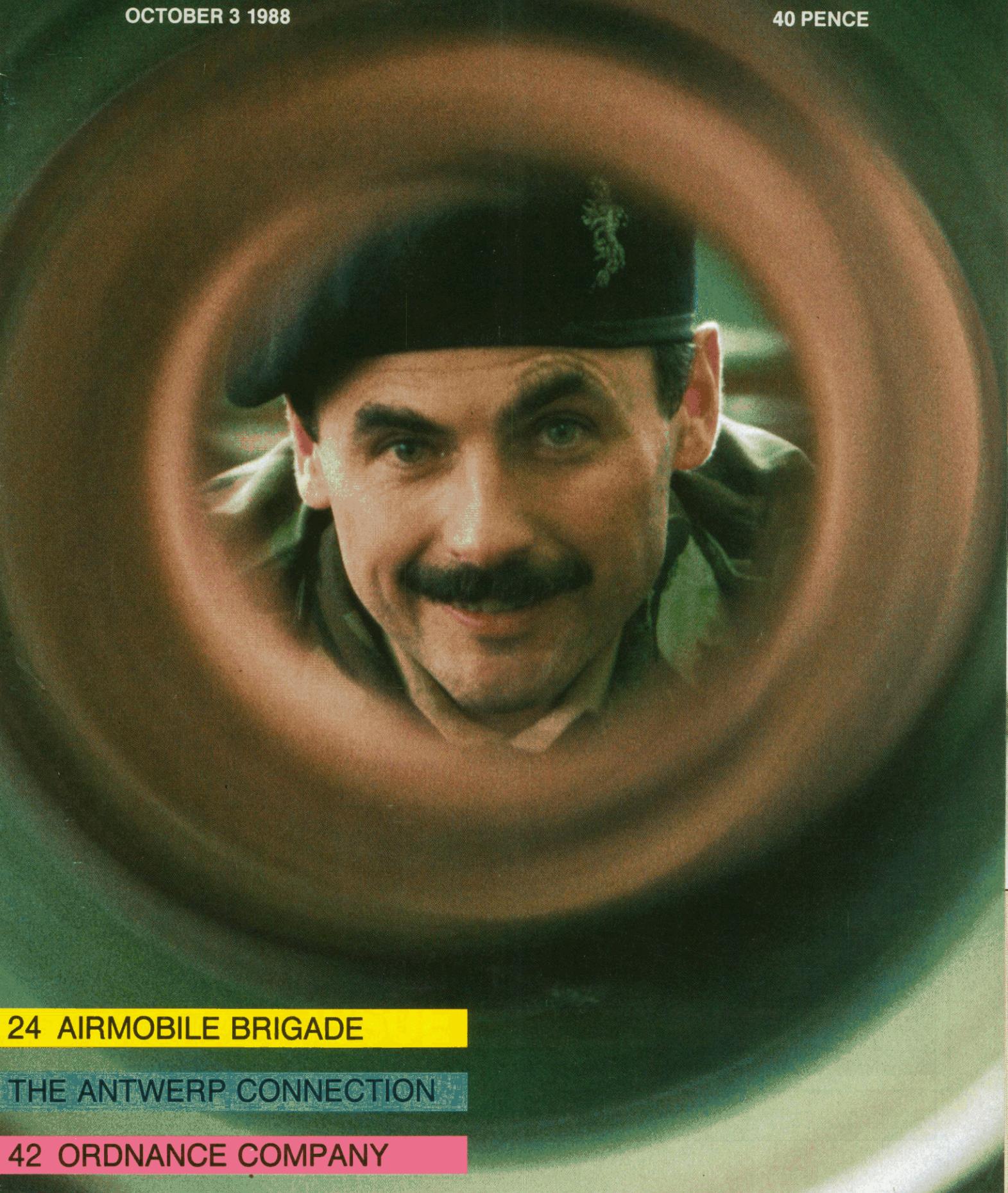


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FRONT COVER: Maj John Sandison, REME, Admin and Training Officer of 34 Base Workshop, gives a new perspective to Donnington. He was photographed from the yolk end of an American recoil system from a M107 undergoing repair. The barrel is 7ft 6in long. **Donnington feature – Page 30.**

Picture: Terry Champion

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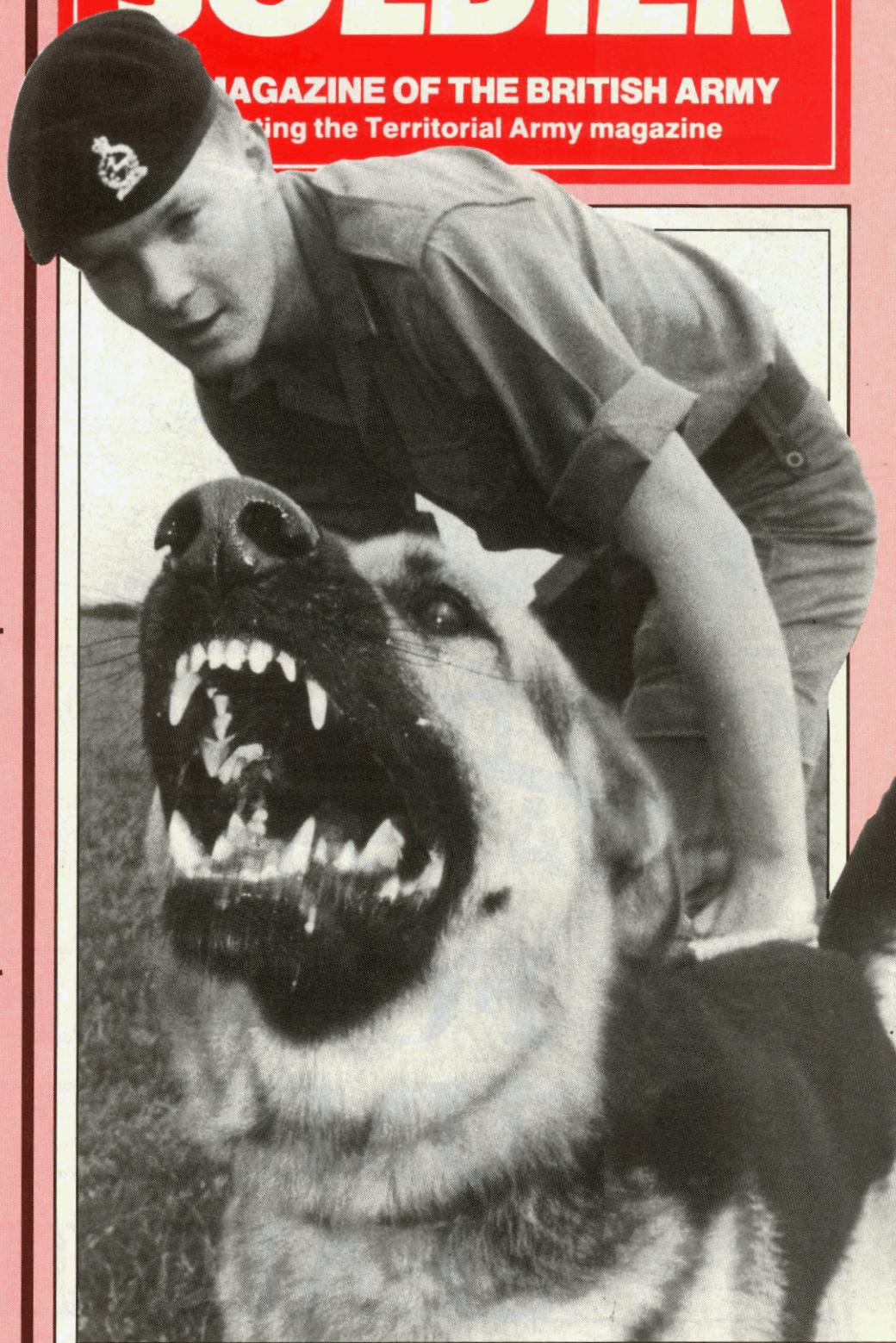
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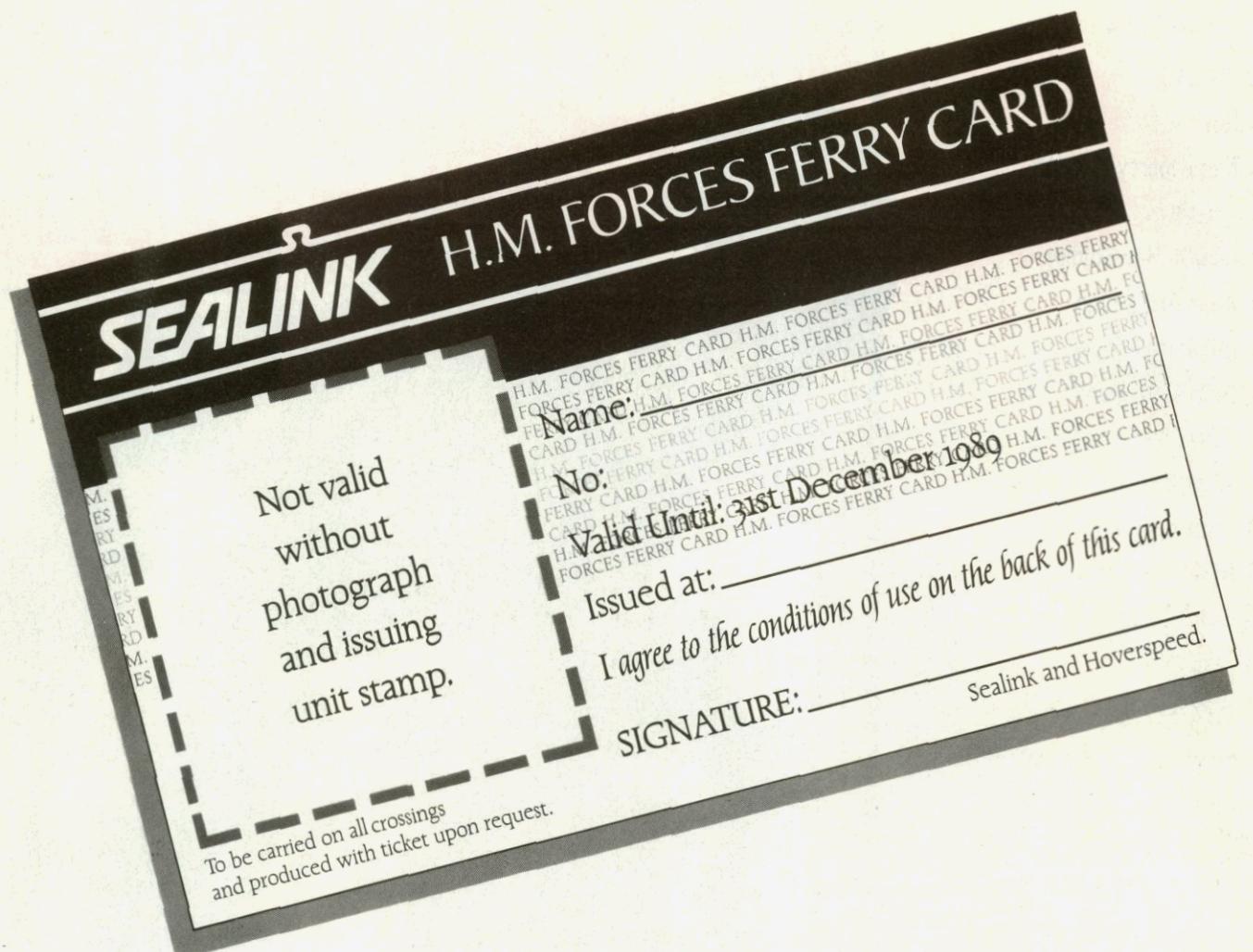
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**NEXT
ISSUE**

Tim, a protection dog under training at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Centre at Melton Mowbray, reveals to our photographer that his bite is worse than his bark! On the safe side is Pte John Faulkner, RAVC. There will be a report and more pictures on the centre in the next issue.
● ALSO Bold Grouse – stories and pictures of the big UKMF exercise in Denmark's Zealand Islands.
● AND the first part of a series of articles on the British Army in Berlin.



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Bramley gas shells moved to Porton Down

THE ARMY has moved the remaining chemical munitions found last year at the old armament depot at Bramley, Hampshire, to the Chemical Defence Establishment, Porton Down, for disposal.

More than 150 First World War artillery shells containing chemical agents such as mustard gas were moved at night to minimise inconvenience to motorists.

The original find comprised 442 chemical

shells, mortar bombs and grenades, believed to have been buried by a clearance contractor between the wars when this was the officially approved method of disposing of toxic substances.



