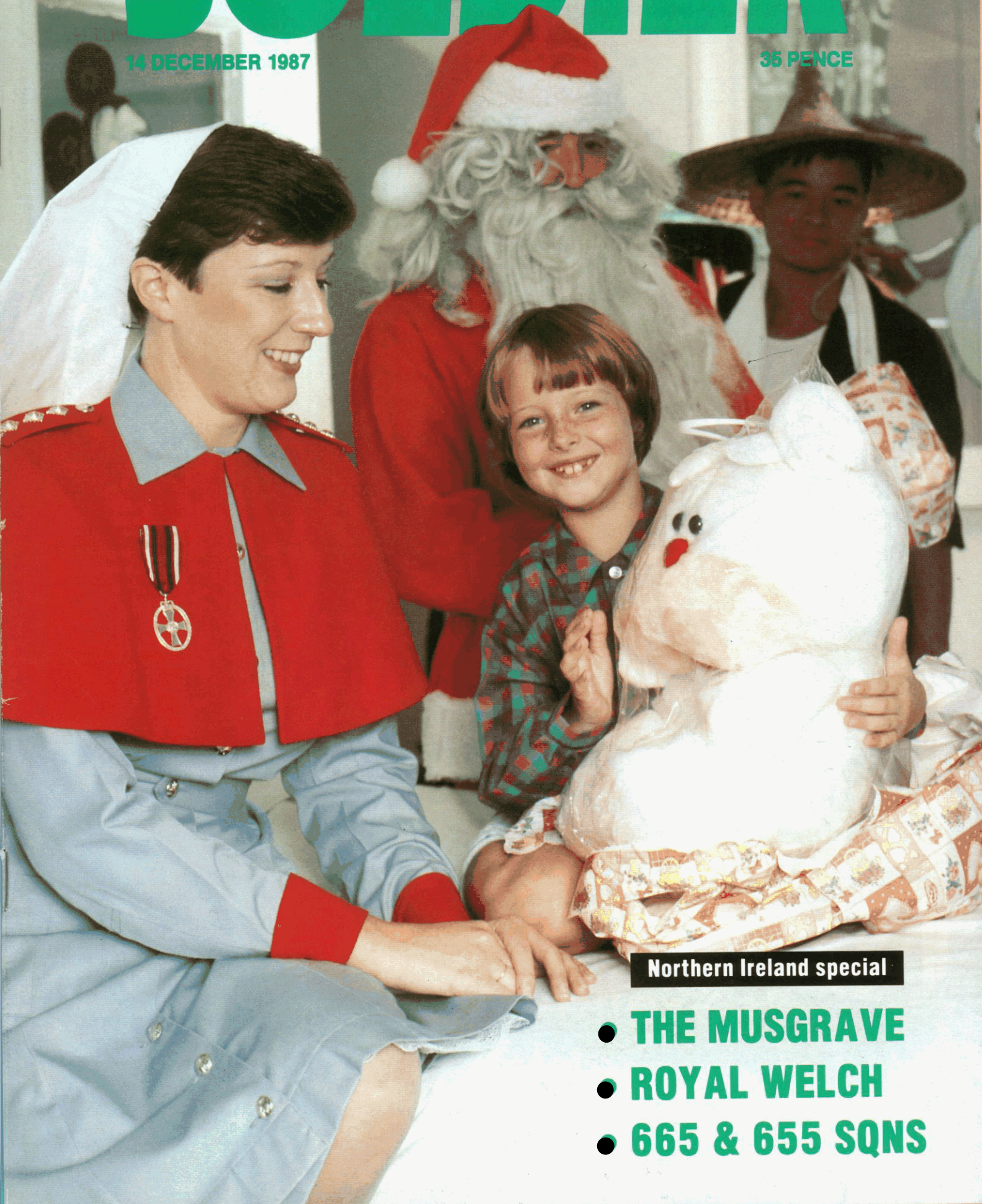


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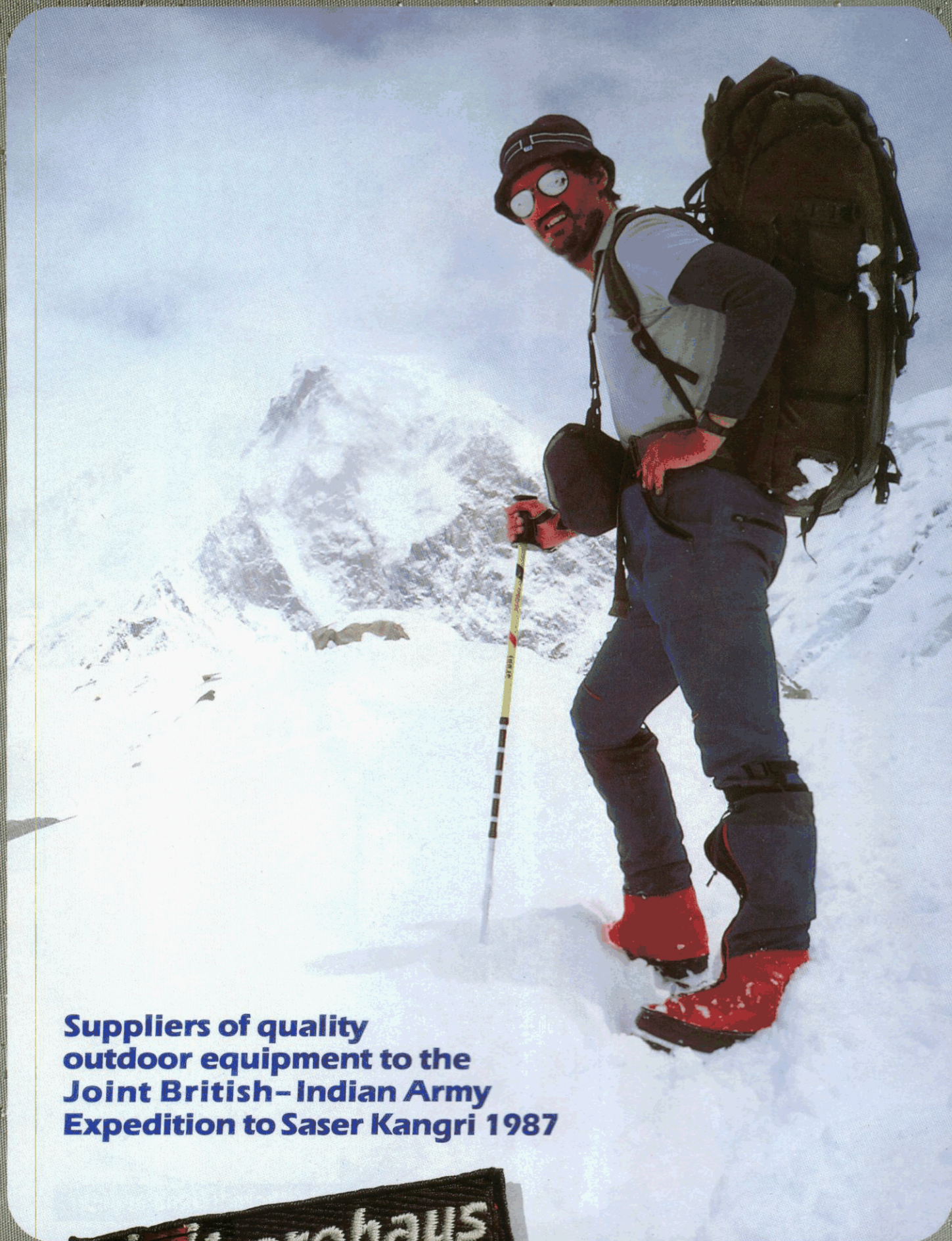
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VOL. 43/25

14 DECEMBER 1987

CONTENTS

- 4 Letters
- 7 News
- 10 People
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 14 Catering for Christmas
- 17 Lombard RAC Rally team
- 18 Anne Armstrong
- 21 The Musgrave
- 25 1 RWF in Northern Ireland
- 33 Top cover from AAC
- 37 Hong Kong Tattoo
- 38 Books and records
- 42 Return to Cambrai
- 43 HOAY competition
- 45 SOLDIER Mart
- 52 Sport

FRONT COVER: Snow doesn't fall in Hong Kong, so Santa Claus has to rely on an alternate form of transport – a rickshaw. At the British Military Hospital he paused in his busy schedule to meet Debbie Hann (8) and Ward Sister Capt Debra Coxon.

Picture: PO(Phot) Williams, JSPRSBK

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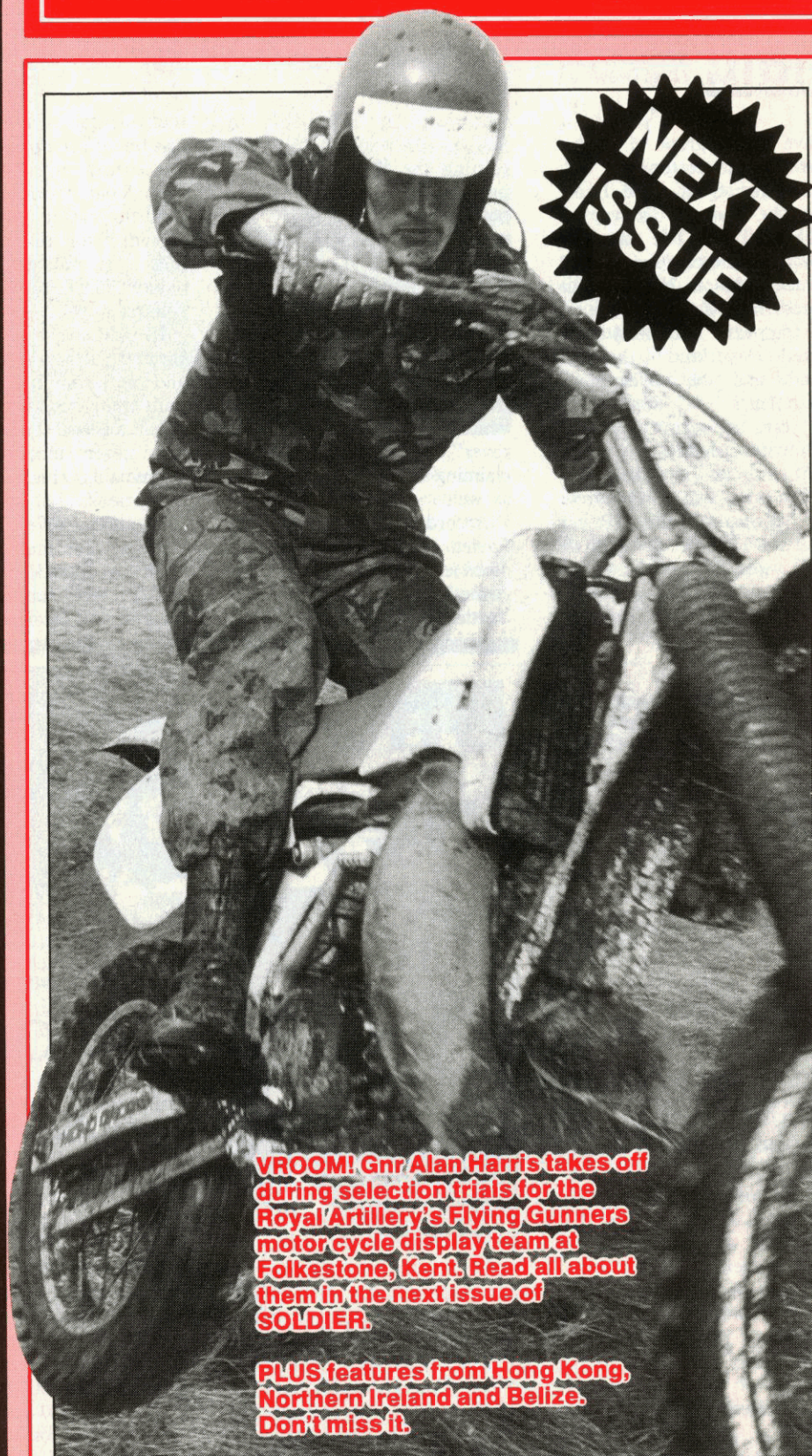
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



VROOM! Gnr Alan Harris takes off during selection trials for the Royal Artillery's Flying Gunners motor cycle display team at Folkestone, Kent. Read all about them in the next issue of SOLDIER.

PLUS features from Hong Kong, Northern Ireland and Belize. Don't miss it.

LETTERS

Write to:
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QSGT Drew

I have a photograph of a New Year's card posted by my grandfather QSGT Fred Drew when he was on his way to India in 1891. The envelope shows that the card was posted in Suez on March 26 1891 to an address near Ross on Wye.

It appears the mail was routed overland through France and the envelope is dated April 3 -91 Ross. Even 100 years ago Army mail was dealt with speedily.

When in India (where my mother was born) Fred Drew was QMSgt, 8 Battery Royal Artillery. He died at Mooltan on October 23 1896. - W E Chapman, 40 Copperfield Road, Bassett, Southampton, Hants SO2 3NX.

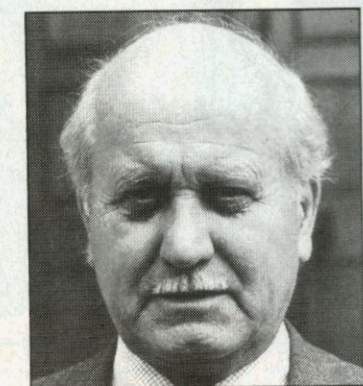
Rave notice for Rodney

May we congratulate your record reviewer for having a side of a record devoted to his marches.

It is almost impossible nowadays to write a march which will enter and stay in the repertoire of a majority of bands; perhaps the most recent one being Alford's *Army of the Nile* written during the Second World War. However, Rodney Bashford's marches are becoming increasingly popular with bands and one is confident that his music will be played well into the next century.

There are many good British marches which are sadly neglected probably because bands keep very often to the safe 20 or so favourites. (It seems like 20, but it is in fact more).

Bashford's marches deserve to live because each has its own character carefully scored into the music. The 11 marches illustrate this as do those others not included.



RODNEY BASHFORD

Let us hope that the record producer of the series will return at a later day to RBB, hopefully having explored the talents of Howe, Dunn and Steck, Young, Jaeger, and Ord Hume. One hopes that by that time some composers currently writing, eg, Kenny, Turner, Beat or Lane will have written sufficient to fill a side. - G V Skinner, 39 Ashbrook Road, Old Windsor, Windsor, Berks SL4 2LT.

Soviet tank claim is a Red herring

The item in SOLDIER to Soldier (November 16) concerning the Russian claim to have built the first tank is before me, along with the paragraph from *Soviet Military Review*.

It isn't the first time this Red herring has been paraded and I imagine it won't be the last, but it is a spurious claim at best. Vezdekhod can apparently be translated as "go anywhere" which it couldn't, or "land rover", so perhaps they are claiming to have invented that as well.

According to Zaloga, in *Soviet Tank and Combat Vehicles of WWII* (Arms & Armour Press 1984), the Vezdekhod had one full width

track instead of a pair, which was fine if you drove straight at the enemy but useless if he moved out of the way.

Little castor wheels were provided for road movement but it is unlikely that they would have worked across country.

In any event, by Zaloga's account, although the chassis and an armoured hull were built, they were never actually fitted together and the turret was never mounted either. Presumably this is why the thing looks so small in the illustration. We are only looking at the shell of the hull.

If it is quoted correctly, the entry in the Guinness Book of Records is incorrect. It was

Little Willie which ran for the first time in September 1915; Mother, or Big Willie only undergoing workshop trials in the December. However, experimental tracked chassis had been tested in both Britain and France for some months prior to this.

If the Russians are claiming credit for the original concept then they are forgetting the designs of the Austrian Burstyn in 1911 and De Mole in Australia in 1912.

If they are really claiming to have built the first tank then your final sentence sums it up perfectly. Unless the thing could function properly under service conditions it doesn't deserve the name of tank. Since



At the gates of Jerusalem - December 1917

Mandate was result of political failure

From the Rt Hon the Viscount Allenby

As a regular reader of SOLDIER, I was naturally interested in your article *A Bitter Mandate* in the November 16 edition.

Sadly the "bitter mandate" was the result of failure to find an acceptable political decision then and indeed now.

Let us not forget the great gallantry and devotion of our forces on the battlefields of the Middle East prior to the capture of Jerusalem at 11am on December 9, 1917. My great uncle entered and left Jeru-

salem two days later on foot.

