

SOLDIER

15 DECEMBER 1986

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FRONT COVER – Santa has a long way to go to visit men of 1 Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, some of whom are pictured lending a touch of festive charm to the bleak Falkland Islands' landscape.

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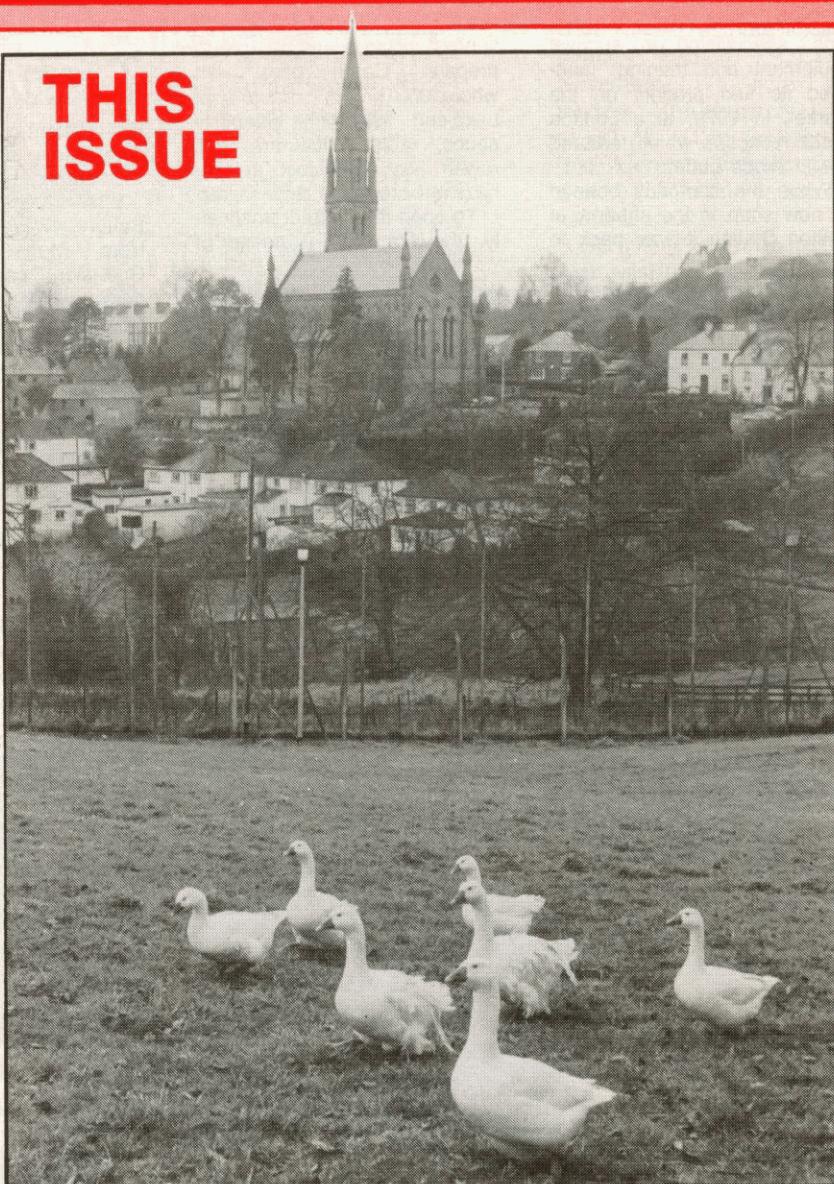
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

THIS ISSUE



Lt Col Edmund Hudson's geese do point duty in the grounds of his 8 UDR battalion headquarters at Dungannon, Northern Ireland. Their owner, a self confessed frustrated farmer, claims they are a useful addition to his base security.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of SOLDIER will appear in the first week of January. It will contain features on the Army in the Oman and the Falkland Islands.

Food for thought

Survival to most people in central London probably means fighting their way through the commuter rush to work each weekday. But to a firm founded by ex-Royal Signals Captain Nick Steven when he was still in the Army in 1979 it means something entirely different.

Nick's company, Survival Aids, specialising in survival equipment and training, launched its first product on the market, in 1979, at a London Press reception which featured a wild foods buffet.

When the company opened its new shop in the shadow of Euston Station it was back to

nature again, although the quality of the cuisine was considerably better than a survival victim would be able to prepare. Game pâté with wholenut bread, sauté of Lakeland fish with blueberry sauce, rabbit à-la-snare with rowan jelly, toadstool quiche, hazelnut meringue and so on.

To open the shop dramatically, the firm had a posse of

Bangers and mash?

WARNING POTATOES HANDLE WITH CARE

Seen on a 25kg bag of potatoes in Berkhamsted High Street, Herts, by reader Mr Sydney Reynolds of Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted. Could it, he asks, conceal a new cut-price weapon system? If so, have we had our chips...?

abseilers dropping from the top of the multi-storey British Rail headquarters opposite.

T-shirts

Remember SOLDIER's shirt competition, run in conjunction with Interprint.

LBdr Wostcroft of 21 AD Battery, 47 Field Regiment RA, from Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh, came up with a design which included a bird of prey attacking a mouse on top of a beer can. It wins him a dozen sweatshirts printed by Interprint with his design.

Runners-up prizes, of a dozen printed T-shirts, go to Pte T Simpson of D Coy, 3 Yorks, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, and to SSgt S C Prowse, assistant rugby officer of St Tonis Tigers RFC, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment in Germany.

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

Stocking filler!

There's a Christmas present of £50 on its way to Huddersfield for the lucky winner of SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 399.

Cpl D Andrews is our first winner from the Home Service Force. The lucky soldier is with H Coy of 3 Yorks and lives in Back Green, Out Lane, Huddersfield.

Your last chance of winning £50 from SOLDIER's 1986 competitions is on page 43 of this magazine.

Blank feeling

I cannot fathom all this "jazz" about firing squads and blanks. Every soldier knows a ball cartridge gave a "kick" like a Missouri mule and a blank none. — Old Sweat, Haldane Court, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.



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TOP FOR INTEREST!

And the diary is making a comeback

SOLDIER has always been of top interest in those of us older ones concerned for the Army and our soldiers and the transformation in the magazine is necessary to keep up with progress and change.

But perhaps you can help us more – by returning the Army diary to the pages of SOLDIER.

The Royal Tournament is well advertised, but we do have trouble getting the dates of Beat Retreat ceremonies on Horse Guards. – A R Blake, 17, Shears Green Court, Haynes Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 7JR.

● Delighted you like the new-look magazine, Mr Blake. That's excuse enough to award you our prize letter book! As to the Army diary, you will be pleased to know that we have already taken steps to return it to our pages (see SOLDIER September 22, Page 17).

Organisers of military events open to the general public should provide us with the name of the event, date, time and venue, plus brief details of military units taking part. – Editor.

River Kwai memorial

A colleague has recently returned from holiday in Thailand where he came across a memorial stone in a cemetery close to the River Kwai Bridge.

It was inscribed:

"2336678 Signalman E Jones Royal Signals 24 December 1943 Age 26"

A photograph was taken and prints could be forwarded to surviving members of Sig Jones's family. They should contact me. – T M Weston, 21 Rheidal Close, Penparcav, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 1AA.

Reunions

■ Reunion dinner for members of the RAPC Regimental Association at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London, on April 24. Tickets £10 and further details from Secretary, RAPC Regimental Association, Corps Headquar-

ters, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants SO21 2RG.

■ The 75th anniversary reunion of the Fort Garry Horse will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2W 1A8, at McGregor Armoury on October 16-18, 1987.

■ The annual reunion and AGM of the Hertfordshire

and Bedfordshire Yeomanry Association will be held at the TA Centre, 201 (Herts and Beds Yeo) Bty RA(V), Marsh Road, Leagrave, Luton, Beds, on February 21 at 1900. All former members of 86, 135, 148 and 191 Fd Rgts, 52 HAA and 79 HAA Rgts welcome. Contact secretary R Currell, 28 St Margaret's Road, Old Flet-

ton, Peterborough, Cambs PE2 9EA (tel 0733 61099).

■ RHA Association (Trowbridge) 40th annual reunion dinner will be held in the Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, on March 28. Contact branch secretary at 44 King Street, Melksham, Wilts (tel 0225 708223).

Panzer berets go back long way

I have read the article by Mr J B A Allen (Keeping ahead of military fashion, SOLDIER November 17) with great interest. Unfortunately I have to tell Mr Allen that the fact that German Panzer troops wear black berets is merely a coincidence.

German Panzer troops have been wearing black berets since well before the Second World War. I know that some regiments have their own Standing Orders which state that while a tank is moving the crew has to wear special protective headgear and that while doing maintenance works they have to wear side caps (because they are easier to be cleaned).

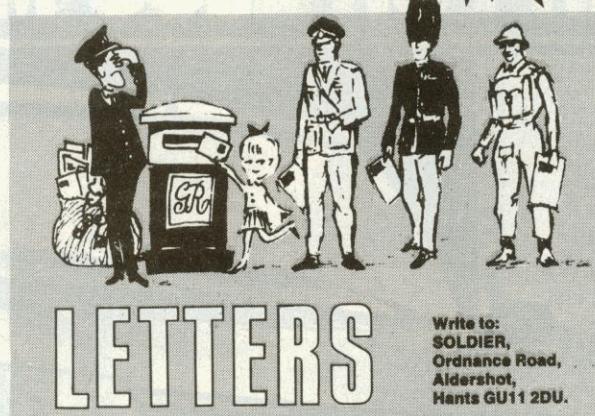
The only other occasions when berets are not worn is in winter when special headgear is in use, or sometimes with the No 1 or No 2 dress, when a peak cap may be worn. The only units which are not generally furnished with berets are TA units.

With regard to the colours of berets I would like to say that maroon for parachute regiments seem to be international because it's the same in the Bundeswehr. Other most popular colours are black for armoured troops, green for grenadier regiments (infantry); blue for medics; and red for MP, mechanics and (since 1980) ordnance.

All the aforementioned information refers to the German Forces (Bundeswehr) in particular to the Heer (Army), Luftwaffe (Airforce) and Marine (Navy) uniforms are, as in other countries, different. – Ulrich Grüne, Cpl of Reserve 211 Armed Bn, German Army, Detmold, West Germany.

Call signs

■ Mr W Symons of 174 St John Grove, Marfleet Lane, Hull, Yorkshire HU9 5ST, wishes to contact members of a party of 50 soldiers from Bovington who went to India in 1942 to form 26 Hussars.



Partition medal

I AM writing about your letter in Mail Drop, "What about a partition medal?" (SOLDIER, October 6) concerning the Indian independence 1946-47 peace-keeping operation in which the British Armed Forces played a big part.

You would have thought that at least they would have commemorated it with a bar to the General Service Medal 1918-1964, as they did with other post-war conflicts, such as Palestine 1945-48, South East Asia 1945-46, French

Indo-China and Java and Sumatra, also bomb and mine clearance 1945-46.

There are two medals to commemorate Indian independence – both for native troops. The only British troops to get these medals were the ones which volunteered for the Indian or Pakistani Army or other services. The least they could do is issue a commemorative medal. – S Wright, Ivybank Lane, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD22 8PD.

RA badge mystery

My father served with 477 Fd Battery RA during the war and I have unearthed a problem which, so far, no one can solve. Among his possessions is a pocket handkerchief with the Royal Artillery badge embroidered on it. But it is on tartan!

Several former gunners have puzzled over it and I wondered

if it had any significance.

I also have a complete list of the actions fought by the battery from June 1944 at Audrieux through Nijmegen and Valburg to Glinstedt in May 1945. Would any museum be interested in it? – Steve Gower, 120 Downing Road, Dagenham, Essex RM9 6NB.

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Now Milan's a ship buster!



AAC pilot in 'life or death' mission

A 29-year-old Army Air Corps pilot on attachment to the Royal Marines as an instructor has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the air for a "life or death mission" in Arctic Norway. He flew in heavy driving snow to rescue four Royal Marines partially suffocating in a blocked snow hole.

Capt Hugh Northam, formerly a helicopter instructor with the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, is a veteran of 3,500 hours on helicopters, a third of them on the Lynx.

It was in a Lynx with crewman Cpl John Carter RM, that the derring-do rescue took place during an exercise in Norway this January. A call for help came in from the Royal Marines in the Ringebu area.

Four of their men had become partly asphyxiated when the airway to their snow hole had become blocked. Two of them needed urgent hospital treatment.

Capt Northam volunteered to attempt a rescue although weather conditions were atrocious, heavy snow was falling and visibility was very limited.

After flying alongside a lake, Capt Northam and Cpl Carter - who received

the Directorate of Army Air Corps Commendation for his part in the mercy mission - moved slowly from one reference point to another. When they passed the tree line there were no more visual reference points to help them.

Moving forward at little more than a hover, Capt Northam continued until he spotted a smoke signal. The slope was too steep to land his aircraft.

With the Lynx's front skids just touching the ground, Capt Northam battled to hold it steady for eight minutes while Cpl Carter embarked the stretchered casualties and a doctor.

During this time he was flying completely blind in a huge cloud of snow whipped up by his rotor blades. He was in the air for more than two hours.

A married man with an infant daughter and veteran of five previous Arctic exercises, Capt Northam, said of his award: "It's very nice to be appreciated. It is part of our normal role to give assistance to ground troops. I was conscious at the back of my mind that it was a demanding task but the situation had arisen when lives were at stake."

He has spent 18 months with 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron, Royal Marines, as a helicopter flying instructor.

All four Marines recovered fully.

Capt Northam's citation states he flew a "life or death mission in conditions which tested him to his limits and would have been beyond the capabilities of all but a few."



CAPT NORTHAM

A MILAN missile speeds away to clobber a towed naval target off Gibraltar as the Anti-Tank Platoon of the 1st Bn the Queen's Regiment proves the weapon's "ship busting" potential from within the Rock's defensive envelope. Six missiles were fired at a moving target a mile from the shore.

Normally deployed in north-west Europe as an anti-tank missile, Milan proved its worth as a "bunker buster" during the Falklands war.

New move on BAOR midwife shortage

A SHORTAGE of midwives to cover British Service families in BAOR is to be alleviated as a result of new measures approved by the MoD.

In future, Servicemen's dependants who are qualified midwives are to be allowed to practise in Germany. Qualified midwives who need the five year updating course can also apply.

The scheme follows pressure by SSAFA and HQ BAOR to increase the pool of midwives available to Service families in Germany.

Applicants either in Germany or about to live there should write to the Director Nursing Service, SSAFA HQ, 16-18 Old Queen's Street, London SW1H 9HP.

● Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire's own county TA battalion, the 5th Bn, The Royal Green Jackets, officially came into existence this month.

Unique Polish unit to be disbanded

VETERAN tank transporters dating to the 1940s made a special trip from England to Sennelager to honour 40 years' service to the British Army by Polish members of the Mixed Service Organisation (MSO), which is to be disbanded in March.

A Diamond T tank transporter and a Mk I Antar joined Mk III Antars and Crusaders of 617 and 16 Tank Transporter Squadrons for a parade attended by Lt Gen Sir Brian Kenny, Commander 1 BR Corps, who thanked the Poles for their "loyal and continuous service".

The end of MSO troops in squadrons attached to 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT will mean the disappearance of a unique blend of young soldiers and veterans working alongside each other.

Mixed service transport units were formed after the disbandment of the 2nd Polish Armoured Division at Meppen in 1947. Two of them eventually transferred to transporting tanks to become the forerunners of today's tank transporter squadrons - 617 at Hamm and 16 at Fallingbostel.

Originally they consisted entirely of Poles - a mixture of ex-Servicemen and former prisoners and conscript labourers of the Germans. Over the years the Polish element has dwindled as regular troops were formed and men of other nationalities joined what was left of the MSO.

