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FRONT COVER: The Spirit of Christmas visits Crossmaglen. It came from Pte Bryn Chandler on stag in a sangar when CQMS Kevin Donnelly donned the red robe and a beard to match his silver hair. See also Page 27.

SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

The staff of
SOLDIER wish all
readers and
advertisers a
Happy Christmas
and a prosperous
New Year.
SOLDIER's next
issue will be dated
January 1, 1990

ALL PASSES
MUST
BE SHOWN



"... And I don't believe you came all the way from the North Pole just to deliver a present to Sgt Forster - he's been 'orrible to us all year!"

Managing Editor
Chris Horrocks

Ext 2355

Editor
John Elliott

Ext 2356

Assistant Editors
Bill Moore
Laurie Manton
Jennifer Griffiths

Ext 2361
Ext 2362
Ext 2360

Art Editor
David Stevens

Ext 2169

Picture Editor
Terry Champion

Ext 2357

Photographers
Mike Weston and Mike Perring

Ext 2357

Librarian
Bill Stroud

Ext 2351

Advertising/Promotions
Lindsey Champion

Ext 2352
or 0252 347352

Accounts/Distribution
Gillian Alexander

Ext 2353

Fax

0252 347358 or Ext 2358

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LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
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NICE
WORK

The £50 prize for HOAY competition No 474 is going to Mr P F Keep in far off Sandhurst, Surrey. Runner-up book prizes go to WO2 Gajoa, 2 Coldm Gds, in sunny Cyprus, and Cpl T Walker of 26 Engr Regt in Iserlohn.

Dress 'frippery' ought to be confined to bands

REFERRING to the letter of Lt Col J N Alford RA (SOLDIER, October 16), uniformity is well achieved with the No 2 dress and

distinction given to individual units with collardogs, cap badges and the like.

Resurrecting frippery for all ranks is ludicrous. Stocks of No

1 Dress should be used up and restricted to bands and certain exceptions to the norm, such as demonstration ceremonial sections or platoons. To dish them out liberally would be too costly.

Col Alford says No 2 Dress was derived from camouflage combat kit. On the contrary, the former kit was instituted in the late 1950s, based on pre-First World War officers' tunics, whereas the "camo kit" was inaugurated in the 1970s.

Having said all this, I go along with the "peacock" and "bags of swank". I see little to criticise from my observations of today's Army units, either Regular or TAVR, in this regard.

Finally, mess dress should be encouraged in officers' and sergeants' messes and a reasonable allowance given to subsist initial issue. — Graham C Freymouth, c/o Felix Ortiz, PO Box 507, Playa Mojácar, Almeria, Spain.

Coat was only uniform

I MUST take Lt Col Jacob up on his statement (SOLDIER, October 30) that "it is the custom in the Army and has been for centuries for the design of ceremonial dress to be a matter for individual regiments and corps."

A separate ceremonial dress for soldiers dates only from the latter part of the 19th Century when the scarlet frock was issued as a working day alternative to the tunic.

Before then the soldier's coat or coatee was the only uniform that he possessed and was used for all purposes in all climates.

Uniform was always subject to detailed regulations and in

the latter part of the 19th and early 20th Century the design of the tunic was rigorously standardised.

At present there appears to be considerable latitude given to regiments who are allowed to dream up new items of full dress or indiscriminately re-use old items.

I believe that we are in danger of debasing our full dress in emulation of comic opera Ruritanian Hussars. — Maj W H White DL, Regimental County Secretary, Light Infantry Office (Cornwall), The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EG.

Para is last Cameronian

TO HELP solve the barney going on in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers (SOLDIER, November 13) whoever is claiming that the last Cameronian is a Borderer is wrong.

An ex-Cameronian still serving with the Parachute Regiment is at the moment on posting to 15th (SV) Battalion and is serving with Fire Support Company as SPSI at Troon.

He is WO2 R Sweeney, who left the Cameronians just after the tour in Aden, where he served in D Company.

— Capt A Beveridge, Fire Support Company, 15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Troon.

Red and green Gurkhas

I WAS interested to read Bill Moore's excellent article about the 2nd Goorkhas (SOLDIER, September 18) but would like to point out that the original "Lal Pultan" (Red Regiment) was the 1st Gurkhas.

In March 1885 the Viceroy (Lord Dufferin) inspecting the Gurkha Regiments in Rawalpindi remarked to the C in C Lord Roberts: "I thought all Gurkha Regiments were dressed in green."

He was informed that the 1st was the only one dressed in scarlet. Next day the CO of the 1st received a letter from the Adjutant General saying the Viceroy had suggested "the 1st Gurkhas might be invited to change their uniform from red to green so as to bring them into line with the other Gurkha Regiments."

It was expressly stated, however, that there was to be no coercion whatever and that the men themselves were to decide the issue.

The verdict was unanimous

against change, mainly because the change would injuriously affect recruiting since recruits always made a point of asking to join the "Lal Kurti Pultan".

The matter was dropped at that time, but in 1886 when the 2nd Bn/1st was raised the change was made to green, though the Gurkha officer still opposed it. Scarlet facings were granted to commemorate the discarded scarlet uniform and scarlet is still the backing to the badges and titles worn by the five battalions of the 1st Gurkha Rifles serving today in the Indian Army. — Maj (Retd) P G V Bellers, Redwood House, 24 Batts Park, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4RE.

Diddlers and Swanks

THE OLD Royal Artillery terms dating from pre-mechanised days — Shoey (farrier), Badgee (trumpeter), Waxie (saddler) — are more or less self-explanatory.

Reunions

● 24 Fd Sqn reunion proposed for February 1990. Details from Ann Pocock, Junior Ranks Club, Chattenden, Rochester, Kent ME3 8LF (tel: 0634 250145).

● Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Pack Artillery Association's new address is D A Knight ERD, 18 Icough Court, Hassendean Road, London SE3 8UD (tel: 01 858 3747). 1990 reunion, September 15.

● Rauceby Hospital, near Sleaford, Lincs is planning a reunion on April 11 to mark the 50th anniversary of its take-over by the RAF. Details from Mrs Maggie Masters (tel: 0529 240188).

● 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club annual meeting and luncheon will take place at the Victory (Services) Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on March 24, 1990, starting 1000hrs. Details from Maj K N Smartt, Imber, Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU (tel: 0264 52297). Membership details from Maj D J Roberts, Westmead, Park Avenue, Chorleywood, Herts (tel: 0278 3144).

Calling . . .

● Survivors of A Independent Tank Troop RA, particularly Lt J Trelawny-Williams RA, Lt F Fuller RA, WO2 G Nation, and Sgts S Rutter and C Miller, are sought by James W Jacobs, of 15 Angus Close, Fareham, Hants PO15 6BA. The Troop disembarked at Pusan on September 6, 1950 on secondment from the parent unit, 27 (Stranges Company) Mortar Battery RA in Hong Kong.

● Former members of 6th, 8th and 9th Durham Light Infantry 1939-45 are sought by Mr George May, of 42 Ashington Road, Bedworth, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV12 0LZ.

● Passengers on troop voyages of the Oxfordshire 1957-62 are sought by Bruce R J Miller, 17/167 Victoria Street, Potts Point, NSW 2011, Australia.

● Hospital for prisoners-of-war, Dieburg, West Germany, 1939-45. Survivors are asked to contact Heinz-Adolf Renkel, 6107 Reinheim, Am Biet 5, W Germany (tel: 06162 1662).

I wonder if anyone can explain the origin of Diddler (gunner) and Swank (driver)? — R Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants PO12 4JU.

Terriers wanted to join Everest expedition

THE Territorial Army's most ambitious mountaineering project – to scale Everest in 1991 and possibly put the first British woman climber on the summit – is under starter's orders.

The project is the brainchild of Lt Ian Woodall who will head a team of ten TA and four civilian climbers, a TA doctor and a

base camp manager. He is looking for applications from a broad cross section of the TA to get in touch with him. They must be available for the whole programme, and be determined, physically fit and able to climb. Selection will be rigorous, based on Army exercise training.

He told SOLDIER: "If you are

undecided but available for the whole programme, my advice is to apply. Members of the WRAC, QARANC, HSF and UDR are especially welcome."

Closing date is January 31, 1990 and applications should be sent to Ferndale, Ross Road, Longhope, Gloucester (Tel: 0989 81457).

New 90 Pattern webbing issued

ELEVEN battalions are to be issued with the new 90 Pattern (Infantry) Equipment – 90 Pattern Webbing for short – by Christmas and the balance of the first order of 42,000 sets will be issued by June.

The new webbing, made in a woven textured nylon material, will replace the cotton based 58 Pattern Webbing which has been in service for 30 years. It is being introduced to meet the demands of the increased and varying loads which the modern infantryman is required to carry in combat, and includes assault, combat and marching order forms.

Zips and buckles allow the different orders to be assembled rapidly using combinations of pouches and harnesses.

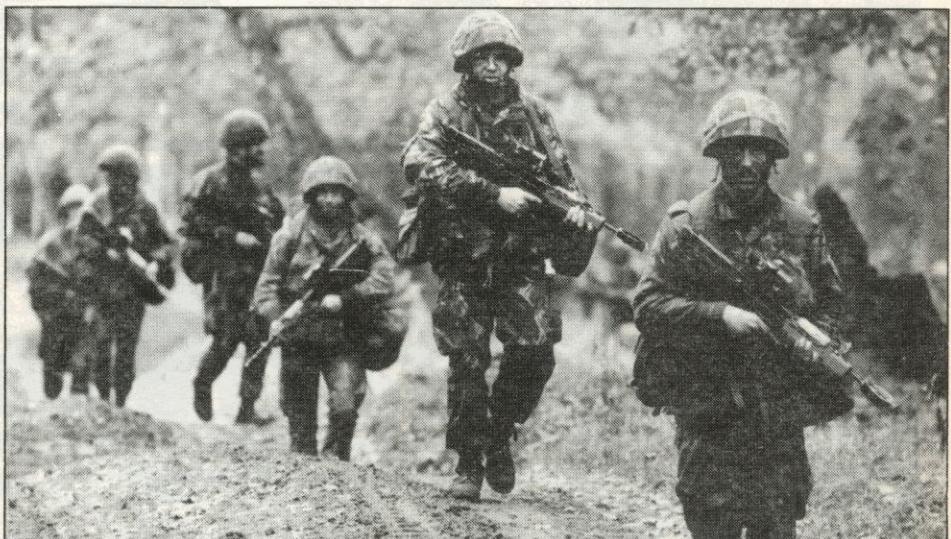
First to get 90 Pattern Webbing will be the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders, followed by the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards.

High on the list of units to receive the new kit will be The Ulster Defence Regiment.

A variant of 90 Pattern Webbing is to be developed for Arms and Services other than the Infantry. Equipment will be tailored to specific roles, and because other Arms are usually more vehicle mounted they will have a smaller, less sophisticated rucksack. Their rucksack will have three quarters the capacity of the infantry version but will be more easily stowable on vehicles.

1 RRW team aims high in Africa

TWELVE members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales based at Warminster plan to spend Christmas in Africa on a climbing expedition to mark the regiment's tercentenary. Led by Lt Paul



Members of the reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots on their way to an easy win in the 3rd Armoured Division recce competition staged on training areas at Munster and Goldgrund, West Germany. Some distance behind were the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards third

It's all go for 30 Sig's Cub Pack in Namibia

LIFE has been hectic for three men from 30th Signal Regiment based at Blandford, Dorset. Capt Andy Allman, Yeoman of Signals John Tyreman, and Foreman of Signals Lee Wookey, otherwise known as the "Cub Pack" devised the whole of the election communications network for the first free elections in Namibia, held under the supervision of the United Nations, writes Frances Edwards.

Role of the British contingent, comprised mainly of 30 Sig Regt, in the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) was to provide radio communications for UNTAG's military component.

Communications were needed at each polling station to link them back to the UN's district offices. During the five-day election period, daily reports were radioed back from the stations to the district offices, where the information was collated and transmitted to the UN's military headquarters in the

capital, Windhoek. The "Cub Pack" liaised closely with the South African Administrator General's office who conducted the elections under UN supervision. First stage of the operation was to dispatch recce teams to visit each of the 300 polling station locations to establish what communications were needed to link the stations to district offices. All equipment had to be checked and tested thoroughly.

The signallers travelled well over 100,000 miles to complete this task.

Next stage was to train civil police net controllers to ensure they were using the same terminology.

When voting got under way the training proved crucial to the UN's operation, because the radio network was the only means of communication for dealing with problems when they arose. And problems there were, for within hours of the polls opening, the stations were overwhelmed by the first-time voters.

Radio networks were soon full of requests for more ballot papers and boxes, and extra police, food and water.

Was all the hard work worth it? "Definitely" said a delighted Capt Allman. "It's very rewarding knowing that the Royal Signals played a crucial part in the making of Namibia's history."

Fish, the party is aiming to reach the tops of Uhuru on Mount Kilimanjaro and Batian on Mount Kenya, the two highest peaks in Africa. They prepared for the expedition at Capel Curig in Snowdonia.



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50SOL/PK '89'



The Princess of Wales meets Capt Mark Corthine, admin officer of 29 Squadron RCT, during her walkabout at HMS Tamar, Hong Kong. See also picture on Page 30

Tamar enjoys Royal treat

FOR Service families the highlight of the Royal visit to Hong Kong was a walkabout by the Princess of Wales through the headquarters base, HMS Tamar.

Children were bused in from British and Gurkha service schools around the territory and a general invitation went out to families to come and say hello to the Royal visitor. Several hundred lined the main thoroughfare through Tamar to give the Princess an enthusiastic greeting as she went slowly by, shaking hands, receiving bouquets, and pausing for the occasional chat.

At HMS Tamar she was met by the Deputy Commander British Forces, Brig Giles Arnold, and introduced to the Service commanders, Capt Peter Dalrymple-Smith, RN, and Gp Capt David Hamilton Rump, Commander RAF. Then, joined by Maj Gen Peter Duffell, Commander British Forces, who had followed in the motorcade from Government House, she made her way on foot to the Royal Yacht Britannia.

