

SOLDIER

MARCH 7 1988

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CONTENTS

4 Letters

7 News

10 People

13 SOLDIER to Soldier

14 Steve Sahli - man of courage

17 Guards in SA 80 "cover-up"

18 Anne Armstrong

23 Falkland Islands feature

30 Commando sappers in Norway

35 Anneka Rice visits 3 TRPE

37 Red nose climbers

38 Books and records

42 Guards museum

43 HOAY competition

44 SOLDIER Mart

52 Sport

FRONT COVER: A dramatic detail of the tableau which greets visitors to the new Guards Museum just opened by the Queen. It shows the Scots Fusilier Guards (now the Scots Guards) at the storming of the Alma heights during the Crimean War. See also Page 42.

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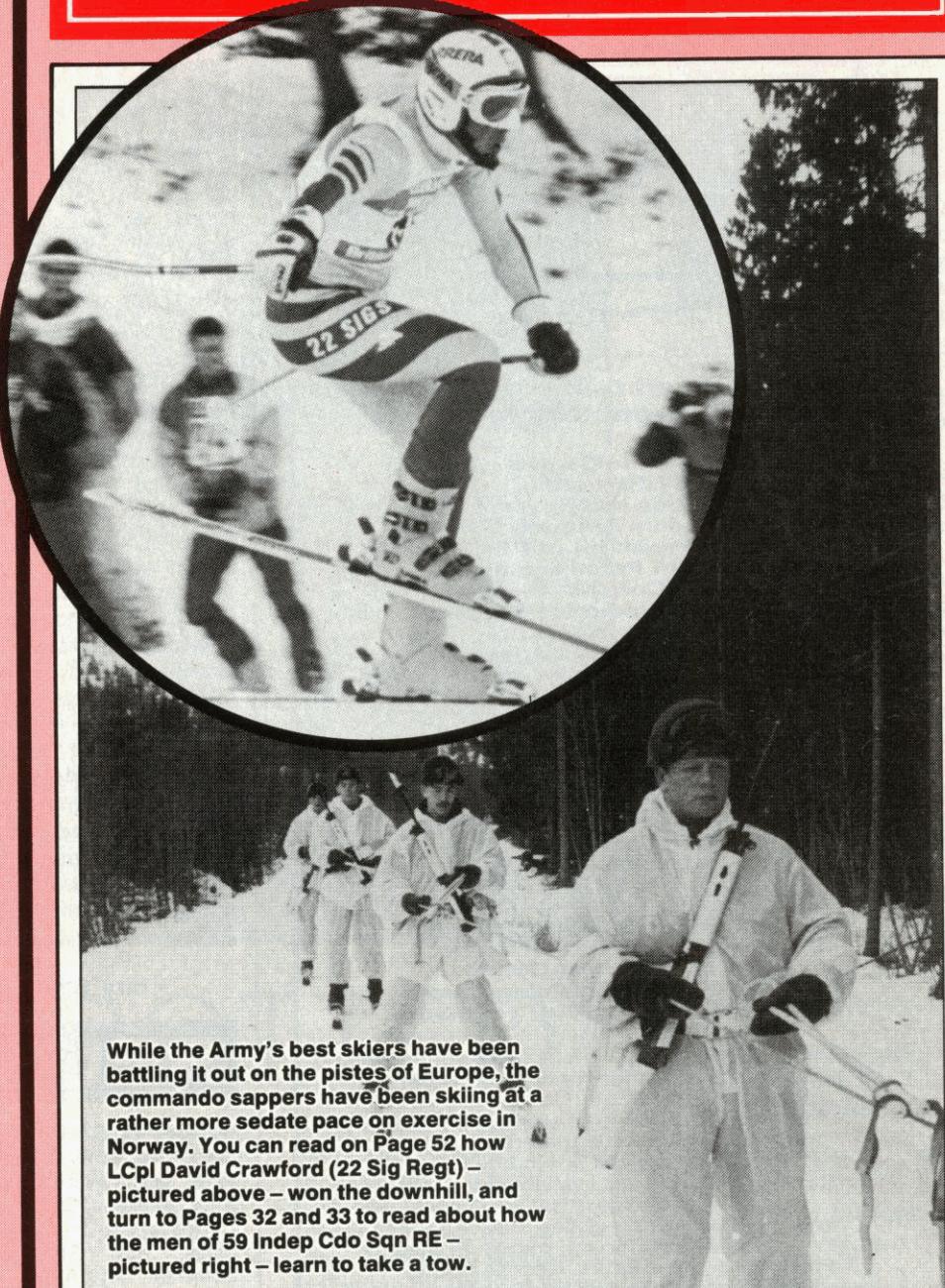
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



While the Army's best skiers have been battling it out on the pistes of Europe, the commando sappers have been skiing at a rather more sedate pace on exercise in Norway. You can read on Page 52 how LCpl David Crawford (22 Sig Regt) - pictured above - won the downhill, and turn to Pages 32 and 33 to read about how the men of 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE - pictured right - learn to take a tow.

- The "women in green" of the WRVS have been much in the news recently. SOLDIER has been behind the scenes to see just what they do and where they operate.
- This year is the centenary of the Army Football Association. In the next issue we take a look at some of the famous landmarks - and the famous names - that have featured in the past 100 years of Army football.

NEXT ISSUE

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LETTERS

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What about ration packs for 'veggies'!

PRIZE LETTER

Some time back I became a vegetarian, both for ethical and health reasons, and after having asked my husband if he would like to do the same (he declined, declaring that in his personal opinion vegetarianism is a "lost cause"), a question entered my mind on how vegetarians in the Army (both male and female) manage to stick to a wholesome, well-balanced diet.

Contrary to popular belief, vegetarianism is most definitely not all lettuce and lentils, and I wondered if vegetarians are actually catered for when it comes to things like ration packs.

I am sure that there must be at least a few "veggies" in the Army, and I am also sure that they would find their meals most uninteresting if all they could do was to eat the basic meals served to others, but decline the meat/fish/poultry.

* Mrs Stone wins our star letter prize book

REUNIONS

● 656 Air Op Sqn RAF AAC and associated flights reunion, July 17 at Middle Wallop during Air Show weekend. Details from H C (Nobby) Clark, 1 Marlborough Bldgs, Bow St, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR.

● The 20th annual reunion of 11th Royal Tank Regiment will be at the Arundale Hotel, Bournemouth, on April 23. Details from Norman Taylor, 43 Broadmead, The Marld, Ashtead (tel 03722-77146) or Brian Hutchinson, Chippings, Coles Lane, Kingskerswell, Newton Abbot (080-47-3577).

● HQ RADC Sgts' Mess reunion, April 22-24. Details from WO1 (RSM) Gray, Aldershot 24431, ext 2779.

● The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association (Torbay branch), reunion dinner and dance, will be at the

Templestowe Hotel, Torquay, on March 26. Details from the secretary, Mr Norman Elliott, 3 Tavis Road, Paignton TQ3 2PU (tel 0803 557904).

● The fifth reunion and AGM of the Falkland Families Association takes place at Chelsea Barracks, London on Saturday, April 23. It will be attended by the Duke and Duchess of York. More information from D Keoghane, 6 Penrose Court, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 6NP (tel 0442 69383).

Calling . . .

● Former LCpl Robert (Bob) Smith, 40 Coy Inf Bde Grp, RASC, Dhekelia, Cyprus. Mr Derek (Taff) Adams, 25 Gainsborough Green, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5JH, is anxious to contact his former Army friend, or hear from any members of 40 Coy who knew him.



END OF AN ERA: The 1st Bn The Somerset Light Infantry marches out of India

Farewell to India

FORTY years ago the long blast of a ship's siren, echoing across Bombay harbour, signalled the end of an era for the British Army as the veteran troopship *Empress of Australia* sailed away with the 1st Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry, the last battalion to leave India following the granting of independence.

In the weeks before this

final historic event, other farewell ceremonies had been held throughout India.

In Delhi, the last parade took place outside Government House in the presence of Governor General Mountbatten and, two days before the Somersets' departure, The Black Watch had left Pakistan.

In Bombay, to the sad strains of *Auld Lang Syne*,

the Somersets made a slow, farewell march, bearing their Colours through the great stone arch that formed the Gateway to India – the 83ft high landmark set on the harbour shore, so familiar to generations of Servicemen.

As the Indian guards of honour lining the route presented arms, 194 years of British Army service came to an end.

Japanese 75mm gun is in a museum

Mr D Hopkins asked (SOLDIER Nov 30) what happened to a Japanese 75mm gun captured by 7 Worcestershire Regiment in Burma, and shipped back to England by CSM J J White.

Yes, I got the 75mm gun, 81mm mortar, Tashio LMG Hopper Feed, LMG Type 96 Mag Feed with bayonet, and their MMG Hotchkiss Type Strip Feed 6.5mm all home to Norton Barracks.

At Bombay I had men to help me – they were 3,500 to 4,000 miles away from home – but at Southampton it was a different matter.

All ranks wanted to get home so "J J" was left to manage as best he could.

At Norton Barracks I spent three weeks assembling them and then into the museum they went.

There they stayed until the depot closed at the end of National Service. They were then transferred to the county museum in the Shire Hall, Worcester.

I have tried to get them on a permanent loan to the Kohima Room 2nd HQ, York, but the powers that be will not allow that. – Sgt J J White, DCM, Longlands, Worcester Road, Low Hill, Kidderminster DY11 7RL.

Tuxford lad

I found your article The Shorncliffe Way (SOLDIER Jan 25) on the re-styled Junior Infantry Battalion most interesting.

In October 1952 I joined the original Infantry Boy's Battalion at Tuxford Camp, near Retford, Notts. My platoon sergeant was Sgt Parker of the Suffolk Regt and the company sergeant major was CSM "Bunny" Warren of the Royal West Kent Regt. – J N Glazier, ex WO1 RAOC, 7 Crissypn Close, Horndean, Hants PO8 9JT.

WELL SPOTTED!

While reading an article on the new fighting vehicle Warrior, (SOLDIER Feb 8) I noticed a few of the crew you pictured were wearing what looked like

SAS issue windproof smocks. However, unlike normal issue windproofs, they hung almost to below knee level. I would be most grateful if you would

confirm exactly what they were and whether they are on issue to all tank/APC crews?

In your preview of the new webbing article in the next issue, I can't help noticing that it seems to have only one pouch to carry food, burner etc in, compared to the kidney pouches on the old '58 pattern.

I would like to congratulate you on presenting a superb magazine with lots of interesting features, although I would like to see more articles on the TA and perhaps changed to a weekly magazine. – Brian McManus, Pte 6/7 Queens (TA), 70 Clarendon Gardens, North Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7LD.

● Well spotted. The kit is the new issue parka with a detachable lining. Verdict of the RGJ – "fabulous". – Ed.

Weapon mystery

Recently a "weapon" has surfaced in this country which has the local militaria society completely baffled. To the best of my knowledge it is a bayonet fighting training rifle.

The weapon is heavier than normal – I would estimate at least 12 pounds – has a steel tube about one inch in diameter coming out of where the outer band would be on an SMLE rifle, has a strong metal disc affixed to the end of the tube which is about 1½ inches or

thereabouts in diameter and when one lunges with the weapon against a solid target the tube retracts into the stock rather like a theatrical dagger spring loaded.

Can any of your readers throw any light on this "weapon", and are there any Army pamphlets or instructions on its use still available? – C R Nicholls, Wing Commander Ret'd, 3 Glenside, Glenside Drive, Strathaven, Harare, Zimbabwe.

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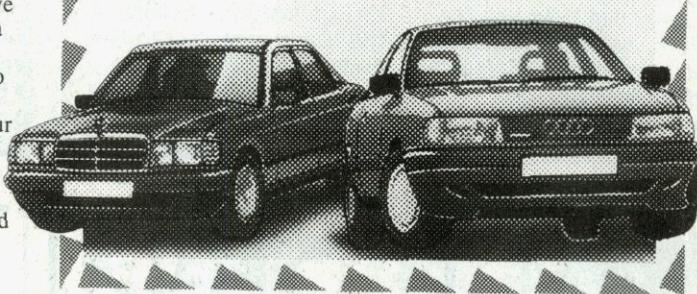
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MoD orders Challenger training tanks

AN ORDER for 17 Challenger training tanks worth £18m has been placed by the MoD with Vickers Defence Systems, Leeds. Delivery will start early in 1990.

The training tank uses the standard hull, engine, gearbox and transmission of the Challenger Main Battle Tank (MBT) but, instead of the gun turret, it has a cabin

housing the instructor and his students. The hull is ballasted so that the vehicle's characteristics and performance closely match those of the Challenger MBT and it will provide realistic driver and maintenance training for soldiers at both RAC and REME establishments.

They will be the first training tanks to be

purpose-designed for use by the British Army and will be considerably less expensive both to buy and operate than the gun tanks which have been used for training until now.

Production will follow on from the Leeds factory's current orders for MBTs for the sixth and seventh Challenger regiments.

LI to join airlift to the Falklands

EXERCISE Fire Focus, to be held from March 7 to 31, is intended to test the UK's capability for rapid reinforcement of the Falklands Islands.

It will involve the deployment of significant numbers of troops, including elements of the Light Infantry, who will be airlifted to the Falklands to join soldiers currently serving with the garrison there.

The ability to mount a rapid response operation forms the basis of contingency plans to ensure the security of the islands and has allowed reductions to be made in the strength of the normal peacetime garrison.

Soccer 'bovver' charge refuted

FOLLOWING a request from Football Association chairman Bert Millichip that British soldiers should be banned from attending England's European Championship games this summer, the MoD has denied suggestions that BAOR Servicemen were among those arrested during disturbances at an England-Germany match in Dusseldorf last September.

They pointed out that when the 20 alleged soldiers were handed over to the local RMP unit it was discovered that they were all civilians. There are no plans to ban troops from attending the matches.



The new boot with the inner lining which helps to keep the foot warm, dry and healthy. Lt Col Brian Preston holds the only sample left

Picture: Mike Perring

Army pin-ups escape ban

PIN-UPS are to be ordered down from the walls of MoD establishments – but that does not include soldiers' pin-ups.

The Hon Tim Sainsbury, USofS for Defence Procurement, told a House of Commons questioner that an instruction will be issued to all civilian staff in the near future saying that "the display of material which is of a sexual nature and offensive to women and/or men generally may constitute sexual harassment and will not be tolerated."

Asked if the order included the Army, an MoD spokeswoman replied: "No, it does not include Servicemen."

ORDER OF THE BOOT!

QUESTION: Why was there only a solitary sample of the New Improved Combat Boots High for the Press to inspect when it/they were unveiled at Chelsea Barracks.

Admittedly a colour sergeant was wearing a pair but you could hardly expect him to go round in his stocking feet.

The crowd of photographers had to close up on the lone example for the inside story.

Considering it was minus its sole mate, the large right boot gave an impression of quiet dignity placed as it was on a table with a sniper rifle pointed at it.

The reason for its isolation? It was the only one available to Lt Col Brian Preston RA who brought it up from the Directorate of Clothing and Textiles at the Logistic Executive, Andover.

"All the others are out on trial," he explained. "Everyone wants a pair and this is the only one left."

DERR move back to Hong Kong

THE 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) has returned to Hong Kong following the completion of a two year tour in Northern Ireland.

Coincidentally, it was the Berkshire element of DERR which took part in the First China War (1840-42) which, although

centred round the importation and sale of opium, led to the ceding of Hong Kong to Britain in 1841.

The regiment was awarded the Battle Honour 'China 1840' and a dragon emblem but it was purely by chance that DERR arrived in the Colony at the start of the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Dragon!

NEWSLINE

JANNERS ON THE MARCH

Smokeless troopers

THERE are going to be some disgruntled smokers and relieved non-smokers on MoD charter trooping flights between the UK, Germany and Gibraltar over the next few months. Up to 80,000 Servicemen and their dependants are likely to be affected by the news that Britannia Airways Ltd has agreed to the use of its aircraft for an MoD no smoking trial on its routine flights.

