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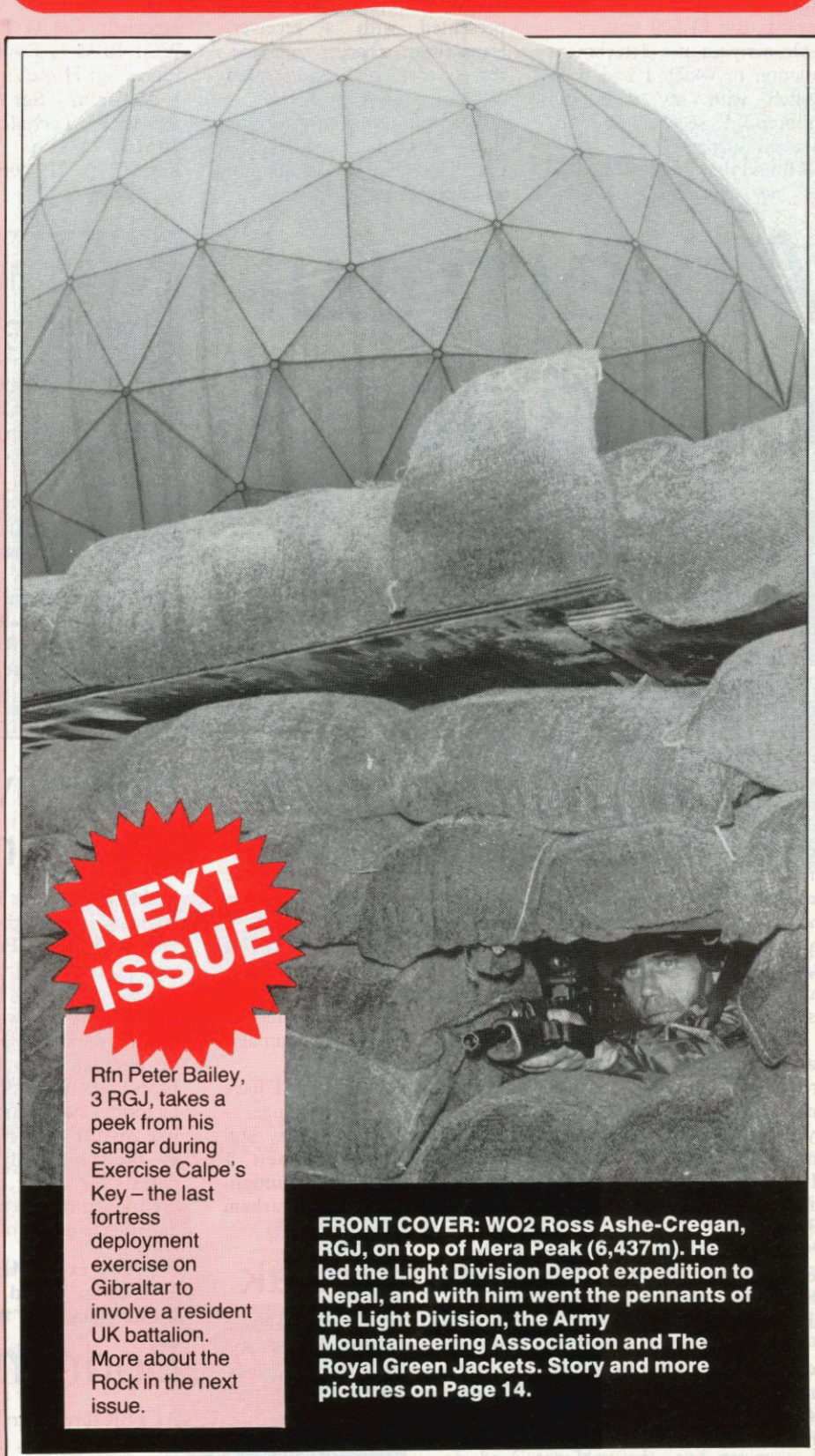
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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
 incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Rfn Peter Bailey,
 3 RGJ, takes a
 peek from his
 sangar during
 Exercise Calpe's
 Key – the last
 fortress
 deployment
 exercise on
 Gibraltar to
 involve a resident
 UK battalion.
 More about the
 Rock in the next
 issue.

FRONT COVER: WO2 Ross Ashe-Cregan, RGJ, on top of Mera Peak (6,437m). He led the Light Division Depot expedition to Nepal, and with him went the pennants of the Light Division, the Army Mountaineering Association and The Royal Green Jackets. Story and more pictures on Page 14.

What a lovely lot you are!

MY daughter Laura is severely to profoundly deaf and I had been saving up for a radio microphone system, or phonic ear, but had not got very far towards the £1,500 cost.

On arriving at a detachment function to which I had been invited with my wife and children, I received a very pleasant surprise.

I found that the function was for my daughter's benefit.

Unknown to me, my unit had been raising funds by means of raffles and sponsored swims and slims.

My family and I were duly presented with a receiver, transmitter, charger, adaptor, three earpieces and other relevant equipment.

You can imagine how my little girl felt when she exclaimed that she could now hear properly.

My wife and I were elated. May I through SOLDIER convey our gratitude to members of 205 Scottish General Hospital RAMC(V), especially Col G R B Jones, WO1 RSM L Davis, WO2 C Ellice, Sgt H McVicar and Cpl L McGrath. – **Sgt Alan Gray, REME(V), Technical Section, 205(S) Gen Hospital RAMC(V), 41 Yorkhill Parade, Glasgow.**

An armful of badges

Tokens puzzle

WE agree that the question of the aluminium 5 and 10 lire Naafi tokens (January 1) remains a vexed one, although these are the ones most recently used.

They were in use in Sardinia until about ten years ago, when they were withdrawn on the grounds of cost. Apparently their attraction as souvenirs caused a high loss rate and made it completely uneconomical to continue with their use!

The British Armed Forces half and one unit brass tokens are also somewhat of an enigma. They were produced by the Royal Mint in 1953 and apparently again in 1960-61. However, no record can be found of them ever being issued.

After production, they were delivered to the then War Office where they seem to have sunk from view.

The puzzle is, if they were never issued, why were two pressings made? If any reader can provide further information on this elusive brass, we shall be most interested. – **John Mileham, Public Relations Officer, Naafi, Imperial Court, Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QX.**

HAVE I been re-badged a record number of times?

In November 1951 I joined the Royal Armoured Corps and while carrying out basic training I wore the Mailed Fist badge.

Training completed, I was posted to the 15/19 Royal Hussars. In 1953 I transferred to the 11 Hussars PAO, in which I served until leaving the Regular Army.

In 1960 I joined the TA Artillery, 437 LAA TA. When that disbanded I joined the RASC TA and in the Sixties changed to the RCT.

On reorganisation in 1967 I joined the REME TA. In 1985, on reaching the age limit, I joined the HSF Light Infantry Durham, with whom I am also a cadet instructor.

One way or another I have been through eight changes – and, who knows, I may still change again – **B Burnett, 1 West End Villas, Coundon, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 8PP.**

Short peak

I NOTICE from television programmes that RSMs and some other ranks of the Guards' regiments appear to have very short cap peaks – why?

I have heard it said that the short peak makes the wearer keep his head up to enable him to see. – **P Jackson, 95 Constantine Avenue, Tang Hall, York YO1 3SZ.**

Knighthood deserved

WHAT a pleasure to see that at last Col David Stirling has been accorded an honour for services to his country.

As an ex-LRDG member I feel proud to have served under his command and to know that at last the forerunners of the SAS have done their bit. – **G I Cole, ex-Staff Sgt REME, 3 Goldfinch Close, Langley Green, Crawley, W Sussex RH11 7QS.**

HSF given wrong role

I AGREE with D G Sage (January 1) about the role of the Home Service Force being wrong. They are trying to turn 50-year-olds into 25-year-olds and it does not work.

The role of the HSF should be internal security, guarding bases, petrol dumps and factories, not running around like 25-year-olds. If the HSF is to become mainly ex-TA it defeats the object, for the TA are trained but do not have the experience of the old soldier. –

P Mills, ex-REME, ex-HSF, 19 Menin Road, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0TT.

Bodmin proud of tribute

AFTER three years' hard work raising the money, the new War Memorial at Bodmin, Cornwall, was dedicated by the Bishop of St Germans.

The people of Bodmin are justifiably proud of the memo-

Reunions

● **Operation Grapple, Christmas Island** annual reunion will be held at the RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, on March 24, in the form of a lunch with wives included. Details from Mr David Brockett, Phyllis Court Club, Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2HT.

● **Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association**, London Branch St David's Day dinner on March 3 will take place at the Victory Services Club, London. Details of this and following day's parade from Mr E Popham on 01-648 0126.

● **150th Regiment (South Nottinghamshire Hussars) Royal Horse Artillery** Old Comrades Association reunion will be held at the Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham, on Sunday April 7 at 7pm. Details from Cyril Leivers, 33 Chetwin Road, Billborough, Nottingham NG8 4HJ (tel: 0602 284107).

● **107th HAA Regiment Royal Artillery** reunion luncheon to celebrate 50th anniversary of forming will be held in London on March 17. Details from F J Stanley, 41 Arnold Crescent, Isleworth, Middx TW7 7NS.

● **World War One Veterans Association** pilgrimage to France and Belgium will take place in the spring, followed by an autumn reunion. Details from F G Hall, 83 The Crescent, Southwick, Brighton BN24 4LB (tel: 0273 595877).

Calling . . .

● **RE Boy Apprentices – Fort Darland.** Jim Winchester, of 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB, would like to hear from any RE apprentices stationed at Fort Darland 1939-40, especially those who have not yet "booked in".

● Any readers, particularly Royal Engineers, who recall an enormous detonation of high explosives at Westertimke in Germany on May 7 or 8, 1945 which destroyed the main road, please contact Mr W Layton, 103 Brereton Road, Willenhall, W Midlands WV12 5LA.

Wanted: Russian-speaking weapons experts

SOME Army officers could find themselves with an unfamiliar role if an agreement on conventional weapons disarmament is ratified by the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna this summer.

Verification of the destruction of weapons will form a major part of East-West agreement if the talks are successful.

At present the British Army does not have sufficient trained personnel available to visit Warsaw Pact countries to carry out verification or to host reciprocal visits from the Eastern Bloc. Few British officers have the necessary technical, linguistic or diplomatic skills required for such a task.

The MoD accepts that an organisation

involving large numbers of men would be needed, but stresses that intensive training courses would have to be undertaken by seconded officers to ensure they were fluent in Eastern bloc languages and had sufficient technical knowledge to be able to distinguish between different types of tanks, artillery and other Warsaw Pact weapons.

Emergency calls top 1,000 a day

MILITARY ambulances are now deployed in 13 areas and are dealing with an average of 1,105 emergency calls each day. The total had passed 51,000 by January 15.

They were first deployed on November 8 in the London area. They are now also on call in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, Dorset, Hereford and Worcester, Staffordshire, Surrey, Essex, Oxford and Buckinghamshire.

Cpl Terry Gould, a 25-year-old bachelor, is fast learning about the joys of parenthood. He is a combat medical technician with the Royal Army Medical Corps and has helped deliver two babies in ten days in Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

With the latest his team was called out to expectant mum, Mrs Dawn Mirfin. Cpl Gould decided that because of the frequency of the contractions it would be safer for the birth to be on the bed at her home.

He said: "It took about 30 minutes and there were no problems." Cpl Gould is normally a permanent staff instructor with the Territorial Army's 251 Field Ambulance at Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.



Above - Mrs Dawn Mirfin and baby Karla with Cpl Terry Gould



Left - Pte Caps Cappleman and LCpl Ossi Farrell help actress Betty Crawford from their ambulance

Betty lands painful role

ACTRESS Betty Crawford found herself playing the central role in an unrehearsed drama on a Sheffield City bus. Betty (66), who featured in ITV's *A Bit of a Do*, slipped near the end of her journey in the city's Woodseats district and found an Army ambulance responded to give emergency treatment for her injured arm.

A team led by LCpl Ossi Farrell from 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance in Catterick, accompanied by driver Pte Caps Cappleman of the Green Howards, and navigator PC John Turner answered the call.

Mrs Crawford was treated at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital for a suspected broken arm and allowed home after treatment.

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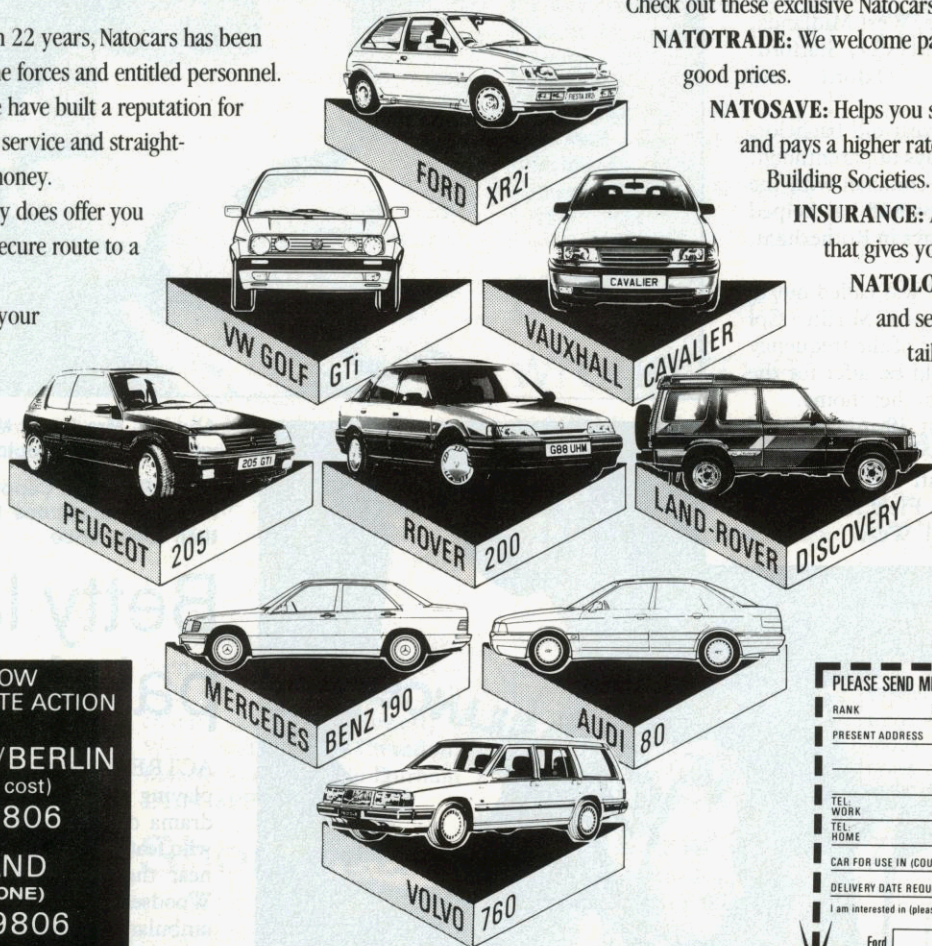
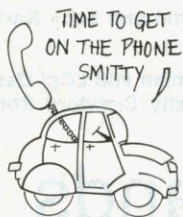
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Major C. BAOR)

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SOLTES/08

Sapper EOD operation to close airport, M-way

STRETCHES of the M27 motorway and a section of the main London-Southampton railway line will be closed for two days later this month while sappers remove 50-year-old wartime defence devices.

One of Ford's main production factories will also be shut down.

Men of 58 (EOD) Squadron, OC Maj Mike Lauder, will work shifts over the weekend of February 17-18 to extract a network of pipe demolition charges at Southampton's Eastleigh Airport.

The charges were buried in 1940 when Britain was expecting enemy airborne troops to spearhead an invasion and seize airfields. The Germans would have flown in reinforcements in troop carriers or gliders.

Eastleigh, where all Spitfires produced at Southampton were tested, was a prime target. In order to be able to deny it to the invaders 60-ft lengths of three-inch (internal diameter) spun steel pipe were packed with gelnite and driven into the ground at an angle.

"One end of each pipe was shaped like a drill bit," said Lt Col Eric Ironside, Para, the co-ordinating officer for Operation Crabstick (Eastleigh).

"The main runway was turf in those days and the pipes started at about 18 inches below the surface and were screwed in to a depth of about 10 feet."

Pencil detonators were to be inserted if an invasion was thought to be imminent - British experts expected to have about 12 hours warning - and the pipes would have blown large circles in the landing ground.

A clearance operation took place



They may be based far away from home, but The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards never fail to celebrate the birth of Robert Burns. So Pte Brian Morrison (left) rustled up a 3lb haggis which will be piped into the regiment's Burns' Night dinner by Pipe Major John Bruce (right). The concoction consisted of sheep heart, lungs, liver and stomach, oatmeal, herbs and spices. The Scots DG are based at Fallingbommel, West Germany.

immediately after the war but was not comprehensive. With the introduction of improved metal detectors recent examination of the area detected pipe charges still in position. Eastleigh is being cleared because of its intended development and extension.

"The pipes are safe as long as they are left alone," said Lt Col Ironside, "but if they were struck with either a spade or excavator during deep digging they could explode if they contain gelnite."

The position of the charges was found and it was discovered that the centre line of the complex lay five degrees north of the original runway which has since been replaced with concrete.

Remotely-controlled Hymac diggers will be used by 58 Sqn to expose the charges. The operators will be sheltered in either a

AFV 432 or Saracen APC.

Once visible the pipes will be cut into manageable strips with "charges linear cutting", and the contents hoisted out. Any explosive which remains will be collected and taken away to be burned.

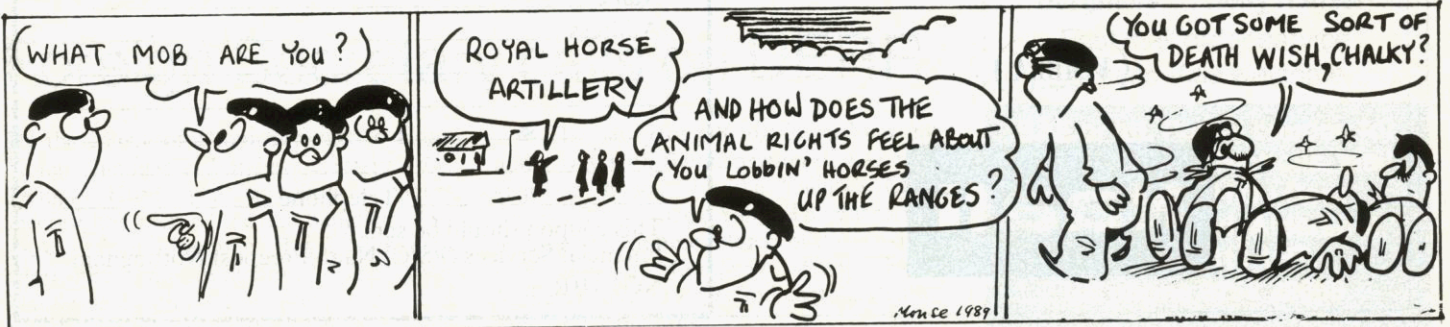
Princess at Arborfield

PRINCESS Alexandra, after whose mother Princess Marina College, Arborfield is named, visited the establishment to mark its golden jubilee year.

