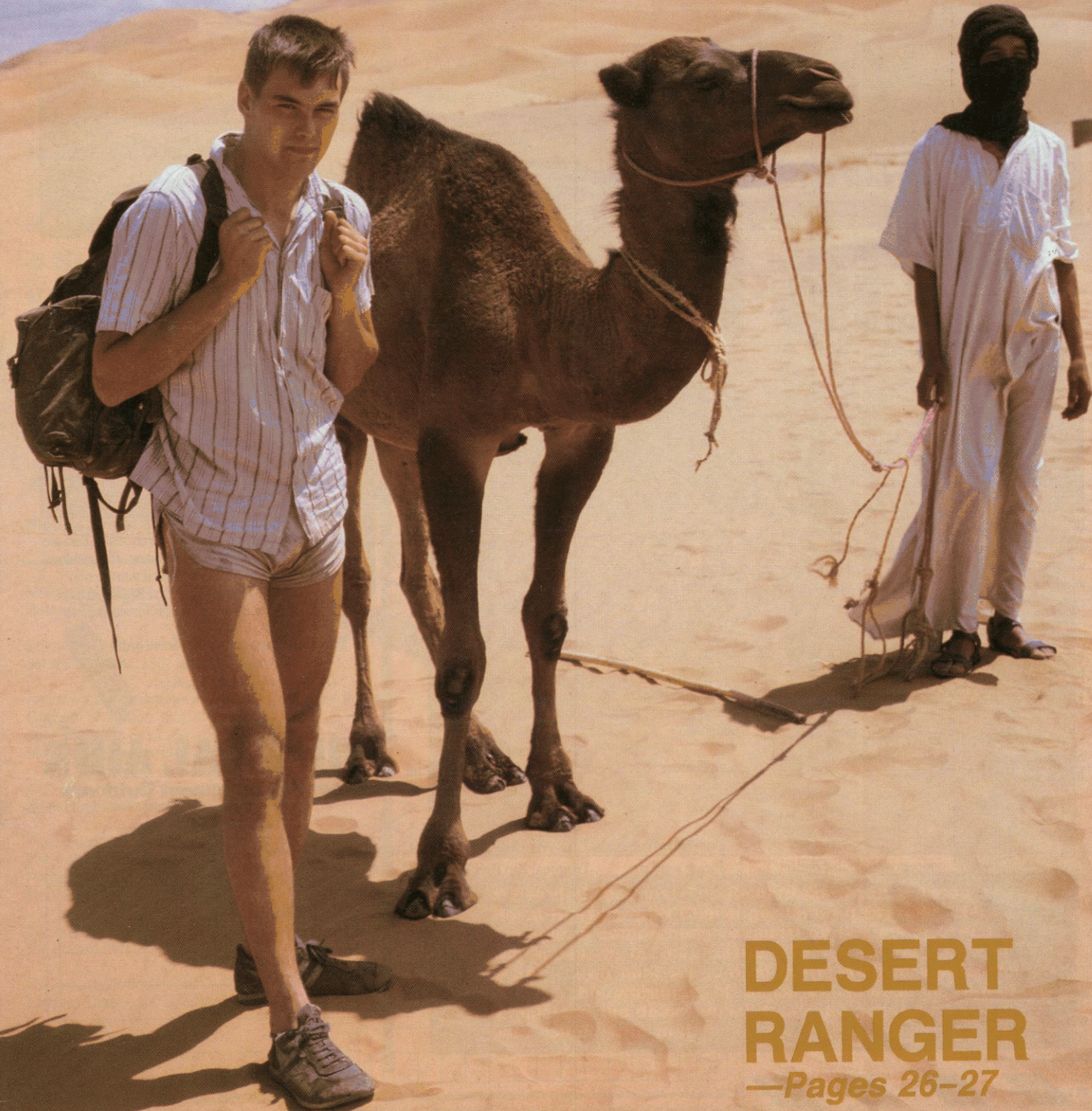


# SOLDIER

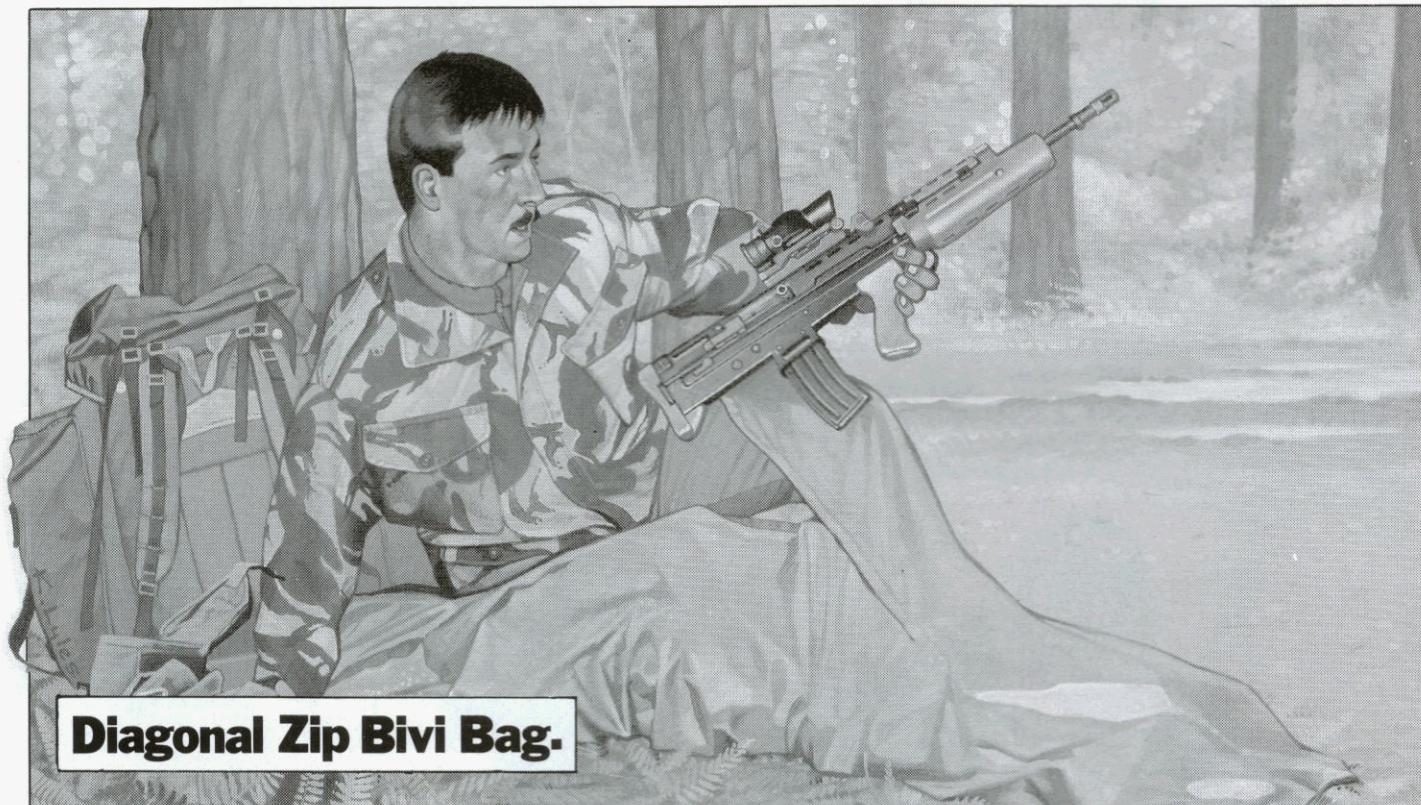
17 NOVEMBER 1986

35 PENCE



**DESERT  
RANGER**  
—Pages 26–27





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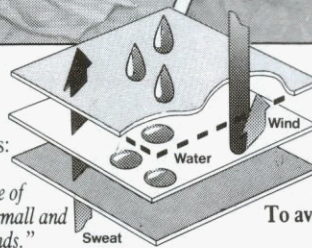
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VOL. 42/23

17 NOVEMBER 1986

## CONTENTS

- 4 Letters
- 7 Newline
- 10 People
- 13 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 16 Anne Armstrong
- 18 AT upgrading for BAOR
- 21 Top drivers in action
- 22 Corporal pilots
- 24 35 Base Workshops
- 26 Rangers in Morocco
- 28 Military Works Force
- 31 Scarlet Lancers
- 32 Books and records
- 35 HOAY competition
- 36 Classified advertisements
- 39 SOLDIER Mart
- 47 Sport

**FRONT COVER – Rgr Alan Keeting, a new recruit to 2 RIR, on a camel in the Sahara Desert near Sidi-Abden-Nebi. Story and more pictures on Pages 26-27.**

**Picture by Col Sgt Leo Callow**

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# SOLDIER

**THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY**  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

## NEXT ISSUE



● **Bearded reservist Tpr Richard Gawin of 2 Troop The Royal Hussars with Challenger tank on Exercise Eternal Triangle. A comprehensive report on this major exercise will appear in the next issue.**

● **SAWES on film! We look at the making of a video to explain the workings of small arms weapons effect simulators, the device which takes the guesswork out of who "shot" who first.**

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# Memories of a nurse in India

AS A 17-year-old girl, Preston-born Angela Noblett was denied a career in journalism by her father. He decreed she should have, instead, a "mother figure". Hospital matrons would provide those in due course during a three-year wartime nursing career on the Indian sub-continent, writes **Graham Smith**.

And, 44 years ago last month, Angela Bolton, then married, was sailing back to Blighty from Bombay after three "hot weathers". Away from India and its terrible heat.

She had acquired a husband – he died in 1981 – an RA captain whom she first saw "propping up a bar" at an all-ranks dance.

Mrs Bolton, 68, has now written a 216-page, well-illustrated book based on her India experiences called *The Maturing Sun – An Army Nurse in India 1942-45*, priced at £11.95, a publication launched at a media event at London's Imperial War Museum. Seven modern day QA nurses dressed in period costume from the Boer War to the mid-80s were present with Health Minister Mrs Edwina Currie in support.

Mrs Bolton, her journalistic dream now fulfilled in her



**Authoress Angela Noblett (standing) with Lt Katherine Rowe (left) and Pte Sarah Shackleton**

book, joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (QAINS) as it then was, in 1941 as a reserve sister, training on Merseyside and Manchester.

She spent 3½ years working in military hospitals and river steamers in Bengal and Assam nursing British, Indian, West African, Chinese and even Japanese casualties of the bitterly-fought Burma campaign.

Her book, based on a daily diary, records the excitement of the outward-bound sea journey, the enchantment and squalor of India, the long hours of ward duty in the oppressive

heat, dances in the officers' messes and planters' clubs.

The eighth title in the IWM personal experiences series, the book is the first by a woman to be accepted.

Modelling the nursing uniforms from the turn of the century to the present were Lts Belinda Cornwall and Katherine Rowe of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich; Sgts Jean Long and Joyce Slater of the QARANC Training Centre, Aldershot; and Capt Maddie Southerden, Lt Deborah Saunders and Pte Sarah Shackleton of the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

## Marching to the wrong tune?

WE WOULD be most grateful if you could advise us on an inconsistency regarding a regimental march in the record Regimental Music of the British Army which was reviewed by Rodney Bashford. The regimental march of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars is quoted as being the *March of the Scottish Archers*.

Ex-members of the 8th Hussars insist that the regimental march was *St Patrick's Day*. The same march is used at present by the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars after the amalgamation of the 8th Hussars and 4th Hussars in 1957.

It does seem strange that the *Scottish Archers* could be associated with an obvious Irish Regiment. – Q84562 G S H Slater S, Catering Flight, RNZAF Base, Whenuapai, Air Force Post Office, Auckland, New Zealand.

● *St Patrick's Day* it is. But *March of the Scottish Archers* was used on that recording because so many regiments duplicate marches. On a record of that kind they would be played several times over. Ed.

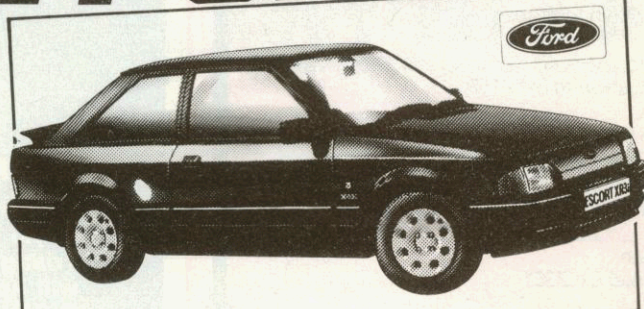
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S21



# Cadets get son of SA80!

PRIZE  
LETTER

I READ *SOLDIER* (Oct 6) with great interest, particularly the special Mail Drop feature on the SA80. The views expressed by the readers were very informative indeed but I wonder how many know that there is a third member of the SA80 family – the Ensign.

This weapon is the 'baby' of the trio and has been specifically designed for use by the Cadet Forces. It is identical to the SA80 apart from the following features: the Ensign is adapted to a single shot only and has an extension to the

cocking handle to enable easy loading.

There is no provision for the attachment of the optical sight or bayonet and there is no flash eliminator.

The Ensign is a perfect cadet weapon. It is robust, light and easy to teach. The small size, low recoil and low weight are ideal for the physique of the young cadet who has been, until now, limited to the fearsome weight and recoil of the old Lee Enfield .303 No 4 rifle.

For the senior cadet of 16+

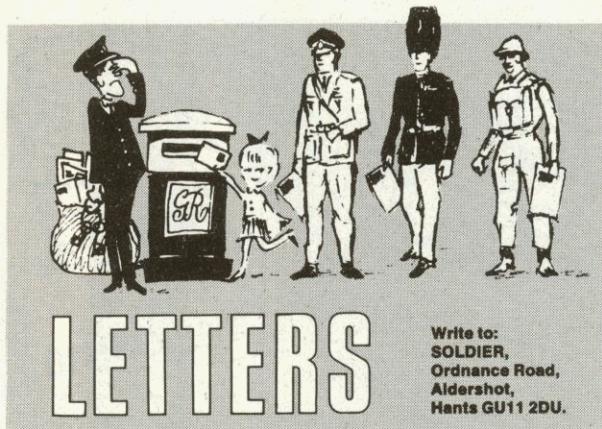
the Ensign has the incentive of being a thoroughly up-to-date weapon which is compatible with the latest Service rifle.

In the Cadet Forces we can all recognise the exciting prospect of training with a rifle that finally reflects our standing as totally contemporary and premier youth movements.

I will miss the awe-inspiring sight of blank rounds being fired at night from the old No 4 though! – **Lt A M Smith, 2IC Regimental Training Camp, Gibraltar Bks, Northampton, (Leicester/Northants ACF).**

## £50 winner

**BAOR are in the money again. The latest prize winner in *SOLDIER*'s HOAY competition (No 387) is Mrs D Feeney, c/o LCpl P Feeney, Armourers' Shop, LAD REME, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41. A cheque for £50 is flying out to you Mrs Feeney.**



## Who was last to demob?

IN THE very interesting article on National Service (*SOLDIER* September 22), you state that the last National Serviceman to be demobbed was 2nd Lt Richard Vaughan of the RAPC on May 13, 1963.

I have in my possession a very humorous book of songs and ballads of the Second World War and National Service life. It is stated in the book that the last conscript soldier was demobbed on May 7, 1963 and was 23819209 Pte Woods, Army Catering Corps. – **G B Gassor, 24 North Drive, AERE, Harwell, Near Didcot, Oxon OX11 0PE.**

● *SOLDIER*'s information came from the Imperial War Museum. But are you out there 2nd Lt Vaughan and Pte Woods? Perhaps you can provide the definitive answer. Ed.

## Keeping ahead of military fashion

I HAVE heard it said that when the armies of opposing countries have fought a war, the armies of other countries tend to adopt the headgear of the victors.

It has been quoted that the British Army followed the French style of shako after the Crimean War.

However, it has also been quoted that a few years after the Franco-Prussian War and France's disastrous defeat at the hands of the Prussians, the British Army converted to the 'Blue Cloth' helmet, which has been likened to the Prussian pickelhaube.

If our Army followed a German style after the Franco-Prussian War, it is certain that many other armies have followed British styles since.

It could be argued that the beret favoured by our Army has become universally popular

because it is a comfortable and practical form of headgear but I think that it goes rather deeper than that.

It is quite noticeable that the maroon beret made famous by the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces during the Second World War has been adopted by airborne units of a dozen different armies.

Similarly, the green beret which achieved equal renown through the exploits of the commandos, has given its name to the special service troops of the American army and has been taken up by the elite units of many others.

Perhaps it is just a coincidence but I notice that the German Panzer Troops who train in West Wales regularly every year now wear the black beret! – **J B A Allen, 211 Dunvant Road, Dillay, Swansea, West Glamorgan.**

## Kentish joke in the Jebel wilderness

I WAS reading your letters page, and thought you would like to hear my story.

