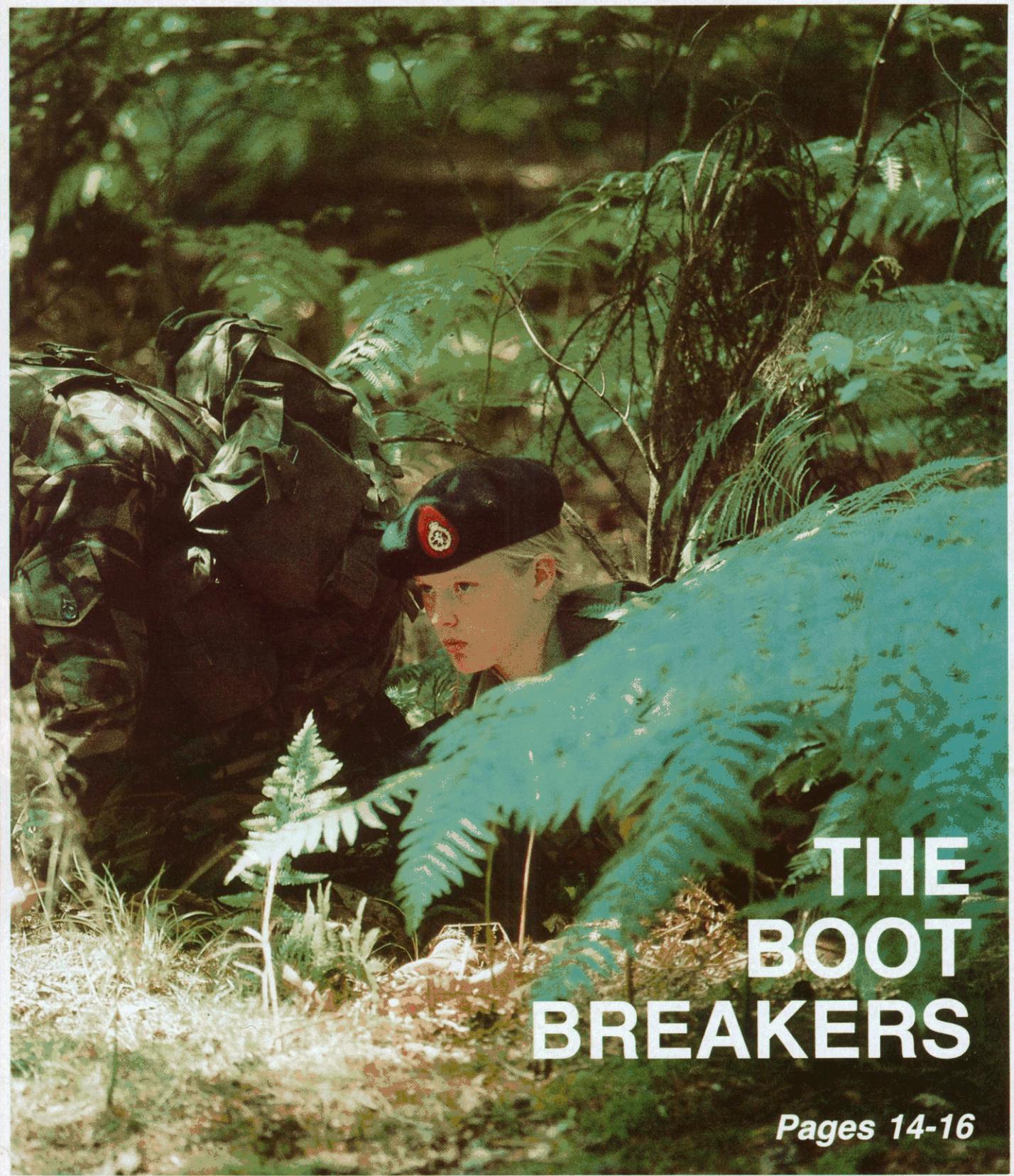


THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY • 35 PENCE • 11 AUGUST 1986

SOLDIER



THE
BOOT
BREAKERS

Pages 14-16

SPECIAL FORCES JOURNAL

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COMMENCING
PUBLICATION
OCTOBER 1986

VOL. 42/16

11 AUGUST 1986

CONTENTS

- 5 Mametz Wood quest
- 8 People
- 10 Maildrop
- 11 News
- 14 Exercise Boot Breaker
- 17 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 18 Exercise Druid's Delight
- 21 Salisbury Plain heritage
- 22 Anne Armstrong
- 25 The Berlin Wall
- 30 UDR tattoo
- 32 Kiwi clean-up
- 34 National Service exhibition
- 37 Book/record reviews
- 38 HOAY competition
- 39 Parascending
- 48 Bisley
- 50 Sport

FRONT COVER — A female face in the foliage. Not Belize but the undergrowth in deepest Blackdown, Surrey. Pte Susan Lyall of Crewe from No 1 Training Company, WRAC Centre, Guildford, taking part in the recruit Exercise Boot Breaker. See Pages 14-16.

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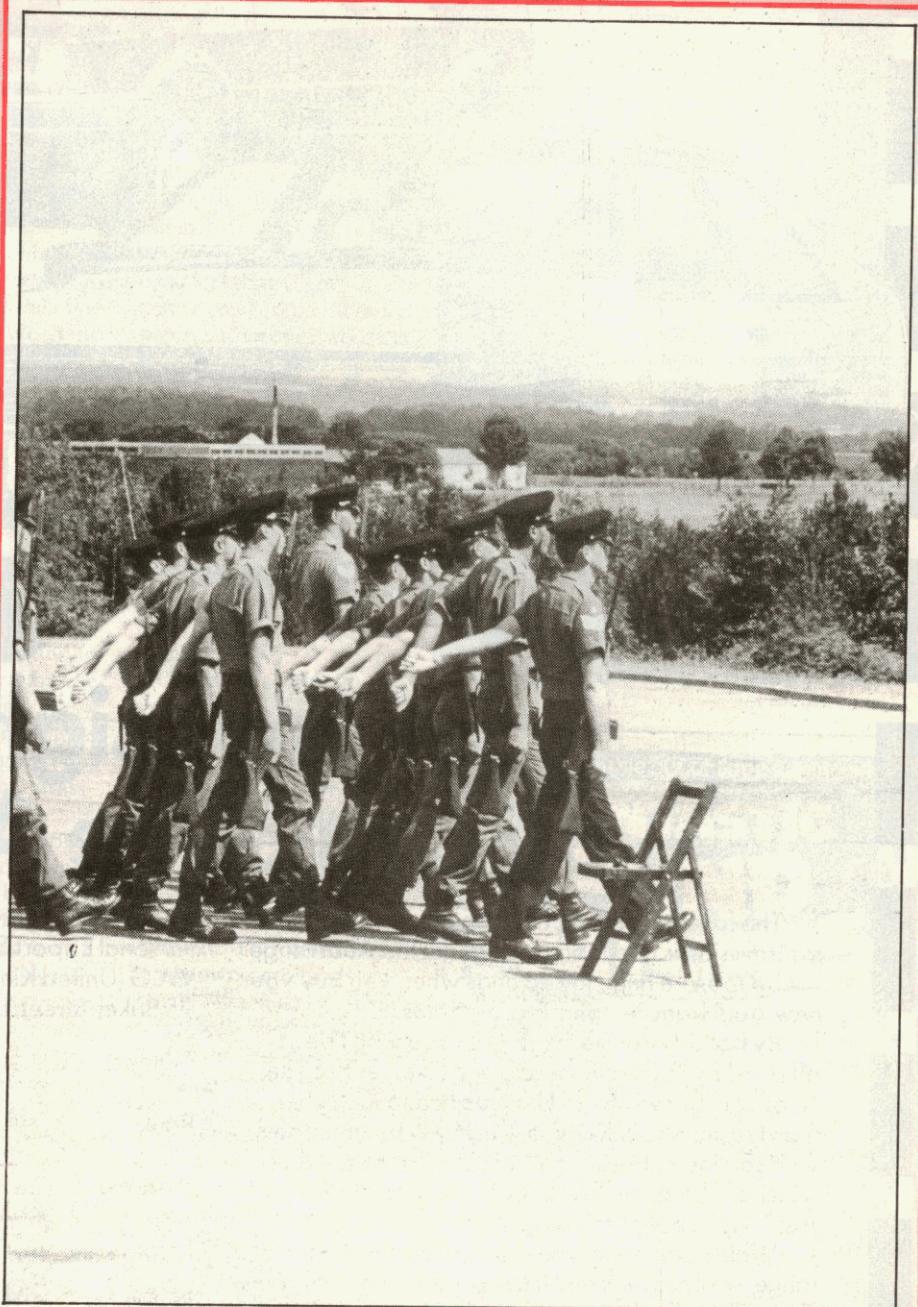
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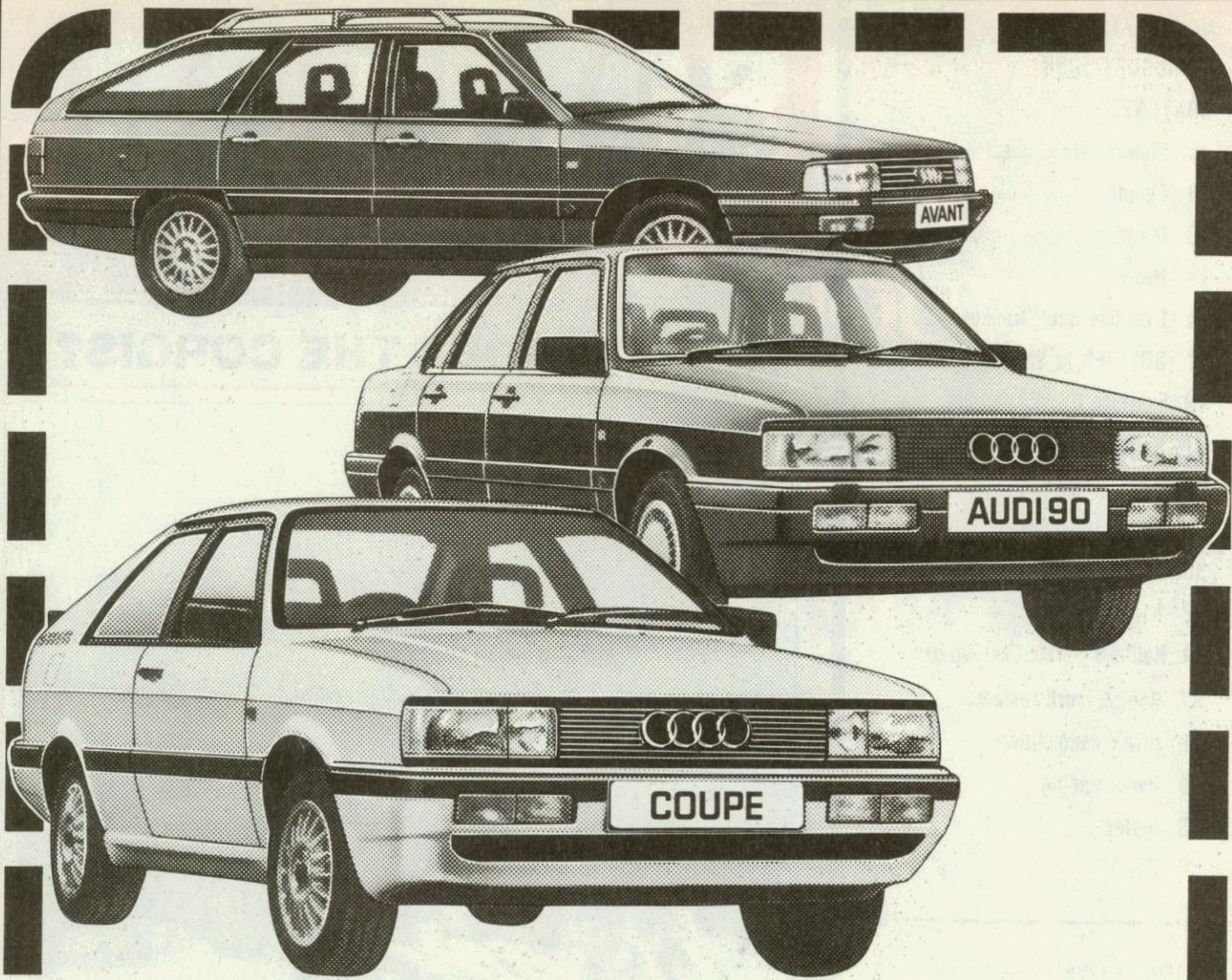
SOLDIER

INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

WHAT ABOUT THE CORGIS?



WHEN you haven't got a Royal gate handy, a folding chair will do nicely — especially when you are pretending it is situated outside Buckingham Palace! Men of 30th Signal Regiment at Blandford rehearse for their public duties at the palace. Story and pictures will appear in the next issue of SOLDIER.



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TOM'S MISSION

SOMME veteran 16775 Sergeant Tom Price, 89, who fought with the 13th Battalion, The Welsh Regiment (2nd Rhonddas), 38th (Welsh) Division has just one life ambition left. To unveil a special memorial to the Division on a hillside near the 'hammerhead' timbered salient of Mametz Wood where 4,000 of his countrymen died.

Tom has just returned for the second time since 1983 to see the planned site of the 15-foot-high obelisk destined to be topped by a red-painted Welsh dragon and incorporating a Division sign within sight of Flatiron Copse Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery where his boyhood chums lie.

The project, however, has its own objective — the raising of £22,000.

During the Mametz Wood actions of 70 years ago, Tom was shot in both legs. As he lay in a field, a shell-burst overhead sent shrapnel raining down "nearly taking my right hip away."

Surveying the scene from the cemetery, Tom lifted his walking stick and said with bitterness: "I've no proof, but the Germans were doing this to our wounded..."

He made downwards thrusting movements with his cane. Bayoneting!

"Our lads saw this and pushed through with increased vigour," he said.

Tom went on: "I have vivid memories of that time. I can still see lines of troops going forward. Cut down

A £22,000 memorial to Welsh heroes of Mametz Wood

like corn. You cannot imagine the effects of spray machine gun fire on us.

"We were watching the Cardiff City battalion at 0800 and could see their line withering away. We could not get anywhere near."

In 1983 Tom decided that the 38th (Welsh) Division would have its own memorial. "I had a bee in my bonnet," he explained. "There was going to be one."

The South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association joined him in his quest and started a fund to raise cash support for the proposed memorial.

As determined now as he was 70 years ago, Tom clambered up the grass-tucocked hillside to the site of the planned shrine. There, he hammered in a simple wooden billboard proclaiming the intention.

Earlier, there had been a commemorative service for the Division at the cemetery where Mr Harold Evans, chairman of the Mametz Wood Memorial Fund Committee, sang a solo Welsh

hymn in honour of the fallen.

Tom laid a wreath on the cemetery memorial stone and a small remembrance poppy and cross between the twin graves of two brothers promoted on the same day to lieutenant and later killed on the same day.

It is not clear which brother was felled by a sniper's bullet. His brother rushed out to help him and was downed in the same fashion. Leonard Tregaskis was 33 years old, his brother Arthur 32.

On July 5, 1916, 20,000 weary men of the 38th (Welsh) Division had moved into the front line to relieve the men of the 7th Division. Their objective; a strongly-defended, mile-square woodland in front of them.

The task was to be shared with the 17th (Northern) Division. The Welsh lads had known nothing except trench life. Facing them were battle-hardened soldiers of the Prussian Guard.

Things went wrong from the start. A smokescreen never materialised. Telephone wires were cut. Artillery failed to stifle the German machine guns.

The first attack petered out about 300 yards from the wood. Casualties were high.

By evening the attack was called off. To the west the 17th Division had also failed to reach the wood.

A second attack was ordered for July 10, the Welsh division making the main thrust, a frontal attack over uncompromising ground.



Tom at the graves of the Tregaskis brothers — killed on the same day

Turn to Page 35

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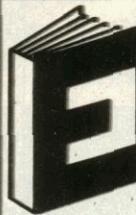
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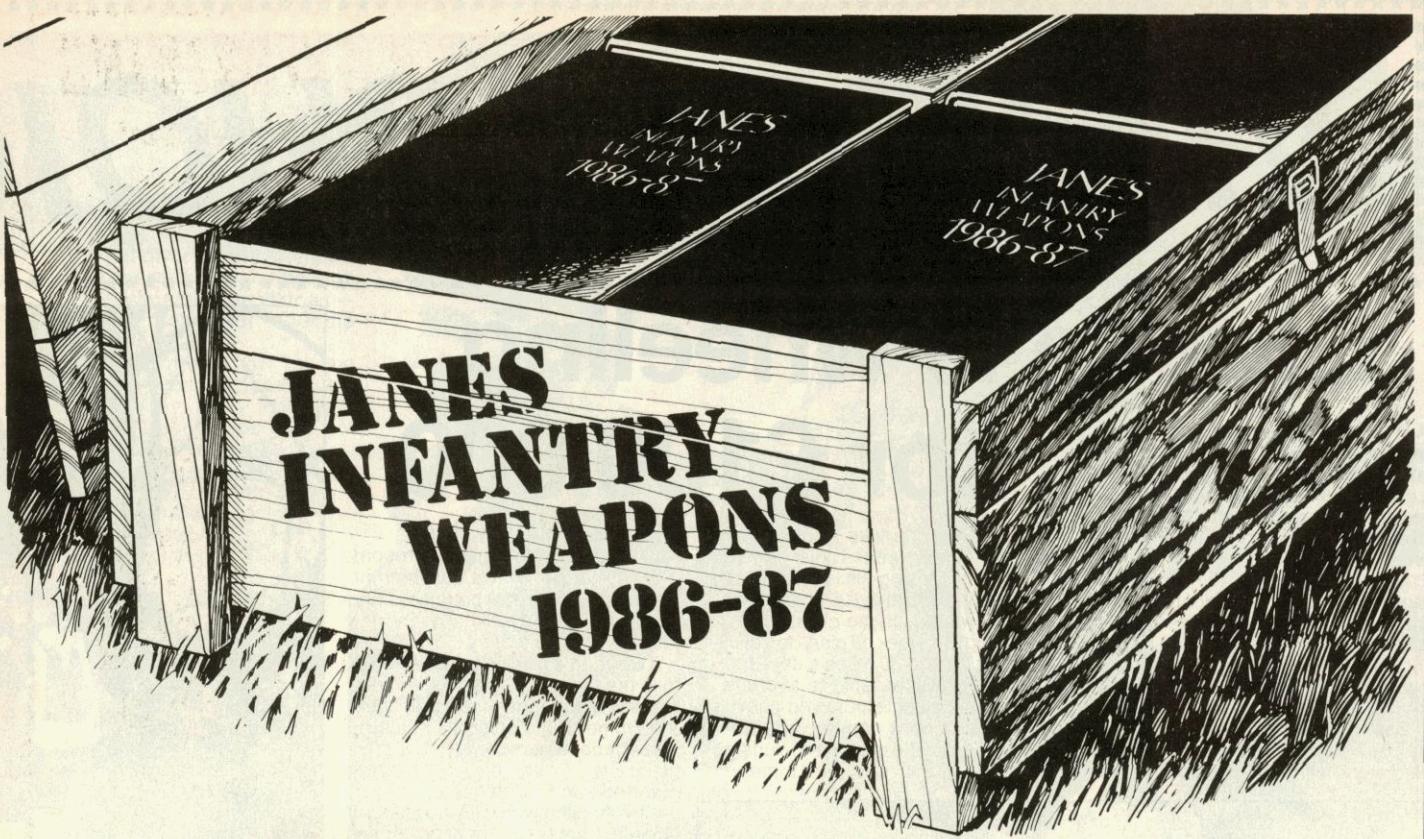
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VIKINGS' CHOICE

Charlie is wheeling for £100,000

A WAR veteran severely wounded in the Second World War is attempting the John o'Groats to Lands End trip to raise £100,000 for the Star and Garter Home for disabled ex-Servicemen and women.

