

# SOLDIER

A full-page photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform and helmet, kneeling in a field and playing bagpipes. In the background, another soldier is blurred, and a military vehicle is partially visible.

MAY 29 1989

40 PENCE

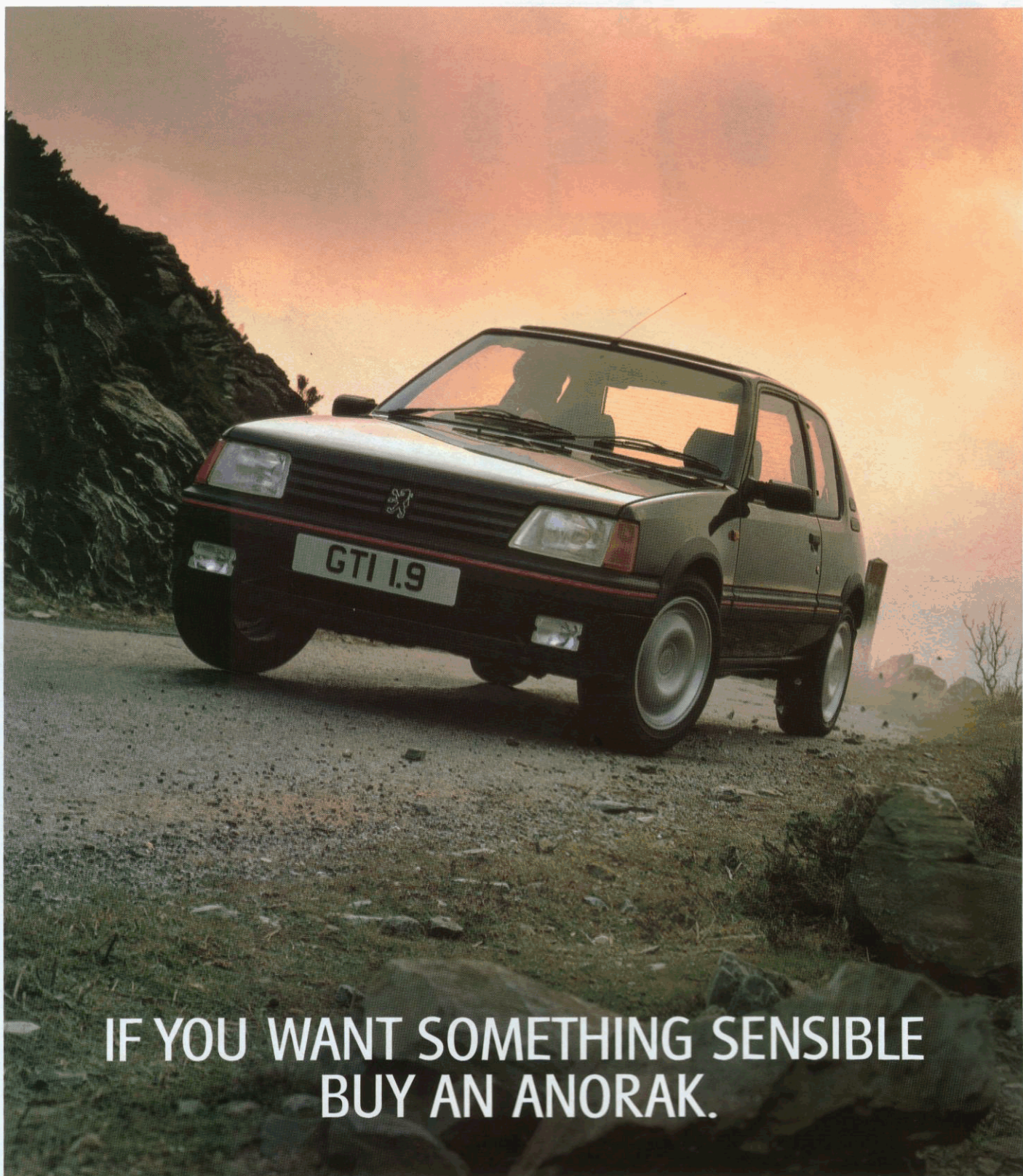
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FRONT COVER: Piper James Lyon provides a musical accompaniment as men of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders leap out of a FV 432 during a training exercise at Soltau, West Germany. The battalion is converting to a mechanised infantry role. A feature on 1 A and SH begins on Page 19.

Picture: Mike Weston

# SOLDIER

**THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY**  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



As this photograph suggests, the men of 14 Signal Regiment (EW) tend to deal harshly with unwanted intruders. But they did allow a SOLDIER team to join them on exercise in West Germany. A report and photographs of 48 hours in the life of the British Army's crack electronic warfare operators will appear in the next issue.

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# LETTERS

Write to:  
SOLDIER,  
Ordnance Road,  
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Hants GU11 2DU.

SOLDIER's £50 main prize for HOAY competition No 460 is off to the north of England. The lucky winner is Mr H D Copp of Preston Grange, North Shields, Tyne and Wear. Runners-up prizes of books go to Mrs G Reid, of Sillerhole Road, Leven, Fife, and WO2 (QMSI) M J Bootes, of 118 (Tees) Field Sqn (V) at Hartlepool, Cleveland.

## Women in the band

To add to the collection of letters concerning bands-women, I enclose a photograph of three young ladies who are members of the Volunteer (Northumberland) Band of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. They are Fiona Gascoigne (euphonium), Angie Dawson (flute) and Zoe Laverick (flute). All are 18, joined the band six months ago and are studying at colleges on Tyne-side. — Capt FA Calvert, 6 RRF, Fenkle Street, Alnwick, Northumberland.



Bandswomen Fiona, Angie and Zoe of the RRF

● Other letters on the bands-women theme, sparked off by a picture of the Kohima band of The Queen's Regiment, have been received from Mr M E Poole of Ontario, Canada and the writer who sparked off the correspondence, Mr D J Macleod of Lancing, Sussex.

## Israel did it first

The article on the first Anglo-Soviet tank referred to in SOLDIER to Soldier (Mar 20) is inaccurate. The Israeli Army has been operating Anglo-Soviet and Anglo-American tanks for a number of years.

The first Israeli tanks were second hand Shermans and

Churchills together with anything else they could obtain. After capturing Soviet built T55s and T62s they rearmed their newly acquired hardware with the preferred British 105mm gun.

With this combination the Israeli gunners were able to overturn a numerical disadvantage during the Yom Kippur War. — Cpl P A Bacon 110 Pro Coy RMP, Sennelager, BFPO 16.

## More tours

Your May 1 issue contained an article in which it was stated that 1 RS have completed more tours of Northern Ireland than anyone else. This is bound to start a controversy. However, can I put in a claim disputing that fact. The 3rd Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have in fact completed ten tours of Northern Ireland. They have completed a total of seven five-month tours, one two-year tour, two emergency tours or ten in layman's terms. — WO2 S D Brown, ex 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, now serving with 5RRF, Greens Rd, Coventry.

## Mortar men

Having read the letter in SOLDIER (May 1) about the 8th Bn Middlesex Regiment and the Vickers MMG, I wonder why it is that the regiment's mortar company never seems to get a mention.

We had four platoons of four mortars each and supported brigades and divisions down to one platoon at times. We could put more explosive down in a given area and faster than the artillery. My company commander Maj Kenton developed the "peppercorn barrage" very successfully.

Our company fired a total of 328,000 mortar bombs which is not bad going, so I would like to remind other readers, ex soldiers, that the Middlesex Regt, although having three companies of MMG Vickers, also had one company of 4.2 mortars. — E J Garner, 77 Evesham Road, New Southgate, London N11 2RR.

## Royal ASC

In SOLDIER (April 3) under book reviews you have a very good picture of the RASC in Cologne in April 1919 and state the Royal was added to ASC in 1918.

You should have added the Royal to ASC in your caption. I was one that entered Cologne in December 1918 under the command of Capt Parker (or Packer?). I left Cologne in January 1919 having volunteered for the Russian relief force returning to Aldershot. — L E Salisbury, Flat 2, 14 The Strand, Ryde, PO33 1JE.

## Reunions

● The annual memorial service of the **Cambridgeshire Regiment** will be held in Ely Cathedral on June 11 at 1.45 pm, followed by a reunion tea in the Hayward Theatre, Ely. Details from P Subbings, Gen Secretary, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambs CB7 4QG.

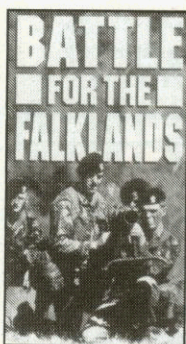
● The **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment** and **The Worcestershire Regiment** will be holding their annual reunion on Worcester Racecourse on June 10. The regiment will have the Right of Freedom of Entry conferred by the town of Kidderminster, Worcestershire on June 24, and on July 1 the regiment will hold the annual pilgrimage at Crich, Derbyshire.

## Calling . . .

● Anyone from ex RAOC/AER 351 Ammo Coy or 12 MLBC is asked to contact ex S/Sgt (Andy) Anderson, Apt 2005, 1465 Lawrence Ave West, Toronto, Ontario, M6L 1B2, Canada.

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In "THE COMMANDO'S TALE" ITN reporter Jeremy Hands talks to ordinary soldiers in the Royal Marines about the extraordinary events they encountered during the three months of conflict. Marines and N.C.O.'s describe the battle conditions and speak honestly about how they dealt with fear, and how it felt to face shelling for the first time. (81 Minutes).



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# White Paper cautious on Soviet 'realism'

WHILE welcoming a shift in Soviet attitudes, Britain is to spend an extra £2 billion on defence over the next two years, according to the Defence White Paper. And it warns "we should be under no illusion about this new sense of realism, it is designed to serve Soviet interests, not those of the West."

The Government, concerned that Soviet disarmament propaganda may persuade Western opinion that Nato's need for strong defences is decreasing, is to spend more than £20 billion this year, rising to £22.1 billion in 1991-92.

The Statement on Defence points out: "It is a plain fact, admitted by the Soviet Union, that even after the cuts promised by Warsaw Pact leaders, major imbalances between the forces of East and West will remain."

It emphasises that the Soviet chemical warfare (CW) capability, the world's largest and most sophisticated, poses a major threat to the Alliance.

"We strongly suspect that contrary to Soviet claims, production of CW agents in the Soviet Union is still continuing and the testing of chemical weapons has not ceased." It goes on: "Contrary to Soviet claims, we have good reason to believe the Soviet Union has stationed chemical weapons in Eastern Europe and that such weapons have been produced by other members of the Warsaw Pact."

The Statement says Nato will continue to pursue arms control vigorously. "No one can be sure that agreements will be reached easily or at all. But the clear signs of change in the policies of the Soviet Union suggest that new opportunities are opening up to build on the progress already achieved."

The budget for equipment for the Services in 1989-90 is £8,258m. This is 41 per cent of the total defence budget and



**A pensive moment for the Princess Royal as she listens to a technical explanation of lifting gear during her visit to the Territorial Army signallers of the 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) at the TA Centre, Middlesbrough. Princess Anne, Colonel in Chief**

**of the Royal Corps of Signals, watched signallers at work in a battlefield comms centre, lunched with members of the regiment and their wives and husbands, and was later presented with a bouquet by Katherine Macklin (4), daughter of the CO, Lt Col Mike Macklin.**

£1,024m more in real terms than was spent in 1978-79.

About 75 per cent is spent directly in this country, 15 per cent benefits British industry working on collaborative projects, and the rest spent abroad.

In the last year BAOR has been strengthened by the introduction of a sixth regiment of Challenger tanks, with a seventh on order. The conversion of 24 Brigade to the airborne role is well under way.

Deliveries of Warrior continue, with three battalions' worth now delivered to time and cost. Deliveries of the Saxon armoured personnel carrier are now complete, and there is a warning that the Chieftain tank must be replaced as soon as practicable. Towed Rapier is to be replaced with the advanced Rapier 2000 (Field Standard C) and a third air defence regiment is to be

formed, armed with the new High Velocity Missile.

Also planned to enter service in the next few years are the Multiple-Launch Rocket System, the Phoenix remotely-piloted vehicle, and the Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicle. The Army continues to invest heavily in war stocks.

The Statement says the quality of Service personnel remains excellent, but retaining trained manpower has become more difficult, and recruiting harder because of a shortage of a young labour pool. More cash is being spent on recruitment publicity and ways of retaining staff are being looked at.

The Army has a major study under way into widening the range of jobs available to women, and consultants have been called in to see how more recruits from ethnic minorities can be attracted.

## 4 RTR takes on infantry role for tour in Cyprus

NEARLY 600 soldiers of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment are leaving their Osnabrück, West Germany base for a six month tour of duty in Cyprus. Supported by 100 men from Lawson Company, 4th Field Regiment, also based at Osnabrück, they will spend the first three months of the tour as part of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force on the island's Green Line.

Later the tankies will be based in the Eastern Sovereign base area, centred on Dhekelia, working with the British military.

They will be taking over from 3 RHA on the Green Line. The men of 4 RTR prepared for their infantry role by exchanging Chieftain tanks for self loading rifles. While they are in the Mediterranean their tanks will be revamped and updated.

## OPs refurbished

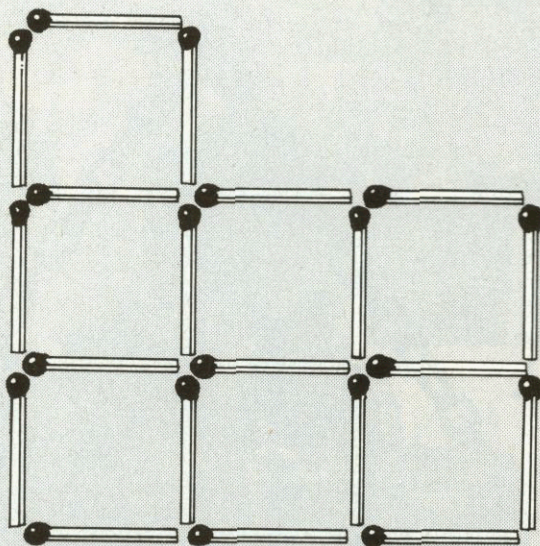
MILITARY observation posts in the Crossmaglen area of Northern Ireland are being refurbished. The OPs, at Glassdrumman, Drumuckavall and Creevekeeran, were established three years ago to reduce terrorist activity in the area, and the accommodation is now being improved.

## Cadets on camp in BAOR

REGULAR units at Osnabrück and Hohné hosted nearly 600 Army cadets from all over Britain during their annual camp in West Germany. Involved in the camp were 4 RTR, 4th Fd Regt RA, 1 RGJ, 1 R Irish, 25 Engr Regt and 1 RHA.



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# Casevac pilot cited for courage

CAPT David Meyer, a Gazelle pilot with 656 Squadron Army Air Corps, has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air following the hazardous evacuation of a sick soldier from a semi-desert region of Kenya.

Capt Meyer, then a lieutenant, was commanding a helicopter detachment on exercise in Kenya when the rescue took place last year.

The casualty had collapsed from severe heat stroke half way up a 3,000ft escarpment in the remote Don Dol area of Kenya. In temperatures well over 100 degrees F, surrounded by dust clouds and buffeted by strong winds, Capt Meyer "demonstrated exceptional flying skill, courage and fine judgement" says the citation, and the critically ill soldier subsequently made a full recovery.

## Easy does it

DISABLED people entering Belfast Cathedral will no longer have to be carried into the building and can now use a specially built ramp for easy wheelchair access - thanks to the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The ramp was constructed by craftsmen of 33 Independent Field Squadron Royal Engineers. The project which cost £300 was funded by 7th/10th (City of Belfast) Battalion UDR.



Pointing the way south is Maj Anthony Forbes. With him are Sgt David Tooley, Mrs Reidun Forbes and Sgt Trudie Mitchell

# Skiers crack Norway's north-south crossing

THREE members of the British Army and the Norwegian wife of the team leader have successfully skied from the northernmost point of Norway to Lindesnes in the south, a distance of 1,500 miles.

It was the first time the north-south route had been completed in a single winter and it took the expedition 90 days of continuous effort, skiing down the route of integrated huts which link the complete length of the country.

Team leader was Maj Anthony Forbes of the Scots Guards. With him was his

Norwegian wife, Reidun, Sgt David Tooley of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and Sgt Trudie Mitchell, QARANC, who is returning to Aldershot after four years at the British Mountain Training Centre in Norway.

Their trip, which was dogged by bad weather, ended with a champagne reception at Lindesnes. The last part was completed on roller skis because of limited snow in the south of the country. The two women were the first to attempt the crossing in either direction.

