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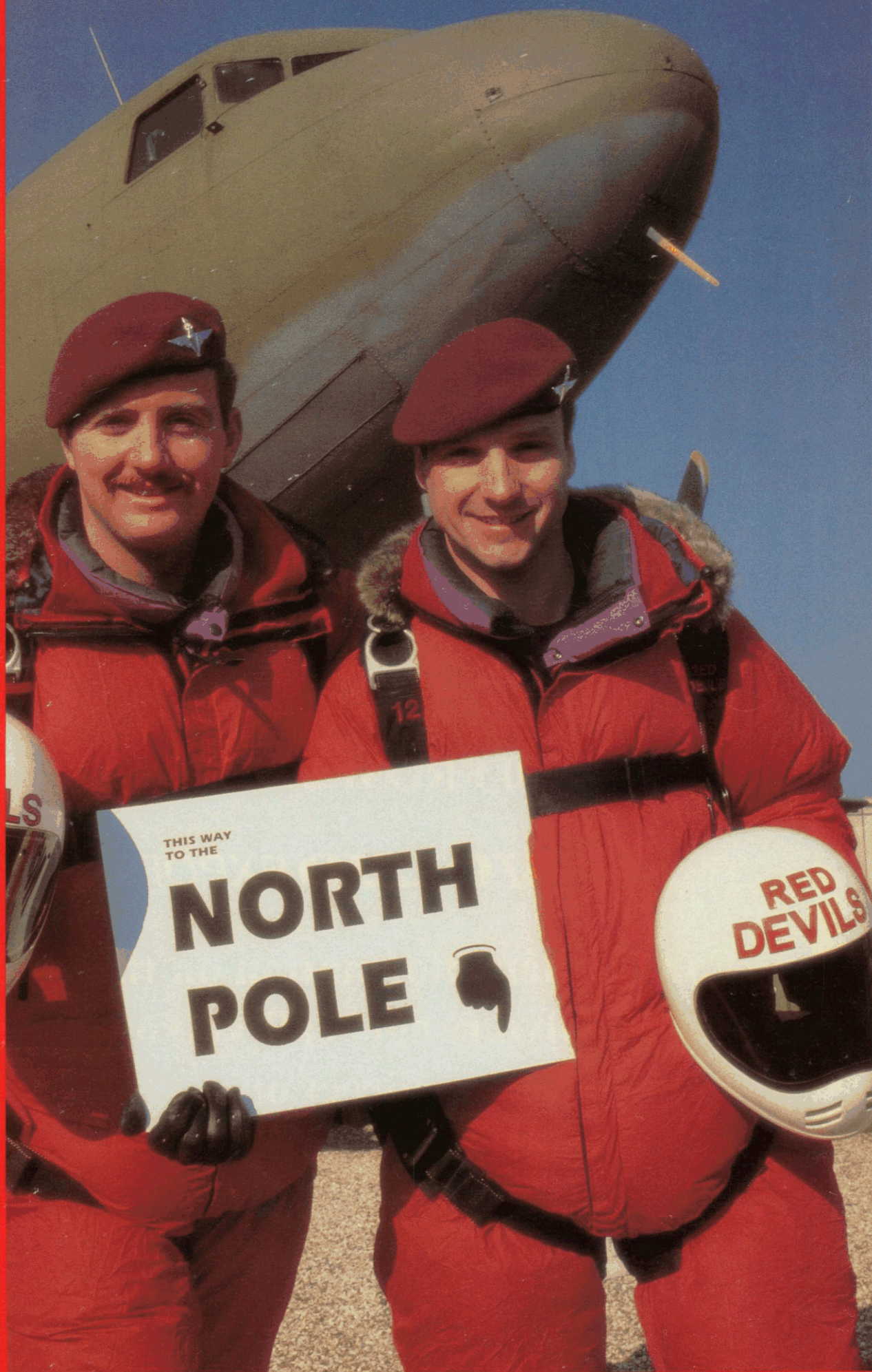
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OF THE
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APRIL 17, 1995

Vol 51/8

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FRONT COVER: Red Devils Pte Finbar Molloy (left) and Cpl Dave Mitchell of The Parachute Regiment pictured at Aldershot before flying to Moscow before attempting a 12,000ft parachute jump onto the North Pole. Air temperature when they leave a Russian Il-76 aircraft is expected to be minus 60 C. A Russian helicopter will stand by to recover them from the Pole. (Picture: Mike Perring)

Sappers rescue Croat general

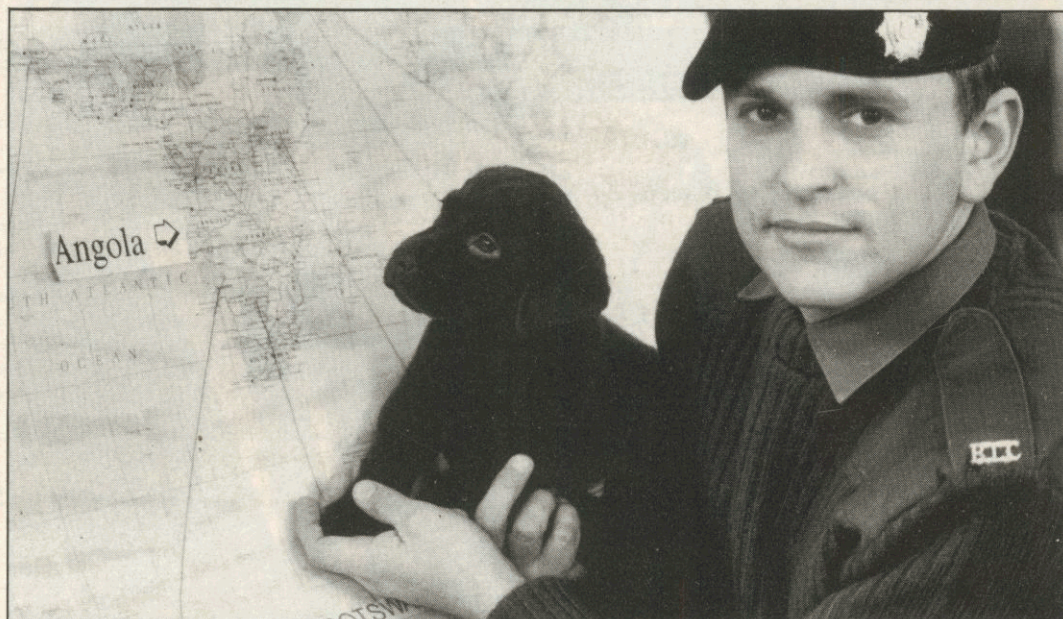
BRITISH sappers based near Tomislavgrad rescued the 76-year-old commander of the Croatian army and 20 of his soldiers from 10ft snowdrifts in a howling blizzard on March 30.

At least five Croats had frozen to death by the time the British soldiers, from 28 and 35 Engineer Regiments, reached the military convoy stranded on a mountain section of Route Triangle. The 11-vehicle convoy was discovered eight hours after a half-frozen Croat soldier stumbled into a British UN camp to ask for help. Gen Janko Bobetko was still alive when the sappers broke through huge snow-

drifts. At least ten other Croat soldiers were missing presumed dead.

The snowplough rescue team also dug out a bus containing 50 civilians. The general's convoy, returning from a visit to central Bosnia, took the mountain road after it had been closed by British engineers in charge of maintaining it.

