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FRONT COVER: Twenty-year-old Pte Susan Davies, a student dental hygienist learning her trade at Aldershot, displays some larger-than-life training aids. A feature on the Royal Army Dental Corps Headquarters and Central Group begins on Page 19.

Picture: Mike Perring

OCTOBER 1, 1990

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



"The major asks, can we do a quick yellow paint job - cheap?"

Return of the Desert Rats

THE deployment of the 7th Armoured Brigade from West Germany to the Gulf represents a huge escalation of British Army involvement in the crisis.

Now a massive logistics operation is underway to move up to 8,000 troops, 120 Challenger main battle tanks, light armour, artillery, air support, sappers, signals and other elements of 1 Armoured Division to the desert.

Until Defence Secretary Tom King's announcement on September 14, Britain's main commitment to the multi-national Operation Desert Shield force had been provided by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. British Army participation had been limited to provision of communications by men of 30 Signal Regiment from Blandford, Dorset; Royal Artillery Javelin teams on board warships; medical teams and specialist Royal Engineer units.

The 7th Armoured Brigade, under the command of Brig Patrick Cordingley, late 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards comprises the Challenger-equipped The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) and The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars from Fallingbostel; the

1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) equipped with Warrior, also from Fallingbostel; Hohne-based 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery with its M109 self-propelled 155mm howitzers; a reconnaissance squadron of Wolfenbüttel-based 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards with Scimitar and Spartan; 10 Air Defence Battery RA; 664 Squadron, Army Air Corps; a squadron from 25 Engineer Regiment RE; plus Royal Signals, RCT, REME and RAOC elements.

The brigade's armoured infantry battalion, 1 Staffords, has not long returned from live-firing battle group exercises at Suffield in Alberta, Canada, with armour and artillery from Scots DG and 40 Fd Regt.

The 7th Armoured Brigade carries with it the traditions of the famous Desert Rats of the Second World War, who fought their way from El Alemain to Berlin.

The original 7th Armoured Brigade became the core of the 7th Armoured Division which fought Rommel's Afrika Corps. Based at Soltau since 1945, the brigade wears the jerboa - the Desert Rat - adopted in 1940.



The jerboa of the 7th Independent Armoured Brigade, 1948

Time to change

ALTHOUGH as a Londoner I realise that the duties carried out by the Brigade of Guards are functional ones, it is a bit disconcerting in temperatures of 80 degrees when tourists ask me why there is no Guard change and I have to explain that they are on their winter schedule of 48-hour guards.

Do we not have a spare 50 or so men from other regiments who could fill in the blank days? We could then have a Guard change every day. — **A W Cregan, ex-RA, Plaistow.**

Long patrol

IN "Border duties to end" (August 6) you said the Army had patrolled the Sino-Hong Kong border since 1979. This is incorrect. I do not know when the patrol started, but it was in existence in 1975. — **J S Greenwood, London SW10.**

Mix of hackles causes confusion

WHILE watching the Edinburgh Tattoo on television I noticed the bandmen of The Gordon Highlanders wearing a red over white hackle in their feather bonnets.

My own regiment, The Black Watch, is the only Highland regiment to wear a

red hackle in the bonnet, the remaining Highland regiments wearing white in the full-dress bonnets.

The Gordon Highlanders have always worn white, until recently.

Can any of your readers enlighten me as to the precise

origin of the red over white?

The red hackle is peculiar to The Black Watch, as was *The Black Bear* until television commentators gave this tune to the whole of the Scottish Division. — **E C Brown, ex-CSgt The Black Watch (RHR), Ipswich.**

Masterly retreat to Dunkirk

WITH regard to the retreat "gap" in the Dunkirk Exhibition at Dover (Letters, September 3) it is unfortunate that most attention has always been focused on the Dunkirk evacuation episode of the BEF's retreat in 1940.

The real achievement of the BEF was in reaching the coast at all — and as a cohesive force.

After the war Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke (Commander 11 Corps in the BEF, later to become CIGS) wrote:

"Had it not been for those priceless qualities of the British soldier to which I have previously referred, I am convinced that such a flank march in the face of the enemy could never have been accomplished."

"I should be the very last ever to belittle the wonderful

performance of the Navy in extricating the BEF from Dunkirk. But whereas the Navy has received all the credit that was due to it, the BEF's part in the retreat from Brussels to Dunkirk has been somewhat put in the shade."

"I sincerely hope that at some future date historians will give the BEF, and the British soldiers before all others, the credit that is due to them for having brought off a masterly retreat under the most adverse conditions." (Reproduced in *The Turn of the Tide 1939-1943*, by Arthur Bryant).

Modesty, no doubt, prevented Alanbrooke from mentioning the vital part played by himself and other commanders — Alexander, Montgomery and others — who were later to make their contributions to final victory.

And, of course, we should remember Lord Gort, C-in-C BEF, without whose timely and courageous decision, taken on his sole responsibility, to ignore other instructions of the French High Command and to set in motion the move to the coast for evacuation, it is unlikely that the BEF could have been saved at all. — **Patrick Barrass, Chertsey.**

Terrier rifle battalions in the line

I KNOW of only two examples where a "line" infantry regiment carried, in its Territorial element, a rifle battalion on its strength.

These were the 6th (Rifle) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment) and the 8th



Standard bearer John Peskett from Norfolk is flanked by soldiers of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars during a Royal British Legion pilgrimage to Becklingen military cemetery near Hamburg, West Germany. The party of 50 also visited war cemeteries in Hamburg, Hanover, Kiel and Oldenburg.

Celtic player was VC winner

I WAS interested to read the feature on Lt Donald Simpson Bell, "Footballing teacher, by profession" and the follow-up letter from B A Tomlinson (August 6).

Fifteen years ago, while doing some research into the history of Bradford Park Avenue FC, I discovered that Lt Bell was the only known professional footballer to win the VC.

Two or three years ago I discovered that a former Glasgow Celtic player was also awarded the VC in the First World War.

He was LCpl William Angus, of the 8th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (Territorial Force), who played his football with Celtic, Vale of Leven and Wishaw before the war.

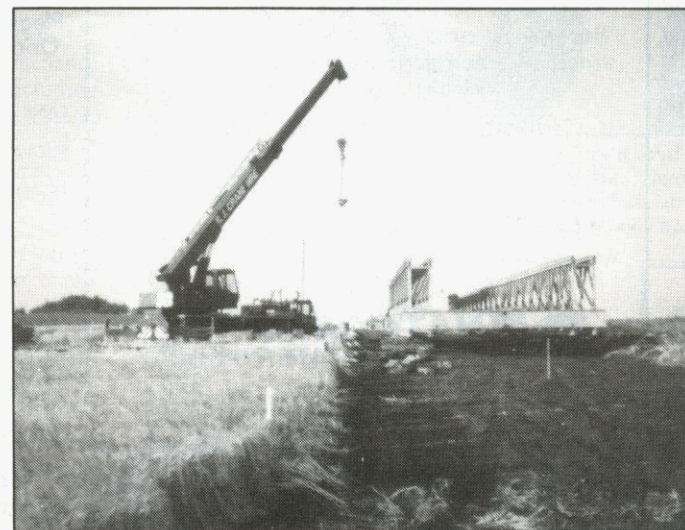
Angus was wounded 40 times while rescuing an officer at Givenchy in France on June 12,

1915 and this gallantry won him his VC.

Both these footballing VCs were included in a series of cigarette cards, *The Great War — Victoria Cross Heroes*, issued by Gallahers between 1915-18.

I am always looking to add to my collection of football memorabilia and if any old soldiers have pre-1940 football

programmes, books, annuals, handbooks, postcards, medals, caps and so on connected with the professional or top-class amateur game that they wish to dispose of I would be only too pleased to purchase them. — **Bryan Horsnell, ex-RAPC 1959-61 National Serviceman, 275 Overdown Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6NX.**



Contractors building the Norwich southern by-pass use a Bailey section to build a temporary access bridge across the Norwich-Great Yarmouth railway line at Postwick

Gallantry Stamps Competition

'Many and glorious are the deeds of gallantry done during these perilous but famous days. In order that they should be worthily and promptly recognised, I have decided to create at once a new mark of honour for men and women of all walks of life'

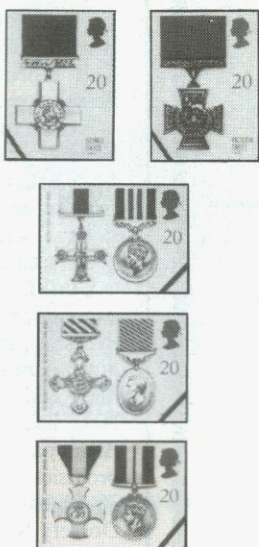
These words, spoken by King George VI and broadcast to the nation on 23 September 1940 announced the institution of the George Cross, which, taking precedence over all other decorations with the exception of the Victoria Cross, is made of silver. The GC depicts St George slaying the dragon, with the motto 'For Gallantry', whilst the reverse is inscribed with the recipient's name.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the GC, and as a tribute to the valour shown by both military and civilian personnel during the Second World War Royal Mail Stamps has issued a special Gallantry set of stamps (on sale from September 11th). The set contains five stamps designed by John Gibbs and show the following decorations: The Victoria Cross (VC); The George Cross (GC); Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) and Distinguished Service Medal (DSM); The Military Cross (MC) and Military Medal (MM); The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM). There are three ways of collecting the sets — the presentation pack which features all five stamps together with background on each — five new stamp cards, each featuring one of the new stamps — and a first day cover. If you wish to purchase any of these they are available from most Post Offices or you can order them by post from the British Philatelic Bureau at 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (tel: 031-556 8661).

If you would like to win one of the forty presentation packs which we are giving away, simply write the answers to the following questions on a postcard and send them with your name and address to: Soldier Magazine Gallantry Stamp Issue Competition, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Closing date for competition is Friday 26 October. The winning entries will be drawn on that day.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the George Cross made from?
2. Which King instigated the George Cross?
3. Who is the designer of the Gallantry Stamps?



Reunions

● **4th Bn, The Northamptonshire Regt 1939-46:** All ranks reunion dinner, TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton, Friday, October 5. Details from Maj V Harding, Old Barn Cottage, Oasby, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3NA (tel: 05295 345).

● **Rocket Troop:** The O Bty the Rocket Troop reunion will take place on October 27 in Manchester. Details from WO2 (SMIG) Titch Palys, RAGTE, BFPO 30.

● **Athens 1946-47** Headquarters British Military Mission (Greece) reunion, Union Jack Club. Write Ernie Farman, c/o Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London SE1.

● **Eighth Army Veterans' Association** reunion to mark 48th anniversary of Battle of El Alamein, Winter Gardens, Blackpool, October 27. Details from George Worthington, 55 Travis Street, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 1PA (tel: 061-368 6368).

Searchline

● **81st West African Division:** Information sought on the Division in West Africa and India 1942-1945 and on the involvement with it of the late Brig H W Forsyth. His son, Mr A H Forsyth, can be contacted c/o Stevenson, Wong & Co., 1438 Swire House, 11 Chater Road, Hong Kong.

● **Falklands War 1982:** Army memorabilia sought by Lionel R Howell, 10 Cheshire Road, Exmouth, Devon EX8 4BL.

● **LCpl F Holmes,** 2nd Northamptonshire Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps, who died July 31, 1944, aged 27: Information sought by his grand-daughter, Mrs W Reid, c/o Cpl B Reid, FRG 3Plt, 12 Armd Wksp, REME, BFPO 36.

Bailey used on by-pass

GEORDIE Taylor asks (Letters, August 20) how many Bailey bridges are still in use in this country.

Most large civil engineering contractors hold stocks of Bailey sections for use on major works where, for example, temporary access is required.

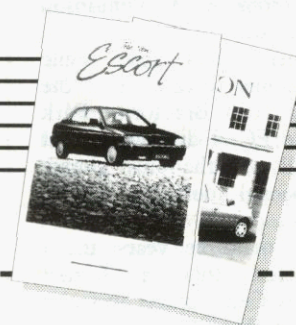
Three such temporary access bridges have been constructed for use by contractors building the Norwich southern by-pass. — **C D Wylie, Norwich.**

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Former Kuwait staff set up wives' helpline

A 24-HOUR Army helpline is keeping families of soldiers caught up in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait up to date with the latest facts. About 35 British Servicemen were held in Baghdad following the invasion.

It was the initiative of Maj Rick Stocks, administrative officer to the military team in Kuwait, and his wife, Judy, who were out of Kuwait on leave at the time of the invasion.

They are being helped by WO1 John Muirhead and his wife, Agnes, and WO1 Harry MacFayden, also on leave at the time. Their great advantage is that they know personally all the British Army families involved.

Maj Stocks said that families had become distressed after reading conflicting Press reports and the Whitehall helpline office

offered the latest accurate information.

The helpline team meets wives and children at the airport to help ease their return before their welfare is looked after at district level.

The team has been inundated with thank you cards from grateful families. Contact with the helpline office is through the usual Army welfare channels.

Hospital moves to the Gulf

LT Helen Owen, QARANC, was taking no chances when she left for the Gulf with other members of Aldershot-based 22 Field Hospital RAMC. She packed her bucket and spade.

The departure of the unit from RAF Lyneham was the first ever move by air of an entire British Army field hospital.

The unit has been reinforced by medical staff drawn from military hospitals throughout the United Kingdom and will be housed in a former maternity hospital in Bahrain, cleared specially to allow the medics to move in.

Among supporting troops was the RAOC Mobile Bath and Laundry unit. Other members of the party included members drawn from REME, RADC, the Royal Engineers, and a solitary pay sergeant from the RAPC.

Also accompanying the military medics was Mrs Barbara Russell of the British Red Cross Society, looking very smart in her tropical combat kit and blue beret bearing the Red Cross cap badge.

A complete field surgical team from 22 Field Hospital is already in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The 29-strong team, including surgeons, anaesthetists, theatre sisters, combat medical technicians and other medical support staff, is there to provide surgical facilities for British Forces in the region.

Last time 22 Field Hospital was mobilised was a part deployment to Dahrhan in Nepal following the earthquake disaster in 1988.

Staff from the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot are supporting 22 Field Hospital. An ABSD spokesman said: "The ability to provide this cover has involved a great deal of research into methods of transporting and storing blood in different climatic conditions."

ABSD also has a blood supply section attached to 84 Field Medical Equipment Depot, which co-ordinates the supply of blood for tri-Service demand.



Lt Helen Owen's bucket and spade order is checked by a colleague



NBC-clad gunners from 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyd's Company), Royal Artillery prepare to fire Javelin missiles on Manorbier Range, near Tenby, South Wales during the Gutersloh-based unit's annual live-firing exercise. On the left is Gnr Paul Davey, on the right Bdr Colm Craig. More pictures and a story will appear in the next issue.

Sea gunners

GUNNERS from Thorney Island have joined the crews of four Royal Navy warships deployed or heading for the Gulf. The men, from 21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Air Defence Battery of 47 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, will be supplementing the ships' air defence capabilities with their hand-held Javelin missiles.

It is standard practice for Javelin teams to deploy on warships in the Gulf.

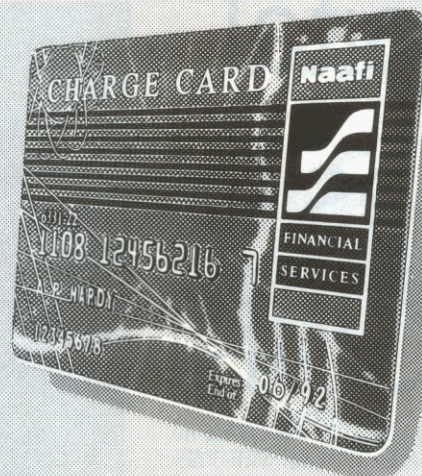
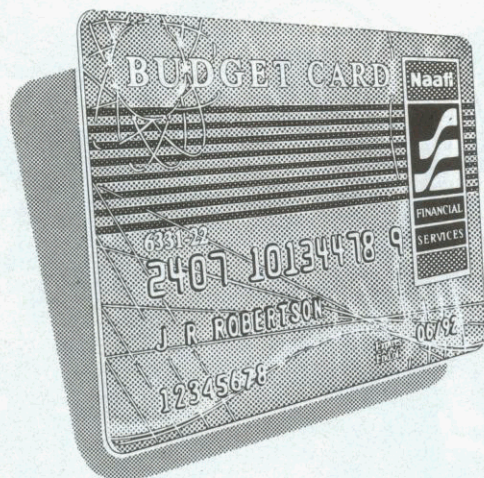
GOING UP

DUE to increased postal charges, **SOLDIER** subscription rates for UK and overseas – except BFPO addresses – will rise from November 1 1990. From that date annual rates will be £16.55 (UK) and £21.15 (overseas). The BFPO rate will remain at £10.00.