While serving with 60 Fd Sqn RE as a plant sergeant, we were out in Salalah in Oman in 1974/75. My job with my men was to cut tracks across the Jebel to allow armoured cars, artillery etc to get through to help the Sultan in his effort to quell the communist terrorists up on the hills.

No vehicles had ever been there before. We had already cut tracks about 60 miles when we came to a place called Ayun.

There we had to go two ways, north and south, with our tracks.

I was getting our re-supply from a Skyvan aircraft when I noticed a large, well-made, sign post. Its upright was marked Butts Corner and we placed it at the crossroads. On the four arms were marked Ayun, Ravens Roost, Ayun Pools and Haclegt and on the top was K.C.C. (Kent County Council, a little joke by my OC).

Since then I have enquired about its whereabouts and have had a letter back from the Sultan informing me that the signpost is still there, but slightly moved because of new black top road alignments.

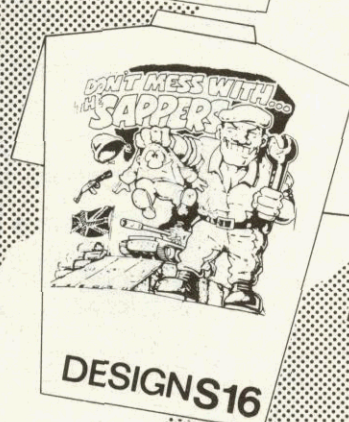
Also it is now officially on the maps of Oman as Butts Corner. I have a photo of myself standing by this signpost, together with the letter from the Sultan. – **Mr J B Butt, 35 Lennox Street, Weymouth, Dorset.**

## Call signs

□ Mr Peter Woodhouse of 30 Whittington St, Plymouth PL3 4EG, is anxious to trace Thomas Brindle who left the Lancs and National Sea Training School at Wallasey in 1932 to join the Seaforth Highlanders. He was taken prisoner at St Valery in 1940 and later repatriated. Mr Woodhouse has a message from his nephew in America.

□ The WRVS at 96 Groll Park Road, Neath SA11 3DD wish to trace members of 7th Royal Tank Regiment who were connected with a darts team presented in Hong Kong with a challenge shield by Lady Airey, wife of the then Commander in Chief Hong Kong.





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NOV 86



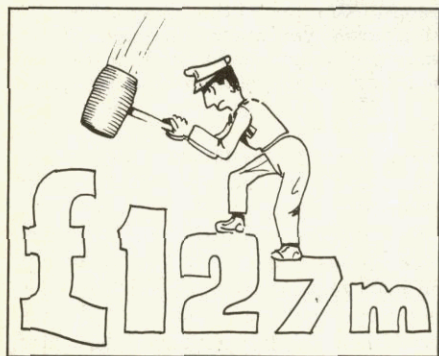
# Big spending Army told to cut fuel bill

YOUR AVERAGE cost conscious housewife would get the shock of her life if she was mistakenly sent the Ministry of Defence's annual heating, lighting and power bill. At a cool £240 million it is the nation's biggest energy account – and the Army, at £127 million, uses the lion's share.

It all adds up to quite a hefty bite out of the budget.

Now all three Services have been told to reduce energy consumption by 25 per cent over the next five years.

Already the Army leads the field in energy savings, thanks to a long running



programme established at command and district level by the Director General of Ordnance Services, the Army's energy manager.

Under the prompting of the Defence Energy Efficiency Committee a two-pronged attack is being mounted to:

- Cut out casual waste
- Improve energy efficiency

Progress has already been made on the second front, with Army Quatering Funds boosted by £20 million in the past four years to improve standards of insulation and heating systems.

To identify new areas of saving it is intended that the whole of the Army estate will be surveyed within the next five years.

Big spenders (20 per cent of units consume 80 per cent of the Army's total energy bill) will be first on the list, followed by rather shorter surveys of the smaller consumers.

Meanwhile, the message from the top is: If you know where energy waste can be cut, make sure your case is reported up the Army energy chain.

## Gordons Cup

THE Gordons Cup, presented in 1979 by the 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders to 8th Signal Regiment to mark a tour of duty by telegraphists of the latter with the Scots, has been contested for again by the signallers in their annual fitness, leadership and initiative competition. 2 Squadron C team were the winners.



A proud moment for Cpl Russell Modystack (second from left) as he and his triumphant Aussie team mates receive their Cambrian Patrol tankards from the General Officer Commanding Wales, Maj Gen Peter de la Billiere. Russell is serving with 1 Bn the Royal Australian Regiment based in Townsville, North Queensland

GUDDAY BLUE! Here's some fair dinkum news from Mother England to make all yous whingeing Poms even crooker than ever!

The British Army's toughest test of skill and endurance, the Cambrian Patrol, has been waltzed off by a bunch of Waltzing Matildas from the Australian Army . . . and the Brits didn't even get a look in, writes Maj Gerry Nicholas.

Nine men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – from Laverack Barracks, North Queensland – beat the pants off the British on their home territory in the Welsh Mountains. And when it came to tucker the Aussies even showed the rest of an international team how to skin and cook a bunny.

Sir Les Patterson (Barry Humphries's archetypal Aussie) would be proud of the modesty the Australian boys displayed in their hour of triumph as they claimed their silver trophy and individual tankards from the General Officer Commanding Wales, Maj Gen Peter de la Billiere.

"It was a close run thing," said Maj Rob Thornley, of Wahroonga, Sydney, New

## Aussies steal a march on the Cambrian Patrol

South Wales. "We always knew we would be in the top three, but just where was all that was left to chance.

"To go into a truly international competition like this and win it first time off is just fantastic."

In the Regular Army section of the competition, close behind the Aussies were the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, with the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles in third place. Home pride was somewhat restored by Welshmen in the two day Territorial Army event with the Welsh Terriers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, sweeping the board over both successive weekends of the contest.



# Army moves quickly on Cyprus unit 'deficiencies'

SEVERAL measures, including a revision of the command structure and organisation of 9 Signal Regiment, have been taken by the Army since the allegations which led to the Cyprus spy trial came to light in 1984.

Man management deficiencies were identified at the time and have resulted in changes in three specific areas.

- The command structure and organisation of the regiment have been revised.
- Additional officers have been provided, specifically to improve leadership, increase supervision and promote more sport and recreational activities.
- Improvements in conditions of service in 9 Sig Regt, particularly for the younger, single Servicemen, are being implemented. They include an improvement in accommodation and the provision of more recreational facilities.

The Prime Minister's Security Commission report into the affair, just published, contains no major criticisms of state security but does pinpoint weaknesses of man management and inter-Service relations in 9 Sig Regt.

It states that the real weakness in personal security was how little seemed to be known about off duty behaviour of the other ranks in the regiment. Revelations of sexual impropriety and heavy drinking had come as a complete surprise to officers in the unit.

In addition, the Security Commission found a considerable degree of inter-

Service friction in the regiment. This was also noticed by a high level review carried out in May 1984.

It stemmed from relatively minor differences in approach held by the Army and the Royal Air Force in relation to discipline, man management and military training.

As a result of recommendations made two years ago measures are now being implemented to standardise those areas for tradesmen of both Services in the regiment, which, an MoD spokesman said "should remove inter-Service friction in the regiment though doubtless a degree of healthy rivalry will continue."

The Army has welcomed the Security Commission report and is determined that any lessons to have emerged from the

circumstances surrounding the Cyprus spy trial should not be lost on those in authority.

The spokesman added: "The measures taken provide a more effective leadership and management structure which has not only improved the quality of life for Servicemen in the regiment but also allowed the monitoring of off-duty behaviour, particularly of the younger Servicemen."

(Official title of the document is Report of the Security Commission October 1986. Command Paper 9923. It is available from HMSO, price £3.40.)

**Freedom of Blackburn – as shoppers watch**

SATURDAY shopping ground to a halt in Blackburn when Lancashire's county infantry regiment took to the streets to exercise its Freedom.

On parade were men of the 4th Bn (V) The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, home from training in Paderborn, West Germany, and shoppers lined the streets and applauded as they marched past the Mayor, Coun Michael Madigan.

SA80 on parade in BAOR

A WEEK of intense drill with the SA80 rifle by B company of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) preceded the public debut of the new personal weapon in BAOR.

The company provided an escort to the Colours at the dedication of a stained glass window in St Matthew's Church, Werl, near Dortmund, West Germany. Depicting a Royal Scot's piper and soldier, the window will be a lasting memorial to the regiment's presence in the area. It was made at the Edinburgh Arts School.

IRS was the first major unit in Germany to be equipped with the SA80 although only B Coy has so far completed the full conversion course.

Next year the whole battalion will be using the new rifle for annual field firing at Sennelager before taking it for its Canadian debut at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield.

Royal Scots Colour party with the SA80. From left to right are Lt Charles Gibb (Queen's Colour), WO2 Tony Reid, Sgt Jago Spears, 2nd Lt George Lowder (Regimental Colour) and Sgt Rab Butler

Right royal reunion for Green Howards

KING OLAV V of Norway turned the annual reunion of The Green Howards old comrades into a royal event when he fulfilled a long held wish to attend such a gathering.

The 83-year-old monarch, who succeeded his father King Haakon as Colonel in Chief of The Green Howards in 1958, takes a keen interest in the regiment.

He joined 450 past and serving members of the regiment at the annual reunion church service at St Wilfred's Garrison Church, Strensall, near York, and later took the salute at a march past of old comrades before presenting gold and silver awards for long service to the regimental association.

The service was conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Frank Johnston, Chaplain General to the Forces. The band of the 1st Bn The Green Howards provided the music.

King Olav was accompanied by Lord Normanby, Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire; Maj Gen Peter Inge, Colonel of the Regiment; and Mr R Busch, the Norwegian Ambassador in London.

More than 20 branches of the regimental association from all over the country were represented.

TA flexes its muscles on Eternal Triangle

RESERVISTS countrywide flexed their muscle when they were flown to northern Germany to join the 1st Armoured Division for Exercise Eternal Triangle, a major British Army exercise involving 21,000 men.

The ground troops were backed in the Dortmund, Kassel and Paderborn area by 350 tanks, more than 1,000 other tracked vehicles and 90 helicopters and Allied fixed wing aircraft.

Duke bids farewell

AS HIS last official duty during his Hong Kong visit the Duke of Edinburgh inspected men of the 2nd Bn, the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, which is to be disbanded and its men dispersed to other Gurkha units. It was raised in 1982 to deal with illegal immigrants to the Colony from China and the influx of Vietnamese boat people.

St Paul's to have Korean memorial

ANOTHER £15,000 is needed to add to contributions already received for a monument commemorating British Servicemen killed in Korea in 1950-53.

The South Korean government has promised the stone for the monument

which is to be installed in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral in March. Contributions should be sent to: The British Korean War Memorial Fund, Trustee Savings Bank, The Centre, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4AU. All donations will be acknowledged.

by Mouse

MOBB

MACHINE GUN INSTRUCTION

I DON'T KNOW WHY THE OPPOSITION SPEND MILLIONS ON ARMS...

ONE LOOK AT THIS LOT- THEY COULD SAFELY GO BACK TO THE LONGBOW!

8

9



# Sweet Sue signs on with the Dragoons

SHAPELY *Sun* popsie Sue Simmonds has taken time out from Page 3 to become Miss 4th/7th Dragoon Guards.

Scintillating Susie agreed to take on the role after a plea from Cpl Andrew Manning.

Now she has made her debut with the BAOR-based unit and left behind a load of goggle-eyed guys.

Her two-day visit began with a drive in an open Land-Rover led by the regimental band through Hobart Barracks, Detmold, to the

tank park where she chatted with the lads of A Squadron.

They were so overwhelmed they even let her drive a Chieftain tank. Said sweet Sue: "Six arms and four legs would have been most useful."

Then SSgt Charlie Chase took on the job of teaching Sue to fire the 120mm gun simulator.



## Queen's award for Gurkha

THE courage of a young Gurkha rifleman who saved ten of his comrades and the crew of a crashed Chinook helicopter has been recognised with the award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Rifleman Basanta Pun of the 2 Gurkha Rifles, was aboard the aircraft when it crashed in a blizzard into the side of a mountain in the Falklands.

For two hours he treated his injured comrades and the pilot who had a fractured leg and other injuries.

It meant dragging everybody clear of the aircraft and trying to keep them warm until help arrived.

The citation says: "There is no doubt this young rifleman showed throughout the aftermath of the crash and in appalling weather conditions and while suffering from shock, cold and bruising, outstanding devotion to the welfare of the occupants of the crashed helicopter..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Privates Gordon Fletcher (left) and Archie Fulton get to grips with a Soviet AGS-17 grenade launcher.

The young soldiers came across this odd looking weapon when their regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, held a skill-at-arms meet at their Colchester base.

Since the regiment's role is to reinforce BAOR forces, it was considered an opportune time to show them what could be pointing their way from the East.

Both lads joined the Army this year and both are soon to head for the Falklands where they will spend Christmas and the New Year.

"We certainly can't complain that life is dull," said Gordon, who has already completed an operational tour in Northern Ireland.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Look-'n'-learn time for the lads

## Runners help crippled mum walk

THE crippled mother of a soldier serving at Hohne, West Germany, is all set to walk again — thanks to the efforts of his mates in 1 Armd Fd Amb RAMC and their American buddies from 498 Support Battalion.

Seven soldiers have just completed the equivalent of nine marathons in seven days to raise £2,500, enough to top up the shortfall on an appeal to buy computerised walking aids for paraplegic Mrs Diane Jones of Cymbran, Gwent.

Her son, Pte Jim Lewis RAMC, is serving with 1 Armd Fd Amb at Glyn Hughes Barracks in Hohne.

Capt John Thomson, Cpl Alan Glen, Pte Ady Shaw (all RAMC) and SSgt Dave Bugler and Dvr Ace Fyfe (both RCT) teamed up with two US Army runners to complete the 350km from Hohne to Marburg.

## Hon col for AD regt

Col J George Mathieson has been appointed honorary colonel to the newly-formed 105 (Scottish) Air Defence Regiment RA (V).



## GURGLES FOR JIM

WHILE he didn't get any chuckles — just gurgles — from new-born twins Natasha and Natalie Appleton, comedian Jim Davidson raised plenty of laughs when he recorded a CSE Christmas show in Berlin.

But accompanied by his glamorous Thames TV

cast, Jim made sure he saw those who couldn't get to see him by calling at the Berlin military hospital.

There he met Col Sammy Bernstein, hospital CO, who introduced him to the Appleton twins and their proud parents LCpl Appleton of the Glosters and his wife, Susan.



# PINTS FOR PARAS IN THE VC HERO'S BAR

**SERGEANT Ian McKay** VC was the toast of Nottingham at the opening of the refurbished sergeants' mess at Chilwell Barracks.

The redecorated bar was named after the Falklands hero and his widow, Marica and his mother, Freda, were there to help serve guests after unveiling a plaque dedicated to him.

Among the many guests was WO2 Brian Faulkner who fought alongside Sgt McKay on Mount Longdon during the attack in which he won his VC.

*Inset: Sgt Ian McKay.*



**MARICA AND FREDA MCKAY:** first pint in the Sgt Ian McKay bar at Chilwell

## Royal vicar bound for the Falklands

A former international rugby player and assistant chaplain general, Canon Gerry Murphy, is to be the next Rector of Christchurch Cathedral in the Falklands.

Canon Murphy, 60, has been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has had direct jurisdiction over the Falklands since 1977 when the link with the Anglican Diocese in Argentina

was severed.

Currently the Queen's vicar of Sandringham, Canon Murphy is reported as forecasting that "life in the South Atlantic islands will be a dramatic change after Norfolk."

Canon Murphy is married with five daughters and expects to be installed in March by Bishop R. Gordon, Bishop to the Forces.



## PEOPLE

### TOO MUCH PORT!

Perhaps it was an association of ideas... but a story in our last issue told how a general poured port for a steward.

Not so. It was Lt Col Peter Appleby, CO of the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, who was pictured pouring a drink for former Black Watch sergeant and officers mess steward Stanley Groom.

On his retirement Mr Groom had presented the mess with an engraved decanter from which the colonel poured him a port. Then Major General Robert Ward, GOC Western District, presented him with a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for all his good work with the TA and the ACF. Apologies all round and cheers!

### Posties love BAOR posting

For almost all of the year Margaret Carpenter, Joanna Croft, Gillian Etherington, Joanne Morris and Marie Dunn are to be found at their jobs in post offices in the UK.

But two weeks the girls spend as postal assistants with the Royal Navy Reserve.

This year they joined the

Army's 32 Post and Courier Communication Squadron RE to help keep the military mail flowing.

This was the first time the Wrens have been to BAOR for training, but they hope it won't be the last.

"We all want to come back to Germany and work in a BFG post office," they chorused.

