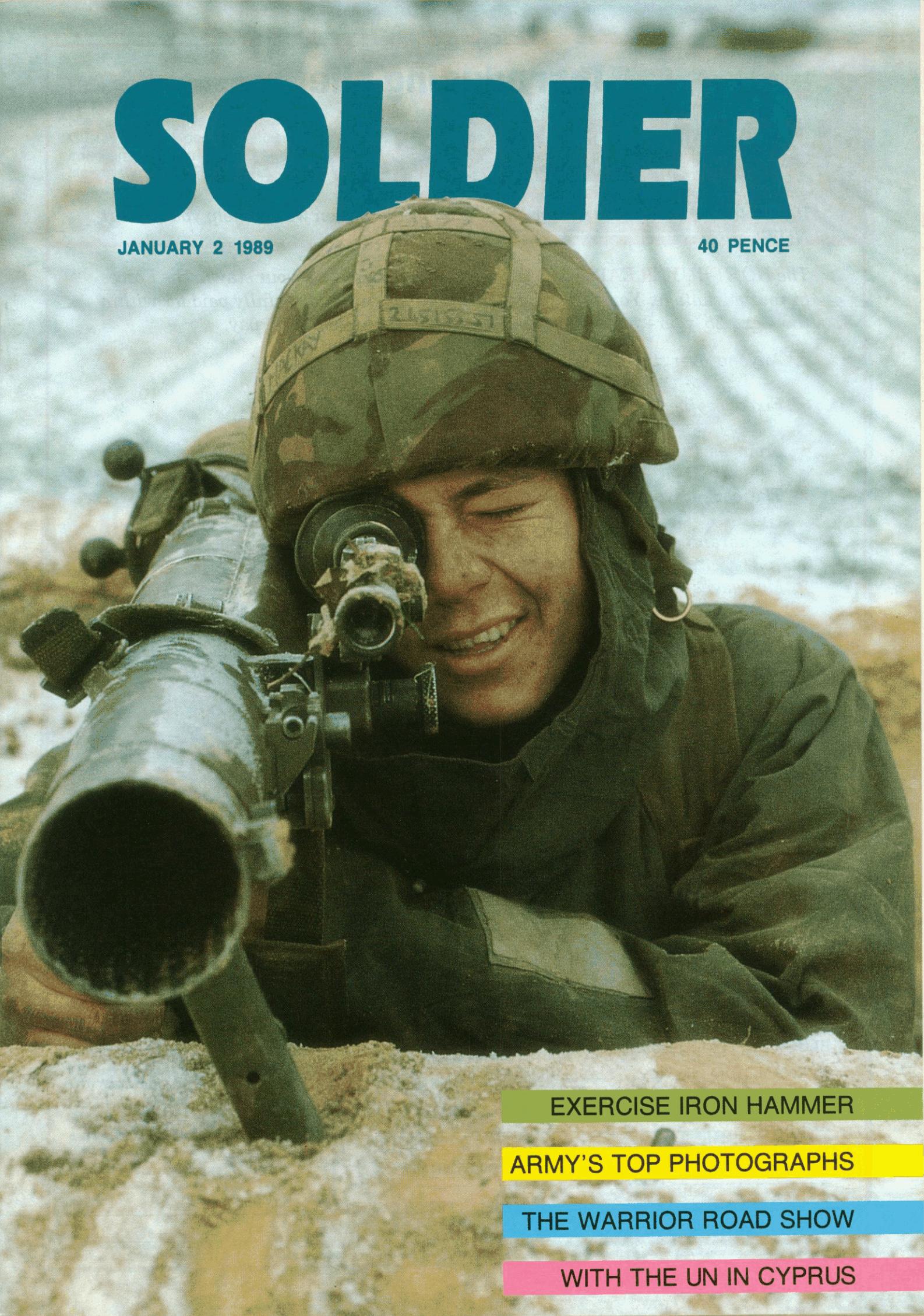


# SOLDIER



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FRONT COVER: Pte Stewart Mackay of the Queen's Own Highlanders sets his 84mm Carl Gustav on target during Exercise Iron Hammer. More pictures and stories starting on Page 21.

Picture: Mike Weston

# SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Above left - Members of the British community in Naples worked up a good head of steam when they raced to the top of Vesuvius to raise money for local charities. Read about the Army's fund raising activities on Pages 42-43.

Right - Tpr Peter Stocks, 4/7 DG, escorts a Greek Cypriot worker in the Buffer Zone in Nicosia. A feature on the work of the United Nations in Cyprus begins on Page 16. There will be more about Cyprus based units in the next issue.

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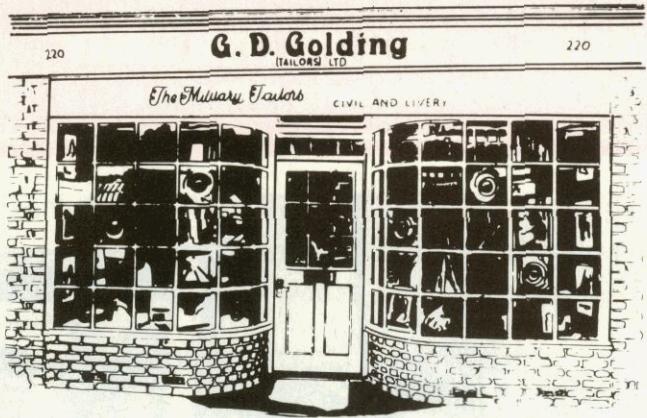
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# LETTERS

## How can we help the Army in Ulster?

Are there any readers of **SOLDIER** magazine, perhaps with more specialist knowledge or just more imagination than I have, who can suggest ways in which the mainland public might give some practical support to the Army in Ulster?

I know that the GOC's fund directly benefits the regiments in the Six Counties but with the best will in the world, no one can be giving money continual-

ly, and many people would find it easier to offer their time and effort instead.

At present, we feel very helpless whenever there's bad news from the Province, and we'd really welcome the chance of having a more useful and positive contact with the units there. So please don't let this goodwill go to waste. — **Miss Marilyn Mailley, West Mids** (full address supplied).

## Corps did this ex soldier proud

May I pass on to serving and retired soldiers the good fortune that has come my way through the excellent services of the Corps of Commissionaires in London.

In response to an advertisement for an appointment as building manager in a prestigious development company in London, I found I had to write to the Corps in London, enclosing my CV.

I was invited for an interview with Maj Tony Northey (Retd). I was not sure what this job was going to entail, as like so many of us, I was not fully aware of the full range of appointments

### Calling . . .

● Miss Barbara Stenbridge and Miss Vivian Seaborne, of 4 Coy WRAC, GHQ FARELF, Singapore, who were bridesmaids at the wedding in Singapore in 1965 of Mr F C Aldrich to a WRAC girl. Mr and Mrs Aldrich, of 26 The Hollies, Brackla, Bridgend, Mid-Glam CF31 2PP, are hoping to trace them.

● Any members of the 50B intake (September 9, 1950) from the **Army Apprentices School**, Arborfield, Reading. Mr C Ayre of 146 Wentworth Road, Wheatley, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN2 4BT wants to know if any reunions are planned.

● Servicemen who were in Greece in 1945-46. Mr W P Tayler, 24 Woodside Gardens, Ravenshead, Notts NG15 99F, was attached to the **British Military Mission to Greece** and was in charge of the MT Section in Athens.

that come from time to time to the Corps.

Eventually I was appointed — with a salary well over that which I received as an ex ranking captain — to a challenging new career with a really good company. I soon discovered that the estate security manager is an ex Marine warrant officer.

The security of this estate is also done on contract by the Corps of Commissionaires, and I will shortly be asking Maj Northey to find me 11 more men for my building.

I am honoured to be a member of the Corps and am so very grateful for the work done on my behalf by the London branch. If only I had known this when I left the Regulars I would not have wasted a year on low paid and boring jobs. I fully recommend that anyone about to leave should contact the Corps at 3 Crane Court, Fleet St, London EC4A 2EJ — **Denis Bate, 9 Firle Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 8QN.**

## BACK TO FRONT?

EAGLE eyed readers quickly spotted that our back cover picture (December 12) was of a 2 R Irish FV 432 fording a river during Exercise Rhine Ranger. Our caption had heavily disguised the vehicle as a Milan-carrying Spartan! In fact the caption was correct — we had just used the wrong picture.

# Danish monarch visits 1 Queens at Tidworth

QUEEN Margrethe II of Denmark who is an Allied Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Regiment visited the 1st Battalion at their barracks in Tidworth. This year sees the 300th anniversary of the regiment's links with the Royal House of Denmark.

These were inherited through The Buffs who in 1689 were officially named Prince George of Denmark's Regiment after their Honorary Colonel, the husband of Queen Anne. During the Second World War many Danes served in the regiment, including Maj

A F Lassen who won a Victoria Cross. They are remembered daily at the Turning of the Page ceremony in the Buffs Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral and there is still a thriving branch of the Regimental Association in Copenhagen.

# Services join forces to beat the pirates

SEVEN marksmen from the British Garrison in Hong Kong were on board the 4,300-tonne Royal Fleet Auxiliary Sir Bedivere to mount a round-the-clock guard against piracy in the infamous Strait of Malacca, northwest of Singapore, when the vessel was making her journey home to the UK after visiting Hong Kong.

The seven marksmen – three sailors, three soldiers and one airman – were all equipped with self-loading rifles. They were PO David Green, ABs Sandy Saunders and Nick Hyde, Cpl Steve Bennett, Mike Gibson and Andy Rome and SAC Steve Mann.

## Officer killed by grenade

A BRITISH officer serving in Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles has been killed in an explosion at an Army base. A Gurkha officer of the same battalion was seriously wounded.

The dead officer was named as Maj James Richford, aged 34 and single. The injured officer, Lt Lal Bahadur Pun, was treated for his wounds at BMH Hong Kong.

An MoD spokesman confirmed the explosion was caused by a British issue grenade and said a full investigation into the incident was being carried out by the Hong Kong Police with the full support of the Army's Special Investigation Branch.

## Director in Colony

THE Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Brig Shirley Nield has visited Hong Kong to see WRAC personnel stationed in the territory. She undertook a tour of the Sino-Hong Kong border to see members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) at work.



PO David Green and Cpl Stephen Bennett, LI, who were members of the squad of seven marksmen from Hong Kong who guarded the RFA Sir Bedivere against pirate attack

## Thar she blows!

IT'S not every day that an Assault Pioneer platoon sporting 15 different cap badges gets the chance to blow up a bridge. When Maj Derek Webb, RE, from the School of Infantry, Warminster came up with the offer, it was accepted with enthusiasm by the school's Assault Pioneers.

The masonry arch bridge, over a disused railway south of Shepton Mallet, was reduced to a pile of rubble.

### Happy hogmanay

SOLDIER's first £50 competition winner of the New Year is Mr J J Nicolson of Scalloway Road, Lerwick, Shetland. Runners-up prizes of books go to Col P S Newton of Aldershot and Cpl Eagle of ASD Ballykinler. Next chance to win £50 in the HOAY competition is on Page 43.



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Picture: Mike Weston

## PAY CORPS PARADES IN WINCHESTER

**MEN** of the Royal Army Pay Corps march with bayonets fixed through the streets of Winchester, Hants to exercise their right as Freemen of the city. They paraded from Peninsula Barracks to the Guildhall where they were inspected by the Mayor, Councillor Brian Hall. He took the salute at a march past under the command of Lt Col Mike Llewellyn, RAPC.

In addition to three detachments of RAPC there was a detachment of members of the RAPC Regimental Association led by Brig (Retd) Harry Thompson. After the parade the corps marched to Winchester Cathedral for a thanksgiving service to mark the opening the previous day of the new RAPC Computer Centre at Worthy Down.

## Nato airmobile division mooted

NATO defence ministers at the biannual Defence Planning Committee meeting in Brussels have agreed to investigate the feasibility of creating a new multi-national airmobile division in Europe including troops from Britain, Belgium, West Germany and the Netherlands.

The study will be led by Gen John Galvin, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR). The possible inclusion of the British Army's newly formed 24th

Airmobile Brigade is one option that will be studied by SACEUR. The defence ministers also agreed to make a study of training and exercises taking place in West Germany.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We will be glad to participate fully in the study into training with the Federal Republic of Germany and recognise the impact of exercises on the population. We must also recognise the need to maintain operationally essential means of training."

## Regular Forces strength down

TOTAL strength of the Regular Forces at the end of September was about 4,000 lower than a year earlier according to the latest figures published by the Ministry of Defence.

But there was some good news for the Army. While the Royal Navy (95 fewer) and the Royal Air Force (down 35) were

reporting decreases in officer strength, the Army and the Royal Marines boasted small increases. There was a fall in the number of Servicewomen in the Army.

The latest figures reveal a total Army strength of 157,550, of which 16,307 are officers, 134,987 are Servicemen 998 are female officers and 5,258 are Servicewomen.

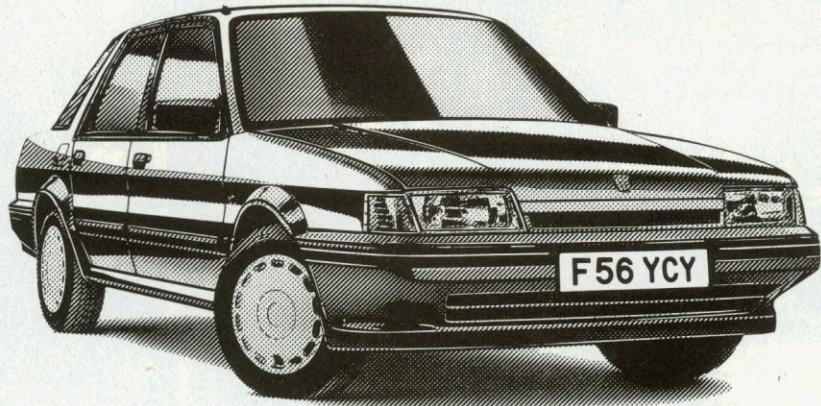
## Cemetery haven wins Hohne the ENCON prize

MONTHS of hard work by personnel at Hohne Station, West Germany have been rewarded by first prize in the prestigious ENCON (Environmental Conservation) 88 competition.

Personnel created a peaceful haven for visitors to the Jewish Cemetery where 30,494 internees of Belsen concentration camp are buried, encouraged wildlife to settle in the area and provided wildlife education for children at Hohne.

First prize was a new car, the keys of which were presented to Lt Col Nick Bird, RA, Hohne Station Commander, by Mr John Malone of Naafi. In addition, as corps and regional winner, Station Staff Officer Lt Col (Retd) Norman Wilkins received a trophy and cheque. Special mention was made of the contributions to the project by 256 Mobile Civilian Plant Group RE, 212 Mobile Civilian Labour Group RPC as well as Service clubs, Brownies and Scouts from Hohne.

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## Battery holds final Colenso parade before move

THE last Colenso Day parade at Thorney Island, Hants for a decade was held by 159 Colenso Field Battery, Royal Artillery at Baker Barracks. The 100 man battery is due to move to Germany soon and it could be 12

years before it returns to Thorney Island.

