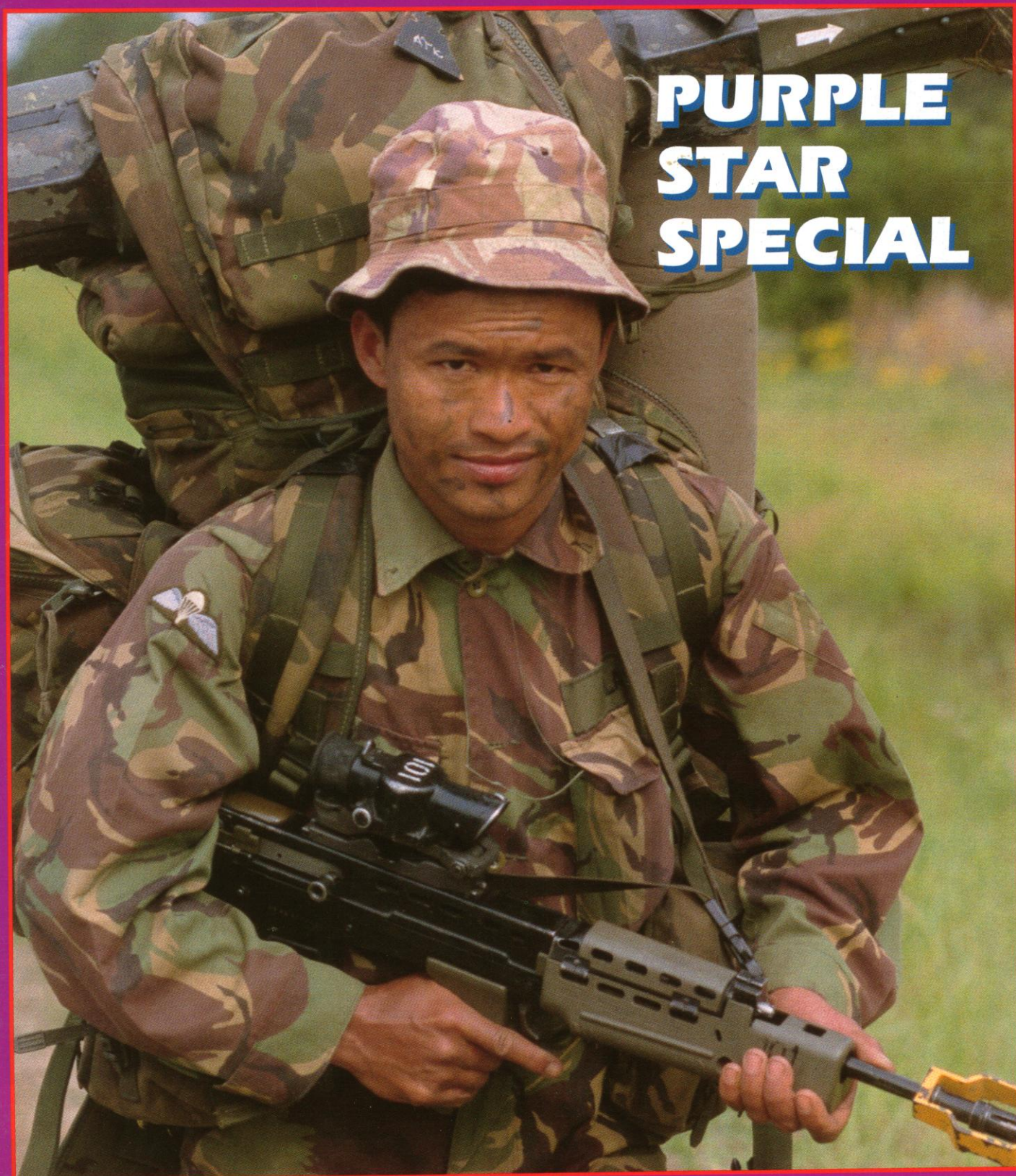


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FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JUNE 24 1996

60p



● Cartoonist's farewell to arms ● Resettlement feature

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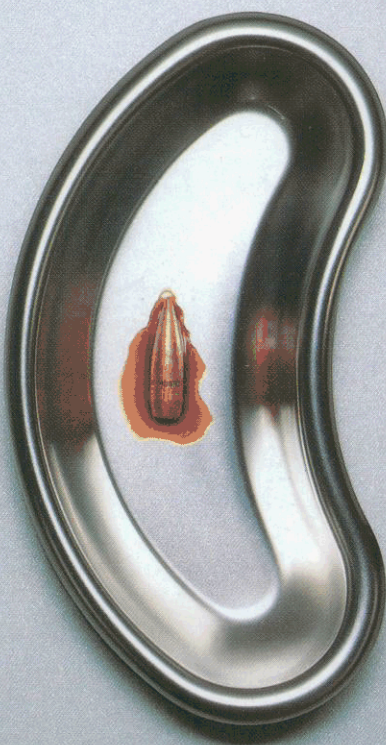
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June 24, 1996 Vol 52/13

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 on Ex Purple Star



Picture: Mike Weston

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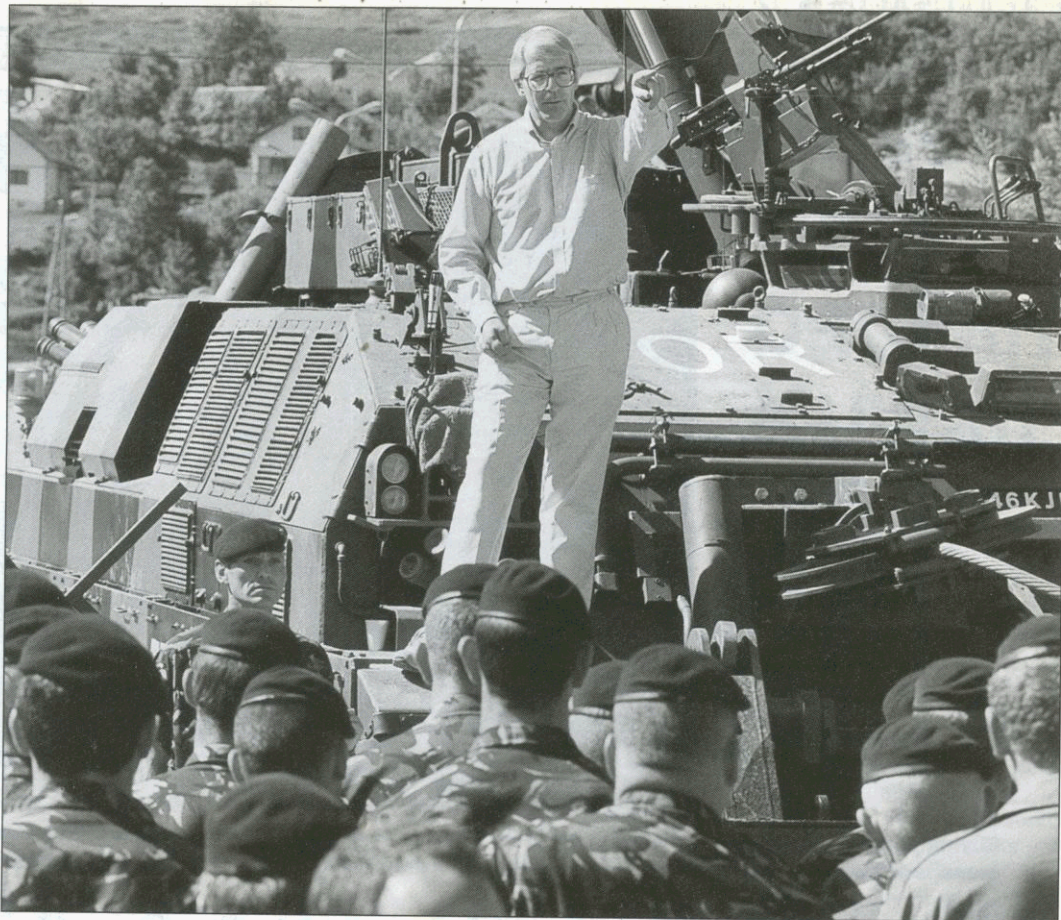
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Mr Major addresses 1 Mech Bde troops in Sipovo during his visit to open the "Sesame Street" bypass

Op Resolute's Sesame Street opened by PM

PRIME MINISTER John Major has opened a bypass built by British sappers in Bosnia and designed to divert traffic ranging from haycarts to Challenger main battle tanks away from the town centre.

The short road skirts Sipovo, which houses the headquarters of the British brigade of the Multi-National Division South West, and was constructed in just over four weeks by members of 32 Engineer Regiment with help from 77 Armoured Engineer Squadron.

"It was undertaken because of the growing number of civilians coming back to the town," explained Lt Col Peter Wall, commanding officer of 32 Engr Regt.

"When it became apparent that a Warrior battle group headquarters was also to be

based in the town the traffic problem was brought into sharp relief," he said.

Only 15 Royal Engineers were involved in the project. They used their own plant and some local input to re-route power and water supplies.

During the construction, more than 3,000 cubic metres of soil was removed and distributed locally to help re-cultivation.

The bypass, built under the technical direction of WO Rick Tootle and plant operations officer Cpl Dave Hepplethwaite, was a focal point for youngsters at a nearby school — hence the designation "Sesame Street".

Mr Major also visited Op Resolute troops stationed at Banja Luka.

LUCKY winner of £100 in *Soldier's* readership survey prize draw is WO2 Billy Brown, R Irish, who is serving with Training and

Support Command in Senelager, Germany. His questionnaire was drawn by the Managing Editor from a sackful of thousands received by the May 20 closing date.

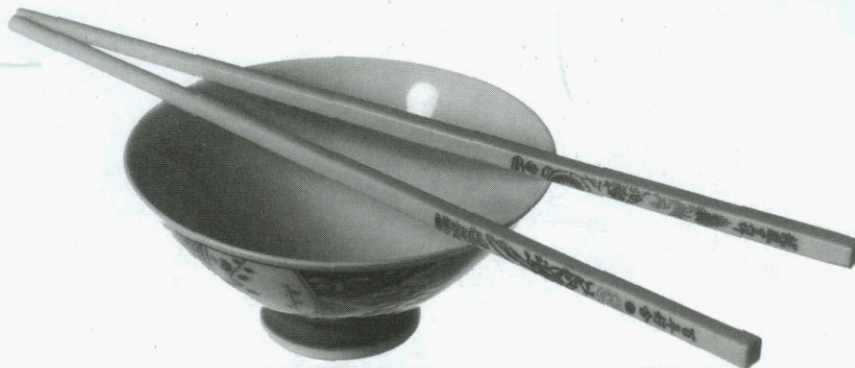
Billy, 40, is due to leave the

Luck of the Irish lands Billy £100

Army next year on completion of 22 years' service.

He is planning a civvy street career in the world of Health and Safety in the workplace.

● The completed questionnaires, received from all over the world, are now being assessed by experts whose findings will be made known in due course.



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Maj Gen Walter Courage, Director General Territorial Army, congratulates TA soldiers after presenting them with their NATO medals at Sipovo

Desert Rats back in Kuwait

BRITAIN'S Desert Rats went back to Kuwait as part of an international force in the biggest joint demonstration of Western and Arab commitment to the security of the Gulf since the defeat of Iraq in 1991.

Almost 2,000 soldiers from ten countries, including the USA, Britain and France took part in the command post exercise Ultimate Resolve.

For HQ 7th Armoured Brigade – the Desert Rats – it was familiar territory. They were last there just over five years ago during the Gulf War.

Aim of Ultimate Resolve was to practise coalition warfare procedures and boost military co-operation between the Gulf States and their Western allies.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain took part.

Home for Brig David Montgomery and his 40-strong team was a canvas headquarters 65km from the Iraqi border.

As Ultimate Resolve was a CPX, no soldiers or military hardware were deployed on the ground. The Desert Rats had a notional 5,600 troops in the field plus assets including Challenger, Warrior and heavy artillery.

There were considerable benefits both in military and diplomatic terms. Ultimate Resolve also showed that five years on, the coalition remains firm in its determination to maintain the stability of the Gulf region.

It's a fact

Between January and April the MoD spent £1,353,000 on leases for sites it occupies in Bosnia and Croatia. Monthly charges included £38,000 for a factory site in Banja Luka and £243,000 for three factories and a warehouse in Split. – Parliamentary reply.

Terriers earn their spurs in Balkans

WITH ten per cent of Britain's soldiers deployed in former Yugoslavia mobilised from the Territorial Army or Reserves, a new generation of Regular soldiers is learning the value of the TA.

Territorials serving on Operation Resolute, already well versed in military procedures, have valuable civilian skills which have been put to effect in many areas of operation.

Builders, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, engineers and fitters have used their expertise to help construct camps, install electricity, make furniture and rig water supplies.

The headquarters element of 1 Signal Brigade, based at the ARRC headquarters in Sarajevo, is 70 per cent manned by TA, some operating the most complex communications systems ever fielded by the British Army.

The TA element of 3 Battalion REME was of particular

use when the battalion moved into an old sawmill in Sipovo, where the British brigade is headquartered.

Among the ranks were a self-employed electrician and an engineer from the National Rivers Authority, who were instrumental in bringing electric light and running water to the disused and derelict building.

Many volunteers put civilian careers on hold in order to serve.

Cpl Richard Broxup convinced his company, AE Turbines of Leeds, that it would benefit from his experience.

"I wanted to put 12 years' experience in the TA to good use and am relying on my company to keep my job open for me. When I get back they can rely on me to do a good job in return."

LCpl Steven Green of 4/5 Green Howards said: "I really wanted to put my military skills to the test."

Visiting TA soldiers on a recent trip to Bosnia and Croatia, the Director General Territorial Army, Maj Gen Walter Courage, said many Regulars did not understand the TA, but as so many had deployed in support to former Yugoslavia, they had realised how professional and useful the Terriers can be.

"As a body of men and women, the TA are adaptable, experienced and enthusiastic, and are driven by a desire to serve," he said.

"They enjoy the excitement and comradeship that accompanies service life and many have signed on to do another six-month tour in theatre."

Gen Courage added that the deployment had helped internal recruitment.

"Many Regular soldiers who are due to leave and had not previously considered joining the TA, have seen how the TA operates and plan to join," he said.



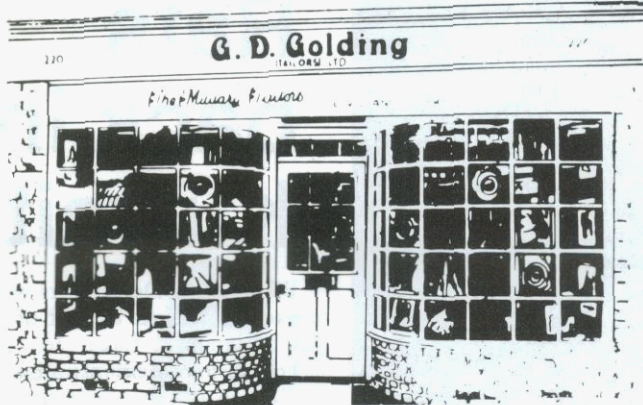
SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

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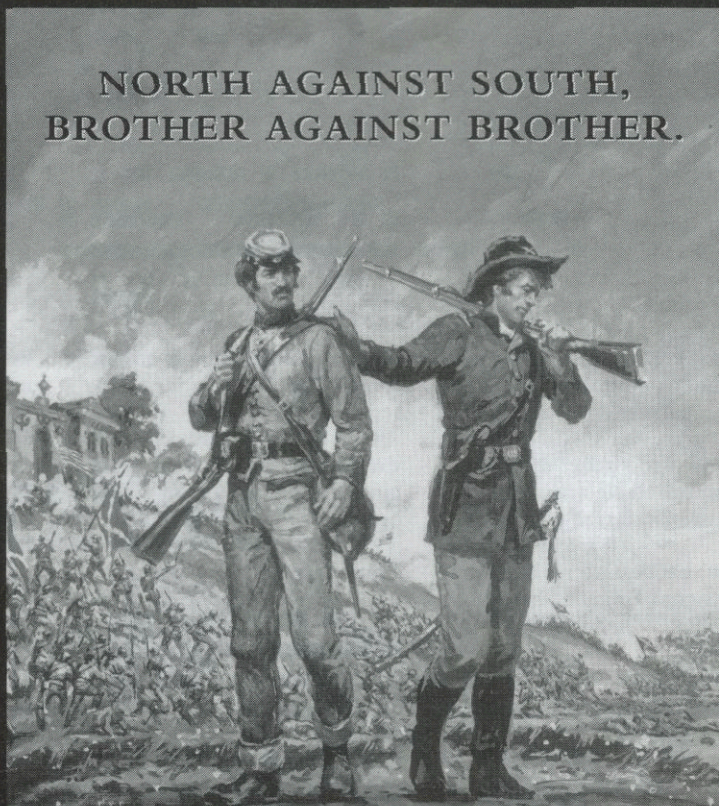
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Help us find Mack the poolside hero

BBC Television has asked *Soldier* to help trace a paramedic who saved a holidaymaker in Cyprus nearly seven years ago.

The 999 - Lifesavers programme wants to feature the soldier, who for hours held together the broken neck of a man seriously injured in a diving accident.

In September 1989 Glenn Wawman and girlfriend Vanessa were staying at the Mirabella apartments in Ayia Napa when a wedding reception for a British

officer serving with the United Nations on the island was held beside the complex pool. It was very hot and guests dived into the pool, avoiding an underwater shelf. Glenn, following them, didn't know about the shelf and fractured his neck.

A British UN paramedic called Mack, one of the guests, went to his aid. Using his hands as a neck-brace, he helped to get Glenn to a local hospital. It was decided to transfer him to Nicosia.

No braces were available so Mack held Glenn's neck together during the two-hour journey. At one point the driver had to break sharply, throwing Glenn forward. Mack went with him and held on.

A year later Glenn and Vanessa returned to Cyprus on honeymoon.

If any readers know who Mack is, they are asked to contact the Editor. Mack's permission will be sought before his whereabouts are passed on.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

New guard to be locally recruited

A NEW Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) manned by soldiers on local service engagements is proposed, Defence minister Earl Howe told the House of Lords while introducing the second reading of the Armed Forces Bill.

Men and women recruited for local service would not have the same obligation to serve anywhere in the world as those recruited for general service.

