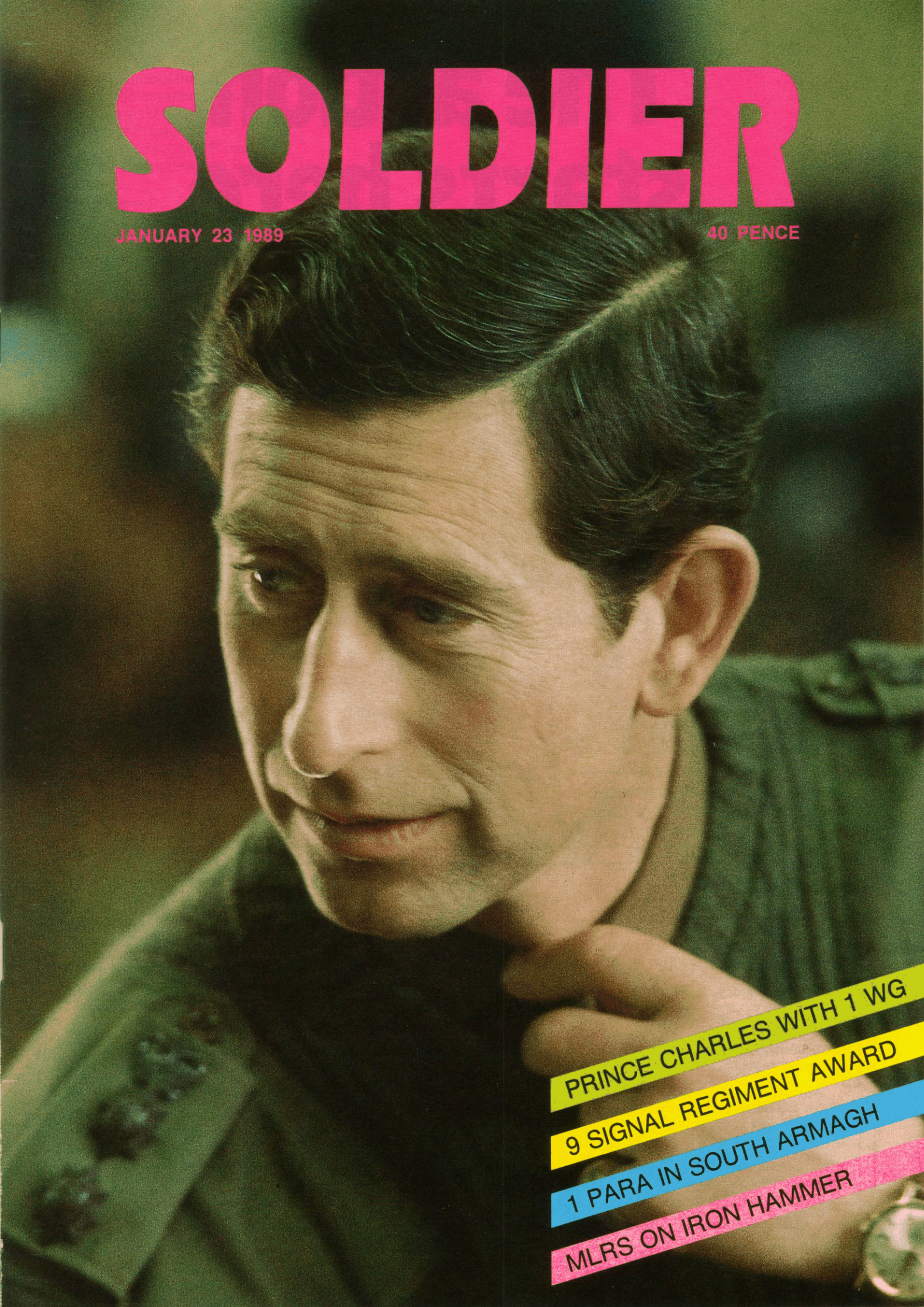


SOLDIER

JANUARY 23 1989

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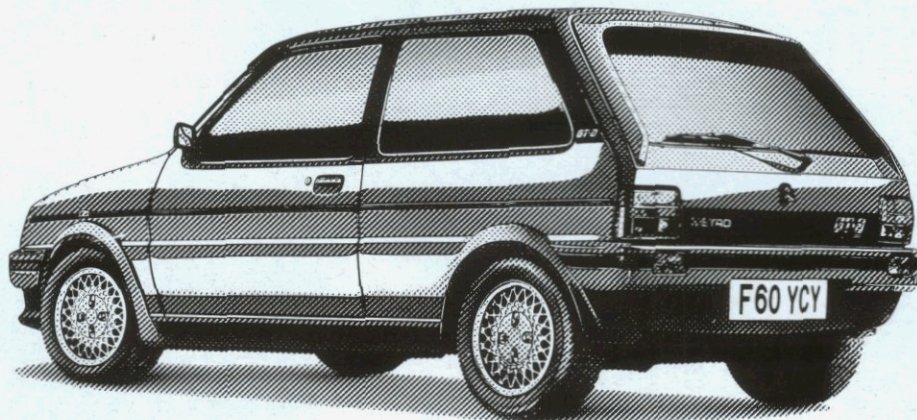
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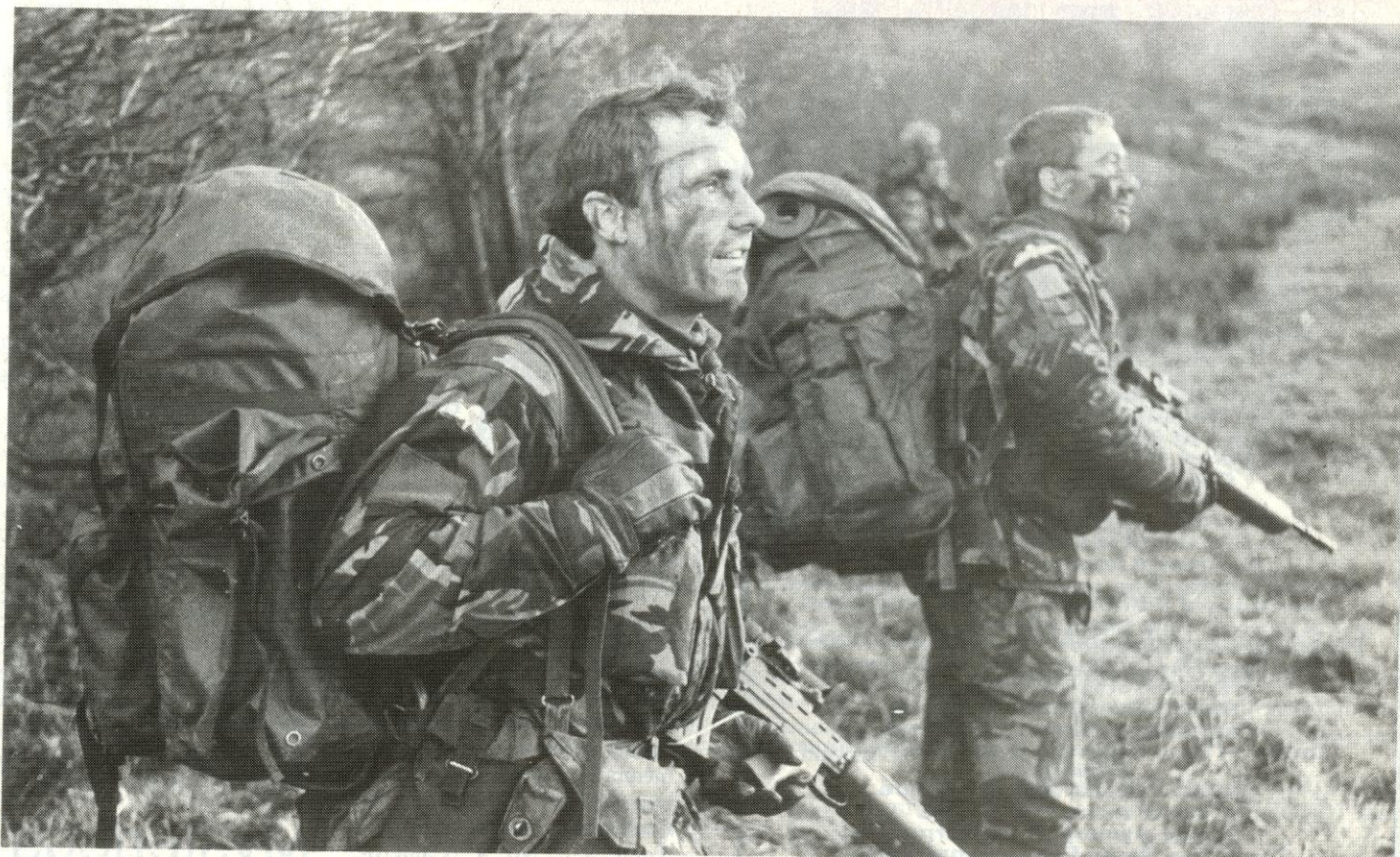
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FRONT COVER: The Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Welsh Guards, photographed during his private visit to the 1st Battalion at Pirbright. A photographic record of Prince Charles's visit appears on Pages 26 and 27.

Picture: Terry Champion

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Above: Hats off to the helicopter pilot? Paras watch an aircraft approach their pick-up point in a field in South Armagh. See feature on 1 Para beginning on Page 29. In the next issue there will be a feature on a resident battalion in Northern Ireland, and a look at the US President's Honor Guard.

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VOL. 45/2

CONTENTS

4 Letters

5 News

10 People

13 SOLDIER to Soldier

14 9 Signal Regiment

18 Anne Armstrong

20 MLRS on exercise

24 Iron Hammer roundup

JANUARY 23, 1989

26 Prince visits 1 WG

29 1 Para in Northern Ireland

33 GOC NI interview

34 Classified advertisements

36 Record and book reviews

39 Mackinnon Road

39 HOAY competition

40 SOLDIER Mart

48 Sport

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LETTERS

Suffield bigger than Luxembourg

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I read with interest your recent article on the QOH training at Canadian Forces Base Suffield with BATUS. It was very well done, but perhaps I can comment upon one or two areas in the sidebar of the article.

The total area of CFB

Suffield is 2,640.466 square kilometres. While some of the area is reserved for the use of the Defence Research Establishment trials and projects, almost all of the base can be used for weapon danger templates if the occasion warrants.

In considering the size of the base, it is slightly larger than (not "about the size of") Luxembourg. We are not aware of any Nato military base or reservation used for this type of army training which is larger.

Fort Irwin in California is listed by the Pentagon at 1,000 square miles (642,000 acres), CFB Suffield is 1,019.485 square miles (652,000 acres).

If you know of a larger training area or military establishment in Nato, we would be interested in hearing about it to correct our base briefing. We suspect that the other side has an equivalent large training area. I believe they call it the Ukraine! - Col A M Brown, Base Commander, HQ Canadian Forces Base, Suffield, Ralston, Alberta.

Mysterious Mr Smith

In SOLDIER (Dec 12) Rodney Bashford reviewed a recording by the band, pipes and drums of the QRIH, and he mentioned a piece entitled *Galop Humoresque* "by C T Smith whoever he may be".

I venture to suggest to Rodney Bashford that this would in fact be P B Smith, who was Bandmaster to the QRIH in Paderborn during the early 1970s. He did write one or two very good arrangements for his band, and I attended one of his concerts to the local populace.

I believe he left the Army for local (musical) employment in Germany. - T M Brown, 17 Tennyson Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham NG4 3HJ.

Black hackles

It was pleasing to see the Cameronians featured (Behold the Black Hackle, SOLDIER, January 2), but although the article concerned Hamilton based D Coy of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Lowland Volunteers, it was a little disappointing not to see a mention of the Cameronians of the 2nd Battalion, 52 Lowland Volunteers, namely No 4 Coy based a few miles away at Motherwell.

Black Hackles abound whenever battalion training takes place, not to mention the annual Conventicle and Remembrance Sunday, equally well attended by D Coy and the Cameronian cadets. - Rfn R Todd, c/o No 4 (Cameronians, Scottish Rifles) Coy, Scottish Rifles House, Muir St, Motherwell.

Calling . . .

Soldiers of 49th Division who fought in 1944 in Belgium near the Netherlands border. Mr Frederick Littlefield, of 52 Bibby Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 7PT and comrades in the Armée Secrète Belgium are hoping to organise a reunion.

All REME personnel. Brighton Hove and District have formed their own REME Association which will meet on the third Tuesday of every month at The Royal British Legion Club, 76 Marine Parade, Brighton. Details from Geoff Bowring, 15 St Aubyns Road, Portslade, East Sussex BN4 1AB (tel 0273-411820).

HOAY GOES NORTH, AGAIN!

SOLDIER's £50 HOAY competition prize goes north of the border for the second time in succession. The winner is Mrs J M Jones of Hinkar Way, Eyemouth, Berwickshire. Runners-up prizes of books in HOAY No 452 are won by Sgt Hodgkinson, C Sqn QOY, Fox Barracks, The Dale, Liverpool Rd, Chester, and Cpl S W Jones, RHQ, Tp, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon, N Yorks.

Compo boosts 'quake relief

OPERATION Glasnost saw the Army spring into action to supply stores and transport for the Overseas Development Administration who co-ordinated humanitarian relief in the wake of the Armenian earthquake disaster.

In South West District, Supply Depot RAOC at Bulford prepared 34,400 rations to send to the disaster area.

Sixty tons of compo was driven by members of 66 Squadron RCT to Gatwick and Heathrow where it was loaded on aircraft bound for the Soviet Union.

In Western District, men of 2 Para provided transport to move a mountain of blankets, clothing and food collected by Shropshire residents, while at Catterick the 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment RCT organised an appeal for unwanted clothing from among the 10,000 soldiers and their families based in the garrison.

The RCT truckers organised a collection from units, boxed up the clothing and had it delivered to Heathrow Airport in time to catch one of the relief flights bound for Armenia.



Local volunteer Adrian Evans hands a box of supplies to LCpl Roy Davies (right) and LCpl John Robb who are loading the 2 Para vehicle

Osnabruck guard saves historic hangar

A SWIFT response by the guard at Roberts Barracks, Osnabruck, West Germany prevented the complete destruction by fire of one of the oldest airport buildings in the country.

The Old Tiling Hangar in a builder's yard next to the barracks caught fire and the

combined guard from 23 Engr Regt and 4th Fd Regt RA immediately turned out and directed water on to the building from their side of the fence.

So grateful was the firm that rents the old hangar that a cheque for DM500 was presented to the soldiers.

Challenger decision delights RAC

ABSOLUTE delight! That was the reaction of Royal Armoured Corps sources to the news that the Challenger 2 is to be given a chance to prove itself worthy of becoming the British Army's main battle tank of the next decade.

A final decision is to be taken in 21 months on which tank will eventually replace the ageing Chieftain in BAOR. But the Government's decision to allow Vickers a chance to prove their new Challenger prototype has brought, for the moment, a respite in the furious debate.

Strong cases had been made for both the American M1 Abrams and the West German Leopard 2. But the Government's decision to award Vickers a £90m development contract gives the British company time to demonstrate its ability to deliver Challenger 2 to specification, on time and to cost.

Vickers say that the Challenger 2 will be better protected than any other tank; have superb cross country performance; provide maximum safety for its crew and have firepower that is able to match the threat for the foreseeable future.

It is in the turret that the major advances on the current Challenger will take place, for it has long been claimed that the fire control system on Challenger 1 was outmoded. This was confirmed by Vickers who have stated that obsolescent electronics will be replaced by an advanced system based on Vickers' experience in its Mark 7 tank and the Osorio turret designed for the Brazilians.

Both of these tanks achieved outstanding results in firing on the move and at rest, and the Osorio outperformed the M1 Abrams during trials in Saudi Arabia.

Col John Smales, Chief of Staff to Director RAC told SOLDIER that the reaction to the news was one of delight.

"We have been aware for some time that the Chieftain is old, technologically

outdated and equipped with an obsolescent fire control system.

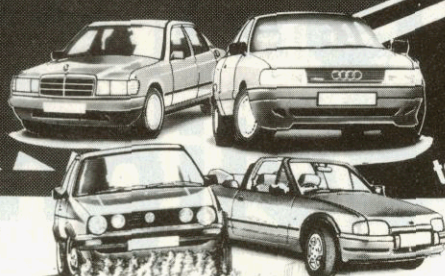
"Although it has given sterling service the tank has come to the end of its stretch potential. The balance of replacement options was very close but we are perfectly content with the news and are looking forward very much to it entering into service."

Challenger 2 will be armed with a high pressure L30 120mm gun, known as CHARM, which using ammunition being developed for it will be able to deal with the predicted threat well into the 21st century.