The trial will last for an initial six months from May. Passenger reaction will ultimately determine whether the ban should be permanent.

Air Movements have revealed that the temporary ban has come from the bottom upwards – nicotine deprived squaddies will have to blame their non-smoking mates instead of some colonel in the MoD!

WRVS baffled by medal clasp ban

FOLLOWING the announcement that MoD is considering increasing the number of WRVS personnel employed in Services welfare the extent of Women's Royal Voluntary Service involvement in Northern Ireland has now been revealed. The service has been working continuously in the Province since the troubles started in 1969 – a fact kept under wraps until now.

The Co-ordinator of the Central Welfare Agency at HQ Northern Ireland said there would normally be four women, stationed at Lisburn, Omagh, Londonderry and Ballykinler. The establishment has recently been increased by one and the WRVS are presently recruiting someone to open an office at Aldergrove.

Something that rankles with WRVS members is the question of non-qualification for the General Service Medal Northern

Ireland clasp which is awarded to troops serving there.

During the past 50 years, members have served in a variety of campaigns and traditionally been awarded the GSM for service in Malaya, Cyprus, Aden, Brunei and Borneo but they are not eligible for the medal in Northern Ireland.

Even troops are baffled by the anomaly and feel that the women in green deserve the medal.

As one WRVS member pointed out: "If a regimental mascot is given the medal, why not us?"

SAPPERS RESCUE RAIN-HIT SHEEP

SAPPERS and police in Northern Ireland joined forces to rescue stranded livestock following recent torrential rain. Troops from 33 Independent Field Squadron Royal Engineers based at Masserene Barracks, Antrim responded to an urgent request from local RUC to assist in recovering sheep in danger of being swept away by floods when the Sixmilewater river burst its banks on farmland near Templepatrick.

ACEWS will act as an electronic eye, seeing deployments and movements and enabling the intentions of the enemy to be interpreted.

Led by Capt Simon Cannons, Support Troop Commander, a four-man squad from the unit's boat section worked flat out for almost two hours moving farmstock to a safe spot and checking half flooded hedgerows and copses over an extensive area for other trapped sheep.

"We used Gemini inflatable dingies to get around as the water on the fields was four feet deep in places," said Capt Cannons.

In October men from 33 Ind Fd Sqn rapidly built a Bailey Bridge to re-open the Ballygawley to Dungannon Road closed when flood water brought down a bridge.

by Mouse

MOBB



Three WRAC officer cadets made history during a Royal Salute at York to commemorate the anniversary of the accession of the Queen. OCdts Mary French, Ruth Brooks and Rebecca Tingay are thought to be the first women actually to fire the 25 pdr guns used in the ceremony. OCadet French is pictured above 'taking post' as No 3, awaiting the command to fire

Caen museum plan unveiled



Monsieur Jean-Marie Girault, Mayor of Caen, with Lt Gen Sir Ian Harris, who commanded the first infantry to enter the disputed city in July 1944, discussing the ambitious "Museum for Peace" project

THREE hundred men of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment will parade on the Hoe at Plymouth on March 19 to receive the Freedom of the City. Then with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed, they will march through the streets.

The Colours will be those of the 1st Battalion stationed at Bulford, Wilts.

Also on parade will be the regiment's newest battalion, the 4th, a TA unit which is already strong enough to provide half the parade.

The bands and the corps of drums of both battalions will lead the march past the Lord Mayor and Maj Gen Colin Shortis, Colonel of the Regiment (at present GOC North-West District).

The D and D are nicknamed The Janners and during their service as a mechanised battalion were called the Armoured Farmers.

CHAVASSE VC CENTRE OPENS

A NEW £1.6m centre for Liverpool's Territorial Army medics has been opened and named after one of the city's bravest sons. Chavasse House is named after Capt Noel Chavasse, a Liverpool doctor who was one of only three men to win two Victoria Crosses.

The new centre, in Childwall Valley Road, was purpose built to house 208 (Merseyside) General Hospital RAMC (V), a mobile hospital which on mobilisation would be deployed to West Germany to provide medical support to British Forces committed to Nato. It was officially opened by Maj Gen Tony Shaw, Director General of Army Medical Services.

Capt Chavasse, son of a former Bishop of Liverpool, was a medical officer with the Liverpool Scottish Regiment. He died in 1917 of wounds sustained while winning his second VC.

Kohima tribute

THE Bishop of Kohima, India, the Rt Rev Abraham Alangimattathil, paid his respects at the Kohima Memorial in the gardens of York Minster. The memorial, which is a duplicate of the original in the Kohima Military Cemetery in India, commemorates the fallen of the 2nd Infantry Division who died during the battle in 1944.

It is inscribed with the immortal words: "When you go home, tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow we gave our today."



KEYS: Paul, Valerie and Brig Mountford

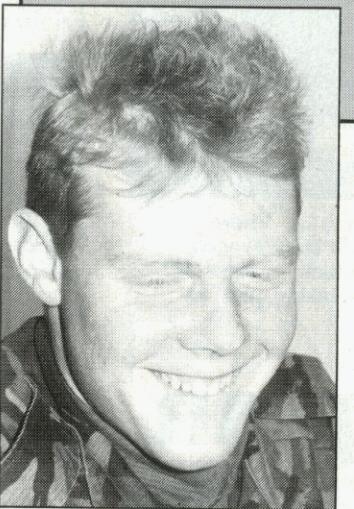
Key to the quarter

STAFF Sgt Paul Eves and his wife Valerie celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary by moving into a new quarter marking the completion of the Army's new Goose Green Park estate at Aldershot. A giant key was handed over to the couple and their two daughters - Jenny and Sarah - by Brig Richard Mountford, until recently Commander Aldershot Garrison.

Paul is in 82 Ord Coy RAOC, part of 5 AB Bde's logistic battalion.

His quarter is the last of 276 homes built on the estate at a cost of just over £10m.

The estate was completed ahead of schedule. Work starts soon on a new estate of 163 homes on the Talavera site at Aldershot.



Lesley's a direct hit

MODEL Lesley Jones, the reigning Miss Welsh Gunner, visited her adopted regiment in Northern Ireland. During five days in the province Lesley called on each of 22 Air Defence Regiment's batteries.

Her next visit to the Welsh Gunners will be in Germany when they return at the end of their four month stint in Northern Ireland.

Lesley comes from Cwmbran near Newport, a traditional recruiting area for the regiment. 104 Air Defence Regt RA, based at Newport and with a new battery in Lesley's home town, is 22 AD Regt's TA sister.

It's a small world

LITTLE did Rfn Christian Smith, 3 RGJ, realise when he met girlfriend Ingrid Jaffrey in a Buckinghamshire pub last summer that he would soon be meeting her parents in the South Atlantic. Rfn Smith met Ingrid, a Falkland Islander, when she was working on a farm near Wirral and promised he would try and meet her parents at North Arm settlement while on patrol. Ingrid is now working in New Zealand until the spring by which time 3 RGJ will have returned from the Falklands and the couple can meet up in the UK.



GUNNERS' GIRL: Lesley and members

Rank outsider

BRIG Ian Sim (pictured right) has created a little piece of military history. He is the first TA officer to reach the rank of brigadier solely through part-time service. Brig Sim (44) has taken over as TA adviser to the Commander UK Field Army and Inspector General of the TA, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham.

All his predecessors in the job had Regular Army, wartime or National Service experience. Brig Sim, who took over from Brig Paul Orchard-Lisle, joined the 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Argyllshire after six years as an Army cadet.



Short strike from a world record?

A GOLF club was part of the load carried during the Junior Leaders RCT/RAOC expedition to Kilimanjaro, Meru and Mount Kenya.

Maj Chris Brightman, Lt Angus Campbell and Cpl Garry Mazzone, all RAOC, each drove a golf ball from Uhuru Peak, 19,340 feet into the Inner Cone, to beat the record claimed by Maj Graeme Cooper on Salcantay in Peru, 17,100 feet (see SOLDIER June 1987).

The world record is a shot played from Mount McKinlay, 20,320 feet, in 1984, according to the Guinness Book of Records.



LONG SHOT: Cpl Garry Mazzone keeps an eye on the ball



of 14 Tp 11 (Sphinx) Battery

PEOPLE



MY TUNE: Lt Col Donald Lear, Brig Johnny Rickett and Pipe Maj Robert Pinkman

Double tops for Naafi's Zoe

WHO needs an excuse to use a picture of a pretty girl?

Lovely Zoe Wright from College House,

Naafi's Nottingham HQ, teamed up with British ace Dave Whitcombe to promote the Naafi national team darts championship, open to Service teams of four from Naafi clubs and messes.

Dave, incidentally, was no match for Zoe. She won both legs every time!

SGT Steve Whittick has had plenty of ups and downs in his life - so many in fact that he has been presented with a golden lanyard! Steve is the sole Royal Signals member of the famous Red Devils, and to mark his completion of 1,000 free fall parachute descents (his total is actually about 1,200), he was presented with his golden lanyard by Maj Gen Sir David Thorne.

He's playing my tune!

THERE was a pleasant surprise for Brig Johnny Rickett when his own pipe tune was presented to him both sonically - by Pipe Maj Robert Pinkman KOSB - and on sheet music and cassette by Lt Col (Retd) Donald Lear in Aldershot.

The tune, called "Brigadier Rickett", is a brisk march written by another KOSB Pipe Major, Robert Duhbar, to mark the brigadier's departure from the command of 19 Infantry Brigade in 1985.

This was only the second time that Brig Rickett, now Chief of Staff South East District, had heard the tune.

Pipe Maj Pinkman has just returned from Colombia where he has been teaching the Colombian Navy to play the pipes. Now attached to ACC Trg College, he is instructing nine ACC trainees in the finer aspects of bagpiping as well as doing a bit of tuition at Charterhouse School and the London Pipe Band.



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D-Day Dodgers

Forty-five years after the Allies landed in Italy during the Second World War, some of the "D-Day Dodgers" have got together to form the Italy Star Association, and membership has already risen from three to a hundred.

The organisation was started by Maurice Cheadle, ex 93 Anti-tank Regiment (A and SH) RA, who told **SOLDIER**: "The organisation is open to all ex-Servicemen and women who hold the Italian Star. Though there are one or two veteran movements of precise battles and particular actions, this association is, I believe, the first wholly comprehensive body covering service in Italy from Messina and Taranto in 1943."

Maurice is chairman of the association which even has a chaplain who, it is hoped, will hold a service of dedication in the near future.

Governor bows out

When Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur departed as GOC Scotland he also relinquished the position of Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

So to mark the occasion he fired the One O'Clock Gun at a

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

SOLDIER to Soldier

A Dutch fortress remembers

The Dutch have not forgotten the British soldiers who liberated the old fortress town of 's-Hertogenbosch in 1944.

Three years ago, their organisation called "Foundation October 1944" held a reunion attended by nearly 500 veterans of the 53rd Infantry Division and supporting units, and their next-of-kin.

guard changing parade by 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers. District Gunner Sgt Tam MacKay assisted the Governor and presented him with an engraved shell case. Later after inspecting the guard, the Governor's personal banner was lowered for the last time and also presented to the general.

New GOC in Scotland is Lt Gen John MacMillan who is to be installed later this year as the 100th governor of Edinburgh Castle. His late father, Gen Sir Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan of Knap, was General Officer, C in C, Scottish Command and governor of the castle 1949-52.

MANPOWER SHORTAGE

Fears that our declining birth rate could pose problems for Army recruiters in the not too distant future have an echo

Now they are arranging another special occasion to mark the town's liberation, this time dedicated to the widows of soldiers who were killed in the battle.

"So far we have traced 14 widows," says Mr Luc van Gent, secretary of the organisation and formerly a Dutch resistance worker. "We need to

trace 22 more whose husbands were killed in the battle. They will be invited to the city as guests of honour and will have a free stay here for some days."

Mr van Gent has a list of names of the widows. Anyone who thinks they qualify can contact him at 17 Aristoteleslaan, 5216CN Den Bosch, Holland.

decline in the 20 to 24 age group in West Germany by the turn of the century.

EEC figures forecast declines of 25 per cent in the UK and between 13 and 30 per cent in most other Nato countries. Only Greece will have no decline at all.

IN MEMORY OF GEN ROY

An Ordnance Survey triangulation pillar at Miltonhead near Carlisle in Strathclyde, Scotland has been rededicated in memory of Maj Gen William Roy (1726 to 1790), the sapper officer accepted as the founder of the OS.

The beacon stands on the site of Gen Roy's birthplace. It had been vandalised and a commemorative plaque stolen. But the plaque was subsequently found in a scrap yard and refurbished by 71 (Scottish) Engr Reg (V).

Secret weapon!

It has been revealed in the House of Commons that there is a volumatic disintegrator on the Royal Artillery ranges in the Hebrides. But the Russians are probably not too worried - it's apparently just a paper shredding machine!

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Bob's
got
the
TA
booked



Maj Bob Peedle

WORK has begun on a new book that will describe the work of today's Territorial Army. It will also include brief histories of individual units.

The author, Maj Bob Peedle RMP (TA), who expects the book to be published next spring, is currently contacting units for information.

Maj Peedle, a former Metropolitan Police superintendent, joined the Royal Military Police in 1982 to raise a new provost unit at Brighton.

He is currently TAPIO to the Director Army Reserves and Cadets at MOD. Away from the TA he is a freelance broadcaster and travel consultant working with the BBC's travel and motoring unit.

Colerne juniors trek on

SIX members of the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT/RAOC, Colerne, have returned from an adventurous training expedition to East Africa during which they trekked for 100 miles and climbed 36,000 feet.

The team - Maj Chris Brightman, Lt Angus Campbell and Cpl Gary Mazzone (all RAOC) and Sgts Paul Eaton, Pete Hamilton and Dave Lloyd (RCT) - trekked the south circuit route of Kilimanjaro, some members of the team exploring the Heim Glacier and others ascending the 19,340 ft Uhuru Peak.

Then they climbed Mount Meru to 14,979 feet, and after 15 days in Tanzania made the east to west traverse of Mount Kenya from Chogoria up the Gorges Valley.

Writer Bill Moore and photographer Mike Weston meet ...

A man of rare courage

Steve's framed for an active life ...

MILITARY hospitals witness many struggles by brave men facing up to consequences of serious injury or wounds but even for the Queen Elizabeth, Woolwich, the story of Steven Sahli is of rare vintage.

Steve, one of the many civilians treated there, is one of its most popular outpatients.

Soldiers, staff, inmates - everyone has nothing but admiration for what the chirpy South Londoner has achieved.

Three years ago Steve, then 24, was roaring home on a motor cycle he had just sold. A commercial dispatch rider, he had decided to move over to a car and this was to be his last ride on two wheels. It nearly was.

Steve hit an obstacle and didn't come round for four months.

When he had recovered from multiple fractures, kidney failures and heart attacks there was little hope of him ever standing again on his own two feet.