On parade was LBdr Stuart Nurse, great grandson of Cpl George Nurse VC, whose Victoria Cross, won at the battle of Colenso in 1899 during the Boer War, was paraded

through the ranks. LBdr Nurse has the battle honour as his middle name.

Cpl Nurse's VC was one of four awarded following attempts to rescue 12 guns after their crews had been killed or wounded.

## QDG soldier commended for rescue

A WELSH soldier has been commended by his commanding officer for rescuing a German girl from her crashed car. The incident happened while LCpl Chris Teesdale of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards was taking part in Exercise Iron Hammer in West Germany.

Weather conditions deteriorated rapidly during the exercise and LCpl Teesdale saw the girl's car overturn. He sped to the scene, pulled the crash victim out of her vehicle and treated her injuries which included shock, bruises and a broken hand.

The QDG, an armoured reconnaissance regiment, recruits from Wales. It is stationed at Wolfenbuttel, near Hanover.

## Duke on private visit to 1 DERR

DURING a four-day visit to Hong Kong, The Duke of Edinburgh paid a private visit to his own regiment, the 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, who are half-way through a two-and-a-half year tour in the territory. At the Sino-Hong

Kong border he was met by the Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Garry Johnson, before being briefed on the life of the battalion and anti-illegal immigration operations by the Commanding Officer of 1 DERR, Lt Col Stephen Saunders.



Picture: Capt T.A. Bedford, RAMC

A Challenger main battle tank growls into action as 17 Troop, D Squadron, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment fires smoke grenades during the regiment's annual field firing at Hohne, West Germany

Mr Leon Brittan MP lent a hand to launch the Sibun Splash expedition which will involve a six-man team from the 14th/20th Kings Hussars who are to attempt an 80 mile descent by canoe of the rapid strewn Sibun river in Belize. He agreed to become patron of the expedition after a chance meeting on a train with team leader Capt Jonny Beardsall.

Pictured (left to right) at the launching on the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park are Tpr Steve Branick, Tpr James Bretherton, Lt Andrew Harman, Capt Beardsall, Tpr Robert Colling, Sgt Steve Garner and the Rt. Hon Leon Brittan

## Scottish medics let the train take the strain

EXERCISE Tartan Octopus provided an opportunity for all three Army medical units in Scotland (225 and 252 Field Ambulances and 205 (Scottish) General Hospital) to practise their role for war including the use of an ambulance train.

It was a considerable bonus for the volunteers to have the ambulance train made available in Scotland for the exercise, for normally such training is only possible when they deploy to West Germany for BAOR training every three years.

It comprises three Inter-City 125 carriages: one adapted to take 20 stretcher cases, one for walking wounded and the third for access and administrative needs.

## Top apprentices

SIMON Williamson (Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Malvern) and Anthony Hayes (18 Base Wksp REME, Bovington) were winner and runner-up respectively in the Mechanical class of the MoD Apprentices of the Year Award. Peter Hubbard (also of 18 Base Wksp) took the Fabrication prize.



Picture: Terry Champion



## Last Post in Paris

Drummer **Stephen Morris** of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards sounds the Last Post at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the President of France. Two hundred members of the battalion and the regiment band spent four days in Paris to take part in a parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Armistice.

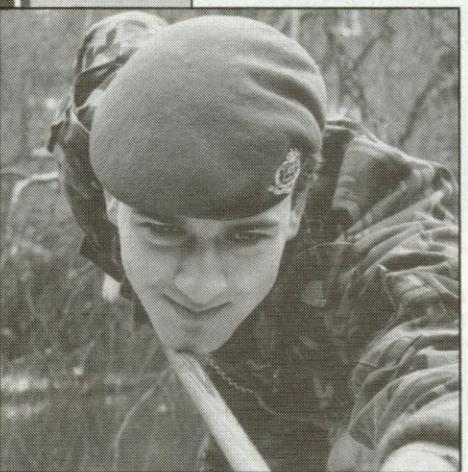


LITTLE AND LARGE: Timmy on parade with



CsGt Alan Bennett and in his very own sentry box

## Right on cue



MILITARY policeman Cpl Simon Scott (21) has been selected to play snooker for West Germany. A member of the Deutscher Snooker Kontroll Verband, Simon believes he may be the first Englishman to be chosen to play for Germany at any sport. He has been

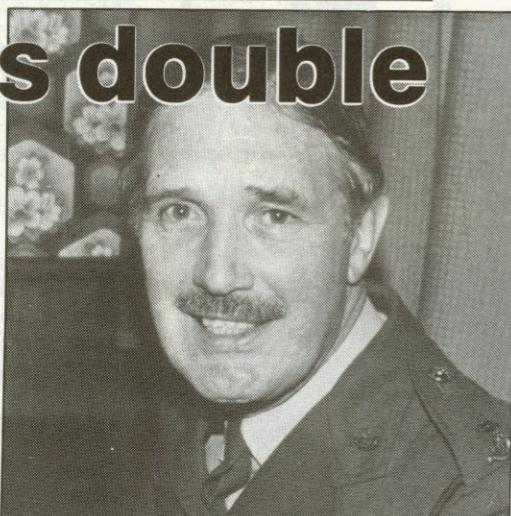
selected for matches against Belgium and Holland. Simon is serving with 110 Provost Company, RMP at Sennelager but reckons he is a bit short of practice at the moment because of the demands of Exercise Iron Hammer.

## Tom's double

Maj Tom Matthews, of the 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry, has completed 37 years' Territorial Army service - and this remarkable record has been highlighted by a rare double medal presentation at Hereford TA Centre.

A former CSM of 5 LI's Hereford based C Company, and later RQMS, he was commissioned in 1975 as Quartermaster, a post he still holds.

He already has the TA Efficiency Medal, and at the latest presentation - by Maj Gen **David Pank**, the Colonel of the Regiment - he received the TAVR Efficiency Medal for a further 12 years' other rank service and the Territorial Decoration for 12 years' commissioned service.



## The little-est

# PEOPLE



## Steve makes a

World record middle distance runner **Steve Cram** is usually first away when the gun goes off.

But he was left with ringing ears when he turned starter to see off 4,000 soldiers in the annual Aldershot Garrison charity fun run.

## Welsh Guard

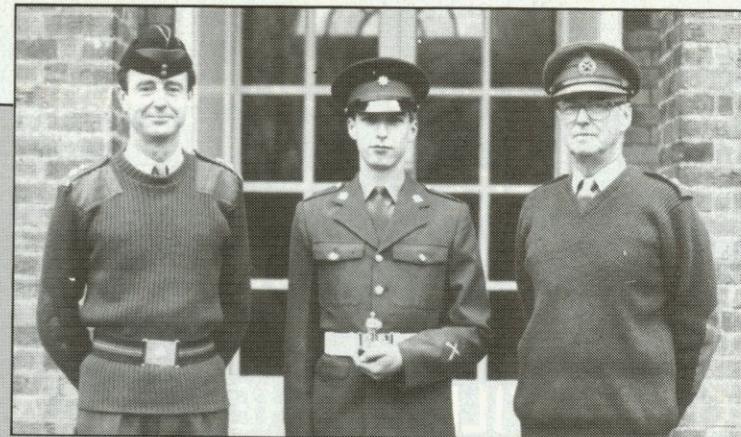
personal drill as he marched behind CsGt Alan Bennett, the Senior Sergeant on guard that day.

And plucky little Timmy was very keen to do it again. "I think next time I'll come without my mum and I'll have to grow a bit bigger," he said.



## cracking start!

Steve fired a 7 RHA 105mm light gun to start the race. Sponsored by fast food chain Burger King, the race raised several thousand pounds for charity. Individual winner was LBdr Mick Arnell of 7 RHA who completed the 5½ mile course in 26 min 17 sec.



## Good shooting

A proud moment for Pte Timothy Newton, best R Anglian shot in Falaise Platoon at Depot, The Queen's Division, Royston, Herts as he poses with his trophy after receiving it from Gen Sir John Akehurst, Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment. On the left is Lt Col Michael Goldschmidt, R Anglian, Commanding Officer of the Depot, who has now handed over to Lt Col Michael Boocock, R Anglian. Gen Akehurst was visiting Bassingbourn Barracks to open the new accommodation block named in his honour.



BIGHEAD: Derek becomes a laughing Grenadier

## Derek's on duty

What's Radio 2 favourite **Derek Jameson** doing in an 'airy 'at? He borrowed the bearskin when he arrived at Caterham Barracks, Surrey to open the Naafi's new £60,000 Waterloo Club which will be used by soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards stationed there.

Derek was invited to cut the opening ribbon by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col **Andrew Joscelyne**.

A fanfare by trumpeters of 2 Gren Gds heralded the opening. And the new facility quickly won praise from RQMS **Denis Bradley** who, with QM **Peter Dunkerley** and Col Joscelyne, was instrumental in bringing about the improvements.

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# Pilgrimage planners look ahead

Twenty pilgrimages to overseas war graves are outlined in the Royal British Legion's programme for 1989. And already the Legion is taking bookings for its pilgrimages in 1990 and beyond.

The Legion runs the visits to war graves under the Government's War Widows Grant-in-Aid Scheme which provides seven eighths of the cost of a trip for a widow to see a husband's grave or memorial.

Most pilgrimages are arranged in groups of 30 or more. They are escorted and some have a medical presence.

For those planning well ahead, the 1990 schedule includes pilgrimages to mark a series of anniversaries at Gallipoli (April, 75th), Dunkirk (May, 50th), North Germany (May, 45th anniversary of end of war in Europe), Far East (August, 45th anniversary of end of war in Far East), and Korea (September, 40th anniversary of start of war).

Details are available from The Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX.

## Good news for butterflies . . .

The MoD has been acknowledged as one of the best conservators, at least as far as butterflies are concerned, in John Feltwell's new book *The Natural History of Butterflies*.

The latest issue of the MoD conservation magazine *Sanctuary* reveals that much of Feltwell's material for his book was gathered on the Defence Estate.

The issue also alerts anglers and amateur naturalists in the Service and MoD community to look out for a rare freshwater cod known as the Burbot (or Eel-pout), which was last seen ten years ago. It is feared the "shy, solitary" Burbot has disappeared altogether from British waters.

## 51st Division commemorated

A stained glass window now has pride of place in the Church of Saint Samson in Ouistreham, Normandy.

It commemorates the part the 51st Highland Division

# SOLDIER to Soldier



Cdr Tony Clark RN (right) gives the ship's bell of HMS Sandhurst a quick shine before it was accepted on behalf of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by the Commandant, Maj Gen Simon Cooper. The destroyer depot ship was sold for scrap after the Second World War and broken up at Dalmuir in 1946

played in consolidating bridgeheads established after the beach and airborne landings and during the bitter fighting around Caen after D-Day.

The window depicts at its base the badges of 16 regiments and corps of the Division and the tartans of the Highland infantry battalions.

## Imbalance of tanks

As the British Government announces the identity of the Army's main battle tank of the 1990s, so Nato has released its latest figures on the relative strengths of conventional forces in East and West.

In every department the West is heavily outnumbered, not least in the number of main battle tanks, in which the East has a three-to-one advantage.

Nato has a combined total of nearly 16,500 tanks compared to about 51,500 available to the Warsaw Pact. The Soviet Union alone has 37,000.

In armoured infantry fighting vehicles the imbalance is nearly five to one in favour of the East, although Mr Gorbachev's historic speech to the United Nations holds out hope that the gaps in conventional weaponry will be reduced.

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

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# CDE

## View from the West...

SEVENTEEN of the CDE signatory countries sent representatives to observe Iron Hammer and SOLDIER took the opportunity to speak to two of the observers, who represented a neutral country (Switzerland) and a member of the Eastern Bloc (East Germany), writes Laurie Manton.

Surprisingly, although there were some areas of CDE about which the two men agreed, there were some aspects about which opinions differed!

Maj Gen Gerard de Loos of the Swiss Army explained that the duty of an observer was to control and ensure that everything laid down in the programme was really there and on show to the observers.

Responding to the thought that some countries might use the observations for spying, Gen de Loos said: "It is not the task of an observer to ask questions about tactical or operational problems. You cannot do it but of course if the host country is good enough to tell you then that is all right.

"I think there are some people who are going to fall in that direction and spy but I won't name them," he warned.

"It is a very important question for we are here to control something and not be a spy!"

The general expressed his opinion that the United Kingdom and West Germany



Maj Gen Gerard de Loos

perfectly respected the document of the Stockholm agreement putting great emphasis on the openness and honesty shown by the host countries.

"We saw a lot of the exercise, much more perhaps than in other observations," he said.

The troops taking part in the exercise were praised by Gen de Loos who said: "We always had the opportunity to speak with the officers, NCOs and soldiers. They were working in a very calm atmosphere which

indicates professionalism.

"Conscious of their tasks and mission, I think British soldiers are among the best in the world."

With the CDE just ending its second year, the general felt it could go much further forward with its confidence building measures, suggesting that current observations do not go far enough.

"We must go much further forward and introduce more measures and some solution for verification. Why? – because you cannot speak about disarmament issues without confidence."

"If you have more confidence you can talk about disarming but I don't think we will have great results very soon because we don't have this confidence . . . but we have to be optimists."

Gen de Loos said the observations were a good start but warned that the member countries had to go further. They should not think that they had reached the goal.

"We must be careful that the observations won't become a waste of time and just a promenade for military specialists!" he said.

"In the West we are very open . . . showing many things, every commanding

## Conference on Disarmament in Europe



LCpl Nigel Hastings (33 Ord Coy RAOC) found himself next to Soviet Col Austow one lunchtime. Said LCpl Hastings: "It was different! We couldn't understand each other but he seemed a nice man, no different to our officers"

officer, his mission, his duty, how many tanks, how many men. You cannot be more open than that but it's not the same everywhere. I won't say where but it's not correct!"

Gen de Loos felt that the Stockholm and Vienna agreements should be amalgamated because "it's a nonsense to discuss the same programme in two countries." He hopes that after some talks the BFR countries involved in Vienna will come back in the group of 35.

"I believe it is necessary to have a Stockholm 2 agreement to discuss the problems of confidence," he said.

The document was the result of two and a half years of negotiation at the conference which ended on September 19, 1986 with agreement on a package of confidence and security building measures designed to create a greater degree of openness and predictability about military



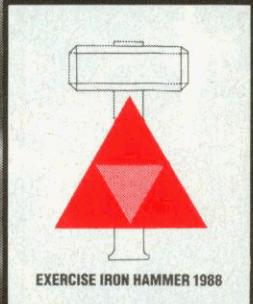
## A matter of Agreement

THE Conference on Disarmament in Europe (CDE) observers are provided by the 33 European countries who together with USA and Canada were signatories to the Stockholm Document.