It is planned that the L30 should be retrofitted to the existing Challengers enabling them to retain their effectiveness for many years to come.

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Lockerbie search mission for 1 RHF

SHOCKING images of death in the wake of the Pan Am jumbo jet disaster at Lockerbie will remain fixed in the minds of young soldiers of The Royal Highland Fusiliers for months to come.

Within hours of the tragedy 50 men from 1 RHF (normally employed as the resident public duties battalion at Edinburgh) were deployed to recover terribly mutilated bodies scattered all over the area.

They were reinforced by two companies from the battalion later that day.

Although the Army's training depots have explicit first aid training films depicting horrendous injuries, an Army spokesman explained: "Nothing can compare with the disturbing reality."

With 1 RHF's Commanding Officer Lt Col David Hills alert to possible post-stress problems facing his men, he ensured there would be spiritual and medical welfare facilities available and warned officers and senior NCOs to watch for signs of stress among the soldiers.

Because the battalion is about to hand over its duties to The King's Own Scottish Borderers there were two padres present, Maj John Shields and Capt Mike Scouler who in turn accompanied every body recovery patrol.

Soldiers were permitted to work only 30 minutes at a time on recovering bodies before being switched to the search for wreckage.

Larnaca tombs project completed

SAPPERS from Field Troop 62 (Cyprus) Sp Sqn RE have completed the construction of a roof over the tombs of dead British settlers in St Lazarus Church, Larnaca. Some of the tombs, dating back to the 17th century, had



Some of the 38 student officer cadets from Women's Standard Course 993 who were among the 717 personnel on the 98th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The Queen's representative was Gen Sir

David Mostyn, then Adjutant General. The Sword of Honour was presented to Senior Under Officer Julian Millard who is to serve with the Royal Engineers. Senior Under Officer David Grant, RHF, was awarded the Queen's Medal.

As more troops were required in Lockerbie, the battalion's band which during war would provide medical back up assisted in two temporary morgues established in the stricken town.

In the emergency operations centre the battalion set up a headquarters and established a radio link to their barracks in Edinburgh. After Christmas they were relieved by men of the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders from Fort George who continued to search for wreckage.

Later the searchers were joined by men of B Company, the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

● Four Servicemen were among those who died on the British Midland Boeing 737 flight from Heathrow to Belfast which crashed on the M1 embankment in Leicestershire, killing more than 30 passengers. A total of 24 Servicemen were booked on the flight.

AMF(L) off to Norway

ARMY units from Wiltshire which belong to the United Kingdom Contingent of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) - (AMF (L)) - are to spend up to three months in Norway training for their role on the northern flank of Nato. The AMF (L) is a multinational Nato force which deploys on exercise to Norway, Denmark, northern Italy, Greece and Turkey.

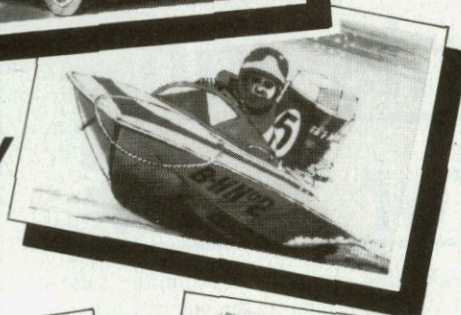
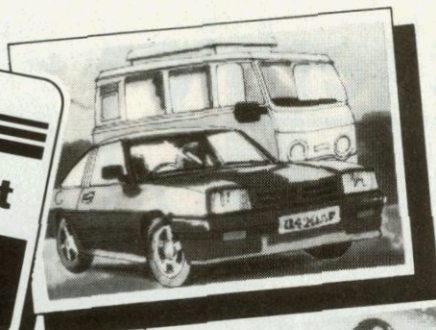
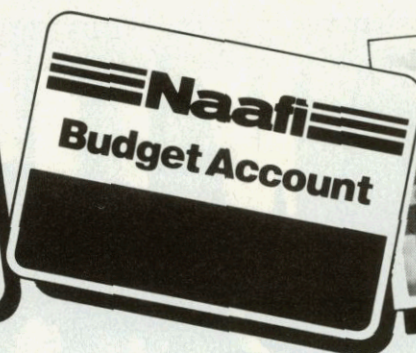
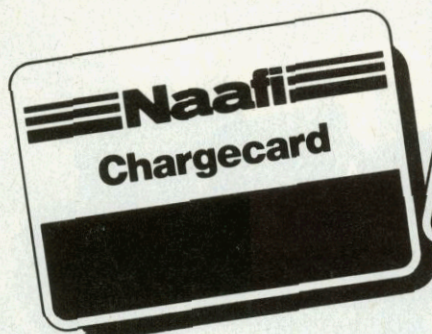
British units involved include 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, based at Bulford; D Squadron, The 13th/18th Royal Hussars from Tidworth; an Artillery Headquarters from 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 5 Field Battery, Royal Artillery, both based at Larkhill; 249 Squadron, Royal Signals from Bulford; and 2 Flight Army Air Corps, from Netheravon.

A total of 1,750 soldiers will take part in Exercises Hardfall and Cold Winter and will return to Wiltshire during March.

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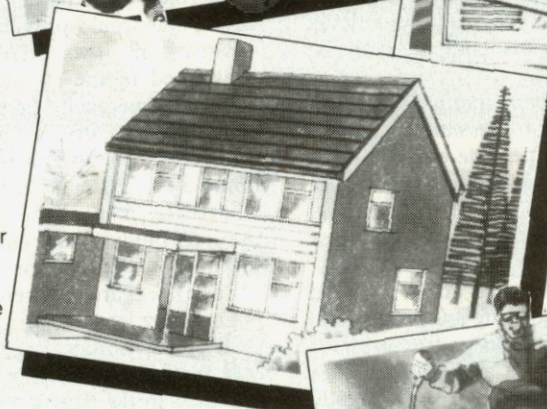
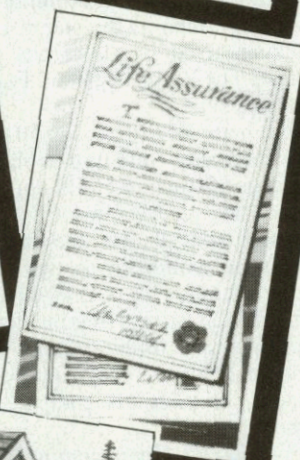
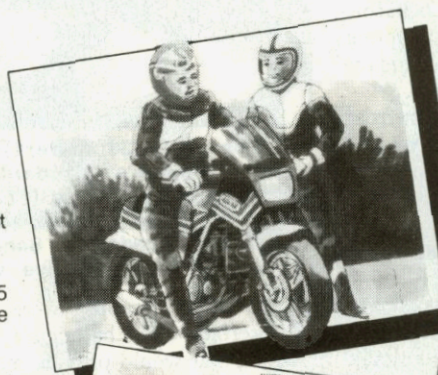
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DASHING HUSSARS

SEVEN British Hussar officers took part in a spectacular celebration in Hungary to mark the 300th anniversary of the raising of the first Hussar regiment. Hussars from Britain, France, Austria, Portugal, Yugoslavia were involved in a number of mounted parades through Budapest.

The organisers asked that Hussars should wear period dress of the 19th century, which made it necessary for the British contingent to draw their uniforms from regimental museums. Problems were caused by the fact that modern day cavalymen are rather larger than their 19th century predecessors, but sympathetic tailoring and help from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and the King's Troop RHA enabled them to parade in correct dress order.

Operational commitments made it impossible for all British Hussar regiments to be represented. The seven officers who did attend were Maj Richard East and Capt Colin Danvers, both RH; Maj Mark O'Reilly and Capt Jonny Ormerod, QRIH; Maj Peter Garbutt, 14/20 H; and Capt Mark Pearson and Capt Paddy Darling, 15/19 H.

The Hungarian Equestrian Federation provided horses and covered most costs.



Capt Jonny Ormerod and Maj Mark O'Reilly, both QRIH, wait to go on parade in Budapest

Northern Ireland TA under new command

THE new Light Aid Detachment opened at 2 R Irish's Stornoway Barracks, Lemgo, West Germany was visited by Maj Gen Jeremy Blacker, the Representative Colonel

Commandant REME. Another visitor was Brigadier Infantry, Brig Dick Mundell, who was making his first visit to the battalion since its move from Dover.

VIPs call on 2 R Irish at new Lemgo home

NORTHERN Ireland's 4,500 Territorials have come under a new command. The 107th (Ulster) Brigade commanded by Brig Clive Wilkinson has taken over the peacetime administration of the province's TA units. To mark the occasion 100 former

officers of the pre-1967 107th (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade Group (TA) paraded at the TA Headquarters in Lisburn.

The new 107th Brigade will have under its command eight major and seven minor units.



Field Marshal Montgomery's wartime staff car was brought out of retirement for the opening of Birmingham's newest TA Centre. The £1.5m Montgomery House in Sparkbrook is the new home of 'A' Company of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

It was opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Harold Blumenthal (seated in car) in a ceremony which reformed the connection between 5 RRF, a successor unit to Monty's old regiment, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

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Wendy's a winner – again!

Cpl Wendy Currie (pictured above) is Northern Ireland's TA Chef of the Year for the second successive year. As the only woman competitor she has certainly shown her male colleagues who is boss in the kitchen! Wendy, who comes from Ballymena, has been in the TA for three years. She is attached to the Army Catering

Corps (Volunteers) detachment in support of 152 (Ulster) Ambulance Regiment, RCT (V) in Belfast. Her mouth-watering, title-winning menu for four started with a salmon and cucumber mousse, followed by medallions of pork and finished off with a refreshing orange a la torte.

Back to Fulwood – after 74 years

First World War veteran Mr Joe Armstrong (93) poses with a Second World War 25 pounder field gun at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs, while paying a special return visit to the camp 74 years after he last passed through its gates to go to war.

In 1913 he completed six months of basic training with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment at the barracks and then joined the reserve list. When war broke out the following year he reported to Fulwood to be kitted out before being sent to the front.

Mr Armstrong's war in the trenches was short lived. He was captured at Ypres and spent four years as a German prisoner of war.



PEOPLE

Long look Down Under

Lt Angus McLeod (left) and Sgt Joe Johnston have been getting a taste of Army life "Down Under" for four months during the annual exchange exercise Long Look. Lt McLeod is from 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, based in Werl, West Germany, and Sgt Johnston is from Northampton based 187 (Tancred) Company, Royal Pioneer Corps. They have both been working with Assault Pioneer Platoon of 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, based in Townsville, Queensland.

Proud father Capt Bob Biddle, Queen's Own Hussars (left), congratulates his son Pte John Biddle who passed out as best recruit at the Depot, The Queen's Division, Basingstoke Barracks, Royston, Herts. Pte Biddle will be joining The Royal Anglian Regiment.



Winter warmer

Terrier LCpl Shawn Mills of 207 General Hospital RAMC (V) based at Halton Camp, Lancaster won't feel a thing when deepest winter sets in over his native county. He'll be sitting on a nice warm mountain in tropical Africa!

Shawn, an electrician by trade who is responsible for the electro medical and dental equipment at Halton Camp, is to spend three months in Cameroon with Col John Blashford-Snell's Operation Raleigh. He will be working on the 12,000ft volcano Mount Cameroon, collecting rock samples and bridge building.



Al claims an Aldershot record!

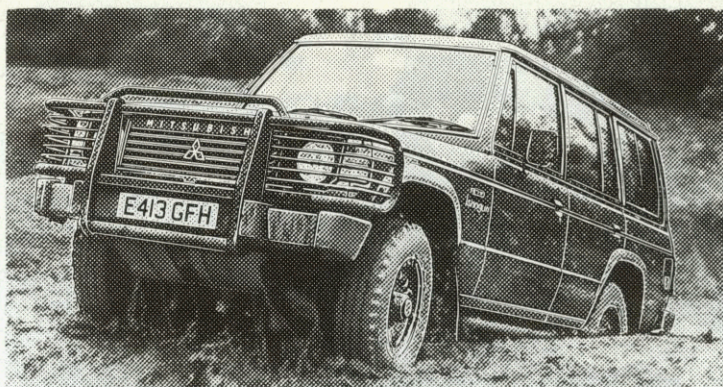
When WO2 Jim Moody (right) retired as RQMS at the Army School of Physical Training, he had no problem in choosing a parting gift for his successor, WO2 Al Mundy. Al, who joined up in 1965 has spent all of his 24 years in Aldershot – so Jim bought him

a book featuring old postcards of the town, in case he gets lost! Al, who hopes to get his name in the Guinness Book of Records when he has completed 25 years, said he had always been happy to work in Aldershot, but planned to retire elsewhere.

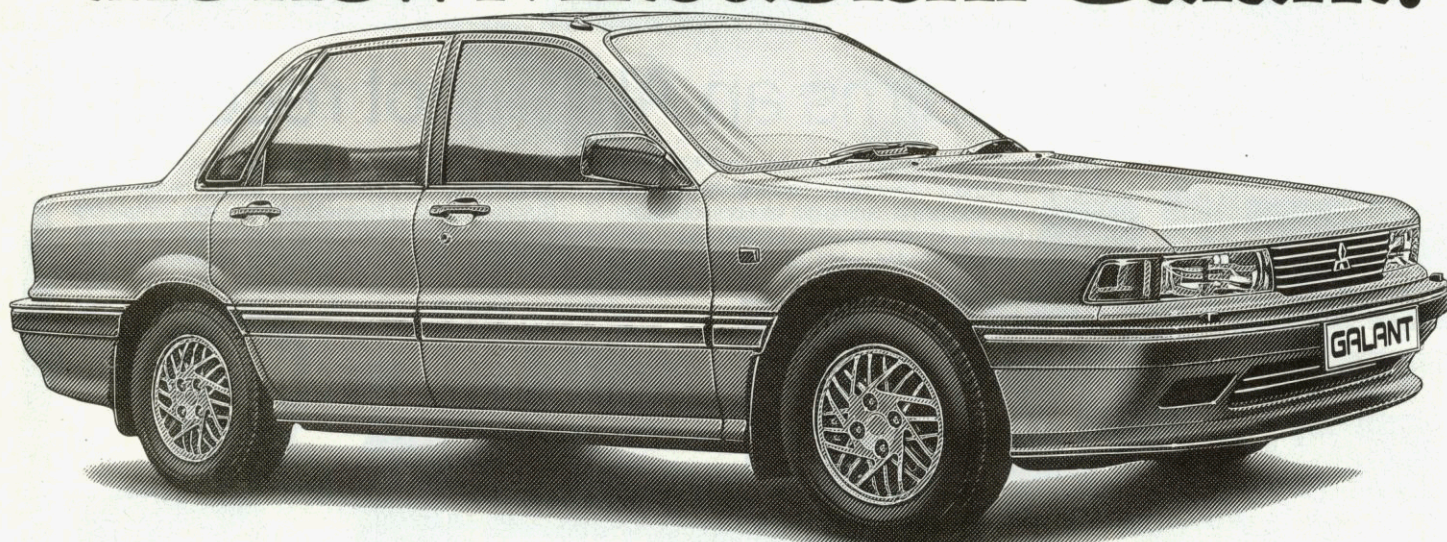


Unveiled for the first time is the new sign of the 7th Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) which has been permitted to include the name Durham in the title. The change marks the battalion's links with the county (it is based in Gilesgate, Durham) and has

been greeted with enthusiasm by old soldiers of the Durham Light Infantry disbanded in 1968. Unveiling the sign are the commanding officer, Lt Col Ian Sawers and 93-year-old Mr Frank Surtees who fought with the Durham Light Infantry at Ypres and the Somme.



It took the World's top Off-Road vehicle to develop the new Mitsubishi Galant.



For more than 70 years Mitsubishi have been building fine cars. But it is, perhaps, since 1983 that more and more people in Britain have become increasingly aware of Mitsubishi's engineering excellence with the world's top 4 wheel-drive 'off-road' vehicle - the Mitsubishi Shogun.

In five years, the Shogun has won more international awards and rallies than any other 'off-road' 4 wheel-drive car. It is as a direct result of Mitsubishi's expertise in quality automotive engineering that the Shogun has become such a winner.

Now Mitsubishi has another winner - the exciting new Galant. Already 1988 "Car of the Year" in Japan, the Galant has been styled to take on the best in the world with an advanced level of engineering sophistication and technology.

In 2 litre form its electronically controlled multi-point fuel injection engine provides rapid response.

There is a choice between 5 speed manual or 4 speed electronic automatic transmission, and the automatic also features special 'power' or 'economy' modes to suit different driving conditions.

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And it's all made so well it comes with a free 3 year 100,000 kilometre warranty and 6 year anti-corrosion perforation guarantee.