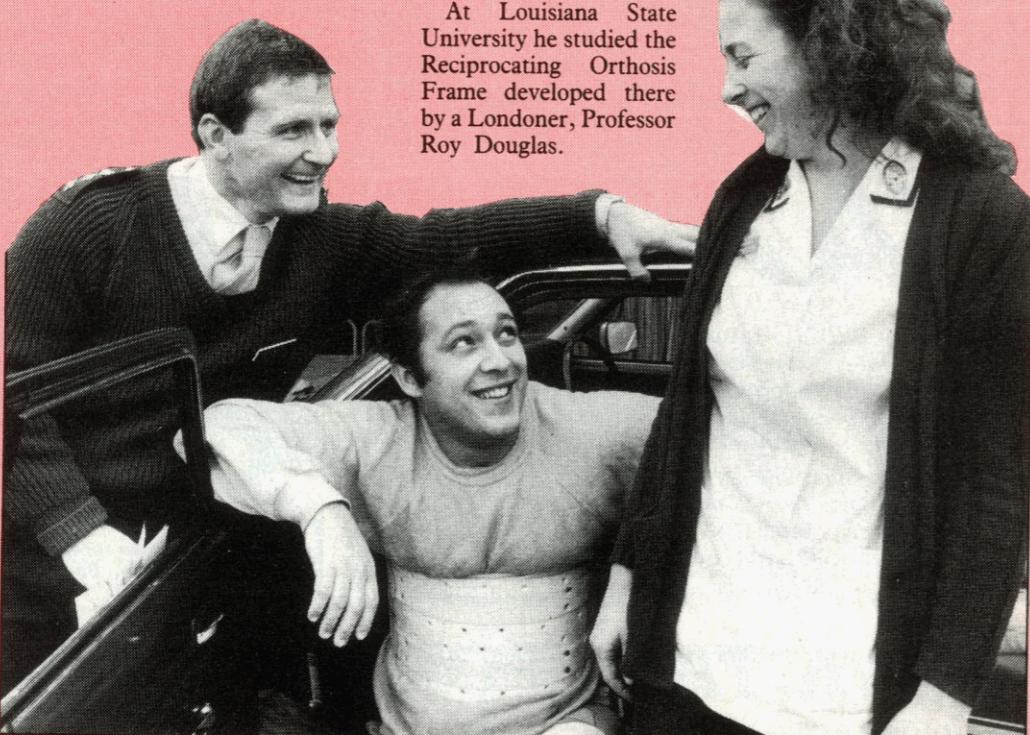
Life at best looked limited to a wheelchair.

Around that time Lt Col

Robin Garnett, the Army's Consultant Adviser on Rheumatology and Rehabilitation had been awarded the important Smith and Nephew Travel Scholarship and went to the United States to study developments in his specialised field.

He had not forgotten that Roz Drewitt, a physiotherapist, had spotted an interesting piece of new equipment during a film on the life of PC Philip Olds, the policeman paralysed in a shooting accident.

At Louisiana State University he studied the Reciprocating Orthosis Frame developed there by a Londoner, Professor Roy Douglas.



Capt Alan Lyon, head of Woolwich's physiotherapy department, and senior physiotherapist Kate Greaves share a joke with their prize patient

To him it seemed to have great potential for improving the life style prospects of paraplegic soldiers among others.

Through cables, joints which can be adjusted by the wearer, and a moulded girdle, it enabled a patient to produce the effort normally supplied by chest or abdominal muscles.

The drawback, as usual, was the cost. Each frame has to be fitted individually, custom built, and costs around £2,000.

Nevertheless the potential was there and Lt Col Garnett arranged through a charitable trust for two of the Queen Elizabeth staff to spend a fortnight each in New Orleans at the Louisiana State University Medical Centre learning all they could about the apparatus.

Cpl Phil Duffel, RAMC, an Army physiotherapist, and senior physiotherapist Kate Greaves, flew out.

The knowledge was gained but ... even if funds could be

found for a frame they had to have a patient with the potential of seeing through the daunting task of learning to use it.

Outstanding willpower was going to be needed.

Steve Sahli, whose cheeriness during rehabilitation sessions had become a byword, was selected.

Money for the frame was raised by friends and the people of Kidbrooke where he lives. Cleaners from the Queen Elizabeth pushed a bed all round Woolwich - and cashed in.

Once the money was available plaster casts were made of Steve's legs and the necessary measurements taken.

That was the easy bit.

After that it was up to Steve to stay motivated and for Cpl Duffel and Kate to do what they could to encourage him.

"For a few days it seemed that all was frustration and disappointment," said Capt Alan Lyon, who runs the physiotherapy department. "Then something seemed to click."

The moment Steve Sahli heaved himself out of his wheelchair and walked (a total of four steps with a walking frame) was ample reward for his devoted hospital team.

Today he is still undergoing rehabilitation treatment at the Queen Elizabeth and improving all the time.

He gets around by wheelchair, his push walking frame, and is making steady progress with crutches though the effort required is considerable.

Steve used to joke: "All I want to do is to be able to stand up long enough to get drunk and fall over at the bar."

In fact he is applying himself to much more serious matters. Wearing his LSU/RGO frame under a track suit he attends car auctions and is building a business as a dealer.

He has designed and fitted controls to a car so he can drive himself.

Incredibly, he has trained himself to get in and out of the



Steve Sahli's cheeriness during rehabilitation sessions became a byword

car without any help at all.

He has even designed a trolley based on a skateboard and a hydraulic system so that he can slide under his car and carry out repairs.

And he hopes to get permission to compete in time trials one day!

"But my real interest is fuel economy," he says. "It fascinates me."

The LSU/RGO brace has given purpose to Steve's life. His efforts have inspired the staff at the Queen Elizabeth.

"They have acquired a lot of knowledge and expertise through fitting and teaching Steve," said Lt Col Garnett. "It would be a shame if this experience were lost."

The colonel would like to hear from soldiers and ex-

Effort ... determination. Both are shown here as Steve Sahli heaves himself out of the car he can now drive himself. He opens both windows to gain leverage when he needs to get out

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Picture: Mike Perrin

The Queen's Guard rehearse in barrack dress and bearskins with the SA 80 at the slope. The black covers over the sights can be plainly seen

IRISH GUARDS IN SA 80 COVER-UP!



RSM Vincent McEllin, 1st Irish Guards, points to the spot on which the unguarded SA 80 was catching. As RSM he would not normally carry a rifle but he has taken a close interest in the development of the SA 80 drill

A DETACHMENT of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards had a new look about them when they marched to Buckingham Palace to relieve 27 Regiment Royal Artillery, writes **Bill Moore**.

They were parading with the SA 80 and using a revised form of the drill originally devised for it.

Up to now the Guards have used it only on duty at Windsor.

The rifle also had a new look. A cover has been designed for the sight and projecting nuts which were tearing pockets and tunics during guard mounting drill.

Three types of cover were prepared for comparison and the final one selected was of black leather lined with PVC.

"It may not be as decorative as the others but it is much more practical," said Drill Sergeant Charlie Byles.

"It is almost self cleaning and needs only to be wiped over."

One of the rejected covers in PVC was likely to slip when the weapon was gripped between

the knees on fixing of bayonets and the other could have damaged medals.

In the revised form of drill the rifle will now be carried at "the slope" - a position familiar to all who were brought up on the Lee-Enfield.

The "at ease" position in which the rifle was held across the body has been dropped for the moment and the SA 80 will now be held tucked into a man's right side.

Though highly regarded as a combat weapon of great accuracy the rifle has posed problems for the All Arms Drill Wing at Pirbright which had to come up with a quick solution when given its first quick look at the SA 80.

Though its weight is similar to the SLR it is not as evenly balanced and furthermore is too short to reach the ground.

Fit though guardsmen are, arms ached with carrying the SA 80 at the short trail for long periods. Hence the return to the slope.

While SOLDIER was at

Chelsea Barracks the men selected for the Queen's Guard were going through their paces under CSM Barrie Croft who was accompanying the party to the Palace. RSM Vincent McEllin and Drill Sergeant Byles were in attendance.

There was a marked lack of bawling or shouting; more of quiet economical control. The guardsmen were in rehearsal order, barrack dress and bearskins.

The new drill may well be altered again if thought necessary.

The idea is that not only should it look smart but the men should be comfortable while drilling.

"The more comfortable they are the better they will perform," said RSM McEllin. Common sense of course. But the Guards have plenty of that.

Note: The Queen's Guard consisted of 30 guardsmen, five NCOs, a warrant officer and three officers.

Maj Hugh Purcell was the guard commander.

Ex-soldiers and old lorries are Britain's legacy

SUDAN inherited two important legacies when it became independent of Britain in 1956 — Army trucks and ex-soldiers.

The old Bedfords, some with 40 years' service behind them, are at the heart of the main transport network.

They move grain, livestock, deadstock and people... up to 40 at a time.

The ex-soldiers form a large proportion of the relief workers one finds in the country.

During the height of the most recent relief campaign it was estimated that eight out of ten of them were former British servicemen.

Martin Cairney, who served in the REME with 36 Regiment RA and 4 Armoured Workshops in Detmold, Germany, worked with the Save the Children Fund and Oxfam after he left the Army and is now Deputy Director of Help the Aged in the Sudan's Eastern Region.

I met him in Safawa refugee camp where he is responsible for the logistic support of the eye care team there.

Safawa lies 50 miles from the nearest tarmac road and is perched on an escarpment where the summer temperature reaches 48 degrees C.

Still further away is the Wadi Kowli where displaced Ethiopians cross into the Sudan.

At the height of the emergency more than 100,000 people sought shelter at Safawa where today around 17,000 remain.

They live in shanties and tents attended by nurses, doctors, eye surgeons and



THREE glimpses of life in the Sudan today. For the little girl above it is fun despite the heat. Katy Carson plays at ironing in the garden of her home using her dad's tie for practice. Col Robert Carson is the Defence Attaché. He and his wife Jan enjoy the posting.

For the little boy (above right) a visit to the doctor at the local Cheshire home is an important event. The Sudan has good doctors but is desperately short of modern equipment.

In Khartoum (right) young men tend the graves of British soldiers, weed the flower beds and wash the memorials.

ON THE PEPSI AND POTHOLE TRAIL

LIFE in the Sudan requires an adjustment to the ordinary working pattern. Weekends are working days for the locals. Under Islamic law Friday is the day of rest. Visits can be arranged to Kenya and Egypt during longer vacations, but you can go camping and sailing along the Nile on your days off.

No one can tell, but one thing I am certain of is that come what may people like Martin will be there to help. Four-wheel-drive diesel-fuelled vehicles are essential however. Cars are fine but there is only one tarmac road from Port Sudan to Khartoum — a two-day drive. Potholes are the norm. Otherwise you take your chance across country, over the desert and dry dusty plains.

You have to remember to wave to all and sundry and to stop frequently at roadside shacks to drink tea or Pepsi — that is the "in" drink.

Hardly a kilometre is covered without encountering someone doing running repairs.

Golden rule — don't hit a camel. The car will come off worst!

Hair do you do!

Many readers may have wondered what was happening to me after seeing the picture of the Sudanese woman tending my hair in the last issue. The answer was that I let some refugees plait it according to their own custom in order to gain their confidence.

As I didn't speak their language and they had no English we had to make contact somehow. And it worked.

Confession — they didn't think very much of western hair. Not mine anyway!

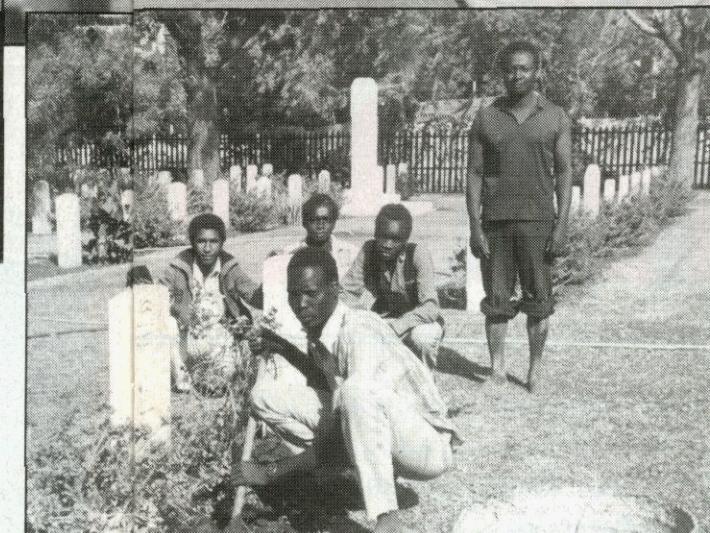
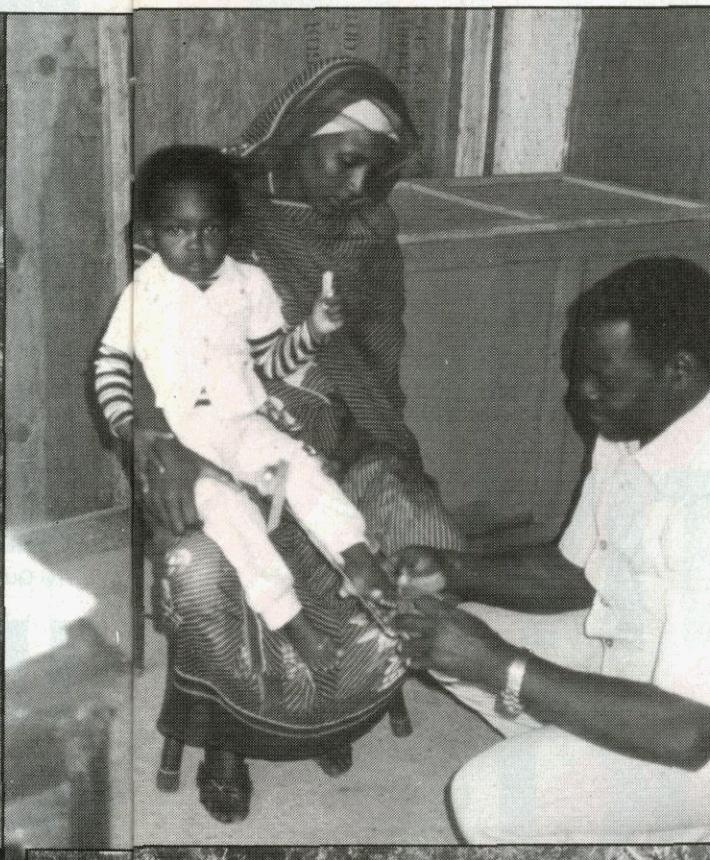
INSIDE SUDAN — REPORT NO 2 ON A NATION'S STRUGGLE



WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Anne Armstrong

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Echoes of the imperial past

IN THE middle of hot and dusty Khartoum there is one peaceful, green area where birds sing and flowers bloom.

Through a small gate in one corner of the wilting vegetation in the civilian cemetery lie the neat white headstones of British soldiers set in close-cropped grass, well watered and

thriving in the heat.

A team of Sudanese boys regularly wash the stones and water the plants.

The inscriptions and the badges give a little regimental history lesson.

An unidentified soldier of 1901 belonged to the Camel Transport Corps; Gunner Cuff of the 6th

Dragoon Guards died in 1917; Capt Greenfield of the RAMC in 1938 when he was only 23.

There are men from the Polish forces, from the RAF and from the Survey Department.

All the plots are a tribute to the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

These wives need a DIY medical pack

In my view...

arly before moving into a hiring they had to wait for the all clear before they could return.

Wives normally carry their walkie-talkies with them all the time.

"Once you've got over the inhibitions of everyone listening in to your conversation you're all right."

Any one know tortoise Tarzan?

IN ADDITION to the BATT there are a number of other Britons serving in Khartoum — Col Robert Carson, the Defence Attaché, and six members of the Royal Military Police who do a six-month unaccompanied tour.

Col Carson, his wife Jan and their five-year-old daughter Katy are on a three-year tour and are enjoying it enough to seek an extension.

They have a spacious house and garden and a variety of pets. Indeed everyone seemed to have either dogs or birds. Sarah Coate, wife of the BATT leader, introduced me to Tarzan a giant tortoise reputed to be 100 years old.

Tarzan seems to go with the job and is said to have come from Khartoum Zoo originally. Can anyone enlighten me?

said Sara Coate.

"It is the communication lifeblood of the BATT community."

The HQ of the British Army Training Team in the Sudan is at Omdurman about half an hour's drive from the centre of Khartoum at the confluence of the Blue and White Niles.

WO2 Bob Hughes RAOC, the adjutant, drove me to the military area past Sudanese soldiers in dark green uniforms covered in dust.