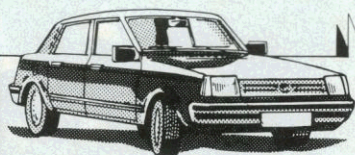
The Princess, who specifically asked to meet as many apprentices as possible, was met and escorted around the college by Brig John Graham, Garrison Commander, and Col Phil Kay, the Commandant.

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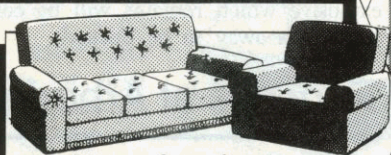


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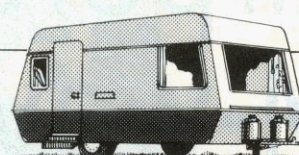
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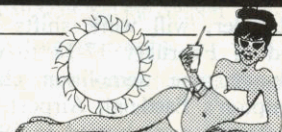
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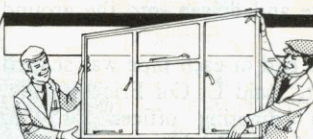
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Royal Scots return to Dalmeny Street

AFTER an absence of 67 years Territorial soldiers of the Royal Scots are again using the Dalmeny Street Drill Hall in Edinburgh.

To mark the return No. 2 (Royal Scots) Company of 2nd Battalion 52nd Lowland Volunteers commanded by Maj Gavin Tosh, and led by the Regimental Band, marched

into the Drill Hall at noon on January 21. They passed under the carved stone lintel which declares "7th Battalion The Royal Scots".

The 7th Royal Scots were originally raised in 1859 as the 1st Midlothian (Leith) Rifle Volunteer Corps. In 1888 they became 5th Volunteer Battalion Royal Scots and in 1908

with the formation of the Territorial Force they were renumbered the 7th Battalion.

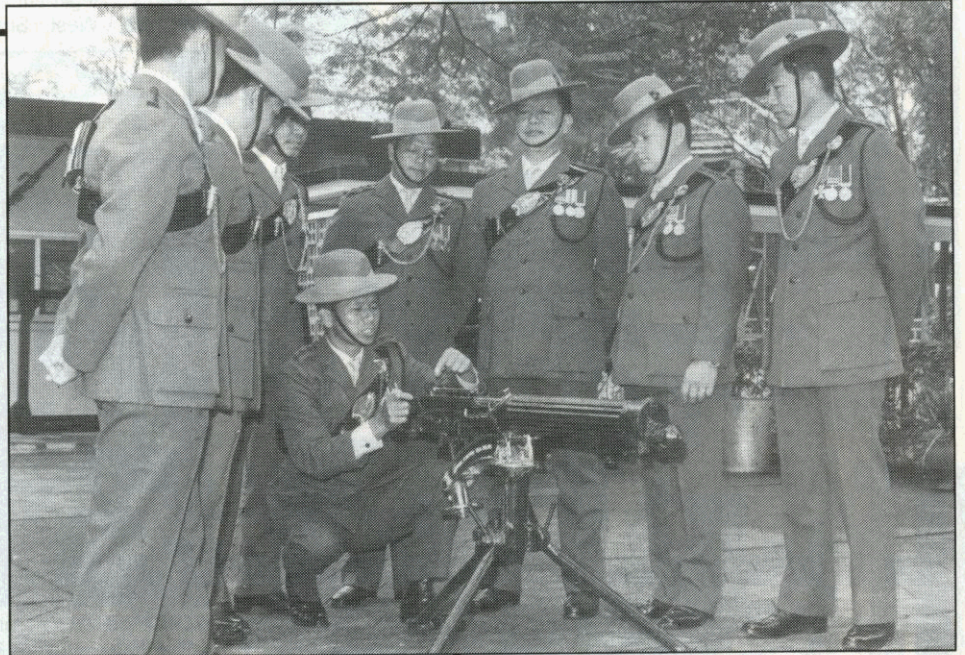
Dalmeny Street remained their home until 1922 when the 7th were amalgamated with the 9th Battalion and moved as the 7/9th Royal Scots to East Claremont Street. From then until 1989 the Drill Hall was used by TA soldiers of the Royal Artillery.

Gurkhas to exercise in Borneo

QUEEN's Gurkha Officers of 2/2 King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles watch as one of their number demonstrates a .303 Vickers Maxim machine gun at their camp at Gallipoli Lines, Hong Kong.

Capt (QGO) Bhimbahadur Pun used a weapon like this when he was a teenage rifleman with the battalion's medium machine gun platoon in Borneo nearly 25 years go.

Now he and the other QGOs in the picture are heading back to Borneo – or Malaysian Sabah to be more precise – with the rest of 2/2 GR for the first battalion-sized exercise to be staged from Hong Kong outside the territory since the 1960s. All are veterans of the 1962-66 Confrontation conflict in Borneo with neighbouring Indonesia.



As for the Maxim gun – it has long since been retired, and is now on show outside the Guard Room at Gallipoli Lines. A brass plate inscription records that its service lasted from the fighting at Neuve Chappelle in 1915 to Rumah Serit, Sarawak, South Borneo in 1964.

Krefeld Barracks to house resettlers

HAYNES Barracks in Krefeld has been handed over by British Forces Germany to the West German authorities and will be used to accommodate resettlers from the East.

It had been the home of four units under

the command of 40 Army Engineering Support Group. These units, employing eight British soldiers and 260 German civilian employees, have now moved into the former Naafi warehouse complex at Linn in Krefeld.

Cheshires retain GPMG (SF) title

FOR the second year running the Drums Platoon of the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment has won the UKLF's general purpose machine gun sustained fire shooting competition. Having won the northern districts' GPMG (SF) competition,

the Cheshires won the UK title which is decided on a paper shoot, with scores submitted from the districts. Now the top teams from the UK, BAOR and Hong Kong are to shoot for the Cheshire Regiment Trophy, presented in 1982.

Foreign Secretary calls on DERR

IN the course of a four-day visit to Hong Kong – his first as Foreign Secretary – Mr Douglas Hurd spent a couple of hours meeting the men of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) doing their penultimate stint of border duty. The battalion returns to England later this year.

● The new Hong Kong Legal Year got under way with the inspection of a 48 man guard of honour by the Colony's Chief Justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang. The guard was mounted by Chinese soldiers of the Garrison from Dragon Company, Hong Kong Military Service Corps, and commanded by Maj Chu Cho Min.

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MEDAL PARADE: Sgts Robert and Sandra Hutchings

Family honours

New bride **Sandra Hutchings** didn't think much of staying in while husband **Robert** went off to do his weekly TA training, so he suggested she join up.

That was 14 years ago. Now Sgt Robert Hutchings and Sgt Sandra Hutchings of the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment based at Horsham, West Sussex have

each been presented with the Territorial Efficiency Medal by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk.

Sandra is a sergeant clerk and military accountant in BHQ, while Robert is the WO's/Sgts' Mess sergeant.

The TA Centre, Horsham is named after the late Duke of Norfolk, who commanded the Royal Sussex Regiment.



GOOD BOY: Adam with police dog Legend and Cpl Stuart Beck

There's a good boy

Seven-year-old **Adam Holden**, son of Sgt **Brian** and Mrs **Lynne Holden** serving with the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers at Herford, West Germany kept his wits about him when his mum collapsed at home.

Quick as a flash Adam telephoned the Herford RMP duty room and help was soon on its way. Mrs Holden is now fully recovered.

So impressed were the RMP with young Adam that they presented him with his own beret and armband and he was treated to a tour of the duty room by WO2 **Ken Rae** of Herford Detachment 114 Pro Coy.



Steve was all at sea



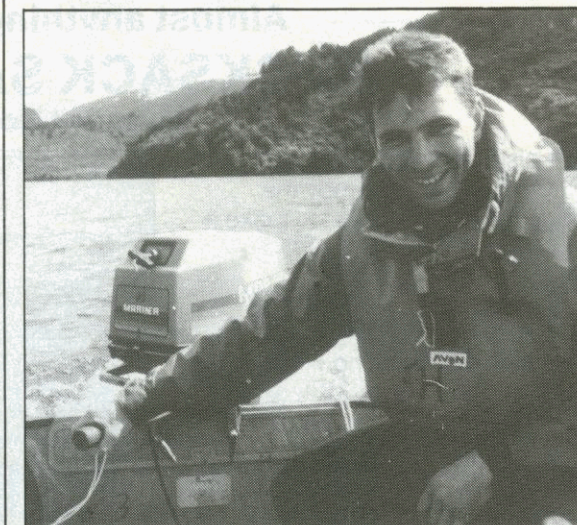
SEA CRUISER: Green Jacket Steve Staley in the West Indies

Rfn **Steve Staley** of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets saw how the other half live when he was chosen for loan service with the Royal Navy – a four-month tour of the West Indies in the frigate *HMS Alacrity*.

But although Steve visited the Azores, the Bahamas, Dominica, Tobago and Trinidad the cruise wasn't all exotic sunshine. Steve and his matelot mates were the first on the scene after Hurricane Hugo devastated the island of Montserrat, and they did phenomenal work to restore essential services.

PEOPLE

From Chile lakes . . .



Pictured on Lago Elizalde in Chile is Cpl **John House** of the Bulford-based 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. John has spent three months in the South American country on Operation Raleigh, graduating from assistant climbing instructor to project leader.

As leader he was assigned to head a team of ten venturers and a medic on a navigation of the rapids-studded River Rio Baker. The 150km trip was completed safely in a week.



. . . to the Aussie outback

Also on Operation Raleigh – albeit on a different continent – was Capt **Mark Freeman**, adjutant of 35 Engineer Regiment based at Hameln, West Germany. He led a party of 109 venturers on an expedition to Northern Queensland, Australia

to undertake a variety of conservation and community service projects. They carried out observations on Crown of Thorns starfish, bat colonies and platypus, worked on historically important buildings, and explored lava tunnels.



JUST MARRIED: Dave and Linda Butler

Getting a shift on?

What did SSgt **Dave Butler**, RAMC, do between emergency ambulance shifts in South Yorkshire? He got married.

Dave, a permanent staff instructor with the Territorial Army's 212 Field Hospital detachment at Leeds, dashed out between spells on duty to wed Miss **Linda Pearson**, a TA sergeant in

the QARANC and a State Enrolled Nurse.

Dave, a Regular soldier, was called away from his normal training duties to join one of the rover groups re-supplying the 16 Army ambulances assisting the South Yorkshire authorities.

The couple plan an overseas honeymoon – when time allows.



Roger's on the right lines

WO **Roger Parker** (left) looked into the benefits of leasing or hiring vehicles for military use – and his findings have earned him a national award.

Roger, who runs the motor transport pool at the Junior

Leaders' Regiment at Colerne, Wilts, carried out his study as part of his National Examining Board for Supervisory Management (NEBSM) diploma course at Swindon College.

He received his national diploma award from publisher

Robert Maxwell at a lunch to celebrate the 25th anniversary of NEBSM. And his project on transport efficiency is being put to good use at Colerne, which has a fleet of 40 vehicles and handles about 650 trainees a year.

HAT CHAT: Mrs Jane Lock keeps Rgr Terry Mason company during a blood donor session in Osnabrück

Aunty's back

Settling in with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers at Osnabrück, West Germany is Mrs **Jane Lock**, one of the first 15-strong batch of about 60 WRVS ladies to join the Army in Germany.

The WRVS pulled out of BAOR ten years ago, and their successors will be based with the three armoured divisions.

Jane has been a Services' Welfare Officer for the past two years, most recently at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot. Her work will be predominantly with single soldiers serving away from home.

They're just the ticket



Lucky numbers? Wren **Caroline Scott**, Pte **June Meskill**, WRAC, Cpl **Terry Carnie**, WRAF, and (front) Cpl **Jinder Parkes**, WRAC, with some of the 220,000 tickets sold in the annual SSAFA three-car draw.

Two soldiers serving in BAOR won cars in the draw. Sponsored by Natocars of Bridgwater with Peugeot Export, the lottery raised £40,000 for SSAFA, which works on behalf of Service and ex-Service families.

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Hotel return

A visit to the Edinburgh House Hotel in Berlin to perform the official opening ceremony after its facelift brought back happy memories for Lady Mallaby, wife of the British Ambassador to Bonn, Sir Christopher Mallaby.

She and her husband spent "a very happy week" there in transit in the 1960s when her husband was posted to the British Military Government in Berlin.

The new facilities were a great improvement on those days, she said, particularly by the installation of central heating throughout the building.

Her verdict on the new-look Edinburgh House transit centre: "Very comfortable."

Opening remarks – Page 29

Painter on the march

Latest special offering at the National Army Museum in Royal Hospital Road, London is an exhibition of paintings not seen together since the 1870s when they were displayed at Aldershot at the express wish of Queen Victoria.

During 30 years in the Indian Army, Cornelius Francis James (1838-89) travelled widely, recording his impressions of places and people in watercolours and sketches which have been brought together by the National Army Museum.

Entitled "An Artist on the March", the exhibition features James's impressions of Abyssinia, India and Kashmir, including a record in 25 paintings of the 1868 Abyssinian expedition. It will be open from February 8 to April 29.

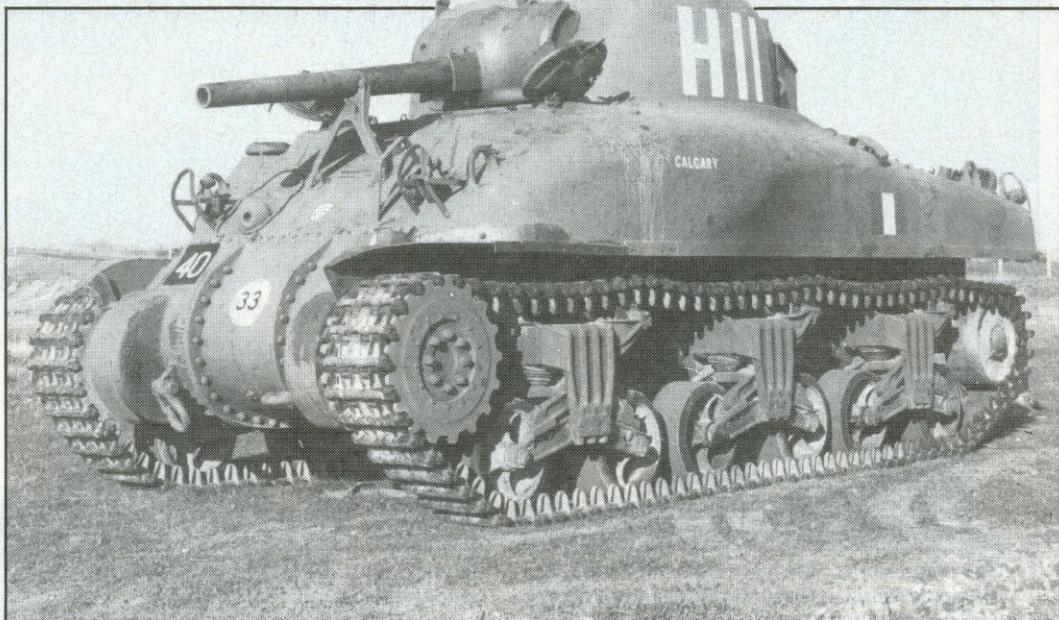
Sounds promising

BFBS is opening a second English language radio service in Germany.

The new channel is expected to reach about 65 per cent of the forces' audience in Germany and will be known as BFBS-2.

It will include documentaries, drama, serials, light classical music and live BBC 4 offerings such as the *Today*

SOLDIER to Soldier



The Imperial War Museum Duxford's latest acquisition is this rare Second World War Grizzly tank. The Grizzly was a Canadian licence-built version of the famous American Sherman which served widely with the US and many Allied armies during and after the war. Duxford's Grizzly was built in 1943 by the Montreal Locomotive Works and is on long-term loan from Mr Harvey of Falmouth.

programme, *Women's Hour* and *PM*, providing an alternative to the Radio One style of the long-established BFBS-1.

Supermac sword

A recent addition to the treasures held in the Guards Museum, London is the sword carried by Harold Macmillan, the first Earl of Stockton, while serving with the Grenadier Guards during the First World War.

Harold Macmillan was badly wounded for the second time during the Battle of the Somme in September 1916 and left the regiment after two years in hospital.

But he remained keenly interested in the Guards throughout his life and frequently wore the blue-red-blue tie of the Household Division on public occasions.

Almost the longest . . .

Always hedge your bets would appear to be a good maxim for anyone claiming anything is the biggest, heaviest, longest . . .

We were reliably (we thought) informed that "The

This stained glass window has been installed in the Garrison Church at Bielefeld, West Germany to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Pioneer Corps. It was paid for by a series of fund-raising events inspired by Maj Brian Aveyard, OC HQ Coy, RPC in Bielefeld.



Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry" was the longest name given to a British Rail loco (*SOLDIER*, December 11).

Not so, says Mr G A Gladman of Harborne, Birmingham who proves his case with six lengthier examples including, believe it or not, "The National Gardens Festival Gateshead 1990".

That particular article also mentioned that the Worcestershire Yeomanry had disbanded in 1827. SSgt Derrick Smart of the 67th (Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) – another longest title? – points out that the regiment was re-formed in 1831 and stayed on the Army List until 1956 when it merged with the Warwickshire Yeomanry, and lives on today in the form of his own unit and

the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry.

New brews signed on

No excuse now for members of the Territorial Army not to get to grips with their work.

The Federation Brewery has launched two new beers, Terrier Bitter and TA Pilsner Lager, which will be exclusive to TA Centres all over the country.

Council of TAVRA's secretary Maj Gen Mike Matthews sampled the brews at a launch ceremony in the Duke of York's Headquarters, London . . . and voiced his approval.