After all, if Mitsubishi can build the world's top 'off-road' vehicle they should also know how to make an award-winning car like the Galant.

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Leading the way

Christmas 'treasure' recalled

A collage hung in the hall of Bielefeld Garrison Church will be a constant reminder of a present given to a four-year-old German girl by British soldiers more than 40 years ago.

The collage was presented by Frau Dagmar Miorini as a "thank you" for one of the first toys she can remember.

She fled with her parents from Gdynia in 1945 and went to live with her grandparents near Fallingbostal. At Christmas that year, at a party given by British soldiers to local children, the four-year-old Dagmar received a doll and a cradle painted in Army green, toys which became very treasured possessions later of her three daughters.

Frau Miorini made the beautifully hand-stitched collage, using many pieces of colourful cotton cloth, to depict the biblical scene of Noah's Ark.

Inventory of history

Throughout Britain, most of the multitude of towns and villages have their memorials to the dead of two world wars and lesser campaigns, but until now there appears to

SOLDIER to Soldier



Frau Dagmar Miorini presents the collage to the Rev David Tickner in Bielefeld Garrison Church. He is holding the 40 year old cradle

The Korea story

The first exhibition to tell the story of the 40,000 British Army personnel who fought with the United Nations forces in the Korean War 1950-53, runs until April 16 at the National Army Museum in London.

One of the highlights is taped interviews by Servicemen from all ranks, making what is thought to be the Korean war's

first oral history archive.

People interviewed ranged from a National Serviceman in the 1st Royal Tank Regiment to a captain from the Royal Ulster Rifles who was taken prisoner. The interviewees talk on a wide variety of topics including their reaction to Korean people, life at the front line, contacts with other UK forces and combat techniques of the enemy.

have been no attempt to organise an inventory of the memorials.

The decision to set up a computer database has been taken because of the considerable public discussion about the state of the nation's memorials. The inventory will provide an

up-to-date record of the condition of each memorial.

It is being organised jointly by the Imperial War Museum in London and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, supported by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust.

Enshrined?

The future of the Pegasus Bridge cafe, the first French building to be liberated on D-Day, seems to have been settled.

The building had become something of a shrine to Normandy veterans, but was closed last year after legal wranglings involving the three daughters of the former owner.

Now the cafe has become the property of two of the daughters and will apparently remain a cafe, with a welcome for veterans of the 6th Airborne Division - unless there is any further legal development.

Final date

There are still a few **SOLDIER** 1989 calendars left, now selling at a reduced price of £2.50, plus 72p postage and packing.

The calendar, featuring 12 different Chas Stadden prints of soldiers in military uniforms of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, has sold in thousands.

If you have not bought one, make sure of a last-minute copy by sending your cheque/PO made payable to Command Cashier UKLF, to **SOLDIER** Calendar, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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

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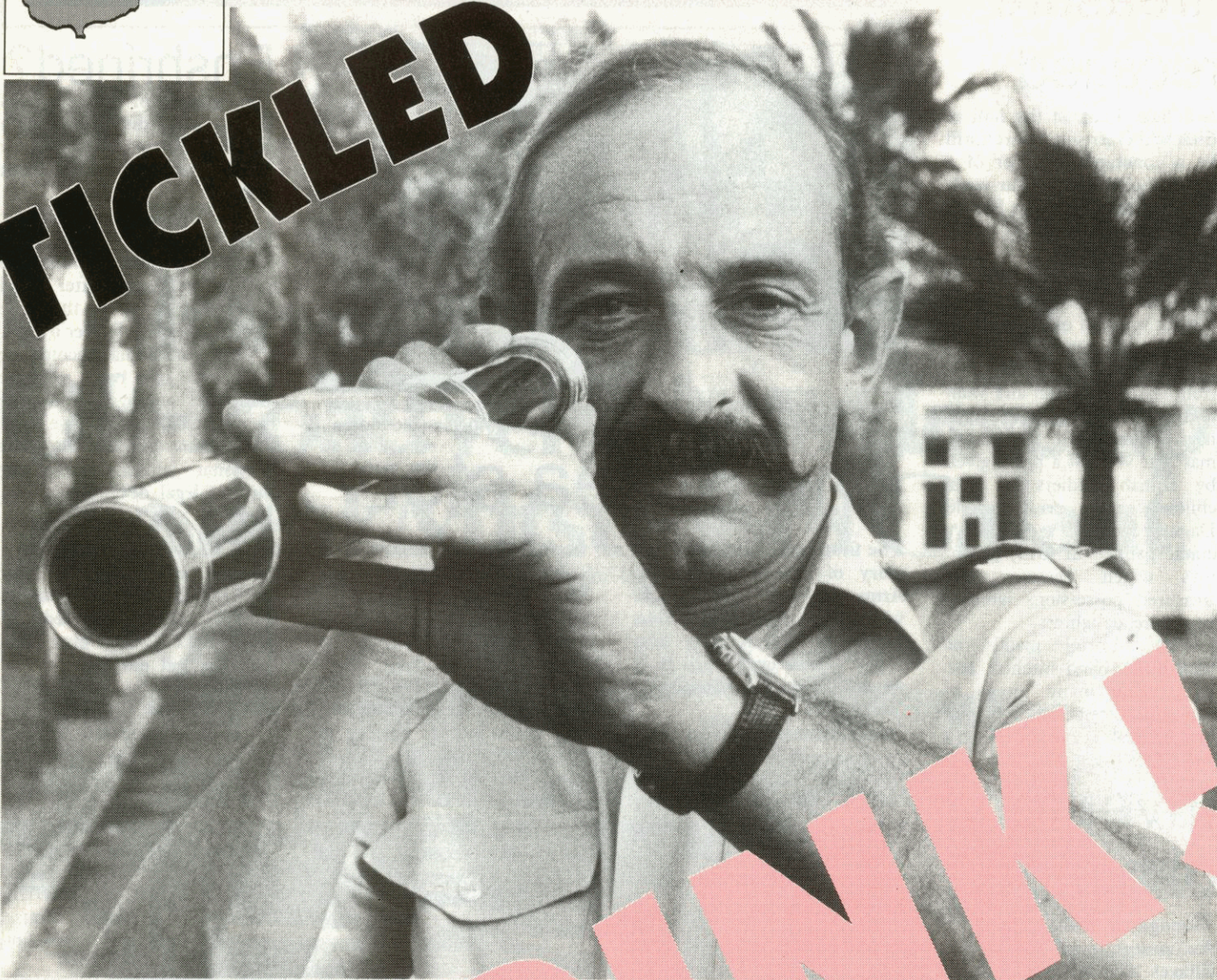


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They're an efficient lot in 9 Signal Regiment

TICKLED



Maj Richard Brown, 2ic 9 Signal Regiment with the 1988 Cyprus Tickle Efficiency Award, a silver telescope

9 SIGNAL REGIMENT in Cyprus has by its efforts in a variety of extramural activities won the 1988 Cyprus Tickle Efficiency Award.

Founded by the late Mr A J B Tickle, who served in the British Army in both world wars, the award promotes efficiency in the Army.

Charity and community works have been a major factor in securing the award, as has the fostering of a rapport with locally employed Turks and Greeks on the large civilian staff, many of whom have served with the regiment since it was formed in 1948.

The unit is very isolated in the ESBA and much is done to foster a family spirit. Everyone is encouraged to take part in a wide range of sport and extramural activities.

Although little public money is available for the "extras", the regiment does much to help itself. For example, some civilian staff run a small market garden in their own time, producing flowers and shrubs to enhance the barracks and married quarters.

A golf course has been built and is maintained by members and their families

at their own expense. There is a successful saddle club, extensively rebuilt by members.

9 Signal Regiment has enjoyed a great deal of sporting success, taking many top honours in Cyprus. The tennis team won six of the seven competitions in the island's Army championships, and much is done to encourage young players.

Charities continue to benefit from Cyprus's International Motor Show, organised by the regiment for a fifth successive year and this time raising more than £3,000. Wives raised more than £2,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Wishing Well Appeal.

Maj Richard Brown, 2ic, said they were thrilled to win the award – a silver telescope now on display in regimental headquarters, and a cheque for £120.

"The regiment has done much to improve efficiency and the morale of its Servicemen, civilians and families. This is now recognised by the award."

He said they were particularly pleased with the continuing success of the motor show.

"We had 89 exhibits including a Rolls Royce and two Morgans. As there is a five year waiting list in the UK for a Morgan, they were snapped up."

Maj Brown said the regiment was proud of the co-operation and rapport it shares with its civilian staff. He cited those working in the Technical Maintenance Troop, who in their own time had made jumps for the saddle club, built barbecues, and framed pictures.

The Ayios Nikolaos annual fete is another success story for the regiment. It is arranged to entertain Service families and raise money for charity.

This year it was organised by Maj John Harcourt-Richards, helped by, among others, Lt John O'Rourke, Capt Chris Bird and Lt Mark Billingham. So many prizes had been collected the raffle had to be divided into two sessions! More than 4,000 people attended and several thousand pounds were raised for charity.

Another social event was the All Island Horse Show, hosted by the regiment's Famagusta Saddle Club.

**Words by
Jennifer
Griffiths**

**Pictures by
Mike Weston**

Gun chase left mark on stableman John

THE HORRORS of a daylight car chase by three gunmen are still vivid in the mind of Cpl John Bailey R Signals, stable manager of 9 Signal Regiment's Famagusta Saddle Club.

Cpl Bailey and his passenger, a colleague's daughter, were both wounded, but he still managed to reach the safety of a United Nations Military Police Post. He was driving a Land Rover, towing an empty horse trailer, later found to be peppered with more than 50 bullet holes.

Cpl Bailey was subsequently presented with the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, and remains convinced: "We were attacked because we were in a slow-moving vehicle and I was in uniform."

They were travelling on the busy Nicosia-Limassol road to collect a horse when Cpl Bailey saw some men in balaclavas on the roadside near a stationary car.

He said: "I heard a shot and a bullet hit the Land Rover. I shouted to my passenger to get down. The bullets kept coming and as we passed the car my passenger was hit in the back."

"Then they threw a grenade, which bounced off the trailer, and exploded in the middle of the road. My passenger was hit again, this time in the shoulder, and I was hit in both legs. As we approached Limassol, our pursuers drove off in another direction."



Cpl John Bailey, stable manager of 9 Signal Regiment's Famagusta Saddle Club, who narrowly escaped death when chased by armed gunmen

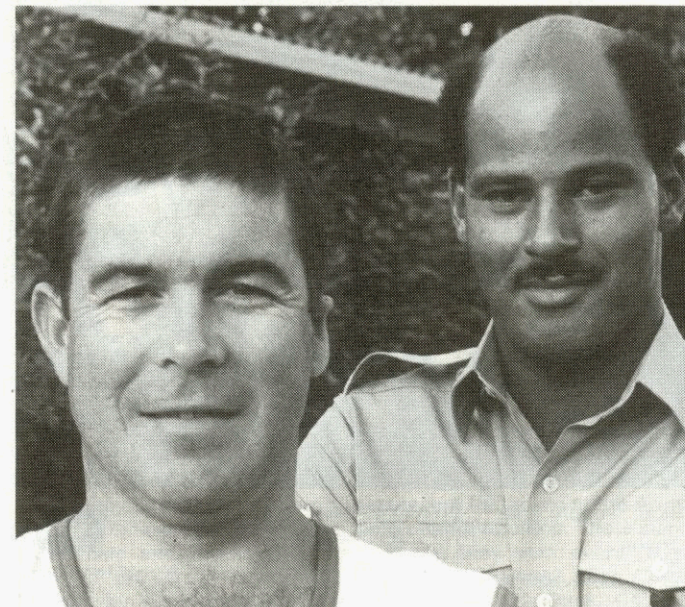
"They were trying to pass us all the time, and I believe if they had succeeded we would both have been killed. For a long time after I had nightmares and at times I

still find it difficult to sleep."

Two men were jailed and a third deported in connection with the incident and other charges.

RESCUED!

Signallers save swimmer



Rescue team – Pictured are LCpl Kwantreng (left) and WO2 Hanniver

SIX soldiers from 9 Signal Regiment on an adventure training camp for regimental children at Evdhimou suddenly found themselves in a flat-out race to save the life of a Cypriot swimmer.

As soon as 21-year-old Panayiotis Asantasiou was seen struggling about 100 metres out to sea, the signallers went into action.

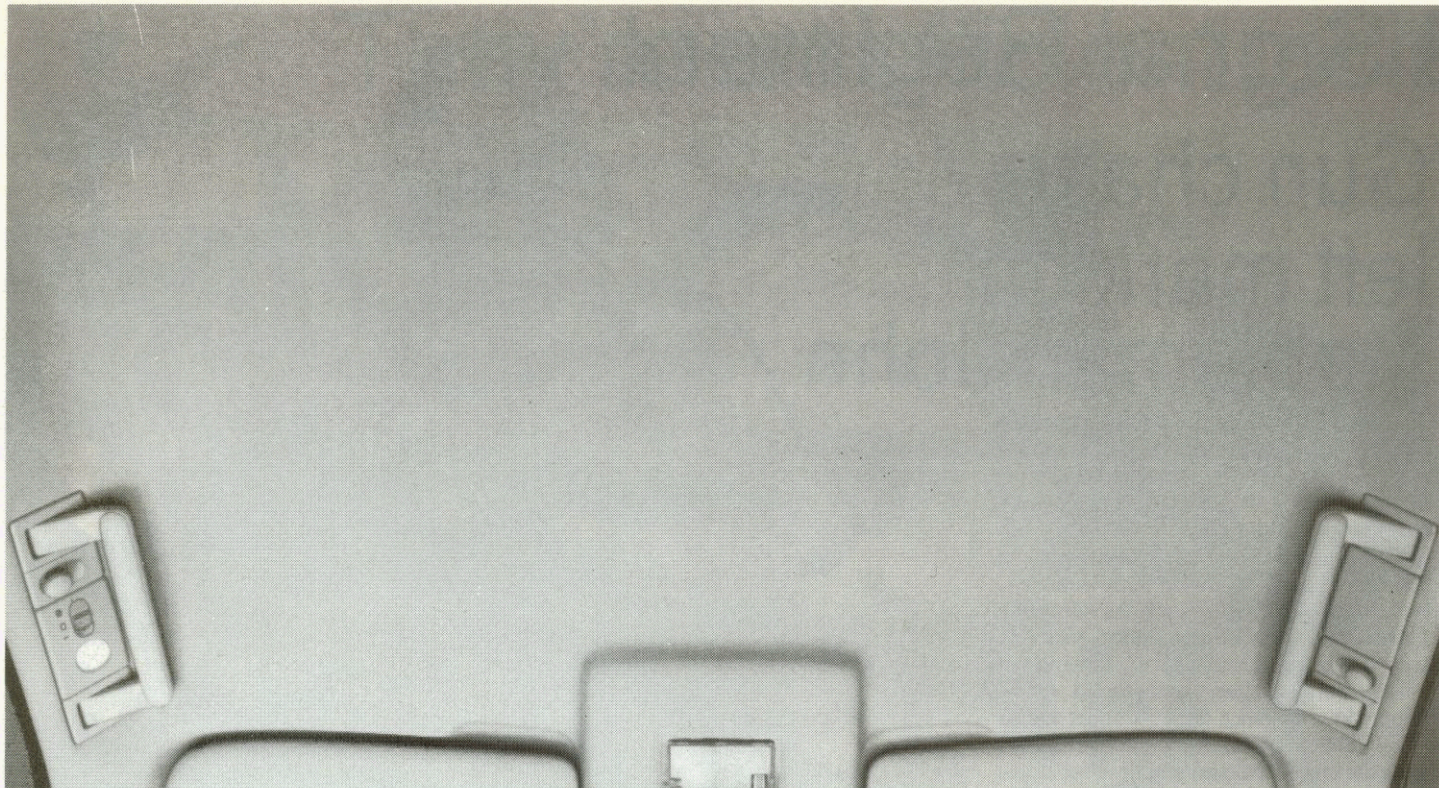
LCpl John Kwantreng and SSgt Paul Molloy swam to the drowning man, while WO2 Bill Hanniver and LCpl Paul Wildbore started up a nearby motor boat.

LCpl Kwantreng was the first to reach the swimmer, who

was by this time unconscious and had stopped breathing. He and SSgt Molloy applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation before the boat took the group ashore.

The swimmer remained unconscious but thanks to additional first aid by SSgt 'Bunny' Hutchinson and Sgt Rick Dudley, he started to breathe again. He was taken to Episkopi Garrison Medical Centre where he was examined by a doctor before being transferred to Limassol Coronation Hospital.

