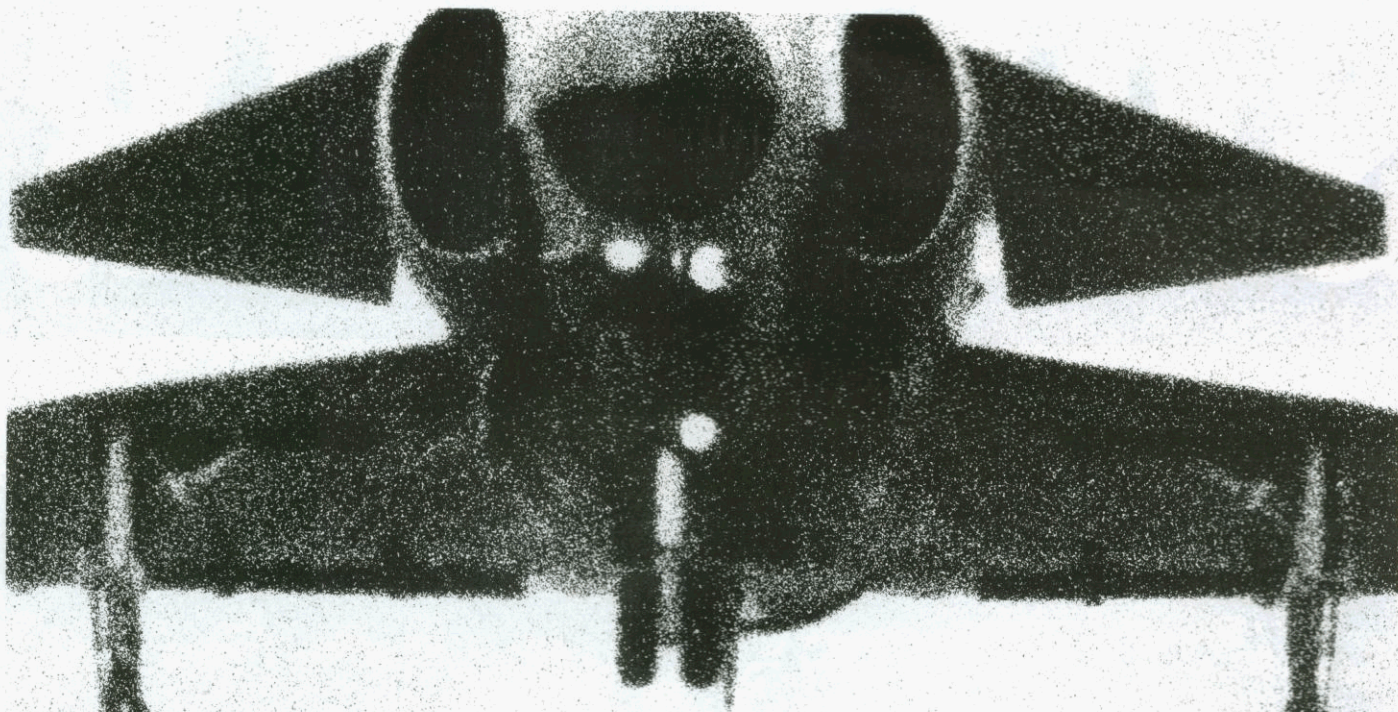


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FRONT COVER: The Queen reviewing men of The Royal Tank Regiment at Sennelager, West Germany. Four new Standards were presented — see also page 25.
Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER: British Soldier, winner of the Joint Services Offshore Race to Guernsey. See page 50.
Picture: Peter Brignall

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GRACIOUS! MY POORLY PAWS

This Ulster Defence Regiment teddy got a plaster every time one of his human friends got a blister in the Nijmegen marches. You can read about the humans' problems in Holland on page 16



GOODNESS! WHAT A BIG MOUTH

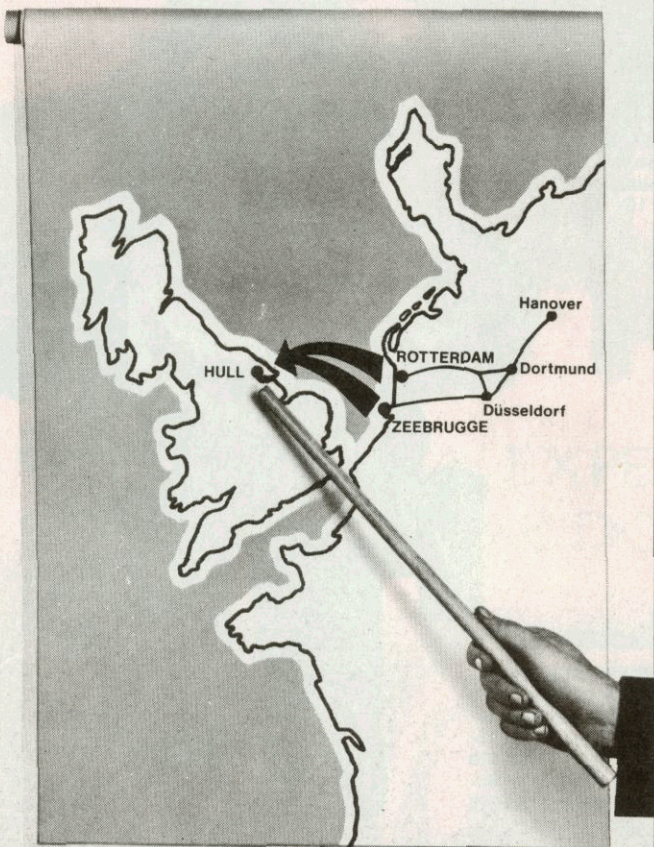
Ten-year-old Phillip Moufarrige, who won a painting competition, and his sister Orinana got to meet the Dragon at the Royal Tournament — and St George (Captain James Hewitt, The Life Guards). More from the Tournament, pages 6 and 28



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ROYAL TOURNAMENT FIRST FOR LARKHILL GUNNERS



The Queen arrives, and Cpl Jayne Lancaster presents a posy.

MEMBERS of 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, broke new ground at this year's Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

It was the first time the job of providing administrative support for the Tournament had gone to a regiment outside London District. The responsibility for the smooth running of this important event usually rests with the Guards. This time it lay firmly with the Gunners from Larkhill.

Essentially it was very much a behind the scenes role, except for the occasion of The Queen's visit when 94 Regiment had the special honour of turning out a full Royal Guard of 100 men.

News of the task reached Larkhill via South West District last April. It involved initially much to-ing and fro-ing between Salisbury Plain and London for consultations and meetings at Horse Guards.

"I thought, when I heard about it, an interesting challenge," said Lieutenant Colonel JAC Bazzard. "The gunners have never done it before and therefore we were determined to do a good job."

Colonel Bazzard is commander of 22 Locating (Gibraltar) Battery and is usually known as Major

Bazzard. But his temporary job as Commandant of the Royal Tournament required an extra pip though, like Cinderella, he was able to enjoy elevated status only for the prescribed duration.

The Commandant is effectively in command of nearly 2,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who perform and support the Royal Tournament. Colonel Bazzard had with him as Tournament Sergeant Major, the RSM, Warrant Officer 1 Bob Reeve, and 150 men of 94 Locating Regiment, including the whole of 22 Battery. The men of the Royal Honour Guard, drawn from across the Regiment, were a separate entity who trained at Larkhill until the day of The Queen's visit.

The Gunners' duties at Earls Court involved everything from "dixie bashing" in the kitchens, to manning the messes for officers, WOs and sergeants, and other ranks. They were responsible for guarding the entrance and exits, for round-the-clock security patrols of the Tournament complex, and for providing a special tank guard on the Challenger and Chieftain which were parked in the forecourt.

They also had to provide five men to work the dragon whose

fight with St George was one of the features of the arena display. The dragon was built in Berlin by 14 Field Workshops, REME, and its operation, which included flame and smoke emissions as well as neck flexing and steering, was described appropriately as extremely hot work.

One of the biggest tasks was in the QM department. Before the bulk of the Royal Tournament forces could descend on Earls Court the Gunners had to erect screens in the concrete caverns at the back of the arena and bring in enough beds and furnishings to provide sleeping and living accommodation for 2,000 people.

Apart from the more domestic considerations the Regiment's responsibilities also extended to ceremonial. For each Royal visitor — there were 10 apart from the Queen — carpet guards had to be provided to line the route to the Royal Suite.

This was mainly the responsibility of RSM Reeve, who in addition kept an eye on the security guards and the general discipline of all Army personnel at the Tournament.

As tri-Service sensibilities had to be observed in the formation and operation of the carpet guards, RSM Reeve organised morning conferences with senior warrant officers from the RN and the RAF.

Sometimes even the best laid plans had to be hurriedly amended as when King Hussein of Jordan decided to inspect his country's display stand during the interval. Ceremonial and security guards had to be quickly mustered for the unscheduled visit.

The Jordanians were present in force at the Tournament. Their Armed Forces Band with Pipes and Drums performed in the arena just before the Grand Finale and they had their own stand, complete with Jordanian coffee and desert policemen, in the static display area outside.

The Jordanian contingent of 153, which included a PR team taking TV pictures for transmission back home, was the responsibility of another Gunner, Captain Paddy Surgenor, Battery Captain of 22 Battery, who acted as their liaison officer.

"Because of their traditions and religion and because they are in a strange environment, it's very important to have someone to whom they can go for their requirements, and Paddy is the man who does exactly that," explained Colonel Bazzard.

"They've been very good to deal with," Captain Surgenor added. "In their free time they've been taken on visits to such places as Tower Hamlets and Windsor. The arrangements are done by the Tournament — I just make sure they get there."

Only a comparatively small proportion of 94 Locating Regiment was actually involved in the Tournament. The unit is the largest regiment stationed in the UK and since returning to the country at the end of January, after 34 years with BAOR, it has been busy forging a new identity.

So while some of their comrades were at work in the cavernous reaches of Earls Court, the rest were continuing their far flung duties elsewhere.



Gunner Herman Cain of 5 Gibraltar Battery: security on the forecourt

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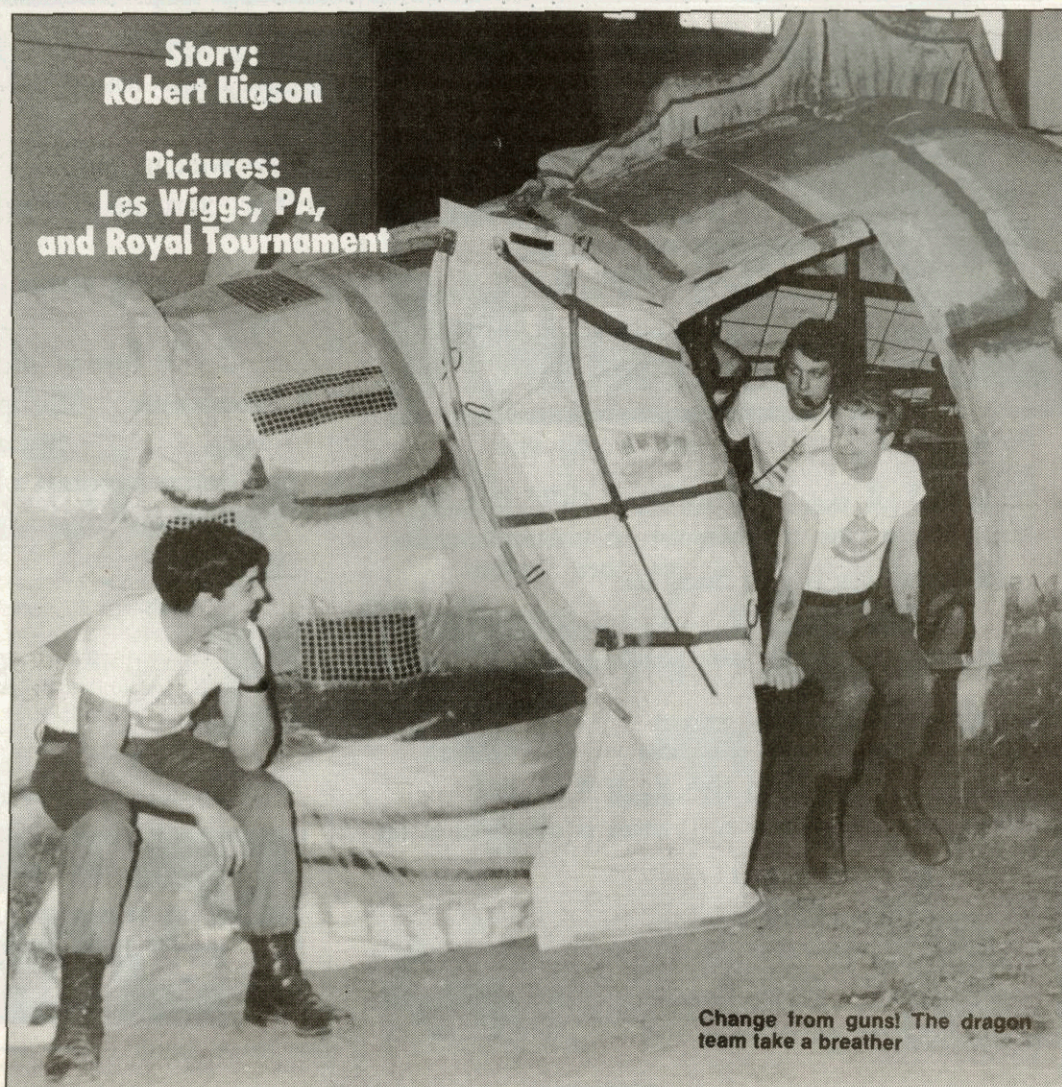
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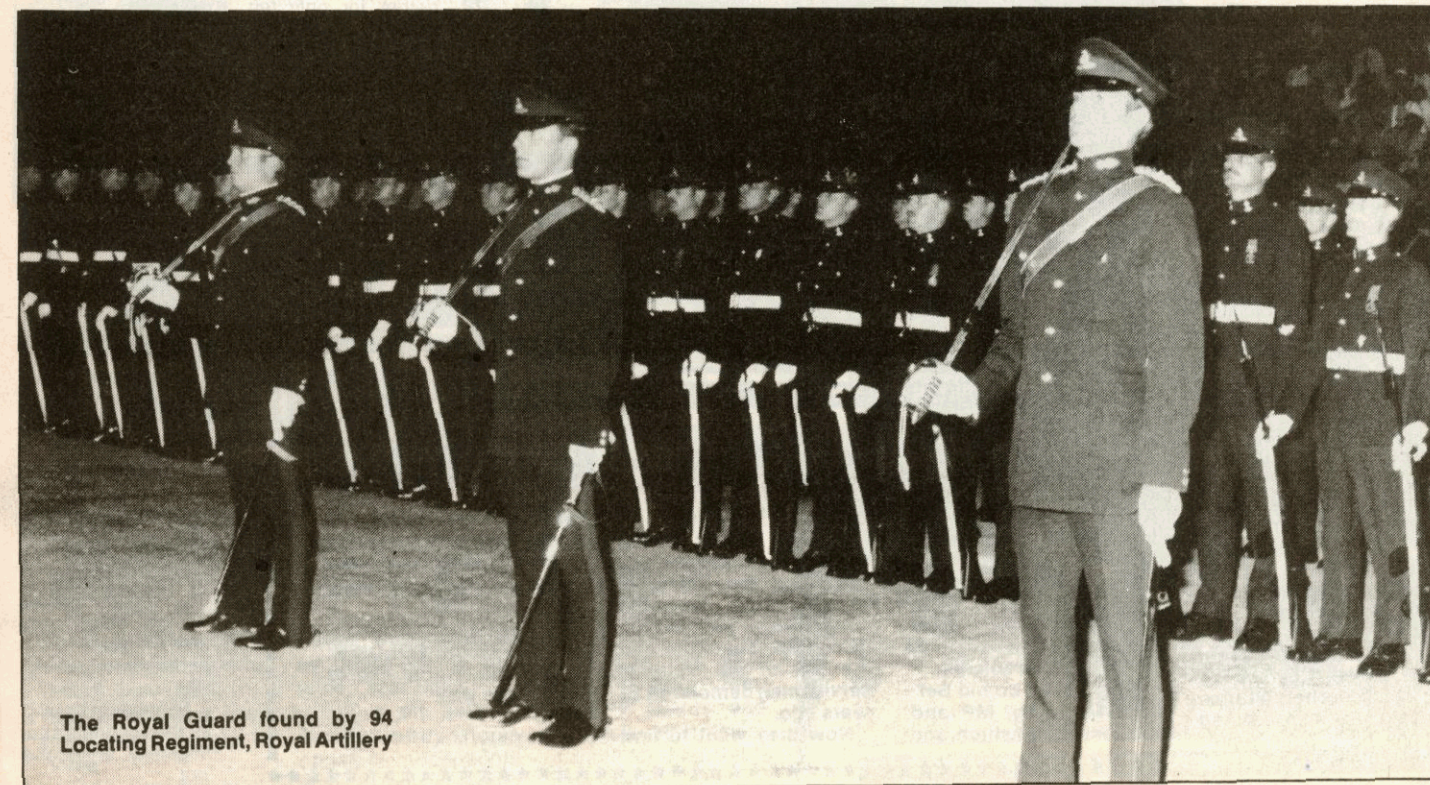
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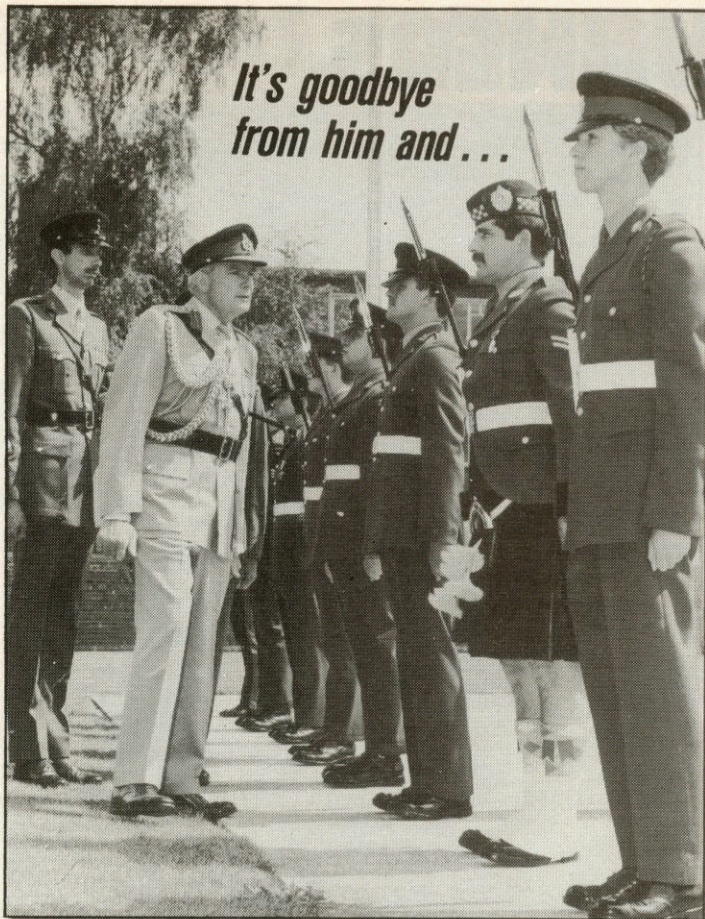
Pictures:
**Les Wiggs, PA,
and Royal Tournament**



Change from guns! The dragon team take a breather



The Royal Guard found by 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery



*It's goodbye
from him and...*

FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN STANIER: still on the active list

NEWS in BRIEF

A charity run with a difference has been completed in the Falklands by two soldiers, two sailors and two airmen. The six ran from San Carlos to Stanley over two days to raise £350 to buy radios and other comforts for Service patients in BMH Stanley.

Not to be outdone, 30 soldiers from 2 Field REME Workshops pulled an old Land Rover from their former base at Moody Brook through Stanley to their new base at Tin Strip on the other side of town, to raise funds for the Corps and other charities.

