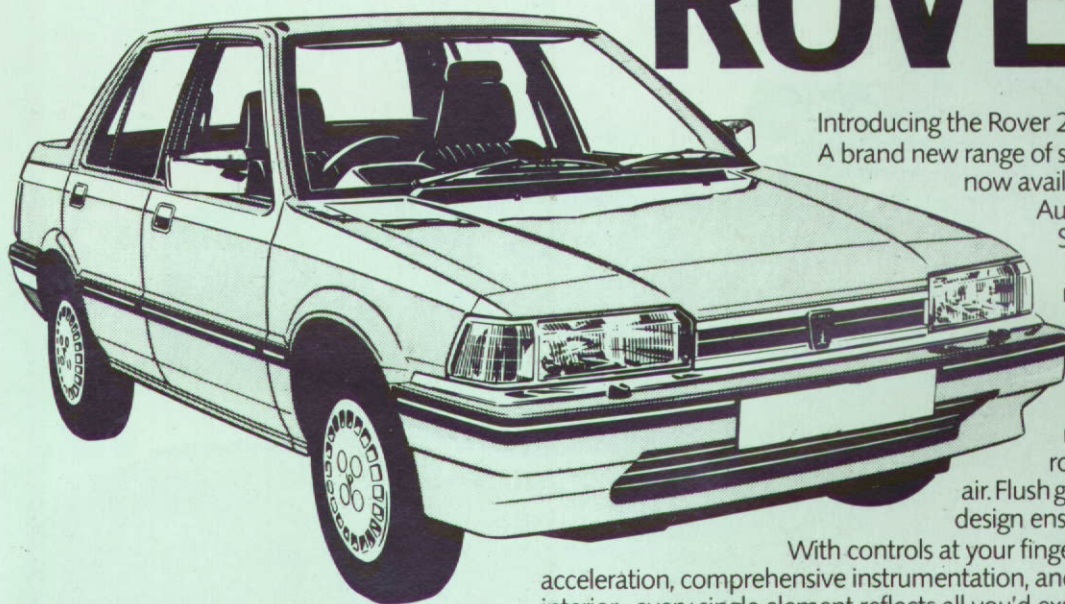


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FRONT COVER: Thundering across the prairie, a Chieftain tank from BATUS takes part in an exercise in Canada. See special article page 25.

Picture: Paul Haley

BACK COVER: Soldiers supported by armour stage a mock battle amid smoke and flames at Gallows Hill, Bovington, during a firepower and mobility demonstration as part of BAEE. Story on page 16.

Picture: Doug Pratt

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SOLDIER

NOW INCORPORATING
THE TERRITORIAL ARMY MAGAZINE

TWO WORKSHOPS OUT ...

TWO REME workshops are to close in economy proposals announced by Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement.

The closures — of 38 Central Workshop at Chilwell and 33 Central Workshop at Newark — and other reorganisation of static workshops and base repair, should result in "once for all" savings of £1 million and an annual saving of £800,000. The reorganisation, when fully implemented in two-and-a-half to three years, will result in net overall manpower savings of about 600 civilian posts although as many staff as possible will be redeployed and full advantage taken of natural wastage and voluntary redundancy.

Besides closure of the two bases, other

workshops will be reduced in capacity, for example Catterick and Colchester, and a few such as Bicester and Bovington will be expanded.

It is also intended that more repairs of Army equipment will be contracted out to industry at national and local level. At present, about 18 per cent of the UK base repair load goes out to contract and it is believed this could be doubled without operational penalty.

The reorganisation proposals result from a UK study begun in 1981 and extended the following year to consider the base repair organisation in BAOR. It is proposed to adjust the nature of the BAOR base repair load and ultimately more soft skinned vehicle repair work will be back loaded to the UK.

"MAGIC" PTARMIGAN IN

PTARMIGAN, the world's latest and most sophisticated tactical communications trunk system — the Americans have nothing to match it — will be fully operational with 1 (BR) Corps by 1 April, 1986 completely superseding the BRUIN system, it has been revealed by Brigadier Tony Willcox, Commander School of Signals.

BAOR's 1st Armoured Division will be the first formation to receive initial delivery of the eventual £400 million package by the end of this year, taking over from BRUIN by the 1 April next year.

Brigadier Willcox was speaking during the last segment of eight weeks' field trialling by 180 personnel from the Corps of Royal Signals and a dozen TA men from 2 Squadron (Trials) at the School of Signals under Major John Doody.

The next phase until September will be the management aspects of Ptarmigan, which the soldiers have already described as "magic".

Ptarmigan is said to be more survivable, having more capacity — twice the number of nodes — and the ability to provide mobile communications on the move to the Single Channel Radio Access (SCRA). It means that battle groups will now have access to the trunk system not previously available with BRUIN.

Divisional commanders will be able to hold conferences and briefings — even on the move — with several sources simultaneously, without the danger of eavesdropping in the system which employs a network of computer-masterminded switching centres which, at £1.5 million each, cost the same as a Challenger main battle tank.

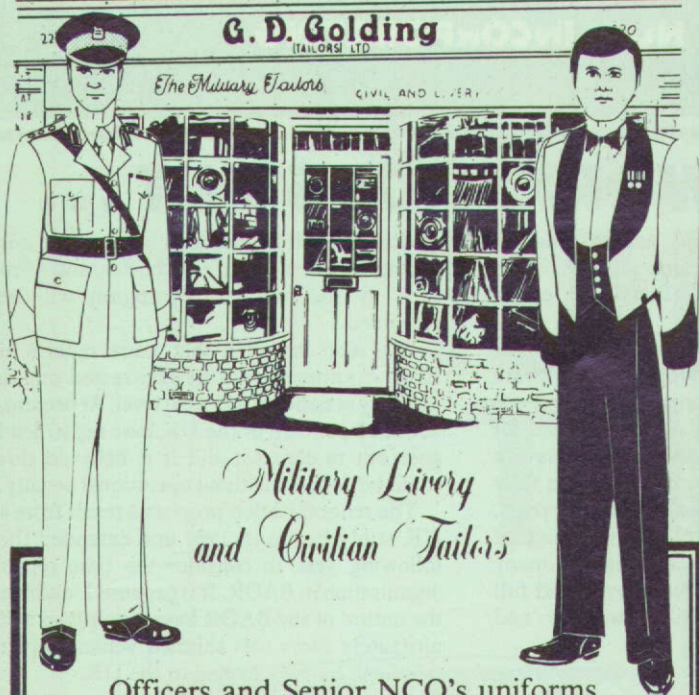


Sgt Charles Gemmel, facilities controller, in the Ptarmigan trunk switching vehicle.

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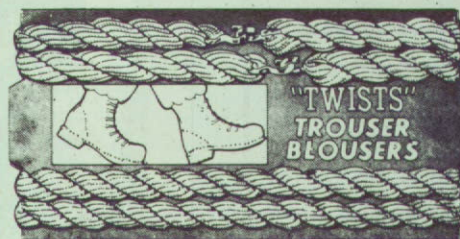
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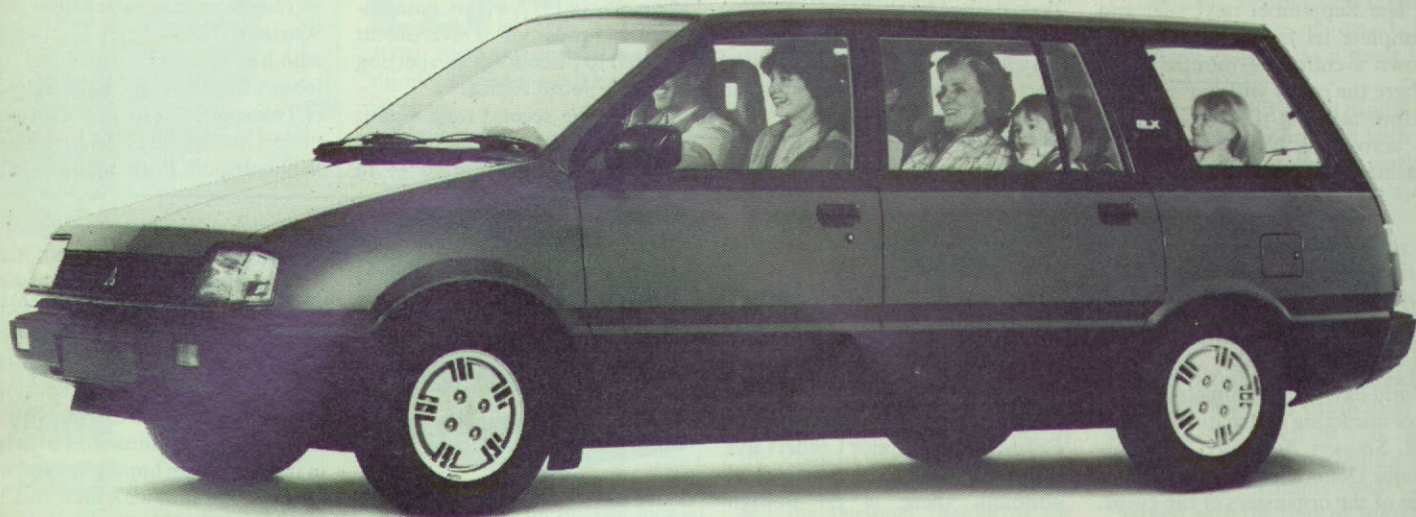
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NEWS

THERE WILL be no joint service entry in next year's round-the-world yacht race for the Whitbread Trophy.

The race is due to leave Southsea in late September next year and complete its first stage in Cape Town a couple of months later. There the crews will rest and refit before tackling the second stage — across the Indian Ocean and Tasman Sea to Auckland, New

Zealand.

But hopes that the British Forces would be going with them have been dashed by the official reaffirmation of Government policy which does not allow Service personnel, or RN ships, to visit South Africa while on duty.

A second official objection is the possibility of South African com-

petitors sailing under their own flag. British crews racing against them would breach the Gleneagles agreement of 1977, when Commonwealth heads of Government pledged to discourage all sporting ties with South Africa.

So for the second time a joint service attempt at the Whitbread trophy has been thwarted — in

1980 a grant of £300,000 was stopped by the moratorium on spending.

The news is a bitter blow for Warrant Officer Peter Buchanan who had been seconded from his job as a lecturer at the RCT School of Transportation to act as assistant project manager at HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth.

PUBLICITY PAYS

THANKS to the publicity given by SOLDIER last year, the World Paystick Championships are now attracting international interest. So says Academy Sergeant-Major Denis Cleary of Sandhurst, one of the organisers of the event.

Hitherto the question of who wielded the best paysticks was a matter for the warrant officer and senior sergeants of the Brigade of Guards.

But this year the championships at Pirbright attracted teams from the Queens Division, the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, the Junior Leaders and the Household Division. And although there is no foreign competition yet, Academy Sergeant-Major Cleary says the Canadians and the Australians have shown great interest and are no doubt preparing a future challenge.

ON PARADE

Precision marching caught by camera during the Queen's Birthday Parade in Whitehall. The Queen reviewed nearly a thousand Household Division soldiers while nearly 9,000 spectators packed Horseguards Parade with thousands more along the Mall.

300 miles — by surfboard!

A 46-YEAR-OLD Army officer who has been a cancer patient at a Cheltenham Cobalt Unit of the Cancer Treatment and Research Centre was sailing a surfboard single-handed from Tewkesbury to Land's End to raise more than £1,000 for them as SOLDIER went to press.

Captain John Wheeler, an assistant work study officer at the Central Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch, was hoping to complete his 300-mile trip, under sponsorship, in six days.

A patient for the past four years at the unit where he has been receiving chemo-therapy treatment

for Hodgkinson's Disease — cancer of the white blood cells in the lymphatic system — Captain Wheeler said: "This has never been done before and rather than just leave it as a verbal thank-you to the unit I wanted to do something actively to help the Centre which relies heavily on donations to help in its work. I am hoping to raise at least £1,000 and, with luck, much more."

With him all the way on another surfboard will be WO 1 Steve Dodds, of the RAOC, based at Ashchurch, a neighbour Mr Gordon Lockwood in a rubber Gemini craft called "Rubber Ducky" and his brother, Mr Dick Wheeler who will be driving a support vehicle dubbed the "White Elephant".

Captain Wheeler was hopeful of completing at least 50 miles a day, boosted by a Force Five wind making 15 to 20 knots and calling in at Minehead, Bideford Bay, Boscastle and St Ives before arrival at Land's End.





Apprentice Steven in uniform of Harry's day "In Memory of Those who Liberated Us".

The latest thing since...

TROOPS in the Falklands no longer have to rely on two 70-year-old field bakeries for their daily bread.

For two years since the Falklands conflict the First World War bakeries have been churning out loaves, not exactly efficiently, and making life particularly arduous for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps bakers. "I wonder how we coped" commented Master Baker Staff Sergeant Keith Marshall as the first loaves were produced by a modern new plant set up in the Logistic Battalion complex.

Officially opened by Major General Keith Spacie, Commander British Forces and Military Commissioner (picture shows him tipping out the first batch of loaves watched by the Master Baker), the new plant will not only produce loaves but also rolls and wrapped sliced bread.

With modern dough mixing and proving machinery, and electric ovens, the plant provides only one problem — the ovens are so well insulated that even when going full blast the bakers will have to wear heavy sweaters in the Falklands winter.

FALKLANDS MEMORIAL

FALKLAND islanders have unveiled their own memorial to the liberation of their homes by British Forces.

The memorial, unveiled on 'Liberation Day', consists of seven blocks of Dartmoor granite surmounted by a figure of Britannia. The column has the names of all the ships and units that took part in the operation engraved in gold. On the stone walls behind are bronze tablets with the names of those who died together with a large semi-relief bronze impression of the campaign incidents.

BREAKFAST WAS A "HUNK OF BREAD"

WHEN Army apprentice Steven Parham appeared at Harry ("Jerry") Tomms' 100th birthday party it was as if the clock had been put back nearly 80 years.

Mr Tomms — the oldest living member of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps — joined the Army at Aldershot in 1905, in the days when uniforms followed the pattern of that worn by 17-year-old Steven for the centenary celebration.

Normally Steven would only be dressed like this for his appearances as a bugler with the RAOC Apprentice College's Corps of Drums at Deepcut. But this was a special occasion and Steven was detailed to put on his ceremonial best to bring in the cake prepared and decorated with the Corps insignia by RAOC bakers.

A great many people crowded into the patients' dining room at Battle Hospital, East Sussex, for the event. There were local civic dignitaries, pressmen and an RAOC contingent led by Major Roy North of Shorncliffe.

Major North read out messages of congratulation, which included one from Major General Bill Whalley, the Director General of Ordnance Services. The Queen's message was of particular interest, for Mr Tomms, who remembers clearly seeing Queen Victoria, was obviously delighted to receive the congratulations of her great-great grand daughter.

Far from being overwhelmed by the occasion, Mr Tomms evidently relished every moment. He expressed his personal thanks to the hospital staff and then regaled his audience with a recitation from Kipling — an apt gesture from a

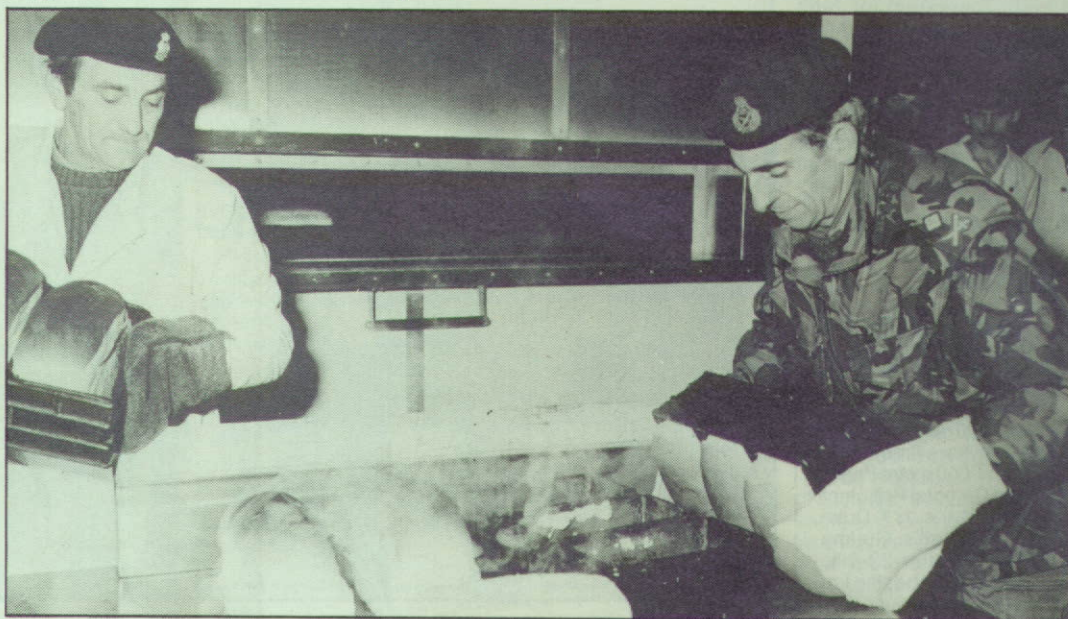
veteran of the North West Frontier.

Later, with his service medals gleaming proudly on his chest, Mr Tomms spoke of his service life which extended from Aldershot and the RAOC depot at Woolwich to Sierra Leone, France, Germany, India, Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

The food, he said, was terrible — just a hunk of bread for breakfast. But it was a great life nonetheless.

"There wasn't much discipline — at least not compared with an infantry regiment. But we worked hard in the stores — we didn't just play at being soldiers."

Mr Tomms left the Army in 1926 to become a civilian Electrical Officer in the stores at Aldershot. He had his fair share of trouble when activities like expressing his mind too forcefully or cheeking sergeants lost him promotion or won the odd spell of CB. But obviously there was nothing too serious. Mr Tomms was discharged with the rank of Warrant Officer and a medal for over 20 years of, virtually, trouble free service.



FIFTH FOR CHALLENGER

BAOR is to receive a further full regiment's worth of Challenger main battle tanks in addition to the four already planned, Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, announced at the formal opening of the British Army Equipment Exhibition (BAEE 84) at Rushmoor, Aldershot.

He said: "This decision not only reflects our confidence in the excellence of Challenger concept and designs themselves but also the value we have placed on the remarkably high standards of engineering and production reached by the management and work force at ROF Leeds and all the many component suppliers."

Leading up to the announcement the Secretary of State reminded that the British Army's

first squadron of Challenger had "impressed" in its extensive troop trials in BAOR between October and February. "Our first full regiment of Challengers will soon be operational and will be taking part in Exercise Lionheart in the autumn," he said. "I myself drove a Challenger in Germany in April and was struck by the enthusiasm with which the new tank was being received by our soldiers. There is no doubt that Challenger constitutes a most significant enhancement to our anti-armour capability — with levels of protection second to none."

It is understood that 1st Armoured Division will receive the extra regiment making it an all-Challenger Division. Currently, The Royal Hussars are equipped with some Challengers.

PAPER PRACTICE

IN A practice run for Exercise Lionheart '84 it was not regiments but largely reams of paper and notional soldiers which the British Army of the Rhine was moving in Exercise Javelin.

With more than 7,000 soldiers from Germany and throughout UK taking part, Javelin was itself a considerable undertaking. Command elements of regular and TA reinforcements joined those in Germany and their NATO allies to test the wartime procedures of the First British Corps. More than 131,000 British and NATO servicemen will eventually take part in Lionheart.

FANTASTIC! says mini babe's mum

Mini babe Lisa Woodford weighed in at the world at 11b 11oz in BMH Rinteln's baby unit. Fifteen weeks premature she was so small and delicate that doctors gave her little chance of survival.