The following day it was the turn of the Prince of Wales to visit the military. He donned the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles to see the Second Battalion, first on border duty at the OP on Crest Hill, and then in barracks in Gallipoli Lines.

He had lunch with representatives of all companies before presenting the Prince of Wales Kukri to CSgt Mahendra Thapa, the regiment's outstanding soldier for 1988.



The Queen passes the Guidon during her inspection of the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry. Parade commander is Maj Philip Seccombe (left) and behind him is Lt Col Jeremy Blott

Queen unveils longest name

LONGEST name on a British Rail loco is "The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry". A plate bearing the name was unveiled by the Queen when she visited the regiment at Worcester.

The Queen is Colonel-in-Chief of the QOMY. She inspected a guard of honour and watched a parade on which the Guidon she presented to the regiment in 1980 was carried.

The Queen later saw 12 Guidons from the

Worcestershire Yeomanry, disbanded in 1827, which have been restored over a period of eight years at a cost of £14,000.

Capt Robert Robotham, a member of A Squadron based at Stourbridge, suggested the name as a locomotive title. He was presented to the Queen at Shrub Hill Station, Worcester, with Lt Col Jeremy Blott, CO of the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, and Brig Desmond Bastick, Honorary Colonel.

Prince to head Gurkha fund

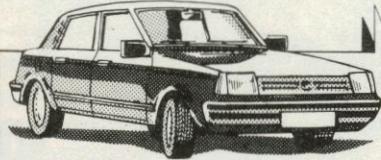
THE Prince of Wales is to be Patron of the recently formed Gurkha Welfare Fund, further strengthening his links with the Gurkhas and Nepal. The Prince is Colonel in Chief of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), and has visited Nepal and seen Gurkha soldiers and ex-Servicemen in their homes in the hills.

The Gurkha Welfare Fund was created in February with a charter to co-ordinate the provision of relief of poverty and distress amongst Gurkha ex-Servicemen of the

British Crown and their dependants by rendering aid to individuals and to their communities in Nepal.

The fund will bring together under royal patronage the activities of four independent charity organisations: the Gurkha Welfare Trust (UK), the Gurkha Welfare Appeal (Canada), the Gurkha Welfare Trust Foundation (USA), and the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (British Gurkhas Nepal) which have come into being during the past 20 years.

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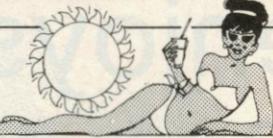
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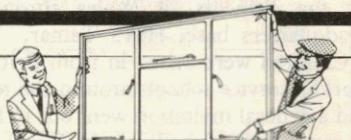
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Unique TA squadron unveils new searchlight

THE Army's only searchlight unit, 873 Movement Light Squadron Royal Engineers (Volunteers), unveiled its new British built Francis 7kw searchlights in London at a charity event organised, appropriately, by the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers.

The Acton based unit's role is battlefield illumination and in time of war it would provide movement light for 1 (British) Corps in West Germany. The truck mounted lights have one billion candlepower and a range of 10km.

They are replacing off-the-shelf American equipment. In addition to its Nato role the squadron, formed in 1947, lights up tattoos and other public events. Its sappers are also trained as combat engineers and in basic infantry skills.

Defence chief in Soviet Union

VICE CHIEF of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Richard Vincent, was visiting the Soviet Union from November 26 to December 1 as the guest of Gen Bronislav Omelichev, Deputy Chief of the Soviet General Staff.

His visit was the first to the USSR by a serving member of the Chiefs of Staff Committee since Field Marshal Montgomery in 1947 and marked a further step in the developing dialogue between the British and Soviet Armed Forces that has grown during recent visits by senior Soviet officers to the UK, most notably that by Defence Minister Gen Yazov in July.

Gen Vincent's programme included discussions in the Soviet Ministry of Defence and visits to Kubinka Air Base, Kiev, Krivoy Rog (where he was due to inspect tanks withdrawn from forward areas in Europe) and Sevastopol (where he was to visit units of the Black Sea Fleet). He was also due to address the directing staff at the Frunze Military Academy in Moscow.

Paras killed in landmine attack

THREE members of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment murdered in a landmine attack near Mayobridge, Co Down were named as LCpl Stephen Paul Wilson (23), Pte Donald Campbell Macaulay (20) and Pte Edward Marshall (21). SSgt Andrew Mudd of the Royal Military Police was critically injured in a car bomb explosion near Goojerat Barracks, Colchester headquarters of the 19th Infantry Brigade. The IRA claimed responsibility for both attacks.

• Eight members of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards were killed and 12 others injured when their lorry plunged into a ravine after failing to negotiate a twisting mountain road near Moniatis in Cyprus.

The soldiers were returning to Episkopi after guard duty at the Mount Olympus radar station.



About to get the Jimmy Young interview treatment is Pte Andrew Buchanan (left) of A Coy, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment on the Sino-Hong Kong border. Jimmy (centre) and sound engineer George Legg spent a week in the colony producing material for the popular Jimmy Young show on BBC Radio 2. Looking on in the border observation post is LCpl Dave Renals

RPC puts on the pomp . . .

MEMBERS of the Royal Pioneer Corps based at Simpson Barracks, Northampton provided the military pomp and splendour to the town's traditional Judges' Procession which marks the start of the High Court Judge's autumn sitting.

A military escort was provided by Lt Paul Brown, OC Cadet Training Wing at Simpson Barracks, and Ptes Mark Macguire and Peter House who carried traditional Pioneer axes. Lt Brown carried the Wilkinson Sword of Peace awarded to the corps in 1980.

SSgt Bob Barfield commanded a lining party of 24 Pioneers from the Corps Section Commanders' Course, the RPC Depot and 23 Group RPC from Bicester. Para Pioneer Cpl Reuben Paul, one of only two qualified Para Pioneers in the corps, also took part. He is based with HQ Signal Squadron, 4 Airborne Brigade at Aldershot.

Space man chosen

ARMY pilot Maj Timothy Mace (33) and Helen Sharman (26), a food technologist, have been chosen to go to the Soviet Union to train as cosmonauts in the Juno Anglo-Soviet space mission.

One of them will accompany two Russian cosmonauts on the eight-day orbit in 1991.

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Taking part in Hong Kong's annual Sedan Chair Grand Prix in support of Matilda Hospital charities are this team from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, who came third. The front bearers are LCpl Ewen Burns (left) and QSMI Bob Cardy. On the flanks are LCpls Jason Rozkalski (left) and Steve Riddell, while the unconventionally dressed man in the front is Maj Farren Drury, OC, C Coy



Could a charity fun run in which a giant bottle of Newcastle Brown Ale was carried as a baton along 33 miles of the Berlin Wall have precipitated the downfall of the wall? Whatever the truth, the bumper bottle came in very useful for 70 members of D Sqn 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars in fund raising for the Children's Ward at Newcastle Freeman Hospital. The efforts of 15/19 H this year have so far topped £7,000. In the picture brewery PRO Nigel Fortnam (left) presents a £1,000 donation to Sgt Maj Jeff Lane with lads from D Squadron looking on

Ted heads big push for BLESMA



The regular PEOPLE feature is on Pages 30 and 31

A MARATHON wheelchair push from John O' Groatos to Land's End raised £9,837 for the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association. The money will be used to support its homes at Crieff and Blackpool.

A team of 14 walked an average of 40 miles a day pushing Ted Hastings, a BLESMA veteran of the Nottingham branch.

Taking part were WO1 (Cdr) Dave Cooke, RAOC, SSgt Bazz Slack, RAPC, and John Howitt, RAMC, Cpl Alex McCormack, RCT (V), Bdr Dobbo Dobinson, RA, LCpls Olly Allsop and Gordon Pursley, both RE, Gnrs Murf Murphy, Jelly Parsons and

Spike Richards, all RA, Ptes Jimmy Clitherow and Gilly Gilchrest, both RAOC, WPTe Carol Hutchinson, WRAC, Capt Geoff Garratt, RAOC, and the team's "mascot", Acting Spr Mickey Moose.

A sponsored run by Maj Henry Upton, Capt David Sanderson, RSM Peter Doyle, CSgt Al Jones, Eric Lowton and Jonty Holden, and Sgt Derbyshire of the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, raised £2,500 to be shared between three charities.

The Queensmen ran 310 miles non stop from Preston, Lancashire, to Waterloo in



Staff from the Army Careers Information Office in Dundee raised more than £1,500 for a local Charity for Kids Appeal with a non-stop static cycle ride. Pictured (from left) are: back, Mrs Ross Niven, Sgts Brian Brass, Neil McEwan and Ian Mellor; front, Sgt John Flynn, WO2 Michael McKeown and SSgt Gordon Hughes



Bill's boost

A host of celebrities including Bill Waddington (centre) – Percy Sugden in *Coronation Street* – gave their services free for a charity gala at the Palace Theatre, Manchester and raised £50,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund. A royal guard of honour was mounted by the 14th/20th King's Hussars for their Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal. Also pictured are QARANC members Sgt Cath Brownhill, LCpls Zorina Scott, Oriana Hirst and Jacqueline Kelly, and Pte Angela Green, from 207 General Hospital, Manchester



Capt Rory Macgregor and his Glamorgan Cadet Training Team at Maindee Barracks, Cardiff provided the equipment, training and supervision for a charity 140ft abseil in the city centre to raise £1,500 for the Red Dragon Radio Ten Toddler Appeal. Pictured are sisters, Lorraine and Ruth Stevens putting their complete faith in instructors Sgts Mike Edwards and Ian Shockridge



Headquarters Catering Group, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot held its third annual charity raft race and raised more than £1,000 to be shared by Cherry Trees Children's Respite Home, the Army Benevolent Fund and the local branch of St John Ambulance. Pictured (from left) are Cherry Trees children, Richard Ansell, Kerry Sandy and Paul Wells, and behind them Col Ewen Macdonald (second from left), Commander Catering Group and WO1 Barry Norman with Gina Baker and Christine Reece of Cherry Trees. The raft race was organised by a team led by Capt Joanna Dunlop

★ ★ ★

Principal Director of Music of the Band of HM Royal Marines School of Music, Deal, Lt Col John Ware, has received a £1,000 cheque for the Deal Disaster Fund. It was raised by the Army Junior School of Music, based at Bovington in Dorset. Contributions came from members of the school, all ranks of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps and families in the Bovington Garrison.

The school's Senior Director of Music, Maj Ray Maycock, Para, presented the cheque.

★ ★ ★

The generosity of 19-year-old drummer Michael Leitch of the 2nd Bn Scots Guards Pipes and Drums ensured that six-year-old Gemma Miller, a cerebral palsy sufferer, can return to Hungary for specialist treatment. He donated 1,500 Air Miles vouchers, enough to cover her flight to Budapest.

★ ★ ★

C Sqn 1 RTR has restored a 12 seater mini bus, previously classed by the Army as beyond economic repair, after MoD exceptionally allowed them to buy it during their tour of Northern Ireland.

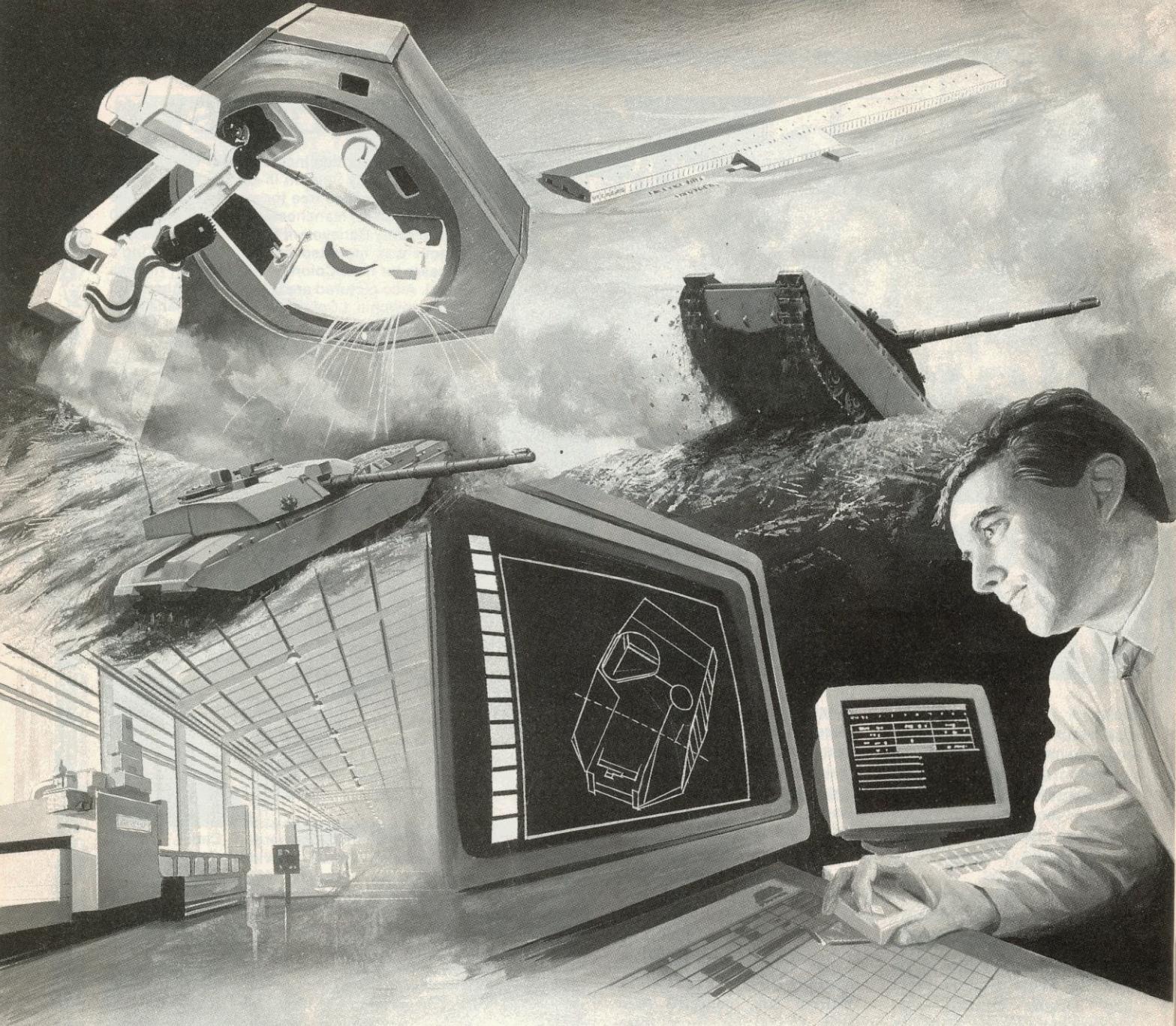
REME members of the squadron, Sgt Terry Cormack and LCpls Phil Harrison, Wayne Back and Phil Johnson and other troop members put many hours of work in to the project.