Earl Howe said there were "no plans to introduce local service engagements on a general basis" but believed it was sensible to have flexibility to recruit in appropriate areas of activity.

One such area was guarding, and the MPGS would provide armed guards at certain Army establishments. It would eventually be 600-strong.

A clause in the Bill would make it an offence for a soldier to refuse to take a drugs test.

□ □ □

Defence Procurement Minister James Arbutnot said in a written answer that the sale of the married quarters estate did not involve properties in Scotland or Northern Ireland, where the MoD owned 6,707 and 3,130 MQs respectively. After the sale, the MoD would continue to own some 3,000 MQs in England and Wales not included in the sale, as well as the freehold on properties in the sale.

□ □ □

Other written answers:

□ Approval has been given for the call-up of 240 more members of the Army reserve and Territorial Army for service in Bosnia. They will report to mobilisation centres in mid-June.

□ Video tapes used to debrief soldiers during pre-Northern Ireland training were passed by the BBC to the MoD on May 8 after being bought by a third party in Coventry. Urgent steps were being taken to prevent any recurrence, and an assessment of implications for current military operations in Northern Ireland was being made.

□ As part of an international equipment package, the UK has provided 38 Carl Gustaf anti-tank weapons to the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. The weapons were surplus to UK requirements.



Highlanders' royal visitor

The Duke of Edinburgh inspects the Quarter Guard, drawn from B Company, 1st Battalion, The Highlanders at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, on the first royal visit to the regiment since it was formed in 1994 on amalgamation. Prince Philip, who is the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, was given a briefing on the role of the battalion in Northern Ireland before touring the base

Special report on manning accepted

RHF work up for BATUS on US facility

MAJ GEN Christopher Drewry, Commander UK Support Command Germany, visited the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers at Hohenfels, southern Germany, as it prepared for its final brigade work-up exercise before leaving for BATUS in Canada, where the battalion will form the battle group for Exercise Medicine Man Two.

The battle group, which will be supported by C Sqn, 2 RTR; B Sqn, Scots DG; 3/29 Bty, 4 Regt RA; and 32 Sqn of 35 Engr Regt, was one of the few fortunate units able to train on the extensive American facilities at Grafen-Hohenfels.

THE Government has welcomed a special report by the Defence Committee into manning and recruitment and concludes that measures are taking effect and that there has been an increase in the numbers recruited to the Army.

In its response to the Defence Committee's Fifth Special Report, the Government accepts that problems now facing the Army were predicted in 1989 but not all recommendations were accepted.

Had certain measures been adopted earlier, significant expenditure to stop wastage would not have been necessary.

Measures taken to improve recruitment and retention include focusing on awarding National Vocational Qualifica-

tions (NVQs) recognised outside the Army.

Recruitment had been affected by closing Careers Information Offices. As a result, 36 offices scheduled for closure will remain open and another five will be opened.

Standards of entry would not be lowered. Trials had established that 85 per cent of recruits with poor physical fitness could be brought up to the minimum standard required.

Many years of sustained effort would be necessary before the proportion of ethnic minorities within the Armed Forces reflected the population as a whole, while the question of women in combat was suggested as a suitable topic for debate in the House.

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Bravo . . . 22 Bravo the Eliminator

THIRTY-TWO crews from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment went "head-to-head" in the Fallingbommel-based unit's spectacular annual knock-out gunnery competition.

Aim of Eliminator, as the event is known, is to hone tank skills and identify the best

crew. It also gives families a chance to watch the tanks firing.

Crew members of the winning 22 Bravo – Maj Simon Tustin, Cpl Mark Shelley and Tprs Dano Da-nobrega and "Streaky" Bacon – picked up prizes ranging from a Gore-tex smock to ferry tickets. They

were also awarded gold flashes and the right to be known as the Eliminators for a year.

Best squadron, HQ, won a silver trophy. LCpl John Collins received a tankard for achieving the fastest hit and Tpr Da-nobrega a tankard for the fastest moving hit.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH: Soldiers from 213 Battery (St Helens) grit their teeth during an endurance race. They were among 300 members of 103rd (The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Regiment, RA who took part in a two-week camp in Belgium.

The second week was a mobile exercise, carried out in sub-zero temperatures in the countryside of the Battle of the Bulge area around Bastogne.



Canadians honour British IFOR officer

LT David Livingston, a platoon commander serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, has received a commendation from the commander of the 2nd Canadian Multi-National Brigade in Bosnia for his part in preventing potentially serious fighting at Kulen Vakuf.

Red Devils drop in on Euro 96

FOUR Lynx helicopters of 659 Squadron, Army Air Corps played a spectacular part in the opening ceremony of Euro 96 at Wembley Stadium.

Flying at 2,400ft, the helicopters dropped the Army's famous Red Devils freefall parachute team into the stadium to herald the start of the international football tournament on June 8.

The helicopters are based at Wattisham in Suffolk

Drafted to Bosnia in October as part of the UN Protection Force, Lt Livingston took his platoon into Sipovo when there was still fighting and looting going on.

He and his men later moved north to join the Canadian brigade and became attached to the Queen's Royal Hussars, which were operating their Challenger tanks in the same brigade.

"My platoon was sent to Kulen Vakuf to monitor an inter-federation dispute," Lt Livingston explained.

"Tension had built up in the town over the occupation and there was a stand-off on either side of the river. My platoon and I blocked the bridge with our Warriors to deter fighting.

"I had to liaise with the faction commanders, trying to persuade them to withdraw their troops."

The commanding officer of the QRH flew in and took over the negotiations and both sides pulled back.

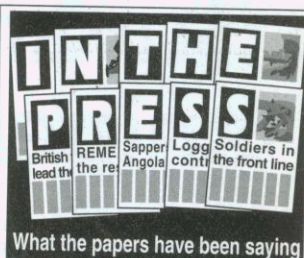


Lt David Livingston

Picture: Sgt Chris Boies

If fighting had broken out, there would have been major ramifications for the peace process, and similar disputes would have erupted in other towns.

As a result of his actions, Lt Livingston, who was awarded the Sword of Honour at RMA Sandhurst in 1992 on completion of his training, received a commendation from Canadian Brigadier N D Jefferies.



What the papers have been saying

BRITAIN is secretly examining plans to commit up to 15,000 troops to Bosnia for at least two more years, amid fears that the scheduled withdrawal of international forces in December could lead to renewed war in the Balkans. – *Sunday Observer*

□ The Royal British Legion has said the proposed sale of MoD married quarters threatens the ethos of Service life. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ A million pounds' worth of gold sovereigns issued to RAF aircrew and SAS men, who might have been captured during the Gulf War and needed to buy their way out of trouble, are to be sold in presentation packs by the MoD. Gold coins are a standard item in "escape and evasion" survival kits. – *Independent*

□ China is expected to station up to 10,000 troops in Hong Kong when it takes over next year, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, said after what he described as an "excellent meeting" with Chinese commander Maj Gen Liu Zhenwu. – *Times*

□ Army cadets at Lampeter University have been told to stop recruiting by fellow students because of the Forces' ban on homosexuals. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ An AK47 assault rifle brought to the UK as a Gulf War souvenir was handed in under the national firearms amnesty. The weapon, which had been made safe and registered with the police, was taken from an Iraqi soldier by a Bicester-based soldier. – *Daily Telegraph*

In brief

□ Maj Gen Rob McAfee was due to take command of HQ Multi-National Division (MND(C)) in a ceremony at the Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen, on June 21. He relieves Maj Gen Jan Brinkman of the Netherlands.

□ Defence Secretary Michael Portillo met members of G Company, a Regular rifle company, during a visit to The Gibraltar Regiment.

□ The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, will present new Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, at Catterick on June 29.

It's a fact

Total amount of retention bonuses paid to soldiers between October 1 last year when the scheme was introduced and March 31 was £2,248,000. – *Parliamentary reply*

Suvan snipers

WO2 **Jim Dibben**, of the Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong, and LCpl **Zec Buadromo** of the Fijian Army Counter-Revolution Warfare Unit, put in some sniper training in Suva, Fiji. Deployed with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles on Exercise Vakatotolo Coral, Jim has been running a basic sniper course in Fiji for ten members of the Fijian Armed Forces – first time since 1987 that British troops have carried out military training there.



Picture: BFHK

CHEERS, CHRIS!

Although a fair number of British soldiers took part in this year's 37,000-entry Boston Marathon, Maj **Chris Davies**, AGC (SPS), who was among them, can probably truly claim to have travelled the furthest. Not only that, as Regimental Admin Officer, British Gurkhas Nepal, he undoubtedly had one of the most scenic, but demanding, training runs: the Kathmandu Valley. Chris, photographed outside Boston's famous Cheers pub, where he was about to partake of a well-earned soft drink after completing the marathon in 3hr 20min, qualified for the race by running the Hamburg Marathon last year in 3hr 20min while stationed in Hameln with 3 Engineer Regiment.



Picture: Andrew Poldman, Staffordshire Evening Sentinel

Joyful Joanne

Small wonder that Pte **Joanne Mason** of B Company, the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) is looking delighted.

Along with her gun controller, LCpl **Pete Roberts**, Joanne notched up 285 points out of a maximum of 300 when she represented the battalion in the 5 Division sustained fire competition at Sennybridge – highest score in the competition.

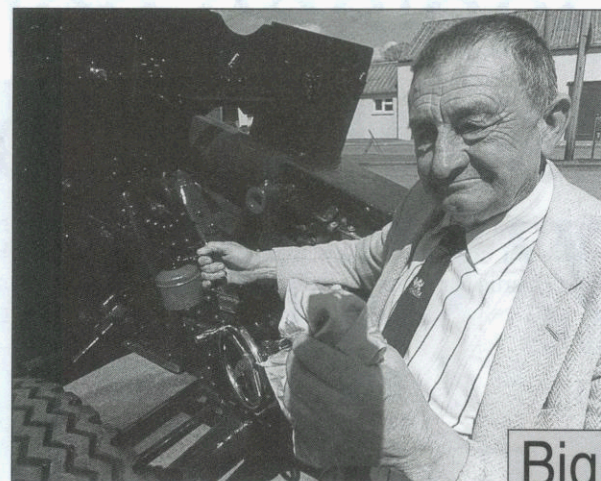
One of only two women in the competition (the other was fellow Stafford **Jackie Adams**), Joanne was runner-up in the division last year. And hers was not an isolated achievement by the battalion: its team beat off competition from eight other battalions to win the competition overall.

Anne has an 'IFOR' detail

Armed only with sketch pads, pens and a selection of cameras, Devon artist **Anne Carne**, hosted by the Army, has been touring former Yugoslavia as a preliminary to producing paintings, sketches and watercolours of IFOR's involvement in the region.

"IFOR is the next stage in the story of Bosnia, and I thought that someone might like to have an artist's impression of what was going on," she says. Her itinerary took in Split, the former Multi-national Division HQ at Gornji Vakuf, Sarajevo, Sipovo, Banja Luka, Kluj, Jajce, Kupres, Livno and Tomislad.

One "customer" who has already commissioned an oil painting is Maj Gen **Michael Jackson**, Commander MND South West while based at Gornji Vakuf.



Big guns out for Dai's farewell

Oiling a shining 25-pounder gun laid on as a surprise at his retirement party after completing 35 years at Sennybridge Camp is the long-serving **David Llewellyn Jones**, affectionately known as "Dai Guns".

Beginning his career in the cookhouse, he became a limber gunner, dismantling, oiling and greasing the Army's 25-pounders, finally serving as a general hand in the Training and Materiel Park when use of the guns was discontinued at Sennybridge.

Among Dai's farewell gifts were a polished 25-pounder shell case and a mounted and engraved silver model of a 25-pounder gun, presented by gunner Maj **John Mitchell** from HQ 160 Wales Brigade, Brecon.



Pictures: Chris Barker



Hot stuff!

Lifting the lid on a national prize for energy efficiency awarded to the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, is WO **Simon Halshaw**, the catering officer. Sponsored by UK Land Command, the college, in competition with military units from all over the country, won the 1995 Kitchen Energy Management trophy for using gas and electricity most efficiently.

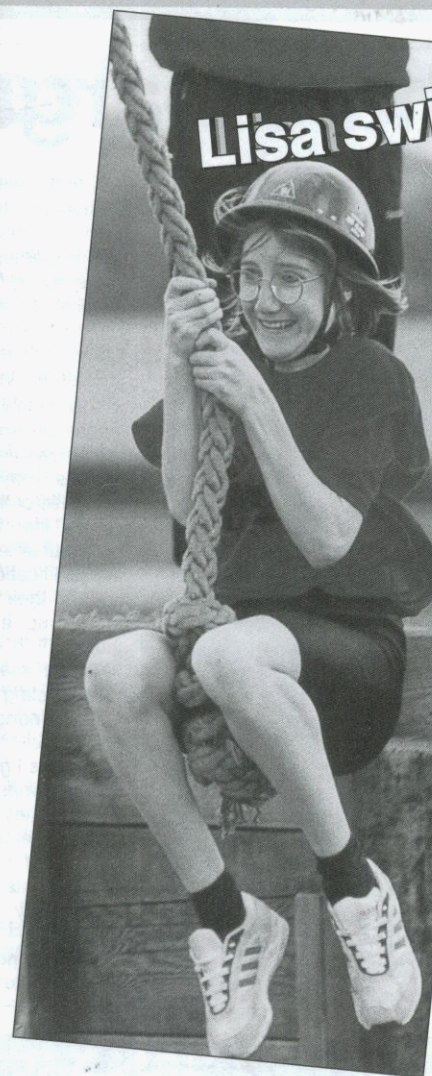
Runners-up were the bright sparks in the kitchens at 5 Training Regiment, Grantham, where team leader WO **Steven Groves** is shown about to demolish a celebratory fried egg with Army cook Pte **Jackie Browne** (inset).

Lisa swings into action

Trying her hand at the assault course in the regional finals of the national Army competition School Challenger at Lichfield, Staffordshire, was **Lisa Massey**, one of ten pupils from Failsworth School, Manchester, taking part.

As well as tackling the real thing, the pupils had to design a 3-D model assault course as part of the competition.

Lisa's verdict? "The day has been good and exciting, and has given me a good idea about the Army, but the assault course was a bit scary."



In a field of his own

Pictured on a visit to Chavasse Barracks, home of 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital (Volunteers), is former Sgt **Gordon Dickinson**.

While he was there, he regaled new recruits with stories about their unit's illustrious past, including one of their famous forefathers, Capt Noel Chavasse VC, after whom the barracks is named.

Gordon is not without an illustrious Army past of his own, enlisting in 1939 in the then 22nd General Hospital and seeing action in Norway, North Africa and Cassino. Blown up on three occasions and wounded several times, Gordon re-enlisted with 44 Parachute Field Ambulance and had served five years with the SAS before transferring back to medical duties until his discharge in 1977.



PEOPLE

Following father's (factory) footsteps

Father and son Capt **Roy Zaman** and Cfn **Phil Zaman** used to be 60 miles apart when they were based in Northern Ireland with their units – the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and 215 Signal Squadron's REME LAD respectively.

However, the pair never met – until they found themselves deployed to Bosnia, that is. Now they are only two miles from each other, and frequently meet over a cuppa.

When Roy's battalion, in which he is the Quartermaster (Technical), arrived in Bosnia in April, it used a former factory in Sipovo as its battlegroup headquarters.

When the battalion transferred to Gornji Vakuf, Phil's unit moved in.



MoD has to drive hard bargain on MQ deal

NEWS ITEM: A group headed by Nomura International, the Japanese securities house, was one of four overseas bidders recommended by NatWest Markets to Defence Secretary Michael Portillo in the £1.6 billion privatisation programme.

THE SALE of MoD married quarters was never going to be popular. The probability of them being snapped up by foreign investors aroused predictable fears among those whose business it is to keep the sale at the top of the media agenda.

When it emerged that the bidders included a Japanese group there was an outbreak of jingoistic hyperbole. Prospects of the group being successful were described as "alarming" and "bizarre".

I'll concede that it might be ironic, but I don't think it is any more bizarre than the sale of other British assets to foreign investors. These days it is less than helpful to hang on to redundant prejudice.

Since MoD has chosen – or been forced – to go down the path of selling married quarters, does it really matter who buys them?

Service families, the tenants,

will not come into contact with the new owners. They will apply for, and be given, quarters in much the same way as they are now. They have been promised there will not be a "pepper pot" approach to housing which might leave them surrounded by unsympathetic families. MoD says properties will be sold in blocks, and those it needs will be rented back on long leases. Any left over could be developed and sold by the new owner.

Herein lies the key to the alarmism. Suppose, said one commentator who wanted to bend my ear, that after a deal had gone through and the MoD had got its block of MQs leased back, the new owner sold off the remainder to a supermarket chain or other commercial concern.

Resultant development might indeed compromise the security of the "patch" ... or so the argument goes.

If the company or group which had sold off the newly-acquired



Cari's column

quarters to the developer was a foreign investor, they might feel less sympathetic to the needs of those living in the nearby quarters. I understand the argument but I don't accept the theory that British or European businesses would pass up a good deal because the people living in the nearby quarters leased to the MoD might feel threatened, while Japanese businesses would be more ruthless.

None of them – British, European or Japanese – can afford to be sentimental. Whoever buys the MQ estate will do so because they believe they can make money out of the deal.

It could be argued that MoD is placing itself in a strong position by becoming a customer and will be shedding expensive property it no longer needs. It is to be hoped that the deal-makers take full advantage of that position of strength to build into the deal safeguards about subsequent developments.

Those who object to the sale

say that it will undermine the type of community life so precious to Service families. I doubt it. I imagine properties leased back will be done so *en bloc*, keeping Service families together.

I am also not convinced the community exists in quite the way it used to. In all my dealings with Service families around the world I sense an emphasis on individual needs rather than group identity.

This may have come about because of the changing nature of family life. Increasingly, Service wives at all levels have professional qualifications and are unwilling to put their careers on hold by giving up a good job to follow hubby.

Many marry more than once, constructing complicated relationships among children and former partners.

Letters I get as a result of BFBS programmes reflect changing times. They are about tax affairs for those letting property, the impact of Child Support Agency judgements, debt, and all the other day-to-day challenges of family life.

Sometimes when we cover big issues, listeners write in to tell me

they disagree with an interviewee, or relate a story to illustrate why the speaker was right.

