

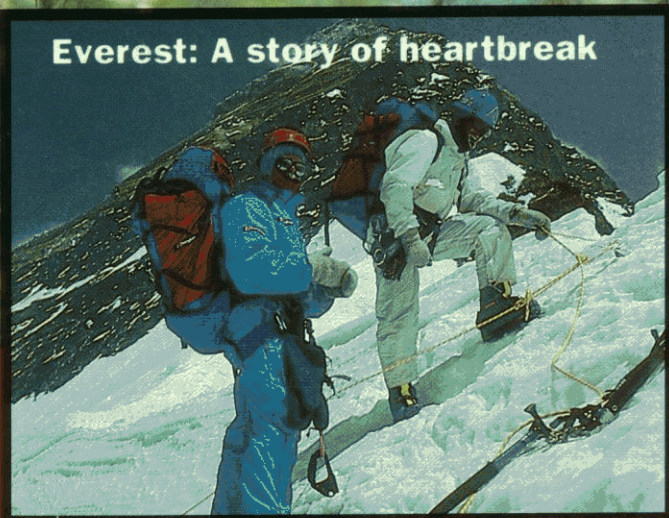
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SHORNCLIFFE

Everest: A story of heartbreak



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- The Irish merger
- Goodbye to 2 RTR
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Gordons troop Colour in Berlin



Capt Matthew Wells shouts a command to his guard during the Trooping the Colour ceremony held by the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders in Berlin to celebrate their 198th birthday. The Gordons, who have been serving in the city since August last year, were allowed to hold the parade

in the forecourt of Charlottenburg Palace, and the Mayor of Charlottenburg, Frau Monika Wissel, took the salute in the presence of Brig David Bromhead, Berlin Brigade Commander. Commanding officer Lt Col Andrew Durcan led more than 250 officers and men on parade

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Fair shares on NI tours

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER – See Page 5

AN AVERAGE 24-month interval between tours in Northern Ireland is still the aim once restructuring of the Services is completed.

Earlier this year the House of Commons Defence Committee reported its concern about infantry overstretch resulting from emergency tours having to be undertaken while some units were undermanned.

A Government statement issued on the same day as the Defence White Paper acknowledges overstretch to be one of

the major causes of concern within the Army.

The average 24-month tour interval should be possible, it says, with a fairer sharing of emergency tours between infantry battalions; the wider employment of other arms and of the Royal Marines; and a return to full manning of individual units.

Nato-assigned units had

always undertaken emergency tours in Northern Ireland, but would now do so more often, while bearing in mind the need to be able to return to their primary roles.

The Committee had called for a re-assessment of the force structures proposed by the Options review in the light of world developments.

In its response, the Government says that the need to allow enough leeway to deal with the unexpected as well as known commitments was a major consideration in the Options exercise and "has indicated its willingness to review force levels should it judge that to be necessary."

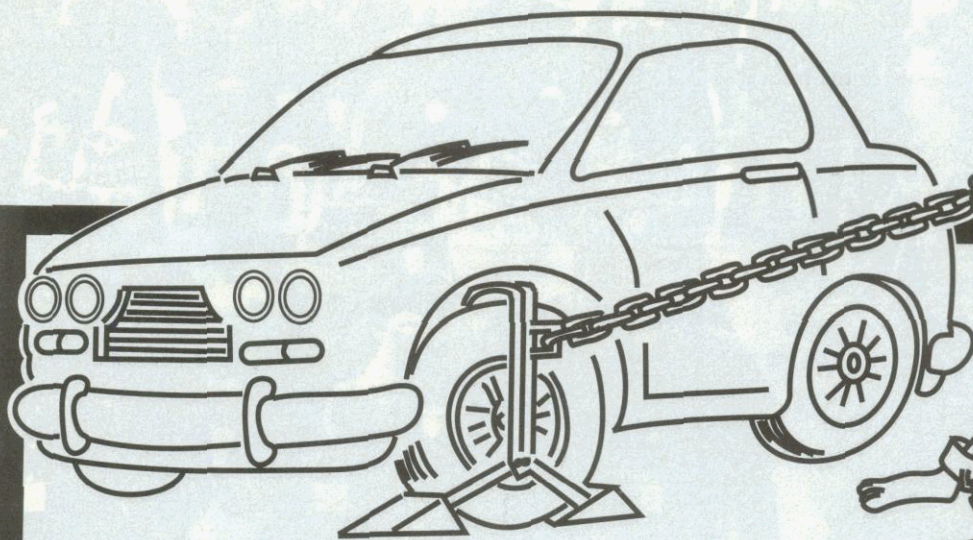
Other Government responses to committee concerns:

● **Rapid Reaction Corps:** The need for logistic support and for strategic and tactical mobility is being addressed by

● **Turn to Page 5**

FRONT COVER: Main picture – Camouflage and concealment technique is one of the battle skills which have been passed on to junior leaders training with the Junior Infantry Battalion at Shorncliffe which closes at the end of this month. See Pages

18-19 (Picture: Terry Champion). **INSET** – Capt Simon Lowe, R Signals (foreground) and Sgt Terry Moore, RAF on the West Ridge with the summit of Everest tantalisingly close in the background. See Pages 26-27. (Everest expedition picture).



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Females make the 'front line' headlines

THE PROSPECT of women serving in infantry or armoured regiments was raised at a press conference following the publication of the Defence White Paper.

Newspaper headlines the

next day included: "Women set to join Paras in the front line" and "Army women may be sent to the battle front". Another stated: "Front-line combat for females is unlikely".

The White Paper underlines

the commitment to seek further improvements in women's career opportunities in the Services following considerable advances in recent years.

Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told defence

correspondents that although a review was under way to decide whether women should be further involved in the armed service there would be some reluctance to see females in the infantry.

MoD lifts the veil

A NEW openness about Service strengths and equipment is a feature of the Defence White Paper.

Previously some of these details were classified but after the release of equipment data covered by the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, the MoD has concluded that it is now appropriate to publish the information more widely.

The document, officially titled *Statement of the Defence Estimates 1992*, lists in detail the breakdown of Army equipment down to brigade level – revealing, for example, 7 Armoured Brigade as having 114 Challenger tanks and 24 other tanks.

For the first time, tables show weapon systems and platforms for all three Services and not just the Army and also give the in-service dates.

For the SA 80 rifle (in-service date 1986), for example, figures show that 332,000 were ordered up to 1991 and 83,000 were brought into service during 1991-92.

New "companion" to the White Paper is *Defence Statistics*, produced by the MoD's newly-established Defence Analytical Services Agency to replace Volume 2 of the Defence Estimates.

It contains detailed information, broken down into sub-categories.

Both are HMSO publications. The White Paper costs £8.50 and Defence Statistics £6.95.



The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, takes the salute at the Military Stadium during the Airborne Forces Day parade in Aldershot

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Nato passed Granby test

NATO partners in the Gulf coalition were able to draw on 40 years of shared experience, enabling them to integrate more easily than non-Nato contributors, according to the White Paper.

An evaluation of lessons learned in the Gulf concludes that there is a clear need to build on this foundation.

Other points were:

- Challenger 1 "gave an effective performance", its Thermal Observation and Gunnery System (TOGS) giving it a significant advantage over enemy armour. Vehicle reliability and the performance of the fire control system were limiting factors;

- After teething problems, the performance of Warrior was "generally excellent";

- Lynx helicopters lacked a number of capabilities, particu-

larly survivability;

- CVR(T) light armoured recce vehicles were constrained by a relative lack of mobility, protection and older generation optics. The long-serving Midge airborne surveillance drone, due to be replaced in 1993 by Phoenix, proved unreliable;

- Maps provided by the Directorate of Military Survey played a crucial role;

- The smoothness of the resupply operation proved the flexibility of the Army's existing logistic organisation;

- Quality and professionalism of British Service personnel and civilian support was a key factor.

The White Paper concludes: "Some adjustments will be made as a result of Operation Granby but no requirement was identified which demands a major change in direction."

New roles outlined

CHANGING circumstances have led to a new definition of Britain's defence role.

The 1992 Defence White Paper sets out three tasks for the armed forces:

- To ensure the protection and security of the United Kingdom and our dependent territories, even where there is no major external threat.

- To insure against any major external threat to the UK and our allies.

- To contribute to promoting the UK's wider security interests through the maintenance of international peace and stability.

"The strategic environment has been transformed over the last four years," says Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind. "Further change is inevitable."

"We are reshaping the forces to ensure that they can cope flexibly and robustly with such change. We shall therefore continue to assess the demands likely to be made on our armed forces and ensure that the Services are of a scale and quality to be able to respond to those challenges."

Fair shares

● From Page 3

both national and Nato planning staffs and would be taken into account in the development of the future equipment programme.

- **Public duties:** While ways of reducing the public duties commitment continue to be considered in line with Army reductions, neither security nor major ceremonial will be put at risk. There are no plans to change the public duties funding arrangement.

- **Amalgamations:** Debate over the reasons for individual decisions would be "potentially destructive and damaging to morale". It was best now to look to the positive aspects of restructuring, such as a return to full manning.

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DISCOVERY

Phase 2 redundancies to target 6,500

PLANS FOR the next phase of Army redundancies, involving 6,500 people, are due to be made known at the end of this month.

Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told the

Commons that the pattern would be similar to the first phase. The timetable and plans would be published at the end of July and individuals informed during the first quarter of 1993.

"It is likely that the number of personnel to be made redundant in the second phase in 1993-94 will be in the region of 6,500," he said.

"Individuals will receive up to 12 months' notice and full

resettlement assistance."

A total of 3,338 Army personnel – 838 officers and 2,500 soldiers – were selected last February for the first phase. All but 143 officers were volunteers.

Paras trial lower drops

THE HIGH-flying Parachute Regiment is lowering its sights – to improve operational efficiency.

Paras in training are dropped from aircraft at a height of 800ft, reducing to around 600ft on operations. Now a low-level parachute jump technique is under trial to allow Britain's crack parachute force to leap into action at between 350ft and 400ft.

The aim is to cut the time a parachutist remains most vulnerable, when he is dangling beneath his 'chute. The development has been made possible by a new mechanism which allows the parachute to open much faster than before.

The new system was trialled with weights, but now individual soldiers are being dropped.

"All are volunteers," said a spokesman. "They start jumping high and the altitude is gradually reduced."

The low-level technique will be tested on a massed drop, but only after extensive trials have been completed.

● The Parachute Regiment Depot at Browning Barracks, Aldershot will close next spring with Phase 1 training of recruits transferring to Lichfield where a Para training company will be based. After completion of basic training, the soldiers will move to Crickhowell in Wales for Phase 2. All-Arms P Company will also transfer to the new Welsh base which will be shared with the Guards.

EOD war team receives Gulf Medals



Army bomb disposal experts who made safe a crashed Scud missile in Riyadh during the Gulf War and cleared Iraqi demolition charges along the main supply route from Hafir Al Batin to Kuwait City have received Gulf Medals. Members of 221

EOD Company RAOC, who later cleared 270 enemy aircraft of munitions, are pictured with a remote-controlled Wheelbarrow vehicle at their base in the Bundeswehr depot at Walsrode near Fallingbommel in Germany.

Queens-Hamps merger brought forward

THE AMALGAMATION of The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment, scheduled under Options for Change to take place in February next year, has been brought forward to September 9, making it the first Infantry merger under the Drawdown.

Details of the new date are given in the latest issue of the Queens' regimental journal.

The merger has been re-scheduled to coincide with the return of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, The Queen's Regiment from service in Berlin and Cyprus, so reducing the domestic upheaval of a second move in six months.

Some issues, such as the name of the new regiment – The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment – have been agreed

by the colonels of the Queens and R Hamps, but await royal approval or other final clearance. Details announced by the regimental journal include:

● Princess of Wales to be Colonel-in-Chief; Queen Margrethe II of Denmark to be Allied Colonel-in-Chief; Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, late Gren Gds, to be Colonel of the regiment.

● PWRR to have two Regular battalions (comprising 25 per cent of each of the existing four battalions), the 1st Battalion to form in Colchester, the 2nd in Canterbury.

● One extra company badged PWRR to be attached

to 1 DERR for 18 months and two extra platoons badged PWRR attached to 1 RS and 1 RWF for nine months.

● RHQ of the new regiment will be in Canterbury with an area office in Winchester.

● Cap badge will be the present Queens' badge with a rose inserted beneath the Tudor dragon and the scroll to show "Princess of Wales's".

● Regimental quick march will be the introduction of *Farmer's Boy* leading into *Soldier of the Queen*. Slow march will be *Minden Rose*.

Final parades of 1 and 3 Queens were held in May and June, and the 2nd Battalion held a final reunion on May 10. The final regimental dinner is to be held on November 20.

A series of Royal Hampshire Regiment Freedom marches through Hampshire towns was culminating with a farewell parade through Winchester on July 23.

Leaders wanted for Chile expedition

SOLDIERS are needed to provide special skills on a three-month long Raleigh International (formerly Operation Raleigh) expedition to Patagonia, southern Chile. Applica-

tions from sea kayaking instructors and snow and ice climbers are required by the end of July. Enquiries should be made to Raleigh International on 071-351 7541.

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Yorkshire cavalry on final parade



The Guidon of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) is paraded for the last time in front of past and present members of the regiment during a ceremony at Wolfenbüttel, Germany. The regiment, which traditionally recruits from the South Yorkshire and North Humber-side areas, is preparing to amalgamate with the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars to form The Light Dragoons based at Hohn

3 RTR shows its Colours for last time



6 Brigade says its farewells

A Union flag and brass plaque have been placed in the Rathaus of Soest, Bad Sassendorf, Werl, Iserlohn, Hemer and Luedenscheid to mark the links formed between members of 6 Armoured Brigade and the Soest community over many years. Before the disbandment of 6 Arm'd Bde, Brigade Commander Brig Christopher Elliott visited each burgermeister to say farewell on behalf of his soldiers and their families.

BMH Hannover closed on July 1 after 46 years of caring for Service personnel based in Germany. The hospital's workload has been transferred 60 miles west to BMH Rinteln, near Minden.

Hemer's Freedom

Men of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment (pictured above) and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers marked the end of an era for the British Army stationed at Dellingshofen, when they marched through the streets of nearby Hemer after receiving the town's Freedom. Under Options for Change 3 RTR is amalgamating with 2 RTR, and the three RRF battalions are merging into two



An historic moment for the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment at Hemer as it paraded its Colours in front of past and present members of the regiment for the last time before amalgamating with the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment from Catterick. The re-formed 2 RTR will be based at Fallingbowl

VIP flight on the move

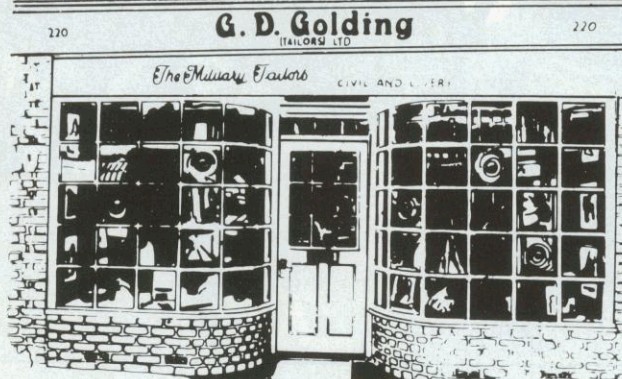
THE VIP helicopter service provided by 12 Flight AAC to senior staff at JHQ Rheinland is switching its base to RAF Bruggen. The move was forced on 12 Flight because RAF Wildenrath, its home for the past 17 years, is to close later this year under Options for Change.

Paras drowned

LCPLs Richard Coulson, 25, and Peter Sullivan, 26, of B Company, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment drowned while patrolling the banks of a fast-flowing river near Coalisland, Co Tyrone. The battalion has returned to Aldershot after a six-month tour in the Province.

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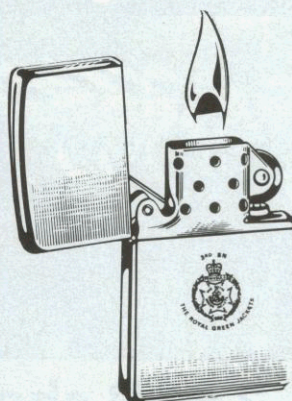
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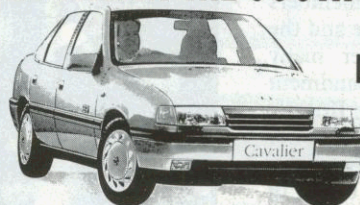
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Above – The Mayor of Newtownards, Co Down, Coun David Smyth, presents a commemorative piece of silver to Col John Cochrane, Deputy Colonel of The Royal Irish Rangers, to mark the granting of the Freedom of the Borough. One hundred men of 5 (V) R Irish paraded to receive the freedom. Next April the 5th Battalion is due to merge with the 4th to form the 4/5 Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (Volunteers). Left – The Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council inspects members of 206 Battery, 102 Air Defence Regiment RA (V) after they had received the Freedom of Coleraine

HALF-YEARLY PROMOTIONS

The following promotions are effective from June 30.

