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OF THE
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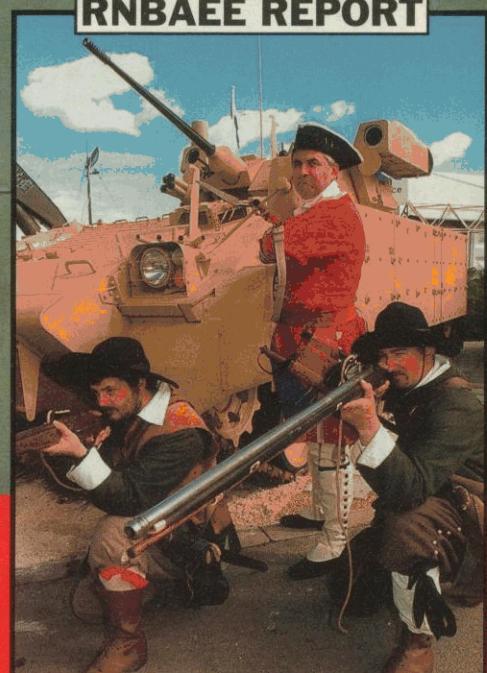
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

October 2, 1995
Vol 51/20

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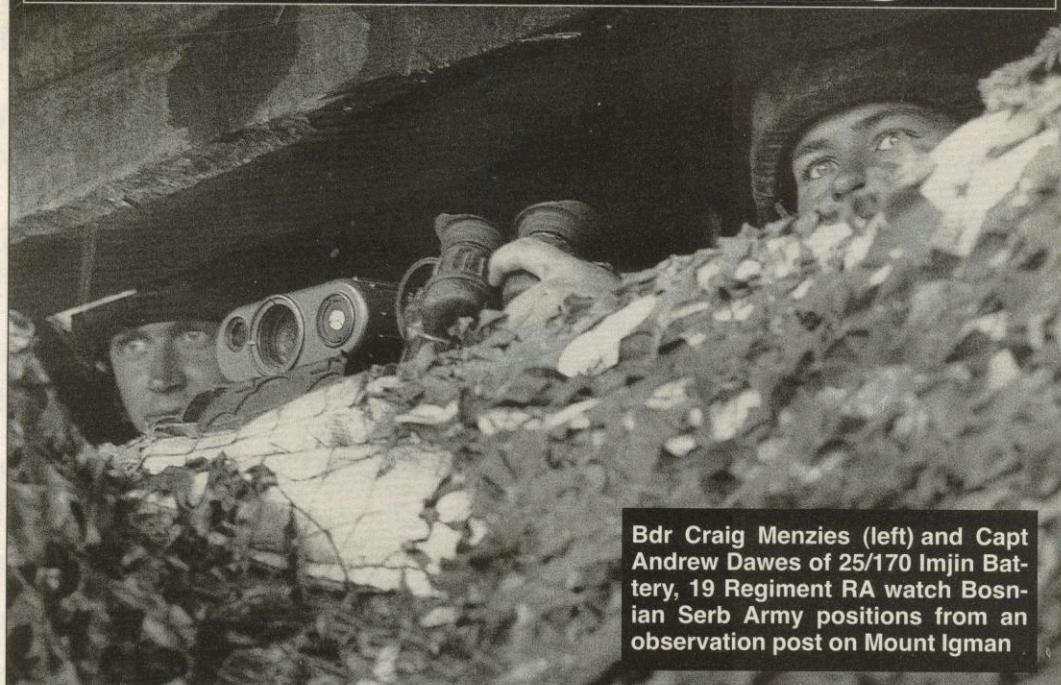
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COVER – Main picture: Pte Mark Fotheringham and LCpl Gerry Lennon on guard just before 2 Para returned from Palace Barracks, Belfast to Aldershot. See Pages 14-16. (Picture: Mike Perring) Inset: Warriors ancient and modern at RNBAEE. Colin Silcock and Neil Harrison (Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency) and Guy Hagg of HQ Land in front of Warrior AFV. See Pages 12-13. (Picture: Terry Champion)

Sarajevo in their sights



Bdr Craig Menzies (left) and Capt Andrew Dawes of 25/170 Imjin Battery, 19 Regiment RA watch Bosnian Serb Army positions from an observation post on Mount Igman

Picture: Mike Weston

British troops serving with Task Force Alpha, part of the United Nations multi-national brigade, came within hours of launching an operation to break the Bosnian Serb blockade of Sarajevo. The

plan became unnecessary when a major advance in the new peace negotiations brokered by the United States was announced on September 14.

Full story in Pages 8-9.

£2,000 Open Engagement windfall due

Bounty boost for Front Line

YOUNG soldiers in some teeth arms are to be offered an immediate £1,400 (£1,000 after tax and ERNIC) incentive to remain in the Army for an extra year.

In a move to improve retention of quality soldiers with two years' service under their belts, the re-engagement bounty is designed to change the minds of those thinking of giving notice and of those who have already given notice.

Specifically targeted are personnel with less than three years' service in the Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery and Infantry (less the Gurkhas and Home Service battalions of The Royal Irish Regiment).

A shortage of soldiers in the early years of service has been identified despite reductions in the size of the Army. A dip in recruiting on top of the redundancy programme has created a situation which is expected to worsen unless positive action is

taken to persuade young soldiers to serve longer.

The bounty scheme, initially approved for two years, starts on October 1.

Eligible soldiers are:

- Those serving on an Open Engagement in the HCav, RAC, RA and Infantry (less Gurkhas and R Irish (HS)) with at least two years' and not more than three years' reckonable service for engagement;
- Those not already time barred from leaving the Army before completing four years' reckonable service for engagement as a result of attendance on a long course;
- Soldiers of good character recommended by their commanding officer.

Soldiers who have been med-
● Turn to Page 5

Equipment on show – Pages 12-13

Return of 2 Para – Pages 14-16

MWF Chilwell – Pages 17-19

Edinburgh Tattoo – Pages 24-25

Light Infantry set to serve in Bosnia

SOLDIERS of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry are preparing to deploy to Bosnia to relieve the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Both units are based at Paderborn, Germany.

Commanded by Lt Col Ben Barrie, the 800 Light Infantrymen are being put through eight weeks of training tailored to their peacekeeping role.

Realistic scenarios have been created at Sennelager to simulate situations the men are likely to face in former Yugoslavia.

The Op Grapple package is co-ordinated by Training and Support Command (Germany) under Brig Alan Behagg.

Meanwhile, 107 members of B Squadron, The Light Dragoons, based at Höhne, have joined Task Force Alpha.

It is the fifth time that the Light Dragoons have deployed troops to Bosnia and brings to nearly 3,000 the number of Germany-based soldiers operating in former Yugoslavia.

During a recent visit to Höhne, the Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, wished the squadron a rewarding tour and safe return.



Brig Alan Behagg talks to soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry in training for service in Bosnia



Light Dragoons strap in for the flight from Germany to Split

Picture: Roger Lortie



What the papers have been saying

THE Army is suffering from a severe shortage of surgeons as senior medical staff, unsettled by cutbacks, leave for well-paid jobs in the National Health Service. — *Times*

□ A National Union of Civil and Public Servants (NUCPS) motion to the Trades Union Congress in Brighton described the blanket ban on homosexuality in the Armed Forces as "an insult to the many lesbians and gay men who have exemplary Service records". — *Independent on Sunday*.

□ Confidential government papers newly released have revealed how Japan stole nearly £12 million of British money from a secret Swiss bank account in an elaborate wartime sting. Whitehall officials were duped into believing the funds would be used to help prisoners on the Railway of Death. The money, which never reached the PoWs, was eventually recovered and returned to the Treasury. — *Sunday Times*

□ Freed paratrooper Lee Clegg did not fire the shot that killed a teenager in a stolen car in Belfast, a ballistics expert has concluded. The findings are part of a report prepared by lawyers seeking a third appeal against Pte Clegg's murder conviction. — *Times*

□ The MoD has taken a tentative first step towards the systematic monitoring of sexual harassment in the Armed Forces in the wake of a substantial payout to a Service-woman subjected to persistent abuse by male soldiers. — *Independent*

Re-engagement bounty

From Page 3

ically downgraded will not be eligible for the bounty until they are upgraded.

The £1,400 bounty, before tax and ERNIC, is payable as soon as possible after the acceptance certificate has been signed. All commanding officers of relevant teeth arms units are being encouraged to identify suitable soldiers within their commands and to persuade them to stay on.

Meanwhile, the first soldiers to sign on the Open Engagement introduced on January 1, 1991 have only three months to

wait before receiving a £2,000 bonus. The Financial Retention Incentive, payable at five and eight years' reckonable service, was brought in as a reward for those not giving their notice before those points.

The Financial Retention Incentive is open to all arms and provides a highly attractive reason for soldiers with four years' service to stay on a bit longer. A further bonus of £2,000 before tax is payable at the eight-year mark for personnel on Open Engagements.

Brig Peter Besgrove, Director of Manning (Army), said: "We

are now at the end of the Options and Defence Costs Study drawdown. The Army is as busy as ever on operations all over the world, and we have some shortage of young soldiers in certain Combat Arms.

"The recruiting organisation is working very hard to attract new people but we want to retain as many of our highly trained young soldiers as possible by paying them a decent bounty.

"This is just one of a number of measures to encourage young soldiers to stay a little longer in the Army."

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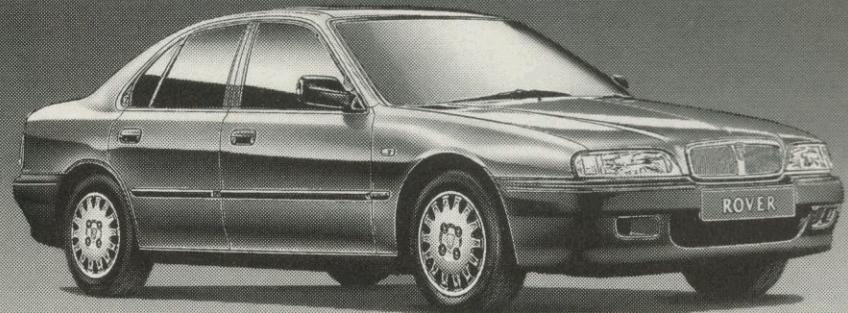
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Flag to come down on QEMH Woolwich

BUGLERS sounding *The Last Post* will mark the closure on September 27 of Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, the first of three major military hospitals in the United Kingdom to shut down in the next six months.

In a ceremony to be attended by senior medical officers and civic leaders, the keys of QEMH will be handed over to the Greenwich Healthcare Trust by Brig Guy Ratcliffe, last commanding officer of the hospital.

The Woolwich closure, part of the Front Line First programme, will be followed by Wroughton before the end of the year and

by Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, in February. About 1,000 posts are to be lost, 75 per cent of them military.

Medical redundancies are due to be announced on October 26. Up to 15 per cent of the medical staff at QEMH Woolwich are understood to have applied for voluntary redundancy.

Some Woolwich faculties are to be relocated to Gosport, Hampshire, by April 1, when the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar will become the core UK tri-Service hospital.

The Defence Costs Study earlier this year identified three regional military units to be

created in National Health Service hospitals in areas with significant numbers of troops and said the changes would lead to greater integration between the Armed Forces and the NHS.

● The Queen Elizabeth, completed in 1978 on the site of the former Shrapnel Barracks, was itself the result of a drawdown. It replaced the function of five military hospitals – the Millbank (London), the Royal Herbert and the Military Maternity Hospital (both Woolwich), Colchester, and the Royal Victoria (Netley) – leaving the UK Army with three, Aldershot, Catterick and QEMH.

Drivers aim for safety first

THE Army in Northern Ireland is taking road safety so seriously that its annual driving skills competition included many aspects of first aid.

Twenty-six teams took part in an event which involved driving over sand dunes and a skid pan.

Winners were the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment B team. Last year's winners, 26 Squadron RLC, won the command road safety quiz. LCpl Anne Marie Goodacre of 220 Ambulance Sqn RAMC won the Spirit of the Competition award.

SSgt Stevie Baird, 26 Sqn RLC, was champion team captain and LCpl Robert Lane (1 Staffords) was named champion Land Rover driver. Best light goods vehicle driver was LCpl John Gilmore, of 26 Sqn.



From left are Pte Stephanie Williams, Pte Clark Denton and Cpl Peter Johnston of 1 Tpt Sqn RLC attached to 1 BW in Belfast. They formed one of the youngest teams in the Northern Ireland driving competition

Salerno pardons plea

A PARDON for three Durham Light Infantry sergeants sentenced to death in 1943 is called for in a new book on the largest mutiny by British troops at war.

In *Mutiny at Salerno**, Saul David exposes what he feels is a terrible injustice: the deception and plight of nearly 200 members of the 50th (Tyne Tees) and 51st (Highland) Divisions sentenced for refusing orders to

join unfamiliar units. In September 1943, reinforcements were needed at Salerno, where the beach-head was in danger of being overrun.

Convalescing Eighth Army veterans and new recruits waiting to join their units were drawn from a transit camp in North Africa.

Not until they were half-way to Italy were they told they were to land at Salerno and join the 46th Division.

Mr David uses de-classified trial papers and eye-witness accounts to make a strong case against "one of the greatest iniquities in the history of British military justice".

He concludes that the trial was a charade. Only after the intervention of the Adjutant General were the "draconian" sentences suspended. Subsequently, many had terms of hard labour reimposed.



Sgt Wally Innes, DLI, sentenced to death

The men, many of them heroes of earlier actions in Sicily, North Africa and Dunkirk, were not released from detention until after the war. But they remain stripped of their campaign and gallantry medals, and were branded as cowards.

Mr David illustrates how the fierce loyalties of the Durhams, Highlanders and several other units were stronger than a fear of death.

One Black Watch officer persuaded 100 from his regiment to go with him.

In an open letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr David calls on him to grant pardons, thus releasing the surviving mutineers and their families from the torment they have suffered since 1943.

**Mutiny at Salerno*, by Saul David. Brassey's, hardback, £19.95.

MoD reviews policy on homosexuals

A REVIEW of Ministry of Defence policy on homosexuals in the Armed Forces has begun.

The re-assessment follows High Court confirmation in June that the MoD has the right to exclude homosexuals from service. However the judge urged that the present policy be reviewed.

Evidence will be gathered from Service personnel of all ranks and from the armed forces of other countries, and a report is expected to be presented to ministers in January.

Homosexual acts between consenting adults remained criminal under military law until 1994, and the Services retained the right to discharge homosexuals by administrative action.

Ready for the off

At the height of Operation Deliberate Force, the NATO-led air campaign against the Bosnian Serb Army, British and French troops serving with the Multinational Brigade were tasked to raise the siege of Sarajevo.

The plan called for the 1,400-strong battlegroup based on the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment –

By Laurie Manton

A BRICK chimney topped by a large United Nations flag dominated the site chosen by soldiers of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment to complete their preparations for action.

In Brick Works Camp – erected on the site of a once-thriving industry – Warrior infantry fighting vehicles were drawn up near the kilns, a cavernous maze of tunnels and ovens which attracted the attention of troops.

For days, British soldiers serving with Task Force Alpha had prepared to secure a route through Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo.

They were to be accompanied by AMX 10 light tanks from the 1st Cavalry Regiment of the French Foreign Legion.

The objective was maximum success, minimum casualties. Soldiers gathered to discuss their part in the operation.

Commanders pinned up maps and marked battle plans.



LCpl Alun Davies, 4 Fd Sqn RE, prepares to drag mines from the path of advancing troops

Troops were briefed on the fine detail.

Royal Engineers' combat engineer tractors (CETs) threw up a protective berm around the base. Gaps were sealed by coils of razor wire and guarded by soldiers.

The berm provided cover for 1 D and D's Milan Platoon to rehearse drills. Each Milan post was checked and cleaned, as were the Warriors' Rarden cannon and chain guns. Soldiers closely inspected their SA80s and light support weapons.

So engrossed were the troops that they took no notice of a burst of machine-gun fire from a nearby Bosnian Army post.

Command vehicles formed a cruciform, within which the battalion's key personnel interpreted the overall plan. Helicopters clattered to and from Rapid Reaction Force Operations Staff HQ.

A Company, commanded by Maj Jon Watson, was tasked with leading the operation. The unit had just swapped duties on Mount Igman with another D and D company.

"Since transferring here, we

Task Force Alpha – to break the Bosnian Serb blockade of Sarajevo and secure a route along which aid convoys could deliver food and medical supplies.

On several occasions the operation came within hours of being launched. Then a change of heart by the Bosnian Serb leadership led to the withdrawal of

have had the opportunity to carry out maintenance on our vehicles," said Maj Watson. "They have been driven a long way and taken a pounding.

"My soldiers have also been able to take advantage of the shower blocks – a much-needed luxury."

The previous few days had tested the patience of the force. It rained for hours and a damp, chill mist enveloped the camp. Conversation inside the tents was difficult as rain hammered against canvas.

Although most of the camp had been surfaced with hardcore which drained away the worst of the rain, parts of the camp were boggy.

As the weather improved, washing lines, improvised from "cam" poles and bungee straps, sprang up.

The scream of engines and the distinctive rattling squeal of tank tracks announced the arrival of 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE, one of several British units blotted on to the task force. No one stirred as the lumbering bridge-layers and Armoured Vehicles Royal Engineers (AVRE) were parked.

Cpl Gary Harvey, looking after the A Coy armoured ambulances, recognised a photograph of his grandfather, who fought with the Chindits in Burma, in one of Soldier's VJ issues.

Extra medics arrived to reinforce the 1 D and D regimental aid post, and a medical evacuation chain was set up.

The post was manned by medical officer Capt Clare Albon and a troop from the Force Medical Squadron. Based on 3 Armoured Field Ambulance. They had earlier provided cover to gunners of



LCpl Alun Davies, 4 Fd Sqn RE, prepares to drag mines from the path of advancing troops

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Royal Engineers' combat engineer tractors (CETs) threw up a protective berm around the base. Gaps were sealed by coils of razor wire and guarded by soldiers.