Charlie Hankins, 66, who lost both legs in the North African desert campaign in 1943, is to attempt the journey in his hand-propelled invalid tricycle which he has modified in his own workshop. He bought the chair for just £2.

Back-up support will be provided by The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) with whom he served from

1938 to when he was wounded by German mortars near Tunis.

As well as losing his legs, he was also blinded in one eye and received gunshot wounds in the chest.

Starting this week he plans to travel between 20 and 30 miles a day, and reckons he will be able to average 8mph in his muscle-powered chair.

He has done a number of fund-raising journeys in the past, including one 60-mile trip from the Home in

Richmond, Surrey. Charlie has also made a record, *'They'll Aye Be Wi' Us* on which he sings and plays the bagpipes, and which he will be selling during the journey to raise money.

Two years ago he completed a 16-mile trip along the Thames from the Houses of Parliament to a point near the Home in his chair, to which he had attached home-made floats. He plans to finish his north-south marathon on September 22.

Anyone who would like to sponsor Charlie, or make a donation, should send it to The Charlie Hankins Royal Star and Garter Fund, PO Box 75, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6RL.



Odin rolls in with his barrel

Seven-year-old Odin is owned by TA medics Rosie and Mike Tedaldi so it's appropriate he should have the traditional medicinal brandy barrel carried by all good St Bernards. Odin was doing his bit to attract recruits to 257(S) General Hospital (V) at the Royal Norfolk Show.

Whether Anglia TV presenter Helen McDermott found his charm or his brandy barrel irresistible and signed on is not known. But one thing's for sure, Odin enjoyed meeting Helen and now looks like being signed up himself as the Army Medical Services' mascot.

Charlie Hankins... no legs, blind in one eye is now on his way from John o'Groats to Lands End to raise money for his old comrades at the Star and Garter Home

Wall 'tec Lynda builds a story

SOLDIER writer Graham Smith had good cause to appreciate the work of researcher Mrs Lynda Smedley when he visited Berlin to compile a feature on the 25th anniversary of the Wall.

Lynda's painstaking detective work produced the facts around which Smith wove his story (see Pages 25-29).

Wife of Maj Vaughan Smedley of 13 Signal Regiment, Berlin, Lynda was "hired" by Berlin's Army public information branch to undertake the massive excavation of words and pictures.

She visited 20 libraries in the divided city, mapping out events from 1945 until the building of the Wall on August 13, 1961, and beyond.

"Most of the books on the Wall were American-orientated," she told Smith, sharpening yet another

pencil. "I tried to find things of British interest and succeeded."

Her search took Lynda through a lot of archive film, and she received much help from the famous Checkpoint Charlie Museum in Friedrichstrasse.

A one-time York archaeologist and WRAC member of 16 Signal Regiment at Krefeld, Lynda also worked as personal assistant to UKLF C-in-C Sir Timothy Creasy from 1980-81.

Said Lynda: "There have been four generations of Wall. It has certainly altered my impressions of Berlin since we were posted here. It's an exciting city but it is so full of history, too."

Is she, then, an expert on the Wall?

"I'm sure there are a lot of questions I can't answer," she replied with a smile.

Ex 'Tiger' leads battlefield tour

A former CO of 1 Royal Hampshire Regiment, the Tigers, Lt Col Mike Martin, is organising and leading a tour to the Falklands battlefields in the South Atlantic.

Advertised as the "first ever battlefield

tour" of the islands, there are 16 vacancies for the March 9-18 trip at £1,995.

The price includes a return flight, full board, internal flights, insurance, talks and trips.

Claudia is their No. 1

What diverted the attention of these 1 Royal Anglians —nicknamed the Vikings — from delightful Claudia Martin?

We'll never know, but the camera recorded their quick look-away peep from their Page Three poppy.

Claudia was visiting the battalion in Londonderry, where they are based on a two-year tour, in her capacity as official pin-up of the battalion.

Sad to say our correspondent failed to reveal her vital statistics — colour of hair and eyes, age and the like.

But we don't need info like that to appreciate Claudia's a real bobby dazzler. The Vikings obviously think so, too, since they selected her from nine other beauties to be their No. 1 girl.

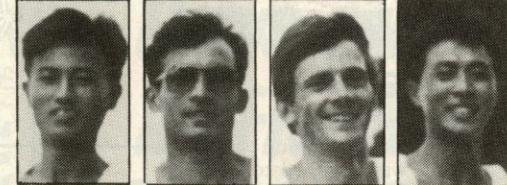


CLAUDIA MARTIN AND FRIENDS: attention diverted from a real bobby dazzler

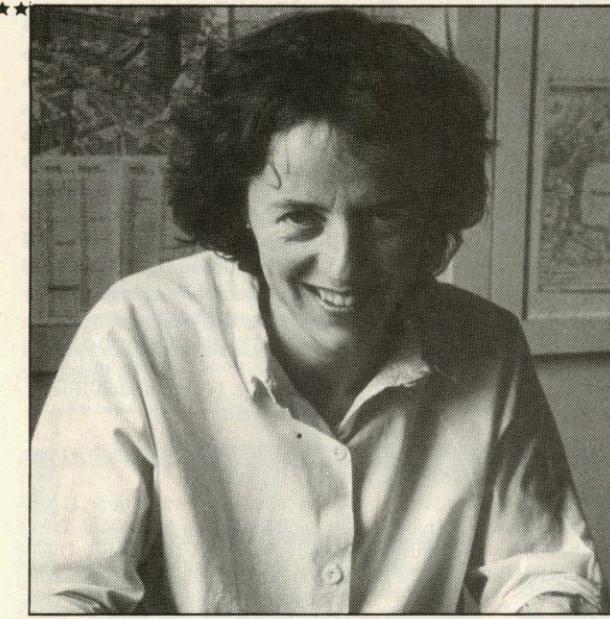
Marathon men bid for US fun-run prize

Few athletes run further than a marathon distance. So is the oft-mentioned loneliness a myth? It is if this quartet (right) are anything to go by. Pounding the streets of Hong Kong in preparation for the San Francisco marathon Rfn Mohansing Limbu (left), Cpl Ram Koirala, Capt John Palmer and Rfn Shankar Rai had not time to be alone — there's precious little room anyway.

They were a four-man team from the Gurkha Field Force in the Colony who were sponsored by an airline for the 26-mile race. Who won? Don't know. At the time of going to press they were still running!



PEOPLE



LYNDA SMEDLEY: painstaking work

Get in the picture for £35

NOTHING'S for nothing... but bargains can be had. September 12-13 are the dates to note, for then more than 100 prints of military paintings by well-known military artist Ken Howard go on sale.

And they will be at affordable prices and all signed by the artist

on the day.

With large pictures (24in x 18in) going for £35 and smaller ones down as low as £15, a donation from the sale of each picture will go to SSAFA.

Venue for this one-off special sale is The Drill Hall, Clare Street, Northampton.



Bullseye!

It's tough at the top... and finding out at first hand is Lt Col Dick Baly, commanding officer of the 3rd Armoured Division Signal Regiment. He took to the Aunt Sally stocks to raise money for children in need. And it was there that visitors to an annual fair organised by British soldiers serving in Soest, West Germany, had the chance — for a small fee — to pelt Lt Col Baly and other senior members of the regiment with paint-soaked sponges. But they should remember, revenge is sweet.

REVENGE IS SWEET



HELEN McDERMOTT AND ODIN: brandy barrel in place

Those 'silly little rifles' look daft on parade!

The Royal Marines looked simply daft with silly little rifles. They are quite unsuitable for ceremonial parades.

It is high time the Armed Forces of the Crown got things in their proper perspective. It is also time for them to stop blundering on with "faint accomplishment" methods.

There are such weird goings on. The Royal Tank Regiment wearing spurs and carrying swords! A Dragoon Guards sergeant saluting with a sword in a tank. To me, tradition has gone mad, also ceremonial.

The SLR and the Lee Enfield SMLE Mk3 would be ideal for all ceremonial purposes. Ceremonial and modern weapons cannot go hand in hand any longer; the two are now completely separate entities.

The Sterling gun looks absurd with the RAC. The Tankies' weapon is the revolver or pistol. My late father-in-law had one at Cambrai in 1917. This is a horrible little gun, no good at all. Get the Armalite or improve the SLR. — Peter T Stevenson, 15 Brettonby Gardens, Ryton, Tyne and Wear.

Sash of contention

Reading through *SOLDIER* (May 19) about the Cheshires taking over royal duties, I was surprised to see that the Drum Major was not wearing a red sash.

I appreciate that the ceremonial sash (Drum Majors) is not worn with a greatcoat but certainly a red sash. — E R Gay (Ex-Drum Major), 63 The Hill Avenue, Bath Road, Worcester WR5 2AN.

May I refer to the photograph of the Royal Artillery Massed Bands at rehearsal on Horse Guards Parade (*SOLDIER* June 30).

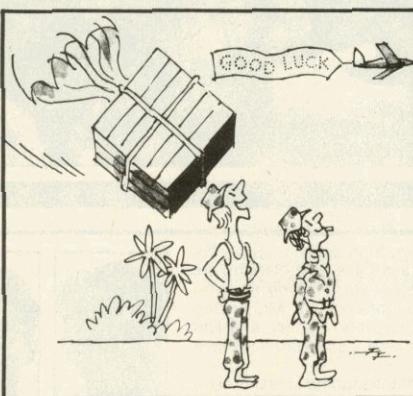
I was surprised to see the Drum Major of the RHA wearing a shoulder belt or sash over his right shoulder. As all other Drum Majors wear theirs over the left, I would be interested to know about this distinction.

The Drum Major in Highland Dress appears to be wearing a sash! As this item of dress is not permitted to be worn by WOs and SNCOs of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, is this another unusual exception? — Maj J A Barrow, The Sergeants (DERR) Past and Present Dinner Club, 26 Ladysmith Road, Lipson, Plymouth, Devon.

Neglected memorials

I was honoured to visit the Somme where regiments, which included my father and his brothers, fought such terrific battles.

I was also pleased to witness the



MAIL DROP

Overlord and St Paul's School

It was interesting to read F R S Higgins' letter regarding St Paul's School, Hammersmith, and Field Marshal Montgomery's office.

Originally the office was used by Major General Paget, and I was his Camp Sergeant Major. Monty, as he is familiarly known, was back in England before General Paget knew that he was not to lead Overlord. In a letter in my possession, sent to me after the war, Major Pavey, Assistant Camp Commander, told me that General Morgan (Monkey Morgan) asked him to break the news to Gen Paget that the 'Sand in the Shoes Boys' were back in England. I also have an Order of the

day from Gen Paget saying goodbye to headquarters, and how sorry he was that he could not lead the second front.

Overlord was planned at St Paul's School.

I served with HQ 21 Army Group at the main and rear HQ throughout the campaign in North West Europe, finally at rear HQ Herford, Germany. The warrant office in charge of the map room caravan was a Sergeant Major Jones.

I should be interested to hear from anyone who served with HQ 21 Army Group. — A G Andrews, 114 Field Lane, Horninglow, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs.

Reunions

The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) hold their annual reunion in Brecon, South Wales, on August 30/31. Tickets from RHQ RRW. The Barracks, Brecon.

The Beachley Old Boys Association annual reunion will take place September 12-14. Full particulars for members and non-members from: Hon Sec BOBA Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 7YG.

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) annual reunion dinner will take place at 8pm on September 13 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs. Tickets from your branch of the regimental association.

Ghost of the Rock

During my tour of the Rock 49/52 I was attached to RMP as a dog handler. On different occasions I had to patrol Inner Rock which included REME workshop. It was during one patrol that my dog, who was fearless, became extremely agitated because of something that suddenly appeared, 'It' was a soldier holding something in 'its' arms. 'It' disappeared after a few moments. Did any readers every hear of 'it'? — Ex 22203951 Pte C Weate, 109 Sidcup Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0L5.

Wooden spoon

Reference your article on wooden barracks, I must take you to task on your comment "it replaces one of the last wartime huts still in use by the British Armed Forces." May I list some more: Wretham 'A', Wretham 'B', Bodney, West Tofts, Thorpe and, unless it's been rebuilt, Chickerell. — Colin Austey, 172 York Road, Stevenage, Herts.

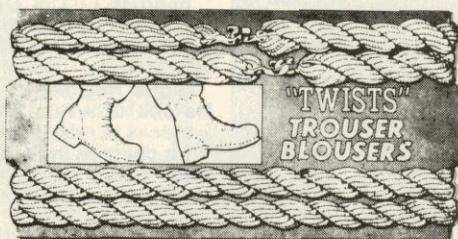
HOAY result

Hello Mr Smith of Pontypool! It's HOAY pay out time, and £50 is on its way to you at 5 Sawtells Terrace, Chapel Road, Pentrepiod for winning *SOLDIER*'s competition No 390. Congratulations!

Thanks to Red Devils

My wife and I have just returned to civvy street after my wife had completed a descent for charity with the Red Devils team.

We are writing to you to express our most sincere gratitude — the hospitality and comradeship shown to both of us was exceptional. — Mr and Mrs Alan Russell, 14 Faringdon Road, Swindon, Wilts.



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The Sergeants (DERR) Past and Present Dinner Club hold their third annual dinner in the Sgts' Mess UKLF, Wilton on Oct 4. Members of the Sgts' Mess with DERR, The Royal Berkshire Regiment or The Wiltshire Regiment who are interested contact Major J A Barrow, 26 Ladysmith Road, Lipson, Plymouth, tel 0752-220396 or 0392-75863.

Armour School to close

THE UK Armour School at Bovington is to close early next year after a history spanning four decades.

Up to two dozen officers, including six from Commonwealth countries, attend the 12-month armour infantry course there. Nato officers have also attended the courses dealing with the design and development of amour and weapons.

The school has long been regarded as the technological base for the Royal Armoured School.

The current course finishes in January and in the spring the instruction role will be transferred mostly to the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. Some teaching will be done at the Camberley Staff College.

It has not yet been decided what will happen to the facilities and the building housing the school but the Director of the Royal Armoured Corps has started a study to assess future special-to-arm technical training needs for the RAC.

Gunners' exchange

GIFTS were exchanged by the commanding officers of the 40th Field Regiment Royal Artillery and Feldartilleriebataillon 11, their affiliated Germany artillery unit, at an open day in Hanover celebrating the German unit's 30th anniversary.

Oberstleutnant Leymann presented a certificate of partnership to Lt Col PR Bell, RA, who in return presented the German battalion with a picture of an FH70, the gun 40th Field had been equipped with before moving from the UK and the one currently in service with two batteries of Feldartilleriebataillon 11.



THE QUEEN, watched by the Prince of Wales and Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, inspects the Queen's Truncheon kept by the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles when the regiment was received at Buckingham Palace. It was only the third time since the Queen's coronation that the ceremony has taken place.

RCT comes of age

THE Battle of Waterloo was re-fought at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, as the climax to a weekend of celebrations marking the 21st birthday of the Royal Corps of Transport. About 80 soldiers and 40 civilians re-enacted the battle dressed in period uniform.

● A PAINTING depicting an attack on an Argentine gun battery by an Army Scout helicopter has been presented to the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop by Mr Basil de Ferranti, chairman of Ferranti plc.

Commissioned by Ferranti Instrumentation, the painting records the attack on June 14, 1982, by helicopter Delta November which was equipped with a Ferranti sighting system and crewed by Capt John G Greenhalgh, later awarded the DFC, and Cpl, now Sgt, John F Gammon.

Grays gives its Freedom to 215 Sqn

HEADED by the staff band of the Royal Corps of Transport, men of 215 (Essex) Squadron, RCT (Volunteers), proudly marched through the crowded streets of the Thames-side borough of Grays-Thurrock to celebrate their Freedom of entry to the borough.

The Freedom was awarded to the squadron in recognition of long service to the community, including help to local hospitals and handicapped people.

