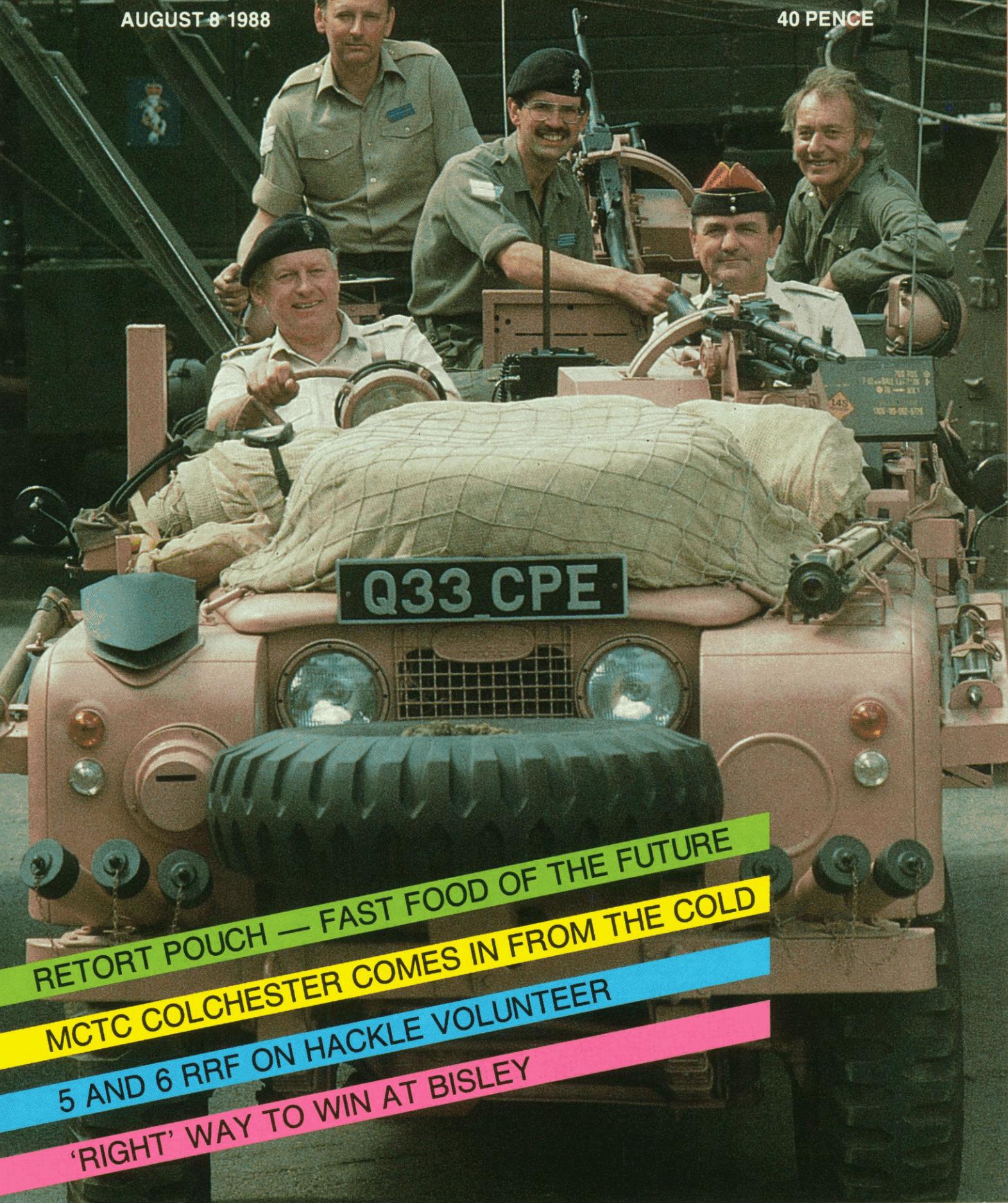


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AUGUST 8 1988

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FRONT COVER: All aboard their restored former SAS Pink Panther Land Rover for members of SEME Historical Vehicle Society. Left to right: Lt Col Brian Fines, SSgt Roger Jones, Cpl Dave Whitehouse, Mr John McGloaglin and Maj Peter Beeken. Story on Page 17.

Picture: Terry Champion

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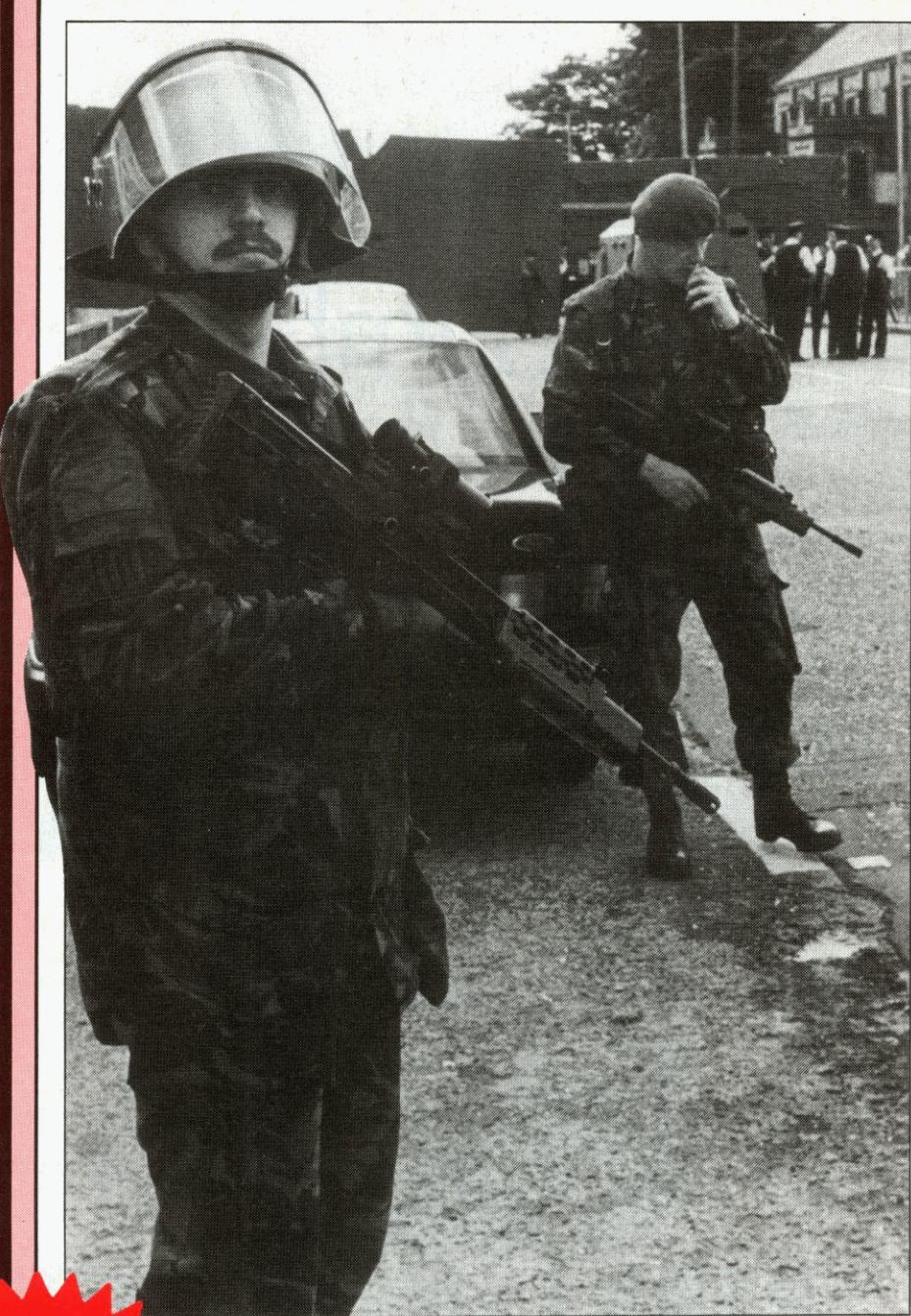
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incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



**NEXT
ISSUE**

A helmeted soldier of 2 Queen's on duty with a mobile patrol in West Belfast during "The Twelfth" marches. In the middle distance, a soldier of 1 Dukes, deployed in support. Beyond, a group of RUC constables and the screens which blank off sensitive areas. In its next issue, SOLDIER visits 2 Queen's. And reports on the Yeomen warders of the Tower of London.

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LETTERS

Write to:
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No tribute to support at Caen

On a recent visit covering the Normandy Landings in June, I visited Caen and was very proud to see the monument dedicated to the 3rd British Infantry Division, who liberated the town in July 1944.

It was nicely situated and on the four tablets the respective infantry regiments were shown by brigades, but no mention is made of the supporting arms of RE, RAMC, RASC and REME.

I was there with 47 Coy RASC, a unit of 9th Brigade. Friends and family were disappointed as well that the supporting arms are not mentioned. — **Norman Gill ex WO1 (ASM) REME, Wayside, Vicarage Road, Henley-on-Thames RH9 1HW.**

Well played, the Services!

On reading your article "Army gets its act together" by John Quin (SOLDIER February 8) I could not refrain from making some comment as an ex-Services rugby player (Aldershot and Devonport Services) to compliment Col Mike Stancombe and the Combined Services and Police team that toured New Zealand.

I had the pleasure of seeing four of their games. Overall

they were surprisingly successful and credit must go to the coaches and players for their determination and drive against players who live and play in a country that virtually breathes rugby football.

I believe the visit of the British Services team had been on the drawing board for some time but was looked upon with trepidation by certain organising bodies for fear of

causing humiliation.

Let's hope we see more of these reciprocal visits; it's good for rugby!

Particularly if the team is fit and dedicated to match the opposition with skills and determination — a lesson which should be quickly learnt by your national teams! — **Robert W Wood, Suite 1, 29 Trentham Road, Papukura, Auckland, New Zealand.**

Symbolic difference

Whenever new Service pay scales are issued, you print them for the information of the personnel concerned. Taking as example the TA pay scales as from April 1, 1988, there is a small difference between male and female pay. The difference, for officers, ranges from 12p

per day for second lieutenants to 11p per day for brigadiers.

In the case of soldiers, the difference ranges from 7p per day to 22p per day.

If there were substantial differences in the pay between men and women of the same rank I might understand it (I

would not approve, but I might understand it!). The differences, however, are so insubstantial that, even when multiplied out they cannot weigh very heavily, or amount to any significant savings on female, as compared to male personnel.

If there is no rational policy ground for these small differences, the only reason left would be a symbolic one — to tell female officers, NCOs and ORs that they are second class members of the Service, and that being male is "better" — better paid! — than being female.

It seems to me that the next time Service pay is considered a gesture towards equality could be enacted without putting any significant burden on the defence budget. — **Frank E G Weil, 27 Sixteenth Street SE, Washington DC 20003, USA.**

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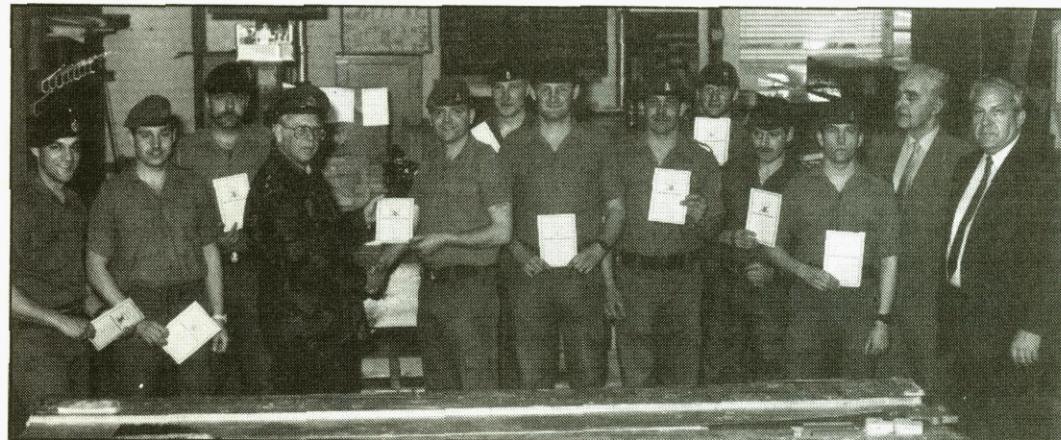
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• Any veterans who served in 93 Army Brigade during the First World War with 54019 Dvr **George William Shaw RFA** who saw action at Vimy Ridge, Cambrai and the Hindenburg Line. His grand-daughter, Mrs Margaret Usmar, 6 Norway Terrace, Invicta Park, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2PH, would like to hear from them.



Last of the chippies?

Lt Col Bill Riley, RE (senior instructor construction) presents a certificate to LCpl Ian Saye, Green Howards, who has completed the last All Arms Course in carpentry and joinery at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, Kent. For many years, students from all arms have undertaken artisan training at the school in bricklaying and concreting, painting and decorating, carpentry and joinery.

Lt Col David Reid, chief instructor of the civil engineering wing at RSME, said: "With the reduction in civilian manpower in the RSME, all arms training in the trades had to stop, although it is still the intention to run one all arms bricklaying and concreting course a year.

"The ending of this training is very sad. The RSME has always welcomed students from other arms, and its training has given much pleasure.

"Almost without exception, the students have been well motivated and keen to learn."

On the right are instructors Peter Poore and Bill Franks.

A boost for POD

It is some time since your article "The Officer Class" (SOLDIER, April 4) appeared describing the Potential Officer Development (POD) Course at Beaconsfield, but I should like to add a postscript!

Your readers may not be aware from the article that the first POD course was actually held at Beaconsfield in 1969. POD II followed in 1971, III in 1972 and so on, until the Rowallan Company was established at RMAS.

The reasons for setting up the course in the late 60s were extraordinarily similar to those given in the introduction to your article. At that time, there was a category of "Deferred Watch" used at RCB for soldier candidates who, while not "failures", failed to demonstrate their potential as seen by their COs when recommending them.

What prompts me to write, however, is not the excusable historical inaccuracy, but the disappointing take-up from

COs of the Teeth Arms. They may regard POD as merely experimental and thus be adopting a watch and shoot policy. It is now nearly 20 years since those first POD courses and COs may be interested to know that some of their number were students on those early courses!

I was privileged to be one of the 2DS officers on POD II and III as well as assisting on the first course, and it is with great pride that I have met many of my former students over the years.

It would be fair to say that POD has already proved its value to the Army and is far from being experimental and untried.

If you felt able to publish my letter, I am sure it would encourage some of your readers to give POD more positive and serious consideration than they might have previously thought justifiable. — Col G H Silvey, Principal, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN.

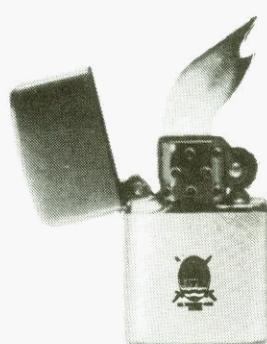
Bofors AA tanks were Crusaders

I refer to Mr T Clarke's letter (SOLDIER, May 30) about Covenanter tanks. I fear he is in error in describing the Bofors armed AA tanks as Covenanters. These were the Crusader Mk 1 AA. The Crusader was the next development of the Covenanter and was widely used in North Africa. Three specialised versions of the tank were used in the NW Europe campaign, the Mark I AA, the Mark II AA with twin 20mm Polsten guns and an open topped gun tractor for the 17 pr A Tk gun.

Covenanter itself was used operationally in some theatres as a bridge laying tank. — BS Baxter, Deputy Curator REME Museum, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9LN.