Picture: Mike Perring

Picture: Mike Perring

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Olpherts gunners go their own special way

SENNELAGER-based 56 (Olpherts) Special Weapons Battery has gained its independence from 39 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery. For the past eight years Olpherts Battery has been the senior battery of 39 Heavy.

It has been due to move to Munster to share accommodation with 8 Regiment RCT, but this was delayed until next year. In anticipation, the granting of independent minor unit status went ahead although the battery will remain under the administrative

command of 39 Hy Regt until 8 Regt RCT assumes this responsibility.

Until November 1987 Olpherts Battery was equipped with the M110 self-propelled 8in howitzer. It was then that moves were made towards "independence" when the battery received its special weapons designation and acquired its current role of providing nuclear support to 1 (BR) Corps' M109 155mm artillery regiments.

The granting of the new status was marked by a ceremony in Dempsey Barrack,

Sennelager at which the battery, under the command of Maj Alan Collett, paraded before Lt Col Brian Wheelwright, commanding officer of 39 Hy Regt. Gifts were exchanged between the new minor unit and its former parent.

The battery was awarded its honour title to commemorate the heroic action of Capt Olpherts (later Gen Sir William Olpherts) in the Indian Mutiny of 1857 when, during the first relief of Lucknow, he won the Victoria Cross for capturing two rebel guns.

Terrier division in field

THREE Territorial Army brigades of the 2nd Infantry Division have been training in Germany during their annual Exercise Fall Tide. The exercise was originally planned as a major field test involving about 18,000 troops.

However, in line with recent developments in Allied exercise philosophy, fewer than 9,000 troops took part and were confined to three designated permanent military training areas. No training was carried out on privately-owned land.

The changes were made with particular regard for German concerns about the social and environmental impact of military manoeuvres across private land.

Three separate brigade concentrations were undertaken. Lion Rock involved about 1,000 men of 29 Engineer Brigade training at Sennelager and Hameln in an infantry role, range maintenance, road building, and combat and amphibious engineer training.

Nearly 3,000 Terriers of 15 Infantry Brigade took part in Merlin Rock on Vogelsang training area near Liege, where the five TA battalions from the North East of England exercised with tanks and helicopters to practise their operational role of reinforcing BAOR.

Similar training was carried out by 49 Infantry Brigade, with five TA battalions involving about 3,000 men from the Midlands working with helicopters and tanks.

Skins 'star' in Soviet TV film

ON A visit to units within 1 (BR) Corps last week, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Archie Hamilton, was interviewed by a TV team from Novosti, a Soviet news agency. It was the first time a Soviet film crew had been given the opportunity to film inside a British barracks in Germany.

It was a routine visit by the Armed Forces

minister to see and talk informally to officers and soldiers. After seeing the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in Paderborn in the morning (where he met the Russian film crew), Mr Hamilton went on to visit 22 Signal Regiment and 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery in Lippstadt in the afternoon.



Seventy-year-old Charlie Hankins (right) prepares for take-off and a tandem parachute jump with instructor Derek Thorn at Errol Airfield, near Perth. It was all part of Charlie's Land's End to John O'Groats wheelchair marathon to raise £1m for the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Servicemen. Charlie, who lost both legs and the sight of one eye while serving The Black Watch in North Africa during the Second World War, is now safely back at the home after successfully completing his latest fund-raising feat.

He completed the journey in a 50-year-old hand-powered invalid carriage overhauled by BAe apprentices.

Corridor changes

THE re-unification of Germany, bringing the closure this month of Allied Checkpoint Alpha at Helmstedt, means an uncertain future for 246 Provost Company, Royal Military Police based there.

As the special status of Berlin eases, so will the Russian checkpoints at either end of the road Corridor that runs from Helmstedt through East Germany to West Berlin.

In the short term the company will be re-roled and its patrol area increased to include all routes to Berlin through the present DDR.

It is reported that the Soviet officers and men at Marienborn who have worked alongside the RMP for 45 years are sad to see the end in sight. The next issue of SOLDIER tells of the special Anglo-Soviet rapport that has grown through the meetings of the two Armies at this outpost.

SSgt Ford's mini-outfit does a king-size job in the Gulf

THE SMALLEST unit in the Gulf consists of just two soldiers. But their job is regarded as vital by the Servicemen in their area of operations. They are the staff of the local Postal and Courier Service run by the Royal Engineers.

There are, in fact, five such teams operating in the theatre.

Typical of them is the double act involving SSgt Stephen Ford and junior partner Spr Andrew Dunlop. SSgt Ford is proud of the fact that within an hour of his 24-hour journey to the Gulf he was handing over to

British Airways his first sack of home-bound post.

It is not his first experience of providing a mail service for soldiers far from home. While acting as postman to the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles on the Thai border with Laos he became one of the first British soldiers to visit the area since 1945. He has also worked in Zimbabwe and Hong Kong.

Army technicians form part of a British task force dominated so far by the Royal

From Sqn Ldr Tony Geraghty in Muscat

Navy and Royal Air Force.

Equally important are the men of 30 Signal Regiment from Blandford. An RAF spokesman said: "In some areas we don't have landlines on which we can rely. Satellite communication is our major outlet and is provided by 30 Signals. It is a significant contribution."

LCpl Michael Hill describes his rapid departure from Blandford Camp in Dorset: "We were on a 72-hour notice to move on Operation Granby

when we went to work as usual at Blandford at 8.30am. Thirty minutes later we were told to be ready to go at 11am.

"We had to load our vehicles and collect out NBC gear. By 7pm we were at Lyneham, boarding a C-130. There was no time to say goodbye to our families."

His team was lucky. They travelled to the Gulf expecting to live in harsh desert conditions. Instead they were placed near the coast in an air-conditioned hotel.

In a normal season it would have been full of tourists.

Sapper posties at full stretch

LETTERS from home are playing an important part in the life of British Servicemen in the Gulf, writes Laurie Manton.

Hence the popularity of 12 sappers who have established five Forces Post Offices to serve the needs of British Forces stationed in the area.

Deployed at the very start of Operation Granby, the "posties" are responsible for dealing with official and private correspondence, classified and diplomatic mails and the movement of freight. Newspapers, too, are distributed by the Royal Engineer postmen.

Mail for the Gulf travels a circuitous route. From local post offices, it is rushed to the Postal and Courier Depot RE at Mill Hill in London where it is sorted into bags destined for five separate BFPO numbers.

It is then loaded at RAF Lyneham aboard Hercules C130 aircraft which makes daily flights to the region. After a short stopover at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, it is escorted

details as power lines and oil wells because the sappers current production is aimed at meeting the demands of the Royal Air Force.

Pictured above is Cpl Bob Jardine moving another shipment of maps from the production area. Each has been individually checked for quality before being cleared for dispatch.



It takes 68 different maps to build up a clear picture of the area involved in Operation Granby. That's official, for the map-makers at 42 Survey Engineer Group based at Hermitage, near Newbury, should know, for they have counted them - about 250,000 at the latest tally. The maps are continually updated and need to include such



Another sack full of mail for troops in the Gulf is unloaded by Pte Andrea Howard and Sgt Rose Patrick at the Postal and Courier Depot RE at Mill Hill. More than 800 sacks were dealt with in the first month of Operation Granby

in-flight by a military courier from 23 Postal and Courier (Cyprus) Squadron RE to its Gulf destination.

"Average time for a letter to reach the Gulf is 30 hours once it has been received at Mill Hill," said Capt Jamie Field of the Directorate Defence Postal and Courier Services.

A free Forces air letter (bluey) service is now available to all troops in the Gulf. First month of operation saw more

than 10,000 blueys sent home to wives and girlfriends. About 4,000 were received by the Servicemen.

Similar levels of mail reached the Royal Navy from the PCD RE via a military courier on a scheduled British Airways flight to the Gulf and the posties hope soon to open up a further Forces Post Office to offer a full service to the Royal Navy.

Currently the FPOs serving

RAF and Army personnel are able to provide a full counter service to the troops, including the sale of stamps, postal orders and the cashing of Giro cheques.

Said Capt Field: "Total mail carried to date is some 4,000kg. That's equivalent to around 800 sacks of mail."

Forces Post Offices have been established at Dhahran, Thumrayt, Seeb, Riyadh and Bahrain.

● The RAF will operate a parcel service to and from the Gulf from October 12. The Directorate Defence Postal and Courier Services says that people using the service should ask at the Post Office for the Forces concessionary rate.

Parcels should be properly packed and clearly marked with addresses to and from. The posties advise using the compensation service if the contents are valuable.

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ACC rallies to call of Falklands

In response to appeals in this column, the Army Catering Corps (motto: *We Sustain*) has rallied to the support of Stanley Museum in the Falkland Islands.

Back in May SOLDIER to Soldier passed on a request from the museum for Service paintings of activities in the 1982 conflict. They were needed for a permanent art exhibition.

By August 20 we were able to report that there had been an overwhelming response, but the museum was still looking for a couple of items, including a picture representing the role of the ACC.

No sooner said than done. The museum was soon given the good news that the corps would be donating a reprint of Terence Cuneo's "Lull in the Battle".

Incidentally, the reprint will be on general sale next year to coincide with the corps' 50th anniversary. Anyone interested in buying a copy should contact Lt Ray Lorimer at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BN.

Military flavour

Why do Army buildings look the way they do? What is the real point of camouflage? Is one Army posting indistinguishable from the next?

Not our questions, we hasten to point out, but those of TV presenter Jonathan Meades, who has homed in on the "militarised zones of Aldershot and Camberley" for one of a series of offbeat programmes being televised on BBC-2 this autumn.

The series, "Abroad in Britain", concentrates on areas and buildings possessing strong identities which determine the lives of their inhabitants more than most.

"They are venues unlikely to be found in an English Tourist Board brochure," he says.

Residents of Aldershot and Camberley may not agree . . .

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



The MoD has commissioned archaeologist Robina McNeil (pictured at Paddy's Pond) to carry out a detailed study of Holycombe Moor Camp near Manchester, a training area familiar to tens of thousands of soldiers. Over the centuries the site has supported a number of industries, including an iron works in the 15th or 16th Century.

Odds-on success

Since it opened in October last year more than 110,000 visitors have viewed "Against All Odds", the National Army Museum's special exhibition telling the story of the British Army at the outbreak of the Second World War.

Originally intended to close in June, the exhibition's popularity has already extended its run well beyond that and it will not now finish until October 14.

The extension has resulted in just one "casualty" - a tank which has returned to Bovington. All the original exhibits in the Chelsea museum remain, including equipment, photographs, film, guns, uniforms and reconstructions.

It sounds better in French

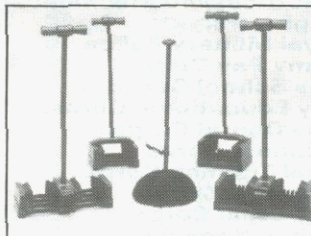
Sentinel, journal of the Canadian Armed Forces, reports that when the Fleet School in Halifax, Nova Scotia, sent its office signs out for translation into French, staff had no idea they would create a new officer classification.

The officer in charge of the Agnew Training Centre (ATC) shares his office with the Fleet School padre.

Somewhere in the translation, ATC became air traffic controller and at the same time the signs of the two officers were combined.

The end result, translated back from the French, was "Officer in Charge of Air Traffic Controlling Padre for the Fleet School".

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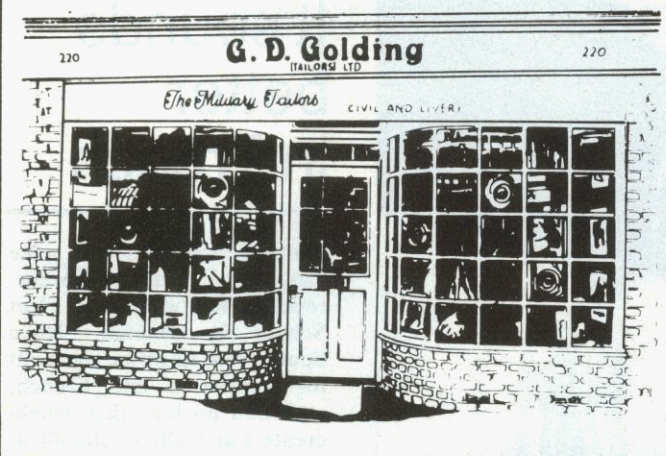


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They've got bottle!

FIFTY Territorial Army soldiers from seven units carried a huge Union Flag from Falmouth to raise cash for the National Children's Home in a 460-mile cycle relay.

It had already travelled across the Atlantic on the flagpole of Tom McClean's bottle-shaped Typhoo Atlantic Challenger. Tom (third from left), who served with 3 Para, wants to raise £500,000.

Helping him were soldiers from the 6th (Somerset and Cornwall) Battalion, The Light Infantry; the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; the 5th (Shropshire and Hereford) Battalion, The Light Infantry; 5th/8th Battalion, The King's Regiment; 156 Transport Regiment; 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment; and The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.



Ginge jumps



CPL Jerry "Ginge" Collingham, the first soldier in the British Army to return to duty after a heart and lungs transplant, has been busy raising money for charity as a thank you for his second chance of life.

He works in the Air Despatch Section at the **Joint Air Transport Establishment (JATE)** at RAF Brize Norton and since June, 1988 has raised more than £15,000.

His latest venture was a freefall parachute jump in tandem with parachute jump instructor Sgt Steve Taylor, one of the physical training instructors who helped him back to fitness.

Ginge had the operation in June, 1986. By September he was on light duties and full working by November.



Cpl Ginge Collingham

Dunkirk, took the salute at the annual **North West Beating Retreat**. He served with the East Lancashire, now part of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, presently serving in Preston. The ceremony raised £947 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Former colleagues of Pte Steve Bavington, a medic with the **1st Armoured Division Field Ambulance** at Hohne, near Hanover, have presented him with £7,000. He was paralysed in a rugby accident and received the cheque during a farewell visit to Germany before his discharge.

RA has won the **SSAFA Cleveland Challenge**. Twenty teams took part and raised more than £500 towards the cost of running the SSAFA office in Cleveland. Catterick's 7 Dental Group won the mixed team category and 50 Signal Squadron from Darlington were first in the women's event.

A sponsored slim by Army wives was among a variety of fund-raising events that has raised DM6,000 for a foetal heart monitor for **Hameln Garrison Medical Centre**.

Colchester branch of the **Guild for St Helena** has presented a cheque for £2,000 to the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled Servicemen at Richmond. The guild helps the families of men who have seen active service, and raised the money through a series of jumble sales, bazzars and lunches.

Lt Col Marcus Ervine-Andrews, who won the only Victoria Cross awarded at

For the second year running **49 Battery, 27 Field Regiment**



LCpl **Daniel Lama** (left) of 10 GR is a glutton for punishment. Having completed a six-month-long 13,000km cycle ride across the Indian sub-continent, he decided to organise a trans-Borneo cyclothon, which involved a 2,181km journey from one end of the country to the other. LCpl Lama led LCpl **Chhatrabahadur Rai** and Rfn **Purnabahadur Subba** (right)

Borneo bikers

on the punishing journey, sleeping overnight in native long houses or at the roadside. LCpl Rai had to pull out of the marathon when a tumble on the rough track resulted in a broken collarbone.