Colonel to Brigadier: W H Backhouse, late R Signals; P V R Besgrove, late REME; R A Bradbury, late RE; C R Burson, late RA; A J K Calder, late R Anglian; I Cameron, late RMP; C D Daukes, late 4/7 DG; E N de Broe-Ferguson, late BW; J R Drew, late REME; M R Frisby, late Coldm Gds; C Geal, late RAPC; N M Haynes, late 2 GR; S M A Lee, late R Signals; C J Marchant Smith, late Green Howards; A C Massey, late RCT; S M B O'Meara, late RAPC; A R D Pringle, late RGJ; P P Rawlins, late R Anglian; A P V Rogers, late ALC; J M Roulstone, late WRAC; M J Squire, late RCT; A J Stevens, late RA; G D Williams, late RCT; B J Willing, late R Hamps; J A Wright, late 16/5 L.

Lt Col to Colonel: J A Anderson, 6 GR; J D C Anderson, RE; S C H Ashworth, WFR; G J Barrett, R Signals; M J Blyth, RCT; C W Bone, AG Corps (SPS); J N Barclay, AG Corps (ALS); T R Bright, RPC; R V Brims, LI; R W Brummitt, RTR; F A Bush, RCT; W J Chesshyre, RE; J W Chuter, REME; R S Conder, AG Corps (SPS); R J Croucher, REME; A P N Currie, RA; T M A Daly, DERR; C I Darnell, KOSB; M S Davies, R Signals; C A Den-McKay, RAOC; T C L Drake, AG Corps (SPS); P J

Durrant, Glosters; L C Edwards-Major, AG Corps (ETS); J H Eliot, RA; C Field GM, RAOC; A C Figgures, REME; M W Foster, RE; T H E Foulkes, RE; R S Fox, QOH; R J M Garrett, LI; D M Gill, RE; M F Gibson, RS; R D S Gordon, 17/21 L; W G Harrison, REME; G J Haig, RCT; J R Hawkins, RAOC; J S Hendry, AG Corps (ETS); M G R Hodson, RCT; C G Holtom, Int Corps; W J R Hughes, RE; M Huntley, REME; I A Johnstone, RS; D A Jones, AG Corps (SPS); M H Kefford, 7 GR; G L Kerr, RA; A W King-Harman, RA; P B Kirby, RA; J D Lacey, R Anglian; R A Langstaff, Int Corps; M C H Manners-Smith, RGJ; P D P McQueen, AAC; A D Meek, DWR; S G Middleton, REME; T F Moncur, R Signals; R J Morris, RH; V J Nicholls, AG Corps (SPS); K P O'Kelly, RAOC; C W Paskell, REME; B P Plummer, RWF; E M Powell, R Signals; C E Price, Gordons; R Pridham, RE; C McA Pyman, Scots DG; D E Radcliffe, RA; M R Raworth, RA; G Risius, AG Corps (ALS); J H Roberts, R Signals; D J Ross, RWF; E W Sant, AG Corps (SPS); S W J Saunders, DERR; J M Shaw, R Signals; D H A Shephard, Queens; C S Sibun, AAC; G W Somerville, RCT; D P Stephenson, RE; R J R Symonds, RA; J R M Townsend, WFR; R D

● Turn to Page 34

BATUS centre opened

A NEW adventure training centre was officially opened by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie during his first visit to BATUS as Commander 1 (BR) Corps. Located in the foothills of the Rockies, the centre is 40 miles west of Calgary.

First group to use "Trails End" as their base camp were men from the Medicine Man 1 battlegroup of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

BATES, the Army's new Battlefield Artillery Targeting and Engagement System, has entered service with 4th Fd Regt RA in Germany.

The Falkland Islands Defence Force, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, is to replace its dated L1A1 SLRs with the Steyr AUG assault rifle.

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Bulletin makes the headlines

★ Congratulations to *Berlin Bulletin*, the weekly garrison magazine for British Servicemen stationed in the city, on its 40th anniversary. Their birthday gives us a chance to put the *Bulletin* editorial team in the headlines for a change. From left to right are (standing) the editor, Lt Col **Tony Brister**, AG Corps (ETS), editorial assistant **Wendy Gwynne**, features editor **Bob Forde** and (seated) **Janette Roberts**, the assistant editor.

★ Issue No 1 was published on June 27, 1952, since when the magazine's pages have recorded daily life in the garrison and the British Army's involvement in some of the most significant events in world history, from President Kennedy's 1963 visit to the collapse of the Wall. The President's assassination was marked by a black border on the front page and a message of condolence from the British Military Governor to the American people.

★ The first issue of the *Bulletin* featured a front page picture of the Welsh Guards parading with their Colour on the Queen's Birthday, and the 1952 Berlin inter-unit athletics results.



EFI medals



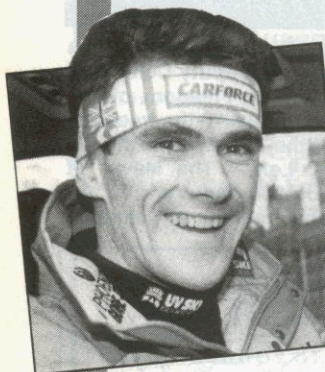
Cpls **Richard Starkie** and **Brian McCourt** of the Expeditionary Forces Institute pose with their Gulf Medals after a ceremony at EFI headquarters in Surrey. The two men, among the first civilian volunteers in the battle zone, were stationed with 4 and 7 Armoured Brigades in the desert for five months. Richard's next job is likely to be just as interesting – serving UN troops in Croatia.



Mountain men

An eight-man expedition of soldiers from Aldershot Garrison conquered the notorious Grande Ronde 20 Trail, a 58-mile mountaineering route rising to 7,400ft through the northern region of Corsica. Pictured from left are LCpl **Jeff Horrocks**, LCpl **Alan Day**, Capt **Geoff Matthews**, LCpl **Fossie Foster**, SSgt **Neville Sullivan**, Sgt **Stephen Weaver**, LCpl **Swells Borton** and WO **Bill Bailey**.

Olympians saluted



Capt **Hugh Hutchison**, RE joined 800 other Olympians at Winslow, near Manchester, to receive a commemorative pin from the Manchester 2000 Olympic Bid Committee on behalf of the British Olympic Committee. Hugh, Ops Officer with 3 Training Regiment RE, has been one of the Army's most successful downhill skiers for several years. He was the best-placed British skier in the mogul event at the Albertville Winter Olympics, finishing 25th. Hugh received his pin from hockey star Imran Sherwari, a member of the British team which won Olympic gold.

Bashful Brownies meet Queen Mother



Accompanied by commanding officer Lt Col **Nigel Lithgow**, the **Queen Mother** meets some shy Brownies during her visit to the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch at their annual families' fete at Clive Barracks, Tern Hill.

The Queen Mother, who in May completed 55 years as the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, was making her first full visit to 1 BW since Berlin in 1990 and her last before the battalion moves to Hong Kong in December.

Her Majesty's family home of Glamis Castle, Angus, is deep within the Black Watch's historic recruiting area.

Rock's man of power

Capt **Bob Rainey**, RE (left) is the man behind the power on Gibraltar. He and his team of 17 soldiers run the MoD's 23.5 megawatt diesel power station in the middle of the naval base, providing electricity to Service establishments and married quarters. Pictured with him are WO **Mac McDonald** (rear) and LCpl **Trev Hollingsbee**.



PEOPLE



Maj Gen **Edwin Beckett**, Colonel Commandant of the King's Division, ties a banner to the pipes of Pipe Major **Donny McLeod**, of 1 R Irish, assisted by Maj Gen **Roger Wheeler** (centre) Colonel of The Royal Irish Rangers. The pipe banner was a gift from the King's Division to mark the departure of the Irish Rangers from the Division on the formation of the new Royal Irish Regiment.

In return, the Rangers presented to the Division a historic print depicting the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, one of three regiments from which the Irish Rangers were formed in 1968. The ceremony took place in the presence of Gen Sir **Peter Inge**, Chief of the General Staff, during the King's Division conference at York.

Parting gifts for R Irish

Seventy-four silver goblets originally belonging to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were held in trust by 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers before its amalgamation with The Ulster Defence Regiment to form the Royal Irish Regiment. The first was presented in 1863 and the last in 1958.

Now there are 75, and the latest is the first and last to be presented to the Rangers.

The 10½ oz silver drinking vessel was purchased by three serving officers of the regiment, Maj **Jeremy Brooks** (pictured), Lt Col **Phillip Baxter** and Maj **Guy Bettesworth**.



Cardinal in Aldershot

Service children were among the hundreds of Catholics who greeted Cardinal **Basil Hume**, Archbishop of Westminster, at the annual United Services Catholic Association mass at St Michael and St George's Garrison RC Church in Aldershot. Pictured beside the Cardinal is Father **David Lewis**, parish priest of St Joseph's in Aldershot.

Cardinal Hume was the chief concelebrant and was assisted by the Rt Rev **Francis Walmsley**, RC Bishop to the Forces, local Roman Catholic clergy and many serving and retired Service chaplains.

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All change for the old Second

THE 2nd Royal Tank Regiment returning to Germany is not the same formation which went to Catterick two-and-a-half years ago.

Ajax, Badger, Cyclops, Huntsman and Nero – the distinctive names of the squadrons – are no longer in the order of battle. Neither are 175 soldiers.

The old Second had its final parade early in June but is now amalgamating with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in Fallingbommel, where the new Second will hold its first parade on August 5. It is being replaced at Catterick by The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

(1 RTR and 4 RTR are due to amalgamate in autumn 1993 at Tidworth and will be known as 1 RTR.)

The new Second, like the old, is commanded by Lt Col David Leakey, who spent 30 years in 3 RTR, while the present 3 RTR CO, Lt Col Andrew Ridgway, commanded a 2 RTR squadron.

Each regiment had to relinquish some of its distinctive traits, but the fact that each CO had served in the other regiment and knew the personalities and characteristics was an enormous advantage.

"We have the same root and our uniforms are broadly similar, therefore the amalgamation has been easier than for those with a longer heritage and a much more disparate ethos as reflected in the different colours of their

uniforms," said Lt Col Leakey.

Although sad at the demise of their regiments, both recognise that there is a reduced threat and a need to adapt Britain's defence capability. A positive optimism is taking them forward.

"It is excellent that the threat which has almost mesmerised our doctrinal thinking is evaporating because it has made us think in a more original and constructive way about how armour might be used," said Lt Col Leakey.

"Armour has a role in any warfare and the skills and expertise are not things we as an army can dispense with, but we are looking at our doctrines to make them more adaptable

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Terry Champion

to the changed nature of warfare in Europe."

After 18 years in Germany, 2 RTR has spent the past two-and-a-half years as the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment. One squadron provides the basic military training for recruits, a trades squadron covers initial signals, driving and gunnery training, and a support squadron with a large vehicle wing ensures that 40 Chieftain tanks and 25 combat reconnaissance vehicles are available for the other two squadrons.

The regiment's Badger and Huntsman squadrons support the RAC centre at Bovington and the RAC gunnery school at Lulworth, but because of the split and demands of courses it

● Turn to next page



Lt Col David Leakey, commanding officer of 2 RTR

Second change

● From Page 15

has been difficult to have a full regimental life.

RAC recruit training in Catterick will end early in 1993. After that, all Army recruits will attend one of five centralised training camps, with RAC recruits going to Flowerdown outside Winchester. Catterick's RAC instructors hope that an RAC squadron at Flowerdown will maintain their traditions.

The trade squadron is due to close early in 1994 and be concentrated at Bovington and Lulworth, and the RAC Training Regiment's long tradition in Catterick, started by 56 Training Regiment in November 1939, will come to an end.

No sweat, Mum! Ajax Sqn will get him through

MOTHERS hardly recognise their boys when Sgt Dicky Bird of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment has finished with them. But they thank him for what he has done.

He is one of the troop sergeants with Ajax Squadron, which provides basic military training for all recruits to the Royal Armoured Corps at Catterick.

"We have a little demonstration for families half-way through the ten weeks' course and mothers sometimes comment we've done more for their son in five weeks than they've managed in 18 years," he said.

It is not unknown for recruits, having completed their passing out parade, to thank the troop staff for putting them through it.

Methods have changed since Sgt Bird was a Junior Leader at Bovington in 1977.

"When you are back at a unit

and see the young recruits coming in, you wonder who is training them," he said. "But doing the job, you realise how difficult it is to change them into basic soldiers. I have 11 guys under 18 who are very young, very naive and probably still a bit bewildered. They have probably never had a job or been away from home."

It is a long way from BMT (basic military training) to MBT (main battle tank) crewman. Although now classed as "trained" soldiers, the youngsters still have another 11 weeks in the Trade Training Squadron where they learn signals and their basic trade as drivers or gunners.

Having to use their brains again comes as a culture shock after the physical demands of BMT, but every prospective crewman has to prove he is bright enough to operate a radio.

Each tank has two radios and all four crew members must be able to communicate on both. If the loader is operating the machine gun and the commander is navigating and fighting the battle, the gunner may be given a piece of paper, pen and the BATCO wallet and asked to decode a signal. If the other three are incapacitated the driver must be able to summon help and send a coded grid.

During their last exercise – on a model board – Sgt John Skelton increases the pressure by injecting sightings and incidents into the plot.

"We very rarely get anybody failing completely, though some do need another week," said Sgt Skelton, who trains recruits for two weeks. "They can retake the exam or the whole course, but if they fail the whole two weeks again then it is very doubtful if they will make tank crewmen."



Above – Sgt John Skelton becomes a colonel for the final signals exercise

Left – Sgt Dicky Bird (right) takes RAC recruits through the water



Cpl Jeremy Da Costa, 2 RTR, and Cpl Mark Beveridge, Scots DG, brief Tpr Will Humphries, a potential officer for the Royal Hussars



Keeping the Chieftains greased up for action are LCpl Andy Toppings (right) and Tpr Geoff Barron

A MATTER OF POTENTIAL

SHIFTING an oil drum across a pond of shark-infested custard with only two unequal planks and a bit of rope would hold no terrors for Cpl Jeremy Da Costa, of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

He would have a head start at the Regular Commissions Board (RCB) at Westbury, Wilts, because he knows the solutions to the fiendish command tasks so beloved of directing staff.

Cpl "DC" devises similar tasks at Catterick, subjecting potential Royal Armoured Corps officers to character-broadening problems. As long as they succeed in the allotted time he is a happy man.

He finds that his charges have a tendency to read too much into a task and complicate it. But corporals have to know when to be

aggressive to get more out of students, when to encourage them, and when to be silent.

Criticism has to be constructive because not all potential officers are mature enough to go forward for commissioning and there is little point in destroying the self-confidence he is trying to build up.

"You've got to show them the correct way to do things and bring the best out of them, especially in command tasks and in planning projects," he said.

The Royal Armoured Corps holds about nine three-day pre-RCB briefings a year, and those candidates staff think could make the grade with a little extra development attend a voluntary Potential Officers course run by 2 RTR.

Graduates can be on the same course as 18-year-olds who have

left school three months previously. The wing does not teach them how to pass RCB, nor does it copy RCB tasks, but concentrates on developing leadership qualities and confidence.

"We are more orientated towards character-building than teaching," said Cpl Da Costa.

Capt Henry Cummins of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards believes he has the finest junior NCOs in the regiment to carry out the task. He is officer commanding the Potential Officers' Wing in preparation for the Scots DG taking over from 2 RTR in July and was himself personally approved by the Director of the RAC.

