

SOLDIER



24 AUGUST 1987

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FRONT COVER: Another would-be wearer of the coveted green beret completes the daunting water tunnel test on the Royal Marines' infamous Tarzan-assault course at Lympstone, Devon. An instructor is close at hand should anything go wrong. See Pages 21 to 24.

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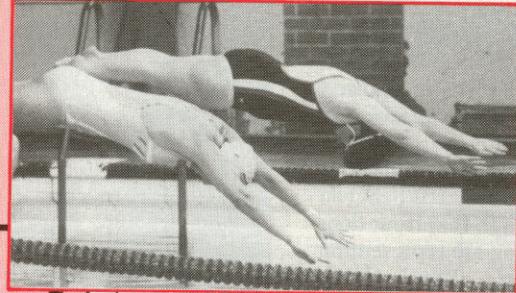
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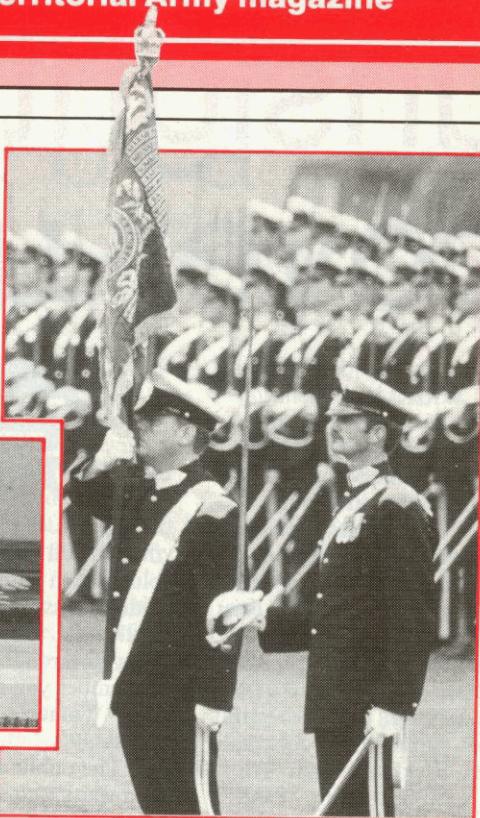
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**THIS
ISSUE**

Parading for
the Princess →
– Page 17



In the swim
– Page 48 ↑



Top shot
– Page 50 ↑



Commando gunners
– Pages 21-24 ↑

NEXT ISSUE

- The SHAPE of peace – SOLDIER meets some of the Army personnel who work in Nato's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe near Mons in Belgium
- The Colonels – a uniquely British appointment

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

Stop this unsightly cover-up!

PRIZE LETTER

Where oh where have all the pretty WRAC girls gone?

Half of them are hiding under those dreadful combat suits with pulled down berets and not a hair in sight.

What has equality done to our lovely girls – and going by the photographs you produce you'd think skirts didn't exist any more.

I've visited many places, home and overseas, where I see girls wearing those dreadful combat outfits with boots, hair pinned back with hair grips, faces scrubbed clean – and I groan with despair.

The public are always ready and waiting to see what you are doing. You are not apeing men, you're women doing a job alongside men."

I am now the "public". Let's see our pretty WRAC girls at work and play in uniform, and out of it looking like "WOMEN". – Veronica M Wilcock, 23 Hottdale Gardens, Cookridge, Leeds LS16 7RL.

● Veronica Wilcock earns our prize book for her outspoken view. One pace forward those pretty WRAC girls... Editor

Reunion

● Norfolk Yeomanry Old Comrades' Association reunion dinner will be held at the Drill Hall, Swaffham, Norfolk, at 7.30pm on October 17. Details from secretary Mr D Hunter, 26 Orchard Place, Swaffham.

Call sign

● Mr J N Williamson of Cloverdale, Chalk Pit Lane, Wool, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6DW, is anxious to trace his father, Werner Hellman, who was a prisoner of war at Elvington POW camp, Leicester, in 1947, aged about 26 years. He is believed to have returned to the Russian zone of Germany.

Medal of relative value?

I have found a medal which may be of sentimental value to a relative of, or indeed, I suppose to the man himself. Made of gun metal, I think it is inscribed: "Ferozepore Brigade Area Coy Hockey Tournament 1922-23. Lieut I B D Dewar." There is a laurel leaf circle on the reverse side. – G Shrubsole, 5 Bishop Jenner Court, Preston, Canterbury, Kent CT3 1EH.

Drum major traditions are given priority

"What about the swagger" asks Major Borrow (SOLDIER, June 29). As an ex-drum major and instructor of the All Arms Drill Drum Majors course, my aim is to train drum majors and potential drum majors in the co-ordination of mace drill and marching procedures. This course is not designed to

countermand the individual traditions of regiments but to guide and set a standard when different regiments are massed.

Every student is informed at the opening and closing address of each course that his own regimental traditions must be put into practice on completion of the course.

Conscript days

Conscripted service – the new target to aim at is six years and 345 days.

When I wrote to SOLDIER concerning my length of conscripted service I only included actual 'war service' ie from August 25, 1939 (when my CO put me on special war anticipation duties) to April 12, 1946 when I was demobbed, a period of six years and 231 days. I did not include my

conscripted military training from May 2, 1939 to August 25, 1939 – a further period of 116 days.

Therefore my full length of conscripted military service is six years and 345 days which I think is 62 days longer than Mr Pearson's six years and 283 days. – J Roose, Seawards, 29a West Down Road, Delabole, Cornwall PL33 9DT.

I have very much enjoyed your articles on the Royal Engineers and the Royal Flying Corps.

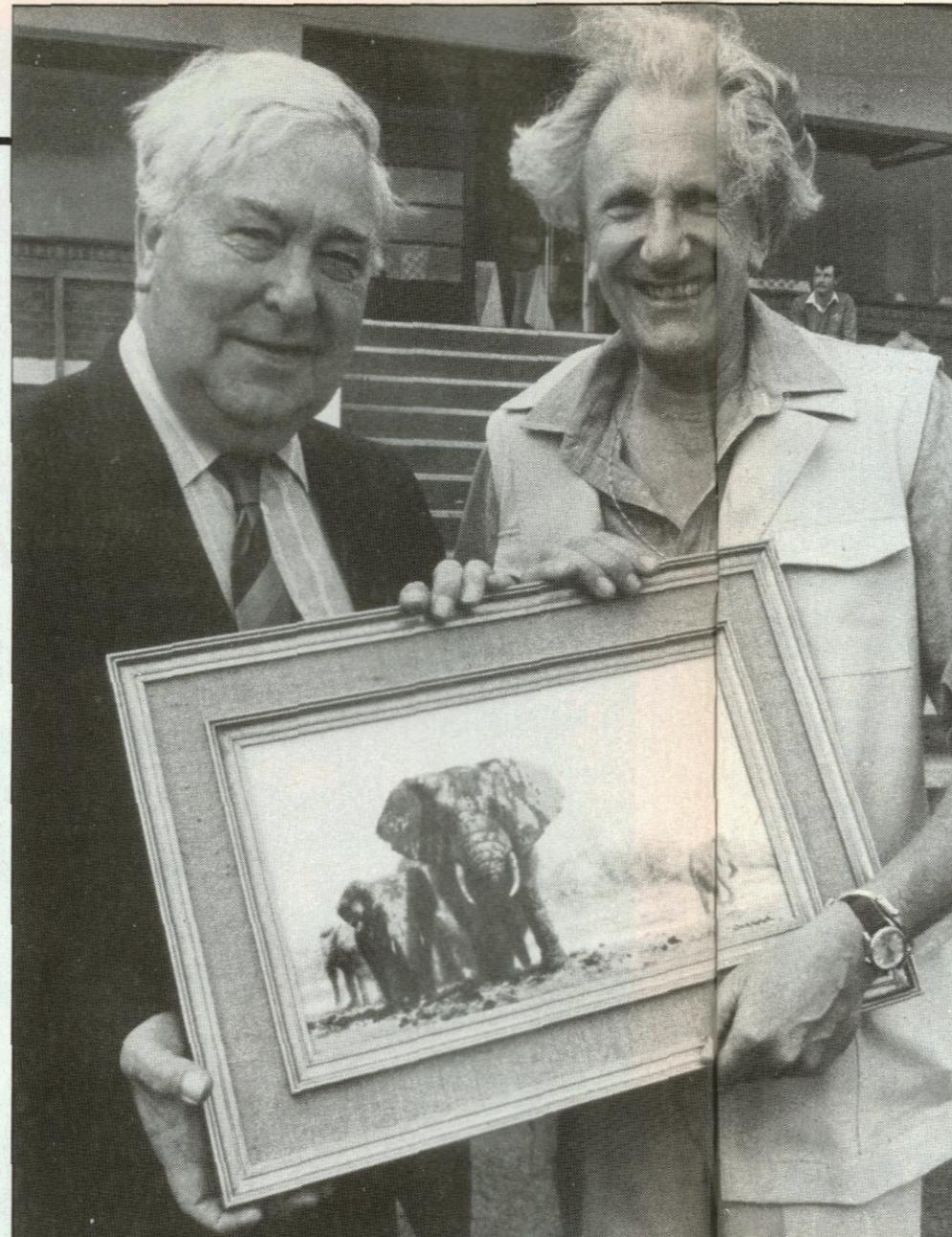
Your readers might find the contrast between your stories and a Canadian situation of interest.

Many Canadians are conducting a campaign to have a grossly inaccurate film about AVM "Billy" Bishop, VC, DSO, MC, DFC, titled "The Kid Who Couldn't Miss"

withdrawn from circulation by the maker, the National Film Board of Canada!

This cinematic waste of the taxpayers' money, some four hundred thousand Canadian dollars, says that Bishop did not make the raid for which he received the VC.

The film contains some 40 gross errors of fact in support of its story line – moving the Battle of Verdun from 1916 to



MASTER STROKES

PLANS for an extension to the Airborne Forces Museum at Browning Barracks, Aldershot, were boosted by a fund raising cricket match between teams captained by former England Test star Denis Compton (left) and wildlife painter and conservationist David Shepherd.

They are pictured at The Royal Aldershot Officers' Club cricket ground where the Saints – a team from Lotus Cars – pitted their wits against the Sinners, a team of Aldershot based paras. The paras won. The two men are holding one of Shepherd's famous elephant paintings, auctioned for £6,500 and then presented by its purchaser to the Airborne Forces Museum.

The auction took place at an earlier dinner night and the proceeds of both the dinner and the cricket match are expected to be in excess of £28,000, to be split between the museum fund and Shepherd's charitable foundation for wildlife conservation.

All fired up by a laughing GI

Re the GI stories (SOLDIER, June 29). I was posted as sentry on an SS Hospital in Altena, Germany, in 1945, relieving a GI sentry who sat in a chair reading the funnies, cigar, helmet on back of head, and two guns slung on hips, cowboy style.

He got up, came over to me, looked at my rifle; I think it was a P14 or Ross Rifle, as I was a gunner. He said; "Gees, what's that?" and before I could move,

took it, popped one up the spout and fired it up in the air.

Now, as I was all spit and polish, he fell about laughing at my terror. Why? Because I was now one bullet short out of my 60 issue and had to account for it to the guard commander.

But they were great guys, and let no one forget what we owe them and still do. So let's not start another 'book battle'; there will come another time! – A J Jewell, ex gunner RA, 241 Green Lane, Mordon, Surrey.

Medals galore on parade in Berlin

and only received the 1939/45 Star, and two years in India and was not issued with any medal during the Second World War.

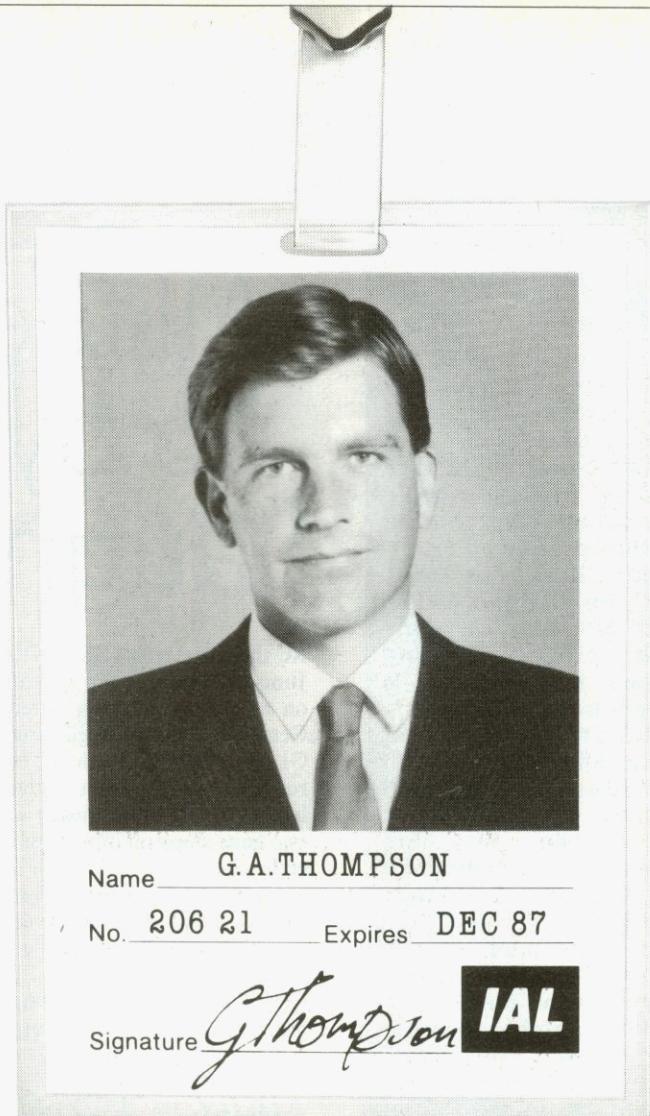
I was in the RAF route lining detachment for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. and received no medal. I also enlisted in May 1937 during the coronation of King George VI and no medal either. – C E C Cavadino, 67a Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey.

Flak flies over Bishop VC film

Should any of your readers wish to provide "supporting fire", they might write to the Hon Flora MacDonald, Minister of Communications, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6.

If you think I appear annoyed over this film, I was a soldier and you should hear the language coming from the airmen! – Frank Smith, 1513 Aspen Place, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3V4, Canada.

Smart by name is obviously smart by nature for the latest winner of £50 in SOLDIER's HOAY competition. The winner of Competition No 416 was H Smart, c/o Spr Smart, 3 PCD RE, BFPO 34. See how smart you can be by trying your powers of observation on the HOAY competition on Page 39.



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Signature

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Armed Forces Minister Mr Roger Freeman watches SSgt Culley instructing CCF LCpl John Mackail in the use of the Ensign rifle during his visit to the cadets' annual training camp at Cultrybraggan, near Comrie in Scotland. More than 40,000 military personnel, from Regulars to cadets, use the camp each year

Time is running out for Aaron

FIVE-year-old Aaron Chitty has already had open heart surgery three times and now desperately needs a heart and lungs transplant operation.

Time is running out for the brave youngster who was born with his heart on the wrong side and who may no longer be alive this time next year.

Aaron – whose father and grandfather are both in the Army – is doing his bit to help boost a campaign in Britain called Hearts for Kids, and during a visit to Cyprus launched a fund raising campaign at the BFBS studio.

The aim of this national campaign is to equip London's world-famous Great Ormond Street Hospital with all that is necessary to save the lives of children needing heart and lung transplants.

Aaron, whose father, Sgt Chitty, serves with the Royal Hussars, visited Cyprus with his mother, Bridget, to see his grandparents.

The Hearts for Kids campaign needs £1 million and so far it has raised £350,000. Aaron's family are spearheading the fund raising efforts and are fighting against time in the hope that he might live long enough to get a new heart and lungs.

Any donations should be sent to: Hearts for Kids, PO Box 270, Devizes, Wilts SN10 5HT.



Five-year-old Aaron Chitty launches the Hearts for Kids campaign in the BFBS studio in Cyprus, watched by grandfather Jim and mother Bridget

Gunners salute Queen Mother

AMONG units firing 21-gun salutes to mark the Queen Mother's 87th birthday were The King's Troop RHA in Hyde Park, London; the Honourable Artillery

Nuclear role confined to 155mm gun

BAOR is to concentrate its nuclear artillery capability on the 155mm self-propelled howitzer system. The 8-inch (203mm) howitzer will remain in service to fire conventional HE rounds only.