★★★★★★★★★
 ★ A German brewery has a permanent reminder of the day the Director of Defence Postal and Courier Services, Brig **Neil Kelly**, popped in for a tour. The brigadier had been visiting 14 Postal and Courier Squadron, Royal Engineers at Detmold, Bielefeld and Herford in West Germany.
 ★★★★★★★★★★



and called in at Herforder Brewery. He presented the brewers with a commemorative philatelic cover and a squadron plaque.

PEOPLE



Commander UK Field Army Lt Gen Sir **David Ramsbotham** presents WO2 (RQMS) **Tony Saunders** of The Queen's Regiment with the Meritorious Service Medal during a visit to the British Army Training Support Unit at Wainwright, Canada. WO2 Saunders is the Assistant British Liaison Officer at Wainwright. In the background is Lt Col **Ron Bevan**, 2 GR, the British Liaison Officer.

Scarf returns

Nearly 26 years after serving there with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, former soldier **Scarf Jones** from Worcester has returned to Borneo to find the Iban tribesman who served as a tracker with his recon combat team during the crisis there in the early Sixties.

Scarf was cover-man on jungle patrols for a tracker called **Usi Anak Kudi**, and earlier this year he decided to turn tracker himself to locate his former guide.

Six months of correspondence threw up the answer, and so Scarf and two former Greenjacket colleagues, **Spud Mur-**



JUNGLE MEET: Scarf Jones with tracker Usi Anak Kudi and welcoming party

phy and **Steve Medcalf**, set off from Heathrow for a remote jungle village called Lubok Antu in the Second Division of Borneo.

At the reunion, the three mates were told they were the first British soldiers to have returned to Borneo to contact their old tracker.



HAPPY NOTE: LSgt Bryn James

Silver sounds

LSgt **Bryn James** can certainly blow his own trumpet. He has just beaten six other top buglers to win the London District Major General's Silver Bugle.

Welsh Guardsman Bryn is a flautist in the 1st Battalion's Corps of Drums stationed in Surrey. The battalion is at present carrying out Public Duties in London.

To win the competition he had to blow three well-known military bugle calls before a committee of experts, including the senior Household Division Drum Major and the senior Director of Music.

Bryn's brothers-in-law LSgt **Martin Rogers** and LCpl **Ian Rogers** both serve in the regiment, Martin in the records office, Ian in the tailor's shop.



KAPE CRUSADERS: Irish Hussars Cpl Martin Dornan, Lt David Madden, Tpr Jack Horner and Tpr Mark Campbell in Ballymena

Strong ties between Northern Ireland and The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars were strengthened during a KAPE (Keep the Army in the Public Eye) tour of the province.

The Irish Hussars, who are currently stationed in Fallingb., West Germany as part of the 7th Armoured Brigade, visited most major towns in Northern Ireland with their display of

Irish Hussars fly the flag

pictures, armoured vehicles and regimental memorabilia.

Support for the soldiers was outstanding and a number of young men are already on their way to becoming Irish Hussars.

Up, up and away . . .

Soaring off to retirement after 35 years in uniform is Col **Nan Robertson**, Commandant of the WRAC Centre at Guildford. She was given a dawn send-off from the centre's sports fields on board Sapper II, the Royal Engineers' hot air balloon. At the controls was Maj **Derek Mitchell**, RE.

Recruits formed up in apparently eccentric ranks as the balloon took off, but from the air all was revealed – their white shirts spelled out the message "So long – farewell".

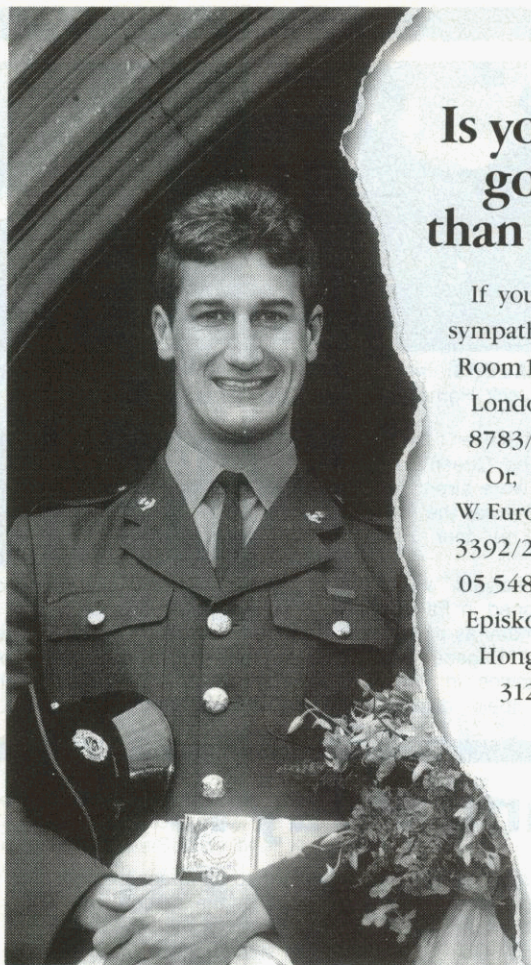
Col Robertson's flight lasted 45 minutes. When the wind took Sapper II towards ranges five miles away it was time to descend.



Pte **Tina Beaumont** of the 4th Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers, with her US Army cargo truck during Exercise Mulberry Tree, an exchange exercise with the 2nd Battalion, 115th Infantry, Maryland National Guard. Tina, a Scarborough secretary in civvy street, is a signaller with the unit. The exchange took the Yorkshire Volunteers to Fort Pickett, in the

Virginia volunteers

shadow of Virginia's Blue Ridge mountains. See also feature in Pages 22-23.



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RADC provides service that's second to none

SOLDIERS who receive free dental care – irrespective of how complicated and costly the treatment is – are the envy of their peers employed outside the Services.

Capt Frank Walker, Senior Dental Technician, Royal Army Dental Corps Headquarters and Central Group in Aldershot, explained that generally NHS patients pay half the cost.

“But if you go privately, and undergo complicated bridging and crowning, for instance, then it becomes really expensive. In some cases laboratory fees alone – and that's before you take into consideration the dentist's time – sound like you are reeling off telephone numbers!

“Our commitment is to ensure a soldier is dentally fit to do his job. That means whatever is needed – regardless of the cost – is provided free.”

Nowadays, because of advanced techniques, soldiers are having fewer teeth extracted. This has brought increased demand for crowns and bridges, ensuring RADC laboratories at Aldershot and Dusseldorf, where they are made, are kept busy.

This work is costly because of precious metals, such as gold and platinum, used. Gold is brought from bullion companies and stored in a safe. Its use is carefully monitored as it is booked out of the Quartermaster's Account into a special register, weighed and credited to individual patients.

The RADC has 205 officers and 405 other ranks worldwide, centred on Army concentrations. The unit at Aldershot, for instance, looks after the dental care of 5,500 soldiers and between 2,000 and 3,000 recruits. Dental checks are mandatory.

But in areas where there are only a few soldiers posted, there is a special dispensation for them to be treated by an NHS dentist at the Army's expense.

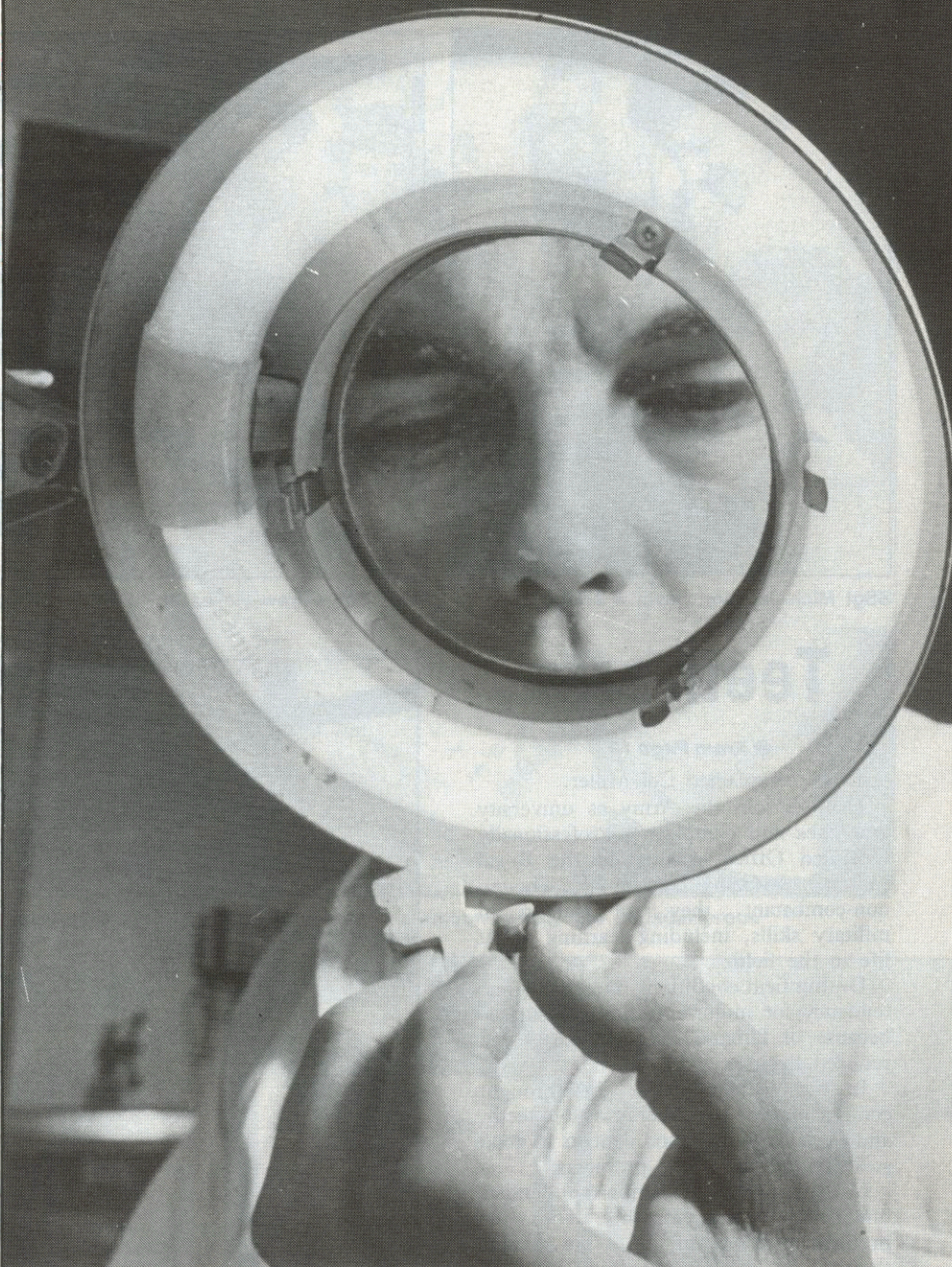
Dependants of soldiers posted outside the UK use Army dental facilities which are free except for certain complex items for which they are charged NHS rates. In the UK they make their own arrangements for dental care.

Capt Walker says his work is a combination of art, science and craft.

“Every case is an individual, unlike say making a part for a car, which is always the same.

“Although you will be making the same item for patients, the shape and colour of a crown is always different.

“I am happy to say that I have not recognised my work outside the centre. I



Sgt Tony Browne builds up a porcelain crown before it is fired in an electric furnace

THE REAL **TEETH ARM**

would hope not to because the whole idea is that you can not recognise a crown from a natural tooth. If the patient is happy, then we are successful.”

Regular dental screening is playing an important part in helping save soldiers' lives, for as well as identifying teeth and gum problems, Army dentists look for

symptoms of more serious conditions.

Lt Col Stuart Miller, Deputy

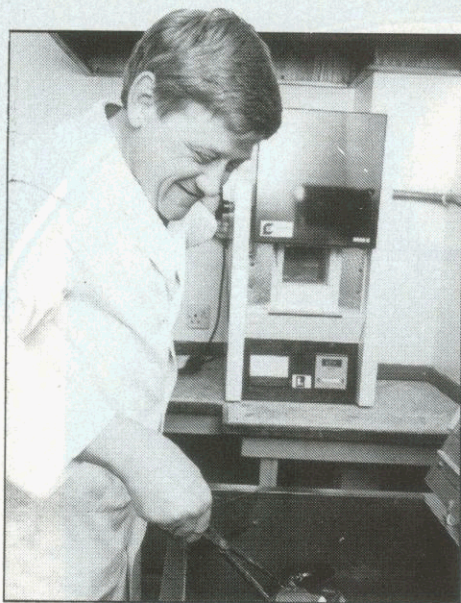
Commandant RADC Aldershot, explained: “It is not widely recognised that the annual death rate from oral cancer is much higher than that of cervical cancer.

“Cervical cancer is a much-higher profile disease in terms of publicity and government efforts to create a screening programme.

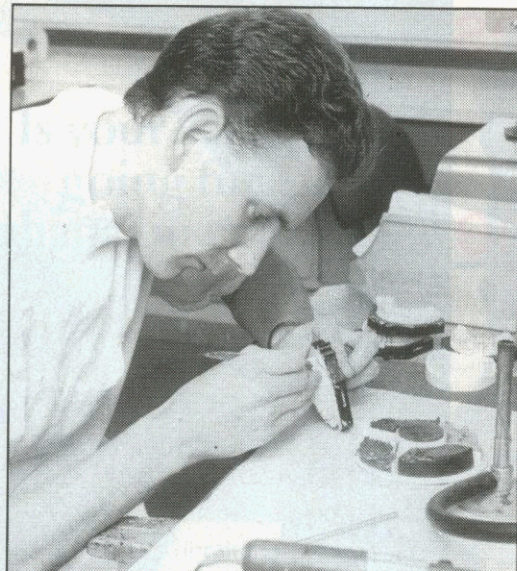
“Oral cancer is often fatal if allowed to go beyond the first stages. Regular checks mean we can recognise the signs of cancer and advise the patient to seek treatment

● Turn to next page

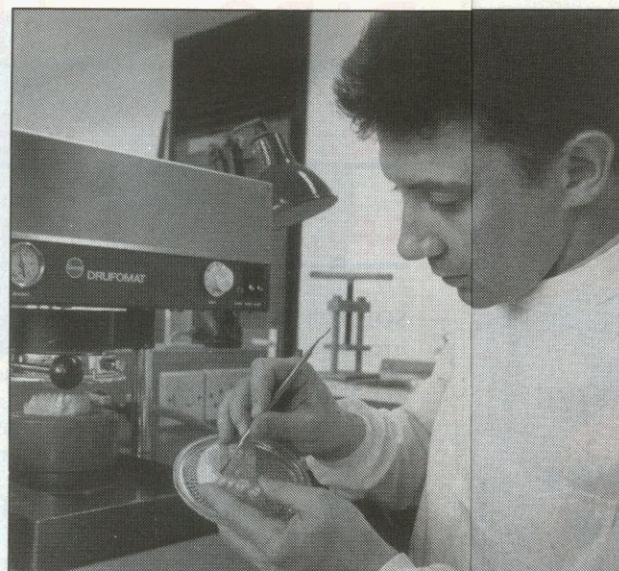
Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Perring



SSgt Mick Jackson casts a bridge



Sgt Bob Carew waxes an inlay in the lab



Sgt Ian Bullough trims a sports mouth guard

Teeth arm

● From Page 19

early on," explained Col Miller.

Dentists join the Army as university graduates and complete a Professionally Qualified Officer Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Though non-combatant, they are trained in military skills, including learning about life in the field.

During field conditions, there is a great tendency for minor infections to surface because of fatigue, irregular meals and reduced hygiene.

In the Falklands war this brought complications with soldiers' wisdom teeth, and earlier training stood dentists in good stead to cope with the problems.

Col Miller said: "It is important dentists understand and sympathise with the problems and way of life of the soldiers they will be living and working with and serving. That is why the course is so valuable."

Aldershot is the training centre for the Army's dental surgery assistants (known as dental clerk assistants) and dental hygienists.