"Officers have to appreciate what the soldiers go through and lead by example, so the course is mentally demanding,"

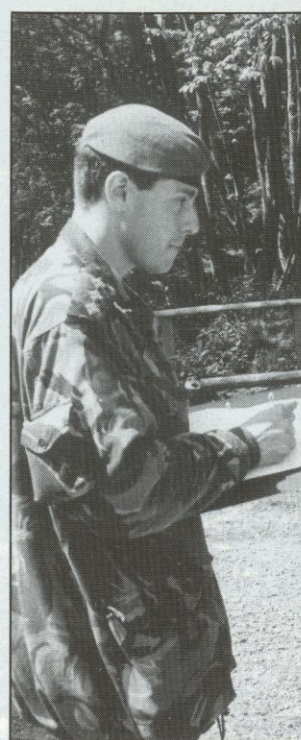
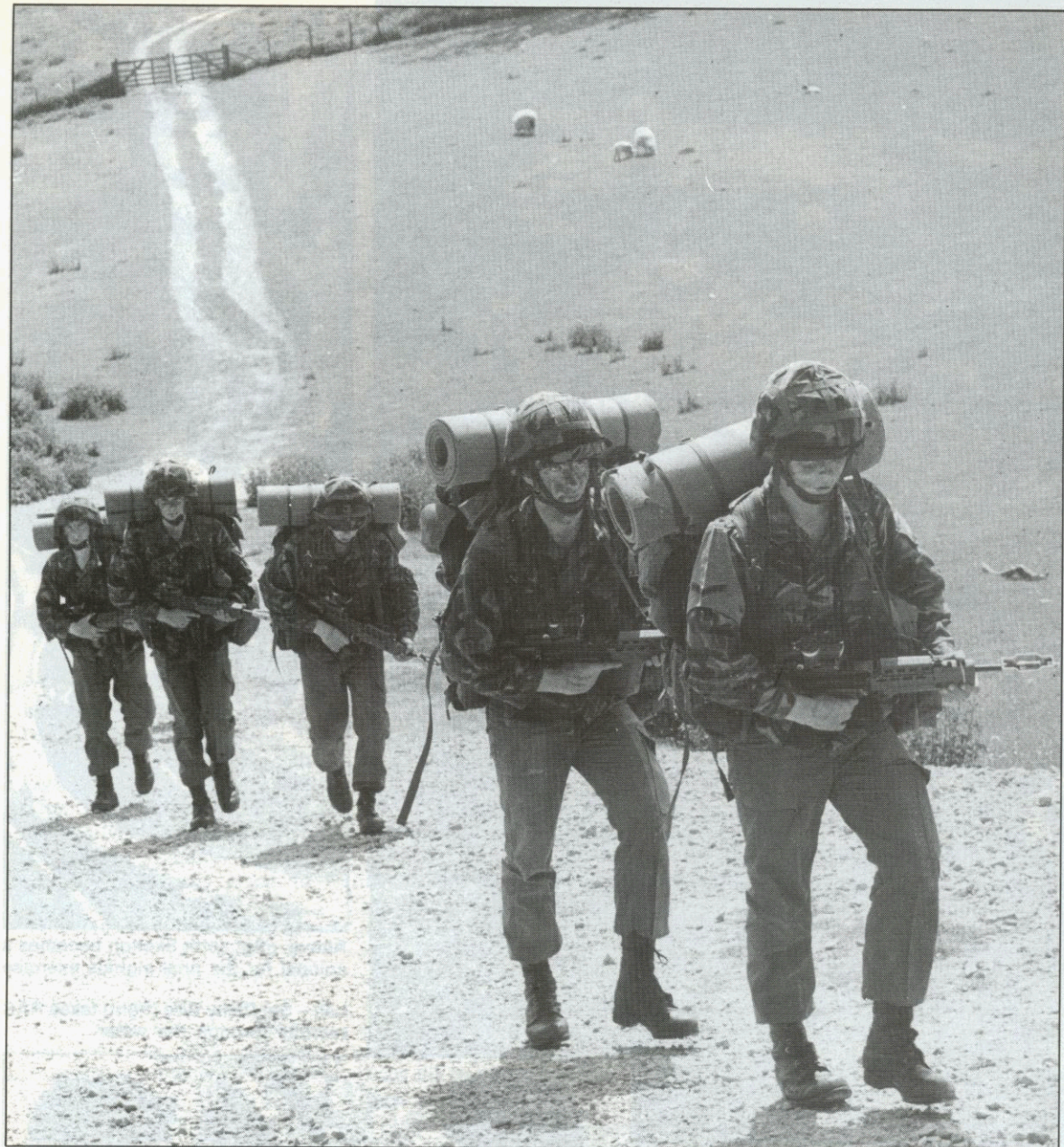
said Capt Cummins. "They are put under physical pressure then made to think, which is when thinking becomes difficult. They may well have a forced march at night before tackling command tasks."

It is important to get the balance right. More than a quarter of the course is devoted to adventurous training, and a sixth on giving talks in public, current affairs and essay writing. It is all geared to potential officers showing

themselves in the best light at Westbury.

"By and large they improve and their characters develop quite quickly," he said. "The first three weeks are a shock, then they progress by leaps and bounds. Some aren't receptive but some change completely."

"It is interesting to think how some public schoolboys change in eight weeks after their parents have spent thousands of pounds on their education."



Above – Junior leaders are always a little apprehensive when Capt Paul Bailey, R Anglian (left) judges their personal cam before a camouflage and concealment exercise



Left – This junior infantry section crossed the Cinque Ports training area without difficulty



Right – Capt Mark Chynoweth, Adjutant JIB Shorncliffe

WO1 (RSM) Neil Richardson is a Shorncliffe "Old Boy". He trained there from 1968 to 1970, passing out with Intake 4 to join The Royal Anglian Regiment



J/LCpl Chunky Stevens provides the paddle power to get his section across a Welsh mountain reservoir. Hanging on behind is J/LCpl Mark Stone

As the Junior Infantry Battalion moves on, it's . . . **FAREWELL TO SHORNCLIFFE**

A GENERATION of junior soldiers has cause to thank the staff and instructors of the Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe, who gave them a grounding in military skills that are second to none.

Training at the base ceases at the end of this month and the young soldiers are being transferred to continue their training at the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery at Bramcote, which will become one of two new Army Junior Leaders Regiments next January. The other will replace the existing apprentice training at Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

Sir John Moore Barracks,

Shorncliffe, opened in 1967 and trained junior soldiers for the three regiments of the Queen's Division, nine regiments of the Prince of Wales's Division, and the Royal Pioneer Corps.

Aged between 15 years 11 months and 17, junior leaders spent a year at JIB undergoing military training as well as extensive leadership and educational training.

Longest-running exercise for juniors at Shorncliffe must have been Exercise Black Knight which took place annually on the Brecon Beacons.

The exercise was designed to test the youngsters' practical

skills in all aspects of external leadership, including route planning, navigation, mountain craft, abseiling and a series of initiative tests.

Command tasks included bridging a ravine or pulling a collection of concrete-filled beer kegs on a trailer over a tortuously hilly course.

"While carrying out the tasks, the students' leadership qualities would be assessed under extremes of physical stress, sustained concentration and intensive response," explained Capt Huw Morgan-Owen, RRW.

The role of the Junior

Infantry Battalion is to train junior leaders in phases 1 and 2 of the Common Military Syllabus. They would spend a year at Shorncliffe going through basic training on to the standard at which they actually pass out and join their battalions fully trained.

Some of the soldiers, particularly from the Prince of Wales's Division, would, before going to their battalions, go to Lichfield to where they would join a drums and sustained fire machine gun cadre. Most, however, would go direct to their battalions wherever they were serving in the world.

Subjects covered were those

any recruit at an adult depot would learn, such as weapon training, map reading and first aid, but junior leaders would have carried out a substantial amount of leadership training with a view to looking for a place on a junior NCOs' cadre within just one or two years of leaving JIB.

Before passing out, all soldiers would be put through their paces on the commanding officer's (Lt Col Tim Merritt, RRF) test exercise.

"The testex confirmed all the military skills learned by the soldiers including NBC, fire and manoeuvre and first aid," said JIB Adjutant, Capt Mark Chynoweth, Glosters.

Some of this was quite impressive. The camouflage test gave military students 60 seconds to hide in the undergrowth.

Top marks went to those who remained unseen by the sharp-eyed instructors, even after firing their SA 80s and correctly identifying the colour of a small card displayed to view.

Another test involved judging distance which is a vital

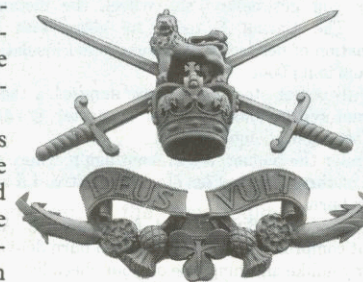
military skill for infantrymen who need to fix fire on a particular target, while another thrust the young men into a realistic casualty drill in which they were faced with the prospect of carrying out first aid on grievously-wounded colleagues – simulated, of course.

Army junior sport will be much the poorer with the demise of Shorncliffe who are current holders of the Junior

Challenge and Youth Cups for Army Football, but Bramcote stands to benefit with the influx of competitive young infantrymen who are currently also Army junior champions at cross country, judo and swimming.

It is very much a case of Shorncliffe's loss being Bramcote's gain.

The future of the base as a whole remains undecided, but it has been confirmed that the Headquarters of the 2nd Infantry Brigade will be moving from nearby Risborough Barracks into part of Sir John Moore Barracks as a result of increases in the size of the headquarters and Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison.



Crest of the JIB Shorncliffe
Deus Vult – God willing



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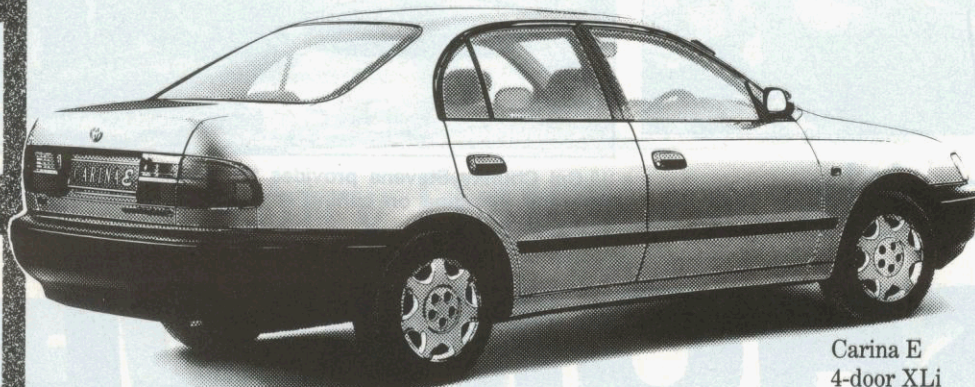
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In Germany, the birth of The Royal Irish Regiment was heralded by a stunning firework display at Lemgo

Heavens open to herald birth of Irish Regiment

"NO MORE parades, Royal Irish Rangers and Ulster Defence Regiment. March away!" was the final order that marked the end of two fine regiments and the formation of the British Army's newest and largest, writes Laurie Manton.

The lament of a single piper added poignancy to the parade at Warminster as the occasion was marked by special events in England, Northern Ireland and Germany.

At Warminster, umbrellas blossomed like flowers as the Duke of York, recently appointed Colonel in Chief of the new Royal Irish Regiment, watched in pouring rain a midnight parade of 280 officers and soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers and The Ulster Defence Regiment.

As the Duke arrived, soldiers



Wearing the uniform of the new regiment, The Duke of York inspects the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment at Warminster

of the two regiments were positioned separately on the floodlit parade ground. After the inspection, their lines merged as they marched off to the music of the regimental band, pipes, bugles and drums.

After a short silence they

marched back again as one unit, all wearing the new uniform of The Royal Irish Regiment. Behind them a fireworks badge of the new regiment flared out of the darkness.

Prince Andrew addressed the

parade and afterwards joined a champagne breakfast to toast the future of the new regiment.

At Ballykinler, there were puddles on the square but no rain as the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilsey, reviewed the first passing out parade of The Royal Irish Regiment.

Of the 33 recruits, 13 will go to the general service battalion and 20 to home service battalions.

Also on parade was a Colour Party from 8 R Irish, a guard of 33 from Barrosa Platoon (the second recruit's course, which began on March 3), and a composite guard of 28 drawn from all home service battalions.

Eight Greenfinches were on the parade square as markers and the pipes and drums of the

● Turn to next page



The GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilsey inspects the first passing out parade of Royal Irish recruits at Ballykinler

New regiment is Infantry's largest

THE ROYAL Irish Regiment is the largest infantry regiment in the Army. Initially it has two general service battalions earmarked for worldwide duties, including tours in Northern Ireland. The two battalions will reduce to one next year.

In addition, the regiment has seven home service (HS) battalions whose soldiers serve only in Northern Ireland, although they may have to travel overseas for training. A regimental headquarters and depot has been established at Ballymena.

The general service (GS)

battalion will have a strength of about 650 all ranks. Total strength of the home-based battalions is about 6,000 — made up of full-time and part-time soldiers in equal parts.

Role of the new regiment is identical to that of other regiments within the Regular Army, namely to keep the peace.

In Northern Ireland it will seek to recruit from all sections of the community.

While Northern Ireland will be the main recruiting area, men and women from the rest of the United Kingdom with

Irish family links will be actively encouraged to join. Recruits from the Republic of Ireland will be particularly welcome.

The GS battalion can look forward to travelling all over the world, ranging from deployment on Nato duties to service with the United Nations.

Soldiers in the home-based battalions will also have an opportunity to travel. Some training

will be done on the mainland and there will be opportunities for attachments to the GS battalion on deployment in its worldwide role. Home-based soldiers may also apply to join the GS battalion as a career move.

The new regiment will have its own regimental band of about 35 musicians and each battalion is likely to retain its own pipes and drums.

In name The Royal Irish Regiment is the oldest of all the Irish regiments. The original regiment to bear the name traced its history to 1684 and the raising of a body of troops by the Earl of Granard.

The regiment fought at the



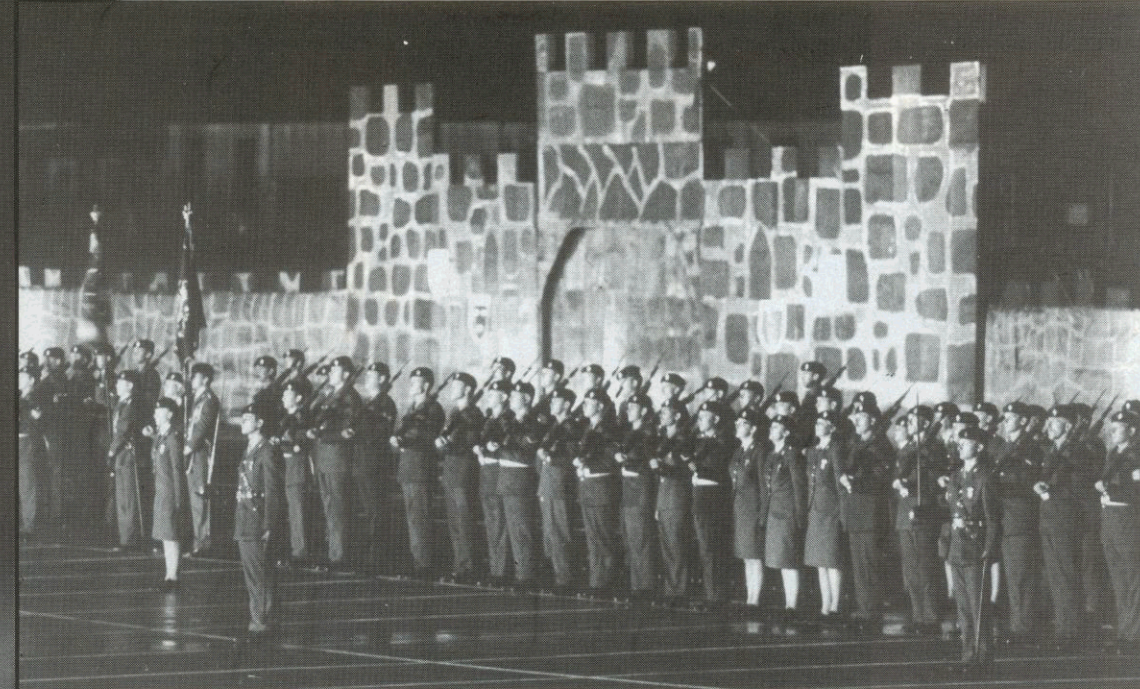
Searchlights pierce the sky at Warminster as soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers and The Ulster Defence Regiment parade at midnight to launch the new Royal Irish Regiment in the presence of their Colonel-in-Chief, The Duke of York

Boyne and Aughrim and went on to fight in many famous battles and campaigns, among them Blenheim, Ramilles, the Crimea, the Boer War, and Flanders and Gallipoli before being disbanded in 1922.