● **More pictures on Page 17**



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9 Signal Regiment record breakers

Stretcher party bears up well

CHAMPAGNE corks popped to spray a welcome when 9 Signal Regiment got its name into the Guinness Book of Records.

Stretcher bearing soldiers completed 130 miles in 45hrs 5mins carrying an equivalent body weight of ten stone to demolish the previous record of 127 miles in 45hrs 45mins set up in 1981 by the Sri Channoy marathon team in the USA.

LCpl Duncan Boyd already holds the junior record for the event and is set to become a double world record holder.

The team's target had been 150 miles, but as the massive effort took its toll, 130 miles was a sensible compromise on the hilly route between Ayios Nikolaos and Dhekelia.



Sgt Maj David McCreath with the framed Guinness record

Pictured are LCpl Tudor Hill (with his hands raised), Sgt Andy Worsley (wearing a cap), CPO Lenny Brett and Capt Bryan Hughes. The stretcher marathon was completed by two four-man teams, and the other walkers were LCpl Duncan Boyd, LCpl T J Hogger, LCpl Jock Edwards and LCpl George Goodenough

Charter chaps



The 9 Signal Regiment women's team swept the board at the Army Minor Units swimming and water polo championships. There were eight male and three WRAC teams and they won every race. Pictured are (from left, front) LCpl Tina Skyrme, LCpl Carol Brocklesby, Cpl Linda Tighe and Cpl Sue Pettitt. Back, Cpl Liz Johnson, Cpl Helen Ruddock, LCpl Wendy Leigh and Pte Sarah Ledamun



THE yacht Parang, which belongs to the Royal Signals Yacht Club Cyprus was donated to the corps by Lt Col (retd) John Sheepshanks, R Signals, in September 1984 in Malta. She was sailed to Gosport for a major refit before reaching Cyprus in 1985.

Parang recently underwent a management change with OC 2 Sqn, Maj Matt Helm (centre) taking over as secretary from Maj John Gryspeerdt, and WO2 (SSM)

Pete Whitehouse (right) acting as 2ic. Boatswain is Cpl Caderius Van Veen (left).

She was fully booked during the sailing season with charters from Cyprus based units and a sprinkling of customers from UK and BAOR. There were three major adventure training exercises to the Greek islands.

The Parang is currently out of the water undergoing repair but should be ready for action in March.

Report on a major cause of concern

THE DIFFICULTIES of employment facing dependants in BAOR were highlighted in the final report of the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts (PAC) on the Costs and Financial Control of British Forces Germany in 1987/88.

The PAC confined its study to jobs connected with the MoD and not employment through Naafi, PSA and voluntary organisations.

In February 1988 there were 5,281 dependants registered as looking for jobs, an increase of 159 on the previous year.

Of the 22,750 civilians employed by BFG, 4,000 are dependants.

The PAC is concerned that the proportion compares poorly with the percentage of US dependants employed – almost 30 per cent compared with 19.3 per cent (the comparison was made in December 1987).

During its investigations the PAC identified 11,000 jobs which it considers suitable for British dependants.

The Gaffney Report says that the lack of job opportunities was a major cause of unhappiness among Service wives.

Thousands – some of whom were professionally qualified and included doctors, dentists, pharmacists, midwives, nurses and teachers – wanted work.

Listing the types of job in which dependants were placed in 1987 the PAC gave the following figures:

Labourers and domestics	1,281
Clerical and typing grades	1,613
Medical grades	274
Catering staff	1,237
Teachers and instructors	415
Security guards	7
School ancillaries and misc	234

Though it has been the MoD's policy since 1982 to try to increase the number of dependants within the locally engaged workforce, it is admitted that progress has been slow and there are no prospects of the situation improving overnight. The following reasons are given:

The mismatch in geographical location between

jobs and those seeking jobs.

This would involve, I suppose, commuting – but as this is done in the UK why can't it be done in the context of BFG?

The limited length of time dependants can serve.

This surely cannot remain an excuse now some regiments will spend up to 12 years in Germany.

In any case three to four years is considered to be a reasonable time to spend in a job these days.

The dependants' reluctance to accept certain working conditions in some jobs.

I am surprised that there are so few complaints of this nature considering that British nationals are often required to do the same job alongside a German who has better pay and conditions.

Rules and regulations for BFG employees are not on a par with German legislation but seem to be a mixture of British and German.

However, there is no doubt in many people's minds that Germans win all round when employed by MoD.

For example there are the following factors to be considered:

● The removal of dependants from the unemployed register if they don't find a

job within six months.

What is the reason for this? It is not in line with either German or British practice.

● The lack of advertising for job vacancies.

If the European Community has an inter Community job register this problem can be overcome at a stroke, I would have thought. Anyone heard of computers?

● Some units believe that non-dependants are to be preferred to wives and relatives of Service personnel.

● Others consider that the occupation of key recruiting positions by non-dependants acts as a brake on the employment of dependants.

A Ministry study in 1986 referred to high absence rates among dependants employed in some units but a National Audit Office study showed that absence by non-dependants was twice as high in some cases.

My postbag shows that dependants have a poor opinion of the service provided by the BAOR labour offices, alleging discrimination by German employment clerks in favour of their countrymen.

The MoD says that though in most cases

recruiting clerks are Germans, the labour offices are run by British officers.

It is the MoD's intention that the number of dependants employed in labour offices will increase from the current level of 13.5 per cent.

The PAC report states the 1951 NATO Status of Forces Agreement and the 1959 Supplementary Agreement contain no specific requirement for British Forces Germany to employ German citizens. It is a pity that I was not believed when I said this in 1982.

The myth of a ceiling of numbers had been widespread for many years and was often given as a reason why increases in jobs could not be made.

The new target set by BFG is to increase the jobs by 1,000 by 1993 but this only covers jobs in BAOR, not RAF (G), Naafi and PSA. I sincerely hope that dependants will not end up as cheap labour to satisfy Treasury requirements as the cheapest option.

Perhaps they should be covered by the Collective Tariff Agreement which is a legally enforceable contract between the Federal Ministry of Finance on behalf of the employers and the trade unions on



LADY REILLY, retiring chairman of the Federation of Army Wives, presents a cheque for £26,000 on behalf of FAW to Paddy Vincent, UK Field Manager of the Wishing Well Appeal for the redevelopment of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

THE REASONS WHY ...

... according to MoD

behalf of the employees.

The terms and conditions of employment for Germans directly employed by BFG reflect the norm for people working on the German economy and in many cases are the minimum provided by German Federal Law.

The terms and conditions of employed dependants reflect those enjoyed by the public employees in the UK who are employed in similar grades and type of employment. Allowance is made for local variations such as no liability to income tax.

This may well be so, but I have heard quite a number of wives say: "Let's pay income tax as we do in UK and then we would not have this used as an excuse to pay us less."

The Christmas bonus for the directly employed is 6.33 per cent of their annual reckonable salary. The annual leave bonus is two per cent.

BAOR tell me these payments are taken into account when calculating the pay of the directly employed and reflect a practice that is common among Federal workers in both the public and private sectors.

Dependants and ancillary workers do not receive either bonus. I have asked for an explanation!

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



1992 – A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

BBC computers are found at present in many Army Education Centres. Unfortunately many commercial and industrial firms don't use them. Most firms use well-known brand names.

To be able to master at least one of these is an essential prerequisite to applying for a job either now or after 1992.

Will 1992 really be the answer to the employment problems facing Service dependants in Europe?

I sometimes hear wives speak of the coming of the European Passport and the free movement of workers, as being the solutions to their problems.

One or two questions remain however, not the least of which is whether wives who commute to jobs Monday to Friday will be penalised and lose their local overseas allowance.

Clearly, Germany speaking wives will have a head start. Those who are German born are frequently bilingual as it seems language teaching in Germany is way ahead of in Britain.

Classes for wives in BAOR education centres are not a reliable substitute because lessons are not structured towards employment terminology.

So wives need to take a course at a local German run education centre or even take a correspondence course.

With only two and a half years to go to the EC changes wives really have

In my view . . .

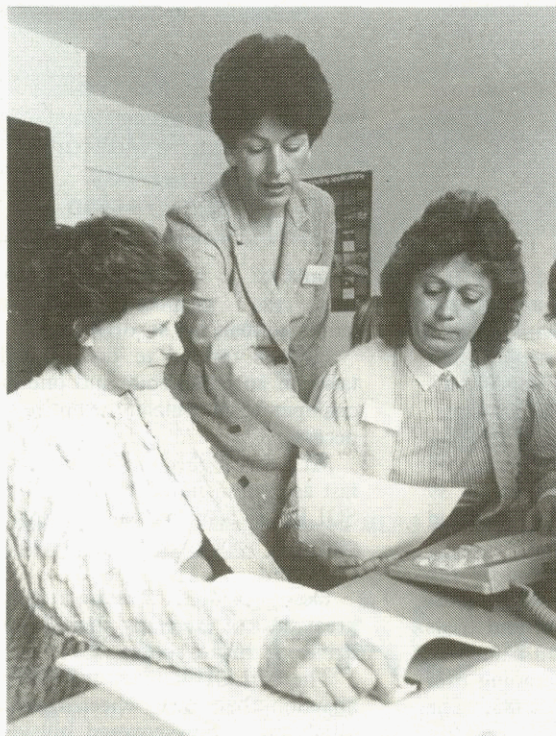
to apply themselves if they do not wish to miss out.

Many more employers will be looking for workers who speak more than one language.

I am not saying that no one speaks another language but compared with the rest of Europe Britain's record is not very good.

Recently Sir Geoffrey Chandler, a leading adviser to industry, spoke to a group of 'A' level students, from Windsor School, Rheindahlen, Germany, who will be about to join the job market in 1992.

Having asked how many in a party of 12 had another language, he found that just two of the students could hold a conversation



Wives under instruction at FOCUS Bulford last summer. (Left to Right) Jenny Bone, Chris Campbell (instructor) and Karen Hewett

in another language.

"You are throwing away an advantage and opportunity hundreds of British students would love to

have," he said. "To live in a country and not learn the language is a terrible shame."

I thoroughly agree.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

THE FALL in the number of young people available for work and service in the Forces provides a golden opportunity for Army wives.

This was made clear at the Milcomp (Military Computer) Conference 1988 held at Wembley.

Brig Chris Lloyd, Director Command, Control, Communications and Information Systems, said that the Army was already short of uniformed specialists, about 65 per cent below requirements.

I gathered that 2,800 extra training weeks costing some £2 million would be needed to train the required personnel.

Not all the systems employed in the Army were in the operational area but

were also in the administrative and logistical fields.

Two well-known systems on display at the conference were currently being trialled in home and overseas garrisons.

If the equipment is not to be neglected there must be a ready source of "end users" and this is where Service wives could step in. FOCUS can help fill the gap by training word process operators.

Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, speaking on behalf of the Royal Navy, said that potentially lower manpower meant that more automation was going to be essential.

All of which should provide more job opportunities for wives.

House letting changes

CHANGES in the rules governing the letting of property come into effect with the new Housing Act this month.

Case 20 which applied to the Services and cases 11 and 12 are abolished.

In their places come two new types of agreement which involve

an assured tenancy
an assured short tenancy – six-month minimum lets.

The legislation is not retrospective and applies only from January 15.

Another organisation, the Rent Assessment Committee, is taking the place of the Fair Rent system.

The new Act should help owners but it is important to check with either the building society or a solicitor to see what effect it may have.

● **Assured Tenancy Booklet** should be available soon from Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Bags of bother...

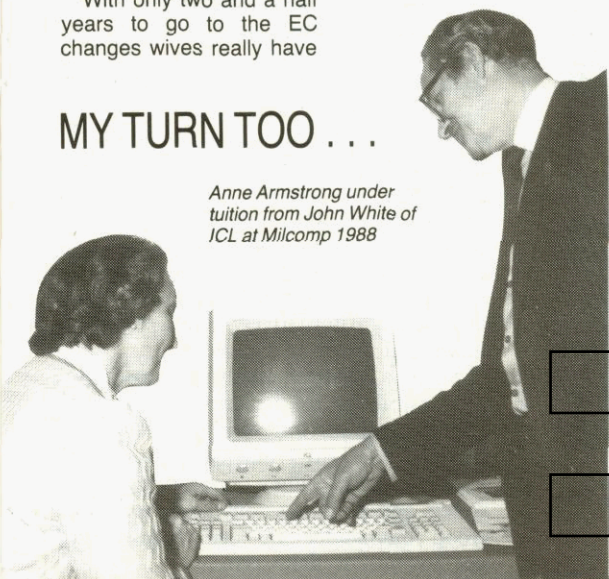
OFFICERS who wish to contest their excess baggage charges must first take the dispute to the Government Freight Agent. The Army Pay Office cannot help.

If the dispute cannot be resolved then the matter can be forwarded through staff channels to MoD Mov Fin (A) for consideration.

If the APO receives an excess baggage charge raised against an officer, the amount will be deducted from the officer's pay account irrespective of an appeal the officer may be making against the charge.

MY TURN TOO . . .

Anne Armstrong under tuition from John White of JCL at Milcomp 1988



High speed MLRS leaves pursuers in its wake . . .

A difficult act to follow

EXERCISE Iron Hammer saw Nato's most effective conventional artillery weapon, MLRS, deployed on a major exercise for the first time.

It can lay down a devastating barrage of armour piercing bomblets at ranges of over 30km and a batch of six rockets can deliver more than 3,000 bomblets in a single salvo.

The development of MLRS began in the mid 1970s in the United States as a move to overcome the numerical advantage of Warsaw Pact ground forces in Europe and is seen as complementary to conventional tubed artillery in air defence suppression and counterfire roles.

Already in service with the US Army, the system, on a tracked chassis, is being manufactured under licence by a European consortium for use by the British, West German, Italian and French armies, and will shortly replace long-range self-propelled guns in three BAOR regiments.

The Multiple Launch Rocket System was being evaluated during the exercise by a battery from the Paderborn based 39 Heavy Regiment RA under simulated battle conditions.

Four MLRS systems, deployed by 176 (Abu Klea) Battery who had just completed a five-week training and trials programme on the Soltau-Luneberg training area, have been undergoing user trials with the Army since 1985. The battery is due to convert to MLRS in 1990.

MLRS has a crew of only three – all highly-trained NCOs – a sergeant in

Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Mike Weston

command, a bombardier operator who fires the weapon system and a lance-bombardier as driver.

Each is trained to do his colleagues' tasks in an emergency and one crewman can operate and reload the entire system if necessary.

MLRS is highly mobile and fast – very fast as demonstrated by the difficulty the SOLDIER team had in catching up with one they spotted passing in the opposite direction!

Despite a quick turnaround, it took a great deal of effort by their Land Rover driver to make contact.

The SOLDIER team eventually had to abandon their own wheeled vehicle and climb up a snow covered hillside before they had an opportunity to view MLRS at close hand.

Tucked away in the wood was their elusive prey. It was commanded by Sgt John Phillip, whose driver LBdr Kevin Havenhand explained our difficulty in catching up. "The road handling is fine and it's fast," he said. "It can really go like a bat out of hell!"

The four trials vehicles were bought off the shelf from the Americans so that the gunners could carry out user trials at the School of Artillery, learn how to use the system and train future instructors, as well as providing the REME repair specialists with an opportunity to learn how to maintain it.

During troop trials, men of 176 Battery attempted to formulate the best organisation, deployment and operating procedures for the system.

"At Soltau we were involved in clinical trials with no one else there so we could go where we wanted, when we wanted, but here we have to fight for pieces of ground and for space on the airwaves like everyone else," said the Battery Commander Maj Nick Stiven, RA.

There will be three MLRS in each of the three troops that form a battery.

At Larkhill the vehicles were used on the local training areas to find out what they could do, but on Iron Hammer they were used in the context of a full battery with regimental controllers under divisional control working in wide open spaces to a real time frame.

"I think they are tremendous! I like the fact that MLRS is extremely simple with technology doing all the work for everybody," enthused Maj Stiven. The kit itself has on-board navigation and fire control equipment. When BATES (Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System) comes into service, it will take the mission in, compute it and signal on the screen that it has a fire mission and request permission to proceed.

The commander can then press a button which indicates that the vehicle is operational and functioning and that the system is "good to go" so that firing will commence. Alternatively he can cancel the mission if there is a fault.

Such a system vastly increases the responsibilities of the crew, for as each MLRS operates independently the three man crews are entrusted to work independently. They are given radio orders and receive a daily visit from their troop commander but between times they get on with it themselves.



Sgt John Phillip (left) and LBdr Kevin Havenhand pose for the media as MLRS displays its business end



Maj Nick Stiven RA

They have a firepower far in excess of what an ordinary tube ever had, for the equipment on board does all the work previously done by something like 30 men.