But thanks to the skill and dedication of senior paediatrician Major Ian Evans RAMC and his team, Lisa is now a bouncing 7lb.

But it took Major Evans and the rest of the hospital's special care baby unit, four months of night and day attention to ensure Lisa's survival.

Last month the miracle babe left Rinteln for home with her mother Mrs Inge Woodford and proud father Lance Corporal Christopher Woodford of 35 Engineer Regiment.

Said Major Evans, "Lisa's survival is marvellous and a great achievement for all the staff who worked round the clock for weeks to ensure she made it. We were all glad to work extra for her."

QUICK

Gurkha tops hill record

A Gurkha soldier has lopped 20 minutes off the best military time in the Welsh 1,000 metre Peaks Race. Corporal Rajkumar Limbu of the 1/7 Duke of Edinburgh's Gurkha Rifles, ran the 22-mile course to finish at the top of Snowdon in four hours 12 minutes. But before he got there he had to run up two other mountains which, with Snowdon, made up the 1,000 metre haul.

SPOT

A new fact every day ...

You learn something every day... Over for the Normandy celebrations Canadian Colonel Bill Little, who served with the Canadian 1st Hussars in the D-Day assault, visited Corunna Barracks at Iserlohn, now the base of 26 Engineer Regiment. He was surprised to find exchange officer and fellow countryman Captain Wayne Stevens, Canadian Military Engineers, who was equally surprised to learn that the tank forming the Canadian memorial at Berniere/Courselles sur Mer, was the Colonel's very own D-Day tank.

BERLINERS BRAVE GALES TO CHEER PARADE

More than 70,000 Berlin citizens braved lashing winds and rain to cheer the 21st Allied Forces Day Parade.

The weather for the preceding week was so bad rehearsals came close to being washed out. But just like all the earlier years the parade went on to give the city dwellers a military

spectacle and to demonstrate the Allies' resolve to keep the city free.

The smart drill and turn-out of the British units were much admired, as were the

turbans and swirling cloaks of the band of the French 1st Spahi Regiment, a unit with a long tradition in North Africa.

Music was provided by

a mix of ten bands and among the more unusual vehicles on show were the French VAB — a wheeled amphibious APC; the AFV 432 with Rarden gun turrets and American M113 variants.

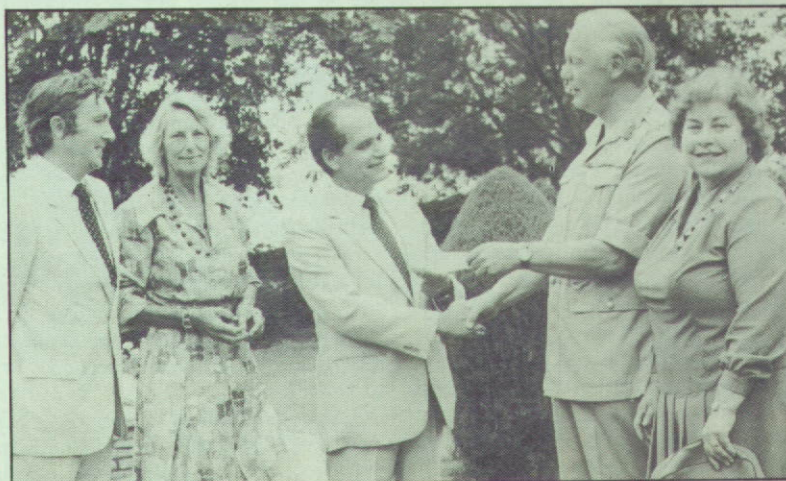
The saluting officer was the newly-arrived French Commandant, General Oliver de Gabory.

WATCH-AROUND-THE-CLOCK FOR LISA



■ PROUD PARENTS (centre), LUCKY LISA: Major Evans (left) and his team at Rinteln

General 'coughs up' for a good cause



■ FIVE WITH THE MONEY: aid from the SBAs for poor, sick Cypriots

To accumulate you must speculate ... but the £350 cheque being handed over by Major General Sir Desmond Langley is not so much a "wager", but a gilt-edge investment to raise funds for sick people.

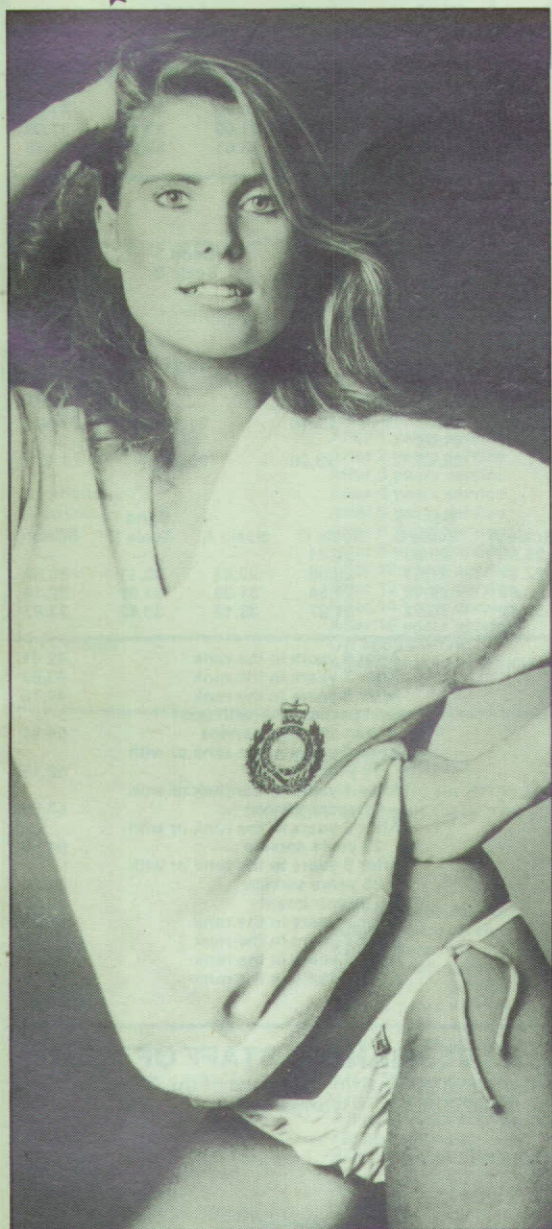
Receiving the money is Andreas Yiannakou, chairman of the Limassol committee for chest diseases and an official with a local Shakespearean group of actors.

The cash, donated by servicemen in the Sovereign Base Areas, went towards the production costs of *Romeo and Juliet* which in turn will yield funds to help poor Cypriots with chest and lung diseases.

Yeovilton by Captain M C Clapp, who was Commodore Amphibious Warfare throughout the conflict.

With the plaques are stone tablets with the names of all those killed in the campaign.

Don't get in a lather, lads, we're only giving the sweater a plug, not lovely model Julie Dennis, who's modelling Naafi's latest line in knitwear. If you want one they're available from Naafi shops and clubs and come in a range of six colours with your choice of an embroidered badge. Prices: lambswool from £14.95; Acrylic from £10.25. Jump to it, now!



■ JULIE DENNIS: model lines in sweaters

Rally pair wreck Scottish rivals!

This time, for the Scottish bid, she had to stay behind as this was to be a Service entry into what has been described

Then the Hemsley-Skinner team repaid the faith of their supporters by winning the big car class (over two litres) and wrecking the chances of rival drivers.

Survey duo make their mark

You can't keep the Sappers out of anything . . . Two of them, Corporal Steve Robertson and Lance Corporal Steve Finch are based at RAF Wyton with the Air Survey Liaison Section, and when Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, Air Officer Commanding 18 Group, made his annual inspection, the two soldiers were invited to don their No. 1s and immerse themselves in a sea of light blue. The Air Marshal made a point of talking to them both.

Rickshaw tow-out time for the Brigadier



Brigadier Davis

Staff and trainees lined the route and then fell in behind as Brigadier Davis was towed from the officers' mess to a waiting car at the gate.

Links

His successor is Brigadier Peter Palmer from UKLF Wilton.

QUICK

Judge Thomas Pigot is the new senior judge of the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus. He succeeds Judge Dennis Cowley who has retired.

SPOT

PEOPLE

FACES and PLACES

For Prince Charles read 'Duke'

One of Prince Charles' more obscure titles is that of Duke of Rothsay. And that's how the Gordon Highlanders know him. As their Colonel-in-Chief he is visiting them in BAOR to present his own award to their champion commander, 26-year-old Captain Maurice Gibson, the first time the "Duke" has presented his own award — a handsome dirk — which is competed for annually.

Day an RAF man led the Guards

It was a one-off event when RAF officer Air Commodore Ray Offord went on parade with the Scots Guards in Cyprus. It was the 2nd Battalion's rehearsal for Trooping the Colour to celebrate the Queen's birthday. As Deputy Commander British Forces on the island, the Air Commodore took the salute. But on the actual day the Guards had their Co. Lieutenant Colonel Iain Mackay Dick, taking the salute.

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Private (Class IV)	12.27	12.57	13.02	15.17	15.47	15.92	19.29	19.59	20.04	21.85	22.15	22.60	24.30	24.75	26.33	26.63	27.08	28.46	30.25	30.55	31.00
Private (Class III)	13.21	13.51	13.96	16.18	16.48	16.93	20.04	20.34	20.79	22.89	23.19	23.64	25.34	25.79	27.37	27.67	28.12	29.50	31.29	31.59	32.04
Private (Class II)	14.22	14.52	14.97	17.16	17.46	17.91	21.02	21.32	21.77	23.87	24.17	24.62	26.32	26.77	28.35	28.65	29.10	30.48	32.27	32.57	33.02
Private (Class I)	15.20	15.50	15.95	18.21	18.51	18.96	22.07	22.37	22.82	24.92	25.22	25.67	27.37	27.72	29.30	29.60	30.05	31.43	33.22	33.52	33.97
Lance Corporal (Class III)	15.20	15.50	15.95	18.21	18.51	18.96	22.07	22.37	22.82	24.92	25.22	25.67	27.37	27.72	29.30	29.60	30.05	31.43	33.22	33.52	33.97
Lance Corporal (Class II)	16.25	16.55	17.00	19.33	19.63	20.08	23.19	23.49	23.94	26.04	26.34	26.79	28.49	28.84	30.42	30.72	31.17	32.55	34.34	34.64	35.09
Lance Corporal (Class I)	17.37	17.67	18.12	20.57	20.87	21.32	24.43	24.73	25.18	27.28	27.58	28.03	29.73	30.03	31.61	31.91	32.36	33.74	35.53	35.83	36.28
Corporal (Class II)	18.61	18.91	19.36	21.89	22.19	22.64	25.75	26.05	26.50	28.60	28.90	29.35	31.05	31.35	32.93	33.23	33.68	35.06	36.85	37.15	37.60
Corporal (Class I)	19.93	20.23	20.68	23.19	23.49	23.94	27.05	27.35	27.80	29.90	30.20	30.65	32.35	32.65	34.23	34.53	34.98	36.36	38.15	38.45	38.90
Sergeant	21.85	22.15	22.60	24.30	24.75	26.33	26.63	27.08	28.46	30.25	30.55	31.00	32.35	32.65	34.23	34.53	34.98	36.36	38.15	38.45	38.90
Staff Sergeant	23.23	23.53	23.98	25.38	25.68	26.13	27.71	28.01	28.46	30.66	30.96	31.41	33.11	33.41	34.99	35.29	35.74	37.12	38.91	39.21	39.66
Warrant Officer (Class II)	24.83	25.13	25.58	26.98	27.28	27.73	29.31	29.61	30.06	31.85	32.15	32.60	34.30	34.60	36.18	36.48	36.93	38.31	40.10	40.40	40.85
Warrant Officer (Class I)	26.59	26.89	27.34	28.74	29.04	29.49	31.07	31.37	31.82	33.61	33.91	34.36	36.06	36.36	37.94	38.24	38.69	40.07	41.86	42.16	42.61

TA QARANC AND WRAC

	Band 1			Band 2			Band 3			Band 4			Band 5			Band 6			Band 7		
	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C
Private (Class IV) (under 17½)	8.86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Private (Class IV)	12.09	12.39	12.84	14.95	15.25	15.70	19.01	19.31	19.76	21.54	21.84	22.29	23.66	23.96	24.41	26.26	26.71	27.16	28.54	28.84	29.29
Private (Class III)	13.02	13.32	13.77	15.95	16.25	16.70	20.06	20.36	20.81	22.60	22.90	23.35	25.05	25.35	25.80	27.65	27.95	28.40	29.78	30.08	30.53
Private (Class II)	14.02	14.32	14.77	16.91	17.21	17.66	21.17	21.47	21.92	23.71	24.01	24.46	26.16	26.46	26.91	28.76	29.06	29.51	30.89	31.19	31.64
Private (Class I)	14.98	15.28	15.73	17.91	18.21	18.66	22.28	22.58	23.03	24.82	25.12	25.57	27.27	27.57	28.02	29.87	30.17	30.62	32.00	32.30	32.75
Lance Corporal (Class III)	14.98	15.28	15.73	17.91	18.21	18.66	22.28	22.58	23.03	24.82	25.12	25.57	27.27	27.57	28.02	29.87	30.17	30.62	32.00	32.30	32.75
Lance Corporal (Class II)	16.01	16.31	16.76	19.05	19.35	19.80	23.39	23.69	24.14	25.93	26.23	26.68	28.38	28.68	29.13	30.98	31.28	31.73	33.11	33.41	33.86
Lance Corporal (Class I)	17.12	17.42	17.87	20.05	20.35	20.80	24.49	24.79	25.24	27.03	27.33	27.78	29.48	29.78	30.23	32.08	32.38	32.83	34.21	34.51	34.96
Corporal (Class II)	18.34	18.64	19.09	20.27	20.57	21.02	25.75	26.05	26.50	28.29	28.59	29.04	30.74	31.04	31.49	33.34	33.64	34.09	35.47	35.77	36.22
Corporal (Class I)	19.65	19.95	20.40	21.58	21.88	22.33	26.86	27.16	27.61	29.40	29.70	30.15	31.85	32.15	32.60	34.45	34.75	35.20	36.58	36.88	37.33
Sergeant	21.54	21.84	22.29	23.66	23.96	24.41	26.26	26.71	27.16	28.54	28.84	29.29	31.08	31.38	31.83	33.68	33.98	34.43	35.81	36.11	36.56
Staff Sergeant	22.89	23.19	23.64	25.01	25.31	25.76	27.31	27.61	28.06	29.85	30.15	30.60	32.39	32.69	33.14	34.99	35.29	35.74	37.12	37.42	37.87
Warrant Officer (Class II)	24.47	24.77	25.22	26.59	26.89	27.34	28.89	29.19	29.64	31.43	31.73	32.18	33.97	34.27	34.72	36.57	36.87	37.32	38.70	39.00	39.45
Warrant Officer (Class I)	26.20	26.50	26.95	28.32	28.62	29.07	30.62	30.92	31.37	33.16	33.46	33.91	35.70	36.00	36.45	38.29	38.59	39.04	40.42	40.72	41.17

MALE SOLDIERS — NORMAL RATES

Group A Non Regular Permanent Staff of the TA

Rank	Service			
	On appointment	After 3 years in the rank	After 6 years in the rank	After 9 years in the rank
Pte	14.35	14.45	14.55	14.65
L Cpl	16.40	16.50	16.60	16.70
Cpl (Class II)	20.08	20.18	20.28	20.38
Cpl (Class I)	21.33	21.43	21.53	21.63
Sgt	23.32	23.42	23.52	23.62
SSGT/Signal	24.62	24.72	24.82	24.92
Instructors	28.32	28.42	28.52	28.62
WO II	32.37	32.47	32.57	32.67
WO I	32.37	32.47	32.57	32.67

Group B Non Regular Permanent Staff of the TA
(Appointed Solely for Duties in Northern Ireland)

Rank	Service			
	On appointment	After 3 years in the rank	After 6 years in the rank	After 9 years in the rank
Pte	14.35	14.45	14.55	14.65
L Cpl	16.40	16.50	16.60	16.70
Cpl	18.81	18.91	19.01	19.11

Lt Colonel	After 6 years in the rank	42.91
	After 7 years in the rank	43.83
	After 8 years in the rank	44.76
	On appointment with less than 19 years service	50.81
Colonel	After 2 years in the rank or with 19 years service	52.15
	After 4 years in the rank or with 21 years service	53.50
	After 6 years in the rank or with 23 years service	54.90
	After 8 years in the rank or with 25 years service	56.30
Brigadier	On appointment	60.01
	After 2 years in the rank	61.63
	After 4 years in the rank	63.25
	After 6 years in the rank	64.87
	After 8 years in the rank	66.49
		73.43

NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF OF THE TA

Administrative Staff for Army Sections of the CCF
Male Officers — Normal Rates

Rank	Service	Daily rate of pay
Captain	On appointment	27.94
	After 1 year	28.69
	After 2 years	29.45
	After 3 years	30.20
	After 4 years	30.96
	After 5 years	31.72
Major	After 6 years	32.47
	On appointment	35.22
	After 1 year	36.09
	After 2 years	36.96
	After 3 years	37.84
	After 4 years	38.71
Lt Colonel	After 5 years	39.58
	After 6 years	40.46
	On appointment	47.91

Female Officers — Normal Rates

Rank	Service	Daily Rates of Pay
Captain	On appointment	27.30
	After 1 year	28.04
	After 2 years	28.78
	After 3 years	29.52
	After 4 years	30.26
	After 5 years	31.00
	After 6 years	31.73

TA OFFICERS

Rank	Service	Daily rate of pay
2nd Lieutenant	On appointment	18.27
	After 1 year in the rank	23.55
	After 2 years in the rank	24.17
	After 3 years in the rank	24.79
	After 4 years in the rank	25.41
	After 5 years in the rank	26.03
Captain	On appointment	29.63
	After 1 year in the rank	30.43
	After 2 years in the rank	31.23
	After 3 years in the rank	32.03
	After 4 years in the rank	32.84
	After 5 years in the rank	33.64
Major	After 6 years in the rank	34.44
	On appointment	37.35
	After 1 year in the rank	38.28
	After 2 years in the rank	39.20
	After 3 years in the rank	40.13
	After 4 years in the rank	41.05
	After 5 years in the rank	41.98

continued on next column



TOPICS

TA OFFICERS

Officers of the Royal Army Chaplains Department

Rank	Service	Daily Rates of Pay £
	On entry	29.63
	After 2 years service	31.62
	After 4 years service	33.62
Chaplains	After 6 years service	35.61
	After 8 years service	37.60
Class 4 (Captain)	After 10 years service	39.58
	After 12 years service	41.57
Class 3 (Major)	After 14 years service	43.56
	After 16 years service	45.54
Class 2 (Lt Col)	After 18 years service	47.53
	After 20 years service	49.51
	After 22 years service	51.50
	After 24 years service	53.48
	After 26 years service	55.47
Chaplain Class 1	On appointment with less than 24 years service	53.48
	After 2 years in rank or with 24 years service	55.47

TA OFFICERS

Officers of the Quartermaster Category

Rank	Service	Daily Rates of Pay £
	On appointment	35.76
	After 1 years service	36.33
	After 2 years service	36.90
	After 3 years service	37.48
Lieutenant	After 4 years service	38.05
Captain	After 5 years service	38.62
Major	After 6 years service	39.19
	After 8 years service	39.77
	After 10 years service	40.34
	After 12 years service	40.91
	After 14 years service	41.48
	After 16 years service	42.06
Lt Colonel	On appointment	47.39
	After 3 years in the rank	48.06

TA OFFICERS

Officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps of the Quartermaster Category

Rank	Service	Daily Rates of Pay £
	On appointment	35.25
	After 1 years service	35.81
	After 2 years service	36.38
	After 3 years service	36.94
	After 4 years service	37.50
Lieutenant	After 5 years service	38.07
Captain	After 6 years service	38.63
Major	After 8 years service	39.20
	After 10 years service	39.76
	After 12 years service	40.33
	After 14 years service	40.89
	After 16 years service	41.46
Lt Colonel	On appointment	46.72
	After 3 years in the rank	47.37

TA Officer Cadets and Junior Entrants
new rates of pay effective from
1 April 1984

Rank	Daily Rate of Pay £
Male Cadet (on entry)	12.83
Female Cadet (on entry)	12.65
Junior Soldier	7.65
Young Soldier	9.29

TA OFFICERS

Nursing officers and non-nursing officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps

Rank	Daily Rates of pay £
2nd Lieutenant	18.01
Lieutenant	On appointment 23.21
	After 1 year in the rank 23.82
	After 2 years in the rank 24.44
	After 3 years in the rank 25.05
	After 4 years in the rank 25.66

continued on next column

Answering the 1984 appeal of the Royal Manchester Childrens' Hospital — seeking £800,000 for its Research Foundation — members of F Troop (The Bolton Artillery) of 209 Air Defence Battery turned in smartly with over £500 raised through sponsorship, collections and a social night. Troop Commander Captain Peter Jordan handed over a cheque for £400 to Mrs Jean Tomlinson JP, organiser of the appeal, at their Fletcher St Headquarters in Bolton. 'Thanks a million' was Mrs Tomlinson's response — and to make her evening even more memorable, the ACF Detachment of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment who share the TA Centre with the Gunners added their own

cheque for £160 minutes later. The cheque was a specially enlarged photocopy, but there was a real one presented just before the formal handover.