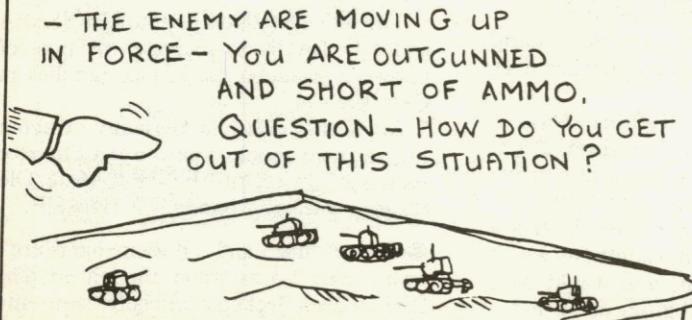
There will be a constant reminder in the Church of St Christopher and St John, at Dempsey Barracks, Sennelager, in the form of a commemorative stained glass window depicting St Stanislaw, patron saint of Poland.

Liverpool headquarters

A NEW headquarters for the Liverpool University Officer Training Corps has been opened by Col the Rt Hon Viscount Leverhulme, Chancellor of the University. The new purpose built centre is a far cry from some of the accommodation the corps has found itself in since it was formed in 1915.

MOBB

- THE ENEMY ARE MOVING UP IN FORCE - YOU ARE OUTGUNNED AND SHORT OF AMMO. QUESTION - HOW DO YOU GET OUT OF THIS SITUATION?



Army returns fire

THE ARMY has fired off a few of its own verbal salvos in reply to those launched by prematurely nervous and annoyed citizens in four villages which will flank a proposed fighting village at Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain, writes Graham Smith.

The FIBUA - Fighting in Built Up Area - 30-acre complex is due to be built in autumn 1987 and will take two years to complete.

Now, a clamour of protest has arisen in what some of the media have dubbed the "nightmare" triangle - the villages of Chitterne, Tilshead, Orcheston and Shrewton.

Local people are claiming there will be increased noise coming from the site, modelled on a village in Lower Saxony and

comprising about 75 houses, four farms, 15 barn/industrial buildings, four shops and two private garage blocks.

Criticism has been fired from all sides at the Army, including some from former officers now working and living amid the Wiltshire charms of Salisbury Plain.

Circling the proposed FIBUA complex, for which the Army has just submitted its building plans for approval, are 11 tank crossings.

But the local villagers will not be disturbed any more than they are now by normal dry training exercises in the Copehill Down area, says an Army spokesman from HQ South West District at Bulford.

Noise by the users of the FIBUA will

in battle of Copehill Down

not be "noticeably increased", he says. Neither will there be increases in air traffic, usage by tracked vehicles, gunfire, numbers of staged battles, night firing, "bivvy" camp or other accommodation. There will be fewer men on the Plain and no restrictions of movement for local inhabitants except for the Copehill Down fighting village itself. That will be closed to the public.

"The proposed FIBUA will have very little effect on those living in the neighbouring villages," said the spokesman.

The spokesman confirmed that tracked vehicles could be used at the Copehill Down site in conjunction with the FIBUA role on up to 120 days a year. There could

also be, on occasions, as many as 30 main battle tanks in the area - not "up to 100" as suggested in some newspapers.

He said: "We don't think there will be any more activity overall as a result of the FIBUA being there. There will be no increase in the noise of gunfire. It is nonsense to suggest, as one paper did, that there would be 340 days of battalion bombardment."

"The FIBUA would probably be used up to 40 weeks a year, or 280 days. Tracked vehicles will not be involved all the time. There will be some night fighting. The Warsaw Pact fight at night, so must we. But most of the activity will be during the day."

"As for some local allegations that we

did not consult with the local authorities, we did embark on consultative procedures with the Department of the Environment. We fully consulted all the relevant councils concerned about our intentions. This happened in autumn 1984 and nothing has changed. We have come up with nothing new to deviate from the announcement of those revelations.

"We regard it as an essential training requirement and that the forward defence of West Germany is the forward defence of Britain itself," said the spokesman.

The Army needs the FIBUA site at Copehill Down as a site for training BAOR reinforcement troops.

It is impracticable to send all UK units to BAOR for FIBUA training.



Picture: Terry Champion

Ensign's Royal debut

A GUARD of honour mounted by Harrow School's cadet force is inspected by the Queen during her visit to the public school. The 370-boy force has been issued with the Ensign, the cadet version of the Army's new SA80 rifle, and this is believed to be the first time it has been used for such an occasion.

Escorting the Queen is Under Officer Tom Falcon, who hopes to gain a commission in The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

Queen opens new Light Division Depot

THE Queen has officially opened the new £23 million Sir John Moore Barracks, the Light Division Depot at Flowerdown near Winchester, Hants.

With her was Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Light Infantry. The Queen is Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Green Jackets.

Work on the depot took three years to the day and the location will combine the functions of the former Light Division Depots at Shrewsbury and Winchester.

The new depot is run by 250 permanent staff and will train up to 730 recruits at a time.

These will include not only adult recruits, buglers, Junior Leaders, Junior Soldiers and TA recruits of the Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets but adult recruits to the Army Air Corps and the Royal Army Pay Corps during their initial infantry training.



A blazing car, soldiers sheltering behind a "pig" - and a prize for LCpl Stephen Baillie

Light Infantry Lancs links!

Men of the 1st Bn The Light Infantry are saying goodbye to Wootton Barracks near Blackpool - but are taking with them many Lancashire links. During their two year stay on the Fylde the soldiers have married more than 25 local girls!

They will be saying farewell to black pudding and hot pot to join their husbands on a two year tour of duty in Northern Ireland. Moving in to the new £18m barracks is the 3rd Bn The Light Infantry. 1 LI ad 3 LI are swapping posts.

'Pig' of a picture earns Stephen the SOLDIER trophy

LCpl Stephen Baillie has hit success in his first attempt at the Army Photographic Competition. On December 17 he will be presented with the SOLDIER trophy for the best photograph submitted by a unit photographer.

Stephen snapped his winning shot while his mates at 4 RTR Osnabruck were undergoing riot training in the FIBUA at Sennelager.

His winning shot was the only photograph he entered for the competition which is in its 11th year and aims to

encourage anyone in the Army who is interested in photography.

Organised by the Directorate of Public Relations (Army), the competition selects an Army Photographic and Photographer of the Year and takes entries in five other categories as well.

Stephen, a married man with two children who comes from Fife in Scotland, is by trade a tank crewman at present employed on clerical duties in the Training Wing, and has been unit PI photographer for 18 months.

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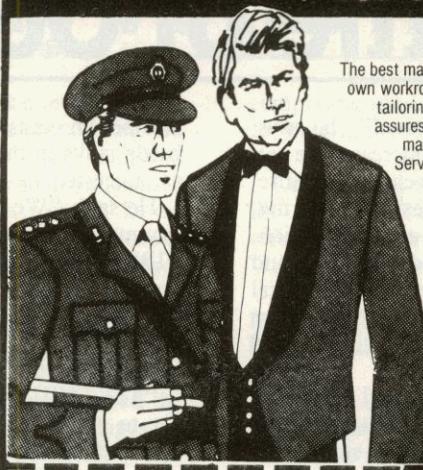
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One of 50,000 names at the Menin Gate... Spr Sean McGachie searches for his great grandfather's name among the heroes of the First World War

RETURN TO YPRES FOR BEADS OF WAR

AN old soldier who died in 1926 from war wounds has had his last wish fulfilled.

In 1914 Pte John McGachie was sheltering from enemy gunfire in Ypres cathedral.

In the rubble of the smashed church he found a rosary and, being a Roman Catholic, retrieved it, knowing it would be lost for ever if left. For the rest of the war he carried it in his knapsack, vowing that one day he would return it to the cathedral in the Belgian town known to every British Tommy as "Wipers".

But while he survived the war, fighting with the Seaforths and as a Royal Scots fusilier, he never got the chance to return the rosary.

Now the string of wooden beads and cross has been handed back by his great grandson, Spr Sean McGachie, at an Armistice Day service in Ypres cathedral and the old soldier's last wish has been fulfilled more than 70 years

after finding the beads in the shell-battered ruins of the church.

Watched by a congregation of teenage soldiers from the Junior Leaders Regiment RE, based at Dover, and a number of local people including several veterans, Sean, based in Iserlohn BAOR, stood at attention as Lt Col John Wyatt, CO of the Jnr Ldrs Regt, told the story of his great grandfather and the return of the rosary.

But that wasn't the end for young Sean, just 18 and a former RSM of the Junior Leaders, since his great grandfather's brother, James, was killed serving with the Royal Scots at the battle of Ypres in 1915 and his name is inscribed with thousands of others on the walls of the Menin Gate memorial.

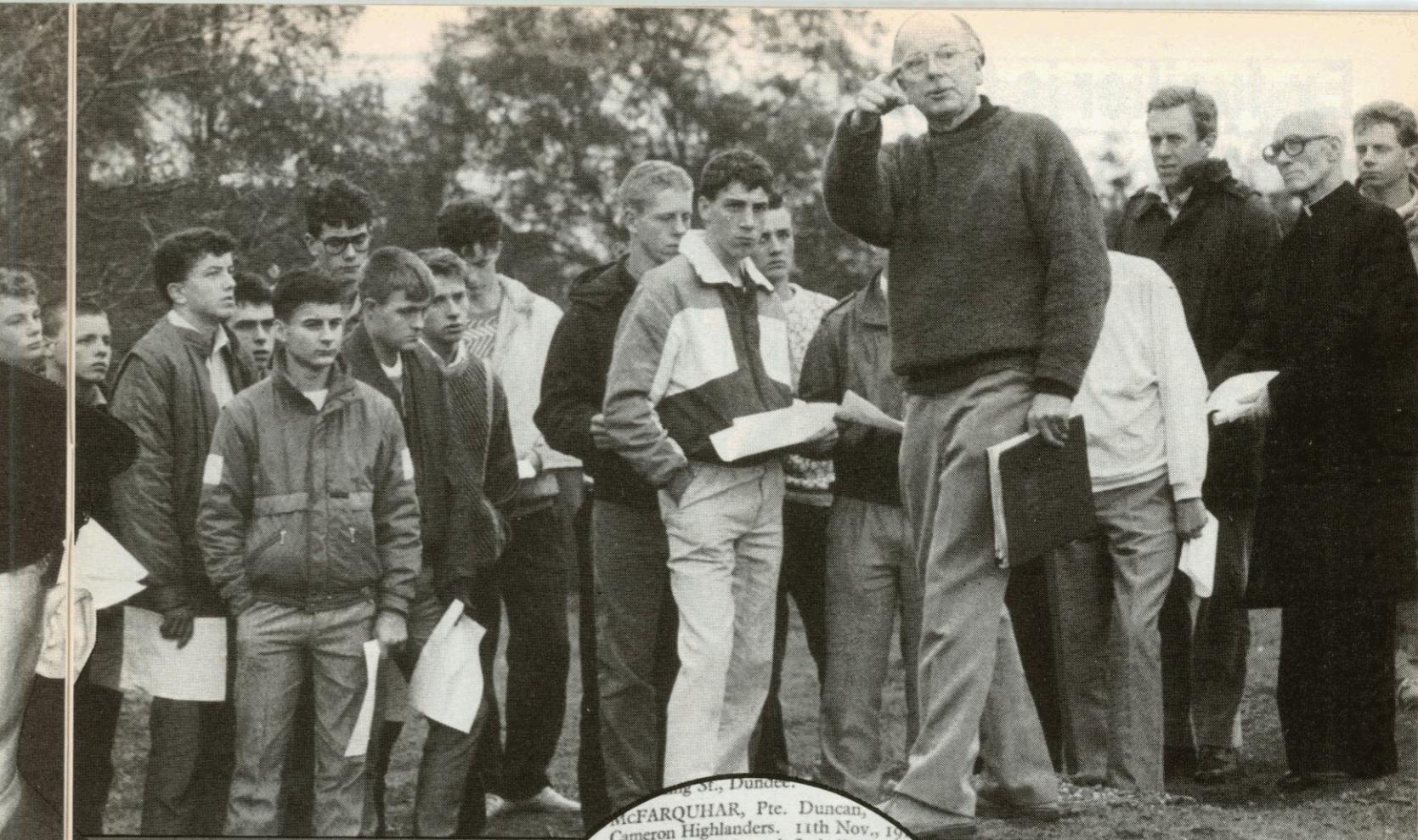
12

his comrades of the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots. Led by the band of the Devon Fire Service, which makes regular pilgrimages to Ypres, and their bandmaster, Sub Officer Alan Isaacs, the young sappers and their officers marched from the cathedral through the town to the Menin Gate.

It was here that Sean played out part two of the McGachie saga by laying a wreath to the memory of his great uncle and

Watched by a huge crowd they stood rigidly at attention as an 82-year-old Belgian priest, Fr P C D'Hoine, reminded them of the battle of the Ypres salient and of the thousands who died for a few yards of ground.

He had sharp memories of those days in the area as he lived there as a boy.



Story:
John
Margetts

Pictures:
Terry
Champion

McFARQUHAR, Pte. Duncan, Cameron Highlanders. 11th Nov., 1915. Son of Roderick and Isabella McFarquhar, 41, Muirtown St., Inverness.

McFAYDEN, Pte. James, S/17048. 2nd Cameron Highlanders. 11th May, 1915.

McFREDERICK, Pte. Joseph, 3669. 6th Bn Royal Irish Regt. 5th Aug., 1917. Age 29. Husband of Mary McFrederick, of 4, Hamilton St., Londonderry.

McGACHIE, Pte. James, 11827. 1st Bn. Royal Scots. 14th May, 1915. Age 39. Brother of John McGachie, of 75, Buccleuch St., Edinburgh.

MCAN, Pte. Peter, 16038. 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 24th May, 1915.

MCANN, Pte. Francis, 24304. 3rd Bn. Grenadiers. 31st July, 1917. Age 23. Son of William McGann, of 92, Lowndes St., Princes Street, Edinburgh.

MCANN, Lce. Cpl. Frederick, 14th Bn. North Lancs. 24th May, 1915.

Above - Lt Col Graham Parker (ex RE and RCT) describes the battle for Hill 60, a few miles from Ypres, to the lads of the RE Jnr Ldrs Regt. On the right are Spr Sean McGachie, Fr P C D'Hoine and Lt Col John Wyatt, CO of the regiment

Centre, left - Spr Sean McGachie with the rosary his great grandfather took from Ypres cathedral for safe keeping... "A proud and emotional moment," he said

Left - Pilgrimage complete. Spr Sean McGachie, 18, find his great grandfather's and great uncle's names in the reference book at the Menin Gate, Ypres.

Sapper Sean makes a Wipers wish come true

It's more than likely, too, that the events of their visit to "Wipers" will stay fresh in the minds of the Junior Leaders from Dover. For in their two-day visit they visited several of the military cemeteries in the area including Tyne Cot, the largest British military graveyard in the world, and China Wall where they laid a wreath on the grave of Maj W H Johnston VC - the RE who blew the top off Hill 60 by tunnelling 100ft beneath the enemy and planting huge mines.

Then, in keeping with a tradition performed every day of the year, two buglers from the town's fire brigade played the Last Post.

It is a ceremony the town has vowed to continue for ever. For them the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month is a time never to be forgotten.

memorial cross is built over the German blockhouse which housed machine guns defending Passchendaele.

"Thousands are still thought to be beneath the fields surrounding this cemetery," said Lt Col Graham Parker, their guide for the tour.

Although retired from the Army he still works for the military in Antwerp and organises tours of the 1914-18 battlefields in his spare time.

Neither a business nor a hobby, the story of the First World War is for him a passion. His listeners on this occasion were the teenage soldiers of the

Jnr Ldrs and they were spellbound with his tales of heroism and his description of the battles... Hill 60 (so called because it is 60 metres above sea level), Messines, Passchendaele, Hell Fire Corner, Sanctuary Wood and other never-to-be forgotten places. He tells the stories quietly with details which stir the emotions. Men still cry when they hear these places mentioned.

But while all is quiet now, the cemeteries neat with rows of gleaming white headstones with names, ranks and regiments, where known, etched into

● Turn to Page 38

Ex-fusilier is first plastic heart patient

A FORMER soldier has been identified as the first artificial heart transplant patient in Britain.

Mr Ray Cooke, 40, who was until September a sergeant with the 2nd

Golf girls take on the Gunners

GOING great guns with the learner drivers of 39 Heavy Regt RA, based at Sennelager, are their two lady driving instructors.