Announcing the decision Secretary of State for Defence Mr George Younger said the change would meet the requirements placed on the UK by SACEUR as part of the first phase of his proposal to reduce the nuclear stockpile. Nuclear shells supplied to the Royal Artillery in BAOR are manufactured and owned by the USA.

Company at the Tower; 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regiment (Volunteers), Edinburgh Castle; 16 Air Defence Regt RA, York; and 1 Battery 7 RHA, Aldershot.

NEWSLINE

Queen's at centre of operations

Soldiers to tackle unclimbed mountain

AN Army expedition to the Himalayas hopes to tackle the third highest unclimbed mountain in the world, the 24,073 ft Crown, and try to solve the problem of sudden glacial floods which can drown thousands of villagers in the area.

The first Western expedition to be allowed into the remote Karakoram region through China, they will venture into the unexplored Upper Shakesgam Valley, said to contain the treasure of a long-lost civilization.

The expedition is led by Capt Henry Morgan, RE and is one of the events marking the 200th anniversary of the Royal Engineers' charter. It includes specialist geographers and surveyors whose scientific work will be carried out

under very dangerous conditions.

Unstable glaciation surrounds the area of the Crown, and the glacial lakes can overflow without warning causing catastrophe further down the mountain. The data obtained by the expedition will be given to the Chinese Government to help predict these floods and save lives.

The ten-man team will be working in one of the most isolated and inaccessible areas known to man and will return by Pakistan through an area said to be the haunt of the yeti. The well-respected explorer Eric Shipton followed prints for several miles in 1937, and was convinced by his porters that they were the spoor of the lesser but man-eating variety as opposed to the larger herbivore.

REFORGER TO BE BIGGER THAN EVER

THIS year's Exercise Reforger, an annual exercise designed to demonstrate and practise the strategic capability of the US to deploy rapidly a corps to Europe, will be the biggest in its 19-year history.

Reforger stands for REmain of FORces to GERMANY and the exercise will start with the air and sea movement of some 34,000 III (US) Corps soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, to the regions of Niedersachsen and Nordrhein-Westfalen in northern Germany.

There they will join Nato's Northern Army Group in a field exercise called Certain Strike involving 80,000 soldiers from the US, UK, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

The ability of the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany to support deployed forces and the support agreements between military and civilian agencies on both sides of the Atlantic will be tested and evaluated during Reforger.

Rollestone nicked

ROLLESTONE Camp, Salisbury Plain, which is being used for the second time in its long history as a prison, is being staffed entirely by prison officers without any military involvement, as was the case six years ago.



Protected by goggles and wearing headphones, the Princess Royal commands a Chieftain tank in the Ruhleben training area in Berlin under the watchful eye of Cpl Keith Meakin. The Princess, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, was visiting B Squadron

14th/20th King's Hussars at Smuts Barracks. Accompanied by the squadron OC, Maj the Hon Jeremy Gray, she tried out a tank gunnery simulator before taking the helm of a Chieftain to flatten a scrap car to show the tank's urban fighting ability.

Cymbeline meets its deadline

A SUCCESSFUL joint effort by Army technicians, MoD civilian employees and private industry, has been marked by a special thank you ceremony at 35 Base Workshop REME, Melton Mowbray.

A tracked Mark 2 Cymbeline, one of more than 40 battlefield radar equipments which have passed through a refurbishment programme, was formally accepted by Brig Alastair Clark, Commandant Designate Royal School of Artillery. The workshop accomplished its part in the task in just under two years.

Despite the complexities in dismantling and distributing high tech components to a variety of agencies, the project was completed on schedule.

The RAOC supplied the parts and the RCT played an important part in the collection and delivery of vehicles, from the UK and BAOR. The programme was carried out in conjunction with Thorn (EMI).

The Royal Highland Fusiliers, who are the public duties battalion stationed in Edinburgh, provide a Guard of Honour for the Queen during her visit to Scotland. The guard by B Company was one of many the battalion has taken on

since its return from Berlin in March. Royal duties continue during September as, allied to the normal ceremonial, C Company will form the Queen's Guard during the stay of the Royal Family at Balmoral Castle.

Kampala incident Redcap gets QGM

AN incident involving a Royal Military Police close protection team has resulted in an award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The recipient is SSgt Brendan Laffan RMP who showed "outstanding leadership, personal example, tactical skill and calm direction" of the team which was serving in Kampala, Uganda, in 1986.

Cpl Paul Gerrard, RMP, has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct in the same incident which constituted "a serious threat to the lives of civilians."

Three other RMP corporals have been awarded Commander-in-Chief's commendations.

Krypton unit aims to top £100,000

BURY Fusiliers, organising their eighth year in the Krypton Factor competition, hope to increase the amount they have raised for charity to more than £100,000 after this year's competition on August

Bank Holiday weekend. Civilian and military teams of four can enter the competition, over the Army Krypton Factor assault course at the Holcombe Moor Training Camp at Bury.



PLANNING TEAM: Felicity and operations director of Operation Raleigh Col John Blashford Snell



REMARKABLE ROSIE: with help from SSgt Brian Callard

The
courage
of
Rosie

WITH the help of SSgt Brian Callard of 93 Ord Coy RAOC (V) based at Hilsea, Portsmouth, cancer victim Rosie Sparkes abseiled 75 feet over the Queen Alexander Hospital roof in Portsmouth. Remarkable Rosie, who is wheelchair bound with arthritis, raised about £4,000 for the hospital's scanner appeal.

Lady of adventure

TA girl 2nd Lt Felicity Bowden's love of adventure is keeping her busy.

She has just been appointed Operations Officer at the central headquarters in London of the worldwide expedition Operation Raleigh.

Felicity, who was front cover girl of SOLDIER in March last year, has been with Op Raleigh nearly two years, starting as a venturer, then as a judge at selection weekends. She spent most of last year on the staff directing expeditions in Australia.

A weekender with HQ Coy of 6 Royal Anglian at Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, Felicity arrived back in England at the end of June on the exploration ship *Sir Walter Raleigh*, after an eventful three-month voyage calling at Sierra Leone.

Now she is co-ordinating field support for current expeditions in Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia, and hopes to continue her work for further expeditions until Op Raleigh ends in early 1989.

PEOPLE



AT THE WHEEL: Sybil and friends with Pte Clarke and Maj Lucas

It's the FANY club!

SYBIL'S BACK AT THE WHEEL

BEHIND the wheel of a staff car again for the first time in 40 years, Mrs Sybil Scott and wartime friends from the former 7th Wiltshire Motor Company swap photographs and rekindle memories at a reunion in Salisbury.

They were all Territorial Force volunteers and their job was to drive the officers of the Army headquarters at Wilton – then known as Southern Command.

Waiting to meet the ladies at their luncheon venue was Maj Sue Lucas, 14 Field Regt RA, who brought a message of welcome from Col Frances Hutley, Commander WRAC at HQ UKLF.

Her uniform, and that of staff car driver Pte Sandra Clarke, 22nd Signal Regt, drew admiring looks from the ladies. "We did not have such an attractive uniform then," said Mrs Scott of Salisbury, "and we did not have short sleeves either."

Although they had no connection with nursing, the drivers were known as the FANYs – 'First Aid Nursing Yeomanry'.



What a load of rubbish!

DOING their bit for the European Year of the Environment, LCpl Dave Pritchard (left) and Cpl Spud Murphy joined colleagues from the 2nd Bn The Royal Irish Rangers for a clean up of training areas near the Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison.

Left out?

TA 2nd Lt Timothy Conning, an infantry instructor with Leeds University Officer Training Corps, is left handed. He's also studying for an honours degree in psychology at the College of Ripon and York St John.

So it is perhaps not surprising that when he needed a subject for his final year study he decided to explore the effect of being left handed in the Armed Forces.

"In civilian life there are so many left handed people that nothing is written about them; they are just accepted and their problems brushed to one side," says 21-year-old Timothy. "In the military area there are all sorts of problems, for instance in the way that machinery is designed."

"Are left handers considered in any new project? I would like to find out what considerations are given to left handed people in the military."

BERLIN SURPRISE

A SURPRISE was in store for John Hassall when he and his wife Beryl paid a return visit to Berlin after more than 35 years.

John, now a knitting machine technician with a Leicester firm, was a sergeant with 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment and at Berlin Signal Squadron between 1948-1951, and was at RAF Gatow throughout the Berlin air lift, living in an Army quarter.

It was his dearest wish to revisit the city but, unknown to him, his wife Beryl sent a secret SOS to 29 Signal Regt (Berlin), the successors to John's old unit, to make sure he saw all his old haunts.

No sooner had they arrived at Berlin Tegel Airport than they found themselves on a fascinating trip down memory lane that took in John's old base at RAF Gatow, a view of the Berlin Wall, a tour of East Berlin, an Army helicopter ride and even a glimpse of their old married quarter.



BACK IN BERLIN: John and Beryl with Col John Munnery, Co of 29 Sig Regt



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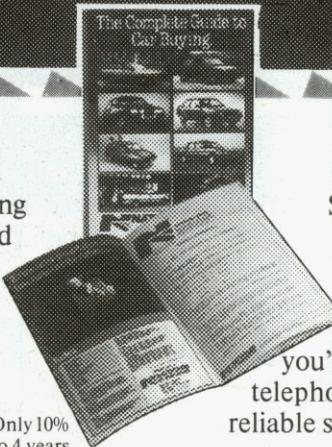
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Drum comes home

A regimental drum, lost by the Cameron Highlanders 47 years ago when the 51st Highland Division surrendered to Rommel's Panzers at St Valery, has been found in possession of a French family.

The grandchildren of the man who found the drum after it had been hidden from the Germans, have decided to return it to the Queen's Own Highlanders, successors to the Camerons.

• The Albuhera Band is looking for items from the past

A RANGE OF BEAUTY

An ambitious scheme to beautify the ranges at Fort George, near Inverness, and tidy up the shoreline is being carried out by members of Fort George camp staff with volunteer help from Army cadets and possibly Territorial Army engineers.

Focal point of the scheme is the creation of a small loch from about two acres of bog land.

The cadets will clear the shore, disposing in the process of half-a-dozen old cars dumped on the ranges over the years.

In autumn, once the ground

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

which will help it build a collection of historic photographs of former bands of the Queen's Regiment.

Sgt G West of the Albuhera Band, at Clifton Barracks, BFPO 29, is seeking photographs, newspaper cuttings or other information relating to the following bands - The Queen's Royal, The Buffs-Royal East Kent, The East Surrey, The Royal Sussex, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent, The Middlesex, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions The Queen's Regiment.



NO LONGER LEGLESS

Woolwich Garrison Church's eagle lectern is legless no more. Almost exactly 43 years after it was cut off in its prime by a German flying bomb, the magnificent golden eagle lectern has been restored to its former glory.

The church received a direct hit in the summer of 1944 and the eagle lectern "flew" into Repository Road, breaking both legs on landing. It was carried into the garrison HQ where it remained until Maj Geoffrey Dennis asked REME if they could re-leg it.

The happy story ends with a rededication ceremony in the present Garrison Church by Padre David Small. Standing next to him is REME's resident golden eagle leg expert Maj Frank Reynolds.

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Tank busters practise their art Down Under and in BAOR

MILAN, the infantry's primary anti-tank weapon, has just been put through its paces on Germany's northernmost ranges at Putlos.

Exercise Fourth Flight is the latest in a series of biennial Milan concentrations designed to train and test the anti-tank platoons of BAOR and Berlin based regiments. Run under the auspices of 1 BR Corps, the exercise was administered by a detachment of 200 men from the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, commanded by Maj James Maitland-Makgill-Crichton.

This year's concentration lasted five weeks, with 17 platoons from 14 different units completing a two week course. The training included AFV recognition, fire control, vehicle and equipment maintenance as well as live firing and a gruelling overnight "march and shoot".

Col Sgt Steve Darlington,



43 Section, Milan Platoon, 2 Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment at the end of the march and shoot

Queen's Lancashire Regiment, of the Support Weapons Wing, School of Infantry explained: "Here they can achieve standards which they would struggle to reach in battalion training."

For the lads from 2nd

Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, this was certainly true. Having arrived in BAOR just three months before, and with a large percentage of soldiers relatively new to the platoon, Sgt Tom Glynn, the platoon sergeant, found the

training second to none. Sadly, this year saw the last

Putlos, Germany

appearance of the two manned target tanks which



Putlos's last manned target tank. Inside it were (from left) Cfn Derek Lock, 2nd Lt Jonathan Lydiard-Wilson, Cfn Guy Wilcock and LCpl Damon Hiscock

have been a feature of all previous concentrations. Nowadays it is more expensive to produce the special practise ammunition required than the real thing, so the

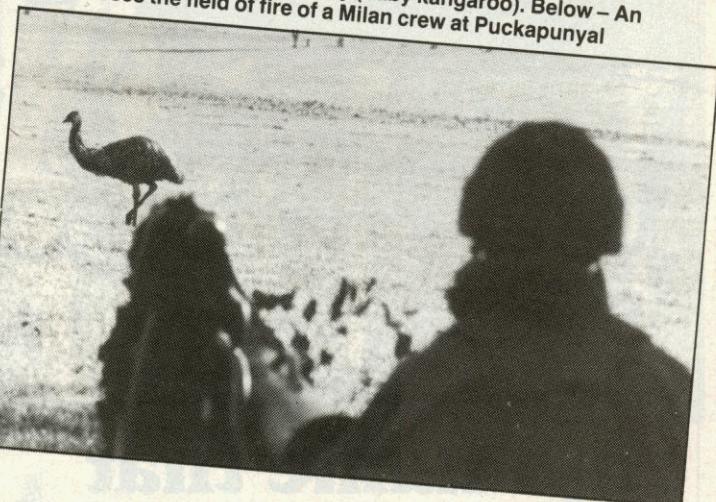
Centurions have now been condemned to a static target role on the Sennelager ranges.

Story: Kate Teesdale

Pictures: Cpl David Miles



Above - Rfn Nembahadur Khapung (left) and Balkumar Rai of 10 GR befriend an orphaned Joey (baby kangaroo). Below - An emu crosses the field of fire of a Milan crew at Puckapunyal



A CONCENTRATION OF MILANS

ANTI-TANK platoons of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade from Hong Kong have just completed a rigorous and exacting period of training in Australia, culminating in the brigade Milan concentration - the first ever such British event to be held in the Antipodes.

Australia was chosen because of the lack of suitable locations available in Hong Kong and Brunei.

A wire-guided anti-tank missile, Milan is extremely accurate and has an effective range

of around 1,400 to 1,600 metres. During the concentration 68 Milan missiles were fired.

Nearly 200 soldiers from participating units were flown to Melbourne for Exercise Blue Flyer 87.

Arriving at Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne after a 10-hour RAF VC10 flight via Darwin the soldiers were bussed to the vast military training ranges at Puckapunyal.

This huge 123,000 acre tract of land encompasses almost every type of terrain and is ideally suited for all forms of military training. Like Salisbury Plain and Sennelager Training Area, it is also regarded as a nature conservation area.

At dawn and dusk large numbers of timid kangaroos venture out into the open plains - bounding off at great speed if

approached. Emus are prolific too - though not so timid. Very inquisitive creatures, they occasionally approached within 10 metres of soldiers sitting quietly in their trenches.

Not so friendly were the many poisonous snakes found in the area.

For almost four weeks the soldiers were exercised and tested in their basic military skills and more particularly in their expertise with the Milan system. During the concentration 68 missiles were fired.

The Gurkha anti-tank gunners also had to contend with Australia's winter climate. At night the temperature fell to freezing point, ice was encountered frequently and a good deal of rain fell.

Officer commanding the Milan concentration, chief planner and coordinator was Maj Andrew Jackson, from HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade.

Infantry units of 48 Brigade

which took part were from 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

To add realism to the

Puckapunyal, Australia

battlefield situation the six anti-tank units had to leave their comfortable heated accommodation at Puckapunyal and move into the outback two days before the big event.

During this period the Gurkhas were kept constantly on the alert by forced marches, enemy attacks, digging in, artillery assaults and more tabbing.

For the actual concentration

a troop of three Leopard I tanks of the Australian Armoured Corps supported the anti-tank gunners, firing both main armament and machine guns.

