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JANUARY 1 1990

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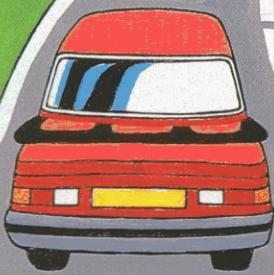
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JANUARY 1, 1990

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CONTENTS

4 Letters

5 Newsline

10 People

13 SOLDIER to Soldier

14 Gurkha Sword of Peace

16 Berlin Wall breached

21 Afghan mine 'school'

24 Falklands mine menace

26 Army Photographic Competition

33 Army Benevolent Fund

36 Eiger success

33 All in a Good Cause

38 Anne Armstrong

40 Book reviews

42 Dortmund War Garrison

43 HOAY competition

52 Sport

FRONT COVER: A para fires his rifle . . . and the dramatic picture which resulted won a £150 prize for Geordie Smith in the Army Photographic Competition. This shot was judged the best colour photograph. Geordie also won the best monochrome photograph category. Full story on Pages 26 to 31.

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Tee-shirt art form? It depends which platoon you are serving in. In the next issue SOLDIER will feature men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (the "Vikings") in Northern Ireland. Plus a report on Exercise Perfumed Garden, the NBC degradation exercise in BAOR.



Medics deserve pat on back

I WISH to place on record my heartfelt thanks (no pun intended) for the service two soldiers rendered me in answer to a 999 ambulance call.

In the early hours of November 14 I was stricken with severe chest pains – I had already had one heart attack – and at about 3.30am my wife made a 999 call.

In little over a quarter of an hour, in fog and in a strange

neighbourhood, two soldiers arrived with their ambulance. One paramedic came straight into the bedroom armed with an oxygen cylinder and mask and asked very professional questions.

They were immaculately turned-out – even boots polished – despite having been on duty from 8am the previous day. Their manners were impeccable.

Nobby's not doing us any favours

THE current anti-terrorist campaign "Nobby Says" is patronising to today's Army. The recruit of the Eighties has a far higher standard of education than was the case 15 to 20 years ago. The advertisement does not create a suitable image, especially when the British Army is promoting itself as a professional service.

Could not the agency think of a more effective way, without being so condescending to today's soldier?

With the current threat of terrorism the need for covert-type staff cars is of growing importance. However, the practice of painting these cars

black and putting the normal civilian-type number plates does little to make them less obvious.

They still stand out as military vehicles because as a typical example the Ford Escort has a sticker not found on the version sold to the general public. Why paint the vehicles black? Use different colours, which would make the job of identifying these vehicles far more difficult.

I noticed a few days ago in a civil car park one of these so-called unmarked staff cars with the attachment still on the bonnet for the CO's flag. What is the point of going to these lengths if the attempt is only half done? – LCpl Ian Rowe, C Sqn, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Tidworth, Hants.

Reunions

● The RAF Regiment Association for all ranks, both present and past, comes into being on February 1, 1990. For full details write to The Regimental Secretary, RAF Regiment Association, RAF Regiment Depot, RAF Catterick, Richmond, N. Yorks DL10 7NP.

Calling . . .

● First World War veterans who served in the **Ypres Salient 1914-19** willing to share details of their experiences at Ypres or anywhere else along the Western Front. Please contact Thomas L Gudmestad, 647 SW 132nd Street, Seattle, WA 98146, USA.

I was admitted to Mayday Hospital and after exhaustive tests it was established I had suffered a severe angina attack.

I feel I must praise your Service and the two soldiers who attended me. If it is possible to trace them, please give them a pat on the back. They are a credit to the Army – H E V Pinnell, 14 Gulliver Court, 185 Pampisfield Road, S Croydon, Surrey CR2 6DX.



Token poser

AS an amateur numismatist researching canteen tokens used by the British Armed Forces since 1939, I am having difficulty finding some details. The British Armed Forces one-unit and half-unit tokens in brass were made at the Royal Mint in 1953 but I cannot find out in which countries they were used, nor their monetary equivalent. The aluminium 5 lire and 10 lire Naafi tokens are a real mystery. Can any readers tell me where they used them? – John F Yarwood, 72 Baillie Street, Horsham, Vic 3400, Australia.

AS a postscript to letters regarding a cap badge for the Home Service Force we should try to understand the feelings of resentment of someone who joined the HSF in good faith, accepting the official line about "attachment" to a "host" unit, expecting to join a new specialist formation and then being handed the badge of a strange infantry regiment.

We should also consider

whether the original purpose of the HSF was in accordance with the present practice. As it is now, it seems to be more and more regarded as a way of beefing-up the strength of TA regiments.

The original idea was to use experienced men too old for the TA or of lower medical standard for static defence or less demanding duties.

These two interpretations are

Zulu War fort site threatened

SOME of your readers may recall the plans to restore the battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift from the Zulu War of 1879 in Southern Africa. On the other side of the coin are plans to despoil another important Zulu War site, namely Fort Pearson and the Ultimatum Tree on the Tugela river.

Natal Provincial Administration intend to drive a motorway bridge between Fort Pearson (built by The Buffs) and the Ultimatum Tree (where Zulu chiefs gathered to hear the ultimatum that led to war) destroying another fort known as Tenedos in the process.

A campaign has been started in Natal to stop the near destruction of these two important sites. The campaign has the backing of such groups as the South African Military History Society.

Those with an interest in preservation are asked to address letters of protest to the Secretary (Natal Branch) SAMHS, Commandant S Bourquin, 16 O'Conner Street, Westville, Natal, RSA, who will pass them on.

There are a number of British war graves near Fort Pearson, at present well looked after and many bearing the simple inscription "Here Rests a Brave British Soldier".

Perhaps we can now help to protect the fort these men built and defended? – Ted Brown, Historic Battlefield Tours and Victorian Military Society, 4 Linden Road, Bognor Regis, W Sussex PO21 2AN.

HSF 'roles' incompatible

not really compatible.

Surely the answer would be to allow TA regiments to form low-commitment platoons integral to each company, badged to them, and to form entirely distinct, independent HSF companies more on the lines of the old Vulnerable Points Police (Bluecaps). – D G Sage (Pte, HSF), 35 Waun y Felin, Penclawdd, Swansea SA4 3RD.

Ambulance crew resuscitates trapped man

AN ARMY ambulance crew has been praised for successfully twice re-starting the heart of an industrial accident victim.

The man was trapped in machinery at a plastic bottle factory in Edmonton, London, and when the crew arrived his heart had

stopped. Twice the Army medics applied cardiac massage. The man later died.

Both police and staff of the North Middlesex Hospital Accident Emergency Department have praised the crew, who were Pte Peter O'Malley, 23 Parachute Field

Ambulance, LCpl Richard Perry, 20 Sqn RCT, and a woman police constable.

A woman civilian died and a male passenger was seriously injured when their car was involved in an accident with an Army ambulance in Battersea, London.

Rock role ends

THE British Army's resident infantry battalion on Gibraltar is to be pulled out in March 1991, ending a 287-year link with the Rock. British troops have been based there since Gibraltar was captured from Spain in 1704.

Defence Secretary Archie Hamilton said that some of the tasks currently undertaken by the resident battalion, including ceremonial duties, will be taken on by the Gibraltar Regiment, the permanent cadre of which is to be increased from 66 to 143 men.

The establishment of a part-time company and Home Service Force company will allow the regiment to reorganise into an all-infantry force of three rifle companies with the appropriate command and support elements but the artillery battery and air defence troop will no longer be required. Personnel in these units will be given the opportunity to remain in the restructured regiment.

The Gibraltar Regiment Corps of Drums will be retained, and in addition a military band will be provided for certain important occasions.

The reduced Regular Army presence will mean less administrative support for Territorial Army camps and from March 1991 there will be some reduction in the number of TA exercises on Gibraltar. An MoD spokesman said that in view of the value of such training to the TA, the frequency of the Marble Tor exercises would be kept under review.



Picture: Mike Perrin

Officer Cadet John Scudds became the first officer cadet being commissioned into the Army Air Corps to receive the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst's coveted Sword of Honour when he passed out on the Sovereign's Parade before the Prince of Wales. Nearly 130 of the 730 student officers and officer

cadets on parade received their commissions. After commissioning, 2nd Lt Scudds was due to begin six months attached to 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards in West Germany before he begins conversion training with the AAC at Middle Wallop, Wiltshire. He is already a qualified pilot.

Half of Buller gets a new name

PART of Buller Barracks, which is separated by Alisons Road, Aldershot, has a new identity.

Buller Barracks (North), home of 27 Regiment RCT, has been renamed Travers Barracks in honour of one of the most distinguished officers to have served in the corps, the late Lt Gen Sir Paul Travers, a former Quartermaster General.

A parade and march and drive past was followed by an unveiling ceremony. The inspecting officer was Maj Gen Colin Carrington, Director General of Transport and Movements. Guests included Gen Travers's widow, Lady Travers, and the GOC South East District, Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière. Music was provided by the Band of the RCT and the Corps of Drums.

During the same ceremony the Headquarters Squadron of 27 Regt was retitled 77 Squadron, a designation descending from the first mechanical transport company of the Army Service Corps formed in 1903. The name of Buller Barracks, home of the Depot and Training Regiment RCT on the south side of Alisons Road, remains unchanged.

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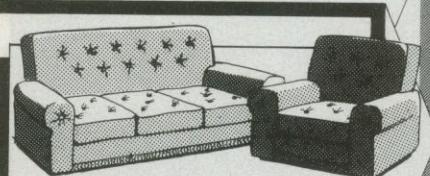


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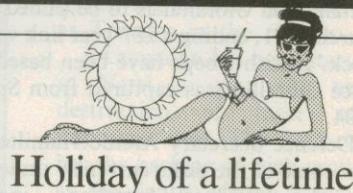
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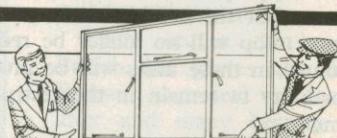
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Top man changes in BAOR

NEW man in charge of the British Army of the Rhine is Gen Sir Peter Inge, who has succeeded Gen Sir Brian Kenny.

Gen Inge, who was commissioned into the Green Howards in 1956, has served in Hong Kong, Malaya, Libya, West Germany, Northern Ireland and England.

He assumed command of 1st British Corps in August 1987 after completing appointments as Commander North East District and 2nd Infantry Division in York, and Director General of Logistic Policy (Army) in the Ministry of Defence. Gen Inge took command of Northern Army Group and BAOR at the end of November.

Gen Kenny takes up his new appointment as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe on January 16.

Brig Gael Ramsey has taken up her appointment as Director Women's Royal Army Corps. Her most recent commitments have been to study the long-term role and employment of women in the Army and the co-ordination of welfare agency support in Germany.

Brig Ramsey, who is married to a serving officer, joined the Army in 1968 and has served in Germany, Hong Kong and Cyprus.



Gen Inge



Brig Ramsey



The first of 17 Challenger training tanks has rolled out of the Vickers Defence System factory at Leeds and is now at the British Army's Armour Trials and Development Unit at Bovington. The training tank arrived on time and is the first

such tank to be purpose-built for the Army, providing realistic driver and maintenance training for soldiers from both the RAC and REME. The remaining 16 vehicles are on schedule for delivery between May and September

London sewer bomb heroes awarded QGM

TWO Army bomb disposal experts who worked for 32 hours in a collapsing sewer to make safe a 500lb Second World War German bomb have been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The awards to Capt Anthony Crawford and LCpl Keith Porter, both Royal Engineers bomb disposal specialists serving in Rochester, are in recognition of gallantry and dedication to duty well in excess of what is normally expected in bomb disposal operations.

The bomb was uncovered on November 13, 1988 by a contractor excavating a new

sewer on the Isle of Dogs, East London. It was only 25 yards from the Docklands Light Railway, and close to the A13 main road and Billingsgate Fish Market.

Following the evacuation of 400 people from the area and the closure of road and rail links, Capt Crawford and LCpl Porter began work on the bomb which was lying at the end of a 135ft long sewer pipe, 4ft in diameter and 20ft below ground.

Three times the tunnel collapsed on them and after three hours digging in very cramped and claustrophobic conditions the bomb's fuse was uncovered.

To immunise the fuse Capt Crawford and LCpl Porter had to drill by hand into the fuse head and pour in a solution to dissolve the very sensitive crystals of explosive which had formed over the years.

This process took a further five hours and the subsequent operation to remove the bomb from the sewer was both difficult and dangerous.

LCpl Porter has since left the Army to join the police.

MPs take close look at Detmold Garrison

A DEFENCE Study Group consisting of 18 members of both Houses of Parliament visited Detmold as part of a familiarisation visit to BAOR. After lunching with Detmold Garrison wives, members of the

group met soldiers from 669 Squadron, 4 Regiment Army Air Corps working on Lynx and Gazelle helicopters. Their day in Detmold included a visit to the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards tank park.

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Yorkshire Volunteers in charge

THE rigours of a 36-hour military skills competition on the Yorkshire Moors brought success for the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers, who beat off the challenge of more than 300 Territorial Army rivals from North East District.

Winners in the men's competition were the battalion's Halifax-based D Company, with colleagues of the Bradford platoon of the Keighley-based A Coy second. In the women's section, a team from the battalion's Huddersfield HQ was first, three points clear of their nearest rivals, the Northumbrian Universities OTC led by 2nd Lt Louise Chandler from Newcastle Polytechnic.

● The four battalions of The Yorkshire Volunteers had more than 250 Territorial Army soldiers on parade when they exercised their Freedom of York. The honour was conferred in 1973 but it was the first time all four battalions had been able to exercise their Freedom together.

Fylde freedom

PLANS are being drawn up for The Queen's Lancashire Regiment to exercise its new Freedom of the Borough of Fylde with a parade through the streets of Fylde in the spring. It will coincide with the start of the regiment's tercentenary year.

The Freedom is the first to be granted to the regiment in its own right. Through its forbears it already holds the Freedoms of several towns and cities. The QLR was formed in 1970 from an amalgamation of the old Loyal (North Lancashire) and Lancashire Regiments.

Rail unit honoured

LINKS between British Rail and the Territorial Army have been reinforced by the naming of an Inter City locomotive after 275 Railway Squadron (Volunteers). The squadron is made up of mainly BR employees.

Glitter for TA gunners

AT a glittering ceremony in London's Guildhall, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Hugh Bidwell, accompanied by the Master Gunner St James's Park, Gen Sir Martin Farndale, presented awards at the National Artillery Association prizegiving.

Every year Territorial Army gunner units throughout the country compete for a number of prestigious awards. This year The Queen's Cup for the best field battery was won by 204 (The Tyneside Scottish) Field Battery RA (V) and the BP Trophy for



Men of 3 Yorks display their silverware after winning the NE District military skills competition. In the foreground is Lt Tony Dean and behind him are (front) Cpl Ian Brown, Cpl Pete Rosier, Sgt Bob Dyson, and LCpl Paul Hawtin; (back) LCpl Mark Smith, Pte Craig Marsden, LCpl Pete Ramsden, Pte Nick Mallas and Pte Dave Love

Brigade puts on big show

THE Queen's Own Hussars at Hohne, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment at Celle and the 1st Battalion, the Royal Tank Regiment at Hildesheim played host to 60 students from the Joint Service Defence College, Greenwich on a visit to West Germany.

At Soltau training area they watched Challenger tanks of the QOH, bridge-laying equipment of Munsterlager-based 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment and Warriors from the 1st Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment based at Fallingbostel. The surface demonstration was supported by helicopters and Harrier and A 10 aircraft.

the best air defence battery was 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery RA (V).

Other winners were HQ Bty 101 (Northumbrian) Fd Regt (Surrey Yeomanry Cup); 207 (City of Glasgow) AD Bty (Taurus Trophy); 212 (Highland) AD Bty (Dodds Trophy); HQ Bty 104 AD Regt (Air Defence Headquarters Battery competition); Leeds University OTC (King George VI Cup competition); 266 (Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery) OP Bty (OP Battery competition.)

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SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS: SSgt Debbie Young and Mr Jimmy James

What a safe bunch!

The community policemen of 113 Provost Company RMP have been nominated winners of the 1989 Chief Police Adviser's Road Safety Trophy. Presented annually, the rosebowl trophy is awarded to the BAOR RMP unit judged to have contributed and achieved the most successful result in their road safety teachings.

The presentation ceremony, attended by the Provost Marshal BAOR, Col Mike Ramsey, was held in the office of the Chief Police Adviser, Mr Jimmy James. Suitably decorated with flowers for the occasion, the trophy was presented by Mr James to SSgt Debbie Young, WRAC Provost, 113 Provost Company Road Safety Co-ordinator.



The international element at the RAPC's Army Computer Centre at Worthy Down was halved when Capt **Clive Taylor** (above right), Royal Australian Regiment, said farewell after three months on exchange at the centre. Before taking his leave he "swapped" plaques with Station Commander Brig **Frank Roberts**.

Remaining member of the "international brigade" is Maj **Bob Theriot** (left) of the US Army Finance Corps.

That's my name

Cpl **Stan Goodwin**, RAOC-EFI, celebrates the opening of the Expeditionary Force Institute's new headquarters at Wingham, Surrey, named after him. He helped build the block.



IN MEMORY: RSM Curry, Mr and Mrs Wilkinson and Lt Col Sawers with the photograph of Stephen

Stephen's not forgotten . . .

The drill hall where Pte Stephen Wilkinson became a star cadet before joining the Army will have a permanent reminder of the young man whose life was cut short by tragedy. Stephen, of Stanley, County Durham was 18 when he was killed in an IRA bomb ambush. He was one of eight men of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry who died when their bus was blown up near Omagh in August 1988.

Stephen's mother, Mrs Margaret Wilkinson, father John and more than 20 members of his family were present when a memorial plaque was handed over on behalf of his regiment to the Durham Army Cadet Force.

Lt Col Ian Sawers, CO of the 7th (Durham) Battalion, The Light Infantry presented the plaque to RSM Curry of Durham ACF. It will be mounted beside a framed photograph of Stephen.



Musical brothers

Meet Bros! Well, not exactly THE Bros . . .