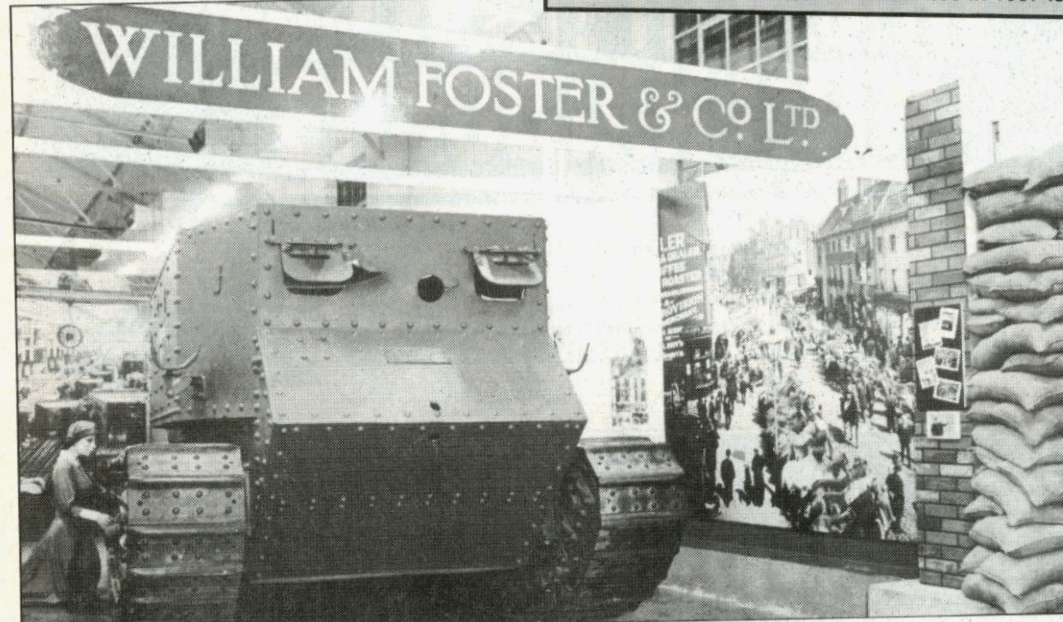
I enclose what I believe to be an unpublished photograph of the event taken by our ADC. Though taken 70 years ago, it is not too bad even by today's standards.

I believe the significance is that Jerusalem had been occupied prior to December 1917 for 2,082 years, almost to the day. Certainly if one is to believe the press cuttings of the day, the event had considerable historical significance at that time made possible by the forces of several countries. - Allenby, House of Lords.

Mercian wins £50

A £50 Christmas present is on its way to WO2 J A Collier of Bn HQ, 1 Mercian, in Wolverhampton, for winning SOLDIER's HOAY competition No 425. Your last chance to win £50 in 1987 is

on page 43 of this issue. Send off your entry early to avoid the Christmas postal rush - and don't forget to order SOLDIER for 1988 with many more chances to win £50.



First tank: Little Willie in The Tank Museum at Bovington Camp in Dorset

the Central Technical Committee turned Porokovskikov's design down it certainly doesn't fulfil this criteria.

Even so it would be wrong to try and deny that the Russian inventor was thinking along the

right lines. The point is that he was not alone and it was really a question of who could get it right first.

Little Willie still survives, here at the Tank Museum, and although it was not judged

suitable for active service it clearly showed the way to the first machine that really deserves the name of tank. - David Fletcher, Librarian, The Tank Museum, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

NO BETTER PLACE FOR MANILOW BERET...

The Queen's Own Yeomanry (SOLDIER November 16) do have pride in their regiment including the Yorkshire Hussars, the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons, the Cheshire Yeomanry and the East Riding Yeomanry from days gone by.

They do have a very large training commitment and a lot of vehicles to maintain, so perhaps they spend less time dressing and more time doing!

Anyway the only good thing for a Barry Manilow LP is to put it on your head. - Lt John R Metcalfe, 13/18 RH Humberside ACF, 77 Langrick Av, Howden, N. Humberside DN14 7SS.

KEPT IN TOUCH BY THE HONKY TONK GAZETTE

As a result of the hurricane in October I had to inspect my loft and to my delight came across a batch of papers from my Army days which I thought had been lost many years ago.

They included copies of our locally produced squadron newspaper, the Honky Tonk Gazette. We were settled in the small town of Hermannsburg on Luneburg Heath and had built for ourselves a pub, called the Green Diamond Honky Tonk, the Green Diamond being the tactical sign painted on the vehicles of HQ Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Reconnaissance Regiment.

We began weekly issues in November 1945, producing four pages. The Christmas number was double sized and it may have been the last one. The corps began disbanding as from January 1, 1946 and around that time I was away on

a course during which I was posted to another regiment. When I visited former Squadron HQ a few weeks later only a rear party was left, clearing up and handing over.

Others, too, might come across old numbers of locally produced Army unit magazines.

I am sure that these flourished, just as did regimental and divisional concert parties, in order to keep alive the spirit of comradeship, to counter boredom - especially after the excitement of the campaign and the brief euphoria which followed it - and to help to maintain a sense of identity in units which were being depleted because of demobilisation and reorganisation. - M McEwan Charlish, 132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3DT.

Calling...

Members of the Army Medical Service display team in 1979, including Capt Charles de Buse, Sgt Paul Pewtony and Phil Hubbert. ACpl Steve Caulfield,

LCpl Marc Morgan, QSGT Trish Newton, QLCpl Morag Ferguson, LCpls Stuart Dugmonth and Mike Keeny, and Drv Mick Mamwell. Ex-LCpl Gary Kelly, now at 9 North Drive, Harwell, R Didcot, Oxon OX11 0PE, would like to hear from you.

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CARL SAVES RECRUIT IN GRENADE FUMBLE

QUICK thinking when a nervous recruit fumbled a live hand grenade has earned Cpl Carl Evans a commendation - and saved the two men from serious injury.

Cpl Evans, stationed at the Depot of The King's Division in York, was instructing recruits in grenade throwing on Warcop Training Area, Cumbria when the heart-stopping incident happened.

In the moment of throwing his grenade, the recruit struck the throwing bay

protective wall and dropped the grenade. Inexplicably, he picked it up, clutched it to his chest and crouched down.

With seconds to spare before the grenade exploded, Cpl Evans pulled the recruit to his feet, grabbed his arm, ordered him to throw and pulled him into cover.

Cpl Evans's quick thinking has now earned him a commendation from Maj Gen Charles Guthrie, until recently GOC North East District.



QUICK THINKER: Cpl Carl Evans

Storm foils China climb

WHEN Colonel John Blashford-Snell, explorer extraordinary, says a journey is not one he would like to repeat you can take it that it was rough.

In fact, Jade Venture, an expedition to climb Xixabangma (26,400ft), China's highest mountain, cost most participants about two stones in weight.

The worst Himalayan weather for 20 years (which trapped hundreds of tourists who had to be rescued) tested Jade Venture's climbers' and scientists' powers of endurance to the full. They included ten Army personnel.

Base camp tents were buried under nine feet of snow, another was destroyed and a third camp marooned for three days.

Nevertheless, though Xixabangma's unclimbed east face remained unconquered, a new route was established to 25,000 feet and Capt John Williams, R Hamps, and Lt John Vlasto, R Sigs, reached the summit of Pungpa Ri (24,000ft) another important objective.

The withdrawal from the mountains was a nightmare trek to Kathmandu, Nepal, through deep snow along a route blocked by landslides, fallen trees and tangled telephone lines.

Safely home, Lt Col Henry Day RE, the expedition's climbing leader, and Messrs Williams and Vlasto are preparing for the spring 1988 Joint British Services Everest Expedition which will include 16 soldiers.



Lt Nicci Harold, 19, made Royal Corps of Transport history when she became the first woman to command an all-male parade at Buller Barracks, the celebrated Aldershot home of the corps.

Lt Harold (above) passed out from

Sandhurst in April, did the RCT troop commanders' course, then subsequently took over a squad of recruits. After supervising them for nine weeks of training she marched 19 of them on to the square for their passing off parade

Akrotiri raises cash for fetal monitor

THE Service community at Akrotiri, Cyprus, rallied round to raise £7,000 to buy a domiciliary fetal monitoring system, the first system of its kind to be deployed in the Services and one of the first outside the major UK teaching hospital.

The system allows pregnant women to

have their babies monitored from home or from their nearest medical centre instead of reporting to hospital. The heartbeat is recorded by a small computer in a briefcase and transmitted down a telephone line to a receiving computer at The Princess Mary's Hospital at the RAF station.



Picture: Stephen George

Welsh TA in business

A GROUP of senior Welsh business executives accepted their "call up" for a day when they went to see for themselves how the Territorial Army is tested on exercise.

The executives, members of the Wales Employers Support Group of the Territorial Army were guided round Exercise Dragon's Dragoon in west Wales over the weekend and met groups of soldiers dug in to defend key locations. The group was set up to provide a link between the TA in Wales and employers who may otherwise be reluctant to allow volunteers the time off to train.

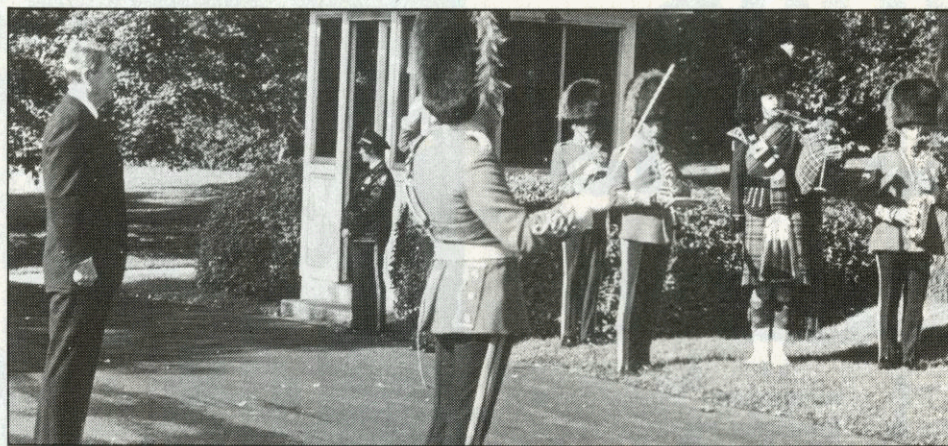
The Welsh 160 Brigade exercise, was primarily to practise the two home defence battalions in their job of defending key targets in the Principality. The 3rd Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers from north Wales joined their south Wales colleagues, 4th Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales at Castlemartin, near Pembroke, more used to German tank activity than Welsh infantry.

Enemy on the exercise came from the Nato-committed 3rd Bn RRW, based on Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys. During the days and nights of the exercise, the "enemy" constantly probed and attacked defences making sleep impossible for weary volunteers.

The end of Dragon's Dragoon also marked the end of Maj Gen Peter de la Billiere's tour as GOC Wales. Addressing troops at Manorbier Royal Artillery Camp, he thanked them for the time and commitment they gave to the TA.

"Please realise that Regular soldiers – and I represent them here – are proud to serve alongside you," he told them.

Staff bands of the Royal Corps of Transport, the 1st Bn The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary got together to give the first display of massed military bands in Belfast city centre for several months. Lunch-time shoppers applauded as the 98 musicians paraded down Donegall Place



President Reagan listens to the bands of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Scots DG salute the President

AFTER a hectic programme, the Military Band and Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards have returned from an important tour of the United States of America during which they performed a specially composed salute to President Reagan outside the White House.

The tour, their third this year (they were

in Australia in March and Belize in September), lasted three weeks and took in the Eastern seaboard with the aim of promoting Britain.

The bands, lead by Bandmaster Dave Thompson and Pipe Major John Bruce, began their programme in New York before moving on to West Point, Philadelphia and Washington.

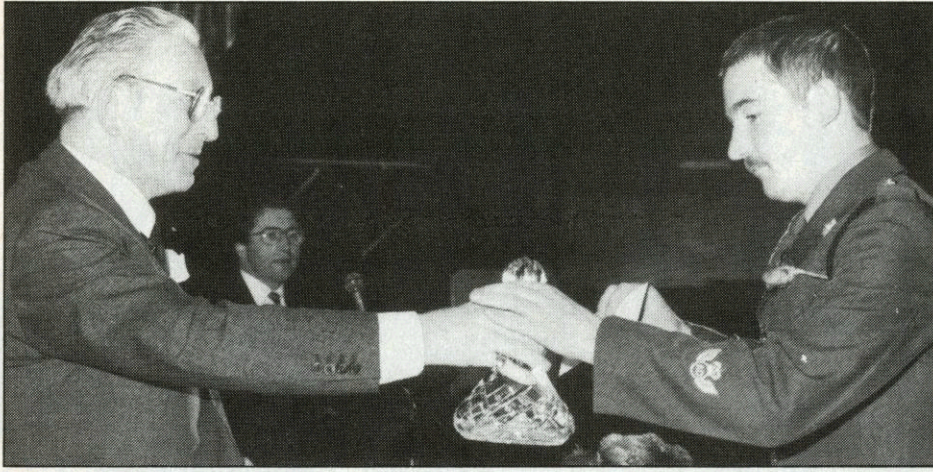
Highlight of the tour was a private audience with President Ronald Reagan.

The bands formed up outside the White House and struck up "Salute to the President" as Mr Reagan appeared from the Oval Office. The tune was specially composed and arranged for the occasion by Bandmaster Thompson. The President was presented with a framed copy of the score at the end of the performance.

Later the bands visited Baltimore and Georgia.

North East change

NEW man in charge of the Army's North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division is Maj Gen David Naylor who for the past two years has been Deputy Military Secretary. Gen Naylor, who enlisted as a National Serviceman in 1956 before joining the 2nd Bn Scots Guards, succeeds Maj Gen Charles Guthrie who moves to the MoD, London, to become Assistant Chief of the General Staff.



Dvr Jeremy Colligan receives his Man of the Year award from Lord Tonypandy

A MAN OF COURAGE

ARMY air dispatcher Dvr Jeremy Colligan is back in the air with the rest of his team from 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT, based at RAF Lyneham – and that makes him unique, for Jeremy is the only Serviceman to carry on serving after a heart and lung transplant.

In recognition of his courage, Jeremy was acknowledged as one of nine Men of the Year at a special luncheon in London.

Two years ago the young air dispatcher was diagnosed as having a medical problem which was ageing his lungs at an alarming rate. Lung and heart transplants were his only hope. He had to wait until last summer before a suitable donor could be found.

Jeremy was rushed from RAF Lyneham to Papworth Hospital, Cambridge for his operation and within 24 hours was out of bed and walking about the ward. By October he was back with 47 AD Sqn. A month later he had started a rigorous training programme.

Now he is back with the squadron as a flying member of the unit. He plans to walk from Land's End to Papworth next summer to raise money for the hospital.

Lowlanders guard Edinburgh Castle

A COMPOSITE company of 60 all ranks from the 1st Bn 52nd Lowland Volunteers was formed specially for Edinburgh Castle guard duty. The majority of the Territorial Army soldiers for the week long stint came from E Company Highland Light Infantry based in Glasgow.

Other volunteers were drawn from A Coy RHF, of Rutherglen and C Coy KOSB from Dumfries.



The first of half a million trees which will form part of an Army-designed landscape on the Otterburn Training Area, Northumberland, is planted by Viscount Ridley, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, and Brig Dick Mundell, Deputy Commander of the Army's North East District. The landscape project has been created specially to meet Army requirements for the training of troops in such tactics as rural foot and vehicle patrols, ambush, helicopter operations and the concealment of field headquarters.



Sgt Maj Peter "Santa" Phillips took everyone by surprise when he turned up at Manorbier during the final phase of Exercise Dragon's Dragoon. Peter, who is a Regular permanent staff instructor with 104 Air Defence Regiment RA in Newport, dropped in to drum up sponsorship support for his Children in Need cycle marathon from Newport to Manorbier



HALF CENTURY: Dougie Coombes at RMA Sandhurst

KEVIN'S A MODEL SOLDIER

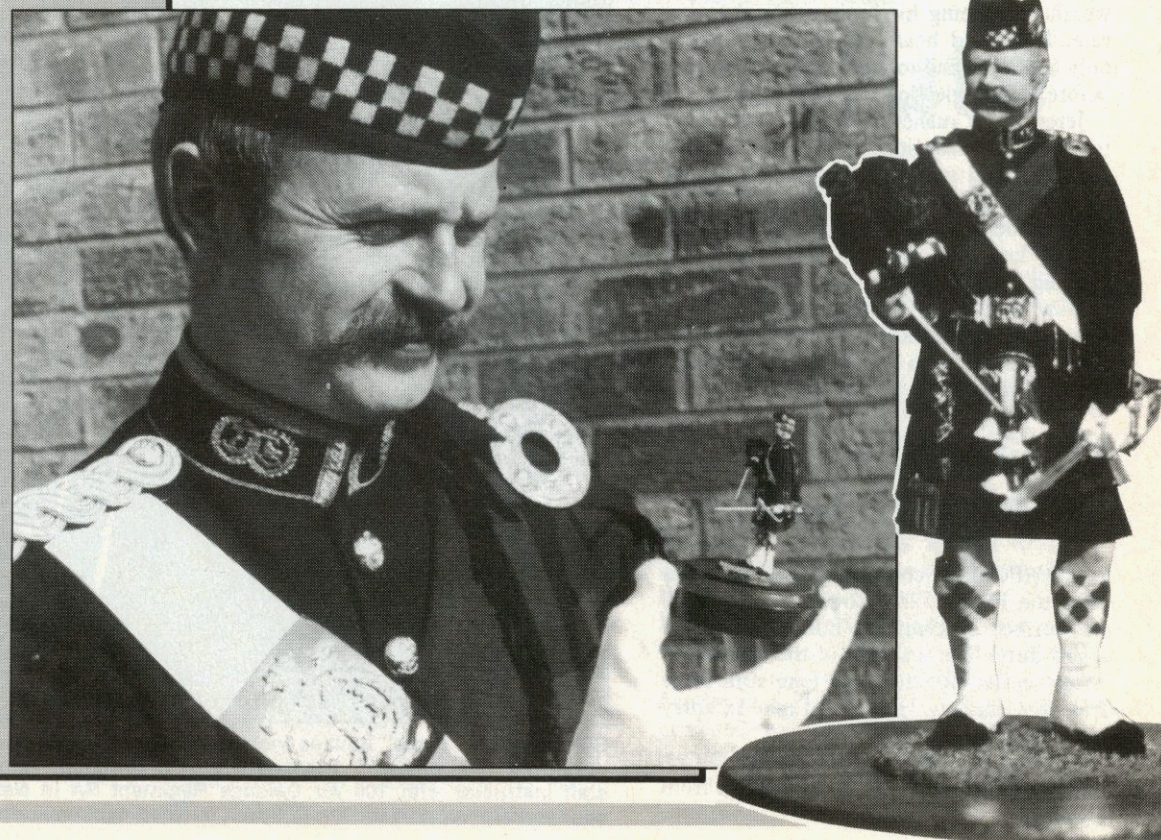
WO1 Kevin Lamb, Bandmaster of the 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, is every inch a model soldier.