BROADCASTER JOINS SOLDIER



SOLDIER has a new member of staff, Robert Higson. He is to specialise in Territorial Army affairs and is looking forward to meeting as many 'Terriers' as possible. Robert who did National Service with the Royal Signals at SHAPE HQ more years ago than he cares to remember, has worked on newspapers in this country and New Zealand, and in broadcasting in Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

As from this issue, please send all TA contributions to Robert Higson, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU. Aldershot Military (or 0252) 24431 ext 2591.

Captain	On appointment	29.21
	After 1 year in the rank	30.00
	After 2 years in the rank	30.79
	After 3 years in the rank	31.58
	After 4 years in the rank	32.37
	After 5 years in the rank	33.16
	After 6 years in the rank	33.95
Major	On appointment	36.82
	After 1 year in the rank	37.73
	After 2 years in the rank	38.64
	After 3 years in the rank	39.56
	After 4 years in the rank	40.47
	After 5 years in the rank	41.38
	After 6 years in the rank	42.29
	After 7 years in the rank	43.21
	After 8 years in the rank	44.12
Lt Colonel	On appointment with less than 19 years service	50.08
	After 2 years in the rank or with 19 years service	51.40
	After 4 years in the rank or with 21 years service	52.74
	After 6 years in the rank or with 23 years service	54.14
	After 8 years in the rank or with 25 years service	55.54
Colonel	On appointment	59.51
	After 2 years in the rank	61.13
	After 4 years in the rank	62.75
	After 6 years in the rank	64.37
	After 8 years in the rank	65.99
Brigadier		73.18

Note
The pay ranges of the three categories are as follows:
Nursing Officers — Lt to Brigadier
Non-Nursing Officers — 2nd Lt to Lt Col
WRAC — 2nd Lt to Brigadier.

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- ★ DPM Arm Bands £3.99
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TOPICS

WHEN THE CO's name is Cook (Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cook to be precise) you would expect the unit catering to be something special.

This was certainly the case when 103 Air Defence Regiment from Merseyside, Cheshire & Greater Manchester undertook Exercise Heron Grey which tested, among other things, field cooking.

A panel of judges went to the weekend exercise site at Altcar and district to taste and award prizes. There were Major Frank Clewes (SOS Catering Instruction) and Warrant Officer 1 Tony Parker (Supervisory Training Instructor) from HQ North West District.

Major's last shot

MAJOR Jimmy Muir, MBE, MM, RA, fires his last shot in a career with the British Army that has spanned 50 years.

For the past 17 years he has been QM, adjutant and central pillar of Northumbrian UOTC, and particular friend to its Royal Artillery sub-unit. Half a century ago he joined the TA with the 74th Field Regiment shortly before enlisting in the regular army.

Like many men of his generation, Jimmy Muir's army career was made notable by the events of the Second World War. He was in Egypt when war broke out in September 1939 and was wounded in one of the early desert battles.

Later he was posted to 1st Field Regiment which was serving with 4th Indian Division. It was with this unit that he was commissioned in the field and decorated with the Military Medal.

In early 1944 he was in Italy

TASTY LEGS



And, bringing some civilian taste-buds to bear on the competition, there was Mrs Elizabeth Heselton, cookery editor of the Liverpool Post who presented the prize winners with tankards donated by the food processing company Bird's Eye.

The results were very close. Sergeant Terry Halley of 213 Battery, St Helens, produced a Nasi Goreng which nearly got the better of the chicken legs in breadcrumbs from Liverpool's 208 Battery, cooked under the expert eye of Sergeant John Barton.

But 208's legs got them first past the post and the tankards from the hand of Mrs Heselton. However the judges paid a special tribute to

213, by asking for the Nasi Goreng for their own lunch.

While the judges ate, the cooks got into marching order for their part in the crossing "under fire" of the River Alt and the subsequent firing practice on the range.

As Colonel Cook explained: "This sort of training is vital for the Catering Corps cooks, and for their Gunner assistants. They must be able to fight first — and then cook well too."

The Colonel said the exercise would lead them to the annual North East/North West Army Catering Corps exercise later in the year. He added: "And the Nasi was great!"

and was one of the first into Monte Cassino as an observation post officer.

After a brief spell as an instructor at a training unit back home he went to war again and saw action in France, Belgium and Germany with 61st Medium Regiment, 4th AGRA.

His post-war army career took him to the United States for a course at the American School of Artillery, and then to Hong Kong, Gibraltar and Aden. When he

accepted early retirement he joined 274 Field Regiment, his old TA unit, as a training major, but was made redundant by the re-organisation of the TA in 1967. It was then he found the administrative post at the UOTC that was to conclude half a century of service.

Jimmy Muir may have retired but his colleagues believe that he is one old soldier who has made too deep an impression ever to fade away.

WINNING TEAM IN MILITARY SKILLS



The prize-winning style of 239 Artillery Support Squadron RCT (V) at a recent test of military skills at Redford Training Centre Cavalry Barracks, Edinburgh. 239 provided the best of nine troop teams that took part in a competition organised by 153 (Highland) Artillery Support Regiment RCT (Volunteer).

SOLDIER to Soldier

DO YOU have difficulty in buying a copy of SOLDIER regularly? Many readers apparently do, both soldiers and civilians.

SOLDIER should be readily obtainable by soldiers either through NAAFI or their unit representative, and by civilians through their local newsagent. W H Smith and Son, for instance, have recently issued to their newsagent customers a catalogue of more than 1,400 different magazines which are available to them. Among them is SOLDIER. So if your local newsagent does not have SOLDIER on his shelves, ask him to obtain it for you.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining a copy, either from a military unit, from NAAFI or from your newsagent, write to the Distribution Manager, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, and tell us about it. We will be pleased to try to solve your problems.

The best way to ensure you receive a copy regularly, of course, is to place an annual subscription. Send your cheque for £11 (UK and BFPO addresses only) made payable to Command Cashier UKLF for a year's issues.

TOUGHER ARMOUR soon revealed the weakness of this 1940 two-pounder anti-tank gun (below).

Its shells used to bounce off targets like peas and it became obsolescent within a short time of introduction.

But useless or not the National Army Museum were delighted to have it for showing in London.

They took delivery of it for 18 Command Workshops who completely restored it to full working order.

"It's a rare example," said Dr Alan Guy, research scientist at the NAM.

"It was given to us by the Dorchester Military Museum and is the first of its type to appear since we opened in 1971.

The two-pounder was introduced in 1935 for tank and anti-tank use and, despite proving ineffective against armour of that time, was used in the Middle and Far East campaigns.

IT WOULD be hard for many people to have stronger connections with the Army than Captain Edward Gordon Lennox, Grenadier Guards, seen below acting as Subaltern for the escort at the recent Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade.

Edward is with the Second Battalion, stationed at Chelsea. His younger brother Angus recently joined the 1st Battalion at Hounslow after passing out from Sandhurst.

Their father, Major General Bernard Gordon Lennox, is GOC Berlin. They have an uncle, Colonel David Gordon Lennox, who works for the Ministry of Defence.

Their grandfather is Lieutenant General Sir George Lennox who was GOC-in-C Scottish Command until his retirement. Sir



George was also Colonel of The Gordon Highlanders, a regiment raised by a direct ancestor of the family, the Duke of Gordon, in 1794.

Such family association with the service may be rare these days, but is it unique?

How many branches of your family tree have spread into the Army?

We would be glad to hear from anyone who belongs to or knows of a family with similar traditions of service.

FATHER of two former mayors of Aldershot, Mr Bob Garrood died recently after a lifetime association with the Army.

Bob first joined the Army in 1921 as a Prince of Wales Volunteer before transferring to the RASC in 1933 in which he rose to the rank of Warrant Officer 1 at the outbreak of war. He was then commissioned into the newly formed Army Catering Corps and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force escaping after Dunkirk from St Malo in June 1940. Later he was sent to India and on to Burma until the end of the war, rising to Lieutenant Colonel and the post of Chief Catering Advisor to the 12th and 14th Armies.

After leaving the Army in 1946, Bob continued to make use of his catering skills first as a civilian instructor at the ACC Training Centre and later as catering manager in various officers' messes in the Aldershot area.

His son Michael was Mayor in 1981/2 and daughter, Mrs Carol Edgoose completed her year of office just the day before her father died. Amongst the former soldier's prouder moments was witnessing his children conferring the Freedom of the Borough on several regiments and corps, the most recent recipient being the Corps of Royal Military Police.

MOST of BAOR's rallying enthusiasts will be converging on Hamm on Saturday, July 28 hoping to be on the star line for this year's Starlight Rally, now in its fourth year of sponsorship from Opel Schäfers.

The rally is the sixth round of the 1984 British Motoring Association's (BAOR) championship for drivers and navigators which, this year, is being well-supported by Townsend Thoreson.

Anyone wishing to enter the rally or help with the marshalling should get in touch with WO 2 Brian Sanders on Hamm Military 268 or 269.

IN MEMORY of 36 Engineer Regiment's four soldiers who fell during the Falklands campaign, a memorial plaque has been unveiled at Invicta Park, Maidstone.

Representatives of bereaved families were expected to be among those who attended a brief ceremony.

The occasion began with a Regimental parade followed by the Sounding of Reveille and the unveiling performed by Colonel Geoffrey Field who was in the Falklands at that time as Commander Royal Engineers.

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Michael Baldwin, left, and Les Rattue of the National Army Museum Department of Weapons welcome the latest addition.

BAEE '84 — AND THE YEAR 2000!

THE GUNNER from Colchester looked at the projected infantryman of 2000 AD for a few minutes in silent contemplation. The helmeted soldier of the future did not comment, either, on the turn-out of the present-day bombardier.

The meeting — the result of a photo-call request — took place at the showpiece British Army Equipment Exhibition, the biggest ever held in the country and hosted, as usual, at Pegasus Village, an adjunct on the 25-acre Aldershot Rushmoor Arena.

The gunner was Lance Bombardier Shaun Topham, of 38 Battery, 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, a coverer on the FH-70 howitzer. The muted next-century soldier was a model on one of the 200-plus stands.

Lance Bombardier Topham was modelling a new Gore Tex material combat jacket, combat boots high, the new helmet, new webbing called PLCE (Personal Load-Carrying Equipment), a rucksack — mercifully empty in the baking temperatures — and toting the new SA 80, the rifle variant due to enter service by the middle of this decade.

By contrast, Infantryman 2000

this year's BAEE '84 was the biggest and best ever held at Rushmoor, said: "The indications are of a much greater interest being taken by the country in defence matters as a whole."

Among the 298 exhibitors were tanks as big as Challenger measured in tonnes right down to micro-chip technology in terms of ounces. Laser guided sighting systems... clothing... ropes for abseiling and kinetic energy towing... helmets... cam netting of a new sort and weaponry present and planned were all on show; a bazaar which boasted a main exhibition area of nearly 20,000 square metres.

Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, formally opening the exhibition said: "BAEE is now firmly established as a regular biennial event at Aldershot and since the first exhibition took place on this site in 1976 it has grown progressively larger and, I like to think, progressively better."

"Whilst my staff in the Ministry of Defence do all they can to ensure an interesting exhibition of a high standard, the real impetus comes from industry in that they must produce the right products at the right price and present them attractively."

He added: "The role of these exhibitions is sometimes questioned by those who criticise defence expenditure and the sale of military equipment to other countries. The Government believes in the need for well-equipped defence forces as a deterrent against aggression."

"Having made the necessary financial sacrifice and devoted the required resources to acquiring military equipment of a high standard, we believe that it is appropriate to demonstrate and display this equipment to our friends and allies, whether they are formally linked to the United Kingdom in the NATO Alliance or share with us a common set of values and a determination to resist aggression elsewhere in the world."

"We do this for two reasons. Firstly, we believe that British equipment, in a competitive world, must be able to hold its own in the market and secure export orders from increasingly discriminating purchasers. Secondly, we feel that the sale of British defence equipment overseas helps to cement the political link with our friends and allies around the world and thereby underlines the stake which we have in their security."

TOMORROW'S SOLDIER AND TODAY'S



Present and future. Infantryman 2000 on the left; Lance Bombardier Shaun Topham, from Colchester, on the right.

**Graham Smith
reports on
the world's
biggest Army
exhibition**

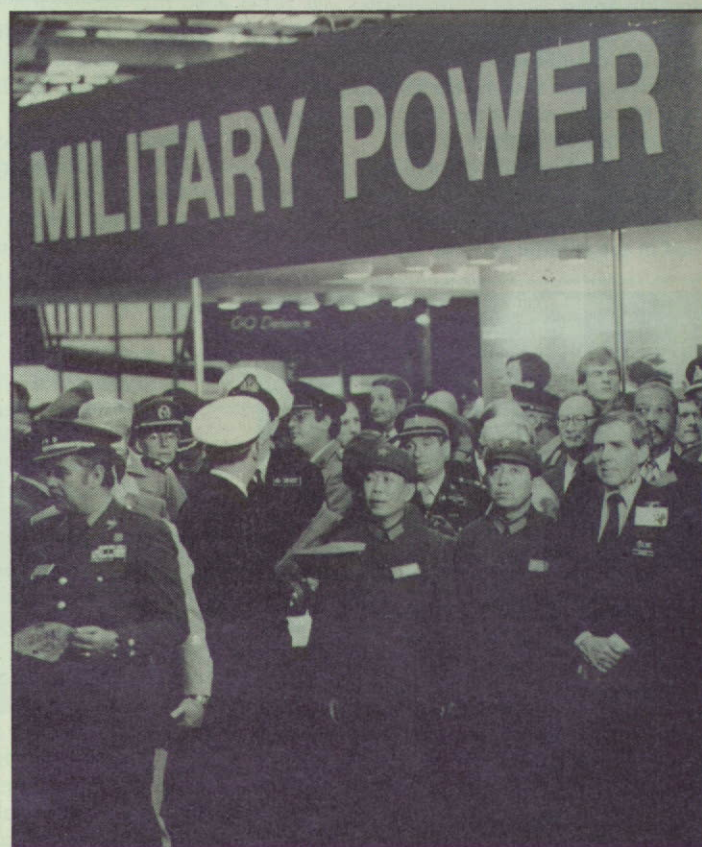
**Pictures by
Paul Haley**

left him in the shade, sartorially and tactically speaking.

Here was a case of getting ahead when you got a hat or, rather a helmet. In it, a gyro stabilised laser designator plus video camera with zoom and thermal imager. Added to that, an eyes-up display video screen, the infantryman's high resolution display of information from the computers and all the sensors.

The computer facilities include exact position data and three-dimensional digital maps, expert systems for sound and visual analysis, displays of terrain hidden from view and target position and deflection calculations.

Earlier, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Vincent, Master-General of the Ordnance, remarking that



Hanging on every word. Exhibition visitors, including some Chinese, listen to Defence Secretary Heseltine's formal opening remarks.



On the left, the standard respirator. On the right, the new NBC facelet mask incorporating charcoal cloth filter material. Fitted within seconds.



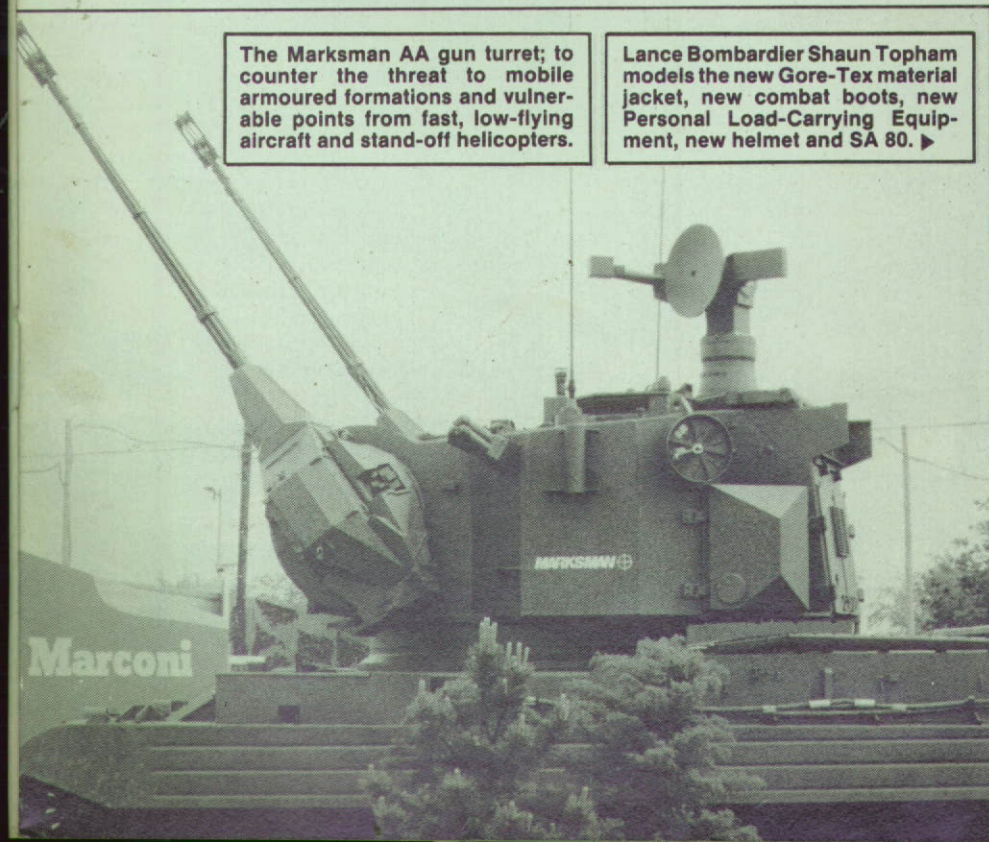
Lawmine. New unattended anti-tank weapon under development. It will engage targets from 10 to 100 metres automatically.



Stormer (Air Defence): Stinger missile for long-range and 25/30mm Gatling gun for close defence. Track-while-scan radar for target acquisition.



The Vinten Venom: An autogyro with recce, surveillance and comms in mind in varying environments.



The Marksman AA gun turret; to counter the threat to mobile armoured formations and vulnerable points from fast, low-flying aircraft and stand-off helicopters.