This lot add up to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers version and they are all serving in the Band of 1 R Irish at Osnabrück, West Germany.

The Bedford brothers - **Aiden**, **Paul** and **Matthew** - make up a unique musical trio. Now they are hoping Matthew's twin, **Michael**, might join up to complete the Bedford Quartet. He plays the euphonium.

Paul plays the cornet, Matthew the bass and Aiden the trombone.

Paul and Matthew are serving in the Band of 1 R Irish at Osnabrück, West Germany.



IRISH TRIO: Paul, Aiden and Michael (front) Bedford

Bobby's a real dazzler



Picture: Mike Perring

Bobby, the Indian blackbuck mascot of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, exchanges pleasantries with his handler, Fus **Gary Bradley**, 5 RRF, at a ceremony to mark the launch of the National Army Museum Development Trust Appeal. Purpose of the appeal is to raise money for the completion of the museum's building plans in Chelsea.

PEOPLE



GENERAL REMINDER: 12 Flight AAC staff present Gen Kenny with a farewell memento to mark his links with the VIP flight

Right note for David

Chelsea Pensioner Sgt **David Guild** got a pleasant surprise while visiting friends at Minden, West Germany.

He heard the sounds of military music and discovered the Albuhera Band of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment playing outside a city bank where their regimental silver was on display.



MUSICAL MEET: Sgt Guild (right) with WO1 (Bandmaster) Ian Peaple

Departing flight

Gen Sir **Brian Kenny** paid a special farewell visit to 12 Flight AAC to thank pilots and groundcrew for their support during his tenure as Commander-in-Chief BAOR. The Wildenrath based unit is the only dedicated VIP passenger flight in the Army.

Gen Kenny, a qualified Army pilot in his own right, accumulated an additional 94 hours of Gazelle dual time for his log book during his time as C-in-C BAOR. Under Maj Ken Bailey, the 28-man unit operates four Gazelle helicopters in support of HQ BAOR.

Gen Kenny, who has been succeeded as C-in-C BAOR by Gen Sir **Peter Inge**, is to be DSACEUR at SHAPE in Belgium.



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First-rate delivery service

Initiative is alive and well in the British Army. Following our story (December 11) that a soldier on emergency ambulance duty in London had used his bootlace to tie off the umbilical cord during a successful delivery in his ambulance comes news of another medic being thrown in at the deep end.

Musn Julian Kirk (21), who is far happier when performing with the Band of the Welsh Guards, went into action when a mother-to-be began her labour while in an Army ambulance taking her to Whittington Hospital.

Julian, assisted by a proud father, delivered the baby safely. Mother and son were later reported to be doing well.

A picture of Dharan

Prints of four paintings by Antony Cooke commissioned by HQ British Gurkhas Nepal to mark the closure of Dharan Cantonment are on sale.

The prints depict the north gate, the officers' mess with its famous flame tree, a general view of BMH Dharan and the attestation of Gurkha recruits. Prices range from £5 a print to £16 for a set, and order forms are available from EO (L) A, HQ British Gurkhas Nepal, Kathmandu, BFPO 4.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Slim statue appeal on target

The appeal fund set up by the Burma Star Association to pay for a statue of Fd Marshal the Viscount Slim has reached its target of £140,000 and work has begun on a site at Raleigh Green in front of the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall where the field marshal served as Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Appeal fund controller Mr Nobby Clarke, a former gunner officer with the 4th

Indian Field Regiment in Burma, said the fund would remain open until April because many donations were already in the pipeline.

Surplus funds are to be given to the Burma Star Welfare Fund created by Fd Marshal Slim and Lord Mountbatten.

Thousands of Far East veterans will watch the

unveiling of the statue on April 28 during their annual reunion weekend in London.

Contributions for the statue by Burma Star holder Ivor Robert-Jones came from all over the world and from all Services, reflecting the affection in which Fd Marshal Slim was held.

Donations ranged from £12,000 by the Brigade of Gurkhas to £600 from cadets of Burma Company at RMA Sandhurst.

Past and present members of the regiment who had rallied round to raise more than half a million pounds to pay for the reorganisation of the museum were present at the opening.

The Queen was welcomed by Fd Marshal the Lord Bramall of Bushfield, chairman of the museum appeal fund, and Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, Adjutant General and Representative Colonel Commandant of the regiment.

Delayed by fog, the Queen nevertheless took a keen interest in the museum and later met representatives of the Royal Green Jackets' parent regiments, the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the King's Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade.

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

Keeping the public alert

Members of the public have been urged to help the Army fight IRA terrorism by reporting "unusual" behaviour.

In a message to newspaper editors all over the South of England, Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, GOC South East District, says that terrorists have to spend time studying their targets and, as in the case of the Deal bombing, can be noticed by ordinary people because of something unusual in their behaviour or circumstances.

The reporting of "something unusual" could prevent another attack, says the general, who

asks members of the public to be particularly vigilant in the vicinity of military establishments or housing.

Any interest shown by strangers in military security should be considered suspicious and reported through the operator to the Army's Freefone 7772 hotline or through the police 999 system.

Every one of the 1,500 calls so far received on the hotline has been assessed as useful.

Royal opening

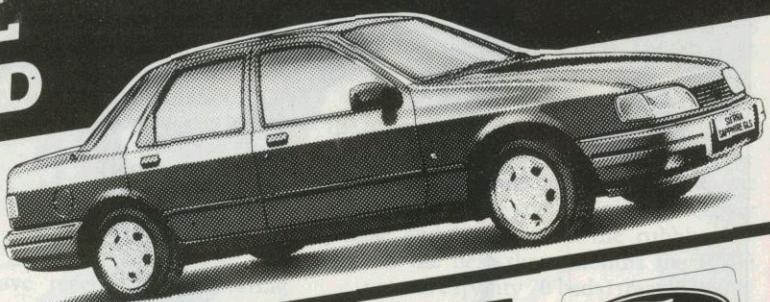
The new Royal Green Jackets museum at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester was opened by the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

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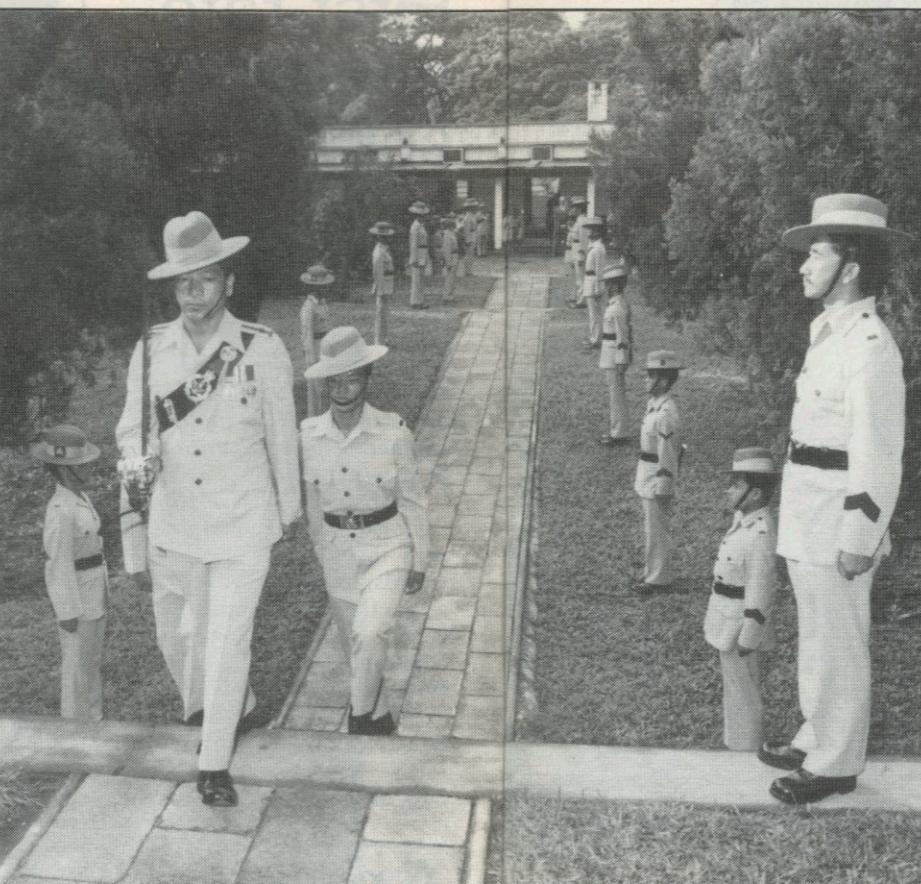


Tick items of main interest:

- FIESTA
- ESCORT/ORION
- SIERRA/SAPPHIRE
- GRANADA/SCORPIO



Brig David Morgan, Commander BGN, with the Wilkinson Sword of Peace



Maj (QGO) Manbahadur Rai, carries the Sword of Peace to the military hospital



In Dharan the effects of the earthquake which struck in August 1988 are still apparent



Left - Maj Maggie MacDonald, QARANC, the 20th and last Matron of BMH Dharan

Earthquake Gurkhas win Sword of Peace

FOR the first time since the annual award for community service was started in 1966, the Wilkinson Sword of Peace has gone to a Gurkha unit of the British Army.

The presentation to British Gurkhas Nepal honoured the outstanding efforts made to relieve suffering and distress in the aftermath of the earthquake which devastated parts of East Nepal and neighbouring North East India in August 1988.

Mr Colin Bass, general manager of Wilkinson's Contracts Division, travelled to Dharan in East Nepal from Shanghai, where he had been on company business, to present the sword to Brig David Morgan, Commander British Gurkhas Nepal.

The ceremony took place behind the British Officers' Mess in the Dharan Cantonment and immediately afterwards Gurkha Major Manbahadur Rai carried the sword under escort to the British Military Hospital. It is to be put on



Left - Brig David Morgan hands the Wilkinson Sword of Peace to Maj (QGO) Manbahadur Rai of Dharan. The sword is to go on display at the new BGN HQ in Kathmandu

permanent display in the new BGN HQ being constructed in Kathmandu.

It was a proud moment for the Cantonment, but not without a touch of sadness as this was probably the last ceremonial occasion of its kind. The camp and hospital are due to be handed over to the Nepalese authorities, nearly 30 years after being opened as a home base for Gurkhas serving in the British Army.

Most of the British personnel who were involved in the aftermath of the

earthquake have received their posting orders and gone. But there were a few left to witness the presentation.

They included Capt Rosie Smith, the theatre superintendent, SSgt Bob Leather Day, the senior theatre technician, SSgt Frank Brown, the pathology lab technician, and Maj Maggie MacDonald, the 20th and last Matron of BMH Dharan. All have their own special memories of that hectic time.

For Maggie MacDonald, who arrived to

take over as Matron 24 hours after the earthquake struck on August 21, 1988, it was going to bed one morning at 3am only to be roused at 4.30am to deliver a baby in a taxi at the hospital gate; and, with no other means of carrying the baby, having to button the infant inside her shirt to bicycle back to the hospital.

The earthquake destroyed 90 per cent of the town of Dharan, killed 150 local people and injured more than 1,100 others. British and Gurkha staff from the Cantonment were soon helping to recover people and bodies from the rubble.

Over the next three months the BMH (normal capacity 70 beds) treated 900 of the injured for everything from severe spinal injuries to cuts and bruises.

In the words of the citation: "BGN made an outstanding contribution to furthering the relationship between Britain and Nepal by their exemplary response to the earthquake, and by their dedicated community work and civil aid throughout 1988."

by Robert Higson

The day they breached the Wall

THE line wasn't original but the pretty production assistant from an American TV company got it about right when she said: "I think your military policemen are wonderful."

Capt Fred Meek of 247 Provost Company coughed modestly and ushered her out as gracefully as one can usher anyone out of a miniature Portakabin 2 x 3 metres in dimension.

"All part of the service," he said, hanging a bunch of keys on a board on the wall.

The keys joined others representing a fortune in broadcasting equipment and vehicles corralled near the Brandenburg Gate.

The Media Circus had left town but its caravans remained and the performers were expected to return to them the moment there was news of the likelihood of the opening of Berlin's most emotive landmark.

The men of the 2nd Regiment Royal Military Police have met them all since the German Democratic Republic decided to live up to its name and lifted foreign travel restrictions.

They were almost engulfed by 'the media' filming hundreds of thousands of East Berliners flocking through Checkpoint Charlie and later through other gaps made in the Wall.

Patrolling the Wall is only part of the regiment's duties but it took on a special significance on the night of November 9 1989 and the days immediately afterwards.

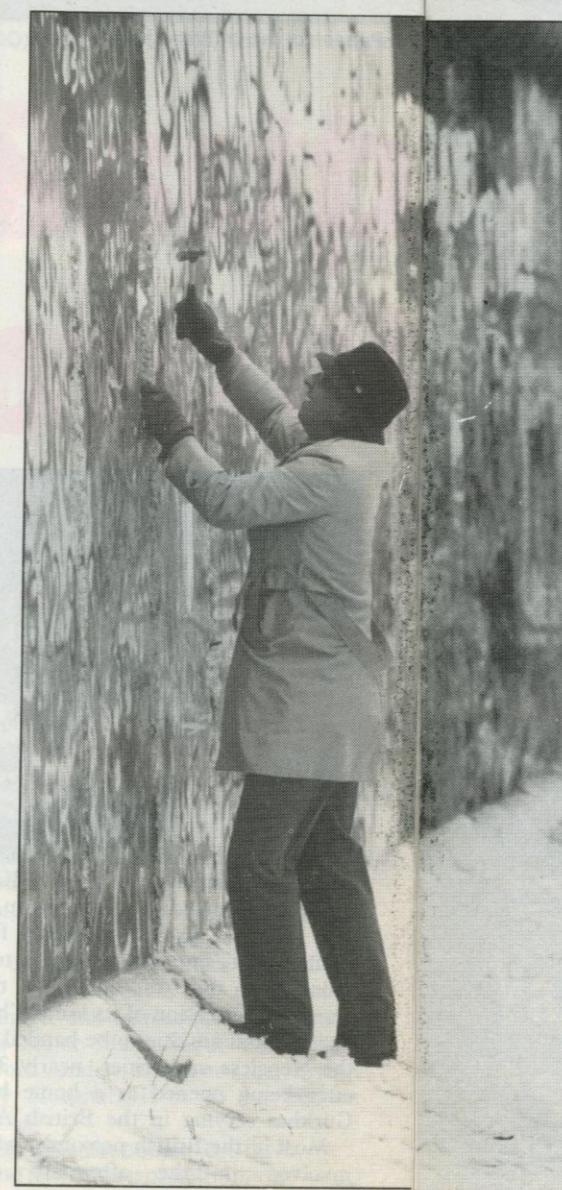
The RMP's mobile incident report centre, a Mercedes van which started off white but turned off-white under a greasy traffic bloom, soon became a magnet for journalists and cameramen seeking information . . . advice . . . cups of coffee . . .

The attraction may have been because so many media folk speak English but it is more likely that the well-turned-out, cheerful men and women in the red berets and caps not only looked as though they knew what was going on but provided islands of stability in a sea of joyous confusion.

They found time for every-



A Berliner attacks the Wall with a piece of timber



one . . . and when they did something did it with style.

RMP found him. "Do you speak English?" a Japanese inquired and had walked a couple of yards before he realised the corporal's "No" was a joke.

An Italian interviewer said he didn't care what the RMP man said as long as it contained the words "Berlin Wall". He was accommodated.

The mobile IRC was eventually replaced by the Portakabin beside a media stand for

The RMP has to be ready for anything . . . even spectators standing on bins which swallowed them up and automatically closed the lid on them. That's why LCpl "Mowgli" Jones (above) is checking. (LCpl Jones, whose father is RQMS of 1 Staffords, first came to the city as a baby 20 years ago). Top left - Cpl Neil Earing (the man on duty at Checkpoint Charlie

on THE night), Cpl Richard Patten, Cpl Julie Podmore and Cpl Derek Glaister raise a smile on the Reichstag where the coldest observation post in Berlin was operating. Far left - Capt Fred Meek receives a TV crew's key for safe keeping from a production assistant. Left - A Berliner tries to knock a chip off the old block. Chunks of Wall were soon on sale

which the TV companies drew lots for the places they hoped to occupy on the day the "BBG" opened.

Even the RMP tire on occasions. The increased pressure of circumstances required the CO, Lt Col Ron Tilston, to change the working arrangements to 12-hours shifts - which meant a lot of reports were being written in what was theoretically "time off".

● Turn to next page

Words: Bill Moore

Pictures: Terry Champion

'Victory for steadfastness'

A PLATOON of the Irish Guards escorted one of the first freight trains up the "Corridor" soon after the Wall went up.

Later 2nd Lt Robert Corbett stood with Sgt Jerry Crymble staring at the forbidding concrete boundary.

"Both of us felt affronted at what we saw... so to be back here nearly 30 years later and to see the Wall with holes in it means a lot to me."

The second lieutenant is now Maj Gen Corbett, GOC Berlin (British Sector). In a lifetime of soldiering he considers Novem-

ber 9 and its consequences one of the most exciting events he has experienced.

"That's not just because the holes are there. To me it's a genuine triumph of the human spirit.

"It's the people on the far side of the Wall - egged on and aided and abetted by Gorbachev perhaps - who forced their leaders to grant them the freedom they desired.

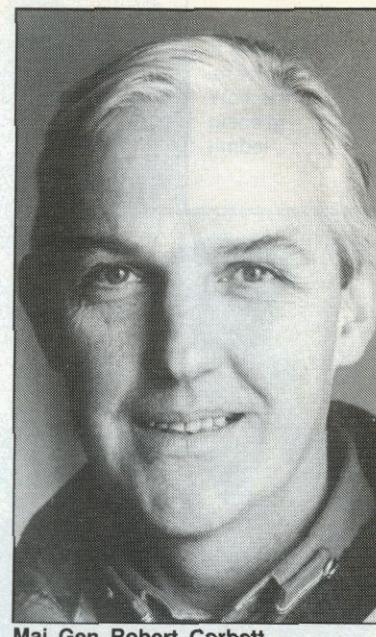
"But it wouldn't have happened if it had not been for all those long years of Allied solidarity and our determina-

tion to stick to this place through all the dangers and difficulties of the past.