So much so that you can glue him together and paint him!

Three years ago Kevin, now with the Argylls at Colchester, was taking part in the final parade of the Scottish Division's Junior School of Music in Aberdeen when he was approached by representatives from an Aberdeen company that makes miniatures.

They obviously chose him because he was so good looking! That's Kevin's story anyway.

Hundreds of detailed photographs later the company has now reproduced Kevin as a 1/12th scale figure in white metal. You can buy him for £8 and even he thinks the likeness is remarkable.



Dougie's half century

Mr Douglas Coombes stands in front of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst which he served for 50 years. Dougie started as a boy gardener in 1937 and has worked there ever since apart from service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. For the past 22 years he has been mess superintendent of Old College. His retirement was marked with the

presentation of a plaque and a carriage clock paid for by his many friends at the college, past and present.



LORD MAYOR SPRATT

London's new Lord Mayor has close Army links

THE NEW Lord Mayor of London lists military history among his hobbies. And Sir Greville Spratt (or Col Sir Greville Spratt, to give him his military title) can recall a considerable amount of personal military connection in his well packed career.

At the end of the Second World War, he joined the Coldstream Guards, and was commissioned in 1946 after attending Sandhurst OCTU.

Then he was seconded to Glubb Pasha's Arab Legion and

served in Palestine, Trans Jordan and Egypt. Back in the UK he joined the ranks of the Honourable Artillery Company as a private and was recommissioned in 1950, working his way up through the officer ranks to become CO and subsequently regimental colonel.

A decade ago he became chairman of the City Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association and subsequently held office with the TAVR Association for Greater London.

The glittering Lord Mayor's

banquet in London's ancient Guildhall, attended by some 800 guests, was not without its military trappings and personalities. Appropriately the orchestra of the Honourable Artillery Company played during the banquet and speeches were heralded by trumpeters of The Life Guards.

And among those attending were Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Lord Lt of Greater London, and Lady Bramall, and Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall, Chief of the General Staff, and Lady Bagnall.



SSgt Brian Cook

Yeoman service

SSgt Brian Cook, who has been Battery Quartermaster Sergeant of 202 (The Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Field Battery Royal Artillery for the past 24 years, hung up his uniform for the last time at the end of Exercise Keystone in BAOR.

Brian served in the Territorial Army for almost 37 years and he will be continuing to serve the battery in his civilian capacity as a vehicle mechanic.

GUNNERS SHIELD



Lt Col Mike Kearon

LT COL Mike Kearon, Army Schools Liaison Officer for Sussex and Surrey, presented a regimental shield to Tomlinscote School, Frimley, Surrey to mark the visit by six pupils to 47 Field Regiment at Gutersloh, West Germany.

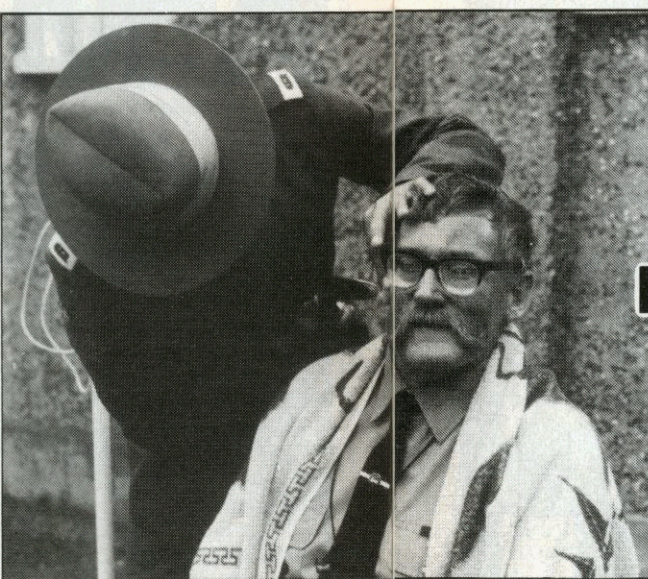
One of the boys, David Ellis, was so impressed with what he saw that he wasted no time before enlisting in the Army.

The gunners took the lads into the Harz Mountains and gave them a night in the open.

PEOPLE

KUKRI LESS ON

THAT look of terror in the eyes of WO2 Lawrence Gilbertson, Aldershot Garrison Works Liaison Officer, may not be altogether feigned! Lawrence, leader of the garrison Scout Group, agreed to have his Edwardian whiskers removed by kukri to raise money for the Scouts and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Doing the cutting is Rfn Dhojbahadur Gurung, 3 Coy 6GR based at Church Crookham.



Upwardly mobile apprentice . . .

WHEN 15-year-old Frank Rogers joined the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate in 1950 he could not have foreseen that he would be returning 37 years later as the college's quartermaster in the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Frank's progress in the Royal Signals is unusual in that he has held every rank between apprentice and lieutenant colonel.

So hard on Pyrenees – and ankles!

EIGHT members of the WRAC from London District units put the city streets far behind them to trek nearly 100 miles across the Spanish Pyrenees.

Their achievements included the climbing of two major peaks and finding their way across the Paris Metro!

Two members of the party, Pte Emma Williams and LCpl Lisa Walker sprained ankles before they even got to the hilly bits, but otherwise the expedition went without a hitch.

Hardest part of the journey was the group's successful two day climb up Monte Perido (Lost Mountain). Fortunately the girls didn't lose their way and were rewarded by spectacular views from the summit.



On top of Pena Oroel in the Spanish Pyrenees are (from left) Pte Karen Davies, 11 Ord Bn; Cpl Ruth Leslie, 90 Sy Sect; Pte Jane Grainger, 12 (MOD) P1; Pte Suzanne Richardson, WLAS; and Capt Margaret Pratley, WLAS. The picture was taken by LCpl Bev Crawford, HQ SIB RMP UKLF



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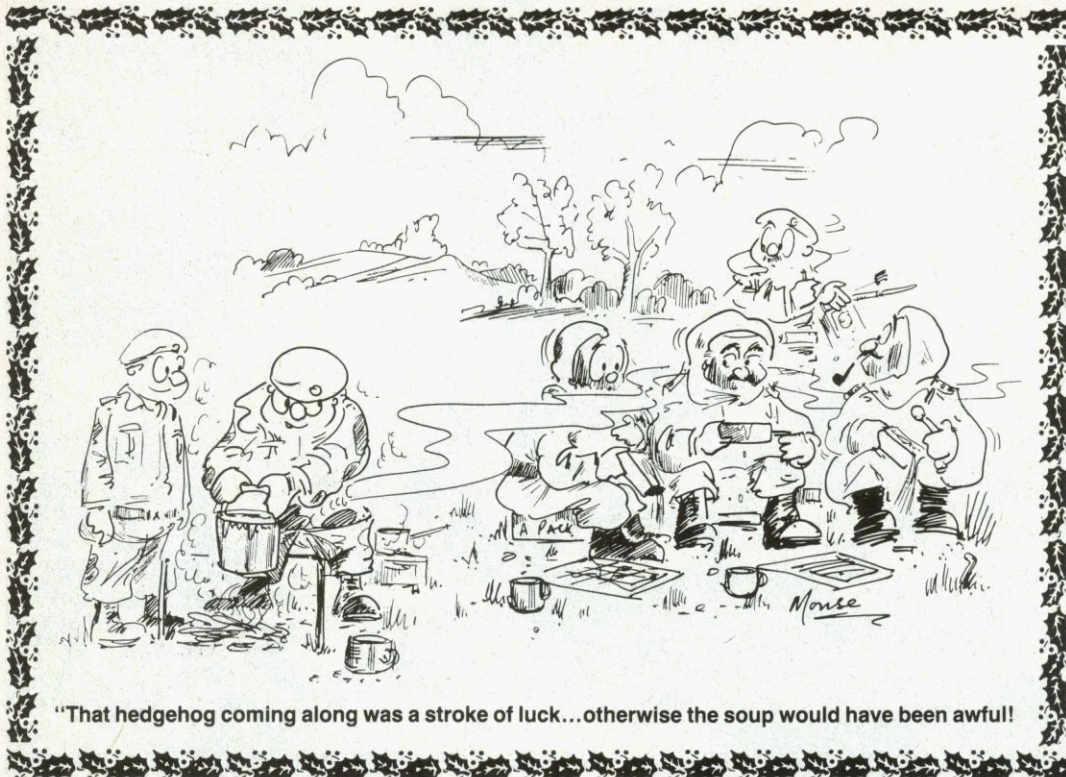
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SOLDIER to Soldier



"That hedgehog coming along was a stroke of luck...otherwise the soup would have been awful!"

Can we have our badges back, please

The enthusiasm with which collectors of militaria pursue their hobby is easily understandable, but occasionally one or two become too eager to add to their collections – and resort to stealing.

The Tank Museum at Bovington Camp in Dorset has suffered several thefts and attempted thefts of small items. According to director/curator Lt Col George Forty, they were "clearly the work of collectors rather than children."

The latest items to disappear were stolen from the Royal Tank Regiment badge display – three metal tank arm badges, and first pattern cap badges from 1921 (in brass finish) and 1922 (silver finish).

The museum is anxious to replace the items and would be interested to hear from anyone who could help.

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

Army Museum bags NZ Cross at last

A New Zealand Cross, one of the rarest of gallantry awards, has been bought at auction by the National Army Museum.

Only 23 New Zealand Crosses were awarded and the museum has been trying to purchase one for 25 years. That ambition was finally achieved at Christie's when the National Army Museum's bid of £16,000 was successful.

Going on display shortly will be the cross – unique to New

Zealand where it ranks with the Victoria Cross – awarded to Maori constable Henare Kepa Te Ahururu for gallantry at Moturoa on November 7 1868 during the second Maori War.

At the time locally raised forces were not eligible to receive gallantry awards from the British Government. But the then British Governor of the islands instituted the award without the sovereign's knowledge to encourage local troops. Constable Kepa's was the first to be awarded.

Royal consent was finally given in 1870.

The National Army Museum's medal interest extends to awards made to Imperial and Commonwealth Servicemen and sanctioned by the Crown. The price, £17,840 after the buyer's premium and tax had been added, was reckoned to be a very fair one for a very rare medal.

Also on the subject of museums, a major exhibition telling the story of Army commandos during the Second World War has transferred from the National to the Museum of Army Transport in Beverley, North Humberside.



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A happy Christmas to you all

This issue is the last for 1987. The next issue will be dated January 4, although it will be available in some areas just before Christmas.

To all SOLDIER's readers, a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



Picture: Terry Champion

BOMBARDED – BY CHRISTMAS PUDS!

CHRISTMAS morning, 1899, began in besieged Ladysmith with the customary salvo of artillery fire from the Boers.

Two shells landed on a piece of ground where church parades were usually held but no one was injured because neither was live.

Both were painted in Free State colours and engraved with the compliments of the season. One was empty and the other was full of plum pudding!

Tales of Christmas goodwill breaching barriers between enemies are not uncommon.

Perhaps the best

known is the famous truce of Christmas 1914 when quiet descended on much of the Western Front as British and German troops climbed out of their trenches to greet each other.

Less well known is the impromptu truce of December 1658 when, at

by Mervyn Wynne Jones

the Battle of Dunkirk, Cromwell's troops and their French allies struck up an unusual friendship with the Spanish.

The English overshot their mark and came

within range of the Spanish.

They halted but, as the battle was not officially joined, nobody committed the ungentlemanly act of firing a shot and both sides were soon openly fraternising.

In the "good old days" armies usually spent Christmas in winter quarters, breaking off campaigns to fight the common enemy – the bitter weather. Even so there were exceptions.

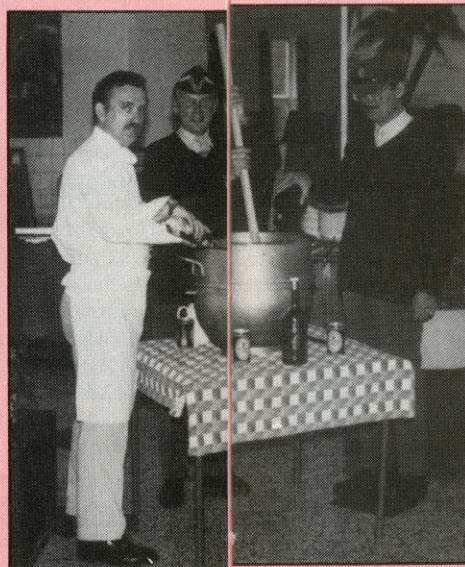
In the 15th century the Turks were routed at Kunobitza when the Christian Hungarians unexpectedly attacked on Christmas Eve.

Napoleon defeated the Austrians in Northern Italy, chased Sir John Moore to Corunna and retreated from Moscow – but on each occasion returned to Paris at Christmas to deal with home affairs leaving his troops to die of cold and hunger.

During the Second World War the winters brought little respite. Hong Kong was surrendered to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941, there were major operations in the Middle East in 1941 and von Rundstedt's desperate attack in the Ardennes covered Christmas of 1944.

FIRST STIRRING

The first cuckoo in spring catches the headlines – all the rest are also-rans. And the same is true of Christmas pud stirring pictures. First to arrive at SOLDIER this year was this one from The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars at Loddensheide, BAOR. Pictured giving the regimental pud its final stir is the CO, Lt Col Sir Charles Lowther. Master Chef Malcolm Poots and RSM Arthur Currie lend a hand.



Christmas Day during the Second World War and in the bitter winter weather of the Italian campaign these British soldiers – rifles by their sides – kneel together in worship

Christmas fare by the yard! Pte Joanne Gilliot, Sgt Tony Addison and LCpl Andy Smith of HQ Catering Group ACC at Aldershot prepare for the big day

WHATEVER the campaign privations of war the British soldier has almost always enjoyed traditional fare at Christmas.

Alas, although "tons of plum pudding, mountains of jars of mince-meat, a Smithfield of salted beef and a brew-ery of porter" sailed from

Cooking up a festive feast...

Britain for the first Christmas in the Crimea,

most of it disappeared while in the hands of the transport contractor.

There is no doubt the Army will eat well this Christmas, not least in the south east where the Aldershot based HQ Catering Group ACC have been busy baking 2,000 Christmas puddings, 40,000 mince pies

and 1,500 assorted cakes.

All this on top of their normal catering for 14,000 personnel in 107 units from Winchester to Windsor.

Flat out since early October, a team of 26 have been baking up to 2,000 mince pies and 90 2lb puddings a day, 300

stuffed turkeys have also been roasted and delivered to units.

Basic pudding ingredients included 2½ tons of mincemeat, seven tons of dried fruit, 6,000 pints of Guinness, 200 bottles of brandy and 500 bottles of sherry.

Units pay for what they order and special re-

quests are met, the most unusual this year being for a six-foot by four-foot Christmas cake for the soldiers' mess at the Guards Depot, Pirbright.

"Producing all this extra food is quite a job," said Maj Jim Murison, catering group production officer, "but when you open a bottle of

brandy and start stirring it into the pudding mix you soon begin to feel festive."

Little, it seems, has changed from 1898 when a report stated:

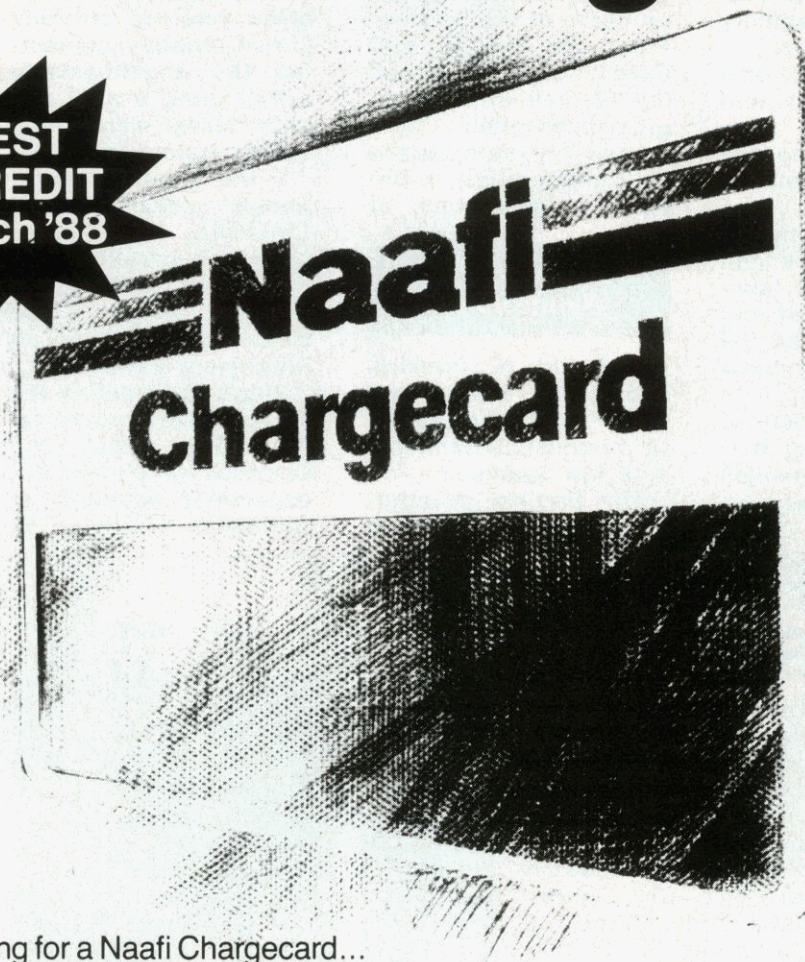
"Tommy's table groans with good cheer on Christmas Day. The menu consists of the good roast beef of Old

England, vegetable and plum duffs galore."