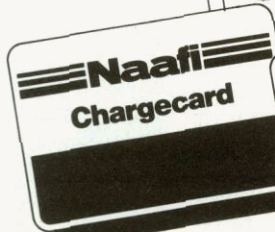
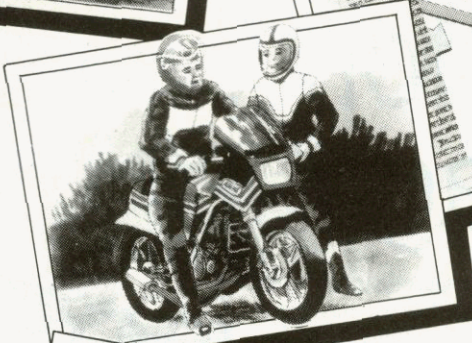
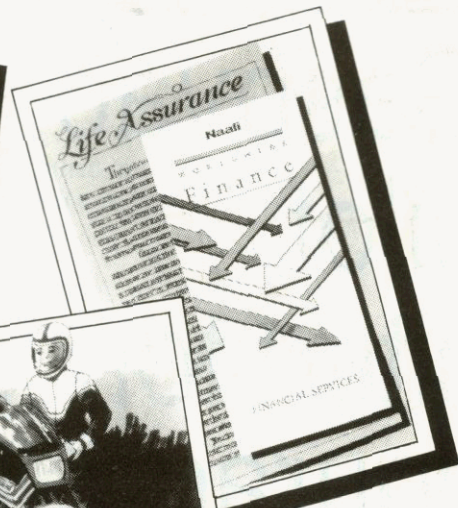
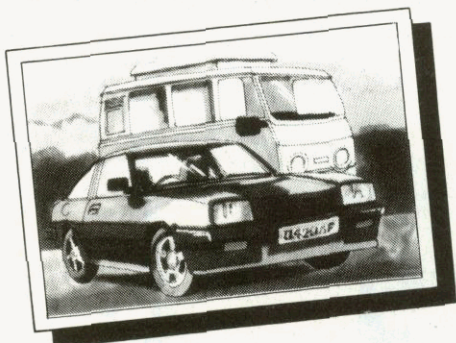
## Woofers patrol death

CPL Stephen McGonigle, 1st Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, was killed by a terrorist land mine explosion while on foot patrol at Silverbridge, near Crossmaglen. Cpl McGonigle, 30, from Newark, Notts, had served for 14 years, and was married with two sons, aged eight and ten years.

## Krefeld cadre course

TWENTY FIVE young signalmen and lance corporals were put through their paces when 16th Signal Regiment at Krefeld, West Germany ran its first cadre course since the arrival of new CO Lt Col Chris Harper. There are now plans to hold two cadre courses a year at Krefeld.





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# Spirit of Dharan shines through

From Bill Moore in Dharan

THE last Recruit Final Selection process to take place at the celebrated British Gurkha Depot, Dharan, Nepal, has been successfully completed in traditional fashion despite problems raised by the India-Nepal trade dispute.

Like the rest of the country, the base, which is to close at the end of the year, has been hit by fuel shortages caused by restrictions placed on the border crossings. With the exception of the movement of essential stores all vehicle traffic to and from the camp was halted.

And to conserve stocks of generator fuel the electricity was cut off at night for two weeks. No power meant no air conditioning, and the hot season began early this year! Commander BGD, Brig David Morgan, recorded a bedroom temperature of more than 90 degrees one night. This was a considerable sacrifice on the part of the 62 British Servicemen and families and the nurses of the British Military Hospital.

But the economy paid off. All was ready when 345 potential recruits arrived from all over eastern Nepal, everything went according to plan, and it became possible to restore the air conditioning for three hours in the evening.

"Everyone has backed us up," said Lt Col John Brewer, 2 GR, the Chief of Staff. "We were determined that the recruit selection



**Three generations of one family were on parade at York when the inspecting officer, retired Maj Gen Peter Bradley, was joined by his son, the escorting officer, and grandson, his aide de camp. Accompanying Maj Gen Bradley as he inspected the band and drums of 1 PWO at a passing out parade at the Depot of The King's Division, Queen Elizabeth Barracks were Lt Col Mike Bradley, Commanding Officer of the depot, and**

**Officer Cadet Simon Bradley, who hopes to join his father's regiment, The Green Howards, when he leaves Durham University.**

Maj Gen Bradley served with the Royal Signals for 36 years until his retirement in 1970 and was one of the guiding forces behind the famous Royal Signals White Helmets motor cycle display team which made a surprise appearance in his honour.

would go ahead and it has. Now our priority is to keep the Brigade of Gurkhas' machinery going and ensure the soldiers travel back and forth on leave and duty." (A formidable undertaking when some have to journey from the UK and Hong Kong before setting off into the Himalayas.

The Dharan spirit was seen at its best when two grease spots masquerading as a SOLDIER team arrived at the base. A bicycle polo tournament involving officers, nurses, soldiers and wives was in full swing before an audience of cheering Gurkhas.

● More reports from Nepal will appear in future issues of SOLDIER.

## Ulster medics in Scotland

MORE than 400 part time soldiers from Northern Ireland travelled to Galloway in Scotland to take part in Exercise Double Serpent, a test of their procedures for the recovery and treatment of battlefield casualties. It was the first time Ulster's medical and supporting units had combined to exercise their war roles.

Double Serpent involved the evacuation of casualties from the regimental aid posts of the 4th and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions of The Royal Irish Rangers, through the main dressing station of 253 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) to 204 General Hospital RAMC (V).

Ambulance support was given by 220 Amb Sqn, part of 152 (Ulster Amb Regt, RCT (V). Routes were signposted by a detachment from 254 Provost Company RMP (V).

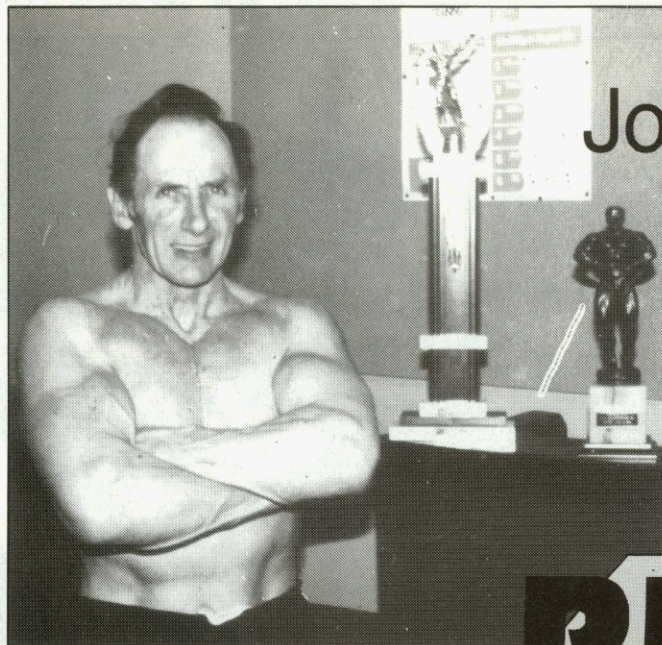
## Princess visits 1 RHF

PRINCESS Margaret, Colonel in Chief of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, visited the regiment's 1st Battalion at Oakington Barracks near Cambridge to mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of the regiment. It came into being when the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Infantry were amalgamated in January 1959.



**A TEAM of sappers from 38 Engr Regt led by Capt John Bruce has won the praise of local people and hill walkers after replacing a bridge over the fast flowing Linton Falls in Grassington, Yorks. The engineers first had to remove an unwieldy 1904 vintage tin bridge (pictured above) which had been closed for the past six months.**





**BODY BEAUTIFUL:** Pte Jock McCutcheon with some of his trophies

## Jock's in great shape

Veteran body builder Pte **John "Jock" McCutcheon** of 1 Platoon, Z Coy of the Home Service Force attached to HQ Coy 1/15 Highland, in Perth, Scotland is still winning trophies.

Now 55, he has just been placed third in the "Body Builder of the Year" competition against lads of 20. Jock took up the sport when he left the Royal Artillery in 1955 after

service with 73rd Heavy Ack-Ack and 17th Regt.

He later joined the RASC with 212 Sqn (now 212 Sqn RCT (V)) at Perth, and left in 1982 because of his age, stepping straight into Z Coy, the first HSF Company to be formed in Scotland.

Among his many successes in body building competitions he can include the Mr Scotland title of 1963.

# PEOPLE

## Star role

Sgt **Nigel Dorman** of A Coy 3 Staffords finds himself the centre of attention during a West German television broadcast while the Sutton Coldfield based TA unit were involved in Exercise Polar Dawn on Stanford training area in Norfolk. The exercise involved elements of 49 Inf Bde and part of 2nd Inf Div.



## Spot the birdie!

Sgt **David Brookes**, RAOC, is pictured ready for the off in the 1989 Hong Kong Big Bird Race which is, in fact, hardly a race and doesn't involve birds in anything but a strictly passive capacity.

The idea, inspired by the bird-watching TV comic Bill Oddie, is a team competition to spot the highest number of different species in one day and a means of raising money for the bird reserve on the Mai Po marshes - a vital, but threatened staging post.

David, a keen bird-watcher ever since he was a small boy living near Dartmoor, was captain of the Army team in this year's competition. Starting at first light on Stonecutters Island, where David works as an ammunition stores techni-

cian, the four-man team spent 14 gruelling hours chasing birds up and down the territory.

Their tally was 115 different species, a respectable score but not enough to win. The champions notched up 154. However, the team did raise nearly £3,000.

## 1 RRW given England jersey

England rugby captain **Will Carling** presented one of his England rugby jerseys to 1 RRW during a visit to the battalion at Warminster. In return he was presented with a RRW shirt.

Will, who was badged to the regiment while an officer cadet at

Durham University, also presented the Rodney Harrington Trophy to the winners of the battalion's inter-company rugby tournament. Cpl **Rodney Harrington** donated the trophy to mark the end of his 22 years of service to 1 RRW and its rugby.

## Award for TA Paras

Paras who missed out on a world speed marching record by just seven minutes have helped their comrades land a top Army award. Part time soldiers from the Gateshead based C Company of the 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment were handed the Territorial Army's Fairclough Trophy for their "outstanding" public and community relations work.

A 12-strong team of

volunteers set a new TA record at the end of last year when they covered 26 miles 365 yards, carrying 40lbs of equipment, in 4hr 45min.

But while they just failed to dent the world record, held by Regulars from the Royal Marines, they succeeded in collecting £2,500 for cancer

care research at Gateshead's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Company commander, Maj **Peter Whitley**, watched by admin officer Capt **Jim Wilsher** and 4 Para's CO, Lt Col **Brian Martin**, received the trophy from Maj Gen **Murray Naylor**.



## Thanks a lot, Colonel Bob

Col **Robert MacLaglan** (76) receives a token of appreciation of his 27 years as chairman of the Nairn Seaforth's Club from which he retired last year. Two old soldiers, **Howard Messina** (with beard) and **John Mcleod** travelled from Nairn to present the silver stag mounted on Inverness-shire stone, to Col MacLaglan at Camberley, Surrey where he

is staying with his sister after an illness. Col MacLaglan was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders in 1933 and served in the 1st Battalion in the Far East during the war.

He was president of the Burma Star Association in Scotland for many years and regimental secretary of the Queen's Own Highlanders from 1960 to 1978.



**TROPHY WINNERS:** From left are Capt Jim Wilsher, Lt Col Brian Martin, Maj Gen Murray Naylor and Maj Peter Whitley



This is how it gets done on dry land! Maj **Jonathan Powell** points out the finer qualities of Warrior to Lt Cdr **Trevor Sour** (left), commanding officer of the diesel submarine HMS Ocelot, during a visit by Ocelot's crew to 1 Staffords at Fallingbommel, West Germany. The battalion and the submarine are affiliated



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# Whitehall to have 'Uncle Bill' statue

Nearly 45 years after the end of the Second World War in which he was one of the greatest Army commanders, Fd Marshal Viscount Slim, affectionately known as "Uncle Bill", is to be honoured by a permanent statue in London.

Leader of the Burma campaign in 1942-45, Fd Marshal Slim was at one time Chief of the Imperial General Staff and it is appropriately outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall that the statue will be erected.

The sculptor will be Mr Ivor Robert-Jones, a holder of the Burma Star, and the Burma Star Association is spearheading the campaign for funds to pay for the statue.

Mr W H P Clarke, of the association, said: "We want every Serviceman and woman around the world who remembers him or had the privilege of serving under 'Uncle Bill' . . . to have the opportunity of contributing to the foundation of this important and historic statue."

# SOLDIER to Soldier



**Spotted on Soltau training area, West Germany, during Exercise Highland Range was this battered bear named Eric. He believes in leading from the front, for he is always first into action with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, being mounted on the front of an armoured personnel carrier.**

## Battle bear?

**No "wee, cow'rin timorous beastie" is Eric, for the Jocks have to chain him down for fear he might frighten the enemy without a shot being fired in anger!**

# East Yorks VC sold at auction

The Victoria Cross of a young sergeant who wrote home from France in 1918: "It has been pretty warm for a week or two and I gave myself up for a dead man a time or two" has been sold at Sotheby's auction room in London.

At that time, Sgt Harold Jackson of the East Yorkshire Regiment knew only that his mates were telling him that he would get the VC. "They say I am worth it for bringing them through," he said. He had, in fact, risked his life to save his wounded comrades when his platoon was surrounded several times and had to fight its way out.

Sgt Jackson was presented with his VC at Buckingham Palace, but rejoined his battalion in France and was killed shortly before the end of the war.

The VC was sold with his other medals, his bible, letters, photographs and newspaper cuttings, for £9,500.

Another VC sold at the same sale - for £8,000 - was awarded to Pte J Smith of the First Madras Fusiliers for the heroic part he played in the relief of Lucknow.

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

# Happy birthday to the Blue Arrows

The Perth based Blue Arrows of 153 (Highland) Artillery Support Regiment RCT(V), the UK's only permanent TA motor cycle display team, have just marked their 20th anniversary of bringing their own special brand of thrills to

crowds all over the country.

And to celebrate the occasion they took delivery of brand new Kawasaki KLR 250 bikes.

The official handover, on the North Inch, Perth, featured a short display, high point of

which saw several Arrows in full flight over former Manx TT rider Jack Gow, a man with a double reason to be apprehensive - not only was he sitting in his own car at the time, but he also supplied the Blue Arrows' new bikes.

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# Here come The Redcaps!

Words by  
Jennifer Griffiths  
Pictures by  
Terry Champion

A HIGH profile equestrian team featuring a slick, exciting, professional display is set to attract recruits not just to the Royal Military Police but to all sections of the Army.

It is taking to the road just at a time when it is most needed – in the wake of MARILYN, the Army study on Manning and Recruiting In the Lean Years of the Nineties.

The latest salvo in the Army campaign has been provided by the RMP's mounted troop display team and new recruiting caravan. Wherever the team goes – and it is certainly going places – the caravan which illustrates the many facets of Army police work, goes along too.

The display team, known as The Redcaps, is formed from members of the RMP UKLF Mounted Troop based in Aldershot. The troop's overall responsibilities have been extended and they now patrol Army training areas throughout the UK as well as their home base.

But it is the ambitious resurrection of The Redcaps that will be getting over the

Army's recruiting message. The new team is made up of RMPs and two WRAC Provost NCOs and funded by loans, donations and sponsorship. The previous team of horses and motor cycles was disbanded in 1984 because of cash restraints and a shortage of NCO motor cyclists from other units.

Lt Col Terry Scriven, Assistant Provost Marshal (South), said: "At present, the RMP are finding very few problems with recruiting. But in the next few years we are going to feel the pinch like all the other units."

"It is important that we get our message over now and look to the 1990s. Though the display team is a secondary role for the Mounted Troop, it has become very important in recruiting."

Dedication and hard work are the key words for the mounted police behind the public image of well turned out rider and horse. Their day starts at 7am with mucking out the stables, feeding the horse and exercising – whatever the weather.

Grooming and tack cleaning are time consuming. Morning patrols could be followed by ceremonies, and later back at the stables the horse has to be dried off, bedded down for the night, and tack sorted.

Col Scriven said: "The reality is that it is quite a hard life. But there is no shortage of volunteers and I am delighted that we now have two women team members and two more women volunteers. Being part of the troop means that police officers with a love of horses are being paid for something they like doing."

"They are encouraged to enter civilian competitions during their spare time. The job also offers stability because as a specialist you could stay with the troop for all of your service."