"It's a victory for our steadfastness and the efforts of all who have served here since 1945."

There was still a long way to go, said Gen Corbett, but what had happened would not have occurred had it not been for the years of commitment by the Allies to the city of Berlin and its people.

"It seems to me we're here to continue that support for as long as it's needed."



Maj Gen Robert Corbett

Breach

From Page 17

"Even though the Wall is open all our other jobs still have to be done," he said.

For example, the "sweep" of the corridor to Helmstedt. When the euphoria was at its height what should have been a two-hour journey took 16 hours. A lot of time was spent by the RMP helping out East German motorists whose two-cylinder Trabants came to grief or ran out of fuel.

Within 48 hours of the Wall's TV spectacular, "market forces" came into play. Even earlier one opportunist had set out a table on which chunks of the Wall were offered at anything from one to ten marks.

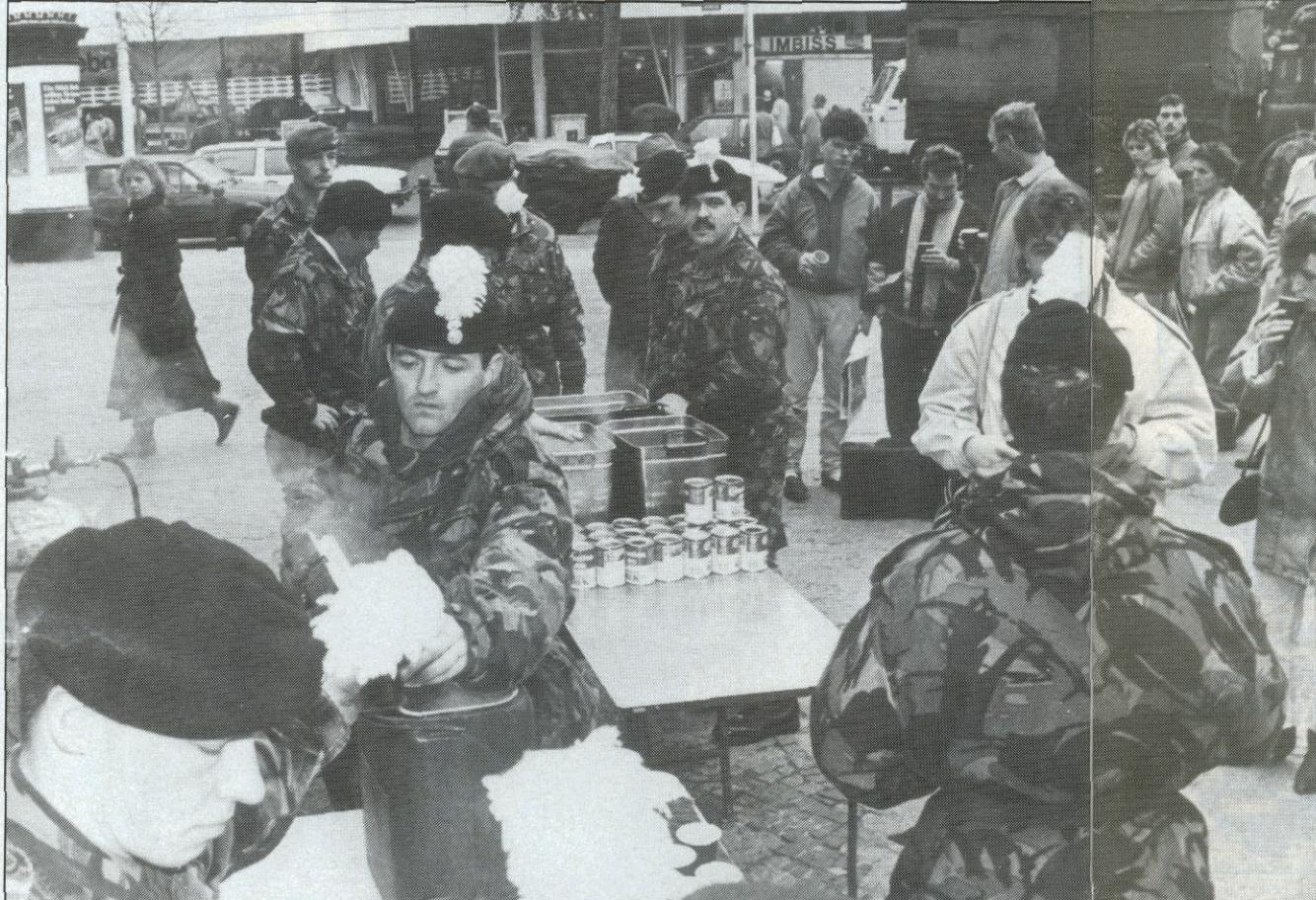
These were not easy to get as the Wall stands within the Soviet Sector and by agreement since November 9 West German police patrol what used to be a sort of no-go area - the Unterbaugebeit. So, for the benefit of anyone who wished to risk it, the entrepreneurs offered hammers for sale.

The sound of chipping that went on constantly at night terminated when the police approached and when they had gone started again.

Even bigger business was the sale of tee-shirts, some showing Gorbachev as Superman soaring over the Brandenburg Gate.

There was even one man who did well at the beginning offering West Berliners rides in his "Trabi" at ten marks a time.

The Wall has a knack of bringing out all sides of human nature.



Hot drinks on Uhlandstrasse, courtesy of the Royal Welch Fusiliers

Service with a smile

THINGS began to move as far as the Berlin Brigade was concerned about a fortnight before the drama of the Wall when the mortar platoon of 1 LI and men of 62 Tpt Sqn, RCT started to collect beds for transit accommodation for "resettlers" - East Germans who had come to Berlin seeking a new life.

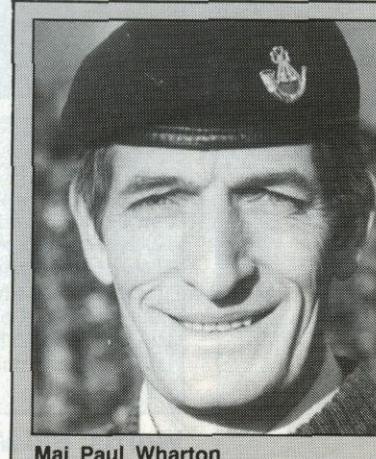
The final score was 125,000 brews made from 600lb of tea, 12,800 tea bags and 1,358 jars of coffee.

they too found themselves employed assembling beds in the Berlin Exhibition Hall.

The fusiliers also cleaned up a disused factory on which 38 Fd Sqn, RE did essential work.

Both RWF and LI then showed their versatility by running coffee and tea stalls.

The duty battalion on November 9 was 1 RWF and



Maj Paul Wharton

It's business as usual...

FOR the Berlin Brigade which consists primarily of three infantry battalions and an armoured squadron plus supporting arms, it is business as usual despite the new-look wall.

Its commander, Brig Richard Oliver, told SOLDIER:

"We are here to defend Berlin against any form of aggression. A lot of people mistakenly imagine this means general war, but in the last 45 years there have been lots of crises in and around Berlin which have not faced Nato."

"There are particular skills pertaining to fighting in built-up areas and whereas the

rest of the Army can use special complexes in BAOR and the UK there are two in Berlin, one British and one American, where the units of the brigade could train day in day out if they had the time."

It was, however, a question of getting right the balance between training and making sure that the troops (and their families) were able to make the best of the sporting and cultural facilities available in the city.

And to make sure soldiers could do their adventurous training.



Brig Richard Oliver



Paul was there on Wall's first day

AUGUST 13, 1961. Pte Paul Wharton thought it was a brigade practice alert - the code word was Rocking Horses in those days - when the 1st Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry was called out fully equipped and ready for action.

Then someone said: "They're building a wall..."

He spent most of the day helping to erect a tented camp and keeping a watchful eye on the East German bricklayers - setting the concrete blocks forming the wall opposite the Brandenburg Gate.

"We really wondered whether we were going to war," he recalls.

There was no war. The Durhams spent six months in tents, one of their tasks being to guard the Russian sentries on the war memorial near "BBG".

"There were plenty of people about who might have taken a crack at them. I believe some years later one was shot..."

but not while the DLI were on guard."

He was called out again as commander of HQ Company the 1st Battalion, The Light

Infantry at Brook Barracks, Berlin, when the wall began to crumble.

This time instead of parading armed to the teeth he supervised a coffee stall - and went away (after some hard bargaining) with a souvenir tee shirt for his daughter.

"What pleased me most," he said, "is that it hasn't taken tanks or guns to breach the Wall. Ordinary people have done it. It's their victory."

The crumbling of the wall began just in time. Maj Wharton MC retires soon.

Hot line to the world...

The events of November 9 brought a series of particular headaches for Lt Col Donald Phaysey, Kings Own Border, the P Info staff officer at HQ Berlin.

He was pestered in the middle of the night with demands for interviews. The trouble was that senior officers could not get through the crowds to the cameras.

After a quick word on the phone with the RMP on duty he left it to them to satisfy the Press.

"They were naturals," he said. "They didn't say a thing out of place and their relationship with the crowds was wonderful to see."

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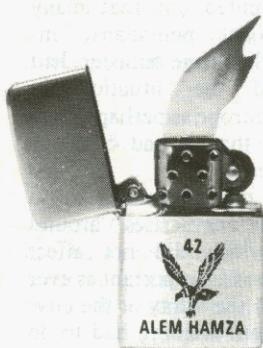
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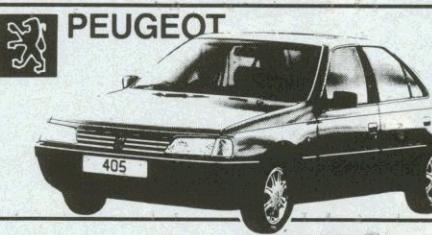
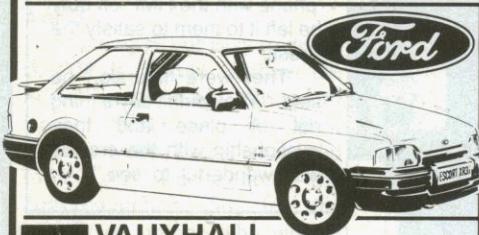
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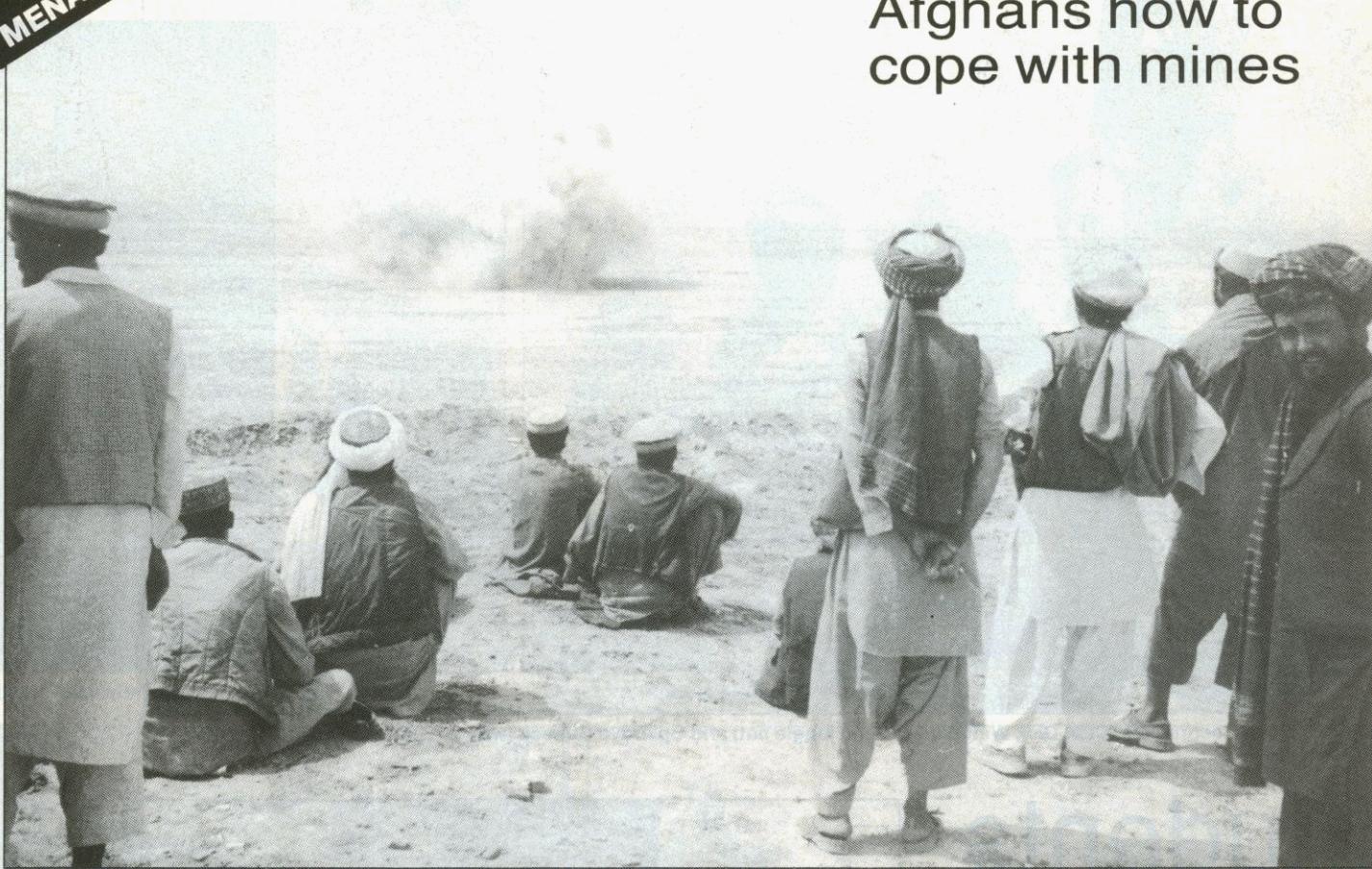
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Sappers teach Afghans how to cope with mines



Live demolition training – the Afghan students' favourite part of the course

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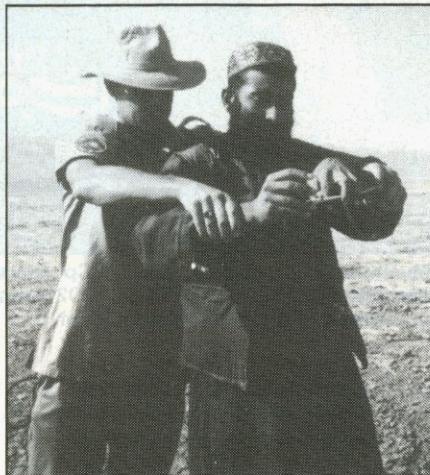
ANY military engineer would agree that the scale of the land-mine problem in Afghanistan is unprecedented; the question is what to do about it.

With such wholesale and indiscriminate mining, clearance of Afghanistan's minefields in the foreseeable future is out of the question. Millions of Afghan refugees have flooded into Pakistan and may soon be repatriated.

Most would be hopelessly unprepared to meet the daily threat of mines on their land and tracks or booby traps in and around their homes.

As 2IC of an RE bomb disposal squadron, Capt Colin King, RE, had commanded Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and mine clearance operations in the Falklands. Until June 1989 the Afghan problem was of somewhat academic interest to him. A month later he was in Pakistan with eight other sappers of all ranks on Operation Salam, an ambitious humanitarian effort to restore normality to war-ravaged Afghanistan.

As part of a multi-national UN force, the sappers were to run two-week courses for selected Afghan students to cover the identification, recognition, disarming or



Gently does it! Cpl Dave Bullock showing his Afghan student how to crimp a detonator to the safety fuse

demolition and clearance of mines, booby traps and UXO.

Related subjects such as the marking and reporting of minefields and use of explosives were also to be covered.

On July 14, 1989 two four-man teams were assembled in Chatham under the command of Lt Col Bob Hyde-Bales,

former CO of 1 Trg Regt RE who was to be Chief of Staff for the duration of the tour. His extensive third world experience in the Congo, Masirah, Libya and Oman were to stand him in good stead.

Capt King's team was drawn from UK sapper units and consisted of SSM John Young, a veteran of mine clearance in the Oman, from 54 Sqn of JLRRE in Dover, and Sgt Walt Scott and Cpl Keith Richardson from 34 Fd Sqn of 39 Engr Regt at Waterbeach.

The team from BAOR was lead by Capt Dick Winfield, formerly Ops officer of 25 Fd Sqn, 26 Engr Regt in Iserlohn, and consisted of Ssgt Ollie Allerhead, also EOD-trained and "Oman-experienced", now serving with 26 Armd Engr Sqn (32 Armd Engr Regt); Cpl Dave Bullock, a section commander from 42 Fd Sqn of 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; and Cpl Pete Johnson, recruited at short notice from 12 Fd Sqn, 25 Engr Regt in Osnabrück.

After being thrown together for a week of crash revision and "cobweb removal" at the hands of the RSME, the teams were en route for Islamabad, Pakistan courtesy of British Airways.

● Turn to next page



Mine clearance techniques. Capt. Dick Winfield (with the jungle hat) and Cpl. Dave Bullock (with the patriotic folder) and their class of '89.

Students involved in Jihad

This is Capt. King's account of the four-month tour:

The "de-mining" camps (as they were dubbed by the Americans) were split between two locations centred on the bulk of the Afghan refugees. The largest camp – with teams from seven nations – was at Peshawar, just across the border from Kabul through the Khyber pass.

We were sent with an American army team to a smaller camp near the city of Quetta. This lies on a desert plateau at a height of 6,000ft only 40 miles from the Afghan border, roughly opposite Khadhar in Afghanistan which is still the scene of bitter civil war.

Within three days of arrival at our rented house each team was teaching its first classes in the tents of Baleli camp with the help of interpreters from the Pakistani army.

Inevitably, the students selected by the Pakistani military authorities were virtually all Mujahideen fighters. This was simply because most adult males from Afghanistan became involved in the "Jihad" at some time in the past ten years.

