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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



SSgt Geordie Pollin oils the wheels of the last of the dinosaurs while LCpl Neil Attridge looks on. The huge vehicle, a descendant of those common on the beaches

of Normandy 46 years ago, is alive and well and living at the Armoured Vehicle Sub Depot at Ludgershall, Wilts. Read about the unit – and the beast – in the next issue.

FRONT COVER:
A soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment pauses at a crossroads near Newton Hamilton. A feature on The Vikings on duty in South Armagh begins on Page 23.

This 'major' is really a sergeant

DRUM major, pipe major and bugle major are appointments, initially as sergeant. After three years, providing he has carried out his musical and military duties satisfactorily, he is promoted colour sergeant, then, after a further five years, with an Army first class certificate of education, to WO2.

His badge of office is four inverted chevrons, with a drum or bugle as appropriate above the stripes. The colour sergeant wears a small crown above the drum, the WO2 a large crown. He is always addressed as Drum Major, Bugle Major or Pipe Major, as the case may be.

These promotions were introduced only after the Second World War (Guards excepted).

Trumpet majors, incidental-

ly, are almost non-existent. The days of trumpeters in the Royal Artillery and RASC sadly are a thing of the past. — **Charlie Gay** (ex-Drum Major, Worcestershire Regiment, 1950-61), 63 The Hill Avenue, Bath Road, Worcester WR5 2AN.

NCO list anomaly

IN reply to my letter headed "Drum major's badge anomaly" (SOLDIER, November 27) I received a lengthy explanation from Mr L Thompson, of Preston Lancers, in which he revealed the following facts:

● No drum, pipe or trumpet major on being appointed is

ranked as a WO2. He is in fact a sergeant and has to progress to staff sergeant, then to WO2.

● Initially he wears four chevrons surmounted by a badge of a drum, bagpipe or trumpet.

I must point out that I raised what I considered to be an anomaly because I am in possession of a list of all warrant officer appointments sent to me by the MoD in response to an enquiry about seniority.

In the appointments bracketed against Class 2, that of drum, pipe or trumpet major is included.

The list of NCOs was not appended and I am left wondering, in view of the information supplied by Mr Thompson, whether the band appointment in question is also shown along with staff sergeant and again with sergeant.

Perhaps a serving soldier could enlighten us on this score. — **A Worley**, 42 Yatesbury Crescent, Nottingham NG8 3AW.

Warden not entitled to war grave

IT IS puzzling that Servicemen shot or hanged after being sentenced by courts martial or civil courts should be entitled to war graves.

My father served with the Somersets in France during the First World War, and was wounded and missing for several weeks. In 1938, he volunteered for the ARP Service and was killed while on duty as a warden.

Although his death was a direct result of war he was not entitled to a war grave because he was a civilian. Had he been a Serviceman he would have qualified for a war grave.

I am not saying that executed men deserved their fate, just that Authority has a strange way of looking at things.

It amazes me that men who had served under such terrible conditions, perhaps for years, should be executed for suffering a mental breakdown. Nowadays we read of "combat stress" and "they've given more than they could". — **H V Cossons**, 4 Rickhayes, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9BH.

Americans in Canal Zone

CAN anyone help me settle an argument with my husband? As a girl telephonist in the Second World War I remember American troops serving in the Canal Zone in Egypt. My

husband has no recollection of this. My name at the time was Nina Urgaro — anyone remember me? — **Mrs R G Joyce**, Ubique, 18 Green Meadows, Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0JS.

Calling

● Readers willing to lend items relating to the history of **Netley Hospital**, Britain's largest military hospital from 1856 to 1966, are asked to contact P W Kirkby, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey, Southampton, Hants, who is organising an exhibition in May 1990.

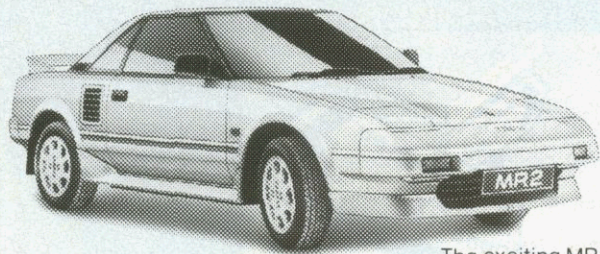
● Old comrades from the **Suffolk Regiment 1926-28** please contact W Gilbert, 10 Lovelace Gardens, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 4NU.

● Anyone who served with or knows the whereabouts of other members of a group of 17 men who escaped from **Singapore** on February 13, 1942 is asked to

contact D L M Stringer, c/o Mrs J Bridgeman, 19 The Glades, Bexhill-on-Sea, West Sussex (tel 0424-223264). The RASC men all had some connection with Lt Col T L Fox and included SQMS Wilmer, Pugh and Knight.

● Allied men and women who served in Malta between June 11, 1940 and May 13, 1943, or who were involved in attempts to supply the island fortress are welcomed by the **George Cross Island Association**, which is planning a reunion visit to Malta for spring this year. Next-of-kin also welcomed. Contact Mr F Rixon, 10 Nepaul Road, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7EU.

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RCT stands by for new battlefield truck

THE first of 1,522 DROPS trucks which will revolutionise battlefield logistics have been delivered by their makers, Leyland DAF.

They will go via the RAOC Depot, Ashchurch, Glos, to the Army School of Mechanical Transport, Leconfield, Yorks, so that drivers can train on them.

DROPS stands for Demountable Rack Offloading Pick Up System which uses an outside hydraulic arm and flatrack to hoist loads of pallets aboard.

It enables a driver unaided to pick up and deliver up to 15 tons of ammunition without the help of fork-lift trucks.

One DROPS lorry will do the work of two

eight-tonne vehicles and the system is also expected to allow a considerable saving in manpower.

The first DROPS Medium Mobility Load Carrier will be in the hands of the Royal Corps of Transport in the next few months and should start to reach regiments in Germany later this year.

Medics answer 700 calls a day

GROWING public confidence in the ambulance service provided by the Army was reflected in an increasing number of call-outs and praise from civilian doctors. Military ambulances were first deployed on November 8 in the London area, followed by deployments in Hertfordshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, South Yorkshire, West Midlands and Dorset. They have since been withdrawn from Derbyshire.

A total of 92 ambulances, crewed by medically-trained personnel from the three Services, have been deployed under the direct operational control of the regional ambulance services through the civil police.

In London three-quarter ton Land Rovers have been replaced by white ambulances.

Col David Whitfield, Commander Medical Headquarters, London District said: "We have been very encouraged and pleased by the comments of civilian accident and emergency consultants. In several cases they have praised the prompt professional care of Army ambulance crews which have saved lives."

Crews and behind-the-scenes staff have been visited by Archie Hamilton, Armed Forces Minister, and Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health. Mrs Bottomley said: "In an obviously difficult and sensitive situation, they have carried out their tasks confidently and without fuss, and deserve the unqualified respect and gratitude of the whole community."

Military ambulances were responding to about 700 emergency calls each day.

Grenadier cadets

IPSWICH and Ixworth detachments of the Suffolk Army Cadet Force became the first ACF units in the country to wear the insignia of the Grenadier Guards when they held an affiliation parade at their Ipswich headquarters.



Cpl Debbie Stevenson, RCT, demonstrates oxygen breathing equipment to Health Minister Virginia Bottomley, who visited Army crews providing military support during the ambulance dispute

Chopper pilot plucked LI pair from flash flood

A CANADIAN forces pilot attached to 657 Squadron Army Air Corps has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air for rescuing two soldiers from a flooded river in Kenya.

Capt Greg Wiebe was flying in support of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry during an exercise in northern Kenya when a resupply convoy of four-ton vehicles was caught crossing a dry river bed by a flash flood. Two crews scrambled clear, but the men in the middle truck were stranded.

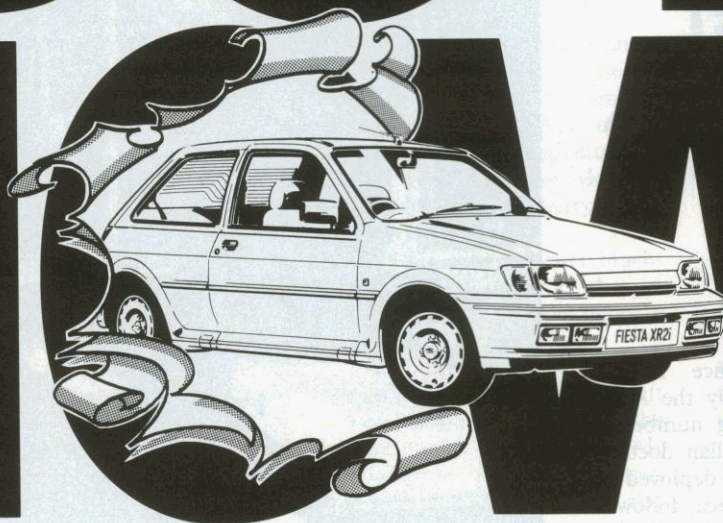
A message for help took five hours to reach battalion headquarters, whereupon Capt Wiebe immediately volunteered to

launch a search and rescue mission.

The flight, in appalling conditions, was fraught with danger but Capt Wiebe and his crew located the vehicle and found the two men clinging to the by now partly submerged canopy. Capt Wiebe twice positioned his helicopter over the flooded vehicle, allowing the soldiers to grab the skids and be flown to the safety of the riverbank. Neither man could swim and both would almost certainly have drowned but for Capt Wiebe and his crew who acted with great personal bravery.

Capt Wiebe's period of attachment with 657 Sqn ends in July.

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Misty farewell

Mist helped to draw a gentle veil over the final appearance with the Royal Artillery of the 8in howitzer when 39 Heavy Regiment fired their huge self-propelled guns into history on the Nato ranges at Bergen-Hohne, West Germany. The 8in howitzer dates back

to the First World War and has been in service in evolving forms with 39 Hvy Regt for almost 30 years.

Last round was fired by the CO, Lt Col Brian Wheelwright, after a *feu de joie* involving all 12 guns. The entire regiment was on parade for the

occasion, and a large number of guests included the Major General Royal Artillery, Maj Gen David Quayle, and Brig Alan Gordon, Commander 1 Artillery Brigade.

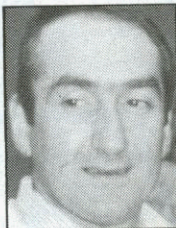
The regiment is to be re-equipped with the Multi-Launch Rocket System.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Double delight

AN ARMY colonel and his daughter have scored a notable family double by receiving awards in the military list of New Year Honours.

They are Col Graham Owens, 55, who has just retired as Commandant Joint Air Transport Establishment (JATE) at Brize Norton, who received the CBE, and his 26-year-old daughter, Capt Philippa Owens, who was awarded the MBE.



SSgt Andrew Mudd (pictured), seriously injured in a car bomb attack in Colchester in November, receives the BEM for his leadership of an RMP Close Protection Team in Beirut from November 1988 to May 1989.

Philippa was honoured alongside the commander of the British contingent of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia, Lt Col Neil Donaldson, R Signals who receives the OBE. She was one of his troop commanders.

They were part of a 70-strong unit from 30 Signal Regiment in Blandford, Dorset, which flew to Africa to provided communications for the UN force.

Philippa, who was commissioned in 1987 into the WRAC, is permanently employed with R Signals. She is adjutant at Blandford and is the first woman to hold the post in an all-male Regular, battalion-sized unit.

Her father, who was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1955, has served in many parts of the world mostly with the Airborne and Commando forces and was military attaché to Norway, 1980-83. He is the only foreigner to be awarded the gold Norwegian ski badge.

Order of the Bath

KCB

Lt Gen C R L Guthrie LVO OBE, Colonel Commandant Int Corps; Lt Gen G D Johnson OBE MC, Colonel 10 GR.

CB

Maj Gen L F H Busk, Hon Col RE (Vols) Sponsored Units; Maj Gen M T Fugard, ALC; Maj Gen R J Hodges OBE, Colonel Kings Own Border; Maj Gen J A Hulme, Late RAOC; Maj Gen T D G Quayle, Late RA.

Order of British Empire

GBE

Gen Sir Richard Vincent KCB DSO, Colonel Commandant RA, Honorary Colonel 100 (Yeomanry) Fd Regt RA (Vols).

CBE

Brig N C Allen OBE ADC, RMP; Brig G G Arnold, Late RA; Col M G Douglas-Withers, Late RA; Col A D C L Leask OBE, Late SG; Brig D L Lewis OBE, Late RTR; Col G R Owens, Late RE; Lt Col H Thompson ADC, Late RE; Brig S T Webber, Late REME.

OBE

Lt Col N J Bird, RA; Lt Col W R Clarke MBE, Gren Gds; Acting Lt Col G Coles, CCF TA; Lt Col G N Donaldson, R Signals; Lt Col C B Fairweather, KOSB; Lt Col S Fordham, WG; Lt Col R S Fox, QOH; Acting Lt Col R J C Glasgow, CCF TA; Lt Col J C Gunnell, RRF; Lt Col M T P M Hyland, RA; Lt Col T J Ludlam, RE; Lt Col D J Martin, RE; Acting Col D McNamara, ACF TA; Lt Col A G G Miller, QRIH; Lt Col T E Nelson, RCT; Lt Col R J F Owen, RE; Lt Col I M Strain, RAMC; Lt Col P J Wagstaffe, RA.

MBE

Maj K T Bacon, RMP; Maj H N Benson, R Irish; Maj (QGO) Chintabhadur Gurung MVO, 6 GR; HK/WO1 M Choi, HKMSC; Maj J W Church, RRF; WO1 P Corbett, RTR; WO1 T J Crocker, RAPC; Maj G G Davies, Para; Maj P C Deane, RA; WO1 P J Doherty, R Signals; WO2 A G Doyle, Kings TA; Capt P T Dunkerley, Gren Gds; WO2 S Eggett, Int Corps; Maj W J L Fiskel, R Signals; Maj D B Folwell, RE; Maj R F Gatward, REME; Maj D C Gent, RA; Acting Capt J H Hargreaves, CCF TA.