Cash to buy the bus and for spares came from a variety of fund-raising events, and with a donation from officers at HMP Maze where the squadron served as Prison Guard Force.

Bury based Fusilier Krypton Committee has set a new fund-raising record this year of £25,000 from its annual run over the same assault course used in the television programme. Different charities benefit each year, but the list always includes the Army Benevolent Fund and the Fusilier Aid Society.

Fastest military team were C Coy, 5 RRF (Ashton under Lyne) and fastest military individual was Fus Ian Dargan, also C Coy. Wives of 2 RRF (Bulford) were runners-up in the fastest female team competition.

★ ★ ★



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You can't be too careful

Our picture of a wife in Dortmund, West Germany checking underneath her car (SOLDIER, November 13) has drawn a cautionary response.

Under no circumstances, we have been told, should the vehicle be touched until the search has been completed. If there had been an explosive device attached to the car, the weight of a person leaning on the bumper could have been sufficient to detonate the bomb.

Our picture showed the Army wife balancing herself against the car as she knelt to look into a wheel arch.

Widows' fund extended

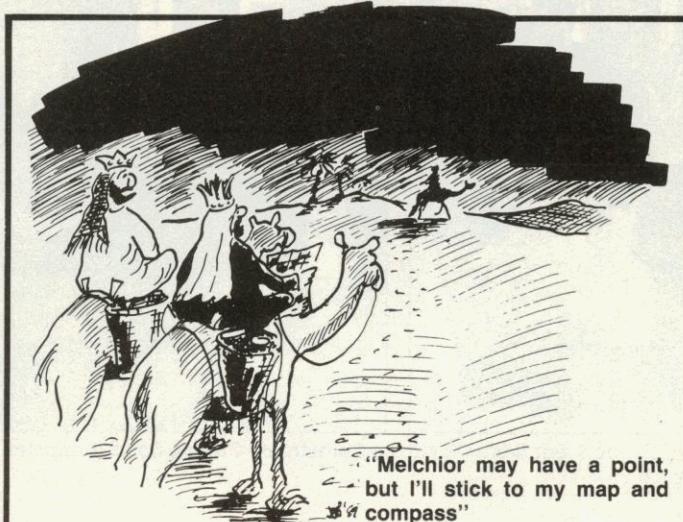
Good news for married Servicewomen.

The changing role of the woman in the Army has persuaded the Charity Commission to extend the Trust Deed of the Soldiers' Widows Fund to cover those who remain in the Army after marriage.

Married Servicewomen will now be allowed membership and the MoD hopes this system can be put into effect from January 1.

The fund's benefit is a maximum of £3,500 for an annual subscription of £1.80.

SOLDIER to Soldier



A record for Craig

The seasonal cartoon above was drawn by Col (Retd) John Bird, regimental secretary to The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, who is himself involved in a spot of seasonal goodwill.

His attention was drawn to the plight of a desperately ill seven-year-old boy called Craig, and with the help of his

regiment's 1st Battalion, currently based in Paderborn, West Germany, and the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, he is hoping to get Craig into the Guinness Book of Records for receiving the largest number of "Get Well" cards. They should be addressed to Craig, 56 Selby Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 1LD.

Russian reunion

Here's a Remembrance Day story with a difference. It concerns a Second World War prisoner of war and the young Russian woman who helped

him half a lifetime ago.

Arthur Wootten of Widnes escaped at the fourth attempt and headed east towards the advancing Russian Army. Wounded, he was taken to a Russian hospital and befriended by a young English speaking music student called Ganna Paikaina, who later

helped Arthur escape to the west as the Iron Curtain descended.

Ganna didn't know his surname but she did have a fading photograph of him.

Earlier this year Royal British Legion chairman David Knowles visited Russia where he was approached by a young woman who asked if he could trace her mother's long lost (but not forgotten) friend.

A national newspaper printed the old photograph and Arthur was found. With a bit of help from British Airways and the RBL, Arthur, accompanied by his wife Gwen, was reunited with Ganna at a Remembrance Day service in London.

It was 45 years since they had last seen each other.

Well spotted

Perhaps there should have been an extra prize for guessing the unintentional error in our HOAY competition No 475.

Sharp eyed T M Brown of Gedling, Nottingham writes to tell us the swastika on the German aircraft was not the Nazi one but the "good" (counter clockwise) version as used on Rudyard Kipling book covers.



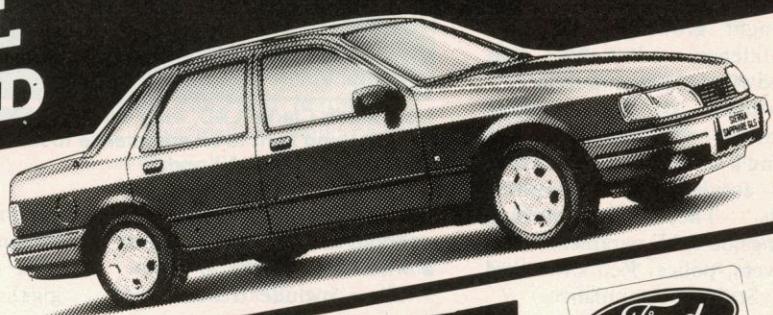
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A military team in action on the streets of London. Sgt Eddy Clayton, a Coldstream Guards Band trumpeter, and driver, Cpl Mandy Breese, of 20 Sqn RCT tend a road accident victim



Medics earn public praise

CRITICISMS of Army medics and drivers – slammed by the unions for moving in on the ambulance dispute – have proved counter-productive.

Soldiers' professionalism and expertise, carried out without antagonising London District ambulance drivers, have brought growing acceptance, confidence, admiration and goodwill from the public.

Morale is high among soldiers, who feel they are doing a worthwhile job answering accident and emergency calls. They are working alongside RAF paramedics and drivers, police, Red Cross and the St John Ambulance.

The three-person crews comprise RCT drivers (often women), RAMC, medically-trained bandsmen, and a police officer with a radio and intimate local knowledge of the area. They have a wealth of anecdotes, many sad, others humorous and touching.

The medics, more routinely poised to deal with battlefield high-velocity gunshot wounds, or exercise injuries on young,



LCpl Mitch Clarke LAD, Irish Guards REME Workshop, fixes a blue flashing light to an ambulance to make it ready for work in the busy streets of London

fit soldiers, have had to undergo additional training on a whole new range of skills.

These include treatment of heart attack, hypothermia in the aged, and, as at least one young medic was to find particularly useful, how to deal with emergency childbirth.

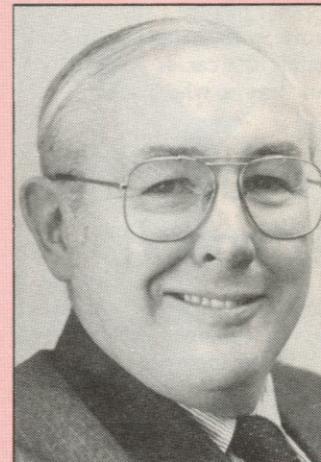
There have been grass roots compliments, but patient Harry Pinnell, of Panpisford Road, South Croydon, took the trouble to ring the joint RAMC-RCT operations room at Chelsea Barracks.

He complimented the Army crew on their speed, dress,

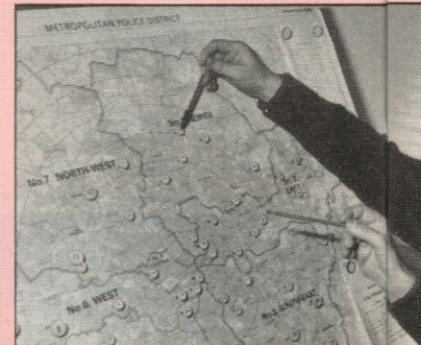
patient was being carried down by stretcher from her seventh-floor flat. The crew started giggling when they found the staircase difficult to negotiate. It was infectious – the patient burst out laughing and offered to get up and walk!

On the way to hospital a young mum gave birth on the ambulance floor. The medic needed to cut the umbilical cord, and had to utilise what was available. He successfully used his bootlace!

In another incident, a woman



Lt Col Malcolm McCartney, Commander Transport Movements Headquarters London District



Busy in the joint RAMC-RCT Ops Room are watchkeeper Maj Ken Martin (left), of 257 General

deportment and courtesy. "They were lovely fellows, and I'd like to pass on my thanks, but I don't know their names."

Lt Col Malcolm McCartney, Commander Transport Movements Headquarters London District, explained that a mixed fleet of 51 regimental ambulances were in use with a pool of 20 reserves.

The drivers are drawn from the London based 20 and 56 Sqns RCT, who also know the capital well, the RA Staff Band and some guardsmen. The medics come from the House-



They're away – with blue light flashing and siren blaring in London



Col David Whitfield, Commander Medical Headquarters London District

hold Division Bands based in London District, 23 Para Field Ambulance and 19 Field Ambulance.

It has meant a complicated, behind-the-scenes juggling of manpower because of the commitment to London ceremonials involving bandsmen. The teams work a 12-hour shift, followed by 24 hours off, then back to work for 12 hours. Every effort has been made to locate them as near as possible to their home bases.

Field conditions have been declared so soldiers are not

Field Ambulance.

At the time a SOLDIER team visited them 2,815 tasks had been completed in eight days, with three times as many calls made.

Maj Ken Martin, one of the medical watchkeepers, said the additional training had been vital for medics. "Doing their tasks in peacetime in the streets of London is vastly different from battlefield routine."

"Normally it would be quite unusual for them to deliver a baby," he joked.

Col David Whitfield, Commander Medical Headquarters, London District, said: "It has gone extremely well. There were a few early problems with vehicles, but these have been quickly resolved."

Sgt Eddy Clayton, a trumpeter with the Coldstream Guards, found the majority of his patients were elderly, but had just attended a distressing incident when the SOLDIER team caught up with him – the suicide of a young man who had jumped from a high building.

He said: "We have found a

lot of goodwill both from the public and the London District ambulance, who have asked us how we were getting on. One day when we arrived at a road accident, a London ambulance happened to be passing, and because the victim had a serious back injury, it was decided it would be better if they took him to hospital.

Eddy, who holds a previous commendation for saving the life of accident victim, said: "Everyone has tried to do their best – that's all you can do."

Dvr Cpl Mandy Breese, who is normally a clerical worker with 20 Sqn RCT, said she was "well pleased with the performance of the ambulance once you get used to the visibility over the tyre on the front."

LCpl Bambi Bainbridge of 23 Para Field Ambulance found some tender loving care was a great fillip for an elderly patient. "She kept passing out and was upset. I gave her a friendly cuddle to reassure her, and she appreciated it."

Words: Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures: Mike Weston



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THERE'S MORE
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CGS

The view from the Sixth Floor

"I DON'T see that there is going to be any less soldiering to be done in the future than there has been in the past."

The speaker was Gen Sir John Chapple, Chief of the General Staff. The place – his office on the sixth floor of the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall.

Forty years ago, as an 18-year-old, he reported to the Winchester depot of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, one of thousands of youngsters conscripted under the National Service Act.

He still has one of the two pairs of "Boots, Rifleman" issued to him that day.

As he sat on his bed spitting and polishing the obstinate black leather toe caps he can hardly have imagined that one day he would occupy the position then held (as Chief of the *Imperial* General Staff) by Field Marshal Sir William Slim, conqueror of Burma.

Or that he would be looking at the prospects for soldiers in the 1990s when dramatic changes are taking place at great speed on the international scene.

Gen Chapple: "It is easy to say that peace has broken out. Both the Super Powers – and Britain is fully supporting them – are intent on bringing in conventional arms reductions and that must be a good thing.

"But it is a different thing to assume that professional soldiering is going out of fashion and out of business.

"I'm afraid the world is a very turbulent place and I don't think there is going to be any shortage of employment opportunities for us.

"There are forces at work which have nothing to do with East-West relationships and situations will arise – I can't tell you how or when – but assuredly we will be sucked in."

CGS describes himself as "very much a post Second World War soldier" brought up in the National Service era when the Army was still spread across the globe and engaged in what used to be called "Imperial policing", though this role steadily diminished.



Forty years ago he was wearing battle dress, boots and gaiters – just another National Service rifleman. Today Gen Sir John Chapple is Chief of the General Staff, professional head of the Army

Picture: Mike Perrin

"About then we became members of a major Alliance on the Continent of Europe so the whole of my time has been spent against the background of our greatest defence priority, fulfilling our commitments and obligations to the Nato alliance."

At the same time the country had substantial national commitments.

It was interesting to reflect that during 40 years when the main military priority of the nation had been 100 per

cent committed to the Alliance and a large proportion of its military resources devoted to maintaining a large standing army in Germany ("and that has definitely helped to keep the major peace") the Army had dealt with some 70 other tasks which had cropped up.

"In about 40 of them there has been shooting – usually shooting at us and in all but one of those years British soldiers have been killed on active duty.

"Not one of those occasions was in support of the major alliance to which we belong.

"The unexpected does happen and we have to be ready for it. The fact that the

standing army has to provide the commanders and men for such undertakings, at very short notice, means, in military jargon, that they are all double 'earmarked' (or even triple in some cases).

That I consider to be a remarkable reflection of the versatility of the Army – and the ability of our people to meet any challenge."

The word "people" seems to come naturally to CGS. He doesn't talk in abstract terms about personnel.