Back from a fortnight's camp in Gibraltar and the Mediterranean sun, is a 120-strong team from A Company, 2/51 Highland Volunteers. While there they stood in for the resident battalion, 1 Queen's Regiment, which flew back to the UK for special training.

Former Falklands commander Vice-Admiral Sir John (better known as Sandy) Woodward, and now Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments), has officially declared open the new joint warfare HQ at Poole, Dorset. Courses are run for officers from all arms of Nato. As many as ten nations have been represented at one time.



MAJOR GENERAL PETER DE LA BILLIERE: Falklands farewell

Search starts for Fred: — last NS man

A national newspaper is looking for Britain's last National Serviceman.

In a feature called *The Army Game*, the paper poses the question whether conscription would help solve social problems.

They asked comic Bernard Manning, MP and columnist Joe Ashton, and

others for their views.

To help further in their quest they have started searching for 23819209 Turner, Fred, who, the paper says, was in the Army Catering Corps and the last of the National Servicemen demobbed 22 years ago.

Now they want to find

out what he thought of Army life.

If you're out there Fred, contact *The Star* in Fleet Street, London.

While you're at it, contact the Editor, *SOLDIER*.

We, too, would like to hear from you.

Gurkha's milk win shakes 'em up!

Before Corporal Tak Bahadur Gurung returned to his native Nepal, he entered a national newspaper competition — and won it!

The prize, offered by the Glass Manufacturers Federation, was for a doorstep delivery of milk worth £250.

But as the Federation are not, understandably, prepared to deliver

the stuff all those thousands of miles and halfway up the Himalayas, the manager of a Gillingham dairy, Mr Vernon Verrall, has presented a cheque to the value of the prize to Captain John White of 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, based at Chatham, Kent.

Now the £250 will be sent to Corporal Tak Bahadur who, no doubt, will receive it enthusiastically since,

according to the handout, it is equivalent to "two years' gross natural product per head."

A slightly mind-boggling description that, but you pay yer money and takes yer choice.

Either way the corporal will be in clover for a time and his Gurkha pals at Chatham up to their eyebrows in milk, as they intend toasting him in the stuff before departing on their next posting to the Falklands.

Time up for Terry

Sergeant Bruce Gray and Corporals Dale Entwistle and Gary Horrocks have won star awards for shooting.

All cadets with the ACF they were presented with their Army Proficiency Certificates and their county colours for winning places in the Lancashire shooting side.

Top dogs — that's Chris and Zeff



LCPL CHRIS DOYLE: UK title in sight

Lance Corporal Chris Doyle and guard dog Zeff had worked together for only ten weeks.

But it was long enough for them to work up their understanding and skill to take first place in the Northern Ireland Army dog trials.

Zeff and Chris of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, showed their paces on day one with a classy 'man work' routine.

This is a test where the dog detects an intruder, follows him

and then, on his master's orders, captures and detains the suspect. They clocked second place in this by scoring 87 out of 100.

AND MORE?

But on the second day they came first in obedience and the following day third in the canine assault course which gave them a score good enough to claim the title.

Now they're training for the UK finals and, hopefully, a second 'pot'.

SOLDIER fan Jim drops in from 'Down Under'

We are always pleased to meet readers — especially when they have travelled 10,000 miles to pop into the SOLDIER office! (Writes Peter Howard).

To be honest, Jim Clarkson and his wife Agnes from Brisbane, Australia, were also in this

country to see London and visit, among many other places, Bovington, and Edinburgh.

Jim retired from the Royal Australian Armoured Corps after 20 years, finishing as a sergeant with 2/14 Light Horse (Queensland Mounted Infantry) and has

long been a regular reader of SOLDIER.

"I think it's a terrific magazine. In the old days it used to take about six weeks to reach us. So I decided to take out an airmail subscription," says Jim, who served in Vietnam with A Squad-

ron 1st Armoured, his tank background explaining the desire to see Bovington.

It was good to see the Clarksons and we wish them many happy years of retirement.

We hope more than one tradition will long continue!

"If music be the food of love..." And the band of the Scots Guards played on to delight Mrs Rosalind Runcie.

A professional musician, Mrs Runcie struck just the right note when she took over the baton from Director of Music Major Donald Carson, who looks on approvingly with her husband Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Band takes note of music-lover...

Dr and Mrs Runcie were attending a missionaries' garden party at Lambeth Palace, London, when Mrs Runcie asked to "have a go."

There's no doubt she specially enjoyed being in charge of the band of her husband's former regiment.



MAJOR DONALD CARSON, DR AND MRS RUNCIE: music for missionaries

Allan's got a driving ambition



Dvr Allan White: returning?

Thought to be the first Falkland Islander to join the Army since the 1939-45 war, 17-year-old Allan White has one driving ambition — to return to Port Stanley as soon as possible.

With six months service with the RCT to his credit,

his sights set firmly on a Corps career and his name clearly printed on a Class 3 HGV licence, Driver White's next posting will be from Aldershot to Germany.

"By then," said Allan, "I'll be 18 and eligible to apply for a posting to the South Atlantic with the RCT."

Although born in the Falklands, Allan has lived with his family in Plymouth for the past seven years.

Now, with 40 or so relatives, including his 87-year-old granddad still living in and around Stanley, Allan sees a Corps posting as the only way he's likely to make a return visit.

"From what I hear it's not too popular a posting," said Allan. "But I'd love to get a move there. It can't come quickly enough for me."

PEOPLE

Steve gets horse-power on HP!

Naafi's hire purchase facility has given Corporal Steve Swales the chance to acquire even more HP — standing for horse power!

A dog handler with 114 Pro Company RMP detachment at Herford, BAOR, Steve 25, is the first to receive a loan from Naafi to buy a horse.

Soon after arrival at

Herford he saw Lester, an eight-year-old Westphalian bay gelding.

"As soon as I saw Lester I knew I wouldn't be happy till he was mine," said Steve.

"It's a bit unusual wanting to buy a horse on HP as most people want to buy cars and

caravans. I got a few strange looks when I said I wanted a loan for a horse."

Training is progressing for Steve and his four-legged pal and before long they'll be competing in show jumping and cross-country events and, hopefully, start making a name for themselves as a team.



CORPORAL STEVE SWALES AND LESTER: a dream come true

Robert Higson puts the spotlight on 202 General Hospital

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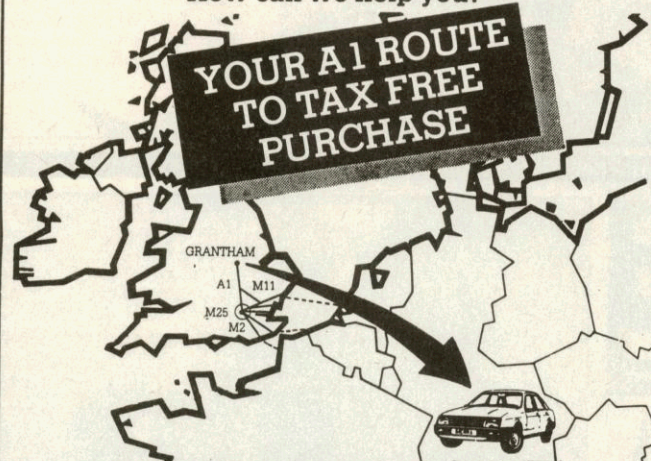


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Few of the thousands who visited RAF Fairford for the International Air Tattoo would have been aware of the presence of 202 General Hospital, RAMC (V). And that was just as well. For had 202 attracted much attention the chances are that a major disaster would have occurred.

The Birmingham-based unit had two basic tasks at Fairford. One was to provide ordinary medical cover for Service personnel working at the Tattoo and for members of the public who needed more than first aid treatment.

The other was to establish and operate a 200-bed field hospital which could be used to treat casualties in the event of a major accident.

As some air shows have demonstrated in the past, low flying aircraft and large crowds have high hazard potential, particularly when one tangles with the other.

As a general hospital 202 normally trains to operate in existing accommodation. Its war role is running an 800-bed hospital somewhere in Germany. But it does have some previous experience of working under canvas in aid of the civil power.

In 1982, during the Pope's visit to Coventry, 202 assembled a smaller field hospital to attend to injuries beyond the resources of the first aid posts.

"We had 143 casualties to deal with," recalled Colonel Paul Daly, the commanding officer. "All sorts of injuries because of an occasion like that. There were tiny children,

diabetics who had left their insulin at home, asthmatics who were determined to see the Holy Father with their last gasp. Medical rather than surgical really. In a military role, of course, the percentages would be the other way around."

Had the worst happened at Fairford, had an aircraft ploughed into the crowd, then 202 would have been inundated with large numbers of serious surgical cases, similar, but for a much wider range of age and physical condition, to what they could expect in war.

To prepare for this remote, but none the less real threat, the emergency services at Fairford undertook a comprehensive test of their procedures a couple of days before the Tattoo opened.

The plan was to stage a couple of incidents on one of the stands and in the nearby fairground area which would produce upwards of 80 casualties suffering mainly from burns and broken bones.

Everyone was involved: the fire services and civilian ambulances from neighbouring counties, an RAF casualty evacuation team and, of course, 202 General Hospital.

Documenting the casualties in the reception tent

Even the local coroner's office had a part to play with responsibility for processing 36 sacks representing dead bodies.

The TA medics had a lot of preparation before the exercise. In the first place they had to draw all the equipment needed for the field hospital from supply depots around the south-west. Most of 202's kit is held in Germany and what they have at home is only sufficient for training.

The business of providing all the tents needed to accommodate the hospital and living quarters for 120 members of the unit, as well as generators, medical supplies, bedding and so forth, involved their four 4-tonne trucks in a total of 22 journeys to collect the stuff and deliver it to Fairford.

On the morning of the exercise 202's casualty simulation team was stretched to the limit plastering a group of US Air Force personnel, who had volunteered or been pressed into service, with vaseline, red dye and artificial skin.

Even Staff Sergeant Peter Abrey, the PSI, had to try his hand for the first time at simulating appalling injuries in order to get the 80 or so Americans suitably prepared for action.

When at last the incident was announced with orange smoke and some commendably realistic screams from the casualties, 202 braced itself and waited while the recovery teams went out to assess the damage.

As it happened the first casualty was a genuine injury. A soldier had fallen from a lorry and he was brought in bleeding from the head and obviously dazed.

Only when he had been processed by reception and evacuated could the simulated casualties start pouring out of the ambulances and through the system.

It is one of the ironies of the TA medical services that most of the people involved have more experience of real action than they have of the simulated realism of exercise. All commissioned ranks are either doctors or nurses whose work experience is with those who are genuinely sick.

Without exception they all said that dealing with the real thing was easier that coping with make believe.

"When you've got casualties who are supposed to be unconscious sitting up, smiling, laughing and talking to you, it does make it a little unreal," said Major Andrew Kennedy, the MO in charge of reception.

Because we are carrying two big features on TA units in this issue (see also page 28) the Editor regrets we do not have space for our normal TA Topics.

Colonel Daly was sympathetic to the feelings of the casualties and grateful for their co-operation.

"I often think that being an exercise casualty must be rather boring," he said. "But they've taken it in very good spirit. So thanks to the Americans."

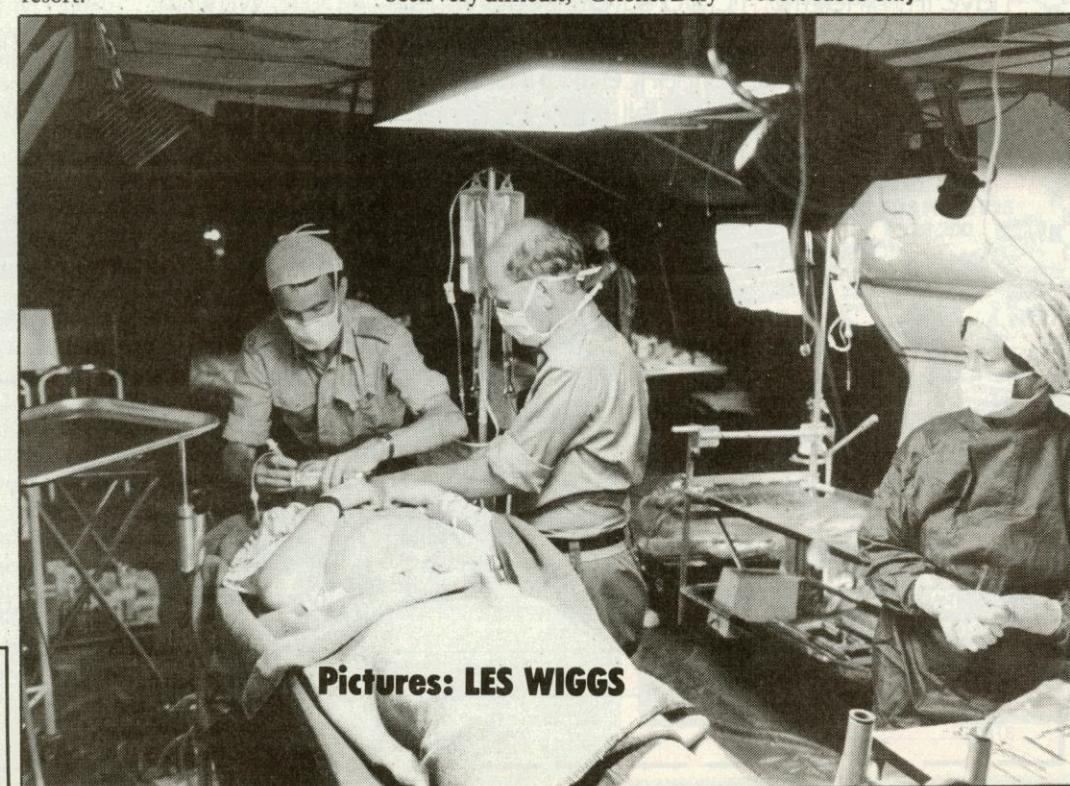
In the crowded reception tent medical clerks — including Private Carole Hart whose job as a butcher's assistant was perhaps fortunately unknown to the patients — rushed around documenting the victims.

Normally the hospital trains to deal with military casualties, but as this supposed disaster was deemed to involve civilians the clerks had to use different and rather more complicated documentation procedures.

One man who was rather caught up in the complexities of the exercise was Padre John Hervé, chaplain of 202 and vicar of St Andrew's, Handsworth. His job in a real emergency would be to comfort relatives of the injured and act as liaison between them and the hospital. As it was beyond the resources of the exercise to produce anxious relations he reverted to his war role and comforted the injured instead.

So far from being a hospital on this occasion, 202 was basically fulfilling the function of a casualty clearing station — in other words concentrating on the task of stabilising the condition of the patients so that they could be evacuated without serious damage.

Although the hospital was equipped with its own operating theatre, complete with 202's own patent scrub-up facility and 2 Field Hospital's lighting and equipment frame, the intention was to carry out operations only in the last resort.



Pictures: LES WIGGS

There was a young American serviceman stretched out on the operation table for demonstration purposes. He was still there when 'endex' was announced and took the opportunity to get an on the spot, so to speak, consultation about some blotches on his chest.

The real test of the system was the ability to deal with congestion at vital points. As Major Kennedy explained the resuscitation department was particularly vulnerable because here each team required four members. A simultaneous arrival of large numbers of serious casualties could easily create a bottleneck.

"You can't plan for every eventuality," he said. "You can plan for what's likely to happen and if you find you're being swamped you've got to cope and adapt as best you can."

One of the nursing officers, Major Cathy Chapman, commented: "It's like a chain of communication really, from the reception area right through. If communication is poor then casualties don't come through as quickly as they should."

She added that despite all the make believe it was fascinating to see the nurses draw up the correct injections and go through the drill short of actually giving them, and to hear the doctors discussing the correct treatments.

One problem that did emerge was the shortage of stretcher bearers. In war the hospital would be able to reply on bandmen or host nation porters. In these circumstances anyone who was available had to be used, including men from the RAOC bath unit and laundry and even nurses.

"Without the girls acting as stretcher bearers it would have been very difficult," Colonel Daly

The casualty simulation team in action

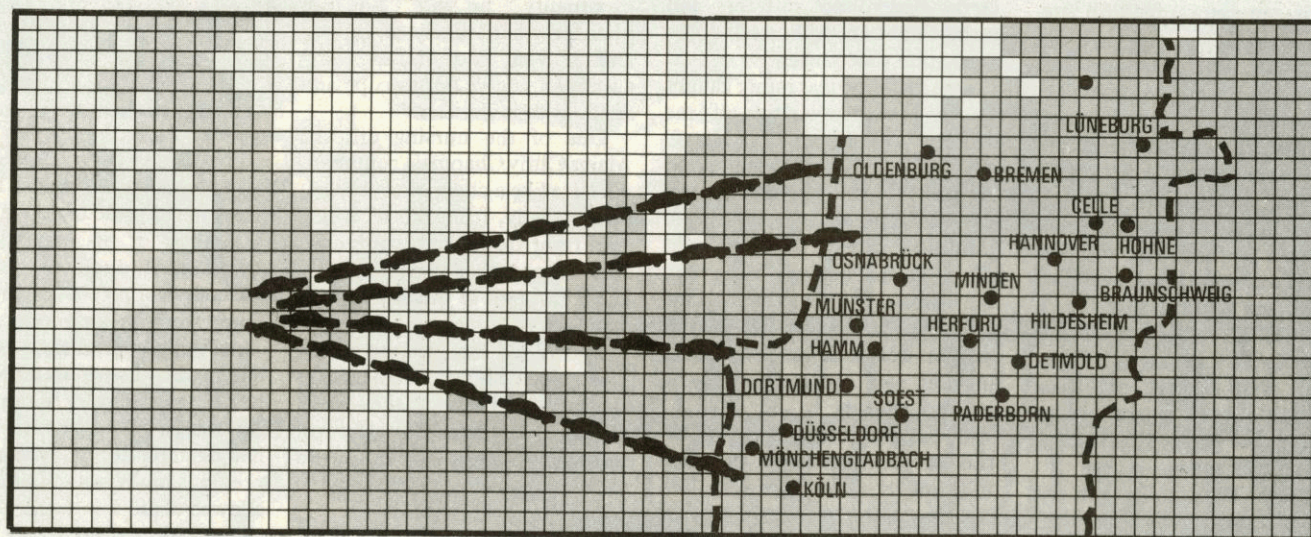
said. "I give them tremendous credit for doing the manual labour. They never cease to amaze me."

A total of 86 patients were processed through the system in the course of just over two hours. Some were deemed to have died — one discovered that someone had made off with his uniform so he perished in order to retrieve it. Another, a lone RAF officer, who had been on duty for most of the previous night, was anxious to be allowed to die so he could go home and get some sleep.

Half a dozen of the casualties were due to have continued with the exercise after the others were on their way home. They went through the evacuation procedure and were taken by RAF Puma to the Gloucester Royal Hospital which wanted to practice its own casualty reception procedures.

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Once again we have to apologise for a delay in sending ordered prints of our photographs to readers — and we have to ask other readers who may be thinking of ordering prints to refrain from doing so, until further notice.

We shall process outstanding orders when we can, but ask for your understanding in the meantime. We have just two instead of our normal three photographers, they don't have any darkroom assistance — and the holiday season is now in full swing.

When we can resume this service to readers we shall let you know. We don't like any diminution in our service, and we appreciate the patience being shown by our valued customers.

SOMETIME ON the afternoon of 17 September, Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, will be jumping for joy... from 1,000 feet.

The Minister, along with his aide Captain Ginny Curry, WRAC, and others, will be exiting an RAF Hercules in the aid of charity into the waiting depths of Poole Harbour.

The charity to benefit will be SENSE — National Association of the Blind, Deaf and Rubella Handicapped — a scheme which he became interested in while an Under-Secretary with the Department of Health and Social Security.

Lord Trefgarne, 41, is, of course, not the first to "drop in" on Poole Harbour. Prince Charles accomplished the feat a few years ago.

