

SOLDIER

JULY 25 1988

40 PENCE

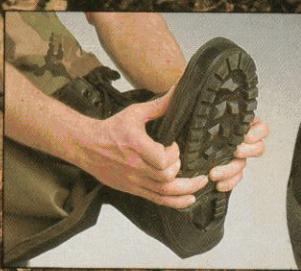


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VOL. 44/15

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FRONT COVER: LCpl Martin Barnett REME makes a splash on the P Company assault course. Read how tough it is to become a para – Pages 24-27.

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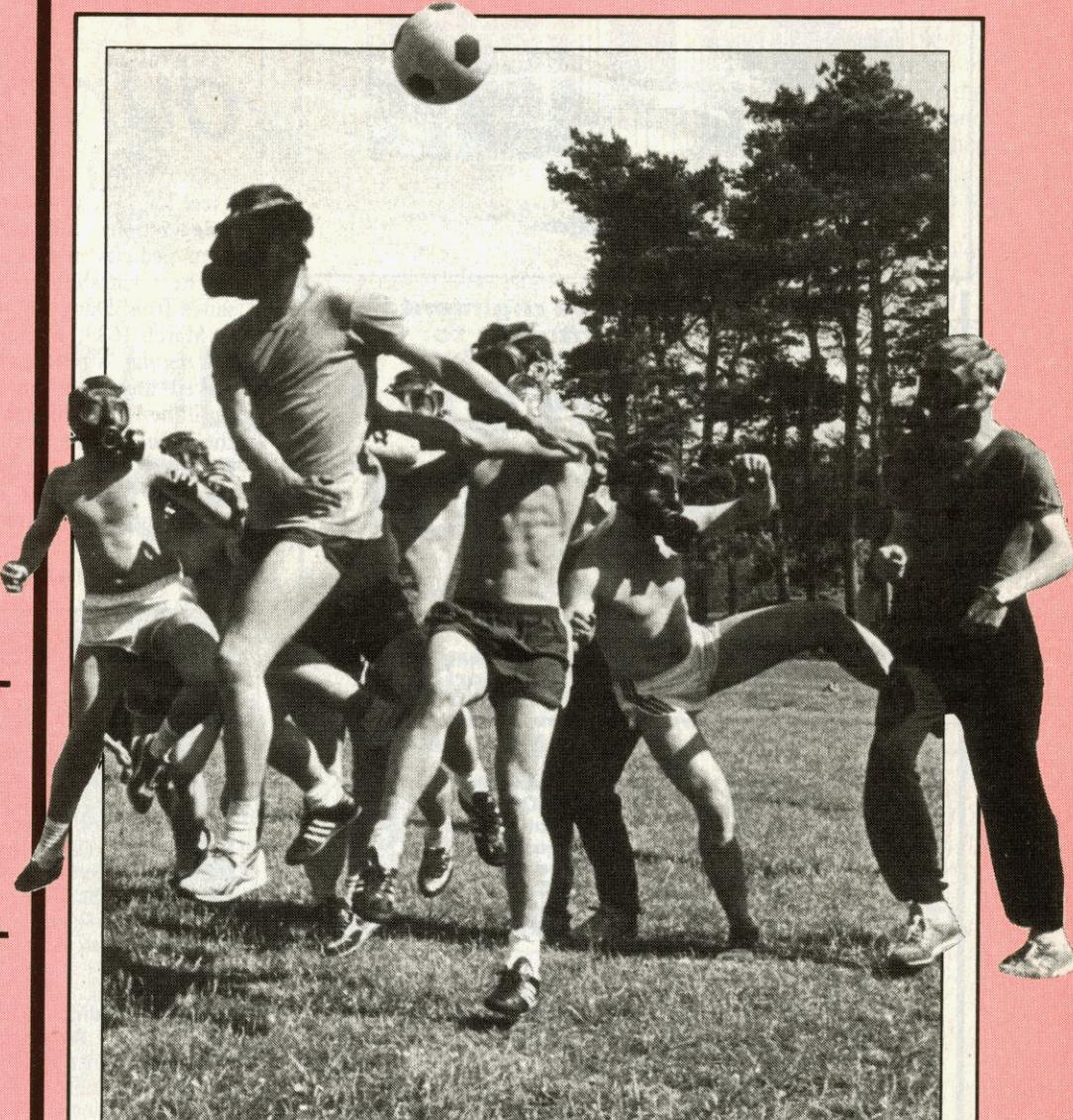
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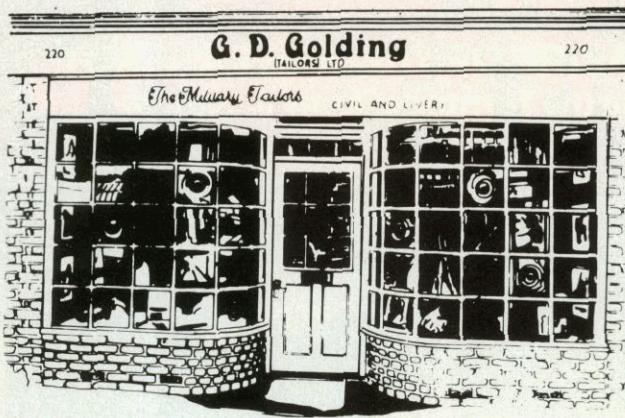
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Latest in spot-the-ball competitions? No, it's the Milan platoon of 1 Green Howards playing respirator football at Otterburn during a lull in Exercise Deadly Impact. The game was invented by Sgt Michael Clark to put a new kick into fitness training. And of course it makes it more difficult for the ref to spot the villains! See report and pictures – Pages 21-23.

**NEXT
ISSUE**

SOLDIER looks at the Army's fast food of the future, the boil-in-the-bag Retort Pouch, and tries it for taste!
● PLUS 5 and 6 RRF on Exercise Hackle Volunteer in Norfolk, 6 LI in Arkansas, the Gurkhas "concentrate" in Australia, and an interview with a 104-year-old gunner.
● PLUS Anne Armstrong meets soldiers' wives in Northern Ireland.



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LETTERS

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Cheshire's 'squeezed' in during 1873



I feel for you, you publish our exaggerations and take flack from pedants in consequence!

The Cheshire Regiment sailed from Dawpool on Wirral in March 1869, and since then its *regular* strength had not served anywhere in Cheshire until the 1st Battalion arrived at the Dale, Chester at the end of February 1888. (Sorry, that is only 299 years, but I am an infantryman, not a mathematician!).

But I must admit that we

Reunions

● London and Home Counties Branch of the **Staffordshire Regimental Association** holds its annual dinner and dance at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London on October 1. Details and tickets from the secretary, Mr B J Harris, 1 St Ann's Court, Eastbourne Road, Pevensey Bay, E Sussex BN24 6HN.

● **7th Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment (TA)** annual all ranks reunion takes place on October 8 at the Drill Hall, Kidderminster. Details from Mr W H Chamberlain, 15 Springhill Rise, Wribbenhall, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 1EA.

● **2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders** reunion for ex-members, relatives and friends takes place in Aberdeen on August 26. Details from Col (Retd) Cameron Stewart, Flat One, 74 Richborne Terrace, London SW8 1AX.

● **Apprentice College Harrogate Scott Squadron** reunion for apprentices and staff, 1978-80, will take place at the college on November 26-27. Details from Second in Command, Scott Squadron, Army Apprentices College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, N Yorks HG3 2SE.

were sent to Chester in 1873 from Aldershot in the hot flush of Cardwell.

On September 9, 1873 the advance party detrained at Chester station two companies strong. There was only room here in the Castle for one company, the other was sent on to Liverpool. On September 12 Headquarters moved from their holding camp at Cannock Chase and squeezed into a cellar room of this very building, with the Colours. On October 1 they were joined by another three companies.

On April 1, 1874 they still had three companies in Chester, three in Liverpool, one on the Isle of Man, one in Manchester and two at Weedon in Northants (today known as the M1 Watford gap). On May 1 they fitted one more company into Chester (total four), three in Liverpool, one at Castletown and another two in Manchester. On July 1, 1874 they thankfully reformed the whole ten companies into the grim old barracks in Salford.

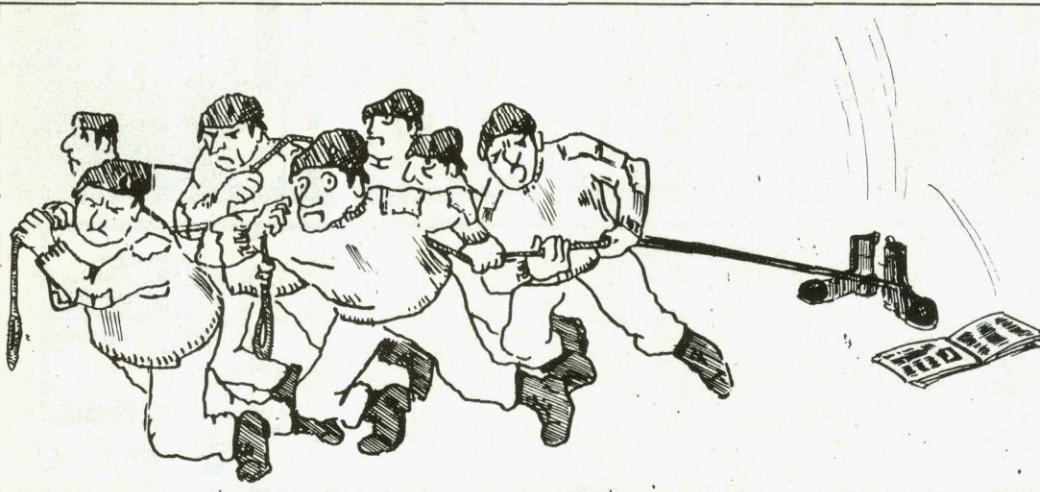
I would remind Mr Brooks (SOLDIER, June 27) of Chelsea that Battle Honours can only be awarded to regiments whose majority served on the field of battle. It follows therefore that The Cheshire Regiment were never stationed in Chester in 1873/74.

As to his contention that they were here in 1919. Indeed, they were!

The pathetic and glorious cadre of the 1st Battalion arrived at Saughton Camp from Catterick for a weekend at the turn of May-April 1919, were feted by the city and returned to Catterick on the Monday before moving to Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester in September. An appropriate posting! – **A F W Astle, The Castle, Chester, Keeper of the Regimental Archives, 22nd Foot.**

£50 goes north ...

SOLDIER's £50 for the winner of HOAY competition No 440 is heading north of the border - to Iain Reid of Sillerhole Road, Leven, Fife. Runners-up book prizes go to SSgt G Ness of 210 Sqn RCT(V) Sect REME at Sutton, Surrey, and Mr J E Baker, The Croftlands, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos. There's a new HOAY, and another chance to win £50, on page 43.



• Based on an original cartoon by Cpl Nigel Tillings of the REME Wing, RA Range Hebrides

PUTTING THE BOOT IN ON BCH CRITICS

My comrades and I were not amused to read the letter (SOLDIER, May 16) concerning the fitting of laces on our new BCH Mark II. What he is suggesting is that 95 per cent of the modern Army are incapable of lacing up their boots properly.

Unlike the old DMS boot it is specifically designed not to have the laces done up so tight that the holes are closed. To do

so causes the long, wide tongue to crumple up into a ridge down the centre of the foot, causing a lot of discomfort to the wearer.

There seems to be a variety of lacing up methods, the acceptability of each being dependent on the views of individual unit's COs and RSMs. Perhaps the answer is for the Army to make one version official, then we will

not see any more "in my days" type letters on the subject. - SSgt T Welsh, REME Wing, RA Range Hebrides, Benbecula, Outer Hebrides.

Army cap is a design disaster

Mr R Mile's letter, (SOLDIER, June 13) regarding the slashing of the peak of the forage cap is quite right. Not a year goes by but your magazine contains more photographs showing soldiers looking ridiculous wearing their caps with home-made altered peaks.

Only recently (May 16) you showed a soldier of 1 Cheshire on your front page with a badly altered peak. But we shouldn't blame the poor soldiers for trying to smarten up their rather dull and unattractive coloured caps. Rather blame the designers.

The trouble with the design of the coloured cap has been with us for many years.

In the Thirties it was likened to the caps of postmen and

railway porters.

The officers' khaki cap must be the most mis-shaped headgear of recent times.

Even our Guards regiments, who have the smarter coloured cap with a short peak accentuated with a brass or braided rim, can be accused of "slashing their peaks" (a Guard's term).

It amazes many ex-soldiers that the British Army produces such a variety of wonderful headgear yet falls flat on its face when it comes to designing a smart colourful cap for the ordinary soldier. Designers take note. - W A West (ex sapper), Bloom Cottages, 18 Cunliffe Road, Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 9NX.

Badgers not first!

I am afraid that we 5 (HSF) Company of 10 Para (V) must be the source of disappointment for the Badger Platoon of 2 Wessex (V), claimed to be the first Home Service Force team to enter the Nijmegen Marches (SOLDIER, June 27).

We competed (as a team) in 1986 and 1987.

We feel sure the stout men of Wessex will enjoy themselves at Nijmegen as much as we did. - Capt N J McKay, 2ic 5 (HSF) Coy, 10 Para (V).

Calling ...

Comrades of Pte Leonard Ernest "Dusty" Ralph, 4 OSC RAOC, who died on November 12, 1943 at Kami-Sonkrai POW camp on the Burma/Siam railway. Please contact his nephew, Mr R L Paine, 6 Newbridge Way, St Mary's Bay, Kent TN29 0HA.

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Chieftain replacement options under consideration

WHILE a number of different options are currently being considered on a replacement for the Army's 500 Chieftain tanks, including buying foreign, the Minister of State for Defence Procurement denied that a

decision over the replacement was being delayed.

"This decision process is going at the speed of light by Ministry of Defence standards," said Lord Trefgarne at the

British Army Equipment Exhibition in Aldershot. An improved Challenger tank, the West German Leopard 2 and the American M1A1 Abrams are among armoured vehicles under scrutiny.

One pace forward, the KOSB

BROOKE Barracks in Berlin reverberated to the sound of well shod brogues and the tap of pace sticks as the first ever Berlin pace stick competition took place. The competition was organised by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 1st Bn, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

QMs on the judging board were all former RSMs with a wealth of experience in the use of the pace stick so the teams were well scrutinised as they were put through their paces. Although many minor units failed to field a team the competition was closely contested.

The competition was split between major and minor units, with a special prize for the best individual pace sticker. A major units cup was donated by Military Cars Sales (UK) and won by 1 KOSB. The APTC won the minor units trophy and the best individual pace sticker was WO2 (CSM) Cotton, 1 BW.

TA constructs longest bridge

WHAT is claimed to be the longest bridge built by the Territorial Army in peacetime has been erected on the Tyne between Riverside and Dunston as part of the preliminaries for the 1990 National Garden Festival.

The 95 metre bridge was constructed by men of 103 Field Squadron, RE, from Heaton, Newcastle. A 98 metre bridge is now being built by 118 Field Squadron.



GO C Berlin Maj Gen Patrick Brooking presents the major units pace stick trophy to the 1 KOSB team



The S10 respirator now on general issue to the British Army incorporates a drinking device that greatly eases the problem of fluid intake. Filters can be fitted to either the left or right hand side of the mask to suit left or right handed firers. The picture shows a TA soldier using the drinking device during the UKLF Milan Concentration at Otterburn Training Area, Northumberland.

1 QLR look to their laurels!

EVERY year on the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, all ranks in the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, wear a laurel leaf in their headdress to mark the honour given to two of their antecedent regiments, the 30th and 40th Foot, for their "steadfastness and discipline".

Regimental headquarters, the old comrades' associations, their Territorial 4th Battalion and the Colonel of the Regiment, were involved in the biannual parade held at Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn, BAOR.

Highlight of the parade was when the Colours were dressed with wreaths of laurel, and everyone on parade was presented with a single leaf, fixed then and there behind their cap badge.

by Mouse





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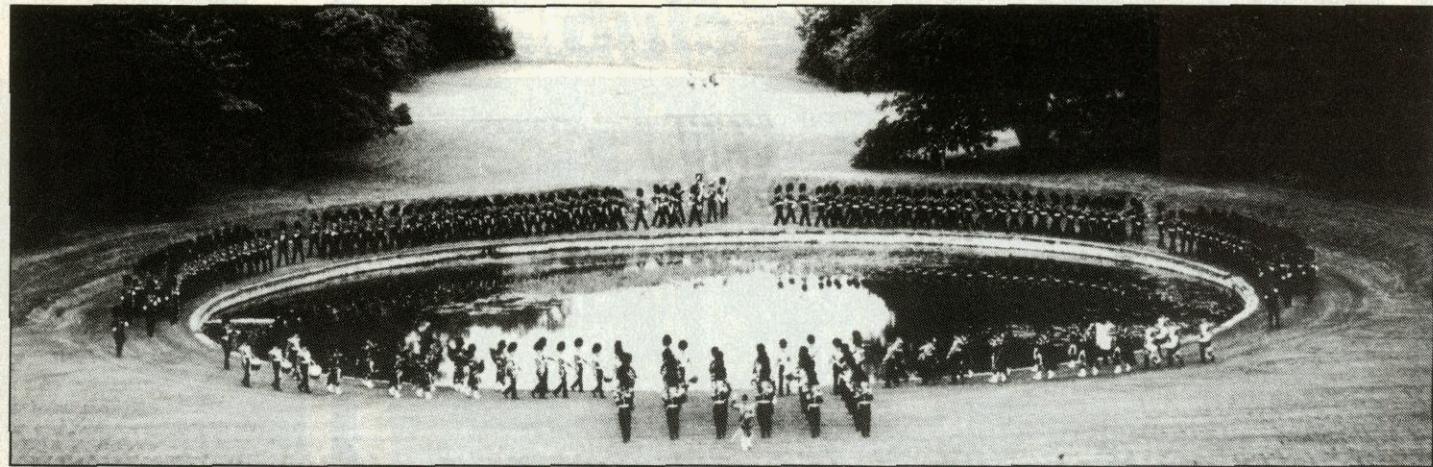
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Picture: Sgt John Harding

The 2nd Bn Scots Guards parade around the ornamental fountain in the grounds of Hopetoun House during the ceremony in which the Queen presented new Colours to the battalion

Queen presents Colours to 2 SG

THE Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, has presented new Colours to the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. She was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. Also present was the Duke of Kent, the Colonel of the Regiment, and the Duchess.

