

SOLDIER



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VOL. 44/9

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FRONT COVER: A formidable foe, especially if you are a student at the School of Infantry's NCOs' Tactical Wing at Brecon in Wales where this soldier is a member of the Gurkha Demonstration Company. See Pages 22-23.

Picture: Mike Weston

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



**NEXT
ISSUE**

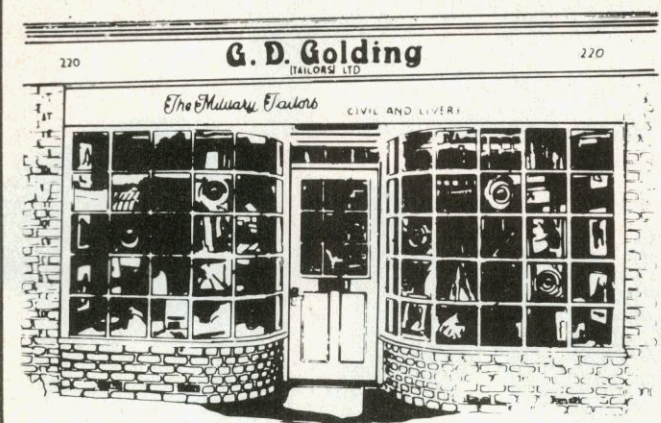
You can set your watch by Sgt Tom McKay – he is the man who fires Edinburgh Castle's well known one o'clock gun. Read all about it in the next issue.

● **ALSO the English regiment that found itself guarding Scotland's most famous castle.**

● **ALSO how they have slashed the recruits' drop-out rate at The Scottish Division Depot, Glencorse by half. All in the next issue of SOLDIER.**

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LETTERS

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East Surreys on old photograph

I came across my late husband's medals, a photograph of his regiment and a letter from King George V welcoming him home after being a prisoner-of-war in Germany.

I wonder if the 3rd East Surrey Regiment is still in existence and if any of the men in the photograph are still alive? I still have all the names written on a picture of the NCO class, 3rd East Surrey Regiment.

They are H Miller, Ptes A Hulin, A Harwood and A F Watten; LCpls W Hope and Marcham, and H P Norton, E Heywood, T Paine, Sgt T D Finucane, J Hunt, F Morling, W Hambelton, W Hartley, W Faithfull, W H Day, F Hume, H Henderson and LCpl E C Williams.

As there is no secretary's signature I feel the letter was actually written by the King. — **Mrs R Hulin, 89 Church Road, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxford OX4 4YA.**

● The 3rd East Surrey Regt was amalgamated in 1959 with The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and subsequently was redesignated as what we now know to be the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment. — Editor.

Cromwell

Mr J Whalley (SOLDIER March 21) seems to want to bring the British Army into disrepute.

The Regular Army was formed by Oliver Cromwell to combat the overpowering Church and also the few Royalists who governed at that time. He was going to emigrate to America, but decided to stay behind and clean up England — and he did, re-establishing Parliament and also campaigning in Ireland, and thus forming the new Commonwealth.

I do not know why he (Mr Whalley) showed amazement at the statements of the serving men. — **Ex Cpl Patrick J Toms, Co Down (full address supplied).**

Janners

With reference to the article on the Devonshire and Dorset Regiments in SOLDIER (March 21) the following quotation is from *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* by Eric Partridge: "Jan. Frequent nickname of ratings with a Devon burr: Naval C. 1920. Hence Janner, a West Countryman: Naval since C. 1910."

This may be where the Devon and Dorsets nickname came from. — **J T Brown, London (full address supplied).**

Reunions

● **Royal Anglian Regimental** gathering at The Queen's Division Depot, Basingstoun on July 24. Apply to RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN (tel 0284 752394) or through your local OCA branch.

● The annual reunion of the **Pre-1939 Trumpeters RA** will be held in the RA Mess, The Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on July 29-30. Details from Maj J J Dobbs, 5 Glynswood, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1HU.

● **REME/AER (1950-1963)** OCA 19th annual reunion takes place on September 17 in The King's Arms, 222 Seaside, Eastbourne, East Sussex. Details from hon secretary D A Knight, 23 Atlas Gardens, Charlton SE7 7TB.

Calling . . .

Mr Arthur Ware, Rote-Reihe 15, 3008 Garbsen 4, West Germany, wishes to contact old comrades who served in **229 Coy Tank Brigade RASC, Petrol and Ammo Supply Coy** to 6th Guards Tank Brigade 1943-45, and **552 Coy 8th Armoured Brigade** 1945-46.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries & hardships, which you have endured with so much patience & courage.

During these many months of trial, the early rescue of our gallant Officers & Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived, & that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R. I.

Letter from the King to an East Surrey prisoner of war

Relative traced through Belsen

Last year my wife and I visited the Belsen Memorial while on holiday in West Germany. It was our first visit to the country since I was stationed there 22 years ago with 43 Field Park Squadron RE.

In the library hall at Belsen we were looking at the history of the camp and came across one particular photograph which to our surprise included my wife's father, who was a sapper sergeant with the British liberating forces.

We were aware that he was at Belsen camp during 1945 but he never spoke about it.

Thanks to the Imperial War Museum and its photo library

we have now been able to obtain a copy of the photo for my father-in-law, and he has told us a little of that dreadful experience. Your article (SOLDIER Nov 30) *Where No Birds Fly* on Belsen camp was of added interest to us all.

I would also like to thank SOLDIER for a very interesting magazine which I have been reading for the past 33 years. As a modeller of military figures I find the excellent articles and photographs of great help in creating many interesting models on the British Army for my collection. — Doug Fisher, 71 Ferrier Avenue, Fairwater, Cardiff.

Shooting for disabled

We have affiliated the Artists Rifle Club to the British Sports Association for the Disabled and it occurred to me there might be an organisation for Army disabled that might like to join in.

I have been asked to contact one disabled former Army PTI who approached BSAD for help in finding a suitable way to

fill his time. He lives close to Bisley, but a successful pilot scheme could be extended to more distant areas to bring some of our less fortunate comrades back into the family. — Gordon Baker, Artists Rifle Club, The Artists Rifles Clubhouse, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0NY.

**HOAY
winner**

SOLDIER's latest £50 HOAY competition prize goes to Mr D Watson of Eaton Ford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Mr Watson was the winner of HOAY No 434. Your chance of winning £50 in this issue of SOLDIER is on page 43.

A matter of information

Are we not entitled to be informed of the welfare and monetary benefits available to us?

I have made great efforts to acquire the many leaflets and booklets available on benefits, but often perceive an undercurrent of reluctance to provide the definitive answer, especially if the source of information knows it is a soldier, or soldier's wife, asking the questions.

I am struck by the "them and us" attitude.

This is not just a question of benefits, but the principle of

our right to information about benefits. Should not the benefit and welfare organisations provide some sort of standardised booklet designed to meet the specific requirement of the soldier and his family — particularly those who serve overseas?

We are grateful for the information given in SOLDIER — especially by Anne Armstrong — but surely there should be a more positive overall concern. — WO1 (SSM) R L Carr, SHAPE, SECCOS, Secretariat Branch, BFPO 26.

Rangers were Rifles

I note with dismay in your book review of *The Road to the Somme* (SOLDIER April 4) that your caption regarding the photograph is inaccurate. The Royal Irish Rangers were not formed until July 1, 1968 and the caption should read "Royal Irish Rifles".

The review of Philip Orr's book also mentions that The Royal Ulster Rifles were part of the 36th (Ulster) Division which is also inaccurate since

the Royal Ulster Rifles were not formed until January 1, 1921 when The Royal Irish Rifles changed their name from "Irish" to "Ulster" after partition. — Capt J H Leadsom, Depot The King's Division, The Royal Irish Rangers, St Patrick's Barracks, BFPO 808.

● The photograph was correctly captioned in Mr Orr's book but Rifles inadvertently became Rangers in our review. Sorry. — Editor.

SOLDIER

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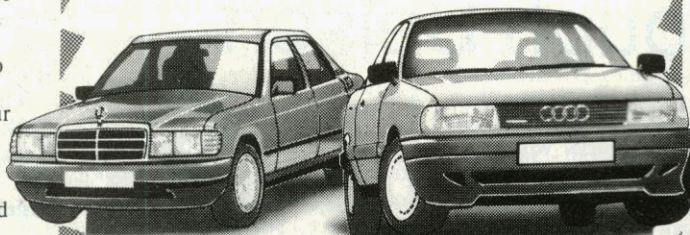


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S/RAN/18

Brothers on medal parade

BROTHERS Mike and Steve Bellairs were among officers and men of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment who received medals when the Prince of Wales visited HQ Company at Pudsey, Yorks.

The Prince is Colonel in Chief of the Paras.

Mike, 34, a major, and Steve, 33, a captain, joined 4 Para in the early 70s. They received the Territorial Efficiency Decoration along with Maj Peter Whitley, 33.

A second clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal went to WO2 John Devanney, 52, ACC, the master chef and battalion SQMS and medals went to SSgt Michael Fairmainer, 31, the head chef, and Sgt Brian Walls, 33, the Milan section commander.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented to the RSM, WO1 David Smith, 40, doing his third tour on the permanent staff of 4 Para and WO2 Paul Robinson, 36, a Falklands veteran his first TA tour.



The Prince of Wales speaks to WO1 David Smith, RSM of the 4th (Volunteer) Bn The Parachute Regiment and the recipient of a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Next in line is WO2 Paul Robinson, a permanent instructor who also got the LS&GCM



Moment of change: Lt Col John Treasure, CO 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT, presents REME drivers with their new RCT berets and badges

REME drivers join the RCT

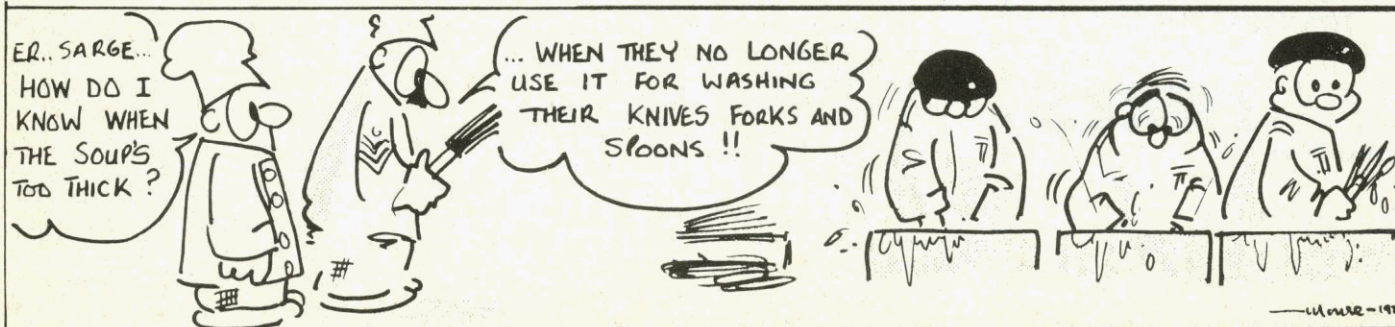
AN INFORMAL parade at Minden, Germany, in which 31 REME drivers were rebadged and welcomed into the RCT, was typical of a switch affecting the whole Army.

All REME drivers with the exception of those in their last six months of service have been transferred to the RCT, a move which offers greater opportunities for promotion and a wider variety of postings.

For some years there has been concern about the limited career structure for REME drivers whose rank ceiling was staff sergeant with no outlet for promotion to warrant rank or future commissioning.

MOBB

by Mouse





Lt Col Jim Parker (extreme right), the CO, leads the 2 LI double past followed by the adjutant, Capt Peter Davies, the RSM, WO1 David Jarrett and OC A Coy, Maj Shawn Laidler

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2 LI double past on mass medal parade

IT WAS easier to be a general than a lance corporal, a junior NCO's cadre was told at Delinghofen, Germany.

The speaker was Maj Gen Edward Jones, GOC 3rd Armoured Division.

Addressing newly made-up one-strippers he said that to be so close to the rank and file while at the same time being apart required a delicate balance which made the job the hardest in the Army.

The general gave the address at a parade of the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry during which 252 soldiers received Northern Ireland General Service Medals.

The battalion spent six months in the province last year (July-December), its tenth tour since the emergency began, and is likely to return in 1990.

It ended its parade with the traditional double past.

King of the cooks!

THE Territorial Army's top cooks, from the Warrington based 5th/8th Battalion The King's Regiment, are on the winning road again!

The four-man team have beaten their own hat-trick record by taking first place in a tough regional Army field cookery competition at Catterick for the fourth year running – and now go on to defend the national title they have held for the past two years.

It was the Kingsmen's five star cooking which made the battalion – with companies in Warrington, Liverpool and Manchester – the envy of others in Exercise Grebe Grey, North West District's own prestigious Field

Cookery Competition.

The Kingsmen – led by competition veteran Sgt Ronnie Davies – proved too hot to handle during the hard fought competition which also tested their soldiering skills in map reading, first aid, marksmanship and vehicle maintenance to prove that cooking wasn't the only string to their bow.

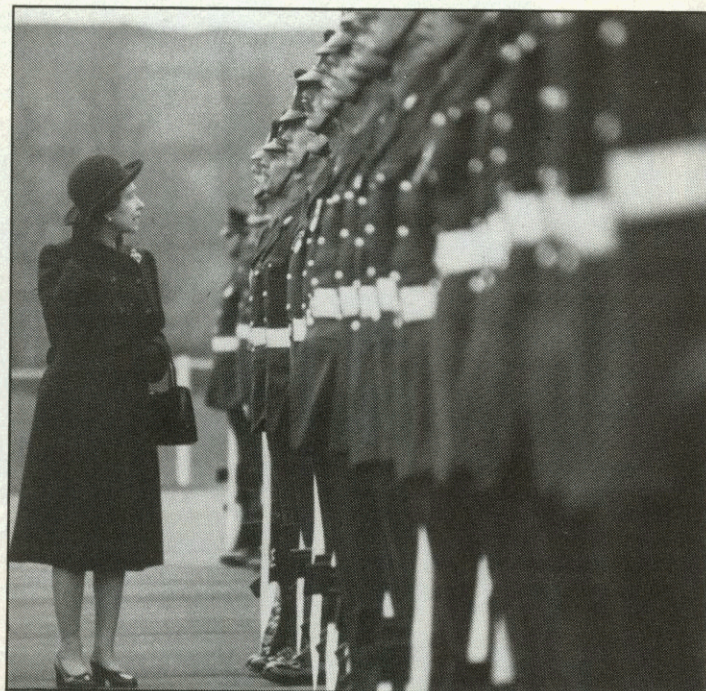
The winning team was: Sgt Ronnie Davies, a chiropodist in civilian life who spent 11 years as an RAF cook before joining the TA; Cpl Kitchener Clark, who works for a local catering firm; LCpl Eric James, a sales rep and his twin brother Keith who is a baker.

Munster move for 14th/20th King's Hussars

AFTER three years in Catterick as the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment, the 14th/20th King's Hussars are moving to Munster, Germany, to form part of the 3rd Armoured Division.

They will re-equip with Challenger but continue to maintain a squadron of Chieftain tanks in Berlin to provide support for the Berlin Infantry Brigade. The 14th/20th, who recruit most of their soldiers from

Lancashire and Greater Manchester, will strengthen links with the county at Preston on May 9 when the Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief of the regiment, will open a new regimental museum.



BIG moment for a little girl (left). Michelle Kilminster, 8, presents the Queen with a bouquet at the official opening of Edgehill Sub Depot, 175 acres of ammunition storage igloos and explosives storehouses at Kineton CAD. A plaque was unveiled.

The Queen, who is Colonel in Chief of the RAOC, inspected a

guard of honour commanded by Maj Mike Southworth, had lunch with the officers and later had tea with officers, soldiers and their wives.

Michelle is the daughter of SSgt and Mrs Alan Kilminster. Watching her present the flowers is Maj Gen Gerry Berragan, Director General of Ordnance Services.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

LATEST awards announced for gallant and meritorious service in Northern Ireland include the award of the George Medal to SSgt (A/WO2) Peter Michael Hurry RAOC. Other awards are The Queen's Gallantry Medal to Sgt Steven Gander, Kings Own Border, Lt (A/Capt) Christopher Hugo Hodder RAOC and SSgt

Stephen Paul Holmes RAOC, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal to SSgt (A/WO2) Peter Hamilton Morrison Para.