Maj R F Harmes, RA; WO2 A Hill, RE; WO1 R C Hunt, R Signals TA; Maj N C Jackson, R Signals; Capt G Jones, RA; Maj W H A Knight, Scots DG; WO1 N C Mapp, R Signals; Maj W E Matthews, IG; Maj J W McNally, BW; Capt P J Mullings, DERR; Maj A J Muston, RAOC; Maj A N Nottley, WRAC TA; Maj J P J O'Sullivan, RE; Lt P A Owens, WRAC; WO2 J W Pepino, Int Corps; WO1 T E Pickering, Cheshire; Maj T J V Rees, RRW TA; Maj H A Robinson, PWO.

Rev M D Scouler, RACD; WO2 A T Smith, Queens TA; Maj M F Thompson, RE; WO2 B W Virgin, RMP; Maj G E Ward, RE; Capt C R White, RAOC; WO1 J P Wood, REME; Maj M S H Worsley-Tonks, Para; Maj C Young, ACC.

Air Force Cross

WO2 D Nicholls, AAC.

Royal Red Cross

RRC

Lt Col J M C Cowan TD, QARANC TA; Capt S Emmett, QARANC; Lt Col G C Royle TD, RAMC TA.

ARRC

Sgt A M M Barr, RAMC; Maj S G F Millard, RAMC.

British Empire Medal

Sgt R A Amy, WRAC; Sgt N D Ansell, RCT; SSgt G R Ashton, D and D TA; Sgt Balpalsad Sherchan, 6 GR; SSgt T Bell, Kings TA; Cpl P I Boyes, ACC TA; Sgt C F Branson, RGJ; Sgt R Calderwood, RAMC; SSgt C G Caton, Coldm Gds; Sgt S J Charlton, RAOC; Sgt R Charters, KOSB; Cpl B A Clarkson, RCT; LCpl N T Cope, RRW; Sgt W E Crowder, RY TA; SSgt B A Dacey, RAOC; Sgt M J Deacon, RAOC.

Sgt P K Dunn, RAPC TA; SSgt G H Fraser, R Signals TA; Sgt D J Gattford, RA; SSgt R Geddes, REME; Cpl K Goodlad, Green Howards; Cpl G Haffie, RTR; Sgt N J Hancock, REME; SSgt N A Hart, RAOC; SSgt D J Hicks, WRAC; SSgt J Hodgson, R Signals TA; Sgt S M Holmes, ACC TA; SSgt J D S Humphrey, RGJ; SSgt P R Hunt, RA; Sgt C L Johnson, R Signals; Cpl T Johnston, RHF; Cpl J A Keen, RAMC TA; SSgt J W Lawton, R Anglian.

Cpl J W Leverett, RCT; SSgt C K Luckham, R Signals; Pte S Marcroft, WRAC; SSgt T McIntosh, RCT TA; SSgt J B Milburn, RA; Sgt J H Morgan, RE; SSgt R G Morgan, REME; SSgt A K Mudd, RMP; Sgt B F G Mulcock, RY TA; Sgt T P C Murray, RA; Sgt R Nellies, Kings; SSgt G A Nixon, 13/18 H; SSgt A Osmand, REME; Cpl D R Pearson, RE; SSgt J R Pedrick, RAVC; SSgt P A Pile, REME; Sgt R B Reid, R Signals; SSgt G R Robson, RAOC.

Sgt D J Rogers, RA; SSgt T J Scarll, RAPC; SSgt E S Scholey, RE; Sgt Shreebahadur Gurung, 2 GR; SSgt D A Skelly, RE TA; Cpl M F Smith, R Signals; Sgt To Yuen Sun, QG Signals; SSgt T J Walker, QRIH; Cpl S J Webb, Para; Sgt A T Wedesch, Gren Gds; Sgt N J Wells, REME; SSgt A J West, Gren Gds; SSgt J R Williams, SAS TA; SSgt T W Young, RAPC TA.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Maj D C MacLaine, AAC.

Overseas Awards

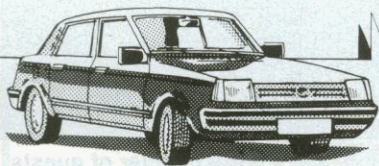
OBE

Lt Col E A Guerrero, Gibraltar Regt.

MBE

WO1 Li Cheuk-Yin, RHKR; WO1 L H Lopez, Gibraltar Regt; Maj R D Taylor, RHKR.

Financial Service to the Services

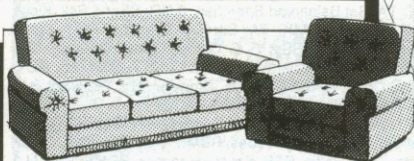


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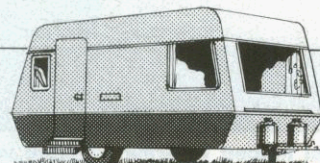
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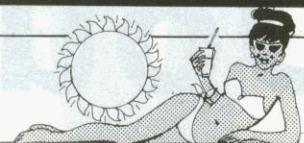
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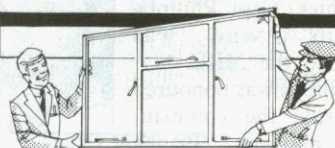
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Bomb disposal centre marks record number of UK call-outs during 1989

INCREASED terrorist activity and a greater public awareness of security have led to a record number of call-outs by Army bomb disposal experts. The Joint Services Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operations Centre (JSEODOC) at the HQ of 11 Ordnance Battalion (EOD) responded to 1,030 calls last year.

It also carried out 4,005 conventional munitions disposal tasks.

The work ranged from visiting scenes of

explosions, such as Deal, to offer expert advice and clear secondary devices, to disposing of devices left by animal rights extremists. A disturbing aspect was the continuing number of youngsters injured in home-made bomb experiments.

11 Ord Bn is on a national call-out (with the exception of the area within the M25 covered by the Metropolitan Police's own disposal squad). Eighty-five per cent of the tasks are completed by RAOC teams, with

significant contributions from the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Engineers.

Live incidents in 1989 totalled 76. Last year conventional munitions disposal rose by 800 because of a police amnesty which brought in mementoes from the Boer to the Falklands wars.

JSEODOC was formed in 1982 and until 1988 tasks hovered between 400 and 500 a year. In 1988 they rose to 804.



The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards leadership cadre on parade at Detmold

'Best man' knew his stuff

WHICH tank commander of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards knocked out five German Panthers in a day in Normandy in 1944? If you didn't know it was Sgt Dick Harris in a Sherman Firefly mounting a 17-pounder, you didn't stand much chance of winning the Mullens Cup for the "best man at arms" in the regiment.

For that was the sort of question about

regimental history which was likely to be asked during the 14-day leadership course the competition entails.

And that was one of the easy bits . . .

Other items included a 70km forced march, a couple of days patrolling on foot in sub-zero temperatures on the training area, building a raft and travelling 100 metres on a frozen lake.

The winner was LCpl Rocky Morton, 23, who has been five years with the 4th/7th.

The trophy was presented by Lt Gen Sir Anthony Mullens, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Systems) whose grandfather presented the cup in 1913, a year before, as CO, he took the 4th Dragoon Guards to France. Lt Gen Mullens's father also served in the regiment.

● Best student on the 4th Field Regiment RA Lance Bombardier Leadership Course at Osnabrück was Gnr Geoff Clark of HQ Battery. Gnr Graham Gill of the same battery was the most improved student.

At a passing-out parade at the end of the course, the Major General Royal Artillery, Maj Gen David Quayle, presented Gnr Gill with the GOC's commendation for bravery during the Clive School fire in 1988 when he led several German workmen to safety.

Royal Scots win first Warrior Sword

FIRST winners of the Warrior Sword presented by GKN Defence are B Company, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment). They beat their own A Coy and B Coy, The Staffordshire Regiment into joint second place.

The sword is to be awarded annually to the armoured infantry company achieving

the best gunnery results. Commander 1st British Corps, Lt Gen Charles Guthrie, said it was fitting the Warrior Sword had been won for the time by the oldest regiment in the British Army and the 1st Regiment of the Line. He took the salute as the regiment marched past to the music of the Regimental Band and Pipes and Drums.

General tribute

When Buller Barracks (North) was renamed Travers Barracks in honour of the late Lt Gen Sir **Paul Travers**, his widow, **Lady Travers**, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Accompanying Lady Travers were her daughter **Sara** and son, Capt **Martin Travers**, RRF. Gen Travers was a famous son of the Royal Corps of Transport (the headquarters of which are located at Buller Barracks on the south side of Alisons Road, Aldershot), and a past GOC South East District and Quartermaster General.



THANK YOU, LUV: Happy Lawrence and girlfriend Angela

A dream come true

Men of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars made a dream come true for former Territorial Army soldier **Lawrence Bradley** from Carlisle. Lawrence (32) served with the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment for four years until he was discharged in 1979 because of epilepsy.

He had long wished to have a close

look at a Chieftain tank, so girlfriend Angela Casson wrote to SOLDIER for help. We contacted HQ North West District and the QRIH did the rest, even allowing Lawrence to fire two rounds from a Chieftain.

"It was fabulous," said Lawrence, who still keeps his boots highly polished. "It is just a pleasure to be with the Army."



Off you go, lads

Falklands War veteran **Simon Weston** (he's the smart one in the tie and blazer) fired a 105mm light gun to start the Aldershot Fun Run. He is pictured with some of the not-so-serious competitors who took part. More than 3,000 soldiers, nurses, cooks, clerks, dentists and civilians - many in fancy dress - completed the five-mile course through the military town.



PIPE CALL: LCpls Dham Bahadur Limbu and Keith Dawes with air hostesses Christine Kennedy and Jeanette McHugh

Island pipers

LCpls **Dham Bahadur Limbu** of the Gurkha Regiment and **Keith Dawes** of the Scots Guards flew to Guernsey to play the pipes at the annual Infantry Officers' dinner of the Army Benevolent Fund. Both men are from the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh.

Patrons of the ABF's Guernsey appeal are the island's Bailiff, Sir **Charles Frossard**, who served with the Dogra Regiment of the Indian Army, and Lt Gen Sir **Alexander Boswell**, Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, a former GOC Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle, home of the Army School of Piping.

PEOPLE

Medical first for Susanne

Making medical history is Lt **Susanne Holmes** of 219 Field Hospital (Oxford) RAMC (TA) who had been appointed Europe's first cardiothoracic surgeon's assistant. She will assist a heart surgeon by taking the long saphenous vein from patients' legs. The vein is used as a graft

for coronary arteries. Following six months training in America, Susanne will take over the task which has until now been exclusively performed in Britain by doctors. She will also assist with open heart surgery and transplantation. Susanne served as a private before being commissioned.



Gunners' greeting

The new GOC of 1st Armoured Division, Maj Gen **Roger Wheeler**, called on Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück, home of the 4th Field Regiment RA to meet men and officers of one of the units now under his command. Pictured with Maj Gen Wheeler (second from left) are Lt Col **Richard Williams**, RA, Maj **Keith Swinton**, RA and WO2 (BSM) **Clive Robson**.



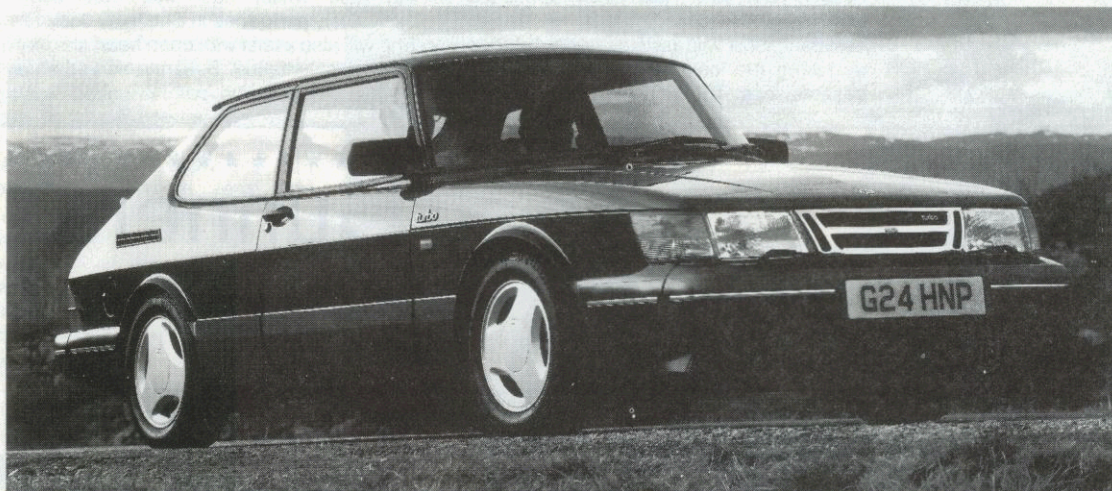
Blowing their own trumpets!

Blowing up a storm of publicity for a concert in aid of Cancer Research at Guildford City Hall on February 8 are (from left) SSgt **Annette Peters**, Cpl **Annette Cowles**, Musc **Louise Snape** and Sgt **Wendy Bell** of the Staff Band of the WRAC. They will be appearing on stage with trombonist Don Lusher, the Dave Andrews Big Band, singer Diana Vivian and trumpet player James Watson.