Lance Bombardier Shaun Topham models the new Gore-Tex material jacket, new combat boots, new Personal Load-Carrying Equipment, new helmet and SA 80. ►





Esarco, the new eight-wheeled vehicle using Land Rover 110 components, which is capable of towing a 105mm Light Gun.



Streaker and its aerial mine-dispensing facility, Ranger.

THE BATTLE for Delta Ridge was fought and won with plenty of pyrotechnics and coloured smoke.

The mini-manoeuvre (see back cover) was fought out at Gallows Hill near Bovington as the finale to the 50-minute Mobility and Firepower Demonstration which featured vehicles large and small from Streaker and Stormer private ventures to the huge just-in-service Scammell Commander Tank Transporter.

Chieftain ... Chieftain 900 ...

Challenger were there ... Scorpion and a new wheeled vehicle, Esarco said to be fit for all terrains, too.

Towed Rapier, Tracked Rapier,

a four-launcher Swingfire on Supacat, Saxon AT 105 the APC and the MCV 80 all threw up clouds of dust during the display.

ARMOUR DEMONSTRATED

Going through their paces in front of three dais packed with onlookers and potential buyers and complementing a static display were 75 vehicles and equipment representing 33 British firms. And, of these, 55 per cent are already in service with the British Army.

Back at Aldershot an estimated 90 countries with interested buyers had been touring the 298 stands during BAEE 84.

Pictures: Doug Pratt



A pair of Challengers show their firepower potential at Lulworth.

BEST OF BRITISH

IT'S THE biggest and best of its kind in the world. And it's British through and through in design and concept. The British Army Equipment Exhibition which has been held every two years at Aldershot since 1976, holds rightful pride of place and entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

For its tented area which was being built from February until the world's biggest arms bazaar's opening last month is claimed to be the biggest ever. It occupied five acres; a 298-exhibitor shop-windows space into which peered potential buyers from 90 countries.

Largest contingent came from the United States with 50; the Chinese sent a 20-strong delegation and Barbados, just one, a colonel from its Defence Force.

An "army" of 3,000 people had been involved in the show which had a gestation period of nine months before its official opening by Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine.

Scaffolding, timber and 22 miles of 36-inch wide canvas went into the huge pavilion and the organisers footed a bill of £½ million to hire the remaining tentage.

Men from the Gurkhas, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Pioneer Corps were some of the stalwart behind-the-scenes helpers before and during the BAEE 84, said the show's project officer, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Parker-Bowles.

Clusters of potential buyers confer among themselves on the course.

Until his special project this year, Colonel Parker-Bowles had been Commander, Household Regiment, Household Cavalry and found his BAEE role responsibility ranging from "sewers to shop stewards."

On the VIP days up to 3,000 people milled among the stands and from 1230 to 1300 each day 1,200 hungry mouths had to be wine and dined in the VIP Restaurant.

Car parking, catering, electricity supplies and security were all

paramount. Security for a £23,000 solid silver Challenger model tank on show — and sale — from Garrards the Crown Jewellers to their smallest item, an 18-carat gold and white gold watch made up in the form of a Life-guards helmet, mounted on rock crystal with a ruby-and-diamond studded clock inside. On it, real horsehair and the whole, a snip at ... £15,650.

Small change compared with the life-size 60-tonne Challenger at £1.5 million an item which would have difficulty unofficially leaving

Lt-Col Andrew Parker-Bowles, Project Officer, fronts the exhibition hall.

the grounds of Pegasus Village, the nub of the exhibition.

So impressed were some nations with the general format of the exhibition that two French generals asked how to set one up.

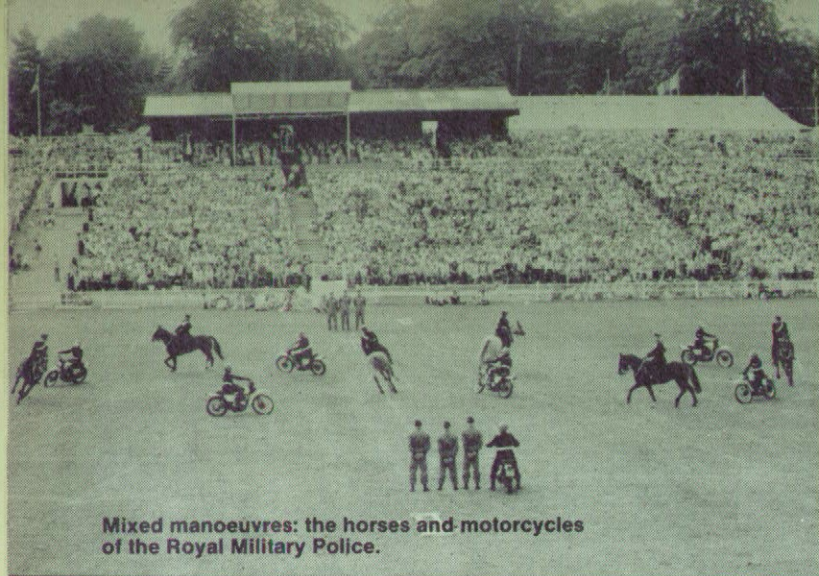
Coping with a £2 million budget for the show did have one or two minor problems, said Colonel Parker-Bowles. Problems of dealing with the unions — though these were minimal — and arranging for some visiting nations who might be warring with each other to avoid one another!

Meanwhile, some firms were investing up to £¼ million a week in entertaining and other ancillary services to ensure order book entries. One clothing firm had announced £1 million worth of orders on the first day just three hours after the opening.

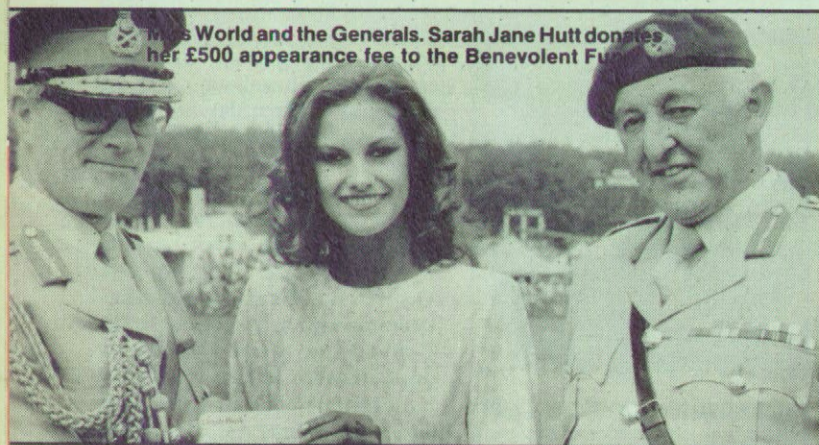
Colonel Parker-Bowles, who was working 20-hour days during the run of the exhibition, said: "It all would not have been possible without the help of HQ South-East District and the Army assistance table provided a really strong team. I would like to see car parking improvements in two years time but I have enjoyed my part in this year's venture and it all might have been a bit better if the temperature had been about ten degrees lower for those working and walking about in Service dress."

Within hours of the Exhibition closing, the site was dismantled and homes were found for 48 giant-size ornamental flower holders while other items such as wood were disposed of to willing takers. Local schools and kindergartens also benefited under the take-away scheme.

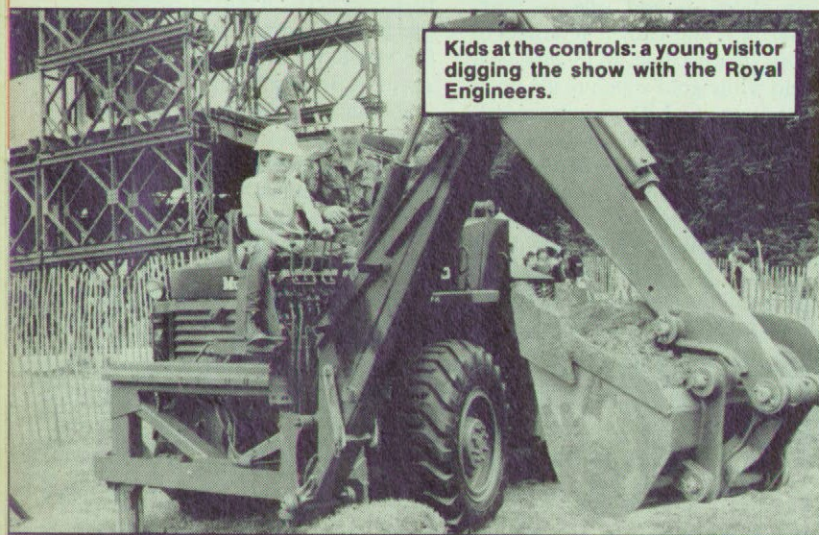




Mixed manoeuvres: the horses and motorcycles of the Royal Military Police.



Miss World and the Generals. Sarah Jane Hutt donates her £500 appearance fee to the Benevolent Fund.



Kids at the controls: a young visitor digging the show with the Royal Engineers.



Down to earth: one of the army displays that gave children a taste of action.



Artillery in the round: the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery goes through its paces.

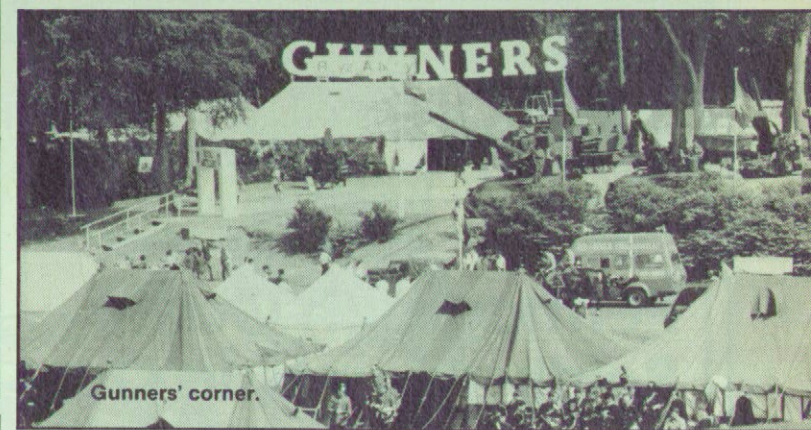
◀ Pincer movement: Trooper Ashley Coulson of the Blues & Royals is caught in the middle.



Dropping in: Red Devils arrive by precision parachute.



Flying High: An airborne member of the Royal Artillery Motor Cycle Display team.

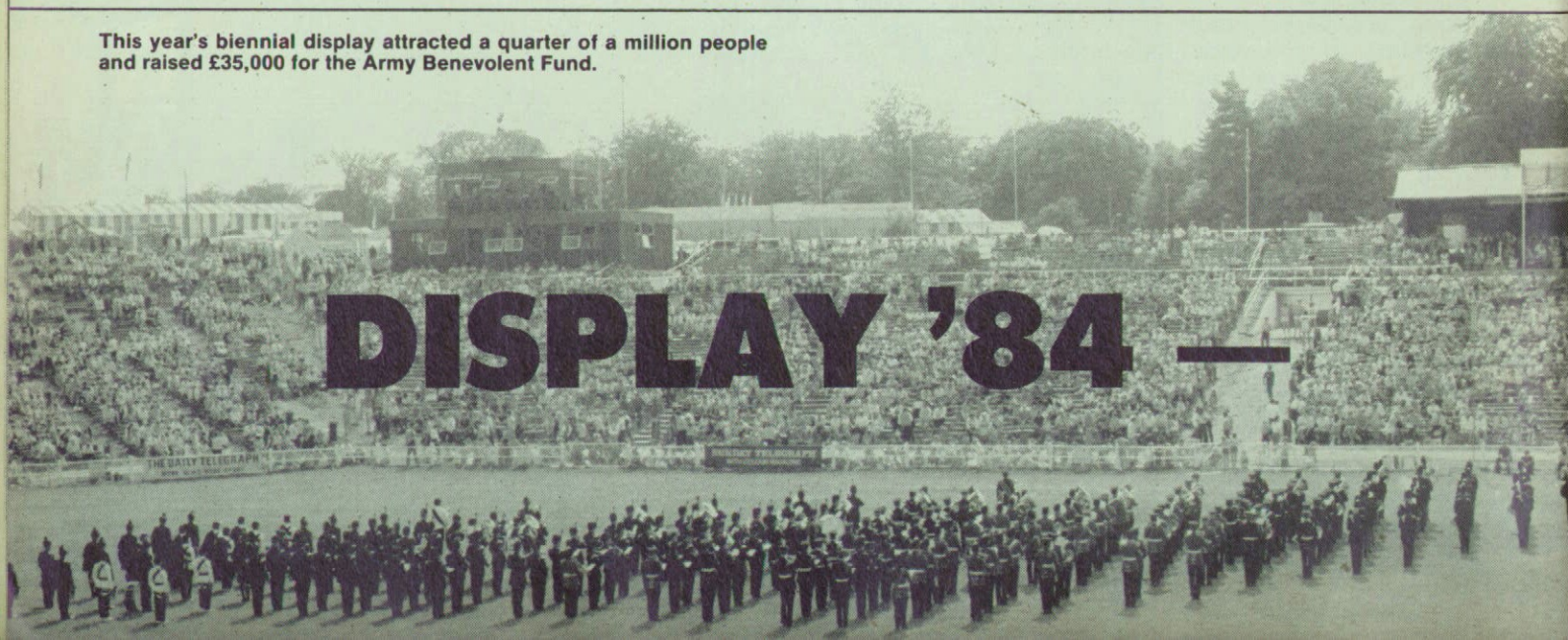


Gunners' corner.

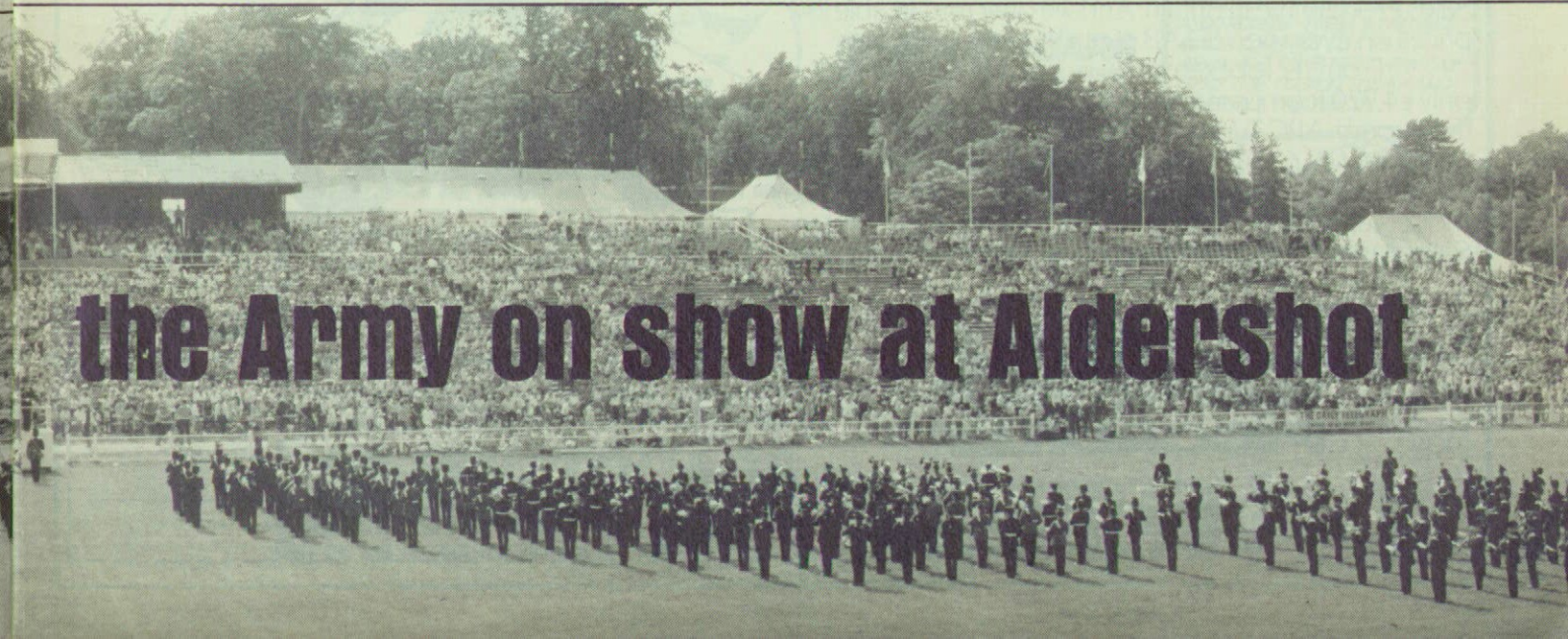


Pyramid poise: the Royal Artillery Display team in close harmony.

This year's biennial display attracted a quarter of a million people and raised £35,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.



DISPLAY '84 —



the Army on show at Aldershot



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THE ARMED Forces Pay Review Body's thirteenth report (HMSO £4.75) threw up some interesting points affecting family life, and explanation of such words as 'comparability', and the phrase 'X Factor'.

They comment on Assisted House Purchase and the difficulties wives have finding jobs, but say for the most part allowances paid to members of the Armed Forces do not fall within this remit.

They did spend a lot of time looking at accommodation charges.

In SOLDIER I asked for an explanation on the X Factor along with Local Overseas Allowance.

In the AFPRB Report para 25, it says the X Factor, first introduced in 1969, was designed to take account of:

a) committed to the Services, incorporating the disadvantages of:

- i) military discipline
- ii) liability for duty at all times without extra pay
- iii) inability to resign at will, change job or negotiate for pay

as against the advantages of:

- iv) adventure, travel and the chance to learn a trade
- v) substantially longer paid leave than most civilians
- vi) greater job security than most civilians.

b) danger.

c) turbulence.

It is interesting that the AFPRB says: "It is also important to bear in mind that the X Factor is included in the calculation of the pay of all Service personnel. For this reason we have to be convinced that changes have had a broadly equal impact across the Services."

This must be difficult to equate, as the hours of work differ enormously.

The AFPRB also mention: "We are also concerned that the nature of service life is, in the present economic climate, making it especially difficult for Service wives to find employment", but that is as far as they can go.

Accommodation and the standard of quarters is one of the problems which families continually raise as they move from quarter to quarter, with lack of maintenance, and the system-designed quarters being just some of the problems faced by families. Some quarters are excellent but, says the AFPRB report: "It remains in our view that a proportion of the Services' existing housing stock falls below (in some cases well below) the standards currently set for it."

The AFPRB have been pressing the MOD since 1980 to introduce a system for classifying Service accommodation which would allow a greater variation in charges,

to take account of environment and amenity considerations as well as the actual conditions of the accommodation.

In 1983 the MOD did propose such a system but it needed further development before its introduction could be endorsed. They have carried out a full trial but a few problems still remain and the proposals have yet to be agreed with the Treasury.

The MOD have indicated that it might be possible to introduce it later this year, but because of the difficulties the AFPRB feels it cannot give a definite date for introduction.

The AFPRB are pressing MOD to ensure there is no further delay beyond April 1985 and will be calling for firm proposals which have been agreed with the Treasury for consideration as early as possible in the next review due in 1985.

The failure of the Assisted House Purchase scheme was mentioned by the AFPRB in their report, for although it is outside their remit they feel that such a scheme is a national development at a time when house ownership has become increasingly common in civilian life, and they have registered "our great disappointment at this turn of events".

I still feel that the AFPRB remit is far too narrow. Surely such items as allowances, DHSS benefits, house purchase, call for more than their remark "It's outside our



remit," if they feel strongly enough to mention certain items then these should be incorporated into their remit.

Many items affect the Army in greater proportion than the other two Services and I feel the X Factor falls into this category.

I have written this many times but been given no reason why the terms of reference cannot be extended or re-negotiated in the light of 1984 trends.

It is now 12 years since their first report.