"Without doubt our greatest asset is our people. We have always been an army which has widely recognised that, and it has never been more true than it is today.

"This is not because of the old saying 'the Army equips men; the other Services man equipment . . . it's far more complex than that.

"But we are dependent on the quality of our people, and we're becoming more and more dependent on that quality.

"We place very considerable demands on them nowadays and at a time when we don't have as many as we would like to meet our commitments the people who are there have to take on more responsibility at a more junior level.

"Without exception they rise to the

● Turn to next page

View from the Sixth Floor

From Page 17

challenge and do it superbly.

"But it also means that we – the leadership, the command of the Army, higher management or whatever term you care to use – have got to do everything in our power not only to recognise that fact, it is easily recognised, but to do something about it."

"I suppose you could say that at the moment that is where our greatest effort lies. There is nothing new or dramatic about it . . . I'm certainly not faced with the problems that have faced some of my predecessors . . ."

CGS on the regimental system

"IT IS not easy to explain nor indeed to understand because it operates at different levels in different parts of the Army.

"If you're in the infantry or cavalry, those parts of the Army which have been most closely engaged with the enemy, it operates at a level where you have relatively small unit cohesion and a fierce loyalty towards the idea of the separate unit.

It is equally strong but rather different in the supporting arms, the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Royal

Engineers, and is equally strongly and admirably felt in what may be called the Services.

"The system has been proved over and over again to be a very strong bond when you're in a tight corner – that's when you need it.

"On a number of occasions it has proved to be a rather stronger bond, dare I say it, than King and Country, God and the Cause, Creed and Caste.

"It is a priceless asset and not one to be lightly cast aside."



THE FRONT OFFICE

Five officers who share the same room provide the immediate staff for CGS and the ACGS. Centre is Lt Col Jack Stenhouse, Gordons, Military Assistant 1 to CGS; on his right is Maj Stephen White, RTR, MA2, and next to him Capt Nigel Blackwell, 2 GR, ADC to Gen Chapple. On Lt Col Stenhouse's left is Maj Chris Day, 5 Innis DG, MA to ACGS and Capt Simon Tustin, RTR, AMA to ACGS

NOT A WHIFF OF CANNON SMOKE IN SIGHT . . .

IT IS doubtful if the modest suite on the sixth floor of MoD Main Building, Whitehall, is what the Prussian von Moltke had in mind when he invented the "General Staff" concept in the last century.

It is so very civilised. Not a jackboot, not a helmet in sight.

In their neat suits, the five officers who form the personal staff of the CGS and the Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Maj Gen Richard Swinburn, could be accountants or solicitors if they weren't so obviously lean and fit.

The most regimental thing about the office they share is the tartan rug covering the desk of the Military Assistant to CGS, Lt Col Jack Stenhouse, Gordons.

Otherwise it could be any City office with its ration of VDUs.

On the other side of the corridor a plain notice in letters about an inch high says "Chief of the General Staff".

It opens directly into a compact room simply furnished. Behind and above a workmanlike desk in dark wood hang rows of photographs

of previous heads of the Army.

The oil paintings lent by the National Army Museum are discreetly humorous – a portrait of the Marquis of Granby, a great cavalry leader who lost his wig while charging the enemy (hence the phrase "to go at something bald headed"); soldiers doing business in an Indian bazaar about 1800; and a fine 1832 study entitled "The Recruit".

"For gardening?" asked SOLDIER somewhat rashly.

"Certainly not," came the reply. "They're far too highly bulled for that."

There are no panoramas of smoke and cannon.

Today's CGS is a mixture of soldier and scholar – Honours at Cambridge after National Service; regimental duty with the 1st/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles during the Malayan Emergency and a steady climb up the Staff ladder broken by a return to Cambridge as the first Services Fellow.

The CGS is a Fellow of various learned bodies and

associated with sundry institutions including the World Wide Fund for Nature. He is a bird watcher in a mild way and a serious and perpetual student of a species which is not as prevalent as it used to be – the British soldier.

He has the facts and figures about recruiting at his finger tips and is committed to the battle for "retention"; keeping the right number of right quality soldiers, men and women, in the Army.

Gen Chapple knows many of their problems from experience. In 30 years of marriage (with four children to move about the world) he has had 30 houses.

He considers himself fortunate to have been supported by a wife who "has taken it in her stride . . . though it may have put a bit of a strain on the system from time to time," he admits.

Today he sees two major elements in the requirement to keep the Army up to strength – and quality.

CGS: "First of all to ensure that people's pay remains comparable . . . that soldiers understand they are getting a fair rate for the job compared with people outside the Service.

"Throughout the whole of this decade we believe that soldiers have considered that they have had broad comparability. We must ensure that this continues and we've put this right at the top of our list of priorities."

In addition there were

"conditions of service" which

affected lifestyles, job satisfaction, the quality of life not only for the Serviceman (or woman) but their families.

An increasing emphasis was

being placed on families –

particularly on wives, many of whom had good jobs or wished to pursue careers.

"We cannot satisfy everyone but we're constantly on the lookout for ways to improve the situation."

There were lots of other factors . . . allowances . . . cash in hand for expenses,

Slim: Defeat into victory

SOLDIER asked CGS which British general in comparatively recent years he admired most.

After a slight hesitation – "because there have clearly been a number of very great commanders" – he named Field Marshal Slim.

Like CGS, Slim was a Gurkha. Having seen them in action at Gallipoli, where he was serving in a TA battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, he decided he would like to soldier with them.

The CGS added: "I suppose you could honestly say this is an area in which we have to do better because it broadly affects the individuals' view as to whether they wish to continue their military careers.

"He did as it were, and as the title of his memoirs says, turn defeat into victory. It must be in any sense of command an achievement more admirable than most.

"The other thing is that he was a very big human being in every sense of the word. People related to him in a personal way."

good job in the past three years but they had to be set bigger and bigger targets because "more officers and soldiers than we would wish are leaving the Army".

The recruiters had done a

It was his greatest concern to retain the right number of people of the right quality.

The present shortfall was about 360 officers (though Sandhurst is full) and 4,100 soldiers.

MARILYN (the acronym for Manning and Recruiting in the Army in the Lean Years of the 90s) had been a major study to define the size and shape of the problem.

"More than 60 measures were proposed – not all related to recruiting but right across the spectrum. A good many are already in play. Others are coming along . . . others in turn initiated further studies."

CGS welcomed the recent ministerial announcement increasing the opportunities for women to serve – "something the Army has been wanting to do for a long time. Numbers are to increase by up to 6,000 Regular and 4,000 TA posts.

"Its effect will be to double the number of women serving. We haven't got them yet but I'm sure we will. I'm delighted because the quality of young women who come forward is very high."

He was also very aware that

the Army did not attract as many members of the ethnic minorities as it would like or as might be expected considering their proportion of the population. New measures to attract them were being studied.

"Make no mistake," he said, referring to recruiting as a whole. "We are not complacent."

The post of CGS was created along with the General Staff itself in 1904 when the government and army tried to implement lessons learned in the South African War.

Until then the professional head of the army had been called the Commander-in-Chief (a post occupied by the Duke of Cambridge, Queen Victoria's cousin, from 1856 to 1895!).

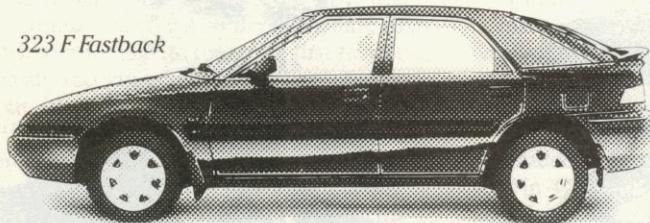
The staff was modelled on the Prussian system devised by von Moltke, the Franco-Prussian War victor.

In 1909 the title was changed to Chief of the Imperial General Staff and existed until 1965 when the then incumbent, Gen Sir Richard Hull, became Chief of the Defence Staff.

CGS is the government's chief adviser, through CDS, on Army matters.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Leading the way

Words: Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures: Mike Weston



Gnr Alex McKie, plus mop, prepares to sweep the barrel of a 32 Heavy Regiment M107 gun

FROM MOPS TO MLRS...

Winds of change for 32 Heavy

IT SEEMS incongruous that the way to clean the M107 – the longest gun in the artillery – is with a mop! But after it has been “fired” in gun drill a gunner is detailed to sweep the barrel.

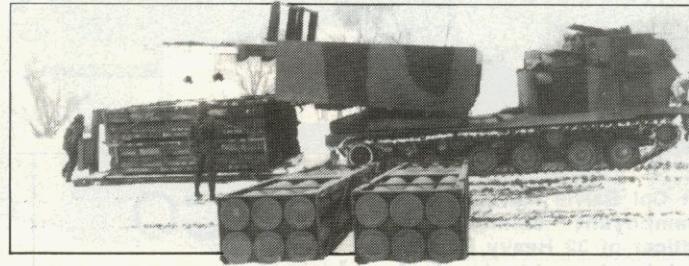
The M107 is to be replaced by the Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS), which will be very much welcomed by 32 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery in Dortmund.

Battery Sgt Maj Gordon Webb, of 18 Battery, said: “Hopefully, we will see it by the end of next year.”

He has trained on MLRS and said: “It is a marvellous piece of kit and will revolutionise artillery on the battlefield. Its firepower is awesome.”

But he has a soft spot for the M107. “It’s still a good gun and I have a lot of affection for it.”

Also eagerly awaiting new



MLRS, the shape of things to come

equipment is 57 (Bhurtpore) Locating Battery, based in Dortmund since 1985 when it became part of 32 Hvy Rgt.

At present it uses the Midge drone system, an unmanned reconnaissance aircraft which

takes photographs of the battlefield. Specialist photographic and interpretive teams study the information to determine enemy locations.

Midge is to be replaced by the more sophisticated

Phoenix, which will transmit live, high quality pictures. It is hoped to be in service by early 1991.

The battery will continue its sound ranging role, using dug in microphones for locating enemy guns, and also its meteorological service providing weather information for all artillery regiments in BAOR.

Capt John Bray, drone troop commander, explained: “With the arrival of Phoenix and Cobra, the new equipment will greatly enhance our ability to detect close enemy

● Turn to next page

River's a splash hit

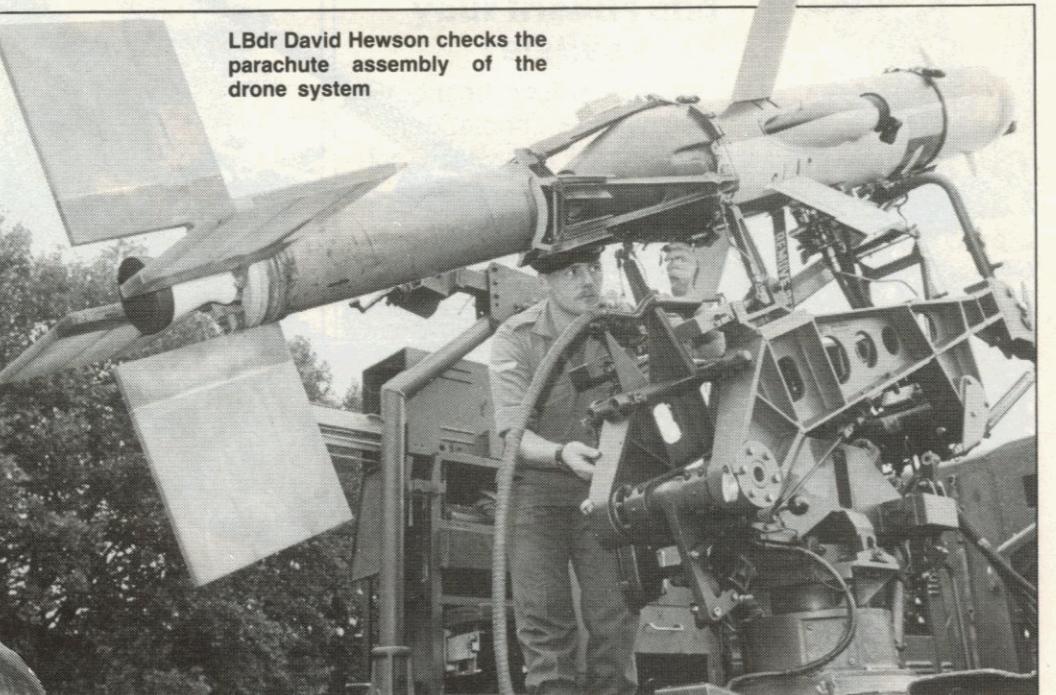
THANKS to the generosity of a local canoe club 32 Heavy Regiment is able to use civilian facilities for adventure training.

The club owns a stretch of the River Ruhr in a suburb of

Hagen, not far from the regiment's base in Dortmund. Some soldiers belong to the club, which extended an invitation to the regiment to use the facilities. Instructor, Capt Andy

Lukes, said: "It is ideal for our needs, especially as the Army is putting much more emphasis on the importance of adventure training."

Pictured are members of 57 Battery on the river!



Theodolite operator Sgt Stephen Blackburn surveys an accurate location for a sound ranging position and is pictured with LBdr Martin Osmond



All change

● From Page 21

locations. This battery will be unrecognisable in a few years because of important technological changes."

And 15 Air Defence Regiment, which will be formed at the neighbouring Ubique Barracks in August, can also look forward to new equipment - the anti-aircraft Hyper Velocity Missile System.

Lt Col Barrie Fairman, the flamboyant commanding officer of 32 Heavy Regiment, has brought a touch of realism to his reputation for being a larger than life character.

For those times when he is unavoidably away from his desk he has ensured his presence is felt by installing a large cut out photograph of himself on his desk.

Most of his soldiers do a

The CO is never away . . .

double take when they see it . . .

"It certainly reminds us of absent friends," quipped one member of his staff.

Rock steady

THERE are several budding Chris Boningtons in the regiment, according to Capt John Bray, their mountaineering president.

And they have the ideal area to practice. Just outside Hohenburg - and not far from their base in Dortmund - is a rock face excellent for both beginners and experienced climbers.

Capt Bray said it was essential to introduce novices to the sport slowly.