Overall it is not such a different role for the gunner except that they are in rocket launchers for the first time in many years and the fact that the range is going to be much greater than they have been used to.

Gunners will however, have a greater degree of "survivability" with the individual vehicles moving around independently, thanks to new technology.

The MLRS can drive into location, fire its lethal load and move out of the area before it can be located and suffer return fire from the enemy. The ability to "shoot and scoot" before enemy artillery can reply gives the Army a great advantage for he who maintains his killer punch the longest usually becomes the victor.

MLRS FACT FILE

MLRS FACT FILE

● MLRS is a highly mobile, all-weather, self-propelled rocket artillery system equipped with 12 surface-to-surface, free-flight rockets.

It brings great accuracy to artillery rockets previously considered only of value for heavy barrage firepower. It can fire a single rocket, or rapid fire "ripples" of up to 12 rockets (containing a full load of 8,000 submunitions) in under a minute.

● The rockets have a range of more than 30km.

● The 25-tonne tracked vehicle has a top speed of 64km/h.

● An advanced fire control system, coupled with on-board navigation, gives MLRS formidable accuracy when used against single or multiple targets. A rocket can be accurately directed to a target area the size of four football pitches at its maximum range.

● The position determining land-navigation system makes MLRS ideal for "shoot and scoot" deployment to avoid counterfire. The vehicle can arrive in a new position and fire all 12 rockets in less than four minutes.

● MLRS is designed for a three-man crew, but can, if necessary, be operated by just one, including fire and reload.

● The basic MLRS rocket is 4 metres long, 227mm calibre,

solid-fuel propelled, using 644 M77 submunitions. Recent trials have included the West German AT-2 anti-tank mine. A terminally guided warhead with anti-tank armour capability is being developed.

● The rockets are shipped and loaded in sealed "rocket pod" containers/launchers, each holding six rockets.

● MLRS represents a major step forward in US/Nato collaboration. The US and European production plants are working to identical manufacturing specifications.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS:

Work is being done on two further warheads for the 1990s – SADARM and ATACMS.

SADARM ammunition is designed to sense and destroy armoured targets such as self-propelled howitzers, armoured personnel carriers and other armoured vehicles, the defeat of which normally requires concentrated fire from many batteries of conventional tubed artillery.

ATACMS can be used to attack selectively second echelon enemy forces hidden deep behind the lines. The 13ft long by 2ft diameter missile contains several hundred submunitions, the destructive power of each being equivalent to a conventional grenade.

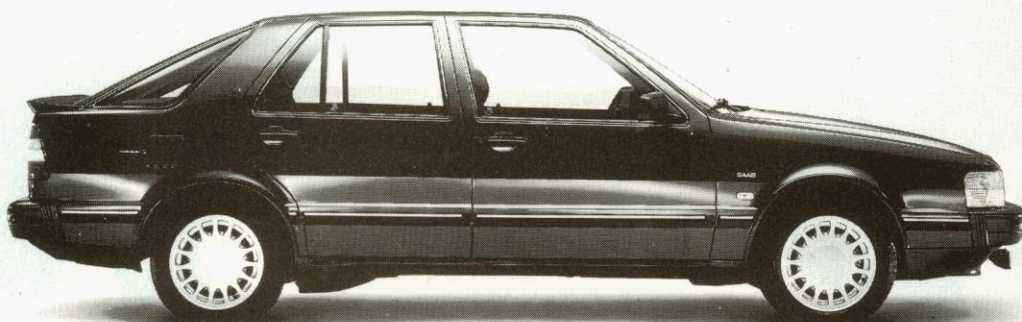
MLRS FACT FILE



MLRS moves into a forest location

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KOSB's very own granny!

AN adoption with a difference has been arranged by Berlin based 1 KOSB, following a suggestion that the regiment might adopt a local granny!

The idea, to foster Anglo-German goodwill, was for the regiment to adopt an elderly lady living alone in the neighbourhood so that young soldiers could visit her and in turn invite her to their barracks, **writes Laurie Manton.**

With the help of a local priest, 82-year-old Frau Kate Graefe "volunteered" for adoption by B Company.

"The idea has gone very well," said Company Commander Maj Paul Middlemass.

"We see her about twice a



Granny Graefe sorts out Pte Jesus O'Reilly at Ruhleben Fighting City in Berlin

month. She came to our Minden Day celebrations and was introduced to our Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice.

"My men go to her flat for afternoon tea and to introduce her to certain Scottish specialties, like whisky and short-bread!"

The company holds platoon

open days in camp for Frau Graefe so she can make sure their work is up to scratch. She had also been entertained in the officers' mess.

Sadly, 1 KOSB is due to leave the city this year, but the regiment hopes that 1 LI will continue with the "adoption" of popular Granny Graefe.

7 GR make rapid progress

EXPEDITION Gurkha Khola, an attempt by the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles to be the first group of men to descend the Sun Koshi River in Nepal during the monsoon season, has been a success.

A team of three officers, 14 soldiers, six professional river guides and a professional photographer flew to Nepal to take on the treacherous river.

They entered the Sun Koshi at the junction of the Indrawati river, and in the following eight days of extremely testing rafting faced 42 rapids above grade 2-3, of which 39 were descended.

The Gurkhas were forced to porter all their expedition equipment over the mountains around three particularly dangerous rapids.

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Damage control stems flood of complaints

Tidy neighbours!

FOUR hundred soldiers played the good neighbour in the wake of Iron Hammer.

Unlike their 25,000 colleagues who rehearsed for a war they hoped never to fight, the men were all doing a real job, cleaning up debris left by massed armoured vehicles and pacifying irate farmers for the loss of crops or damage to ploughed fields.

The British Army's damage control teams were on 24-hour notice to rush to areas where damage had been reported, perhaps to sweep mud from roads, clean up oil spillages, fill in rutted tracks or shore up broken fences.

Each major formation taking part in the exercise had to provide two damage control parties – of three or four men each – for immediate action such as mud clearance after the passage of vehicles. The wetter and muddier the conditions, the more important became their role.

And an entire 160-strong engineer squadron was tasked for the duration of the exercise to deal with more serious incidents.

From 37 Field Squadron RE came the two-man reconnaissance teams whose brief it was to assess damage, and the six-strong repair parties who provided temporary or permanent repairs, depending on the degree of damage.

A fence or a track, for example, damaged in the wake of passing tanks, was normally repaired on the spot.

Damage to buildings, which thankfully was rare, is almost always dealt with by civilian contractors and compensation assessed by the Senior Claims Office, North West Europe. But the engineer teams attempted temporary repairs, with the permission of the property owners, in cases where delay might have led to danger or more damage.

In overall charge at DAMCON – the exercise damage control system – was Maj John Crompton, OC 37 Fd Sqn, who oversaw the entire operation including the contribution by unit damage control teams, and also co-ordinated the work of

**Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Mike Weston**

mud clearing parties with that of the civil cleaning authorities.

His work was aided for the first time by the introduction of an emergency telephone link (the Burger Phone) through

avoided," said Maj Compton.

"There has definitely been a decrease in damage on exercises because people have become much more aware and environmentally concerned.

The worst single incident was structural damage by an armoured vehicle to a house. The problem was speedily dealt with by a civilian contractor.



Cpl 'Luigi' Lomax (centre) demonstrates the adaptability of the British soldier as he uses an umbrella to keep the snow from the pan while he creates a fry-up for Tprs Kenny Iles and Geordie Rowland of C Sqn 3 RTR

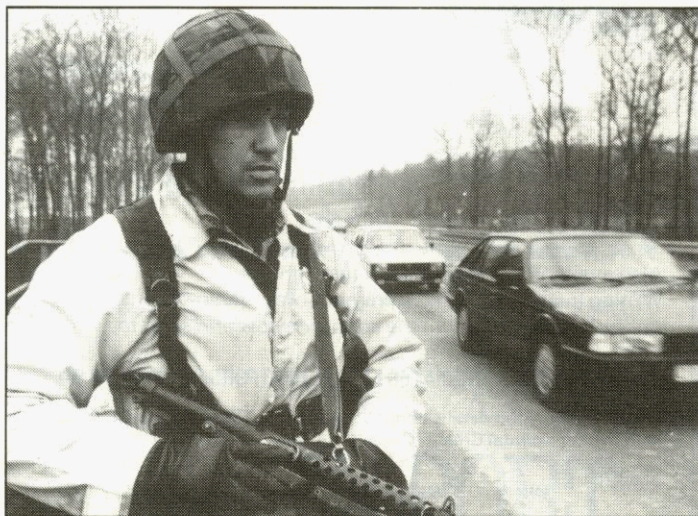
which civilians could report damage directly to DAMCON.

Up to 100 reports a day were received, the great majority involving mud on roads or damage to fields.

"The worse the weather, the more of these incidents arose," he said. "What we in DAMCON wished for ideally was sharp, clear, frosty weather which would keep mud and agricultural damage to a minimum."

Most farmers, he explained, themselves cleared up damage caused by tanks and put a claim in to the appropriate authorities.

"I think everybody realises that while the Army has a licence to exercise we don't have a licence to cause damage – especially if it could be



With almost 7,000 vehicles taking part in Iron Hammer, the role of the Transport Regulation Centre (TRC) was an important one ensuring a smooth flow of traffic. LCpl Keith Thornton, RMP, is pictured at the entrance of the Divisional Admin Area. The operation was for the first time a joint effort with the RCT working in conjunction with the RMP



A claims officer stands by to make a photographic record of the consequences of a road crossing by is at hand when a claim for compensation comes in

BARN STORMERS

FASHIONING a medieval barn into a 20th century military village posed few problems for the specialists of the 3rd Armoured Division's Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

Just five days after they started work on the 11th century barn at Holzminden that was to become the nerve centre for Exercise Iron Hammer, the transformation was complete.

The 32-strong team of technicians, linemen and power men, led by Capt Ray West and WO1 (FoS) Lee Brown, R Signals, had first to wait until more than 50 tonnes of grain was cleared from the barn.

But the fitting out of the barn and outbuildings that were to become Exercise Control (EXCON) was no small operation.

Title for the most lengthy task went to the cable laying operation, with the technicians putting down nine miles of multi-core, 16 miles of single quad and a further four miles of carrier quad.

In addition there was a requirement for dozens of civil telephones and scores of subscribers to the Ptarmigan system, the power for the complex being supplied by 17 large generators.

SSgt Jerry Jerrard had the task of moving 200 tonnes of assorted camp stores which had been ferried in to EXCON.

The supply of both hot and cold water came from a somewhat complex system

proudly labelled "Dante's Inferno" which had recruited the help of a military fire engine to run in fresh water twice daily from a German barracks.

With 600 personnel within the compound, nearly 500 members of the regiment throughout the exercise area, and a constant stream of visitors, routine was often more than a little hectic.

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of EXCON fell to Camp Commandant Maj Michael Anderson who said: "Looking around the site you would hardly know 600 people had been living for a month in an historically sensitive area. It has been a great success."

STORE OPEN

AN exercise as large as Iron Hammer requires a vast stores back-up to keep the 25,000 troops and their vehicles rolling.

At divisional RV men and women of 16 Ordnance Battalion RAOC were kept busy receiving stores delivered to the exercise for all the participating units.

It is an essential task, for coordinated control of stores is required to prevent supply trucks entering the exercise area from all directions and perhaps hindering convoy movement at a crucial moment.

The battalion arrived in



"Fancy a chock, love." Pte Susan Millward WRAC piling up spiked chocks at Div RV as Pte Jeff Phillips RAOC (right) looks on



SSgt Jerry Jerrard RTR checks his stock of steel trackway

16 Ord Bn helps keep the show on the road

BAOR to practise its mobilisation role as support for 33 Ordnance Company, and for the first time the party of supply specialists included a number of Servicewomen normally based with the battalion at Bicester.

The man in charge of the div RV detachment was WO1 (Conductor) Pete Stead. His

deputy, SSgt John Hall, said: "All the stores demanded by units are delivered to us and we hold them here until the units can collect them."

"Around 60 members of the battalion have come over from the UK for Iron Hammer and that includes four members of the WRAC who were brought out to give them experience."



Clockwise from top left: The Prince of Wales takes time for a chat with some of the wives in Strawberry Close

A wave for the Prince from the kindergarten children on a right royal occasion!

Firing the Light Support Weapon, under the watchful gaze of Sgt Jimmy Salmon

Watch the birdie! 1st Bn Welsh Guards officers during their official photo session with the Prince of Wales

Sgt Michael Fossey RCT (left) and Sgt Nigel Owen 1 WG by the royal staff car

The Prince exchanges a few words of congratulation with Sgt Anthony Chittock after presenting him with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal



Story by Laurie Manton Pictures by Terry Champion

SHINY SECRET!

THE SHINY secret of the royal helicopter was revealed by the Prince of Wales during a private visit to the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards at Pirbright.

After asking Mrs Janet Hunt and her charges from the Welsh Guards kindergarten whether they would like to have a look at his aircraft, the Prince warned the children: "It's been given an extra polish to make it go faster so don't put your sticky fingers on it!"

Following a briefing by the battalion's Commanding Officer, Lt Col Paul Belcher, on the unit's role and its future tour in Belize, he presented medals to several long-serving senior NCOs. The BEM was awarded the LSgt Henry

Bond, while CSgts Phillip Attwell, Brian Owen and Charles Turner together with Sgts Sean Jephcott and Anthony Chittock all received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

During a tour of the married

quarters accommodation, the Prince visited the home of LSgt Anthony Jones and his wife Tina.

A visit to the Jubilee Club gave him the opportunity to meet and talk with many of the battalion's wives, before he

visited the Guards Depot ranges.

There he met the battalion Bisley shooting team led by 2nd Lt Richard Stanford and accepted an invitation to try his hand on the new Light Support Weapon.

Under the expert guidance of the team captain, Sgt Jimmy Salmon, he fired off several bursts at the 200 metre target scoring a number of hits.

Asked what he thought of it, the Prince replied: "It's a good weapon... but they get more practice with it than I do!"

The royal motorcade was led by Sgt Nigel Owen 1 WG, while the Prince's staff car was driven by Sgt Michael Fossey, RCT, who was detailed by 20 Squadron RCT

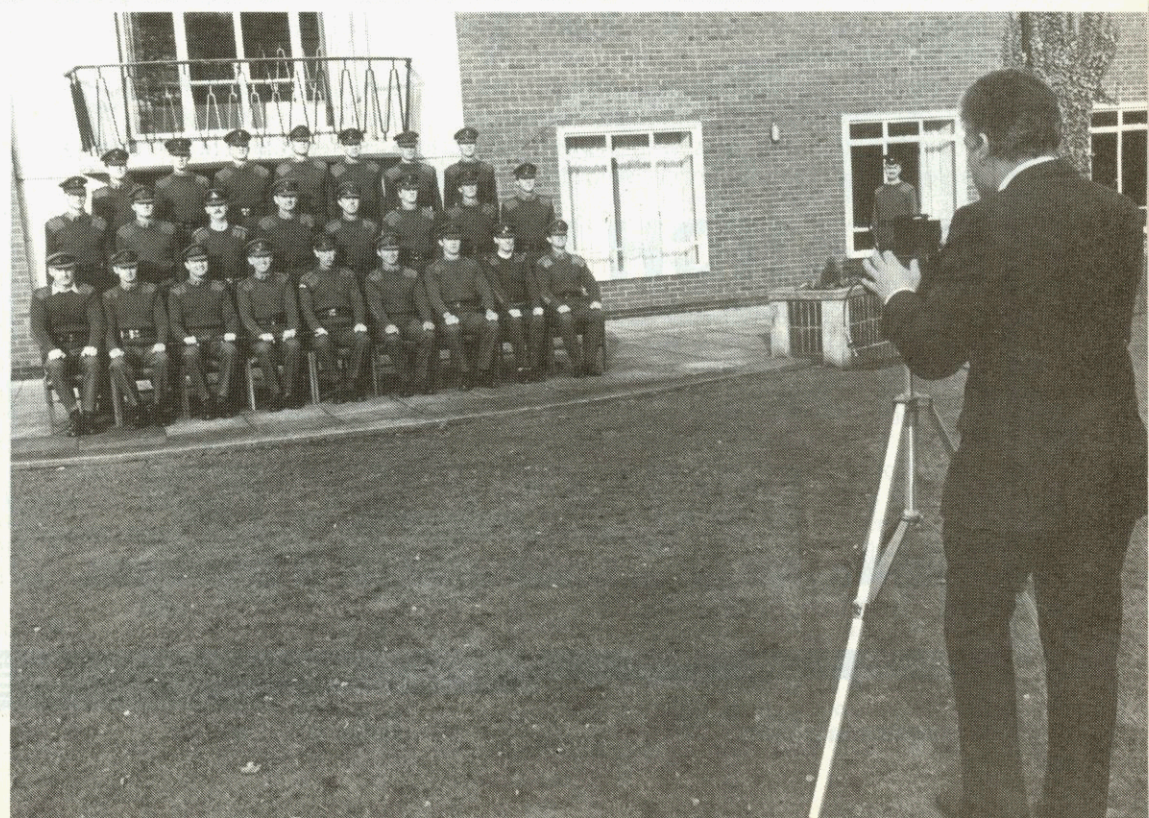
based in London.