Throughout their visit the observers enjoyed diplomatic status and were hosted by British Army officers, in a well organised operation which ensured the visitors were able to see a wide variety of exercise activities above a



Above – Col Helmut Wörfel (East Germany) takes a look at the Grenadier Guards. Left – "Get it fortnightly, comrade!" Soviet observer Col Avdejev displays his SOLDIER sticker



EXERCISE IRON HAMMER 1988

## ...and the view from the East

COLONEL Helmut Wörfel observed the exercise on behalf of East Germany. He told SOLDIER he was very pleased to have been chosen for the task and emphasised he was really keen to do the job.

It was the fourth time he had been chosen as an observer and Iron Hammer was the second British Forces exercise he had seen.

"It is a very pleasant and encouraging fact to see how all the 35 signatory countries fulfil their roles and obligations and

how seriously they all take it.

"We were made very, very welcome and it was a very open atmosphere that was created. I have seen that the British Forces stuck exactly to the CDE agreement and fulfilled everything that was laid down in the document," said Col Wörfel.

CDE has been in progress for two years now and during that time there have been some 30 notified exercises, 13 of which were held in BAOR, so SOLDIER asked how Col Wörfel saw the Stockholm agreement developing.

"Every country that has participated has fulfilled its obligations exactly to the letter. This is a very important and encouraging sign for the future," he said.

"Five years ago nobody would have imagined such things to be possible and that they would be carried out according to the agreement in Stockholm – it really works," he said.

Perhaps just as important,

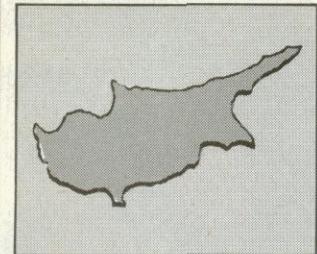
during all the exercises some 1,200 observers have been used. They all would have had the opportunity to meet each other and exchange views and opinions as well as being able to speak to large numbers of troops wherever they went.

Explained Col Wörfel: "In my opinion, no one will keep these positive impressions to themselves. They will speak to others about it and this is very important for building up confidence.

"This was not written down in the Stockholm agreement and was something nobody thought about when the document was signed, but it definitely is effective."

The colonel feels it is very important that the links being forged at a human level should be made known to the people, and that the media has an important part to play in the success of CDE.

"It is the duty of the editors of newspapers to publicise just exactly what is happening during the observations so that the ordinary person can be made aware of just what is going on and feel encouraged by the progress being made."



# SEGMENTS OF PEACE

Words by Jennifer Griffiths



Ready for patrol are (from the left): Tpr Gareth Terry, LCpl Anthony Tulett, Tpr Jonathan Carroll, Sgt Bobby Dove, Tpr Paul Allan, LCpl Martin Nunn and Tpr Daryl Linwood. In the commander's seat are Cpl Everard Patterson (left) and Cpl David Joyce

FOR United Nations purposes, Cyprus is divided into four sectors – the British contingent is in an area known as BRITCON, the Danes in DANCON, the Canadians in CANCON and the Austrians in AUSCON.

BRITCON strength comprises 23 in HQ United Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), six in HQ BRITCON, 110 from D Sqn 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) in the Force Scout Car Squadron, 320 from the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in the Cyprus Emergency Reinforcement Regiment, nine RMPs, and 306 in Support Regiment, which includes RAMC, RCT, REME, R Signals, RAOC and AAC – a total of 774.

Lt Col Ian Talbot, CO 4/7 DG, explained that the British probably had the easiest area "because it is more clearly defined and was principally Greek Cypriot before partition".

The Buffer Zone (BZ) formed just a small part of the sector but took up most of their concentration, stretching 34km from the edge of Nicosia and their junction with the Canadians in Sector Three to the junction with the Danes in Sector One.

The BZ in the eastern end is only about 30 metres wide, running to 4.5 kilometres at its widest. In the Austrian area it widens to 7km.

One area in the British controlled BZ has been settled by Turks demobbed in 1974. Another village is a former EOKA stronghold abandoned by the Greek Cypriots and now completely Turkish Cypriot. Its former residents have been demonstrating to get their village back.

The Guards look after two Greek Cypriot villages inside the BZ. Col Talbot said: "There are various rules about the things they can do, such as the number of flags they can fly, the number of Cypriot police in uniform, and what the police can do."

Sector 2 has the support of the Australian civil police, who are the link with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot police.

Col Talbot said: "The Australian police are very helpful, many have served here several times and have great experience."



Lt Col Ian Talbot

Sector 2 has 12 permanently manned observation posts (OPs), and a further 15 temporarily manned and 15 unmanned OPs.

Col Talbot said patrols were very low key. "Weapons are pointed down, the radio operator has a flag which is lit at night, and we are completely overt on our patrolling."

Another task is escort duties – anywhere in the BZ when the Greek Cypriots (and, in theory the Turkish Cypriots, though it has never happened) ask for the service. Recently there was a major fire in the area and 250 Turkish soldiers helped soldiers wearing the blue UN badge to fight it.

Col Talbot said: "Two Greek Cypriot fire crews arrived, but they wouldn't go into the BZ until they had a soldier with a blue beret on their vehicle."

An important aspect of our work is being able to show both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots that we are supporting and helping them. It also means we are exercising our authority by

## Talks heighten hopes on divided island

TALKS between the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community in Cyprus, Rauf Denktash, and the Greek Cypriot president of the Republic of Cyprus, George Vassiliou has heightened optimism that the island's partition can be resolved.

It dates back to August 16, 1974 when a ceasefire was declared between the Greek National Guard and Turkish invasion forces on the war-torn island.

The Turks had landed in the north a month earlier and, after heavy fighting, had captured 40 per cent of the island including half its capital, Nicosia. A buffer zone, known as the Green Line, was established by the United Nations to keep the two sides apart and remains to

this day to prevent minor incidents escalating into full-blown conflict.

News that the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize had been awarded to the UN Peace Keeping Forces in general was, in the words

of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, "a tribute to the idealism and commitment of those who, over the years, have served and, in some cases, died in the cause of peace".

Gen Gunther Greindl, Commander of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) said the award gave international recognition to the role that UNFICYP plays in maintaining the peace in Cyprus.



The UN cap badge worn by LCpl Andrew Robinson, 4/7 DG shines in the sun as he checks minefield fences



Tpr Don Welling, 15/19 H with a local farmer in Sector 2



The United Nations in Cyprus

AG looks back at his time in office

# THE YEARS OF CHANGE

NEARLY two years ago I interviewed Gen Sir David Mostyn when he took up the appointment of Adjutant General and wrote: "He cannot wave a magic wand but I am sure he will have a damn good try and before his two years are over we may well see some changes for the better."

Well, his two years are over and as he promised he has written to me with a review of events which give us all plenty of food for thought.

On PAY he makes four points: firstly that in the last two years we have had increases in line with the average national pay rises and way above that of national inflation.

Secondly the pay of those officers commissioned from the ranks has been rationalised to their benefit, thirdly that the X factor for women has been raised considerably and finally he points out the debt we owe to the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

It is easy to quote examples of enormous salaries that can be had outside but that is not what comparability is all about. The Joint Service Job Evaluation Team in conjunction with the civilian man-



Gen Sir David Mostyn

In dealing with ALLOWANCES, Gen Mostyn felt that the biggest cribs before the Review were with Baggage Scales and Disturbance Allowances both of which went up considerably on October 1, 1988 and we hope that 'pantechnicon moves' to NW Europe will soon be introduced. Watch this space!

Boarding School Allowances for those in secondary education have been raised and entitlement to three warrants per child per year for those with over 50 miles to travel was

introduced.

Sir David accepted that those starting primary school might feel aggrieved but emphasised that BSA "is seen in Whitehall and Westminster as a most generous condition of service compared with our comparators which, of course, it is."

"And we run virtually free boarding schools in BAOR, not to mention the superb Duke of York's School, Dover, and Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Scotland. What other organisation does that?"

He feared too that "the reduction of leave warrants for married personnel in the UK and for those over 25, the decision to phase out the Residence Place of Duty Allowance and the ending of 'bean stealing' would all hurt someone" but savings had to be made in some areas in order to improve allowances elsewhere.

However, he believed that the lasting value of the review had been to bring allowances into line "with what has always been the Army Board's policy - which is that it is in the best interests of the Army, for operational, training, welfare and social



Delegates to the Army Federation of Army Wives seminar with Gen Sir David Mostyn (second from back row, third from left)

reasons, to encourage accompanied service and discourage unaccompanied service."

After pay and allowances, Gen Mostyn believed the next most important step in the past two years had been the implementation of the Gaffney Report as far as was possible.

The Federation of Army Wives is now universally recognised by the Army as a most valuable organisation and has been given a measure of funding," he said.

Various other organisations such as HIVEs and HOMESTARTS, CASTs, FOCUS

and FRED had been helped and encouraged.

Ten more doctors were being recruited to increase continuity in family health care in BAOR and about 50 extra midwives (some of whom had been retrained) had been taken on worldwide from among dependants.

The policy of employing dependants wherever possible had been introduced and furthered and Ministers are still fighting the DHSS to get full social security benefits paid overseas.

The Forces Railcard had been successfully defended so far against moves to end it (your

current card is now valid until December 31, 1989) and a Ferry Card had been introduced for Sealink giving large fare discounts both to and from the Continent.

Gen Mostyn said the Army would never have an assisted house purchase scheme which involved public money but added that a "Buy, Let and Settle" scheme was being publicised by the Army Agents, Naafi and Gardner Mountain plc which would not only help you to buy a house but also run it and let it.

This would help to satisfy the understandable urge to get into the housing market while serving, while not discouraging accompanied service.

Furthermore the rules for "wharfing" furniture had been very much eased, making removal in the UK less of a problem.

Gen Mostyn predicted that if 1988 was remembered in the Army as the Year of the Allowances Review, 1989 would be the Year of the Poll Tax.

Conditions of Services are like painting the Forth Bridge and in our case there will undoubtedly be something to fight for or defend in 1990, of that we can be sure.

# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653

## Crunch year on housing?

I HAD an example of what the housing problem really means to Service personnel when the 'phone rang at 10.30 the other night.

There was a hint of desperation in the caller's voice.

A wife said her husband had just come back off exercise to find that they were 59th yet again on the list applying for a discounted house after many tries.

The local council had taken them off the waiting list as the husband will have a gratuity when he leaves the Army next year.

This after 21 years' service. She then mentioned the police, firemen, and other schemes.

"We just don't have anything to match them. Why? We'll be homeless next year. What have we done or not done," she wanted to know.

Her call summed up the growing worry that civilian housing availability is fast disappearing out of sight of serving soldiers unless they are prepared to go to areas of low employment.

This situation has to be faced today by all ranks of all ages. Unless they get on the housing ladder on the day they wed (and many in civilian circles start well before that), they will miss out.

I see this year as a crunch year unless a realistic policy of help is found.

A roof over his head will have a compelling claim on the Serviceman's interest.

Maj Gen Patrick Stone

did assure me that housing was on his shopping list for 1989.

We await the launch of another Buy, Let and Settle scheme put together by the Army Agents, but however good the schemes are, one just has to face the facts.

Julian Brazier calls for long term changes.

That realistically is the answer.

It is too much to hope that by 1990 the Army will at last have a housing policy.

If not, I do not want to suggest what the alternatives might be.



Cpl Mal Pearce, WRAC Provost, is the road safety NCO for the 114 Pro Coy RMP area in BAOR. Based in Detmold, Mal (pictured kneeling as Tpr Nix adjusts a go kart for young Stephen Toiton) asked Deutsche Shell AG to help with her road safety campaign. They supplied her with a complete youth traffic school, including 20 bicycles, two go karts, traffic signs and a plan for a circuit which will be painted on the playground of Hakedahl School, Detmold. Mal's initiative means children in the area should get an excellent grounding in road safety.

## Marriage lines . . .

ABOUT to get married? If you are about to take the plunge - or have done so recently - you might consider attending the excellent marriage courses run by the Royal Army Chaplains' Department at Bagshot Park, Surrey GU19 5PL.

Three four-day courses are being held next year in

March, July and October. In BAOR, the Young Couples Living in Harmony courses have been arranged for February, April, June, July, September and November. They also last for four days.

You can get more details from your chaplain, or by writing direct to Bagshot Park and Church House, Lubbecke, BFPO 22.

Support and Management of Service Families' courses at Bristol University are sometimes oversubscribed so an early applica-

tion is advisable. There are three a year and bids can be made through your Families, Housing and Welfare Office or the Federation of Army Wives headquarters at Old Sarum.

It lists 41 establishments, covering secretarial and further education colleges, and gives guidance on the rules that need to be followed if a claim for BSA is to be made.

There are specific rules, so make sure you read the small print!

education after GCSE and A levels, the new list of colleges for which Boarding School Allowance can be claimed should now be available at unit pay offices everywhere.

And the Kirkcaldy College of Technology is available provided the course leads to a nationally recognised qualification and the student resides in a hall of residence.

At Connaught College, Bath, BSA is only available for two-year A level courses.

Do seek advice.

## BSA list available

ATTENTION all students! If you are looking at the possibilities of further

education after GCSE and A levels, the new list of colleges for which Boarding School Allowance can be claimed should now be available at unit pay offices everywhere.

And the Kirkcaldy College of Technology is available provided the course leads to a nationally recognised qualification and the student resides in a hall of residence.

At Connaught College, Bath, BSA is only available for two-year A level courses.

Do seek advice.

SOME 120 delegates representing local education authorities, head teachers and the Services attended a conference at Bulford Camp, Wilts.

The delegates, from all over the South West, were

briefed on the role of the Services Children's Education Authority (SCEA) and discussed the difficulties facing the children of Service families who move school and change friends every two or three years.

GOC South West District, Maj Gen Tony Jeapes, said in his welcoming statement: "Many of the 30,000 pupils who in any one year transfer between local education authority schools and Service Chil-

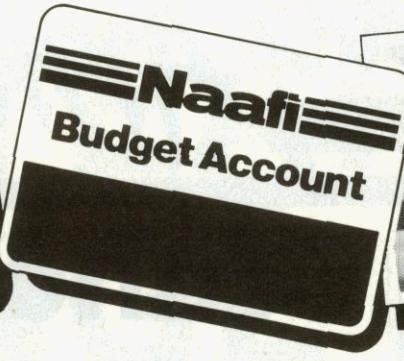
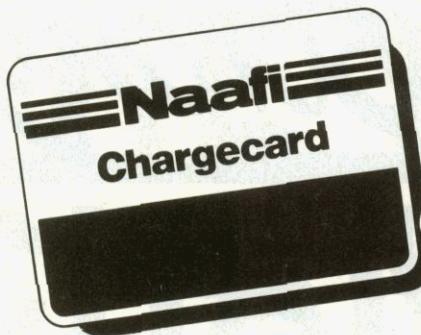
dren's Education Authority schools overseas come from this District. These children are our concern today.

"Co-operation between each LEA and SCEA can only help to minimise this discontinuity."

areas, methods, and assessment procedures with which they have become familiar.

"Co-operation between each LEA and SCEA can only help to minimise this discontinuity."