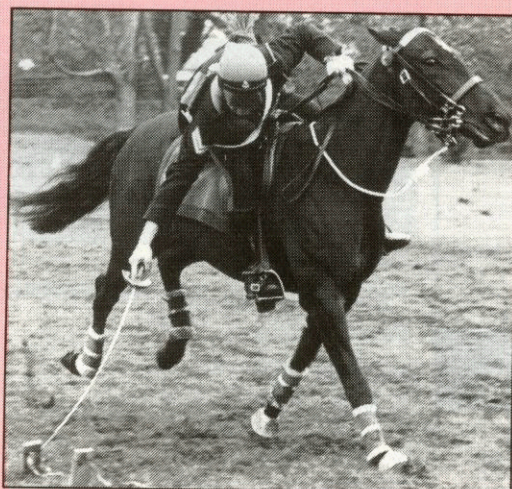
"The aim of The Redcaps is to improve the horsemanship of military policemen and police-women, and the fitness of the horses. The spin off is we will be giving delight to thousands of people up and down the country, and hopefully produce high profile support to the recruiting caravan."



The Redcaps line up (from the left) Troop Sgt Maj Graham Roberts on Roussillon, SSgt Gerry Russell on Jack, Cpl Simon Ricketts on Cadiz, Cpl Christopher Tuckett on Inkerman, Cpl Alison Dyer on Guyldford, Cpl Timothy Gale on Glamis Castle, Cpl Robert Wells on Rushmoor, Cpl Kevin Tice on Trieste, Cpl Steve Rowley on Berlin and Sgt Dusty Kemp on Vienna



A test of nerve, eye and skill for Cpl Steve Rowley tent pegging on Berlin



Redcaps rider, Cpl Alison Dyer

## Drilled to perfection

INTRICATE manoeuvres in a musical ride start off The Redcaps' display and show how with patience, kindness and extensive training horses can be taught to work in harmony as a team.

They have been choreographed by Troop Sgt Maj Graham Roberts and chief instructor SSgt Gerry Russell.

The second part is a demonstration of the almost-forgotten art of tent pegging and other mounted skill at arms, using a sword, lance and

revolver. In the days of mounted cavalry regiments, particularly in India, tent pegging was not only an exciting competitive sport but also an essential training exercise.

It is a demanding skill, requiring courage and judgment to "take" tent pegs with a sword and lance at full gallop and the jumping of fences. The Redcaps field two competing teams.

The Mounted Troop, from which The Redcaps are formed, is unique as it is the only remaining mounted unit in the

RMP. Its history goes back to the formation of the corps in 1855 when certain cavalry regiments were called on to supply NCOs and men to form a permanent Corps of Mounted Police to enforce discipline.

In 1882 a sister corps was formed, The Military Foot Police. They merged in 1926 to form the Corps of Military Police. They were granted the royal prefix in 1946. When the Prince of Wales married in 1981 the Mounted Troop provided the bride's escort.



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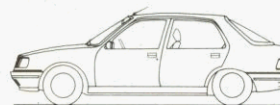
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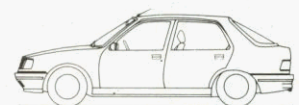
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# Redcaps leader learned to ride — fast!

THE MAN behind the runaway success of revitalising the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop and resurrecting its display team admits he never envisaged just how popular it would become.

Even though the new Redcaps were kept under wraps until a few months ago, their diary is full for this year and 1990, and bookings are being taken for 1991.

The Redcaps are making star guest appearances at a variety of leading shows, a remarkable vote of confidence considering the bookings poured in before anyone had seen them perform.

Many engagements have been turned down, simply because they could not be fitted in around normal police duties.

The performance fee is £550 (it is £250 for repeat displays).

Getting the show on the road has absorbed most of the spare time of Lt Col Terry Scriven, Assistant Provost Marshal of the RMP (South). He is director of The Redcaps and organises their programme and the duties of the Mounted Troop throughout Britain.

He quickly directs the popularity of The Redcaps to the professionalism of the riders, and insists he is "an administrative enthusiast rather than an accomplished equestrian."

He said: "When I was appointed APM in May 1987 I knew nothing about riding. But I soon realised that I had to learn to



Lt Col Terry Scriven and portraits of past and present serving horses in the new museum at the stables in Aldershot

ride if I was going to criticise the Mounted Troop."

It was members of the troop who taught him. "They were very kind, I didn't fall off too often and they didn't make me do too many nasty things."

Just a few months later, Col Scriven had to face what he recalls as one of his most petrifying experiences. He had to lead on horseback a parade of more than 7,500 Servicemen and civilians in the annual Chichester Royal Military Police March in West Sussex.

"It was especially difficult when it came to taking the salute, trying to do an 'eyes left', and, at the same time, ensuring the horse was walking in a straight line.

"But everything went well, the horse was superb, and he really looked after me extremely well."

Col Scriven confesses he is something of a "softie" in contrast to the austere reputation the corps portrays to at least some of the people it deals with!

He admits to becoming very attached to the horses, which places him in an unenviable dilemma when they are no

longer fit for work. He is supposed to sign their death warrants.

He explained: "Horses are like human beings and can contract all sorts of similar diseases and complaints. Mytchett, for instance, has a cataract and is going blind. There is a case, perhaps, that he should be put down, but I am very much against it.

"He has been with us for at least 12 years and is very much part of the family. I am delighted we have been able to find a good home for him when he leaves the Army."

Col Scriven has started trawling for items of historical interest for a small museum he has started in the stables at Aldershot, where every horse — both serving and retired — has a place of honour.

Each has a name of significance. For instance, Inkerman is named after the RMP depot and training centre barracks at Woking, 1948-64, and Jack recalls Brig Jack Thomas, Provost Marshal (Army) 1980-83.

There is a grey, Vienna, recalling the RMP role in the Quadripartite Force controlling that city, when the famous "Grey Troop" of the RMP Mounted Branch served in Vienna.

A photograph of each horse and a copy of its biography hangs in the museum. As a horse leaves the Army, the portrait is moved to the wall reserved for the Roll of Honour, and its name passed on to its replacement.

Members of the Redcaps have the unique chance of "knocking the block off" their CO. During one of the competitive events, there is a dummy dressed in uniform, and the rider gets two points if he slashes off the head with his sword.

The dummy is dressed in one of Col Scriven's old mess kits, still carrying his badges of rank.

Col Scriven joked: "Strangely, while the riders accidentally knock down the fences, miss shooting balloons or striking tent pegs during the display, the one thing they never do is miss knocking the head off the dummy that looks like the boss!"



Cpl Dave James and Sgt Phil Matthews on patrol in a training area, their primary role as part of the RMP Mounted Troop



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### Q. Who can join?

A. Serving TA officers and officers with previous TA or Regular Army service having held the substantive rank of Captain. Officers should normally be under the age of 48 years on joining.

### Q. Do I have to change my cap badge?

A. No, officers joining the pool retain their Corps/Regimental cap badge and dress.

### Q. What is the training obligation?

A. The training obligation is 19 days a year. This comprises 15 days annual camp which may be completed in more than one period to enable officers to attend two or more major exercises. The remaining four days (two weekends) consist of Watchkeeper training exercises and specialist presentations held in the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich.

### Q. How long may one serve in the Pool?

A. Officers may serve in the Pool until they are 55 years of age. Some officers return to their Parent Unit after serving 3-5 years in the Pool.

### Q. Do I have to reside within a limited recruiting area?

A. No, officers are recruited nationwide and travel to and from training at public expense.

### Q. What are the rates of pay and Bounty?

A. These are as reviewed and published annually.

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Words by  
Laurie Manton  
Pictures by  
Mike Weston

They may have a new task as mechanised infantry, but there was plenty of old fashioned splashing through the mud for these Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Soltau

# Jocks dig in to mechanised role

SUNNY Soltau Training Area was the location of Exercise Highland Range, designed to rehearse The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in their new role as BAOR based mechanised infantry.

At least it was sunny until the SOLDIER team arrived! Then the rain poured down, turning the area's famous dust bowls into mud pools.

First on the agenda was a visit to a larger than normal A Company position where the Jocks were busy digging in to repel an impending dawn attack by D Company.

The extra manpower came about when A Coy was told it was going to BATUS with a Blues and Royals battle group in July.

The company took a platoon from each of the other two rifle



Maj Neil Salisbury

companies with the idea that, on return to their own companies after training in Canada, they would be able to spread the training experience

throughout the battalion.

In Colchester, the battalion formed part of 19 Brigade. That proved a great advantage as the Jocks had experience of armoured vehicles, albeit wheeled ones. Many of the procedures are similar so it has been much easier for the Argylls to convert to APCs than it would have been for a non-Saxon unit.

"We are adapting very well," said Company Commander Maj Neil Salisbury.

There are a number of longer-serving men who used 432s when the battalion was stationed at Osnabruck, West Germany many years ago, but for most of the Jocks it is the first time they have operated with the ageing armoured personnel carrier.

Maj Salisbury believes that if

everything is sorted out at section level – the basic unit – then the platoon and company levels follow on from there.

"We have been allowed by the commanding officer to train just at company level. I emphasise the word *train*, for, at long last, we have an exercise in which the priority is on training as opposed to rushing around in defence one minute and withdrawing the next," he said.

"We have had time to talk people through it, practise it and debrief afterwards. The men are learning a vast amount as a result, so this sort of training is invaluable and far more enjoyable.

"You must have the test exercises, just to see how good the units are, but you have also

● Turn to next page



# NEW ROLE

● From page 19

got to have the sort of exercise where you actually train," said Maj Salisbury.

A late night was followed by an early start so the SOLDIER team could arrive at A Coy's forward trenches in time to watch the proposed attack by D Coy.

Not surprisingly, it proved quite dark at 0230 and scribbler and snapper moved forward with care, lest they fall down a slit trench.

The attack was launched much later than planned, but the suggestion it would happen before dawn, and a few mis-routed Warriors from The Royal Scots trundling through the defences, kept the defenders alert and without sleep for most of the night.

No one could explain the late start but one theory was being bandied about. The night previous, D Coy suggested to SOLDIER it would look impressive if one of their pipers piped the men into attack, and it was requested that a set of bag pipes be sent out to them from Reinsehlen camp.

The driver set out with instructions to deliver them to D Coy. En route he met an enterprising section of A Coy Argylls full of initiative who said "Yes, we are D Coy, hand them over!"

First blood to A Company whose capture of the pipes severely dented the pride of the attackers.

## At home in Minden barracks

THE Jocks are "settling in quite nicely, thank you" in their new home at Elizabeth Barracks in Minden, and are taking positive steps to make friends with their new neighbours.

Already more than 150 men have taken a German language course and started making contacts among the local residents.

"We have one of those marvellous solid purpose built German barracks with lots of room for the men," enthused Maj Neil Salisbury.

"Minden is a very attractive town and the locals like us. We get on very well. The Pipes and Drums are a great attraction in the town, gathering quite a crowd wherever they play."



The Jocks take a close look at a Challenger of B Sqn, The Blues and Royals



High speed reversing by Challenger (below) caused a few anxious moments for some Jocks and gave an extra edge to the subsequent debriefing (above)



Cpl George MacFarlane (right) knocks up a defensive position using a flexible trench support system



What's in a name?

NONE of the Argylls' APCs are named. The Jocks would love to name them but they are not permitted to stencil names on the sides of their vehicles. That is not to say they don't have names for them. They do - mostly unprintable, especially when the vehicle is stuck in three feet of mud with a thrown track.

## UP TO STRENGTH

RECRUITING is going extremely well for The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, probably because unemployment is still high within their recruiting area around Glasgow and central Scotland.

"Certainly, compared to many of the English country regiments we don't have any problems at all," said Maj Neil Salisbury.

"I think, however, although

we are all right at the moment, you have to be realistic and start to look forward to perhaps a year or two years' time when we will start to have problems."

The Jocks certainly work hard at their recruiting and it seems to be paying off. This high-morale battalion is certainly retaining its men.

Just 15 per cent of the battalion strength is made up of men on three year engagements

- an extremely low figure - and conscious effort is being made to further reduce that total to single figures.

Their philosophy is that every three year man they can encourage to sign on for nine years makes him the equivalent of three three year soldiers...

## A salutary lesson from Challenger

IT WAS a case of little meets large when the Jocks were given the chance to view Challenger at first hand. The massive main battle tanks of the Blues and Royals dwarfed the tiny APCs of the Argylls.

Courageous Jocks were loaded on tanks and whizzed around a cross country driving course with consummate ease by the highly professional tank crews.

Familiarisation over, the two units joined forces and mounted a joint attack on an enemy position.

As the tanks growled forward and knocked out the enemy armour, the APCs beetled forward and disgorged their cargo of eager infantrymen who opened up with small arms fire against the dispirited enemy.

It was here the Argylls learnt a frightening and sobering lesson about Challenger's remarkable capacity for high-reverse movement when three young Jocks lay down in cover behind the 60 ton tank.

When it reversed back from contact they were lucky to escape being crushed to death - a point that the company commander was to ram home with feeling to his men during a post battle debriefing.

"You'll know who they were," he told them. "You can smell the awful mess in their trousers!"

Thankfully, no harm was done, but it was a salutary lesson in tactics that will undoubtedly remain in the minds of the Jocks for a long time to come.



# Facing up to cancer on Ward 10

CANCER is an emotive subject. It can develop in anyone and Service personnel are not immune from its profound effects.

Indeed, the Army's own Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich has a ward devoted to the treatment and care of cancer patients and its Department of Oncology deals with the worldwide referrals of Army patients.

The Oncology Ward (Ward 10) is not, as might be imagined, a dark place of sorrow and suffering. Patients and staff have a positive attitude to the disease, rapidly dispelling for visitors the myth that life in such an environment must be a Victorian nightmare.

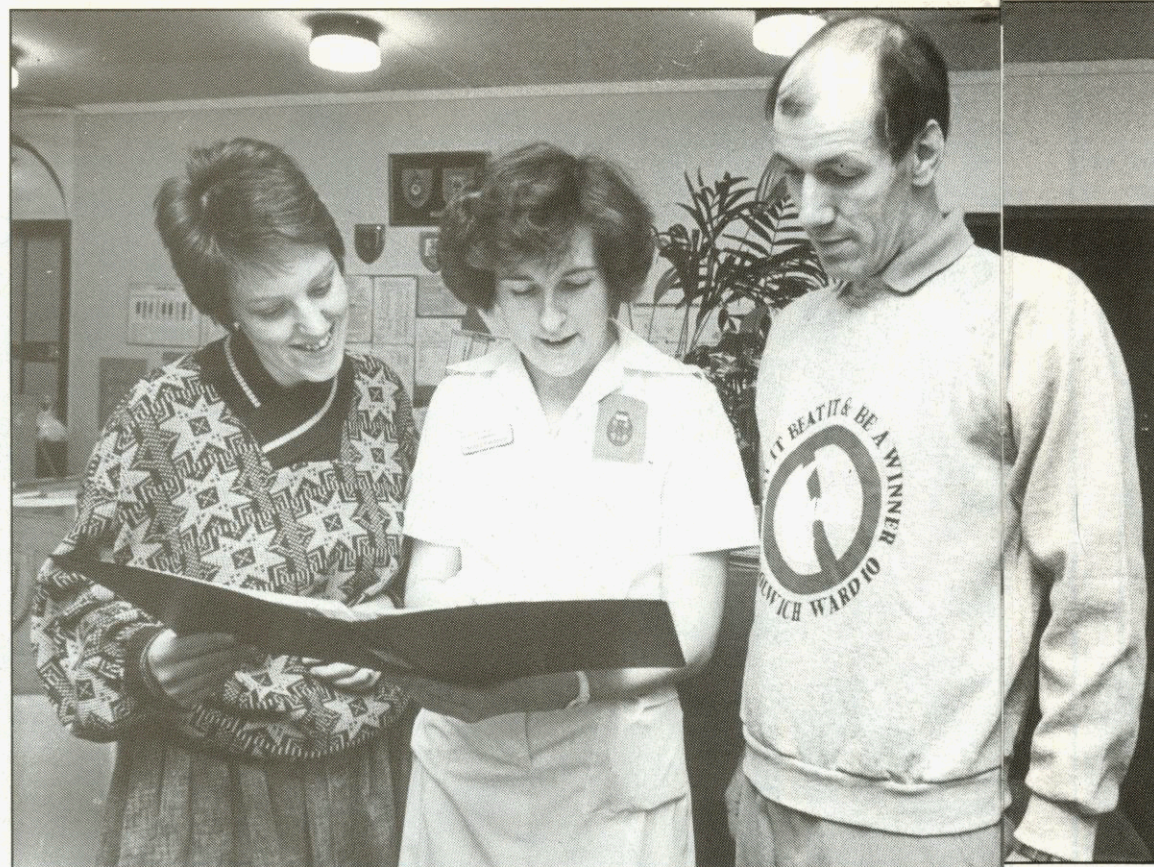
It has to be said that the average squaddy referred to Ward 10 does tend to arrive there believing the only way he will leave will be in a wooden box! This is not the case, for cancer can be treated.