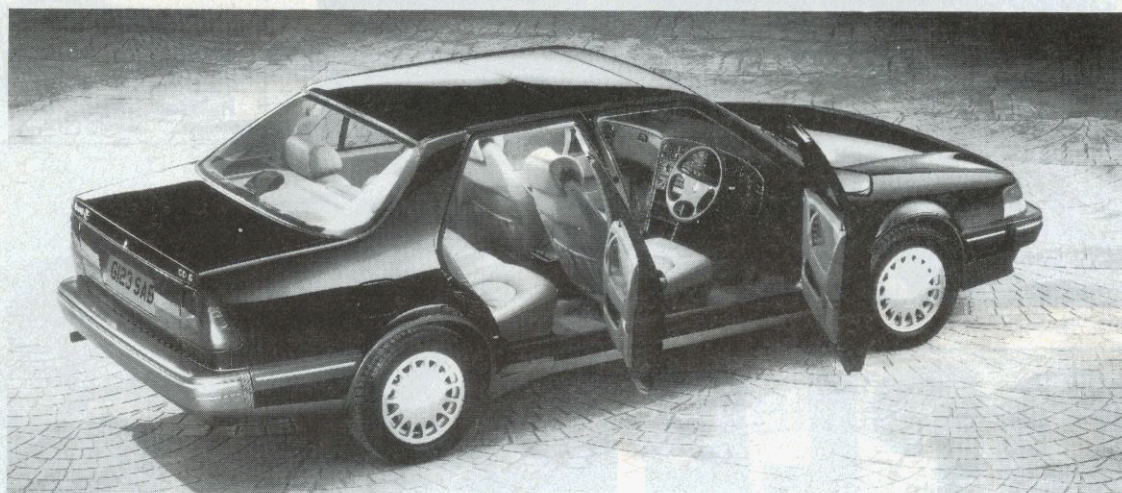
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Goodbye to old Barrak

As one door closes, another opens ... and as one much-loved publication dies, another springs up, full of the joys of youth.

Among the welter of fascinating reading matter in *SOLDIER*'s mailbag as 1989 drew to a close, one item claimed more editorial attention than most – the final edition of *Barrak*, irregular newsletter of the old boys of the Imperial Camel Corps.

Barrak, whose title is the command for a camel to kneel, passes into history following the death earlier in the year at the age of 90 of its editor, Rory Moore, one of the last remaining members of the illustrious corps which fought in the desert alongside Lawrence of Arabia.

Rory left several pages of copy and the final edition was put together by his nephew, Keith B Moore, who tells us that the first issue, believed to have been published in 1916, ran to more than 3,000 copies – probably a record for any magazine produced in enemy country at the time.

Distribution of the first number was: War Office, 1; British Museum, 1; GHQ, 1; Censor's private collection, 1; Lost in 2nd Bn HQ, 1; Sold, 3,195. Total receipts amounted to Pounds Turkish 3,195 and total expenses Pounds Turkish 3,194 – the balance to be "divided equally between the Sports Fund and the YMCA."

As *Barrak* dies, *The Drum* – newsletter for junior members of the Society of Friends of the National Army Museum – is born. Aimed at the 8 to 12 age group, it will be published in April, July and December and issued free to youngsters who pay £5 a year to belong to the organisation.

In search of paras

With the 1990 golden jubilee of the Airborne Forces in mind, efforts to track down those who have worn or been associated with the red beret have so far proved highly successful.

Names and addresses are

SOLDIER to Soldier



Picture: Mike Weston

arriving at the rate of hundreds a week – but although about 10,000 have already come forward, there are still some who haven't yet got the message.

So here it is again: send name, address, telephone number, dates of service or association and unit to Airborne Forces, PO Box 50, London WC2 8PT. The Para 90 celebrations are not to be missed.

Stable origin

Although there has been a garrison at Arborfield since 1904 there is no evidence that it has ever had a purpose-built church – until now.

The garrison hall has been converted into a multi-denominational church, including a separate Roman Catholic Memorial Chapel.

The new Arborfield Garrison Church of St Eligius was dedicated on December 3 – the saint's day.

The garrison hall started life as a reception stable for horses arriving at the Army Remount Depot – Arborfield's original role.

From stable to church could be said to be an apt choice for a building conversion.

Picture appeal

Those unwanted pictures lying around in *SOLDIER* readers' attics could be serving a more useful purpose by helping to brighten the lives of Service families.

So once you've sorted out the Van Goghs and Picassos and put them aside for the next auction, why not pass on the rest, framed or not, to the Union Jack Club in London?

Perhaps the largest residential club for Service personnel and their families in the UK, the hotel in Sandell Street, Waterloo, has 353 bedrooms.

Club president, Vice Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh, says: "This of course means a seemingly endless expanse of bedroom corridors which always appear rather bleak and institutional and seem to defy all our efforts to create the atmosphere of a friendly family hotel."

"We would very much like to acquire more pictures, particularly prints which need not necessarily have a Service theme, in order to make these bedroom floors more homely and welcoming."

Pte Nicola Box holds a giant £2,000 cheque for the Army Benevolent Fund which she presented to the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, when he visited the WRAC Centre at Guildford as inspecting officer at a passing-out parade. The money was raised by all departments of the WRAC Centre

Outbreak of stamps

Philatelists will not want to miss a new series of commemorative covers marking important events in the Second World War – and the bonus is that they'll be helping Service charities.

The Joint Service Philatelic Charities Fund, a group of serving and retired personnel, have selected "Britain Declares War on Germany" and "Battle of the Atlantic" as the first two subjects for the covers.

Beneficiary of the first will be the Lord Dowding Sheltered Housing Appeal, while the second charity has yet to be chosen. A catalogue and price list can be obtained from: Joint Service Philatelic Charities Fund, 60 Shelveys Way, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 8QF.

A Combined Services expedition to South Georgia in 1964-65 is to be commemorated in a special issue of postage stamps from South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

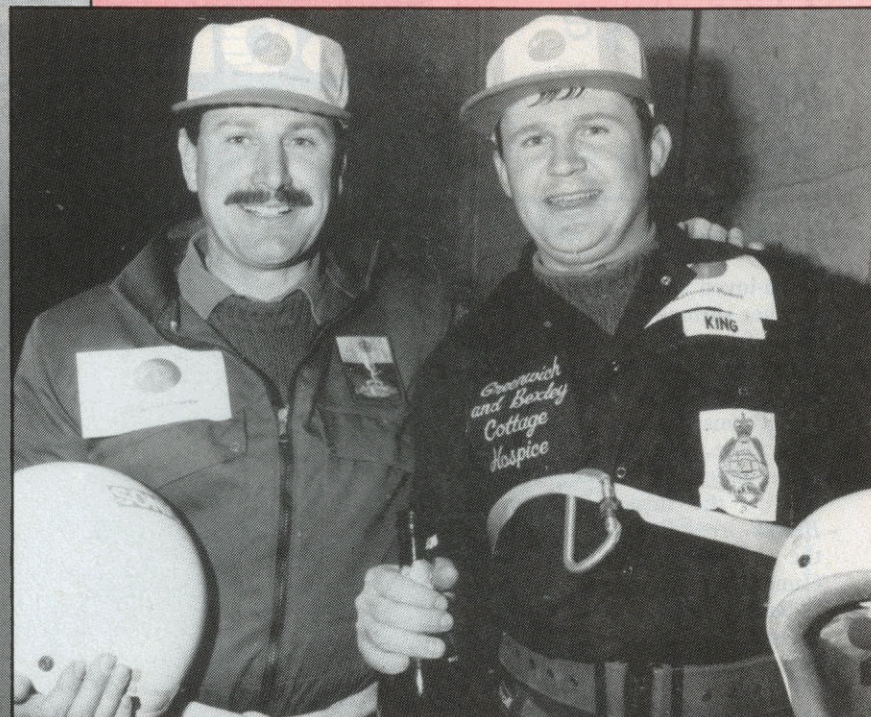
The issue is thought to be the first of its kind to commemorate a Service expedition.

Royal friends

The Imperial War Museum has friends in high places. The latest royals to take up honorary family membership are the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince William and Prince Harry.

The Queen Mother has been Patron-in-Chief of the the Friends of the IWM since the organisation was founded in 1987. The Duke of York and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester are also Friends.

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



Happy to be back on the ground are Sgt Lee Searle (left) and Capt Sean King. Pictured left, they appear as specks against the side of the massive Drax chimney

Towering success

TWO soldiers abseiled 850ft down the Drax Power Station chimney near Selby, Yorkshire, to set a new world record.

Capt Sean King of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and Sgt Lee Searle, R Signals, beat by 45ft the previous world best for abseiling from a building, set in Melbourne a year ago.

Their record, which was verified by Norris McWhirter, editor of the *Guinness Book of Records*, will also help them to raise money for two hospices, Martin House near Wetherby and Greenwich and Bexley in London.

Sgt Searle led the way down the chimney, taking eight minutes to reach the ground.

"I didn't enjoy it much - the wind was blowing me all over the place. There was a danger that we would get our ropes tangled up together so I went ahead," he said.

And their next goal? They want to get permission to abseil down the 1,265ft television mast at Emley Moor near Huddersfield.

★ ★ ★

Young soldiers from 56



(MT) Training Squadron RE raised £3,746 at the Arborfield Garrison wheelchair marathon and have now presented the money to the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

Their efforts won them the Wilkinson Poignard for 1989.

★ ★ ★

Broughton House, Salford, received a £100,000 cheque from the Army Benevolent Fund to help pay for the last phase of a major rebuilding project.

The cheque was presented by Maj Gen Tony Crowfoot, GOC North West District who visited the home and met many of the residents, including the oldest, 92-year-old Alf Brewer, who was in the King's Liverpool Regiment in the First World War.

Broughton House was also



Members of 41 Sqn RCT and the civilians they work with were in fine voice when they went carolling in Aldershot, hoping to raise £2,000 for equipment for the heart and lung wing of London's Brompton Hospital. The fund was inspired by the illness of the baby daughter of a warrant officer serving in the area. Pictured with the singers are the RCT Corps Band Quintet. On the right is fund organiser Capt John Gibson, with Lt Col Tony Harrison, administrative officer, Cambridge Military Hospital.

presented with an ABF award for supporting and helping the Fund.

Originally called the East Lancashire Home for Soldiers and Sailors, Broughton House was started by public subscription in 1916 to cope with the enormous tidal wave of war wounded from France. Since then the home has cared for more than 5,000 ex-Servicemen. It is currently home for 55.

★ ★ ★

A fun run in Münster, West Germany to raise money to help three Grenadier Guardsmen who lost limbs in an explosion in Canada last year swelled the fund by more than £10,000.

★ ★ ★

Men of M Troop helped to look after and entertain

3 Queens boost Shoreham lifeboat appeal

children from a German special school at the annual Christmas party put on by 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG), the British Nato signal regiment based near Krefeld, West Germany. Ordnance Services Viersen organised a magic train for Santa's arrival.

★ ★ ★

The appeal for a new lifeboat at Shoreham, West Sussex received a massive £7,000 boost from the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment serving in Northern Ireland.

The battalion was formerly the 1st Bn, The Royal Sussex Regiment and maintains strong links with the county. Soldiers had originally planned to raise £5,000, but went about their fund-raising so enthusiastically that they made almost half as much again.

★ ★ ★

A commemorative plaque has been presented by Dudley Branch of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) to Dudley and Tipton ACF detachments for their "unstinting assistance" to the branch fund-raising efforts.

Video to launch new service

Soldiers have right to sue over false accusations

PEOPLE who make false accusations against soldiers serving in Northern Ireland could shortly find the full weight of the law against them, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

In a new service started in January the Army Legal Corps will advise suspects under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

It will be backed up with a video film to be circulated among units.

Its aim is to encourage soldiers, wrongly accused of offences by civilians, to take legal redress against those making the false allegations.

The head of the Army legal team in Northern Ireland, said: "We hear of cases where soldiers who have behaved impeccably and have had false complaints made against them find themselves being interviewed by civilian police."

He cited an example in which a family had attacked a group of soldiers, injuring them.

"Extraordinarily, the soldiers found themselves being interviewed by police as criminals simply because the other side had got their complaint in first."

"We managed by advising the soldiers, and by finding out other facts, to show the error of the allegations. It is likely that criminal proceedings will now be brought against the other parties rather than against the soldiers."

The video will emphasise that soldiers can always get advice from the legal corps, and that it is important that they keep a record of any incident in which they are involved. It stresses soldiers must not regard the law as something which is only at the disposal of the opposition.

The spokesman added: "There are a lot of cases in the pipeline in which we hope



proceedings will be taken against people who have attacked soldiers.

"There is absolutely no reason why soldiers should be abused. Each one has the legal weapon to turn to and if he needs any help and guidance we will be only too happy to advise."

The legal corps also takes on soldiers' claims under the Criminal Injuries Compensation laws in Northern Ireland. Since 1980 2,679 soldiers have been assisted to claim more than £10½m, of which about £1,800,000 was awarded in 1989.

The corps is currently handling 481 claims for criminal injury compensation and 26 for criminal damage. The largest award made this year was £290,000 to a soldier who lost both arms.

Army barristers and solicitors fulfil a variety of roles, sometimes dealing with cases featuring an international element - for instance, the divorce of a soldier serving in Northern Ireland and married to a German-born wife, with children born in Cyprus.

In certain cases divorce can cost as little as £50 and be completed within three months.

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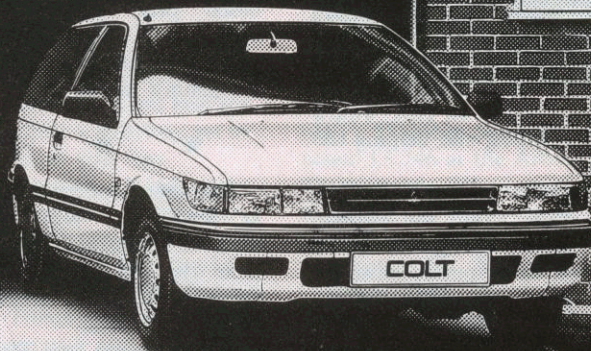
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Leading the way



Taking aim in full protective equipment is this soldier of 2 R Irish who has the new canister fitted to his S10 respirator. He is also wearing the Mark 4 NBC suit specially issued for the exercise. It is not in general issue, being held in the British Army's war stocks until needed

A DEGRADING EXPERIENCE

ANYONE straying into the Soltau-Luneberg training area in West Germany recently might, understandably, have taken the flashing lights and coloured smoke as evidence that UFOs had landed. It was only an exercise, but for the troops involved it proved to be warfare with a difference.