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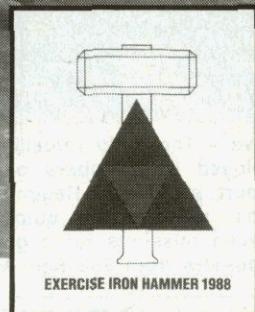
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Time off in loo? Troops queue to use the portable toilets provided under the British Army's new policy



EXERCISE IRON HAMMER 1988

# Balance of power turns Green

EXTREME weather conditions, the clamouring of environmentalists and the effects of glasnost combined to reduce the effectiveness of Iron Hammer, the 3rd Armoured Division's major field training exercise and all but stopped the massive project in its tracks. Green power in West Germany is placing increasing limitations on major military exercises.

But despite restrictions placed on the exercise, the Commander of the 3rd Armoured Division, Maj Gen Mike Wilkes, proclaimed Iron Hammer a success and said: "I was very pleased with the way the exercise has gone. In spite of the sudden onset of winter the Division has managed to achieve all its aims."

Some 25,000 troops together with 275 main battle tanks, 2,000 other tracked vehicles including Warrior, and 4,500 wheeled vehicles were engaged in the exercise.

In addition to British troops taking part (including 1,600 Territorial Army personnel) a German panzer brigade, a Belgian reconnaissance battalion and a Canadian field ambulance platoon were involved.

The first part of Iron Hammer was

devoted to individual brigade exercises within the Division designed to test the troops of 4, 6 and 33 Brigades.

In compliance with German laws, all heavy and tracked vehicle movement at weekends was prohibited and participating forces spent both days in static locations in a rest and replenishment mode preparing for the battles ahead.

So seriously is the Army taking the political and public objections to their manoeuvres, several months of planning and negotiations took place with the authorities in the area before an exercise map was produced.

There were so many objections and requests for no-go areas that the eventual map of operations was heavily marked with prohibited locations. The order went out from Gen Wilkes that as far as possible there was to be no "off the road" operations by tracked vehicles to prevent damage to the countryside.

That order included the British Army's

main battle tank, the massive 62 tonne Challenger, which if driven off the road would have caused millions of deutschmarks worth of damage to recently sown fields in the area.

Part of the problem has been caused by the lessening of tensions between East and West since Mr Gorbachev offered the West an olive branch.

As a result the support of West German people for massive military exercises has faded dramatically and there appears to be an ever-growing belief among the populace that such large scale manoeuvres are no longer necessary.

One unusual aspect of the exercise was the proliferation of blue and orange portable toilets wherever there was a concentration of troops.

It has long been a tradition that the British squaddie caught short would grab a spade and toilet roll, find a quiet spot in a wood and dig a small hole!

**Words by**  
**Laurie Manton**  
**Pictures by**  
**Mike Weston**

● Turn to Page 23



Above - The rapid refuelling techniques employed by members of the ground-support staff of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps provided a quick turnaround between missions for a gaggle of Lynx helicopters from 653 Sqn AAC



Above - "They're here!" The look of astonishment on the faces of the defending 3rd Division troops as they realise 2 LI (the enemy) is landing nearby. Inset left - Sgt Paul Jouny, of the Blues and Royals, a winter warrior under NBC conditions



Above - West German infantrymen make a quick exit from an RAF Chinook helicopter during a heli-assault against the 3rd Division

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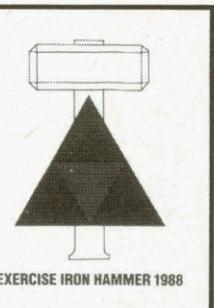
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# Army praised for sensitivity over damage



THE Army has been thanked by West German civil authorities for being so considerate in trying to avoid damage during exercise Iron Hammer.

Herr Ingo Myer, Regierungs Direktor from Hanover said: "We have been dealing with very sensitive military leaders and we have had good communication with them.

"Exercising in Germany is becoming more and more difficult and each exercise which is not running reasonably smoothly will encourage opposition. When an exercise runs like this one it will definitely not do the situation any harm. Military commanders in general are becoming more sensitive to environmental problems."

Herr Myer said he greatly appreciated orders from 3 Division's commander that vehicles were to stick to roads to minimise damage that might take years to remedy.

"Because there is an increasing number of protected areas more and more of the remaining parts have to carry the burden. Germany is probably the worst place in the world for exercises because of the lovely forests and spa towns, to say nothing of agricultural interests."

"It is important to praise the umpires who stopped action which might have upset local people. It demonstrates good leadership and teamwork."

## Action curtailed by early winter

### From Page 21

Now the environment conscious British Army has adopted a policy of hiring portable toilets to eliminate little holes being dug all over the countryside.

The policy plainly prevented a lot of damage. Under the old regime 25,000 troops performing once a day for two weeks would have meant some 350,000 holes!

There were advantages and disadvantages to the system for although the enterprising soldier soon discovered the toilets made a more than satisfactory sentry box when it was raining, someone realised that aerial reconnaissance photographs showing portable toilets would indicate the presence of British troops. The order quickly went out to camouflage the loos.

As Iron Hammer began proper, a helicopter assault by the Orange (enemy) forces (provided by 2 LI - the battalion that seems to have taken on the permanent role of opposing forces) took place behind the British front line.

After the usual confusion and consolidation, friendly Blue forces were deployed into defensive positions along the expected area of attack. They did not have long to wait for the very next day saw leading elements of the Division engaged by Leopard 2 MBTs of the Orange forces.

The day had started badly for Iron

Hammer at Lauenberg where an airborne assault by Orange forces had to be called off in its early stages.

German infantrymen were landed by British Chinook and Puma helicopters close to the village and were supposed to attack the Queen's Own Highlanders.

They found villagers had placed diversion signs at the entrance roads and it was evident that to continue with the attack could lead to angry confrontation with local people. The attack was stopped by an exercise umpire.

Elsewhere progress was equally patchy. There was a slightly unreal situation as Green power dramatically restricted movement of Orange forces provided by German troops.

Under even greater confines than British troops, the Orange attack forces were permitted to move only on road or track, creating an unrealistic battleground. Indeed when tanks made to move off a farm track, the lead tank broke down and the following crews had much discussion before deciding to drive on to the edge of a field so they could squeeze past.

With the gathered CDE Observers looking on, the first contact was made and the normally neutral weather decided to mount a concerted attack on both Blue and Orange forces.

Within minutes the battleground was obliterated as snow driven by fresh winds

swirled into a white-out and the temperature plummeted.

It quickly became apparent that the normal Army routine of fixing rubber pads to the tracks of armoured vehicles to minimise damage to roads merely converted the tracks to skis thus making vehicles like Challenger uncontrollable.

Faced with the consequences of 62 tonne tanks sliding down snow and ice-covered streets, and with the vehicles rapidly becoming a danger to both crew and civilians, action had to be taken. The Commander called off the action and ordered that there should be no vehicular movement in the exercise area.

A wise decision in the circumstances as although three soldiers died during the exercise (one TA soldier in a road traffic accident and two from unrelated causes), the casualty toll was unexpectedly low considering the huge number of troops and vehicles taking part.

Following a 24 hour postponement, there was a final day of reconsolidation and replenishment before the planned Divisional counterstroke on the final day of Iron Hammer.

But owing to the weather conditions and to minimise damage to the environment, the final part of the exercise was curtailed and the cross-country movement of tanks and the battles which had been planned for the Warburg Boerde area were cancelled.

# PICK OF THE PCS



Worzel Gummidge lookalikes? Two waterborne sentries at the river crossing. Perhaps they drew straws to see who steered!



Left - Always the enemy. 2 LI raise a smile before taking part in a heliborne landing



PIC "snappers" pictured: WO1 Jim Gallagher, Cpl Dave Miles, SSgt Chris Young, Cpl Dave Snow, Mr Roger Lortie, SSgt Steve Bird and soundman

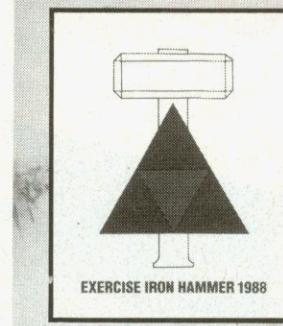
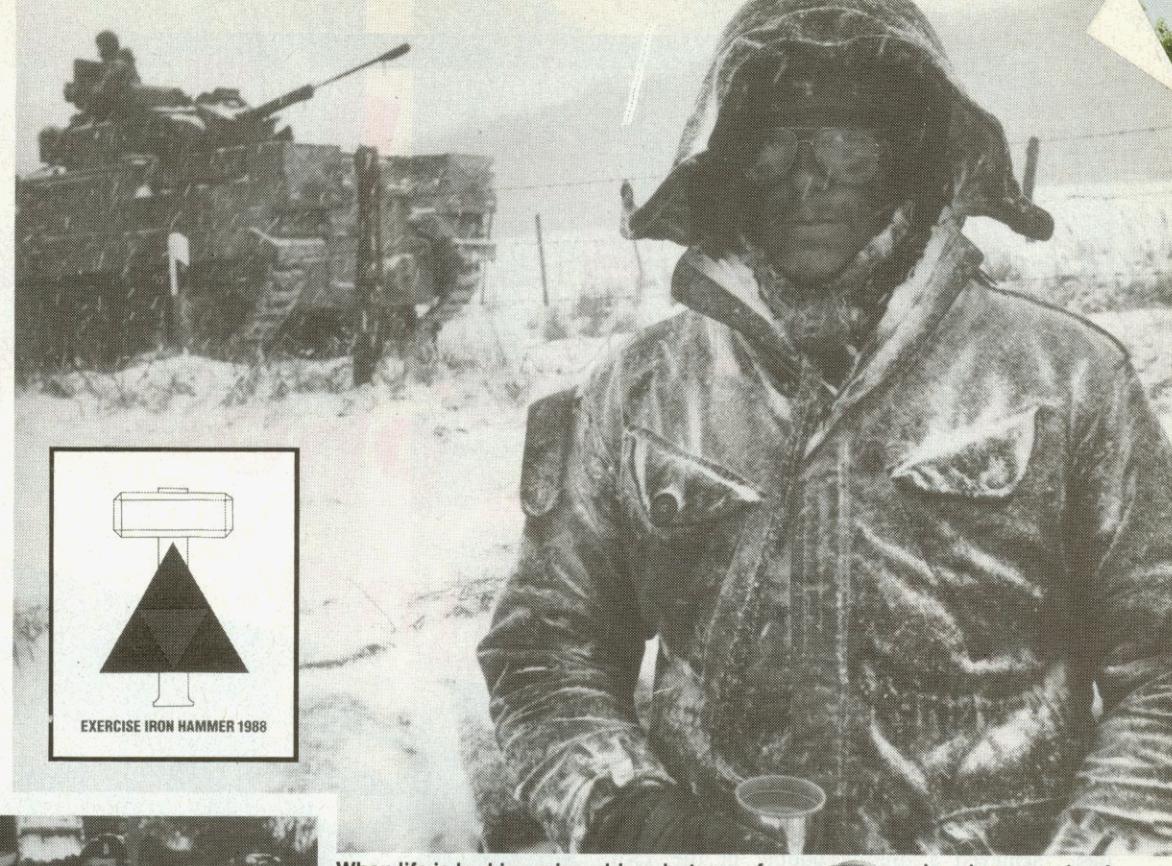


galler, Cpl Colin Osborne, RAF



Above - The Queen's Own Highlanders marching out of Schönenberg where they attended a Remembrance Day ceremony

Right - "It makes a change from the tank park." Conservation minded troops clear up the mud left by their vehicles

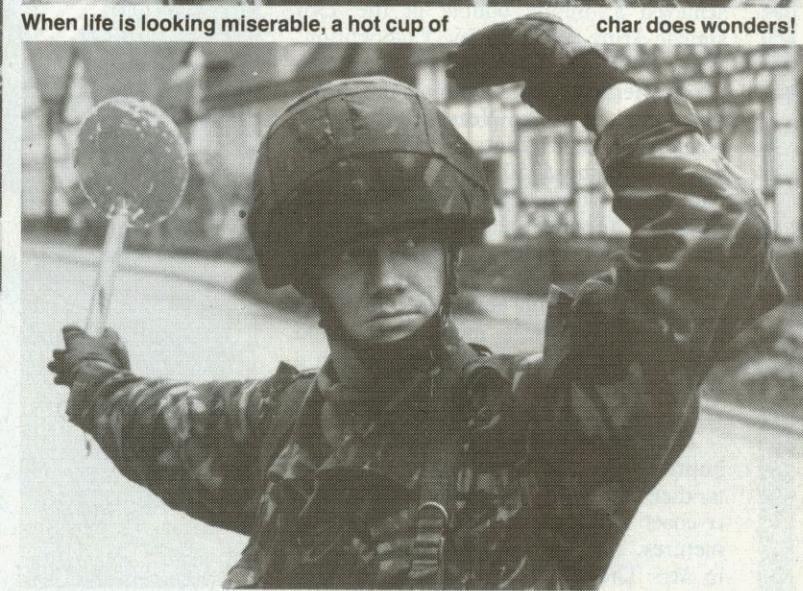


duce almost 11,000 photographs.

There was little time for relaxation for when the men came back from their chilly assignments, their film had to be developed and printed and suitable captions recorded.

Two female civilian darkroom technicians, Chris Barr and Sue Howe, backed up the happy band of snappers.

SOLDIER is happy to share just a few of their images with its readers. Well done, lads!



"Who loves ya Baby!" An RMP on traffic duty waves his lollipop of authority



# FOCUS

## on the Army Photographic Competition

A HUSBAND and wife team have achieved a unique double in the 13th annual Army Photographic Competition. While Col Roger Thompson, Cdr 4 Signal Group Germany, was winning the Army Photographer of the Year title with his portfolio of colour prints, his wife Aureole was taking the £150 prize for the best photograph submitted by a dependant.

"She's a better photographer than I am," Col Thompson gallantly told *SOLDIER*.

In fact, Mrs Thompson's winning picture of a Service mother and child checking for bombs under their car in a Rheindahlen, West Germany car park was a spur of the moment snap.