Councillor Maurice Meen, the mayor, said: "The squadron has been an integral part of Grays life for many years, unstinting in its efforts on behalf of many of our local organisations, devoting spare time to the service of the country."

Lt Col Christopher Duxbury, CO of 151 Transport Regiment, largest TA unit in Greater London and 215's parent body, thanked the mayor for the Freedom scroll and noted that half the squadron's members lived within the borough boundaries.

After OC Maj Andrew Sutherland had presented the borough with a silver statuette of a Royal Waggon Train officer circa 1830, the squadron received permission to march round the town with drawn swords and fixed bayonets.

Bury fusiliers slay dragons in the sun!

TWENTY-NINE volunteer soldiers from Bury and Rochdale have returned from two sun-drenched weeks in Cyprus as part of Exercise Dragon Slayer.

The part-time Territorial Army soldiers from D Coy, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, were standing in for regular troops.

The Milan Platoon of 1st Bn RRF had to return to the UK to take part in an exercise at Otterburn, Northumberland. They were replaced by

their TA colleagues from the 5th Battalion at Bury.

But it was not all Milan training for the platoon under its commander Sgt Maj Mervyn Talks and his 2ic Col Sgt Joseph Harris. They took part in internal security duties and guards alongside their regular counterparts, and also had time for sight-seeing and water sports, including wind surfing.

● GEC Avionics has received an order for its lightweight tactical air navigation (TACAN) system to equip Gazelle helicopters of the Army Air Corps.

Balloon goes up for Black Watch

by Mervyn Wynne Jones at the Commonwealth Games

THE STREETS of South Armagh seemed far away for the men of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch tasked last month with a host of duties ensuring the smooth running of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Having just returned from Northern Ireland and back on duty after a spot of leave, the men found themselves thrust into the hurly-burly of the trouble-struck games with duties ranging from the ceremonial to the extraordinary.

Tasks included administration of the medal ceremonies, providing guards of honour and marshals, ushers and team placard-carriers and the unusual job of inflating 10,000 balloons for the opening ceremony.

Directing operations as Games military liaison officer was Maj Stuart Macdonald of the Gordon Highlanders, given the challenging brief more than a year ago of arranging the Queen's message relay from Buckingham Palace to Edinburgh, the opening and closing ceremonies and all medal presentation ceremonies.

Among his responsibilities was the gathering together for the opening ceremony of the biggest massed pipes band seen in the Scots capital for decades, comprising almost 1,000 men.

One of the more unusual individual assignments was surely that of The Black

● **SOLDIERS** from the Army School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield answered an SOS when a train ploughed into a van at a nearby unmanned level crossing killing nine people and injuring 45 others. Thirty soldiers went to the scene of the accident, at Lockington, Humberside, with lifting and cutting equipment, and a field kitchen to provide food and drinks for the rescue teams.

Jungle Jocks

SIX WEEKS in the Brunei jungle has been the prospect of nine members of the King's Own Scottish Borderers after a year's planning with Leeds University to mount Exercise Tartan River, a joint military/scientific expedition.

The military team — lead by 2nd Lt Mark Aichroth of A Company — was to build an aerial ropeway, and plan and carry out a second expedition into the jungle.

Team members are Sgt Jackie Galloway, LCpl 'Smudge' Smith and Willie King; Ptes Adam Thomson, Steven Strauss, John Patterson, Barney O'Neill and Mark McLeod.

The jungle-bashing Jocks return later this month.

Watch piper who millions of TV viewers saw on the castle ramparts and who, having heralded the start of the opening ceremony, was whisked down to the main Meadowbank Stadium so that he could rejoin his regimental band.

Other Army units at the Games were Royal Engineers, Royal Military Police, state trumpeters of The Life Guards and men of the Royal Artillery who fired a symbolic 13 gun salute — it was the 13th Commonwealth Games — and 21 gun salutes on the arrivals of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen at the opening and closing ceremonies.

● Next edition of **SOLDIER** will include stories and pictures of the Army at work — and play — during the Commonwealth Games.



Brig Cowgill, accompanied by Maj Evans, inspects B Coy at SEME's 25th anniversary celebrations

SILVER SEME

SEME Regimental Headquarters.

Brig Cowgill placed a rededication plaque, after which guests and spectators were treated to a drive past of military vehicles, past and present, used in training carried out at SEME. Oldest was a 6 x 4 diesel Scammell built in 1939.

To mark the end of the first 25 years of distinguished service of the school, the combined staff bands of REME and WRAC Beat Retreat under the direction of REME Director of Music Capt C J Ross.

FROM YORK TO THE YORKS...

THE GRAND old Duke of York, it is said, had 10,000 men. The latest recipient to the title, the 26-year-old Duke of York, Prince Andrew and his Duchess, the former Miss Sarah Ferguson have found they have another 1,000 staunch supporters in the soldiery at York Garrison.

Garrison commander, Brig Giles Arnold and his men sent a congratulatory telegram to the young couple on the occasion of their wedding.

It read: 'The Commander and all ranks of York Garrison send loyal greetings on this auspicious day and hearty congratulations on the announcement of your appointment as the Duke of York and our best wishes to you and the Duchess of York in the future.'

● THERE WAS a sad incident on Royal Wedding Day when Bugle Boy, a 25-year-old bay gelding on his last Royal duty collapsed near Admiralty Arch. The horse, being ridden by Lt Col John Clavering, broke its back in the fall and had to be put down.

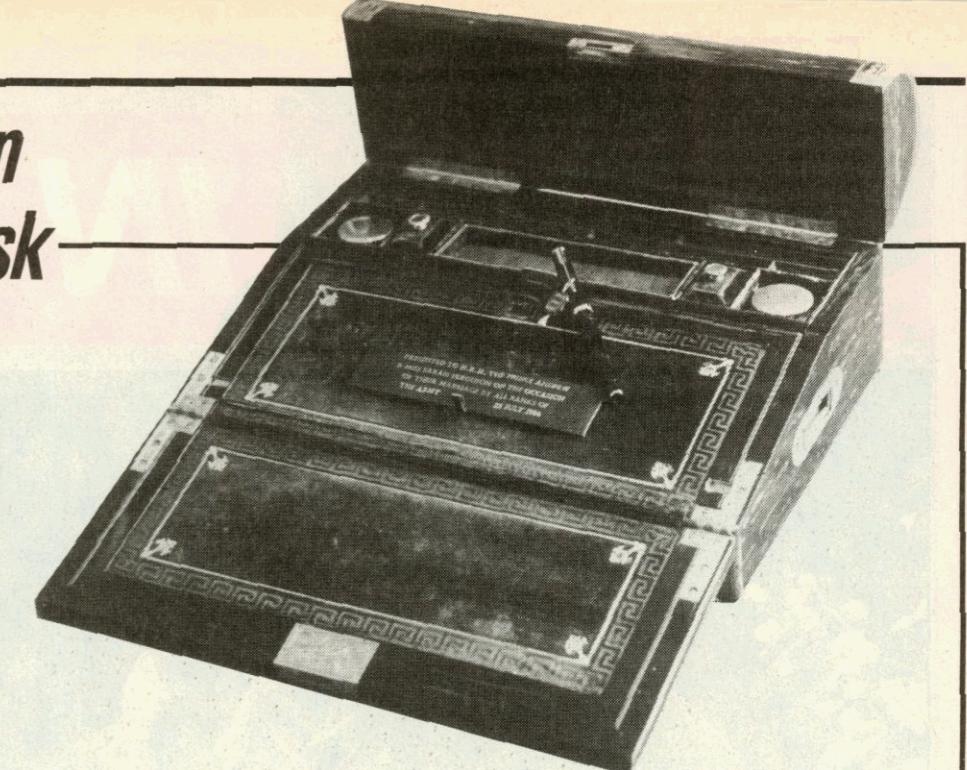
Royal gift is an antique lap desk

THE WEDDING present from the Army to Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson was an antique English Regency lap desk and a pen decorated with gold.

The desk, crafted 175 years ago in calamander wood from the Far East, was bought from the Lucerne Gallery, Kensington, whose owner Mr David Barclay said: 'It is among the very finest of its kind and would grace any palace.'

The present was chosen by Lady Guy, wife of General Sir Roland Guy, Adjutant General, and was bought with donations from all Commands, Districts and Divisions at home and abroad and from service and arms directors on behalf of all soldiers.

There was no public subscription because Prince Andrew is a serving



naval officer and has no official Army appointments. It was considered inappropriate to ask soldiers to contribute to a present.

The Royal Navy gave the couple a

present paid for by public subscription from all serving sailors, while the Royal Air Force's present was paid for in a similar way to the Army gift, from non-public funds.

Bold Guard puts in Baltic stopper

HOW THE UK Mobile Force (UKMF) would defend the Baltic Approaches from an invading Red army, will be demonstrated when exercise Bold Guard gets under way next month.

Then the 15,000-strong force, headed by Brig John Wilsey, will join 50,000 troops from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA in an exercise designed to prevent the Warsaw Pact driving a wedge between Nato's Northern and Central commands.

Brig Wilsey, (pictured), the only one star British Army commander with a direct link with Nato — his boss is Lt Gen Henning von Ondarza, Commander Land Forces Jutland — will be in charge.

The Baltic Approaches have been described as being like a cork in a bottle.

If they pull the cork, enemy warships would have an unchallenged route from the Baltic to the Atlantic to threaten UK supply lines.

It would also open airfields for enemy aircraft 300 miles nearer the UK.

Exercise Bold Guard, which takes place



● **MEN** of the 7th Signal Regiment based in Herford, West Germany, were the 'muscle' behind the building of what is claimed to be the world's first football museum. The National Trust of Westfalia asked 2nd Lt Bertie Appleton, RS, and his Trunk Node Troop to demolish part of a farmhouse of 18th century origin. It will be carefully numbered, dismantled and transported to Shalke to be rebuilt as a football museum.

Tall Ships boost Tyneside medics

A BOOST to their recruiting campaign was introduced by 201 General Hospital (RAMC) during the famous Tall Ships Race, which started from Newcastle upon Tyne.

Based at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle, 201 operated from a tented first aid post just off Broad Chare, offering emergency cover for the vast crowds milling around the historic Quayside.

One of Newcastle's oldest TA units, 201 is keen to extend awareness of its role, and will be making another public appearance during the Tyneside Summer Exhibition.

Tankies put Soviet T-34/85 on show

ORGANISERS were hoping for a turn-out of 20,000 for the annual Royal Armoured Corps Centre open day which featured a tank spectacular acted out on the Gallows Hill ranges, not far from the cottage of Lawrence of Arabia fame in Dorset.

Differing generations of tanks were in public view including a Cromwell, a Centurion, a unique Soviet T-34/85, Chieftain and the 62-tonne Challenger. In support were a wide range of other tracked vehicles including artillery guns.

DOWN IN THE WOODS



CONDITIONS laid down in the Geneva Convention relating to the capture of prisoners were meticulously observed as 80 WRAC recruits from Guildford exercised with obvious eagerness down in the woods.

For them, two platoons from No 1 Training Company, the WRAC Depot, week five of their six-week induction into the Army was THE highlight. Particularly the 48-hour-long fieldcraft section of Exercise Boot Breaker.

The girls, 30 of them with Service connections, had to pass proficiently among five stands, each monitored by an eagle-eyed instructor.

Stands involved camouflage concealment, field signals, a stalking sequence, the basha building and the search of an enemy camp.

A dozen similar al fresco escapades are organised by the WRAC Centre annually through which an estimated 1,000 girls graduate into the Army.

For every single vacancy, the Corps attracts a dozen applications.

The youngsters aged from 17½ upwards were put on test

at each stand for up to 20 minutes. For many, too, it was the first time they had spent a night out under canvas in a reasonably realistic military environment.

In one segment of the imaginative scenarios written for Exercise Boot Breaker, the capture of prisoners was done on a basis of two-to-one; two girls hauling another one, often blindfolded, into a roped off area between tall, whispering trees.

The girls were split into 16-strong groups.

Lipstick and face powder gave way tactically to cam cream on young, unlined features grinning from underneath their berets.

Half the girls had been involved in full-time education; the rest, languishing in uninspiring jobs.

Here they were. Diving into trackside bushes with the best to conceal and "cam" themselves up amid the undergrowth in ambush mode.

Quietest part of the proceedings was, without doubt, that dealing with hand- and arm-gesticulated field signals.

Toughest part was probably Exercise Donkey Trot; five miles of map reading — cum-orienteering. Most challenging aspect was possibly the seven command tasks they had to achieve in small groups à la Regular Commissions Board. Most exciting phase — the exercise finale, sub-titled Exercise Madness, which included inter-platoon rivalry, in webbing. Defensive positions were set up.

A white flag and its seizure was the ultimate objective in a script which called for recce, standing and fighting patrols. It also warned:

"There is to be no actual hostility or evidence of over-zealousness during the exercise. It should be non-combatant. All principles of the Geneva Convention must be applied."

The ladies dutifully complied. A piece of string had to be removed from the left epaulette of the luckless victim. Once "in the bag" the

Above — Sgt Kay Roberts, a training instructor, gives a basha-building briefing

Left — An ex-WREN with WRAC interest now in action with stick "gun" during the field signals section

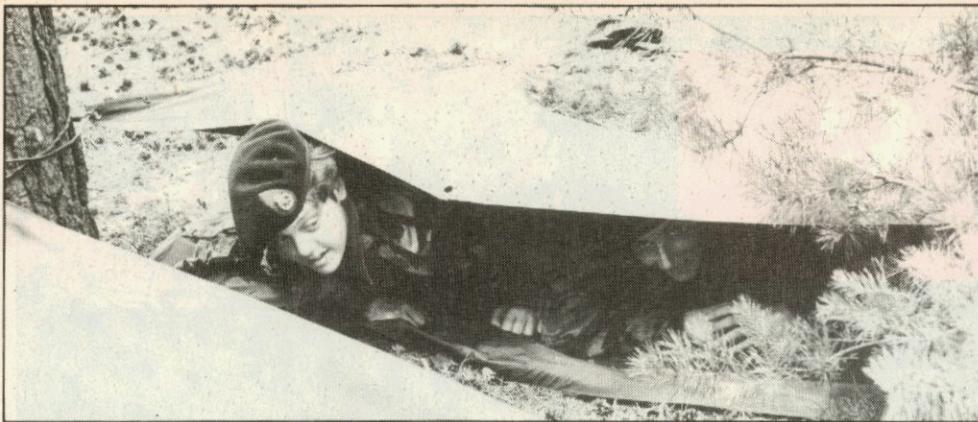
Right — YTS entrant Pte Susan Lyall, from Dundee, crawls in during the search of an "enemy camp"

Far right — Hi there! An anonymous, "cammed-up" face peeks cheekily into the camera lens during the camouflage and concealment scenario



... something is going on!





Above — Pte Diane Walker tries her hand at basha-building

Right — A blindfolded prisoner, but it's all in accordance with the Geneva Convention

Below — A food stop during the 'Madness' phase of Exercise Boot Breaker



From Page 16

this was "very cold and windy". In reality, the reverse was the case. .

The girls were told: "Intelligence reports have been received of recent enemy activity in this area. The enemy is believed to be a highly trained assassination squad who have made a hasty withdrawal. Your mission is to locate the camp believed to be in that direction and bring back any objects or documents of use to our intelligence forces."

YTS trainee and aspiring WRAC member, Pte Diane Walker, 17, from Crewe, had been working in legal circles before a soldier friend home on leave from the Army told her of life in the Service.

"It seems the sort of thing I really wanted to do," she said. It's a bit different from the Brownies and the Guides.

"I had applied to join the WRAC last November but was advised that the YTS

arrangement would get me in earlier to try it out first. I've made up my mind. It's definitely going to be the Army for me."

It was obvious the girls alongside her shared the same opinion. They were the likely lasses from No 1 Training Company with the two unofficial mottos: "Always Number One" and "One is Fun."

Among their number was ex-WRAC regular, Pte Judy Flaherty, 27, one-time driver from 1976 until 1983. She had tried civilian life as a British Leyland driver only to be made redundant after six months.

Now she is hoping to become a supplies specialist.

"Only marriage will take me out of the Army now," she admitted. "And there's no chance of that just now. It's obviously easier for me now to train although it's been nine years since I was on this particular course.



Field signals and fieldcraft were new to me."

Fieldcraft courses were started just 15 months ago.

The second YTS recruit, 17-year-old Pte Susan Lyall from Dundee, was resigned to working with a landscape gardening concern before she decided on the Army. She said: "The money is terrible, really, when you think of the job you are doing. I want to be a driver. It's great fun. I was a Girl Guide but there is no comparison."

At the end of the 48-hour exercise, the instructors reckoned that about 25 per cent of the girls would go on for consideration as NCOs.

Capt Judy Salmon, OC of 1 Training Company, said of the girls: "They do everything the guys do. The common military syllabus is the same as for the men except that we don't do weapon training. They are also a lot fitter and more 'warry'. They love this fieldcraft section. This is their

Out in the field on Boot Breaker

highlight of the course. Academically, too, they are fairly bright.

"At the end of a day's exercise they are tired, noisy and excited as they climb into their sleeping bags. They are determined to make a go of it but have to give some sort of proof in a way. I am very impressed with them on exercise and their high standards of morale. It's amazing how they can keep going."

Another officer, Lt Jane Gregory, a platoon commander now in Australia on a fourth-month exchange, near Wagga Wagga during Exercise Long Look, summed up: "They can talk more knowledgeably about what the blokes are doing. If they go on exercise they compete more favourably with the men. I think the men are surprised how good the girls are now."

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

SOLDIER to Soldier

A job well done

It is so often criticism which hits the headlines — which makes it all the more pleasurable to receive from Mrs F J David of Strood in Kent a pat on the back for members of MoD, the Army and the Royal Air Force for the help they gave her.

Seems Mrs Davis had to send word urgently to her son, a sergeant in the RAOC serving in the Falklands, that his eldest sister had died suddenly.