The new Naafi complex in Berlin arises on the site of Spandau Prison. Inset shows a changing of the guard performed by Soviet and American soldiers outside the now demolished building

OF SPANDAU, NOT EVEN THE RUBBLE REMAINS

NO TRACE of Spandau Prison – Rudolf Hess's Berlin gaol for more than 40 years – now remains. It was demolished immediately after his death last year and work is now well under way on a new Naafi store being constructed on the site.

But extraordinary measures have been taken to ensure that nothing would remain to serve as a focal point for neo-Nazi groups wishing to perpetuate the memory of Hitler's former deputy.

It had long been agreed by the Allied Powers that when Hess died all trace of the prison would be destroyed. A West Berlin firm carried out the demolition after sappers from 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron RE had stripped the roof and windows.

Then the rubble from the site was transported under heavy guard to a secure location in Berlin where a large pit had been excavated. The debris of Spandau was tipped into the pit before heavy earthmovers covered the site with soil.

Measures to exorcise Hess from the British Military Hospital in Berlin have also been taken. When Hess fell ill during British Army tours of guard duty at Spandau he was taken to BMH Berlin where the entire second floor was devoted to his care. He was referred to by staff there as "Prisoner No 7".

Following his death all traces of his occasional occupation were destroyed, with even the door knobs and bed linen being

removed beyond the reach of souvenir hunters. The whole of the second floor was gutted and is being refurbished and will be brought back into use as a ward.

On the Spandau site only the trees remain as a recognisable part of the old prison layout and soon the area will be fully landscaped to remove the last traces of the prison grounds.

Naafi plans to build a 60,000 sq ft store on the site. Facilities for Service customers will include a food hall, gifts and durables department, butchery and preparation rooms, freezers and cold storage areas, trolley park, cafeteria and offices. It will serve nearby Alexander, Wavell, Brooke and Smuts Barracks as well as RAF Gatow.

Battlefield Lynx ordered

THE British Army is to be equipped with the world's most manoeuvrable helicopter, the Mark 9 Battlefield Lynx. The MoD announced a £32m contract with Westland Helicopters Ltd, makers of the Lynx, during Farnborough International 88.

An initial order for 16 aircraft could be boosted by the modification by Westland of eight Lynx helicopters already in service with the Army.

Due to enter service in 1990, the Mk 9s will go to the new Catterick based 24 Airmobile Brigade, eventually serving

alongside 25 EH 101 tactical support helicopters which the Royal Air Force is to purchase and operate in support of the Army as the brigade's prime mover.

Battlefield Lynx combines world beating speed and the versatility of the multi-role support and attack helicopter, able to deploy up to 12 fully armed soldiers to battle and to provide them with formidable firepower. It is TOW compatible, HOT and Hellfire qualified, and can carry 7.62mm machine guns, 20mm cannon and Stinger and Mistral missiles.

REME opens £3.4m base test facility

ONE of the most advanced engine test facilities in Europe has been built for the Army at Bicester near Oxford. Designed for use by 32 Base Workshop REME, the £3.4m facility will provide computer controlled proving and testing of up to 500 military diesel and petrol engines overhauled at Bicester each year.

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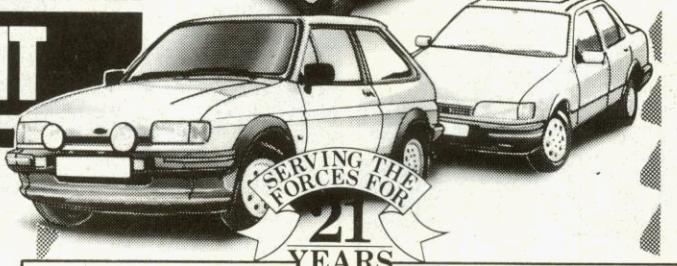
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Picture: Terry Champion

Eight Lynx helicopters from Cambridgeshire based 657 Squadron AAC "pose" for our camera during the 24 Airmobile Brigade demonstration on

Salisbury Plain. The 657 aircraft were used to lift troops during the exercise which culminated in a demonstration for the Nato Military Committee. Equipped with a

dedicated anti-tank capacity to counter massed enemy armoured movements, 24 Airmobile Brigade is a heli-borne fast reaction force based at Catterick. It comprises three infantry battalions, an air defence troop, a field engineer squadron and supporting arms. See story and more pictures in Page 15-17

New sleeping bags ordered

SOLDIERS sleeping out are to be warmer and drier – thanks to a new generation of sleeping bags to be issued next year. The new design will replace the combat and general service sleeping bag filled with duck down feathers first introduced during the post-Korean War period 30 years ago.

The contract, worth nearly £3m, has been won by CQC plc, an Avon Rubber Group

Company, following close consultation, trialling and recommendations from the Army Directorate of Clothing and Textiles at Andover.

The company will supply quantities of all three components in the new design – the outer cover, the main bag containing the insulating filling, and a compression sack enabling the bag to be carried more easily. High-technology, moisture vapour permeable fabric keeps the rain out but allows body moisture vapour to escape.

The company has also won a £300,000 order to supply rucksacks to the Army. This follows its close involvement in the development of the new range of personal load carriage equipment (see SOLDIER February 22 issue) which replaces the old 1958 pattern webbing – the rucksack being the first item to go into service.

An integral component of the overall set, it has side pouches which can be detached and used singly as lightweight backpacks. It means a soldier can leave his less immediate equipment in his main rucksack in a rear operational area.

Lt Col Brian Preston, Officer in Charge of Development in the Directorate of Clothing, said: "The old sleeping bags filled with duck down had been in use for up to 20 years, and not even ducks last that long. Another advantage is that the new design is waterproofed."

Numbers down

TOTAL strength of the Regular Forces at the end of June was 315,728, which was 1,100 less than the end of March, and 2,900 below June 1987. The decrease was spread across all Services, except the Royal Marines. The strength of the Regular Army was 157,592.



Colours of the 1st Bn Irish Guards are laid up in the Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel) at Wellington Barracks. The Colours were presented by the Queen at Windsor Castle in May 1978. The ensign carrying the Queen's Colour is 2nd Lt Stephen Segrave, the ensign carrying the regimental colour is 2nd Lt Nigel Venning. Chaplain to the Household Division, the Rev John Barrie, was assisted by two former padres to the battalion, the Rev Fr Alf Hayes, and the Rev Fr Hughie Beattie

A Mills boon!

Calling Germany, calling Germany ... The winner of £50 in SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 445 is LCpl Mills of KAT Trp, 77 AES, 32 AER, BFPO 40. Runners-up prizes of books go to Sgt Simmons, Babington Road, Streatham, London, and Miss B Storey, Upton Dene, Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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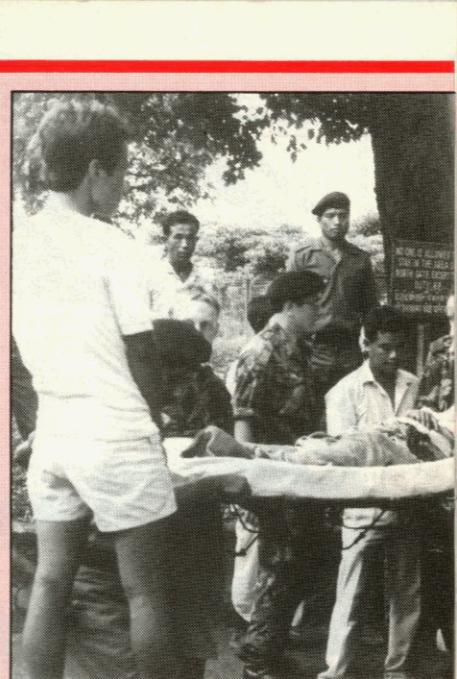
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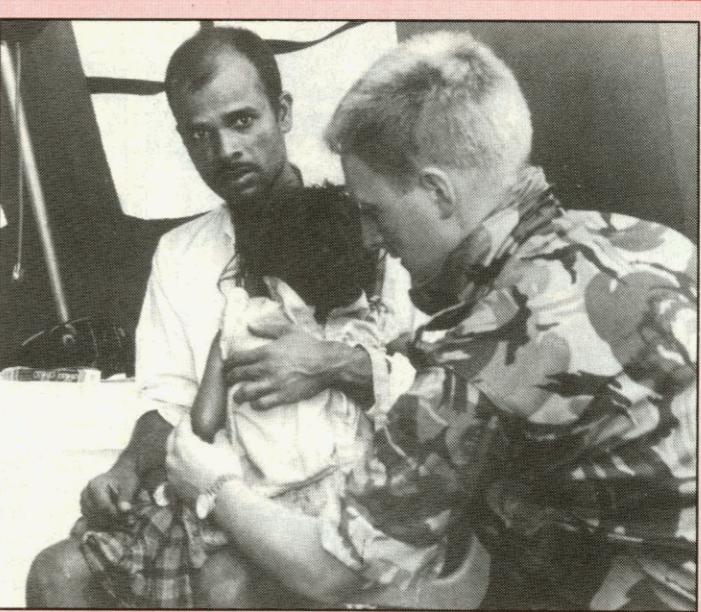
Maj Maggie MacDonald, QARANC, who led a medical team from Hong Kong, befriends young 'quake victims in BMH Dharan



Medical staff and volunteers receive an other of the hundreds of injured



Cpl Tony Brown, RAMC, tends to a young Nepalese girl with a broken arm. Broken limbs were common injuries



Officers to assess the cost

THE TASK facing the HQ British Gurkhas Nepal not only encompassed the treatment of injured civilians but also extended to the search for information on the families of serving Gurkha soldiers and the fate of Gurkha pensioners.

An information centre was established at HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong to receive inquiries from worried soldiers. In Nepal itself area welfare centres run by ex Gurkha officers have been tasked to establish what losses have occurred.

Nine ex Queen's Gurkha officers whose task is usually to help with recruiting have now set out by Land Rover or on foot with money and medicines to visit welfare centres in East Nepal run by the Army to pay the 20,000 ex Gurkha pensioners in Nepal.

Their role will be to assess losses suffered by the families of serving soldiers and ex Servicemen and make payment to alleviate the most desperate hardships.

'Within hours a flood of casualties had started to arrive at the gates of Dharan Cantonment'

WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK . . .

Story and pictures by MoD information officer Paul Sykes who flew into Nepal with an Army medical team soon after the earthquake

EARTHQUAKES fall into that category of natural phenomena designed to show man how powerless he is in the face of nature's power. But the earthquake which struck Nepal on Sunday August 21 also showed how effective and determined man can be in his efforts to overcome disaster.

The swift reaction of the Dharan Cantonment - HQ British Gurkhas Nepal and site of the British Military Hospital - to the massive influx of injured from the surrounding countryside displayed a determination seldom seen in peace time.

When the earthquake struck at 4.54am local time, the British Military Hospital's complement of 70 beds was already full with its normal, everyday flow of patients from the Dharan area. The resident medical staff is made up of only three British doctors, and five QARANC nursing staff aided by one Nepalese doctor, Dr Sirendra Sakia, and 70 local employees.

But the BMH staff and just about every able-bodied man and woman in the cantonment were soon working to set up a casualty clearing station, deploy extra

staff, led by Lt Col Mike Kefford, 7 GR; the staff of the BMH led by Lt Col Peter Guy, RAMC; and Maj Anne Grimwood, matron, and of the efforts of many of the resident families, that within two hours of the earthquake the casualty clearing station had been established, equipped and manned, the hospital itself readied to meet the flow of casualties and a small team of engineers sent into Dharan to help in their rescue operations.

As if the earthquake were not enough to cope with, monsoon rains deluged the camp.

"The North Gate (site of the casualty clearing station) looked a bit like the Battle of the Somme with all the mud", said Lt Col Kefford.

"An extraordinary number of people showed up to volunteer their help as it was

clear we had a major disaster on our hands."

The majority of injuries the hospital staff faced were either fractures or crush injuries - there were many cases of broken backs and pelvises. The staff had to deal with a constant flow of injured who had to be assessed, treated and discharged, or taken into the BMH.

During the nine hours on Sunday up to 3pm the casualty clearing station dealt with 450 patients, of whom three died.

Of the rest, 150 casualties were admitted.

Lt Col Guy worked extraordinarily hard that Sunday. Not only did he have to organise the hospital to cope with the casualties and treat many of the patients, but during Sunday evening he performed 27 operations.

The BMH had by now expanded to 150 beds, with a tented ward of 30 beds and an entertainment hall turned into a 50 bed ward.

But the flow of patients was only one problem. The pipeline carrying the cantonment's water supplies from nearby hills had also been damaged. To conserve water for the BMH and the power station, the rest of the camp had to have their water rationed while SSgt Bint, RE, and his team plus members of the Property Services Agency worked to repair the pipeline.