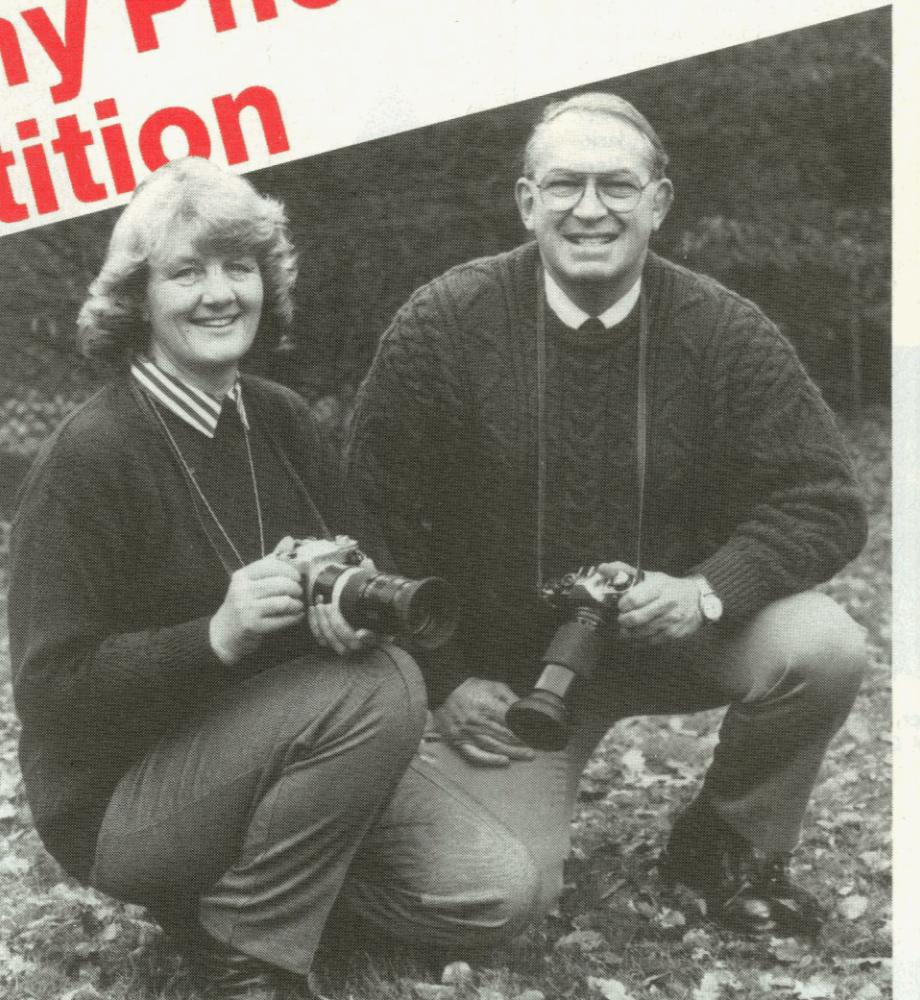
The photographic opportunity so impressed her that she raced across to the mother and child and persuaded them to re-enact their search while she took her pictures. That instant judgement resulted in Mrs Thompson winning Naafi's £150 voucher for the dependants' category when the awards were made by Brig Sam Cowan, Director of Public Relations (Army), at the National Army Museum in London.

Husband Roger, late R Signals and serving at Rheindahlen, received a Nikon camera for his varied selection of training, adventurous training and general military photographs. He was also highly commended in the colour section.

He is no stranger to competitions, having won the Army sports section photographic prize in 1986 and appearing in a number of exhibitions over the years. But staff appointments have meant he has had little time for his hobby in the past three years.

What about a career in photography when he leaves the Service?

"I'd love to, but the standards of the top professionals are so consistently high, and



Col Roger and Mrs Aureole Thompson, who both won prizes in the Army Photographic Competition

I just don't think I'm that good," said Col Thompson.

But when he returns to his home in the UK he does intend to convert an outhouse into a photographic darkroom and studio.

The £75 *SOLDIER* prize for the best photograph submitted by a unit photographer went to Sgt Ian Stagg for his shot of a mortar firing at Sennybridge Training Area. Ian's picture first appeared as the back cover of *SOLDIER*'s June 27, 1988 issue, and also won him the best TA photographer title.

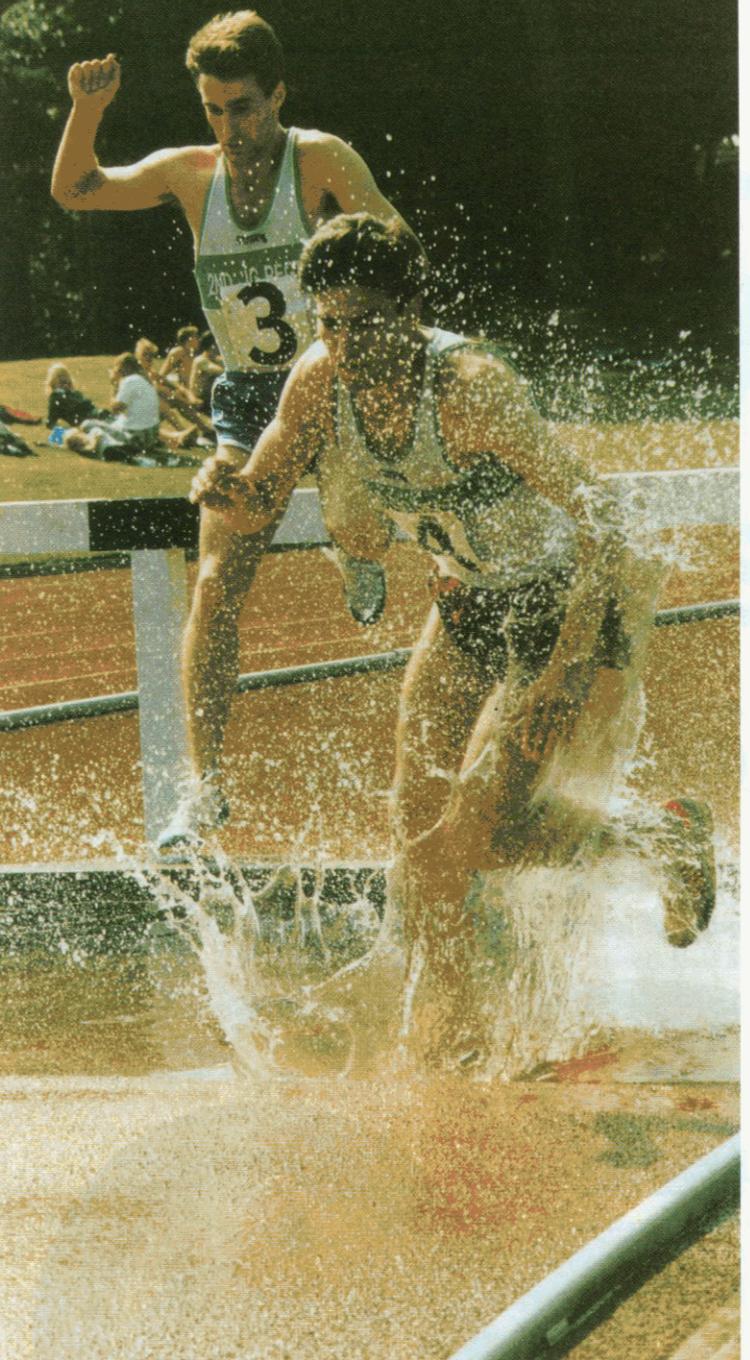
His winning entry, taken last summer as The King's Troop fired a 41 gun salute in Green Park for the Queen's Birthday Parade, was his first ever in the prestigious annual Army competition.

The 1988 competition attracted a record

500 entries from all over the world, reflecting operations in Northern Ireland, state occasions, sport, overseas training and moments of military humour.

The £100 *Jane's Defence Weekly* prize for the best illustration of military training went to Sgt Ian Stagg for his shot of a mortar firing at Sennybridge Training Area. Ian's picture first appeared as the back cover of *SOLDIER*'s June 27, 1988 issue, and also won him the best TA photographer title.

Best colour photograph was a highly polished still life scene by Cpl Leslie Scott, 17/21 L, and the Photograph of the Year was a Lynx in a 90 degree dive, taken by WO2 Stuart Andrew at Middle Wallop, the AAC centre.



*Splash Over-Splash Out*: from Col Roger Thompson's winning portfolio

### THE WINNERS

THE full list of winners in the 1988 Army Photographic Competition is:

*Army Photographer of the Year*, sponsored by Nikon (UK) Ltd – Col Roger Thompson, late R Signals, silver trophy and Nikon camera.

*Best photograph submitted by a unit photographer*, sponsored by *SOLDIER* – Sgt Andy Knight, King's Troop RHA, £75; highly commended, Pte Mark Gunnell, 1 LI, £25.

*Best monochrome photograph*, sponsored by Ilford Ltd – SSgt Arthur Thomson, RAOC, £150; highly commended, Sgt Dennis March, QRIH, £50.

*Best colour photograph*, sponsored by Kodak Ltd – Cpl Leslie Scott, 17/21 L, £150; highly commended, Col Roger Thompson, £50.

*Best photograph illustrating military training or operations*, sponsored by *Jane's Defence Weekly* – Sgt Ian Stagg, 5 (V) R Anglian, £100; highly commended, Lt Nick Dann, AAC, £50.

*Best photograph illustrating adventurous training or sport*, sponsored by Paterson Products Ltd – SSgt Lucas Group Services – Sgt Ian Stagg, 5 (V) R Anglian, silver trophy and £100; highly commended, 2nd Lt Anita Newcourt, HQ London District, £50.



Above – *Stay Alert, Stay Alive*: car park drama from Mrs Aureole Thompson. Below – *Nose Dive*: Photograph of the Year by WO2 Stuart Andrew of the RAOC



● More winning photographs on Pages 30 and 31

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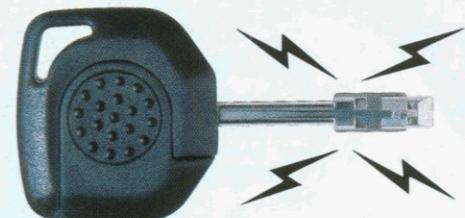
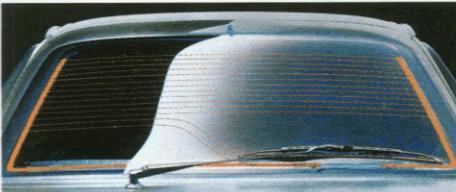
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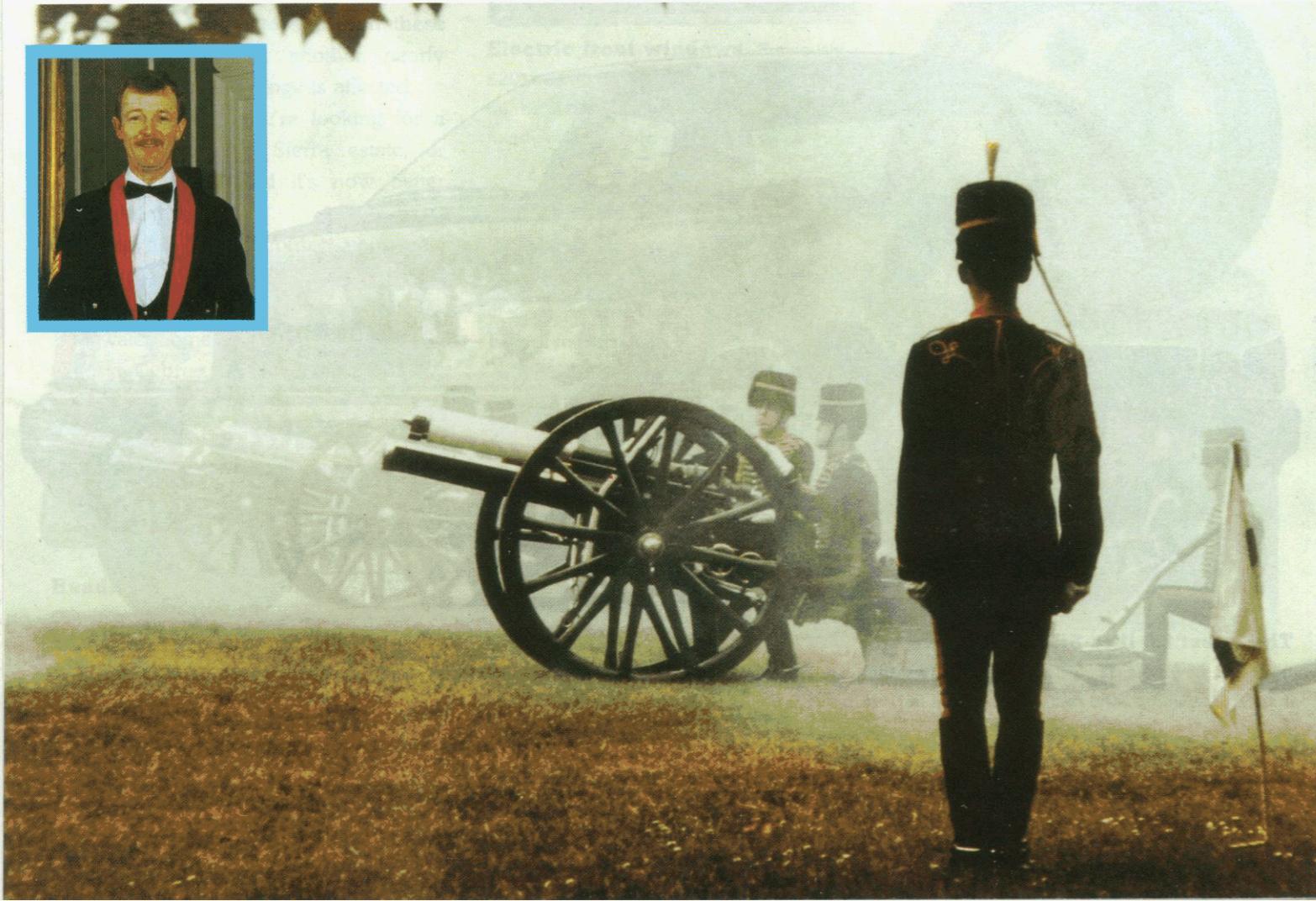
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Above - *Parade Gloss*: the best colour photograph from Cpl Leslie Scott, taken while on duty with all the props to hand in the guard room. Below - *41 Gun Salute*: Green Park action caught by Sgt Andy Knight (inset) who won the SOLDIER prize for unit photographers



# FOCUS

on the Army Photographic Competition



Above - *Bed In - Charge 4*: A mortar being bedded in at Sennybridge. This photograph by Sgt Ian Stagg appeared in colour on SOLDIER's back cover. Right - *Somebody Up There Must Love Me*: SSgt Arthur Thomson's photograph of a 2 LI soldier on exercise in West Germany won the best black and white category. Below - *Splash*: British Army motor cycle championship action which gave SSgt Christopher Young the best sport or adventurous training photograph



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The Armoured Infantry Training and Advisory Team (AITAT) set up shop in Sennelager, West Germany a year ago and immediately became deeply involved in the conversion of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards from mechanised to armoured infantry with Warrior. SOLDIER has been to see this small but vital team at work.

Words:  
Bill Moore  
Pictures:  
Mike Perring



# TUNE IN TO THE WARRIOR ROAD SHOW!

KAISER BILL's bedroom is not what it used to be. A Black Watch sergeant major sits at a desk just about where the dressing table stood, a Royal Irish Rangers captain and an Irish Guards officer occupy what was probably the bed space and a couple of sergeants are painting models of Warsaw Pact APCs where the wardrobe must have been.

Such was the case when SOLDIER visited a fine old house in Normandy Barracks, Sennelager, West Germany, in which the Emperor always stayed when visiting the training area in the days of pickelhaube and jackboots.