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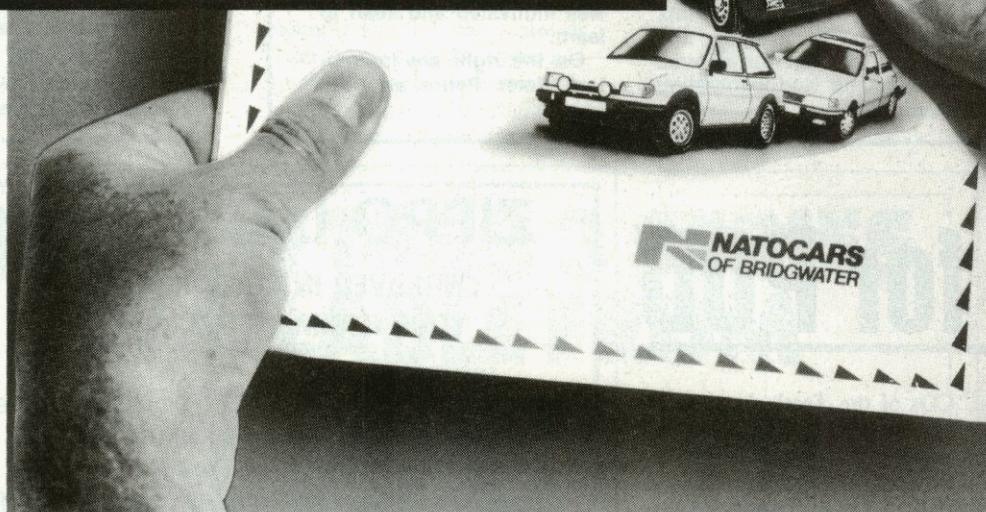
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TA keep watch on the Rhine

TA volunteers from 33 Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, which recruits squadrons in Liverpool, Manchester and Chester, went in search of adventure not a sun tan this summer.

More than 400 men and women travelled to West Germany to take part in a demanding two-week exercise in the wooded hills of the Rhine Valley.

The regiment practised its wartime role of setting up a mobile communications network. The system operates via a series of communication antennae sited on wooded hilltops, manned by groups of up to 40 technical and support soldiers who have to be ready to redeploy to another area at very short notice as the demands of battle change.



Maj Gen Colin Shortis, General Officer Commanding NW District, (second from left) inspects the camp cooking arrangements with 33 Signal Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Gardiner (far left) and cooks Cpl Jean Melville and LCpl Tony Smith

Lt Col Pied Piper

Lt Col John Sweeting, CO of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regt, became a latter day Pied Piper for the second year running when the people of Hameln re-enacted the legend of the town's rat plague. Dressed in traditional half yellow and half red clothes, Col Sweeting was joined by Capts John Parsons and Bob Roberts, Lt Richard Hourahane and 2nd Lts Davi Ripley and Chris Hunter, with children of Hameln and Hostenbeck schools playing the rats and choir.



Freedom at last

Sixteen years after being granted the Freedom of Derby, 9th/12th Royal Lancers have for the first time been able to exercise their right of marching ceremonially through the city. After an inspection by the Mayor, the regiment marched along a two-mile route, led by Lt Col R V Searby and two guards carrying lances and with the rear brought up by the regiment's Scorpions, Strikers, Spartans and Sultans.

Down comes the final flag

COL J N B Mogg (late RGJ) Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of Headquarters Land Forces Cyprus, with his Deputy Chief of Staff Col K A Mullins (late RAOC) marked the disbanding of HQ Land Forces Cyprus by lowering the headquarters flag for the final time.

As in other commands, it has been decided that one streamlined joint headquarters, to be known as HQ British Forces Cyprus, should control land and air assets in the Sovereign Bases and Retained Sites.

The aim of the change is to eradicate single Service duplication and effect some manpower savings.

Gunner guard

THE Edinburgh Castle Guard has been taken over by gunners from 14 (Cole's Kop) Air Defence Battery of 16 Air Defence Regiment RA (Strathclyde Gunners).

The gunners, based at Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincolnshire, will continue their Edinburgh public duties until August 8.

Armada tattoo

THE theme chosen for this year's Colchester Tattoo on August 3-6 was the 400th anniversary of England's defeat of the Spanish Armada, and a piece of music, the Armada Suite, was specially composed and recorded by Major Roger Tomlinson of the Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons).



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White-out . . .

A PROLONGUED white-out which put a stop to all climbing prevented a party from 3 RRF, based at Catterick, Yorks, from making an attempt on the Matterhorn. The team, led by Lt Bob Keating, had to return to the UK.



New look for old 'glasshouse'

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, formally opened the rebuilt Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester before inspecting the establishment. He is seen above chatting to one of the occupants working in the carpenters' shop in the education centre. **SOLDIER** reports on the rebuild and the Military Provost Staff Corps on Page 22.

BULFORD BEACON

BULFORD Garrison provided one of the 200 beacons which blazed over the country to commemorate the sighting of the Spanish Armada in 1588. It was lit on Beacon Hill, which overlooks the camp, by Maj Gen Tony Jeapes, GOC South West District. The Band of the 13th/18th Hussars provided music for the crowd.

Bravery rewarded

TWO Hong Kong based soldiers have been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct after separate acts of bravery, thousands of miles apart.

They saved people from drowning during incidents in Hong Kong and Belize.

Sapper Tekbahadur Tamang, of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, rescued 12 crewmen of a Honduran registered fishing boat that had sunk off the coast of Belize, and Acting LCpl Kang Sing Kwong, a dog handler with the Hong Kong Military Service Corps, received his award for rescuing a drowning girl in the Sham Chun River.

and wet-out

TORRENTIAL rain and thunderstorms marked the end of the training year and the competition for The Brooke Cup held annually by the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers. The winners were Support Troop, A Squadron.

Booby trap death in Belfast

AFTER WO2 John Howard was killed in an explosion while dealing with a booby trap in the local swimming baths, the Belfast detachment of 321 EOD Company has continued its operations without a break.

So far this year the company has answered more than 500 call-outs. Its detachments have dealt with and neutralised (up to going to press) 111 live devices containing a ton and a half of explosives.

It has cleared 113 devices – containing just under a ton – which have exploded.

A total of 256 hoaxes and false alarms have also been dealt with – operations which are just as demanding as they are all dealt with as real until proved otherwise.

Many of the bombs dealt with contained Semtex, a powerful commercially produced explosive used by Warsaw Pact countries.

● NINE men of the RCT were slightly injured when bombs exploded at Glamorgan Barracks, Duisburg, Germany. The IRA claimed responsibility.

Recruiters foil escape

THE staff of the Army Careers Information Office in Cambridge Road, Portsmouth, received an SOS from a breathless civilian that passengers on a prison coach were trying to hi-jack it. The coach had parked nearby, the driver bolted for help carrying the keys, and two prisoners were fighting with their escort when Sgt Bob Penfold, Royal Hussars, joined in and put an arm lock on one of them.

He was quickly joined by Sgt Joe Black, Para, and reserves appeared in the shape of WO2 Geoff Poole, a Commando gunner. The violent prisoners were subdued and removed from the coach – four others continued their journey to the Isle of Wight.

Brigadier dies in rescue bid

A BRITISH brigadier and a Danish colonel drowned after leading a rescue bid which resulted in seven youngsters being pulled out of heavy seas off beaches near Rome.

Brig Russell Maynard, 47, formerly Commander HQ Training Group Royal Corps of Signals and Catterick Garrison, plunged fully clothed into huge waves with Col Eric Thorm, 47.

The families of both men had been attending a barbecue on the beach when it was noticed that the young people were in trouble.

Although all the young folk were saved Brig Maynard and Col Thorm were caught by the undertow and attempts to revive them failed when they were pulled out.

Both had been attending a course at the NATO Defence College in Rome.

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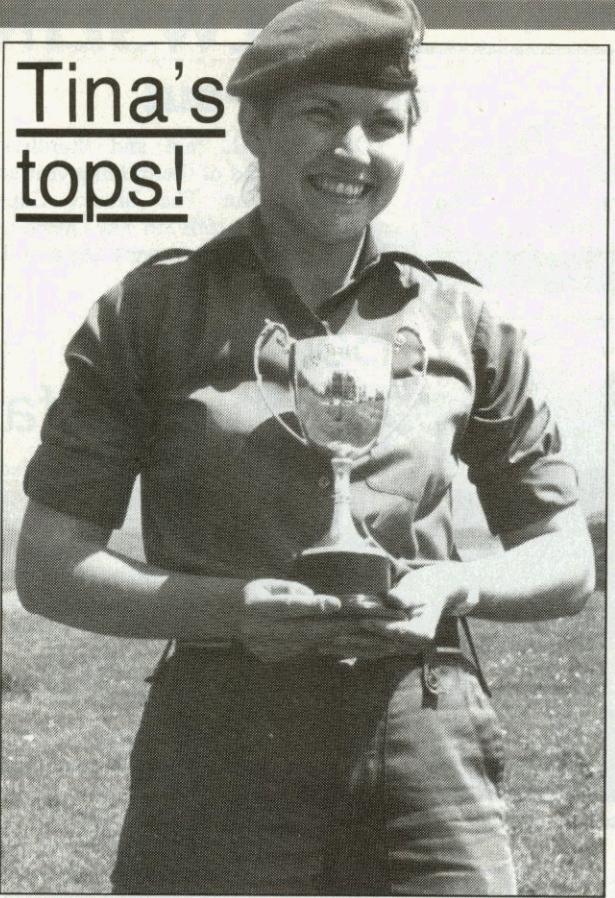
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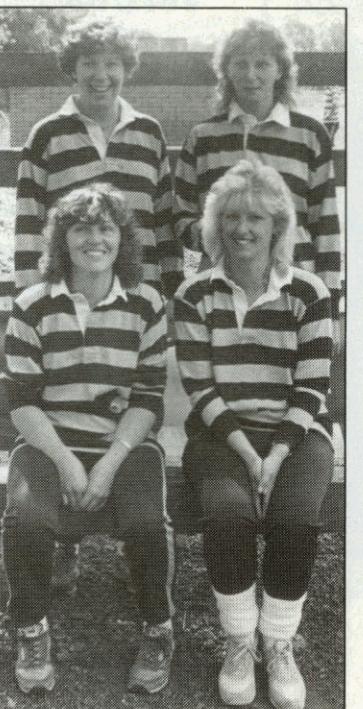
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THE 202 General Hospital RAMC (V) Female Soldier of the Year for 1988 is Pte Tina Farmer, QARANC (V), a combat medical technician Class 2 based at King's Heath, Birmingham. Tina is a sales clerk in civvy street and received her trophy during the unit's annual camp at Garelochhead in Scotland.

Fit to be Queens



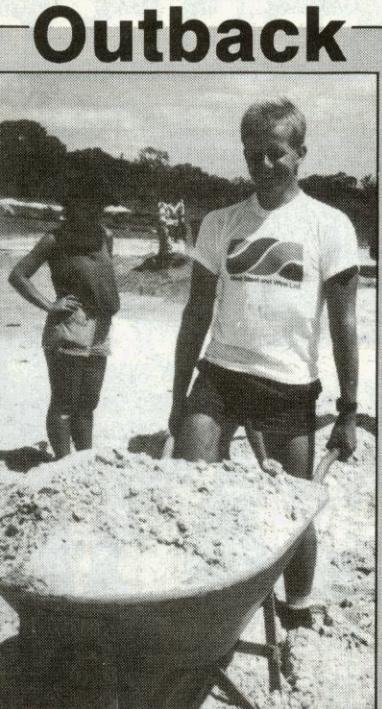
MEET four athletic women. All married to soldiers of the 3rd Bn, The Queen's Regiment, Yvette Rowley, Willamina Baldock, Kerry-Ann Keys and Sally-Ann Cavagliari combined to win the female competition in the British Leprosy Relief Association assault course challenge hosted by 3 Queens.

A good Return



SOLDIERS of the Queen's Own Yeomanry, a Territorial regiment with squadron locations in Newcastle upon Tyne, Ayr, Cramlington, Chester and York, supported the ITV Telethon appeal, raising

£3,000 for the fund. Members of the sponsorship team (above) relaxed at Granada Television's famous public house, The Rovers Return in Coronation Street.



ACCOUNTANT Bill Suthers (above), who is with 104 AD Regt TA, is definitely not building sandcastles! Bill, from Cardiff, has been on Operation Raleigh in one of Australia's remotest corners where Expedition Torres Straits was making the first complete navigation and exploration of the crocodile infested Jardine River.



It's a family business

SONS have always followed their fathers into the Army – but it is not often a father follows his sons! That happened when carpenter **Christopher Reid** of High Bentham, near Lancaster decided to join the TA at the grand old age of 42.

On hand to see him accepted into the Royal Army Pay Corps were wife **Barbara**, daughters **Katie** (9) and **Vanessa** (16), and sons **Chris** (22) and **Timothy** (20), both of whom are serving with the 1st Bn, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

And just to keep the balance right, two DAUGHTERS.

Lt Col **George Sunderland**, Admin Commandant for the RAMC at Millbank,

London, was a proud father when **Beverley** (24) and **Deborah** (22) passed out as a WRAC private attached to the Royal Signals at Guildford, Surrey.

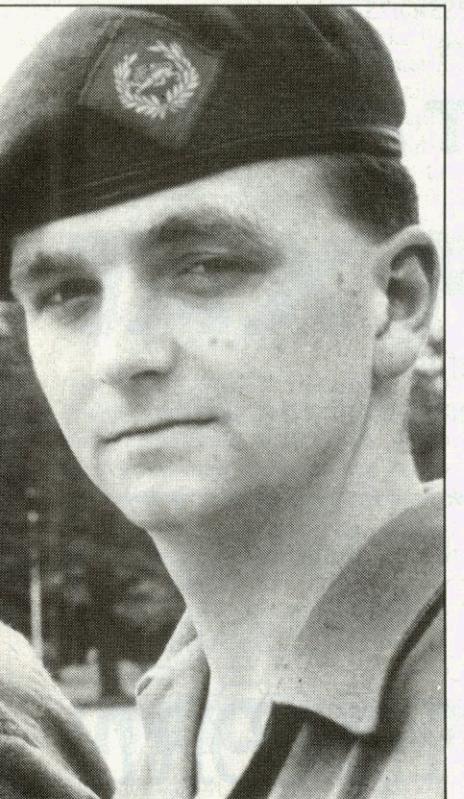
Now, who is going to be saluting whom in the Sunderland family...



DOWNHILL: Fred, Phil and Terry the Troll



SONS: Chris (left) and Tim welcome their dad (centre) into the Army



PEOPLE



SONS: Chris (left) and Tim welcome their dad (centre) into the Army

JUST TROLLING ALONG . . .

CPL Fred Thornhill, a forklift operator at Donnington, donned his Expeditionary Forces Institute uniform to present a £400 cheque to Phil Saunders, British downhill mono-ski champion. Phil, who was training in Norway, met troops of the British

contingent of Nato's ACE Mobile Force, undergoing arctic survival and warfare training there. He accepted the cheque on behalf of the British Ex-Servicemen Wheelchair Sports' Association. The money was raised by, among other things, raffling "Terry the Troll".

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LAW 80 is good news for ants!

Did you know that there are three million anthills on the downland at Porton Down in Wiltshire? And 48 species of butterfly. And the premier site for the horseshoe bat?

Unfortunately, although there are obviously no complaints from the ants, butterflies and horseshoe bats about the MoD's occupation of several hundred thousand acres of training land in Britain, there is still popular belief in some human quarters that the services are not conservationists.

To persuade 150 MPs, local authority representatives, members of the media and conservation specialists that the Army is one of the more energetic and most sensitive conservation organisations in the country, South West District invited them to see how the Army cares for the land it owns.

They were told by Maj Gen Tony Jeapes, GOC: "I believe we do more to conserve the environment than we do to damage it."

The visitors heard that many MoD sites represent the last wildernesses in the UK, host to the rarest species, some of which exist nowhere else.

The reasons needed for more training land were explained – the increased numbers of soldiers being trained and increased safety margins for modern weapons. LAW 80 for example, has a danger area about twice the size of its predecessors.

Academy of the North?

Why not move The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to the north of England? To the Army the thought must be about as shattering as the possibility of holding the annual Trooping the Colour at Wigan.

It came from Mr Richard Holt, Conservative MP who asked in the Commons if the Defence Secretary would take steps to relocate RMAS in the north.

Mr John Freeman, Armed Forces Minister, replied that there were no such plans.