"Since transferring here, we



Soldiers of 2 Platoon, A Company, 1 D and D, go over the details of their part in the operation plan



Maj Jon Watson, lead company commander



AVRE plus fascine being prepared to bridge gaps in the road during the Task Force Alpha advance

19 Regiment RA dug in on Mount Igman.

Aircraft involved in NATO's Op Deliberate Force roared over the camp day and night. Sappers fitted mine-clearance ploughs to their armoured vehicles and general purpose machine-guns to turrets.

Bridge-layers and AVREs in UN white were repainted in standard British Army green and black camouflage.

The 31 Squadron AVREs took on fascines, rolls of class 60 matting and a 'dozer blade or mine plough.

As A Coy waited at Kiseljak, 1 D and D's two other companies stood by elsewhere.

At Vitez, C Coy were on a high state of readiness, while B Coy, deployed on Mount Igman, protected the 19 Regiment 105mm Light Guns which had been pounding Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) positions around Sarajevo.

When a BSA mortar team was seen preparing to fire, two French snipers used .50 calibre rifles to deal with it. The 30mm Rarden cannon of a B Company Warrior destroyed the weapon.

Pallets of mortar ammunition were moved around Brick Works Camp by fork lift truck.

Capt Nick Barron, in command of a 40-strong platoon equipped with 81mm mortars mounted in FV 432 armoured personnel carriers, said he had five mortar tubes at his disposal. "Each can fire high explosive, white phosphorous smoke or illumination rounds which throw 400,000 candle power

light across the battlefield."

The 2iC of the infantry company was, unusually, a cavalry officer. Capt Rupert Alers-Hankey, Scots DG, volunteered for Bosnia after his Tidworth-based regiment had deposited its Chieftain tanks at the Armoured Vehicle Depot at Ludgershall.

"When I discovered that it would be several months before we would re-equip with Challenger 2, I asked to be posted here," he said. He was impressed with Warrior.

Although most vehicle crews prepared their own food using AFV boiling vessels to heat tins of compo, a small field kitchen provided some central mess.

Royal Logistic Corps chefs Cpl Gary Herbert and Pte Danny Pomeroy did wonders with the limited range of provi-

sions available to them, winning praise from the troops.

BFBS reporter Caroline Young recorded "love you, miss you" messages from soldiers to their families.

The station, offering a popular mix of music, chat and messages from home, can be received in theatre. Every hour radio sets were re-tuned to the BBC World Service. For days the main news had rarely changed: "NATO air strikes continue".

In one tent, two "colloquial speakers" – MoD-speak for interpreters – practised their lines.

"We intend to pass your checkpoint", "Do not obstruct us" and "Put down your weapons or we will open fire" were just three of the firm statements being prepared for translation.



Capt Clare Albon RAMC (fourth from left, front) with medical personnel from the Force Medical Squadron

Hope as big guns pull back

NEWS that Bosnian Serb forces had agreed to move heavy weapons from Sarajevo brought new hope to the city.

Following the US-sponsored agreement between Bosnian Serbs, Croatia and the Bosnian government, NATO ordered a 72-hour halt to its bombing campaign. The deadline was extended by a further 72 hours as this issue went to press.

More than 3,000 missions had been flown by NATO aircraft up to that point. Many of their targets were pin-pointed by Royal Artillery forward observation teams on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo.

The observers were provided by 19 Regiment RA, whose 105mm Light Guns had also been in action. Jets were guided to their targets by special forward air control teams.

Soldiers from C Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers in an OP on the confrontation line north of Zavidovici saw a Bosnian Serb radar tower, one of several key points in their area, destroyed in front of them by NATO aircraft. A pall of smoke over the target could be seen from BRITCAVBAT headquarters at Zepce, several miles away.

On Mount Igman, a company from the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment exercised with French Foreign Legionnaires.

Another element of the UN Rapid Reaction Force, Britain's 24 Airmobile Brigade, was also preparing for operations.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment manoeuvred with RAF Chinook and Puma crews.

A number of recce's have taken place in Sector South West, most notably by key members of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry which is due to relieve 1 D and D next month (see Page 5).

At Bugojno, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has taken over from 1 RWF.

It was anticipated that units from 1 RRF would be permitted by the Bosnian Muslim command to enter Donji Vakuf, from which Bosnian Serb forces had been driven.

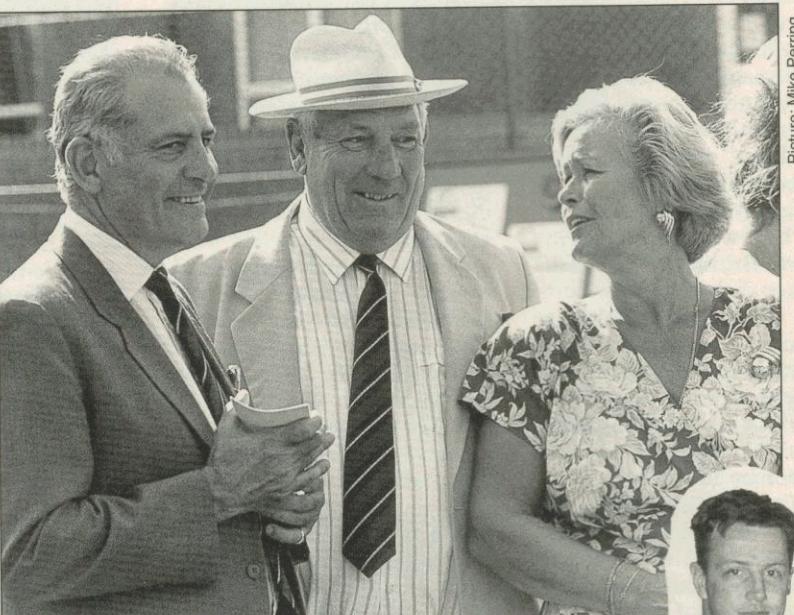
Picture: Mike Perring



The members of the British Army women's ski team are hoping to march smartly into the record books next year and end the dominance of their RAF equivalents at the 1996 Inter-Service Alpine Skiing Championships. But first, the team (left to right), 2nd Lt Jane Dando, Cpl Tracey Wagstaff, Lt Di Liddell, Capt Emma Watson-Mack, 2nd Lt Andrea Richards, 2nd Lt Lisa Elvidge, Capt Ingrid Rolland and Pte Monica Had-
ingham, need the support of a major sponsor. They are pictured at London's Wellington Barracks with Drum Sgt Steve Staite, Grenadier Guards.

TALKING TENNIS

Serving up some smiles at the 1995 Army tennis championships in Aldershot were (left) Gen Sir **Charles Guthrie**, Chief of the General Staff; Maj Gen **Alan Yeoman**, from whom Maj Gen **Simon Lytle** took over this month as Director Army Sports Control Board; and **Brig Gael Ramsey**, until her retirement earlier this year Commander Aldershot Garrison.



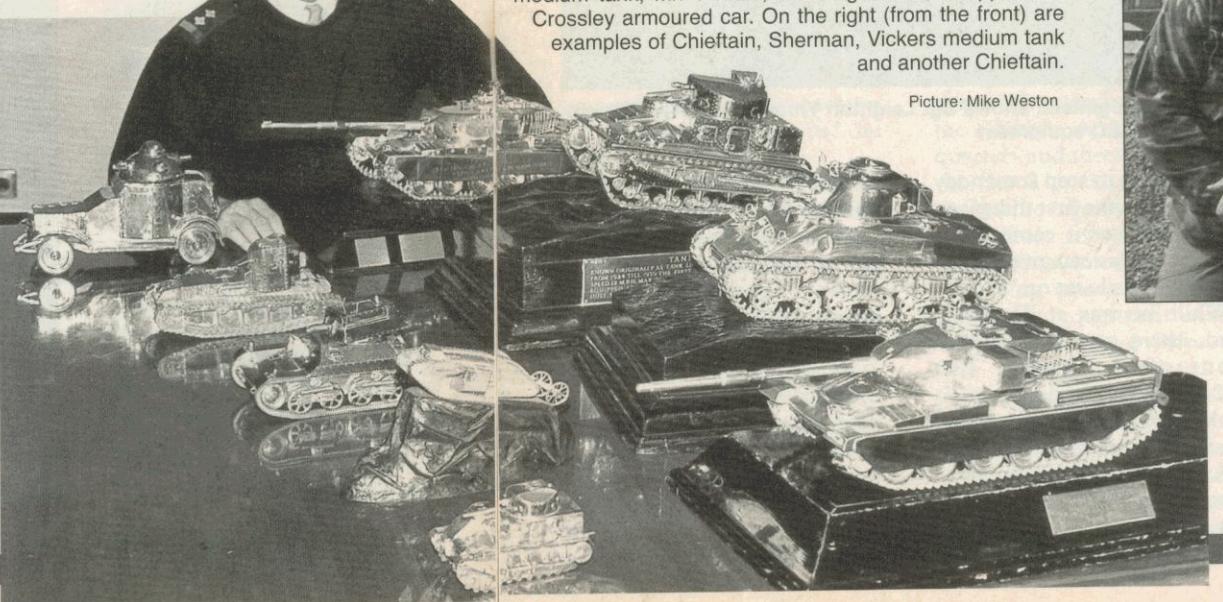
Picture: Mike Perring



Mark's riding high

Sitting proudly in the saddle is Tpr **Mark Campbell**, Life Guards, the first black soldier to qualify for mounted duty. Formerly in the Territorial Army, he enlisted as a Regular last year. His first public appearance was as part of the Queen's entourage at the VJ Day commemorations in London.

Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot, London District



PEOPLE

SILVER LINING (UP)

Viewing some of the magnificent silverware in the proud possession of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment is Lt (now Captain) **Alistair Jobling**. In his care are (left, front to rear) Vickers medium tank, Mk V male, Mk 5 light tank, Whippet and Crossley armoured car. On the right (from the front) are examples of Chieftain, Sherman, Vickers medium tank and another Chieftain.

Picture: Mike Weston



Terriers' tour

Pictured in the Falkland Islands are six of the seven volunteers from 73 and 76 Engineer Regiments (V) who were attached to 48 Field Squadron (Air Support) RE for a four-month tour of the South Atlantic. Cpl **Walker**, Srs **Williamson** and **Cutts** (back row) and Cpls **Jameson** and **Godfrey**, with LCpl **Barr**, agreed that it had given them an excellent chance to serve in a different environment and help out their Regular counterparts. Missing from the picture is LCpl **Castledine**.



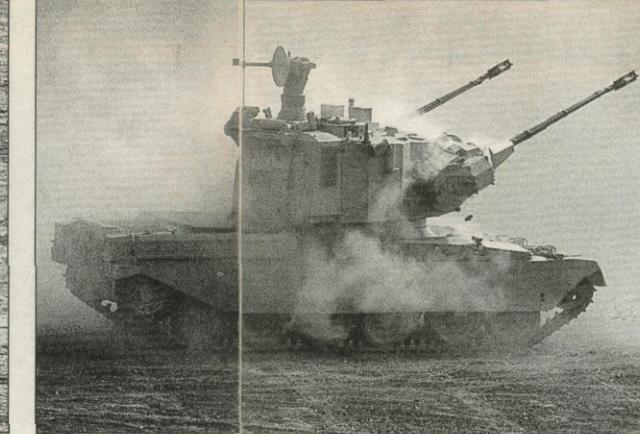
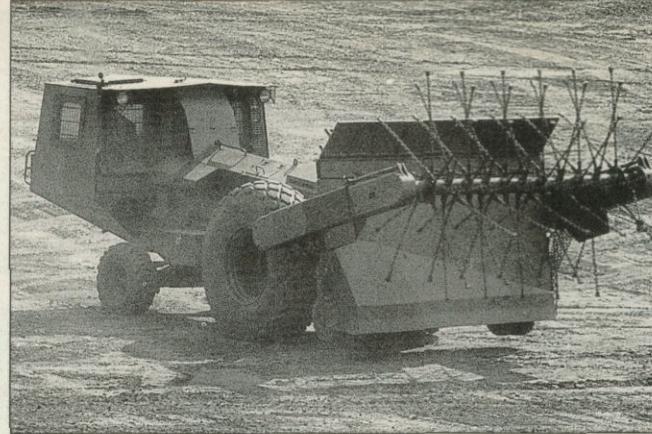
Sound experience

After being posted to Northern Ireland, LCpl **Pete Hawthorne**, 1 Squadron RLC, never thought he would be able to broadcast to friends he made during a tour in Bosnia. But after calling in at the BFBS studios at Army Headquarters in Lisburn he did just that. Mind you, he has presented a regular breakfast programme for BFBS in Cyprus in the past - and is keen to pursue a career in broadcasting when he leaves the Army.



Regal driver

LCpl **Lyndon Webb** checks that the Royal Standard is in order before taking a VIP (Very Important Passenger) on board. A driver with 26 Transport Squadron RLC, Lyndon was handed the keys of a custom-built Land Rover to drive the Duke of York past thousands of veterans during the VJ Day ceremonies in Northern Ireland. "It was nerve-racking, but His Royal Highness appeared to enjoy it," he said.



A demonstration of British military equipment featured (from left) AS90, the new Ardvaark Joint Service flail unit mark 3, and the Marksman anti-aircraft gun turret on a Chieftain chassis

HALO sorts out the sinners from the saints

SECRET locating equipment deployed by peacekeeping forces in Bosnia was revealed at the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot from September 3-8.

Siemens Plessey Systems' Hostile Artillery Location (HALO) equipment detected "beyond reasonable doubt" the 120mm mortar round fired by Bosnia Serbs into a Sarajevo market on August 28, triggering a massive NATO air and ground response.

Looking much like a rimless helmet, the sensors can be inserted covertly and left to detect anything that makes a loud bang.

Within two minutes HALO can analyse the noise and locate it precisely, and produce computer print-out evidence to be shown to the perpetrator.

HALO can distinguish between shells, demolition charges and mines detonating, and can filter out small arms fire and interference from helicopters. The company is also working on a helicopter-tracking system, said Iain Sandoe, a member of the research group which has been working on the project for the past 13 years.

A screen map shows the area around Sarajevo where HALO has been deposited, and its cluster of three microphones can pinpoint weapons 30km away. Unlike radar, it is passive and has a 360-degree arc.

A former Regular officer in the Royal Artillery instrumental in obtaining HALO for the Army is delighted with its



Maj (Retd) Tim Wilson, formerly of 94 Locating Regiment, shows Sgt Leighton Yhnell of 42 Bty, 22 Regt, and Bdr Wayne Bradley of 21 Bty, 47 Regt, the HALO equipment

accuracy. "It is brilliant, it is British and it is five years ahead of anything else," said Tim Wilson, a former battery commander of 22 Locating Battery, RA.

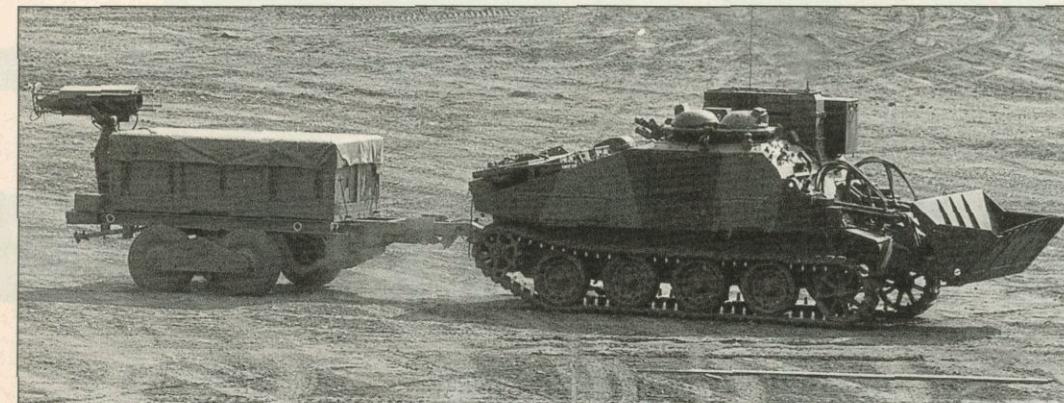
While he was at Tomislavgrad, there was a bombardment of more than 120 152mm shells in three hours. It took three days to find where the shells came from, he said.

Acoustic detection was examined in the early 1980s but was abandoned as having no potential. Only Roke

Manor Research in Hampshire continued working on the problem and was the obvious choice when an urgent operational requirement was announced by the Ministry of Defence.

In six months the project moved from theory and demonstrator to a trial in November 1994. By January this year the equipment was in Bosnia.

Bdr Wayne Bradley, part of the Royal Artillery Export



Support Team, was delighted to see gunners allowed to hit back accurately at weapons which were shelling civilians.

Formerly with 21 Battery, 47 Regiment RA, he has been in Bosnia twice with tactical air control parties and said UN troops had been sitting with their arms tied.

"We had to treat everybody as a potential enemy because all factions fired upon us," he said.

Another potentially dramatic development was illustrated at RNBAEE by the new light and medium utility trucks from Land Rover.

The Defender XD (extra duty) military vehicles and ambulance were developed to meet the British Army's operational and peacekeeping requirements well into the next century.

Developed after exhaustive consultations and trials, they have passed the Ministry of



Above - Gurkhas from 3 RGR enjoyed demonstrating the new range of Land Rovers

Left - A Combat Engineer Tractor tows a Giant Viper mine clearance device

Gurkhas played the part of aid workers who were shot at and had to be rescued.

The bulk of the preparation for RNBAEE was done by 61 Field Support Squadron RE.

The Household Cavalry Regiment's C Squadron provided virtually a whole company of CVRT Scimitars, Samsons and Samaritans with their crews and drove most of the light armour.

Major Dave Whitehead R Anglian and WO1 Stan Bradley RA had to organise nearly 400 soldiers, marrying them up with the commercial companies who wanted items demonstrated, and sometimes also providing the equipment.

Some 1,000 people from 84 countries attended the exhibition, with 850 overseas defence industrialists - double the last figure two years ago.

Despite an expected 25 per cent drop in international arms sales over the next ten years the British arms industry was shifting up a gear in line with increasingly aggressive American and French competition, said Mr Charles Masefield, Head of the Defence Export Services Organisation.