Lt Col Barry Hawgood, a British Forces spokesman in Bosnia, said two 12-man teams had been involved in the rescue. Several vehicles were towed to Camp Redoubt, where the survivors were fed and given medical care.



WO2 Mark New with Chantress, the chocolate Labrador puppy he has named after the Angola operation

Mission Angola gets green light

BRITISH expertise in logistic support is again providing the essential base for a United Nations humanitarian mission – this time in Angola.

A force of 625 soldiers based on 9 Supply Regiment at Hullavington is due to leave for Operation Chantress during April, and BRITLOGBAT is expected to be declared operational at the end of the month for a 90-day deployment.

The situation at the beginning of April was still tense following a cease-fire between the Marxist Popular Liberation Front of Angola (MPLA) government and the National Front for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA).

British forces, with a wealth of international credibility, may well prove the catalyst for defusing tension by deploying in blue berets. They will provide the infrastructure to allow the vehicles and equipment of six infantry battalions and a

field hospital from other countries to deploy in theatre.

The force is commanded by Lt Col Harry O'Hare, CO 9 Supply Regt, and already has in situ Capt Lyanne Maclean, its local resources commander.

Op Chantress will be the third UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III). Previous missions supervised the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops, and the 1992 elections. The current mandate is to supervise the

reconciliation of factions, disbandment of guerrilla forces, and collection of heavy weapons.

Troops will be protected by 70 Welsh Guardsmen.

The Marxist government is said to be pleased at contacts made by the Educational and Training Services of the Adjutant General's Corps to provide appropriate briefing material for the soldiers before the Op Chantress deployment.

● See also Pages 13-17.

Army patrols in Belfast halted

ROUTINE Army patrols in west Belfast have been halted following a decision by the Royal Ulster Constabulary that military cover for police patrolling was no longer required.

This follows a progressive reduction since the IRA cease-fire which has already seen Army mobile and foot patrols withdrawn from the city centre and

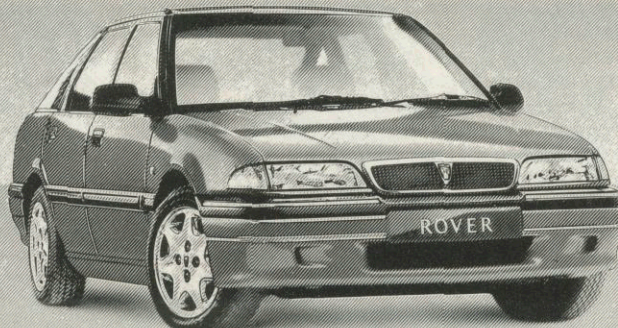
east Belfast. An Army presence will continue in all current Belfast Security Force bases for as long as required. Unit administrative and resupply journeys will continue, and bomb disposal teams may be called out.

The last routine patrol was carried out by soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and attached Royal Marines.

Picture: Mike Perring

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Exercise Martial Merlin is infantry swansong for 8 LI

BRITAIN's largest military skills competition for TA soldiers took place at Catterick. Exercise Martial Merlin was organised by 15 (North East) Brigade, the largest TA brigade in the country. It was the final

infantry act for the 8th Battalion, The Light Infantry before re-rolling as a reconnaissance unit. The event was won by X Coy, 6 RRF who beat off a strong challenge from Newcastle UOTC and Z Coy, 6 RRF.

The Other Arms Trophy was won by 64 Sig Sqn. Military skills and march and shoot sections were won by Sheffield UOTC and 17 Coy, 4 Para. A navigation prize went to Newcastle UOTC and Leeds

UOTC had the best female team. Taking part were 4 Para, 7 and 8 LI, 3 DWR, 4/5 Green Howards, 6 RRF, Sheffield, Leeds and Newcastle UOTCs, 38 Sig Regt, QOY and 150 (Y) Tpt Regt.

Gunners jump with Czechs

COMMANDO gunners have become the first Western troops to parachute on to Czech soil for 50 years.

The exercise, codenamed LIPNO 95, is one of a number taking place under the Partnership for Peace programme and involved troops from the Czech 4th Rapid Reaction Brigade and the Royal Marines of 3 Commando Brigade.

Gunners from 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery trained alongside Czech airborne troops in a package which included weapon training and parachuting, as well as preparation for joint missions such as peace-keeping.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind flew to Prague to visit the exercise. It was the first time British and Czech forces

The Chief visits SOLDIER exhibition



Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, toured the *Soldier* 1945-1995 exhibition when he visited the National Army Museum in Chelsea on March 24. Here, the magazine's picture editor, Terry Champion, who helped organise the visual displays, guides him past a selection of pin-ups from the back pages of the first 20 years. The exhibition continues throughout the summer, with free admission

● Half a century on . . . a message from Montgomery. See Pages 26-27

have trained together since the Second World War.

The gunners jumped from Mi17 HIP helicopters using Czech parachutes, while Czech soldiers dropped from

RAF Hercules using British PX4 parachutes. The British soldiers were accompanied by RAF parachute jump instructors Flt Lts Chris Heathershaw and Rob George.

Cpl Mick Burke had a narrow escape when the Czech parachute he was using failed to open. He pulled his reserve 'chute in time.

Royal Marines Commandant General Lt Gen Robin Ross said: "If someone had told me five years ago that I would be sitting in a Hip helicopter flying over the Czech Republic, firing an RPG 7 and watching my men jumping with Czech 'chutes, I would have said they were mad."

Next year the Czechs are expected to visit Britain to take part in more exercises.

Highland Gunners adopt tiger

A SIBERIAN tiger named Amur has been adopted by 25/170 (Imjin) Battery, Royal Artillery.

The first year's sponsorship of the animal at Colchester Zoo has been privately funded by Capt James Phillips and Lt Nick Andrew, who are leaving the battery.

Imjin Battery, which has a tiger as its emblem, will sponsor Amur for as long as it is based at Colchester. The unit is part of 19 Regiment RA, the Highland Gunners.

Coldstream get their goose

JACOB, a Hungarian goose, has taken up his position as the new regimental mascot of the Coldstream Guards. He was presented to the regiment by the 62nd Hungarian Mecha-

nised Brigade during an exercise in Hungary last year.

A goose saved the 2nd Battalion in Canada in the 1830s by alerting soldiers to an attack by French settlers.



A Royal Artillery bombardier is put through his parachute drills before jumping from an Mi17 helicopter

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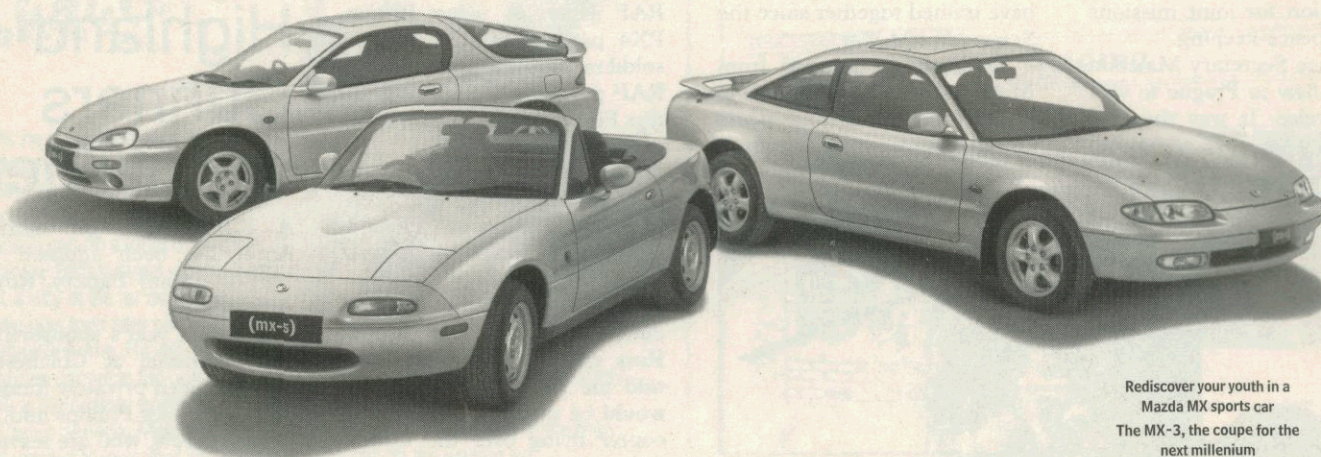
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NI peace dividend for the Army

WITHDRAWAL of troops from Northern Ireland will not mean a further reduction in the overall strength of the Army, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told MPs.