Royal Navy students are accepted on the hygienists' course and spare places are offered to civilians, for qualifications for the General Dental Council Certificate in Proficiency in Dental Hygiene.

Because of the high pass rate there are far more applications for places than vacancies. There are also refresher courses for dentists.

There is an Advisory Wing which helps Army dentists worldwide on difficult cases. They simply send X-rays or an impression of the patients' teeth, describing the problem, and expert advice is on tap.

Col Miller said: "In civvy street there is not an exact equivalent. A lot of dentists outside wish there was."

In the unit, between 15 and 20 technicians (there are 50 worldwide) work on dentures, crowns and bridges.

The relatively new technique of adhesive bridging – in which the false tooth is fixed by sticking the bridge to the back of the neighbouring teeth instead of



Getting to grips with a patient who certainly won't complain is LCpl Joanne Christie, a trainee dental hygienist pictured using a dummy head. In the background senior tutor WO2 Ray Bevan instructs

crowning – takes up a great deal of behind-the-scenes work.

Another facility is for surgery ancillary staff. Once they have completed basic training they visit clinics at the unit to see surgery work and are introduced to it under supervision.

Are patients still as wary about a visit to the dentist?

"No," according to Col Miller. "These days they are reassured by better equipment and techniques."



Left – Col Jim Montgomery, adviser in general practice at the RADC HQ and Central Group in Aldershot, demonstrates the use of a steriliser to dental clerk assistant trainees. They are (from left) Pte Karen Birch, Cpl John Sanderson, Cpl Harry Gregory, Pte Clare Bristow and Pte Fiona Brown



Dental hygiene students pictured during anatomy instruction – Note the unusual props

Musket men bit bullet

THE Army Dental Corps was authorised by Royal Warrant in 1921 with 107 dental officers, 107 dental clerk assistants and 25 dental technicians.

But their museum in Aldershot, which is open to the public, traces Army dentistry back to the 1660s.

There is a flintlock musket, a reminder that regimental surgeons were required to preserve a soldier's teeth so that he could bite through the paper cartridge when loading.

Instruments to scale teeth were issued for this in the time of Charles II. The victories of the British soldiers under Wellington are remembered – a direct link with this period is an ivory-handled tooth extracting key, once the property of Napoleon.

It was during the South African War that British troops first received dental treatment in the field, with reminders of the frailty of vulcanite dentures when confronted with a diet of trek ox and Army biscuits!

Recognition of the soldier's need for treatment came from



Mrs Ann Hawkins, RADC museum attendant, and Lt Col Stuart Miller, Deputy Commander HQ and Central Group, scrutinise the famous Tonks drawings of facial injuries.

the First World War when hundreds of dentists served in uniform. There are examples of splints used in the treatment of jaw injuries.

War service brought honour for dentists and their medals are on display.

The royal prefix was granted in 1946 and bringing the corps up to date with modern conflict is a captured Argentine dental chair from the Falkland Islands.

Of special interest are the unique Tonks drawing of facial

injuries, on loan from the Royal College of Surgeons. Henry Tonks was among other things a Slade professor of fine art, and was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps in the First World War.

He worked with Sir Harold Gillier and Sir William Kelsey Fry, eminent maxillo-facial surgeons, at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

His drawings of the then new surgical specialities of plastic and maxillo-facial surgery are a fascinating record.



Pte Nasser Khan is a forecourt attendant in Doncaster when he is not soldiering in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia

Right - Behind those GI helmets and M16 rifles are the Sheffield-based lads of 2 Platoon, 4 Yorks

4 Yorks tuck into the American way of soldiering

What! No Yorkshire puddings?



PART-TIME soldiering has come a long way since Dad's Army - the Home Guard of the Second World War - and men and women of today's Territorial Army are training with Nato troops around the world.

Yorkshire's own Terriers, the 4th Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers, based in Sheffield, have just spent two weeks with American troops in the shadow of the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia.

This picture feature comes from the Wilton-based Army Mobile News Team who caught up with the lads and lasses from Sheffield (and Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley) during the exchange exercise Mulberry Tree.

Hosts for this exciting training package - and similarly "part-time" in their role - were the 2nd Battalion, 115th Infantry (1st Maryland) who form part of the Maryland National Guard.

About 120 Yorkies have returned from Fort Picket, a military training area 60 miles south-west of Richmond, Virginia. They were formed into a special company of four rifle platoons selected from Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield, with a headquarters platoon selected from all these areas.

Ypres Company - as this composite was called - bore the name of the battle honour at which Yorkshire soldiers first

fought alongside Americans in the trenches in France in 1918.

Said Lt Col Bob Jones, the American commanding officer: "We're very happy to host the 4th Yorks here at Fort Pickett. This is now the fourth time the Maryland NG has participated in the exchange programme with British units."

The exercise in Virginia lasted two weeks and Ypres Company covered the Light Fighter Course which included helicopter assaults, section defence, ambush, live firing, map reading, wide river crossings and, other infantry field skills.

Everything at Fort Pickett was done using US Army equipment, including weapons, ammunition, clothing and vehicles - confusing perhaps, but certainly different and very good for confidence-building.

The Yorkies also survived on US Army field rations - known as Meals Ready-to-Eat, or MREs - and were generously supplied with these for every lunch meal.

Most gave them a thumbs

by
Capt Chris Robinson

down for palatability and taste, however, although it was agreed they were nutritious and conveniently packaged.

In common with most TA units, 4 Yorks has a fair proportion of women soldiers - ten of whom went with the lads to Fort Pickett. But they were very much in a minority since the American National Guard does not have girls in its ranks for military training.

Naturally enough they were given lots of attention from their hosts.

The battalion's second-in-command, Maj Tony Podmore, commanded Ypres Company on this exchange exercise. B Company of the 2-115th were training at Thetford in Norfolk where they were using British Army equipment and weapons.

"The real value of this exchange is in the familiarisation and sharing of methods, tactics and mutual confidence," said Maj Podmore.

Maj Gen James Fretterd, the Adjutant General commanding the Maryland National Guard, paid 4 Yorks a visit and received greetings from Sheffield presented by CO, Lt Col Tim Isles, also on a brief visit to Fort Pickett.

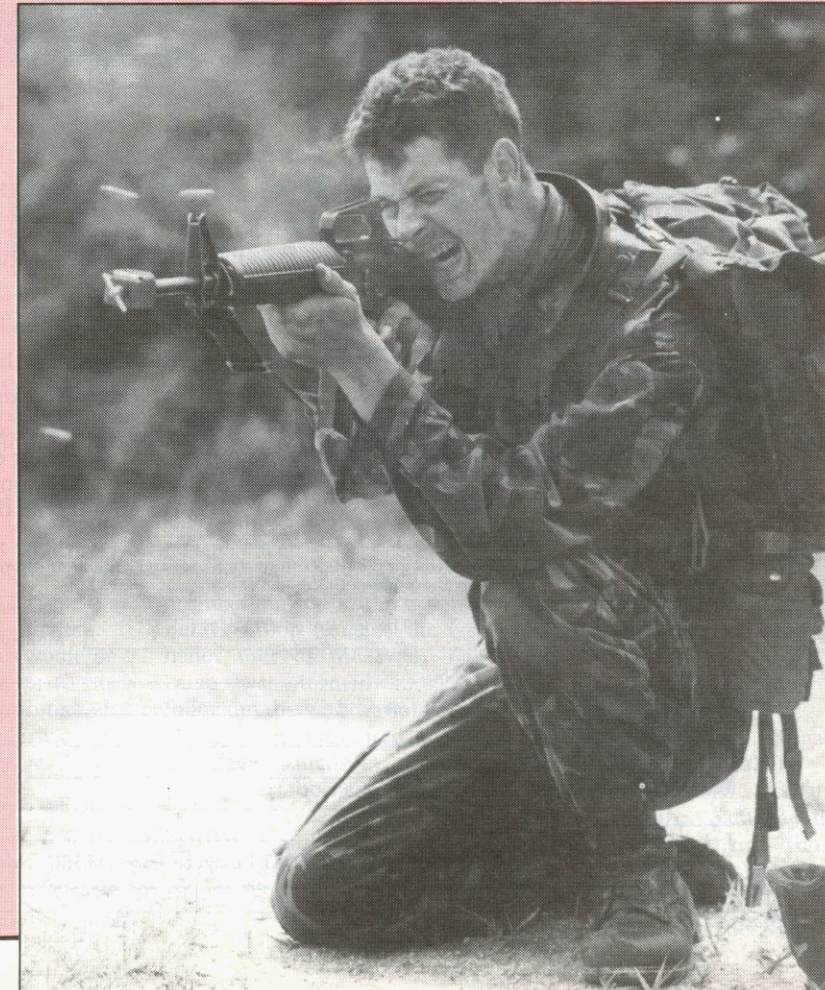
Pictures by
Sgt Dave Miles



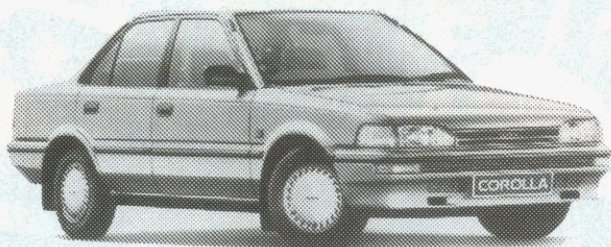
Above - Sixth form college student Pte Andrew Pearson from Gainsborough peers from a live-firing trench



Rotherham sign maker LCpl Mark Parkin gets to grips with US Army equipment during Mulberry Tree. He has been abroad four times in eight years with the Yorks



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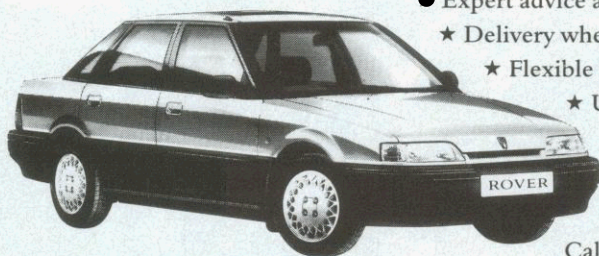
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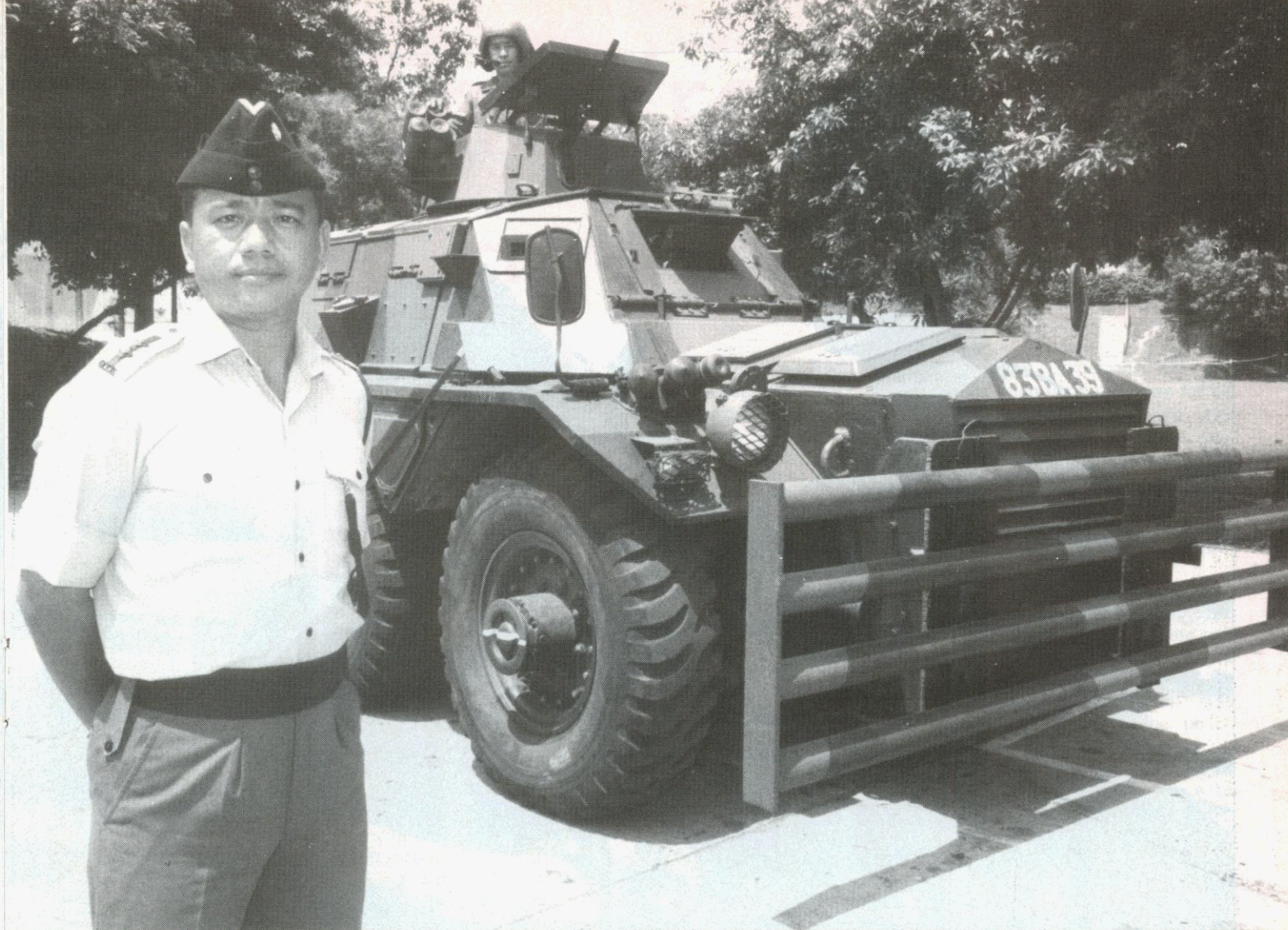
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Saracen Troop Commander is Lt (QGO) Rambhadr Gurung. He joined the troop as a driver and is now the man in charge

Saracen's still going strong

FORMATION of the Royal Corps of Transport 25 years ago led to the Gurkha Army Service Corps being retitled the Gurkha Transport Regiment.

Its composition then included a pack transport squadron consisting of 72 mules and 136 men. This archaic but efficient mode of transport, used to move ammunition and stores across difficult ground, was to survive for a few more years before the increased use of helicopters led to its disbandment.

One particular troop of today's regiment has maintained its link with another old form of transport – a 40-year-old armoured personnel carrier.

Design of the Saracen APC began shortly after the end of the Second World War. Alvis of Coventry delivered the first production vehicles in late 1952.

Through the 1950s and early

1960s the Saracen was the standard APC of the British Army until it was replaced from 1963 onwards by the FV432 tracked vehicle.

Based at the imposing Gun Club Hill barracks, 28 Squadron GTR provides transport support in Kowloon and maintains 48 Brigade's armoured personnel carriers.

The ageing vehicles would be used to get infantry on to the streets while offering protection from gunfire and bricks or anything else thrown at them.

The outmoded Saracens have survived in Hong Kong where they remain effective for Internal Security operations. The

modus operandi has not really changed over the years and is unlikely to do so between now and 1997 so there are no plans to replace them, especially as the Army operates in support of the Police, who themselves have Saracen.

More than 200 Saracens were originally in use in the Colony, but C Troop remains the last major user of the type. The troop was formed in 1976 following the withdrawal of the Hong Kong armoured reconnaissance squadron. Initially established for nine vehicles, its current establishment of 30 Saracens was introduced in 1982.

Various types are

held. Mark 1 and 2 vehicles are still used but have undergone many modifications over the years. Mark 5s and 6s are also used by the troop. These are up-armoured versions that saw service in Northern Ireland, and are all fitted with general purpose machine guns and smoke dischargers which make them ideal protection platforms for IS operations.