Mrs Davies phoned MoD and found "the gentleman there was very helpful", and within two-and-a-half hours she received a telephone call from her son. With the help of the Army in the Falklands, her son was aboard an aircraft on the way back to UK, and as he stepped off the aircraft at Brize Norton a message was handed to him saying that his father, brother and another sister were there to meet him.

Mrs Davis passes through SOLDIER a big thank you to the MoD, the major, other officers and staff of 77 Stores Coy in the Falklands, and the RAF in the Falklands and at Brize Norton.

Happy to pass it on, Mrs Davis.

★ ★ ★

Horse sense!

In these days of cars being equipped with telephones, perhaps it's not surprising to find a horse equipped with radio.

Keeping pace with technology

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



Above
and
right —
Keeping
in touch
the Greys way!

and in the interests of efficiency, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards have done just that, with a radio fitted to the saddle of one of their mounts.

It happened at the regiment's annual celebrations of the Battle of Waterloo, a battle at which the regiment performed with great courage and sacrifice. In fact during a charge at the French lines, the Greys captured the eagle of the 45th Regiment of Infantry, and Napoleon, who saw the devastation

the cavalry had wrought, was overheard to refer to them as "those terrible grey horses".

This year, the highlight of the celebratory weekend was a regimental parade of horses and tanks. Not, one imagines, an easy spectacle to organise.

As the tanks thundered past the saluting officer (Lt Gen Sir



Norman Arthur, Colonel of the Regiment), the horse party was being constantly updated by radio fitted to the saddle of Sea Doctor, the mount of Captain John Biron, who was commanding the party.

The radio link enabled the cavalry to fit into the correct place on the parade at the correct time.

The Greys score again.

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Farewell Southend

SOLDIER is saying farewell to Southend. The next issue of the magazine will be the last to be typeset and printed there after an association with the Essex town lasting 13 years.

With the closure of the Greenaway Harrison printing works at Southend, the printing of SOLDIER will be transferred to another works in the same organisation, at Hayes just outside London. It was at Hayes that the magazine was printed before it transferred to Southend.

SOLDIER will be severing its links with J J Typographics, its typesetters at Southend, at the same time, and moving to RSB Typesetters at Worplesdon, near Guildford.

To the friends it has worked with in both firms at Southend, SOLDIER says thank you for a job well done.

★ ★ ★

OVERRUN — BY BULLET-PROOF PARAS!

EXHAUST FUMES from behind a ridge on their flank heightened tension among the defenders as they realised that enemy tanks were using dead ground to edge close to their position.

Anti-tank teams scanned their arcs of fire and trigger fingers began to curl as the huge engines of the armoured leviathans roared into life for the last leg of the assault.

It was a set-piece attack on the second day of a major four-day brigade exercise on Salisbury Plain involving about 5,500 men of the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF).

UKMF is an independent expeditionary force earmarked by the UK Chief of Staff for use by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe in the Baltic Approaches area of Northern European Command.

Codename Druid's Delight, the exercise involved troops from 1st Infantry Brigade — comprising 1 R Hamps, 1 DWR, 1 RGJ and 1 Wessex (TA) — the Logistic Support Group based at Tidworth, Hampshire, and units from RAF Odiham which together make up the UKMF.

Enemy forces were made up of troops from the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment and two squadrons of Chieftain tanks from The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

Two days into the exercise the enemy had made considerable progress and were pushing the defenders back. The brigade had withdrawn behind a fictitious river and blown two reserve-demolition bridges behind them.

One such reserve-demolition location, the main supply crossing codenamed Red Rum, was now being defended by men of 1 R Hamps and it was they who were dug in awaiting the armoured assault.

The tanks, their turrets laden with paras, suddenly tore over the rise and down the slope towards the defenders who were backed up by the battalion's Land-Rover-mounted mobile Milan units.

Tanks and troops sped through the position to the accompaniment of rifle and machine gun fire before re-grouping and advancing across the plain.

The men of Y Coy 1 R Hamps were not altogether happy. At least one trench of four men were nursing sore ears after a thunderflash had been tossed among them, and the general consensus was that fewer "enemy" would have been creating the dust cloud in the distance behind them had it been a real battle.



UKMF warms up on Druid's Delight

"We'd have taken two tanks out before being whacked up ourselves," said Pte David Benstead, cradling his 84mm Carl Gustav and sheltering under the midday sun in his NBC suit.

"That attack would have taken a lot longer," echoed his number two, Pte Nigel Casperd, "if it had been for real. Two paras took that gun trench over there — what a joke!"

But for all the disillusionment and calls for more umpires, the men agreed that the exercise was proving worthwhile and that they were learning a lot from being involved in a brigade exercise where the

whole Corps was flexing its muscles.

Aim of Druid's Delight was to rehearse UKMF units in all phases of war in preparation for exercise Bold Guard '86 which will be held next month in Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany.

Druid's Delight was a warm-up and Capt Mark Coburn, 1 R Hamps, said: "It is one of the biggest exercises on the plain for years. Here we are practising all aspects of holding a blocking position."

By now, according to the general scheme of things, the enemy were to have been given a bloody nose during their probing attack on 1 R Hamps and to have

ht

opted instead for an advance to the south where the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regt, were dug in.

Entrenched in and around a wood, The Dukes were well prepared for an attack and were being strafed by A10s when the SOLDIER team finally caught up with them.

The tell-tale roar of heavy engines and smudges of exhaust fumes again heralded the arrival of enemy tanks smothered in paras. They manoeuvred into dead ground, disgorged their passengers, and before long the skirmishing began.

The attackers again swept through the

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: Terry Champion

position — to the considerable chagrin of The Dukes who had spent hours digging their slit trenches. One Milan team, who had dug two trenches because the first had been too far forward, announced that the tanks would have been hit when they first appeared almost two kilometres away.

"But we couldn't, could we," said one, "because then it would have been endex. You can't win, that's the trouble."

Uppermost in most thoughts was the prospect of a brew as soon as they were stood-down. It was going to be another long night and who cared anyway if the paras were bullet-proof?

1 — Enemy tanks prepare to do battle with UKMF units, but take care to skirt round a hay field

2 — A Milan position manned by The Dukes keeps a sharp watch for enemy tanks

3 — A para and Chieftain — who joined forces to provide the "opposition" — advance on UKMF positions

4 — Tank sighted! A UKMF unit prepares for battle

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Illustration of a man wearing a combat sweater.



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PLAIN FACTS

AN ELEVEN-MEMBER working party has come up with a set of recommendations designed to enhance further the relationship of a training Army and the continued preservation of archaeological sites on the 91,000-acre Salisbury Plain Training area, the largest in the UK, writes **Graham Smith**.

The training area comprises nine per cent of the county of Wiltshire or more than one-third of the remaining chalk downland in southern England; an ancient Viking kingdom area with more than 1,700 monuments, including Stonehenge.

At a press conference marking publication of the working party report, Lord Elton, Minister for Heritage, Planning and Regional Affairs at the Department of the Environment, paid generous tribute to the Ministry of Defence.

He said: "The Army's use of the Plain has preserved about 100 square miles from development and deep ploughing. As a result, we have a priceless collection of our archaeological monuments that might otherwise have been destroyed, but training in modern warfare can also damage these ancient monuments."

The working party, he said, had been looking into more ways of preserving the

heritage of Salisbury Plain without impeding the "vital work of the Army."

There had been a "high level of co-operation" between the Ministries of Defence and Environment.

The report revealed that there were 20,000 acres of Salisbury Plain devoted to full agricultural tenancies (Schedule One); 45,000 acres used predominantly for training but with limited farming under military control; 5,000 acres of forestry with some three million trees planted since

The Army and its Salisbury Plain heritage



1955. There were also 30,000 acres of impact area on the SPTA.

Usage of the plain for military training was varied. Dry training, impact areas, live firing, field firing, Dropping Zones (DZs), landing strips, wheeled and tracked vehicle driver training areas, artificial and natural obstacles.

Some 14,000 soldiers were stationed within the area who, with their dependents, swelled the population to 27,000.

Much of the damage caused on the Plain,

the report says, was caused by agricultural and natural factors rather than military training.

Archaeological monuments had "survived well" on the impact areas.

And the Plain's training area was a busy place. Last October, for instance, there had been, on an average week-day, 40 sub-units of company size operating on the SPTA. During a typical weekend there had been the equivalent of 28 sub-units in action.

Nine major battalion-size exercises totalling 27 days' training had been held.

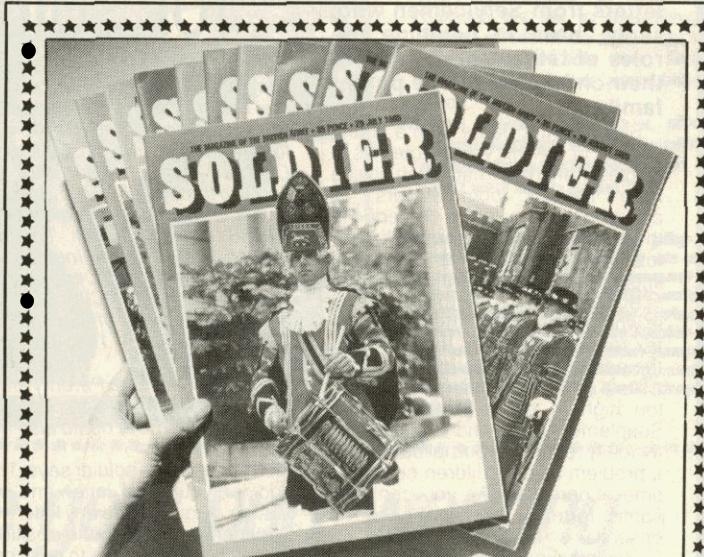
There were 11 sites of special scientific interest on 2,670 acres of the SPTA. More than 500 have been singled out for special measures of protection, six of these regarded as specially important where digging-in and the movements of military vehicles would be prohibited.

In another bid to ease movement and the avoidance of bottle-neck congestion for vehicles, 356 acres of land north of Chisenbury Warren known as Jenner's Firs is to be purchased.

New forms of Army sign-posting are recommended, as is a new code of instructions for military users plus continuous monitoring of all the sites.



IT IS not often you get a Royal visitor to your stable, and 26-year-old Ringlet — the oldest horse in the Household Cavalry — was determined to make the most of all the attention. Royal bride Miss Sarah Ferguson is pictured with Ringlet when she and Prince Andrew visited the regiment's barracks at Hyde Park, London, before their wedding.



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HOUSING

Don't get left in the cold

WHEN a soldier leaves the Army and goes house-hunting his chances of getting a council house are remote indeed.

Nowadays it's no longer a foregone conclusion that he and his family will walk out of an MQ into a council property, even if he's been on the housing list for years and renewed registration with a local authority every year.

In short, it's a fallacy to presume the allocation of a council house.

Councils are autonomous when it comes to allocating houses and flats, with the DoE giving only guidance as to how they should treat Servicemen and women on discharge (Circular 54/75).

And reasons for non-acceptance of soldiers on council housing lists are increasing, too.

Along with residential and employment qualifications, income has been added as a reason for not getting on the list.

Anyone on a council housing list is strongly advised to consult the latest Directorate of Army Education Public Sector Housing Guide, which should be available at unit level.

The guide lists the different policies adopted by councils and is a useful pointer before selecting an area to register for housing.

It also indicates how Servicemen are allocated a house, the conditions to be fulfilled and the pitfalls which could exclude them.

All very worrying when a soldier is only entitled to resettlement advice two years before leaving the Army. Too late for effective re-registering, or to find sufficient money to buy the cold.

It's time a survey and

statistics were available showing how many Service men and women were planning to apply for a local authority house.

If you leave it too late the only chance for a council property is through the Homeless Persons Act of 1977.

And with homelessness in England rising and councils not building enough houses to replace those sold under the right-to-buy scheme, Service men and women thinking of joining the housing scramble should act now to avoid being left out in the cold.

I am appalled at reports of EEC nationals coming to England and drawing unemployment benefit for three months, working for just one week and then collecting dole for a further year.

Why aren't the same

rules applied to them that see countless Service dependants refused dole payments on the grounds they left a job voluntarily and without just cause?

I am constantly told that Service wives cannot receive unemployment benefit in the EEC, even though they have paid National Insurance contributions for years.

Yet these EEC migrant "workers" can get money denied to Service wives.

To pile it on still more, Service dependants lose all rights to unemployment pay if they work for the Services abroad within the EEC.

And to add further financial injury — for that is what it is — they have their Class 1 NI deductions stopped at source in the UK.

I sometimes wonder just how soft we are in this country... support your country, defend your country, become dustmen and firemen when the call comes. Servicemen do all of these things — and willingly.

But to pay out cash to foreigners while denying Service wives and dependants the same right does not strike me as right and fair.

As a reminder, nine years have passed since I first drew attention to this gross unfairness.

A fourth choice is for a family to make its own housing arrangements, but independent action deems them to "have refused the offer of alternative military accommodation."

But how does a family make a choice and complete the form when there is no mention of an AF10 application for a quarter in the letter?

DILEMMA

Several areas have a shortage of MOUs and many families face the dilemma of taking alternative accommodation to comply with their current unit's request for them to vacate their MQ on the posting date, or do they wait for a quarter at the new station and be treated as "irregular occupants" of their old home?

Rigid rules demanding the full postal address have been the norm for those using the removal service. But many could not comply because they did not know their full address that early.

Guiltless as they were in their ignorance, it meant for the majority a quick switch to the normal service and complete chaos.

The new system will be on trial until the end of November, but the three-week notice rule demanding the location still stands.

Check with units for details.

IF a Service wife working abroad has an industrial accident, she must submit her claim for benefit to the authorities of the appropriate country and not the UK.

But there is one exception to this rule. And that is when she is employed by the Services or Civil Service in Germany.

Then she can claim UK benefits and, if successful, will continue to receive payment on her return to the UK if her condition persists.

In a lengthy letter of explanation the DHSS start with those wives working in Gibraltar and say: "Gibraltar is part of the European Community, so EC social security regulations apply. Forces wives working on the



Anne
HERE TO HELP

Armstrong
WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Home tel:
Camberley
25653

MQ quiz baffles families

A letter sent soon after receiving a posting order is baffling Army families.

The letter asks them to complete a form selecting alternative accommodation should they not have a quarter allotted on the day of posting.

The alternatives to their next MQ are the Lympitt Families Centre (if eligible and the period of separation is less than three months), sub-standard accommodation at the new station if available, or a vacant quarter anywhere in the UK other than their present station.

I sometimes wonder just how soft we are in this country... support your country, defend your country, become dustmen and firemen when the call comes. Servicemen do all of these things — and willingly.

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ELAINE AND FRIENDS: A floating experience

Wives 'chute for cash and kids

Para-jumping can be petrifying for first-timers.

But the sport is enjoying a spiralling success in BAOR. Boosted by the increase in one-jump courses, many candidates back their brave efforts with sponsorship, raising cash for needy causes.

One such performer is former air stewardess Mrs Elaine Byron, 31, the kindergarten supervisor at Bielefeld's Ripon Barracks playground.

She took the aerial plunge with playground colleague Elizabeth Wooley and Mrs Neale from 1 Corps Troops Workshop.

With the playground self-supporting they aim to top DM2,000 from their para-jump with the money going towards play-park equipment for the under-fives. A cash bonanza for toddlers apart, the experience of floating through the air is something Elaine wants to do again each time she recalls her first encounter with a parachute pack.

Almost anyone can do it, she claims, adding: "It was all worth it, the aching and exhilaration. I can't wait to go again."

• Daring women: With the playground children relaxing on a parachute, Thrift Shop representative Vivienne Philips (left) hands a cheque for DM1,000 to Elaine Byron. With them is her kindergarten assistant and para-jump colleague, Elizabeth Wooley, and Jennifer Mars of the Thrift Shop (right).

When a wife gets hurt working abroad — claim!

ment countries to work for an employer with a place of business in Great Britain. Servicemen's wives in Hong Kong who find employment after arriving there are not therefore eligible to pay Class 1 contributions. However, they may pay either Class 2 (self-employed) or Class 3 (voluntary) contributions. Payment of Class 2 contributions abroad normally gives cover for all benefits, except unemployment benefit, on return to the UK. Class 3 contributions give cover for retirement, widow's pension and death grant.

• Berlin. Servicemen's wives working for Forces' organisations are liable for German contributions because their employer is the Berlin Military Government. If they work on the German economy they are also subject to German legislation. Any claim in respect of an industrial injury in Berlin would therefore be to the German authorities'.

YOU WRITE...

Three-way role for soldier father

OCCASIONALLY I receive letters from Servicemen who, sadly, have to combine the roles of father and mother to their children — a one parent family.

Such a letter came from a young soldier in BAOR who wrote: As a single parent I have had much advice from "barrack room lawyers" all claiming to have known someone in the same position as myself. Unfortunately I have no first-hand knowledge of anyone similarly placed.

But what I would like to know about is whether there are any benefits or tax reliefs I can claim to help offset the cost of my domestic help.

As a JNCO I realise my wages are too high to claim Family Income Supplement (FIS), and in addition to the daily round, school holidays pose a problem as the children need full-time supervision. As you can see, some form of domestic help is essential.

I have asked to see written details of what I might claim, but as my situation seems rare (in the Army), there appears to be nothing.

JNCO, BAOR.

Act now for that job

A USEFUL little book called *Action for Jobs* (freely available in the UK, but may not be overseas), is well worth getting. It gives an insight into job-hunting for wives, school leavers and those about to

retire or finish their Army engagement. These days finding a job is difficult, but this book reveals the full range of financial possibilities for small businesses, the enterprise allowance, loan guarantee and business schemes and much more.

Where to go for help and advice is also listed. So why not take action now. Available from DoE and MSC offices.

Remember there are changes in housing benefit, so check on how you stand. It depends on your situation and the area. Ask for details at the DHSS office.