Most forms of cancer are treated on Ward 10 including cancers of the lung, bladder, bowel and breast as well as teratoma and seminoma (types of testicular cancer) and lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic glands).

There is a proportionately higher incidence of testicular cancer among Servicemen than civilians, but this is due to the high proportion of young men serving - most aged between 18 to 40.

Astonishingly, there is little evidence of smoking related disease despite the availability of duty free cigarettes on overseas tours of duty.

"The effects of smoking do not usually come to light until after the soldier has left the Service! By then he is out of



Mrs Barbara Sheehan (left) takes a look at the Ward scrap book with LCpl Heather Harris, QARANC, and fellow patient Cpl Graham Kitching. The Ward 10 sweat shirt slogan reads: "CANCER - Treat it, Beat it and be a Winner!"

our care," explained the nursing officer in charge of the ward, Maj Bill Houston, RAMC.

The ward offers a full surgical facility for straightforward operations such as those on hernias and varicose veins, so the patient referred to Ward 10 should not automatically assume he or she has cancer!

When spirits are at their lowest ebb, squaddy humour comes to the fore and raises morale like a tonic. It is often rather black humour.

What price the patients' nickname for the old coach that takes them to the Westminster Hospital for radiotherapy? They call it the

Chernobyl Express.

New arrivals will probably find another patient on the ward who has already undergone the sometimes traumatic treatments necessary, so that the old hand is able to allay the fears of the new boy.

Of course the whole process of treating

cancer does affect the nursing staff. Because of their close involvement with patients over long periods, they tend to establish close relationships with the sufferers. When a patient does die it is extremely upsetting for those involved.

For this reason the senior clinical psychologist at Woolwich, Margaret Searle holds regular counselling sessions for the staff. They can talk through their experiences with others and release the tensions that build up.

She also helps the patients to come to terms with their illness.

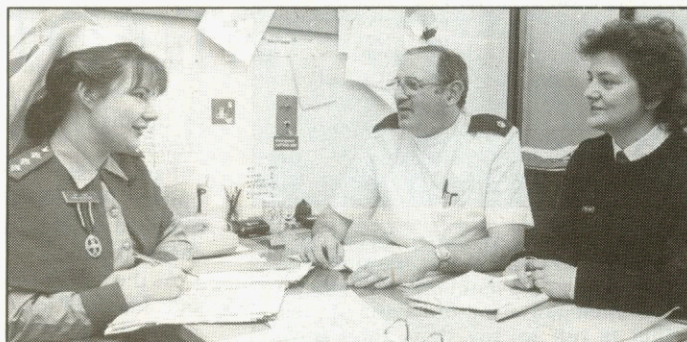
Because of the urgency involved in treating the disease, there can often be major domestic upheaval for families, especially if they are stationed abroad. A number of married quarters in the area are kept available by the garrison's housing commandant, Lt Col Mac McCarthy.

Despite the difficulties of treating cancer, the hospital's Consultant in Oncology, Col Noel Peters, and his staff

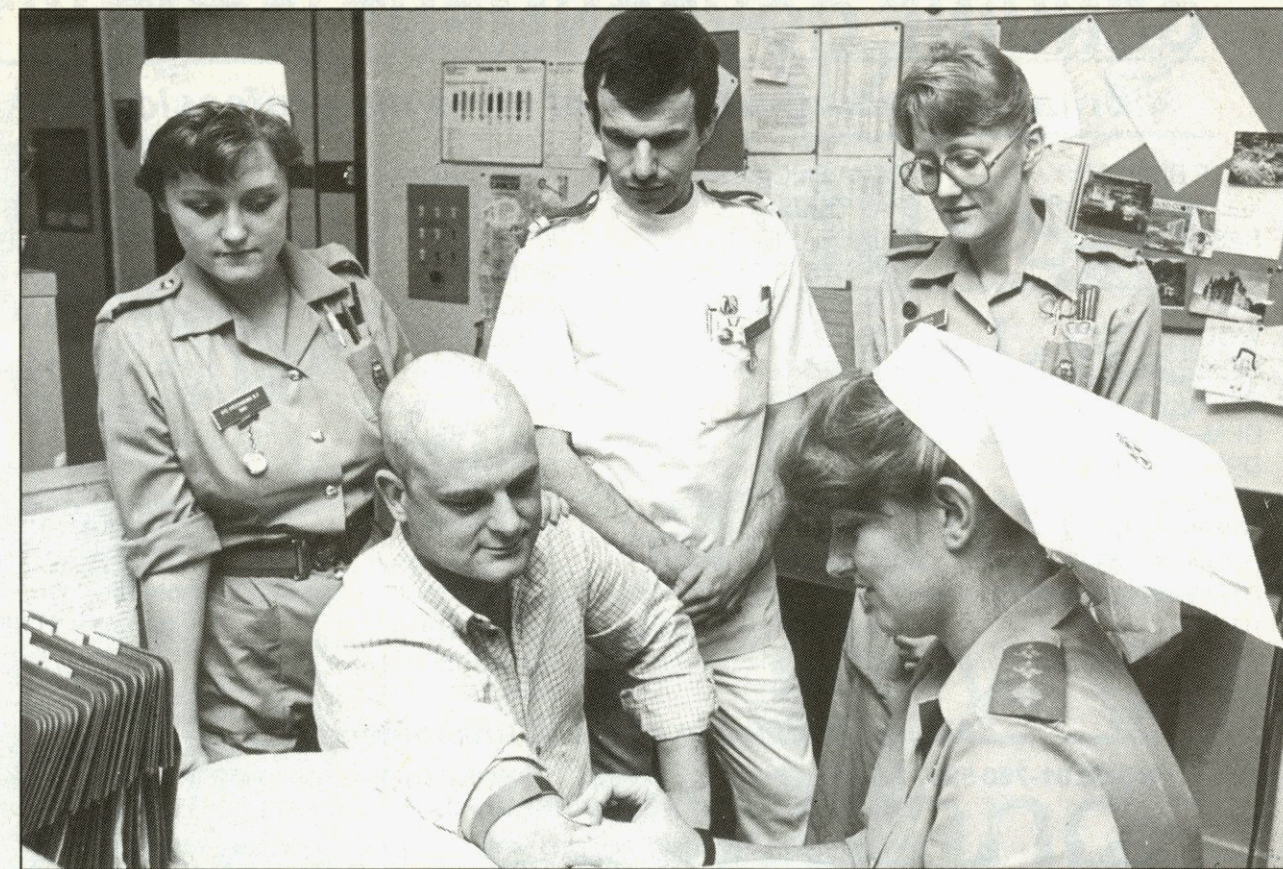
maintain a caring and professional attitude to life and do their very best for the patients, as confirmed by the comments of two former patients who provided SOLDIER with an illuminating insight into the thoughts and attitudes of cancer sufferers.

Also involved are members of the Ser-

● Turn to Page 35



From left, Senior Oncology nurse, Capt Val Goode QARANC, Maj Bill Houston and Mrs Pat West discuss a patient care problem



Capt Karen Icely takes a blood sample from Maj Nigel Start watched by (left to right) Pte Belinda Fitzsimons, Pte Lawrence Raftery and Pte Fran Cueto

## 'Staff put me back on an even keel'

MAJ Nigel Start RCT has been receiving treatment on Ward 10 since last autumn. After noticing a lump on his neck, an exploratory operation at Catterick found the lump was cancerous. It was a lymph gland cancer known as Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

He was referred to Woolwich and went through a number of checks over the next few days to find out what stage his cancer had reached and how far it had spread.

After being examined by Col Noel Peters and medical experts from Westminster Hospital, he underwent a three month course of chemotherapy.

How did he cope with the trauma of learning he had cancer?

"Initially, it was really shocking, as it was obvious that some people were quite poorly, especially the older ones. But

## WIFE TOOK OWN ADVICE AND ACTED QUICKLY . . .

BARBARA Sheehan is an Army wife who was treated at Woolwich for breast cancer. Married to a REME sergeant serving in BAOR, she was admitted to Ward 10 where she underwent a course of radiotherapy.

"It all happened so quickly," she told SOLDIER. "I saw a lump while bathing and went to my doctor the very next day."

With husband Tom looking after the kids, she was admitted to BMH Rinteln where the lump was removed

and diagnosed as malignant.

"The following week saw me on a casevac flight to Britain where I arrived at Woolwich late in the evening," she said.

By the time she arrived she was terrified about being admitted, thinking she would find a ward "full of patients, stuffed with drips and tubes, receiving the last rites!"

To her surprise she found it full of cheerful patients, some sitting around chatting and others watching videos.

"The staff were brilliant,"

she said, "and very quickly put me at ease."

A working mum, Barbara has often met other wives who say they have a pain or a lump in the breast. But when she suggested they consult their doctor, they would look shocked and say: "Oh no, it might BE something!"

She advises women to seek advice without delay.

In most cases the lump is found to be benign, but if it is malignant something can be done about it if it is caught early enough.

once I started talking to the nurses and doctors it became easier to cope with.

"The biggest problem was the word 'cancer'. To me it meant a death sentence and there was a period for a day or two when I thought my last months were up. But by the time I had been here for a day or two I realised that wasn't the case and they could treat it.

"Fortunately for me, of the many types of cancer mine is

relatively easy to treat and I quickly realised I was not going to die immediately. There was a course of treatment for it, and a good chance that I would come out of it alive.

"Of course, all the way through it there was always the underlying thought that you might be one of the unlucky ones, a thought that tends to keep you awake at night.

"The staff have been excellent. They're very busy

but all of them have found time during their busy schedule to actually come and talk to me, whatever stage I was at, about how I felt and how I should approach things. They let me really pour out all my fears and worries, listened calmly and put me back on an even keel.

"Talking to other patients too helps a lot. You are surrounded by guys who talk a lot among themselves which

● Turn to Page 35



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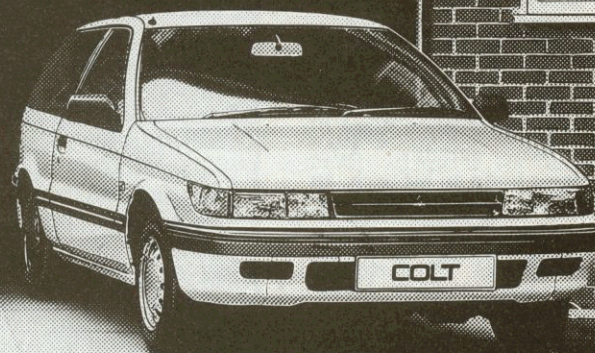
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## Leading the way



# 'Bizarre' Hussar takes a unique view of Falklands



Sketchpad in hand, Maj Robin Watt at work on a deserted beach

IT'S not all military vigilance in the Falkland Islands seven years after the conflict. There are superb sports facilities, invigorating R and R trips, titillating CSE shows, unbelievable fishing excursions and then, of course, there's albatross skull sketching.

This latter hobby is, in fact, the passion of Royal Hussar Maj Robin Watt. When he is not chatting up the locals in his role as Civil-Military Liaison Officer, he's off to the wilds of East and West Falkland with bergen and sketchpad in search of flora and fauna.

Robin didn't just get posted to the Falklands to fill a military post; he went with the approval of the Army Benevolent Fund to produce a book entitled *"Falklands Summer"*, whose proceeds will benefit the injured veterans of the Falklands campaign and Northern Ireland where the author has served eight tours.

The book will cover all aspects of Falklands life in the summer, focusing not only on animal and plant life, but also on life in the farm settlements, the sheep and fishing industries, horse racing and contemporary military life.

It was while he was researching these subjects that Robin kindled a latent artistic talent with pencils and watercolours. He also discovered that he had a penchant for post-mortem paintings of a scientific nature!

He became familiar with the natural

**Words and pictures by Philip Simpson**



**A comparison of bills. Robin's sketches of the skulls of the giant petrel and black browed albatross**

habitats of albatross, penguins, black-necked swans, cormorants, grebes, hawks, vultures, Upland and kelp geese and other species native to the Falklands.

These he sketches in the wild but few naturalists in the South Atlantic have produced detailed sketches of, for example, a bird's eye, skull, beak structure, feet and wings. To do this, Robin is adopting a post-mortem approach.

People from near and far, having heard of his interest, give him the carcasses of

birds which have died of natural causes. They have to be quick because the Falklands turkey vulture is all too often quicker! If he can't get hold of carcasses, the artist collects and sketches their skeletal structures. Again, much of this work is unique.

The bizarre Hussar's interest doesn't stop at bird life. He is conducting similar scientific work on fresh and deepwater fish, elephant seals, sealions and the Patagonian fox. Robin is a conscientious artist. It took him 20 hours just to sketch and watercolour a fox's head.

In addition he has graphically recorded in the wild some of the rarest of the Falklands' 163 known native flowering plants. He was once seen wading waist-deep into an icy pond just to take a cutting from a rare marine plant. The specimen was successfully nurtured in a plant pot in his room.

Many frozen bird and fish specimens are due to be shipped back to Britain later in the year so Robin can continue with his work. The Patagonian fox study and other examples of work to be included in the book will be shown at the Society of Wildlife Artists Exhibition in The Mall Galleries, London, later this year.

Meanwhile, patrols of the Resident Infantry Company in the remotest regions of the Falklands sometimes report sightings of a camouflaged soldier with sketchpad and colouring pencils at the ready. They are advised to give him a wide berth. Maj Robin Watt, bizarre Hussar and artist extraordinaire, is at work!

## Robin's sketches will help wounded veterans



# Injuries have a crippling effect on training

THE physical training regime for new British Army recruits is likely to undergo significant changes in the coming months.

The problem of lower limb injuries – tendinitis, stress fractures and shin splints – is something with which armies all over the developed world are having to contend.

In the United States where recruits are sometimes unofficially referred to as *Couch Potatoes* – having spent more time watching television than

taking exercise – a softer regime is being introduced.

The French have produced a report on the subject and an important study by the Austrians led to modifications in their physical training syllabus.

In Britain the situation has been aggravated by the fact that in some schools competitive sport is actively discouraged.

Much of the evidence concerning the high incidence of lower limb injury in recruit training is conflicting and at the request of the Director of Training, the Army Personal Research Establishment at Farnborough, Hants, has been making an intensive study for the past two years.

Among the material available are two examples of the way in which the problem can be tackled.

At 17 Training Regiment Royal Artillery and Depot, Woolwich, WO2 (Quartermaster Staff Instructor) Jim Brennan, who was posted in from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1986, made a preliminary study.

A former Para who transferred to the Army Physical Training Corps early in his career, he suggested that what the regimental staff had been asking of recruits as far as aspects of PT were concerned "was somewhat at variance with the standards demanded by the CMS(R)" – Common Military Syllabus (Recruit).