Sgt Daniel Joseph Coughlin RTR receives the Military Medal, and the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air goes to Cpl Edward Charles Majelia Wilson AAC.

Brunei Hussar's Kiwi command!

CAPT Miles Wade, 14th/20th King's Hussars, had the pleasant experience of leaving the jungle for New Zealand's open spaces recently.

He commanded a contingent of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces which did an exchange visit with the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps Queen Alexandra Squadron, based on Waioru training area.

Both the Kiwis and the Brunei Armoured Recce Squadron use Scorpions.

The Bruneians took part in a joint live-firing exercise with the 2nd (King Edward VII's Own) Gurkha Rifles who were visiting New Zealand from Hong Kong.

● See also Page 17

1 PWO on right side

JUST back from exercise in the USA, 1 PWO brought back another athletics scalp, this time from real Injun country. In the church sponsored Run for Jesus Marathon held at Yakima, Washington State, Capt Roy Hunter knocked two minutes off the previous record of 2 hrs 42 min set by 3 Para.

The Army cross-country stalwarts should also have won the team event. Two of the six men went off course towards the end (due to casual stewarding) but the team still beat the record by 1½ mins.

Hospitals join battle of lists

LONG waiting lists for hospital treatment could be slashed following an agreement between the MoD and DHSS to revise arrangements for the treatment of NHS patients in Service hospitals in the UK.

To meet their training requirement, the hospitals, in peacetime, treat Service personnel and NHS patients, including Service dependants. Under new arrangements, any spare capacity will be offered to health authorities on marginal cost recovery terms to help relieve NHS waiting lists and maximise the Service hospitals' contribution to civilian health care.

Army hospitals at Aldershot, Catterick and Woolwich are among those involved.



CAPT Stephen Burke of The Parachute Regiment found himself guarding a CF-18 jet fighter in -37 degrees C in the Canadian Mackenzie River delta town of Inuvik during Lightning Strike 88, a domestic Canadian exercise. Stephen "visited" icy Inuvik

COLD SWAP

while on exchange duty with the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Petawawa, Ontario.

Len's back on ambush mountain

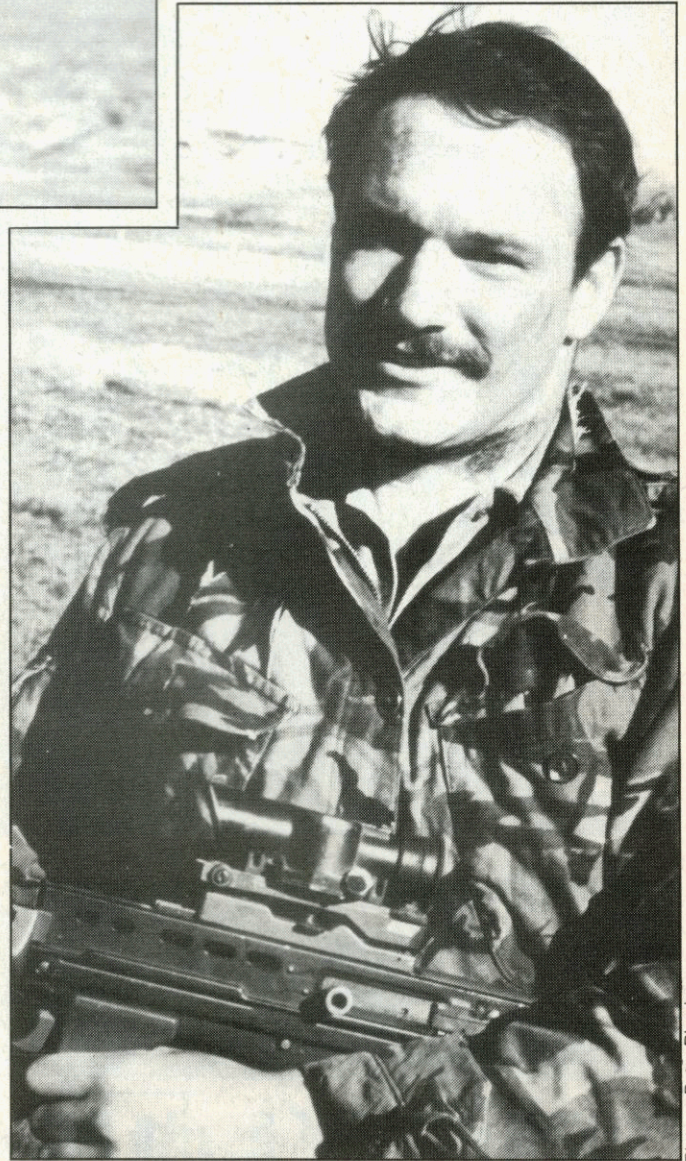
IN 1982, Cpl Len Carver of 3 Para was caught in an ambush on Mount Longdon in the closing stages of the Falklands War.

Seriously wounded, he lay for nine hours before being evacuated.

Six years on, fully recovered and back with his old unit, Len returned to the Falklands – ironically playing the part of a casualty on Mount Longdon – in Exercise Fire Focus 88.

"I hoped I'd come back some day – but never like this!" said the 28-year-old para. "I always wanted to see the other side of the mountain and, of course, Port Stanley."

3 Para provided the enemy for Fire Focus, the first exercise to practise the reinforcement by air of the Falklands garrison.



FALKLANDS RETURN: Cpl Len Carver back on Mount Longdon

Picture: Peter Rhodes

● Fire Focus feature – Pages 42-43

Last Wasp

FUS Darren Tyson of 3 RRF based at Catterick reckons he is the last soldier to fly in a Royal Navy Wasp helicopter from a warship. It came about when the ageing Wasp went out of service while Darren was on a four day detachment on board HMS Euryalus which has had a long affiliation with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

TESSA ON PATROL

ONLY woman in an entry of 250 soldiers for the Territorial Army's Western District patrol competition was **Lt Tessa Fenoughty** (right), who led Stoke-on-Trent based 125 Fd Sp Sqn RE (V) to 16th place out of 25.

Tessa (24) is doing a post graduate course at Keele University, training to be a teacher, and her degree in

geography came in useful during the competition.

"It helped us do well in the map reading," she joked at the end of two gruelling days.

Winners of the competition for the second year running were Tango Coy of the 1st Bn Mercian Volunteers from Tamworth. They were led by **2nd Lt Jeremy Richardson**.



Monkey's uncle!

Part timer Tim takes charge . . .

TERRITORIAL Army LCpl Tim Hayward of C Squadron The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, Shrewsbury has a full time career far removed from soldiering. He is an ape keeper at Chester Zoo.

Tim is pictured with Subis (18 months) and older brother Douglas (2½). Their mother Ramona, like most orang-utans, is uninterested in rearing her offspring – which is why Tim has his hands full.

Another baby, Emma, was born in October and Tim has been caring for her night and day.

OFFICER Cadet David Jones (21) – son of the late Lt Col H Jones VC – was one of 268 officer cadets to receive his commission into the British Army when he passed out at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The Sovereign's Parade was reviewed by the Duke of Kent on behalf of the Queen.

Son of H Jones on parade

David is following in his father's footsteps by joining The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Col H went on to command 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment and was fatally wounded in the Falklands war during the battle for Goose Green. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.



PEOPLE

Stormy passage ***** for Firebirds

JUST back from three weeks of Caribbean sailing on board the Royal Corps of Signals yacht Firebird are SSgt Rena Tyler of 251 Sig Sqn and Sgt Lin Parker of the Army Careers Information Office in Aldershot.

They joined Firebird in Antigua anticipating bikini weather and white hot beaches. Instead they got three weeks of rather rough weather, much of it spent in oilskins! Ports of call included St Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat (where there was a very sociable interlude in Plymouth Harbour with the visiting frigate HMS Plymouth), Guadeloupe and Dominica.

Firebird has been away from her base of Gosport, Hants since October. She is now homeward bound, heading for Gibraltar on the penultimate leg of her Caribbean venture.

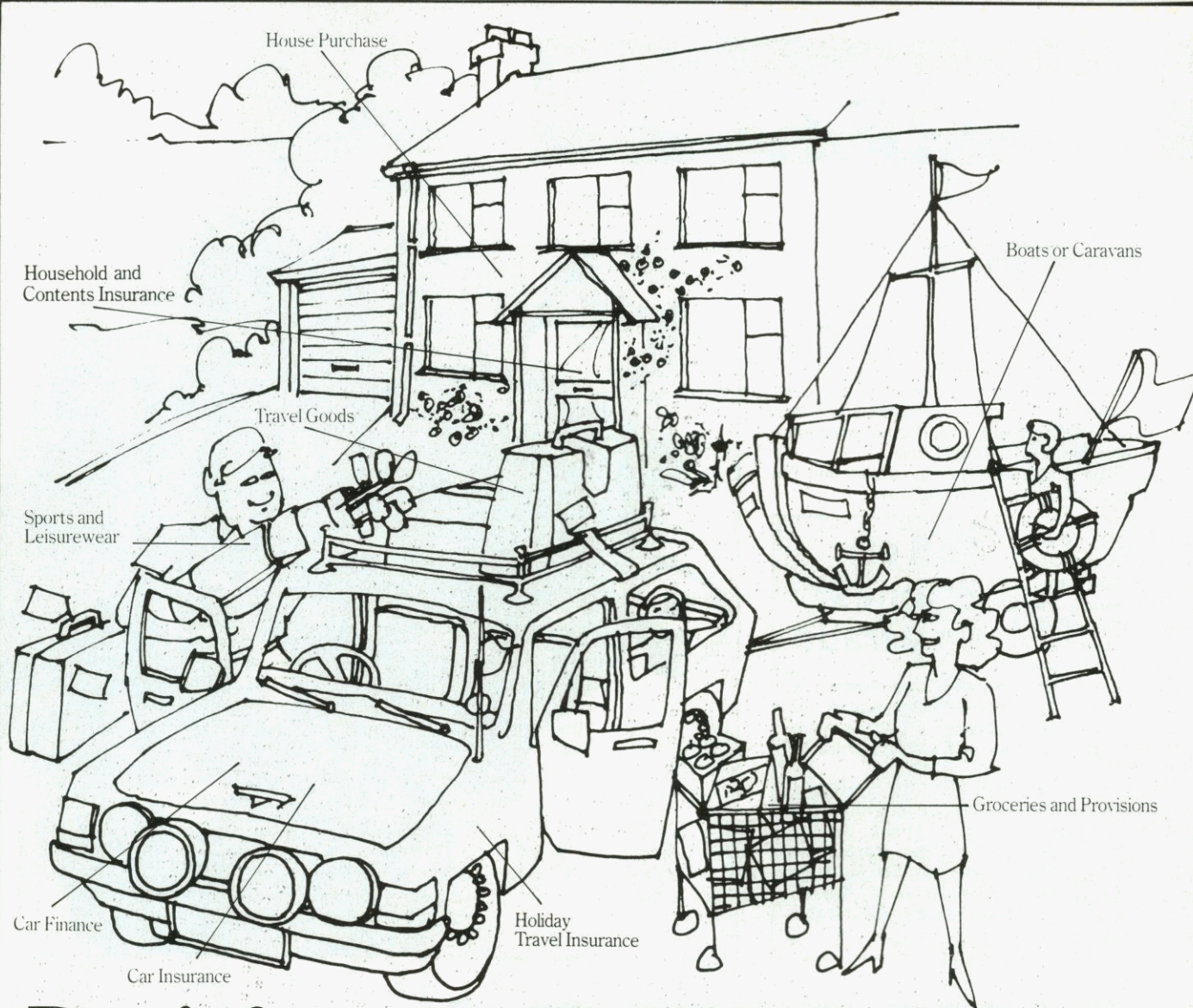


FIREBIRDS: SSgt Rena Tyler (left) and Sgt Lin Parker

Bike trio plan USA crossing

MAJ **John Gamlin** of The Queen's Regiment is tackling a 5,500 mile trip from New York to San Francisco on a tandem made for three. His companions are JFus **David Clark** of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Drummer **Karl Wilcox** of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The team will visit Washington, Memphis and New Orleans, following the route of the Mississippi, before arriving at San Francisco via Death Valley on July 1, three months after setting out.



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Sappers acquire 20th VC

The Royal Engineers Museum has acquired its 20th Victoria Cross.

The latest VC to be added to the collection at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, was awarded to Capt W H Johnston during the First World War.

The citation said that "when under fire all day he worked with his own hand two rafts bringing back wounded and returning with ammunition, thus enabling advanced brigade to maintain its position across the river."

Capt Johnston was later killed in action in France.

His VC, and other medals he won, has been given to the museum by Mrs Nori Dobson, widow of Maj Gen Tony Dobson, godson of Capt Johnston.

Modelling soldiers

What more obvious place for a branch of the British Model Soldier Society than in the Armed Forces?

A branch which restricts its membership to Servicemen and women and their families has just been formed to cater for the particular needs of modellers in the Forces.

Details of the youngest branch in the long established society from Capt Charles Gray, HQ 33 Armoured Brigade, BFPO 16.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Nesscliff's final sapling

THE last of 2,500 trees to be established in a four-acre area at Nesscliff Training Camp, near Shrewsbury, has been planted by Maj Gen Robert Ward, GOC Western District.

He had the assistance of a number of members of Shrewsbury Army Cadet Force.

In the past 25 years, 87 acres of trees have been planted in the 1,450 acres of Nesscliff.

New hedgerows have been planted and a pond created to improve drainage. Migrant water fowl as well as herons use the pool regularly.

The Property Services Agency is responsible for the



Maj Gen Ward shovels in earth, assisted by Mr David Taylor of PSA

planning and planting of the trees. The Army has set up conservation committees for training areas.

The Services Sound and Vision Corporation has a new managing director, Mr Alan Protheroe, former BBC assistant director general.

He takes over from Mr John Grist, who had been MD for six years and before that was himself with the BBC.

Says Mr Protheroe: "I am taking over a centre of excellence, a dynamic corpora-

New chief at SSVC

tion that will expand - but will always have in mind its great contribution not only to the training of the Armed Services but to their welfare as individuals and families."

IWM set for 1989 opening

The first stage of the Imperial War Museum's massive redevelopment is nearing completion.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of the Arts, has laid an inscribed baseplate at the foot of one of the columns supporting the new building, marking the completion of the main structure of the first phase.

Where 18 months ago there were "temporary" glass and steel structures of 1930s vintage, today the museum has newly constructed floor space on four levels, topped by an elegant semi-cylindrical roof.

The surviving interior walls of the old Bethlem Royal Hospital have been cleaned and 19th century archways and windows restored.

The museum will now install its numerous large exhibits such as tanks, aircraft and submarines, in the new building.

The new galleries will be open to the public in June next year.

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

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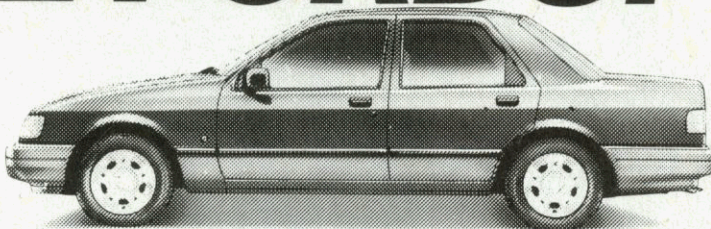
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S7

Pendine boffins put weapons on the line . . .

TRACK OF FIRE

Story by Mervyn Wynne Jones Pictures by Mike Weston

EXPANDING and contracting by up to a third each time the tide changes, the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Pendine on the Welsh coast echoes to the sound of rifle and gun fire.

Testing all calibres of weapon from 9mm pistol to 81mm mortar, the establishment is better known for its high speed track work and the trial of missile warheads and fuses.

Batches of production weapons are tested almost to the point of destruction during the various proving trials at the six miles long, half mile wide stretch of land on the north side of Carmarthen Bay.

Just three miles distant from Laugharne, home of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, Pendine's specialist facilities are also used by civil contractors such as British Nuclear Fuels who test the strength of nuclear transportation containers in impact experiments.

Beyond the sand dunes and shore – used by Sir Malcolm Campbell and J G Parry-

Thomas in the 1920s for attempts on the world land speed record – is a sea danger area extending

nine miles into Carmarthen Bay and patrolled by launch.

Of a staff of 260, 11 are military including four Army officers and two WO1 master gunners, two infantry sergeant majors and a gunner sergeant major.

Their job is to run the establishment, oversee the firing of all weapons and act as an interface between Pendine and the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive.

Their central activity is that of trackwork, with each of the three mono and dual gauge rails booked up months in advance.

