

SOLDIER

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FRONT COVER: Sgt David Line, 14 Fd Regt RA and Al Chemist fly over the Coffin, a formidable obstacle on the cross country course used for the Army Horse Trials at Tedworth House, Tidworth. A story and more pictures appear in Pages 20 and 21.
Picture: Mike Weston

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Children at St George's Primary School, Rheindahlen, West Germany learn about "stranger danger" from Cpl Jane McWilliam, an RMP community policewoman. She deals with school liaison and road safety for youngsters. A feature on the RMP at work in Rheindahlen and Dusseldorf will appear in the next issue.

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Diggers received rare US citation after Long Tan

In your article "Forged in Vietnam" (SOLDIER, May 15) you excellently described the part played by the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in the battle of Long Tan in South Vietnam in 1966. However, there is one detail I feel your readers might like to be made aware of.

For its conduct in that action

the United States President's Distinguished Unit Citation was awarded to the 6th Battalion and is worn by all ranks to this day.

Later in Vietnam C Company of the battalion was awarded another Distinguished Unit Citation by the US, and the RAR is the only non American unit to have two

battalions who have been awarded the DUC separately in two wars, namely 3 RAR for Kapyong in Korea and 6 RAR in Vietnam.

I would be interested to hear of other foreign or US units who have been honoured with the DUC since its institution in 1942. — **W P Behan, 56 North Lane, Aldershot, Hants.**

Vickers good in AA role

I agree with Eddie Byatt, ex Middlesex Regiment, who wrote concerning the Vickers machine gun, that the statement as to whether or not the gun was fired in anger in the Second World War was not well founded.

As late as April 1941 my regiment, the 11th Hussars were re-equipped with Marmion-Harrington armoured cars and had Vickers MGs mounted on the turret for anti-aircraft use. I found it very comforting to be able to shoot back at aircraft with a gun that had a good cone of fire and a good supply of ammunition. A great advance on the ridiculous 28-round Bren magazine. No sooner was one firing to good effect than the wretched magazine ran out.

Perhaps I am biased, but I have never been convinced the Bren was any good since I first clapped eyes on it when it came to my first regiment, The Queens Bays, in 1936 when we had horses. — **L Hale (ex 11th Hussars PAO), 33 Chosen Way, Hucclecote, Gloucester.**

Our story on the Vickers machine gun mounted at the entrance to Dering Lines, Brecon (SOLDIER, April 3) pointed out that the history of that particular weapon was not recorded although it was "believed to have been fired in anger". The claim was not being made on behalf of all Vickers machine guns. — **Editor.**

Not funny

I am writing to express my feelings of displeasure about the rather distasteful cartoon which appeared on page 37 of SOLDIER, May 1. Although I appreciate that the intention was merely humorous, to encourage such an image and such an attitude towards wildlife is both undesirable and dangerous.

The wildlife of the Falkland Islands has suffered a lot since 1982. Please do not encourage further abuse. — **Capt H M R Jones, 1 Kings Own Border, BFPO 804.**

Whose litter?

SOLDIER recently had a piece about the clearing of mines which still litter certain parts of the Falklands.

Why should the British be lumbered with this dangerous task? Surely the aggressors should have done this before being repatriated? They put them there and should know better than anyone else where they are.

I recall that when our country was freed in 1945, a lot of German Wehrmacht personnel were engaged on mine clearance prior to repatriation.

What are the international rules on this? — **K L Marijs, Lavastr. 13, 8084 CL 't Harde, Holland.**

Still the best — without braid

In response to Mr Thornton's letter (SOLDIER, May 15), I must admit to being quite disturbed at the thought of British soldiers on parade with "ill fitting shirts, cheap plastic belts, and in most cases battered head dress."

I would dearly love to know which unit paraded in this manner. The British No 2 dress is drab, I agree, but in most cases is tailored to a good fit. Surely individual pride is at stake here. As for gold braid,

no thank you. We don't need that sort of false adornment to prove we are the best! — **WO1 (RSM) B J Manser, 156 Regt RCT (V), Mather Avenue, Liverpool.**

Clothes don't make a man

Please inform R Thornton, Duke of Yorks, that clothes do not make the man. Our "bags of spuds" (SOLDIER, May 15) are not gaudy overdressed gum chewing swivellers, they stand straight and proud, they march as men in a team, they don't need party clothes to do the outstanding jobs they do. — **Joan Sheppard, 7 Stocks Meadow, Ninfield, Battle, E Sussex TN33 9JD.**

Calling

● Former **SWB, Welch Regt, Mons RRW.** Details for regiment's tercentenary parade, Saturday, July 29 in Cardiff, available from Tercentenary Project Officer, RHQ RRW, Maindy Bks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (0222 227611 Ext 200).

Reunion

● **Royal Warwicks Regiment Association** annual reunion will be on June 3 at Warwick. Details from Warwick 498160.

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813

Soldiers plucked from typhoon-stricken yacht

EIGHT British Army officers and men owe their lives to the skills of the captain and crew of the Hong Kong patrol craft HMS *Plover* which rescued them from a yacht as it sank in darkness in the South China Sea.

The sail training yacht *East Wind of the Orient*, on passage from San Fernando in the Philippines to Hong Kong with an Army crew on an adventurous training exercise, was battered by heavy seas as Typhoon

Brenda headed towards the colony.

The yacht was skippered by Maj Philip Banbury, Green Howards, Adjutant Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

HMS *Plover*, which was already on patrol, set off in search of the 38ft yacht after it became clear that *East Wind* was unable to hold a course away from the typhoon danger.

After locating the yacht in appalling

weather, the *Plover* towed her for some hours. But in very rough seas she fouled the tow and sank within four minutes. The crew took to a life raft and were promptly picked up by the naval vessel which later berthed at HMS *Tamar*, Hong Kong. One of *East Wind's* crew sustained a slight injury.

"It was a fine feat of seamanship to find the yacht in such conditions and to make such a speedy rescue," said a Royal Navy



Life can be daunting when you're only six months old. But Watchman III (pictured above) lived up to the reputation of his predecessors on the most important occasion of his young life.

A Staffordshire bull terrier, he is now the official mascot of the county's own Territorial Army unit, the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion of the Staffordshire Regiment, having been handed over officially to the battalion's Commanding Officer, Lt Col Crichton Wakelin by the chairman of

East Staffordshire District Council at a ceremony on Burton-on-Trent's Town Hall square attended by several hundred people.

It was a proud day for Sgt Malcolm Bower, of the battalion's Corps of Drums, who has been training Watchman and will be his official handler. Watchman is the third mascot to have connections with the town of Burton and his predecessors are laid to rest in the gardens opposite the Town Hall.

Top nurse appointed

NEW Matron-in-Chief (Army), Director of Army Nursing Services and Director of Defence Nursing Services is Brig Jill Field.

Brig Field (pictured) joined the Army in 1957 and has served in the United Kingdom, Germany, North Africa, Singapore and Cyprus. Her previous appointment was as matron at the Cambridge Military Hospital Aldershot and Chief Medical (Nursing) for the South of England. She was born at Tidworth, Hampshire and educated at the High School for Girls, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. She qualified as a State Registered Nurse in 1957.



Ayr yeomen on move in Scotland

AYRESHIRE Yeomanry practised one of their wartime roles of reconnaissance in West Germany with a tactical movement exercise in Dumfries and Galloway. The squadron's Fox armoured cars and tracked Spartans deployed from Ayr to set up observation posts. The enemy was provided by Home Service Force personnel from the 1st Battalion 52nd Lowland Volunteers and TA soldiers.

Best sapper on parade

BEST all round sapper at the latest passing off parade at 1 Training Regiment RE, Gibraltar Barracks, Camberley was 17-year-old Spr Dominic Jandu. He was presented with the Royal Engineers' Association Tankard by the Inspecting Officer, Brig Mike Stephens, Deputy Engineer-in-Chief.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

Gallantry medal winners named

A BEVY of awards given for gallant and meritorious service in Northern Ireland includes five Queen's Gallantry Medals, one Military Medal and an Air Force Medal, while unnamed members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were awarded four MBEs, two BEMs and 13 Mentions in Dispatches.

The list in full:

CBE - Brig M R N Bray, late DWR; Brig M R I Constantine, late Queens.

OBE - Lt Col M F Gibson, RS; Lt Col M W H Roberts, R Signals; Lt Col M C Willis, Queens.

MBE - Maj (now Lt Col) C I Darnell, KOSB; Maj B E Guignard, REME; Capt A G W Lawson, Int Corps; Lt R A C Lynch-Staunton, Int Corps; Maj N J Simmons, Green Howards; Maj I W Smith, Para; Lt (A/Capt) P W Vyse, Int Corps; Maj D J Wake, Queens; Maj D Whittaker, DWR; Maj S D Young, D and D.

BEM - SSgt D Bradley, Para; Sgt M A Charnock, Int Corps; SSgt D Chrystal, R Signals; SSgt M A Finn, R Signals; SSgt P E McCarthy, Green Howards; Sgt B Murphy, Int Corps; SSgt B J Thomas, DWR; SSgt (A/WO2) D A Woodward, Para.

MM - Cpl (now A/Sgt) D Singh, Queens.

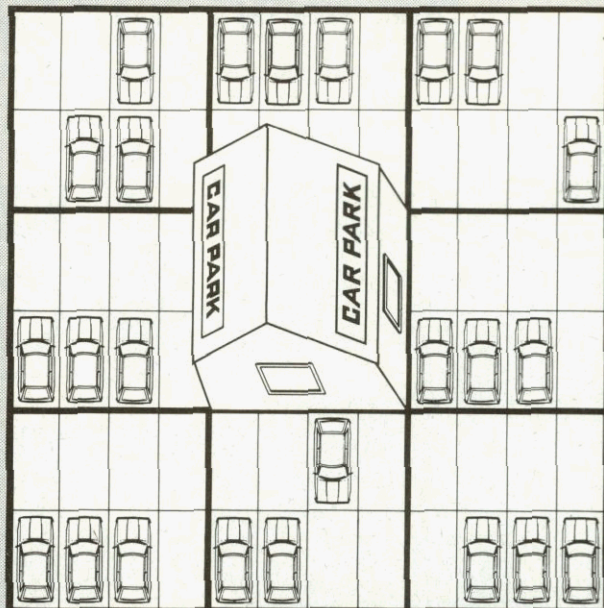
AFM - SSgt M M Williams, AAC.

QGM - LCpl S A Bird, RE; Cpl D E Denbury, RE; WO2 A Hawkins, RAOC; Cpl C L P Hovey, RE; Sgt (now SSgt) G J Lamont, RAOC.

MID - LCpl P P Borthwick, RS; Capt (A/Maj) N G Borwell, DWR; WO2 P Cleaver, RE; Cpl G L Cordes, RAOC; WO2 A J Corr, RAOC; Cpl (A/Sgt) P W A Crosbie, RS; Sgt T G Falconer, KOSB; Maj W D Fawcner-Corbett, RE; WO2 T W Foster, RRF; Capt J Garven, RHF; Maj K R Gillies, RS; Capt E M Glover, RMP; Spr B J Heap, RE; Sgt P I Hoggart, AAC; WO2 J R Howard (deceased), RAOC; LCpl M Johnson, DWR; Pte P K Kharkhou, LI; SSgt (now WO2) S R Lamb, RE; WO2 T P Langford, R Signals; Sgt D G Liddell, Int Corps; Capt D A McNamara, Int Corps; Maj G R C Munnoch, RE; Capt (A/Maj) J P Noble, Queens; Maj C J Pearce, R Anglian; Sgt G D Pedder, Queens; SSgt M R Pickard, RE; Lt G S Richardson, RS; Lt Col A D Roberts, DWR; Lt Col K Skempton, Cheshire; SSgt S Toombs, Int Corps; Sgt C D Torkington, AAC; Cpl (A/Sgt) R N While-Paddon, QDG; Capt D G Wills, R Signals; SSgt (A/WO2) D J Young, Para.

UDR - MBE 4; BEM 2; MID 13.

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Long term security reassures Gurkhas

From Bill Moore in Hong Kong

"THERE is to be no second class future for the Brigade of Gurkhas," Maj Gen Garry Johnson, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, told a Press conference held at his headquarters.

CBF, who is also Major General Brigade of Gurkhas, was speaking following the statement on the future of the Gurkhas by Defence Secretary George Younger in the House of Commons.

"We have been told that we are going to be based and used in the same manner as any other part of the Army, largely centred in the UK," he added.

He said that was very reassuring. It was "quite remarkable" that the Government should make such a long term commitment. No other part of the Army had been told it had a future to the end of the century.

He also revealed he had been to Kathmandu to consult the King of Nepal about proposed reductions in the strength of the Brigade and had been well received.

Brig Miles Hunt-Davis, Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, said first reactions from Gurkha units had been favourable.

Among officers and senior ranks there was speculation about how their careers might be affected by the Defence Secretary's announcement that after the British leave Hong Kong in 1997 the Gurkhas would be reduced from their current strength of 8,000 to "a viable brigade strength".

This is to be "a balance of four Gurkha infantry battalions, squadrons of the Queen's Gurkha Signals and the Gurkha Transport Regiment together with the necessary infrastructure." It would comprise "about 4,000 personnel".

At present the Brigade of Gurkhas has



Sappers from the Hong Kong based Queen's Gurkha Engineers at Perowne Barracks, So Kwun Wat were called in to secure the Erskine Camp in Sai Kung by putting up additional barbed wire. At present, the camp is being used to house 1,647 Vietnamese boat people

five battalions from four regiments - 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th GR - and one consideration mentioned at the Press conference was the possible amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles. Other possibilities were bringing the currently 927-strong Gurkha battalions into line with the 650-70 British line battalions (armoured infantry battalions are more than 700 strong).

The loss of single squadrons of engineer, signals and transport units offered another possible option.

But the Brigade of Gurkhas has breathed a sigh of relief that it is to retain all its cap badges and its place in the British Army's Order of Battle.

And for Hong Kong based units the day was a case of business as usual.

The 1st/6th were training at Sek Kong, others were involved in mopping up operations following Typhoon Brenda during which they helped to rescue a number of people endangered by floods. Some Gurkhas were preparing accommodation for boatloads of Vietnamese refugees.