Barbara Bond and Sheila O'Brien have



Barbara Bond

Sheila O'Brien

taken on the part-time job with the regiment's driving school and with it a brand-new VW Golf car on loan for two years from a garage at nearby Paderborn.

The car has dual controls for safety and confidence-building and will be used to teach soldiers and their families from all over the garrison.

Their first "pupil" in the new car was the CO Lt Col Bryan Gordon-Smith.

Triple title blow



LCpl Gillies

LCpl Alasdair Gillies out-piped rivals when he won three titles at the Cardhu Malt whisky contest at Inverness. Alasdair, of the Queen's Own Highlanders at Fort George, blew his way to first place with a sustained display, with Sgt Roddie McCourt, also of the QOH, coming third.

But even with three notches on his chanter, Alasdair managed only fourth place at Blair Castle in the Glenfiddich contest.



CAPTAIN R A SMITH, SSGT JOE ADAMS Unbelievable tri-Service get-together

'Gong' strikes a high note of togetherness

THE unbelievable has happened... an Army staff sergeant has been presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by a Royal Navy captain on a Royal Marine parade with photographs taken by an RAF flight sergeant.

Confused? Don't be. We don't know how the RAF crept in, but this tri-Service get-together came about because SSGT Adams is the chief clerk of the Joint Warfare Staff with the Royal Marines at Poole, which makes him OK with them!

R A Smith RN, commandant Joint Warfare Staff, his LS&GC "gong."

The pictures were taken by RAF Fit Sgt Len Turner when the Marines celebrated their 322nd birthday parade.

...

This rare ceremony possibly unheard of before tri-Service togetherness, took place at a RM parade at Poole when SSGT Joe Adams of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, received from Capt



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Saucy sapper sups on pizzas

SAUCY Sapper David Anderson is a postie with a love of pizzas.

Before his posting to the Postal and Courier Troop in the Falklands, David, 19, called at a Domino Pizza restaurant near his London home and picked up a leaflet announcing their free delivery service.

"Pizzas delivered anywhere," it read. Of course the firm meant within the London area, but the leaflet didn't spell that out so David decided to put them to the test and placed his order from 8,500 miles away for a 14-inch deep-pan Domino Special. He then really pushed his luck by specifying 20 ingre-

dients he would like included.

No one could accuse the lad of lack of initiative or "of downright cheek", as his OC Capt Steve Barr put it. But his "cheek" paid off as the Domino people showed they had a sense of humour as well by packing half a dozen of their prize pizzas in dry ice and sending them all the way to the South Atlantic and a delighted David.

Capt Barr had a table specially set up in a corner of the sorting office and even stood in as head waiter while two WRAC colleagues, Cpl Susan Whittington (left) and Pte

Sharon Gibson, served him his special long-distance pizza. Happily there was more than enough to go round the whole postal department.



Still room at the top

THERE'S still room at the top in today's Army for bright lads. That was the message Major General Gerry Berrigan gave young RAOC soldiers when he visited bases at York, Ripon, Topcliffe and Catterick.

The 53-year-old Director General of Ordnance Services told how he enlisted as a boy soldier 37 years ago and now holds the fourth highest rank in

the Army.

The chances of reaching his rank today are better than when he signed on at 15, he told them.

As a youngster he served as an Army Apprentice with REME at Arborfield becoming commissioned in 1954 and transferring to the RAOC in 1956. Since those days he has seen service in Hong Kong, Belgium and Germany.

SAPPER DAVID ANDERSON AND THE FALKLAND POSTIES

Cheeky chappie with his 'free delivery' long-distance pizza

PEOPLE

WHERE 'MATRON' IS A MAN

The Army's second "male matron" has just been appointed. Para-trained medic Lt Col George Watson, 41, has taken on the role at 201 General Hospital, the RAMC

TA unit based at Newcastle. A former Regular, he left the Army in 1981 after service in Germany, Hong Kong, Aden and Northern Ireland.

Now he's the "matron" and says: "201's a fine unit... I'm sure we can recruit people without previous medical know-how and train them for RAMC hospitals."

King's men advance

SAME guys... different time. The pictures of the young John Kewley and Peter Taylor were taken 25 years ago when the pair of them shared the distinction of being the Army's youngest CSMs.

In those days they had lots to say as part of the 1st Battalion The King's Royal Lancers at Preston, and Peter is his opposite number with the 4th Battalion, King's Own Royal Border Regt in Lancaster.

Since then they've advanced a bit and now



JOHN KEWLEY, PETER TAYLOR: young NCOs...



CAPTAINS KEWLEY AND TAYLOR: badge change

THEN...

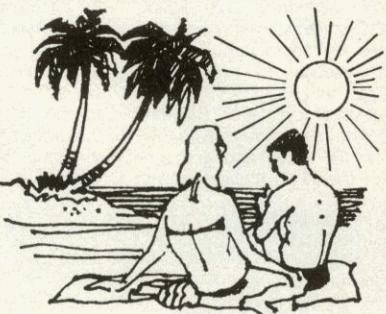
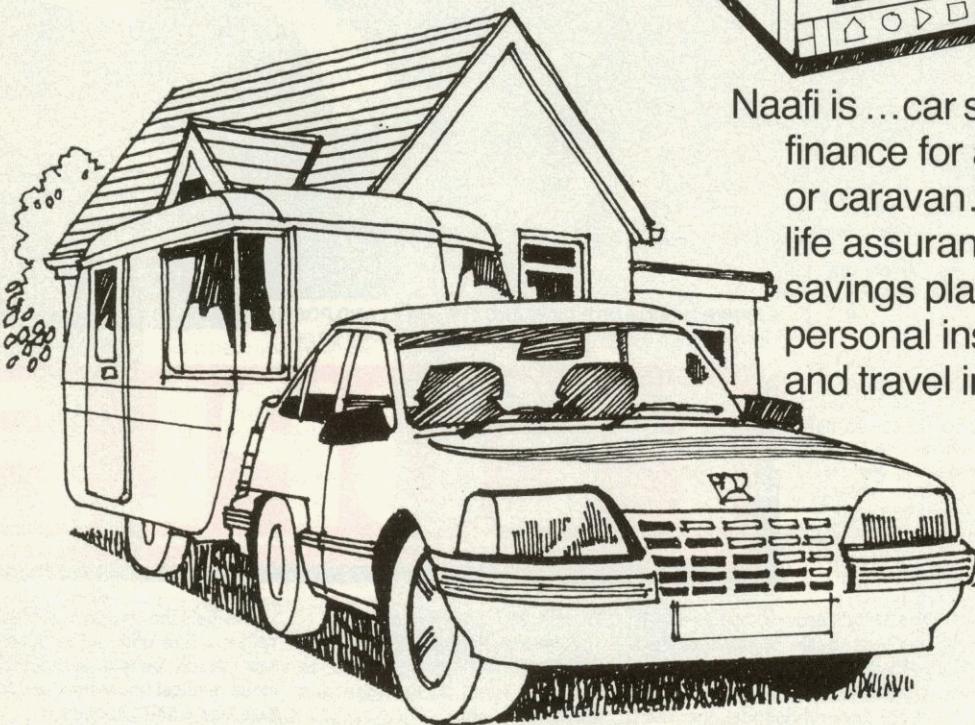
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LOOK! NO WINGS

CHINOOKS usually land before disgorging their human cargo but the men of the 4th Bn (V) Parachute Regiment were keen to put the seal on their annual TA bounty and opted for a mid-air exit instead, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

They were taking a break from the mud and grime of exercising with the British 1st Armoured Division in Northern Germany, and it was the first time many of them had jumped from a Chinook. The experience was, apparently, more akin to leaping out of a balloon than an aircraft.

Pte Garry Heathwaite told SOLDIER: "It's a bit nerve wracking but very enjoyable. You drop straight down like jumping from a balloon instead of being picked up by the slipstream of the Hercules."

The 4th Battalion are BAOR divisional troops under the command of the 1st Armoured Division and on Exercise Eternal Triangle, this year's largest exercise for British troops in Germany, were flexing their combat skills.

The battalion specialises in FIBUA – fighting in built-up areas – and trains regularly at the FIBUA training areas at Longmore, Hampshire, and Whinney Hill, Catterick, and at a number of demolition sites loaned to them by building firms such as Laings.

They are also regular users of the FIBUA assault course at Hammelburg, Germany, a maze of wrecked buildings and sewers which battalion 2 IC Maj Chris Tollis describes as "very exciting".

Maj Tollis, a sweets factory marketing manager, has been with 4 Para for ten years and has considerable respect for the talents of his men. "They are definitely more physically fit and more aggressive than other TA units," said Maj Tollis, "and the whole experience of serving with the Parachute Regiment adds a new dimension

Pictures: Paul Haley



Above and inset –
Soldiers of 4 Bn (V)
Parachute Regt jump
from a Chinook
helicopter.

to their lives. The failure rate among recruits is high, typically around two thirds, and so anyone who gets his beret has done

well and enjoys a sense of achievement."

The battalion draws its recruits from a huge chunk of northern England and has companies spread north to south from Gateshead and Newcastle to Liverpool and Leicester.

This year 4 Para have exercised with 5 Airborne Brigade and in their travels have been to the USA, Germany and Cyprus.



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RANGERS
NAAFI NOTTINGHAM APPROVED UK DEALER



A CLAIM that girls are beating boys in maths and science subjects has been made by Mrs Margaret Spurr, president of the Girls' Schools Association (GSA).

Referring to a research paper by Irene Fox, to be released later this year, Mrs Spurr said: "Taking the results in physics, chemistry and mathematics together it is clear that it is the girls' schools which are keeping the best O Level scientists and encouraging them to take more of these subjects at A Level."

"Despite the alleged superiority of the science facilities in boys' schools, it is the girls' schools which are retaining and encouraging the best scientists."

"Analysis of the results in mathematics only makes it clear that in the teaching of this subject the girls' schools are excelling. Not only are they keeping their able mathematicians, but

GIRLS GO TOP OF THE CLASS

Head canes exams

they are developing them to a significantly greater extent than the boys' schools."

She was addressing more than 200 head teachers from independent schools at the GSA's annual conference at Heythrop Park, Oxon.

But while praising the achievements of the 106,000 girls attending private schools — more

than 3,000 of them the daughters of Servicemen — she launched a stinging attack on new examination papers in English and music.

She described them as unsuitable for the children they had been set for and for the teachers required to teach them.

Criticising the Northern Association's English exam

paper, she said that one of the set works for students was Stephen Poliakov's *City Sugar*. This contains a description of two girls preparing for a date with one offering the advice to "look a bit sexy", followed by the warning that the boy will give "a quick squeeze at your tits."

Mrs Spurr said her reservations about the suitability of set texts also

housing department the reply was: "We cannot house you, your name is not on the list. None of your relatives live and work in the area and the rules have changed. We are under no obligation to house you."

Eventually a house was offered as a "special case" but the widow turned it down for valid reasons.

The council insisted this was the only offer they could make — take it or leave it. Mrs X explained she was not

applying under the Homeless Persons Act but from the council list which allows two or three offers before you revert to a lower order on the list.

Eventually accommodation was offered. So all those on a council list in the old GLC areas should write and find out if both husband and wife are required to be named on the list.

Check now as you never know when you may need to be housed.

WARNING! Lock your name on the housing list

GET READY FOR THE FOUR-TERM SWITCH

IN MY VIEW



FOR 20 years rumour, discussion and debate have surrounded proposals for a four-term school year.

Now it has surfaced again with the publication of a booklet by the Association of County Councils and National Association of Head Teachers.

Their proposals are causing concern not only

among Service parents, but in the independent sector as a whole as to whether they should or should not follow the public sector which, it appears, will opt for the four-term year.

Points favouring the four-term switch include the fact that the new GCSE exams are to be held much earlier. This, it is claimed, will help pupils with hay

"The girls who entered our schools at 11 this September will be young women of 25 by the year 2,000.

"Looking ahead to that year there are three things we must strive to preserve, for them, for us, for this country.

"First: high standards of academic endeavour; the lamp of learning must be kept alight.

"Second: we must preserve the spirit of community in school, cater for the emotional need of our maturing adolescents, offering a caring society with common values which we share.

Freedom

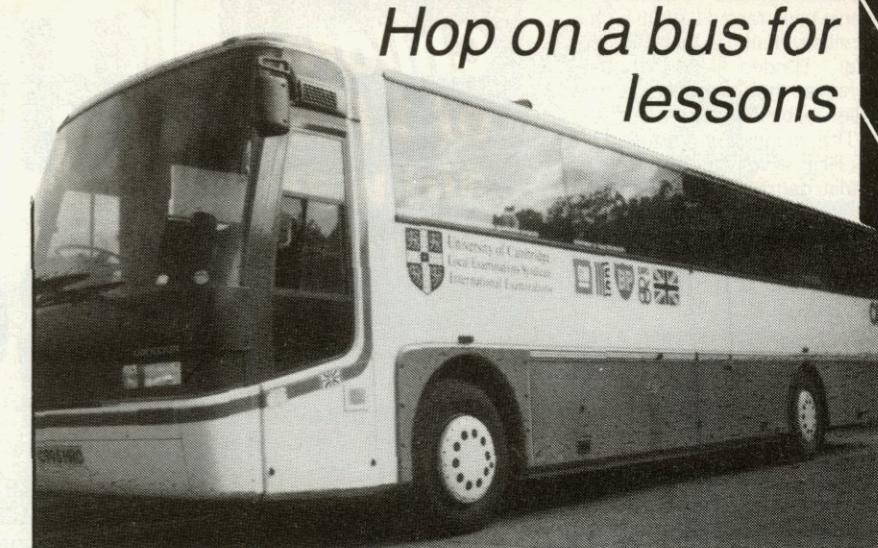
"And finally, we must preserve academic freedom to take on new challenges, new courses to innovate.

"The founders of our schools were pioneers, innovators and we must do the same for our pupils," she said.

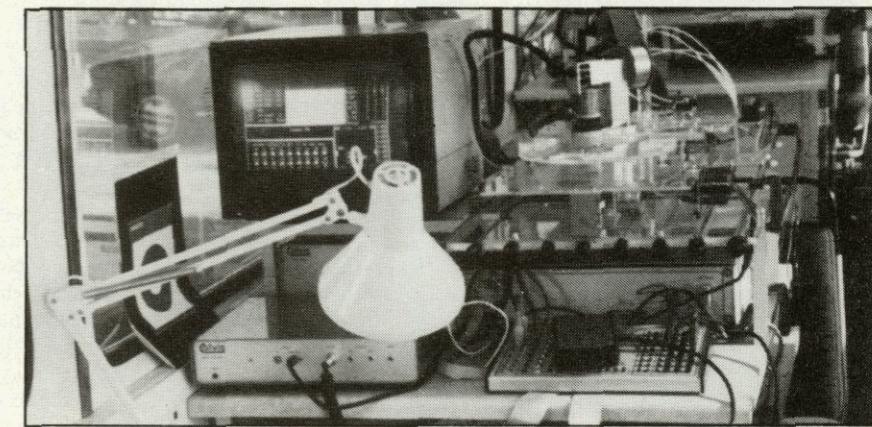
The conference heard a variety of speakers including Eleanor Macdonald, Director of Women in Management, and former staff controller of Selfridges in charge of 2,500 women, who emphasised that the role of women was particularly important in the violent age in which we live and their valuable influence needed to be enlarged.

Geoff Wainwright, chief executive British School of

ties? Not at the moment, even though the buses will be visiting Cyprus and Lower Saxony. As local authorities are placing so much store on these BST



BST's 'FLAGSHIP': heading for Cyprus and Germany, but not to Service bases



INSIGHT INTO THE FUTURE: mobile technology used by 75 local authorities

buses, perhaps we should be looking to having a bus for our schools in Europe as many authorities are doing in UK.

Great emphasis has

been placed on technology during Industry Year and our Service children are limited as to what they can do in contrast to their counterparts in the UK.

Anne
HERE TO HELP



Armstrong
WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

SWITCH

fever because exams would not be taken at the height of the pollen season. The four-term year would also provide continuity of learning so avoiding the long summer holidays and pupils, especially those at the primary stage, losing ground.