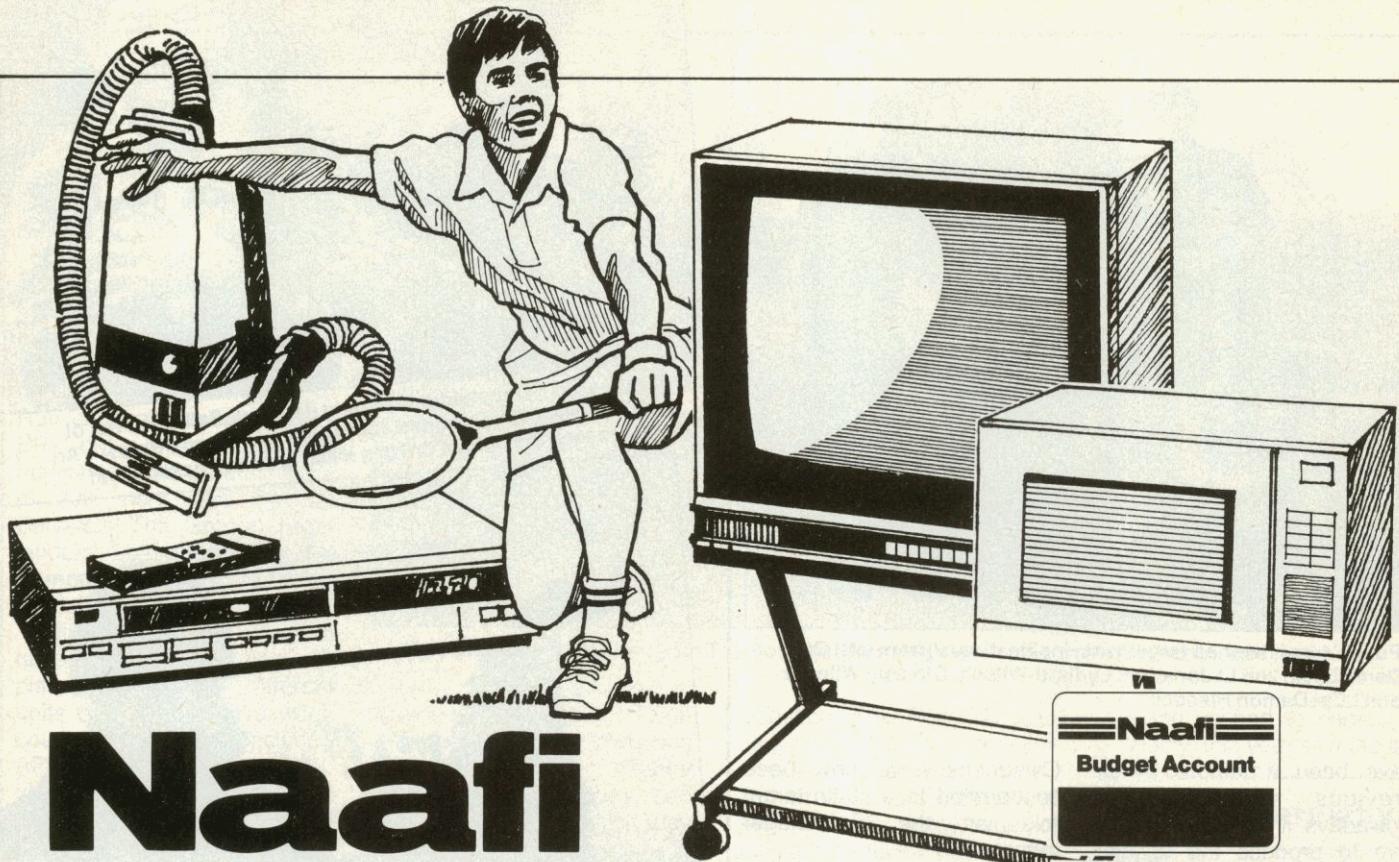
A sharp bang and the first missile hurtled down the range. Spectators - mainly military from nearby Puckapunyal Training Area - went silent. Seconds later there was a cheer as the missile successfully struck its moving target.

Visitors to the 1987 Milan Concentration included the British High Commissioner to Australia, Sir John Leahy, the British Defence Attaché from Canberra, Col Graham Farrell, and the Commander 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, Brig Ray Pett.

That the 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Milan concentration was an undoubted success was reflected in the missile "hit" statistics. Conservative estimates suggested a 75 per cent strike rate.



A Gurkha concentrates on the target at Puckapunyal



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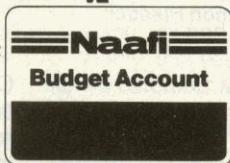
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Princess visits 13th/18th Royal Hussars



Pictures: Terry Champion

The Princess of Wales inspects the regiment



New Guidon on parade

Guidon parade

"WHAT'S wrong with the old one?" enquired a puzzled, rain-splattered journalist from the depths of his mackintosh as he watched the new Guidon of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) marched on to the parade ground.

Braving the worst of a Hampshire summer, the Fleet Street media were at Tidworth in force to record the presentation by the Princess of Wales of the new Guidon – the Light Cavalry equivalent of the Infantry Colour – to the regiment.

Formerly a battlefield rallying point, the Guidon – bearing honours as far-flung as

Ladysmith and Waterloo, Sevastopol and the Somme – is now the focal point of the regiment's history and tradition.

Memories of more recent campaigns were revived at Tidworth with the drive past of a Sherman tank used by the regiment at the Normandy landings and on loan from Bovington tank museum.

Watched by about 4,000 spectators, including representatives of affiliated regiments in countries such as France, India and Canada, the parade included foot drill, a mounted escort, a vehicle drive past, a march past by former members of the regiment and a 21 gun salute fired by Scorpion tanks.



A Sherman tank adds an historical footnote



Princess Diana watches a drive past of armoured vehicles

IN MY VIEW

ONLY half of Army personnel and their wives eligible to vote in the General Election took up the option.

The exact figure was 55 per cent of all ranks and wives – well below the national average, thought to be around 70 per cent.

Registration of Army voters was also down with only 79 per cent of officers registering (wives 65 per cent); and soldiers were down to 62 per cent with only 31 per cent of their wives getting their names on the lists.

Safety standards raised

NEW British standards have come into effect covering handles and knobs on cooking utensils and safety harnesses for children.

Statistics show that numerous accidents occur because of the sudden failure of handles on saucepans, pressure cookers, deep-fat fryers and frying pans. BS6743 and BS1746 are the numbers giving full safety details.

Safety harnesses are designed to prevent babies and young children from being injured or injuring themselves.

The BS6684 introduces requirements for the maximum length of harness side straps and requires instructions to be provided telling of the importance of limiting free play. It also stresses that attachment points are as strong as the harness itself.



IT looks as if my husband is going to sign an AFO 1700 which, I am told, means I will become an illegal occupant and my MQ rent doubled. I will also lose custody of my children because he wants them to continue at boarding school.

What rights have I? Can

Why Army vote figures add up to a snub

But proxy voting – the only way a number of Servicemen can vote – brings its difficulties as many have problems nominating a proxy they can trust.

Trust is vital, of course, as a proxy voting one way might find it repugnant to mark a voting form for someone else the opposite way. People do feel strongly about this.

The rules concerning postal voting do not help either, nor does the form received by each household every autumn: "Do not complete if you are a Serviceman," it says. Instead it advises Servicemen to complete form F Vote 34.

Recently I was asked by a party agent why the service vote was so low, "Is it apathy?" he asked.

Personally I don't think it is, but more likely apathy on the part of would-be MPs.

How many candidates bothered to send their literature overseas to Service constituents?

How many of the parliamentary parties ensured their manifestoes were sent to the Service voter overseas? Defence was an issue, but how many thought of the personnel who actually fill the many and varied military roles.

How many MPs offer a "surgery" when visiting the Services, or even one by post, especially in large garrison towns, or when regiments go overseas from their home recruiting areas?

One MP did hold a regular "surgery" in one garrison, but on the

change of command these were stopped.

Prior to the General Election one political party made efforts to contact all expatriates. I wrote and asked if they would be including the Services overseas. I received a negative reply.

Problems affecting young Service dependants overseas include the fact that all 18-year-olds are disenfranchised; there are anomalies with DHSS benefits; and there are difficulties over applying for mandatory and discretionary education grants on residence grounds. If these problems affected other larger groups then I am sure these issues would be addressed by

the political parties and not ignored as they are at present.

The European elections take place in 1989. How many of our Servicemen and women and wives will be able to vote?

How many Euro-candidates will make an effort to communicate with those stationed in Europe and ensure their awareness of the issues involved?

I just hope they perform better than the home-based political parties who forgot the tremendous role the Services play to fulfill the defence policies which they, the politicians, create.

When hot stuff causes pain

THOUSANDS of children are admitted to hospital with scalds and burns every year.

Government figures say more than 120,000 from England and Wales alone are injured annually in home accidents.

To combat these painful accidents and to show how best they can be avoided, the British Burn Association has produced with the help of RoSPA a new audio-visual tape programme.

Called *Hot Stuff Burns*, it is available from RoSPA Sales Dept., Cannon House, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS for £10.

A cup of tea with milk is about 65 degrees Centigrade when freshly poured. This will cause a burn within five seconds.

Many injuries happen this way. About a fifth of all scalds are caused by accidents with kettles, especially when young children pull hanging flexes.

Looking 'n' learning about schools

THE problem of finding a boarding school when overseas, especially at the last moment when the September terms get closer and an unexpected posting falls through the letter box, can be eased considerably with the aid of the official Independent Schools Information Ser-

vice (ISIS) guide.

For £2 inc p and p this guide lists 1,370 independent boys and girls and co-ed day and boarding schools.

Fees, entry requirements, scholarship/bursaries, exam boards, religion are given and even the numbers of pupils in the

sixth form.

Parents looking for specialist subjects such as Russian, Swedish or baseball, diets or dyslexia can find them all in this useful book.

Send £2 to ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 6AG for your copy of the guide.

YOU WRITE...

When a wife becomes an illegal occupant

he just sign the form and that's it?

■ The AFO 1700 has to be countersigned by your husband's commanding officer after three months when all possible avenues of reconciliation have been followed and both parties have been counselled. Only then can the CO sign that both parties are fully aware of the position. This

rule applies to officers and soldiers.

Only after the final signing does the AFO 1700 take effect and the 93 days for you to make arrangements to leave the quarter start.

Full details of the rules applying to changing the marital status from category one to category two, are given in DCI Service personnel 52/87.

And while boarding school allowance is automatic, seek advice from SCEA Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR or your local unit regarding the education of your children.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



Now the facts are on view!

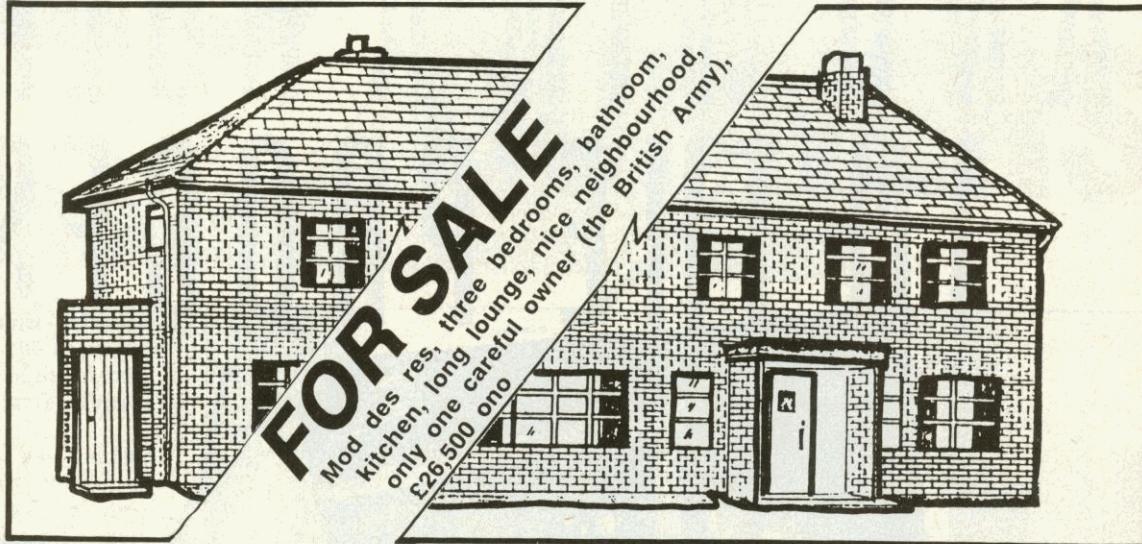
GOOD news for prospective buyers of surplus married quarters. I approached both PSA and UKLF to include more information in the Joint Married Quarters Sales Bulletins, and this they have agreed to do.

You will now be able to learn from the bulletins:

- The state of internal decor
- The civilian telephone number
- Whether the house has a garage or garage space, or street parking only.

I also asked about weekend viewing for those on a 60 hour concession from Europe. That is proving more difficult, but my advice is for you to ring or write *well in advance* if you do want to arrange a weekend viewing.

The current DCI is Joint Services 34/87.



BRITISH... and proud of it - too!

THE visit by 12 Service youngsters from Queen's School, Rheindahlen, (see last issue) to learn of opportunities in British industry, has produced a number of letters from them indicating their appreciation of the visit and its value to them.

"Fascinating, interesting, important to the future... proud to be British listening to men like Sir Geoffrey Chandler..." were common phrases of praise among the students' letters.

It was also evident from the letters they have returned home convinced that redevelopment of UK manufacturing industry is vital to the country's economy. Now many of them, although the sons

and daughters of Service men, and heading for universities, have set their sights on commercial and industrial careers.

That this visit was a success there is no doubt. And it is all down to the host firms and the school. To make it an annual event would really be of great value to students and potential employers alike.

I would like to add my thanks to those of the students to the firms who made this pilot scheme possible. While all concerned did a fabulous job, special thanks must go to British Aerospace, who also donated £600, Royal Ordnance, who supplied a mini-bus for the week, RMCS Shrivenham, Parker Knoll, Rank Xerox, NatWest Bank and Mars for

organising visits; Alistair Burt MP, PPS to education secretary Kenneth Baker, and Sir Geoffrey Chandler, director of *British Industry Year*; Lucas, Heathfield School and Wellington College for providing free accommodation and the UJ Club, London, for giving reduced room rates for the students.

STOP PRESS
NEW tri-Service regulations came into effect on August 1 to ensure that there are never again 100,000 unclaimed dependants' medical documents cluttering up the National Health Central Registry - or 20,000 children's medical documents at SSAFA headquarters.

How to get instant help

APPELLANTS who consider the DHSS wrong now have three times as long to lodge a complaint.

Appeal time against DHSS decisions has been increased from 28 days to three months.

This will help those overseas who have difficulty in putting a case together in four weeks.

DHSS leaflet N1246 of April 1987 tells how to appeal and what to do should a conflict over a Social Security decision occur.

Extra and instant help, too, is available on the DHSS freeline, telephone number 0800 666 555, which can give advice and help on social security and national insurance queries.

For the latest information on national insurance for employees see DHSS leaflets NI 40 April 1987, 196 and 208.

These tell what to do about NI contributions for employees, agency workers and those liable to

pay NI contributions for all classes.