Almost there is Gnr Barry Clark, pictured below.



Gunners of 32 Heavy Regiment go back to the classroom but no school lessons were quite like this!

They are getting to grips with various military skills through the Inverton Artillery and Mortar Fire Control Training Simulator.

Apart from training for all types of indirect fire control, it

Class of '89

is used for basic and advanced map reading exercises, position siting and basic terrain recognition and exercise pre-planning.

Working out their bearings are Gnr Richard Allen (left) and Gnr Stephen Hughes.



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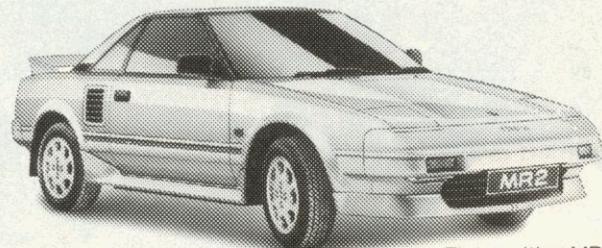
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Lucky break

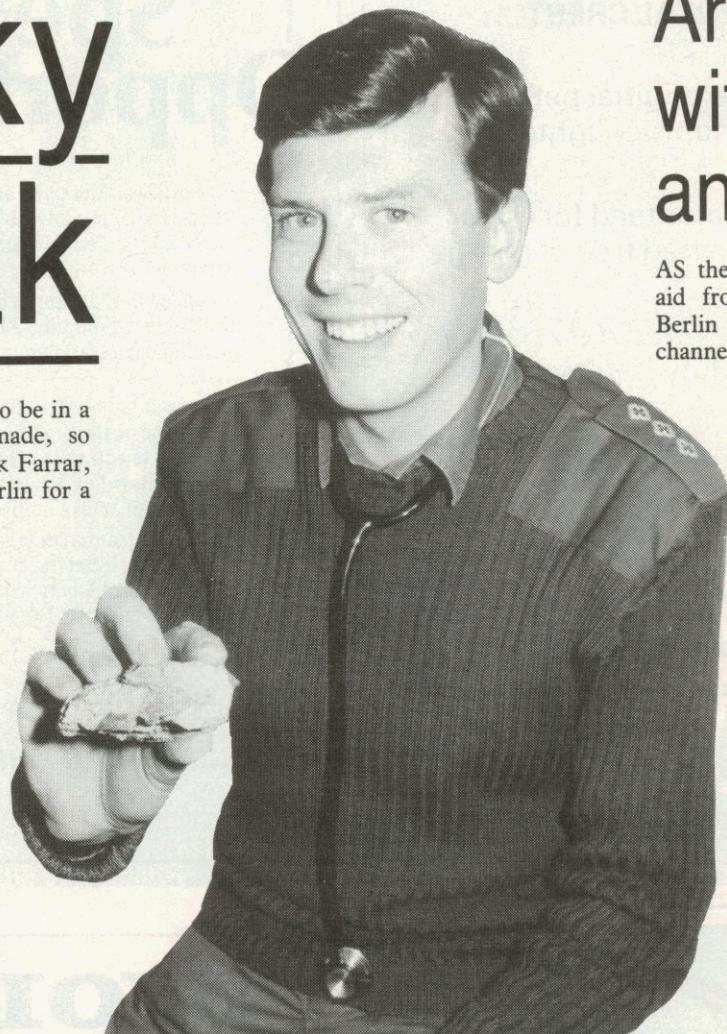
NOT everyone is lucky enough to be in a place where history is being made, so imagine the delight of Capt Mark Farrar, RAMC, who arrived in West Berlin for a weekend break just as the infamous barrier started to crumble, writes Laurie Manton.

Stationed at the medical centre in Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh, he booked a trip to Berlin months ago and travelled in company with wife Heather and friends Capt Paul Parker, RAMC, and his wife Fiona who are based at BMH Hannover.

Said Mark: "It was amazing to wake up in the morning and find history being made right in front of our eyes."

Despite reports of sightseers blocking every road, the four were determined to carry on with their original intention of shopping in the East. They had no difficulty getting across the border at Checkpoint Charlie – everyone else was going the other way!

They witnessed long queues of cars packed full of East Berliners waiting to cross to the West where they were greeted by a huge welcoming crowd. "They were ecstatic, just going



Capt Mark Farrar, RAMC, shows off his piece of the Berlin Wall

mad with hysteria. Cheering, throwing coins through the window and banging on the cars," said Mark.

On a visit to a stretch of Wall behind the Reichstag building, they found a crowd of West Berliners busy with hammers.

Several holes had been made in the wall, through which East German border guards could be seen standing sheepishly.

It was here that Mark managed to get his souvenir, a piece of Wall complete with graffiti.



Flowers for an RMP patrol vehicle among revellers on the Unterbaugebiet, the area immediately on the Western side of the Wall

Army helps with board and blankets

AS the situation developed, requests for aid from the Berlin Senate (the West Berlin governing body) were being channelled through the Allied Staff Berlin to operations rooms in the three Sectors for translation into action.

As duty battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers has taken the brunt of the tasks.

So far the British have provided:

- Beds and bedding to accommodate 600 people at the city's Exhibition Centre;
- Made available two hangars at RAF Gatow for use by the Senate;
- Furnished a vacant building to use as a reception centre;
- Advised the Senate on the possibility of converting other accommodation for resettlers;
- Issued 1,000 blankets; and
- Provided hot coffee at border crossing points and outside a bank where East Germans were queuing.

Closest of all to the amazing events at the Wall were the men of 2nd Regiment, Royal Military Police tasked with keeping the British Commandant and Headquarters informed of what was taking place within the British Sector.

RMP NCOs along the three kilometres of Wall bordering the British Sector radioed in their reports as the flood of East Berliners, on foot and in their tiny Trabant cars, passed through Checkpoint Charlie.

On the Western outskirts of the Sector, the fortification known to the military community as the "Wire" came down at Falkensee Chausee to provide a further crossing point.

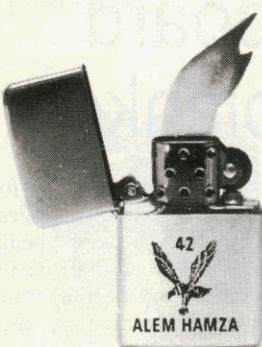
Despite travel restrictions from the East being relaxed, the RMP and the resident infantry battalions are still carrying out patrols.

As this issue went to press, a team from SOLDIER was travelling to West Berlin to report on events in the city.

BAOR, too, was playing its part. Secretary of State for Defence Mr Tom King made a substantial offer of barrack accommodation and sites to house resettlers.

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Scarlet Santa-nel

THEY sought him here, they sought him there, and where was he . . . visiting 1 R Anglian on the border in South Armagh. Above, Santa identifies himself to Lt Richard Cook's 3 Platoon; right, in the shape of LCpl Pete Barrs, he tries to talk his way past LCpl Ned Hoskins at Newtown Hamilton.

The Rev Gordon Watts CF, Senior Chaplain Northern Ireland, says in a Christmas message to soldiers:

"Over the festive season of Christmas I am very aware of the large number of soldiers who will be on duty, particularly here in Northern Ireland. For many this means separation from families and loved ones at a time we associate with everyone being at home together.

"Christmas is the time for giving. God gave His only Son that first Christmas to the words of the angels chorus 'On earth peace, goodwill toward men', and those members of the Armed Forces on duty over Christmas reflect the true spirit of the season by giving themselves to the maintenance of peace and goodwill in the community.

"May God bless and keep you wherever you are this Christmas-tide."



CORPORAL T.W. PRIDAY, K.S.L.I.
FELL IN ACTION DEC. 9TH 1939.
THE FIRST BRITISH ARMY
CASUALTY OF THE WAR

The village war memorial at Redmarley in Gloucestershire records the fact that Cpl Thomas Priday was the first British Army casualty of the war

Wanted: A photo of Cpl Priday

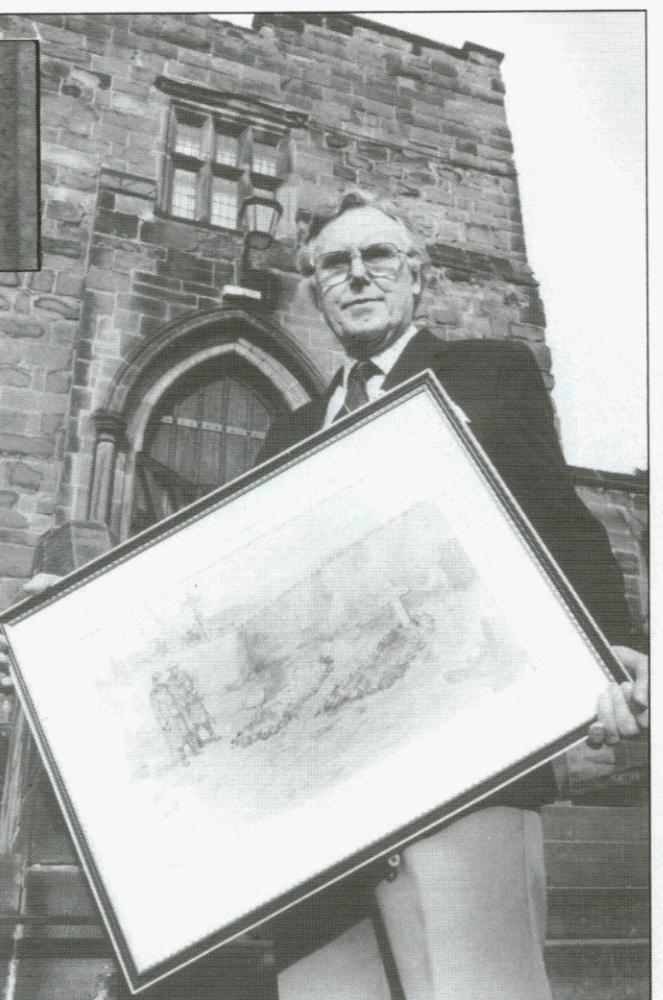
FIRST soldier to die during the Second World War was Cpl Thomas Priday of the 1st Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He was killed on December 9, 1940 when he stepped on a mine while leading a patrol in France.

At the time the battalion was serving on the Saar front with the 3rd Infantry Brigade which was attached to the French 42nd Division. The Divisional Commander, Gen De La Porte Du Theil and a detachment of the 80th

French Regiment attended the funeral at Luttange along with buglers, firing party and mourners from 1 KSLI.

Now the search is on to find a photograph of Cpl Priday who is remembered in a special display in the Shropshire Regimental Museum which has turned to **SOLDIER** for help.

Said the curator, Mr Geoffrey Archer Parfitt: "We have a number of items on display concerning the death of this man but sadly have never been able to trace



Geoffrey Archer Parfitt displays the original drawing of an illustration of Cpl Priday's grave that first appeared in the *Illustrated London News*

a photograph of him.

"If any of your readers know of the existence of a photograph of Cpl Priday, the museum would love to hear from them," said Mr Archer Parfitt who can be contacted at the Museum c/o The Castle, Shrewsbury (telephone 0743-58516).

Day of special poignancy

REMEMBRANCE Sunday had a special poignancy this year, the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second World War. As in years past citizens in towns and villages throughout the United Kingdom gathered to attend ceremonies to remember those who fell in the two great conflicts of this century, writes **Laurie Manton**.

In Germany too, acts of remembrance were held by units serving with the British Army of the Rhine. **SOLDIER** visited one such service at Mansergh Barracks at Gutersloh.

It was held in the cavernous interior of the regimental gymnasium of 26 Field Regiment RA.

As the members of the Gutersloh Station and their guests filed into the building,

they passed through a doorway flanked by a pair of 25 pdr guns and two Royal Artillery soldiers dressed in blues and bearing lances.

Close by on the square, two Abbot guns and their crews stood by to fire, marking the beginning and end of the two minute silence.

Inside, bugler Cpl Shane McGookin, 2 R Irish, sounded the melancholy notes of the Last Post and Reveille.

This is very much a family regiment, and while soldiers and their kin stood with heads bowed the silence was broken by the chatter of children, thankfully too young to

appreciate the horrors of war.

The congregation, several hundred strong, were fortunate to have as their station chaplain, the Rev Mark Wilson. A past master at producing powerful sermons and he did not fail them.

"It is not often we can say we are living in historic days," he told his flock.

"We join in this act of remembrance for wars of this century as one of the most fateful relics of a divided society in Europe is being bulldozed out of existence. The

"These indeed are historic moments but, amidst all this history let us not forget . . ."

Gutersloh's act of remembrance

Right - An Abbot gun was fired to mark the beginning and end of the two minute silence at Gutersloh's service of remembrance. Cpl Shane McGookin, 2 R Irish, sounded the Last Post and Reveille during the ceremony. Standing beside the Abbot is Gnr Mike Best, of 26 Fd Regt RA, one of two lancemen who took part. Standing in the commander's hatch is LBdr Ken Kinnear

Below right - Lt Col Mark Corbet Burcher, Commanding Officer of 26 Fd Regt RA, bows his head in respect after laying a wreath

Below - Inside Mansergh Barracks gymnasium members of 26 Fd Regt RA, 10 Fd Regt RE and 61 Ord Coy RAOC, with their families and guests, take part in the Remembrance Sunday service led by the station chaplain, the Rev Mark Wilson

Pictures: Terry Champion





PEOPLE

What's cooking?

Above - Without doubt the most glamorous visitor to the Central Cookhouse in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area at Dhekelia was this year's Star of Cyprus, Miss Irma Vulgari, who helped Sgt Frank Sinnott (right) and Cpl John Butters stir the mix for 750 Christmas puddings. The whole lot weighed in at a hefty 750kg!



The Prince of Wales talks to soldiers of 2/2 GR during his visit to Gallipoli Lines. Prince Charles, in the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, called on the battalion during the royal visit to Hong Kong. He was greeted at the barracks by Lt Col Christopher Lavender, now CO of 2/2 GR, but until a few months ago the Prince's equerry. Earlier the Princess of Wales treated Servicemen and their families to a walkabout in HMS Tamar, the Hong Kong headquarters. She was met by Brig Giles Arnold, Deputy Commander British Forces, and later was joined by Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Peter Duffell, in a motorcade to the Royal Yacht. Full story on Page 7.