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



One of the aims of the Light Division Expedition to Nepal, Exercise Mountain Bugle, was to get a junior soldier to the summit of the magnificent Mera Peak (6,437m), achieved by a delighted Pte Robert Harrison, 18 (left) and Pte Ross

Evans, 17 (right). The party endured temperatures of minus 35 degrees but found it too chilly to celebrate. Also pictured are Rfn Sean O'Kelly, 2nd Lt Sarah Moland, the only woman taking part, and Lt Tom McMurtie.

A moment to savour

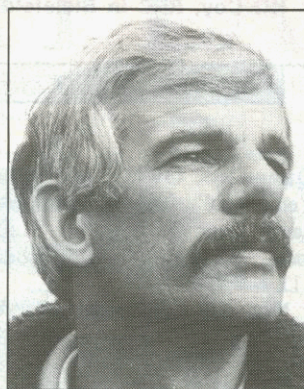
ALL his life WO2 Ross Ashe-Cregan, RGJ, has had a dream. But despite years of planning and preparation, he was allowed only a couple of minutes to enjoy it when the dream came true, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

His lifetime's ambition was to organise and lead an expedition to the Himalayas.

He realised it on the Light Division Depot's Exercise Mountain Bugle, the main aim of which was to get a junior soldier to the top of the magnificent Mera Peak (6,437m).

Four youngsters made it to the summit, as well as WO2 Ashe-Cregan and seven adult soldiers.

His description of seeing his dream come true? "It was a very emotional moment, quite indescribable really. We were absolutely shattered when we got to the top. It was far too cold to spend much time celebrating. We left that until we got back to base camp."



WO2 Ross Ashe-Cregan

WO2 Ashe-Cregan had been a member of two previous expeditions to the area.

Other objectives were for nine seniors in the party to climb Lobuche East (6,119m) and 11 juniors to climb Kala Patar (5,545m).

The adults who climbed Mera Peak with WO2 Ashe-Cregan were QMSI Sandy Shaw, APTC; Cpl Alistair Ross, RGJ; Lt Tom McMurtie, LI; Rfn Sean O'Kelly, RGJ; 2nd Lt Sarah

Moland, WRAC TA, the only woman in the party; Cpl Ian Lindsey, RGJ, and Petty Officer Pat Dunphy, Royal Navy.

The junior soldiers were Rfn David Youngs, Pte Ross Evans and Pte Daryl James, aged 17, and 18-year-old Pte Robert Harrison.

WO2 Ashe-Cregan also reached the summit of Lobuche East, as did QMSI Shaw and Cpl Ross.

Twelve of the party climbed Kala Patar and were rewarded with superb views of Mount Everest. A study of flora and fauna produced several items of interest. They will be reported to the Young Explorers' Trust, which approved the expedition.

The project lasted two months and cost £35,000. Junior soldiers contributed £450 each, adults £550, and the rest came from Army grants and allocations, fundraising and sponsorship. The soldiers were accompanied by 120 porters.

The calling cards are pennants of the Light Division, the Army Mountaineering Association, and the Royal Green Jackets, delivered to the summit of Lobuche East (6,119m) by Cpl Alistair Ross, RGJ on the Light Division Depot Expedition to Nepal, Exercise Mountain Bugle. In the background is Everest

WO2 Ashe-Cregan said the expedition had brought many benefits.

"They all learned to survive in a challenging and hostile environment, to work as a team and to live close to one another. They all matured and gained invaluable experience.

"For many of the youngsters who had not travelled outside the UK before it was a complete change of lifestyle with no modern amenities outside Kathmandu."



African odyssey begins



Capt John Warburton-Lee

A PARTY from the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards is in Morocco on the first stage of the Roof of Africa expedition, one of the largest mounted by the British Army for many years.

Inspired by Capt John Warburton-Lee, who conceived the idea while in hospital recovering from a broken back, the expedition will attempt to conquer seven of the highest mountains in Africa and canoe or raft the length of the mighty Zambesi River.

Capt Warburton-Lee was seriously injured in a mountaineering accident, and it was thought he would never walk

again. But his determination to climb again and lead the expedition to Africa helped him make a full recovery.

About 80 Welsh Guardsmen will be involved in five phases over the next 12 months.

The initial stage is in Morocco, with an ascent of Jebel Toubkal (13,670ft) in the High Atlas mountain, followed by a west-east crossing of the southern Sahara.

Jungle roads will then take the expedition 2,000 miles south to Mount Stanley in Zaire, Karisimbi Peak in Rwanda, Mount Kenya, Kilimanjaro (at 19,340ft, Africa's highest) in Tanzania, Mount

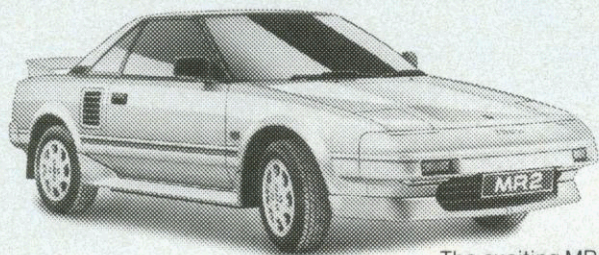
Mulanje in Malawi and Fako Peak in Cameroon.

In all, Capt Warburton-Lee's expedition will visit 17 countries, travelling as far south as Zimbabwe and Botswana.

The total journey is reckoned to be more than 50,000 miles.

The Roof of Africa expedition also hopes to raise significant funds in sponsorship for two charities, the Weston Spirit established by Simon Weston to motivate youngsters from the inner cities, and the spinal injuries unit at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital near Oswestry.

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The last of the

dinosaurs?

BARV's still in good working order at AVSD

ONE of the last of the dinosaurs is alive and well and living at Ludgershall in Wiltshire.

It roared out of its lair at the Armoured Vehicle Sub Depot the other day, went for a bracing run and roared back.

At 42 the BARV is still raring to go. In 1944 it was common species. More than 60 of them were to be found on the beaches of Normandy, grunting and snuffling at the water's edge, and the following year they were seen in the Rhine.

A couple were reported in the Falklands in 1982, one of them wallowing spectacularly on Blue Beach 2.

Today, however, there are only three known to be in existence – two held in captivity by the Royal Marines, the other at Ludgershall.

Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle 00ZR36, the tallest vehicle in the Army – able to operate in 9ft 6in of water without preparation – is a historic machine.

The original type was designed on a Sherman tank chassis to rescue “drowned”

SSgt Geordie Pollin and LCpl Neil Attridge with the giant BARV





Pte Martin Saw pictured with the push-you, pull-you "Yellow Peril" which drags dead vehicles about the Army Vehicle Sub Depot

Last dinosaur

From Page 17

vehicles on D-Day. The current version has a Centurion chassis.

Though built in 1947, 00ZR36 is in mint condition, the compartments behind the driving seat are just waiting for the diving suits which are standard equipment when it is operating. It could be off within hours if needed.

For the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Depot is a big business concern, not a museum.

It receives, maintains, stores and issues ALL the Army's armoured vehicles including tracked Rapier plus the Volvos and Hagglunds for the Arctic.

Every Challenger issued to the three armoured divisions in Germany has had to go through Ludgershall and be checked out, kitted out and, so to speak passed out.

The tanks reach their units equipped with everything they need, from searchlights to shovels . . . about 300 items in all.

The same applies world-wide to every type of AFV and the kit stores hold items under 4,500 headings which means paper work involving 10,000 transactions a month.

If it is armoured, fit and fights, Ludgershall has it – and ready. Every fit vehicle is serviced every 90 days – the depot is supported by 96 Vehicle Workshop REME in its task.

Inside the vast sheds which occupy the 52 acres (with their own railway sidings) is a fascinating world of military hardware market-leaders and the old faithfuls.

In one location there are Warriors; in another tracked Rapier. Here a row of tired Chieftains in light camouflage testifies to hard days on the Canadian prairie – for everything that goes out must come in when its time comes.

If old vehicles could talk

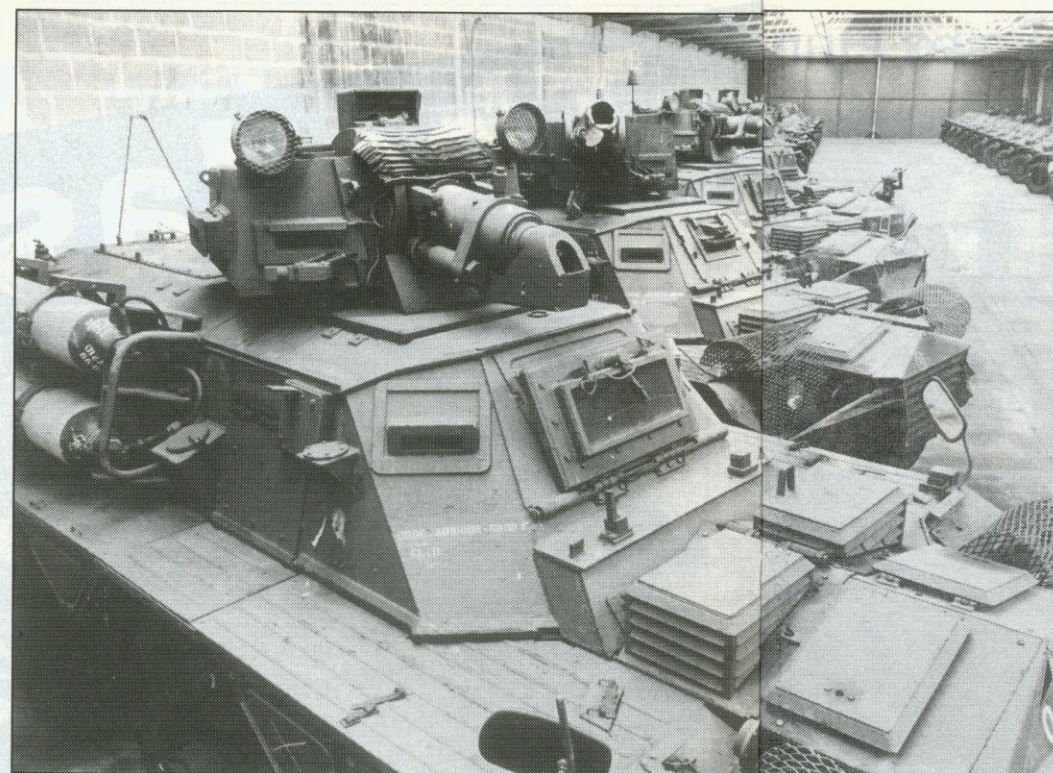
there would be some rare yarns spun by the row of Ferrets up for sale. What might the white Cyprus veteran tell the ancient relic bearing a phoenix (or was it a dying duck)? Or the Pig with its namesake painted on the bonnet say to the shop-soiled watercannon carriers?

All of them were once someone's pride and joy . . . now look at them. But stardom still awaits.

"Film companies buy a lot of our disposal vehicles," said Capt Kevin Rearden, the unit admin officer.

If some of the "For sale" vehicles look sad, the staff do not.

The depot, commanded by Maj Warwick Stanton, RAOC, is a cheerful place, its staff well-integrated with the local community for whom it has been an important source of



employment since 1939.

Fifty soldiers work happily alongside 130 civilians – some of the old hands such as Tony McRae who started as a messenger boy 24 years ago and is now in charge of receipts and issues.

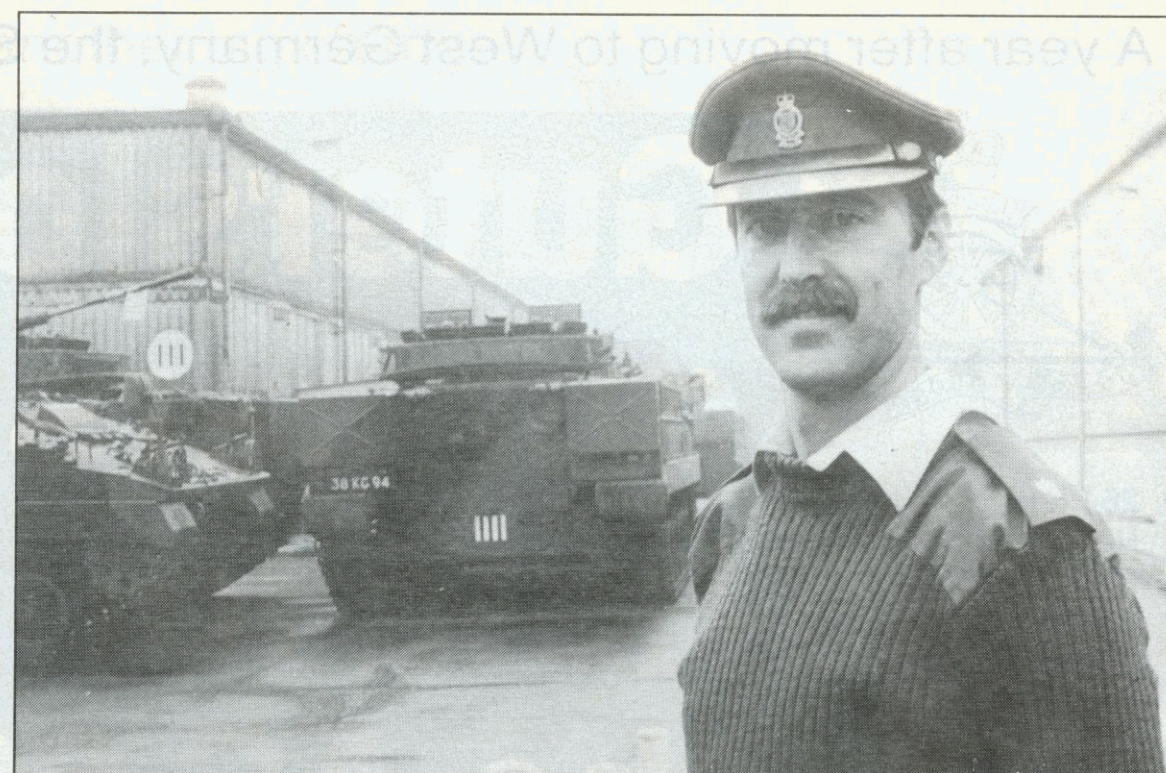
The site of the AVSD – once two large sheds – has had various roles in its existence and for a time part of it even held prisoners of war.

Having just celebrated its 50th birthday it is looking forward to an equally interesting future.



Above – All washed up? A row of watercannon carriers awaiting disposal. Film companies buy a lot of the disposal vehicles kept at AVSD Ludgershall

Left – A Hagglund BV takes a test dip in the wading tank. LCpl Taff Dormer is the driver. All vehicles, including tanks, are given a thorough check before they are sent on to their units



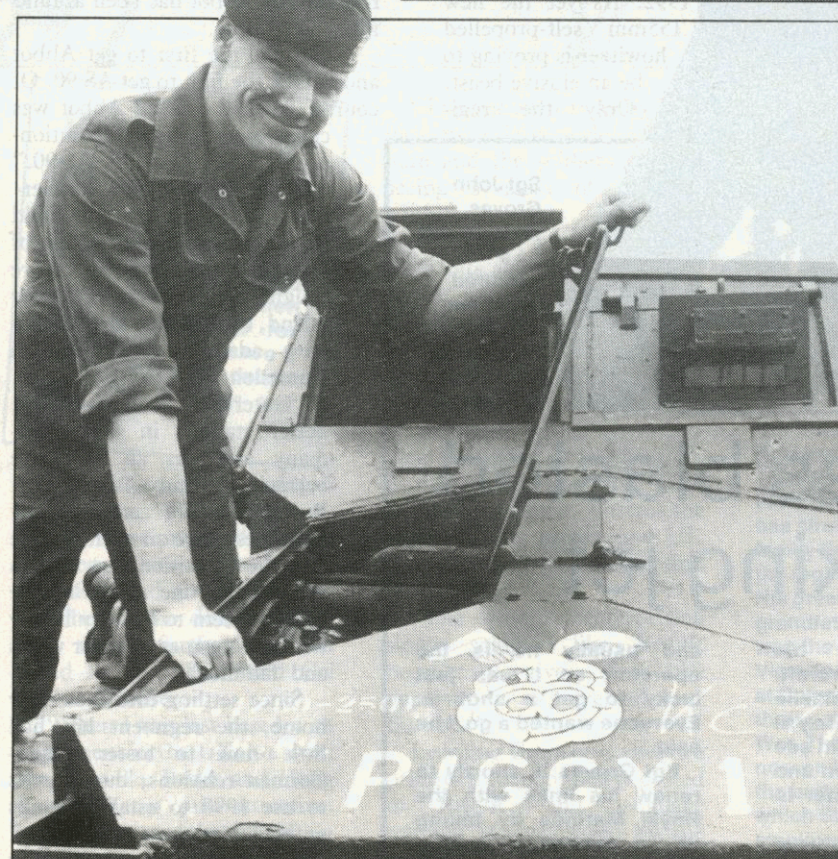
Above – Maj Warwick Stanton, OC AVSD Ludgershall, which has recently celebrated 50 years in business. The depot issues all the Army's armoured vehicles, plus tracked Rapier and Arctic Volvos and Hagglunds



Left – One of AVSD's prize possessions, a wartime Daimler armoured car mounting a 2-pounder gun. In good running order, it is used on occasion to "see off" retiring senior officers



What goes into a Warrior! LCpl Chris Lewis (with book) checks over the kit with LCpl Richard Butler and Cpl Pete Winspear (on vehicle)



A souvenir of Belfast. Pte Steve Szrama with a "Pig" – a one-ton Humber armoured truck – boasting its own personalised ID card picture



Going places, but who knows where? Ferrets, many boasting insignia, lined up for sale

A year after moving to West Germany, the Sussex Gunners await another big change



26 Field
Regiment
Royal Artillery
— More on
Pages 22, 23
and 25

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion

Gutersloh gunners on hold for the AS 90



Sgt John Groves rests an arm on a captured Argentine anti-aircraft cannon. He "downed" a Skyhawk

PACKING a punch for 11 Armoured Brigade are the Abbots of 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, but changes are on the cards for the Gutersloh-based gunners.

The Corps Support Regiment was the first to receive the now ageing Abbot gun and will be the first in BAOR to be equipped with the hard-hitting AS 90 when it enters service in 1992. As yet the new 155mm self-propelled howitzer is proving to be an elusive beast. Only the regi-

ment's commanding officer, Lt Col Mark Corbet Burcher, has actually seen it. His men have had to be content with film of the gun, a situation which will change when the regiment receives its first AS 90 for training purposes later this year.