The jump is destined to coincide with the anniversary of the Arnhem drop.

SENSE charity has it in mind to launch a scheme which will more than double its existing services at the Royal School of the Deaf and Blind at Edgbaston, Birmingham, which has become one of the major centres in the Midlands.

Capt. Curry, formerly with the Directorate of Army Recruiting and an assistant adjutant with the former BAOR-based gunner regiment, 94 Locating Regiment, RA, said: "It's certainly the most exciting thing I have ever done."

ONCE THE final accounting is done, The Queen's Division may be able to hand over as much as £15,000 following their Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade in London.

Over 500 musicians were on parade from The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment — together with the Pipes and Drums of affiliated Ulster Defence Regiment battalions, 5 and 7/10.

There were several firsts during three spectacular nights, with, The Queen's Division believe, eight WRAC bandswomen involved for the first time. They are full members of the Volunteer Band Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Royal Anglian TA Band — and the Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher is believed to be the first such holder of office to take a salute at the famous venue.

She was invited by The Queen's Regiment and on other evenings The Duke of Kent (Colonel-in-Chief Royal Regiment of Fusiliers)

SOLDIER to Soldier

and The Queen Mother (Colonel-in-Chief The Royal Anglian Regiment) took the salute.

There were two major aims behind the splendid marching music — showing the flag, and raising funds for the Army Benevolent Fund and regimental charities. Military music lovers will be delighted to know a cassette of music from the event is available for £4.50, including post and packing, from HQ Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts.

BRIGADIER The Honourable Willie Rous is the new Director Public Relations (Army). He succeeds Brigadier Michael Hobbs who will be Commander 4th Armoured Division, BAOR, in the rank of Major General.

Brigadier Rous, OBE, who is 46 was educated at Harrow and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He takes up his post as DPR (Army) after two years as Commander 1st Infantry Brigade, United Kingdom Mobile Force, based at Tidworth.

He was commissioned into the Coldstream Guards in 1959 and has served with both battalions in a variety of places including Kenya, Zanzibar, British Guiana, Aden, Belize, BAOR, Northern Ireland and Rhodesia.

Brigadier Rous attended Staff College in 1972 and his staff appointments have been in Northern Ireland, the Staff College from where he was seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and BAOR.

HISTORY, in a modest way, was made at this year's Bisley. Craftsman Dean Lofthouse, a 21-year-old vehicle mechanic with 15 Squadron, RCT, at Catterick, became the first private soldier to win the pistol shooting championship since it commenced in 1903.

His unit also thinks he is the youngest competitor to have won a major prize at Bisley. The Army Rifle Association can't confirm this claim but it is certainly true that his age is well below the prize-winners' average.

Craftsman Lofthouse is no shooting novice, but his win with the 9mm Browning caused a good deal of surprise. Pistols are normally issued only to officers and senior warrant officers which is why the championship roll of honour is so short on junior ranks.

But this year there was a new competition for the pistol with new rules. And, as someone from the ARA pointed out, that sort of thing is a great leveller. More from Bisley — page 14.

ONE OF the most famous military landmarks along the A.303 is to disappear in the summer of next year. The wooden-hutted camp of Barton Stacey, built in 1939, and home in the last 30 years mainly to RA and RE units.

For, from December this year until July next year, units within the complex are moving to new locations. Barton Stacey, alas, will be no more; destined for demolition.

During its 47-year-long existence the camp has housed British, Canadian and American armies, including depots and a War Office Selection Board. It is thought, too that at one

stage Russian troops were billeted there.

Its history, seemingly, is scant and Lt Col R. Gourd (Retired), the station staff officer, is hoping to complete a brief history of the camp complete with photographs.

He said: "I wonder if SOLDIER readers would be able to help. I would be grateful for information and anecdotes from people who have been stationed at, or passed through, Barton Stacey. Any photographs or documents which the sender wishes to retain will be photographed and returned without delay."

He can be reached at HQ Barton Stacey Station, Drayton Camp, Barton Stacey, near Winchester, Hants, SO 21 3NQ or phoned on Longparish 372 extension 217.

THE **TERCENTENARY** celebrations continue apace, and not just at the Royal Tournament. One of the regiments marking 300 years, The Light Infantry, is to issue a commemorative philatelic cover on 6 October 1985... from South Georgia, where part of the 1st Battalion will be stationed then.

Each cover will cost £2.50 and applicants should send payment to: Pay Office, 1LI, Weeton Camp, Preston, PR4 3JQ.

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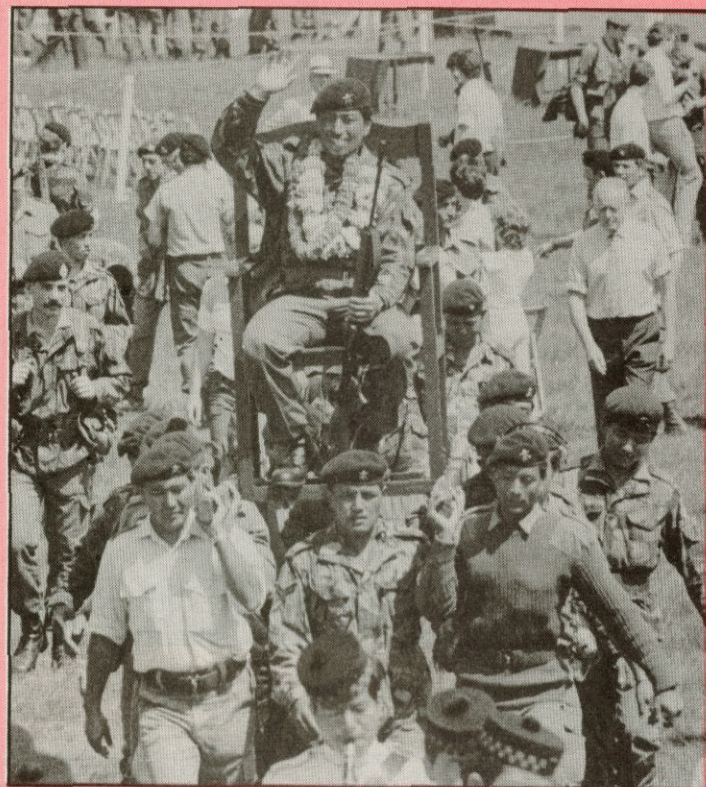
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DREAM FOR KHUSIMAN AND HAT-TRICK FOR WELSH GUARDS



Above: "The Conquering Hero Comes." Lance Corporal Khusiman begins his ride of honour

Below: A member of the Scots Guards SA 80 team demonstrates

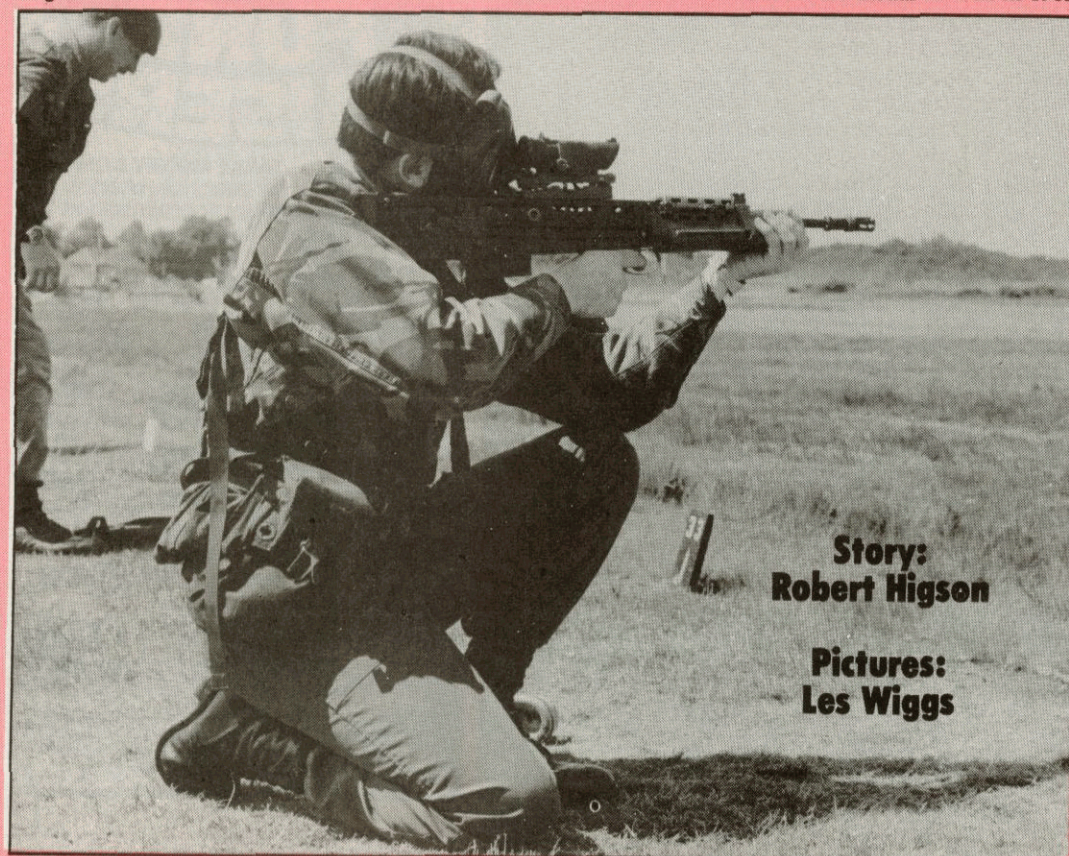
ATIE break to decide the Queen's Medal and a hat trick by the Welsh Guards in the major units championship provided a fitting climax for this year's Regular Army skill at arms meeting at Bisley.

Lieutenant Colonel 'Lofty' Graham, secretary of the Army Rifle Association, announced the shoot off for the best Army shot for 1985 and said he could not remember a previous Bisley where there had been a tie for first place.

Corporal Dharmendra Gurung and Lance Corporal Khusiman Gurung, both of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, had both scored 879 points. They had 10 rounds each at a range of 300 yards to work out the winner.

The result emphasised the closeness of the competition. With seven bulls and three inners against Corporal Dharmendra's six bulls and four inners, Lance Corporal Khusiman became the Queen's Medallist by just one point.

Previously Corporal Dharmendra was hot favourite to add a bar to the medal he won in 1982.



Story:
Robert Higson

Pictures:
Les Wiggs

BISLEY '85

Earlier in the week he had established a commanding lead with an outstanding display of combat shooting in the second stage of the championship, scoring 196 out of a maximum 200.

Even on the final morning of competition, at the start of shooting for the Army 100, Lance Corporal Khusiman did not rate his chances very high.

"I didn't believe I would catch him because the points were too far," he said. "He was 25 points ahead."

But the sun, which shone brilliantly and warmly all morning, evidently reflected his fortunes. And at the age of 26, on the occasion of his seventh Bisley, Lance Corporal Khusiman had the honour of being chaired by his comrades through Bisley Camp behind the band of 2 (King Edwards VII's Own) Gurkha Rifles playing "See, the Conquering Hero Comes."

Before being carried off for the traditional triumph, he summed up his feelings: "Today I feel like it's a dream."

The 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, last year became the first German based team (they had just moved to Hohne) to win the major unit championship. This year they made it three in a row.

In 1983, when they broke a six year Gurkha monopoly on the King's Royal Rifle Corps Cup, they amazed the shooting world by being able to bounce back so effectively after the tragic experience of the Falklands.

In 1984 they led from start to finish. But this time, according to

Below: Third time champion major unit, 1 Welsh Guards, in the process of receiving the King's Royal Rifle Corps Cup from General Sir James Glover, C-in-C UKLF



The Gurkhas, and some of their spoils from the competition

team captain, CSM Frank Ward: "We struggled a little bit. We got off to a bad start.

"But," he added, "we managed to recover and rally sufficiently, not to do outstandingly well on any one of the shoots, but certainly well enough to keep on top.

"We finished second in the rifle championship and from then on we were in the top three or four places. That was sufficient to clinch the title which is, after all, what we were after. It's all very nice winning individual shoots, but at the end of the day the one thing which is really remembered is the major unit championship. And we are delighted to have held on to it for the third year running."

The key to success, said CSM Ward, lay initially in learning from the acknowledged masters. That meant, five years ago, following the training methods of 2/2 Gurkha Rifles and working extremely hard to emulate their performance.

"We've also had successive COs who have insisted that we pass on our skills to the remainder of the battalion," he continued. "It's worked very successfully — so

much so that we entered four teams in the 1 Armoured Division meeting and took the first four places."

CSM Ward has received personal acknowledgement of his own contribution to this success. Only recently he learned he had been appointed adjutant of the Army Eight which means he will now have a hand in selecting the Army team.

Despite some excellent individual performances it was not a particularly good year for the Gurkhas in the major unit championship. Second last year, 6 Gurkha Rifles slipped to third place behind the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, who were fourth in 1984.

But in the minor units event, 69 Gurkha (Independent) Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, jumped four places to take this year's title. Guards Depot, Pirbright remained in second place and Depot Hong Kong Military Service Corps held on to the third place they won last year on their first Bisley.

One point of interest at this year's Bisley was the appearance of a team armed with SA 80 — the Army's new rifle which is not due for issue until later this year.

The team came from 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, who had narrowly missed qualification for Bisley in the tough preliminaries of London District. Being part of the continuing process of trials for the new rifle, the SG team fired for honours only and did not take part in the competition.

"Some of the matches were inappropriate for an SA 80 armed team because of the different characteristics of the weapons system," said a spokesman for the Army Rifle Association. "But where it has been able to shoot alongside SLR and GPMG the results have been very encouraging.

"The details are still being

CHANGES NEXT YEAR

FOLLOWING the publication of a report on Bisley, under the chairmanship of Brigadier B J Lowe, there will be a few changes at next year's skill at arms meeting.

The most notable will be the reduction in the number of regular Army competitors — from 720 this year to 446.

The length of the competition will also be reduced, but there will be new tests of fitness and of fire and movement.

In the Roupell match a physical stress factor is to be added with the introduction of a 100 metre run with Bergen pack. And there will be new conditions for the SMG Major Units team match (The Parachute Regiment Cup) which will involve a close quarter battle engagement, a two mile speed march, and a continuous fire and movement engagement from 600 to 200 metres, with the last part being fired in respirators.

analysed and the final comparison will form part of the development of matches for SA 80 in the years to come. We are very pleased with progress so far."

RESULTS

Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting:

Queen's Medal: 1 L/Cpl Khusiman Gurung (6 Gurkha Rifles) 879; 2 Cpl Dharmendra Gurung (6 Gurkha Rifles) 879; 3 Cpl Gary Brewer (1 Royal Green Jackets) 876.

Major Units Championship (The King's Royal Rifle Corps Cup): 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, 747; 2 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, 727; 3 6th Gurkha Rifles 714.

Minor Units Championship (The Royal Army Service Corps Cup): 1 69 Gurkha (Independent) Field Squadron, QGE, 457; 2, Guards' Depot, Pirbright, 442; 3, Depot Hong Kong Military Service Corps, 430.

Infantry Team Rifle Championship (2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas Cup): 1, 2nd Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment, 137; 2,

1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, 129; 3 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets, 127.

Service Rifle and SMG aggregate (The Old Contemptibles Cup): 1, L/Cpl Khusiman (6 Gurkha Rifles) 1,203; 2, L/Sgt A. Brinkworth (1 Welsh Guards), 1,189; 3, Cpl M. Frape (1 Royal Green Jackets) 1,176.

SMG Championship (The Victory Cup): 1, Cpl P. W. Summersett (1 Black Watch) 517; 2, Major A. P. Domeisen (2 Royal Anglian) 515; 3, Captain R. J. Hare (1 Royal Anglian) 513.

Service Pistol Championship: Cfn Lofthouse (15 Squadron, RCT) 409; 2, WO1 Warren Larnder (School of Infantry) 406; 3, S/Sgt Jones (Depot Regt. RE) 404.

Junior Soldiers' Service Rifle Championship: 1 J/Pte S. A. McCabe, Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don) 381; 2, A/T P. G. Patrick (Army Apprentices College, Chepstow) 367; 3, J/Pte A. Lavelle (Depot Kings) 365.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Queen's Mewdal: 1, C/Sgt J. Alexander (1 Yorks) 651; 2, Lt M. C. Camp (CVHQ, RE) 632; 3, O/Cdt S. Hoffmann (6/7 Queens) 629.

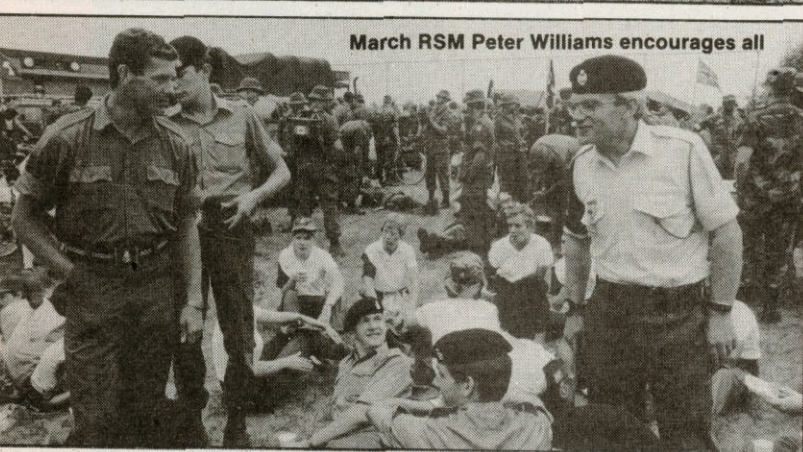


Right: Lance Corporal Khusiman receives the Queen Victoria Cup, for the Coronation team match, on behalf of 6 Gurkha Rifles

Nijmegen Marches



Pause for Jnr Spr Dean Whitworth



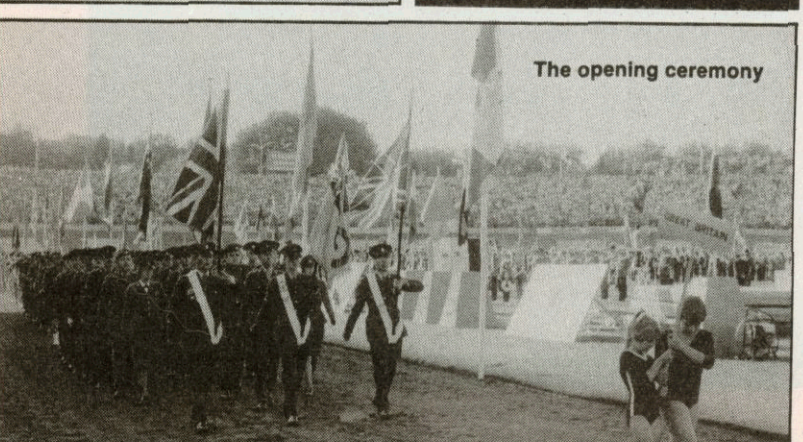
March RSM Peter Williams encourages all



Mutual support

Story:
John Margetts

Pictures:
Paul Haley



The opening ceremony



Terriers of 10 Para

EACH YEAR thousands stride confidently to the starting post of the Nijmegen Marches. Four days later a reduced number hobble off clutching a medal, a bunch of flowers and with cheers ringing in their ears.

The hobbling is caused by blisters — many bigger than birds' eggs — and is the main cause of fewer finishers than starters on the final day.

But those who conquer the pain barrier and the 100-mile event in Holland totter off with heads held high, fixed smiles and walking as though on burning coals.

For 69 years marchers worldwide have strode into the Dutch town to take part in the four-day international sporting trek. This year a record 23,000 clocked on in a bid to earn a gong, earn the cheers of half a million watchers on Day Four and to have a go just for the hell of it.

That more than 21,000 marchers achieved the distinction of completing the four marches indicates the ease of the marches or need for training and a good pair of "plates."

Sad to relate then, that by Day Two of the 69th year of the marches, more than 300 British Service marchers had booked in for blister treatment and "march related injuries."