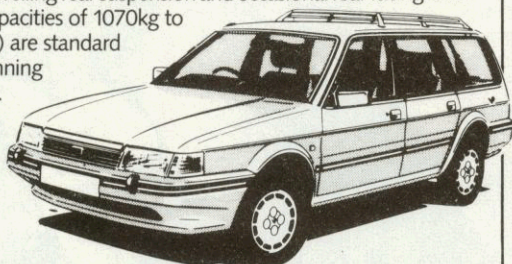




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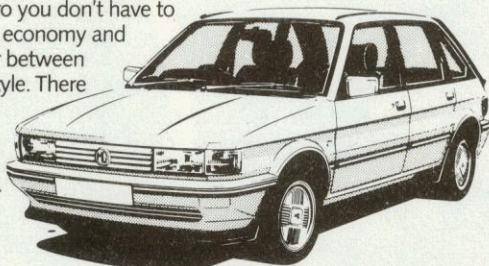
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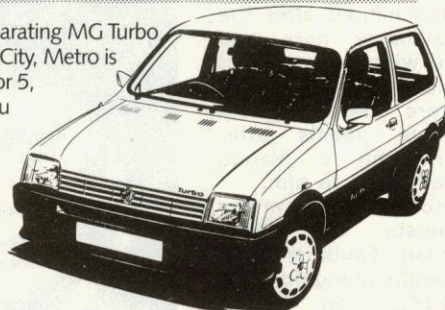
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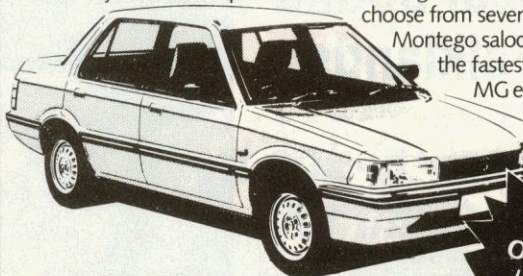
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## Battle of the bones

A British soldier killed during the Battle of Germantown in the American Revolution more than two centuries ago is again at the centre of a skirmish – over who shall bury him and where.

The dispute arose after bones which are believed to be those of a soldier from the Light Company of the 52nd Regiment of Foot were discovered during archaeological research at a construction site in Pennsylvania. The bones, and other artifacts found with them, were cleaned, studied and partially reassembled. But when it came to re-burying, a squabble arose.

The British Officers' Club of Philadelphia, an association of former British and American officers, wanted to bury him in a British section of Northwood Cemetery in Philadelphia.

But the East and West Mount Airy Neighbours' Associations, because the bones were found on their property, wanted the long-dead soldier buried in a Lutheran cemetery just across the street from where he was found.

The local assistant city solicitor apparently suggested the two organisations take the dispute to law and let a judge decide, but neither of the parties seemed keen.

One of **SOLDIER's** American readers suggests the soldier should be accorded a full military burial by the British Army. "A soldier may be unknown but he should never be unmourned, neither by his country nor by his companions-in-arms", he writes.

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

# SOLDIER to Soldier

## VC in news again



Trumpet Major Robert Kells VC, who died in London on April 14, 1905

Following hot on the heels of **SOLDIER's** story (October 20) about the rising price of the Victoria Cross, yet another was being auctioned by Sotherby's this month.

The VC was awarded to Trumpet Major Robert Kells of the 9th Lancers during the Indian Mutiny.

Six other medals awarded to him were also being auctioned and the group was expected to raise between £12-14,000.

Another group of medals and orders being auctioned were 27 awarded to General Sir John Asser of the Dorset Regiment, the man who put down the revolt which was the subject of the recent controversial TV programme *The Monocled Mutineer*.

## POSTAL RATES TO RISE

From the New Year, **SOLDIER** may be costing you more – but please don't blame **SOLDIER**!

If you are a postal subscriber to the magazine, the Post Office's increase in postal rates will mean that the cost of your subscription will rise.

**SOLDIER** will not impose the increase until the first issue of 1987 is distributed, so if you do not have an annual subscription to the magazine, now is the time to take one out, before the price goes up.

The cover price of the

magazine will NOT be rising in the near future. So despite the postal increase, it's still great value.

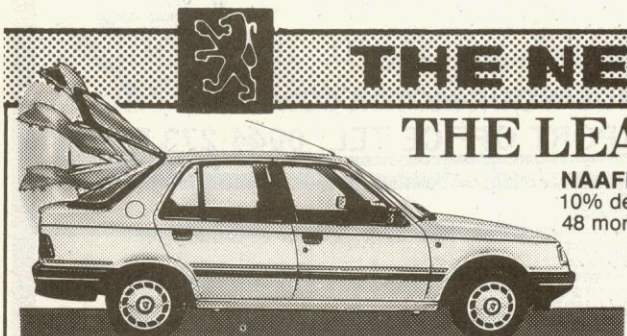
A particularly touching letter of appreciation has just arrived at **SOLDIER** from a lady who is among a group who entertain at homes, hospitals, sheltered housing and suchlike and often comes across ex-Servicemen who have lost touch with the Army.

"These men do not know how to get in touch with their regiment or corps headquarters, and if they are in a mixed home for men and women run by the local council there is

even less of a chance of contact, particularly if their memory is beginning to be impaired and they are disabled," she writes.

"But they are all proud of their Army service, and however bad their memory nine out of ten can still rattle off their Army number."

She recently showed one such man a copy of **SOLDIER**. "If you had seen his face when I placed it in front of him it would have given you real pleasure – and the happiness of the nurses and the Sister as they watched him. I thought to myself 'one journal for one man, and it's made their day!'"



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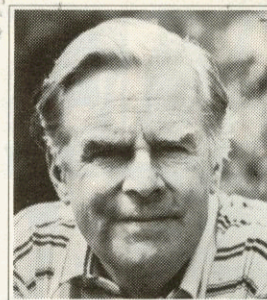
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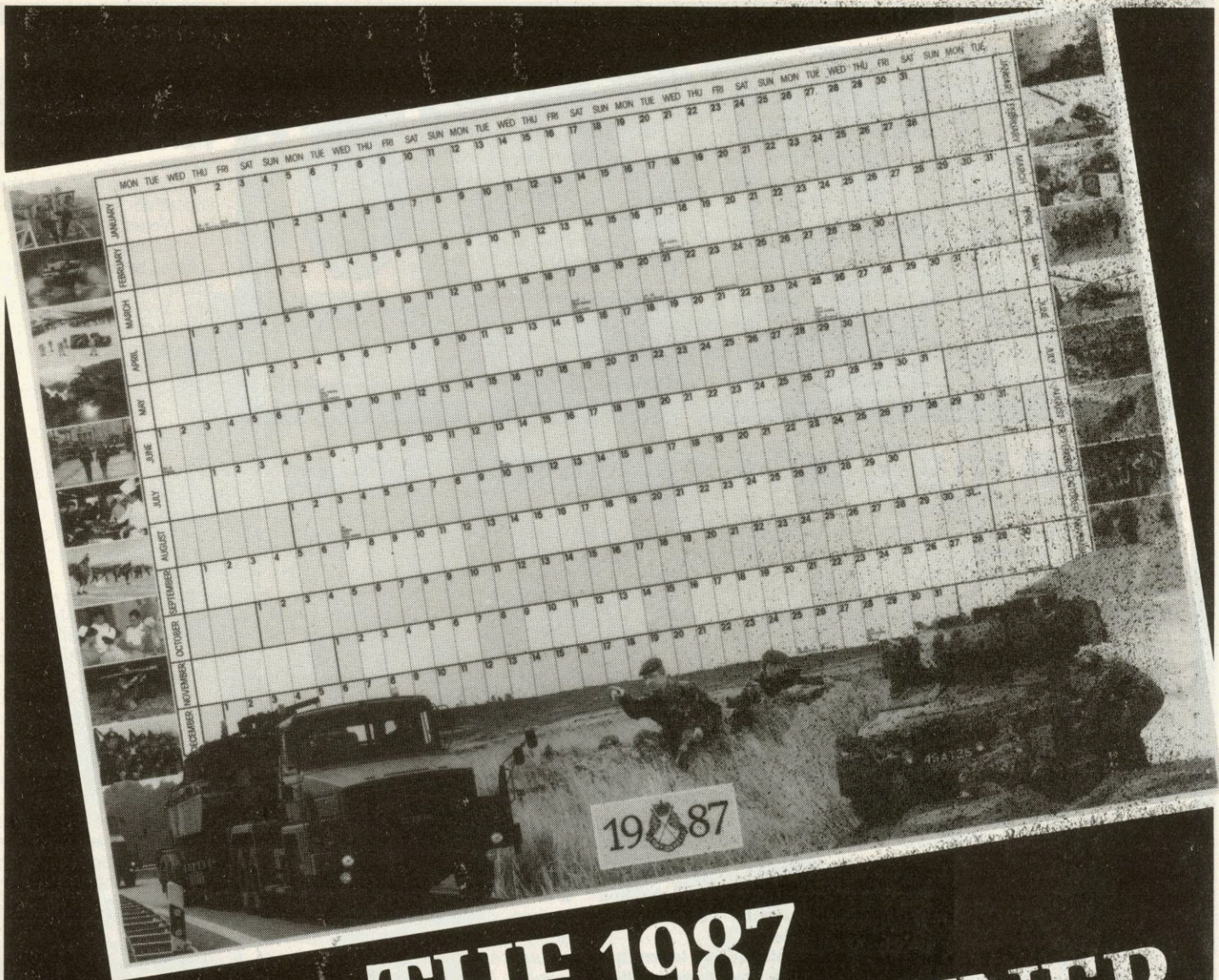
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# THE 1987 ARMY YEAR PLANNER

This year the Directorate of Army Recruiting has produced a Year Planner in place of the Army Calendar. The year planner is designed as a large scale wall chart surrounded by colour photographs of Army equipment and personnel.

It is laminated and features a wipe clean surface which is ideal for marking with chinagraph or sticky tapes and measures 33" x 23" (A1). Biro can also be used but is not removable.

The 1987 Army Year Planner is available direct from Bruce Matthews Limited  
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A3







# ARMY



but the military value of adventurous training stretches far beyond messing about on mountains and in icy rivers

— Report by Robert Higson

**Rhine Army looks to a new era of adventure**

LANCE CORPORAL Alan McGory, from 3 Post and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, Dusseldorf, emerged from the Syrtveit rapids on the River Otra in southern Norway completely soaked, somewhat shaken, but totally convinced.

"Without doubt the most exciting thing I have ever done," he said with feeling. "It is very frightening. You think the water is going to push you over, but once you realise you are in the stopper, it's very exciting."

He had arrived from Germany nearly a week before to take part in a basic canoeing course run by the British Outward Bound Centre, Norway, the climax of which was an encounter with ferocious rapids swollen by heavy rain.

Stopper is the name they give to a trough where the water swirls back on itself, forming an effective trap for any canoe rash enough to come broadside into it. But with a well roped safetyman poised on an adjacent rock to leap in and haul the canoes out, LCpl McGory and his fellow students took turns sliding sideways into the wall of roaring white water.

One onlooker was Maj Anthony Forbes, SG, commandant of the BOBC. It was, he said, a very clear demonstration

FROM NEXT year a new group will be going to Norway to receive the BOBC treatment only in rather greater detail. This group will consist of unit adventurous training officers from Germany for whom a series of biannual course are being planned.

The nomination of a regimental adventurous training officer (RATO) for every unit in BAOR is one of the main initiatives to come out of a new era for AT now being formulated in Germany.

At the request of Lt Gen Sir Brian Kenny, Commander 1 (British) Corps, the GOC 4 Armoured Division, Maj Gen

of one of the most important aspects of adventurous training activities — a sense of achievement.

"You don't feel you've achieved anything," he continued, "unless you've defeated your nerves or your body by doing something you don't want to do or think you can't do. Once you have done it you are over the moon. You think it's fantastic."

Adventurous training is the name given to such officially recognised pursuits as mountaineering, rock and ice climbing, free fall parachuting, gliding, canoeing, caving, sub-aqua, offshore sailing and skiing.



Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, en route to South Georgia, listen to expert advice on rock climbing



2nd Lt Rupert Sutherland, on a short service limited commission with the Royal Artillery, takes his turn in the stopper on the Syrtveit rapids

Michael Hobbs, is overseeing a comprehensive review of equipment and facilities before recommending a new approach. His findings will be presented at a mass gathering of commanding officers in BAOR next spring.

Maj Graeme Cooper, Green Howards, the SO2 G3 Adventurous Training, HQ BAOR, spoke of some of the pressing reasons for change.

"By the year 2000," he said, "with the prospect of British soldiers spending more time in barracks, owing to pressure to keep them off the real estate, we will have a junior leadership problem."

"We will have to train our soldiers out

of barracks and it is quite obvious that one of the main methods of leadership training, at very little cost, is through adventurous training. However, we will have to guard against using the concept as a vehicle for recreational training."

BOBC Norway is a natural source of assistance, particularly in the vital field of training instructors and leaders. The centre actually came into being in 1963 as the 1 (British) Corps Outward Bound Centre, and although it was re-christened in 1971, all its lines of communication and supply stretch across the Skagerrak, down through Denmark and into Germany.

Students from the UK fly into Hanover and travel to Norway by coach and ferry.

In two years BOBC will celebrate its silver jubilee — 25 years in which such activities as clinging to a rock face, rolling a canoe in a stopper, climbing a frozen waterfall, or skiing the Nordic way have moved from the purely recreational towards the mainstream of military training.

According to Maj Cooper, they haven't got there yet. But with a new era for adventurous training being formulated in Germany, they might be nearer than many people imagined.

They may well be regarded as popular pastimes but have, nevertheless, military value by placing demands on mind and muscle outside the scope of normal training, as the war in the Falkland Islands so clearly demonstrated.

As commandant of BOBC, Maj Forbes has plenty of experience spreading the gospel of adventurous training. In his view the best value comes from high quality expeditions when everything from accidents and injuries to conflicts of personality has to be resolved with none of the customary support and protection of the regiment.

There were advantages to be gained from the camaraderie of

shared experience, of the sort that active service often produced, and from the boost to morale that came with a break from humdrum barrack routine.

Above all it was extremely good training, especially for young officers, to get away from the regimental system to see how they could cope on their own.

"Crisis management is what you are doing on active service when you are fired upon, or caught in an ambush or whatever," he said. "Very difficult to simulate in normal military training."

"But when someone is nearly drowning in a stopper while

canoeing, or is caught in a storm on Mount Everest, and you know that if you don't make the right decision they could die or be injured, then you have to look positively for the correct action to be taken. That is where the value of adventurous training lies."

BOBC Norway, is a joint service mountain training centre which offers training in skills and a chance to experience the great outdoors in a rugged and beautiful region that might have been made for the purpose.

It has as its doorstep a spectacular coast, ideal for offshore sailing, and access through the splendid Setesdal

Valley, stretching north of Kristiansand, to everything it requires in the way of rivers for canoeing, rocks for climbing, and vast desolate plateau land for trekking and navigation training.

While LCpl McGory and his canoeing course were tackling the stopper on the River Otra, small groups were navigating the Hardangervidda, the largest track to unspoiled high plateau in Western Europe, to qualify as joint service mountain expedition leaders (JSMEs) or unit expedition leaders.

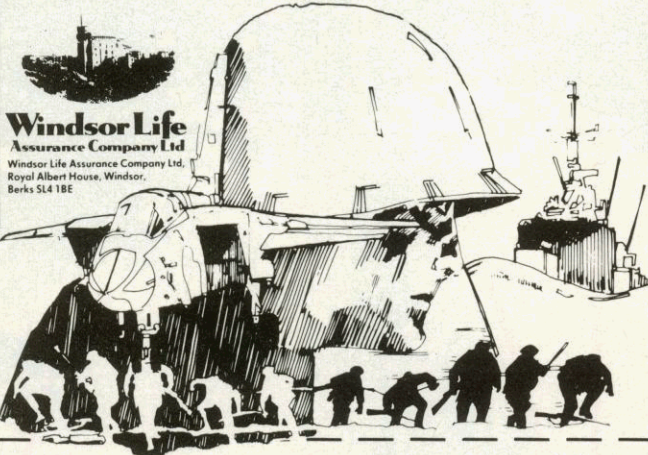
Further north a dozen men from the recce platoon of 1

● Turn to Page 32



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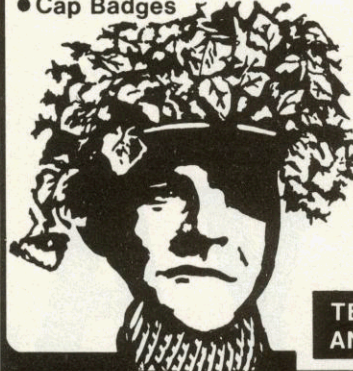
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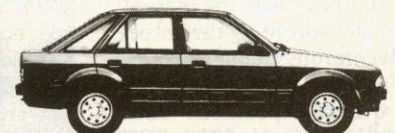
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# FORD FORCE







TOP TEAM: 2nd Lt Peter Wilson (left) and Lt Alan Paramore from Deepcut display their collection of silverware

# CHAMPIONS

TOP CREW in the Army's biggest driving event of the year, which involved 120 Land-Rovers from Britain and Germany, came from the Training Battalion and Depot of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Deepcut, Camberley.