Then there was even more variety in diet between locally recruited units. While the Connaught Rangers demanded bacon and cabbage, English regiments had ham, pork, mutton, geese and even turkeys and pheasants.

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Major effort – Davies
and Brehaut go for it
in their left hand drive
Renault 5 Turbo



Legion 'rallys' to the cause

OWNER and driver of the Army's official entry in last month's gruelling, four day, 1,624 mile Lombard RAC Rally made the grade from novice to international competitor in just seven months when he took up the sport four years ago.

Maj Nigel Davies REME, of RARDE's Vehicles and Weapons Branch where he is OC of 17 Maintenance Advisory Group involved with 62-tonne Challenger main battle tanks, took part in the 1985 rally and came fourth in his class, **writes Graham Smith.**

His co-driver this year was Maj Nick Brehaut RAOC, formerly Royal Anglian, who is based at the Army's Logistic Executive at Andover.

Their entry, in Nigel's red and black Renault 5 Turbo, was supported by five main

sponsors including their respective corps and the Royal British Legion.

Both officers started rallying four years ago, competing in Army-run navigational events. This year, Maj Davies came fourth in his class in the Shell Open Championship.

Army support for their Lombard challenge was provided by SEME, Bordon; 27

Command Workshop, Warminster; 66 Sqn RCT Workshops, REME, and RARDE.

"Good forward planning and preparation have gone into our effort this year," said Nigel, whose wife, Philippa and two toddler sons, Sebastian, 3 and Edward, 18 months, were watching his progress on radio and television.

"This year, too, I've got

people helping me who helped me in 1985. My service manager is ASM Richard Magnay of RARDE. Our entry has been eight months in the planning.

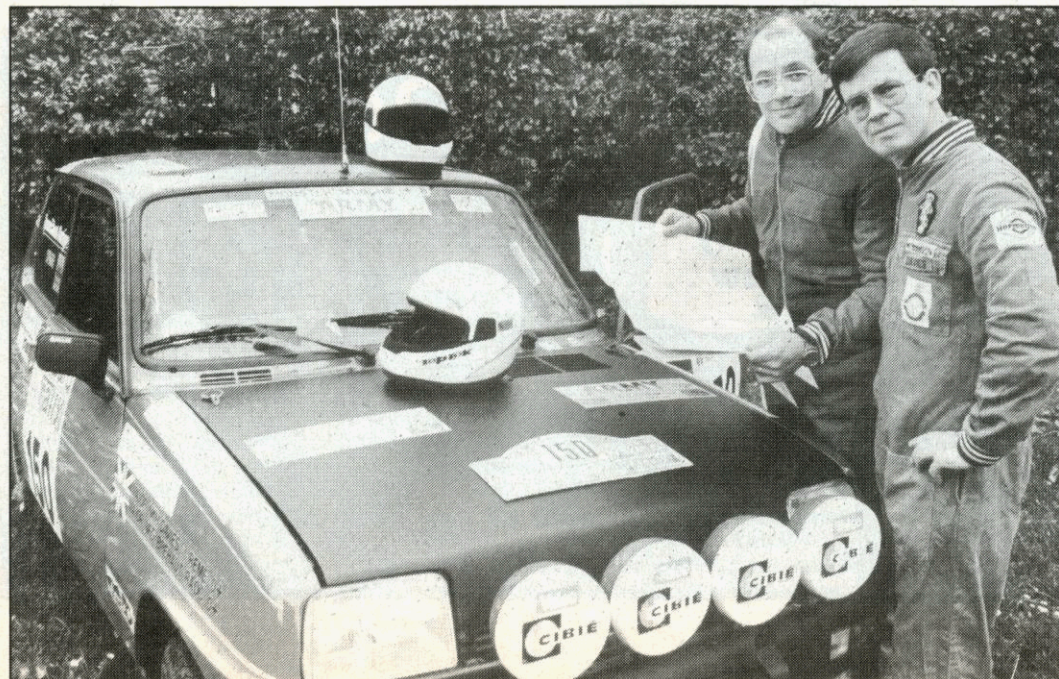
"My wife has been a tower of strength providing meals and looking after our welfare. We entered the race to finish the race. That's the name of this rallying game."

At the Chester start point the Army support team benefited from accommodation laid on by 80 Signal Sqn (V) and later at Carlisle by A Company, 4 (V) The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

The British Army Motoring Association paid the team's entry fee.

STOP PRESS: The Army entry achieved the objective of completing the rally. Davies and Brehaut finished 81st out of 83 to cross the line. Almost half the 163 starters were forced to drop out.

This is the plan! Majors Nick Brehaut (left) and Nigel Davies prepare for the 1987 Lombard RAC Rally



Getting nowhere with the PLSUs

Dear Anne, RECENTLY a soldier wrote to you regarding his wife's treatment at the hands of the PLSUs and I would like to endorse everything he said.

I found that unless you pushed yourself forward all the time you would get nowhere. I have been a typist with the Civil Service for ten years and have audio experience but because of a mix up in my application at a German station, they failed to give me the required test and I was listed as being a typist with only 20 words per minute.

If I had not pushed them time and time again, I would never have got a job.

Officers' wives don't seem to have to wait very long for jobs - most of them are employed within four or five weeks of arriving in the garrison. This is fact, not sour grapes on my part.

The PLSUs are staffed mainly by Germans who are often quite rude and generally unhelpful and heaven help you if you do not like your job because they won't entertain a transfer.

They don't even reply to any letters on this subject.

I hope someone, somewhere, listens and does something about it. - Mrs P, Catterick Garrison.

Simple road to au pair disaster

A WORD of warning to would-be au pairs, mother's helpers and nannies - and to those who advertise for them. There are rules and regulations to follow and great stress can be the result if you ignore them.

That advertisement for a young girl to help with a family in Germany makes it look so simple. Just jump on the next train, coach or ferry and you are there.

But hold on a second - you've only got a visitor's pass. Where is your visa to work, your contract, your health insurance? You haven't even got a form E111, no DHSS contributions are going to be paid, you have no return ticket and no job specification.

Never mind, it will all

work out - until your precious job falls through.

What then? Are you legally in the married quarter, or are you listed as a friend helping out or having a holiday? Both employer and employee are breaking the rules, sometimes with disastrous consequences.

One 20 year old found herself illegally in the country in which she had been "working". She had no job, no roof over her head and no return fare.

Insist on a contract and the return fare (in advance). Insist on proper medical and public liability insurance, DHSS contributions and proper payment.

You can get advice by writing to Nannies Help Line, 7 Arundel Place, London N1.

Car insurance by instalment

SOLDIERS have written to me complaining about not being able to pay car insurance on an instalment plan. This is, however, the entitlement of the company concerned.

Some companies, Naafi included, offer insurance by instalments.

Also check that a broker or company is a member of

the British Insurance Brokers' Committee and the Armed Forces Insurance Brokers' Committee. Every Pay Office has a list.

As far as Northern Ireland premiums are concerned, if the sum is higher than a comparable Central London premium the difference can be reclaimed. Your Paymaster can advise.



Our Anne with Muhammad Bukhs and his daughter

A time to remember . . .

CHRISTMAS is a time when we remember our relatives and friends. For Service families, often far from home, remembering is particularly important. And so often it is the once a year Christmas card that keeps those links of friendship intact.

Years may pass but the seasonal card always refreshes the memory.

One card I always search for at Christmas is from my late father's Indian bearer, Muhammad Bukhs.

He served my father from 1929 to 1938 and although now 85 he has remembered Christmas and my birthday without a break since the end of the Second World War.

The dedication and loyalty of those marvellous Indian bearers was amazing.

My father's praise for Muhammad Bukhs was borne out on the wonderful day I flew to Lahore to meet the man who had been his companion on so many

In my view . . .

military occasions and expeditions. And friend and helper to my mother.

"He'll be at the airport," my father told me. And he was. I knew him immediately in the huge crowd packing the airport. To the amazement of other passengers there were

tears and hugs between us although he had last seen me as a toddler. An uncanny bond had been maintained through photographs and the annual Christmas card!

We hired a car and toured my father's old stamping grounds - the garden, the fort and the old quarter where I met Muhammad's family. In perfect English he poured out the history of the place, telling me where my family lived, the story of the

regiment, the camp and the bungalow.

While drinking orange juice in the public gardens he told me he remembered keeping an eye on my pram to shoo away inquisitive monkey visitors.

A wonderful, loyal and devoted gentleman.

Happy Christmas Muhammad Bukhs - and to all of you who keep in touch through that once a year card. It is so easy to strike a name off the list, but it could mean so much . . .



Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley 29653

FAW! We're getting bigger

LADY Kitson, founder and first president of the Federation of Army Wives, will have been encouraged by the increasing number attending both the federation's fifth annual conference in the Woolwich Hall, Sandhurst, and the UKLF seminar the following day.

From 50 wives at the first annual meeting, attendance last month had grown to 200 to hear guest speaker Peggy Fenner MP set the scene for a stimulating day.

Progress was highlighted by the advance of projects such as the Federation's Register for Employment Database (FRED for short!) and FOCUS - Federation Office and Computer Updating skills.

Neighbours magazine now reaches 50,000 wives around the world, although it does not yet circulate in West Germany.

And there has been an increase in the number of

HIVES (Help, Information, Volunteer Exchange and Home Start) which benefit the wives of more and more Servicemen.

District representatives welcomed MoD funding of their co-ordinators, something which should ease organisational problems in the districts.

Reports revealed a wide

range of areas in which FAW input to the MoD and UKLF had borne fruit. These included education, furniture and furnishings.

FAW is proving that it is here to stay as a worthwhile organisation within the Army structure. Criticisms that it is a club for officers' wives have been levelled, but the

reality is that attendance at meetings is about 50-50. All posts within FAW are open to the best person.

So don't be shy. If you want details write to The Secretary, FAW UKLF, c/o FHWS (Old Sarum), Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN or telephone 0722 336222 extension 8231.

FORUM ON TARGET

AIM of the UKLF seminar held at Bagshot Park was to provide a forum in which wives could discuss matters affecting the well-being of Service families in the United Kingdom.

Brig Dennis Shaw UKLF chaired the seminar, and Maj Gen David Pank, Director General Personnel

Services, gave a keynote address in which he endorsed the need for the Federation of Army Wives, and gave an update on current issues.

Discussion syndicates discussed Naafi; fund raising; Services families and education; uses of the employment register; and

family finances.

The forum gave FAW, UKLF and MoD an ideal opportunity to debate many of the issues facing Service families, and to look at problem areas which are faced by all.

A full report on the seminar will be available through the FAW office.

BUNK BED BULLETIN

Let me draw your attention to the new British Standards Institute rulings on bunk beds.

The Bunk Bed (Entrapment Hazards) (Safety) Regulations came into force on September 1. Bunk beds which allow children under six to become wedged or trapped in any part of the bed's structure are now prohibited.

Gaps in the sleeping surface must not exceed 75mm and any other gap in the structure of the bunk bed, eg in guard rails, must be not less than 60mm nor more than 75mm.

Beds with adjustable features, eg variable guard

rails, must limit these adjustments to comply with the regulations.

It will be an offence to supply kit form bunk beds which, if assembled according to the manufacturers' instructions, do not meet the regulations.

As a result of a recent incident in which an infant was trapped between a mattress and the side of a cot, occupants of married quarters are asked to check that there is no more than a 5cm gap overall between the edge of the mattress and the inside of the cot.

If your cot/bunk bed does not conform, then seek advice from your ASA SSO or FHWS.

This meeting is a must!

THE 18th all ranks meeting will be held at Naafi HQ, Kennington, London, on February 4.

Wives are to be nominated by commands and districts. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

However, nominations are limited. Wales has only one vacancy and North West District two.

At the annual meetings of these districts no wife was in attendance.

Perhaps a vacancy should be made so that

wives' views can be made known - or at least someone designated to find out and present their views.

It was a disabled wife attending the AGM this year who drew attention to the problem of access to the Naafi at Warminster, Wilts.

Now thanks to James Rucker, the Naafi managing director, the entrance has been altered to make it capable of taking wheelchairs.



Pamela Poole, chairman of the Clock Tower House Thrift Shop in Aldershot North for the past four years, has had to give up the reins following her husband's posting to BAOR. New chairman and treasurer is Pauline Walker.

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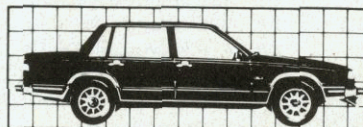
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Pte Clive Alderson, wounded in Belfast, finds himself spoiled by QARANC Capt Jane Kitching (left), QLCpl Sue Matthews and QPte Carol Foulkes (right)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... THE MUSGRAVE

AN ARTIST should have captured the homely features of Pte Clive Alderson as he lay in his hospital bed mulling over the question.

"Need any books? Well, I got a couple about terrorism 'n that before I came out here, but I don't think I'll be into that stuff much in the future," he replied.

A lot could be read into his expression – a touch of cynicism, a whiff of regret, and a dollop of worldly wisdom.

Pte Alderson, of 2 LI, learned the hard way about terrorism on the streets of Northern Ireland only a few weeks after he began his first tour.

He was on duty during a protest march in West Belfast when a sniper opened fire.

"I was covering my mate as he crossed the street when I was hit," said the 6ft 2in soldier. "I didn't know for certain what it was until they got me into a vehicle."

Did the patrol manage to fire

**Writer
Bill Moore
visits a unique
military
hospital in
Northern Ireland**

**Pictures by
Stephen George**

back at the attacker?

"Yes... I don't know whether we hit anyone but we must have been close because one of them jumped through a window without opening it."

When SOLDIER spoke to him Pte Alderson (24) was in bed in the military wing of the Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, awaiting transfer to the Queen Elizabeth, Woolwich, for further treatment.

Today he is back with his unit. But he'll never forget "The Musgrave".

In the whole range of UK

hospitals it must be unique.

In the immediate post-war years, sick soldiers in Northern Ireland were cared for in a complex of nissen huts in the country at the village of Moira.

All changed in October 1963 when a new wing was built on to the civil Musgrave Park Hospital two miles from Belfast city centre.

The planners cannot have foreseen the form unrest would take when it broke out in 1969, but as violence intensified the wing became the lynchpin of medical cover and nursing for the hard pressed Security Forces.

At one time in the '70s the Musgrave even had a ward for injured terrorists.

Then it was common for bullets to smack into the walls. Today things are much quieter though only a few weeks ago two high velocity shots from the Andersonstown direction ripped through brickwork in the sisters' accommodation and ended up in a corridor.

"We had to replace the venetian blind in a bedroom... the bullets made a right mess of it," said RQMS John Zaremba (whose father fought with the Polish airborne brigade at Arnhem).

RQMS Zaremba is pleased with the conversion of some former married quarters into three neat units for nurses.

"They should be able to sunbathe on the patio," he added.

There are 12 SRNs and 12 state enrolled nurses on the Musgrave's staff, which totals 65.

Though the QARANC personnel have to live behind the walls of the "echelon", a secure area they share with troops occupying a Security Forces base, more than half the girls ask to extend their year-long tour (male nurses serve two years).