Despite many interviews from different standpoints on the sale of MQs, I haven't had a single letter on the issue. When I mention it to Service friends they seem lost for words, giving every sign of resignation bordering on disinterest.

It may be that most are confident of having a home for their family and that is all that is important in a busy, uncertain world.

It is probable, however, that the subject is simply too big to take in ... and there is too much conflicting information about it.

What is certain is that the current hysteria about who will buy the MQ estate is less than helpful. The sale will not be stopped. It has developed a momentum of its own.

We must hope that the MoD is as hard-headed as the buyers and that it really does get the best possible deal.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio. Write to her at BFBS, BFPO 786; or c/o Soldier.



WO2 (RQMS) Eddie Fanneran receives a Royal Artillery Charitable Association cheque for £500 for the upkeep of his five-year-old son, Sam, from Mr Peter Johnson, headmaster of Wrekin College and a former battery captain with 7 RHA.

Gunner fund brings comfort to young tumour victim

FORMER gunner sergeant Eddie Fanneran has been given a cheque by the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund to help with the upkeep of his five-year-old son who has an inoperable tumour.

Now Eddie, who joined as a RA junior leader at Bramcote in 1974 and served with 19 Field Regiment RA at Larkhill, and 5 (Gibraltar) Fd Bty RA, is anxious to say "thank you" to the Royal Artillery Association and SSAFA for their support when he most needed it.

In fact, the association, based at Woolwich, learned of WO2 Fanneran's plight and contacted him.

"It took me completely by surprise, but I'm very grateful to them and to SSAFA," he said.

Sam, born in 1990, developed what was thought to be a "lazy muscle" in his right eye in March.

He was diagnosed as having a brain stem tumour and was given a life expectancy of less than a year.

A lively, soccer-loving little boy just a few months ago, Sam is now paralysed down one side. He is unable to walk, eat or drink unaided.

"Sam can smile and make gestures to ask for food and drink," said Eddie, now WO2 school staff instructor with the Combined Cadet Force at Wrekin College in Telford. "At the moment we are living in hope, take every day as being very special, and trying to make his remaining time as happy as we can."

To help with the special care Sam needs, Eddie has received a £500 cheque from Mr Peter Johnson, headmaster of Wrekin College, on behalf of the Shropshire Branch of SSAFA. The cheque was a grant from the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.

It is the second personal tragedy with which WO2 Fanneran has had to cope.

While he was serving as artillery sergeant with 32 Cadet Training Team at Shrewsbury his first wife, Karen, was diagnosed as having terminal cancer just three weeks after the birth of their son, Jamie. WO2 Fanneran was given a compassionate discharge to take up the Wrekin College post and his wife died in 1988.

RBL facility puts disabled on road to new vocation

LATEST initiative of the Royal British Legion is a centre dedicated to the assessment of disabled ex-Service personnel.

Located within the RBL Industries complex at the Legion's village in Aylesford, Kent, the new occupational health and vocational assessment centre is aimed especially at people with acquired disabilities.

"In spite of magnificent efforts by organisations which help disabled ex-Servicemen and women, so far there has been no single, planned provision with expertise in vocational assessment, counselling and guidance for our members," said Mrs Patricia Wheeler, the occupational health manager of RBL Industries.

Vocational assessment aims to identify and develop the abilities of Service and ex-Service people and dependants so they can achieve appropriate vocational goals. The centre, which opened in March, is available every working day.

Using psychometric instruments and work samples, disabled people are assessed for aptitude, potential, strengths and work-relevant

personality characteristics.

Throughout the programme, one-to-one counselling is held to ensure the validity and usefulness of the programme for the user.

It increasingly becomes a collaborative effort. Decisions are supported by evidence and the informed consent of the client.

Assessment staff may be consulted at any time in an individual's subsequent career if it will help support a job application.

Initial contact is made through ex-Service organisations or direct to RBL Industries. Assessment periods can last from half a day to three working days. Accommodation is available on site if needed.

● Contact the centre at RBL Industries, RBL Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NL (01622 717202).

Erskine's opening gambit



LCpl Steven Falero of 43 Field Support Squadron gives four-year-old Sam a helping hand on the Hanex mini-digger during 25 Engineer Regiment's open day in the grounds of Antrim Castle, Northern Ireland.

The day was a huge success, attracting more than 5,000 visitors who watched and took part in activities including abseiling,

hot air ballooning, hovercraft rides and a zip slide.

Cllr Jim Edgar Wallace, Mayor of Antrim, paid tribute to the Royal Engineers. "They play a huge part in the economic, cultural and social life of Antrim town. We are delighted that they are able to put on such a wonderful entertainment for the second year in a row."

SOMME veteran James Aitken marked his 100th birthday on May 30 by formally opening the new furniture workshops at Erskine Hospital, Bishopton, near Glasgow.

Mr Aitken, a patient at the Erskine for the past five months, was a private in the 6th Battalion, The

Cameron Highlanders, throughout the First World War. Wounded at Loos in September 1915, fought on the Somme, one of the bloodiest battles of all time, ten months later.

The new Erskine workshops cost £1.8 million to build and will employ 24 craftsmen in making high-quality

Pied Piper Paul takes lead for SSAFA



SSAFA wheelchair celebrity Paul Guest, a former Royal Navy able seaman, leads children into the arena at the Rheindahlen Show after spending the previous week visiting local schools and youth groups to explain what SSAFA does for the Service and ex-Service community. Paul, who spoke to more than

2,000 youngsters, including Guides and Brownies, in Rheindahlen, Brüggen and Wildenrath, also told them about coping with disability and made several broadcasts on BFBS radio to promote the show, which this year was donating money to SSAFA's Western Europe Children with Special Needs Fund.

pine furniture. They are part of a huge rebuilding project at the hospital, which opened in 1916 to cope with casualties. The Erskine is an independent charity which relies heavily on public generosity. It costs £8 million a year and last year had a deficit of £2.4 million.

Army divers find mystery warship

ARMY divers from an Adjutant General's Corps-led expedition have discovered a Royal Navy warship sunk off Scapa Flow in 1917, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

Led by Maj Neil Russell, the team believes the ship to be HMS *Pheasant* but extremely difficult conditions at the time of the dive near the Old Man of Hoy in the Orkneys made confirmation impossible.

The team, which included REME, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals divers, had set out to try to solve the 79-year mystery of exactly where the warship sank – and why.

It was on March 1, 1917 that the Type M destroyer was lost with all hands in mysterious circumstances while guarding a fleet of more than 100 surface ships at anchor in the Navy's largest natural harbour. Of the 102 crew members only one 20-year-old midshipman was recovered. He died of hypothermia soon after being picked up.

The wreck was discovered by WO1 (ASM) Don Shirley and WO2 (SQMS) Tony McGowan, both REME.

"I felt very elated when I saw a ship's torpedo tubes, because that was one of the key items on our checklist," said WO2 McGowan.

"We would obviously like to have found something like a nameplate which would identify the wreck with absolute certainty, but we have no doubt in our minds that we have found the destroyer after all these years."

The divers had hoped to discover whether the warship was torpedoed by a German U-boat or if it hit a mine.

When the ship is formally identified as HMS *Pheasant*, the team is hoping a White Ensign will be laid on her bow.

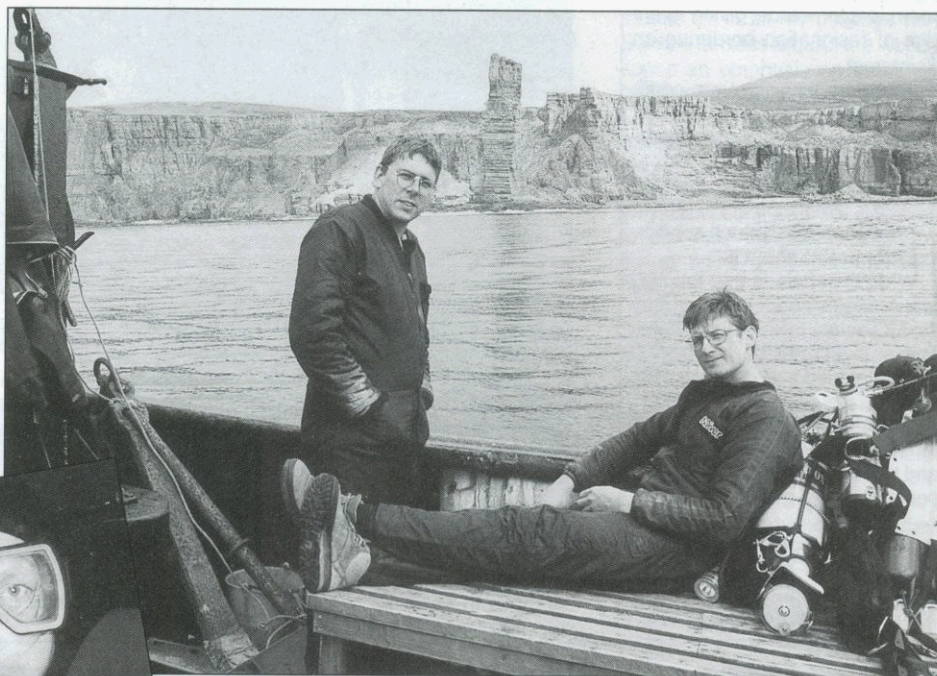
Attempts are being made to contact surviving relatives of the ship's company for a service above the wreck to mark the 80th anniversary of the disaster next year.

As well as virtually solving one of the sea's mysteries, the expedition heralds a significant breakthrough in the field of recreational diving as the deepest descent by an Army adventurous training diving team.

Permission had to be sought both to dive below 50 metres and to dive on a war grave.

The expedition took two-and-a-half years to set up and was only possible because of a contribution from the AGC Regimental Fund. Each diver had to pay £500.

The problems under water were formidable. "Any maritime chart gives you tidal diamonds for the flow in the area, but where we were we could have thrown them away,"



Sgt Stewart Harper and WO2 Ian Bellamy relax opposite the Old Man of Hoy
Left: WO2 Brummy Marshall in his element



said Maj Eddy Payne, the support supervisor and equipment manager.

"I have been diving for about 30 years and have never met anything that breaks all the rules in the way the conditions do off the Island of Hoy."

On one occasion the shot line, which guides divers to the site and is anchored by a heavy piece of metal, was found to have been dragged 90 metres by the force of the current. Normally diving is carried out at

the low-water slack period, but the divers found the longest time window was the high water slack.

"With only ten minutes on the bottom it is very difficult to survey a ship which is 274ft long and scattered across the sea bed," said Maj Joe Bright, administration and media officer.

A practice dive to exercise technical diving skills and employ mixed gas techniques was first carried out on HMS *Hampshire*, which lies in 65 metres. The ship, with Lord Kitchener on board, sank in 1916.

During the dive the team perfected gas-changing drills in deep water before continuing the search for the *Pheasant*, which lies in 82 metres.

Conditions were so turbulent that only two divers could descend on the first dive to find the *Pheasant*. All they found was a pile of boulders. On the second dive, on May 13, the two most experienced divers spotted the torpedo tubes.

On May 17 seven divers descended to the wreck, though the diver with the underwater camera was unsuccessful.

The boiler room had exploded because of super-heated steam coming into contact with the cold sea water. Damaged brass pipes, boxes with shell cases and plates inscribed in English littered the deck. The divers also found one of the funnels.

"Our conclusion is that it was a British naval warship," said Maj Bright, "but in their hearts, the lads know they have found the *Pheasant*."



Maj Neil Russell takes the plunge



Competitors sprint to the starting line during the falling plate competition at Lo Wu ranges in the New Territories, Hong Kong

Marksman hit the prize target

ARMY sharpshooters, Regular and Territorial, have been notching up winning scores at meetings as geographically distant as Wales and Hong Kong.

The Welsh Guards dominated the **London District** Regular Army meeting on Pirbright Ranges, winning 11 of the matches. Ten teams from six units took part, culminating in more than 80 firers competing in both individual and team matches.

Target, pistol and night shoot were among matches covered in the meeting, which also included a six-mile march and shoot and a falling plate competition. Maj Gen Ian Mackay-Dick, GOC London District, presented the prizes.

In the **Northern Ireland** skill-at-arms meeting, the strength and depth of shooting standards in The Royal Irish Regiment, from the Depot through to the battalions, was amply demonstrated.

Five of the seven first places went to battalions in the regiment, although teams from The Highlanders and the Royal Dragoon Guards did well to break the monopoly, ending in second and third places respectively.

The RDG small arms team was led to victory in the GOC's Cup competition by Capt Ian Kilsby. Currently roulement battalion at Girdwood Park, the RDG's eight-man team was first in the two-mile run in full kit, second in the shooting phase and third in the skills stand. LCpl Kelly received an indi-

vidual gold as the best LSW gunner in the competition.

Depot Royal Irish won the minor units competition. Twenty-one major units and ten minor units took part in the meeting, which involved 195 competitors from across the Province.

To add to their glory, the name of R Irish's 7th Battalion will be inscribed on the Irish Victoria Cup. A 20-strong team shot their way to win the 100-year-old cup, presented by Queen Victoria to all troops serving in Ireland.

Two of the battalion's hot-shots, Maj Heyburn and LCpl Clarke, were in the regiment's winning team at the inter-corps target rifle match at Bisley – first time R Irish had taken first place since 1993. Other team members were Maj McLean from HQNI and Lt Philipston-Stow from 8 R Irish.

In the Territorial Army section of the **Wales** skill-at-arms event at Sennybridge, the regimental shooting team from the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) left their opponents trailing.

Among the prizes, tro-

phies and cups which they won or retained were those for rifle championship, Parachute Regiment Cup, falling plate, overall TA champions, champion young soldier (Spr Michael James), champion young officer (Lt Scott Spencer), and champion TA soldier (LCpl Kevin Hodgson).

Crack shots throughout the British Garrison were determined to make the final annual three-day **Hong Kong** skill-at-arms meeting a memorable one.

Places on the British Forces Hong Kong team to take part in the Regular Army Queen's Medal competition at Bisley later this year were also in contention.

Individual honours in the rifle match went to LCpl Chitra Bahadur, C Coy, 1 RGR, and LCpl Prembahadur, B Coy, 2 RGR, who shared first prize as top infantry shots.

Top individual other Arms and Services was SSgt Yambahadur, for HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals.

Winners in the pistol and light support weapon matches were 1 RGR, who ended as runners-up to 2 RGR in the march and shoot.

Meeting organiser Capt Tony McLelland, SO3 Training HQBF, bagged the top officer's shot award.

Last year's results in the Other Arms and Services and Infantry sections were reversed, with wins by HQ QG Signals A team over the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and 2 RGR over 1 RGR.



LCpl Kevin Hodgson with the prizes he won – including best TA soldier – as his part in victories by the R Mon RE (M) at the Wales skill-at-arms meeting at Sennybridge



Things are stirring at the foot of Chip's garden in North Wales

MAJOR D J G Wood (very recently retired) would like it known that he is in the market.

In recent years his singular view of life in the British Army has enlivened the pages of *Soldier* and many other military publications.

Chip, as he is better known, has just left the relative comfort of the ranks to dip his toe in the very competitive world inhabited by professional cartoonists and illustrators. To mark his departure from the Army we asked him to reflect on 34 years in uniform.

Chip joined the Royal Engineers as a boy soldier in 1962 at Dover and trained as a combat engineer and draughtsman. He began drawing cartoons, mainly for the amusement of his colleagues, while serving in the mid-Sixties at Allied Forces HQ, Fountainebleau in France.

From the rank of corporal, although no longer employed as a draughtsman, he continued to draw as a hobby... and the idiosyncrasies of those he worked with occasionally ended up on suitable notice boards.

Chip travelled the world extensively, serving in Northern Ireland, the Falklands War of 1982 and the Gulf War.

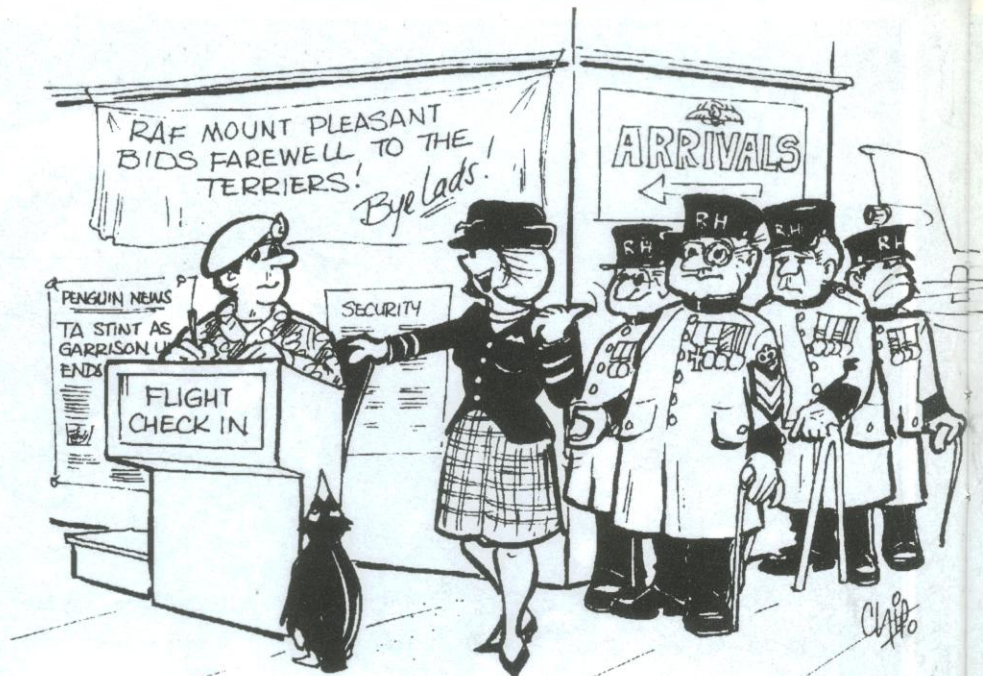
It is a common trait of the British soldier to see the funny side of the most tragic situation, and Chip was no exception. His cartoons drawn in the Gulf appeared in several books and magazines, and a selection published in *Soldier* won him a national award for humour in print.

In 1992 he was accepted as a full member of the Cartoonists Club of Great Britain and his first book, *Cartoons for Soldiers*, was published in 1993.