Maj Rambahadur Gurung, 2 GR, went into Dharan to help the local administration organise their rescue efforts. As a result a heavy lifting recovery vehicle, JCB and bulldozers were tasked to aid the local population.

WO1 Ted Farrier, REME, and WO2 Rogalski, RE, spent the rest of the day working on opposite sides of the town and only returned to the cantonment after nightfall when they were assured no more people were known to be trapped.

They recovered 15 bodies in the course of this painful task.

● Turn to Page 17



Capt Anne Fraser, QARANC, tends a youngster injured during the earthquake



Typical earthquake damage in the town of Dharan where 13 people died under the rubble



A stretcher party carries an injured woman into the casualty clearing station



Family show?



Cavers exposed

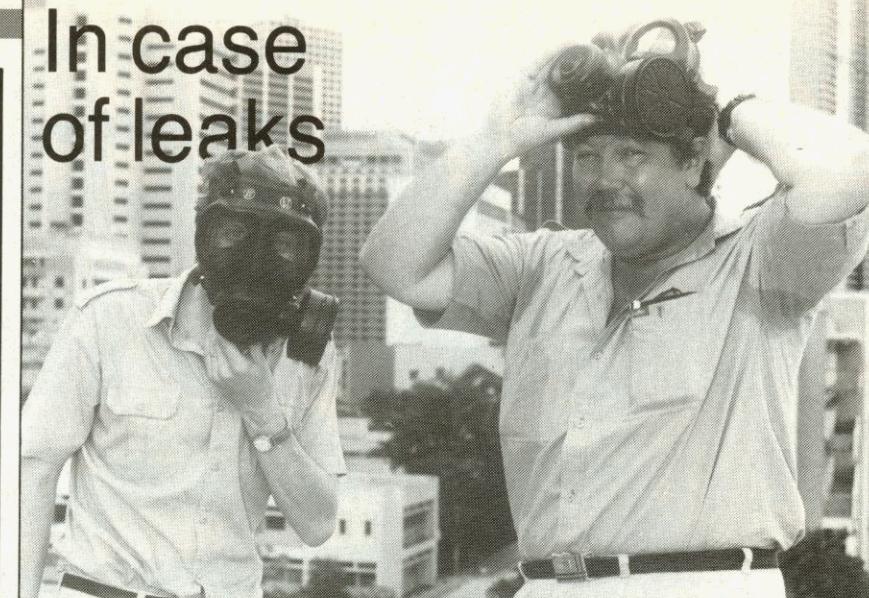
Enjoying some sunshine before continuing caving exercises in Salzburg, Austria, are (from left) Cpl Geordie Winter, Cpl Tony Naraine, SSgt Paddy Shufflebottom, LCpl Max Wall, with Cpl Micky Clayton in the front. All are members of the Forward Ordnance Depot Dulmen Caving Club. Capt Richard Smith, exercise organiser and club leader, was the cameraman.



Summit of achievement

Picture: The News, Portsmouth
These Magnificent Seven (above) hoping their feat in skiing the five major Canadian ski resorts from top to bottom in one day will be included in the Guinness Book of Records are (from left) Capt Tom Parker, APTC; Reg Banks, ex APTC; Capt Alastair Wicks, 14/20H; Capt Russell Abson, RAOC; Mrs Kate Abson; Maj Bill Wiseman, RAOC; and Capt Alistair Fyfe, RTR.

Twenty-four pupils from Colne Valley High School, Huddersfield, enjoyed bridging, first aid, weapon handling, swimming, ferrying with 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment – and much more – on a visit to 42 Field Squadron of 35 Engineer Regiment in Hameln, BAOR.



Masked and unmasked! Paul Sykes (left), who was attached to the Joint Services Public Relations

Staff at Hong Kong, and Chris Peterson of Reuters try out gas masks before their flight to the Nepalese town of Dharan, struck by

an earthquake. The gas masks were issued because the men shared the flight to Nepal with supplies of anaesthetic gas.

PEOPLE



ESSEX YEOMANRY WAY **That's the way!**

Part of the A606 between Tollgate and the A12, outside Colchester, Essex, has been named in honour of the Essex Yeomanry, who were in the thick of the Normandy landings. The regiment already has the Cal de Essex Yeomanry in Normandy named after it. Pictured is a former Colchester mayor, Arthur Parsonson, representing the Essex Yeomanry Association, and Capt Ken Lloyd, representing serving members, holding the squadron flag at the unveiling ceremony.



A sponsored cycle by 48 Command Workshops, REME, based at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus, raised £2,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Wishing Well Appeal (GOSH) – as reported in SOLDIER August 22 – and one of the cyclists, WO2 John Scott, flew to London to present the cheque to Dame Vera Lynn.

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Cologne studio to close

After 35 years in service the British Forces Broadcasting Service studios in Cologne, West Germany are to close.

When the BFBS operation in Germany is redesigned in two years' time, greater use is to be made of existing studios in Rheindahlen, Bielefeld, Osnabrück and Berlin.

New studios are to be developed in other centres of the Service population.

Director of Broadcasting Pat Pachebat said Cologne was no longer at the centre of BFBS broadcasting now that troops were concentrated in North Rhine Westphalia and Lower Saxony.

Part time car thief?

An RMP incident docket relating to an alleged theft from a car belonging to a soldier who left the vehicle in his barracks when he went on summer leave records that the following items went AWOL:

1 x boot lid, bonnet, fan, fan belt, carburettor, coil, rear seat, exhaust, starter motor, front grill, left hand front light, steering wheel, rev counter; 2 x rear indicators and windscreen wipers; 5 x wheels.

Plus 1 x expired tax disc!

A less determined thief might simply have driven the car away...

SOLDIER to Soldier



When Paramount needed 1,000 extras to act as Nazi stormtroopers they turned to the Army based in South East District and were overwhelmed with the response! Clearly the opportunity to dress up and goose step into the night appealed to the boyhood memories of many from brigadier to private. And the film makers didn't have to teach them the rudiments of drill.

All this was part of the

An Army of extras!

new Indiana Jones film; the follow-up to *The Temple of Doom* with Harrison Ford again in the title role in *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*.

The army of extras found themselves on location at Stowe School for an all night session, but hot

drinks and plenty of food kept spirits high. The film, which also stars Sean Connery, is due for release in the new year.

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

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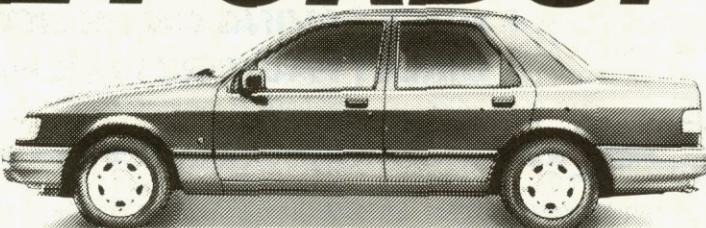
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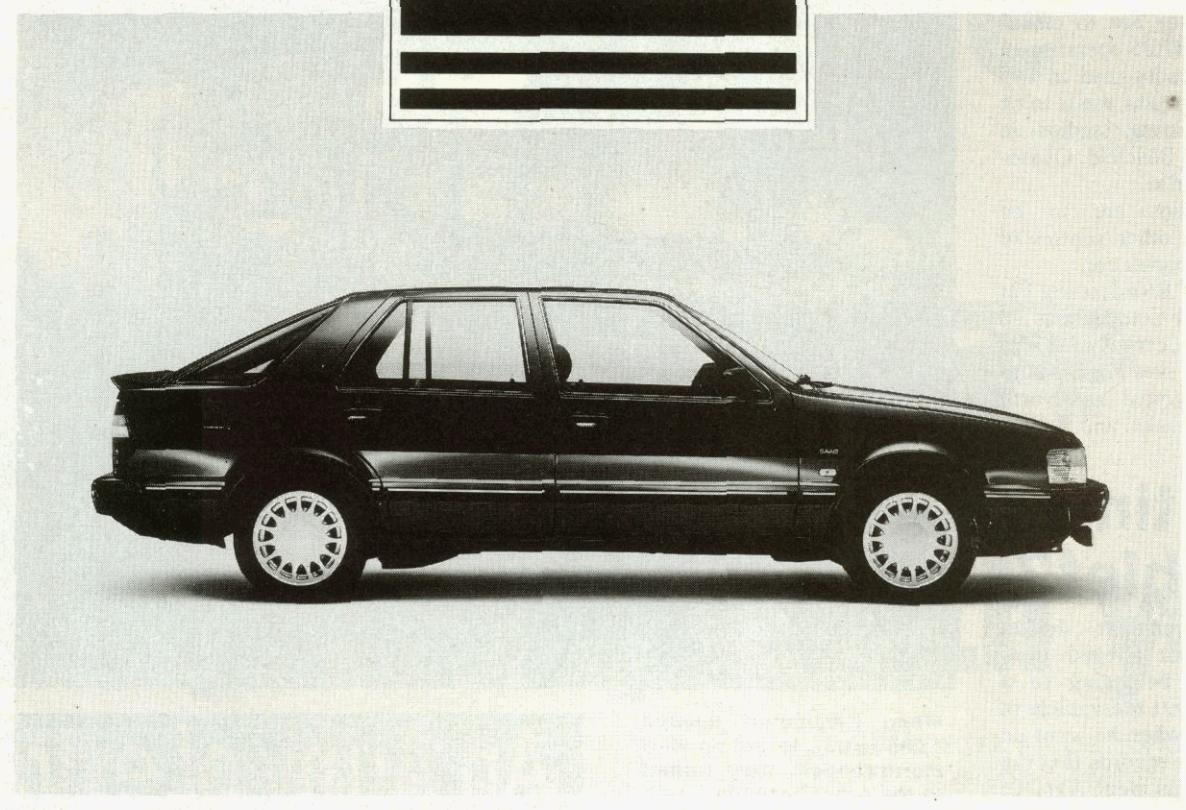
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24 Airmobile Brigade settles into its new high flying role



Almost flattened by the down draught, a section from 1 PWO takes up a defensive position as an RAF Puma rises from the landing zone

Light and lethal!

THE CRACK troops of 24 Airmobile Brigade are set to fly high in their new role as the airmobile reserve for 1 (BR) Corps and NORTHAG in BAOR, writes Laurie Manton.

The Catterick based brigade assumed airmobility on April 1 after trials by 6 Brigade over the last four years demonstrated that an airmobile formation strong in infantry anti-armour weapons can be moved by support helicopters at short notice to respond to enemy penetration.

Since they dropped the word "Infantry" from their title, Brigade Commander Brig Peter Woolley and his troops have

been heavily engaged in mastering the multiplicity of skills required of them in their new role.

"Becoming airmobile makes for a very different ball game when compared with the normal role of an infantry brigade," Brig Woolley told SOLDIER.

For the men of 24 Airmobile Brigade, it has meant giving up all their heavy vehicles, including the Saxon APCs that the infantry arms used, and taking on lighter scales. Brigade headquarters now moves in just four vehicles.

These lighter scales do not apply in every case, for 1 PWO

have been issued with 42 Milans, a great increase on a normal infantry battalion's establishment of 24 hand-held anti-tank weapons. It may be an extra load for the men to carry, but it does make the brigade increasingly lethal against enemy armour!

Within its new organisation, the brigade will incorporate a new Army Air Corps regiment equipped with Lynx helicopters armed with TOW missiles. Until its inauguration in 1992, AAC helicopter support will be provided by 657 AAC Squadron based at Oakington in Cambridgeshire.

Support helicopter lift for the

brigade is being provided by the Royal Air Force using Chinook and Puma. By the late 1990s, when it enters service, the EH101 helicopter will take over the task of transporting troops.

High on the Brigade Commander's list of priorities is ensuring that the joint Army and RAF operating procedures reach and maintain the highest standards.

As a result, the brigade has taken part in five joint training sessions during which the support helicopter force concentrated in Yorkshire to work with the men.

● Turn to next page



LIGHT AND LETHAL

From Page 15

"For 1988 and 1989, we have the use of the majority of the RAF's helicopters based in Germany and we have got to take imaginative measures to ensure the 'jointery' is of the highest order," said Brig Woolley.

"The whole ethos now is for much more rapid battle procedure and for more rapid movement over much greater distances so we have had to change procedures and attitudes, right from the lowest level through to the top."

Every possible avenue of experience gathering has been explored, including visiting French and American airmobile formations to see how they operate. The brigade has also been able to draw on the expertise of people who took part in the 6 Brigade trials, with a large number of them being posted to the new brigade.

"They obviously became quite expert at it, and it has been very important that we draw all the expertise we can from them," said Brig Woolley.