The troop comes under the operational control of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade. Should the battalions be dispatched to an operation which requires Saracen, they would send their vehicle commanders to the hangars at Gun Club Hill barracks where

● Turn to Page 27

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring



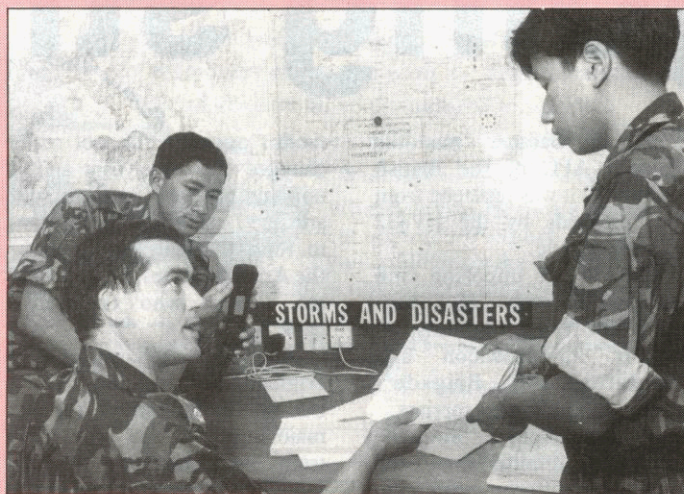
Cpl Sharon Drew, WRAC, and Pte Ngo Tak Ping of Headquarters Support Troops, observe proceedings from a roof top near Kai Tak airport

In support of the garrison

NEWEST unit in Hong Kong is Headquarters Support Troops, formed last year to provide better administration of the many thousands of soldiers stationed in Hong Kong Garrison.

The headquarters is based in Osborn Barracks and administers more than 20 diverse support units ranging from Queen's Gurkha Engineers to the Command Library, BFBS and the Ministry of Defence Chinese Language School.

During SOLDIER's visit,



Man in charge of "Storms and Disasters" during the Support Troops' command post exercise was Capt Dominic Dobson, Scots Guards, seen here discussing the weather situation with Cpl Ram Pomn and Pte Chau Ting Wai

the HQ's first command post exercise (CPX) was taking place and involved the protection of a number of local defence areas.

It also provided good practice for disaster relief when military aid to the civil powers was implemented.

They're in their element at sea

THE Gurkha Transport Regiment is the most junior regiment in the Brigade of Gurkhas. Commanded by Lt Col Paul Gilham, RCT, it takes charge of all second line road and maritime transport assets in the Colony. Its area of responsibility includes 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade and Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong.

The regiment has four squadrons. Its Headquarters Squadron, which also administers 415 Maritime Troop RCT and a troop in Brunei, shares the facilities of Gun Club Hill Barracks in Kowloon with 28 Squadron GTR.

HMS Tamar is home to the regiment's Chinese element, 29 Squadron RCT. Its drivers, all Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel but RCT cap-badged, are responsible for administrative transport support for the whole of Hong Kong Island.

At steamy Sek Kong in the New Territories, 31 Squadron GTR supports all units based

north of the Lion Rock Tunnel.

An impressive base by any standards is the imposing Victorian splendour of Gun Club Hill Barracks. This oasis of tranquillity in the centre of bustling Kowloon has been appreciated by many an unknowing cinema-goer, for the magnificent officers' mess has appeared in several films, most recently in one starring Hong Kong film idol Jackie Chan.

Home for 415 Maritime Troop RCT is secluded Stonecutter's Island. Commanded by Capt Richard Mence, the troop takes great pride in its fleet of three RCLs (Ramped Craft Logistic), *Andalsnes*, *Akyab* and *Abbeville*.

These small landing craft are designed for use in coastal waters and ports, and can carry 100 soldiers or four large cargo trucks. They were used to move Vietnamese boat people from camps on outlying islands and to supply them with water and stores.

The situation was not

without excitement. On one occasion the police were forced off an island by rioting boat people and 415 Troop was responsible for landing reinforcements so that order could be restored. "This was the first opposed landing since the Falklands," Capt Mence proclaimed proudly.

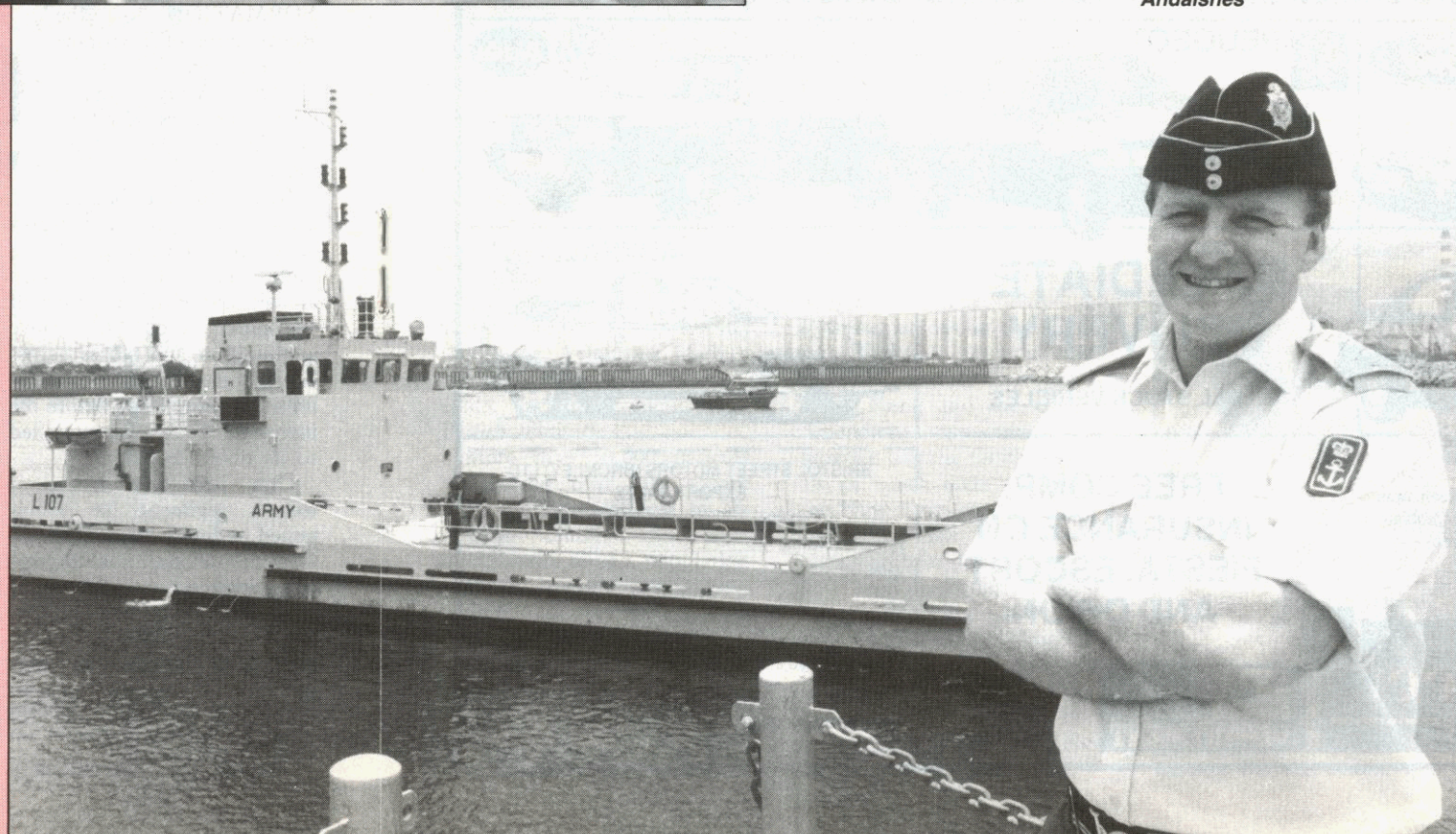
At the height of the boat people sailing season, the landing craft were making two runs a day. Each one carried a police squad on board to prevent trouble and was escorted by a marine police launch.

"It can be quite wearing, but all the crew feel they were contributing something to the well-being of the whole Colony. It's not just exercising, it's helping out the Hong Kong Government," said Capt Mence.

"It can be quite a dirty job at times, but it is also heartbreaking at times to see these people. They bring the whole family including aged relatives, babes-in-arms and the disabled."

Whatever the task presented to them, the men of 415 Maritime Troop take things as they come with calm efficiency.

Pride of the troop. Capt Richard Mence with the RCL *Andalsnes*



Saracen

● From Page 25

driver and APCs would be waiting to deploy to pick up their infantry sections.

Courses on Saracen are no longer run by the Army, so C Troop has devised its own. Twenty weeks of the year are taken up with Saracen instructor, driver and commander courses.

"Add to that training exercises and other commitments, and you will see we don't have much time to spare," said Maj Shaun Cowlam.

"The men are all very keen because the troop offers them a role that is that little bit different."

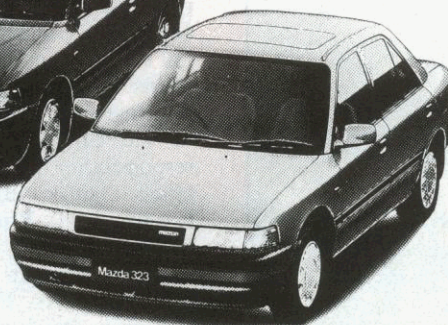
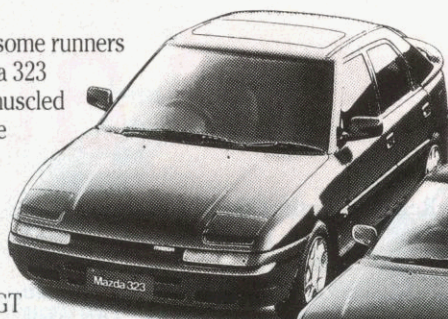
Small wonder the troop has no shortage of volunteers wishing to have a go at working on those ageing wonders – the Gurkha Saracens.

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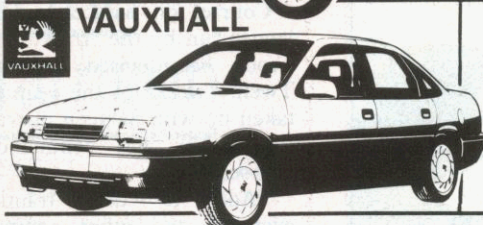
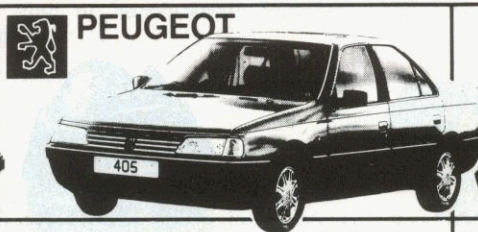
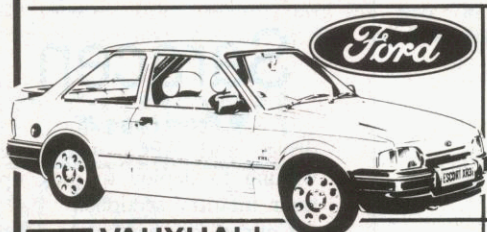
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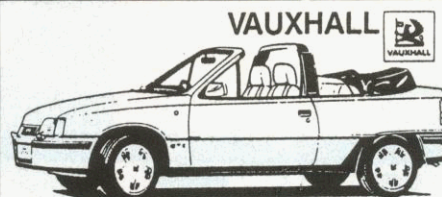
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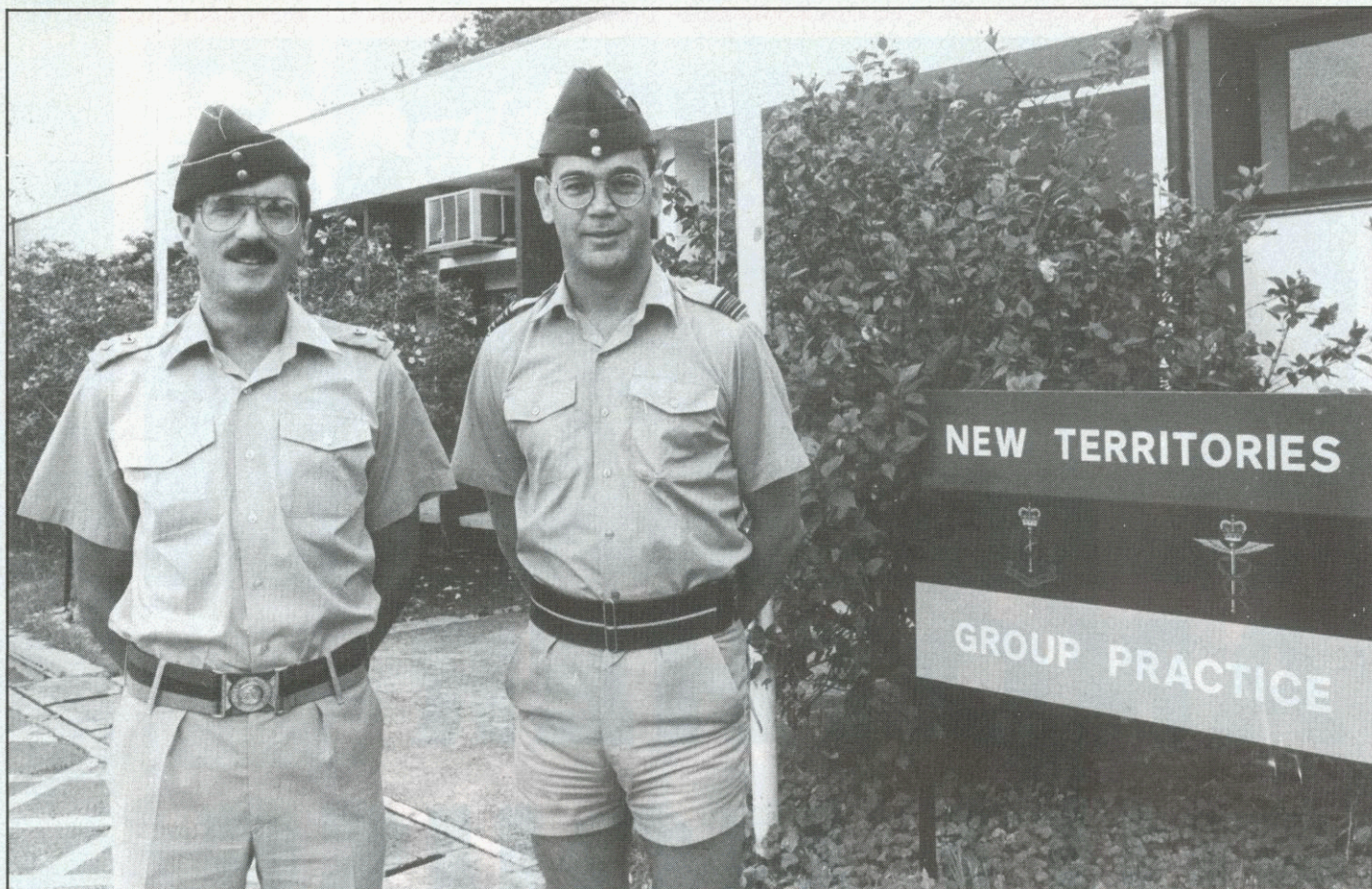
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Commanding officer Lt Col Bob Jones and Sqn Ldr Martin Carroll outside the most exotic general practice on British territory

A RATHER EXOTIC PRACTICE

NOT FAR north of Kowloon lies a green Shangri-La – an oriental cocktail of tropical forest, paddy fields and traditional Chinese duck and fish farms. Monkeys, snakes and wild pigs abound.

It is also home to 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade and RAF Sek Kong – and the area covered by the New Territories Group Practice, described as the most exotic general practice on British territory.