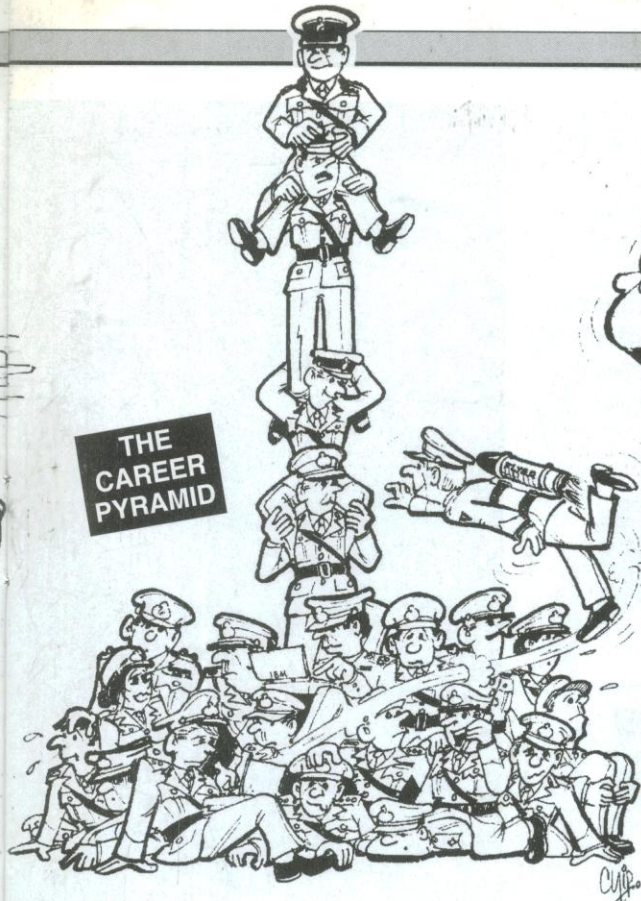
Chip retired earlier this year - "cynicism having overcome optimism, but with sense of humour intact" - and has set about establishing himself as a professional cartoonist and illustrator at his home on the North Wales coast.



Maj Chip Wood, recently retired

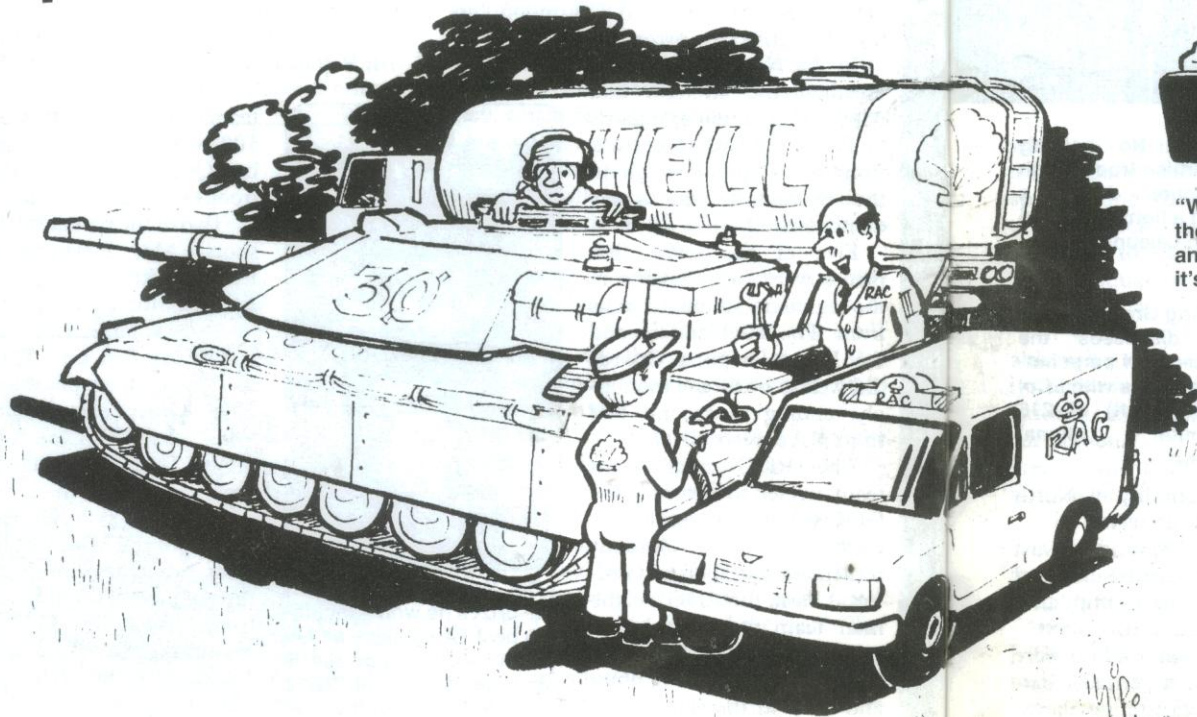


"Wait till you see who's replacing them!"

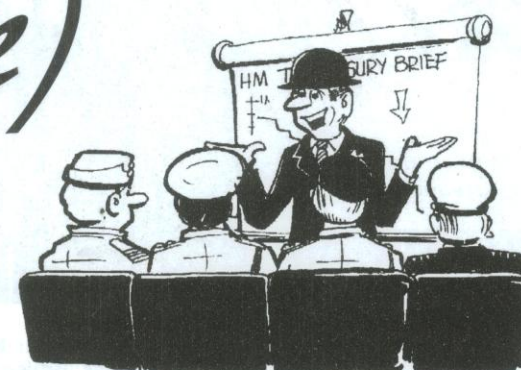


"Conference day is always a bit fraught!"

Farewell to arms (with a chuckle)



"I hear Virgin have got the operating contract"



"Well, there was a light at the end of the tunnel, but as an economy measure it's been turned off!"



"He's a wonderful staff officer... a talented plagiarist with the ability to denigrate"



"Look, he won't shoot back... trust me"

The 5th Airborne Brigade has taken on a new role as one of two brigades at the core of Britain's Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF), which will be declared operational on August 1.

The force is designed to fulfil a wide range of combat or non-combat operations mounted nationally or as part of Britain's contribution to NATO, the Western European Union or the United Nations.

Exercise Purple Star, a massive series of troop manoeuvres which took place on the eastern seaboard of the United States of America, tested the deployment of such a rapid response force outside western Europe. The Aldershot-based Paras played a prominent part in it.

New era beckons for Para Brigade

WHEN a local sheriff in North Carolina came across a series of small black direction signs marked with a pair of white wings as he drove across town, he thought they were unofficial pointers to a convention of Hell's Angel motor-cycle gangs.

Not wanting any trouble in his patch he uprooted them all and stuffed them into his car boot.

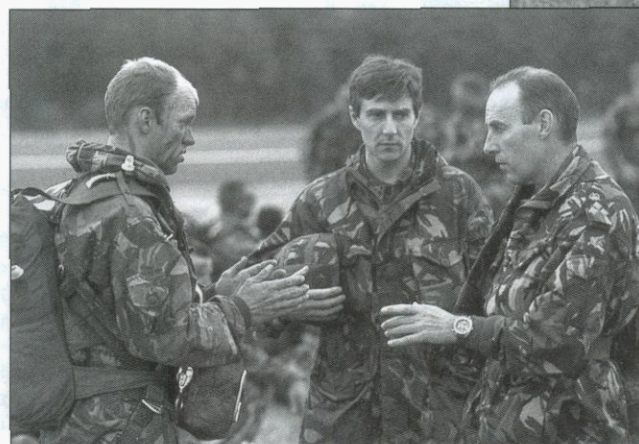
He did not reckon on several hundred British Army trucks trundling towards him, expecting to find tac-signs at every junction advising drivers which way to go.

It proved a bit of a scramble, but the RMPs persuaded the sheriff to hand them back so they could be re-sited in time to prevent the 5 Airborne Brigade vehicles being scattered across a wide chunk of North Carolina.

Exercise Purple Star, a massive combined joint task force exercise involving more than 53,000 British and American troops, took place on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

During the month-long manoeuvres, 5 Airborne took part in military operations aimed at practising and proving the concept of such a force acting on behalf of the United Nations. Another purpose was to validate Britain's new Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF).

The JRDF will consist of elements drawn from 3 Commando Brigade, 5 Airborne



Above - No holding back: British troops rush into action during a battle at a fighting village in Camp Lejeune

Left - Brig Graeme Lamb (right) discusses the finer points of parachuting techniques with LCpl Daz Kidd (left) of 216 (Parachute) Signal Squadron

Brigade and elsewhere, plus supporting naval and air components.

Before the major phase of the exercise started, British troops attended a series of briefings by the Joint Force Orientation Briefing Unit (JFOBU) to ensure all personnel were aware of the environmental aspects.

These included information on acclima-

tising to the heat and humidity of North Carolina and warnings about health.

The environment in and around the vast training areas used for the exercise included large areas of thickly-wooded swamp land, with temperatures expected to rise to 38C.

As if that were not enough, soldiers were informed they would face a veritable barrage of biting, nipping and irritating plants, animals, insects, spiders and snakes, some of

which were venomous. These natural hazards included rabid racoons, black widow spiders, and the positively lethal eastern diamondback rattlesnake - more than daunting to even the most courageous British squaddie unlucky enough to cross their paths.

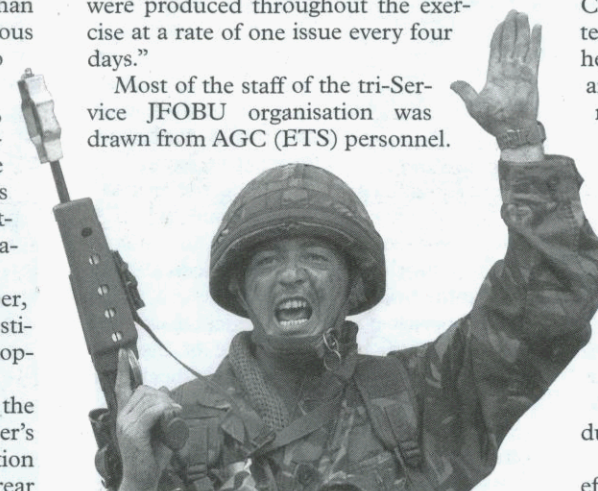
In the event encounters were few, although the appearance of a particularly ferocious-looking snake near the British tented camp at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, caused an outbreak of the infamous "anglers' exaggeration" syndrome.

The first issue of the exercise newspaper, *The Star*, reported that eyewitness estimates of its size varied from 1ft to a whopping 6ft in length...

Editor Maj Ray Carolin, OC of the JFOBU, told *Soldier* that the newspaper's main aim was in-theatre troop information but it had also been sent back to UK rear parties to keep families informed. "We have a team of seven based here in Fort Bragg,

and have four two-strong news teams based with the formations on the ground," he said. "Three thousand copies of each issue were produced throughout the exercise at a rate of one issue every four days."

Most of the staff of the tri-Service JFOBU organisation was drawn from AGC (ETS) personnel.



An NCO issues his orders in no uncertain terms during the heat of battle

Press interest in 5 Bde was considerable, and it was left to the deputy director of the Combined UK/US Information Bureau, Lt Col Spencer Gammond RDG, and his team of tri-Service media escorts to shepherd reporters and photographers around an exercise spread across several hundred miles of North Carolina countryside.

An organised press visit to a demonstration of weapon handling by Paras at Tent City produced a pair of unlikely stars.

So ferocious were the fire commands given by Pte Darren Laney during machine-gun drills that he and his equally dynamic No 1, Pte Ray Davis, attracted the attentions of television cameramen and stills photographers who stampeded in the direction of the duo to capture their efforts on film.

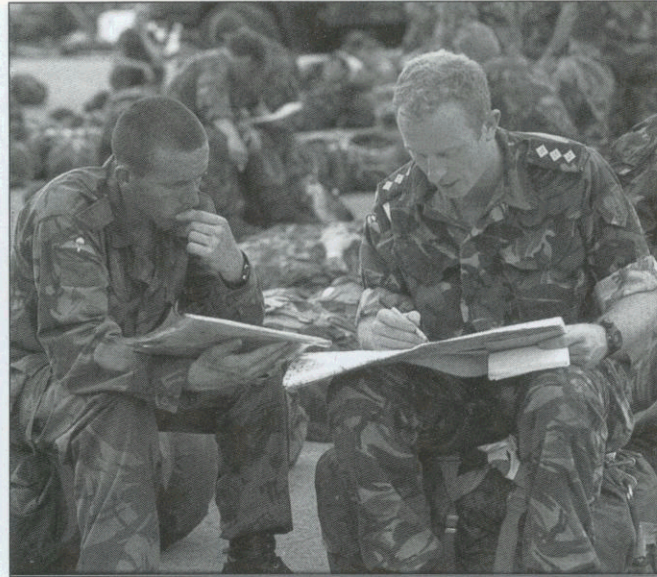
A PR officer's dream... the two men's efforts appeared on TV stations and in newspapers across the region.

● Reports continue on next page





Watching brief: Capt Johnny Wheeler (standing) raises a point with 5 Bde Headquarters' watchkeepers, TA Majs Murray Hammick and Bob Ash



Action men: Working out a plan of action for 1 Para's Patrols Platoon are LCpl Woolly Woolgar and Capt Angus Neil

NEXT PHASE of Exercise Purple Star took place at Camp Davis, former home of a Second World War artillery regiment.

Although the camp's buildings had long since been demolished, the site still retained two decaying but usable runways which enabled 5 Airborne Brigade to carry out a Tactical Air Land Operation (TALO).

Maj Angus Forbes and 50 soldiers from C Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, landed with a couple of light tanks and recce Land Rovers in C130 Hercules aircraft under cover of darkness and secured the runway. The pilots used night vision goggles to "see" their way in.

"The idea behind TALO is to get in as quickly as possible," said Maj Forbes. "It is all about momentum, shock-action-speed. Within 30 minutes of my company securing the runway, the main force would come in."

The Gurkha troops were unaffected by the hot and humid conditions on the training area. Every man had been briefed on what to do if one of his comrades was bitten by a poisonous snake.

Maj Forbes said the company's main concern was alligators.

"We heard that a US Navy SEAL had a foot bitten off by an alligator. It's their breeding season now and anyone unlucky to stand on a nest is likely to get hurt."

Such apprehension was understandable when it was revealed that a large number of 5 AB Bde's soldiers had been detailed to negotiate themselves through an alligator-infested swamp. Their mission was achieved without injury.

Had there been any problems, the brigade's main medical asset, 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, would have been well equipped to deal with casualties.

Its commanding officer, Lt Col Tim Pitcher, said 23 PFA offers 5 AB Bde medical cover in two ways.

Shock troops had no nasty surprises . . .

"We can support an airborne insertion by dividing our manpower into three separate clearing troops. Each is made up from medical and treatment sections, a command element that includes signallers and is maybe reinforced by one or two field surgical teams.

"The idea is to push our surgery capability forward to support the battalion groups because, in the early stages of an operation, there may not be a functional evacuation chain."

Once the brigade is in theatre, 23 PFA reverts to its conventional field ambulance role of providing second-line medical support to the brigade.

With its attached field surgical teams, 23 PFA offers an enhanced level of medical cover compared with the normal wheeled or armoured field ambulances.

In another phase of the exercise a large force of US Marines took up defensive positions throughout the Mout fighting village complex at Camp Lejeune.

They were attacked by the 3rd Battalion,

The Royal Gurkha Rifles and an attached company drawn from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

House-to-house fighting took place for more than two hours and thousands of rounds of blank ammunition were expended by both sides. A haze from smoke grenades added to the atmosphere of the battle.

During some phases of Exercise Purple Star, the brigade headquarters was able to draw on intelligence gained by the Raven – a pilotless drone fitted with a high-quality camera system that transmits back



Stepping out in style: Patrols Platoon tab swiftly towards the front line. Note the sniper rifle

. . . but boy, was it wet, wet, wet

MAJ John Lorimer, Deputy Chief of Staff of 5 Airborne Brigade, told *Soldier* that the exercise had been a great success.

"It involved a good deal of effort getting the brigade's 3,500 troops and 700 vehicles out here, and it has been a pretty demanding and challenging exercise for all involved," he said.

"The terrain we encountered was wet, wet and . . . wet! What with the swamps, insects, snakes and alligators, it was not as pleasant as, say, the Army's Stanford training area in the UK.

"The Gurkhas and 1 Para had to negotiate a wide expanse of swamp at one stage of the exercise. It turned out to be

more of a wade than a tab. "Before the exercise proper, we spent a week at Fort Bragg training with the US 82nd Airborne and 18 Airborne Corps. They were incredibly generous with both their training and social aspects of the exchange.

"Everyone remarked how well we got on. It was great.

"To be able to exercise the whole brigade on a training area with few restrictions placed upon us was a fantastic opportunity.

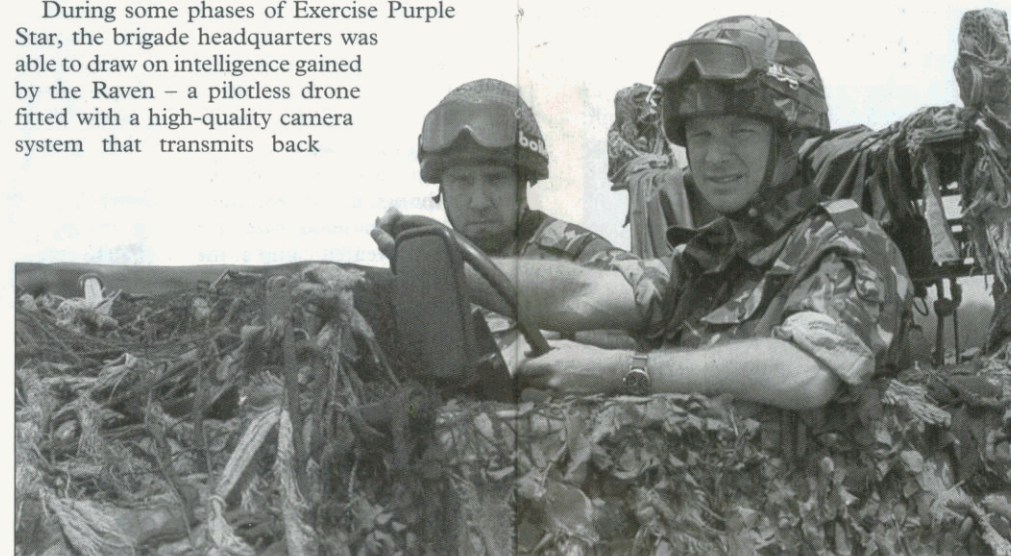
"We learned a lot of valuable lessons which will be put into practice at a later date."