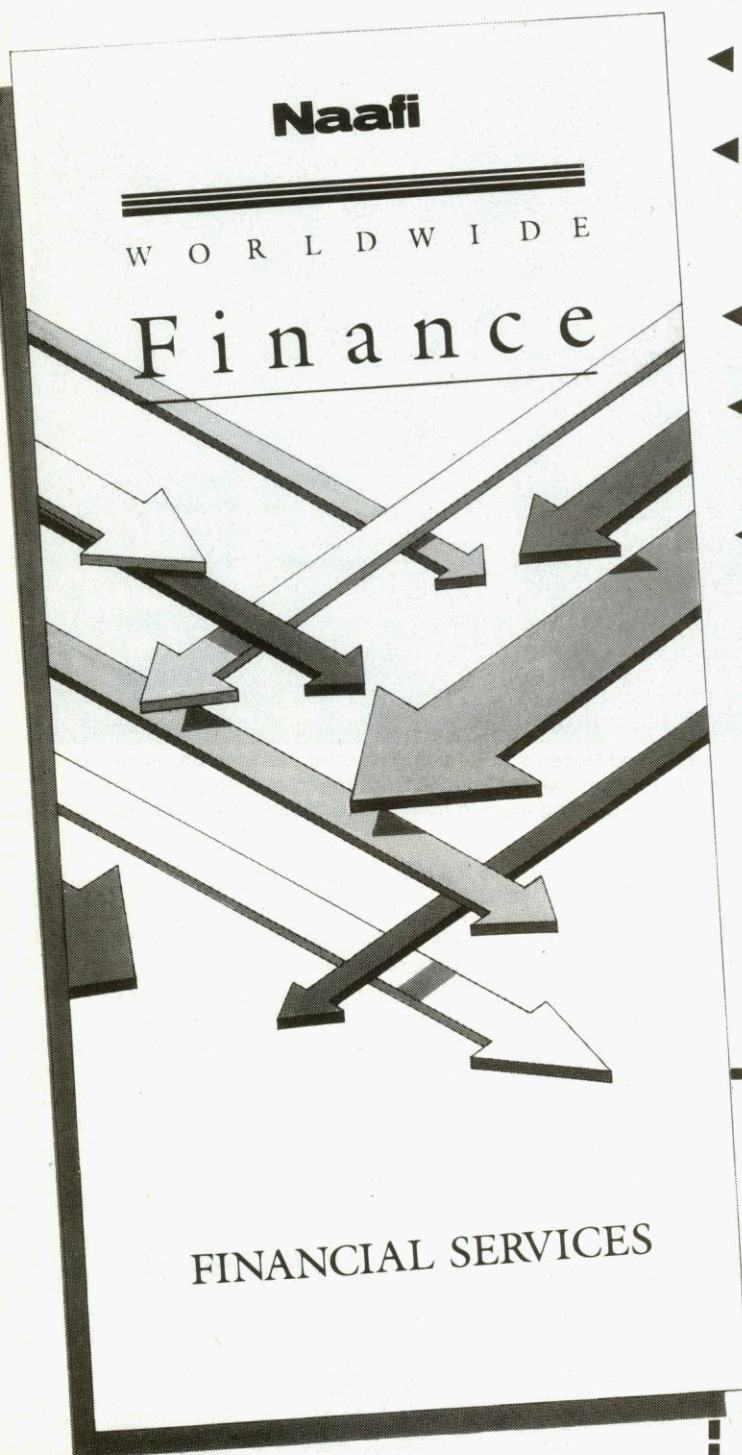
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Namibia force to receive medals

BRITISH soldiers serving in Namibia with the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) are to receive medals.

An MoD spokesman confirmed that the men and one woman (Lt Phillipa Owens) of 30 Signal Regiment and their attached support elements, will receive the UNTAG medal from the UN. Qualifying period is three months' continuous service in Namibia during the run up to independence.

The Channel Island of Alderney has granted the Freedom of the Island to 30 Sig Regt, which it first adopted nearly 20 years ago. Each year the regiment, which is based at Blandford, Dorset, exercises on Alderney.

A 110 strong contingent, including the Royal Corps of Signals Band, were being joined in Alderney for the Freedom ceremony by sailors from HMS *Alderney*, the Royal Navy's patrol vessel which was also receiving the same honour.

To mark the occasion, the people of the island were presenting a large silver trophy to 30 Sig Regt.

RRF on parade in Northumberland

NORTHUMBERLAND's Territorial Army fusiliers celebrated their 21st anniversary with a first ever parade through the streets of Hexham. Men of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers attended a service in Hexham Abbey then marched through the streets with the regimental mascot, Bobby, an Indian black buck antelope, and the Wilhemstahl or Drummer's Colour which dates from the battle of Wilhemstahl in 1762.

The Drummer's Colour was carried by Fus David Bell and the salute was taken by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Reilly, Colonel of the regiment.

Adventure on the agenda

THE third BAOR adventurous training study period took place in the village of St Andreasberg in the Harz mountains. More than 200 officers, including eight senior German Army officers, attended the study period, which was sponsored on behalf of 1st British Corps by the 4th Armoured Division JSPC Lippspringe provided free fall parachute demonstrations.



Bordon APC driving instructors get to grips with the Irish Rangers at Osnabrück



Six into five does go for Terriers!

Maj Gen Bob Hodges, Colonel of the regiment, presented Territorial Army Efficiency Medals and clasps to members of 4th Bn The King's Own Royal Border Regiment during their regimental weekend at Carlisle. Although six awards were presented five different cap badges were on

Bordon's APC road show

WHEN the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, based at Osnabrück, West Germany found themselves short of armoured personnel carrier drivers they approached the RAC Infantry Wing at Bordon, Hants, for help, and met with an unusual response.

Instead of the Rangers having to travel to the UK for training, eight instructors travelled from Bordon to Osnabrück to put 60 budding drivers to the test over a seven week period.

Thirty nine potential lance corporals were put through their paces when 1 R Irish held a gruelling six week NCO cadre. Final phase of the course was staged on a German Army training area near the East German border with German soldiers of the 172 Mechanised Infantry Battalion providing the opposition.

parade. SSgt Margaret Mackintosh (left) is the first member of the WRAC element to receive an efficiency medal having joined one year after it formed in 1975.

Mr Ronnie Hardwick (right), a former corporal, received a third clasp after 30 years service to the TA.

5 R Irish look ahead

AS The Royal Irish Rangers celebrated the tercentenary of the formation of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, one part of the regiment was looking ahead to the next 300 years with the laying of the foundation stone for a new Territorial Army centre at Hydebank in Belfast. The centre will be home to the battalion headquarters of 5 R Irish and accommodate D Company.

In good company

TANKARDS presented by the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, one of London's oldest livery companies, were received by Fus Andrew Radwell and Fus Robert Savage at the Balham based C (City of London) Company, 8th Queen's Fusiliers presentation evening. The Cordwainers, whose members made goods in luxurious leathers, adopted the unit many years ago.

GALLIC GAELIC

There should be a touch of the blarney about French Army officer 2nd Lt **Philippe Chasseriaud's** English in the future.

To familiarise himself with the British infantry and brush up on his command of the language, he has just spent a couple of weeks with the Osnabrück, West Germany based 1st Battalion of The Royal Irish Rangers.

Philippe is currently in training at the Ecole Militaire Interarmee at Cotequidan in the north of France. During his time with 1 R Irish he joined a Potential NCOs Cadre training programme in the Sauerland.



LE BLARNEY? Philippe Chasseriaud (left) with Lt Ross Piggott, 1 R Irish.



BUGLE CALL: Maj Turner (left) and Maj Broadman

Over to you

After 7½ years in command of D Company, 5th Battalion, Light Infantry (Volunteers), Maj John Turner has handed over to a man he signed up as a private soldier.

New OC of the Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, TA company is Maj Ladi Broadman.

Maj Turner, who is to become second-in-command of 5 LI, spent 11 years as a Regular with the RCT before joining the TA.

His departure was marked by the presentation of a mounted bugle, a gift from all ranks.

Staying on

Cpl Ray Spencer, the longest serving corporal in the Army Catering Corps and one of only eight corporals on the long service list, has left the Army after 30



years' service. He was the Army cook at Church House BAOR in Lübbecke, and he won't be going far. Ray is joining the mess staff as a civilian cook, so he'll still be in uniform.

PEOPLE

Sign here, son!

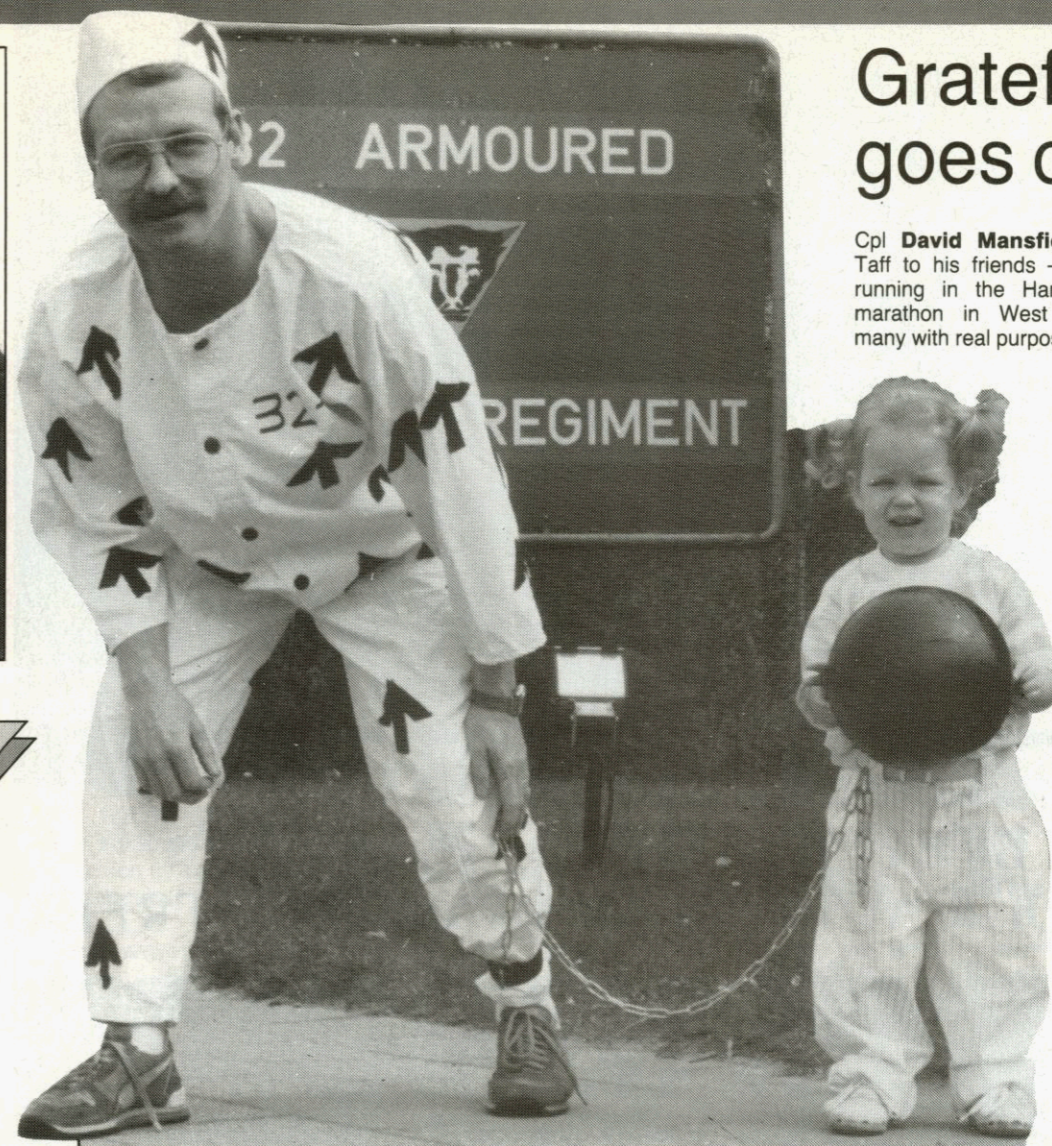


Picture: The News, Portsmouth

WELCOME, SON: SSgt Chris Young and new recruit Mark

Recruiting officer SSgt **Chris Young's** latest signing at Portsmouth's Army Careers Office had a familiar look about him. It was Chris's son **Mark** (17)! Mark went to a naval

boarding school and had been planning to follow older brother **Billy** into the Senior Service, but he changed his mind and opted for his father's corps, the Royal Electrical and



DOING TIME: Time on the roads, that is. Daughter Ayla gives dad, Cpl Taff Mansfield, a hand

Grateful Taff goes on the run

Cpl **David Mansfield** – Taff to his friends – was running in the Hamburg marathon in West Germany with real purpose. To

raise money for the hospital which saved his baby daughter's life.

Last year two-year-old **Ayla** recovered from meningitis at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, Wilts.

Taff, who is based with the sappers of 32 Armd Engr Regt at Munsterlager, West Germany, and nine of his colleagues are going to donate all the money they raise to the hospital's Bemerton Children's Ward.

David's proud crowd

There was a real family gathering when WO **David Laraman** received the Meritorious Service Medal at Verden, West Germany.

There to see Maj Gen **Paul Alexander**, retiring Signal Officer in Chief (Army) make the presentation were (from right) David's wife **Elaine**, his sister **Jennifer**, his step son

Michael (a corporal based at Dortmund), and Michael's fiancée, **Sharon**.

WO Laraman is a chief clerk in the Verden Station.

He joined the Army as a medic in 1960.



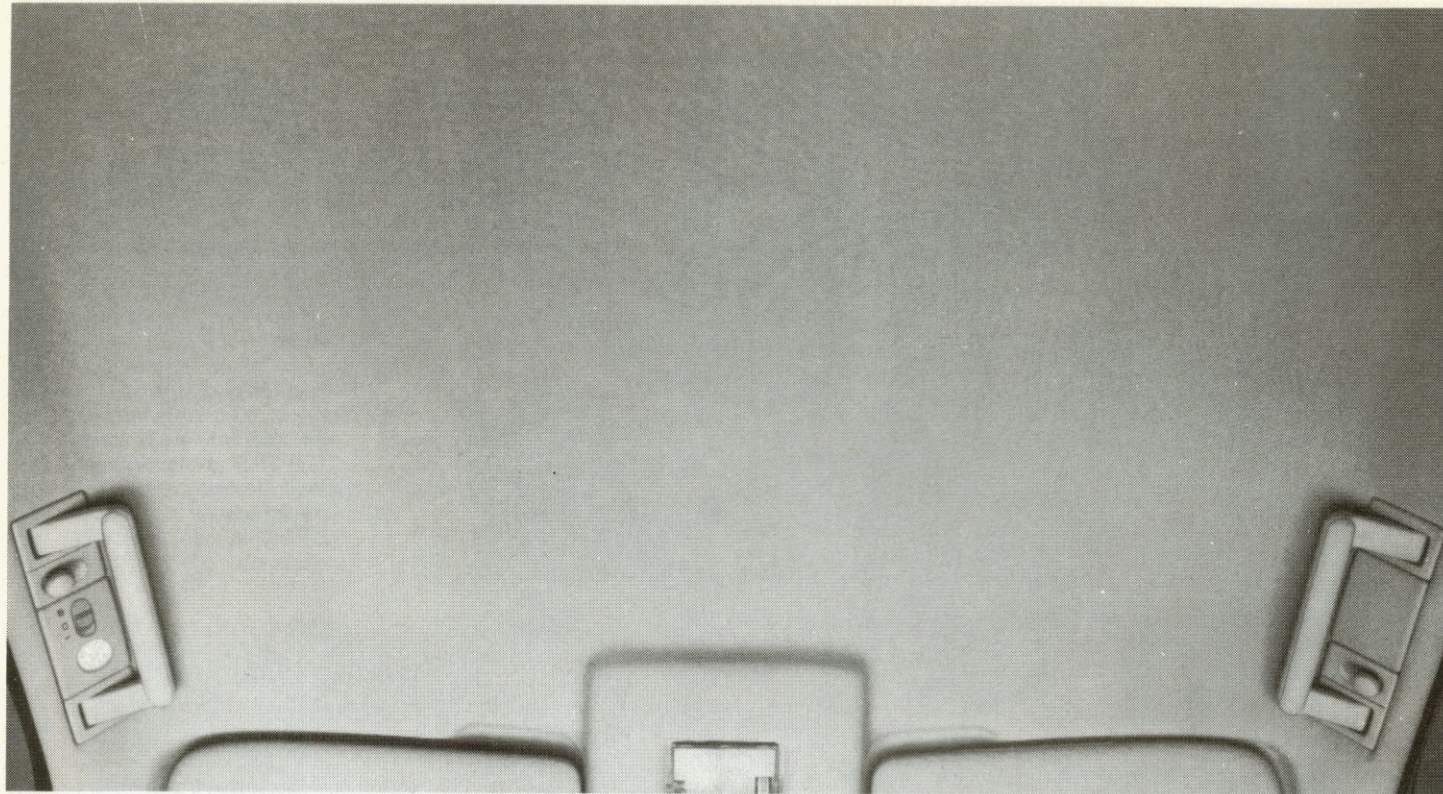
Southern buddies

The patrol ship HMS *Leeds Castle*, serving off the Falkland Islands, exchanged plaques with its affiliate – the Intelligence Corps – in a ceremony in Mare Harbour.