Although the regiment has been awarded 92 battle honours - the earliest "Namur 1695" and the most recent "Falkland Islands 1982" - only 40 are borne on the

Colours. These honorary distinctions are also emblazoned on the drums.

There were about 4,000 guests at the parade, at Hopetoun House, Scotland after which members of the battalion and their families, and former members, were presented to the Queen. In accordance with Scottish tradition, she was attended by the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers).

More WRVS to be recruited

A TOTAL of 92 more women are to be recruited for the WRVS Services welfare section to serve with military units as a result of a package of measures announced by the MoD to combat bullying in the Services.

The increase will be implemented in three phases. The first phase will see 27 new posts at adult and junior training establishments throughout the UK being taken up. There will also be a new post at Mount Pleasant

airfield in the Falkland Islands.

Three members will take up positions with major units in Cyprus before the final phase is put into operation. In all, 61 posts will be created in BAOR, NORTHAG and Berlin - one for each major barracks complex.

The new posts are in addition to the 18 staff currently serving with the Army. The WRVS is to launch a major recruiting campaign to attract suitable staff.

Antrim sappers celebrate

74 (Antrim Artillery) Engineer Regiment (V), formed in 1967 when 146 (Antrim Artillery) Corps Engineer Regiment (TA) amalgamated with 591 (Antrim) Independent Field Squadron RE (TA), celebrated its 21st birthday when squadrons from Belfast, Antrim, Bangor and Bradford took part in a regimental exercise, Springer

Spaniel II, in Galloway, Scotland.

One visitor to the exercise was operational commander Brig David Thomson who is the Commander United Kingdom Mobile Force. He will next see 74 Engr Regt (V) in action in Denmark in September when they deploy with UKMF on Exercise Bold Grouse.

Drum theme at Royal Tournament

UP TO 360,000 people are expected through the turnstiles at the Royal Tournament, which runs until July 30. This year it features the Army, with 2,000 soldiers taking part. The theme is the drum and its history since Roman times, culminating in a finale each day in which the

defeat of the Spanish Armada is re-told.

Other highlights include a musical ride by the Household Cavalry and Mounted Band of the Blues and Royals, a PT display by Junior Leaders Royal Artillery and Drum Corps, the Hong Kong Motorcycle Display Team, and massed bands.

Kings Own Border entertain Princess

A 91-year-old veteran of the Somme had pride of place when Princess Alexandra, Colonel-in-Chief of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, paid her first visit to the regimental headquarters in Carlisle Castle.

Sprightly George Hudson presented a bouquet to the Princess, who spent three hours with serving and former members and their families. Mr Hudson, who lives in Barrow-in-Furness, fought with The King's Own Royal Regiment, one of the present regiment's founding formations, in France during the First World War.

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TEAM PHOTO:
Members of the
Shrivenham Club at
RMCS, Swindon, Wilts

THIS Year's Shrivenham Club symposium had a distinctly tank orientated flavour, with presentations by Royal Military College of Science staff and leading consultants in the AFV field.

The club was formed in 1950 and is open to RMCS Shrivenham staff and students who complete courses of three months or more. Many of its 1,321 members hold important positions in the defence industry.

President of the club is the Master General of the Ordnance, Lt Gen Sir **John Stibson**.

The 1988 symposium ended with a star-studded dinner in Roberts Hall attended by a galaxy of generals, professors and brigadiers. Among them was Brig (Retd) **Fraser Scott**, a student on the first Technical Staff Course in 1916.



MAJ GEN Robert Ward, GOC Western District, lines up for the camera with two BBC hot shots. He had just presented prizes to **David Nelson** (left) and **Susan Chapman**, winners respectively of the GPMG Trophy and champion lady shot at the annual Western District press shoot. David and Susan are both from BBC Television Pebble Mill.



THE GIRL with the high-ranking surname! Pte Bernadette Major WRAC seen at the reception desk at the British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot was just one of the many Servicemen and women on duty at the exhibition. Bernadette is based at the Royal Artillery ranges in the Hebrides. See BAEE report - Page 14-15.



THE whistle has blown at last on "Dobbo" or The Big Man as he is often called. Maj Alan Dobson (above) has retired as Secretary of the Army Football Association, a post he took up on May 1, 1969. Maj Dobson took up refereeing as a platoon sergeant in the Grenadier Guards during the Second World War. He took his referee's examination in 1949 and went on to referee matches all over the world.

His successor is Maj Terry Knight who has just returned from Hong Kong where he was APTC commandant. By coincidence he comes from Leicestershire - just like Dobbo.



SIGNED, sealed and delivered is the new Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Army Pay Corps Computer Centre at Worthy Down, Hants and the Royal Navy's computer centre at HMS Centurion near Portsmouth. Commodore **Frederick Goodson** (left) and Brig Paul



An excellent understanding

Bray signed the document which makes the facilities of one available to the other in the event of a disaster at one of the units.



WHAT A MOMENT: The Queen congratulates David

Picture: Mike Weston

PEOPLE

Green Jackets hunt for treasure

DIVERS from The Royal Green Jackets are attempting to find long lost regimental treasures on the seabed off the French island of La Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

Codename Operation Bugle Reunion, the expedition is trying to locate regimental silver which went down with the troopship *Warren Hastings* in January 1897.

When the ship ran aground it was carrying two detachments of The King's Royal Rifle Corps, whose direct descendants are the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

The only item recovered at the time was the regimental centrepiece, the Tusk of Gullala, now held by 2 RGJ.

★★★★★★★★★★

LORD Trefgarne, the Minister for Defence Procurement, visited RAF Brize Norton to open the new Joint Air Transport Establishment (JATE) training centre. He watched Col **Graham Owens**, Commandant of JATE, and several members of the unit's Airborne Trials Section parachute on to the airfield, and later presented long service and good conduct medals to WO1 **Chris Fielder** RCT, Sgt **Ian Benzie** Para and Sgt **Stewart Ramsay** REME.



RGJ REUNION: Pictured with the Tusk of Gullala are from left Capt Murray Whiteside, Sgt Ian Flocks R Signals, Sgt Keith Theobald and Lt Charles Drax

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GRANADA GHIA

Lensman Thomson just kept on snapping

Cameras are clicking like castanets at this time of the year – some of them with the hope of emulating SSgt Arthur Thomson's success in the Army Photographic Competition.

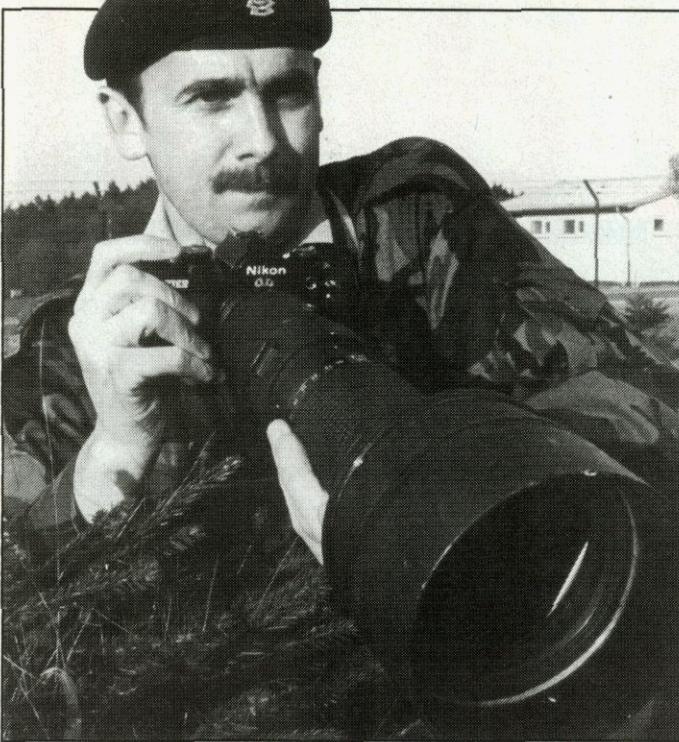
Arthur, currently a photographer with *Sixth Sense*, has entered the competition on three occasions. The first year he got nowhere, the second time he was runner-up, and last year his "Man of Action" shot of a warlike soldier not only gained the title Army Photograph of the Year 1987, but was also published around the world.

His advice to this year's potential winners (entries close on September 30)? Arthur quoted an old picture editor friend – "anticipation, a loaded camera, an eye for what will make it, along with perseverance and a strong will." Luck, he claimed, should never enter into it.

But Arthur wisely adds that it's better to have luck on one's side than against.

It has been a good year for Arthur. To crown his photographic success, he has just been awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

SOLDIER to Soldier



IN FOCUS: SSgt Arthur Thomson who has been awarded the BEM

Artists of war

The number of creative artists killed during the First World War cannot be known, but it is certainly more than 1,000.

For the first time, works by artists, composers, poets and playwrights from all the combatant nations whose creative talents were ended prematurely are to be presented in an armistice festival, as a

tribute to the dead of 1914-1918 – appropriately at the time of the 70th anniversary of the armistice this year.

The festival, in London and Oxford, will include music, paintings, sculptures and graphic work, theatrical productions, and poetry readings.

The work of 33 artists has been selected for the festival which starts with a concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus at the Royal Festival Hall conducted by Sir Yehudi Menuhin, president of the festival.

Dustman VC makes £12,100

The Victoria Cross won by a six-foot dustman from Tooting in the First World War has been sold for £12,100 at a Sotheby's auction.

Cpl E "Tiny" Foster of the East Surrey Regiment was awarded the VC when "with reckless courage" he bombed enemy guns and retrieved a captured British gun.

The medal was expected to fetch £8-10,000. It was bought by an unnamed private English collector who also bought eight medals, including the DSM, awarded to one of the two men who survived the Cockleshell Heroes raid on Bordeaux. Cpl Bill Sparks of the Royal Marines hoped his medals would make about £8,000 to supplement his pension; instead they were sold for £34,100 including buyer's premium.

Another VC, awarded to Maj (later Col) E D Browne-Syng-Hutchinson during the Boer War, was sold together with his other medals for £26,400, and bought by the 14/20th Kings Hussars.

The colonel rescued a horseless sergeant on the back of his own horse and also carried a wounded trumpeter out from under enemy fire.

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

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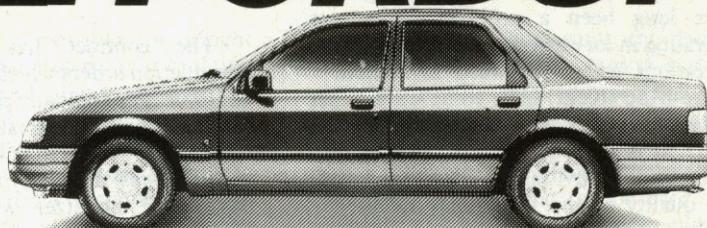
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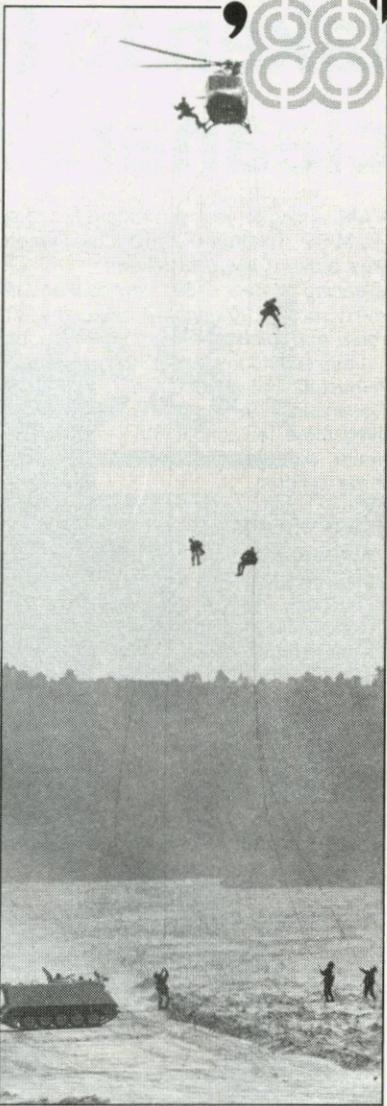
BAEPICTUREDIARY



Above – We have lift-off! The astonishing capabilities of the AWD (Bedford) TM 8-8 Multidrive articulated medium mobility vehicle were demonstrated on the “knife-edge” vehicle test obstacle at Long Valley. It is said this prototype truck is the only articulated vehicle capable of negotiating such a ramp.

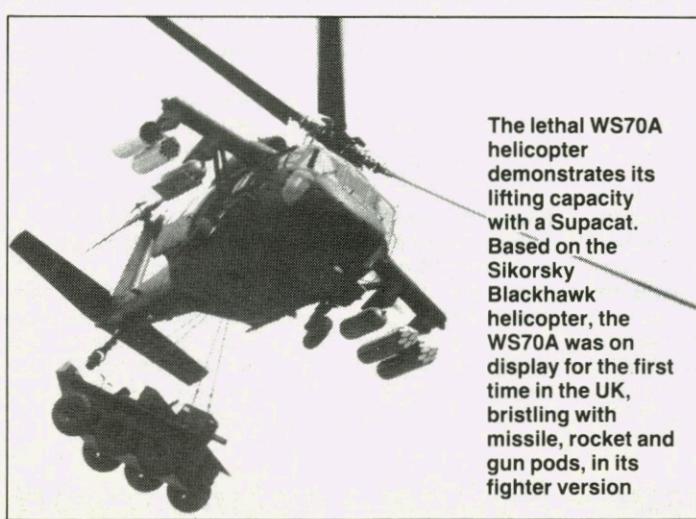


Right - Supacat being put through its paces on the demonstration grounds. Forty of them have been produced for the Airborne Forces



Members of 5 Airborne Brigade demonstrate their abseiling skills in the BAEE Long Valley demonstration area from a Lynx helicopter, using the new Rapid Descent abseiling rope

Pictures by
Mike Weston



The lethal WS70A helicopter demonstrates its lifting capacity with a Supacat. Based on the Sikorsky Blackhawk helicopter, the WS70A was on display for the first time in the UK, bristling with missile, rocket and gun pods, in its fighter version

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A puzzled soldier asks:

Have I been taken to the cleaners?

I AM writing to you with regard to my march-out bills for my M/SQ. The total bill amounted to more than £700. This was broken down as follows:

Cleaning carpets £169; New cooker £353; Decoration for every room (£30 each), 4 bedrooms, sitting room, dining room and kitchen; Bathroom £10, Cutting grass £15.

I moved into my M/SQ in August 82 and vacated it in December 1987, having lived there for almost 5½ years with my wife and three children.

The main reason for writing to you is to seek your advice on how to go about getting some of the £700 back.

I do believe I read an article in SOLDIER magazine some time ago that the Army steam cleaned all carpets prior to march-out if the occupant has lived in the same M/SQ for four to five years.

Am I correct in also saying that as I paid for a brand new cooker, I am entitled to take the old one with me. This in fact was removed and sent back to the stores for cleaning and repair and no doubt reissued.

★ ★ ★

I HAVE looked into the regulations and as far as I can see, as you were in your M/SQ for five and a half years you should not have paid so much.

Carpets may be cleaned at public expense every three years or, where necessary, on change of occupancy at the discretion of ASU or his representative.

The married quarter inventory contains the dates when carpets were issued and whether they were NEW or USED. [Advice to others - check before you sign to pay.]

Unless there were extremely unusual circumstances you should not have paid for cleaning.

As for the cooker, I do advise all occupants who are charged the full amount for a cooker replacement to ask for a detailed breakdown as to why it is a replacement and not a clean and repair job.

If it is a full replacement then you can save approximately one hundred pounds by buying and paying for one yourself.

The second point is that single men under 25 still



**Yours
very
truly**

LETTERS have been pouring in since the publication of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body Report.

They come from men and women, mature officers and young soldiers, wives and girlfriends. I can assure all that their correspondence will be treated in strict confidence.

Occasionally I receive letters which end like this "... I wrote this letter weeks ago but have just plucked up the courage to post it as my husband says it will get him into trouble. Please, please don't mention my name."

Unfortunately there are still people in the Services who feel that to write to the Families Page is an unfair criticism of the system.

Not so. There have been cases in which husbands have been called to account for their wives' actions but as I will not be a party to this I will maintain the policy of anonymity.

I am pleased to report that many authorities are now going out of their way to be helpful and to respect a correspondent's confidence.