"The academy is ideally and conveniently situated; the buildings and accommodation form part of a heritage which could not readily be relocated," he said adding: "As and when relocations are considered, the north of England is always given due priority."

Museums of note

Two Army museums have been acclaimed by the judges in the National Heritage award scheme.

The National Army Museum in Chelsea received the Watmough award for the best museum publication, and the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, was highly commended by the judges.



GOT YOU: Regimental secretary Maj Bill Williams with the Browne-Synge-Hutchinson medals

Hussars VC secured in nick of time

A dramatic 11th hour telephone call and a frantic scramble for funds were the background to the purchase (see **SOLDIER**, July 25) of a Victoria Cross by the 14th/20th Kings Hussars.

For at least 30 years the Hawks have been seeking the whereabouts of the VC awarded during the Boer War to Maj E D Browne-Synge-Hutchinson, one of two won by members of the regiment.

A call to regiment secretary Maj Bill Williams revealed that the treasured medal was to be auctioned at Sotheby's just one week later – with the possibility that it would go to America.

Frantic activity by serving and former members of the regiment resulted in a grant of £10,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the promise of a loan, repayable over six months, from a German bank.

The medal was bought, but not before keen interest in the sale room pushed the price for it, and others belonging to its recipient, to £24,000.

Now all serving and former members of the regiment will be asked to help pay off the German loan.

The precious medal will join that of Lt James Leith in the brand new regimental museum, opened in May by the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal.

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

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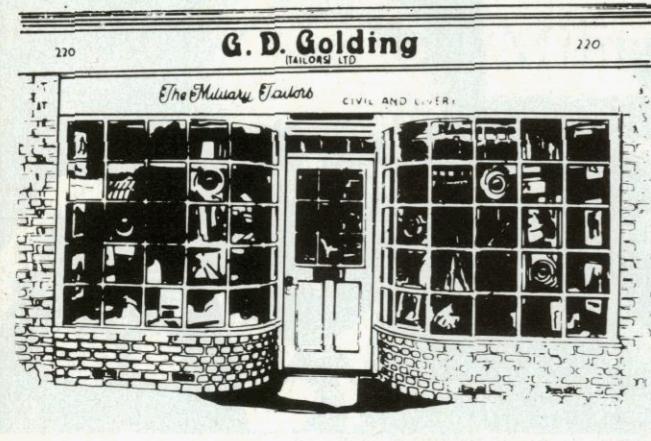
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Story by
Jennifer
Griffiths

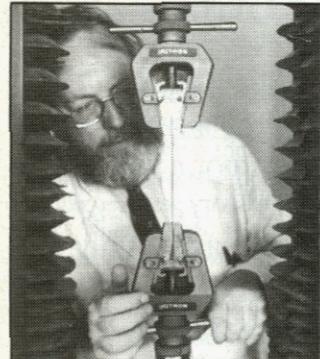
The contract for the production of the Retort Pouch has been awarded to a firm in Scotland, and Maj Gen Gerry production staff



Sandra Vaughan is a scientific officer and baker responsible for testing all Services bread making ingredients



How small should a baby carrot be? The lady with the answer is scientific officer Joanna Bazeley



Senior scientific officer Don Scofield tests the breaking performance of stretch wrapping



Linda Catterson, an assistant scientific officer, makes sure a can of steak and kidney pudding is up to specification

Army joins fast food revolution

Flavour of the future

SOLDIERS will soon be getting their teeth into the fast food of the future. Tinned bully beef, that traditional military delicacy, is being overtaken by a boil-in-the-bag menu which has been part of the domestic scene for years and which is now to help the Army march on its stomach.

The innovation – called the Retort Pouch – has been given the thumbs up by soldiers after extensive testing and is now being phased in to 24-hour operational ration packs (ORPs).

The pouch offers numerous advantages over the canned food it will replace. It is lighter to carry, and if you should fall on it when it is stuffed under your combat clothing, you won't break a rib.

The range of foods may be extended and re-heating of the pouch – simple in a mess tin of boiling water – is quicker. The

quality of the re-heated food is better than in the can – it is truer in colour, firmer in texture and fresher in flavour, with less likely nutrient loss. It is easily opened and takes up less storage and disposal space.

The food can be eaten hot or cold, and meals are not lost if a soldier is disturbed while preparing his food in unopened pouches. There are also no messy dishes as the food can be eaten directly from the pouch. And the hot water used for boiling can be used afterwards for a cuppa or shaving.

The Armed Services Food Laboratory, an outstation of the Laboratory of the Government Chemist, based at the Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport, Hants, has played a vital, behind-the-scenes role in the pouch idea, especially with the full-scale handling trial.

Its wide-ranging activities included visit to the US Army Natick Research and Development Centre to hear about the American experience of the pouch. But, because of different Anglo-American taste preferences, none of the US menus have been adopted in Britain.

The laboratory provides scientific and technical advice to the victualling branch of the MoD on all aspects of food procurement and storage, along with a quality assurance on food bought for the Armed Services under contract.

Current work on behalf of the MoD includes further



Col Kerry Curtis

improvement to ORPs by the introduction of new food items, or newer forms of packaging.

This includes the assessment of mycoprotein meals and a reassessment of textured vegetable protein. And the healthy eating initiative, introduced by the victualling branch of the MoD, has meant extra work in nutritional analysis.

Col Kerry Curtis, assistant director Supplies and Transport, whose main task is the provision of foodstuffs for the three Services and other government agencies, said: "The pouch is probably the most significant advance in food packaging since the development of the metal can.

"It offers a wide range of new menus and tastier food.

"Servicemen's tastes develop in line with the community in which we live. The age group in barracks is 17 to 23, and we cater for those trends.

"That's why we've introduced sweet and sour sauce, more exotic curries, and beefburgers of high quality."

A robust steak and veg flirts with the taste-buds!

I have always believed that Army food, like the much-maligned British Rail sandwich, comes in for a lot of unfair criticism, so decided to put the Retort Pouch menu to the taste test.

While a gourmet would insist that presentation is all-important to flirt with the

taste buds, a soldier – wet, cold and tired, and salivating at the thought of hot, tasty grub – isn't going to be too worried if his meal is not served on the finest china with the family silver.

I succumbed completely to the quiet artistry of the finely flavoured chicken

supreme. The robust flavour of the steak and veg was satisfying and memorable. The sausage and beans, while undramatic, were certainly home-from-home quality. The apple dessert was imaginative and ungimmicky. Incidentally, I used the

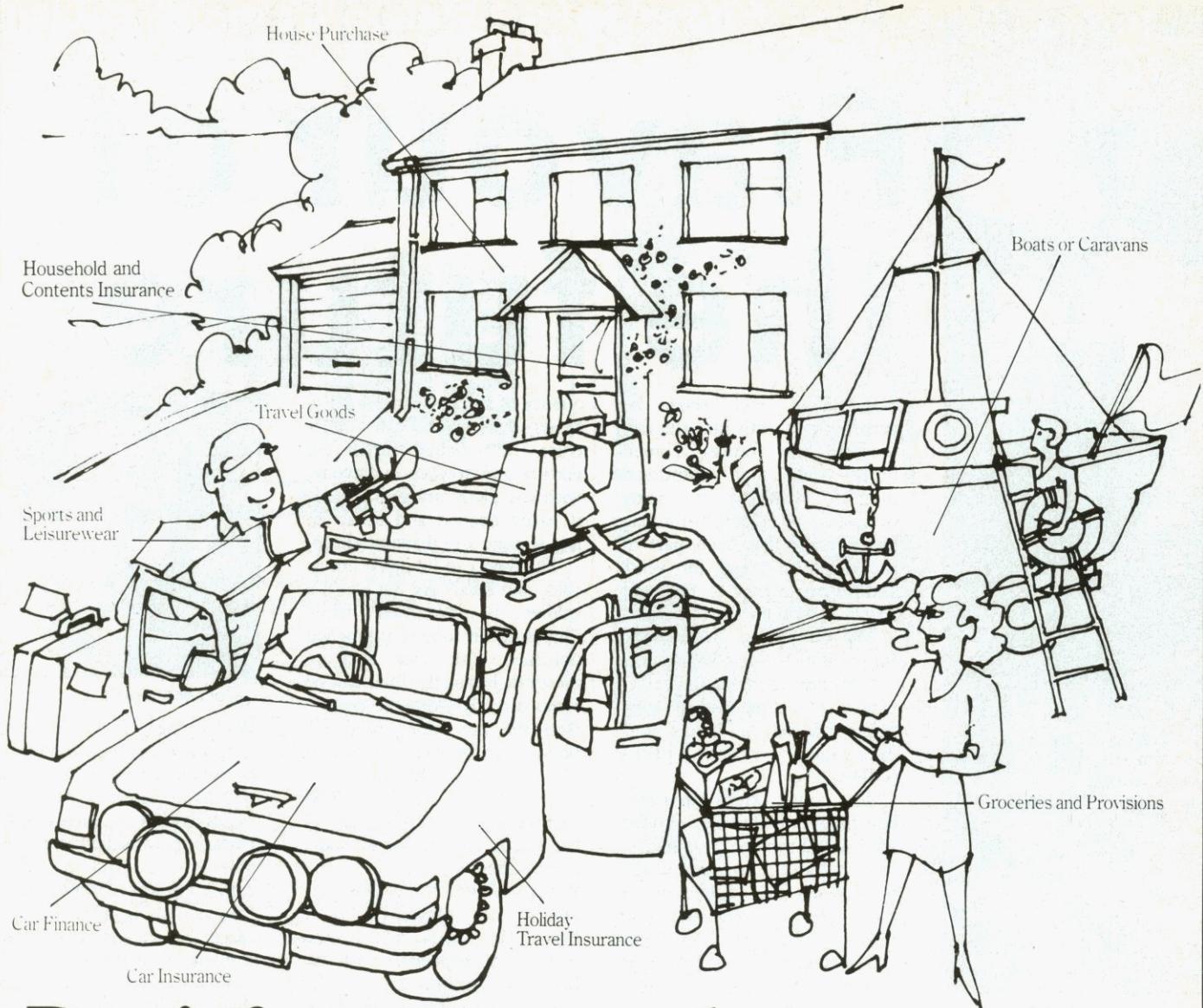
spare hot water for a cup of tea, not shaving!

The menu of the 24-hour operational ration pack offers a breakfast choice of hamburger, pork sausages and beans, or bacon and beans, all with oatmeal blocks or rolled oat mix. Midday snack or tea:

either bacon and beans, corned beef hash, beefburgers, savoury mince and pasta, or meat balls and pasta in tomato sauce.

The main meal is either beef with dumplings and carrots; sweet and sour pork with pre-cooked rice; chicken casserole; stewed

steak, vegetables and potatoes; chicken supreme; Lancashire hot pot; followed by fruit salad; vanilla or chocolate dessert; cold water dessert mix; apple and sultanas; or fruit cocktail. Also in the packs are tea bags, instant coffee, milk, soup and sugar.



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Story by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Terry Champion

John McGloughlin checks the shine on a 1951 Scammel Explorer belonging to the corps museum. It was shipped home from Mombasa

History on wheels – and tracks!

TUCKED away in the sprawling acreage of the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon is a vehicle hangar that contains a surprise for any vehicle buff who might chance across it.

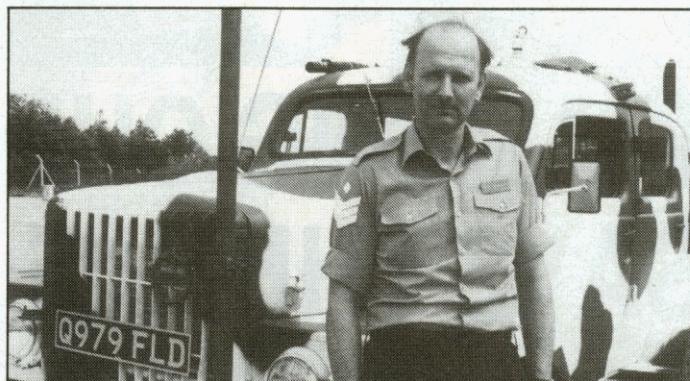
It is the home of the SEME Historical Vehicle Society and houses more than 20 examples of rare military vehicles that together make up an astonishing display of the REME's vehicular historical heritage.

The society was formed in 1983 when several people with an interest in old vehicles, who had previously been running around doing their own thing, got together as one organisation under the chairmanship of the Chief Instructor of the Vehicle Engineering Wing at SEME.

The society forms part of the REME Corps Museum and representative vehicles attend a number of historic vehicle gatherings each year. It receives a small budget from the corps to enable it to do so, for the running costs of attendance can be a problem.

Said chairman Lt Col Brian Fines: "If the vehicles are needed for a show, they have to be taxed and insured and filled up with petrol, because we don't get fuel from military sources.

"They are officially civilian



SSgt Roger Jones with 1955 Swedish Volvo Sugga radio truck

vehicles and have to go through all the normal documentation to get them on the road."

The collection continues to grow when members hear of an old vehicle becoming available either on payment or as a gift.

Their latest arrival is a Thorneycroft tractor circa 1926 which was one of the first four-wheel drive vehicles ever made. Only 26 of them were built, including a number fitted with a gib for use as recovery trucks.

A farmer from Surrey had been using it as a logging tractor and general purpose runabout on his farm until a year ago before deciding to present it to the society.

It is somewhat the worse for wear but the corps museum has managed to trace the original

production drawings and its restoration is currently being considered as an apprentice project. Apprentices are encouraged to do projects that actually involve technical work, not just fitting and filing.

"Besides the historical aspect of vehicle preservation, there is a certain training value involved, giving the apprentices hands-on experience," said Maj Peter Beeken, senior instructor of the Armoured Vehicles Branch and society secretary.

"Obviously we cannot afford the time to take on a complete renovation here. For example the Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle we have in the collection is based on a wartime Sherman, and the engines badly needed sorting out.

"Not only was it a long and

painful process to find a source for the 'bits' required, but having stripped the engine we had then to decide whether to spend a few hundred pounds or a few thousand pounds.

"In the event, we opted for the lesser amount because the BARV was a tracked vehicle on which we were not going to run up too many miles.

"It underwent a limited overhaul, giving it another 500 miles of track mileage which will keep it going for a few more years yet," he said.

The society has two serving members, SSgt Roger Jones and Cpl Dave Whitehouse, and three civilians drawn from the staff at SEME. They all put in a vast number of hours of spare time to get the collection of vehicles up to scratch.

A real stalwart of the society, SSgt Jones has his own vehicle fleet, including an early Volvo radio truck and an eye-catching ex SAS Land Rover of the type known as Pink Panthers.

He bought the former SAS vehicle from a scrapyard in 1981 for just £25. It is worth around £10,000 now for SSgt Jones spent over three years restoring it to its original condition and he exhibits it at 20 shows a year.

The realistic looking
● Turn to Page 33

WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:
Camberley 29653



Life is what you make it wherever you are and Anne Armstrong joined in the funnier side when she was pictured (above) with Penny Philp at HQ 1 LI, Omagh. But the problems in the Province are not dissimilar to those faced by any Army family overseas. Today Anne reports on the way some of the difficulties are being tackled. She will be reporting on Northern Ireland again in the next issue.



NO RANK AMONG OUR WIVES, SAYS THE CLF

NEARLY 200 wives from all over Northern Ireland attended the Province's annual Federation of Army Wives (FAW) seminar at HQNI - and it soon became apparent that the meeting was a superb vehicle for the pooling of information from both military and community levels.

He said retention was a major problem in the Army and FAW conferences should be looking at what could be done to help.

"Wives are an integral part of Northern Ireland life and it is up to you to see that FAW flourishes," he said.

His staff would help where it could, but ultimately it was up to the wives themselves.

FAW President Mrs Hilary Walters was welcomed by Mrs Ella Hodges, Commander Land Forces, who has a strong commitment to FAW. He wanted to know the organisation's aims for the next 12 months, and said the whole spectrum of wives - particularly the younger ones - should be embraced within FAW. Rank did not count with wives.