Both ship and Intelligence Corps have Kentish connections; Leeds Castle is in Kent and the Intelligence Corps is headquartered in Ashford. They twinned in 1982 and this is the furthest south that they have worked together.

In the picture, the *Leeds Castle's* captain, Lt Cdr **Roy Skelding** (right), presents his plaque to Capt **John Skipper**, Intelligence Corps, HQ BFFI.





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No takers for Gurkha VC kukri

What price a kukri? The deadly fighting knife carried by Gurkha VC Capt Rambahadur Limbu was put up for sale at a London auction house and expected to fetch between £1,000 and £1,500. In the event it was unsold, having not attracted its reserve price.

Capt Limbu was awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding gallantry in West Sarawak on November 21, 1965 during the Borneo Confrontation when, under intense enemy fire, he rescued two wounded comrades. This famous action was particularly noted for its element of "total disregard for personal safety".

At the time of the award he was a lance corporal with the 2/10th Gurkha Rifles.

The kukri had been entered into auction by a private vendor who acquired it from Capt Limbu.

There was also a deformed jacketed bullet of native manufacture purported to have been extracted from one of Capt Limbu's wounds!

Witch way to time off?

The United States Air Force has granted eight religious holidays to a serving woman who says she is a witch.

According to *Janes's Defence Weekly*, Patricia Hutchins, based at Lackland in Texas,

asked the USAF to allow her time off for religious holidays as it does for personnel of other faiths. The chaplain at the air force base supported her claim.

As a wiccan, Ms Hutchins believes the sun, moon, earth

and all life are divine and personifications of all creative energy. Will witches' days spread to the British Army? "Not on your broomstick!" an MoD spokesman was thought to have incanted.

SOLDIER to Soldier



How to keep your face warm when operating in winter has long been a problem for commanders and drivers of armoured fighting vehicles, but "Yuugh!" was the only description SOLDIER could come up with after spotting this Challenger crewman wearing unofficial face protection during an exercise in BAOR.

Of American origin, it is designed to prevent frostbite developing in the

How to scare off the enemy

facial extremities when operating in sub-zero temperatures. He could have saved his money, for an MoD clothing expert told us the British Army already has an official issue Arctic Face Mask for use inside the Arctic Circle and acceptable for wear by tank crews.

Cameronians mark 300th anniversary

Former members of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) have just commemorated the 300th anniversary of the raising of the Earl of Angus' Regiment later to become the Cameronian Regiment. The regiment was raised at Douglas in Lanarkshire on May 14, 1689 from the ranks of the Covenanters.

The religious traditions of the Covenanters were perpetuated throughout the long and illustrious history of the regiment and it was appropriate that the main commemorative event was a Conventicle at Douglas. The Rev Jim Harkness, the first ever Church of Scotland Chaplain General to the Forces, preached.

The only Regular battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) was disbanded in 1968 and the regiment was finally erased from the Army List in 1987 but the unique traditions of this famous Scottish regiment live on in the Territorial Army in two companies of the 52nd Lowland Volunteers and the Glasgow and Lanarkshire Battalion of the Army Cadet Force.

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

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Milan men taste the real thing Down Under

ANTI-TANK platoons from Hong Kong and Brunei have again been in Australia for the Southern Hemisphere's premier, and probably only, Milan concentration.

For many of the British and Gurkha soldiers the month's exercise had special significance. It gave them their first experience of firing a live Milan missile – something rare enough due to the not inconsiderable cost of around £10,000 a go and impossible in Hong Kong due to the shortage of space.

Exercise Blue Flyer, based on the Australian Army's training centre at Puckapunyal in the south-eastern state of Victoria, provides the only opportunity for Milan platoons stationed in the Far East to



Part of the spectator gallery at the Milan live firing day. Brig Vernon Beauchamp, Commander 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, is on the left with hand shielding his eyes from the powerful Australian sun

have a go at the real thing.

It also gives them the chance, unique in that part of the world, of practising with their simulators against real tanks – the Leopard I of the Australian 1st

together soldiers of four different nationalities: British, mainly from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, the resident Hong Kong battalion; Gurkhas from the three battalions also resident in the territory, 2/2, 7 and 6 GR, as well as 10 GR from Brunei; Australians from 5/7 Royal Australian Regiment, the country's only mechanised battalion; and Chinese support troops from the Hong Kong

by
Robert Higson

Armoured Regiment.

Blue Flyer '89 was only the third in the series. It brought



Exit after live firing with a Leopard I of the Australian Army's 1st Armoured Regiment providing covering fire

What a loser!

A MONTH's visit to Australia seemed a good opportunity to Cpl Andrew Ainsworth of combining a couple of good causes – losing weight and raising money for charity.

He is a REME mechanic with 50 Base Workshop in Hong Kong where, he says, the social round is sufficiently fulfilling to make dieting a problem. So he took the opportunity to tighten his belt and cut down on the calories when he went to Australia as one of the team supporting the live firing of Milan missiles by British and Gurkha soldiers from Hong Kong and Brunei.

For six weeks he lived mainly on black coffee, salads, rice and vegetables, shedding in the process 15kg.

As his waist line reduced, the amount he was raising by sponsorship grew, until it amounted to \$330 Australian, or just over £150.



Cpl Andrew Ainsworth handing over the proceeds of his weight reduction to Mrs Victoria Chapman of the Kallemondah Special School at Seymour near Puckapunyal

At the end of the exercise, a proud Cpl Ainsworth, now weighing in at a trim 96kg, handed over a cheque to a local school for intellectually handicapped children.

Cpl Ainsworth hopes his Australian effort will not be a six-week wonder. He says he will keep the diet going, despite all the temptations Hong Kong has to offer.

Service Corps.

In all Blue Flyer involved a total of about 200 men, with the addition of a small training team drawn from UK based battalions and the Australian

Infantry training centre under the command of Capt George Foster, Royal Marines, of Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon.

A month of intensive training, which included an FTX with the Australian tanks, culminated in a grand live firing day when the British High Commissioner, Sir John Coles, flew from Canberra to witness the firing of some of the 70 missiles.

Australian sappers provided the battle simulation pyrotechnics while Leopard I MBTs of 1 Armd Regt produced supporting fire from the flanks. The platoons themselves were obliged to get into the mood of the thing by running 400 metres to their firing positions in full NBC black, carrying their launchers and missiles.

As the sun got steadily warmer on a brilliantly sunny antipodean autumn day, the task got progressively more arduous.

This year, for the first time, everyone fired with MIRA, the infra-red sight designed to penetrate dust and smoke. Some Australians, with no previous MIRA experience, preferred to use standard sights only to lose what had been a clear view of the target in a cloud of smoke.

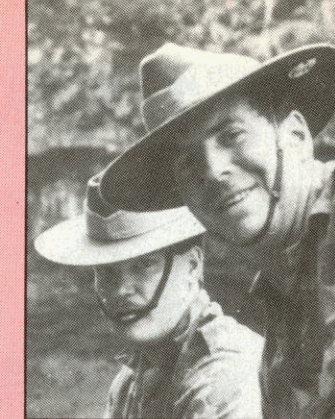
An early missile from 6 GR practically wiped out one of the moving targets and from then on there were a few target problems. This and the discomfort of operating in NBC masks on a very warm day contributed to what Capt Foster described as just an average performance overall.

From Maj John Rylands, the exercise OC on the staff of 48 Brigade in Hong Kong, there were no complaints.

"Blue Flyer," he said, "gives us the chance to use real armour to train against and gets us away from Hong Kong to concentrate for a change on anti-tank training. The Australians have supplied superb support both in administration and training. But they also get significant benefit from us, so it isn't all one sided."

The six weeks Down Under wasn't devoted entirely to military matters. A period of R and R enabled soldiers to get as far away as Ayer's Rock and the Gold Coast. Someone even made it to Perth.

Sadly there will be no return to Puckapunyal next year. The next Milan concentration is likely to be held in Hong Kong without the benefit of live firing, and it won't be until at least 1991 that the anti-tank platoons have the chance to go back to Australia.



Aussies at work

Digging Diggers in Wales

TIME was when Britain sent people to Australia to dig holes in the ground. Now it appears the Army is bringing them back to dig here, writes Doug McArthur.

At least that is what it must have seemed like to the men of 12 Troop, 7 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers who swapped the baking heat of the Aussie bush for the damper and cooler atmosphere of the Welsh hills.

Four troops in the squadron flew to Great Britain to take part in Exercise North Star, Southern Cross, an annual exchange between units of the British and Australian armies. The various arms of the army take it in turns to swap, and this year it was the turn of the engineers. The other three troops are engaged in tasks in England, but it was decided that for five days at least, 12 Troop – about 50 men – would go to Wales for one of the toughest tasks on the agenda, repairing the track down to Sgwd Y Eira waterfall below Ystradfellte in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The Aussie sappers carried in all their equipment on their backs, cut in steps reinforced with baulks of timber, made bridges and laid drains.

Tons of stone were carried in back-packs down to the path and smashed with sledgehammers. The only mechanised equipment available were chain-saws and diesel jackhammers.

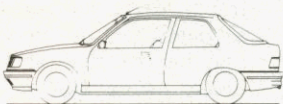
"We could not even get a wheel-barrow in," said Troop Commander Capt Ian Stoddart from Brisbane, "so everything that we needed came in on the Diggers' backs. They now know quite a lot about Welsh stone!"

Getting to the firing positions, heavily laden in full NBC black was no easy task under a brilliant and warm Australian autumn sun

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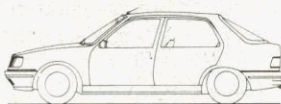


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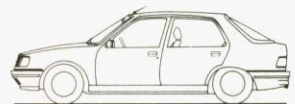
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14 Signal Regiment (EW)

In the front line battle of the airwaves

Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Mike Weston

IMAGINE you are an enemy commander about to launch an attack against a line held by units of the British Army. Good communications mean everything in such a situation and are a vital ingredient to the success of the offensive.

Lose touch with your leading elements and it is odds on that you have lost the battle before it starts.

Playing a major role in the disruption of operations by any future enemy would be the officers and men of 14 Signal Regiment (EW), the Army's only offensive electronic warfare unit.

Their disruptive operations and intelligence gathering capabilities are of paramount importance to the commander who needs to remain one step ahead of his enemy at every stage of the battle.

Wherever the action took place the signallers would be present to provide another form of weaponry for their commander, albeit of an electronic nature, but likely to have just as lethal an effect as high explosive.

Indeed, members of the regiment were deployed to the Falkland Islands in 1982 where the work they carried out played a vital part in the success of Operation Corporate.

For obvious reasons, much of the regiment's work must remain a closely guarded secret. However, a team from SOLDIER was permitted to join the electronic eavesdroppers in the field and observe them at work during the important annual

Vampire detachment team LCpl Steve Sarginson (left) and Cpl Tony Ducker make an adjustment to a 12m mast

BAOR comms exercise Flying Falcon, which involved signals units from all over West Germany.

At Divisional HQ the general was formulating his next move in stopping the advance of Orange (enemy) forces and asked for details of their movements and locations.

His Division Electronic

Warfare Officer (DEWO) tasked 14 Signal Regiment; for them Exercise Flying Falcon had just begun.

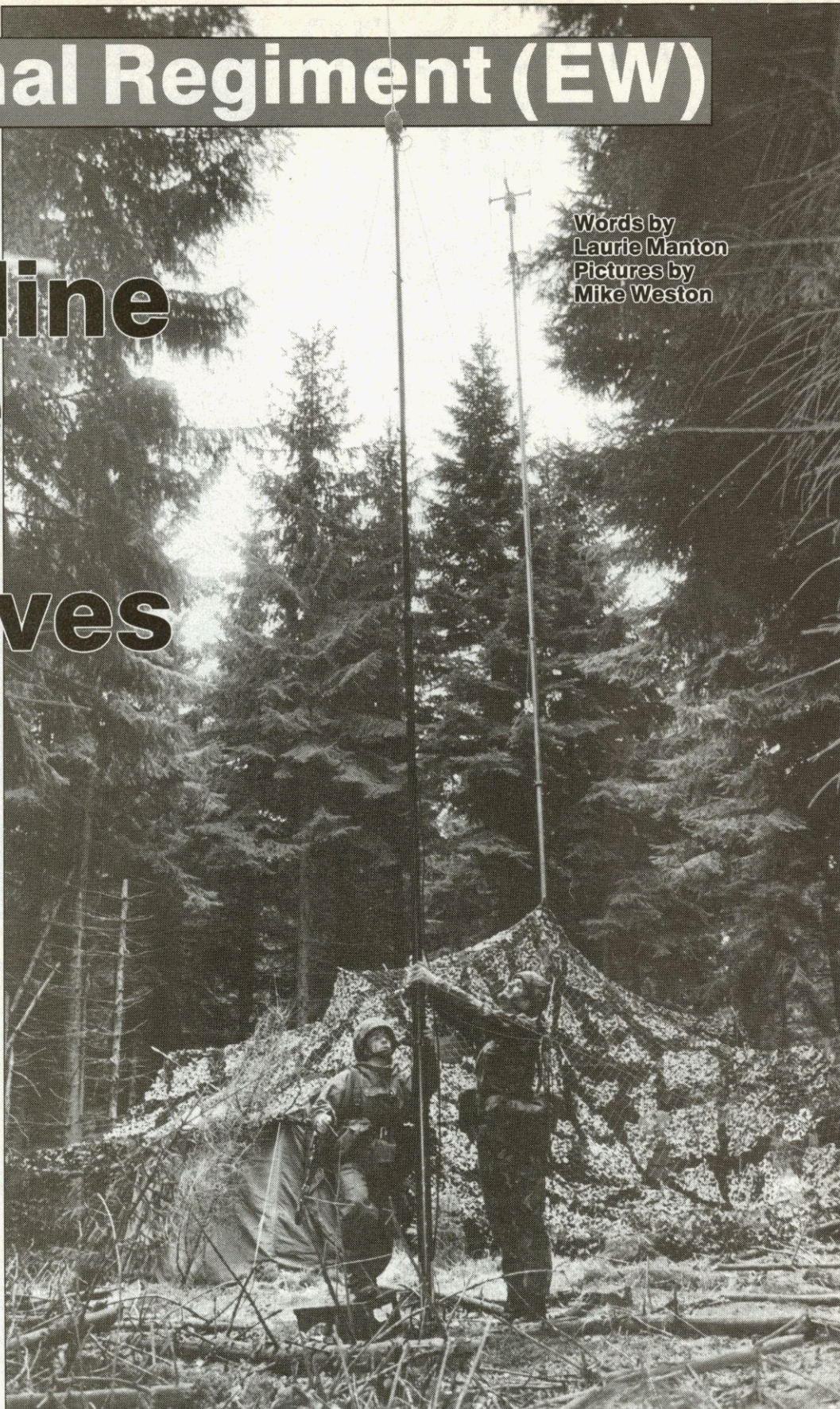
Breaking cover, the first elements of EW troops moved into action and set up the probe on high ground overlooking the battle area.