This was evident in 282 British defence companies exhibiting about 1,000 different products available for export.

RNBAEE 95, ALDERSHOT

Report: Gordon Skilling Pictures: Terry Champion, Mike Perring

Defender XD 90 and 110 are the sole contenders to replace the British Army's fleet of quarter- and three-quarter ton vehicles. The 130 ambulance is competing against two other possibilities and a decision on all three is awaited.

Helping promote the vehicles at the equipment exhibition was Lt Craig Sweeting, who recently completed an aeronautical engineering degree at Shrivenham. All REME officers undertake a 12-week attachment to a civilian firm and he had chosen Land Rover before continuing with his officers' long aeronau-

tical course at Arborfield.

"New power steering vastly improves the ease of driving and greatly reduces driver fatigue," he said.

"Soldiers will also notice the increase in power, with the same diesel turbo direct injected engine as the Discovery, which gives a phenomenal off-road capability."

Drivers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles based at Church Crookham were delighted at the opportunity to drive the Defenders, said CSgt Ajikumar Rai, responsible for the smooth running of the demonstration.

"It is very good for the infantry soldier," he said. "We can take ten men over any type of ground and sort out problems either in peace or during a battle."

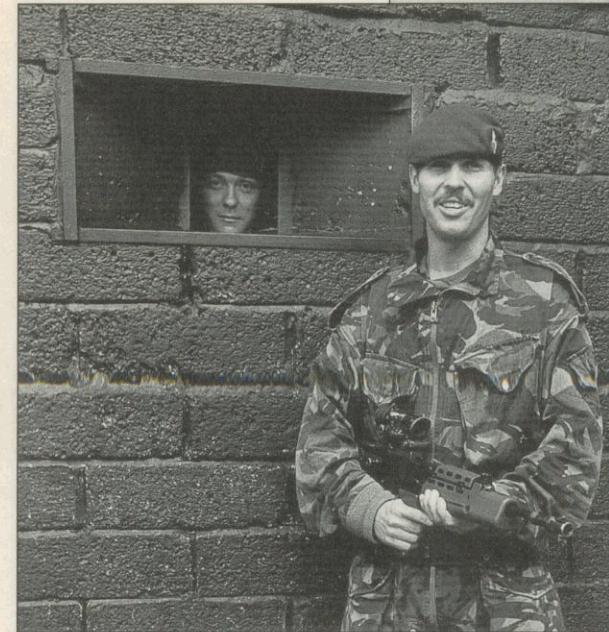
At the start of the demonstration of nearly 60 vehicles,



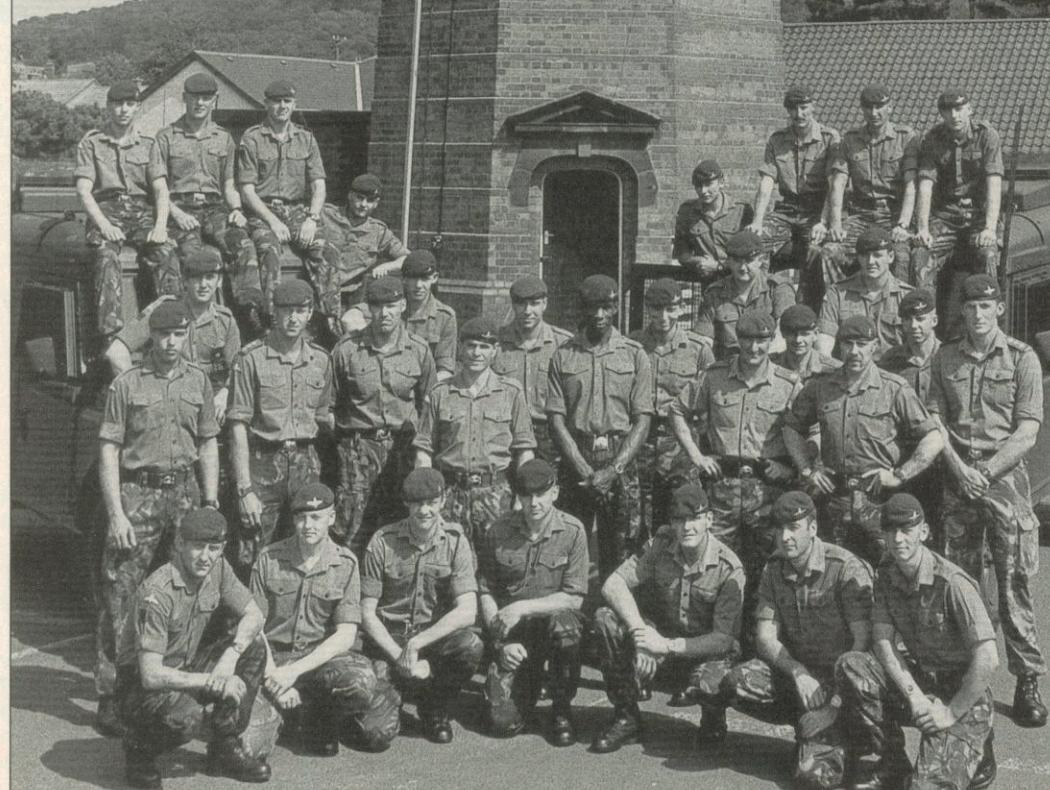
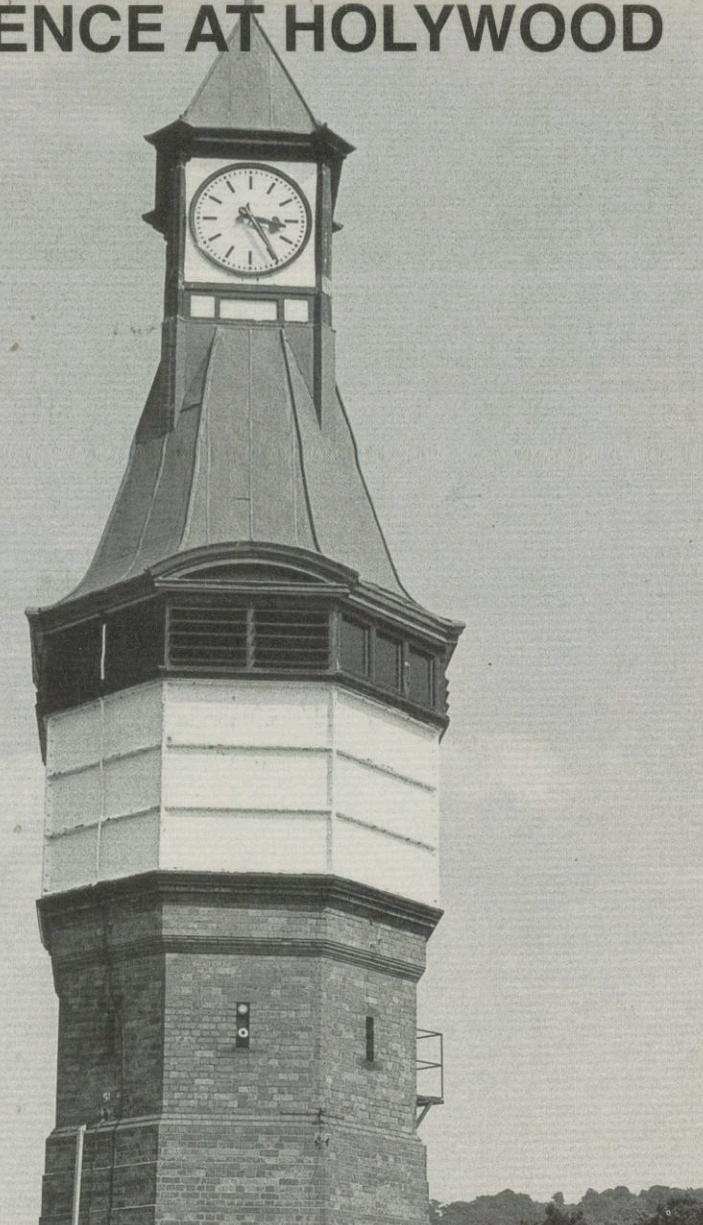
Sgt Paul Ellis sharpens D Company's NBC drills



Bulling the bin is an old 2 Para tradition maintained by Provost Sgt Baz Kenny and Cpl Karl Mitchell



Ptes Steve Cooper (window) and Michael Beynon keep guard



Support Company bid farewell to the clock tower

Back home . . . and better than ever

AFTER two years as the resident battalion in Belfast, the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment has landed on its feet back in Aldershot.

The peace dividend allowed the Paras to concentrate on training, with the result that they have honed skills they could not otherwise have practised in Northern Ireland.

They are now quickly and easily switching back to their traditional 5 Airborne Brigade role.

Despite the battalion's recent emphasis on skills and adventurous training, its four companies were still ready when required. That flexibility was apparent during the Province's marching season this summer when tensions rose, leading to several riots. Soldiers just back from exercising with 1 Para were ready for operations within an hour.

The 2 Para tour at Palace Barracks, Holywood, ended a presence there of six-and-a-half years for The Parachute Regiment's three battalions, probably the longest continuous service for any British regiment in Northern Ireland. The

3rd Battalion deployed to Belfast in February 1989, was replaced by 1 Para in January 1991, and 2 Para took over in June 1993.

At the same time, the regiment deployed for roulement in many other locations, from Ballykinler to Fermanagh and most points in between.

The 2nd Battalion itself has completed 12 tours in the Province, four of them as a resident battalion. Having served during the height of the terrorist activities, the battalion had a year of changed priorities following the cease-fire announcement on August 31, 1994.

And that was as unusual as the long, warm summer of clear, sunny skies, said Pte Robert Marshall.

The Army's commitment to the Royal Ulster Constabulary at Woodbourne ceased at the end of November, the police carrying out their duties without escorts from Palace Barracks for the first time in five years.

Since then attachments have reduced drastically, though deployments to the Maze continued.

Finds made by 2



**Lt Col David Benest,
Commanding Officer**

Para before the cease-fire included weapons, ammunition and explosives, a 1,100lb bomb, and a suspected terrorist discovered at one end of a command wire.

Quick action by Cpl Stacey after a shooting incident in the New Lodge area led to the arrest of two suspected terrorists, for which he was mentioned in despatches.

The regiment lost four soldiers killed, including Pte

Robert Spikins, who was run down by a joy rider.

LCpl Ned Kelly was seriously injured in a terrorist attack while patrolling the Woodbourne area before the cease-fire, and inspired B Company and the rest of the battalion by his determination to recover. He made several return visits to Palace.

Following the cease-fire, 2 Para was able to enjoy the remainder of its tour in a more relaxed atmosphere.

There were superb training opportunities, companies participating in exercises which would typically involve a low-level drop on the mainland, followed by a week's exercise.

Before returning to Aldershot the battalion had already converted to the new low-level parachute, and was well on its way to being fully operational.

This was also true of Support Company, probably the first such company to return from a residential tour trained, ready and raring to go.

The commanding officer, Lt Col David Benest, said that in the last seven months of the

tour his men achieved more than he would have believed possible. It was a source of satisfaction to him, because he well knows the adjustment necessary when assuming a new role.

During the Falklands War he was signals officer for the battalion, which had returned from a two-year resident tour of Ballykinler in March 1981.

"We had a lot of work to do on return to Aldershot to build us up for the South Atlantic," he said.

He warned against what he termed the mythology of thinking that soldiers' experience in Northern Ireland would necessarily make them better in Bosnia or Rwanda than other soldiers.

"One must be careful about extrapolating the Northern Ireland experience to other theatres. I do not believe that deploying soldiers here trains them for anything else than working here," he said.

"It has much more to do with the British ethos of training flexibility and the ability to adapt to particular circumstances when

● Turn to next page



WO 2 Taff Williams with two of his sky goddesses who made parachute jumps for charity

● From Page 17

we arrive in theatre."

Col Benest believes it took Goose Green before 2 Para moved on to the levels of experience which allowed them to do their jobs properly.

"A period of two years was certainly very helpful in low-level basic skills, but in terms of fighting wars, it is absolutely essential that we train for the highest intensity conflict."

Maj Miles Baker, OC Support Company, accepted that his soldiers would lose some primary skills during a residential tour. He had expected a lot of hard work to bring those skills back to scratch, but was delighted with the progress made during various cadres.

"What they have achieved is unbelievable; they picked up skills they would never have acquired if they had been in Aldershot," he said.

One such skill was being able to scale cliffs. Lt Alex Fairey, 10 Platoon commander, took his men rock climbing in Scotland and saw individuals go to the Pyrenees, the Alps and the Mountains of Mourne.

"In 5 Airborne Brigade we are required to be mountain-trained to a limited extent. Soldiers have to be able to cross obstacles and steep rock where they have to use ropes," he said.

Northern Ireland junior cross country champion Pte Noel Gambling also found the wall useful for strengthening his leg muscles; it probably helped him come second overall in the Army junior team.

The change in life-style contributed greatly to 2 Para's sporting achievements. The boxing team became Northern Ireland champions and the cross country team again dominated the league.

The hockey team was also prominent, and the battalion made a respectable showing in the Cyprus Walkabout and on the Cambrian Patrol, something not normally expected from a battalion resident in Belfast.



LCpl Cliff Gilfoyle of D Company gets to grips with the climbing wall, one of many sports and recreational facilities at Palace Barracks

Nor could the Paras have expected to send so many adventurous training expeditions to locations in Britain – and abroad.

A rock-climbing wall is just one of the many facilities available at Palace Barracks, and this probably contributed to the battalion's success.

An astroturf pitch attracted a long list of civilian organisations queuing to use it, and there were excellent relations with local clubs and charities.

Sponsored runs and parachute jumps were undertaken, with physically handicapped civilians being helped by the Paras and the Palace wives. They donated £2,250 to the Brainwaves charity, and a further £1,800 was raised by two free-fall parachute jumps.

Chaplain Bob Locke experienced nothing of the Troubles, having recently joined the military chaplaincy from a parish

in Colchester. He had only a few weeks to learn the traditions of the regiment before 2 Para departed.

A happy consequence of the tour are the 16 local women who married into the battalion; two more are waiting in the wings.

As a bonus to their time in Northern Ireland, the Paras can boast an excellent disciplinary record.

Provost Sgt Baz Kenny was proud of the guardroom's good reputation and the way it treated its very few transient inhabitants. It had passed an inspection by the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester with flying colours, and soldiers were sent there from many other units.

"I wouldn't say it is friendly, but it is fair and firm," said Sgt Kenny.

A friendly approach was the last thing on the minds of the

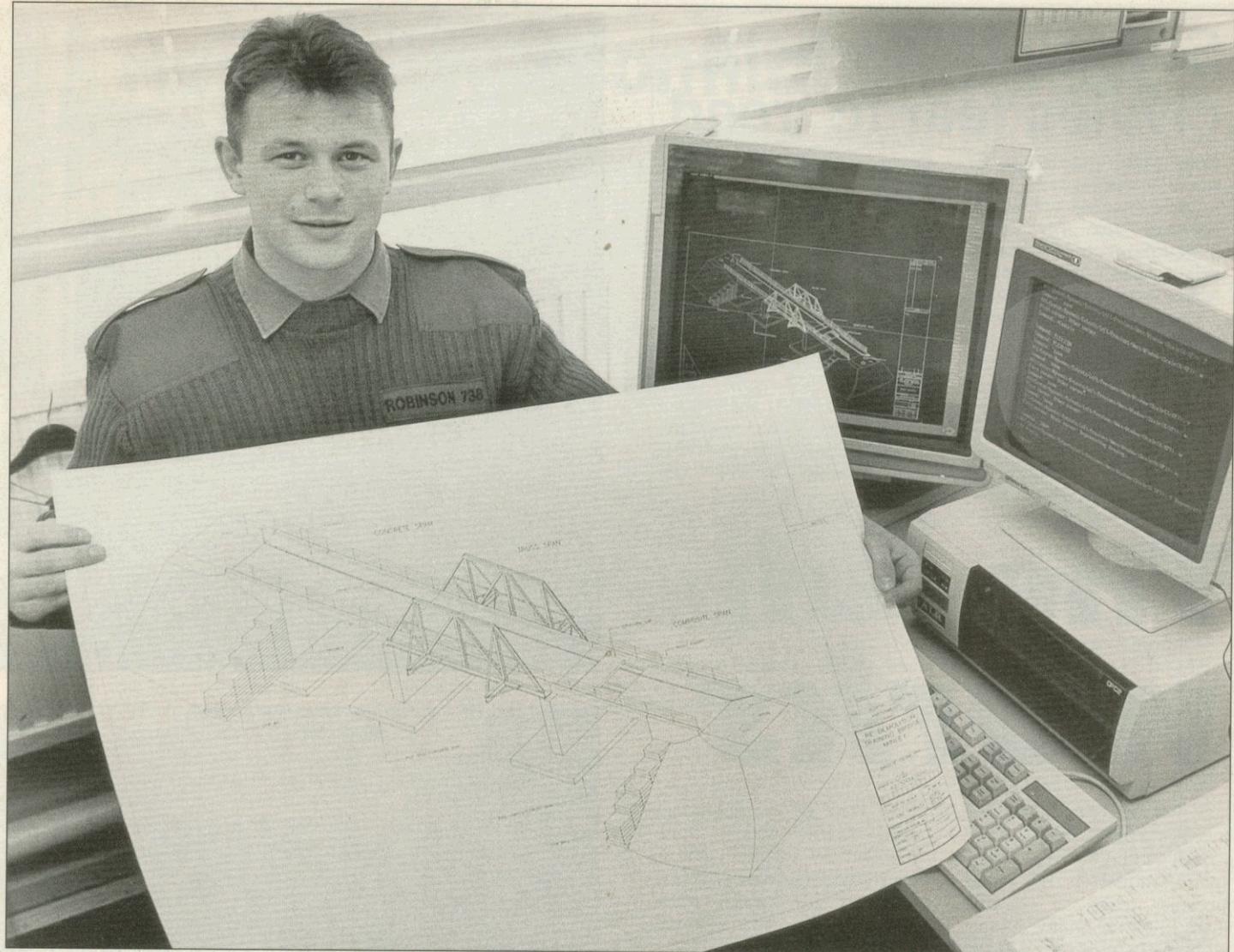
six attack dogs which guarded the camp with 11 handlers under Cpl Georgie Knight.