Pamela Ball, a leading light in getting FOCUS (the Federation of Army Wives Clubs Office and Computing Updating of Skills project) off the ground at

I spoke a few years ago to the first wives' seminar in Lisburn. The latest gathering illustrated just what an impact FAW has had in its relatively short life. One could almost feel the enthusiasm for becoming involved with the community and the aims of the federation.

Bulford, Wilts, explained the tremendous advantages of establishing a similar scheme in NI.

As a result of the seminar, plans for FOCUS to cross the Irish Sea are now in hand.

There was a fascinating talk on the Open College by a member of the NI Manpower Services Commission.

"You can be in control of what you study, where you study and at what pace you study at our Open College," she said. The MSC representative was swamped with enquiries, so it is good to know many wives are prepared to grasp a great opportunity to enhance old skills or acquire new ones.

An indication of the status accorded FAW by HQ was the presence throughout of Col Mark Strudwick, ACOS G1/G4. Now they are experiencing a very different way of

Wherever Anne Armstrong went in Northern Ireland she found cheerful faces despite the pressures. Above - no signs of gloom on the faces of wives attending the FAW seminar at Lisburn

Above right - The wives of 1 Green Howards (XIXth Foot) hand over a cheque raised by them for the Great Ormond Street Hospital appeal - £2,179 36p

Right - Mrs Ella Hodges pays up - to two young participants she sponsored in Lisburn Fun Run

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ALL GO AT ALDERGROVE

- with 20 new faces to prove it

life. There are few jobs available for dependants - whose numbers are increasing rapidly!

"We've had 20 new babies so far," said families' officer Lt Mike Flynn with a grin, "and quite a few more are on the way."

In spite of split married quarter patches there is a community spirit as relays of vehicles transport wives and children to a wealth of activities within the Aldergrove station.

Among recent 3 Queens activities has been a fund

A major achievement is the combined Army-Royal Air Force youth club and pre-school playgroup - which sensibly allows for the pooling of facilities and volunteer resources.

The club's first festival of sport at Aldergrove was an unprecedented success.

Three times a week the community centre is packed with wives and children, plus a sprinkling of husbands.

"We won't get rich but it does give us a small income and we are acquir-

ing skills we didn't know we had," said Wendy McCready and Anne Higgs who are in charge of the PRI shop.

Julie Mills misses her old job in a Kent school but says of Northern Ireland: "Even with no work I like it here. There's plenty to do."

Josephine Martin had to leave a good job in a bank, but is now a staunch supporter of the Wives Club where her bank training has come in handy for organising raffles!

They also have tenpin bowling, a sauna, multi-gym and shooting club.

If there is one item that is essential baggage in NI it is a driving licence, even though regiments do their utmost to lay on transport.

In my view ...

Only three but it's growing fast

ON THE very morning I was to catch the Belfast shuttle to begin a week's visit at the invitation of the Northern Ireland Federation of Army Wives I lost my voice.

Panic set in as the aircraft climbed away. What would happen if my voice deserted me when I was due to speak at the FAW seminar? What would the chairman say?

The Province had been glorying in several days of sunshine. Before the week was out six soldiers had died in the dreadful Lisburn fun run murder.

I was touched by the innocence of children when, the next evening, a soldier's nine-year-old daughter came round to collect sponsorship money for having completed six miles on the very run that had ended in the death of her father's colleagues.

Later I visited Londonderry, birthplace of FAW in Northern Ireland, at the invitation of Gaye Constantine.

The changes in just three years were tremendous.

Not so long ago the involvement of wives was negligible; ad hoc groups, wives' clubs and community minded individuals attempted manfully to fill the welfare gaps.

Now the FAW had become fully established in both 8 and 39 Brigade areas, with HQNI backing it fully.

Mrs Ella Hodges, the chairman, endorsed the value of wives participating in all forms of Northern Ireland life when she opened the seminar.

What struck me was that wives were showing more confidence despite the day-to-day pressures.

Wives' views, suggestions and criticisms are being taken seriously by those in authority. In many situations their opinions are actively sought.

As with all postings the pros and cons are different for each individual, but I heard much praise for the education system.

One thing struck me more than ever - the high number of wives who cannot drive.

If there is one item that is essential baggage in NI it is a driving licence, even though regiments do their utmost to lay on transport.



The smiles tell their own story.



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MCTC swaps Nissens of the past for a centrally heated future

THE OUTSIDE STORY

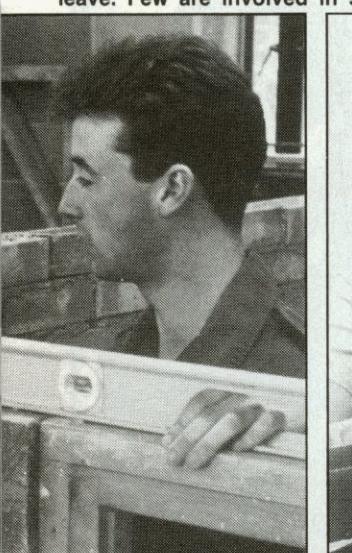
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Bill Moore
Pictures:
Mike Weston



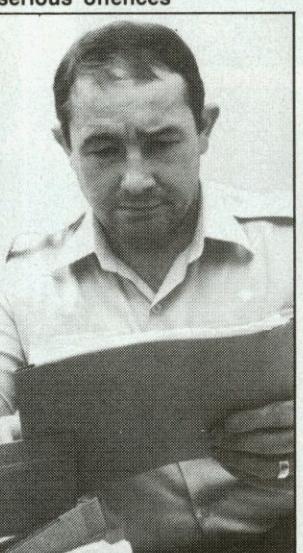
Men from all three Services are given corrective training at MCTC Colchester. Most of them have been guilty of going absent without leave. Few are involved in serious offences



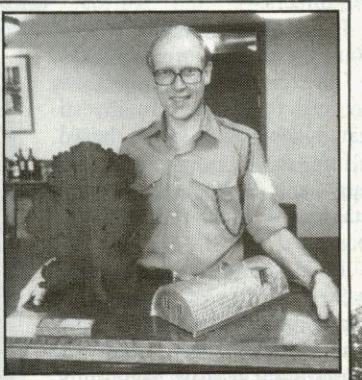
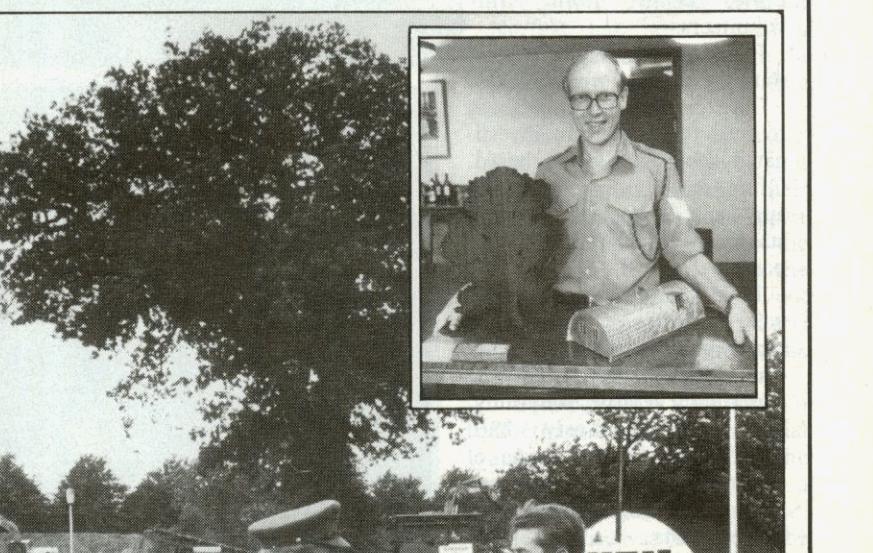
Lt Col Simon Fordham, Welsh Guards, talks to a soldier learning bricklaying. McLoughlin, 14 years a Green Howard, has been 'lent out' to Army c



ing in the education wing. Right: Wing Sgt Maj (WO1) Bob



amps housing civilian prisoners in the South



Maj Graham Harris and Lt Col (Retd) Jim Robinson recall memories of the oak tree and Nissen hut behind them - the inspiration for the corps' silver piece held (inset) by Mess Sgt Les Pearce

A THUNDERING machine was gobbling up lumps of concrete, digesting them and then pouring hard core into waiting lorries.

Lt-Col Simon Fordham, commandant of the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, explained that the grey slabs being demolished were the foundations of scores of Nissen huts.

"We're keeping that one," he said pointing to a lone survivor. "It was my office until quite recently. We're thinking of turning it into a museum."

The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr George Younger, was able to make comparisons for himself when he inspected the newly completed rebuild recently.

The photographs in the Commandant's office told the story.

Berechurch Hall Camp was built towards the end of the Second World War.

PoWs who started off in tents erected the Nissen huts themselves.

Colchester seems to have had a good influence on them. In the Middle Ages the park was part of a monastery's grounds and in 1946 part of the camp became a seminary where German PoWs studied for the priesthood.

When they left their place was taken by British soldiers serving detention sentences.

As corrective establishments closed throughout the world - memories of Tanglin, Stonecut-

ters and Kure are evoked by the names of roads in the new MCTC - Colchester became the home of the Military Provost Staff Corps.

As a sort of regimental HQ, the MCTC did not really compare with Woolwich, Bovington or Chatham.

Furthermore it was a trying place to work during wet or cold weather. Thanks to security regulations the SUS (Servicemen under sentence) were generally inside while the staff on duty, waiting to escort their charges to classrooms, workshops, cookhouse or showers, had to hang around outside, muffled in scarves and raincoats.

And at last the men, who claim they form the smallest corps in the British Army, have an officers' mess and a sergeants' mess worthy of the effort they put into their job.

The officers' mess even has a centre piece of silver which must be unique in the annals of

made life unpleasant - as fetching and carrying had to be done from the stores in the open.

With the rebuild everyone benefits.

The new low brick buildings, accommodation, offices and workshops, are custom built, secure, clean and comfortable for SUS and staff. And centrally heated.

Covered ways or corridors link the various wings.

Many a sergeant has stood under it waiting to be called in to answer for some misdemeanour (or even to be complimented).

"We call it the Rooti* Gong tree," said Maj Graham Harris.

British military history... a model Nissen hut.

Peter Norman Nissen, the British engineer (1871-1930) who invented the corrugated iron home for all, would be proud of it.

It is set on a polished wooden plinth alongside a fretwork three dimensional impression of an oak tree which also has its place in corps history.

The real tree, about 240 years old, stands a short march from the hut which used to be the Commandant's office.

Until the middle of the last century wayward soldiers were locked up in civilian jails before it was realised that close contact with the inmates simply helped to turn them into professional criminals.

● Turn to next page

OUTSIDE STORY

● From Page 23

Even when military prisons were brought in they were manned by civilians under the Home Office.

Only when the Boer War was at its height (and the Army greatly expanded) was the formation of the Military Prison Staff Corps approved (towards the end of 1901).

The aim was to punish soldiers for breaches of military discipline while, at the same time, maintaining their "soldierly bearing and military spirit".

With the introduction of "detention" in 1906 the MPSC became the Military Provost Staff Corps.

Today MCTC, Colchester, is the only establishment of its kind in the Armed Services dealing with soldiers, sailors and airmen, though its staff are drawn mainly from Army volunteers.

They come from all arms and must be at least senior NCOs.

The reasons for their wishing to join the corps are investigated thoroughly by a board. Often it is simply that the applicant is seeking a more stable life after a surfeit of postings.

If in the old days regimes were harsh it must be remembered that a large Army was drawn then from the community at large, willy-nilly, and many genuinely 'hard cases' came from a strata of society (tough but with its own sense of honour) which no longer exists.

Today the seven officers and 98 men who form the corps deal with three categories of offender.

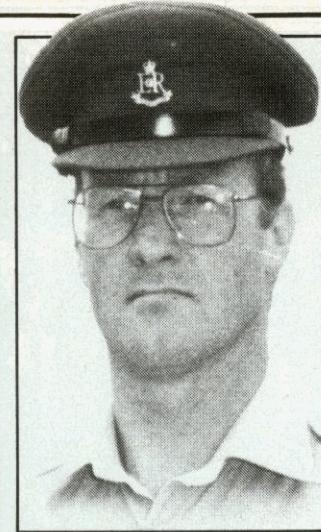
The first is composed of those who will return to their units on completion of their sentence.

The basic aim is to "improve their Service efficiency, discipline and morale and to establish in them a will to become better Servicemen".

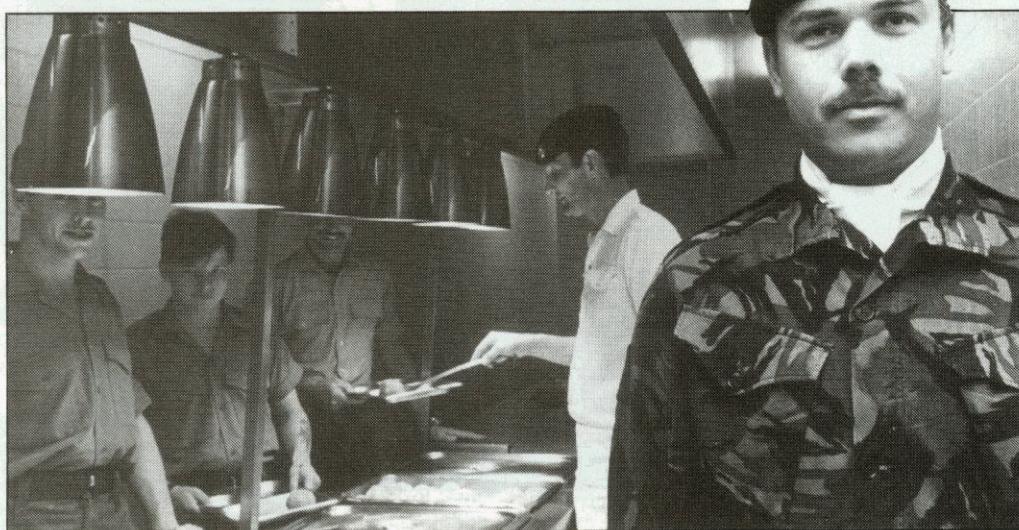
The second is made up of those who will be leaving the Service, for whatever reason, on completion of sentence.

Here the aim is to "enhance their potential for self-sufficiency and responsible citizenship".

A third category concerns personnel sentenced to imprisonment who have to be held in safe custody awaiting confirmation of sentence.



Above: RSM Peter Burton who has been with the MPSC since 1973 and was glad to see the old hutt sergeants' mess disappear



SSgt Steve Hardy, Master Chef, ensures the food is good and plentiful... breakfast, Naafi break, lunch, dinner and supper



Sgt George Ward knew MCTC in 1970: "It's as different today as the Hilton from the Bastille"

There is also separate provision for women, staffed by SNCos loaned by the WRAC as required, though it is rarely fully occupied.

Troops due eventually to return to their regiment simply carry on hard military training, including weapon handling and shooting.

It is estimated that about a quarter of them earn promotion after rejoining their units.

Men who are due to leave the service are taught by civilian instructors such things as job interviewing techniques, the mysteries of hire purchase and the NHS, and bricklaying.