Lt Col Douglas Mullis who has completed 50 years military service in the Regular Army and the ACF, has retired as Deputy Commandant of Essex ACF and has been succeeded by Lt Col Roger Calton, until recently Commander of C Coy at Southend. Lt Col Mullis served with the RAMC and 10 GR.

A right old mix up at Arborfield!

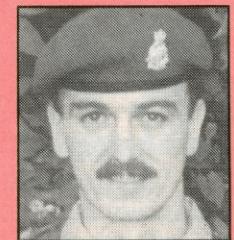
There's no getting away from it - the festive season is here! Getting to grips with the Christmas pudding mix are the youngest apprentices from Princess Marina College, Arborfield with their commandant, Col Phil Kay (third from left), chef Pte David Owen and RSM Nigel Hartley (fourth from right). They are (from left) Apprentices Christopher Richards, Stephen Clark, John Turner, Richard Farquharson and Robert Sibbring.



Kineton 'Old Uns!'

Late Entry officers with the RAOC at Kineton have taken up the gauntlet thrown down by the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire at Catterick. The PWO wondered if the combined 217 years of service of their Late Entry officers was a record, but the RAOC at Kineton beat it by 20 years. They are (from the left) front, Majs John Moorling, David Moore and William Banfield; centre, Capts John Matthews and Roger Bruce, Maj Ronald Cooper, and Capt Ian Moore. At the back is Capt Mervyn Chapman. The Kineton "Old Uns" are not confident that their total will remain unbeaten.

Spot on, John!



WO2 John Alexander, 1st Bn Yorkshire Volunteers, has had an exceptional shooting year, culminating in his being chosen to join the guard of honour at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey during the Belgian Forces Commemoration Service. His outstanding shooting achievements, which have brought interna-

tional travel, include twice representing the UK Reserve Forces in military skills competitions.

Golden girl

A hat trick of successes for 19-year-old LCpl Nia Williams, WRAC, who has just received the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award to add to her bronze and silver awards. Nia, from Stafford, from Stafford, is based at the RMP Training Centre at Chichester, West Sussex and will be joining 156 Provost Company which is based at Colchester.



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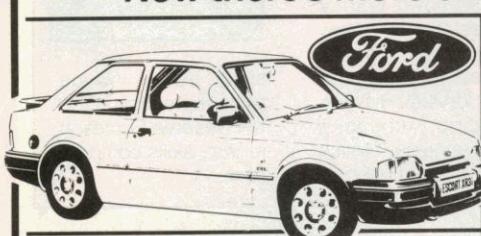
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The diving party breaks the ice before diving on wrecks at South Georgia

Sappers take a chilly dip

SOUTH Georgia's icy waters proved no barrier for the Gurkha divers of the Falkland Islands' Royal Engineers Field Squadron.

Exciting at the best of times, wreck diving took on an even sharper edge beneath the Antarctic pack ice.

Slipping into the chilly depths, the diving team of 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron were all too aware of the hazards they faced.

Safety procedures, as always, were paramount and the ice dive – a first for all on the ten day South Georgia expedition – was one of the highlights of their hectic four months South Atlantic tour.

While at South Georgia – gateway to Antarctica – they inspected the jetty at King Edward Point and then spent some time diving on the submerged hulls of three whaling ships in Grytviken harbour.

They closed the stopcocks on one, the *Petrel*, and she has since been refloated. There is talk of towing her across to the

by Mervyn
Wynne Jones

Falklands and restoring her as a museum piece.

Diving on historic wrecks provided an interesting diversion throughout their tour and the newly opened Falkland Islands museum in Port Stanley was one of the prime beneficiaries.

Curator John Smith – well known in the garrison for his popular Falklands history lectures – was presented with a variety of exhibits including a four ton anchor recovered from Stanley harbour.

Mr Smith's research has revealed that it is at least 200 years old because the anchor once had a wooden stock, but there is uncertainty as to which ship it belonged.

It lay in Stanley's outer harbour until shortly after the 1982 conflict when it was raised and deposited, temporarily, in the bay opposite the town's

seafront Upland Goose Hotel.

Almost hidden by silt, it was here that the Gurkha divers found it. Brought to the surface again, it was treated against further corrosion and placed by crane in the grounds of the museum.

The team located and investigated two significant wrecks in the waters off Saunders Island, north west Falkland.

The first was the *Malvinas*, a coaster that once plied the waters around the Falklands carrying stores and passengers between settlements. She was the first vessel in Falkland waters to have an engine as well as a sail.

Built in 1906, she was operated by the Falkland Islands Company until lost in 1910 after striking a reef. The Gurkhas recovered remnants of her historic engine and a large iron bolt that would have been used to secure the woodwork in her bow.

The other was that of a vessel of the late 18th Century that would have been used for

catching seals. Clay bricks recovered from the sealer by the Gurkhas would have been used both as ballast, says Mr Smith, and for building the hearths on which the carcasses were boiled and rendered for their oil.

From old to new, the diving team ended their Falklands tour with a dive on the fragmented remains of an Argentinian aircraft off the coast of Pebble Island, scene of the famous airfield raid during the 1982 conflict by 22 SAS.

Team OC, Lt David Faulkner, said: "A couple of aircraft are believed to have crashed in that vicinity, and this particular one had obviously broken up on impact and was pretty shredded."

"It has been a fascinating and varied tour for us, and valuable experience both in terms of training and the range of assignments."

One man more than sorry to see them go was museum curator John Smith. "They have been a tremendous help to us," he said.

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IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL FOR YOUNG REME OFFICERS

A REME subaltern is newly posted into an armoured workshop in BAOR. During a unit party he is struck by the radiant beauty of a guest and finds himself being chatted up by her.

HE finds out she is the wife of a corporal he considers a bit of a wimp. SHE finds out he is the boss. After saying her husband wanted to be an artificer but didn't know how to go about it, she appeals to him as the fountain of all knowledge.

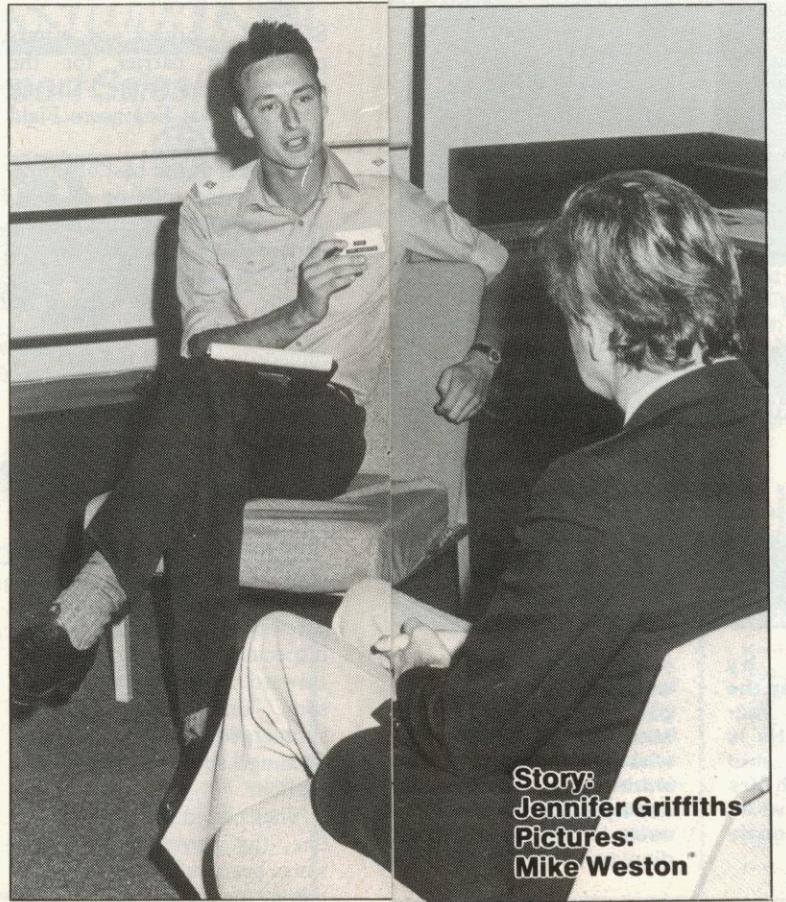
Under the spell of her beautiful eyes and dulcet tones the young lieutenant weakly promises to speak to the corporal.

That was four days ago and the appointment is imminent. Where does the lieutenant go from there?

The same lieutenant, keen to get it right, has been getting to know his soldiers individually. A craftsman has confided that as the son of a trade unionist, he is politically very aware and wants to meet up with some East German friends. How does the officer advise him?

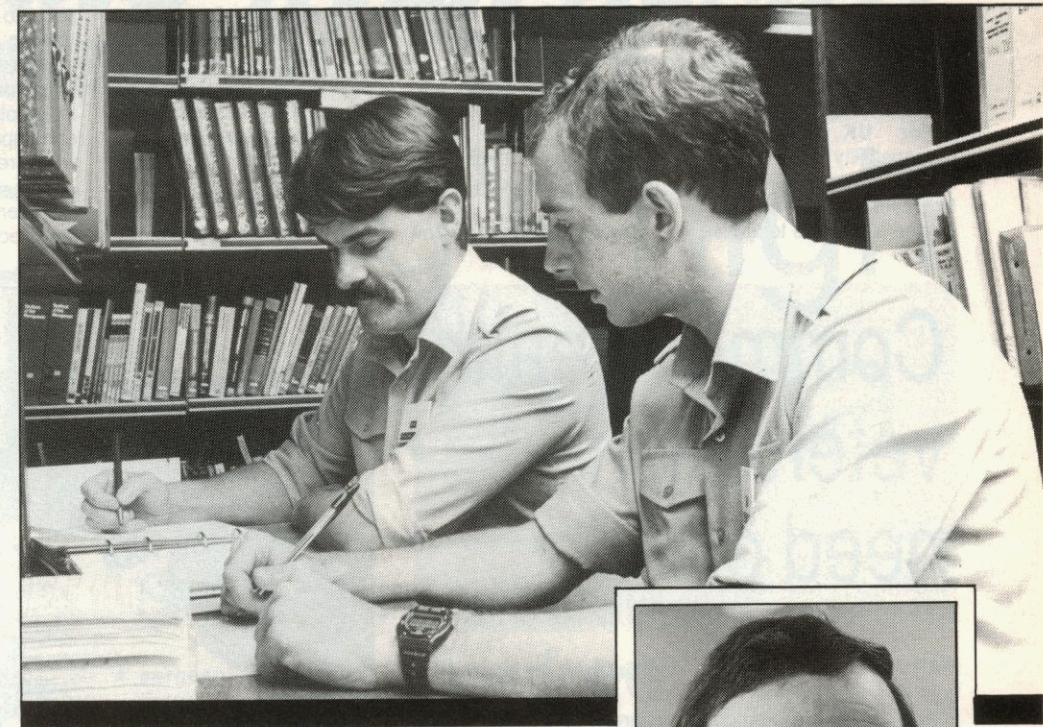
Both storylines may appear over the top, but they are typical of the novel, interesting (and purely fictional) scenarios devised to test REME young officers' interviewing techniques and decision making at the

REME Officers' School, Arborfield, Reading. The school is responsible for the co-ordination of young officer training, for the corps. It includes post-Royal Military Academy Sandhurst equipment



Looking for the answer through a range of Army publications are Lt Tristram Lewis and Lt Allan Thomson

Getting it right from the beginning



Lt Col Nick Holland, chief instructor, REME Officers School

the basic infantry platoon commander – and we teach them the difference between that and a young officer in REME, and what is special about the unit they are going to."

The training cycle starts (for graduate as well as non graduate entries who pass out from Sandhurst), with the REME Young Officer Course at the school, where a SOLDIER team met students on the 100th course to pass through.

Official aim is to provide them "with an introduction to responsibilities, organisation and procedures in REME, together with such knowledge of unit administration as to prepare him for his first posting in the corps."

Lt Col Nick Holland, chief instructor, is far more succinct. "It means they won't feel naked when they are faced by their own soldiers and the problems they generate."

He continued: "We build on the teaching they have had already and try to focus on what is different about the corps and how it is structured.

"Sandhurst trains all young officers to a common standard –

Instructor, Charles Elsey, tests the interviewing techniques of Lt Lea Roberts

does the chamber require***?

The aim of these problems is to familiarise students with the range of Army publications and to use them to obtain information.

Service writing tasks cover the complete military gamut – from preparing briefs for visiting senior officers, to actioning a commanding officer's memo, and thanking the president of a mess committee for hospitality.

Procedures for dealing with casualty and informing relatives, arrest, drunkenness and use of drugs are also extensively tested.

* The craftsman was right to feel aggrieved. The CO cannot deal with this charge which must go before a court martial. The reference and code number is Manual of Military Law (Army Code No 14484). Army Act 1955 Sect 42(1)(b) footnote 1(c). Army Summary Jurisdiction Regulations, regulation No 11.

** Regarding the Mess Account, see Queen's Regulations for the Army 1975 (Army Code No 13206) chap 5, part 18. Notes on the Prevention of Fraud 1962 (Army Code No 13423) para 23 Service Funds Regulations and Audit Procedures. (Army Code No 60450) chap 4 appendices to annex B.

*** The chamber requires 1lb of filter powder.

FAMILY CREDIT – HOME AND ABROAD

FAMILY Credit instructions dated October 31 have now been issued by the Paymaster in Chief.

They explain how Family Credit can be claimed in the UK and overseas.

For UK. FC is a responsibility of the Department of Social Services. However, units are expected to be able to advise

on the procedures and to have available and on display a selection of DSS pamphlets and application forms.

Recruit Training Centres should advise new recruits, where necessary, and ensure that they are assisted in making initial claims.

For Overseas. The unit

administrative office is responsible for scrutinising pay accounts for eligible soldiers, assessing claims and passing them for payment to regimental pay offices. It is essential that regular scrutinies are carried out and that advice on FC is given at all unit admin offices.