The month-long Exercise Perfumed Garden was designed as a degradation exercise to allow a variety of scientists to study at first hand the difficulties faced by troops fighting in NBC kit and respirators.

It was not much fun for the soldiers, who had to spend long hours in their noddie suits. To meet the aims of the survey they had to fight choreographed battles three times a day, while their every move was recorded in minute detail on

video film, stills photography and by the ever-present boffins scribbling furiously in their notebooks. A helicopter hovering overhead also recorded the scene.

To reduce the high level of boredom, three different scenarios were used but each consisted basically of a dug-in defensive force being attacked by mechanised infantry supported by tanks.

Every slit trench and APC contained an impartial scien-

tific observer who recorded the actions of the soldiers.

Some were not that impartial, however. As the battle-of-the-day action replay on video was shown to a group of high-ranking visitors, a young woman scientist was observed jumping up and down with excitement in a trench every time "her section" knocked out an advancing tank.

Hits were easy to detect, for the infantry weapons were fitted with SAWES (Small Arms Weapon Effect Simulator) and the soldiers with body laser detectors. When they were hit by the laser beam an orange light worn on their left shoulder started flashing.

Hits on tanks and APCs were much more spectacular for, besides a flashing light, orange smoke gushed from a dispenser.

When SOLDIER joined one of many groups of VIP observers watching the action, the troops had been in action for several days and lessons were already being learnt.

Sobering thought for the attacking troops, who had to disembark from their armoured personnel carriers and carry out a frontal assault on the defensive positions, was the realisation of just how many casualties they would take during such a manoeuvre.

● Turn to next page

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Getting your sums right is a relatively easy task when not wearing full NBC kit



One of the senior officers taking an interest in proceedings was Commander Armoured, 1 (BR) Corps, Brig Phillip Sanders. "Perfumed Garden was not only an important trial, it was also invaluable field training for the troops taking part," he said

● From Page 17

On a normal exercise they would have charged a position and watching umpires would have pointed to them and shouted, "You're dead, and you're dead."

This time a flashing light on the shoulder indicated they had just been hit by a bullet that would have left them wounded or dead.

Not a pleasant thought, but certainly one that encouraged the participants to brush up on their personal battle skills.

Battle stresses measured

Observers were drawn from a cross-section of military scientific establishments, including the Chemical Defence Establishment Porton, the Army Personnel Research Establishment (APRE) and the Defence Operational Analysis Establish-

ment, which organised the exercise.

APRE was looking in particular into the physiological and psychological effects of being in full IPE (Individual Protective Equipment), NBC suit, gloves, boots and respirator.

Following each battle the defenders were put over a short assault course to get their adrenalin pumping before being taken to the APRE vehicle, where they underwent a number of tests designed to

test mental agility and co-ordination of movement.

One involved putting different sized washers on to pegs, another was to fit pieces of wood into holes. Simple arithmetical skills were tested on a small computer. All very simple, but surprisingly difficult when you are tired and dressed like a man from Mars.

Several soldiers wore under their clothing a wrap-round strap fitted with heart monitor sensors and on their wrists a heart-rate transmitter that



Battle scenario as men of 2 R Irish attack during Exercise Perfumed Garden



An officer checks that the body laser detectors on the defending troop are fully operational before another battle is staged



Mr Chris Lewis, an assistant scientific officer with RARDE Chertsey, calibrates SIMFIRE equipment before another battle takes place



Infantryman with laser detectors and orange flashing light

personality. Putting on a noddie suit reduces battle ability. Taking it off restores the ability.

One senior Army officer said of SAWES, which the troops had greeted with enthusiasm: "The use of SAWES during training must be backed up with the relevant technical support, for if it keeps breaking down the troops will soon lose confidence in the system and it will lose its effectiveness as an invaluable training aid."

During Perfumed Garden technicians were on hand to check that every item of kit was working before each battle began and that the rate of failure was minimal.

signalled data to a recording machine in the APRE vehicle.

Members of APRE staff were assigned to individual positions in the trenches to input various codes and timings concerning the soldiers' duties so a comparison with the graph could give an accurate record of the stress involved in battle.

The graph produced gave an indication of the rise in heart beat when undergoing physical activity. One small rise came when an officer did the rounds from trench to trench but the

most dramatic peak was indicated at the moment the defending troops spotted an enemy tank. A seemingly obvious conclusion, but now confirmed scientifically.

Troops involved were the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, 4th Field Regiment RA, 35 Engineer Regiment, 669 Squadron AAC, 4th Armoured Division Workshops REME and a survey team from 5th Heavy Regiment RA, under Sgt Chris Ash, who

found themselves doubling up as video cameramen stuck in no man's land between friend and foe.

It will take the boffins many months of hard work before analysis of the mass of material is finally completed, but already some lessons have been learnt and some conclusions confirmed.

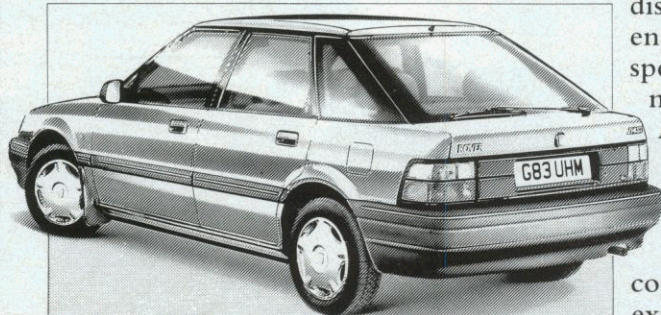
Some are obvious. Put a leader of men into NBC kit and his powers of leadership are seriously impaired as his respirator conceals any obvious

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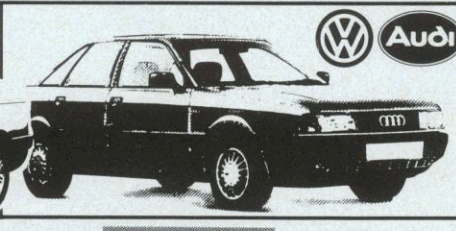
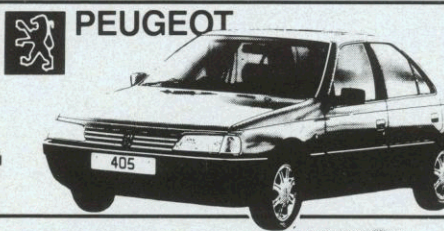
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Flaked out after all that exercise . . .



A candid picture of a shattered Rgr Jo Johnston, waiting his turn at the vehicle washdown, during the post-exercise clean-up



Capt Paddy Hallinan

Not a slouch (hat) in sight

LONG LOOK, the Anglo-Australian exchange exercise, certainly lived up to its name for Capt Paddy Hallinan, Royal Australia Regiment, who has been attached

to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers. After taking a long look at the Rangers at their BAOR base in Osnabrück, he deployed with the battalion to BATUS in Southern Canada and swapped his slouch hat for a crewman's helmet.

He was able to experience at first hand excellent battlefield simulation during which all the battalion's weapons were fired live.

The 1 R Irish battlegroup, taking part in Exercise Medicine Man 7, had drawn the "cold straw" (they were in Canada at the same time three years ago) but were undaunted by temperatures of minus 15°C and driving blizzards.

The battlegroup's "ring of steel" was provided by A and B Squadrons of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards from Fallingbowl, while 88 (Arracan) Battery from Osnabrück and 132 Heavy Battery from Sennelager softened up the enemy defences with their 109s and Abbots. Cap badges from the two R Irish TA battalions were among the 25 different badges to be seen.



Sgt Brian McNabb, 2 R Irish completed a six-month attachment with the BATUS safety staff, finishing as a safety supervisor to C Coy, 1 R Irish on Exercise Medicine Man 7

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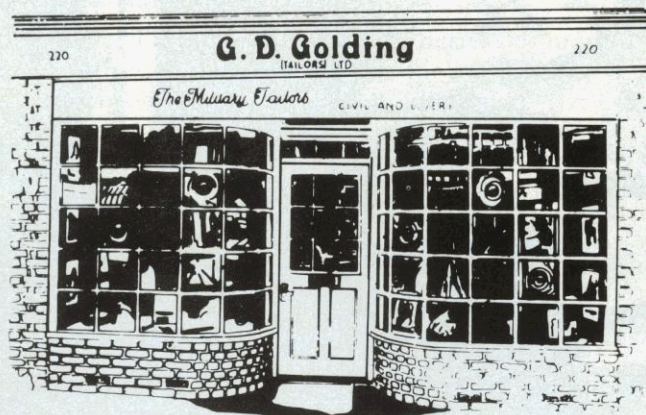
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A Royal Anglian takes no chances in Crossmaglen's smart new town square

With The Vikings in Crossmaglen

OLD HANDS who have not been back since the 70s would hardly recognise the place. Flowerbeds, ornamental paving and a modern public lavatory have transformed the dreary mud patch that used to be The Square, Crossmaglen.

The paint gleams on the facades of Keenan's Bar, McCuskers and Chums.

Two monuments dominate The Square – one a modern sculpture dedicated to "Irish Freedom", the other less dramatic in appearance but a testimony nevertheless to the sterling service of ordinary British soldiers committed to preserving freedom for all.

Baruki sangar is named after a soldier of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

In 1976 helicopters used to drop visitors to Crossmaglen SF base in a field outside the



The statue in The Square, Crossmaglen

back entrance from which they had to run smartly to a briefly open door.

On each occasion a squad of soldiers left the base to protect the landing site.

One day in April as the

troops ran back after a helidrop a bomb hidden in the saddle of a bicycle exploded, killing Pte Baruki, a lad of Polish origin whose parents had settled in Worksop, Notts.

Some time later the tower sangar was built near the spot where he died.

One day last autumn Baruki sangar was occupied by men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

A tractor pulling a high-sided trailer load of cattle fodder stopped outside and its driver hurried over to the public lavatory.

Cpl Dave Batten was no more caught out by this ploy than the driver was "caught short".

He reported immediately, and told his companion, Cpl Shaun Morley, to get off the observation platform.

Cpl Batten was following Cpl Morley down the ladder when a mortar bomb exploded blowing him to the bottom rung.

The attack was a new development. In the past terrorists have fitted tubes on bases and parked them out of sight so they lobbed bombs high over obstructions onto the target.

In this case they had cut a hole in the metal side of the trailer and fired directly at the sangar like a Nelsonian man o' war.

Baruki sangar stood up to the broadside remarkably well though the roof was tilted at a jaunty angle.

Cpls Batten and Morley carried on at their post for nearly an hour after the attack and, for their pains, were criticised by implication on

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The Vikings in Crossmaglen

● From Page 23

television. The instant experts could not understand how they had not spotted the gap in the side of the trailer . . . or why they had made such a hurried departure from the top of the sangar.

The facts did not get the same publicity. It was revealed that only someone with X-ray eyes could have detected the mortar aperture, which had been sealed with a plastic panel with a poster pasted over it.

This was evident only after firing.

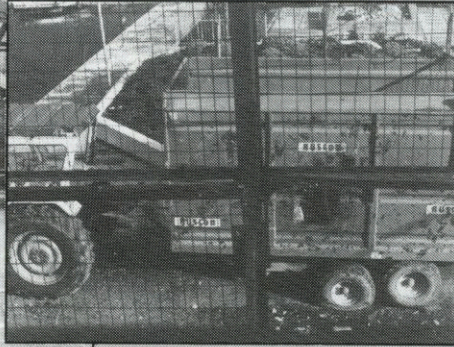
Had the two corporals not quit their position immediately they would have been, at least, seriously gashed by flying glass splinters.

The mortar bombs contain about 50lb of explosive.

What was a miracle was that no civilian was killed as one bomb which failed to detonate fell back into the trailer. Had it gone off it would have swept The Square with fragments cutting down the people – including children – who were crossing at the time.

But terrorists never have cared who gets in the way when they're out to kill . . .

Left – Baruki sangar patched up after the attack. Above – The trailer which carried the mortars seen from the sangar. Note the missing mesh where the bomb entered



South Armagh was a bit of an eye-opener

UP TO autumn last year the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment had spent a total of six years in Northern Ireland since 1969 but never served in South Armagh.

They were experts on Londonderry (two stints in residence at Ebrington) and knew Belfast well from emergency tours, but the eastern border of the Monaghan salient was new ground.

As Sgt Pete Windmill said in a matter of fact way after returning from patrol: "It's a bit of an eye-opener."

Coming from a celebrated agricultural area, the Vikings actually found they had something in common with the locals.

"It helps when you know one end of a cow from the other," said the CO, Lt Col John Sutherell. "A lot of our boys have farming experience."

Few units could have been

more English. There was something solid and reassuring about the bit in brackets under the battalion sign at Bessbrook Mill . . . (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire).

Most of the soldiers possessed the characteristics of their home counties – not as noisy as some folk, better humoured than others and, as one put it, "slow to anger". In other words they're a commonsense lot. When the battalion knew it was bound for South Armagh it dipped into a healthy PRI fund to obtain hundreds of sets of chest webbing, which many consider more practical for operations, small "day Bergens" for short patrols and gaiters.

It was then a matter of getting down to hedge-hopping. Roads, gates and obvious gaps are not used in cross-country movement. Instead a soldier is expected to be

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Typical soldiers' accommodation in South Armagh – six to a room in triple bunks

Gnasher signs on for best nosh in town



A local lad assists Cpl Roscoe Robinson with an alternative form of transport

CONSIDERING their nickname is The Vikings the men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment proved to be remarkably good natured during their tour of South Armagh.