There is even a remarkable staircase to nowhere on which

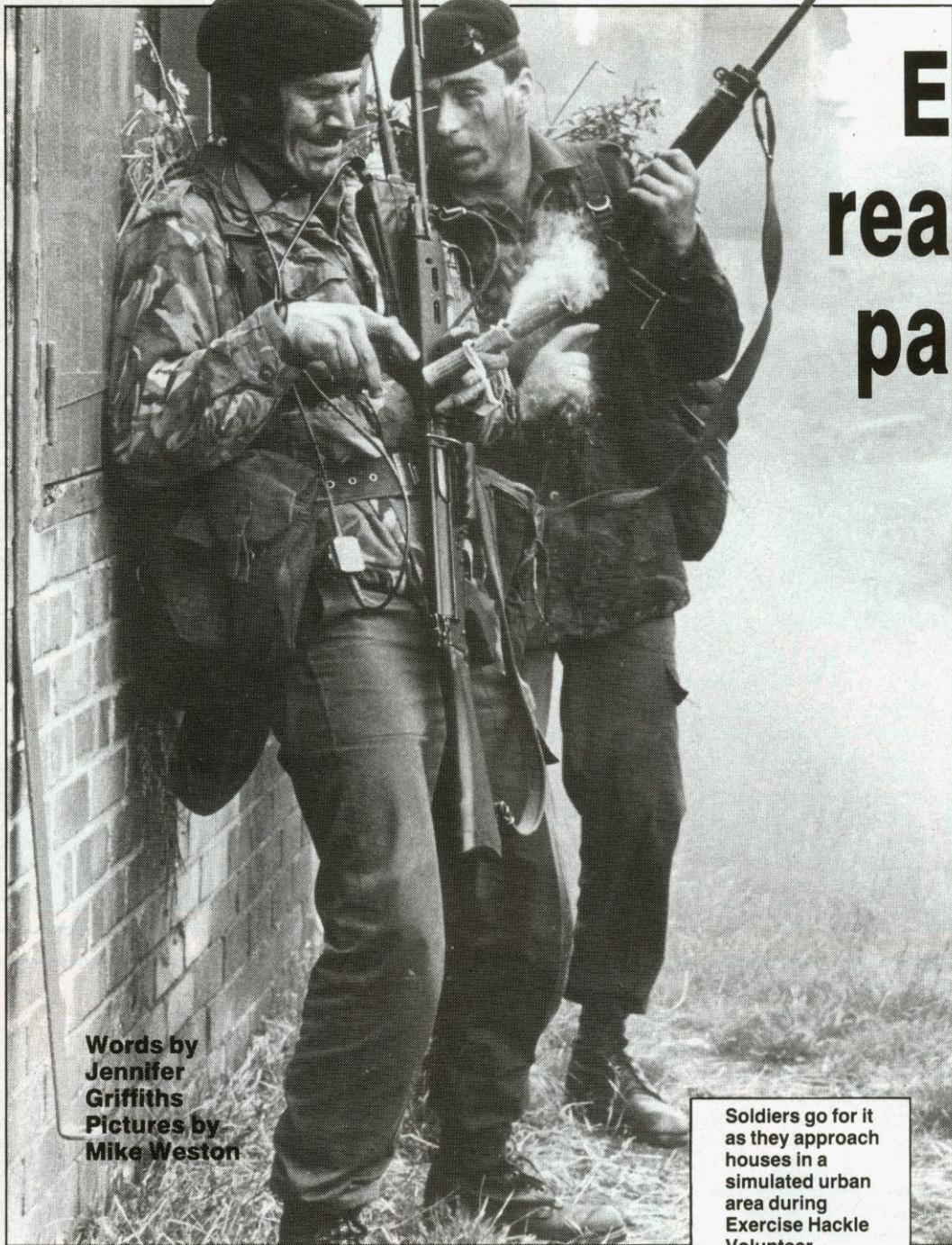
they can practise hanging wallpaper on a stair well.

A pig farm, all produce disposed of to a local contractor, enables men to develop an interest in country life.

The success of the training given to men leaving the Services may be gauged from the fact that some have been known to write letters of thanks when they have found jobs.

The restored pride of those who serve on could be seen in the bearing of the guard of SUS which met the Secretary of State when he visited MCTC.

* 'Rooti', Hindu word for bread. The 'Rooti Gong' was reckoned by old soldiers to have been earned by the sweat of their brow... ie earning their corn!



Words by
Jennifer
Griffiths
Pictures by
Mike Weston

Ex Hackle reaches the parts other training doesn't

EXERCISE Hackle Volunteer at Stanford Training Area in Norfolk has been judged a resounding success, much to the delight of the part time soldiers taking part.

Men of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were sharing their annual camp with their sister battalion, 6 RRF, as part of the celebrations to mark both the tercentenary of the XXth Foot (later the Lancashire Fusiliers) and the 20th anniversary of the RRF.

Both battalions were based in Wretham Camp, sharing social and military events during the fortnight, culminating in a regimental platoon exercise. The exercise was designed to be imaginative, interesting and to reach parts of the mind and body that normal training does not reach.

Events included crossing water without boats, preparing live rations for the cooking pot, dealing with a road traffic accident, an initiative and confidence test, and live firing.

Lt Col John Rice, CO 5 RRF, said the calibre of volunteers was very good.

"Generally, they are intelligent, well educated enthusiastic amateurs who, with additional training, could very quickly take their place alongside their Regular counterparts.

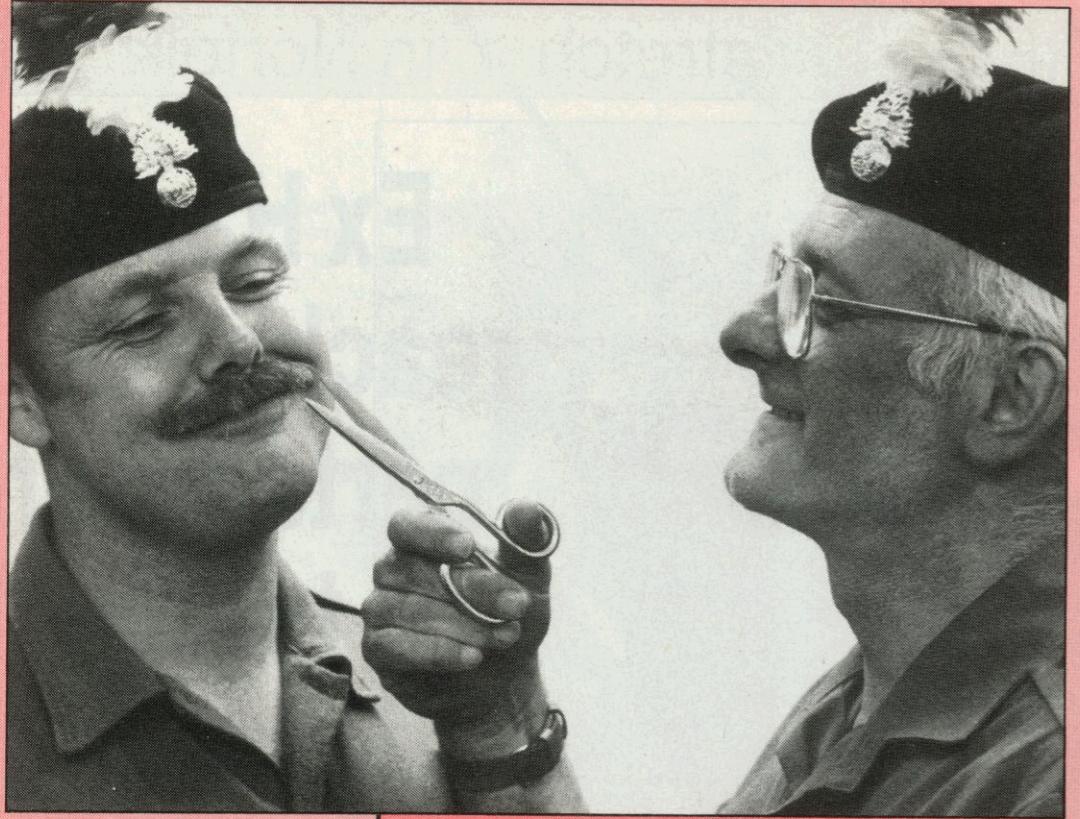
"I have enormous respect for them. Their commitment is wholehearted. For instance, when many of them get home they go straight back to their civilian jobs, whereas perhaps

● Turn to next page

Soldiers go for it as they approach houses in a simulated urban area during Exercise Hackle Volunteer

Below - Safety Officer Sgt David Nelson with LCpl Dan Gamble and Cpl Leon Dodd, who are firing an 81mm mortar





Ex Hackle Volunteer

From Page 25

Regular staff can take time off. To maintain this for a number of years deserves great credit."

The colonel said he had noticed other pressures creeping in.

"As the employment situation improves there is pressure on the part time soldier not to indulge in his volunteer activities. An employer might press him to do his primary job and you can have a situation where the soldier is torn between his career and his TA interests.

"I have lost three officers for this reason and I am hearing more and more people are finding it difficult to give a total commitment."

Col Rice said there was, however, no shortage of recruits.

"We have an adequate number joining, and continuing to join for the right reasons, that is, wanting a challenge or a change, and ex-Regulars wanting to continue military activities.

He said the fortnight had been a cracking success.

"Both battalions welded together brilliantly. The standard has varied, but it has also improved."

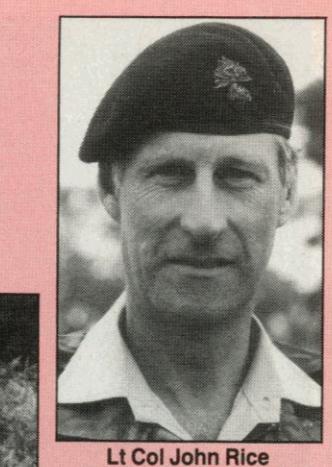
At the end of the fortnight, the Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Kent, visited to see the platoons doing their various activities.

A SNIP AT THE PRICE!

WO2 Sid Porteous (right), TA chief clerk, decided to undergo a sponsored clip to raise money for charity. He raffled the honour of shaving off his beard, and it was won by the bearded CSgt Terry Burne, a pioneer sergeant. He, in turn, raffled the shaving off of his whiskers. Between them they raised £709 for St Oswald's Hospice in Newcastle, and Sid puts the finishing touches to what's left of the once hirsute Terry's moustache. Sid, who is ex Royal Navy, is now associated with all three Services. When he's not with the TA he is a clothing storeman for the RAF

Right – Fus Tony Mawby, a painter and decorator in civilian life, put his artistic talent to another use. He became the camp cartoonist and no one was safe from his lampooning

Below – Bandsman Darren Hardy, CO 6 RRF's new Northumbrian piper



Lt Col John Rice



Live firing of SFGPMGs was just one of the regimental platoon exercises on Exercise Hackle Volunteer

DON'T RING US...

Euphonium player Ann Mason tries a few notes for the unappreciative LCpl Marie Kearney. Six WRAC volunteers attached to the RRF joined the camp and, in addition to providing musical entertainment, helped with guard and admin duties



Padre's a wizard of the wok!

PADRE Keith Punshon, 40, who confesses to being a "wizard with the wok at home", found his basic culinary expertise put to the test on Exercise Hackle Volunteer, when he helped prepare field rations.

He is a parish priest in South Yardley, Birmingham, and, two jobs ago, was chaplain at Eton, which included being chaplain to the CCF. That is how his interest in military ministry began.

The Rev Punshon has found that the part time soldiers are more likely to confide in him than to their parish priest. "I wear the same uniform as them and when it rains on them, it rains on me. It is rather like industrial chaplaincy."

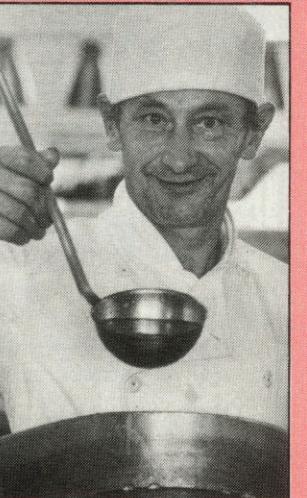
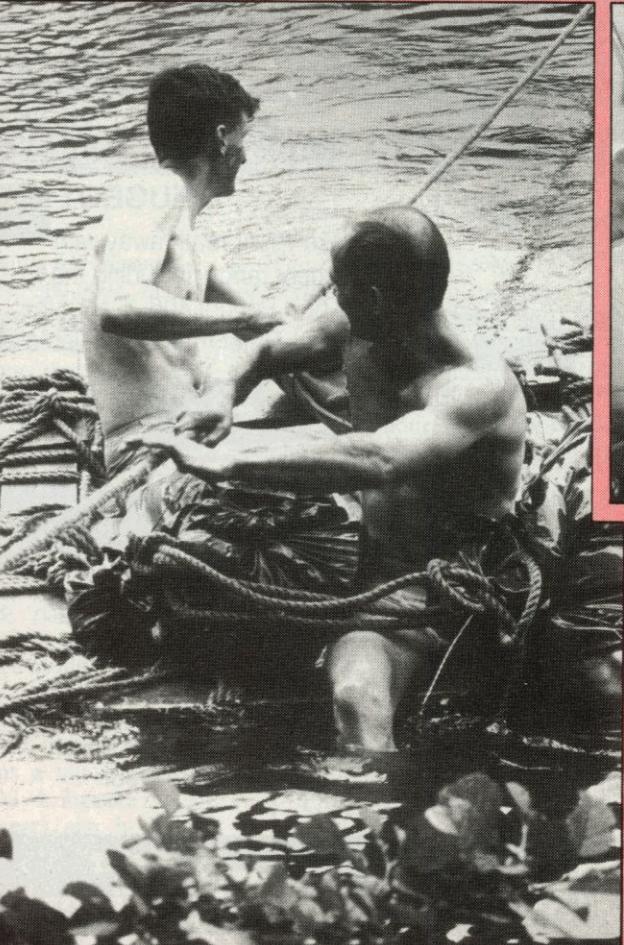
"I am with them, and they are with the vicar in a way they never are in civilian life. I am privileged to enjoy a special rapport with them. I loiter with intent to love God and care for the lads!"



"My job is to be me, and to serve them not convert them. This is my contribution to peace."

"I would like more of my colleagues in the church to realise that soldiers need ministry as much as anyone else, if not more, if they are called to put their lives on the line."

The Rev Punshon said he was keen to do the cooking at home, during the week, when his teacher wife was at work. "It is the only vice I admit to. I am very happy to muck in and share the cooking with the lads at camp."