Answering Commons questions on March 28 he said: "I can state categorically that, if the position in Northern Ireland were to permit further reductions in troop levels in Northern Ireland, that would not lead to any reductions in the size of the Services.

"It would enable us to provide more time for training, create a position in which there was less pressure on our troops and enable them to have more time with their families."

Cases of miscarriage, still birth, birth defects and infant morbidity among families of Gulf veterans are no higher than the national average and the figures have not changed since the Gulf conflict, said Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

Answering a written question from Mr Tam Dalyell, he added that the MoD would take into account the views of Dr Roger Sutcliffe, of Glasgow University, who had proposed a study of such problems among offspring of Gulf veterans.

There is no evidence that chemical or biological warfare agents were used during the Gulf War, Dr David Clark, Shadow Defence Secretary, was told.

The conclusion was contained in letters from Dr Graham Pearson, director general of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, following written questions.

Figures based on an ethnic origin survey of the Regular Armed Forces show the number of warrant officers or equivalent



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

and commissioned officers classifying themselves as black or Asian.

Based on the 57 per cent of responses to the survey received by October 1, there were 64 black and 40 Asian

warrant officers or equivalent.

Up to the rank of captain or equivalent the figures were 59 and 94 and from major to colonel or equivalent, 31 and 66.

Figures for ranks between brigadier and field marshal or equivalent were not given because there were fewer than five in each category.

"Where numbers are less than five," stated a written answer, "figures are not given in order to avoid individuals being identified."

In a written reply Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames confirmed that the new Joint Service Command and Staff College

would be at Camberley. He said it would open in late 1997, when the colleges at Greenwich and Bracknell would close.

Greenwich, he said, was being considered as a possible location for a restructured Defence School of Languages but had been rejected as a possible site for a Tri-Service Chaplaincy School.

Other points from Parliament:

● New MoD hospital units will be at Frimley Park Hospital NHS trust in Surrey and Peterborough Hospitals NHS trust in Cambridgeshire.

● Army vehicle storage will be concentrated at Ashchurch when the depot at Ludgershall closes on March 31, 1997.

● The Army's Technical Equipment Division, Donnington, and Vehicles Spares Division, Chilwell will be collocated in Telford, near Donnington. The divisions will amalgamate to form the Equipment Support Provision and Procurement Authority (ESPPA).

Portland hails EOD operation

AN ARMY bomb disposal expert who defused a 1,100lb German wartime bomb in Portland, Dorset, was hailed as a local hero after residents were allowed to return home.

Capt Michael Lobb, serving with Wimbish-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), worked through the night of April 1 and all the following day to make the huge bomb safe.

It was discovered under a disused football pitch on the Isle of Portland and led to the evacuation of 4,000 nearby residents from their homes.

The 33 Regiment team spent more than six hours drilling through the case of the bomb. The explosive was then steamed out and burned off.

Military police joined civil police in an operation to prevent looting while homes in a 2,000-yard exclusion zone were empty.

Capt Lobb revealed that he had had in his breast pocket throughout the operation a letter from a Portland school-girl. It read: "I think you and your Army are very brave and I would like to thank you for your help."

Bang goes another Chieftain tank



Capt Cameron Thomson and Maj Andy Ferrie check the wreckage of a Chieftain on Salisbury Plain, where sappers from Tidworth-based 5 Field Squadron RE destroyed 36 tanks and ten Humber armoured cars under the terms of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE).

The treaty requires Britain to destroy 183 main battle tanks, 30 armoured combat vehicles and five attack helicopters. Sappers placed 30kg of

explosive in ten charges on each tank, cutting gun barrels, cracking open hatches, splitting hulls and blowing off wheels.

Only 20 tanks remain to be destroyed by the treaty deadline of November. Under the agreement, signed in 1989, the United Kingdom is permitted a maximum of 1,015 tanks, 3,176 armoured combat vehicles, 384 attack helicopters, 636 artillery pieces and 900 combat aircraft.

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Colchester brigade takes to the wing at Stanford

COLCHESTER-based 24 Airmobile Brigade has been exercising on Stanford training area in Norfolk.

Exercise Gryphon's Lift involved 2,000 troops, 400

vehicles and 30 helicopters plus a company of US Army soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

After a week of individual unit training, the brigade exer-

cised as a whole. It was moved from pick-up points south of the training area back to Stanford. Soldiers and equipment were airlifted by RAF Puma and Chinook helicopters.

Commanded by Brig Robin Brims, 24 Bde is part of a formation assigned to NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), and is capable of rapid deployment worldwide.

Armour HQs in battle of planets

ALMOST every unit in the 21,000-strong 1st (UK) Armoured Division was involved in a seven-day command post exercise in northern Germany.

Climax of Exercise Rhino Sword involved a divisional attack on Objects Mars, Jupiter and Venus.

About 2,500 soldiers took part, moving their headquarters from one area to another.

For the first time, the Danish Reaction Brigade (DRB) was attached to 1 Div. The mainly conscripted Danish soldiers would come under command



The GOC 1 (UK) Armd Div, Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson (left), pictured with Gen Jorgn Lyng, the Danish Chief of Defence Staff, during Exercise Rhino Sword in northern Germany

of 1 Div on operations with NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps.

The 9th German Panzer-Lehrbrigade also had a response cell in the exercise control HQ at Detmold.

Up to 900 soldiers at the headquarters passed a series of pre-planned orders and incidents to test units from HQ 4 Armoured Brigade, HQ 7

Armoured Brigade, the DRB, HQ The Light Dragoons and HQ 1 Regiment AAC.

Exercise director Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 Div, said: "It has been a great success. All the brigades have actually been fully tested and many people in Divisional HQ have learned a great deal more about their profession."

Eastern training on the horizon

BRITISH troops could soon find themselves training in former Warsaw Pact countries, according to Land Command's Brigadier General Staff, Brig Ashley Truluck.

As a result of restrictions on field training at home and in Germany, the Army is looking at options to switch training for armoured formations to the massive eastern European exercise areas on which the Red Army once trained.

Poland and other countries are keen to host British units.

"Negotiations are still in the early stages, but one possibility under consideration is to base tanks and APCs in such countries on a seasonal or permanent basis," said Brig Truluck.

"Troops could then be flown in to take part in exercises."

Armoured battlegroup training at BATUS in Canada will continue. Land Command units can expect to take part in many more overseas exercises in future. In the next 12 months, 130 exercises are planned in 25 countries.