Anne Armstrong

Home tel: Camberley 29653

With Social Security estimates running at a staggering £39 billion for 84/85, a major review by the Government is to take place this year, 1984.

"We are now spending about £100 million a day on social security benefits and employing over 75,000 staff to administer them" said Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services when he announced there would be a number of major Social Security policy reviews covering the following benefits:

Housing Benefit Review, Review of Benefit for Children and Young People, Supplementary Benefit Review, Inquiry into Provision for Retirement, and Maternity Review.

The great advantage of these reviews is that the Government is seeking written and oral evidence from those interested.

This time we may have a chance of at least putting forward the problems which face Service families with the present legislation.

In 1977 I first raised these problems in an interview with the then AG General Sir Jack Harmon, in SOLDIER December Family Page.

Now we have a chance to submit evidence. All correspondence will be treated as always in strictest confidence. However, it is essential that to submit evidence one has to have facts if we are going to have any impact.

You can help by sending me examples, case histories where you

BENEFITS: YOUR CHANCE TO GIVE EVIDENCE...

feel the present rules penalise you as a Service family, eg teenagers' supplementary benefit. Or the cost of keeping a teenage school leaver at home when overseas, as they are not eligible for Supplementary Benefit.

Supplementary Benefit Review is being chaired by Mr Tony Newton MP, Minister for the Disabled and Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for DHSS, to review the structure of the scheme and consider the scope for easing its administration.

The evidence from the young person concerns how he manages clothing, food, travel, pocket money, holidays, presents. With the present Supplementary Benefit for a single eligible young person standing at about £16.50, can parents overseas subsidise this amount from their income.

Review of Benefits for Children and Young People is being chaired by Dr Rhodes Boyson MP, Minister for Social Security at DHSS.

This review is to review the present social security arrangements for giving financial help to

families with children and young people above school leaving age.

Handicapped Children. Are the present arrangements for paying Attendance Allowance, Immobility Allowance, free milk for handicapped or disabled children 5-16 who do not go to school adequate? Can they be improved?

Child Benefit. Method of payment when overseas. Do you prefer direct to the mother rather than paid in the husband's Army pay account. Or the new Automatic Credit Transfer (ACT)?

Maternity Review. This review will be undertaken by a small inter-departmental team of officials and the findings will be reported to Tony Newton and the Minister of State for Employment later this year.

The Review will consider the provision of financial help for maternity needs alongside the programme or linked reviews. It will take into account the maternity benefits and payments administered by the Department and the maternity pay scheme administered by the Department of Employment.

SOLDIER: In recent talks with the various departments of the DHSS various anomalies came to light, in particular the lack of Supplementary Benefit for teenagers, Family Income Supplement, unemployment benefit for wives and the old Family Allowance; all these being applicable to those overseas. Is there any one person in the Ministry of Defence who is responsible for ensuring that new DHSS legislation takes into account the particular problems of Service families overseas?

AG: No. The DHSS is so vast and the legislation so complicated that perhaps we should have one person or department specialising in this field to make sure that families don't lose out. I will look into this.

Wives who have lost their Maternity Allowance or had an ex gratia payment from the MOD: if you did not receive your Maternity Grant, in Hong Kong at the same time as you would in UK, or those wives who have lost their Paid Maternity Leave.

Housing Benefit Review will be chaired by Mr Jeremy Rowe Deputy Chairman of Abbey National Building Society. The review is to examine the structure and score of the Housing Benefit Scheme and to consider it as simply as possible, and to concentrate help on those most in need and improve its administration by Local Authorities.

But the review does affect us, as the figures quoted in Hansard relate: "In March 84 3,027 Army families claimed the MOD scheme of Rent and Rates rebate, whereas the RAF have 700, the Navy five, Royal Marines 100.

CHILDMINDING? ARE YOU COVERED

CALLING all army wives who are childminders — are you members of the National Childminding Association? If so, have you applied for a grant for the Under Fives Initiative? If not, think about it!

During National Childminding Week, I spoke to Sue Owen, NCMA's Information Officer, who explained how the Government's new Under Fives Initiative was being used in England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland have separate funds.

Sue explained that NCMA had been nominated as one of the 14 major voluntary organisations in the pre-school field who have been given sizeable funds of money from the £2 million.

This two million will be available for three years to these organisations.

The money received this year includes £10,000 a year for three years to produce new publications. This money will mean that some will be free and others will be available at a lower subsidised rate; this will help all members who often have little money to spend on publications.

Some of the money is being made available in small grants, for our groups, for drop-in centres, toy libraries, transport, newsletters, equipment, loan schemes, and the cost of running meetings.

Grants up to £200 are available with the first two phases for applications completed.

But as Sue says you can apply during the next funding period.

Call or write to your Regional Representative or to Sheila Wilson who is administering the Under Fives Initiative at the head office



in Bromley.

A large part of the remaining grant will be used to set up three major innovative support schemes, in an inner London Borough, Southwark, a rural area in the Midlands, and another metropolitan Borough, Trafford. A free poster has been printed, "Is your Childminder Registered?" as a reminder of the importance of registration and insurance, Sue explained. It could be a great help in service garrisons, as those who childmind on Crown Land hide behind the rule that the local authority rules are not enforceable. This evasion does not help the child, the childminder, or the parents by not registering or insuring.

Hiding behind the fact that your quarter is on Crown Land, or overseas where the rules on childminding differ widely, the protection is to register and insure

No childminding problems here... thumbs up, drink, food and a rest for some of the many children who visited the Aldershot Army Display. What did they enjoy? See page 18 and 19. Picture: Doug Pratt.

and not to wait until an accident happens.

If you are an "illegal" childminder, think again, and register today!

Parents seeking a childminder do not often ask if she is registered and insured, and if not, are content to leave the child with an unregistered 'minder'.

There is a lot of common sense behind registration.

Not everyone is cut out to be a childminder, and if you are, you are entitled to support and help accordingly — from the NCMA.

Sadly for those childminding overseas, grants for the Under Fives Initiative are not available. £200 grants would be of enormous help to these groups. I am investigating this anomaly.

However, to join as an individual costs just £2.75 (excellent value), groups of up to 10 members £12. 11-20 members, £18 etc, and for those who are members a special NCMA public liability insurance for registered childminders, for just £4.00 a year for individuals, and £6 for groups plus 50p for joining for the first time.

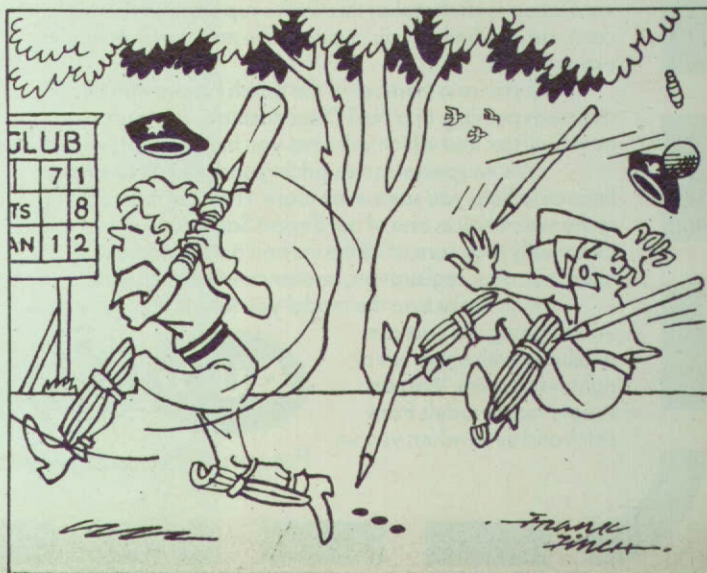
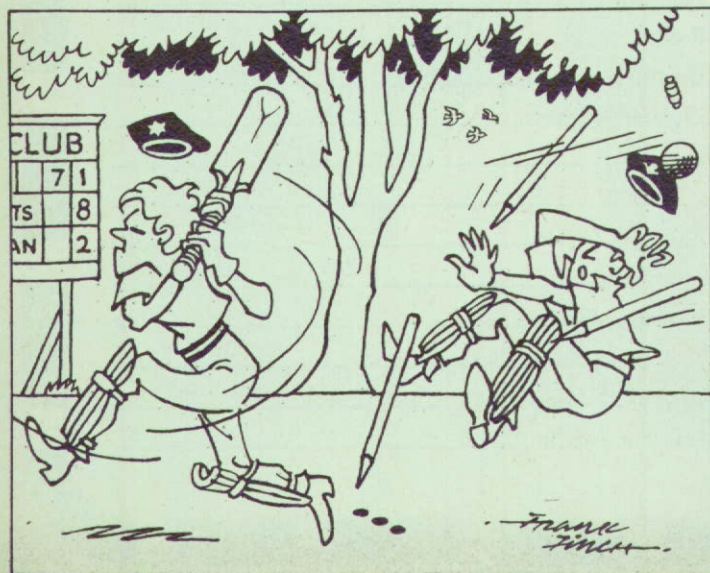
Sue Owen also said some insurance companies normal contents policy for your household may refuse to pay claims as they say you are running a business. So check.

The Phoenix Assurance Group have arranged a special policy for NCMA, "Home Insurance 80".

More details from: NCMA, 204/206 High Street, Bromley, Kent. BR1 1PP.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 40.



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Writer John Walton and photographer Paul Haley take a detailed look at the Suffield training area in Canada, where for the British Army there is room to move and the...

TRAINING BENEFITS ARE ENORMOUS



AFTER THE RIGOURS of the Canadian winter the Alberta prairie readies itself for Spring. The animals begin to appear, the migrating birds return and with them come the British soldiers and their tanks — the first of seven armoured battle groups which train each summer on the range at Suffield — said to be the biggest in the Western world.

The Suffield range is more than 1,000 square miles of the sort of country in which Clint Eastwood would feel at home. It is so vast that it would take in Salisbury Plain, Soltau and Luneburg ranges with plenty of room to spare.

There is scarcely a tree or other landmark to be found on the range — making navigation a tough task. In fact some reference points have had to be installed — you cannot risk people becoming lost when a battle group of more than 1,000 men with tanks, artillery and mechanised infantry companies are engaged in live firing exercises.

The official aim of the British Army Training Unit Suffield is to “train mechanised battle groups in imaginative fire and manoeuvre exercises to a scope and level which cannot be carried out elsewhere.”

Colonel Gene Lake, the Canadian base commander, says Suffield is the best training area the West possesses. He adds: “It allows BAOR to do the best training exercises in NATO and this must show up when they do their 1 BR Corps exercises.”

The limitations caused by lack of space in Germany and the United Kingdom have always meant that there is a need for bigger ranges to train battle groups. When Libya was lost for training the British Army looked round for somewhere else and found Suffield.

The British arrived in 1972 and since then the training and the whole operation has steadily expanded. The current agreement for the Canadians provides for BATUS to remain until 1991 but says Major Richard Eyres, who heads the personnel and logistics side at BATUS: “Any reasonable guess is that BATUS will be here until the end of the century.”

The battlegroups have grown in size in the last few years from 775 men to around 1050. They are accommodated during the time they are not out on the prairie in Crowfoot Camp, a stone's throw away from the main base. Named after an Indian chief who signed a peace treaty in the area in 1877 Crowfoot can get rather crowded but there is good news for next year's battle groups.

Funds have been made available for a brand new Junior Ranks Club with building to start this year so that it can be operative next summer.

This year's Medicine Man 2 for example comprised two squadrons of the 14th/20th Hussars plus Reconnaissance and Guided Weapons Troops; E Battery of 1 Royal Horse Artillery firing Abbots; 170 Battery of 45 Field Regiment with M 109 guns; a Blowpipe section from 10 Battery, 45 Field Regiment; mechanised companies from the 1st Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets; a reconnaissance flight from 664 Squadron Army Air Corps; plus supporting services.

The group spends 16 to 17 days out on the range — beginning with special arm training

Blowpipe duo of 45 Field Regiment at the ready.

Next issue: a special feature on the British soldiers who liked Canada so much ... they stayed.



Colonel Gene Lake: "The best training exercises in NATO".

and culminating in a five day exercise involving the whole group.

Recently £9 million worth of electronic targetry has been installed. There are still some old hard targets and traditional style pop-ups around the range but the new Saab equipment provides a much more realistic enemy.

The targets can be painted so that through infra-red sights they look exactly like the appropriate tanks the battle group might face in war. The radio controlled targets can even 'fire back' with appropriate puffs of smoke.

The 50 strong Range Services Support Group deal with targetry and with cable controlled battlefield simulation explosions. All are placed on different parts of the range so that whichever route the battle group commander opts to take he will find himself facing enemy. Each Medicine Man exercise uses seven tons of explosives in the battle simulation area. Says QMSI Geoff Howard: "What can be a day's work for two men can go in thirty seconds but it can be really spectacular."

Suffield holds 42 Chieftain tanks — of which

32 are likely to be out on the range at any one time. Over the last two winters all have been equipped with the new Improved Fire Control System.

There is no training in the winter — not surprising when you consider how cold it can get: as low as -50 Centigrade at times. And even the early and late battle groups can run into snow. Temperatures change rapidly on the high plains — a drop of 40 degrees Centigrade in a few hours is by no means unusual.

Until the end of May snow is always possible but once the summer comes it is hot, dry and dusty. The fine prairie dust gets everywhere. In the 'black museum' at the BATUS workshops they have two cardboard boxes containing three-and-a-half lbs of dust — taken from one air filter!

Fire is another major hazard with about ten per cent being burned each year. The grass does replenish itself and strategically sited fire breaks stop most from getting out of hand, although blazing tumbleweed can sometimes blow across the breaks to start the fire once again.

Only in extreme emergency would the battle group stop to put out a fire. When they do it can be a long job — several hours beating at flames with brooms. Mayor Eyres told SOLDIER: "We only firefight when we are not likely to prevent it spreading by other means. Our aim is not to disturb training."

BATUS has a permanent staff of 130 and in the summer this swells to between 400 and 500. Down the road is Ralston Village, the married quarters complex — in which 66 British married families live — about a third of the village. Another 44 families live in hirings in Medicine Hat, the nearest town some 28 miles away.

Ralston has its own Mayor and the office alternates between the Canadians and British. The current incumbent is Major Tom Reay, the BATUS Finance Officer. He has a chain of office and robes (which he never wears) and involves himself in parish council type negotiations with the provincial government

and the Canadian Defence department.

His major task during his six months in office will be organising this autumn's Ralston Rodeo. This features professional rodeo stars but also involves the British soldiers in amateur Wild West events such as milking wild cows and wrestling with calves.

The wives of Ralston enjoy life in the village even though those without children find it nigh impossible to get a job locally. "It is one of the biggest villages on the prairie," said BATUS RSM's wife, Mrs Jackie Fagg — and certainly the facilities available are better than in the other hamlets on the plains.

"Fashions out here are really different. They are about two years behind England" noted corporal's wife, Mrs Hazel Richardson. While Mrs Jane Plummer declared: "You have to be prepared to get in your car and go. I drive to Calgary every six weeks for the sake of my sanity as I have to have a big city around."

The village school has a 60-40 per cent Canadian-British ratio among its pupils. But headmaster, Mr Reg Thein, British born and out in Canada since 1957, says he has never noticed any tendency to form cliques based on nationality. "The kids just mix right in and that's the nice thing about it" he said.

Last year one British student took his CSE exam from the school a year before time and this year ten of them are attempting the same thing. Softball (a school version of baseball) vies with soccer and rugby for top place in the school sporting calendar.

Ralston has a cinema, swimming pool and bowling alley and now boasts its own ice rink. This comes into its own during the bitter winters — when it is too cold to skate outside. The British staff now have two ice hockey teams — BATUS Lions and the latest novice side 'Chariots of Fire.'

Major Eyres describes qualifications for the latter team as the ability to fall on the ice. Mostly officers it comprises people who have only recently learned to skate — including

Judging from this picture, the wives and children are happy in Canada.



Cleaning and maintenance area Suffield Plain.

Below: Captain Bacon and solitary Beaver.

one or two Canadians. Winning matches is not what it is all about!

Ralston has its own supermarket run by the Canex, the Canadian equivalent of Naafi. This is to be rebuilt in a bigger and better form shortly and already great efforts are made to serve the British community.

Master Warrant Officer Bill Elson, the base exchange officer, reports that the biggest sellers to the battle groups are toys, pottery and leather goods inscribed with the BATUS medicine man symbol.

"For the permanent staff we try to see what they would like in stock. We have things down in the grocery store that I had never heard of like Marmite and chutney."

Canex also runs a snack bar on the base and Bill Elson says: "We must be the biggest hamburger outlet for miles around. You will get soldiers come in out of the field, order three double cheeseburgers and eat the lot!"

The BATUS staff has as its task to see the battle group exercises can run smoothly. The battle runs are designed, implemented and administered by BATUS and they also provide range safety staff and vehicles.

The Army Air Corps detachment has five Gazelles, of which four are usually out in the field at one time, plus what is thought to be the last Beaver fixed wing aircraft still in military operation in North America. Its pilot is Captain George Bacon, ex-RAF but now an officer in the Royal Army Educational Corps.

In the workshops are the men whom the base commander, Colonel Lake, describes as "the unsung heroes of BATUS." They have the role of keeping everything going and in terms of wear and tear one mile out on the rugged prairie is equivalent to two miles in Rhine Army. And the mileage figures themselves are far higher than they would be in Germany.

Add to this the effects of rock and dust plus extremes of temperature and it gives some impression of the task facing the workshops. In the summer they support BATUS vehicles and do second line repair for the battle groups. But in the winter comes their busiest time.

Since the Falklands the delivery of vehicles has changed. Before a Landing Ship Logistic would travel round to Canada's West Coast via the Panama Canal and it would then proceed through the Rockies by train to Suffield sidings.