Above – When refuse collector LCpl David Lomax, 53, became a part time soldier 13 years ago, he was too old for the infantry. But he was so keen to join up, he took a cook's job, and one of his specialities is Lancashire hot pot. Diddy Dave, who is 5ft 1in, works a 16-hour day at the camp

Left – Exercise Hackle Volunteer was a back-to-basics fortnight with concentration on individual skills, including the crossing of water without boats

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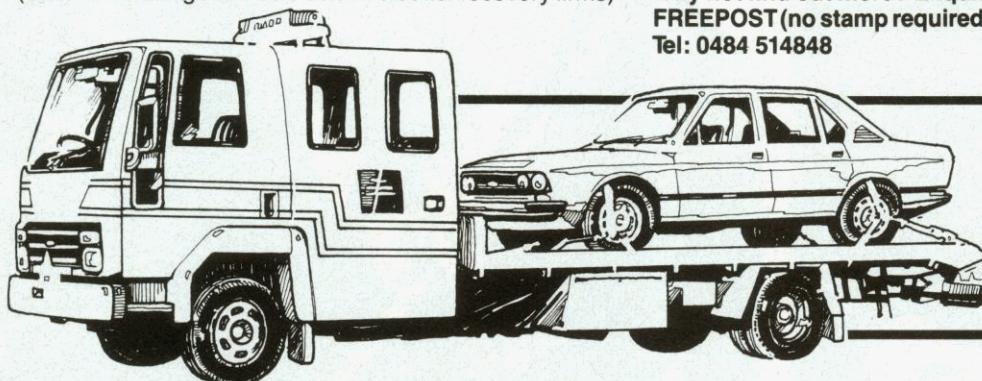
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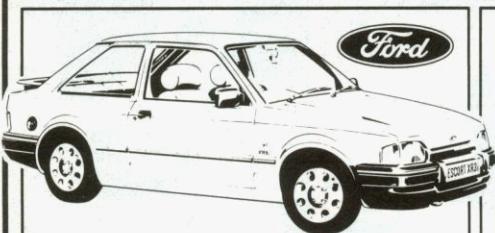
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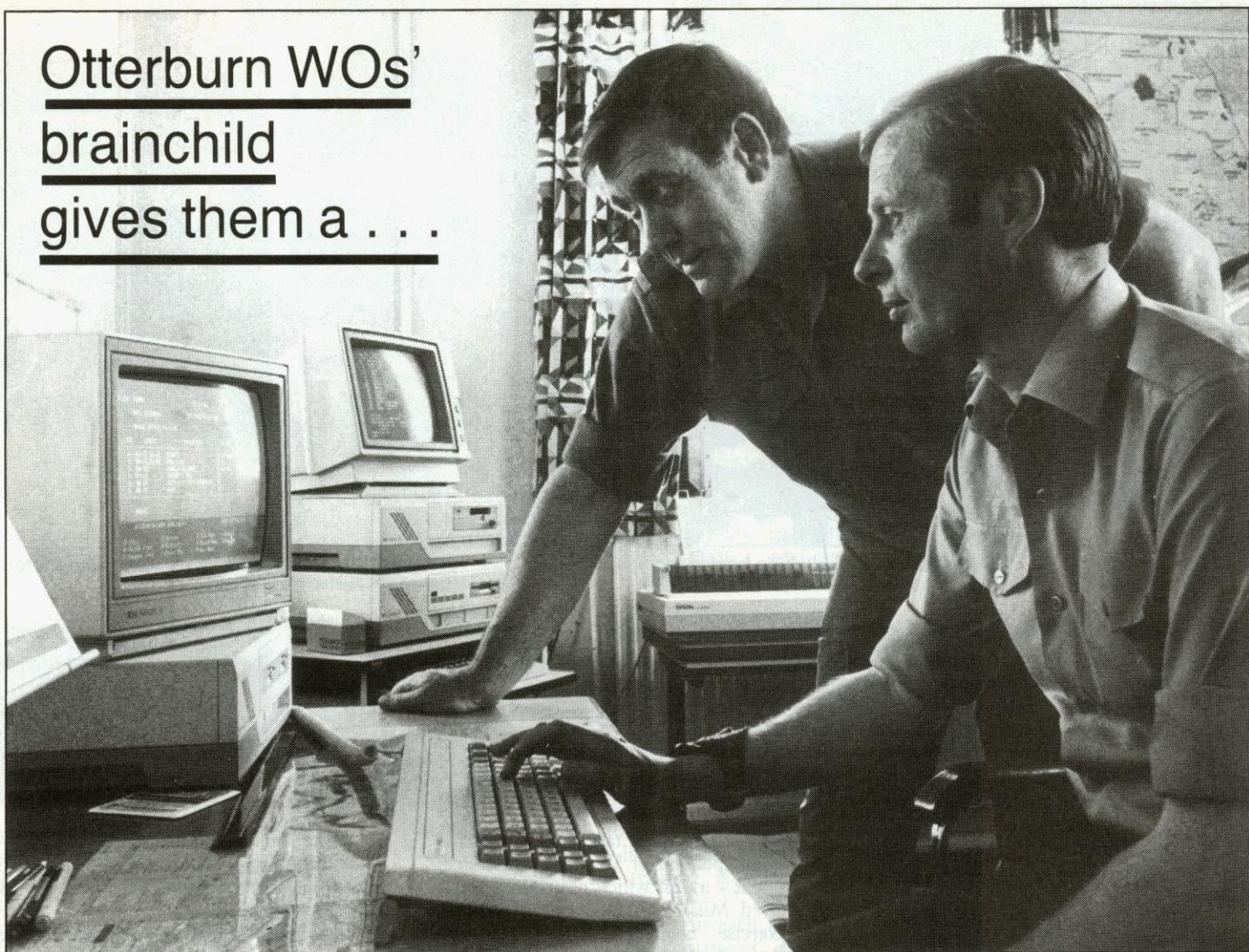
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Picture: Mike Perrin

Capt Bernie Wetherill and WO2 Dave Longcake at the Otterburn Training Area Computer System.

RANGE OF OPTIONS!

IT LOOKS as though the staff at one of the busiest training areas in Europe are on a winner, writes **Bill Moore**.

A computerised range management system is in operation at Otterburn, Northumberland, and developments are being watched closely by HQ UKLF.

It is the brainchild of two Royal Artillery warrant officers, WO2 Dave Longcake, who is in his third year on the staff, and WO2 (now retired) Peter Rowsell.

The computers have eliminated not hours but days of tedious non-productive drudgery and paper work.

WO2 Longcake gave as one example a request from HQ UKLF who wanted to know for a very good reason how many times the demolition range had been used in the past five years.

It took two weeks to plough through 60 ledgers of Victorian book-keeping dimensions to

produce the answer.

Today that info can be extracted within a few minutes.

Last year 300,000 man training days were registered at Otterburn which is in constant use throughout the year and with the expansion of the TA likely to get busier.

During one big Nato exercise there were up to 150 air sorties a day. Units make bids up to two years in advance of their commitment.

Controlling the smooth passage of units, regulating the supply of the right ammunition and fuel, and ensuring safety on and off the ranges is rather like running a fireworks factory in the middle of a holiday camp which contains a bus depot.

When WO2 Longcake arrived three years ago it was taking two days to produce the daily range summary — and another two days to type it.

All warning notices for such agencies as the Forestry

Commission were produced manually.

"Our monthly ledgers had to be written in pencil because there were so many cancellations, changes and alterations," said Capt Bernie Wetherill, RA the range liaison officer. "We used to spend hours sometimes trying to decipher entries made 18 months earlier."

Now everything is moving towards the stage where a print out is produced with a few taps on the keyboard.

The accumulated expertise of

years is being transferred to discs by WO2 Longcake.

"And there is a back-up system," he said.

The computer even produces the maps showing the templates for the weapons being used.

Its latest input has a security value. When a strange car was spotted one night WO2 Longcake was able to call up the number immediately and discover it belonged to a new range warden whose vehicle had not then been registered with the camp.

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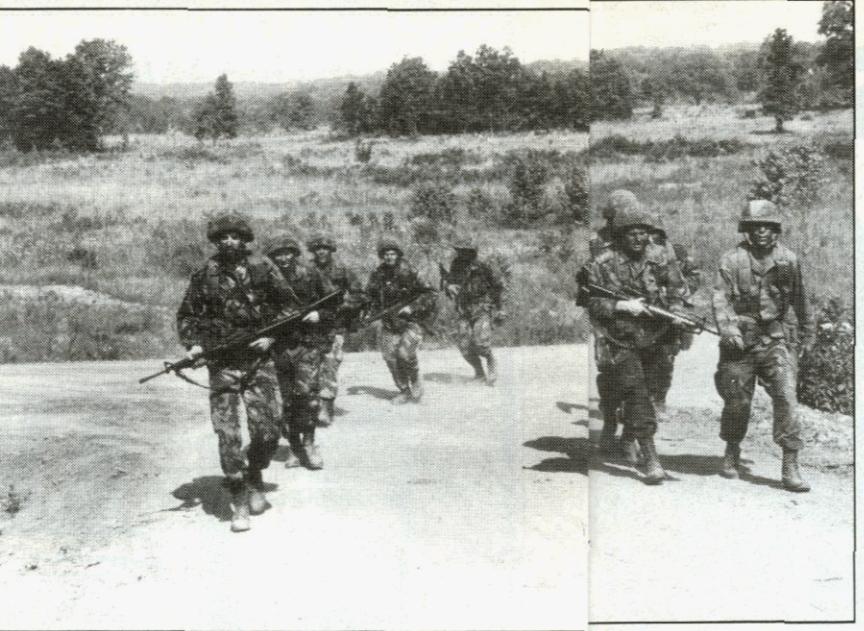
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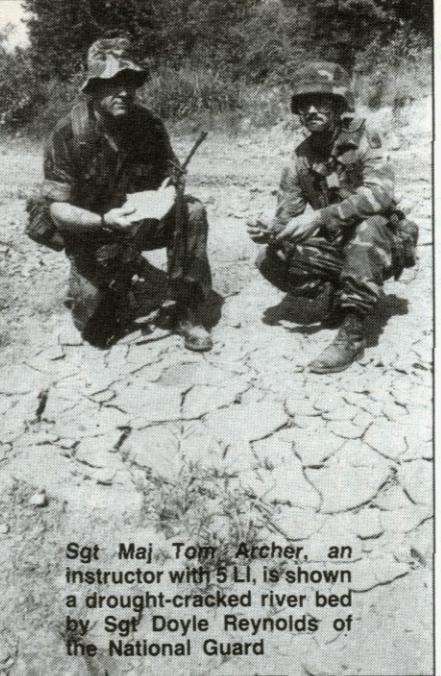
HEATED EXCHANGE FOR LI TERRIERS



A study in styles: 2nd Lt Peter Davies of 5 LI (left) is briefed by cigar chewing SSGt Steven Holcomb of the Arkansas National Guard



A mixed LI/ANG patrol kicks up dust during a four-mile forced march on the bone dry Fort Chaffee exercise area



Sgt Maj Tom Archer, an instructor with 5 LI, is shown a drought-cracked river bed by Sgt Doyle Reynolds of the National Guard

One hundred and thirty-five part time soldiers based in Shrewsbury, Bath, South Yorkshire and County Durham have arrived back in Britain after a gruelling exercise in the drought stricken southern United States.

Exercise Glow Worm, a two week exchange visit with Arkansas National Guard, took Territorial Army soldiers of The Light Infantry into vast exercise areas where the temperature soared above 100 degs F and the wildlife included rattlesnakes, scor-

pions and tarantulas.

The soldiers were specially trained to cope with heat exhaustion and dangerous bites.

Aim of Exercise Glow Worm was to familiarise the TA men with US weapons and tactics. But it wasn't all hard slog. At the end of the exercise the Terriers were shown around the tourist attractions and historical sights of Arkansas.

Story and pictures by Peter Rhodes

GOOD ON YER, BLUE!

ANTI-TANK platoons of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade have returned to Hong Kong after an exhaustive four weeks of field training and live firing on a vast training area in Victoria, Australia.

Exercise Blue Flyer 88 was the name given to the brigade Milan concentration.

Units involved were the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles; the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles); the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles; and the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Also invited to take part was the anti-tank platoon of 5/7 Royal Australian regiment - a unit which has only recently received Milan.

Exercise controller was Maj John Lockwood, Staffords, HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, while logistic and administrative support was exercised by Maj (QM) Charles Thompson, RCT, HQ Support Troops assisted by Sgt Richard Thomas, DERR and a team of 11 soldiers of Dragon Company, Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

Held for the second successive year at Puckapunyal Military Area, 100km north of Melbourne, the exercise brought

together 209 soldiers from four countries - Australia, Hong Kong, Nepal (Gurkhas) and the United Kingdom - and 23 different cap badges.

Last year's Blue Flyer was held during the Australian winter and soldiers had to contend with some fairly cold weather. This year conditions were much more favourable.

For almost four weeks the soldiers were exercised and tested in their military skills with the emphasis on their expertise with the Milan anti-tank missile system.

For this type of live firing exercise Puckapunyal is an ideal training area. Some 123,000 acres in size it encompasses

almost every type of terrain - hills, plains, scrub, brush and woods.

Despite the constant presence of tanks, field guns, infantry weapons and soldiers the area boasts a prolific variety of wildlife. At dawn and dusk large groups of kangaroos were seen, emus were encountered fairly frequently strutting across the ranges while throughout the day could be heard the incessant raucous calls of the many varieties of multi-hued birds that have made the training area their home.

Highlight of Blue Flyer and indeed the culmination of a year's training was the live firing day - the one day in the year

when a Milan Number 1 (operator) actually launches a live missile. On all other occasions his training is with a simulator.

To add realism to the event each of the participating anti-tank platoons moved into the bush 48 hours ahead of D Day and had to contend with every type of hazard they might encounter on the battlefield, including artillery fire, tanks, gas attacks, enemy reconnaissance patrols, infiltration, tabbing and lack of sleep.

Exhausted platoons arrived one at a time at the firing range. Then, supported by covering fire from both main armament and light machine guns of Leopard tanks of the Australian 1st Armoured Regiment and automatic fire from Dragon Company HKMSE, each anti-tank platoon in turn moved forward to the firing trenches for the actual live firing.

In the spectator stand 200 yards to the rear of the firing point were television cameras from Australian national and regional networks and newspaper reporters who had travelled considerable distances to record the event.

A sharp bang and the first missile went down the range, a small bright light and a thin trail of smoke marking its progress as it hurtled towards its target.

The subsequent "hit" on the moving tanks (scale models made of stretched polystyrene) 1,500 yards down range could clearly be seen and was accompanied by large cheers from the spectators.

In all, 66 high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) missiles were launched, with a strike rate estimated to be marginally better than last year's 75 per cent.



With smoke marking a previous direct hit, another Milan missile hurtles towards its moving target - a dummy tank traversing the range



Under covering fire and behind a Leopard I Regiment a Milan anti-tank platoon moves forward to engage its target



Moving through a 'contaminated area' a Gurkha soldier carries a Milan missile as he races across open ground

UDR's David gets it right!

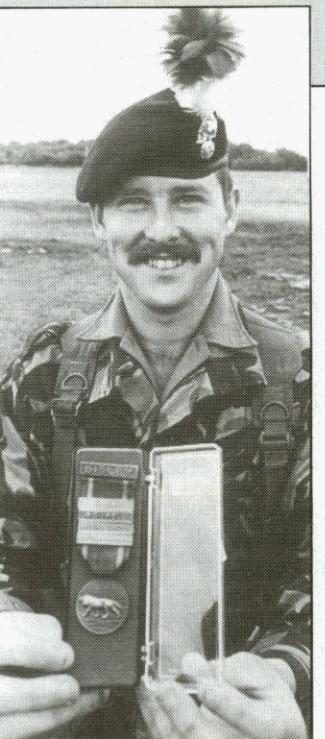
BISLEY

IT WAS definitely a case of the left hand knowing what the right hand was doing at the Army Rifle Association's annual meeting at Bisley when Pte David Smyth of the Ulster Defence Regiment took the top prize by winning the Queen's Medal for champion shot of the Army writes Laurie Manton.

Pte Smyth, 6 UDR was originally a left-handed shot but switched to a right-handed action when the new SA 80 rifle came into service.

In winning the competition he beat off a strong challenge from Rfn Prembrd Baral, 6 GR and Cpl Mick Frape, 1 RGJ.

There was another close-fought contest for the Queen's Medal for champion shot of the Territorial Army. In the event, Cpl Tony de Cross of 151 Transport Regiment RCT came out on top beating LCpl David Ralph 6, R Anglian who had to



Fus Alan Coe 1 RRF proudly displays his medal earned in the Roupell Cup competition

REPORT

be content with the runners up spot for the second year running!

There were more winners' laurels for the men from Northern Ireland when LCpl William Kennedy, 2 UDR took the Service Pistol championship by just one point from Lt Ian Standen, R Signals, while 6 UDR won the Infantry Section match beating The Queen's Own Highlanders and 1 RRF.

In the Army individual target rifle championship which is open to both serving and retired soldiers, the military surveyors from 42 Survey Engineer Group showed fine form by winning both the long and short range events, while Maj Dick Ellis, RE shot his way to victory in the individual championships ahead of Lt Nick Crawshaw, R Anglian and Sgt David Robinson, 2 UDR.



Chaired by his comrades, Pte David Smyth is carried away after winning the Queen's Medal for champion shot of the Army

RESULTS of the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting.

The Service Rifle Championship: 1, Pte D Smyth, 6 UDR; 2, Rfn Prembrd Baral, 6 GR; 3, Cpl M Frape, 1 RGJ. **The Young Officer's Cup:** Lt S Glover, 1 WFR. **The Watkin Cup:** Pte D Smyth, 6 UDR. **The Manchester Regiment Cup:** Rfn Prembrd Baral, 6 GR.

The Rifle Brigade Cup: Pte S Coulter, 6 UDR. **The Roupell Cup:** Pte M Thornton, 1 LI. **The Henry Whitehead Cup:** Rfn Prembrd Baral, 6 GR. **The Association Cup:** Sgt I Gwynne, 2 SG. **The Gurkha Welfare Match:** A-Sgt I Gwynne, 2 SG, B-Lt S Glover, 1 WFR. **The Whittaker Trophy:** LCpl E Boyce, 2 SG.