Ranks 'to be merged'

THE BETT Review is recommending the merger of the ranks of field marshal and general; lieutenant general and major general; brigadier and colonel; lieutenant and second lieutenant. — *Daily Telegraph*. The Bett Committee is also advising that the Armed Forces should switch to performance related pay and that some allowances should be cut back. — *Times*

□ Army recruiters say 43 per cent of hopefuls are rejected because they are unfit, fat and generally too soft for life in the Forces. — *Daily Telegraph* (See Page 28).

□ The Armed Forces' 600-year-old courts martial system is to be reviewed. — *Times*

□ Solicitors acting for veterans claiming to suffer from Gulf War syndrome have been granted legal aid certificates and say writs seeking compensation will be issued against the MoD. — *Guardian*. A soldier who has spent years probing Gulf War syndrome is being spied on by the intelli-



gence services. — *Today*. British and US defence officials knew that victims of Gulf War syndrome were exposed to chemical weapons agents, according to previously unpublished military documents — *Independent on Sunday*

□ About 100 former Servicemen, mostly Falklands veterans, plan to sue the MoD as a result of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome allegedly contracted during service. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Fears of an "environmental time-bomb" caused by the dumping of thousands of tons of chemi-

cal weapons in the Irish Sea in the 1950s were strengthened after it emerged that some plaice caught contained up to ten times the normal levels of arsenic. — *Guardian*

□ Royal Welch Fusiliers in Bosnia are talking to each other on the radio in their native tongue to confuse eavesdroppers. — *Times*. The head of the SAS and three other SAS officers were robbed at gunpoint in Sarajevo. — *Daily Mail*. Bosnian Serbs seized a heavy machine-gun and 1,000 rounds of ammunition from a British UN vehicle near Sarajevo. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Blind war heroes are being moved out of their refuge in Brighton. The St Dunstan's Charity is selling off Pearson House and shifting 40 veterans to another home. — *Sun*

□ Service chiefs are preparing a significant further withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland — up to two battalions — over Easter. — *Mail on Sunday*

Staffords TA keep in touch

FOLLOWING deployment of 20 of his soldiers to the Falklands for four months, Lt Col Geoff Moss has established links with families of the 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment soldiers involved.

While Regular Army families are familiar with long periods of separation, TA are not.

The soldiers are with the first TA company to provide ground defence for the islands. The 3 Staffords families have been invited to battalion HQ in Wolverhampton to record video and tape messages for dispatch to the Falklands.

Army first . . .



Sponsoring a surf rescue boat is a first for the Army, but the Redruth-based Armed Forces Careers Office wanted to put across the message, led by WO2 **Pete Hammond**, seen handing over a team shirt to Portreath Surf Life Saving Club chairman **Richard Whiting** while **Tony Davies** and **Gavin Vendergeissen** look on.



Commander Engineer HQ UKLF Brig **Ian McGill** presents SSgt **Neil Mulholland** with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal during a visit to Bosnia. On Op Grapple with 522 STRE team from Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment, Neil takes up a post in Nepal this month.

Mulholland medal

Well driven

This trio from the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment are among eight drivers from the regiment who have successfully retrained to meet revised legislation for a new category of licence. Left to right they are LCpl **Amanda Wearing**, Sgt **David Middleton** and Pte **Mark Neate**.



COURSE STARS

Pictured on "M" Star training at Bury St Edmunds are members of 202 Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry Field Battery RA (V), complete with technical equipment. Left to right are Bdrs **Yanusanskas** and **Gillespie**, CSgts **Ditchford** and **Pocock**, Sgt **Sheppard** and WO2 **Piercy**.



CHEFS' PRIZE

Overall TA Scotland winners and also winners of the military phase of Exercise Combat Caterer 1995 at Barry Rudden Camp, Scotland, were (back row) Sgt **Tony Igoe**, LCpl **John Gourlay**, with Pte **Gordon Law** and LCpl **Bert Taylor**, who also won best driver trophy. Best novice trophy went to LCpl **Susan Player** (above).



Appeal wasn't in vein



Maj Gen **Walter Courage**, Chief JLSO and External Affairs Division, donates blood at Rheindahlen as part of a session which involved Rheindahlen Support Unit, 16 Signal Regiment, 3 Base Ammunition Depot and 101 Provost Company, following an appeal.



KNITTY GRITTY

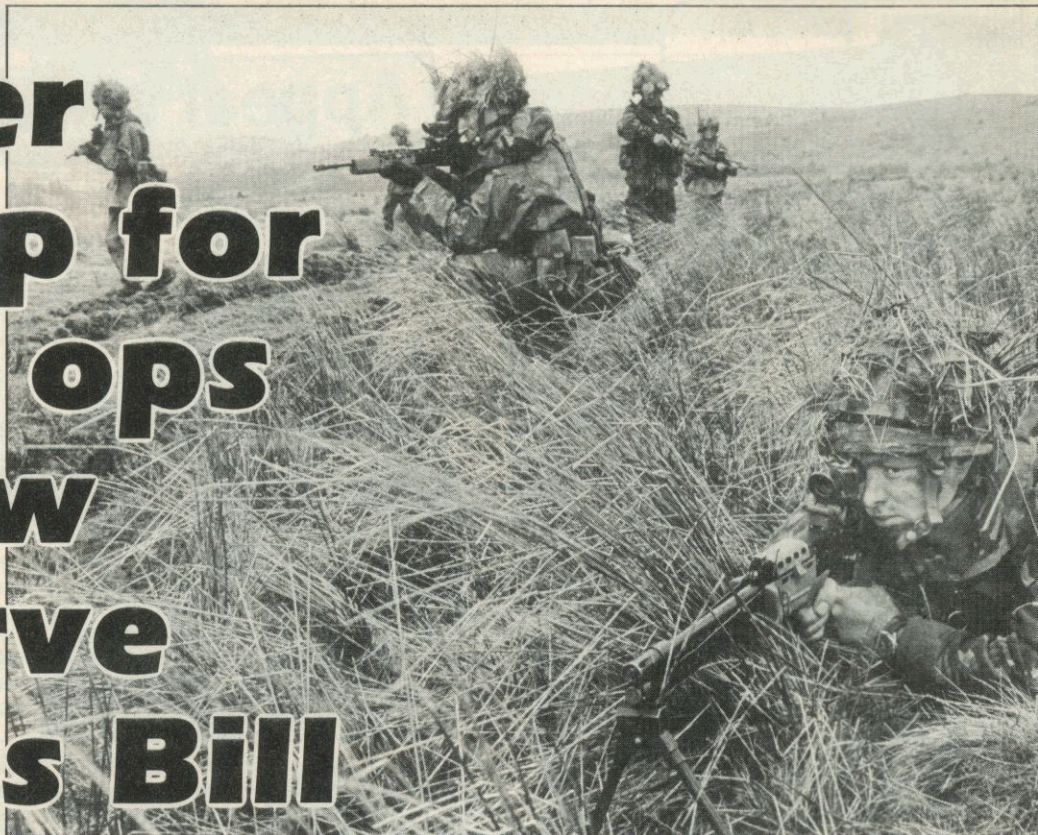
Sgt **Geoff Martin**, second-in-command of the Enlistment and Documents Processing section of the Regimental Pay Office in York, turns his hand to a spot of knitting – all in the cause of charity. He and four other men in the office were roped in by clerk **Anne Cassidy** to produce jumpers for refugee children in Rwanda. A satisfying total of ten finished products was the end result.