2nd Lt Peter Wilson and Lt Alan Paramore notched up their victory in the Humberside area.

The event - codenamed Exercise Roadmaster - was run by the British Army Motoring Association (UK) to test driving skills, navigational ability and endurance of vehicles and crews.

Crews, including some from the Royal Marines, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, covered a total of nearly 300 miles in 12 hours on public roads and a cross country circuit.

The Deepcut crew was placed top overall, best Regular Army crew and best UK-based Army crew. 2nd Lt Wilson was the best first year navigator.

Second overall crew consisted of Flt Lt Derek Mead, RAF, and SSgt William MacLeod, of the Joint Air Trooping Establishment, RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

## RAOC wins top driving award

Best Territorial Army crew was made up of Capt Alex Anderson and Maj Leslie Horne, of 230 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers) from Edinburgh.

Best Army team from Germany was Maj Graham Fox and Cpl Ian Barley, of 54 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, based at Lubbecke. They were also placed third overall in the event



TOP TA TEAM: Capt Alex Anderson (left) and Maj Leslie Horne from Edinburgh with their trophies

and won first place in the driving skills test.

Best WRAC crew was Cpl Sue Wright and Cpl Donna Myers, of the Army School of Mechanical Transport, Leconfield, North Humberside.

Other results were:

**Overall crew positions** - 4, Sgt Mick Ellicot and Cfn Mark Haley (35 Engr Regt Wksp, Hamelin, Germany); 5, Cpl Derek Harden and Sgt Nick Parry (41 Sqn RCT, Aldershot); 6, Maj Nigel Davies and Maj Ian Lawrence (SEME, Bordon, Hants); 1.

**Novices** - 2, LCpl Brian Crouch and LCpl Graham Heaman (8 Regt RCT, Munster, Germany).

**Beginners** - 1, Capt James Magan and Rfn George Payne (2 RGJ, Warminster, Wilts); 2, Lt Nigel Francis and Cpl Glenn Taylor (9 Fd Wksp REME, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants).

**First BAOR team** - Munster Garrison Motor Sports Club.

Leading Seamen Cliff Bassett and Vince Wingent of RNAS Portland won the award for the most spirited entry. LS Bassett had driven a Land-Rover for the first time just five days before the competition!

**Story: Geoff Kay**  
**Pictures: Roger Keen**



# READY TO FLY . . .

**First fledgling corporal pilots prepare for New Year take off**

FROM January a new species of Army aviation flier will proudly climb into his right hand seat among the Army Air Corps operational Gazelle and Lynx helicopter squadrons in BAOR and the UK. He is the corporal pilot.

Currently, there are nearly two dozen of these 150-hour fledglings being carefully nurtured during 28-week-long flying courses unique to Nato.

Trained at the Middle Wallop-based Army Air Corps Centre, all of the corporal pilots are deemed to share the workload tasks of battlefield flying in the hardening face of tactical complexity.

In the New Year the two-man aircrew partnership will have clearly defined airborne areas of flying responsibility. Both will be fully qualified pilots, and that role will be shared.

Swapping seats will be the aircraft captain – an officer or senior NCO – formerly sitting tenant on the right hand side in his role as the sole pilot.

He slips into the left hand seat while the corporal pilot – among the other aircrew ranks being trained for pilot tasks – takes pride of place on the right.

The captain will still have overall responsibility for all aspects of the rotary winged aircraft's operation. His partner, the "Full Screw" pilot, will concentrate primarily on the flying. He will, in time, replace the Aircrewman (ACM), a role which has called for manning the observation and weapons systems.

ACMs are no longer to be trained but, as always, the Army Air Corps Centre will still be seeking potential pilots from within its groundcrew elements.

Since April, no less than five courses have started. The 23 lance corporals or corporals on them represent seven cap badges. The first two of them pass out next month.

Some of them are academically well-endowed. Others, bereft of educational achieve-

ment. But what they lack, the courses quickly instill!

Yet before any of them gets anywhere near the turbine-powered Gazelle all have to satisfy scrupulous selectors about their flying aptitude. This calls for an initial three weeks and 13 hours flying on any of the Centre's venerable 21 Chipmunk fixed-wing, tandem-seat trainers. It's a system called simply "grading" and one in which about 25 per cent of aspiring aviators fail.

Once they have passed the grading, however, the lucky ones embark on a fortnight's ground school followed by the 26-week long helicopter course. This is broken down into 30 hours and five weeks flying on the Chipmunk and another 120 hours spread over 19 weeks on the Gazelle itself.

Maj Julian Bourne, Army Air Corps, SO 2 Training, says: "We are getting some very sparky young men coming on to our courses. The corporal pilots are trained on Gazelles but some go straight on to the

seven-week Lynx conversion course after getting their wings.

"All of these we select are picked as potential aircraft captains, the corporals included, and the latter have to earn their third stripe the same way as anyone else in the British Army.

"We are probably the only people in the world who will take a lance corporal or acting corporal with no academic qualifications whatsoever and turn him into a competent helicopter pilot."

One of this new breed, the corporal pilot, and one with academic attainment – seven O levels – is Cpl Mark Trougher, 25, a former REME driver. An aspiring aviator, he turned his interest into airborne "driving" when he was serving with 71 Aircraft Workshops, REME.

He could, with luck and persistence, be an aircraft captain – and a sergeant – within three years. After 18 months in BAOR he could return to the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop to

qualify for an aircraft captain's course.

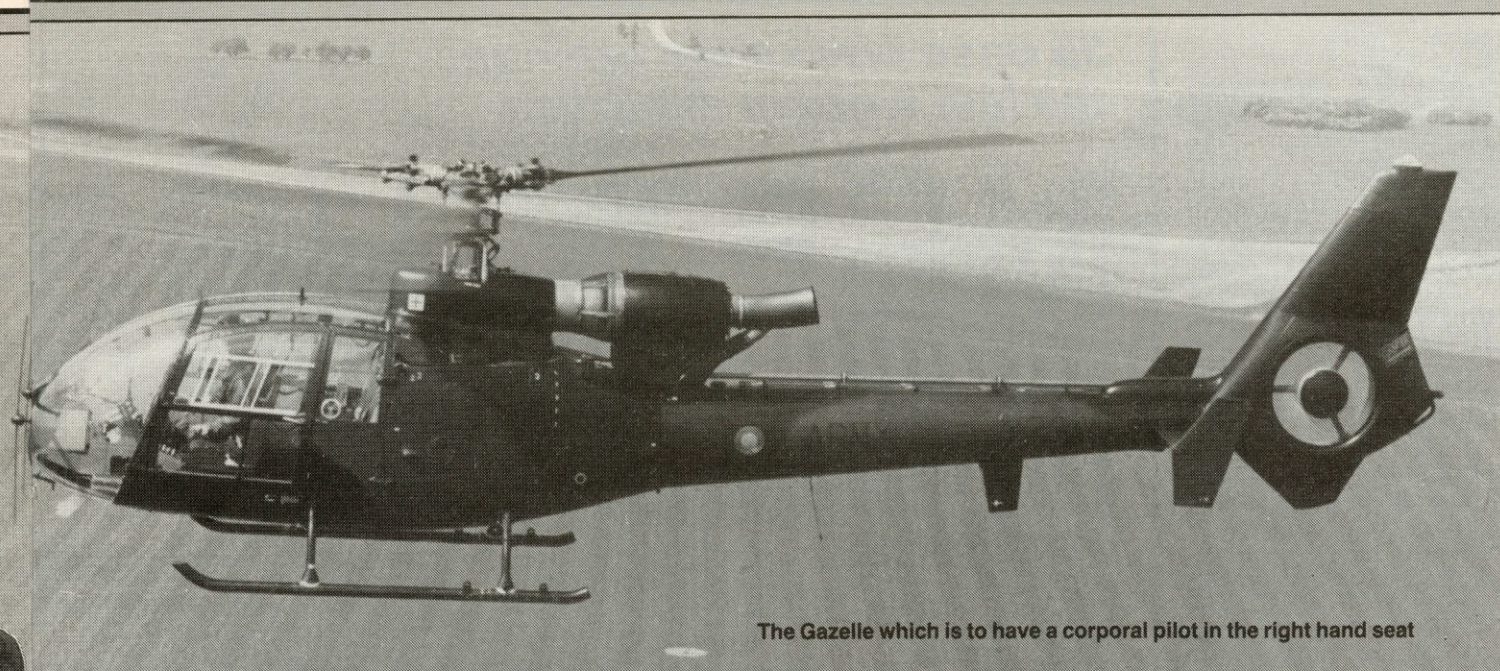
"You need application, a certain technical aptitude – though not too heavy – physical co-ordination and calmness under pressure," he said.

Another corporal pilot is Mark Probert, 24, in the Army Air Corps since 1979 and a former ACM who, until 1982, had spent three years as a ground crewman.

He is on course number 295 which started in June and he hopes to "graduate" in February when, as a corporal pilot, he will be designated a P.2 – in aircrew parlance sharing the flying task with his captain, the P.1.

"I will be flying the Gazelle and talking on the radio mostly," he said, "which makes a change from manning the observation and weapons systems and map reading." His academic achievement is O level English.

His first 60-minute airfield solo was carried out over the



The Gazelle which is to have a corporal pilot in the right hand seat

## Two-pilot crew will free commander to concentrate on his fighting role

Lt Col Doug Fox, staff officer responsible for organisation, deployment and training policy of the Army Air Corps told SOLDIER: "The aircraft commander needs to be freed from his sole responsibility for flying so that he can concentrate on 'fighting his machine' and is in the proper position to exercise effective com-

mand, using the aircraft's communication, observation and weapon systems while retaining the ability to resume flying control when necessary.

"He will direct the pilot, who will be in the right hand seat and who will be responsible for flying the aircraft. The two-pilot crew will be better able to contend with the cockpit

workload resulting from continuous low-level flight in intensive or protracted operations, in NBC conditions, at night and in adverse weather and hence will be able to continue the mission and survive.

"Flight safety will be improved because the pilot will concentrate primarily on flying whereas

today's pilot must divide his attention between flying and command.

"The corporal pilot will gain his tactical expertise under the tutelage of the aircraft commander. This will ensure they receive a sound grounding in all-arms tactics gained from practical experience before appointment as commanders."

airfield after just ten hours' tuition. He said he expected to carry out about six hours' night flying.

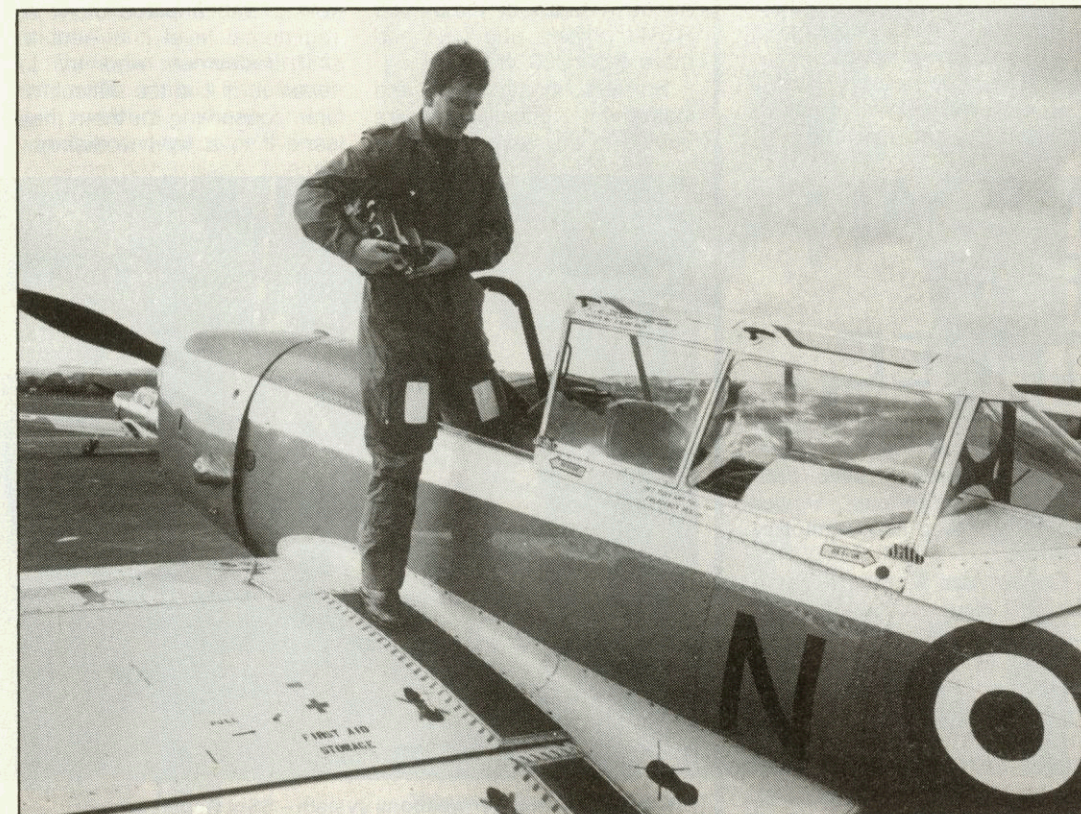
Another budding corporal pilot is 30-year-old Paul Bremner, of the Royal Hussars, a one time VW salesman, PTI at Catterick, signals instructor with the "Cherrypickers" and a Scorpion recce troop member with his regiment at Falling-bosel.

On course number 296 and hoping to pass out next March, he said: "It's fun but there are days when it's really hard. You feel like jacking it all in but, on other days, it can be brilliant."

The first two dozen corporal pilots are already in the system. More will doubtless be needed. Veritable junior NCO "soldiers of the air."

Details of the revised applications and selection procedures are set out in AGI Chapter 43 and Annex M to Chapter 48.

**Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Terry Champion**



Cpl Mark Trougher steps into a Chipmunk trainer



## Brian beats storm for poppy appeal

LCPL Brian Holland battled against high winds and heavy rain to complete a 90-mile trans-Pennine marathon in 24 hours and five minutes.

Brian, a storeman with the 14th/20th King's Hussars based at Cambrai Barracks, Catterick Garrison, had been aiming to complete the sponsored run in under 24 hours. But he was foiled by the elements and did superbly well to get as close as he did to his target.

The British Legion's Poppy Day appeal will benefit by more than £450 from Brian's long distance effort, which took him from Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire to Denton, Manchester.

★ ★ ★

**Minden Garrison**, West Germany, has presented cheques worth DM16,000 to the old and disabled of Minden and to the Imperial War Museum redevelopment appeal.

The money was raised at the Minden massed bands display in the summer.

**35 Base Workshop provides the last word in expertise**

# MEET THE MENDERS!

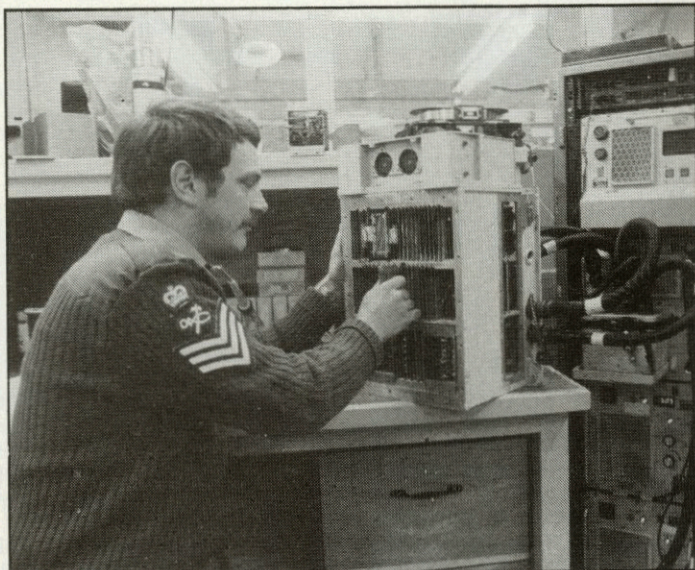
BY THE time a lorry load of parts reaches 35 Base Workshop REME they will undoubtedly have frustrated the efforts of a chain of engineers to repair and reassemble them.

The workshop is one of three in Britain whose role at the end of the Army repair chain is to mend and maintain equipment otherwise beyond the scope of unit tradesmen and field workshops whose facilities for repair are limited.

Stationed at Old Dalby near Nottingham, 35 Base Workshop utilises the latest technology to service electronics equipment, weapons systems, radar systems and both tracked and wheeled vehicles.

The unit has been at Old Dalby since 1942, when it was known as 5 Central Workshop, and is now commanded by Col Roger Holdsworth who heads a team of almost 60 REME officers and men and more than 300 civilians.

Soldiers, mostly radar and instrument technicians, are posted to the workshop for a



You have got to know what you are doing – SSgt Paul Marr unravels more digital mysteries

two or three year tour.