So keep on writing. Your letters are often a source of comfort to others with similar problems.

NEWS FLASH!

Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Director General Personal Services, tells me that MoD will be substantially increasing its support of Pre-School Playgroups.

There is to be a full-time PPA Coordinator with British Forces Germany, supported by four paid part-time area organisers and a UK based PPA/Service Liaison Officer. More details later.

Am I correct in also saying that as I paid for a brand new cooker, I am entitled to take the old one with me. This in fact was removed and sent back to the stores for cleaning and repair and no doubt reissued.

Home telephone: Camberley 29653

I HAVE two major criticisms - one general, one specific - of the review of allowances for 1988 that has just been published, writes an officer.

However both are related in part, and, I believe, reflect a trend towards a "Pads" Army, if you will pardon the slang.

Firstly from a general point of view, the advantages are predominantly in favour of married personnel.

I certainly do not appreciate losing two of my warrants to finance another officer's disturbance allowance rise from £521 to £1,200.

Also, why should a lance corporal, aged 29 years, receive only two warrants when a captain of 24 receives four?

Most single men have little to look forward to in this review and, at present, the self congratulation offered by those responsible is not appreciated at grass roots level.

The second point is that single men under 25 still

Anne Armstrong

PADS ARMY?

retain their four leave warrants per year, while those over 25 are reduced to two.

There has been no reason offered for this decision and there appears to be no logic, except that of cutting costs for cost cuttings sake.

From a cynical point of view it seems that those who have generated this review stand to gain the most from it.

I am single, aged 26, with property (but do not qualify for the house owners' package until I am 30!). Sixty per cent of my men are single, forty per cent are married.

My mother-in-law is willing to visit but we don't want to give her too many schools - just a short list.

From a cynical point of view it seems that those who have generated this review stand to gain the most from it.

It also deals with schools which take children with special needs covering some 50 categories, dyslexia, speech deficiency and spina bifida.

The price is £1.95 from bookshops - £2.50p inc p and p from National ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG (tel: 01-630 8793/4).

Next issue - Northern Ireland report

A senior NCO, one of two who have become experts on a world-wide variety of problems that affect soldiers and their families, says he only wishes the service they now provide had been available when he was "young and daft". It might have kept him out of a few scrapes!

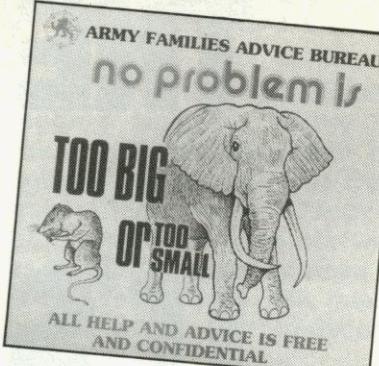
WO1 Ken Monk, RAMC, and WO1 Don Lawson, RAPC, are the long-serving soldiers who staff the Army Families' Advice Bureau (AFAB), the Army's very own version of the Citizens Advice Bureau. AFAB is part of the UK Families Housing and Welfare Service, and based at HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, in Wiltshire.

It was established in 1979 after growing concern about welfare, pay and conditions lead to a lot of people leaving the Army.

In the first year its staff dealt with 500 inquiries. These days they get up to 3,000 inquiries a year and are also closely linked with the 500 information centres throughout the country that deal with 140,000 queries annually.

Jennifer Griffiths talks to the men who run the Army's very own worldwide advice bureau . . .

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND



We know a man who does!

"Both Don and I got married when we were very young soldiers and today's young soldier faces the same dilemmas we did 20 years ago," said WO1 Monk.

"I'm only sorry the advice service we offer wasn't around when I was young and daft, as it would have kept me out of a few scrapes."

They are often amazed by the sheer range of queries that come their way.

"It's often someone's mum, worried because she hasn't heard from her soldier son for some time. It may seem trivial to others, but to her it's very important.

"There was one woman who confided in us she was born as the result of a liaison between a British woman and an Italian prisoner-of-war. She'd never known her father who had been jailed for fraternisation, and she wanted to trace him.

"We suggested she tried to find out if there was an Italian equivalent of the Charlie Chester Show that might be able to help her.

"But that's not really what we are about. We concentrate on everyday issues such as marriage breakdown, housing, debt, Service travel and associated problems, and consumer matters.

"We believe there are three stories - his, hers and the one you work out for yourself."

The Army divorce rate is about the same as the civilian figure - 15 per thousand each year.

"Loneliness through separation is a major factor in the break-up of Army marriages. Army marriages also have all the problems a civil marriage faces, along with moving house and finding new friends, which are part of Service life."

Don is especially critical of



WO1 Don Lawson (left) and WO1 Ken Monk with just some of the literature they send out to deal with the many inquiries that flood into their office each year

the ease with which cash can be borrowed. "Credit is too readily available and the lending of money is indiscriminate and careless.

"We hear some harrowing stories on the phone, and can be talking to callers for up to two hours sometimes. They repeat the same questions because they haven't heard the answers they want."

"We tend to get a lot of calls in the afternoons after the pubs have shut, when people perhaps have found the courage to make a call.

"We get about two 'thank you' letters a year, and several phone calls from grateful people. Not that we are looking for thanks, because we know if we hear no more our suggestions have worked. If they haven't, people are back on to us as quick as a flash."

Ken and Don were trained by the Citizens Advice Bureau and attended special Army welfare courses.

Their service of providing military and civil information to Servicemen and their families is also much used by outside organisations, such as local housing authorities, DHSS, Social Services, and CABs.

The telephone number is in every UK civil directory and all families' guides.

AFAB has a very good liaison with a large and varied selection of agencies with whom they exchange information. A large part of their business is related to overseas service, particularly in Germany.

Ken and Don send out a variety of material they have compiled themselves, along with other information

obtained in bulk from the various agencies. AFAB's distribution reaches more than 1,000 different units and locations worldwide.

The Army subscribes to the CAB Information System, and AFAB has a comprehensive retrieval system covering a vast range of subjects. It is the backbone of AFAB's civil information.

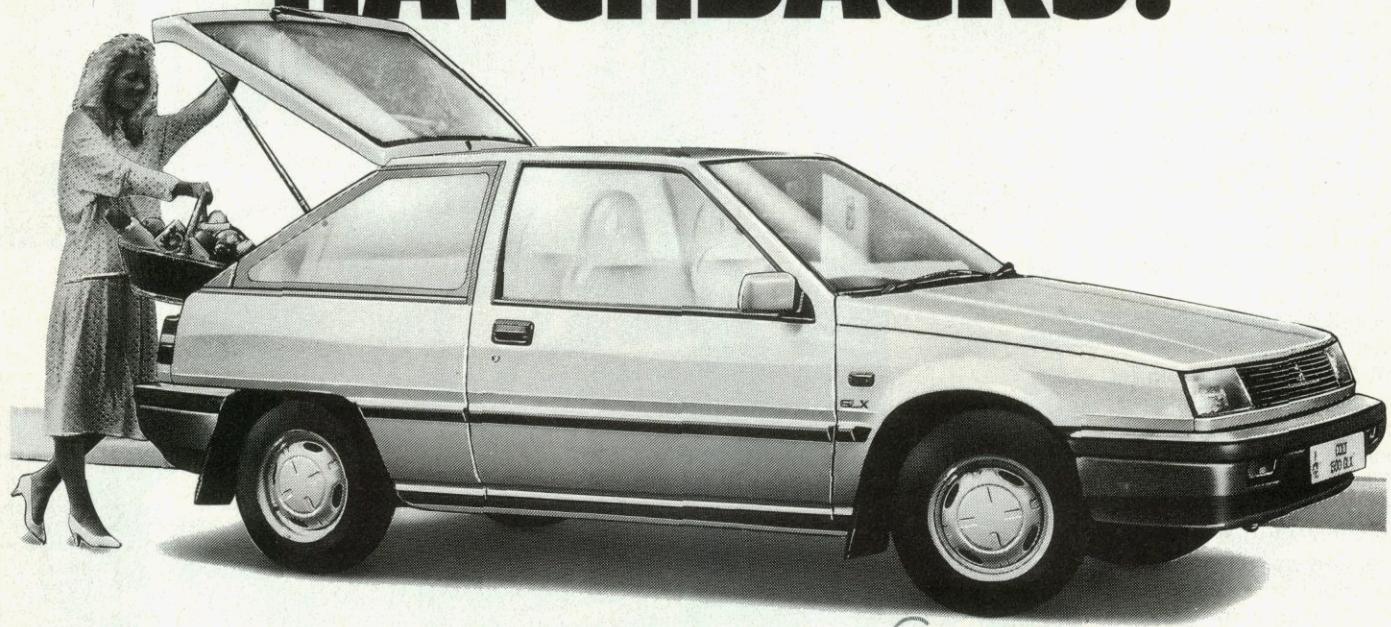
Where possible AFAB acts as a referral agency or signpost, pointing people to the experts.

Ken said: "We recognise that people like to help themselves if only they know where to start. Sometimes we take cases on, where a wheel has fallen off in the system, and get things on the right track.

"We are rather like the Automobile Association television advertisement which says 'We know a man who does'."

Picture: Cpl Ricky Yung

THE MITSUBISHI COLT: IT'S RAISED THE STANDARD OF FAMILY HATCHBACKS.



Fact is, the Mitsubishi Colt 3-door and 5-door Hatchbacks have become clear class leaders with their exceptional combination of innovative design, build quality and reliability.

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And yet again, when 'What Car?' compared 22 performance Hatchbacks in May 1986, it was the Colt 1600 Turbo model that picked up all the praise.

There are five superb model variations to choose from; the 1200GL 3-door, the 1500GLX 3 and 5-door models (with an automatic transmission option on the 5-door), and the 116mph Colt Turbo.

So, if you're shopping around for a Hatchback that teams style with performance, check out the Colts from Mitsubishi.

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Most battalions have 24 firing posts to launch the missiles which cost more than £11,000 each.

The weapon has a night firing capability through its thermal imaging sight.

Though designed to be man portable, subsequent refinements such as the thermal imager and the accessories that go with it have added considerably to the Milan platoon's awkward burden.

The practical problems of lugging such a heavy load round a battlefield were highlighted during Exercise Deadly Impact II, the Milan Concentration which spanned six weeks at Otterburn Training Area over which more than 700 missiles were fired at a cost in excess of £10m.



There is only one word for it – knackered. A 6 (V) RRF soldier reaches the end of the 8km trek. On his back is a Milan post in a carrying frame

HEAT'S ON FOR THE MILAN MEN



Capt Paul Corden, Queens, debriefs a Milan section of 2 R Irish

THE UKLF Milan Concentration was rightly called Exercise Deadly Impact. There was any amount of exercise and the impact of the Northumbrian gnats was if not fatal, unforgettable.

Considering the weather was scorching in the opening stages, the troops showed admirable enthusiasm even if, at times, it was mainly to get over one of the nastier bits as quickly as possible.

Only the second exercise of its kind run in the UK (the last

■ Words by Bill Moore ■ Pictures by Mike Perring

was held four years ago) Deadly Impact provided a challenge to the control and administrative staff but they simply got on with it.

And that went for everyone – the 114-strong contingent from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (based at Catterick), the 28 experts from the Anti-tank Division of the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, the ten-man

REME team – everyone down to the two ATOs who dealt with things that didn't go bang in the night.

In some ways the exercise resembled a 36-hour journey over a cross country obstacle course.

All the platoons taking part (27 Regular and 12 TA) had to make it, taking their weapons and equipment with them.

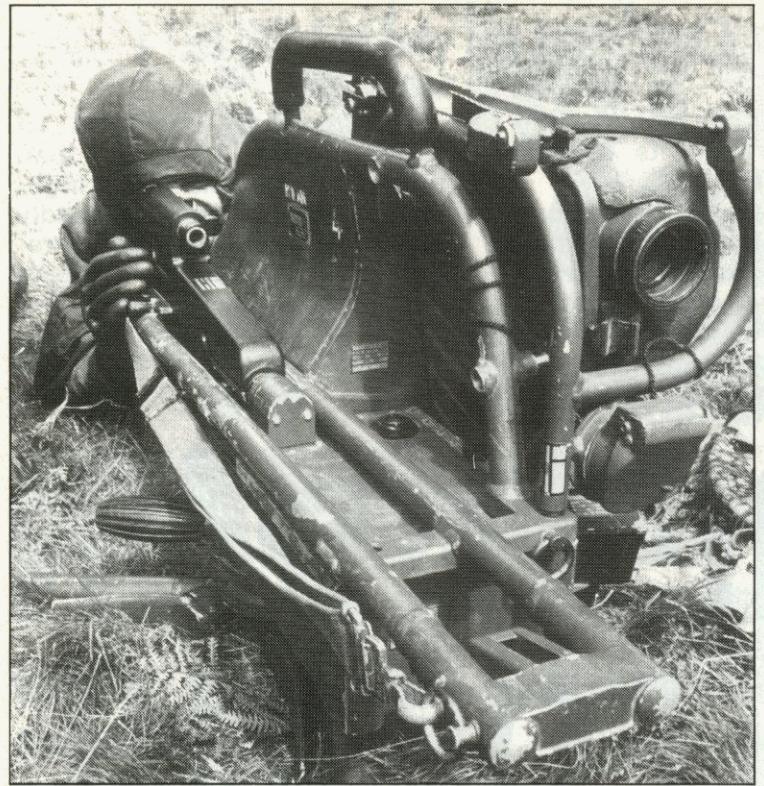
The action began on a

boulder-strewn hillside where SOLDIER saw a section of 5 (V) RRF in NBC black using simulators on a Warsaw Pact motor rifle regiment rolling across fields to their front.

Tanks and APCs painted on hessian screens fixed to Land Rovers lent a touch of realism.

A controller checked the Territorials' marksmanship and radioed to targets which had been hit. "Knocked out" vehicles turned sideways, switched on headlights and

● Turn to next page



HEAT'S ON

● From Page 21

threw out coloured smoke. The Fusiliers from Rochdale took out a number of them before, with night falling, they set out by vehicle on the next leg.

The move was full of incident – ambushes, casualties found by the wayside, and inevitably a blown bridge.

From that point it was a question of manpacking everything – firing posts, radios, the MIRA thermal imaging sight, missile containers loaded with sand instead of explosive, webbing, ammunition, batteries, waterbottles, all topped, if you were a TA soldier, by a heavy and clumsy steel helmet.

The average load was 108 lbs, the distance to be covered more than eight kilometres.

Maj Clive Gutteridge, OC 3 RRF Fire Support Company, and the exercise technical officer, had covered the course during preparation, carrying the weight and in one case wearing a Noddy suit.

The trek took him three hours and it was decided that NBC suits would not be worn for that stretch of the course in view of the intense heat.

However, they had to be donned when the platoons reached the RV at the end of a remote valley. There they harmonised their equipment and settled down to await an airlift to the live firing range aboard a Puma piloted by Lt Cdr Fred Robertson, RN, and manned by Flt Sgt Gary Roberts, RAF.



PIONEER Sgt Ron Owen (right) of 3 RRF and LCpl Leon Forteau set up a sign for the big exercise at Otterburn.

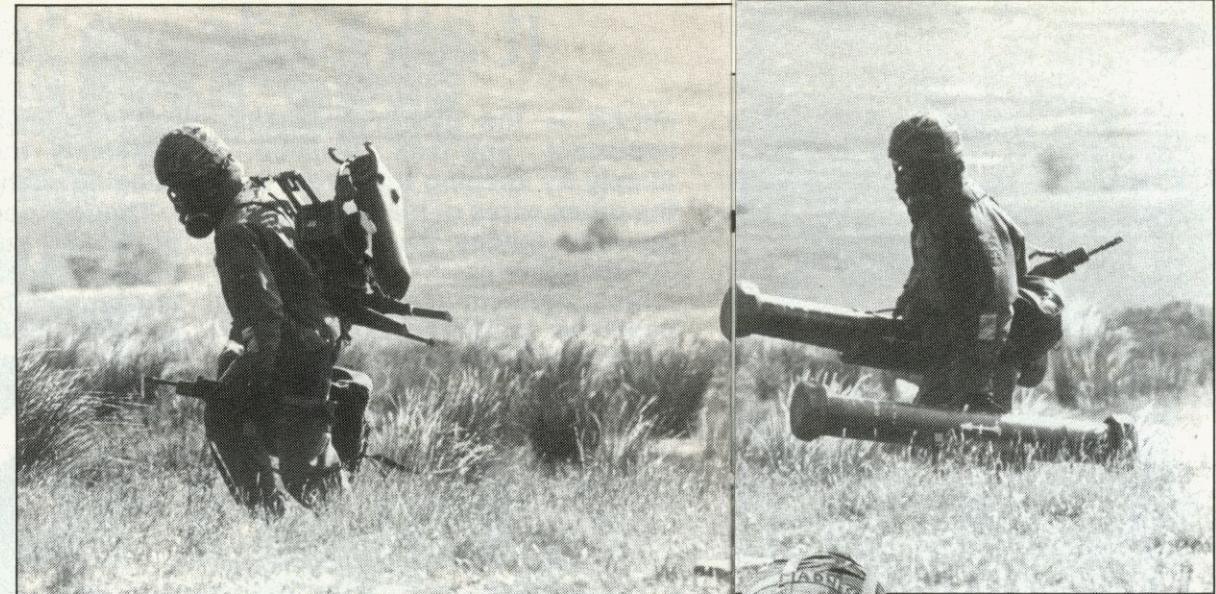
Sgt Owen has a question for SOLDIER readers. Why were pioneers allowed to wear beards? He reckons it was because pioneers in Red Coat days had to get up before the rest of the Army to clear the way, cut wood, build roads and so on, and didn't have time to shave. Is Sgt Owen right?