Families moving from the UK to north-west Europe and using the removal service will now find it slightly easier.

For instead of providing GFA with full details of their new address three weeks before leaving, all that is required now is the town or garrison where the family will be located. But the full address must be sent to GFA one week before removal date.

Rigid rules demanding the full postal address have been the norm for those using the removal service. But many could not comply because they did not know their full address that early.

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EVEN BETTER THAN TAX-FREE

The famous Brandenburg Gate cut off by the graffiti-covered Wall and (inset below) as it was before August 1961



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ago this August, and literally overnight, a meandering scar suddenly appeared on the once handsomely featured "face" of an exuberant Berlin — a refined "face" badly disfigured by the battering of Allied bombing and subsequent savage street fighting less than 20 years earlier.

It was a jagged scar caused by barbed wire and one which took the three Western Allies by surprise as the city slept off the pressures or pleasures of a Saturday. The foundations for a "Wall of Shame" had been laid at 0230 hours on the morning of Sunday August 13, 1961.

Berlin's "face" on the world is still divided. The scar is permanent now. Surgery has improved it over the years, yet it is ever an

ugly, indelible reminder. A blemish that won't go away.

Re-juvenated and re-built on one side. A foisty character restored. Alert, energetic and extroverted again.

Yet a "face" still sullen and outwardly disillusioned on the other side. Its innermost feelings and reflexes strictly sublimated and controlled. Unsmiling. Grim-visaged. Detached. Obsessed with internal realities.

Such was Berlin's transition into a modern day Tale of Two Cities. A city with a split personality; capitalism and communism. Barbed wire frontier bolstered by breeze blocks.

Its appearance, say the historians, was set in motion when the East German régime's leader, Herr Walter Ulbricht, attended a

secret meeting in Moscow ten days earlier.

Thousands of refugees had been fleeing to the West and to Berlin — that "showcase of the West", that "bastion of freedom."

Soviet leader Nikita Khruschev had been steadily increasing his threats of war. Threats to close Berlin's Tempelhof airport when Berlin had become a "Free City."

He wanted the Allies out of Berlin with the aim of turning it into a free, demilitarised — and hence, defenceless — city which could then be merged into the German Democratic Republic or East Germany.

But Ulbricht had his own problems — the defection of thousands seeking a better lifestyle in the West. Three days after his return from Moscow — on Tuesday August

Turn to next page

Right —
Potsdamerplatz,
once the busiest
crossroads in
Europe, is now a
deserted no-man's
land. Before the
would-be escaper
ever reaches the
Wall, he must run a
gauntlet of bullets,
booby traps and
other "nasties"

Below left —
Berliners watch in
amazement as their
city is divided
before their eyes,
August 13, 1961

Below centre — The
shutters go up on
East Berlin as a
group of West
Berliners stand
helplessly by

Below right —
Hastily laid barbed
wire plugs the hole
rammed through the
original wall by an
early escaper

Berlin's hideous barrier — then and now



From Page 25

8 — 1,700 refugees had fled to the West. Two days later this had risen to 1,900. And two days after that more than 4,000 had fled.

Time was running out for the East German régime. It was suspected by the Western Allies that Ulbricht had been given Soviet permission to close the border.

It later transpired he had twice tried this before — and failed, the Soviets turning back his Volkspolizei.

At 0230 hours on Sunday, August 13, 1961, the sealing of the border between East and West Berlin began.

The Americans reported all was clear apart from "in East Berlin, builders and truck drivers had been mobilised."

The Western Allies took this as the first move and realised that one false step on

their behalf could lead to war. In concert with the West Germans they liaised in an attempt to reach a unified approach.

At about 0200 East German troops and police moved in to seal off East Berlin. Pavements and roads were torn up at 80 sector border crossings. Concrete posts were rammed in, interlinked by barbed wire. Trenches were dug.

Tram tracks were ripped out. Rails bent backwards. Armed troops and police kept watch on the workers.

Just behind the Brandenburg Gate, tanks, armoured cars and troops were lined up ready to deal with any resistance.

The Allies had been taken by surprise. They had been expecting an attack or even the sealing off of roads. But not the barricades!

Allied troops were mobilised along the

border now in being between West and East Berlin. British troops in Berlin at the time were: C Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, the 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry.

Monday morning dawned but none of the 60,000 East Berlin "Grenzgänger" who worked in the west of the city would be allowed across.

The next day, Tuesday August 15, saw the introduction of special permits to visit East Berlin, the banning of West German cars from entering East Berlin and the halting of all telegraph, teleprinter and postal services across the border.

Later that day, the first shots were fired at a refugee.

The next day, Wednesday August 16, half

a million West Berliners gathered to listen to Mayor Willy Brandt urging President Kennedy to use "political action, not just protests."

The wire barricades had proved ineffectual to determined escapees. Known as the First Generation of the Wall, they failed to deter explosive devices or the crashing through of heavy vehicles at street crossings.

As Brandt spoke 90 people escaped across the Wall. The three Allied commanders in Berlin protested. It was, they said, a violation of the 1945 Four-Power agreement.

They followed this on August 17 with three identical notes to the Soviet Union arguing that they "cannot admit the right of the East Germans to send armed forces into the Soviet sector of Berlin." They considered that East Berlin was the fourth — Soviet — sector of the city and, therefore, not a part

of East German territory.

The West Berliners by this time were getting worried. The Western Allies had taken no action against the building of the Wall. Were the Allies going to abandon them?

President Kennedy drafted 1,500 extra American troops in to the startled city. On August 19, Vice-President Johnson visited Berlin as Kennedy's personal representative. He pledged continued US support for the "survival and creative future of this city."

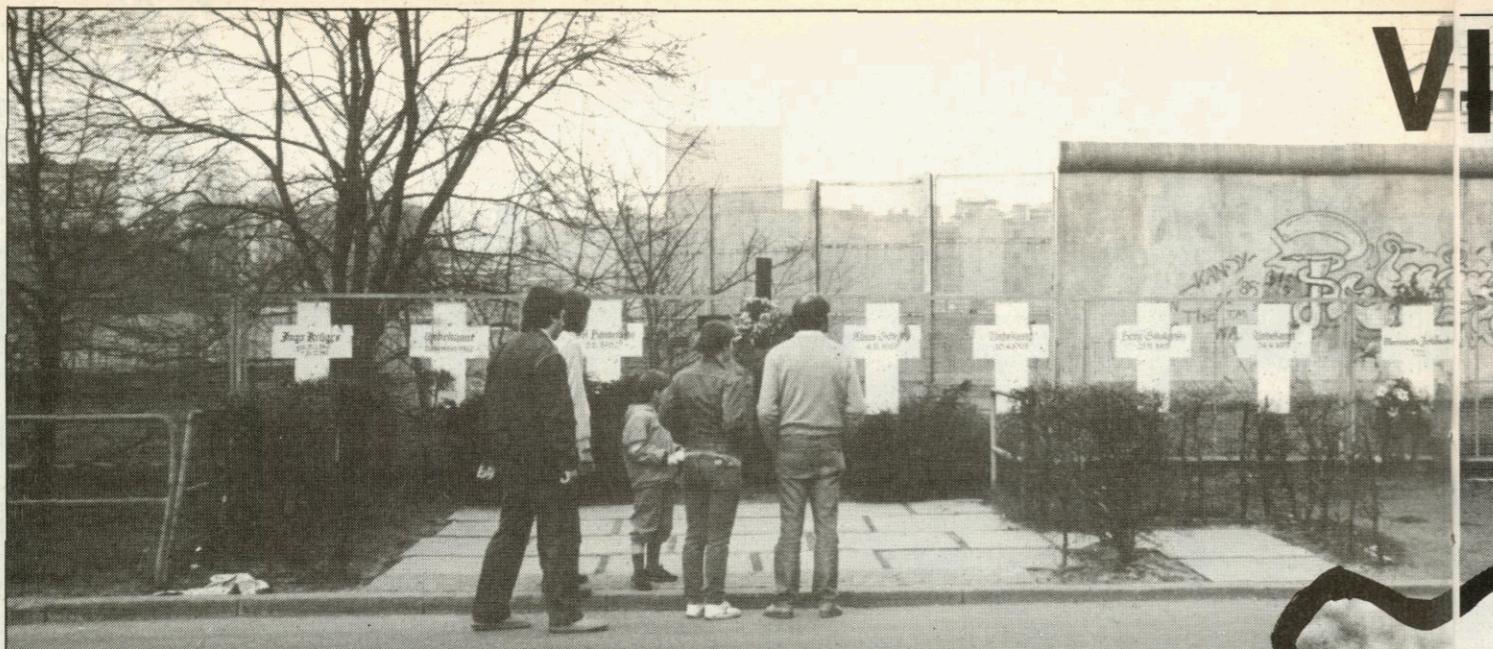
Meanwhile, the East German leader, Herr Ulbricht appeared on TV and radio explaining the reason for the border closure. It was, he said, "no improvisation but a necessary measure dictated by life." It was to keep "Western capitalistic powers" from continuing to use Berlin for "subversive attacks" upon East Germany and other socialist states.

One Western press correspondent said later he had received a long apology from the East Germans for the closing of the border. They accused Berlin of being an outpost for more than 80 revanchist organisations; that it was used for espionage with more than 90 such offices and that the Wall was needed to prevent Western agents kidnapping East Germans. It had also been built to stop currency manipulations and smuggling.

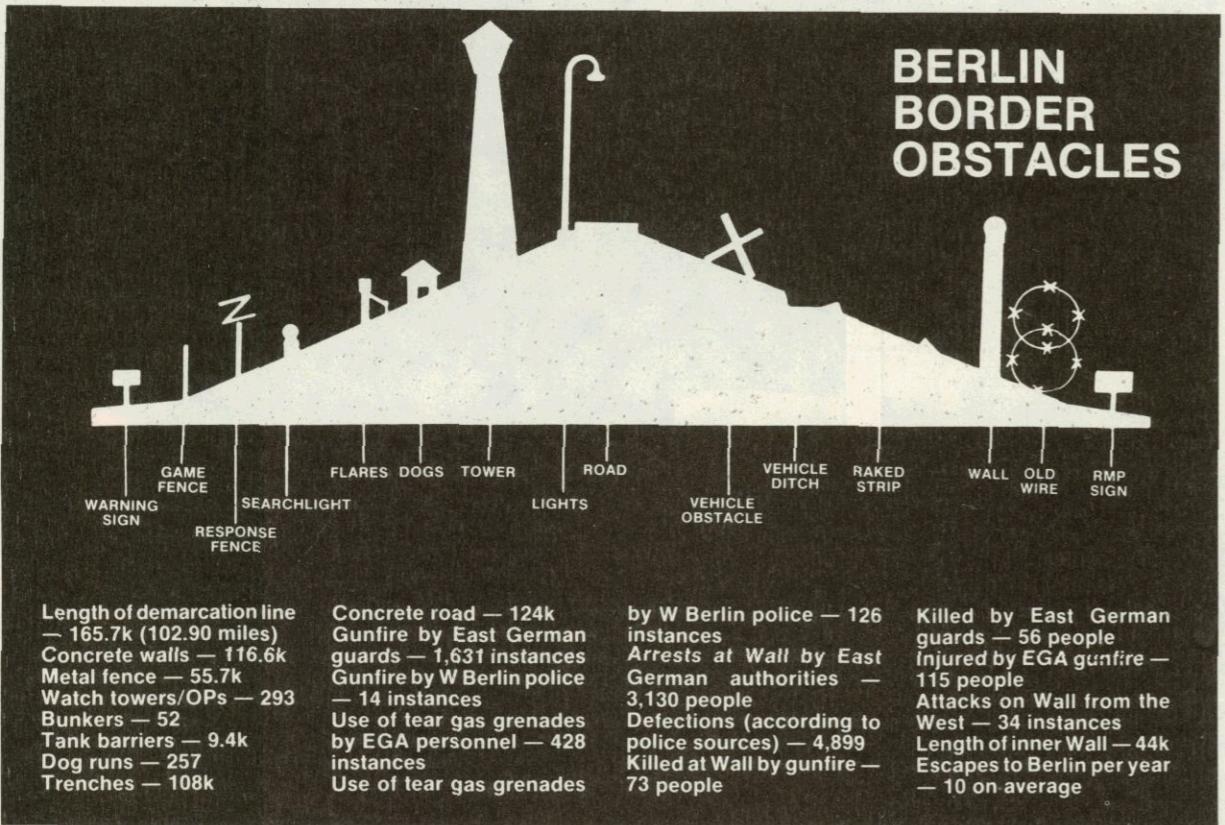
The Soviets, for their part, rejected the Western allegations and reasonings behind their protests. The situation could be changed, they said, only by the conclusion of an East German peace treaty.

Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20, saw renewed building activity on the Wall. Thousands of workers toiling round the clock

Turn to next page



Crosses record the names of those who have died trying to escape across The Wall. These are placed near the canal to the side of the Reichstag building



From Page 27
as they poured concrete into prefabricated forms.

The second Monday since the Wall's original installation dawned. Now began the forced evacuation of people living along the new border, thereby creating a no-man's-land on August 21.

By the next day the Wall was 6ft high and a foot wide. Buildings fronting it had been bricked up.

By Wednesday August 23, tension had risen further. Border crossing points were reduced to just three. Severe restrictions were put on West Berliners wishing to visit East Berlin.

In response, British, American and French tanks and troops were moved to the sector border — facing Russian tanks at point blank

range. Three more Western notes were sent to the Soviets.

They stated: "The new measures aim to subject West Berliners to the same oppressive and inhuman travel controls as imposed on your own people."

"These illegal measures are contrary to existing Four-Power agreements and by flagrantly disregarding elementary human rights show the contempt of the East German régime for world opinion. The Commandants are taking the necessary action to ensure the security and integrity of the sectors' border."

Simultaneously, moves were made against Western rights in the Berlin air corridor.

Allied ambassadors in Moscow received threatening notes about the transportation of "all kinds of revolutionaries, extremists, saboteurs and spies" from West Germany.

to West Berlin.

On Thursday August 24, President Kennedy said the US must now serve "solemn warning" to the Soviet Union that any interference by their government or the East German régime with free access to Berlin would be an aggressive act the consequences for which the Soviet Union would have to bear full responsibility.

That same day, the first refugee was shot dead while trying to escape to West Berlin.

Weeks of tension followed, punctuated by intense diplomatic activity, border incidents, threats and counter-threats.

Gradually, the tension eased.

The Wall, it became apparent, was there to stay. While the West Germans dreamed of reunification the Wall ironically brought stabilisation and a rapid recovery of East

VICTIMS OF THE WALL

INGENUITY and heroism have been just two of the hallmarks of enterprise for those trying to overcome the Wall between East and West Berlin. Escapes have not been the prerogative of the young. One was 81!

Pensioner Max Thomas often chatted to the border guards while he and his friends tended their allotments.

As he chatted, a tunnel 110 feet long leading under the

Wall was patiently being dug from beneath his small wooden hen house. It was 5ft 9in high so that the pensioner and his friends could escape to the West unbowed!

After 16 days they had a tunnel which gave a subterranean path to freedom for 12 escapers. Asked later why he had taken such a risk at this time of life, Herr Thomas replied: "I wanted a bit of freedom. We did not even want to be buried over there."

One of the most infamous and, perhaps, most pitiful bids took place just a year after the Wall's building, on August 17, 1962. Peter Fechter, 18, a member of a Red Youth Labour squad was hit in the lung by a bullet as he was escaping over the top of the Wall.

Falling backwards he lay isolated on the eastern side of the wall. Blood seeped through his clothing. Peter cried for help.

West German police climbed the Wall to throw first aid kits to the stricken teenager who was, by then, too weak to help himself.

Angry crowds jeered and chanted as they gathered on the western side of the Wall.

An hour later, a few minutes after he had bled to death, the youth's body was recovered under the cover of smoke grenades. Five days of mass demonstrations followed in Berlin against a background of international outrage.

The reasons behind the bold escapes have been many and varied.

Young couples for whom escape meant a chance of

marriage, children and a new life, for instance.

Hans-Peter Meixner, 21, an Austrian student, resolved to smuggle out his East Berlin fiancée. The East Germans had refused to grant her an exit visa and, with it, a marriage licence.

The astute Meixner had noticed that the bonnet of a sports car would pass under the barriers at Checkpoint Charlie in Friedrichstrasse. During trips from West Berlin to see his fiancée he carefully noted the heights and lay-outs of the obstacles... and the vital barrier.

Then he acquired his sports car. An Austin Healey. He spent many hours practising his escape plan on waste ground. He would do it for real on May 15, 1963.

With his fiancée and her mother crushed behind the seats he headed towards the world-famous Checkpoint Charlie.

He passed the first East German guard and headed for the inspection bay with its concrete obstacles and the wooden barrier ahead; so near and yet, so far.

Suddenly he put his foot down, dodging through the obstacles and racing for the barrier, ducking at the last second to drive blind under it... and freedom.

Sometimes the frantic do-or-die bids were successful. For many they were tragic.

For the latter, crosses and wreaths record their place in history on the western side of the Wall.



The most famous escape picture of all. A young soldier leaps into the West two days after the first barriers had been erected

up in 1976. Originally it was white-painted on both sides. On the Western side today, colourful, pithy graffiti crams every square centimetre in certain sections.

The Wall is now 4.10 metres high, has a 1.80m base and 16cm thick panels — a far cry from 25 years ago and the original wire fence put up on Sunday, and bolstered by breeze blocks four days later.

Horizontal reinforced concrete slabs were subsequently put in at street crossings and, in 1964, dog runs were added. A year later, rifle pits and bunkers.

The Third Generation Wall, made of prefabricated sections, had been produced by peoples' factories in East Germany.

Today, there are 45kms of the Wall separating East and West Berlin and another 120kms separating West Berlin from East

Germany.

Since that night of division in a sleeping city nearly 5,000 people have managed to escape to West Berlin.