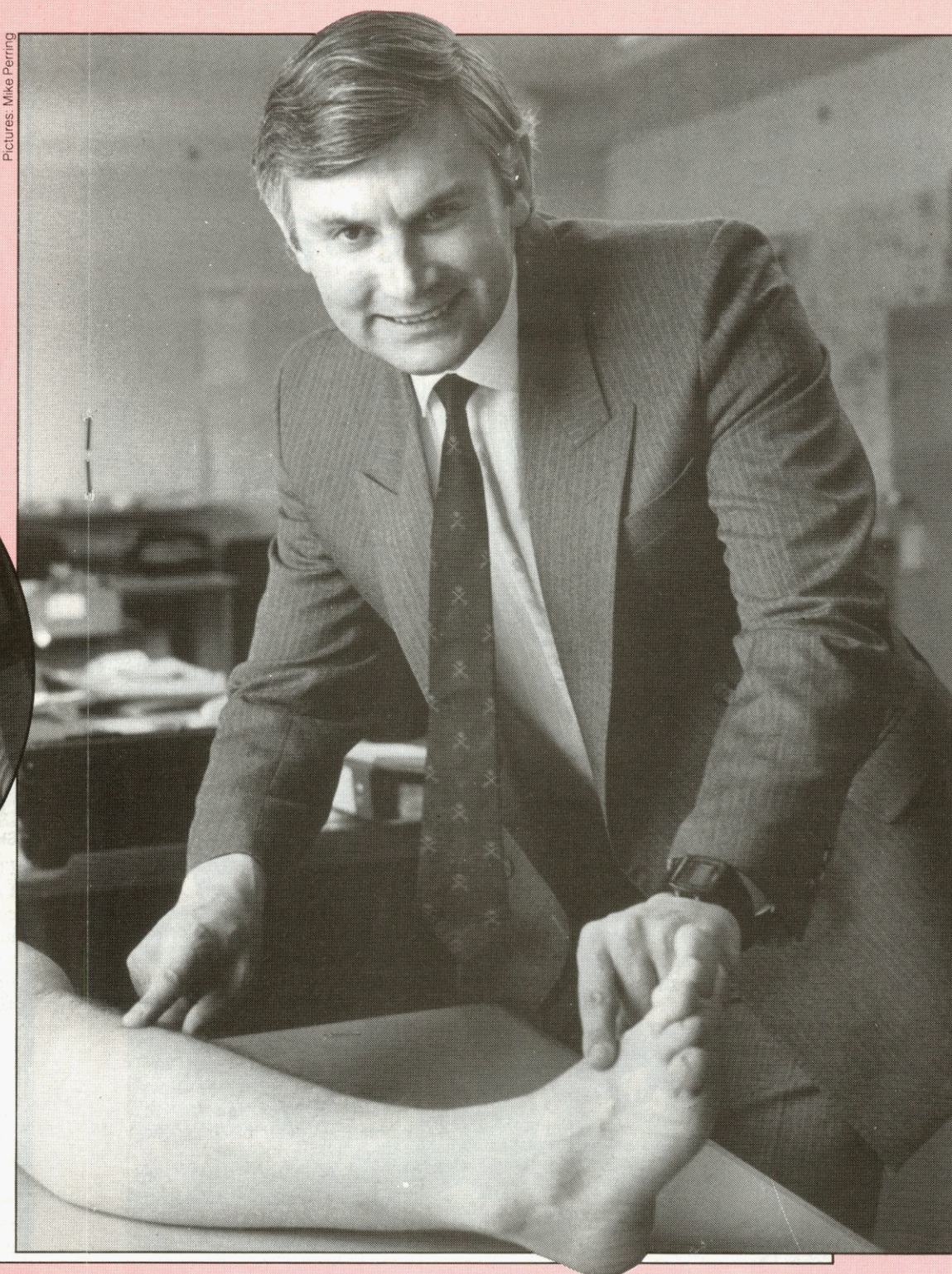
With close involvement at command and control level the following measures were introduced:

- the elimination of any additional remedial training in the first four weeks of training, other than post injury;



Above – Best foot forward. One of the styles of training shoe being trialled by the Army being put through its paces by a soldier of 1 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers at Aldershot

Right – Now retired, WO1 (QMSI) Jim Brennan indicates the part of the leg that gives recruits so much trouble



## Injury problem is 'wasteful and expensive'

- the barring of any PT extra to that programmed;
- the forbidding of non-qualified staff to initiate PT, though they joined in normal supervisory duties (refereeing games and so on).

On the positive side a new normal daily working practice was introduced which included:

- the instruction of all new PT staff and junior NCOs in the need to be more sympathetic towards recruits with injuries early in the acute phase;
- different post injury physiotherapy treatment regimes;
- follow-up remedial programmes were performed in the gym

during PT sessions "thus keeping recruits with their peer groups".

- an adjusted syllabus which allowed more progressive basic physical training in the gym in the early weeks and less vigorous endurance and obstacle training.

- the introduction of good quality training shoes instead of Army plimsolls.

- boots combat high were not worn by recruits for any physical activity "except drill" in the first four weeks of training and were subsequently introduced gradually.

The regime was similar to that introduced independently

### 'R Irish put success down to good man management and progressive training'

at The King's Division Depot The Royal Irish Rangers.

Maj Ian McSherry, OC Training Company (which takes recruits between 17 and 23 years old) told SOLDIER: "In the past two years we have not had to discharge one recruit because of a lower limb injury attributed to the wearing of the BCH (boot combat high).

The Royal Irish Depot identified as a possible weak-

ness in the normal PT syllabus the fact that "weight carrying is not introduced soon enough".

Under the traditional syllabus weight carrying was not due until Week 5.

Recruits now carry "some form of weight" from Week 2.

As a consequence they are "not now encountering any difficulties with carrying CEMO (completely equipped marching order) or CEFO (completely equipped fighting order) at the battle camp . . . in marked contrast to a year ago when recruits struggled to carry their CEMO."

Men begin by wearing skeleton order between and

during lessons and progressively increase the load until by the 12th week of their training they are carrying 30lbs.

The fitting and wearing of boots is closely supervised and recruits are not allowed to run in them for the first four to five weeks, a rule which has "undoubtedly helped to reduce the number of minor lower limb injuries to but a few in each recruit platoon".

The R Irish puts its success down to good man management at corporal level and progressive training.

The problem of lower limb injuries is not only wasteful of manpower but expensive.

## Lost days cost the Marines nearly £1½m a year

IN 1986 an estimate of the loss of man-training days at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (at Lympstone, Devon) put the total at 5,000 for a nine-month period. In cash terms at the then figure of £89 a day, the cost was £445,000.

Since then the Royal Marines have taken positive steps which include the introduction of shock absorbing soles for footwear; a superior type of training shoe in place of the old Army plimsolls, and the floor of the gymnasium has been replaced to give it more spring.

Though the high combat boot is given much of the blame for lower limb injuries, the real causes of the high drop-out rate of new recruits are likely to lie much deeper.

The general lack of emphasis on physical education at school, the easy escape route into the dream world of electronic games, gory videos and TV marathons are other factors.

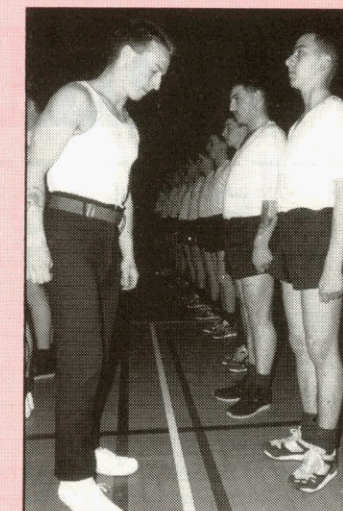
Some experienced trainers believe they can detect a deterioration in the physical and moral quality of recruits compared with even five years ago.

But nearly all are convinced that given time they can make men out of most young hopefuls providing they have just a spark of spirit.

What they need above all is time to correct the defects.

The Royal Marines take six months to turn out what no one will deny is an excellent product.

The Army may well extend the period of basic training in future by at least two very valuable weeks.



New footwear on trial

### Four steps to safer training

Confirmation of the importance the Army attaches to the physical training of recruits came from Lt Col John Wyatt, RE, of the Directorate of Army Training.

"We are well aware of the problem of lower limb injuries," he told SOLDIER, "which is why we have taken four initiatives." These were:

- A review of the common military syllabus for recruits which is likely to be extended

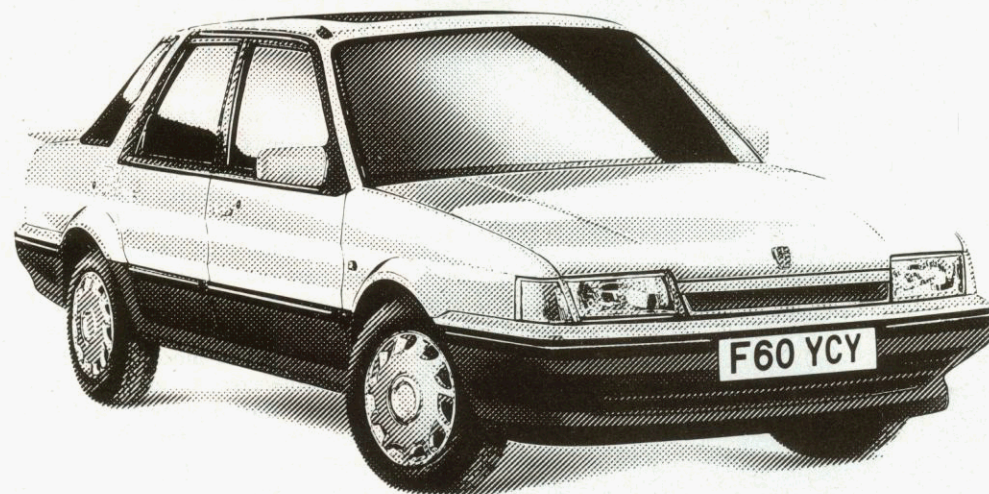
- The involvement of the Army Personal Research Establishment so that the scientific as well as a common sense attitude is applied

- New training shoes which involved APRE and SCRDE Colchester are being issued and trialled.

- A case has been put forward for the replacement where necessary of rigid gym floors with springier types.



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## A RIGHT ROYAL CELEBRATION FOR THE RWF

### Welch share party with Queen

CELEBRATING their 300th birthday in style, The Royal Welch Fusiliers were delighted to welcome a very special guest to their party.

Reviewing the regiment and watching the tercentenary pageant at Powys Castle was the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Welch. By happy coincidence the Queen was also celebrating her birthday that day.

A gala of colour and music greeted the Royal guest at the castle, one time seat of a dynasty of Welsh princes, and latterly home to the Herbert family who founded the regiment in 1689.

Guests were welcomed to the pageant by a guard of honour mounted by American civilians in the red tunics and buff breeches worn by the Royal Welch at the time of the American War of Independence.

Members of The 23rd Regiment of Foot, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in America, they had flown over with their black-powder muskets to take part in the pageant.

The pageant traced the history of the regiment since its creation, and featured tableaux on the Marlborough Campaign, the Crimean War and the Boxer Rebellion.

The latter was staged by members of the United States Marine Corps alongside whom the Royal Welch fought at the turn of this century when relieving the Europeans besieged in China by the Boxer rebels.

Other affiliated foreign units attending the celebrations were The Royal 22nd Regiment of Canada – who celebrate their 75th anniversary this year – the 2nd Battalion, The Frontier Force Regiment of Pakistan, and the 4th Battalion, The Royal Malay Regiment.



Above – The Queen enjoys a birthday chat with men of the 1st Battalion at Powys Castle. Below – Royal inspection for soldiers of the 3rd Battalion



**Words by**  
**Mervyn Wynne Jones**  
**Pictures by**  
**Sgt Dave Miles**

The heavy losses suffered by the 42 battalions of The Royal Welch Fusiliers during the First World War were depicted by members of the 4 RWF, 6 RWF and Powys Cadet Battalions of the Army Cadet Force.

Musical accompaniment was provided by the bands of the 1st Battalions, The Royal Welch Fusiliers and The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, the St George's Band The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the trumpeters of The Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall, the Corps of Drums of 1 and 3 RWF and the Treorchy Male Voice Choir.

• **That Incredible Infantry**  
– see review in Page 37

## Honours galore

RAISED at Ludlow Castle in 1689 by the 4th Lord Herbert of Chirbury – a staunch supporter of King William III – The Royal Welch Fusiliers saw action at the Battle of the Boyne the following year against the troops of James II.

Three hundred years later, 1 RWF are back in Northern



The RWF's flash of ribbons

## Tale of the black flash...

LINKS between regiment and Crown have always been strong and the 'flash' of five black ribbons worn by every Royal Welshman on his collar is a distinction unique among regiments of the Army. It is a relic of the days when soldiers wore pigtails which, because they were greased, were enclosed in what was known as a queue-bag.

When the queue was done away with in 1808, the regiment was in Nova Scotia and did not receive the order. When eventually they dispensed with the pigtail they retained the ribbons which secured it.

In 1834 an inspecting general ordered the flash to be removed. The matter was immediately referred to King William IV who formally granted the flash as a "peculiarity whereby to mark the dress of that distinguished regiment."

It is worn today by all ranks

• **Turn to Page 38**

Ireland at Ballykinler and nearing the end of a two year roulement tour in the Province.

Traditionally a North Wales regiment (the oldest in Wales) the RWF draws its recruits from across the Principality, from the English border counties and the North West.

• **Turn to Page 38**



# Calais veterans relive a bitter memory

IN May 1940, the heroic defence of Calais by 3,000 British and 800 French troops delayed the advancing German Army long enough for the bulk of the British Expeditionary Force to be evacuated from Dunkirk, writes Laurie Manton.

Among the defenders who survived the siege and were captured, there was much bitterness about the political indecision that sealed their fate. Especially when they were able to see destroyers of the Royal Navy standing off Calais ready to evacuate them!

Most expected to be evacuated until they received a message that had been drafted jointly by Churchill, Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for War and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Gen Sir Edmund Ironside.

It read: "Every hour you continue to exist is of greatest help to BEF. Government has therefore decided you must continue to fight. Have greatest admiration for your splendid stand."

Astonishingly it was delivered by a minesweeper which fought its way in to Calais harbour at midnight. At dawn it was evident that the evacuating force of destroyers had been recalled to Dover. Now there was no way out.

It was said that Churchill felt physically sick as the three men who had drafted the fateful signal sat silently at the table.

SOLDIER joined a tour of Calais organised to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second World War.

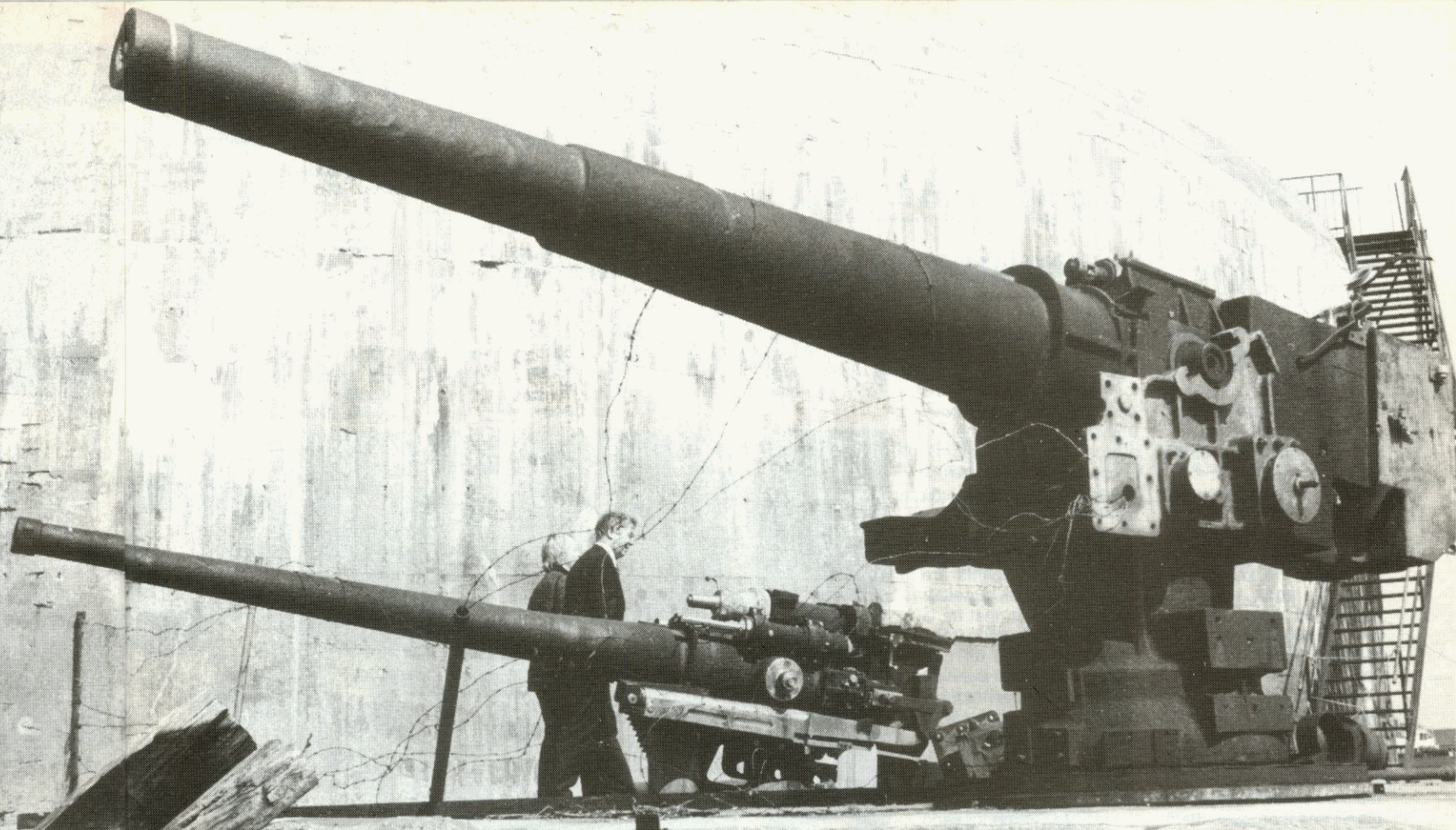
Many of the Old and Bold were there once more – this time accompanied by their sons and grandsons – to see for themselves an area of France where a small part of the British Army had covered itself with glory.