A Gazelle flown by Capt David Borrill, RCT, of 656 Squadron AAC, and Cpl Haydn Wiltshire, AAC, was ready to fly genuine casualties – twisted ankles, heat exhaustion and so on – back to Otterburn Camp.

The Puma came in low over Ramsey's Burn and dropped the troops just short of Sgt David Gould's live ammo dump.

No sooner did they arrive than the cry "Gas!" went up.

Nevertheless Lt Andrew McCausland's platoon of 2 R



Above: 2 R Irish on the trot in respirators
Left: A 6(V) RRF man "harmonises" equipment
Right: LCpl Dennis Houghton, 2 R Irish, after a successful shot



ing the manpack march.

The Milan platoon of 1 Glosters did the march in two hours 37 minutes. There was no question of their fitness. They scored 100 per cent in the live firing.

For the TA, the test was tougher. As Fus Craig Holt from Rochdale put it: "It was just like carrying two 56lb bags of potatoes."

There was a postman, a driver, a kitchen fitment manufacturer and a computer operator in the platoon. Its commander, Lt David Bren-

nan, was an insurance agent, Sgt David Needham, a salesman.

The Tyneside Territorials of 6 RRF, under Lt Jeff Hobbs, took four hours 13 minutes to do the manpack trek, but as WO2 Ludo Llewellyn, manning the checkpoint, told them, they were well within the five hours allotted.

"The important thing is to arrive fit to fight," said WO2 Llewellyn who was commanding 3 RRF's Milan platoon at Otterburn.

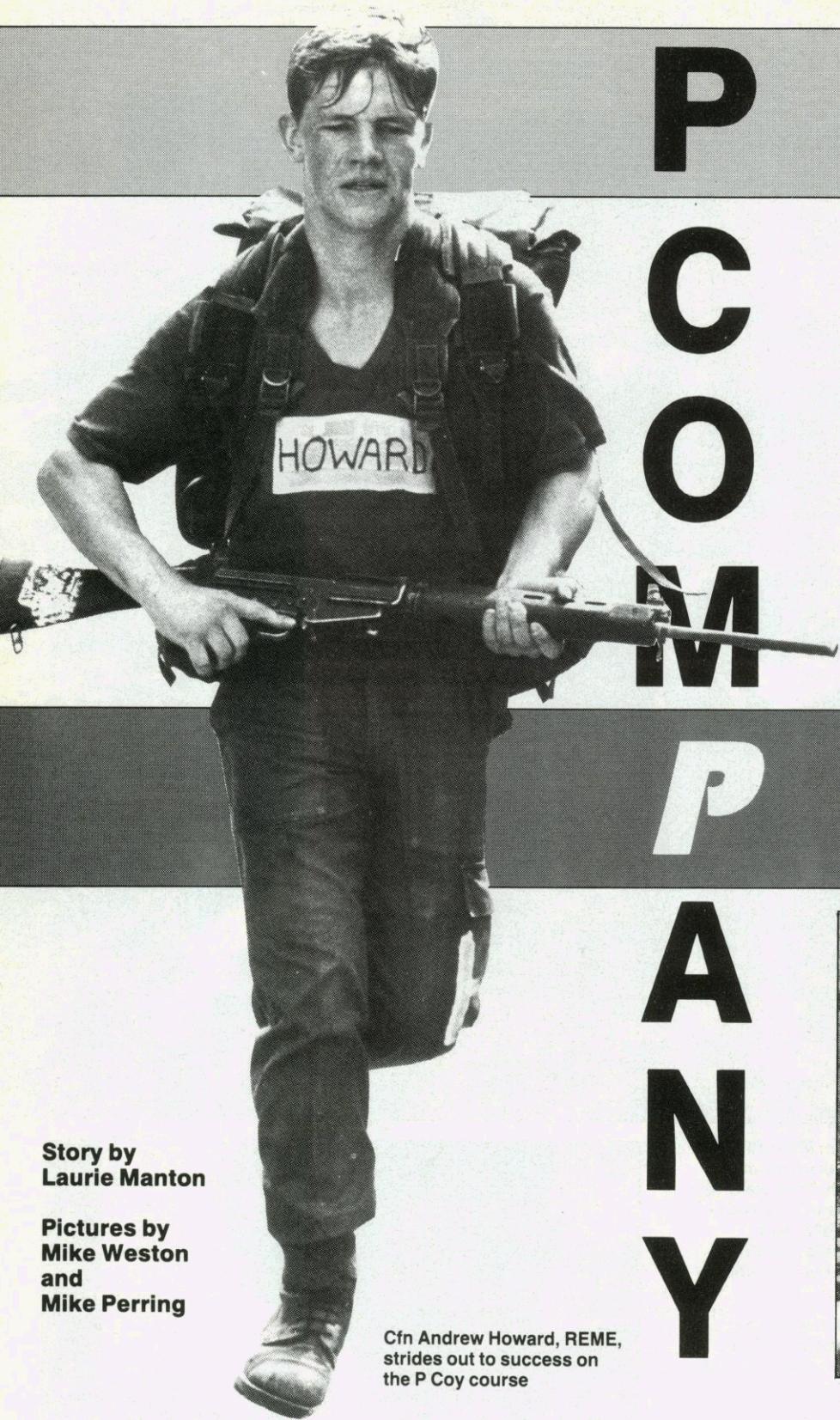
One thing that came over to



Above: Milan PI 1 Glosters after the march. They were 100 per cent on target in spite of a back-breaking march of more than 2½ hours

Right: Cpl James Stewart of 15 Para with precision models for observation training





Story by
Laurie Manton

Pictures by
Mike Weston
and
Mike Perring

Cfn Andrew Howard, REME,
strides out to success on
the P Coy course

"YOU are about to embark on one of the hardest, if not *THE* hardest physical course in the Services today. For some of you it will probably be the most physically demanding period of your lives!" Thus spoke Maj Jonathan Shaw, Officer Commanding P Coy.

He was not joking for, as the course progressed, there were many who fell by the wayside and failed to complete the All Arms Pre Parachute Selection Course at Depot Para, Aldershot.

Aim of the course is to ensure that volunteer officers and men have the required spirit and strength of character to serve with the Airborne Forces.

No tactical or military skills are involved in the course. It is designed purely to test the individual's courage, fitness, endurance and determination under both physical and mental stress.

And test it it does. On average 50 per cent of those attending the course fail for one reason or another.

The first fortnight of P Coy consists of a progressive build up in fitness, toning up the minds and muscles of the potential paras so they can cope with the need to put in a continuous maximum effort during the selection week.

The final seven days comprise the actual assessment period when a number of

demanding physical tests take place which test minds and bodies to the utmost. It is a time when the students must give 101 per cent . . . or more!

Test week begins early one morning in a boggy, heavily wooded part of the Aldershot Training Area, within which is laid out the steeplechase course. Surviving course members gather to take part in a race around the arduous circuit.

Splashing their way through the strength-sapping sea of mud, encouraged loudly by the instructors, the men cross the finishing line and stand gasping for breath, waiting for the tail-enders to catch up with them.



Grimacing Gunner Sean Petralia RA hauls himself up the scrambling net to reach the top of the confidence course

Stragglers don't earn many when the instructors are dishing out Brownie points.

Later that morning the men march to a more distant part of the training area where they prepare themselves for the log race. Split into groups, they take it in turns to lift the heavy wooden logs and carry them on the double around the course.

The going gets harder and some of the students begin to weaken. Instructors become more vocal, and sometimes physical, in their encouragement. It takes a brave man to drop out at this stage.

Back at barracks, the next item on the agenda is the dreaded milling – an activity that strikes fear into even the stoutest

heart. For one long minute, armed only with boxing gloves, the potential para has to beat the stuffing out of another course member. The opponent, of course, is hell-bent on precisely the same mission.

Milling is designed to test mental and physical courage, aggression and the will to win under conditions of stress, explains Maj Shaw.

"Anyone who has done any boxing will understand that it causes an enormous amount of stress.

"Your instinct is to cower under it until the storm blows over, which is like coming under fire. Your instinct is to get under cover."

"Experience has shown that the only way you are going to win a fire fight is by getting up, looking for the enemy even though he's trying to shoot you, and getting off aimed shots. Only by doing that will you win."

"As with milling, the man who cowers down is going to get destroyed. It puts the men under enormous pressure because of conflicting emotions that make them want to take cover but which must be subjugated by the desire to dominate their opponent."

The next day starts with the ten-miler, perhaps the most traditional and

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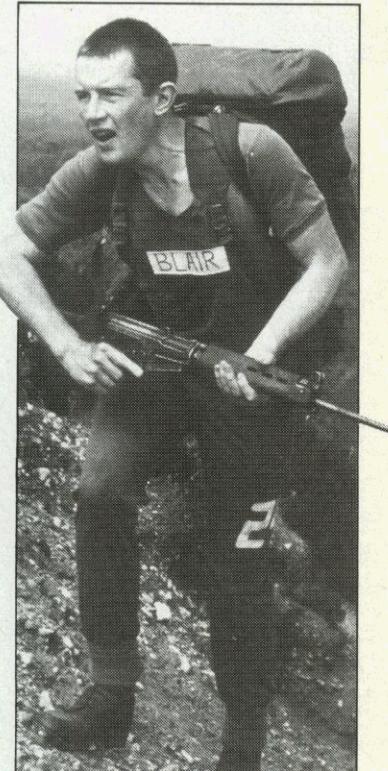
"When I say move, MOVE!" Sgt Andy Mason

making a point with Pte Alex McCormack, RAMC, during the exhausting log race on Aldershot Training Area

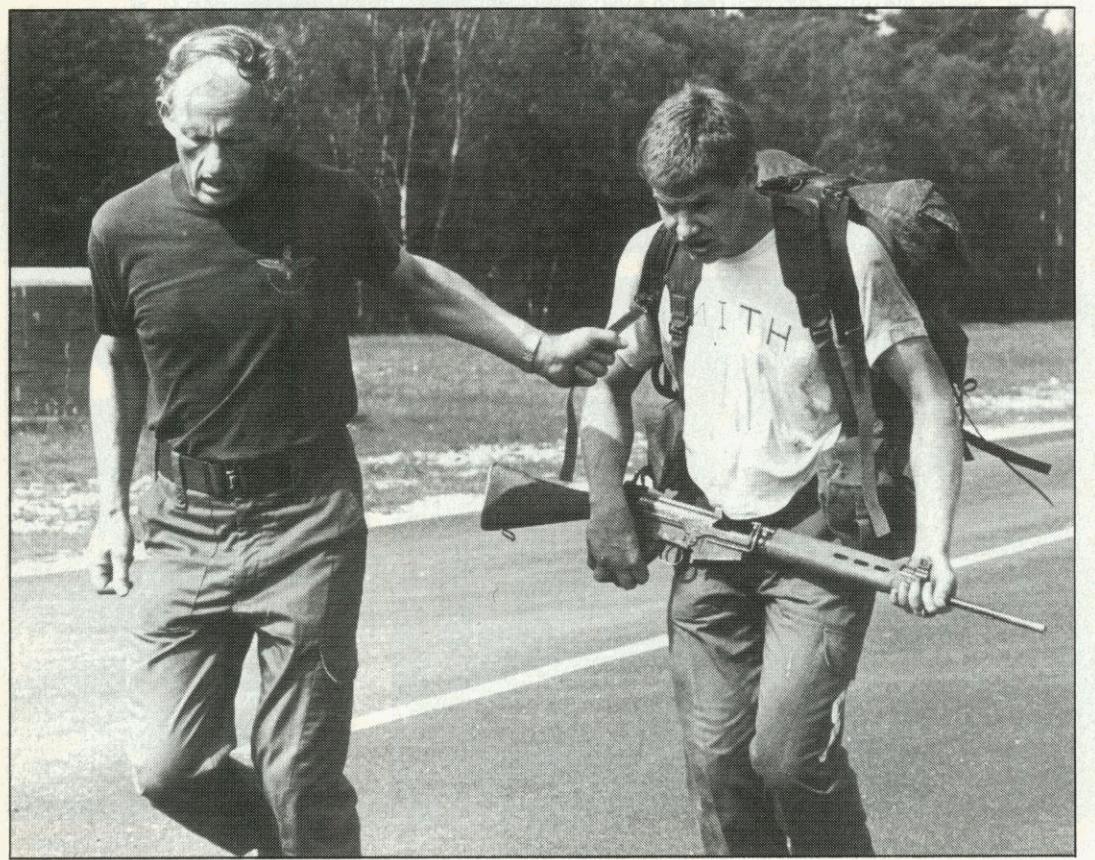
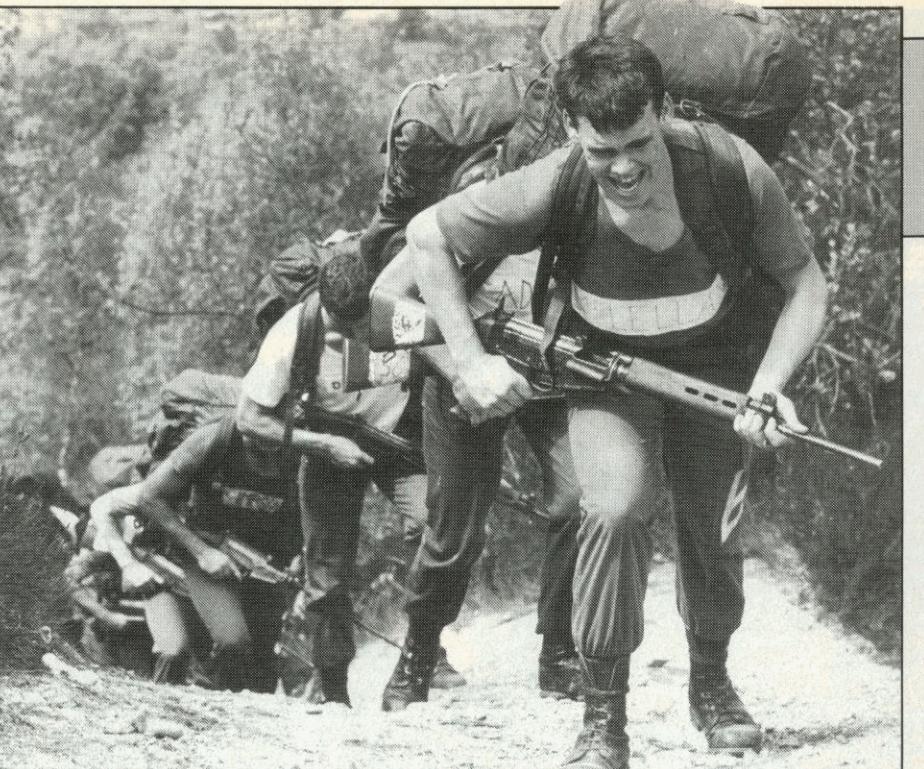
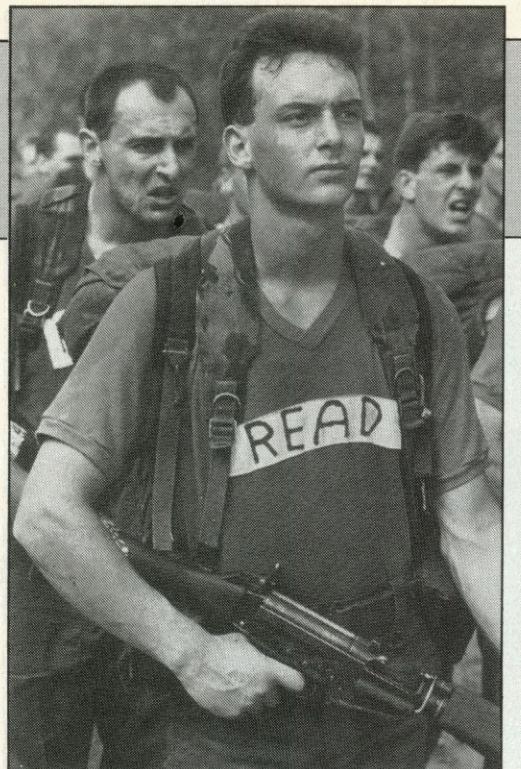
P FOR PARA!



Urged on by P Coy instructor Sgt Danny Keown (right), members of Course 3/88 struggle up a steep incline during the log race



Cpl Nicholas Blair, RE, strives to pass the course



Above – The pain of maximum effort clearly shows as Spr William McLennan, RE, leads a squad up one of the steep gradients encountered during the zig-zag march

Above left – Determination on the face of Cpl Ken Read, R Signals, as he prepares to take part in another test of fitness

Left – The instructors are there to assist the students through the course. Encouragement too is important, demonstrated here as Maj Richard Brinton 2ic Depot Para – 25 years a para – (left) guides straggler Lt James Smith, R Signals, back to the squad

● From page 25

fundamental course of all; 10 miles in 1 hour 45 minutes, carrying a pack of 45lbs.

Undaunted, course members then parade at the trainasium, where the "confidence course" is laid out. This is a nightmare array of scaffolding, planks and rope over which they must traverse to prove their confidence.