The probe antenna and its sensitive receivers can be

likened to an electronic bloodhound that sniffs the airwaves for signs of radio activity.

When such transmissions are logged, it is time to call up the Vampires – not some supernatural creature but a number of light vehicles carrying direction-finding equipment.

● Turn to next page



Why HQ Sqn hone their fighting skills

THERE were a few nervous moments for a SOLDIER team arriving at the secret location of 14 Signal Regiment's HQ Squadron when they found themselves on the receiving end of a heavy fusillade of small arms fire.

An enemy hit team had just launched an attack on the EW experts with the aim of knocking out the headquarters complex.

Unfortunately they took on the wrong people, for the crack soldiers of Britain's only tactical electronic warfare regiment are not your average signallers, and those who rub them up the wrong way (especially enemy forces) tend to find themselves face down in the mud eating dirt - if they survive that is!

In the midst of the action, one screaming enemy intruder charged towards the quivering news team firing his SLR on the run.

Within moments he disappeared under a pile of defenders who very quickly persuaded him that surrender was the wisest option.

The unfortunate captive ended up spreadeagled inside the complex, minus boots and equipment, with an armed soldier covering every move.

His pockets were emptied with the speed a professional pickpocket would envy, and the regimental intelligence teams immediately began evaluating information provided from the paperwork he had been carrying.

Impressive, yes. Necessary, definitely. It is imperative for the EW teams who operate close to enemy forces to maintain their professional fighting skills. They have to, for the vital intelligence picture of enemy movements they pass back to commanders would play an important part in the outcome of the battle.



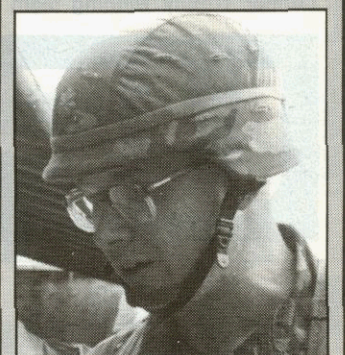
A moment of tension as men of Headquarters Squadron, 14 Signal



Regiment await orders on the disposal of their prisoners



Above - Bromure antenna is raised into position. The window-like frame on the left directs the jamming signal with devastating accuracy



'Vampires' at work

● From Page 17

They take their name from the initials of the VHF Army Mobile Position Interferometer Radio Equipment that they carry.

Once in position the specially trained operators control Vampire to locate activity from enemy units large and small. Size can be gauged by the scale and type of transmission.

Information gleaned is passed back to the regiment's intelligence cell where it is interpreted by Intelligence Corps experts who build up an accurate picture of enemy movements.

Such is the combined expertise of the Royal Signals and Int Corps, that on Flying Falcon intercept teams identified individual operators by their speech patterns or by the way they keyed out their messages in morse code.

Each operator had his own electronic signature that gave him away, so incorrect use or

lazy adaptations of procedure are a dangerous habit to adopt and should be avoided. A point worth remembering if you are a regimental signaller prone to complacency!

Back at Divisional HQ the general's intelligence advisers were informing him that all the information gathered suggested the enemy intended to cross a bridge at Point Bravo and would be making a controlled approach along three different roads.

An operation like this calls for perfectly timed moves or chaos will result. At the general's request, Bromure jammers moved into location and prepared for action.

As the enemy move began, powerful jammers opened up and started selective jamming.

"There is a foul up in movement," says the enemy officer responsible for traffic control. "Stop the advance!"

"It's no good. I can't get through on the radio," wails

the operator.

In the high-sided valley roads, congestion built up until the river crossing area become packed with vehicles caught in the ensuing snarl up.

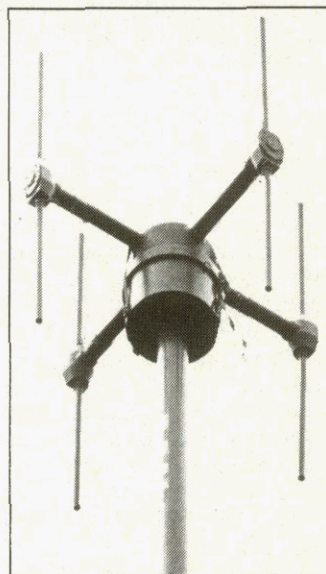
The enemy trucks now made easy targets for an Allied airstrike.

Within this scenario, intercept stations might overhear an order to enemy artillery calling for a heavy bombardment on a forward area occupied by friendly troops.

An urgent warning gives the friendly troops time to evacuate the impact area, proving the work of EW operators can be defensive as well as offensive. Lives and equipment can be saved.

Time and again the men of 14 Signal Regiment played havoc with the enemy forces... and this was just an exercise.

Other units on Flying Falcon must have cursed the operations that impeded their



The Sputnik-like antenna used by Vampire crews to DF (locate) enemy radio positions

progress and ruined any plans of battle. But in the event of real conflict they would have good cause to thank the men of 14 Signal Regiment for advance warnings of attack and the impeding of enemy communications.



MAN with an unusual line in helmets is Maj Gene Komo, US Army, who is attached to 14 Sig Regt (EW). He is one of about 50 US officers serving with the British Army in BAOR and the United Kingdom under the Personnel Exchange Programme (PEP) scheme. A similar number of British officers are with US units.

His role under PEP is to learn how British EW operations are conducted and to input his knowledge of electronic warfare.

"The aim is to promote inter-operability between our two nations," he said.

Exercise Flying Falcon was his last outing with the regiment before returning to service with the US Army. During his attachment he proved a capable and popular leader of men, although his American style of discipline tended to rub off on his signals team.

His NCOs no longer hand out rollickings. They "kick ass"!

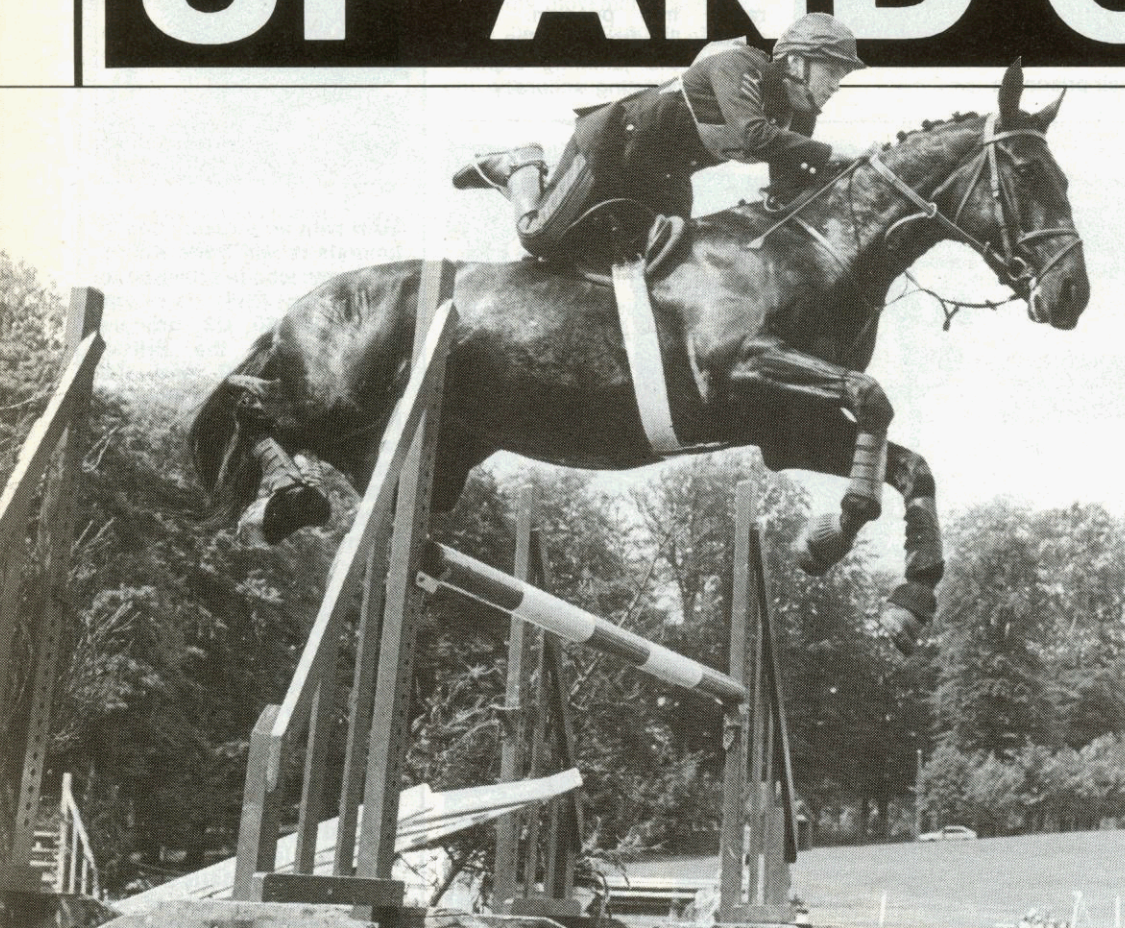


WO2 Kevin Woods of The King's Troop RHA and Ileum gallop past Tedworth House on the cross country course. They were in the Loriner Trophy winning team



Capt Michael Liddicoat, Headquarters UKLF, on Blue Sparkwood negotiates the Humber Lane crossing during the cross country event and (below, right) on his way during the showjumping event

UP AND OVER!



Briefly parting company, LCpl of Horse Richard Waygood, Household Cavalry, and Newbridge clip a gate during the showjumping. The partnership survived intact and were part of the winning Army Loriner Trophy team

But is it time to switch the trials?

A STRONG case is to be put to the Army to go backwards in order to gallop forward into the future!

Mrs Vee Thursby, head of sponsorship and public relations for the Tidworth Army Horse Trials, is to press for the annual event to be switched back to a weekend as it used to be, and staged over three days.

She believes this year's two day event would have been better attended if it had not been held mid week in the middle of the school term.

She said: "If it was held at a weekend, you would get more entries, more spectators and more sponsorship."

This year there were entries for the first time from the Universities' Officer Training Corps, and for the first time in



WO2 Richard Burns, Army School of Equitation, and Jedi concentrate on precision during the dressage competition

many years a full military entry. There was a tough fight for the Combined Services' Loriner Trophy, which was won by the Army team of Capt Douglas McGregor, WO2 Richard Burns, LCpl of Horse Richard Waygood and WO2 Kevin Woods.

A fence at Ruddles Puddle

was taken out following five consecutive falls, with one rider kept overnight in hospital with concussion. Locally based national riders taking part included Lucinda and David Green and Rachel Hunt. The open intermediate class was won by Mr Mjung-Jin Choi, of Korea, on Snuffler.



Pictures: Mike Weston

REINSEHLEN

Secret training base for Hitler's dive bombers

THE CAMP at Reinsehlen, West Germany, is steeped in wartime history but you might not realise it at first glance.

It was originally a Second World War Luftwaffe air base for Junkers 87 aircraft, and the wailing Stuka dive bombers used to drop concrete practice bombs on targets constructed at the edge of the airfield.

Concrete ships and landing craft were built on the ground. One landing craft has survived both war and weather and is

used by troops today as an ideal location for end of course barbecues.

Later in the Second World War German night fighter squadrons flew Messerschmidt 110s against Allied bombing missions.

During daylight hours the aircraft remained hidden beneath camouflage nets strung between trees. With the grass cut to look like fields, it is said photo reconnaissance missions never found the air base and the Allies only learned of its existence when the war ended.

Reinsehlen became a camp for displaced persons. French, Polish, Hungarian, and Jewish refugees as well as Russian POWs were taken there before repatriation.

In the 1970s construction workers uncovered pre-war German rifles still encased in greased wrappers. They were returned to the Germans.

Of the many Second World War bunkers on the camp, the last was opened only recently. To the disappointment of the spectators, it contained only evil-smelling water and five modern blank rounds that someone had shoved through a crack in the wall.

A handful of huts date from the war but are now on their last legs and due for demolition. However, anyone using huts 102 and 129 might like to know they formed part of the Luftwaffe canteen and were once used by German aircrew.



LCpl Douglas Lindsay, A and SH, examines a concrete bomb

REINSEHLEN Battle Camp is located on the west side of Soltau-Lüneburg Training Area (SLTA) and more than 2,000 troops can be housed in Nissen huts on the sprawling 7½ square kilometre site.

With tentage, the maximum possible accommodation could cope with a staggering 20,000 personnel, which must make it one of the largest campsites in the world.

WO1 Joe Farrell, Scots Guards, is the RSM and

responsible for the day-to-day running of the camp, including allocation of accommodation.

He admits the ageing buildings are spartan (very spartan!), but like most RSMs he has little sympathy for moaners. "The troops come here on exercise to train, so it is a bonus for them to have a proper roof over their heads and facilities to provide a good square meal," he pointed out.

There is no denying it gets very cold in winter and



Some of the accommodation at Reinsehlen is getting long in the tooth and the Luftwaffe's canteen is still in use



A Land Rover gives scale to the concrete landing craft used for bombing practice by Stuka pilots

commanding officers exercising their troops in the area have the discretion to bring their units in from the field to prevent cases of hypothermia.

"A few have done so, for it can be minus 14 degrees Celsius here, and when the winds blow in from Siberia the wind chill factor alone can bring temperatures down to a mind-numbing minus 30," warned WO1 Farrell.

In addition to the Camp RSM, three long-serving war-

rant officers - WO1s Mike Bradley, RA, Gil Nimmo, AAC, and Dave Hunter, Para - are appointed as training area wardens to look after the interests of troops exercising on SLTA.

Besides giving visiting units an informative briefing on the area's dos and don'ts and which areas to use or avoid, they act as a go-between for troops and local residents.

Look beyond the rutted tank tracks and the area's relative

solitude has much to commend it. Although the staff are a long way from any Naafi facilities and view SSVC television via video tapes (two months behind first showing by the time they get them!) life does have its compensations.

"After all," commented WO1 Hunter, "where else could you sit at your breakfast table and watch a family of deer pass by?"

"It's a smashing place to live!"

Heath needs looking after

THERE can be few front line British troops who have not trained on the Soltau-Lüneburg Training Area (SLTA), but few will know of its historical background and of the efforts made by a small group of people to keep it fit for use.

Exercises have been held in the area since before the First World War when the Prussian Army trained in front of their Kaiser.

Lüneburg Heath was chosen because it consists mainly of infertile sandy land, used little for agriculture except for farming sheep.

It mattered little if military manoeuvres took place over the heathland because most vehicles were horse drawn and the troops moved on foot. Little damage was done, and of course conservationists were a bit thin on the ground at the time.

This was a situation that changed rapidly when armies were mechanised between 1918 and 1939.

At the end of the Second World War SLTA formed part of the British zone of

● Turn to Page 25



Rabies alert!