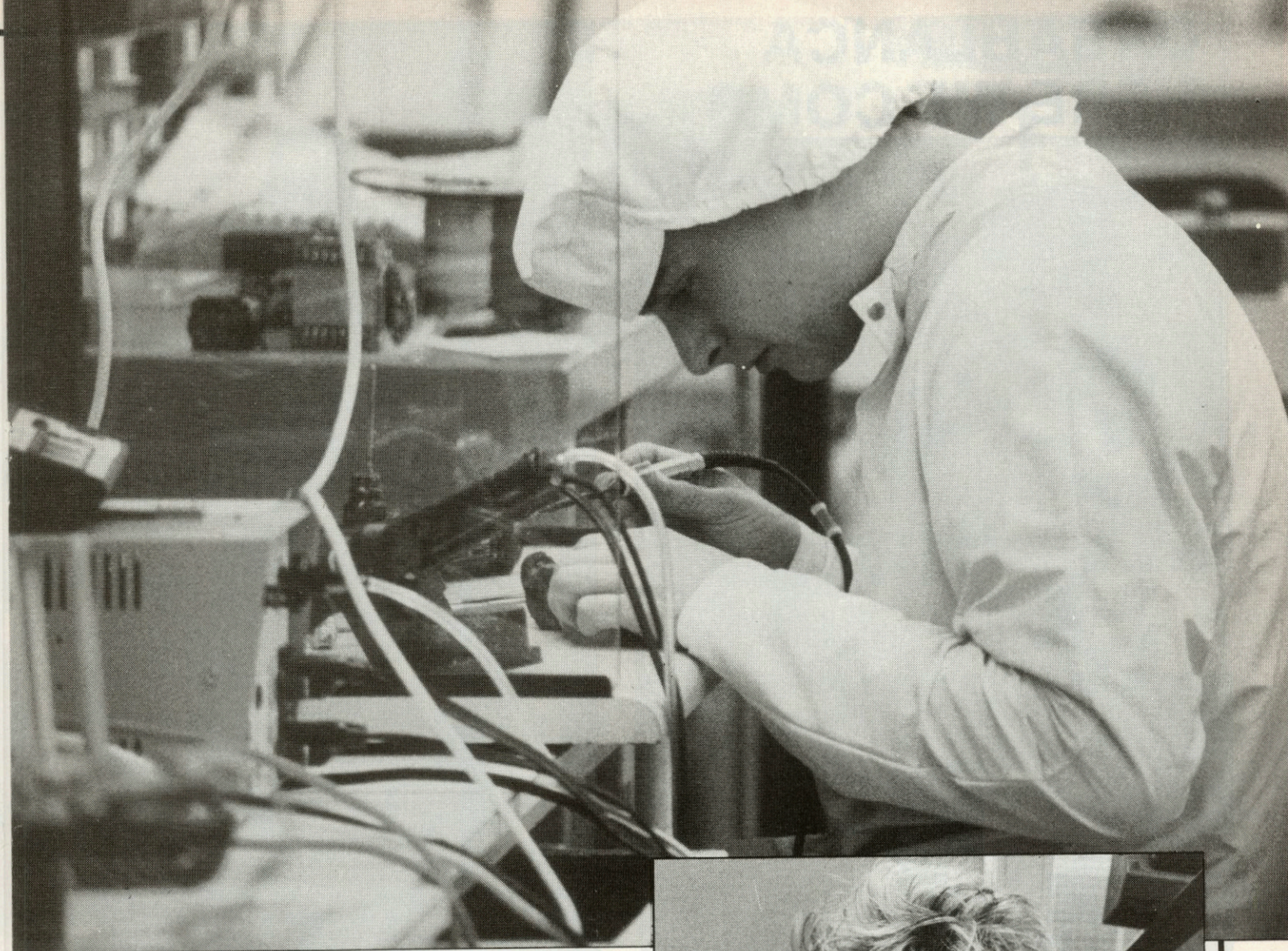
The buck stops firmly with them. If something goes wrong with a piece of kit at regimental level it is sent to unit tradesmen who try to repair it. If it is too difficult or time consuming for them they send it to a field workshop.

If it is beyond the facilities of the field workshop the item is replaced and the unusable equipment sent to 35 Base Workshop whose job is to ensure its return to the pool of equipment – in working order!

The scope of facilities available is varied, and the



Working on a Striker weapons system – SSgt Robert Hancock



No dust in this room – a technician at work in a 'clean air' environment

unit is capable of making repairs to laser, thermal imaging, and infra-red equipment, to printed circuit boards and onwards to large scale modification of tracked vehicles and the repair of surveillance drones.

The unit is sometimes the sole repair agency for some of the more specialised equipment and a lot of the computer assisted test equipment is one-offs. No one else, apart from the manufacturer, is capable of repairing some of the items they handle.

Tracked vehicles, APCs and the like, enter the workshop and are stripped down almost to the last bolt, chemically cleaned, refurbished, and sent back out as good as new.

There are special "clean" areas where the air is combed for dust particles by a massive filtration plant. Dust can play havoc with gyro and laser systems.

A specialist calibration unit assesses precise mechanical and electronic measurements for adoption by the rest of the

Army. They can measure a volt to within two micro-volts – two millionths of a volt – and an inch to within four millionths of an inch.

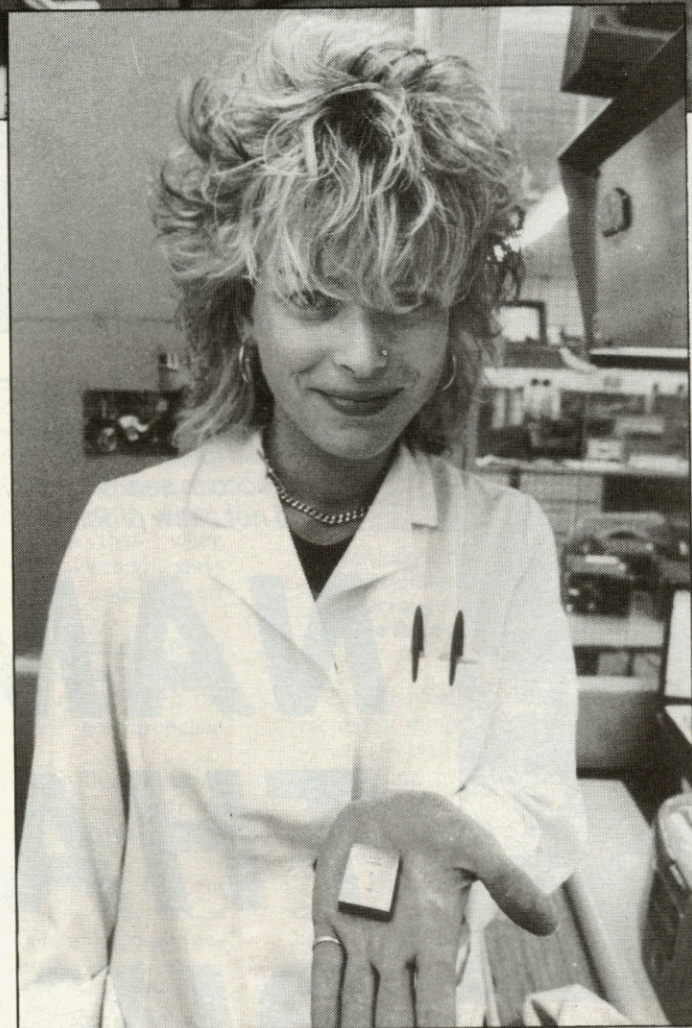
There are workshops at the station for support trades such as welders, sheet metal workers and carpenters, most of whom are civilians. The unit offers 15 civilian engineering apprenticeships each year, mostly in electrics.

As part of an amalgamation programme, 33 Central Workshop is moving from nearby Newark to Old Dalby where it will continue to specialise in the repair of most of the Clansman combat net radios used by all three Services.

Sgt Ernie Woodhouse, REME, instrument technician, told SOLDIER: "I find the work very satisfying because we go down to a far greater level of detail here than with a front line unit and you can get more of an insight into the workings of a system."

**Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones**

**Pictures: Terry Champion**



This is as near perfect an inch as you will find – civilian technician Miss Karen Longley

## MEDALS FOR THREE

Three recruiters in the north west, who obviously practise what they preach, have been awarded Meritorious Service Medals for long and exemplary service.

Col Sgt Alan Wheeler works in the St Helens ACIO, Staff Sgt Christopher Ward runs the smallest ACIO in the country at Lancaster – "It's probably taller than it is wide", he said – and Staff Cpl Henry Miller is at Wigan ACIO. Staff Cpl Miller left his local pit to join the Life Guards, and spent five years on ceremonial duties.



# CASABLANCA HERE WE COME



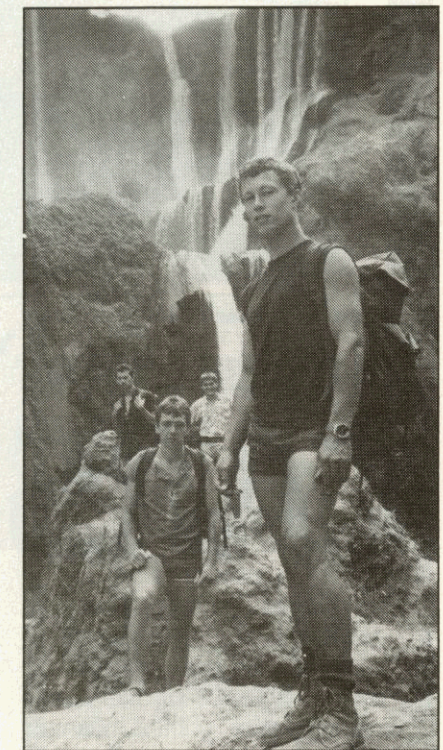
Well done! Rgr Nigel Bell draws a bucketful



Taking the desert air are (front left to right) Rgr Paul Huniford, Cpl Doc Doherty, Rgr Ian McQuilty, Rgr Bill McMaster and Cfn Ian Stark. In the background are expedition leader Lt Jonathan Piggins and Rgr Billy McCall (on the camel)



"Play it again, Billy!" Rgr Billy McCall and penny whistle on the way to Casablanca



Morocco is not all desert, as Rgr Paul Huniford (foreground) and other rangers found during a stop at the Cascades d'Ouzoud

Col Sgt Leo Callow of 2 Royal Irish Rangers tells with words and pictures how 12 Irishmen took the road to Morocco in search of adventure, fun and not a few problems . . .

## NAME THAT DUNE!

IT WAS a simple order. The sort every soldier likes: "Take 11 men, £1,500, a map with a planned route, two Land-Rovers and disappear into North Africa for a fortnight."

Col Sgt Leo Callow of 2 Royal Irish Rangers was one of that lucky lot when the battalion swapped with 1 Queen's for a six-week stint on Gibraltar.

For 1 Queen's it was six weeks of training in the UK. For 2 RIR it was the usual round of guards and ceremonial, plus good times over the border and, for a lucky dozen, 14 days of adventure travel in Morocco – land of camels, sun, sand, flies and the traditional fez.

And apart from a £10 medical insurance premium paid by each of the 12, it didn't cost them the price of a North African fig.

Because in addition to taking on the more irksome tasks of the resident outfit, they also took on their perks.

And Exercise Spring Run, which takes place ten times a year, was just one of the bonuses to come the way of team leader Lt Jonathan Piggins, 24, and his 11 lucky would-be explorer companions.

"It was the trip of a lifetime," said Leo

Callow. "We covered more than 2,000 miles and certainly fulfilled the aims of the venture which are to develop leadership and initiative and learn something of the culture of Morocco.

"We also learned that Customs officers at Morocco ports are not like they are at Dover (where 2 RIR are based). There was no 'please open your boot, sir.'

"Instead they said: 'We're now going to dismantle your Land-Rover.' And they did.

"It took 2½ hours by ferry from Algeciras, the port next door to the Rock, to Tangier and five hours to get through Customs. That was a good lesson in itself.

"They wanted to open every tin of food we had. But we got away with the goulash intact as we convinced them it was Russian foot powder.

"The police, too, while not exactly troublesome, stopped us at least three times a day.

"Fortunately Lt Piggins and myself speak French – he used to teach English in Paris – so we managed to answer all their questions.

"It's as vital to have someone who can

speak the lingo as it is to have a cook, mechanic and a medic in the party.

"We soon learned, too, to fill the vehicles with fuel in towns as petrol stations are few and far between in the countryside and seem constantly closed.

"We also discovered that using recognised camp sites for overnight stays was preferable to sleeping under desert stars without tents.

"We were told it hadn't rained for seven years and opted for an outdoor night. But the luck of the Irish went sour when the heavens opened and we got drenched through.

"There is always the possibility of being robbed, too. Sleeping outside a camp site is risky. You could wake and find yourself stripped!

"Booze is cheap and weak, but not freely available. But this was not a drinking spree, but a look 'n' learn journey through a country new to all of us.

"And now we learned. Especially about food. Seeing how meat was left hanging in the sun, where the flies promptly ate most of it, was enough to turn most of us vegetarian.

"But charcoal was cheap and chickens a fraction of the price in UK supermarkets. So we ate well, if only once a day.

"Haggling over the price of food was half the fun and helped our cash go a little further. But a glimpse of a bottle of whisky worked wonders with our bartering."

Said Leo, now back in Dover: "We did eat out a number of times and of course we had the inevitable chips. But instead of being served in the usual way they came in the biggest ashtray I've ever seen. They had nothing else to serve them in. Yes, it can be said we learned a lot about North Africa. It was fantastic. The trip of a lifetime."



Expedition chef Pte Bill Mason cooks a pan of wild figs



Part of the MWF  
tool box – a heavy  
duty drill



# New HQ for trouble shooting sappers

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Testing a concrete sample – Cpl Stephen  
Wilkes tries out the new stone crusher

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MICRO-CHIP technology abounds in the Royal Engineers' spearhead Military Works Force whose move to a new headquarters looks likely to give the already highly professional engineering consultancy service a welcome boost.

The little known but very mobile Military Works Force (MWF) – whose trouble-shooting specialist role has taken them across the globe – have been uprooted from their base at Barton Stacey, Hampshire, and moved to Chilwell Camp near Nottingham.

Their move northwards, precipitated by the running down of Barton Stacey which was built in the 1930s as a temporary camp, has meant an upgrading of facilities available to the MWF and the development of laboratories equipped with the latest computer technology.

Formed in 1978, the MWF has its origins in 1959 when, despite the responsibility for most Army works services being passed from the RE to the then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, the corps retained responsibility for areas where a civilian organisation was unable to operate because of military action.

In 1965, as a result of experience in Borneo and South Arabia, it was decided to form specialist units which could plan and organise works throughout the world and it is from these teams that the MWF evolved.

Main role of the unit is to provide an engineer consultancy service for the Forces in the field. In wartime the priority task would be to support British Forces in Europe, establishing military works areas where necessary.

In peacetime the unit carries out engineering studies, design, and project management for the Armed Forces, the Property Services Agency of the Department of the Environment and other government agencies and comes under the command of HQ 12 Engineer Brigade.

A hallmark of the MWF is the high level of expertise among personnel, a large proportion of whom are officers and warrant officers with professionally recognised qualifications and university degrees.

Surveyors, draughtsmen and technicians are drawn to the MWF which is one of the tours available to soldiers in the RE. "It is a very attractive choice for anyone with an engineering bent," said Maj Dave Davies.

Once they have been posted to the MWF they might find themselves attached to one of a variety of teams including Works, which are the main design and planning units, Bulk Petroleum, who provide expertise in bulk fuel installations, and Well Drilling, which is responsible for drilling for water worldwide.

Teams in the field are backed up at Chilwell by technical support including a

● The SOLDIER visit to Chilwell Camp coincided with the presentation of medals to members, past and present, of the MWF. Military Service Medals were presented to WO2 Jim Shaw and former WO2 Mr John Atkinson. LS and GC medals were presented to SSgt Paul Donner, SSgt Joe Goble, Cpl Terry Bundy and former WO1 Mr Brian Baggerley.

cell which provides a full materials procurement service worldwide; an estimating department responsible for checking and collating estimates of cost, labour and materials; a report production cell which publishes all engineering reconnaissance and planning reports; a computer unit which supports the work of survey and design teams; and a newly opened construction materials laboratory.

Purpose of the laboratory is to obtain and test soils and construction materials from sites under development.

Design and supervision tasks have taken MWF teams across the world on projects as varied as bridge building in Canada and Norway, designing a power station on St Helena, a water tower in Kenya and re-designing a jetty at South Georgia.

The Falkland Islands have been a regular MWF posting since 1982. There they have been instrumental in designing the Mount Pleasant airfield, laying an offshore fuel pipeline, building accommodation and planning radar installations.

The MWF were involved in the

planning of Operation Corporate from the beginning. Just four days after the invasion of the islands by Argentina a reconnaissance party from the force was on Ascension Island to assess what was needed to transform it into a vital forward military base.