The longest is 1,000 yards – soon to be extended to 1,500 metres – which is minutely engineered to follow the curvature of the earth's surface so that there is no deviation in gravitational pull during trials.

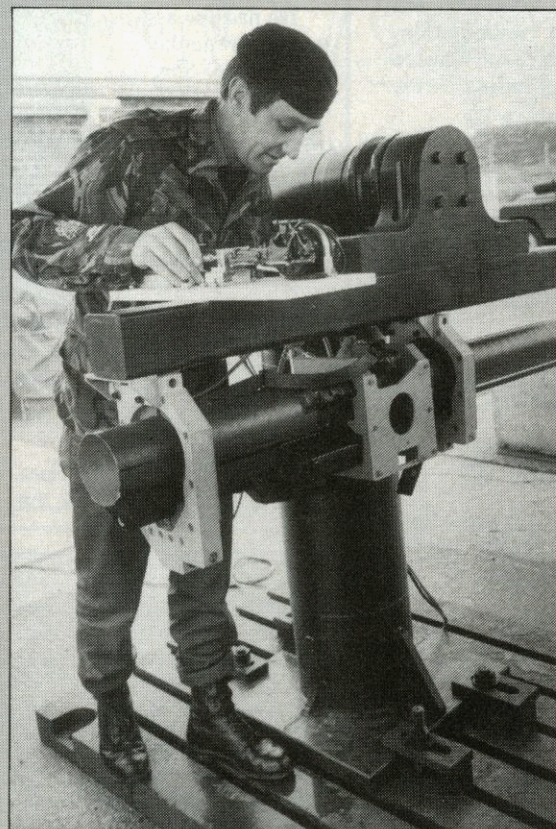
It is used for a host of experiments testing, for example, the effect of Rapier, Javelin and Blowpipe missiles on targets and for hurling a 1,000lb bomb at a section of reinforced concrete simulated runway.

Projectiles are limited to a maximum speed of Mach 3, but plans are afoot for an even longer track in the 1990s which will enable tests to be carried out at speeds of up to Mach 8.

Ultra high speed photography, flash X-Ray and digital timers record the progress of



Testing the flight path of a 5.56mm round from an SA 80, Maj Anthony Briard DERR (left) and WO2 Richard Honey LI on one of the ranges at Pendine



WO1 Master Gunner Glynn Briggs RA puts the finishing touches to a rig holding a LAW 80 prior to firing

each experiment in finite detail.

The establishment's bread and butter work is its proving trials and the testing of weapons and munitions on ranges and in environmental chambers.

"Shake, rattle and roll, we call it," said WO1 Bob McKnight RA, range Master Gunner. "It really is a fascinating posting and the variety is endless."

A batch of SA 80 rifles were being tested to their limits during SOLDIER's visit and were being fired dry, with various permutations of lubrication and at temperatures of minus 46 and plus 60 degrees centigrade.

Their velocity, accuracy, bullet flight path and penetration were being tested with a range of apparatus



An example of the high speed photographic work done at Pendine. It shows a 30mm Rarden APDS shell in flight

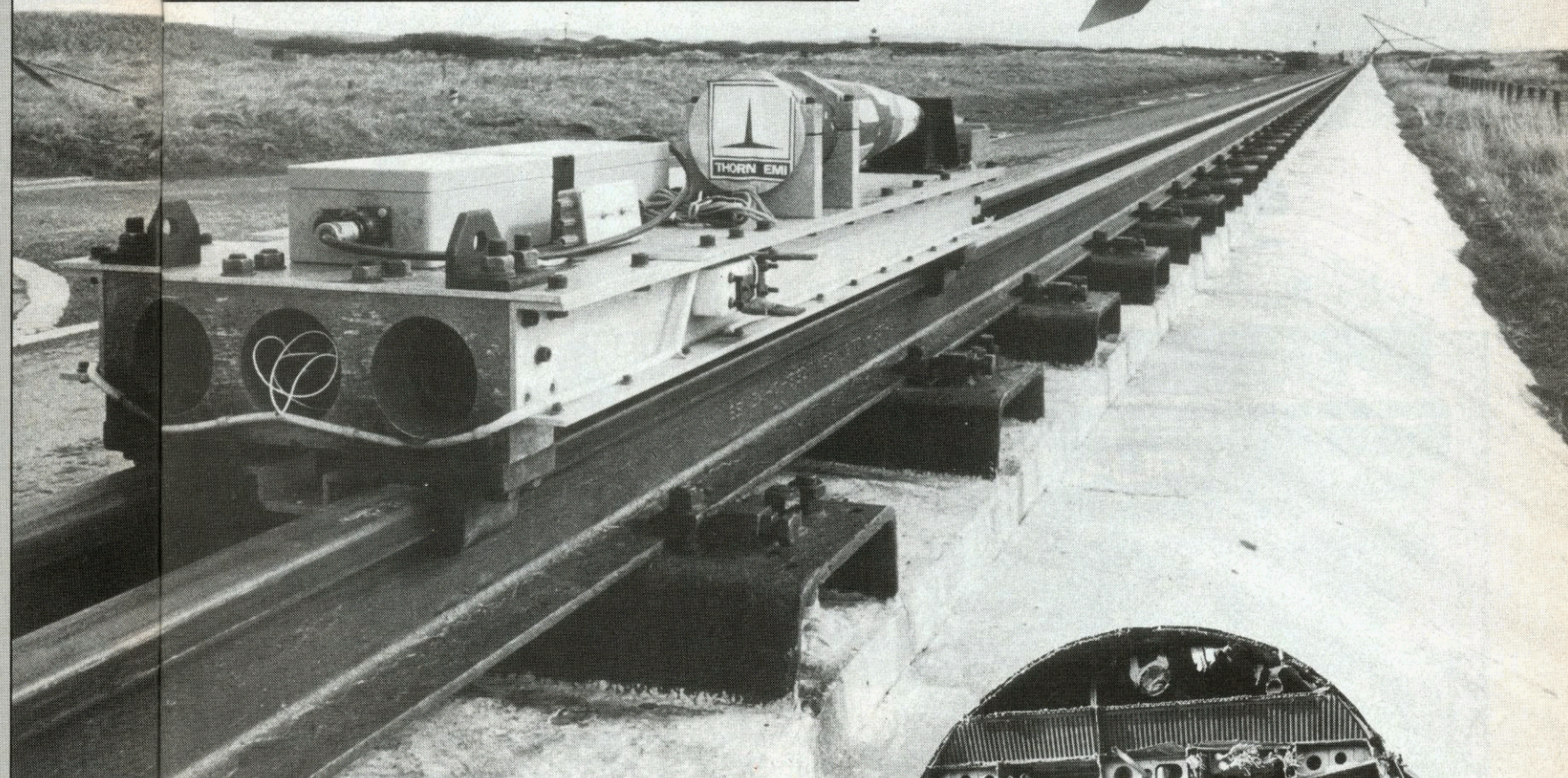
including the new Automatic Shot Position Indicator (ASPI) which plots the fall of shot using computer linked horizontal and vertical sensory bars.

Also being trialled was the LAW 80 disposable anti tank weapon which fires a 94mm

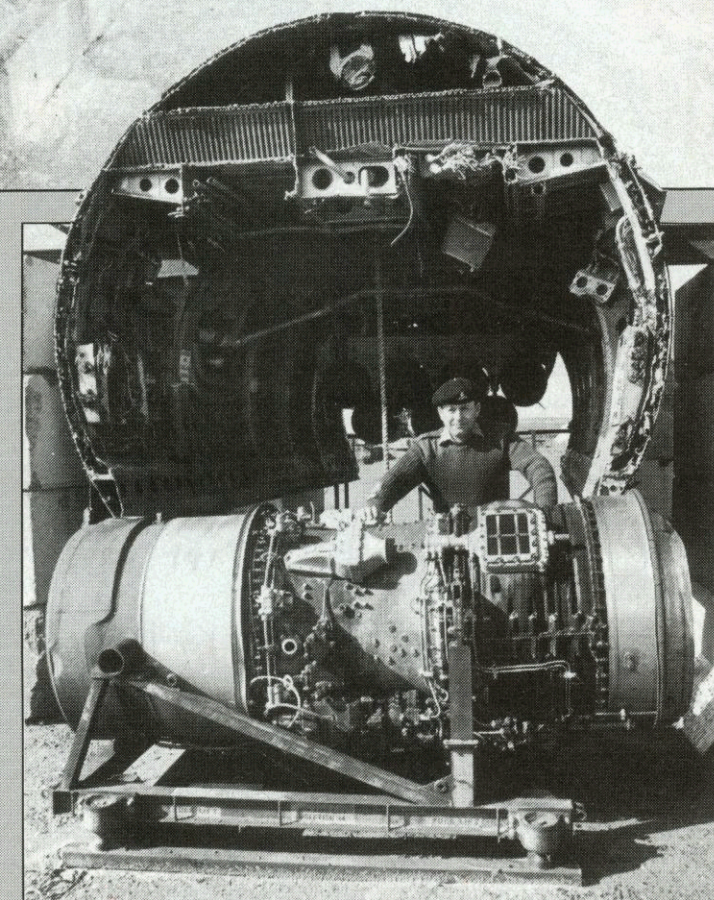
high explosive missile but which also has five 7.62mm tracer sighting rounds, the first of which – because it is permanently in the breech – is made of non-corrosive chrome metal.

It is all a far cry from the old War Office Small Arms

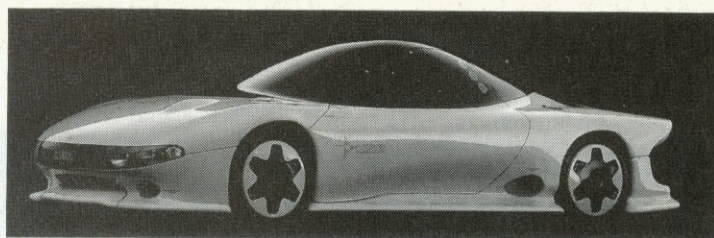
Experimental Wing as it was known when it was transferred from Hythe in Kent to Pendine during the Second World War, but it plays an individual and distinctive role within the network of British military proof and experimental establishments.



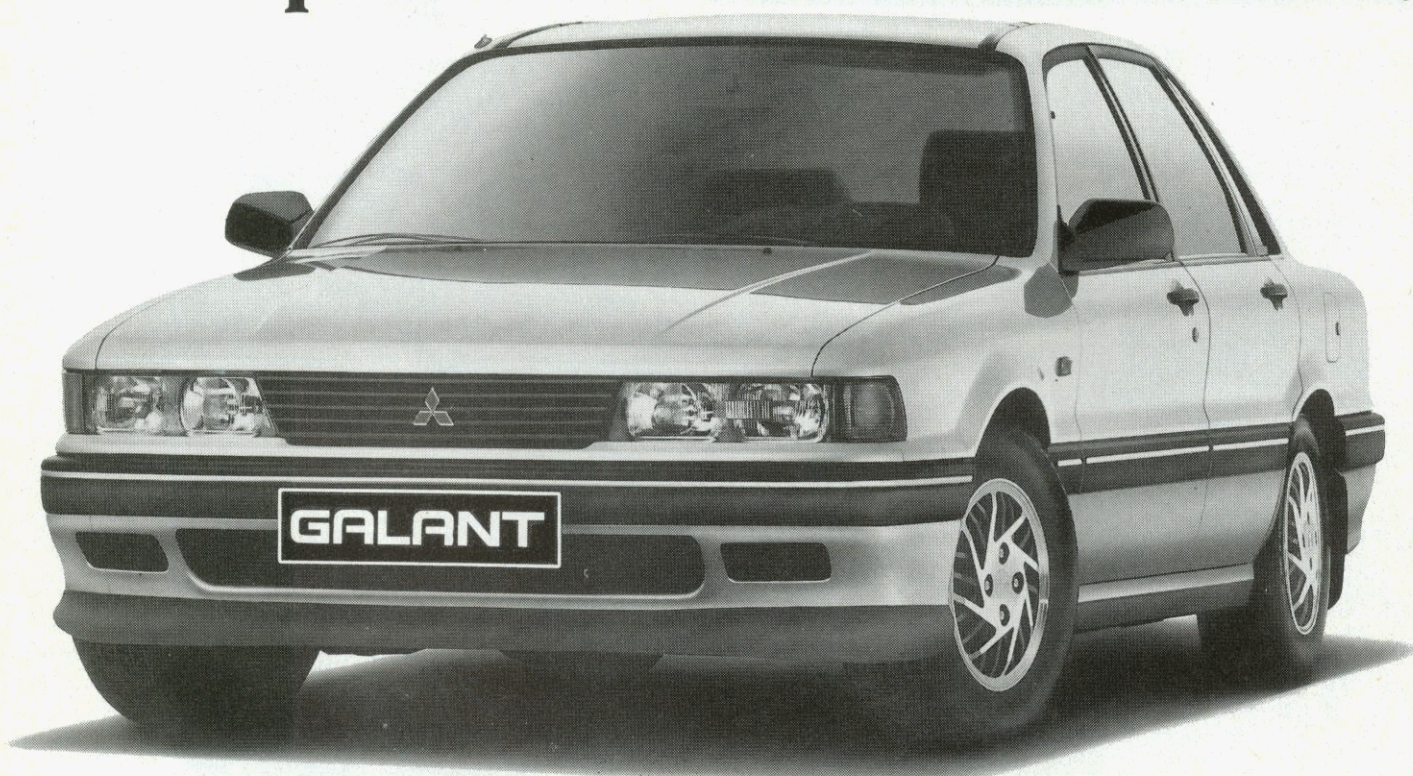
A new proximity fuse for the latest Rapier 2000 about to be put through its paces on a test rig along the 1,000 yard Pendine track



The range is littered with aircraft parts used for impact tests with missile warheads. WO1 Bob McKnight stands between an aircraft engine and bomb bay



It took the World's fastest 2-litre to develop the new Mitsubishi Galant.

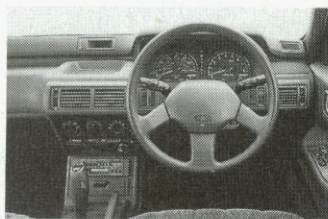


To develop the exciting new Galant, Mitsubishi produced its 'High Speed Research' car to "meet future needs ahead of time.

This on-going study vehicle is also the world's fastest 2-litre and incorporates the new Galant's engine in highly tuned form to provide a top speed well in excess of 300km/h.

However, with traffic conditions as they are, it is unlikely that such a car would ever go into serious production.

Which is where the new Galant comes into its own because it encompasses the advanced technology and engineering of the HSR vehicle.



Available with a choice of 1.8 'carburettor', or 2-litre 'fuel injection' engine.

There is the choice of 5-speed manual, or 4-speed automatic transmission, and the automatic also features special 'power' or 'economy' modes to suit different driving conditions.

The 'Diamond Option' 2-litre model features a 4 sensor, 4 channel, anti-locking braking system with wide profile radial tyres and alloy wheels. Air conditioning is also available.

In fact, the Galant is made so well that it comes with a free 3-year 100,000km limited warranty and 6-year anti-corrosion perforation guarantee.

As Japan's "Car of the Year" for 1988 it just goes to show what else Mitsubishi have learnt – apart from building very fast cars.

CAR OF THE YEAR, JAPAN 1988

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Leading the way

GIS02/5



Student officers from Victory College, RMA Sandhurst are evacuated from a Cyprus beach by a 10 Port Sqn rigid raider

From Paramali . . .

SIX months of intensive training for 250 student officers of Victory College, RMA Sandhurst peaked shortly after dawn on a Monday morning in March as they launched a battalion attack on the village of Paramali in Cyprus.

Their final assault ended an arduous six day exercise involving air lifts by 84 Sqn RAF Wessex, sea raids in 10 Port Squadron RCLs and rigid raiders, medevacs in 16 Flt AAC Alouettes and armoured support from 17/21 Lancers. But most of all they had to contend with the tough, hilly and arid countryside the Sovereign Base training area provides.

Having completed the exercise, the student officers of Standard Graduate Course No 873, then had their commissions confirmed and they proudly took part in a Sovereign's Parade in the presence of the Duke of Kent.

Exercise Spring Victory was master-minded by the Victory College Commander, Col David Charles, and his Chief Instructor, Maj Tony Snook, both of the Parachute Regiment.

The Commandant of Sandhurst, Maj Gen Simon Cooper, visited the exercise, which was also watched keenly by the Deputy Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Commodore Robert O'Brien, whose son Nicholas, was participating as a student officer before being commissioned into the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry.