THERE is much to see in the way of wild life in the Reinsehlen area, albeit of the fur and feather variety. It includes the odd wild pig from the nearby nature reserve.

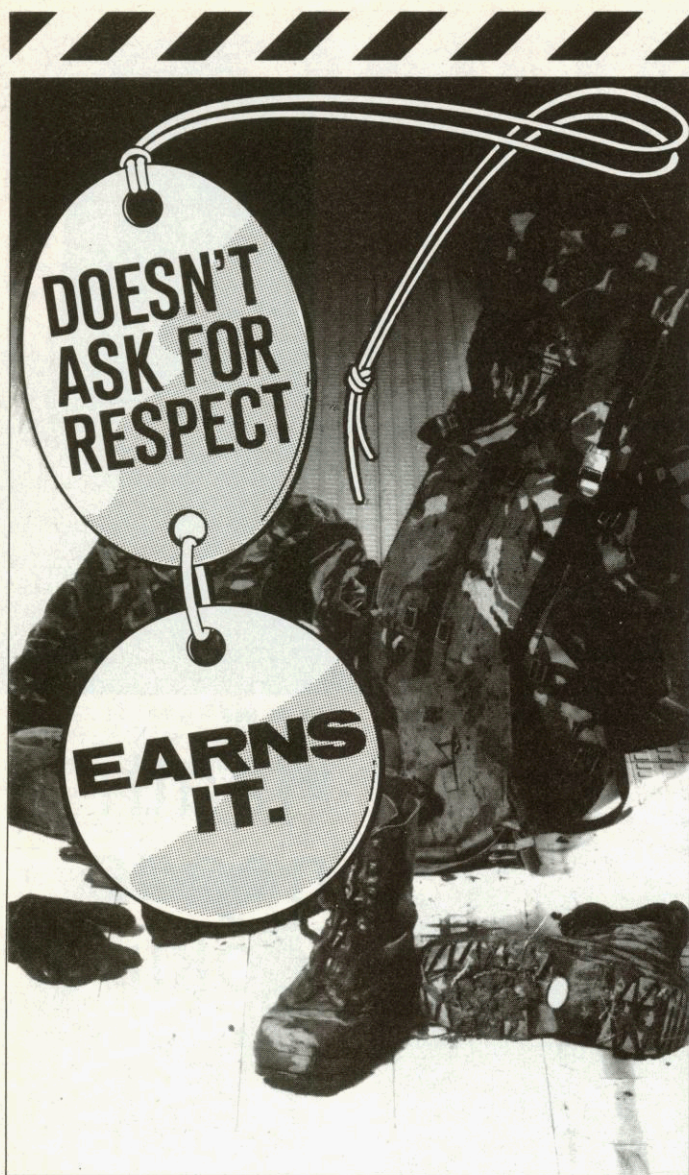
However, there is a very real danger lurking in the undergrowth - rabies.

The disease is a problem in large parts of Germany and the SLTA is no exception.

Visiting troops are warned to keep well clear of all animals. Even cuddly red squirrels which abound are heavily contaminated - one bite could have terrifying consequences for the victim.

It puts a dampener on life, say the staff. Strictly "Hands off!" is their advice.

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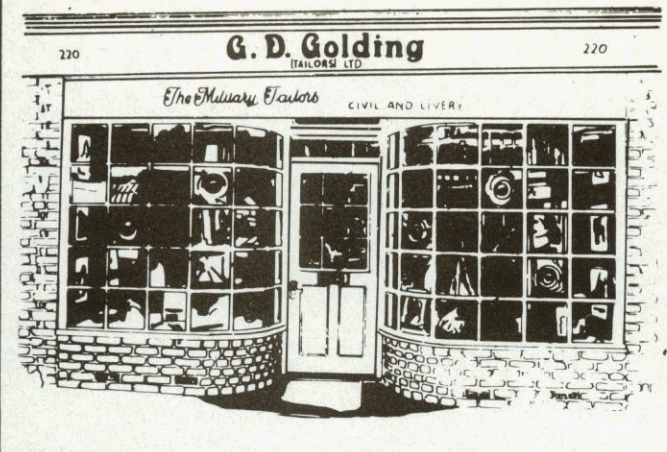
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● From Page 23

occupation, there were many training areas in use and the British Army, being an occupying force, exercised all over the heath without much regard to who owned what.

That policy changed as Germany gained more independence, and the training areas that had sprung up around many of the garrison towns were regularised.

For example, during this time training areas around the Ruhr had to be released back to agriculture so people could grow enough to survive.

As a result places such as Dortmund now have no training areas at all.

To offset these losses Britain was given a large sausage-shaped area of land in Northern Germany by the Federal Government.

Of the 400 square kilometres that form the SLTA, two thirds is taken up by the Soltau training area on which, by agreement, the British Army can use any type of military vehicle.

To the east lies the Lüneburg extension where any form of military training other than with heavy tracked vehicles is permitted, while the western edge holds Reinsehlen Battle Camp.

The camp consists of what SLTA Commandant Lt Col Alex Twickel diplomatically describes as "ancient accommodation", apart from a few brick buildings that accommodate him and his staff, as well as the Soltau detachment of 256 Mobile Civilian Plant Group RE which carries out work in the area.

"Yes, the huts at present are in a pretty bad state but we hope money will be made available for their replacement," said Col Twickel.

The camp now has a new washdown point which is a vast improvement on the previous system for cleaning vehicles.

"It uses a high pressure hose system and is environment friendly. We can now put



Training area warden WO1 Gil Nimmo AAC (centre) explains a point of training area policy to officers of a visiting unit

Managing SLTA is full time business



Lt Col Alex Twickel, 9/12 L (left) tours the area frequently with retired Oberstleutnant Bodo Schmidt who acts as liaison officer between the Commandant and local authorities

through a battle group in about three hours, a task that took more than a day previously," he enthused.

Four hundred square kilometres of training area may seem a lot of land but only the British and Canadians may train there. For the latter it means a 19 hour train journey from their base at Lahr to take their Leopard 1 tanks to the railhead at Reinsehlen.

"Other nations are not allowed to use SLTA because it would lead to the area being absolutely saturated with

troops. Subject to certain restrictions at weekends and on public holidays, it is the only training ground we have for ourselves seven days a week, 365 days a year. It is heavily used," said Col Twickel.

Some aspects of the Commandant's work concern the environment and its protection, which arise because of the Army's use of the area.

"Those aspects include negligence which is preventable and litter which is totally unnecessary. Others concern oil pollution which can be pre-

vented to a certain extent by more careful vehicle maintenance, and mud on roads which is a driving hazard. Although it cannot be prevented, it can be dealt with," he explained.

Erosion is a major problem and not unexpected with the amount of heavy vehicles driving over the area throughout the year. The SLTA staff has an elaborate programme for replanting certain areas.

Putting in trees and taking certain areas out of use to allow grass and shrubs to grow again costs a lot of money, but help is given by the Federal Government to offset this.

An erosion committee meets regularly, and several times each year a local forester, water engineer and other experts decide which parts to replant, taking into account the tactical needs of the areas that have to remain in use.

Admin for the area is carried out by ex gunner Mr Brian Greenwood who really does have in, out and pending trays overflowing with the paperwork which has been needed to ensure the smooth running of training programmes since the Commandant and his staff moved from Soltau to the Battle Camp last December.

Sky's the limit as Life Guards go airborne



Corporal of Horse Stuart Camp concentrates before jumping from a Chinook

THE Life Guards illustrate perfectly the versatility of today's soldier. For in this, the Senior Regiment in the British Army, the Life Guard may serve as a mounted dutyman in London, as an armoured car soldier at Windsor, as a tank soldier in Germany . . . or as a parachutist.

Twenty soldiers have taken

to the air for their role in airborne troop support to 5 Airborne Brigade.

5 Airborne Brigade was set up after the Falklands War. Its primary role is home defence, but it concentrates more on its secondary role of out-of-area operations (any non-Nato country with British interests).

The Life Guards were chosen

for the support role because of the success of two troops of Blues and Royals in the South Atlantic.

They have had to learn to cope with all sorts of environments, and how to get into them. They have concentrated on landing by air, using the RAF. One skill they have acquired is the off-field

parachute drop in which a drop of the lead parachute battalion group (which includes the Life Guards) takes place away from the airfield. The battalion then moves in to capture the airfield with troops from the ground.

Another is a Tactical Air Landing Operation, in which they capture an airfield at night, using a Hercules flying at low level to deploy troops immediately on to the airfield.

The Life Guards are fully trained in rigging and re-rigging a Scorpion so it can be parachuted from the back of a Hercules, and are trained to undersling it so it can be moved by Chinook helicopter.

They put on a display of their air capability for Gen Hank Hatch, Commander United States Engineering Corps, and they managed – in the nicest possible way – to stir feelings of envy in the general.

After complimenting them on their expertise, he said: "I was very impressed. What I really wanted to do was to pick up a parachute and jump with them."

His remark came as no surprise to one of the parachutists, Tpr Kristian Bebbington, who said: "Once you have parachuted, it becomes addictive."

Also parachuting were Capt Christopher Mitford-Slade, Coporal of Horse Stuart Camp, LCpl Phil Deans, LCpl Ted Heath and Tpr Steve Hill.

Carrying out a less glamorous, but no less important job, were A Squadron, who were handling the Scorpion in the demonstration. WO2 Sqn Cpl



Story by Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by Mike Weston

A Scorpion about to be lifted by Chinook helicopter during a demonstration of the Life Guards' airborne capability. The exercise was staged in Windsor Great Park

Major Mike Whatley said: "I don't feel I am missing out – at 33 I'm a bit over the hill to be jumping into the sky."

"The job with 5 Brigade is very satisfying because normally we would be doing medium reconnaissance work with Scorpions. It is a much more varied role working with the air assets of 5 Brigade.

Working with him were LCpl of Horse Robert Smith, LCpl Alan Young and Tpr David Allen.

The Life Guards were able to test fully their new out-of-area skills on Exercise Purple Warrior in Scotland including their role as the brigade's experts in evacuee handling centres. In that situation, they

would process any civilians or personnel the government decided to evacuate.

The Life Guards date back to 1660 when King Charles II returned from exile. He is commemorated by the oak leaf and acorn which appear on some uniforms.

There used to be two regiments of Life Guards, both

of whom fought at the Battle of Waterloo. The regiment now forms one of two regiments of Household Cavalry, the other being the Blues and Royals. The Life Guards have been based at Windsor since 1984 and in 1990 move to Sennelager, BAOR, in a direct exchange with the Blues and Royals.



Gen Hank Hatch, Commander US Engineering Corps, with (from the left) LCpl Phil Deans, LCpl Ted Heath and Cpl of Horse Stuart Camp

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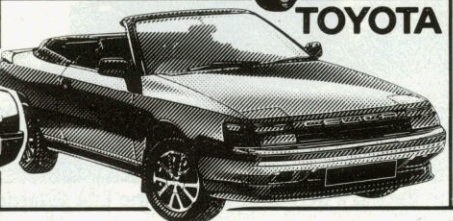
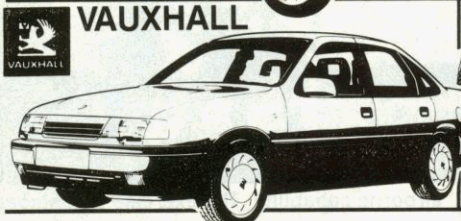
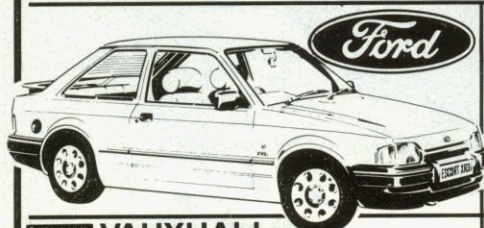
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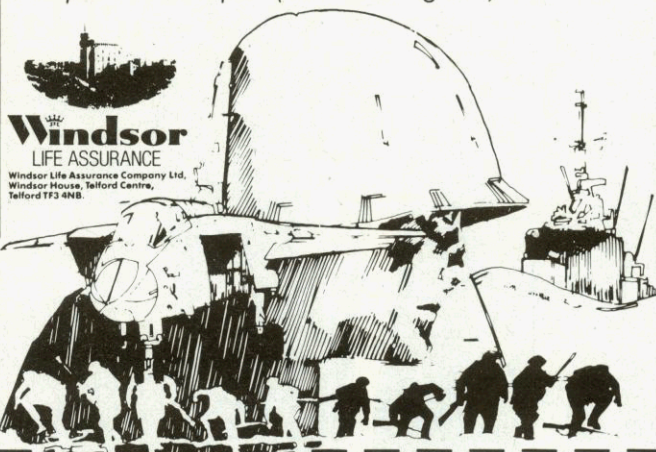
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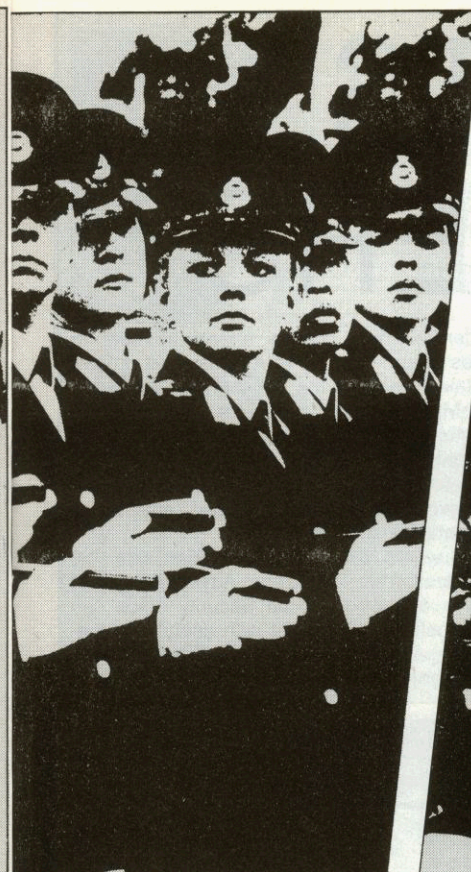
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'Scope for savings' in support corps

— NAO report



PREMONITIONS that the British Army's regimental system would come under attack and that the smaller corps would be scythed down by pencil-wielding accountants ensured the National Audit Office's 1989 report on the Ministry of Defence would be a best seller* in military circles.

Indeed, the report *DOES* suggest savings could be made in the Army's command and corps structures. It also states that not all Servicemen have a war role, that some of their duties could be more cheaply carried out by civilians, and that there was a case for using reservists for guarding key points in order to release Regular soldiers for higher priority tasks.

But the NAO report *ALSO* concludes the MoD has in many respects successfully controlled its manpower and adapted well to changing circumstances.

The complexity of maintaining a peacetime Army prepared for a transition to war is recognised and the 34 page document makes no major criticism of either the MoD or the Army.

It is the nature of the NAO's business that it exposes areas for review, but it is believed both the MoD and the Army are well satisfied with the majority of the report and had already begun to examine areas singled out for criticism.

So what does the NAO report actually say? This summary gives a flavour of its contents.

* NAO report on the MoD: Control and Use of Manpower, HMSO £5.60.

Organisation

The Army's command structure, which is more complex than those of the other Services, has remained relatively unchanged in the UK since 1973. The Ministry have no plans to carry out a review of the district structure of the Army.

The NAO noted the Army's regimental and corps structures have changed little since the mid-1960s, although numbers have reduced since then by 18.5 per cent. The NAO believe the Ministry should consider undertaking a review in this area.