The Royal Irish Regiment's uniform reflects the traditions of its four former regiments. The green hackle was the traditional plume colour of The Royal Irish Fusiliers; the castle collar badges are the original badge of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; the black buttons represent the connection with The Royal Ulster Rifles; and the harp and crown badge was worn by The Ulster Defence Regiment.



Umbrellas blossom as the rain gets heavier at Warminster



A representative Ulster Defence regiment contingent at Warminster awaits the order to merge with the Irish Rangers



The Band of 2 Royal Irish, together with bugles, pipes and drums played at Lemgo

Irish role so significant

FOR THREE centuries, the Irish soldier has played a significant part in the exploits of the British Army. Under Wellington's command in the early 19th Century, one third of the Army was drawn from Ireland.

Half a million Irishmen volunteered during the First World War, while in the Second World War, Ireland produced more than its fair share of field marshals.

As the last remaining Irish Regiment of the Line, The Royal Irish Regiment will keep alive the proud traditions of the Irish soldier.

It has been formed through the merger of two regiments,

The Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th) and The Ulster Defence Regiment.

The Rangers can trace their antecedents back to the raising of Colonel Tiffin's Inniskilling Regiment at Enniskillen Castle in 1689. It took its last form and title on July 1, 1968 when The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (27th and 108th), The Royal Ulster Rifles (83rd and 86th) and The Royal Irish Fusiliers (87th and 89th) amalgamated to form one large regiment.

One of the younger regiments, The Ulster Defence Regiment, became operational for the first time on April 1,

1970, tasked with the role of "protecting the border and the State against sabotage and armed attack".

Initially, it was almost entirely composed of part-time soldiers, but in 1976 authority was given to recruit increasing numbers of full-time soldiers. All the time of the merger, it numbered about 6,000 troops, around 700 of them women.

The UDR earned more than 1,000 honours and awards during its 22-year history, but the cost in lives has been heavy, with 197 men and four women soldiers killed in terrorist incidents, another 47 former soldiers murdered, and a total of 443 wounded.

Fireworks at midnight

● From Page 21

home service battalions provided music.

Gen Wilsey inspected the parade and presented prizes to the champion recruit, best shot, best at physical training and most improved student. He congratulated the young soldiers on their smart turn-out and wished the new regiment well.

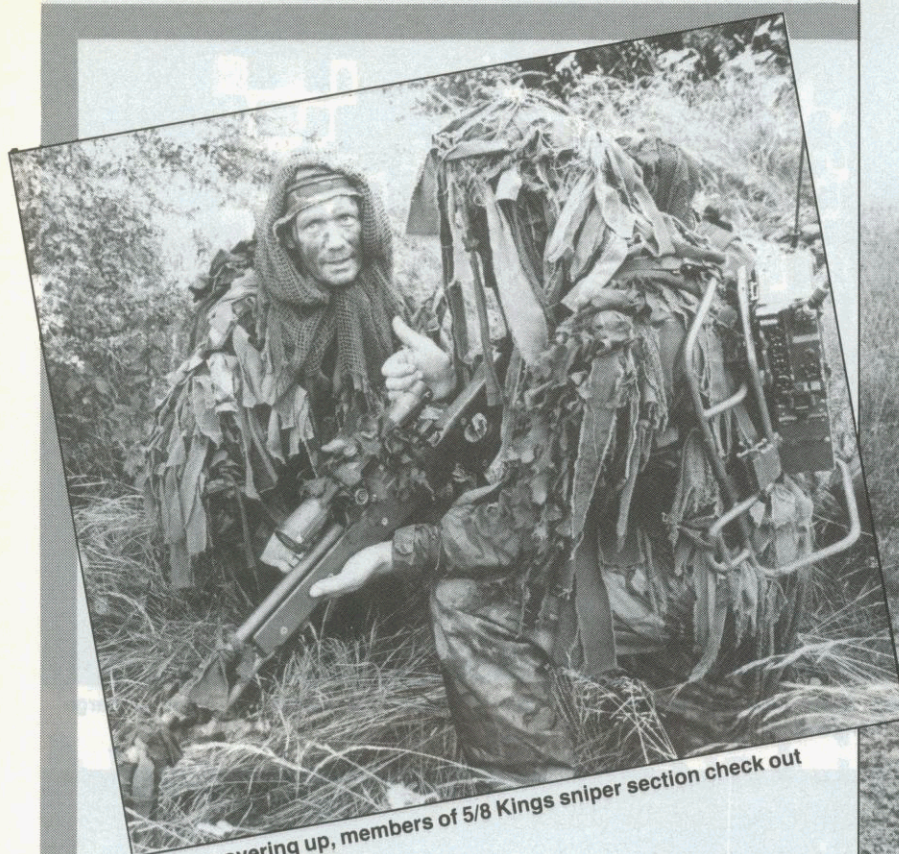
In Lemgo, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers marked the occasion by holding a ladies' guest night in the officers' mess and a ball in the sergeants' mess.

As midnight approached, the

battalion and their guests including GOC 4 Armoured Division, Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, moved to the parade ground where the ceremony of Beating Retreat was performed by the regimental band, pipes, bugles and drums.

At midnight, Reveille was sounded, the Rangers' flag was lowered and the flag of The Royal Irish Regiment was raised as fireworks exploded in the night sky.

The new flag's colours represent green for Ireland, red for the British Infantry and blue for St Patrick.



Before covering up, members of 5/8 Kings sniper section check out the L96 sniper rifle

Right - 5/8 Kings move up the line



A 5/8 Kings mortar platoon disembarks from a Chinook helicopter

Below - Troops of 42 (NW) Brigade needed no encouragement to move forward

42 Brigade bares its teeth

THE FOG of war sometimes clears away to reveal the unexpected and Exercise Salisbury Rose certainly produced a surprise or two - in the guise of a full company of French paratroopers and two extremes of weather.

In the 42 (Northwest) Brigade field training exercise on Salisbury Plain four Territorial Army infantry battalions conducted a four-day tactical exercise, practising all main phases of war as a brigade.

Conditions varied from strong sunshine and temperatures in excess of 30C, to torrential rain that flooded Brigade headquarters.

The 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion, The King's

Regiment and 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment were drawn from 42 (NW) Bde, while the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Light Infantry was provided by 160 (Wales) Brigade.

The Terriers practised many battle skills including patrolling and ambushing, counter-attacks at battalion and company level, and withdrawal out of contact.

In addition, the troops occupied and prepared main defensive positions and reserve demolition with engineer support provided by Chatham-based 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

A troop of Chieftain tanks from the 17th/21st Lancers attached to the School of Infantry's demonstration battalion added realism to the training.

Air support was provided by Royal Air Force Wessex and Chinook heavy lift helicopters and aircraft from the Army Air Corps' only independent TA unit.

The rugged and reliable Scout helicopters and crews of 666 Squadron Army Air Corps (V) are normally attached to 7 Regiment AAC at Netheravon airfield. The Scout proved an ideal workhorse during Salisbury Rose, being used to move stores and troops. In war, it can be fitted with anti-tank guided missiles.

The exercise culminated in a Brigade strength FIBUA assault on Copehill Down fighting village which was defended by 4 King's Own Border.

And the French paratroopers? They were on a tour of training facilities and invited to join in!



A member of 5/8 Kings briefs company commander Maj Keith Haywood (right)



Standing by with a stretcher was Pte Maggie Fellows, 5 LI. Exercise Salisbury Rose turned out to be bit of busman's holiday for this medic. In civvy street Maggie is an ambulance driver

Right - Men of 4 QLR double towards the helicopter pick up point

Everest expedition leader Col Mike Kefford tells how the elements conspired to wreck his bid to climb the mountain by the notorious West Ridge route

A SUMMIT TOO FAR

WHEN GARY Lineker was taken off the field during his final match for England last month, Col Mike Kefford knew just how he felt, writes Phil Wilcox.

Like Lineker, who had failed to achieve his aim of at least equalling Bobby Charlton's record tally of international goals, Col Kefford had cruelly been denied the chance to see his objective through to the end.

As leader of the British Services Everest Expedition, he and his team had come within an ace of reaching the summit of the mountain by the notoriously difficult West Ridge route, only to be defeated by atrocious weather.

"My only minor consolation is that, unlike Gary Lineker, at least I wasn't substituted," a hugely disappointed Col Kefford told SOLDIER.

The 19-strong team, which included ten Army representatives including two Gurkhas, had been on the mountain for 70 days when would-be summiters, Sgt Chris Barnes (Para) and Sgt Bill Batson (RAF) were forced to retreat 2,000 feet to the relative safety of Camp Five at 25,600ft.

"We had moved ten loads of food and equipment to Camp Six, and the 'people pyramid' was in place," said Col Kefford, "but the conditions were impossible."

At Camp Five, strong double aluminium tent poles were snapping in the howling wind

and, despite meticulous logistical planning as a result of a previous expedition, essential supplies were running out.

"There were terrible problems with our radio batteries: some were charged by solar panels, others were lithium-powered, but neither type stood much of a chance in temperatures of minus 50 degrees to minus 60 degrees.

In the circumstances, Col Kefford had no alternative but to contact Barnes and Batson and "pull the plug".

"When I spoke to them, they had had a very bad night without oxygen, there were extremely strong (over 40

knots) winds, a lot of fresh snow and the North Face was about to avalanche.

"I realised that if they did not return quickly, the weather would have worsened – the wind was strong enough to blow dogs off chains – and the guys would have died. Neither their families nor the MoD would have thanked me."

Reluctantly, Sgts Barnes and Batson obeyed their leader's orders.

Although every team member had been a potential summiteer, Col Kefford explained, the two men had been chosen for the honour of tackling the final stretch for the combination of drive, experience, fitness and speed which they had shown during the expedition.

"The keyword for the summit team is balance," said the colonel. "Obviously, they should not only be able to get

on well with each other, but should be respected by the other members of the expedition, who all have the ability to get there but have to stand back."

There were no inter-Service politics involved in the selection of expedition members: the best climbers were chosen, irrespective of service or rank.

"It took us three days to get off the mountain," Col Kefford said. "Coming down the West Ridge is like climbing down a roof with tiles facing the wrong way."

A huge section of ice, weighing "millions of tons", collapsed behind the team.

When the Sherpas went up later to collect equipment, including ladders, for Dark Star (the TA expedition due to take place this winter), eight brand new tents were stuck behind the ice.

Col Kefford's team was the last to leave the north side of Everest after the all-too-brief seasonal "window of weather".

During that time, in a spate of "summit fever", as the colonel described it, more than 30 climbers took the well-established South Col route to the top – and two people froze to death.

In the meantime, he and his team had not only created a route through the icefall, which, under the gentlemanly codes observed among mountaineers, had subsequently been utilised by other teams – but had saved an Italian climber from death.

"It's an indication of my team's total commitment that five of them received severe frostbite. I have never been on a service expedition where the men have been so physically fit and well-acclimatised.

"They are a terrific bunch, they got on very well and I would feel privileged to take them anywhere."

Looking back on the expedition, the logistics chain had worked flawlessly, he felt, with the right quantities of food, oxygen and equipment at the beginning and the fixed ropes safely installed.

"All we needed was the weather..."

Testimony to the vagaries of "this good but formidable

lady", as Col Kefford described Mt Everest, can be found in extracts from his diary.

Having established Camp Five, subsequent excerpts read: May 13, only 50m progress; May 14, no one went anywhere on the mountain; May 15 to 18, weather poor, some people on the South Col packing it in; May 18, established Camp 6; waiting for

summit attempt; May 19 to 24, weather terrible...

"The expedition took 2½ years from flash to bang," said Col Kefford, "and cost £250,000. Would I do it again? I think we are all too close to the event at the moment to give a rational answer. I am certainly a much more controlled and gentler person as a result.

There is a very thin line between success and failure, but it hurts. God, it hurts."

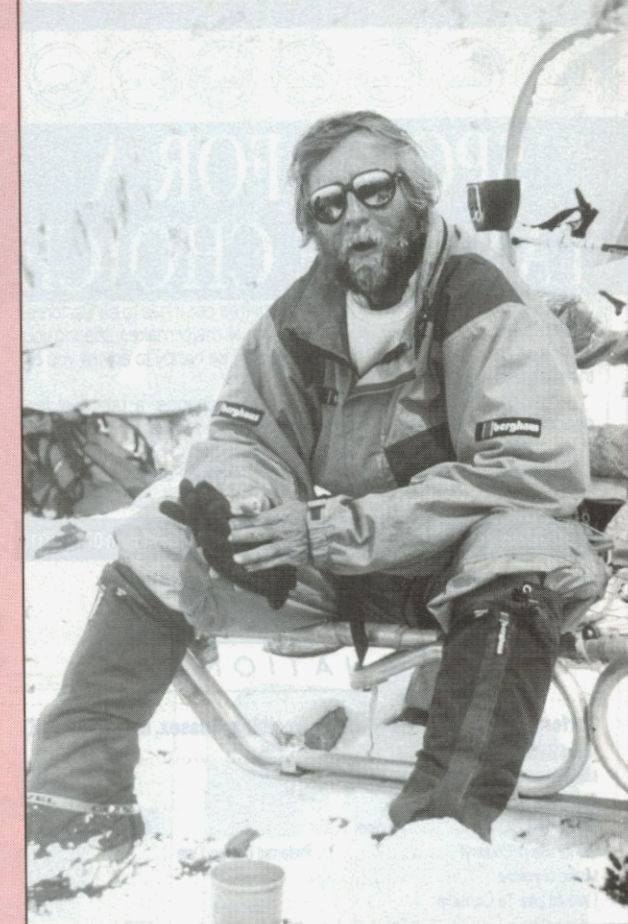
In time, with a bit of distance between his team and the mountain, he said, they would put it into perspective.

"Right now, we are smarting. Somewhere along the line, that lady decided she wasn't going to let us succeed. She threw

everything at us – but she let us come back in one piece."

There was no compromise on Everest, said Col Kefford. The mountain demanded the best.

"Should there be a 'West Ridge 3' expedition, I would like to feel I could be part of the same team again. We feel cheated – there's some unfinished business we have to do."



Expedition leader Col Mike Kefford at Camp Two



Above – Sgt Chris Barnes, Parachute Regiment (right), with fellow "summiteer" Sgt Bill Batson, RAF

Left – Capt Simon Lowe, R Signals, at Camp Four on the West Ridge. Camp Five is top left, with summit in view



Unwanted souvenirs ... at the other end of these frost-bitten toes is Maj Kit Spencer, 7 GR



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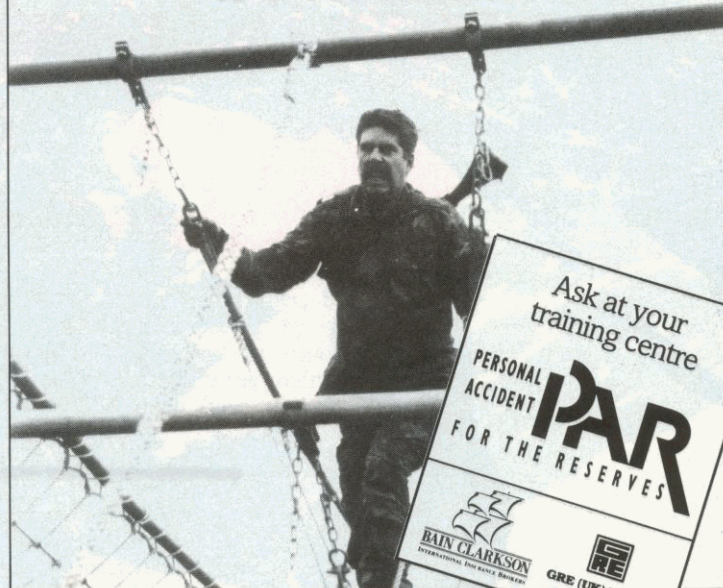
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Sol 27/7



Part of the 1,000-strong representation from RCT TA units from all over the country marches on to the parade ground at Grantham for inspection



A brace of 4-tonners which formed part of the impressive array of representative vehicles in the drive-past



HRH Princess Alice, Colonel-in-Chief of the RCT, watches a low-level pass by a Hercules

WHEN THE Territorial Army's Royal Corps of Transport members merge with four other corps next year to form the Royal Logistic Corps TA, they will be able to boast they went out in style, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

At what will probably prove to be the last major ceremonial appearance of the RCT (Regular or TA) in the presence of its royal Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice, more than 1,000 male and female volunteer soldiers from all RCT TA units in the United Kingdom took part in a huge parade at Grantham on June 28.

Held at the RCT TA's Prince William of Gloucester Barracks headquarters, the parade marked three anniversaries.