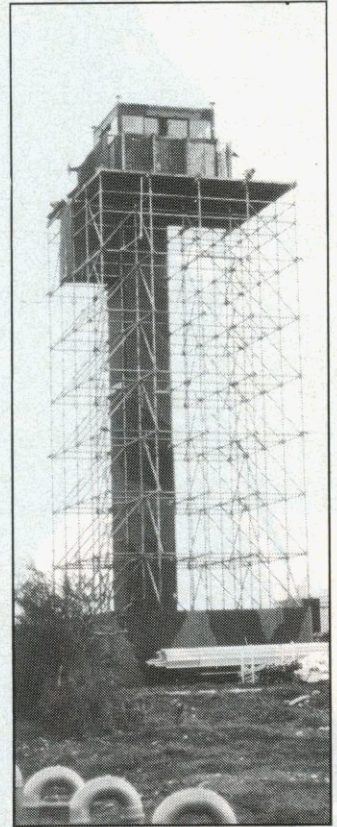
There was a marked absence of looting and pillage. The little border towns and villages they patrolled were in the main peaceful.

True, Cpl Roscoe Robinson was hijacked in a trim housing estate near Newtown Hamilton police station (which was having its roof reinforced against possible mortar attack) but his captors merely wanted to push him on their skateboard.

The two little boys gave up in the end and told him he'd have to get one more his own size.

Another NCO held himself aloof - LCpl Gnasher, who was a "full screw" until reduced for going AWOL some months ago. The black-and-white mongrel is an old soldier signed for by units taking over at the base and has no reason to like terrorists. He was blown up and wounded by a bomb which killed a sergeant in 1 Para and wears a regimental dog tag (what else?).

"He gets the best nosh in the



Golf tower with ventilation pipes for dug-outs

place," said Pte Gibbo Gibbs of the Drums who were serving in their combat role as part of Maj Rupert Lucas's Support Company.

Considering the cramped conditions the base itself was spotless. Twice a day CSM Bob Grenfell announced quietly but firmly: "Now is the time . . ." and broom and bucket parties appeared as if by magic.

After 17 years with the battalion, CSM Grenfell may be a Viking through and through but he can't deny his roots. In "Sarff" Armagh he was still hankering after the jellied ells of "Sarff" End, or the East End for that matter. Some hope, even though the ACC chefs seem to be able to work wonders all along the border.

At "NTH" they surprised Drummer Lawrie Milne with a magnificent 21st birthday cake.

Would it were always a case of skateboards, devoted mongrels and birthday cakes.

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Town patrol about to leave with LCpl Gnasher at Newton Hamilton SF base. Girls are LCpls Penny Lane and Lesley Stouff of 175 Provo Coy Search Section



A soldier crosses rough ground during a patrol

GNASHER

● From Page 25

Reality is more often centred round an SA 80 (or light support weapon), three magazines of 5.56 ammunition and a 70-lb Bergen.

Or hours spent in a cramped observation tower searching the countryside with binoculars.

Or writing reports in a windowless ops room to the interminable background of radio traffic – if Alphas, Charlies and Deltas were £5 notes every man would be a millionaire – and abrupt bursts on the squawk boxes.

And always for the troops on the ground the knowledge that someone, somewhere, doesn't like them.

Back in Great Yarmouth where he comes from, Cpl Jock Atkins's mates might be enjoying a pint in the evening but there was no question of that at Forkill (or Forkhill depending on your map), a picturesque hamlet on a little river of the same name at the foot of Slievebrack hill.

For him and Ptes Quits Quittenden, Parrot Heron, Russ Russell and Pussy Elliott (an import from 2 R Anglian) once their patrol was over it was a case of back to base and stay there on or off duty.

Be the well-lit cracks in the curtains of the Welcome Inn and the bar of the Slieve Gullion ever so inviting, they were out of bounds; places for other people – people they were protecting.



On duty at the "Hanoi Hilton" in South Armagh



A fine view of open country from the "Hanoi Hilton", South Armagh. Duckboards link the trenches. Troops call the hill in the background "Sniper's Ridge"

First time round in South Armagh

● From Page 24

a cross between a Red Indian, a Sherpa and tight-rope walker.

SOLDIER's team (mercifully lightly laden) had a taster for themselves when they joined Lt James Woodham's patrol en route from Crossmaglen to one of the OPs on the border with the Republic.

They had just returned from R and R in England the day before – the lieutenant and Grids (a corporal), Greenie, Tee, Mac, Arnie, Dale, Speedy, Paul, Dean (a lance-corporal whose wife had given birth only 36 hours earlier), Garve and Orv.

The group split up before moving out into the patchwork of fields.

"Everyone warns you about the blackthorn in training, but it's the barbed wire that gets you," said Speedy as the SOLDIER scribbler nose-dived into the mud.

Almost all the wire encountered was new, thick, and four strands high. Cutting it is forbidden and incredible balancing feats are performed – not always successfully.

It was a clear day with a keen breeze which, said Speedy, was acting as a splendid antidote to the lingering memory of a



Cam cream touch-up in the bracken

strange drink called Snakebite and Black.

As one hedge was being crossed a man in dungarees stopped chatting to the driver of a JCB laying drains to a rather grand new house and demanded: "Do yez hev to go through there? I've just

breshed the hole and that mon's cattle is gettin' into my field."

In a manner that would have done credit to an ambassador Lt Woodham appeared, Bergen, black face, SA 80 and all, and assured the irate one that the last soldier through would replace the brushwood.

The man's mouth opened, but no words came and the troops continued in silence.

After time spent observing and reporting on a derelict vehicle in such a strange place it must have been dropped by air or jumped a wall, the component parts of Alpha One Charlie, which had been moving out of sight of each other, met on a stretch of heathland.

"Boil in a bag is beautiful," someone said as a hot meal was eaten under cover of gorse and bracken.

Field Marshal Rommel, who once said that "Night operations continue to be a speciality of the British", would be interested to learn that they still are. The patrol split up at dusk and moved in radio silence to occupy "lurks". There was no

moon. At some stage Grids halted his team and slipped into the darkness alone. Having satisfied himself all was well in one direction he returned to report then went off to explore another.

The team eventually crossed a stream and occupied its designated position. Though a nearby derelict cottage was unmarked on the map there was no doubt it was the right spot.

In short stages two men observed while the others dozed in their new warm-issue sleeping bags. There was plenty to do and the neighbourhood farms seem to come to life as the night wore on.

Just before first light the team packed up, cleaned up all traces of their presence and removed themselves.

It was a hard uphill slog to reach the Golf tower OP on a ridge overlooking the border where a young soldier was waiting to guide the party through the entanglements and into the underground bunker.

The SOLDIER snapper picked a couple of blackthorns out of his cheeks and declared that the bacon sandwiches provided by 6 Platoon were the best he had ever tasted.

Battalion's roots lie in the east

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment was formed in 1964 on the amalgamation of the three East Anglian Regiments, themselves successors to a number of old county regiments.

The description in brackets (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) was added in 1980 and refers to recruiting areas, though the battalion maintains many of the traditions of the

Royal Norfolk and the Suffolk Regiment (9th and 12th Foot).

The battalion honour board lists the eight VCs won in the two world wars by the Norfolks and Suffolks.

"Cambridgeshire" became part of the title of the 30th Foot in 1782 (a Regular regiment raised as Saunderson's in 1702) but this disappeared when the 30th became the 1st East Lancashire in 1881.

The county title remained, however, with a volunteer rifle corps which later became a volunteer battalion of the Suffolks and in 1908, on the formation of the Territorials, The Cambridgeshire Regiment which saw heavy fighting in the First World War.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment's two battalions were captured at Singapore in the Second World War.



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346 March 13th and 14th

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348 June 5th and 6th

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351 October 2nd and 3rd

352 November 13th and 14th

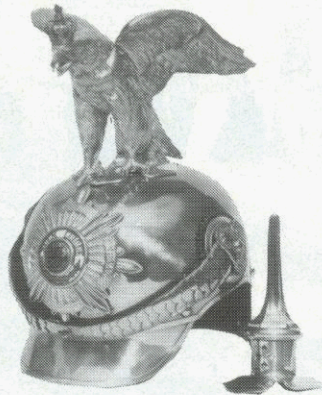
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Comcen lasses did as well as they Khud!

LIFE in Hong Kong can have its strenuous ups and downs – especially if you are brave, or rash enough to take part in the annual Khud Race, writes **Robert Higson**.

This is something that Cpl Christine King and LCpl Pauline Batty discovered when they became the first women to enter an event tailor-made for Gurkhas hardened by the hills of their homeland.

The origins go back to the days of the North West Frontier when pickets often had to scamper up steep hills to gain the high ground in the event of an attack.

Since the Gurkhas arrived in Hong Kong in the early 1970s, the race has been held every year in the New Territories – a 1,300ft climb, followed by a 1,350ft descent over an average gradient of 1:2.54 and a distance of 1 mile 614 yards.

The best Gurkhas complete it in under 16 minutes.

Christine and Pauline, both of whom work in the Comcen at HQ British Forces, originally agreed to enter only if the

numbers could not be found for an all-women team. As it happened all the other girls pulled out and they found themselves competing as individuals.

Like the rest of the non-Gurkha entry, they came home in the rearguard. But at least they finished.

"Your feet feel like lead on the way up," they said with some feeling when it was all over. "And your legs feel like jelly on the way down."



Above – LCpl Pauline Batty (left) and Cpl Christine King are pleased it's all over. Right – Pauline heads for home, followed by the girls' coach, WO2 Kevin Townsend



The crew behind a record

MEET the lads behind the record-breakers. When 35 Engineer Regiment broke the medium girder bridge building record at Osnabrück, West Germany, the guys who had done all the hard work to make it possible were in the background.

Having their moment in the limelight are the men of 43 Plant Squadron who, in two days, test-built three and stripped-out 13 bridges. They also dug-out the three gaps that had to be bridged, erected grandstands and barriers and generally made themselves very useful.





Rally champions Maj John Greenhalgh (left) and Maj Nick Brehaut and their modified Peugeot 205

Just champion!

TWO Army majors have driven their way to a top award in the tough UK National Rally Championships.

Driver Maj John Greenhalgh DFC AAC and co-driver Maj Nick Brehaut RAOC have become national champions of their particular rally class (Group A, 1.6-2 litres).

Driving a white Peugeot 205 GTI 1.9, the pair emerged top of their field after eight different national one-day events as far apart as Bournemouth, the Isle of Man and Aberdeen.

They collected their awards at a special ceremony in Coventry.

Maj Brehaut (35), a planning officer at Cumbria's Longtown Central Ammunition Depot, said: "Bearing in mind we were up against professionals and semi-professionals, it is pretty amazing that we were even able to compete, let alone win."

Rallying is an expensive business. The top international teams can spend up to £250,000 a year on keeping their cars in competitive form.

Faced with this kind of competition, Maj Greenhalgh and Maj Brehaut would have struggled to get to the start line without the help of sponsors Royal Mail Parcels, the Royal British Legion, ADACS Computers, Protector High Performance Roofing and the Big Stuff Company.

Helicopter pilot Maj

Greenhalgh (34) owns the team's two-year-old white Peugeot, but the whole car had to be stripped and converted into a high-speed rally car complete with roll cage, seam welding, fire-proofing, a vastly superior engine and a host of other modifications.

The result was a high-performance car capable of blazing through narrow muddy forest trails at speeds of more than 100mph.

Maj Greenhalgh, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for night casualty evacuation work in Scout

helicopters at the battle of Goose Green in 1982, has proved he is no stranger to danger.

"When you are flying you can always fly away from a tricky situation but when you are rallying you are there and going at 100mph. You have got to gain control and sort it out. With every bend there is only one way in and one way out."

The pair desperately wanted to notch up a good result in their second International Lombard RAC rally, but their hopes were dashed when a head gasket blew three days into the

event and they were forced to withdraw.

In 1988 they were no luckier and their race ended when they lost a front panel after their car careered into a bridge.

But with the 1989 national championship firmly under their belt in only their second year together, they can go forward into the 1990 rally season with confidence — a confidence which should help when they start the defence of their title in Bournemouth this month.

by Lynn Pegler



The Army team negotiate a corner at Clumber Park during the Lombard RAC Rally

Army's number isn't up yet

FORTY years ago the British Army changed its number plates. Before the Second World War, Army vehicles in Britain had ordinary registration numbers and log books as well as Army numbers, and the RASC at Feltham registered them through the Middlesex County Council.

When war broke out and thousands of new Service vehicles were put on the roads the authorities agreed that, to save time and trouble, the Army number should serve as the registration number.

The system worked well enough in the early war years, but, as it was bound to do, it got out of hand. The numbers were allocated in batches as contracts were given out, and spare thousands were left between the batches in case the contracts were increased.

The result was that in time vehicles were being put on the road with seven figures after the letter M.

The police and Home Office protested. No policeman, they said at the time, could be expected to take down such a long number on a speeding vehicle.

Would the Services please come into line with civilian motorists, with their two or three letters and maximum of four figures?

So everyone concerned got down to the problem: the War Office, the Admiralty, the Air Ministry, the Ministry of

This Humber staff car being given an extra shine by an ATS girl was one of the first to be numbered in the new fashion. The "Y" indicates that the vehicle was in existence at the start of the new system

Transport, the Home Office, and Scotland Yard.

Henceforward, they agreed, Service vehicles should have number-plates similar to those on civilian vehicles. But instead of having up to four figures following the letters, there should be two figures, then two letters, then two more figures.

Some reservations were made about letters: A was to be kept for the Air Ministry; N and RN for the Admiralty; ZZ for vehicles of dominion and colonial forces in Britain; I, O and Q would not be used because of their similarity to other letters.