● Big drop – next page



LCpl Tony Bingham provides cover for a Milan detachment with his general purpose machine gun

Picture: Craig Longbottom



Spot the Land Rover: 2Lt Mike Harris and LBdr Chris Hedges of 266 Battery, 7 RHA are in the front seats of the camouflaged vehicle



Strapping lads: Preparing a Land Rover at Cherry Point airfield for the heavy drop were LCpl Dave Jelly (foreground) from 47 Air Despatch Squadron RLC and soldiers from 2 Para

BIG drop ■ ■ ■ BIG build-up



US SSgt Christopher Schoud checks the parachute harness of Lt Adam Spaul, 7 RHA

STRIDING along the edge of the runway, past seemingly endless rows of British paratroopers, it was impossible to ignore the air of tension among the soldiers.

The normally cheerful, wise-cracking Paras were quieter than usual. Only the odd nervous titter in response to an ill-timed joke broke the silence.

All the checks had been done and nearly 2,000 British soldiers were waiting to take part in the largest Allied parachute drop since the Second World War.

Organising an operation like this demanded a lot of "prep".

It is not just a case of strapping on a parachute and climbing into an aircraft. The soldiers had to be organised into chinks and familiarise themselves with the techniques of jumping from US military aircraft using American parachutes.

They had to prepare their vehicles for parachute delivery in the heavy drop that would precede the night descent of 6,000 American and British airborne soldiers.

Vehicles, trailers and guns had to be prepped for air-portability before being packed securely into the medium-stress platforms.

At this point, the skilled tradesmen of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RLC were brought into play. "Our role was to rig the heavy-drop equipment on to medium-stress platforms (MSP)," explained the squadron OC, Maj Rick Libby.

"These ranged from the 105mm Light Guns of 7th Parachute Regiment RHA through to medical equipment from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance and tactical and command vehicles needed on the DZ."

The vehicles were first weighed and then took on board enough ballast to ensure that the platforms landed flat on the ground instead of on their sides.

"Under our supervision, the crews prepare their vehicles in the rigging hangar, strapping down anything that might fly off the platform when it exits the aircraft," said Maj Libby. "Then, before departure, we



Above - Last ones left: Members of Chalk 15 await the arrival of a replacement aircraft. The Hercules aircraft were carrying hundreds of British Paras taking part in the largest Allied air drop since the Second World War



Left - Fill her up: Paras' equipment is loaded on to trucks to be transported to the point of departure

which "Tent City" had been constructed.

After a final brief, the men loaded themselves and their kit on to their trucks and began their short journey across the airfield.

A long line of four-tonners snaked across the taxi-way and halted, as if one, at the departure point. On the grass alongside, two rows of parachutes for each of

the 28 chalks were stacked ready.

A dozen US soldiers wearing bright red baseball caps stood by, watching intently. It was they who had packed all the

'chutes being used by 5 Airborne Brigade.

Two hours later, the Hercules aircraft arrived and lined up along the runway. It took an age before the Paras started to board them, all the while buffeted by the hot back-draught from the aircraft engines which continued to "turn and burn" throughout the loading operation. A shimmering cloud of engine fumes gave the scene a mirage-like quality.

Shortly after 1800 hrs, the fleet of 28 aircraft began to take off. Fifteen seconds apart, the Hercules lifted from the end of the runway and climbed to join a formation of more than 140 aircraft taking part in the airborne landing operation.

Exercise Purple Star's big drop was under way...

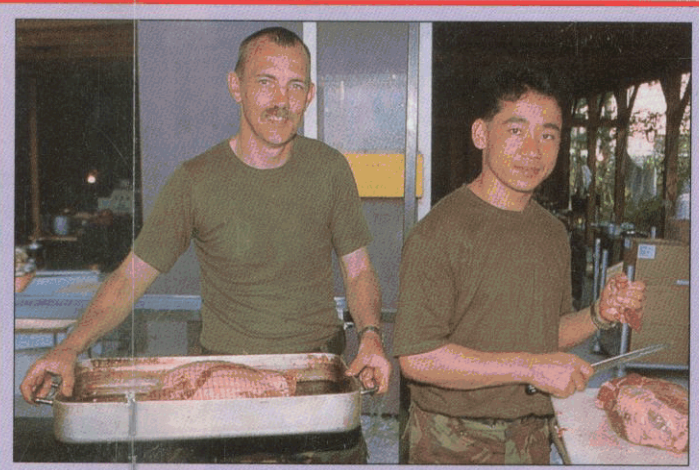
● Purple People - see over



Terriers on call: Pte James Siswick, Sgt Ken Bailey, LCpl Alan Hudson and Cpl Steve Bennett (all of 4 Para) await the call forward for the main parachute drop



Parachuting padre: Last time the Rev Andrew Phillips, 1 Para appeared in *Soldier*, he was pictured giving the last rites to a dying Rwandan child. Exercise Purple Star was a happier experience for him



At the cutting edge: Pte Rob Brunton of 4 Para and Rfn Lal Bahadur Rai, RGR prepare a meal for Headquarters 5 Airborne Brigade



We have wheels: Members of the TA's 269 Battery, 19 Regt RA, pack a Pinzgauer gun towing vehicle. Behind the wheel is WO2 (BSM) Ian Lineham

PURPLE PEOPLE IN SUPPORT



Checking the route: Cpls Don Cissell and Nick Elliott of 160 Provost Company RMP

BACKING-UP 5 Airborne Brigade during the exercise was the Force Rear Support Area (FRSA), a new concept under trial on Purple Star.

Brig Max Kerley, Commander FRSA, explained: "In the past, logistic support to receive, sustain and recover any deployed force was carried out separately by the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

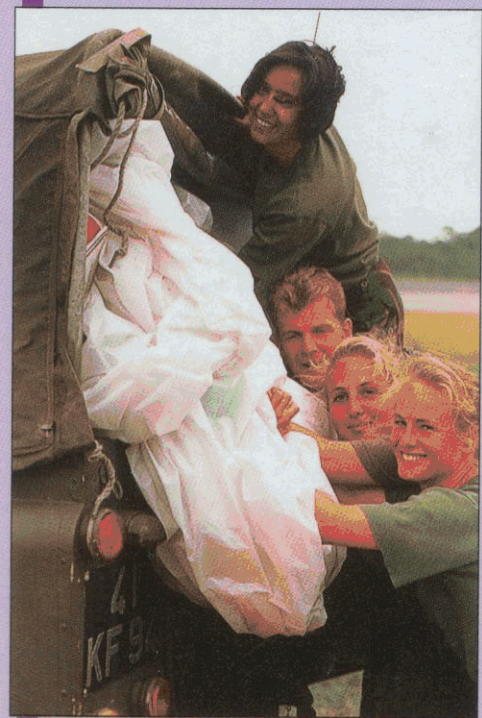
"It has since been recognised that many of the tasks are common to all three Services and such support is better done jointly."

Accordingly, most of the logistic support for Exercise Purple Star was provided by the FRSA, whose tri-Service headquarters was based on the Army's HQ Combat Service Support Group (UK), but with significant reinforcement from the other two Services.

More than 220-strong, it had under command 10 Transport Regiment RLC based at Bogue with responsibility for managing a 5,000-man transit camp at Cherry Point, and elements of 29 Movement Regiment and 17 Port and Maritime Regiment.

It proved a considerable task. Exercise personnel deployed into theatre through five airports, and 440 vehicles and 106 containers of freight were unloaded from the first ship alone.

FRSA assets included 27 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, a Force Military Police Unit, two RAMC Field Ambulance collecting sections and an environmental health team.



All smiles: LCpl Tracey Sutton, Pte Nicky Lyons, Sgt Franki Franklin and Pte Di Baines of 27 Regiment RLC remove plastic sheeting used to protect hundreds of 5 Bde parachutes

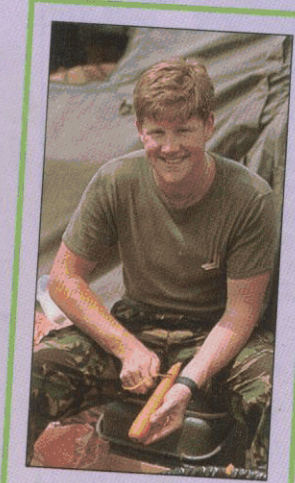
Hot work: WO2 (Master Chef) Cliff Grand-Scrutton was in charge of a warehouse at Cherry Point which supplied several major units with their catering needs. He was also responsible for more than 120 chefs catering for 5,000 soldiers. At one stage, temperatures inside the kitchen reached 140 degrees. Chefs worked a succession of 30-minute shifts to counteract the heat



Field Post Office: Sgt Clive Vanstone, 10 AB Wksp RE, offers a letter for franking to TA Cpl Ric Ruddom of 882 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC. In civilian life, Ric is an instructor with Royal Mail



Key figures: Maj Vicky Wellington and Capt Judith Hughes enter medical statistics into a field computer at the Force Rear Support Area



Someone has to do it: Cpl "John Boy" Walton RLC peels carrots at Tent City



Hot off the presses: Maj Ray Carolin and Capt Alyson Walters produce the exercise newspaper, *The Star*



May the Force be with you: Capt Stuart Rogers and WO2 Andy Moorhouse with a detachment of the Force Military Police Unit at Cherry Point



Kit check: Sgt Pete Maudsley, 9 Parachute Squadron RE, secures his kit before the big drop



Caught on camera: CWO4 Gordon Colston and photographer Cheresa Clark of US Marine Corps 2nd MEF (Forward) Combat Camera Unit covered the FIBUA battle



RED-COATED infantrymen of George II's meagre Scottish garrison deliver a volley before their defeat by the Highlanders at Prestonpans on September 21, 1745.

Or rather, re-enactors re-create the scene for *British Battles*, written and photographed by film-makers and photo-journalists Ken and Denise Guest.

The couple, who married in 1990 between coverage of the

Battle-hardened photo-journalism

civil war in Liberia and the Gulf War, turned their attention to the past for this book published in conjunction with the English Heritage project to pre-

serve historic battlefield sites.

Combining text drawing on eye-witness accounts with 350 of Ken's evocative colour photographs, this handsomely-pro-

duced volume features 57 English and Scottish battles, from Maldon in 991 to Culloden. With its battle descriptions, maps, glossary and list of re-enactment societies, it brings history to life, as far as is possible on the printed page.

British Battles: The Front Lines of History in Colour Photographs by Ken and Denise Guest. HarperCollins, hardback, £19.99.

Snapping to attention

THE two photographs on the right are among more than 120, all in colour and most by the military photographer and author Simon Dunstan. Europa Militaria No 20, softback. Available at £12.90 (inc £1.95 p and p) direct from the publishers, Windrow and Greene, 5 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LJ.

The Guards: Britain's Household Division by Simon Dunstan. Europa Militaria No 20, softback. Available at £12.90 (inc £1.95 p and p) direct from the publishers, Windrow and Greene, 5 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LJ.

While strictly true, his modest description does not do justice to *The Guards*, which is both a guide and a tribute to one of Britain's most illustrious institutions.

The pictures and text (the latter assisted, he acknowledges, by Will Fowler) cover aspects of Guards' duties ranging from field exercises, through humanitarian work in Bosnia, to the splendour of the Queen's Birthday Parade, "the supreme annual moment of British military pageantry".

Despite the dominance of the images across the book's 64 glossy pages there is a surprising wealth of detail in the text.

As well as answering the more obvious questions – about uniforms, for example –

it tells you the name, regiment and height of the tallest guardsman at the time of writ-



Left – WO1 Green, the Sergeant Major of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, the peak of his forage cap "slashed" for the sake of extra smartness, shouts commands to the Duties during the Mounting of the Guard at Wellington Barracks

Above – The other face of the Grenadiers – cammed-up for a field exercise



ing (1995); why a certain "medicine" is taken before going on parade; and when it is an offence not to eat breakfast.

"Snapshot" or not, many will find this an absorbing source of information about The Household Division. – CH

War on two wheels

IN four-and-a-half years away from England as an infantry despatch rider, John Hillier wore out, or saw destroyed, six motor cycles.

His book *The Long, Long Road to Victory* tells the remarkable story of a journey from 1940 to 1946 which started in Scotland and took him to Northern Ireland, South Africa, Madagascar, India, Persia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Sicily, the Adriatic, Anzio, and Rome before he returned to the Middle East.

The Long Long Road to Victory: War Diary of an Infantry Despatch Rider 1940-46 by John Hillier. Available from The RGBW (Salisbury) Museum, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2EX, price £12.10 inc p and p. Cheques payable to "RGBW Museum Trust".

Then it was on to the South of France, Belgium, Holland and to victory on the road to Rostock and the meeting with the Russians.

Service with the occupation forces in Germany was fol-

lowed by home – and demob.

In his sleeve notes the author writes: "The Long Long Road that I travelled to Victory was a deadly road, with the graves of brave men all along the way."

"These young men gave their lives so we could all enjoy our freedom. Look after it well – freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, freedom from fear."

All profits from this self-published limited edition hardback book go to The RGBW Regiment Museum in Salisbury.

Scraping by in India and north Devon

The Soldier Boy by Bob Freeman. George Mann of Maidstone, paperback, £6.95.

SOME people have a natural propensity for attracting trouble. No matter what they do or where they go it seems to find them.

Bob Freeman, the young son of a sergeant in the 16th/5th Queen's Own Royal Lancers was such a lad.

His story, *The Soldier Boy*, relates ten years of his life from 1937 when, on almost a daily basis, he was being thrashed by his father for embarrassing him – disgracing him, his father claimed – in the eyes of the regiment, or becoming involved in some scrape or other.

When in 1937 his father was posted to India, the rest of the family, including five-year-old Bob, went with him. Although this was an improvement on the married quarter in Tidworth – they now had a bearer/cook, ate well and bathed regularly – life was not that much better overall.

For they were the family of a soldier – with lines drawn firmly between them and the upper echelons of the regiment. They knew their place. They had to.

In turn they drew a line between themselves, the family of a sergeant, and those of the lower ranks.

Back from India as the Second World War was declared, tragedy struck the family and his father's patience with him ran out, he was packed off to the Duke of York's Royal Military School (evacuated to Saunton in north Devon) where he endured harsh discipline, including a birching, and much bullying. It was no place for a lad of independent spirit.

With a foreword by the author's brother, Lt Col (MAA) W K Freeman, late of the Army Physical Training Corps, this is a story well told through the eyes of a youngster from childhood to adolescence, providing a glimpse of life as experienced by soldiers' families abroad and in the UK more than half a century ago. – JM

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It shouldn't be the last thing you do in the Army

RESETTLEMENT does not begin when a soldier decides to leave the Army. It is a whole career process and the focus should be on personal development.

In the civilian world it is no longer unusual for someone to have several changes of career during a working life, and forward-thinking people prepare for this by building up experience and qualifications that will fit them for other jobs in the future.

Even soldiers who leave the Army after 22 years are only half-way through their normal working lives, so they need to think the same way as their civilian counterparts.

In civvy street they will be competing with civilians for

jobs. For the Serviceman the onus should be on increasing future employability.

IETS

The Individual Education and Training Scheme (IETS) exists to help soldiers who want to uprate their qualifications. An allowance of up to £140 a year is available to all Regular soldiers through the Individual Refund Scheme (IRS).

Individual Education and Resettlement Officers (IERO) or AGC (ETS) officers can give advice about suitable courses and how to apply for a refund under IRS.

More and more employers are now recognising National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) as well as traditional

GCSEs and A Levels. NVQs are not based on classroom learning but on the skills needed to do a good job in the workplace.

To gain NVQs people must demonstrate their competence and experience, often by producing evidence of how they used their skills at work.

Easiest

This is easiest while still in the job; delaying until the final year of service may well be too late.

Formal resettlement begins two years before the end of a soldier's engagement or when 12 months' notice is given. Soldiers who have served more than five years are eligible for all of the following:

- ◆ Advice and counselling

from an IERO at a Career Advice Board and/or a Final Resettlement Board.

- ◆ A five-day familiarisation attachment with a civilian company or organisation.

- ◆ Briefings organised by the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation (TSRO).

- ◆ Up to four weeks (20 working days) for resettlement training and/or Individual Resettlement Preparation (IRP).

- ◆ Assistance with job finding from the MoD Services Employment Network (SEN).

Informal resettlement advice from an IERO is available to any soldier on request, irrespective of length of service.

Those who have served for three years or more can register

RFEA

with the Regular Forces Employment Association, which last year found jobs for nearly 5,000 Service leavers.

The aim of a resettlement board is to help the soldier to plan his or her resettlement strategy by drawing attention to all the factors that may affect the move into civilian life. These include possible second careers, finance, housing, and children's education. An important topic is advice on suitable TSRO briefings and training courses.

TSRO arranges a wide variety of briefings, lasting from one to three days. These cover job search skills, information on more than 70 specific careers/occupations, personal finance, and living and work-

ing in specific regions of the UK.

There are three main sources of training: Resettlement Centre courses, MoD-sponsored courses, and civilian attachments. TSRO runs more than 90 different high-quality "in-house" courses lasting up to 28 days, mainly in Aldershot and Catterick.

MoD-sponsored courses take place at civilian colleges. Civilian attachments allow people to choose their own courses from any provider in the civilian market.

The Individual Resettlement Training Costs (IRTC) grant of up to £534 helps toward the funding of MoD-sponsored courses and civilian attachments; TSRO Resettlement

● Turn to next page

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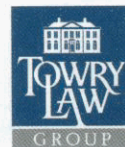
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Training - the early option

● From Page 29

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As an alternative to training, some of the 28 days can be used for IRP such as job-search, house-hunting, or writing CVs.

Skillbank

SEN runs a free computerised service called Skillbank which matches job vacancies with Service leavers' experience, qualifications and preferences.

RFEA and the Officers' Association provide a more personal service.

Leavers can register with these organisations six months before discharge and for up to 12 months post release.

Compared to most civilian companies the Army offers a great deal of help with resettlement. Starting to think about it early is the best way to make the most of it.