BATT runs the Junior Division of the Sudan Staff College on the site of some of the fiercest battles against the Mahdi just over 100 years ago.

The current course consists of 18 students.

I found the newly arrived chief clerk, Col Sgt John Darrant, Grenadier Guards, in conversation with a Sudanese sergeant.

Col Sgt Darrant and his wife Christine had received their MFO boxes but were waiting for their furniture to arrive.

The role of BATT is similar to that of our own JDSC — but overnight exercises and long periods away from camp are rare.

The commandant, Col Carson, had fever the day I arrived but he soon recovered.

It is essential to take preventive medicine while serving in the Sudan to fend off malaria.

One thing that struck me was the type of office I went into. There were no phones ringing, no word processors, no calculators, little sound except the whirring of the overhead fan.

Though it is now winter it was hot even in the early morning. I wondered what it would be like between May and August when the temperature reaches its peak.



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'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner



Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G*tr'e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

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It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

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These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could - please give as much as you can".

To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

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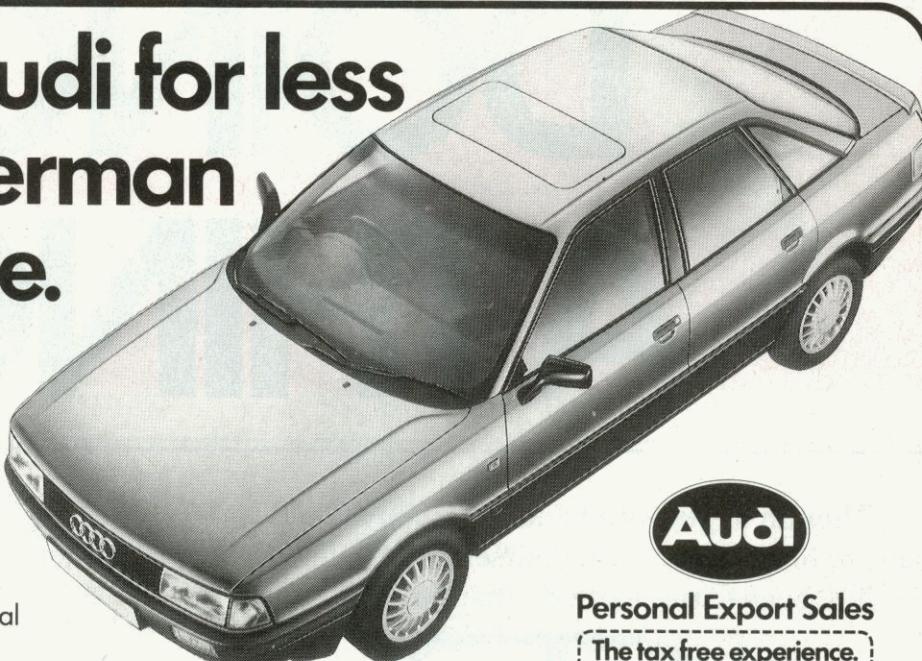
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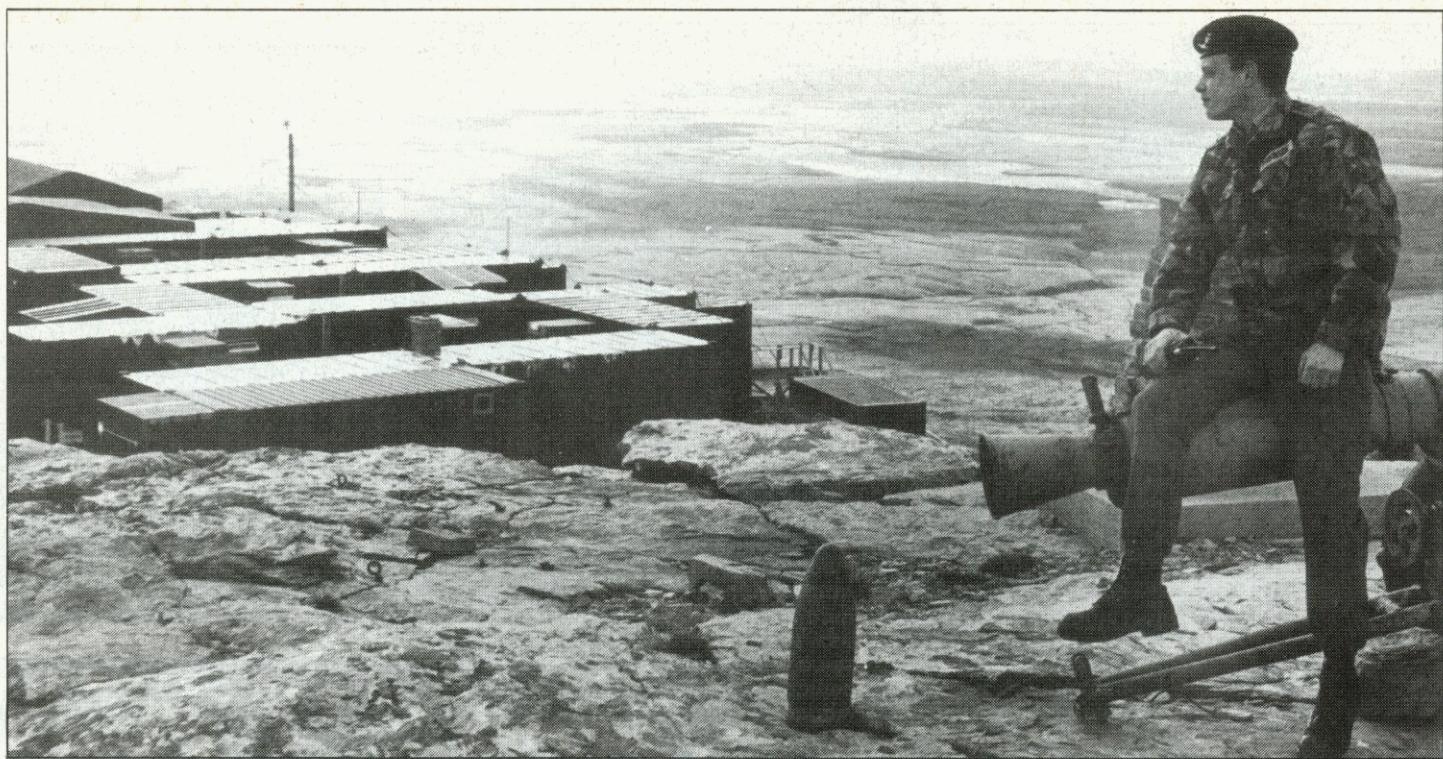
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Solitary vigil – Cpl Dickon Robinson on the summit of Mount Kent



Sig Dave Sharpe (foreground) with RN and RAF colleagues at the Mount Pleasant communications centre

BLEAK HOUSE

ON a cloudless summer's day, Stanley can clearly be seen some 15 miles distant beyond the necklace of mountains surrounding it, but on a bleak winter's day one might just as well be standing on the South Pole as blizzards rage and temperatures plummet.

This is the summit of Mount Kent – one of three mountain-top radar sites on the Falkland Islands – where, it is said, one can experience all four seasons within an hour.

Manned by 303 Signals Unit RAF, the detachment also has a solitary Royal Signalman permanently on strength trained as a communications technician and responsible for making sure all communications are working.

Drafted from 8 Signals Regiment, Cpl Dickon Robinson – incumbent at the time of SOLDIER's visit – said: "I have never known anything like it. It is very different and life is pretty basic up here but on the other hand it is fun because

everyone is someone and the motivation is high."

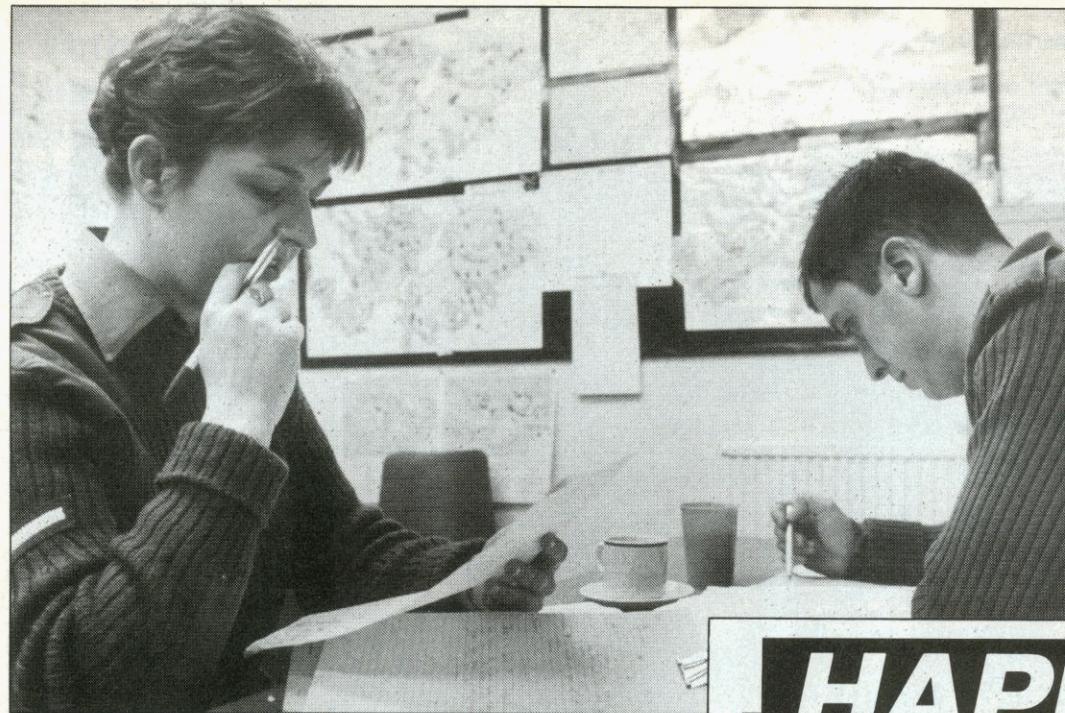
He, and his colleagues on Mount Byron and Mount Alice, are given back-up both in terms of welfare and equipment by the Mount Pleasant based Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCIFI).

OC Maj Moray Martin-Rhind R Sigs said: "It is a very interesting tour for the lads because they see how the other Services operate. They are on the go all the time and we see four months here as the equivalent of a year's experience elsewhere."

Royal Signals personnel serving with JCIFI are drawn from both the UK and BAOR and serve alongside colleagues from the RAF and RN. This tri-Service mix has been dubbed "jointery" by all involved with it.

Capt Jack Cowen R Sigs said: "Jointery works very well because we take the best of each Service's procedures and adopt them to the best advantage."

On this and the next four pages writer Mervyn Wynne Jones and photographer Mike Weston report on some of the support units serving in the Falkland Islands



LCpl Mandy Knight and LCpl Steven Wiltshire, TA members of the Intelligence Corps, sift through their paperwork

The mail prerogative

GARRISON morale soars with the arrival of each aircraft and its precious cargo of mail.

As soon as each flight has taxied to a halt the men of the Falkland Islands Postal and Courier



Popular sorts! RE posties deal with the incoming mail

Troop RE leap into action.

They know that everyone is relying on them to deliver their mail as soon as possible – if not quicker – and the sorting office is soon at fever pitch.

That over they then have to sort the outgoing mail which often amounts to 10,000 "blueys" – aerogrammes – and 3,000 assorted other types of mail each week.

"It can be pretty hectic," said Cpl Glyn Rees RE, "but we get a kick out of it because we know that morale is high as a result."

Their job is to prepare underslung loads for carriage by helicopter, a task demanding precision and good judgement to conform with flight safety standards.

Just seven strong, the mixed RCT and RAF team are ready at a moment's notice to put a load together ranging from rations and fuel to heavy machinery and BV over-snow vehicles.

Last year they moved 8,000,000 kg of freight across the islands, hooking up loads beneath Wasps and Lynx, Sea Kings and Chinooks.

The Army team members are a mix of RCT personnel from

POPULARLY known as the "Hookers" – with trophies befitting their nick-name emblazoned across their rest room – the Joint Helicopter Support Unit find their services much in demand.

"NEVER in a month of Sundays," said LCpl Mandy Knight, "did I imagine I would end up here when I joined."

LCpl Knight, Intelligence Corps, is a member of the Territorial Army and is one of a handful of Intelligence and Security volunteers serving their annual camp in the Falkland Islands.

Posted in groups of four, the TAs are tasked by a Regular warrant officer permanently on station who monitors their nuts and bolts security work.

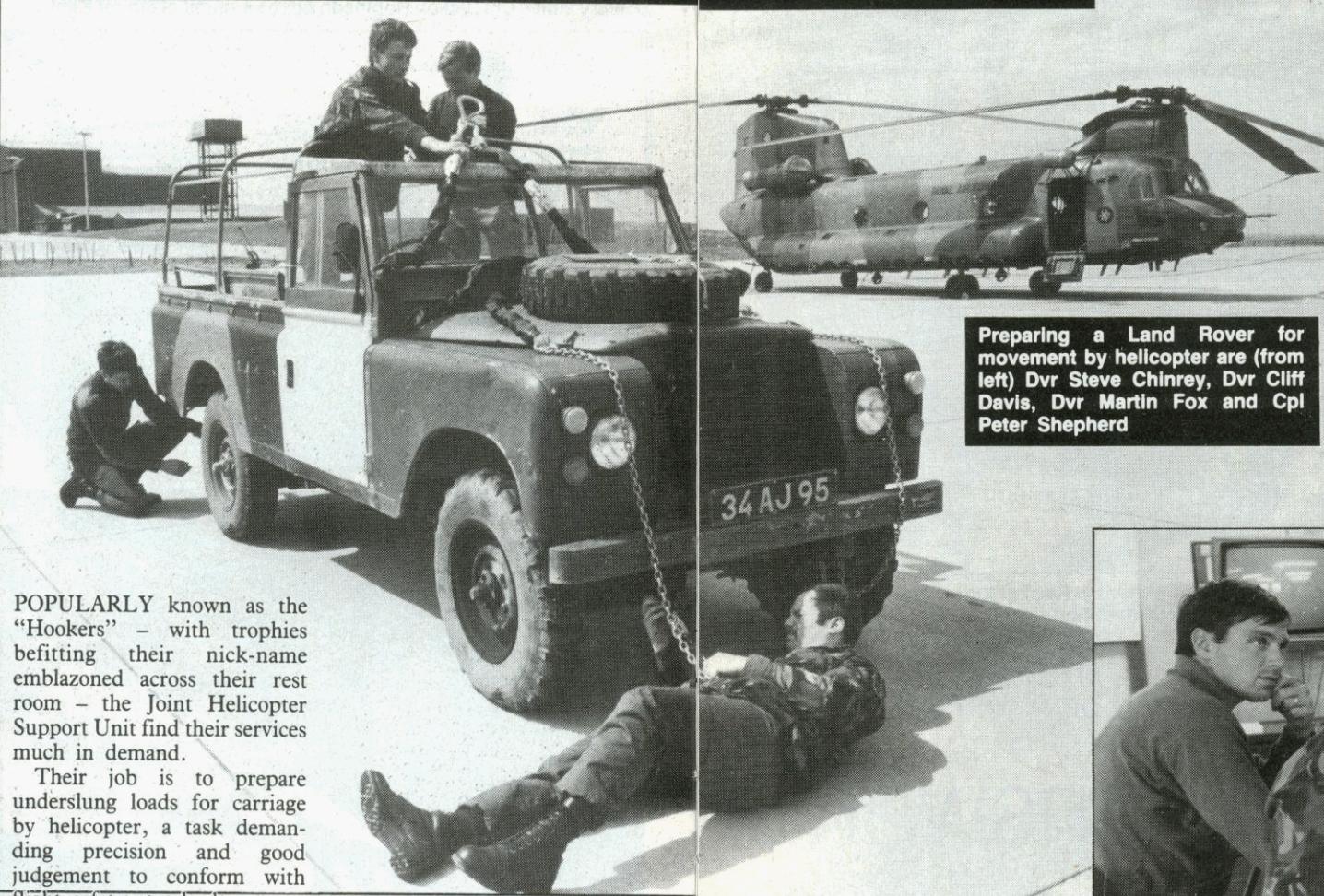
Unemployed LCpl Steven Wiltshire, who was doing his second South Atlantic stint, said: "It is an ideal opportunity to

Odd spot for TA Int Corps

practise training which you do not get much of a chance to do back in the UK."

