interested organisations to see what it offers.

Since it took in its first students in 1986 FOCUS has grown and now offers a variety of courses to help wives return to work.

The courses are free to dependants and there is a creche. The 1990 brochure offers:

● **Computer Workshops:** an opportunity for teenagers to obtain hands-on experience of computer

systems.

● **Office skills:** A course combining typing and shorthand skills with office systems and communications.

● **Bookkeeping:** An introduction to the principles of accounting including ledger, wages, petty cash, double entry and trial balance (Fee: £30).

● **Basic German:** Designed to provide German language skills for wives about to move to Germany (Fee: £30).

● **Business Enterprise:** The in-depth consideration of a self-employment business plan. Assistance is

provided by specialists in the field of small businesses.

The success of these courses must be measured by the number of students who returned to the work force (between six and seven out of every hundred).

The training centre is run in accommodation provided by South West District which also allows the use of Army Education Centre facilities.

The MoD has fully supported the venture in a wide variety of ways but with the advent of the Training Agency in 1989

FOCUS no longer met the new criteria for project funding and lost its finance from the old Manpower Services Commission.

The MoD have made a short-term funding allocation from the Non Public Funds but this leaves shortfalls and an uncertain future.

In 1989 a small contribution from the RAF enabled FOCUS to include RAF wives in the course.

On average £40,000 a year is needed to keep FOCUS afloat.

Three years of charitable funding has come to an end so any donations are

welcome. During the past eighteen months FOCUS had more than £42,000 of donations in kind and support from industry.

There is no doubt that its value is recognised; the job it does is appreciated.

Penny Clayton followed in Ruth Kyle's footsteps and has taken FOCUS training to new heights.

Her expertise is recognised within the computer industry and is shown by the success rate of the students.

Course details from FOCUS, 8 Kandy Road, Bulford Camp, Wilts SP4 9AA. 0980 32800.

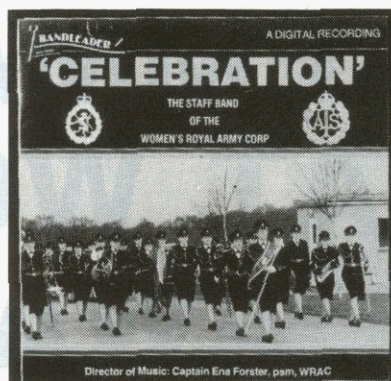
Sounds great!

Celebration
Band of the Women's
Royal Army Corps
Conductor: Capt Ena
Forster

IT doesn't seem long since I married one of the early ATS girls, yet here they are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their formation, and from which the WRAC was formed in 1949.

Part one of the disc contains items loosely celebratory in mood and recalls the original *ATS March* written by Eddie Spooner, one of its first bandmasters.

Frescobaldi's *Praeludium and Fugue*, Elgar's *Nimrod*, and *Last Post and Reveille* have solemn overtones, quickly dispelled with a *Jubilant Prelude*, Colonel Bogey, *Twin Eagle Strut* (Under the Double Eagle messed about a bit), Walton's *Crown Imperial*, and *Marching Songs of World War II*, the whole brought to a fitting conclusion with *Auld*



Lang Syne.

Sentimental memories done with, the girls let their hair down with a concert in truly celebratory mood, beginning with the great march *Furchtlos und Treu* and a series of solo items in *Cornet Carillon*, *Clarinet Carousel*, *You Needed Me* on euphonium, *Lassus Trombone*, and *Tyrolean Tuba*.

Where *No Man has Gone Before*, a medley of "space" tunes, Khatachurian's *Sabre*

Dance, Stage Centre, and *Living in the UK* complete the programme, the latter piece being in a style the girls do so well, a rock-jazz arrangement for vibraphone, keyboards, and drums, just one of the little formations they can produce.

The band is these days a band, not a women's band as it was patronisingly called in the old days.

To compare it with that first 1940s band (a derisory tape of its first BBC audition still goes the rounds) is to realise what advances have been made over those 50 years, not least in sheer stamina.

A programme of 21 items which would have flattened that early band is here thrown off with no sign of fatigue, retaining to the end all the verve and élan with which it began. Great stuff.