Cpl Knight had to complete a special course on how to bait the dogs so their handlers could learn to control the ferocious reaction that his slightest move caused.

The handlers, from the assault pioneer platoon, were sorry to leave the dogs behind.

Col Benest also had mixed feelings on returning to Montgomery Lines in Aldershot. He was leaving possibly the best barracks in the UK to return to accommodation he ruefully remembers as having been grim when he left as a second lieutenant commanding 6 Platoon on a six-month tour in South Armagh.

He reckons the unit he has commanded in Northern Ireland is as experienced and as good at peacekeeping as any in the British Army.



Bridge of size: LCpl Phil (Robbo) Robinson shows an example of computer-aided draughting in the drawing office for 62 CRE (Wks) at Chilwell

From Bosnia to Catterick, from Minley to Hong Kong... Wherever there is a need for planning and organising works, the Royal Engineers' Military Works Force (MWF) will invariably be involved. Writer Phil Wilcox and photographer Mike Weston visited the organisation's headquarters at Chilwell.

IF THE civil engineers involved in the construction of the Nottingham Tennis Centre, home to international championships, had wanted a spot of advice, they need have looked no further than the centre's near neighbours at the Military Works Force.

Its main role is to provide a civil, mechanical and electrical engineering consultancy service to the MoD and to other Government departments such as the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The MWF's strength is around 180, of which approximately one-sixth are civilians. "This is smaller than the average RE squadron, although,

The full works

with an average rank of staff sergeant, the rank structure is very different," explained Maj Tony Bayliss, SO2 Plans at the headquarters.

Col Mike Foster is MWF's commander and each of the two CREs (62 and 64) – the main production units – is commanded by a lieutenant colonel.

Unit HQ includes two Grade 2 staff officers – one to look after HQ tasks, the other

to deal with security, plans and budget management.

A retired officer oversees personnel matters and "just to ensure that we do not forget we are in the Army", says Maj Bayliss, the sergeant major looks after discipline and military training within the unit.

Housed at Chilwell are a materials laboratory, where a full range of tests on construction materials is carried out, an extensive technical library pro-

viding a worldwide service to sappers and an estimating and resources section responsible for identifying and pricing local construction materials.

A computer section deals with all IT support, and there is a QM's department, headed by an RO3, which carries out the normal stores function and has responsibility for the MT and signals sections.

Technical reports are produced

● Turn to next page

Stepping in where civvies fear to tread

Until 1959, the Corps of Royal Engineers was responsible for all works services for the Army, although much of the work was carried out by civilian labour with RE supervision.

Responsibility for works services transferred to the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (later to become the Property Services Agency) that year.

However, the Corps retained responsibility for works in areas where, usu-

ally because of hostile action, the civilian organisation was unable to operate.

Following experience in Borneo and Saudi Arabia, it was decided to form specialist units which could plan and organise works throughout the world.

In 1978, these units were brought together as the Military Works Force, based at Barton Stacey, Winchester, until moving to Chilwell in 1986.

The full works

From Page 23

duced by a publication cell.

Both 62 and 64 CRE have a small headquarters, two works specialist teams, a drawing office (now handling almost exclusively computer-aided draughting) and a survey department equipped with state-of-the-art instruments.

A military plant foreman advises on the capability and employment of construction plant.

Additional teams - each with a particular specialisation - are attached to both CREs: a Water Development Team (521 STRE) for 62 CRE and a Bulk Petroleum Team, 516 STRE, for 64.

If necessary, both could split in two to give each CRE a minimum capability.

The water development STRE is capable of providing a full service to develop underground water sources.

It has been utilised (by all three Services) by several camps in the UK, as well as in Bosnia, where wells were constructed to ensure secure water supply for all British camps and some other nationalities.

The bulk petroleum CRE provides a design, supervision and limited construction capability.

Few military operations take



Maj Tony Bayliss,
SO2 Plans at HQ
MWF, Chilwell



place without MWF's input, so the force is "constantly being tested" by operational deployments, he added.

Chilwell also provides a civil, mechanical and electrical design service, normally in support of RE unit training exercises in, for example, Canada, Norway or Belize, or in support of real tasks such as construction of a desalination facility in Cyprus or replacement of a burnt-out accommodation facility in the Falklands.

"In general, the tasks are selected for their training value, although costs and/or time savings sometimes influence the decision," Maj Bayliss said.

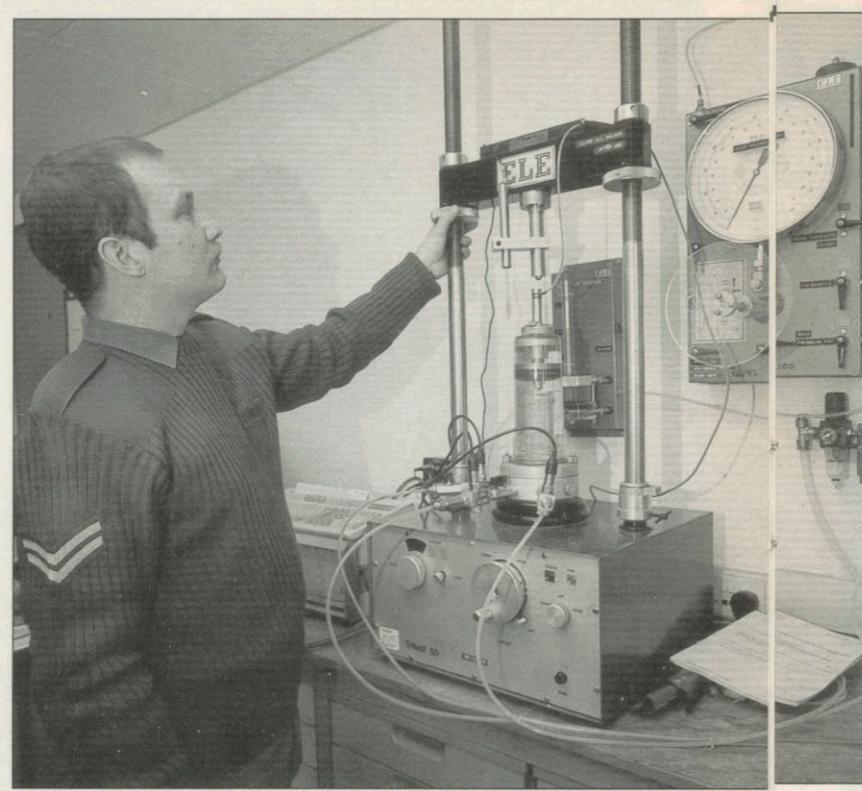
Few military operations take

aspect of the Nottingham organisation's versatility.

In Kenya, for example, Military Works Force designed the structure of a new workshop and supervised its construction by a local work force.

A series of development projects at the UK training areas was also masterminded by MWF, which provided the project management function and design, with other sapper units providing the work force.

These included a grenade range constructed by 53 Fd Sqn at Warcop and an emer-



Top picture - Cpl Alex Ashworth makes calculations in the Military Works Force soils laboratory

Left - A worldwide source of information for sappers: MWF's library, with librarian Judith Seaman

gency shelter - designed to blend in with the local environment - built by 20 Fd Sqn at Feldom Defensive Position at Catterick Infantry Training Centre.

The emblem of the Military Works Force is a Martello Tower, a sturdily-built historical fortification.

Highly appropriate for a body which, for as long as there is a need for engineering professionals, both at home and overseas, should continue to go from strength to strength.

"I AM delighted that our teams are contributing to work which is improving the training of the rest of the Army," said Col Mike Foster, Commander Military Works Force.

On top of an already busy schedule, here and overseas, members of the force had been involved, among other projects, in constructing roads on Salisbury Plain and developing and building adaptable demolition training bridges for sappers at Minley and Tidworth, he explained.

Col Foster, who served an earlier stint at Chilwell as commander of one of the STREs before returning in 1993 after a period with SHAPE, agrees with Maj Tony Bayliss, SO2



Col Mike Foster, Commander Military Works Force

Plans at HQ MWF, that assisting with disaster relief in the UK and overseas is a logical area in which the force should

team was responsible for the design and supervision of a 50km fuel pipeline to supply the Army.

After the war, a team moved from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait to help re-establish essential services damaged by the Iraqis.

In peacetime, the MWF conducts trials, such as the assessment of the protection provided by bastion shelters constructed in Bosnia, and undertakes studies.

These have included seismic shock resistance calculations and water mains leakage surveys in various Service facilities in Cyprus.

Energy surveys have also been carried out, to give commanders an indication of a range of measures which could be introduced to reduce their costs.

Another study covered options and guidelines to be used when deciding how best to provide accommodation for Services in the field.

Operations carried out for the Home Office include design for the construction of temporary prisons in military training camps and other projects, where security and sensitivity have prevented the use of civilian contractors.

be used to help the Home Office or Foreign Office.

"The work so closely mirrors the problems we might encounter in war that it should be considered as valuable training."

On operational deployments, he added, one did not know what to expect.

"You deal with what you find, and work out which solution can be adopted."

Next year, Military Works Force members are due to be involved in three-month squadron construction exercises in Belize and Kenya.

"Overseas exercises are invaluable for the men, and it is vital we keep them," said Col Foster.

Reliability in conflict and peace

The Military Works Force has had a team in **Bosnia** from the outset.

A full STRE deployed with the Cheshire's battalion group to arrange contracts to repair facilities in Split, design and supervise construction of camps, help classify bridges on the supply routes and advise on construction of fortifications.

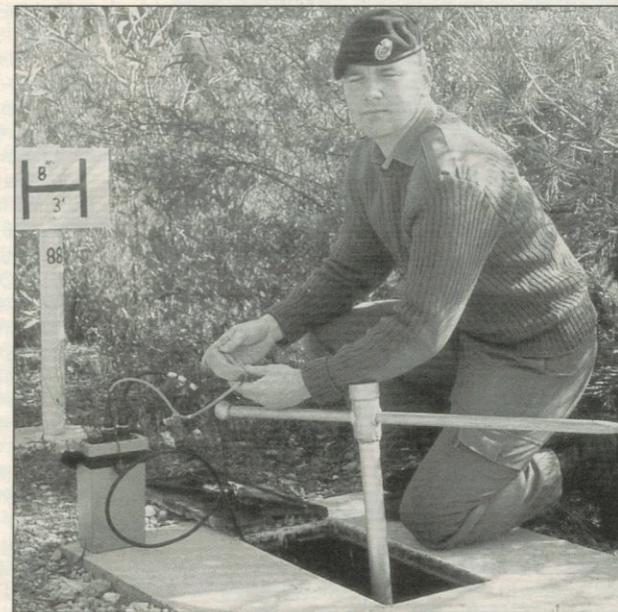
Since then, a reduced team has remained in the country to assist with development and maintenance of those facilities.

A small MWF team in **Rwanda** was involved in Op Gabriel from the beginning, providing technical advice to 9 Parachute Squadron who supported the operation directly.

The team also assisted the rebuilding of the Rwandan infrastructure and helped charitable organisations.

During the **Falklands** conflict, the force had a small team based in Ascension Island, to design and supervise works connected with the task of reorganising stores hurriedly shipped from the UK.

Another team, in San Carlos, was mainly responsible for ship-to-shore fuel transfer, vital to helicopter and Harrier operations.



Carrying out a water leakage survey in Episkopi, Cyprus, earlier this year was SSgt John Currie (Clk Wks M), attached to 524 STRE (Wks) from 527 STRE (Wks)

In the **Gulf War**, Chilwell deployed a CRE with two works STREs and an STRE (BP), enhanced by technical elements of other engineer units.

One team, based in Al Jubayl, was mainly responsible for civilian contracts to develop the administrative area, and another deployed with the forward Army elements to help with water supply and route maintenance.

The Bulk Petroleum

Paving the way for the rest of the Army

Not the end of the line for DIYSO

THE LATEST bulletin from the Joint Service Housing Advice Office at Wilton includes the news that they have been told there will be no separate funding for the Services Do It Yourself Shared Ownership scheme for the financial year 1995-96.

Is this the end of the line for DIYSO?

Not a bit of it. Service families may apply to the national scheme, although they will be competing with civilian families.

This isn't as difficult as it appears. It is possible to get on the scheme; those who have nothing but good to say about it according to *In Housing*, the JSHAO magazine.

This is a good publication to get hold of. The 1995 edition is the third and includes an article from the Defence Housing Executive (DHE) explaining a little of its philosophy.

The JSHAO seems to be going from strength to strength. In his introduction, Cdr Bob Cribb highlights the Office's increasing involvement in the work of the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation's briefing programme at home and abroad. But

what of DIYSO? What is it and how does it work?

Shared ownership is a viable alternative for those who may not be able to afford to buy a house outright. In essence, the ownership of a property is shared between a housing corporation and the individual.

Usually the corporation builds houses and offers the buyers a proportion of the ownership so that they buy part of the equity and pay rent on the balance. At various intervals the buyers can purchase a bigger percentage of the equity with the ultimate aim of outright purchase.

The beauty of DIY shared ownership is that the prospective buyer can find a property and ask the housing corporation to help buy it. For Service families this is a real bonus as it gives them an element of control over where they can settle after they leave the Services.

If you need housing information I really do urge you to get in touch with the team at the JSHAO at Old Sarum. Whenever I contact them they are unfailingly helpful and kind and no question is deemed too

over the future use of its housing stock. I think, in identifying this point, Kirsty has hit the nail on the head.

More and more I hear from wives concerned at the apparent disintegration of a feeling of cohesion. Any suggestion that housing might be hived off and dealt with on purely commercial terms would meet with a stony reception.

There are factors in Service life that would, and do, baffle civilian families. The old problem of "marching in and out" of a house continues to be a thorn in the side of many harassed women.

How many – and I include myself in this – can claim to have marched out of a spotless house only to be marched in (in our absence) to what we regard as a scruffy and ill-prepared quarter?

As someone said to me recently, where do all the clinically clean quarters go? What happens to them after we've left? I twice took over quarters where the workmen had moved in the day after the last occupants left.

But it would not, she says, be in the best interest of Service families if, by so doing, MoD lost all control

silly or trivial to be dealt with.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Army Wives continues to keep a watching brief on housing for Service families. In the latest edition of the *Army Wives Journal*, housing representative Kirsty Durdin sounds a note of caution.

While acknowledging the march of privatisation, she says that it might be sensible, financially, to move more gradually in that direction.

As someone said to me recently, where do all the clinically clean quarters go? What happens to them after we've left? I twice took over quarters where the workmen had moved in the day after the last occupants left.

Did fag ends in the loo and the odd discarded beer bottle really constitute a health hazard? The FAW is

pressing the DHE to consider major changes to help the situation. They want spouses to be welcome at marching in and out and to have the power to act as proxy if the Service partner is away on duty.

Sexist it may be, but it has to be admitted – by men – that women who maintain and run the home are better qualified to judge whether it is clean or not.

The FAW also wants "back to back" moving in and out of occupants to be avoided. I'm not too sure about this. It would only work in Service wives' favour if their third suggestion is adopted. That suggestion is that a more sensible policy be adopted if it is known the quarter is to be upgraded before the next family is moved in.

I would like to see a radical change in the approach to cleaning quarters. It may seem like a little thing, but if you've never taken a cotton bud to the locks of doors and tied all the parts of the cooker up in a black plastic bag of cleaning fluid to ensure near surgical cleanliness, you're not in a position to understand.

If the provision of MQs is to be privatised, why not the cleaning of them as well? In a recent survey a large number of wives said they wouldn't mind paying a small amount of money to have the quarter cleaned.

When I left Germany a few years ago there was a thriving business in contract cleaners.

While we're changing the business of managing our housing stock why not go to whole hog?

The FAW does have the ear of the DHE. If you have views on the future of housing provision, let them know.

You might drop them a line when you vote on the Federation's proposed change of name – see your *Army Wives Journal* for details. Two titles, the Federation of Army Wives and Families or the Army Families' Federation, have been suggested.

Both acknowledge a military community which now includes single mothers and male spouses.

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

Picture: Eastern Daily Press

Household Cavalry goes out to play

EVERY year the familiar plumed helmets and cuirasses of the Household Cavalry disappear for a month from the front of Horse Guards to be replaced by the busbies and frogged tunics of The King's Troop RHA, writes Bob Higson.

This is the outward sign of the annual migration of the horses and men of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment from central London to the Norfolk countryside; a time when city streets and the restrictions of ceremonial duties are replaced by open fields and a sense of freedom.

Men and horses relish the chance of some real equitation. They gallop – an activity forbidden on daily exercises in Hyde Park – they jump and they ride cross-country.

They even go, troop by troop, to the Norfolk seaside, where the horses are divided among those who want to swim and those who feel that dipping a hoof in the water is quite sufficient.

Their holiday home is at Bodney Camp, near Watton on the Standford training area. Temporary stables offer the occupants a more interesting view of the world than the blank walls they face in Hyde Park Barracks.

About 200 horses and 350 men went on their "hols" this year. From an initial week of

low-key training in equitation skills they progressed to handy hunter courses, dressage, show jumping and riding out.

High point of the annual camp is the open day: this year's attracted nearly 4,000 spectators who were entertained to seven hours of show jumping, mounted football, musical rides, obstacle course races and mounted music.

This year for the first time a dozen youngsters from Essex and London joined the Bodney party for work experience which included helping the soldiers to muck out, set up jumps and harness the horses. There was even a chance for them to learn to ride.

At least one expressed a wish to join the Household Cavalry.

All too soon the camp was over and the horses were re-adjusting to the more sedate pace of city life.



Horse lines: Holiday home from home at Bodney

Holiday charity needs helpers

Money advice

UNITS are being reminded that the Army Agents – Cox's and King's and the Holts Services Agency – provide free, impartial and individually tailored advice to individuals and establishments.

The financial advisory service is available from Lloyds Bank plc Cox's and King's, PO Box 1190, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5NA (0171 389 5162 or Freephone 0800 317053) and Holts Services Agency Ltd, Lawrie House, Victoria Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7NR (01252 521975).