Imagine shuffling along, high above the ground, your feet balanced on slippery scaffolding poles. To add to your terror an instructor orders you to stop halfway across, touch your toes and shout out your rank and name before he allows you to inch your way to safety.

To negotiate the confidence course, P Coy candidates need to be alert, fit and

fearless. It is not a route for the faint-hearted! The slightest hesitation leads to the order "Go round and do it again" – no matter how close the victim is to the finish.

When that ordeal is over, there is just a quick run (three times round an assault course in 5½ minutes!) before candidates take on Exercise Steel Bayonet in a none too flat area of the Brecon Beacons in Wales.

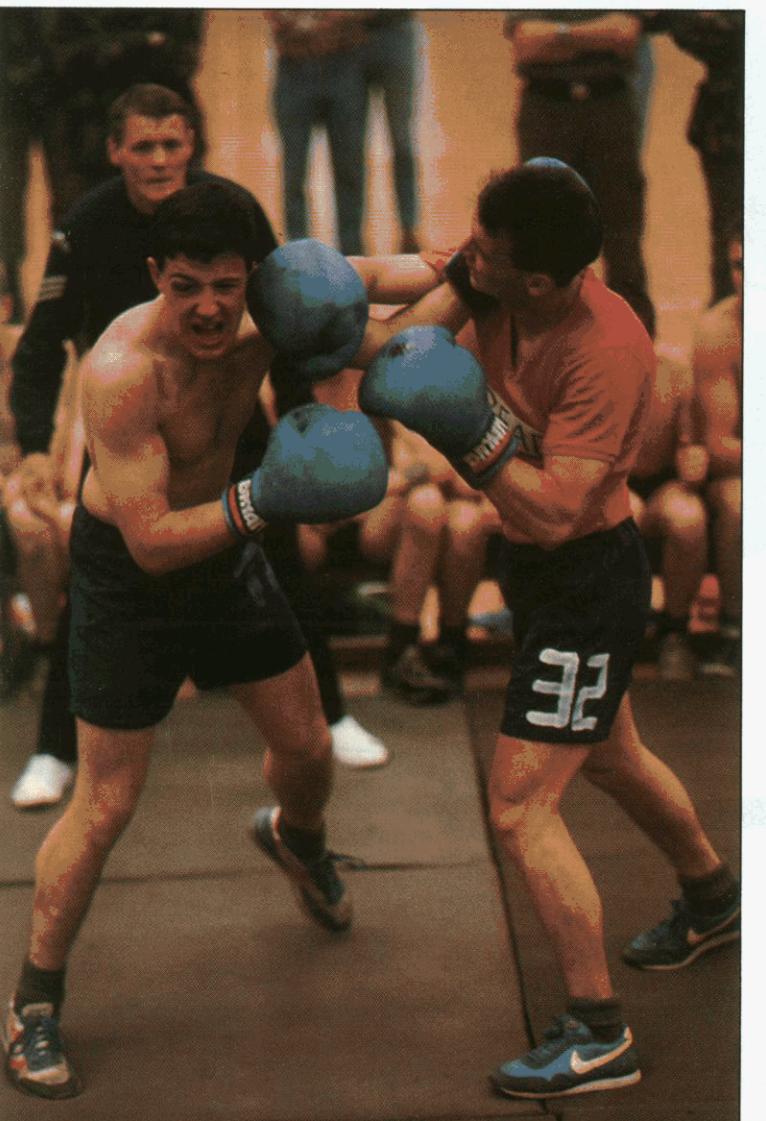
The exercise is really a series of endurance events – two marches and a 10km speed march. It ends with the stretcher race, where teams take it in turn to race round Talybont Reservoir for more than an hour carrying a specially

constructed stretcher weighing 180lbs.

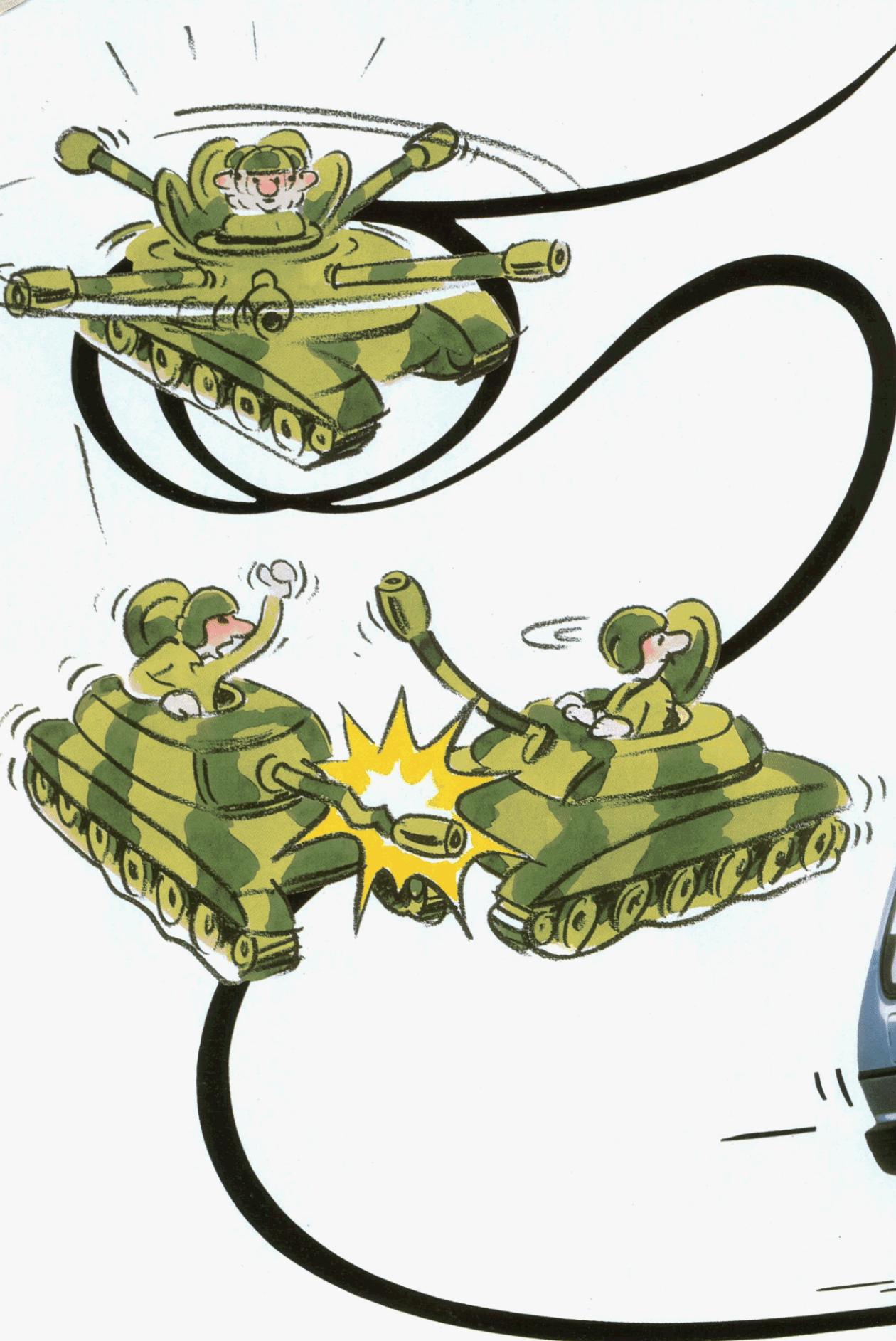
Following end of course celebrations, everyone gathers on the final morning to hear the results read out by the OC. When each man's name is called out in turn, he stands smartly to attention for the verdict which is delivered starkly in one of two words – pass or fail.

For the one or two students who fail at the last hurdle through injury there are words of encouragement to apply again. For other failures, there is a swift RTU – Return to Unit.

Successful students go on to parachute training and a number of jumps before finally earning their para wings. But that's another story!



Above – The exhaustion shows on the faces of Course 3/88 but Dvr Alan Gregory, RCT, still has time for a smile. Below left – Cpl Ken Read, R Signals, lands a blow on his opponent during the milling contest. Below right – A potential para's resolve is tested to the limit on a confidence course. Tasks such as this have to be performed without hesitation.



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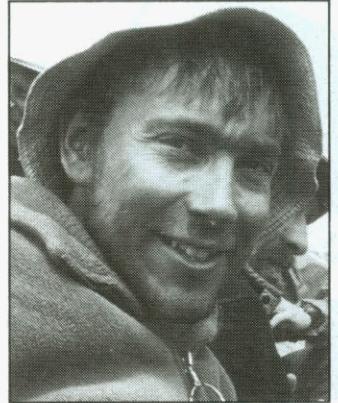
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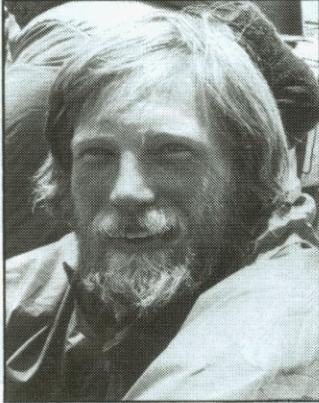
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Above - Lt John Vlasto R Signals repacks his gear at Camp 4 on the west ridge leading to Everest. Just how close to the summit the expedition got can be judged by the arrow which indicates the highest point reached by the climbers before they were forced back. Below right - Capt Charlie Hattersley TA adjusts his oxygen set at Camp 4 in preparation for the second summit bid



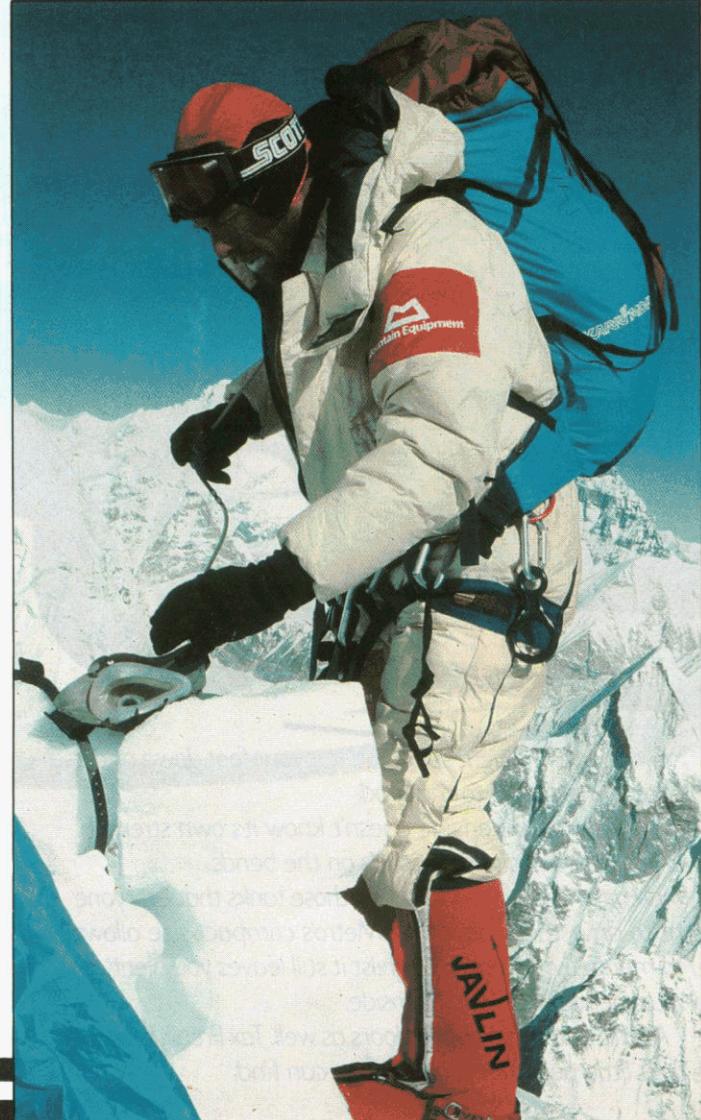
Gnr Dave Torrington, TA



Capt Nigel Williams, R Hamps



Deputy Sirdar Ang Nimm. He led the Sherpas



THERE was a deep felt feeling of bitter disappointment among members of the British Services Everest Expedition when a third and final bid to conquer the world's highest mountain was beaten back, and the expedition had to be called off, writes Laurie Manton.

Lt Col Henry Day, RE, the expedition's deputy leader and a member of the team that made the final summit bid, told SOLDIER about the great difficulties and dangers faced by the expedition during their four month stay in the Himalayas.

"Everyone was very dejected by our failure to beat the mountain. To be beaten once is disappointing, but to be seen off three times is really bad luck," said Col Day.

Despite all three attempts being pushed home strongly, it was conditions underfoot as well as the weather that beat the climbers.

The first summit party got well up the mountain before having to turn back. They suffered as much as anyone because conditions had prevented the final camp being established as high as the expedition's original intention, which meant that the summit teams always had to do far more than was ideal.

Said Col Day: "The first summit team got well up into the Hornbein couloir and spent the night there before using the next day to explore further up the mountain. They sussed out the upper snow slopes before having to give up.

"The second attempt was defeated rather sooner at the final snowfield before the Hornbein. They were dismayed to find it prone to avalanche. Having backed off from that before reaching the previous high point, they were not able to help take equipment further up."

The third and final summit team consisting of two pairs of climbers, including Col Day, had to spend their first night

Third and final summit bid fails by just 1,000ft

HEARTBREAK ON EVEREST



Lt Col Henry Day, RE - deputy leader of the expedition, who took the photographs on these pages

ferrying material further up so that they could get higher.

"During our attempt, the snow in the couloir was very unconsolidated in the high winds and the powder snow was swept off the mountain face and had been dumped down below. It was a case of two paces forward and one step back which made it very, very tiring," he said.

"It was very disappointing. It was the end of our oxygen and the end of our time, and we were all pretty well exhausted.

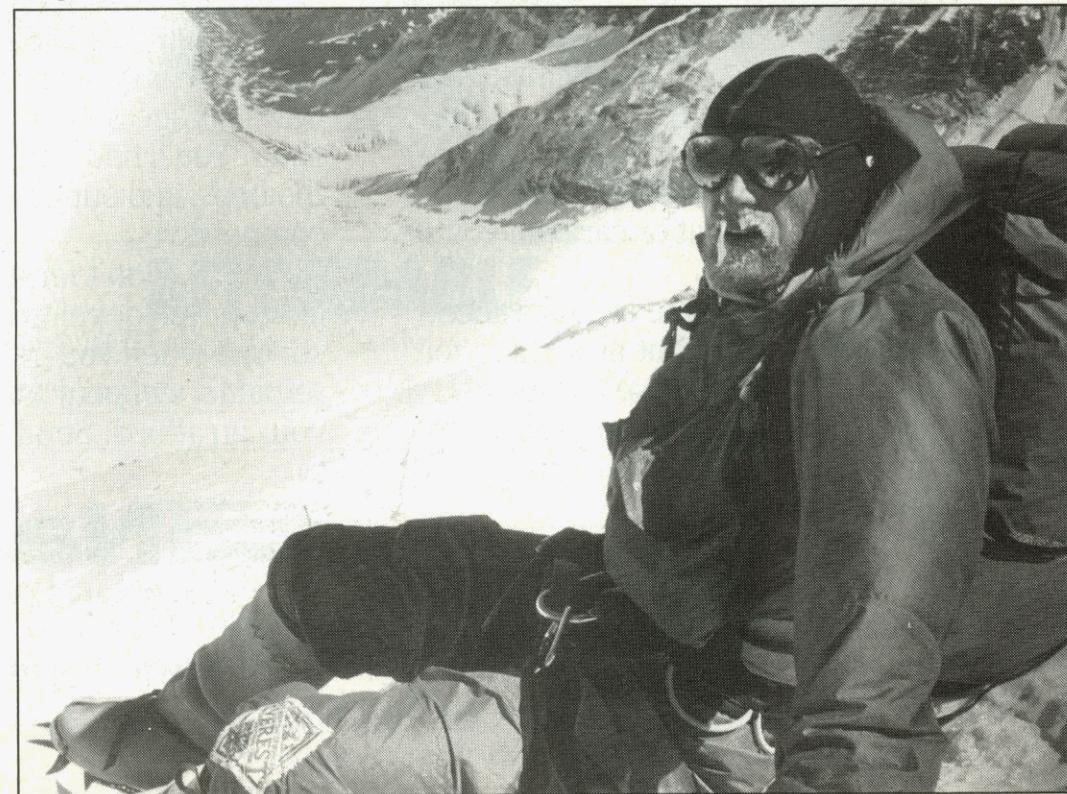
"The whole lot of us had lost weight. You get a continuous

muscle wastage at altitude and we had all spent over two months above 20,000ft, where you decline physically. Although you are mentally just as determined, your body just deteriorates and you can't do it!