Unlike the Royal Air Force and predominantly civilianised Royal Navy support organisation, the Army maintain 19 uniformed support corps. The Ministry considered the savings from having a single support corps were unlikely to be as great as compared with the impact on morale and the problem of controlling the disparate elements within the corps structure, particularly among the smaller corps.

However, the NAO concluded there might be some scope for savings from changes in the corps.

Manpower

All the Services state that where shortfalls in manning exist, they are placing excessive demands on personnel. The NAO examination suggested that there is, nevertheless, some scope for further reductions in requirements in some areas in all three Services.

The NAO were not able to establish a clearly defined war role for all Service personnel but noted the progress being made by all three Services to identify the numbers, ranks and skills of Servicemen required during transition to war and war.

Manpower options

Servicemen are generally more expensive to employ than the alternative of Servicewomen, civilians, contractor's staff or reservists, but the Services have to have

regard to operational considerations in their choice of manpower.

The NAO noted the use of Servicewomen in support areas varies significantly between the Services. They concluded that, in some areas, there is scope for increased use of the other options.

The NAO identified some 3,300 Servicemen posts which, prima facie, could be occupied by civilians or contracted out, with potential savings of some £14m a year, although they recognised the Ministry's view that there were wider factors to be taken into account.

Many reservists have no defined war role and their anticipated unavailability in the period of transition to war means many tasks they could perform have been assigned to Regular troops.

The NAO suggested that the Ministry consider the scope for increasing the number of reservists in the early selective call-out process under the Reserve Forces Act, and for their increased use for guarding and other duties in transition to war and war.

Conclusions

As circumstances have changed, the organisation of the Services has been substantially reviewed and adapted, the major exception being the Army's district, regimental and corps structures. Before any change is introduced in this area, any resultant financial savings would have to be weighed against operational disadvantages.

There is some evidence that the number of career specialisms results in more posts than are strictly necessary and there appears to be scope for more use of cost-effective alternatives to Regular Service personnel.

Royal Army Pay Corps

Although the NAO accepted that at local level Army personnel had a role to play in the administration of pay and allowances and other related duties, they questioned whether there was scope for greater use of civilians, particularly at Central Pay Offices, and whether the resulting number of personnel justify a separate corps.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps

The RN and RAF rely on civilian contractors to provide most of their veterinary and animal training support in peace. The NAO accepted that the winding up of the RAVC would only be justified if financial savings ensued. They considered, however, that the Ministry should review further the availability and cost of civilian vets.

For example, the Metropolitan Police support more than 200 horses in the London area using private veterinary surgeons at an annual cost of about £15,000, compared with the London based RAVC staff with annual costs of about £80,000 in support of some 400 horses.

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Since most supply functions within major storage depots are computerised and stock is ordered using standard Nato code numbers, it appeared to the NAO that specific military knowledge was not required to perform the associated stores duties.

The Ministry believe RAOC depots in the UK require some Service personnel for transition to war and war roles. The NAO noted, however, that additional Servicemen were being retained in the depots in order to gain general experience or in case of short notice redeployments.

Women's Royal Army Corps

The NAO noted the Army study on the future role of women would take account of the possibility of the greater integration of the WRAC. The NAO suggested the need for the cost-effectiveness of retaining separate training facilities for the WRAC should also be reviewed.

Royal Corps of Transport

A 1986 Army study of administrative transport noted that Service drivers cost £3,000 a year more in basic pay than contracted-in drivers and £5,000 a year more than directly employed civilians but considered the differences were more than compensated by not paying overtime to Servicemen.

But the NAO noted that the difference was equivalent to about 17 hours overtime a week. In their view it was unlikely this level of overtime was necessary on a continuous basis.

Contracting out

The Ministry estimated that since 1979 the contracting out of Defence support services, excluding the Royal Dockyards, had resulted in savings of 13,260 mainly civilian posts and net annual savings of over £49.2m. The NAO found that deficiencies in central management information made it difficult to verify these savings.

The NAO found there were no approved guidelines on procedures for monitoring contractors' performance or costs. Monitoring was not being carried out or was being done on an ad hoc basis and was of variable quality. In the NAO's view there was a need to monitor the overall costs of a particular activity since the contract normally covered only labour.

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WHO COMFORTS THE COMFORTERS?

Deserted wives' dilemma

IN THE past two months no fewer than six officers' wives have contacted me in desperation because their husbands have abandoned them without money or a roof over their heads.

In every case the officers concerned were of the rank of major or above.

Most of the wives seemed unaware of their rights. One was told: "There's no need to get the Army involved, it won't do you any good."

Another was told that officers' affairs were not the responsibility of the regiment provided they did their job and did not bring the Army into disrepute.

But in three of the six cases the unit concerned was unaware of the problem until I telephoned. In each of these three cases the wife was receiving no maintenance from her husband and one had only her Child Benefit to support herself and her three children.

Officers' wives are always there to help soldiers' wives faced with separation or divorce, but it seems to me the system is a bit lacking when it is officers' wives who need support. A curious closed ranks mentality prevails.

All of the wives who contacted me were unaware of the Army Act Sections 150 and 151 which "permit the Defence Council, or their authorised officers, to appropriate money from a Serviceman's pay towards the maintenance of his wife and/or children".

In my view...

Section 150 of the Act permits the appropriation of money from a man's pay towards settlement of a court order for maintenance when he fails to comply with such an order. Soon after the initial separation the man's unit

would be expected to interview him and, among other things, persuade him to make his own arrangements for maintenance of his dependants.

If he declines to do so, or the allowance is inadequate, the wife is free to seek maintenance through the courts or PS4d(A).

When both husband and wife are resident in the United Kingdom it is usually possible for the wife

to obtain an order from her local magistrates' court.

Civil courts take precedence and the Ministry of Defence would not normally become involved if a court order was forthcoming. There are exceptions however, for instance in Northern Ireland where a residential qualification is necessary before a case can be taken before a court.

Applications for maintenance should be sent to PS4d(A) who will inform the husband's commanding officer.

It seems appalling to me that only one of the six wives who contacted me had received any counselling.

On the civilian side, the Citizens' Advice Bureau or Social Security office can assist with useful information in this time of deep family crisis.



Class of '89. Service personnel who took part in the first Christian insight course for junior NCOs at Bagshot Park

THE FIRST Christian insight course for junior NCOs took place at Bagshot Park, Surrey with most of the participants putting up with a fair amount of leg pulling before they got there.

Four had put in for a two day course in London, but an admin mix up in their unit sent them to Bagshot Park instead!

All four agreed that they had got better value than they would have done in London.

Working in the historic surroundings of the former home of the Duke of Connaught set in 44 acres of gardens and fields had been refreshing in itself.

Neither students nor chaplains were quite sure how it would work out.

"It was evident there

Christian insight course was an unexpected bonus!

was a need," explained Padre Peter Denton. "JNCOs have an important role because they are often the first person to whom a new recruit or young soldier will turn for advice."

Aim of the Christian insight course was to give a basic look at the welfare and caring side of leadership.

"We designed it to look at the soldier in today's Army, his welfare, money management, coping with bereavement and caring for soldiers," said Mr Denton.

Opinion among students

was unanimous. It had been worthwhile and filled a real need.

Said Bill, one NCO: "Had I been more aware I am sure one soldier would not now be in Woolwich."

"Just because I thought I knew it all I could say the wrong thing and make matters worse," said Bill. "I found the bereavement session showed there is so much more we can do to help. I'll look at that particular situation in a completely different light."

For Ian a change of title would help.

"It was not a Bible

bashing course as I had been led to believe," he said. "It was excellent, very helpful."

Ian is about to get his wish. From next year the course will have a different title to emphasise leadership and caring for the soldier in the Army community.

Details of courses at Bagshot Park can be found in DCI Course of Instruction 1989/1990, Pamphlet 269. You can apply to your chaplain or contact the Warden, RACD Centre, Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5PL.



Repose - in eight shades

THE Crown suppliers have come up with a new range of carpets to replace Moorland and Tranquility which came in for so much criticism from Service families in married quarters.

MQ living areas will in future be graced with Devon, a 100 per cent nylon carpet with a heather twist pattern sure to

disguise soiling and an increased resistance to pile flattening.

The carpet has more tufts to a given area than the current range and there are to be ten colour choices to blend with furnishings, curtains and chair covers.

Repose is the name chosen for the new bedroom quality carpet. It, too,

is made of 100 per cent nylon and features a subtle print pattern to conceal crushing. Eight shades will be available.

The new carpets, which are to be phased in as existing stocks wear out, boast one up-to-the-minute extra. They are guaranteed anti-static to computer room standards!



Brig Bryan Fleming (second from right) assists with the opening of the new Naafi shop at Bordon, Hants. The building was reputedly once a mortuary

The right form's a benefit

AN increasing number of Service families are, apparently, having difficulty claiming Child Benefit when they return to the United Kingdom from overseas duty because their units are not filling in the correct forms.

If a Serviceman has Child Benefit paid through his account, his wife must complete Form CH 1794 and send it to the Child Benefit head office at Washington, Tyne and Wear as soon as she returns to the UK. Envelopes for doing this are available from the Post Office.

MINISTRY of Defence properties in the Dover and Aldershot areas have been sold or leased to individual civilians while connected to the military electricity supply system.

Yet the reason given for some MoD houses not being sold through the Joint Services Discounted Scheme has been that the properties have been connected to Service utilities - power, water, sewage.

One such property, I have learned, was sold only last year. Electricity supply source would appear, therefore, to be irrelevant.

The system of a local electricity board selling power to the MoD for channelling through the military network to MQs, barracks and so on is operated in a number of garrison areas, including Catterick, Aldershot, Dover, Bordon and Colchester.

MQ occupants have their meters read by PSA/DLA and pay their bills to the MoD. The price is the same as that charged by the area board to the local civilian population.

In Dover I have found 14 former MQs now owned by the local authority, plus four more in private ownership. I know of others in the Aldershot area.

Both are sought-after areas.

Perhaps these properties are just a few of the reasons why only 2,000 discounted quarters have so far been offered for sale to Service personnel.

It is already hard enough for individual soldiers to take advantage of the scheme without the stock being sold off or leased to the civilian sector.

BSA tax move

Full details are available from your unit and remember a fresh claim has to be made for each year.

Pay point

If you are on the Fuel and Light Budget Scheme your monthly deductions may continue after you have vacated your quarter. Pay offices are now obliged to signal the date of vacation and complete an AFK 1325 to prevent overcharging. Check your pay slip.

FAMGRANT

Family Maintenance Grants (FAMGRANT), which are paid to Service wives whose husbands have not received pay for disciplinary reasons, have been increased.

Since April 1 the maximum initial grant has increased to £10.75. New weekly rates are:

For wife - £34.90; dependant children 18 and over - £27.40; 16-17 years - £20.80; 11-15 years - £17.35; ten and under - £11.75.

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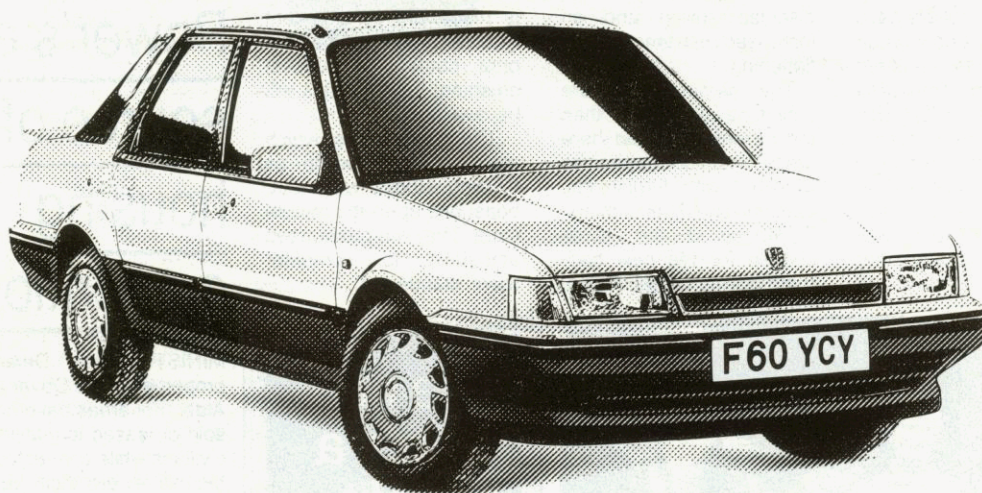
The pedal cycle allowance has gone up by 0.3p from 4.4p to 4.7p!

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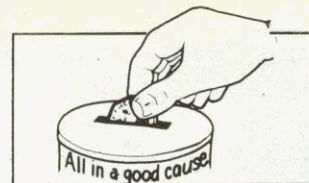
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S 12/06/89



Angela's disco dates

ARMY wife Mrs Angela Jones organised a disco at Münster, West Germany and raised £463 for charity – with a bit of help from the Royal Navy.

Sixty sailors from the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* were visiting their affiliated 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at the time and made sure the party went with a swing.

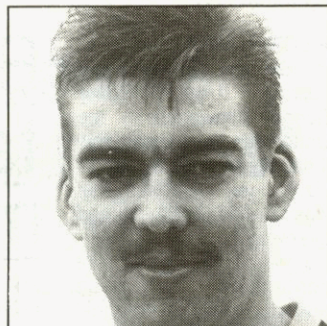
The merry matelots also contributed heartily to the



Angela Jones

fund, which will be donated to the Imperial Cancer Fund in London.

Angela, whose husband is serving with 1 Gren Gds, arranged the disco in aid of cancer research following the death of her mother from the disease. She was assisted by Capt Joe Sanderson, who lost his mother in similar circumstances.



Lee Cox

Sig Lee Cox risked the odd blister by taking on a daunting 190 mile march to raise money for the special baby care unit at a Worcester hospital.

BAOR based Lee, a radio telegraphist with 4th Armoured Division and Signal Regiment at Herford, was planning to complete the route, from St Bee's Head to Robin Hood's Bay, in just two days.

China climb planned

FIVE RAOC personnel in a joint Chinese-British Army team from Hong Kong have ambitious plans to be the first Servicemen to go climbing in Xin Jiang Province in the remote north-west corner of China.

The team consists mainly of five Chinese and five British soldiers, all of whom work in the Composite Ordnance Depot in Kowloon City and wear the cap badge of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Their goal is Bogda Feng, a rarely climbed mountain not far from Urumchi, the capital of Xin Jiang Province, which is 5,000kms from Guangzhou (Canton) by rail.

It is believed to have been climbed already, even though officials of the Chinese Mountaineering Association, who negotiated clearance for the expedition, had no records of any previous ascent of Bogda Feng.



The chairman of the QARANC Association, Col (Retd) Jean Grieve (left) and Col Diana Anderson, Commandant of the QARANC Training Centre, view the rolls of names

CORPS - Day for Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps was especially poignant this year because the annual service included a special ceremony to rededicate five memorial plaques recording the names of Army nursing sisters who died between 1906 and 1951.

They were originally mounted in the chapel at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital Millbank and when

Church home for QARANC plaques

the building was demolished in 1985 were placed in storage until a home could be found.

Aptly the first QA listed - Sister Anne Fitzgerald - died at Aldershot in 1906, for an operation financed by the

QARANC Association, with help from the Church of England Services and the Aldershot Command Trustees, saw the marble tablets erected inside Aldershot's Royal Garrison Church of All Saints.