This is the silver jubilee year of the formation of the majority of the RCT's current TA regiments and units, though the corps itself was formed two years earlier. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the family association of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, with the RCT and its immediate predecessor, the RASC.

Coincidentally, it is also the 25th anniversary of the Hercules aircraft, with RCT air

despatch crews, in RAF service.

For that reason, after the Colonel-in-Chief had inspected the assembled parade by horse-drawn landau, and taken the salute from the massed march-past, a Hercules manned by 395 Air Despatch Troop RCT (V) carried out an equipment drop in a low-level pass.

Four RCT TA marching bands featuring brass, drums and pipes, together with the RCT's Regular staff band, accompanied the parade.

There was also a continuity drill display by members of 155 (Wessex) Transport Regiment RCT (V), who carried out 37 separate drill movements without a word of command. The

regiment can trace its ancestry back to 1885.

A drive-past by more than 60 representative vehicles, ranging from Land Rover 90s to a train, and the planting of a commemorative tree by the Duchess, completed a memorable few hours.

In a joint message, Col Colin Constable, Commander RCT TA and Col Ian McRobbie, Colonel of Volunteers, said that over the past 25 years the RCT's volunteer regiments and units had played a major part in the life of the corps and had shared in all its achievements.

"Their contribution to the operational logistic requirements of BAOR has been of enormous importance, for without the TA the corps could

not have met its targets."

Both in the Falklands and the Gulf, the volunteers had made a significant contribution to the preparations of the base organisation, they said.

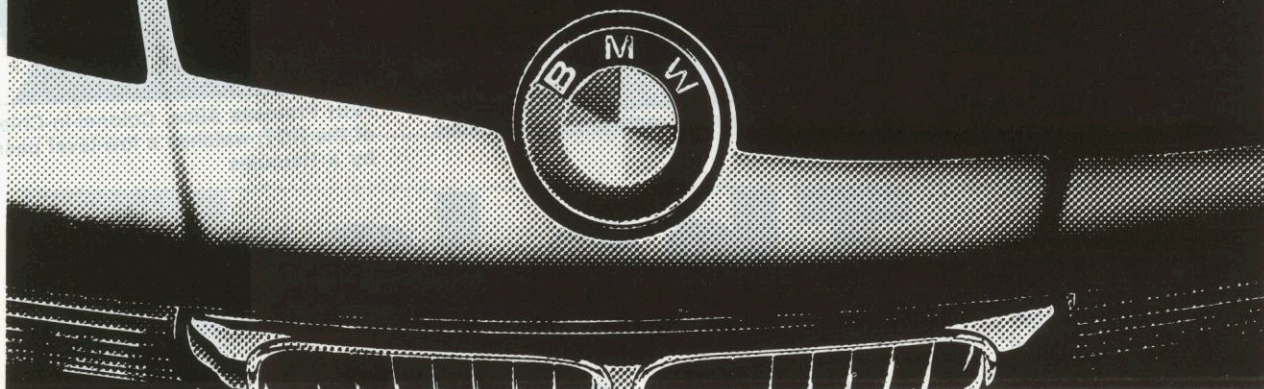
With a history dating, in the main, from 1908 when the Territorial Force was formed to replace the old Volunteers and provide the King's Imperial Army of the Second Line, the RCT TA now faces another renaissance next April – with a new Colonel-in-Chief.

The Princess Royal will head the Royal Logistic Corps, made up of an amalgamation of RCT, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and members of the Postal and Courier Service, Royal Engineers.

The long goodbye

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POW figure taken from the record

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist

I HAVE little reason to complain of the review of my book *Malaya 1941* in your issue of June 1 but I would like to comment on the suggestion that my figure for prisoners captured by the Japanese may possibly be too high, at 130,000.

My figure was taken from the most authoritative source available, the British Official History of the Second World War, *The War Against Japan*, Vol 1, page 473.

The actual quotation reads: "The total battle casualties – officers and other ranks – sustained by the British and Commonwealth military forces in the Malayan campaign were . . . 138,708, of which more than 130,000 were prisoners of war."

When one considers that enemy casualties were no more than 9,824, the British figure is so astonishing as to be almost incredible. Your reviewer says I am angry about it. I daresay he is right. Who would not be angry? – **Andrew Gilchrist, Lanark.**

Hilden club

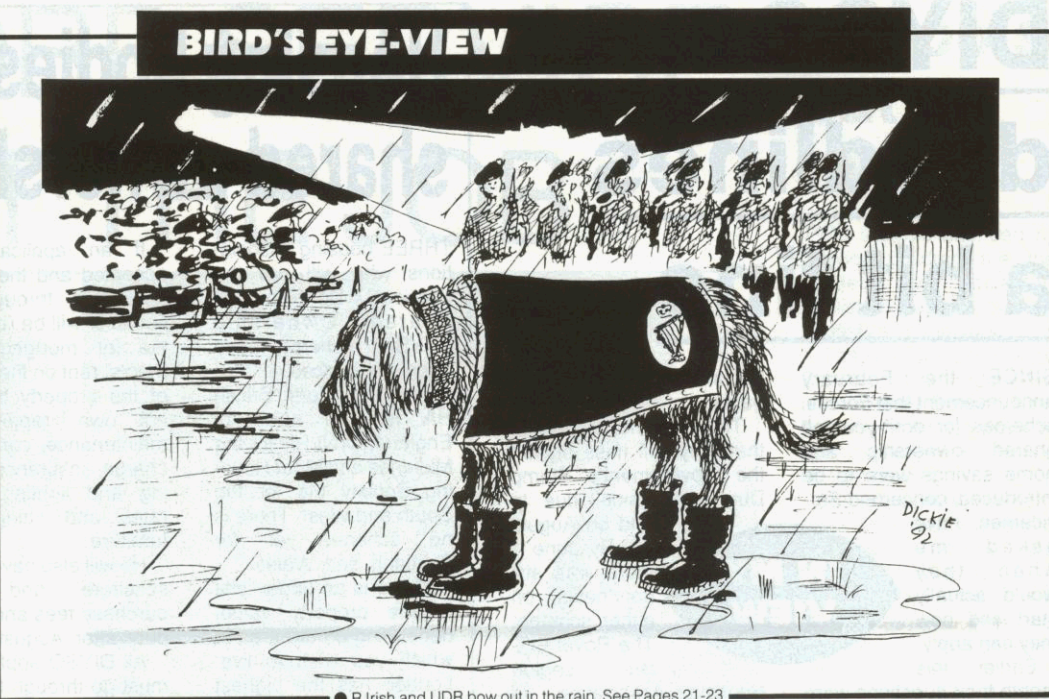
IN RESPONSE to the letter from L Peake (June 1), yes, 2nd Infantry Division HQ was set up in Hilden shortly after the war. I was stationed there, about two miles from Hilden and approximately ten miles from Düsseldorf.

I, too, was attached to the Div Sigs Regt, who had their own club in Hilden. I still have my club membership card. – **J Hanlon (ex-Sgt RA), Swindon.**

Decorated RFC pilots

IN HIS letter about the Royal Flying Corps (June 29) J O'Brien contended that Acting Maj James T B McCudden VC rather than Capt Albert Ball VC was the more decorated.

As a matter of interest I have a full set of commemorative envelopes depicting RFC and RAF VCs. According to them the officers decorations were:



● R Irish and UDR bow out in the rain. See Pages 21-23

Carry on, Sergeant!

I WRITE on the custom of sergeants of the Light Infantry wearing their sashes on the left shoulder (Letters, May 4).

Paymaster Lieut Cdr E C Talbot-Booth, RNR, in his book *The British Army* states: "The reason for this is obscure, although it is very definitely accepted that on a certain occasion the sergeants carried on when all the officers had been put out of action."

"Some authorities say that this was at Culloden Moor, and others at Killiecrankie."

"Still more believe that it was awarded because of the feat at Jellalabad and the honour was conferred after that Afghan campaign and so it is probably

the correct version.

"Similarly, the officers reverse the usual method and wear their waist sashes tied on the right side."

With all due respect to the Somerset Light Infantry, who adopted the custom, I am sure the principle of NCOs taking over when their superiors have all been put out of action must have occurred countless times in the long history of the British Army.

On another point, with the amalgamation of the Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment, the new regiment is returning to the title of a regiment originally raised in 1684, named the Royal Irish Regiment in 1881, and disbanded in 1922.

I wonder if anyone is living who served in that regiment? – **Capt (Retd) W A Ewbank, RE, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.**

The Liberation of Kuwait Medal: If the correspondent "Thomas Atkins" would supply his full name and address his letter will be considered for publication. – **Editor**

Good time to bond with TA

OPTIONS for Change provides a marvellous opportunity for the Army Board to rectify the anomaly of certain Regular infantry regiments having no TA battalions of their own.

A possible solution would be to re-badge the following TA units in order to bring them into line with the Regulars: The 52nd Lowland Volunteers would become the RS/KOSB and RHF; 51st Highland Volunteers the BW, QO Hldrs/Gordons, and A and SH; Yorkshire Volunteers the PWO, Green Howards and DWR; and Wessex Regiment the Glosters/DERR.

As the new London Regiment does not fit easily into this scheme, perhaps it could become the HAC Infantry Battalion, and thereby provide a long overdue link for the Foot Guards.

Such a re-alignment would enhance and strengthen the bond between Regular and volunteer. The principles of Cardwell's Army Reforms are as valid today as they were in 1881. – **R A Hamilton, Southport, Lancs.**

DIYSO cuts deadlines a bit fine

SINCE the February announcement that Forces' schemes for do-it-yourself shared ownership and home savings were to be introduced, concerned Servicemen have asked me when they would actually start and how they can apply.

Earlier this month their questions were partly answered with the long-awaited announcement of details of the Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) scheme for England. There is sadly no such information for Scotland and Wales.

DIYSO enables those who cannot buy a property outright to acquire a share in a house of between 25 per cent and 75 per cent.

The urgency of the Servicemen's concern was obvious. Redundees must vacate their married quarters by September or October 1992 or February 1993, depending on their discharge date.

Their first worry is the huge increase in rent – from £500 to £700 a month "wasted" money – if they

become irregular occupants.

Their second concern is that they will miss out on the Government's Stamp Duty concession, due to end on August 19. By June 1 there was still no news on either scheme. The Royal British Legion

Housing Association, in response to repeated requests for information on DIYSO, produced a fact-sheet based on the civilian scheme and opened a register of interested Service personnel to be informed when details of the scheme were announced.

Would it not be reasonable to suggest that in future, Government and commercial concerns might work out the details of such schemes in advance of a public announcement?

May I suggest that a start date be given at the time of the initial announcement so that the "customer" can do all his preparation in advance?

In this case, one of the

Housing bodies to run shared ownership scheme

THREE housing associations who will run the Services' Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) scheme have been announced.

They are North British HA for the north of England, Orbit HA for the Midlands and Moat Housing Society Ltd for the South and West. There is no scheme yet for Scotland and Wales.

There is an upper limit to the property value, depending on the area in which you wish to live. London has the highest "ceiling" at £80,000, while the lowest is £39,000 for seven northern counties.

If an application is accepted and the purchase goes through, the occupier will be responsible for mortgage payments, rent on the portion of the property he does not own, repairs and maintenance, community charge, insurance, heating and lighting, water rates and fittings and furniture.

He will also have to pay solicitors' and other purchase fees and stamp duty after August.

All DIYSO applications must go through the new Joint Service Housing Advice Office, which will confirm eligibility and refer the applicant to a

housing association.

The prospective buyer must have housing association approval before selecting a property and before incurring professional fees.

First point of contact for DIYSO is the Joint Service Housing Advice Office, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN (tel: 0722 336222 ext 8350-1).

It is worth noting that DIYSO does not apply when buying a commercial property, mobile home, caravan, houseboat or land or to the Joint Services Discounted Scheme or a self-build scheme.

housing associations named as taking part had to withdraw in May because it was a charitable institution and therefore disqualified from DIYSO. A replacement had to be found.

There was no mention in the original announcement that Scotland and Wales would be excluded – so those families and single soldiers have been left high and dry.

The three housing associations involved now have just six months to run the scheme instead of a year. This leaves the redundees

who have to leave by the end of September or October with just four months to apply through the Joint Service Housing Advice Office, be accepted, find a house, have it approved, arrange the finance, complete the housing association documentation and move in.

Normal house-buying is stressful enough. This race against time is far worse.

In the case of the Home Saving Scheme, a June 16 signal said that since the February announcement, work had progressed in identifying the financial

institutions prepared to take part. MoD negotiations with the finance houses would start shortly and the aim was to have the scheme operational by early autumn.

Meanwhile, the Housing Task Force report, which could make a tremendous contribution to research into housing needs in the years ahead, has still not been published.

I am still baffled as to why this presumably excellent document cannot at least be made available to interested welfare agencies.



BULFORD SERVICE IS JUST THE JOB

ONE outcome of Options for Change is that Service people can take advantage of a variety of new and imaginative schemes to help the transition to civilian life.

HQ Bulford Area Action and Support Team has put one such idea into practice with the help of Salisbury Job Centre and the Army's resettlement team.

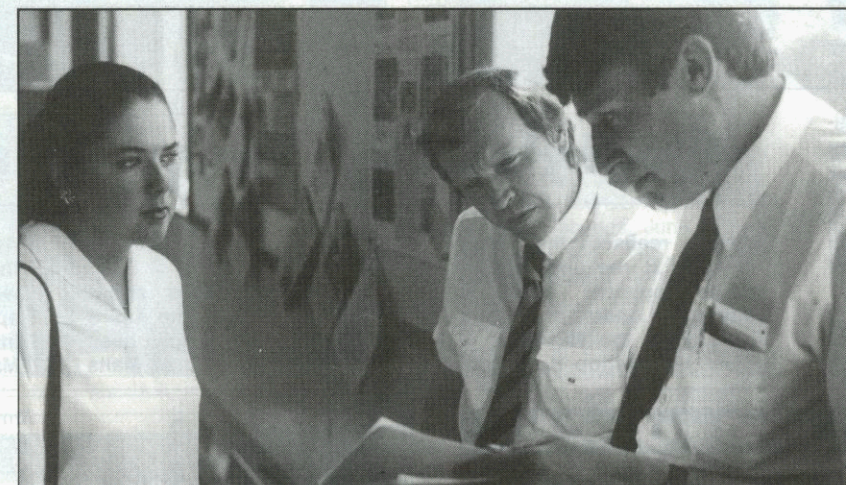
It expands on what was already in operation through FOCUS (Federation Office Computer Updating Skills) and FRED, the employment matching service.

Building on existing "Drop In" arrangements, a successful series of local job seminars has been held in the new Job Shop at Tidworth, saving a long round trip to Salisbury.

There was excellent feedback from those who attended the 2½-day seminars, conducted by Mr Kevin Bolwell and instructor Mrs Sandra Pryde from the Salisbury employment office.

One bonus was that each seminar had a maximum of only 15 students, the majority ranking between corporal and staff sergeant in the 15-40 age range.

Several have had firm



Preparing for CV street: Kevin Bolwell (centre), manager of Salisbury Job Centre, checks a redundee's draft CV at the Tidworth job seminar with Pte Lisa Duncan and Sgt Trevor Savory of Bulford Action and Support Team.

job offers as a direct result.

The seminars were followed up by individual half-day counselling, enabling students to put into practice locally such skills as CV preparation and interview techniques.

I urge those Servicemen and women who cannot be released for such seminars to ask to see Tidworth's short video on the subject by ringing Bulford Mil ext 2190. General advice is also available on this number.

● Service personnel have to pay anything from £2 to more than £100 for their NVQ and SVQ certificates.

Those who want to use their redundancy money for this have to wait until after they have left, by which time it is too late to enter the qualification on their CV.

I have suggested to the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation that unused educational grants of £207 per person might be used to pay for the certificates.

High cost of kicking the habit

A NEW method to help people stop smoking is not available to the Services because of the cost.

Many Service smokers anxious to kick the habit have asked about Nicotinel, which would cost £162 for a three-month course. But the medical services are not equipped to help them with this or any other treatment.

A Royal Army Medical College spokesman said: "The Services are meant to be leaner, smaller and fitter, yet there is no smoking cessation programme available. The US Services based in the UK have such a programme."

It would make sense for the Services to encourage their men and women to give up. There should be a programme – at least overseas, where there is no NHS scheme.

Thank you!

To the anonymous donor from Southend-on-Sea who sent me 60 air miles ... thank you.

The air miles will go towards sending ex-Servicemen to the World Paraplegic Games in America.