"The fact that we are not a teaching hospital and our cases are likely to be interesting adds

● Turn to next page



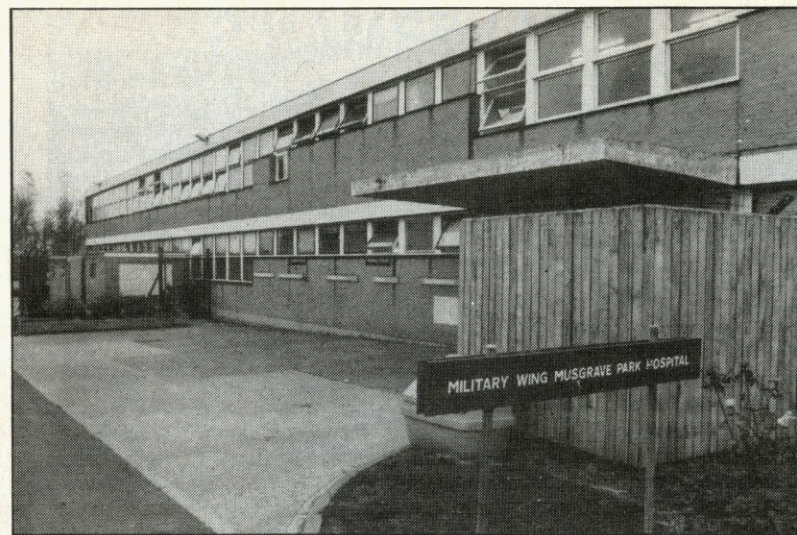
Matron Maggie Sloman. She has a ready smile and doesn't fuss



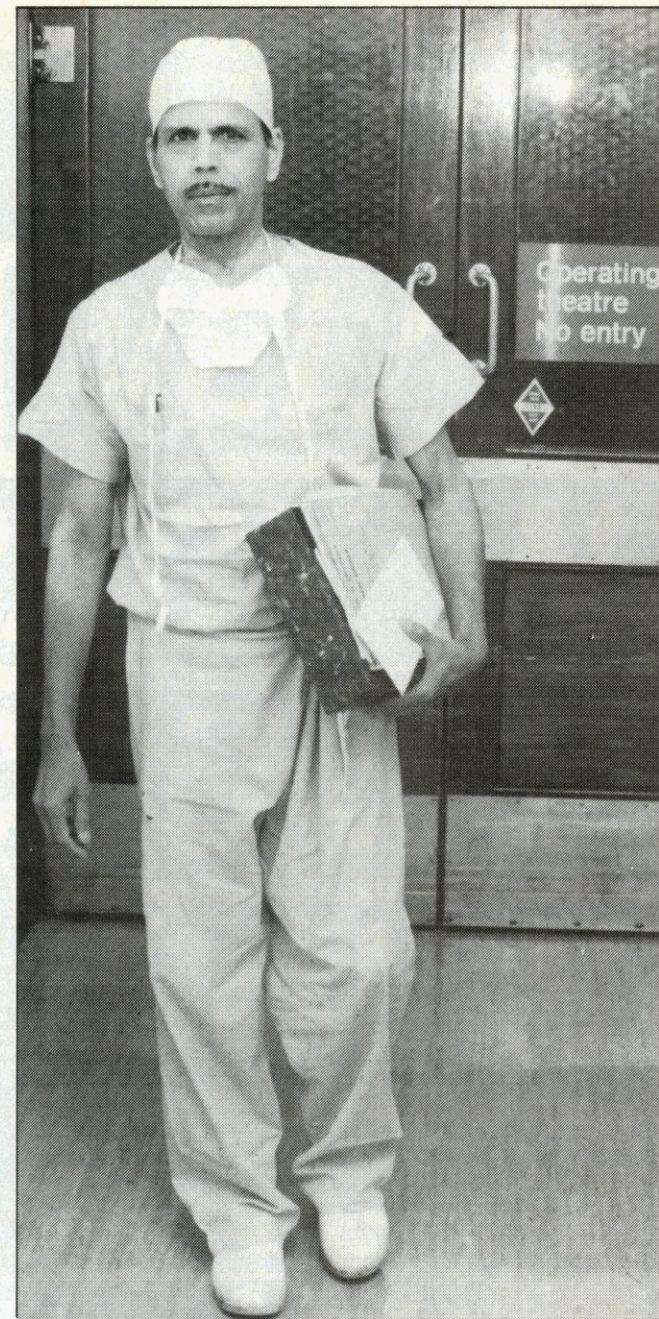
Tea in bed from a sergeant major used to be something to sing about! WO1 Paul Crosthwaite delivers a cuppa to CSM Bill MacGregor of the hospital staff after a minor operation



Some call him Arthur Daley . . . Sgt Jim Wilkinson working in the hospital stores which supplies med centres throughout the province



Belinda Burrows is attached to the Musgrave as a social worker. She helps to look after families visiting sick soldiers



Returning from serious business – Maj 'Bas' Bhaskaran, surgeon

You leave the Musgrave feeling better for it – even if you're not a patient!

● From Page 21

to the attraction," Matron Maggie Sloman explained. "The nurses like being able to shop in Belfast. The city centre has excellent shops."

Matron came to the Musgrave from BMH Hong Kong. She is a cheerful, unfussy soul who would clearly be at home in any hospital environment.

Though the social life is appealing for nurses, there is no shortage of work.

Musgrave military wing, at present under command of Col Mike Mummery, is the Army hospital of Northern Ireland, though it is curiously described in official documents as "parasitic", being dependent on the civil hospital next door

for certain services covered under a cost-sharing agreement.

These include radiology, physiotherapy, laundry and back-up operating theatre facilities.

The wing does not normally treat the dependants of resident battalions who can attend local civil hospitals.

It does provide in-patient and out-patient facilities for all Servicemen and women including soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment injured or ill while on operations or training and also for Territorials.

It also treats members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and RUC Reserve and certain civilians who might be "at risk"

in other hospitals.

Senior staff include a consultant surgeon, consultant physician and a senior specialist anaesthetist, backed up by other doctors on emergency tours, plus a dental surgeon.

An Army psychiatrist visits regularly and other specialists call to deal with a variety of requirements.

The Army being a fit community, the patients at Musgrave military wing reflect the healthy life led by troops on and off duty.

When casualties occur in terrorist incidents, riots or in traffic accidents, victims are normally taken to the nearest civil hospital.

The military wing of the

Musgrave is unstinting in its appreciation of the job done by its counterparts.

"In particular, I cannot speak too highly of the debt we owe to the Royal Victoria Hospital," said Maj Barry Hives, the administrative officer. "Many soldiers owe their lives to the staff there."

Casualties are transferred to the Musgrave when they are considered well enough to be moved.

If necessary they can be flown to hospitals on the mainland in a specially equipped "medevac" Hercules operating between Aldergrove and Lyneham.

When soldiers are very seriously ill relatives can be

flown into Belfast. Pte Alderson's parents were accommodated in a special flat in the hospital so they could be near him when his life seemed in danger.

They were looked after by a social worker from the Red Cross and St John Welfare Service (the DILFOR system).

When the Aldersons left the Musgrave they were content that their son was recovering fast in good hands.

There is nothing stuffy about the corridors of the military wing (from which the terrorist patients have long since gone to a heavily guarded complex).

The impersonal Ward I and Ward 2 designations of former days have been replaced by the

names of men who won the VC.

One of them commemorates Hospital Apprentice Andrew Fitzgibbon, of the Indian Medical Services, who was only 15 years old when he won his medal (and was wounded himself) at the storming of the Taku Forts in China. His family came from Tipperary.

The other bears the name of Capt John Sinton, also of the Indian Medical Service, who won his decoration in Mesopotamia in 1916. He later became High Sheriff of Tyrone.

Leave the wards, at this moment about half full, and round a corner you will find yourself face to face with a bright canteen area which has been refurbished by Lloyds of

London Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Turn another corner and you may come face to face with Arthur Daley . . . well, not exactly your George Cole, more your Sgt Jim Wilkinson whose storeroom ("it's more like a big cupboard, really") is a legend in Northern Ireland medical circles.

From it go supplies, drugs and dressings for some 20 or so medical centres which need constant replenishment.

Sgt Wilkinson sees to it that from Crossmaglen to Carrickfergus his clients get what they want, no matter how difficult the request may be.

Round yet another corner we came across a rare sight . . .

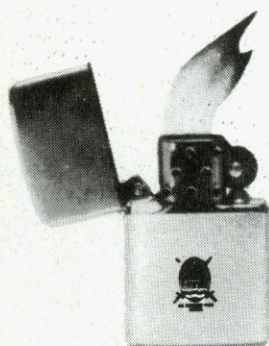
one sergeant major giving another a cup of tea in bed.

CSM Bill MacGregor, sitting up with his arm in bandages after a minor operation, was being pampered by WO1 Paul Crosthwaite, the Staff Assistant, concerned in the day-to-day running of the hospital . . . a nice little leg pull for the benefit of the SOLDIER photographer.

Even if you're not among the long list of people grateful for treatment received you leave the military wing feeling better for it, and appreciative of a remarkable blend of duty, service and good humour which does credit to the traditions of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

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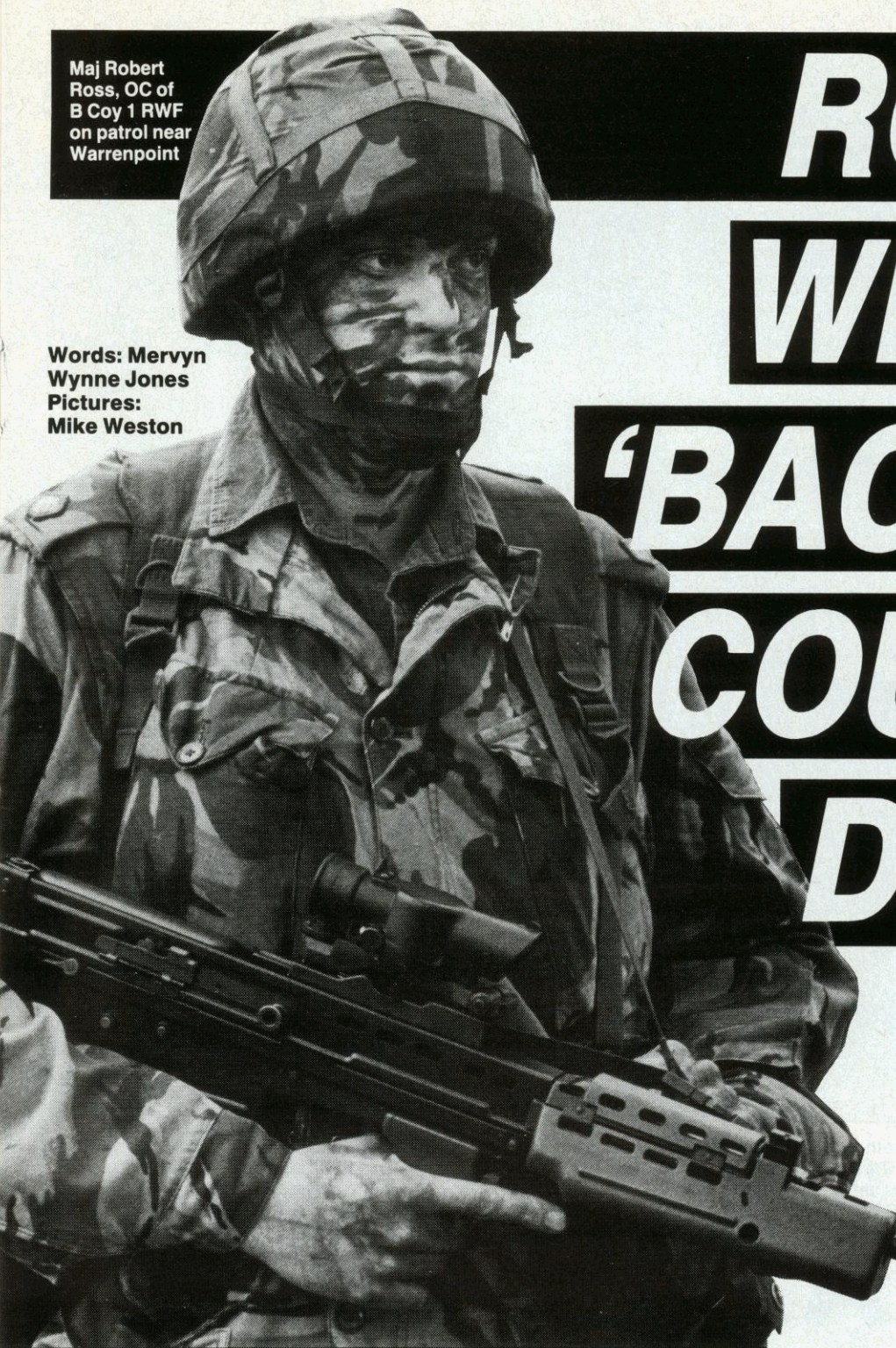
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Maj Robert Ross, OC of B Coy 1 RWF on patrol near Warrenpoint

Words: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: Mike Weston



ROYAL WELCH 'BACK' IN COUNTY DOWN

On average, two companies are operational while the others are training or perhaps on leave. The companies rotate through a cycle of operational duties followed by two weeks leave and a training and standby period.

Based at Ballykinler, the battalion supports the RUC along a stretch of South Down and South Armagh which, lying as it does in the shadow of

the Mourne Mountains, is a natural corridor for cross border travellers.

Much of the battalion's activity involves patrolling rural areas and such tasks as manning vehicle check points (VCPs) and scanning the countryside from observation posts.

Capt Simon Gillett said: "Everyone has a role to play, especially while on patrol. Looking for the car that drives past twice or remembering the face that is spotted twice, this is where the fusilier earns his money.

"That element of risk, and of an enemy attack is what keeps

● Turn to next page

NO strangers to the troubles of Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, are back in County Down not far from where the regiment first served almost 300 years ago.

Raised in 1689 by William III – William of Orange – the regiment helped him defeat James II and his French allies at the Battle of the Boyne.

The regiment spent its first Christmas just a few miles from its present headquarters at Ballykinler and will still be in the province when it celebrates its tercentenary in 1989.

Supporting the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in their

fight against terrorism, the regiment works closely with the police and the Ulster Defence Regiment.

After spending two years as a home defence battalion at Clive Barracks near Market Drayton, Shropshire, the regiment now finds itself fully operational with a daily regime of counter terrorism activities – in most of which they were already well versed following a four months emergency roulement tour in the province last year.

A four months tour and a two year posting are two very different things, as Maj Robert Ross, OC B Coy, explained: "When you are on a short tour



Lt Col David Ross, CO of 1 RWF

you tend to see something lurking behind every bush but on a longer posting you have time to relax and to realise how normal life here can be."



Vigilance is all important for men on patrol – whether in the town or the country. The picture above shows men of 6 Platoon 1 RWF covering the advance of a colleague close to the border. On the right a fusilier keeps watch during a night patrol in Castlewellan

THE WATCH KEEPERS



● From Page 25

WO2 Richard Irvine, B Coy CSM, said: "It is what we are paid to do and it is interesting work. We know why we are here and this is one of the few places where you can actually be a soldier."

Sgt Lance Edmunds added: "You are always aware that something could happen but you just push it to the back of your mind. Everyone matures a lot during a period in Northern

Ireland and you can see the outlook of the younger ones changing almost week by week."

This was a comment echoed by Lt Col David Ross, CO 1 RWF, who told SOLDIER: "Our job here is undoubtedly challenging, bringing the best out of our younger soldiers and developing leadership at all levels."

"We are aware of the threat and do our best to counter it. There is the constant satisfac-

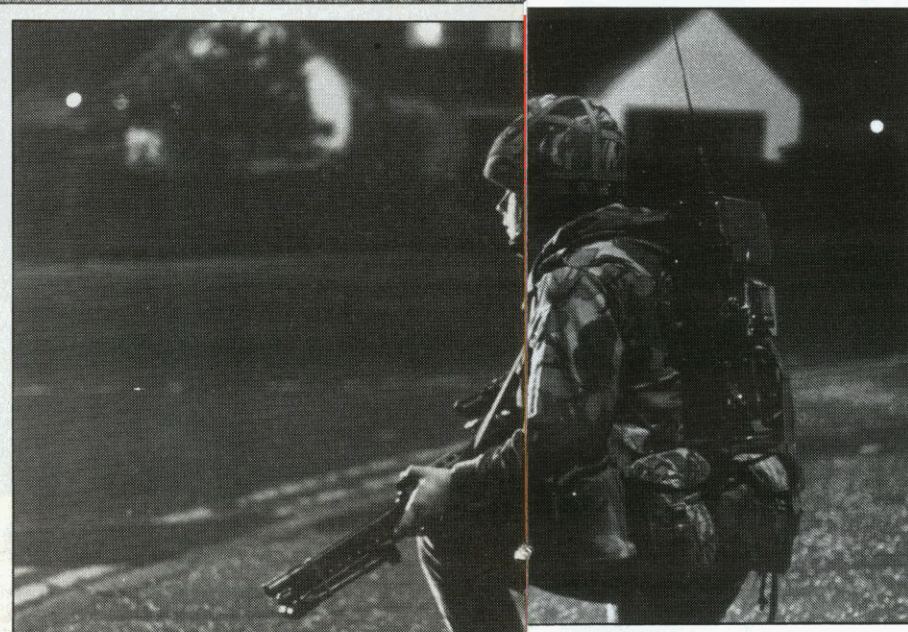
tion here of doing something worthwhile and the soldiers are happiest when they are out of barracks and on operations."

Initially some soldiers may be apprehensive about duty in Northern Ireland but most undoubtedly seem to enjoy it. It is an operational theatre and involves a lot of straightforward soldiering and many seem glad of the chance to flex the skills they were taught on joining the Army.

Fus Mark Holmes, a

member of 6 Platoon on patrol near Warrenpoint, said: "I hate being stuck in camp and would far rather be out here. I enjoy urban patrolling especially because then the adrenalin is really going. You know you are in someone else's patch and that you cannot afford to switch off."

Bessbrook Mill, which produced flax until the 1950s, is the nerve centre of Army operations in Armagh and is currently home to the 2nd



'Most undoubtedly seem to enjoy it'

Battalion, Scots Guards, and elements of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets and 1 RWF.