Staffords entertain students

STUDENTS from Staffordshire Polytechnic furthered their education while paying a visit to 1 Staffords in BAOB to see how a front line armoured infantry battalion works.

The students had an adventurous day trying their hand with the new SA 80 rifle, watching the latest armoured fighting vehicle, Warrior, being put through its paces and entering the CS gas chamber fully equipped with NBC suits.

To finish the day off the students, who are all studying International Relations, tackled the assault course under the eyes of Lt Andy Holman and Pte Gary Linacre.

The students had made the trip to West Germany as part of their course and had visited Nato Headquarters and the Chancellery, Parliament and British Embassy in Bonn before calling on their county regiment.

Managers stretched at Pirbright

NEARLY 100 young executives from a Who's Who of British blue chip companies have completed a weekend of adventurous training with London's TA. The teams were hosted at the Guards' Depot, Pirbright, Surrey.

Purpose of the exercise, known as Executive Stretch, was to give managers a taste of life in the Reserve Forces as well as stretching them both physically and mentally. With little sleep, and that disturbed, tired limbs and aching muscles, the attendees were given an opportunity to discover themselves with a number of specially designed tests.

These included emergency first aid to a road accident victim, moving a trailer over water, the Guards' assault course, firing the British Army's new SA 80 rifle, simple helicopter maintenance tasks and taking an injured man across a ravine.

Exercise Executive Stretch was arranged by 56 (London) Brigade with the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets leading the exercise at Pirbright. The TA Green Jackets were assisted by men and

women of the 10th Bn The Parachute Regiment, the 8th Queen's Fusiliers, 666 Sqn Army Air Corps (V), 151 Transport Regt RCT, the Central Volunteer HQ of the Royal Engineers and the TA pool of information officers.

Brig Michael Nurton, commanding 56 Bde, commented: "This is not a recruiting drive but is aimed at making middle and senior management aware of what the TA has to offer. In fact, service with the TA is an excellent form of management development."

Flown in specially from Paris to take part, the British Airways cargo marketing mana-

ger, Giles Howard, said after the final swimming exercise: "It was superb - really good. I was particularly impressed with the organisation. It is obvious that the TA has got just the right kind of authoritative management structure which can provide food, kit and people at the right time, at the right place. I've learned a lot from being here."

Executive Stretch exercises are run by TA units on local initiative, the first being three years ago in South Wales. TA units across the country have copied the idea as a valuable means of liaison with industry and commerce.

... and at Garelochhead

EXERCISE Lowland Executive Stretch at the Garelochhead Training Area pitted 47 executives from 13 Scottish businesses against challenges set by TA units of the Lowlands.

The Terriers were from 105 Air Defence Regiment, 71 Engineer Regiment, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 52 Lowland Volunteers, 15 Para and 205 General Hospital, all supported by 32 Signal Regiment.

TO THE BEAT OF A DRUM 1689-1989

Band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers
The Blaenavon Male Voice Choir
Narrator: Cliff Morgan
Conductors: Gareth Whitcombe
Bandmaster: E G Mooney

THE record is certainly not to be confused with two others recently reviewed in these columns - *By Beat of Drum*, and the tercentenary programme of The Royal Regiment of Wales. Considering the many similarities of history and nationality of the two regiments it is surprising that of 20 tunes on this disc only a couple are duplicated.

With so many fine male voice choirs available the Welsh regiments are able to present their associated music in choral form, as it was sung by Welsh warriors long ago.

The whole programme is beautifully put together, with imaginative use of the solo life, the most emotive of all military sounds, with the lilting voice of Cliff Morgan to relate each tune to its place in the 300 years of the regiment's history.

To hear him proclaiming a list of battle honours, reading a letter from an officer about to be shot, and rendering a poem

RWF set their history to music

by Siegfried Sassoon are treats indeed.

I would like to say that this programme is suitable for all, not only Welsh listeners, but of course the commentary, informative and beautifully read as it is, somewhat limits the repetition it will stand.

In most of the music the band is joined by the choir to very rousing effect, a refined *Myfynwy* and brilliant *Soldiers' Chorus* from Faust being deserving of special mention.

Mr Mooney's own march, *That Astonishing Infantry*, has a title which only falls into place when you have heard the narration, and you'd better believe it.

● From PRI, 1 RWF, BFPO 805. Price CD £10.50 inc, LP £6.49 inc.

"YES, the workers fixed up a flagpole . . . and put up an Argentine flag. . . . The men seemed very pleased to be there. . . . They were working hard during the day and had a bit of a party at night, with some drink and tango music under that flagpole."

These are the words of Capt Osvaldo Niella, master of the *Bahia Buen Suceso*, the ship that carried the 40 or so Argentine scrap metal workers to South Georgia in March 1982 - the incident that sparked off the war for what the British call the Falklands and the Argentinians call the Malvinas.

On the other hand it must not be presumed the war was a spontaneous conflagration.

Five years after the war Martin Middlebrook became the first British military historian since the end of hostilities to be granted a visa by the Argentine government to visit their country, and was given permission to interview the admirals, captains, petty officers, pilots, commanders and ordinary soldiers who took part in the war, including the officer in command of the garrison at Goose Green and the brigadier general responsible

Falklands: The view from Argentina

for the defence of Port Stanley.

The result is *The Fight for the Malvinas*, in which he tells of the war as seen from the other side. The author has already written on the British operations in *Operation Corporate*, a book that was also later published in paperback under the title, *Task Force*.

A feature of *The Fight for the Malvinas* is the wealth of photographs, hitherto unseen in Britain, taken by those engaged in the war.

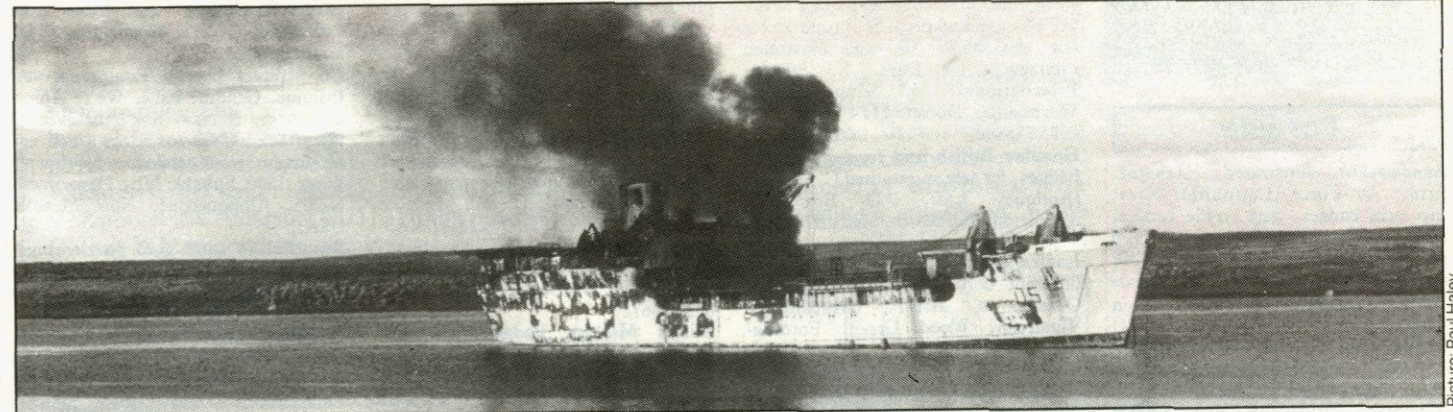
The message that comes through from all the Argentine Servicemen interviewed is one of disenchantment with the conflict and the junta that took the country into war.

An Argentine naval radio operator on board a hospital ship sums up the views of some of the wounded conscript soldiers: "They had a big resentment against their officers; many men told me they had come to hate their officers more than the British. They had a high regard for the professionalism of the British; it was as though the British were fighting a different war."

Martin Middlebrook's description of the surrender of Brig Gen Menendez to Maj Gen Moore has some illuminating undertones, hinting at some of the differences in attitude to the conflict: "Observers who saw the two teams enter an office comment on the contrast between the British officers, in dirty combat dress, straight from service in the field, and the smart uniforms of the Argentine officers who had been able to remain in Stanley." - BJ

The Fight for the Malvinas: The Argentine Forces in the Falklands War by Martin Middlebrook. Published by Viking. Price £14.95.

Battles of the Falklands War by Gordon Smith. Charts the course of the Falklands campaign with the aid of more than 40 maps showing movements of the forces involved during the build-up and in each battle or engagement. Published by Ian Allan. Price £13.95.



RFA Sir Galahad still burning in Bluff Cove days after the attack in which Simon Weston received his wounds

Village lad - and hero

SIMON WESTON, village lad, has become Simon Weston, currently the most highly publicised soldier of the Falklands conflict. The subject of major television documentaries, guest at The Man of the Year lunch, a man who shakes hands with royalty, pilot, organiser of a charity to help unemployed teenagers, and now author of his autobiography, *Walking Tall*.

The period of transformation took him through unbelievable physical pain and intense mental suffering from the terrible burns caused when a 2,000lb Argentinian bomb smashed through the *Sir Galahad*, killing many of his friends in the Welsh Guards, to the point of suicide during his long road to recovery.

"There have been times when I've wanted to top myself," he admits . . . "there were days when I did not want to wake up, when I was fed up



Gdsm Simon Weston receives his South Atlantic Medal from the Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Colonel of the Household Division

with being pestered, when I wanted to be a private person again . . ."

In a frank and amusing style which has also characterised his television appearances, he recalls: "I used to find ways to deaden the emotional pain. It amused me to think that I was

walking around in public with skin on my nose that came from my backside."

He has endured 39 operations but bravely declares: "I don't ever want to come to terms with the fact that I've been disabled. If you come to terms with it, you've got

nothing more to fight against."

Simon Weston has proved to be a fighter, a lad with spirit - Weston Spirit, the name that he has given to the charity he runs in Liverpool.

What of the future? "I want to take up sub-squa, I want to complete my flying course, I want to drive round Australia," he says.

"But perhaps I'll just fade away and run a corner shop. After all, I'm just an ordinary guy who happened to have the good fortune to survive a tragedy and to have a documentary made about me. Basically, I suppose, I just want to be the happy-go-lucky lad I once was, cracking jokes and having a drink - Simon Weston, village lad."

But the Falklands changed all that. These days he is walking tall.

Walking Tall by Simon Weston. Published by Bloomsbury. Price £13.95.

"QUITE close to the mess was a very tiny galley and it smelled as if someone had burned the toast. We opened the doors and there were about 40 black faces. It was a feeling of horror. You wanted to close the doors and run."

These are the words of Marion Stock who served as a member of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service during the Falklands War.

It is part of a vast range of contributions that make up a remarkable work of oral history, *Speaking Out: Untold Stories from the Falklands War*, in which Michael Bilton and Peter Kosminsky have

The real lessons of bloody conflict

documented the recollections and opinions of diplomats, sailors, airmen, soldiers and civilians who were there or directly connected with the political background.

Bilton and Kosminsky made the acclaimed television feature *Falklands War: The Untold Story*.

The Servicemen's and Servicewomen's accounts of their experiences are numerous, startling and intensely moving. It is, however, the words of the diplomats that spell out the lessons of the Falklands War. Sir Anthony Parsons, Britain's Ambassador to the United Nations at the time: "I think there was a major failure of diplomacy on both sides . . ."

Sir Anthony Williams, British Ambassador in Buenos Aires from 1980 to 1982: "There was a serious miscalculation made in London during the time of the South Georgia crisis. But I would say that the miscalculation goes back even earlier . . ."

This is an anti-war book that works on the assumption that if the public at home knew what was suffered by forces engaged in the war, there would not have been the popular support witnessed at the time.

It tells what most Servicemen and Servicewomen already know: "... the Falklands War confirmed yet again the lesson that each generation seems to have to learn afresh. That warfare, which ever side you are on, is a horrific, frightening and bloody business." - BJ

Speaking Out: Untold Stories from the Falklands War by Michael Bilton and Peter Kosminsky. Published by Andre Deutsch. Price £14.95.