The Army decided to drop the old War Department numbers system entirely. There did not seem to be any point in having two numbers for the same vehicle.

Not only that, but all the vehicles already on the roads at home and abroad were to have their numbers changed to conform to the new system.

The new number, they said, was going to be more informative than the old one—at least to people outside the exclusive circle who knew when and how the old numbers were allocated.

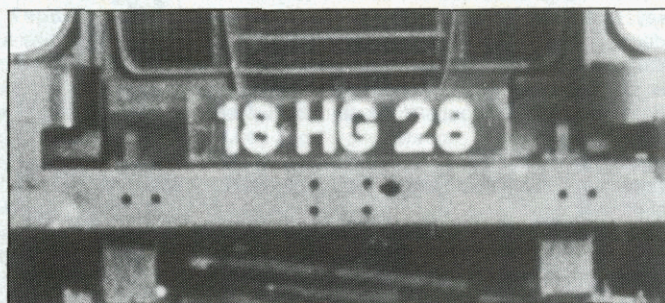
The first letter would show

the year in which the contract for the vehicle was placed, so that its age could be told at a glance; R would be used for rebuilt vehicles; and Y and Z (less ZZ) would be used for vehicles in existence at the start of the new system.

Sharp-eyed vehicle buffs recently spotted a WA number plate on a television documentary about the search for a new Army truck. It was thought the run of numbers was coming to an end and that someone would have to think up a new system.

They are out of luck, for evidently WA indicates a vehicle being used on research and development. A spokesman for the Directorate of Supply Management, Chilwell, where the numbers are issued, said that they had got only as far as KJ on current vehicles. "There are more than enough numbers left to carry on the system for many years to come," he said.

by Laurie Manton



WANTED: A new leaf for the Blue Book

THE vexed question of replacement costs in married quarters raises its head again.

Where gas cookers are concerned the recommended charge for both officers and other ranks is £400, according to the Blue Book – the PSA's 1989 Schedule of Charges, Losses and Damage.

Now officers' quarters are equipped with Strand cookers (£260 plus VAT from the company which supplies them to PSA) and soldiers' quarters with Pisces (£212 plus VAT).

So the recommended figure is considerably more than the price of a new cooker. And one must assume that if any cooker is "written off" (say in a chip pan fire) it is likely to have been well-used.

Even if the price of delivery and fitting is taken into consideration the charges seem exorbitant.

The reasoning behind the recommendation that officers pay £400, thus making the storage and fitting element of the charge less than the soldiers', escapes me.

I approached PSA on the subject and was informed that like all prices listed in the Blue Book the £400 was a recommendation based on national average UK contract prices applicable in July 1989. They included PSA departmental expenses and VAT. A spokesman stressed that, as written in the Blue Book:

"The schedule's primary purpose is to assist MoD Estate Wardens to assess realistic prices for Barrack Damages. These are defined as losses and damages resulting from other than fair wear and tear."

He added: "If anyone has been charged £400 it is an abuse of the purpose of the book."

He made the further point that it must be rare for a cooker to require complete replacement and said the schedule included a list of replacement parts.

PSA has invited suggestions for its next edition of the Blue Book and requires them to be sent in by April.

I wonder whether it might not be a good idea for them to drop the £400 reference

In my view...

altogether. The figure is, I understand, meant to act as a "disincentive", in other words to frighten people into looking after their cookers – which strikes me as being particularly questionable. Does anyone think that a housewife welcomes chip pan fires?

I would like to see in the Blue Book –

● A proper breakdown of charges related to all items valued at more than £50.

● All items valued at more than £100 entered on the MQ inventory with the date of installation so the percentage value of a replacement can be properly established.

● The original price of electric and gas cookers written down and recorded.

● An alternative method of paying for a replacement cooker suggested.

The section of the MoD which deals with the PSA might also consider emphasising to ASA personnel that the Blue Book is just a guide.



Picture: Hendrik Pastor

Walls may come and walls may go but school goes on regardless. Helping hand from Maj Gen Robert Corbett, GOC Berlin, for pupils at Charlottenburg British Military First School, during an official visit

Home hunters' chance

THE DOUGLAS Haig Homes organisation has a number of houses available which may suit ex-Service personnel who are either irregular occupants or in bed and breakfast or half-way house accommodation.

Ex-members from all arms may apply for the following enclosing certi-

icates showing irregular occupancy etc.: Birmingham, one 2-bedroom house with garden; Cardiff, one 3-bedroom house with garden; Grimsby, one 3-bedroom house with garden; Morden, one 3-bedroom maisonette; Portsmouth, one 3-bedroom house with garden; Sheffield, one first-

floor 3-bedroom flat.

For ex-RE only: Cardiff, one 3-bedroom house with garden; Chalfont St Peter, one 3-bedroom house with garden.

All the above are undergoing major refurbishment at the moment but should provide a great improvement on bed and breakfast.

The Poll Tax and you –

AN increase of about a half per cent in accommodation charges is to be levied on Servicemen to fund poll tax differences, according to a letter from former Armed Forces Minister, Michael Neubert, laid in the library of the House of Commons on July 7 in reply to a question on poll tax issues from Mr Michael Mates, Chairman of the Defence Select Committee.

The letter states: "We have... decided effectively to limit their liability for the community charges to the level of the average for the Services plus £52 a year."

"Under this scheme all personnel and their spouses living in Service accommodation in such areas will pay their community charge direct to the local authority in the normal way but will benefit from a reduction in accommodation charges equivalent to the amount by which this exceeds the set threshold."

"This will be funded by a marginal overall increase in accommodation charges of about half per cent and will be self-financing."

Mr Neubert's letter continues: "Increasing numbers of our personnel live in their own homes and commute to their place of duty."

"At present they can take account of relative levels of domestic rates when deciding where to live, and they will be able to assess their potential community charge liability in the same way in the future."

"I do not think that we would be justified in introducing a

new principle of isolating them from the charge, and such a move would be welcomed by those who had purchased their homes in areas where the community charge proves to be lower than the norm."

I asked the Ministry of Defence some time ago for further clarification and can now give its replies.

Q: What does half per cent mean?

A: In order to fund the scheme above the Armed Forces Pay Review Body has been asked whether there should be a small increase in the rental element of accommodation charges.

Q: Why will soldiers pay £52 more than average?

A: All adults will have a statutory obligation to pay a personal community charge (PCC).

Soldiers will be required to pay whatever is the community charge rate in the area in which they have their primary place of residence.

In order to protect soldiers living in Service accommodation from sharp increases in rates of PCC resulting from a posting from one area to another the MoD will implement a scheme which is designed to place a limit on the size of increase.

The cost will be offset by a marginal increase in accommodation costs overall.

In an area where the PCC rate is high, the soldier's



Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND
Anne Armstrong

GENERALS UNDER FIRE AT FAW

MORE than 200 members attended the seventh annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives.

Among them were the first chairman of the newly-formed FAW BAOR, Cherry Milne, and secretary Sue Bonny.

There were also representatives from Northern Ireland and Gibraltar.

Guest speakers included the Earl of Arran, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces; Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, Adjutant General; Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Director of Personal Services, and Gen Sir Edward Jones, Quartermaster General. They

faced some direct questions during the open forum part of the meeting.

High on the list was the community charge, though the AG did point out it was the Government which was implementing it, not the Army.

Chairman of FAW, Judy Street, emphasised the importance of using FRED – the computerised job-finding service.

The jobs are there, so to register is vital if the system is to work.

The senior officers and minister on the panel certainly went away with a feeling that the FAW wives were informed and knew what they were about.

During the afternoon session three resolutions were discussed and passed unanimously.

From Western District Kelly Dundavan proposed that a soldier may opt to pay for approved contract cleaners to clean his quarter after march-out.

The idea was that, for example, £50-£100 would be paid to a contract cleaning company at an agreed price, including cooker or not. The family would then leave and the company would clean and hand back the quarter.

Judy Street's motion expressed FAW's concern at the increasing housing problems encountered by Servicemen at the end of their career. No dissenting voices here.

Jenny Scott Clarke, London District, proposed that the Army should provide financial counselling with particular reference to house purchase and home-ownership savings schemes, at all stages of a Serviceman's career.

A variety of alternatives were proposed but in the end resolutions stood.

These resolutions are now forwarded to UKLF for onward transmission to MoD.

The Combat Stress Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society's appeal was voted the FAW Charity of the Year – very appropriate as it's their 75th anniversary and they help all Servicemen and women and their families who are suffering from psychiatric disabilities as a result of their service.

A date to remember for 250

THE first conference of the newly-established Federation of Army Wives BAOR held in Bielefeld was attended by 250 members.

The BAOR FAW Charter is now published and information can be obtained from Sue Bonny, FAW (BAOR), HQ 1 BR Corps, BFPO 39.

Tel: 0521 293 2170 or Bielefeld Mil 2170 (with answerphone).

Charity change

A CHANGE in the rules enables those contributing to charity through the Charities Pay Giving Scheme to give amounts up to £480 a year. Under the scheme a £10 donation costs only £7.50 because it is deducted from salary before tax.

Contact the Charities Aid Foundation (tel 0892 512244) for details of many charities.

OFFICIAL

liability will be pegged at a maximum ceiling fixed at £52 above the average rate paid by Servicemen in barracks or married quarters; that is, a maximum of one pound a week above.

The soldier will of course be able to enjoy the full benefit of community services available to other local residents. The law requires the local authority to be paid in full, therefore the scheme will be regulated by means of refunds on accommodation charges.

Whenever the soldier is posted to an area with a low community charge, there will be no comparable 'averaging up' and he will have the full benefit of low charges.

Q: What is the additional burden to Servicemen?

A: None. The community charge is a liability applied to everybody and is unconnected with membership of the Armed Forces. The scheme is simply a means of protecting Servicemen from excessive upward variations as a result of mobility through postings.

Q: Is there any difference for singles and marrieds?

A: Community charge is personal to every individual. The rates proportion of present accommodation charges will no longer be deducted and the soldier will pay PCC instead. The scheme above will apply equally to the soldier's wife.

[So now you know!]

RECORDS RODNEY BASHFORD

Big City Blues

LONDON
Band of The Blues and Royals
Conductor: Maj R G Tomlinson



TO follow their bucolic excursion into *Rural England*, reviewed in April 1988, the band finds itself nearer home (Hyde Park Barracks for half the time) with music inextricably associated with the sights and sounds of London, mostly via the music hall and radio. The disc makes a nice little package, with *Rural England*, as a present for expatriate Brits who might need a nostalgic wallow.

Side one deals with *The Queen's Life Guard*, 11 tunes with military connections. *On Parade*, a march by Albert Elms, Eric Coates's *In Town Tonight* to set the scene, then *Soldiers in the Park*, *Hyde Park Corner* by Bandmaster Pegram, and all those Guards song-tunes, not forgetting Christopher Robin.

The winner here is Haydn Wood's *Whitehall* march, as it has been for many years now, though lacking the bustle of all those white-collared gentlemen dashing hither to thither. *The River Thames* is featured next,

leading us via London Bridge and the City to the real London some would say, east of St Paul's and into the Old Kent Road.

All the Cockney ditties are here, while *The London Pubs* has the drinking songs from the Old Bull and Bush, all the taverns in the town, before ending up underneath the arches... as a newt no doubt!

Street Pictures takes us down the Strand, round the Marble Arch, and down many a side street, all rather leisurely I thought, but just right for a good old singalong.

● **From Music Masters, End House, Gurnells Rd, Seer Green, Bucks, £6.50 inclusive, and dealers.**

Right formula

Band of The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster T E Pickering

QUITE a time since we heard from the Cheshires, and they present one of those programmes of marches with light music to follow. It's an infallible formula, especially when the marches are not too over-worked.

Here there are two under-recorded marches, though not in the march section; in fact I doubt if one of them has ever been recorded before. This is one of a set recently acquired from Russia, by none other than Prokofiev, a *Lyric March*.

It will never enter the pop list, but then Prokofiev would have made a poor soldier.

A E Kelly's *Arromanches*, Walter Adams's *The Cairo Road*, *The Contemptibles*, *The Black Horse Troop*, *Marche Lorraine*, *Wellington*, and Ron Goodwin's *Aces High* are the

marching marches, and Julius Fucik's lovely *Florentiner Marsch* ends the programme.

Before that the band is in very good form with *Echoes of an Era*, the now popular medley of Beatles favourites, and the very catchy *Serenade* by Derek Bourgeois who is currently top of the pops where brass and military bands are concerned.

His *Serenade* was written as a wedding present to his bride, who was perhaps a poor dancer; the piece proceeds, albeit prettily, like a centipede with a wooden leg.

Braziliance (it's a wonder no one has thought of that one before now) is a Latin American trumpet number by Warren Barker.

And speaking of numbers The 22nd Cheshire Regiment should adopt Bourgeois's *Serenade* as their party piece. It is the composer's opus 22.

● **Also from Music Masters or dealers, price £6.50.**

MOUNTAIN

BOOKS about subjective suffering, be it psychological or physical, can be either boring or reassuring to the reader. *Crowning the Dragon*, by Hugh McManners, falls into the latter category.

The author returned from the Falklands in July 1982 after leading a five-man commando team to find he was afflicted with an overpowering depression.

"Today the cause of my suffering is well known: 'ME' (myalgic encephalomyelitis), or 'Post-Viral Disease Syndrome'

... (It is also sometimes referred to as 'Yuppies' Disease', which I hesitate to admit). The misery can continue for several years or more, and nothing can be done.

"The virus, and its aftermath, had removed my self-confidence and enthusiasm for life. It had smeared the clarity of my love for the bright skies and perfect beaches of home (Cornwall), and had placed the knife of worry into my stomach, to turn every morning as I tried to escape a new day."