Typical of the challenges they face and the scope of their skills is a project currently in the planning stage for a new Gambian army barracks, where they are faced with designing and siting 122 structures plus power, water, drainage and sewage networks, roads, fences and gates.

Tales of problems faced on the field in far-flung locations are many, varied and often amusing. Recruitment of local labour and its attendant problems is a popular theme, as is the purchase of local material and the need to straighten out warped timbers before use and having to lay concrete at night because of the heat encountered during daylight hours. All in a day's work for the MWF.

The move to Chilwell has been well received by the unit and the contagious enthusiasm of all who work there was best summed up by one man who said: "We are going to be one of the foremost civil engineering testing houses in the country – you can't help but find the work interesting."

Story: Mervyn Wynne Jones  
Pictures: Paul Haley

## Home Service Force flexes its muscles

HOME Service Force personnel must now flex their military skills at least once a year in a field exercise.

A review of the HSF earlier this year pointed out the necessity for such a training programme and typical of the type of exercise they can now look forward to was one just run by Western District.

Dubbed Exercise Western Express, the weekend exercise started at Swynnerton Camp near Stone, Staffordshire, on the Friday night and finished on the Sunday with the Home Defenders guarding exercise key points at Shawbury, Tern Hill and Swynnerton.

### BROKEN ANKLE

Typical of the modern volunteers was Gordon Chadwick from Oswestry, who, despite a broken ankle and torn ligaments four months ago, was determined to turn out with his HSF company.

Gordon was awarded the BEM during his Regular service with the Royal Artillery in Germany.

Keith Hughes is the sergeant major of F Company, HSF at Worcester. Although he only has to complete six days obligatory and four days voluntary training for his £115 tax free bounty, he finds himself doing a lot more as he feels that he should be there when members of his company come in for training.

Bill Kelly worked for Royal Spode Porcelain at Worcester, was in the Lancashire Fusiliers for 11 years and joined the HSF as soon as it started four years ago.

Then there are men like Brian Crook from Bromsgrove who was in the RAF for three years, Clive Powell from Droitwich who was five years in the Queen's Own Hussars, and David Davies from Malvern, six years with the Worcester Foresters.

### BIGGER MIX

An even bigger mix of experience was found in D Company from Shropshire. In one section was Ralph Hickman, now running a hotel at Walcot, he served for seven years in submarines, Mike Shepherd from Market Drayton had 22 years with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, John Bloor, a carpenter from Muxton served seven years in the Royal Marines and Martin Streames from Ketley Bank was in the RAF for four years.

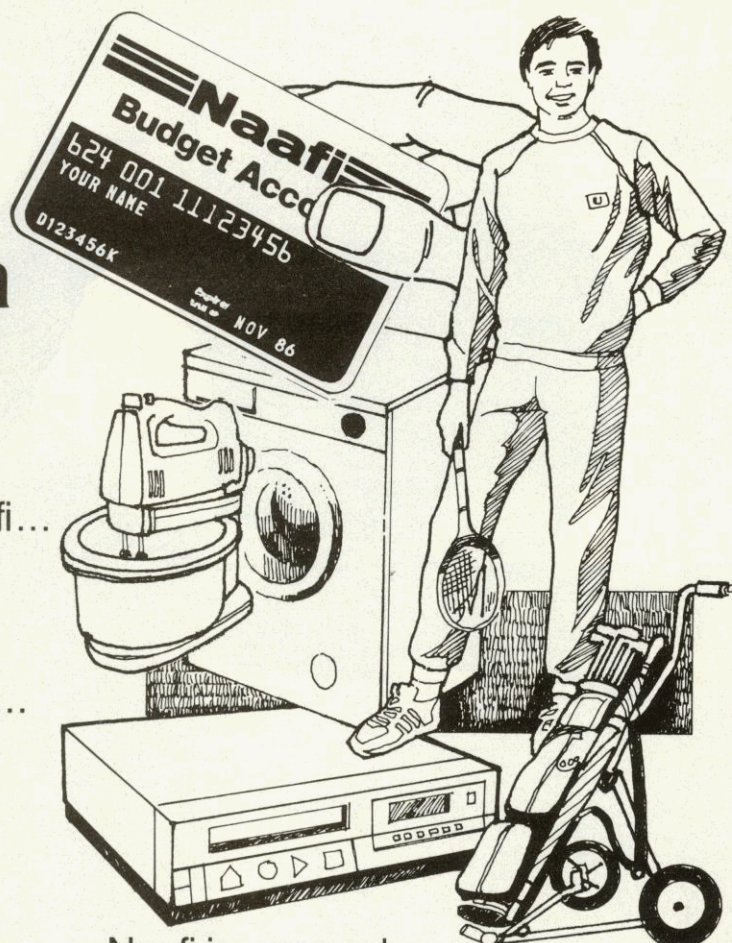
The exercise was planned and run by 143 Infantry Brigade.



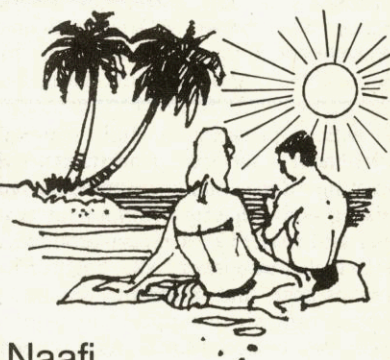
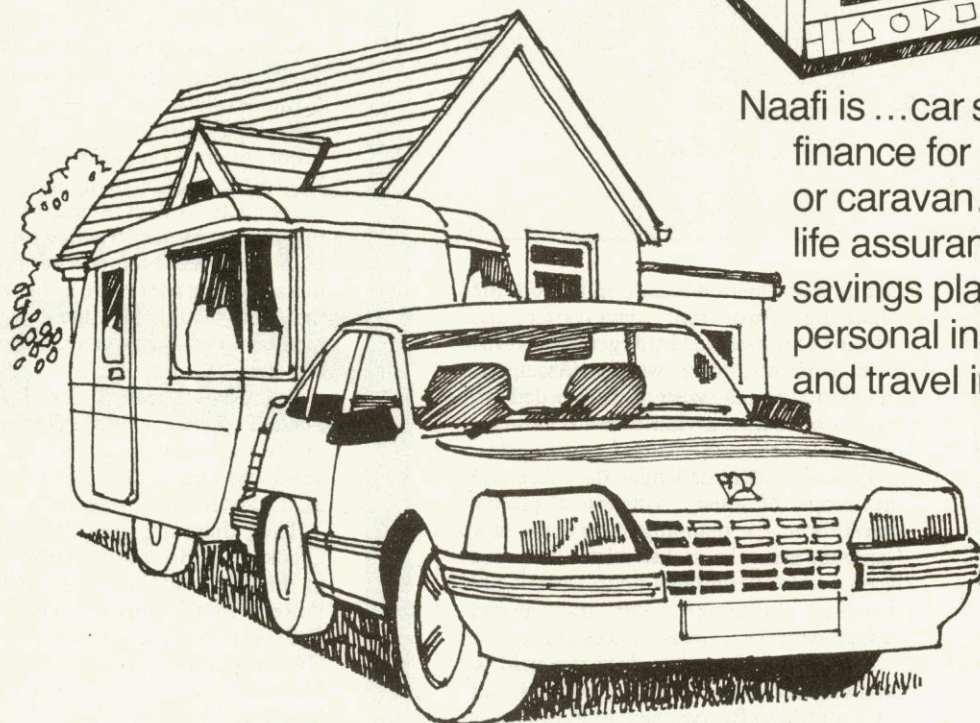
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# Scarlet Lancers meet the German press

GERMAN pressmen saw red when they visited Tidworth, Hampshire, to quiz the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers about their forthcoming posting to Herford in Westphalia, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

Not because they were angry but because the 16th/5th – living up to their nickname of the Scarlet Lancers – donned their ceremonial scarlet tunics for the occasion.

The Germans, all representatives of newspapers published in the Herford district, were over at the invitation of the 4th Armoured Division who suggested they might like to meet the men who are to be their neighbours for the next five years.

An idea unique to 4 Div, commanded by Maj Gen Michael Hobbs, it came hard on the heels of similar and very successful public relations visits by German press to two other units being transferred to Germany.

Maj Robin Steel, accompanying the reporters and photographers on their visit, told SOLDIER: "It is something we are trying to set in concrete for BAOR as a whole. It is an opportunity to forge first links between the town, the newspapers and the regiment."

Herr Hartmut Brandtmann, of the Neue Westfälische, said: "The island mentality and attitude of the British soldier is one of the biggest problems, especially some-

Fanfare trumpeters of the Scarlet Lancers greet the German press in style



Picture: Terry Champion

where like Herford where the garrison tends to be an island within the city anyway.

"We have enjoyed ourselves here and I am looking forward to telling my readers about the 16th/5th Lancers. My message to your soldiers is to go out and meet the local people. Westphalians are warm-hearted people and Herford is an old town well known for its culture."

Herr Dieter Schneeberg, of the Herforder Kreisblatt, said: "This is the first time this has been done in Herford

and it is a very good idea because Herford people know little about the soldiers and equally the soldiers do not know enough about the area they are moving to.

"It has been very useful but I do find it remarkable that you have all this tradition, regimental silver and so on and that you can pack it all up in boxes and recreate the whole atmosphere again somewhere else.

"I am astounded that so few of the men knew anything about where they were going but it seems they are all looking forward to it."



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● From Page 19

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, based in Colchester, were on their way to the Jotunheim ranges, Norway's highest mountains, for some experience on glaciers before leaving for a four month tour in South Georgia.

Other soldiers, mainly from BAOR, were taking advantage of the many special expeditions which BOBC clears, equips and supplies. A group from 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, Minden, was sailing the coast in the centre's gaff-rigged Cornish Shrimpers, while a party from 2 Light Infantry, Deilinghofen, was doing the same thing in sea-going canoes.

Six men from 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, Münster, were on a 130km mountain trek across the Hardangervidda, and similar groups, from 3 Royal Horse Artillery, Paderborn, and 4 Armoured Workshop, Detmold, were doing a combined trekking and canoeing expedition which was due to conclude with the navigation of the 40km long Byglandsfjord and a sea passage back to the BOBC base on the Isefjarsfjord near Kristiansand.

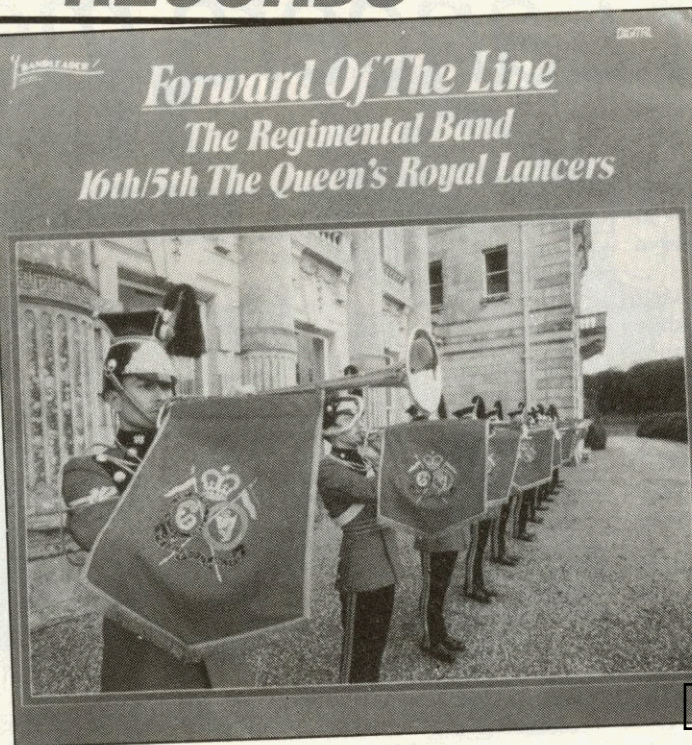
A sub-aqua team from 1 Armoured Division Signal Regiment, Verden, was based at Isefjarsfjord itself, diving on a number of wrecks, some of aircraft from the Second World War.

In winter, of course, the whole area provides matchless opportunities for skiing expeditions and for ice climbing on countless frozen waterfalls.

British Forces are lucky to have access to what must be the best adventurous training ground in Western Europe. They are also fortunate, according to Maj Forbes, in being actively encouraged to undertake adventurous expeditions. No other country, he said, sends expeditions all over the world to such an extent.

Those going to Norway get the message loud and clear. With a JSME qualification they can go literally anywhere in the world, below the snowline, at the head of their own expeditions.

When students arrive at the BOBC mountain training centre at Gaustad they receive a comprehensive rundown from Capt Nigel Williams, Royal Hampshire, the chief instructor, on everything they need to do to get their own expeditions off the ground.



## A pleasant little number

**FORWARD OF THE LINE** Band of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers. Conductor: Bandmaster G O Jones

AS WITH all good cavalry records we are off to a fanfare by the trumpeters, who are members of the band whether they play a brass instrument or not, a centuries-old thorn in the bandmaster's side, writes **Rodney Bashford**.

At least he does not have to attend riding school nowadays!

Two marches by Mr Jones, one for marching and another for concert use, auger well for his future as one of those bandmasters who keep the march repertory alive and well; they are *Forward of the Line*, in recognition of the role played by an armoured reconnaissance regiment, and *Victory Salute* written for the 40th anniversary of VE Day.

Three other marches are Duthoit's classic *Staffordshire Knot*, the *Schoenfeld March*, and another by Mr Jones which doesn't live up to its title *Thundering Guns*. *Scorpion* is a piece by Cy Payne, named after the military vehicle and carrying little in the way of sting.

The side ends with *Scarlet and Green*, the regimental march.

The themes from the TV

shows *The A Team* and *Black Beauty* (Gallop Home) give a rousing start to the light music section, and are offset by an emotive setting of the old English tune *Polly Oliver* by John Root. The fine old melody *Misty* by Erroll Garner, played as a trombone solo by Cpl Mick Chesterton, serves the same purpose between the rumbustious theme from *Rocky* and the carnival roisterings of *Mardi Gras*.

Of the many finales to tattoos, concerts, and gramophone records, usually in the form of an evening hymn incorporating Last Post, two which are more up-market and popular in style are *High on a Hill* and the one included here by Jack Dorsey called *Sunset Salute*, not to be confused with *Sunset*.

This one is based on the American call Taps, and makes a pleasant trumpet solo when played with style, as here. In fact the whole programme is pleasant, if a little tentative here and there, but everything possible is achieved with the size of band allowed us in these times of economy.

● **From Bandleader**, 7 Garrick St, London WC2 9AR, price £5.60 inclusive, or from dealers.

## How the Army keeps a State of balance

THERE MAY have been some periods of tension between senior politicians and military chiefs during the few hundred years after Cromwell, but there has not been a power struggle between civilian and soldier.

Other nations may convert quickly, and bloodily, from civilian to army rule, but in Britain there are constraints that prevent headstrong confrontation. The Army is the servant of the State, not a contestant for overall control.

Yet, especially in war, there have been times when politicians, and even a single outstanding statesman, have wittingly or unwittingly begun to take over too full a control of Army affairs.

The British system and the dovetailing of military and civilian offices and committees have prevented any takeover, albeit in one or two cases after a worrying period and some personal anguish and frustration. Churchill himself almost went too far.

First of these half dozen essays in *Sword and Mace* reviews the period from Waterloo to the Curragh "mutiny" of 1914 when some officers "apparently sought to dictate government policy."

The second essay follows the evolution of command and control in peacetime. The third details the central direction by politicians and military chiefs in wartime, with special reference to events of 1940-41 when the news from all theatres was bad and Churchill was exercising considerable and growing personal influence.

Other chapters consider the Army and the local community - Aldershot is taken as a case study - military aid to the civil authorities, and public opinion. There is much here for thought, much that is normally taken for granted, but that could, and perhaps should, be given some platform for discussion. - GRH

● **Sword and Mace** edited by John Sweetman. Published by Brassey's. Price £18.50.



A man of the men: The then Maj Gen George Patton inspects the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC at Bovington

## SHINING TALE OF THE NINTH

IN COMMON with personal memoirs, there is always a danger of histories of smaller military formations - below, say, divisional level - being of interest only to those who were intimately connected with the events described and the individuals mentioned.

In writing *The Shiny Ninth*, Murray Gillings was obviously aware of the potential trap and set out to achieve a balance between a subjective and objective approach.

Not only has he used his considerable wealth of experience as an officer in the battalion, he has drawn on the memoirs of others of all ranks and has placed the role of the 9th in the context of the military situation at any given time.

This, of course, is the optimum formula for any smaller formation but it is remarkably difficult to achieve a narrative without introverted praise or criticism. By avoiding the pitfall the author has produced one of the most readable of battalion histories

● **The Shiny Ninth: 9th Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment 1940-1946** by Murray Gillings, published by the Pinwe Club, available from Capt F J Powell, Sunnycroft, 631 Southleigh Road, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7TE.

to be published for some years.