Will it be very different to Abbot? "Yes," says Col Corbet Burcher, "from all we have seen, it is a much improved piece of equipment all round. The Abbot has been around for a long time.

"We were the first to get Abbot and will be the first to get AS 90. Of course, when it arrived Abbot was considered to be a revolutionary bit of kit, as will be AS 90."

Before its posting to Germany last spring, 26 Field Regiment was based at one of Southern England's more sought-after stations, Thorney Island, but the men appeared to have adapted to service in Gutersloh very well.

"Gutersloh is one of the better stations in West Germany and has an attractive barracks," said Col Corbet Burcher. "We are all by ourselves, have an exciting role and the transition has been a very happy one. Most of the soldiers seem to be very happy with the town as do their wives and families."

Since settling into their new home, the regiment has had little time to foster Anglo-German relations, but intends to use 1990 to establish links with Gutersloh.

The Sussex Gunners, as they are known, recruit mainly from South East England, with

Gunner Groves blasted attacking jet

SGT John Groves of 43 Air Defence Battery shot down an Argentine Skyhawk aircraft in San Carlos Water with a Blowpipe missile during the Falklands war.

At the time he was one of a number of gunners attached to 3 Commando Brigade to provide air defence cover for the logistic landing ships.

Sgt Groves fired at an attacking aircraft from the flight deck of RFA Sir

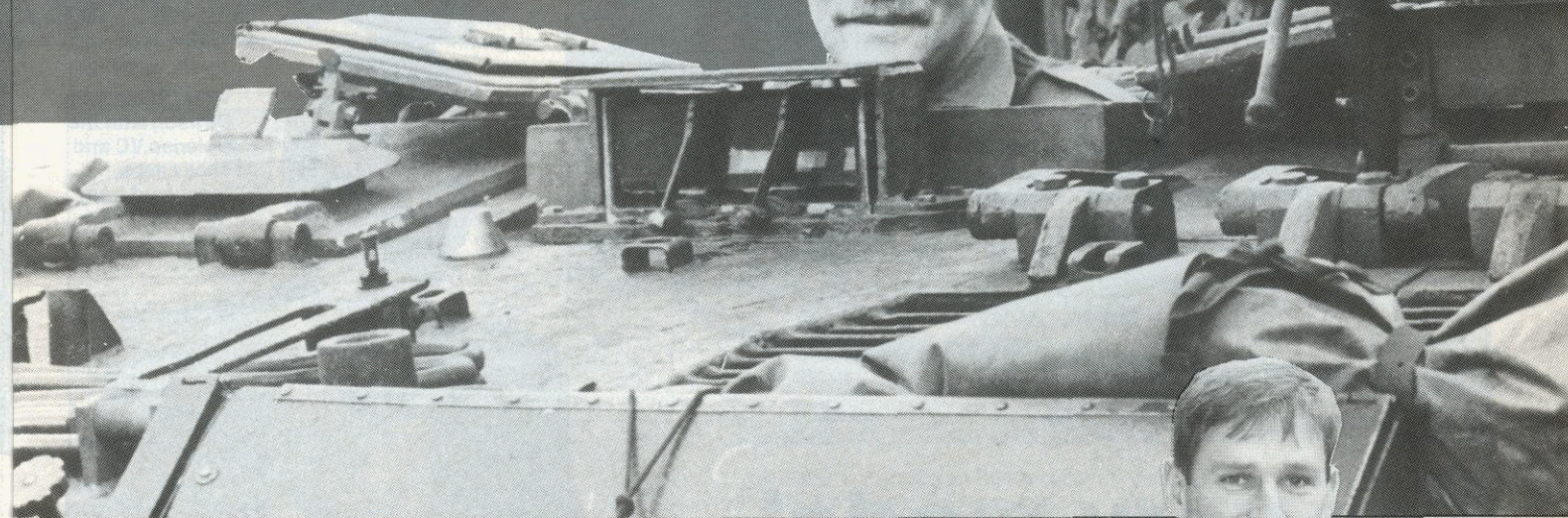
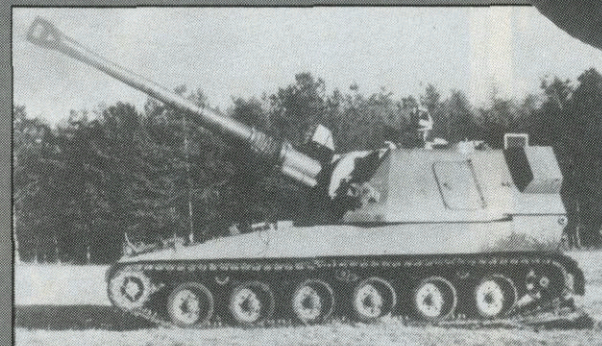
Percivale. Turning his attention to other aircraft, he did not see his missile strike home. Royal Marines OP parties did see the Skyhawk go down and confirmed his kill later in the day.

"Blowpipe has a three-man detachment. I was only a gunner at the time,

and usually he is the operator, so I was just lucky to get a shot in. Everyone wanted a go," he said.

Sgt Groves is shortly to renew his links with the Royal Marines by taking up an exchange posting with an RM air defence troop.

Right — The muzzle of an Abbot gun barrel dwarfs Gnr Conny Cole. Below — What the future holds for 26 Fd Regt, the new Artillery System 90



What isn't in a name?

Capt Martin Gamble of 159 (Colenso) Field Battery said his men had no nickname for the Abbot. "There are a lot of names it's called but none of them are printable."

around a third of their soldiers coming from the county.

Was there much difference between service in the United Kingdom and BAOR?

"There is no doubt you do tend to go further afield if based in the UK," said Col Corbet Burcher.

"When I was last based with a regiment in the UK, we went to places like Belize and Hong Kong. That is quite attractive, but the advantage of being in Germany is that you really do see soldiering in a way you simply do not see at home.

"The regiment recently took part in a large-scale exercise here and the soldiers enjoyed seeing a mass of different equipment, lots of tanks, bridge-layers and all sorts of other bits and pieces which, of course, you will never see in the UK.

"It was a tremendous experience seeing it all linked together on the exercise.

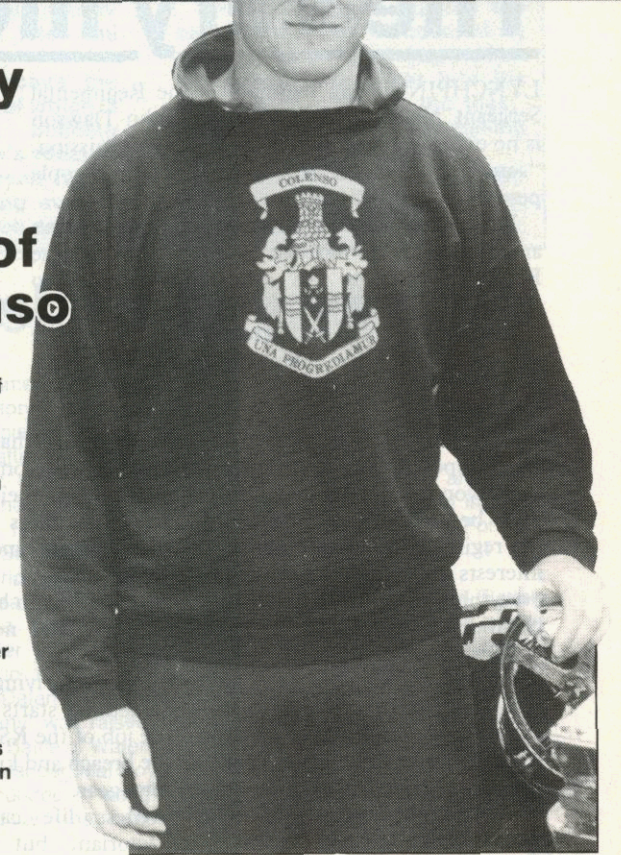
"Domestically, a lot of my men like living in Germany. It is particularly popular with married personnel, whereas the single soldier prefers the UK where it is much easier to find girlfriends.

"The more enterprising single soldiers like BAOR because it gives them the opportunity to travel all over Europe."

Learning German is always a priority for troops newly posted to BAOR, and language training is encouraged by the regiment. German girlfriends are always a great incentive to learn the language!

Family link with hero of Colenso®

Bdr Stuart Nurse (right) of 159 (Colenso) Field Battery has strong family ties with the regiment. His great-grandfather won the Victoria Cross at Colenso during the Boer War. The VC is now on loan to the battery, in which Stuart is employed as an Op Ack — an observation post assistant





Gnr David Blakey changes a track on the tank park



Gnr Mark Rolleston and Bdr Don Pinkney inside an Abbot



Back in BAOR. Mrs Katie Smith, WRVS, has joined the regiment after ten months at the Guards Depot, Pirbright

The very model

LYNCHPIN of any regiment is the Regimental Sergeant Major and WO1 (RSM) John Dawson is no exception. His role is, by his own admission, "somewhat different to that which a lot of people perceive it to be".

He collects medals, buttons and lead soldiers and maintains an interest in the history of the British Army, but his refreshing attitudes to modern-day soldiering are bang up-to-date.

His ideas on man-management and Service life are a model for the Army of the 90s as it faces problems with recruitment and retention.

"Certainly, I believe that I am the spokesman for the boys – everyone under me – which must be around 95 per cent of the regiment. I look after their interests and temper that with everything else an RSM has traditionally had to do.

"Discipline is important and obviously looking after the sergeants' mess is one of the major responsibilities of an RSM and always will be. That includes putting the mess point of view, and making sure my senior NCOs pull their weight.

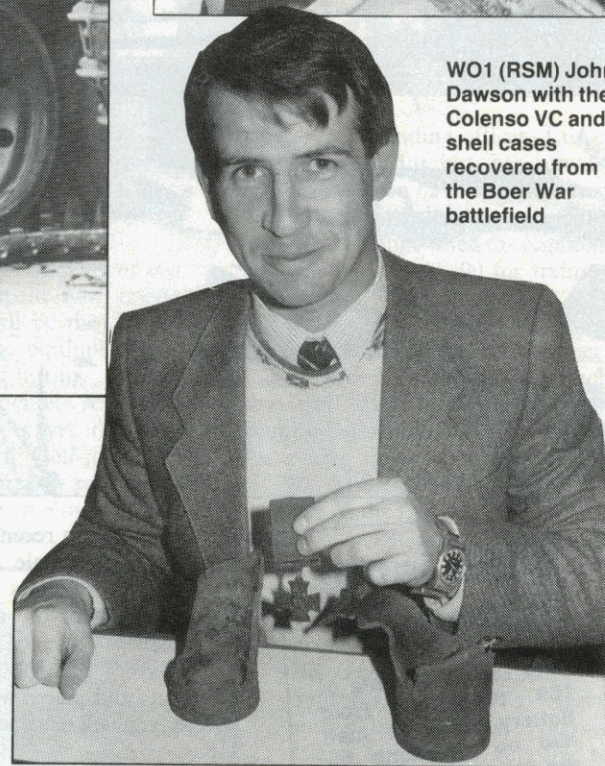
"I find that, nowadays, senior NCOs sometimes tend to sit back on their laurels. The sergeants' mess is the hub of the regiment and if that's not running right, it is nearly always going to be true that the regiment will not be running right with it.

"If the driving force behind something starts to falter, it is the job of the RSM to step into the breach and kick things back into gear."

Mess life can be almost Victorian, but attitudes are

of
a

modern sergeant major



WO1 (RSM) John Dawson with the Colenso VC and shell cases recovered from the Boer War battlefield

changing. Said RSM Dawson: "I will probably be a little bit unpopular with an awful lot of RSMs, but I firmly believe that sergeants' messes need to be brought into the 20th Century. I do not mean by losing the traditions or standards, because they are very dear to me and will always remain so.

"But I have introduced a number of changes, like allowing ladies to the bar and in how children are treated."

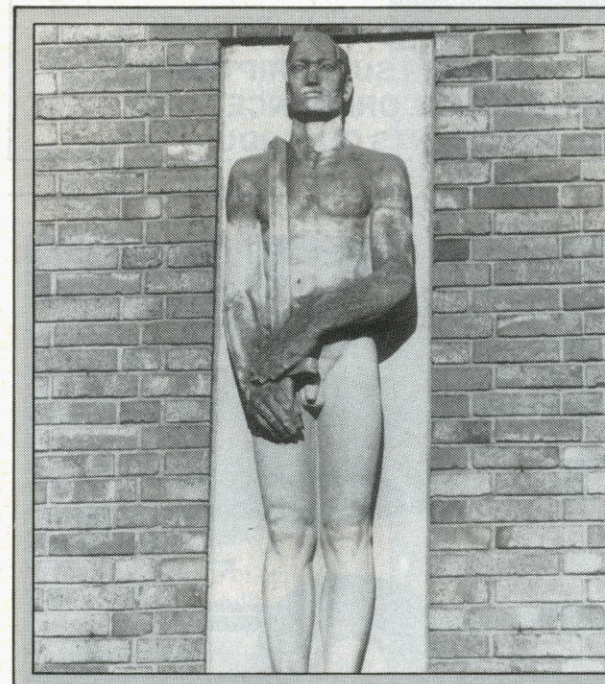
SOLDIER attended a family curry lunch in the mess and can

vouch for the friendly family atmosphere.

"It is no longer a harsh, disciplined area where they are frightened of doing anything. If a child drops a pea on the floor people no longer get upset about it.

"It doesn't mean you let them run riot, they just have a lot more freedom than in some messes I have been in."

The RSM thinks 26 Field Regiment is the luckiest regiment in BAOR. "We have a tremendous station, not only



MANSENGH Barracks, home of 26 Field Regiment RA, was built in 1936 to house a German Army signal regiment and later the Luftwaffe.

The two statues above the guardroom door (one of which is pictured left) and building opposite depict Hitler's ideal of the "beauty of the Aryan race".

The men are holding swords featuring a Z sign which denotes

the German blitz (lightning) sign for signals units.

An eagle plaque outside the camp gates was discovered by accident a few years ago when someone drove a car into the wall after a night on the tiles.

The plaster fell off, revealing the eagle pictured above.

It had been covered up after the war and, but for the accident, would have remained hidden.

days of 30 men to a room. Says the RSM: "The guys' lot on accommodation is fairly good here. The ideal thing is to have one man, one room, and that's what the Army has got to work for.

"We certainly have no more than three men to a room and in many there are only two."

There was a bonus for the regiment in the arrival of WRVS lady Mrs Katie Smith. About 40 members of the regiment are under 18 and no matter how receptive a battery commander or RSM tries to be, the youngsters find it easier to discuss their problems with a woman.

with the facilities we have here, but the fact that we are the only major unit in Gutersloh, and can control an awful lot of our own destiny. The guys feel that as well, and I think they are fairly happy with their lot."

The regiment remains concerned about the lot of the single soldier. Gone are the

First shots at Waterloo

THE Royal Regiment of Artillery is steeped in history and heroism and 26 Field Regiment, composed of three field batteries and an air defence battery, is no exception.

● 17 (Corunna) Field Battery was formed in 1757 and during the retreat of Sir John Moore's Army from Madrid it played a vital role in the defeat of the French before Corunna in 1809. The battery's number was changed from 14 to 17 in 1947.

● 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyd's Company) was raised in 1771 and at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 its commander, Maj Lloyd, was mortally wounded. In recognition of his valour, the battery

received its honour title.

● 16 Field Battery (Sandham's Company) was formed in 1779. Sandham's Company fired the first shots by Allied artillery at Waterloo and remained in action throughout the day. Formerly known as 7 Battery, it was renumbered in 1947.

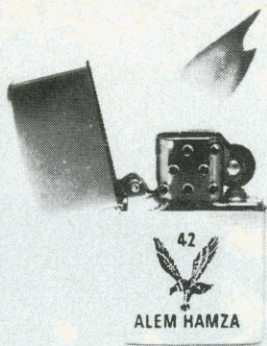
● 159 (Colenso) Field Battery was formed in 1854 and shortly after was titled 66 Field Battery. It was stationed in India for much of the remainder of the 19th Century. The battery was redesignated 159 in 1947 and received its honour title ten years later.

Two batteries, 17 and 16, were

● Turn to Page 25

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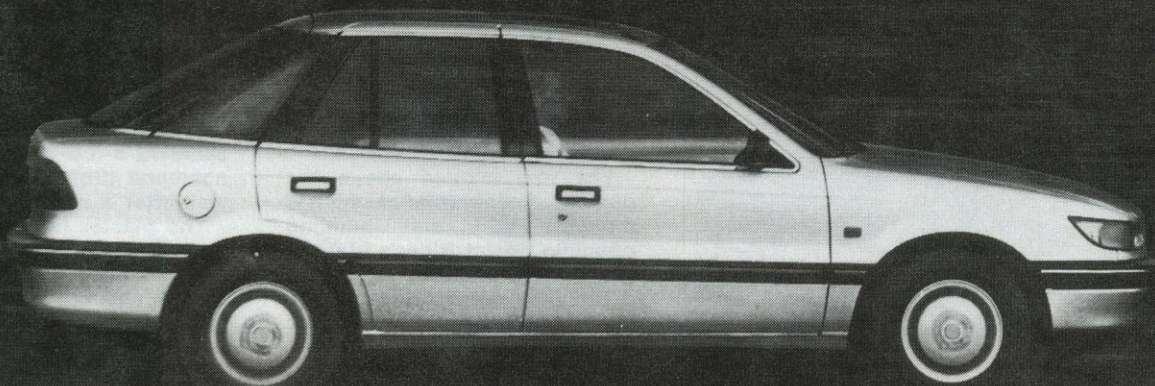
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Tim adds missile muscle in the Gulf

BOMBARDIER Timothy Mayers, of 43 Air Defence Battery, found himself in urgent need of sea legs when he joined a 16-man Javelin section for a four-month tour of duty in the Gulf on the Royal Navy's Armilla patrol.

The gunners provided close air defence for HM Ships *Boxer*, *Gloucester* and *Exeter* because the Navy's own Sea Wolf and Sea Dart weapons systems had too great a range. In the narrowest part of the Strait of Hormuz a firing error would have meant a missile striking land.

Each gunner was given a ship job as well, so all completed a basic seamanship course at HMS *Raleigh*, including instruction in fire-fighting, damage control and helicopter emergency drills.

"Because we all had to do a recognised job," said Bdr Mayers, "we found ourselves working on the helicopter flight deck because that was where our weapons system was located.