CURE FOR DEPRESSION

In an effort to overcome ME, Maj McManners decided to join a British Army expedition, led by Capt Henry Morgan, RE, to climb the 7,500-metre Crown, a challenging peak in the Chinese Karakoram. Only three of the ten men in the party had any high-altitude mountaineering experience but, more than this, it was the loose structure of command that "worried and unsettled" the author.

There is a good deal of self-analysis in these pages, particularly in regard to the

author's mental approach. His criticisms of others are often kindly and invariably fair, recognising that clashes of personality are inevitable in a strenuous adventure of this kind.

There is a graphic travelogue of the journey through China: the unfinished hotels, the cycling population and the railway - "the focal point of life in provincial China".

After struggling with Chinese bureaucracy, a long trek on foot and camel, and the daunting slog of building up

base and route camps, the lead climbers got to within 75 metres of the summit, but were beaten by a combination of weather, terrain and lack of time.

"With strange reluctance to leave, finally we walked away from it all, the mountain resplendent in bright, white snow, perfectly clear on a beautiful warm day... Conrad desperately wanted to have a bath, John wanted to be clear of all mountains by whatever means and to eat tinned sausages in fresh bread

rolls with tomato sauce and mustard... I wanted somebody different to talk to."

All this happened in 1987 and Hugh McManners reflects: "... I am still looking for a producer for the film. It's a ripping yarn and would make a jolly good documentary..."

It certainly makes a jolly good book. - BJ

Crowning the Dragon: Adventures in the Chinese Karakoram by Hugh McManners. Published by Grafton Books. Price hardback £17.95.

Desert victor who lost his way

THERE have not been many soldiers of general officer rank who have been taken prisoner and escaped to re-enter the fray as a corps commander. Such a soldier was Richard O'Connor (pictured left), the subject of a new biography, *The Forgotten Victor* by Lt Col Sir John Baynes.

On June 17, 1940, the day France made peace with Germany, O'Connor was confirmed as commander of the Western Desert Force, which later formed the basis of the Eighth Army, and was promoted to the temporary rank of lieutenant general. In 1940-41, O'Connor's force utterly defeated the Italian 10th Army but, two months after this victory the commander was captured by a chance German patrol when the car in which he was riding got lost.

O'Connor finally escaped during the winter of 1943-44 and on his return to England was given command of VIII Corps, formed as part of the Normandy invasion forces. The corps, under O'Connor, was engaged in four major operations in North West Europe, Epsom, Goodwood and Bluecoat in Normandy and Constellation on the River Mass.

Relations with Montgomery began to sour when the commander of 21 Army Group pressed Eisenhower for the

replacement of Maj Gen Lindsay Silvester, commander of the 7th US Armored Division.

O'Connor, it seems, believed it to be a point of honour to defend the American and, in October 1944 asked to be relieved of his command. His resignation was apparently accepted and he flew home on December 2.

His next appointment was as GOC-in-C Eastern Army, India.

In peace O'Connor became Adjutant General to the Forces under Montgomery as CIGS, but the spectre of the Silvester affair was revived.

This resulted in O'Connor's resignation in August 1947, thus ending a distinguished military career at the age of 58.

In this book, John Baynes throws out an unbiased challenge for debate: "With no way of ever knowing the whole story, it is fair to assume that Montgomery was not unduly worried at O'Connor's departure (from VIII Corps)."

"Although, as Balfour remembers, both Montgomery and Dempsey always treated him with friendliness and respect, O'Connor's handing of his corps was thoroughly competent rather than brilliant, and the recent Silvester case had shown what a troublesome subordinate he could be where a matter of principle was

concerned."

Notwithstanding this assessment, three questions are posed by the author, all depending on the conjecture of what might have followed had O'Connor not been captured: Would he have been given command of the Eighth Army when it was formed; if commanding that army, would he have defeated Rommel; and finally, had he been successful in North Africa, did he have the ability to handle command at army group level? - BJ

The Forgotten Victor: General Sir Richard O'Connor KT, GCB, DSO, MK by John Baynes. Published by Brassey's (UK). Price hardback £15.95.

In brief

Hitler's Generals edited by Corelli Barnett. Why did 26 of the most able commanders and staff officers in the world allow Hitler to make such disastrous decisions? Published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. Price £20.

The Auld Alliance - Scotland and France: The Military Connection by Stephen Wood. Friendship based on mutual distrust of the English and dating from the 13th Century. Published by Mainstream Publishing. Price £19.95.

Pioneers of the images of war

FIRST World War Photographers is a remarkable book by the Keeper of Photographs at the Imperial War Museum who examines the work of official, press and amateur photographers and chose more than 100 photographs that are reproduced from the Museum's vast collection of 40,000 prints.

In many cases, the author has discovered the provenance of many "anonymous" photographs and the circumstances in which they were taken, for the First World War saw the first concerted attempt to capture the visual image as a means of propaganda and to influence the masses through the use of popular photojournalism.

It has to be said that a small number of the illustrations are less than satisfactory in terms of subject matter viz. the photographs of a straw carrier and water coolie in Bagdad reproduced on pages 92/93, but the remainder of the pictures and the well-written text more than make up for it. - LM

First World War Photographers by Jane Carmichael. Published by Routledge. Price £17.95.



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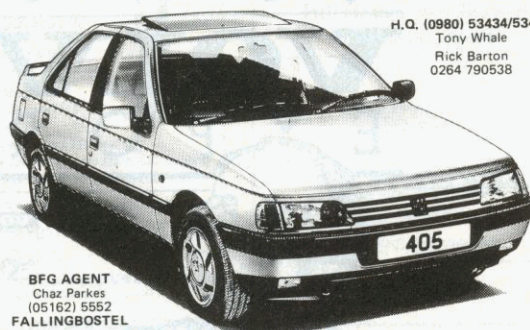


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Youth project gets airborne

THE PARAS have launched a £4m Youth Training Fund as part of the celebrations for their golden jubilee this year.

It will finance a series of self-confidence and leadership courses for more than 4,000 up-and-coming youngsters nominated by business bosses, the Prince's Trust and the National Association of Boys' Clubs.

Courses financed through the fund will be run by ex-members of the Parachute Regiment and Special Air Services. Profits raised will go to airborne forces charities.

Industry and commerce will donate £1,000 for a place on the course. Smaller donations will be pooled to offer places to Trust and Boys' Club nominees. Appeal Fund chairman Maj Gen Glyn Gilbert said the "no-nonsense courses" aimed to bring out the best "and to provide skills hitherto jealously guarded by airborne troops".

Prince Charles, the regim-



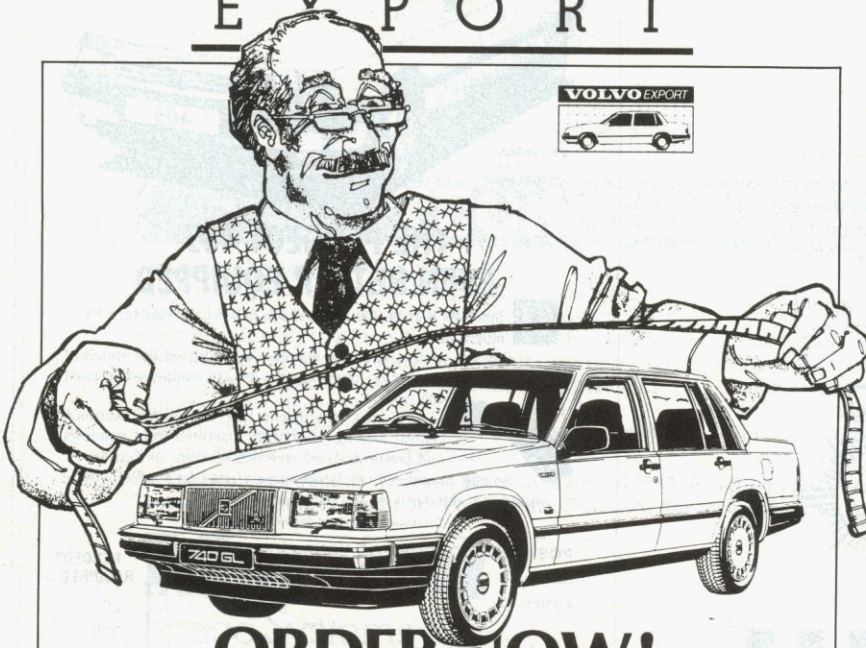
Red Devil Cpl Annette Heaton watches colleagues from the Thames Embankment

ent's Colonel-in-Chief, said: "It is an initiative which will bring that distinctive blend of objectivity, determination and power to win - the hallmark of Airborne Forces - to the youth of our cities, men and women in business, and those who would benefit from leadership training."



A Red Devil about to splash down in the Thames at the launch of a £4m appeal for Britain's youth by the Airborne Forces

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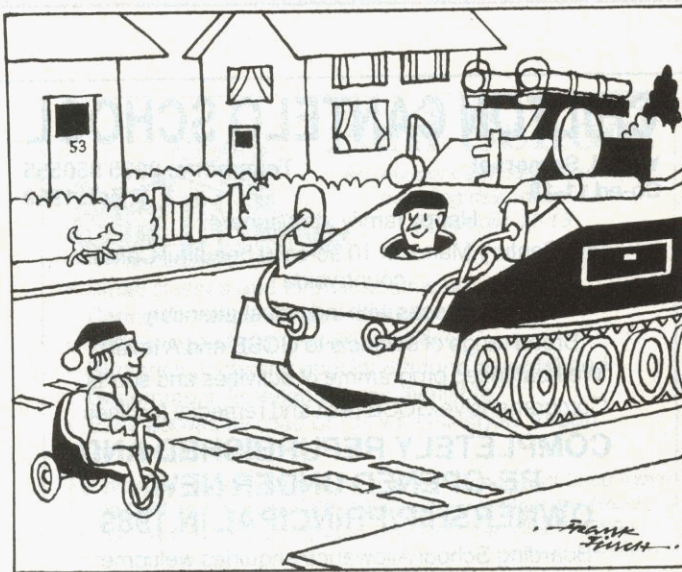
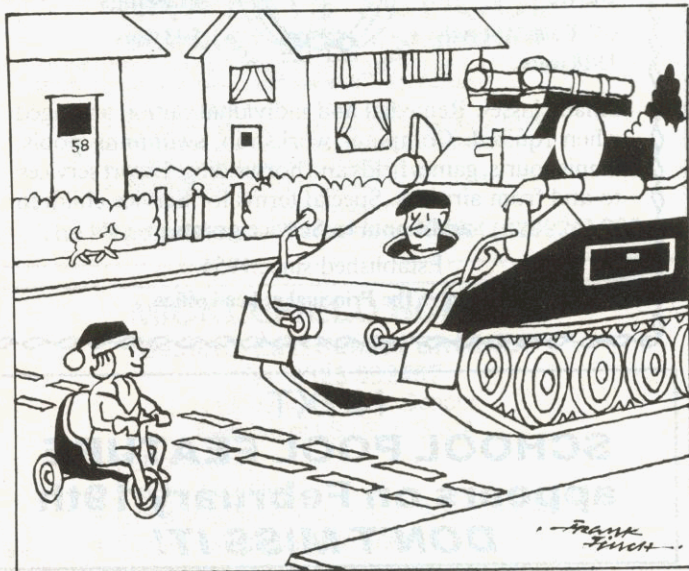
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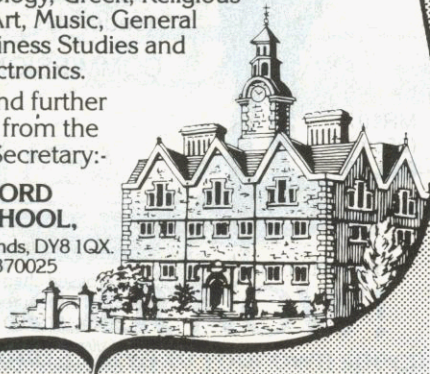
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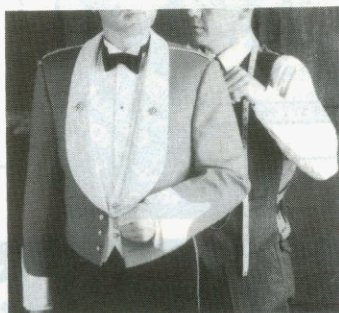
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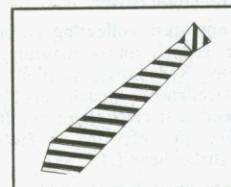
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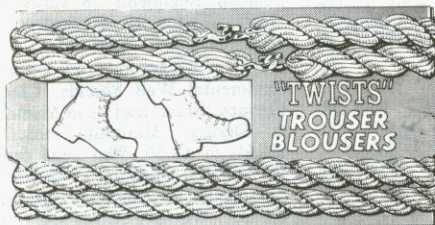
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So strong sappers in the swim

A VERY strong Royal Engineers team won the first inter-corps water polo tournament to be held for 15 years.

Hosted by REME at the Arborfield Garrison pool, the competition brought together most of the Army's top players based in both BAOR and the UK including several members of the 1976 Army team.

Teams from the RE, R Signals, REME and APTC took part, with the sappers confirming themselves as the premier water polo corps in the Army.

At the prize ceremony afterwards special awards were made to SSgt Gary Mitchell (REME) and Mr Bill Williams for their services to Army water polo.



Taking the strain in the final of the Army indoor tug of war 560 kilo division are the young gunners from the Junior Leaders' Regiment RA

Juniors pull their weight

SUPERB performances by two junior teams at the Army indoor tug-of-war championships suggest the future of the sport in the Service is in capable hands.

Both the Junior Leaders' Regiment RA and the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate excelled themselves by reaching the semi-final stages of the 560 kilo competition staged at ASPT Aldershot, and the young gunners, all under 18, reached the final where they were defeated by 19 Field Regiment RA.

In the semis, JLR RA defeated 49 Fd Regt RA by two pulls to nil, while AA Coll Harrogate went down to 19 Fd by the same margin.