This summer's training programme ended with an intensive airmobility training exercise on Salisbury Plain culminating in a demonstration of the brigade's newly acquired skills, in front of the Nato Military Committee, earlier this month.

For the high-fliers of 24 Airmobile Brigade, several more hectic months of working-up trials are planned before they become fully operational next year. Until then the officers and men in this high-morale brigade are striving hard to attain their goals and are determined to prove themselves a force with which to be reckoned.

Mission completed, two Chinook helicopters clatter away from the landing zone after discharging their cargo of troops and equipment



"We're getting there!" A thumbs up from a member of one of the Milan platoons hitching a ride to the battlefield



Stand To! Men of 1 PWO alerted by the sound of the enemy moving forward ready themselves to repel an attack



"It works like this." The CO of 1 PWO, Lt Col Duncan Green (right), explains the techniques of airmobility to (left to right) GOC North East District Maj Gen Murray Naylor, Capt Mick Sullivan, 1 PWO, and Brigade Commander Brig Peter Woolley



"Thumbs up" from Pte Pat Newman, 1 PWO, raising a smile for the camera



High speed photo double out of the Chinook as men of 1 PWO massive helicopter's rear exit

Earthquake at Dharan

From Page 9

It was quickly realised that help would be required from outside and on the Sunday night offers of assistance arrived from HQ British Forces Hong Kong.

A surgical team was rapidly dispatched to Nepal on Monday morning, led by Col Bill McGregor, RAMC. In addition, a Hercules was organised to take a further 18 medical staff plus supplies into Nepal.

The initial rush of casualties from Dharan had passed by Monday and only 35 people passed through the clearing station, with 13 being admitted to the BMH. The lull reflected the problems of communications in the area. Many villages are in remote parts of the surrounding hills and can be reached only by foot.

The next town north of Dharan - Dankuta - had been cut off by a massive landslide, so little information could be gathered on how many injured still awaited attention.

Next day a further 33 arrived with 15 being admitted and six discharged. For Lt Col Kefford, Wednesday proved a turning point. The Minister of Health in Nepal asked him to attend a rescue co-ordinating meeting, which included the commander of the Nepalese 2 Brigade.

It was agreed the BMH would take the seriously injured from Biratnagar hospital and that casualties would be flown directly to the cantonment by Nepalese helicopters.

This decision pushed the rescue effort into a new gear. On that Wednesday, four British Army trucks travelled to Biratnagar and brought back the worst 17 cases, one unfortunately dying as she arrived at the cantonment. The trucks also brought nine more casualties which the helicopters had brought into Biratnagar.

On Thursday 69 cases were brought in by helicopter. Most needed surgical treatment as they had been so long without effective medical treatment. By Friday the BMH had treated more than 600 patients.

The mundane task of feeding this growing population became a massive project in itself.

The QM, Maj Les Peacock, 2 GR, had to organise a 400 mile round trip to Calcutta simply to keep the cantonment in meat.

Further aid continued to flow into the BMH via the efforts of the RAF. Two physiotherapists, an orthopaedic surgeon, five QARANC staff and three Registered General Nurses flew in and were followed by a larger team of 34 members of 22 Field Hospital, from Aldershot, employing two surgeons, two anaesthetists, one radiographer, 20 nurses and six combat medical technicians among others. There were by now more than 70 medical staff deployed at the BMH and more than 200 beds dispersed in wards and tents.

The need to care for the injured is a task that will occupy several months. Lt Col Kefford has told the Nepalese authorities that the BMH can go on expanding as long as they can keep sending in casualties.

"The British can take great comfort from the fact that as a very old ally of Nepal we were the first people on the scene and able to give tremendous aid and assistance at the very moment that it was required," said Lt Col Kefford.

"People here have done something extraordinary."



Life goes on... Maj Maggie MacDonald holds a baby born shortly after the Dharan earthquake. The BMH has taken responsibility for local maternity care since the disaster

HERE'S ONE WAY TO CUT YOUR LOSSES

THE 1987 PSA "little red book" has been replaced by the July 1988 edition – in blue! The new *Schedule of Charges for Losses and Damages* lists increases on all fixtures in MQs, covering such diverse items as glazing, plumbing, gas and electrical fittings, and paintwork.

The increases are to be expected, but there are some unexpected variations in the prices of gas and electric cookers.

Some months ago I wrote about the huge administration charges levied on electric four-plate cookers in cases where the departing occupant had to pay the full replacement cost due to damage.

I am pleased to report that in this year's "little blue

book" the charges have dropped significantly for electric cookers – from £344.74 to £270 (a reduction of £74).

But in the case of the gas cooker, the 1987 charge of £353.88 has risen to £390 in 1988 (a jump of £37).

Why should the cost of one have risen when the cost of the other has fallen so dramatically?

Surely we should be given a detailed explanation.

Service personnel can now pay their local electricity board to fit a new cooker of the correct pattern which, with local discounts and special offers, may be a cheaper solution.

Could this facility not be extended to gas households?

How to benefit from the YTS

INCOME support for most 16 and 17 year olds ceased on September 12. Service dependants aged 16 to 17 who are living in the UK or have returned from overseas will be guaranteed a place on the Youth Training Scheme instead of getting Social Security Benefit.

If you are living in board and lodging or hostel accommodation and were getting income support you

will probably continue to get your benefit when you start on YTS.

But if you haven't got a YTS place or a job you should go to your local council and claim housing benefit to help your housing costs. Claim it right away!

If you require more information, ring Freefone Social Security 0800 666 555.



Dukes in hospital handover

WIVES of men serving with the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Holywood, Northern Ireland accompanied the Duchess of Wellington to the nearby Ulster Hospital in Dundonald to present a cheque for £1,000 to refurbish the Paediatric Outpatients Department. The wives raised the money at a series of sponsored events.

In the picture (from left to right) are CO's wife Mrs Carolyn Roberts, Senior Nursing Officer Miss Elizabeth Steele, Mrs Joyce Fieldhouse, Mrs Linda Butterworth, the Duchess of Wellington, Mrs Gina Woodward, Mrs Betty Briston, Director Nursing Services Miss Helen Kerr, Mrs

ie Gleadhill and Assistant Group Administrator Mrs Moyra Stockman.



OVERSEAS POSTINGS CAN MUDDLE OF MUM-TO-BE'S CLAIMS

NEW and expectant Service mums need to look carefully at the rules for claiming Statutory Maternity Pay, Maternity Allowance and Sickness Benefit. They are particularly vulnerable if posted to overseas stations outside Europe.

Unless careful attention is paid to the rules mothers-to-be can easily lose out on benefits when they stop working. Posting and flight dates can cause

havoc with subsequent claims.

If you lose Statutory Maternity Pay, which can be as much as 90 per cent of your average earnings, you will be saying goodbye to a lot of money.

Claims for Maternity Allowance and Sickness Benefit (at £31.30 each a week) can similarly be forfeited. It is pretty hard to accept that, having paid your Class 1 National Insurance contributions,

you may get nothing in return.

My mailbag suggests there is a genuine problem among mums-to-be posted to Cyprus, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and other overseas stations outside Europe.

To reduce the chances of losing benefit you must check your date for leaving work against your posting and flight date before handing in your notice. It is too late to rectify dates

after you have left work.

Also make sure you know how to protect other benefits, such as Sickness Benefit, if you are unable to return to work or cannot work at your new duty station.

If after all this the DHSS adjudicator still refuses your claim for Statutory Maternity Pay, you may still be eligible for Sickness Benefit or Maternity Allowance.

The adjudicator will send you a letter refusing benefit

you are making a claim from outside Europe.

A Ministry of Defence ex-gratia payment equivalent to the UK Maternity Allowance will be paid if the dependant would have been entitled to Maternity Allowance, or had an underlying entitlement to Sickness Benefit. (This applies to women who have failed to meet the rules for SMA.)

The difficulties arise if

you are making a claim from outside Europe.

Attached to the letter will be a certificate stating the number of weeks the entitlement will be paid. This the claimant signs and hands to the unit administration officer.

If you disagree with the DHSS assessment you have the right to appeal to an independent tribunal. Write to the DHSS Over-

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



FROM 1 RRW WITH LOVE!

PROUDLY displaying a cheque for DM2,400 (nearly £800) for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal is the CO of the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales, Lt Col Christopher Elliott. The money was raised by the 1 RRW Wives' Club in Lemgo, West Germany before the battalion's return to the UK, and was presented to Lt Col Elliott by Mrs Irene Heakin, wife of RSM Richard Heakin who was tragically murdered while driving to Ostend to catch a ferry.

Lack of detail adds to those moving blues

IN
MY
VIEW

I DON'T expect an hour goes by without someone somewhere being involved in the handing over or taking over of a quarter.

And we all know that with bereavement and divorce, moving house is one of the most stressful events in our lives. It is an event that comes round pretty regularly for the average Service family.

In the majority of cases all goes well. Relatively few have large bills to pay on handing back the quarter. Our families nowadays are much more aware of the costs of damaging items in their quarters – and one glance at the Property Services Agency's "little blue book" will quickly reveal how easy it is to run up a £100 bill.

The new and enlightened method of paying such bills was designed to avoid the terror of "nil pay" slips, enabling the soldier to pay off the amount in instalments.

It is prudent to take out household insurance, and many families do just this. However, I do

consider that it is the right of every soldier to have a detailed and itemised bill for damages. It is essential, anyway, for insurance claims.

My attention has been drawn to a case in which a soldier was billed for "Carpet – £169; gas cooker – £353". I am not judging the rights or wrongs of the case, but I do feel the soldier should have been given a proper itemised explanation on his AB 276.

He pays the bill so he has a right to a full explanation of the charges being levied against him.

Time is usually extremely short at handovers and it is doubly difficult for the soldier or his wife to check or dispute a charge when they are rushing to catch an aircraft or ferry to an overseas posting.

But none of this can be achieved unless the ASA is approached.

There is another very good reason for getting it sorted out before zero hour ... the incoming family won't be faced with your old problems!

A choice range of safety seats

car. – Soldier's wife

● Interested wives should make sure their names are forwarded for nomination to their District HQ in good time. Servicemen attend as representatives of their units.

WIVES! Make a note in your diary of the 19th Naafi All Ranks Meeting, to be held at Naafi HQ in London on February 2.

● Interested wives should make sure their names are forwarded for nomination to their District HQ in good time. Servicemen attend as representatives of their units.



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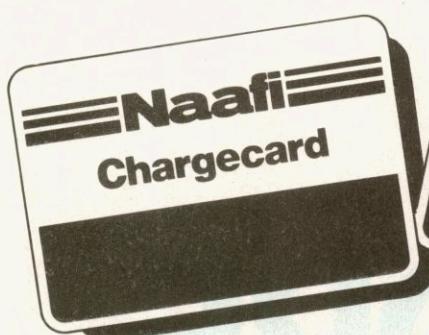
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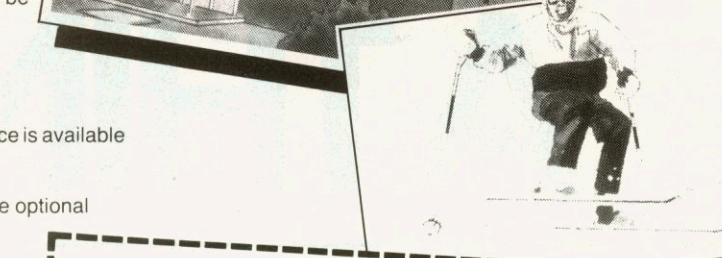
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Drum Horse Corporal Andrew Field, Scots DG, with Ramillies



Drums and Pipes of The Gordon Highlanders in Edinburgh Castle

Pictures: Sgt Rick MacDonald, UKLF

TATTOO TYPES!

SINCE their return from Germany in March, the Drums and Pipes of the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders have been making their mark on the world of piping.

Their most recent success was at the world championships where the band achieved a very credible fourth as a grade two band. Led by Pipe Major Bill Rugg and Drum Major Jeff Harper, the Drums and Pipes played a medley of marches, strathspeys, reels, jigs and slow airs.

The Drums and Pipes were part of a team from the battalion which participated in and helped to administer the

1988 Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Ramillies, the Regimental Drum Horse of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, has been on parade at Edinburgh Castle during the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Ramillies, a five-year-old gelding, was presented to the regiment by The Queen. Cpl Andrew Field is the musician and rider responsible for him.

The white bearskin worn by the Drum Horse Corporal is unique in the British Army and was given to the regiment by Tsar Nicholas II, while he was Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Greys.