Of the less fortunate, 130 arrests in connection with escape attempts have been observed from the West while at least another 73 people have lost their lives in escape bids, 56 of these shot dead by East German border guards.

Average jail sentence handed out by the East Germans for trying to escape is three years. Aiding and abetting escapees warrants a six-year stint of detention.

A Wall, incidentally, not only costly in lives but also in cash. It is estimated it costs the East Germans eight million marks a year to maintain the perimeter fence of the biggest open prison in the world.

UDR GOES PUBLIC



The UDR Greenfinches abseiling team marches off at the end of a thrilling display

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Tick items of main interest: FIESTA ORION SIERRA
ESCORT GRANADA CAPRI

Thousands enjoy regiment's first tattoo

THE Ulster Defence Regiment's first regimental tattoo, held on two days at Ravenhill Rugby Ground, Belfast, attracted more than 11,000 spectators and proved to be one of the most spectacular military displays ever held in Northern Ireland.

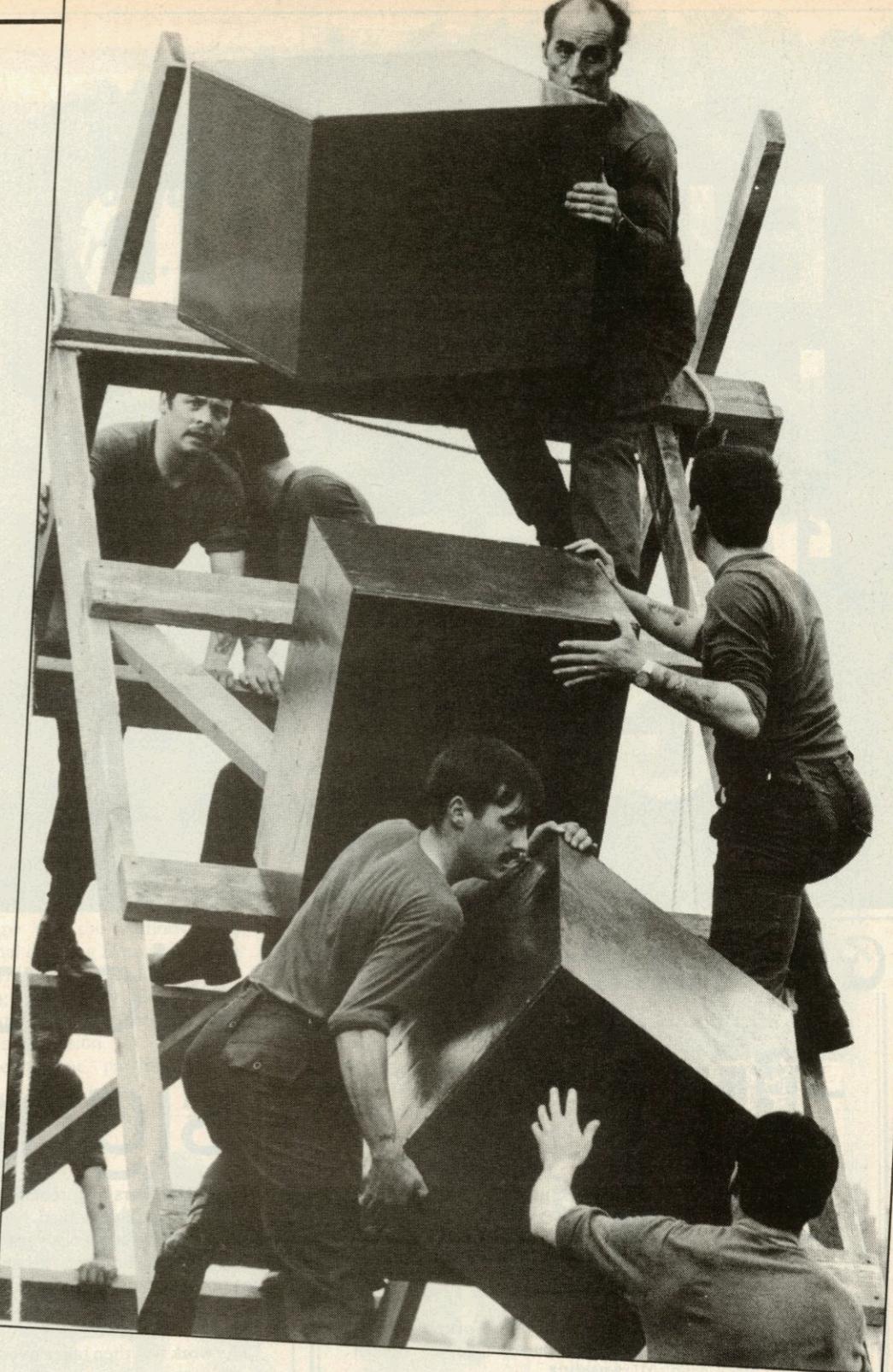
In addition to a number of displays of the regiment's operational skills, spectators saw the Red Devils freefall display team, a thrilling demonstration of helicopter abseiling by the Greenfinches, and the UDR's guard dogs in action.

Highlight of the event, of course, was a veritable feast of music provided by the massed pipes and drums of the regiment, drawn from eight battalions, the largest concentration of its kind ever provided by the UDR. In addition there was the Regimental Band of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the band of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The tattoo also marked the last day in the Army of Brig Roger Preston, who had commanded the regiment for two years. His successor is Brig Michael Bray.

Right — Building blocks were never so difficult! Frantic activity during an inter-battalion competition at the tattoo

Below — Massed bands of the UDR, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary on parade at Ravenhill, Belfast



THE ULSTER
Defence Regiment, formed in 1970, now consists of nine battalions and has been on active service in Northern Ireland ever since its foundation.

It is the longest period of active service of any regiment in the British Army.

The UDR's losses in the current campaign total 157 soldiers.

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No problems for signallers

OVER THE years maintenance of the giant wingless bird has varied. The Kiwi boot polish firm took it on, at no cost, as an enormous al fresco advert. But their interest, like any famous shine, dulled.

The work was then taken over by men from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles based at Larkhill in 1967. They moved on.

A dozen years of neglect followed. The kiwi was concealed by weeds.

Maj Danny Fisher, OC of 249 Signal Squadron decided to do something about it.

Commercial and civilian contractor quotes to clear the site ranged from £1,600 to £4,000.

249 Squadron — motto: "We have no problems, only solutions" — swung into concerted action.

Working in four-hours shifts, the signallers swapped their radio

sets for picks and shovels to complete the task in just three days. About 20 tons of chalk were humped away in 10,000 Chinese coolie-type sackloads...uphill!

Even the children from Kiwi School nearby helped in the project. And it was they who provided light relief for the visiting Commissioner.

They sang him a Maori song — "Pokara Kare Ana". Controversy on the day debated in good humour whether it was a love song or one of farewell.

Mr Harland also watched 120 men from 249 Signal Squadron take part in a march-and-shoot competition on a 12-mile circuit with 35-lb back packs.

The winner was Cpl Jim Brebner whose prize was a carved wooden kiwi presented to the squadron by the New Zealand Army.

**Stories: Graham Smith
Pictures: Terry Champion**

NEW ZEALAND High Commissioner Mr Bryce Harland has just been given the bird, by an Army signals squadron on Salisbury Plain about five miles from Stonehenge as any kiwi might wishfully fly.

The occasion was a special visit by the Antipodean VIP to the Bulford, Wilts, base of 249 Signal Squadron AMF (L) and the official unveiling on nearby Beacon Hill of a cairn-mounted plaque commemorating the world's largest kiwi carved in chalk nearly 70 years ago by New Zealanders impatiently waiting to go home after Western Front action in France.

The 420-ft long kiwi with its 150ft beak was dug out of the hill, known locally as Cardiac Hill, by men of the New Zealand Canterbury Battalion in February and March 1919. It overlooks Sling Camp where 4,500 men of the New Zealand Division were stationed at the end of the First World War.

The Canterbury Battalion, history says, removed 12 inches of top soil as they set about a task that was not a labour of love. Far from it!

New Zealand was anxious to get its fighting men back home as soon as possible after the Armistice but there were not enough troopers available.

Homesick soldiers got the bird...

So the Kiwis found themselves back on Salisbury Plain.

Army instructors decided to keep the battle-weary troops occupied. Route marches, "spit and polish" parades continued as if the war were still on.

The men sent a deputation to the general asking for a relaxation of discipline. It was rejected.

Cantankerous now, the Kiwis went on the rampage. They looted the canteen and the officers' mess, drinking what they found. Damage was extensive.

To quieten matters down, the officers said there would be no repercussions.

But they broke their word. The ringleaders were arrested, jailed and, ironically, shipped home!

One Colonel Mead came up with a suggestion. The boys would be better engaged in building a giant kiwi emblem on Beacon Hill. A symbolic memorial for posterity.

He arranged for the engineers to tape out the outlines. The original drawing from a sketch in the British Museum had been done by Sgt Maj Percy Blenkarne, a drawing instructor with the New Zealand Division.

The fatigue parties got to work...



Above — Mr Harland with local Kiwi School children at the cairn. Below — The start of the 12-mile march-and-shoot



Laid low by measles

THE MORE sombre note of a busy and energetic hillside day for the New Zealand High Commissioner was the laying of a wreath in Tidworth Military Cemetery where 102 New Zealanders lie buried.

It seems, from medical records, that the men were not felled by German machine gun bullet, rifle round or artillery shell.

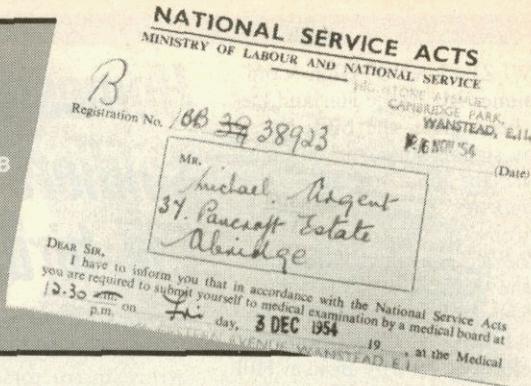
They died, in the main, from an epidemic of measles and flu said to have swept England and France in early 1918.

The scourge was worsened by bronchial chest infections as the New Zealanders lay in dwindling numbers in nearby Brimswood Bottom Isolation Hospital.

One theory suggested a virus may have been imported aboard a trooper which had called at Sierra Leone.

HAPPY DAYS!

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number is up!
How Michael
Argent received
news of his
call-up



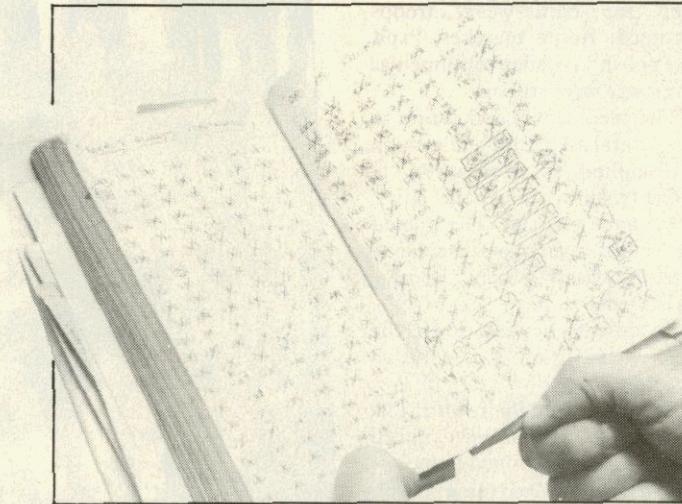
ARMY KD shorts worn 36 years ago by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House of Commons, are to go on public display on September 30 in the Imperial War Museum's exhibition, "The Best Years of their Lives. National Service 1945-1963" — a special tribute to the 2,300,000 "two-year-men" who served in all three Services.

Mr Biffen's shorts were worn by him in the Canal Zone in 1950. There is also a picture of him with fellow soldiers among No 3 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers. His initial training was done at Cove, near Farnborough.

Some 750 exhibits will go on show on the IWM's ground floor. Nearly 400 former National Servicemen responded to the museum's plea for the loan or donation of memorabilia and artefacts spanning the 18 years under the spotlight.

Among personal mementos under public gaze will be the tunic worn by Intelligence Corps 2nd Lt Michael Frayn in about 1954, a former student of Russian at the Joint Services' School of Linguists.

"I joined the Int Corps because I thought everybody would be impressed and I would be surrounded by other intelligent people. They were not impressed



The owner of this diary was anxious to tick off every single day of his two years as a National Serviceman

and I was not surrounded by such people," the London-based playwright is reported as saying.

Another tunic, worn by 2nd Lt William Purves, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, the first National Serviceman to win a DSO, is also ready for show. The former Kelso bank clerk won his medal in the defence of the knoll on Hill 217 in Korea on October 28, 1951.

Art, too, has been submitted for the seven-month exposition. One

is a painting depicting a "bull night" in the billet. It was done by David Waterhouse, formerly of The Manchester Regiment, now living in West Hampstead.

"Chuff charts" or days-to-do calendars, one in book form, will also be on show. The book, in diary format, deals with every occurrence in the author's day during his National Service in the RAF. It itemises breakfast in detail, for instance, with an entry like BBJ — bread, butter and jam — and

records details of 48-hour leaves with diagrammatic clocks showing segments allocated to actual travel, time spent at home and... sleep!

His covering letter to the museum for its loan says simply: "Emphasis on meals. Survival, I suppose."

Miss Penny Ritchie-Calder the museum's exhibition officer, said: "This looks like being one of our most important shows this year. Judging from the responses, I think everyone got fed up with the bulling and the silly rules and regulations yet everybody thought it was worthwhile.

"The exhibition, I think, will provide an aspect of people's lives perhaps unappreciated until now.

"We also hope that former National Servicemen will perhaps donate items to us. We are writing to those who have loaned us items to see if they would like to do this. We are particularly interested in photographs as this is not well-documented in the museum."

The exhibition, illustrating experiences of National Service and covering aspects of call-up, training, barrack room life and active service overseas, runs from September 30 to May 3.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley



Sara Roberts of the Imperial War Museum arranges some National Service uniforms. The tunic on the right belongs to playwright Michael Frayn

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MARIE STOPES

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SOLDIER and **Interprint**, one of Britain's largest leisurewear printers, are inviting you to think up a logo or design for your particular group, whether to mark a tour of duty, an outstanding event, your regiment or battalion or your sports team.

Senders of the best three designs will have their designs transformed into finished artwork by **Interprint's** graphic artists and reprinted on a dozen high-quality sweatshirts or tee-shirts.

First prize, a dozen sweatshirts, is worth £130. The runners-up prizes, of all-cotton printed tee-shirts, are worth £75 each. They will be delivered in the sizes and colours of the winners' choices to a BFPO address anywhere in the world, from Aldershot to the Ascension, Fallingbostel to the Falklands.

Prize shirts will be awarded to the senders of the designs which, in the opinion of the judges — a representative of **SOLDIER** and **Interprint's** managing director Patrick Wood — show the most flair and originality. They will not be looking for artistic perfection — just good ideas, striking designs, and if appropriate, a witty slogan.

And, if you want more of the shirts, **Interprint** keep the screens permanently on file, so that you can re-order easily. You can also have the design transferred to any of their range of sweatshirts in



crew, hooded or V-neck forms, sports shirts and running vests.

So start thinking! Send your entries, with your name and address, to **Interprint Competition, SOLDIER magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU**, to arrive by September 8.

Tom's mission

There were to be no feints. No outflanking manœuvres.

They moved off in the face of shells and bullets with, as someone later recorded, a "success that astonished all who knew the ground."

Once inside the wood, however, progress was impeded by thick undergrowth. Shells from both sides hit the trees. Detonations and splinters increased the number of casualties.

The assault started at about 0415 and by 1830 was 40 yards from the northern edge of the wood. It took another day of determined, dogged fighting to clear the wood of enemy.

Tom Price, memories still vivid, said: "Glory and distinction escaped them. Their courage and achievement deserve to be honoured. With help towards the fund we can make Mametz Wood a corner of a foreign field that is forever Wales."

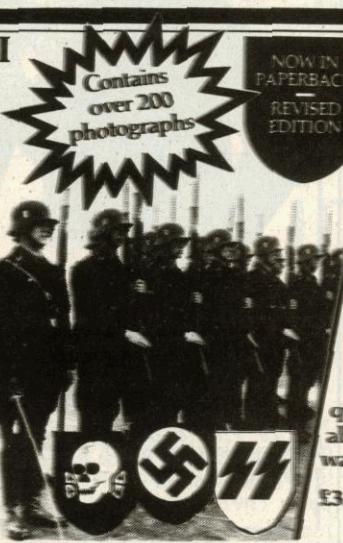
● Donations can be sent to "The Mametz Wood Memorial Fund," c/o Midland Bank plc, Blackwood, Gwent, NP2 1PN.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

HITLER'S SAMURAI

The Waffen-SS In Action

Bruce Quarrie. The dreaded Waffen-SS, obeying a warrior code adopted from the samurai saw themselves as modern Teutonic Knights. Their victims often saw them in a different light, but all acknowledge their military prowess. This 3rd and revised edition of the book examines the development and recruitment of the SS — including a small unit of British soldiers who joined — their uniforms, weapons, extermination squads and military campaigns. £6.99 plus 90p p&p



VIETNAM WEAPONS HANDBOOK

David Rosser-Owen. From small arms to tanks and artillery (and even the horrific improvised booby-trap devices used by the Vietcong), this book gives specifications and uses of all ground weapons used by the opposing forces during the Vietnam war. Includes detailed weapon data as well as dozens of fine photographs, several in colour. This is an invaluable quick-reference source for all military enthusiasts and wargamers.