Another advantage would be that pupils would have five months after A Level exams before starting university, so providing students and universities more time for interviews and studying options.

The Association of County Councils has suggested five possible term/holiday patterns. All would have repercussions on

Service children for a number of reasons.

If there are four holiday periods — and there would be with a four-term year — it should be remembered that only three pupil flights are paid for, which leaves a question mark over the financing of the flight for the fourth holiday. That's problem No. 1.

Problem No. 2 arises with a proposal to include holidays of two weeks, which would put them outside the 21-day rule.

But expenditure would be reduced on half-term

repercussions on Service parents with children at boarding school. It's certain they will have to find more money; for example instead of six exeat fees across London at say £25 a time, an extra two exeat fees would increase that budget considerably.

This, plus proposed school fee increases being discussed at the moment, and facing a shortfall of 30 per cent in term fees, might well find parents declaring that boarding school education is too costly.

If the day section, particularly those State schools with boarding houses, follows these proposals, then Service children attending these schools will be among the first to be affected.

Hop on a bus for lessons

CHILDREN of soldiers of The Royal Highland Fusiliers in Berlin have raised £1,000 for the Scottish National Institution for War Blinded — and they achieved their money target 100 miles behind the Iron Curtain.

The youngsters, from the 1st Bn RHF which has been part of Berlin garrison for the past 18 months, organised a disco and Brownie pack activities. The battalion is due to return to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, in March.

Julie Martin (17) and Peter Law (14), whose fathers are senior NCOs in the battalion, handed the cheque over at the workshops for the blind at Linburn, West Lothian, last month.

★ ★ ★ ★

A darts marathon organised by personnel from the Army Resources Unit, Long Marston, Stratford upon Avon, helped the Birmingham Heartbeat 86 appeal with a £1,000 cheque for the city's Children's Hospital.

★ ★ ★ ★

Children and staff of the Nepalese houses of the Pestalozzi International Children's village were entertained by men of 69 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn, based at Chatham, Kent, during the Hindu festival of Dashera. The Gurkhas bought a colour

Children of 1 RHF aid war blinded

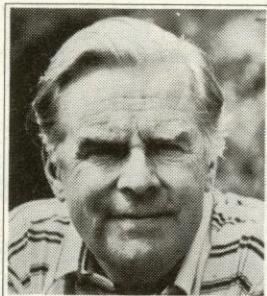
television set for the children, who all come from Nepal and attend schools near Battle, Sussex.

★ ★ ★ ★

A team of nine runners from 2 Sqn, 2 Armd Div and Sig Sqn, based at Korbekke, West Germany competed in the US Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, the third biggest such event in the USA with a field of 11,000 competitors.

Best placed was Cpl Ned Kelly, who finished 208th in a very creditable 2hrs 50min. Heat and humidity were a real problem and the winning time was just 2hrs 24min.

Thanks to sponsorship by Save and Prosper and Townsend Thoresen the 2 Sqn runners were able to raise £500 for the Save the Children Fund.



"With SSAFA, no one in a Service family has to soldier on alone. That's why I support them..." says Ian Carmichael, ex-Army.

“...and SSAFA could help you.”

SSAFA is expanding its volunteer effort in bases, garrisons and stations at home and overseas. The SSAFA volunteer network already covers every town and village in the UK, caring for Service and ex-Service families.

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SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

HOW TO 'SHOOT' A CORPSE

MEMBERS of the Corps of Royal Military Police are adopting an historical viewpoint towards their investigations nowadays.

Down at the Royal Military Police Training Centre, Chichester, those on the week-long forensic segment of their courses are told that the scene of a crime is a piece of history.

SSgt John Pritchard, who runs the fortnight-long photographic course, says: "The scene of the crime is coming more and more to the fore, with advances in forensic science and techniques in photography. It is for us to record the scene and deliver the story from what we uncover."

Fingerprints . . . hair . . . paint (four coats is regarded as unique) . . . glass . . . and fibres are still items for minute observation during the training modules run at Chichester.

During the photographic phase of the course, students are taught how to use the Rolls Royce of medium format cameras, the Swedish-built Hasselblad. Depth of field and all the other camera tricks are imparted to the student lensmen.

It is not a job for the squeamish — as brine-preserved specimens of the human anatomy testify around the walls of the unofficial "Black Museum". Explicit colour photos of the lifeless adorn the walls.

The students, usually of mature years, who are training to become specialists, learn how to track the trajectory of blood, for example, in a hammer attack. The first blow never draws blood. It's the second, and third, and fourth!

Grievous bodily harm — GBH to the cognoscenti — there has always been. But criminals are getting cleverer, particularly in financial



SSgt Kingsley Harrison (left) is instructed in the use of the Hasselblad camera by SSgt John Pritchard

matters and those pertaining to fraud and embezzlement. Cheque books and credit



Lights, camera, action! This is how you light a corpse for scene-of-the-crime photography. Learning their trade are (from left) SSgt Kingsley Harrison, Sgt Ken Askew, Sgt Glyn Beecroft RM and Master at Arms Des Briggs RN

Photography is so important to RMP's forensic experts

cards are the favourite MO — method of operation — to enhance financial standings. Cashpoint misappropriation is another menace which has to be solved by the centre's graduates to the SIB, Special Investigations Branch.

Volunteers, suitably attired, are borrowed for practice scene-of-the-crime scenarios. Most "murders" are found in white-tiled bathrooms — just to

make it difficult for the photographers with lighting and exposure problems.

Military police investigating the Dirty Den case of a few years ago passed through similar Chichester tutorials.

Another graduate who passed out from there arrived in Soest,

3 Armd Div, BAOR, a few years ago to be confronted

with that, he and his students went back to their historical researches of a presupposed scene of the crime that had to be uncovered.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley

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SPIRIT OF DEFENCE 'IS VITAL'

THE most sophisticated and complex weapon systems are worthless if the "spirit of defence" of a country is lacking, said Dott. Luigi Sartori - a former wartime Italian resistance fighter - addressing the Military Committee of NATO.

He has just retired after two years' presidency of the CIOR, the Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers which has 800,000 members in a dozen countries including the USA and the UK.

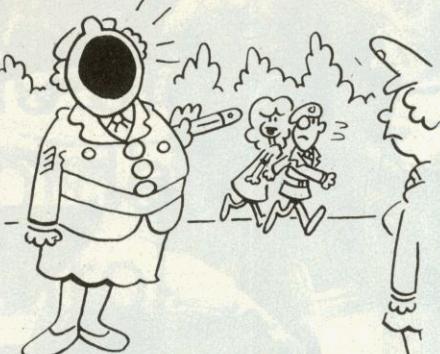
It was, he said, up to the Reserve Officers to carry out "this fundamental task," the telling of the public about the threat of internal subversive actions. The officers were the best link between the armed forces and civilians.

"We must support every initiative to neutralise or reduce the damaging effects of misinformation campaigns which attempt to de-rail the relations between Europe and the USA."

"Few associations have CIOR's potential for influencing public opinion. Reserve officers are frequently in key positions in the cultural, professional, economic, social and political arenas. They can, therefore, develop decisive and effective actions to give correct nationwide information while respecting the principles and rules of our individual democracies."

Among the aims were increased participation by reserve officers in Allied exercises, multi-national use of members for liaison duties with Allied HQs, support of government initiatives to combat terrorism, and the use of members as interpreters and press officers during exercises.

He concluded: "One of the main tasks of CIOR must be the promotion of a mentality of closer co-operation among our members in order to guarantee the unity of our nations and the spirit of resistance against the psychological aggression which is intended to reduce the effectiveness of the defence capabilities of our armed forces."



'That dragon happens to be my mum.'



'Glad he's joined up... hope he chose a fighting regiment!'



'I fight better in bovver boots.'



'Put it this way, if we were soldiers you'd be my batman'



'Nice big snarl, please sir!'



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Above - Sgt Clive Pearce (right) of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) based in West Germany and currently on a three month exchange exercise with the New Zealand Army briefs Kiwi troopers during Exercise Lothlorien.

Below - Lt Peter Eable (left) of The Royal Green Jackets, attached to the New Zealand Army's 2nd/1st Battalion.

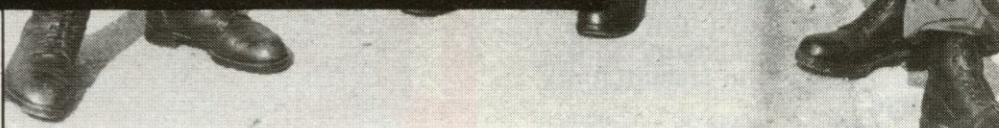
FAR AND WIDE!

Gurkhas in New Zealand

A 135-man contingent of Gurkhas based in Hong Kong has been taking part in the New Zealand Army's largest Ready Reaction Force exercise of the year on the South Island's rugged west coast.

Nearly 1,100 soldiers of all skills and trades were taking part in Exercise Lothlorien. About ten per cent of the number were Territorial Force troops.

Army units travelled from all over New Zealand to the Kumara base camp, as well as helicopters of the NZ Air Force's No 3 Squadron from Hobsonville, Auckland.



Looks good, tastes good . . . and it helped win second place for TA cooks from York in a North-east District test of their culinary and military skills at Catterick training area. The smiling trio, from Headquarter Company 2nd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers are, left to right: Sgt Clifford Jones, Cpl Dennis Magee and Pte Chris Myers.

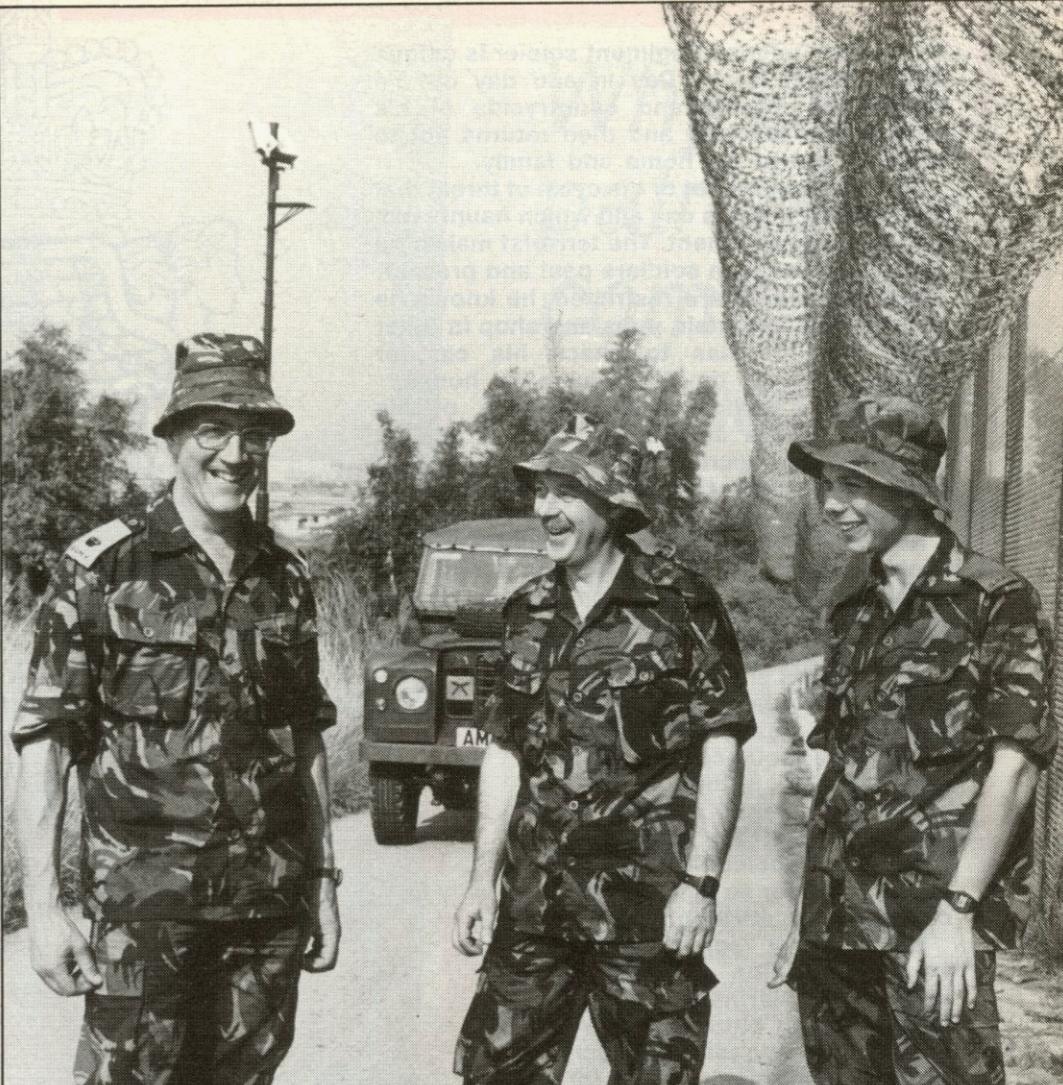
Midlands trio on border patrol

THESE three soldiers from the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry based in the West Midlands had a lucky break for their two week camp - they have just spent it on duty at the Hong Kong-China border.

From left to right are Maj Patrick Beresford, Cpl Mac Parker and LCpl Mark Churm, who joined the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) when the Colony's TA regiment took over border duties from the British and Gurkha battalions who usually prevent Chinese illegal immigrants from crossing into Hong Kong. In the background is the Chinese city of Shenzhen.

Nearly 120 IIs were apprehended while the TA soldiers were on duty, and LCpl Churm was involved in the detection and detention of seven of them.

Three members of the Hong Kong regiment joined the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry on exercises in Scotland earlier this year.



THE Ulster Defence Regiment soldier is unique in the British Army. Day in and day out he patrols the streets and countryside of his trouble-torn province and then returns not to barracks but to his home and family.

He never breaks out of the cycle of threat that dogs him 24 hours a day and which haunts him well into his retirement. The terrorist makes no distinction between soldiers past and present.

His movements are restricted, he knows he cannot drink in certain pubs and shop in other towns and he has to check his car for explosives every time he leaves his house.

He has a philosophical defiance of his opponent which acts as a buttress against bitterness and recrimination and he enjoys a camaraderie second to none which carries him through each day.

Above all he has a love of his country and the backing of his family. The UDR is a regiment recruited locally to meet a local problem and its cohesion is strengthened by the family ties within it. Brothers and sisters, fathers and sons and husbands and wives are to be found serving together in battalions across the province.

The Ulster Defence Regiment, raised in 1970, is the youngest and largest infantry regiment in the Army and the only one since the Napoleonic wars to have served for so long in such conditions of attrition.

Some 6,500 soldiers now serve in nine battalions throughout Northern Ireland. Initially seven battalions were raised, corresponding to each of the six counties and one for Belfast.

Recruitment was high and a further four battalions were raised in 1972. Subsequent amalgamations have led to the current distribution of 4, 5, 6 and 8 UDR under the operational command of 8 Brigade in Londonderry and 1/9, 2, 3, 7/10 and 11 UDR under 39 Brigade in Lisburn. UDR headquarters is in Lisburn, Co Antrim.

In 1973 women were recruited into the regiment and fully integrated into all the battalions. They quickly took on the name by which they are still popularly known, Green-finches, and now make up about ten per cent of the total UDR strength.

The UDR is mainly responsible for providing military support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) over about 85 per cent of the province. It operates within Tactical Areas of Responsibility (TAORs) which conform to the divisional boundaries of the RUC.

Being responsible for its own TAOR has meant that each battalion must have a round-the-clock capability - manning an operations room, patrolling and reacting to incidents - and this was only fully achieved in 1977



by
Mervyn
Wynne
Jones

THE UNIQUE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT

when battalions were allowed to begin recruiting full time companies.

Until then it had been, in the main, a part time force. The increasing emphasis on professionalism in recent years has meant higher standards of training and led, as a whole, to a younger fitter and more efficient regiment.

The full time or permanent cadre companies are equivalent to Regular Army companies

except that they live at home and are trained solely in the techniques required for Northern Ireland operations.

The part time soldiers, whose numbers outweigh the permanent cadre six to four, carry out their military duties in the hours they are free from their civilian occupations.