The command and control structure centred at Bess-

Fus David Hughes takes cover on the border with the Republic. Two fusiliers were wounded, one seriously, in a mortar attack on a border crossing point at Glasdrummond soon after SOLDIER's visit



brook at the time of the SOLDIER visit, said: "Working flat out every day for several weeks can be quite draining but at least you know you have got some leave at the end of it."

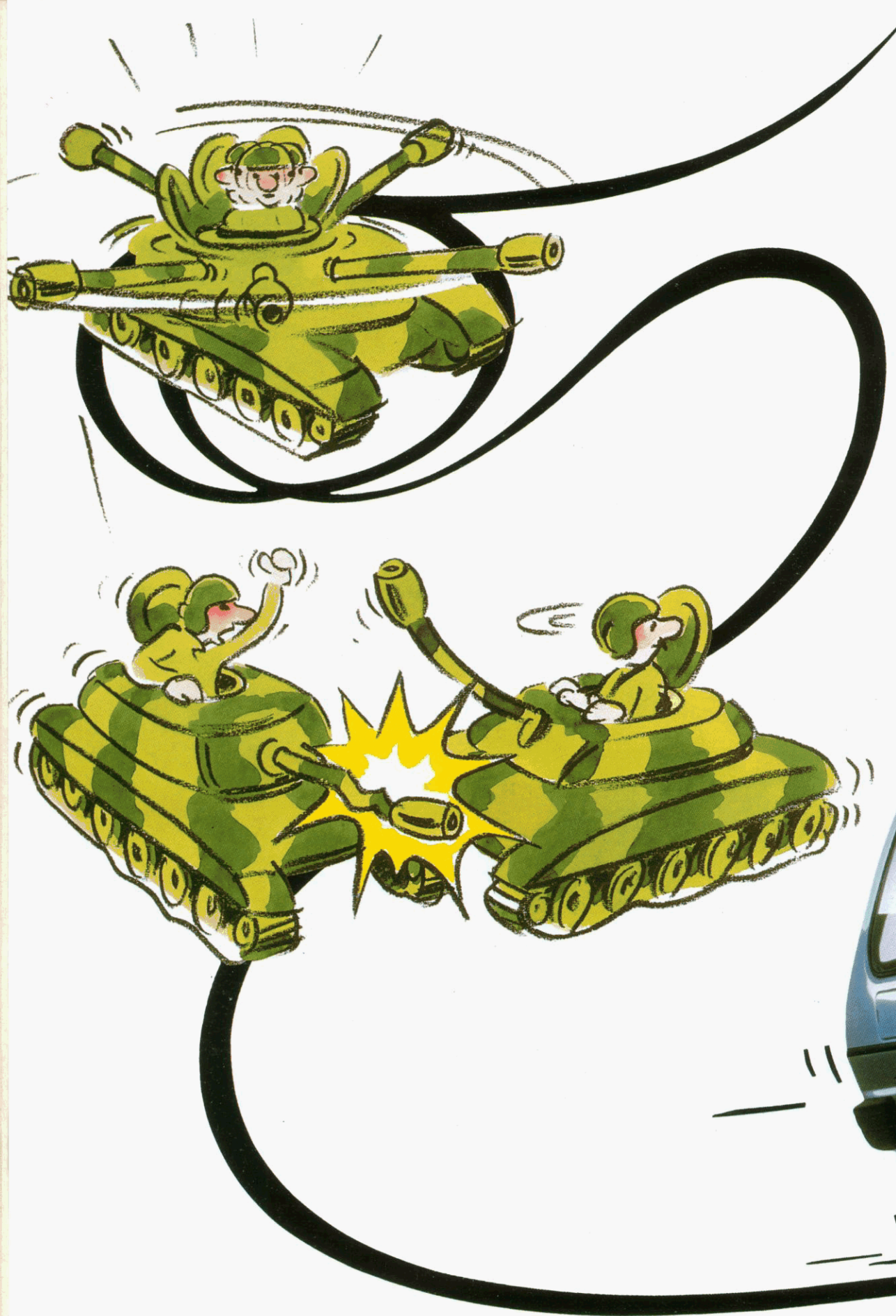
There is also the chance for some adventurous training and offshore water sports in the province. Fishing is popular and the area is well known for its sea trout.

Lt Col Ross said: "Having our families this time makes all the difference. Isolation is a

problem but it suits us better as a Welsh unit, perhaps, than another which draws its recruits from large towns and cities."

Maj Ross added: "The Welsh, I think, have a natural gift of the gab. One of our biggest problems is trying to do the job dressed as we are. The more approachable we can make ourselves the better and this is very much in the Welsh character."

● More pictures in Pages 30-31



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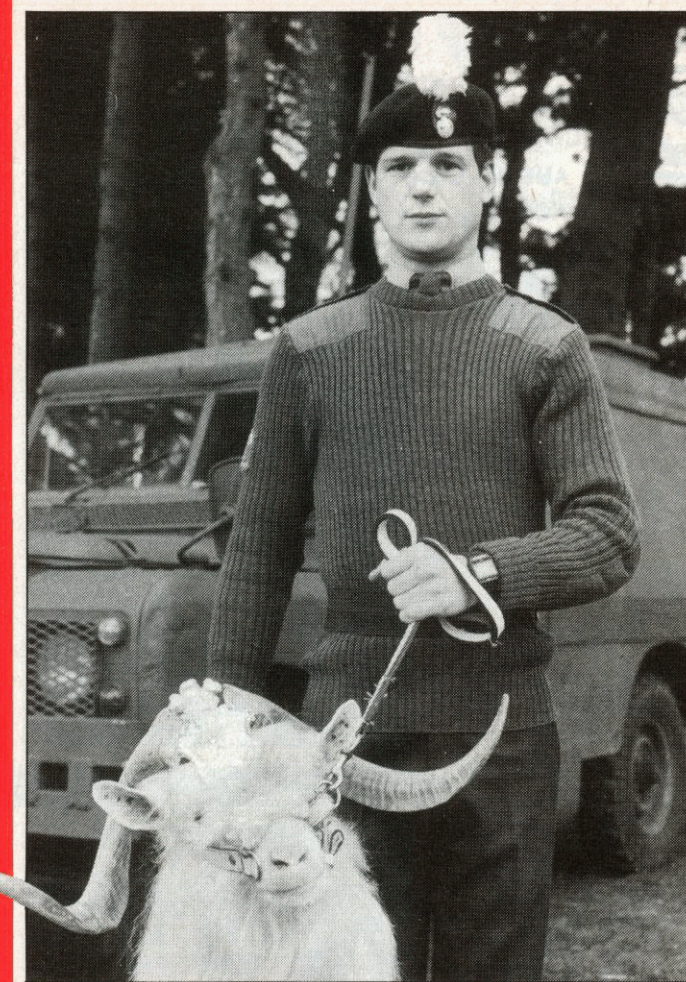
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Fusiliers mount a vehicle check point not far from the spot where the paras were murdered at Warrenpoint



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Royal Welch in Northern Ireland



On foot patrol in Castlewella, a fusilier scans the side streets



Close co-operation – men of 1 RWF and the RUC team up on patrol at Warrenpoint

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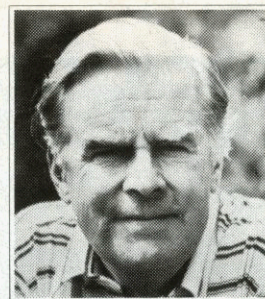
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Writer Mervyn Wynne Jones and photographer Mike Weston visited the Army Air Corps in Northern Ireland to meet the men and the machines who give the soldiers . . .

TOP COVER

DEEP in the heart of South Armagh lies Europe's busiest heliport, a heliport catering for more than 600 flights a week and as many as 15,000 passengers a month.

Helicopters of the Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force ply to and fro across the province at all times of the day and night from Bessbrook Mill, focal point for Security Force operations along the border.

The border country is strictly a no-go area for green vehicles and consequently the task of inserting and extracting patrols and replenishing security posts and observation positions lies firmly with the crews of these helicopters.

Providing much of the round-the-clock cover are 665 and 655 Squadrons of the Northern Ireland Regiment Army Air Corps based, respectively, at Aldergrove and Ballykelly which together offer regimental support to both 39 and 8 Brigades.

Their's is a hectic programme of shifts and duties with pilots and crewmen flying the maximum number of hours regarded as safely permissible and ground crew and technicians burning the midnight oil to keep all aircraft flying.

"People are always coming off or going on duty and consequently the regiment is in a state of perpetual motion," said Capt Nick Caplin. "Work continues 365 days a year and no part of the regiment is ever stood down." Capt Caplin, the

adjutant, was due to take up another posting soon after SOLDIER's visit.

The role of the Army aviators is to back up the Army in support of police operations across the province.

It is a role that takes many different forms, from the movement of men and materials to observation, reconnaissance and casevac.

Crews may find themselves, for example, providing 24 hour Lynx cover at Bessbrook with all that that involves in terms of movement of patrols and supplies, or flying a "heli-tele" operation and video recording parades, marches and anything of interest to the Security Forces.

The regiment's city flight, part of 665 Squadron and based at Palace Barracks outside Belfast, use Gazelle aircraft and provide top cover for men on ground patrol.

Lt Iain King, on a four month roulement stint from 1 Regt AAC at Hildesheim, West Germany, said: "This is very different work from that in south Armagh because here we are doing a lot of high hover flying and slow orbits.

"We follow up incidents and can often be there in minutes. Navigation round the city is easy and when flying at night we can tell where we are by the pattern of the street lights - some of the guys know Belfast better than their own home town."

Cpl Campbell Brand, Para-



Not to be attempted in a high wind! An AAC Gazelle helicopter lands on the observation post on top of a tower block of flats in the heart of Republican Belfast

chute Regiment on attachment to the corps, added: "It is more intensive and demanding than BAOR but there is a lot of satisfaction in working here."

The variety of cap badges flying with the Northern Ireland Regiment is typical of the Air Corps as a whole and

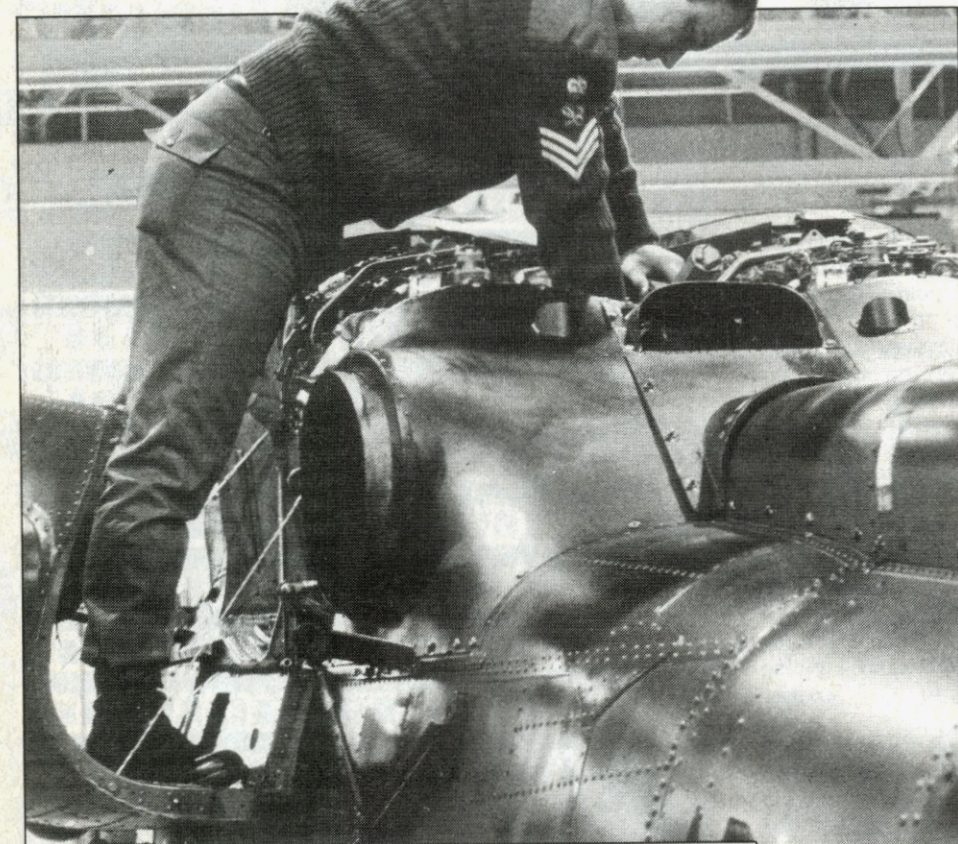
includes a former Royal Scot as CO and a Grenadier Guard as second in command.

665 Squadron can also boast, on exchange, a naval pilot. Lt John Thomas, RN, more accustomed to flying to and from vessels in support of 3

● Turn to next page



A patrol of Royal Welch Fusiliers boards a Wessex helicopter at Bessbrook Mill for insertion into the countryside near the border



Sgt Fred Rooth (above) and his REME colleagues work round the clock in the AAC Workshops at RAF Aldergrove to ensure that aircraft remain ready for duty. There is a hectic and very busy flying programme

Wires are just one of the hazards

● From Page 33

Commando Brigade, told SOLDIER: "Northern Ireland seems to be held together by wires but apart from that its not too bad!"

Wires are just one of the hazards of flying in the province and crews have to be wary of small arms ground fire as well.

Precautions hammered into all crews passing through the regiment include the importance of varying routes and not setting patterns, keeping a sharp eye open at all times, not providing an easy target in border areas and not spending too much time on the ground where the threat of mortar fire exists.

Flying in such conditions is demanding, not least for the members of 665 Squadron on four month roulement tours who frequently fly up to the 70 hour limit per 28 days. Each 24 hour period of duty is followed by 24 hours on standby and then a day off.

The regiment also has, in addition to its two squadrons, a Beaver flight based at Aldergrove whose aircraft, robust and agile as they are, have been in service since 1961 and are soon to be replaced.

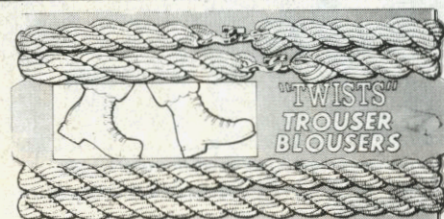
Lt Col Peter McQueen, CO, said: "It is fascinating being in command of such a diverse and interesting unit. We are involved in a minor way with most operations throughout the province so we get a fairly good picture of the situation at any time."



Above - An Army Air Corps Lynx drops off a water bowser at an observation post in South Armagh



Left - An AAC Gazelle pictured over Belfast



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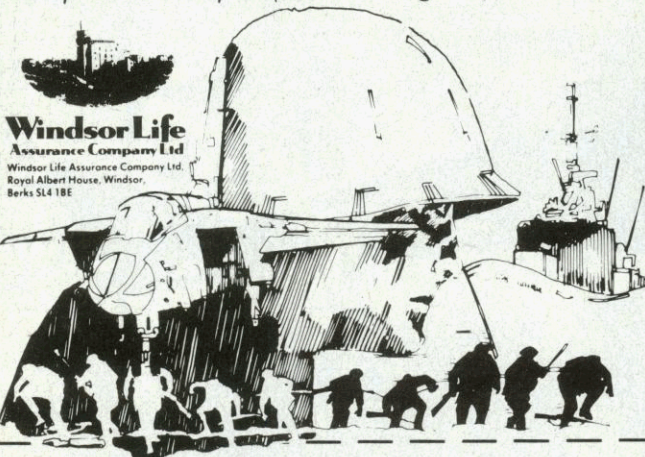
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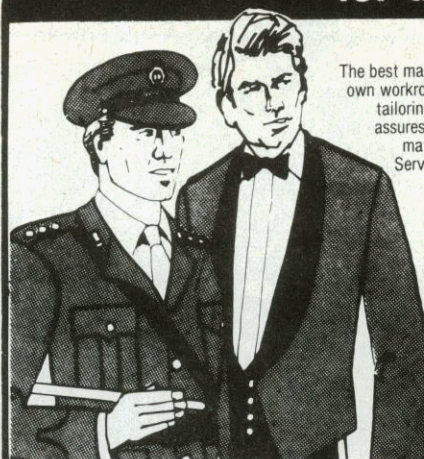
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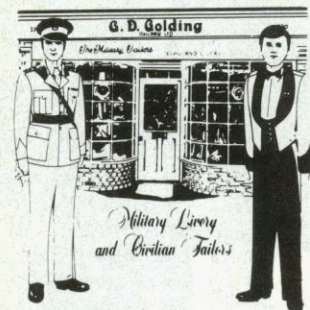
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THE TATTOO



A study in concentration. Little Nepalese girls put their all into their captivating dance at the Hong Kong Military Tattoo

Made in Hong Kong



Smart little girl takes advantage of an absorbing moment at an open air rehearsal. Peggy Cheung, 5, daughter of Dennis Cheung of the JSPRS Hong Kong, used a piece of timber to copy Gdsmn Craig Manning's measured tread - but she couldn't make him smile. Gdsmn Manning was one of four men of the 1st Coldstream Guards who added colour to the big display in a lightweight form of parade dress

LOCAL boys, girls, men and women, mums and dads all made good when the Hong Kong garrison staged a military tattoo at the Coliseum, Kowloon.

Of more than 700 performers, plus back-up, only one staff band came from the UK, writes Bill Moore.

Every one else was from locally based units, the police, and four of the Territory's seven Gurkha schools.