Schools put on report

TWO schools attended by Service children are the subject of recently-published reports by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

They are Stonely Grange School, Cambridgeshire and Rodney School, Kirklington, Nottinghamshire, both the subject of a Notice of Complaint.

The Education Department says that unless the proprietors remedy the matters complained of in the specified time it will lead to removal from the Register of Independent Schools.

Two Education Department HMI publications are available free from the Library and Information Resource Centre (tel: 071-925 5047) or the Public Enquiry Unit (tel: 071-925 5055-6).

Benefit backdated

SINGLE mums living as dependants of Service parents in married quarters overseas can now claim child benefit.

A recent case which highlighted some of the problems resulted in a claim being honoured and backdated to 1988 – a considerable sum.

The claim must be made by the grandfather of the child who benefits. Proof of dependant status with an explanatory covering letter from MoD should accompany the child benefit application.

Tidworth tax tip

INDEPENDENT taxation for wives is quite a worry – but a trip to Tidworth next month could help solve the problem.

The Inland Revenue's new mobile tax information centre, making its Service garrison debut there on Tuesday, August 18, will offer confidential personal advice.

A representative from the Army's taxation office in Cardiff will be on hand to help the men, too.



"THE GULF WAR – A VIEW FROM THE GROUND"

A video which tells the real story of the ground war as told by the Officers and Soldiers who were there.

The Gulf War was without doubt the most important military conflict since Vietnam. For the first time, the latest in technology, tactics and equipment from the East and West were pitched against each other.

Here, for the first time, is the official Ministry of Defence approved story of Operation Desert Sabre. Using original footage, much of which has never been seen by the general public, 'A View From The Ground' begins with the deployment of The Desert Rats to the Gulf, and shows the training and preparations, the planning and deceptive measures, the battle itself and the aftermath.

Included with the video is a copy of the Official Campaign Map.

For every cassette sold £1 will be donated to Services Charities.

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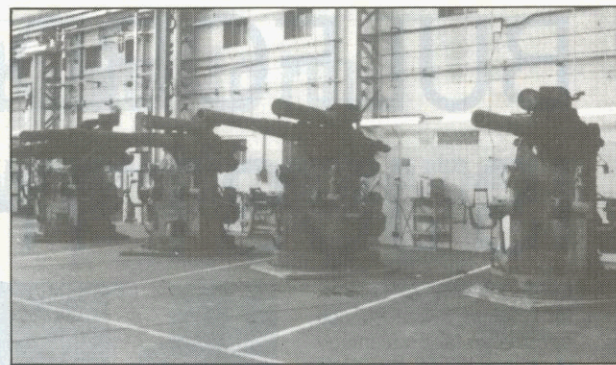
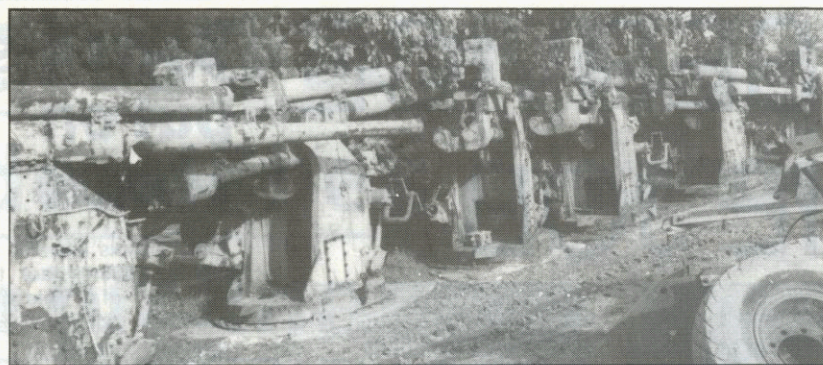
Postcode _____

Please allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. USA/Canada orders will be sent NTSC.

Scotland support team in action



Ready to help: Lt Col Philip Halford-MacLeod BW, head of HQ Scotland Action and Support Team, with team members (left to right) Lt Michelle Swinney RCT (V), SSgt (AC) Tom Rooney RA, OCdt David Moore (E and HW UOTC) and civil servant David Russell. Their aim is to give resettlement advice to soldiers and their families returning to Scotland. The helpline number is 031-310 2353



Stanley Fraser's 3.7in anti-aircraft guns have been restored to their former glory and resited on Malta as a memorial to the Royal Artillery gunners who played such a crucial role in the defence of the George Cross island. He found the guns rusting in the field of an armament dealer near his home in North

Stanley's 3.7s form memorial to Malta gunners

Wales, realised they were identical to the ones his 4th HAA Regiment used in Belgium, London and Malta, and asked the REME at 42 District Workshop, Deysbrook

Barracks, Liverpool, to renovate them. As these pictures show, Stanley's guns came up a treat. They have now been installed at the HQ of Malta

Armed Forces in Luqa, near the international airport, and were formally received at a splendid ceremony on June 1 involving the President of Malta and 1,000 veterans.

HALF-YEARLY PROMOTIONS

● From Page 11

Vellacott, LI; F R Viggers, RA; D B Waddell, RAOC; A P Walker, RE (Svy); C J Walters, R Signals; C R Watt, WG; J R Westlake, Kings Own Border; J M B Whitehead, Int Corps; R M Wilde, RRF; R F Wilsher, R Signals; D W Wonson, AG Corps (PRO); E L Yorke, 13/18 H.

Major to Lt Col: N Q W Beer, QRIH; M R Bromley Gardner, QOH; H L A Macdonald, QDG; H P D Massey, RHG/D; R C B Nutting, 13/18 H; I J Rodley, RTR; W R Rollo, RHG/D; M J Rutledge, 9/12 L; A R D Shirreff, 14/20 H; R A D Applegate, RA; D R Arthur, RA; C P Bonney, RA; C C Brown, RA; S M Gledhill, RA; D J M Hall, RA; D J Hobden, RA; P J H Hurst, RA; A D Knyvett, RA; D W Lewthwaite, RA; D G Lyon, RA; P R Williams, RA; P H Blundell, RE; D R Burns, RE; A P Carruth, RE; C N Holman, RE; M F N Mans, RE; M C McCabe, RE; M G Paterson, RE; S F Sherry, RE; N A Sutherland, RE; P A Wall, RE; J C Walmisley, RE; J S A Henderson, R Signals; R T Hoole, R Signals; P J Hryhoruk, R Signals; C L Le Gallais, R Signals; J A MacFarlane, R Signals; J P Moreland, R Signals; P B Neale, R Signals; P Parfitt, R Signals; B J Scott-Morton, R Signals; A H Symmons, R Signals; M C Wilkinson, R Signals; T E M Done, Gren Gds; J P Hargreaves, Gren Gds; J S Lloyd, Gren Gds; The Hon A J C Campbell, QO Hldrs; The Hon I D W Chant-Sempill, Gordons; G A Douglas, A and SH; G F Hislop, RHf; I J Murray, QO Hldrs; C P C Sloan, Gordons; H P M Chambers, R Irish; A P Farquhar, Green Howards; N St J Hall, Green Howards; R C Goodhall, RRW; S J Knapper,

Staffords; A C W N Sernberg, Cheshire; A W Thornburn, D and D; M S Vine, Glosters; J M P Durcan, RGJ; R C Lloyd-Williams, LI; R D S Phayre, LI; M P Gandell, Para; A V Malkin, Para; R R P Prichard, Para; M S H Worsley-Tonks, Para; G C Bicket, 7 GR; N J H Hinton, 2 GR; R P D Folkes, AAC; D Husband, AAC; P Lawless, AAC; J H Clough, RCT; R H Hooper, RCT; J M May, RCT; N D Morrison, RCT; J S Newman-Carter, RCT; D N Wright, RCT; P W G Blaber, RAOC; M Blatherwick GM, RAOC; R T Carmen, RAOC; S J Crowe, RAOC; A R T Hazlerigg, RAOC; D M Homewood, RAOC; J H O'Hare, RAOC; M S Southworth, RAOC; M K Watkins, RAOC; M J Wharmby, RAOC; T M White, RAOC; R N Coleman, REME; K E Ferguson, REME; D A Johnson, REME; H A Kemp, REME; P T McGarthy, REME; A M McPherson, REME; D G Merrett, REME; B Nutt, REME; T P O'Connor, REME; T W Perks, REME; J T Ravn, REME; C Ward, REME; J S Jamieson, AG Corps (SPS); A P Johnson, AG Corps (SPS); P G J Keating, AG Corps (SPS); J A Lindsay, AG Corps (SPS); T Lowry, AG Corps (SPS); I M McCord, AG Corps (SPS); C T Oakley, AG Corps (SPS); A Trehern, AG Corps (SPS); R W Thompson, AG Corps (SPS); B J Vearncombe, AG Corps (SPS); A W E Brister, AG Corps (ETS); K G Lawson, AG Corps (ETS); D W M Magee, AG Corps (ETS); K T Bacon, AG Corps (PRO); J W Lanham, AG Corps (PRO); G L Powell, AG Corps (PRO); I A Milne, RPC; P R Woods, RPC; J D Gosnell, Int Corps; J P Morrison, Int Corps; R G O Randall, Int Corps; F A Walthall, Int Corps; C H Noons, ACC; P M Dickinson, ACC.

El Alamein gunners meet

EL ALAMEIN veterans of 11th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery attended a reunion at the Imperial War Museum this month to mark the 50th anniversary of the action at Ruweisat Ridge, part of the first battle of El Alamein.

One of the 25-pounders which took part in the action is on display in the museum.

The regiment, which was supported by a battalion of The Essex Regiment, lost seven officers and more than 80 men killed in fighting off repeated attacks by Rommel's armour. Had the German tanks broken through, the road to Alexandria would have been open and the fate of Egypt in the balance.

An oil painting by Cyril Mount to commemorate 11 Fd's stand had its first showing at the reunion.

Invitation to Pembroke Dock

FORMER soldiers who were stationed in and around the one-time garrison town of Pembroke Dock are being invited to return to their old "billet" next month.

Occasion is the town's first Army Week, being held from August 1 to 9 in conjunction with the Cleddau Festival.

The planned programme includes appearances by the Band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Band of the Royal Regiment of Wales, and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Staff Band. An

Army photographic exhibition will add to the military flavour.

Ex-military personnel are asked to write for details to the Tourism Committee, c/o Council Offices, Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock SA72 6DD or telephone 0646 684410 between 9am and 1pm.

Noisy museum opens fire

MOST museums don't exactly encourage noise. Not so Fort Nelson, the Royal Armouries National Museum of Artillery on Portsmouth Hill near Portsmouth.

Members of the public can watch (and hear!) artillery pieces being fired in the Palmerston fort on several occasions during the year, the next taking place on August 9, September 13 and November 1.

Two sections of Saddam Hussein's infamous "supergun" and the breech of the smaller prototype - dubbed Baby Babylon - are on display at Fort Nelson.

Rocket troop?

SOLDIERS from 133 Corps Troops Workshop REME (V) based at Ashford in Kent stopped the traffic when they were asked by British Rail to move Stephenson's Rocket from the Railway Museum at York to an open day near Ashford.

Having cleared a bridge near the museum with three inches to spare, the REME volunteers, led by SSgt Alan Fox, held up the traffic in the centre of York while

DIARY

Until October 18: Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

Until November 29: Assignment Falklands exhibition depicting the role of the sappers during the war, Royal Engineers Museum, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

JULY

8-25: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office: 071-373 8141).

17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

29 and 31: Prince of Wales's Division Massed Bands display, Cardiff Castle (tickets from Massed Bands Display Office, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE, tel: 0222 227611 ext 8244).

AUGUST

1-9: Pembroke Dock Army Week.

4-8: Exhibition of regimental silver, Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield.

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

5-6: National wargames championships, Royal Horticultural Halls, Elverson Street, London SW1.

6-13: Farnborough International Air Show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo, Devizes, Wiltshire.

OCTOBER

31-November 1: Fourth Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena (ticket hotline: 021-200 2222).

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

they carefully negotiated two Foden recovery vehicles and trailers bearing the precious cargo out of town.

In fact, the original Rocket built by Stephenson and Booth in 1829 is in the National Science Museum in London, and the York version is a replica.

Drive carefully

LATEST issue of *Drive Alive* reveals on its cover that in the past six years 235 off-duty Service personnel have died on roads all around the world. The magazine, the 52nd produced by a small team at the Army School of Mechanical Transport's Advanced Training Wing at Leconfield, thumps home the message of

safe driving in 76 pages of graphically illustrated reports and advice.

Broughton history

HIS LEGS shattered by shellfire, one Robert Charles Fox, of The King's Royal Rifle Regiment, was stretched into Broughton House near Salford in Lancashire on May 7, 1917.

He was the first of more than 5,500 disabled ex-Servicemen to be cared for at the home, the history of which has been compiled by Duncan Measor. Priced at £1 (£1.50 by post), copies of the pamphlet are available from the Chief Executive, Broughton House, Park Lane, Kersal, Salford M7 0JD.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers - K P Burke - To MoD, June 23; M R I Constantine - To MoD, June 24; D G Sharp - To be Comd Aviation, HQ 1 (BR) Corps, July 1.

Colonels - I A Johnstone - To ORIO Posts Brit Appts (USA), June 28; D P Fleming-Jones, late RADC - To HQ and Central Gp as Adviser in Gen Prac, June 19; R S Jeffrey, late RADC - To 1 Dent Gp as CO, June 12; I A Wilkinson - To MoD, June 29.

Lt Cols - M G Lerwill, 4/7 DG - To RCB, June 25; P W Middlemiss, KOSB - To be CO 1/52 Lowland, June 22; R J Slater, REME - To be CO REME Wg RA Ranges Hebrides, June 22; J S Newman-Carter, RCT - To be Comdt JSMT, June 22; B J Scott-Morton, R Signals - To MoD June 22; A C W N Sernberg, Cheshire - To Sec C-in-C BAOR, June 22; R C I Anson, RADC - To 1 Dent Gp, June 9; S J Kempster, RAMC - To 4 Armd Fd Amb, June 10; C R Chambers, RCT - To ASMT, June 29; P W Field, R Anglian - To MoD, June 29; P Firth, RCT - To HQ Trg Gp, R

Signals, June 29; J H Jenkins, AGC (ETS) - To be Comd Ed HQ Wales and Western Dist, June 29; J E F Kirby, R Signals - To MoD, June 29; P D McEvoy, AGC (ALS) - To HQ BF Cyprus, July 2; J S Simmonds, AGC (ETS) - To be Comd Ed HQ London Dist/5 REG AFHQ, June 29; A J Snowdon, RA - To RSA Larkhill, June 29; M J H Vickery, 14/20 H - To RMCS Shrivenham, June 29; H A Kemp, REME - To MoD, June 29; T P O'Connor, REME - To MoD, June 29.

Retirements

Maj Gen - I C Crawford, late RAMC, June 17.

Brigadiers - J B Emson, late LG, July 6; B C Jackman, late 2 GR, June 30; H W K Pye, late 9/12 L, July 1.

Colonels - B Allen, late RAOC, June 29; W M Crawshaw, late RE, June 24; M D Hall, late RAOC, June 29; F W Parkinson, RACHD, June 26; G E Gibbons, late RAEC, June 30; M A Hayley, late RRF, July 4; Sir William Mahon Bt, late IG, July 1.

REUNIONS

● **Ex-Juniors' Reunion:** All ex-junior soldiers who served at Fullwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs, between January 1969 and November 1971 are asked to contact John Hogan on York (0904) 662837 or 662864, day or night. Please leave name and contact address or phone number if he is not available; he promises to return your call.

● **ATS and WRAC Provost 50th anniversary:** Reunion on August 8. Details from Lt Col (Retd) A I Purton, c/o RHQ, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, W Sussex.

● **Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion on September 5 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (SAE please).

● **National veterans' week September 5-9:** Cliftonville/Margate, including trip to De Panne, France for civic reception. Details from Secretary, Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory), J Clarke, 41 Aldermar Road, Manchester M21 2QW (include SAE).

● **Darland Boys:** 12th reunion of the RE Darland Boys at Brompton on September 12. Details and newsletter from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB (tel: 0582 27569).

● **RASC Jersey Boys:** Reunion scheduled for September 19-20. Contact Joe Gutteridge (Ex-T/88196), New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806).

● **12th Devonshire Regiment (6th Airborne), 1940-45:** The 46th reunion will be held at the Countess Wear Lodge, Topsham Road, Exeter, on October 3. Contact social secretary Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel: 0392 874596).