The Edinburgh Tattoo provided RSM James Davidson (left) of the Scots Guards with an ideal opportunity to hand over his job as Castle RSM to RSM George Givens (right) of The Queen's Own Highlanders. RSM Davidson is soon to retire from the Army after 22 years service. RSM Givens, a Liverpudlian, became a "Jock" because of The Queen's Own Highlanders' connections with the Liverpool Scottish Regiment.



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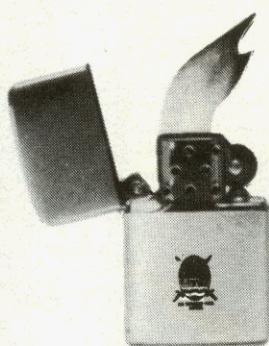
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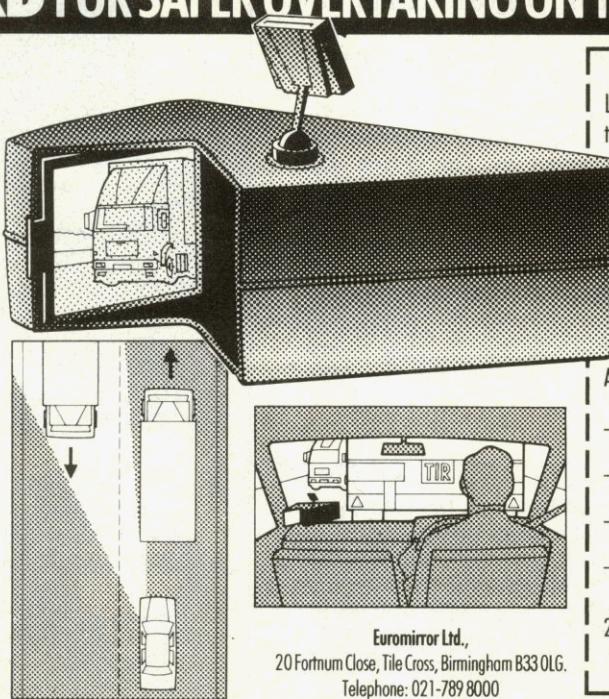
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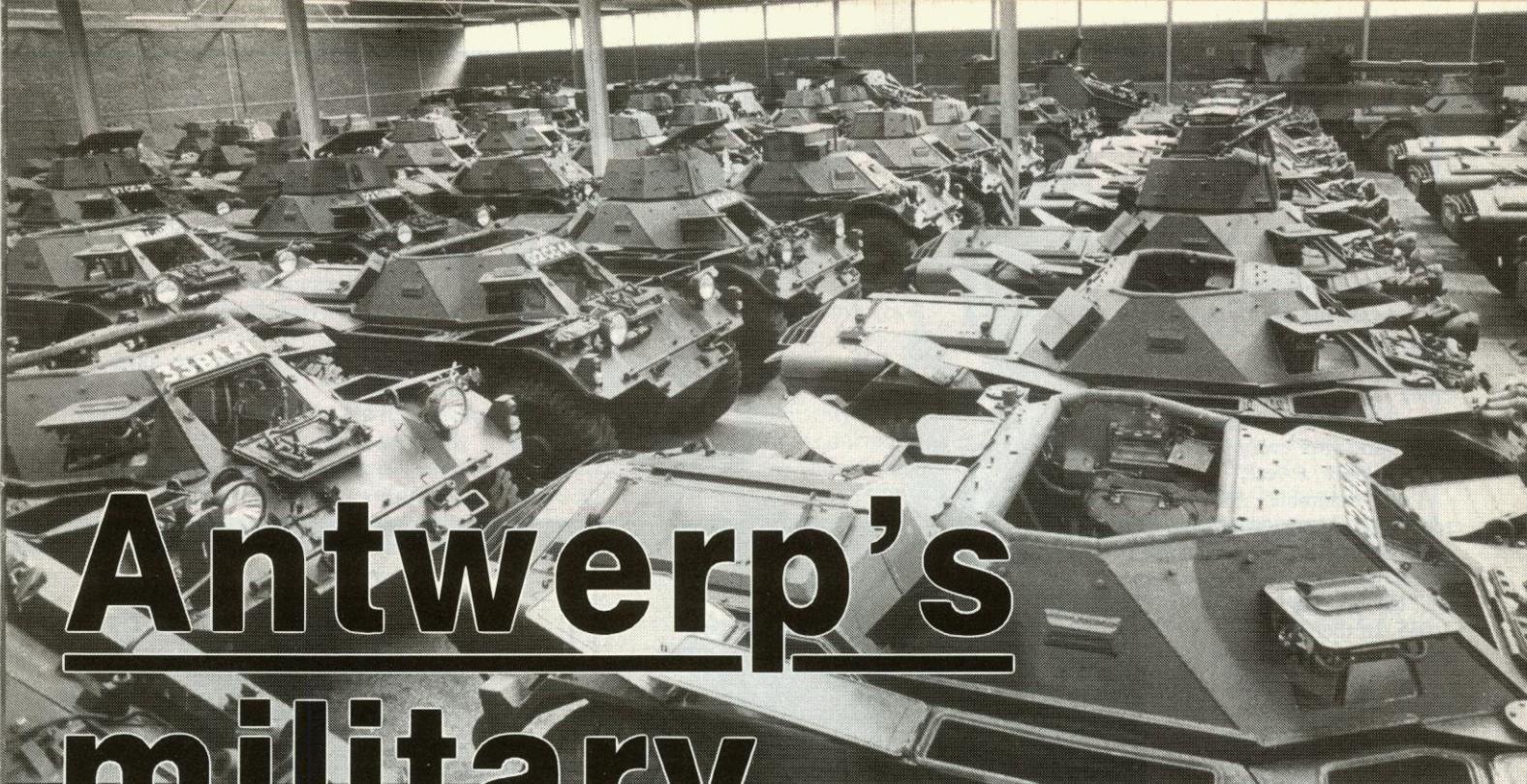
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S1



Antwerp's military supermarkets

BY HAPPY coincidence soldiers wearing black and green shoulder flashes were on the quayside when the LSL *Sir Percivale* docked at Antwerp with a cargo of Challengers.

The 3rd Royal Tank Regiment has a vested interest in the great port. It once, briefly, belonged to them.

Exactly 44 years ago Shermans of "Third Tanks" guided by Belgian Resistance fighters, swept aside scattered opposition, used their 75mm guns to shoot up an armoured train and sink a fleeing enemy ship on the Schelde, and captured the docks intact.

The greatest strategic prize in North West Europe had fallen to the 11th Armoured Division with 3 RTR in the vanguard, although German guns on off-shore islands and the Dutch coast still barred the approaches.

It took two months to silence them and sweep the mines in the Schelde but gradually the port got back to business and finally thousands of Belgians under British supervision were unloading the stores needed for the Allied thrusts deep into the Reich.

"The opening of Antwerp did indeed prove to be the turning point of the Overlord*

Ferrets lined up in an MT shed at Ordnance Depot Antwerp. All can be driven out at a moment's notice. In the background is an Abbot, also ready to go



A Challenger is backed out of the LSL *Sir Percivale* at Antwerp

campaign," wrote the Official Historian. Hitler also knew the value of the port. It was the objective of his last fling – the Battle of the Bulge.

Today Antwerp is still the vital link in the supply and communication chain from the United Kingdom to the British Army of the Rhine – which is what 21st Army Group became in May 1945.

By comparison with the huge tonnage handled in wartime, operations are now modest. But hardly less important.

**Words by
Bill Moore
Pictures by
Terry Champion**

Working in the British Communication Zone are around 230 British officers and men who control and supervise the passage of troops and vehicles through the Low Countries to and from BAOR.

At the Ordnance Depot Antwerp are hundreds of Belgians helping to maintain, issue and account for substantial stocks of equipment which units in BAOR can call upon.

* Overlord – code word for invasion of Europe.

The successful operation of the Communication Zone is a tribute to the skills and co-operation of three solid old corps.

Broadly speaking the RCT and RAOC bring equipment and material ashore; the RAOC stores and maintains it; the REME carries out major repairs; the RAOC issues it and the RCT controls its movement to and from BAOR backed up by a comprehensive REME rescue service.

The RAOC Vehicle Sub Depot at Olen and the Composite Sub Depot at Emblem are like military supermarkets holding around 6,000 vehicles from light armoured to motor cycles plus hundreds of tons of stores.

Pre-stocked Unit Equipment is the technical term for the equivalent of the cash and carry department – the RAMC can, for example, get the equipment for an entire hospital off the shelf.

Request a prime mover from the VSD and it comes fuelled up complete with a hefty box of accessories from SQMS John Gaughan's kit stores which lists 1,300 items from periscopes to spare wing mirrors or a simple

● Turn to next page

● From Page 25

shovel, all wrapped against deterioration.

The Territorial Army is probably the biggest customer, collecting its vehicles en route for exercise and returning them afterwards.

Within the VSD all vehicles enter a flow system which means they are checked out before and after every issue and at least once a year.

Two venerable AEC ten-tonners both started at a touch with SSM Chris Allen at the wheel. One had 80,000 miles on the clock; the other a mere 1,035. In their IRR paints they looked as good as new.

The VSD has a number of unique features – one of which is a nine-hole golf course smack in the middle of it.

The arched concrete roofs of the giant MT sheds were once considered to be the last word in modern construction – but have recently been condemned.

And the battery shop – in constant use for many years – is of vintage quality calculated to excite the interest of experienced electricians!

Though the VSD carries out small repairs, the heavy work is done by 60 Communication Zone Workshop – the only REME workshop in the whole of Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

Under Lt Col Alan Reed, nine serving soldiers, a retired REME officer (Maj Ian Patterson), and a British civilian, work with 172 Belgians on a variety of tasks from repairing lawnmowers (official issues) to recovering a ten-ton Militant which was "nudged" off the road by a civilian juggernaut and broke both of its massive axles.

It was hauled back to base on a vehicle manned by LCpl Steve Dunn and Roger Lievens, a local worker. They had to use two cranes!

By comparison with the wrecked heavyweight, ASM John Harris showed an interesting side line.

The makers of a certain type of lorry will not sell replacement driving cabs when they are damaged in collision. Only the complete vehicle is available.

"So we salvage and refurbish what we can," he said pointing to five examples almost ready for business again.

The REME recovery service, which comes into its own during the TA exercise season, should make the AA and RAC



Guard dogs are an essential part of the security precautions in Comm Z. They come under the supervision of Sgt Terry McNeil, the only man in the organisation to wear the RAVC badge

The 'Ambassadors' of Comm Z

SOLDIERS posted to the British Communication Zone do many jobs but their finest maintenance achievement is undoubtedly keeping up the good relations which exist between them and the local populace.

They and their families are liked. "Ambassadors of Britain" is a worn-out phrase but it is singularly apt in their case.

A great asset is the fact that most Belgians speak good English which is just as well. How many Britons speak Flemish,

the language of the region?

Some local employees have been with Comm Z units since it was set up as the "Advanced Base" in 1952 (under an agreement with the Belgian Government).

When the Commander, HQ Comm Z, took up his appointment at the end of last year he was struck by "the tact and commonsense shown by SNCOs and comparatively young soldiers working alongside civilians".

Brig The Hon Nicholas Vivian, an armoured recce specialist, has strong links with Belgium. A direct ancestor, Lt Gen Sir Richard Hussey Vivian, commanded a cavalry brigade at Waterloo.

Brig Vivian served in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, a Waterloo regiment, and later commanded the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers.

And Brig Vivian's grandfather was an ADC to King Albert (who conducted the defence of Antwerp and the withdrawal in 1914) and his father was a schoolfriend of

King Leopold.

The site of Waterloo is an easy drive from Emblem and this year a party from the camp went on a battlefield tour organised by Lt Col Graham Parker, a retired RCT officer working in movement control.

Lt Col Parker, an expert on the Somme and Ypres battlefields, recently took 100 cadets from Ypres Company, Sandhurst, to their Flanders namesake. He regularly leads Service parties over the battlefield.