● From *Bandleader*, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR or dealers, price £10.50 for CD or double cassette.

Bounden Duty: The Memoirs of a German Officer 1932-45 by Alexander Stahlberg. Personal account of a Prussian front-line officer's conflict between duty and conscience, between his military oath of obedience and common decency. Published by Pergamon Press. Price £17.95.

Dunkirk Inspirational: A Soldier's Story by Alwyn Ward. Labour of love, highly readable and modestly produced, with all profits going to the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association Benevolent Fund and The Society of Friends. Available from the author, 27 Birchcroft, 17 Nether Edge Road, Sheffield S7 1RU. Price £4.95 plus 75p p&p per book.

The Tank Museum Guide: Not just an excellent guide to the collection – also a useful potted history of the development of armoured fighting vehicles. Good value at £1 plus 52p postage from The Tank Museum, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JG.

Long Stays in Germany by J A S Abecasis-Phillips. A practical guide to living and working in Germany. Published by David & Charles. Price £11.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

A Dictionary of RAF Slang by Eric Partridge. It comes as no surprise to read in the author's introductory essay to his 1945 book, now re-published, that much of the slang of the junior service was adopted over the years from the Army. Published by Pavilion Books. Price £6.99.

The Fighting Rovers by L Geary. Illustrated survey, with detailed specifications, of the Rover Company's military stable. Presentation of this second revised edition a little disappointing for the price. Published in paperback by Ian Henry Publications Ltd. Price £9.95.

The Humber by Nick Georgano and **Staff Cars** by David Fletcher. Two motoring titles in the Shire Albums series. Published by Shire Publications Ltd. Price £1.75 each.

Worcestershire Yeomanry by R J Smith. Eleventh booklet in the "Uniforms of the British Yeomanry Force 1794-1914" series, with illustrations by R J Marrion. Available from The Robert Ogilby Trust, Connaught Barracks, Duke of Connaught's Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LR, price £3.95 plus 34p p&p.

World War One: 1916 by Philip Haythornthwaite. Third of five in the series of "Fotofax Soldiers" paperbacks. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £4.95.

Death from the Skies by Lt Col Bob Wyatt. Illustrated story of the Zeppelin raids over Norfolk on January 19, 1915. Published in paperback by Gliddon Books, Norwich. Price £6.95.

The Diary of Sgt W McMillan edited by Keith Hingle. The Crimean War in the words of a Coldstreamer – a fascinating and unique record of his life and times, with contemporary photographs. Published by The Coldstream Guards and available in paperback from Regimental Headquarters Coldstream Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ. Price £2.50 plus 75p p&p (all profits to Regimental Funds).

BOOK REVIEWS

Korean War – without the Glosters

IF readers expect from the title *Korea: The Unknown War* an account of the fighting and a description of the tactical battles of this conflict they will be disappointed.

The British reader will be even more disappointed when he finds the only reference to UK units in this "illustrated history" by Jon Halliday and Bruce Cumings is a photograph of The Gloucester public house in London and a caption which reads "the sign commemorates a battle on the Imjin River in April 1951, when a British battalion, the Gloucesters, staged a delaying action against Chinese forces."

This must surely rate as the shortest commentary ever on a magnificent and heroic action.

The Press release claims that the authors have "cut through the propaganda on both sides to reach the truth about the 'Unknown War' – the war which nobody seems to have won or lost. The result is a full and unpartisan account of an extraordinary conflict."

The authors may be American but I detected a great deal of partisanship towards the North Koreans and antipathy towards their own country.

They also make a lot of references to "internal US documents" without quoting the authority concerned, and use comments such as "there is now evidence" without saying where they found it.

The latter comment was used about the absence of the USSR delegate from the UN Security Council on June 25, 1950 which led to UN intervention in Korea: "There is now evidence that the Soviet delegation was explicitly ordered to stay away from the UN."

They suggest this was a Russian ploy "to suck the USA into a war, hoping ultimately to blood the Chinese against American soldiers" and that it would also destroy the UN and "reveal it as an American tool." No comment.

The text mercifully is relieved by some 180 photographs, many of which show the effects of "the heaviest and most sustained bombing ever known" which may have induced the end of hostilities, although there has been no formal agreement between the North and South terminating what the authors call the Civil War.