22 SIG REGT

● **22 Signal Regiment:** Ex-members who wish to attend the final Freedom of Lippstadt parade on September 19 (on a self-pay basis) should contact the Parade Project Officer, 22 Signal Regiment, BFPO 107 no later than July 31.

SEARCHLINE

● **Command Workshops, Ceylon/1 Gordons, Malaya 1946/1953:** Ex-SSgt Taffy Jones, who served with Command Workshops, Colombo, Ceylon; 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, Tapah, Malaya; and 12 Inf Workshops, Mentakab, Malaya, 1946-53, wants to hear from anyone who remembers him. His address is 17 Elizabeth Road, Cambridge, East London E247, Republic of South Africa.



Medics' summit of achievement

Medics from Cardiff-based 203 (Welsh) General Hospital carried multiple sclerosis sufferer Dr Monica Phillips in a wheelchair to the top of Snowdon and raised more than £1,000 in sponsorship for research into MS. Pictured with Dr Phillips on the summit are (standing) Sgt Kipp Hall, Cpl Andrew Barry, Sgt Bob Coverdale, Capt Wenna Snaith, SSgt Doug Westerman, Cpl Derek McFetrick, SSgt Hugh Jones and Pte Dennis McCartney; (kneeling) SSgt Mark Morgan, team leader Lt Col Dave Evans, Pte Tania Wells and Maj Tim Clarke.

Riding for REME

SSgt Dean Ellis negotiates one of the tougher climbs during the 200-mile cycle ride on Cyprus completed by Dhekelia-based Eastern Sovereign Base Area Workshop REME. SSgt Ellis organised the trip, which involved all military members of the unit, to celebrate REME's 50th anniversary and raise £800 for the corps' benevolent fund.



Floating funds . . .

These paddlers from 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment hope to raise £2,000 for charity by canoeing 1,300km north from Lake Constance near the Swiss border, via Germany's main rivers and canals, to their base at Munster-Oertze. Led by Lt Len Chaganis and canoe instructor Cpl David Whyte, the combat sappers trained in a swimming pool during the winter. The money they collect will be given to the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA) and a German old people's home in Munster.

Skins' long walk boosts hospital building appeal

THREE soldiers from the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards walked from Paderborn in Germany to the Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool to raise money for the hospital's Ronald Macdonald House for the parents of sick children.

Cpl Andy Cotterell, LCpl Phil McCarthy and Tpr Pete

Kelly have already collected £4,000 in sponsorship and hope eventually to raise more than £5,000. They were sponsored across the Channel by P&O Euro Ferries.

★ ★ ★

Seventeen soldiers from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, led by 2nd Lt Charles Ferrier,

Wight knights

Members of A Company of 16 Battalion RAOC based at Bicester take a break during their 62-mile sponsored relay around the Isle of Wight. They also did some woodland conservation work, took part in sporting events on the island – and raised about £1,000 for the neo-natal ward at St Mary's Hospital, Newport.

Worthy cause!

Watched by event organiser SSgt (SSI) Gary Booth, APTC (right) and Cpl Sean Milne, Lt Col John Power, Commandant AG Corps Depot and Station Headquarters, presents Mrs Susan Taylor with a trophy after the AG Corps quadrathlon – run, swim, bike ride, fancy dress assault course! – which raised £2,119 for charity. More than 60 competitors took part.



Rock bowled over

Actor policeman Larry Dann (left) from ITV's *The Bill* and cartoonist and ex-sapper Bill Tidy (right) help Capt Frank Bado and LCpl Ian Pickard of British Forces Gibraltar's Postal Courier Troop with first day covers produced for a weekend extravaganza on the Rock.

BFG hosted the Lord's Taverners celebrity cricket team and raised more than £30,000 towards a minibus for Gibraltar's Special Olympics team and fares for a trip to Austria.

Organised by Capt Leo Callow, R Irish, the event was supported by GB Airways and the Rock Hotel and attracted 50 celebrities, including Nicholas Parsons, Leslie Crowther and Chris Tarrant.



teamed up with sailors from the regiment's affiliated submarine, HMS Resolution, to cycle the 700 miles from Fallingbommel in Germany to Helensburgh in Scotland.

Supported by Naafi and Coca-Cola, the party raised about £1,400 for the Royal Caledonian Schools Association and an infirmary in Helensburgh.

★ ★ ★

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has presented a cheque for more than £4,000 to Inspire, the charity which raises funds for the Duke of Cornwall's spinal unit at Odstock Hospital. Sponsored activities carried out by 1 RRF – about to move from Tidworth Garrison to Warminster – included a walk along the Test Valley, the Wainwright coast-to-coast walk, car washing, concerts and a country fair at Tidworth.

★ ★ ★

About 300 British Servicemen and women, accompanied by the Band of 5 Innis DG, joined 20,000 others from all over the world on this year's

34th international military pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Pipers from the Queen's Own Highlanders also added music and colour to the occasion.

Among the VIPs present were Gen Sir John Waters, C-in-C United Kingdom Land Forces, and Lady Waters; the Chaplain General, the Rev James Harkness; and the Rt Rev Francis Walmsley, Catholic Bishop to the Forces.

★ ★ ★

A Scout troop for the handicapped in Northern Ireland adopted by the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers has been given £2,000 so far by the battalion. Commanding officer Lt Col Robert Rowe handed over the latest cheque, for £1,000, to the 11th (Handicapped) Bangor Scouts last month, and hopes to raise more money for uniforms and outings before

the end of the year.

And another cheque for £600, the proceeds from a Battle of the Somme presentation by 5 R Irish, has been given to the Northern Ireland branch of the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA).

★ ★ ★

Capt John Burdett, 2iC of 657 Squadron from North Yorkshire-based 9 Regiment AAC, and Cpl Rick Smart dropped in to give disabled students at Portland College near Mansfield a day to

remember. They took pupils on flights in their Lynx helicopters and showed a video on the role of the Army Air Corps.

★ ★ ★

Breast cancer patient Jo Whiting and three fellow Army wives from Bulford Camp raised more than £1,000 for the Wessex Cancer Trust by walking 12 miles from the centre of Salisbury to Bulford. Jo, whose husband is a sergeant in the Light Infantry, and her friends were sponsored by Army personnel all over the country.

X2

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HYUNDAI

BOOK REVIEWS

No sexual equality in this photo record

WITH 200 pages and a minimum of two full-colour pictures on each page, there is not a lot of space left for words in Jeremy Flack's latest pictorial offering about life in the Army.

In producing *Today's British Army in Colour* he was provided with a marvellous opportunity to photograph the Army at work.

And so far as his pictures go he has done a great job portraying British soldiers

carrying out their role in locations around the world.

Some photographs are unavoidably pedestrian, such as a line of mortar bombs or of helicopters on the pad. But these pictures have to be used if the story is to be put across in its pictorial entirety.

And the author succeeds in this, up to a point. His words, however, do not support the brilliance of the photography. For the most part they are simply extended captions de-

scribing what the reader can already see.

Mr Flack covers a lot of ground, with well-produced shots of guns, tanks, wheeled vehicles, helicopters, missiles, ceremonial occasions and even a picture of Berlin's former Checkpoint Charlie.

But while he depicts all this and much more in colour and style, he has, it appears, ignored the role of women in the Army; no photographs of any significance and a distinct

lack of words about their roles.

Since sexual equality is a major topic in today's world, the female soldiers of the British Army might take umbrage at this omission.

If the ladies do take exception Jeremy could well get some of his own back, so to speak, and find himself in line for critical "Flack". - JM

Today's British Army in Colour by Jeremy Flack. Arms and Armour Press, £19.99.

Goose Green: Much more than a raid

WHEN is a raid not a raid? This is one of the many questions Mark Adkin raises in the extraordinarily detailed, balanced and controversial *Goose Green: A Battle Fought to be Won*.

How could a parachute battalion on foot raid a settlement 25km away without losing the most important element of such an operation - surprise?

The brigade commander (Julian Thompson), who had been pressurised from the UK into an operation he did not want, described it as "A battalion raid by 2 Para, with gunfire support, wellie-in, duff-up the garrison and bugger off, that's all."

The commanding officer ("H" Jones) however, made no mention of a raid in his orders.

All very well if there was sufficient fire support but in the event the naval gunfire failed to materialise and because of logistic problems, mainly due to the shortage of helicopters because of the sinking of the *Atlantic Conveyor*, only three 105mm light guns and two 81mm battalion mortars were available and even these were restricted by limited ammunition supply.

Then to cap it all the BBC announced the attack over their World Service on the eve of the operation.

All these factors, including an underestimate of the enemy strength (given as a company instead of a battalion by an SAS patrol), wildly optimistic tim-

ings for the phases of the operation, plus inadequate communications, added to the confusion.

Never has a single battalion operation lasting only 36 hours been recorded at such length (305 pages) and in such detail. This is largely due to the foresight of Brig Chaundler, who took command of 2 Para at Goose Green and instructed his signals officer, Capt Benest, to write a detailed account of the conflict before the "fading process has started".

The author has used this evidence as his primary source document, giving a worm's-eye view of this unique battle which changed from a raid to a grinding battalion attack.

The author is unable to find evidence as to when the change was ordered but clearly Brig Thompson must have accepted the situation on May 29 when he confirmed that 2 Para was "to clear the enemy positions (Goose Green), hold on and not to withdraw unless so ordered." As the author puts it, "The question of whether 2 Para's attack was a raid or not was at last laid to rest."

Needless to say Lt Col "H" Jones's actions feature largely in this book. He comes over as a determined but overbearing leader. Although the author concludes otherwise it would appear to the reader that Jones failed to reinforce the obviously successful right flank and had overruled D Company commander's request to do so with the words: "Don't tell me how

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Eastern Encounters by John Brady. Author's memories of 1937-47 when he served in the Indian Army. Merlin Books, £7.95.

The Visual Dictionary of Military Uniforms. Dorling Kindersley Adult Books, £8.99.

to run my battle."

Instead he continued to urge A Company in its head-on conflict, eventually getting to his feet and yelling "Follow me", to be followed only by his "minder" (Sgt Norman), who gave him the only covering fire he received in his lone charge before he was killed.

Sgt Norman's comment is revealing: "My own opinion was that he shouldn't have been there, but being 'H' Jones he was always going to be there because he was that type of CO."

About the Victoria Cross

awarded to Jones the author rightly concludes: "There can be no doubt as to his personal courage and his total disregard for danger, but he would surely have been the first to agree, had he lived, that this supreme reward was in recognition of his battalion's achievements as well as his own."

This was a "triumph for the riflemen and junior leaders" of 2 Para and the author has done them full justice. - PSN

Goose Green: A Battle Fought to be Won by Mark Adkin. Leo Cooper, £18.95.

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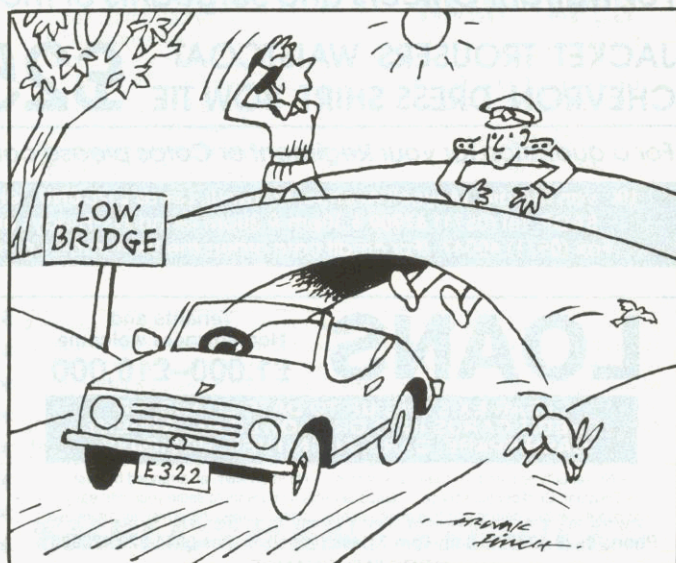
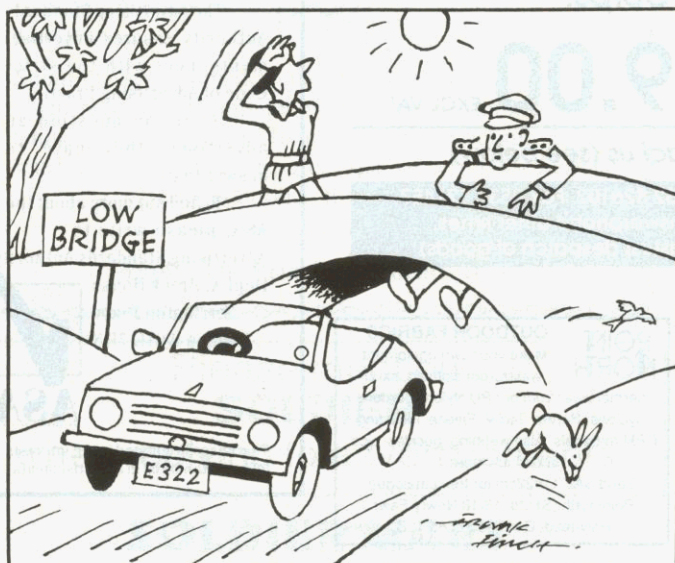
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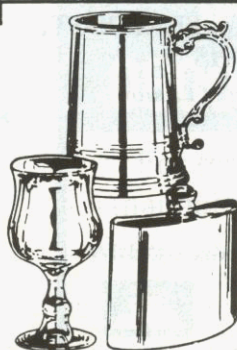
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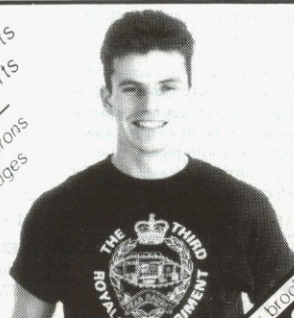
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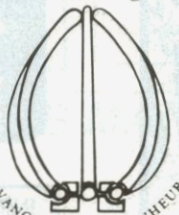
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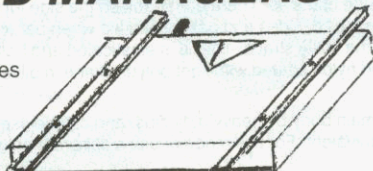
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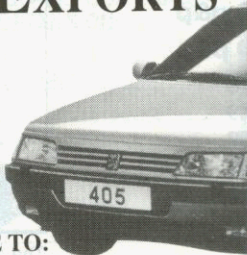
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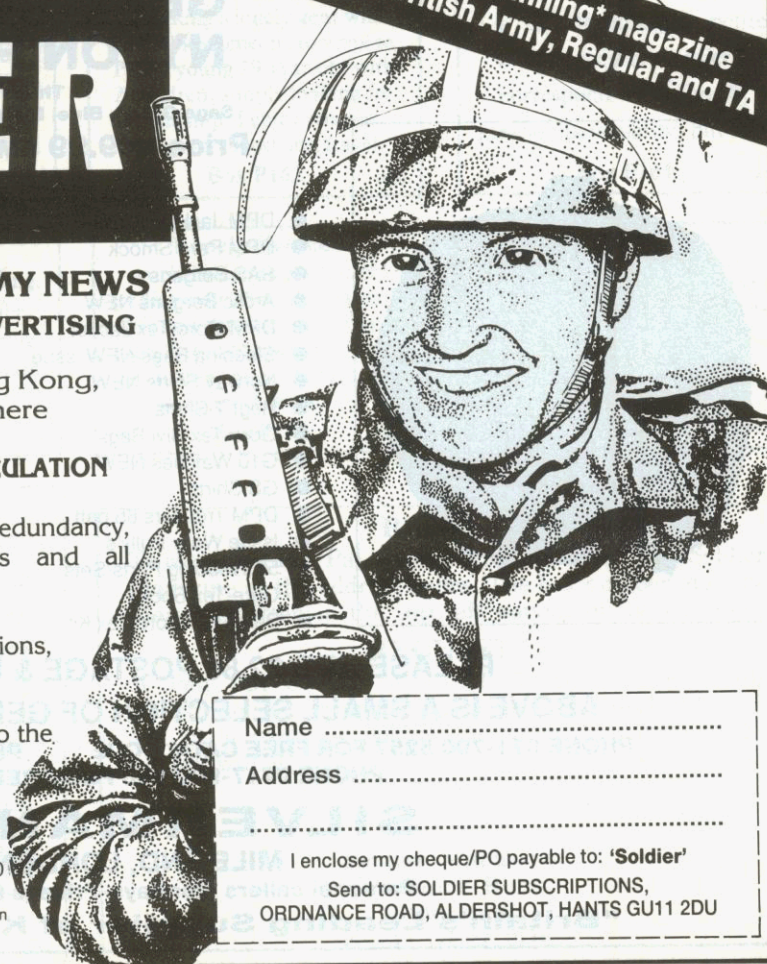
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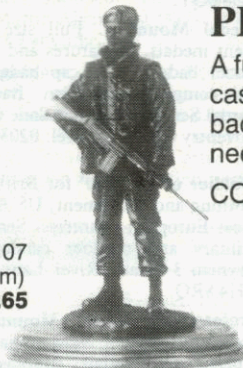
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A114

Team spirit is the key at Cosford

INCLEMENT weather at RAF Cosford did little to loosen the stranglehold the Army men's team have on the Inter-Services athletic championships, writes **Peter Marsh**.