Generally speaking they take over from the permanent cadre companies between 2000 hrs and 0500 hrs Monday to Friday and at



A community divided - no lapse in concentration as this soldier of an 8 UDR patrol passes pro-republican graffiti at Coalisland, Co Tyrone

the weekends. The average workload of the part time soldier is two nights a week and two weekends a month but it is not uncommon for some men to work almost every night of every week.

In addition to the Commander, Brig Michael Bray, and his staff at HQ UDR, each battalion has ten Regular Army officers and soldiers - the commanding officer, the training major, the quartermaster, the RSM and six warrant officers and senior NCOs.

Each battalion is affiliated to a British Army infantry division which posts personnel on two-year attachments to the UDR.

The UDR is not a sectarian body but numbers of Roman Catholic soldiers are low, standing at three per cent today compared with 18 per cent when the regiment was raised. Despite intimidation and the threat of murder Catholics are still being recruited.

Brig Bray told SOLDIER: "These men are outstandingly brave men

Why boat patrols come as welcome relief

DONNING one-piece matt green waterproof suits the men of B Coy, 1/9 UDR prepared themselves for another wet and bumpy patrol on Lough Neagh, the largest inland water in the British Isles.

Moored at the lakeside quay of Massereene Barracks near Antrim were the Rigid Raiders and Command Surface Boat of 33 Independent Field Sqn, Royal Engineers, which were to take the men out to board and search suspicious vessels.

The unit regularly combs the 153 square miles of Lough Neagh, searching inlets and observing boat and barge in a bid to deter terrorists from using it to ferry men and material from one side to the other.

Accompanied by an RUC policeman, the patrol splits while boarding a vessel and one Rigid Raider stands off to give cover.

Men of the UDR, despite the rigours of a patrol lasting up to 12 hours, enjoy the break from their usual urban and rural patrolling. As LCpl Peter Shepherd, RE, boat section commander said: "If we were not here the terrorists would do what they liked."

Terrorism has become more skilful and refined over the years and its exponents fall into two categories: the republican Provisional IRA (PIRA) and Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), and the loyalist extremist groups including the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) and the Protestant Action Force.

The weapons they use, apart from small arms, include incendiary devices, car bombs, landmines, home made

● Turn to Page 30

among a regiment of brave men and we would welcome more.

"We need the co-operation of all sides of the community but in the face of a complete lack of co-operation from the nationalists it is not surprising that numbers are so low.

"My men are tough infantrymen and they do a splendid job. They are devoted to the cause of bringing peace to the community but we all look to the politicians to find a way ahead."

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tyres – low profile, of course. The rear suspension is a little tauter than average, too.

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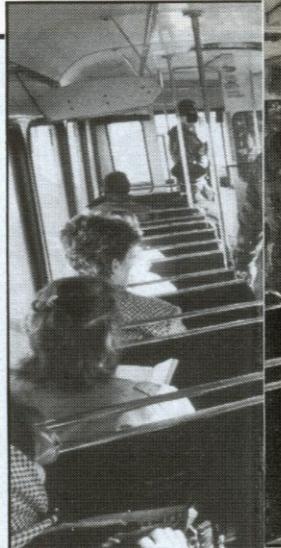
*Ford computed figs.



Patrols are the name of the game – by day and night, land and water . . .



Men of 1/9 UDR patrol Lough Neagh, the largest inland water in the British Isles



Face check – a 1/9 UDR



patrol is joined on a bus by an RUC policeman



Night patrol in Armagh – men of 2 UDR mount a vehicle check point on The Mall

• From Page 27

'There are times when two steps backwards

grenade launchers, mortars and rocket launchers including the Soviet designed RPG7.

The terrorist has the initiative, and the role of the UDR, in support of the RUC, is to deter and deflect him. It is not an easy task, the length of the border with the republic alone stretching more than 300 miles.

Each UDR battalion tackles the problem in different ways according to the geography of its TAOR and the arteries of communication running through it.

The 1st/9th (Co Antrim) Bn has one of the largest patches, including the whole of Lough Neagh and the two main entry and exit points to and from the province

– Aldergrove international airport and Larne ferry port.

The Royal Navy assists with the insertion of vehicle check point (VCP) patrols on to coastal roads and VCPs are mounted on the M2 motorway on the route between hardcore Londonderry and Belfast's PIRA groups.

Because of the size of the patch 1/9 UDR is largely vehicle borne and periodic checks are mounted on passengers of trains and buses. A bomb placed against Antrim courthouse earlier this year is known to have been brought in by bus.

Buses are stopped and boarded by a WPC or Greenfinch, an RUC policeman, the UDR patrol NCO and a UDR

soldier. The bus then drives off and its passengers are quizzed as to their identity and movements while the remainder of the patrol escorts them in Land-Rovers alongside.

An RUC policeman told SOLDIER: "We are looking for faces, people travelling from the hard areas of Belfast to Antrim. We are also on the lookout for arms and ammunition being carried on the bus."

Night patrols and random VCPs on the tapestry of roads that criss-cross the province are common to all battalions.

Part time soldiers of the 3rd (Co Down) Bn based at Ballykinler were told to look out for suspect cars while on patrol and were warned to be wary if they

get you a lot further than two steps forward . . .

found a water bottle lost by an Army unit the previous week.

Items such as rifle magazines and torches are often booby trapped when rediscovered. A water bottle can hold more than 21b of commercial explosive, sufficient to blow a vehicle apart.

Experience tells soldiers what is not normal. A car parked on a verge at night is sufficient to warrant a number plate check. If suspicion is aroused checks are made with the police before calling in a bomb disposal team.

An NCO of 3 UDR said: "Everyone chips in when they are out on patrol, noting numbers and the like. The idea is to be unpredictable and we prefer short VCPs because word travels fast and they

soon find out where we are and which roads they should avoid."

Urban patrolling differs considerably and the men of 7/10 UDR based at Malone – more accustomed to street corners daubed with graffiti than hedgerows and open country – are known as the city slickers by their rural counterparts with whom they enjoy a friendly rivalry.

One aptly named Col Sgt Ireland, a permanent cadre platoon commander with 7/10, described the long hours they put into the job and the strain of patrolling regularly in Belfast's city centre and suburbs.

7/10 UDR, with about 1,400 men, is the biggest battalion in the British Army

and – like other UDR battalions – sends a platoon to Armagh on rotation. There, all patrols are helicopter borne because, as one man put it, "green vehicles tend to get blown up."

The 6th (Co Tyrone) Bn based at Omagh uses Lynx helicopters to insert most patrols round its TAOR. Neighbouring 8 UDR, with a Wessex helicopter permanently on hand, use it to ferry underslung loads.

Roads in both 6 and 8 UDR TAORs are high risk targets for landmines. Routine clearance patrols – when culverts, ditches and drains are combed for explosives – are a regular feature.

Cross-border vehicle checks are made at places such as Clady and Strabane in the north of Co Tyrone where UDR personnel are constant and regular targets for bomb and mortar attack.

Other roles include church cover for security force parades, VIP patrols, assurance and deterrent patrols and black-face patrols in the dark hours of midnight to 0600 hrs.

Soldiers are taught that the six points for success are pride, alertness, self-discipline, fitness, accurate shooting and co-operation – both with the RUC and the public.

A 3 UDR officer said: "It is difficult sometimes to accept that these blokes are going out into a situation where someone might be killed when others just like them are getting dressed to go out to the pub or cinema."

Said a colleague: "We know the local population, we know what is normal and what is not and we know when to show a presence and when not to. There are times when taking two steps backwards gets you a lot further than two steps forward."

"It can be a difficult job but it has got to be done. You are stuck in the pouring rain, wet, cold and miserable and you have still got to put on a polite face despite the abuse they shout at you. But I love this country and I think it is worth fighting for."

SIXTEEN years is a short period in the annals of military history but in that time the UDR has come a long way. However, the regiment has paid a high price for its achievements.

Terrorists have killed 159 UDR soldiers, including four Greenfinches, and 313 have been seriously wounded. The majority of those killed were murdered while off duty, and 42 have been murdered after leaving the regiment.

Many UDR personnel have been forced to leave their homes and employment – a considerable problem in an area where jobs are not easily found.

All of this demands a back-up service from the regiment for widows, families and soldiers who find themselves unable to cope.



REGIMENT HAS PAID HIGH PRICE

A UDR Benevolent Fund – financed by public subscription and donation – was set up in 1983 and now stands at more than £1½ million. Every day the fund is called upon to assist soldiers past and present and their families. Each battalion has a welfare officer who coordinates assistance for anyone who may be in need. Annual holidays

are organised for widows and their children on the mainland and at home, and coach and shopping trips are laid on.

Widows' groups have been formed to offer bereaved relatives the chance to meet informally and discuss problems with the battalion welfare officer and each other.

It was at just such a

meeting that the idea came up of a memento to commemorate husbands, brothers and fathers who had died as a result of terrorist activity.

Funded by the regiment, medals were cast with the UDR badge in relief on one side, surrounded by laurel leaves and the words In Proud Memory and the deceased's name engraved on the other.

FEB 72	PTE	J	RUSSELL
MAR 72	PTE	SLS	TRAINER
JUL 72	PTE	R	MICOMB
OCT 72	PTE	T	MCNAUL
MAR 73	PTE	WL	KENNY
JUL 73	CPL	WL	LENTON
JUN 74	CPL	S	TUCKER
JUL 77	CPL	J	MCFALL
SEP 77	CPL	MA	ROGERS
NOV 78	SGT	RL	BACHELOR
JUN 79	PTE	A	GORE
MAR 81	PTE	JD	SMITH
SEP 81	PTE	MA	STOCKMAN
OCT 81	SGT	JP	CONNOLLY
AUG 85	SGT	DM	TAGGART



He loved his regiment – Mrs Myrtle Connolly with the medallion presented in memory of her husband, Sgt Julian "Ricky" Connolly

KNOW YOUR ENEMY . . .

TERRORIST recognition and the rudiments of politeness are both part of a comprehensive training package geared towards introducing the recruit to his new role as a UDR soldier and a member of the Northern Ireland security forces.

It is essential not only that a soldier can recall the features of a suspect but that he is able to act with confidence and self-discipline with the public.

It is a training package angled entirely towards the demands and requirements of service in Northern Ireland. Both permanent cadre and part time soldiers, to a greater and lesser degree, are taught the same topics.

The package is wide ranging and the permanent cadre recruit learns not just integral security duties but weapon handling and firing, fieldcraft, map reading, signals, basic foot drill and rifle exercises and he must be fit enough to pass the BFT.

The permanent cadre recruits' course lasts nine weeks and is held at the UDR training depot at Ballykinler, Co Down. The depot was set up in 1979 and has been growing fast ever since, now offering a full range of command and instruction courses.

Five courses for recruits are held every year and about 50 pass out at the end of each. Standards have improved steadily. With the increased emphasis on physical fitness many fall by the wayside.

Command courses vary from potential NCO to platoon commander and cater for both

what
every
UDR
recruit
must
learn

with the standards and dedication of his recruits.

Three basic rules drummed into recruits and students are:

- Stay within the law
- Treat the public with courtesy
- React positively in a contact situation.

All permanent cadre soldiers must have served for at least three months as a part timer before attempting the nine weeks basic course. Part timers are taught military and internal security skills within their own battalion.

Several ranges at Ballykinler depot ensure that soldiers are conversant with platoon firearms. Instruction in the use of the SA80 is being introduced next year, as is live overhead firing to acclimatise soldiers to being under attack.

SOLDIER caught up with men of 3 UDR practising their night firing skills on one of the Ballykinler ranges. Their battalion 2IC explained the importance of gaining confidence in weapon firing at night.

Permanent cadre soldiers also travel to England for adventure training - a break in the cycle of patrols and a considerable boost to morale. Others join Regular units from their affiliated infantry division for up to two months abroad, again a break from normal duty and an eye opener as to how the rest of the Army works. Officers now attend courses at Sandhurst.

Ballykinler depot staff number about 50 of which half are instructors. They are under the direction of Maj Richard Rimmer, a Regular on two year attachment, who said he had become increasingly impressed

Experience and skill accrued by individual battalions are beyond value and UDR battalions, over the past two years, have sent instructors to the mainland to help familiarise Regular units due for posting to Northern Ireland with the problems they will encounter.

Medical training has always been of paramount importance but has taken a considerable step forward this year with the introduction of a new course at Ballykinler camp. Soldiers, mostly junior ranks, of the UDR and Regular units on posting are taught how to cope with wounds which might arise from a shooting or bombing incident.

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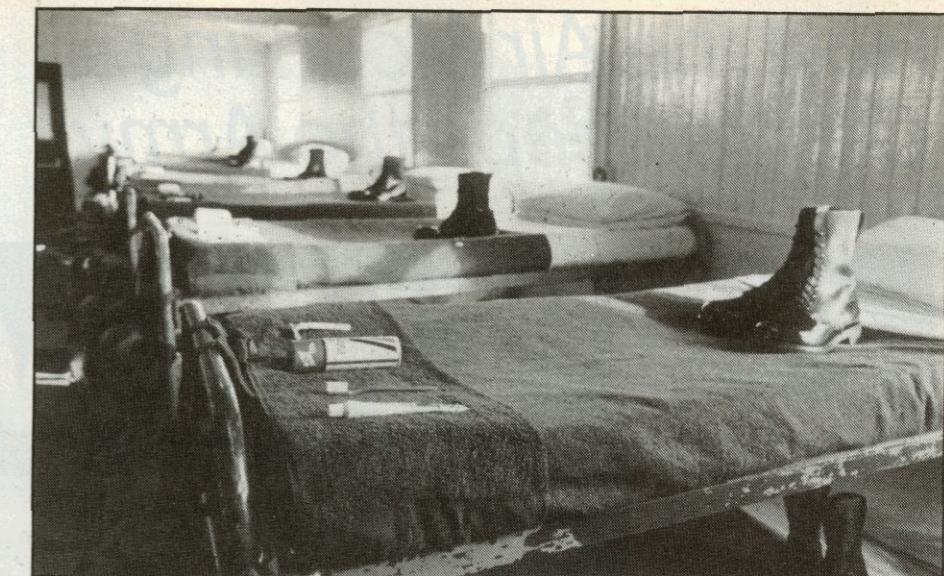
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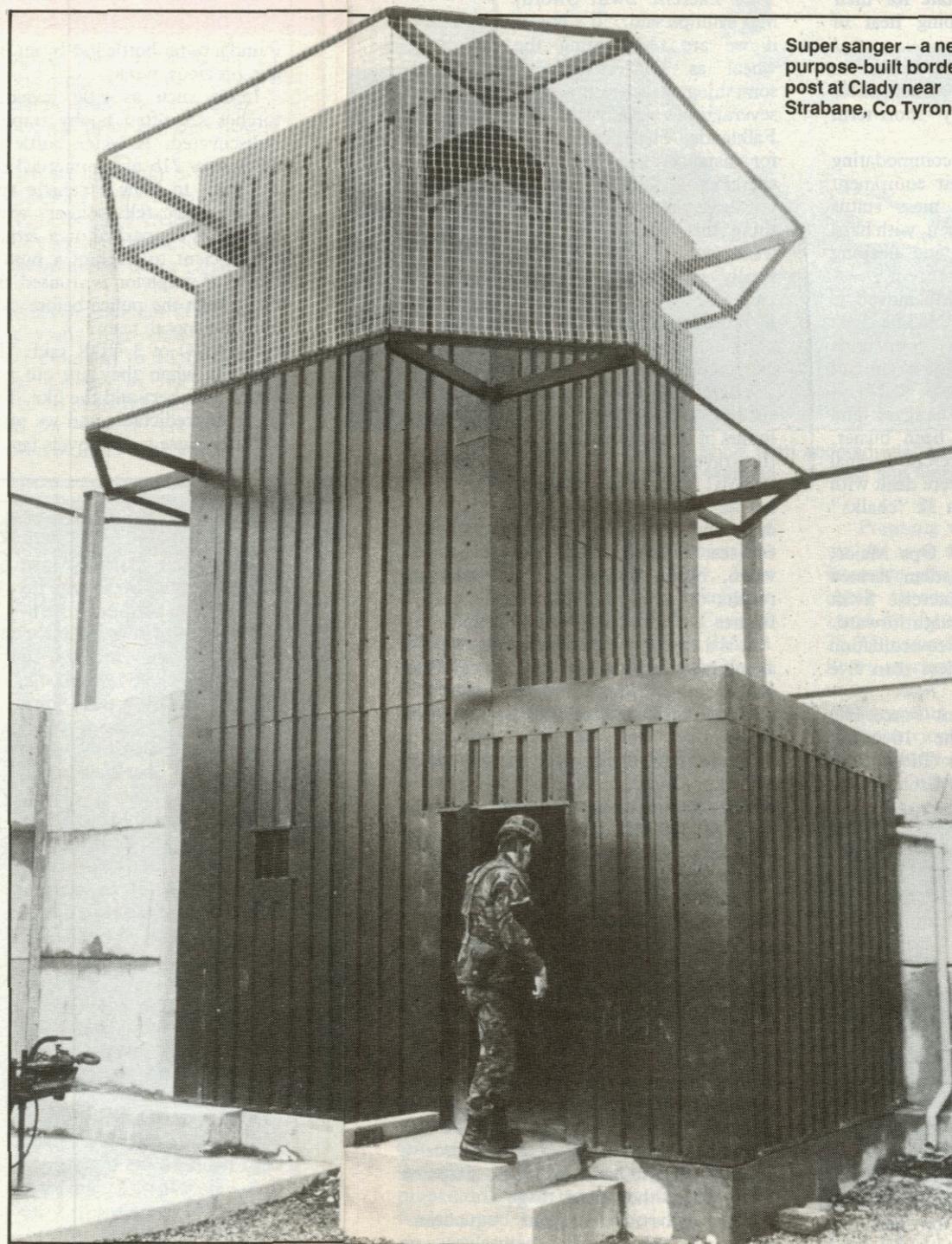
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Front line barracks (above left) for a visiting company of the Grenadier Guards in Co Tyrone and (above) well bulled boots and faultless layout at the UDR training depot, Ballykinler

ROUGH AND SMOOTH



Super sanger - a new purpose-built border post at Clady near Strabane, Co Tyrone

'Greenfinch life beats housework anytime!' says Lyn



Maj Janice Ransom

"WHO wants to be tied to a kitchen sink when you can be out flying in a helicopter?" laughed Lyn, the first woman to join the UDR in 1973 and now a colour sergeant.