After the veterans had watched the white cliffs of Dover disappear in to the haze, it seemed wholly appropriate to find Dame Vera Lynn sitting in the ship's lounge enjoying a few moments rest before the hectic tour began.



Pictured at the Green Jackets Memorial are (from left) Gen Sir Arthur Farrar-Hockley, Legion. Above right – Two captured German guns lie rusting alongside the battery Todt

Pictures: Terry Champion



Mr Tom Hart, ex 2nd Bn The King's Royal Rifle Corps who was blinded at Calais, Dame Vera Lynn and Col Jimmy Hughes of the Royal British Legion, which houses the Museum of the Atlantic Wall at Cap Gris-Nez

## RETURN TO YPRES

IT WILL soon be 75 years since the first battle of the Ypres salient began in the First World War. SOLDIER has been to visit the battlefield.

Every night buglers sound the Last Post beneath the massive Menin Gate which commemorates in the once devastated town of Ypres 55,000 of the men "missing with no known graves" who died in the slaughter of the Ypres salient.

Belgium has not forgotten. And it seems, it is never likely to do so.

But with the passing of each year, the number of veterans of that quagmire of carnage dwindles. In at least their late eighties or nineties now, few of the boys who survived death in the morass of mud that was Flanders (trans: flooded land) are now able to make even the occasional pilgrimage to the battlefields of the First World War.

A few do still manage to revisit the soggy fields, where the youth of Britain (and France, Germany and many other countries) was decimated.

"The oldest passenger we have had was 97½," recalled Mrs Valmai Holt, who with her husband Maj Tonie Holt has been organising battlefield tours for the past 14 years. "But the veterans are now few and far between."

The expressions on the faces of the veterans were a picture to behold as they recognised the former Forces Sweetheart.

So keen was the interest in past events that Professor Brian Bond of the Department of War Studies at King's College, London was forced to run through his prepared lecture three times to accommodate the 600 plus people who had joined the tour.

For anyone who did not experience the horrors of the Ypres salient and its three great battles, it is difficult to envisage now what it was like in those dark days of the Kaiser's attempt to burst through "poor little Belgium" to the Channel.

From the vantage point at Cassel in the Flanders hills where the generals looked down on troops dying in their thousands, the flat fields spread a panoramic green, hiding now the watery graves of soldiers who were blown to pieces in the mud, and the scars of endless trenches where they waited for death or the victory that never came.

In Ypres – focal point of the bulge in the front line which was to be so terribly contested – there are no ruins to remind that this was a town reduced to rubble by the bombardments.

Ypres almost looks as if it had never been disturbed by four years of hell. The moat and ramparts, chocolate shops and patisseries, cafes and bars all nestle in the

aura of a picturesque medieval city, so cleverly has it been restored.

But signs of the war are there. The museum with its exhibits of rusting guns and shells, for instance.

Not far from the square, the St George's Memorial Church, adorned inside with Standards, plaques and other reminders of the countless regiments which fought in the Ypres salient.

Mr Sid Arnold, ex Royal Artillery, sidesman at the church for 17 years, proudly shows visitors around the little bit of Britain on a Belgian street corner. A veteran of the Second World War, he went to live there in 1945, marrying the eldest of seven daughters of a Belgian family with whom he was billeted.

At that time he worked (for 30 years) with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, helping with the immense task of retrieving the bodies of the dead and organising their decent burial.

Sid, at 74, is now very much a part of

housed in a former German bunker was followed by a drive past the First World War 'Dover Patrol' memorial rebuilt after the occupying German forces demolished it in the Second World War.

Next on the itinerary was a halt at the Museum 39/45 of the Atlantic Wall, housed in the former battery Todt which had walls 11ft thick. It once housed a 15inch gun that fired shells weighing

Ypres, although he speaks only English even after all this time. "I tried a few words of Flemish to start with, but the local people laughed at my efforts so I gave up," he said.

Out in the countryside around Ypres, the land is dotted with cemeteries with their row upon row of grey headstones. Some contain only a few graves; although Tyne Cot on Passchendaele Ridge, the biggest Allied cemetery on the western front encloses 11,000 bodies. Not far away at Langemarck, 44,000 German dead lie buried, half of them in one mass grave.

The statistics defy the imagination, just as they did when the great Menin Gate memorial was built. Despite its spacious stone surfaces, there proved to be insufficient room for all the names of the "missing" dead.

Although the Ypres veterans who visit the memorial are now few, many of the battlefield tour parties still head for Ypres. Said Mrs Holt: "We get school groups,

around 1,800lbs at Dover.

About 2,000 items of military memorabilia are on display, including German uniforms, guns, badges and bayonets. But it has to be said that conservation and methods of displaying museum exhibits was generally poor throughout all the French museums visited.

The former V weapon site at the

family groups, regimental associations, people carrying out research; there is no lack of interest. And on Armistice Day they like to come here to remember."

Last year, the Holts ran five coach parties to Ypres for Armistice Day. There, on the 11th day of the 11th month, the people of Ypres turn out in force to honour the men who fought and died around their town, marching to church behind the town band, with a military contingent from Shape HQ in the parade.

Always it is on the 11th of the 11th, not the Sunday nearest Armistice Day as in Britain. "We feel Armistice Day should be remembered on November 11 again, just as it is in other parts of the world. The spirit here that day is unbelievable," said Mrs Holt.

In Ypres this year, as on every day of every year, two policemen will step into the road to halt the traffic at the Menin Gate, bugles will be raised in salute and the Belgians, and their guests, will remember.

Blockhaus le Epercleques was impressive and the last place on the agenda before it was time to catch the ferry en route for Dover.

There the departing travellers ended their day with a very British custom – three cheers for the helpful couriers and coach drivers – a fitting ending to a day that paid homage to the spirit and heroism of the British soldier.



# HARMONY HOUSE

## Lübbecke course aimed

EIGHTEEN young people have just learnt to appreciate the facilities offered by Church House BAOR in the small town of Lübbecke, below the Lübbecke-Minden ridge. They have been taking part in one of the six courses arranged at Church House every year for Servicemen and women and their partners.

Entitled "Young Couples - Living in Harmony", the course is designed for those who have recently married or are about to be married and aims to encourage them to look realistically at all aspects of marriage including potential problems, particularly those peculiar to Service life.

In addition to having time away from their normal environment to discuss mutual expectations and plans, and for prayer, there are opportunities to discuss budget and finance problems, relationships, and to meet a Unit Families' Officer. Up to 12 couples at a time can take part.

Church House is run by the Rev Alistair Heagerty who went to Lübbecke from the Garrison Church at Bielefeld in May 1988. The Warden, as he is known, and his small team are responsible for running a number of courses

## at young couples

throughout the year.

They range from a look at Christian faith to advice for leaders of youth groups and chaplains' in-service training. In addition there is a wide-ranging programme of church weekends including a Jewish weekend and conferences and seminars.

Lasting friendships are forged at Church House as the latest participants are discovering. One regret Mr Heagerty has is that he is unable at present to offer follow-up courses for previous students. However, at the end of each course he will at least know that he has been instrumental in bringing people closer together to discuss both their own problems and those of others and perhaps also in kindling in them a greater understanding of the Christian faith.

Church House also has a self-contained welfare flat to enable individuals or families who are experiencing difficulties to get away from their immediate surroundings to an entirely different environment where they can have time to reflect and take stock in peace and quiet.

Any couples who wish to

participate in a Church House course should get in touch with their Unit Padre or Families' Officer.

THE Ministry of Defence has reached the stage where it needs expert advice on the mechanics of a possible housing association scheme.

Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces Mr Michael Neubert has agreed

that the MoD should fund a study by the Housing Association Consultative and Advisory Service (HACAS).

The MoD expects to have the study's recommendations by mid June and should then be well placed to decide its next step.



Capt Dick Atterbury, Unit Families Officer, with Sharon and Kane Greenhill at Church House



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND  
*Anne Armstrong*  
Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653

# Disquiet on the Home Front

## Ten years on, housing problem is still acute

HER letter ended "In case you wonder why we cannot house ourselves, it has been impossible to save a sufficiently large deposit to get a mortgage on a lance corporal's pay..."

Just another letter from just another Army wife? What is particularly sad about it is that it was written TEN years ago by an Army wife living in Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot.

And it told the sorry tale of unco-operative local authorities and impossibly long waiting lists.

So what is new? It appears that there is still a very long way to go to resolve the problems of homeless ex Servicemen, prevented by their nomadic life from putting down roots

and paying dearly when they lose the security of a right to a married quarter.

The cases of Mr C, ex-Cpl P and Sgt Whalley outlined on these pages are only too typical of the many

months to meet the allowance rules for accompanied service. Already the word has got around that if potential purchasers delay for long enough the Service home owner will have to drop his asking price.

That's not fair!

The scale of the problem can be judged from the statistic that 16,707 soldiers quit the Army in 1987 (27,167 Servicemen and women in all). Nearly 1,000 more were medically discharged.

It doesn't need a genius to work out that if only ten per cent of them had problems in finding a roof in Civvy Street that adds up to an awful lot of unhappiness.

It also adds up to an awful lot of early departures from the ranks of the Services. Several of the NCOs I spoke to said they had no option but to take Premature Voluntary Retirement (PVR).

"The grass looks greener on the other side," said one. "I'll just have to give it a try before it's too late."

One of the group had had two offers - one of a £12,000 job plus company car in the North, the other of a £14,000 job in the Prison Service.

"I can't refuse, so I'm leaving," he told me sadly.

## New home No. 1,000

SGT Adrian Carter and his family received the keys to his new quarter in Talavera Park, Aldershot from DoE Minister Christopher Chope. It was the 1,000th house built by the PSA for married Service couples under its 1980s "enhanced housing programme" throughout England.

### In my view...

tales of woe that find their way into my mailbox.

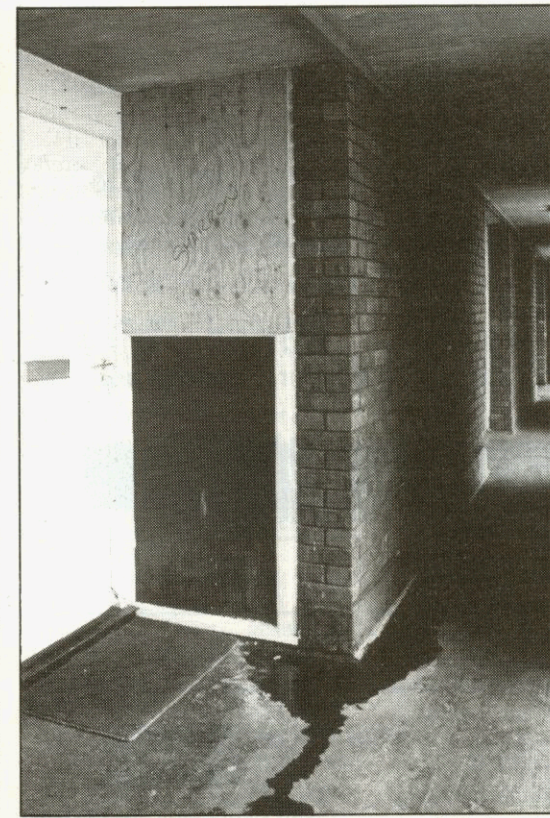
I have just spoken to a group of junior NCOs on the subject of housing. Their major problem was that after serving for up to 16 years and with salaries ranging from £9,000 to £11,500, they still had no prospect of raising sufficient capital to take on a mortgage in the high priced South of England, and they felt their options were limited even in the North. "What can we do?" was their cry.

One told me: "My wife has a good job in a bank and had help with buying a house. Now I have been posted to Aldershot and we cannot find a house within 50 miles of the garrison at a price we can afford."

"If we move my wife will lose her job - and the help she gets from the bank. Either way we lose out now the new allowance package for accompanied service has come in."

I discussed this particular problem with a local estate agent who told me that a Serviceman earning Junior NCO wages would be barely able to buy a one bedroom flat in Aldershot. Prices for a two-bedroom semi in the area ranged from £65,000 upwards.

The rule is that a Serviceman posted away must sell up within six



The grim prospect facing ex Para Mr C and his family

## How three ex soldiers face up to housing nightmare

LIFE has turned sour for ex Para Mr C. After 22 happy years in the British Army he is now officially homeless and about to be housed in a maisonette he regards with horror.

He and his family were living in Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot until they and 36 other occupants were moved out to leave the quarters empty for disposal (see SOLDIER, May 15).

That experience was stressful enough, but he now sees his old house empty and vandalised as he pays an increased rent as an irregular occupant of another married quarter.

Now classified as a homeless person, he is obliged to accept the first house offered by the local authority. In his case that meant Totland Close, Aldershot.

The idea appals him. He will be giving up a clean

## Bleak House prospect

and comfortable MQ for a maisonette in a bleak, smelly, vandalised block.

Not an attractive proposition for him, his wife and his children.

"It wouldn't be so bad if we knew what was going to happen to all those surplus MoD estates," he said. "It would help if we knew they were going to Servicemen, even if not to me."

The future of Mr C's current abode is in the balance. There are three likely alternatives - it will be sold under the discounted quarters scheme; sold or leased to the local authority; or sold to a developer.

EX CORPORAL P's last posting was to Woolwich. Before their marriage his wife lived and worked in Islington and she still works there.

Because of a misunderstanding her name was taken off the Islington housing list by a relative.

Now neither of the London boroughs will accept him and his wife on their lists.

After nearly 15 years of service he faces homelessness in Woolwich where the couple are at present in an MQ. His case is shortly to go to court and the process of eviction will begin.

"I have a job, so it's not that I'm lazy or unemployed."

"I applied for seven surplus quarters but the nearest I got was

## About to be evicted

107th on the list.

"I also applied to housing associations but was told there would be a wait of up to three years. I can't afford to buy so our outlook is a bit bleak."

"But it's not just me. All my Service friends are worried. There doesn't seem to be any help available from the MoD and we can't choose where we work."

"What could we, or should we have done? I have only been married a short time and now I am faced with homelessness."

SGT and Mrs Paul Whalley and their three children face a homeless future in Woolwich.

He has a job to go to in London when he leaves the Army next month after 22 years. His wife already has a job in the Woolwich area.

The only snag is that they cannot afford to buy a house in the London area, have no chance of obtaining a local authority property, and failed to get further than the reserve list on the discounted quarters scheme.

Sgt Whalley wrote to his MP, Mr Peter Bottomley, who took up his case with the then Armed Forces Minister and the Housing Minister.

"Both gave me no hope and no solution. They just advised me to do what I had already done without success," explained Sgt Whalley. "There are empty

## Sympathy but no help...

Service properties within the garrison but my family faces a future in bed and breakfast or sub standard housing. Even rented accommodation is not easy to find.

His MP forwarded a letter from the Armed Forces Minister. It stated: "I have every sympathy for the problem they face but I am afraid there is little I can do to help."

It ends: "I am sorry to send such a disappointing reply but I wish Sgt and Mrs Whalley every good fortune in their search."

They feel they are going to need it.



Sgt and Mrs Whalley and two of their three children



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# Ward 10

● From Page 22

vice Hospital Welfare Department of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society. Their senior welfare officer at Woolwich, Miss Pat West said: "Besides our traditional role of providing diversional therapy and library facilities, we can also provide short-term accommodation for relatives of the very seriously ill."

Because so many patients and their families are transferred from abroad, she finds they have special problems involving housing and finance.

The service hospital welfare officers also get involved in the counselling process in conjunction with other agencies such as the psychologist and nursing staff.

## Even keel

● From Page 23

helps. Fortunately cancer is not a dirty word on the ward which is good. Morale on the ward is important and there is this happy atmosphere which the staff maintain.

"The Army and my corps have been excellent in their treatment of us, absolutely brilliant. It has been so easy for us to concentrate just on getting better without having to worry about money or housing."

This was confirmed by his wife Cherie: "They have been marvellous, arranging a quarter and travel warrants and solving problems."