The 680 kilo competition was won for the second successive year by 4 UDR, with 3 RHA the runners-up and 19 Fd third. Six teams entered and all pulled against each other. In the other divisions there were enough entries for two pools from which the semi-finalists emerged.

Climax of the competition was the blue riband 640 kilo event, and the two outstanding teams, 19 Fd Regt RA and 4

UDR, made it to the final where the gunners retained their title by two pulls to nil.

In the semi-finals they had overcome the challenge of the precocious JLR RA youngsters, and 4 UDR had beaten 3 RHA.

In their 560 kilo pool the junior gunners showed their undoubted potential by beating 49 Fd Regt RA, who last summer represented the Army at the Inter-Service outdoor championships.

JLR RA won the 420 kilo and 560 kilo titles at the national indoor youth championships last month. Runners-up in both competitions were AA Coll Harrogate. That success meant the young gunners now hold five national titles following their three outdoor wins last summer.

Driving force behind the team is Lt Col Tug Lawson, a retired officer still serving at Bramcote.

The junior outdoor championships are due to take place at Harrogate on June 2-3, the UKLF senior event at MCTC Colchester on June 24, and the Army finals on July 7 at a venue still to be decided.



Capt Peter Heyburn (pictured above) of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers based at Lemgo, West Germany is the European long range target rifle shooting champion.

Peter, who was shooting for the Irish national team at Bisley by the age of 15, competed in all European Rifle Association events last year, including the Dutch and German opens, the Grand Mandalay and the Berlin Bar. After the final competition at Sennelager

Peter is Europe's top shot

he had the highest aggregate score and was named European champion.

In 1981 Peter shot for the British team in Canada and he has been short-listed for the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand this summer.

Brown puts Army on the way

Gloucestershire 1, Army 2

THE ARMY opened their defence of the South West Counties football championship with an away win over Gloucestershire at Bristol Manor Farm, writes Pat Massey.

Sgt Sandy Brown (R Signals) shot the visitors into the lead in the first half and SI Mickey Spencer (APTC) added a second just after the interval.

The result was never in doubt after that and the Army coasted to a comfortable win despite the county's last-minute consolation goal.

Civil Service 1, Army 1

SI Pat Russell (APTC) gave the Army a first-half lead against the Civil Service, and that was good enough to allow the Servicemen to retain the Footballer Trophy.

The Civil Service equalised in the second period when the referee ignored a linesman's vigorous flagging and allowed play to continue.

Middlesex 0, Army 1

Army skipper Sgt Sandy Brown scored the goal that beat Middlesex, one of the strongest football counties. The win, at Hayes, allowed the Army a measure of revenge for last year's Middlesex victory.

Army B 1, Army Crusaders 0

It is very heartening for Army football that the Army Crusaders, the Army Officers' Club, should consider themselves to be in such good shape as to seek a fixture with the Army "Stiffs". A good contest it was too, under difficult conditions.

The Army side did win but only by the narrowest of margins. A Sgt Gavin Wood (REME) goal, during the opening half, was enough to win the day.

The margin of victory was enough to suggest, however, that this will be the first of many such fixtures in the future.

RAF drops out

THE Inter-Service team boxing championships this year will be a two-horse race following the withdrawal of the Royal Air Force from the competition.

With the Army hoping to win the team title for a seventh consecutive year, the championship will now be decided when they host the Royal Navy at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot on February 15.

The RAF, who have struggled for some years against the powerful Navy and Army squads, do not have sufficient intermediate and open class boxers to form a team.

Army boxing captain LCpl Dave Abbott (2 Gren Gds) earned his first England vest

Army-Navy match to be decider

against Ireland on December 22. Abbott is the current Army and Combined Service heavyweight champion.

Also on the bill against Ireland was Services sportsman of the year Sgt Keith Howlett.

Making his mark at the highest levels for his age group is Dvr Chris Bessey (1 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT). He reached the finals of the National Association of Boys

Clubs championships by out-pointing West Ham BC's John Tokeley at the semi-finals held in the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot.

Tpr Mark McGowan (1 RTR) had also reached the semi-finals but had to pull out after sustaining a leg injury in training.

An Army team hammered a Wales Select squad 7-2 at Swansea just before Christmas. There were wins for Spr Gary Bennett (21 Engr Regt), Cpl Errol Tyrell (1 PWO), Cfn Tony Wall (SEME), LCpl Sean Gallagher (1 Staffords), Pte Glen Williams (23 Para Fd Amb RAMC), Gdsm Shane Grant (2 Coldm Gds) and LCpl Carl Baker (5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn). Tyrell, Grant, LCpl Alan Lesbirel (2 RGJ) and Spr Lee Innes (22 Engr Regt) all won their bouts as the Army defeated Western Counties 4-0 at the Grand Hotel, Bristol.

Following a recommendation from the chief medical officer of the Amateur Boxing Association that medical personnel, referees, coaches and trainers wear disposable gloves as a measure against hepatitis and Aids when dealing with bleeding wounds in the ring, the CSBA and Army BA have fallen into line.

Signallers on song

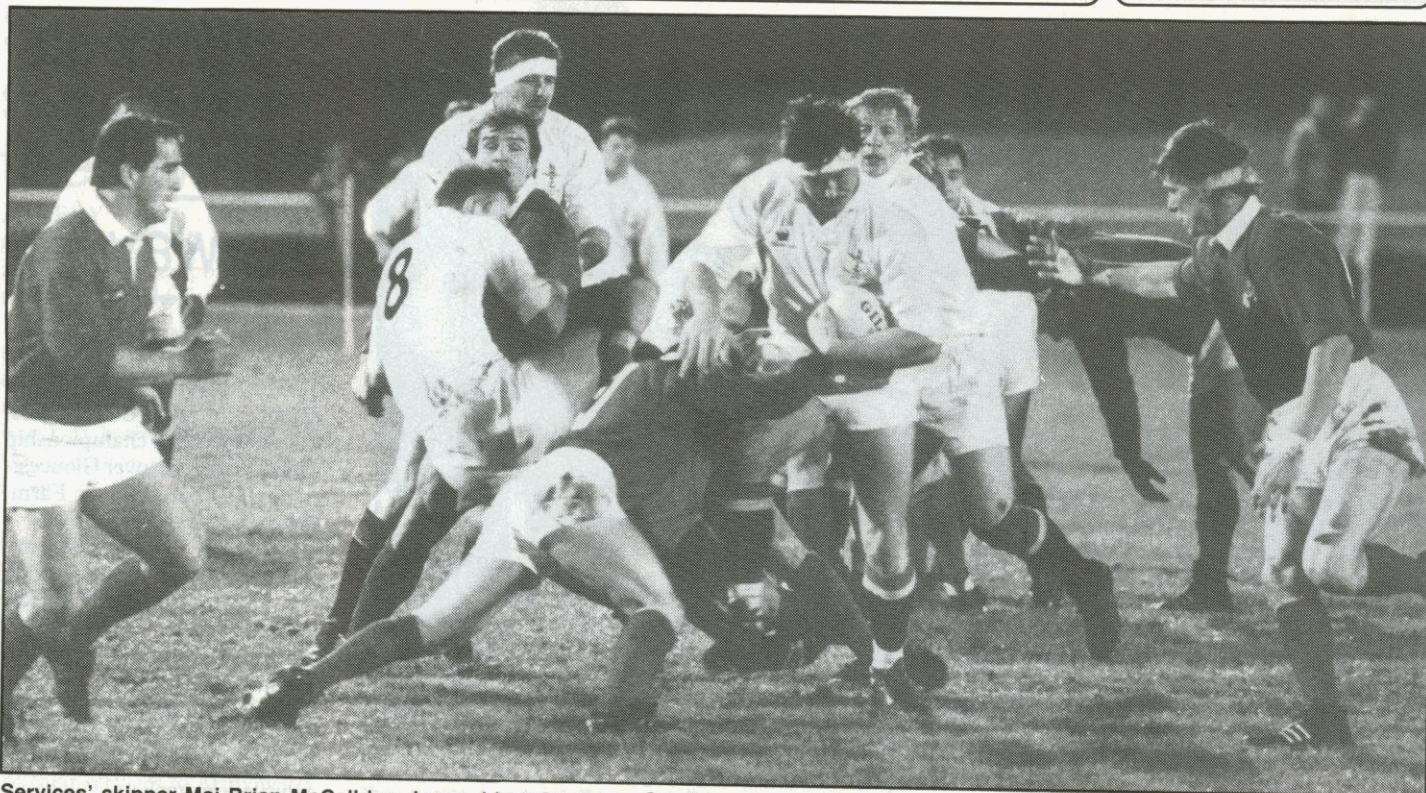
LOW water levels added to the hazards faced by competitors at the Army white water canoe racing championships held on the River Dee at Llangollen. The competition turned out to be extremely technical and was won by 16 Signal Regiment from BAOR followed closely by the School of Electrical Engineering.

Men's kayak champion was Cpl Ted Heath of HQ MWF with the defending champion,

LCpl Lenny Pritchard, six seconds adrift.

Top Army woman was Sgt Alison Winkles of BOBC Norway, whose familiarity with Norwegian rivers did offer a slight advantage.

Winner of the Canadian singles class was Capt Paul Hepworth, ACC of No 6 Catering Region, and WO1 (SSM) Neil Martin, ACC (Army School of Catering) was the runner-up.



Picture: Mike Perring

Services' skipper Maj Brian McCall brushes aside a Soviet tackle. Army No 8 2nd Lt Tim Rodber is involved in the thick of the action

Services swamp the Soviets

THE Hammer and Sickle flew over the home of the British Army on a wet and windy night when British Servicemen were confronted by the Soviet Union, writes John Quin.

But their battlefield was the floodlit Military Stadium at Aldershot and the focus of their dispute was an oval ball. Combined Services were taking on the Soviet Union in the second match of the first tour to an English-speaking country by a Russian rugby team.

The Combined Services, made up of four Royal Navy, eight Army and three Royal Air

Force players, deserved their victory by 18 points to three against a physically big and athletic USSR team.

A good crowd, despite the conditions, watched the British Armed Forces slowly but surely take control against the adventurous but unpredictable Soviets.

Maj Brian McCall, who led the side, had with him the

nucleus of the Army team on which hopes for a third successive Inter-Services tournament will rest.

Cpl Paul Hull (RAF) converted a penalty try, added two further penalty goals, and finally kicked the additional points after Cpl George Graham had gone over for a try in the closing minute.

The Army XV will be starting their build-up for the Willis Trophy encounter with the Royal Navy when they visit Hampshire at Basingstoke on January 17.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers are the new rugby champions of Germany, having beaten 21 Signal Regiment in the BAOR final. In the UKLF things are turning out as expected. Contesting the quarter-finals are 8 Sig Regt and 1 DWR; Tps Hereford or SEME and 2 Para; 7 RHA and 1/3 Trg Regt RE; and 1 WG and 1 Glosters or 1 BW. Whoever comes through from that lot is due to take on 1 RWF in Germany on April 4.

Howlett, Gilchrist honoured

ENGLAND boxing team captain Sgt Keith Howlett, APTC, and Scottish international athlete Cpl Jackie Gilchrist, WRAC, have been named as the Combined Services' sportsman and woman of 1989.

Team of the year is the Combined Services football side which won the prestigious Kentish Cup for the first time since 1984 by beating both Dutch and Belgian Armed Forces.

Howlett is the current Army, Combined Services and national amateur boxing champion at bantam-weight. In May he returned to Wembley to retain his British title for a second successive year, and he is a well-established member of the national team.

He is now in New Zealand to compete in the Commonwealth Games.

Jackie Gilchrist, the Scottish high jumper and heptathlete, has been a mainstay in Army women's athletics for several years, and has played a large part in the Army's current hat-trick of success at Inter-Service level.



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9/24



THEY'LL NEVER FOLLOW ITS TRACKS.

x4 It's hot, almost too hot. The sun is hazy but there are no clouds. In the distance you hear the faint drone of an engine.

x4 A murmur of anticipation ripples through the crowd standing waiting on either side of the dry, dusty track that hair-pins its way up the mountain.

x4 Suddenly the drone becomes a roar and the roar a numbing explosion of noise and power and then, just as suddenly, it disappears leaving only a plume of yellow dust to darken the sun.

x4 This is Pike's Peak, "The Race to the Clouds." 12.4 miles, 14,000 feet and 156 bends. It's America's most gruelling and most punishing hill climb and in 1989 it was yet another victory for the Peugeot 405 rally car.

x4 It won not just because of the skill of its drivers, its power and its strength but also because of a fundamental engineering reason—its 4-wheel drive technology. x 4 (By Four) is a highly advanced configuration perfected by Peugeot.

x4 It's the same engineering that you'll now find on the new Peugeot Mi16x4.

x4 In the simplest terms, x 4 works by using a viscous coupling and a Torsen (torque-sensing) differential to channel the most power to the wheels with the most grip.

x4 On Pike's Peak that meant the Peugeot 405 rally car was able, even on the most difficult road surfaces, to shave winning seconds by steering a line that the other cars literally couldn't follow.

x4 On the new Peugeot Mi16x4, 'x 4' means, that you can experience the full potential of the 160 b.h.p. generated by the 1.9 litre, 16-valve, electronically injected engine.

x4 You enjoy a driving experience of performance, handling and cornering quite simply without comparison in its class.

x4 So, as on the Peugeot 405 rally car, x4 means that the competition will certainly follow the new Mi16x4, but they'll never follow its tracks.

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SOLDIER



The Prince of Wales, in the kilted uniform of the Gordon Highlanders, inspects officer cadets passing out at the 101st Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. On the left is Officer Cadet Christopher Scudds who received the Sword of Honour, and behind the Prince is Academy Sergeant Major Michael Nesbitt.

Picture: Mike Perring