"I must admit, it beats housework anytime," she added, "but the only trouble is, the washing up is still there when you get back!"

The Women's UDR was formed in August 1973 to give the regiment the capacity to search women and children and to ensure that the maximum number of men were out on the ground.

Their operational role means they are fully integrated and make up ten per cent of the battalions' personnel.

A veteran UDR NCO told SOLDIER: "We would all feel lost without them now but they took a bit of getting used to at first."

Maj Janice Ransom, OC WUDR, said: "Girls are not high on the target list and we encourage them to look as feminine as possible. They wear lightweights and green jackets instead of camouflage and they never carry a weapon."

Although not taught to fire a weapon they know how to render one safe, and their training ensures that they are competent in first aid, search techniques, map reading, signals, fieldcraft and internal security procedures.

At VCPs the Greenfinches will spend time talking to the public, searching suspects if the need arises, doing a lot of radio work and logging details of cars.

All are trained within their battalions and complete an eight day basic recruits course. Officers do a two week course at Sandhurst, and the HQ Coy of 1/9 UDR at Antrim is commanded by a WUDR officer, the first female company commander in the regiment.

Recruits, like their male colleagues, are drawn from all segments of the community in which they serve, and include school leavers and grandmothers, graduates and working girls.

Maj Ransom said: "There are no problems recruiting girls, we are well up to strength. Many join because they feel they are doing something for Ulster, a positive contribution to the situation. It broadens their horizons and gives them another interest."

How the Air Mounting Centre keeps the Army . . .

ON THE MOVE

A QUIET corner of flat and lush Gloucestershire has just played its part in the success of a British tri-Service exercise thousands of miles away amid the shifting sands and magnificent mountains of Oman on the sun-soaked Arabian Peninsula.

For, without the professional skills of the Army's Air Mounting Centre (AMC) – unique to NATO – and in particular 55 and 59 Movement Control Squadrons, RCT, 18 months of painstaking planning elsewhere would certainly have come to naught.

But is the Luftwaffe-bombed wartime flying training airfield at South Cerney, three miles south-east of Cirencester, quite as tranquil as it appears? Not on closer inspection.

For the units of 55 and 59 MC Sqn 'movers' – two of the four resident squadrons making up 29 Transport and Movements Regiment, RCT – were an integral factor in the nine-day outflow of 1,600 personnel, 83 vehicles and trailers and 200 tonnes of freight bound for Exercise Saif Sareea (Swift Sword), the first UK Out-of-Area operation to be held since the Falklands conflict.

Furthermore, 21 of the globe-trotting 59 Squadron personnel accompanied elements of 5 Airborne Brigade – 1,250 soldiers comprising the Swift Sword's main land component – to oversee movement procedures for the UK contribution to the ambitious Omani exercise.

They flew out, spearheading the eventual 59 sorties mounted by RAF Hercules, VC 10s and TriStars from their neighbouring county airheads of Lyneham in Wiltshire and Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

Eight of the movement control squadron staff operated from the former RAF staging post of Masirah Island, while another half-dozen were located at Al Mahattah, 130 nautical miles distant on the baking mainland.

But the sun-drenched, three-week exercise stint was not novel to the teams of 59 MC Sqn, RCT, under their OC, Maj Gerry Webb. His men, on average, spend up to seven months a year overseas.

In the past ten months the deceptively dour-looking AMC complex lying alongside the A419 has processed 20,776 passengers, 411 vehicles and trailers and 577 tonnes of freight. And those were just out-of-country exercises, not counting UK domestic training movements.

Exercise Swift Sword had, ironically,

one of the less hectic preparation phases in comparison with other outbound epics.

Nevertheless, men had to be properly received, relieved of their cumbersome baggage, fed, entertained, accommodated, briefed, and psychologically and physically readied into a fit-to-fight state for their arrival in the stamina-sapping heat of Oman.

■ AMC boasts the biggest "bedroom" in Britain, with 272 beds in it! The double bunks are functional, very short-term "crash pads".

The unit is capable of accommodating 1,600 fighting men and their equipment each day. It can provide mess status temporary lodgings for 930 men, with hard lying facilities – camp beds and sleeping bags – for another 700.

Such was the case when AMC moved its overnight guests for their Middle East venue in 40 coaches and 27 four-tonne lorries on the short trips to Lyneham and Brize Norton.

It was busy. But the hangars and administrative offices have been busier. During the recent BAOR Exercise Eternal Triangle, 2,500 passengers were dealt with over a weekend, boarded on 38 "chalks" or aircraft loads.

■ According to Regimental Ops Major, Maj Barry Phillips, a Canadian Armed Forces exchange officer, Exercise Swift Sword was comparatively straightforward.

It was a task calling for the co-ordination of the requirements of no less than five separate HQs!

These comprised the Joint Force HQ (JFHQ) made up of the 16-strong Permanent Planning Group (PPG) from Aldershot; the RAF's HQ 1 Group based

at Upavon; HQ 5 Airborne Brigade located at Aldershot; HQ UKLF at Wilton, near Salisbury; and HQ MGRM (Major General Royal Marines) at Plymouth.

Of Exercise Swift Sword, Maj Phillips said: "It's not as if we are re-inventing the wheel as 'movers'. It is something we have practised several times already since the Falklands. There have been, for instance, a dozen 5 AB exercises – 'ABExes' – in the last three years. The only new thing this time is that they went out of the country. Really out-of-area, in their true role."

■ Procedures at the AMC are precise. They have to be, for everyone's safety.

There are three briefing rooms. All well-subscribed founts of invaluable advice for the traveller.

AMC facilities are designed to be of comfort to the outbound passenger. Amenities include a 600-seat carpeted lounge with wide-screen video, Naafi and so on. The pleasing results of a £1/4 million "facelift" to a former aircraft maintenance hangar.

It is a setting which mostly comes to life at night, allowing the tired, travelling soldier to get himself rested before his ten-hour aerial odyssey eastwards to the Oman.

There to meet him were the men of 59 MC Sqn, RCT.

■ Getting him there, however, were the men of 55 MC Sqn, RCT, the base squadron, the administrative facility "nerve centre" back at South Cerney.

This 90-strong squadron, under its OC Maj Robin Hinton, also provides a detachment of five ATLO (Air Transport Liaison Officer) movement control staff at RAF Lyneham and another two-man team at RAF Brize Norton.

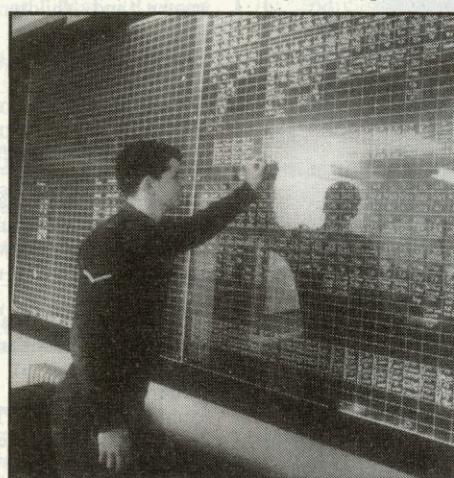
It is a vital link between the Army and the RAF.

Maj Hinton explained: "We process passengers for the other two squadrons here. 59 Sqn for out-of-area tasks, 50 Sqn for the needs of AMF (L), who receive them in-theatre and, in turn, despatch them where they need to go."

The trio of resident squadrons' personnel can find themselves on



The biggest bedroom in Britain! Short term accommodation at the Army's Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney. Inset – Weighing freight before an exercise – an exact and time-consuming task



Lcpl Brian Munro keeps the ops board up to date

movement control duties in a host of places: America and Kenya (battalion group exercises); Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Jamaica, Spain (exchange exercises); British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands (comms exercises); Canada (BAOR battle group exercises at Suffield); Nepal (engineer training exercises); Fiji (company group exercises); Cyprus (adventure training exercises); the Falklands (movement control duties); Norway and Portugal.

AMC's 59 Sqn has three primary roles. One is to support UKMF (United Kingdom Mobile Force) which has its HQ at Tidworth. The second is in support of 5 Airborne Brigade.

Three weeks after returning from Saudi Arabia the bronzed squadron members were due to move with other colleagues northwards to the snows of Arctic Norway in support of the Royal Marines – the squadron's third designated role.

■ All three squadrons have hi-tech capability, including MMARS – Movement Management Air Reservation System – which can "talk" to the Falklands in a couple of minutes, store a valuable data base of relevant travel information and log current and future civil and military flights.

MMARS can be stowed in squadron suitcases and taken worldwide, effectively making redundant out-dated and bulky air travel time tables.

Yet the human element is ever important.

"Prepping vehicles in the quantity that we do is a time-consuming, manpower intensive process. It takes two hours to check thoroughly four long wheelbase Land-Rovers and 3/4-ton cargo trailers. So, 25,000 pounds of freight can take four hours to check. We also show incoming units how to pack and prepare consignments for airlifting."

These views were endorsed by WO2 Pete Bromley, the Regimental Ops Warrant Officer, who added: "You have to eyeball all the incoming kit. Look at it. Smell it. To see if it is gas-free. Checking batteries, fuels, hexamine burners, lamps and even disinfectant. You have to rely largely on the honesty of the individual."

■ South Cerney's AMC is proud of its achievements, its techniques, its men, and its apparently unrivalled procedures.

WO1 Bob Pratt, 55 Sqn's Ops Warrant Officer, said: "No other country, including the States, has the procedures of preparation that we enjoy for checking vehicles and equipment, packed for air transit."

As Lt Col Alastair Adams, CO of 29

Transport and Movements Regiment, RCT, for nearly two years, says: "We must be one of the few units doing in peacetime what it would do in war. Getting soldiers effectively and efficiently where they are going overseas. And then back again. We do it for real all the time."

"There are only 350 Army 'movers' worldwide and they are working all the time. A 'mover' is expected to be every bit a professional soldier as the next man. He is part and parcel of any outbound exercise force. There is no quarter given him. Nor does he expect it. He has to be an all-round soldier. As good as the other guy, digging his shell scrape."

Praise, indeed, for the 'mover'.

The man who is at times the 'diplomat', calmly facing down 130 disgruntled soldiers who have just been told of an unavoidable aircraft delay or transport hiccup.

Today's movement controller is perhaps, more than ever before, a man for all seasons – and their associated busy exercise schedules.

He is, simply, indispensable. Without him nothing military would move.

Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Terry Champion

You've got to be good to join the HSF

THE HSF is an integral part of the TA, raised under the authority of the Reserve Forces Act 1980. Its role is the defence of key points throughout the UK.

Enlistment is restricted to former officers and other ranks from the Regular and Territorial Army and volunteer services; former members of the RN, RAF and RM including former Junior Servicemen; officer and adult instructors of the ACF, Sea Cadet Corps and ATC; and ex-Ministry of Defence policemen.

Volunteers must have completed two years' satisfactory service in one of these services. Those joining from the TA must have earned a

bounty for each of the two years, while those with longer TA service must have earned a bounty at least twice in the past five years. A CO's recommendation is needed in both cases.

Volunteers from the Reserves may transfer to the HSF provided they are not earmarked for a specific post on mobilisation. Authority for transfer must be given by the appropriate Manning and Records Office.

Former Regulars who apply to join the HSF must have a character assessment of not less than "good" on discharge from the Army.

Initial enlistment is in the rank of private. Subsequent promotion takes into account

previous rank, service, current performance and vacancies within the unit.

Minimum age for enlistment is 20 for all ranks. Maximum age is 50 for all ranks (exceptions to 55 may be made for RARO pensioners). Maximum retention age is 60. A minimum period of service of three years is expected.

Each volunteer is expected to carry out ten days' training annually, usually at weekends. There is also voluntary evening training once a month.

Individuals are eligible for tax-free bounty which is payable provided six days of training are completed each year.

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH!

IN THEIR first major South-West District exercise since last year's nationwide home defence exercise Brave Defender, nearly 200 members of four part-time citizen-soldier Home Service Force (HSF) units impressed onlooking Regular Army "top brass" during the 36-hour Exercise Bold Wyvern on Salisbury Plain, writes Graham Smith.

The HSF men took it in turns to guard designated key points (KPs), go on night navigation training and act as "enemy" infiltrators bent on attacking and destroying installations.

Helping the West Country weekend warriors from Bath, Wiltshire, Cornwall and Gloucestershire were TA personnel from 6 LI, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry and the two Nato war role field hospitals, 211 (Wessex) from Plymouth and 219 (Wessex) from near Bristol.

Helicopter airlift support was provided by a brace of Odiham-based Pumas and a solitary Scout from the TA's own 666 Sqn (V) - "Treble Six" - formed in April and based at nearby Netheravon.

Brig Nigel Still, Commander 43 Infantry Brigade which is headquartered at Exeter, said that South-West District currently had four HSF units but hoped to acquire a fifth by 1990.

"They know their job. They know where they have to go in wartime. In most cases they are reasonably local and the



PC 176 Neil Bagnall provides a police presence on guard with Home Service Force members Pte Tom Glassett, a driver from Bodmin, Cornwall, and Cpl Roger Marsden, an insurance broker from Bude

Picture: Terry Champion

training they do is limited very strictly to their wartime role - the guarding of KPs," he said. "Professionally, they have a very good image.

"There is a vast pool of very experienced and very willing people on call and at the end of their exercise I would like to assess further the training progress of the HSF since their

last efforts on Brave Defender 14 months ago."

Meanwhile, guarding a "satellite receiving station", better known to infantrymen worldwide as Imber Court, part of the Imber Village FIBUA (Fighting in Built Up Urban Area) complex were 40 selected men from F Company (HSF), 6 LI headquartered at Truro

under their OC, Maj David Philpott.

Formerly OC of 20 Fd Sqn, 36 Regt, RE at Maidstone when he left the Army in 1975, Maj Philpott, 48, is a civil engineer when not leading his 60-strong company, 40 of them ex-Army.