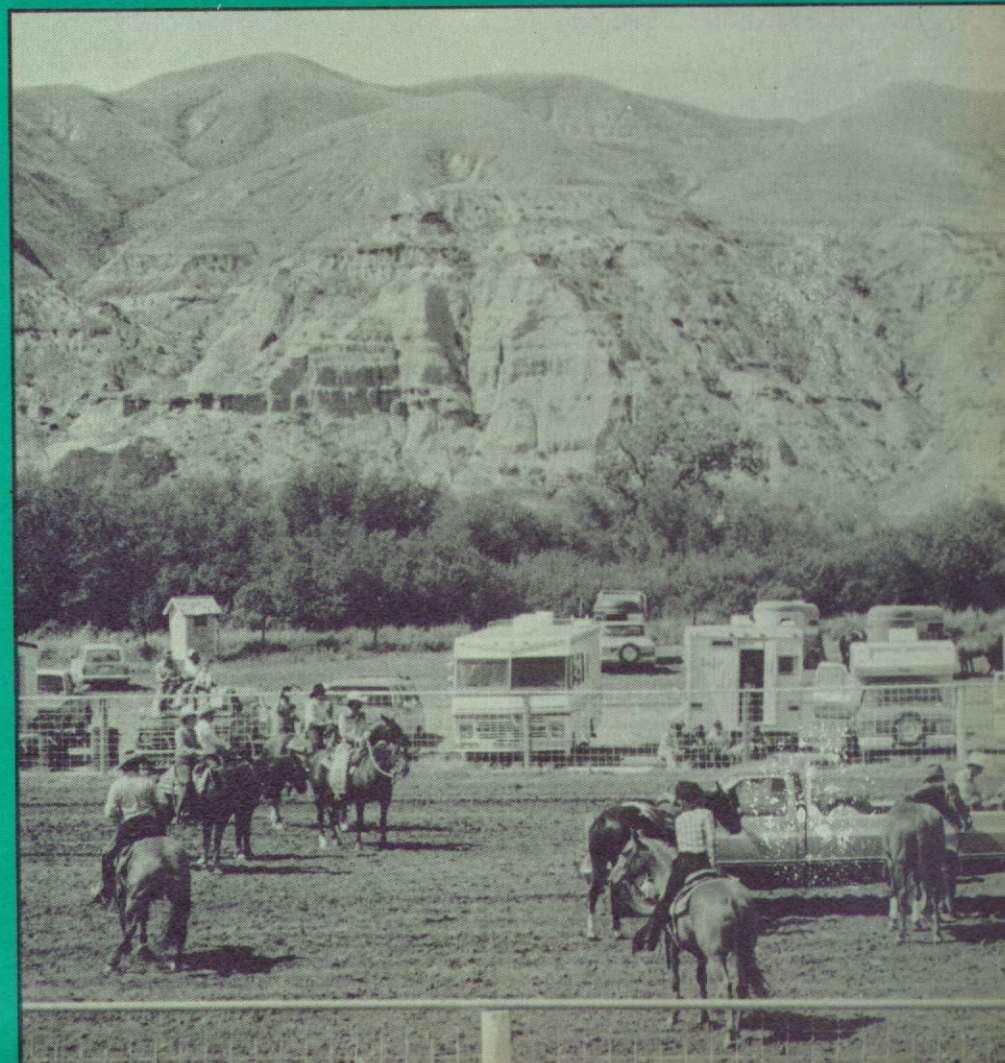
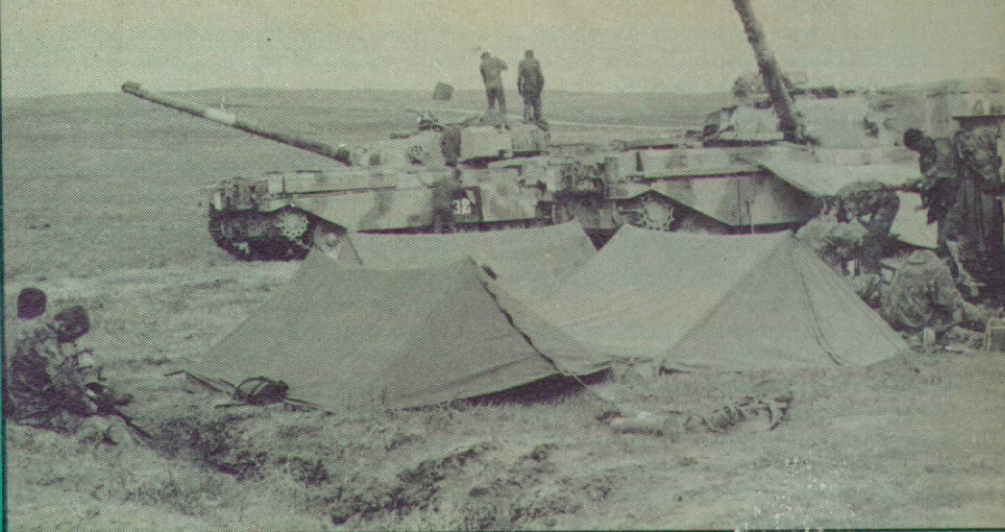
But with the greater demands on the time of the ships the method now is to deliver twice a year to East Coast ports and vehicles and ammunition then travel 3,500 miles by rail to Suffield.

Some of the stock of vehicles are returned to Britain and Germany in the empty ships for a complete overhaul. The remainder will be overhauled during the winter months and extra men come to Suffield for the winter for the maintenance work.

Major David Wright, who commands the workshops, told SOLDIER: "Last year we had two shifts going to get the kit ready and we still only made it by the skin of our teeth. The temporary staff really enjoy it here. We work them hard and they work overtime but there are no extraneous tasks. The average tradesman does twice as much productive work as he would in Germany."

continued on page 28

Magnificent setting for the rodeo.



The heavy wear and tear on the vehicles is sometimes compounded by the fact that they are only borrowed by the users. But this year Major Wright has noted a distinct improvement in maintenance by crews out in the field.

The guns in fact require less attention than they would in Germany. Constant use poses less problems than infrequent firing and the dry air means there are fewer problems with sighting mechanisms.

A further extension is scheduled to enable more vehicles to be parked inside in the winter. The harsh climate means that any tank which has been sitting outside has to be thawed inside for three days before work can start on it. And the spares have to be available — the workshop cannot afford to have vehicles lying idle waiting for spares.

The armoured personnel carriers used at Suffield are 432 Mark 1s which are petrol driven. As diesel is now used in Germany many of the mechanics will be working on them for the first time since basic training.

The roads and tracks can be treacherously deceptive and Land-Rover roll is a frequent hazard. All of the Suffield Land-Rovers now have roll-over bars and Major Wright reckons this has already saved half a dozen lives.

Air filters on tanks have to be changed regularly during the summer and BATUS is now saving £1,200 a year by recycling them. This can only be done once so the reused filters are dyed green.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps is responsible for maintaining the vast amount of supplies required to keep BATUS going as well as supporting British exercises at Wainwright and Fort Lewis in Washington State.

"I reckon this is the busiest and best major's command in the whole of the Ordnance Corps," says Major Colin Den-McKay, who commands what he calls 'Composite Ordnance Depot, Canada.'

The depot holds 3,000 tons of ammunition and the increases over the past four years have

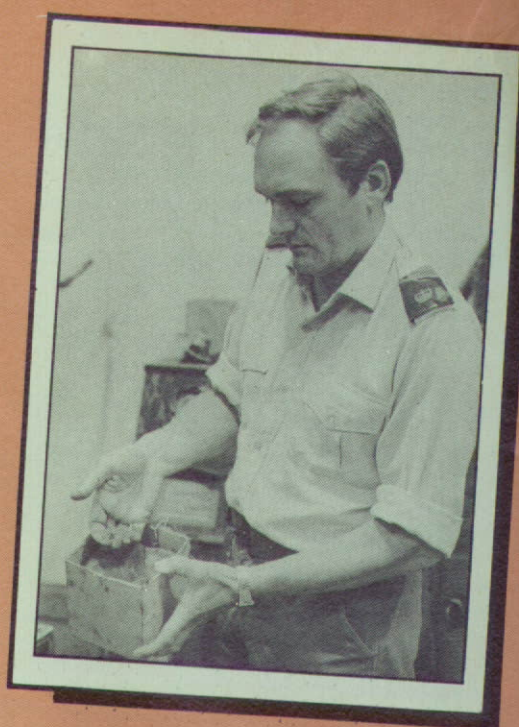
been staggering. Ammunition is up 81 per cent, vehicles 36 per cent, petrol and oil 20 per cent and other items have risen correspondingly.

During the exercise season the RAOC operates a mobile bath unit of the long serving 'Puffing Billy' variety. It is manned by three TA men who come out for three months at a time.

The unit can do 300 showers an hour and Staff-Sergeant William Brennan, who heads the current team, says: "The lads who have been out for days are really appreciative. They come in black as the Ace of Spades and go out reasonably clean. This sets them up for another three or four days."

The British soldier and the prairie wildlife have proved totally compatible at Suffield.

Shrouded M109A2 of 45 Field Regiment.



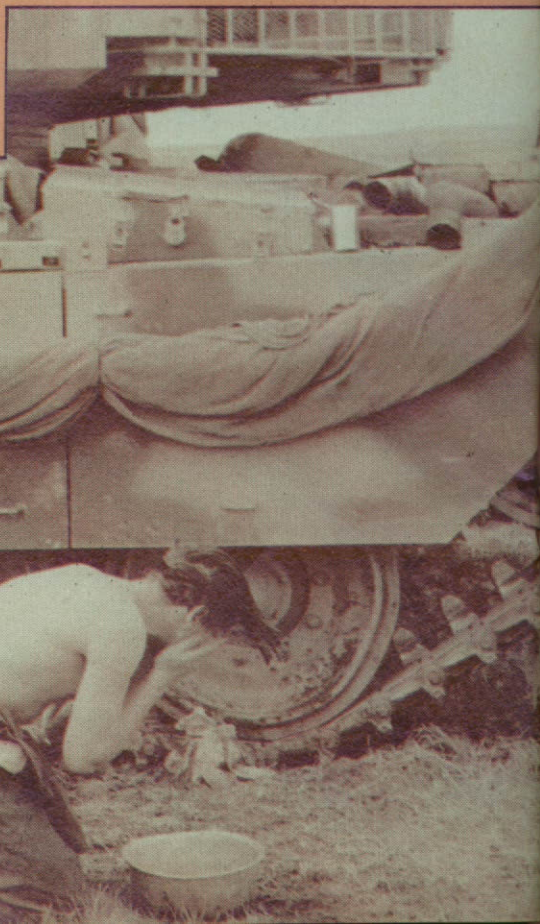
Above: Major David Wright: filter's worth of dust.

The most famous resident, the pronghorn antelope, which numbered 800 in 1972 has increased to about five times that figure. There are also rattlesnakes (but rarely seen), coyotes, deer and the ubiquitous gophers.

The 'badlands' around Suffield proved to be just that for the farmers who tried to scratch out a living on them in the early part of this century. But now they are providing riches galore — around 2500 natural gas wells are dotted around the range and there is also an oil project in one corner.

Underneath the ground lie the energy resources. On the top is a training area which provides the British Army with the opportunity to practise its skills and expertise on a scale unavailable anywhere else.

Dust removal time for the lads!



GLOUCESTER: where the famous kilt question is regularly posed — and where, if you want to know the chime...

WATCH JOCK THE CLOCK!

WHAT DOES a dashing regimental Scots piper in the Cotswolds wear under his kilt as he occupies a position of clear authority where the public at large can literally look up to him?

The answer is quite clear... resoundingly so.

But his job is that of a punctual time-keeper among a rather wooden-looking team of five nationalistic people perched on a balcony over a jeweller's shop in a main thoroughfare in the City of Gloucester.

The strapping "Jock", standing over six feet tall, dourly drops a right clanger with regularity — every 15 minutes.

For his duty as 'Cock o' the North' is to strike exactly the right note — a resonating 'D' — as one of the quintet of carved wooden figures who tirelessly work 12-hour shifts keeping time on two and a half hundredweight of bells.

The handsome piper shares his eye-catching duties four times in any given hour with an emerald-liveried Irish colleen, a portly John Bull, a Welsh maid and Father Time. And they've been getting together literally for this time-honoured horological sequence for 80 years.

The first clanger was dropped in November 1904 — at noon, to be exact — when the Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor W. Langley-Smith, set the clock-watching quorum into animated action

before a large, gaping crowd.

The noon-day ceremony, according to chronicles of the time, took place to coincide with the rebuilding of the jeweller's premises at "considerable expense" when the owner, a Mr G. A. Baker, installed the new mechanism on the Westminster chiming clock principle.

To ensure better time-keeping over the ensuing years, "Jock, the Clock" and his friends of the fixed gaze have been helped in their punctilious roles by the "improved Graham deadbeat escapement" which was said to give an "expected variation of not more than five seconds a week."

The Gloucester Journal reporting the opening spectacle on an inside page recorded: "For the convenience of the public the striking has been so arranged that the first blow of the hour and the last bell shall indicate the last second of the past hour."

"Jock" and his fellow well-wardrobed custodians of life's fleeting hours and minutes were designed by a Mr Walter Lifton who, on the great day, did not share the enthusiasm of the end result with the massed onlookers on the street below.

He nipped round to the Journal's editorial offices, set in a quiet side street, to register a disclaimer.

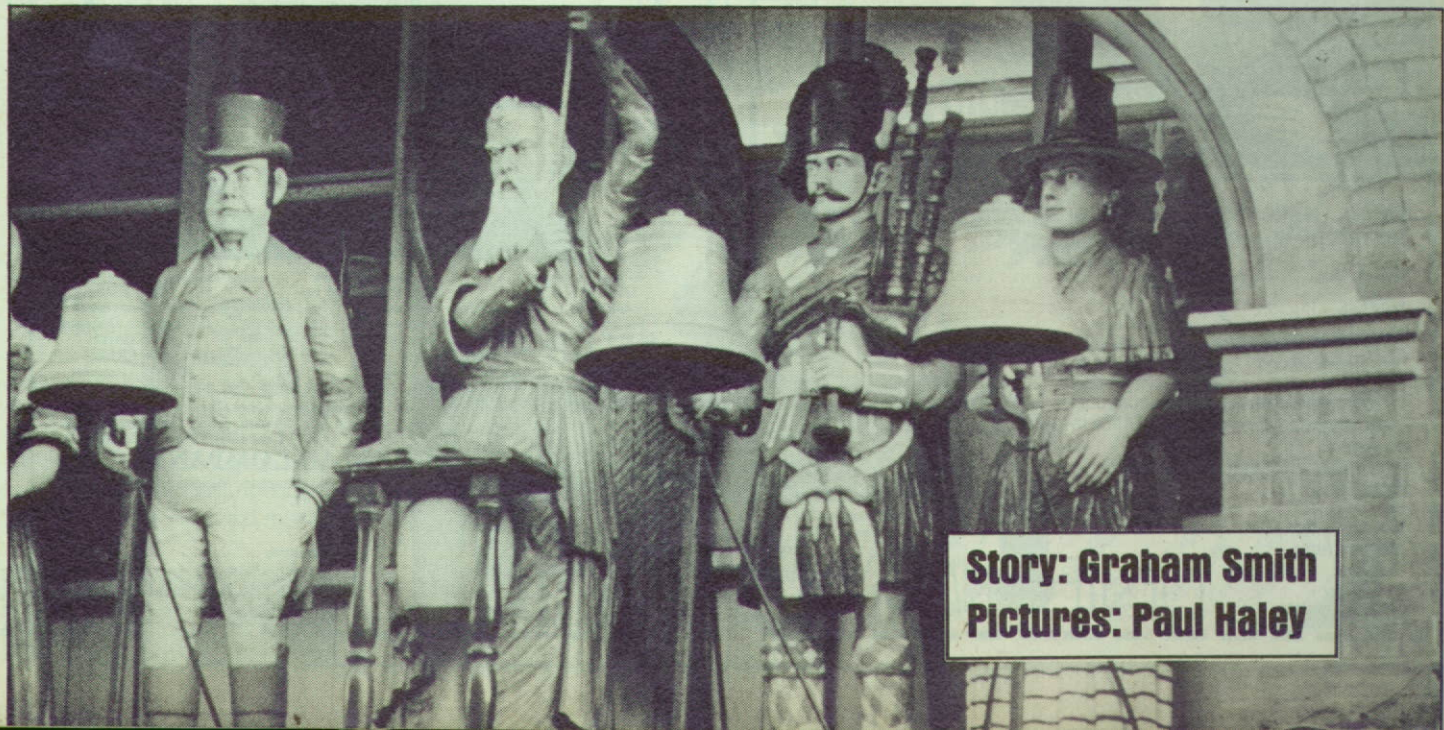
The Journal duly obliged. "Mr Walter J. Lifton desires us to state that the figures are not quite in

accordance with his design and that he had nothing to do with their carving or colouring."

Today, only tourists to the cathedral city pause for the ceremony of the gilded bells tuned

by the harmonious five on their stage above the jeweller's.

Are they peering past the piper's sporran or trying to decipher his enigmatic smile? What would Mr Lifton make of it all today? ■



**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley**



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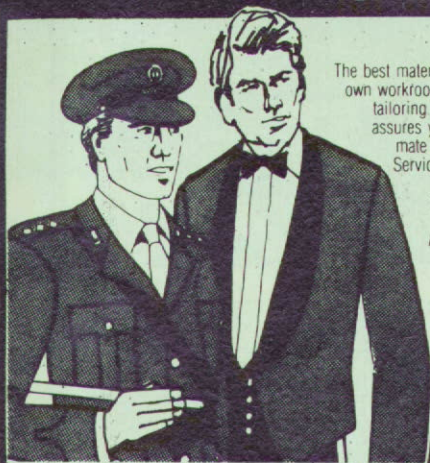
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Medics get boost with Chinook

3 ARMoured Field Ambulance have undergone an intense period of medical training in support of 33 Armoured Brigade units on Hohn training area.

The Field Ambulance deployed from its camp in Sennelager in a very unusual fashion, by Chinook helicopter, when the giant aircraft again proved its worth by lifting an entire dressing station the 200 kilometres to Hohn in two lifts within three hours.

Exciting

The resulting journey was exciting, and the medics and bandmen of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars were treated to an aerial view of Germany at high speed with a great deal of bumping from a heavy load in turbulent conditions.

On the ground, the dressing station set up and began to treat casualties from the local area brought in by the transport of the fighting units. The Field Ambulance's own transport, including the vital ambulances, managed to marry up and the unit reverted to more conventional operations.

Unique

When the exercise moved into the NBC phase the dressing station set up to deal with casualties in a chemical environment. The Armoured Field Ambulances are unique in NATO in having an advanced treatment capability in chemical warfare.

The equipment, known as CPE, (Collective Protection Equipment) has recently been accepted by the British Army having been on trial for some years. In all 800 soldiers from the brigade saw the dressing station in its new role and 400 casualties were processed.

After five days of casualty play and movement the weary medics moved back to Sennelager, this time more sedately, by road. It was a worthwhile exercise which showed that medical units in 1 (BR) Corps are flexible enough to move by air or road and can operate in most conditions expected in war.



The dressing station prepares for an underslung ride.

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Picture and story from a report by 3 Armoured Field Ambulance

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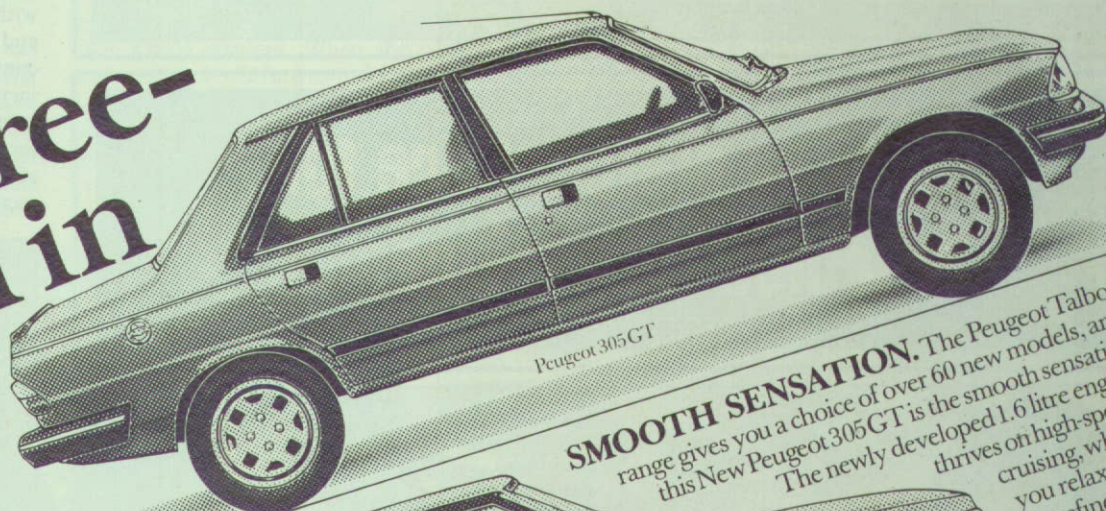
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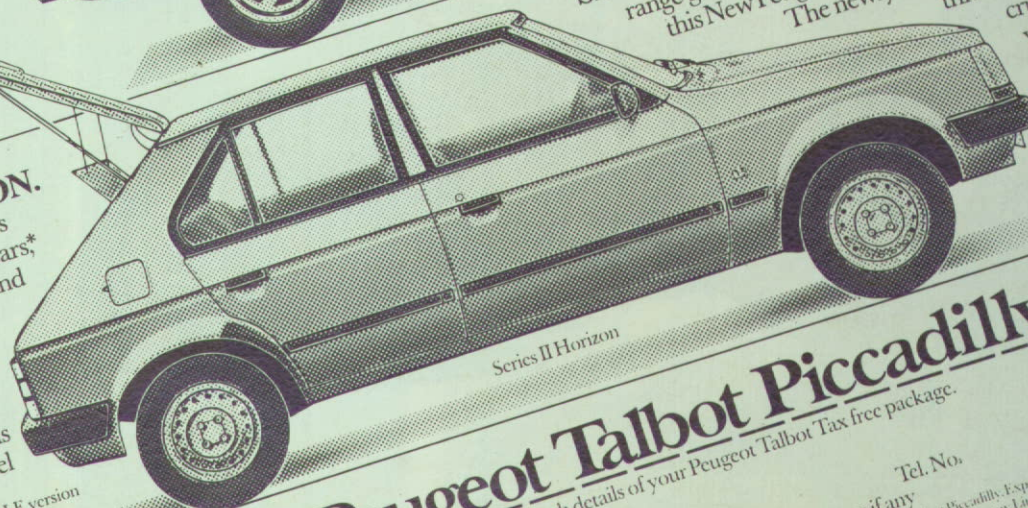
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ROYAL STAR AND GARTER



Nurse Mandy Lawes gets a personal review of the papers from a resident in the elegant gardens.