Final test of Course No 873

Live firing for 2/2 GR in New Zealand

A COMPANY of the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd (King Edward VII's Own) Gurkha Rifles based in Hong Kong have been exercising in New Zealand's desolate Waiouru training area.

During their seven week stay in New Zealand the Gurkhas participated in Exercise Kauri Pine North 88 which enabled them to conduct live firing in unfamiliar terrain.

Training during their time in New Zealand consisted of the full range of battlefield skills up to company level and included live firing by day and night.

Commanding the 140-strong company was Capt John Craig, who described the Waiouru training area as ideal for live-firing.

"Having the use of such a large area is a luxury for us, normally



LCpl Durga Gurung (left) briefs Rfn Mohan Gurung during a skills test in the Waiouru training area

to Waiouru!

we have to train with blank ammunition."

On their home patch in Hong Kong, the Gurkhas are part of the Hong Kong Garrison. Their role includes support to the Royal Hong Kong Police and tours of duty on the Hong Kong-Chinese border to prevent illegal immigrants

from crossing.

Before returning to Hong Kong the men of 2 GR took advantage of the excellent facilities in New Zealand for adventurous training - with organised parties undertaking rock climbing, mountain walking, canoeing and white water rafting.

WANTED - ONE WATCHDOG!

Hopefully by the time you read this the best and worst will be known.

At the time of going to press I didn't know the contents of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body Report, or the allowances review or the study into private house ownership but I write under the impression that radical changes are pending.

I hope so. If the Army is going to move into the 21st century (indeed if it could catch up with this one it would be something) everyone must be prepared to accept change.

Otherwise it will be left behind as the outside world moves into a new social atmosphere.

"It didn't happen in my day!" I hear. But such remarks only stifle progress.

What the Army really needs is its own Watchdog.

Local authorities, civilian organisations and charities have them, why not the Services?

Watchdogs are essential to help interpret proposed legislation, submit submissions on Government papers, monitor grants and new initiatives and keep abreast of EEC laws.

Because the Services have no Watchdog I know to my certain knowledge that numerous opportunities have been missed which put soldiers and their families at a disadvantage.

Major reforms have been made in the area of social welfare, child benefit, maternity, medicine and education - even environment and energy - without the Ministry of Defence commenting.

After laws have been passed it is too late.

One stumbling block is, I understand, the rule that one government department cannot comment on the paper of another.

If this is so alternative ways must be found so that Servicemen and women do not lose out.

The police and firemen have got round this. Why not the Services?



IN MY VIEW

The Procurement Executive is to have a Watchdog (albeit for another reason).

If the Services can keep abreast in the field of technological advancement the least they can do in the social-welfare-families area is to make sure they are not left behind as poor relations.

Another aspect which is overlooked relates to innovations and entrepreneurial ideas. Too often the Services are afraid of making a mistake. Lay initiatives vanish under departmental umbrellas.

There is no mechanism to develop proposals. It is too easy to block them.

Sometimes the response has been a blank "No".

There is a list of other standard replies which are almost as subtle:

"There is no need for..."

"No money" "No manpower or resources" and the ever popular "No finance" which means "No money" but implies the nation's exchequer is being put at risk.

"No finance" is a popular excuse because the Services lack expertise in raising outside funding - though this does not seem to apply to sponsorship for Services' sport.

It is true that fund finding takes time but it must be done if the Services are to keep abreast of what is on offer in the EEC for example.

Unless they have a Watchdog to read and interpret all proposed legislation BEFORE it hits the Statute Book, the Services will continue to lose out.

Bovie's on the ball



"IT'S BRILL," is how the members described Bovington Youth Centre a year after it opened.

So the fanfare that heralded its birth really meant something. In 12 months the club's activities spread from pool to darts, ice-skating to swimming, and TV and discos apart, they organised trips and camping weekends.

There was a sponsored event for Comic

Relief. In place of the old wooden hut that once served the camp there is now an open plan building adjacent to the Memorial Hall with a bistro in between them.

None of this would have been possible had not Lt Col Denis Steward, Principal Housing and Welfare Commandant, taken action some years ago and insured the old building for the sum advised by the

Property Services Agency. When the wooden structure was burned down the insurance went towards the new centre.

It is unique because it is run in partnership by the Army and Dorset Youth Service. The Army provides the building and maintains it; the Youth Service pays the salaries of the youth leader and assistants.

Ken Perkins, Dorset

It's all go at the Youth Centre with a difference where smiles are the order of the day



Area Youth Officer agreed with District Councillor Alison Barrett that the Army youngsters living in a closed environment needed opportunities to meet and mix with local residents and the Centre also offered the local community to get

to know the Army better.

The Centre is even used by pensioners one day a week.

Thanks to Denis Steward once again, a second-hand mini-bus was bought on the understanding that it was self-financing.

It is not only used locally but has taken members on a skiing holiday in Scotland.

In the last issue I saluted a Welsh battalion.

Today I commend the entrepreneurial skills of the bright sparks at "Bovie".

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND
Anne Armstrong
Home telephone:
Camberley 29653

Guidelines for the new 'FC' system

How are the Services going to be affected by the new Family Credit scheme which has replaced FIS - Family Income Supplement?

People who are receiving FIS now need do nothing. It will continue until it runs out at the end of the 52-week period.

All new applicants, either at home or abroad, will have to complete Family Credit Form 1 just as civilians do.

For Service families abroad three main points are considered when Family Credit is worked out.

- The number and ages of children in a family. (A single person will not get less FC than a couple just because they are bringing up children on their own).

- Income from work and Social Security benefits. Child, One Parent and Housing Benefit will not count.

- Savings of less than £3,000 (adults) will not count. Between £3,000 and £6,000 each £250 or part of £250 will be considered to be earning £1 a week.

If a child has more than £3,000 in savings no allowance will be added to Family Credit for that child. Otherwise a child's savings will not be counted.

People who have more than £6,000 in savings will not get Family Credit.

FC will be paid for only 26 weeks but the number of weeks may vary during the first 12 months of the new scheme.

Rough guidelines:

Family A - Couple with one child 4, one 6
Weekly income about £90
Possible FC about £17

Family B - Couple with one child 12, one 14
Weekly income about £100
Possible FC about £21

Family C - Couple with one child 3, one 6, one 9
Weekly income about £100
Possible FC about £16

Family D - Couple with one child 9, one 14, one 16
Weekly income about £110
Possible FC about £23

Family E - Couple with children aged 7, 12, 14 and 16
Weekly income about £110
Possible FC about £34

FC can be paid either directly into a bank or building society account. This payment by credit transfer is made every four weeks. Cash can be drawn from post offices by order book.

People receiving FC may get additional benefits related to NHS prescriptions, dental treatment, and hospital travel plus help with the cost of spectacles.

Rent or ratepayers may be eligible for help through housing benefit or the Ministry of Defence scheme. For exceptional expenses the Social Fund may be able to assist. If you think you are in a position to claim FC you can get the form at post offices, Social Security offices and BFPDs.

Re five-year olds and school - in the last issue I wrote that under the Education Act a child did not become of compulsory school age until the beginning of the term "in which he/she reaches five". This should have read the term **after** it reaches five.

Hope for young on surplus MQs

The Armed Forces Minister, Mr Roger Freeman, tells me three major changes have been made in the regulations covering the sale of surplus married quarters (the discounted scheme).

They were due to take effect on April 20 (see Bulletin No 73) and are expected to make things easier for more Service applicants.

CHANGE ONE - the age qualification has been lowered to bring the Army and RAF in line with the Royal Navy.

Personnel "must have attained the age of 25 years and be serving in the Regular British Armed Forces as at the closing date for the application." Until now they have had to be 30.

This should help younger Servicemen and

women to apply for two-bedroom houses which have not been attractive to older people with bigger families.

CHANGE TWO - A loophole has been closed. It appears that some applicants who already owned houses transferred their title to relatives (sons, daughters etc) so they could sign the declaration that they did not own their homes and perhaps pick

up a bargain.

Now applicants must declare: "A person will be regarded as an existing home owner and therefore ineligible if since the scheme came into being on the 1st December 1983 neither he or she, or his or her spouse, have held a freehold interest in a house or other residential property, or a lease of such a property having an unexpired term of 21 years or

more."

CHANGE THREE - More houses are to be brought into the discounted scheme.

Up to now MoD estates have been sold to developers who resold them on the open market after refurbishing the roads and amenities.

Now a leaf is to be taken out of the book of local authorities who, when they sold to developers, laid

down a condition that, say, ten per cent of dwellings would be available for resale at a discount to Servicemen after the works had been completed. The first scheme is operating at Colchester.

So far so good. However, a number of points need clearing up.

Why shouldn't Servicemen be eligible for the incentive payments paid by some local authorities?



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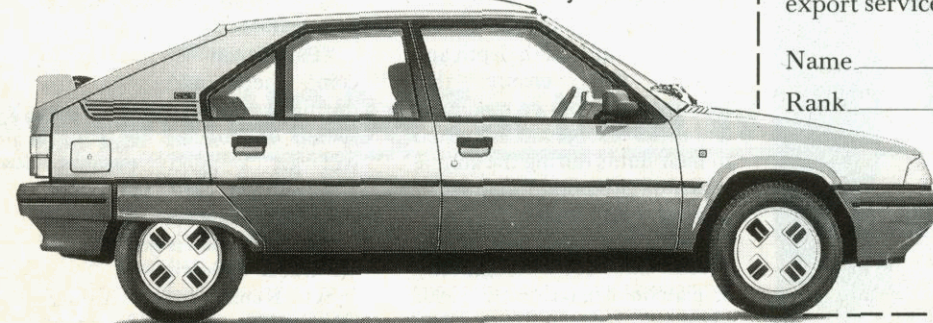
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Winning a battle on the playing fields of Brecon

THE battle of Waterloo, according to military folklore, was won on the playing fields of Eton.

The battle for the Falkland Islands, they now say, was won on the hills of Brecon.

It was on those barren, windswept hills that many of the task force flexed their muscles before the long journey south and where the infantry's senior NCOs — backbone of many a fighting formation — had learnt their trade.

The same is true today. The section commanders and platoon sergeants of tomorrow are still tabbing across the Sennybridge Training Area as they have for the past 15 years.

Part of the School of Infantry, the NCOs Tactical Wing at Dering Lines prides itself

in offering some of the most exacting and comprehensive NCO training courses in the world.

Named after Sir Edward Dering, founder of the 24th Foot, Dering Lines was built in the 1930s as a temporary training camp and, after the war, became the Parachute Regiment Battle School.

Para recruits still pass through Dering Lines during selected phases of their training, but its primary role is now the training of infantry NCOs, both Regular and TA.

The NCO wing has been at the camp since 1973, and a total rebuild over the next few years will make it one of the most advanced training camps in the UK.

Fitness is paramount among the more

than 1,500 Regular and TA students that pass through the camp each year.

A stamina assessment standard of two miles in 18 minutes while carrying a weapon and equipment loaded to 35 lbs is a minimum expectation.

Lt Col John Hunt, commandant, said: "An NCO who is fit and is able to operate for extended periods over rough terrain in severe weather while carrying a load of 35 lbs in his CEFO will cope easily with the physical aspects of the course."

"The student must be fit so that he can participate and learn rather than concentrate on keeping up."

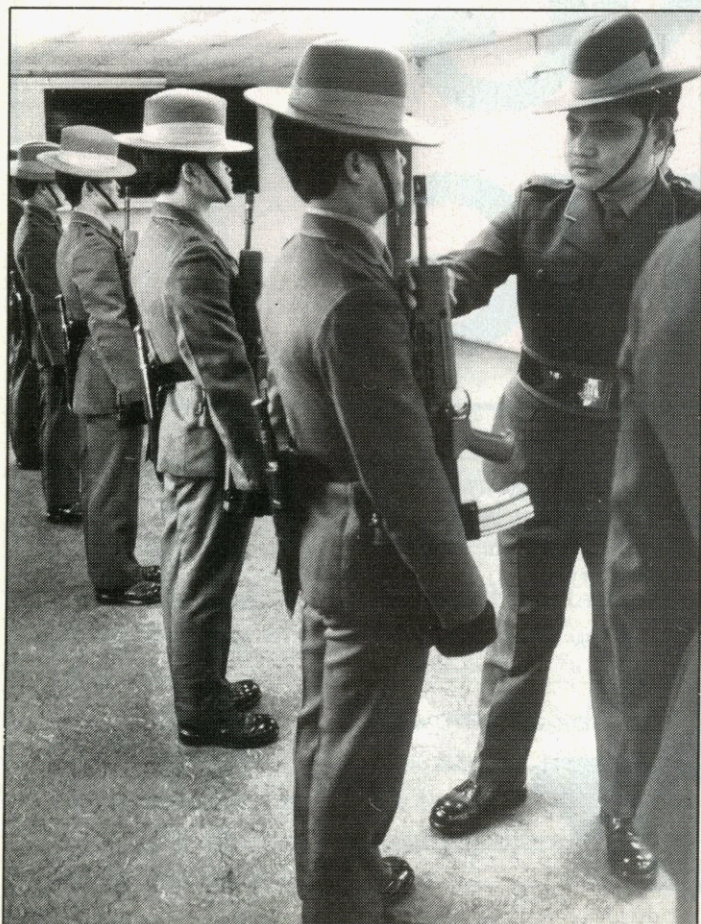
The symbol of the NCOs wing is a bayonet superimposed on an outline of Wales.



Stories: Mervyn Wynne Jones

Pictures: Mike Weston

WATCH OUT! THE ENEMY'S ABOUT



Sgt Maj Jit Bahadur Gurung corrects one of his men on a point of drill as they get to grips with the SA 80

WEARING Soviet style woolen ear muffers and insignia, the men of the Brecon based Gurkha Demonstration Company look remarkably like the Mongolian and Chinese hordes that have cut a bloody path through history.

Masters of fieldcraft and weaponry, the Gurkhas spend 12 month stints in Brecon putting students through their paces at the School of Infantry's NCOs Tactical Wing.

On hand to ambush, be ambushed, defend in depth and attack, they ensure that potential section commanders and platoon sergeants are tested to their limits during the annual series of promotion courses at Dering Lines camp.

There have been Gurkhas in Brecon since 1974 though only in platoon strength until 1980. Platoons rotated from the Church Crookham regiment in Hampshire but the company now draws its personnel from

the whole brigade on trickle posting.

Their role is to provide "enemy" and demonstration troops in support of the five section commander and four platoon sergeant courses run at Dering Lines each year.

"The work can be repetitive at times but all are glad to be posted here," said OC Maj Nimawangdi Lama, 10 GR. "For many it will be their only chance to see something of the UK and Europe."

"Each man is selected to come here and during the time he spends at Brecon will get a good grounding in tactics in preparation for his own promotion courses. The pay is good and so are travel opportunities."

Sgt Kamalparsad Gurung, QG Signals, said: "Working here is very different to working in Hong Kong. My family lives in the foothills of

It always rains in Wales — or at least on the Sennybridge Training Area! Gurkhas in "enemy" dress make their wet way to a rendezvous



SA 80s reveal the picture was taken in the heart of Wales rather than the Russian steppes



Makeshift "turrets" turn Land Rovers into tanks for an exercise on the Sennybridge Training Area

Gurkhas put NCOs Tactical Wing students to test

Nepal and the scenery reminds me of home."

The Gurkhas are well liked by the local community and have been given the Freedom of the Township of Brecon.

Being the only readily available source of manpower

in the area, the Gurkhas are in demand for parades. They also help in the relief of community and livestock during floods and snow.

The remainder of their stay in mid-Wales is spent on the bleak and inhospitable hills and

moorland of the Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA) giving the hapless student NCOs as hard a time as possible.

"It is a tough year for our men as well," said company 2IC Capt Machindra Bahadur Rai. "They might be out all

night on patrol, come back, have a shower and then be on their way back out to SENTA the same morning.

"It is certainly a big change from internal security duties in Hong Kong and jungle patrols in Brunei."

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"Far better than doing drill with broomsticks." Powys Army Cadets show off their new replica Ensign rifles

Pictures: Mike Weston

SON OF A GUN!

SHOUTS of encouragement and peels of laughter echoed across the fields as each batch of young cadets tackled the assault course, writes **Mervyn Wynne Jones**.

Dripping mud and perspiration, the youngsters stormed each obstacle with gusto to the delight and amusement of their peers on the sidelines.