"When the helicopter returned to *Boxer*, we had to refuel it. We also took charge of small-arms training on the ship and worked very closely with the other weapons teams on the ship. We were able to pass on a lot of our own weapon-handling skills to the Navy."

The sailor-soldiers also practised deploying on to tankers to free hostages in case the ships they were escorting were seized by hostile forces. Thankfully, their expertise in this respect was not called upon.

Part of their pre-tour training involved a crash course at Royal Marines Poole where they were given a basic introduction to naval life, very necessary to save confusion – what the soldier calls a "bog" is known as the "heads" by sailors.

At sea, the soldiers were dressed in fire-proof coveralls and anti-flash gear. The only time they wore Army uniform was when they went ashore or took part in ceremonial events.

Full protective clothing has its disadvantages, especially in



Bdr Timothy Mayers with his Gulf medal, awarded for service on the Armilla patrol. He is pictured (top of page) indulging in a little target practice in the Gulf. An anti-flash hood is under his helmet

the searing heat of the Gulf.

"When we first arrived it was 80-90 degrees in January. By the time we left in June, the temperature had risen to around 140 degrees by mid-day."

The tour was not without its excitement. Warships store ammunition while in port so when aircraft attacked a tanker just as they were leaving territorial waters, only Javelin was on hand to protect the ship.

All the soldiers qualified for the newly-announced clasp to the General Service Medal. It

bears just one short word – "GULF".

"The Navy lads have got theirs and we will probably get them in due course," said Bdr Groves, whose wish came true almost immediately. As he was speaking his new medal arrived by post in the Orderly Room and he was allowed to pose with it for a photograph before handing it back.

When you earn such a rare clasp for service as a soldier, it is worth waiting to have an official medal presentation by a high-ranking officer.



Waterloo

● From Page 23

brigaded together in 1859 but it was not until the nineties that 159 joined them. In 1899 the brigade was titled 4th Brigade Royal Field Artillery. Such a long association between three batteries is unique in the Royal Artillery.

During the Boer War the brigade played a major part in the action at Colenso in 1899. As the Ladysmith relief force tried to cross the Tugela River, 14 and 66 Batteries came under heavy fire from the front and left flank.

The guns were immediately brought into action and within two hours each had fired about 100 rounds, but with casualties mounting and ammunition running short General Buller decided they should be withdrawn.

Gun teams and limbers were sent forward and despite the "tornado of rifle bullet and shell" two guns were limbered up and galloped to safety. For their gallantry in this action, Capt Reed of 7 Battery and Cpl Nurse of 66 Battery were each awarded the Victoria Cross.

During the Second World War the regiment, now 4th Field Regiment, was part of the 5th Indian Division which fought in North Africa and Burma.

It was with this Division in June 1942 at the Battle of the Knightsbridge Box that the regiment was attacked continuously for three days and engaged enemy tanks and infantry at minimum range until all its guns were silenced. Casualties were so high that for some time after the regiment could only man a single composite battery.

In 1947, while in Malaya, the regiment was retitled 26 Field Regiment, and in 1987 it was joined by 43 Battery which had been reformed some ten years earlier and had seen action in the Falklands campaign where it was credited with shooting down seven aircraft with Blowpipe missiles.

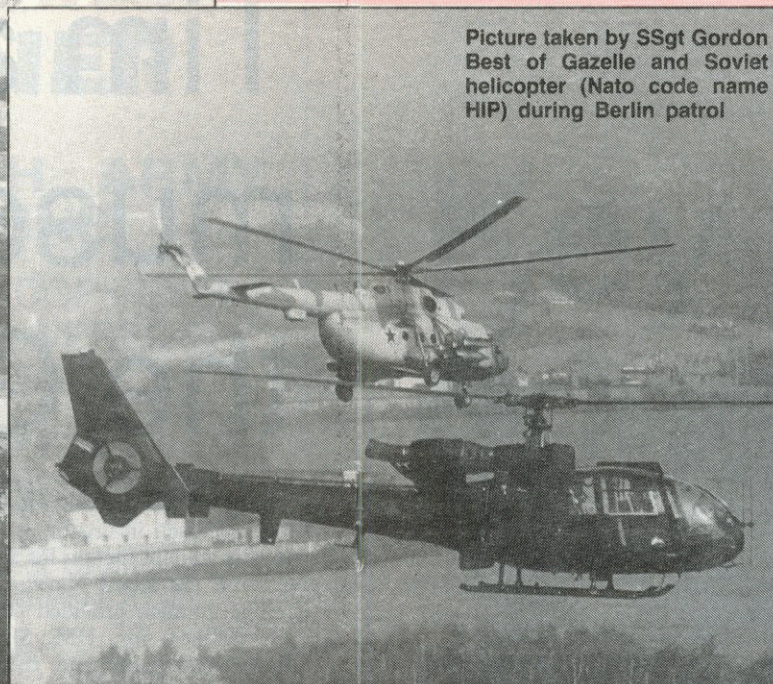
Words:
Bill Moore
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Above – The Brandenburg Gate from a 7 Flight Gazelle. The Wall looks thick but in fact it is hollow with doors in it so snatch squads could dart out and seize fugitives

Right – Last minute word in the ops room for Sgt Chris Lea and SSgt Gordon Best from Julie Mayhew, the ops clerk who used to be an WRAF aircraft controller at RAF Cranwell

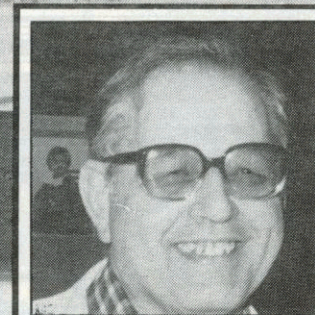
Left – Cpl David Gower works on one of 7 Flight's three machines



Picture taken by SSgt Gordon Best of Gazelle and Soviet helicopter (Nato code name HIP) during Berlin patrol



Aircraft XZ 296 takes off from Brook Barracks – very gingerly because of the effect of the icy surface on the skids



Kept in the dark for 14 years and still smiling ... Bill Parkinson went to Berlin with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and stayed on to work in commercial dark rooms before joining 7 Flight to run theirs. He reckons to have printed 140,000 films since then



7 Flight Army Air Corps, Gatow November 1989. Maj John Lay, the OC (foreground), made sure everyone got a bird's eye view of history being made

Command performance from The Three Gazelles

IN response to popular demand, that celebrated trio The Three Gazelles – matinées a speciality – put up a magnificent performance after the curtain went up on the Berlin Wall.

Thanks to their act TV crews from all over the world flew through the air with the greatest of ease.

For 7 Flight Army Air Corps, the smallest unit in the Berlin Brigade, is not only one of the busiest (whatever is happening), it is also one of the most helpful.

Pilots couldn't do anything about the smog which drifts in from the GDR's aged factories but they did give a lot of cameramen every chance to get good pictures.

One set of initials looked after the other as NBC, ITN, SKY, TV-AM, SFB, ZDF and our own BFBS took to the air in XX 398, XZ 296 and ZA 766.

The aircraft also catered for another set of initials – VIP. Politicians including the

British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, were among the passengers.

Three machines are all that 7 Flight has and AQMS John Parker, REME, and his five aircraft technicians work all night if necessary to keep them operational.

"We've got to have all three for the Queen's Birthday Parade," said the OC, Maj John Lay, AAC, "and I don't think anyone has missed out yet."

Though the title dates back to 1962 the unit originated 20 years earlier as a Royal Air Force liaison flight which later absorbed pilots from the Glider Pilot Regiment.

Disbanded in Malaya in 1969, it re-formed the following year in Berlin and was equipped with Sioux helicopters as 7 Aviation Flight until 1973.

RAF Gatow, which once housed the Luftwaffe staff college, is its permanent home. Photographs there show Hitler taking the salute at what must have been a passing-out parade.

Extract from an account written before the Wall was "opened", by Capt Peter Crosby, AAC, of a routine task – "Flying the Wall". Take-off: 0800. Flight time: One and a half hours. Crewman: Cpl Taff Washer.

"Only the Wall and the width of a road divides the first East German military camp from RAF Gatow. This is just the first of many anomalous sights we will encounter during our 103-mile journey. Taff checks the camp for any obvious changes while starting a commentary which will last for most of the journey.

"Part of his job is recognition of Warsaw Pact equipment and he is soon in full swing describing the types and variants of all the vehicles in sight.

Fighters flew from the huge airfield towards the end of the war and after the Berlin Airlift began in 1948 transport aircraft averaged 6,000 flights a month into

"Looking beyond the camp he starts to describe the huge Doeberitz ranges. Clearly visible are many tanks and self propelled guns, waiting in a concentration area, for their turn to fire. Out to the left of the tank range a dust cloud is being raised at about 3kms. Taff moves quickly to pull down the monocular stabilised sight and trains it on the area.

"A moment's scanning and assuredly he says: 'Four T64 tanks moving to the north'. Nothing unusual. We move on, past Staaken Hill, built from the rubble of the war by the women and children of Berlin, towards the Eiskeller.

"Here the border deviates from the Wall creating an area of East Germany inside the Wall. A fence and sandy strip are the only

indications that the area does not belong to West Berlin. Sweeping low along the fence Taff points out the shell holes and trenches, in this time warp, almost unchanged from the end of the war.

"In the Eiskeller, now just a few feet above the ground, we start the ritual description of the object of our existence in Berlin. Wire, warnings, dogs, lights, the road passing 103 miles around the wall and the death strip."

Capt Crosby's other tasks that day included flying GOC Berlin and helping out a TV company making a documentary on the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra's opening night at a concert hall near the Olympic Stadium. Timings had to be to the second so the noise of the aircraft did not interfere with the music!

it to break the blockade.

Today, though RAF transports visit regularly, apart from 7 Flight the only other aircraft based there are two RAF

Chipmunks which exercise the RAF's right to fly over the city under the 1946 Treaty. Berlin is still technically and actually an occupied city.

The Gazelles do not cross the line of the Wall but operate in an area approximately 15 by 12 nautical miles.

The flight's job is surveillance and daily observation of the Wall and its immediate environs. It is estimated that there are 55,000 Soviet troops within a short drive of Berlin and some of their camps – tanks and all – can be seen from a modest altitude.

Occasionally the Gazelles come across Soviet helicopters patrolling their side of the Wall – probably flown by trainees.

The flight normally has four pilots and 20 other staff plus nine civilians and a photographer.

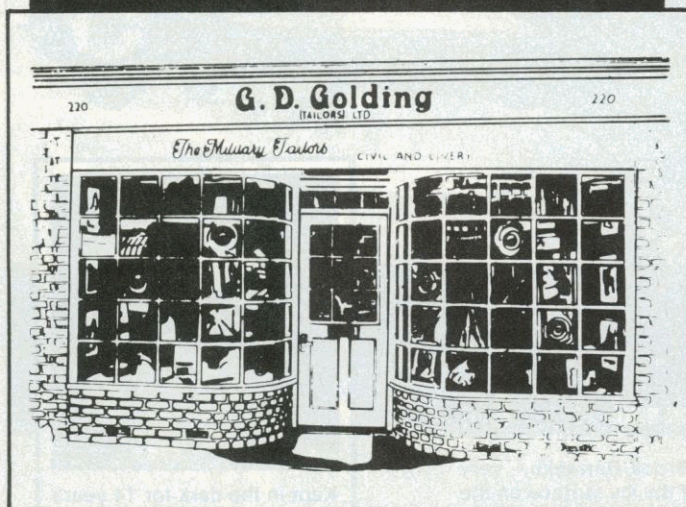
Because the German authorities have no aircraft, the Gazelles support the West German police in traffic control.

"For about a year we've been involved in a photographic survey of the advance of reed beds," said Maj Lay.

No one knows what 7 Flight may be asked to do next, but one thing is almost certain – the answer will be "Wilco".

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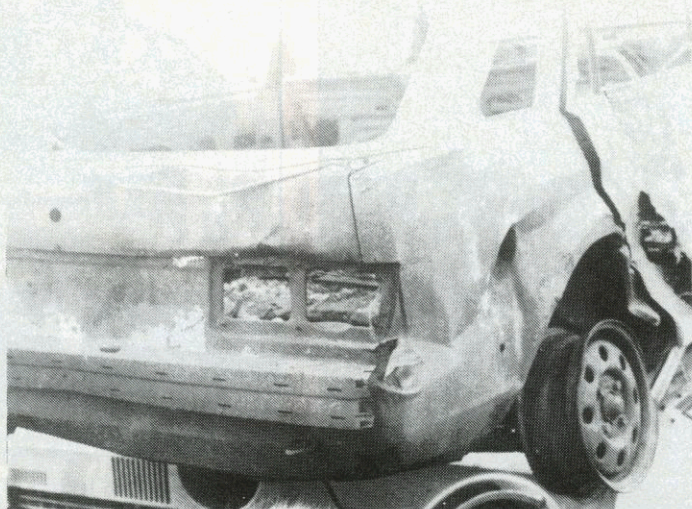
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Facelift transforms Berlin's Edinburgh House

Key to comfort

JUST one letter of the alphabet distinguishes the original Edinburgh House in Berlin from the new, writes **Chris Horrocks**.

Where once the building on Theodor-Heuss Platz was conceived as a transit HOSTEL for soldiers and their families, it is now very much a HOTEL – and a well-starred one at that.

The old accommodation building was always comfortable and welcoming and had gradually acquired hotel status in the past 15 years.

But a major facelift and refurbishment over the past year, costing DM14.5 million, has transformed it into a hotel for the 1990s.

Take the central heating system, for example. When your room key is hung on its hook in reception as you go out in the morning it turns down the temperature in your room. On your return, the key is taken from the hook and, hey presto, your room heating is turned up again. There's German efficiency!

Touches like this are to be found throughout the hotel, which has new wiring and ventilation, an updated kitchen, improved bedrooms, a smart new foyer and one of the most modern fire precaution and alarm systems in Berlin.

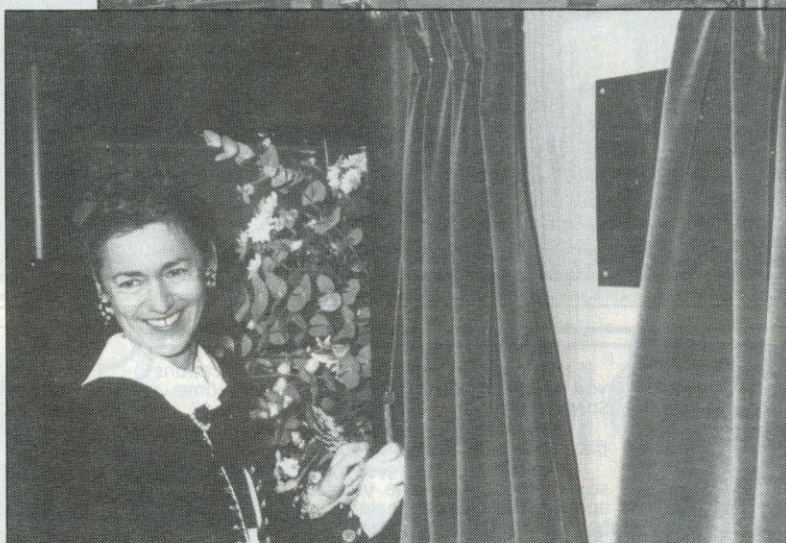
Major role of Edinburgh House is to provide accommodation for families moving in and out of Berlin. It also accepts duty visitors and families on leave from West Germany on a fill-up basis.

The refurbishment work was carried out with no significant overspend and in just ten working days more than the promised year – a feat described as “brilliant” by the manager, Maj (Retd) John Pugh.

It has resulted in a slight increase in capacity – there are



Edinburgh House, in Theodor-Heuss Platz, West Berlin: not so much a transit facility, more a hotel



Lady Mallaby unveils a plaque to mark the official opening of the refurbished Edinburgh House Hotel in Berlin

now 35 double rooms, 25 singles and two VIP suites, all with TV and en suite facilities.

Fourteen of the doubles and singles are interconnecting for families and in all the doubles, the settee can be turned into an extra bed. Fourteen cots and 14 Z-beds can be provided to boost the family accommodation.

Full board for all ranks is DM20 a day, reduced to DM12 for children under ten, all reclaimable from the Army. Leave stays cost DM40 per day full board, comparing favourably with the average Berlin bed-and-breakfast price of DM45.

More than a quarter of the 62 staff are dependants, most working part-time as chambermaids or cleaners. The rest are directly-employed locals, mostly expatriate Britons.

“We are a non-profit making

organisation,” said Major Pugh. “Any excess of income over expenditure is ploughed back into Garrison welfare funds.”

The new-look Edinburgh House was officially opened on November 8 when Lady Mallaby, wife of the British Ambassador to Bonn, Sir Christopher Mallaby, unveiled a plaque in the foyer.

In welcoming Lady Mallaby, Maj Gen Robert Corbett, GOC Berlin (British Sector), said: “About 15 months have now elapsed since we closed this place down and moved it lock, stock and barrel to its temporary home in Block 54 of Wavell Barracks, Spandau.

“Now, after a lot of planning and a lot of hard work, Edinburgh House is back where we all know it belongs in Theodor-Heuss Platz – and what an appropriate time for it

to be back in action here.

“Transit is a pretty grotty sort of word but it is the transit nature of its business that is most important and that is the reason why we were determined that the building should be ready on time, because over the next three weeks we see the Irish Guards move in to Berlin to take over from 1st Battalion, The Kings Regiment.

“This is when Edinburgh House will really come into its own, providing high standards of food and accommodation for our soldiers and their families at that difficult old time of upheaval and moving, when support of that kind is probably at its most valuable.”

Maj Gen Corbett paid tribute to the agencies involved in the refurbishment, including the project management staff of the Area Works Office, Property Service Agency, Berlin and the Army's own Ordnance Services, in the shape of the Accommodation Services Unit and the Local Purchase Office, who organised the furniture and fittings.

Everyone involved could be justly proud of the quality of the final product, he said, adding: “If it is a ‘transit facility’, which I guess it actually is, then it must be one to outdo all others – and, I reckon, some of the best hotels too.”

Picture: Hendrik G Pastor, Pinfo, Berlin

Picture: Mike Klinec, Pinfo Berlin

Mountain trekkers on the trot

SIX members of the Recce Troop, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards swapped the dust of Soltau training area for the high peaks of the Karakoram Mountains in Pakistan.

But the trekking expedition, led by Capt Jonathon Cray, almost foundered when stomach bugs hit four of the party.