Jobcentres

Jobcentres are run by the Employment Service. In addition to expert advice on the many schemes run by Jobcentres, including seminars, work-

shops and Jobclubs, and any benefit entitlements, you will be offered an interview with a client adviser who will discuss local employment prospects and vacancies that suit your particular experience and qualifications.

Your IERO will tell you how to get in touch with the Employment Service.

RBL Helpline

Expert advice on a wide range of topics, from benefits to training, is readily available from the wide-ranging new RBL Helpline launched last month.

RBL Helpline 0345 725 725

Useful addresses:

◆ **Service Employment Network (SEN)** - St George's Court, 14 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EJ. Tel: London HQ (civ 0171 305) 3617/3591.

◆ **Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA)** - 49 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG. Tel: 0171 321 2011.

◆ **Royal British Legion** - 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5YJ. Tel: 0171 973 7200.

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THE annual Army cookery competitions, open to all units of the Regular Army and Volunteer Force, were initially held at the Instructional Kitchen at Salamanca Barracks, Aldershot and later at the Army School of Cookery at Mandora Barracks.

FIRST unit team to win in 1896 was the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, followed for the next four years by the same regiment's 1st Battalion.

SUSPENDED during and for some time after both World Wars, the competition was re-introduced in 1923 and 1952, latterly at the Army Catering Corps

Catering for all tastes: App Kelly Iley (right) explains the finer points of pizza preparation to the Princess Royal at the field utilities display at St Omer Barracks. On the left is Brig Andrew Fisher, Director Support Services, RLC

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Training Centre at St Omer Barracks.

SINCE 1978, the event – expanded from its single team

format to a series of classes reflecting the range and competence of chefs and other food service personnel in the Army – has been held on a regular

basis, except where operational circumstances have resulted in its postponement.

AMONG the tempting items on the menus this year was the rather intriguingly-titled "French Canadian Grandfathers".

Cooks' tour de force for a Princess

FISHERMAN'S pie, lamb curry and game broth with Prague pancakes were some of the dainty dishes set before, if not a Queen, then a Queen's daughter at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot last month, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

The occasion was the Army centenary culinary competition, held at the Royal Logistic Corps' Army School of Catering, and attended by the Princess Royal, the RLC's Colonel-in-Chief.

To mark the celebration of 100 years of Army cookery competitions, the event was expanded to include a wide range of classes, including an international military team competition, which included representatives from NATO and eastern European countries, and civilian students in an inter-college competition.

And so it was that The Sweats, a team of Chelsea Pensioners wearing combats, found themselves cooking the aforementioned seafood delicacy in the Army unit field competition virtually a rolling pin's distance from where chefs from the Czech Republic were preparing game broth followed by venison and swan cake.

On the adjacent stand, the French team was vying for the judges' points with corn and carrot in lemon dressing, veal ribeye "Friande" braissée and apricot and almond mousse. (France bagged a gold medal, the Czechs a silver, and the Pensioners received

a merit award). The lamb curry, served up by the Gurkhas, proved a favourite of the Princess's as she toured displays which included examples of victualling, bakery and butchery.

A hundred years ago, when the first of the annual competitions was held (also in Aldershot), the



Piping hot: App Richard Harrington and App Danny Wordoyes demonstrate the art of field bakery, First World War style, at the Army School of Catering's exhibition

Results

Senior Army Chef of Year, gold (best in class) – Cpl Jim Goreing, Catering Support Sqn, Cyprus; **silver** – Sgt Richard Oberhoffer, chef to DESACEUR; and Sgt Paul Weaver, Army Sch of Catering; **bronze** – Cpl Kirtley, 2 Close Support Regt.

Junior Chef of the Year, gold – Pte Garry Elliott, KRH; **silver** – Pte Weame, Army Sch of Catering; **bronze** – Pte Wilkinson, BW.

(Senior and junior category winners will be part of the Army team to compete at the Culinary Olympics in Berlin in September).

Army unit team field competition, gold (best in class) – 1 Kings; **gold (best in hygiene)** – Central Volunteer HQ RE; **silver** – 1 ADSR, 2 RGJ and 2 Sig Regt; **bronze** – 5 Regt RA; 1 A and SH.

International team event, gold (best in class) – Netherlands; **gold** – France, Belgium; **silver** – Czech Republic; **bronze** – Canada, Hungary.

Cook and serve, gold (best in class) – Cpl Rod Sturgeon/Cpl Sean Taylor, RSDG; **silver** – Cpl Benn/Cpl John, 2 Close Spt Regt RLC; Cpl Bennison/LCpl Walker (1 PWO); **bronze** – Cpl Jordan /Mrs Brady (KRH).

object was to arouse interest in the art of cookery in the Army, by encouraging cooks of all ranks to raise their technical standards by the introduction of competitive interest, and also to foster *esprit de corps*.

Although the equipment is more sophisticated these days and, as in civvy street, the cooks are known as chefs, the basic aim remains "to stimulate culinary trade and craft skills and to promote the Army Food Services Organisation in both the Services and civilian catering industry."

As Maj Gen Martin White, Director General Logistic Support (Army), said in the foreword to the centenary programme: "Despite pressures on manpower and resources, I believe competitions such as these remain very important, not only as a stimulus to sustain and improve technical expertise but also to demonstrate the Army's continuing commitment to excellence."

* Or, more correctly, chefs

Soyer's service so poorly rewarded

I HAVE BEEN involved for the past few months in an appeal to raise funds to restore a monument dedicated to the illustrious French gentleman, Alexis Soyer.

As many readers will know, he was tasked by the British government of the mid-19th century to organise and facilitate the feeding of the improv-

erished and starving in Dublin and London.

Subsequently, he travelled to the Crimea in company with Florence Nightingale to create a system of catering for the British Army.

This extraordinary man provided us with a legacy of catering systems and equipment and a commitment to

the poor and needy of the nation.

His only memorial consists of a dilapidated stone monument which is in urgent need of repair.

Is it not a shame that so little recognition exists for such an outstanding public servant to whom we owe so much? — **Lt Col Edward**

Marvin RLC, 151 (Greater London) Support Regiment, RLC (V), TA Centre, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR20 2EW.

● Soyer's book about his Crimean exploits, *A Culinary Campaign*, has been re-printed by Southover Press and was reviewed in our January 22 issue. — **Editor.**

Burma veterans need your help

THE BURMA Star Association needs your help.

When the association was formed, Earl Mountbatten and Fd Marshal Lord Slim laid down the ground rules.

The objects are to promote and sustain the very strong comradeship of all those who fought in the Far East and to provide a welfare service to assist members and their families in time of need, indeed to all holders of the Burma Star who find themselves in need.

Today the association has 200 branches worldwide. Last year its Benevolent Fund helped 825 people from all over the country and overseas.

In the last nine months the cost of this service has amounted to £92,000 and is expected to rise as members get older. Overall there continues to be an increase in cases referred to us by SSAFA. About 35 per cent of the cases referred are from our widows.

Grants solve many prob-

lems, such as meeting removal expenses or the cost of household goods for those moving into sheltered accommodation.

They help to provide electric wheelchairs, thereby providing the recipient with the means to become more independent. Specialist equipment can be very expensive; the initial outlay is too great for the majority of veterans who are on the whole living on their State pension.

Many items alleviate distress and suffering and provide a better life for those who served their country.

If we are to continue this great work we must have the funds to do so. Therefore may I ask readers of *Soldier* to help with a donation, with our sincere thanks.

Please send any donations to Lt Col J Cormack MBE MC, The Burma Star Relief Fund, 4 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LA. — **Charles Peall, National Public Relations Officer, BSA, pp The Viscount Slim, OBE DL.**

British Army is 'the best'

I HAVE been reading *Soldier* for a year and I must say it is very good. I became a subscriber last year at the Rhine Army Summer Show.

I have a collection, built up over ten years, of British cap badges, headdresses and regimental plaques. The British Army is the best. — **Fabian Altenkirch, Berlin.**

● Almost right! The one without a baton is in fact the Duke of Wellington. The eighth field marshal on parade was the Duke of Kent. He was immediately behind those in the picture. — **Editor**

Riding Troop anniversary

I ENJOYED the feature (March 4) on the King's Troop RHA, whose impressive and immaculate performances are always a tonic in this day and age.

But I was surprised to see no mention of the fact that this year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Riding Troop, RHA — renamed The King's Troop by King George VI during his visit to "The Wood" on October 24, 1947.

As Princess Anne (now the Princess Royal) wrote in her foreword to Maj M C R Wallace's excellent book *The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery* (Threshold Books, 1984): "... I think we can all be grateful to my grandfather, King George VI, for his instigation of the Riding Troop in

1946 for the purpose of maintaining their ceremonial salute firing role ..."

With regard to the abolition (in peacetime) of the rank of field marshal — a ridiculous and totally unnecessary step, in my opinion — I enjoyed the unique appearance of the eight field marshals on parade (March 18).

However, I think the number should be seven. At the right of the file is one without a baton, presumably a general. — **Bill Ewbank, Capt RE (Retd), Upland, Indiana, USA.**



"I've called him 'Big Mac' ... he likes the compo hamburgers!"

Paras face swamps, snakes and alligators — Pages 18-19

Cockney Tykes

IN HIS review of Rudyard Kipling's *Barrack-Room Ballads* (May 13), JM refers to the fact that the lines are written in the cockney dialect, even though some relate to regiments from

outside London. I am currently researching individual soldiers of the 2nd Yorkshire Regiment who fought in the Tirah campaign of 1897-98 (good Kipling country).

Since 1881 the regiment, the old 19th of Foot, now the Green Howards, has recruited in north Yorkshire. Middlesbrough is the largest conurbation in its district.

Its ranks during the campaign (or at any other time) were by no means predominantly filled by native Yorkshiremen.

Of the 92 men for whom I have established places of birth to date, 26 (28 per cent) came from places identifiable as "Yorkshire" (including Leeds and Sheffield) and 19 (21 per cent) from what we would now call Greater London. Other birth-places included Surrey, Hampshire, Cardiff, Birmingham, Glasgow and Dublin.

I am sure the Yorkshire Regiment was by no means unique and that Kipling was simply reflecting the ubiquity of the "cockney" accent among the British soldiery of the time. — **John S Sly, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.**

For the record ...

Chefs and cooks
GENERALLY the British assume that the term chef (For the record, April 29) applies to the trade of a cook. It seems that the bottle of sauce has a lot to answer for ...

In deference to *les vieillards*, mes compagnons de travail in Strasbourg more than 40 years ago, and for the sake of correctness of the French language, I must point out that in reality the word chef simply means head or chief.

"Le chef de la cuisine" is head of the *cuisiniers*, or cooks. "Le chef de gare" is the railway stationmaster. "Le chef de bureau" is the head clerk of an office.

That apart, I too have an affinity with the "Really Large Company" and join Lt Col (Retd) Bruce Dyson in congratulating all cooks who continue to see that the Army marches (better) on its stomach.

Vive la France! — **Gerald France (ex-commis stagiaire), Eastbourne, E Sussex.**

'Frightened' of awarding new medals

HOW refreshing to see a young soldier with only eight years' service proudly holding the five medals he has earned to date (front cover, May 27).

Were Cpl Ashley now to serve a tour of duty in Northern Ireland he would go on to earn the most common medal worn by British Forces today — the GSM 62 with clasp Northern Ireland.

I must say that I would not have thought it possible that that GSM could have been the sixth medal in a row worn by such a young Serviceman in this day and age.

That said, the uninitiated could be forgiven for thinking that the five medals on display belonged to an American Serviceman.

The British have always been loath to award medals and even those awarded by other grateful governments are not to be worn.

Officially, any new UN or NATO medal may not be worn until approval has been granted by the Queen, but because this process often takes more than 12 months, the rule is generally ignored.

I also note from the Letters pages that the campaign for a medal for the Canal Zone is ongoing, and quite right, too.

I would like to see a British medal awarded for service in the former Yugoslavia — there are some Service personnel who qualified for neither the UNPROFOR nor the IFOR medal for service in that country since 1992.

In recent years the British have become almost frightened of awarding new medals. In 1994 the new Accumulated Campaign Service Medal was announced, more than 12 years after the original idea was submitted. I doubt whether the valuable man-hours spent on this single project are quantifiable — they are, however, totally unjustifiable.

The MoD might be able to address this highly contentious

subject by preparing a document containing a set of principles for approval by the Government.

Once in place, any new circumstances would be measured against these principles to see whether a new Bar to an existing GSM or a new medal is appropriate or not.

Whenever the rules are satisfied the MoD can then go ahead without further recourse to what is currently an unacceptably lengthy, costly, and, for most Servicemen, disappearing procedure. — **Maj (Retd) A Middleton, Herne Bay, Kent.**

Precedence

COULD anyone tell me the present authorised method of wearing medals in the British Army?

In your photograph of Cpl Levi Ashley (May 27) only one of his five medals, for Gulf service, is British, and it is placed second in line.

I have always understood from regulations that British medals are always worn first and all others afterwards. — **Edward A G Croucher, Diss, Norfolk.**

● Cpl Ashley's medals included those for service in Cyprus, Angola and former Bosnia. UN medals are not classed as foreign and therefore follow chronological precedence with the others. — **Editor**

Missing Queen

CPL Ashley has indeed had an arduous and dangerous Army career as his fine display of medals shows.

I find it sad, however, that only one shows an effigy of the Queen, to whom Cpl Ashley has sworn allegiance. — **C J M Walker, Spalding, Lincs.**



Medals: Cpl Levi Ashley

Victim of Gallipoli endorsed – 78 years on

A CEREMONY held by members of the Regimental Association of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in a Dorset churchyard marked the recognition of LCpl Hugh Parminter's service in the First World War.

Having enlisted under-age in the 5th Dorsetshires, Hugh was wounded at Gallipoli and discharged from the Army.

His death at home in 1918 took place some time after his discharge and was not acknowledged as being due to his war wounds.

No headstone was erected on his grave because his family were unable to afford one. This has now been rectified, following a chance remark by Hugh's brother, Fred, who knew about an unmarked plot in St Peter's churchyard in Pimperne.

Five years of research ensued, culminating in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission providing a headstone and officially marking Hugh's sacrifice for country and county all those years ago.

Walking for wheels . . .

FOUR staff members from Somerset Legion House, the RBL convalescent home in Weston-super-Mare, are to make a 130-mile sponsored walk.

Their trek, from the home to the Legion's 75th anniversary rally being held at Weston Park, Shropshire, on July 20, is on behalf of a £30,000 appeal for a minibus for the home's disabled and wheelchair-bound patients.

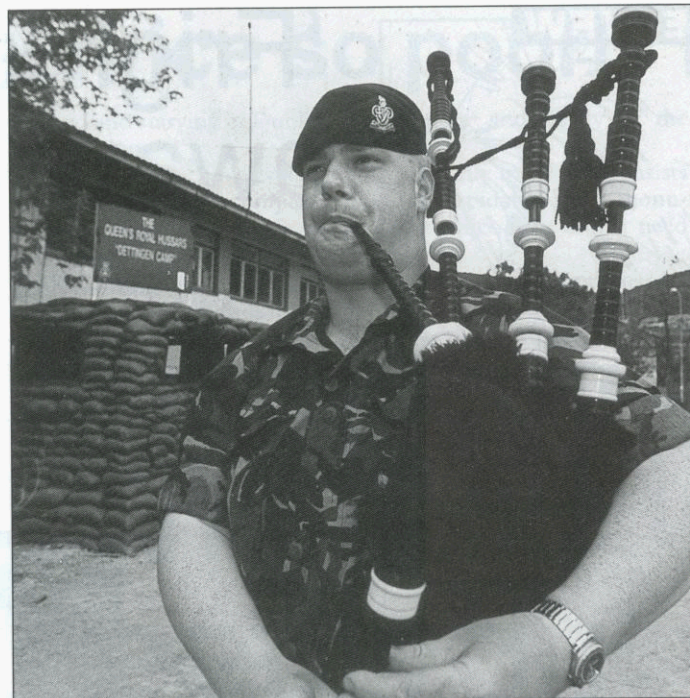
"The people of Somerset raised £3,800 in 1948 to buy the home, and more than 75,000 people have benefited from staying here," says manager Rex Hamilton-Cox. "We are asking for less than that 48 years on."

Julie Salisbury, fundraiser and leader of the walk, can be contacted on 01934 416199.

Rosy future?

A NEW variety of rose, named after the 307-year-old Cheshire Regiment, was "drummed in" at the Chelsea Flower Show.

As near to the regimental colour as possible, its development was started in 1993 when it was mooted that the regiment was to be amalgamated with the Staffordshires. That didn't materialise and, as Brig James Percival, honorary colonel, pointed out, instead of acting as a reminder of the regi-



Tpr David Findlay of the Queen's Royal Hussars plays a lament during a memorial service held at Kljuc in Bosnia-Herzegovina to coincide with the annual service at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park, London. The service, held jointly by the officers of the QRH and Light Dragoons in the makeshift cookhouse at Kljuc, was followed by a bugler sounding *The Last Post* and Tpr Findlay piping *The Flowers of the Forest*.

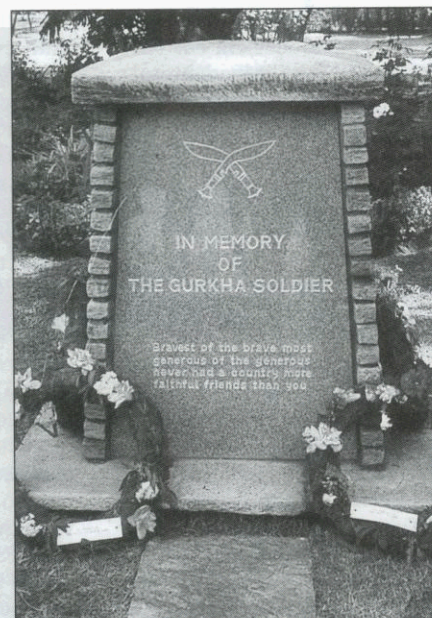
A minute's silence was observed for the dead, including two soldiers and an officer of the Light Dragoons killed when a landmine detonated under their Spartan recce vehicle at Glamoc in January.

Cavalry lament

■ Inaugural wreaths have been laid at a new memorial in Nepal to the tens of thousands of Gurkhas who have fought and died in the service of Britain since 1815.