A CHARITY which provides quality holidays for people with severe physical disabilities – including ex-Service personnel – is appealing for volunteers.

The Winged Fellowship Trust wants to hear from personnel with leave to spare, or who intend to quit the Services for a career in the caring professions.

Teams of 25 or more volunteers and permanent staff are required for spells of one and two weeks at holiday centres in Hampshire, Surrey, Chigwell, Essex, Nottingham and Southport, Lancs.

Accommodation and food are provided free. Volunteers must be over 16.

If you can help, write or telephone the Volunteers Department, WFT, Angel House, 20 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD (0171 833 2594).



CARI'S COLUMN

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More and more I hear from wives concerned at the apparent disintegration of a feeling of cohesion. Any suggestion that housing might be hived off and dealt with on purely commercial terms would meet with a stony reception.

There are factors in Service life that would, and do, baffle civilian families. The old problem of "marching in and out" of a house continues to be a thorn in the side of many harassed women.

How many – and I include myself in this – can claim to have marched out of a spotless house only to be marched in (in our absence) to what we regard as a scruffy and ill-prepared quarter?

As someone said to me recently, where do all the clinically clean quarters go? What happens to them after we've left? I twice took over quarters where the workmen had moved in the day after the last occupants left.

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'Charity' that rattled Hitler

ON A warm, sunny day early in June 1940 the butler opened the door of a large London house to admit a stockily-built gentleman dressed in a well-cut blue suit and carrying an attaché case.

"The Charity Committee meeting is being held here, I believe?" asked the caller. "That's right, sir, please come in," replied the butler, and led the way to the spacious drawing room where already half a dozen other men and a tall, dark-haired girl had gathered to attend the first meeting of the Charity Committee.

The door closed behind the butler, who went on his way, wondering perhaps why so many healthy-looking men should be more interested in a charity meeting than digging anti-tank ditches round London, or helping to man the front line to guard against the impending German invasion.

Had he been able to look inside that drawing room he would have found the answer. He would have seen the girl, daughter of a British ambassador, in whose home the meeting was being held, produce a notebook and pencil and prepare to take down notes of all that was said.

He would have seen the man in the blue suit open his attaché case, take out some sheets of paper, and begin propounding his views not on a charity but on the formation of a new amphibious guerrilla band and his plans for the first Commando raids on occupied Europe.

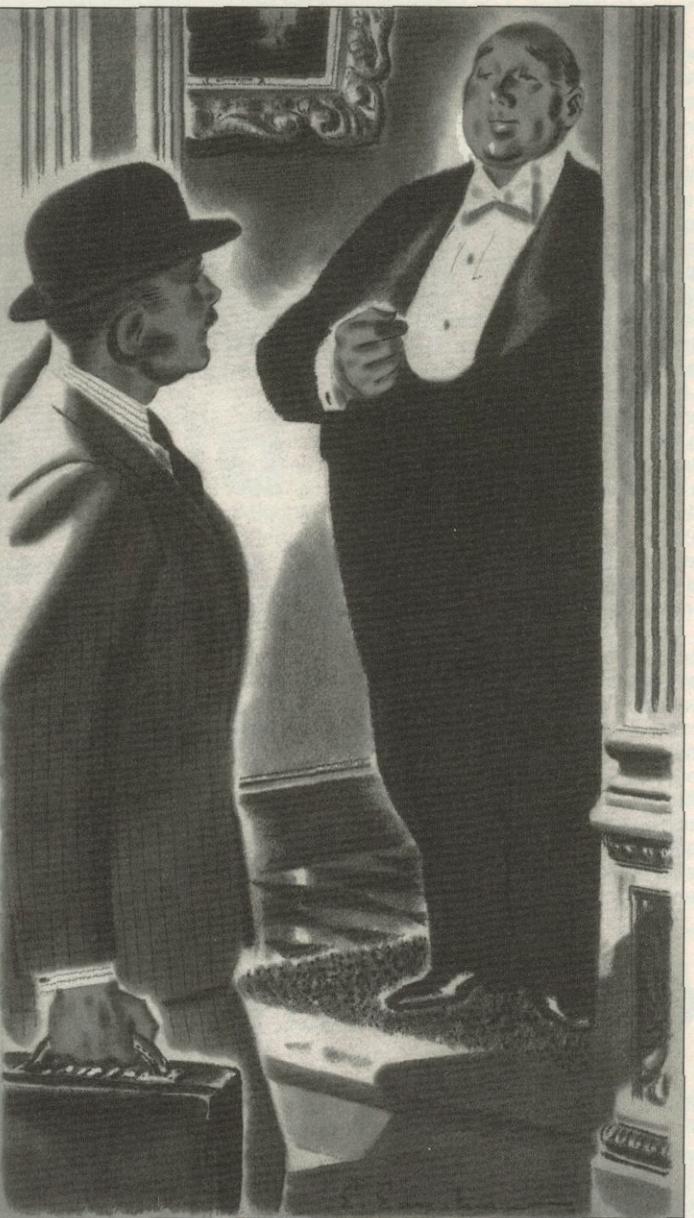
So wrote staff writer John Grove in August 1945, revealing to *Soldier* readers, and the world, the inside story of the British Army's "Irregulars".

The man in the blue suit was Lt Col Dudley W Clarke, entrusted with the formation of the Commandos immediately after the retreat from Dunkirk.

The "Charity Committee" gathering was, in fact, the first of a series of planning meetings which culminated in daring raids across the Channel, raids to keep German troops stationed along the North Sea at a high state of nervous tension.

The raids also, as Grove wrote: "... gave heart to every man, woman and child in our beleaguered little island at a time when the fate of Britain hung by a thread - a thread in which they formed a strand of steel."

Actions at the Lofoten Islands, Vaagso, Bruneval, Dieppe, North Africa and Normandy have passed into Commando



The Charity Committee meeting is here, I believe," said Lt Col Dudley W Clarke to the butler. This drawing, first published in August 1945, was by *Soldier* staff illustrator Cpl Eric Earnshaw, 5th Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment

legend, but it was *Soldier*, and John Grove, who first told the story of the formation of the Commandos, a "thin screen of offence while the British Army was licking its wounds, re-equipping, and training for the eventual all-out assault..."

Most things have small, apparently insignificant beginnings, and so it was that a few notes pencilled on a sheet of paper in a London flat gave rise to the birth of this force, which within a fortnight of its conception carried out a small raid on the enemy-occupied coast of France.

Following a discussion with Gen Sir John Dill, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Lt Col Clarke had thought hard about how the British Army, forced out of France and deprived of much of its weaponry and equipment, could recapture the offensive spirit vital to building a new army.

Drawing on his own experience of the stabbing "mosquito" tactics carried out by guerrilla bands on the North-West Frontier and in Palestine, and what he had read of the Boer irregulars who had so embarrassed the might of Victoria's army during the South African war, he laid plans for an amphibious force capable of harassing the Germans.

Clarke analysed the guerrilla campaigns, adapting them to suit the British soldier. His aim was to combine the essentials of the irregular bands with the superior training, equipment and intelligence of modern troops.

His Commandos would have to scale cliffs like a Pathan, live without support like a Boer and disappear like an Arab before he could be pinned down by the enemy.

Basic units of 50, led by three officers who had the right to choose and dismiss their men without question, were to be based on seaside towns. Each unit had to include an irregular naval element, and all the men had the right to return to their own regiments or corps without having to give an explanation.

They would feed and house themselves on a daily allowance. They were to start free of all the conventions of a traditional corps, and team spirit was to go by the board.

Every man would have to go on by himself when in action, regardless of the fate of his friend and neighbour - "Always attack, never defend; run to fight another day", was the new watchword.

Clarke showed his notes to Dill, who sent them to the Prime Minister. Two days later Clarke was ordered to organise his "Special Service" troops, to set up a section in the War Office, and to carry out a raid as soon as possible. An experienced staff officer, Clarke immediately formed MO 9 Branch and explained his ideas to the Admiralty. Capt Garnons-Williams DSC, RN was

'Inside' story of how the British Army's Commandos were formed first appeared in *Soldier*

appointed to assist him with planning the raids.

Garnons-Williams began to gather small craft and men to sail them while Clarke travelled to Scotland to visit the six independent companies formed, but never used, for the Norwegian campaign.

From them he chose two officers, Capt R J F Todd, A and SH (by 1945 he was a brigadier leading a Commando Brigade), and Capt W A Rice of the Suffolk Regiment, with whom Clarke had served in the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force.

He asked them each to select 100 men from the independent companies to train for the first raid. With a few days the two officers moved south to Southampton with 200 hand-picked soldiers. Headquarters were set up in a yacht club at the riverside village of Hamble, just off the main Southampton to Portsmouth road.

Two night exercise attacks were carried out in the Solent, the faces of those who took part blackened by theatrical make-up.

With the first real action little more than a week away, Clarke was worried by a desperate shortage of weapons. But in the nick of time he managed to borrow, for a few days, 40 Tommy guns - the only ones in Britain - on condition he returned them after the raid.

On June 22, 1940, the Commandos, dressed in plain clothes so as not to cause comment, moved to three embarkation ports on the South Coast. At the last moment Garnons-Williams secured eight RAF "crash-boats" which he placed under the control of Lt Cdr J W F Milner-Gibson RN, who had been ashore on the coast of France nine times in the previous three weeks to spy out the land.

On June 23 - incredibly, just 14 days after Clarke had been ordered to form the Commandos - the first raid went ashore between Cap d'Alprech, near Boulogne,

As the imagination of the public was

His Commandos would have to scale cliffs like a Pathan, live without support like a Boer and disappear like an Arab before he could be pinned down by the enemy



Tough team. These Commandos training "somewhere in the south of England" in 1945 had to cross a reservoir in full fighting kit before scaling the wall with improvised ladders

and the Pointe du Hauibanc, near Berck.

The assault was a success, information of military value was obtained... and the foundations of Combined Operations, so vital to the war effort, were laid.

John Grove learned the "inside story" from the best source of all, Brig Dudley W Clarke.

Seated at the desk in his Whitehall office, Clarke told *Soldier's* newsman the secrecy surrounding each raid had been so great that invitations to the "Charity Committee" meetings at the ambassador's flat were by word of mouth only.

The niece of a general had been used as "cover" during the raids. One of her tasks was to collect all personal identification from the raiders before they boarded, and to distribute them on their return.

The "irregulars" learned quickly, but the essential features of the first plan and of the organisation of the Commandos remained unchanged throughout the war.

As the imagination of the public was

caught by tales of violent actions launched by small bands of raiders on the ponderous bulk of the German Army, suggestions flooded in to the War Office.

One such idea, that the employment of real, dyed-in-the-wool, Tommy gun-toting gangsters from the United States or Britain's back streets, would be even more successful than soldiers, was carefully considered by MO 9.

But the experts concluded that gangsters were not reliable and would fight only when cornered. The suggestion was dropped.

A long-term occupant of one of His Majesty's Prisons offered to form a Convicts' Commando, and even sent the War Office his detailed plans for a raid on the Continent. Interestingly, it contained a good many ideas which had already been adopted by the Commandos.

The experience gained by Clarke's units was passed to the United States military, leading to the formation of the US Rangers, America's own Commandos.

Groves concluded: "To those men who sallied forth at night with blackened faces 'to win honour from the pale-faced moon', Britain and the world owe a great debt that can never be fully repaid."



Above - Rounded notes from the French 42me Régiment de Transmissions

Left - LCpl William Renton, bass drummer with the 1 A and SH Pipes and Drums

Right - Drum Maj Robert Young SG heads the Massed Bands



Above - The Massed Pipes and Drums thrill another packed Edinburgh Military Tattoo audience

Below - Members of the Egyptian Military Musical Group were a colourful attraction



The grand finale on the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade

Edinburgh Tattoo is a musical winner

FOR enthusiasts of the pipes and drums, the 1995 Edinburgh Military Tattoo was a winner.

Set against the evocative backdrop of the castle, the pageant took as its theme the history of Scotland up to Bonnie Prince Charlie's ill-fated 1745 Jacobite rising.

Riding horses from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the monarchs of Scotland were portrayed in a series of tableaux outlining the nation's royal history.

These portrayals were linked by a spectacular variety of music from pipes and drums and military bands.

Alongside the more traditional elements of Scottish regiments were the bands of the Egyptian Military Musical Group - very colourful in pharaonic uniforms, and the swinging style adopted by their pipers; La Musique du

Pictures: Mark Owens

42me Régiment de Transmissions, celebrating the "Auld Alliance" between Scotland and France; and, from South Africa, the Witwatersrand Rifles Pipe Band.

Before the grand finale, 150 Scottish country dancers from the Tattoo Dance Company recreated the ball held in honour of Bonnie Prince Charlie on his arrival in Edinburgh before he led his army south towards London.

AFTER nearly 23 years in mufti and having been an ardent reader of *Soldier* since I was called up in 1950, it has saddened me that the Army Catering Corps has been swallowed up with others in the Royal Logistic Corps. Chefs now have no recognis-

ACC 'had a raw deal'

able identity in our excellent magazine unless in kitchen dress or named as caterers. One cannot keep abreast of retirements or promotions

from the lists published. We do not know if any of our caterers have been honoured by the Crown.

In fact, we have become

completely anonymous. After all the hard work since 1941, we were never even recognised with the prefix "Royal".

I feel we have had a raw deal. – **Ken Wilson** (NS and Regular, 1950-72; TA and CVHQ ACC, 1973-89), Leicester.

Striking a discord

THE massed bands at the Edinburgh Tattoo were excellent. However, it was sad they had to lower their standard by playing American high-school type swing music on the march, to a well-known Welsh tune.

I was also sorry to see the Guards bandsmen using their trombones as oars while the bands played the Eton Boating Song.

Then we had *The Last Post* played on the trumpet or cornet when by British Army tradition it should have been sounded on the bugle by a bugler.

It all helped to spoil the traditional image appreciated worldwide as the best. – **D J Macleod, Lancing, Sussex.**

● See Pages 24-25

TALL STORY WAS TRUE

YOUR reviewer regards a story in my book, *To Be A Chindit*, as hard to swallow.

He refers to my account of how the 6th Battalion the Somerset Light Infantry was so poorly armed that its Bren guns and light machine-guns were passed on from company to company to fool Churchill into believing the unit was better armed than it actually was.

Often the truth is stranger than fiction. Putting on a show for the top brass was all part of the old-fashioned Army "bull", and our brigade did just that.

Even Churchill could not have found us more guns – there were none available.

If Hitler had invaded after Dunkirk we would have been overwhelmed; our sea defences consisted of just a few stakes at low tide and coils of barbed wire. – **Phil Sharpe, Bath, Avon.**



RGBW back badge

Regiment gives badge reminder

YOUR back-page capbadge feature on The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment (September 4) did not take account of the fact that this regiment has two badges.

The précis of our history refers to the battle of Alexandria, which was the first action in which a British army met a French army in the Napoleonic Wars, and decided the fate of the Middle East and (conceivably) India as well.

The battle was narrowly won, due to the resolution of the 28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment, who denied the key position to the French and ensured a famous victory.

Hence the back badge, originally a back-plate on the shako. (Only since 1940 has it been worn on a beret.)

May I suggest that a similar series on the TA would prove to be very popular with many readers (especially myself) who are interested in the history and trappings of the British Army. – **R A Hamilton, Southport.**

● Your suggestion is noted, Mr Hamilton – **Editor**

COLLEGE'S COLOURS

FURTHER to correspondence on the general topic, Christ's College Combined Cadet Force was presented with Colours at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, in 1952.

The Colours were consecrated by a chaplain to the Forces and the parade was supported by the Corps of Drums of 1st Bn Grenadier Guards.

The Colours are those of the Middlesex Regiment, to which we were affiliated at the time.

Although our affiliation is now to The Parachute Regiment, by tradition the Regimental Colour is still carried on ceremonial parades by the junior officer of the unit, escorted by colour sergeants with bayonets fixed.

We look forward to the day when we will have the opportunity to parade our Queen's Colour. – **Lt Col J I Walden, Commanding Officer, Headquarters Christ's College CCF, London N2.**

CONGRATULATIONS to all concerned on your back-cover series on the new regimental and corps badges. I would like to think this came about as a result of the suggestion I made to you some time ago. – **G W Hazeldine, Swindon, Wilts.**

First World War Chinese force did not fight

YES, there were Chinese labourers serving with the Allies in France and Belgium during the First World War (Letters, September 18), but they were strictly non-combatant.

However, the Territorial Army yeomanry and infantry are also undergoing change, with new units being formed and others re-badged.

According to research conducted by Elizabeth A Tancock, of Islington, Ontario, at the Department of National Defence, Ottawa and the National Archives of Canada, Britain and France negotiated a contract with the Chinese Government in Peking in January, 1917.

This was to supply men to work in France and Belgium as railway and general labourers, but not to fight as members of the military forces.

In fact they served in the Chinese Labour Corps as bricklayers, millwrights, carpenters, plumbers, blacksmiths, boilermakers, riveters, electricians, tailors, shoemakers and general labourers on railway maintenance and port construction.

Between March 1917 and March 1918, 82,244 Chinese men were transported from China via Vancouver and across Canada in strict secrecy for trans-shipment to the war zone.

The Canadian Government

used 13 CPR liners and two of the American Dollar Line to transport them across the Pacific to Vancouver from Wei-Hai-Wei and Tsingtau in China.

Although no actual casualty figures are reported I have a

Memorials NOT good enough. Sir!

THE LETTER from Mr James Ellard (August 21) expressed exactly the attitude which led my colleagues and me to the view that it was necessary to start an independent campaign for the restoration of war memorials.

But it would better if readers themselves were to check their local memorials and write to the Editor.

The memorials are on parade to remind us of the bravery and sacrifice made in combat. It is surely a mark of respect to ensure that they are fit for their purpose.

Mr Ellard, who says this campaign is unnecessary, asks where in the UK one can see a poorly cared-for memorial.

I have a list of numerous examples. Derek Boorman, in

Popringhe-to-Bradhoek road between November 1917 and March 1918 and were moved to Baileull after the Armistice.