Those familiar with the "Falklands Factor" will best understand the trials and tribulations of our work. Each day would



The UK contingent. From left are Cpl. Dave Bullock, Sgt. Walt Scott, SSgt. Ollie Allerhead, Cpl. Keith Richardson, WO2 John Young, Capt. Colin King, Lt. Col. Bob Hyde-Bales, Cpl. Pete Johnson, Capt. Dick Winfield

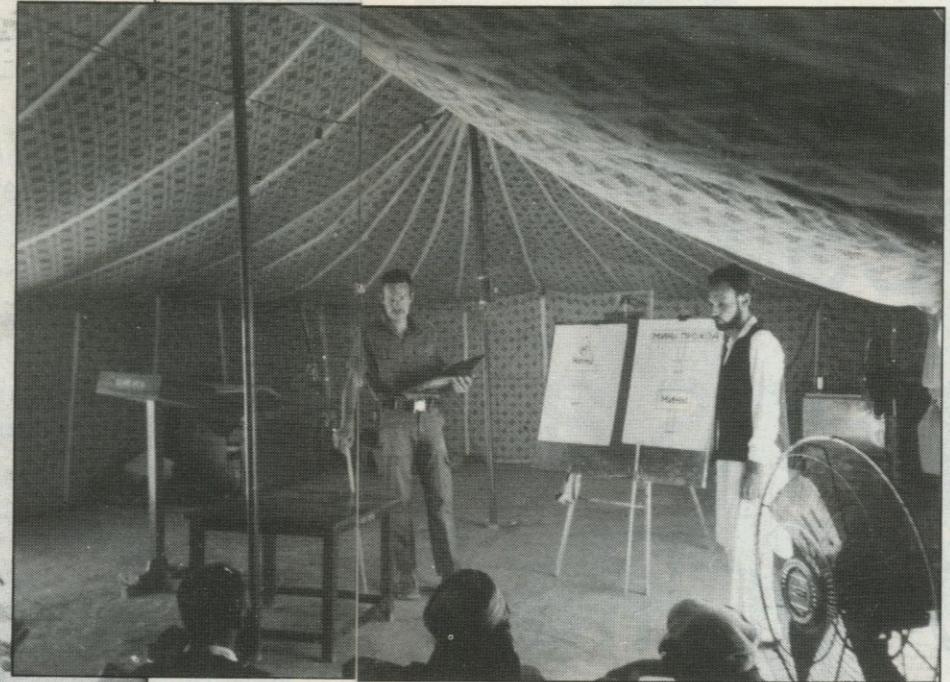
provide unforeseen problems and surprises. Traditional sapper flexibility/ingenuity was in great demand and provided half the challenge and satisfaction of the tour.

For Farsi (Persian) speaking classes, for instance, two interpreters were needed (English to Pushto to Farsi) which doubled the time needed for instruction. Classes would sometimes walk out mid-lesson to conduct daily prayers and students seemed to take it in turns to develop exotic tropical diseases.

Students varied tremendously from class to class. Most were poorly educated,

strong on manual dexterity with a healthy contempt for theory. Some were surprisingly worldly, with technical backgrounds, while others were unbelievably clumsy and nervous.

Live demolition days were always a challenge; each class seemed to include one or two students bent on self-destruction. When the student began to crimp the wrong end of his detonator (as they often did) there was no time for the translation of a respectful caution. The universal language of violence was more expedient and Basil Fawlty/Manuel relationships emerged ("let me explain" . . . slap).



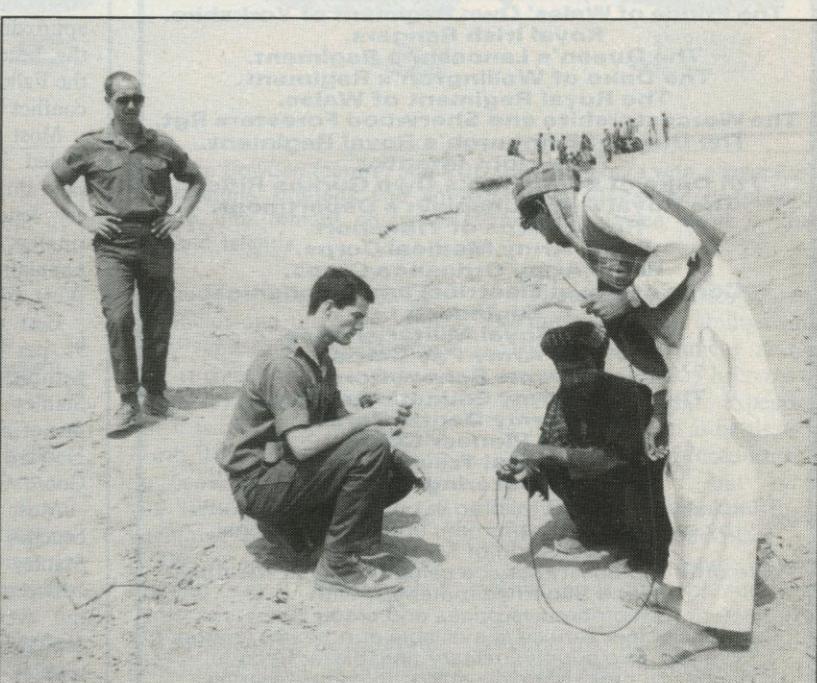
Cpl. Dave Bullock instructs in one of the teaching tents



Instructors' course. Capt. Colin King teaching potential Afghan instructors



The training camp. From left are Cpl. Dave Bullock, the senior Afghan instructor, Cpl. Pete Johnson, Capt. Dick Winfield and a selection of mines



Cpl. Keith Richardson (standing) and Capt. Colin King with two students during live demolition training. Each class included at least one student bent on self-destruction

Benefits included a close look at Warsaw Pact ordnance . . . and a decent sun tan!

guidance that supported and shaped all de-mining training in the area.

Our two teams of sappers trained around 300 students for operations in Afghanistan and 23 Afghans as instructors to continue the work and give awareness training to several refugee relief agencies operating in the area.

The sappers gained an intimate and unique insight into the Islamic way of life and the little-known tribal communities of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

These were the more predictable benefits; less obvious fringe benefits included the de-classification of most

material and intelligence on Warsaw Pact minewarfare, which should ease instruction for the Royal Engineers on this important subject.

The already substantial depth of knowledge gained by the team during the tour was further enhanced by discussion and exchange of information with other UN teams.

More of value was gained from discussion with the Mujahideen on their guerrilla tactics, booby trapping and ingenious improvisation.

The expensive-looking sun tan was a nice bonus . . .



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Falklands mine crop gives EOD experts a job for life

ARGENTINE troops buried approximately 25,000 mines in the beaches and heathland of the Falkland Islands during the conflict of 1982.

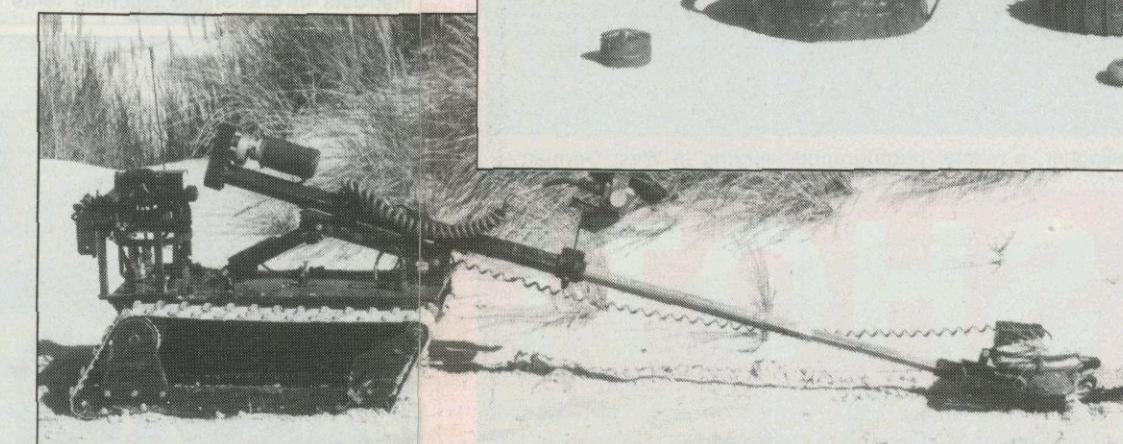
Most are still there, concealed by tussock grass and sand dunes beyond the boundary fences of 117 minefields ringing the main centres of population on both East and West Falkland.

Best estimates suggest that 95 per cent of the mines lie within a ten-mile radius of Stanley, but there are also minefields around Port Howard, Fox Bay, Darwin, Goose Green and Fitzroy.

Most were laid on the beaches to the south and east of Stanley along the valleys between the battlefield peaks to the west of the capital, the intention being to deny the British all routes towards their goal.

The minefields today are an indelible reminder of the conflict. The skull and crossbones warning signs will remain for the foreseeable future, the contents of the minefields too dangerous to clear because the majority of the devices are plastic and, consequently, virtually undetectable.

Charged with maintaining the boundary fences and destroying any stray mines is the Stanley-based Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) detachment, comprising – as



has been the case since 1982 – personnel of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) from Lodgehill Camp in Chattenden, Kent. All members of the detachment arrive in the Falkland Islands after a period of intensive training, and all will have completed a variety of courses at the tri-Service Defence EOD School at Chattenden.

Officers and senior NCOs do a basic course of seven weeks, and many serving in the Falklands will also have done Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and search training courses.

Junior NCOs and sappers are also fully trained, and all ranks will have done exercises and follow-up training including battle area clearance (BAC) at gunnery ranges in the UK and elsewhere. The latter, in particular, is appropriate to a



Capt Jim Bowden (centre) and EOD team members with a selection of Argentine anti-tank and anti-personnel mines and (inset left) Redfire, the remote controlled demolition device used in the Falkland Islands

tour of duty in the South Atlantic.

Countless pieces of ordnance – some live, some expended – remain strewn across the islands, hidden among crags and deep tussock grass and many miles from human habitation.

New finds are phoned through to the Stanley detachment almost daily, but weekends are busiest when walkers take to the hills.

Depending on the location, type of ordnance and degree of urgency, one of three agencies will then be tasked with disposal. The three are the Royal Engineers themselves, based in Stanley, and the smaller RAOC and RAF EOD units based at RAF Mount Pleasant.

The Stanley personnel are kept busy largely with minefield duties and most days are spent maintaining fences and destroying rogue mines with

Grenades, 5,546; mortar rounds, 21,067; rockets, including air-to-air and air-to-ground, 5,161; HEAT (High Explosive Anti Tank) rounds, including British 84mm Carl Gustav and Argentine 105mm recoilless gun, 1,531; shells, mostly 105mm high explosive, smoke and illumination rounds and 35mm, 30mm and 20mm anti-aircraft rounds, 1,375; mines, 4,130.

Missiles, such as the man-portable Blowpipe, 317; flares, 1,130; BL 755 cluster bomb sub-munitions or bombs dropped by Harrier aircraft, 1,483; unexploded bombs (UXBs), 106; small arms ammunition, all calibres but mostly 7.62mm, 2,610,895; booby traps, mostly grenades tied on to a picket with a trip wire, 1,407.

"Hence the importance of

keeping a close eye on the minefields and their surroundings," said Capt Jim Bowden, the current officer commanding. "It is a vital public service but it is a bit like painting the Forth Road Bridge – you have no sooner finished the job than you have got to start at the beginning again."

The catalogue of ordnance disposal since 1982 makes impressive reading.

The following is an up-to-date list of types of ordnance found, both live and expended, and the numbers destroyed of each:

The sappers have also cleared, to the best of their ability using visual and instrument search techniques, 233,355 hectares of land of live and expended ordnance. Known as battle area clearance, it is a procedure still regularly carried out if a significant number of finds turn up in any one place.

Capt Bowden said: "Every situation is different, and what outwardly might appear to be simple may not be at all because of the Argentine penchant for booby traps. It is real EOD work and there is a great deal of scope and variety, but mines and minefield fences are our bread and butter work and I imagine the detachment will be here for years to come."

To the envy of the garrison at RAF Mount Pleasant, the EOD detachment occupies a seafloor portable cabin office at Stanley and is shortly moving into newly-converted premises in the heart of the community at the old telephone exchange.

"We thoroughly enjoy living in Stanley, and I think it is fair to say that we all enjoy our tour of duty in the Falklands," said Capt Bowden.



SOULDIERS - The Army Photograph of the Year, taken by WO1 Jim Gallagher, a master photographer serving in West Germany

CRACK SHOT!

IT was a re-run of the Gunfight at the OK Corral. The photographer waited until he could see the whites of his adversary's eyes. He raised his camera and focused.

Simultaneously, the paratrooper raised his rifle and aimed.

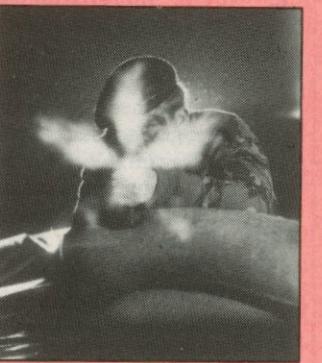
The para fired.

At the moment of firing, the photographer shot.

Result: one of the most dramatic pictures on show at the Army Photographic Competition award ceremony at the Imperial War Museum, London.

But the question remained - by the very nature of the picture, was the photographer able to be present to collect his trophy for the best colour entry?

The assembled gathering held its collective breath for a moment - then, large as life, up stepped Geordie Smith, civilian photographer with



Geordie's trick shot

HQ BAOR, Rheindahlen.

But how had he taken the photograph and survived?

"You don't expect me to divulge that," said Geordie, like a stage illusionist jealously guarding the tricks of his trade.

In the public interest, SOLDIER pursued a line of questioning based on the whisper that had gone around the prizewinners and guests that "It's all done by mirrors."

Yes, a mirror image had been photographed, Geordie confessed, adding a few morsels of information such as "time exposure" and "negative reversal".

Simple, and effective. But SOLDIER readers are urged not to try it at home!

Geordie Smith was also successful in the best monochrome photograph category - and another multiple prizewinner among a record entry of more than 500 photos in the 1989 competition was Col Roger Thompson, of Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals in London.

For the second year in succession his portfolio of colour photographs earned him the title Army Photographer of the Year. He also won a new open class, sponsored by SOLDIER, for all Regular and TA Servicemen and women, with his poignant portrait of Frankie, a bearded resident of

the Streets of London (Piccadilly Circus, to be precise). And he was "highly commended" for an adventurous training or sport entry.

For the second successive year it was a family occasion for the Thompsons - the colonel's wife Aureole again picking up the Naafi prize for dependants' entries with her scene from the dog compound at JHQ Rheindahlen.

Title of Army Photograph of the Year went to a graphic study of a soldier's self-discipline taken by WO1 Jim Gallagher, RAOC, master photographer at Rheindahlen.

The Royal Scot's eyes are obviously alert despite long hours of vigilance during Exercise Iron Hammer 1988.

Another battlefield scene, this time with a distinctly Second World War atmosphere about it, won Capt Peter Hamp, 3 Yorke (V) the trophy for the best TA

● Turn to Page 31



"Gazelles at Sunrise" is the title of this photograph taken by Lt Nick Dann, AAC. It was highly commended in the colour section



This was the best photograph submitted by an Army dependant. It was taken by Mrs Aureole Thompson, wife of Photographer of the Year Col Roger Thompson



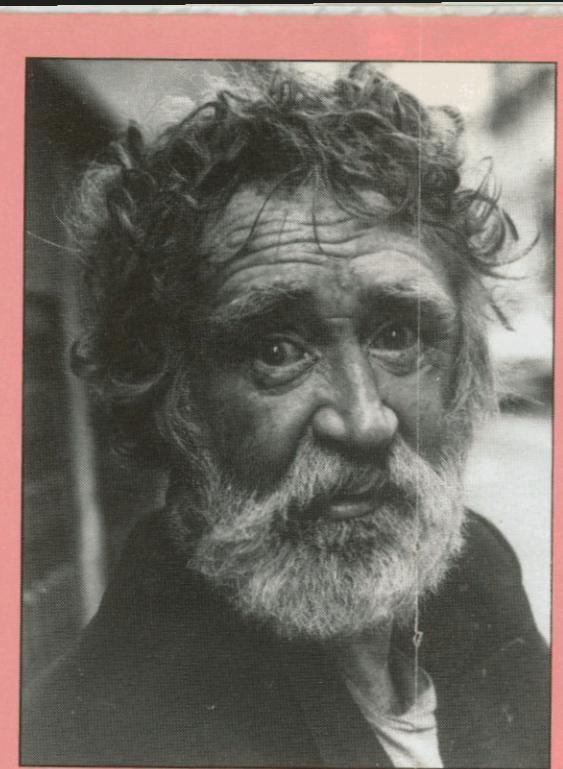
Portfolio of the Year

A selection of photographs which earned Col Roger Thompson the title of Army Photographer of the Year for the second time. Clockwise, from above, they are:

- "Flanders Field", an evocative composition of poppies in a military cemetery near Ypres, was one of the photographs in the winning portfolio by Col Thompson
- "Frankie, Down Not Out", a

monochrome portrait of a London drop-out, won the SOLDIER prize for Col Thompson

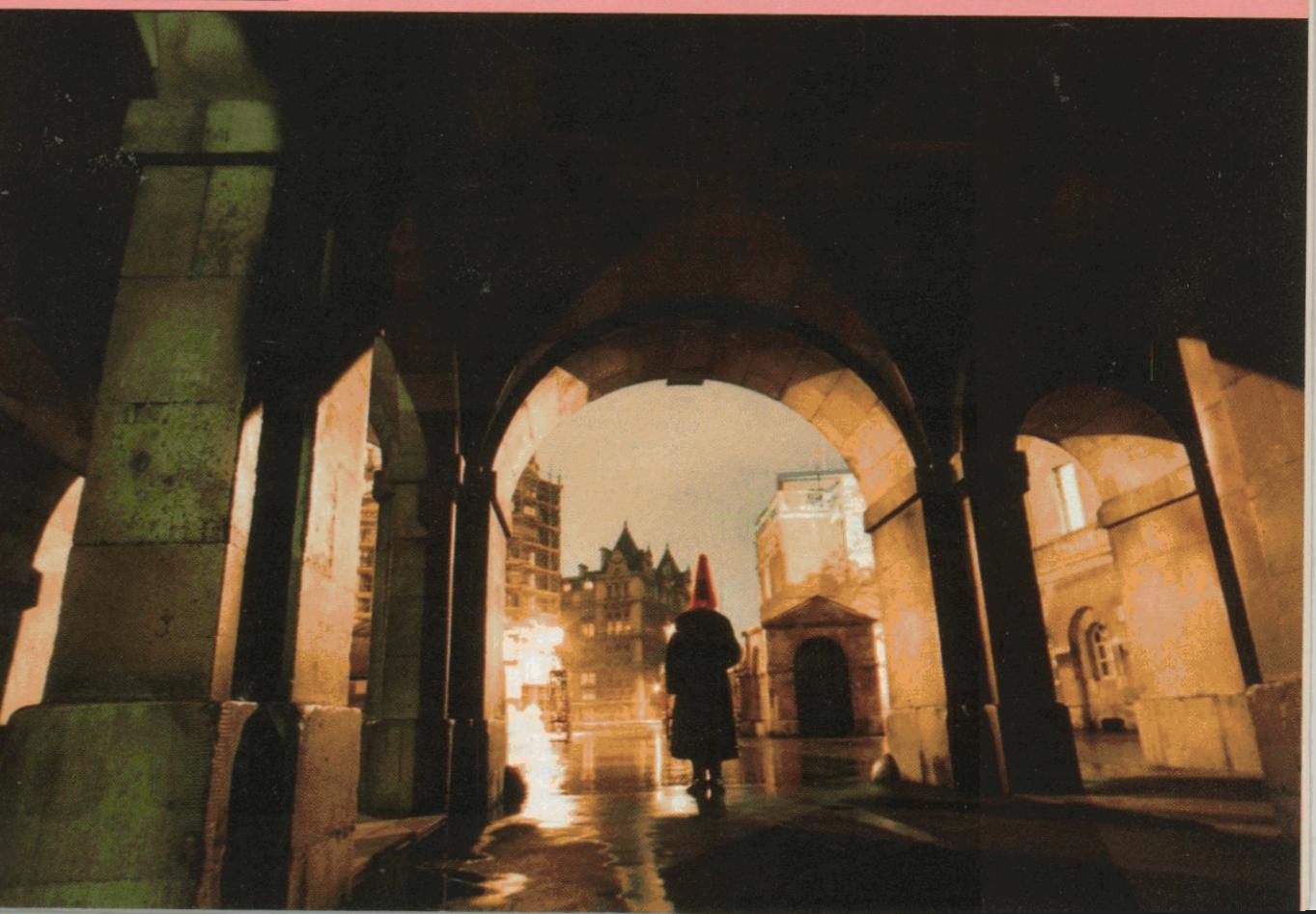
- "High Rise Flat", which was highly commended in the sport and adventurous training category
- "Storm Trooper", another photograph from the winning portfolio
- "Yeoman of the Guard", an eye-catching portrait from the winning portfolio.



WINNERS IN THE FRAME

All the winners, with their competition categories – from the left, SSgt Chris Young, training or operations; WO1 Jim Gallagher, Army Photograph of the Year; WO2 Stuart Andrew, adventurous training or sport; Col Roger Thompson, Army Photographer of the Year, also new open

class; Mrs Aureole Thompson, Army dependants; Mr Geordie Smith, best monochrome, best colour; Capt Peter Hamp, TA category. The prizes were presented by Brig Christopher Wallace, Director of Public Relations (Army), who described the standard of entries as "quite excellent."

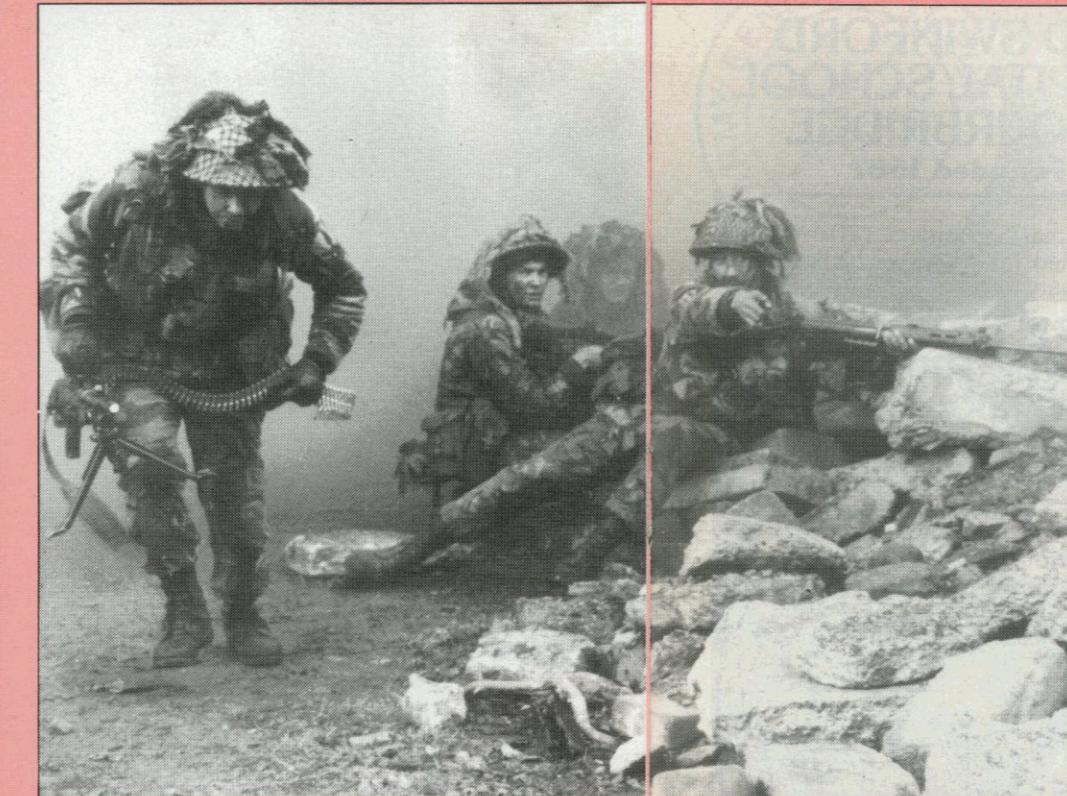




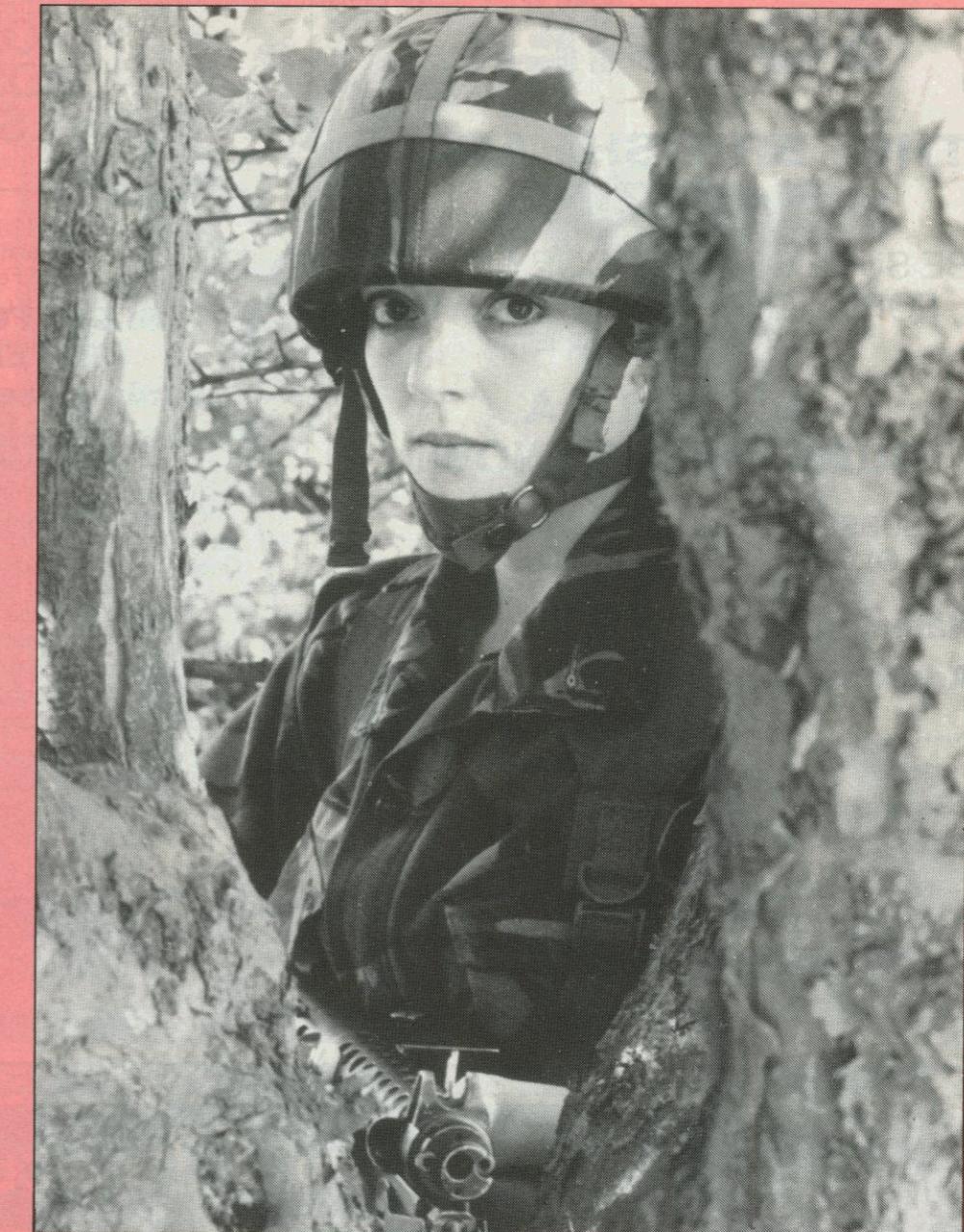
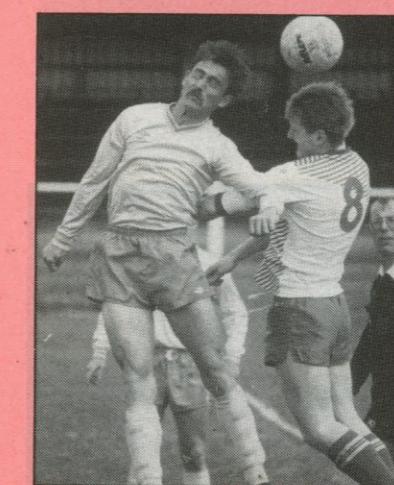
Above - Territorial Army officer, Capt Anita Newcourt, WRAC, HQ London District. Her study of horses was highly commended in the TA category

Left - Roger Lortie, a P Info photographer based in BAOR, was highly commended in the monochrome section for his print entitled "Company Move Down Hill"

Right - This shot, by SSgt Christopher Young, RAOC, was judged the best photograph illustrating military training or operations



Above - "Go And Take It Out Jonesey" by Capt Peter Hamp, 3 Yorks (V), won top prize in the Territorial Army category



Above - Army P Info staff photographer Geordie Smith was named the winner in the best monochrome photograph category for this picture entitled "Soldier Girl". Roger is based at HQ BAOR, and the "Soldier Girl" is LCpl Beverley McAuley, WRAC
Left - Winner of the section for the best photograph illustrating adventure training or sport was "Heads You Win" by WO2 Stuart Andrew, RAOC

ALL THE WINNERS

Army Photographic Competition 1989

From Page 26

photograph. Taken at Whinney Hill, Catterick, it shows members of D Company, 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers, under training.

SSgt Chris Young, RAOC, took the top award for the best photograph illustrating training or operations, while WO2 Stuart Andrew was first in the adventurous training or sport class.

Judges were Harry Asprey, Picture Editor of the Press Association, and Jayne Finner, of Photographers International.

FULL list of winners in the 1989 Army Photographic Competition:

Army Photographer of the Year, sponsored by Nikon UK Ltd - Col Roger Thompson, late R Signals, silver cup and Nikon camera.

Best monochrome photograph, sponsored by Ilford Ltd - Mr Geordie Smith, HQ BAOR, £150; highly commended, Mr Roger Lortie, HQ 3 Armd Div, £50.

Best colour photograph, sponsored by Kodak Ltd - Mr Geordie Smith, HQ BAOR, £150; highly commended, Lt Nick Dann, AAC, £50.

Best photograph illustrating

military training or operations, sponsored by Jane's Defence Weekly - Sgt Chris Young, RAOC, £100; highly commended, Lt Col Thomas Foulkes, RMCS Shrivenham, £50.

Best photograph illustrating adventurous training or sport, sponsored by Paterson Products Ltd - WO2 Stuart Andrew, RAOC, £500 voucher; highly commended, Col Roger Thompson, £100 voucher.

Open class for all Service men and women, including TA, sponsored by SOLDIER - Col Roger Thompson, £75; highly commended, Miss Kate Dowlman, COD Bicester, £25.

Best photograph submitted by an Army dependant illustrating an aspect of Service family life, sponsored by Naafi - Mrs Aureole Thompson, £150 voucher; highly commended, Mrs Angela Yorke, £50.

Army Photograph of the Year, sponsored by GPT (GEC Plessey Communications) - WO1 Jim Gallagher, RAOC, £150; highly commended, WO1 Arthur Thomson, RAOC, £50.

Best TA photograph, sponsored by DPAC (Defence Public Affairs Consultants Ltd) - Capt Peter Hamp, 3 Yorks (V), £125; highly commended, Capt Anita Newcourt, HQ London District, £75.

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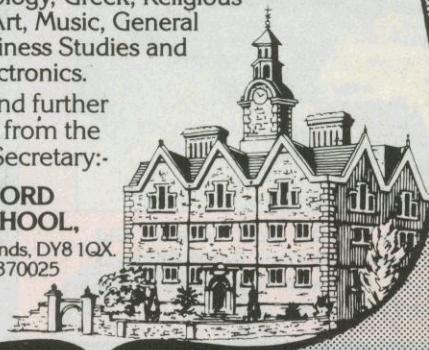
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Leading the way



THREE years ago WRAC staff clerk Tracey Watson (pictured above) was paralysed from the waist down in a road accident while travelling on duty in Cyprus.

Now 28, Tracey is a bubbly, resourceful, courageous young lady, determined to make the best of life, and helped greatly towards independence by grants from the Army Benevolent Fund.

After eight months in the special injuries hospital at Stoke

Grant set Tracey on her way

Mandeville, she moved into her family home which proved unsuitable for her disability.

The local authority provided

her with a council property of her own in Basingstoke and a grant to enable the house to be modified for her wheelchair.

The ABF initially gave her a £1,000 grant towards a special car, and then an extraordinary grant of £9,000 to help set up home.

Tracey has a carer but manages light domestic chores. She has two dogs and a cat for company, and friends visit her regularly. She has started art classes but now wants some-

thing more challenging.

With the help of another charity, she is buying a specially adapted van from which she hopes to do charity work.

She has been back to see former colleagues in Cyprus, who, after her accident, launched a special appeal which raised £13,500.

Tracey said: "The grants transformed my life. I don't know what the future holds, but I really want to go out and enjoy it. There is so much I want to do."

READING letters of appreciation from people helped by the Army Benevolent Fund is a good way of putting one's own minor grumbles into perspective. They have a salutary effect.

For instance, it is chastening to read how a grant from the ABF of just £4 a week changed the life of an ex-soldier's widow.

She wrote: "I will now be able to pay my coal bill. I was very worried as to how I was going to manage to pay it, and how I was going to keep warm."

The ABF is the Army's central charity, providing help to serving and former soldiers and their families when they are in real need. Initially, financial help is given to individuals through their corps or regimental associations, but when it is beyond their resources, the ABF stands

ALWAYS
READY
TO HELP

● Turn to next page

Ready to help

From Page 33

ready to step in with a grant.

The ABF also gives substantial financial support on behalf of all corps and regiments to national charities which provide for the special needs of the soldier and his family.

Maj Gen Mike Swindells, the ABF Controller, explained: "Our aim is to bring help to the many cases where State assistance is either inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need. Army benevolence is the combined benevolent work of both the ABF and of the corps and regimental associations."

It seems an anomaly that in a year when various units have been celebrating their tercentenary, the ABF is a mere 44 years old. The reason is that for years the Army's regimental family system had worked well in various benevolent forms.

After the Second World War thoughts turned to establishing a fund to help soldiers facing hardship on their return to civilian life. The project began with working capital from Naafi profits administered by the Army Council.

But there was a groundswell feeling for a greater obligation on the part of the Army to look after its own. On April 5, 1962 nine field marshals signed a letter to *The Times* appealing to the public for funds.

Two years later an appeal from the then Adjutant General, Gen Sir John Cassells, encouraged everyone serving in the Army to donate one day's pay each year to his or her corps or regimental association. These funds were encouraged to pass on any surplus to the ABF as the Army's central charity.

There is close liaison between the ABF and the 137 corps and regimental associations, who last year passed on £788,490.

During 1988/89 the ABF gave out £5,472,000. Of this, compassionate grants and loans totalled £3,424,000, and £1,189,000 went to help the disabled.

A total of £639,850 was disbursed for general welfare and case work, £467,500 went to the aged, £107,680 was used for the care of children and £74,500 helped find civilian employment for discharged soldiers. A further £56,500 went in bursaries, £16,300 for holidays for widows and children, and £13,400 for convalescent holidays.

During the year the ABF's Northern Ireland Relief Fund, which gives immediate help, made grants amounting to £19,430, bringing the total since its inception to more than £545,245.

All that meant last year the ABF was able to support more than 3,000 individual cases. There were 1,092 weekly supplementary allowances and 38 people were helped from the separate Northern Ireland and Falkland Islands funds. The greatest rise for applications has been for help in nursing or residential homes fees.