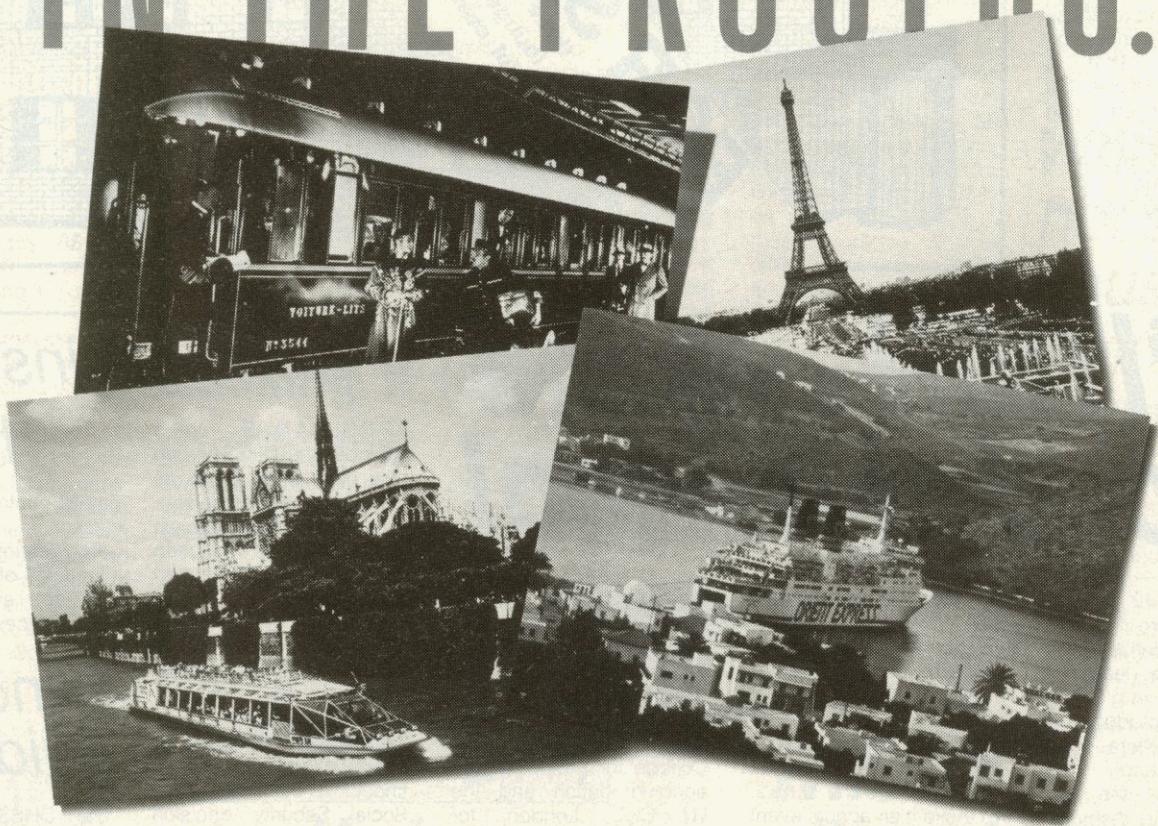
The leaflets explain the intricacies of contributions and are available from DHSS offices and BFPOs.

Blind guide

The DHSS's brand-new leaflet for the blind and partially sighted is now available (FB19) on bright yellow paper with large print.

Covering everything from benefits for which blind and partially sighted people might be eligible, it also lists organisations and agencies which can help and advise. The guide is available from DHSS offices, BFPOs overseas or direct from the Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY.

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THE GREEN BERET GUNNERS

'29'

ASK any commando gunner why he volunteered and he will tell you about the lure of the green beret, one of the hardest earned items of headgear in the British Armed Services.

Tough and challenging, the training course is nothing less than a feat of endurance and spawns a body of men capable of serving in the world's most inhospitable places.

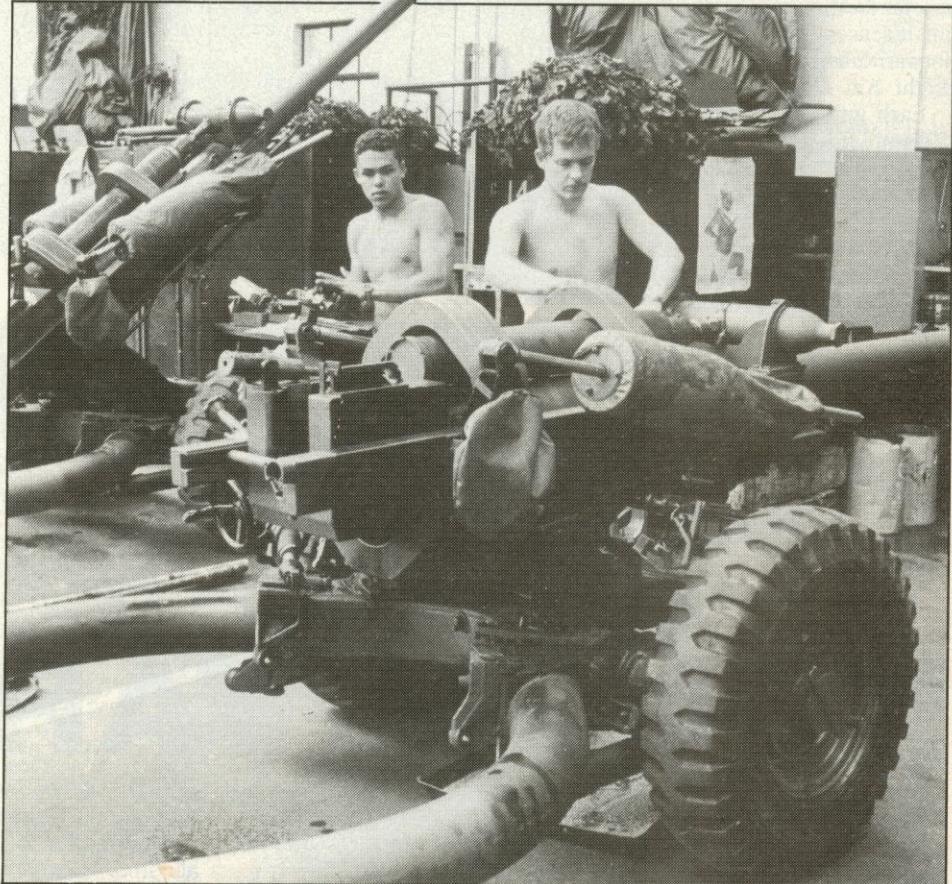
These are the areas to which the gun crews and naval gunfire observers of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery are sent in support of 3 Commando Brigade.

Based in Plymouth's famous seafront Citadel overlooking the harbour where seafarers once set sail to discover new colonies, the batteries of 29 Commando Regiment are ready at a moment's notice for dispatch across the globe.

This year celebrating the 25th anniversary of its formation, the regiment – known simply as "29" by all those serving with it – found time to squeeze a jubilee parade at the Citadel into its hectic annual programme of deployments and exercises.

29 Commando Regiment RA was formed in 1962 when – as part of the new concept of an all arms amphibious brigade – 29 Regiment RA was told on its return from the "fire brigade" action in Kuwait that all its men would have to tackle the punishing commando course at Lympstone.

With little or no preparation most of the men made the grade and 29 Commando Regiment – the first Army commandos since 1946 – paraded at the Citadel with their new CO, Lt Col (later Brigadier) Dennis O'Flaherty, a gunner who had lost his eye in the famous commando raid on



Men of 79 Battery prepare their 105mm guns for deployment on exercise at the Otterburn training area in Northumberland

German-held Vaagso in Norway during 1941.

Since then "29" have seen distinguished active service in many theatres, including Aden and Radfan between 1962 and 1967, Borneo between 1963 and 1966 and most

recently the Falkland Islands during Operation Corporate in 1982.

Its batteries have served operationally in Northern Ireland, Malta, Belize and on peacekeeping tours in Cyprus, and their green berets have been seen the world over

TAGGED AGAIN!

SOUTH Atlantic veteran Sgt Alex Kozliwsky returned to the Falkland Islands earlier this year and found not only the gun pit he and his crew had occupied on the slopes of Mount Kent, but inside it the dog-tags he had lost during the 1982 campaign. Returning almost five

years to the day after he and the 105mm gun crew had fired more than 1,500 shells from that one position alone on to Argentinian positions ringing Stanley, Sgt Kozliwsky knew exactly where to look for the tags.

"Things were very much as they were then," said

Sgt Kozliwsky. "I was surprised to find the gun position in such good condition. I had taken my tags off while I was having a quick wash and forgot to put them on again. They were exactly where I left them, complete with a phial of morphine."

● Right - Alex with tags

There's always a challenge . . .

● From Page 21

during training exercises.

Today the regiment has a Headquarters Battery - which includes a Cymbeline mortar locating radar troop and an artillery intelligence section - four gun batteries, a forward observation battery and a REME Light Aid Detachment.

Each gun battery is equipped with six 105mm light guns ideal for helicopter and amphibious commando operations, and - apart from London-based 289 Commando Battery (TA) - is attached to a Royal Marine commando.

7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery based in Arbroath is attached to 45 Commando RM, and 8 (Alma) and 79 (Kirkee) Commando Batteries - both based at Plymouth - are attached to 40 and 42 Commandos RM respectively.

The 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery based at Poole in Dorset controls artillery resources in the field and is responsible for directing naval gunfire support and fighter ground attack aircraft.

Enduring the rigours not only of the all

arms commando course at Lymington but of the Parachute Regiment's P Company training course as well, members of 148 Battery are trained to deploy with forward troops and during the Falklands campaign were in constant action with the SAS and SBS.

Many members of the regiment have joined 22 SAS over the years, but what is the attraction of 29 Commando Regiment to potential recruits?

Like a well-thumbed - if slightly off-beat - travel brochure, the regiment's annual training calendar reveals the scope and variety on offer.

The year always begins with a deployment to Norway as part of the 3 Commando Brigade's annual arctic training programme, but 1986 also featured training exercises in Belize, Gibraltar, the West Indies, Kenya, Germany, France and the Falkland Islands.

Capt Nick Hills told SOLDIER: "If a lad wants to set himself that little bit apart and wants to set his sights that much higher then he will join 29 or 7 RHA, our



Parachute Regiment equivalent.

"There is always a hurdle to be passed, always a challenge to undertake. No exercise is easy and a high standard of training and readiness is maintained at all times.

"We are trained both as gunners and infantrymen and though our training directives are laid down by the Royal Artillery the peripheral skills which enable us to maintain a place in 3 Commando Brigade are very much orientated towards the Royal Marines."

RSM Jim Barron added: "These specialist forms of training are undoubtedly a great draw. The sheer variety of the job is an attraction in itself."

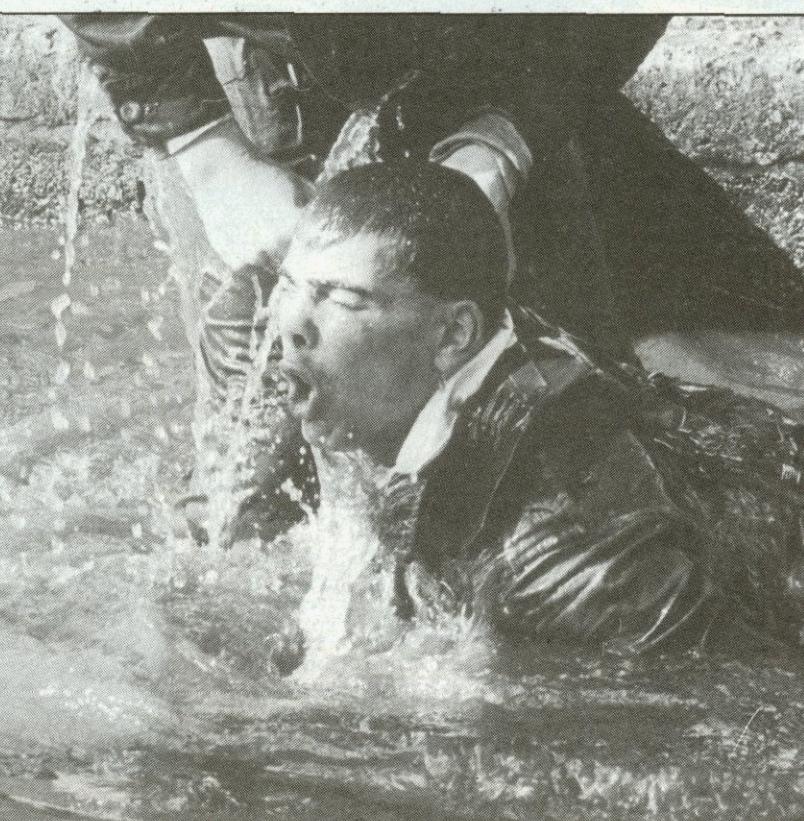
Far from stepping on a train or plane to go on exercise, the regiment embarks by ship to practise its amphibious role. Gunners by trade, their mode of deployment - as with 7 RHA - is completely different.



"To wear a green beret takes a lot of graft" - Sgt Maj Chris Kelly, APTC



Above - Fitness is mandatory - members of 29 Commando Regiment RA double out of the gates of the Citadel at Plymouth for an early morning run



Good clean fun?

A would-be commando emerges gasping from the water tunnel on the infamous Tarzan assault course

TOUGH TARZAN TYPES

AN exacting role demands a tough training programme and the long, hard road to becoming a commando gunner is not one that is embarked on lightly.

"You can be the strongest man in the world," said RSM Jim Barron, "but if you are not determined you will not make it."

Potential students for the Lymington all arms course are given an introduction to

running, abseiling, assault courses, weapon training and fieldcraft by the PTIs at the Citadel.

The best of these are selected for the pre-Lymington "beat-up", a three weeks course at nearby Seaton Barracks run by Royal Marines and commando trained Army personnel designed to bring would-be commandos to a minimum level of fitness.

Then it is on to the Commando Training Centre at Lymington for the five weeks all arms course where gunners join members of other corps including the RCT, RE, REME and RAOC in their sweat-and-toil bid for the coveted green beret.

Lt Jeremy Burnell, RM, OC all arms course, told SOLDIER: "It is basically an infantry tactics course with a leaning towards commando

operations - ropes, climbing, amphibious ops, heli ops and so on.

"We are continually maintaining a peak of fitness. It is pretty relentless and is undoubtedly a tough course, both physically and mentally demanding. It is arduous not least because so much is crammed into it."

The first month is spent building up to test week, a gruelling series of physically

punishing tests identical to those undertaken by Royal Marine recruits.

First build up involves a 12 mile load carry in four hours in full fighting order and bergen - a weight of about 60lb - which heralds the start of a five day exercise on Dartmoor.

Much of this exercise is spent on foot and seems designed to sap those vital reserves of strength needed

● Turn to next page

'The longest 13 minutes of my life'

● From Page 23

for test week during which the trainees must complete a nine mile speed march in 90 minutes, the infamous Tarzan assault course in 13 minutes, the endurance course in 71 minutes and a 30 mile march over Dartmoor in eight hours – all in full fighting order with rifle.

The Tarzan assault course starts off with a death slide and continues with ten tree-top obstacles before a sprint across two fields to the assault course whose 12 obstacles have to be negotiated before the would-be commando has to double back across a field to a 30 ft wall which must be scaled by rope.

And all in 13 minutes!

"The longest 13 minutes of my life" said Capt Nick Hills. As trainees approach the end of the assault course section – and just as they are nearing the end of their tether – they have to tackle a "regain" over a static water tank.

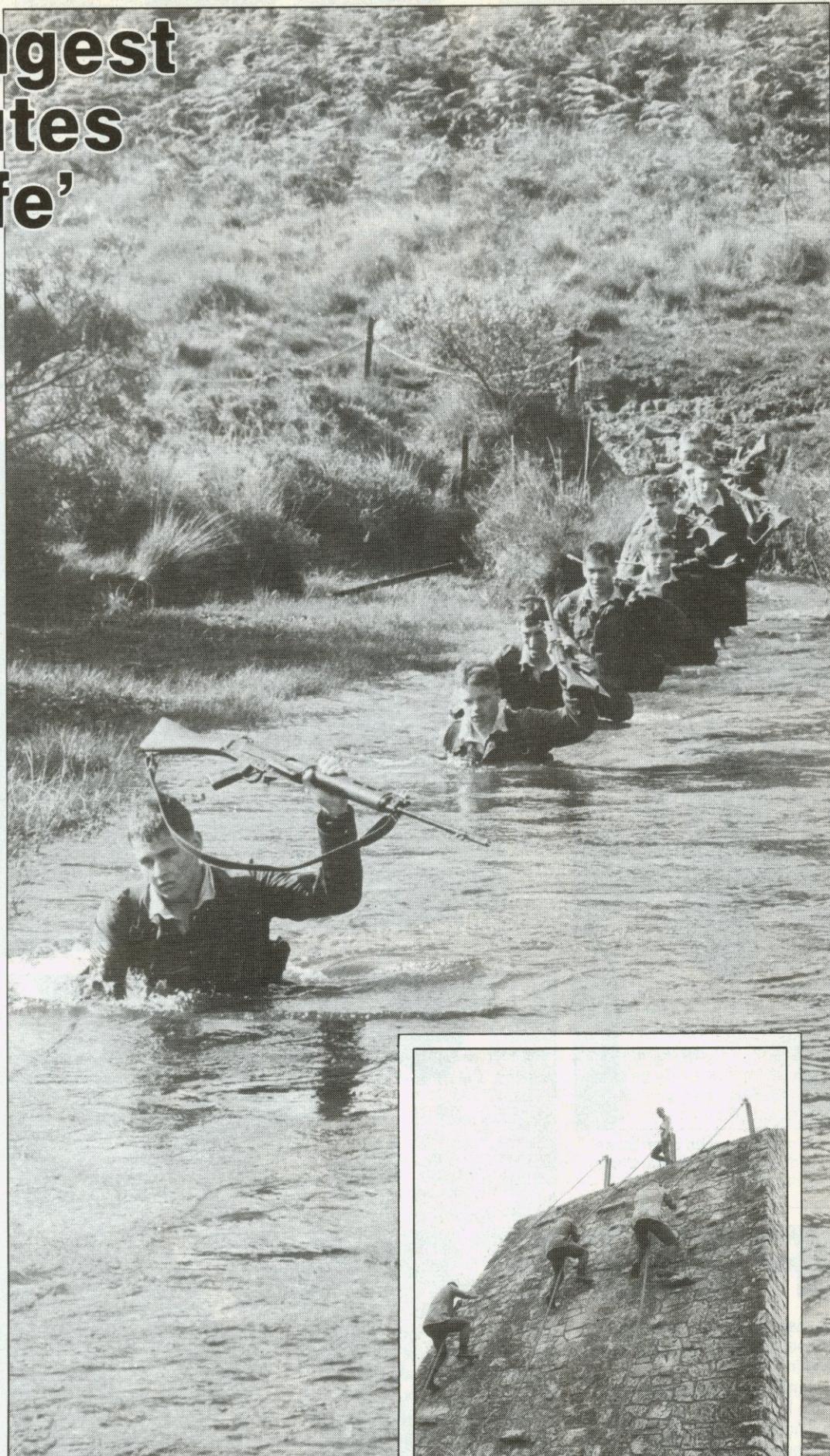
The exhausted soldier must cat-crawl along a rope, swing underneath it, and then haul himself and his kit on top of the rope again. It claims many casualties.