Tasks such as the protective security of military installations are padded out with a lot of paperwork during a typical two or three week Falklands camp.

HAPPY HOOKERS!



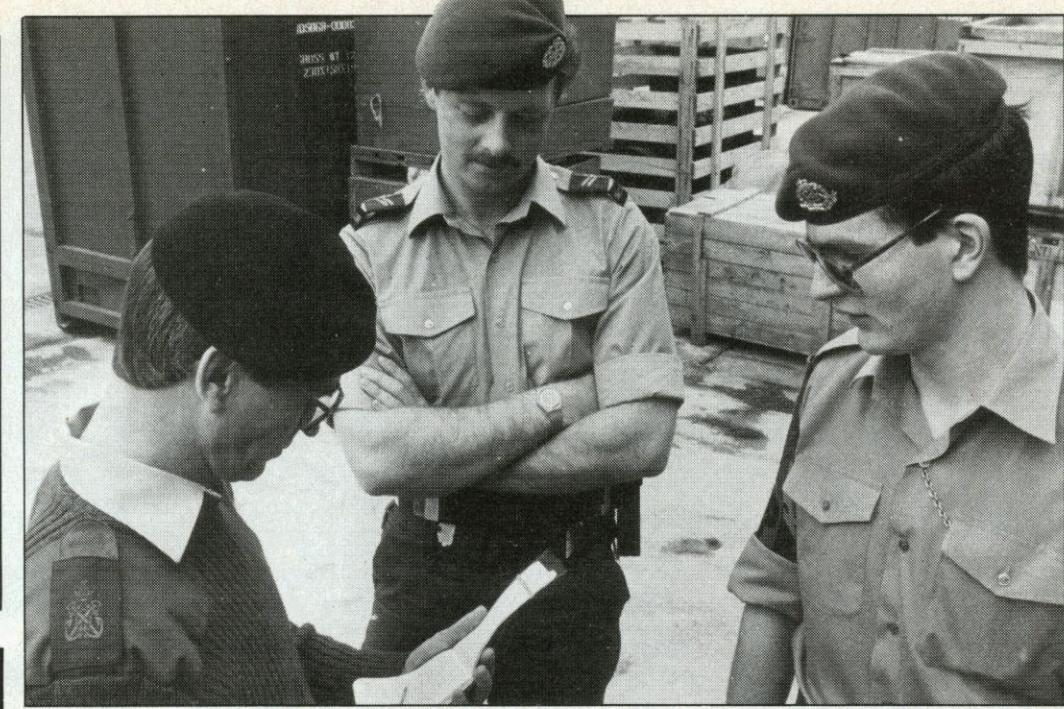
Preparing a Land Rover for movement by helicopter are (from left) Dvr Steve Chinrey, Dvr Cliff Davis, Dvr Martin Fox and Cpl Peter Shepherd

the helicopter support units at RAF Odiham, Hampshire, and RAF Gutersloh, West Germany, and RCT specialists from 45 Air Dispatch troop based at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire.

The latter's role in the Falklands is the preparation of pallets of mail, rations and supplies to be dropped by parachute from a Hercules to the detachment based on the

remote island of South Georgia. Escorting their cargo on the regular 1,600 mile round trip to South Georgia, they brave blizzards and poor visibility to deliver.

"The scenery is pretty dramatic around Grytviken," said Cpl Peter Shepherd, who served with the 1982 Falklands task force, "and we flew over an iceberg several miles long the other day."



Hello, hello, hello! LCpl John McFaul RMP (right) with Regulating Petty Officer Laurence Lamden of the Royal Navy and Cpl Tony Hall RAFF

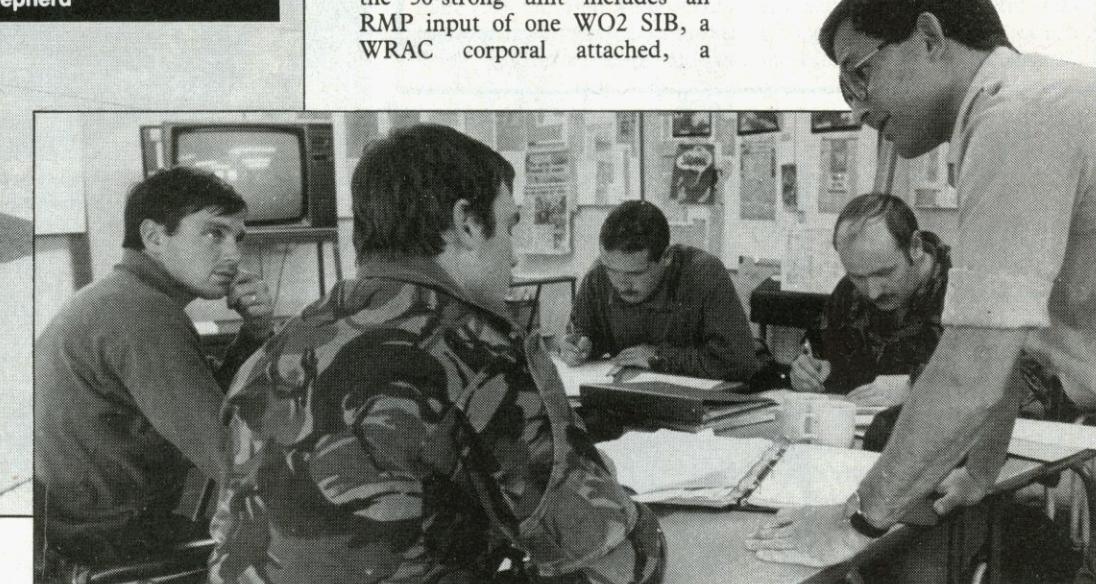
ON THE BEAT DOWN SOUTH

KEEPING an eye on the garrison and maintaining a round-the-clock presence at the Mount Pleasant complex is the Joint Services Police Support Unit.

Encountering little trouble apart from traffic accidents and the odd case of petty crime and speeding, the 36-strong unit includes an RMP input of one WO2 SIB, a WRAC corporal attached, a

sergeant, a corporal and a lance corporal.

The SIB do a lot of crime prevention work while the others pitch in with the RAF and RN in day to day shift cover.



Lt Peter Buckley RAEC (right) takes a class at Mount Pleasant

LANGUAGE ON DEMAND

LANGUAGE cassettes are much in demand from the Joint Forces Education Centre by Servicemen intent on getting to grips with tongues as diverse as Greek and Russian.

"If we have not got the course they want then we will send off for it," said Maj John Higgins RAEC who heads a team of Army and RAF educators.

Providing one of the main welfare functions in Mount Pleasant and the garrison as a whole, the centre stocks a wide variety of books, music cassettes and films.

Inside Stanley's new hospital Spr George Cheyne RE (foreground) has his pulse taken by Capt Angie Martin QARANC while islander William Hall is treated by Maj Kay Foster (left) and Pte Liz Coker of the QARANC

Angels of the South Atlantic

SOUTH Atlantic gales wreak havoc among the fishing fleets that ply those treacherous waters but injured sailors are assured of expert attention at Stanley's new hospital.

The King Edward VII Memorial Hospital was opened last year and is unique in being the only British hospital staffed and jointly run by both military and civilian personnel.

Here some 25 RAMC and QARANC surgical, medical and nursing staff double up with civilian counterparts in the treatment of a wide variety of patients from expectant mothers to injured Servicemen.

Maj Stuart Paine RAMC said: "It is not a busy hospital from the surgical point of view but the nursing side is active and this is good because the Army staff are picking up experience that they would not

normally have, such as geriatric care and some pretty horrific fishing injuries.

"The military and civilian mix works remarkably well and they participate in, and indeed contribute to our in-service training," said Maj Paine.

The tri-Service medical centre at RAF Mount Pleasant caters for Servicemen and MoD contracted civilians and works hand in glove with the hospital at Stanley.

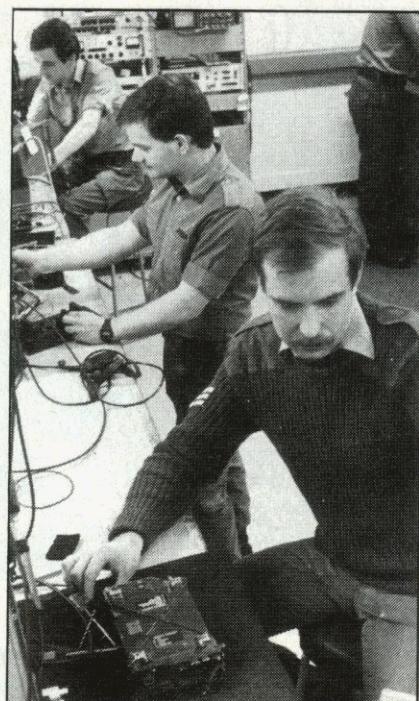
"Anything serious or involving laboratory work and surgery is dealt with at Stanley," said Capt Julian Smith RAMC. "Our bread and butter work here involves such things as sports injuries and various minor ailments."

A hard road for REME

PERFORMING minor miracles daily, the REME tradesmen of the Joint Force Workshop keep the Falklands vehicle fleet roadworthy against all odds.

Poor roads, rutted tracks and boggy hill-sides take their toll of Land Rover and BV206 alike.

Nevertheless, morale is high along the benches and in the workshops, and at the end of the day they have their very own bar - *The Slab and Sprocket* - to toast their success.



Sgt Peter Rowe (foreground), Cpl Andy Dubber and Sgt Dave Porter at work in the avionics section of the engineer wing



Cpl Craig Turner and LCpl Marcus Reed of the supply and movements wing check ammunition stores

They provide a stock answer!

MORE than a thousand tons of provisions, supplies and equipment pour into the Falkland Islands each month, and there to sort it out is the tri-Service supply and movements wing.

Currently under the command of Lt Col Paddy Cairns RCT, the wing is split into supply and port and movements squadrons and an ordnance company.

Lt Col Cairns said: "When you are 8,000 miles away you have either got it right or you have not anticipated properly

and you have got it wrong."

The ordnance company runs what is essentially a mini depot and holds ammunitions, rations and reinforcement stock.

Ammunition combat stocks are held and checked frequently by company OC Maj Dick Oldham RAOC who as SATO is responsible for all Army types and all stocks under 20mm calibre.

Maj Oldham is also responsible for all stocks of training ammunition.

Reserve stocks of rations are



Movement controller Cpl Mike Wingent RCT counts containers being unloaded from the supply ship *Asifi* at Mare Harbour



Pte "BJ" Spiers RAOC and colleague Tom Roberts of the RAF sort out a batch of fresh fruit arriving in the Falklands

held and monitored by the company whose job it is to supply the garrison and Royal Naval ships with provisions.

Fresh food in particular must be dispersed quickly soon after the arrival of each flight into RAF Mount Pleasant.

The ordnance company runs a bakery whose RAOC staff of eight produce more than 400 loaves and 5,000 rolls each day.

Men on shift work!

PLYING the Falklands coastline to deliver countless tons of stores to military outposts, the soldier sailors of 460 Port Troop RCT find themselves seaborne almost daily.

Based at Mare Harbour, the garrison's new port complex some four miles south of RAF Mount Pleasant, the troop operates a variety of vessels including a coastal lighter called the Saint Brandon.

Tasked with unloading and loading the supply ships that berth at the harbour, the troop shifts more than 5,500 tons of material inward and 2,500 tons outward during a typical four months tour. Their landing craft are also much in demand for military exercises.

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Survival, Arctic style. LCpl Mick Harvey (left) and Spr Joe Troulan brew up in a brushwood shelter

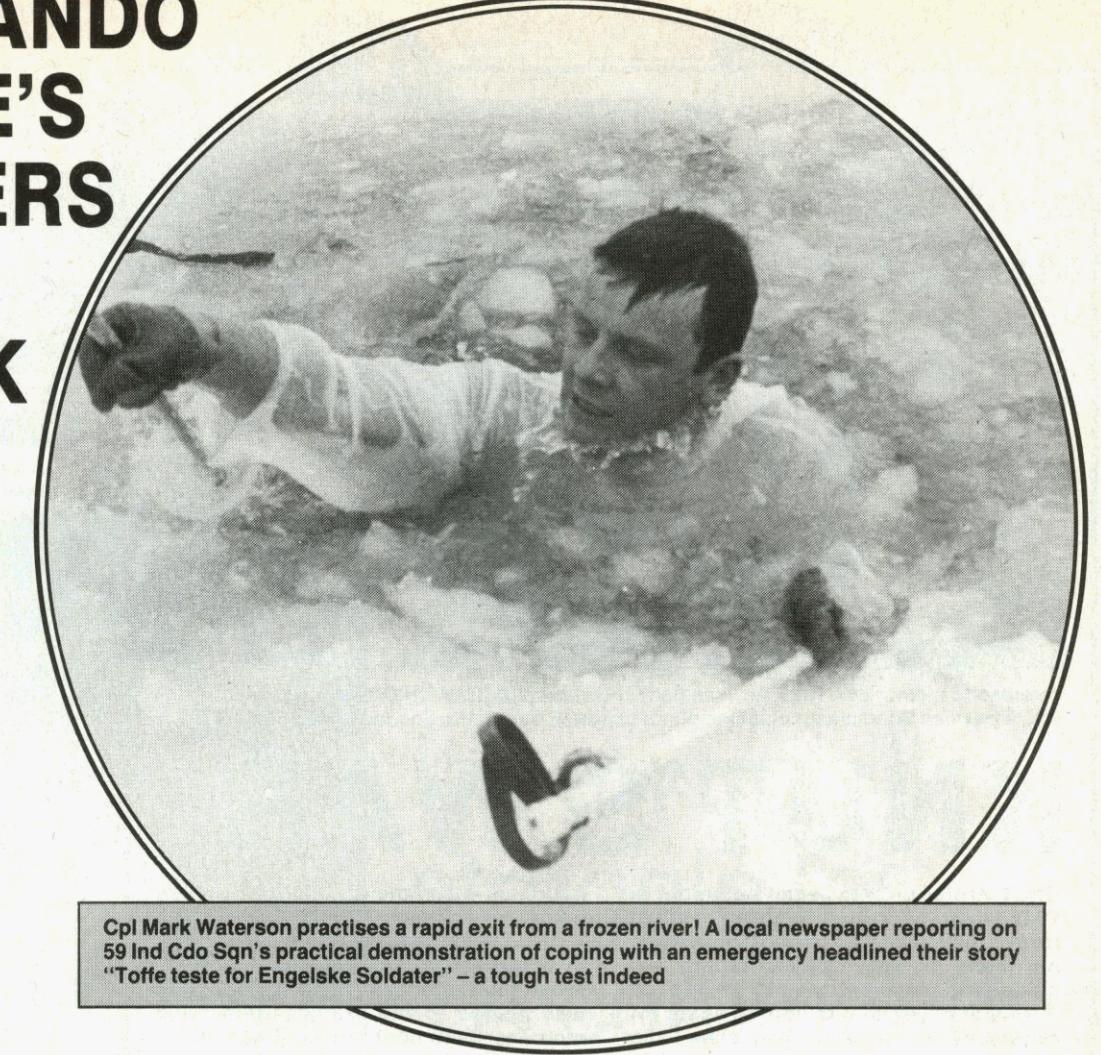
3 COMMANDO BRIGADE'S ENGINEERS LEARN TO WORK IN THE ARCTIC

THE ARCTIC is a tough testing ground. Soldiers and commandos pit their wits against the worst that nature can muster against them as they hone the skills necessary to protect Nato's northern flank.