Sadly the "two regimes are far apart on ways to achieve both reconciliation and reunification", but so were East and West Germany. Let us hope the miracle which happened in Berlin will also happen in Panmunjom. – PSN

Korea: The Unknown War by Jon Halliday and Bruce Cumings. Published by Penguin Books. Price £9.99.

Our RSM: He's a breed apart

SENIOR warrant officers provide such a vital link between commanding officers and the non-commissioned ranks that it comes as something of a shock to realise that the appointment of sergeant majors as we know it dates back only to the early 19th century.

But the origins of the title extend much further; indeed to the 16th century, when the sergeant major general was an officer of high rank, the title coming down to us as Major General.

Richard Alford's book, *On the Word of Command*, is a collection of case histories of regimental sergeant majors, and of some of the legends that surround these remarkable men.

With two distinct faces of the RSM, it is logical that the book should be in two parts: "On Campaign" and "On Parade", each rich in history and legend.

Case histories begin with that of the long-serving Masterton McIntosh, sergeant major of the 7th Regiment, The Cameron Highlanders, whose exploits in the Napoleonic Wars are worthy of a separate book.

The Crimean War is represented by Tim Gowing, who served with the 7th Royal Fusiliers for more than 20 years overseas out of his 22 with the colours.

Stephen Wright of the Coldstream Guards is the author's selection for the Boer War. Wright was later commissioned, becoming Inspector of Catering with a rank of lieutenant-colonel. After retirement he served two terms as Mayor of Windsor.

RSM Harold Scott of the Second Bradford Pals (18th Battalion, Prince of Wales's Own West Yorkshire Regiment) survived the horrors of July 1916 on the Somme to become a police superintendent in Bradford.

Second part of the book is concerned with sergeant majors "largely selected to work in some of the finest military training establishments in the world, for their capacity to

teach drill and ceremonial" – the academy sergeant majors, RSMs of Eaton Hall and Mons Officer Cadet Schools, as well as garrison sergeant majors of Headquarters London District, and RSMs of the Guards Depot.

ASM Lord has gone down in history as the inventor of the offence, "idle fluff on beret", but playing the parade ground game revealed only one aspect of ASM Lord.

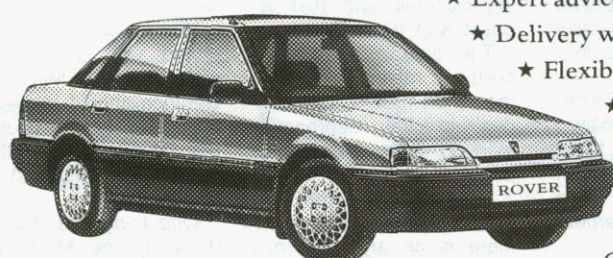
The author, who wrote a book about him, understandably relates numerous anecdotes. "It can truly be said that ASM John Clifford Lord, MBE MVO, had a profound influence upon the whole of the British Army, and the armies of other countries, over the last forty years..." – BJ

On the Word of Command: A Pictorial History of the Regimental Sergeant Major by Richard Alford. Published by Spellmount Publishers. Price £25

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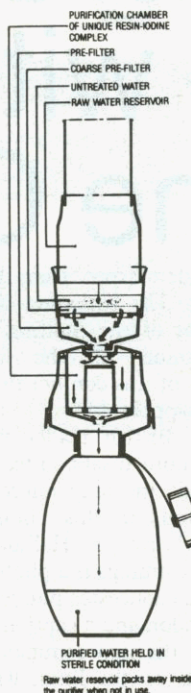
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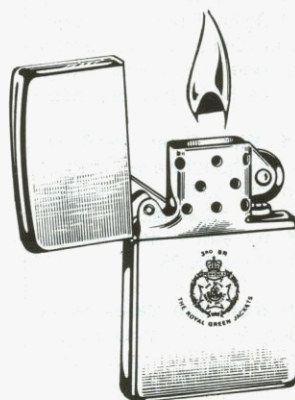


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A BUOYANT

BRITCON trio soak up the Army scene

BDR Roger Essex, Pte Harry Harris and Pte Mick Wroe enjoy a break in Israel's Dead Sea. All three are members of the 35-strong British Contingent of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

The MFO is a peace-keeping force situated along the Egyptian-Israeli border in the Sinai desert. BRITCON is one of the smallest of 11 contingents at a former Israeli Air Force base in El Gorah.