Maj Start is now attending a course at the Staff College, Camberley.

# Mermaids sighted on Cyprus!

IF scuba diving was ever thought to be a sport reserved for men, seven WRAC members have proved differently.

Led by Capt Jeanne Burrows, of 53 Port Support Sqn, RCT based at Marchwood, Southampton, they took part in an expedition to promote sub aqua diving within the WRAC and to qualify novice divers to the British Sub Aqua standard under the training and supervision of Sgt Brian Seggie, RCT, and Sgt Mick Rednap, RE, both BSAC instructors.

3 RHA, which is stationed in Cyprus, provided messing and accommodation. Diving equipment and facilities were obtained from the Joint Services Sub Aqua Club, Pergamos Camp. The "Bold Mermaids" were equipped and ready to go.

Hard training was carried out at the Dhekelia Sub Aqua Club with the fitting of equipment which can weigh up to 60 pounds per man (or woman). Soon it was time to begin diving around the rugged coast of the island.

Short expeditions to various coastal dive sites were carefully planned. Tunnels and Caves, Cyclops' Eye and Chapel Rock



WRAC divers in Cyprus. In the back row are (from left) Pte Alli Raymond (53 Port Spt Sqn), Pte Angie Donnegan (RAPC Worthy Down), and Pte Debbie Burns (53 Pt Spt Sqn); front, Cpl Irene Laverick (17 Tpt Spt Unit RE), Cpl Lisa Dawson (53 Pt Spt Sqn), Capt Jeanne Burrows and LCpl Tanya Cooper (17 Port Regt RCT).

were three the girls had to contend with. Weight-belts, cylinders and wet-suits had to be lowered and lifted over 40ft high cliffs to reach some sites.

The sea entrance at Tunnels and Caves was a 4ft blow hole, which in windy conditions shot out a spray of sea water. Once through the gap, a 20ft square cave opened up to the team. Heads were counted by torch and through a crevice in the rock the sea revealed flora and fish of every kind.

Highlight of the expedition was the dive on the wreck of the roll-on, roll-off passenger ferry, *Zonobia*, which sank in Larnaca harbour after being

delivered to Greece from Sweden. Cars, lorries and furnishings are still aboard. The WRAC team surveyed the wreck.

Meat lorries with open container hatches appeared out of the darkness, with huge beef bones left inside. A bottle of spirits was retrieved from the duty free shop, but the mixture of whisky and salt water didn't mix very well!

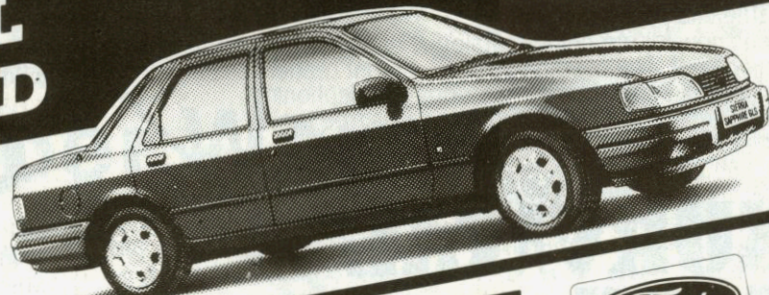
The expedition ended with the girls confident of their diving ability, planning and handling of equipment.

**Story and picture by Roger Lortie**

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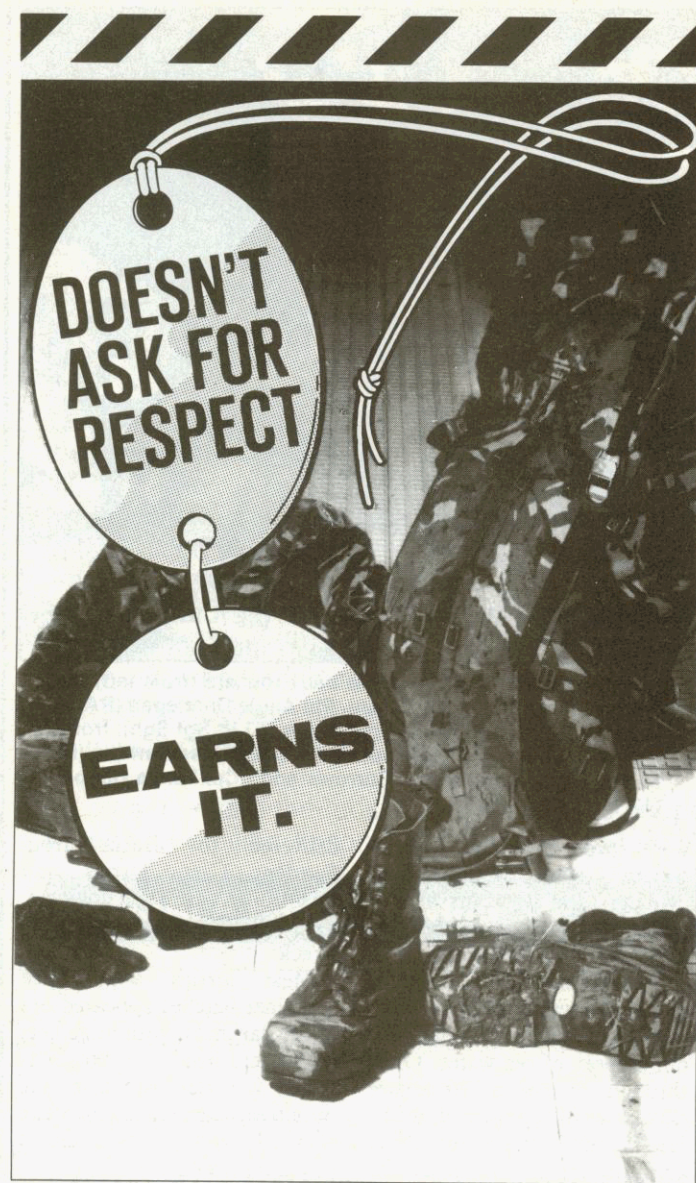
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## RECORDS RODNEY BASHFORD

# Massed bands in all their wet and windy glory

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BNW 9002

DON'T let the date 1985 or the price stop you considering the purchase of this double CD set, for in a few years time you will accept that a mere £13.99 was well spent.

The LPs and cassettes of the pageant were reviewed in SOLDIER soon after the event but here on two CDs lasting no less than 2½ hours you have the whole pageant in realistic terms, even to a strong south-easterly wind and, as those of us who were at the pageant well remember, sporadic rainfall.

This version has been specially mixed for compact disc to give as complete a dynamic range as possible, making the whole thing a genuine "tone picture". But perhaps the title should have been The Last Biggest Band Show in the World, for sadly the logistic problems and cost of assembling more than 1,000 musicians, plus many more soldiers taken from other duties, was found to be too great.

Unless the present strain on military resources is eased this

may well be a memento of past glories to be much prized when the proverbial one man band becomes the norm.

Briefly to remind you of the contents, an opening fanfare on 180 trumpets, a corps of drums display *By Beat of Drum*, *Light of Foot* by the Light Division, The Pipes and Drums, The Queen's Guards, and The Massed Bands, all giving marching and static music of fine quality.

Disc 2 has The Royal Military Band of the Netherlands, the Assembly of the Massed Bands, and Finale comprising *War and Peace*, to music by Gustav Holst (*The Planets*) and *Götterdämmerung* by Wagner, interspersed with contributions from the guns of the Honourable Artillery Company.

Bandleader hope, no doubt, to recoup the cost of producing this great project, though I suspect it was made in the full knowledge that it could be the last of its kind and therefore worth preserving in its finest form - compact disc. The engineers have worked miracles in difficult and hazardous circumstances, and the result is a massive work-out for your new CD set. Beware your speakers.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR and dealers, price £13.99.

# Commando idea came from Boer War

ON THE evening of June 4, 1940, Lt Col Dudley Clarke, Military Assistant to Gen Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, was walking home from the War Office, brooding on the problems which currently beset the nation and, not least, on the necessity of finding some means to strike back at the German forces gathering on the Channel coast.

Inspired by books he had read on irregular warfare, Clarke came up with an idea

that harked back to Boer Commando operations in South Africa 40 years before - lightly equipped teams of men carried across the Channel in small ships of the Royal Navy to harass the enemy and give evidence of an unquenched will to fight, while demonstrating to people at home that all was not yet lost.

So were born the British Army Commandos, the subject of *The Raiders: The Army Commandos 1940-1946*, in which Robin Neillands tells the

## BOOK REVIEWS

# Full circle with the Royal Welch Fusiliers

A FEW weeks ago SOLDIER reviewed a history of The Royal Regiment of Wales in which the author traced the 'Welch' spelling in a regimental title to an Adjutant General's letter written in 1831.

Now, in the history of another regiment of the Principality, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, Michael Glover declares that: "In 1702, when the Welsh designation was granted, the spelling 'Welch' was in common usage, but was swept away during the eighteenth century by 'Welsh'."

"The regiment, however, stuck resolutely to the old spelling although it was not until 1920 that they persuaded the War Office to agree with them."

Glover sets the fighting tradition of The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the context of the development of the British Army as a whole and follows the regiment's story from Ireland in 1689 to the present day. From their raising, The Royal Welch Fusiliers have missed few battle honours.

The book is a chronicle of war and service that stretches across the world: with Marlborough in Europe; America, where the regiment was forced to surrender at Yorktown; in Haiti, where more than 600 men were lost through disease; the Peninsular War and at Waterloo; the Crimea and South Africa, the highlights of the latter half of the 19th century; and 1900 saw the 2nd



RWF pageantry for the Queen when she shared their tercentenary celebrations at Powys Castle. The guard was formed by American civilians, members of the 23rd Regiment RWF of America

Battalion in action in Peking.

The two world wars brought many more battle honours for the regiment's Colours.

There is a wealth of miscellaneous information. An example concerns something of vital interest to the infantry.

"From 1843 it was agreed that the soldier's boot should take into account whether it was to be worn on the right or left foot. Up to that time identical boots had been issued with the instructions that they should be worn on different

feet on alternate days so as to equalise the wear."

It is appropriate that the book should be published in this year which marks the 300th anniversary of the raising of the regiment, bringing the story full circle as The Royal Welch Fusiliers are again serving in Ulster. - BJ

**That Astonishing Infantry: The History of The Royal Welch Fusiliers 1689-1989** by Michael Glover. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £18.50.

## A classic history of the RA

IT WAS in the 1960s that the Royal Artillery Historical Affairs Committee decided to bring the regimental history up to date. When this major project was embarked on, the official history of the Royal Artillery ended in 1914, a situation that could not be allowed to continue.

The best of regimental histories take a long time to prepare and it was not until 1987 that the first volume of the new series, *The Western Front 1914-1918*, was published by the Royal Artillery Institution, who have now released the second book to cover the First World War.

*The Forgotten Fronts and The Home Base, 1914-18* is concerned with the less recorded fronts in the Near and Middle East, Italy and Africa. The volume also describes the role of artillery in the defence of the United Kingdom and the enormous task of raising a force of more than half a million gunners.

It is natural that the Western Front should justify a book of its own, but coverage of the "forgotten fronts" needs all the 490 pages in this second volume.

The author of both books in the new series is Gen Sir Martin Farndale who was commissioned in 1948 into the Royal Regiment of Artillery, of which he is now Colonel Commandant.

A feature of the book is its well selected illustrations, mainly photographs of artillery pieces of the period, and the comprehensive battle maps which put the author's words in their proper context.

It is a classic regimental history - more a soldier's book than an adventure story - and will hold an important place in military literature. - BJ

**The History of The Royal Regiment of Artillery: The Forgotten Fronts and The Home Base, 1914-18** by Gen Sir Martin Farndale. Published by The Royal Artillery Institution, Old Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, London SE18 4DN. Price £25 plus £3 p and p.

story of "men of the hunter class", and of one of the world's unique fighting forces.

The book covers all Army Commando operations, including the often neglected six month campaign that followed the invasion of Madagascar in 1942, an operation that became necessary because of fear that the French Vichy Government might offer the Japanese the facilities of Diego Suarez harbour at the north-east tip of the island.

Included in the book is the

story of a coincidence that very occasionally occurs in war. In 1942, during the invasion of North Africa, a stretcher bearer of No 6 Commando volunteered to stay behind with the wounded and so be taken prisoner.

Two years later the same unit was advancing into Germany when "... we saw what appeared to be two figures ... When they were within shouting distance, we hailed them. I could not believe my eyes. 'Good God! It's Garth!'

"The stretcher bearer who had stayed behind on a hilltop in Africa had walked straight into his own section in the middle of Germany. Out of possibly one million British, American, French and Canadian troops, he walked into his own unit - incredible!"

Such accounts make this a highly readable book. - BJ

**The Raiders: The Army Commandos 1940-1946** by Robin Neillands. Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. Price £14.95.



# FLASH

● From Page 29

in ceremonial and walking out dress.

St David's Day is celebrated wherever there are Royal Welch Fusiliers. The youngest soldier in each company, and newly joined officers and guests at dinner in the mess, "eat the leek" while drummers and fifers – led by the regimental goat – march round the table.

It is at dinner on St David's Day that officers drink the one and only loyal toast of the year. This privilege dates to the naval mutiny on the Nore in 1797 when the mutineers' call to the Royal Welch Fusiliers to join them was snubbed.

King George IV, when dining with the regiment and no doubt mindful of their loyalty, expressed the wish that the loyal toast be dispensed with as "the loyalty of the Royal Welch is never in doubt."

## BOYNE

● From Page 29

Members of the 1st Battalion can look forward to a posting to Berlin later this year.

Since 1690 the regiment has fought in most campaigns involving the Army and has 144 battle honours, 29 of which are carried on the regimental Colour for actions fought before 1914, and 20 on the Queen's Colour for selected battles of the two world wars.

Famous writers have served among its ranks, not least Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves. Silence greeted a summons at the 1917 National Eisteddfod of Wales from the Archdruid for the poet 'Hedd Wyn' to reveal his identity and take his victor's place on the Bard's Chair.

The audience was stunned when it became clear that Ellis Humphrey Evans, alias Hedd Wyn, shepherd and poet, had been killed on the fields of Flanders.

Since the Second World War the regiment has served in Berlin, West Germany, Jamaica, Cyprus, Malaya, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands and elsewhere.

It is one of the few regiments to retain the same title since being raised. Today, its 3rd (TA) battalion is based at Wrexham, Clwyd, and has companies along the North Wales coast from Caernarfon to Queensferry.



From left, Sgt Steve Houghton, Cpl Mick Townend and LCpl Geordie Pearson windsurfing across Maas Hees in Holland

## Surfin' soldiers!

THREE windsurfers based in West Germany hit on a novel way to raise money for charity. They sailed across five lakes in five different European countries in five days and have raised nearly £3,000 for the RASC/RCT Association.

Munster based Sgt Steve Houghton and LCpl Geordie Pearson of 12 Sqn RCT and Cpl Mick Townend of MT Tp 4 Armd Fd Amb RAMC braved snow and frost to successfully negotiate Maas Hees in Holland, Rur Stausee in West Germany, Warche in Belgium, Du Der Chantecoq in Luxembourg and a lake north west of Monaco.

The project was well supported by 12 Sqn RCT and 8 Regt RCT.



Men of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment based in BAOR have raised more than £11,000 for the Acorn Trust, the Kent based charity which supports physically disabled children.

Soldiers from the battalion began collecting money while serving in Northern Ireland last year (by "cycling" from Belfast to Dubai on exercise bicycles while on observation duty!) and later cycled back to their barracks in West Germany.

Others completed a half marathon and three Queensmen canoed the Weser.

★ ★ ★  
The 2nd (County Armagh) Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment, one of the Army's most successful battalions in shooting competitions, has donated four air rifles and two target rifles to the Artists Rifle Club and Minerva Women's Rifle and Pistol Club at Bisley to help the clubs in their project to encourage disabled people to take up the sport.

★ ★ ★  
WO2 Steve Simonini of the Falkland Islands Field Squadron presented a cheque for £280 to a new Brownie pack which has been formed in Stanley. The money, raised by the Falklands based sappers and the Sergeants' and WO's Mess, will be spent on uniforms, handbooks and badges.