Capt Cray, Cpls Broderick Gill and Chris Heap, LCpl Pete Shergold and Tprs Mark Shillito and Neil Miller had hoped to trek over 150 miles but plans to tackle the Hispar La glacier had to be revised when two of the team went down with dysentery.

Whistle-stop tours of Islamabad and Lahore were followed by a visit to the 15 Lancers, to which 4/7 DG is affiliated.

Summit success

SEVEN out of nine members of a team from 20 Electrical Workshop REME, led by Capt Barry Smith of 16 AD Regiment Workshop REME based in Lincolnshire, reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain.



S-no-w problem, Jimmy!



Thumbs up from Jimmy Savile for a job well done. Pte Simon Ground (left) of A Coy 6 R Anglian and Cpl Phil Mullins and SSgt John Garrett of 48 Sqn RE helped do it

POLLY Robinson, aged 3, wanted to build a snowman and Jimmy Savile wanted to Fix It. But there was a problem. How do you get ten tons of snow into someone's

back garden? Easy, you ask the British Army.

So they did and ten days later in the village of Cawston, just outside Norwich, extraordinary things began to happen.

First the BBC arrived armed with toy shovels, buckets, rakes, wheelbarrows and a film crew. Ten minutes later 14 soldiers from A (Royal Norfolk) Company, 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment arrived armed with grown-up shovels.

Soon after that ten tons of snow arrived by articulated lorry all the way from Wales (where a company makes snow for people who want it but haven't got it), followed closely by the sappers in the guise of 48 Squadron Royal Engineers.

Only access to the back garden was down the lane that ran alongside Polly's house, a rough farm track. The team from 48 Squadron had reced the scene the previous week and quickly set to work. Thirty

minutes later the task was complete and the articulated lorry full of snow was backed up to the edge of the garden.

"Fall out the engineers, fall in the infantry!" And fall in they did, with shovels, wheelbarrows and snow blowers. Their task was to cover the entire garden - trees, roof, window ledges and all - with snow.

All the time the cameras rolled and after two hours Polly finally had her winter wonderland.

Out she went to play with a gaggle of little friends all with boots, scarves, bobble hats and gloves and all equally bemused by this sudden snowfall.

All that remained was to film the studio links for the Boxing Day programme and to present a bemused Polly with a splendid commemorative plaque made by 36 District Workshop, in Colchester.

Operation Snowman was a resounding success.



Pte Lucy Sagrot and colleagues from A Coy 6 R Anglian sweep in the snow for Jimmy Savile's Boxing Day Fix it

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Journey's end for WO1 Geoff Allen

Gunners

PASSERS-BY in Cleveland shopping centre handed over more than £100 so that Middlesbrough DJ Mark Page would not be released back on to the airwaves by men of the 4th Field Regiment RA. Earlier the North East Gunners, in town on a KAPE tour, had kidnapped disc jockey Mark for charity.



and his team outside the RMP duty room at HMS Tamar, Hong Kong

Mark their target

The money will be presented to the Freemans Transplant Hospital for Children.

★ ★ ★

Men of 40 Army Engineer Support Group at Willich in West Germany put two ex-military Bedford trucks back on the road to help a German charity organisation's

relief work in Tanzania.

Under the direction of Maj David Harding, volunteers from 306 Army Plant Park, 64 RCZ Workshops REME and 21 Engineer Base Workshops stripped, restored and painted the vehicles which will be used to ferry food from Dar es Salaam to drought-stricken northern Tanzania.

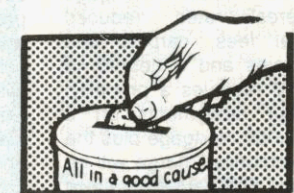
Rickshaw Redcaps

ROYAL Military Police stationed in Hong Kong chose a local form of transport to help raise money for Redcap colleague SSgt Andy Mudd who lost his legs in a car bomb attack at Colchester last November.

A party of 20 RMPs, including four locally-employed Chinese Redcaps, took turns to pull a rickshaw 23 miles from Sek Kong in the New Territories to HMS Tamar, the British Forces HQ on Hong Kong Island.

With the help of the local police they covered some of the busiest streets in the city in safety and hope to raise about £2,500 for SSgt Mudd.

Their passenger was Mrs Mandy Taylor, wife of rickshawman Cpl John Taylor, and the vehicle itself was loaned by the US Navy.



★ ★ ★

Maj Steve Palfreyman, a TA officer from Sheffield, and LCpl Jim Clune (PWO) were in a party of five which walked 70 miles along the Cumbrian Way and helped to raise £2,000 for the World War Memorial Fund set up by Group Capt Leonard Cheshire VC.

The men were seen off by Group Capt Cheshire and marched in 16-mile stages representing the length of the Somme battlefield's front line.

It is hoped to raise a massive £400m as a permanent source of relief aid for victims of natural disasters.

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'Chetwode' goes – for £1m

IT WAS a sad day when Chetwode Terrace's 22 old married quarters were finally sold to a developer.

It is not much consolation to know that they will be offered to first-time buyers.

The sales package includes lower mortgage interest rates, reduced legal fees, carpets and curtains and a deposit of £250 reserves a property.

But repayments on a £60,000 mortgage plus the Community Charge will be about £640 a month which would certainly rule out the majority of first-time Service buyers.

Not so long ago I asked the Department of the Environment if any of a number of reports on homelessness included mention of the problems of ex-Service personnel.

They did not. In a letter from the Department a year ago I was told:

"This Department is well aware of, and has advised local authorities on the particular problems faced by Service personnel and their families, and officials have for some years, been in contact with the Ministry

of Defence to see whether and how their position might be improved. This liaison has been independent of the review (*The Government's Review of the Homeless Legislation*) but the Ministry of Defence will, of course, be consulted on any legislative proposals which might arise from that."

In a recent discussion with the Department of Employment I suggested it was time ex-Service men and their families were

looked at as a group with particular housing problems and a special case. The MoD's views should be incorporated in any future review of homelessness.

This is important when local authorities are increasingly not accepting Servicemen on their housing lists or are removing their names from the lists.

As a result of the Government's review the Department of the Environment is to look at such important issues as local

connections, often the stumbling block for Service families.

Thirty local authorities are operating a scheme by which council tenants are offered cash incentives to move out of council houses into the private sector.

Could this not be extended to ex-Service irregular occupants of married quarters?

I have not heard of any ex-Service family being helped under such a scheme.

Yet another scheme to help disadvantaged civilians is the provision of grants to help certain charitable housing association tenants to buy homes of their own.

These tenants have until now not had the right to buy because their landlord was a charity.

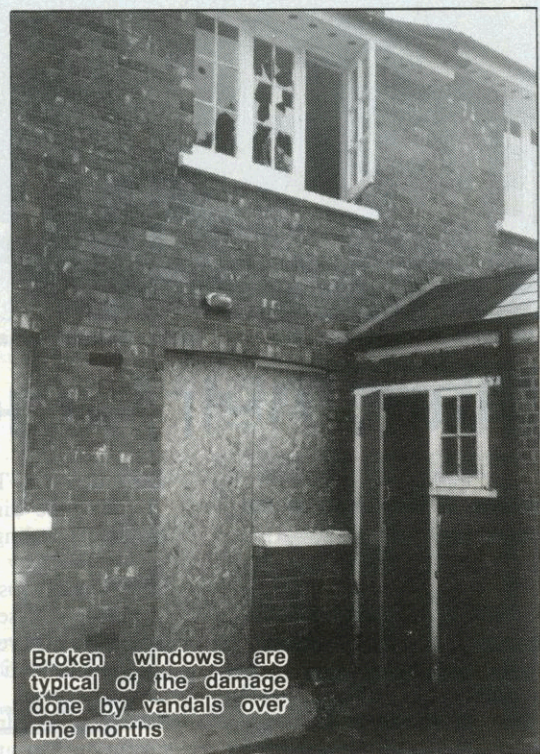
Could not similar incentives be applied to ex-Service personnel in MQs?

We know that irregular occupants in the UK total nearly 1,000.

Will any of the new housing initiatives be extended to include Servicemen in 1990? At the moment they appear to be forgotten.

In my
view ...

for £1m



Broken windows are typical of the damage done by vandals over nine months

Anne



Armstrong

Big bill left by Terrace vandals

THE 22 houses in Chetwode Terrace, Aldershot, where scores of soldiers have brought up their families, are now for sale fully refurbished starting at £59,950.

Seven were reserved on the first day they were put on the market and by January 1, 13 had been spoken for.

Wellington Development won the tender and bought Chetwode Terrace plus 2.5 acres of land and four semi-detached houses for around £1 million leaving 16 semi-detached properties to be sold under the Joint Services Married Quarters Scheme.

Last October the MoD agent, Pilgrim Miller, told me they expected to raise up to £2 million on the sale.

As far as the 16 discounted properties in Chetwode Terrace are concerned Servicemen will be required to pay around £33,000 for them.

If the terrace had not been left unoccupied for nine months and suffered serious vandalism this would have been a very much better deal for everyone.

As it is, local estate agents estimate it will cost new owners up to £20,000 each to put the houses back into order.

The Treasury requires the maximum return for land and surplus married quarters – which is why so few properties have been sold under the discounted scheme.

Chetwode Terrace has made a mockery of this situation as, because of delays, the market value dropped.

A radical re-think is needed otherwise at Woolwich and Donnington, to name but two places, developers will once again win at the expense of Servicemen.

Anne Armstrong's home telephone number is Camberley (0276) 29653



A widow lays flowers on a grave in North Africa. Gunner Griffiths was only 27 when he died

Cash progress for war pilgrims

AN additional grant of £175,000 a year for the next five years will enable the Pilgrimage Department of the Royal British Legion to keep up its good work. It was due to close last month.

So far the department has helped 1,700 widows visit their husbands' graves in more than 35 countries.

Maj Piers Storie-Pugh, head of the Department, tells me there are some 30,000 eligible widows including 5,000 from the First World War.

The pilgrimages are open to others – veterans, relatives, students etc.

Costs range from £22 for Belgium and the French coast to £212 (Korea and Singapore) for sponsored widows.

Non-sponsored travellers pay from £139 to £1,699.

Pilgrimages in 1990: April, NE India and Kohima, Holland, Gallipoli. May, Italy, Tunisia, Dunkirk. June, Normandy, Germany, France, Belgium. July, Belgium. August, Germany. September, Holland, Korea, Italy. October, France, Egypt. November, Far East, Belgium, France.

A lot of touching stories arise from the pilgrimages.

Mr Robert Rutter visited the grave of his brother in Belgium for the first time last year at the age of 100. Thomas Rutter was killed in 1916 while serving with the 1st/7th Northumberland Fusiliers.

Mrs Mary Downey visited her husband's grave in Holland and received a cufflink which had belonged to him. It was presented by a Dutchman who found it and traced her through the RAF Histor-

ical Department. Her husband was shot down over the Zuyder Zee.

Blind Lily Drayton learned that there were unknown soldiers buried near her husband's grave and insisted on placing most of the flowers she had brought on their tombs.

Mrs Enid Embleton, whose son Tom was born after her husband was killed at Kohima, put it simply when she and Tom travelled out there:

"It's the first time we have all been together in all these years".

X MARKS THE SPOT

CHANGES in the electoral law affect Service families abroad. The rules state that if a person has lived in the UK since 1970, and was registered as a voter in a UK constituency before moving overseas, they will be able to apply for "Voter Abroad" rights.

These changes encompass children of Service personnel who accompanied parents overseas before they were 18.

To apply to become a Voter Abroad individuals must give their full name, date of birth and their last UK address (this includes people who have registered as Service voters since 1970).

During April and May registration forms will be available from the headquarters offices of the main political parties and from British consulates overseas.

At last – baby benefit

FOR THE first time Statutory Maternity Benefit Pay is to be paid to women in the Forces.

In announcing this Lord Henley, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Security, said he was delighted at the successful conclusion of negotiations between the MoD and DHSS.

"This will bring them into line with other women who work outside the Forces."

The change could mean that a Servicewoman could claim up to 90 per cent of her average earnings providing she fulfills the criteria laid down.

Full details are contained in a pamphlet – NI 17A.

Anne Armstrong comments: "It is ten years since this issue was first raised through SOLDIER. I regard this as marvellous news."

MQ rift wives wait

IN THE December 11 issue I reported a discussion at the Adjutant General's conference concerning the responsibilities of husbands who become estranged from their wives while occupying married quarters. Charges for the first 93 days would be paid by the husband after which a wife would become an irregular occupant.

At the time of writing this has still not been implemented and a date for implementation has not been agreed. I understand that when it is it will not be retrospective.

Surplus bonanza

HANSARD, the House of Commons Official Report, reveals that since 1989 a total of £98 million has been gained from the sale of surplus married quarters.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Under Secretary of State for Defence, was asked also to give figures of (a) unavoidable and essential repairs and (b) urgent repairs for married quarters.

He replied that the backlog of unavoidable repairs at April 1, 1989 was estimated at £323 million.

Sprockets and cavalry spurs

SABRE AND SPURS

Band of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (QMO)
Conductor: Bandmaster A Chatburn

IT'S always fortunate for Army bands to have suitably-titled marches in the library when seeking a record title. The cavalry have used Sousa's not very good *Sabre and Spurs* before, but as my own *Cavalry Walk* is in the programme I wish I had called it *Sprockets and Spurs*; much more suitable for the present-day cavalry. Mr Chatburn might care to do the honours in due course – like tomorrow.

A very attractive selection of slow and quick marches all played at apt tempos, and several that should interest collectors. The most likely in this category is Arthur Sullivan's *Princess of Wales March*, written by the composer of the Savoy operas for the wedding of Princess Alexandra of Denmark to the Prince of Wales (Edward VII) in 1863.

It is subtitled *Danish March* and is here arranged to include cavalry trumpets to mark the appointment of the present Princess as Colonel-in-Chief of

the regiment. Then there is the *Parade March of the 18th Hussars* (the German regiment), a fine arrangement of the old French tune *Ca Ira* by Terry Kenny, the tune "captured" by the West Yorks at Famars in 1793, and the not-too-often recorded *Namur*, arranged by W V Richards, who won an MC as a bandmaster but probably is not the composer of this very Kenneth Alford-ish march, *The Waveney* by Ord Hume, *Step Lightly* Peter Anderson.

It is about time I introduced these young bandmasters to a once-famous march by none other than Wilhelm Zehle, composer of so many great marches. It is called *Europe United*, and what more up-to-date title could you want? It is just as fine as his *Viscount Nelson*, and *Wellington*, and should now be flogged to death until (at least) 1992 or thereabouts.

The interesting and well-played programme ends with *Skinner's Horse* and the *Regimental Slow and Quick Marches*.

● From Bandleader, Cassette £6.50 inc.

Variations on a theme

THEMES SPECTACULAR

Various Military Bands

SOME of the themes are, to me, not all that spectacular, but shows, films, or TV programmes to which they were thematic certainly were. I won't go all pedantic and say music can in no way be a spectacle, though we know what is meant – musical themes which conjure up memories of spectacular goings-on, or which enhance the enjoyment of something viewed.

Like *Dallas* and *Dynasty*? I can't say I've seen more than three or four of the original epics to which these themes belong, yet I seem to know most of the tunes.

How can one avoid *Barwick Green* (The Archers) or *East Enders*?

Then there is a medley from the *James Bond* films, the *Rocky* films, *Chariots of Fire*,

all the *Star Trek* films, and what I take to be TV programmes – *Knots Landing*, *Falcon Crest*, *Thunderbirds*, *Warship*, *Black Beauty*, *Mistral's Daughter*, and *Life and Times of Lloyd George*.

The ever present *Magnificent Men* are still in their flying machines, and one I did see, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Another I was trapped into seeing fairly often (I have two sadistic grand-daughters) was *The "A" Team*. Such goings-on, and at 6pm too.

For my own generation all comes right in the end with *The Longest Day* and *Cockleshell Heroes*. Now there's spectacular for you.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR, CD only £10.50 inc.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Jane's Encyclopedia of Aviation. Originally published in five volumes in 1980, this one-volume reprint recounts the history of flight from hot-air balloons onwards and includes more than 2,000 illustrations and a 40-page appendix covering important developments during the past decade. Published by Bracken Books. Price £20.

Jane's World Aircraft Recognition Handbook by Derek Wood. First published in 1979, this fourth edition reprint has been completely revised and updated. Published by Jane's Information Group. Price £9.95.

Forces '90. Annual yearbook series available by mail order only. Published by Marshall Cavendish Books Ltd. Price £10.90 including postage.

Daggers, Swords and Bayonets of the Third Reich by Frederick J Stephens. Published by Patrick Stephens Ltd. Price £16.95.

Four titles from Arms and Armour Press:
Levine's Guide to Knives and their Values by Bernard Levine. Price £14.95.

Knives '90 edited by Ken Warner. Price £11.95.

The Gun Digest Book of Assault Weapons edited by Jack Lewis. Price £9.95.

The Gun Digest Book of the .45 by Dean A Grennell. Price £9.95.

Aces of the Reich by Gordon Williamson. More than 100 mini-biographies of German aces of land, air and sea during the Second World War. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £12.95.

Secret Warfare – The Battle of Codes and Cyphers by Bruce Norman. Battle Standards series from David and Charles and first published in 1973. Price £4.95.

The Retreat from Burma 1941-1942 by James Lunt. Story of the British Army's 1,000-mile fighting retreat. Price £4.95.

No Picnic on Mount Kenya by Felice Benuzzi. First published in 1952. Marvellous account of the author's time as an Italian prisoner-of-war in a British camp facing Mount Kenya. He and two other prisoners escaped to climb the mountain before returning to surrender to the camp's commandant. Published by Patrick Stephens Ltd. Price £12.95.



Two British soldiers bring comfort to German POWs on the Somme

Picture: Imperial War Museum

Monty's race with the Russians

MANY myths surround the final six weeks of the war against the Nazis in 1945, in particular concerning the commander of 21 Army Group, Bernard Law Montgomery and his role in the momentous drawing-up of future European boundaries.

Charles Whiting begins his account five years earlier, on the beaches of Dunkirk, when Montgomery, then a newly promoted brigadier, vowed vengeance for the British Army's humiliation.

Whiting is extremely harsh on the BEF's commander at the time, Lord Gort, who, he claims, allowed this tragedy to happen.

There were many factors outside Gort's control, but Whiting is a colourful writer and an extravagance like this does not detract from the real value of what is a highly-competent history of a neglected period.