The British are responsible for providing clerks, drivers and various other support roles. Britain also fills the prestigious post of Force Sergeant Major, a job presently filled by WO1 Edward Bradshaw of the Royal Irish Rangers.

All soldiers are volunteers and serve for an unaccompanied period of six months. During that time there is plenty of opportunity to visit the many historic sites in the Middle East and most of the contingent members have seen Cairo, the Pyramids, Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

In addition there is the opportunity to try scuba diving in the Red Sea, known to be the best place for diving anywhere in the world.

Pte Mick Wroe from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment is looking forward to his leave, when he hopes to visit Jordan.

LBdr Essex, from 47 Field Regiment on Thorney Island, has recently taken part in a



CIRCULATION

camel safari to the interior of the desert. "It was a really inhospitable place with daytime temperatures reaching 125°F and it hasn't rained in some areas for years," he said.

"Mind you, sitting on a camel for two days is something else too!"

Despite the barren surroundings of the Sinai the camp has all the facilities of any garrison in the UK, plus plenty of sun.

Once acclimatised, BRITCON members

have a reputation for participating in every sport going on. They may not always win at such American-biased games as softball but they do a great deal to "fly the flag" for Britain.

OC of the contingent, Capt John Whitwam from The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, sums up the MFO as: "A very different experience for soldiers used to the British Army way of life, but one of the few opportunities to see the Middle East, courtesy of the Army."

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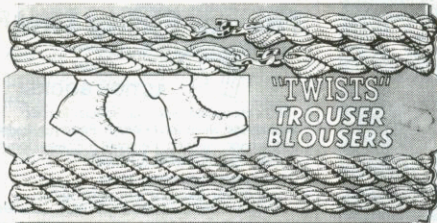
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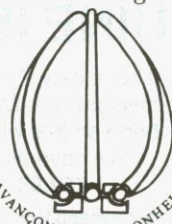
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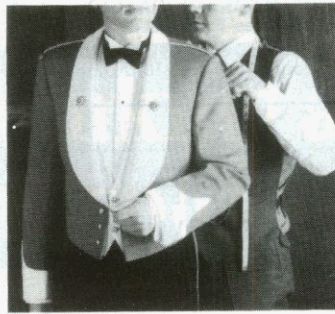
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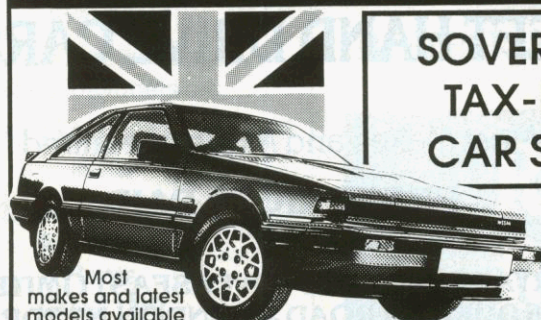
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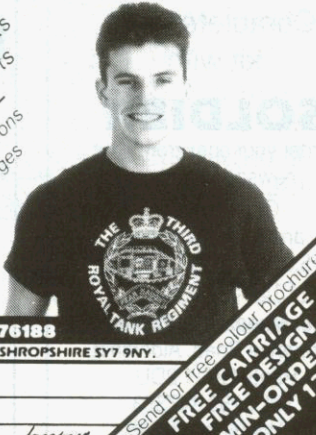
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Toat is tops

THE Inter-Service Decathlon and Heptathlon championships at Aldershot saw records broken despite blistering heat.

In the Heptathlon (in which the competitors take part in 100 metres hurdles, the high jump, shot put, 200 metres, long jump, javelin and 800 metres) the Army women's team set up a new inter-Services team record.

They accumulated 11,500 points – the previous record being 10,979 points.

The WRAF produced a fine performance and also broke the previous record, totting up 11,061 points at the end.

They had the consolation of providing the women's champion, SACW Donaldson with 4,395 points.