Members of the Powys Army Cadet Force were being put through their paces by their OC – a sheep farmer who boasts his own assault course and an armoury of unique mock rifles.

The assault course grew from just a spartan selection of obstacles to a full blown run with the encouragement and guidance of the Regular Army staff at nearby Dering Lines in Brecon.

A former cadet himself, Maj David Cooke RRW, set up the Builth Wells detachment of Powys ACF 13 years ago and, being a land owner, decided to devote a field and stream to a miniature training area for the county cadets.

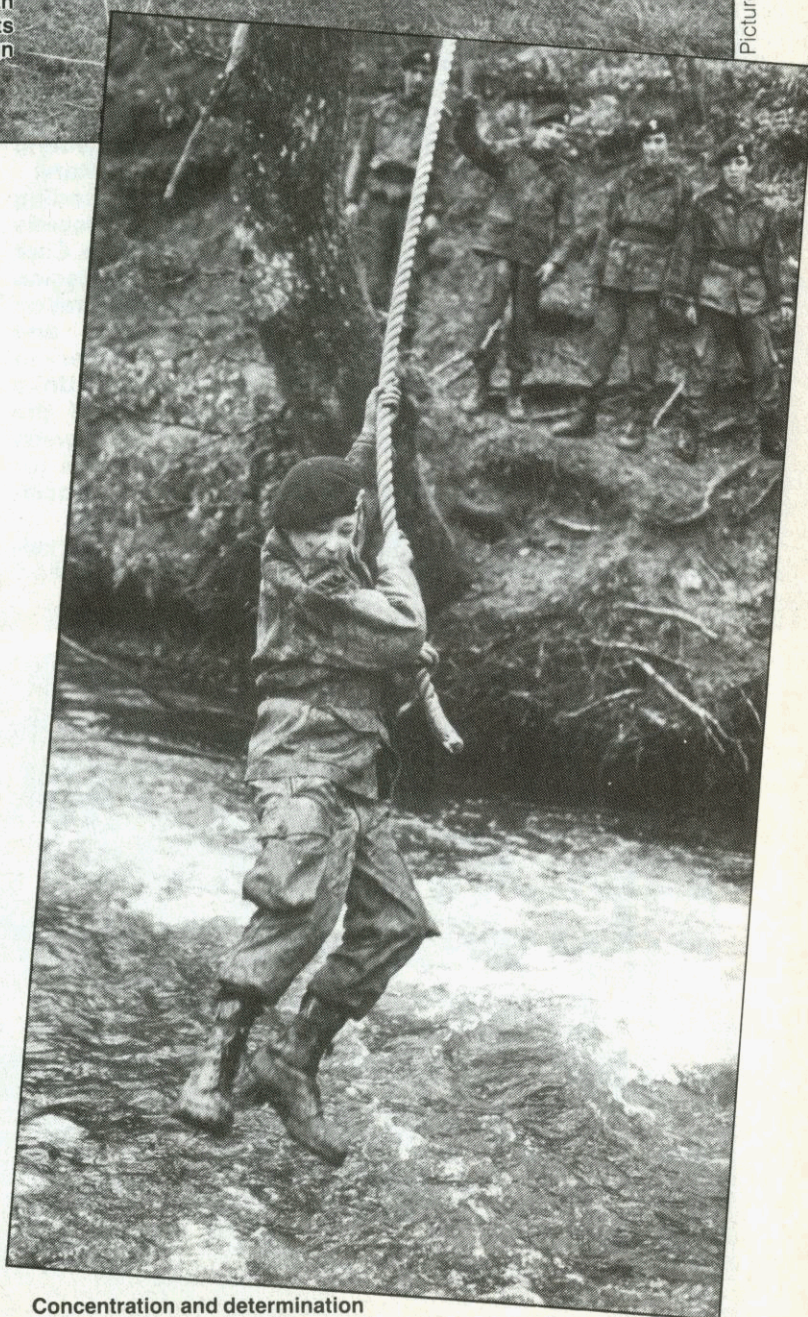
From humble beginnings, the course now has a full range of obstacles – checked frequently by the Dering Lines parent unit – including tunnels, a death slide, monkey bridge, revolving cable drums and a rope swing.

Capt Baz Elliott, former para field ambulance but now wearing an RWF cap badge as Powys ACF training officer, said: "The lads love it and are always keen to give it a go."

Pride and joy of the Powys ACF lads are their replica Ensign rifles – the cadet version of the SA 80 – which are exact to the last detail but made of solid plastic resin.

When they heard that they were to lose their drill purpose .303 rifles and that they were not yet in line for the new Ensign, they decided to commission their own and had a cast made.

Staff insist that cadets treat the models with the same respect that they would a real rifle and care is taken to ensure they are kept secure.



Concentration and determination as a cadet tackles his OC's assault course

There's money in them thar covers

PHILATELY will, as they say, get you everywhere. Especially, it seems, when it comes to raising money for charity, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

The philatelic bureau of the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, at Mill Hill, North London, is at the core of a fund raising effort that has boosted the coffers of both military and civilian charities by almost £2 million during the past 20 years.

Behind this lucrative venture is retired Group Capt Bill Randle RAF who caught the fund raising bug in the 1950s and stumbled upon stamps ten years later. He has now become interested in Army philately and, in his new appointment as consultant to the Director Defence Postal and Courier Service, represents the philatelic interests of all three Services.

He links each new set of British stamps to a military theme and the postal sappers at Mill Hill step in

to produce a hand-stamp for the commemorative covers, each with an appropriate illustration, counter signature and postmark.

Despite the huge cost in stamps when producing a set of covers, up to £2,000 profit goes to charity each time.

Group Capt Randle and Capt Rod Small RE, staff officer responsible for monitoring all Forces philatelic matters, feel that the Army could become more involved and are eager to hear from any unit celebrating an anniversary or expecting a visit from a dignitary.

On the understanding that most of the proceeds go to charity, Group Capt Randle will commission an appropriate illustration and then prepare and produce a set of covers to mark the occasion. Units making the most of the service will be given covers to raise funds for their charitable associations and societies.

"They become marvellous collector's items,"



Artist Chas Stadden's painting of an officer of 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE during Operation Corporate was one of a series used on commemorative covers marking the RE 200 celebrations last year

said Group Capt Randle, "and the best thing about the process is that the

money goes to charity."

Some covers, such as those signed by Mountbatten and Montgomery, are now worth £200 each. Plans are afoot for an ambitious series of covers commemorating the 50th anniversary of the major battles and campaigns of the Second World War as seen through the eyes of each of the Services.

Produced over the next six years, the covers will be a unique record of the war and the bureau are looking forward to any suggestions from the Army as to what ought to be included.

"We are concentrating on putting military history philatelically in front of the collector and to do so we must keep our themes vibrant and alive," said Group Capt Randle.

Capt Rod Small said: "There is no doubt about it, it is good news for the Army and good news for the stamp collector."

Capt R Small is at D Def PCS BFPO 777, telephone London District military extension 2614.

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Co-pilot: Flt. Lt. D. S. Hulse RAF
Air Engineer: Master Engineer D. Wood

RFDC 20

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

101st Anniversary of the Formation of the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifle Volunteers



Flown from Inglis Barracks the present Headquarters of the British Forces Postal Service to the Bomber Command Museum Hendon in Gazelle Hat 3, XZ 935, of No. 32 Sqn. RAF.

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FLT. LT. B. E. DANTON, RAF
Postal Courier: Private GEORGINA BREMNER, WRAC

Commandant
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Inglis Barracks
Mill Hill



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THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

Anglo-German tank men join forces to restore church near RAC's Castlemartin range

BRITISH and German tank men have joined forces to restore a church near the Royal Armoured Corps range at Castlemartin in West Wales, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

The church at Warren had fallen into disrepair after lying empty for more than a decade but will now be back in use thanks to those at the range

Discussing plans for the renovation of the church are, from left, SSgt Hermann Just, German liaison officer at the range, the Rev David Leak, and Capt Jack Fergusson 9/12 L, who is the range administration officer

who wanted to contribute to the European Year of the Environment.

So far £100,000 has been raised towards the final bill. The altar - which is being restored in Germany - will incorporate the coats of arms of the Diocese of St David's and Castlemartin Range as well as the badge of the German Army

Chaplains' Department.

Castlemartin is an RAC training area but the Germans are the principal users between June and November when Leopard tanks are frequently to be seen on the coastal battle runs.

The Rev David Leak, vicar of Castlemartin, said: "It is marvellous news for the parish

community and it is good to see such close links between the military and civilian communities.

By curious coincidence, the newly restored organ being transferred from Castlemartin Church to Warren Church was once played by Mendelssohn - the German composer - when it was a church organ in Suffolk.

It is hoped the first service will be held at St Mary's Church, Warren, in October and that the Federal German Armoured Corps band will be playing on that occasion as part of their tour of the United Kingdom.



Picture: Mike Weston

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MILITARY SALES



Above—In a simulated NBC warfare environment, QAs practice casualty decontamination techniques

Below—Practical map reading for these QA student officers poring over a map as they prepare to navigate across country during Exercise Nightingale



IT TAKES a person of special skill and dedication to handle the demanding role of being both a nurse and an Army officer, but this challenging work comes as second

nature to the hard working women in grey and scarlet – the QAs. Becoming a QARANC officer means being a nurse first and an officer second. It also means

being part of a professional corps which is responsible for the nursing care of patients in military hospitals at home and abroad. The commissioned branch of the Queen

Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps is open to any Registered General Nurse with one year's post registration experience, subject to certain criteria. ● Turn to Page 32

THE GREYS AND SCARLETS!

WHEN designing the QA insignia, Queen Alexandra, who came from the Royal House of Denmark, chose to incorporate a little of her country's history by including a white cross known as the Dannebrog in the medallion design. Hence the corps motto – *Sub Cruce Candida* (Under the White Cross)

THE SIGHT of QAs in their distinctive grey and scarlet uniforms is a familiar one for those who have served in the Army during this century, but what of their origins?

In 1854, Florence Nightingale took 38 women to the Crimea to tend the sick and wounded. Until then soldiers had been treated by over worked surgeons and cared for either by their comrades or their families, writes Laurie Manton.

The work of Miss Nightingale's nurses was to revolutionise the care of sick and wounded soldiers in the British Army and led directly to the birth of the Army Nursing Service.

After the war, sick and wounded were evacuated to Fort Pitt hospital, Chatham, Kent where nurses continued to care for them – the first trained nurses ever to work officially in England.

Queen Victoria took a great interest in the care of her soldiers and as a result a large new hospital, the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, Hants was built.

The service expanded rapidly and in 1879 Mrs J C Deebles, the first Superintendent of Nurses, led a team to Africa during the Zulu War.

In 1881, the service officially became the Army Nursing Service and an Army Order authorised the employment of trained nurses in all Army hospitals with 100 beds or more.

The Boer War proved a great testing ground for the stamina and perseverance



One of many medal groups to be found in the QARANC Museum. It includes an OBE, the Royal Red Cross, a Balkan War Medal, French Medal of Honour and the Military Medal awarded to Sister Norah Easby QAIMNS who served with the British Red Cross Society during the Balkan War of 1912-13.

In France during the First World War, she was wounded on duty when the casualty clearing station at Bethune was bombed in 1916. For devotion to duty she was awarded the MM.

Sister Easby died, aged 69, in Johannesburg in 1949 and was buried with full military honours.

of nurses who suffered often intolerable conditions with great fortitude.

On March 27, 1902, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was established. Each year on this day QAs throughout the world celebrate their Corps Day.

Queen Alexandra became first president of the QAIMNS and selected the insignia and motto. She announced her intention to give each nurse a medallion – and to this day a medallion is given to each sister entering the service and worn with pride on the scarlet cape.

During the First World War thousands of members of the QAIMNS, the reserve and the Territorial Force Nursing Service worked in all theatres of war, sometimes

dangerously near the enemy lines and many were killed during the course of their duties.

Some were decorated for devotion to duty under fire. There was then no rank structure, although nurses were acknowledged to have officer status. It was not officially possible to award them the Military Cross and they had to settle for the Military Medal, an other ranks award.

The Second World War saw QAs involved in virtually every theatre, including Dunkirk, North Africa, Normandy and Burma. At the Anzio beach head, morale was heightened by the presence of the nurses moving among the wounded.

They served in base and field hospitals; casualty clearing stations; ambulance trains; hospital ships; mobile surgical teams and refugee camps, caring for soldiers of every creed and colour, friend and foe.

Captured nurses served in the hardest

Subtle hint?

THE stiff decorative flower on the back of the scarlet cape is an Alexandra rose. It is thought to be more than just an embellishment, for when the wearer sits back in a chair it presses between the shoulder blades. It is said to have been designed to prevent sisters from falling asleep on night duty!

● Turn to Page 33

Basic course is a hectic six week introduction to Army



Lt Sally Carter



Lt Sally Smith

● From Page 31

After passing a selection board, intending QAs are commissioned as lieutenants and attend a six week course at the QARANC Training Centre in Aldershot.

The Student Officer Basic Course (SOBC) is the testing ground for new QAs, forming a crash course in militarisation for the nursing sisters.

During SOBC, the QAs learn about military knowledge and training, corps organisation and administration, recruitment and employment.

It's a hectic six weeks during which the girls undergo everything from drill and PT to an introduction to the Geneva Convention, uniform fitting and NBC training.

SOBC also involves taking part in Exercise Nightingale - a 48 hour field training exercise designed to practise the student officer in a number of aspects including field hospital organisation, working in an NBC environment, decontamination

procedures and map reading.

Another important skill to be learnt is weapon safety, for although QAs do not use personal weapons, it can be necessary for them to make a wounded soldier's rifle safe.

There is also an NBC exercise where, dressed in "noddy" suits and respirators, they carry out decontamination drills before running up and down the aptly named "heartbreak" hill.

This exhausting exercise demonstrates to the QAs just what conditions and difficulties they might face should they ever be called upon to work in an NBC environment.

On completion of SOBC, QA officers are given their first postings.

This could be anything from a modern purpose built hospital in Woolwich to an older style hospital in Germany, adapted to meet present day needs. Postings for

members of SOBC No 48 included Germany, Aldershot, Woolwich, Catterick and - for one lucky QA - Hong Kong.



We've done it! Time for congratulations after a successful passing out parade for brand new QAs from Student Officer Basic Course No 48 at QATC Aldershot

Nurses on the move

THE chances of QAs serving overseas during their engagement are good. Members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps work in military hospitals in Germany at Hanover, Rinteln, Munster, Iserlohn and Berlin; Dhekelia and Akrotiri in Cyprus and Hong Kong.

QAs are also stationed at Port Stanley in the Falklands, while in the United Kingdom they can be posted to Aldershot, Belfast, Catterick, Woolwich and Wroughton.

In a forthcoming issue, SOLDIER will be looking at other aspects of the work of the QAs including general nursing and midwifery.

Angels of mercy in Far East PoW camps

● From Page 31

stations of all - the Japanese prison camps of Hong Kong and Malaya. Here they fought death and disease with little or no equipment or medicine.

At the end of the war the relief of concentration camps in Europe and the PoW camps of the Far East provided a gigantic and heartbreaking nursing task.

In 1949 QAIMNS became the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and for the first time sisters were granted regular commissions with Army rank. In 1950 other ranks were admitted for training.

Throughout the post-war years, the corps underwent many changes as Empire and Commonwealth reduced the commitments of the British Army.

In 1967, a brand new training centre was built at Aldershot on the site of the former Royal Pavilion. It houses a magnificent museum which records the history and traditions of the corps.



If the cap fits! SSgt Instructor Marie Watson (right) checks the fitting of the forage cap for Lt Gudrun Varey

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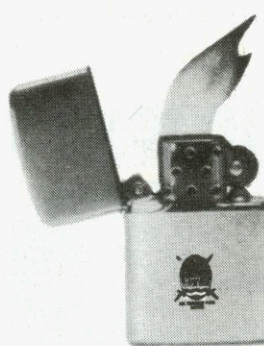
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Don Pritchatt (centre) has given enough blood to fill the 17 Paras with him

THE GENERAL'S OUT FOR BLOOD!

MEET Don Pritchatt, 63, a civilian who has scored a century as a blood donor. Most of his hundred pints – symbolised in the picture above by the 100 bottles of milk and 17 men of 1 Para they could have “filled up” – went to the Army, writes **Bill Moore**.

Don, who served in the RAF during the war and is now retired and living at Weybridge, has been one of the best customers of the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot since 1972.