This was about a quarter of the whole of the British military contingent which comprised BAOR-based Army and RAF units, TA and Army and RAF cadets from the UK.

Administering advice and soothing balm for sore feet was a 24-strong team from 2 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC, based at Osnabrück and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frank Adams, assisted by Major Elizabeth Mowatt and Captain Mike Donnelly.

But marchers' requests for first-aid did not necessarily mean

the end of the road for them, although a few had to call it a day being unable to breach the pain barrier by "marching through it."

As each marcher hobbled in for treatment, Captain Donnelly filled in a survey form. What sort of boots — DM or HCB? What sort of socks? How much pre-march training had been undertaken?

These and similar questions were being put to try and find out the cause of blisters. Was it the boots? Was it the socks? Was it the lack of training that caused fit young soldiers to walk on the outside of the soles like Red Indians from an old western movie?

While it was far too early to draw any conclusions, the early indications were that many had not done enough training.

"A lot of people think they can just go out and march 25 miles," said Captain Donnelly.

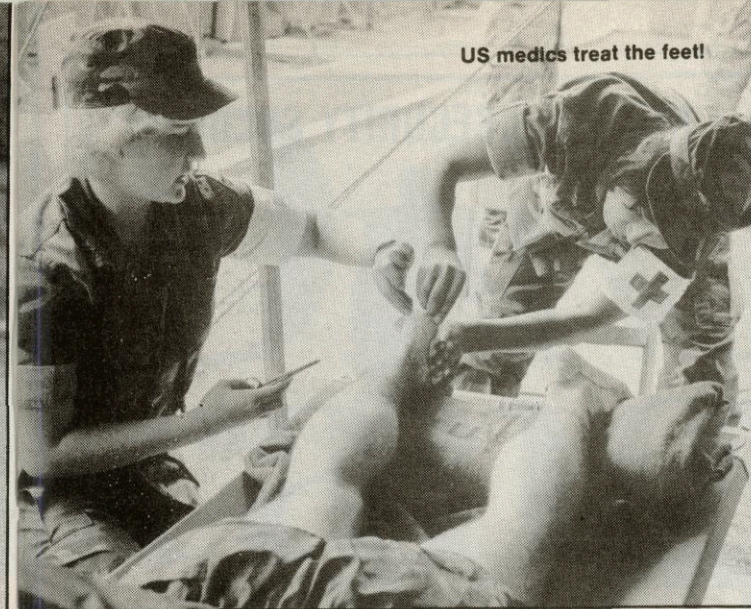
"It's OK on Day One, but from then on it's a different story. Some of the teams have marched hundreds of kilometres over many months to get their feet used to pounding the roads. Others have, according to their answers, done very little training."

Supporting the theory that training pays off — even if the actual march was not quite blister free — was a team from 16 Signal Regiment based at Krefeld.

Led by Captain Jim Allen, his team of 12, accompanied by 12 WRAC girls badged Royal Signals, who were participating for the first time, marched 700 kilometres in two months in preparation for Nijmegen.

"It has certainly paid off for us," said Captain Allen on Day Three. "We've had the odd blister, but nothing serious and we shall definitely finish the march as two complete teams." They did, too.

Conversely, Private Steve Lethbridge, with 50 Missile Unit at Menden, had completed only seven days training before his feet gave



US medics treat the feet!



UDR girls at the finish

Cheers, Flowers, Medals and Blisters!

out on Day Two. Treating him in 'Benny's Blister Bar' was Lance Corporal Colin Pearson. "I've seen worse, but these feet are pretty bad," he said withdrawing fluid with a syringe.

On the next stretcher in the 'Blister Bar' — run by Lance Corporal Ian Benson — was Lance Corporal Melvyn Beaney of 12 Armoured Division Workshop.

With 14 marches to his credit this year, Melvyn reckoned this was equal to 14 days training and considered himself well practised. All his marches were more than 35 kilometres, he said.

But despite his HCBs, two pairs of socks, one pair 'civvy' and the other new military issue, he finished up hobbling after 21 kilometres on Day Two.

Exit two lads on tip-toe doing the 'Nijmegen Shuffle'. But they were not alone, for hundreds were to learn the light fantastic before the week was out.

In all about 750 Army marchers — 300 TA, UDR and cadets from the UK and some 450 Regular soldiers from BAOR — took part in the marches.

But it was noticeable, if not of any significance, that not one Regular Army infantry unit was represented.

Remarking on this fact Brigadier Tony Dixon, Commander (BR) Rear Combat Zone, Dusseldorf, said he had no idea why the infantry were not participating.

"But if they stayed away because they thought it too easy and the competition, although it's not a race, not strong enough, they have got it wrong."

"Of course, there may have been military reasons why they are not here, but it takes all the attributes of a soldier to achieve this four-day event."

The Brigadier was reluctant to blame boots, socks or apparent lack of pre-march training, as some of the survey forms seemingly indi-

cated, for the crop of blisters among the lads and some of the lasses.

He opined it was almost impossible to pin the causes down. "There's no telling when your feet will let you down," he said.

He cited a warrant officer of 10 Para (TA) who had suddenly developed a huge blister despite training for months.

But with 12 Nijmegen marches behind him, WO1 Peter Williams of 1st Royal Tank Regiment, was emphatic in his belief that 'lack of pre-march training' was the major cause of blisters.

But, as he pointed out, many of the BAOR teams — Regular units from the UK are barred from participating — may not have had the time for much training.

On the other hand, TA, Ulster Defence Regiment, and cadet teams may have been training for months. There is no doubt that many did; 7/10 UDR, led by Sergeant Vi Cooke, among them.

"We've been training for seven months for this march," said Vi. "Four of us have been here before, but for the rest it's the first time."

Two teams of WRAC also hoisted success signals at the end of the marches; the Lillywhites, attached to 16 Signal Regiment at Krefeld, and 29 Company WRAC from Rheindahlen led by Captain Therese Crook and WO2 Sheila McIntyre.

But while the girls patted themselves on the back, they readily admitted that it was a "piece of cake" compared with soldiers who had to carry not less than 22lb of equipment.

For 10 Para (TA) it may well have been just that. For not only did they run in and out of every check point — usually three on every route — but at the finish of every march chanted "Easy, easy..." Their packs looked twice the size of any others, too.

Singing and chanting to build up rhythm was part of every team's

programme.

Said Private Lyn Corns — well named in the circumstances — of the Lillywhites: "The Americans seem to have the best chants and we've pinched some from them. We've also learned a few from some of the 58 'Brit' teams, but some are a bit risqué," she said, colouring just a tiny bit.

But although kept going by the medics with treatment, and swinging along with their songs, everyone agreed that the check-point food and drink service supplied by Sergeant Jim Mack and his nine-men team from 40 Army Engineer Support Group, provided the most welcome relief among each of the 25-mile routes.

As ACC cook Lance Corporal Shawn Rielly dished out bangers, soup, cold drinks, tea and coffee to tired marchers, Jim and his helpers cleared cow pats from the roped off rest site.

"Got to think of the customers," he said. "Although we've cleared the site up, we're still getting moans from marchers that 500 yards from the route is too far."

That he and the marchers had a valid point there was no doubt, for the Americans were sited close to the roadside, making it an easy stop off for their teams.

"The organisers pick check point sites and it seems we always finish up furthest from the road. But so long as the lads are happy with our service, that's all that matters. We get a lot of satisfaction from doing this. We also get a lot of laughs."

Last word on check-point site positions came from WO1 Peter Williams, the man in charge of discipline on the march. "I think we might start looking for our own sites from now on," he said. "It's important we get nearer the road. When people have to walk 400-500 yards over heavy grass it adds a considerable distance to the march."

But one lone marcher who

expressed no bother where the rest points were sited was Sergeant Dave Bragg of RAF Gutersloh.

Said Dave, who has three brothers in the Army: "Walking is my hobby, but I like doing it alone."

"This is my eighth time at Nijmegen and I find it quite easy. Like all the Servicemen I carry 22 lb of kit plus water."



Sgt Bragg: lonesome march

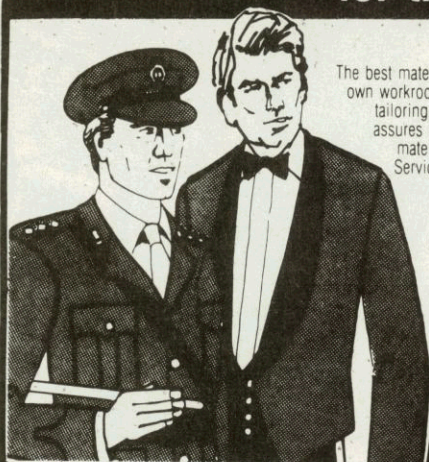
Shod in well-worn DMS boots, Dave stressed the need for plenty of training to toughen the feet and keep blisters to a minimum.

Is that the secret then? "Not completely," said Dave. "I never drink alcohol during the week of the marches. Soft drinks only. I wait till the Bilster Ball held in town on the last night before touching booze. You have to use your common if you're going to cover the 100 miles with relative ease."

With those wise words he trudged off to prepare for the final 25-miler, his medal and well-earned cheers.

● Nijmegen in full colour — next issue

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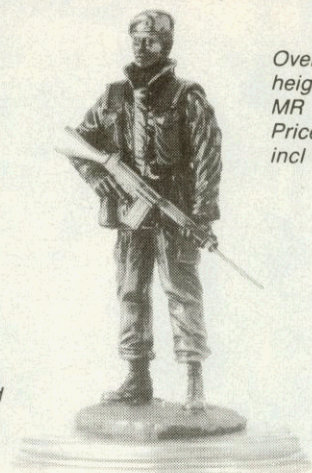
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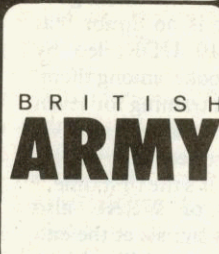
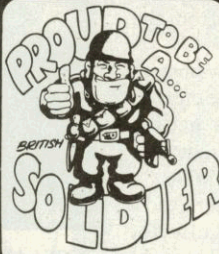
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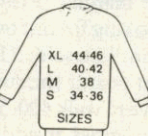
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REHABILITATION:

End of an era, but not the end of incredible skills

SINCE 1969, thousands of Servicemen have had heartfelt cause to thank the practical persistence of the firm but friendly nursing staff at the Joint Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit (JSMRU) at RAF Chessington for a full or partial recovery to health again in the face of personal physical misfortune.

For an era has just ended.

Sadly, the 150-bedded unit housed in pre-war wooden huts set in a 46-acre site in the Green Belt has closed after exactly 40 years, the last 16 of those as the JSMRU.

Happily, its 58 staff (including 29 Army personnel, equipment and patients will still carry on — integrated into RAF Headley Court, 11 miles away.

RAF Chessington (formerly RAF Hook of wartime years) started its samaritan services in July 1945 as a medical equipment depot, later becoming an RAF medical rehabilitation unit, having moved there from Blackpool.

Since taking up its role as

JSMRU in 1969, the unit has treated 18,039 patients and 13,795 out-patients, the peak years being from 1969 to 1976.

They have included Army victims of actions in Northern Ireland by bomb blast or bullet. Another 27 were accommodated there three years ago for treatment of wounds and burns received in the Falklands. Young bandmen with torn limbs from Regent's Park bombing were nursed back to health there (SOLDIER, 29 November, 1982).

Servicemen injured in road traffic accidents — 45 per cent of current patient intake — particularly those with head and brain injuries found welcome expert help

at hand within the head injury unit, itself internationally acclaimed.

Servicemen came to Chessington, too, from the playing fields. Unintended casualties from over-zealous competitive collision causing complicated and, sometimes, lasting physical damage.

Others attending Chessington came within the term "general medical conditions" ... like the lad who cut his inner wrist badly on a broken piece of glass or the soldier who slipped on a floor.

Chessington's dedicated role was to return Servicemen back to duty, fit and healthy, as soon as possible. Many, however, gratefully settled for a second chance to serve with reduced medical categories.

A Colour lowering ceremony significantly and symbolically marked the closure of a milestone therapeutic chapter of the unit. On hand were Major General Tony Shaw, Commander Medical

Pte Karen Heale, 40 Sqn, RCT, based at Catterick gets a pre-service tendon injury soothed by physiotherapist Miss Alison Viner

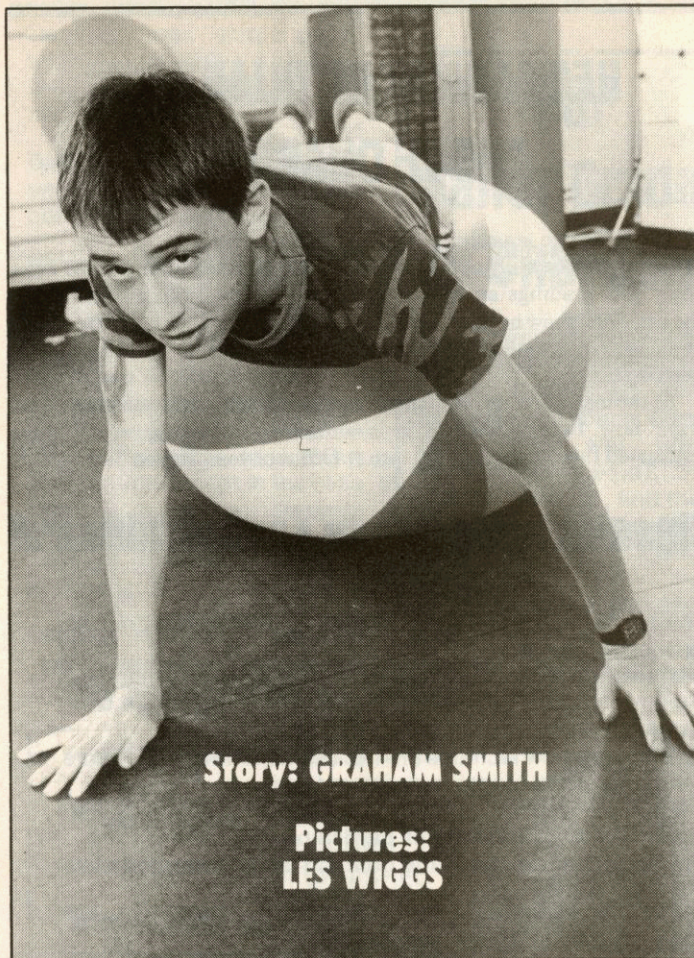
Services UKLF, Air Vice-Marshal Robin Lees, AOC RAF Support Command, Air Marshal Sir John Donald, Director General Medical Services (RAF) and Air Vice-Marshal Graham Livingston, Principal Medical Officers.

Medical staff involved in the move across Surrey comprised medical officers, physiotherapists, occupational, educational and speech therapists, remedial gymnasts and therapists and workshop technicians in a unit which had an average 91 per cent bed occupancy rate. Of these about 80 per cent were Army personnel.

The rate of invaliding has remained at six per cent despite an increased proportion of more severely disabled patients.

Major Alan Noble, Royal Army Medical Corps, OC of the Medical Admin Flight at RAF Chessington who continues to command the Army element at their new home, said: "This low rate of invaliding is a tribute to the advance in skills of physiotherapy and occupational therapy in the last decade and in the ability of workshop technicians to provide appliances, splints and gadgets to overcome disability and

Gnr Steve Lambert, King's Troop, RHA, who injured his back in a fall from a horse, undertakes some remedial rehabilitation work with a chair



Story: GRAHAM SMITH

Pictures: LES WIGGS



enable the patient to return to work at an early stage.

"We are recognised by the Department of Health and Social Security as an authority on remedial therapy and as a demonstration centre for the rehabilitation and rheumatology disciplines.

"Our specialist head unit has an international reputation with visitors coming from as far as Australia, Asia and America. It's a unit where computers have played a big part in the re-education of patients who are taught how to look after themselves again in basic day-to-day living."

He added: "It's very sad to leave RAF Chessington, itself in a lovely setting, because we have, I think, one of the best examples of joint-Service motivation that I have worked with. We work in close harmony and co-operation. We hope it will continue at RAF Headley Court."

The JSMRU at Chessington normally took patients of junior ranks (corporals and below) while nearby RAF Headley Court, its

Left: Pte Nigel Bailey, Depot Para, Aldershot, exercises a wrist injury after prior surgery

Below: L/Cpl Ian Hockham, RCT, injured on the rugby field uses a computer in the head injuries unit

sister unit, provided treatment for senior ranks including officers.

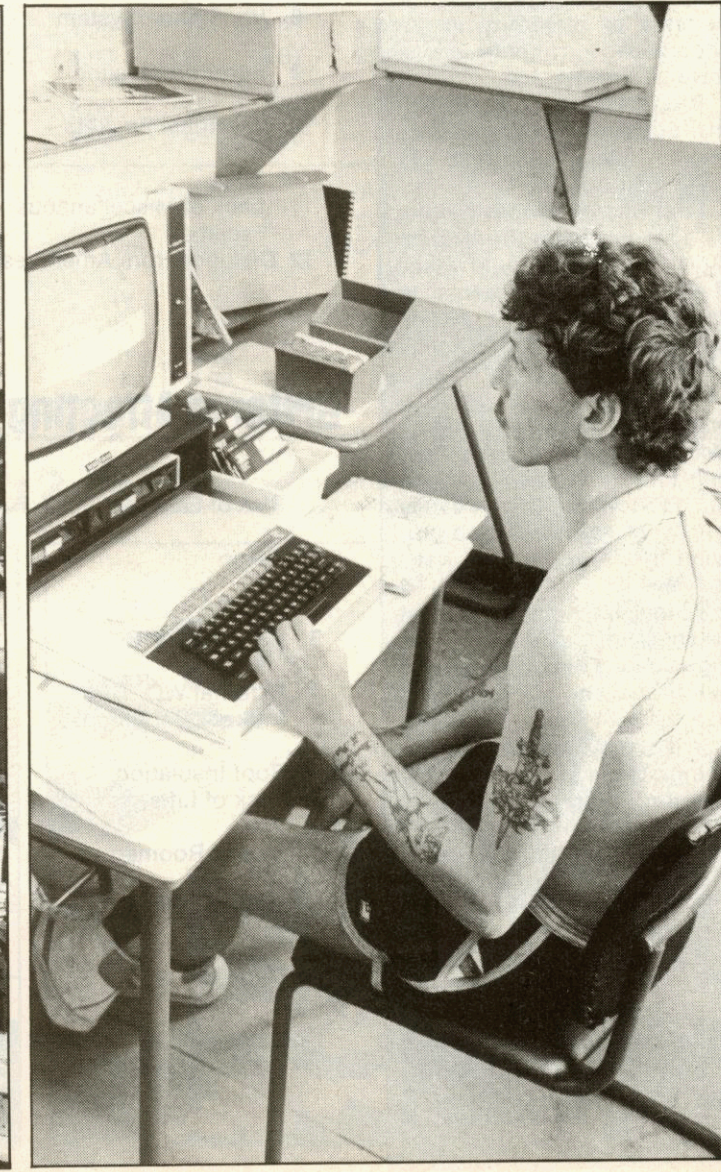
The techniques developed at Chessington in the treatment of head injuries are now used throughout the country. Additionally, rehabilitation was provided for civilian National Health Service patients on a "fill-up" basis at the discretion of the unit's CO.

Since 1969 it has been estimated that more than 90 per cent of patients treated at Chessington returned to fulfil a role within their units.

RAF Headley Court has, appropriately, been extended to cater for the merger, including a 40-bed ward.

Historical note: RAF Chessington was opened in 1938 as No 2 Balloon Centre, operating and maintaining balloons of the London defence barrage throughout the war. In 1945, the Balloon Centre was closed and the camp re-named RAF Chessington.

Under the 1969 Services Rationalisation Scheme the medical depot, which it has become, was closed and the Army Rehabilitation Unit at Chester merged with that of Chessington to become, on 1 August, 1969, the Joint Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit (JSMRU).



Anne Armstrong: Hong Kong Blues!