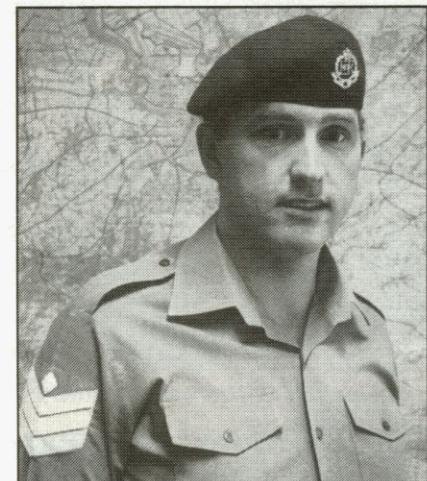
Still going strong after 33 years. This AEC veteran started first time for SSM Chris Allen. One AEC ten tonner has only 1,035 miles on its clock



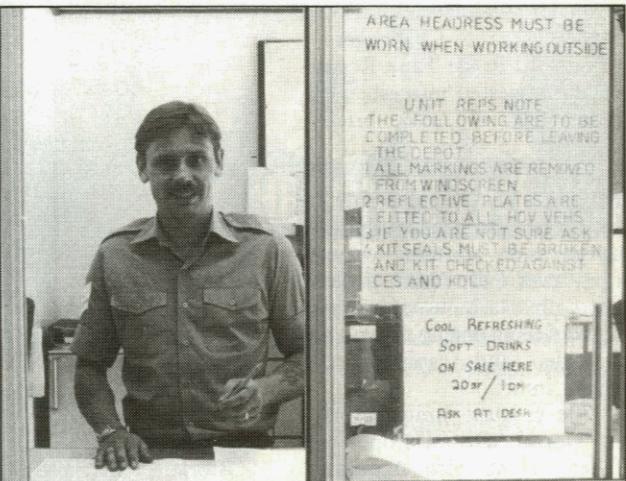
New face at Emblem Camp is Senior Chaplain Peter Clemett, known to hundreds of young officers because of his last posting – five years at Sandhurst



LCpl Steve Dunn and Roger Lievens, a Belgian mechanic, with their rescue truck. So far this year the REME recovery service's vehicles have covered 10,000 miles



SSGT Alastair Ross RMP whose beat covers Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. In two years his vehicles have logged 150,000km



Sign here please. Drivers of millions of pounds worth of vehicles finish their documentation at Sgt Derek Adamson's window before leaving Ord Depot Antwerp



Emblem Commcen members Cpl Caron Cable, Sgt David Watts and LCpl Heather Stevenson

TA exercise season puts the REME's recovery service to the test

look to their laurels.

So far this year their rescue vehicles have covered nearly 10,000 miles and carried out 174 tasks.

ASM Harris warns soldiers who break down in their private cars against calling in REME. The use of the heavy lifting vehicles would cost them dear.

Last year they totalled 23,000 miles and though some trips were only between local bases others went as far as

Nijmegen at the far end of Holland. Recovery are not, by the way, looking for business.

The overall scale of the Comm Z operation may be gauged from the figures of 6,000 vehicles, 50,000 tons of freight and 30,000 troops "processed" through the Low Countries via Antwerp and Zeebrugge last year for training in BAOR.

Any local garage will charge only a fraction of the price," he said.

The scene as the new Challengers were unloaded at Antwerp spotlighted the service provided.

Guided by a Belgian civilian, SSGT Jeff Strange, RAOC,

backed the 60-ton tanks through the doors of the Sir Percivale with apparently an inch to spare on either side.

Low loaders from 617 Tank Transporter Squadron RCT under 2nd Lt Richard Corbett took them aboard watched by Lt Simon Laugherne and

troopers of 3 RTR.

SSGT Dave Smith, in a smart white safety helmet, busied himself with the paperwork.

"There are two lots of everyone to deal with," said Maj Ray Taylor, RCT, from Emblem's Movement Control Centre, "two lots of customs,

two lots of police, two lots of military . . ."

Officially the Challengers are imports and exports on the Belgian and Dutch frontiers.

Is it possible that when the EEC barriers come down in 1992 they will be allowed to enter by the Green Channel?

● Turn to next page

Emblem hides shattered fortress

THE DAY Winston Churchill went to Lier in 1914 the enemy artillery was blowing holes in the cobbled roads and ranging on the spot to the north where the HQ British Communication Zone now stands.

Then 40 and First Lord of The Admiralty, Winston recorded that it took him only 20 minutes to drive from the uproar of the firing line manned by the Royal Marine Brigade to the peace of the dining room of one of Antwerp's best hotels.

The Marines, later part of the Royal Naval Division, were helping to defend Antwerp alongside the Belgian Army but the city quickly fell after 17-inch shells breached the ring of forts.

A striking example of the vulnerability of the defence lies within the perimeter of Emblem Camp (named after a nearby village) and the home of the HQ (BR) Comm Z.

Fort Broechem is virtually in the condition in which the Kaiser's howitzers left it.

Daylight (and rain) streams

FORT BROECEM

•From Page 27

through the gaping shell holes. Bursts which did not penetrate clearly had the same effect as HESH on armour, knocking "scabs" of rubble from the ceilings.

"There are still unexploded shells in the moat according to some reports," said Capt Tom Mouat RAOC who has explored every inch of the ruin.

The Belgians had to show great ingenuity to build their forts. Because of the saturated ground they were unable to sink deep emplacements or tunnel into hills (as at Verdun for example).

Instead they built concrete casemates and barracks on the surface covering them with earth dug from the perimeter. The excavations then filled with water to provide a moat.

A perfect example of this form of construction has been

uncovered at Breendonk some miles from Emblem but a dark shadow lies over this gem of military archaeology.

The Nazis used Breendonk as a concentration camp and in 1944 employed slave labour to dig away the covering soil so the inmates could be observed. Soil was heaped on the other side of the moat (but has since been removed).

Breendonk has been preserved as a national memorial to those who suffered there. The gallows and the torture chamber with its gutter to drain off blood are all on view.

The site used by the firing squad is identical to a similar site at Broechem occasionally used by visiting TA as a range. It was chosen without any knowledge of its sinister counterpart — both have excellent range safety characteristics!



The power of the big guns of 1914 is dramatically illustrated in this picture of Fort Broechem in the grounds of Emblem Camp near Antwerp. Capt Tom Mouat, RAOC, is dwarfed by the hole made by a 17-inch howitzer shell fired in 1914.

It tore through a dense mass of coarse concrete and exploded inside the building. The metal visible (at the top) was probably part of the last minute efforts to strengthen Broechem. When the chances of war increased, the Belgians learned that the German firm of Krupp, which has supplied the steel for their forts, was also producing guns capable of penetrating them!

AT camp's nothing Lesse than exciting!

FOR their annual adventurous training camp the men based in the British Communication Zone took to the hills of the Ardennes away from the flat-as-a-pancake region where they normally work.

Maj Humphrey Jones RAOC chose a picturesque spot by the River Lesse but could do nothing about the weather.

After one deluge the Lesse rose by a metre and a half, a gale flattened a couple of tents and a huge tree came crashing down.

The soldiers pulled five civilian canoeists from the fast flowing water — two of whom were in great danger of drowning.

Yet when the SOLDIER team called everyone was enjoying themselves in their own way.

Canoeists were practising launches from a high bank under the supervision of instructors Cpl Tom Emmott and Cpl Tony Carpenter from Ordnance Depot Antwerp.

A few miles away Lt Sarah



Above — High diving off the river bank can lead to tricky situations. Inset — 2nd Lt Sarah Whatmough WRAC of Ord Depot Antwerp instructs Pte Richard Chambers during abseiling at the summer camp

Whatmough WRAC directed abseiling and climbing on a cliff face at a beauty spot. Clearly every one of her pupils had confidence in the perky little all-round athlete.

Not everyone was madly energetic. Sgt John Wood-

house and a small group of soldiers were studying nature — a mole which continued to cut a track across the surface regardless of a growing audience.

WO1s Neal Corless and Mick Cooney concentrated on

the serious business of fishing and trying to stay dry at the same time.

Was it coincidence that the track leading to the British tents passed a large notice which proclaimed "Camping Paradiso"?



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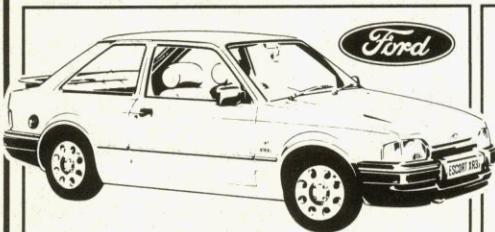
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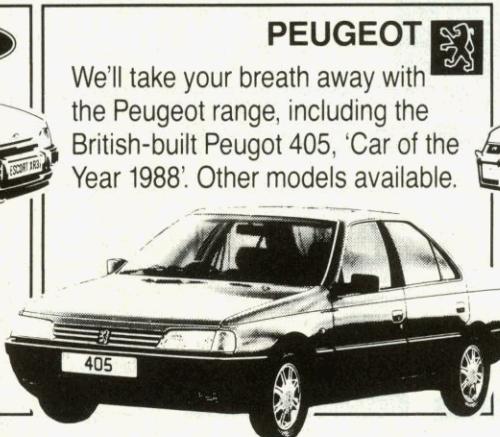
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Lt Col Les Brown, Chief Admin Officer, pictured outside a section of the fire-ravaged B1 warehouse, where stores damage estimated at £147m

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TUITION GUARANTEED

Writer Jennifer Griffiths and photographer Terry Champion report from COD Donnington



Looking to the future is Lt Col Dan Putt, Chief Planning Officer at COD Donnington

After the fire

ARSON is still an option being looked at as a Board of Inquiry continues into the second major fire disaster in five years at COD Donnington near Telford in Shropshire.

The exact cause has not as yet been pinpointed, but earlier on the day of the second fire – April 25 this year – there had been a minor fire in a different part of the same building, called B1, which had been put out by COD's own firemen.

Both fires in B1 started during tea breaks, and the second blaze destroyed technical spares, including gun barrels, worth £147m. Salvage work is still continuing. One third of the building is left standing and its future is under discussion.

The other major fire involved building B6, on June 24, 1983, when textiles and technical stores worth an estimated £150m were lost.

Lt Col Les Brown, Chief



Bill Francis, ex Royal Scots, is the doyen of the Army Fire Service at COD Donnington, with 42 years in fire-fighting. Bill, a 62-year-old sub officer, fought both the establishment's major blazes

Admin Officer, said losses from B1 would cause problems. "But because of storage policies, items that are considered strategically important have

been safeguarded and the effect on these is limited."

Donnington holds a wide range of technical equipment and spares and also the Army's forms and publications. It is one of three major units and seven minor ones which comprise Donnington Garrison. As well as being the regimental garrison, it houses 15 Battalion RAOC.

COD Donnington covers 300 acres with ten miles of road and nine miles of railway. It has 1,596 civilian staff, 500 military personnel and 140 WRACs.

But after the war the workforce was reduced dramatically, and its ratio of military to civilian staff reversed. In the past six years civilian manpower strength has been reduced from 460 non-industrial staff and 1,447 industrial staff to 441 and 1,155 respectively.

Over the years there has been a gradual reduction in the quantity of similar stocks held, countered by a progressive increase in the range of items on the Donnington inventory.

This means there are today 700,000 items headings, compared with 70,000 in 1940.

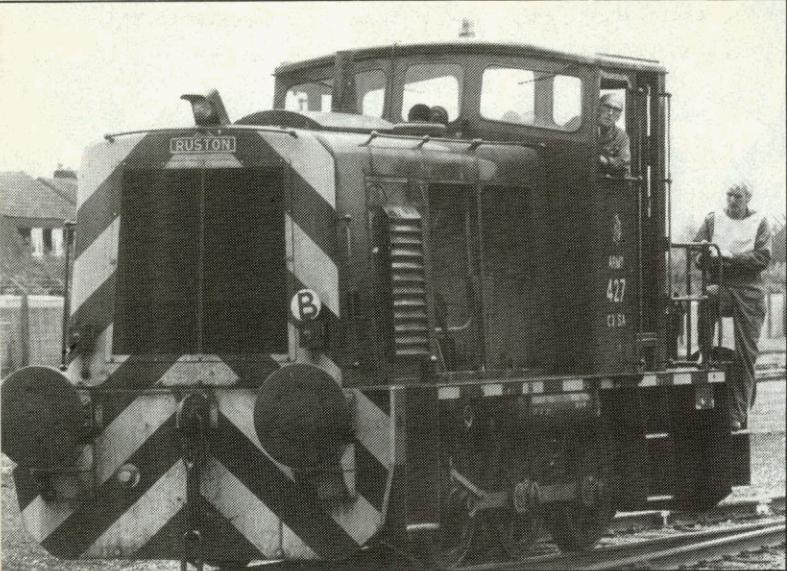
In 1975 textiles were moved to Donnington, and the Grantham Depot closed. Further modernisation meant the Chilwell Depot could close and transfer.

Col Putt said: "The changes demanded major improvements to space utilisation with heavy investment in modern storage and the first centralisation of depot functions and services.