Fifty-seven people nearing the end of



Appeal Secretary, Brig Jim Alexander (left) and Controller, Maj Gen Mike Swindells, outside the ABF headquarters, at 41, Queen's Gate, London



The ABF has split the country into 11 regions, and pictured is Brig Charles Millman, the Regional Organiser, Eastern Region, with (from left) Mrs Hazel Sullivan, Mrs Suzanne Archer and Mrs Hazel Lucas. Inset above is ABF Grants' Secretary Lt Col Tony Harrison

their service were given loans to help set up home, grants were made to 70 children with special educational needs, and 68 national charities received grants.

Gen Swindells said that because the ABF's major role was helping the old and infirm, young, healthy soldiers tended to think they would never need to call on the ABF. Yet last year there were 28 applications from corps and regimental associations to help serving soldiers.

He is confined to a wheelchair which, though his disability is not attributed to war service, was paid for by the ABF, the Royal British Legion and his regiment.

Unfortunately the wheelchair was written off in a road

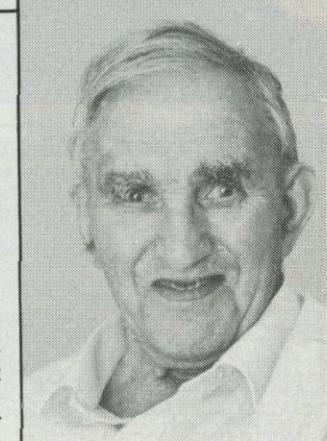
Ernest's back on the road

THE Army Benevolent Fund's interest in 78-year-old Ernest Voller underwrites its pledge "We never forget you."

Ernest (right), who now lives happily in retirement in a warden-controlled flat in Guildford, was wounded in Tunis and Salerno during service with 2/4 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

He is confined to a wheelchair which, though his disability is not attributed to war service, was paid for by the ABF, the Royal British Legion and his regiment.

Unfortunately the wheelchair was written off in a road



accident. A replacement will cost about £2,200 and the three charities have agreed to pay jointly for one.

The ABF has split the UK into 11 regions, each with its own organiser. While much of the ABF's work goes unheralded (confidentiality is always the order of the day), the fund raisers are never reticent in persuading people to dig deeply into their pockets.

Fund-raising ideas are diverse and imaginative. They have to be these days.

Gen Swindells said: "It is very competitive, with more and more charities being formed."

Appeal Secretary, Brig Jim Alexander said: "We like to think we are economic. Our administrative overheads are kept very low. We have our generous and regular donors, but we are continually appealing to a wider patronage.

"Many companies have now appointed

SEVERAL charities, including the Army Benevolent Fund, stepped in with grants when an 83-year-old widow faced giving up her home and her charity work because she could not afford the cost of a night nurse.

The grants ensured that Mrs Doris Bown did not have to move to a hospital geriatric ward.

She went on to receive the British Empire Medal for her services to charity.

Mrs Bown, the widow of an

Intelligence Corps warrant officer, has multiple sclerosis and is confined to a wheelchair in her flat at Richmond, Surrey. She is able to run a counselling service by telephone, providing a church based service to the community despite her illness.

She said: "I am so utterly grateful for the help from the charities which has meant I have my independence, my own home and can continue my own charity work."

charity committees to distribute their donations, and these are increasingly becoming one-off. Takeovers and mergers mean there are fewer companies to approach."

Each January he estimates the ABF appeal income for the following fiscal year. At the half-year point this is adjusted, invariably upwards. The budget estimate is crucial to deciding how much money can be given out.

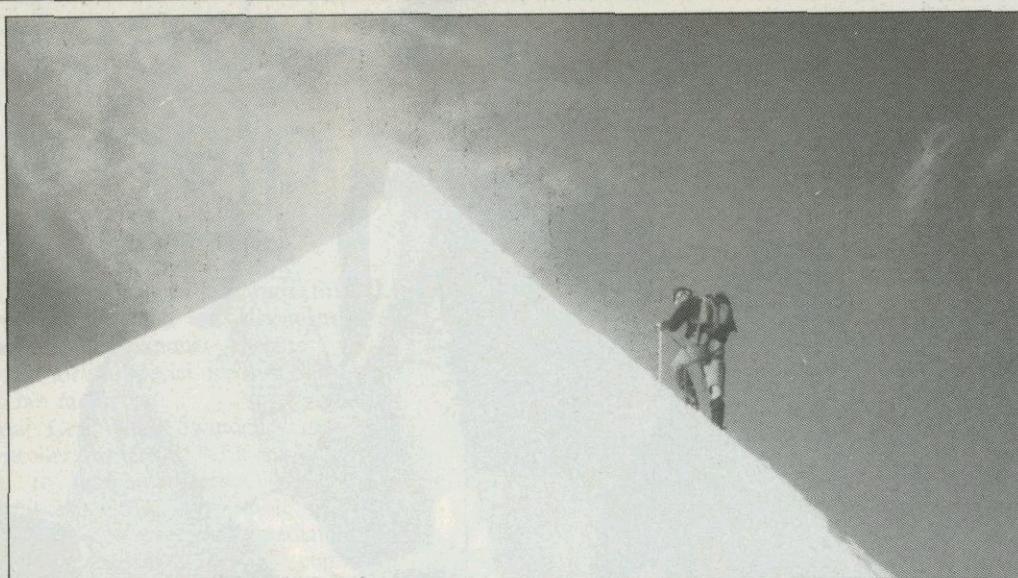
How does the ABF get to know of people in need?

They have to be recommended and are considered by a range of voluntary case workers who come mainly from the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), and with whom the Forces Help Society field workers are now linked.

The ABF also works closely with the Officers Association, the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, the Ex-Service Mental Welfare Association and others. Social workers also bring cases to the attention of the corps and regimental secretaries.



Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Arborfield apprentice AT Steve Tindal pauses a few feet from the summit of the Eiger

Arborfield novices reach top of the Eiger

THREE youngsters from Princess Marina College, Arborfield, capped a successful climbing expedition in the Alps by reaching the summit of the Eiger via the Mitteleiger Ridge.

All three - AT Adan Hart, AT Steve Tindal (both REME) and Pte Peter Perry (RAMC) - were novices yet

managed to complete what is rated a technical rock climb at altitude. During the two-week expedition, which was led by Capt Neil Malpas, the three apprentices also scaled the Monch and the Jungfrau.

Three more experienced climbers in the party of 12 also reached the top of the Eiger.

Seven apprentice tradesmen from Arborfield were included in the party.

Howards in path of 'quake

TEN members of B Company, 1 Green Howards carrying out a high altitude trekking exercise in the Wind River Range, Wyoming passed close to a major rock fall caused by an earth tremor linked to the major earthquake which hit San Francisco. The soldiers were close enough to hear massive rocks falling from the trail they were using.

Snow storms and freezing conditions prevented the party reaching their objective, Gannett Peak, the highest mountain in Wyoming.

Aussie paddlers

A YEAR of planning went into a month-long expedition to Australia by six members of the 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment Canoe Club.

The paddlers, based at Hameln, West Germany and led by Capt Andy Marsh, got to grips with some of the country's finest white water.

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Steve battles on with the help of his mates

A YOUNG soldier crippled by a rugby injury sustained while playing for his unit at Hohne, West Germany was preparing to spend Christmas at home after six months in the spinal unit at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury.

Pte Steve Bavington (18) was a medic serving with the 1st Armoured Field Ambulance at Hohne, near Hannover when he fractured and dislocated his spine while representing his unit at rugby.

His rapid progress since the accident has been supported by colleagues from the unit who have so far raised more than £8,000 for him.

★ ★ ★

The Royal Artillery Motor Cycle Display Team has raised more than £10,000 towards the cost of buying a much needed minibus for the Nine Acres School, Plumstead, which the Flying Gunners adopted last year.

The minibus will be converted to accept wheelchairs and other equipment vital to children at the school. Throughout the summer the Woolwich-based Flying Gunners, who thrill huge crowds

with their displays all over Europe, raised money through the raffle of a jet ski and two motor cycles donated by Kawasaki UK.

★ ★ ★

Bordon Garrison's annual charity draw raised more than £3,300 for charity, thanks to the efforts of soldiers in the garrison and the generosity of local businesses. Main prize of £1,000 in the draw was donated by BP as a thank you to SEME for hosting the popular "Build-

acar" competition. Beneficiaries include BLESMA and a children's centre.

★ ★ ★

Cheques for £5,200 have been presented to the Army Benevolent Fund and the Fusilier Aid Society in the shareout of the £25,000 raised on the *Krypton Factor* assault course at Holycome Moor during the three-day August bank holiday sponsored event organised by the **Bury Fusilier Association**.

★ ★ ★

Welsh Guardsmen RSM Chris Hopkins and Drill Sgt Rhodri Morgan have presented a cheque for £3,256 to the Weston Spirit, the charity

created by Falklands war veteran Simon Weston, the Welsh Guardsman so horrifically burned during the conflict.

RSM Hopkins and Drill Sgt Morgan raised the money in sponsorship after taking part in the London Marathon.

★ ★ ★

A sponsored map-reading and disco has enabled cadets from 102 Cdt Coy London Scottish, 107 (Bexley) Cdt Sqn R Sigs and 108 (Erith) Cdt Bty RA to donate £700 to the Deal Disaster Fund.

★ ★ ★

About 2,000 people took part in a fun run at Oxford Barracks, Munster, West Germany to raise cash for an appeal for LCpl John Ray, Gdsm Sean Povey and Gdsm Adrian Hicks, of Sp Coy, 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, who were seriously injured during training in Canada.

★ ★ ★

More than £2,000 was raised for BLESMA at the charity's 36-hour marathon beach angling match at Browndown Camp, Gosport, Hants. Sustained by generous sponsorship 40 fishermen kept going despite a lack of fish.

Individual winner was Capt T Stewart (REME) who teamed up with Sgt T Perkins (R Hamps) to take the pairs title. Gnr D Curnow (RA) landed the best specimen, a 1lb 11½oz sole, and the most species.

Details of next year's event from SSgt Dave Entwistle on Arborfield Military 2445.



Pte Steve Bavington with physiotherapist Carol Steinbrecher at Odstock Hospital



Cpl John Cowell and Pte Colin Caithens of 82 Airborne Ordnance Company, part of 5 Airborne Brigade Logistic Battalion based at Aldershot, give a helping hand to patients at Greenfield and Northfield Hospitals, Farnham. Men from the company cleared land needed for hospital development and spent two days working with patients on the sites



Gen Sir Robert Pascoe (left) and Admiral Sir Brian Brown sign up for PAX at the launch of the new insurance scheme tailored to the needs of Service personnel

This way to sign for PAX

Charity toppers

THERE are pop charts, TV charts, film charts, book charts... but the charities chart makes just as interesting reading, particularly where it refers to Service organisations.

Service personnel and their families raise many thousands each year to help a wide variety of causes – and in the latest edition of *Charity Trends*, which lists the top 400 charities for the year 1988-89, top Service place goes to the Royal British Legion, whose income was just over £10m.

It reached 24th place overall. The Army Benevolent Fund is 94th with £13.4m.

One interesting statistic is that among Government departments, Defence gave £5m to voluntary organisations such as SSAFA, and the Order of St John and Red Cross for work in military hospitals.

FIRST to sign on the dotted line for PAX – the new Personal Accident Insurance scheme devised for Service personnel – were the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, and Admiral Sir Brian Brown, Chief of Naval Personnel and Second Sea Lord.

They signed up at an official launching ceremony at the Guards' Museum in London.

The new insurance became available in all units on December 1 for Army and Royal Navy personnel and dependants. It provides compensation for death or serious injury resulting from accidents, on or off duty.

PAX should go a long

Good news

Grant rules can be tricky

MORE good news for the New Year. The Department of Employment has agreed that Service dependants under the age of 18 returning from overseas should be eligible for the YTS bridging allowance of £3 a day for 40 days in any 12-month period.

Check the full details with your unit pay staff.

Judge puts us on road to victory

MY ten-year battle to put right anomalies surrounding the Severe Disablement Allowance – and Mrs Lynda Lewis's fight to win the right to claim it – achieved a notable victory with the words of Judge Reith at a Leeds hearing.

In upholding Mrs Lewis's appeal for SDA, Judge Reith, the Social Security Commissioner, said: "My decision is that the decision of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal dated December 14, 1988 is erroneous in point of law and is therefore set aside.

"The decision which the Tribunal should have given is that the claimant is not precluded from receiving SDA."

The Commissioner's comments are important also because other claims are in the pipeline. Mrs P of Colchester, awaiting a hearing date for her appeal, is one.

Mrs Lewis's husband, SSgt Robert Lewis, said: "I am delighted that after 2½ years we have won the first round. I hope this judgment will open the door to stop other Service and ex-Service wives having to wait so long for SDA."

The first step may be won but the battle is not over because the DSS has three months to appeal against the Commissioner's decision and this may mean further hearings.

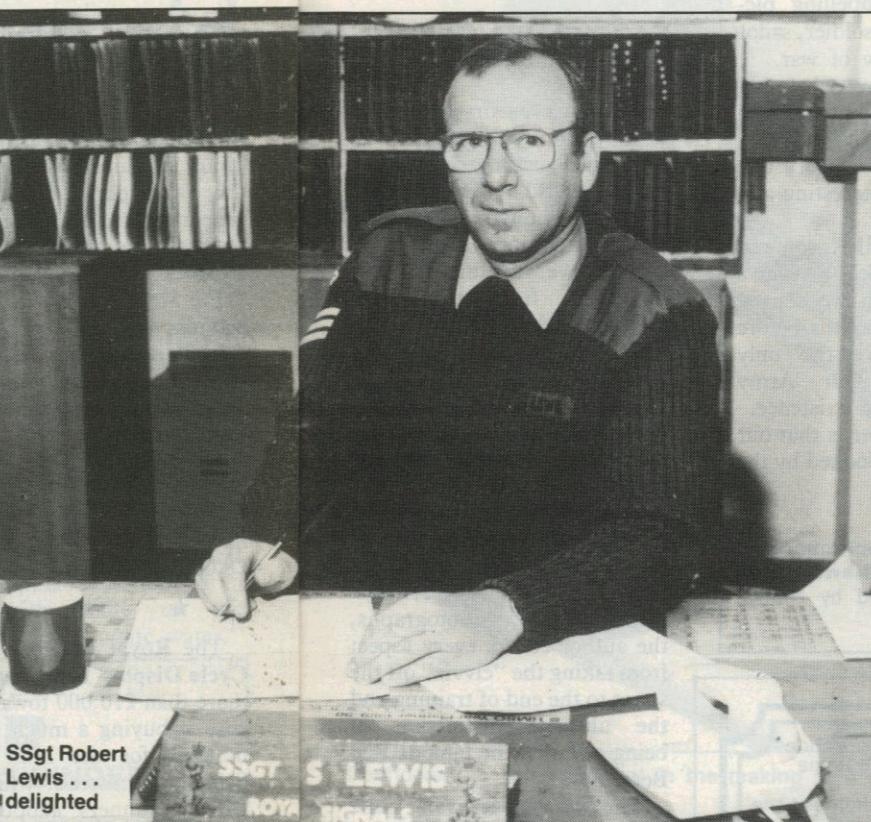
The point at issue is the interpretation of the rule stating that dependants should have lived in the UK for ten of the past 20 years in order to qualify for the allowance.

I have already signed a cheque for my son on the understanding that he completes the PAX application form, which is available at all units.

Another interesting fact

CHILDREN of British Servicemen who accompany their parents overseas sometimes have difficulty in applying for mandatory or discretionary awards for further education.

The problem usually arises when the student does not meet the normal residence requirements, although eligible to apply for an award.



SSgt Robert Lewis... delighted

is that Mrs Lewis and other wives were unable to obtain help from EEC legislation.

The Army Legal Services represented Lynda at the tribunal and were pleased with the outcome.

The case could have a significant bearing on other benefit claims, for the Judge said: "A member of HM Forces is surely in a special position."

He continued: "It was also pointed out that it was considered to be an absurd situation when the claimant could be regarded as satisfying the presence in

The rules apply on a legal basis for mandatory awards and on an administrative basis for discretionary awards.

For courses starting in the autumn, students should apply to the local authority in whose area the family was last resident before being posted abroad, but only if that was within the two-year period



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IT'S ON THE CARDS!

In my view . . .

WHILE visiting families in Berlin just before Christmas a year or two ago I was told by a wife that her sleep was frequently interrupted by tanks on the other side of the Wall having their engines revved in the middle of the night.

The noise was particularly offensive at the season of goodwill.

Those unseen tanks are no longer revving in the dead of night and the watchtowers appear less sinister.

People celebrating the New Year in Berlin do so with huge hope.

Perhaps 1990 will bring down other barriers. Separately immovable walls exist in many areas of concern and I will be updating these issues during the year.

THERE is light on the horizon for the many Army wives who want medical record cards for themselves and their children as they move on postings around the world.

Lost and delayed medical documents can cause a great deal of anxiety, and if the family's new doctor has no records to consult it can make treatment more difficult.

The situation is made even more difficult when dependants move between civilian and Service medical practices.

Now final approval is being sought for a booklet to be issued to all wives. Separate booklets would be issued for each child. They will record current treatment, smear dates, vaccinations, reminders of hospital appointments, and so on.

The booklet will give the

new doctor an instant potted history until the wife's full records catch up.

A spokesman for the Royal Medical College told me that the tri-Service booklet is now with the MoD awaiting final approval.

To help with first-aid training the RAMC College has bought 12 electric resuscitating dummies, costing £1,700 each. They will be distributed to main RAMC centres at Tidworth, Catterick, Berlin, Hong Kong and Cyprus, and will be available for first-aid lectures to wives.

Forty new doctors are undergoing a course at the RAMC College and would welcome invitations to unit wives' clubs as part of their introduction to the military family.

DELAYS in receiving child benefit following overseas postings from Northern Ireland – such as that experienced by a sergeant who wrote to me from Hong Kong – should be a thing of the past thanks to a short-circuiting of the transfer system.

Sgt G wrote that since leaving Northern Ireland for Hong Kong six months previously he had not received a penny of the £400 child benefit due.