Frequently operating at temperatures as low as minus 15 degrees centigrade, Britain's Arctic warfare specialists learn how to survive to fight among the snowfields and ice sheets of Norway.

"You learn more about your men and equipment here than anywhere else in the world," said WO2 QMSI Mick Berrill, 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers.

He and the rest of the



Cpl Mark Waterson practises a rapid exit from a frozen river! A local newspaper reporting on 59 Ind Cdo Sqn's practical demonstration of coping with an emergency headlined their story "Toffe teste for Engelske Soldater" - a tough test indeed

squadron were in Steinkjer, north of Trondheim on Norway's west coast, taking part in 3 Commando Brigade's

annual three months winter deployment.

Based in barracks built by the country's German occupiers

in 1944, the squadron were putting their newest recruits through the basic Arctic warfare training programme while the rest flexed their cold weather engineering skills.

All members of the squadron are volunteers and all must successfully complete the rigorous commando training programme to earn their green berets before spending their first winter in Norway.

There they must pass a three weeks course which prepares them to live, fight and survive in an Arctic environment before joining their colleagues in combat engineering continuation training.

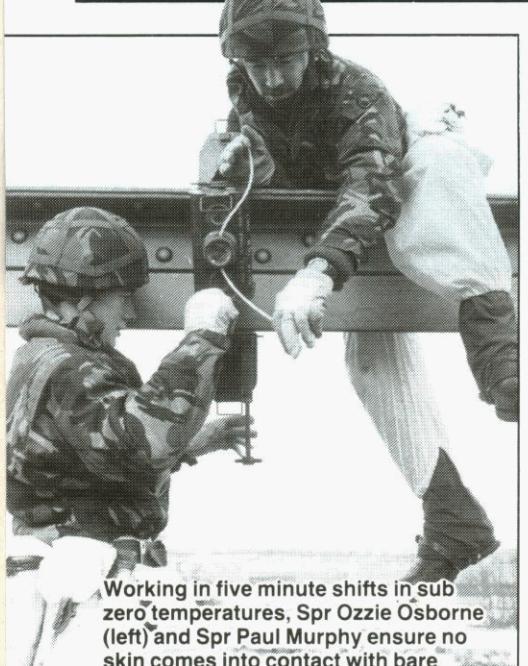
Tasked with providing front-line engineer support to 3 Cdo Bde, 59 must - in common with combat engineering colleagues throughout the corps - be proficient in mine warfare, demolitions, water supply, beach support, field defences, route denials and bulk fuel installation.

The fundamental difference is the theatre in which they work. The Arctic, with its energy-sapping, mind-numbing sub-zero temperatures, demands a totally different approach to the job.

The first priority is survival. All members of the unit are taught how to ward off the cold

● Turn to next page

SUB-ZERO SAPPERS



Working in five minute shifts in sub-zero temperatures, Spr Ozzie Osborne (left) and Spr Paul Murphy ensure no skin comes into contact with bare metal while placing a CD14 Hayrick demolition charge on a bridge

Keeping their cool is no problem for EOD experts!

COLD fingers complicate the already tricky business of bomb disposal as the commando sappers of 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal know only too well.

Delicate work involving the constant use of hands demands extra care and vigilance in sub-zero temperatures.

All specialists in their field, they deploy each winter with 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE to practise their Arctic role.

Just 20 strong, they are all volunteers and each must earn his green beret and parachute wings before becoming a fully fledged member.

Once accepted into the troop, those with the necessary aptitude are encouraged to gain their underwater diver's qualification as well.

The troop was created two years ago when, following an analysis of Falklands operations in 1982, 3 Commando Brigade decided they needed their own EOD support.

Sgt Dave Percy, who served with 59 during the Falklands campaign, said: "EOD means that you have got to be

careful anyway but out here, in these temperatures, you have got to take just that little bit longer over a job.

"It does make life harder when, for example, you are trying to fit disarming equipment to a bomb in freezing conditions, but it is fascinating work and is certainly the best job I have had in the Army."

When the troop is not deployed in Norway on exercise, it carries out conventional bomb disposal and search operations in the UK and abroad.



There's no substitute for patience and courage when breaching - clearing - a minefield by hand. Spr Joe Troulan uncovers a mine while pulling himself forward, belly down, on his skis



Commando memories – Knut Arntsen (left) shows Maj Angus Kerr, OC 59 Ind Cdo Sqn, a German Schmeisser machine pistol captured during the Second World War

KNUT'S WAR

KNUT Arntsen's war began one night in 1941 when, as he made his way home from a dance hall in occupied Norway, he found a Nazi soldier raping his neighbour's daughter.

Nineteen years old and a boxer of considerable repute, he slew the German on the spot and was forced to flee to Sweden to escape certain execution.

He made his way to Scotland to take up uniform and found he was one of many young men with similar intentions who had gone to Britain from occupied countries.

Most wanted to join the commando units that were being raised but no such opportunity existed for foreign nationals until the formation of 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando during 1942.

Cloaked in secrecy, it was this multi-national unit – including the mysterious X-Troop made up of German

nationals – that the eager Knut Arntsen joined that year.

After several months arduous training in Scotland and North Wales – "it was tough but I was young and fit" – Arntsen was posted to the Norwegian-manned motor torpedo boat flotilla at Lerwick in the Shetland Islands.

There he took part in attacks on German shipping and small scale raids and reconnaissance missions along the Norwegian coastline before the tide of war swept him south and into Europe after the Normandy invasion.

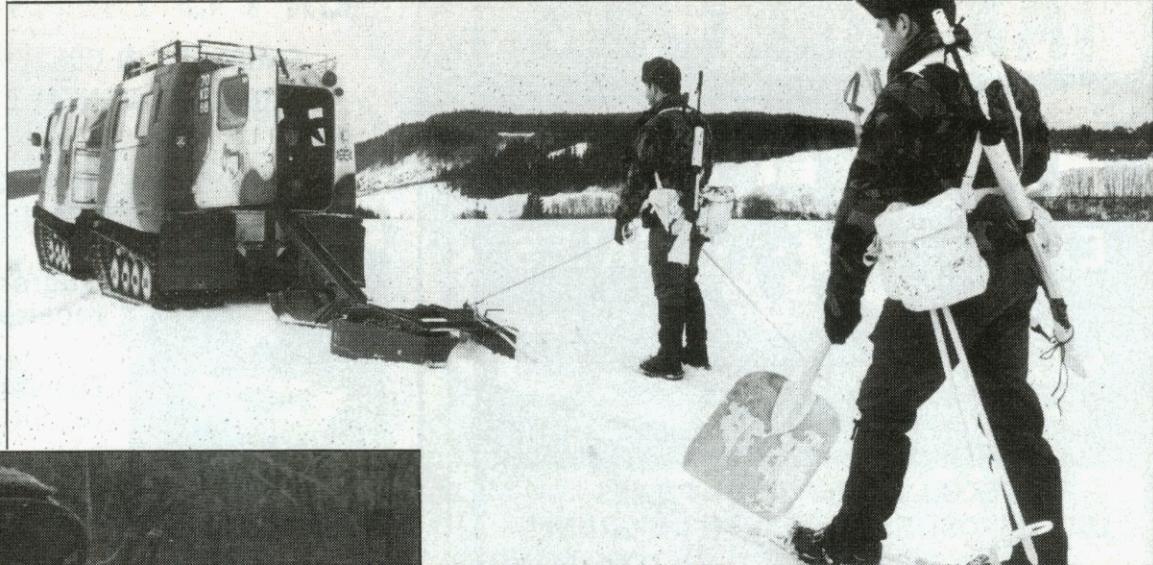
He was among the troops who attempted to relieve the beleaguered paratroopers at Arnhem, and he took part in the amphibious assault on Walcheren, a German fortress that dominated the mouth of the Scheldt.

Arntsen vividly remembers the fierce

● Turn to Page 37



A member of 59 Ind Cdo Sqn tucks into a 24-hour Arctic ration pack of any tree cover



On trial – both the BV 206 and the new bar mine laying system were being put through their paces by the commando sappers of 59 Ind Cdo Sqn



Commando sappers hitch a lift on the back of an oversnow vehicle. The technique is known as "ski-joring" in Norwegian

● From Page 31

in snow holes, snow "graves" (trenches covered with tent sheets) and brushwood shelters.

Instant calories are essential and each 24-hour Arctic ration pack contains more than 5,000 of them. Just lying in a sleeping bag for six hours at minus 15 can burn up more than 1,500 calories.

Cross country mobility is also of utmost importance and all 59 sappers learn to be proficient on skis carrying weapon and equipment and towing a pulk (sledge) or jyelper (stretcher).

Novices are taught by specially trained squadron members who have spent at least two winters in Norway, and during each Arctic deploy-

ment the Squadron has a member of the Royal Marines Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre attached in a training and consultative capacity.

New equipment is always being tested, and more established equipment re-tested, during the annual winter deployments. At the time of SOLDIER's visit the squadron was trialling a new bar-mine laying system.

Also on trial in the Arctic is the Hagglund BV206 which is likely to be phased into service on the northern flank to replace the Volvo BV202.

59 Ind Cdo Sqn is the only one in the corps to have a reconnaissance troop on strength alongside its field

troops to advise forward elements on engineering problems. Volunteers wishing to join it must gain their parachute wings.

"Serving with the squadron," said Capt Bill Honey, "is all about accepting a challenge, both mentally and physically, and simply proving to yourself that you are able to go that little bit further."

Most members of the squadron spend three years with 59 before being posted to another to broaden their engineering skills but many return as they progress up the promotion ladder.

Created for a specific role in support of 3 Cdo Bde, their travels are not, however,

restricted to Norway and members of the unit deploy and train worldwide.

Currently in need of more volunteers to bring his unit fully up to strength, 59 OC Maj Angus Kerr said: "We are looking for fit sappers with initiative who are self starters and able to cope with the fairly strenuous life we lead in the Arctic."

"People sometimes think that you have to be superhuman to join 59 but that is simply not true. We just want keen, fit volunteers with lots of drive and enthusiasm."

If you feel like taking the bull by the horns – support arms included – 59 would be delighted to take you on board!

The level of commitment required of members is considerable but most, having earned their green beret, are only too willing to devote much of their spare time to the squadron.

Some, like sales manager LCpl Eric Dimaline, are former members of 59.

He said: "Soldering is in my blood and I was only too glad of the chance to wear a green beret again."

Capt Richard Cole, also an ex-59 Regular, said: "You have got to have that little bit extra to get through the course. Having been through the mill, the lads tend to stick with the unit afterwards and all seem to



Sgt Dave Percy (left) and LCpl Tomlinson of 49 EOD place an electrically initiated rocket wrench on the fuse of a replica Russian 500kg bomb. The wrench rotates rapidly to unscrew the fuse before it has time to detonate the bomb

It's an uphill struggle for TA commandos

their Regular counterparts and all are taught basic ski and survival techniques before going on to practise their engineer role.

The squadron is split into four troops UK-wide, each specialising in certain aspects of combat engineering to maximise the limited training time available to them.

Added to the order of battle of 3 Commando Brigade in 1978, their combat role is to assist the rear area logistic units while 59 provide front line support.

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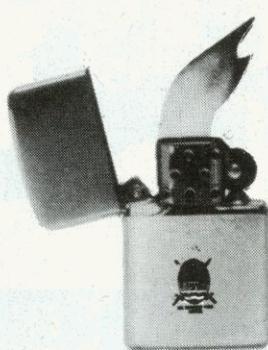
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The smile that captivated a regiment: Anneka Rice with members of 3 TRRE

Pictures: Mike Weston



Second thoughts! The moment of realisation when Anneka stopped halfway down the Death Slide

FOLLOWING their appearance on the BBC's Children in Need appeal, the sappers of 3 Training Regiment RE adopted television girl Anneka Rice as their "Celebrity Sapper", writes Laurie Manton.

Anneka, the bubbly personality girl from television's popular Treasure Hunt programme, spent a day with the regiment seeing at first hand how combat engineers were trained and to try her hand at some of the skills employed by the troops at the centre.

Met by the CO of 3 TRRE, Lt Col Cedric Sloane, and Senior Instructor Capt Clive Dyson, Anneka was presented with a jump suit complete with RE badge before starting her tour by meeting again the sappers who made her Children in Need charity stunt in the Thames possible.

Then Anneka was "persuaded" to try the Death Slide.

"Why do I get such strange jobs!" she was heard to shout as she climbed the tower.

Fitted with a safety harness, she launched herself down the slide - only to stop halfway down!

Being a girl who keeps in trim and weighing much less than a burly sapper, she didn't have the weight to keep up momentum. After a few minor adjustments to the cable tension, she was able to continue her journey down to terra firma.

Anneka laid live demolition charges before moving on to Hawley Lake where she was offered a glass of Chateau Hawley - water taken from the lake and put through a water purification system.

A fast trip round the lake in a combat

support boat was followed by a regimental lunch before Anneka ended her tour of Gibraltar barracks, to quote the official programme "To the disappointment of the regiment!"

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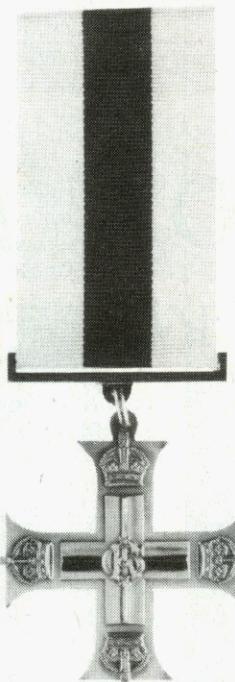
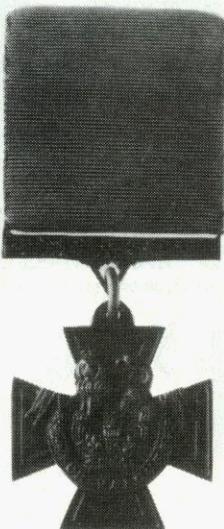
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KNUT'S WAR

● From Page 32

fire that raked their landing craft as they approached and the bitter fighting that followed when they flushed out the defenders at Walcheren.

Their objective secured, Arntsen and his colleagues returned to Belgium to rest and be re-equipped but were soon thrust into the front line again to help stem Nazi Germany's final Christmas offensive in the Ardennes.

Promoted to sergeant, Arntsen took part in the liberation of his homeland and, when the war ended, joined the re-formed Norwegian army and became a member of his king's personal bodyguard. He remained in the army until his retirement.

In 1979, with the arrival of 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE in Steinkjer, he acted as the unit's local liaison officer and has since become a close friend of the commando engineers.

"The commandos are one big family," Knut Arntsen told SOLDIER. "Meeting these lads brings back a lot of memories and it is always good to see them."

Uphill struggle

● from Page 33

enjoy the variety it offers."

131 Sqn sappers are able to volunteer for parachute and diving courses, and several are offered places on overseas trips when 59 deploy worldwide while practising their 3 Commando Brigade support role.

WO2 Geoff Howard, attached to 131 as QMSI on a two year posting from 59, said: "We are trying to get as many lads Arctic trained as possible so that we are a real back-up to 59.

"We are obviously limited because of time but you cannot fault the lads on their enthusiasm. They train hard and it is a pleasure to work with them."