Hat's life



Trying on alternative headgear are Ptes **Simon Trick**, **John Cleal** and **Simon Jones**, of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, who sailed with the regiment's affiliated warship HMS *Exeter* – initially on a five-month Gulf patrol deployment, but diverted to Somalia.

Slicker call-up for relief ops in new Reserve Forces Bill



Soldiers of The London Regiment training at Sennybridge for deployment to the Falkland Islands

QUICK call-out powers to use reservists outside the United Kingdom for peacekeeping, humanitarian and disaster relief operations are suggested in draft legislation which has been presented as a basis of discussion until June 15.

The Reserve Forces Bill is the first major revision of reserve forces legislation since 1966 and introduces changes in five main areas:

- **Main call-out powers;**
- **Voluntary employment of reservists;**
- **Two new reserve categories;**
- **New safeguards for reservists and their employers;**
- **Rationalisation and consistency.**

Present call-out powers apply to times of national danger, great emergency or when warlike operations are in preparation or in progress. A new call-out provision allows for the use of reserves in peacetime operations which may not fall under the warlike definition.

The frequency and duration of present call-outs is limited, and a limit of nine months in any 27-month period is proposed for the new humanitarian call-out.

The tortuous process for calling out reservists is to be scrapped in favour of allowing them to volunteer for periods of full-time service with Regular forces while still retaining their status as reservists. There would, however, be no pension

rights, a highly complex area still being considered.

A significant feature in the bill is the introduction of a High Readiness Reserve to provide skills in short supply in both the Regular and reserve forces. Specialists – such as interpreters, intelligence staff and public information officers – are not in constant demand in peacetime but are often required early in a crisis and their availability and willingness to be called out has to be established.

A special agreement must be signed, with the consent of employers, which carries with it a liability to be called out for permanent service anywhere in the world when required. An enhanced bounty would be payable, and employers would

be eligible to receive payments as compensation.

A number of support functions could be carried out by civilians and so release Regular personnel for fighting roles. Such sponsored reserves (SR) could carry out equipment maintenance or logistic supply, key functions in war zones or operational areas.

This would permit the MoD to allow more support activities to contract, in the knowledge that they could be provided by reserve elements in uniform during operations.

The essential relationship between MoD, individual reservists and their employers is acknowledged by the creation of new safeguards for reservists and employers.

The provision that an

employer must offer a reservist his or her old job back if practicable remains, as does protection from a family being evicted and a limit on the frequency and duration of call-out.

Employers and reservists will have the right to seek exemption or deferral of a call-out. A reservist's service pay can be topped up, as in the Gulf conflict, to reflect civilian pay, which may be significantly higher than military pay. A tribunal will consider appeals if there is dissatisfaction with the MoD's decision on safeguards.

The proposals follow a comprehensive study into the mix of Regular and reserve forces in 1992 and a consultation document in 1993 which explained the need for flexible legislation to allow the wider use of reserves while safeguarding the interests both of the reservists and their employers.

They are made in a further attempt to stimulate debate and generate comments to help refine and improve the legislation before it is introduced into Parliament. TAVRAS, reserve units, commanders, trade associations, employers and individuals are invited to respond before it is adopted, possibly in the Queen's speech to Parliament in the autumn.

- **For details, write to NELC, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4SS (fax 0171-218 4888).**

Important watershed

THE consultative document on the draft Reserve Forces legislation marks an important watershed in the way in which the UK Armed Forces are formed and used in the defence of this country and the world, said Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

Reserve forces were not simply an add-on to the Regular forces, but an integral part, with good skills and training and a tremendous enthusiasm to use their experience in the service of their country. He said he was very conscious of disappointment among reservists that apart from a relatively small number of civilians, reservists were not used in the Gulf, although other countries did have a significant contribution.

Under existing legislation, volunteers can train only in peacetime. The new provisions will allow them to be involved in the wider sphere of activities.

The new call-out for peacekeeping, humanitarian and disaster relief operations was highly relevant at a time when the Armed Forces are involved in essential operations far more than in the past. There should be the opportunity for our reserves to make a contribution too, said Mr Rifkind.

Chairman of the National Employers' Liaison Committee Sir Alexander Graham said the bill was excellent news, not least because it would lead to better understanding of the role and liability of the reserves.

He was struck by how ignorant many of the public and employers are on their liability and even existence.

The element of certainty and a contractual relationship was welcomed, and for the first time the government has been persuaded to consider compensation for both reservists and employers.



Members of 20 Fld Sqn prepare to set up a water purification plant on exercise in Wales

Angola, here

we come

A British logistics force is heading for United Nations duties in Angola. **Gordon Skilling** reports; pictures by **Mike Weston** and **Mike Perring**

FIRST THE ARCTIC, now Africa. The Bakery troop of 9 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps returned from supporting the Allied Mobile Force in northern Norway to discover they were earmarked for United Nations service in the considerably warmer climes of equatorial Angola.

Sgt Mark Leck, in charge of the Bath and Laundry Troop, did not have such a big mental adjustment to make, having just returned from running ranges in Cyprus.

The 600 men destined to be the initial third-line support for the latest United Nations Angola Verification Mission carried out contingency training while waiting for confirma-

tion of the plan to send them to Africa.

Their task in Operation Chantress will be to support 7,000 UN troops from other nations who will be gathering in weapons from the Marxist Popular Liberation Front of Angola and UNITA rebels if their fragile ceasefire holds. Renewed fighting in March slipped the projected deployment in April by several weeks.

Having adjusted to the possibility of a deployment, the loggies needed little special



Lt Col Harry O'Hare, CO of 9 Supply Regt and Force Commander

professional preparation for their mission, said 91 Supply Squadron OC, Maj Paul Winchcombe.

"Most of the guys we are taking are tradesmen, technicians, bath and laundry operators, bakers, supply

specialists and supply controllers, and they will do the same day-to-day work in Angola as they do anywhere else, though the environment will be slightly different," he said.