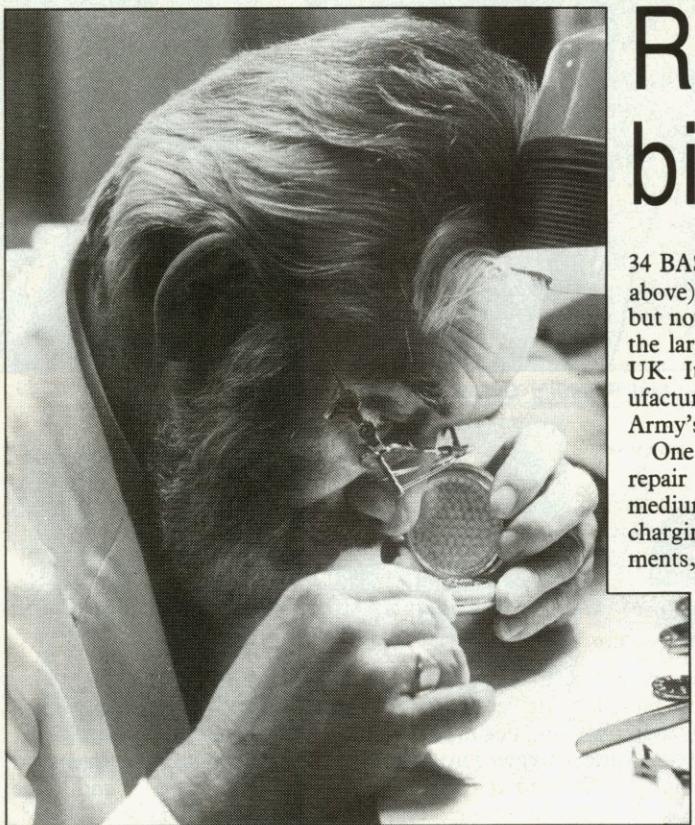
"In 1991, we will be absorbing a new generation of computer systems. The future, after a decade of continuous change, will bring many new challenges. But new capital investment is being matched by a continuing good return, shown in increased productivity while achieving a slimming down in operating costs and manpower."

Donnington's primary role is

● Turn to next page



Many Army top brass are counted among the fans of this Rushton loco with a Paxman engine, one of three in use at COD Donnington. Driver Willy Baker is pictured with leading shunter, John Perry



A pair of special specs make it all the better to see with for the Army's watch and clock repairer, Allen Gittens, who is part of the Instruments repair branch at COD Donnington

REME workshop is biggest in the UK

34 BASE WORKSHOP REME (pictured above) which is collocated with the COD, but not part of it nor commanded by it, is the largest of four base workshops in the UK. Its role is the base repair and manufacture of military equipment to meet the Army's operational requirements.

One of its main tasks is to provide base repair to armoured vehicles, light and medium field artillery, generators, charging sets, field and survey instruments, radio, line, electronic equipment, small arms, machine guns, and electrical and electronic test equipment.

Another is to design and manufacture special equipment

and to inspect, modify and repair stores and equipment identified by Stores Inspection Detachment, REME Donnington.

They also provide unit and field support repairs to the equipment of 250 units of the Regular, Territorial, CCF and ACF units in Western District and Wales. Additional support tasks include mechanical handling equipment repair for COD Donnington and Wheelbarrow for all units in the UK. And they also provide a 24-hour recovery service.

After the fire

From Page 31

the receipt, storage and issue of technical equipment and stores. It receives an average of 500 trade receipts each working day from more than 1,000 suppliers, and issues to 3,000 customers world-wide.

It provides technical training for military and civilian personnel, ranging from basic storehouse procedure and supervisory courses, to health and safety courses, and qualifying courses on a variety of materials-handling equipment. It also has a YTS course.

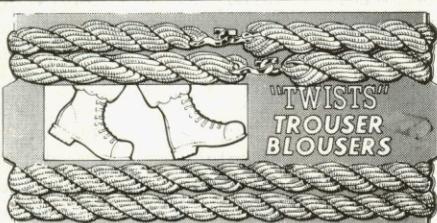
B54 is an unimaginative name for a warehouse that contains an Aladdin's cave of small arms. It cost between £7m and £8m to build, came into use between January and

April, and replaces B3, which is being converted for other uses.

It has a micro tracking system for identifying and tracing individual weapons and weapons spares. The warehouse has high-rise pallet racking of 44ft, and the new SA 80 has increased the workload of the 102 staff five-fold.

Items are checked by REME and there is a 24-hour service to meet any emergency. They also maintain and hold Wheelbarrow, the remote handling equipment used in bomb disposal.

And for the time being the warehouse has a special temporary role. It is home for more than 2,000 treasures, holding in bond items for its museum due to open next year.



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A/25

Men of 42 Ordnance Company wear two hats. They provide spares support to 19 Infantry Brigade AND double up as the brigade commander's infantry company

Words by Jennifer Griffiths

Pictures by Mike Weston

NUTS AND BOLTS INFANTRY

THE MEN of 42 Ordnance Company, based in Colchester, have been able to show just how well organised and efficient they are – whatever the task.

They had the gigantic job of supplying thousands of items – from nuts and bolts to large technical spares – for SIMEX 88. It was a vital job that lasted eight months for Cpl Des Bradder and Kev Wheldon. Now colleagues compare them with Falklands War reporter Brian Hanrahan who “counted them all out, and counted them all back”.

The company, formed through the RAOC restructuring, originates from 19 Ord Field Park, 7 Field Force Ord Coy, and, more recently, 32 Ord Coy, and is part of Colchester based 19 Infantry Brigade.

Maj David Littlewood, OC, says his men are in no doubt about their role: “We are soldiers first and tradesmen second. 19 Inf Bde is an independent brigade which, in itself, is unusual.

“That makes 42 Coy unusual, because it, too, is an independent company. In all circumstances, we are part of them and we go everywhere with them.

“Generally, our role is to supply a range of ordnance materials and services to the brigade. Our second role is as the brigade commander's infantry company, which means we must be prepared to do any task he asks us.

Maj David Littlewood

“We must be prepared to relieve any brigade unit in the line. We must be able to put in attack positions, take over the responsibility of a reserve demolition guard, or any job we are given.

“We have a dual purpose. In the event of war we would move with 19 Bde to BAOR, and then we would also become part of 4 Division Third Ordnance Coy, which is part of 4 Ord Batt, part of 4 Division. We would be ready to move at immediate notice.”

The company is ideally placed at McMunn Barracks, says the major.

“It is central to all units of 19 Bde, is with the greatest concentration of 19 Bde units, and is in modern, well-equipped accommodation close to brigade headquarters.”

Average age of the 100



Cpl Des Bradder and Kev Wheldon “counted them all out and counted them all back” when they supplied thousands of items for SIMEX 88



Twiki quickie!



Cpl Robert “Twiki” Robinson (29) will shortly be receiving a BEM for his 12 years of charity work in which he has raised £17,532. He has used a number of novel ways to persuade people to give cash to his good causes.

His *pièce de résistance* is to drink a pint of beer, standing on his head, without using his hands.

His best time is under two seconds, much to the amazement of (from the left) Cpl Andy Geddes, LCpl “Taff” Dineen and Pte Pete Gosling

42 Ord Coy is the first ordnance unit to use the new 14 ton Bedford TM 6-6, replacing the AEC ten-tonners which are twice as old as many of the soldiers using them. Pte Mark “Smudge” Smith (pictured) finds the new model more reliable, and more comfortable. The Bedford TM 6-6 can carry a bigger load and keep up with the rest of the brigade



Members of 42 Ord Coy practice with L4A4s. The unit takes its infantry role seriously

soldiers is now down to 21, a lowering common to other ordnance companies and for which there is no apparent reason. Training is continuous throughout the year whether it is OC training month, or the brigade training syllabus, which takes them to Germany and Denmark.

There are opportunities for other foreign travel. Personnel from the Stock Control Centre and storehouse staff have been detached to Australia, Canada, Kenya, Belize and Cyprus. Storehouse staff have also been to Northern Ireland and the Falklands.

Maj Littlewood says: “We

work hard and sometimes unsocial hours, which is only to be expected in such a busy organisation. Where possible, I try to ensure that we all have a long weekend once a month when there is no block leave. My motto is a simple one – I believe in working hard and playing hard.”

On the trail of John Bull's wars

EMPIRES inevitably come to an end, either in a blood bath or simply in the creation of a void the filling of which may take even centuries, such as when the Romans packed their bags and left their conquered lands.

Despite much misgiving, the dissolution of the British Empire was comparatively peaceful, considering the speed with which erstwhile colonies gained independence.

Nevertheless, there were numerous armed conflicts from the time in November 1918 when Lord Curzon declared: "The British flag has never flown over a more powerful and united Empire... never did our voice count more in the council of nations; or in the determining of the future destinies of mankind."

In *Imperial Rearguard*, Lawrence James examines these often little known wars of Empire fought since the end of the First World War: in India, the mandated territories of Iraq and Palestine, Egypt, South Arabia and the Gulf, troubles

that persisted until 1967 with the Aden campaign, not to mention Malaya, Brunei, Sarawak and many others.

Many will take issue with the author for his inclusion of the Irish troubles in this catalogue; it can be argued that Ireland, a component of the British Isles, cannot be considered historically as part of the Empire. However, Lawrence James introduces this unhappy conflict in a chapter headed "John Bull's Other Wars".

The most potent message of the book is carried in the sentence: "The sombre debacle at Singapore in February 1942 and the subsequent collapse of power throughout South East Asia and the Pacific did more than just shatter the facade of British Imperial Power; the essential weaknesses in the structure of the edifice were revealed." — BJ

Imperial Rearguard: Wars of Empire 1919-85, by Lawrence James. Published by Brassey's Defence Publishers. Price £19.95.

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Over this terrain battles more akin to those of nearly 30 years later were fought, involving cavalry, infantry, aircraft, armoured cars and camel-borne tribesmen.

It was a campaign later described by Liddell Hart as "one of history's masterpieces".

David L Bullock tells the story of the Palestine-Arabian battles of 1916-18 in *Allenby's War*, a first attempt to portray the campaign as the joint Allied-Arab co-operative venture it was.

Inevitably, it is also the story of Lawrence of Arabia and the unleashing of Arab nationalism epitomised in the revolt against

the tyranny of the Turkish Empire administrators.

It is in the methods of fighting miles behind enemy lines used by Lawrence with Arab collaboration that are found the foundations of modern guerilla warfare.

The author looks at the series of campaigns that culminated in what he calls the "last crusade", basing historical fact on official accounts, diaries and declassified data.

More than 150 photographs and maps provide a graphic impression of what life was like.

It is a book with relevance to today, as in that period was born the political geography that gives the Middle East its importance. The reader will close the covers with a greater understanding of current problems. — BJ

Allenby's War: The Palestine-Arabian Campaigns 1916-1918, by David L Bullock. Published by Blandford Press. Price £14.95.

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The Normandy Nobodies by Geoff Boel. A light-hearted look at "the unit which wheeled and dealied its way through the Normandy invasion". Published by Blandford Press. Price £10.95.

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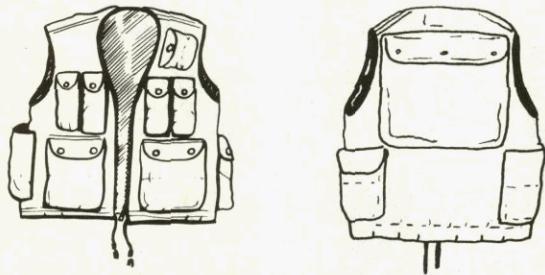
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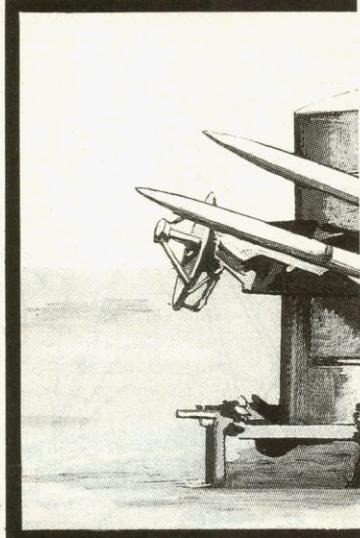
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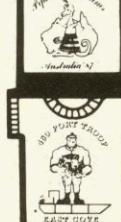
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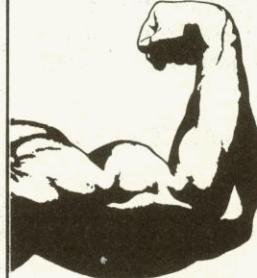
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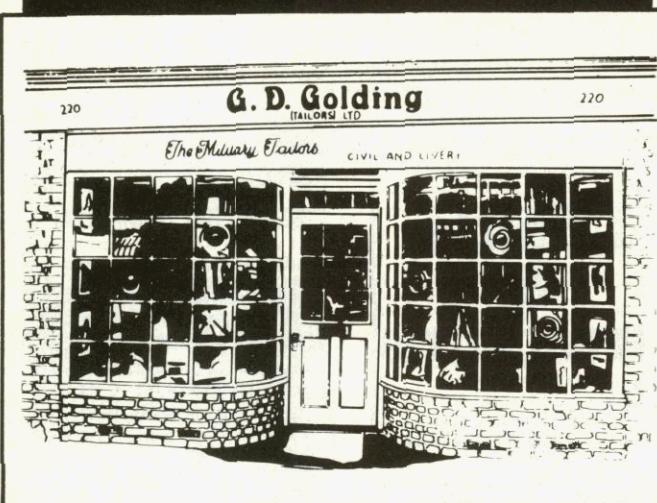
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marksmen of 20 years of age can do nothing useful first time with a shotgun.