Sgt Fossey is a VIP driver and this was one of his last duties before leaving the army at the end of the year.

He was not overawed by the task describing it simply as: "Just another detail!"

Following a photographic session with the battalion's officers, the Prince had lunch in the sergeants' mess before presenting the Prince of Wales' Trophy after the final of the Inter-Company rugby competition.

The Prince departed in his gleaming red Wessex helicopter of the Royal Flight. Rest assured neither the children of the Welsh Guards or the team from SOLDIER are going to reveal the secret of its speed. His secret is safe with us!

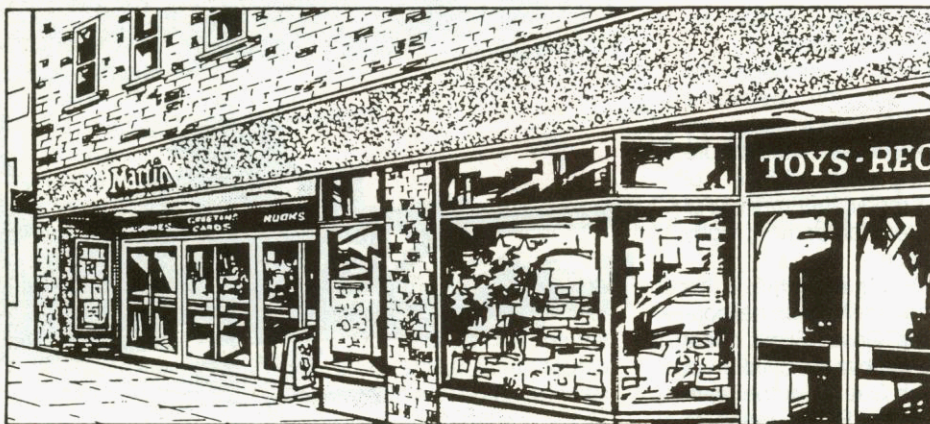


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How John Cleese gave 1 Para an anxious moment on Drummuckavall ridge . . .



Paras cover the arrival of a Gazelle at Drummuckavall

Fawltly Towers comes to Armagh

Words by
Bill Moore
Pictures by
Terry Champion

PILOTS don't hang about when they drop off passengers on Drummuckavall ridge, South Armagh.

It is only 175 metres from the border with the Republic and used to be a favourite target for gunmen to demonstrate the IRA's shoot-to-kill policy until the concrete tower went up with an OP on top.

Visitors who arrive breathless at the top of the steep duckboard track from the helicopter landing site may be excused for thinking they have slipped through a time warp.

If the tower sprouts high tech antennas, the ground level resembles a fragment of Flanders.

Revetted trenches with sandbag parapets link sangars and the little post is

completely surrounded by barbed wire entanglements.

After giving SOLDIER a guided tour Lt Miles Baker of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, said: "Now let's have a brew," and dived into a dugout which was definitely not 1918 vintage.

"Home sweet home," said Pte Rick Hames who had just celebrated his 18th birthday.

"Could be much worse," reckoned Pte Paul Cane who was in charge of one of the four-man teams who work shifts round the clock.

A TV set was strategically placed so the QRF – quick reaction force – could watch it and still grab helmets and weapons in a matter of seconds.

The place was well lit and the large

kitchen even boasted a microwave which, one old soldier solemnly assured a half believing young Welsh comrade, could be used to resuscitate old phone cards!

A flight of steps led to the sleeping quarters – four-man cubicles with bunk beds off a draughty corridor with a floor apparently designed to make plimsolls sound like hobnailed boots.

Reasonable ablutions with one shower that worked and another that was awaiting repair; a well-used washing machine and a mini-gym in which Pte Jack London, a promising light heavyweight, was training, completed the picture.

Drummuckavall was the responsibility of 5 Platoon, split into two "multiples" (current jargon) one under Lt Baker, the

● Turn to next page

When a frosty hedge makes a good place to sleep...

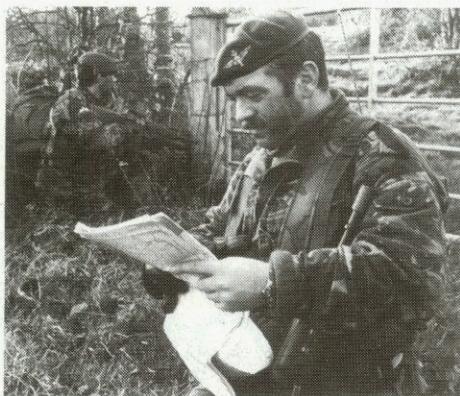
THE fields of South Armagh are small, the barbed wire getting thicker and the electrical charges in the cattle fences stronger.

In the ridge-dominated terrain obvious gaps, landmarks and gates are easy to target with remotely controlled devices so 1 Para was "almost evangelical" about going through hedges.

Red berets were apt to appear in the most unexpected places day or night, such as a particular road

near a village where the "helpful" inhabitants had removed the street names and showed their neighbourliness by flashing house lights off and on when there were troops in the area.

The route had certainly been roundabout. A helicopter ferried the patrol from their "lurk" to the so-called Lake District.



Sgt Bob Oliver checking a map reference

As it came down in the dusk Sgt Oliver seized his Bergen and leaped out. Seconds later he was hanging on to the skid. The Wessex was descending slowly into a swamp.

The entire party burst into laughter.

The patrol was dropped shortly afterwards on ground which was only marshy. Taking a compass bearing it immediately set off on a direct line through what must rate as Ulster's Everglades.

The vehicle check points set up that night monitored traffic on lonely roads – the Province is full of them – of the type to lend themselves to terrorists, sympathisers and smugglers.

No one was detained but some low level intelligence was picked up, the word undoubtedly got round that Paras were operating in the area, inhibiting any movement by the opposition. Sgt Oliver changed his socks.

The patrol slept that night tucked into a hedge in a field which the snapper declared next morning, as he brushed the frost off his sleeping bag, to be "quite a good place". He always has been a bit odd!

SOLDIER's snapper and scribbler were the lucky one's that morning. They headed back for base and eventually Alder-

shot, home of The Parachute Regiment. The patrol carried on for umpteen miles.

There is a tendency in some quarters when there isn't a Red Beret in sight to use the term "typical Para" disparagingly.

Pity they can't spend a few hours with Bob Oliver, Big Zack, Murt, Mark, Angus, the two Dans, Jim, Robbo, Goughie, Clive, and the rest.

They're typical all right – of what is to be admired in the British soldier!



Through thickets, thorns and wire – 1 Para were almost evangelical about it



Two faces of Pte Jack London. Checking a GPMG in a half-built sangar and (inset) training in the mini-gym at Brummuckavall

● From Page 29

other led by Platoon Sgt Stuart Aitken.

They alternated stints at the OP with patrol duty out of Crossmaglen. There the paras were working an 18-hour day. There was no time off. Weekends didn't exist. A multiple could be on town patrol within an hour of returning from the OP or off into the countryside for three days.

The paras differed as to which duty they preferred. "When you're at the OP you look forward to going back to 'Cross'," said one. "When you're there, you can't wait to get back here."

Life at Drummuckavall had its compensations, not the least of which for visitors was the camouflage expertise with compo rations. You'd pay a fortune at the Savoy for Scouse Fletcher's curry.



Vegetarian cook Cpl John Fahy became a vegan three years ago. All the cooks took their turn with patrols

But perhaps the most impressive thing about life in this throwback to the Western Front was the way in which everything was done with few words having to be spoken. Private soldiers simply got on with it.

Pte Benson Kent didn't have to be told it was his turn to make the tea; Ptes Ross Dixon and Craig Iredale just got on with the job of cleaning up the place.

If mums, wives and girlfriends could have seen the way in which pots and pans were washed up and stacked immediately after use they would have rubbed their eyes in disbelief.

Yet, as great banks of brown fog rolled over the base, blotting out the distant blur of Slieve Gullion and reducing visibility to yards, the same men, fully armed and equipped, slithered through the wire into the night to patrol on foot.

There were no Rambos in the multiple – or in 5 Platoon. Just very self-confident British paratroopers.

There was one taut moment during SOLDIER's visit.

It came when the squawk box crackled in the dugout and an anxious voice from the tower lost in the mists overhead, asked:

"You haven't forgotten, have you?"

"Would we ever?" chorused the gang in front of the goggle box.

Which was why Pte London was able to switch on the video (was it really 2 am?) when he came off duty.

The cackle he uses in place of laughter echoed, despite all efforts to stifle it, down the draughty corridor. *Fawlty Towers* strikes again!

As Sgt Baz Hunter said: "That John Cleese has a lot to answer for..."

Diary of a para patrol

2000 hours. Sgt Bob Oliver, veteran of five Northern Ireland tours, looks doubtfully at the new recruits. One, tall and festooned with cameras, sports a headdress which reminds someone of a cow's calling card; the other, short and clutching a notebook, has a rosy countenance which almost glows in the shadows of Newtownhamilton Security Force base.

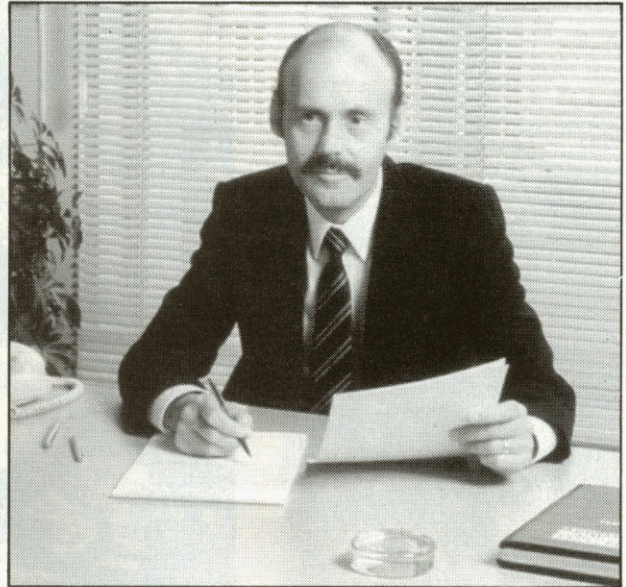
2030. Cpl John Fahy, ACC, king of the kitchen, presses braised steak on the newcomers. "Never touch the stuff myself," he says as they praise its tenderness. "Been a vegan for three years. Wife too."

2035. Capt Colin Snowball takes the opportunity of addressing a captive audience by extolling the virtues of the Para bobsleigh team of which he is an active member. SOLDIER is assured it is his real name.

2100. OC Support Company, Maj Bill Edwards, gives a succinct briefing on the battalion's patrolling policy. A large man with a quiet manner, he compels attention. When the tour began 1 Para lost a sergeant to a roadside bomb probably intended for their predecessors. Since then they have moved mainly at night and across country. Support Company's men have clocked up endless miles.

● Turn to Page 40

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A NOTICE in a certain headquarters used to say "Will the last watchkeeper to leave Northern Ireland please switch off the television?"

That old TV set, which has screened some grim sights, has long since been replaced and the notice has gone, writes **Bill Moore**.

The Army still retains its unique sense of humour but that particular joke has lost its savour.

There is a saying "You can't kid Tom" and the soldiers in the Province know that in the unpredictable atmosphere of Ulster the only certainty is that they have another long hard year ahead of them, starting the 21st since the current Troubles began.

To anyone who has been closely associated with them over two decades some of the rifle companies now in the Province might seem rather young, but as Lt Gen Sir John Waters, GOC Northern Ireland, told a grizzled visitor recently:

"That is only because you haven't realised how ancient you have become yourself."

The GOC, an infantryman who served as Deputy Land Forces Commander during the Falklands campaign, has a clear view of the men.

"They are as good as their fathers, grandfathers, or come to that, their great-for-as-many-times-as-you-like-grandfathers who fought at Waterloo."

One had only to see how a sergeant, corporal or senior private dealt with some of the situations they faced on their

As good as the best of them



Lt Gen Sir John Waters, GOC Northern Ireland

own – coolly, sensibly, often in the face of provocation – and yet still retained his (or even her) sense of humour.

He was sure that the "all volunteer" Army had proved itself.

"I remember in National Service days a corporal frequently had to scream and shout to get things done, probably a throwback to the

days of the massive armies raised in the two world wars.

"There is a terrific difference today and the troops carry out mundane low level chores or highly technical jobs with minimum fuss. And that despite the fact that many of them consider themselves lucky if they get five hours sleep a night."

Gen Waters accepted that terrorist organisations were still

trying hard and that their techniques had improved over the years.

But an enormous effort was continuing behind the scenes in Northern Ireland to back up the soldier carrying out his task of supporting the Royal Ulster Constabulary to maintain law and order.

He expressed his admiration for the RUC and said of the Ulster Defence Regiment: "I am more than satisfied with the job they are doing. I think their performance is amazing."

The general, commissioned into the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1955, is too old a soldier to make forecasts about the coming months.

But he has tremendous confidence in British soldiers who he feels are certainly as good as their fathers and grandfathers who fought Hitler and the Japanese, and their great grandfathers who beat the Kaiser.

Coming from a man who doesn't suffer fools gladly, who has commanded a company, battalion and brigade in Ulster during the violent years, the men in the well worn combat suits and muddy boots, dreaming of R and R, may take that as a compliment and a half.

And something to live up to.

Stats tell a graphic story

NEAT white plastic letters slotted into a black metallic panel, the "stats" board kept by the Army Information Service at HQ Northern Ireland was set up after the current Troubles escalated.

What began with marches and riots in 1969 became a full-scale terrorist campaign in 1971 after the first British soldier, Gnr Robert Curtis, 20, was shot dead in the New Lodge Road, Belfast.

That was on February 6. By the end of the year 42 more Army deaths were recorded, five in the Ulster Defence Regiment and 11 in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Violence peaked the following year with 103 soldiers among the dead, then casualties began to fall.

The white symbols on the stats board spread, filling in the columns year after year and a new one had to be started.

It still tells a graphic story and for 1988 probably reflects the arrival of arms shipments from Libya.

The number of machine guns found by the Security Forces was a record 59. So was the total of rockets (53) and launchers (15).

Mortar attacks on SF bases doubled and there was an increase of around 60 per cent in shootings compared with the previous year.

About 140 tons of arms and ammunition, from rockets to flame throwers (one of which has been found) are believed to be hidden, much of it south of the border.

Improvised explosive devices being used against the Security Forces include radio controlled and command wire detonated bombs.

More than 70 anti-armour improvised grenades – commonly

referred to as drogues from the little parachute sometimes attached to them – have been thrown or dropped in the past 18 months.

The continued use of 50lb mortar bombs has led to a general increase in reinforced concrete protection at bases.

In 1972, when there were more than 12,000 incidents involving bombings and shootings, deaths among the SF totalled 146 with 672 wounded, most of them soldiers.

Last year more than 600 attacks on the SF cost the Army 21 dead, the UDR 12, and the RUC six. Two incidents were responsible for most of the Army deaths – the Ballygawley bus massacre and Lisburn fun run car bomb.

Indications that Republican extremists were switching to political means to gain their ends

were not born out by the fact that the weight of explosives found by the SF was the second highest in the past 12 years – eight tons. A total of 105,000 rounds of ammunition seized was the highest for 14 years.

The weapons available to the terrorist require that all members of the SF and their families need to remain as watchful as ever and avoid adopting any behaviour pattern which will give the enemy a soft target.

They also need to keep their eyes open. The following figures compiled from the Stats board show that there is definitely "a lot of it about".

Since the Troubles began the SF have found 1,350,759 rounds of ammunition, 180 tons of high explosive, nearly 600 machine guns, 3,800 rifles and 49 rocket launchers.

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Information Wanted

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Author wishes to hear from personnel who have worked or served with 1st German Corps in Northag in 1980s, especially Artillery, Tanks, and Army Aviation. Emphasis is upon day to day routines tho' a touch of the Clausewitz would not be amiss. Alan Chivers, 23 Norwich Road, Northwood Hills, Middx. (09274) 21364.

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The Memoirs of Father Dolly, The Guardsman Monk. A. G. Turnbull, 29 St Mary's Street, Wallasey, Merseyside.