He had been receiving Northern Ireland Child Benefit by a NI order book – and he was not alone in his predicament.

An approach to the Child Benefit Centre in Newcastle upon Tyne, who acknowledged there were problems in the system, revealed that Service wives have to return their CB books to Stormont after cashing the last payment before leaving for another overseas station.

Requests to Stormont that future payments be paid by automatic credit transfer or be paid into the

The new forms should be available now.

No benefit in delay

Serviceman's pay account are time-consuming because they have to be passed on to the CB Centre. Sometimes the details have to be sought and checked before action can be taken.

Now the CB Centre has devised a new Child Benefit Transfer form covering all methods of payment which will, it is hoped, avoid all the delays which Sgt G and many others have experienced over the years.

The CB Centre official I spoke to helpfully suggested that if anyone has a problem all correspondence should be sent to the Centre, giving CB number and forwarding address.

The new forms should be available now.

Lots of nostalgia – but no SOLDIER

SERVING overseas, a soldier needs to be kept informed of what is happening at home and elsewhere, especially in time of war.

Those serving during the Second World War were fortunate in being particularly well provided for, having a large number of Service newspapers available to them.

Some were published only in a particular theatre of war while others had a much wider circulation, and most benefited by having on their staffs professional journalists and photographers who had been called up for the duration.

Obviously, the War Office kept a close eye on the outpourings and, mindful of the dangers of having a free press, went so far as to issue a set of guidelines.

News articles, headlines and captions were not to contain

expressions of opinions nor anything of a political nature.

While editors would wish to avoid a highbrow treatment of subjects, said the instructions, they should avoid anything likely to provoke reasonable criticism from the troops on the grounds of taste or religious tolerance.

Union Jack – A Scrapbook of British Forces' Newspapers 1939-1945 reproduces a selection of articles, maps and photographs from *Crusader*, *Parade*, *SEAC*, *Blighty*, *Reveille*, *War Illustrated* and *Union Jack* that highlight the course of the war as seen by British Servicemen around the world.

Alongside epic events like the Battle of Britain, El Alamein and D-Day, page after page informs the reader of the day-to-day details of the fighting man's life.

And features from the home

front – on rationing, the Blitz, doodlebugs, prefabs, and the 1945 General Election – give a rounded and compelling picture of the British soldier, sailor and airman's view of war.

Despite the overwhelming jingoism of the content, and who is going to argue with that in the context of a war, this book makes an interesting and enjoyable read.

Why no SOLDIER, some of our readers will ask? Not even a mention, although we started publication two months before VE Day and are the only Second World War Army publication still in existence.

The short answer is that our presence was overlooked by the compilers. – LM

Union Jack – A Scrapbook of British Forces' Newspapers 1939-45. Published by HMSO. Price £9.95.

Gung ho insight into the making of a para

EVER since its first operation in Italy in 1941 The Parachute Regiment has proved to be one of the world's toughest and most elite units. With their unique fighting ability the paras have maintained this reputation from the street fighting of Arnhem in 1944 to the Falklands campaign of 1982.

The Making of a Para by Rory Bridson, an admittedly biased TA member of The Parachute Regiment, reveals what it takes to be a modern paratrooper. With the help of the regiment itself and more than 100 specially-commissioned photographs, the author covers every aspect from taking the "civvie" off the street to the end of training and the ultimate distinction of being awarded the famous Red Beret.

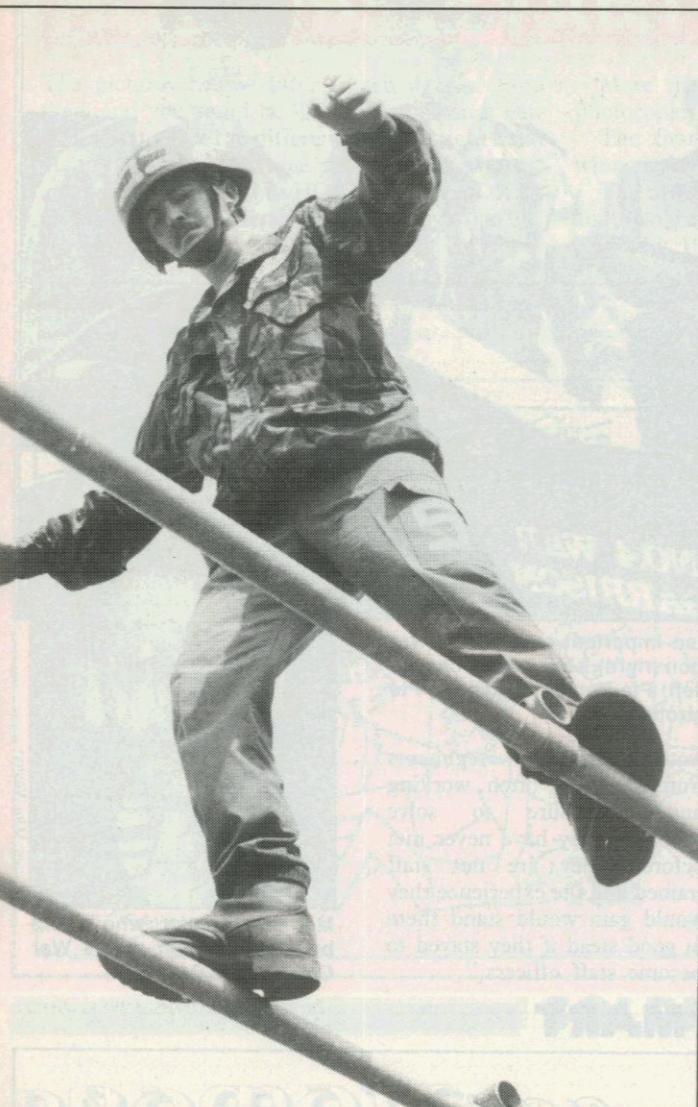
The average para is not quite human! He cannot afford to be if he is to become such a lethal fighting machine. So it comes as no surprise to find the content of the book is gung ho – understandably so.

That said, it will be appreciated by past and present paras as well as by anyone with an admiration for this crack airborne force.

The remainder of the book deals with battalion life and recounts the personal experiences of paras serving in Belize, Northern Ireland and the Falklands and also a look at the airborne forces of other countries.

It also raises a number of gripes apparently prevalent in the regiment, including the practice of presenting "desk johnnies" attached to the regiment with the coveted Red Beret when it takes a para several months of unmitigated torture to earn the right to wear the beret.

Said one NCO in the book: "... when you see guys – big, fat, useless things – walking around town posing with the Red Beret on, it makes you sick



Confidence ... so important in the making of a para

because you earn it.

"But the worst thing was when women started wearing them; getting attached to the unit and actually wearing one of the Red Berets ... it's a real sickener!"

The book ends with a warning about the enemy of tomorrow. Not the Waffen SS or the Whitehall planners but a shortage of numbers.

With the acute manpower crisis facing the British Army in the early 1990s, the regiment warns of the shortage of applicants and comes up with a variety of suggestions to overcome the problem.

It also reveals that the time spent in basic training by recruits is to be lengthened because it has been realised that today's new recruit, straight off the street, has nowhere near the fitness or robustness of even a few years ago.

Compulsive reading for those interested in the famous regiment. – LM

The Making of a Para by Rory Bridson. Published by Sidgwick & Jackson. Price £16.95.

BOOK REVIEWS GRAND PLAN MISSING IN HITLER'S WAR

"THE lack of planning was the significant factor in Hitler's whole war approach. He had gone from one speck to the next, picking up old German territories and settling old scores."

So writes Edwin P Hoyt in his latest book, *Hitler's War*. It is an ambitious work, covering the life of the Führer from before the founding of the Nazi party and their failed *putsch* on November 9, 1923 up to the ultimate defeat of Germany in May 1945.

It is also a very fluent book, examining through 390 pages the controversy of whether the rise of National Socialism and the conduct of the war was a systematic execution of a Grand Plan or, in the words of A J P Taylor, the actions of a man responding spontaneously to events.

From the opening quote in this review it is apparent that Hoyt takes the latter view.

Hitler's War was first published in the USA but this British edition differs from the

earlier version in having a postscript. As the author explains in his preface, his American editor did not like the postscript as it may have offended the sensibilities of potential American-Jewish buyers!

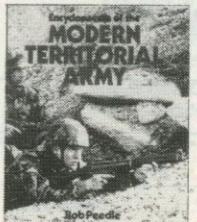
Hoyt analyses Hitler's perception of events and his fatal miscalculations as they must have appeared to the German generals. It is well researched, so it may be pedantic to pick up as simple an error as calling the Heinkel 111 bomber the '177'.

The big question that remains unanswered is that of money. We are left wondering how the Nazi party was funded in the early days before Goring's great fund-raising campaigns among the industrialists. It must have cost an arm and a leg to pay the SA thugs when a barrow-load of money was needed to buy a loaf of bread. – BJ

Hitler's War by Edwin P Hoyt. Published by Robert Hale. Hardback £14.95.

One For Every Sleeper by Jeffery English. Compiled from notes scribbled on stolen lavatory paper, the story of 400 British prisoners-of-war of the Japanese, working on the Burma-Siam railway. Fewer than a quarter of the author's squad survived the brutal conditions. Published by Robert Hale Limited. Price £11.95.

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A lot on their plates

SHOULD war break out in BAOR, Maj Mike Forster and his team would find themselves with a lot on their plates, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

He is the Chief of Staff of the War Garrison which would form in Dortmund in the transition to war.

He and his staff would look after "British residual interests" left behind in 1 (BR) Corps. This could range from married quarters to guarding and re-supplying units which go into the area from the UK, and even arranging for blood to be taken from civilians for military casualties.

Maj Forster explained: "We would take on a host of administrative and logistic functions



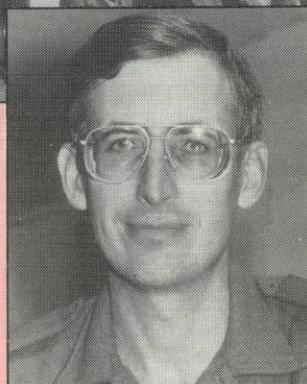
Members of the WRAC would have an important role should war break out in BOAR. 2nd Lt Heather Moon (right), shift leader, checks classified documents with (from the left) Pte Denise Blakeman, Pte Sarah Hughes and Lt Carolyn Armstrong

normally carried out by Divisional Headquarters in BAOR or a District HQ in the UK.

Many HQ jobs vacated by soldiers at war would be taken over by the WRAC. Female assistant adjutants would become watchkeepers.

Maj Forster said: "They

would administer regiments from the top, often working under pressure to solve problems they have never met before. They are not staff trained and the experience they would gain would stand them in good stead if they stayed to become staff officers."



Maj Mike Forster, who would be Chief of Staff of the War Garrison in Dortmund

Pictures: Mike Weston

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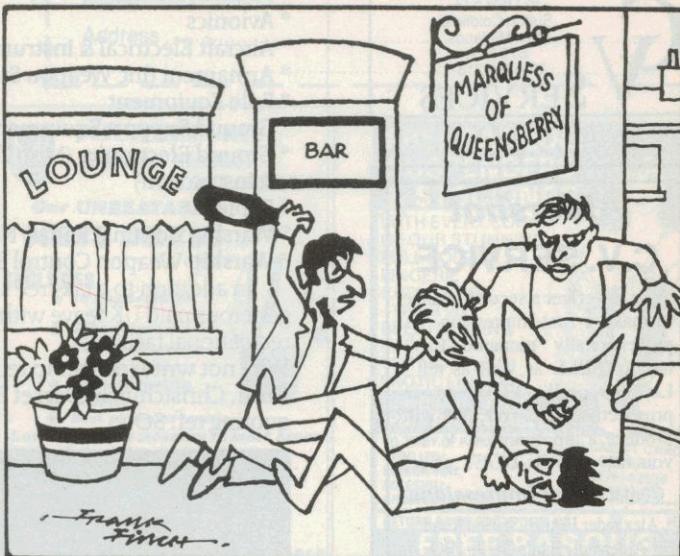
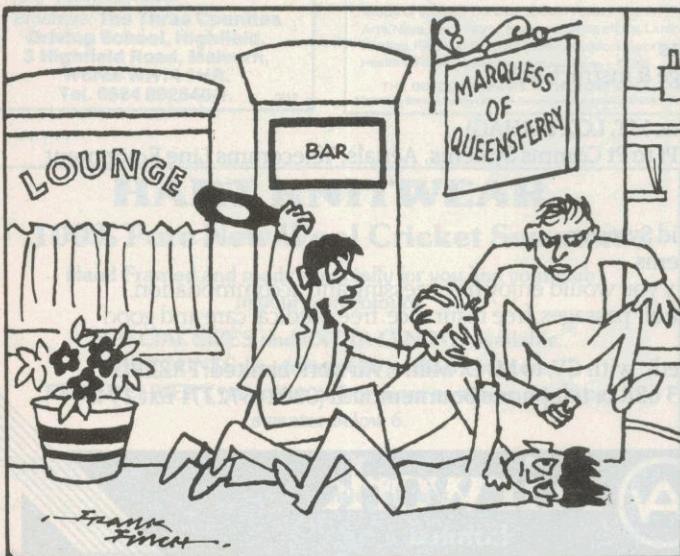
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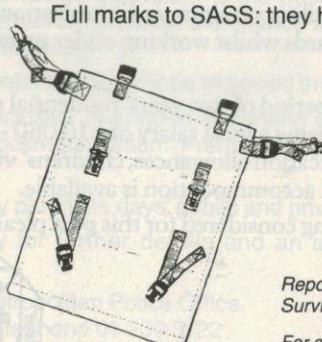
Perhaps the biggest single improvement is fast release black plastic buckles with the standard military nylon strap material. You can click these shut with the roll still partly open and then just pull the strap to tighten.

On the inside are two pieces of nylon, a bit like mini-bashas, which you close in the centre with tape and a fixlock. This completes the package, making a waterproof pouch, closed at both ends. To open, just press the quick release buckle catches and shake.

About the only negative point I can make is that there is no device for attaching a pickhead, as on the original '58 poncho roll. As the NBC kit roll is obviously designed to replace the poncho roll as an NBC kit carrier, this pouch would have been useful.

Full marks to SASS: they have designed a simple, effective solution to one of life's great frustrations. Available in DPM camo or olive drab at £19.95 plus £2.50 p&p from Special Air Sea Services, St George's Works, St George's Quay, Lancaster, Lancs LA1 5QJ.

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Report reprinted from May 1989 "Combat and Survival" Magazine.

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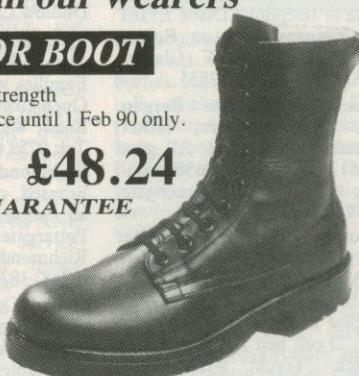
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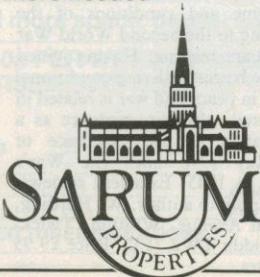
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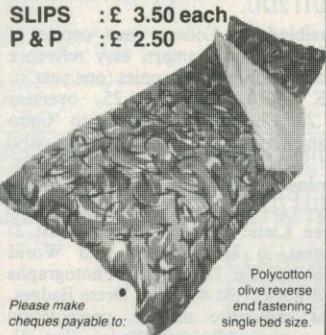
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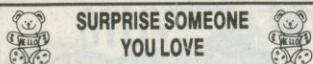
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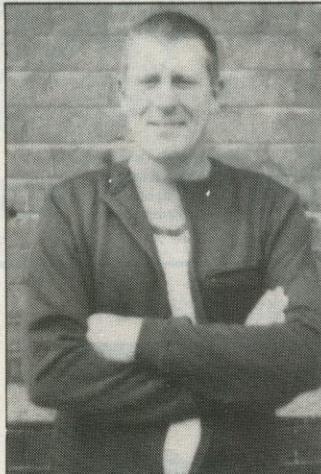
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SSgt Steve Mariner, REME, serving with 12 AD Regt RA in West Germany, and WO2 Ian Gray (right), from the Logistic Executive (Army) at Andover. They were in the Combined Services gold team which toured Hong Kong

Gray ninth in Hong Kong open

ARMY golfers WO2 Ian Gray and SSgt Steve Mariner took part in the successful eight-day tour to Hong Kong by a Combined Services team led by Royal Navy champion Lt Cdr Alan Bray.

Two players from each Service were included in the team, which was managed by the Royal Air Force's Director of Sport, Air Commodore Peter Scott.

Despite jet lag, the Combined Services were defeated only narrowly by a very strong Hong Kong team packed with international experience. Margin of defeat for the services was 3½ to 2½.

The final four days were taken up by the Hong Kong open amateur championship, which Ian Gray won in 1984. Top class players from all over the world take part.

Lt Phil Guest, RN, led the tournament after three rounds, with Sgt Duncan Beaumont

and Cpl Ian McGarva (both RAF) and Gray very much in contention. Bray and Mariner were having their problems.

Guest fell away in the final round to share fourth place with Beaumont, who pipped him on count-back. McGarva finished seventh, Gray ninth, and Bray and Mariner in the mid-twenties.

A long-range driving competition staged at the end of the Hong Kong open was won by the 6ft 4in Ian McGarva with a prodigious effort of 295 yards.

The last man to tee off was the much slighter Phil Guest, who smashed his drive 291 yards to take the runners-up prize.

Cathay Pacific provided the Combined Services with air travel, GEC Avionics gave financial backing, while the Combined Services and individual Sport Control Boards helped out with blazers and other expenses.

DEFENDING champion LCpl Tony Black ACC (QEMH Woolwich) confirmed his status as the best singles player in Army badminton when he retained his title at the Army championships staged at Rowcroft Barracks, Arborfield.

His singles final against Sgt Adrian Quinney (ACAT) was a repeat of last year's decider, and the result was the same after an exciting match.