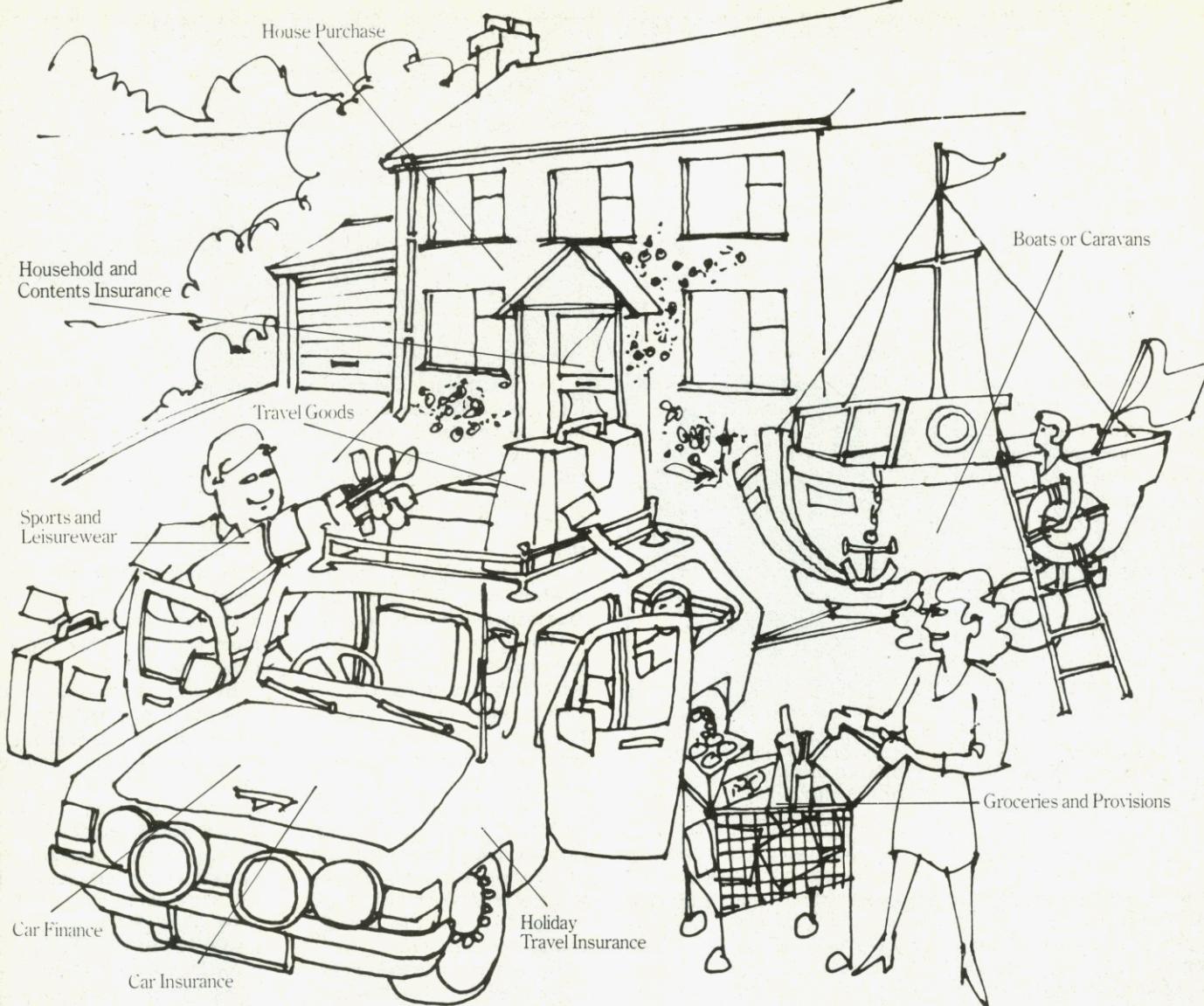
"Despite the special diet, your metabolism goes completely up the chute. It was very pronounced this time, more than any other trip I've done," he said.

By coincidence, just as the expedition was leaving, they met the next group preparing to make an attempt on the mountain. In the group of civilians was ex-Sgt Brummie Stokes who together with Cpl Bronco Lane reached the summit of Everest during the last Army climb there in 1976.

In spite of the disappointments of BSEE 88, Service climbers are considering organising another attempt but, such is the lure of the world's highest mountain (at 29,028ft), the slopes of Everest are fully booked until 1995!



Capt Nigel Williams, R Hamps, at Camp 4 (24,000ft). Note the icicle on his moustache



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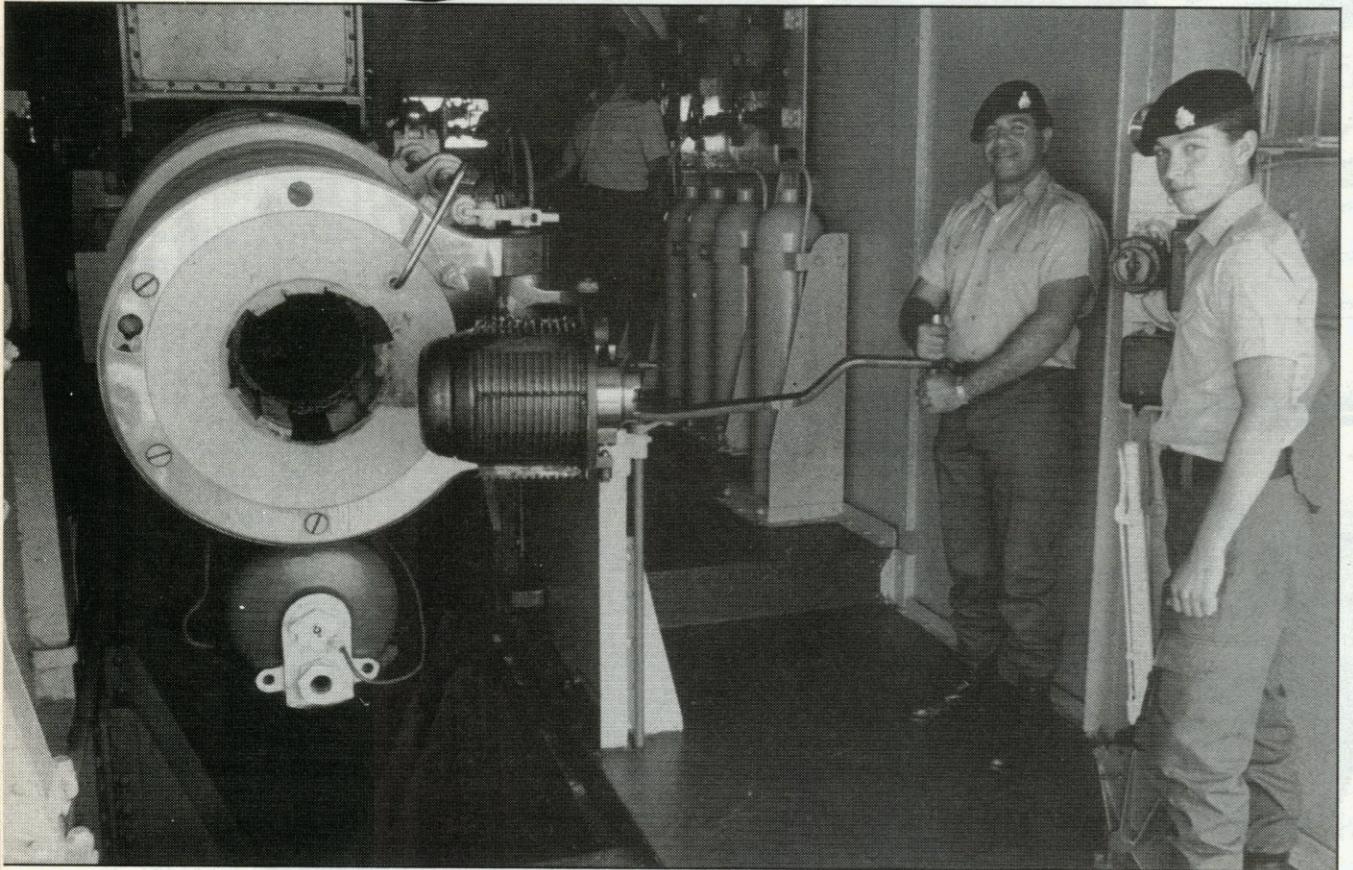
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Rock's very own regiment



Still in perfect working order – the breech of the massive 9.2 inch O'Hara's gun with (from left) Capt Dennis Duarte, LCpl Salvi Cortes and LCpl John Perez



Men of the Gibraltar Regiment enjoy the breathtaking view across the east coast towards Spain from O'Hara's gun battery at the southernmost peak of the Rock



Man of the apes

IF HE was not married, he says, he would live in the den with his beloved apes. Cpl Ernest Asquez of the Gibraltar Regiment is keeper of the two packs of Rock – Barbary – apes that live on the cliffs of Gibraltar. Traditionally a post held by a member of the regiment, the ape keeper checks the health and wellbeing of the two packs and records all births and deaths.

Our picture shows Cpl Asquez feeding some of his charges high up on the cliffs of Gibraltar.

Pictures: Mike Perring

There's never a shortage of recruits to join the ranks at Buena Vista

WORKING hand in glove with the resident infantry battalion and other smaller units on the Rock, the Gibraltar Regiment enjoys close links with the British Army, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

Essentially a TA-type regiment with a strong permanent cadre, the Gibraltar Regiment boasts a wide range of military skills in its ranks.

Its total strength of 310 includes 60 full time Regulars who provide the expertise necessary not only for the various military disciplines but also to ensure self sufficiency in administration and training.

The four elements of the

regiment are its headquarters, field gunnery, air defence and its infantry.

Its gunners are equipped with 105mm light guns and Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles and the infantry are currently converting to SA 80.

There is never a shortage of recruits – indeed many put their names down a year before they are entitled to join at 17 – and all are trained by the regiment at Buena Vista Barracks, home of the Gibraltar Regiment.

Pay, promotion, courses and training opportunities are comparable to the Army. Officers – after attending RMA Sandhurst

– often go on to tackle further courses in both infantry and artillery skills.

This double-hatted role is reflected in the regiment's formal association with The Royal Anglian Regiment – currently, by coincidence, serving on the Rock – and its sponsorship by the Royal Artillery.

Most members of the regiment visit the UK each year for training camps. Gunners usually go to Larkhill but occasionally to Sennybridge or Otterburn, the air defence arm always goes to Manorbier in South Wales, while the infantry find themselves in a wide

variety of places. During their annual 15 days camp, they are replaced by UKLF units.

Charged with the defence of Gibraltar, the regiment provides in-area air defence and fire support and its guns have an anti-shipping role if necessary. The guns are fired twice a year in conjunction with the garrison's RA surveillance troop.

There are opportunities for travel, and the regiment's link with The Royal Anglian Regiment enables Gibraltarians to serve elsewhere on temporary attachment.

Capt Francis Brancato, adjutant, spent two years with 3 R

British Army, and similarly the Gibraltar Regiment attracts soldiers from visiting units who choose to marry a local girl and stay behind.

The regiment maintains a number of old 25pdr guns which are fired about eight times a year on official salutes. It also looks after the venerable but still awesome O'Hara's Gun.

One of three 9.2in breech loading guns left from the 1930s, it is the only one still in perfect working order.

The regiment will be celebrating its 50th birthday next year and plans are afoot for a bumper crop of parades and

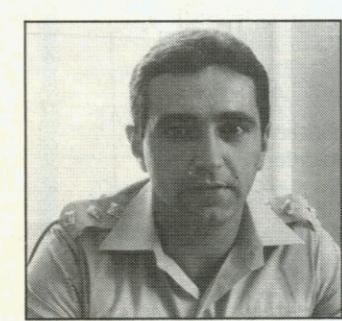
fire fighting, and special constabulary units.

After the war the main body of the Gibraltar Defence Force was demobilised but a small, permanent cadre was retained.

In 1958 this cadre, plus a recently formed volunteer reserve of officers, warrant officers and NCOs, were formed into the Gibraltar Volunteer Corps.

During the war they acted as reinforcements to assist in the defence of the Rock, and were disbanded in 1919 when hostilities ended.

Twenty years later, on April 28, 1939, the Gibraltar Defence Force was raised and served alongside the Regular garrison in a variety of roles including anti-aircraft, coast artillery and

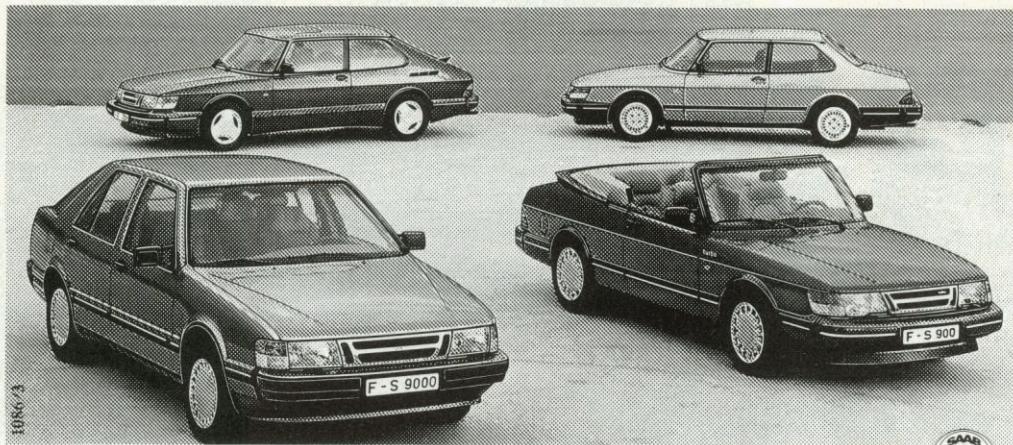


Capt Francis Brancato

Anglian and served with them in Cyprus, Belize and the UK. He said: "Our relations with the rest of the Army are very good and we are frequently back in the UK on courses."

Many Gibraltarians join the

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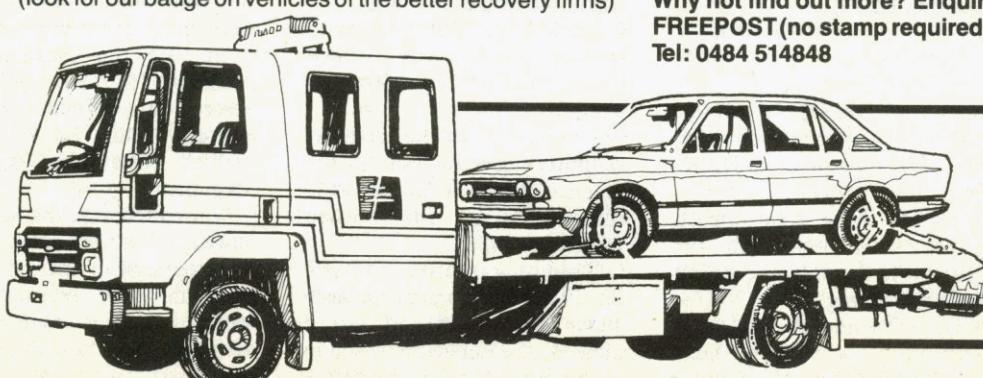
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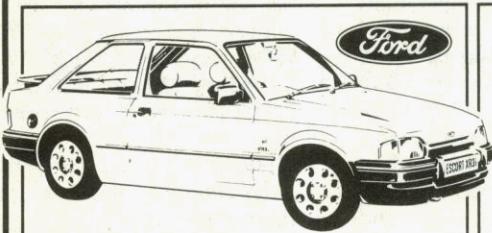
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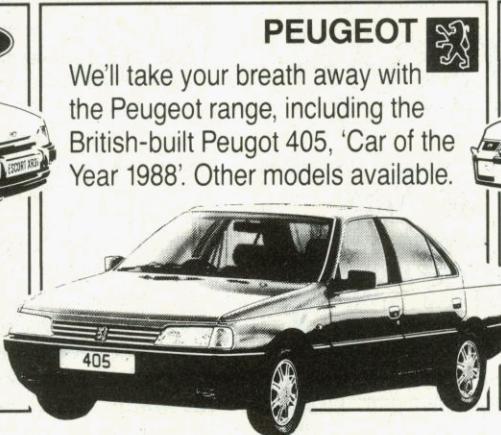
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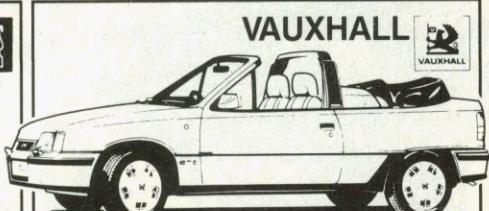
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Conductor: Capt C R C Garrity
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FOR those who have still not caught up with changes of title, let alone changes in time, this is the old RA Portsmouth Band and the BAOR Band, the Larkhill Band, now honouring that great gunner Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke. But what's in a name. It sounds as good now as it did under many a more famous name than Garrity of that ilk, even if the programme make-up would have shocked those staid old gentlemen.

Apart from the opening two items – a fine fanfare *Alanbrooke* by Capt Phil Evans, and Philip Sparke's catchy and virile *Jubilee Overture* – the programme is definitely not for diehards, being in the big-band mood.

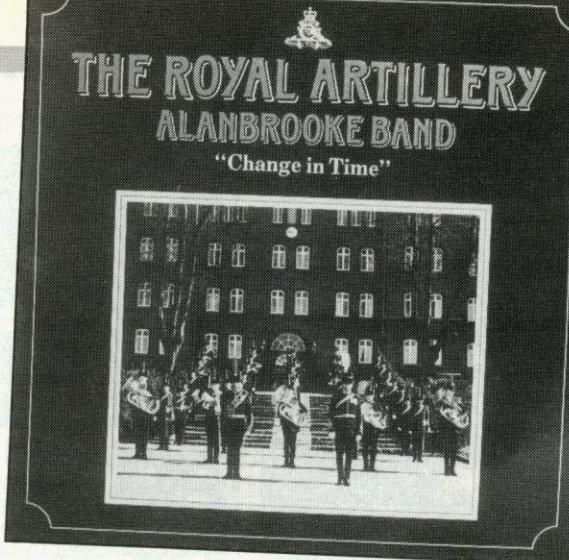
Marianne is performed as a flugel solo, and an extended medley of *Elvis Presley Hits* is enough to complete a whole side. The Presley tunes are all his more melodious examples, skilfully put together and scored by an anonymous person. If it is Capt Garrity himself why the modesty? I never got where I am by...