CORRESPONDENTS from Hong Kong have raised a number of 'grey areas' regarding the position with DHSS benefits. The main areas of concern seem to be the period prior to posting from UK and other EEC countries; secondly, what happens to their claims if they work for the British in Hong Kong? Thirdly, do they lose all rights to claim certain benefits when they return?

The main benefits are sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, and maternity allowance, mainly the contributory benefits.

As there is NO reciprocal agreement between Hong Kong and Britain, unlike Gibraltar, many wives think that they will still be eligible.

Not so, and it comes as quite a shock to realise that you will lose a considerable amount of money. In fact it is goodbye to over £1,000.

Some wives think that because they work as civilians for the same organisation, MoD, in hospitals or with Naafi, then the employer pays British National Insurance contributions and the relevant amount will be deducted from pay.

Not so. No deductions are made so your National Insurance record shows NIL during the time you were working in Hong Kong, so no benefits or maternity allowance, because no contributions have been deducted.

If you have not paid sufficient in the correct benefit year your claim when returning to UK may be turned down.

I think some people in Hong Kong were under the impression that wives could make their own arrangements to safeguard unemployment and sickness benefit, also maternity allowance, but this is not so.

However, in the case of maternity allowance MoD will make an ex-gratia payment only if the allowance has been turned down solely because you were overseas. Had you been in UK you would have received it.

To make this claim you must submit your case with supporting evidence through your unit pay office who will forward it to MoD (see Wives' Guide).

In fact you are worse off than being posted to a country with a reciprocal agreement, where at least you can claim sickness benefit, or three months unemployment benefit in the country and the full amount on your return to UK.

If you have fallen into one of these categories, or think you might, then drop me a line.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

REGRADING OF QUARTERS: THOSE CHARGES!

IN response to enquiries from readers, who are still not sure how their new gradings are assessed, the lists (left) show how both single and married accommodation have been assessed.

As the majority of Army quarters have now been graded I it is estimated that 85 per cent fall into

this category.

These grades can change when for example modernisation takes place. So all quarters will be subject to re-assessment and regrading.

If you have any queries concerning your grading contact your Families' Housing and Welfare Office or your Station Staff Office.

Criteria Affecting Classification Single Accommodation

Criteria (b)	Definition (c)
1 Sleeping Area	Where the floor area per person is significantly below the scaled entitlement.
2 Sharing	Where Junior Ranks are accommodated at more than four to a room, or Officers/SNCOs are required to share bedrooms.
3 Integrated Ablution Facilities	Where ablution facilities are not available within the same building as the sleeping accommodation.
4 Shortage of Ablution Facilities	Where the washing and WC facilities are significantly below scale AND this causes hardship.
5 Structure of the Building	Where the structure of the building is significantly below normal standards.
6 Internal condition of the building	Where the decoration, fittings and fixtures are assessed as significantly below normal standards.
7 Heating	Where the heating system is inadequate.
8 Ventilation System	Where the ventilation system fails to produce acceptable conditions.
9 Furniture Scaling	Where there is a shortage of furniture provided as against scaled entitlement.
10 Electrical Sockets	Where electrical socket outlets, including bed-side lights and shaver sockets are provided at less than 50 per cent of entitlement.
11 Lack of Miscellaneous Facilities	Lack or inadequacy of facilities such as public rooms, dining rooms.
12 Distance from Amenities	Where accommodation is more than 1.5 miles from facilities (not available in Bks) such as shops, banks, public telephone, post office AND Service or public transport is inadequate.

Criteria Affecting Classification Married Quarters

Criteria (b)	Definition (c)
1 Size of Quarter	Where the floor area is significantly below the scale laid down for the type of quarter.
2 Damp	Where bedrooms or living rooms are seriously affected by damp, or condensation where adequate ventilation does not exist.
3 Bathroom/WC	When there is restricted access to the main bathroom or only WC.
4 External WC	Where there is no indoor WC.
5 Internal Condition	Where the decoration, fittings and fixtures are significantly below normal standards.
6 Roof Insulation	Where necessary roof insulation is inadequate.
7 Lack of Lifts	Where there is no lift to flats on the fifth or higher storey in flat blocks.
8 Size of Rooms	Where the size of individual rooms is too small for the normal scale of furniture.
9 Environmental Defects	Adverse environmental factors such as large scale constructional work adjacent to a married quarter, lasting more than six months.
10 Heating	Where the heating system is inadequate or running costs necessary to maintain synopsis temperatures are assessed as excessive.
11 Distance from Amenities	Where normal amenities eg bank, shops, public telephone, bus stop (or mil tpt pick up point) are more than 1.5 miles AND the availability of transport (Mil or Civ) is inadequate.

Notes:

Defects under single aced. criteria must apply for a period in excess of 14 days to warrant recognition.

Defects may be recognised under Serial 1 or Serial 2 but not both concurrently.

Defects under Serial 9 will not be recognised in addition to claims under Serial 1.

Notes:

Defects under married aced. criteria must apply for a minimum of 14 days to warrant recognition except in the case of Environmental Defects which must affect the quarter(s) for a period in excess of 6 months.

Defects may be recognised under Serial 1 or Serial 8, but not both concurrently.

Your handy Guide to Charges

CHECK your old daily rate, see Chart I or Chart II. Having established your daily rate, and your quarter type, ie C, was sub-standard furnished ie £1.37 look on Chart III, find the column C, and your new grading (right hand column) and where the two lines meet is your new daily rent i.e. £2.02.

THESE charts were prepared to help Servicemen and families to see the rent differences from what they had been paying for their quarters under standard and sub-standard furnished quarters to their regraded quarters.

The old and revised 1985 rates examples are below.

Examples of furnished Officer Type III now Graded I Daily Charge.
Old rent £4.78 £33.46 a week 31 calendar days £148.18 a month
New rent £6.69 £46.83 a week £207.39 a month

Examples of soldiers' furnished D Type now Graded 1 Daily Charge.

Old rent £2.89 £20.23 a week £89.59 a month
New rent £3.17 £22.19 a week £98.27 a month

Soldiers' ie C Type sub-standard which has now been graded 3
Old rent £1.37 £ 9.59 a week £42.47 a month
New rent £2.02 £14.14 a week £62.62 a month

Soldiers' B Type standard which has been graded 2
Old rent £2.26 £15.82 a week £70.06 a month
New rent £2.25 £15.75 a week £69.75 a month

Officers' Type IV standard which has been graded 2
Old rent £4.21 £29.47 a week £130.51 a month
New rent £4.19 £29.33 a week £129.89 a month

Officers' Type III sub-standard which has been graded 3
Old rent £1.99 £13.93 a week £ 61.69 a month
New rent £3.75 £26.25 a week £116.25 a month

CHART III MARRIED QUARTERS — CHARGES 1985/6 (DAILY)

Please check all calculations with your Pay Office. These are guidelines only.

STANDARD GARAGE CHARGE = 38p PER DAY

GRADE		I	II	III	IV	V	D	C	B
1	FURNISHED	6.69	6.00	5.25	4.63	4.05	3.17	2.82	2.48
	UNFURNISHED	6.23	5.59	4.90	4.30	3.76	2.97	2.65	2.34
2	FURNISHED	6.06	5.43	4.75	4.19	3.67	2.87	2.56	2.25
	UNFURNISHED	5.64	5.06	4.43	3.89	3.41	2.69	2.46	2.12
3	FURNISHED	4.78	4.29	3.75	3.31	2.90	2.27	2.02	1.77
	UNFURNISHED	4.45	4.00	3.50	3.07	2.69	2.12	1.90	1.67
4	FURNISHED	3.36	3.00	2.63	2.31	2.03	1.59	1.41	1.24
	UNFURNISHED	3.12	2.79	2.45	2.15	1.89	1.49	1.32	1.17

SOLDIERS'

CHART I

Sub-Standard

Type	Standard	Sub-Standard	Unfurnished	Unfurnished
B	2.26	1.21	2.14	1.15
C	2.57	1.37	2.42	1.29
D	2.89	1.56	2.72	1.47

OFFICERS'

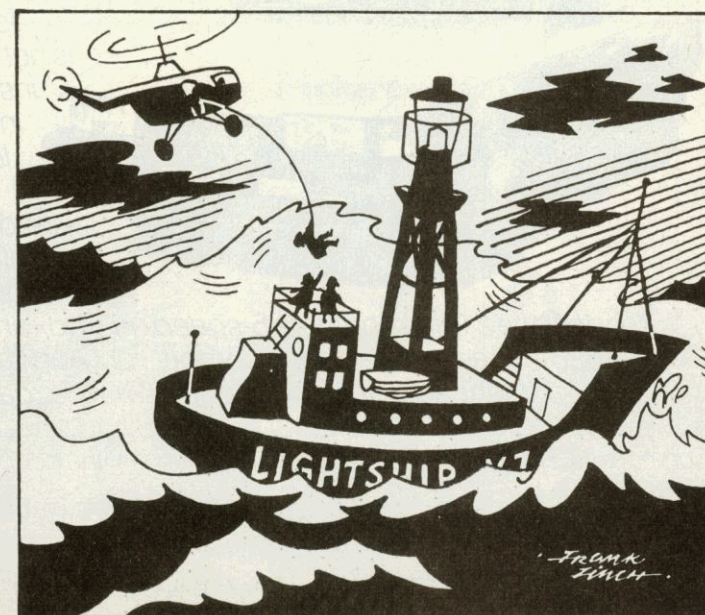
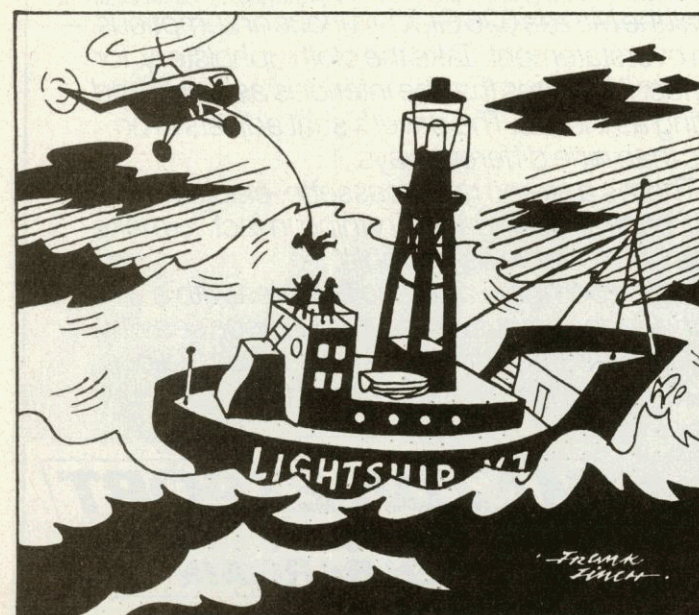
CHART II

Sub-Standard

Type	Standard	Sub-Standard	Unfurnished	Unfurnished
V	3.69	1.99	3.45	1.56
IV	4.21	1.99	3.94	1.56
III	4.78	1.99	4.48	1.56
II	5.46	1.99	5.11	1.56
I	6.09	1.99	5.70	1.56

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. You can check your answers by turning to page 39.



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MAZDA EXPORT
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NEW STANDARDS FOR THE ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

THE BIGGEST show of British Army main battle tanks to be seen on parade in Germany for more than a quarter of a century — 148 Challengers and Chieftains — spearheaded an impressive armoured tribute in honour of The Queen at Sennelager when she presented The Royal Tank Regiment with new Standards, writes Ambrose Moore.

The Queen, in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief, presented each of the four regiments with Standards which replace those she originally bestowed upon them at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in 1960.

Sennelager's well-known Windmill Strip, the magnificent venue for the historic Standards Parade, was not unfamiliar territory to Her Majesty. From the same spot exactly eight years ago she reviewed BAOR units in celebration of her Silver Jubilee.

At the latest rare regimental occasion, a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle for virtually all troops present, the massive magnitude of tank armour alone was close to 9,000 tonnes with a combined total of 148 Challengers and Chieftains taking part.

The spectacular square-shaped setting designed for the Sovereign's arrival was indeed fit for a Queen with Sennelager's flat, green landscape providing an attractive natural stage.

The tanks formed a formidable

shimmering skyline in the hazy distance to the front of the Royal dais. The left flank of the parade ground was framed by Ferret scout cars while the parallel position to the right was taken up by Scorpion recce vehicles. The captivating preparatory picture was completed with the band in its place just off to the right of the podium.

As the Royal car made its way towards the dais an impeccably-timed 21-gun salute was fired at five-second intervals by the Recce Troops of the four regiments in their Scorpions and a ceremonial fanfare especially scored for the occasion was sounded.

It was a memorable day not to be missed by the old and the brave. A contingent of more than 1,000 old soldiers of the Regiment, many of them be-medalled war heroes, travelled from all over the UK to join the large numbers of spectators and guests which included 16 former and serving generals of The Royal Tank Regiment.

The visitors included First World War veterans and Chelsea Pensioners as well as holders of the only two VCs awarded to the Royal Armoured Corps in the Second World War.

While it was quite a euphoric event for the old-timers, for the 700 troops and their COs on parade dressed in their best black coveralls, it was both a unique ceremonial experience and the successful culmination of weeks of intensive preparation and hard



The Queen during the presentation of new Standards

work.

In her speech at the Service of Consecration for the Standards The Queen said that when the tank was introduced in 1916 it was probably the most significant British military invention of the First World War. It combined firepower, movement and protection and has remained a formidable weapon.

"The reputation of those who have fought in tanks has stood deservedly high. The parade shows that those who guard that reputation today will give it added lustre," she said.

Like other parts of the British Army The Royal Tank Regiment had contracted. From 24 during

World War 2 it had come down to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th on parade before her. Despite this reduction in size, the regiment manned over more than one-third of the total tank strength of BAOR.

The Queen added: "The sense of pride and spirit of the Regiment is amply demonstrated by the large numbers who have travelled here from the United Kingdom and further afield and by the many families. Life for soldiers' families is never easy, with constant moves and separation, but their support and understanding are a great comfort and their contribution to

Turn to centre pages



Challengers of 2RTR during the drive past

Pictures: Paul Haley

The Mark V tank and Old Comrades in the march past



The Queen enjoys a joke with Challenger crew of 2RTR Badger

the life of the regiment is well recognised and appreciated. "I have always taken a close interest in your affairs and I am delighted to visit the Regiment here when you are playing such an important part in the preservation of peace in Europe. I congratulate you on a splendid spectacle and I wish you well in the years to come."

In reply, Colonel Edward Pepper, the Regimental Colonel, said: "New Standards, the abiding symbols of our allegiance to you, are normally only presented once during a soldier's military service and therefore, it is an important occasion for all those participating. "Because of your presence, today's parade is of even greater significance, as it gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our loyalty and affection to you personally both as our Sovereign and our Colonel-in-Chief."

Earlier The Queen, who was accompanied throughout the parade by the Representative

Colonel Commandant, Major General Richard Jerram, had watched the tanks advance in Review Order, before inspecting the Regiment from an open-topped Range Rover.

The Consecration Service was performed by the Chaplain General, The Venerable Archdeacon Frank Johnson.

Music for the 90-minute parade was played by the massed bands and Pipes and Drums under the baton of their Director of Music, Captain Roger Tomlinson who wrote three of the pieces for the programme including the opening number, the fanfare, aptly titled "Our Colonel-in-Chief."

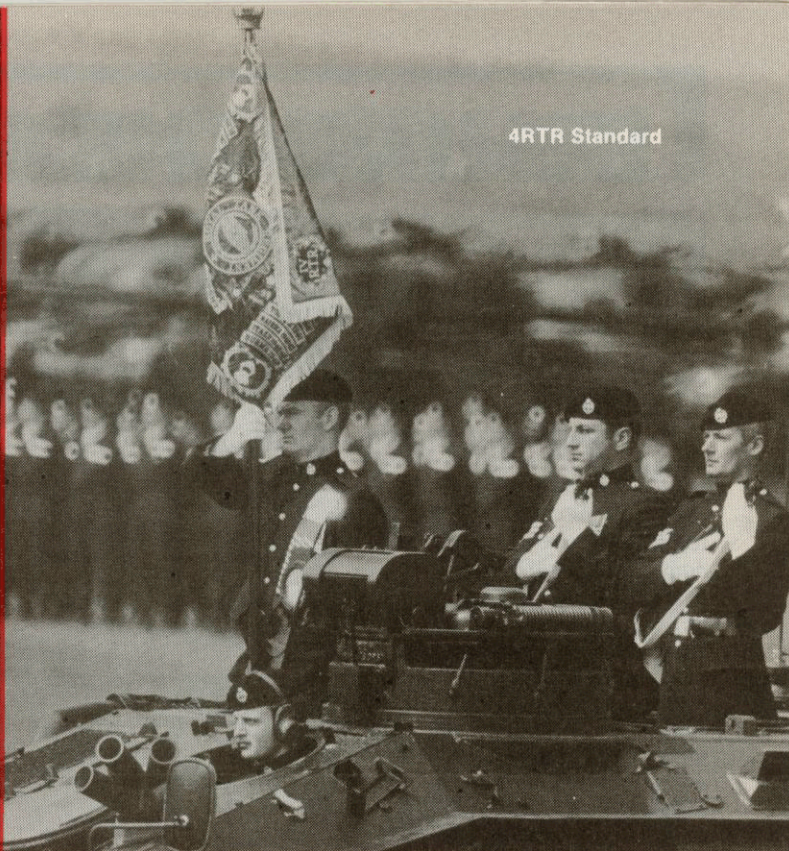
The parade which had started with the sombre booms of the guns 'saluting' ended with a rivetting roar that reverberated across Sennelager's vast open spaces as the tanks, Ferrets, APCs and Scorpions together with a column of recovery vehicles took part in the thunderous drive-past that decisively demonstrated the readiness of the regiment to carry out



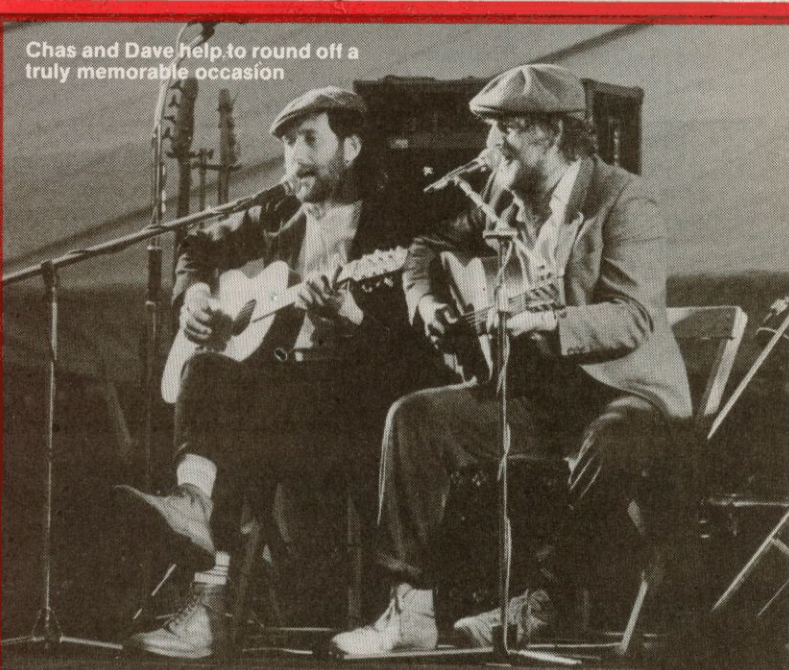
Great day for the families

its modern-day role. But, renowned just as much for its historic past and the close relationships it maintains with its ageing veterans, it was appropriate that the parade came towards its fitting close when 150 selected members of the Royal Tank Regiment Association proudly marched past The Queen carrying aloft the Branch Standards with

the famous Mark V Heavy Tank of First World War vintage, taking up the privileged rear position. After the Standards Parade The Queen went to Paderborn's Rathaus (town hall) where she was invited to sign the traditional Golden Book. The old Standards will be laid up at the Regimental Church of St Peter's-upon-Cornhill next month.