Picture: Terry Champion

**Up
we
go!**

Sgt Ock O'Neill leads on a difficult pitch on the North Face of Andover shopping precinct in Hampshire during one of many red nosed Army efforts to raise money for Comic Relief. Second on the rope is SSgt Mike Downey with Sgt Keith Jackson bringing up the rear. In

support were Claire "Noddy" Higginson and Jackie "Big Ears" Tuspa of the TSB. Despite an avalanche of rush hour shoppers the three climbers from the WO and Sgts Mess of 22 Engr Regt based at Perham Down, Andover raised about £750.

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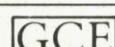
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PIPS AND DRUMS
Pipes and Drums of 2nd Bn Scots Guards
Pipe Major: J J Riddell
BND 1043

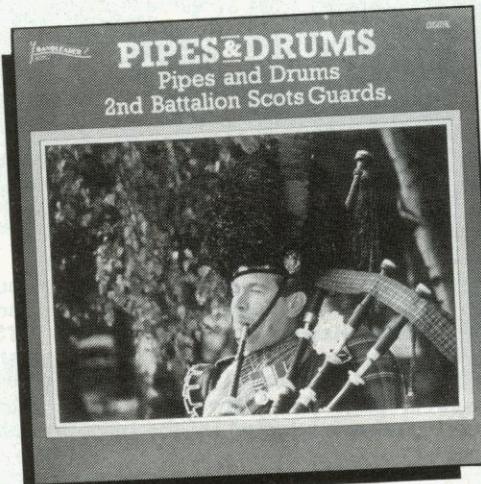
FROM my earliest days as a bandboy, pipe majors (sorry, Pipe Majors) have scared the hell out of me. Even as an officer I found it difficult to resist knuckling my forelock to the likes of Jimmy Riddell, and I imagine the enemy found him not too winsome during the Falklands campaign, where the pipers and drummers served as medical orderlies and defence platoon.

The temptation nowadays, when they are at the end of my pen, is to dip it in vitriol and give *them* hell.

Not on this occasion though, for although a bit late to enhance Hogmanay celebrations the record is well worth buying for next time, and for whenever you feel like a bit of a fling. I have mentioned before the beauty of the titles of most Scottish songs, but what do you make of *The Conundrum*, *Flett from Flotta*, *The Lady in the Bottle*, *Oh Hag!* *You've Killed Me*, and *The Eavesdropper*? Compared to English tune-titles – all pastoral and romantic – the Scots don't seem to mind celebrating the seamier side of life in song.

And what was *Donald McLennan's Exercise*, I wonder?

An even better variety of rhythm and instrumentation this time, with sole piping and drumming, and the normal mixture of



all the types of march and dance you could wish for. Two tunes remember the Scots Guards' achievements in the South Atlantic with the pipe major's own *The Crags of Tumbledown* and B Donaldson's *Falkland Palace*.

The remainder, as I say, a rundown on past and recent domestic history, with old favourites like *My Home*, *The Rowan Tree*, *Marie's Wedding*, and the regimental march *Heilan' Laddie*. More than 50 items in all, nicely arranged and presented for maximum variation of pace.

● From *Bandleader*, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR, price £6 or from dealers £5.49.

Hell at Fuka by R R Smith. Novel about the experiences of a British 25-pounder gun crew and Afrika Korps soldiers manning two Panzers, roaming the desert after Alamein. Published by William Kimber. Price £9.50.

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In brief

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anniversary year. Published by SASRA, Havelock House, Barrack Road, Aldershot GU11 3NP. Price £2.50.

A New Excalibur by A J Smithers. Development of the tank 1909-1939. Published in paperback by Grafton Books. Price £9.95.

Sovereign Service by Col Ian Dobbie. The story of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association, told in its 150th



Instantly recognizable – the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Story of an institution

THE NAME Sandhurst is recognised worldwide as being synonymous with officer training, not only for the British Army but for those of many other countries whose recruits attend courses at the Royal Military Academy.

It is an institution with its roots in the 18th century vision of Channel Islander John Gaspard Le Marchant for a British officer school. It had a modest beginning with 26 officers attending a course of lectures in 1799 at an inn in High Wycombe.

Two years later the government purchased an estate at Blackwater on the Berkshire-Surrey border to house "a Royal Military College". The commandant's residence at Sandhurst stands on the site of the old manor house of the estate.

In *Sandhurst: A Documentary*, Michael Yardley tells the story of the institution from its foundation to the present day. However, history is not the main theme, the emphasis is very much on the Sandhurst of today.

In particular, the author analyses the controversial ROTE (Review of Officer Training and Education) report, the latest in a long line of committees and study groups, resulting in a radical reduction of the academic curriculum.

This poses a number of questions. With increasing stress on technical instruction, will Sandhurst remain a Royal Academy in the true sense, or will it become merely an officer cadet training unit?

How effective can an officer be without instruction in international affairs?

Is not Sandhurst seriously compromising its aim to develop the qualities of leadership of young officers when the academic component is to be drastically cut, reducing the cadets' abilities to learn?

Of course, the author has an axe to grind or he would not have compiled his study from this standpoint.

In his words: "There is a

fundamental disequilibrium in the current system. The maintenance of old class structures to which Sandhurst's social function relates is different in a world orientated to new technology. The old system mirrored a pre-technological society and may not be the most effective way of controlling and making use of new technology."

And yet, to adopt the enemy's technology does not solve all the problems.

"One must retain a commitment to being more moral. It is doubtful whether there can be a long term efficiency in valid human terms without a firm moral base."

The book is not entirely devoted to controversial argument. There is a section of

in-depth interviews with staff, students and members of the Standard Graduate Course. Also included is a 64-page photographic essay of action photographs taken by the author. – BJ

Sandhurst: A Documentary by Michael Yardley, published by Harrap. Price £14.95.

What makes a mercenary tick – money, boredom or despair?

WHO ARE today's mercenaries? What motivates them? How are they recruited, and how do they operate? Much has been written of mercenary activities in the press but still the mercenary soldier remains a shadowy and mysterious figure to most people.

Despite laws such as the Foreign Enlistment Act in the United Kingdom and the Neutrality Act in the USA, mercenaries continue to be recruited and are often assisted by intelligence agencies when it is found expedient to do so.

In *The Modern Mercenary*, Peter Tickler presents mercenaries and their pay masters past and present, describing many

operations of recent years, complete with vivid first hand accounts of the excitement, horror and reality of this way of life.

Mercenaries have had an integral role in military campaigns throughout recorded history but this book is concerned only with operations since the Second World War: 5 Commando's campaigns in the Congo and "Mad Mike" Hoare's failed Seychelles coup; the notorious exploits of "Callan" in Angola; the Sultan of Oman's use of the British soldier in the Dhofar War and the CIA's support for the Contras in Nicaragua; as well as lesser publicised activities,

including operations in Sri Lanka, Biafra, the Yemen, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

What makes the modern mercenary? Why are there always men willing to lay their lives on the line in distant parts of the world where they can expect no help from embassy or consulate and scant sympathy at home?

There are the psychopaths, like the little lamented Costas Georgiou (Callan), but most mercenaries are level-headed, reasonable and courageous.

An important consideration is, of course, the money. Peter Tickler suggests it is also boredom and sometimes des-

pair that drives some ex-Servicemen to serve under a foreign flag, quoting one mercenary's comment: "There is an exhilaration in knowing that every step on the jungle path might be your last."

What do less fit or youthful ex-soldiers turn to? They become academics, play war games, write books – or review them!

Who is to say which way of life has the greater ethics? Who feels righteous enough to cast the first stone? Certainly not Peter Tickler. – BJ

The Modern Mercenary: Dog of War, or Soldier of Honour? by Peter Tickler, published by Patrick Stephens. Price £16.95.

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The pomp and the pain

"A SOLDIER's life is terribly hard," said Alice to Christopher Robin the day she took him to see the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, writes Bill Moore.

Alice was engaged to one of the soldiers in the early Thirties. About 100 years earlier life could be not just hard but hell for wayward warriors, as visitors to the new Guards Museum in Wellington Barracks, London, can see for themselves.

The museum, opened by the Queen, will satisfy anyone looking for colour, tradition and nostalgia, but it also shows the pain that went with the pomp.

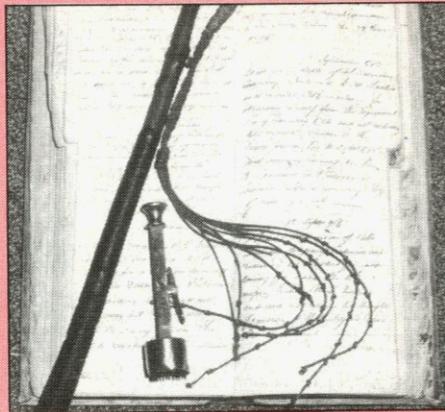
Among a set of surgeon's implements, gleaming with saws and probes, is a tourniquet which shows blood stains. It belonged to a Major Huthwaite who treated Grenadiers in the Crimean War.

Even grimmer is a cat o' nine tails bearing traces of dried blood.

Alongside it is a punishment book in which sentences of up to 1,000 lashes are recorded.



Above left - Barry Mazur, one of the country's top designers, sizes up a drummer's tunic against a dummy. Above right - Punishment book, the cat and the device used to brand deserters



Pictures: Mike Weston

For example on September 12, 1798:

"William Mills of Col Devismes company sentenced to 600 lashes and received 318 lashes for absenting himself from the regiment on the 9 January 1795 and not returning until brought prisoner to the 'D' for life."

Branding was not abolished until 1871 and flogging persisted for another ten years.

Today when belonging to the Guards means joining a family which insists on a high standard

of behaviour, it is hard to appreciate the need for the severity of the past.

The fact remains that even

the stern code of the Duke of Wellington was sometimes not

enough to keep the "rude and

licentious soldiery" in check -

witness the sacking of Badajoz

and St Sebastian.

Nevertheless it meant that

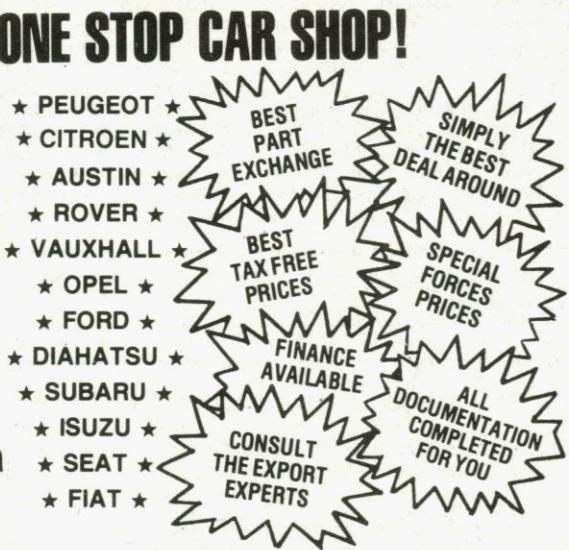
civilians had less to fear from

the Redcoats during the

Napoleonic Wars than from

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Sappers' victory

From Page 52

35 Engr Regt and third place was taken by 42 Commando RM.

The 4 x 7.5km biathlon relay was won by 42 Cdo from Plymouth, very closely followed by 19 Fd Regt RA and 35 Engr Regt. Fourth was the first infantry team, 1 KOSB led by Lt Kevin Pope.

The British men's 20km biathlon title was secured in regal style by LCpl Bomberg coming in nearly five seconds ahead of his closest rival Cpl Mark Crisp. Third in the Army and BAOR championship was LCpl King from 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt.

Bomberg showed his quality again on the final day by winning the British title in the men's 30km Langlauf event. Gnr Cole came second in the Army and BAOR championship and Cpl Worrall third.

In the overall military combination the best Service team was 42 Commando RM followed by 45 Commando RM and 19 Fd Regt RA. Best Army team was 19 Fd Regt followed by 35 Engr Regt and 1 KOSB.

Throughout the Nordic races in Zwiesel excitement mounted high as results came in from

Fulpmes and were matched with the local results. The reason was the ongoing competition for the Princess Marina Cup - the most coveted prize in the Army skiing world.

The cup was finally won by 35 Engr Regt - the first time that the trophy had gone to the sappers. Runners-up were 19 Fd Regt RA and in third place were the racers from 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt.

Judo results

THE Army junior novice individual judo championships at ASPT Aldershot attracted 33 competitors. Gold medal winners were AT Heath (Under 60kg); AT Butt (U-65kg); AT Preece (U-71kg); AT Wilson (U-78kg); and LCpl Harding (Over 78kg). All the winners except Wilson (AAC Chepstow) came from AAC Harrogate.

Gold medal winners in the UKLF senior novice championships were Cfn Chalmers SEME (U-71kg); Cfn Tooley SEE (U-78kg); Cfn Webster SEE (U-86kg); and LCpl Stevens Guards Depot (Over 86kg).

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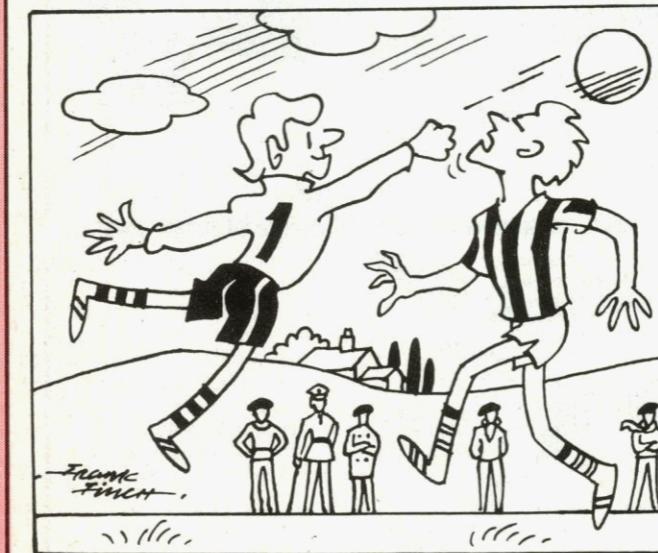
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The first correct entry drawn will be the winner. No correspondence can be entered into. Answers to: HOAY No 433, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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Alpine championships

● From Page 52

For the first time the Army Alpine championships had the services of a technical delegate from the British Ski Federation, Mr Richard Berry, who went to Fulpmes with the express purpose of bringing Army skiing more in line with international competition.

He was impressed with the standard and said the Army's top

ten would be strong contenders for inclusion among the best 30 in Britain. He was particularly hopeful that Jnr LCpl Leslie Pond, from the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Engineers, Dover, would be able to take part in the national junior championships.

Pond (17) achieved 12th position in the Army list in only his second skiing season.