Military Books and Histories. Good quality out of print books always purchased, especially unit/regimental/divisional histories, magazines and journals, etc. Fast Friendly response and good prices paid. Andrew Burroughs, 34 St Martins, Stamford, Lincs PE9 2LJ. (0780) 51363.

BOOK REVIEWS

THAT the Highlander epitomises the romantic Scot and the Lowlander seems more reserved is a popular conception held by many sassenachs.

Though there may be a glimmer of truth in this generalisation, it is more appropriate to recognise a quality common to both: willingness to stand up for themselves – a trait that has roots in the country's past which developed into a strong pride of clan, a need to survive in a harsh environment, and an admiration for courage and endurance.

In *Soldiers of Scotland*, John Baynes, collaborating with John Laffin, demonstrates how the Scottish character is

Pride of the clans

reflected in fighting men. Spanning an enormous field, the book provides a concise history of Scotland with some absorbing military slants.

For instance: "James II, who had a great interest in artillery, was killed by one of his own cannons which exploded while he was watching it being fired."

The history is divided into two parts: from Roman times to when Gen George Wade built the military roads, and from the Battle of Prestonpans to the Falklands.

Battles and battlefields in Scotland, from Bannockburn to

Falkirk, are given brief but adequate treatment, as are the castles, garrisons and military roads, complemented by backgrounds of Scottish regiments and other military formations, including "oddities" like the

Royal Company of Archers and The Atholl Highlanders.

Soldiers of Scotland is an interesting book about a fascinating subject but, as a reference work, it would be considerably enhanced by the addition of an index. – BJ

Soldiers of Scotland by John Baynes with John Laffin. Published by Brassey's. Price £17.50.

Voice from the trenches

"LANCE Corporal E C Shepherd of the 9th Cheshires, waiting in their assembly trench, was to carry a bag of twelve Mills grenades and one of the same number of Hales grenades in addition to his rifle, 170 rounds of ammunition and entrenching tool.

"An unseen hand presented a tiny tin cup and he swallowed his offering of rum. A whisper came down the line 'fix bayonets' and there was a sound of sliding steel and light clicks as the springs went home..."

For such graphic description of war a debt of gratitude is owed to individuals who compile archives. One of the best known of these collections is that of Peter Liddle who over more than 20 years has amassed First World War photographs, diaries and letters written by more than 5,000 junior officers and other ranks.

Liddle's latest book, *The Soldier's War 1914-1918*, completes a trilogy based on his archive, the previous titles being *The Airman's War* and *The Sailor's War*. Through the pages he presents an insight into the everyday life of soldiering in a war about which much has been written already but much has been missed.

The 230 illustrations and a great deal of the written material have never been published before.

The book comprises a wealth of stories of regimental pride, comradeship, pay, food, drink,

entertainment, leave and religion, some of which will raise a smile, while others are more disturbing and even harrowing.

"We sew up the body of Pte Crocker of the 9th Worcesters A Coy, C of E, Ward A Hut 10. Cause of death gangrene. Amputated leg as a last hope of saving his life."

There are lighter episodes. "Everyone ordered a double dinner and then a further double dinner... the Greek proprietor was enraptured – never before had he had such customers. Sadly the five soldiers on the loose had no intention of honouring the bill for their gargantuan meal and escaped via a skylight above the washroom toilet."

These are the words mainly of the men themselves, the most senior viewpoint offered being that of a lieutenant colonel in command of a battalion of 850 men.

Peter Liddle's 1914-1918 Personal Experience Archive is achieving considerable and well deserved recognition. The Impressions Gallery in York is promoting a photographic exhibition which will tour the country and Tyne Tees Television will be putting out a series of six programmes under the title *Voices of War 1914-1918*, presented by Peter Liddle himself which Channel 4 will be showing at a later date. – BJ

The Soldier's War 1914-1918 by Peter H Liddle. Published by Blandford Press. Price £12.95.



Scottish soldiers abroad. The haggis is piped in by 1 Scots Guards in Kenya 1979

Secret war in Oman

IN 1971 the Sultanate of Oman was at war fighting against a spread of communism in the Gulf that followed the British withdrawal from Aden four years earlier.

With backing from already communist Yemen, dissidents in Oman exploited the poverty of the people to win converts. Alarmed by this threat, the old sultan's son Qaboos deposed his father and set about the modernisation of the country.

Britain sent a small team from 22 Special Air Service Regiment to help the sultan's forces in their fight against the

dissident Adoo in the Dhofar region, a notoriously inaccessible area in which the only practical means of supplying an army was from the air.

British Air Despatch units had come into being during the Second World War after which they played a vital part in the Berlin airlift, the Canal Zone, the Malayan campaign, Aden and Borneo.

By the time it was needed in Oman, 55 Air Despatch Squadron RCT was a seasoned unit, with an impressive number of sorties and gallantry awards to its credit.

LP makes way for the age of the CD

IT seems that in the near future the age of the great long playing record (LP) will be over.

As far as SOLDIER readers are concerned this may make your collections of military band LPs of some value considering how many aficionados are still collecting any old 78s, especially of marches which have never become very popular and by bands which have gone from the Army List.

So save them if you have the space.

Bandleader have already warned me that soon all major recordings will be on compact disc (CD) and cassette only, while run-of-the-mill recordings by the "lesser" bands (by which they mean small regimental bands) will be on cassette only.

These cassettes will be on clear tapes, using chrome tape

stock, clear cases and plenty of information on inlay cards, and therefore will be a little more expensive. At the moment CDs average about £10.50 and cassettes £6.49.

All this has been brought about by public demand.

LPs are in very little demand of late as most people seem to have changed to cassettes, and ever increasing numbers to CD. With the cost of producing the

disc and particularly the sleeve, plus the extra postage on a disc, the LP has become rather a drain on producers' resources.

The other record companies making band discs (Droit Music, Music Masters, Grasmere, Polyphonic) always produce an alternative cassette so it might be wise to change to a cassette player if you have not already done so, and to CD as and when you think fit.

RECORDS RODNEY BASHFORD

Let's hear it from the TA

REGIMENTAL BAND of the King's Regiment, 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion
Conductor: Capt T Platts
MM 0648

STEMMING from the old King's (Liverpool) Regiment and the Manchester Regiment, the names of both cities now having been dropped, the present regiment dates from the 1970s when the TAVR went through several changes.

Capt Platts held several appointments in the Regular Army, ending his career with the RTR Rhine Band, and now also conducts the Merseyside Police Band.

A concert march called *Alpheus* on the disc I received has some odd noises going on in the background, to be followed by a (very) ordinary quick march by Geoffrey Wood who calls it *Royal Birthday*, in competition with Alf Young's great march of that name.

Wood is evidently a journalist who whistled the tune into a tape recorder; a student at Kneller Hall then filled it out and scored it for full band.

It all appeared in the Press since the Queen Mother had graciously accepted its dedication on her 85th birthday.

I once received the cymbal part of a march (bang-bang-clash-clash) and was asked to make a march out of it. Death to all amateurs who "have a tune in my head"!



Knowsley Hall, home of the regiment's Hon Colonel Lord Derby, is a well put together march in patrol form while Alford's *Holyrood* and *A Tribute to Judy Garland* complete side one. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Procession of the Nobles* and a very welcome *Gershwin Portrait* make up most of the rest.

A worthy effort, and it's good to know TA bands are getting a hearing.

From Music Masters, End House, Gurnells Rd, Seer Green, Bucks, price £6.15 inc.

Musical freefall!

FREEFALL
Falklands Band of the Parachute Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster C Hogg
BND 1048

THE bandmaster starts each side of the disc with what he calls fanfares, though I hear them as miniature marches.

They are *New Islander* and *Delta Wing*, the first followed by a new march by Maj Terry Kenny which gives its title to the record – *Freefall* – and a very descriptive musical freefall he creates right at the opening when the band descends from piccolo to tuba in one long glide.

I bet the band won't attempt that on a freezing barrack square! A nice touch though, and yet another winner for the composer.

Sousa dominates the march section of the programme with *Black Horse Troop*, *The Grid Iron Club*, and *High School Cadets*, while one of military bands' best friends, Charlie Chester, has written one called *Overload*.

The only faintly serious piece on the programme is Ted Huggens's *New Baroque Suite* which comprises an overture, air, and nothing less than a fugue, but don't let that put you off, for all is, to coin a phrase, moque baroque.

● **From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR or dealers price £6.49 inc.**

FORTY years ago hundreds of British soldiers, many of them National Servicemen, took part in one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken by the Army in peacetime. In size and complexity it was probably not equalled until the construction of the Falkland Islands defences in the past decade.

It took place in the then Crown Colony of Kenya, and of it little remains but dusty memories.

The project was to build a huge military base in a previously uninhabited area of arid bush called Mackinnon Road, 60 miles from the Indian Ocean and on the main Mombasa-Nairobi highway.

It would house a depot for valuable military stores from India (from where the British were withdrawing) and from the then important Canal Zone base in Egypt (which clearly had a limited life).

The intention was to establish a strategic reserve of equipment readily available for the defence of Britain and its then still extensive Empire.

Codenamed "Leader", the grandiose plan was to construct a depot extending over 36 square miles and capable of accommodating up to 182,000 tons of stores of every conceivable kind required to fight a war.

The War Department had wanted a site on the coast but this had been vetoed locally on the grounds that it would dislocate the economy. Mackinnon Road was an insignificant railway halt on land of little value. It was flat, had a low rainfall and was uninhabited. Mackinnon Road was perfect.

Work started in 1947 and was due to be completed in 1950. It was intended to construct 2½m square feet of store and workshop buildings, build 25 miles of road and provide permanent accommodation for 360 soldiers. For water, a pipeline was laid 60 miles to the Tsava River in

Where are you now Mackinnon Road?

by John Marriage



notorious lion country. Pumping stations, reservoirs and a filtration plant were added.

At its peak, it was planned to have 500 officers and 5,000 other ranks employed on the site, along with 35,000 locally employed personnel.

About 500,000 tons of materials were required for the construction, including 150,000 tons of stores and plant shipped from Egypt and UK.

An old airstrip existed on part of the site, the rest of which was covered by dense bush. After an initial survey by British sappers the ground was cleared by Africans with pangas (a sort of machette).

Sappers carried out the skilled work, with supervision and design done by 57 and 62 CRE Works Services.

Support was provided by the

Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps (at a specially constructed hospital), Royal Signals (who connected their lines to the colony's rather antiquated telephone system), and the Royal Military Police.

There were also three companies from the Royal Pioneer Corps, plus a field bakery and post office. All the Africans became somewhat reluctant members of the specially formed semi-military East African Construction Corps!

For entertainment there was a large Naafi and a garrison cinema – open air until the rainy season. The most dedicated effort by the local labourers was reserved for the clearing and levelling of sports fields!

England was three weeks away by boat, mail was six weeks old when it arrived, and even Mombasa was several bumpy hours over the horizon.

But the disadvantages began to surface. The climate was less favourable than expected, the remote location was a serious obstacle to the movement of stores (and extremely distant to any potential theatre of war!), and the roads became impassable in the rainy season.

According to Phillip Darby's *British Defence Policy East of Suez, 1947-1968*, Viscount Alanbrooke had visited the area as Chief of the Imperial General Staff in December 1945 and concluded that it was too distant from the Middle East and that the road, rail and port facilities were inadequate. Nevertheless, the project went ahead.

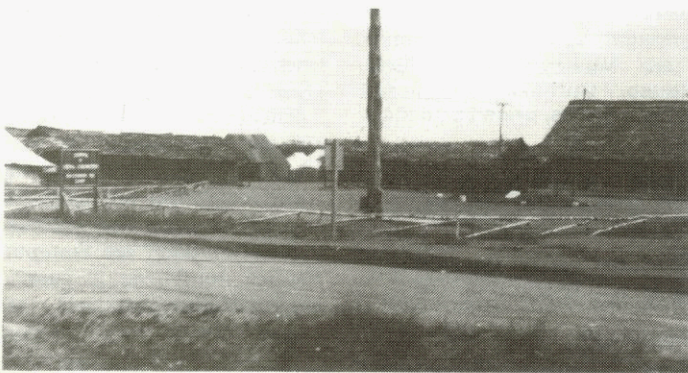
Although not completed, the depot was opened in November 1948. The following year work on the project slowed down and in November 1950 East Africa Command announced its closure.

By then £2m of the £8m earmarked for the depot had been spent.

A year later a government mission which visited the depot reported that stores were lying in the open, rusted and unusable, and that road rollers and electric motors were covered by thick vegetation.

Like the notorious ground nuts scheme (which recruited foremen of works from Mackinnon Road) then underway in neighbouring Tanganyika, the project was abandoned, adding to the litter of derelict British Army installations spread around the globe.

● The author was a deputy military foreman of works at Mackinnon Road, with the rank of corporal obtained after a brief course at the Military School of Engineering, Chatham. His job was to supervise tasks ranging from bush clearance to the construction of service roads and simple buildings. He is now a town planning consultant in private practice.



The guardroom and main offices beside the main Mombasa-Nairobi highway. This was to be the centre of a giant stores depot covering many acres of bush



One of the huge storage hangers built on the Mackinnon Road site 60 miles from the Indian Ocean. The project was abandoned and little remains to mark its impact on the African bush

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

SOLDIER's HOAY competition is going afloat. Instead of the usual cash and book prizes, the winner in this issue's competition will receive a free return crossing across the Channel for a car and up to four people, and the two runners-up will each be given a return crossing for a car and two people.

The free tickets are being given by P and O European Ferries and are valid on any of their seven routes to and from the Continent any time during 1989, subject to space availability.

P and O operate out of Dover, Portsmouth and Felixstowe with a fleet of modern car ferries including two new generation superferries on the short crossing between Dover and Calais.

The competition rules are similar to SOLDIER's usual HOAY. Simply study

the two pictures and circle the ten differences in drawing B. Fill in your name and address, cut out the whole panel and send to P and O HOAY, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU to arrive not later than February 10. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies will not be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

Employees of P and O European Ferries or subsidiary or associated companies and their families are not eligible to enter.

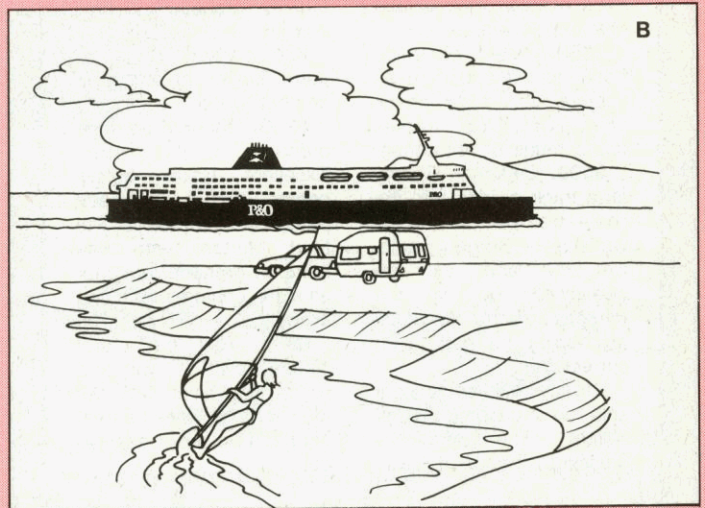
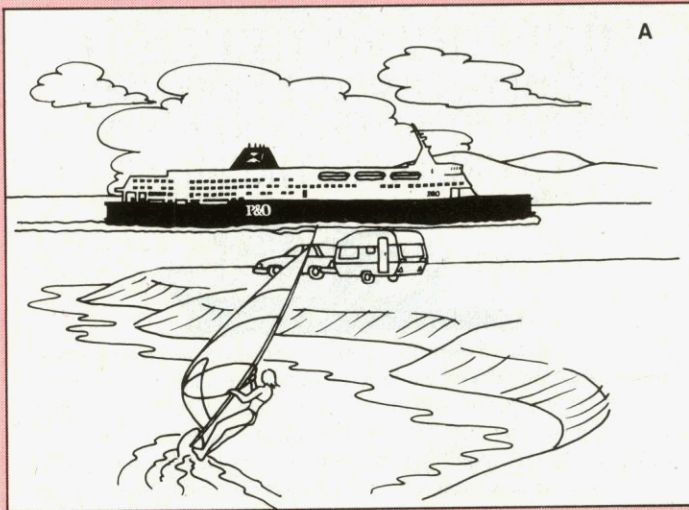
The names of the winners will be announced in SOLDIER March 6 issue, and P and O will contact them with details of how to claim their prizes. No alternative prizes, such as cash in lieu, can be offered.



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Diary of a para patrol

● From Page 31

2230. A coalmen's convention gathers in the SF base yard, black faces and Bergens everywhere. "You stick with Cpl Webb's team," Sgt Oliver tells the snapper. The scribbler is assigned to another. "Just keep your eyes on Marcus," says Cpl Clive Mills.