Another extended medley of *Glen Miller*

Hits includes a dance band section to achieve the true Miller sound, which it does with all the panache of the great man himself. John Williams's theme for the film *ET* also receives extended treatment in an arrangement by John Cacavas which is richly and skilfully scored.

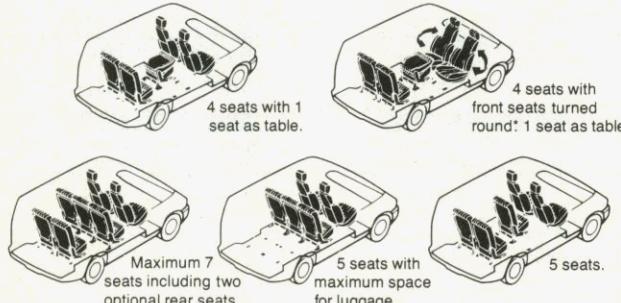
In fact the whole programme is superior in every respect. Any diehards reading this should try it, and then decide whether they really know what they like.

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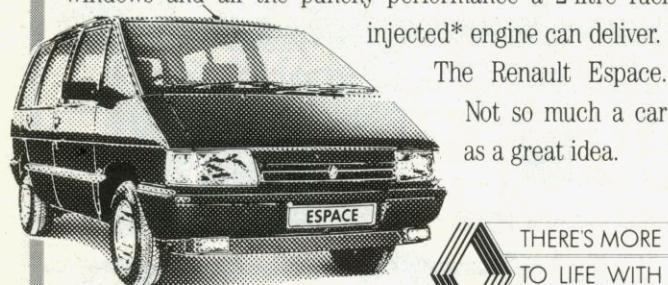


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BOOK REVIEWS

BEHIND THE FRONT LINE OF SECRECY

TIME was when wars were fought by recognisable uniformed troops with comparatively simple chains of command from supremo to men in actual combat. Wars were declared, campaigns raged and, in the end, peace was made, populations and armies celebrated and normality generally resumed.

But now, of the 40 or so current wars only one, the Iran-Iraq conflict, can be described as conventional. The rest are covert operations fought by "secret armies".

These forces really are secret with very little known about them by outsiders, even those serving in more conventional units. So the questions raised are – who trains these special forces, who controls them, and how effective are they?

In *Secret Armies*, James Adams, defence correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, draws on previously unpublished material to explain the backgrounds of the world's special forces and to tell of their triumphs and disasters.

The author goes back to 1812 to start his history of covert operations, but it is with post-war evolution that he is mainly concerned in this book. Some of the most spectacular military successes in recent times have been won by special forces – operations such as the SAS raising of the Iranian Embassy siege in London, the Israeli rescue of hostages at

Entebbe and the German mission at Mogadishu.

Adams also describes and analyses equally spectacular failures such as the abortive US rescue mission in Iran.

What makes the book compelling reading are the author's disclosures, including new details and criticism of SAS operations in the Falkland Islands and the Argentine during the 1982 war.

To many people the US invasion of Grenada in 1983 was one of the nation's better military operations since the end of the Second World War but Adams delivers a devastating indictment of that operation.

The net is spread worldwide in this book, taking in the training and targets of Spetsnaz, the Soviet special forces, and other European and Australasian forces.

Secret Armies contains a wealth of detail on the resources and equipment of special forces throughout the world, their motivation and internal politics. It makes a strong argument that the security of almost any country depends on the leaders' ability to recognise the importance of undercover troops and to train and deploy them with effectiveness. – BJ

Secret Armies: The full story of the SAS, Delta Force and Spetsnaz by James Adams. Published by Hutchinson. Price £14.95.



Picture: Paul Hailey

Members of the Special Forces move into action after being landed by helicopter at Bluff Cove during the Falklands war

One gunner's war

SOME may feel that personal memoirs of the Second World War are reaching a point of sufficiency but a glance along the bookshelves will show that most of these autobiographical works are by commanders of high rank.

Between these start and finish points we are given accounts of his term at OCTU, posting to the 2nd Field Regiment RA, service with the 1st Infantry Division in North Africa, assault landings at Pantelleria and Anzio, the breakthrough of the Gothic Line, the battles in the mountains of northern Italy and, finally, security duties in Palestine.

The last words are in quotes because they are from the foreword of a new book by Arthur M Cheetham, entitled *Ubique*.

It is the story of the author's military career from October 1938 when, at Trinity College, Oxford, he decided to join the Officers Training Corps (Royal

Artillery) to his demobilisation after the war.

Between these start and finish points we are given accounts of his term at OCTU, posting to the 2nd Field Regiment RA, service with the 1st Infantry Division in North Africa, assault landings at Pantelleria and Anzio, the breakthrough of the Gothic Line, the battles in the mountains of northern Italy and, finally, security duties in Palestine.

It is a "parochial" book in that the author looks at the war from the viewpoint of the 2nd Field Regiment and does not attempt to make it a strategic history apart from explanations of period context.

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Mountain partners – Skipper and Capt Stewart McNeish

Skipper to the rescue

CLIMBERS, skiers and walkers have every reason to be grateful for the professional partnership Capt Stewart McNeish has forged with his pet labrador, Skipper. The dynamic duo are now called out regularly to help in mountain rescues, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

Capt McNeish has spent the past two years while stationed at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Ardersier, Scotland, training Skipper, who has now passed the Search and Rescue Dog Association's top grade award. It means he is on call at any time to work with, or in advance of, mountain rescue teams.

Capt McNeish said training had called for lots of time and great patience to ensure the dog's work had been fun.

"We had a quiet winter because of the mild

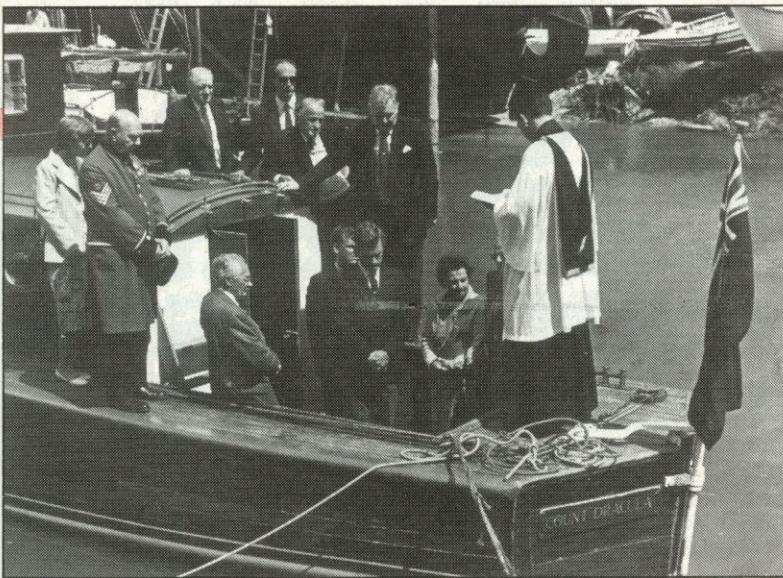
weather but the year before was very busy. Fortunately we were able to rescue most people, or they turned up safely after being overdue. But there were five deaths."

Skipper is carrying on a canine tradition going back to the 17th century and started by the legendary dogs of the famous St Bernard Hospice, which helped monks carry out rescues in the Swiss Alps.

In the First World War dogs were trained by the Red Cross to locate wounded soldiers on battlefields, during lulls in fighting. During the Second World War, dogs were trained to find avalanche victims.

In 1963, Hamish MacInnes, leader of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team attended a course in Switzerland, which led to the formation of the Search and Rescue Dog Association.

Sappers pay tribute to the little Count



Above - The memorial service aboard the former admiral's barge. Second from the left is Dunkirk veteran SSgt Bill Chalmers, now a Chelsea Pensioner

Left - Lt Col Chris Davies, CO 38 Engr Regt, presents the commemorative plaque to owner Mr Mike Hamby aboard the Count Dracula

A "little ship" which plucked hundreds of trapped British soldiers off the beaches of Dunkirk has

been honoured by the sappers.

The *Count Dracula*, a 75 year old German built admir-

al's barge, has a dramatic past. It was surrendered aboard the *Hindenburg* during the First World War but cut

adrift when the German High Seas Fleet was scuppered, and subsequently salvaged and sold off by the Royal Navy.

But she was back in the thick of it from May 28 to June 4, 1940 off the Dunkirk beaches. Under the command of Cdr Ewart Brooks RN the *Count Dracula* evacuated 702 British soldiers and ten Belgians.

On the last day and defying orders to return to Ramsgate after E Boats had been sighted, the *Count* dashed inshore under heavy German machine gun fire to save 38 Royal Engineers stranded on the beaches.

Now owned by Mr Mike Hamby of Purley, Surrey, the *Count* is undergoing a refit at Bosham, West Sussex. And it was there that Lt Col Chris Davies, CO of 38 Engineer Regiment based at Ripon, North Yorkshire, presented Mr Hamby with a commemorative plaque.

The men who died at Dunkirk and the sappers who worked under heavy attack to secure beachheads for the expeditionary force's escape were remembered in a short memorial service conducted by the Rev Paddy Cable.

Among those attending was Chelsea Pensioner SSgt Bill Chalmers (76), who was in 38 Field Company RE at the Dunkirk withdrawal.

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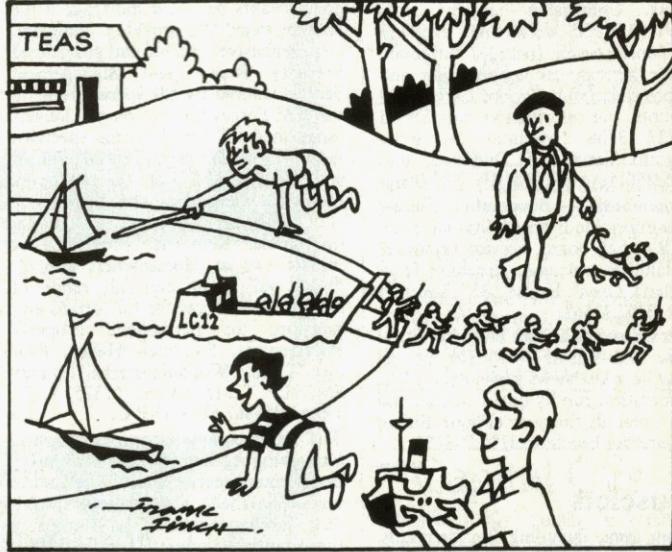
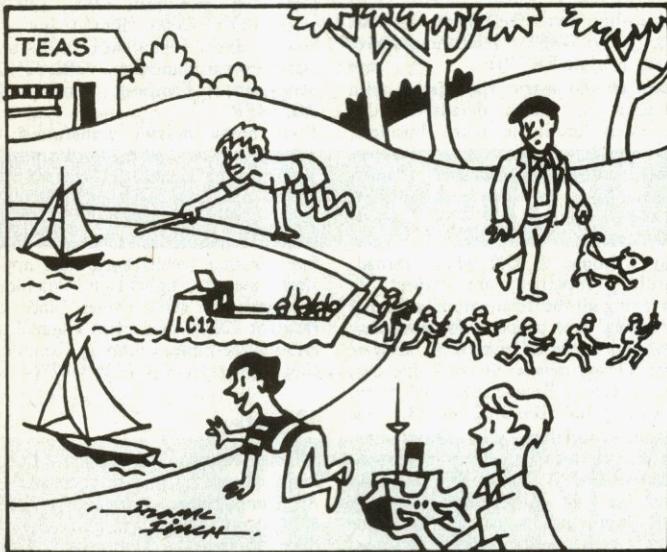
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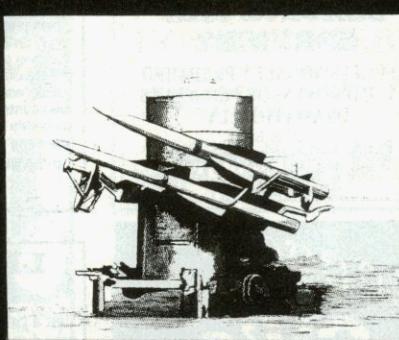
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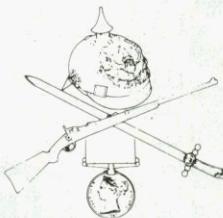
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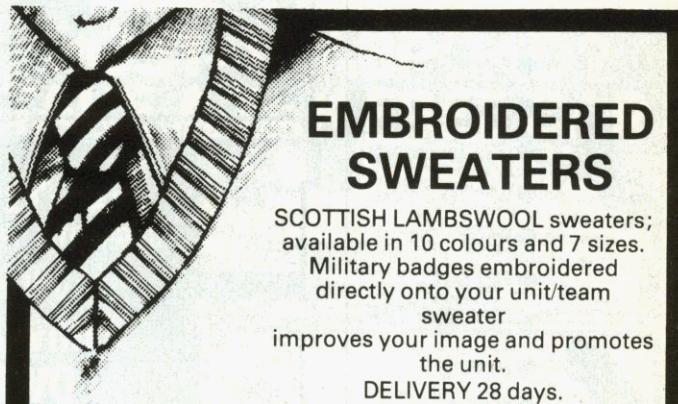
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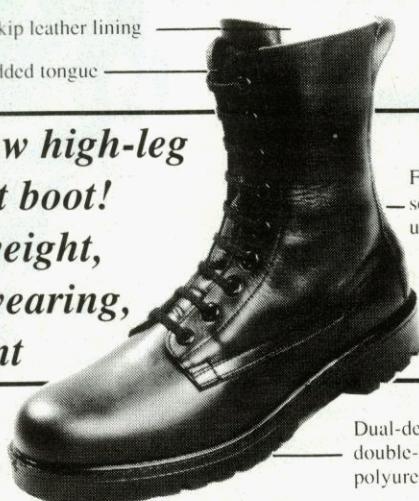
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Harrogate slalom to the title

A JUNIOR unit in the form of the Army Apprentices College Harrogate won the team trophy at the 1988 Army slalom canoe championships held at Hildesheim, West Germany.

SSgt (FoS) Kevin Truby, AT LCpl Lee Broders and JL Brian Boniface from Harrogate teamed up to beat off the challenge of second placed 16th Signal Regiment and third placed 19 Fd Regt RA.

The Army team is now preparing to take on the dominant RAF in the Inter-Services slalom competition at Nottingham in September.

Other Hildesheim results were:

K1 open - 1, 2nd Lt John Atkinson (19 Fd Regt RA); 2, SSgt (FoS) Kevin Truby (AAC Harrogate); 3, LCpl Andy Dobson (16th Sig Regt).

K1 ladies - 1, LCpl Nikki Bevan (HQ NI); 2, Capt Alison Mann (RAPC Worthy Down)

C1 open - 1, Lt Paul Hepworth (Depot ACC); 2, WO2 Neal Martin (2 RTR).

C2 open - 1, SSgt Jim Waterhouse (MCTC Colchester) and LCpl Cooper (19 Fd Regt RA).

DOUBLE DELIGHT!

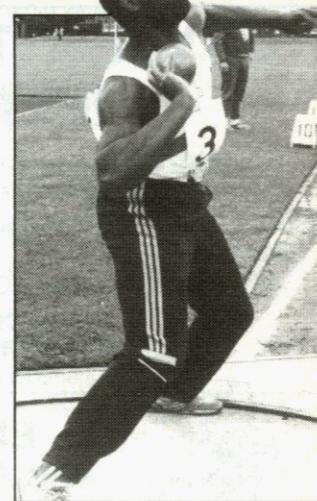
THERE was a double helping of celebrations in the Army athletics camp when both men's and women's team won their respective competitions at the Inter-Service athletics championships held at Aldershot.

The Army men's team had winners in 11 out of 19 events to romp away with the trophy by 176 points to the RAF's 146 and the RN's 69, while the Army women were first in eight of their 14 events, winning their championship by 114 points to the WRAF's 88 and the Navy's 86.

Army secretary Maj Morris Murch was elated. "We were confident of doing well, but we eventually won by many more points than we thought we would," he said.

The Army has now triumphed in four of the last five years, confirming the end of an era of RAF domination.

Heroes and heroines there



Cpl Mark Parker (24 Fd Sqn RE) on his way to second place in the shot

In the men's match Cpl Lenny Paul (3 R Anglian) got the nod over Cpl Clarence Calender (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) in the 100m (both clocked 11sec), but the posi-

DOUBLE DELIGHT!

tions were reversed in the 200m, Calender winning in 21.9sec.

SSgt Kriss Akabusi strolled to victories in the 400m (47.4sec) and 400m hurdles (53sec), SSgt Malcolm Edwards beat RAF international Sqn Ldr Roger Hackney in the 1,500m (3:48.2), LCpl Overton (1 Regt AAC) took the 800m (1:52.8) and Cpl Mark Lassetter (9:12.5) did well to split the fancied RAF pair in the 3,000m steeplechase.

LCpl Colin Anderson (187 Coy RPC) won the 100m hurdles in 14.9sec.