Brought in by coach for rehearsals - a 45 minute ride each way - 120 Gurkha children revelled in putting on complicated make-up. They wore traditional costumes made by their mothers from material brought back by teachers returning from leave, and then performed two Nepalese folk dances.

The young dancers were driven back to bed the moment

they had finished their act but were able to watch the whole show later on a film recording made by Radio Television Hong Kong.

Fathers got to bed a little later. Apart from the Band of the Gurkha Brigade, there were buglers, pipers and drummers from every one of its component units.

The Scottish sound was increased by the pipes and drums of British Caledonian Airways with many ex-Servicemen in the ranks.

Naturally the mainly Chinese audience had a specially warm welcome for the Bands of the Royal Hong Kong Police and the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (the latter the youngest on parade but fast developing a high reputation).

There was a special cheer too

● Turn to Page 42

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Guardsman Derek bows out on note of success

MARCHING THROUGH THE YEARS

Band of the Grenadier Guards
Conductor: Lt Col D R Kimberley
GRALP 19

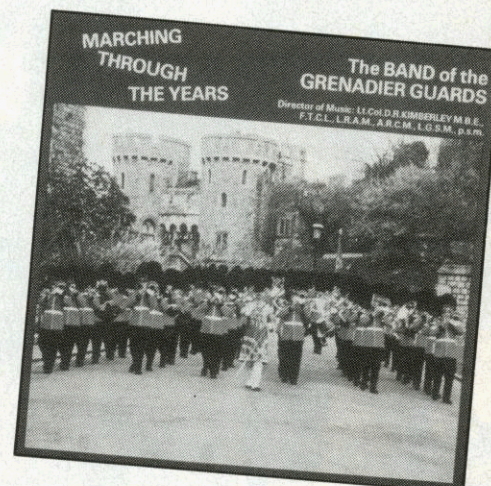
LIKE Dame Nellie Melba, farewell records keep coming from Derek Kimberley who has been retired for some time now. This must be his last though, and well worth waiting for if you are a march enthusiast.

The title is justified by the inclusion of great examples of the genre from the middle of the 19th century to the 1980s, with several which some of us (me included) missed out on during our years with the baton.

Someone has really explored the archives and other peoples' libraries to find such as R B Hall's *Kennebec*, his *Red Men's March*, and *Independencia*, though the latter has had a couple of airings in the past. Unlike Hall's best known marches these are not in 6/8 time, and show the composer in an altogether more militant mood.

The famous marches included are *Children of the Regiment*, *Washington Grays*, *Army and Marine*, and Frank Panella's *On the Square*, with two film excerpts in *A Bride Too Far* by John Addison, doyen of film composers, and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* by John Williams, he of Jaws fame.

From then on it is discovery all the way, with dear old Blankenburg providing a staggeringly original *Admiral of the Air*,



though the title is probably not his. *True Comrades-in-Arms* sounds like him though, and is also a winner.

Derek Kimberley's own *Man o' Brass* is dedicated to Harry Mortimer, *Birdcage Walk* is Leslie Statham's tribute to that bit of macadam we all trudged so often, and the title of the disc is further justified by a little medley of tunes ranging from *Garry Owen*, *The Girl I Left Behind Me*, to *Goodbye Dolly Gray*, all dating from campaigns the Grenadiers were involved in.

Wonderful virile and exciting stuff by what I shall always believe to be THE band where marches are concerned.

● From dealers or the Grenadiers at Wellington Bks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1.

SOMETHING FOR US ALL FROM THE GREEN JACKETS

THE NORMANDY BAND

of the Royal Green Jackets
Bugles of the 2nd Bn
Conductor: Bandmaster I D McElligott
MM 0631

THIS newish band was one of two formed in 1985 from the three bands of The Royal Green Jackets, the other being the Peninsula Band. So it's a case of three battalions into two bands now, a wise decision from the musical if not the work load point of view.

Ex-bandmasters and the present one provide much of the music. Mr McElligott has a band and bugle flourish named after the regimental motto *Celer et Audax*, a concert march dedicated to *Sir John Moore*, and a quick march called *Quick Silver* for reasons of which he may not be aware, apart from the obvious reference to the Speedy Rifle approach to life.

A famous bugle major of the 1930s,

Reuben Silver, was known by that name to members of the 2nd/60th band on occasions when he encouraged paces of up to 160 and more.

Maj Jerry McColl provides an arrangement of Debussy's lovely *Girl With The Flaxen Hair*, and Maj Roger Swift (who should have been known as "Celer" but probably wasn't) a band and bugle fanfare called *St Mary's*.

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SHARP END DIARY OF A STAFF OFFICER

LORD Moyne, born in Dublin as Walter Edward Guinness, is generally remembered as a politician. He entered Parliament in 1907 as Member for Bury St Edmunds and later held various ministerial offices.

During the Second World War he served as Resident Minister in the Middle East and was assassinated in Cairo in 1944 by emissaries of the Stern Gang from Israel.

A lesser known aspect of

Moyne's life is his military experience in the First World War. His diaries covering this period are now the subject of a new book, *Staff Officer: The Diaries of Lord Moyne 1914-1918*, compiled and edited by the military historians Brian Bond and Simon Robbins.

Walter Guinness served as a regimental officer with the Suffolk Yeomanry, 10th London and 11th Cheshire Regi-

ments, taking part in some of the dramatic events of 1915-16.

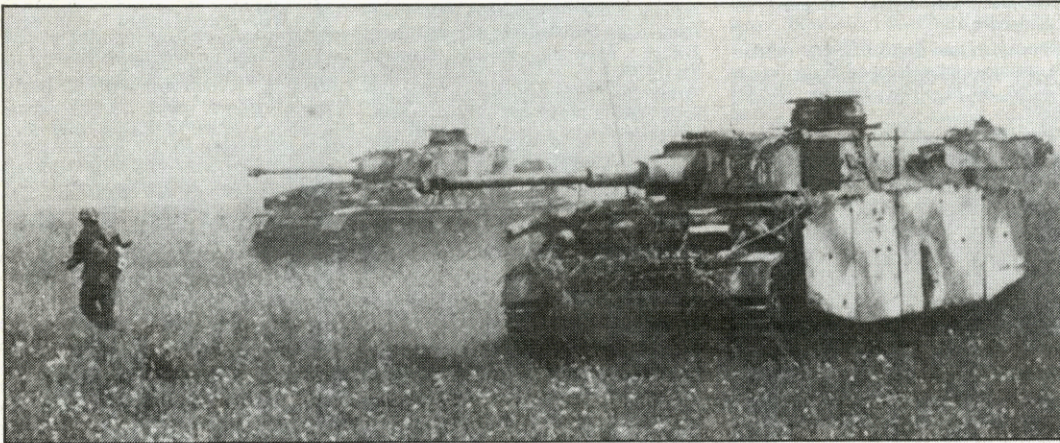
His positions of brigade and divisional staff officer in the second half of the war presented an opportunity to provide rare descriptions of military organisation "at the sharp end", both in defence and attack.

His diaries comprise personal accounts of a number of campaigns: the final phase of Gallipoli, the close of the

Somme fighting, Passchendaele, the German breakthrough of March 1918 and the subsequent Allied advance.

The book will probably be more appreciated by serious students of the First World War than by readers seeking an adventure story. — BJ

Staff Officer: The Diaries of Lord Moyne 1914-1918, edited by Brian Bond and Simon Robbins, published by Leo Cooper. Price £17.50.



German PzKpfw III Model G tanks operating in the Orel area during the great Operation Citadel tank battle

The greatest tank battle of them all

THE greatest tank battle in history was instigated by Hitler in 1943 on the Kursk-Orel salient of the Eastern Front, a front which stretched from Stalingrad southward to the Sea of Azov.

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The best German troops took the brunt of the clash and when they needed their reserves they were not of the same calibre. The Russian reserves were massed effectively to counter-attack.

These were mighty armies in opposition, with the Russians fielding the greater numbers. In combat were 2,237,000 men, 30,220 guns, 6,000 tanks and 5,150 aircraft. The Russian troops were now well trained, their armament no longer inferior, and their commanders fully in control and effective in operations.

The big tank battle started on the morning of July 12, 1943 in the Prokhorovka area. As the great mass of Soviet tanks advanced in groups "the gunfire became one mighty continuous noise."

There was dogfight after fierce dogfight, the T-34s taking out the Tigers at close range. No longer was the length of muzzle of any significance and the rounds went through the armour at any angle.

"Soon the firmament was covered by heavy smoke" from the innumerable fires.

The battle lasted four days and it was a decisive turning point in the war. After the great conflict the Russians fought the Germans with equality of ferocity and ability and eventually fought their way through to Berlin.

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Operation Citadel by Janusz Piekalkiewicz, published by Corgi. Price £15.95.

In brief

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Ashanti 1895-96 by Ian McInnes and Mark Fraser. The last campaign in which the British Army wore red tunics, some 2,500 Ashanti Stars were awarded to the soldiers who went into the interior of West Africa to capture the King of Ashanti and his senior chiefs. A book designed to be principally of interest to medal collectors, with details of those who received the awards. Published by Picton Publishing. Price £17.95.

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Author requires amusing service anecdotes from all ranks. Credit given in book to be published and all correspondence acknowledged. Postage reimbursed, Box No 008, SOLDIER Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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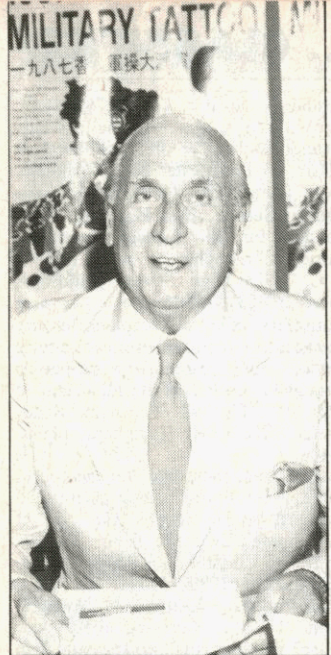
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The Old Campaigner himself, Maj (Retd) Aubrey Jackman; it was his fourth Hong Kong tattoo, but his 90th overall. He began his career as a military pageant master more than 30 years ago

Made in Hong Kong

• From Page 37

for the continuity drill (without verbal orders) display by the Junior Leaders Corps of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), all between 14 and 18 years old.

More fast-developing talent was shown by the all-Chinese motor cycle display team of 29 Squadron RCT which is expected to take part in the Royal Tournament, London, next year.

From veteran pageant master, Maj (Retd) Aubrey Jackman there was high praise for the Army dogs demonstration put on by the Hong Kong Animal Defence Support Unit, Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

The dogs came from the Border Detachment and have helped to capture 11,000 illegal immigrants since 1979.

Two combat scenarios proved popular. In "On Guard" the 1st Bn Coldstream Guards, the resident British battalion, contrasted their ceremonial and active service roles. The Corps of Drums in scarlet and bearskins made a big impression.

In "Counter Action" RAMC and QARANC personnel of the BMH set up a clinic in a difficult environment under the protection of 3 Raiding Squadron Royal Marines.

The Tattoo was produced to raise funds for Hong Kong charities and for SSAFA.

Return to Cambrai

SIX British veterans – now all in their nineties – have returned to the battlefields of Cambrai, exactly 70 years after the start of the first great tank battle in history.

They were joined by 50 members of the Royal Tank Regiment Old Comrades Association and by many more for a service held at the Victory Memorial, Cambrai.

Pte George Brown, now 91, was with H Battalion Heavy Branch the Tank Corps from 1917-19, and the sight of those vast French fields served only to remind him of the dreadful carnage on both sides. Nearly 42,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded at Cambrai.

Pte George Judkin was on the HQ staff of H battalion and was responsible for taking down the confidential orders for the battle. He remembers days of secret preparation when the tanks (code named "tadpoles") were taken overnight into Dessart Wood to be hidden from the Germans.

Pte Val Field, while serving with E Battalion, was just plain lucky when he and other members of the battalion were transferred to G Battalion. Two thirds of the remaining E Battalion were consequently wiped out, and a visit to the British Cemetery at Flesquières enabled him to remember lost comrades and to search the



On the steps of Cambrai Cathedral are (back, from left) Thomas Rooker and Val Field and (front) Robert Barber, George Judkin, George Brown and Frank Siddaway

grave stones for familiar names.

Pte Frank Siddaway, now 90, served with D Battalion. He too remembered preparations for Cambrai, in particular the use of dummy tanks a few weeks before the battle, and the low flying aeroplanes of the Royal Flying Corps which covered the noise of rumbling tanks taking up their positions.

Also with D Battalion was Pte Thomas Geoffrey Rooker. He remembers being holed up in Havrincourt Wood. During the night of the 19th they moved to their starting posi-

tions and waited for dawn.

It was a lovely morning and as they looked down over the slopes they could see the sun glinting on the German wires. Thomas Rooker had a close encounter when, clanking forward Flesquières, he was stopped by an officer from going around the corner ahead. Had he continued he would almost certainly have met the fate of the three previous tanks, all of which had been disabled by a German gun.

Pte Robert Alfred Barber served as a "runner" with B



Heads bowed, young soldiers of the Royal Tank Regiment honour the fallen of Cambrai

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Company. One of his tasks was tape-laying for the jumping off points. As the veterans' pilgrimage made its way through the small French village, Pte Barber told of the humiliation when, later in March 1918, the Germans broke through and the British had to retreat to regroup.

The battlefield tour of Cambrai was full of memories not only for the six 1917 veterans, but also for members of the RTR Old Comrades Association who had fought their own battles since.

An exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary was staged by the local authorities in an 18th century building used by the people of Cambrai as a food store during the war. Much of the equipment and relics on display had been recovered from the battlefields, which to this day throw up the kit and remains of those who fell.

Of particular interest was the Graincourt gun, which disabled two tanks and held up the infantry until it was captured by Pte Phillips of G Battalion. It was on loan from the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset.



Mr George Brown with the Graincourt gun which disabled two tanks and held up the British infantry

THE visit to Cambrai provided an opportunity for many friends and relatives who had fought at the battle, as it was for the daughter of the late 2nd Lt T W Deeves of the 16th Middlesex, 29th Division.

Lt Deeves was wounded and taken to hospital behind enemy lines. He left during the night and walked back to rejoin his men, arriving

LEFT FOR DEAD!

just in time for the German counter attack on November 30, during which he was seriously wounded.

Having lain in no man's land for 48 hours he was brought back as dead. A medical officer, looking under Deeves's blanket as he awaited burial, noticed a

movement and the lieutenant was taken to hospital. Though he was put in "No Hope" ward, Deeves recovered.

It was the end of the war for Lt Deeves, but his memories and injuries were to remain with him for the next 60 years.

Story: Lindsey Cleave
Pictures: Terry Champion

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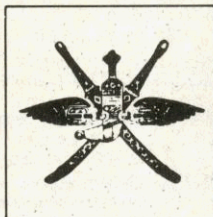
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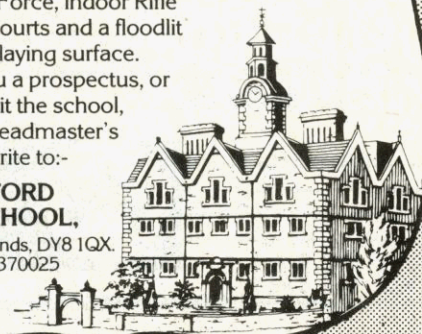
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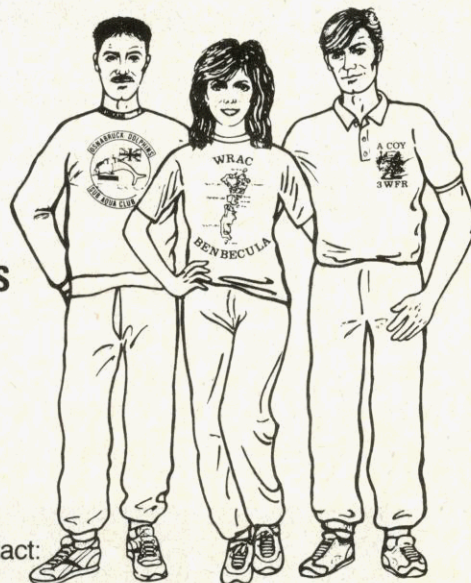
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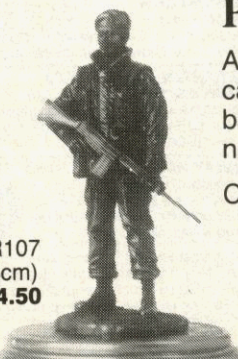
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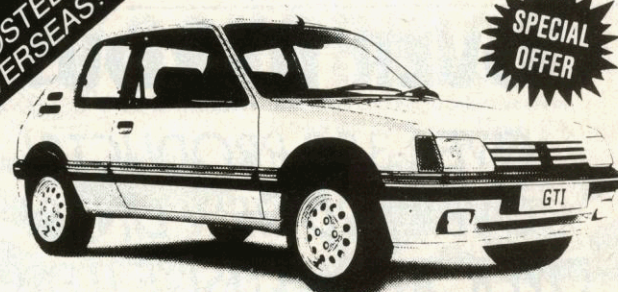
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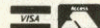
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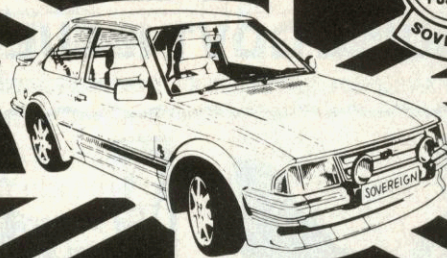