The simple stone cairn and inscription (pictured right) was constructed in the grounds of the British Embassy at Kathmandu after Defence Attaché Col Christopher Lavender noticed there was no memorial to the Gurkhas, 200,000 of whom fought for Britain in two World Wars.

First wreaths were laid last month by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Rose, and Gen Dharmapal Barsing Thapa, Chief of the Army Staff of the Royal Nepalese Army. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Ex-Service-men's Association. Present was Lt (QGO)



(Retd) Tulbahadur Pun VC, 6 GR, and representatives from most of the 12 Gurkha regiments that formed part of the British or British Indian Armies.

The memorial was built by the Garrison Works Staff of British Gurkhas Nepal.

ment's history, the bloom has "become a symbol of that reprieve".

● An evening, organised by Lt Col John Thomson, CO 3 (V) Cheshire, on the theme of forging

stronger links between the three elements of the regiment's "family" – the Regular Army and TA and the Army Cadet Force – was held at Gilwen Barracks, Chester.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 22, 1946

IN THE MONEY
Fifty tons of money are on the way to BAOR. This represents 50,000,000 pieces of paper – new official British Armed Forces Special Vouchers (BAFSV). From 1 August 1946, soldiers will be paid with them and, in Service canteens, gift shops, post offices, clubs and cinemas . . . it will no longer be marks and pennings but shillings and pence, for the BAFSV will be issued in sterling denominations of £1, 10s, 5s, 2s 6d, 1s, 6d and 3d.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1971

PRIMED MINISTER
SSgt Bill McLernon, QRH, explained Chieftain controls to Prime Minister Edward Heath, an ex-gunner, who drove the tank following a Rhine Army battle at Paderborn, Germany. Wearing the insignia of a lieutenant colonel, Mr Heath, who served in the Honourable Artillery Company, watched the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, in action supported by Abbot guns of the 2nd Field Regiment, RA.

Normandy reminder

A PLAQUE on a newly-erected column as the centrepiece of a £60,000 British garden to be created in the grounds of the Memorial de la Bataille de Normandy was being unveiled on June 5.

The garden is being funded by the British Friends of Normandy, chaired by Sir Ian Harris (CO of the 2nd Royal Ulster Rifles, which liberated Caen in 1944), who unveiled the plaque with the Lord Mayor of Belfast and the Mayor of Caen. A further £20,000 is needed for the garden project.

Prince drops in on Canadian Reserves

THE Prince of Wales opened the Royal Regiment of Canada's new museum during a visit to Canada.

One of four Canadian Army units of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, the "Royals" are an infantry Reserve unit based in Toronto.

Far-reaching Corps: The Corps of Commissioners opened its first overseas office in Boroko, Papua New Guinea on June 1. It will provide reception, manned guarding and armed cash-in-transit services for international corporate organisations in the former colony.

Flying dustbin men's final flourish

WILD horses would not have stopped a team from the Training Wing, 22 Engineer Regiment, Andover, from taking their share in a piece of Army history on Salisbury Plain.

For them, the last firing of the 165mm Assault Vehicle Royal Engineers (AVRE) demolition gun – with the object of disposing of remaining stocks of 165mm live ammunition – marked the end of an era.

The early stocks were of 1960s vintage, the most recent being produced ten years ago.

Modified from a 6.5in naval gun, the 165mm demolition gun was incorporated into the Centurion AVRE, last deployed operationally in the Gulf and withdrawn soon after that.

The gun was the logical development from the Churchill AVRE, which mounted the spring-loaded Petard of Normandy vintage before it, too, was furnished with an altered naval gun.

Its round, a monster of 29kg which could be seen with the naked eye as it hurtled through the air, was known as the "flying dustbin".

It had a maximum area range of 2.5km, but normally engaged piers and bunkers at 600-800m



WO2 Jim Pridding, a trained armoured engineer gunner, cradles one of the final 29kg HESH "flying dustbins" on Salisbury Plain

and bridge spans at 1,200-1,400m.

With the demise of the Centurion AVRE went gunnery as part of some armoured engineer trades, so the live firing – with the gun dismounted from the turret on to a test bed for safety and practical reasons – proved truly nostalgic for the men from 22 Engineer.

Although many AVRE 165s have now been scrapped, and the distinctive whistle of the "flying dustbin" which they fired will no longer be heard, the sappers do have a permanent reminder of the vehicle.

Outside the entrance to their Andover barracks, one stands sentinel . . . as a gate guard.

REUNIONS

Wildenrath Stags 1985-92: Reunion to be held at RAF Brize Norton Rugby Club on June 22. Details from Sgt Aly Wynn on RAF Halton ext 6110.

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters: Regimental Association annual Crich dinner on July 6, and pilgrimage to Regimental Memorial Crich, July 7. Details from RHQ, WFR, Foresters House, HQ Chetwynd Barracks, Beeston, Notts NG9 5HA (0115 9465415).

101 (London) Engr Regt (EOD)(V): Reunion for all former members from formation as the 1st Middlesex Engineers to present will be held at RHQ on July 13. Details from Maj Brian Kirkdale, 101 (L) Engr Regt (EOD)(V), Hudson House, Bromley Road, Catford SE6 2RH (01444 244418 after 6pm).

Commando sappers: Reunion on July 26-28 at RM Barracks, Chivenor to coincide with 25th anniversary. All commando-trained ranks who have served with 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE are invited to attend. Details from Capt M D Berrill, RMB Chivenor, Barnstaple, N Devon EX31 4AZ (Chivenor Mil 7603).

22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery RA: Serving members will be hosting a weekend reunion, to include a formal dinner, parade, all

ranks function and church service, for all former members of the battery on September 20-22 at Larkhill. Details from Project Officer, 22 Bty Reunion, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (01980 675965 or 675948, or Larkhill Mil (732) 5965 or 5948).

12th Bn, Devonshire Regiment (6th Airborne): The 50th reunion dinner will be held at the Devon Hotel, Exeter by-pass (Matford Roundabout), Exeter, on October 12. Personnel who served with the 12th Devonshires from 1940-45

are asked to contact social secretary Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (01392 874596).

Castlemartin (RAC), Range farewell: Castlemartin Range is holding a farewell parade on October 15 to mark the end of the Federal German Army presence since 1961. Former military permanent staff (1961-96) who have not received an invitation and who wish to attend should contact the Chief Clerk, Castlemartin Range, Merriem, Pembrokehire SA71 5EB (01646 661321 ext 4364).

SEARCHLINE

The family of ex-Bdr **Derek Williams**, who served with 40 Fd Regt RA in MT 1972-79 at Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh, Germany, wishes to contact old comrades for birthday reunion in June, especially Col **Eric Miller**, Capt **Charlie Charge** and **Duggie Kennedy** (Hildesheim, 1954-56). Replies to Mrs T Miles, 3 Hildcote Close, Streamside, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1YH (01926 452292).

Roy Farran wrote in his book *Winged Dagger* that when wounded in Crete in 1941 he spent a night in the 7th General Hospital, operating under German control, and was cared for by a British woman in battledress trousers "whose presence on the island

was a mystery to me". Ron Gordon, 10 Burbank, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HP, wishes to hear from anyone who can tell the story surrounding her presence.

Ted Balchin (ex-3 Para 1950-58) wishes to hear from anyone who knew his late father, **Capt C F C (Frank) Balchin**, who served with the Royal Engineers. He was at Dunkirk as a private and served in the 1st Army in North Africa. He also served in Sicily, Italy, Greece, Palestine and Egypt, where he died at El Balka on May 1, 1948, aged 42, and was buried at the military cemetery in Moascar. Replies to 32 Henry Close, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4HQ (01243 783273).

DATES

June

23: Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, including military display, music. Proceeds to ABF, SSAFA and local charity.

25: An evening with Frank ("It's the way I tell 'em") Carson, ex-Para, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).

29-30: SSAFA Lincolnshire fund-raising event at Air Day, RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

July

2: Aldershot Military Museum special events day, 1.30pm (01252 314598).

5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past and reunion, Royal Henley.

9-20: Royal Tournament.

11: RBL 75th anniversary service, Westminster Abbey.

14: Para spectacular, Southsea Common, in aid of Airborne Forces welfare. Free entry.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details: 01865 53151.

28: Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

August

14-26: Gurkhas at Gallipoli, 80th anniversary exhibition, Gurkha Museum, Winchester (01962 842832).

September

7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.

October

6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

November

16: Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell, Cranwell. Proceeds to SSAFA (details: 01406 425550).

● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers: P J Lyddon, late RGJ, May 31; T B N Oldrey, late RAMC, June 3.

Colonels: C D Mackenzie-Beevor, late QDG, May 31; K W Steel, late REME, May 31.

Were you in the first year intake at **Sandhurst Comprehensive?** School reunion 1969-74 planned for former pupils and staff. Details from Angela on 01734 732225 or Mary on 01252 871586.

Mrs Valerie King (née) Booth, 35 St Georges's Road, Hastings TN34 3NH (01424 461604) wishes to hear from **Christopher Sutton** who worked with her at Lipton's, Rye, in 1972 and is thought, aged 18, to have joined the ACC soon afterwards.

Dick Field seeks news of **Alec Armit** with whom he served in **656 Sqn AAC, Malaya 1958-60**. Replies to Colliers Brook, Aylburton Common, Lydney, Glos GL15 6DX (01594 529404).

British soldiers dig in to help Croatian refugees

BRITISH troops have been involved in a race against time to dig wells and channel electricity to a new home for handicapped refugees in Croatia.

Packed into a warehouse in Split, the refugees – who were thrown out of the Verlika Institute by Serbs forces in 1992 – had been promised they would be re-housed in purpose-built accommodation by the beginning of June.

But until water and power were laid on at the new home – paid for with help from the European Community – the physically handicapped refugees could not move in. They have been housed in makeshift quarters near the Split docks.

British units donated 250 mattresses and have been raising money to buy simple comforts for the refugees.

Squash marathon is just the tonic for Polish hospital

A TEAM from 16 Tank Transporter Squadron completed a gruelling squash marathon and raised DM 1,500 for a Polish children's hospital in the process.

The Fallingbostal-based unit has had close links with Zakopane children's hospital in southern Poland for more than two years through civilian transport clerk George Barcikowski.

In that time, DM 7,500 has been raised to buy surgeons' lights essential for complex operations. The hospital specialises in bone deformities and performs about 900 operations every year.

Last Christmas, a squadron team delivered toys for the children and spent five days

carrying out repairs on the hospital. Earlier this year Fallingbostal HIVE organised a charity fair to raise funds.

The success of the squash marathon was welcomed by the hospital director Daniel Zarzycki.

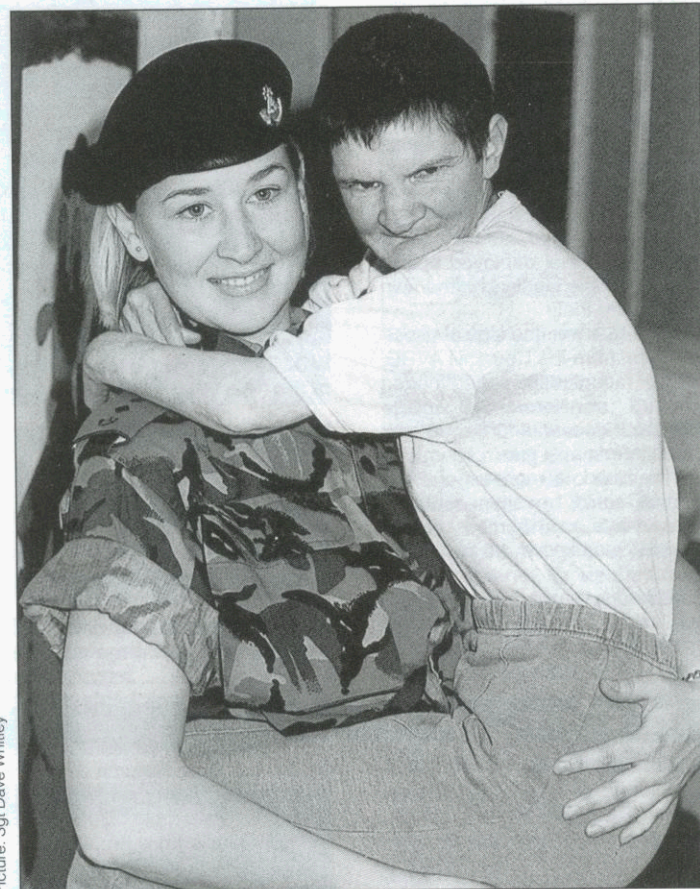
"It is fantastic that the squadron is helping us. The Polish health system has only just got started and our hospital is deeply in debt," he said.

Monies raised by the squash marathon will be put towards purchasing X-ray equipment and new beds.

British soldiers on **Op Resolute** are organising a Triathlon of Hope in August to raise money for a Sarajevo orphanage. The event involves an 1,800-mile journey from Rheindahlen, Germany to Bosnia, passing through Austria, Italy and Croatia.

Teams of two will complete a 26-mile run and 104-mile cycle ride each day. There will be a 12-mile swim from Sisana, Italy to Debeli Rtic, Croatia. Donations or offers of sponsorship to The Triathlon of Hope, Hotel Terme, Sarajevo, BFPO 543.

Sixteen staff and recruits from Training Company, **Intelligence and Security**



Picture: Sgt Dave Whitley
Capt Kathy Little, LI, gets an affectionate hug from one of the inmates of the institution which IFOR are helping to relocate to new accommodation

HELD UP ... BY THE WIND

RfN Stephen Bennett shrugged off the effects of blisters, freezing rain and gale-force winds to complete the 52-mile London to Brighton walk in aid of the Merton Survivors' Charity.

It took him 16 hours and, although he did not beat the record of 14hr 27min set by the London Rifle Brigade in 1914, he did manage to raise £300 for the charity which coun-

sels victims of sexual abuse.

A member of London-based 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, Stephen was accompanied by a neighbour in a camper van.

"For the first three hours it poured with rain. By the time I reached Reigate, I was freezing. I was chuffed to complete the walk. If it were not for the wind, I think I could have broken the record," he said.

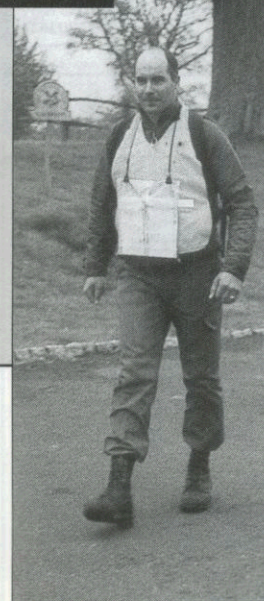
Group (Volunteers), a TA unit with members from across the United Kingdom, successfully completed the London Marathon, raising a substantial amount in the process.

The team, co-ordinated by PTI Cpl Rowena Fitter, were of mixed ranks, ages and sex, with fastest runner Capt Ged Peatfield completing the

course in under four hours.

Fund-raising, co-ordinated by PTI Cpl Penny Bogg, went mainly towards LOOK, a small charity which provides educational support for blind or partially-sighted children.

A total of £4,750 was raised for LOOK, with a further donation also being made to the Army Benevolent Fund.



RfN Stephen Bennett strides out on his way to Brighton from London

Sappers support Nepal schools

WHILE trekking in Nepal last year, the then Commandant of **The Queen's Gurkha Engineers**, Col Robbie Burns, came across two schools under construction.

He discovered they were being financed by the Pahar Trust which is run by a former Royal Engineers WO2, Tom Langridge.

During his service with QGE, Tom made an agreement with WO2 Chandrabahadur Gurung to raise funds in the UK for construction materials not available in the village. 'Q' Chandra would be responsible for local labour and materials.

Twelve months later, Chandra contacted Tom and



Brig Bob Pridham, Commandant of the Headquarters RSME presents a cheque to Tom Langridge at Chatham

informed him that his village had carried sand from the river bed to the village 2,000ft above it, collected stone and broken it

down for aggregate. Tom travelled to Nepal with the money he had raised and the first school was built.

Since joined by another former Gurkha Engineer, Capt (QGO) Purnabahadur Gurung, the three men have organised the construction of six more schools and another seven are planned.

Soldiers serving with Maidstone-based **36 Engineer Regiment** raised £12,385 for the trust and a cheque for that amount was presented to Tom Langridge by Brig

Bob Pridham. It will be used to build the Invicta High School which will be affiliated to a British school.

COMPETITION 639

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in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the August 5 issue.

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Competition No 636 (May 13): Congratulations to LCpl Suraj Gurung, 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn, Operation Resolute, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr Victor Palmer, of Erith, Kent, and Mr G J Weston, of Emsworth, Hants.



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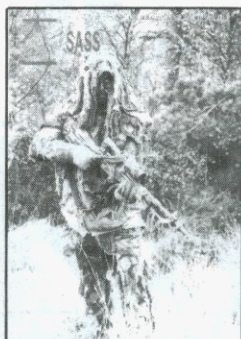
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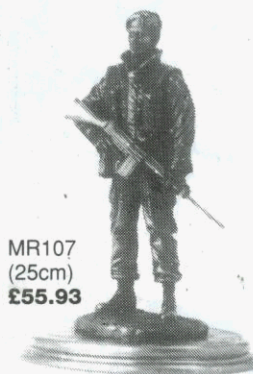
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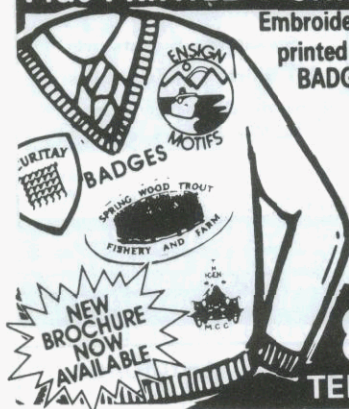
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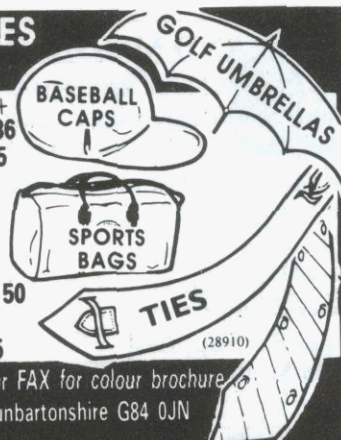
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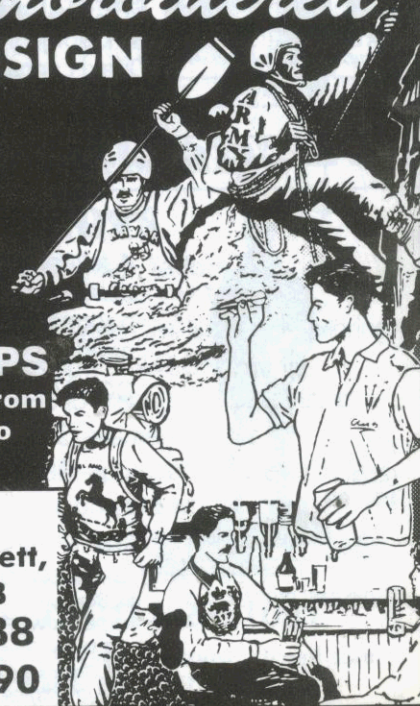
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Army oarsmen row Oxford's Old Blues to last-gasp victory

TWO ARMY oarsmen, Maj Paul Marsden REME and Maj Nick Holland RE, helped Oxford University to win the inaugural veterans' boat race against Cambridge.