Homely atmosphere for Disabled Ex-servicemen



A Joint (ex) Service pottery class — part of the occupational therapy department.

CURRENTLY valued at £20 million and superbly situated just at the gates of Richmond Park in Surrey, one might expect this impressive pile to belong to a rock star of note or a millionaire captain of industry. But no, the people who live here, on one of London's prime sites, have served a nobler cause, some paying dearly for the privilege.

They are the residents of the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, built on the site of a former grand hotel and at the inspiration of the late Queen Mary and the British Red Cross Society.

Today, apart from being home to almost 200 ex-servicemen, it stands as the women's memorial to the men that died in the First World War — for it was through an appeal to the women of the Empire that the money was raised to erect the purpose built accommodation.

As we all know, the need to house the thousands of men returning from the bloodsoaked trenches was overwhelming and use had to be made of any available bricks and mortar. The Star and Garter hotel was one such place and it served its purpose for the duration of hostilities and up until 1924 when the new home was built and opened by its first patron, Queen Mary.

Since 1916 men have come here in varying conditions of health and with or without their limbs, eyes and faculties, to benefit from the constant care and medical treatment this independent charity provides. The only qualification for residence is the inability to look after oneself and to have been a member of Her — or His —

Majesty's Forces.

The disabilities need not be as a result of active service, although many are, having been sustained during either of the world wars or one of the post-war conflicts like Borneo, Cyprus and Northern Ireland.

Some are disabled through training or road accidents; others suffer appalling chronic diseases such as multiple sclerosis like 34-year-old former Corporal Ray Dixon late of The Parachute Regiment and the Royal Corps of Transport. His philosophy on life is to keep as cheerful as he can since, as he put it, "nobody likes a misery".

An older but comparatively new resident is Colonel Nick Hurst who spent 30 years with the Indian Army. Now 88, Colonel Hurst was twice awarded the Military Cross. The first time was for his part in the battle on the Somme in 1916 when he was with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. The second was on the North-West Frontier against the warlike Pathans of whom, he says, "you had to be jolly careful for they were dead shots".

Since he moved to the Home 18 months ago, Colonel Hurst has enjoyed the benefits of medical care as well as the company of his peers and of younger men. There are, naturally, the essential nursing care and therapy departments necessary for continued treatment but the atmosphere is one of 'home' rather than a hospital.

Those who are more or less dependent on help in everything live in what is known as Florence Nightingale wards where each bed is within the sight of trained staff or care assistants. Thereafter, the amount of privacy afforded reflects

the level of independence each resident has in performing daily living skills.

Occupational therapy covers a wide range of activities from basic kitchen skills — particularly important for short-stay residents preparing to live on their own — to painting, tilework, basket weaving, making soft toys and the buttonhole poppies for the annual Haig Fund Appeal.

This apart, there is something for almost everyone with frequent outings and organised activities within the home. Several local and Service charities help by taking out groups on day trips and to sporting events — a visit to the Oval is especially popular — while indoors there is plenty to keep the mind alive with the extensive new library and even the annual Bamber Gascoigne Challenge! And then of course, there is always the park, arguably London's finest with its

Story:
Sally Daniell
Pictures:
Doug Pratt

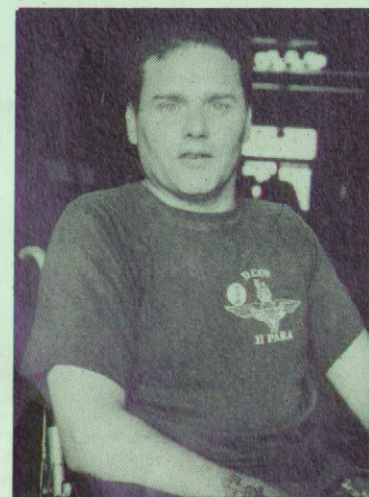
natural beauty and free ranging deer.

By their very nature, homes like this are chiefly for men but under the terms of its recently revised charter, the Royal Star and Garter will welcome ex-Servicewomen as well; but as yet, it still awaits its first female resident. When she comes along, it will further its long association with women: it was after all, through the efforts of women — and one of them a queen — that the Royal Star and Garter began.



Getting to grips in the highly active physiotherapy department.

Ex-Indian Army officer, Colonel Nick Hurst.



Former Para Ray Dixon — "Nobody likes a misery."



In the workshops a resident makes a paddle float from a 1922 self propelled wheelchair.



Retaining links with currently serving members: Lieutenant Jennifer Law and some of her girls visit the home for a disco.



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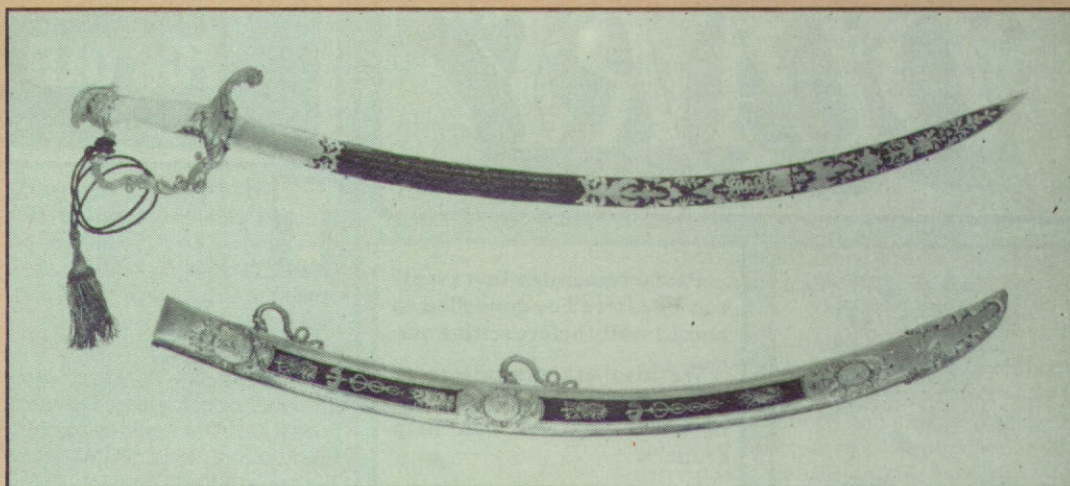
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Lieutenant Samuel Snook was an officer in the Company's Bombay Marine, a maritime surveyor with 'a botanical turn of mind' who, in 1791, was one of a small party sent to teach the people of Pelew (between New Guinea and the Philippines) how to grow rice.

Snook must have been fond of the islands and their inhabitants, for a few years later he adopted a group of Pelew women stranded in Bombay and when he was posted to Macao, he chartered a small

vessel to carry them home.

This act of kindness brought him into close contact with the cannibal king Abba Thulle who, by giving him information about French and Spanish shipping movements, helped him promote his employers' trading interests in the area.

They were so pleased that in 1806 they presented him with an engraved sword valued at 100 guineas.

The ornate blade was purchased by Wilkinson Sword Ltd

in 1964 and presented to the museum where it can be seen among a group of equally flamboyant presentation swords in the Weapons Gallery.

Each year it is featured in the award of modern Wilkinson Swords of Peace which celebrate work in the Snook tradition by today's soldiers, sailors and airmen.

The 1983 Army winners were the men of H Troop, 13 Signal Regiment for their outstanding community relations in Dannen-

berg, West Germany and, (a special award) the 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) for their unstinting efforts in clearing up the ravages of war in the Falkland Islands.

Samuel Snook became a captain and later a commodore in the East India Company's service before retiring to England on furlough at the end of 1816. He died, aged 74, at Iwer (Bucks) on 2 December 1844.



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See-the-Army DIARY



Please remember that events can be altered or cancelled so check locally before setting out.

We also ask organisers to keep us advised of any changes in order that we can help readers.

JULY 1984

- 10/11 RSA Massed Bands, Larkhill (Junior RA Band CD B).
- 11 The Royal Tournament, Earls Courts (The Massed Bands of the Royal Marines, The Band of 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (Resident Band) (The RN Display Team, The RN Field Gun Competition, The King's Tp RHA, The White Helmets, The RAF Police Dogs) (to 28 July).
- 11 Massed Bands, Larkhill (RA Woolwich B, RA Mounted B, JLRRA B, 1 Glosters B, 2 Para B, REME B).
- 11/14 Artillery Day, Larkhill (RA Band).
- 12/14 Army Display, Nottingham (Red Caps, Red Devils, Combat Display Notts TA).
- 21 Depot Crickhowell Open Day (1 RWF CD, 1 RRW CD) (RA Freefall).
- 21 LI Open Day, Shrewsbury (The Trail Blazers (N)).
- 23/26 Royal Welsh Show (1 RRW CD).
- 25/26 Ilfracombe Tattoo (CD 2GG, Bands: 1 D & D, 3LI).
- 26/28 St Helen's Show (Band and P 1 R Irish, Band & CD 1 QLR, Band & CD 1 RRF, Band 1 RS, Band Irish Gds) (KDDT, Red Devils, RAMC DT, Junior Leaders, R Sigs, 2 RRF, 25 Eng Regt).
- 27 Farewell to RMABC RMA Sandhurst Beating Retreat (RMABC, RAOC, WRAC and other bands).
- 27/28 Dover Tattoo (1 DERR, 2 R Irish, HAC, 5 Queen's (V) (RAF MCD Team, JLRRE 1 TLB, Pathfinders, 17 Tra Regt RA).
- 28 Rapier Day, Kirton-in-Lindsey (RA Band).
- 28 12 AD Regt RA (Junior RA Gymnastic).
- 29 Bovington Open Day (RA M/C).

AUGUST 1984

- 1/4 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (QDG Band, RA Band, R Signals Band, RHF Band, Albuhera Band, Queen's Regt & CD, RRF Band & CD, 2 R Anglian Band & CD, D & D Band & CD, 2 R Irish Band & CD, RWF Band & CD, 1 Staffords Band & CD, REME Band, WRAC Band) (Red Caps, Junior Leaders RA Gym Display, RAF Falcons, Royal Norwegian King's Guard, RAF Fly Past).
- 3/5 Manchester Show (1 R Irish Band PD, 1 QLR) (Red Devils).
- 5 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Junior RA Band, CD, B) (Junior RA Gymnastic) (5 August-5 September).
- 10/11 Shrewsbury Flower Show. (CG, RCT, RAOC Bands) (Band Light Div School of Music, White Helmets m/c display team).
- 11/12 Newport Services Spectacular (QDG Band, 1 Staffords Band, R Mon RE(M) CD, 3 RRW (V) Band CD, 157 Regt RCT(V) CD) (RN, RM, RMP, RA MC Display).
- 17/18 Darlington Show (CMD, RCS 34 (N) Band) (RA Para, 34 (N) Sig Regt (V)).
- 26/27 Carlisle Service Tattoo (1 RS Band, 1 King's Own Border Band D, 1 R Irish Band RD, 2 LI Band B, RM Band FOSNI) (RN Display Team, Red Caps, 12 AD Regt RA, 4 King's Own Border (V), RAF Police Dogs Display, Red Devils, RA Para).
- 31 North Wales Tattoo (1 RWF CD, 1 D & D) (RA MC Display, LI PDT) (31 August-1 September).

NOVEMBER 1984

- 11 Remembrance Sunday.

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BUSY TIMES FOR OLD COMRADES

THANKS to some early publicity in SOLDIER, the Essex and Royal Anglian Association were treated to a right royal time when they visited Holland in celebration of its liberation from the Germans.

When he saw notice of their proposed Arnhem-based reunion in SOLDIER's Reunion column, Lieutenant Colonel S O'Meara of 23 Liaison HQ in Rheindahlen put them in touch with the Dutch authorities who then organised an extensive itinerary. They were

taken to Zatten, Elst, Bommel, Haaldaran and Nijmegen where friendships were renewed and past battles remembered.

At Arnhem itself, members of the Association enjoyed a memorial service and a concert including a film of the drop which led to the town's ultimate liberation.

Finally at Wageningen wreaths were laid, one by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, and the standards of the Royal British Legion and the Essex Regiments were paraded.

IN KEEPING with this year's trend to mark the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of the end of the Second World War, 49 (West Riding) Reconnaissance Regimental Association had their own celebration when they returned to the Dutch town of Loenen which they helped liberate in April 1945.

The main objective of the visit was to unveil the town's Liberation Monument. A 37mm gun salvaged from a Humber MkIV armoured car which had been knocked out in the attack on the village, was mounted on a stone base with a bronze plate recording the event and placed in the village centre. The former tank commander, Sergeant W Mould and Squadron Commander, Major H Judge MC were present to lay wreaths of poppies at the base of the monument and speak on behalf of the Association. The Association then presented the townspeople with the Union Jack which was hoisted alongside the Dutch flag by Lieutenant L Palmer, commander of the Assault Troop which first occupied the village.

A visit to the Erekerhof cemetery outside Loenen served to impress upon the visitors the immense sacrifices made by the Dutch people in their fight for freedom and a trip around the Airborne Museum at Arnhem brought back memories of positions held and patrols made in the snow and ice of that winter.

In the interests of bi-national solidarity, the Dutch further extended the hand of friendship to their guests by giving them a rattling good time socially, with happy evenings spent recalling those distant days, tongues liberally oiled by suitable beverages. In the sing-songs, *Auld Lang Syne* was the favourite, forcefully expressing the links forged forty years ago and strengthened now.

FIFTY war veterans gathered together to relive old times — when they were on opposite sides of the battlefield. As guests of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in Osnabrück, veterans of both the German Afrika Korps and the allied 8th Army met to see how modern tanks live up to those of the last war.

The visit was part of the Osnabrück Afrika Korps Association reunion. For the celebrations the Osnabrück veterans invited the Derby branch of the 8th Army veterans association and their wives over to Germany.

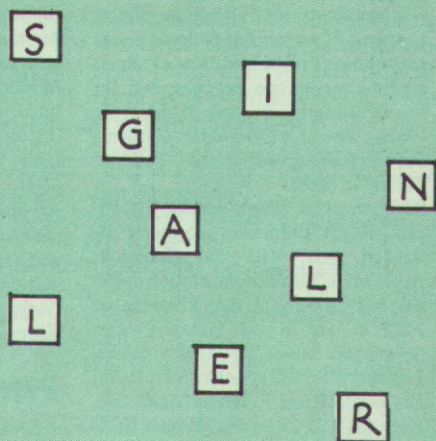
During the visit the old soldiers were able to see the modern Chieftain tank, the Scorpion reconnaissance vehicle as well as a guided weapons carrier. Besides chatting to the soldiers, the



A look inside. Lance Corporal Collier explains all to Herr Stubbe and Herr Kuhlisch of Osnabrück. veterans were given a ride in a tank, and had the weapons explained to them.

ARMY CONNECTIONS

COMPETITION 342



= SIGNALLER

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R	O	R	E	A	E	O	N	E
T	R	S	E	S	N	R	R	R

IN THE square are nine hidden words, each of nine letters. The words read downwards with the letters arranged haphazardly. All nine words have some connection — now and/or then — with the British Army.

This is what you have to do. Take one letter from the top horizontal line, then a second letter from the second horizontal line and so on until you take the ninth letter from the bottom horizontal line.

You should then have a word of nine letters which has been (or is) associated with the British Army — past or present.

When you have found all nine words arrange them alphabetically — A, B, B, F, etc, and send them to us. Do not use a letter twice.

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Friday 17 August. The answers and winners' names will appear in our issue of 10 September and no correspondence can be entered into. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 342' label. In the case of ties, winners will be drawn by lots. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 342' label to: Prize Competition, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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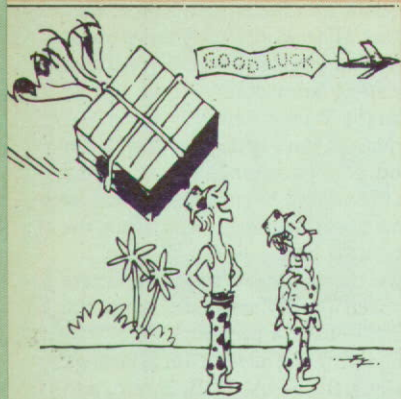
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OF MYTH & MEN

I note that in almost every article referring to the Army Air Corps, the myth that it was formed in 1957 continues and is not helped by the Corps' own celebration of their Silver Jubilee in 1982. The AAC was formed on 24 February 1942 and comprised the Glider Pilot Regiment, Parachute Regiment (itself formed by the 11 Special Air Service Battalion circa 1940) and later joined by the SAS as originated by David Stirling.

We wore the maroon beret, worn at that time by all Airborne troops and I well remember the furor at home when I appeared on leave dressed thus instead of the regimental beret and badge of the family regiment to which I belonged.

How about setting the record straight? — I W Penneck, 'Amberley', Morton, Southwell, Notts NG25 0UT.

According to Arthur Swinson's 'A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army', you are both right and wrong, Mr Penneck. 'The Glider Pilot Regiment was formed in January 1942. RAF No 38 Wing (later Group) formed to provide transport for airborne forces in February and The Army Air Corps was founded to act as an administrative centre for the Glider Pilot Regiment and the Parachute Regiment, also formed that year.' But then in 1950 the Army Air Corps was disbanded until 1957 when it was reformed. 'The Glider Pilot Regiment was officially dissolved

MAIL DROP

and it and the Air Observation Post Squadrons Royal Artillery were merged in the new Corps which was henceforth a true Corps with a combatant role and its own complement of men and machines.' Incidentally it is possible to trace the history of the AAC right back to 1878 when military experiments with balloons were begun at Woolwich Arsenal. — Ed.

NOT ELIGIBLE

I quite agree with Mr Rimmer's comments (Mail Drop 18 June) re the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. It has always seemed ridiculous to me that commissioned officers are not eligible for this award. Surely ours is the only army (apart from those in the Commonwealth who follow our system) that does not have a standard award to all ranks.

Another aspect of decorations which, as a wartime volunteer when only 17 years old I deplore, is that the British Army has no medal or even a clasp to the War Medal to signify volunteers.

Mr Rimmer is, however, completely wrong in the description of the French Legion d'honneur decoration. This was instituted by Napoleon when First Consul on 19 May 1802 and is an honour, not a long service decoration, roughly equivalent to the VC or DSO. The original issue bore the head of Napoleon but post-1970 issues bear the head of Ceres — the symbol of the republic. — HLS Plunkett, 93 Springbank, Lakenham, Norwich NR1 2LH.