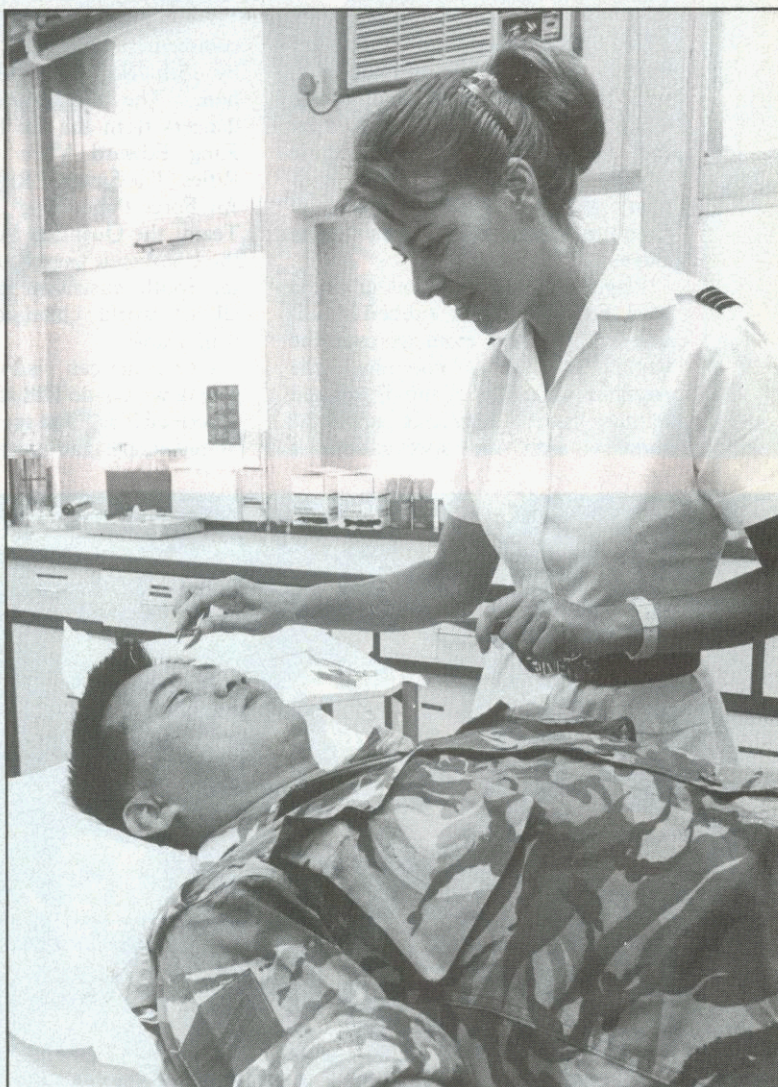
More than 10,000 patients are spread over 200 square miles and administered by six medical centres and eight doctors who serve a population of British, Gurkha and Chinese patients.

It is an independently commanded primary care unit co-ordinated from the Central Training group practice at Borneo Lines in the lushness of Sek Kong.

A joint Army-RAF unit in all but establishment, it has an operational and military training role, the Army element in support of 48 Brigade and the RAF in aeromedical evacuation.

Morning sick parade is held with a difference. There are separate parades for each of the three racial groups that comprise British Services in Hong Kong and the Gurkha dependants are treated in separate Gurkha family hospitals, of which there are five in the New Territories.

Staff at the practice are responsible for pest control and have been particularly successful in keeping down the malarial parasite during the breeding seasons. Said the commanding officer, Lt Col Bob Jones: "There hasn't been a case of the disease in the New Territories for three years."



A little TLC (tender loving care) always does the patient a world of good. Here Sister "JD" Pullen, Princess Marina's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, cleans up a wound on Cpl Cheung Kwok Leung



ANOTHER FULL HOUSE

Edinburgh Military
Tattoo 1990

THE 1990 Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the British Army's contribution to the prestigious Edinburgh Festival, was a vintage one even by the discerning standards of those whose memories take them back many years on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, writes **John Boyes**.

Playing to packed houses in which local Edinburgh folk rubbed shoulders with visitors from all over the world, the tattoo combined the pageantry of the pipes and drums and military bands – so much a part of the show – with the spectacle of a

commemoration of the Bruneval raid by 15th (Scottish) Volunteer Battalion, The Parachute Regiment; dancers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles); the Royal Air Force Police Dog Demonstration Team; the Quantico Marine Band of the US Marine Corps; and the band of the South Australian Police with the all-girl world champion Australian drill team.

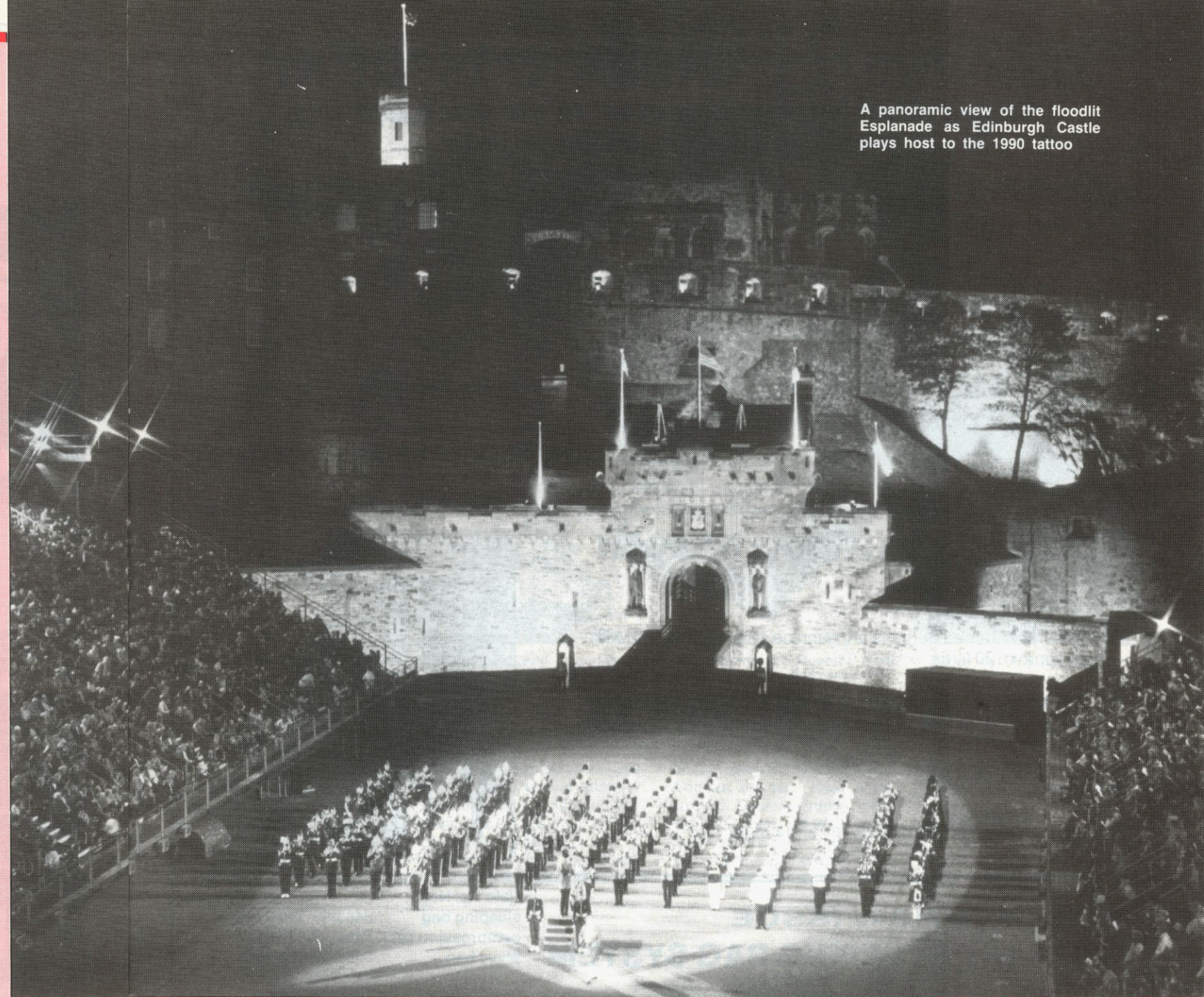
One American visitor, making his way down Castle Hill after the tattoo, described it as "The greatest highlight of the whole European tour".

Above – The Australian world champion drill team steps out

Below right – The Massed Pipes and Drums under the direction of Drum Major Kip Locke, KOSB

Below centre – Enjoying the Edinburgh sunset from the castle walls are Pte Callum Keen, Cpl Ian Brown and Pte Kevin Grattan

Below left – LCpl John Stark and LCpl Susan Clarke, both TA soldiers involved in manning the tattoo spotlights, say farewell to Adelaide, the mascot of the Australian drill team



A panoramic view of the floodlit Esplanade as Edinburgh Castle plays host to the 1990 tattoo



Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson

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Royal Scot wins Queen's Medal

Lt Angus McLeod won the Queen's Medal firing the SA 80 at the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley and was a member of the team which won the Inter-Services pistol match, the Henry Whitehead Cup.

Recce Platoon commander in the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), Lt McLeod is based at Werl in West Germany.

He beat 475 other competitors to become the first Royal Scot to win the Queen's Medal.

McLeod also won the first stage of the Army pistol championship and was first in the Association and Roberts Cup competitions. He was also selected for the Army rifle and pistol teams and was a member of the Great Britain Service rifle team which won the international match against Canada, Australia, Jamaica and the Oman.



Lt Angus McLeod is congratulated on winning the Queen's Medal at Bisley by Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces

6/7 make John's day

FOR more than ten years Capt John Day has worked tirelessly to make his 6/7 Queens (V) team the Territorial Army champions at Bisley.

In spite of three false starts on the section shoot the team

not only won the 51st Highland Cup but also came third in the coveted Dragon Trophy competition. In all, the 6/7 Queens team picked up four third places, a fourth, a seventh and a ninth place.

6 GR in great form

THE 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles team which did so well at the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley also won the Hong Kong meeting, winning 13 trophies, and picked up 11 more at the National Rifle Association meeting at Bisley.

Eight members of the Hong Kong-based unit also went to Australia as part of the British Army rifle team that competed in the Australian international class Services rifle championships.

At RASAM 90, 6 GR's eight-man team won the Major Unit Championship Trophy and was first overall in the final results. QLR were second, followed by 1/2 GR, WFR, 2/2 GR, 1 WG, 2 UDR, 10 GR, 6 UDR and 7 GR.

Cpl Shushilkumar Gurung, 6 GR, won the Coronation Cup and teammate Rfn Lalitbahadur Gurung won the Graham Trophy.

In the NRA meeting, the 6 GR team won the Canadian Shield and the African, Nappin and Robert Cup competitions, as well as seven individual titles.



WO2 John Tyson fires the L96 rifle during a sniper match on Connaught Ranges near Ottawa. He and nine other members of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment were in Canada to represent the British Army rifle team in the Canadian Skill at Arms Meeting.

The Woofers, currently based in Northern Ireland, have built up an outstanding reputation at Bisley, winning the championship three times in

the past 20 years and finishing second four times.

Cpl Paul Brunt, the 1989 Queen's Medal winner at Bisley, was a member of the team, which was led by Maj David Elsam.

LCpl Simon Askew won a LMG match and LCpl Cliff Clifton was a member of the winning LMG aggregate pair. Lt Simon Glover won the series B pistol competition and Brunt the 400m walking man match.

Just another digit in the homeless trap

FORMER Sgt W is just another statistic in the recently published National Audit Office report on Homelessness.

So are his wife and four children.

After 15 years in the British Army, Sgt W is living in a sub-standard third-floor maisonette. He has little chance of being rehoused. Neither does his next-door neighbour, who also happens to be an ex-Serviceman.

Time ran out on them when they overstayed their welcome in a Ministry of Defence married quarter, and the subsequent court proceedings landed them where they are now.

According to the NAO report more than 300,000 people were homeless in England last year, putting ever more pressure on temporary accommodation or unsatisfactory bed and breakfast arrangements.

Both Sgt W and his wife have jobs, but the various Government initiatives to help rehouse families appear to have passed them by. The Serviceman doesn't get cash incentives of up to £10,000 to move from leasehold MQ into the private sector.

Nor does he get a nomination direct from his irregular MQ occupancy to a housing association property. This is one area which the MoD is looking into.

The NAO report

Costly indecision

ANYONE who took out PAX insurance before August 12 is covered for the Gulf. After that date there is an exclusion clause.

But the insurance companies who refuse Gulf cover or invoke an exclusion clause have every right to do so. It's a bit like seeking medical insurance immediately before a major operation - it will either be very expensive or refused.

Those who took out PAX "just in case" were the wise ones.

In my view...

draws attention to empty Government properties. A Department of Environment enquiry threw up 18,761 empty properties, 500 more than the figure returned by Government departments themselves.

Lack of information makes it difficult to establish to what extent these properties could be made available to help local authorities house the homeless - including ex-Servicemen.

The Ministry of Defence has told me it hopes, by the end of the year, to reveal a number of schemes to help Service personnel with their future housing needs.

I do hope so, for with more and more local authorities stating that they cannot house Service personnel because of the number of empty MoD properties, the Serviceman appears to be a pawn in the housing game.

The Treasury wants the best deal it can get on empty stock. Local authorities cannot oblige. None of the Government incentives applies to the Services.

It seems like a Catch 22 situation to me.

In brief

BOARDING School Allowance was increased for the autumn 1990 term. The new rates are:

● BSA Lower - junior school £1,330 a term (£3,990 a year).

● BSA Higher - senior school £1,655 a term (£4,965 a year).

● SENA - for children with special needs £2,205 a term (£6,615 a year).

★ ★ ★ ★

CHECK how a change from one arm or corps to another may affect your pay. Transfer Pay is held at the current rate for six months, but may be reassessed when the soldier is tested for the employment. A subsequent reduction could cause financial problems.

★ ★ ★ ★

SERVICE families wishing to apply for the orange badge parking concession for the handicapped in Germany should send appropriate medical documents to Mr James, Chief Police Officer, JSLO Grunewaldstr (beem Nordpark), 4000 Dusseldorf 30 (tel 0211 416503).



Parliamentary Under Secretary Gillian Shephard with the new leaflet



Serviceman Stephen Ford's wide grin says it all. Satisfaction and achievement that he has built his own four-bedroom house.

After a year's hard work he moved in during August having spent £54,000 on a house now valued at more than £72,000.

Stephen is one of two Servicemen who became members of the Ayre Self-Build Housing Association and have now constructed their own

The house that Stephen built

properties on the site. Not far away in Dumbarton a Serviceman is treasurer of the Bonhill Self-Build Association.

A number of agencies are offering to include Service personnel and ex-Servicemen in their schemes, and you can

get more details from Community Self-Build, 18 Northampton Square, London EC1V 0AJ (tel 071-496 5563).

Self-build is a viable option, but remember that "Home, sweat and blood" takes dedication and a lot of hard work.

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley 29653

AT LONG LAST!

Cyprus wives' pension worry

GREAT news! The revamped Department of Social Security guide for Service families going abroad has been published.

It has taken eight long and frustrating years for it to appear, but the new 46-page leaflet* is now available from a number of sources, including Army units, SSAFA offices, BFPOs and Hives. If you can't get one, write to me.

It is an excellent leaflet and I hope all Service families will use it for guidance.

The man we have to thank for the new FB5 is Mr Ernie Pinnell of the DSS, who put in a year of hard work to sift, sort, research and rewrite several years' worth of drafts in order to

New FB5 published

get the copy ready for printing in mid-August.

The first FB5 for Service families going abroad was published in 1982 after I had asked the then Minister, Mrs Lynda Chalker, if her department could produce such a leaflet. It took just a year.

The second edition was a different story. With so much legislation changing, the first version was well and truly out of date within a few years but repeated requests to the DSS bore no fruit.

At last a draft was

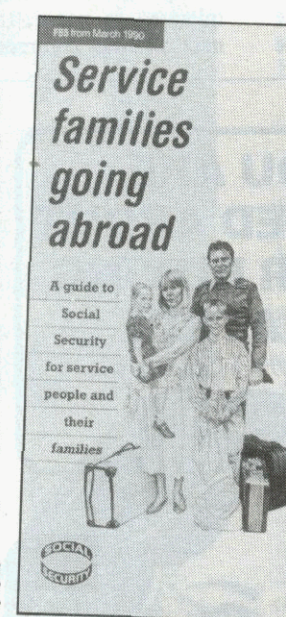
produced, but it contained at least 100 errors and was promptly cancelled.