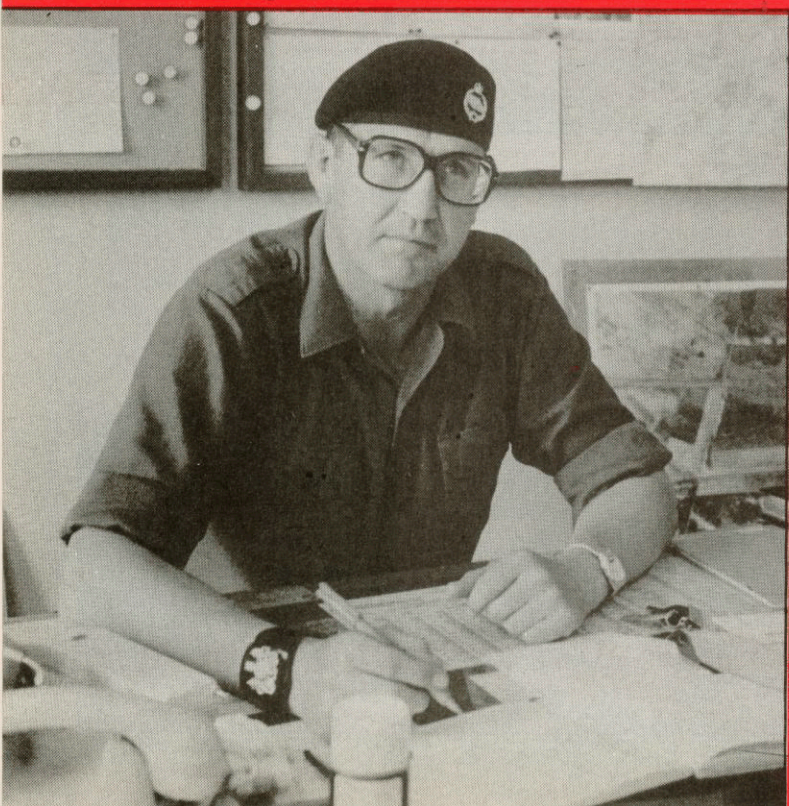


4RTR Standard



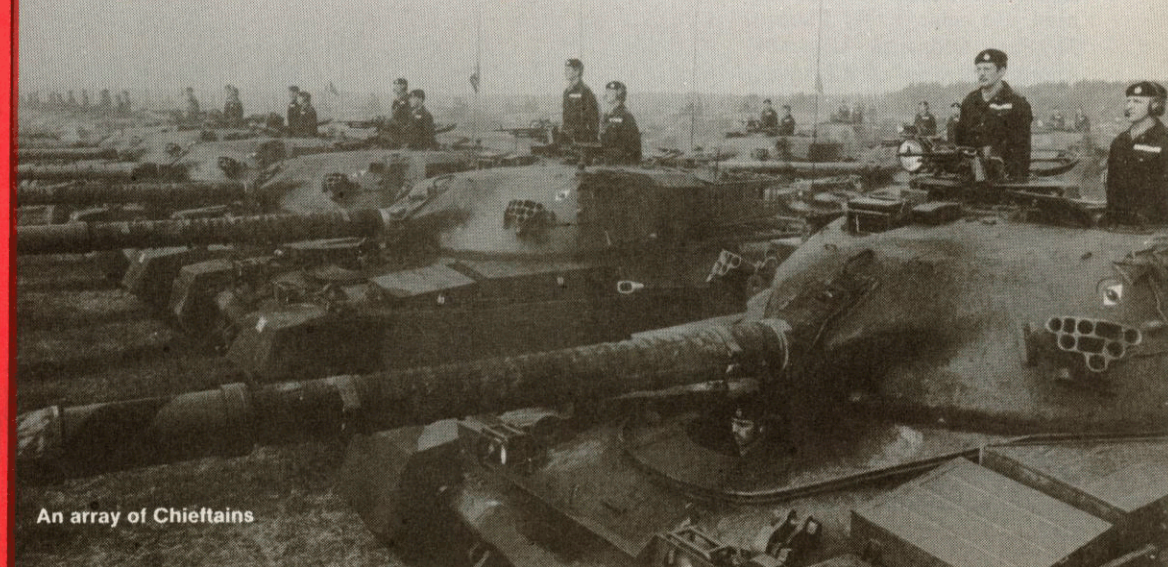
Chas and Dave help to round off a truly memorable occasion

Above: all ranks entertainment — good time had by all. Below: Parade RSM Warrant Officer 1 Bill Watt was commissioned afterwards, and returned to 2RTR as a lieutenant!



A glimpse of yesteryear. Escorting The Queen is Lt Col George Forty of the Tank Museum of Bovington

Playing such an important part in the preservation of peace



An array of Chieftains

BEHIND THE SPLENDOUR...

THE MAGNIFICENT backdrop to this year's Royal Tournament at Earls Court did more than provide a suitably impressive setting for the events in the arena. It was also, rather more modestly, a sort of superior shower curtain.

The figure 300, which crowned a display of Colours, Standards, Guidons and a Grenadier drum in honour of this year's regimental tercentenaries, concealed scenes of domesticity. It hid from the tournament audience the mobile bath unit which provided ablutions for the 1,800 Servicemen on duty at the famous Exhibition Centre.

During Tournament season the vast exhibition hall becomes the home of a special tri-Service unit with its own Commandant and RSM, its own sleeping accommodation, messes, and dining halls.

The tournament troops also enjoy their own shower and laundry facilities thanks to part time soldiers from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Running a communal bath house, washing and ironing other people's clothes — these are hardly the activities that most people connect with volunteer soldiering. But in fact the sponsored laundry units which are run from HQ RAOC (TA) in Corsham, contain a good number of dedicated men who have been doing this sort of thing for years.

For some, in these troubled times, it is an alternative to life on the dole. Members of the squad which set up the laundry and mobile bath units expected to be at Earls Court for at least four weeks.

Many of them had come to the Tournament almost directly from annual camp in Cornwall, and are hoping to be involved in Exercise Brave Defender this autumn.

"Doing 200 days a year is nothing for us," said Corporal Kenneth McFerran who is unemployed and comes from Birkenhead. He belongs to 1 Platoon, 74 Port Ordnance Company. Another member of the squad, Sergeant Harold Palmer, from Sheffield, was badged ACC; a third, Corporal McKinlay, of Glasgow, was a member of 716 Laundry Platoon.

They and the others all had a couple of things in common — unemployment and regular contact with Corsham to see what jobs were on offer.

The squad, half a dozen strong, installed the standard mobile bath unit on a concrete gallery at the back of the arena, and then, in two shifts working roughly a day on and a day off, maintained and



Light Division music — splendid backdrop, too

operated the showers for the rest of the tournament period.

"This is one of the easiest sort of jobs," said Corporal McFerran. "It's quite a bonus — usually we'd be up to our knees in mud on Salisbury Plain."

The showers were located, as they normally are, under canvas. They were supplied with hot water from a mobile oil fired heater which

in turn was fed from an inflatable storage tank.

"It is said that you can put up to 800 men an hour through one of these things," said Captain Alan Cable, SO3 Training at HQ RAOC TA. "We've got 1,800 here but obviously they come through in dribs and drabs. We tend to close down after the evening performance, round about 11pm, and open

again at 7 in the morning."

Apart from the Royal Tournament, bath and laundry units also supported events like the Fairford International Air Tattoo, a TA gunnery camp at Castlemartin, the occasional marathon and a growing number of exercises.

"People are slowly catching on to the fact that we've got mobile bath units within the country," Captain Cable added. "There are not that many actually but the regulars are waking up to the fact."

The units themselves were extremely popular with the people who worked on them.

"The TA being what it is they build up a very strong unit identity and they stay for years," he said. "You try to move someone out of a laundry unit and they get very bolshie."

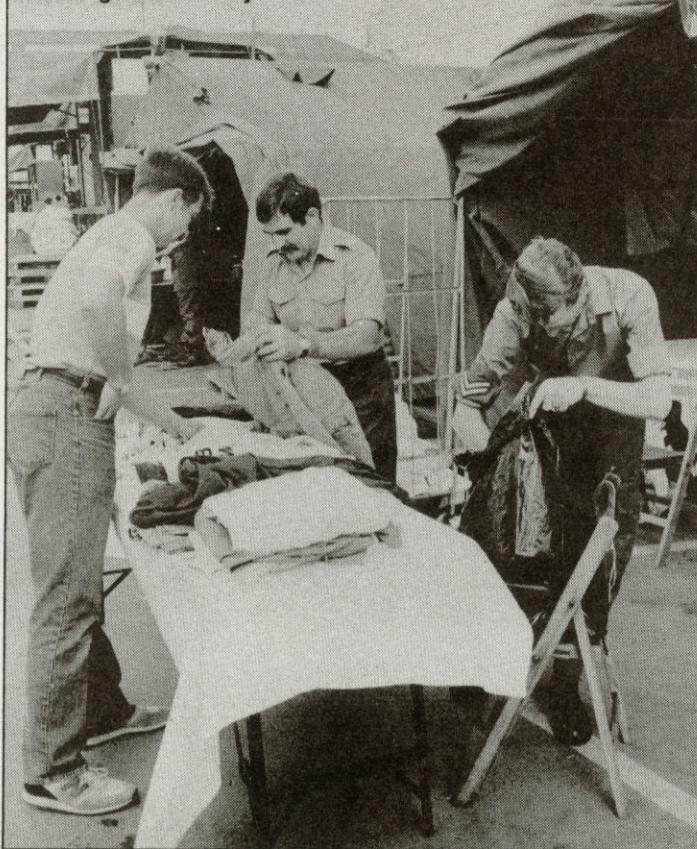
This view was supported by Private Mathew Hyland who was one of those working on the two laundry units stationed, along with the horses and various other bits and pieces, around the back of the exhibition building.

"I love it, yes," he said. "It isn't a glory platoon or anything like that but there are good lads in it and the comradeship is what matters. We have a good laugh."

"It's not all laundry, of course. We have regimental weekends for weapon and military training without any laundry training at all. We have to look after the soldiering side as well."

Private Hyland, a self employed builder from Liverpool, is one of those taking holidays or time off work in order to wash sheets and

Handing in the laundry



WHAT THE PUBLIC DIDN'T SEE!

Pte Stephen Doyle adjusts shower temperatures



TA support vital for Tournament 'stars'

personal clothing for the Royal Tournament troops.

"I've been doing this for 12 years," said Corporal George Jeffrey, a lorry driver from Carlisle. "I didn't think I'd be in a laundry platoon when I joined the TA, but this was the job they gave me. I gave it a try and I liked it so I just sort of stuck to it."

Private David Grimes who was busy hauling a great load of laundry out of one of the machines, also had no intention of joining the TA just to wash sheets.

As another of the unemployed members of the team, he said quite frankly: "I joined for the money. There's not a lot of difference in a private's wages compared with the dole but you get an annual bounty as well and that's a big difference."

In any case, he added, you might as well do something useful while you were out of work.

The all male bath and laundry team was drawn mainly from 714, 716 and 719 laundry platoons. By coincidence both the officer in charge of the operations and the PSI were both female.

Lieutenant Helen O'Hara, a TA officer who works on computer programming for the Royal Navy at Gosport, and PSI Staff Sergeant Margaret Devlin had evidently established a good working relationship with their men.

Like most of them, Lieutenant O'Hara was also drafted into the laundry business.

"HQ RAOC decide where I should go," she said. "And I have

no objections. I started off in the TA in the stores area and I only changed in April. As a job it is hard work, hard graft. Sometimes

it is a little bit routine, but I think they have a good time generally speaking."

As far as her own feelings were

concerned at least laundry was, as she put it, a totally different set up to computing.

Loading the 'tumblers'



**Story: Robert Higson
Pictures: Les Wiggs**



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JUNGLE VICTORY!

SOLDIER marks the 40th anniversary of VJ Day with this special article by **BILL MOORE**, the story of an . . .

UNFORGETTABLE ARMY

"Thank God they've taken a place whose name we can pronounce," said Winston Churchill when reporting the fall of Mandalay in the spring of 1945.

Thousands of miles from Westminster a remarkable collection of fighting men — British, Gurkha, Burmese, African, and Indian from every part of the sub-continent — were beating a formidable enemy on a series of battlefields which, to Europeans, sounded like entries in a tongue-twister competition.

Maungdaw, Buthydaung, Kanglatongbi and Ukhru and the like were difficult to say, hard to remember from the news bulletins and anathema to headline writers. Frustrated war correspondents in the Far East finally dubbed the 14th the Forgotten Army.

It was formed towards the end of 1943 from the survivors of earlier campaigns, reserves in India, and units transferred from the Middle East.

Lord Mountbatten, newly appointed Supremo of South East Asia Command, picked Lieutenant General William Slim to be its leader. It was an inspired choice.

A series of reverses had sapped morale. The Japanese conquest of Hong Kong, the humiliating surrender of Singapore, and the long retreat from Burma were fresh in everyone's mind. The only counter-thrust, made in the Arakan

on the coast of the Bay of Bengal, had petered out in failure in the spring of 1943.

Slim had taken part in the 1942 disaster as a corp commander (there was only the one in Burma, co-operating with the Chinese) and had been drawn into the Arakan affair when it was too late to salvage. He had learned a lot and in his new role laid down the basic principle:

'... the individual soldier must learn, by living, moving and exercising in it, that the jungle is neither impenetrable nor unfriendly.'

The troops had to learn to take advantage of it finally to get to grips with and beat the enemy.

To sustain the morale of British units Mountbatten founded SEAC, the troops own newspaper edited by Frank Owen, an ex-Fleet Street editor. Noel Coward and Vera Lynn entertained the men, along with other stars. 'But the

RAF Dakota dropping supplies south of the Irrawaddy river, March 1945

Indian infantrymen at the ready ...

Continued page 32





A lull, and a brew-up



A sign points the way



greatest boost of all,' according to a veteran, 'was beating Tanahashi in the Arakan... and then the main thrash at Imphal and Kohima.'

The second Arakan battle began when the 5th and 7th Indian Divisions pushed down on either side of the long Mayu hill range. The 81st West African Division covered the left flank. The Japanese riposte was a right hook led by the tough, young Colonel Tanahashi. His objective — to seize the Ngakyedauk (Okeydoke to you soldier!) Pass and wipe out the isolated division as they tried to escape. Slim ordered his men to stand fast and promised to supply them from the air — American pilots had already proved their worth.

In the opening moves the 7th Division's HQ was overrun and Major General Frank Messervy vanished for a time. Major General Harold Briggs of the 5th Division sent newly-arrived Brigadier Geoffrey Evans to organise the defence of the Corps Administrative Area. The 'Admin Box', a clearing about the size of Wembley Stadium with scrub covered mounds in the middle, was surrounded by steep wooded hills. It was full of ammunition but short of infantry.

Its original garrison included Belfast TA ack-ack gunners, Indian muleteers, the staff of the officers' shop as well as men of 6 medium Regiment RA, two



14th Army troops on their way to Mandalay

squadrons of elderly Lee-Grant tanks of the 25th Dragoons (reformed in 1941) and two invaluable companies of the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment. The 4th/8th Gurkhas managed to break through to the Box soon after it was surrounded but the Japanese attacked before they could dig in. The concentrated fire of tanks and mediums swept the enemy, the West Yorks charged and the Gurkhas regained their balance. Determination was only hardened when the Japanese broke into the main dressing station on the night of February 7 and slaughtered doctors, orderlies and patients. The West Yorks showed no mercy when they recaptured the MDS the next day.

'Boxes' held by Messervy's outlying brigades also experienced savage fighting which went on non-stop for three days around Loftus-Tottenham's 33rd until the Japanese fell back exhausted on 8 February.

On the 11th the promised air support arrived — supplies in and wounded out. On the 15th the 2nd KOSB relieved the West Yorks in the Admin Box. By the 16th the 1st Queens and 4th/15th Punjabis were outside the 33 Brigade box ambushing the opposition.

The 5th Division broke through the 'Okeydoke Pass' on the 25th and the danger was over. Briggs and Messervy resumed the offensive and within a fortnight occupied their original objectives. As they did so an 'Admin Box' battle on a greater scale began at Imphal and Kohima. It was even bloodier and went on longer, but the Japanese 'superman' legend, cracked in the Second Arakan battle was finally shattered. This achievement was almost overlooked in Britain where all eyes

were riveted on Normandy. A year later, when the Burma veterans, with brilliant use of armour, crashed through the plains to Rangoon, their success was overshadowed by VE-Day.

The task of crushing the desperate remnants of the Japanese

forces lasted until August — 40 years ago this month. Once again the victors' thunder was stolen... by the atomic bomb. Other World War II triumphs have been celebrated in style this year. This time the Fourteenth Army must not be Forgotten.

THE CHINDITS

Readers will, no doubt, be quick to notice that Bill Moore has not mentioned the controversial Chindits — the 'behind the lines' troops formed and organised by that colourful character Ord Wingate.

The answer is quite simple. Though the Chindits were under XIV Army once they left India (where they were organised and trained) they did tend to regard themselves as a Special Force. There can be little arguing with that and they are perhaps worthy of an article in themselves but for the moment we don't have sufficient space and the main purpose of this article is to pay tribute to the vast majority of men who fought the Japanese in the conventional manner.

ONE POINT OF VIEW

An officer who served in the Fourteenth Army commented:

'Forgotten?' Many of the higher commanders might have agreed... but the bulk of the Army was made up of Indian and Gurkha soldiers and they didn't think that way. Unsophisticated and non-technical they had all the weapons they could use and were fed. They weren't much concerned with news from home... that usually came with returning leave parties from their particular village.'

'The British soldier?' In the beginning he didn't believe he could beat the Jap in the jungle and he knew he was at the end of the line for equipment and reinforcements. He read in occasional home newspapers what was happening in Russia, the Middle East... anywhere but the Arakan and the rest of Burma. He didn't believe anyone was concerned what was happening in South East Asia. Most of the Fourteenth Army would have been surprised if they had been told they considered themselves forgotten but a significant and vital part of it did.'

The enemy? The Jap was cunning and brave but also stupid and inquisitive. Leave a small pack, rations — anything to arouse his curiosity — on a track and a whole patrol would gather round making an excellent target for an LMG lying in ambush.'

The greatest achievement? Overcoming the fear that pervaded the jungle always, but particularly at night and in the monsoon. If we hadn't done that the rest would not have followed.'

Sikh troops attacking a Jap position with phosphorous grenades. Near Pagan, Burma, March 1945

All over

"East is east . . . and west is west . . . and never the twain shall meet."

I often heard and read that quotation when I was a young boy and now I was up against it — VJ Day 1945.

I was sitting talking to one of my sergeants, Billy Welch, and from where we were we could see the Japanese sentry about 100 yards away.

The Japanese guard marched to the sentry post but instead of posting a new sentry they all marched off together. We watched and saw the same thing happening at all the sentry posts.

A murmur spread like wildfire through the camps. "The war is over!"

We couldn't quite take it in. Suddenly, we heard a trumpet playing our National Anthem.

The next thing we knew, a runner was going from hut to hut shouting: "Everybody on parade in the square!"

We staggered out to the square and Colonel Coutts, the Senior Medical Officer, Australian Army, told us: "The war is over lads and I'm proud of you all."

We were in a camp about 30kms from Bangkok and the reason I was not working that day was that I was a very sick man — only weighing 74 pounds. I will never forget what it meant to hear "God Save the King." — **E Williams A/BSM, ex 4186789 BRMS, 9 Mechanics Lane, Queensferry, Deeside, Clwyd, CH5 2AB.**

Unforgettable

We had come down from Imphal via Maunubym to Akyab and there VJ Day came and we celebrated in a never to be forgotten way.

First a beer ration, and possibly a rum issue, and what we called 'Flaming Onions' being fired in the air by, I suppose, the RA units.