Cpl Jackie Gilchrist, WRAC, led for a day and a half but Donaldson went ahead with the javelin.

In the last event, the 800 metres, Gilchrist had to beat her rival by just over a second to win... but her fellow Scottish international was too good for her.

Cpl Liz Churchley, RMP, was third with 3,654 points.

The Army men claimed an easy victory over the RAF in the Decathlon, the teams scoring 19,157 and 14,888 points respectively.

In the individual battle, LCpl Trevor McSweeney of 21 Sig Regt led during the first day and looked like coming out on top.

Six of the very best

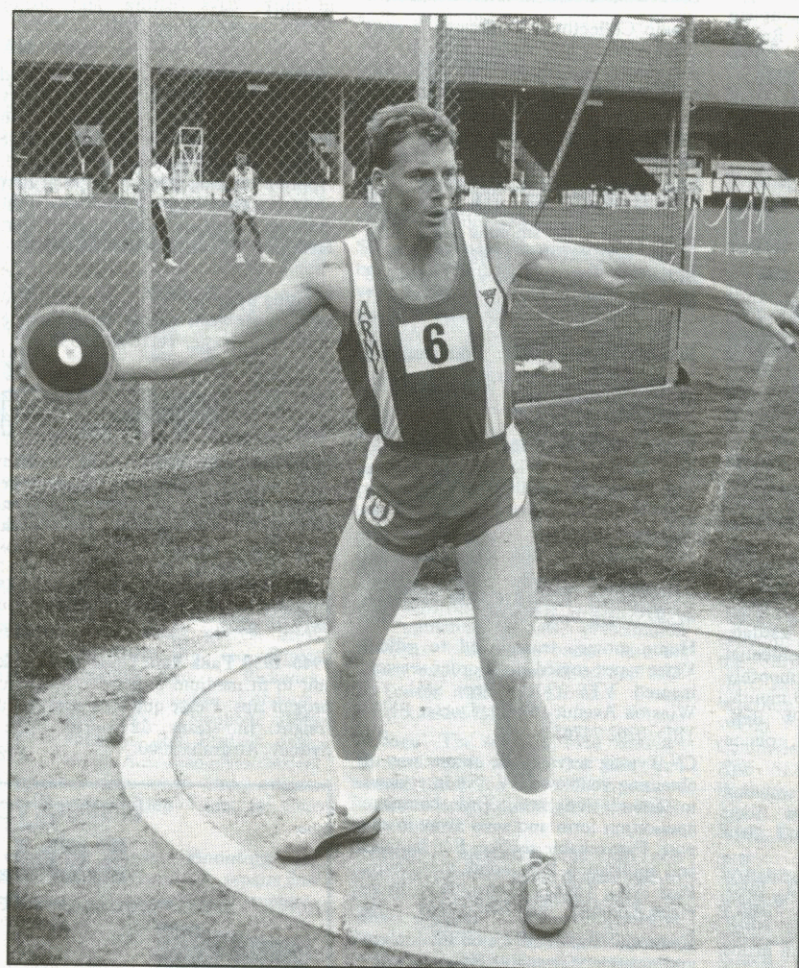
RUNNERS from Hohne-based 'The Queen's Own Hussars have just completed a fortnight of racing that would have tested the very best athletes.

Six men travelled to Switzerland for the Biel 100km, running in the military pair category which they won. All six finished within eight minutes of each other within 11 hours.

Four days later three of the six did well in the 65km Langsmannshof march staged on the tank road outside Nato's Bergen-Hohne ranges.