A convincing team victory, by 15½ points over the RAF, gave the Army their sixth successive win. The athletes, who had spent a week at the Army School of Physical Training finishing their preparations, had the benefit of a day's coaching under the direction of Frank Dick, director of coaching to the national squad.

The Army team, which included 17 newcomers in a squad of 33, got maximum points in the opening two events; Shaun Jones, confirming his position as the Services' No 1 hammer thrower this year, while in the javelin, Keith Rix retained his Inter-Service title, with a good series over 60 metres.

Following a 12-month absence due to injury, Tim Coker marked his return by winning his first title in a thrilling high jump competition from Willis of the RAF.

On the track, the Army athletes were in magnificent

form. Lenny Paul confirmed his position as one of the best sprinters on the UK circuit with fine wins in both the 100m and 200m events.

Rod Finch, who won both the 800m and 1,500m titles last year, concentrated on the longer event this time, pairing up with Steve Overton, who was impressive when winning the 1,500m against Hampshire and Surrey the previous week. The Army pair made their move on the final lap, with Finch managing to get his nose in front to win a thrilling race in which only 0.4 seconds separated the first three finishers.

Front running was the tactic employed by the Army duo in the 800m, with Ian Robinson cutting out a fast early pace. With 250m to go, Army champion Steve Haywood stamped his authority on the race, and his speed and strength proved too much for the opposition.

Performance of the day had to be from Glen Grant and Gary Wadsworth in the 5,000m. Against current internationals from both the RN and RAF, the Army runners had their work cut out. Early pacemak-



Picture: Mike Weston

ing was performed by Gerrard of the Navy, closely followed by Mark Flint and Andy Neal of the RAF, with the Army pair tucked in at the rear.

But 800m from home Grant injected a fast penultimate lap which shook off the pursuing group apart from his in-form team mate.

Wadsworth's younger legs carried him over the finishing line just ahead of Grant. It was an excellent result by these two Army athletes, who brought to an end the RAF's dominance in

the event. One has to look back as far as 1975 for the last Army winner and 1974 for an Army 1-2!

Results (Army men)
100m - 1, Cpl Paul, 10.4sec; 2, Cpl Callender, 10.8sec. 200m - 1, Cpl Paul 21.2sec; 2, Cpl Callender, 21.5sec. 400m - 2, Cpl Commosiong, 49.5sec (PB); 3, LCpl Alderson, 50.9sec.

800m - 1, Tpr Haywood, 1:51.9; 3, LCpl Robinson, 1:53.3. 1,500m - 1, Sgt Finch, 3:50.8; 2, Bdr Overton, 3:51.0. 5,000m - 1, Dvr Wadsworth, 14:18.1; 2, Maj Grant, 14:19.7.

110m hurdles - 2, LCpl Tomkinson, 14.6sec; 4, SSgt Killen, 15.6sec. 400m hurdles - 3, Cpl Douglas, 53.5sec; 4, Cpl Richardson, 54.3sec (PB). 3,000m steeplechase - 2, Cpl Marshall, 9:18.5 (PB); 4, LCpl Palmer, 9:28.0 (PB). 4x100m relay - 1, Army, 41.6sec. 4x400m - 1, Army, 3:20.1.

Shot - 3, LCpl Watson, 13.21m (PB); 4, SSgt Killen, 12.94m. Discus - 2, Cpl Dobson, 41.34m; 3, SSgt Killen, 40.70m. Javelin - 1, Gdsrn Rix, 61.84m; 2, Sig Powell, 56.44m. Hammer - 1, LCpl Jones, 52.52m (PB); 2, Gnr Sterling, 50.90m.

High jump - 1, Capt Coker, 1.95m; 6, Cpl McSweeney, 1.75m. Long jump - 3, Gnr Harvey, 6.77m; 5, OCdt Ali, 6.35m. Triple jump - 3, Cpl Walker, 14.21m; 4, LCpl Marsden, 13.23m. Pole vault - 3, SSgt Killen, 3.80m; 6, Cpl Ingham, 3.60m.

Team result - 1, Army 168½; 2, RAF 153; 3, RN 66½.

it no easier in reply.

They lost three wickets for 15 before reaching the target in the 47th over. Thicknesse and Dyer each picked up two wickets.

Oxford University were bowled out for 228 at Aldershot with two of their 50 overs remaining, but needed just 33 overs to dismiss the Army for 118.

Houldsworth (4-39) was again effective, and Thicknesse and Pym each took two wickets. But the Army never recovered from being five down for 35, losing by 110 runs.

In the women's match the Army fought hard all day to regain the title and up to the relays had secured seven of the 12 titles on offer and were just four points adrift of the RAF.

Kelly Holmes confirmed her current form to the international selectors before her international debut in Germany with

superb victories in the 200m, 400m and 800m races, while there were also track wins for Lynn Higgs in the 1,500m and Mel Bradley in the 3,000m. Field event successes went to Karen Osterburg in the shot and Stephanie Paul in the high jump.

But the RAF's depth in the sprint events proved to be the decisive factor. They achieved narrow wins in both relays which secured the title for the third successive year.

Results (Army women)
100m - 3, Pte Glover, 13.1sec; 4, Sgt Thorne, 13.2sec. 200m - 1, Cpl Holmes, 25.9sec; 3, Cpl Jones, 27.4sec. 400m - 1, Cpl Holmes, 58.6sec; 6, Lt Bennett, 65.1sec.

800m - 1, Cpl Holmes, 2:08.9; 3, WO1 Higgs, 2:16.3. 1,500m - 1, WO1 Higgs, 4:41.4; 3, Sgt Bradley, 4:51.1. 3,000m - 1, Sgt Bradley, 10:31.5 (PB); 4, Sig Elder, 10:38.7.

100m hurdles - 3, Cpl Churchley, 15.6sec; 4, Sgt Gilchrist, 17.6sec. 400m hurdles - 4, Lt Bennett, 68.0sec; 5, Capt Derben, 73.7sec.

4x100m - 2, Army, 51.3sec. 4x100m - 2, Army, 4:06.2.

Shot - 2, Capt Osterburg, 10.44m; 3, 2nd Lt Scott, 9.39m. Discus - 1, Capt Osterburg, 38.06m; 4, Lt Scott, 28.52m. Javelin - 3, LCpl Yardley, 32.96m; 4, Gnr Auty, 30.04m.

High jump - 1, Sgt Paul, 1.65m; 2, Sgt Gilchrist, 1.55m. Long jump - 2, Cpl Churchley, 5.27m; 5, Pte Glover, 5.04m.

Team result - 1, RAF 131; 2, Army 119; 3, RN 59.

RH retains Captains Cup



The Royal Hussars overcame a four-goal handicap to beat The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars 8-6 in the final of the Captains and Subalterns Inter-Regimental polo competition at Hohne. Last year they beat The Queen's Own Hussars in the final. From left to right are winning team Capt Mark Morrison, Lt Nick Hunter, Capt Robert Freedman and Capt Toby Bridge.

Sapper veteran first at Biel

WO1 EDDIE Byrne of Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment was the first British and Service veteran across the line in the Biel-Bienne 100km race in Switzerland.

Best-placed of 28 Engr Regt's five-man team was Cpl John Hay who finished 569th in 11hr 15min, nearly an hour and a half ahead of Byrne who was 1,050th overall.

Still the champs, but RAF closes the gap

ALTHOUGH the Army continues to dominate tug-of-war at Inter-Service level, this year's competition at RAF Cosford was memorable for the advances made by the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

The Army's traditional clean-sweep of trophies was broken for the first time when RAF Cottesmore defeated FOD Dulmen in the 680k division to win the RAF's first medal. The gold medal, however, was retained by the Army in the formidable form of 40 Field Regiment RA.

In the 560k competition, 94 Locating Regiment RA beat 50 Missile Regiment RA to the gold medal, thus reversing the result at the Army championships. HMS *Sultan* gave the Navy a boost by achieving the Senior Service's first victory over both RAF teams.

The blue riband 640k category was won by 4 UDR under their new title of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, and that despite their anchorman running a temperature before he got on the rope. The Hohne-based gunners from 40 Fd Regt were runners up and their WO2 Jimmy Clarke was given the honour of receiving the crystal vase for the Army as the overall Inter-Service champions for 1992.

The Army championships hosted at Larkhill by 14 Field Regiment RA resulted in wins for 50 Msl Regt, 4 Royal Irish and 40 Fd Regt.

Details were:

560k - 1, 50 Msl Regt RA; 2, 94 Loc Regt RA; 3, 14 Fd Regt RA; 4, JLR RA; 5, 32 Hy Regt RA; 6, RAMC Tg Gp and 2 R Anglian.

600k - 1, 4 Royal Irish; 2, 14 Fd Regt RA; 3, 94 Loc Regt and 50 Msl Regt RA; 5, 32 Hy Regt RA; 6, 2 Signal Regt; 7, 40 Fd Regt RA.

640k - 1, 4 Royal Irish; 2, 40 Fd Regt RA; 3, FOD Dulmen; 4, 2 Signal Regt; 5, RAMC Tg Gp; 6, 14 Fd Regt RA.

680k - 1, 40 Fd Regt RA; 2, FOD Dulmen; 3, 4 Royal Irish and 47 AD Sqn RCT; 5, RAMC Tg Gp; 6, 39 Hy Regt RA and 2 Signal Regt; 8, 9/12 L; 9, 17 Trg Regt RA.

Plate winners - 39 Hy Regt RA (560k, 600k, 640k), 12 Armd Wksp (680k).

Pipped by Wiltshire

LIMITED over matches against Wiltshire, Oxford University and British Police ended in defeat for Army XIs working up towards the Inter-Services tournament in Portsmouth next month.

There was a tight finish against the Minor County side at Aldershot, with the Army failing by just five runs to reach Wiltshire's 200 all out in 55 overs.

Capt Mark Dyer (WG) took 4-46 and Lt Alistair Houldsworth (REME, Guards Depot) 3-40 after skipper Capt Jimmy Coterill (RA) had inserted the

visitors, but the Army lost wickets at crucial stages as they made their reply.

The innings was anchored by 2nd Lt Iain Wood (Green Howards), who scored 54, with Lt Will Pym (IG) contributing 30, Lt Ian Fielding (Kings) 39 and Capt Tom Thicknesse (RGJ) 23.

British Police won a low-scoring 55-over match at Aldershot by five wickets.

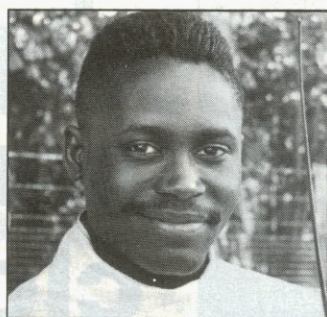
Thicknesse with 32 and Lt Simon Hazlitt (LI) with 21 top scored as the Army mustered only 125 for eight in their full allocation, but the police found

Willie's a cut above the rest

ARMY FENCER Cpl James "Willie" Williams (pictured right) has been selected for the British sabre team at the Barcelona Olympics.

Currently on the PT staff of Depot Regiment, Royal Engineers at Chatham, Cpl Williams had never fenced before he joined the Army and took up the sport while at the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE.

He has met and beaten some of the world's best fencers,



including the world champion, in competitions in Washington,

Warsaw, Sophia, Munich and Paris.

The youngest ever Army team captain, he has earned a reputation for being a tenacious, aggressive and highly skilled fencer, confirmed when he finished third in the 1992 UK national championships and soon afterwards achieved the best British placing for 50 years in the Coupe D'Europe (European Cup) competition.

Williams won the Army and

Combined Services Under 20 titles from 1984 to 1986, earned his full Army colours the following year, and was the Army and Services' Champion-at-Arms in 1989 and 1990.

He has won the Wilkinson Sword for the Inter-Service Champion-at-Arms three times, on the first occasion receiving the handsomely engraved sword from the Prince of Wales during the Royal Tournament.

Watch out – there's a red card about

RED AND yellow cards are to appear on Service soccer pitches for the first time following the International Football Association Board's decision to put the boot into time-wasters.

And Army players are being told: Make sure you know the new laws before the season starts.

Hundreds of sets of the plastic yellow cautionary and red sending-off cards are being dispatched by the Army FA to Service referees in Germany and the United Kingdom following the governing body's ruling that cards will be used in all competitions to aid communications between referees and players, and keep spectators informed.

But the main thrust of the new laws, which come into effect on July 25 for the Olympic tournament in Barcelona, is to stop time-wasting.

Three aspects, which will effect players at every level of

Kelly runs into form for GB



Cpl Kelly Holmes (left) received her first Great Britain Under 23 vest when she competed against Germany and the CIS in Germany on July 4. She was the best-placed GB runner in the 800m, shaving four seconds off her personal best to finish fourth in 2min 4.9sec. Cpl Holmes (AGC), serving in HQ York Garrison, is the current Army and Inter-Service champion over 200m, 400m and 800m

Title No 6 for Airborne Gunners

FOR THE sixth time in seven years the Airborne Gunners of 7 Para RHA have taken the Army triathlon team title.

They held off strong competition from nearly 250 competitors at South Cerney Water Park. Sgt Al Myers of 7 Para RHA finished third overall, followed by Sgt Gary Smith in fourth and Lbdr Graham Easthope in 21st.

Army football, concern:

- Passing to the goalkeeper;
- Position of goal kicks;
- Instructions to referees on time-wasting tactics.

Already widely publicised, the back-pass law will prevent a goalkeeper touching with his hands a ball deliberately kicked back to him by a player on his side. The law does not prevent a back-pass made by any part of the body other than the feet.

In another measure to reduce time-wasting, goal kicks may be taken from any point within the goal area, regardless of

which side of goal the ball went out of play.

The new laws, copies of which are available from the AFA offices at Aldershot, spell out the IFAB's commitment to speeding up the game.

Referees are specifically instructed to be "much stricter when dealing with time-wasting tactics", particularly when the ball is kicked or carried away after a free kick has been given; encroachment from a defensive wall; players standing in front of the ball to prevent a free kick; and time-wasting and

steps taken by goalkeepers.

The IFAB insists that players guilty of these offences should be punished by a yellow card.

Army FA secretary Maj Terry Knight welcomed the IFAB moves: "We agree with them entirely. They will stop a lot of the niggling time-wasting which most spectators hate, and speed up the game."

"We want to get it across to all units that they should know the new laws by the start of the season, so that they can comply with them from the very first game and not get booked."

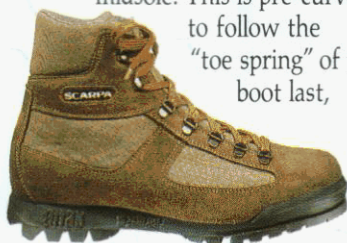
Picture: Roger Thompson

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SUPPORT comes from the lightweight, moulded nylon midsole. This is pre-curved to follow the "toe spring" of the boot last,



Sport Trek Attak

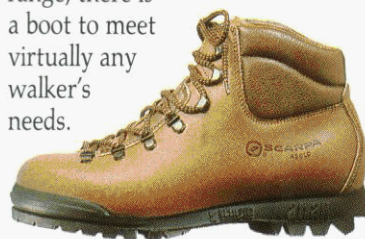


K 2 Walk in. Photo: Hinkes Collection

assisting the natural walking action. Blake sewn to the upper for extra strength, the midsole gives the foot support and protection on hard, rocky surfaces and difficult traverses.

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SOLDIER



Maj Nigel Williams, R Hamps, approaches Camp Five at 8,000m on the North Face of Everest. At this point the 1992 British Services expedition was enjoying good weather. That was to change, turning triumph into heartbreak as the lead climbers prepared to strike out for the summit via the West Ridge. See story and more pictures in Pages 26-27.

Pictures: British Services Everest expedition