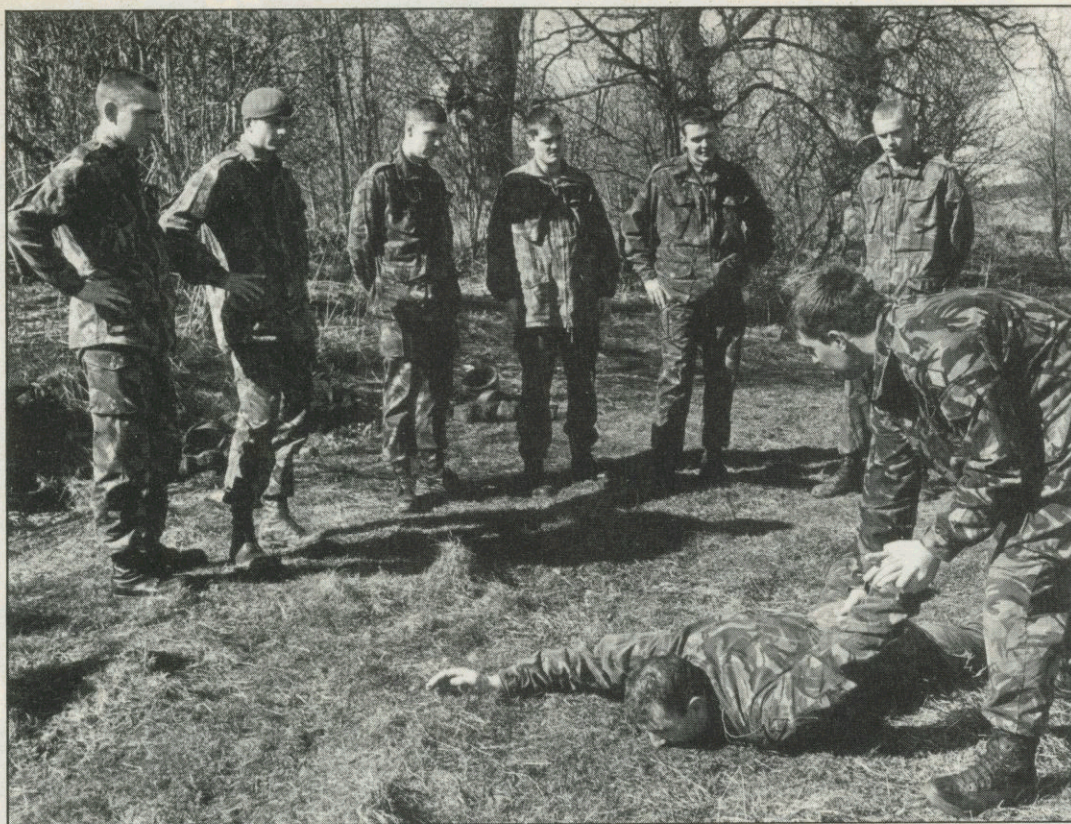
Hullavington's 9 Supply

Regiment Royal Logistic Corps will provide its regimental headquarters and 91 Supply Squadron as the nub of the British deployment.

In Maj Winchcombe's squadron are elements from 911 Ration Troop, 912 Bath and Laundry troop, 913 Bakery troop and 914 Local Resources Troop, but he will also draw on other parts of the regiment to provide a stores, ammunition and petroleum function.

The commander of the British Force, Lt Col Harry O'Hare, has a range of capbadges contributing to his command. It includes elements from 17 Port and Mar-

● Turn to next page



Sgt Duncan Francis shows the guardsmen self-defence techniques using minimum force



Fit to fight – should the need arise – are these soldiers of the Prince of Wales's Company, 1WG

Angola, here we come

● From Page 13

itime Regt, 27 Regt RLC, 29 Regt RLC, 20 Fd Sqn RE, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), 30 Sig Regt, 8 Fd Wksp, 4 Fd Amb and 22 Fd Hosp plus two platoons of Welsh Guards for local defence.

He is very clear about his mission – and its limitations.

"It is fairly straightforward," he said. "We have three months to prepare for a variety of nations and their equipment arriving, set up the logistic infrastructure and hand it on either to another UN contingent or a contractor."

This will include an inventory of all the equipment provided by the various

nations by air and sea, storing it and warehousing it, then moving it to the owner units. The force will also provide the national support element for the UK contingent.

Unlike in Rwanda, where British drivers made a significant contribution to the contingent's effort, little road travel is envisaged because of the threat from mines.

"We will have to rely very heavily on air transport to move equipment," he said.

One problem he foresaw was the difficulty of moving heavy armoured fighting vehicles from the various nations to the deployment areas.

He did not expect British troops to be involved away from their rear bases at the two main ports and the airhead, and was anxious to avoid the "mission creep" syndrome where a force can easily be drawn into tasks outside its mandate.

This was a possibility the Royal Engineers element may have to contend with. Maj Chris Rose, OC 20 Field Squadron, will have resources and skills at his disposal which might



be seen to have a humanitarian use. His priority, however, will be to provide the British contingent with its own infrastructure within its own camps.

Even before its move was confirmed, the squadron took the opportunity of tweaking its normal combat engineering training at Sennybridge into a pre-training package for Angola.

A series of internal briefings was carried out, as well as more specialist lectures on mines awareness, health and hygiene and improvised bridging.

Whereas the squadron would normally have devoted only an afternoon to water purification, the work took up a day and a half. As in Rwanda, the provision of clean water, basic plumbing and elementary sanitation will be a vital part of their task.

Lt Bob Walton-Knight, Troop Commander of 1 Troop, supervised four stands to practise aspects of water purification.

One concentrated on the new purification unit for water contaminated by nuclear, bio-



Above – 2nd Lt Alex Blake briefs the men of 91 Sqn on what to expect in Angola

Left – Cpl George Drysdale and LCpl Sully O'Sullivan test the chlorine content of water



LCpl Peter Fornall and LCpl Graham Bright check into the Ops cell of 91 Sqn to receive their passports and dogtags from Cpl John Hamlet

logical or chemical agent. New to the Corps of Royal Engineers, the kit was used in the Gulf and was operated by 9 Parachute Field Squadron in Rwanda.

The squadron was lucky in that its quartermaster's accounts clerk, LCpl Sully O'Sullivan, normally a refrigeration technician, was the authority on this type of purification equipment in Rwanda.

"From the engineering point of view this was one of the most important aspects," he said. "The chefs could not have

operated without it because bottled water was restricted and in a hot country, a soldier needs four litres of water per man per day."

Rather than concentrate on combat engineering before their deployment, the sappers refreshed their secondary trades. Much of the work is liable to be in the construction of camps and reconstruction of buildings, and each combat engineer is required to have a trade such as plumber, carpenter or electrician.

With all the basic necessities

in short supply, providing raw material and local resources is likely to be a considerable headache, said Maj Rose.

Basic materials like rolled steel joists, sheet metal, bricks, mortar, good quality wood and even screws will probably have to be freighted out to them.

An essential element in the British Force's make-up is a company of infantry to provide local protection while the support troops are carrying out their function.

There is a severe banditry problem in Angola, with gangs

of marauding and ill-disciplined gunmen operating in the interior.

The Prince of Wales's Company of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards is well skilled in high intensity or internal security operations, but in training for operations in Angola it has concentrated on revising basic skills, fitness, unarmed self defence techniques, as well as mines and weapons awareness.

In training Sgt Paul Davies ran a specially-contrived scenario involving an attack by robbers to put guardsmen into the correct frame of mind for defending the logisticians if necessary.

What Sgt Davies did not want to see was the use of excessive force on the attackers, and this point was emphasised by the company 2iC, Lt Charlie Morgan.

"We do not yet know the capabilities of the indigenous people, whether they are armed and how aggressive or receptive they may be to our presence there, so it is very important that when we arrive we react appropriately to any incidents," he said.

"If we over-react it might give the wrong impression."

After two-and-a-half years in Ballykelly, the Guards' drills required a change of emphasis.

One thing is clear. The deployment will prove one of the most interesting experiences of their Army careers.

A textbook operation

AN UPDATED concept which consolidates the operational role of the Educational and Training Service of the Adjutant General's Corps has been proved at Tidworth.

For the first time an integrated operational briefing unit (OBU) has carried out an exercise pulling together the operational facets of the ETS to prepare for an imaginary out-of-area deployment.

Many of the tasks were related to the normal peacetime work of the ETS but education officers developed and formalised procedures in line with the new Army doctrine.

The former Royal Army Educational Corps long provided briefings for soldiers deploying overseas. Many still remember the introductory briefs to Berlin or Cyprus. Today, educational skills are sometimes needed at very short notice to cope with sudden UN deployments to unfamiliar areas.

For the first time staff carried out their wartime function under one roof at 10 Army Education Centre to provide a brigade commander with a consolidated package which would inform both soldiers and their spouses about an imaginary deployment.

The unit's task is to brief everybody from field commanders to ordinary soldiers about the background to the areas they are getting involved in, support them with basic language skills, provide a newspaper, and set up a families' information centre.