Another player to confirm No 1 billing was Sgt Judith Haynes (20 Sqn RCT), who easily beat Cpl Dixie Peach (15

Badminton champs in class of their own

Bn RAOC) in a one-sided ladies' final. Sgt Haynes has been the undisputed Army top seed for years and during this tournament she swept aside all

opposition to prove she is in a class of her own.

Although entries were down on previous years, all the Army's best players were available and the standard of competition from semi-finals onward was very high. Most of the top seeds are serving in the UK, which meant there was minimal support from BAOR.

Cpl Chris Sturdy (RSME Chatham) and Spr Gary Jones (36 Engr Regt), who won the inter-unit men's doubles title last February, graduated to victory in the open doubles.

Jones then teamed up with Capt Margaret Roberts (HQ West London Admin Staff) to clinch the mixed doubles title.

The ladies' doubles was won by two newcomers, 2nd Lts Rachel Cooper (FOD Dulmen) and Emma Child (49 Fd Regt), not long out of RMA Sandhurst. They defeated Margaret Roberts and Cpl Karen Townsend in the final and are an obvious bonus in Army badminton. Emma Child and Tony Black were the losing finalists in the mixed doubles.

Other winners were: Men's inter-unit doubles - Capt Ferguson and Sgt Cart; veterans' doubles - WO1 Dixon and SSgt Leverton; junior singles - JGdsm Hunter; junior doubles - AT Hudson and AT Bishop; men's plate - Capt Ferguson; ladies' plate - LCpl Greig; junior plate - AT Proctor.

Capital triumph

A STRONG Army select boxing team beat London ABA by seven bouts to four in a match at the Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent.

There were wins for Army team captain LCpl Dave Abbott (2 Gren Gds), LCpl Chris Whittaker (26 Engr Regt), Pte Pete Campbell (1 Staffords), LCpl Steve Burford (4/7 DG), Pte John Dowling (2 Para), LCpl Galley Gallagher (1 Staffords) and Pte John McMullen (1 Cheshire).

Two young boxers, Tpr Mark McGowan (1RTR) and Dvr Chris Bessey (1 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT), won their quarter-final bouts in the NABC championships at Milton Keynes and were through to the semi-finals of the competition being staged at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot.

Junior hockey

PRINCESS Marina College beat AAC Chepstow 2-0 in an exciting final to the Army junior hockey tournament.

Ten teams took part, with JLR RA and AAC ACC qualifying for the semi-finals. The junior cooks won the play-off for third and fourth places. The youth tournament for under 17½-year-olds is due to take place at Shorncliffe on February 10-11.

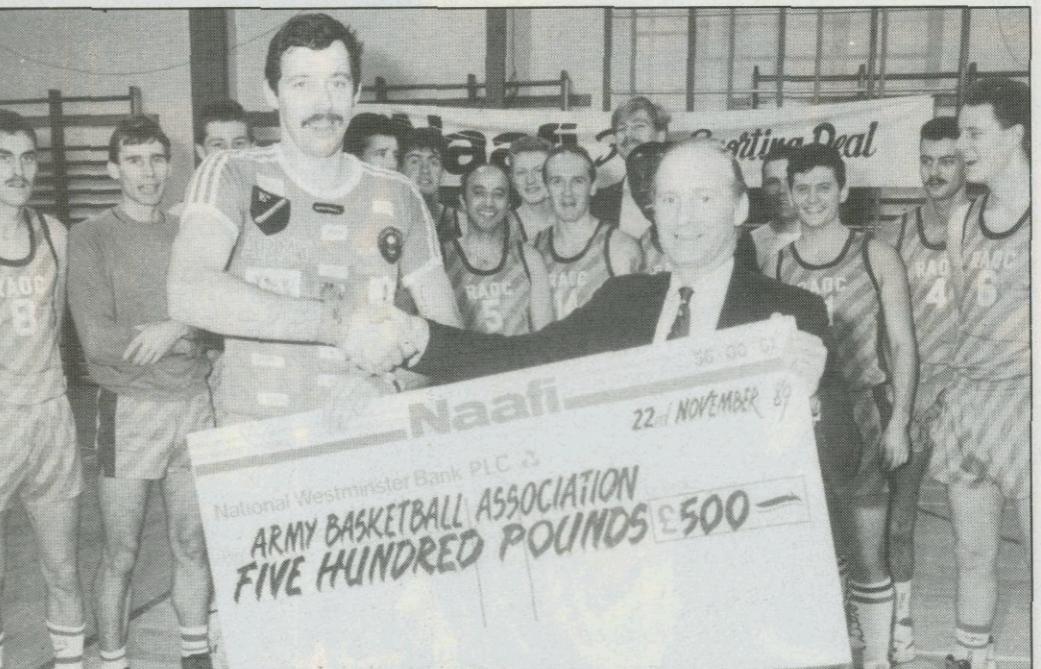
Air rifle

SGT Anthony Belas of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment was included in an eight-man British team which took part in the United States national air rifle shooting championships in Florida.

He finished second in the two day event and will be competing in the 1990 world championships.

RCT sailing

WINNERS of the RCT BAOR Shield and the Air Europe Trophy at the RCT BAOR dinghy sailing championships were 3 Tank Transporter Squadron. In the winning team were Capt Richard Card, Lt Sean Glynn, team captain SSgt Gerry Chiverton, Cpl Steve James and Dvrs Jim Heaney and Steve Wailes.



Army basketball captain WO Tim Brown accepts a giant sponsorship cheque from Col Nicholas Prudeaux, the Army director of Naafi, at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham during the Inter-Corps basketball championships. "The money will be used to promote the sport at grass roots level," said WO Brown, a 6ft 4in master chef attached to the Blues and Royals

Sappers level the score

Royal Engineers 18, Royal Artillery 9

IT IS now 100 years since the first ever meeting on a rugby field between these two Army corps giants and the occasion was marked in fine style at Chatham, writes John Quin.

The sappers hosted the game in front of their Engineer-in-Chief (Army) Maj Gen Richard Peck and a large crowd, including the immediate past President of the Rugby Football Union, Mr John Simpson, a man who could afford to smile as, rather uniquely, he held commissions in both the gunners and the sappers.

Skipper Gordon Lennox hit a superb 101 against Albury and finished with 297 at an average of 33. Against Crusaders at the vast Lavington Oval he won the match with a gigantic six in the final over of a match during which just three boundaries had been struck.

The main game was preceded by a Junior Leaders encounter,

with the two units from Dover and Nuneaton. The junior sappers won 36-0.

The senior clash was one for the partisan rather than the purist. The sappers were able to field their chosen side, minus of course, Cpl Dean Ryan, their England B back row forward, still nursing a broken arm. The gunners were not so lucky and, as well as being without Combined Services fly half Sgt Steve Commander (broken jaw), the RA team lost three key players in the 48-hour period up to kick-off.

One of them, Sgt Martyn Lewis, the gunner captain, instead of being on the field was in hospital, where the doctors were trying to get to the bottom of his problem.

A ferocious battle up front saw two sapper tries by LCpls Mark Binnington and John Robertson converted by skipper SSgt Micky Blanquist. With two penalties by Lt Simon Humphrey, the game turned round 12 points to six in favour of the home team. A further penalty by Blanquist and an excellent drop goal by LCpl Lee Dent completed the scoring for the sappers and Humphrey added a final penalty. The tally of victories now stands at 31 each with four drawn. Only one player from either side played in the 50th game, WO1 (RSM) Biff Byford, who came into the team for his hospitalised captain. Will he be there for the 100th sapper-gunner match?

Defender gets set to make up lost ground

MAJOR repairs were being carried out to the Services yacht Satquote British Defender in Fremantle in preparation for the third leg of the Whitbread Round-the-World Race, starting on December 23.

Before the yacht could set out on the dash to Auckland, New Zealand her electronics

Main boom damage so costly

equipment, flooded as a result of deck leaks on the Uruguay-Australia Southern Ocean leg,

had to be rewired and refitted.

Repairs were also necessary to her badly-damaged main boom and her forestay.

Damage suffered on the 8,000-mile second leg meant she was unable to set mainsail or headsail for much of the closing stages. Nevertheless she finished in a respectable 12th

place, both on that leg and overall.

Uppermost in the crew's thoughts as they planned the next leg was a determination to make up lost ground. Meanwhile, they prepared to store the yacht to take into account the fact that they would be spending Christmas at sea.

McMinn sparks Terrier victory

ARMY B 1, TA XI 3

THE annual fixture between the Army "stiffs" and the Territorial Army produced the exciting action expected of this encounter, writes Pat Massey.

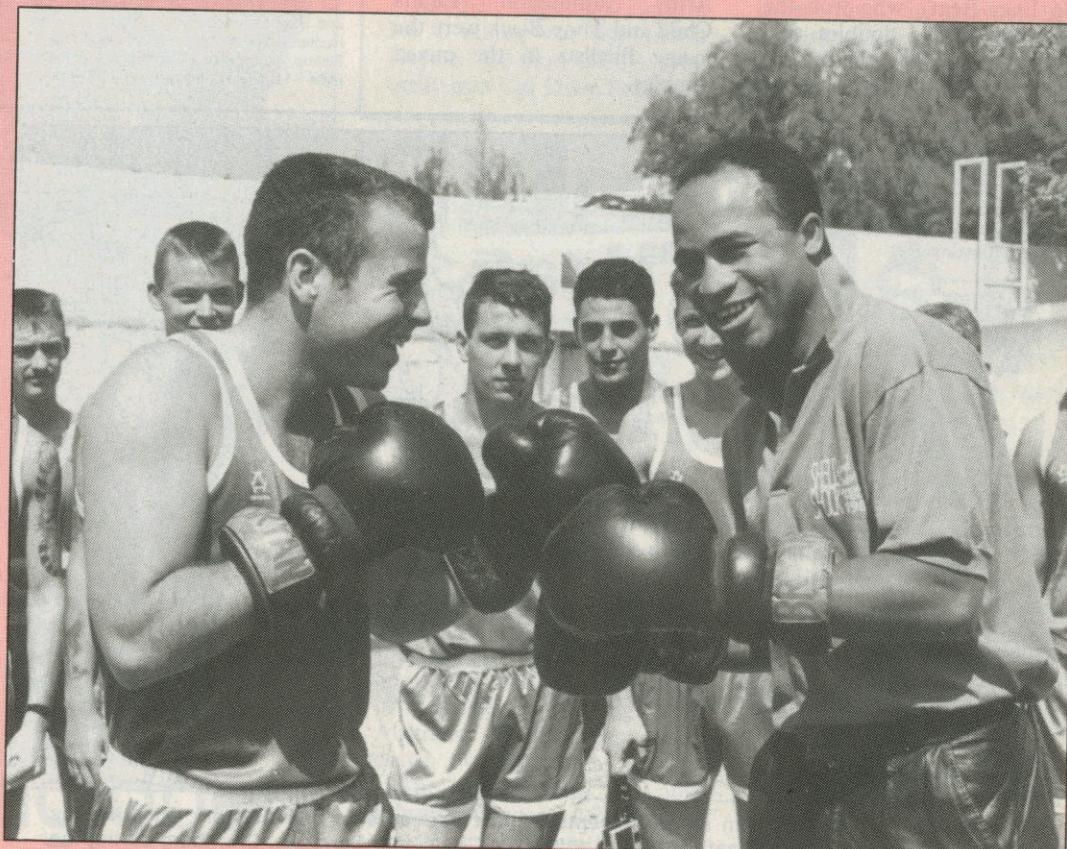
There were incidents galore in both penalty areas, mistakes to quicken the hearts of both managers, and some good goals. The result, a 3-1 win for the part-timers, was no more than they deserved.

King of 10 Para, a lively and aggressive player, might have scored twice for the visitors in the opening exchanges if his work in the air had been as accomplished as his skills on the ground.

In the event it was the Army who struck first when Bates (Para) headed home after Gilman (RAOC) and Adams (REME) had created the chance from a corner kick. Soon afterwards Gilman fluffed a simple opportunity when he allowed keeper Fisher of 105 Plant Sqn RE (V) to deflect his shot wide.

King missed two more chances before the interval but atoned immediately afterwards when he finished a good move by the nippy McMinn (4 R Irish).

McMinn's close control turned the Army defence time and again and created the next two goals. The first came from a cross which glanced off Rgr Reid's head on its way into the



One for the family album as Pte Ben Knights (left) of the 1 DERR boxing squad squares up to former world welterweight champ, Lloyd Honeyghan. There were no blows exchanged on Lloyd's goodwill visit, following which the squad went into action for a Hong Kong Round Table charity night

net, and the second was thumped home by Rgr McCartney after a defence-splitting pass by McMinn.

Wood (REME) and Keen (RE) both had opportunities to level the score for the Regulars.

RMAS 1, Wimbledon 9

Mighty Wimbledon FC wheeled out some big guns, including the formidable John Fashanu, to overwhelm RMA Sandhurst 9-1.

The Barclays League Division 1 club were accompanied on their day-long visit to the Academy by manager Bobby Gould.

Prestige matches such as this and the fixture against Queen's Park Rangers last February are greatly valued by the Sandhurst teams, who do not play regular soccer because of course commitments.

THREE new Army athletics records appear in the latest list published by the Army Athletic Association.

British international WO2 Kriss Akabusi (APTC) lowered the 400m hurdles mark to 48.59sec while Cpl Rob Lyons (PWO) raised the pole vault best to 4.50m and Sgt Robert Mullen (REME), serving with 1 RTR in West Germany, and LCpl Alan Wild (3 RGR), serving in Gibraltar, both broke the old javelin record with identical throws of 60.60m.

Akabusi also improved the Inter-Services 400m hurdles record to 51.8sec.

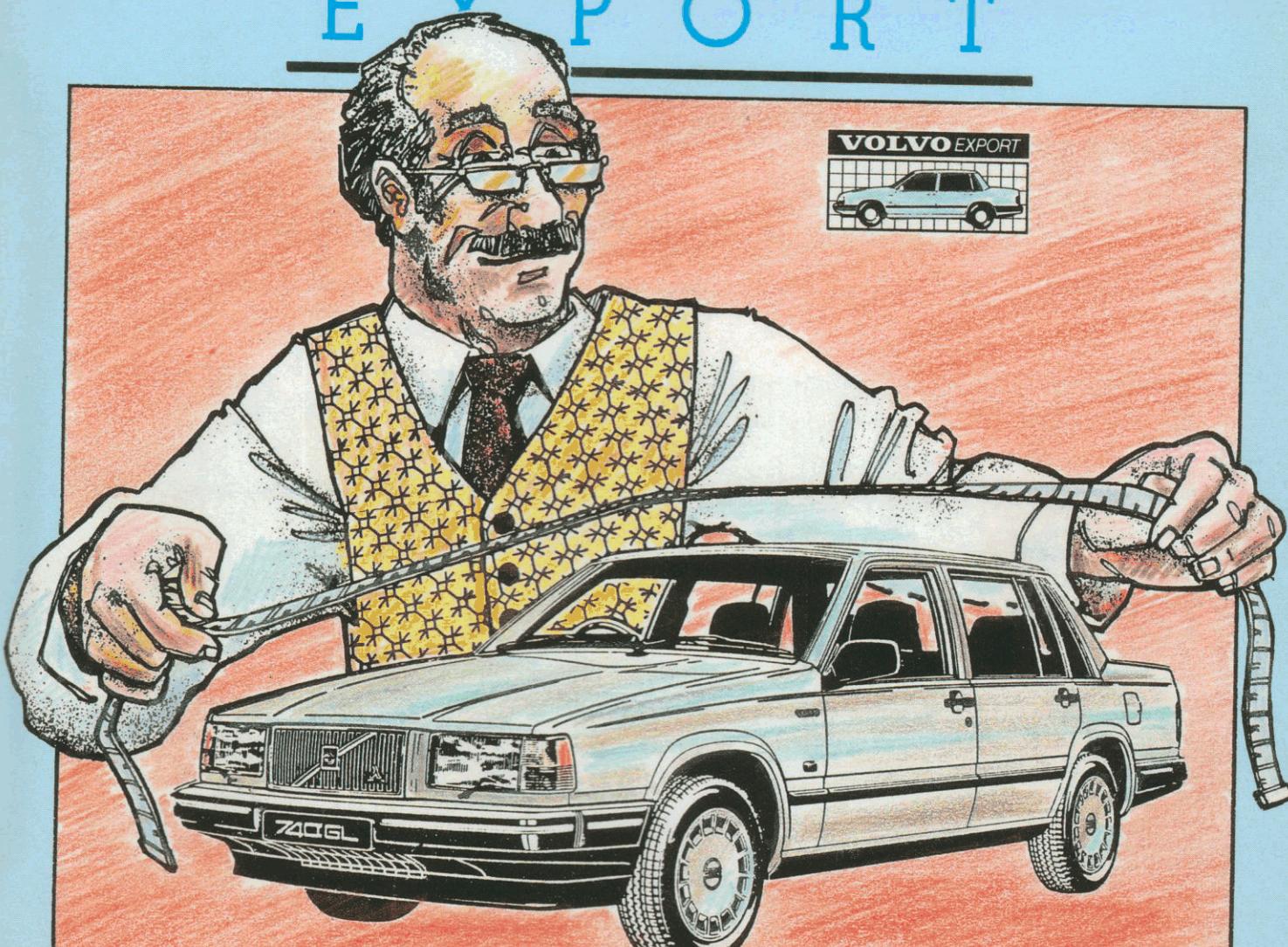
Some records obviously take some beating. Oldest one on the book is the 3,000m steeplechase time of 8min

Athletics records updated

47.8sec set by LCpl Ernie Pomfret (10 Hussars) way back in 1964. Ernie competed in the Tokyo Olympics. Former Great Britain international SI Bill Tancred (APTC) still has his name in the books for records set in 1968, the shot (17.04m) and the discus (55.28m).

But 80 per cent of the records have been set in the past five years, reflecting the strength of Army athletics in the Eighties.

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SOLDIER



An East German guard patrols the Wall at the Brandenburg Gate, wondering perhaps when the bulldozers will arrive. A four-page feature on the Wall begins on Page 16.

Picture: Terry Champion.