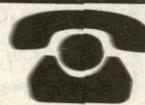
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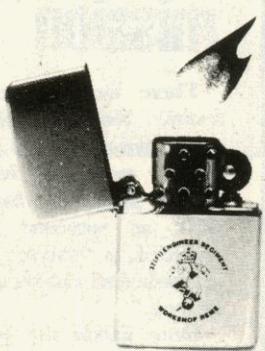


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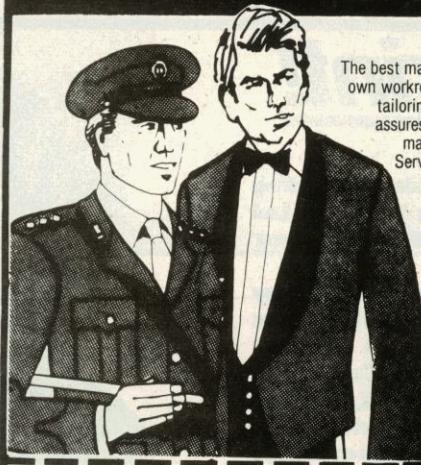
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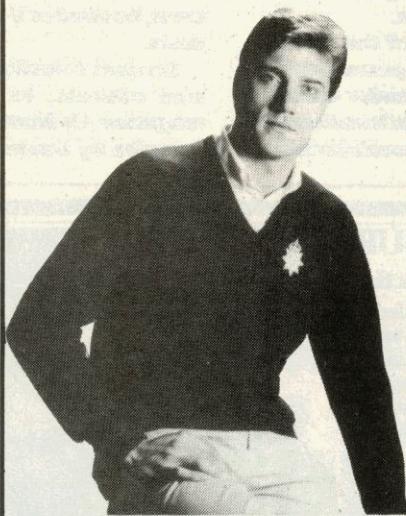
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THE ROLE OF THE DRUMS

IT'S commonplace now for people to donate their bodies for useful purposes, but few throughout history can have ordered that after death their skin should be used to make a drum.

One who did was a Bohemian nobleman named Ziska, who apparently fought with the English at Agincourt. In fact his gruesome wish is mentioned by Byron: "Like Ziska's skin to beat alarm to refractory vassals".

This gem of information is culled from *The Drummer's Handbook*, an MoD publication which was conceived by Maj (QM) J A Barrow, of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and WO2 M Hall of the Coldstream Guards, both of them experienced and knowledgeable about drumming.

Their intention was to preserve the customs and tradition of the

drums which were in danger of being lost or distorted with the rapid turnover of personnel in the Corps of Drums, particularly in the Infantry of the Line battalions.

The handbook deals not only with the history and traditions of drums but with their maintenance, their drill, music theory and how to play them, and gives examples of traditional drum beatings and the fife tunes which were played to accompany them.

It is being issued to all Infantry Corps of Drums and Cadet Forces and is available for sale.

Drums (and fifes) are among the oldest forms of military music. The drum — the name is derived, it is thought, from the German 'trom' or 'trommel' — is believed to have evolved from the biblical timbrel.

In the Chinese army of the fifth century BC the drum was used for giving signals during battle.

It was the Crusaders who were credited with introducing the drum into Europe in the 11th century. Until that time the ancient Britons had used the horn and trumpet as their instruments of martial music, but the Crusaders had seen the value of the drum as an adjunct to military art in the armies of the Saracens.

The first occasion on which the drum was used in anger on British soil appears to have been at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333. A few years later Edward III had drummers in the forefront of his triumphant entry into Calais.

For many years the drummer was paid more than the private soldier. In fact during Elizabeth I's reign the drummer received the same pay as a sergeant, one shilling a day, whereas the private soldier received only eight pence.

The drums of a battalion are cherished and as closely guarded as the Colours.

When the Highland Division was about to be captured at St Valery in 1940, the drums of the famous Scottish regiments were buried in the hope that they would be recovered later, rather than allow them to fall into the hands of the Germans. The drums were, in fact, recovered after the war.

In the retreat to Dunkirk in the same year, the 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment buried their drums too, but unfortunately they were not so successful and only two were recovered after the war.

Until the introduction of the bugle, all signals in Regiments of Foot were given by drum. In an age when close formation manoeuvre could win or lose a battle, the drum was very important.

Drummers have always been and should continue to be an example of smartness and behaviour. The manner in which they carry out their duties marks the standard, smartness and efficiency of the battalion, says the handbook.

Not only is their music a wonderful aid to troops on the march but also to the soldier's carriage and the morale for which the British infantryman is so justly famous.

Today, of course, the Corps of Drums is a highly trained platoon; all its members are trained soldiers and drummers second. They take their place in combat and under active service conditions, yet also present the full pageantry and panoply when on parade, activity for which they are famous throughout the world.

● **The Drummer's Handbook**, available from The Forms and Publications Branch (Sales), PO Box 202, Donnington, Telford, Salop, price £17.75 including binder and postage, or £20 to overseas addresses.

by RODNEY BASHFORD



Drums of The Black Watch

RECORD REVIEW

Sappers' music in good shape

ENGINEERS EVERYWHERE

Band of the Royal Engineers
Conductor: Major D E Pryce
Bandleader BND 1023

FOR HIS last record with the Royal Engineers, Maj Don Pryce gives us a similar programme to the Life Guards with marches on one side and popular light pieces on the other. After a fanfare called *Phoenix* and a march dedicated to the RE Postal and Courier Service aptly named *First Post*, both by Maj Pryce, a couple of classics in *Colonel Bogey* and *Fred Losey's Waldmire*.

Then a very fine slow march by Maj Terry Kenny of the RCT which gives its name to the title of the disc, although *Ubique* is of course the motto of the Corps.

Another march by Don Pryce is *The Iron Regiment* written when he was bandmaster of the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1963 when that now amalgamated regiment found itself doing public duties at Buckingham Palace. Lloyd Thomas's *Scarlet and Gold* and *Old Comrades* complete bring the parade bit to a close.

A rare concert march by

Tchaikovsky starts side two, it being composed for the coronation of Tsar Alexander III and a Danish princess, and like several of the composer's works manages to include both party's national anthems.

In my 16 years as your reviewer I don't remember another band recording of Suppé's *Poet and Peasant* overture, probably because conductors think it overdone.

Not so, and band buffs will no doubt take the opportunity to have it, and a fine band to play it for them. Then four short items of

more modern character — a trumpet solo *Braziliense* (ouch) by American Warren Barker, the theme from *The A Team*, ditto from *Dynasty*, the best part of the soap opera, and finally Ronald Binge's *Las Castanuelas* (The Castanets).

Engineers are not quite so "everywhere" as formerly, now down to only their one band at Chatham, but Don Pryce leaves it in very good shape if this disc is anything to go by.

● **From Bandleader**, price £5.60 inclusive, and dealers.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

COMPETITION
394

How would you like to win £50 just for being observant!

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 the richer. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, and add your name and address.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is September 8.

The name of the winner of the £50 prize will be announced in our October 6 issue.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

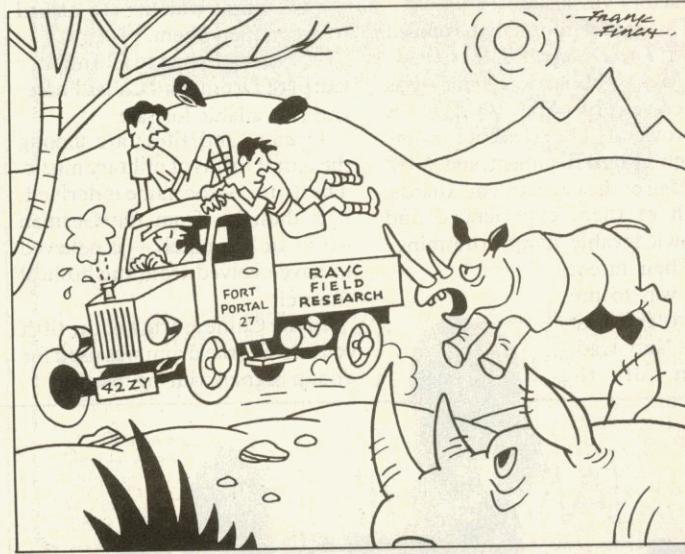
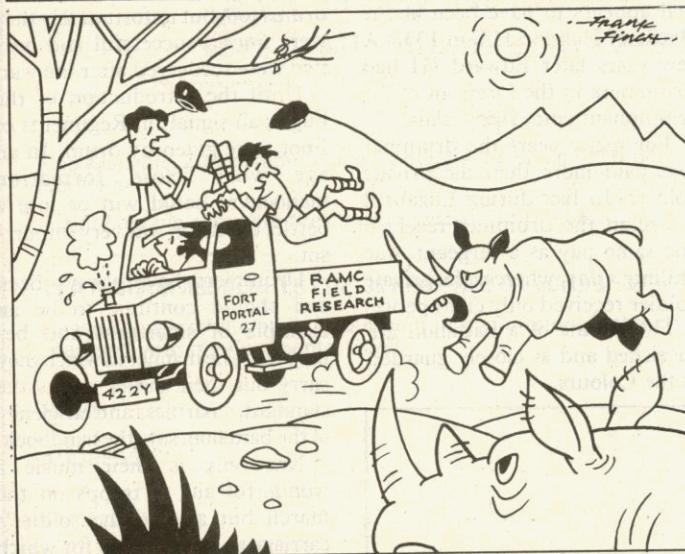
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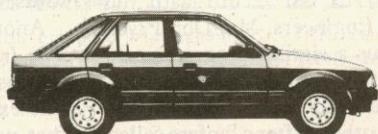
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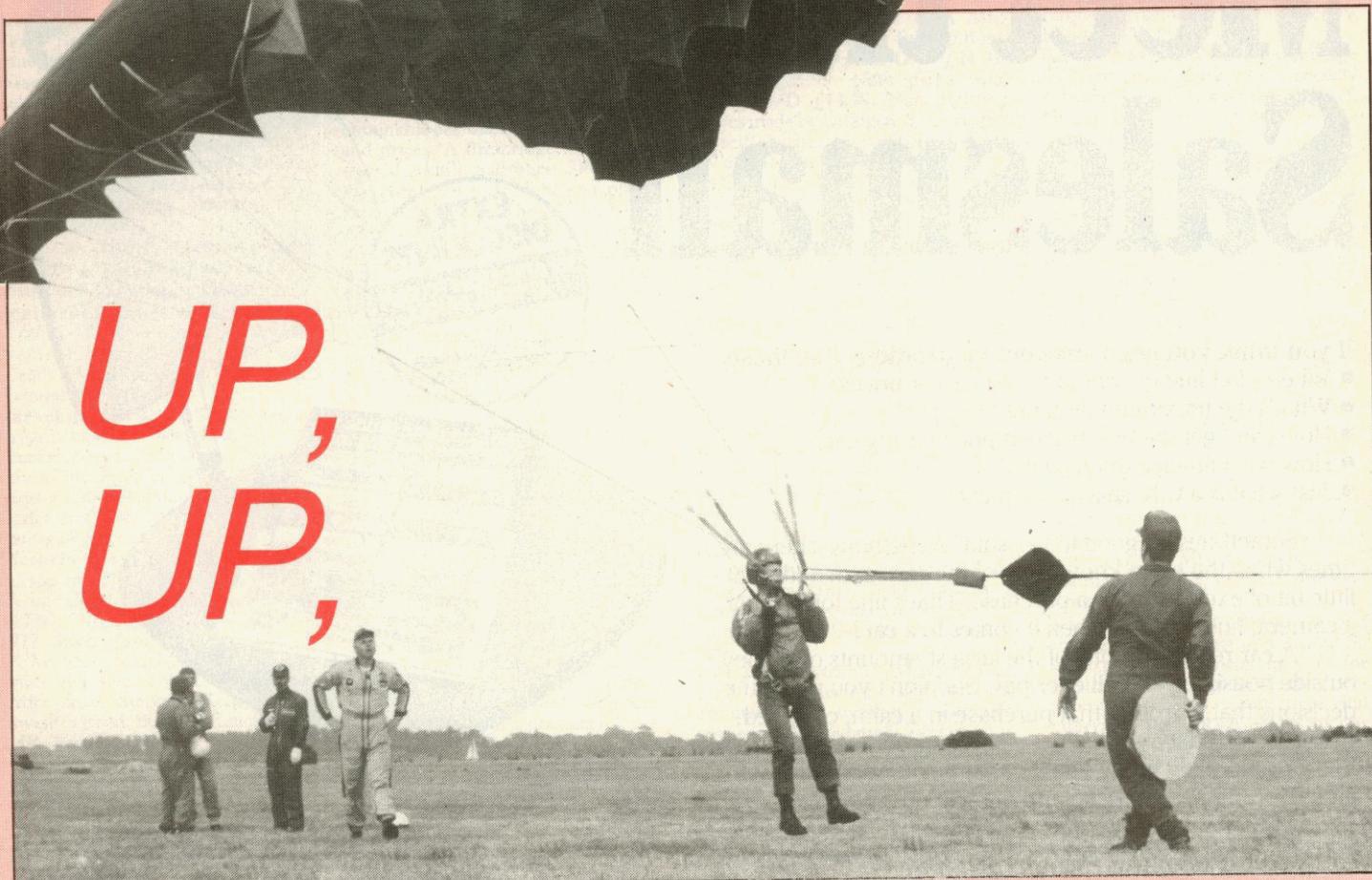
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TAKE-OFF TIME: RAF Sgt Barney Phipps launches LBdr Bob Thomas of 26 Fd Regt RA on a ten-minute flip round Thorney Island.



**UP,
UP,**

UP AND AWAY!

FIVE MINUTES of instruction followed by a day's flying and the would-be parascender can pin up a bunch of feathers if not a set of "wings".

"Anyone can do it," said Sgt George Harrison, chairman of the British Association of Parascending Clubs, the sport's governing body.

"We've had 80-year-old ladies, handicapped people... all sorts buckle on the harness and go aloft with an instructor "piloting" 'Big Foot', our huge two-man 'chute.

"This is a fast-growing and cheap sport which 2,000 members — 500 of them in the Army — spread around 68 clubs can confirm," said George, chief instructor for the week-long course at Thorney Island.

"There's no hanging around waiting for the right conditions. Providing the wind doesn't exceed 25mph and we have a suitable operating area, a trained ground team and tow vehicle — not to mention 'chutes —

we're in business."

As George described the needs to become a parascender, which includes an £18 annual subscription, ten instructor trainees were carving shapes in the Thorney Island sky as quickly as they could get hitched to the tow rope of the Land-Rover.

"At any of the private clubs, this course would have cost in the region of £200 apiece. But as members of the Army club, which comes under the umbrella of officially recognised sports, it works out at practically nothing. 'Chutes, tow vehicle and space are all provided," said George, a dental hygienist at the Junior Leaders RA, Bramcote, Nuneaton, who would like to hear from anyone interested in the sport.

Rookie of the week among the ten potential instructors was Lt Alex Haig, 24, an AAC helicopter pilot based at Bovington. "Because we operate at tree-top level

parachutes are not for us," he said.

"But I was nominated unit parachute officer so I thought this a good way to find out about it."

Apprehensive at first and feeling a bit out of things since all the others were regular parascenders, his knowledge of flight theory soon had him swerving and curving about the sky up to 1,000 ft.

"It's an easy-to-learn sport," said Alex, who at 6ft 4in and topping 15 stones is no lightweight to be whipped aloft at the end of a rope.

But "Big Foot" can take 30 stones at least and within a day Alex was going solo and by the end of the week had made more than 30 flights.

George's course preceded the Army championships, which in turn precede the world championships in Holland next month.

Sgt John Minton, RA, Cpl Del Lazell, 2 Para and Pte Willie Langdon, Royal Scots — all from the School of

Infantry, Warminster, will be seeking selection for the 12-strong national squad tilting at the world title.

And they look likely candidates for the trip, for they swooped on the Army title with the Odds and Sods, a three-man team of instructors made up of Sgt Trevor Johnson, RRF, LCpl Dave Brown, 4/7 Dragon Guards and Spr Dave Hardcastle of 38 Engr Regt, coming second.

Third place went to the Brize Norton Joint Services' Club side of WO2 Arthur Bentley, REME, LCpl Haig and Cpl Andy Corocan, both from JATE.

In the individual section the results were: 1, Pte Andy Shaw (2 Para); 2, Cpl Del Lazell (2 Para); 3, WO2 Arthur Bentley (REME). The top regular soldier spot went to Pte Andy Shaw, with SSgt Trevor Johnson (5RRF) winning the TA title and Cdt Simon Hurst (Queen's Farnham Det ACF), taking the top cadet place.

Story: John Margetts

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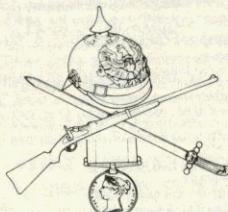
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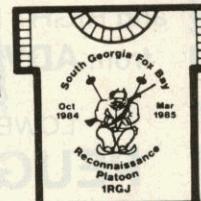
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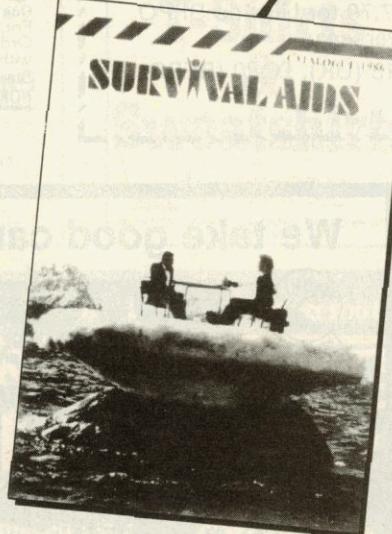
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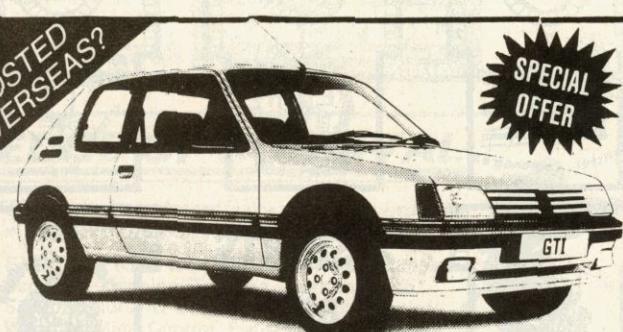
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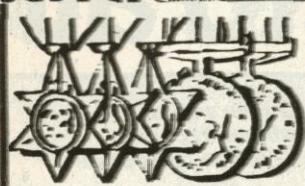
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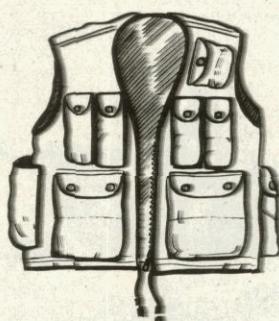


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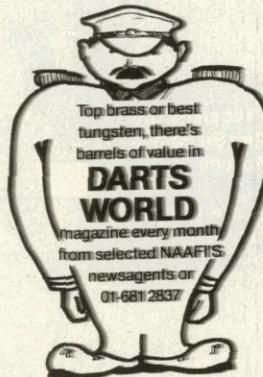
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Sailing

Sappers take charge

SAPPERS dominated the Army Junior sailing and boardsailing championships, hosted by the Junior Leaders' Regiment RAC at the Boscombe Centre, HMS Osprey, Portland.