The endurance test on nearby Woodbury Common involves tackling a series of obstacles, including a water tunnel, along a two mile cross country course before running the four miles back to Lympstone camp.

One of these obstacles, the quaintly named Peter's Pool, is a stretch of water through which soldiers must wade up to their chests. Those unfortunate enough to tackle the course during the winter often have to break the ice with a pickaxe first.

Those able to complete test week successfully are understandably delighted when, at the end of the 30 mile march, they are presented with their green berets on Dartmoor.

Sgt Maj Chris Kelly, APTC, attached to 29 Cdo Regt, said: "It is a tough course and team work is vital. If you are the fittest you are pushing one and pulling another. It is meant to be tough. To wear a



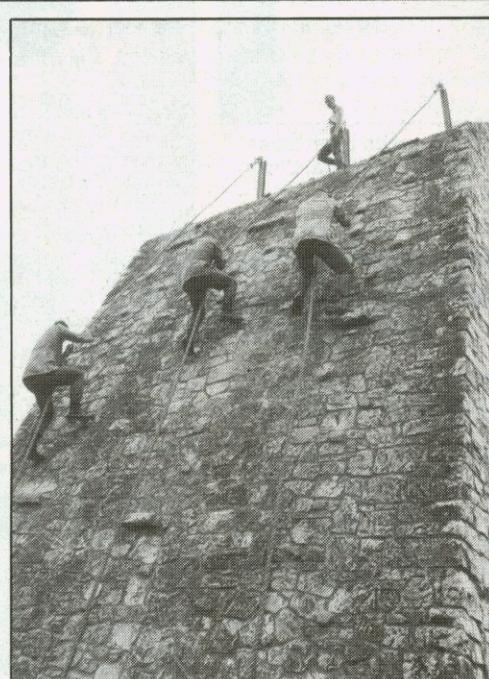
Above – Peter's Pool – just one of the delights of the cross-country endurance course

Right – The final hurdle – the 30 foot wall heralds the end of one of the world's toughest assault courses

green beret takes a lot of graft."

Which is probably why so many of the unit stay on once

they have joined "29". Officers come and go as postings take them up the promotion ladder but the



family spirit and camaraderie of the green beret means that many other ranks stay on ... and on!



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Rangers Talbot Military Sales
The Corner Garage, Bulford Rd.
Durrington, Wilts SP4 8LD
Tel: 0980 52246

Rootes (Maidstone)
Mill St., Maidstone
Kent ME15 6YD
Tel: 0622 533 33

3H Motors, Tax Free Sales
Pennings Road, North
Tidworth, Wiltshire
SP9 7BR. Tel: 0980 42912

Charters Of Aldershot Ltd.
Arthur Street, Aldershot
Hampshire GU11 1HL
Tel: 0252 212 46

Walter Hagen and Co.
4150 Krefeld
Pestalozzi Strasse 25
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WE'RE WITH

THE



Bdr Mike Webb instructs students on the intricacies of the combat net radio Clansman during part of the five-week radio course

WOOLWICH!

*But it's
not
easy to
become
a gunner*

IT IS not easy for a teenager to get a place in the Royal Regiment of Artillery nowadays. The regiment is very selective. One in three youngsters who applies will not get past the initial interview. One in four will not complete the training.

Those who are lucky – about 15 per cent of them are from the dole queue – will pursue an ever-developing battlefield technology career in any one of the Regular Army's 22 gunner regiments at home and abroad.

"The numbers are there but we are always looking for quality, and therefore we have a vast sifting programme," said Lt Col Robert Symonds, 16th CO of the 17th Training Regiment Royal Artillery and Depot at Woolwich.

His regiment comprises two training batteries, an HQ and Depot Battery, 56 Sqn, RCT. The training batteries are 59 (Asten) Bty dating from 1791 and 24 (Irish) Bty which can trace its history back to 1794.

Over the past 12 months, 2,293 Regular and TA, adult and Junior Soldiers have "graduated" from the £2½ million purpose-built complex.

From 1939 until June 1968, the regiment was based 280 miles away at the hatted Park Hill Camp, Oswestry, Shropshire, the regiment receiving the freedom of the town in 1964.

In those days aspiring gunners, brawny of arm, trained on 5.5s, 25-pdrs and 105mm Pack Howitzers. Today's youngsters, no less sturdy, get to grips with a dozen 105mm Light Guns.

But it is not just basic gunnery skills which are

"Gunners just cannot operate without good comms. It is, over five weeks, without doubt the most demanding of the three disciplines taught here."

The regiment moved to Woolwich on July 1, 1968 and received its first intake one week later. It has a complement of a 181 military and 150 civilian staff.

Col Guy Hatch (retd), the regiment's administration officer and a former CO, said: "It was feared by many, never by me, that moving the regiment to an urban area would produce social complications and would reduce the efficiency of field training.

"That did not prove to be so. The available training areas at Oswestry were relatively distant because the camp was surrounded by agricultural

fields and we still had a half-day's drive to our field training areas.

"We have got a very good training area here called the Dell, 18 acres of woodland and lake within the complex and just 300 yards away from the HQ building. We also have the added facilities of training ranges at Crowborough in East Sussex.

"But we still keep up the Oswestry connection through local contacts. One of the TA training units is Oswestry Troop."

The regiment's charter is to train all Royal Artillery adult and young soldier recruits (1,400 a year on average). Basic training over nine weeks takes place at Woolwich, after which the recruit has a choice of staying on to do signals or

imparted at their Woolwich alma mater. Combat net radio and basic signalling techniques are taught, as are driving and maintenance.

As one instructor reminded:



Picture: Terry Champion

A 105mm Light Gun being brought into action by members of 24 (Irish) Bty in the field



The Woolwich Cup: Inter-troop competition as part of the Common Military Syllabus (CMS)

driving and maintenance, or spending the next five weeks at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.

Courses include Gunner (SAM) – on the Javelin – Operator Military Intelligence, and Meteorology.

Each of the courses at Woolwich or Larkhill includes instruction on general aspects of RA deployment, tactics, procedures and the Combat Fitness Test (CFT).

The Woolwich staff also trains all Royal Artillery TA personnel but not those of the Honourable Artillery Company.

Prospects are good for the teenage gunner "with the Woolwich". A soldier aged 17½ signing on for a nine-year engagement earns £108 a week and, after deductions for income tax, National Insurance, food charges and accommodation, is left with £60 a week.

"While it must be acknowledged that on postings to service regiments recruits will not be fully trained soldiers, they must be rounded individuals. In changing from civilian to soldier and, in the majority of cases, from schoolboy to adult, they must have acquired the knowledge and resilience to withstand the stress of life in an operational unit."

A far cry from 1966 when the same young gunner could be earning less than £10!

As Capt Paul Marshall, the

regimental adjutant, pointed

A third
fail
the RA
interview

out: "The gunners make up one of the very few Army formations which has consistently met its recruiting target.

"While it must be acknowledged that on postings to service regiments recruits will not be fully trained soldiers, they must be rounded individuals. In changing from civilian to soldier and, in the majority of cases, from schoolboy to adult, they must have acquired the knowledge and resilience to withstand the stress of life in an operational unit."

Tomorrow's world in gun-

neries terms is an exciting one for youngsters whose great grandfathers were more used to struggling with 25-pounds and other field pieces.

In prospect is the MLRS system, destined to replace the massive M.107 gun; Phoenix, the remotely piloted vehicle for forward battle area airborne observation; Ptarmigan for the signallers (Woolwich graduates will come to terms with it during this autumn's BAOR Exercise Keystone) and ADCIS (Air Defence Command Information System). Rapier 2000, Javelin and Starstreak are other exciting options.

All potential RA warrant officers attend career development courses at Woolwich.

At any given time the number of trainees under tuition at the 17th Training Regiment RA and Depot is about 550.

The regiment also has responsibility for providing service for nine RA HQs, 23 Regular artillery regiments (including the Junior Leaders) 11 TA regiments (including four in Air Defence), four RA

training establishments, The King's Troop RHA and 8 Surveillance Troop, RA.

But regimental support to other sources does not end there. It includes the RA Staff Band and RA Display Troop, and a dozen ACF contingents.

The depot is one of the permanent saluting bases for the firing of Royal Salutes, arranges hospital visits at Woolwich for the welfare of all RA personnel and their families, processes the discharge of all RA personnel from overseas units, provides escorts for absentees and deserters arrested in the UK, offers transit accommodation for gunners and has 22 branches of the Royal Artillery Association affiliated to it.

Lt Col Symonds, soon to join the RACIS (Royal Artillery Command Information Systems) cell at RSA Larkhill, said: "Technology means a hell of a lot to gunners, bringing tremendous challenges for young men in a highly sophisticated Army."

Story: Graham Smith

Picture: Bdr Mick Fall

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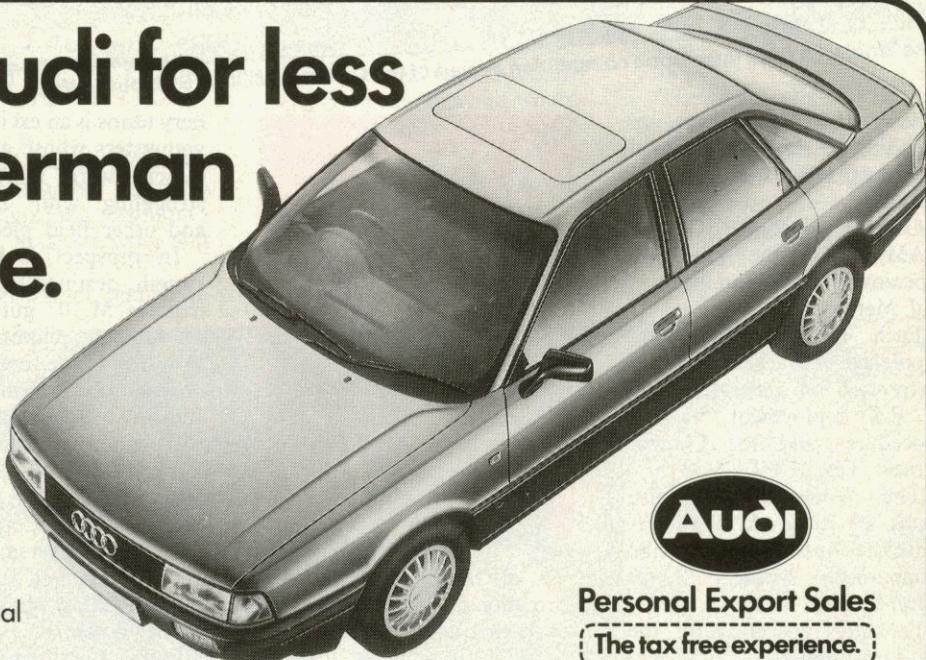
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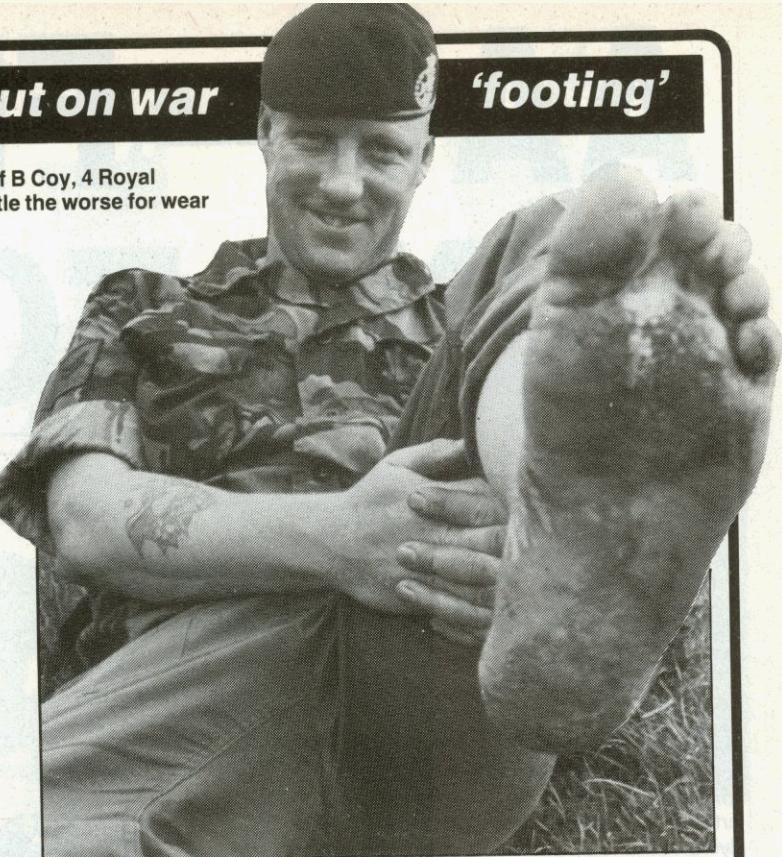
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Smiling through the pain. Cpl Gary Chester, of B Coy, 4 Royal Green Jackets (V) demonstrates one foot a little the worse for wear

ARMY BEATS BLISTER BARRIER



There are no cups for winners and no gongs for record breaking times in the Nijmegen Marches in Holland, the annual four day festival devoted to breaking the blister pain barrier. It's just a personal competition with an individual's own level of fitness and sense of determination.

This year's drop out rate for entries from UKLF, which included Regular, TA and cadets, and teams from BAOR, showed a substantial decline from last year when warm weather produced a number of casualties from heat exhaustion.

Perhaps it was the result of the dire warnings that have been repeated over and over again about the dangers of insufficient preparation for the task of marching 100 miles over four successive days. Or maybe it was the weather which this year was generally damp and overcast. Whatever the reason UKLF lost only 11 out of 475 starters, cutting the failure rate by half down to 2.4 per cent. BAOR, having seen no less than 16 per cent of its entry fall by the wayside last year, had 22 who didn't make it - just 5.12 per cent of the total of 429.

BAOR teams often complain that the heavy load of commitments rarely gives them enough time for training. One member of the only Germany based infantry battalion to be represented claimed that the team had a mere two week's notice.



Preparing for the final march into the centre of Nijmegen. A member of 10 Para (V) Home Defence Force gets his boot blacked by one of an enterprising crowd of local boys



Striding out confidently on the first day - but still a long way to go

Other units were luckier. The WRAC team which came to Nijmegen all the way from the RA Range on Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides finished the

four days in fine style saying they had been training for months, marching the 13 miles from their work to their accommodation every day.

However low the failure rate this year there was no shortage of the traditional Nijmegen blisters and consequently plenty of training for 3rd Armoured Field Ambulance from Sennelager, in the second of its three years providing medical cover for the British contingent, this year 1,500 strong. In doing so it takes every advantage of getting experience with real live casualties instead of the make-up and red paint of most exercises.