Rgt Edward Lewis (1 R Irish) was first in the high jump (1.95m), LCpl Gayle (1 WFR) recorded a surprise win over the RAF in the long jump (7.11m), and both 100m (Henry, Armstrong, Paul, Hancock) and 400m (Poulson, Maynard, Beaumont, Anderson) relay teams were first.



Cpl Clarence Calender who won the 200m and was second in the 100m

WOOLWICH WICKET OF WOE

ARMY batsmen were to the fore when Combined Services played their annual three day game against Cambridge University away at Fenners. Cambridge scored 360-5 declared and Combined Services replied with 222, Lt Julian Barrett (Light Div Depot) top scoring with 82 and skipper Capt Charlie Hobson (Royal Marines) making 38.

Cambridge rattled up 182-7 in their second innings setting Services 321 to win. Lt Matthew Fleming (2 RGJ) produced the best bowling figures of the match with 4-40.

Services made 312-9, falling nine runs short of victory with one wicket left - a thrilling draw. Capt Edward Gordon-Lennox led the way with 122 not out and Capt Jonathon Willatt (17 Trg Regt and Depot RA) was second top scorer with 35.

The following Saturday the Combined Services took on the touring Australian Aboriginals at Vine Lane, Uxbridge. In a 55 over match the visitors were put in and scored 228-6. There were two run outs and Cpl Andy Taylor (17 Port Regt) took the remaining four wickets for 52.

Combined Services could only manage 152 all out in 41.3 overs in reply. Barrett scored 33.

Barrett was again in the runs when the Army played Essex 2nd XI at Woolwich, a match which had to be abandoned at lunch on the second day when the wicket, which had deteriorated from the start, became dangerous.

Barrett, despite being hit on the head, scored 71 and was well supported in a stand of 48 by Fleming who made 32.

Later the tail wagged with Lt Charlie Redmayne (1 IG) lending excellent support to Lt Peter Germain (1 PWO). The Army were all out for 199. Trehearne Parker bowling at the dangerous end took 7-57.

Bowling at the same end

Capt Paul Presland (AAC Centre) took five quick wickets and Essex were reduced to 61-7.

The batsmen were now being regularly hit by balls rearing off a length and, to save his players further punishment, Ray East the Essex skipper declared at 185-9. He was next in!

Presland finished with 8-69, his best figures for the Army in an 18 year career.

The captains agreed to use only slow bowlers from the dangerous end for the second innings, but it became apparent that the other end was breaking up and becoming dangerous too, so by mutual consent the game was abandoned.



Capt Penny Rye with her trophy after becoming the 1988 Army women's orienteering champion. Penny is serving with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington, Dorset.

Flying gunners race away with triathlon triple

FOR the third year in succession the Army triathlon has been won by the 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery team. And to complete their domination, the 7 Para RHA B team finished third.

Staged at RMA Sandhurst, the triathlon attracted 350 competitors to a gruelling 1,000m swim across Sandhurst lake, followed by a 26 mile bicycle ride and a six mile run.

Second team home were RMA Sandhurst Permanent Staff, nearly 15 minutes behind the winning team who finished in a combined 6hrs 20min 35sec. Representing the flying gunners were Bdr Alan Myers, brothers Bdr Tony Arnell and LBdr Mike Arnell, and LCpl Gordon Stevenson.

Individual winner of the event for the third year was

Capt Rob Herring (RMAS) in 2hrs 2min 27sec, followed by LCpl Phil Kibble (47 AD Sqn RCT) in 2.03.35 and LCpl Kellaway (Ord Sqn Cdo Log Regt) in third place three minutes later.

The women's event was won for the second year by SSgt Lynn Higgs (UKLF School of PT Bulford) in 2.25.18, with LCpl Cath Willoughby (Int Centre Ashford) and LCpl Helen Hoseley (251 Sig Sqn) second and third.

The Intelligence Centre Ashford won the women's team race with 251 Sig Sqn second, while 47 AD Sqn RCT (6.30.26) won the minor units' event ahead of Depot Para.

Maj Barry Lillywhite (HQ and Depot APTC) was the first veteran home in 2.17.39, followed by Maj Barry Johnson (HQ NORTHAG).

MCTC success

THE Military Corrective Training Centre dominated the heavier categories of the UKLF tug of war championships held at Colchester, winning the 640k and 680k events.

The 560k competition was won by 14 Fd Regt who beat PM Coll Arborfield by two pulls to nil in the final. Veh Sqn RAC Centre were beaten in the 640k final and 14 Fd Regt were losing finalists in the 680k event.

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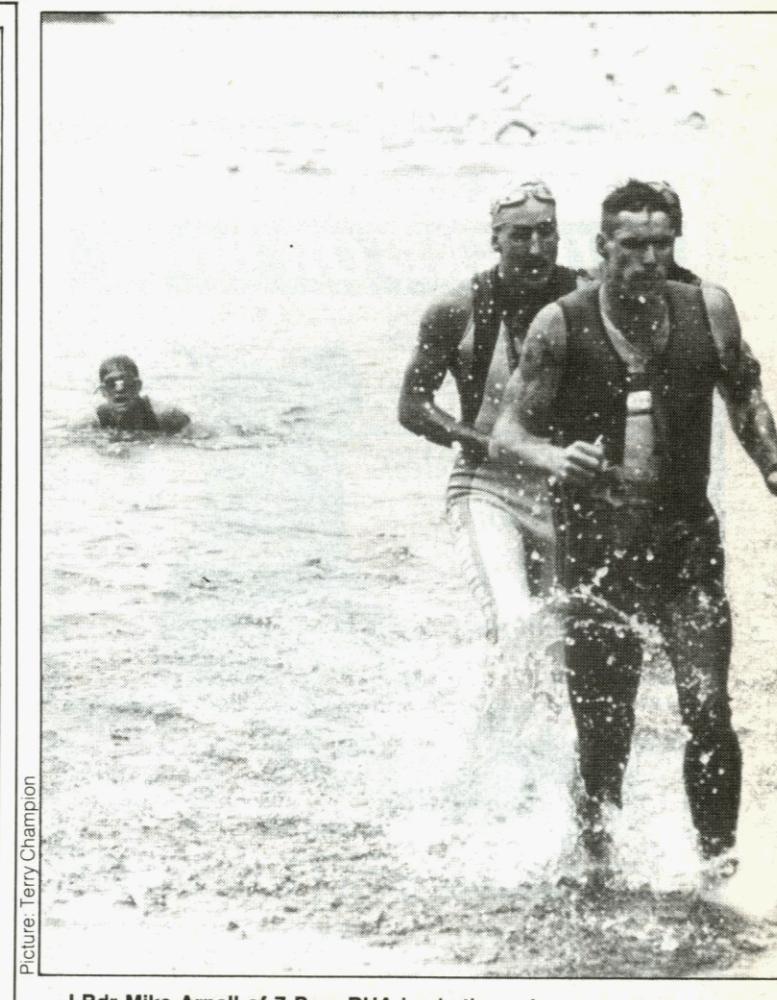
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LBdr Mike Arnell of 7 Para RHA leads the swimmers out of Sandhurst lake on the first leg of the exhausting Army triathlon

A clean sweep for the golfers

LITTLE Aston Golf Club was the venue for the International Military Golf Tournament against the French and Belgian Armed Forces.

In a repeat of the 1987 match, the British Army took all the honours. SSgt Ian Gray and SSgt John Chilvers travelled over from BAOR and promptly justified their travel by winning the scratch and handicap trophies with excellent scores on a course playing long with intimidating rough.

Cpl Dougie Spiller achieved the runner-up position in both categories.

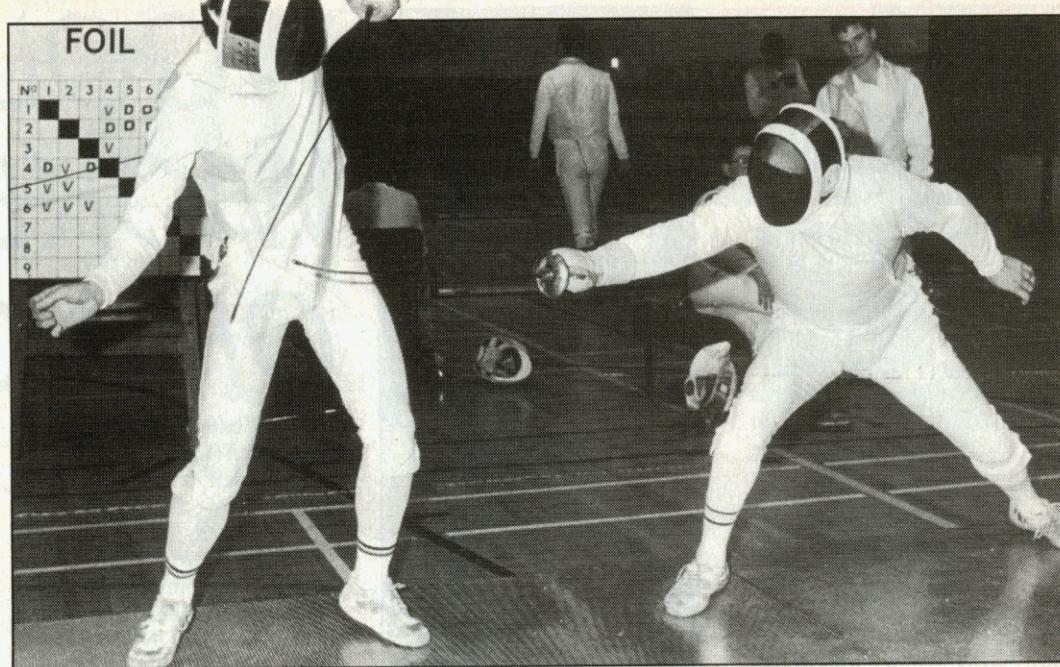
Also in the team were WO2 Chris Carveth, AGA Vice Captain; SSgt Steve Mariner, winner of the Army matchplay championships in May; SSgt Dave Cromie of the UDR; and LCpl Steven Scott, a newcomer to the Army side. The Captain of the AGA, Lt Col John Hunt won the battle of the chef de mission's in a morning "friendly" which included Gen Archambeaud, French Army, and senior British representative Maj Gen Bryan Bowen, Paymaster in Chief, who later presented prizes and took the chair at the dinner after the match.

On trial in Scotland

AN ARMY motorcycling team of three riders - Sgt Bill Buckley, RCT, Sgt Digger Houlday, RCT and Cpl Buller Taylor, RM - entered the international Scottish Six Day Trial at Fort William, and all completed the event to receive 2nd Class awards.

All three worked up at ASMT Leconfield after collecting brand new machines from the Armstrongs of Bolton factory which was sponsoring the Army for the fourth year.

The teams support crew was managed by WO2 Ron Kirkland, IG, an old hand at the Scottish trial.



Fencing future looks brighter

SAPPER swordsmen of 25 Engr Regt retained the team title at the Wilkinson Sword Inter-Service individual fencing championships, defeating the Royal Air Force 7-5 and the Royal Navy 9-3.

The championships are traditionally held during the Royal Tournament, but because of rebuilding at Earls Court the event was staged at RAF West Drayton.

Individuals for the senior event have to qualify through

their own championships, with the top eight fencers from each Service making for a very high grade competition in all three weapons.

In a close fought sabre final young Spr Andrew Tanner of 25 Engr Regt was just beaten by the experienced Sqn Ldr Crouch of RAF Hereford. But the Army won the epee as expected with Lt Dominic Mahony defeating fellow modern pentathlete Cpl Peter Hart. Both have been selected for the

GB modern pentathlon team in the Seoul Olympics.

In the foil final 2nd Lt Steve Campbell, a TA officer with The Queen's Regiment, lost an exciting bout to the RAF's Flt Lt Nick Charnley, and Scottish international Flt Lt George Liston completed a good week of fencing by winning the Wilkinson Sword Master Swordsman competition. Maj Neil Sutherland was third.

The under 20 foil, epee and sabre competitions produced a spirited day's fencing. Spr Keith Meek of 24 Fd Sqn RE won the Champion at Arms trophy for the best placed fencer in all three weapons.

From the semi-final pools of six, the Army got two WRAC officers, Capt Kirsty Platts and Capt Kathy Pendleton, into the women's foil final competition, Capt Platts missing the bronze medal position by a single hit.

After some years of decline Army fencing is looking towards a more promising future with a nucleus of strong under 20 fencers breaking into the senior scene. Army coach SSI Derek Archibald APTC reckons he has a team with the ability to win back the Inter-Services championship next year.

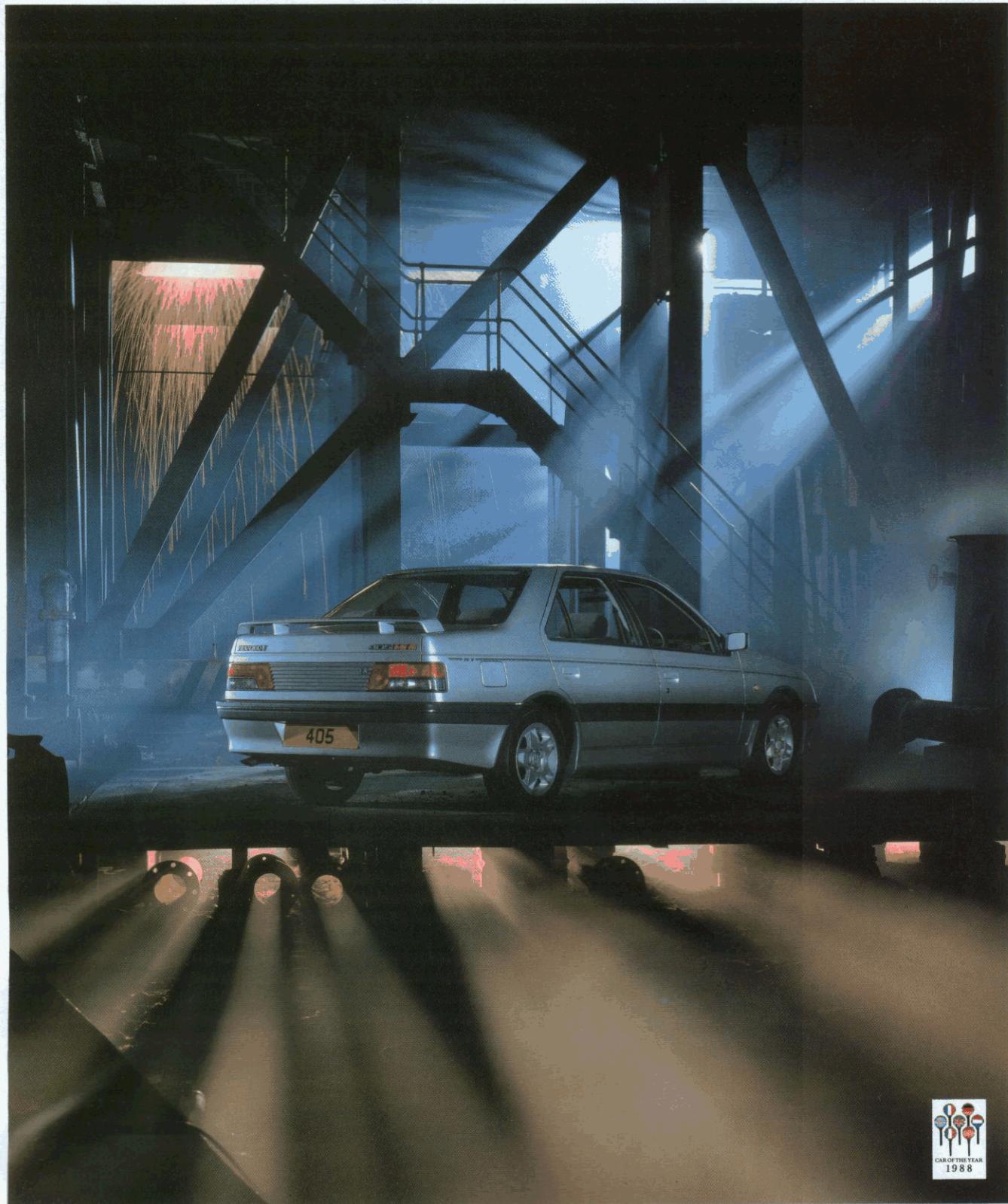
SWORDSMEN SAPPERS!

SWORDS seem to play a large part in the life of Osnabruck based 25 Engineer Regiment. After winning the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for their work in the Falklands last year, the regiment's fencing team has dominated the BAOR, Army and Inter-Service team fencing championships.

25 Eng Regt won the BAOR championship for the seventh year in a row and went forward with runners up, 5 Heavy Regiment RA to represent

BAOR at this year's Army championship which was won by Osnabruck sappers.

Maj Neil Sutherland fulfilled an 18 year ambition by becoming the Army foil champion and Spr Tony Davies fought exceptionally well to take the Army under 20 titles in foil, epee and sabre and became the Army's new under 20 Champion at Arms, won last year by another member of 25 Engr Regt, Spr Jonathon Sayers, now a senior.



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"White Hot" is the title of this dramatic photograph taken by Cpl Leslie Scott, 17/21 L, based at Munster, West Germany. It shows a Challenger tank of the regiment advancing through a smoke-screen during a Staff College demonstration at Sennelager. Leslie was voted the best unit photographer in last year's Army Photographic Competition. Entries for the 1988 competition close on September 30th. See also Page 13.

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