I sailed for the Middle East between April and June 1941 on one of the 13 CPR liners mentioned earlier, the *Empress of India*, with 50th (Northumbrian) Division to join the Desert war in North Africa. – **Laurie Whittle (ex-WO2 ORQMS), Hull.**

ing war memorials.

In some cases it is just question of standards; in others it is neglect. It is our view that war memorials should set a standard, regardless of their surroundings. I am sure that everyone can imagine the derisory voice of a well-remembered sergeant major shouting:

"You call that well cared for? Sir."

Mr Ellard ended his letter: "Credit where it's due, gentlemen." I am sure we would all agree with that but, lads, is it due? – **Ian (Jock) Davidson (Founder, Armed Forces Memorials Association), London NW9.**

Don't let them get you down!

DON'T let the b—s get you down! This statement was frequently used by all the many warriors, both Regular and National Service, who served with the British Forces in the Canal Zone.

There has been much correspondence in *Soldier* over the years on this subject. Without going into detail about the actions, casualty figures and conditions in which we had to live, let it just be said that we should have been awarded a medal.

Remember and apply my opening sentence. Keep on writing and discussing it. Many *Soldier* readers in high places are in a position to do something about it. – **Maj (Retd) D Simson, Colinton, Edinburgh.**

Anything you canoe ...

ANY competitor who completes the 125-mile Devizes-Westminster canoe race is to be congratulated.

This is especially true of the winning team from the 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment, considering the time achieved in their shiny new glass-fibre canoe (People, August 7), but I fear to some extent the praise is overstated.

The Artists Rifles would be the last to point out that their main effort concentrates on the use of wood-and-canvas Klepper collapsible canoes, acquired second-hand.

It should be obvious that with no concession for finish, weight or shape, there is no way they can compete on level terms with the hi-tech glass fibre.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the Artists Rifles crew broke the 1961 record for this type of canoe by one hour in 1994 with a time of 22hr 26min 11sec, within two minutes of the Wessex Regiment's 1995 time. – **John Bloxham (RE, 1st Bn "Infantry" Div, 1943-46), London SE26**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



● RNBAEE – see Pages 12-13

FRED Darking will always be grateful to a teacher at the tiny council school in Nottingham he attended as a child. Every Friday, pupils were allowed to do as they liked. On one occasion, the master handed him a tin of pastels, took a trilby off the hat-stand in the

corner, and asked him to draw it. A natural talent was nurtured, which, as he told *Soldier*, was to lead to him having one of the more unusual Army occupations of the Second World War and, indirectly, achieving a modest amount of fame half a century later.

Emerging from the camouflage

"WHEN I got my call-up in 1940, I asked the recruiting sergeant what I could do in the Army to make use of my drawing abilities," said Fred, now in his 85th year.

He had passed the entrance examination to the Nottingham College of Art at the age of ten, and was already director of a small commercial art agency when he enlisted.

"I was advised that, if I joined the Royal Engineers as a Regular, they had a unit which prepared maps. So I got my uniform at Chatham and joined thousands of soldiers flooding into the barracks."

Fred was asked if his office experience included using a photo-copier, was appointed accommodation clerk and notched up a stripe as a lance corporal.

He was sent for a test at the Royal Engineers' school as a draughtsman and found himself specialising in camouflage.

"The whole of the South Coast was being turned into one big camp," said Fred. "For the next two years, I worked on hiding pill-boxes and ack-ack units, getting them covered so they would not be seen by the Germans we were expecting."

In October 1942, he was summoned to



Fred with one of his paintings of scenes on board HMTS *Fort Wrigley*

Scotland to prepare for active service in North Africa with the innovative 1st Army Deception Unit, comprising a captain, a lieutenant and a sergeant, under the command of Capt F G (Bob) Baxter.

"He had an idea to get a tank made like a tent and place it on a three-ton lorry to confuse any aerial surveillance. He put it to the powers that be, and it was all very secret, with a big exercise involved."

Fred, by now a sergeant, moved to Tunis by way of Algiers to take part in the rout of the Germans.

Bob Baxter was promoted lieutenant colonel and promised to recommend Fred,



Fred's convoy moves on, past the devastation at Falaise: he has painted himself, following on motorbike (centre)

who had been with him for more than three years, for lieutenant.

But events overtook them both.

"We got back to HQ and a message was waiting for me from the War Office: 'Wife ill - child needs care'.

By the time he got to Nottingham he was shocked to find his wife had died.

Given nine months' compassionate leave, Fred transferred to a RE section dealing with the construction and design of items such as ack-ack units and plumbing.

"I received a lovely letter from Baxter expressing his condolences. Then, almost the next day, another one arrived saying that he had been killed in action after the capture of Tunis while surveying with the 21st Army Group for the Sicily landings."

A message of another sort sent Fred to Tunbridge Wells, where, in the build-up to D-Day, he, like many others, moved under canvas in Eridge Park.

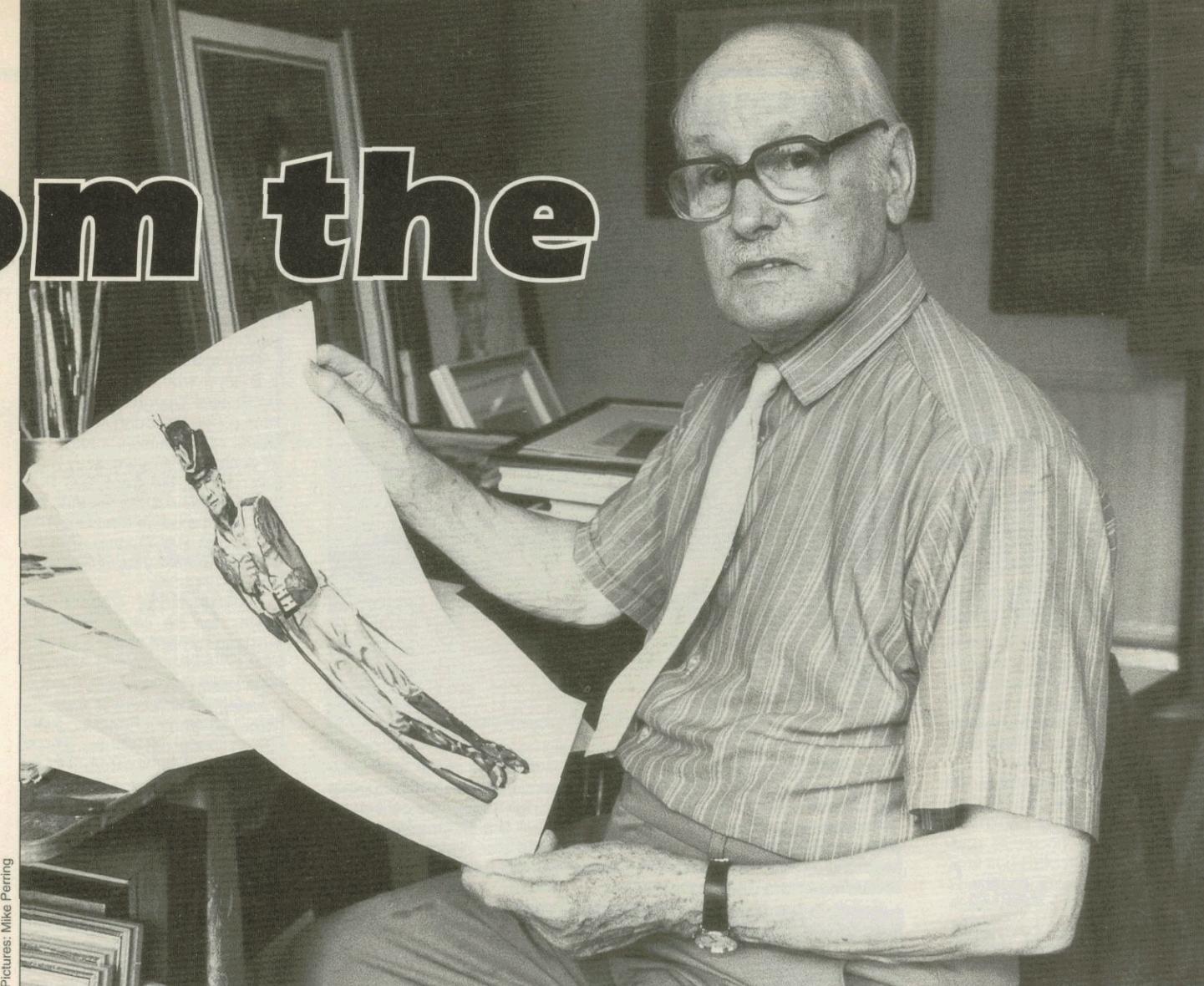
"That was when I started to paint. We were fit as fiddles but bored to tears."

Working from small pen-and-ink sketches, he completed eight watercolours of the camp area and its activities – ranging from the Naafi marquee on a windy day to the corner of an officer's tent – before he moved to Tilbury to board HMTS *Fort Wrigley* for the crossing to France.

"Our lot on the lower decks could hardly move for bodies, and then we couldn't land because of the weather, so we floated about for a couple of days. Luckily, there was no action, and it gave me time to go around the ship sketching."

After landing at Arromanches, Fred headed inland towards Caen, "shuffling along in first gear behind the rest of the party" on the Norton 500 motorbike which he had been handed at Tilbury – even though he had never ridden one in his life.

During the wait for Caen to fall (the Germans



Pictures: Mike Perrin

Even as a student, Fred was showing an interest in the Army: the picture he is holding is signed H F Darking, March 3, 1928

held out for another month), Fred painted the Normandy landscape when his Army duties allowed. But he was kept busy instructing front-line units on camouflage.

Slogans were used to stress the importance of staying one step ahead.

"The HQ lorry doesn't look pretty dressed up as a shed, but it keeps longer that way" and "A general under a net is worth two in the open" were two examples.

After Caen, Fred encountered scenes at Falaise which deeply shocked him.

"The Allied air force was at its peak, shooting the enemy to bits: we were the victorious army. On either side of the road were dead horses and dead Germans.

"It was raining, the mud was about a foot deep, and I was on the motorbike. I fell off four times, once landing on a dead horse.

Worse, in an area visited by Fred and an officer, a German horse artillery section had been shot up and the corpses shoved to the corner of a field with their horses, to be cleared up later."

Fred later drew a detailed scene of the carnage from memory.

"I can't believe that I painted it now, but I did it to get it out of my system.

"As we continued on the road, the rain stopped and the clouds lifted. It

small gallery in Nottingham." Last year, Fred's daughter, Joan, suggested submitting the pictures for valuation on BBC TV's *Antiques Road Show*.

"I laughed, saying it was all antiques on the programme. She reminded me that the paintings are antiques: they're 50 years old."

Fred duly applied, was accepted for the recording in Derby (which went out in February) and interviewed by the programme's paintings expert.

The expert was astonished to find that, for the first time in the show's history, he was face-to-face with an artist who had actually painted the items being discussed. And Fred was astonished to find his watercolours valued at more than £500 each.

A visit from a television crew to his house in a Nottingham suburb, crammed from floor to ceiling with paintings of anything from cattle to trawermen, followed.

This summer he had the accolade of having his war-time paintings shown in Nottingham's prestigious city centre Angel Row Gallery, complete with a glass case displaying his battered watercolour tin and jotter containing original notes and sketches.

Now he finds himself something of a local celebrity.

However, should the pressures of being under the public glare get to him, given Fred's talent for camouflage, he should have no difficulty in disguising himself . . .

Fred Darking
talks to Phil Wilcox

*The
SOLDIER
interview*

it rather unlikely that they will, but they ought to see any meritorious work done by a serving soldier."

Fred never heard another word, and there the matter might have ended.

But there was an intriguing post-script.

After the war, he resumed his career at the art agency and stored the 30 paintings in his house, where they lay all but forgotten on top of a cabinet for years.

"I happened to be talking about the war to someone who was selling some paintings I had recently completed, and I showed them to him.

"He advised me to do something about them, so we put mounts around them and they looked damned good, to be honest. They were later put on private show at a

SOLDIER to Soldier

War to break out at RMCS

ABOUT 60 players, including several from Europe and America, are expected to lock horns at a wargaming convention to be held at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, near Swindon, from November 3-5.

Competitors have the chance on the Friday afternoon to visit the college tank sheds and small arms armoury. Actual wargaming takes place over the weekend.

Organiser Neil Stevens says the convention will cater for friendly and competitive play and that full board and accommodation is available. Because the venue is on military property, advance booking is essential. He would particularly like to hear from military wargamers.

Neil can be contacted at 18 Bower Green, Longcot, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7TU (tel 01793 783230).

Eastern vets' health survey

A SURVEY into the current health of veterans of the Korean War and the occupation of Japan is being undertaken by Ashley Cunningham-Boothe, who wants to establish the degree of diseases, disorders and mystery illnesses prevalent among the old soldiers.

Mr Cunningham-Boothe is a founder and past national chairman of the British Korean Veterans Association, and founder of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (Japan) Association.

He wants veterans willing to complete a confidential health study questionnaire to write to him c/o PO Box 115, Priory Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1GH.

"There is an unusually high presence of cancer, heart disease, renal and respiratory disorders, too many mystery disorders, and an exceptionally high number of arthritics within our ranks," said Mr Cunningham-Boothe.

Climbing into cyberspace

THE Army Mountaineering Association (AMA) has followed the Royal Signals on to the Internet.

Climbers with personal computers can get in touch by logging into the Information Superhighway via a modem and telephone. The AMA's "pages", to be found on part



This impressive birthday cake baked in the kitchens of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards at Wellington Barracks, London, by RLC cooks Sgt Mark Pickering (left) and Cpl Lee Biddle (right) graced a ceremony in Crystal Palace Park, south London, to mark the 125th anniversary of the Red Cross. Also present for the lighting of a beacon - a scene repeated all over the United Kingdom - was the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas from Church Crookham.

Between the cooks, Greenwich Red Cross organiser Mrs Sylvia Warlow prepares to cut the 54lb fruit cake with a military sword.



Ayr gunners remember

Forty-five former members of 130 Field Regiment RA (The Ayrshire Yeomanry) remembered colleagues who died in Burma when a tablet (right) was dedicated in the garden of Ayr's Ex-Services Club. Following the ceremony, which took place during a VJ Day reunion, veterans laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in the town square.

130 FIELD REGT. ROYAL ARTILLERY 1939 - 1945

IN MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR PEACE IN INDIA AND BURMA
1942 - 1945

WHEN YOU GO HOME,
TELL THEM OF US AND SAY,
FOR YOUR TOMORROW,
WE GAVE OUR TODAY.

of the Internet called the World Wide Web, are aimed at anyone interested in climbing or hill walking. They can be accessed by pointing the browser at: <http://www.open.gov.uk/army/ma/ama.htm>

Or you can return to Earth and contact Andy himself at 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, BFPO 807 (Londonderry Mil 34223), or email to 100305.3036@compuserve.com.

which means "a forms-capable browser such as Mosaic or Netscape would be an advantage". Most of the information can also be accessed using a plain text browser.

"He made a thrust at my groin, I parried it off and cut him through the head. After this a lancer came at me; I threw the lance off by my right side and cut him through the chin and upwards through the teeth. Next a foot soldier fired at me and then charged at me with his bayonet, which I also had the good luck to parry, and then I cut

That about covers it . . .

FOUR new covers in the series of 20 featuring the history of Army signalling have been issued by the Royal Signals Museum. Two more are to follow soon.

Among the latest are a number of limited editions signed by distinguished people.

They include Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who has autographed the Special Operations in France 1944 cover; Viscount Montgomery (Battle of El Alamein 1942); Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley (Imjin River 1951); Gp Capt K G Hubbard, captain of the aircraft that dropped the bomb (first British H-bomb test, 1957); and Gen Sir Charles Guthrie (Royal Signals in BAOR, 1945-94).

Each envelope, sold to raise money for the corps' ambitious museum project, has a unique BFBS handstamp and contains historical notes.

Details are available from the New Museum Project Team, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH (tel 01258 482258).

Cottage hospital

MARCUS Newton keeps a military hospital close to home. In fact, he has one in his home.

Military enthusiast Peter has created the 408th British General Hospital (circa 1944) in a spare room at 19 Weston House, Borough Road, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3LE.

Although no actual 408 Gen Hosp existed, the uniforms and instruments on display in his home-made museum are genuine enough.

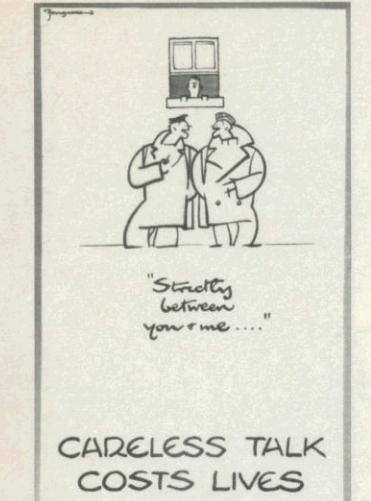
Marcus passes any donations he receives to the Army Benevolent Fund, British Red Cross and St John Ambulance.

Cutting remarks

A NEW gallery opening at the National Army Museum in Chelsea on November 2 will contain the only detailed display of British military swords in the country.

Stories of the weapon in action are told, none more graphically than Sgt Charles Ewart's description of hand-to-hand combat at Waterloo:

"He made a thrust at my groin, I parried it off and cut him through the head. After this a lancer came at me; I threw the lance off by my right side and cut him through the chin and upwards through the teeth. Next a foot soldier fired at me and then charged at me with his bayonet, which I also had the good luck to parry, and then I cut



CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

War posters to go under the hammer

A FINE collection of nearly 400 Second World War propaganda posters covering aspects of the war on the home front, the famous careless talk campaign (see above) and the Back Them Up series are to be sold at auction by Onslow's of London on October 6.

Estimates range from £20 to £200.

Viewing, on the afternoon of October 5, and the sale the following morning, take place in Carisbrooke Hall at the Victory Services Club, 63 Seymour Street, London W2.

Catalogues are available, £5.50 post paid (£10 overseas), from Onslow's on 0171 371 0505

him down through the head; thus ended the contest."

Key exhibits include the sword carried by Lt William Gordon in the Charge of the Light Brigade and Fd Marshal Kitchener's Royal Engineers sword.