As the CO, Lt Col John Richardson explained, 3 Field Ambulance was receiving at Nijmegen the number of casualties they would be expected to deal with in war, although of a rather less serious nature. On the first three march days no fewer than 1,586 separate treatments were recorded.

Apart from the fact that it was not expecting to move anywhere, the unit was on what could fairly be described as a war footing with its forward sections out at the rest areas on the march routes, treating casualties and, when necessary, evacuating them down the line.

But amid this unique training opportunity Col Richardson had a particular dilemma. As a medical man it was his instinct to draw attention to the fact that there were too many foot casualties. But as CO of a unit anxious to get field medical experience for his men, he wasn't inclined to say too much about it!

AAC - FROM FIXED WING TO ROTARY

THE Army Air Corps was formed on September 1, 1957 by the merger of two arms of Army flying into one cohesive organisation. It was an amalgamation of two types of light aircraft unit which had already been flying for nearly 40 years in RAF colours - Air OP flights and light liaison flights, writes Graham Smith.

The initiative for the fusion came from Defence Minister Mr Duncan Sandys who directed the War Office to take responsibility for the operation of its own aircraft for the tasks of recce, direction of artillery fire and general liaison flying.

Air OP flights were the preserve of Royal Artillery officers. Light liaison flights' pilots were drawn from all arms of the Army who had been seconded to the Glider Pilot Regiment.

The new corps, it was conceived, would have a larger scale light aviation support than had hitherto prevailed. Yet the RAF would still have to provide the aircraft, the technical ground-crew and find the finance.

Expenditure on V-bomber development was the emphasis 30 years ago and light aircraft and helicopters invoked a certain financial reluctance.

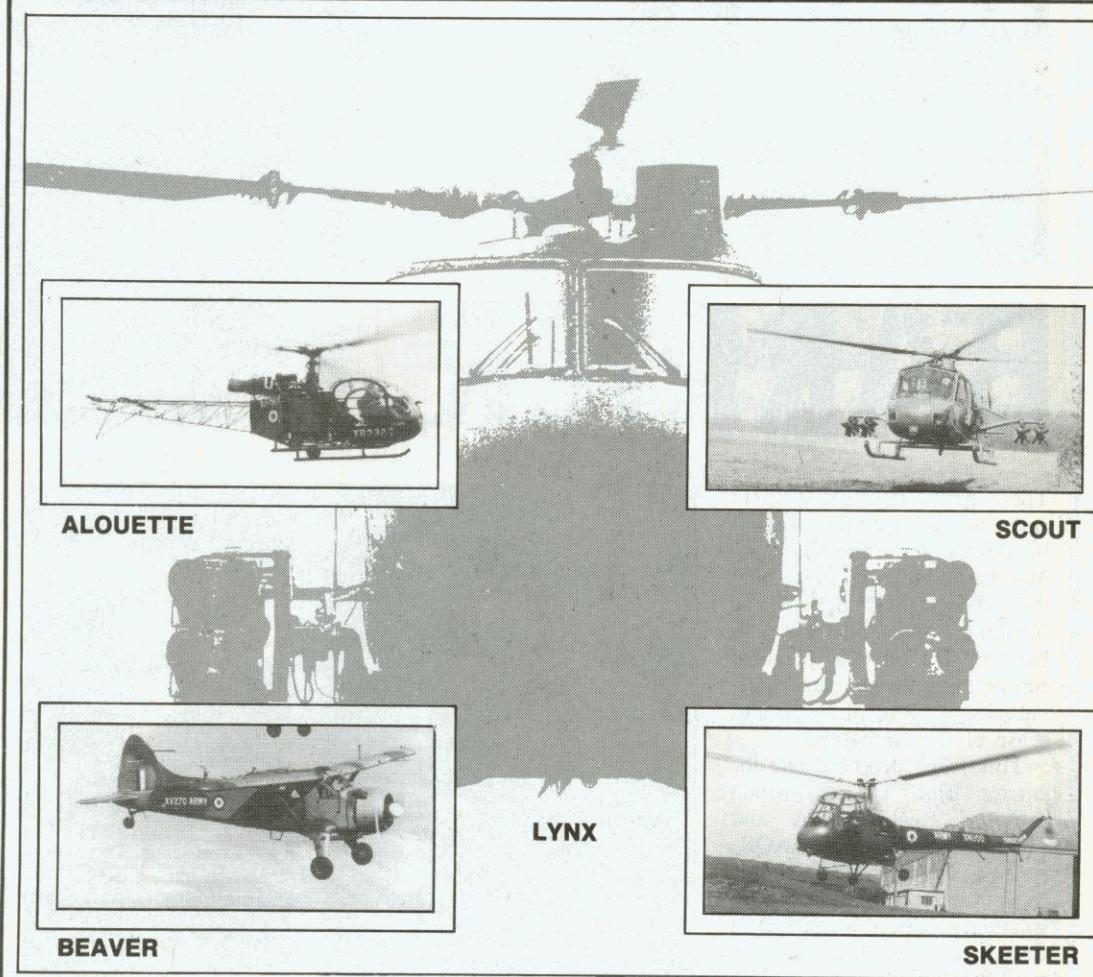
The new corps, it was agreed, would be responsible for the command and control of unarmed light aircraft and helicopters not exceeding 4,000lbs maximum weight, leaving the RAF with helicopters of Whirlwind and Sycamore size for the roles of re-supply and troop movements. The Army was also given Auster fixed wing aircraft and Skeeter helicopters.

The transition was a slow one. RAF fitters still maintained aircraft for another year until the REME could supply enough trained personnel. RAF Middle Wallop became the Army Air Corps Centre, the Depot and the School of the AAC.

The Army's flying instructors continued to be trained at the Central Flying School.

A permanent cadre was set up consisting of AAC officers and voluntary transfers of qualified pilots from all arms - the RA, RASC, RAC and the infantry. The majority of corps pilots were still all arms officers and NCOs attached for flying tours. At the end of these tours they returned to their units.

Efforts were made to improve air support for the "teeth arms" units, and trials were held in 1962



when 22 Recce Flight AAC, equipped with Skeeters, was allotted to the BAOR based Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The regiment's fliers were determined to make a success of the trial. After all, they could acquire an air troop of their own from the fruits of their aerial labours!

The word spread. Other units, previously reluctant in loaning personnel for the manning of flights at brigade level were now readily offering men to crew and ground support their own troops.

From the end of 1963, air troops and platoons burgeoned. Regiments provided their own pilot supply and groundcrew.

Decentralisation had arrived but, with it, close supervision suffered. Flying standards declined, equipment management degenerated, the accident rate climbed and the REME technicians were put under mounting pressure to keep aircraft airborne.

Throughout the mid-60s, the British aircraft industry was in recession. Government policy on military aviation was uncertain and the corps' future looked bleak.

It had been planned to set up a flight of Scout helicopters at each brigade HQ. It did not happen. In 1967 many units were still flying Skeeters.

Further reorganisation was urgently needed. A degree of centralisation was imposed resulting in considerable economies.

The Army Air Corps had been basically a fixed-wing force, the Auster AOP 9, the last of its line, being the standard aircraft in service. It was joined by the Skeeter AOP Mk 12 helicopter in 1958.

A modern replacement for the Skeeter was already on the drawing boards, and in September 1960 a large order was announced for the Scout AH 1.

Unexpected engine development problems delayed its much-needed entry into service and as a temporary measure 16

French built Alouette 2s were acquired. They soon became a firm favourite with those who flew in them.

The robust airframe was acknowledged as an ideal battlefield aerial platform. The Scout, meanwhile, suffered further delays but the Government was averse to buying more Alouettes.

Liaison flying was seen as the norm for the AAC and attention was focussed on a fixed-wing replacement for the Auster. In 1960 the DH Canada Beaver was bought.

This aircraft had been originally designed for backwoods operations in isolated areas. It would be ideal for AAC purposes, but its introduction ended the former 4,000-lb limit.

Trials to find lighter observation aircraft went on. The Scout, it became obvious, was not going to suit all the needs asked of such an aircraft. A two or three-seat helicopter was needed as a Skeeter replacement (the Scout had merely supplemented it) and

four contenders were chosen for trials at Middle Wallop in 1964.

The winner was the Bell 47-G3-B1 - later known as the Sioux - a development of an aircraft which had flown immediately postwar. But now it had a supercharged engine giving it the required performance for the Army Air Corps.

Many were built under Augusta-Bell licence, others in the UK by Westlands.

The Sioux had its mechanical problems but generally gave good service. But it lacked speed and was fragile - poor qualities for battlefield survival.

To its credit the Sioux AH 1 provided a stable platform, had good handling characteristics and a fine radio fit.

The Directorate of Land/Air Warfare was already on the look-out for a new generation.

Fortunately, a range of helicopters was available for shortlisting including the Westland WG 13, the French Aerospatiale SA 340 - derived from the popular Alouette - and the SA 330 Puma support helicopter.

The WG 13 became today's Lynx and the SA 340 today's Gazelle. Both are still in service with the AAC.

In October 1973 the Army Air Corps took its rightful place as a fully fledged corps among the fighting and support arms. In the past its non-technical ground-crew had been "borrowed" from other arms, mostly the RA, who had served for three years before returning to their units.

By contrast today's 1,800-strong corps is almost entirely rotary-winged, boasting 330 helicopters around the world - BAOR, Northern Ireland, Belize, Canada, Hong Kong, Cyprus, Brunei, Berlin and the Falklands - while its fixed-wing element comprises just over a half dozen Beavers and 21 Chipmunk T10 trainers.

It has changed its recruiting pattern, too. Many come from within the corps itself, the latest innovation being the introduction of corporal pilots. It also takes in fliers from "teeth arms" units who may wish to keep the sky blue beret or revert to their regimental or corps headgear.

The merger 30 years ago of Army aviation had a shaky take off and bouts of severe turbulence in the mid-60s, but now, it seems, the going is smooth and the Army Air Corps will move into the 90s with state of the art equipment both in the air and on the ground.



In at the shallow end

A new role for men of 224 Field Ambulance, RAMC (V), which recruits in the Potteries, Crewe and Macclesfield. They were pictured wading ashore from a landing craft during an exercise in Cyprus in which they served as infantry.



UP AND AWAY

PREPARING for an exercise during which they will attempt to climb Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia, in Sabah, Malaysia, are five 17-year-old junior leaders from the Junior Infantry Battalion at Albemarle Barracks, Ouston, near Newcastle upon Tyne. Our picture shows Capt Brian Johnston, KOSB, belaying Jldr Aaron Todd, R Irish, down the quarry at Ouston. Watching are Lt Mark Aichroth, KOSB (back), and Jldrs Colin Smith, A and SH, Garry Smith, PWO, Gordon Turner, A and SH and William Young, RS. Also going is Sgt Eddie McToal, R Irish.

On the move

YOU might say that's them all over. Men of 11 Squadron, RCT, based at Minden, Germany have been split up throughout Europe. Groups travelled to the South Tirol, Italy, for a climbing expedition (and did some sightseeing in Venice); to Kiel for a sailing

Spotlight on Lancs yeomen

ONE of Lancashire's oldest military units landed a starring role in the Royal Tournament.

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, one of only five yeomanry regiments left in the Territorial Army, mounted a nine-minute display in the Earls Court arena, the first time any yeomanry regiment has appeared in the tournament since at least the Second World War. It was the first time the Lancashire regiment had participated.

The DLOY, a cavalry regiment equipped with Land Rovers and assigned to the home defence role as a medium reconnaissance unit, staged a matinee tableau demonstrating its task of identifying and capturing enemy saboteurs infiltrated into this country in time of war.

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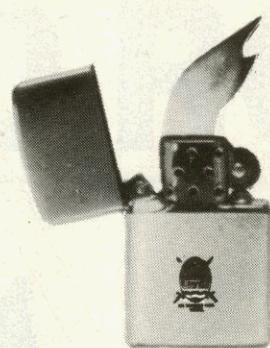
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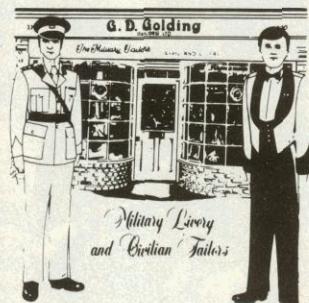
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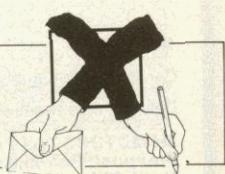
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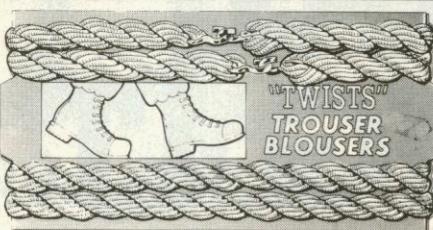
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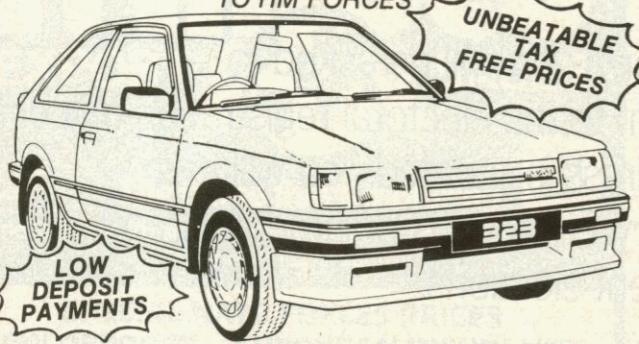
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Testing, testing! - the lid is lifted off a radio by SSgt Hedley Blackwell (left) and Sgt Ross Watt



For all those of you who have been lumbered with the 3kg IWS image intensifying sight (ioregrou 1d) on a long night patrol, WO1 Bob Reid offers a glimmer of hope. He is holding the new SA 80 IWS equivalent weighing just 1kg whose image intensifying tube is 1½ inches long compared with the other's eight inches (upright on table)

RIGHT FIRST TIME

"IF I can't tear it apart here," said the man in a white coat, "then what earthly use is it to the soldier trying to repair it in the field?"

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Casting a practised eye over anything bristling with wires and microchips, the REME watchdogs check hundreds of items of equipment each year to see if they can withstand the rigours of military handling.

Their job is to advise both industry and the procurement hierarchy on the reliability and maintenance of a vast array of kit to ensure that it is the greatest possible asset to the user and the least possible logistic commitment.

Their aim is to get it right first time. What they do not want to do is to correct mistakes through modification once the weapon, radio, laser or whatever has come into service.

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Electronics Branch REME boasts more than 40 warrant officers on its military strength of 200, the highest proportion of any unit in the Army.

A further 200 civilians work for the unit, although not all are based at Malvern. A mixed bag of REME personnel and RAF technicians on secondment to the unit are working on the Rapier project at three British Aerospace locations.

The laboratories, studios and test facilities at Malvern house four separate divisions within the Electronics Branch REME.