In October 1987 Minister Michael Portillo wrote to tell me a new edition would be available early in the New Year. It wasn't. Some 20 Government branches had to agree the draft copy, rules and regulations changed, and the delay dragged on.

By now FB5 was in a state of limbo, but a direct appeal to current DSS Under Secretary Gillian Shephard in January 1989 had the desired affect and Mr Pinnell set to work.

Make sure you get a copy.

*FB5 (March 1990). Service Families Going Abroad. A guide to Social Security for Service people and their families.



DIY sites available

SERVING and ex-Service personnel are being offered up to 15 places on two "build-it-yourself" schemes near Southampton.

The sites are among 71 units at Totton and 38 at Weston, and the scheme offers one-bedroom flats and houses and two and three-bedroom houses at prices ranging from £35,000 to £53,000.

Those sums reflect a 70 per cent saving on current market values, and 100 per cent mortgages (on the self-build price) are available irrespective of income.

There is a training programme included in the cost of each unit, to be provided by Wimpey. It sounds attractive for those contemplating a resettlement course on bricks and mortar.

Other sites being evaluated are at Peterborough, Wellingborough, Plymouth, Weymouth, Brackley,

Greenhithe, Ivybridge, Bognor Regis and north-west London.

Details of mortgages, repayment schemes, unemployment and income support, and the various schemes can be obtained from Build It Yourself, PO Box 1172, London NW4 1TY (tel 081-203 2244).

Ring 081-547 2080 for information on the National Self-Build Homes Show from September 27 to 29.



Slowly does it. New road signs and "sleeping policemen" like those pictured above on a married patch in Aldershot Garrison have been praised by Jean Wenger, technical director of the National Playing Fields Association. "These signs are the first I have seen in conjunction with the road humps," he said. "I hope more family estates will follow the MoD's example to help keep road accidents down in areas where children play."

Sale deadline relaxed

SERVICE personnel stuck with homes they cannot sell on posting can benefit from a Treasury concession designed to alleviate the effects of the slump in the housing market.

The concession allows an extension to the admissible six-month period for house sale on posting.

At the nine-month point

evidence must be submitted that the house is still on the market at a realistic price and that sales are actively being sought.

After 12 months a letter must be obtained from an estate agent stating that the house is still on the market at a realistic price.

No further action is then required until the house is

sold or the Serviceman has less than 12 months to serve at his duty station.

A Serviceman who buys a house at a new duty station with less than 12 months to serve there will not be eligible for house purchase expenses.

Involuntary separation status will not be extended beyond the 12-month point.

MY postbag suggests that there is a growing number of Service wives who are giving up trying to trace the National Insurance contributions they have paid into the Cypriot system.

How many of these contributions are ever credited to the records of Service wives is a mystery, and the time it takes to trace an individual case means few are ever resolved.

Lost contributions must run into thousands of pounds a year.

I wrote to Gillian Shephard, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, asking how Service wives could transfer their Cypriot National Insurance contributions to their United Kingdom record.

Her answer shows the difficulties our wives encounter and why so many contributions are lost.

"... Cypriot contributions are never transferred to this country. There is therefore no special action to take before leaving. If the insured person later wishes to claim benefit from either country, he or she should give details of his or her insurance under both schemes."

"The Social Security authorities of the country in which the claim was made will then liaise with the other country."

"Obviously, those who knows they cannot satisfy the conditions for a particular benefit in one country because, for example, they have not paid any contributions since their last arrival there, should send their claim direct to the other country."

Who is going to help those wives who, 20 or 30 years from now, find that on turning 60 they are still a few years' worth of National Insurance contributions short of qualifying for a UK state pension?

QUOTES TO END ALL QUOTES

"TO be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace," said George Washington in a speech to Congress in 1790 – a comment that remains true 200 years later.

The subject of warfare and the military has for centuries provided a rich and fertile breeding ground for the

historian and compiler of quotations. Now three separate hardback compilations have been published that should wet the appetites of those who appreciate the humour and pathos to be found in the words of soldiers and statesmen.

Popular in victory and tolerated in peace, the bitterness of the common soldier

towards the fickle attitude of public and media was never more sharply captured than by Rudyard Kipling's poem *Tommy* a century ago:

"It's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
'Chuck Him out, the brute!'
But it's 'Saviour of 'is country'
when the
guns began to shoot." – LM

An Anthology of Military Quotations edited by Michael Dewar. Published by Robert Hale. Price £14.95.

The Dictionary of War Quotations edited by Justin Wintle. Published by Hodder & Stoughton. Price £17.95.

A Dictionary of Military Quotations compiled by Trevor Royle. Published by Routledge. Price £14.99.

Tide turned on miracle of Dunkirk

BRITAIN faced the greatest military disaster in its history in May 1940. The British Expeditionary Force – which included virtually all of the country's combat-ready troops, cadre and officers – had been sent across the English Channel to help the French halt the advancing Nazi armies.

But the French army collapsed under the impact of the German onslaught and the BEF, driven back, found itself trapped against the sea at Dunkirk.

It appeared to be faced with a choice of slaughter or surrender.

A plan was hastily devised to dispatch ships and boats of all kinds and sizes to Dunkirk to save at least some of the troops crowding the beaches. It was an act of desperation.

The Germans were closing in and the area was under ferocious air attack by the Luftwaffe. Winston Churchill warned the Commons to brace itself for "hard and heavy tidings".

Dunkirk: The Incredible Escape by American journalist Norman Gelb is a day-to-day reconstruction of events and includes first-hand accounts from the men on the beaches and those responsible for the rescue operation.

Gelb reveals that in Washington, in the light of Britain's hopeless prospects, plans were

made to annex British colonies including the West Indies to prevent them falling into German hands. The dispatch of troops to Latin America, which was believed to be Hitler's next target, was also discussed.

Finally, Gelb considers the enormous significance of Dunkirk for Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States – "the escape from Dunkirk was one of those rare events when, in a matter of only a few days, accident and design conspired to check and ultimately turn the tide of history."

Also published is *The Ships That Saved An Army*, which claims to be a comprehensive record of the 1,300 "Little Ships" of Dunkirk. It records the individual vessels involved and their contribution to the evacuation. More than 100 are still afloat today.

As well as a wealth of previously unpublished photographs there are comments from survivors of Dunkirk who explain what it was really like to be a part of history. – LM

Dunkirk: The Incredible Escape by Norman Gelb. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £15.99.

The Ships That Saved An Army by Russell Plummer. Published by Patrick Stephens Limited. Price £17.99.

BOOK REVIEWS

Picture of the Para

MAGNIFICENT photographs characterise *Red On ... Go!* by Jon Davison, one of many publications marking the 50th year of the formation of the Parachute Regiment.

The book – a "visual celebration" of the anniversary – is dedicated to the RAF Parachute Jumping Instructors, past and present, of No 1 Parachute Training School. Part of the proceeds will benefit the PJI Welfare Fund, which provides support to instructors and the families of instructors who have been injured or have died during their work.

Complementing the photography are the individual experiences of present-day despatchers, loadmasters, pilots, parachute packers, free-fallers and manufacturers, the last being Irvin Great Britain, who sponsored this publication.

Irvin also made parachutes when it all started 50 years ago and I still have the badge they gave me in 1944 when I did a conversion course at Ringway.

I found the short historical introduction disappointing, having done my initial training at Ramat David, Palestine, in 1943, where we learnt "ground rolls" by jumping off the back of a moving 15cwt.

There is no mention of this, or the infamous Whitley bomber, from which you exited through a hole in the floor of the fuselage and got a broken nose – "ringing the bell" – or a broken back.

Nor is there any mention of the famous Tatton Park, where a memorial exists to all those who did their drops from balloons – including the fearful night descent and aircraft from Ringway.

Apart from this the excellent photographs do achieve the object of letting the reader experience something of this exciting world, aided by the feelings and emotions of the people who operate in it. I am glad to see they have still got the dreaded fan! – PSN

Red On ... Go! by Jon Davison. Published by Inspired Images Ltd, 12 New High Street, Headington, Oxon. Price £6.95.



Members of the RAF Falcons parachute display team dropped in on distinguished guests at Weston-On-The-Green near Oxford with copies of *Red On ... Go!*, marking the 50th anniversary of Britain's No 1 Parachute Training School

Brute force is crucial factor

MOST of us like to believe in the David and Goliath principle under which a good little 'un can beat a big 'un – especially if the big 'un' is a bully – but, in most case histories of war, evidence confirms the opposite.

In the words of Erwin Rommel: "The battle is fought and decided by the Quartermaster before the shooting begins."

This quotation is used by John Ellis in his *Brute Force: Allied Strategy and Tactics in the Second World War* to reinforce his argument that Allied victory rested upon great matériel and manpower reserves and the chronic weaknesses of the German war economy.

Additionally, in the author's words, "... my contention is that American, Russian and British commanders made considerably less than optimum use of the resources at their disposal and in almost every

theatre serious mistakes were made."

It must be said that mistakes creep into even this well-organised book; on page 426 we are informed that Montgomery's set-piece crossing of the Rhine took place on March 2!

In chapters entitled "Blitzkrieg Founders" and "The Long Retreat", Ellis argues that brute force is the main factor in war, cataloguing the swing of advantage from the Germans to the Russians in terms of ordnance and manpower.

Of the war in the air, the author sets out to prove that the "few" of 1940 were not as under-strength as the Luftwaffe was at the time.

At sea, we are told, "... victory in the Atlantic depended on German industrial weakness, on the simple fact that the Allies could build merchant ships faster than the Germans could sink them."

Montgomery comes in for strong criticism. For instance, "... Montgomery's deployment of this overwhelming force showed a remarkable lack of originality or verve. The pace of his operations was as slow as ever."

In his "Conclusion" the author refers to the possibility of Nato being forced to resort to nuclear weapons because the British merchant fleet and heavy industrial engineering base have been eroded.

Even if one thinks this massive study (600 pages of argument plus a comprehensive bibliography and index) is a heavy hammer used to crack some cherished nuts of belief, the logic of the "Conclusion" must be acknowledged. – BJ

Brute Force: Allied Strategy and Tactics in the Second World War by John Ellis. Published by Andre Deutsch. Price £19.95.

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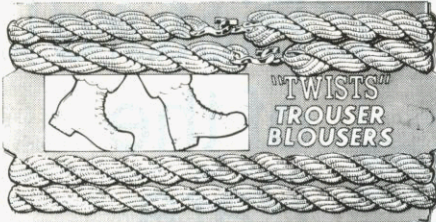
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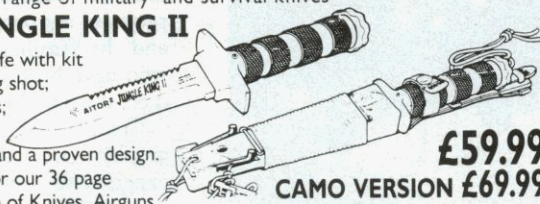
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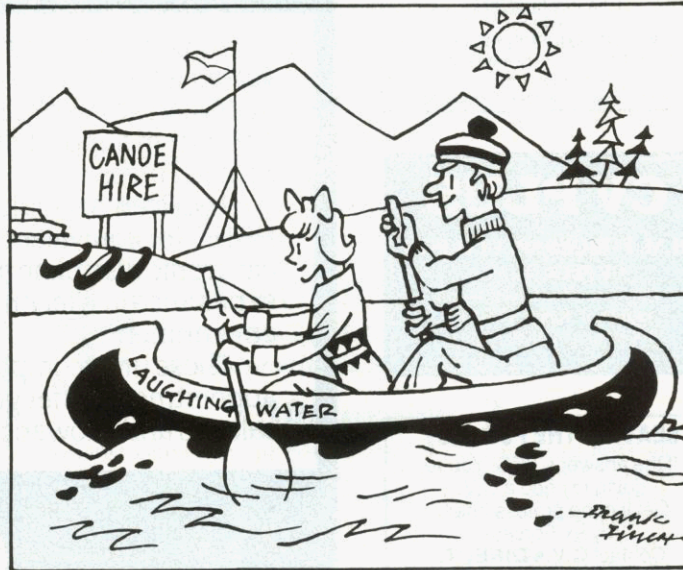
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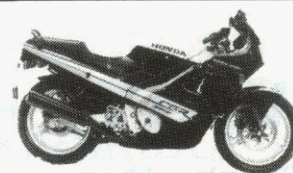
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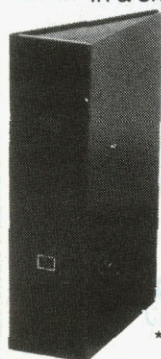
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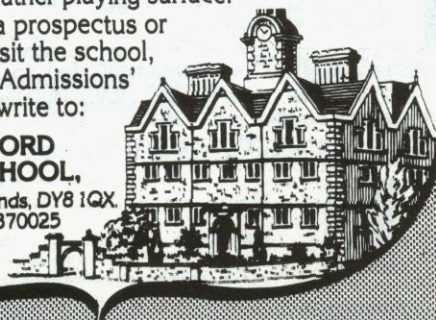
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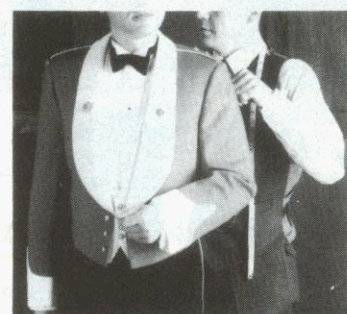
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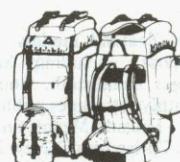
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Why not start collecting Coronation, Jubilee, school, sports, masonic, buffs, Red Cross, nurses, tokens, military and miscellaneous medals and badges. Send stamp for free list to: 18 Hollybank Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 2SY.

Amazing videos! Many specialist subjects of interest to readers of this magazine. Unavailable elsewhere. SAE brings lists. Mike Connor, 70 Kingsdown Avenue, Great Barr, Birmingham B42 1NF.