★ ★ ★  
Recruiters at the Surbiton Army Careers Office raised more than £800 at a charity auction to pay for a home ambulatory ECG recorder for Kingston Hospital's cardiac unit. The recorder will be

★ ★ ★  
Our running total of Good Causes money raised by units and individuals now stands at

**£406,810**



From left, Maj Robin Sider, Sgt Peter Bailey, Dr William Culling and Sgt Nick Johnson with the cardiac unit recorder donated by Surbiton Army Careers Office



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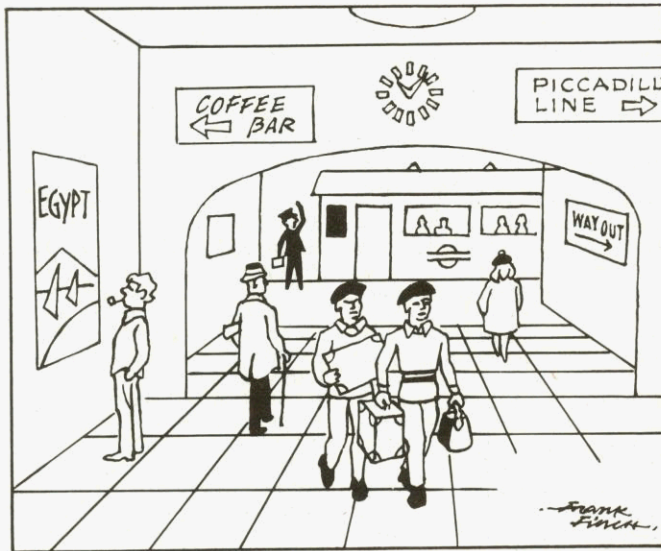
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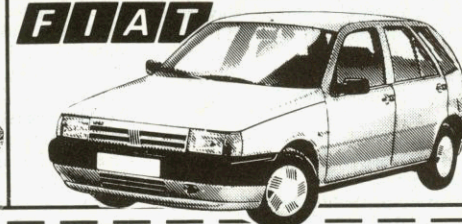
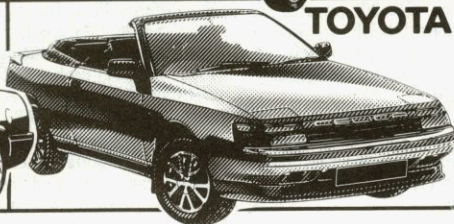
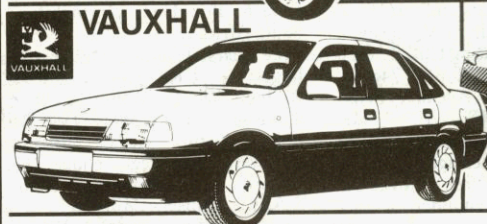
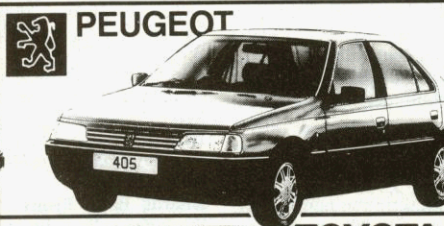
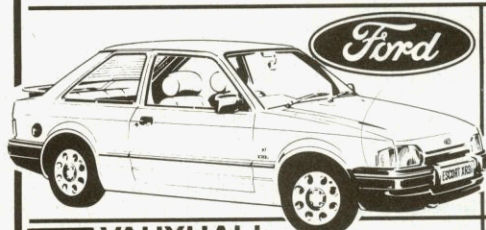
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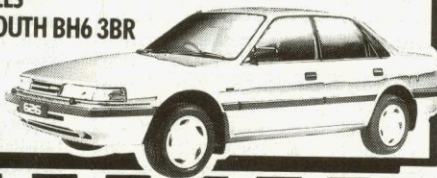
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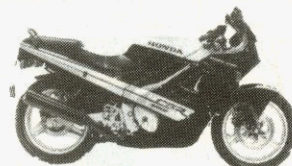
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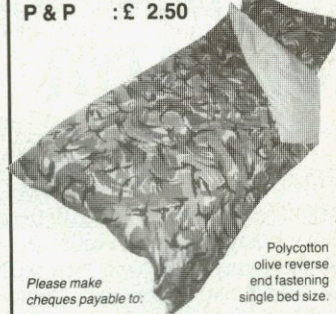
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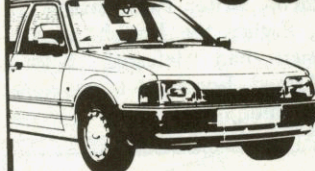
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## Reserves too hot for BAOR

Army FA XI 3, BAOR FA 1

KENTISH Cup commitments meant that only four first choice players were available for the Army team which took on BAOR at Aldershot. But two goals in three minutes just before the interval, at that time much against the run of play, stunned the visitors.

Two goals by Johannessen took the steam out of the BAOR side and Williams added to their woe with a third goal on the hour.

Army Challenge Cup final hero LCpl Paddy Smyth scored for BAOR late in the game.

School of Signals 1,  
RAF Wyton 3

The Army UK Cup winners got off to a disastrous start in the opening tie of the 1989 Naafi Jubilee Cup competition, going down 1-3 at home to RAF champions Wyton.

Their victory makes the RAF side favourites to win the tournament.

1 Kings 5, 7/10 UDR 1

There was an emphatic 5-1 victory for 1 Kings over 7/10 UDR in the final of the Infantry Challenge Cup hosted by 1 A and SH at Elizabeth Barracks, Minden, West Germany.

The Kingsmen, based in Berlin, got through to the Challenge Cup final by beating 1 RS in the BAOR final. In the UK final 7/10 UDR defeated 1 RHF 3-1 after extra time.

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COMBINED Services clinched the prestigious Kentish Cup for the first time since 1984 when they travelled to Vlissingen to defeat the Dutch Armed Forces 1-0 in the decider of the British Telecom sponsored international military football tournament, writes Pat Massey.

Earlier the British Servicemen had defeated Belgian Armed Forces 4-1 on home ground.

## Services win Kentish cup

Army Footballer of the Year Cpl Guy Whittingham nodded home the only goal of the match in Holland after a flick on by colleague Bdr Clint Webbe had forced an error from the Dutch goalkeeper.

Brave defending was called for from the British team as the Dutch side, packed with young professionals, dominated the final 15 minutes and might have scored twice.

The Belgian forces' XI was also made up of talented young professionals, but after equalising Sgt Micky Spencer's opening goal, they were sunk by two goals from Guy Whittingham and another from LPT Steve Riley (RN).

### Minor Units Cup

Corps Tps Wksp REME won the Racial Army Minor Units Cup when they beat the Scottish Inf Dep (Permanent Staff) by five goals to nil. The

UK side battled well until the interval when they were only a goal down, but they were overrun in the second half by the BAOR champions.

Army 4, Fulham 1

Fulham paid the Army the compliment of taking their first team squad to Aldershot for an attractive fixture to mark the Army senior team's successful season.

And the professionals ended up taking a bit of a hiding. SSI Joey Roach opened the scoring, goal ace Cpl Guy Whittingham added two more, and Sgt Mickey Spencer rounded things off with a fourth.

## Bull's-eye for Scarlet Lancers

RHINE Army small bore shooting champions are 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, based in Herford, who reached the finals at Sennelager by winning the 4 Armd Div championships.



FINAL ACTION - 1 DWR (white strip) claim the ball during their 30-6 victory over SEME Bordon

# Guy's goal is a Dutch treat

## The Dukes triumph in sunshine sevens

THE Army sevens signal the end of the service season and traditionally, weather permitting, provides a fun day with the usual thrills and spills associated with this type of rugby, writes John Quin.

For the first time for many years the Army sevens took place unsponsored, the previous two sponsors, Courage and Bulmers Strongbow, having given generous help in the past.

This state of affairs is, however, hopefully, only temporary as this year there were several potential "backers" for the event for next year and the hierarchy of the Army Rugby Union are sorting out who will be offered the next deal.

Col Ian MacKay, Commander Education South East District, took over the mantle



PLATE ACTION - JIB Shorncliffe (black jerseys), winners by 38-0 run the ball through the Depot PWO lines

# Champ with a bayonet

PART time soldier Henry Mayhew (23) can claim the honour of being the Army Champion ... at bayonet fighting.

Rgr Mayhew - or Big H as he is known to his pals - clinched the title after a hard-fought final at the Duke of York's Headquarters in London, where his unit D (London Irish Rifles) Coy, 4 R Irish (V) is based.

He narrowly defeated Rgr John Dent in a thrill-a-minute encounter watched by families and friends of the unit, including Maj Gen C W B Purdon late RUR, who

presented the impressive trophy to the victor.

Henry's claim to be Army champion is based on the fact that as far as the unit is aware, it is the only one which takes part in the activity!

Bayonet fighting was resurrected at the Duke of York's at the end of last year after an absence of several years. It is a bone-crushing affair which necessitates the protagonists dressing in padding and helmets similar to those used in fencing.

The bayonets are spring-loaded "buffers" mounted in custom built rifles, which are

themselves museum pieces.

The man behind the resurrection of the sport is D Coy CSM Geoff Hale.

"We have had the equipment laying around for some time and I thought it would be fun to re-introduce bayonet fighting to the unit," he explained.

"It is a very competitive sport which requires a great deal of skill as well as a good level of general fitness. The lads certainly seem to have enjoyed taking part," he added.

Henry, who lives in the Westminster area and works for TV-AM, hopes to defend his title next year.

## Shorncliffe's Foxhounds win plate competition

of organising this year's event and got everything right, including the weather.

The 16 teams had a glorious day, with spectators able to sit out on the grass, albeit that the number of spectators was again disappointing.

The Army Cup UK winners and Army finalists, the 1st

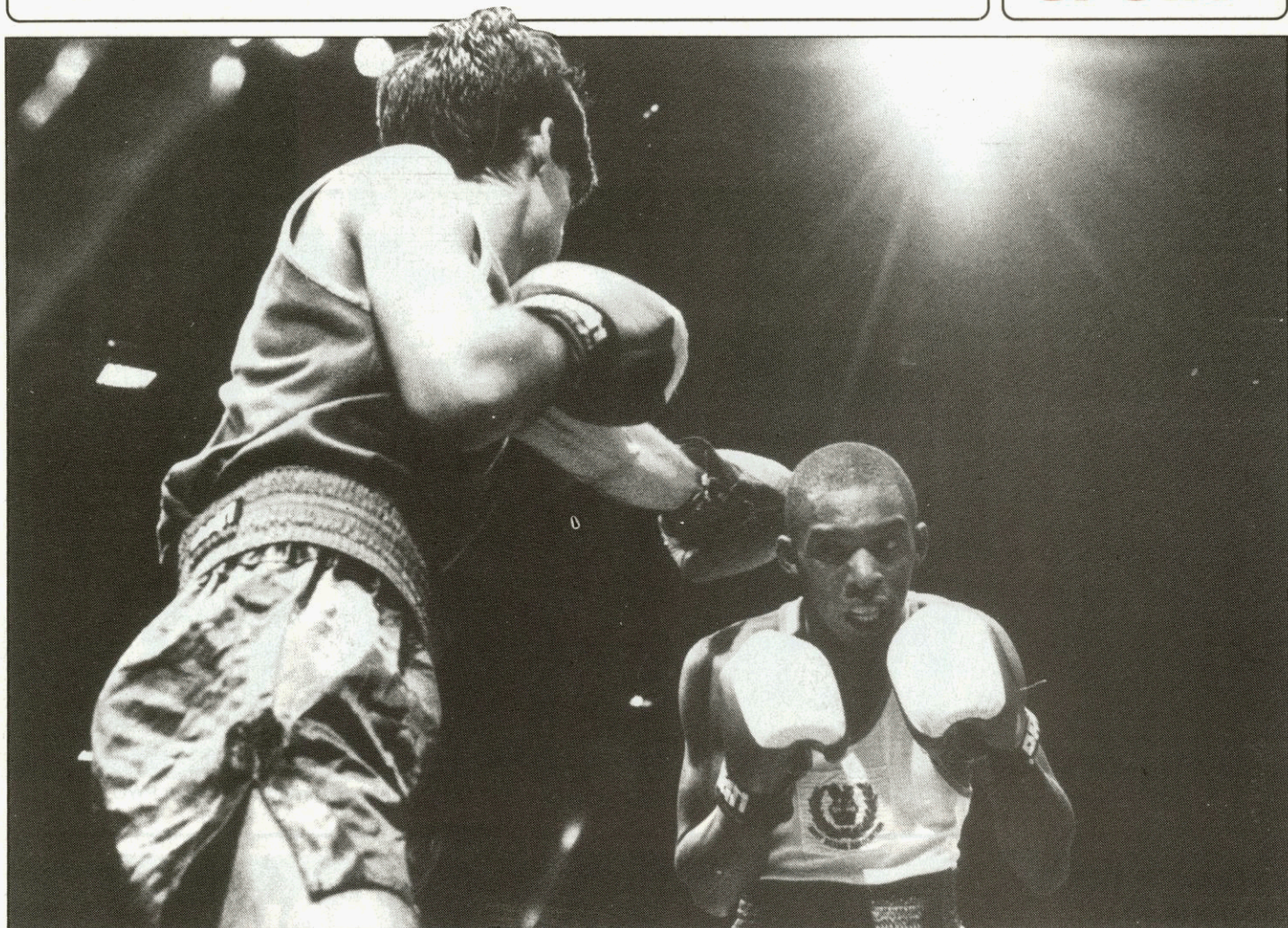
Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, were the favourites and proved the punters right by beating the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in the final.

SEME had won through to the final at the expense of another favourite, The Royal

Regiment of Wales, in one of the surprise results of the tournament.

In the plate competition, the Permanent Staff team of the Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe beat the Depot Prince of Wales's Own in the final and so rounded off a good season for the Foxhounds.





Sgt Keith Howlett (right) concentrates on winning his second national boxing title at Wembley. He outpointed London's Marlon Jones

Pictures: Mike Perring

# KING KEITH!

— but superchamp Lyon outpoints McLean again

SGT Keith Howlett of the APTC retained his national bantamweight crown at the George Wimpey ABA finals at Wembley Arena, defeating London favourite Marlon Jones on points.

But there was disappointment for flyweight LCpl John McLean of 35 Engr Regt. Back at Wembley for the second time in three years he was up against Lancashire's John Lyon, the nation's most illustrious amateur boxer.

McLean lost on points in 1987 to Lyon, and he did so again this year as Lyon claimed a record eighth ABA title.

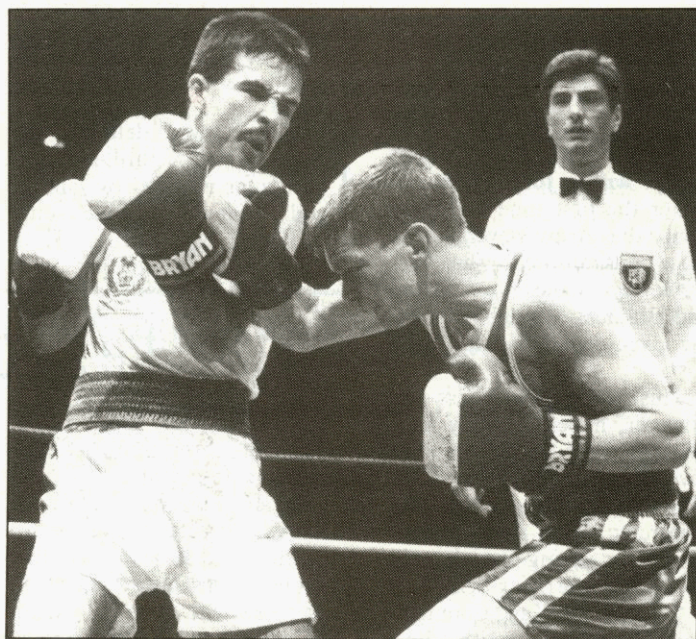
For much of the contest McLean matched the champion blow for blow, but Lyon's furious work rate and refusal to back off told in the third round in which McLean took a

compulsory eight count. Just how close he went to creating a major upset was reflected in the closeness of the majority decision to Lyon.

Howlett knew he had his hands full against one of the most talented young boxers in the country, but he kept his nerve, took control and never looked like relinquishing his title.

Howlett has been selected for the England team to compete in the European championships in Athens, where he will be joined by Army coach WO2 Mick Gannon, one of two coaches to be included in the national party.

McLean, the current Scottish champion, will also be at Athens and has been selected for the Canada Cup tournament at Ottawa in June.




LCpl John McLean (left) at close quarters with John Lyon



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Ears back and at full gallop, Vienna, the Redcaps' only grey, and rider Sgt Dusty Kemp make a formidable sight during a tent pegging demonstration by the newly formed Royal Military Police mounted display team. They will be in action all over the country this summer and you can read all about them starting on Page 14.

Picture: Terry Champion