UAO staff are to ensure that every effort is made to recognise soldiers in need and to assist them, in making claims.

New rates came into effect on April 1 when the threshold was raised to encompass more families who are on low wages.

This meant that more Servicemen would be eligible. Recently one regiment

told me it had 19 men claiming FC. Another had four.

I advise all soldiers who think they may qualify for FC to check their pay slips.

Further information should be available at the Post Office, BFPOs, Citizens's Advice Bureaux and unit admin offices. The leaflet is DSS FC1.

Commonwealth veterans in need of help

MARVELLOUS! That's how delegates to the 24th annual British Commonwealth Ex-Services League (BCEL) conference at Brighton described the occasion.

Hosted by the Royal British Legion, the conference attracted 150 delegates from all over the world and a galaxy of VIPs including the Duke of Kent, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister William Waldegrave.

This little known Service charity does important work on behalf of approximately 5m former Servicemen and women, many of whom served in British regiments but now live in any one of the 50 Commonwealth countries.

The BCEL has a daunting task and a very modest income to work with. Last year it amounted to £3m.

Last year it assisted in 3,500 cases, but, as General Secretary Brig Mike Doyle explained:

"We expect that by 1995 the demands for help will peak as the bulk will reach the age of being unable to support themselves and their families and many will be destitute."

BCEL is the agency through which the three Services channel grants to former soldiers and Servicewomen in the Commonwealth.

Brig Doyle said that he would welcome help from Service wives on postings to Commonwealth countries. He can be contacted at BCEL HQ, Haig House, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1.

Typical reaction to the

conference was summed up by former Scots Guardsman Robert Laing, the delegate from the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"The genuine interest by all the delegates in the problems and also the solutions in other countries was obvious. A lot of work was done in small groups."

Former ATS corporal Mrs Dorothy Pilgrim from St Lucia explained how the problem was changing from one of finding employment for ex-Servicemen to one of supporting them in their old age.

Pension problems in Malaysia had been overcome, announced Mr Hamilton when he addressed delegates on the subject of pensions.

However, there was no comfort for the wives of ex-Servicemen living in Cyprus and receiving disability pensions. There would be nothing for Cyprus wives from the UK Government if the husband died from an illness unconnected to their war injury. And nothing from the Cyprus Government either.

"They end up destitute," said the island's delegate.



Cheap at the price!

Actor Christopher Cazenove was first in the queue to buy goodies at the annual RMA Sandhurst Christmas fair in aid of Service and local charities. He made sure of priority

treatment by agreeing to open the fair which this year raised £4,000. He is pictured in mid transaction with Mrs Mary Tobin while Mrs Liz MacKenzie looks on.

The fair has been organised for the past ten years by Mrs Mary Heathcote, who said: "We start work each March and by November we seem to have a good display."



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

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Housing's high on the agenda

Sergeant's case for free quarters

HOUSING was high on the list of topics discussed at the Adjutant General's conference in London.

It was evident that the AG, Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, and the Director General of Personal Services (Army), Maj Gen Patrick Stone were aware of the housing difficulties faced by a proportion of the 30,000 men and women who leave the three Services each year.

Some good news was announced, the possibility of a "Military Mortgage" being one such item.

The other was a housing association scheme to manage 66 surplus married quarters in Chatham.

It has also been agreed that the restrictions applying to previous home ownership will be reduced to five years from the closing date of December 4 this year and thereafter from each subsequent Discounted Housing Bulletin's closing date.

The ruling preventing property being readvertised or offered to others on the waiting list has also been changed.

It has now been agreed that a property will be offered to five prospective purchasers, or offered for

whatever, they would no longer be obliged to assist them in finding homes.

As long as soldiers were made aware of this on enlistment MoD would have a clear conscience.

And what a boost to recruiting and retention this would be!

● This idea is actually being looked at after being mentioned at the Adjutant General's conference.

District Council's recent change of policy which means that only Servicemen who enlisted from the area will be accepted on their housing list after 1992.

Anyone who may be affected should contact them.

It is interesting that at the moment the MoD's budget is reported to be underspent by £500m.

If a percentage were to be diverted to housing needs it might help the retention rate in the Forces.

With only one Service housing association proposed to manage one estate we may miss out yet again on a Government plan to channel increased funds into this type of organisation.

The sale of surplus married quarters will have peaked in the next two years and the prime sites will have gone.

If we could extend the proposed housing association plan to other areas it would surely be a case of self help.

Estates bought and managed by Service personnel could help the government increase availability in the rented sector.

director, said a video was available to give anyone interested an insight into the work of the charity.

She said rents were fair and tenants of all ages.

More information can be obtained from: Douglas Haig Memorial Homes, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5NS or telephone 01-648-0335.

Haig homes in big push for £3m

THE Douglas Haig Memorial Homes set up in 1928 to help ex-Servicemen who needed a roof over their head is making a last push to achieve a target of £11m to renovate and refurbish 818 homes on 37 estates all over the country.

Though much of it has been raised another £3m is needed.

The latest appeal was

launched by Lord Astor, a grandson of Field Marshal Earl Haig, who commanded the British Expeditionary Force in France for the greater part of the First World War.

Speaking in support of the appeal Maj Gen Barry Pollard said the trustees were keeping under review the housing needs of existing tenants and the

future needs of ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants.

"They can feel real difficulty when the time comes to leave," he said.

"Many will not have reached their full pension, they may not have a job to go to and they don't get priority on the local housing list."

Lady Travers, the appeal

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Guarding the Skies by Dennis Barker. The last in the author's acclaimed *People of the Forces* trilogy. A candid portrait of the people in today's Royal Air Force and a vivid account of their daily life. Published by Viking. Price £15.95.

Urgent Fury - The Battle for Grenada by Mark Adkin. A revealing look at the 1983 American invasion of Grenada which was the largest US Military operation since Vietnam. Provides a sobering picture of mismanagement, deceit and lack of preparation. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £14.95.

Tobruk Commando - The Raid to Destroy Rommel's Base by Gordon Lansborough. Reissue of a classic true adventure story of the Second World War. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £13.95.

A Personal Memoir of World War II by Henry Brady. Story of the author's experiences in Palestine, the Western Desert and Crete. Published by Merlin Books. Price £8.95.

Optoelectronic Line Transmission - An Introduction to Fibre Optics by R L Tricker. The author is a serving officer in

the Royal Corps of Signals. Published by Heinemann Newnes. Price £12.95.

Tank War - Central Front, Nato vs Warsaw Pact by Steven J Zaloga. No 26 in the Elite series published by Osprey. Many photographs of current battle tanks and fictional report of battle between US and Soviet forces in Germany. Price £5.95.

Soldiers of the English Civil War (1): Infantry by Keith Roberts. No 25 in the Elite series published by Osprey. Price £5.95.

The Germans - Rich, Bothered and Divided by David Marsh. Analysis of Modern Germany, East and West, which investigates how the country is still trying to come to terms with its tortured past and discover its true place in the world. Published by Century. Price £16.95.

Combat Frogmen by Michael Welham. An account of military diving from the 19th Century to the present day. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £16.95.

An Artist on the March. Reissue of 1935 distillation of over 150 books on the First World War in the words of 126 authors, including Churchill, Conan Doyle and Sassoon. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

Airship VC hero struck down by the 'flu'

THE night of September 2-3, 1916 saw one of Germany's most concentrated attempts to raid London from the air.

Just after 2am Army airship SL11 was intercepted near Enfield by a BE2c night fighter piloted by Lt William Leefe Robinson and was shot down, to fall in flames in a field at Cuffley. There were no survivors.

This was the first German airship to be destroyed on English mainland soil and Robinson was awarded the Victoria Cross. His medal was sold at Christie's last year for £99,000 and the proceeds used to fund a charitable trust to help children suffering from leukaemia.

William Leefe Robinson's story is told in *The Airship VC* by Raymond Laurence Rimmell.

The author leans heavily on extracts from family letters, with those of William recapturing the understatement that were so beloved by the middle classes in the early years of this century.

"We had a visit from our general the other day - he's an awfully decent old boy and said my squadron commander had been worrying him to let me go back to his squadron, so I don't know if I'll stay here long I'm sure... The gentry about here are awfully decent. We have already been out to dinner, teas galore and have invitations for lunch."

Robinson entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in August 1914 and was posted to the 5th Militia Battalion, The Worcester Regiment, on December 16 and transferred to the Royal Flying Corps to fly as an observer with No 4 Squadron based at St Omer, France, in March 1915.

He was wounded in the arm about six weeks later. After a brief convalescence, he took a pilot's course and qualified for a Royal Aero Certificate after



Lt William Leefe Robinson of the Royal Flying Corps. A life cut short by influenza

just three hours and 26 minutes tuition.

These were vintage days of aviation when flights of any distance involved putting the plane down in some convenient field and staying the night in a country hotel or enjoying the hospitality of a nearby stately home.

The book is essentially a biography but there are some fascinating glimpses of how the Royal Flying Corps operated. At that time no machine guns were installed in BE2cs, the idea being to attack the Zeppelins from above with 20lb Hales bombs or batches of Ranken explosive darts.

By the time Robinson brought down SL11, night-fighter aircraft carried a Lewis gun firing explosive bullets, a much more effective armament.

He became an overnight hero, mobbed everywhere by admirers. This inevitably brought some adverse comment from a few of his colleagues.

"Such jealousies, if that is what they were, may have been further fuelled by the huge

BOOK REVIEWS

Memories of a displaced persons unit

AUTOBIOGRAPHY is an important division of military literature. Senior commanders, like politicians, are more or less duty bound to record their careers for historians, but it is often the memoirs of more junior officers and NCOs which provide the more atmospheric accounts of life in war and peacetime.

Clyde Aylin enlisted in the Royal Artillery in March 1931 and was not commissioned until 1940 when the war presented unusual opportunities for promotion.

In *Breaking Ranks* he tells his story from enlistment to his work as officer commanding one of the displaced persons units in Germany.

Aylin received orders to report to Bruges where he was to form a small section to be known as No 1 Displaced Persons Assembly Centre which was to look after some of the millions of foreign workers who had served the German war machine.

It is his role as commander of this unit and its activities in Germany that takes up the lion's share of the book. No 1 DPAC's first move was to Kevelier on the North Rhine and thence to Celle and it was from there that Aylin was to visit Belsen.

Mistakes were made when the British arrived at the concentration camp: "... instead of immediately disarming and throwing out the Hungarian guards we left them with their rifles to maintain order. We then proceeded to whip the prisoners into a frenzy by such things as parading Kramer (the German commandant) through the camp in a jeep, stripped to the waist and handcuffed.

At 23 years of age, this was both an untimely and inappropriate death for a flier who had survived the hazards of the war. - BJ

The Airship VC: The Life of Captain William Leefe Robinson by Raymond Laurence Rimmell. Published by Aston Publications Limited, Bourne End House, Harvest Hill, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5JJ. Hardback £14.95.

Post-war Displaced Persons

camps were to stretch Aylin's abilities in organisation and diplomacy to the full.

The other side of life in Germany at that time was the black market and other racketeering.

"Those warm-hearted humanitarians of America who had so generously responded to appeals for aid for Europe's millions of refugees would have been surprised to learn that only about 25 per cent of their contributions benefited the intended recipient. The rest served as blood transfusions for a black market which might otherwise have died a natural death." - BJ

Breaking Ranks by Clyde Aylin. Published by Merlin Books Limited, 40 East Street, Braunton, Devon EX33 2EA. Price £11.95 hardback.

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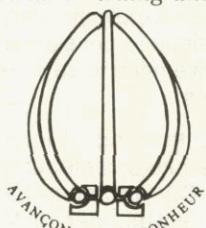
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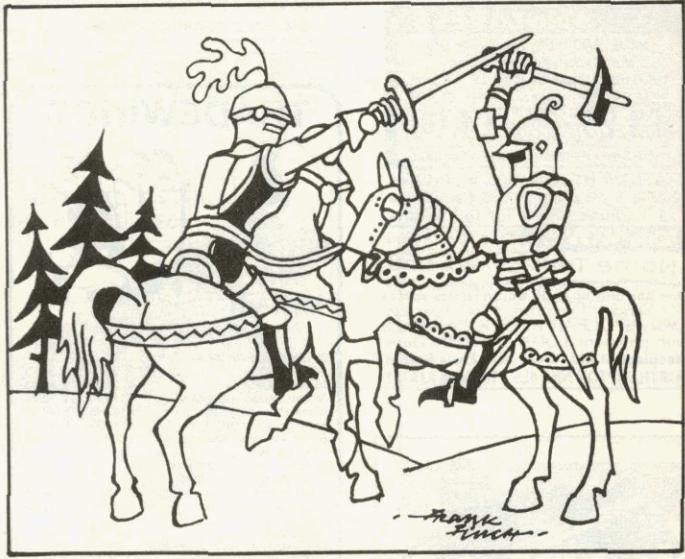
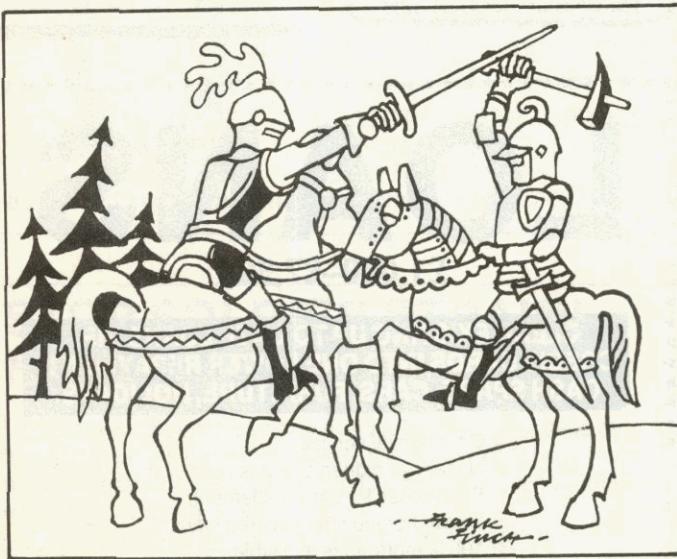
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I have always been convinced that an NBC suit has a life of its own. Trying to get it into a wet '58 webbing poncho roll on a damp drizzly day is like trying to fit a rapidly inflating rubber elephant into a very small suitcase.