It is a chronicle of blame and counterblame, mostly well



Montgomery

justified in hindsight. It is also a pro-Montgomery and anti-US General Staff book.

That is not to say that

Montgomery comes out of it without criticism, but he is shown as being much more aware of the situation than either the Supreme Commander, Eisenhower or the subordinate US Army commanders, in particular in detecting what should have been the obvious threat from the Soviet armies grabbing as much German territory as possible before the inevitable Nazi surrender.

On his own initiative, Montgomery turned his flank guard to race against the Russians for the ports of Bremen and Hamburg, and Wismar on the Baltic.

Surprisingly, the author makes no mention of Eisenhower's commitment to contain and destroy the German forces in the Ruhr when all the effort should have been in an eastward thrust. This could have been used as even more evidence in support of Montgomery's actions.

Much tragedy is recorded in

the book, the most shocking being the unintentional slaughter of concentration camp prisoners by the RAF when they bombed the overcrowded *Cap Arcona* anchored offshore in the Baltic.

In the autumn of 1945 Montgomery wrote to the King humbly requesting that he might be offered a home, his own having been destroyed by German bombing.

"Quite a small house . . . and it need not be gifted, it could be only for my lifetime . . ."

The request was refused. Any comparison between the lives of Montgomery and Wellington or Marlborough can surely be dismissed at that point. – BJ

The Last Battle: Montgomery's Campaign April-May 1945 by Charles Whiting. Published by The Crowood Press, Crowood House, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2HE. Hardback, £14.95.

BOOK REVIEWS

POWs used as cheap labour in Swiss camps

AT THE outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 none of the belligerent nations had any plan or machinery for dealing with large numbers of prisoners of war. By the time of the Armistice, four years later, governments were to learn a great deal and the men who had been captured were to gain much experience in survival and improvisation.

There are numerous books about the prisoners in the Second World War, but the fortunes of those who suffered captivity in the earlier conflict have not received the attention of many writers. It is gratifying to read *The Prisoners 1914-18* in which Robert Jackson uses previously unpublished first-hand accounts from the archives of the Imperial War Museum.

It is natural to believe that one's own side always acts with correctness when it comes to

the treatment of prisoners and it perhaps comes as a shock to read, "... reprisals for acts other than attempted escapes appear to have been initiated by the British, or more specifically by Winston Churchill, who was then First Lord of the Admiralty."

"Early in 1915, he ordered that captured German submariners were to be confined not in POW camps, but in the Naval Detention Barracks at Chatham and Devonport."

The Red Cross and other relief organisations were quick off the mark with what was to be their enormous, compassionate task of supplying food parcels and clothing, so necessary to prisoners of all nationalities.

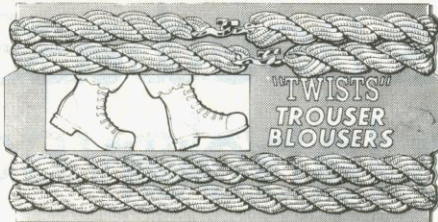
With the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, it is surprising that many British prisoners in Swiss internment camps, en route home through exchange of disabled men, complained bitterly of their treatment. The Swiss apparently used them as a source of cheap labour.

The book also covers the subject of civilian internees on both sides who, generally, experienced a far better and more civilised detention than military and naval prisoners.

There is the story of a Russian colonel at Zorndorf, not far from the eastern front. "He made himself a German cavalry officer's uniform, manufactured a saddle and bridle from pieces of cardboard, and walked through the main gate intent on finding a horse on which to make his escape . . . But no horse could be found . . . and the sight of a rather bedraggled and horseless cavalry officer, carrying a saddle, inevitably attracted attention . . ."

Robert Jackson has provided a well-researched documentation of material that might otherwise never have seen the light of day. – BJ

The Prisoners 1914-18 by Robert Jackson. Published by Routledge. Hardback, £16.95.



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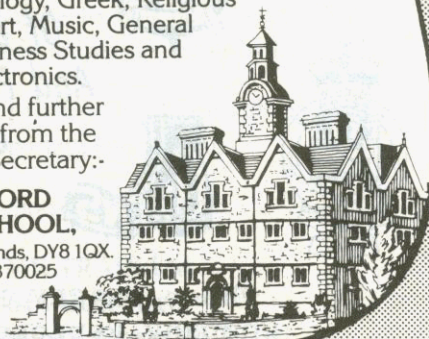
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Zulus cement Brecon bond

MUTUAL regard between the Zulu tribe of South Africa and soldiers of The South Wales Borderers (24th Regiment) started in 1914 when a monument was raised at Isandhlwana to commemorate those killed there in 1879.

The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) celebrates the defence of Rorke's Drift every year on January 22, but this year the 111th anniversary was being marked by the Mayor of Brecon, Councillor Geoffrey Harding, who was travelling to Zululand to meet King Zwelethini Goodwill, present King of the Zulus, at his capital of Ulundi.

Six hundred soldiers of the 24th Regiment, many of whom signed on at Brecon, were killed at Isandhlwana,

and many more died of disease. The cost to the regiment and its bereaved families was great. The Zulus lost thousands of their warriors. "An assegai has been thrust into the belly of our nation," said King Cetshwayo when the cost in lives was assessed.

The idea of creating a "special relationship" between Ulundi and Brecon was raised by King Goodwill when he visited the home of the 24th Regiment in Brecon in 1987. Members of the Kwa Zulu Legislative Assembly and the Town Council of Brecon endorsed the King's sentiments and both sides agreed to exchange "presents". King Goodwill also expressed a wish that the Mayor of Brecon should visit

Zululand in 1990.

The mayor was taking an illuminated scroll to King Goodwill who responded with a tapestry depicting the story of the Zulu War. The tapestry was made by Zulus at Rorke's Drift.

Great strides are being taken to make the Zulu War battlefields a bright star on the tourist trail.

When the project is completed the area of Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift will be fenced, with the interior parkland stocked with game. It will have a hotel, in the form of a village of traditional "beehive" thatched huts, new roads, an information centre and a reconstructed "pont", or ferry, on the River Buffalo at Rorke's Drift.

Church 'rift' healed

A FACSIMILE of the Wiltshire County Edition of the Great Domesday Book has helped cement the relationship between the Army and the church, ending a centuries-old rift, writes Vicki Andrews.

Brig Mike Tennant, Commander of Salisbury Garrison, presented it on behalf of members of the Officers' Mess of the United Kingdom Land Forces in Wilton, to the Dean of Salisbury, the Very Rev Hugh Dickinson. It will be on permanent loan to the Cathedral.

Various Army events have realised £2,000 towards the cathedral's spire appeal. Brig Tennant, explaining the rift with the church, said that until the 13th Century the Army and Church had coexisted at Old Sarum. Then the bishop of the time decided to remove the clergy from the "licentious" soldiers of the area to the newly-built cathedral in Salisbury.

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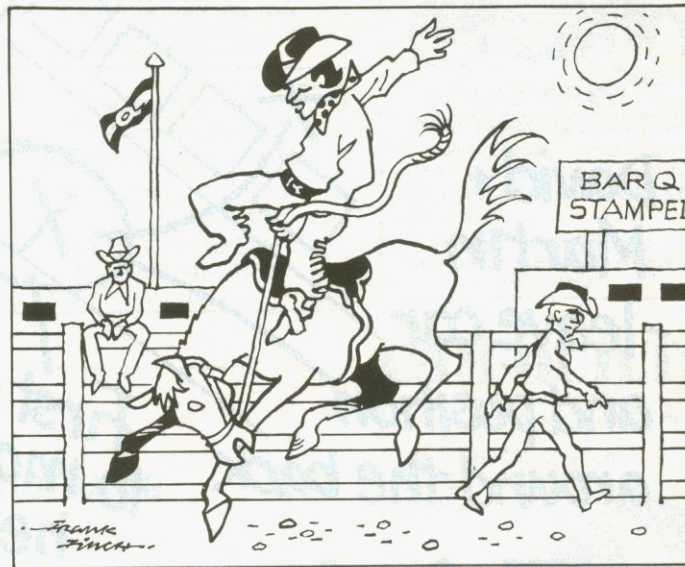
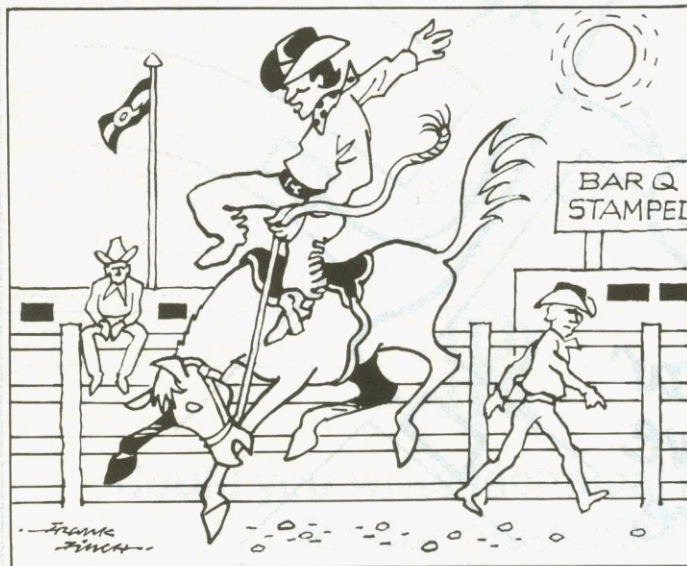
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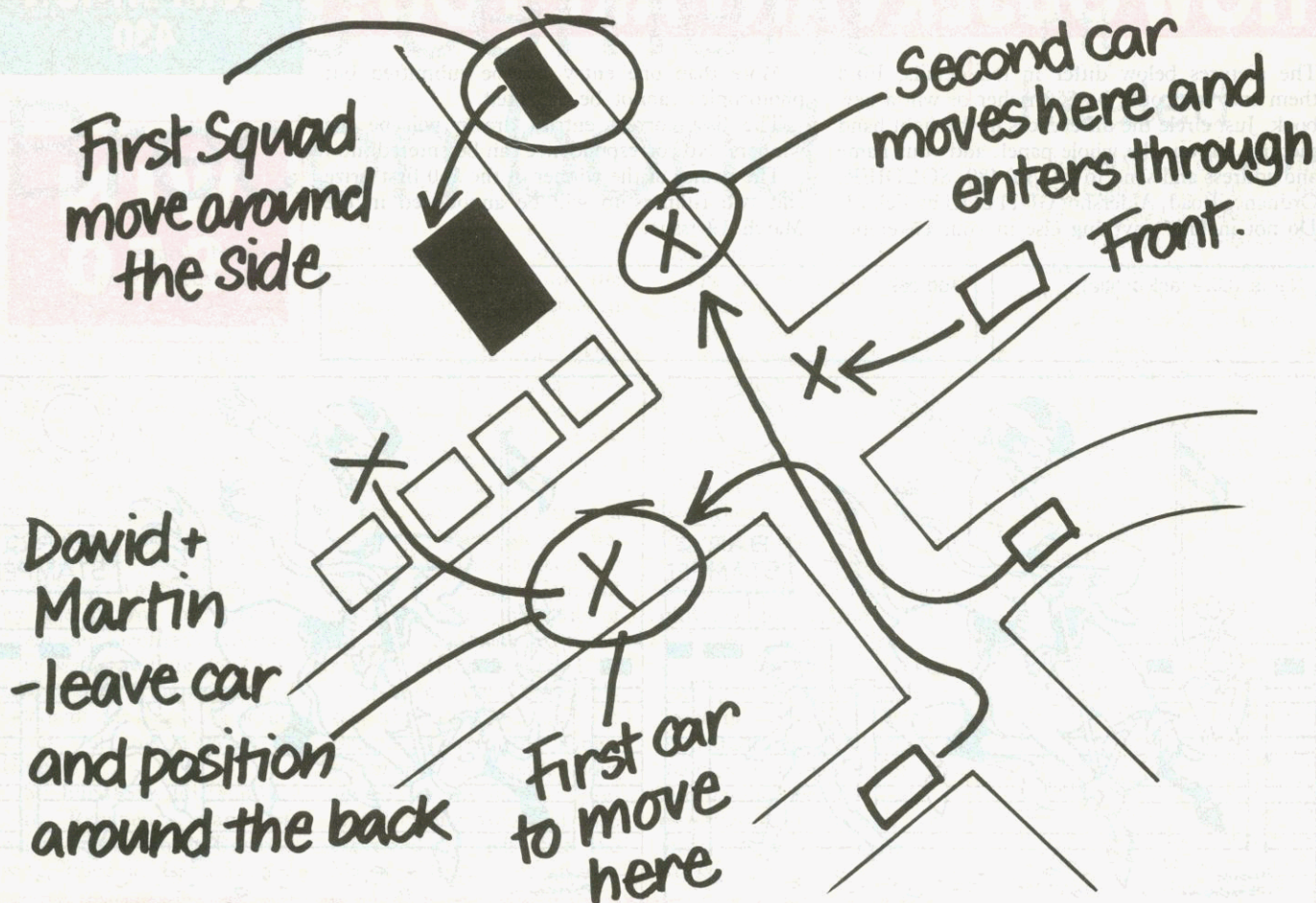


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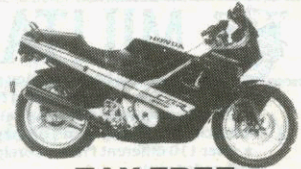
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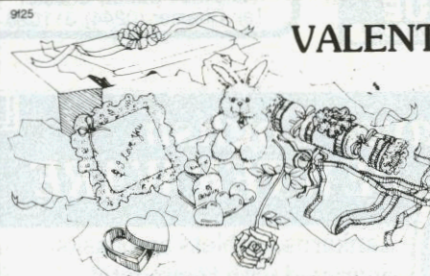
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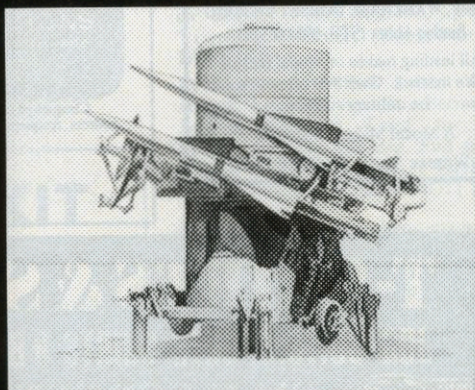
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Dixon, Woods in form

GOOD shooting by LCpl Mike Dixon (35 Engr Regt) and LCpl Ian Woods (26 Engr Regt), who had only two shooting penalties, ensured good results in the 20km race at the first biathlon World Cup event of the season.

Dixon and Woods were two members of an all-Army British ski team managed by Capt Tony Franklin, RE, which competed in the event at Obertilliach, Austria.

Temperatures rose before the 10km race making conditions very difficult, but British team results were: Dixon, 50th; Woods, 60th; LCpl Ed Nicholl (35 Engr Regt), 81st; Pte Malcolm Hamilton (1 KOSB), 85th; Cpl Carl Davies (22 Sig Regt), 87th; and Gnr Ken Rudd (19 Fd Regt), 90th.

Both individual races were won by East Germans who were obvious favourites for the team-patrol 20km. Heavy rain fell throughout the race in which the British team of Dixon, Woods, Nicholl and Davies took 12th place.

Defender lying 12th

THE JOINT Service crew in the Whitbread Round-the-World Yacht Race will soon be heading for the Roaring Forties today on the next leg of the event.

They will cover 6,250 miles round Cape Horn from Auckland, New Zealand, to Uruguay.

Their entry, Satquote British Defender, arrived eighth on the last leg (from Fremantle to Auckland) and is lying 12th overall. In her own class, however, Defender is 12th out of 13.

There is still a chance for her to pull up two or three places before the race ends in May.

Masters of the pool

SOLDIER swimmers are being encouraged to enter the Royal Navy's open masters gala at HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset on May 5-6. Last year the Navy did particularly well at masters



Rfn Devijang Gurung, who finished fourth in a time of 4hr 16min, negotiating the traffic at the 20-mile point

Cup favourites face Jocks in difficult draw

THE ARMY Challenge Cup had reached the quarter-final stage in the United Kingdom as SOLDIER went to press, with some exciting ties in prospect, writes Pat Massey.

Two former winners, SEME Bordon and 1 RHF, were paired together in a draw expected to fill the Daly Ground. Home advantage was expected to swing the tie in favour of SEME, but it is a foolish man who would dismiss the chances of the Jocks in the Army Cup.

Winners of the trophy in the centenary year and last year's beaten finalists School of Signals have still to play 1/3 Trg Regts RE, themselves winners of the coveted cup, to decide

who meets 7/10 UDR.

That guarantees two very difficult ties for the former champions if they are to progress. The Irishmen will be no pushover although current form suggests the sappers are the most likely side to move into the semi-finals.

It is good to see 1/2 Gurkha Rifles still involved at this late stage in the competition. They had to fight hard before knocking out 12 RSME in the fourth round, eventually winning by four goals to three on penalties after two drawn attempts to settle their differences.

The Gurkhas now entertain either 38 Engr Regt or Comms and Sy Gp (UK) at Crookham. Again, the sappers are favourites to emerge from this grouping.

In the remaining quarter-

final, 1 DWR were due to play 94 Loc Regt RA at Market Drayton.

Both sides rattled in the goals in earlier rounds, so the Dukes may benefit from playing at home.

Knowledgeable punters are looking for the best odds on an all-South East District UK final - SEME Bordon against 1/3 Trg Regts RE - provided they avoid one another when the semi-final draw is made.

Combined Services notched up huge footballing and social successes on their tour of Portugal and have been invited to return.

In the first game of their three-match programme they defeated Forca Fuzileiros Portugal (the Portuguese Marines who are their naval champions) 9-1, and followed it up with an excellent 2-2 draw against the

full Estoril league side.

Two-nil down at half-time, the Services fought back well to level the match after the interval.

Finally, the Services polished off an international Nato Forces IBERLANT team by five goals to one.

● The Inter-Services match between the Army and the Royal Navy at Aldershot has been brought forward a day to March 27 so as not to clash with the England v Brazil game the following day.

● Cpl Steve Welsh (School of Signals), the Army left back, is attracting the attention of Cambridge United where he would join former Blandford colleague Mick Cheetham. Cheetham left the Army two years ago to sign for Ipswich and has recently been transferred to Cambridge.

Gurkhas excel on Everest run

SOLDIERS from the Hong Kong based 2nd Battalion, 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles, turned in an outstanding performance when the second Everest Marathon was held in Nepal, writes Robert Higson.