Then later in the day going in to the Sergeants Mess basha and drinking lots of neat whisky with the CO parading around in KD shorts and a British bobby's helmet.

Back to the tents in what we called Coconut-Grove and out like a light on the old Charpoy. Few went to breakfast next day or work, and I went off whisky for a long time after!

We went on to Mingladon Airstrip, near Rangoon after and flew out some POWs etc then were disbanded and some of us went to HMAWBI to form I think 99 Squadron on Dakotas and did some rice dropping.

After a short spell on Dakotas on to 88 Squadron Sunderland Flying Boat flying the mail to Iwakuni, Japan to the Commonwealth Forces there.

A memorable time in my life and many others sharing it with

READERS' RECOLLECTIONS

me. — **G Swift, 61 Longstaff Road, Southfields, London, SW18 4AZ.**

In Bengal

The following memoirs are supplied by members of the Eastbourne and District Branch, Burma Star Association.

On VJ Day I was in hospital at Commilla in Bengal having just been evacuated after a hazardous journey from a forward area in the Arakan where I had been in action with the West African Forces.

The British Army nurses managed somehow to get us all a beer or two to celebrate the surrender but it was a long time before we eventually got home via Calcutta and 3 BGH at Poona.

The hospital ship I came home on was the Dorsetshire, the same ship that I had come home from India pre-war after six years regular service in India. — **B J Harris, ex-3rd Bn The Gold Coast Regt RWAFF.**

I had been sent to a forward area by our late Editor, Frank Owen, to get a story on the rapid collapse of the Japs and the anticipated surrender. I had just returned to our forward base when the news came through. We had to celebrate with tea as our air drop of supplies was delayed. — **Reginald Foster, ex-Intelligence Corps, attached 14th Army Newspaper SEAC.** I was in the area of Sumatra and Java when the commander of forces in that area came on board with his entourage to sign the surrender of all Jap forces in that area. All the crew were given a copy of the surrender document, which I still have. — **R Valentine, ex-RN, HMS Fury.**

Though the surrender news was the best news ever our war had to go on as we still had to fly supplies to remote areas where our troops were until evacuation could be arranged. — **R Reed, ex-RAF, 47 Sqn SEAC.**

I was a young soldier in those days and was in a forward base in Burma when the Japs gave in. To me this was the greatest day of my life. The hell of that jungle war was over, now we lucky ones could resume living in peace. We had won, we could now go home. — **Leslie Mason, Mayor of Eastbourne, ex-Royal Signals.**

I was at a base hospital at Commilla when the news came through having only recently returned from a long period at casualty clearing stations in forward areas.

The news was relayed to the patients in this tented hospital and was the best aid to recovery any one had.

Many had to remain out East

though for many months as ships were scarce to get them home and air transport was then very limited.

— **Mrs S Bambridge, ex-Nursing Sister QAIMNS.**

Silence

Three weeks after VE Day I was posted to South-East Asia Command as a mobile VAD attached to the Army.

Two months prior to VJ Day I served on a hospital train, running between Rangoon in Burma to Chittagong in India.

The casualties on the train were all liberated soldiers and airmen from Japanese prisoner of war camps. They were all in terrible state of malnutrition, covered in sores and boils and nearly all suffering from dysentery.

It was whilst we were stationary at Penang that we heard the news of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A week later the train arrived at Chittagong Station and we were told that it was all over. It was VJ Day.

It was so quiet, there was no cheering or jollification, just a stunned silence — suddenly and instantaneously everyone on the train seemed to come to life.

A soldier shouted "where's the champagne?" and everyone started singing "Take me back to dear old Blighty".

Alas it was nearly a year before most of us went home. On 23 June 1946 we disembarked from the troopship Britannic at Liverpool. A Marine band played for us on the quayside and it rained. We had come home to a Labour government and a dockstrike, but we stood on deck wet through, and cheered and cheered.

We were home, our war was over at last. — **Kay Smith, 23c Merlin Haven, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 7BA.**

Protected

On VJ Day Battalion, 4th Burma Regiment was engaged in internal security operations in Arakan (Burma) with companies spread out covering an area about the size of Scotland, but a number of officers got together in Akyab where we had our HQ, to celebrate.

I have only vague recollections of the party but I well remember one of my officers climbing up on top of the mess tent with an unsheathed Japanese sword which he proceeded to stick through the canvas and sitting astride the handle of the sword, slid down, ripping open the canvas!

Of course, he fell through the tear which he made in the canvas, landing flat on his back and uninjured, the sword standing

upright embedded in the floor of the tent!

Some guardian angel protects the very drunk at times like that! — **I C G Scott (ABRO No 82), at that time Lt Colonel commanding 4 Burma Regiment.**

New Fleet

I had served in HMNZS 'Gambia' in the Eastern Fleet (a forgotten fleet) in the Indian Ocean where we pounded Burma, Western Malaysia, Andaman Is, Sumatra, Java, straits of Malacca etc. Having set the Japs back on their heels in that area, it was realised that they should now be attacked more forcibly from two directions and the new objective was to be the real 'hot-spot' — Japan itself.

Accordingly a new fleet was inaugurated — the British Pacific Fleet — the forgotten fleet! It was assembled from various directions in Australia and New Zealand and incorporated units from the Royal Navy, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand navies.

Discussion in the mess-deck was of the opinion that the war would go on until some time in 1946 though one stoker was firmly of the opinion that the war would be all over by Christmas 1945.

We all expected a bloodbath as we realised that mainland Japan would have to be invaded and the Japs, being what they are, would not give up easily and would fight ferociously. We were all taken by surprise by the dropping of A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the sudden end to the war.

VJ Day — 15 August — dawned fine and sunny with a blue sea and the fleet looking magnificent and majestic while the settled time 1100 came around with everyone at action stations. The "fall out" order came and I left the engine room where I had been on duty as stoker-electrician to look out over the sunlit peacetime sea.

Shortly after I had to duck for cover as we were attacked by a die-hard kamikaze bomber. I and a number of others who were preparing a landing party to occupy Yokosuka naval base were in immediate danger of being killed a quarter-hour after the war was supposedly over. The Jap was immediately shot down, fortunately before he was able to carry out his intention, by one of our carrier-based planes. Regrettably, since then we have never been able to establish the identity of the gallant pilot. A stern warning was then issued to the Japs that anyone approaching the fleet for any purpose, sightseeing or otherwise would be immediately shot up or shot down. — **I G Spence (ex-leading stoker), HMNZS Gambia, 131 Bowhill Road, North Beach, Christchurch 9, New Zealand.**

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Ian V. Hogg



BOOK REVIEWS

An American who does not forget

A NEW book which will fascinate students of Far Eastern affairs in World War 2 is **Eagles Against The Sun*** by Ronald H Spector, a teacher of history at the University of Alabama and a former US Marine who served in Vietnam.

With its subsidiary title *The American War with Japan*, there could be a tendency for **SOLDIER** readers to see it on the bookshelves and dismiss it as yet another publication overlooking the British contribution.

Perhaps the publishers would have been better thinking in terms of *The American View of the Allies' war with Japan*, for the author certainly spends time looking again at the non-American involvement.

It would be surprising if he didn't — in nearly 600 pages — concentrate mainly on the massive American sea and land involvement in the Pacific, but what a pleasant change to come across a weighty tome which is not British but pays attention to the important events in Burma.

Yes, there is criticism, particularly of British political and high command attitudes at the outset. The President's personal representative in India, at one time advised "unless the present atmosphere is changed for the better, we Americans will have to bear the burden of the coming campaign

in this part of the world." US senior officers and GIs believed CBI (Chine-Burma-India) stood for "Confused Bastards in India", where serving Americans felt neither British nor Indian cared much about fighting the Japanese.

Spector writes: "However unfair or exaggerated this belief, it was to bedevil Allied relations in that theater till the end of the war".

There is praise, too, for in discussing the efforts of American 'Vinegar Joe' Stillwell and Merrill and his Marauders, the author stresses that the "decisive battle" of the war in South East Asia was around the towns of Imphal and Kohima. "Less than half of the Japanese soldiers who had set out for Imphal and Kohima returned. The Japanese military hold on Burma had been dealt a shattering blow".

The author reveals that the US had secret plans to wage unrestricted submarine warfare

against Japan months before Pearl Harbour, and there is much more of interest.

His biggest success is weaving the political problems with the military progress and producing a book which is rich in research and detail, and yet an enjoyable read.

* *Eagle Against The Sun*, by Ronald H Spector (Viking, London, £16.95)

FIRST view the series on your television, then read the book. Very worthwhile in the case of John Percival's new publication: For Valour, a natural follow-up to his Thames TV Series on some winners of the Victoria Cross.

This is not just an historical account of the actions which brought fame to the men involved, but a careful look at some moments

of glory and the effect it has had on the men involved.

The war against the Japanese put the focus on Rifleman Ganju Lama of the 7th Gurkha Rifles and Havildar Parkash Singh, 8th Punjab Regiment.

Ganju Lama already had the Military Medal to his credit for knocking out Japanese tanks when he stopped three more with his PIAT. Even then, lying with right hand, left wrist and both legs wounded by machine gun bullets he somehow found the strength to remove grenade pins with his teeth and fend off the angry enemy. Later commissioned, he transferred to the new Indian Army and now lives a quiet life — and is on the committee of the VC Association.

Parkash Singh twice defied heavy fire to rescue crews and weapons from disabled carriers. Though born in Pakistan, he too later joined the new Indian Army. He is now farming and a respected figure in Jalandhar.

Their stories and the rest are all the more interesting for Percival having interviewed them. The two winners of the coveted cross in the Falklands fighting are not forgotten, either. All the more sad that in the case of Colonel 'H' Jones and Sergeant Ian McKay they figure among the many VCs who cannot be interviewed...

For Valour, by John Percival (Methuen, London, £9.95)

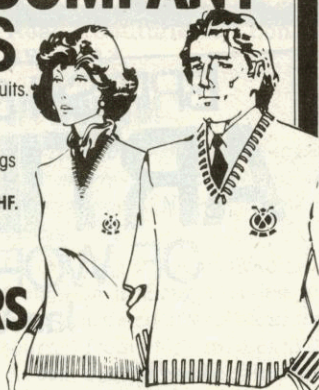
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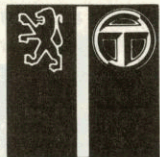
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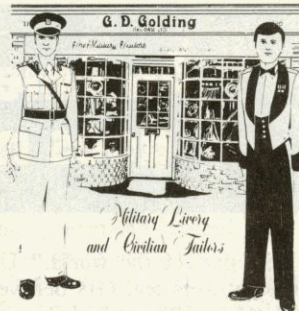
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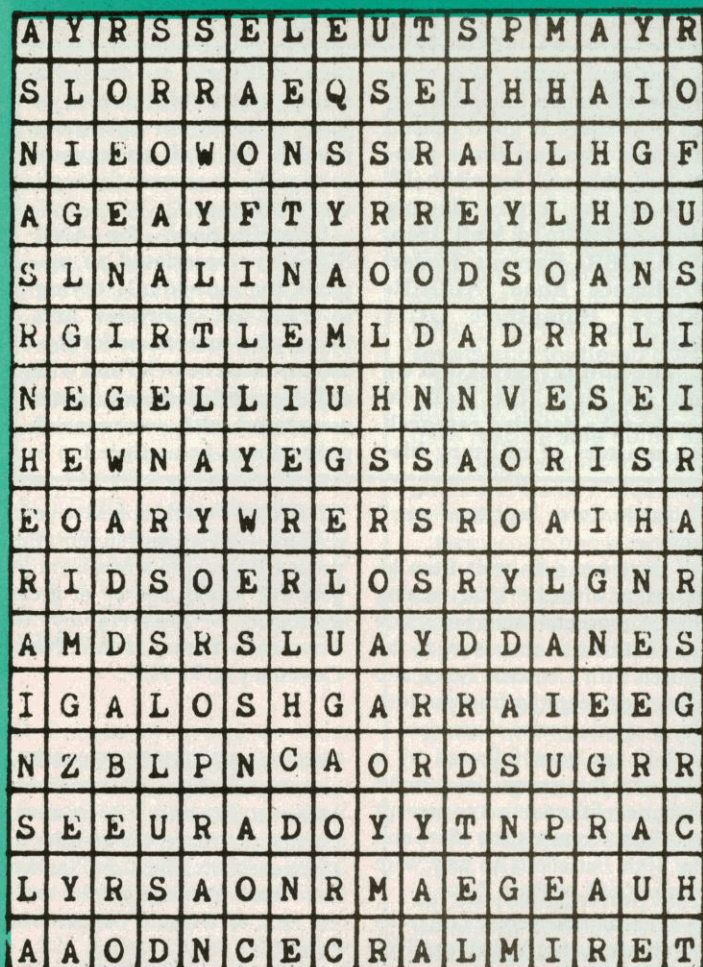
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ODD ONE OUT?



THE LETTERS in the grid, when correctly followed make the names of British Regiments and Corps. There is, however, an odd-one-out.

When you have found the starting point follow the letters, in all direction, in one continuous line, until you can go no further.

Clue: You start with R.

You may not cross a line and each letter may only be used once. Three letters, which are the initials of another title, will remain unused.

What we want to know:

1 — What is the title of the odd-one-out?

2 — What is the full title represented by the initials?

The rules of the competition remain the same. It is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is 27 September. The answers and winner's name will be announced in our issue of 21 October.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 369' label.

In this case of a tie, the winner will be drawn by lots. No correspondence can be entered into.

Send your answers by post card or letter with the 'Competition 369' label to: Prize Competition SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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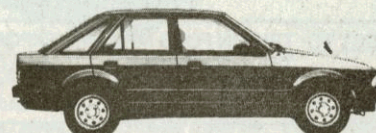
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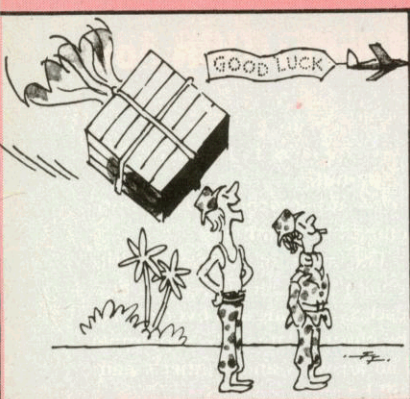
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Embarrassed

I refer to the letter 'Frontiersmen' (SOLDIER 3 June). Major T C R Armstrong-Wilson is NOT a member of this command.

Parts of his letter are in fact, a source of embarrassment to my Division. Having been asked: when did Frontiersmen form part of a Sovereign's Escort?, I was only able to reply, they haven't.

Viewing a re-run of a video tape of the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales, we find the Queen Mother's Escort was furnished by the Household Cavalry!

The Major also mentioned 'This cavalry-typed uniformed body, approved by MOD'.

I feel I must point out The Canadian Division, The Legion of Frontiersmen, is the only Organisation of Frontiersmen to receive official recognition from any Government. We operate under a Charter granted by the Dominion Government of Canada.

There are Frontiersmen in New Zealand, recently having new Colours presented by their Governor-General, in Australia, and in Canada apart from the Canadian Division, there are the Imperial Frontiersmen and those of the 'Commonwealth'.

Our founder, Captain Roger Pocock, died a member of the

MAIL DROP

SOLDIER is delighted to receive readers' letters. These are YOUR pages — and more of you seem to be writing these days.

However, we would appreciate it if your letters are kept as brief as possible and if you have access to a typewriter, so much the better. Use one side of the paper, with double spacing between lines please.

If your letter is hand written, be as neat as you can.

Readers must also give their full names and addresses — if there is good reason for not wanting these published, they will be withheld.

Keep the letters flowing and send them to: Mail Drop, SOLDIER, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, ALDER-SHOT, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

The Editor regrets that we do not have the staff to undertake detailed research on matters of military his-

tory, militaria etc but if a query on current topics is likely to be of interest to most readers we shall endeavour to provide an answer through these columns.

Contributions for Call Signs are restricted to appeals by individuals trying to trace old comrades, and these, plus insertions for Reunions must be brief and will only be published once. Items connected with commercial gain cannot be accepted.

Canadian Division. — Col A Coleman, Commandant, The Legion of Frontiersmen (Canada Division), United Kingdom Command.

MoD does not officially recognise any quasi-military type organisations. The claim by Major T C R Armstrong-Wilson is therefore incorrect. — Ed.

Dismayed

I was rather dismayed to be taken to task once again over our Lonsdale Force Memorial window, this time by Colonel R K May (Retd), the Curator of the Borderers Regt Museum. I am sure that I did not claim that the Lonsdale Force was solely responsible for the eventual evacuation of the remaining forces from the 1st Airborne Division.

I am aware that each sector of the final perimeter was protected by the Border Regt in the Eastern Sector, Glider Pilots and 21 Ind Coy, North East, 7th King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Recce Squadron in the North, 156 Bn and the 10th Bn in the West.

As part of the overall defence the action carried out by the

Lonsdale Force kept the "gate" open.

I have had one letter from an ex-major with the 156th stating that on no account must I overlook the 156th Bn as they were in the church with Lonsdale Force and also a representative from the 10th Bn to say they were there also.

This has been followed by a colonel making enquiries as to the organiser of the window to prevent him from including the 156th and the 10th Battalions as they were not part of Lonsdale Force.

To all of these people I offer my humble apologies for I am ex-RAF and was not there so I cannot argue. All I am trying to do is simply to organise the dedication of a memorial window to a very brave force of men who fought in an Oosterbeek church.

I only hope that anyone who feels excluded will gain some satisfaction that after the passage of over 40 years when nothing has been done to recognise the fact of arms of the Lonsdale Force — a memorial window will be dedicated in their memory.

It is proving arduous to raise the necessary cost of the window

(£5,000) so I would appeal to your readers — if you can't support the project financially a modicum of goodwill would also be of great assistance. — Alan Harley, 19 Staverton Close, Mount Nod, Coventry, CV5 7LF.

Incorrect?

Reference SOLDIER, 1 July 1985, Oi/c Medals Office, Droitwich was incorrect if he said: "It was never the practice to pay the gratuity to anyone receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal with the rank of Warrant Officer 2 or above".

WO2s were entitled to the gratuity which was paid on termination of one's service or earlier on promotion to WO1.

I was awarded the LSGC with gratuity in List No 59, 1963.

It is interesting to note that in the case of one WO1, the Award and Forfeiture of his medal are both contained in this name list.

— Mr J Fisher, 150 Duncarn Drive, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 6LD.

Amazed

In SOLDIER 1 July you had an

article on home ownership in which you quoted the costs on a typical purchase. For a purchase of £45,000 you quoted solicitor's fees of £450.

It never ceases to amaze me how the media continually and apparently deliberately misleads the public on the amount of solicitors' fees for conveyancing.

We have had a thriving conveyancing business for over 100 years. If we obtained fees of one per cent on all conveyances perhaps we would be very rich, which we are not.

Competition today amongst solicitors is very keen and there are few matters where the costs exceed half a per cent. If your SOLDIER readers are paying one per cent they are clearly going to the wrong solicitors. — Lt Col D R S Allward, 63/65 Westhall Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR3 9YE.

Chaplains

R Rimmer in writing in these columns on the effects of amalgamation has his basic facts wrong. Royal Navy chaplains have no rank beyond "officer status". They are not, as the writer supposes, on the lowest rung of the commissioned ladder.

RN padres tell me they enjoy this and they have a freedom of access not granted to the ranked officer.

Naval chaplains can indeed rise to become Chaplain-of-the-Fleet, equivalent to the Chaplain-General (Army) or Chaplain-in-Chief (RAF).

Women could never serve as Army chaplains as he wishes because they are not ordained in the Anglican church and only can be enlisted following civilian experience. I dare say that there is an argument for their serving with the other Protestant denomina-

tions. — Lt Col DW Lee RADC, BMH Falklands, BFPO 666.