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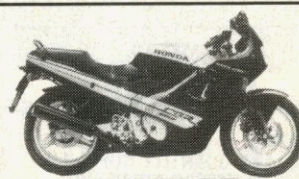
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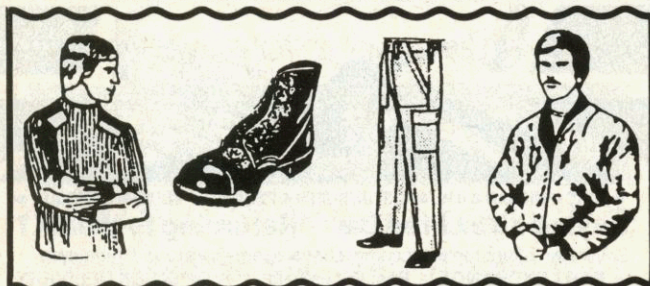
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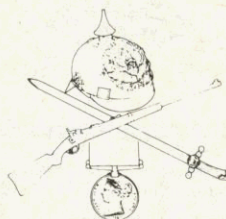
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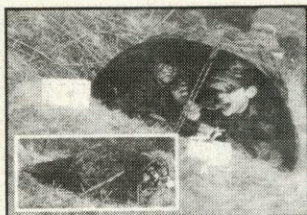
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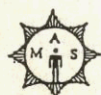
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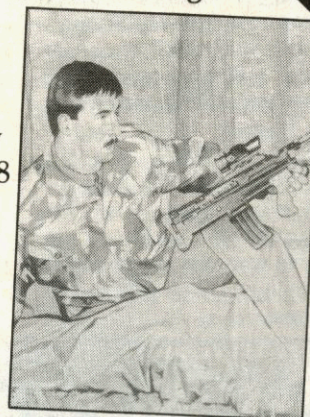
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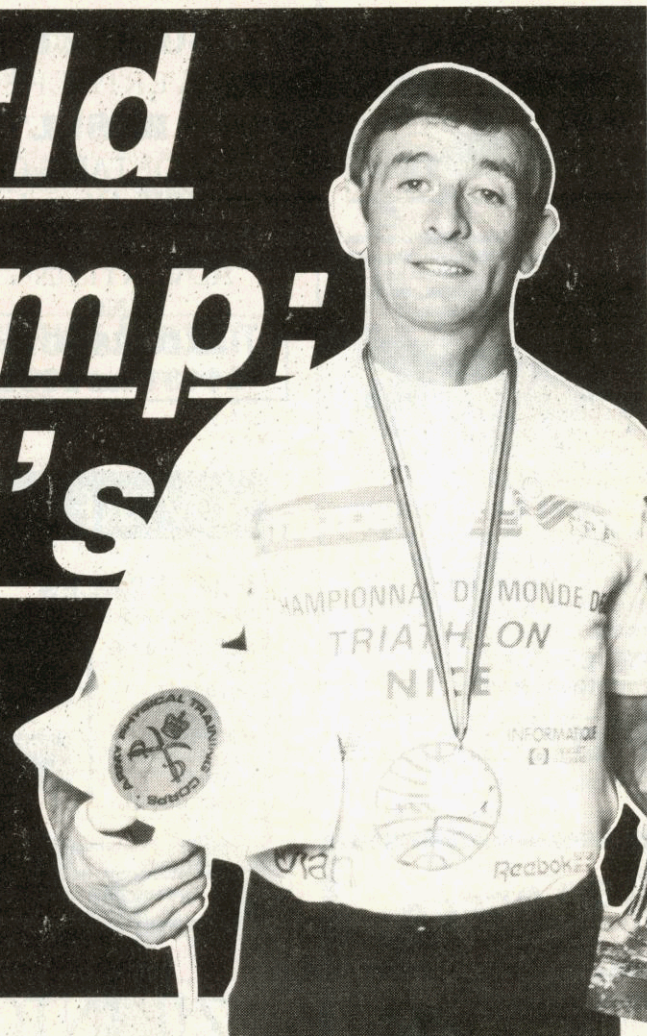
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World champ: that's our Bill



MASTER TRIATHLETE: Bill Pegler from AAC Chepstow

PT Instructor Bill Pegler from the Army Apprentices College at Chepstow became Britain's first triathlon world champion when he won the veteran's title at the world championships in Nice, France.

Bill, an ex-QMSI, and Sgt Mike Williams of 23 Para Fd Ambl were among the 905 competitors who set out on the gruelling two mile sea swim, 75 mile mountain cycle ride and 20 mile run.

Temperatures were high at the South of France venue and many athletes dropped out suffering from heat exhaustion.

Mike Williams finished in the top half of the field to his great relief. Last year he was hit by a motor car during the cycling event and spent eight days in hospital.

Pegler beat many full time

professionals and top amateurs from 23 countries on his way to the world title. His time of 6hrs 48min secured 67th place overall. He was the second British competitor to finish.

"It was the experience of a lifetime for us," said Bill. "Quite unlike any race we do in the UK. Next year we hope to enter a full Army team."

Sgt Joe Green (left) and SSgt David Minden, of the British Military Hospital, Hong Kong, look like going places.

Sgt Green, 28, Royal Army Dental Corps, took up triathlon eventing four years ago – swimming 1500 metres, cycling 40kms and running 10kms. In 1985 he became the sixth Briton to finish in the World Triathlon Championships in Nice, France.

This year he won the Asian



championship in Singapore against a huge entry. His next target is the Japanese championship.

SSgt Minden, 31, a Royal Army Medical Corps physiotherapist, took up the same sport only a year ago.

Toughening up by taking part in a two-week trekking expedition in the Himalayas he managed to come in third in the Singapore competition won by Sgt Green.

DUCHESS IS ROYAL PATRON

ROYAL patronage has been bestowed on the Combined Services Winter Sports Association. The Duchess of York has agreed to become patron and attended her first engagement at a reception in the Royal Air

Force Club, London.

Her hosts were Gen Sir Richard Vincent, president of the association, and Mr Roger Kitson, chairman of Hill Samuel Investment Services who are to sponsor the

international Alpine Services ski championships in Meribel.

Service entries are expected from Britain, US Forces in Europe, Italy, Australia, France, West Germany, Holland and New Zealand.

Robbie has the final word – again

MAJOR Robbie Robinson, RAOC, made the long haul from Hong Kong worthwhile when he beat old rival Cpl Dave Clarke, RAF, 3-0 in an excellent final to the Combined Services squash championship, writes Lance Brett.

The tournament brought the very best players from all three Services to the Waverley

Squash Club at Farnham in Surrey – and once again the pace was set by Robinson and Clarke. They have met in the finals of every one of the five championships held so far, with Robinson winning four times.

The others to emerge from the preliminary pools were Cpls Steve Gascoyne, Jim Lord, Martin and Kippax of the

Royal Air Force, Cpl Tom Pollard, R Signals, and Lt Lockwood of the Royal Navy.

The Under 25 event was won by 2nd Lt James, RM, and the veterans' event by WO2 (QMSI) McQuilkin, APTC.

Prizes were presented by Air Vice-Marshal J M Jones who thanked sponsors DEC and tournament organisers Flt Sgt Palmer and WO2 Fogg.

Jim Lord and Tom Pollard got Combined Services off to a winning start against the famous Jesters.

Clarke of the RAF proved his strength in retrieving against Eamonn Price after losing the first game and being game point down in the second.

Geoff Hoare pressed Robbie Robinson all the way in an even match and eventually took control in the fifth. Gascoyne was sportingly conceded his tie by Neil Simpkins with the RAF corporal two games up when court time ran out.

The following evening Combined Services decisively beat Escorts 5-0.

Robinson's match against Chris Wilson – who has just left the Army and is the newly appointed general secretary of the Squash Rackets Association – was entertaining but predictable, Robinson winning 9-4, 9-3.

The Army's other representative, Cpl Tom Pollard won his game with ease, and there were good wins for Clarke, Lord and Gascoyne, all RAF.

APTC wins corps crown

MORE than 100 players representing 18 corps and division teams met at the Waverley Squash Club for the three-day Army Inter Corps squash championship.

The APTC entered a very strong team which included QMSI Ray Surgeon, SMI Dick Sharkey, QMSI Bill McQuilkin and SMI Arthur Harvey, of HQ 4 Division, and won the championship from the RAOC, who were eventually beaten into third place by the RE team.

In Division 2 the REME, led by WO2 Bob Perkins of 49 Field Regiment RA, Lippstadt, won and gained promotion to Division 1. The infantry came second; Royal Artillery third.

The Light Division won

Division 3 and promotion to Division 2. They beat the Army Catering Corps into second place and the Household Division came third.

Sixty of the best infantry players in the Army met in Winchester to decide a squad of eight for the Inter Corps tournament and to find young talent for an overseas tour.

WO1 Peter Ratcliffe from 22 SAS demolished all opposition in the open event.

Some of the best matched were in the plate competitions and early rounds. Cpl Foxton, 1 D and D, was particularly impressive beating Lt Col Nick Gaskell for a place in the quarter finals and Maj Hugh Bradbury had an epic struggle over Lt Alastair Lamb, RRW.

ARMY CLINCH INDOOR TITLE

DESPITE a bad injury to Nick Gordon the Army retained the Inter Services indoor hockey title at RAF Newton.

Gordon dislocated his left shoulder when he crashed into a post while scoring the Army's fifth goal in their 6-3 victory over the Royal Navy.

After Gordon had opened the scoring the Navy took the lead until Jennings equalised from a corner. Gordon scored

twice more before his injury and the other Army strikes were by Hunnisett.

Jennings was in superb form against the Royal Air Force, scoring one goal from a penalty stroke and five from corners as the airmen were demolished 12-3. Hunnisett added another three and Meares two.

In the final match the RAF beat the Royal Navy by two goals to one.

Patched up Sabre keeps to schedule

WHAT might have been a serious blow to their progress in Australian Adventure 88 was smoothly overcome by the crew of HMSTY Sabre, one of two Joint Services yachts on passage to Sydney to mark the 200th anniversary of European settlement in Australia.

Having left Bali, their last port of call before Australia, Sabre and Adventure were making their way to Gerald-

town, north of Perth, when Sabre's forestay parted.

The crew made running repairs with a jury rig of ropes to keep the mast upright, and under limited sail and with help from the engines, reached Exmouth 400 miles away on Australia's North Cape.

There the Royal Australian Navy pulled out all the stops to repair the damage and Sabre was on her way within 24 hours.



Both yachts were due to change crews at Fremantle before Christmas then sail to Melbourne in company with up to 50 of the world's great Tall Ships. In command of the Sabre for that leg was Maj Simon Salter. At Melbourne another crew change is to take place, with Maj Cherry Lewis-Taylor, WRAC, taking command of an all Service-women crew on board Sabre.

Gunners spoil sapper party

THE annual sapper-gunner rugby clash at Chatham brought a memorable victory for the gunners, ending a run of five consecutive RE victories, writes John Quinn.

In this, the year of RE 200, the sappers were more than keen to record another drubbing of the old enemy, but it was not to be.

Under the watchful eye of international referee Roger Quittenton, the game got off to its usual frenzied start as both teams strove to find defensive weaknesses.

The result was a battle royal which, after an exchange of penalties, saw the engineers holding precariously on to a 7-3 lead after scrum half Phillips

had scored for the sappers.

Heading towards a nail-biting finish, sapper hearts sank when a careless indiscretion gave gunner fly half Steele a penalty shot at goal with minutes to go.

Seven points to six – and the gunners really had their tails up. Then, for all sappers on and off the field the worst thing possible happened when the gunners won good ball on the left and, with excellent handling, released right wing Green to squeeze in at the corner despite a desperate tackle by sapper No 8 Ryan.

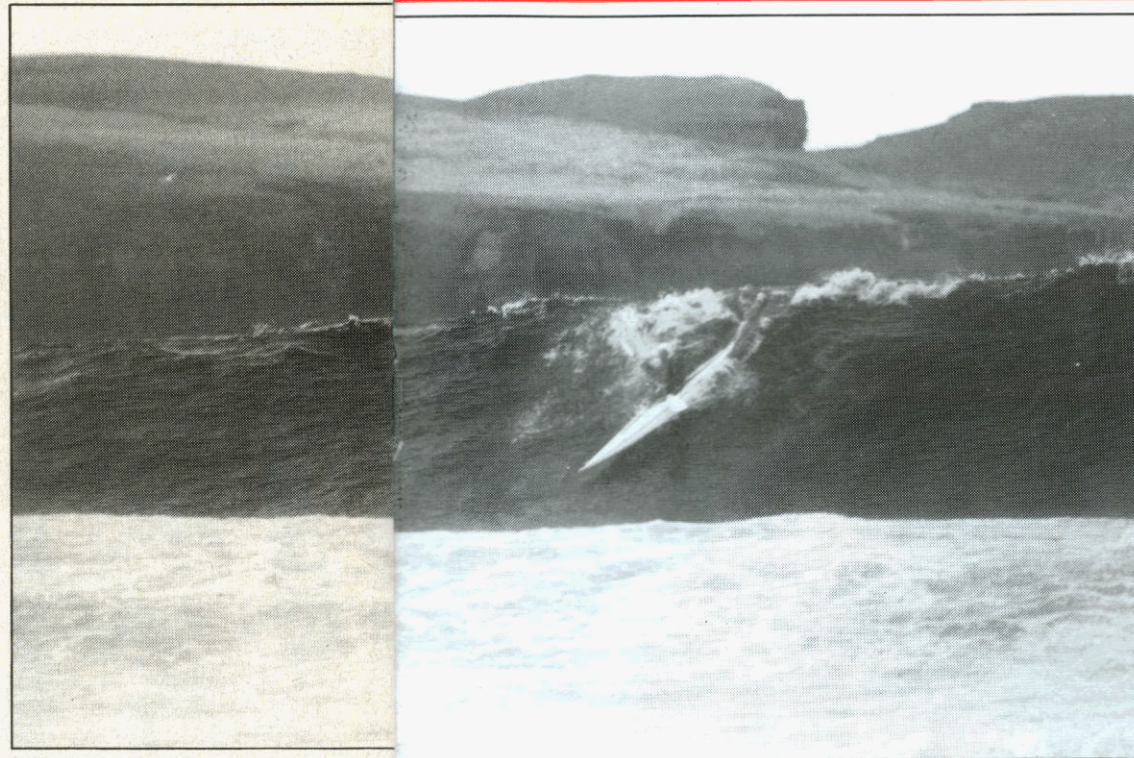
The gunners were delighted. Capt Jim Baxter said after the game: "I had 15 men out there who were proud to wear the

gunner shirt and that pride came through today."

The sappers felt that they had won enough ball to have won the game, but at the end of the day it was the artillery who had the most points on the board.

For the first time that anyone can remember, the junior units played a curtain raiser with the Junior Leaders Regiment RE from Dover beating the Junior Leaders RA from Nuneaton 12-0.

Two important games were taking place in Aldershot this month, with Combined Services taking on the Korean national team on December 9 and the Army meeting the Territorial Army a week later.



A dramatic picture of Col Sgt Tom Copperwaite 1 PWO riding a wave to second place in the British Surf Slalom championships. Copperwaite, four times the Army surf slalom champion, won the British title in 1985 and 1986

KOSB are the champions

INFANTRY tennis champions are 1st Bn The King's Own Scottish Borderers, presently stationed in Berlin, who defeated 1 Bn Welsh Guards by six rubbers to three in the final

which was staged in Berlin.

1 KOSB were represented by Lt Col Evans, RAMC, Maj Middlemiss, CSgt Menzies, Cpl Rodger, Cpl Ellis and Pte Cloherty.

Second string holds students

Oxford University 1
Army XI 1

WITH only one recognised Army player in the squad, the Army travelled to Iffley Road for their annual tilt with Oxford University. The result was a creditable 1-1 draw, writes Pat Massey.

The students aided by a following wind, dominated

proceedings early on. They earned, and missed, a penalty kick in the 18th minute, but took the lead when SI Danny McQuade, APTC, brought down another forward just before the interval.

LCpl Eddie McIlvenna, RA, scored for the Army midway through the second half, and with a little luck might have netted the winner in the closing minutes.

DONS ON TOP

Wimbledon 5
Royal Signals 2

IN preparation for the corps quadrangular tournament, Royal Signals took on a very strong Wimbledon side boosted by a number of players with first team experience. In a fast, hard fought tie, the soldiers went down by five goals to two.

Cpl Andy Edwards and Cpl Slim Cheetham scored for the corps and each missed not too difficult chances.

The visitors gave away two sloppy goals, one in the opening minutes of the game, and these were eventually to prove decisive and suggest that the margin between the sides was greater than it actually was.

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SOLDIER

When Maj Bob Card, commandant of the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe, West Germany, promised to show daughter Debbie some of the sights he certainly found a novel way to do so — from 12,000 ft above the parachute centre! Bob has been involved in the sport for 25 years and there are not many instructor qualifications he hasn't got. But tandem parachuting is relatively new and this was his last evaluated dive before gaining his tandem master rating. Debbie has been parachuting for more than two years.

Picture: Cpl S J Apps, QDG