Building 87 has taken on a new lease of life. It had become rather shabby over the years but has been completely refurbished, its large rooms partitioned, and now houses the Armoured Infantry Training and Advisory Team.

AITAT is the essential element in the

new age dawning with the introduction of Warrior to BAOR.

Never before has the infantry been given the potential to move about the battlefield so fast and lay down such a torrent of fire. A lot of hard thinking went on at the School of Infantry, Warminster before the initial tactical doctrine was worked out.

It then became a question of how best to spread the gospel. Surprisingly, the Army had managed to get by for years without an organisation dedicated to mechanised infantry training.

The handling of 432s was virtually a DIY job in battalions. There was always someone with the necessary experience around, someone who had "done the course".

Not until 1984 was the Infantry Tactical Training Wing set up and with this as a basis AITAT, under Maj Mike Jelf, Queens, was born a year ago... seven

officers and 24 ORs, mostly senior ranks with considerable experience of mechanised battalions.

As a first step certain new skills were learned or in some cases acquired techniques sharpened, particularly in the gunnery instructional field via the RAC at Lulworth.

A wealth of recce experience was tapped and men such as WO2 Billy Whytock, BW, and CSgt Tony Bohan, RGJ, found themselves posted to Kaiser Bill's bedroom.

There wasn't space for everyone however and CSM Albert Hinchey and his ever growing mass of video equipment and tapes has been housed in a cellar - a strange place to find a Para.

The job of converting the first unit to be fully equipped with Warrior - the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards - began early

● Turn to next page



Mech Inf waiting for Warrior? AITAT personnel outside the compound which will hold the Platoon Simulator

## Next stop is with The Royal Scots

### From Page 33

in 1988. A lot was learned by the time they were declared Warrior operational in the summer.

The benefit of this experience was reaped by 1 Staffords, second in the chain.

While the Guards were training much of the instruction was given in a motley collection of Portakabins. Today AITAT has its own road show.

Twenty-one low loaders took custom-built classrooms to the Fallingbostel barracks of the Staffords – in half sections which were quickly assembled and equipped with gunnery training aids for all the world like computer games. (Yes, they can play "Worms"!).

When the next battalion starts converting this month the AITAT Road Show will be off again to set up its mobile cabins and computers on the spot for three months intensive training with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots.

When they move on they will leave behind permanent mementoes in the shape of a gunnery training wing containing three desk top trainers and three turret simulators almost identical to the real thing.

At Fallingbostel these are housed in a refurbished stable block where rusting iron tethering rings outside wait for Uhlan chargers which will never return.

The simulators are among the most sophisticated gunnery training equipment in the world.

"This is where the quantum leap has taken place," said Capt Mike Simpkins, who runs AITAT's Gunnery Wing and is by chance a Stafford.

There is little doubt that the Royal Armoured Corps has been stirred if not



Tactics Wing with props. They tour BAOR with model village and tank miniatures holding "clot" model exercises"

shaken by the way in which the average infantryman has adapted so quickly and well to the Rarden cannon.

Cavalry and Tanky eyebrows have also risen at the way in which "The Feet" have taken to driving Warrior.

In the words of Fus Wayne Mellor, a large soldier not given to long speeches: "It handles just like a Jag . . ."

He and two other junior ranks serving with AITAT – LCpl John Adams, Royal Irish, and Pte Scouser Miley, Para – have qualified as Warrior drivers.

Under the direction of Capt Danny McMeachan, a Royal Scot who runs the

Driving and Maintenance Wing, LCpl Adams and Pte Miley put a couple of Warriors through their paces for SOLDIER – not flat out but in the sensible manner necessary for the safety of the seven men who will be in the back.

Even so LCpl Adams emerged dripping with dirty water having driven through a small lake while Pte Miley had to brush mud splashes from the Pegasus decorating his helmet . . .

AITAT reckons Pte Miley must be unique – the only Warrior driver in the whole Parachute Regiment.

AITAT is not only concerned with

## They're teachers – and diplomats

TWO battalions a year are converting to Warrior.

So far 1 Gren Gds and 1 Staffords have gone through the process and 1 RS will start it in January with 3 RRF to follow in the autumn.

AITAT's role is almost as diplomatic as it is military. Its driving and maintenance and gunnery instructors visit units essentially in an advisory and supervisory capacity.

Some old soldiers are likely to be touchy at being taught new tactics . . .

And some don't even like Warrior.

"We ought to be out with Bergens on our backs," said a strapping corporal in the Staffords. But he was an exception.

Fortunately AITAT's personnel are drawn from 19 different regiments.

There are red, green, red and white hackles,



Road show and audience. The Gunnery Wing Portakabins (pictured above with the Staffords) move in a convoy of low loaders

red and green berets, tartan stable belts, the rare Small Arms School Corps badge, and Admin Officer, Capt Alison Forster-Knight comes from the WRAC.

However, the mix is living proof that tribalism, British Army style, is not fatal.

Maybe it is the very variety of cap badges involved that inspires the

enthusiasm for the job at AITAT – and the chance to pull the legs of someone in another regiment.

One thing they all have in common in Building

87 is a strong sense of humour. With the immediate work load and the inevitable continuation training ahead it looks as though they are going to need it.

## Brig Inf's wild about Warrior (and rugby!)

AITAT at Sennelager works directly to Brigadier Infantry, currently Brig Dick Mundell, who advises 1 (BR) Corps on infantry matters.

He paid tribute to Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, Director of Infantry until his retirement a few months ago, who is regarded as the father of the Warrior concept.

In the past, new weapons have sometimes arrived without the requisite training aids which were "cobbled up" later. In the case of Warrior the package arrived complete, greatly contributing to its successful introduction.

Brig Mundell is as enthusiastic about Warrior as he is about rugby – an obsession in his old regiment, the Duke of Wellington's.

"Warrior means that the infantry can play a more positive part in the armoured battle," he told SOLDIER.

"At the moment AITAT's primary concern is with the converting battalions but it is not their only concern.

"I see it developing into a team which can advise on all armoured infantry matters, to assist battalions which come into theatre from the UK and assist them once they're in . . . to keep them up to speed if you like."



Brig Dick Mundell

set by technological developments.

AITAT is now awaiting the delivery of a Platoon Trainer consisting of four containerised turret simulators with linked radio communications.

The graphics will no longer be of computer game simplicity but project pictures of real countryside and be capable of presenting a number of targets simultaneously.

Though they are intended to become part of the Road Show, the first of them will be set up on concrete bases just opposite Building 87. Kaiser Bill's bedroom is going to be busier than ever.



Pegasus in a Warrior – Pte Scouser Miley, Para

of and what a punch a group packs, it gives them confidence."

Recently in a war game exercise a company/group of Challenger and Warrior "took out" a complete Soviet motor-rifle regiment commanded by Capt Robert Boyle, Irish Guards, promoted "Colonel" for the day.

"I hardly knew what hit me," he said.

Fast company/squadron groups are going to require fast thinking and expert drills if they are going to realise their potential in the All Arms battle of the future.

Training has to keep up with the pace

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# It's business as usual for the Naafi in Hong Kong

NAAFI is to continue business as usual in Hong Kong until the Chinese take over the colony in 1977, writes Bill Moore.

"We might even consider staying if we were asked," said Managing Director James Rucker who took over his present job a year ago after retiring from the Army as a brigadier.

He said that locally recruited staff were very loyal to the organisation but some drift away must be expected in the run up to the arrival of the new regime.

Curiously, despite Hong Kong's massive population, there was a shortage of labour and wages were high!

The MD was giving a briefing before the release of the Naafi's annual report which showed sales up by nearly £19 million

Total sales were just under £390m.

Despite the increase, the strength of sterling against the Deutschmark had led to losses of £1,600,000 when converted, though actual sales in Germany had increased by ten per cent.

The balance sheet was nevertheless very healthy and the trading surplus totalled £3,500,000.

Discount and rebates had totalled more than £10m which was £627,000 up on the previous financial year.

The MD was confident that the Naafi's Five Year Plan to modernise and become completely competitive with High Street stores was going well.

Staff were being trained in all aspects of their jobs including the importance of customer relationships.

Naafi was branching out and a pilot insurance scheme for the United Kingdom was being trialled at Catterick and Plymouth (with a kiosk in the MoD). As the agents were employees of Naafi they would



Brig Rucker

not be charging commission.

High tech was also being introduced and another trial scheme was centred on advanced computers to speed check out operations and reduce paper work so managers would have more time for supervision.

One reflection of the times is the growth of the use of the Naafi charge card.

Another is the formation of a central debt recovery office at Nottingham, Naafi having abrogated the terms of reference by which they relied on commanding officers to recover money owed.

"I am sure that we are reaping the benefit of our decision to refurbish clubs so they are no longer draughty beer halls," said Brig Rucker.

"It's a case of small being comfortable."

In Germany it had been noticed that there had been a change in the trading pattern away from tobacco and spirits to durable goods at lower margins.

Other notable figures in the report included gaming machine revenue returned to units of £5m and amusement machines repaying £938,000.

# SOLDIER

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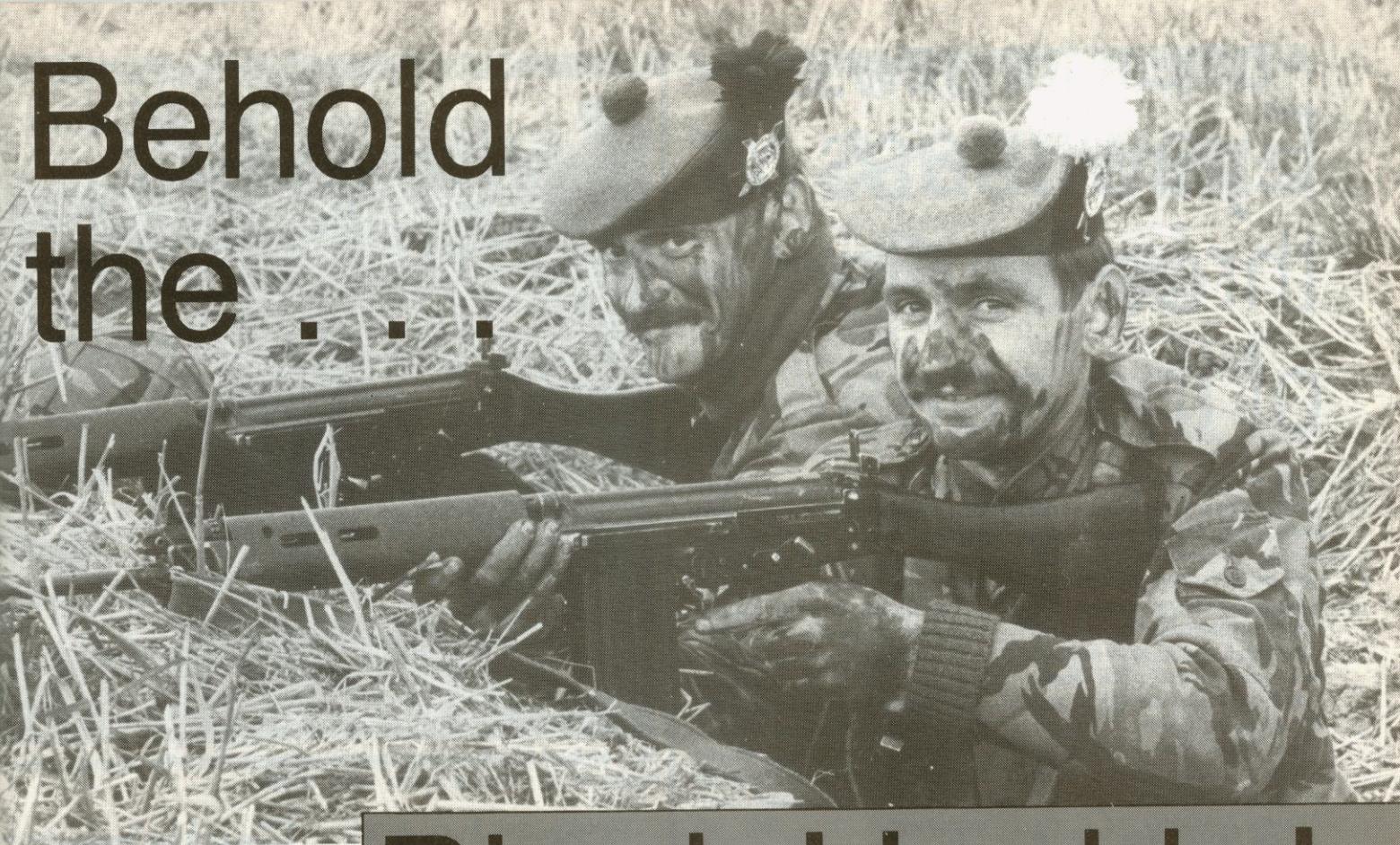
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# Behold the . . .



## Black Hackle!

BLACK HACKLES have been seen on the South Coast! To veterans who hanker after "the good old days" it was like bird watchers spotting a rare warbler, writes Bill Moore.

"I thought the Cameronians were long gone," said a straight-backed old gentleman in a Hythe pub.

The truth is that one company at least is alive and well and thriving at Hamilton, near Glasgow.

It forms part of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Lowland Volunteers and it spent its annual camp in bleak conditions on the Hythe-Lydd training area in Kent.

The battalion evokes memories of the 52nd Lowland Division which distinguished itself at Gallipoli and in Flanders in the First World War and in the Low Countries (it had been trained for mountain warfare!) and Germany in the Second.

Some companies bear, in parenthesis, the descriptions *Highland Light Infantry*, *Royal Scots Fusiliers* and *King's Own Scottish Borderers* as well as *Cameronians*. The RSF and HLI are now merged into The Royal Highland Fusiliers. The KOSB celebrate their tercentenary this year.

The 1st Battalion, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), was disbanded in the 1968 defence cuts and the regiment went into "suspended animation".

It was thought in certain quarters it would simply fade



Pictures: Terry Champion

Digging in, Cameronian style. Recruiting many soldiers from mining areas, Cameronians were quickly spotted by their style of entrenching which they did on their knees as if working in a cramped coal seam. Above Sgt Mat Hall, an electrician from Hamilton, shows how it is still done

away but some regiments die hard and this year Cameronians will hold what may be their last Conventicle.

Conventicles were religious services held by devout Presbyterians in the days of Charles II. As they had been barred from their churches, Covenanters and a sect which followed a preacher called Richard Cameron held services in the open air, musket and sword ready in case of attacks by Government dragoons.

Above - A tale of two hackles - Pte James Nelson (ex KOSB) sports the black of the Cameronians, LCpl James McIntyre the white of the HLI  
Right - Old Cameronian - Pay Sgt John McKay who wears his RAPC badge on a tartan patch

Below - The QM - with the finest black hackle of them all. Capt Tom McElhiney joined the 6th/7th Cameronians in 1967



Services with four pickets on guard became a tradition after the regiment was raised for service under William III in 1689 by James Earl of Angus.