A revised edition of Brian Robson's *Swords of the British Army*, the standard reference book on the subject is to be published by the museum to coincide with the exhibition. It will feature new illustrations, many in colour, and a re-examination of controversial topics.

APPPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: I D T McGill - To be E-in-C(A), Sept 4; I H McNeil - To be DPS(A), Sept 5; M Huntley (promoted brigadier) - To be DGES(A) (des).

Colonels: J G Finlay - To HQ Scotland, Aug 28; J C W Gillman - To RAC Cen, Sept 1; C A Hewitt - To MoD, Sept 4; T B Thomas - To 24 Airmob Bde/HQ Colchester Gar, Sept 4; C J Walters - To RHQ R Signals, Sept 4; B A Hopkin - To be Commandant HQ and Central Gp RADC, Sept 11.

Ice Station Fusiliers?

A "cap badge" that bears a remarkable similarity to their own is puzzling the Royal Welch Fusiliers. In place of the regimental title around the Prince of Wales's Feathers in the centre of the badge, there appear the words: ICE STATION SONNETI.

Lt Col Peter Crocker, curator of the RWF Museum, would be interested to hear from anyone who can shed light on what or who is Ice Station Sonneti, and why its badge should bear such a striking resemblance to that of the RWF.

He can be reached at the RWF Museum, Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2AY (tel 01286 673362).

Front runners

SOLDIERS from the 6th Battalion, The (Somerset and Cornwall) Light Infantry (V) have been closely involved with the fictitious 9th Battalion, The Light Infantry, star of the BBC's *Preston Front* series.

Now the *Radio Times* is running a competition based on the series - and the lucky (!) winner will join 6 LI on exercise during the battalion's annual camp. Actor and former TA soldier David MacCreedy (Cpl Polson) will also be on parade.

REUNIONS

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association: Annual reunion at Defence Animal Centre on September 30 (not Sept 3 as previously advertised). Details from RHQ RAVC, DAC, Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL (tel 01664 411811).

Black Cats (56 Div Sigs to 1961 OCA): Former members of successor regiments and squadrons are invited to contact secretary Steve Bland on 0181 656 9740 or write to him at 222 Wickham Road, Croydon CR0 8BJ for membership details. Next reunion dinner is at the Union Jack Club in London on October 20.

Cyprus Services Rambling Club: celebrates its 25th anniversary in November. Details for former members wishing to attend from Phlyn Simpson, EEF, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 57 (tel 010 357 527 6611).

Royal Tank Regiment: Ex-WOs of the regiment interested in a reunion in Meriden, near Birmingham on a date to be decided in 1996, please contact J "Charlie" Welchman, 29 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4EE (tel 01929 553466).

Christmas Island reunion: Reunion planned October 27-30 for members of all three Services who took part in British nuclear tests in the 1950s. Details and bookings on 01934 622548.

D A Barrett RLC - To MoD, Sept 9; M D Cooper RE - To HQ RSME, Sept 4; A A Gilbert LI - To be BMM SANG Saudi Arabia, Sept 7; B J Scott-Morton, R Sigs - To be CO 36 Sig Regt, Sept 5; G C Taylor AGC(ETS) - To MoD, Sept 4; R M Thurston, R Sigs - To be CO 35 Sig Regt, Sept 5; K Vasey RACChD - To HQ 4 Div, Sept 9.

Retirements - Brigadier: A J Sandiford, late RE, Aug 31. **Colonel:** M B Mound, late RE, Aug 29.

SEARCHLINE



This picture of the Princess Royal inspecting veterans at a D-Day ceremony last year, published in the Flemish newspaper *Het Volk*, caught the eye of Mrs Mariette Roose, a Belgian. She thinks she met, as a 12-year-old, the two old soldiers circled. She believes they lived at Varsenare, worked at a workshop in Jabbeke (Nov 1944 - April 1945) and were kind to her and her mother. Mr Charles Claeys, Elizabethan 257, B8301 Knokke-Heist, Belgium, wants to arrange a reunion.

single volume history of Eighth Army. Contact Richard Doherty (author of *Clear the Way*, the story of 38 (Irish) Brigade in the Second World War, and *Only the Enemy in Front*, the history of the Reconnaissance Corps) at 27 Hillview Avenue, Prehen, London-derry BT47 2NU.

Alan Robinson, ex-platoon sergeant and CSM of E, F and K Cos, 2nd Cadet Bn, Middlesex Regiment ACF, seeks former cadets 1939-60, from Middlesex and London areas, particularly Uxbridge, Rayners Lane, Kingsbury and Willesden. Tel 01206 549617 or write to 43 Rudsdale Way, Colchester CO3 4LP.

Les Swindale (ex-Dvr) wishes to contact members of MT Section, 164 Rly Opr Coy RE (1939-45), particularly Frank Sheppard, Capt Tyrell, Jock Lythgoe and Cpl Furmur. Replies to 6 Yewtree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE15 9QL.

Maude Williams wishes to trace LCpl Luther Taylor RA, from Short Heath, Willenhall, Wolverhampton. He was stationed at Kingsbury, Middlesex, during the Second World War and went to Tobruk and El Alamein with the Desert Rats. He had two sisters, Doris and Emma. Replies to 38 Byland Close, Willingdon Trees, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Gunners (May 1948-51) who returned to the UK on the Empress Australia are asked to contact Charles W Humber, 23 Tavistock Road, Swindon, Wilts SN3 2QD (tel 01793 435583) for a reunion at Mapplewell.

Sidney Allinson, 3444 Karger Terrace, Victoria, BC V9C3K5, Canada (email:ub076@freenet-victoria.bc.ca) wants to know if an old comrades association exists for the **Field Security Police**, a branch of the Intelligence Corps during the Second World War.

Logistics from Henry V to Blackadder

ACCORDING to the dictionary, **logistics** describes the art of movement and supply of troops, whereas **logistic** is the art of calculation.

Should therefore the successor to the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and the Postal and Courier Service, amalgamated in 1993, be thought of as the "calculating" corps?

Certainly calculation is important in the Royal Logistic Corps, a fact that is apparent in Lt Col (Retd) Michael Young's book *We Sustain*, which covers the first two years of the "five-in-one" corps' being.

As editor of the *Corps Journal*, bringing him into regular contact with all staffs and units in the RLC, Mike Young is well qualified to weave what he calls this "tapestry" of its early life, including the sporting and adventurous achievements of its members.

To lend a historical perspective he takes the story from late medieval times, when Henry V's army had a "Sergeant of Wagons of the Household",

VIDEOS

War to the Bitter End. Third and final volume in the documentary series of double-video packs entitled *Vietnam: The Ten Thousand Day War*. DD Video, £16.99.

A Date with History. The Pacific war and events leading to the dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Lumiere, 60min, £10.99.

The Great War. First two volumes, entitled *The Western Front* and *The Technology of War*, of six extra-length videos making extensive archive film, some unseen for many years. DD Video, £12.99 each.



Maj Gen (then Brig) White, pictured by *Soldier* in the Gulf



Lt Col (Retd) Mike Young, Royal Logistic Corps Journal editor

some 25,000 horses and "many carts and waggons", to the Logistic Support Review of 1989 and the formation of the new corps.

We are brought up to date with reports on the corps' involvement with the Channel Tunnel (by 11 EOD Regiment), Opera-

We Sustain: The Royal Logistic Corps 1993-1995 by Michael Young. Baron Birch, hardback, £20.

Gulf Logistics: Blackadder's War, edited by Maj Gen Martin White. Brassey's (UK), hardback, £30.

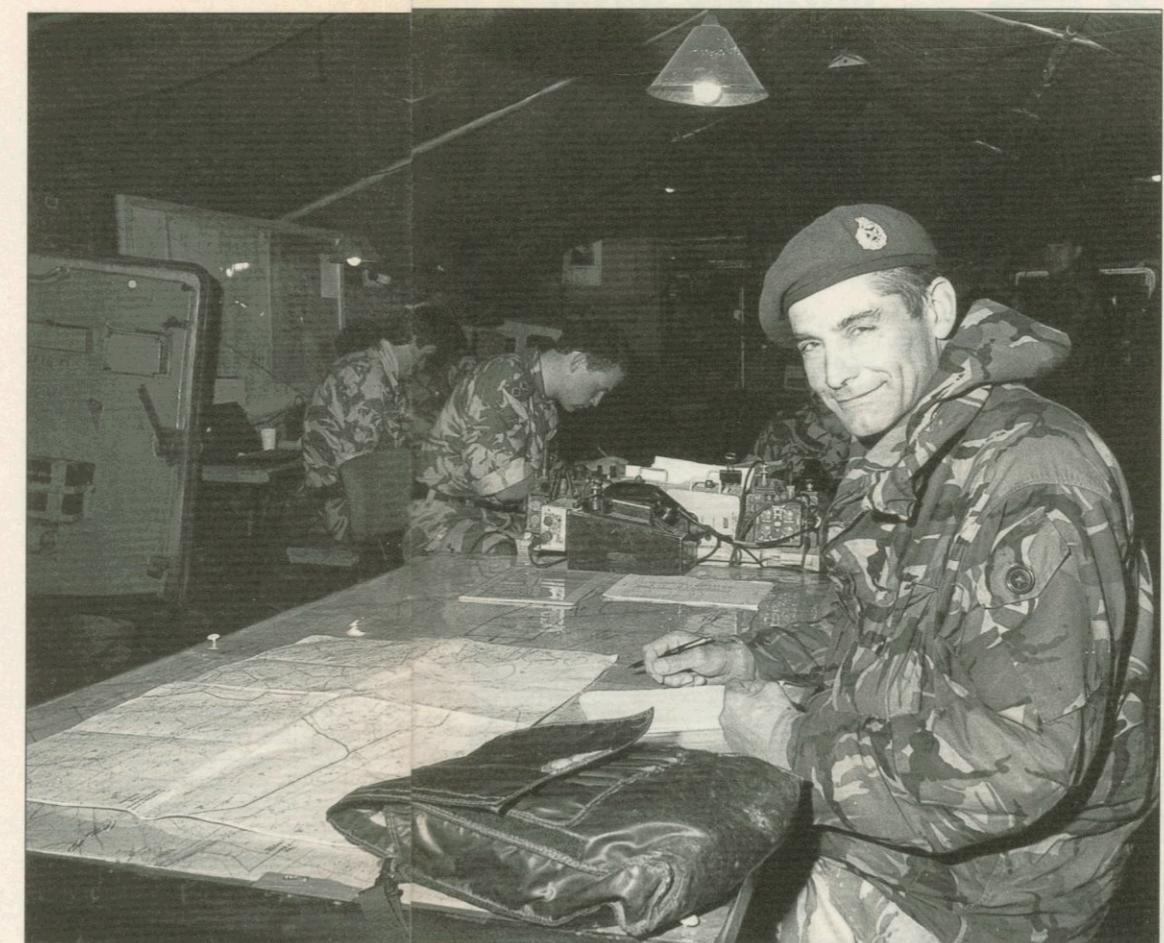
tions and subsequent support in action are described in the main by officers who served on the author's staff, or who commanded logistic units within the force maintenance area (FMA).

"Blackadder", the symbol of the author's command in the

Gulf (see insignia in headline above), was derived from the television series and its adoption was inspired by Maj Gen White's daughter Anna, who wrote to him: "I hope you have a cunning plan."

Cunning, or at least calculating, was a necessary asset. "The items procured and moved covered an extraordinary diversity . . . water carriage equipment . . . mine clearance vehicles from Germany, laser-guided bombs from America, stretcher posts and fittings from Norway . . . and a complete supply of special hot-weather underwear for our female contingent!"

Lt Gen Rupert Smith, GOC 1 (UK) Div in the Gulf and now Cdr UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia, writes in his



Lt Gen (then Maj Gen) Rupert Smith, one of the contributors to *Gulf Logistics*, pictured by *Soldier* in his headquarters during the Gulf War. Both books about logistics reviewed here include the work of *Soldier* staff photographers

contributed chapter: ". . . the enemy were a poor lot and things might not have gone so well for us if they had given a better account of themselves".

Even so, the war was not easy, especially for the logistic elements. Lt Col Wayne Harber (Deputy Chief of Staff Logistics, HQ FMA in the Gulf) writes that ". . . both the Challenger tanks and Warrior infantry vehicle had had mechanical problems during the preceding 12 months . . . that summer (1990) had also identified a problem of dust ingestion into the Challenger air filtration system . . . A timely problem to identify before deploying to the desert!"

The host nation's religious and cultural customs caused practical problems outside the conduct of the war. The British soldier enjoys a drink or two but on New Year's Eve even the officer commanding and sergeant-major of the RE Squadron were forced to see in 1991 with non-alcoholic beer in a "fleabitten roadside cafe".

However, ingenuity prevails at such times and some of the illegal stills that were found proved that the inventiveness of the British soldier had not

been dulled by the heat. "One particularly memorable find by the SIB involved a makeshift still producing alcohol from onions," writes Maj Desmond Bergin, Force Provost Marshal, HQ FMA.

"The smell alone was enough to prevent anyone from trying to drink it!"

However, all was not gloom in the festive season. The folk back home saw to it that there was a surfeit of mince pies and Christmas puddings and units were receiving compulsory issues of these goodies well into January.

More seriously, the status of Saudi Arabia within Islam precluded local burial for non-Muslims and a system for recovery to the home base had to be hurriedly established. It was as well the war was over in 100 hours, although the recovery operation continued for several months.

Perhaps the last words on logistics in the Gulf War should go to Lt Col Pat Reehal, RLC (Staff Officer Transport and Movements in the Gulf): "It is often said that the difference between a movement controller and a terrorist is that terrorists have sympathisers."

Popular or not, The Royal

Logistic Corps and its predecessors share a single aim – the support of the British Army in peace and war, wherever it serves in the world. This message comes over loud and clear from both these books. – BJ

● RLC badge – back page

IN BRIEF

A Lonely Grave: The Life and Death of William Redmond by Terence Denman. An Irish nationalist MP for 34 years, Redmond joined the 6th Royal Irish Regiment and at 56 was one of the oldest soldiers to die in battle, at Messines Ridge. His body was not re-interred in a war cemetery but still lies at Loire, hence the title. Irish Academic Press, hardback, £19.95.

Three paperback reissues to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East: **Beyond the Chindwin** by Bernard Fergusson. Classic account of No 5 Column's exploits in Burma in 1943 by its commander, Maj (later Brig Sir) Bernard Fergusson. **Return Via Rangoon** by Philip Stibbe. Story of a young officer of No 5 column and the horror of his captivity in Rangoon. **Not Ordinary Men** by John Colvin. The Battle of Kohima re-assessed. Pen & Sword, £9.95. each.

Assault on LH181 by Barry Davies. Story of the part played by the SAS in the rescue of 90 passengers from Lufthansa Flight LH181 at Mogadishu in 1977. Imprint 22 paperback, £4.99.

Information and how to make good use of it

INFORMATION, especially the secret variety, is always useful to someone.

When the doors to those secrets are opened, writers such as American Bruce Lee rush in, linking them to news reports and interviews to produce books like *Marching Orders: The Untold Story of World War II*.

But what use do you make of 1.5 million pages of intelligence belonging to the US Army, plus another 14,000 decoded Japanese documents, detailing Hitler's military secrets?

Bruce Lee knew. He sifted through it to produce 600 pages detailing how the Americans cracked the Japanese diplomatic code with a system known as "Magic" which, he says, gave the USA the edge over the British and everybody else when making their battle and political decisions.

He describes clashes over decoded messages between the US Army and Navy, US politicians and the Allies and how much and what type of information should be imparted.

He goes on to reveal that, while coded Japanese messages

Marching Orders by Bruce Lee. Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

about the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 were intercepted, it wasn't until 1946 that it became clear what the information meant, although at the time warnings were sent to the base that an attack was imminent. That action brought the US into the war. It also cost the local commanders – an admiral and a general – their jobs.

This book is a mass of information about information; how it was used and misused, acted upon and ignored, often at great cost.

Bringing the scenario up to date, Lee offers the thought that "today America, as well as 50 years ago, stands alone in the real world. Our allies not only want to shelter themselves under the umbrella of power offered by the American military, they also want to involve us in their self-interest strategies to influence other nations, and I speak now only about our allies . . . What about our enemies?" – JM

Escape in America: The British Convention Prisoners 1777-1783 by Richard Sampson. After their defeat at Saratoga in the War of American Independence, 3,000 British soldiers surrendered and, instead of returning home as in the terms of the Convention of Saratoga, were held hostage for more than five years. This is their story. Picton Publishing, Chippenham SN15 2NS, hardback, £27.50 plus £3.50 postage (UK)

The Red Orchestra by V E Tarrant. One of the more detailed accounts of the Soviet spy network which operated inside Nazi Europe before and during the Second World War. Arms & Armour Press, hardback, £15.99.

Churchill's Moat by Robert Jackson. Well told and illustrated story of the SAS in the rescue of 90 passengers from Lufthansa Flight LH181 at Mogadishu in 1977. Imprint 22 paperback, £4.99.