They took the first four places in the boardsailing competition, with JSpr Haskey winning five of the seven races to take the individual title.

JBdm Hudson won the individual sailing championships, but was chased home by sappers who filled the next 12 places. The team competition was won by AAC Chepstow (who also took fourth place), while teams from JLRRE came second and third.

Athletics

AFCENT athletes in form

A TEAM of British Servicemen won the international Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) athletics competition at Brunssum in the Netherlands. The USA, Germany, Belgium, Canada and the host country were also represented.

SSgt Nigel Johnson won both 5,000m and 1,500, Dvr Paul Spooner took the long jump and Cpl Mike Hellewell the discus.

In an exciting finale, the UK team — made up of Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British civilians — finished second in the 4 x 400m relay to clinch overall victory.

Soccer

Danish dynamite

THE SMALL tri-Service UK Element (UKE) at HQ BALTAP, in Denmark, has achieved a unique double in winning the Viborg (Jutland) five-a-side indoor and seven-a-side outdoor soccer leagues.

Bisley to aim for 'reality'



Above — The UDR team receives the winning unit trophy from Gen Sir James Glover, C-in-C UK Land Forces

Below — The last rounds are fired in the 1986 Bisley championships

A BISLEY championship more geared towards combat requirements must be fostered, said Gen Sir James Glover, C-in-C UK Land Forces, when he addressed Army competitors and supporters at the end of this year's event.

Saluting the competitors for their "skill and enthusiasm", Sir James, who is president of the Army Rifle Association, said: "The matches must be made more realistic and the championship more closely tied to operational reality."

"This meeting is the most demanding and competitive shooting event in the world but there is some re-shaping to be done. It is an invaluable method of improving marksmanship throughout the Army and I look forward with confidence to an even more worthwhile and constructive meeting next year," added Sir James.

His comments followed a championship that saw a distinct shift in emphasis towards combat needs with a new respirator match and a march-and-shoot competition.

The new SA80 also made an

**Queen's Medal
winner in colour
— inside back cover**

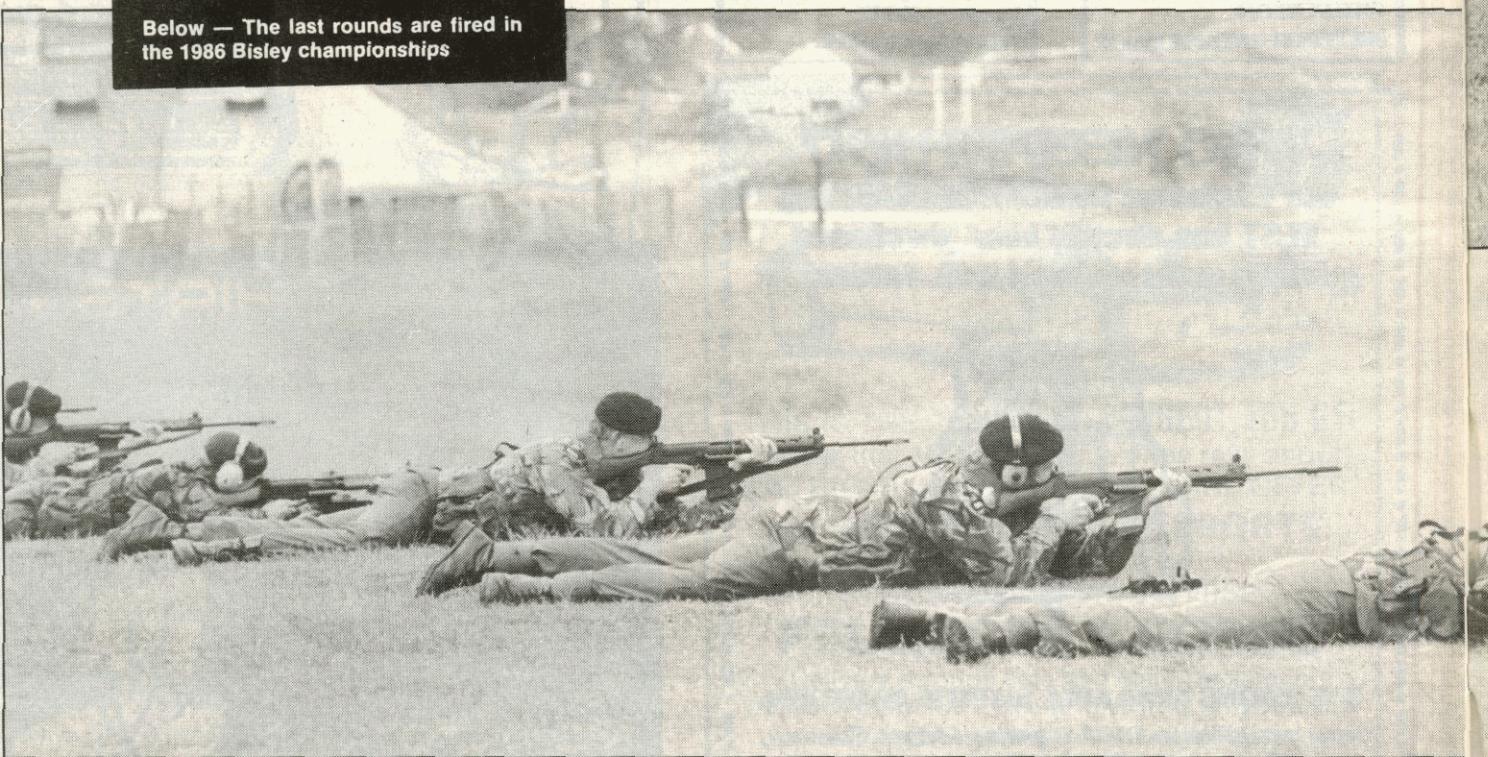
appearance but was not used in competition for any of the trophies. It was used by a team from 1 Black Watch and another of mixed Services.

The winner of the Army Queen's Medal, with 975 points, was Cpl David Bell of 1 King's Own Border Regt who beat the UDR's WO2 David Beatty into second place by 26 points.

2 UDR, however, snatched the unit trophy by just one match point with a score of 552, pipping the 2nd Gurkha Rifles into second place with 551 points and the 6th Gurkha Rifles into third with 546.

A delighted Cpl Bell, who has been shooting competitively for six years, said: "This is the big one for me. I shall come back next year and try and do it again."

**Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: Paul Haley**



ACC man is top junior shot

FOR THE first time since the Junior Soldiers Skill at Arms meeting was started 11 years ago, the junior service rifle champion is not an infantryman.

Breaking the mould at this year's championship was App Wayne Heaton of the Army Catering Corps, who finished 18 points clear of his nearest rival.

His colleagues from the Army

Apprentices College (ACC) carried him off proudly in the famous chair to complete a memorable season for the college shooting team.

In all, the college received five trophies, 17 ARA medals and 60 medal bars at the JSSAM at Pirbright Ranges.

Junior results were:

Junior Soldiers SR Champion Cup — App W Heaton (ACC).

C-in-C's Silver Medal and Silver Bar — JLdr M Thornton (Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe). Bronze Medal — JLdr A Rigby (JIB Shorncliffe). Iraq Cup — JLdr M Thornton (JIB Shorncliffe). Green Howards Cup — App W Heaton (ACC). Boileau Cup — JLdr K Grey (The Guards Depot). Hotchkiss Cup — JLdr M Thornton (JIB Shorncliffe). SMG championship — JLdr P Thompson (JIB Shorncliffe). Western Command Cup (team snapshooting) — JIB Shorncliffe. Malta Cup and ARA Shield — JIB Shorncliffe. Gunner Cup and ARA Shield — Army Apprentices College ACC. Royal Army Ordnance Corps Cup — Army Apprentices College ACC. Mahon Cup — JIB Shorncliffe. Royal Engineers Cup — JIB Shorncliffe. Junior Parachute Regiment Cup — JIB Shorncliffe.



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Bisley results

SERVICE RIFLE

Queen's Medal and ARA Gold Jewel — Cpl D Bell (1 King's Own Border Regt). Young Officers' Cup — Lt A McLean (6 UDR). Watkin Cup — Cpl D Bell (1 King's Own Border Regt). Manchester Regiment Cup — Lt A McLean (6 UDR). Rifle Brigade Cup — Tpr B Strachan (Royal Scots Dragoon Guards). Roupell Cup — WO2 D Beattie (2 UDR). Henry Whitehead Cup — Sgt K Kinton (1 Grenadier Guards). Association Cup — Cpl D Bell (1 King's Own Border Regt). Whittaker Trophy — WO1 R Nesbit (38 Eng Regt Wksp). Roberts Cup — Csgt M Hammond (WFR). Army Hundred Cup — Sgt K Kinton (1 Grenadier Guards). SMG Victory Cup and ARA Gold Jewel — Cpl M Frap (Light Div Depot).

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Pistol XXX Cup and ARA Gold Jewel — WO2 D Ward (SEME). Infantry Rifle Championship — 1 Grenadier Guards.

MAJOR UNITS

King's Royal Rifle Corps Cup — 2 UDR. Royal Cambridge Shield — The Life Guards.

Brooke Bond Cup — Queen's Gurkha Signals. Broken Wheel Cup — 94 Locating Regt RA.

Ulster Defence Regiment Cup — 2 UDR. Rhine Army Cup — 1 Grenadier Guards.

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Queen's Own Highlanders Cup — 6 Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Royal Signals Cup — Queen's Gurkha Signals.

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INTER-SERVICES

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Athletics**Baptiste blitz snatches honours**

GREAT BRITAIN international sprinter Joan Baptiste of the WRAF turned the women's Inter-Service championships into something of a one-woman show, winning the 100 m, 200 m and long jump, then anchoring her team to victory in the 100 m and 400 m relays.

The result of the meeting hinged on the final 4 x 400 m relay, and Baptiste's blistering 43 sec last leg ensured that the WRAF sneaked in just four points ahead of the Army Women's team.

The Army's own international, Capt Sue Parker, a doctor at Shorncliffe, won the 400 m, the 800 m and the 1,500 m — the last race in a championship record of 4.36.0, 1.1 sec faster than her old record. Unfortunately she had little time to recover for the 400 m relay and could not match Baptiste's tremendous speed.

Pte Jackie Gillchrist, HQ Scotland, also set a new championship best, with a high jump record of 5.75 m.

Sgt Maggie Smith, (QARANC Training Centre) won the first 3,000 m race to be held at the women's Inter-Services and was second in the 1,500 m. Pte Celia Duffield, 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt, was second in the 3,000 m.

Cpl Cheryl Castle, DLSA Didcot, won the 100 m hurdles.

The men also finished second to the Royal Air Force despite several good performances.

Sig Clarence Calender, 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt, won both 100 m and 200 m while SSgt Kris Akabusi, 17 Port Regt RCT Marchwood, won the 400 m and took second place to SSgt Malcolm Edwards, APTC, in the 800 m.

SSgt Lake, 14 Sig Regt, was second in the 400 m.

There were Army doubles in two field events, with Spr Parker, 24 Fd Sqn RE, and Gdsrn Phillip McKay, IG, finishing first and second in the shot; and Spr Mark Stirling, RE, and Sgt Bodger, 1 RA, first and second in the hammer.

Sig Mark Vile, 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt, finished second in the 1,500 m ahead of Navy international Chris Robison.

Calender (100 m relay and individual), Akabusi (400 m relay and individual), and Edwards (800 m and 1500 m) were all taking part in the Commonwealth Games as SOLDIER went to press.

Gannon back in charge

ARMY BOXING, top of the Services tree for the past three years, has just received a double shot in the arm in the campaign to stay there.

SSgt Mick Gannon (pictured right), the man who masterminded the Eighties revival which ended seven years of Royal Navy domination, is back in the saddle as Army coach.

And Rfn Tony Velinor, of 3 Royal Green Jackets, who recently became the Army's first ABA title holder for 12 years, has signed on for a further three years of Army service.

Mick Gannon has been associated with the Army team since 1972 and was team captain from 1976-78.

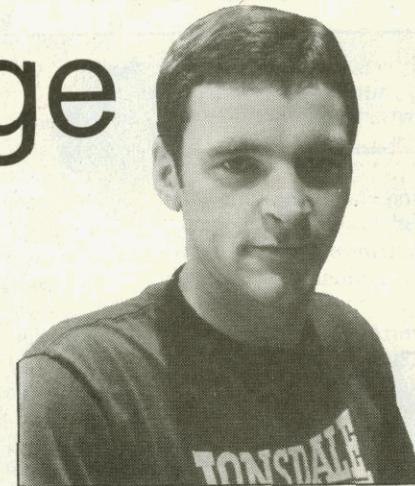
Last spring, after three years in the job, he was posted to Sandhurst and replaced by SSgt Kevin Greef. During the Gannon years Army fortunes had improved rapidly until last year they hammered the Navy by eight bouts to two in their home stronghold of Portsmouth.

But this season, while they retained the Services title, the Army boxers failed to sparkle in the big match and only narrowly fended off the Navy 6-4.

Now Gannon is back for at least another two years and has already started planning for the next winter season. And he reckons that the Army has its best pool of talent for many years.

He has already asked for 42 boxers to be released for the initial training which begins at Aldershot in October. There are so many fine contenders that in three weights — feather, light and welter — he will be looking at no less than six boxers!

Velinor's decision to stay in the Army is an additional fillip. He had been expected to leave after his fine season. Velinor had been picked to fight in the Commonwealth Games for St Lucia but turned the offer down as



Gannon advised him that he should get his England vest next season.

With Dvr Neil Haddock (RCT) boxing in the Commonwealth Games for Wales and Cpl Keith Howlett another England possible, Gannon now has an experienced squad to which he is adding all the time.

"I could have as many as 50 boxers in the initial squad this autumn. Things are getting better and better — there is such a lot of talent about in the Army at the moment," he says.

And as his right hand man he has picked another longtime Army boxing stalwart — the redoubtable heavyweight Cpl Horace Miles (Royal Green Jackets).

Miles has finally retired from the ring after an Army career stretching back more than a decade. Now he will be assistant coach.

Says Gannon: "He is dedicated to boxing and well known and respected throughout the boxing world."

Six major matches, including one against Wales and a Combined Services visit to Berlin to take on the American Army, will take place before Christmas. The final squad of around 20 will then assemble in the early New Year for the Services events.

Modern pentathlon

HART, MAHONY WIN GB PLACES

ARMY TEAMS dominated the British open modern pentathlon championships at Milton Keynes, finishing first and third in the men's competition.

Cpl Peter Hart, REME, finished second overall after chasing champion Richard Phelps all the way.

Hart, Sgt Peter Whiteside, REME, (5th overall) and LCpl Andy Price RE (14th) took the Army's A team into first place in the club rankings, while LCpl Richard Radford, Devon and Dorset Regt, (19th), Tony Woodall (23rd) and Tim Haddon (25th) pushed the Army B team into third place behind Phelps's club, Sparrow.

Hart won the fencing and

finished with 5,406 points, 130 behind Phelps.

He and 2nd Lt Dominic Mahony, The Life Guards, who took tenth place in the modern pentathlon at the Goodwill Games in Moscow, were in the Great Britain team travelling to Montecatini in Italy for the 1986 world championship from August 5.

In the Birmingham International modern pentathlon event, Peter Whiteside finished in 27th place, Cpl Steve Dadson, REME, 31st, and Hart 40th after doing badly in the riding.

Whiteside, Dadson, Price and Radford represented the Army in an international modern pentathlon event in Munich at the end of last month.

Soccer

Sunk — by the Navy!

THE ROYAL NAVY retained the Royal Tournament six-a-side soccer competition by beating the Army 4-3 in an exciting final played in front of a packed evening house.

Earlier the Army had beaten the Metropolitan Police 3-0 with goals by Cpl Sandy Brown, Cpl Kevin Parkins and Gsman Bob Sharpe.

Cpl Neil Rotheray got the Army off to a great start in the final, before the Navy (2-1 victors over the RAF) struck twice in rapid succession. SSI Pat Russell equalised and Sandy Brown put the Army ahead — only for the Navy to reply with two of their own, the second minutes before the end of the match.

Mister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr John Stanley, presented the trophy to Navy skipper Sgt Tiv Lowe RM.

Cheers, Chaps!

Army Queen's Medal winner
Cpl David Bell is chaired away
triumphant from the Bisley
championship field.



SOLDIER

DEADLY DRUIDS

An 84mm Carl Gustav team of the United Kingdom Mobile Force takes a bead on an "enemy" Chieftain during exercise Druid's Delight on Salisbury Plain. See Pages 18-19.

Picture by Terry Champion