Later numbered the 26th Foot, the regiment became The Cameronians in 1881, the 2nd Battalion being formed by the 90th Light Infantry - hence the black hackle, the black rifle buttons and Rifle-green officers' pips.

This year's tercentenary Conventicle is planned for May



13 at Chatelerault the old hunting lodge of the Dukes of Hamilton.

There are still a number of original Cameronians serving in the 1st/52nd (CO Lt Col James Finlay, The Royal Scots).

One of them, Sgt John McKay, is the pay sergeant and wears his RAPC badge on a patch of Douglas tartan. He was with the 1st Cameronians in Malaya and, as a Regular and Territorial, can look back on 31 years unbroken service.

Capt (QM) Tom McElhiney joined the 6th/7th Cameronians in 1967.

The old firm is loathe to close and there is a company of Cameronian cadets at Hamilton and a school unit at Kelvinside.

"As long as the serving TA elements wish to continue as Cameronians they are likely to do so," said Maj Joseph d'Inverno, company commander.

Many old soldiers will wish them well.

# Eyewitness to three battles of the ages

WHEN in 1976 a landmark military history appeared in the book lists, it was hailed as a classic. In retrospect, the idea was simple: to tell of battle as it affected the men engaged in combat, the loads they had to carry, their health and morale, how they fought, their fears, treatment of the wounded, and what caused and motivated them to be there anyway.

The author was John Keegan, a lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, and it was his first book. *The Face of Battle* has now been republished in a bound edition.

Three battles were selected for this in depth study: Agincourt, Waterloo and The Somme; three historically im-

portant events with only one superficially apparent common denominator – that they took place in the second decade of their respective centuries.

The sources had, of course, to be eye-witnesses.

The biggest challenge within Keegan's terms of reference was Agincourt. He had to decide "what sustained men in combat . . . when the penalty of defeat, or one's own lack of skill was so final and unpleasant."

He leaves us with several unanswered questions but provides fascinating speculation on logistics of 15th century battle and its aftermath, telling us a great deal of the manners of warfare in that era.

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Men of the 15th (Highland) Division retire to rest after attacking Martinpuich in September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, a battle examined in detail by author John Keegan

## Exceptional soldier

THE Foreign, Home and Defence Secretaries, the Chiefs of Staff and the appropriate Permanent Under Secretaries sat around the oblong brown baize covered table with the Prime Minister.

Keegan has inevitably had to present the battle from personal viewpoints, a limitation that reflects the smoke and confusion of the field that day.

It was not until the First World War that the voice of the common man is heard. Describing the Battle of The Somme, the author draws a quotation from another historian, Robert Kee, who writing 50 years later, called the trenches "the concentration camps of the First World War."

The horror and futility of

The Somme can well be appreciated from Keegan's narrative.

John Keegan draws conclusions from his selected studies, progressing in the final part of the book to sub-chapters with headings such as 'The Moving Battlefield', 'The Nature of Battle' and 'The Trend of Battle'.

This is a work that should be on every shelf of military books. It is possibly summed up best in one short and poignant sentence: "The late 20th century soldier does not expect to be left to die of his wounds on the battlefield." – BJ

**The Face of Battle: A study of Agincourt, Waterloo and The Somme** by John Keegan. Published by Barrie and Jenkins. Price £14.95.

Schmidt and other Nato leaders.

This scene appears in *A Fortunate Soldier*, an autobiography by Maj Gen Ken Perkins, recently retired from the Army after an outstanding career that began as an under-aged recruit in the Home Guard in the Second World War. It was but a small episode in an action packed military career. – BJ

**A Fortunate Soldier** by Ken Perkins. Published by Brassey's. Price £15.95.

## Books in brief

**Massacre on the Road to Dunkirk** by Leslie Aitken. The facts behind the massacre of some 80 soldiers of the Royal Warwickshires and other regiments at Wormhout as the Germans advanced towards Dunkirk in 1940. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £10.95.

**Colonel Baker's Dozen** by Gordon Nimse. Novel set in war-torn Burma as a military police captain hunts down a party of marauding army deserters. Published by Robert Hale. Price £11.50.

**The Letters of T E Lawrence** edited by Malcolm Brown. Includes many letters previously unpublished. Published by J M Dent. Price £18.

**Cetshwayo's Dutchman** by Cornelius Vijn. Re-publication of the author's adventures during the Zulu War, which he spent with King Cetshwayo after being arrested by the Zulus at the outbreak of war. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £13.95.

**Monty, the Man Behind the Legend** by Nigel Hamilton. Shorter version in paperback of the three-volume biography by official biographer Hamilton. Published by Sphere. Price £3.99.

**Vietnam Helicopter Handbook** by Barry Gregory. Descriptions and illustrations of the helicopters used in Vietnam. Published by Patrick Stephens in paperback. Price £6.99.

## Mishap at Cambrai

WILLIAM Moore's study of the secret inquiries which were held into the collapse of the British defences south of Cambrai on November 30, 1917 shows soldiers at their best, generals at their worst and politicians at their most devious.

Coming ten days after massed tanks had crashed through the Hindenburg Line and the bells had been rung throughout Britain to celebrate a victory, the event stunned the government. More than 100 guns and 7,000 men fell into German hands.

Gen Sir Julian Byng, commanding the Third Army which was responsible for the front attacked, blamed some divisions for a "lack of staunchness" and was particularly critical of the Machine Gun Corps.

In fact, Moore argues, what the Brasshats tried to brush off as a "mishap" was due to Byng's faulty dispositions and his obsession with the struggle for Bourlon Wood which dominated the area. A book to make all generals feel slightly uncomfortable.

**A Wood Called Bourlon** by William Moore. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £12.95.

# To Americans – with love!

**NEW WORLD SALUTE**  
Band of the Grenadier Guards  
Conductor: Major R J Parker  
Drums and Pipes of the Gordon Highlanders  
BND 61052

THIS programme represents music played during a recent tour of the USA by the Grenadiers and Gordons, hence the title of the record and of the opening fanfare.

Most of the music is either composed or arranged by past Directors of Music of the regiment, even myself, though those by Rodney Bashford seem to have been credited to Rodney Parker.

An American tour involves, for the most part, arena displays with plenty of slow marching and counter-marching, so apart from a static

programme at the end there is always a surfeit of marches on such occasions.

Here they have been kept to a minimum, with *General Mitchell* by R B Hall, a slow march from Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, A E Kelly's *Arromanches*, and two sets of tunes from the Gordons pipers.

American tourists often complain that when they come to Britain the Guards bands are always playing American music. What they want is what they are given here.

As a whole the programme comes across very well, mostly unacknowledged, and a suitable present for American friends!

● **From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR or dealers, £5.99 LP or cassette inc.**

## Zing of zider from the West

**MEN OF THE WEST COUNTRY**  
Band of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment  
Conductor: Bandmaster P Judson  
BND 61055

IT should have said the "bands" of the regiment, for the Regular Army band is joined by that of the Volunteer Band under Bandmaster G Dyer, and together they make a fine sound in a well presented and played programme. Not un-naturally there's a fair amount of zider in the offing, musically anyway.

Side one has four or so rather over-recorded marches in *Semper Fidelis*, *The Mad Major*, *Army of the Nile*, and another *Arromanches*, but Terence Brien's *Brass Accolade*, Mansfield's *The Red Cloak*, and considering its quality the much neglected *Steadfast and True* by Carl Teike are very welcome. After which a medley of Devonshire songs places you well and truly in the West Country.

Sousa again to open side two, though fragmented and put

together again in a most attractive arrangement by Warren Barker, an American who is making a great name for himself in recent years. One of Sousa's marches is even given hymn-like treatment and just shows how a lively tune can be metamorphosed.

Then two famous songs, *Glorious Devon* as a euphonium solo, and a sensitive version of *Linden Lea* by Vaughan Williams arranged by John Stout.

A *Frolic for Trombones* precedes the serious business of a first performance of a little known work by Gustav Holst, and a wonderful newcomer it is. *Songs of the West* has lain idle for too many years, and in James Curnow's arrangement for wind band it should receive many a future performance, worthy of joining his other great works for band.

The regimental march completes what I found to be a most rewarding hour's listening.

● **From Bandleader, as above.**

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## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 454, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by Jan 27. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the February 20 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

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Mrs Cherry Milne, wife of Col John Milne, CO of 2 Fd Regt, waves the cyclists on their way to Stockholm. Team leader Lt Nick Greaves is on the right

# On yer bikes, lads!

WHEN the 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery based at Munster, West Germany was wondering how to mark the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig, one bright suggestion was for the gunners to "get on yer bikes . . .".

The result of that was that ten members of O Battery cycled in relays all the way to Stockholm in Sweden. In doing so they celebrated the fact that Rocket Troop was under the command of Crown Prince Charles Jean Bernadotte of Sweden at Leipzig (1813). And they also used the occasion to raise money for charity.

The regiment, which has now moved to Fallingbostel, West Germany, gathered more



Brendan Foster (centre) helps men of C Coy, 4 Para (V) in training for their world speed marching attempt

than £5,500 for charity during its last year in the UK.

★ ★ ★

Sixteen men from 23 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Field Battery, 27 Fd Regt RA based at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire ran all the way to Dover and back (a distance of 640 miles) and raised £2,500 for the family of a former colleague, Gnr Shaun Prosser who has been in a coma since February 1987.

And just to prove they had completed their mission, they took a stick of rock back for their commanding officer.

A Shaun Prosser Fund has



been established by his former battery, 127 (Dragon) Fd Bty, in Lippstadt, West Germany.

★ ★ ★

The Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond was the main recipient of a grand SEME draw organised in place of the annual Bordon Garrison fete. The home received £1,000 of the £3,274 raised by the

draw. It was handed over by draw organiser Maj Norman Gould and three young SEME craftsmen who visited the Star and Garter to wish a happy 42nd birthday to former REME officer Maj Mike Coldwell now crippled with multiple sclerosis and resident in the home.

★ ★ ★

British Forces based in Naples organised their third annual Vesuvius fun run to raise money for local charities including the British Forces School, Cubs and Brownies.

Fifty members of the British community ran 6½ miles from the base of Vesuvius to the top, with SSgt Dick Lands, RE, first to the summit in a course

record of 53 minutes 37 seconds.

★ ★ ★

It was pretty spectacular promotion for Spr Darrell Masson, of 11 Field Squadron, RE. He went straight from site construction worker to commander of one of the RAF's air defence radar stations in the Falkland Islands.

But Darrell was only king for a day. And he paid £35 for the privilege!

At a charity auction, during which the 60 or so men of the Mount Kent radar station raised over £1,000, the OC's job went under the hammer and Darrell outbid the rest of the field. Darrell's unit is the current Falklands Resident Field Squadron, RE.

★ ★ ★

The British Forces Marathon Trailwalk organised by the Queen's Gurkha Signals and Oxfam in Hong Kong attracted more than 200 four-man teams from military units, disciplinary services and members of the public.

Among them were a party of 12 Gurkha wives who completed the 100km walk from Pak Tam Chung near High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung to

Perowne Barracks in Tuen Mun, New Territories.

The serious part of it was won by 31 Sqn GTR in a record time of 13hrs 48min, and at least £57,000 was raised for underprivileged children in Hong Kong, Nepal earthquake victims and an agricultural education programme for children in Bhutan.

★ ★ ★

Members of C Company 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment based at Gateshead had a crack at breaking the world speed marching record over 26 miles 365 yards carrying 40lbs of equipment. They failed by ten minutes to beat the record of 4hrs 35min, but had the pleasure of setting a record for a TA unit and raising at least £1,500 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Ontology Unit at Gateshead.

They were supported in their attempt by former world middle distance record holder Brendan Foster.

★ ★ ★

Our running total of Good Causes money raised by units and individuals now stands at £226,491



Gurkha wives check their Trailwalker route. Pointing the way is Mrs Janaki Devi Gurung

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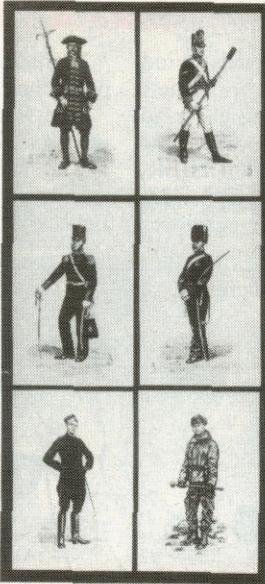
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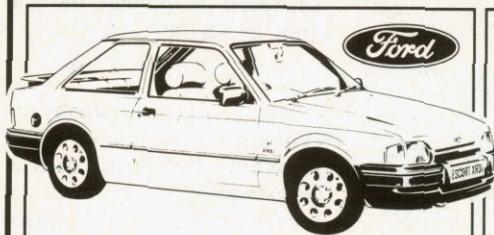
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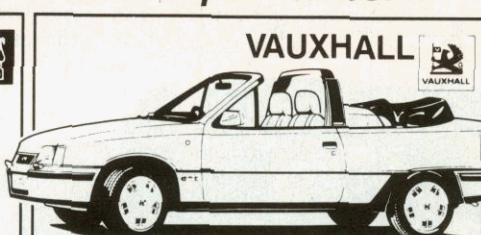


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by Sanjiva Wijesinha

NINE YEARS ago, three members of the Women's Royal Army Corps flew from RAF Brize Norton on a rather unusual assignment. Their task: to assist in the establishment and training of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps.

The nation, a small island located off the southern tip of the Asian continent, has a population little larger than that of London, and was a British colony until 1948. Then called Ceylon, it became famous as the home of Ceylon tea. It has a reputation as an exotic tourist destination and is advertised in the tourist brochures as Paradise Island.

It was not, however, the expected taste of paradise that greeted Maj Janet Lawson, Capt Jackie Whitehead and SSgt Phil Phillips when their RAF flight landed in Colombo in the early hours of the morning, but a heavy tropical rainstorm.

The request for British Army assistance in setting up the new unit was based partly on Sri Lanka's long association with the UK. Until 1966 almost all officers were trained in Britain, and the Sri Lanka Army is very much modelled on the British Army.

Since practically all officers and NCOs speak English, language would be no problem for the WRAC team. Maj Lawson's team, however, were soon taking drill in the tongue-twisting Sinhalese.

Unlike its predominantly Hindu and Moslem neighbours on the Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka has a long tradition of equality for women – probably due to the Buddhist influence on the island. In fact, Servicewomen in Sri Lanka earn the same pay as their male counterparts of the same rank.

The initial intake of officers for the newly-raised regiment was sent for training to Camberley, Surrey, sponsored by the UK Military Assistance Training Scheme. Since the initially advertised 12 vacancies drew 300 applicants, those selected had to meet very high standards. All the officers, for example, had four A Levels.

As far as a uniform for the new soldiers was concerned, dresses, skirts and trousers are in the same jungle green colour used by the men. The officers' mess dress, however, proved more difficult to design, since formal wear for the Sri Lankan girl consists of the elegant saree – six yards of soft, silky material draped around the body.