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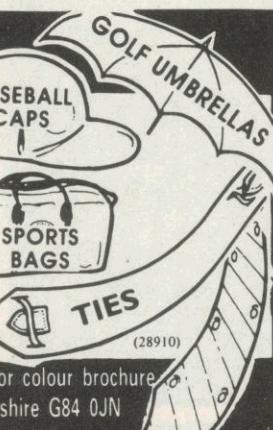
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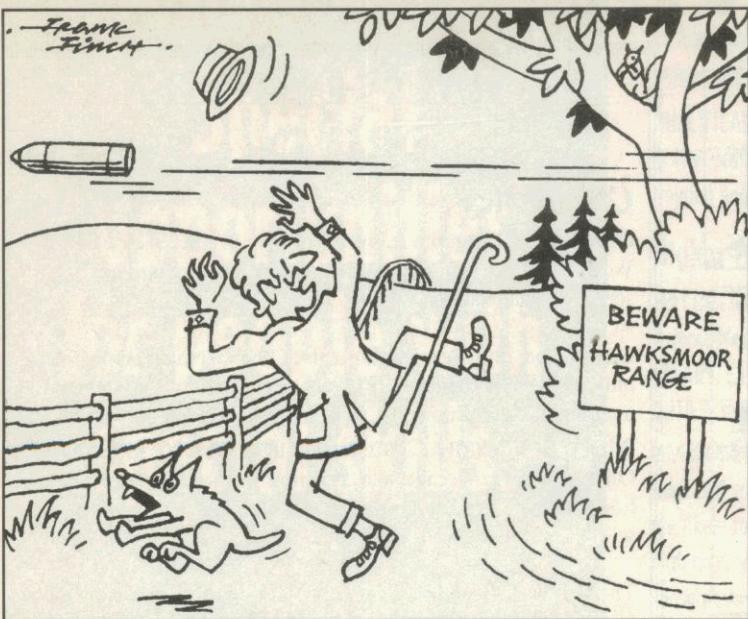
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COMPETITION 621

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else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence 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 November 13 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 618 (August 21 issue): Congratulations to T R Silk, of Seaford, Sussex, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Miss W Turney, of Leighton Buzzard, Beds, and F R Taylor, of Hove, Sussex.

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QUALIFICATION EXEMPTIONS: Exceptionally, candidates including serving and ex-service staff, without the specified academic qualifications who possess the necessary recognised formal training and substantial experience may be considered for all posts. Similarly, for entry at PTO level ex-service candidates who do not fulfil the academic requirements of a grade will be considered if they have at least 4 years' technical experience in the rank of Senior NCO/Chief Technician or equivalent and have completed approved courses of technical training.

APPLICATION FORMS: Candidates should write in the first instance to: CP (Spec) 1a4, Room NF323, HQRAFLC, RAF Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 8QL, enclosing an A4 SAE. We regret that we are unable to accept telephone enquiries regarding this advertisement.

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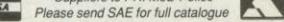
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All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Joy, 37, 5'6", legal secretary, slim with long blonde hair and green eyes. Interests include living life to the full. Wishes to correspond with single genuine Serviceman. Photo appreciated. P507

20/95

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20/95

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Single, female, 24, blonde GSOH, enjoys water skiing, snow skiing, laughing. Would like to hear from soldiers serving abroad. If you want lively, interesting letters from someone who is not looking for a quiet life, please write to Donna. P512

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Claire, 26, 5'8", single, attractive blue eyed blonde with GSOH. Interests include films, travel, pubs, clubs. Seeks adventurous soldier, 20-30, with GSOH. P513

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Julie, 29, 5'2", fair hair, blue eyes, single. Interests are horse riding, keep fit, cinema and most types of music. Would like to hear from soldiers, aged 27-35, with brilliant sense of humour and able to write good letters. P514

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Prince Charming, 33, attractive, fit, athletic army sergeant with lovely castle and own coach. Seeks kind, sincere, warm, attractive Cinderella to fill glass slipper abandoned at ball. Long letter and photo please. P515

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Outrageous, brunette, 26, loves pubs, clubs, sports and the outdoors. Seeks like minded soldiers of similar age to share the fun. P516

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Pen Pals

Sarah, 24, 5'6", attractive, slim, with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, keeping fit, socialising, pubs and clubs. Seeks soldier, aged 24-30, with similar interests. **P517**

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

SEPTEMBER 2, 1995

3-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,500 each) Sgt M J Chatterton, AGC Centre, Worthy Down; Capt G E A Davis, HQ Land Comd, Wilton; WO2 S Swann, Warminster Sp Unit.

12-way tie for fourth prize (17 goals, £125 each) WO2 R G Batten, 17 Regt RA & Depot, Woolwich; Capt R Brown, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 48; CSgt W Campbell, 1 SG, Windsor; Lt J Errington, Army School of Catering, Aldershot; Sgt L M W Evenend, HQ Army Scotland, Edinburgh; WO1 P A Fee, HQ Land Comd, Wilton; WO2 C Gillatt, Depot REME, Arborfield; WO2 T J Hancock, 1 RS, Fort George; Sgt M I Lavers, Cyprus Log Unit, BFPO 57; Cfn M W A Pounder, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Maj D J Reddin, HQ Land Comd, Wilton; Sgt K W Swingler, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1995

First prize (17 goals, £2,500) S Sgt R A W Nichol, 19 Airmob Fd Amb, Colchester.

19-way tie for fourth prize (16 goals, £184.21 each) Sgt M R Bartlett, 1 Regt AAC, BFPO 47; Cpl D Burey, 1 LI, Colchester; Cpl M H Darlington, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35; Sgt J Doherty, 3 Cdo Bde Air Sqn, Yeovilton; Cpl A P Doherty, HCR, Windsor; Sgt A Farmer, BFPO 825; Cpl D Flynn, HCR, Windsor; Lt Col J M Heron, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; Ldr I Hoggan, 16 Regt RA, BFPO 20; CSgt P M Hubbock, 1 IG, London; SSgt A C Jackson, 2 RGR, BFPO 11; WO2 F D Mann, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; SSgt N G Marlow, 3 RGR, Church Crookham; Cpl D Parker, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Lt Col A J Pickford, HQ QMG, Andover; Maj P C K Rees, 2 RWR(V), Cardiff; Maj K S Seabrook, MoD PB6, Stanmore; SSgt A M Somerville, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 48; LCpl L Swann, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808.

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Army's clean sweep on the Fastnet

ARMY yachts put in very competitive performances and made a clean sweep over the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force during this year's Fastnet Race.

The three-yacht team was made up of *Redcoat III*, skippered by Capt Nick Bate and crewed by the Army offshore team; *Securon III*, chartered by Maj Ben Archer with an RA crew; and JSASTC's *Broadsword*, skippered by John Lawrence

and sailed by a Royal Logistic Corps crew.

Redcoat III and *Securon III*, both Sigma 38s, were particularly competitive, the latter crossing the finish first after five days at sea. *Redcoat* had been first to round the Fastnet Rock.

Broadsword was the first Service Nicholson 55 to finish, achieving a creditable 31st out of 81 in Division 1.

The RE Sigma 33, *Right Royal of Upnor*,

was the first Service yacht around the Fastnet on corrected time to win the Cudrose Cup, and finished an excellent 14th out of 37 entries in her class.

Securon III picked up the Inter-Regiment Cup (awarded to the first Service yacht on corrected time), and *Redcoat III* the Seth Smith Trophy for winning the inter-club competition for three-yacht teams.

Kings Own Border skiers excel in Argentina

A SKI team from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment took part in the Argentine Army's international championships at San Carlos de Bariloche in the Patagonia region of the country.

Chile, the USA and Italy were also represented.

The Kings Own Border party, representing the UK, consisted of four Alpine down-hillers and a five-man Nordic team. Lt Col Dennis Flynn, last CO of the 1st Battalion, attended as head of delegation.

Pte Colin Hayton, who has been released from Army duties to train full time with the British junior Nordic biathlon squad, finished 21st in a world-class field, while the Alpine team finished first in the giant slalom with Lt Sasha Zvezintsov (AAC) third.

In the final event before bad weather curtailed the competition, the young and inexperienced Kings Own Border Nordic skiers defied atrocious conditions to finish a creditable seventh in the 25km four-man patrol event.

Career golfers

WO2 Alasdair Macaulay (A and SH) from Dunfermline ACIO won the Tayside and Fife Challenge Shield at the Army Careers Tayside and Fife golf championships held at Kinross Golf Club. Sgt Tom Wilson (SG) from Dundee ACIO returned the best scratch score.



Picture: Mike Perring

Good deal for winter sportsmen

Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C Land Command and President of the Army Winter Sports Association, signs a three-year sponsorship deal which will help Army athletes train and compete at Service, national and international levels. With him is Mr Derek Bell, Chief Executive of Christchurch Holdings, the City-based insurance broking and financial services group, which is providing £25,000 for each of the next three years. The AWSA, preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year, has been well represented at World Cups and Winter Olympics in a number of disciplines. Army sportsmen have formed the backbone of recent British bobsleigh and biathlon ski teams and are expected to feature prominently in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan.

South Africans to play gunners

A ground-breaking four-match tour of England and Wales by a South African National Defence Force rugby team is due to kick off against the Royal Artillery at Woolwich on September 20.

Other games have been arranged against Caerphilly and Pontypool in Wales, and against Blackheath in London.

Apart from rugby, the North West Command Rugby Club, an Army side from one of South Africa's new provinces, will be visiting famous military venues in the United Kingdom, including The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and the Tower of London.

The tour has been co-ordinated by Maj Huw Lawford RA, a keen rugby player and the British Military Advisory and Training Team representative at the Artillery School in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Triathletes warm up for Mexico in Jersey

ARMY athletes dominated the tenth Jersey triathlon, with the squad's three Great Britain representatives filling the first three places.

Cpl Russ Clash crossed the line 18 seconds clear of Capt James Amy, with SSgt Stu Dinwoodie in third place and Capt Phil Dove fifth.

Amy was among the leaders after the 1,500m swim, which he completed in 23min 0.5sec, nearly a minute ahead of Clash. Dove and Pte Nick Saunders

were a further two minutes behind, and Dinwoodie, in his weakest event, four minutes adrift of the leaders.

Clash put in the fastest cycle split of the day, recording a time of 59min 35sec and overtaking Amy on the 40km circuit. His superb effort left him a minute and a half ahead of the field.

Dove also finished strongly with an excellent run which put him in overall fifth place. The race was a good indicator of the form of the top three, who have all gained GB selection for the world championships to be hosted by Mexico in November.



Picture: Mike Perring

Army rounders captain SSgt Carol Matten (left) and Linzi Hall, captain of the England team, exchange pennants and shields before the game



Cpl Julie Blades in action against the England team. She was voted player of the match by the national squad



SSgt Linda Cummings, player of the Army tournament

Golden Tiger bows out in triumph

THE TIGERS, the freefall parachute team of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, made their mark at the Army championships by winning the four-way formation event.

It was a successful culmination to a busy season for the Tigers, who completed 48 public displays.

The team's jump master, Sgt Ian Cashman, who has made 3,400 descents and was a

member of the Joint Services team which beat international opposition in the Rhine Army championships, left last month to become chief instructor at the Joint Services Parachute Centre in Cyprus.

England nearly meet their match

HIGHLIGHT of the Army rounders championships at Worthy Down on September 11 was a match against the England team.

National captain Linzi Hall won the toss and asked the Army to bat. WO2 Gill Rich scored the first rounder with a mammoth hit, and Cpl Julie Blades scored a second when she showed speed and determination to beat the fielder to the fourth post.

SSgt Lynda Cummings, like Rich and Blades serving with the AGC(SPS), made two excellent hits but was prevented from scoring by slick bowling and fielding.

Pte Naomi Burden (RLC), smashing the ball over the heads of the deep fielders, scored two more to take the Army's final score to 5.5.

With the batswoman having only one chance to hit the ball before she has to run, the combination of bowler, backstop and first post is crucial in running out as many as possible of the nine-strong opposition.

The Army trio of team captain SSgt Carol Matten (AGC(SPS)), WO2 Marion Bastow (APTC) and Cummings made sure misses were punished, two of the England players being run out without scoring.

Despite excellent catching by Rich, the national side had reached seven rounders with three batswomen remaining when rain stopped play and prevented a second innings.

The England players nominated Julie Blades as player of the match.

Lynda Cummings received a signed England shirt on being named player of the Army championships, which were won by HQ Northern Ireland.

The Army, which would provide strong opposition for county sides, has been invited to put its best players forward for England selection.

Ex-Army star swells the professional ranks

PTE Lee Bradbury, now playing Endsleigh League football at Portsmouth, is the latest on a growing list of Army players to make a living in the professional game.

Eleven former soldiers are on the books of league clubs, one of them north of the border.

Bradbury attracted the scouts' attention last season by scoring 18 goals in 16 games for the Army senior side. Serving with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, he also scored nine times in six Army Youth appearances.

He made an instant impres-

sion on trial with Pompey, scoring several times in the First Division club's pre-season programme before signing a two-year contract.

Another to move on during the summer was goalkeeper Cfn Maik Taylor (REME), now holding down a first team place

with Barnet, managed by former Liverpool and England 'keeper Ray Clemence.

Best known of the Army "old boys" currently in pro football is striker Guy Whittingham, now with Sheffield Wednesday in the Premiership after spells with Portsmouth and Aston Villa.

Missed chances prove so costly

Army 1, Carshalton Athletic 2

THE ARMY outplayed a young Carshalton Athletic side at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, but put away only one of the many chances they created and lost by the odd goal in three, writes Derrick Bly.

LCpl Jim Straits, fresh from his exploits with Dover Athletic, pulled the strings in midfield, ably supported by the diminutive Cpl Alfie Alford and Cpl Tosh Williams.

Sgt Barney Bambrook, in his first appearance of the season, was the pick of the attackers. At the back, stalwarts Sgt Tony Wright and LSgt Paul Fagin were as reliable as ever.

The Army went ahead after a period of pressure on the Carshalton goal when Wright scored with a brilliant blind side header from a free kick.

In the 80th minute Carshalton's Davy was brought down by Cpl Andy Taylor and the resulting penalty was converted. Davy scored the second when he was first to a rebound.

Uxbridge 2, Army 0

A highly entertaining fixture at Uxbridge allowed the Army



Army opening batsman Capt Jim Cotterill RA gets the ball away during the Royal School of Artillery innings in the Major Units Cup Final at Aldershot. RSA scored 188-6 in their 40 overs, a target which proved far beyond the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick who were dismissed for 79 (L A Grinnaneau 35; Lt Col M Anderson 4-20).

management to assess their squad in the opening fixture of the new season.

Although the Servicemen appeared to be in control for most of the game they failed to take advantage and it was the young Uxbridge side which took the honours, scoring twice in the second half.

Camberley Town 0, Army 1

For their second pre-season friendly, against Camberley Town of the ICIS League, the Army made several changes.

On a dustbowl of a surface, Pte Steve Bowey tested the home goalkeeper early on and LCpl Darren Glenister hit the side netting after being put

through by Rfn Steve O'Hara. Glenister scored the only goal of the game after 20 minutes.

At the other end, Cfn Ian Elliott kept a clean sheet with a neat one-handed save to deny Camberley in the 18th minute.

Substitutes LCpl Danny Proctor, Cfn Alan Woodall and Pte George Russell replaced Glenister, O'Hara and Alford after the break, and Elliott made way for Pte Carl Murray.

Bowey, who had an excellent game, was involved in most of the Army's best moments.

● Curiously, the Uxbridge fixture gave QMSI Paul Holden the opportunity to pick his first and last team as coach. Promoted WO1 and posted to Gibraltar, he has handed over the job to QMSI Pat Russell.

KEY dates in the football calendar this winter include the Army's Inter-Services opener at a Royal Air Force venue on March 13 and the game against the Royal Navy at Aldershot a week later.

Aldershot will also host the Minor Units final on April 3, the women's sixes on April 10 and the Army Challenge Cup final on April 15.

South West Counties Champi-

onship action matches the Army away to Dorset on November 14, home to Hampshire (December 6) and Gloucestershire (February 3), and away to Sussex and Middlesex (February 20 and 26).

First domestic competition to be concluded will be the Army six-a-side finals at Aldershot on October 4.

The date of the annual Civil Service fixture, to be played at Alder-

shot, has been put back a day, to November 23, and the Army-Territorial Army clash is set for the Military Stadium on Sunday, December 3.

The Army Youth team has fixtures against several counties before taking on the Boys Clubs of Wales in February, the Royal Navy at Portsmouth on March 3 and Scottish Schools and Youth FCs on March 16 and 23 at Aldershot.

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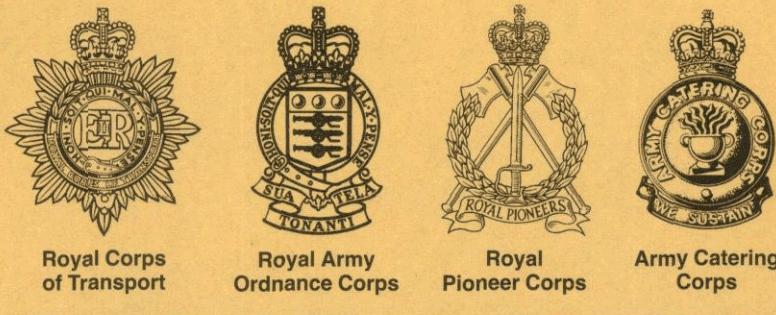
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The Royal Logistic Corps



The Royal Logistic Corps was formed on April 5, 1993 by the amalgamation of the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and the Postal and Courier Service of the Royal Engineers. The capbadge is a star, upon which rests a silver laurel wreath surmounted by two axes. A central shield of arms of the Board of Ordnance is encircled by the Garter. The motto, "We Sustain", is inscribed on a scroll at the base. The regimental quick march is *On Parade*. The RLC was created to form a single corps which combines the complex logistic skills and equipment needed to support a modern army operating in the field. Uniformed support troops were first established in 1794, when the Royal Waggoners provided transport and supplies in Flanders. Their successors, the Royal Waggon Train, served Wellington's army in Spain and at Waterloo.



SOLDIER

The British Army Magazine

The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment



Although included in this series, the badge of The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment is not strictly new. It is that of the Gurkha Transport Regiment, amended to incorporate the Royal status granted the regiment in 1992.

The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment was formed in Malaya in July 1958 as the Gurkha Army Service Corps by RASC officers and selected Gurkha officers and other ranks from a number of Gurkha infantry battalions. The capbadge consists of an eight-pointed star upon which is laid a laurel wreath, crossed Kukris and two scrolls inscribed "Queen's Own" and "Gurkha Transport Regiment." Above is a Crown and royal cipher. The regimental quick march is *Wait for the Wagon*. In October 1965, the Corps was renamed The Gurkha Transport Regiment and its companies were redesignated squadrons. It adopted the

additional title, Queen's Own on August 30, 1992. The regiment's headquarters and 28 Squadron, QOGTR are based at Colchester, with two detachments currently serving in Hong Kong and Brunei. Other smaller detachments of QOGTR personnel are based at Brecon, Sandhurst, Aldershot and Leconfield.



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