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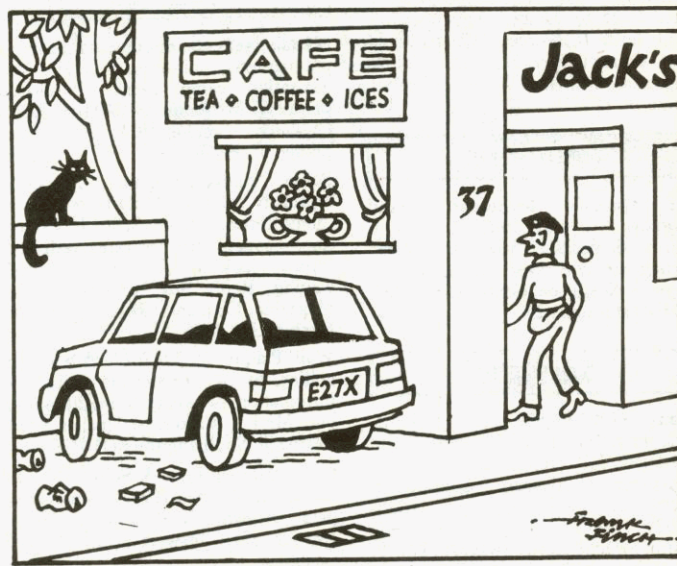
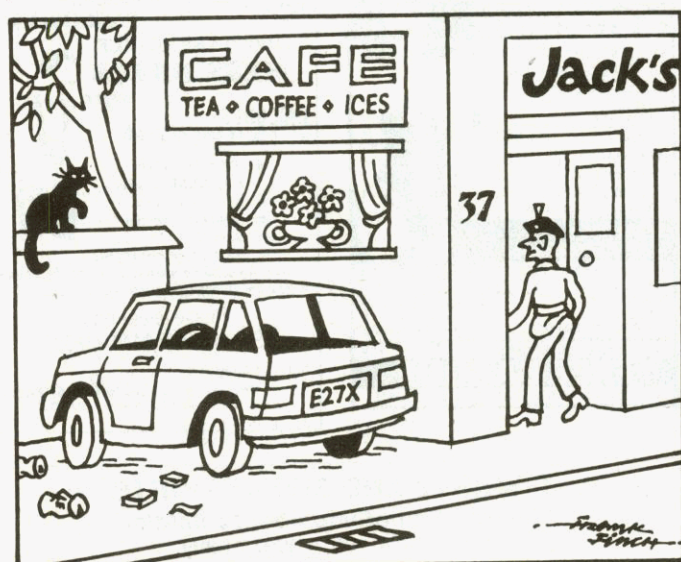
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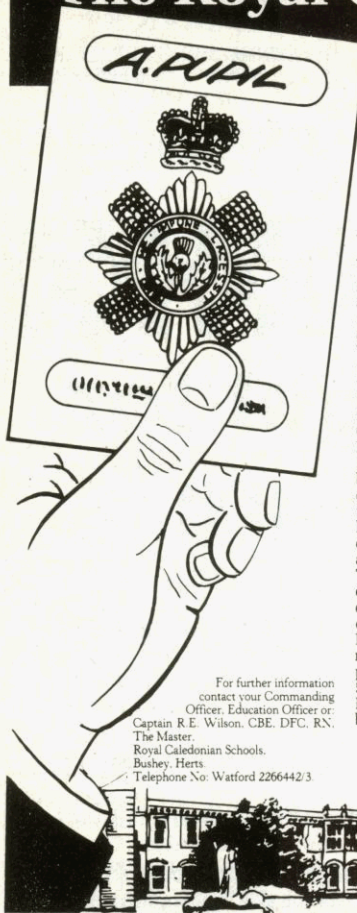
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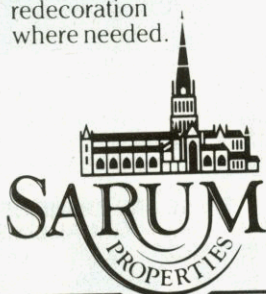
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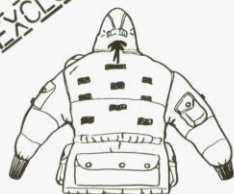
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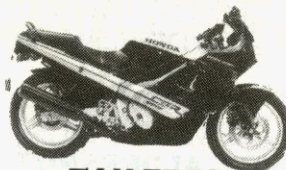
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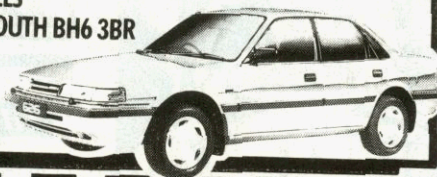
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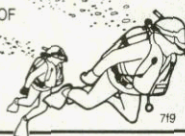
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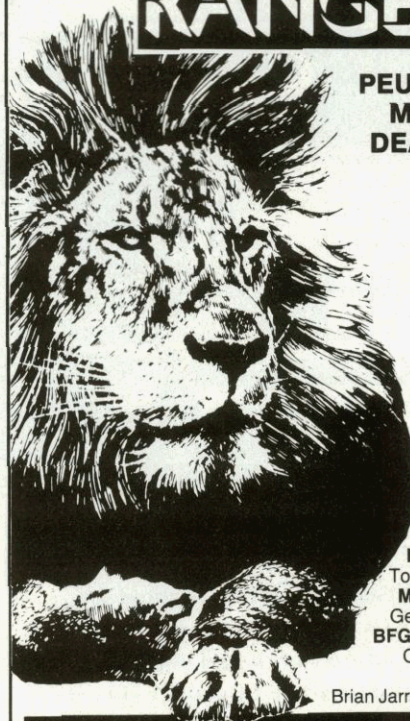
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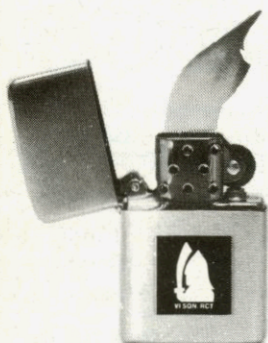
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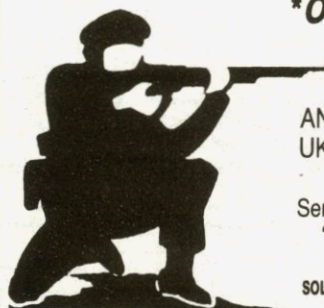
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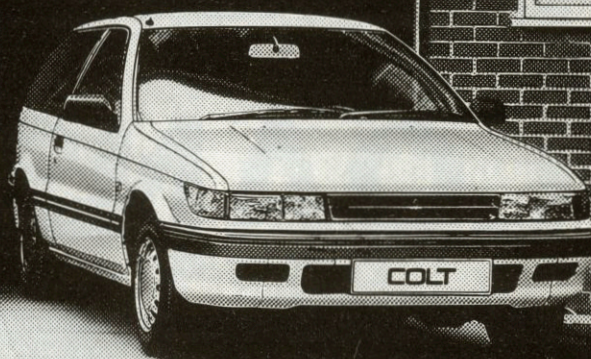
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Leading the way

Goal ace Guy set to sign for Pompey

GOAL grabbing Cpl Guy Whittingham from SEME Bordon has been named the Army's Footballer of the Year.

And even more exciting news for the man whose goals played a crucial part in Combined Services' Kentish Cup triumph over the Dutch and Belgians is that he is on the verge of a professional career in the game.

Having scored on his debut for Portsmouth FC reserves during the winter, he now looks like signing a contract with the South Coast Second Division club. Chelsea and Sheffield United had also shown an interest in his talents.

Whittingham (24) has been in the Army for six years and has been a first team regular for the past two seasons, scoring 14 goals during the latest campaign.

"I've always wanted a chance

That's just 1 DERR-ful!

THE footballers of Hong Kong's resident battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, achieved a league and cup double to round off a very successful season in the colony.

The battalion team travelled from their base at Stanley Fort on the southern tip of Hong Kong island to Sek Kong in the New Territories for the popular RAF invitation eight competition, and ended up beating their hosts 4-0 in the final.

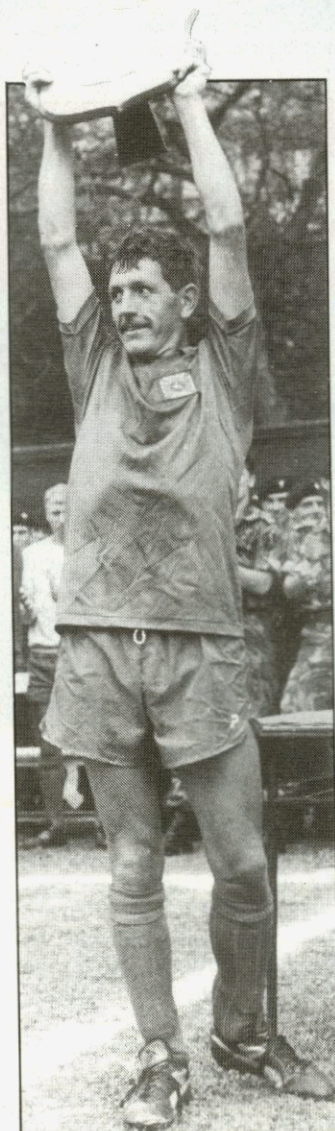
Four days later goals by Pte Dave Maynard and WO2 (QMSI) Bob Cardy earned 1 DERR a 2-1 victory over the Royal Navy in the final of the British Forces (HK) Major Units Cup at Soo Kum Poo Stadium.

After the match they also received the Hong Kong Forces League First Division trophy and learned they will also be presented with the annual Fair Play Cup awarded by the referees' committee.

to play professional football, but as a youngster I didn't think I was good enough," he said.

"But I've learned a lot in the Army. I started off in midfield and the Army soon put me up front to get me out of the way!"

Whittingham's talents have also been appreciated by Beaser Homes leaguers Waterlooville and Yeovil of the GM Conference. In 99 games during the 1988-89 season he has found the back of the net 87 times.



1 DERR skipper Sgt John Ingles celebrates



On the ball . . . Footballer of the Year Cpl Guy Whittingham

Workshop wizards

SEE 1, 1 Corps Tps Wksp 3

ARMY Minor Units Challenge Cup winners 1 Corps Tps Wksp added the Craftsman Cup to their trophy cabinet when they defeated the School of Electronic Engineering at Bordon by three goals to one.

SEE, the UK champions, took the lead over the men from BAOR after 15 minutes, but LCpl Henry Heard equalised from the penalty spot and Cfn Shelly Sheldon added two more.

After the game, Brig Mike Gardner presented a tankard to

LCpl Dave McFarlane on behalf of REME BAOR football before his departure into Civvy Street.

1 Corps Tps Wksp have so far this season won the BAOR and Army Minor Units Challenge Cups, the BAOR and REME Craftsman Cups, and were runners up to 10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT, the current Army Major Units champions, in the 4 Div Major Units Cup. And they have still got one more final to play – the 4 Div Minor Units cup final.



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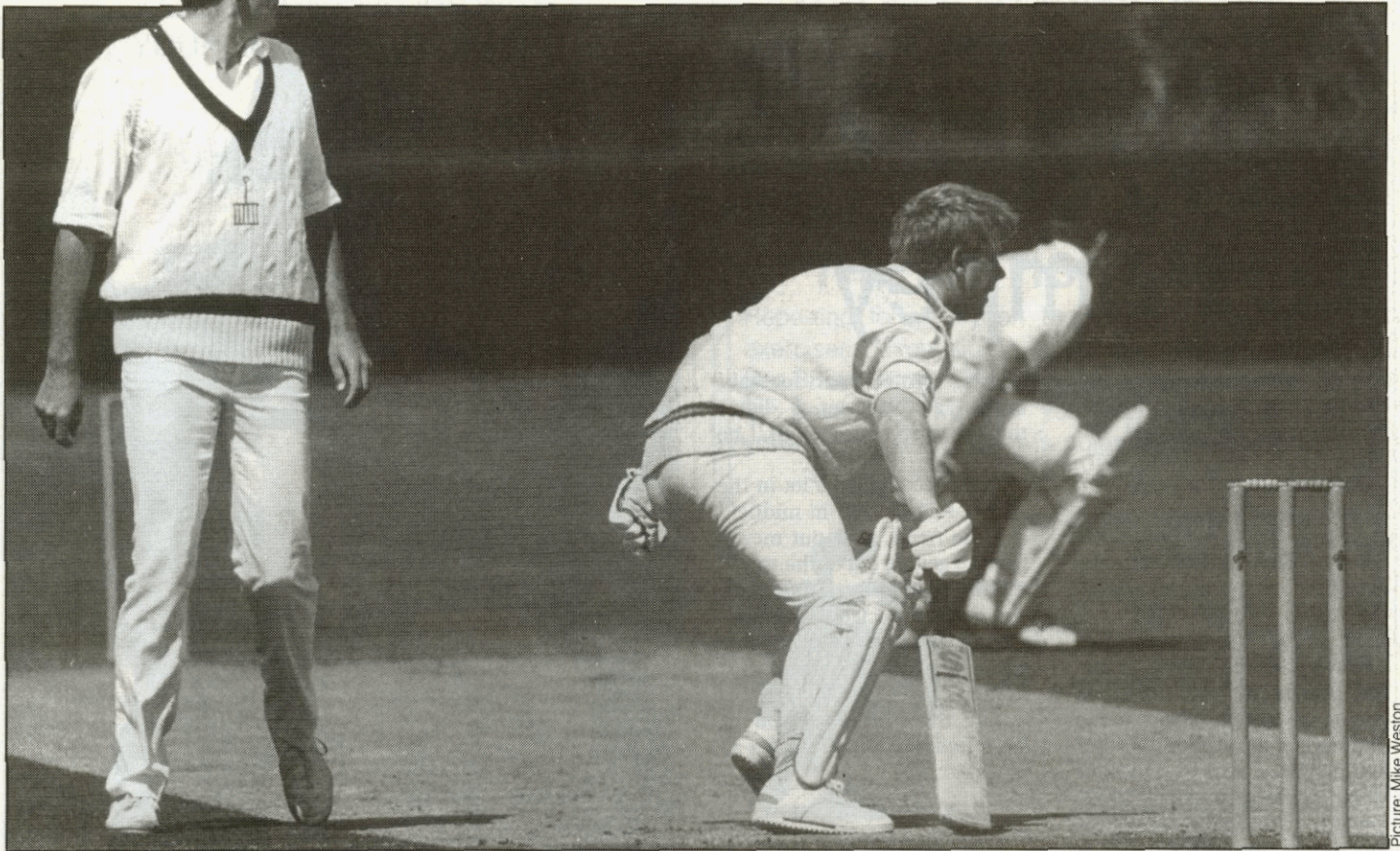
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Lt Keith Rumbelow turns for a second run in the match between South West District and London District as bowler Capt Peter Krasinski (left) looks on. The other batsman is Cpl Graham Summersgill

Picture: Mike Weston

Sunshine festival

SEVERAL promising cricketers emerged from the pack during the Inter-District festival at Aldershot and will be very much in the selectorial eye at both senior and Under 25 levels.

But the tournament's primary aim, to serve as an early season Army trial, was somewhat undermined when two districts turned up with woefully incomplete teams.

Others arrived with reserves to spare, so by juggling the extra players Army cricket secretary Lt Col Keith Hitchcock was able to get the three day festival under way. He was not amused to learn the following week that absentees had included a newcomer to the Service with county second eleven experience.

In the event the combined North East/North West/Scotland team took the honours, defeating South West by nearly 100 runs in the final. Prominent for the northerners was former Army cap Maj Tim Lerwill, 8 LI, who after two years in Hong Kong put in his

... but absentee 'possibles' detract from the value of trials

bid with a fine innings of 67 in the final.

A week later he hammered 90 for the Infantry in their drawn match against RMA Sandhurst.

Capt David O'Kelly, Green Howards, was another to impress in the NE team, scoring runs and taking wickets during the festival. For the South West, Lt Keith Rumbelow, 1 Queens, made a fine 127 against London.

Biggest total of the three days was the 303 for one amassed by London against Northern Ireland. It included 126 from Army skipper Capt Edward Gordon Lennox, Gren Gds, 92 not out from Lt Charlie Redmayne, IG, and 55 not out by Lt Simon Dryden of 16 Lt AD.

Capt Peter Krasinski of the Grenadier Guards returned useful figures for the South

West with his pacey – and accurate – bowling, while Capt Alistair Beard, HQ 39 Bde, made a good impression with the bat.

There is also good news for the senior squad in the shape of the aggressive Cpl Andy Taylor, RCT, available again after a summer of duty. He should make a considerable contribution to the bowling of the side.

Several new faces emerged for Under 25 honours, including former Cambridge University player Lt Rob Thomson, RGJ; polo playing Lt Alasdair Murdoch, QRIH; the brothers Stephen and Richard Cornhill, both privates in 3 Queens currently serving in Northern Ireland; Lt Dave Cuffley, RAEC, from Princess Marina College, Arborfield; and Fus Jonathan Jeremias of Bulford based 2 RRF.

One of the highlights of the districts' festival was the quality of the pitches and grounds provided by Frank Vincent and his staff at the Officer's Club, Aldershot. The third ground used for the tournament, at Buller Barracks, was also in superb condition.

NE 185-9 (O'Kelly 45, Naylor 58; Taylor 6-23). **SE** 86 (Taylor 22; O'Kelly 4-23, Holland 3-23).

SW 231-6 (Rumbelow 127, Robson 33; Krasinski 3-51). **London** 105 (Krasinski 36, Redmayne 32; Jeremias 1-7, Slee 3-12, Redford 2-5).

Eastern 206-6 (Clitheroe 77, Morrison 26). **NI** 196 (St Clare 47, Beard 41, Pearson 32; Barnett 3-30, Mitchell 3-46).

London 303-1 (Gordon Lennox 126, Redmayne 92 not, Dryden 55 not). **NI** 112 (Cornhill 23, St Clare 20; Nash 2-11).

Eastern 117-8 (Taylor 34, Rimmington 22; Murdoch 2-8, O'Kelly 2-13, Cotterell 2-23). **NE** 119-2 (Naylor 38 not, Kellett 33, O'Kelly 27).

SE 184-6 (Thomson 74, Bird 50; Jeremias 3-36). **SW** 177-8 (Summersgill 46; Cooper 3-20, Howells 2-23).

Final: NE 250-5 (Lerwill 67, Cotterell 46 not, Brawn 45, Germain 30; Rumbelow 2-31). **SW** 159 (Redford 40, Rumbelow 26; O'Kelly 3-15, Walker 3-23).



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