The briefing agenda is largely set by the brigade commander, and during the week-long exercise simulating a deployment, ETS officers examined all the likely options he might have considered so that material could be provided.

Central to an OBU's task is an outline briefing booklet giving low-level unclassified information.

It is not intended as a sophisticated guide book. It is more of a survival guide giving a little geography so that soldiers know where they are going, some history, an idea of the sort of people they are likely to meet, and mundane information such as the local voltage, BBC World Service frequencies, and currency details.

As well as a booklet, a newspaper produced by educators can play an important part in complementing official briefings. Prior to deployment, a first edition could be a mine of infor-

Educators play vital role in preparing soldiers for foreign deployments

mation with background tips and general information.

Later editions in theatre, such as the *Sandy Times* in the Gulf, would help maintain morale by passing on local news, home news and sports reports.

Highlighting cultural differences in foreign countries with a fundamental religion could prove a vital service.



Maj Alastair Woods

"Soldiers have to be very careful about what they say and do," said Maj Alastair Woods, OC 10 and 78 AECs. "Gestures which we use are considered very rude in some cultures and social conventions have to be understood and respected because soldiers could be surrounded by 70 refugees or a whole village."

Low-level language cards are produced



Lt Col David Bowman and Col Rupert Ward (seated) review some of the briefing material

to allow soldiers to jump the language barrier and communicate with people by pointing to words.

"Because of the nature of UN operations the soldiers are going to meet civilians and the whole idea behind operational briefing units is that when

soldiers arrive on deployment, they have the information which allows them to work with the local community," said Maj Woods.

Communicating with families back home was also important. During the exercise a garrison information centre was set up to channel information coming back down through the chain of command.

Centres are not designed to take over the work done by HIVEs (Help Information Volunteer Exchanges) and other bodies, but to ensure that the welfare support function can be carried out.

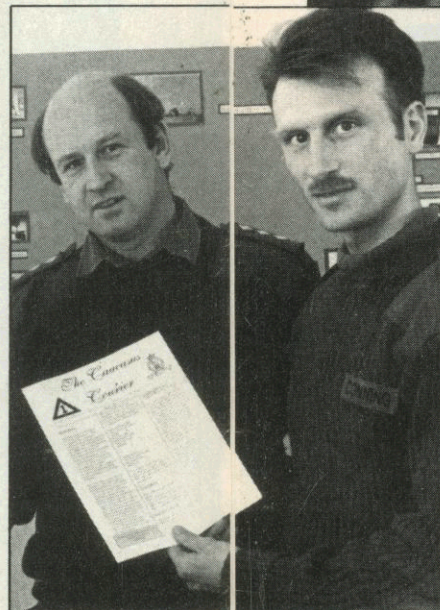
Families need a point of contact to find out what is happening where their nearest and dearest are," said Maj Woods. "Much of the information coming in is indigestible and a co-ordinator would need to prepare a bulletin board which would put out what is going on."

An ETS team from the brigade would normally be in theatre and would send back operational information as well as videos, photographs and messages which could be passed on to families.

"We want to create an atmosphere where families can feel relaxed, where they can come and talk to us and ask any questions they may have," said Capt Sharon Gartland, of 12 AEC at Larkhill.

Because the Army is becoming more involved with UN operations in areas which were never in the British sphere of influence, some officers have watching briefs on different areas of the world.

"I have a team of researchers whose peacetime jobs are working in educational centres, but we do a little bit of



Above: Capt Sharon Gartland discusses a deployment with a soldier's wife

Left: Capts Morgan John and Tim Conning prepare the first edition of an exercise newspaper

background work to keep our hands in," said Maj David Hazel of 30 AEC in Chelsea Barracks, London.

"When something blows up we drop everything and produce an unclassified brief which can be used by anybody."

He was heavily involved in producing a booklet and language cards for British troops deploying to Angola and was gratified at the response of the Marxist Angolan embassy, which was delighted he should want to teach soldiers about their society.

But it was only by luck that Maj Hazel learned that the deep blue seas off alluring beaches which British soldiers may visit are infested with sharks.

In situations where fighting is endemic it may not be possible to use local resources to glean information, but the Prince Consort's Library at Aldershot can be relied upon to produce reams of writing on any given area in a few hours. This quick reac-



tion time proved vital for Col Rupert Ward, Commander ETS 4th Division, when preparing a brief on Rwanda last year.

"The British Army had not been in Africa for a long time, especially the French-speaking part of it, so we were really starting from scratch," he said.

Preparing for deployment to Rwanda was hectic. Col Ward was told on a Thursday morning that the move was on. By that afternoon initial material from the Prince Consort's Library was being sifted, by Friday a language card had been translated, an idiot's guide was produced on Saturday and sent out on Sunday morning. Some soldiers were briefed at Brize Norton before flying out that day.

Soldiers rushing about packing kit only need a very simple background brief plus a few words of the language and a few basic facts on customs to understand the all-important body language.

The first session preparing a language card was devoted to talking to a native speaker and working off drawings; the

second session was spent in translating the words, and by the third session, soldiers were being taught.

With a unit such as 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, a language card was essential to allow them to build up a case history of patients.

Without this much more of the medicine practised by soldiers in Rwanda would have been "veterinary" — poke a patient and if he grunts, something is wrong.

In practice, Capt Louise Bates hardly used her card. A fluent French, German and Serbo-Croat speaker, she preferred to find a Rwandan who spoke French and carry on a four-way conversation, from the doctor through her in French to a French-speaking Rwandan, then to the patient.

Capt Bates is one of the most experienced polyglot interpreters in the Army, having also set up an interpreter cell of 41 for The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Bugojno in Bosnia.

Capt Bates's interpreters had to balance the ethnic groups in Bosnia. If soldiers were patrolling either side of a confrontation line, one side could well cause serious trouble for an interpreter from the other side.

Not everyone appreciates that education officers have an important operational role; interpreters in particular run the same gauntlet as forward troops during confrontations. Capt Bates herself had to deal with horrendous situations both in Rwanda and Bosnia, and on one occasion was confronted by troops who threatened to kill her.



Capt Louise Bates has a wealth of practical operational experience from Rwanda and Bosnia

Report: Gordon Skilling Pictures: Mike Weston



Sgts Kev Allan and Ken Oliver have a pre-flight discussion on the hard standing at Dishforth. Inset: Colleagues in a Lynx already in Bosnia fly low over snow-covered terrain near Gornji Vakuf

Dishforth flyers all set for Bosnia

MORE members of 664 Squadron, 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps and their helicopters are poised to join the peace-keeping operation in former Yugoslavia, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

At their base close to the busy A1 trunk road in North Yorkshire, the soldier-airmen are standing by to join 54 colleagues already in theatre – should the need arise.

“Our main operating base would be at Split, where the Lynxes are situated and helicopters will go to be serviced, with a forward operating base at Gornji Vakuf, where the helicopters for tasking are situated,” said Lt Col Chris Walch, flight commander at Dishforth.

Increased availability of helicopters is mainly due to the reduced tension in Northern Ireland.

Britain offered to send up to 18 Army and Royal Air Force helicopters plus about 200 men to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Six Lynx and Six Gazelle helicopters from the Army and six RAF Chinooks, three of which would remain on 72-hour standby in Britain, were made available.

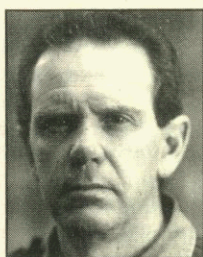
Four Lynxes are currently in theatre.