The Roberts Cup: Pte T Wetherill, 1 QLR. **The Army Hundred Cup:** Rfn Takbdr Grg, 6 GR. **The Sub Machine Gun Championship:** 1, Sgt Krisna Grg; QG Signals; 2, Cpl D Delany, 35 Engr Regt; 3, Sgt D Bell, 1 KOB.

The Old Contemptibles Cup: Cpl M Frape, 1 RGJ. **The Service Pistol Championship:** 1, LCpl W Kennedy, 2 UDR; 2, Lt I Standen, 211 Sig Sqn; 3, WO2 D Ward, SEME. **The Southern Command Cup:** Sgt Jhum Prasad Grg, 2/2 GR. **The Governors Cup:** Cpl P Brunt, 1 WFR.

Sniper Aggregate Match: Cpl P Quilliam, 65 Corps SP Sqn RE. **Individual Night Shooting Match:** Pte P Haythornthwaite, 1 QLR. **The FIBUA Rifle Match:** Cpl P W Summersett, 1 Gordons. **The Inter Unit Optical Sight Championship:** 1, QLR; 2, 6 UDR; 3, 6 GR.

The Inter Unit Iron Sight Championship: 1, QG Signals; 2, 94 Loc Regt RA; 3, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. **The Minor Units Championship:** 1, Scottish Div Depot; 2, Depot Queen's Div; 3, 69 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn RE. **The Rifle Team Match:** 1, 6 GR; 2, 2 QLR. **FIBUA Team Match:** 2 SG.

Army Target Rifle Championship: 1, Maj R A Ellis, RE; 2, Lt N Crawshaw, R Anglian; 3, Sgt D Robinson, UDR. **Bisley Cup:** Target Rifle Maj (retd) B Taylor, Sniper Rifle Cpl P Mahoney, 1 D and D. **The Long Range Target Rifle/Sniper Rifle Team Match:** Target Rifle 42 Svy Engr GP, Sniper Rifle 1 BW.

The Parachute Regiment Cup: 1 QO Hldrs. **The Minor Units:** Scottish Div Dept. **The LMG Match:** 1, Cpl AG Booth, 1 Gordons; 2, Cpl J Macaskill, Scottish Div Dept; 3, Lt W Swinton, 2 SG. **The LMG Aggregate Match:** 1 Gordons.

The Minor Units LMG Match: Scottish Div Dept.

The Section Match: 6 UDR. **The Minor Units Fire Team Match:** Scottish Div Dept. **The Team Snapshotting Match:** 6 UDR. **The Minor Units:** Scottish Div Dept. **The Coronation Team Match:** 1 RS. **The Falling Plates:** 1 QO Hldrs. **Pistol Tiles Match:** School of Infantry.

Pistol Team Match: Hong King DASU RAVC. **Methuen Cup:** 1, Brigade of Gurkhas; 2, Ulster Defence Regiment; 3, The Guards Division. **Section Night Shooting Match:** 1 QLR. **FIBUA Team Match:** 2 SG.

Army Target Rifle Championship: 1, Maj R A Ellis, RE; 2, Lt N Crawshaw, R Anglian; 3, Sgt D Robinson, UDR. **Bisley Cup:** Target Rifle Maj (retd) B Taylor, Sniper Rifle Cpl P Mahoney, 1 D and D. **The Long Range Target Rifle/Sniper Rifle Team Match:** Target Rifle 42 Svy Engr GP, Sniper Rifle 1 BW.

The Long Range Target Rifle/Sniper Rifle Match: Target Rifle Maj (retd) B Taylor late RE, Sniper Rifle Cpl P Mahoney, 1 D and D. **The Long Range Target Rifle/Sniper Rifle Team Match:** Target Rifle 42 Svy Engr GP, Sniper Rifle 1 BW.

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WHEELS

From Page 17

machine guns are made of fibreglass and scrap metal!

Seventy two Pink Panthers were made for the SAS in 1969 and such is his interest that he has written a book detailing the history and fate of all except one!

When he has tracked down that last elusive vehicle, he can go to press.

Cpl Whitehouse also has a vehicle of his own, one that brings back fond memories to ex-Servicemen – the Austin Champ.

His was found in Wales two years ago, and cost him £450. Many hours were spent in restoring it to its original pristine condition in 1953.

Next time you see one of these vehicles at a show, spare a thought for the dedicated enthusiasts who gave up hundreds of hours of their time to preserve for posterity examples of vehicles that were once in regular use with the Forces of the Crown.

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BOOK REVIEWS

A very good history

IT WAS only at the beginning of the 20th century that the Indian Army became a single united force. It was the largest volunteer army in history, with not a single conscript in its ranks.

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In addition, the Indian Army had an almost continuous engagement on the North West Frontier when most of the world was at peace.

In *The Indian Army and the King's Enemies 1900-1947*, Charles Chenevix Trench gives an illuminating account of the history of this unique military force. He bases the book not only on personal stories of many members of the Indian Army but as one who served with Hodson's Horse.

One of the lesser known episodes in the Indian Army's history was the cloak and dagger part played in the British Government's attempts in October 1917 to prevent the Bolsheviks aiding the Germans and to persuade them to help the British.

"To the first end, a British-Indian force under General Malleson was sent to Mashad in north-east Persia where it tried to persuade White Russians to stand up to the Reds, and itself fought the Reds on the Merv front."

To relate the outcome would be to spoil the book for readers, of which there will be many.

I have to take issue with the author when he states in his foreword that the book is not history. It is in fact a very good one. – BJ

The Indian Army and the King's Enemies 1900-1947 by Charles Chenevix Trench. Published by Thames and Hudson. Price £16.95.



B Coy of the 1st Bn The King's Shropshire Light Infantry on Koje-do, an island off the coast of

Korea, near Pusan. The battalion was sent from the front line in May 1952 to guard prisoners. The pic-

ture belongs to Miss Betty Stern, who was in Korea with the Women's Voluntary Services from 1952-54

Pals in death

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In the euphoria of patriotism, reinforced to some extent by poverty and unemployment, a scheme was created based on Lord Derby's proposal to raise a battalion of "comrades" in Britain to the battalions' destruction in the opening minutes of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916.

The 11th was reformed in February 1917, but by then there was a new War Office policy to break up the community based battalions whose losses had so affected public morale.

The battalion's final main action – to clear Ploegsteert Wood – was begun on September 28, 1918. On that

day Pte Fred Leeming died, the last of the original Pals to be killed in action.

By its very nature the story of the battalion has to be parochial; a quality that makes it a valuable and unique archive, not only for the people of Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley and Chorley, but in adding detail to the overall history of the First World War. – BJ

Pals: The 11th (Service) Battalion (Accrington) East Lancashire Regiment by William Turner. Published by Wharncliffe Publishing Ltd. Price £10.95.



A group of Z (Burnley) Coy in training camp. Of those pictured, five were killed or died of wounds on July 1, 1916, and seven were wounded

Korean War hotchpotch

they clearly intended.

Part of it is concerned with personal experiences, of life in "hoochies" and "bashes", dug-outs that were warmed by "chuffers" heaters improvised from ammunition boxes fed with petrol dripped from a copper tube, and Gen P A Downward's account of an Auster spotter aircraft having its tailplane holed by a rock – from above!

More an anthology than a co-ordinated history, but a valuable one nonetheless. – BJ

British Forces in the Korean War edited by Ashley Cunningham-Boothe and Peter Farrar. Published by the Korean Veterans Association, in aid of the association. Available from Mr A Cunningham-Boothe, 32 Hatherell Road, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa. Price £12.50 (plus UK £2, overseas £2.32 p and p).

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Ex-gunner Jim Goodson, 104, is one of the characters at the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond, where he is pictured flirting with physiotherapist Elizabeth Bendix

Is chirpy Jim our oldest old soldier?

EX-GUNNER Jim Goodson, 104 years old and as bright as a soldier's button, is wondering if he is the oldest survivor of the First World War, writes **Jennifer Griffiths**.

This chirpy cockney, who is looking forward to his next birthday on Boxing Day, is a little deaf but otherwise fit and misses nothing once his hearing aid is in place. He still goes horse riding!

Jim has four daughters, the oldest of whom is nearly 80. One of his grandchildren died in the Normandy landings during the Second World War and he has lost count of his great-grandchildren. "Every week I seem to get a letter saying another one's been born."

His wife, Julia, died when she was 84, after nearly 60 years of marriage. Jim enjoyed gardening even after the age of 90, and says that keeping busy is the reason he has lived so long.

For the past three months, he has been a resident in the Royal Star and Garter Home, in Richmond, Surrey. That gave him the opportunity to show off his equestrian skills when staff organised a riding session for him. And, on an angling trip, he caught a ½lb roach.

Jim enlisted in the Royal Artillery on August 24, 1902 after seeing his pals in uniform and thinking "that's for me". He joined up for three years with the colours, and nine with the reserve, and had only 20 days to do when war broke out.

That meant another year of service, which took him to France, Belgium and Germany, including the Battle of Mons. He was an artillery driver with two horses, and lost many friends in action.

He found civvy street did not suit him, and, two months after his discharge, was back in the Army seeing more action as part of the divisional ammunition column.

When Armistice was declared he was at home on leave, and was promptly ordered back to France. His job was to help keep the Germans on the move back to Germany, where he became part of the occupational force, eventually returning home in January 1920.

Before the war Jim had worked as a horsekeeper on haulage, carrying goods for different firms. After the war he became a master butcher in the East End of London until his retirement.

Ian Lashbrook, Director of PR and Appeals at the Royal Star and Garter Home, says: "Jim is certainly one of the characters here. He has a fund of stories, is full of fun and is very popular."

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The home is run as an independent charity. It relies on patients' fees, which bring in £2.5m a year, leaving a £1.6m shortfall. The three main Service charities make regular contributions, and, in 1987 the Army Benevolent Fund made an additional grant of £181,000. The rest comes from voluntary donations, from trusts, companies, individuals, and so on.

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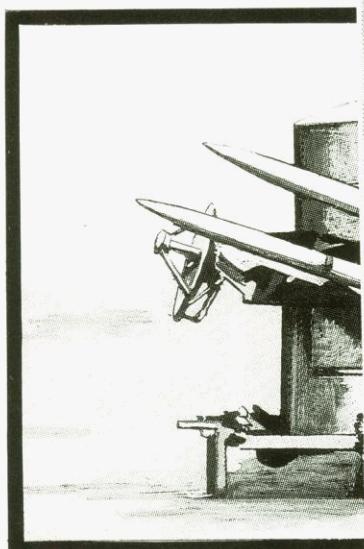
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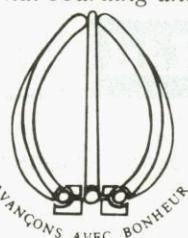
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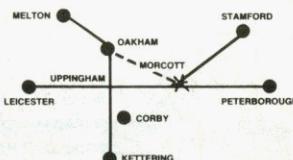
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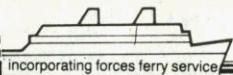
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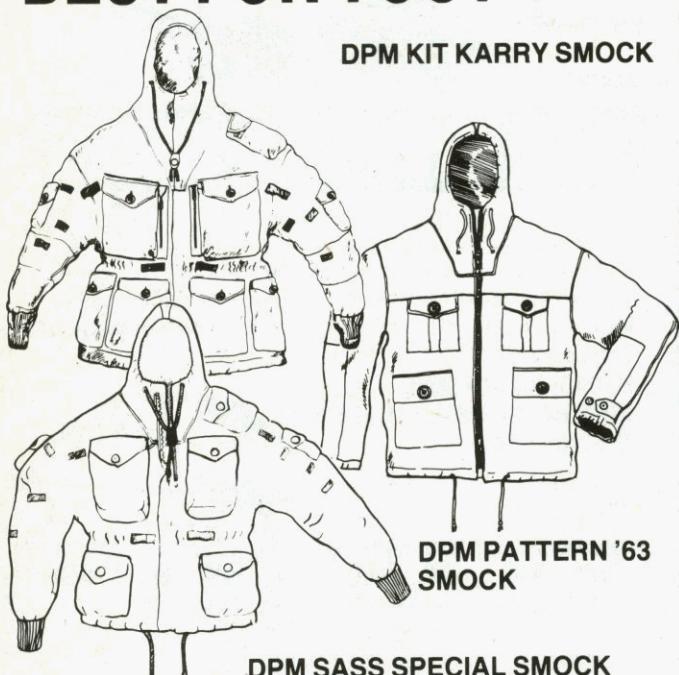
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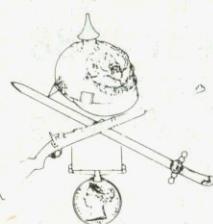
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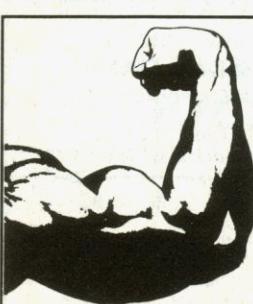
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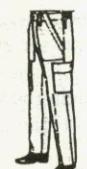


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Heavy seas test yachts and crews during Army offshore regatta

NEAR gale force winds and heavy seas made for exciting racing at this year's Army Sailing Association Offshore Regatta. Two inshore races within the Solent, and a 100 mile passage race around the Isle of Wight were sailed by a fleet of 31 yachts in exhilarating conditions.

The first race was sailed round a 25 mile course in the East Solent and included a cruiser division for privately owned yachts. In winds gusting to Force 7 on the Beaufort Scale the 29 foot *Reflective Image*,

owned and raced by Maj (Retd) Simon Newman and his family, took first place with *Veronique* sailed by owner Maj (Retd) Peter Broadbent second.

Corps and regimental teams battled it out in two divisions racing under Channel Handicap rating. The 27 foot *Halcyons* of the Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre sailed in Division 4, and the winning yacht was *Skirmisher*, entered by the Royal Signals and skippered by Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor of 30 Sig Regt.

A combined Division 2/3 included the Contessa 32 fleet, drawn from JSASTC and individual corps' yacht clubs and associations, and the larger Sadler 34 yachts owned by the RE Yacht Club, the Infantry Sailing Association and the REME Yacht Club.

It was especially good to see the Sadler 34s racing, as Sadler Yachts once again sponsored and supported the regatta. The race was won by the Contessa *Crusader* skippered by Maj (Retd) Hugh Hind of the JSASTC staff.

The weather deteriorated further on Sunday when a second race of about 25 miles was sailed to complete the inshore series. WO2 Wickett, REME sailed *Raider* to first place in the *Halcyon* fleet, and in Division 2/3 the Infantry's Sadler 34, *Bold Warrior* skippered by WO2 Ward took both line honours and first place on corrected time.

The two inshore races were counted together as a series, resulting in the ASA Offshore Cup for Division 2/3 being won by *Crusader*, and the *Halcyon*

Cup for Division 4 going to *Raider*.

The start of the passage race on the Monday showed no let up in the weather. The Division 4 fleet was the first to start on a course around the Isle of Wight. Conditions were extreme for the small *Halcyons* and several were nearly swamped by a steep and choppy sea. Winner was *Cannonade* skippered by Capt Michael Pheby RTR from the AAC Centre.

Division 2/3 yachts were sent on a longer passage but

conditions were equally testing and retirements soon came.

In all, seven yachts in the Division 2/3 fleet retired, leaving eight to complete the course.

The ASA racing yacht *Redcoat*, captained by Maj Rob Hill, RE, showed her qualities by taking both line honours and first place on corrected time, but was pressed hard by the *Contessa Bugler* skippered by Maj David Peerless, RAPC.

It was a challenging and testing regatta, and great credit goes to all competitors.

Considering the extreme conditions, damage to yachts and crews was remarkably light.

The Dolphin Trophy was the main team competition for a *Halcyon* and either a Sadler 34 or a Contessa 32, the trophy being awarded to the winners over the three race series.

With so many retirements, particularly in the passage race, calculation of the results was not easy, but the eventual winning team came from REME's *Seahorse of REME III*, a Sadler 34 skippered by Lt Col Greville Edgecombe, they formed the AAC Dolphin Trophy entry, but were ruled ineligible under the cap badge rules.