The radar division deals with projects such as Rapier and is involved in the evaluation of night vision and thermal imaging devices, and the communications division deals with Clansman and its

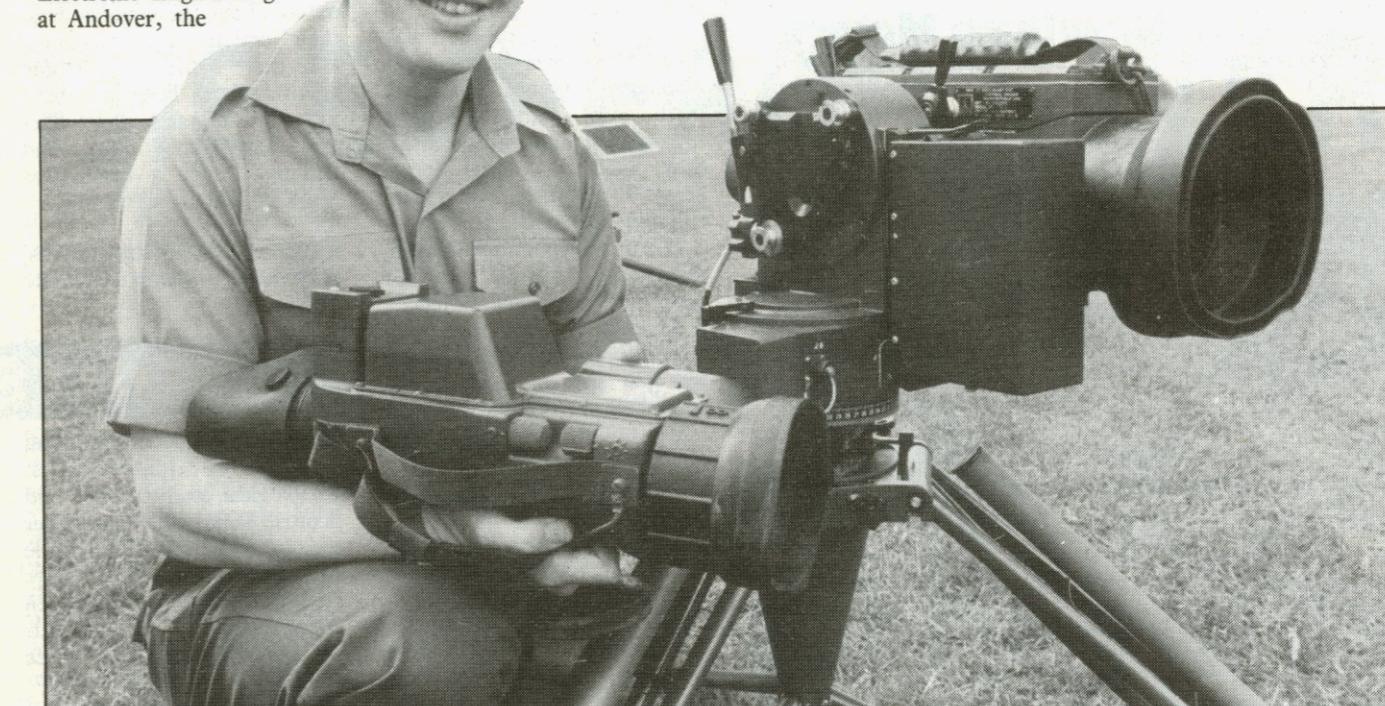


A mobile test laboratory complete with penthouse - SSgt Clive Fenton (left) and Sgt Dave Whalley inflate the struts that support the all-in shelter

in the Army - evaluates the many types of programme put forward to the Army.

Working on more than 500 projects between them at the time of the SOLDIER visit, the men of the Electronics Branch REME certainly had their hands full.

REME's electronics boffins set tough test at Malvern



WO2 Derek McAvoy with two handy pieces of kit, the Spyglass thermal imager (left) and tripod mounted OTIS (observer's thermal imaging system) which can also be mounted with a laser

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures: Terry Champion

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Mars-la-Tour: The making of Germany

FRANCE entered upon an unnecessary war in 1870 that was to humiliate her and eventually change the face of Europe.

The French nation, under Louis, the third Napoleon, was ready to take affront when the Spanish crown was hawked around Europe after the dethronement of Isabella II.

The North German states, newly united under King William of Prussia, with the strong and ambitious Prince Otto von Bismarck as his Minister President, were seeking a national identity.

Bismarck, an astute politician as well as a dedicated advocate of a highly militarily prepared nation, had also effected a secret treaty with the South German states.

While France's army was seriously unprepared for war the North German Confederation, under Bismarck, the Prussian Minister of War General Roon, and the Chief of Staff General Moltke, had produced a well trained force, which was immediately available to march and fight.

The French people clamoured for war and Louis Napoleon's army mobilised inefficiently and slowly. It marched to the frontier on the Saar, made one brief sortie across the border, took fright and fell back towards Metz.

It had opportunities to gain resounding victories yet faltered and failed, and started to retire towards Verdun.

Louis Napoleon decided he was too sick to continue in command and left the French forces under the command of Marshal Bazaine, Senior Marshal of France who had risen from the ranks.

Courageous in action, but diffident in command of such a large force and with the fat of France in his hands (he found it difficult to delegate), he failed to instil urgency into his commanders. The German army outmarched his troops and brought them to battle at Mars-la-Tour.

On that day, August 16,

1870, just four weeks after France's ultimatum, the Franco-Prussian War, which should more rightly be called the Franco-German War, was decided. There was more fighting to do, but the rest was inevitable. From the success of that day the unification of the German nation was assured.

The battle of Mars-la-Tour itself, on a day of "burning heat and swirling dust", was full of surprises and problems. Some German units marched 15 miles in three hours and went straight into battle, parched with thirst. There was a great shortage of water all this long, hot, exhausting day.

One cavalry commander thought he was harassing the French rearguard and then discovered it was the vanguard and the whole French army was advancing towards him. German infantry were some miles behind the contact troops who had to "defend and pretend" when their ammunition and supplies were running short.

The battle is well described by David Ascoli who has much to say about the commanders, their actions and reactions. Also that "battles are not only about bullets. They are about men and morale; about dust and heat; about dying and defying." Such a battle was Mars-la-Tour. – GRH

A Day of Battle by David Ascoli, published by Harrap Ltd. Price £17.95.

BOOKS

Morale, A Study of Men and Courage by John Baynes. Sociological study of the 2nd Scottish Rifles who went "over the top" some 900 strong in the First World War and six days later was reduced to 150 men commanded by a 2nd Lt. Reissued by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.

The Automated Battlefield by Frank Barnaby. New technology in modern warfare. Reissued in paperback by Oxford University Press. Price £4.95.



Consultation between the Emperor Haile Selassie and British force leaders Brig D A Sandford (left) and Lt Col Orde Wingate

THE EMPEROR'S WAR

WHEN Britain was standing alone in 1940 the Empire's troops were nevertheless fighting an ever extending world conflict. After Dunkirk came

the fall of France and the entry of Italy on the Axis.

The Mediterranean became a hostile area and the Italians advanced from Libya with a large force to threaten the Nile.

In Ethiopia, which Mussolini had annexed in 1935, and the adjacent Italian Somaliland, there was another force of over 260,000 under the Duke of Aosta. This was a threat to the Sudan, Egypt, the Suez Canal, the Red Sea and even to Kenya.

Little notice was taken of East Africa, but General Wavell was active, and with few troops and little supplies bit by bit he built up a scratch force able to fight on three fronts. There were 700,000 square miles to conquer, a fiercely dedicated Italian army to subdue and Haile Selassie to reinstate as

Emperor of Ethiopia.

There was a shortage of aircraft and vehicles as well as troops. An Italian described the terrain as "a tormented landscape like a stormy sea moved by the wrath of God." It was wholly in favour of the defenders who also had a considerable numerical advantage. There were long stretches of waterless desert and huge razor sharp mountains.

Although short of men the British were not short of ingenuity. A 300-mile gap between two striking forces was covered by 60 dummy tanks under the charge of four slouch-hatted South African officers with a few signallers and wireless sets.

The Italians believed this mythical force to be the "4th

Australian Division".

The Abyssinian campaign was over in five months. It was fought with insufficient transport, few guns, a few Matildas, some Bren gun carriers and, for much of the time, obsolescent aircraft.

Without any headlines it did a mighty job, eliminating the Italian hold of East Africa which could have been crucial.

Some famous commanders were bloodied there, including Cunningham who was later to command the 8th Army, Slim, who was wounded and suffered a bad defeat but showed great tenacity, and Wingate, now remembered for his Burma exploits. – GRH

An Improvised War by Michael Glover, published by Leo Cooper. Price £18.

A BRILLIANT BIT OF STUDIO ENGINEERING

THE LIGHT DIVISION

Massed Bands and Bugles of the Light Division

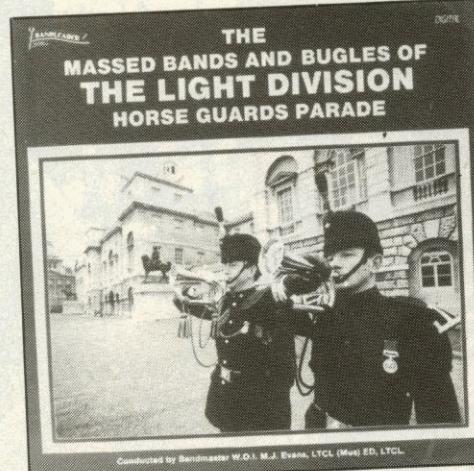
Conductor: Bandmaster M J Evans
BND 1041

IN addition to the Regular Army bands and bugles of the Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets there are representatives of the Burma Band (TA) and of six volunteer battalions, and the Junior Buglers of the depot. Quite a handful for the engineers, who cope brilliantly in a studio recording of the music played on Horse Guards during a recent Retreat Beating.

The programme is almost entirely martial in mood but nicely varied from the fast Light Infantry pace with bugle calls, slow marches and concert items.

The old bugle favourites are there plus several new marches and bugle features, nearly all composed by past and present bandmasters; and none the worse for that even if I am one of them. In fact the music and its performance are of high quality.

We are invited to prepare for action with the 30 and 15-minute warning calls, then the Assembly and Advance calls leading to



perhaps the greatest of all bugle marches *Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse*. Other classics are *Les Clarions Anglais* and David McBain's *Mechanised Infantry*, by which time we are on parade and ready for a marching display featuring Bandmaster McElligott's *Quick Silver*, the *Slaves Chorus* from Verdi's *Nabucco*, and Paul Neville's *Silver Bugles*.

A concoction for band and bugles by Roger Swift leads into the audience's

highlight of the actual show, the double march, and the LI and RGJ marches under the titles of *Five to One* and *Three to One* respectively.

A jazzy *Bugle Boy March*, a march in rondo form *The Light Division*, J R McKenna's *Secundrabad*, a pleasant bugle feature *Horse Guards Echoes* (and it does) by Bandmaster Burton, and Mussorgsky's massive *Great Gate of Kiev* precede the finale. This is given a fine start by another piece by Mr McElligott which is an extended fanfare in march form called *Sir John Moore*, with the obligatory *Sunset, National Anthem*, and the march off to Plater's *Light Infantry* and *The Royal Green Jackets*.

And just when you think it's all over with the sounding of *No More Parades Today* there is a sort of encore with *High On a Hill* by Alan Moorhouse.

All good rousing stuff, with much credit going to bandmasters who put pen to paper in the cause of military music.

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Kneller Hall celebration!

KNELLER HALL IN CONCERT

Band of the Royal Military School of Music
Conductor: Lt Col D R Beat
PRM 111D

WITH this recording from the Kneller Hall band and trumpeters comes the good news that the school's proposed move to Deal in Kent, and amalgamation with that of the Royal Marines, has been cancelled. So members of the school and its many admirers and supporters around the world can treat this varied programme of music old and new as a little celebration of what for all concerned might be termed a happy release.

And what better composer to set a festive atmosphere than Malcolm Arnold, who not only has written several wonderful fanfares for the trumpeters over the years but also wrote the school's centenary march. His *Fanfare for a Festival* opens the programme and his *Fanfare for a Royal Occasion* opens side two, both being what one trumpeter was heard to say "reet bastards to play". Thrilling to listen to though.

Marches are *Advance Guard* by Albert Elms, who wrote the Trafalgar spectacular for the Royal Marines, *The Aberdonian* by

Duncan Beat, based on three well known Scottish airs, *Barnard Castle* by Goff Richards, and from the original wind band repertory the march from Gordon Jacob's *Suite in B flat*.

Two solo items are Ronald Binge's theme for the TV serial "The Secret Garden" which he called *The Watermill* and played here on the oboe by Julian Kirk of the Welsh Guards, and the famous old *Introduction and Allegro* by Senaillé as a euphonium solo by Barry Wassell of the 4th/7th DG.

The Kneller Hall band must of course show off the quality of its current students' course in a couple of more ambitious works - pour encourager les autres. They are a tribute to the Cory brass band from Wales by Philip Sparke called, very appropriately, *The Year of the Dragon*, and here arranged for wind band by the composer; very approachable and a welcome new work for band.

The other is a *Lyric Suite* by Michael Short, easy on the ear in folk song style.

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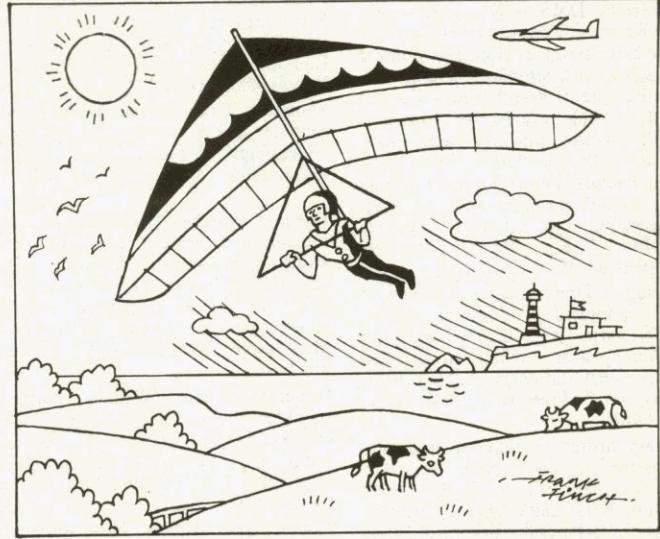
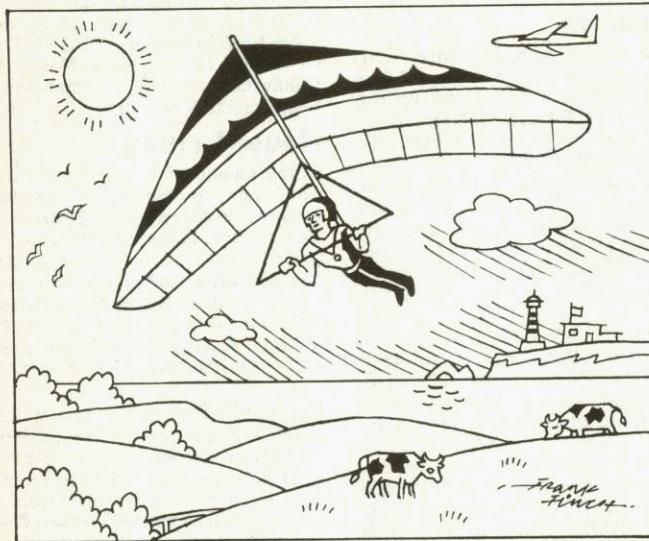
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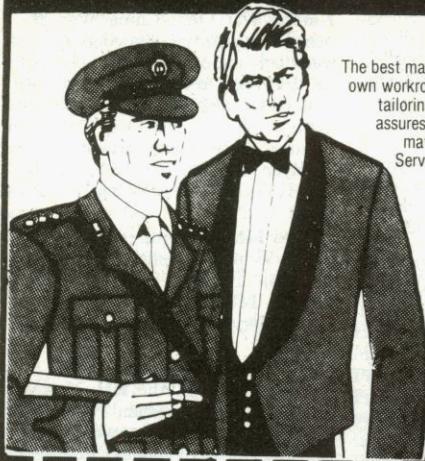
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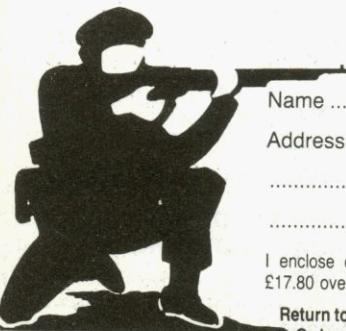
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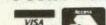


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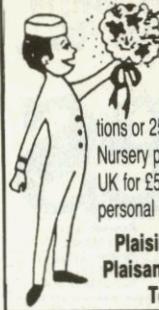
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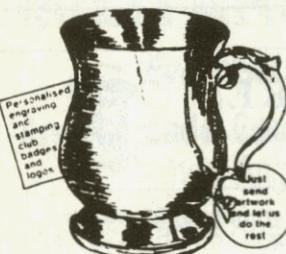
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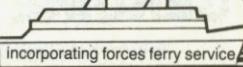
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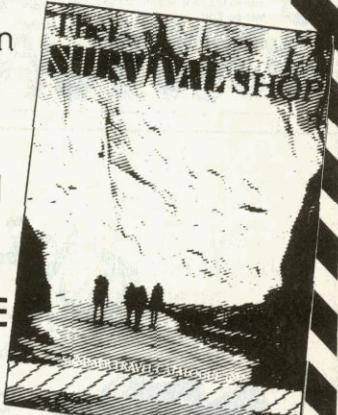
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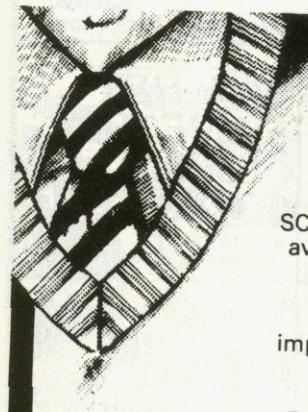
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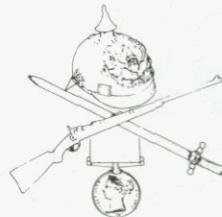
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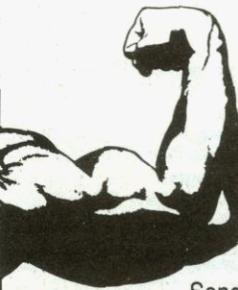
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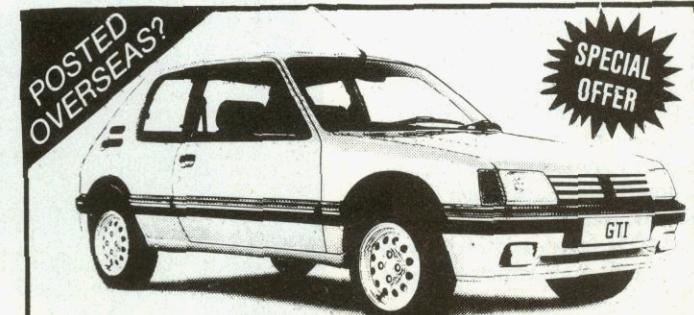


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Watts holds off Craig challenge

NEWCOMER Capt Gordon Craig RAMC could not cope with the speed, accuracy and power of defending champion Lt Nigel Watts AAC in the final of the men's singles at the Army lawn tennis championships at the Royal Aldershot Officers Club.