"We have a tremendous amount of military expertise

● Turn to next page

Bold Wyvern

● From Page 37

within the unit. An exercise like this gives us a target to aim for. We have our training priorities and this weekend is helping to build on them," he said.

By way of illustration his men - the eldest is 54 - had been "bumped" twice by raiders at their allocated KP.

With them, as he would be in wartime, was their "rent-a-cop" - on this occasion PC 176 Neil Bagnall, on loan from Wiltshire Constabulary.

Under HSF terms of operation, they would work closely with a local police force with what is described as "police supremacy". The police, representing the civil authority, would have to give permission for the militia to move from its KP into the community if necessary. The

uniformed police officer would also deal with any local unrest to a hostile, non-patriotic cause.

Another professional, Regular viewpoint came from Maj Gen Barry Lane, GOC South-West District, who said: "I'm delighted with what I have seen so far. The turn-out has been very good, the units from Cornwall coming up here by coach."

Maj Gen Lane added: "One of the things the Regular Army might consider doing is to persuade commanding officers to draw the attention of soldiers leaving the Service to the HSF at the time they are leaving their units."

The HSF, meantime, is confident it can more than meet its planned 5,000-strong manpower target.

Return to Ypres

● From Page 13

the stone, danger still lurks beneath the fields and woodlands for miles around the Ypres salient.

For even today, more than 70 years after the battles, explosives are still being found. "And they are all extremely dangerous," Col Parker warned his young listeners.

"Belgian sappers are still working in the area full time clearing shells and ammunition of all sorts. Only a short time ago two died while handling an old shell. Considering the millions fired by both sides it is thought thousands failed to explode. Similarly huge mines are still thought to be beneath

Hill 60 and many other places."

But the danger doesn't seem to deter the locals who drive tractors with reinforced steel seats and exhibit battlefield remnants with "live" rounds "still up the spout".

"This is the second time we have been to Ypres," said Maj Alan Skidmore, OC 66 Sqn, Jnr Ldrs Regt. "It's a chance for the boys to see and learn something of military history, especially that of the sappers and their part in the First World War.

"Yes, we shall return next year and hope to do so for the foreseeable future. Our feeling is we have a part to play here."

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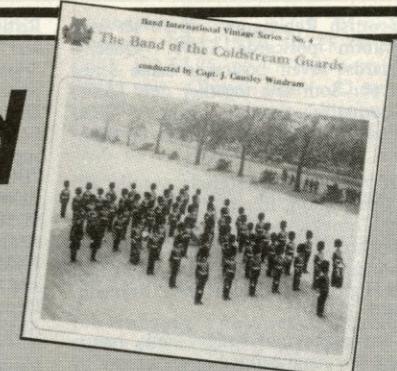
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Old fashioned masterpiece

Band International Vintage Series

Band of the Coldstream Guards. Conductors: Captain R G Evans, Captain J Causley Windram IMMS 4

ANOTHER charmer from the International Military Music Society to follow their recent bag of goodies from the Grenadier Guards band of the 1920s and 1930s.

Under R G Evans and Causley Windram, who was killed in the flying bomb disaster that wrecked the Guards Chapel during Sunday morning service in 1944, we have a dozen items the very names of which send shivers of

- I don't know what, regret for the long-ago? - down this old sodger's spine.

At the sound of this music I smell damp khaki service dress, Naafi eccles cakes, metal polish, and all the aromas of a well-scrubbed and overpopulated barrack room, and relive the harshness of a bandboy's life on three shillings a week. So perhaps the strains of Michaelis's *Turkish Patrol* and the marvellously virile heroic march by Massenet, *Szabadi*, evoke regret very

much tempered by the scepticism of old age.

Of all the pieces to recall the 1920s and 30s it is Carl Robrecht's symphonic foxtrot called *Samum*, with its fin-de-siècle Brechtian gloom, recorded in 1931 as was Thurber's much under-rated *Americana Suite* with its Tiger's Tail and Watermelon Fete - lovely stuff.

The marches are Charles Payne's *Punjab*, Latann's *Light of Foot*, and a medley *On The March* which includes San Lorenzo and Dixieland.

And there's a real treat in an old-fashioned "selection", a word somewhat despised these days in favour of "excerpts from", "symphonic fragments", "tunes from", and many other terms. Here is an honest-to-goodness selection of most of the melodies from *The Mikado* played as we used to play them - con amore and with no apologies.

Windram's predecessor, R G Evans, conducts Eric Coates's spritely *Wood Nymphs* valse, dating from 1928, and there is a typical crowd-pleaser of those days in Dan Godfrey's *Soloists' Delight* which shows what clarinet and

● From Mr V Elstow, 14 Butlin Court, Newton Rd, Little Irchester, Northants NN8 2EE, price £5.50 inclusive.

Mission to the Balkans

THERE is no shortage of literature about the men who served with the British Military Missions to Yugoslav partisan forces, among them such personalities as William Deakin, Fitzroy McLean, Evelyn Waugh and Randolph Churchill.

Even with facts well recorded, it is necessary to put the activities of the Military Missions into perspective.

By way of a prologue, author Michael McConville briefly describes events from August 1941, when news of Yugoslav resistance reached the Royal Navy's radio monitoring station at Portishead, and the operations that started with the landing at Petrovici from a submarine by two officers of the Royal Yugoslav Air Force and a captain of the Special Operations Executive.

It was a pretty thankless task for the Missions, with the complexities of a diversity of aims among the resistance leaders - Milhailovic the Royalist, and Tito the Marxist-Leninist.

It is a labyrinth of expedience and emotions that the author relates with remarkable clarity.

A less widely known aspect of British military involvement in Yugoslavia is the post-1943 period, when commandos (with whom the author was a young subaltern), gunners and special forces were in action for 17 months alongside Yugoslavs in the Dalmatian Islands and Montenegro.

Michael McConville tells his story without writing in the first person but the fact that he was there is obvious. For instance, he describes a festive meal with the partisans: "...boiled octopus, boiled cabbage, and (surprisingly) doughnuts was washed down with vino." How could anyone think of eating doughnuts in Gornje Selo? - BJ

A Small War in the Balkans: British Military Involvement in Wartime Yugoslavia, 1941-1945, by Michael McConville, published by Macmillan. Price £11.95.

FALL OF AN EMPIRE

"THE British Empire of the 1920s was like a newly completed Arc de Triomphe" is how General Sir William Jackson assesses the era in which the attention of schoolchildren was frequently drawn by their teachers to the large areas of pink on world maps. It represented an empire on which the sun never set.

The author also writes: "Britain is often said to have built her empire in a fit of absentmindedness."

Had this heresy, and the underlying dissatisfactions that seethed in many places, been more widely considered, perhaps the inevitable post-war

breakdown of empire would not have come as such a shock.

Gen Jackson, formerly military historian to the Cabinet Office, compares Britain's rise and fall with a family whose fortune is made over one or two generations. The next few expand and enjoy it, but their successors have it taken from them.

General Jackson's epilogue includes a comparison of Britain's present position with her status at the beginning of the 18th century and, in referring to the Falklands campaign, he assesses the advantages of a maritime strategy as against a defence

policy of mainly continental involvement.

As he says: "Britain's military actions between 1945 and 1972 can only be seen in proper perspective against the background of the three centuries of the creation of the British Empire . . ."

The function of the Armed Forces, down to brigade level, in empire policing - and peace keeping - is shown as carrying out political intents. Inevitably, a dangerous, thankless task. - BJ

Withdrawal from Empire by General Sir William Jackson, published by Batsford. Price £17.50.

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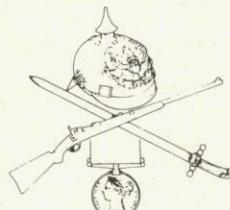
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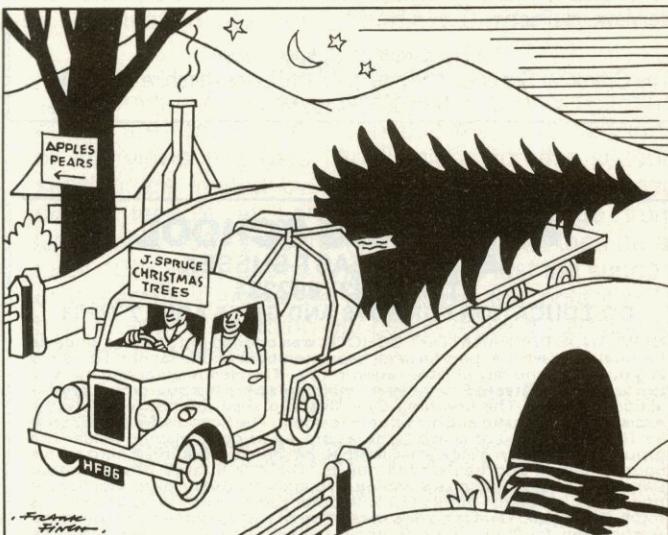
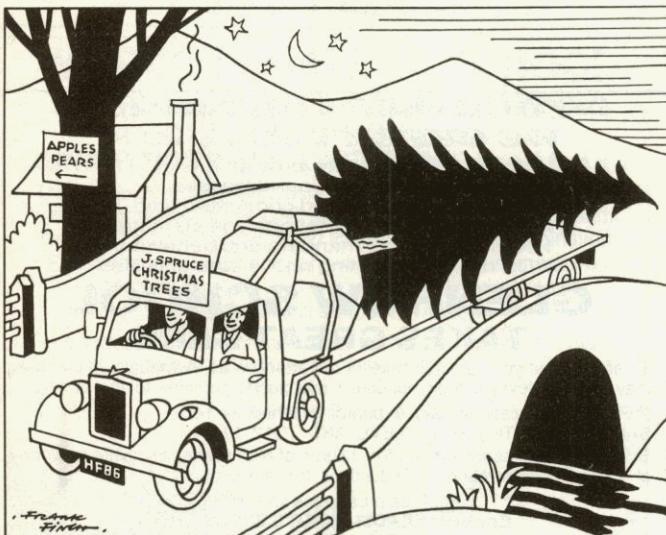
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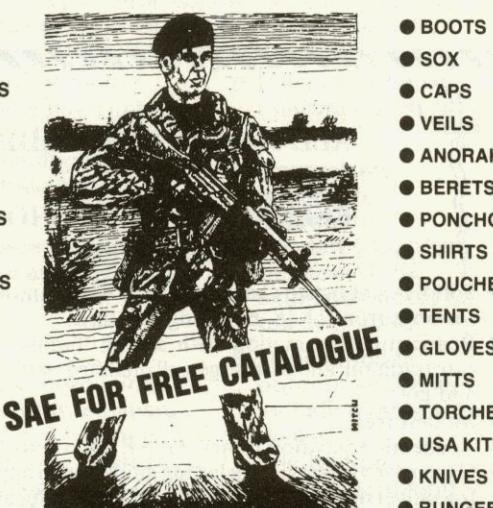
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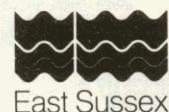
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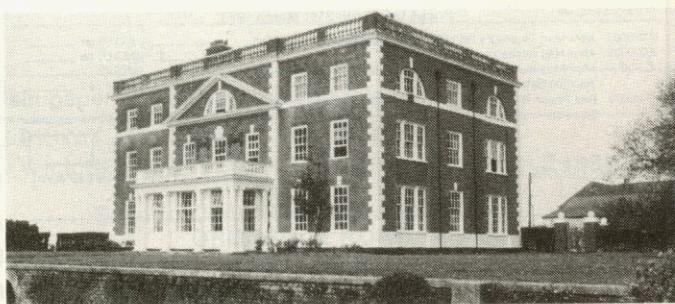
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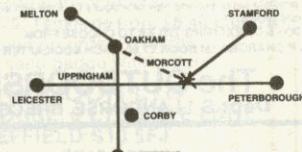
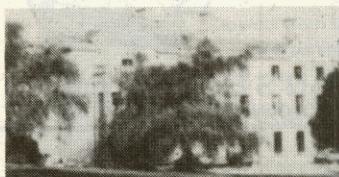
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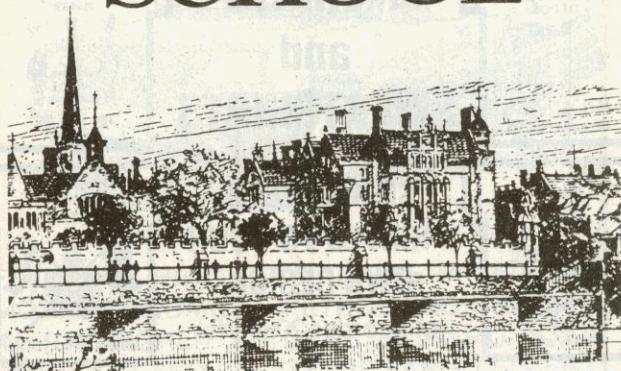
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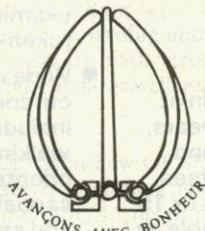
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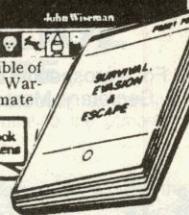
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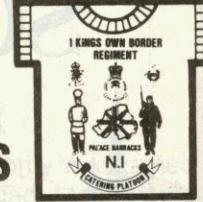
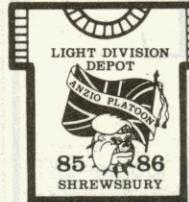
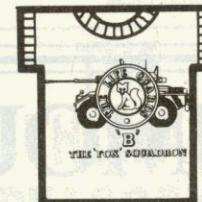
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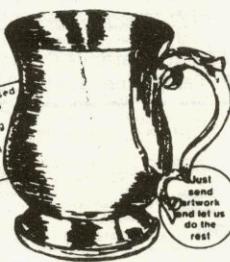
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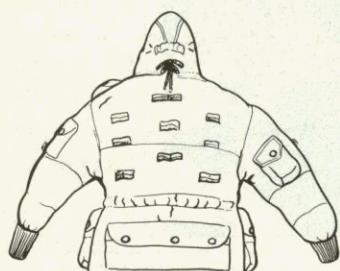
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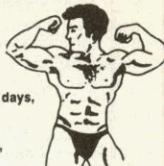
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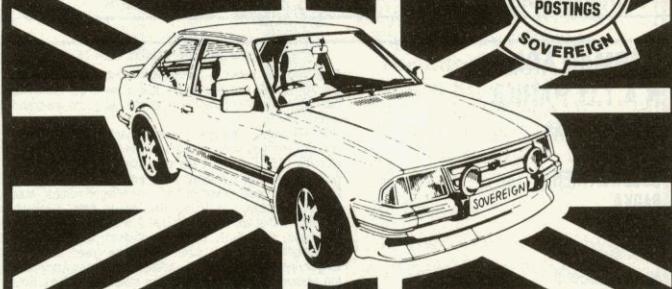


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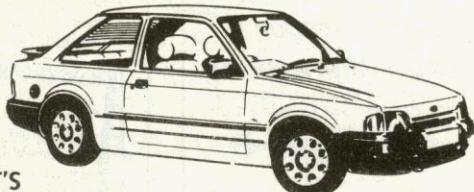
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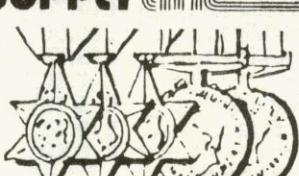
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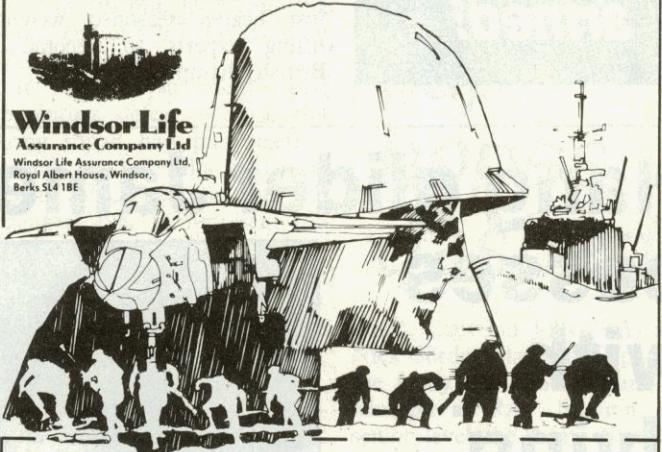
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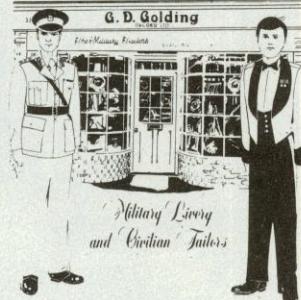
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For 20-year-old Richard, from 7 Royal Horse Artillery based at North Camp, Hampshire, has just beaten seasoned weight-lifting experts to become a British champion.