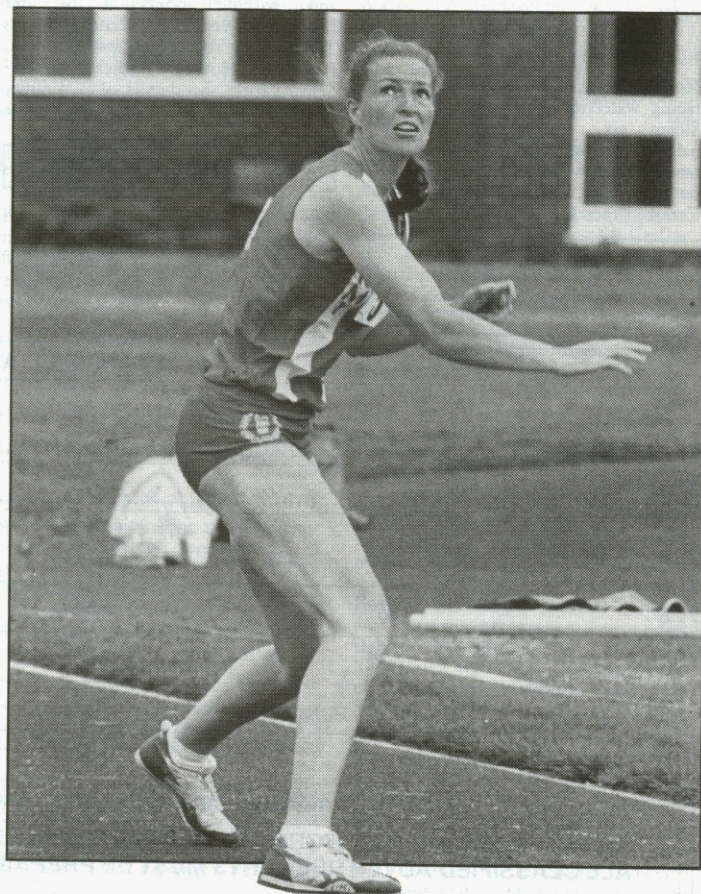
And a week later three QOH teams of three runners took on one of the ultimate tests of stamina, the Harz Mountain navigation marathon. The regiment has won the event three times in the past and were second last year.

This time the QOH teams finished first, sixth and 14th. Capt Michael Bromley Gardner won the individual event for the fourth time in four attempts, but so strong was the QOH squad that they would have taken the team honours even without his efforts.



Then SSgt Neil Killen of the same unit and Cpl Mark Toat of 2 RTR began to close the gap. Killen, who held the title for six years, looked good but Tout, who last won the event in 1984 and is now 28, persevered. The final result was: Toat 6,581 points; Killen 6,446, McSweeney 6,130.

Though the championships were sponsored by the Royal Navy circumstances resulted in only one representative competing – Petty Officer Gary Russell, who scored 5,000 points.



The moment of truth... the moment an athlete wonders whether it was good enough. Cpl Jackie Gilchrist had just sent a javelin on its way. At the end of the Inter Service Heptathlon meeting in which she came second she went straight to the Royal Tournament where she was nominated Services Woman of the Year. So all that effort was worth it

HOT STUFF!

80° but record goes



Athletes in action

A study in expression at the Inter-Service Decathlon and Heptathlon Championships at Aldershot. Left: Cpl Mark Toat (men's champion). Above (l to r): Cpl Liz Churchley, LACW Isabel Donaldson (eventual women's champion) and Cpl Jackie Gilchrist. Right: Ssgt Neil Killen who didn't quite make it No 7. Below: LCpl Trevor McSweeney



BATUS in 178-mile relay

A TEAM of runners from BATUS Suffield and their Canadian landlords took part in the annual Jasper to Banff 24-hour relay race, finishing the 178-mile run in 102nd position and just four minutes before the 24-hours cut-off point.

The British element consisted of Maj Robin Chisnall (R Anglian), Maj Nigel Dransfield

(RANC), Lt James Giggins (RAOC), WO1 Mick Warden (RAOC), WO2 Mick Joss (RAMC), SSgts Rocky O'Rourke and Joe Forder, Cpl Steve Freeman, and Ptes Martin Walker and Mick Key (all RAOC). Wives were represented by Ann LePage, Sherrie Iffla and Wendy Morgan. There has been a BATUS presence in all the

MILD winds greeted the sailors taking part in the Brass Hat regatta on the Mohnesee, West Germany, while the Tin Hat fleet had to contend with much livelier conditions the following day.

Headquarters 3rd Armoured Division hogged the Brass Hat honours, filling the first three individual places through Brig John Dean, Col Mike Evans and Maj Gen Christopher Wallace.

First in the Tin Hat regatta was Lt Col Tim Dumas of 50 Msl Regt RA, followed by Lt Col Jon Cook (3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) and Lt Col Bruce Reece-Russell (5 Armed Fd Amb).