Selection of the Old Blues' squad was based on recent Ergometer scores and current involvement in rowing, which was no problem to Marsden and Holland who were already in training following their gold medal performances at the World Veteran Rowing Championships last September.

A third Army veteran was also selected for the Oxford boat when the crew was finalised in February. At 59, Col (Retd) Alexander Lindsay was the oldest member of the crew.

All three took part in intensive training at Shiplake in the build-up to the big challenge. Preparations included a race against Isis, Oxford's second boat.

Cambridge won the toss and selected the Middlesex station, giving them the inside of the first bend.

Oxford missed the first stroke, allowing Cambridge into the lead. Five strokes later it had all changed and Oxford were in front.

However, the Dark Blue crew had gone into oxygen debt in catching up and, as both crews settled to a racing rate of 37 strokes a minute, the Light Blues eased ahead.

Wales make his Dai . . .

APPRENTICE David "Dai" Davies was selected to represent Wales against Portugal in an Under-19 rugby match last month.

Dai, who plays on the flank, is currently an apprentice tradesman at Princess Marina College, Arborfield. He has represented the college, the Army and Combined Services at junior level.

By Fulham's Craven Cottage football stadium, Cambridge had a lead of half a length, which they extended to three-quarters of a length as they took advantage of the inside of the bend.

But the Oxford Old Blues hung on and regained ground as the corner petered out and the river straightened.

By the Harrods' Depository

the lead was down to a few feet.

In a pulsating finish, Oxford edged ahead over the last 20 strokes to cross the line at Hammersmith Pier first by the narrowest of margins.

Lindsay and Holland subsequently travelled to America to race against Harvard, Yale and Cambridge Universities over the new Olympic course at Atlanta, Georgia.



Oxford University veterans take on Cambridge. Col Alexander Lindsay, the oldest crewman, is in the boat at two, Maj Paul Marsden is at seven and Maj Nick Holland at stroke

Mark snatches glory as fittest of the fit compete over Snowdonia

SOLDIERS from units across the United Kingdom gathered in Snowdonia to compete in the Welsh 1,000m peaks race, widely acknowledged as one of the toughest events on the British fell-racing calendar.

Eighty military teams, each of four very fit soldiers, were ready for the early-morning start at Aber on the North Wales coast.

Ahead of them lay 31km of cross-country running over some of the most bleak and demanding terrain in Wales, including the 1,000m peaks of Carnedd Llewelyn, Carnedd

Dafydd and Snowdon itself.

As has happened in several previous Welsh 1,000s, the competition developed into a straight race between the Territorial Army soldiers of Cardiff-based 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, and the Brecon-based Gurkhas.

The Welshmen beat the mountain men from Nepal by a whisker, with 30-year-old Pte Mark Edwards snatching victory in a remarkable time of 4hr 57min. Nineteen minutes behind in second place was Rfn Jitbahadur Pun.

Average finishing time was six hours.

Each competitor had to carry a map, compass and small rucksack containing basic mountain safety equipment, and report at a series of checkpoints on the run southwards to Snowdon.

There is an ever-increasing demand on the limited number of places in the race, which is a severe examination of fitness, endurance and navigation skills.

The early June weather conditions were near-ideal, with good visibility and tempera-

A team of British soldiers have become IFOR tug of war champions. The picture shows a team from the Queen's Royal Hussars on their way to the title after entering the first - and probably last - military skills competition to be staged by the international peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

They proved too strong for teams from the Canadian Royal Regiment and the Czech Army's 6th Mechanised Brigade.

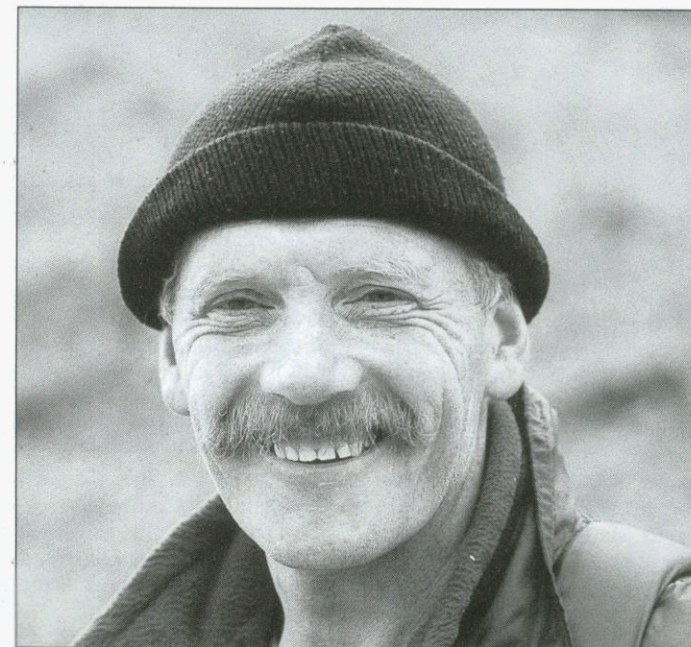
The three forces have been serving alongside each other since the initial deployment of IFOR, and the day of competition hosted by the Canadi-



Hussars pull their weight

ans at Verlike Kladusa, north of Bihac, was the first opportunity for the soldiers to meet socially.

Displays of equipment featured a Challenger tank of the QRH, currently based in Kluc.



CSgt Robert Ferry, at 52 the oldest competitor in the gruelling Welsh 1,000 race across Snowdonia

Infantry claim Massey Trophy

THE Infantry won the 1995-96 Inter-Corps football competition for the Massey Trophy. It was the first time they have won the tournament, now in its third season.

During their nine games, the Infantry used 38 different players and won eight of their matches, losing one.

In the final league table, the Infantry finished on 34 points, five clear of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery who each won six games and drew two.

The Royal Signals were fourth with 17, followed by the RLC, REME, APTC, AGC, AAC and AMS.

Kineton's team of '71 celebrates

VETERANS of CAD Kineton's 1971 Army Hockey Cup championship-winning side gathered at the depot for a 25th anniversary celebration of their 2-0 win over the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.

The team's memorable successes in 1971 included the Western Command Cup, the UK Army Hockey Cup and the Bari Cup which they won at the RAOC tournament.

Skipper Gavin Bailey, now 59, is the only member still playing. Others who gathered in the Sergeants' Mess at Kineton included Geoff Brennan, who had flown back from his honeymoon to take part in the final at Aldershot, and Bede Welsh, who scored in every round of the competition.

Brompton race

THERE was a poor turn-out by Army cyclists for the Titan Scaffolding-sponsored Criterium road races at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, and the military event had to be incorporated into the civilian race.

A pre-season cyclo-cross course is planned at Brompton Barracks at the end of October. Details from LCpl Dave Farrow on Chatham Mil 2411.

County outguns Army at Woolwich

KENT's second team beat the Army by 66 runs in a 55-over match at Woolwich.

But the game was far from one-sided and could have been much closer but for a weak batting display.

Good fielding and tidy bowling by the Army resulted in Kent being bowled out in the 51st over for 216, a target well within the Servicemen's reach.

But despite a powerful 60 from 61 balls by Capt Adrian Grinonneau (2 R Anglian), the rest of a good batting side failed to get going on what was not an ideal surface.

Kent II 216 (Matthews 3-59, Knowles-Pfeiffer 3-20). **Army** 150 (Grinonneau 60, Cotterill 32). Kent II won by 66 runs.

Army U-25 v RMA Sandhurst

Having been put in by RMA Sandhurst, the Army Under-25 batsmen struggled against a strong bowling attack and found themselves 19-2 after six overs. Monro (20) steadied the innings and, with the support of McDade (25), Hole (16) and Blagrove (32), "wagged the tail" to produce a score of 159-9 in the allotted 45 overs.

RMA batted with care, but after Chamberlin (25) and skipper Brennan (35) had been dismissed the cadets collapsed. They were bowled out for 106 in the 37th over, 53 runs short.

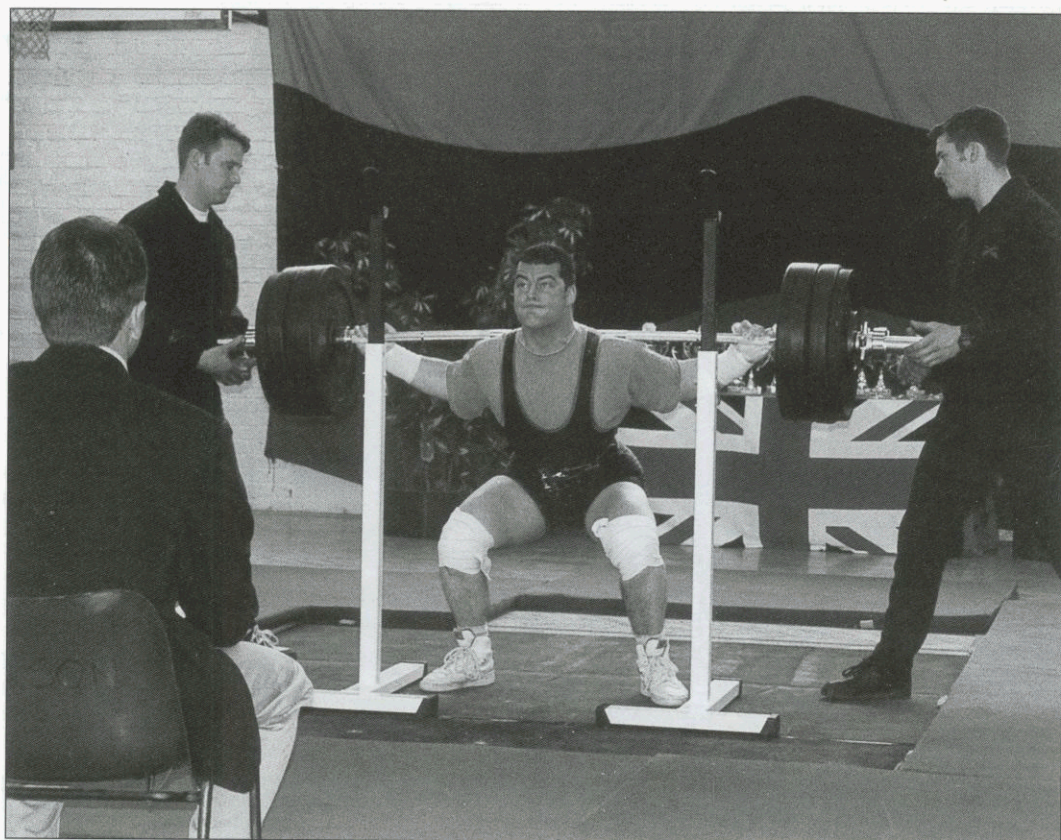
Army U-25 159-9 (Scott 3-15). **RMA** 106 (Blagrove 3-27, Spencer 3-9). Army U-25 won by 53 runs.

CS v Earl of Arundel's XI

Richard Greatorex, captain of the Army team last summer when he led the batting by example, took 102 off the Combined Services' attack at beautiful Arundel to propel the Earl's XI to a two-wicket win over his former Service colleagues.

Capt Jim Cotterill (RSA Larkhill), Greatorex's opening partner last season, gave Services a good start with new cap SAC Mark Bray (RAF) who went on to score a confident 64.

But the middle order wavered against the wiles of



Sgt Tony Morland makes a 210kg squat on his way to a new Army power-lifting record at Herford

Morland powers to new 100kg record

RECORDS tumbled at the first British Forces Germany open power-lifting competition held in the 1 (UK) ADSR gymnasium at Herford.

Although it is a relatively new sport to the military, there was a good entry for the three lifts involved – squat, bench press and deadlift.

Best lifts in each section are added to give an overall total.

In the 60kg division, Cfn Pete Browne (35 Engr Regt) managed an Army record total of 335kg to overcome the challenge of Cpl Baz Breen (1 (UK) ADSR).

The RAF took the honours in the 67.5kg event with an outstanding performance by Cpl Martin Sims (Bruggen), who accumulated a total of 397.5kg. LCpl Dave Wells (1

(UK) ADSR) was runner-up with a very respectable 315kg.

LCpl Rich Steele (35 Engr Regt) put together an Army record of 385kg in the 75kg class while beating SSgt Dave Marchment (1 (UK) ADSR).

Two novices battled it out in the 82.5kg division, Sgt Andy Hole (111 Provo Coy) achieving another Army record of 410kg, just edging Sig Shaun Adams (1 (UK) ADSR) into second place.

There was a class display by SAC Mark Beanland in the 90kg event.

His 20kg deadlift was a Royal Air Force record and pushed his total to 635kg. First-timer Sgt Alan Higgs (1 (UK) ADSR) was runner-up with an encouraging 432.5kg total, and third place went to

LCpl Dave Owen-Jones (QRL).

An excellent series by Sgt Tony Morland (1 (UK) ADSR) in the 100kg class resulted in him breaking his own Army record by 40kg on the way to a winning total of 565kg. Second and third places were divided by only 5kg, LCpl Matt Simpson (Scots DG) finishing with 470kg to hold off Pte Nick King (3 REME).

Run by QMSI Garry Roderrick and sponsored by Mr Brian Partridge, the competition was a great success and promises much for power-lifting in the Army. For details about the sport in Germany, contact Sgt Tony Morland, TM Troop, (1 (UK) ADSR), BFPO 15 (or Herfor Mil 3367).

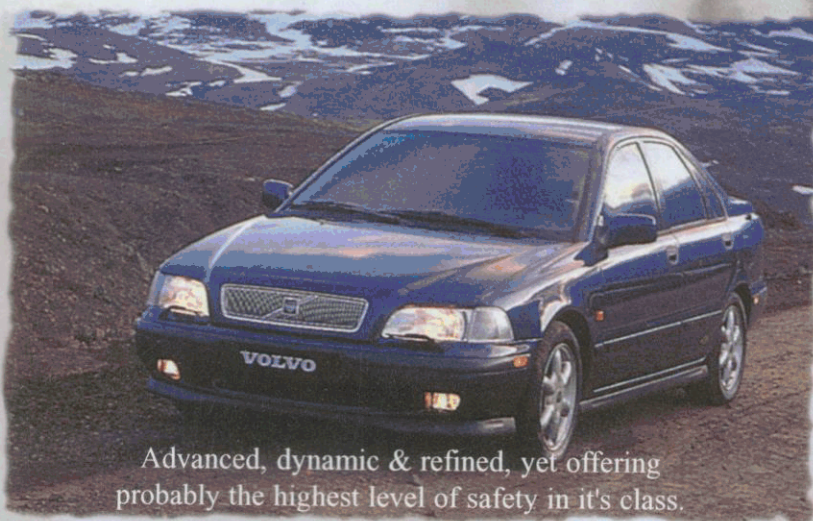
former Sussex off spinner John Barclay, and it was left to LCpl David Matthews (36 not out) to steady the ship and allow a declaration at 231-9.

Greatorex wreaked havoc when the Earl's XI batted, his rapid-fire 102 coming off just 67 balls as the score rattled

along to 163-1. But Cotterill (3-38) pulled Combined Services back into the game, so much so that Maj Gen Jack Deverell, president of Army cricket and batting at number ten, was forced to pad up with four runs needed off three balls. The president took a

single off his first ball and ran three off the final delivery to secure an exciting victory for the Earl's XI.

Combined Services 231-9 (Bray 64, Matthews 36 not out). **Earl of Arundel's XI** 232-8 (Greatorex 102). Earl's XI won by 2 wickets.



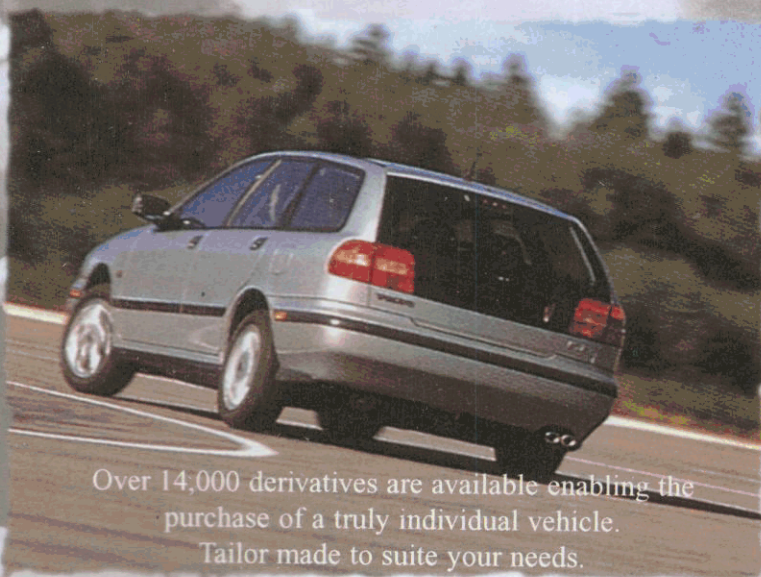
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SOLDIER



Spit and polished: Cpl Robert Savage, App Craig Thompson, App LCpl Richard Salt and App LCpl Matt Cornes from the Army School of Catering in Aldershot, dressed in appropriate costume, demonstrate the art of Army cooking, 19th century style. They were taking part in a display at the Army centenary culinary competition. See Page 31.

Picture: Terry Champion

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