He won his title in the British single arm championships at Oxford in the 75kgs class with a 55kgs left arm lift and snatch and a 70kgs right arm clean and jerk.

Although single arm lifting is not an Olympic sport it is recognised by the British Amateur Weight-lifting Association.

Richard trains between four and six nights a week at his local Farnborough Weight-lifting Club. He started weight-lifting when he was 14.

He told **SOLDIER**: "My ambition now is to improve my two handed weight-lifting technique and get into the England team."

Hang glider James passes with flying colours

WO2(AQMS) James McMenemy has been awarded the first ever Army colours in the sport of hang gliding. He is also the first Army hang glider pilot to qualify for either the British Hang Gliding Association Pilot 3 rating or the Federation Aeronautique International Silver C award.

WO2 McMenemy started flying in December 1976 in South Wales at a time when hang gliding in the UK was still in its infancy. Although posted to BAOR almost immediately after those early flights he was able to continue with the sport as the late Capt Jim Taggart was already flying there and fighting to gain official recognition for hang gliding as an Army sport.

Returning to Britain in 1980 for his artificer course enabled him to further improve his flying on the better sites of southern England and in 1982 he won the RAF championships and was narrowly beaten into second place in the Army championships.

Although WO2 McMenemy claims that increasing work commitments have since reduced his opportunities to fly, last year he became the first soldier to gain the FAI Silver C, an international hang gliding award. For this he had to fly 50 kms, climb 1,000 metres and stay aloft for five hours.

He was only the 15th British pilot to qualify for this award and narrowly missed being in the first 50 worldwide.

Since 1982 WO2 McMenemy



WO2 James McMenemy - first Army hang gliding colours

has been closely involved with the administration of hang gliding. He served for three years on the council of the governing body of hang gliding in Britain, the British Hang Gliding Association, and is a well known hang gliding photographer. He has also been secretary to the Army Hang Gliding Association.

During this period WO2 McMenemy has not been satisfied with purely recreational flying; he has represented the Army in inter-Service competitions and has worked hard at

both the practical and theoretical aspects of his flying.

He recently sat the British Hang Gliding Association Pilot 3 examination and so became the first Army pilot to hold the highest flying qualification awarded to hang glider pilots in the United Kingdom.

James McMenemy is serving with REME Technical Services in BAOR and is taking a keen interest in the Services club there, BRIFORGE, which was founded by Capt Taggart in 1977.

Signals' lean spell ends

DESPITE losing their opening match to the sappers, the signalmen won the Inter-Corps quadrangular tournament staged at Bordon, Hants last month, writes **Pat Massey**.

The Royal Signals came back strongly to win their last two games and it was fitting that the final game of the week's festival of football was to be the deciding match.

Goals by Cpl Andy Edwards - a 25 yard scorcher - and Army skipper Cpl Sandy Brown - from the penalty spot - were enough to take the coveted trophy back to Catterick following a lean spell for the Royal Signals.

Results were - RE 2, R Signals 1; RA 1, REME 1; RA 1, R Signals 3; REME 3, RE 0; RA 1, RE 1; R Signals 2, REME 0.

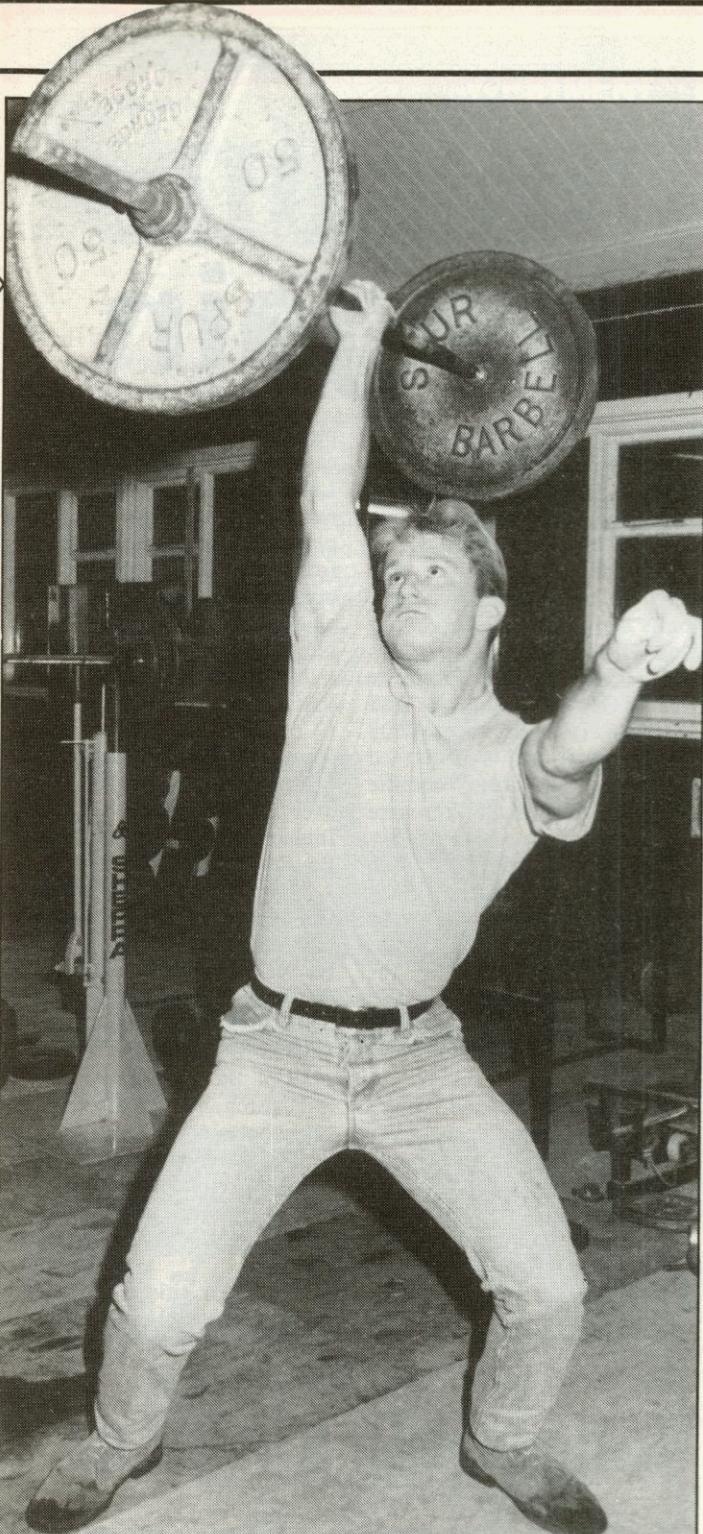
Deprived of their experienced players, an Army XI struggled against Oxford University before going down 1-2 at Aldershot.

They went a goal down to the Dark Blues in the opening half but drew level in the second period when veteran SSI Gary Kilsby belted in a beauty.

Just when things looked to be swinging in favour of the soldiers the visitors grabbed a second goal. After that the students were always in control.

The Army must have wished they had not bothered to switch their match against Essex from waterlogged Leyton Wingate to Aldershot. They spluttered and fumbled their way through the match and ended up on the wrong end of a 4-1 defeat.

Skipper Cpl Sandy Brown scored the consolation goal ten minutes from time.

**RAPC wins badminton crown**

RAPC, one of the founders of the Army Inter-Corps badminton competition 17 years ago, won the UK title for the first time at Worthy Down.

The Pay Corps was represented by Maj Gareth Evans, Maj Alan Lees, WO1 Bill Timblin, SSgt George Frith, Sergeants Roddy Gillespie, Adrian Quinn and Kevin Weaver and Cpl Mark Moore.

Their blend of youth and experience proved too much for the REME (6-3), RAMC (8-1) and RE (9-0) in the league leading up to the final.

Opposition in the final was provided by the REME, who had beaten the ACC in the other semi-final.

Although there were several close games, the RAPC ran out convincing winners by a score of 8-1 and now go on to play the winners of the BAOR tournament in February.

The trophy was presented by Col A A S Adams, Chairman of Army Badminton, to Maj Evans, who as the last remaining member of the 1969 team was playing in his last tournament.

CRASH**Hockey cup hopes dashed**

THE ARMY crashed out of the Hockey Association Counties Cup in Birmingham on the wrong end of a 6-1 thrashing by Worcestershire.

It was a particularly disappointing defeat because the Army squad had put together several good results and was being rated as one of the strongest ever to represent the Service.

Hockey is one of the few sports in which the Army competes at the highest level, and there were six internationals involved at Birmingham.

Worcestershire, county champions in 1984, boasted four capped players and have been a consistently good side for the past decade.

Exploiting Army over-eagerness to attack, Worcestershire were 5-0 ahead by half time. The score was a reflection of the county side's finishing rather than a gap in ability, and the Army fought back well in the second period, eventually getting a consolation goal through Capt Nick Gordon (RHA).

Statistics prove how close it might have been, with the Army having eight short corners to the county's two. The Army also fluffed a penalty while Worcestershire converted one.

The Army's international trio of LCpl Ian Jennings (Depot

Para), Capt Ian Jolly (RA) and Nick Gordon played their part in the Army's Inter-Service indoor triumph at RAF Newton. At senior level the Army beat the Royal Air Force 9-5 and the Royal Navy 9-2.

The Army lost their grip on the U-21 trophy after beating the RAF 5-2. The Navy won the decider on penalties after a 3-3 deadlock.

Man of the tournament was 2nd Lt Robert Mercer (Cardiff University), and the Royal Engineers came fourth in the Inter-Corps/Command tournament.

Eight Army Under-23 players were included in the Combined Services junior team which has just toured Cyprus, winning five out of six matches. Outstanding was Spr Mark Hunnisset (39 Eng Regt), who scored 17 goals during the week.

And then there were nine . . .

WINS against Dorset, by eight goals to one, and Loughborough Colleges, 4-0, gave the Army a promising start to the representative hockey season.

The Dorset victory was particularly fine since the Army started with just ten players and finished with nine! Capt Peter Shuttleworth (LI) was forced to retire.

Against the colleges, a notoriously tough fixture, the Army struggled for the first period before a four goal spree in ten minutes calmed the nerves and put the result out of the students' reach.

The combination of LCpl Ian Jennings (Depot Para) and Capt Nick Gordon (RHA) proved too

much for the students and skipper Capt Ian Jolly (RA) enjoyed his new lease of life at centre forward.

But the Army's most recent game, against London Indians, resulted in a 2-5 reversal at Feltham. Two down after just ten minutes the Army did well to contain the flair of the Indians' captain, Khalbir Bhoura, fresh from his England World Cup appearances, and a spirited comeback produced a more evenly matched second half.

The loss of Jennings for a technical infringement cost the Army their late initiative and the result was a fair reflection of a weak Army team and a skilful Indian side.

Sapper at helm for world championships

FORMER Olympic sailor Col Stuart Jardine RE has been selected to represent the United Kingdom at the helm of a J24 in the world championships at Cagliari, Italy, in June.

Col Jardine, now commanding the RE Training Development Team at Chatham, Kent, represented Britain in a variety of dinghies at four Olympic Games between 1960 and 1972.

His selection was based on his superb performances during the summer, when he helmed the Army's five-man J24 to 17 wins, 11 seconds and three third places in 40 starts.

Robinson in charge again

CAPT Robbie Robinson RAOC gained revenge for last year's defeat when he beat Cpl Dave Clarke of the Royal Air Force in the final of the DEC sponsored Combined Services individual squash championships at the Waverley Squash Club, Farnham, Surrey.

Clarke fought hard to retain his title, writes Lance Brett. He took Robinson all the way before succumbing to the Army champion in the fifth game.

Capt Robin Broad RCT, who is stationed at Bielefeld, West Germany, won the veterans' title, shading out the chairman of Army Squash, Lt Col John Woodliffe RAOC. The Under 25 championship was won by Sub Lt R May of the Royal Navy.

RAOC CHAMPIONS

And in one of the closest finishes seen for years the RAOC wrested

the Army Inter-Corps championships from the holders, the APTC. The title has been alternating between these two corps for the past six years.

The APTC entered the final match of the competition three points ahead of the RAOC but wins by the RAOC's first two seeds, Capt Robbie Robinson over WO2 Dick Sharkey and Capt David Bradley over WO2 Ray Surgeon, and a fifth seed win by Lt Col John Woodliffe over WO2 Bill McQuilkin were sufficient to give the RAOC a telling 3-2 win over their arch rivals and so snatch the title.

Division 2 was won by the RAEC led by Maj Paul Rigg and Division 3 was won by the Queen's Division led by Maj Hugh Bradbury. The team included Maj Gen Sir David Thorne.

More than 100 of the Army's top players were at this three day festival sponsored by Grattan PLC and played at the Waverley Club, Farnham.

Next major Army squash event is the Army individual championships from Jan 14 to 16 with the finals at the Woking Leisure Centre on Jan 17.

The RAOC corps cham-

pionships were held in the comfortable surroundings of the Lakeside Club, Frimley, Surrey, much to the delight of all the players. Once again players came from far and wide although operational commitments exclude many players from Northern Ireland and BAOR.

A strong team from 16 Bn RAOC, Bicester consisting of LCpl Dickson, WO1 Lloyd-West and Lt Col Bennett took the team trophy with a 3-0 win over RSM Botfield, WO2 Ingham and Lt Col Walker of 15 Bn RAOC, Donnington.

The novices' event was won by Cpl Wilson of CVD Ashchurch who defeated Lt France 3-0. Ex-WO1 Frank Linnane beat Lt Col John Woodliffe 3-1 to regain his veterans' title having lost it to Woodliffe last year.

LCpl Bickerdyke from CVD Ashchurch, a complete newcomer to the game, did exceptionally well to win the plate competition by beating Cpl Wilson, the novice winner, in the quarter finals and then Lt Col Walker in the final.

The open title was won by Capt Robbie Robinson in a final against Capt David Bradley, 9-4, 9-3, 9-2.

Volleyball kings of Brunei

A STRING of national volleyball successes in Brunei were a highlight of the 1st Bn of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) two-year tour of duty which ended last month.

During their time there the battalion's volleyball players twice beat the Brunei national team, won the Belait District championship, and the national club championship. Just before

their tour ended the battalion A team retained the Belait District trophy, beating the battalion B team in the final.

Driving forces behind the team were captain-coach Cpl Reshambahadur Gurung, PTI SSgt David McCracken APTC and team manager Capt (QCO) Indraprasad Gurung.

Challenge Cup results

LATE results from the earlier rounds of the Army Challenge Cup (UK) football competition include:

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Second round — RMAS (PS) Camberley 3, 2 Coldm Guards, London 0; SEE, Arborfield w/o, 1 RSDG, Tidworth (withdrawn).

Third round (to date) — 1 PARA, Bulford 0, 2 RGJ, Warminster 3; 1/3 Trg Regt RE, Blackwater 11, RAMC Trg Gp, Ash Vale 2; 42 Svy Engr GP, Hermitage 0, PCD RE, Mill Hill 1.

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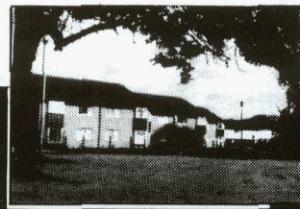
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SOLDIER



Shaking out into position at Coalisland, Co Tyrone — a patrol of 8 UDR. The coffins among the pro republican graffiti represent the ten hunger strikers who died.