Marcus, who seems to have wires sprouting all over him, says: "Evening."

2330. At a given signal the coalmen disperse and move in groups into the street between the base and the chopper pad. Individuals automatically space out.

2345. Night cool but damp. Moon's brief appearances do little at ground level. Beyond the hedges the fields vanish into blackness splashed with orange lights denoting roads or distant farms. SOLDIER scribbler keeps eyes riveted on a distant blur that is Marcus.

2359. Halted. Flash up front as snapper uses camera at vehicle check point. Cpl Mills passes round mugs of hot coffee.

0030. Calamity. Grassy farm track divides and the invaluable Marcus vanishes - Bergen, radio, SA 80 and all are swallowed up in the darkness. Scribbler plods on hoping he has taken correct fork.

Greatly relieved to bark shin on crouching figure. "Wait!" The patrol is crossing a hedge stiff with

barbed wire and briars.

0045. Pass large house with broad drive and glowing curtains. What goes on at that time of night?

0115. Splash through stream. Branches strike face. Must be in wood. Scribbler becomes very attached to Bergen strap of man in front.

0130. Someone has carelessly felled invisible trees across invisible track. Very hard on invisible legs.

0200. "Bed down here." Mercifully the night hides the late late show as SOLDIER team struggle into sleeping bags. Paras, sentries posted, are asleep in flash.

Dawn. Snapper declares himself amazed to discover he is in middle of neat row of sleeping bags in heart of pine wood. Unsuspecting pigeon equally surprised and flees noisily.

Kits packed at once, patrol moves to a hide in another wood.

0700. Oatmeal porridge prepared in its packet. Excellent taster before cordon bleu bacon hash produced by Cpl Mills. Pte Murt Murton, who has humped grenade launcher all night, conjures up a fine brew.

0800. Half the patrol settles down to wait and watch. Sgt Oliver leads the rest through the nearest hedge. Two more days to go.



A telescopic sight is used to scan the countryside

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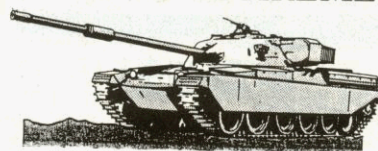
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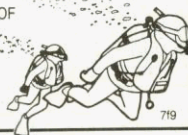
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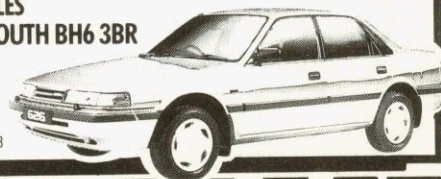
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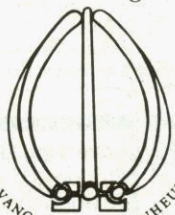
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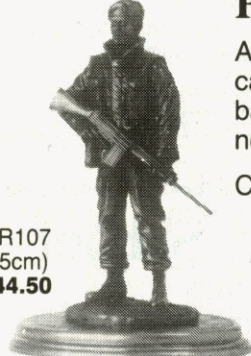
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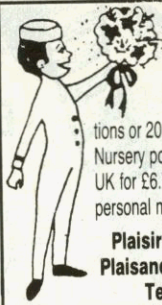
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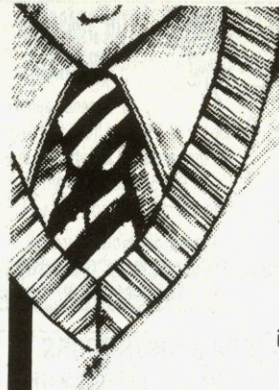
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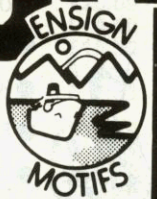
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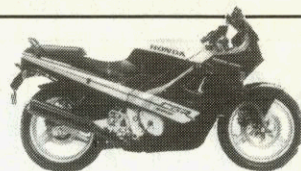
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Winning beginning to county defence

Army 2, Hampshire 0

THE ARMY began the defence of their South West Counties title with a local derby against last year's beaten finalists Hampshire. Always a hard fought contest, this game was no exception with the issues never quite settled, even when late in the game the Army

enjoyed a two goal lead, writes Pat Massey.

The opening half was a tense and rather shapeless affair during which two uncompromising defences gave little away, and except for a fine save by Sgt Nigel Wiscombe, APTC, neither goalkeeper had much to do.

On the hour, Hampshire defender Paul Bennett, a player

of great experience including spells with Southampton and Aldershot, misjudged a high ball allowing Whittingham to break clear, but the Army striker was wrestled to the ground from behind, and a clear cut chance was gone.

Two minutes later, the Army did take the lead. An atrocious back pass was quickly collected by Sgt Mickey Spencer, APTC, who planted the ball into an empty net.

In the 72nd minute, Spencer scored a quite superb goal when he collected a long high clearance by LBdr Matt Carmichael, RA, controlled the ball on his chest, before turning inside a defender to shoot just inside the far post.

YOUNG STARS FAIL TO CLICK

AAC Harrogate 1, Princess Marina College 2

WHEN the two best teams in any competition meet, a high quality contest is expected. When those two sides are prolific goal scoring machines, the scoreboard is expected to click at regular intervals. This year's clash of the apprentice giants, however, produced neither a good nor high scoring game.

It was, in fact, a long drawn out "yawn" which will be quickly forgotten by both the enthusiastic competitors and a noisy crowd.

Stephenson should have put the Harrogate side ahead in the first minute when he raced clear, only for 'keeper Earlie to block his shot with his legs. Twice in quick succession, opposing goalkeeper Rodgers made brave and important

saves at the feet of McLean.

Just when it looked as though there would be no scoring, a harmless ball dropped on to the edge of the Arborfield penalty area. There were three defenders in attendance. An attempt by one to clear hit a second on the legs and rolled into the path of Stephenson. He took two strides forward before lashing the ball into the back of the net.

Three minutes later, at the other end of the field, a suicidal attempt to pass the ball back to 'keeper Rodgers, not the first of the afternoon, was intercepted by Price who rapped it home.

Extra time provided just as much effort from the tiring players. Strouts went close from yet another free kick before McLean scored the winner with a 35 yard header which beat the stranded Rodgers and rolled into the net.

Back to basics!

WHEN he is not teaching Army officers and NCOs to fly helicopters, Capt Jonathan Price is himself under training to fly the British Army's oldest type of flying machine, the balloon. His balloon instructor is none other than his helicopter flying pupil, Lt Julian Pooley.

This role reversal is the

result of the recent formation of the Army Air Corps Balloon Club.

Capt Price is a qualified helicopter instructor at the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, near Stockbridge, Hants, where he

trains potential Army pilots to 'wings' standard. Lt Pooley is joining 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps as a Gazelle reconnaissance helicopter pilot, based at Netheravon on Salisbury Plain.



Sappers find the right formation

RECENT victories have made the Royal Engineers parachute team hungry for further success.

They aim to represent Great Britain in the world parachute championships this year.

To this end the corps has formed an eight-way sequential relative work team. The members have to match as many preset formations as possible in 50 seconds of free fall.

The sappers scored a one point win over the Red Devils

(39 to 38) to win the gold medal in the senior four-way sequential in the British Army Parachute Championships at Netheravon last year. They also became the Open and Army senior four-way relative work champions and intermediate accuracy champions.

In the individual competitions SSgt Tom Henderson of JLR RE took the intermediate style, accuracy and overall prizes with Cpl Ade Hawkins of 36 Engr Regt either runner up or third.

QLR in court

THE Queen's Lancashire Regiment will face an unusual task this year - defending the Infantry (BAOR) Tennis Challenge Cup title.

Not exactly renowned for their prowess on court, they seem to have been spurred on by the success of their squash team (the BAOR Infantry champions).

A six man tennis squad battled through to take the 3 Armd Div title and went on to beat 1 RGJ at Paderborn. The final score was 1 QLR 7½ matches; 1 RGJ 1½.

BATUS Bisons excel in Hawaii

AN interesting new team has appeared on the international rugby scene.

A 22-man squad from the staff of the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, Canada, cheerfully set off for Hawaii unaware that the World Invitational Rugby Tournament was so prestigious. Seven ex All Blacks were included in one of the 18 sides.

Fortunately the Bisons, the first British team to take part, had entered the social division rather than the championship, but still faced strong opposition which included the Hawaiian Marine Corps.

Despite problems with

the heat and the "Old Boys" from California (average age 26, average weight 15 stones) the Bisons, sponsored by BATUS General Fund and Labatts Brewery, came first in their division.

Apart from the Social Division Plate they were also voted "the most sportsmanlike team" in the tournament!

The squad was: Maj Bill Wiseman, RAOC; Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan, R Signals; Julian Forsyth, OOH; Anthony Pittman, ODG; Mike Newman, Queens; Tim Brown, RWF; Lts Keith Hutton, 15/19 H; Hugh Marsden, RGJ; Charles Lets, OOH; Sgts Taff Rose, Mitch Milligan, Rick Woods, Nigel Jones, REME; Keith Prescott, RE; LCpls Mick Gibb, 16/5 L; Tony Walls, RPC; Paul Sharpy, RAOC; LCpl Kevin Smith, RE; and Mr Robin Lang.

players can be tested for suitability for upward progress.

This year's RE-RA clash was preceded by the usual pre-match tour to the Channel Islands for the sapper squad where RE coach Maj Alan Jones could have four days to hone his squad.

The boys did well enough, beating Jersey (46 pts to nil) and then Guernsey (21 pts to 9) in successive days.

With these wins behind, the sappers looked to bring down the gunners on their own ground. But the RA side contained the right blend of youth and experience, and a critical partnership at No 8 and scrum half, in SSgt Martyn Lewis, the Army forward and Gnr John Denwood, the Combined Services U21 half back, who must surely have impressed the Army selectors.

The gunners played as a unit from the solid front row of Bdr Dave Coghill and LBdr Kit Roadknight right through the team to Bdr Sandy Saunderson, a sure and nippy full back.

It must be a long time since an RSM took the field in a match of this calibre and scored as well, but RSM Biff Byford of 7 RHA did just that.

Alongside Lewis at No 8, Sgt Andy Symes also contributed to a great win. After being 16 pts to nil down with about ten minutes to go, the sappers came storming back in a grandstand finale. But it was not to be.

Despite stirring work from WO2 John Davies, SSgt Ian George and sapper try-scorer Lt Mike Jones-Mathias, and that uncontrollable bundle of fire, Army hooker Lt Julian Brammer, the REs could not make enough good use of their possession to secure victory.

So the gunners retain the Jones/Drake Trophy, with their eyes now very much on next year's centenary game at Chatham and with it three in a row.



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Tout's team wins British bobsleigh crown

THE Army bobsleigh pairing of Cpl Mark Tout, 2 RTR, and LCpl Dave Armstrong, 2 Gren Gds, have become the British two-man bobsleigh champions,

overhauling Nick Phipps by 0.04 sec on the last of four desperately close runs at the Austrian ski resort of Igls.

Tout drove his four-man

Army team to 12th place in the Calgary Olympics and has high hopes of doing well on the gruelling World Cup circuit in Europe this winter.

Joining Tout and Armstrong in the four-man team are Cpl Lenny Paul, 3 R Anglian, and Gnr Nigel Urquhart, 7 Parachute Regiment, RHA.

All aboard for the Whitbread

THE ARMY's Whitbread Round the World Race entry has become a truly joint Services project with the acceptance by the Royal Navy of an invitation to take part.

Although the Army will still lead the project and look after the administration, the Navy's considerable experience in crew and afterguard will lend further credibility to what the Services already believe is a formidable challenge.

The Royal Air Force became involved when the Army's £3m entry was first announced. A maxi-rated 81ft yacht, now being built at Lymington, Hants for the Army Sailing Association, is to be officially launched beside HMS Belfast opposite the Tower of London on March 7.

The race is due to start in the Solent on September 2.



Combined effort pays off for 4 UDR's winning 680 kilo team at the Army tug of war championships

4 UDR PULL IT OFF!

THE Big Fellers from Fermanagh lived up to their reputation in the Army tug of war championships at Aldershot.

Despite stout opposition from the Royal Artillery, 4 UDR came top of six teams competing in the 680 kilo class, beating 19 Fd Regt by one point (12-11).

Only one point separated the third and fourth places - 26 and 40 Fd Regts scored ten and nine points.

In the semi-finals of the 560 kilo class 5 Ord Bn beat 40 Fd Regt and 26 beat 19 Fd Regt, with 5 Ord Bn winning 2-0 in the final.

Revenge for 19 Fd Regt came in the 640 kilo competition when they beat their Ulster rivals 2-0.

Two colts selected

DESPITE a disappointing first half to their season the Army's rugby colts had some good news to take with them into the New Year, writes Peter Salisbury.

AT SSgt Jason Jeffrey and AT Sgt Lee Morris, both of Princess Marina College, Arborfield were selected for the London Division trial.

Both performed well and both were included in the Divisional squad of 26 for matches in the New Year, culminating in a game against England Colts at Aldershot on February 12 to be hosted by the Army.

Injury prevented Jeffrey turning out in the final Army match before Christmas, and 20 minutes into the game Morris was injured.

Other injuries persist and were a significant factor in yet another disappointing defeat, this time by 24 points to three at the hands of Cheltenham.

MAGNUM SPIRIT

EXERCISE Magnum Spirit, the British Army Motoring Association's BAOR championship was won by Maj Graham Fox RCT (HQ RCT 1 (BR) Corps) and his navigator Cpl Barley REME of 54 Engr Spt and Amb Sqn RCT.

The UK BAMA's cham-

pionship, called Exercise Roadmaster, will be held in April and to prepare teams for this event, 27 Regt RCT at Buller Barracks, Aldershot are organising a night navigation and cross-country Land Rover driving competition designed to prepare beginners and novices.

Boxers win at Bristol

AN Army boxing select team defeated Western Counties Select by five bouts to two in Bristol, with wins for LCpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), LBdr Frank Miller (49 Fd Regt RA), Pte John Culwick (23 Para Fd Amb), LCpl Chris Whittaker (26 Engr Regt) and LCpl Steve Burford (4 Armd Wksp REME).

The semi-finals of the UKLF novice grade 3 inter-unit championships are between 2 RRF and 1 RWF and 3 RRF and 27 Fd Regt RA.

The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, newly arrived at Lemgo Barracks, West Germany, entertained and beat the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment by six bouts to three in the 4th Armoured Division inter-unit novice finals.



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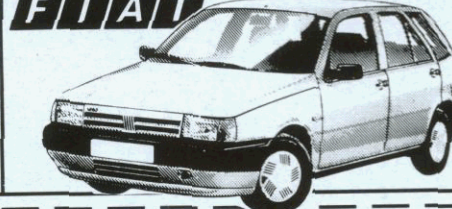
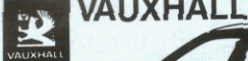
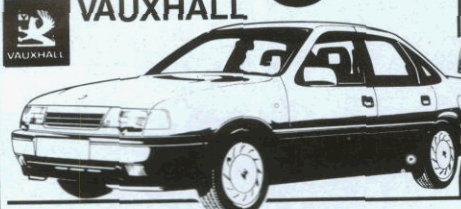
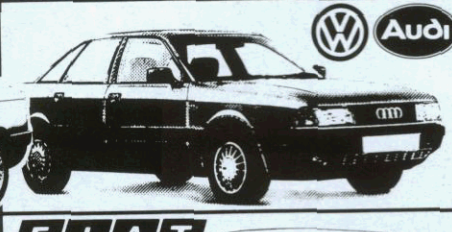
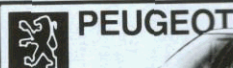
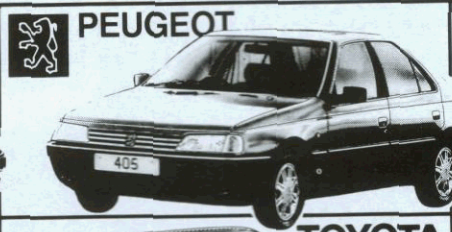
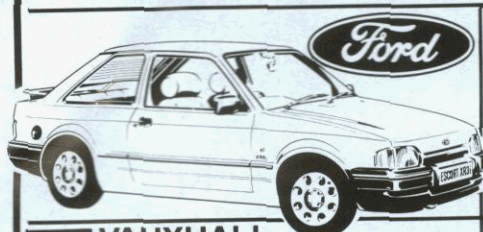


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SOLDIER



Dressed for country walking, South Armagh. A soldier of 1 Para is armed with an M16A1 rifle fitted with a M203 grenade launcher. See feature starting on Page 29.

Picture: Terry Champion