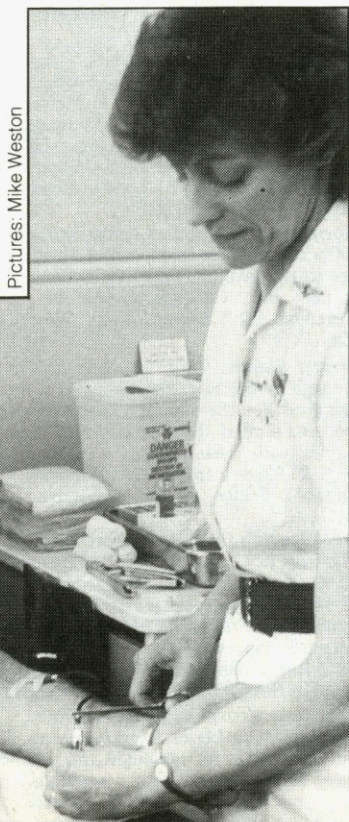
In recognition of his achievement, Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere, GOC South East District, presented him with a Wedgwood plate and gave an engraved goblet to Gp Capt Paddy Spence, a retired RAF officer, whose official score is 75 pints but is known to be near the 100 mark.

The general had a special gift for Lt Col Mike Thomas RAMC commanding the depot. He gave a pint of his own blood

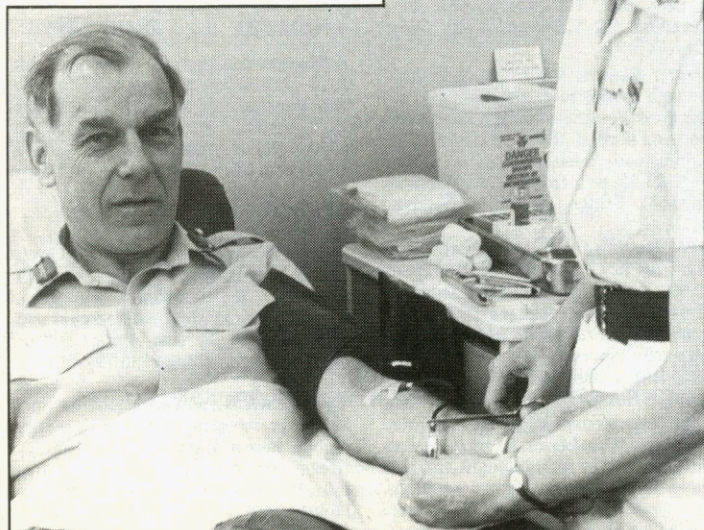
(and like a loyal ADC so did Capt James Hall of the LI).

“I hope as many soldiers and MoD personnel as possible will become donors,” said the general. “They could help to save the life of a comrade hurt in either an accident or wounded in action.”

You have been warned. The general is out for blood. The Army Blood Supply Depot normally collects and distributes 1,500 units of blood a month and is in the process of doubling that quantity to supply British Military Hospitals in Germany as well as those in Britain.



Pictures: Mike Weston



Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere gives his pint to Mrs Iris Parsons, a civilian donor assistant

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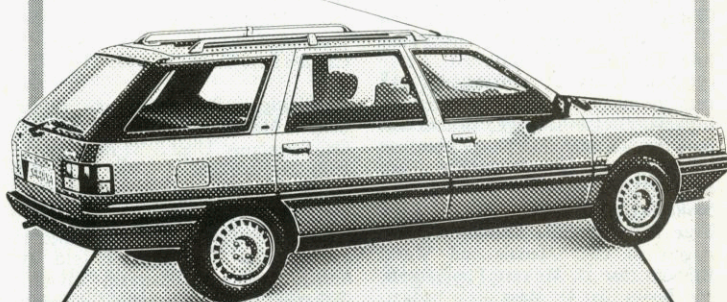
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Beware! to great lengths for cash

BIG HEARTED soldiers are, it appears, prepared to go to the ends of the Earth to raise money for worthwhile causes. If, that is, you can describe Australia as the end of the Earth!

Three Regulars serving with the Royal Corps of Transport in Preston, Lancs are currently making their way "Down Under" after breaking out of Styal Open Prison in Cheshire.

The three - Maj Alex Rennie, WO1 Mike Cahill and WO2 Fred Eaton - hope that by reaching Australia they will pick up £50,000 in sponsorship for the Great Ormond Street

Hospital for Sick Children redevelopment appeal.

Not that they'll be hard to miss. Alex, Mike and Fred will be dressed in military convict garb and each will be carrying a ball and chain.

English convicts to Oz? Let's hope these diggers have a sense of humour!

Meanwhile, back in their gymnasium in Munster, West Germany, six men of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards made the feathers fly to raise £1,000 for Great Ormond Street. They completed a 24 hour badminton marathon.



These men will go



JAILBREAKERS and jailers! From left to right are Cpl Bob Grant, WO2 Fred Eaton, Cpl Vince Barrett, Maj Alex Rennie, Cpl Dave Buckley and WO1 Mike Cahill. The Military Policemen are from the Preston detachment of 150 Provost Coy RMP

The famous children's hospital is also due to benefit from a marathon darts match planned by men of 8 Sqn RCT in Aldershot. They plan to score 1,000,001 points in 24 hours.

What started as an ambitiously physical adventurous training exercise for a 15 man team of Royal Signals soldiers based at Tidworth has developed into an up-and-down money-raising effort on behalf of six-year-old Ben Manners of Nottingham, a victim of cerebral palsy.

Led by Capt Ray Papworth, the team from 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn at Tidworth plan to run 450 miles and climb more than 11,000ft on Britain's three highest peaks.

Backed by a medical team from Bulford based 16 Field Ambulance, the signallers aim to run up Ben Nevis (4,400ft), Scafell (3,200ft) and Snowdon (3,500ft), the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales.

Dvr Jeremy Colligan (47 Air Despatch Sqn RCT), the man who underwent a heart and lung transplant and is now back with his unit, will be making a guest appearance during the



Greater Manchester Army Careers Information Office 200 mile "Run for Hope".

Six team members will run from Carlisle to Manchester via Liverpool and Salford to raise money for the Special Care Baby Unit of Hope Hospital, Salford.

Fund manager is SSgt Maureen Sibert WRAC who last year received a Wilkinson Sword poignard for raising more than £550 for disabled people during the Armed Forces wheelchair marathon.

Another Wilkinson Sword poignard was awarded to three members of The Cheshire Regiment serving at Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division for raising £563 during the wheelchair marathon at RAF Cosford. More money from the Depot's open day has been presented,

bringing the total dispensed to £4,608. Latest recipients have been the Army Benevolent Fund (£1,000) and BLESMA (£608).

The London District RCT annual mini-marathon raised £550 for the Spastics Society. More than 70 RCT and attached personnel took part in the event.

Sixteen soldiers from the 8th Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron and the 1st Bn The Green Howards serving in Northern Ireland marched from Stranraer in Scotland to London in nine days, collecting more than £700 en route for the National Deaf Children's Society. They hope to raise a lot more when all their sponsorship promises come in.

By our reckoning that brings the grand total since we began to keep a running total of Good Causes money raised by the Army to **£37,780**

**BIG
WAVE**

HELLO out there! Sgt Steve Dockery of the Minden Garrison Sub-Aqua Club waves to the outside world during his spell in the "tank" as 11 divers completed a 48 hour relay marathon to raise money for charity. The 2.6m by 2.5m tank was set up in the Kingsley Barracks Naafi for the event and the Minden Marlins managed to collect nearly £1,000 for a Minden children's charity and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

A GUIDE TO TOTAL WAR

IT TENDS to be forgotten that deliberate attacks on civilians and property are a comparatively new aspect of warfare. It was the long-arm of air power that made commanders think demoralising and "de-housing" civilians could be made an important part of war strategy.

This is now universally acknowledged as a legitimate tool of offence and hardly a hair is turned by such horrors as the "war of the cities" in the prolonged Iraq-Iran conflict.

Charles Whiting explains how this dramatic change in military philosophy came about in the Second World War.

Firstly there was the devastation of Warsaw by the Luftwaffe. In 1940 came the raids on London. Suddenly the name of the game became "total war".

Rostock and Lubeck bore the brunt of RAF Bomber

Command's wrath. It was the start of a sequence of raids that left Britain and Germany with countless sorrowing families and devoid of a great deal of architectural heritage.

Exeter, Bath, York, Canterbury and Norwich were among the targets selected by the Germans for this new bitter type of warfare.

Why these cities? Simply because they were marked with three stars in Karl Baedeker's famous guidebook published a century before!

In the author's words: "What happened in those English cities back in 1942 started a dreadful chain reaction, which is still with us today." — BJ

The Three Star Blitz: The Baedeker Raids and the Start of Total War (1942-1943) by Charles Whiting. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.



Rommel in the desert with one of his aides

In brief

Gunner and Guru by David Turner. The experiences of the author as an officer in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War followed by his second career as a senior Civil Servant. Published by Pentland Press. Price £10.50.

Uncle Target by Gavin Lyall. Novel about a major's search for the next generation main battle tank with a radically new gun which goes missing in Jordan and threatens to fall into Russian hands. Published by Hodder and Stoughton. Price £10.95.

Badges, Medals and Insignia of the Irish Defence Forces by James J Hogan. Published in association with Military Archives and obtainable from PO Box 51, Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin 6. Price £1.50 (Ireland/UK), £2.50 (Europe) and £5 (USA).

Handbook of British Regiments by Christopher Chant. An insight into the lineage and history of about 85 regiments and corps in the current British Army, including history, battle honours, uniform, mottoes and marches. Published by Routledge. Price £20.

Arab Armies of the Middle East Wars (2) by Samuel M Katz. Published in the Men at Arms series by Osprey. Price £4.50.

The British Army on Campaign (3) 1816-1902 by Michael Barthorp. Published in the Men at Arms series by Osprey. Price £4.50.

Diary of a Wartime Cruise by Vic Went and Reg Stacey. The story of the troopship Empress of Britain until she was sunk in the Irish Sea in 1940. Published by Merlin Books. Price £3.95.

BLOODY MUDDLE

MORE than 700 British Servicemen, including 160 Army officers and soldiers, were casualties in the desperate attack on Tobruk in 1942 as Rommel's army was seemingly close to a final break-through to Cairo and the Nile. An attack which was a disaster.

They were casualties, says Peter C Smith — two years old at that time — because of "a combination of sloppy preparation, indifferent organisation and downright disgraceful security."

Most of the casualties were men of the 11th Battalion Royal Marines, many of them drowned within a few minutes of leaving their destroyers. Jerry-built boats pulled apart and the packed men in them drowned in dozens, a bad, wasted, useless death to a large part self-inflicted through haste, poor craftsmanship and the old British habit of trying to muddle through instead of doing the job properly, he says.

But despite his comment about "downright disgraceful security", Smith quotes from the official history of the war in the Middle East that "no evidence has been found to show that the enemy has

become aware of any part of the plan."

When he asked a member of the Intelligence Section at Panzer-Armee Afrika Corp's HQ about a possible security leak, he was emphatic that the Germans had no prior knowledge of the landings.

Comments Smith: "It seems pretty conclusive then that the landings did actually come as a complete surprise to the Axis with regard to prior knowledge, but that the RAF bombing had served to arouse their suspicions that something special was going on at Tobruk."

It was only a month earlier that many more lives were squandered at the Dieppe raid, and at that time also RAF bombing was said to have alerted the Germans, and almost all the same blunders had been made.

Of the Dieppe raid, Winston Churchill was to say: "It was a costly but not unfruitful reconnaissance in force. Tactically it was a mine of experience." But the lessons were not learned in time for Tobruk. — AT

Massacre at Tobruk by Peter C Smith, published by William Kimber. Price £13.50.

The Alternative Third World War by William Jackson. Conflict between four new power blocks — Nationalist Africa, Latin America, Islamic Fundamentalism, and a Sino-Japanese alliance — as seen through the memoirs of the granddaughter of the author, Gen Sir William Jackson, after she retires from the Army as a general in the year 2040. Published by Brassey's. Price £14.95.

Going after Cacciato by Tim O'Brien. Reissue in paperback of novel about soldier Cacciato who decides he would sooner be in Paris than Vietnam. Published by Flamingo. Price £3.95.

Operation Barbarossa by Bryan I Fugate. Detailed account of the Wehrmacht's plans to invade Russia in 1941 and of the strategy the USSR employed to defend its frontier. Published by Spa Books. Price £14.95.

The great tank scandal

"APART from the *Firefly* no tank existed after four years of war that was fit to go into a tank battle, and only about 50 of these ever saw service, just as the war was ending."

This condemnation of British tank strength — or rather lack of it — in the Second World War is by General Sir John Hackett in a foreword to an outspoken book by Jack Smithers which follows the story of the tank up to and through the Second World War.

It is a logical follow up to his *A New Excalibur* in which he examined the invention and development of armour in the earlier conflict.

Even now, nearly half a century later, the author suspects that few appreciate how much more efficient the armoured role might have been had the right tanks been in the right places at the right times.

But it was not simply a problem of putting the right tank in the right place: the right tank had to be designed and built, and it is the failure to carry out such a programme that Jack Smithers analyses.

The reader will have to form his own opinion about the causes of inadequate armour, armament and reliability. Was it the amateur attitude to war that traditionally stamps those in authority?

Apathy, ignorance, bigotry, clashes of personality, or too frequent changes of command?

Any or all these underlying reasons may be behind the poor machines supplied to British armoured formations in the Second World War.

To use Smithers' description of the situation in July 1944: "The country was cluttered up with tanks, most of them obsolete or useless for other reasons. Quite pointlessly, factories had wasted labour and materials in turning out about 100 of the light *Harry Hopkins* for which no use could be found, to say nothing of the *Tortoise*..."

"This was the great tank scandal. With the war nearly five years old and with the last two years largely devoted to planning the battles in Normandy it is beyond forgiveness."

"To estimate how many names appear upon the war memorials of three countries because men in authority failed to grasp the obvious is not possible."

It is a condemnation that will surely promote considerable argument. — BJ

Rude Mechanicals: An Account of Tank Maturity During the Second World War by A J Smithers, published by Leo Cooper. Price £15.



Churchill rides in a Covenanter tank, the Mark IV version of which is described by A J Smithers as "the rudest mechanical of them all"

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The Preface is written by Lady Templer, wife of the late Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer.

This detailed History of the Irish Soldier has a comprehensive index extending to sixteen pages making it a valuable ready reference.

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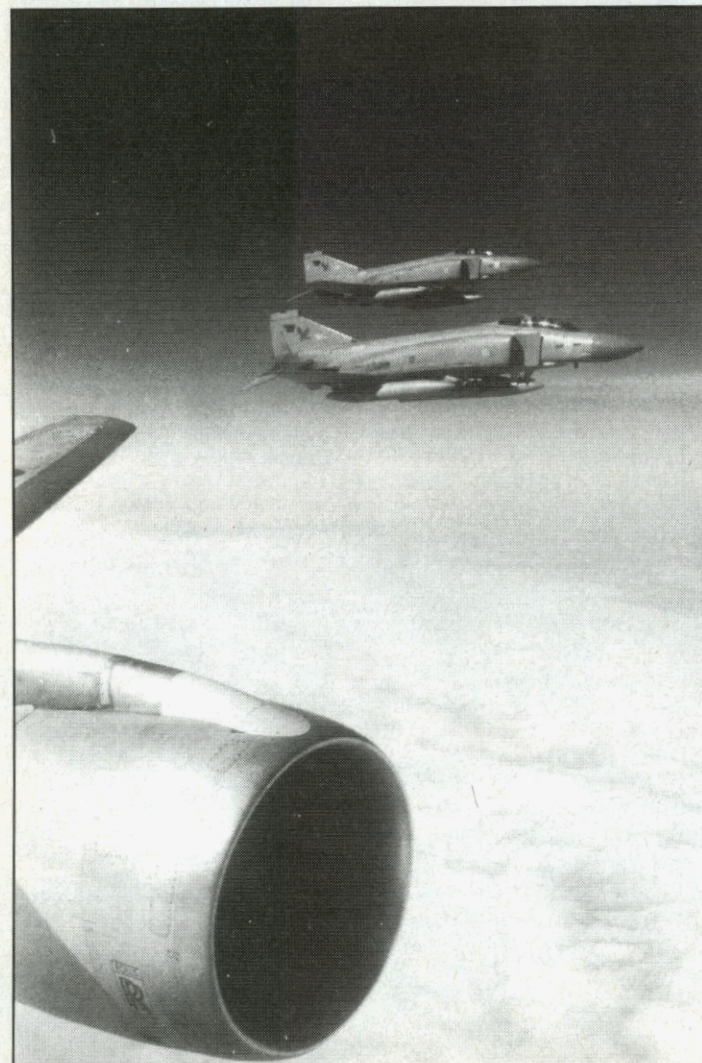
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Some of the 1,000 reinforcing troops arrive at MPA



Two fully-armed Phantoms escort a troop-carrying Tri Star into Mount Pleasant Airport

EXERCISE Fire Focus 88, the rapid reinforcement of the Falkland Islands, was hailed "an absolutely tremendous success."