The 9th Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment was raised in the aftermath of Dunkirk by Lt Col (later Field Marshal) Gerald Templer, whose pithy and humorous comments have been drawn on as part of an illuminating description of an army formation in the making.

The battalion's initial role was as a component in the defence of East Anglia but following the great tank battles in the Western Desert, the battalion was converted to armour in 1942 but was reconverted to Combined Operations on arrival in India.

However, there were insufficient landing craft for this role to be sustained and it was as infantry that the battalion was

in action from January 1944 until May 1945, first in Arakan and then in North Burma with the 72 Brigade of the 36th Division.

It was at Pinwe and at the Shweli River that the 9th Battalion won the last battle honours earned by the regiment. But these demanding actions were not the end of the road for the 9th before being disbanded, or "wasted-out", in 1946.

For after Operation Zipper, with 30,000 armed Japanese soldiers on the loose and well organised Chinese communist guerrillas making their presence felt, the Shiny Ninth virtually controlled the whole of North West Malaysia from Penang to the Thai border before the arrival of the British civil administration.

The one regret in reviewing the book is that because of its subject it is unlikely to attract a wider readership than those connected with The Royal Sussex Regiment and serious military historians, which is less than it deserves. - BJ

## A Patton for victory

PATTON! - The surname alone was sufficient to indicate powerful confidence, unstoppable determination, sometimes a touch of defiance of authority, and recklessness, but always the excitement of certain victory.

US Army General George Smith Patton, "Blood and Guts," go-getter! Yet a man who could be reduced to such tenderness that he wept when making the rounds of his wounded men in hospital.

A man with a temper that surfaced to cause him to slap a GI suffering from depression and call him coward! Later, similarly accusing and assaulting another soldier in hospital, pulling his pistol and threatening to shoot him there and then for cowardice.

Beloved by his troops, who he trained to a high pitch of fighting ability and full confidence in themselves, their formation and their commander. He talked to them as man to man and lectured them in barrack room language.

How did he attain this greatness as a leading commander of the Second World War, indeed, as one of the greatest generals?

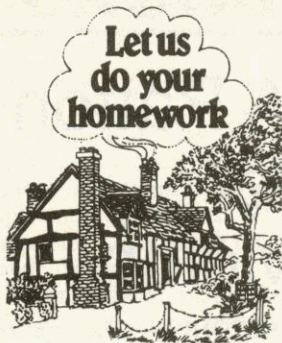
At school he was laughed at, for he suffered from dyslexia, in the days before the word was known or its symptoms realised. To compensate he charged himself to succeed, and all his life believed he was fated to become a great general.

He could not be ignored and had to be given a place in the invasion of North West Europe. He filled it with distinction - though he was hard to restrain - and commanded 300,000 men, a fighting force under a go-getter commander who knew and gave only one order: "Advance!"

In this book are some of the reasons why and how he overcame all obstacles to gain for himself, and his troops, a memorable place in history. - GRH

● **Patton** by Martin Blumenson. Published by Jonathan Cape Ltd. Price £12.95.





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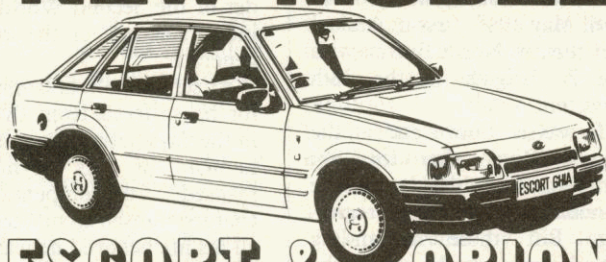
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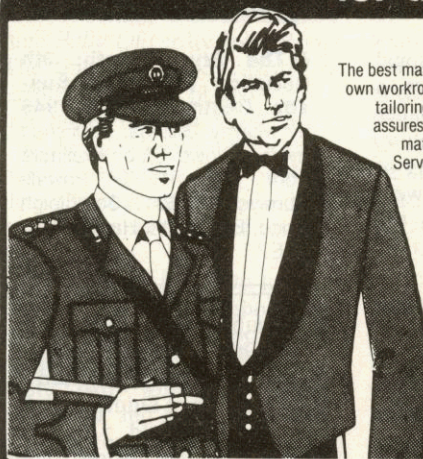
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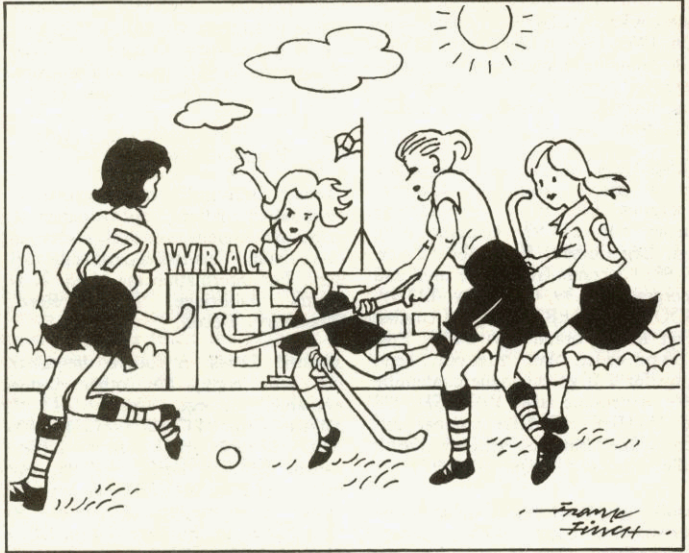
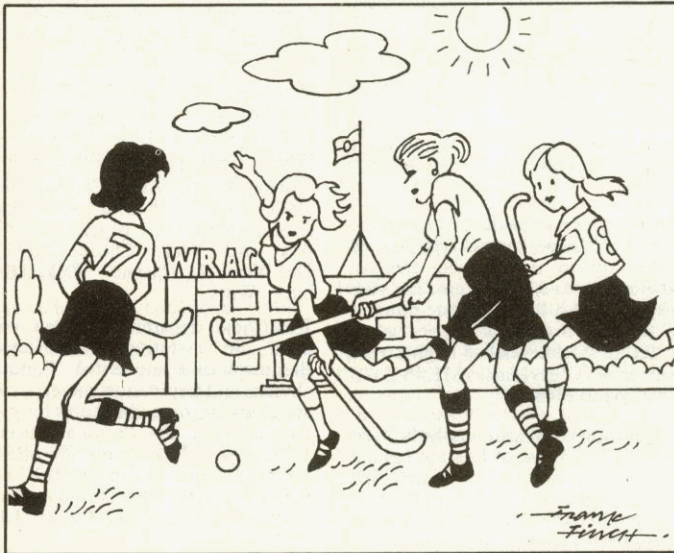
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## General

**Denis Herbstein**, of 8 Bisham Gardens, London N6 6DD (01-348 5008) is preparing a television programme on the murder in 1947 of Gay Gibson by James Camb, a steward on the Durban Castle - the "Porthole Murder". Miss Gibson, 21 at the time, was an actress from Liverpool who joined the ATS in 1944 and was in "Stars in Battledress", and possibly other troop entertainments, on the Rhine and in England and Wales. Anyone who knew her at the time is asked to contact Mr Herbstein.

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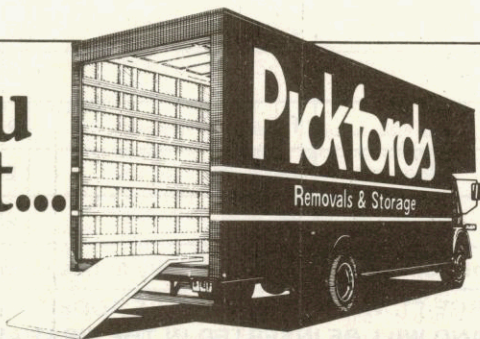
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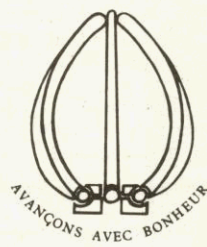
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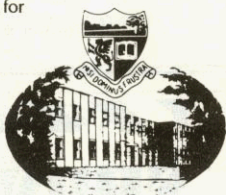
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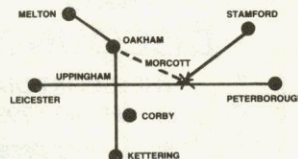
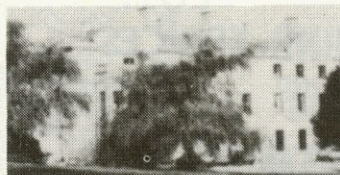
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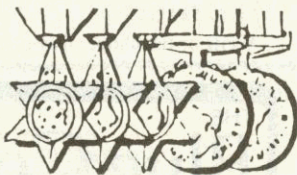
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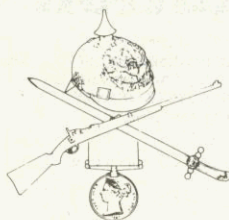
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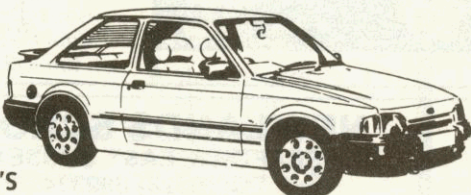
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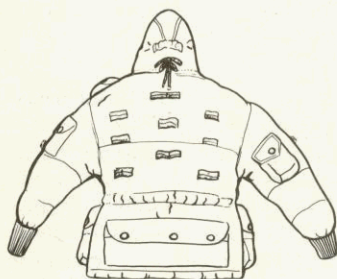
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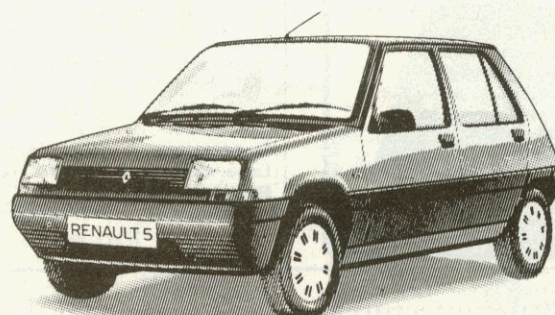


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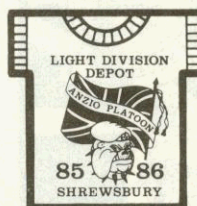
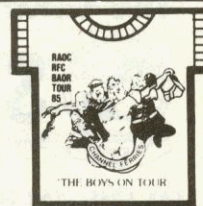
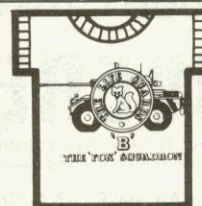


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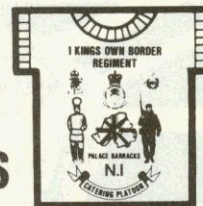
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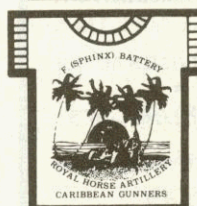
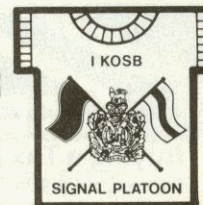
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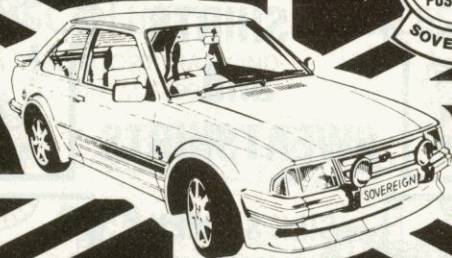


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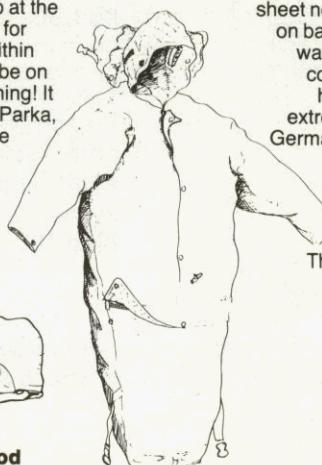
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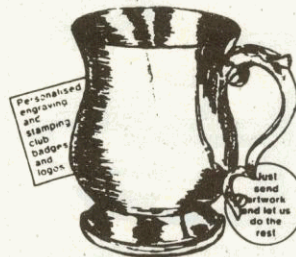


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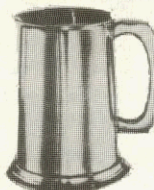
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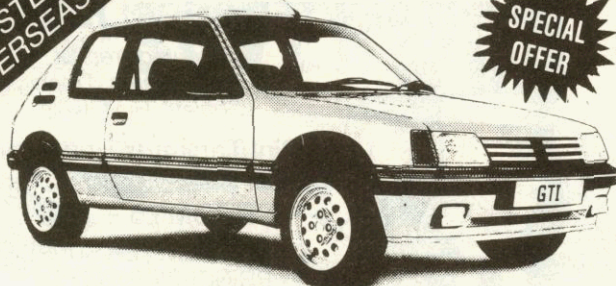
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# SAPPER CLUB THAT WON THE FA CUP PLANS BIG REUNION

MEMBERS past and present of one of the first football teams to win the FA Cup are being invited to a reunion at Chatham next summer. What's that got to do with the Army you might ask.

Quite a lot, actually. For the very first final way back in 1872 was between the Wanderers Club and the Royal Engineers Football Club. The sappers lost 1-0 and contested the 1874 and 1875 finals, winning the latter. They also reached the 1878 final.

Their involvement with the FA

Challenge Cup did not end there. One Major Marindin, a brigade major at Chatham during the period 1866 to 1874, was a giant in the game. He was president of the Football Association from 1874 to 1890, twice led his team in the Cup Final, and went on to referee eight finals between 1880 and 1890.

Now the Royal Engineers Association Football Club is planning a reunion to mark the 200th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the officers of the corps and the

formation of the Corps of Royal Military Officers.

All past and present corps representatives and REAFC members are being invited to an Old v. New match at Chatham on May 30 followed by a banquet at the King Charles Hotel. Details of that, and of a special anniversary club sweater, can be obtained from the organiser, WO1 C N Richardson, RE, The Depot Regiment RE, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent ME4 4UG.

## The goal that wasn't

SEVEN Army players were included in the Combined Services football team which made a three-match tour to Gibraltar, winning two games and losing one.

The local Combined XI gave the visitors a more difficult game than the 0-5 scoreline suggests, writes Pat Massey. Cfn Stewart Greenwood scored one of the goals.

All three goals came in the first half when Combined Services beat a Gibraltar B side 1-3, with Greenwood again getting on to the score sheet.

A goal ten minutes from time, which the Services claim never crossed the goal-line, was enough to give the full Gibraltar side the narrowest of wins. The visitors dominated the exchanges and were unlucky not to score when a

fierce header by Marine Phil Kay was cleared off the goal line. Other chances fell to Marine John Lowe, but the big striker, who was carrying a niggling injury which kept him out of the opening games, was not at his sharpest in front of goal and the chances went begging.

A corner kick ten minutes from time, was pumped into the penalty area by a player who had joined the game as a substitute. A shot on goal was cleared away by Sgt Tiv Lowe, RM, who was amazed to see a linesman signalling that the ball had crossed the line.

A local FA official, embarrassed by the decision, was heard to say "Even from my seat in the stand, I could see that the ball was never near the goal-line let alone over it."

## Princess visits Larkhill trials

THE ARMY and Royal Artillery Hunter Trials at Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts, were visited by Princess Anne, who saw some of the 203 horses in action.

Of the 91 Service entries, six were from the Royal Navy and four from the Royal Marines.

The King's Troop, Royal Artillery Saddle Club and Household Cavalry Regiment were well represented and the course was built by Maj C L Moore RA.

Gen Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson made his last appearance as president of the trials. Before that he was senior steward for eight years and the standard and success of the event have been very largely due to his personal interest and enthusiasm.

Service results were:

### Novice

Sgt J Mechan (on Charlton Fox trot), winner of Poett Cup, first in Services section, winner of Gillman Cup and second in open section.

PO P Edwards (Hadleigh), 2nd in Services section and winner of Stuart Sea Horse Plaque; 3rd, LWren L Addy (Crest of the Wave); 4th, LCpl Phillips (Gypsy).

Mounted Infantry Alderson Bowl, Maj D E Stacpoole (Harem).

First subaltern, 2nd Lt S Robinson (Monkswell).

### Intermediate

Services section (Hamilton Cup) - 1st, Lance Corporal of Horse Waygood (Highlander); 2nd, Capt Mal Milligan (Daniel Swigg); 3rd, LCpl Wood RM (Fox trot Romeo); 4th, Sgt J Mechan (Charlton Fox trot).

Mounted Infantry (Cameronian Cup), Lt Peters (Rupert).

### Open

Land-Rover Challenge Trophy, Maj C R Burke (Mel Shadow).