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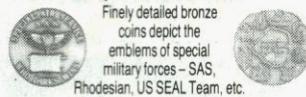
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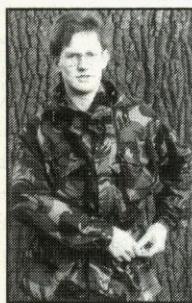
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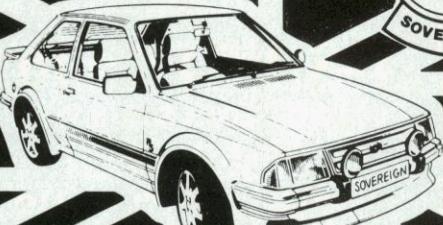


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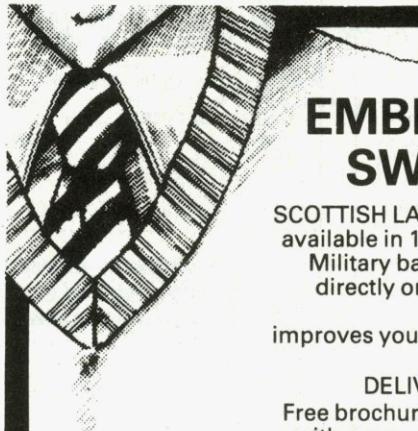
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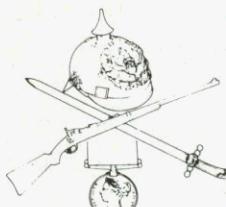
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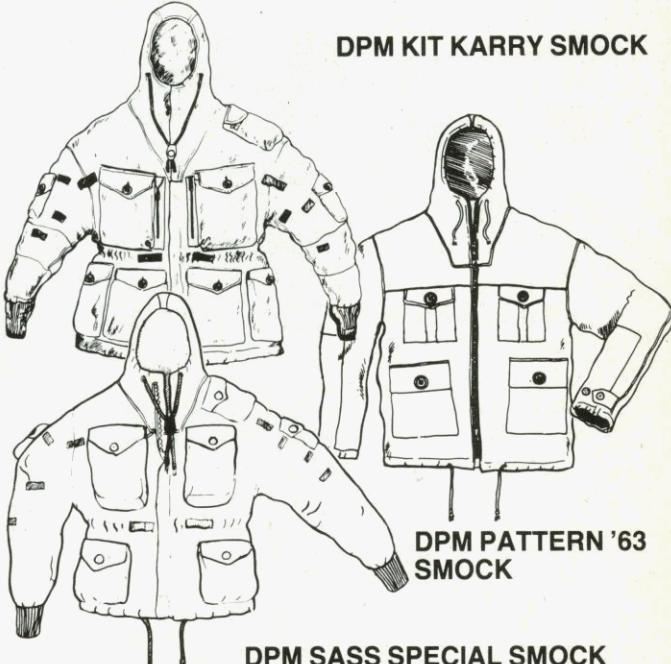
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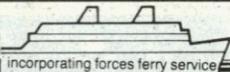
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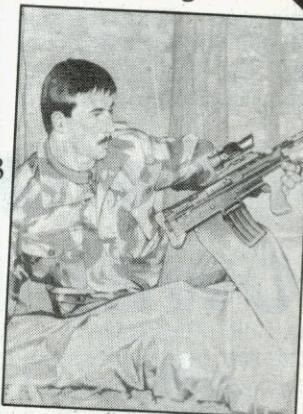
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SAPPERS SKI TO VICTORY

THIS year's British national, Army and BAOR ski championships in the Nordic disciplines were held in Zwiesel, in the eastern part of the Bavarian woods near the Czechoslovakian border.

When officials arrived there was scarcely any snow in sight. They had to reorganise the whole programme and the lads from 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery heaved snow from one place to another to make skiing possible at all. But on the eve of the first races four inches fell.

At stake on the first day were the British, Army and BAOR championships in the 4×10 km team men's cross country and the 10km junior cross country.

In the men's 4×10 km relay a close fight was expected between the Royal Marines, 19 Fd Regt RA, 35 Engr Regt and 22 Sig Regt. As was expected, 42 Cdo RM won the Inter-Service championships, the runners-up were 45 Cdo RM and third were 19 Fd Regt RA. Army and BAOR champions were 19 Fd

Regt RA, runners-up 1 KOSB and third 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt.

In the 10km junior cross country the British, Army and BAOR titles were secured by Gnr Ken Rudd from 19 Fd Regt RA. Runner-up for all three titles was Pte Malcolm Hamilton from 1 KOSB and third place in all three went to Gnr Maxwell Cole from 32 Heavy Regt RA.

Next day the men's 15km cross country attracted 224 starters. Winner of the British, Army and BAOR titles was LCpl Tim Bomberg (35 Engr Regt). LCpl Karl Smith (1 Armd Div Tpt Regt) was runner-up in the Army and BAOR championship and third was Sgt David Marshall from 32 Heavy Regt.

Gnr Ken Rudd, winner of the junior 10km cross country, finished overall seventh, closely followed by Gnr Maxwell Cole in 21st position and Pte Malcolm Hamilton 1 KOSB (second in all three 10km junior championships) in 23rd position overall.

Favourite for the 10km men's



Didn't we do well! Members of the victorious 35 Engr Regt ski team with their trophies at Zwiesel. Their achievement in retaining the coveted Princess Marina Cup was all the more remarkable because three of 35's best Nordic skiers - LCpls Ed Nicholl, Mark Langlin and Dixie Dixon - from 37 Fd Sqn - were away training with the GB Winter Olympics biathlon team

biathlon event on the third day was LCpl Tim Bomberg. However, Tim had a bad day with his shooting and was unable to make up time lost on the penalty loops. But he still managed to secure second place in the British national event and won the Army and BAOR titles.

Winner of the national title was Mne Pete Leat (42 Cdo RM).

Runner-up in the Army and BAOR championships was Cpl Mark Crisp from 28 Amph Eng Regt.

In the junior 10km biathlon

event all three titles went to flying gunner Ken Rudd in the fastest time of the day. He was closely followed by friend and rival Hammy Hamilton. Third was Spr Chris Kent from 35 Eng Regt.

In the junior 15km biathlon favourites Rudd and Hamilton did not compete. New British, Army and BAOR champion was Gnr David Belam (3 RHA).

Thirty two teams took part in the patrol race which was won by 45 Commando RM, followed by

● Turn to Page 42

Snow Queen put Tony on the downhill slope to success



Sgt Tony Mortimore, Army Alpine skiing champion

IT would have been appropriate if Sgt Tony Mortimore, of 35 Engr Regt, Hameln, had been able to attend the silver jubilee celebrations of Exercise Snow Queen.

Seven years ago he became one of some 130,000 soldiers who have learnt to ski on Snow Queen. This year he achieved the distinction of becoming the best overall downhill skier in the Army.

The anniversary was observed in the Allgäu resort of Sonthofen just after the Army Alpine Championships ended across the Austrian border in Fulpmes. But by then Sgt Mortimore was travelling with other members of the Army team to Meribel in France to compete in the

international Inter-Services meeting.

At Fulpmes he won none of the individual races, his best being a second place in the giant slalom. But a consistently high performance throughout earned him the Alpine combination championship from Dvr Richard Lock, of 1 Armd Div Transport Regt, Bunde, who returned the fastest times for both the individual and team slaloms.

Sgt Mortimore helped propel 35 Engrs to victory in the Team Alpine combination and in the prestigious Princess Marina Trophy.

Having won the trophy last year 35 Engrs needed a good performance by their downhillers to have a chance of hanging on to

it. The competition depends on the results of both events - the Alpine at Fulpmes and the Nordic at Zwiesel. With their three best Langlauf men on Olympic duty in Canada, 35 Engrs had to field what was virtually a reserve Nordic team.

The Alpine championships were a less happy time for 22 Signal Regiment, Lippstadt, last year's champions. Their strength was much depleted by the loss of Capt Paul Ford, due to posting, and this time they didn't even make the top three.

But LCpl David Crawford, a combat linesman with 22 Sigs, took the individual prize for what is the highlight of the meeting - the Army downhill.

● Turn to Page 45

Getting the chemistry right...

SAPPERS SKI TO VICTORY

THIS year's British national, Army and BAOR ski championships in the Nordic disciplines were held in Zwickau, in the eastern part of the Bavarian woods near the Czechoslovakian border.

When officials arrived there was scarcely any snow in sight. They had to reorganise the whole programme and the lads from 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery heaved snow from one place to another to make skiing possible at all. But on the eve of the first races four inches fell.

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In the junior 10km biathlon

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● Turn to Page 45

Nap hand of Services team titles for boxers

A SPIRITED performance by the Royal Air Force at St Athan in Wales could not stop the Army's crack boxing squad from powering to their fifth consecutive Inter-Services team championship.

But the 7-3 Army victory was never easy as the men in red were confronted by an improving RAF outfit showing every sign of shaking off the doldrums of recent years.

Flyweight ABA finalist LCpl John McLean (26 RE) looked sharp and convincing in his first outing of the season until he tired in the third round and had to be content with a majority decision over SAC McCauley. Sgt Keith Howlett (ASPT) was given a walk-over.

But from 0-2 down the RAF squared the match when explosive featherweight SAC Stu Gunning and veteran lightweight Cpl Steve Snagg earned unanimous points wins

over Pte Takaram Rajcoomer (1 D and D) and Rgr Peter Roberts (1 RIR).

Roberts was simply too inexperienced for the classy Snagg, but Mauritian "Joe" Rajcoomer went down fighting in what Army coach SSI Mick Gannon reckoned was one of the best non-stop action bouts he had ever seen.

LCpl Kevin Mason (10 RCT) put the Army in front with a very good points win over a strong SAC Rudd before SAC Brownlie levelled the score at 3-3 when the referee stopped his bout with Dvr Mike Spiring (3 Div RCT) in the third.

Former ABA champion LCpl Tony Velinor (3 RGJ) made hard work of the light middleweight contest before a clash of heads in the second round resulted in SAC Bonswell being stopped with a cut, and thereafter it was all downhill to that fifth successive

championship.

At middleweight Pte Ian Strudwick (3 R Anglian) was too strong and too clever for Cpl Wright while light heavyweight Sgt Paul Davies (1 RRW) gave the Army an unassailable lead in the match by taking a unanimous points decision over the inexperienced but very durable SAC Higgins.

Gdm Dave Abbott (2 Gren Gds) made the margin even wider with a desperately close majority decision over heavyweight Cpl Brown.

And so to the Combined Services individual contests at Aldershot on March 3. The Army looked unlikely to be

contesting the light fly, welter and super heavyweight divisions, so with the soldiers wearing their Services crown, the RAF resurgent and the traditional challenge from the Navy, Services boxing fans could be in for a treat.

AS the Army-Royal Navy game approaches, sides have been settling down on the final run in to "the big one", at Twickenham on March 5, as the selectors trim their XVs down to the teams they believe will bring victory, writes John Quin.

This year the warm up period has seen the Royal Navy beaten after 15 wins on the trot, and the Royal Air Force beaten badly at Rugby. In the past few weeks the Army have suffered three losses but finished the period with a very good win.

The 23 points to six defeat by Hampshire in Southampton led one national newspaper rugby correspondent to observe that the Army "chemistry" was clearly not yet right.

The next two games were lost by the same scoreline of 18 points to 15. The Civil Service game was played on one of the pitches on Queen's Parade due to the large amount of rain in the Aldershot area. The Army scored the only try but were beaten by five penalty goals and a drop goal.

Against Cambridge University (who in the previous week were beaten 16-7 by the Royal Navy), the Army lost to a try minutes from the end.

Cambridge had playing in their side a blue in the form of 2nd Lt Rob Wainwright RAMC, who no doubt will be the subject of Army selectorial interest.

Undoubtedly the best game and result in this build up period was the 25 points to six win over the Public School Wanderers. The manner in which the Army played was most encouraging.

With the news that the Royal Navy side had gone down to their first defeat in nearly two years there was a justifiably confident smile on some of the Army players in the clubhouse afterwards.

And the Army's 16-13 win against Oxford University could be a significant indicator especially as the Navy went down 10-14 to the Civil Service on the same day. Don't forget March 5 at Twickenham. The west car park is the place to be before the game!

MAGGIE DEFIES WRAF

REIGNING Army champion Sgt Maggie Smith WRAC was the Army's only winner at the 1988 Inter-Services cross country championships held at Aldershot.

She ran to victory in the women's individual championship by seven seconds from strong WRAF opposition while SI Geoff Wade (APTC) managed third place in the senior men's event which was won by Lt Chris Robison (RN).

The RAF dominated the championships taking the men's, women's, junior and veteran team championships as well as individual honours in the junior and veteran classes. The Army were runners up in every event.

RACE DAY

CAPT James Cushnir, Scots DG, won the Royal Wessex Yeomanry Race run at Cape Farm, Badminton on a two mile course over 16 fences.



Sgt Maggie Smith wins the women's Inter-Services cross country race

Picture: Mike Petting

Defeat signals end of era

ONE of the longest reigns in Inter-Service sport came to an end at the Lee-on-Solent Squash Club, Hants, when the Royal Air Force beat the Army 5-0 to bring the curtain down on 14 years of Army domination, **writes Lance Brett.**

After both Army and RAF had swept away the challenge of their hosts, the Royal Navy, the title for the Teacher's Whisky sponsored 54th Inter-Service squash tournament depended on

the outcome of the final match.

The RAF started well with Sgt Lou Arthur easily beating Capt Dave Bradley 3-0, and Cpl Steve Gascoyne doing the same to WO1 Peter Ratcliffe. It only needed Cpl Dave Clarke to beat Maj Robbie Robinson 3-1 for the first time in three years to give the RAF their historic victory.

Cpl Tom Pollard and WO2 Bob Perkins both lost 3-0.

Earlier the Army and RAF had beaten the Navy by the same five

games to nil margin.

The explanation for the Army's failure to retain the title for a 15th year lies in the fact that their two Scottish internationals, Capt Neil Stewart R Signals and Capt Chris Wilson RA, have both left the Service since last year's tournament. Their departure leaves an enormous hole.

But the Army's visit to Lee-on-Solent was not without its successes.

Both the veterans and Under

25 tournaments were won by the Army. The Army-RN veterans match produced a superb battle in which WO2 Bill McQuilkin just beat the redoubtable Cdr Robin Bawtree 10-9, 3-9, 7-9, 10-8, 10-9. The Army won the match 4-1 and then took the Under 25 event 5-0 despite three ties going to five games.

Against the RAF the Army veterans won 5-0 and the Under 25s clinched their title with a 3-2 victory.

1 QLR IN CHARGE AGAIN

THE Ahorn Sports Centre in Paderborn was the venue for the BAOR infantry squash competition, once again organised by Maj John Rourke, who also captained his own 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment team.

Eight teams of five players were pitted against each other, with the handsome "Infantry (BAOR) Squash Competition" trophy, first presented last year (and won by 1 QLR) keenly fought for by teams from 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment, 2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment, 3rd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment, 1st Bn The Black Watch, 1st Bn The Staffordshire Regiment, 1st Bn Royal Green Jackets, and 1st Bn The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

The result hinged on the penultimate match between 1 QLR and 3 R Anglian, which 1 QLR won 4-1 to retain the trophy.



Lt Matthew Fleming (second from right) leads out the Army against Hong Kong at Kowloon Cricket Club during their tour of the Colony. Half way through their ten day visit the Army side had won four out of four fixtures with Fleming scoring an undefeated 94 as the Hong Kong representative side were beaten by five wickets. A tour report will appear in the next issue

Great Guy!

A HAT TRICK by LCpl Guy Whittingham REME earned the Army a 5-2 win over

Gloucestershire at the Gloucester City ground and a share in the lead of the South West Counties competition, **writes Pat Massey.**

But Whittingham's purple patch in the last quarter of the game saved Army blushes after they had squandered an early lead. After a fine opening during which LCpl Matt Carmichael RA put the Army ahead from the penalty spot things began to go horribly wrong.

Before getting their act together in the final 20 minutes the Servicemen were punished for some shuffling, sloppy play by two Gloucestershire goals.

Midway through the second half, however, they sorted the shambles out and overran the

county defence. Whittingham equalised with a chip over the advancing keeper, then tucked away a chance created by Sgt Mickey Spencer APTC.

Spencer promptly let in Sgt Mick Johnson RE for the Army's fourth and Whittingham made it five in the final seconds when he headed home the rebound after Bdr Clint Webbe RA had been denied by the crossbar.

With matches against Devon at Aldershot on March 5 and Dorset to be arranged, the Army head their group with maximum points from two games. Also on four points but with an inferior goals difference are Devon after two games and Sussex who have played four.

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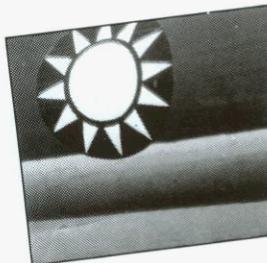
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314



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SOLDIER



First steps on the snow for men of 131 Independent Commando Squadron (V) as they "herring bone" up a slope while discovering the delights — and pitfalls — of cross country skiing in Norway. See feature in Pages 30 to 33.

Picture: Mike Perring