The design finally selected would do an Eastern princess proud: a magnificent midnight blue saree with a silver peacock

feather motif – accompanied by necklace, earrings and brooch for badges of rank, all made of moonstones (one of Sri Lanka's famous gems).

The regiment envisages an unarmed, non-combatant role, the girls having been trained as clerks, radio operators, nurses and dental technicians.

Those telephoning Army institutions in Sri Lanka say the voices answering nowadays sound much more pleasant and feminine. The Servicewomen have all been trained in small arms and weapon handling, and the women's corps now boasts several accomplished markswomen.

Since the SLAWC was formed, other regiments have also recruited women, and the Sri Lanka Army today has doctors, dental surgeons and lawyers enlisted as captains. Although medical and dental officers belong to the medical corps, the nurses and dental technicians continue to be members of the women's corps.

The regimental crest depicts Vihara Maha Devi, the most revered queen in Sri Lanka's 2,500 year history. She was the mother of King Dutugemunu, under whom the Sinhalese people united in the second century BC to liberate themselves from Indian rule.

The regimental motto is *Savi Bala Sith Avi Bala Deth*, which translates from the Sinhalese as "A powerful mind is the strongest weapon".



Capt Hiranthi Abeygoonesekera in mess dress – a midnight blue sari



SSgt Phil Phillips, WRAC, with the first NCOs of the SLAWC

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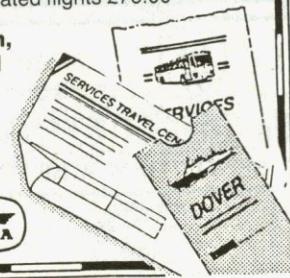
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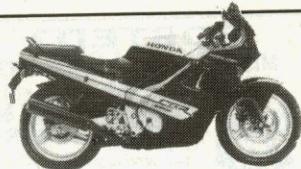


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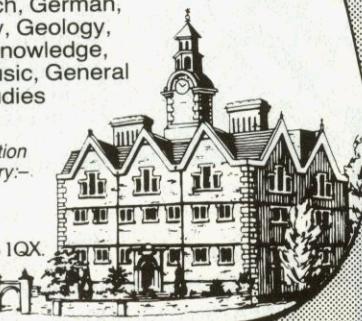
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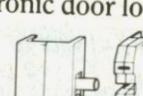
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# Engineers set the pace in corps championships

THE UK and BAOR Inter Corps badminton tournaments were held at Worthy Down and Bielefeld respectively, writes Alan Lees.

At Worthy Down the format was an American tournament where the Royal Engineers set the early pace by convincingly beating the RAPC 7-2. R Signals had a good tussle with

the ACC before edging ahead to win 5-4. The sappers continued to show their strength in depth by beating R Signals 7-2, and the depleted RAMC/RADC 8-1, before winning 6-3 against the ACC to take the UK title.

The RAPC fought off the challenge from R Signals and ACC to take second place.

Outstanding for the sappers

were Capt Bill Ferguson and Sgt Jerry Carty who lost only one game throughout to Ptes Tony Black and Shaun Mancrief of the ACC who in turn lost only two games.

Star of the tournament was QPte Karen Siddle who played with Capt Dick Chapman in the RAMC/RADC team.

Karen had just returned

from the Combined Services tour of Canada and performed well in a mixed doubles pairing against the men's pairs, losing only four of 12 matches, and brightening up the tournament in the process.

The BAOR competition was run in two mini leagues and after keenly contested matches the semi finals were equally

hard fought with REME emerging winners 6-3 against the RAOC while the RAMC/RADC also beat the RAPC 6-3.

The final was an extremely good match with a very high standard of badminton throughout. Prominent for the RAMC/RADC was Capt Roger Green, the Combined Services singles and doubles champion.

The overall standard of play was encouragingly high and the players are eagerly looking forward to their match against RAFG on January 28.

Final of the Inter Corps tournament will be at Worthy Down on February 20 where RE (UK) will be trying to prevent REME (BAOR) from taking their third title in a row.

# Regulars hold TA in six goal thriller

AN Army XI and a representative side from the Territorial Army fought out a highly entertaining draw during which they shared six goals which ranged in quality from the ridiculous to the superb, writes Pat Massey.

The Army went ahead when LCpl Dave McCauley, RE, shot home from close in. But the TA equalised late in the half after a complete "horlicks" in the home defence. A loose ball running towards the Army goal was met by Gdsman George Shankland, SG, who had raced off his goal line, and team mate Spr Barry Wostenholme, RE, on the edge of the penalty area.

They ended in a tangle on the ground, leaving TA striker Rgr Jim Clarke, 4 R Irish (V), with the simple task of rolling the ball into the Army goal.

When an Army defender was caught in possession early in the second half Clarke hooked in a volley to put the TA ahead, and worse was to follow for the Regulars when pint-sized Pte

Steven French, 2 Bn Yorks (V), beat Shankland to put the TA 3-1 up.

A minute later Cpl Sean Gilman, RAOC, scored a spectacular goal from 40 yards and with the very next move the score was levelled by Cpl Gary Green, ACC, who converted a chance created by Sgt Gavin Wood, REME, and Gilman.



A brief pause for 2nd Lt Gary Knight (1 DWR and Army Under 21) and Ssg Stevie Peacock (1 RWF and Combined Services) during the Northern Ireland rugby final

# 1 Div lead the way

ARMY cross country team champions 1 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment from BAOR showed everyone else a clean pair of heels at the Army cross country relay championships staged at the Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot.

Represented by QMSI Alex Rodgers, Sgt Nick Bailey, Sgt John Martin and LCpl Mark Vile, the 1 Armd Div HQ and

They finished nearly a minute ahead of the powerful 1 PWO team who ran them so close last February.

At the 1 Div championships in West Germany they took eight of the first nine places.

At Rushmoor 7 RHA were third in the major units' race, with 1 DWR fourth.

In the minor race FOD Dulmen confirmed their strength in depth in winning by half a minute from Depot POW Div, with 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn third and PCD RE fourth. HQ Hereford Garrison won the veterans' race, followed by 7 Cdo Bty RA and 7 RHA.

The junior race was won by AA Col Chepstow from Gds Depot Jnr Para and JIB Shorcliffe, while the RMAS A and B teams finished first and second in the women's race after QATC had been disqualified from second place.

AFTER three days of gruelling squash the surprise winners of the Army Inter Corps competition were the RAOC, writes Lance Brett.

Led by Maj Robbie Robinson, the RAOC team of Lt Col John Woodliffe, Capt David Bradley, Capt John Wallis, Ssg Ian Sharpe and LCpl 'Ginge' Whiteman beat joint favourites RE and APTC into second and third places.

A strong Infantry team easily won Division 2 and will replace

# SAPPERS TRIUMPH

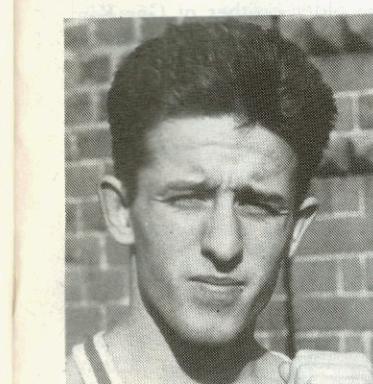
The Royal Engineers won the Corps quadrangular football tournament of Aldershot when they edged out the Royal Artillery on goal average after a week of keenly contested matches during which no side won all its fixtures.

Detailed results were: RA 0, REME 3; RE2, R Signals 0; RE 3, REME 1; RA 3, R Signals 2; RA 3, RE 2; R Signals 3, REME 2.

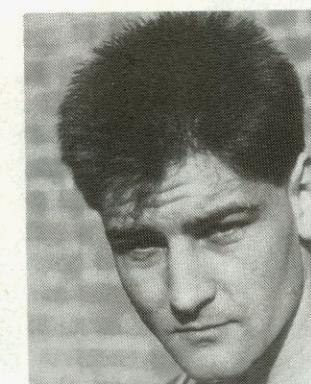
RCT in Division 1 next year. Congratulations to the RMP for winning Division 3 in their first year in the competition.

The event was sponsored by Grattan plc and Brig Mike Perkins (Retd) presented the prizes to the winners of each division.

More than 140 players took part, making this the biggest event in Army squash with players coming from far and wide, including Hong Kong, BAOR and Northern Ireland.



LCpl Neil McCallum



LBdr Frank Miller

# SIX OF THE BEST!

AN ARMY select boxing team travelled to Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent to take on a London ABA representative team and emerged as victors by six bouts to two.

Winners for the Army included LCpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), Pte Pete Campbell (1 Staffords), LCpl Chris Whittaker (26 Engr Regt), Spr Lee Innes (22 Engr Regt), Lcpl Steve Burford (4

Armd Wksp REME) and LBdr Frank Miller (49 Fd Regt RA).

LCpl Danny Coyle (1 RWF) lost on points and Rfn Andy Lewis (3 RGJ) was stopped in the first round.

There was a special treat for the spectators when ABA grade 2 team championships at Tidworth to decide who meets 1 PWO in the UKLF final on January 30. The Army final is due to be staged in BAOR on February 28.

pics, fought an exhibition bout.

McLean won on points but both boxers were given a standing ovation by an appreciative audience.

3 RGJ meet 1 Queens in the semi-final of the Army novice grade 2 team championships at Tidworth to decide who meets 1 PWO in the UKLF final on January 30. The Army final is due to be staged in BAOR on February 28.

# Injuries still a worry for rugby colts

ALTHOUGH the Army Colts rugby team injury problem has eased, there are still four players out of action and the side has continued to struggle in the Colts County Championship, writes Peter Salisbury.

At one point so many players were unfit that the team took the field with eight reserves.

Nevertheless the standard of the side has continued to improve and their superior fitness has enabled them to hit back well in the second halves of their last two games.

Against Hertfordshire at Harpenden the home team led 12-0 at the interval. Flankers AT Ssg Jason Jeffrey (PMC Arborfield) and Spr Richard Brimacombe (3 Trg Regt RE) scored second half tries, the first of which was converted by Cfn Mick Cotton (SEME Bordon).

Sadly, right on time he missed the second which would have given the Army a share of the spoils.

Against Middlesex at Aldershot an outstanding display by Gordon, the visitors' full back, won them the match. Middlesex led 13-3 at half time, Cotton having kicked a penalty for the Army.

Much of the Army's defensive work was good, with full back Pte Lee Roberts (1 Glosters) and Spr Tim Green (3 Trg Regt RE) particularly sound. It was the latter, making his debut on the right wing,

IN AN atmosphere akin to that found at Cardiff Arms Park or Twickenham, defending champions the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment beat the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers by 17 points to nine in the final of the Northern Ireland major units rugby championships.

Within three minutes the Welshmen were a goal up, but it did not take the Dukes long to level the score.

A try by winger 2nd Lt Wheatley gave the Dukes a 10-6 interval lead. LCpl Jeffries (1 RWF) and Cpl Jones (1 DWR) traded penalties in the second half and Cpl Draper finished off a marvellous Dukes movement to complete the scoring with an unconverted try.

Next opponents for the Dukes are The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

The annual derby between 4 RRW (V) and 3 RRW (V) resulted in a resounding 40 points to seven victory for the 4th Battalion. What made their win all the more enjoyable was the fact that they had never before beaten their sister battalion which recruits largely from Cardiff, Newport and the valleys.

4 RRW has TA centres in Swansea, Llanelli, Neath, Bridgend and Maesteg.

## Mahoney to get top sports award

## APTC on the ball!

THE Army Physical Training Corps held off strong challenges by both the Army Catering Corps and REME to win the Inter Corps basketball tournament at Aldershot.

Nine corps took part over six days of intense competition during which there were several upsets which kept the final result in some doubt until the last day.

The RCT defied the form book to beat the ACC 84-74 while the Royal Artillery unexpectedly overturned REME 86-85. Then REME put the cat among the pigeons by beating APTC 68-50, quite a wide margin in the circumstances.

This left the match between APTC and ACC as the crucial contest with the physical training instructors running out winners by 86-72.

This premier tournament proved invaluable to Lt Col George Donald, RE, chairman of the Army selectors, who

ARMY modern pentathlon star Lt Dominic Mahoney (pictured right), Life Guards, has been named the Combined Services Sport Board's Man of the Year for 1988.

Mahoney was a vital member of the British modern pentathlon team which won the bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Seoul.

Despite a painful knee injury sustained in a riding accident, Mahoney helped team mates

Richard Phelps and Graham Brookhouse to overhaul the Soviet Union and France in the punishing final discipline, the cross country event, and so clinch their medal.

Combined Services Teams of the Year are the Royal Air Force men's and women's badminton teams, and PO Wren Sue Freeman, WRNS, has won the women's award. The awards will be presented at the Royal Tournament.



Picture: Mike Perring

WO2 Tim Brown (No 11), WO2 David Evans (right) and LCpl Ian Shook (middle) of the ACC defend against SI Phil Hughes (13) of the APTC

remarked that new talent coming through the ranks was quite impressive.

The Army is aiming to regain

the Inter-Services title from the Royal Air Force at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth on March 10-11.

## Rocky turn

AFTER leading at the turn, a Gibraltar Joint Services Golf Society team led by Capt Barry Wilding, RE, played badly on three holes on the easier final nine to finish 18th out of 36 in the Silk Cut Pro Am, tournament at La Duquesa.

The society, which thrives on strong local competition, good weather and a variety of courses, had drawn up-and-coming Englishman Ross McFarlane as their professional in the Pro Am.

## Sappers win UK honours

AN ARMY team of three sapper lance corporals has won the senior team event in the British national biathlon championships held at Dunfermline, Scotland.

The victors were LCpls Shawn Morgan (23), Marcus Daly-Ferreira (25), and David Brookfield (26).

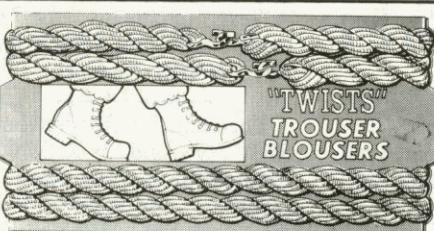
Morgan finished second individually behind Roland Lee, a civilian, who was a member of the British Olympic swimming team at Seoul (and is the older brother of Gnr Kim Lee of the Army's pentathlon squad).

Maj Terry Banyard, REME, who is in charge of the Army's pentathletes was delighted with the sapper victory.

"There is a definite threat to the REME's traditional grip on the pentathlon scene," he said. But was quick to point out that two REME stars, Cpl Peter Hart and Steven Dadson, had been absent fencing in Luxembourg at the time.

Army athletes have had a fine year. Of the four senior national championships they have won the biathlon, triathlon and tetrathlon (four events but less riding) and they were runners up in the British pentathlon championships – beaten by Spartan, a club which has two Olympic athletes in its team.

Britain's bronze medal winning Olympic pentathlon team included two soldiers – Lt Dominic Mahoney, Life Guards, and Cpl Hart. Much of the training for the Olympics was done at the Centre of Excellence in the REME garrison at Arborfield.



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Picture: Mike Weston