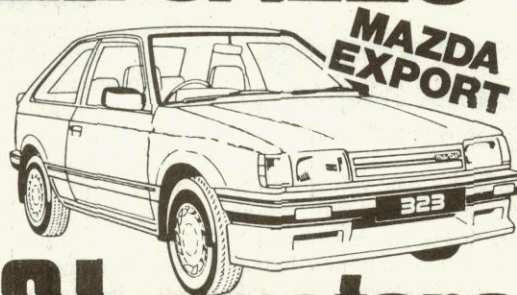
King's Royal Irish Hussars Cup and D'Arcy Cup, Sgt J Mechan on the Queen's horse Peter Piper.

Pairs - 2nd and winners of 7th Queen's Own Hussars Cup, Lt Peters RM (Rupert) and LCpl Wood RM (Fox trot Romeo).

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*New squash secretary in for a busy time*

## Boxers aim for fourth Services crown in a row

THE ARMY squash season began with a visit by a Combined Services to Hong Kong. The two coveted Army places were filled by Capt Robbie Robinson and Maj Chris Wilson.

New secretary of the Army Squash Rackets Association, Maj David Wood (Retd), is in for a busy season organising the Combined Services championship and the Inter-Corps championship this month, the Army Open in January and the Inter-Unit knockout competition which runs through the season to the final in April in BAOR.

Tours to Berlin and the annual visit to Geneva for the Swiss Open bring the season to an end.

The Army team has a full fixture list in addition to representative teams in both the Berkshire League and London's Cumberland Cup. The juniors, ladies and veterans all have their own fixtures.

The Inter-Corps championship will be held at the Waverley Squash Club, Farnham, from November 21 to 23 with 18 teams competing in three divisions. This event attracts more than 100 of the Army's top players, many returning from BAOR, Northern Ireland and even Hong Kong to represent their corps and divisions.

It will be the first season as President for Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, a one time Army player himself, in succession to the legendary Brig Mike Perkins who has retired.

### Best young decathletes at ASPT

NEARLY 200 young athletes from all over the country descended on the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot for the national decathlon scholarship event held as part of the Butlins/Central Council of Physical Recreation award scheme.

FOUR Inter-Services boxing championships in a row – that is the target for the 24 Army fighters who recently assembled in Aldershot to begin training for a new and challenging season.

The mood at the Army Boxing Centre is one of quiet confidence and determination from a squad containing most of the names who have contributed to the Army's rise as well as a leavening of promising recruits.

Says boxing secretary, Maj Jack Beasor: "We have a strong squad – just as good as last year's. And there are one or two very promising young boxers who have joined us."

Back in charge is the man who put the Army on the map – after years of playing second fiddle to the Royal Navy. SSgt Mick Gannon knows that his men will give their all for him.

Listen to Rfn Tony Velinor (3 RGJ), who last spring became the first Army ABA champion for more than a decade. He had planned to leave the Army in the summer but instead signed on for a period which will take him beyond the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

He told SOLDIER: "It was Staff Gannon coming back that made me decide to stay. He is the man who is able to get 100 per cent out of each of us."

This month Velinor pulls on an England vest for the first time when he takes part in a multi-nation contest in Poland.

Also at Aldershot is Commonwealth Games bronze medallist, Dvr Neil Haddock (RCT) and Spr Keith Howlett, from 39 Engineer Regiment.

Howlett, appointed team captain for the second year running, was stopped by the Royal Navy's Dave Pope last year.

"I am looking forward to getting my revenge this time and am very keen to write that one off," he says. "The atmosphere in the squad this year is lively and enthusiastic and we are looking forward to a good season."

Soon to join the squad is a former Midland champion, who holds a decision over ABA middleweight finalist Mark Elliott. Pte 'Buzz' Busby of 1 Para is a recent Army recruit.

Also nationally rated is Cfn Robert Regan, of REME, who represented Wales in the Commonwealth Games.

Velinor, Haddock and Spr John McLean will be among Army representatives in a Services team which takes on the US Army in Europe in Berlin on November 22. The Americans are likely to include Olympic squad members so the match will be a hard one.

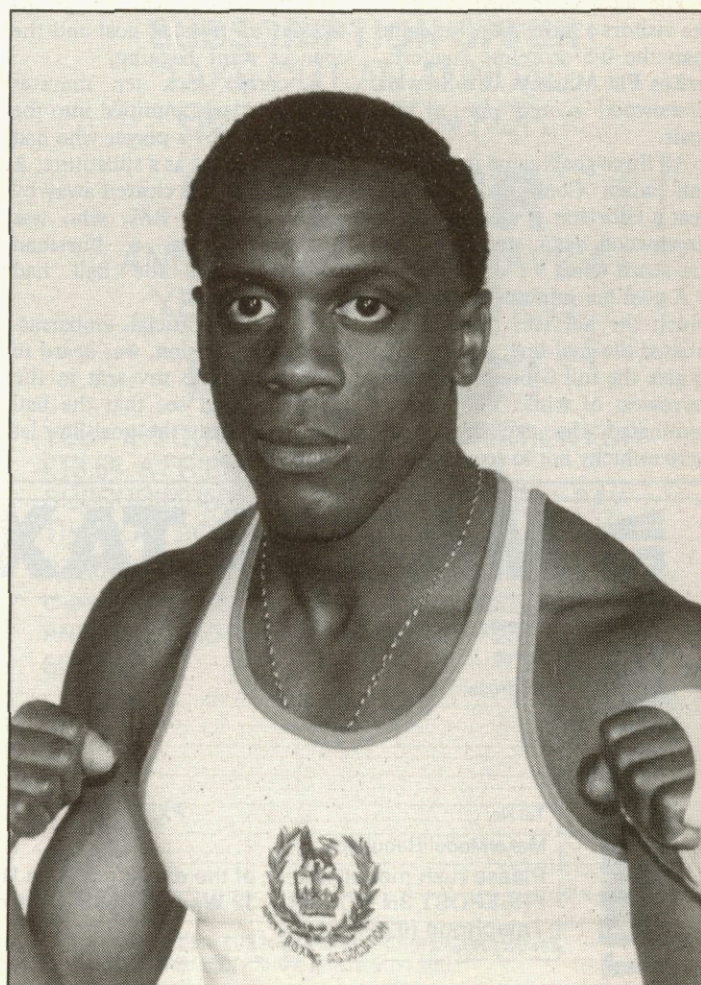
A series of club shows and matches against the Midlands, West of England, Wales and

London before Christmas provides the build-up to the big contests of the season.

The Army opens against the RAF at Aldershot on February 5 and will then go to the Navy's Portsmouth stronghold for the battle with their old rivals two weeks later. On March 5 the Combined Services Individual championships are also at Portsmouth.

Says Gannon: "We have tremendous depth this season and there will be lots of competition for the slots in the Service matches. Some of the new chaps are likely to come on a lot over the next three months."

The Army now has ten fighters in the British top 15 ratings – up from eight last season.



Above – On the road to fighting fitness. Members of the Army's boxing squad begin their preparations in Aldershot as they aim to win the Inter-Services boxing crown for the fourth successive year

Left – Rfn Tony Velinor, the Army's first ABA champion for more than a decade, has decided not to quit the Service and will be in contention for the 1988 Olympic selection

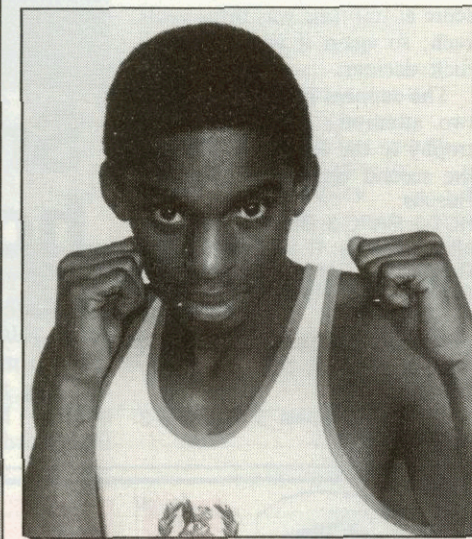
Right – Spr Keith Howlett, captain of Army boxing for the second year

## ACC team so close in Cyprus Walkabout

A three-man team from the Army Apprentices College ACC did extremely well to finish a close second to 1 RRF, the resident battalion, in the very demanding Cyprus Walkabout, an annual 55-mile competitive endurance trek from Episkopi Garrison to Troodos Mountain Camp and back.

The team from Aldershot were first to the top of Troodos in 5 hrs 51 min, a full 18 minutes ahead of the next team. But on the second day 1 RRF's D team fought back into the lead and finished seven minutes ahead of the apprentices college team of Capt Mike Bott RAEC, Sgt Charley Couldwell APTC and navigator Cpl Ian Harper ACC.

Nearly 70 tri-Service teams from all over the world took part in the event, which is designed to test physical endurance and navigational skills.



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Pictures by Paul Haley



# Second win for Signals

Penalties decided the final fortunes in the indoor events of the Inter-Corps Hockey Tournament at Aldershot.

The tournament produced some very good fast hockey although two teams had to withdraw.

REME were looking very strong in the early games and so too were R Signals and the RE. The REME, skippered by Army player Maj Marwaha, played some good hockey and reached a semi-final place against the R Signals. However R Signals proved to have a younger fitter team containing Army players Hemmings and Downey and finished winners by three goals to one.

In the other semi-final the RE beat RA but the game went into penalty flicks and the RE proved the better by six to five.

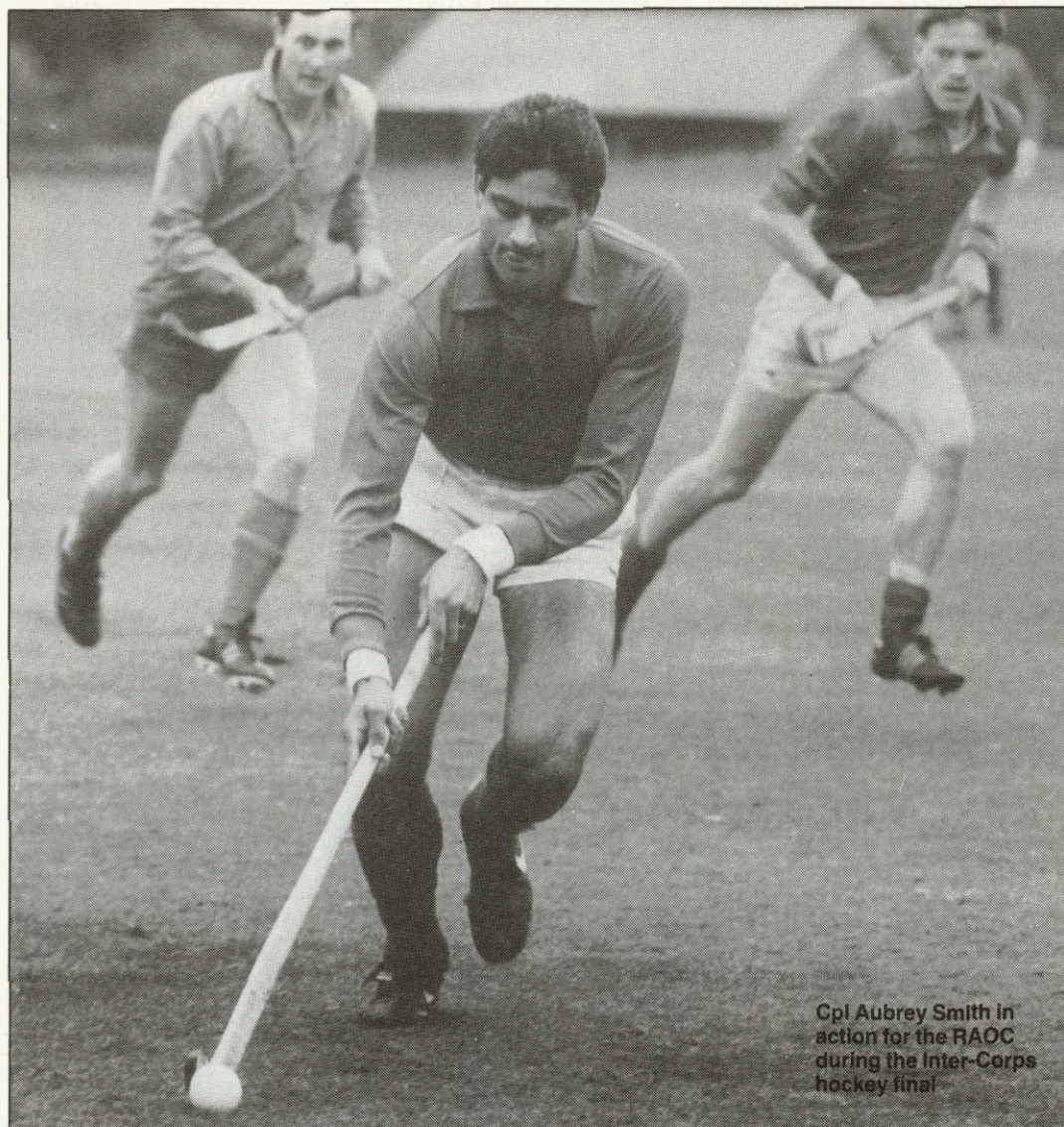
This produced an excellent final between R Signals and the R Engineers, which was end to end fast exciting hockey. The score at full time was three goals each, so again it was a penalty flick decider.

The sappers missed their first two attempts, which gave the trophy to the R Signals for only the second time ever.

Results:  
RCT 0, RAPC 3; REME 5, RA 5, 8-7 after penalties; R Signals 3, RE 5; R Signals 2, RAPC 1; RCT 0, RA 3; RAPC 1, RE 2; REME 2, RA 1; RCT 1, REME 2.

SEMI-FINALS: REME 1, R Signals 3; RE 1, RA 1, 6-5 after penalties.

FINAL: R Signals 3, RE 3, 5-3 after penalties.



Cpl Aubrey Smith in action for the RAOC during the Inter-Corps hockey final

Picture: Terry Champion

## Smith dashes Pay Corps hockey hat trick hopes

TWO late goals by Cpl Aubrey Smith (HQ BAOR) dashed the Royal Army Pay Corps' hopes of retaining the Army Inter-Corps outdoor hockey championship for a third consecutive year and

earned the Royal Army Ordnance Corps entry into the national club championship.

Until Smith's first strike with just seven minutes remaining a closely fought final looked likely to go to extra time.

RAOC had made most of the first half running but squandered several good chances. RAPC, winners of the title eight times since 1974, came back strongly before the interval and slowly took charge in the second half.

Both sides contributed to a fine final played in very wet conditions at Aldershot, but it needed a moment of individual brilliance by Cpl Smith to break the deadlock. Minutes after SSgt Gary Hardwick had created RAPC's best chance of the game Smith jinked his way into the circle and scored.

With RAPC committed to attack their stretched defence

gave away a short corner. Smith's progress from the hit was impeded illegally and he gratefully converted the resulting penalty flick.

The trophy and medals were presented by Mr Chris Pearson on behalf of Army hockey's new sponsors, the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Ten teams took part, with RAPC beating REME 3-0 in one semi-final and RAOC defeating the Infantry 3-2 in the other.

Pool results were:

RCT 0, REME 5; RE 1, RAC 3; R Signals 0, Infantry 0; RAMC/RADC 1, RAPC 4; RAOC 0, REME 1; R Signals 3, RAMC/RADC 0; RAC 1, RCT 0; RA 2, RAPC 6; RAOC 3, RE 1; Infantry 1, RA 0.

RAOC 5, RAC 0; RAMC/RADC 1, RA 1; RAPC 1, R Signals 1; RE 4, REME 2; Infantry 6, RAMC/RADC 0; RA 2, R Signals 0; RCT 1, RE 1; RAOC 4, RCT 1; RAPC 2, Infantry 2; REME 4, RAC 0.



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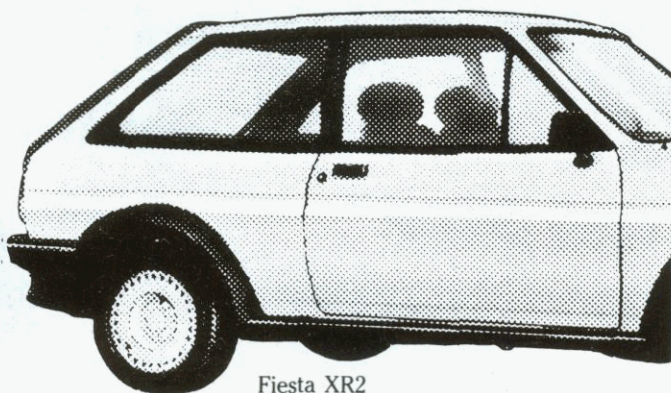




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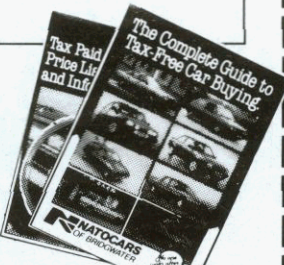
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2nd Lt Rupert Sutherland finds it difficult to keep his dignity and his footing while acting as safetyman at the "stopper" on the Syrtveit rapids in southern Norway. See story and pictures in Pages 18 and 19.