However, the regatta committee awarded the Committee Cup for the most deserving crew to *Cannonade*.



SSgt Kriss Akabusi in action during the Inter-Service athletic championships



Medal men: SSgt Kriss Akabusi gets a lift from Marchwood colleague Sgt Raymond Williams

Naafi cash for Army sport

ARMY sports have received £3,000 worth of sponsorship from Naafi - £2,500 for boxing and £500 for basketball - to be spent in the coming year.

A cheque for the whole amount was presented to Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director of the Army Sport Control Board, by Brig James Rucker, Naafi's managing director.

At the ceremony at Naafi's London headquarters, Maj Gen Yeoman said: "This backing will increase funds available to Army basketball by nearly 50 per cent, which means we can resume competitions with civilian teams - an area previously neglected through lack of cash.

"Boxing was a tremendous success last year, thanks to

Naafi's backing, and I'm pleased to see it continue this way."

The cash is part of a £9,000 sponsorship deal which will benefit sports chosen by the Services themselves. The others are Royal Navy soccer and RAF hockey. Last year Naafi gave £7,500 in a similar deal.

What a wet wicket!

THE ARMY Under 25 cricket week got off to a very soggy start, writes Peter Salisbury.

On the Saturday at Aldershot there were only two very brief stoppages for rain and the Under 25s had time to defeat BAOR comfortably. Winning the toss they batted first and scored 195 all out in 49.4 overs.

The foundation of the innings was laid by stands of 57 and 72 for the first and third wickets. The former was between Cpl Graham Summersgill (1 DWR) (33) and Lt Alister Lamb (JIB Shorncliffe) (21), while the latter was between Lt Jimmy Cotterill (16 AD Regt) (21) and Lt Matthew Fleming (2 RGJ) (54).

Lt Charlie Redmayne (1 IG) made 28 and Lt Rohan Master (1 RTR) had the best bowling figures for BAOR with 3-29.

BAOR started badly before Bdr Sammy Kirton (19 Fd Regt) livened things a little with a brisk 29. Lt Matthew Rudd (1 Regt AAC) hit 34 not out at No 10. BAOR were all out for 144, Lt Tom Thicknesse returning bowling figures of 3-13.

After the matches against Wiltshire Under 25 at Tidworth on Sunday and the Fire Service at Aldershot on Monday had been washed out completely, play was possible after a late start at Amersham on Tuesday.

In a match reduced from 55 to 45 overs Bucks Under 25 were comfortably defeated. The Army were all out for 196 with Lamb (30) and Cotterill (26) giving the innings a sound start. Cpl Andy Ingham was top scorer with 45 and Fleming hit a whirlwind 41 including five sixes.

Like BAOR, Bucks were never in the hunt and were all out for 155. The Army used six bowlers all of whom got wickets. LCpl Simon Gill (414 Tk Tptr Unit) took 3-39 but the most economical figures were achieved by Pte Greg Taylor (1 Green Howards) with 2-9 in his nine overs.

On Wednesday the match against Sandhurst was rained off so the Army's preparations for the Under 25 Inter-Service Festival at Portsmouth on July 8-10 were somewhat curtailed.

Seven Under 25 players were however included in the Army senior side against Sussex 2nd XI at Hove the following day.

The match was, almost inevitably, reduced from 55 to 51 overs by rain.

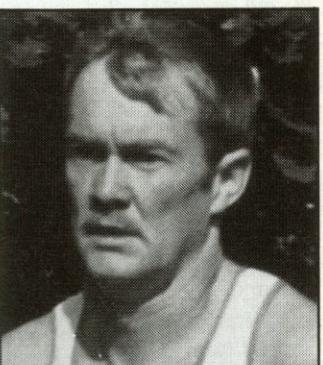
Against some hostile bowling the Army could only manage 129. Lt Julian Barrett (Light Div Depot) top scored with 35 and Lamb made 26 and Summersgill 21.

Sussex included a number of 1st XI players in their side and had no difficulty in winning by eight wickets.

Barrett was also in the runs the previous week scoring 69 not out in the combined Services' second innings against Oxford University at Aldershot. An Army player was also top scorer in the first innings, Lt Peter Germain (1 PWO) making 57.

In a game reduced from three days to two by the weather Combined Services did well almost to achieve a spectacular victory.

They made 201 and 135-6 declared and Oxford made 130 and 114-9.



David in Moscow marathon

SGT David Carr, one of the Army's top distance runners, is flying to Moscow this month to take part in the Moscow International Peace Marathon 1988.

Sgt Carr, who will be the first British soldier to run in the Moscow marathon, is serving with the 7th Signal Regiment at Herford in West Germany.

An experienced runner, Sgt Carr has represented the Army and the Combined Services in marathon events and has taken part in the Berlin, Hong Kong, London and New York marathons.

He will spend four days in Moscow and run the marathon as an individual entrant.

Sapper sailors

FIVE members of Hameln based 35 Engr Regt went to Kiel for the RE regatta and quickly found their sea legs. They won the overall trophy, the offshore trophy, and the best helmsman award.

Army athletes set for Seoul

OLYMPIC athletes SSgt Kriss Akabusi and Sgt Raymond Williams are in good shape for this summer's Games at Seoul, South Korea.

Akabusi, silver medalist in the 4 x 400m relay at the last Olympic Games, and Sgt Raymond Williams, weightlifting gold medalist at the 1986 Commonwealth Games, are both APTC attached to 53 Port Support Squadron RCT based at Marchwood, near Southampton.

Sgt Williams (28), holder of three Welsh records including the 165 kilo clean and jerk, has moved up a class from 60 to 67 kilogrammes.

Just 5ft 2in tall and weighing 8½ stones, Sgt Williams is able to lift 26 stones - "about the same as Big Daddy and Lester Piggott together!"

He transferred to the PT corps five years ago from the 1st Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers and told SOLDIER he has high hopes for this, his

first Olympic Games.

SSgt Akabusi, whose Seoul selection depended on his performances at the AAA championships in Birmingham on August 5-7, was bronze medalist in the 1983 World Championships at Helsinki, silver medalist at Los Angeles in 1984 and gold medalist in the 4 x 400m relay at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Enlisted into the Royal Signals as a junior signaller in

1975, Akabusi (29), transferred to the APTC in 1981. He is now running the gymnasium at Marchwood.

Two other Army athletes have an outstanding chance of gaining Olympic selection if they confirm their fine current form at the AAA championships. Cpl Clarence Calender, 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt, and Cpl Lenny Paul, 3 R Anglian, have lifted themselves into the top band of British sprinters.

South Pacific crossing

the hard way!

THE ROUTE across the South Pacific which the yachts in Leg 10 of Australian Adventure 88 were to sail is traditionally called "the wrong way". Yachts nearly always sail in the opposite direction due to the prevailing winds. It was to be the most exciting leg of the expedition to date.

With more than 5,000 miles of sailing ahead of them and knowing fresh water would be a problem, both yachts had been fitted with reverse osmosis water makers which produce 15 gallons an hour.

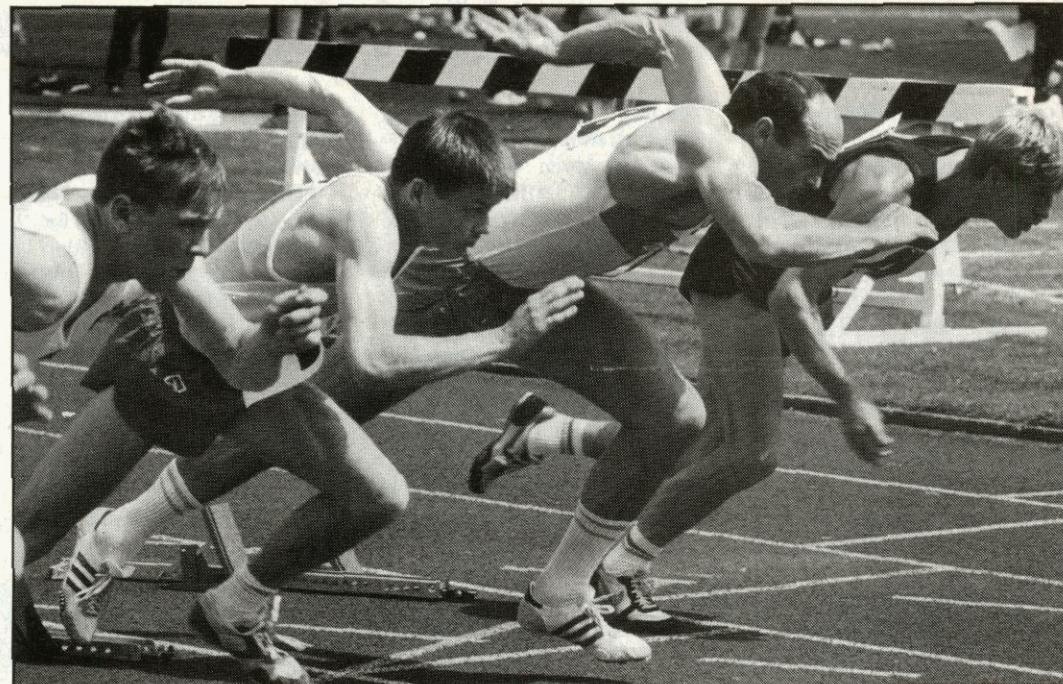
Sabre suffered a rigging failure when one of the wire supports to the mast parted and she limped towards the Gambier Islands.

Broken rigging was measured and assessed and details relayed to JSASTC at Gosport, Hants. Meanwhile Adventure decided to sail for Pitcairn and Easter Islands.

The replacement equipment finally arrived, and Sabre finally set sail for Pitcairn.

The main problem that the crew had to contend with was the constant heat - sailing close to the equator with the deck no cooler than 90.

After being at sea for 40 days and living on board for 61, Sabre and Adventure eventually sailed into Panama where they were taken to the US Naval Base Rodman.



They're off

Picture: Mike Weston

Nearly the champs

ARMY darts players from Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, Wiltshire, 29 Regt RCT, South Cerney, Gloucestershire, and 8 Sig Regt "schoolies" from Catterick Garrison, finished among the top eight teams in the 1988 Naafi-Carlsberg national team darts championships.

In the grand finals at The Spotlight Club, RAF Brize Norton, the Catterick side - Barry Robson, Richard Hanna, Mick Thompson, and Shazza Mazia - lost their quarter-final to RAF Swinderby, while the

Netheravon side - Cpl Bob Hyndman, Cliff Reavey, Pete Deaville, and Gary Lewis - lost their quarter-final match to seamen from The Drumforn Club, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire. The seamen went on to beat the POs' Mess, HMS Collingwood, Hants, 3-0 in the final.

The competition attracted nearly 200 teams from Naafi clubs and messes in the UK.

Gurkhas score again

THE Gurkha Demo Coy of the NCOs' Tactical Wing, School of Infantry, Brecon has won for the fifth consecutive year the championship title in the Wales Skill-at-Arms Meeting. The Gurkhas were brilliantly led by 2/c Capt (QGO) Machindrabahadur Rai, 10 GR who won every event except the falling plate.

● The 4th Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment became the champion TA unit in the Western District Skill-at-Arms Meeting - just 29 days after it came into existence.

Who pulled the plug?

THE training of a team of would-be Channel swimmers from Sandhurst ran into trouble - and in some degree out of water - during their preparation.

The level of water in the lower lake opposite Old College at Sandhurst dropped by about three feet.

"It's been like writhing in mud," said Capt Robert Herring, RAOC, who is leading the team.

Capt Herring, the Army triathlon champion, recalled the lake falling mysteriously in the same manner when the swimming championships were held there two years ago.

"You could have almost run round it, never mind swim round it," he said.

One theory is that the water flow fluctuates due to control exercised by the local authorities.

There will be no shortage, however, in the Channel. The team, of five cadets and Capt Herring, was setting out on August 7. The aim is to raise money through sponsorship for Child Line.



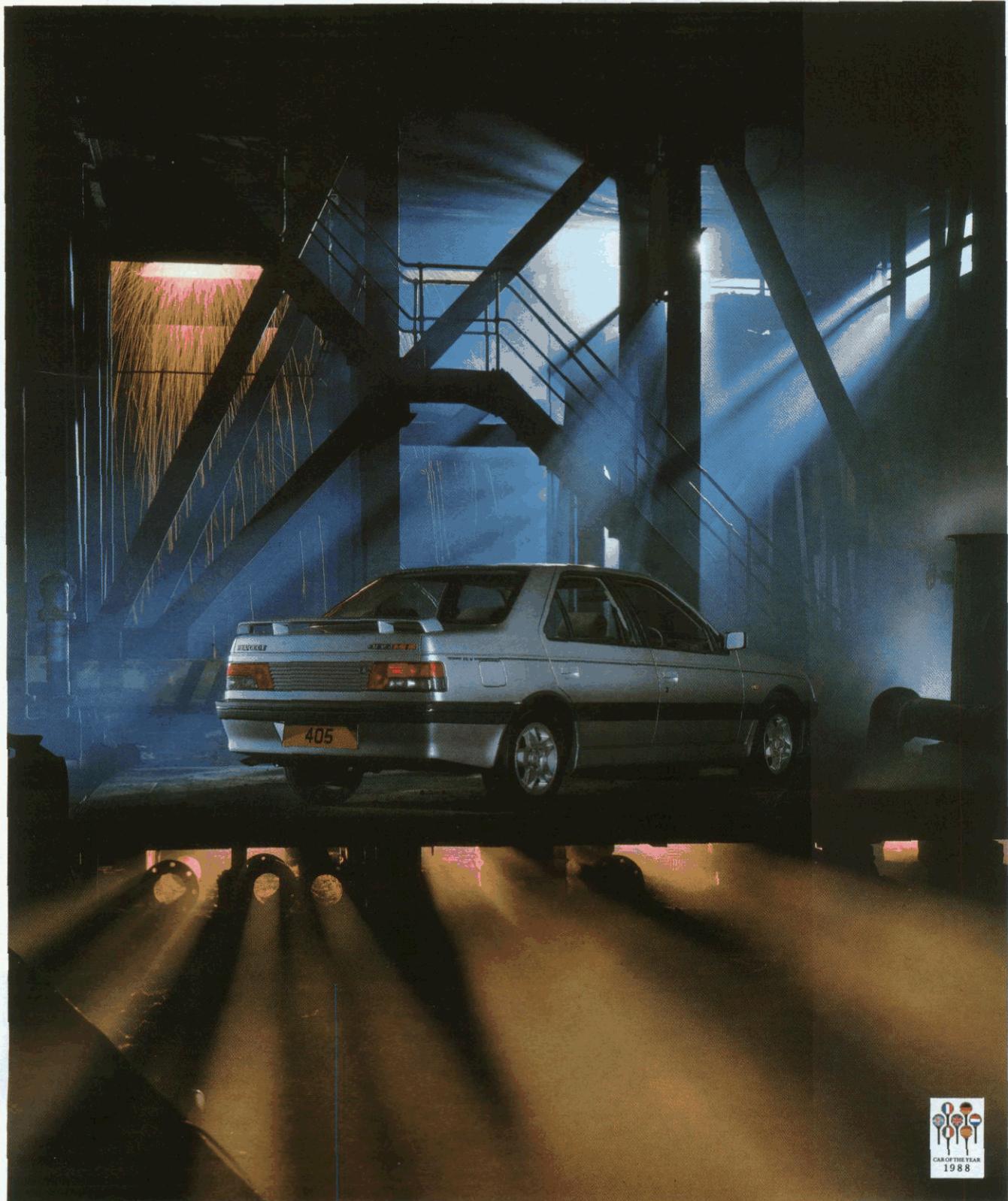
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SOLDIER

MILAN ON SPARTAN

Spartan with a punch pictured at the UKLF Milan Concentration at Otterburn. Mechanised and armoured infantry battalions each have a Milan Mobile Section of four vehicles mounting the Milan Compact Turret. The missiles are fired from within. Vehicles retire into cover to reload.

Picture: Mike Perring