Ironman Canada events since its inception four years ago. Now the arduous swim-cycle-run marathon is to have a permanent Suffield reminder, in the shape of the trophies produced by the unit's workshops. The little nut-and-bolt iron men so attracted the race organisers that they have asked for a set to be presented to the winners of this year's race.



Top WRAC swimmer ready for Channel

THE Inter-Services long distance swimming championships, run by the Royal Air Force at Bala Lake in Wales, were held in cool, windy conditions which caused the lake to be choppy and, with a water temperature of 49 degrees, a very cold swim.

The Army had ten swimmers in the long race of 5km (3½ miles) out of a total entry of 59 and the Inter-Services women's champion was LCpl Sharon Millen, of 10 Company WRAC, in an excellent time of 1hr 28min 23sec.

She now hopes to swim the English Channel.

The winning Army male was Capt Simon West, RA, of HQ Western District, in 1hr 34min 33sec.

In the short course, 1,000m competition, 2nd Lt Bernadette Hawkins, WRAC, from the ACC Apprentices' College, Aldershot, won the women's breaststroke and Spr Douglas Usher from the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE was the first Army freestyle winner. Second was Officer Cadet Nick Haslam from the ACC Apprentices' College.

The Fred Beresford Trophy, for the Army unit with the most entrants, was won by the Junior Leaders' Regiment, RE.

The RAF Swimming Association has been organising the championships for the last 15 years, originally as an RAF Inter-Command competition, but when the Army joined in 1989, with the Royal Navy, it became an Inter-Services competition.

For a long distance swim in cold water, safety is essential, so every swimmer was escorted by a canoeist, as well as several safety boats with medical personnel and towels at the ready to warm up frozen or exhausted swimmers.

The 5km race was won by a visitor, 2nd Lt Dirk Bouma, US Air Force, who also hopes to swim the English Channel. The Inter-Services champion was Marine Jason Dey, of 45 Commando RM, in 1hr 9min 25sec.

SURF CHAMP SHOWS STYLE

CPL Dave Tindall, recent winner of the UK national 6.0 class championship series, showed his pedigree by demolishing the field in the first race of the Army windsurfing championships at Browndown, Stokes Bay, near Gosport, Hants.

Tindall carved round the buoys in great style to win comfortably on his way to overall victory in the 6.0 heavyweight category.

Beaten by sun stroke?

THE defending UKLF golf champions, HQ Scotland, were pushed to the limit by a young 1 KOSB team in the first round of the defence of the title at Morton Hall, Edinburgh.

A narrow victory in the team event was reversed in the individual championship when Sgt John McCaffrey of the KOSB beat Maj Len Yates of 242 Sig Sqn by one stroke after 36 holes.

Only two days earlier Sgt McCaffrey had returned from Jamaica where his company had been on exercise. Despite this wind and driving rain failed to put him off his game.

An additional prize for him was a day's golf (and lunch) at the Gleneagles Hotel - presented by the sponsors, CCG Catering.

Prizes were presented by Brig John Drummond, chairman of the Army Golf Association in Scotland.

A strong south westerly wind, predicted by sponsors Marinecall, produced a small chop which lakeland sailors who had travelled from BAOR found challenging. More than 60 competitors took part.

The lightweight raceboard 6.0 class was won by Trumpet Maj Ian Hamilton (14/20 H), with Exmouth windsurfing proprietor Pete Manfield (a TA bandsman with 4 D and D) winning the heavyweight 7.5 class, and Maj Patrick Roberts (13/18 H) taking the lightweight 7.5.

Safety boats provided by the Royal Engineers had some difficulty launching as the wind strength increased.

Although the Army boasts a number of high-ranked UKBSA sailors, including Tindall, Musn Trevor Bulmer Jones (RCT), Hamilton, Sgt Andy Harries (RA), SSgt Steve Tanner (RE) and Maj Neil Curry (who has been declared national super heavyweight winner in the UKBSA series), the Browndown championships had to cater for all standards.

Force 8 winds the next day brought an early halt to the racing, but by then the overall champions had emerged.