They took second, third and fourth places and had five of their runners home in the first ten.

The two other team members came 12th and 15th in this demanding test of fitness and stamina.

The marathon, which involves a two-week trek from Kathmandu to Gorak Shep (altitude 17,100ft) at the base of Mount Everest as well as the marathon itself, attracted a field of 70 international runners.

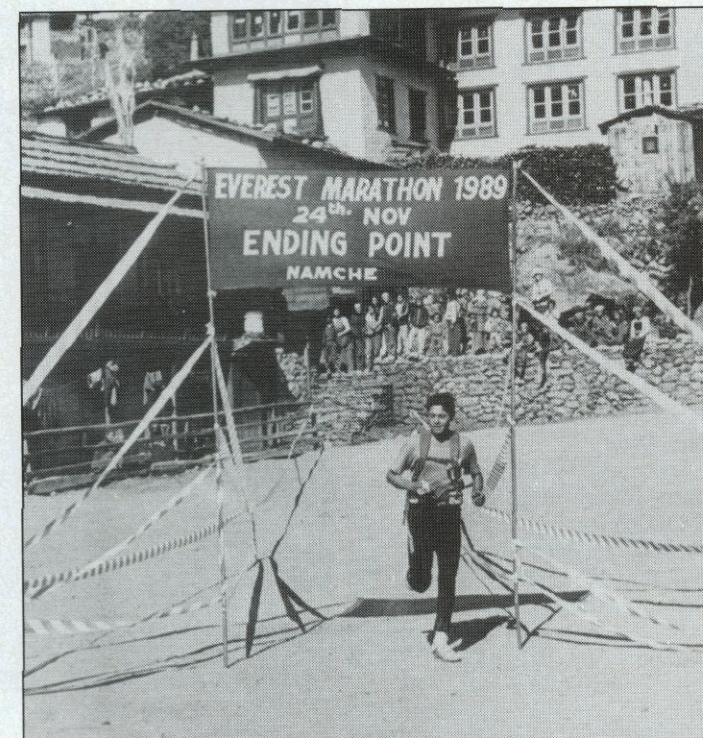
As in 1987, the year of the first Everest Marathon, the winner was a Scot, with a Gurkha rifleman in second place. Jack Maitland, rated as one of the world's top hill runners, put in a superb performance to overcome a four-minute gap at the 18-mile mark and win the race in a time of 3hr 59min - three minutes ahead of Rfn Kusang Gurung of 2/2 GR.

Rfn Birka Pun and Devijang Gurung were third and fourth with the respective times of 4hr 12min and 4hr 16min. In fifth place was the 1987 champion, Stewart Duffield, whose time of 4hr 28min was actually faster than his previous effort - an indication of the general improvement in standards.

Altitude sickness, knee strain and cramp were all part of the hazards faced by the competitors as they made their way over 26 miles and 385 yards of rough mountain track from Gorak Shep (where the temperature was -10 degrees Celsius) down to the finish at Namche Bazaar.

Apart from two uphill sections, which Jack Maitland used to overhaul Kusang Gurung, the route was generally downhill, losing some 5,900ft from start to finish.

Yak trains were another hazard. These massive, shaggy



Rfn Santabhadur Chand reaches the finish at Namche Bazaar in ninth position

beasts, equipped with formidable horns, yield right of way to no one, not even marathon runners, and it is a wise fellow traveller who does not dispute the fact.

The 2/2 GR team represented the Brigade of Gurkhas as well as their homeland of Nepal. Under their manager, Capt Alastair Kennedy, they spent nearly a month on an acclimatisation and fitness trek around the Annapurna Moun-

ains in West Nepal and their results fully justified the effort.

Capt Kennedy, who lays no claim to being an endurance runner, finished 33rd in a time of 6hr 33min which put him well inside the first half of the field.

As well as offering some interesting, if gruelling, competition the second Everest Marathon also raised about £25,000 for water supply and health care in Nepal.

Woofers veterans on target at Pershore

F COMPANY (HSF), 4th (Volunteer) Battalion of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment have struck gold in the Territorial Army Rifle Association's annual shooting competition.

The eight-man narrowly beat other teams from the Paras and Highlanders in a new national shooting match reserved for the veteran soldiers of the Home

Service Force. Their score of 302 out of possible 360 was achieved on a blustery morning at Tyddesley Wood ranges near Pershore.

The team was drawn from platoons based at Kidderminster and Worcester and the members ages range from the youngest, Pte Maurice Perry, a 6ft 6in ex-Life Guard aged 41, to Lt Harold Evans, 54.

Favourites march on

Dukes, 7 RHA still in hunt

ON the last day of January two Army units in the Major Challenge Cup Competition for the 1989-90 season will be celebrating the success of their rugby teams in reaching the UK division final to be held, as usual, in the Military Stadium Aldershot, on March 14, writes **John Quin**.

The right to challenge the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the BAOR champions, to become outright Army victors now rests with four UK sides, two of whom we predicted in the early part of the season as "hot favourites" for the title.

The final draw for this season's cup matches has paired the following: 1 Glosters and 7 RHA (to be played in NI), and Tps Hereford v 1 DWR, both matches to be played on January 31.

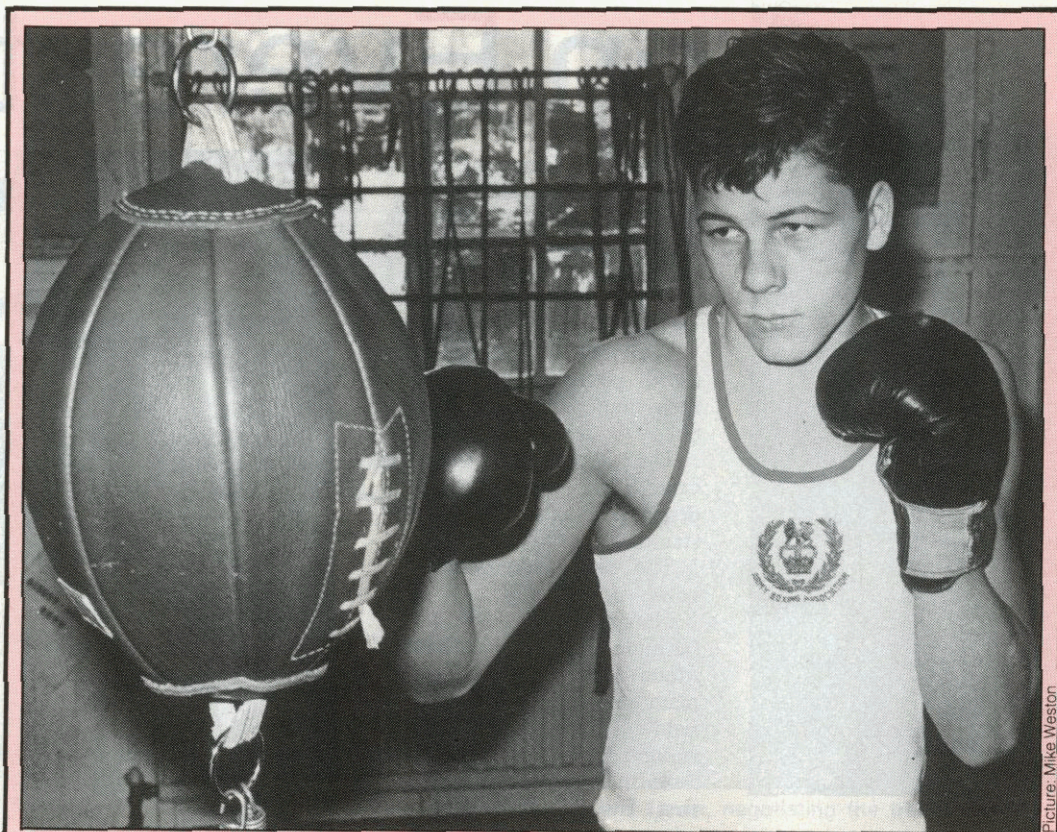
This, of course, could throw up a repeat of a 7 RHA v Dukes encounter, but who at this stage would discount either of the other sides causing an upset?

Talking of upsets, just that happened in the minor units section of the Army Cup. As 24 Fd Sqn RE were getting into their stride and looking capable of regaining the minor trophy, they bumped into the School of Infantry who had other ideas.

The draw for the semi-final rounds of the Minor Units Cup is now School of Infantry v JIB Shorncliffe or 9 Ord Bn and 33 Fd Sqn RE (the holders) v Depot Prince of Wales's Div. These semi-finals will also be played on January 31.

The Army XV started its long, hard preparation for the Inter-Services crown defence under the leadership of Maj Brian McCall (REME) when they took on Hampshire at Basingstoke, followed by games against the Civil Service (Aldershot) and then the two Universities, both away.

That only leaves two games



Dvr Chris Bessey, the NABC welterweight champion, in training

BESSEY IS BEST!

EIGHTEEN-year-old Dvr Chris Bessey (1 ADTR) became the Army's very first National Association of Boys' Clubs boxing champion when he scored a comfortable points win in the finals in London.

Bessey easily outpointed North West champion Jason

Knight in the Class C (senior) welterweight division final.

Army coach WO2 Mick Gannon took his entire squad to Crystal Palace to help the England management prepare their boxers for the Commonwealth Games tournament in Auckland, New Zealand.

Among those who benefited from Service sparring partners were Sgt Keith Howlett, the ABA and England bantamweight champion, and Royal Marine Mark Edwards. Also in New Zealand is Scottish international boxer LCpl John McLean (1 Trg Regt RE).

in Aldershot in February before the boys in red line up at Twickenham against the Royal Navy for, hopefully, their third Willis Trophy success in a row.

More on this game later, but make sure that you have the date, Saturday March 10, firmly in your diaries as this promises to be a better day than ever.

If you are within reach of London make sure you are there, not only to support the boys but to enjoy the day, including the barbecues and picnics. It's a great day for all rugby people to meet up with old friends and have a good time in the car parks of Twickenham.

Finally, some really pleasing

news from the Under-21 scene. Under-21 rugby is probably the "growth industry" of the game throughout the world, and the Army has not been left behind. The Army was in at the beginning of rugby at this level and, as well as the senior Inter-Services competition, there is now a well established U-21 championship, this year hosted by the RAF.

Maj Taff Cullen (REME) took his boys to Pontypridd prior to the Inter-Services clash and, although beaten by a powerful Welsh valley side, they learnt many useful lessons.

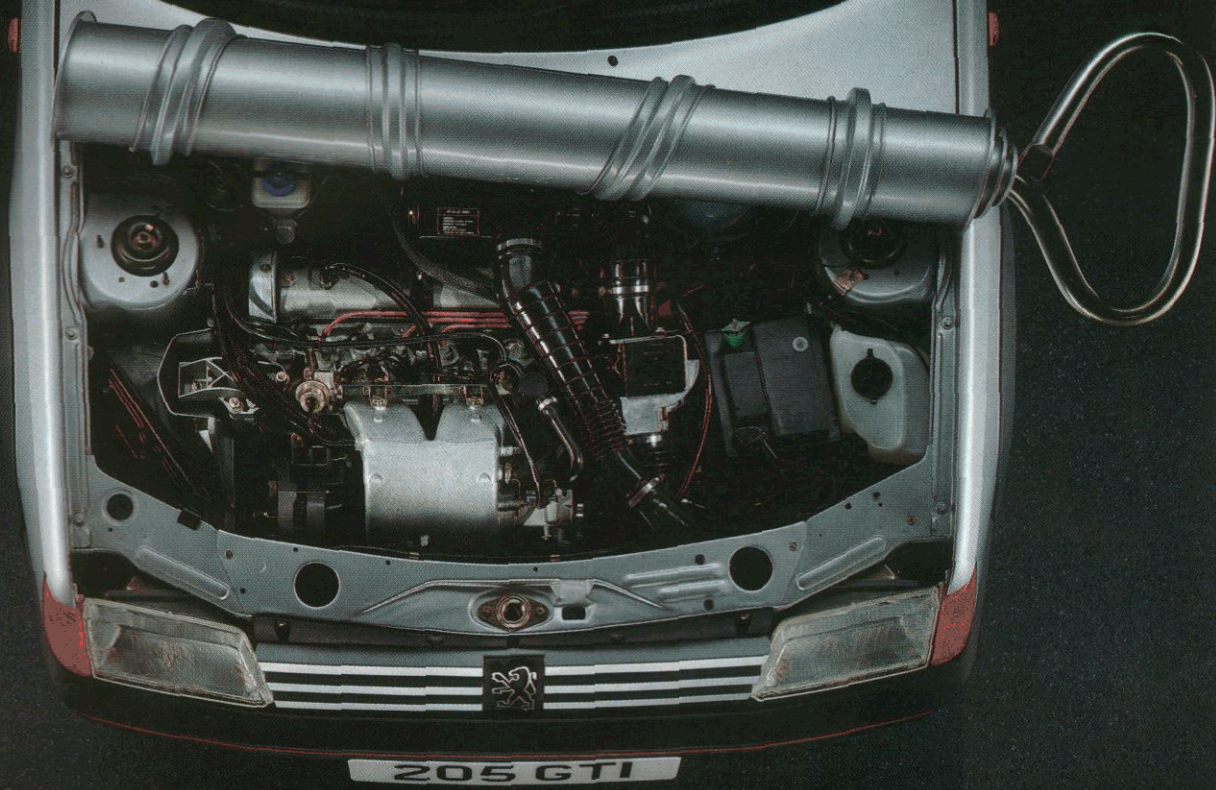
The opening game against the Royal Navy appeared to be slipping away from the young soldiers when, with minutes to

go, the Army scrambled a draw with a late penalty.

Against the RAF it was a different matter and the U-21 championship for 1990 went to the Army with a 21 points to six win.

Army U-21 XV - Spr Johnstone, RE; Cfn Willcoxen, REME, Gnr Howard, RA, Cfn Gould, REME, Pte Fanning, RAMC; Spr Robinson, RE, Fus Davies, RWF; 2nd Lt Griffiths, RWF, 2nd Lt Bennett, Para, Cfn Howard, REME, 2nd Lt Neary, London UOTC, Sig Adams, R Sigs, LCpl Holmes, REME, LCpl Murley, REME, 2nd Lt Laithwaite, Lancs UOTC. Also played: Pte Howardson, RAOC, Spr Snooks, RE.

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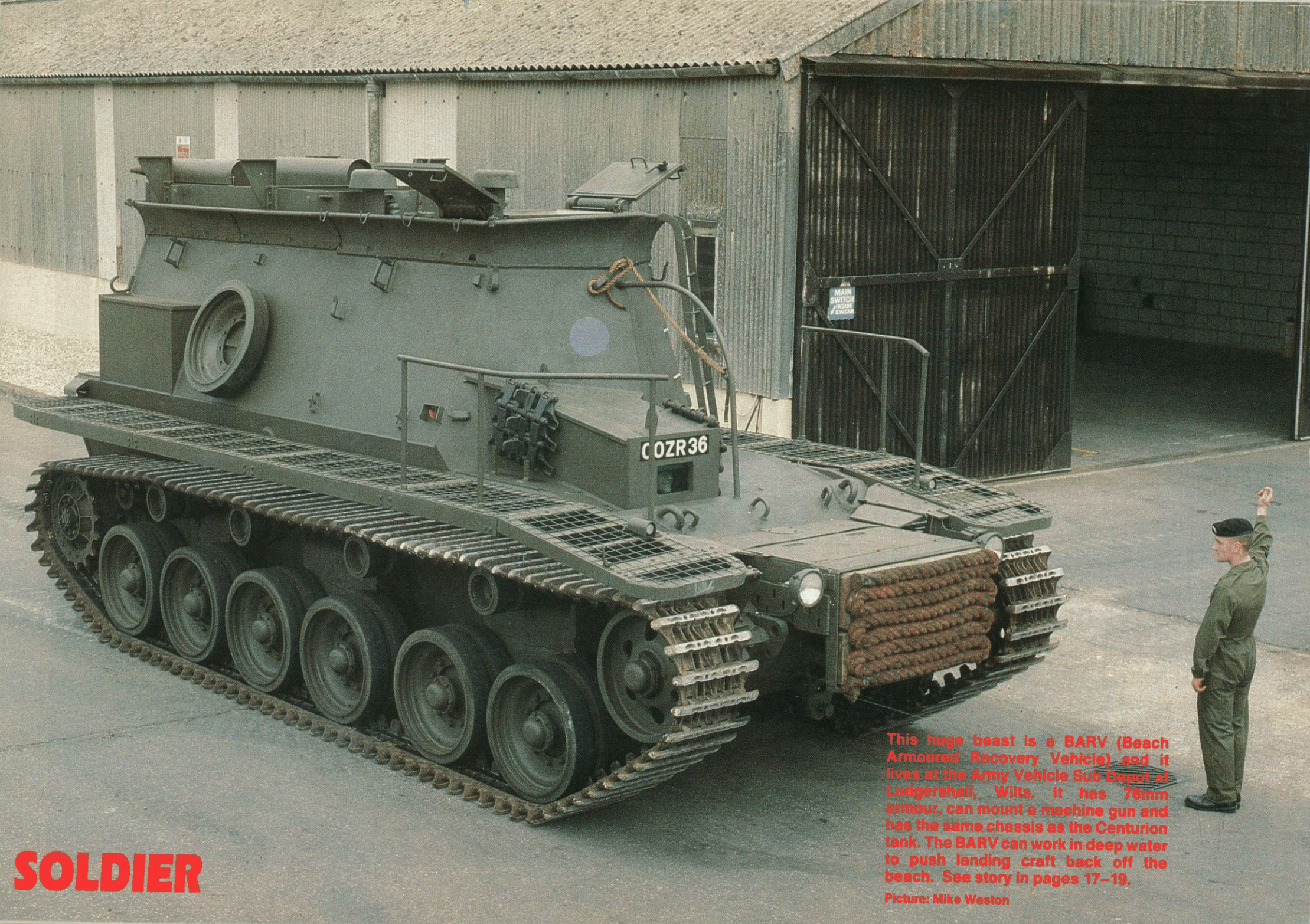
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This huge beast is a BARV (Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle) and it lives at the Army Vehicle Sub Depot at Ludgershall, Wilts. It has 76mm armour, can mount a machine gun and has the same chassis as the Centurion tank. The BARV can work in deep water to push landing craft back off the beach. See story in pages 17-19.

Picture: Mike Weston

SOLDIER