LUCKY ESCAPE

In reply to the letter from Mr Hammond (SOLDIER 21 May) concerning the wearing of rolled capes and folded greatcoats by the Foot Guards in full dress, I was told by a trained soldier during regimental history instruction at the Guards Depot in 1944, that this had been stopped before the war at the request of the then Prince of Wales. We just had to roll gas capes in those days and he said how lucky we were not to have to roll a cape and fold a greatcoat. — Major G M I Stroud (Retd), 12 Glebe Rise, King's Sutton, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 3PH.

Reunions

Ex-Darland Boys Association fourth

annual reunion will be held at Chatham on Saturday, 1 September 1984. Any ex-boys and staff who served at the Army Technical School, Fort Darland, Gillingham during 1939-40 are eligible to attend. If you are one of these, please let us know so that a register of names and addresses can be compiled for future reunions. Further details from George Young, 6 Dane Court Gardens, St Peters, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2SB Tel: 0843 68982.

82Armoured Engineering Squadron, Royal Engineers (formerly 82 Assault Sqn, RE) Old Comrades Association 39th annual reunion buffet will be held on Saturday, 3 November 1984 at the Royal Green Jackets Sergeants' Mess, 56 Davies Street, London W1. Please contact A H Smith, 20 Douglas Road, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2QP or telephone (07016) 4226.

Pen pals

My name is Heather and I am 22 years old. I am 5ft 8ins tall with fair hair and brown eyes. My hobbies include sport, horses and keep fit. I

would like penpals aged 22-31 years old, preferably in Scotland. Photos appreciated. — Heather Welch, 65 Ninian Place, Portlethen, Aberdeen, Scotland.

My name is Sue and I am 5ft 3ins tall with ash blonde hair and brown eyes. My interests are house plants, reading, music and animals. I would like photos if possible. — Sue Pitcher, 13 George Drive, Drayton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR8 6DU.

My name is Kathy and I am 17 years old. I am 5ft 5ins tall with dark hair and green eyes. I enjoy various sports and having fun. — Kathy Newton, 39 Greys Road, Old Town, Eastbourne, E Sussex.

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1 Spelling of 'Club'; 2 Bottom number on scoreboard; 3 Length of bat splice; 4 Batsman's belt; 5 Shadow below batsman's left foot; 6 Ball at top right; 7 Thickness of top right branch of tree; 8 Wicketkeeper's left heel; 9 Foliage of tree at top left; 10 Lines by point of highest stump.

Can You Help?

A request has been made to me by the daughter of a soldier who was mentioned in despatches whilst serving with the 194 Light Railway Crew Company, Royal Engineers. He was 264029 Spr H Roberts RE, 194 Lt Railway Crew Coy mentioned in despatches from Sir Douglas Haig, dated 8 Nov 1918. She would be most grateful if we could discover why he was mentioned in despatches. — WO2 E W Jones, ACIO, The Drill Hall, Glynne Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1AH.

I have had a letter from a Belgian resident with British relatives enquiring about an incident during the advance into Belgium. The incident included a tank of the 10/19 Hussars which was engaged by the Germans in the town of Aase. The major and a crew member were killed. They are buried in the civilian cemetery in Aase. Could any member of that unit recall the incident as this Belgian lady is trying to trace the widows of the deceased, mainly to pass on photos of the graves. — B J Harris, 29 The Square, Pevensey Bay, Sussex, BN24 6SQ.

I would like to get in touch with a friend of mine whom I lost contact with after he was posted. He was LCpl W J Bolton of the Royal Military Police. — P Lauder, 78 Arthur Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 9BX.

I would be very pleased to receive any information about the York and Lancaster Regiment, Hallamshire Volunteer Battalion. Also, I would like to purchase anything connected with them, such as photos, badges, swagger sticks, medals etc. — F Taverne, 48 Cornwallis Avenue Folkestone, Kent.

Drummers Call is a quarterly magazine published for the membership of the Corps of Drums Society, a non-profit making body committed to the preservation of both the sound and history of the Drum and Fife. This preservation includes photographs both past and present of civilian and military Corps of Drums. We are building an archive of music, personal experiences and photographs and look to publish some eight to ten photographs in each issue. I am appealing for photographs for publication and preservation to be sent to me. All will be acknowledged and postage refunded where requested. Those not donated will be copied and returned safely. Membership enquiries are also welcomed and will be acknowledged promptly. — Malcolm Found, 111 High St, Northchurch, Herts, HP4 3QL.

Does anyone recall these two soldiers who were photographed at HQ REME Inspectorate in Dusseldorf in 1956?



I would like to hear from them and indeed anyone who served with the Inspectorate between 1954 and 1959. — A E Hall, 39 West Road, West Heath, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4HH.

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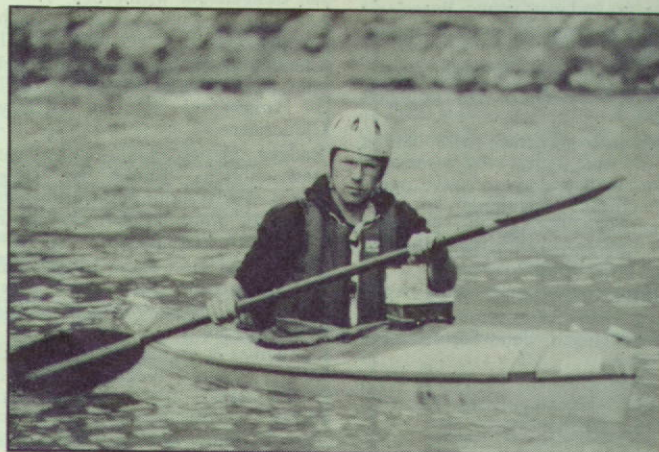
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Captain David Montgomery, RCT has paddled his way into the Guinness Book of Records with a gruelling 12-day solo canoe trip down the Rhine River. The canoeing captain obliterated the old record, which had stood since 1961, by over five days. It took him 12 days 8 hrs and 33 minutes to cover the 1140 kms of the official course, from Chur in the Swiss Alps to Willemstad in Holland. Operation Golden Opportunity, as the epic voyage was called, meant negotiating dams and rapids, torrential storms and heavy river traffic with no other support than a daily phone call. At the end an exhausted Capt. Montgomery announced more relaxing plans for the future. He says he's taking up tiddlywinks.

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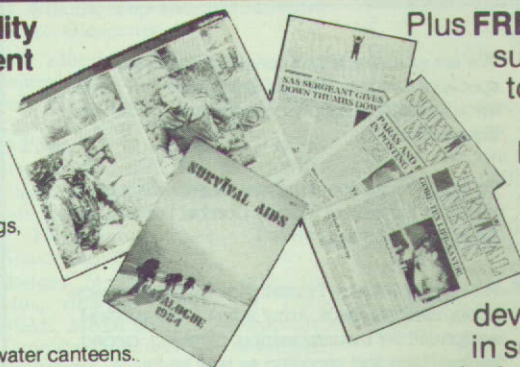
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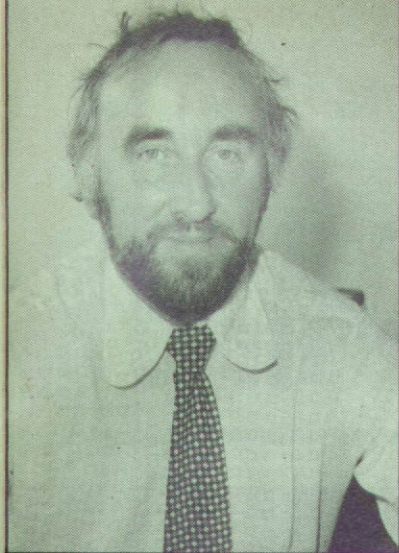
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NOT SOLDIERING ON!

SOLDIER has said farewell to staffman John Walton, who has left after nearly 13 years to become a freelance in the Aldershot area.

Since joining SOLDIER in December 1971 from the Central Office of Information — before which he was a provincial paper journalist, then a freelance serving national media — John has visited more than 50 countries. He was Deputy Editor until October 1981, when he took over as Sports Editor and despite the many and varied

features he wrote, he will be missed by lovers of Army and Combined Service sport.

He lists among the highlights of his SOLDIER career lunching with the late Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, trekking in the Himalayas; drinking kava with villagers in Fiji, and many others.

His best exclusive: a story of a group of Royal Signals who were in Poland at the outbreak of World War 2. It took 12 months to trace the survivors and the resulting

article won him a local National Union of Journalists competition award.

John is one of the country's leading collectors of, and an authority on, old cigarette cards. He is a member of the Council of the Cartophilic Society of Great Britain and writes and broadcasts on the subject.

With his long experience of Army matters, he will be missed and SOLDIER staff wish him well in his new career.

HORSE GUNNERS ORIENTEER CHAMPS

1ST REGIMENT, Royal Horse Artillery are the Army's top orienteers — and that's official!

The team that three years ago did not even exist smashed their way to victory in the recent gruelling two day Army Championships. Old rivals, 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery were beaten into third place by Scottish Artillerymen of 19 Field Regiment.

The 1 RHA victory was no shallow win. Superior navigational ability and technical skill gave the Hohne horse gunners a hefty 16 minute 55 second advantage over 19 Regiment. On day one, Bombadier Geoff Sutcliffe and Gunner

Geoff Priestley came 36th and 38th overall respectively, the latter placed third in the M19 competition. In the 9½km course, Bombadier Dennis Law came third, Staff Sergeant Dave Brown fourth and Bombadier Tony Morris 13th. On the second day, the three-man relay team fought it out over a seven km course and 1 RHA's performance ensured their ultimate victory.

But the hero of the occasion was Warrant Officer Trevor Beswick who became Army M35 champion. It was back in 1981 that Beswick formed the regiment's orienteering squad and he gained his first success when 1 RHA won the

Royal Artillery BAOR Collin and Parham Trophies in 1982. Since then, under his dynamic leadership, the team has gone from strength to strength.

Beswick tries hard to encourage young gunners to take part and many are already showing signs of future promise. Of the up-and-comers he says: "These young men will ensure for the regiment an ever present place amongst the top Army teams for years to come."

Dynamic leader — Warrant Officer 2 Trevor Beswick. ▶



APTC SET PACE IN TRIATHLON

A VERY fit team from the Army Physical Training School were beaten only by one team from Southern Africa in the first London to Paris triathlon.

This international team relay was a particularly tough challenge for the sixteen competing teams which included twelve from Great Britain (two APTC, one Royal Navy, one Royal Marine and one Royal Air Force provided the Forces' contingent), and four from overseas (Africa, France and two from the United States.)

The three-day event involved a 102 mile run from London to Dover, a cross channel swim from Dover to Calais and a 183 mile cycle ride to the centre of Paris.

The APTC 'A' team — Staff Sergeant Jim Wood, Sergeant Philip Walker, Sergeant Frank Turmel and Lance Corporal Paul Frost led from the start of the running stage, setting an initial



The grinning APTC team with team manager Captain Dennis Martin-dale.

pace of a little over five minutes a mile and finished first in 10 hours 3.26. The Royal Marine 'A' team finished just seconds behind the APTC 'B' team — Captain Nigel Lewis, Warrant Officers 2 Ted Martin and Stuart Paterson and Sergeant Martin Shaw were seventh in 11 hours 8.59. The all female British Triathlon Association team led by Captain Sarah Springman of Cambridge University OTC (see 'Profile', page 50) finished 13th in 11 hours 57.22.

On day two, the teams swam from Shakespeare Beach at Dover to Calais in water only 51 degrees F. Leppin, the team from Southern Africa were first in 5 hours 40, APTC teams sixth and seventh and the ladies clocked in eighth in 7 hours 17. Only 10 of the 16 teams reached the French beach; two withdrew because of sea-sickness and the remainder failed to complete the full distance and incurred time penalties.

In the cycling phase on the third day, each of the four team members rode a 30 mile leg and then completed the final 60 miles to the

Parc Begatelle as a team.

At the start, Leppin were determined to keep their lead of 40 minutes over the APTC 'A' team and finished two places ahead but with a diminished lead.

Leppin were the overall winners completing the entire course in 25 hours 23.16, APTC 'A' finished second in 26 hours 22.23, closely followed by the French. APTC 'B' came ninth in 29 hours 22.23, closely followed by the French. APTC 'B' came ninth in 29 hours 12.49 with Captain Springman and the other BTA ladies just over one hour behind.

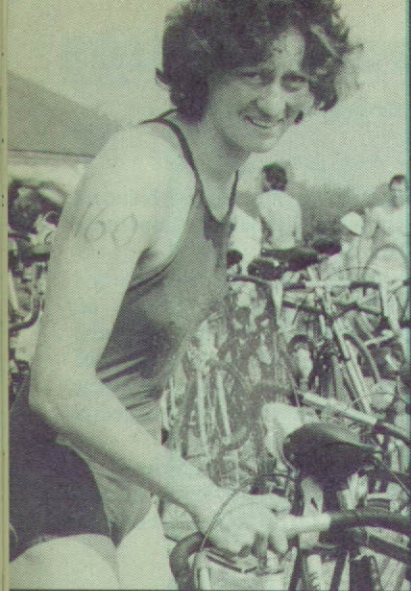
SAPPERS WIN

TWO YEARS after, 28 Amph Engr Regt became the first British Army football team to win the annual international tournament at Hengelo in Holland, they triumphed once more, this time at Denekamp in Holland.

Ninety-six football teams from 10 different countries converged on Denekamp to compete for the Mini World Cup, an apt title for a unique football competition involving service and civilian teams from England, Germany, France, Holland, Denmark, America and Canada.

Sally Daniell interviews
Sarah Springman — academic, TA
officer and ...

SPORTING SUPERGIRL



Sarah Springman: endurance with a smile. . .

SARAH Springman is a remarkable woman.

At 27, and standing over six feet tall, her achievements leave ordinary mortals open-mouthed with admiration.

A captain in the Territorial Army, she was the first woman to command men when she became Officer Commanding the Sapper Wing of the Cambridge University Officer Training Corps.

She is also the first captain of the British women's triathlon team — a discipline still in its infancy but gaining popularity.

She also happens to have a degree in Engineering Science from Cambridge (Girton) and is at present completing a year's MPhil in soil mechanics which she hopes to extend for her PhD.

A seasoned traveller she has worked for a Reading-based engineering firm in Australia and Fiji where, as the only female engineer, she was involved in a huge dam construction scheme. Whilst in the Antipodes she competed in and won several squash tournaments as well as various fun runs.

When I met her in her house in Cambridge, she had just come in from a swimming training session — part of a concentrated programme to prepare her for no less than seven triathlon events before the end of October.

In these days of American-influenced keep-fit mania, to do no sport at all is to attract a degree of personal disgrace. As a triathlete, Sarah is at the other end of the scale — pre-eminent in her field; an athlete among athletes.

After all, it takes a lot of endurance first to swim two miles, cycle 75 and then round off with a fifteen mile run all in one day — precisely what was required of her during the World Championships in Nice last year.

She was the first European/amateur home in just under eight hours beating seven professionals

including the top British girl by 21 minutes.

Her time is precious, but fortunately her position within the OTC does not conflict with her summer training programme. University examinations take precedence in the summer so most OTC activity, apart from annual camp, takes place in the Michaelmas and Lent terms leaving Sarah to concentrate on preparing herself for the summer's rigorous sporting calendar.

"I love working with the OTC here," she said. "The students are tremendously enthusiastic if a little impractical at times. They are all so intelligent that sometimes they cannot see the simplest way round a problem.

"They're intellectuals, you see, and do everything by committee; discussion is so much part of their college lives that it carries over into the OTC and everything takes an awfully long time to do!

"But the experience does do them a lot of good — as it did me. I see a tremendous difference between first and third years. The older ones have more confidence and I think are a little less intense."

Her family has always had Army connections (her grandfather was with the Scinde Horse) and even today one of her brothers is a Regular serving officer. With this in mind, and knowing her own predisposition, I wondered if she had not considered joining the WRAC.

"I did think of it, yes" she recalls, "but at the time I felt the WRAC offered rather limited options. I don't like sitting behind a desk for very long, you see. I am a practical person and I don't think it would have suited me.

"I believe the WRAC is gradually changing with more and more women doing practical jobs, but I still think I am better off in civilian life.

"I have no great ambition within the TA. I am happy as a captain and if I make major in time I'll be happy but I don't think I want to go much beyond that even if I could. I tend to think the more senior you become, the less interesting the job is.

"I think I get the best of all

worlds really: I can concentrate on my specialist subject — soil mechanics — whilst being able to take a complete break with the OTC and still keep up my triathlon training."

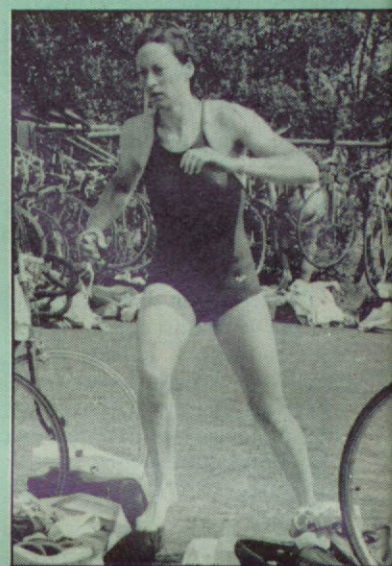
Her training has to fit round her academic work, starting with swimming first thing in the morning and then either running or cycling in the evening with a bit of weight training thrown in for good measure.

This year's first big test of her preparation was the London marathon which she completed with the help of the cheering crowds in three hours, four minutes and 58 seconds, knocking three-and-a-half minutes off her previous personal best.

Two recent triathlons this month included the British women's team relay from London to Paris (running to Dover, swimming the Channel and then cycling to the French capital.)

After the World Championships in September she is hoping to go to Hawaii for the Ironman Championships — the big one — in which she would have to swim 24 miles, cycle 112 and then run a marathon.

She tells me these awe-inspiring statistics in a matter-of-fact way as though such a punishing test is no big thing. Her biggest problem is getting to Hawaii in the first place — "but I'm determined to go. The money will just have to come from somewhere."



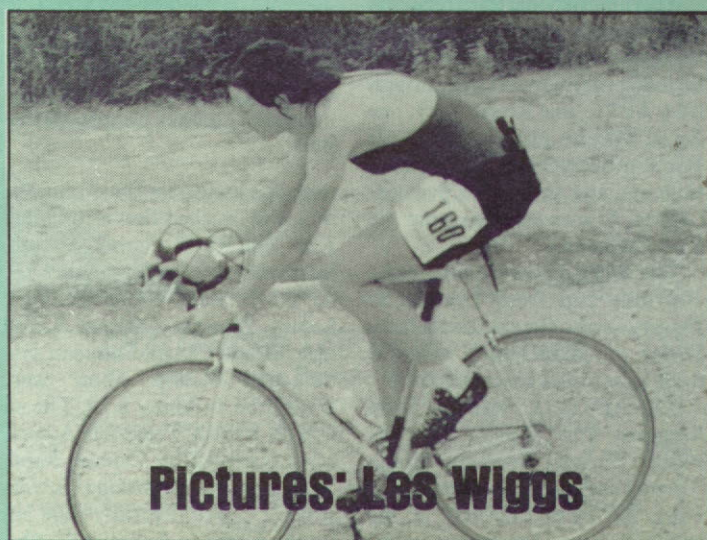
After the swim, dash for the cycle.

Oh yes, and between now and the end of the academic year she must submit her thesis. How does she do it?

"I think I'm just lucky," she says modestly, "in that I do seem to have a tremendous amount of stamina — I always have had."

She smiles (come to think of it, she didn't stop smiling all the way through the interview) and says good-bye on the front step of her little house. Feeling more than a little ashamed of my own lack of sporting prowess, I left this modern Supergirl thinking "move over Helen Slater, Sarah Springman has arrived!"

Two wheels and a lot of miles.



Pictures: Les Wiggs

THE LIONHEART—In a class of its own

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