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Information Wanted

Information on Sherwood Foresters in WWII, and from anyone from that regiment that knew Arthur Holt during the war. M Nicklen, 19/50 MSL Regt RA, BFPO 112. 43 90

Property

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Clacton-on-Sea. 3 bedroom, bathroom, separate toilet, two receptions, large garden, garage, close to shops, schools etc. £75,000 ono. Hayward Tel: 0255 428571. 45 90

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Eastbourne. Three bed L shaped house, Spanish style, tiled roof, garage, secluded south facing garden and patio enclosed by courtyard walls, adjacent Marina site, marvellous walks along coast. Rent income £475 per month. £75,000 incl. carpets, curtains. Phone: 0323 643837. 45 90

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Brompton-on-Swale, near Catterick. Detached bungalow, three bedrooms, GCH, in quiet cul-de-sac. Recently valued £62,000. For quick sale £57,000. Tel: 0476 65367. 43 90

Reunions

Rocket Troop Reunion 1990. The 'O' Bty the Rocket Troop Reunion will take place on the 27th October 1990 in Manchester. For further information contact WO2 (SMIG) Palys (Titch), RAGTE, BFPO 30. 41 90

Athens 1946/47 Headquarters British Military Mission (Greece) reunion at Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London SE1. Write Ernie Farman c/o Union Jack Club. 41 90

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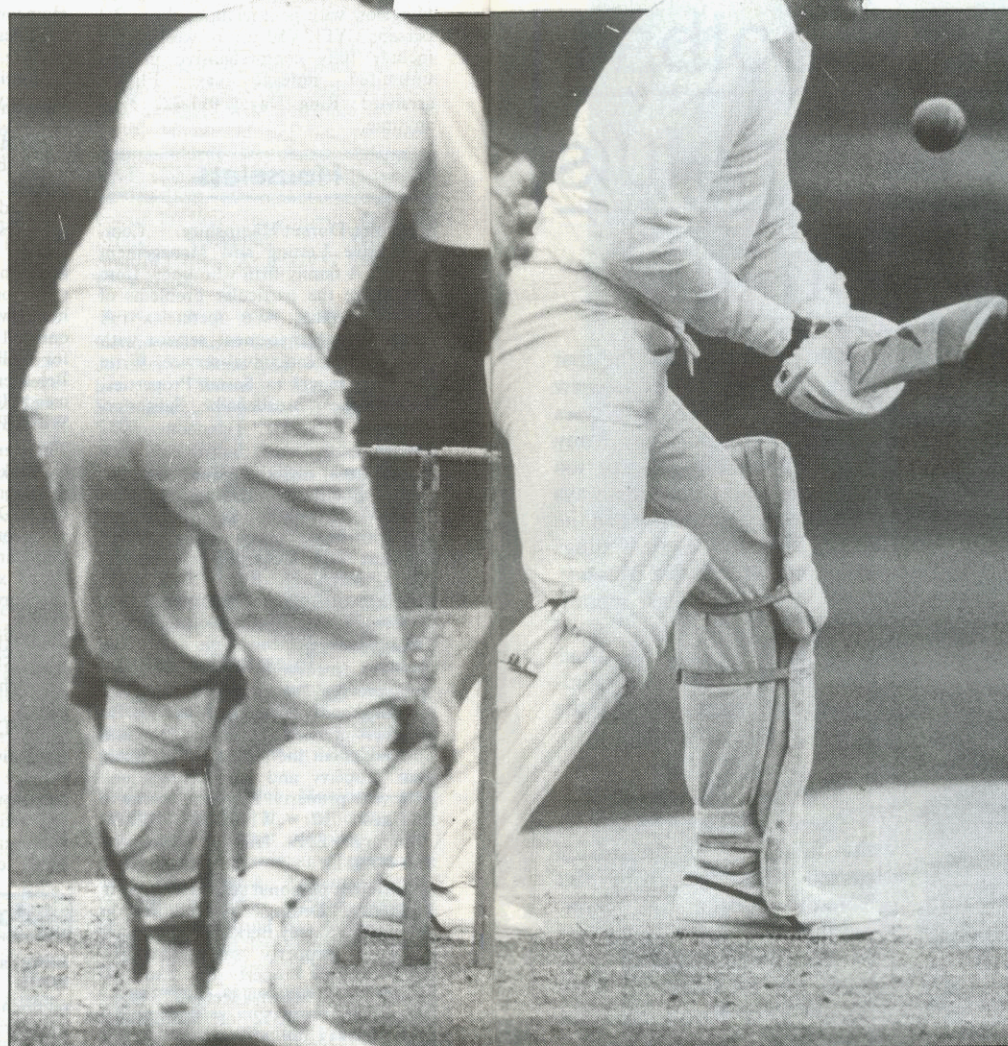
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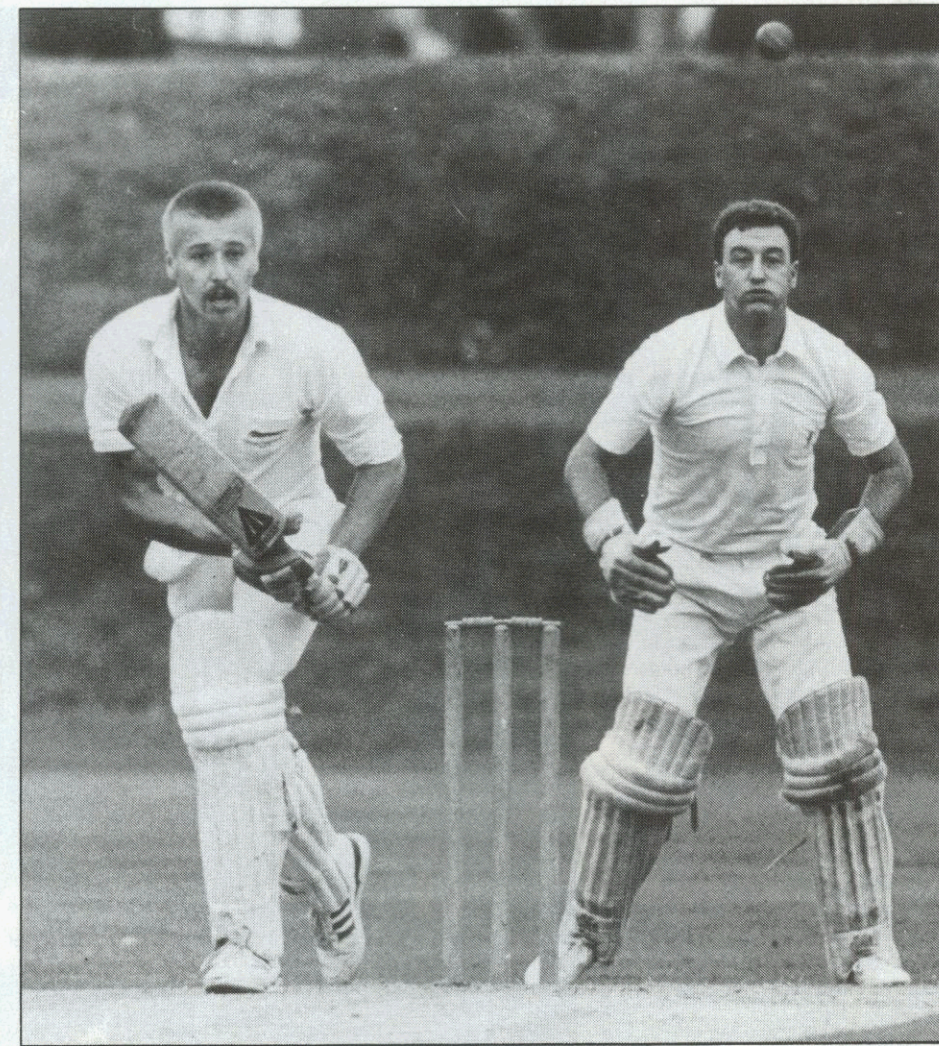
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Gnr Stuart McGown of RSA/14 Fd Regt RA attacks during the Major Units final



LCpl Andy Hoskin of 3rd Wksp REME leaves a rising ball during the Minor Units final



Cfn Richard Addison, 3 Fd Wksp, and keeper WO2 Steve O'Dare, Comms and Sy Gp

Sticking up for hockey

ANYONE who has had anything to do with Army hockey is eligible to join the Associate Membership of the Army Hockey Association (AMHA). The association was founded to support and encourage the development of the sport in the Army.

Further information and application forms are available from Col G M Gadd, Regimental Pay Office, Imphal Barracks, York YO1 4HD.

Joe's hat trick

FOR the third year in succession Sgt Joe Holland of 150 Provost Company RMP has won the Army Angling Association Group 5 sea (boat) championships. Cpl Kevin Stace of the RAC Training Regiment was second and WO2 Doug Sheppard of ACIO South Shields third.

48

Major upset

A POOR batting display by the Royal School of Artillery/14 Field Regiment RA cost them the Major Units Cricket Cup at Aldershot when they lost to fellow gunners 17 Training Regiment from Woolwich by four wickets in a low-scoring final.

Having disposed of defending champions 1 Queens by eight wickets, the Larkhill gunners looked a good bet to win the final.

But it was not to be and they were bowled out for a disappointing 100 by the underdogs in just 33.3 overs of their 40-year allocation. Lt Alistair Dowling (2-18) made the initial breakthrough and Maj Andy Anderson (5-10) made sure there was no recovery.

Australian exchange officer Capt Don Lowe (18) and WO2

Colin Chadwick (18) were the only batsmen to make any impression, but the final total of 100 was 30 runs short of setting 17 Trg Regt a testing target.

Capt John Caiger made good use of a couple of early lives to score 46 and put the Woolwich gunners well on their way. They went on to win in the 32nd over with four wickets in hand.

Don Lowe, a Grade cricketer in Australia, took 3-18 and WO2 Phil Watson 2-24.

RSA/14 Fd Regt RA 100 (Capt D Lowe 18, WO2 Chadwick 18; Maj M Anderson 5-10, Lt A Dowling 2-18). **17 Trg Regt** 101-6 (Capt J Caiger 46; Capt Lowe 3-18, WO2 P Watson 2-24)

There was some compensation for the Larkhill side when they subsequently defeated Dortmund-based 5 Heavy Regiment RA, the defending

champions, in the final of the McDonnell Trophy, contested annually by the BAOR and UK gunner champions.

Led by a superb innings of 71 from Lowe, RSA/14 Fd Regt scored 180 for four and bowled out 5 Heavy Regiment for 95.

Gnr Stuart McGown made 37 as all the Larkhill top order chipped in towards their imposing total.

Wily veteran WO2 John Cook put the skids under 5 Heavy with a dramatic seven-over spell of spin that earned him five wickets for just 13 runs. His most important victim fell to his first ball. Bdr Sammy Kirnon, BAOR cricketer of the year and a Glamorgan triallist, was looking dangerous on 30 when Cook's introduction effectively settled the contest.

Nick-ed

TIDWORTH-based 3 Field Workshop REME won the Minor Units Cricket Cup, beating Communications and Security Group (UK) from Loughborough by 18 runs in the final at Aldershot.

Like the Major Units final, it was a low scoring game, with the REME side bowled out for 119 and their opponents succumbing for 101.

Medium pacer Sgt Nick Williams tore the heart out of the REME batting with a spell that brought him the superb figures of six for 17. He was assisted by a splendid fielding display by the Leicestershire-based side which went into the final having won its previous ten matches against Army teams.

LCpl Andy Hoskin top-scored with 37 and was given good support by Cfn Richard

Addison, but Williams prevented them getting the 160-plus total they thought they would need.

But Comms and Sy Gp (UK) collapsed against the 3 Fd Wksp bowling and they were dismissed 18 runs short for 101.

LCpl Alan Maskrey (3-29) did the most damage, but all the REME bowlers did well.

Opening bowler Cpl John Checkley's eight-over stint brought him a wicket at a cost of just ten runs, and there were wickets also for Addison, Cpl John Cotton and WO1 Gary Potton.

The Comms and Sy Gp batting simply collapsed, with SSgt John Wheeler scoring 19 and Army cap Sgt Paul Gardner 12 the only ones to get into double figures.

3 Fd Wksp REME 119 (Williams 6-17). **Comms and Sy Gp UK** 101 (Maskrey 3-29).

Channel swim bid success

LCpl Sharon Millen from 10 Company WRAC has become the first woman soldier to swim the English Channel. Her time was 12 hours 51 minutes.

She stepped into the English Channel at Shakespeare Beach Dover at 4.31am and reached her destination, Cap Griz Nez on the French coast without any problems.



LCpl Sharon Millen

Sharon (22), based at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot, has been in serious training for the Channel attempt since last September. Had this venture failed she was determined to try again.

The crossing is just 21 miles as the crow flies but nearer 40 for a swimmer contending with tidal movements.

Her platoon commander, Lt Alison Chaters, said: "She had no problems. She swam very strongly all the time and her spirits were exceptionally high. Her performance was magnificent and we are very proud of her."

An ankle-injury thwarted Sharon's ambition to become a physical training instructor, and she turned to swimming as a personal challenge.

Pyatt holds off dinghy fleet

FIFTY of the Army's best dinghy soldiers gathered at the Army Sailing Association's Netley Sailing Club on Southampton Water for the 1990 Army dinghy championships.

Sapper Soling sailor Capt Steve Pyatt, crewed by Maj Pat Clarke, emerged from the qualifying races with two firsts and a second, and the Royal Engineer pairing went on to clinch the championship, ousting Capt Stuart Hudson (crewed by Lt Stuart Speer), who has won for the past two years.

Hudson, fresh from the Laser world championships in America, also qualified with two firsts but was over the line in his third race so could not afford another poor race.

Also showing good form were Maj John Baird and the evergreen Capt Dave Ellis who had his eye on the veterans' prize.

The silver fleet was won by Cpl Phil Hawkins (Pyatt's Soling middleman), from Lt Julian Cramp and LCpl Jason Wright.

The final gold fleet race was the decider. Pyatt had to win the race or keep Hudson worse than fourth overall to win. There was much discussion whether he should go for gold or try to sail Hudson to the back of the fleet.

In the event he rounded the windward mark second, took the lead on the spinnaker reach, and seemed to have the title wrapped up.

However, Ellis, showing rather more speed than in previous races, wriggled through on the shifts to first. On the last beat of a shortened course Pyatt in second sat on a rapidly-closing Hudson and sailed him back to fifth, so



Cpl Gerry Glasgow (left) presents Carlisle United's Keith Walwyn with a 38 Engineer Regiment plaque before an Army select team took on the professionals and lost 5-2. On the right is Carlisle's Eric Gates.

The Football League side spent a week with 38 Engr Regt to carry out pre-season training. It was the third consecutive year they have done so.

Army coach Cpl Jimmy Ellis helped Carlisle mana-

making sure of the title.

Overall standard in the fleet was much higher than in previous years. It was encouraging to see many young Army sailors making an impression, and Race Officer Lance Andrews did a good job in difficult, shift conditions.

Results

Gold fleet - 1 (Army dinghy champion 1990), Capt Steve Pyatt and Maj Pat Clarke, both RE; 2, Capt Stuart Hudson, RAMC, and Lt Stuart Speer, RE; 3, Maj John Baird and Capt Richard Holt, both Para.

Silver fleet - 1, Cpl Phil Hawkins and Cpl Peter Overton, both RAOC; 2, Lt Julian Cramp, RE, and 2nd Lt Liz Bennet, WRAC; 3, LCpl Jason Wright and Maj Warwick Stanton, both RAOC.

Women - 1, Lt Sarah Davies, WRAC. **Veterans** - 1, Capt David Ellis, R Signals. **Juniors** - 1, Miss Shelley Pocock. **Civilians** - 1, Peter Cooper.

Carlisle capers

ger Clive Middlemass and coach/physio Peter Hampton put the squad through their paces. The Carlisle players were also shown how the sappers work, fired weapons on the ranges and were "introduced" to the regiment's plant equipment.



LCpl Peter Manfield

Windsurfing champion

PART-TIME soldier LCpl Peter Manfield won the 1990 Inter-Services 7.5 windsurfing championships to earn a place in the world championships.

Now serving with the 4

Football hopefuls on trial

THE ARMY FA uses the first four fixtures of each new football season to field players recommended for an Army trial. The results are not too important and there are always a couple of senior players on the bench to stage a rescue if things go wrong, writes Pat Massey.

So it was again last month, and although the first squad lost both matches, the trials produced two or three newcomers who are likely to make the senior squad.

Army 2, Uxbridge 3

There were goals galore in the first half of the match against Uxbridge, with Sgt Tommy O'Brien (R Irish) scoring twice for the Army, the second time to put the Service noses in front. Two goals in ten minutes restored the Uxbridge lead before the interval.

Senior players Sgt Nigel Wiscombe (APTC), Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) and WO2 Joey Roach (APTC) went on after the break and the Army were unlucky not to equalise during an entertaining second half.

Army 2, Camberley Town 5

Neighbours Camberley Town made their first ever visit to the Military Stadium at Aldershot a winning one, and included six soldiers in their own starting line. O'Brien scored the first Army goal and set up the second for LCpl Jim Hinds (RE) late in the game after Camberley Town had knocked in five in the first half.

After the interval Sgt Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) took over in goal and LCpl Jacko Jackson (RA) and Joey Roach were drafted in to give the Army XI some experience.

Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Manfield was a Regular soldier from 1968 until 1984. He won the Inter-Services championship every year from 1980 to 1984.

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SOLDIER

Two Saracen armoured personnel carriers of C Troop, 28 Squadron, Gurkha Transport Regiment manoeuvre slowly through the traffic-packed streets of Kowloon. Used for internal security, the ageing vehicles form part of the Hong Kong-based regiment. Story and more pictures starting on Page 29.

Picture: Mike Perring