That verdict came from Maj Gen Neil Carlier, Commander British Forces Falkland Islands, as the last troop-carrying TriStar touched down at Mount Pleasant Airport.

It brought the final contingent of a 1,000-strong task force, based on the Third Battalion, The Light Infantry, which increased the normal FI garrison by almost 50 per cent.

The exercise proved the viability of the longest air bridge in military history.

The men of 3 LI, looking remarkably fresh after the 19-hour, 8,000-mile flight from Brize Norton, via Ascension Island, were accompanied by gunners, signallers and sappers, plus extra RAF ground crew and reinforcements for the islands' Rapier sites which are manned by the RAF Regiment.

A number of Phantom F-4



Patrolling among the penguins – men of 3 LI at Bertha's Beach, East Falkland

fighters, plus Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft and tankers, also took part in the exercise.

The only snag in the entire exercise was a Phantom which developed an engine fault at Ascension and had to be replaced with another Phantom from RAF Leuchars.

Once on the ground, the new arrivals were given a quick

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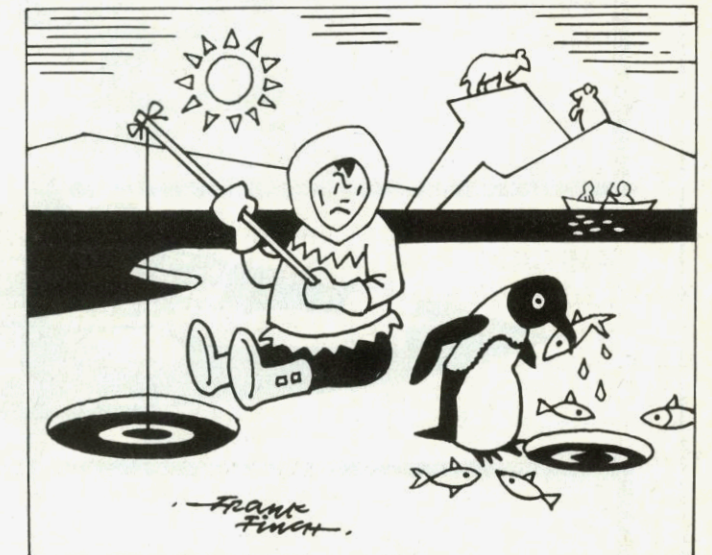
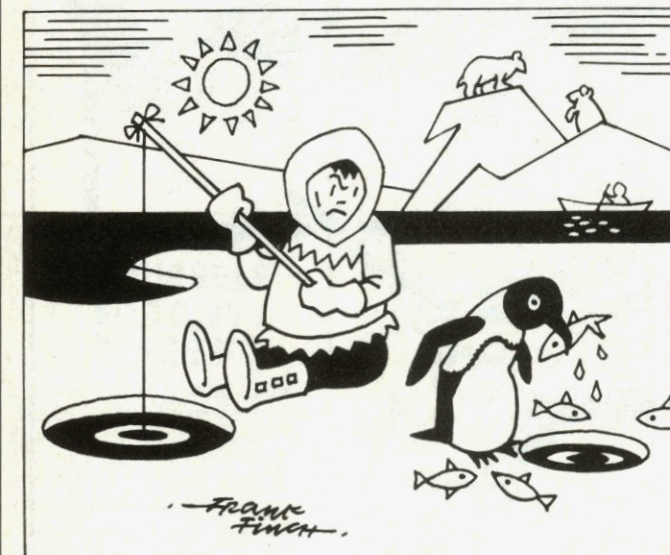
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tion of American States, including the United States.

Whitehall insisted it was low-key, purely defensive and planned a year ago – giving the lie to Argentinian claims that it had been timed to cause political embarrassment in Buenos Aires.

Could this demonstration of logistics not have been done as a paper exercise?

"Absolutely not," insisted Gen Carlier. "Some things cannot simply be run through a computer."

"There is nothing like injecting the human factor, actually getting people on the ground in real time and seeing what goes wrong."

"This exercise has proved a fantastic amount. It shows that, with the technology, the aircraft and this new airport, we can reinforce here in a very short time – it's as simple as that."

briefing at MPA and rushed off by Chinook to defensive positions around the islands.

Within hours of its arrival, for instance, 3 LI's C Company was digging in around fuel installations at Mare Harbour, about 40 miles from Port Stanley.

As they sweated in an

unexpected Falklands heatwave of 73 deg F, the OC, Major David Thomas said: "We're all wondering whether we are in the right place – it's more like Cyprus!"

At nearby Bertha's Beach, for the benefit of the world's media, a patrol of 3 LI practised that most delicate of

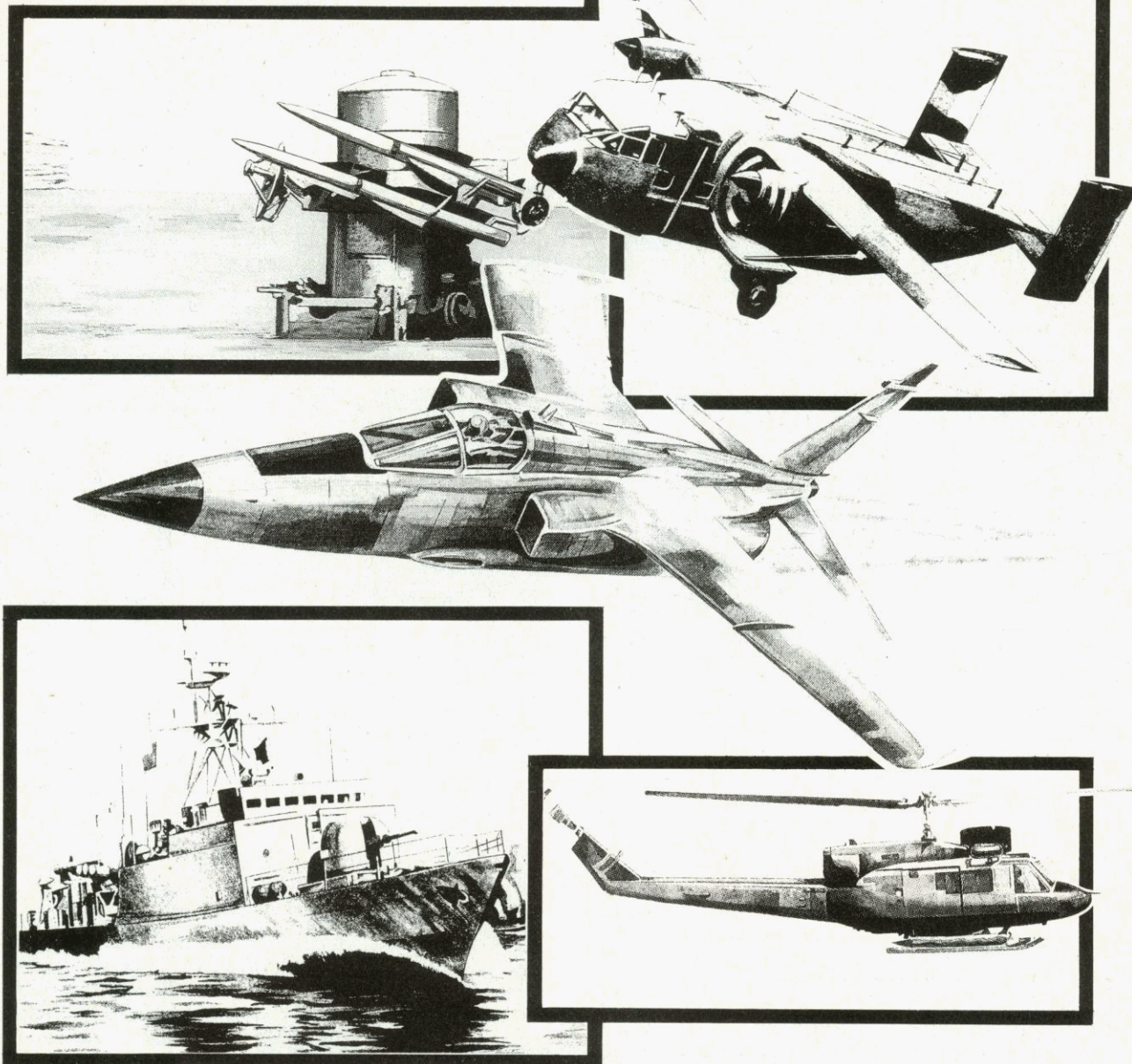
military skills – looking warlike while not disturbing the penguins.

The exercise enemy was provided by 3 Para and the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Fire Focus was condemned as provocative by Argentina and criticised by the Organisa-

Story and pictures by Maj Peter Rhodes, TAPIO UKLF

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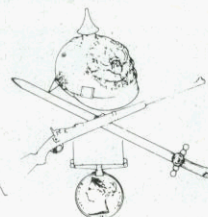
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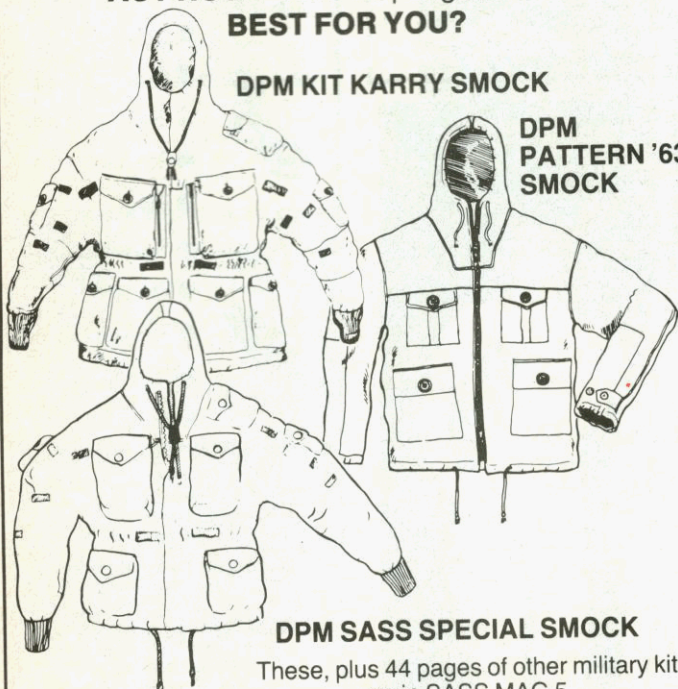
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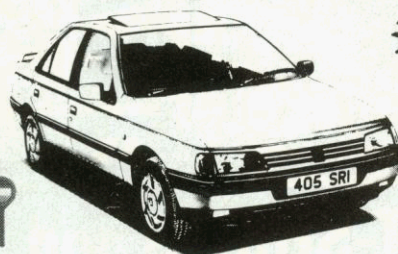
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● **Colts** – from Page 52

with an excellent kick. Bristol regained the lead with a quickly taken short penalty which produced an overlap. The conversion made it 9-6.

Bristol were on top in the set pieces but the Army forwards won much good second phase ball and it was following good work by the forwards that the Army regained the lead just before half time with a try by Gdsm Peter Morris (2 Gren Gds) converted by Robinson.

Despite some excellent line out work by AT Chris Rushworth (PMC Arborfield) the only score in the second half was the unfortunate one following the incident with the touch judge.



A mixed bag of berets among the ARA sponsored British Service rifle team pictured on Ash Range, Aldershot before flying to Australia.

Picture: Mike Perring

SPORT

● **Canoe** – from Page 52

canoeists drawn from UK and BAOR units. Coached by Army and GB veteran paddler, SSgt Arthur Haskey, results surpassed all previous successes with the sappers gaining first three places in the team race.

Fastest Services crew was Spr Les Rayment (22 Engr Regt) and Spr Kenny Ball (Corps Lighting Tp, Germany), followed by Spr Jonah Jones (Depot Regt RE) and 19-year-old Spr Jock Gallagher (42 Svy Engr Gp). Third were Spr Wilkie Wilkins (36 Engr Regt) and Spr Taff Beegan (24 Fd Sqn).

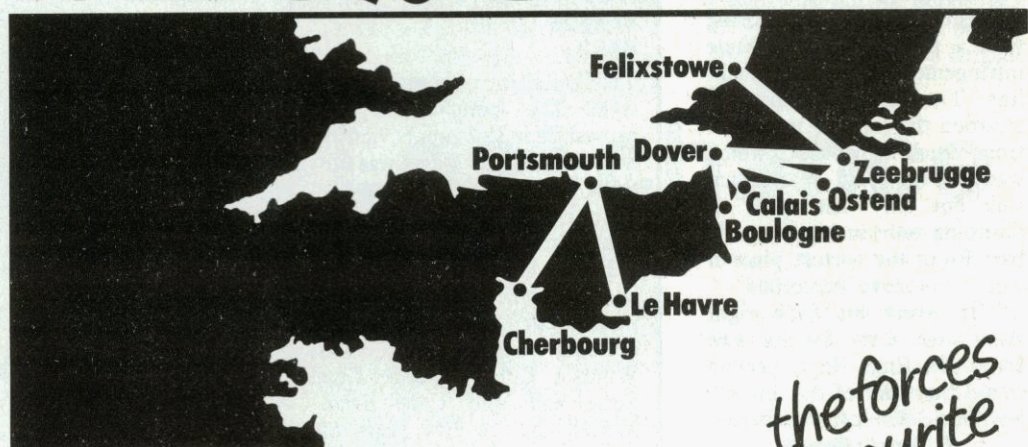
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Moment of decision robs Colts

THE Army Colts rugby team were unlucky to lose an exciting game with Bristol Colts at Aldershot. Two bad refereeing decisions were instrumental in providing Bristol with nine of their points in a 15-12 victory, writes Peter Salisbury.

One involved the unusual occurrence of an unsuccessful penalty attempt by Bristol striking a touch judge and bouncing back from behind the goal line into the field of play.

The referee's decision should have been a drop out. In fact he gave a five metre scrum from which the Bristol pack engineered a try by the posts.

This was unfortunate not only for the Army but also for the referee who otherwise had a very good game.

Despite these misfortunes the Army had the winning of the game. Twice in the first half with the line at their mercy, and an overlap, the scoring pass was not given.

Bristol opened the scoring with a penalty for an offside infringement near the touch-line. The referee erroneously awarded the kick 15 metres in from touch. The kick, which was into the wind, was struck well but only just made it, dropping only inches over the bar. From the correct place it would not have succeeded.

The Army hit back right away with a try by Spr Lee Jones (39 Engr Regt) peeling round the front of the lineout. Spr David Robinson converted

● Turn to Page 51

Paddling to success

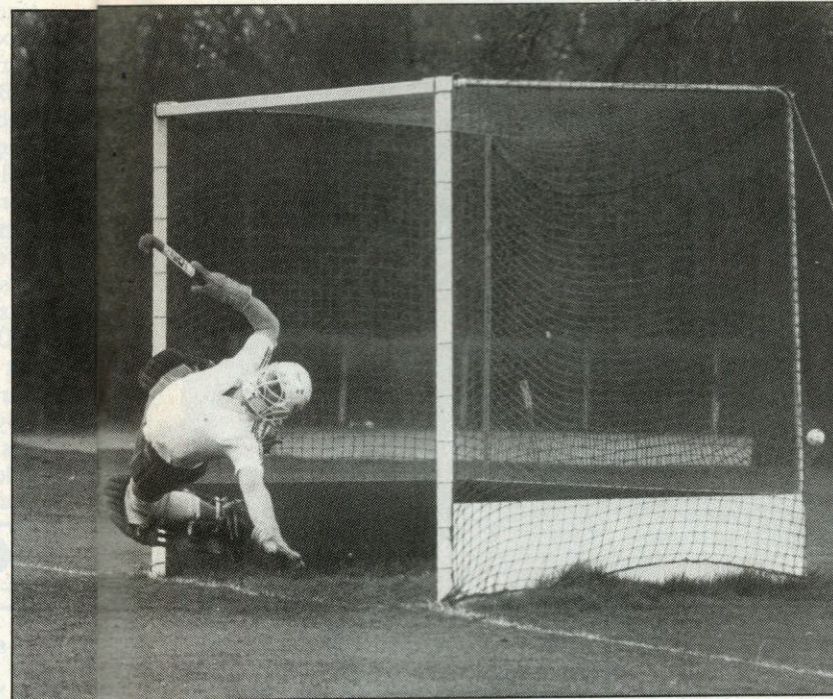
THE Royal Engineers Canoe Club has a long tradition of success in the annual Devizes-Westminster canoe race. The 125-mile marathon along the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Thames is one of the longest and most gruelling, and involves portaging 76 locks and carrying the canoes along dry stretches of the canal.