The quick, crisp, swinging and checking movements of shotgun handling while training for moving targets and speeding up reflexes, also tightens the muscles into the shooting position and gives the rifleman a steady hand much more quickly than the traditional static holding exercises.

We should, in our training sessions, absolutely forbid the use of sandbag or any other kind of support. It induces the conviction that, when the time comes the soldier will somehow improvise something – a convenient pack perhaps! – **R J C Holmes, Flat 19, Haldane Court, Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2AG.**

Calling . . .

● The Eighth Army Veterans' Association (Sussex Branch)

El Alamein Reunion will be held in the Town Hall, Sussex on October 22. All ex Service personnel are welcome. Details and tickets from E J Pretty, The Garage, Partridge Green, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 8JS or Daniel Dacey, 87 Staplefield Drive, Brighton BN2 4RH.

● Former members of **Prince Rupert School CCF**, this year celebrating its 40th anniversary. The school moved from Wilhelmshaven to Rinteln in 1972 and many of its records before the move were lost. Reminiscences to Capt F Smith (TAVR), Prince Rupert School, Rinteln, BFPO 20.



GAMES for the Games! Four members of staff at the Depot and Training Regiment RCT in Buller Barracks, Aldershot ran themselves ragged completing 273 games of squash to raise money for the British Olympic Appeal. Their efforts made £650 and a cheque for that amount was handed by their CO, Lt Col Mike Carver, to Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director Army Sport Control Board. It was the final sum in the Army's contribution

Army raises nearly £12,000 for Olympics

of nearly £12,000 to the Olympic Appeal. From left to right are SSgt Terry Wilcox, Cpl Danny Stewart, Lt Col Carver, Gen Yeoman, Sgt Tommy Need and Sgt Mitch Godden.

Army athletes completing in

Seoul include 400m hurdler SSgt Kriss Akabusi and sprinter Cpl Clarence Calender, modern pentathletes Lt Dominic Mahoney and Cpl Peter Hart, and weightlifter Sgt Raymond Williams.

Blunders sink trial team at Uxbridge

THE ARMY's representative soccer season opened with matches against Uxbridge and the Amateur Football Alliance which served as trials for a squad of 16 in which there were only three players with senior football experience, writes Pat Massey.

The squad included no central defenders or recognised strikers but was nevertheless unlucky to lose both games by narrow margins.

Army XI 0 Uxbridge 2

Silly defensive blunders allowed Uxbridge to score a goal in each half. The Army achieved some very good approach work but wasted several scoring opportunities.

AFA 2 Army XI 1

Sgt "Phooe" Wiscombe, APTC, was a gamekeeper turned poacher when he headed home a real beauty against the AFA after good work by Cpl Steve Welsh, R Signals. The previous evening Wiscombe had played in goal against Uxbridge.

Tiring legs in the final 20 minutes let in the AFA for two goals although Lt Simon Salisbury, RAPC, did hit the woodwork with the 'keeper well beaten.

D and D take on champs

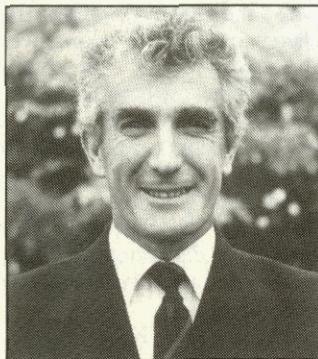
Fresh start to next 100 years

A NEW backroom team is swinging into action as the Army Football Association began its 101st season with trial matches against Uxbridge, the Amateur Football Alliance, the Prison Service and Carshalton.

Following last season's brilliantly successful centenary campaign – during which the Army won the Inter-Services crown and the South West Counties title – six members of the squad have been posted to West Germany and there are new names in the front office and on the coaching staff.

Long serving secretary Maj Alan Dobson (now happily restored after illness in the summer) has handed over to Maj Terry Knight, while QMSI Tom Armstrong, APTC has succeeded Derek Old as coach.

Team manager Maj Jim Geoghegan is leaving the



Maj Terry Knight

Army in the New Year and has handed over to Maj Bill Tweddle, RAOC, whose assistant, SSgt Al Mundy, ACC, has replaced WO1 Chris Richardson.

On the field the Army will be led again by Sgt Sandy Brown, R Signals, who is now based at Chelsea. Brown celebrated a personal centenary – of Army caps – at the end of the last

season, and will be hoping to add substantially to them.

Goal scoring ace Cpl Mick Cheetham, R Signals, will also be hoping to add to his tally – unless he gets a better offer from Ipswich Town for whom he has made reserve team appearances.

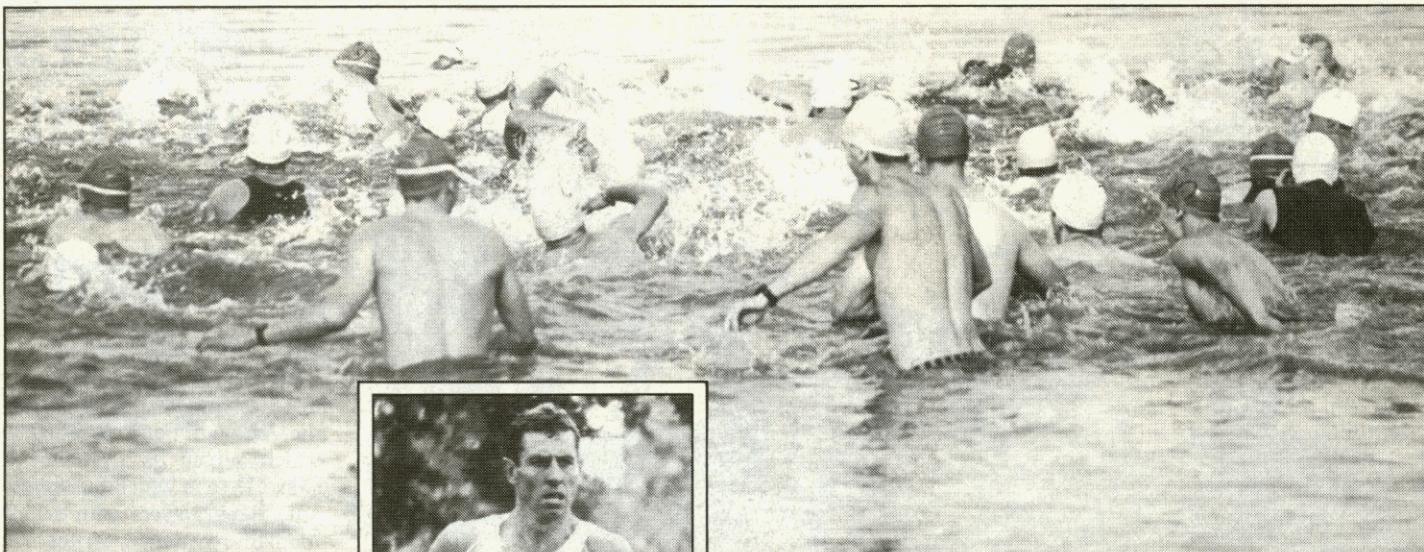
Long serving Cpl Chris Lomas, Army goalkeeper for the past decade, has decided to hang up his boots.

Exercise and operational demands cut down the number of prospective players available for the trials, but the selectors were still hoping to have a good look at about 40 hopefuls, including at least one youngster who had been on books of a major First Division club.

Units with players reckoned to be up to Army standard are urged to contact the AFA at Clayton Barracks, Aldershot at any time during the season.

SCHOOL of Signals, Blandford begin their defence of the Wilsons Hogg Robinson Army Challenge Football Cup with a first round tie against Bulford based 1 Bn The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

BAOR champions 28 Amph Engr Regt RE received a preliminary round bye and meet either 22 Sig Regt or 1 Corps Troops in the first round.



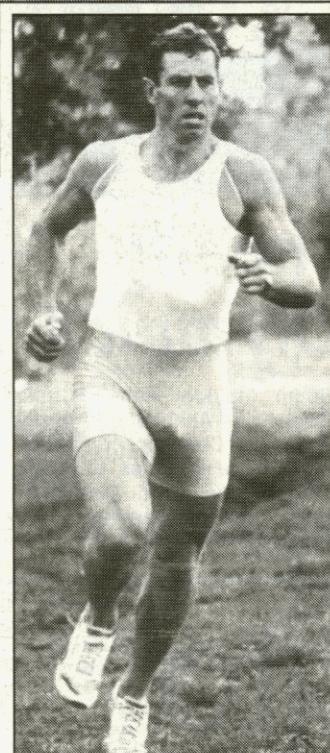
Above - Competitors take to the water at the start of the 3 Armd Div triathlon. Right - WO2 Jim Wood crosses the finishing line.

Wood is first to line

COMPETITORS entered the chill waters of the Mohnesee and set off on the 800m swim to the Mohnesee Sailing Club on the south shore to start the 3rd Armoured Division's annual triathlon.

The fifth annual event, it attracted a field of 80 competitors.

Emerging from the water at the end of the swim participants quickly dried off, put on dry clothing and footwear before mounting their cycles and setting off on a 25km race through the nearby forest. Final event was a gruelling



10km road race.

The charity sponsored event was won by WO2 Jim Wood, APTC, of 3rd Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment in a time of 1hr 35min 24sec. Second was Cpl Keith Balsdon, 204 Sig Sqn and third Cpl Pete Murphy, 3rd Armd Div Tpt Regt. Team winners were 22 Sig Regt followed by 3 RTR.



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Close finish in canoe marathon

THREE Inter-Service canoeing championships were staged in a crowded seven day period during September, with honours being evenly shared between the three Services, writes Wilf Nicholson.

The Army won the Wellington Cup as marathon champions, the Royal Navy became the sprint champions, and the Royal Air Force retained their hold on the slalom championship.

But there was not much in it, with the RAF winning the slalom by just two points over the Army, and the Navy stealing the sprint title by just three points from the Army.

The slalom was held in North Wales on the "graveyard" section of the Tryweryn (its tally this time included a dislocated shoulder, many cuts and bruises, and a broken canoe).

The prestige K1 event was won by the RAF a mere 0.3 sec ahead of 2nd Lt John Atkinson (19 Fd Regt). Atkinson was also a member of the K1 team which achieved second place, the other paddlers being Maj Stewart Norman, WFR, and Cpl Andy Dobson, 16 Sig Regt.

In the Canadian canoe events the C2 winners were Lt Paul Hepworth, ACC, SSgt Jim Waterhouse, MCTC, SSgt Bob Wood, 1/3 TRRE, Cpl Alison Winkles, UKLF School of AT,

App Ian Grewcock, Chepstow, and App Bonny Boniface, Harrogate, Wood and Grewcock also won gold medals in the individual C2 event.

There were more Army winners in the marathon, paddled over 13 miles of the Trent and including four portages. Cpl Ted Heath won the K1 and Capt Steve Jackson and Dvr Lenny Pritchard, after a disastrous start, beat the Navy crew by half a length to win the K2 cup.

The sprints were held at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, and Steve Jackson partnered Ted Heath to victory in the K2 500m.

They were third in the 1,000m. Gold medals were also won by the Army K4 crews in the 1,000m and 500m races.

Coming up are the Army's canoe surfing championships at Saunton Sands, North Devon on October 7-9, followed on October 16 by the inaugural Inter-Services surfing championships.

Whitbread race entry approved

THE Army will definitely be contesting the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race in a year's time. Ministerial approval has been given for the Army Sailing Association entry.



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Two soldiers of 1 PWO—part of 24 Airmobile Brigade—crouch for cover as an RAF Chinook helicopter used to transport troops during Exercise Lion's Body at Catterick, Yorks lifts off from a landing zone after disgorging its human cargo. A feature on 24 Airmobile Brigade, which has been demonstrating its airmobile capability on Salisbury Plain for members of the NATO Military Committee, starts on Page 15.

Picture: Mike Perring