Craig, from CMH Aldershot, went down 6-0, 6-1, but nevertheless made a tremendous impact at his first Army championships. He beat Lt Nigel Shaw 13/18 H to reach the individual final, then teamed up with Shaw to make his mark in the open doubles.

They beat the renowned Pay Corps pairing of WO2 Steve James and WO2 Bill Herlihy 11-9 in the third set of an epic semi-final before losing a positive and attractive final 6-4, 6-3 to BAOR based Capt Watts and Maj David Hughes RAEC.

And it was third time unlucky for Craig when he and fellow doctor Capt Roger Green RAMC went down 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 to WO2s James and Herlihy in the men's inter-arms and corps doubles final.

The ladies' events were dominated by Lt Lisa Richardson WRAC who is serving with 3 Queens. She retained her singles title by beating Maj Julia Dixon - herself winner of the title on eight occasions - and added the doubles title in partnership with LCpl Heather Baughan and the mixed doubles title with the help of Lt Nigel Shaw.

More than 100 players took part in the championships, which were blessed for the most part with good weather. But when the heavens did open, forcing the players to leave the 11 very good grass courts, the Army Lawn Tennis Association's three adjacent and excellent covered hard courts proved their worth. On the one day that rain prevented play outside, the tournament organisers were able to catch up by continuing the programme

indoors until 11pm.

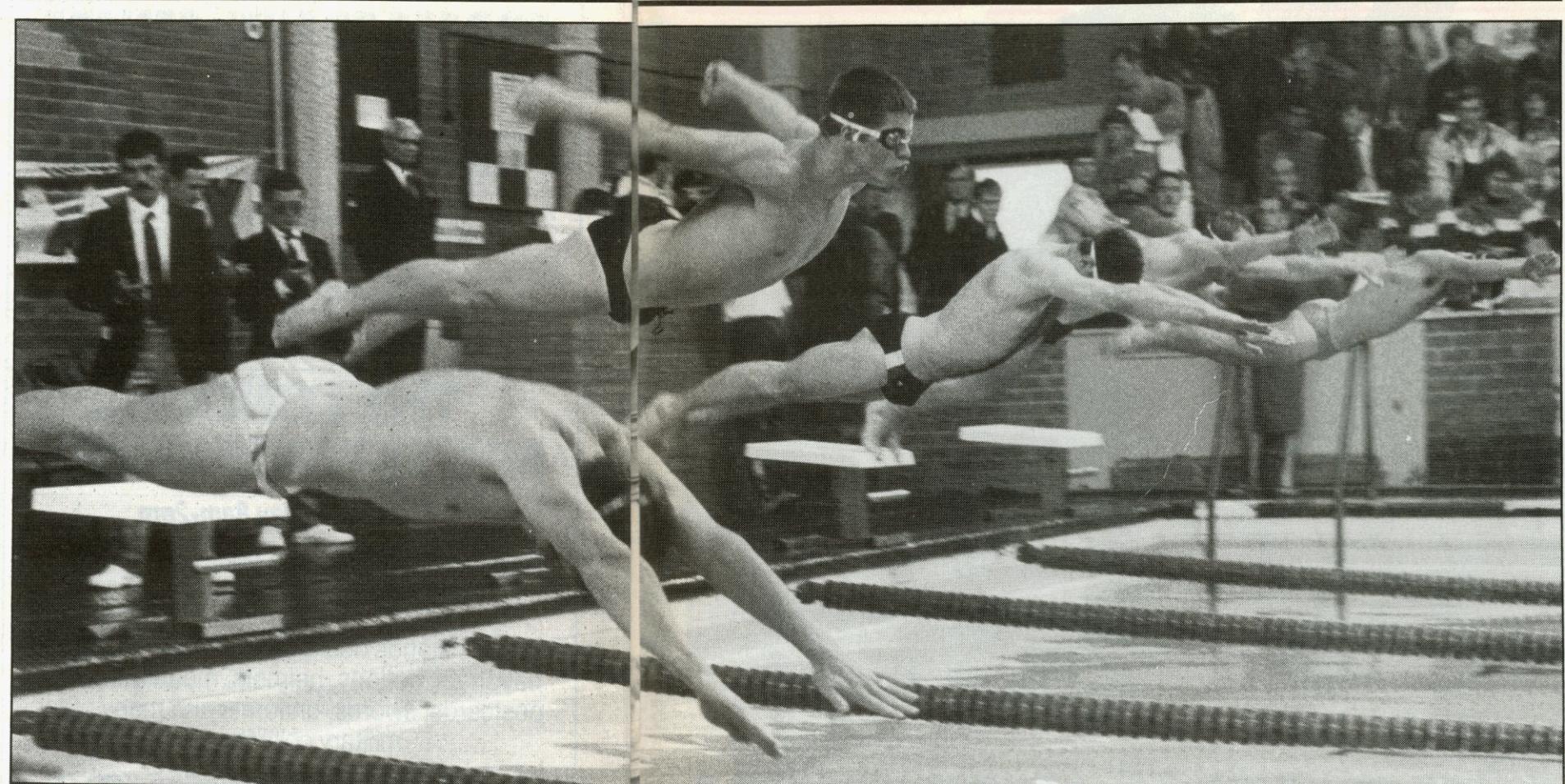
ALTA president Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe presented the prizes.

Other results were:

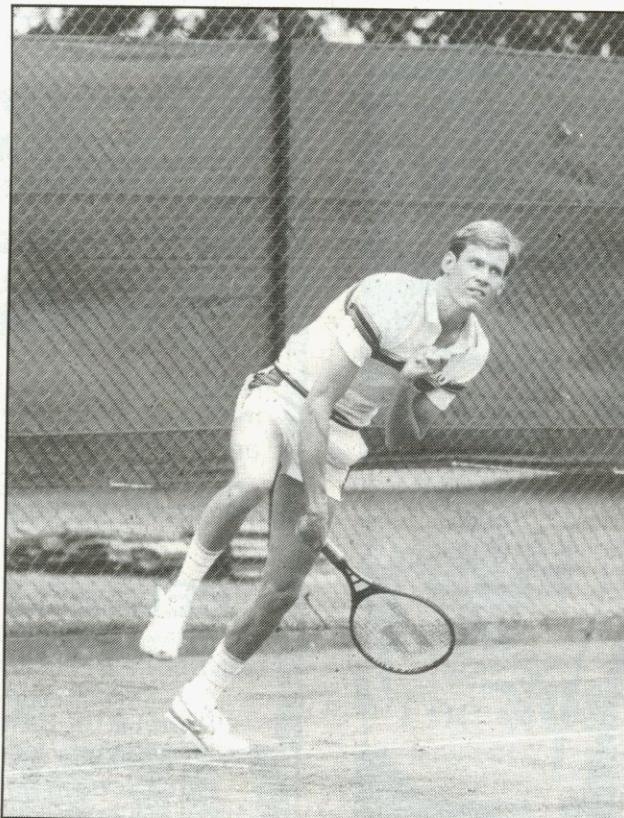
Ladies' doubles - Lt L Richardson and LCpl H Baughan beat Maj J Dixon and Cpl S Smith 7-6, 5-7, 6-4. **Mixed doubles** - Lt Shaw and Lt Richardson beat Lt Watts and Maj Dixon 6-7, 6-2, 7-5.

Men's plate - Cpl Barnicoat REME. **Ladies' plate** - Lt Parsons WRAC. **Men's U-21** - Gnr Banks RA.

Veterans' singles - Brig B Reeves beat Lt Col B Hopkin 6-3, 4-6, 6-3. **Veterans' handicap singles** - Maj J McManus beat Lt Col H Heath 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. **Veterans' doubles** - Brig B Reeves and Maj A Hilton beat Lt Col J Woodliffe and Lt Col B Hopkin 5-7, 6-0, 6-4.



One competitor takes the high road at the start of the 4 x 33yds individual medley (major) race in the Army championships. The winner was Gds S Willis, Gren Gds



CHAMPIONS: Lt Nigel Watts and Lt Lisa Richardson



Picture: Terry Champion

Stormy Gannet

Bad weather hit the Whitsun regatta of the British Kiel Yacht Club preventing racing on one of the four days and limiting the regatta to only three races.

Winning crew in the regatta,

which is sponsored by William Grant and Sons Ltd were Maj Patrick Clarke (skipper), Col John McKeown, Maj Graham Carruthers, Maj Stephen Young and Sqn Ldr Keith Ifould in their yacht *Gannet*.

SPORT

All set for a year to savour

PLANS laid over the past five years are about to bear fruit as the Army Football Association's centenary year promises a season to remember, writes Pat Massey.

Highlight will be the Centenary Challenge Cup final which is scheduled for April 13, 1988. The tie will revert to an afternoon kick off of 3pm in anticipation of the presence of a member of the Royal Family.

Much is planned for the Aldershot Stadium on the big day, not least a feast of exciting football, and the occasion will be marked in a special issue by the Post Office.

Kentish Cup matches are planned for late April and early May. The Combined United Kingdom XI will be away to the Belgians on April 20, and home to the Dutch on April 27.

The Inter-Service Championships will be played on successive Wednesdays in March, the Army v Royal Navy match opening the competition at Aldershot on the 9th.

This year's Corps Quadrangular Tournament will be held at Chatham from November 23 to 27 with the Royal Signals defending the trophy.

The Army will benefit from three home ties in the South West Counties championships - against Sussex (December 21), Gloucester (February 8) and Devon (March 5).

The majority of next season's representative matches will be played at the Aldershot Military Stadium (including visits from the Metropolitan Police, Hellenic League, Amateur Football Alliance, English Fire Services and the Territorial Army).

Carshalton Athletic and Windsor and Eton are among the attractive club fixtures planned for Aldershot in September and October.

Away from home, visits to Essex and Middlesex, and the Oxford and Cambridge University sides will prove popular attractions.

Swimming sappers take their revenge

THERE were only three points in it but they made revenge all the sweeter for 21 Engr Regt in the Army senior swimming championships at Sandhurst.

In the BAOR championships this year, 21 Engr Regt was placed second to 1 Gren Gds

after a count back - both teams having tied with 103 points.

Though the Grenadier Guards started hot favourites at Sandhurst the sappers beat them by 73 points to 70. They then went on to win the water polo, beating 36 Engr Regt by

17 goals to nine in the final.

FOR the third successive year in the fledgling Inter-Service tug of war championships the Army's three representatives have swept the board. They travelled to Portsmouth and beat all three Royal Navy and Royal Air Force teams by two pulls to nil.

The Army has won all three tournaments so far by the same clear margin and remains the dominant Service in the sport.

Representing the Army were 14 Fd Regt RA from Larkhill in the 560k category, 4 UDR from Northern Ireland in the 640k and MCTC Colchester in the 680k.

Tuggers triumph

4 UDR were the surprise package in the Army championships staged at Colchester. They were beaten 2-0 in their pool by hosts MCTC, but qualified for the latter rounds as runners up. In the final they again met the men from the Military Corrective Training Centre, this time turning the tables to score a notable 2-0 victory.

That's just Grand, Nick!

CRACK shot Nick Crawshaw, a lieutenant in 1 R Anglian, has become the first serving soldier for 41 years to win the prestigious Grand Aggregate Cup at Bisley.

Nick (23), who is already a veteran international target rifle marksman, has just joined his regiment in Gibraltar after two years at university and Sandhurst.

He represented England in last year's Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, and will be returning this summer to shoot for Great Britain in the international DCRA meeting at Connaught Ranges near Ottawa, Canada. He has already been selected for the GB team to compete in the Australian centenary meeting next April.

The Grand Aggregate at the NRA meeting, which follows the Army meeting at Bisley, is regarded as the most important event in the shooting calendar after the Queen's Prize. Lt Crawshaw, in fact, finished 39th in the Queen's Prize, besides winning the Donegal, Fosters, Monday Aggregate and Stock Exchange competitions.

His win in the Grand Aggregate, the first by a serving soldier since 1946, confirms him as the best target rifle shot in the Army for many years.



GRAND AGGREGATE: Lt Nick Crawshaw

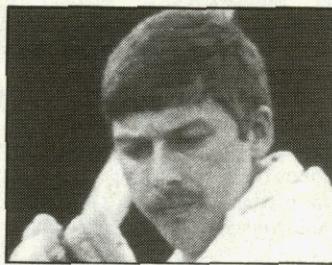
Picture: Terry Champion

Second county scalp captured

THE Army's cricketers added another county 2nd XI scalp to their belt when they beat Surrey at Aldershot by 89 runs in a match reduced by rain from 55 overs to 50, writes Peter Salisbury.

Earlier in the season the Army senior team notched up a notable victory over Northants.

An excellent fourth wicket stand of 105 between skipper 2nd Lt Matthew Fleming (2



David Gill... 42

RGJ) who made 72 and LCpl David Gill (66 Sqn RCT) who contributed 42 formed the base for the Army's total of 197 for seven after Fleming had won the toss and decided to bat first.

OCdt Ian Fielding (Kings/Sheffield University), making his debut for the senior side after performing well for the Under 25s, weighed in with 24 not out at the end.

Excellent bowling by Lt Paul Presland (ACC Centre) 4.31, Cpl Andy Taylor (17 Port Regt) 1-16, Fleming 2-7, and SSgt Neil Willis (1 KOB) 2-39, reduced Surrey to 58 for eight at one stage.

They made a partial recovery to finish on 108, the experi-

enced Chris Waller making 21 and being chiefly responsible for a last wicket stand of 21.

There was some fine fielding by the Army side, notably a brilliant run out by Andy Taylor.

But it was a different story against Kent 2nd XI at Chatham, where the Army lost wickets cheaply in the latter half of their innings and eventually lost by 30 runs.

Kent batted first in the 55 over match and were contained to 167 for nine with fairly good Army bowling and fielding. LCpl Andy Taylor took five for 47 in 14 overs, and 2nd Lt Matthew Fleming three for 22, also in 14 overs.

The Kent bowling and fielding was good, but the Army's batting disappointing. LCpl David Gill (66 Sqn RCT) knocked up 57 and WO1 Peter Wood (3 Fd Wksp) 26, but after their stand of 59 was broken, the last six wickets fell for only 15 runs. The Army were all out for 137 in 52.4 overs.



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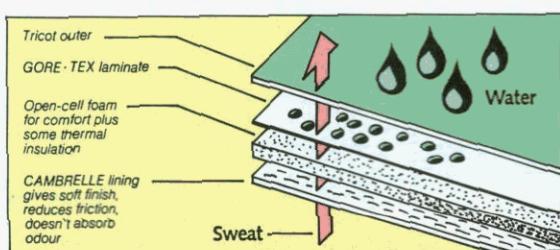
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A mighty push, and swimmers are into the backstroke at the Army Swimming Championships at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Report in the Sports Pages.

Picture: Paul Haley