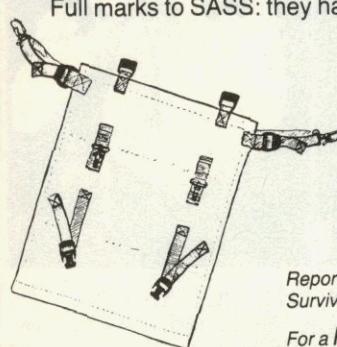
That's why I was glad to see the new NBC kit roll from SASS. It's made not from traditional cotton webbing but from texturised nylon, the same material as the new nylon PLCE rucksacks and webbing. It doesn't soak up water like a sponge or shrink about an inch a month. It's actually very similar to a '58 poncho roll, but four inches longer, so should take care of your NBC suit, boots and all.

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

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

Full marks to SASS: they have designed a simple, effective solution to one of life's great frustrations. Available in DPM camo or olive drab at £19.95 plus £2.50 p&p from Special Air Sea Services, St George's Works, St George's Quay, Lancaster, Lancs LA1 5QJ.
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Report reprinted from May 1989 "Combat and Survival" Magazine.

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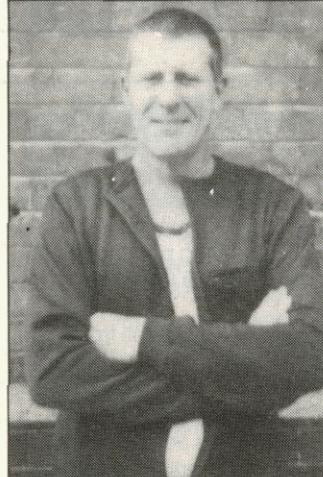
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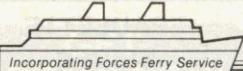


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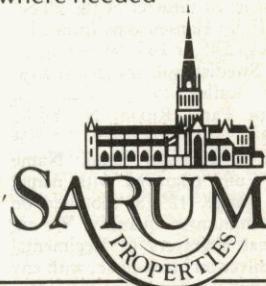
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Essex escape but reserves crash in fog

Essex 1, Army 1

HISTORY repeated itself when the Army football team visited Dagenham for the second time in three years to take on Essex. The last meeting there ended in a 1-1 draw, and so did the latest fixture, writes **Pat Massey**.

LCpl Darren Adam (REME) scored the opening goal midway through the first half when he rounded off a slick move involving Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT), Cpl Shaun Gilman (RAOC) and Sig Paul Brown (R Signals).

Yet the Army had enough

19 Fd keep the trophy

ORIENTEERING supremacy was maintained by 19 Fd Regt RA with a second successive victory in the annual Abbey National 1 (BR) Corps relays at Hagensand, north of Hanover, West Germany.

Maj Glen Grant led his team home in 2hrs 44mins 29secs, 15 minutes clear of runners-up 1 RHA, with 15 Sig Regt third. 1 Corps Tps Wksp led the minor units in 3hrs 41mins 14secs, followed by 10 Fd Sqn RE and 5 Armd Wksp. Guest competition winners were the Berlin Bears. The fast, flat forest courses were planned by WO2 (AQMS) Maurice Sheppard.

good chances to win a very entertaining match. Adam, in fact, had missed a clear opening five minutes earlier when he shot over after Sgt Sandy Brown (R Signals) had set him up with a great pass.

The Essex goalkeeper saved well from both Browns early in the second half and Paul might have done better when Parkins put him clear.

Steve Newman, the lanky Dagenham and Essex defender, moved into the firing line in the closing stages and eventually set up Gary Hollocks for the equaliser.

And just to rub in what might have been, Sgt Gavin Wood (REME) flashed a fierce header past the upright after Sandy Brown and Cpl Alan Higgins (R Signals) had combined to produce a brilliant attacking move.

Oxford University 8, Army B 2

The youngsters who made up the Army Reserve team at Iffley Road, Oxford must have been wishing for the thick ground fog that blanketed much of the south to obscure their efforts against the students.

It was a case of the Army B side being ambushed by "guerillas in the mist" and they retreated from Oxford for once on the wrong side of the goal feast which has come to be expected of this fixture.

There's no stopping 1 Armd Div squad

CALLS of duty imposed by the ambulance dispute cut the number of teams taking part in the annual Army cross country relay championships at Rushmoor, Aldershot, but there was still an excellent entry and some terrific races.

Winners for the second consecutive year of the major units' trophy were 1 Armd Div HQ and Signal Regiment from Herford, West Germany.

But they were given a bit of a fright when Cpl Neal of Ord Sqn Cdo Log Regt from Plymouth took a massive first leg lead and his number two, Cpl Burke, maintained it.

However, the 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team has great strength in depth and LCpl Mark Vile and Sgt Jeff Martin pulled back the deficit over the last two legs to win by almost a full minute from FOD Dulmen who retained

the minor units' trophy.

The commando team finished a creditable third in the minor event, behind Dulmen and Postal and Courier Depot RE.

Second in the major event were 3 R Anglian from Colchester. They were new to the competition and came right out of the blue to record a time of 62min 33sec for the race over four legs each of three miles. The winners finished in 59min 39sec.

Because of emergency duty imposed on them by the London ambulance dispute, RCT and field ambulance teams were severely hit. Of the original entry of 144 teams, 117 started.

There was great joy for the lads of the Army Apprentices' College ACC when they ended AAC Chepstow's four year sequence of victories in the junior race.

The apprentice cooks won a thrilling duel by just 22

seconds, so gaining some revenge for the Chepstow win in the annual Beachley relays run over six legs of four miles.

Hereford Garrison again won the veterans' race and the WRAC Centre pipped Sandhurst Permanent Staff, winners of the women's event for the past three years. Sandhurst were not helped by the fact that their best runner, SSgt Maggie Smith, was on duty for Wales the following day so could not take part.

British Defender 12th to Fremantle

DESPITE being slowed significantly by rig damage, Satquote British Defender, the Services entry in the Whitbread Round the World Race reached Fremantle in 12th position on November 27.

A broken boom suffered on the 8,000-mile haul from Uruguay to West Australia and other consequent problems meant that she was unable to set mainsail or headsails for a large part of the closing stages.

Sixty-knot winds prevented the crew from stopping in the



Service skiers head British Nordic challenge

ARMY and Royal Marines skiers who form the nucleus of the British Nordic ski team are training hard to close the gap on the Scandinavian and Alpine countries for this winter's world cross country circuit.

Members of the squad spent much of the summer running, cycling, weight training and on roller skis.

But to get to grips with snow the team travelled to the famous Dachstein Glacier in Austria which holds its snow all year round and has become a mecca for Nordic skiers.

Their long term goals include the world championships in 1991 and the 1992 winter Olympics.

After Christmas some of the team will be heading for Italy for more altitude training to condition themselves for the British championships due to take place at Zwiesel from January 24 to February 4.

Others will rejoin their regimental teams for the Divisional championships from January 15 to 22. They serve as a qualifying competition for the British championships.

Army members of the squad include LCpl John King (1 ADTR), who is fast improving,

LCpl Tim Bomberg (35 Engr Regt) and LCpl Neil Danby (28 Amph Engr Regt). Bomberg and Danby were national junior champions in the biathlon discipline and have now switched to Nordic.

They are closely followed by LCpl Chrisp and LCpl Mark Palmer of 28 Amph Engr Regt, Pte Nigel Vickers ACC (25 Engr Regt), LBdr Dave Belam (3 RHA), and Bdr John Read (19 Fd Regt).

Also in training on Dachstein Glacier were LCpl Ian Woods (26 Engr Regt), Pte Malcolm Hamilton (1 KOSB), Gnr Ken Rudd (19 Fd Regt), LCpl Brian Muirhead (1 KOSB), Cpl Carl Davies (22 Sig Regt) and Capt Tony Frankland RE.

Skiers selected for the 1992 team will continue to race until late March, taking in the world championships, Swiss Week and as many top level competitions as possible.

Some of the more prestigious nations are beginning to look over their shoulders at the British, who are already defeating the lowland nations consistently.

Well caught!

CLEAR winner of eight finalists in the 1989 Army Group 5 boat angling championship was Sgt J Holland of Det 150 Pro Coy, York, whose prize was a hand-built boat casting rod.

Sgt D Wilde, of 4 Para, Pudsey was runner-up, just two points ahead of Cpl J Ferdinande of 236 Sqn RCT (V).

The championship, first to be held among anglers from NE District, NW District and Scotland, was contested between May and November in Burnmouth, Bridlington, and Amble, where the final took place.



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REME in control

Signals go down in the decider

THERE is a new name on the Boyne Trophy presented last year for the first time to the winners of the corps' quadrangular soccer tournament. REME beat holders Royal Signals 3-0 in the match that decided the issue.

But the whole competition, staged at Aldershot, was a close fought affair, with REME beating the Royal Artillery 1-0 on the first day but being held to a 1-1 draw by the Royal Engineers 24 hours later.

Signals squandered a two goal lead over the sappers to draw 2-2 in their opening match but ensured a place in the decider by beating the gunners 1-0.

REME wrapped up the honours with a three goal win over a surprisingly lethargic Signals side. The margin of victory belied the form of the two teams in earlier rounds.

There was also some joy for the gunners who, having lost their two previous matches by a single goal, trailed by two to the RE in the coveted Gunner/Sapper Cup.

Sgt Clint Webbe, the Army and Combined Services player, sparked a remarkable gunner revival and they turned round the result to win 3-2.



Sgt Phil Collier keeps his eye on the ball for REME during his team's win over R Signals in the quadrangular tournament

Picture: Mike Perring



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BUSY BOXERS

SGT Keith Howlett was beaten on points by European championship bronze medal winner Ciba in the England-Poland boxing international held at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth.

Although never in trouble, Howlett, the ABA bantam-weight champion, could find no way to trap the elusive Pole. The Army boxer's task was probably the most difficult on offer as England defeated Poland by six bouts to five.

Howlett will be back in action for his country on December 22 when England

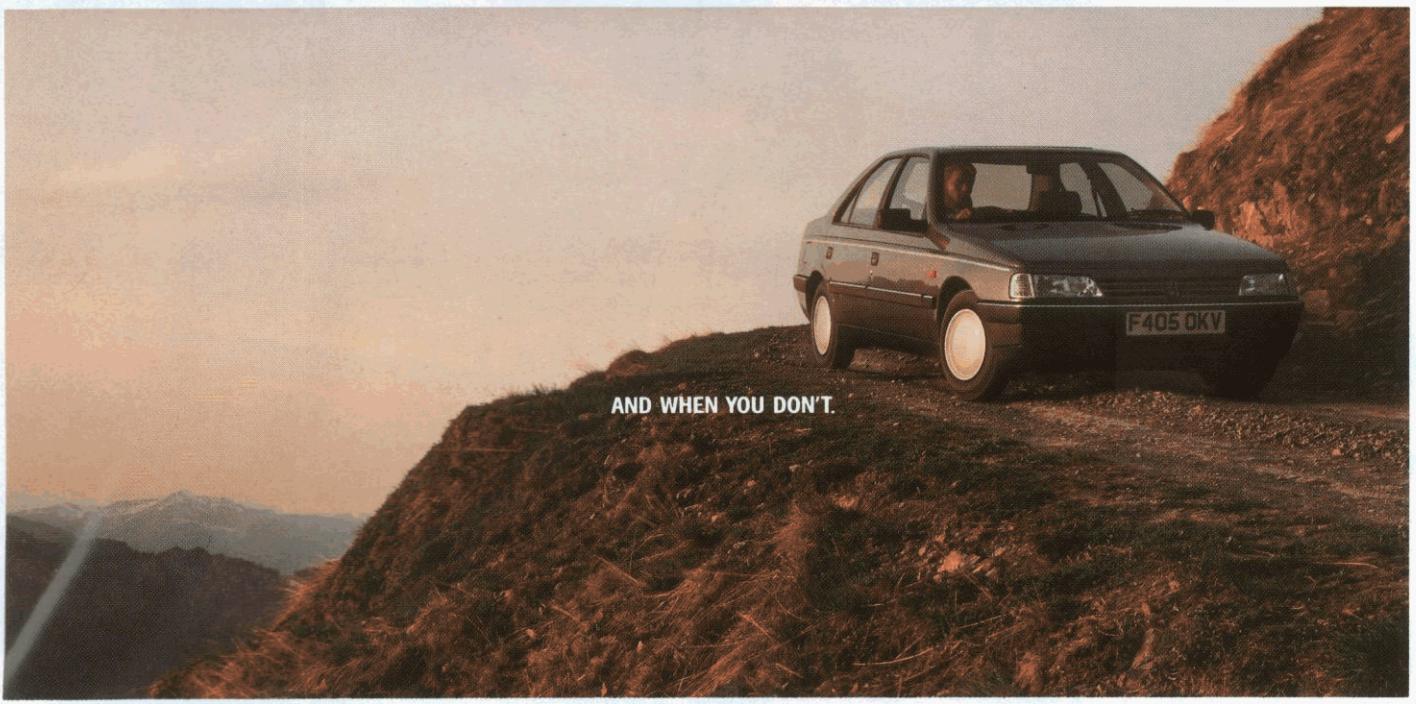
take on Ireland at Coventry.

In a busy pre-Christmas programme, the Army were due to box London District, a Wales Select team at Swansea on December 12 and the Royal Marines at Plymouth on December 18. The match against Warwickshire produced a 7-2 win for the Army.

Dvr Chris Bessie (8 Regt RCT) and Tpr Mark McGowan (1 RTR) are through to the quarter finals of the competition at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes at the beginning of December.



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SOLDIER



LCpl Tim Bomberg of 35 Engineer Regiment leads three Royal Marines on high altitude training with pulse watches. Behind Bomberg on Dachstein Glacier in Austria are Lts Patrick Winterton and Cormac Hamilton and Marine Dave Brown. See story in sports pages.

Picture: PO Ric Burch