The sappers entered three teams of four canoes, with

● Turn to Page 51



Despite rounding 'keeper Cpl Dusty Miller (HQ 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn), WO1 Mick Pimblott in the quartered shirt of Depot Prince of Wales's Division could not turn this chance into the goal in the Minor Units hockey final at Aldershot



An airborne Bdr David Warner of 45 Fd Regt fails to stop a penalty flick converted by Capt Nick Gordon of 7 RHA during the Major Units hockey final at Aldershot

THAT'S CHAMPION!

Army 26 RAF 3

THEY did it... and in what style! The Army senior XV proved their 35-3 points victory over the Royal Navy was no fluke by playing the Royal Air Force right off the park, writes John Quin.

Flt Lt Ian Goslin, the RAF and Combined Services skipper, went into the Army dressing room after the Windsor Life Challenge Cup game and told Capt Brian McCall that in five years of playing Inter-Service rugby he had not seen a team to match the current Army XV.

The Army side reached the "peak" at just the right time. This did not happen by accident and it is worth looking at the factors involved.

Firstly, of course, there are the players. However good the administration and coaching, at the end of the day the players are the most important element.

This season has seen the emergence of new talent. In particular, Capt Edward Gordon Lennox came from nowhere to command the full back slot not only in the Army side but also for Combined



ANOTHER telling pass from LCpl Phil Pontin, this time to Sgt Kevin A'Hearne, as 1 RRW ran in 14 tries in a one sided BAOR Infantry Rugby Cup Final against 3 R Anglian at Bad LippeSpringer. Lemgo based 1 RRW also put one over their TA battalion, 3 RRW, when the Terriers visited BAOR on

tour. The Regulars won a tight game by eight points to nil.

3 RRW won the first game of their tour, beating 15th/19th Hussars by 16 points to ten. The 1 RRW Sergeants' Mess also beat new neighbours 15/19 H, winning an entertaining match by 22 points to ten.

Services. Wingers Cpls Chalky Atkins and Duke Tucker were excellent in attack and defence with some bone-crunching tackles - ask England winger Rory Underwood!

Tucker arrived back in the

UK from the Falklands exercise only a couple of days before the RAF game. Centres Sgt Chris Spowart and OCdt Will Carling were rock steady in defence and explosive in attack, with England's Carling

showing his international class.

Fly half Lt John Steele has made so much progress this season. The former Army and Combined Services U21 skipper claimed 18 points against the Navy, 17 against the RAF and all the headlines in the national press.

His partner at half back, SSgt Graham Morgan, gave excellent service throughout. The pack also were excellent. Props Cpls George Graham and Chris Campbell were everywhere, and with evergreen folksinging hooker WO2 Bobby Mathews, made a superb platform for the scrum.

Capt Brian McCall and Cpl Dean Ryan formed the engine room partnership in the second row. Brian led the side magnificently and his covering in the RAF game, especially one tackle on Hollifield, the RAF winger, was typical of the level of commitment he set his team.

Ryan has had a very hard season, not least for Saracens, but what a formidable player he has developed into.

In the back row SSI Stevie Peacock held down the No 8 spot with three flankers appearing in the two games.

One to catch the eye was Capt Willie Carr, but equally industrious was Spr Richard Nelson who unfortunately was injured against the Navy.

The Army were fortunate to be able to call upon the services of WO2 Dick Travers (Coventry, Warwickshire and Port Stanley Barbarians) to step into the breach. Capt Steve Jackson was also on hand to take over from Chris Spowart and it was good to see Lt John Gunn gain his first cap when he took over from Atkins.

For the admin team it was a very exciting season. Lt Col Dougie Hathorn and his selectors - Col Andy Hoon, Capt Peter Robinson and coach Maj Ken Lawson - had the satisfaction of producing the best Army side for many seasons.

And what a final gift for the outgoing chairman of Army rugby, Brig Mike Paterson, the Director of the Army Catering Corps! Having been involved for many years in Army rugby, first as chairman of Army Colts and finally as chairman of the ARU, he could be seen at the post match celebrations sporting as broad a grin as his facial muscles would allow.

Gordon inspires 7 RHA in battle of the gunners

7 RHA 3
45 Fd Regt 1

ARMY hockey captains past and present met in a full blooded all gunner UK Major Units final at Aldershot, with current skipper Capt Nick Gordon eventually leading his 7 RHA team to a 3-1 victory over the 45 Fd Regt RA side of 1987 Army captain Ian Jolly.

In fact a dubious tackle by Jolly on Gordon produced the opening goal when Gordon himself tucked away the resulting penalty flick.

In the 20th minute 7 RHA went two ahead through 2nd Lt David Jones who cracked a stinging shot past 45 Regt keeper Bdr David Warner.

Good pressure from 45 brought a goal for Jolly which was disallowed. But they kept hammering away at 7 RHA and Jolly finally got through to make it 2-1. Gordon, however, had the last say, converting 7 RHA's sixth short corner to

make the final score 3-1.

Three short corners by 45 Fd Regt in the last ten minutes failed to produce a goal but ensured an excellent contest was keenly fought to the end.

8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn 1
POW Div Depot 0

DEFENDING champions the Prince of Wales's Division Depot, Lichfield had most of the play against 8th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron from Northern Ireland in the UK Minor Units final but were beaten by an opportunist goal by Capt Bert McGerty in the 20th minute.

8 Brigade spent most of the second half with their backs very firmly against the wall, with POW twice denied by the post. WO1 Mick Pimblott had a chance to put the depot back on level terms from the penalty spot but missed and 8 Brigade just held on.

Lost chance

Middlesex 1
The Army 0

INTENSE disappointment was the reaction in the Army hockey camp to their 1-0 defeat by Middlesex at Feltham in the quarter final of the county championships.

A tight match between two very good sides was settled by a solitary goal ten minutes from the end when Middlesex broke out of defence and forced a short corner which England international Dixon slammed home.

The Army were left to rue seven short corner opportunities (to the county's five) and the fact that for much of the contest they had been the better and fitter side.

Crucially, perhaps, they had managed few shots on target from open play and could not convert their short corners into goals.

Early in the second half Sgt Ian Jennings saw three shots - a

short corner and two rebounds - saved in rapid succession by the Middlesex keeper.

Capt Nick Gordon, Lt Peter Boxell and 2nd Lt Simon Hazlitt were outstanding for the Army, but there was little consolation for this excellent Army squad at failing to become the first Service team to reach the semi-finals of the county championship.

TA wins cross country match

THE Territorial Army beat the Regulars in the annual cross country match run concurrently with the TA national championships at Chilwell Depot, Nottingham.

First two runners home were both TA men, Pte Wheeler of HQ Coy 3 RRW and Cpl Dadds of B Coy 4 R Irish. HQ Coy 3 Yorks pipped 3 RRW for the TA team title.

Brilliant Howlett left to carry the colours

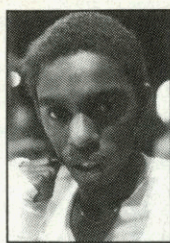
THE ARMY boxing squad's recent sequence of George Wimpey ABA final appearances at Wembley was kept alive by Sgt Keith Howlett (39 Engr Regt) when he scored a sensational win in the England semi-finals at Gloucester.

Howlett boxed brilliantly to outpoint totally the country's top ranked bantamweight, hard hitting John Davison of West Denton.

Davison, a member of the British Olympic squad and an explosive puncher, hardly laid a

glove on Howlett, whose performance was rated his best ever by a delighted Army coach SSI Mick Gannon.

Last hurdle for Howlett before Wembley was the UK semi-finals at Blackpool as SOLDIER was going to press. Howlett was certain to avoid drawing the other English



KEITH HOWLETT

representative, hot favourite Mark Ward of Repton.

But Gloucester did end the Wembley aspirations of two men who have made it all the way in the past, flyweight LCpl John McLean (26 Engr Regt), last year's losing finalist, and former light middleweight champion LCpl Tony Velinor (3 RGJ).

McLean produced the cleaner punches against Mark Clarke of Kudos ABC but was unanimously outpointed by the non-stop aggression of the

raw but persistent Londoner.

Velinor showed sparks of his mercurial talent in the first round against Burton ABC's Nevil Brown, the defending champion, but could not sustain the effort and was stopped in the second round after taking three compulsory eight counts following blows to the head.

● 3 RGJ beat 1 Queens by five bouts to four in the UKLF final of the inter-unit team novice grade 2 boxing championships at Colchester.

Signal honour!

28 Amph Engr Regt RE 3
School of Signals 4 (aet)

THE School of Signals won the Wilson's Hogg Robinson Army Challenge Cup centenary final, by the odd goal in seven, in a thrill packed match that kept a large crowd on the edges of their seats for two pulsating hours, writes Pat Massey.

With just four minutes of extra time left, the signalmen mounted an attack down the left. Cpl Mick Cheetham lunged at the heart of the sapper defence before releasing the ball wide to Sgt Andy Edwards who lashed the ball into the corner of the net.

In perfect conditions on an immaculate surface the sappers shocked the pre-match favourites with a goal after only two minutes. LCpl Paul Bicknell crossed from the right and LCpl Scouse Dunleavy, in trying to block the cross, diverted it to the feet of Cpl Neil Rothery who shot home.

Battle was joined. In the seventh minute, what looked to be an innocent lob forward was won by Cheetham who held off a couple of tackles before whipping a shot wide of Cpl Chris Marshall to open the School of Signals account.

Ten minutes from the interval Cheetham, attempting another run through the defence, was brought down on the edge of the penalty area. School skipper Sgt Sandy Brown stepped up and rapped the ball into the corner of the BAOR champions' net.



School of Signals skipper Sgt Sandy Brown receives the Challenge Cup from the Duchess of Kent, who is assisted by AFA secretary Maj Alan Dobson

After the break, the signalmen looked content to frustrate opposition attacks and strike on the break, but two goals in three minutes put paid to these tactics.

A high cross from the sapper left ran the full length of the signals goalline before Bicknell, on the far post, planted it wide of a startled defence. Then a corner kick threw a now creaking defence into utter

confusion and right back Cpl Phil Hibbert headed home.

The signalmen looked to be heading for bitter disappointment before defender Cpl Andy Redman released the ball down the right where Cheetham set off in pursuit. He slipped his marking defender, nipped into the penalty area, and squeezed the ball under the advancing Marshall for the equaliser.

The action continued into

extra time with the sappers now looking physically stronger and more likely to win. Sgt Dave Taylor, the towering Signals centre back, slipped in the penalty area in attempting to block a run by Cpl Podge Lehany. In desperation he played the ball with his left hand. Sgt Steve Tusz took the penalty kick but his shot went wide – and with it sapper hopes.

Five minutes from the end of extra time came the Edwards goal which decided the game. It was also probably the move which made England manager Bobby Robson select Cheetham as his man of the match ahead of Paul Bicknell.

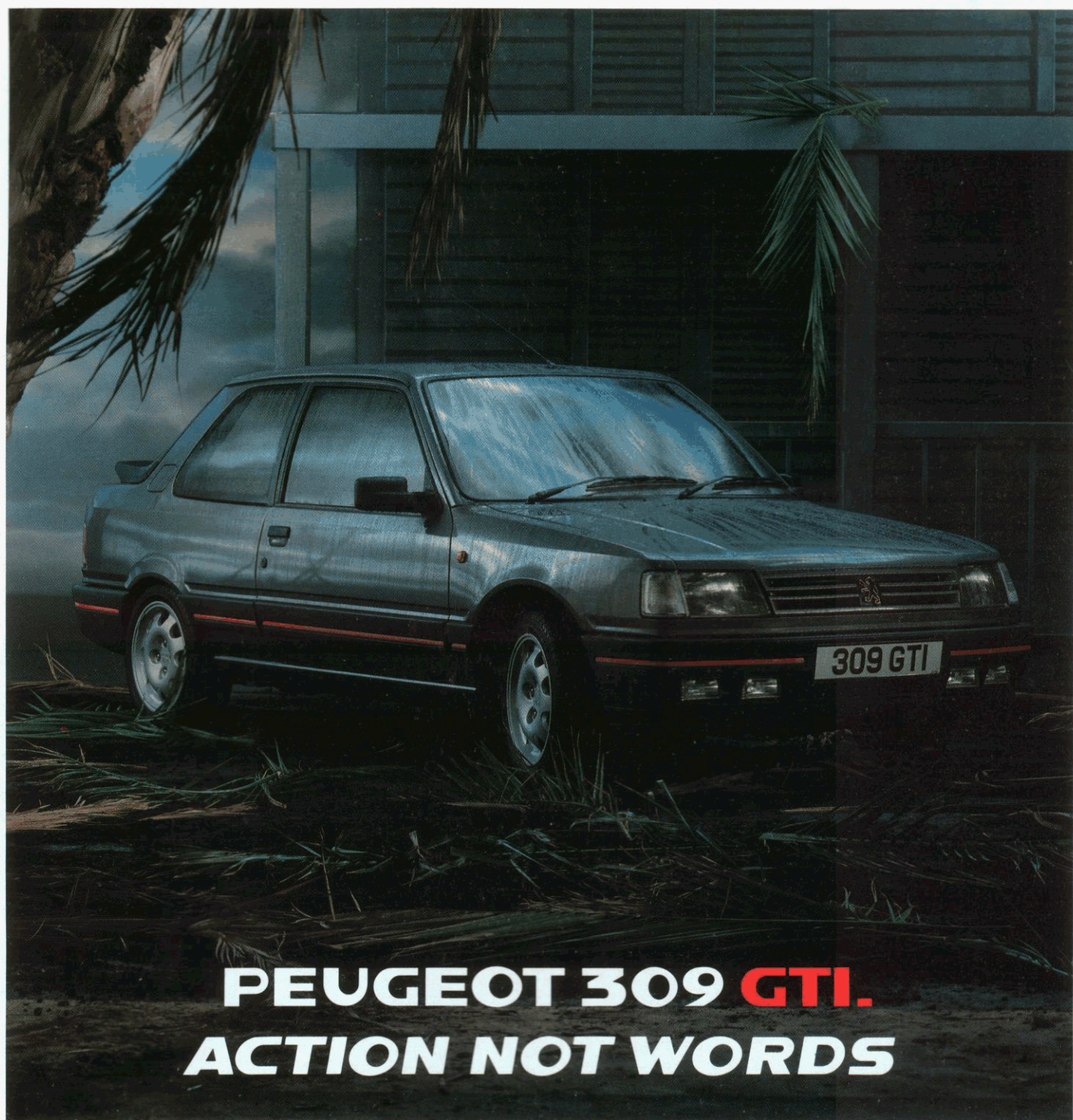
The Duchess of Kent presented the trophies and souvenir medallions to both sides and the match officials.

Irish Rangers in TA cup final

FINAL of the TA Association Football Cup is between C Coy 4 RIR and D Coy 2 Bn Yorks Vols.

The Royal Irish Rangers, the Northern Ireland champions,

trounced B (RWY) Sqn 10-2 in their semi final while the Yorkshire Volunteers edged out Comd Coy 15 Para, representing Scotland, 2-1 in the other semi-final.



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CRIMEA

SOLDIER

A woman, Maj Margaret Russell, is standing next to a large, dark blue horse-drawn ambulance with a black canopy. She is wearing a grey nurse's uniform with a white apron and a white lace-trimmed cap. The ambulance has large spoked wheels with red and white stripes. The background is a museum wall with the word 'CRIMEA' in red letters at the top. The wall is covered with various framed photographs and documents. A small white radiator is visible at the bottom left of the wall.

Maj Margaret Russell, dressed in the costume of a Crimean nurse, pictured alongside the original coach used by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War, which is housed in the QARANC Museum.

See story and pictures in Pages 30 to 33.

Picture: Terry Champion