Results were:

Raceboard 6.0 lightweight - 1, TM Ian Hamilton, 14/20 H; 2, Sgt Pete Croft, RA; 3, Cpl Andy Wood, R Signals. **RB 6.0 heavyweight** - 12, Cpl Dave Tindall, REME; 2, Maj Joe Fletcher, R Signals; 3, Sgt Andy Harries, RA. **RB 7.5 lightweight** - 1, Maj Patrick Roberts, 13/18 H; 2, Musn Trevor Bulmer Jones, RCT; 3, Capt Roger Beech, RE. **RB 7.5 heavyweight** - 1, Bdsm Pete Manfield, 4 D and D; 2, OCdt Piers Noble Soton, UOTC; 3, Sgt Mick Purnell, R Signals. **Best veteran** - Capt Bill White, R Signals; **Best novice** - Capt Alan Flavell, Para. **Inter-Unit Trophy** - 1, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt; 2, 94 Loc Regt; 3, RMA Sandhurst.



26 Fd Regt in action

GUNNERS' PRIZE HAUL

THE ROYAL Artillery had a field day in the Inter Service Tug of War Championships, Gunner teams winning the 560, 640 and 680 kilo competitions.

The high standard of the soldiers proved too good for airmen and sailors the Army team score being 75 pts more than double the RAF's 34 with the Navy scoring 11.

680 Kilo	Pts	560 Kilo	Pts	640 Kilo	Pts
1 26 Field Regiment RA	14	1 49 Field Regiment RA	12	1 26 Field Regiment RA	15
2 22 Signal Regiment	13	2 26 Field Regiment RA	9	2 22 Signal Regiment	12
3 Royal Air Force 'A'	9	3 Royal Air Force 'A'	6	3 Royal Air Force 'A'	9
4 Royal Air Force 'B'	6	4 Royal Navy 'A'	2	4 Royal Navy 'A'	6
5 Royal Navy 'A'	3	5 Royal Air Force 'B'	1	5 Royal Air Force 'B'	3
6 Royal Navy 'B'	0			6 Royal Navy 'B'	0

YOUNG 'UNS DO WELL TOO

THE Junior Leaders' Regiment RA hosted the national youth tug of war championships at Bramcote and won two of the titles on offer.

In the Under 18 560 kilo competition they easily won their pool before beating Broadmoor in the final, and it was the same story in the Under 19 600 kilo class where the Bramcote juniors beat Norton in the final.

The Army Apprentices' College Chepstow just failed to reach the final of the 600kg event, losing by a single point to Norton in their pool. The

young gunners beat AA Coll Harrogate into second place in their pool, with Princess Marina College Arborfield fourth.

PMC Arborfield reached the final of the Under 19 460kg championship but were beaten by Thames Valley.

Chepstow, Harrogate and Bramcote colleges all showed up well in the division.

Sappers scoop the pool...

THE SAPPERS made a clean sweep of the Army Water Polo Championships as expected (only one non-RE team was represented among the eight fighting for places).

Results 1990: 1, 36 Engr Regt; 2, 21 Engr Regt; 3, 38 Engr Regt.

Army Senior Swimming Inter Unit team championships

Major Units: 1, 21 Engr Regt; 2, 36 Engr Regt; 3, School of Sigs; 4, 22 Engr Regt; 5, 50 MSL Regt; 6, 2 Coldm Gds.

Minor Units: 1, Trg Bn & Depot REME; 2, 33 Engr Regt (EOD); 3, 38 Fd Sqn RE; 4, JLR RCT/RAOC (PS); 5, 5 Armd Fd Amb; 6, 210 Sig Sqn.

AWSSA: 1, QEMH Woolwich; 2, 13 Sig Regt; 3, Women's Services N. Ireland; 4, WRAC Centre; 5, 8 Sig Regt; 6, 243 Sig Sqn.

Cup for QOH

AFTER their fine win in the Cavalry Cup in London, the football team of The Queen's Own Hussars were matched against the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, winners of the RTR Colonel Commandant's Cup, in the final of the Royal Armoured Corps Cup, sponsored by Vickers Defence Systems, at Sennelager, West Germany.

QOH won 3-0 with goals from Bankyear (2) and King, and were presented with the trophy by Brig Philip Sanders, chairman of RAC football.



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Picture: Mike Perring