Reunions

The Loyal Regiment (North

Lancashire) London Branch Regimental Reunion Dinner, 7 for 7.30 pm, 7 September 1985, at The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour St, Marble Arch, Lon-

DOWN IN THE FOREST

Deep in a pine forest off the main road from Eastry to Dover are the crumbling remains of a war time defensive position. Hidden among the trees and undergrowth are a series of gun pits, slit trenches and command posts, dug deeply into the chalky soil and reinforced with corrugated sheets and shuttered concrete.

Over the years, the falling leaves have partially filled the gun pits; brambles have taken over, and foxes and rabbits have made a safe home for themselves within the site.

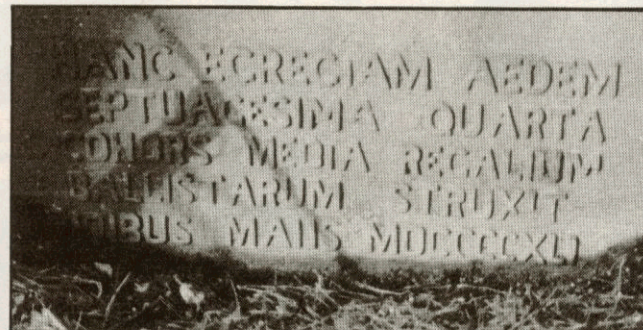
Nobody seems to know who actually constructed the position, the unit involved, and the year that it happened, until that is, an unusual clue was uncovered.

Heavy rain had washed away the debris from a concrete wall and left exposed a strange message. Strange that is because it is all in Latin, and as the lettering is raised by at least half an inch and perfectly formed, it must have taken someone, a craftsman at that, a considerable time to complete it.

Who was he — British, Canadian, American? Where is he now and to which unit did he belong?

Everyone loves a good mystery, especially if it is eventually solved. Can the message of these quiet woods, once the home of countless soldiers, be solved? I wonder. — Mr R Samson, 6 Burgess Green, Hacklinge, Deal, Kent, CT14 0AX.

An interesting letter, Mr Samson. Latin is not our strong point, but we believe the skills belonged to someone in the 74th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery and was carved in May 1941. Can any reader throw more light on the subject? — Ed.



Call-signs

I would very much like to hear from any ex-members of 23 Field Sqn RE who served at Wadi-el-Kuf, Benghazi or Tripoli, North Africa, in 1948-49. I am hoping to organise a reunion some time in the future. — K R Baker, Fermere House, Chapel Lane, Meare, Glastonbury, Somerset.

Competition

Competition 364 (3 June) required competitors to search through lots of squares to find many weapons, searching horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all directions.

Thirty seven weapons were discovered in this way, and the remaining unused letters, taken in sequence, produced three more — lance, pike and sword. The others: arrow, arquebus, axe, Bazooka, bayonet, bow, Bren, ballista, boomerang, Blowpipe, bullet, bomb, crossbow, Colt, club, cutlass, cannon, catapult, carbine, flintlock, gas, howitzer, Javelin, knuckleduster, kukri, musket, missile, matchlock, mine, pistol, revolver, sling, sabre, shell, spear, torpedo, tomahawk.

Winner of the £50 prize: Mrs K A Moore of Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. Well done Mrs Moore!

How Observant Are You?

1 Tail rotor of helicopter. 2 Shape of cloud below helicopter. 3 Number of ship's portholes. 4 'H' in 'Lightship'. 5 Door at front of ship. 6 Stern flagmast. 7 Left arm of left man on ship. 8 Wave at prow. 9 Lines at left of big wave below helicopter. 10 Lamp at top of ship.

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S16/85

Milan specialists enjoy togetherness

THE MILAN, regarded as one of the most formidable anti-tank weapons, was given a thorough testing under battle conditions at the Biennial Concentration held at Putlos, West Germany.

Exercise Third Flight, run by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards under Officer Commanding Concentration, Major Paul Belcher and the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, under Major Peter Holmes, successfully put 15 Milan platoons, from BAOR-based mechanised battalions, three from Berlin and one from the TA based in UK through their paces during the six-week period.

Major Belcher said: "It is an ideal opportunity for the Milan

platoons to have two solid weeks of uninterrupted training and assessment without being subjected to the rigours of normal battalion duties.

"The overall standard is very much higher than on Exercise Second Flight even though Milan platoons have doubled in size with the introduction of the extra fire posts and mobile sections."

During the two-week period, each platoon managed to fire its 1985 allocation of Milan missiles.

With the introduction of the new MIRA sight over half of the 483 missiles fired have managed to engage an obscured moving target with a high degree of success.

The platoons clearly benefitted from their training package.

"Each platoon has the opportunity to train and be assessed on AFV recognition, NBC training, live firing, first aid, fire control, fitness, vehicle and equipment maintenance, annual weapons testing, and tactical training using simulators," said Lieutenant Hugh Bodington.

"While the standards have varied, each platoon has been able

to make the most of the training and raise standards considerably."

The concentration also enabled Colour Sergeant William Mc-William from 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets to show off his new Milan carrier, which he has spent much time perfecting.

Hopefully, he will be able to 'sell' his innovation to the School of Infantry experts.

Third Flight also provided some quite excellent training for the 5th Battalion The Queen's Regiment TA platoon, from Hastings.

The 32 part-timers under Captain Mike Rumsey managed to put in a lot of training prior to arriving in Putlos to ensure they reached a respectable level alongside their Regular Army counterparts.

"It has been very satisfying for the boys because they have been able to compare standards and really see what is fact and what is fiction.

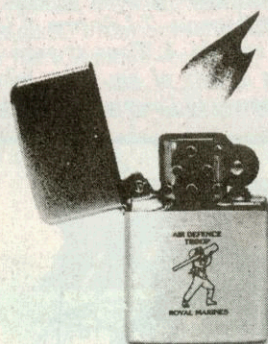
"On the whole, I'm very satisfied that they can keep up with the best of the Army," he said.

The success of Exercise Third Flight was apparent and much of this is due to the hard work of the Welsh Guards, who worked wonders with the administration, and the School of Infantry for laying on excellent training.



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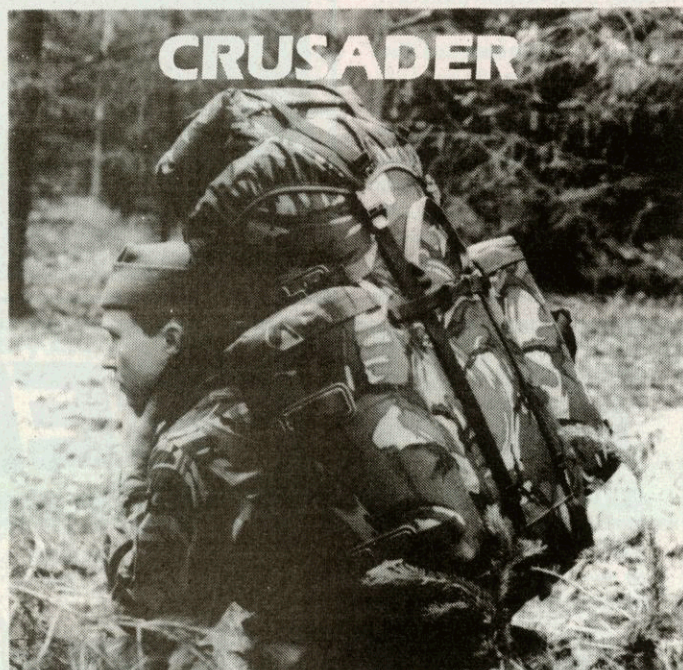
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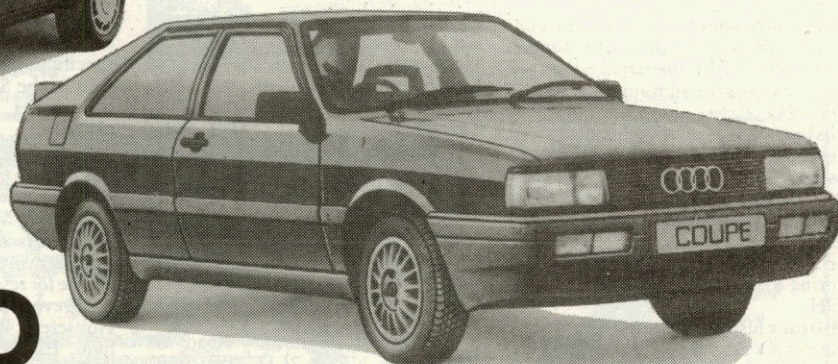


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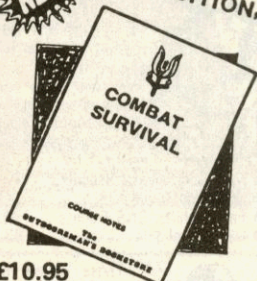
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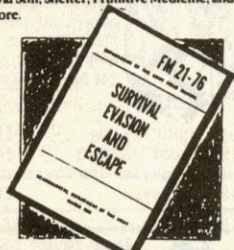
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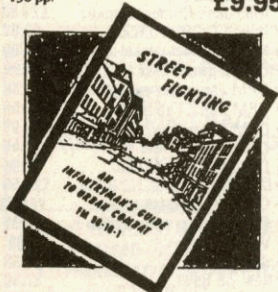


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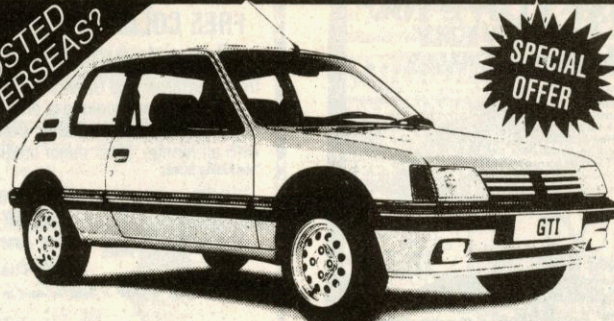
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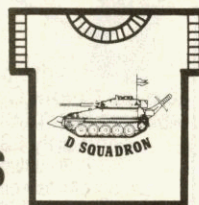
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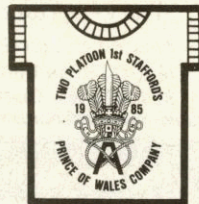


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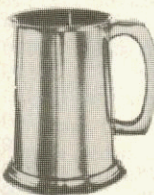


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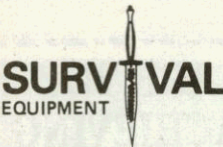
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Army scores a double — in a close run



Pictures: Les Wiggs

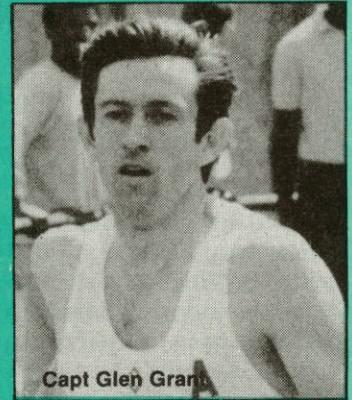
Sgt Kris Akabusi, left, on his way to clinching victory for the Army for the second successive year

THE ARMY achieved the double in the Inter-Services Athletics Championships at Aldershot for the second year in succession but had to wait to the final event, the 4x400 relay, before the men clinched victory over the RAF.

In fact the RAF were one point ahead at the start of the race. But when the baton was safely in the hands of Sergeant Kris Akabusi, APTC, for the last lap it was all over bar the shouting. The Army team, which included Sergeant Neil Killard, Royal Signals, Private Maynard, 3 Royal Anglian, and Sergeant J D Lake, Intelligence Corps, won in the record time of 3 minutes 11.3 seconds.

The Army did particularly well in all races up to the 1500 metres. Signalman Clarence Clender (10 Signal Regiment) took the 100 in 10.6 seconds; Sergeant Akabusi, as expected, won both the 200 and 400 in 21.7 and 47.5 seconds respectively. And Captain Glen Grant, Royal Artillery, again made off with the 1500 in 3 minutes 46.9 seconds.

In the 800 Sergeant Malcolm Edwards, an APTC instructor at the UKLF School of Physical and



Capt Glen Grant

Recreational Training, Bulford, added track events to his reputation as a noted cross country runner by winning the event in 1 minute 50.6 seconds, a new championship record.

In the women's events, another established Army athlete, Lieutenant Sue Parker, played her part in helping the Army team to repeat its winning performance by coming first in the 400 (57.8 seconds) and the 800 (2 minutes 12.6).

TEAM RESULTS

Men: 1 Army 157 pts, 2 RAF 148, 3 RN 84.

Women: 1 Army 99 pts, 2 WRAF 93, 3 RN 57.

YOUNG MAN PROVES A POINT!

A NEW Army distance star emerged at the Inter-Units Athletics Championships in Aldershot — one who had not even made the team for the Inter-Services championships.

Nineteen-year-old Signalman Mark Vile, representing 2 Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment, York, stormed home by more than 100 yards in the 5,000 metres and also took first place in the 1,500 metres later in the day.

Vile, who has been in the Army for less than a year, achieved his double despite having badly blistered feet.

He told SOLDIER: "I had hoped to run for the Army in the Inter-Services but didn't make the final squad so I had a point to prove today."

He added that his winning times were less than he had achieved before joining up and blamed this on only having two months' athletics training after completing his basic and trade training courses. He is confidently expecting to do even better next season.

The men's long jump record stood for 36 years until 1983 when Corporal 'DJ' Grant set a new mark of 7.41 metres.

At the Inter-Unit meeting Lance Sergeant John Taylor (2 Grenadier Guards) easily beat this with 7.60 metres. But he is unlikely to be awarded the record.

Jumps referee, Mr Roy Dyer, said afterwards: "I did see the jump. It was measured correctly and was a valid jump. But no wind gauge was available so it will be up to the Army Athletics Board."

The board is unlikely to ratify the record because of the breeze and the fact that there was no wind measuring instrument in use.

Taylor was undismayed. As well as his best ever jump he also won

the triple jump and the 110 metres hurdles. "An all round good day" he said.

Winners of the major units championships were 50 Missile Regiment from Rhine Army. They gradually pulled away from last year's winners 2 Grenadiers.

Victory was sealed when Lance Bombardier Nigel Pedge and Lance Bombardier 'Taff' Rogers took the first two places in the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

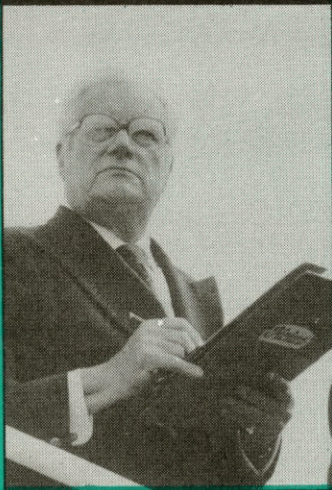
Third place went to 7 Royal Horse Artillery — by just half a point from two other contenders. Their first leg runner in the final 4x400 metres relay dropped the baton and spent some time searching for it.

Had he not continued 7 RHA would have lost the single point for finishing last and would have ended in fifth place!

The Minor Units trophy also went to Germany with 3 Ordnance Battalion. They had led by a single point going into the last relay which they won. And their nearest rivals, 24 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, were disqualified from the relay. Third were 5 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC.

Women's Services Northern Ireland retained the women's title but only after a fierce struggle involving several teams. Eventual runners-up were COD Donnington with 8 Signal Regiment third.

FAREWELL AFTER 50 YEARS



FOR MORE than half a century Lieutenant Colonel Ruarc Eraut has been a regular at Army Athletics Championships in Aldershot. The Inter-Units Championships at which he presided as track referee were his last as an official.

Colonel Eraut, now 76, told SOLDIER: "The reaction between brain and eye is going with old age!"

Not that there was any sign of that as he turned in his usual impeccable performance. Colonel Eraut has officiated at every championships since 1949 apart from four years spent in Singapore.

He retired from the Royal Signals in 1958.

"I ran here in 1929 and reckon I have been here almost every year since in some capacity or another.

He finds things have changed a great deal since he was a half and quarter miler back in the 1930s.

"In those days the programme was set and they stuck to it. If people were not there it was too bad.

"They used to charge threepence admission and the stands were absolutely full. Of course there were two whole divisions in Aldershot Command then."

SAILBAG FULL OF TROPHIES

By MIKE PETERS

BRITISH Soldier, a 53ft Nicholson sloop, skipped by Major Hugh Hind, REME, from RARDE, Malvern, romped away with a sailbag full of trophies during the Army Sailing Association Regatta and the Services Offshore race to Guernsey.

The ASA regatta staged at the Joint Services Sailing Centre at Gosport also brought a surprise victory for the Royal Corps of Transport. Warrant Officer 2 Brian Wright, from 17 Port Regiment, at Gosport put together a scratch crew aboard 32ft Contessa Carmens Lady and ended up winners of the 80-mile passage race.

Winning two of the three division one races in the ASA regatta and coming second in the third British Soldier was an easy winner of the inshore series.

The big sloop encountered heavy winds in the Solent and needed slick handling to win the inshore series.

She took another trophy in the



passage race but could only manage second place.

The Division 2 passage race saw WO2 Brian Wright and Carmens Lady produce their unusual victory. The five strong crew had never sailed together before and

their craft was one of the oldest.

Carmens Lady was just back from a trip to the Baltic and had already covered 4,000 miles this season.

It was near the end of the passage race when the Truckies decided on a different course from the rest of the fleet. Switching to the opposite side of the Solent they found wind and tide and led by a mile at the finish.

"We were so far ahead that we had time to go back out and help another boat with a broken down engine," said WO2 Wright.

A protest against the Truckies for allegedly finishing outside the distance marker resulted in a nailbiting wait for the five.

Then it was scramble to find

The crew of British Soldier, from left: Staff Sergeant Charlie Wickham, Sgt Geoff Hayter, WO2 Peter Buchanan, Cpl Ralph Ritchie, Major Hugh Hind, Major Bill Jewel, WO2 Alan Cook, Major Willie Watson, Donnington. Not in picture; Major Ed Tew.

new kit and borrow a spinnaker as the RCT five decided to make a big bid for success in the Services Offshore race to Guernsey. This time they were out of luck.

British Soldier led the Army to victory in the combined services event picking up the Madden Bowl and the Royal Ocean Racing Club trophy.

Major Hind also collected the Camper & Nicholson Cup to show the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force skippers a clean pair of heels.



Relaxing after their surprise win, some of the crew from Carmens Lady. From left: Driver Howard Burton, Corporal Ray Graham, and WO2 Brian Wright. Not in picture: Drivers Steve Whitney and Steve Smith.

3LI BEAT THE STARS!

A CSE show with a difference visited 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry at Omagh, Northern Ireland when "Question of Sport" personalities Emlyn Hughes, Sharron Davies, John H Stracey and Sonia Lanaman lined up against the "home" team of Warrant Officer 2 Ken Blowes,

RAPC, Sergeant Mick Gill, Corporal Ted Noon and Private Paul Dew.

The sporting stars didn't seem to mind being beaten 41-29, quizmaster Ralph Dellor proved as impeccable and impartial as usual and 3LI ensured victory only in the final stages.

2 Para on target

ACES from 2nd Battalion. The Parachute Regiment, won the £501 top prize in the 1985 Naafi Carlsberg national team darts championships.

The four-strong team, Corporals Larry Fixter (captain), 'Ginge' Dawes, Taff Rees, and Paul Beattie, from the Corporals' Club, Normandy-Bruneval Barracks, Aldershot, snatched victory at The Spotlight Club, RAF Brize Norton where nine teams from across the country competed in the finals.

2 Para won through an eliminator, quarter — and semi-final rounds, before meeting and beating the Lightning Training Flight, RAF Binbrook, Lincoln, 3-1 to take the £501 cash prize, the national trophy, and individual awards.

The losing semi-finalists, from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Colerne, Wiltshire, and the Drumbeat Club, HMS Drake, Devon-



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port, each received £101.

Corporal Larry Fixter, said "Brilliant! We came here and had to play an eliminator, but won through. We were surprised by the fight the Binbrook team put up. They matched us almost dart for dart."

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