“There was a request from Sector South West HQ in Bosnia for helicopter support for carrying personnel,” said Lt Col Walch, who, before joining the regiment in December, was

commander of BATUS in Canada.

“The Royal Navy was providing four Sea Kings for that purpose, but the need was more appropriate for Lynxes.

“Now that Northern Ireland is not soaking up so much of the helicopter effort, and con-



Lt Col Chris Walch



ATpr Nobby Harding and Cpl Peter Laverton have the Land Rover engine at the ready at Dishforth for any flight to Bosnia

sequently draining our resources, we can fulfil our commitment in Bosnia.

“We had upwards of a brigade in Bosnia without helicopter support: now, that can be rectified.

“There is a good job for us to do, and, as regimental commander, as soon as we get the nod, I am keen to get the whole

of our Lynx flight out there. I am also keen to get the Gazelles there to complete the whole squadron.”

For the moment, it is difficult for those on standby to do anything more than “to anticipate and be prepared”.

In the meantime, the members of 664 Squadron – motto “If it glows, it goes” – are all set.

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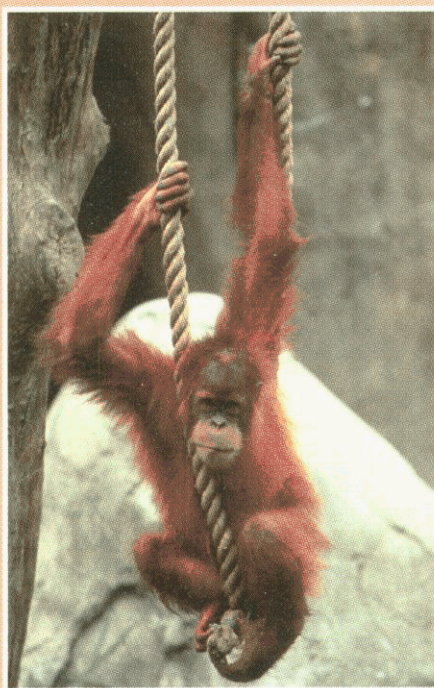
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account number
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Full details of your
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BAD news is good news!

PICTURE, if you will, a place just across the Scottish border called Gretna.

A tranquil location, immortalised by, until comparatively recently, countless runaway marriages?

Not so in 1916, when, under the orders of munitions minister Lloyd George, a huge factory was built in the area to rectify the shortage of shells for the Army which had, it was claimed, contributed to the failure of the Loos offensive the previous year.

From the time the factory opened until the end of the First World War, its 30,000 mainly female workers produced vast amounts of high explosive and propellant, until the establishment was closed in 1919 and the site sold off five years later.

In the months preceding the outbreak of the Second World War, a large part of the former site – located around the end of the Solway Firth and straddling the border – was re-purchased for use as ammunition depots.

The War Office established

CAD Longtown with two sites – Longtown and Smalinstown.

Today, although the number of workers has shrunk to around 450 employees, Base Ammunition Depot (BAD) Longtown and its 2,500 acres spanning the border of England and Scotland is flourishing as much as in any time in its history.

Moreover, thanks to a determined drive by the commandant, Col Chris Field, its Service and civilian staff can boast that in February last year, the depot became the first MoD unit to become a fully accredited holder of the Investors in People standard.

Longtown's 27-mile perimeter fence encompasses 40 miles of internal road and 53 miles of internal railway.

"We used to be totally rail-served: now it is half by rail, half by vehicle," explained Col



What's in store? A view of BAD Longtown from within the depot

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

cumbria
T.E.C.

Base Ammunition Depot, Longtown
17 February 1994

Field. "Ammunition is the best commodity to be moved by rail, but there are fewer places one can deliver by that means, so we receive by road."

Once the ammunition comes in, it is stored alongside the thousands of tons already in the BAD's 28 rows of store-houses or, in the case of equally vast amounts of inert items

which Longtown handles, in three huge ordnance storage depot sheds.

Maintenance, inspection, repairs, issue and disposal of ammunition and inert stores – which consist principally of tank track and road wheels – are all carried out at the BAD.

The work is done on behalf of the Quartermaster General and the Master Gunnery Officer, as

well as for defence sales.

"In terms of size and responsibilities we are the same as the Central Ammunition Depot at Kineton," Col Field said.

"This is the only place where inert ammunition in the Army is held, and the depot is the third-largest inert storage facility in Europe."

The 17 military staff at Longtown (three of whom, including the commandant, hold the George Medal), provide the management and technical posts at the BAD, where employees include MoD police and members of the Army Fire Service. There is a long tradition of service to the Army.

In one of several buildings in the sprawling depot's ammunition process area, a 155mm shell was being inspected before being packaged and dispatched.

"This is all part of the in-service surveillance of ammunition, carried out in safe and clean conditions, to ensure at



all times that there will be no danger to the user," the depot's chief ammunition officer (CAO), a lieutenant colonel, told *Soldier*.

Over in Shed 2, one of the buildings in the ordnance storage depot, row upon row of Challenger wheels stretched as far as the eye could see.

One task for the employees – some of them ex-Army personnel – in this inert items area is to drill into mortar bombs, removing and replacing the fuze.

Items which have had particularly heavy use and are found

Above – Overall view of one of the enormous inert items storage areas at BAD Longtown
Left – Cpl Sean Featherstone weighs up a shell

to be beyond repair are disposed of.

And what of that Investors in People (IIP) recognition?

Col Field, a keen climber who, before taking over as Longtown's commandant in 1992, was an instructor at Zimbabwe's Army Staff College, said: "IIP is a government initiative to improve the standards of training carried on to ensure work forces are well-suited to the job."

"I wanted to see how we, as a Civil Service-military organisation compared to the best practice in commerce: I genuinely believed we could do certain things better than outside organisations."

Since the depot had been ear-marked for market-testing, he was anxious to demonstrate that Longtown was on top as far as civilian training was concerned.

In March 1993, he signed up with Cumbria Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) and his organisation was scrutinised in depth by outside consultants on aspects such as the awareness of individuals, from

forklift drivers upwards, of the role of the unit. Under project manager Maj Ron Ball, the Depot planning officer, a comprehensive action plan was drawn up to achieve the required standard.

By October, Col Field was confident that sufficient progress had been made to approach the TEC to review progress and

advise on any other requirements. Further assessments were carried out and, in February 1994, BAD Longtown was officially recognised as an Investor in People.

"Not only were we the first unit in the Army to become a holder of the standard, but we achieved it in under a year, as opposed to the usual period of two to three years," said Col Field.

The benefits have been enormous, he added. Communication had improved throughout the depot, and there had been much interest from other military units and commercial organisations.

"With increased responsibilities as a result of the Defence Costs Study, and with so much ammunition coming into the country as a result of draw-down – which has to be stored somewhere – this depot has a very secure future," the commandant said.

There is at least one well-known British manufacturer of fireworks, which stores its products at the BAD, which will be relieved to hear that...

Report:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion



BAD Longtown commandant Col Chris Field. He also commands the small Cumbria Garrison based at Longtown



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am glad to have the opportunity of saying
what is said in all orders in the B.L.A.
through the 'SOLDIER' of 1945.

And what is the situation today?
By the British, American, Chinese, Russian,
and other forces who are fighting in the
East, the war is still going on. It is not
yet over. It is not yet over. It is not yet over.

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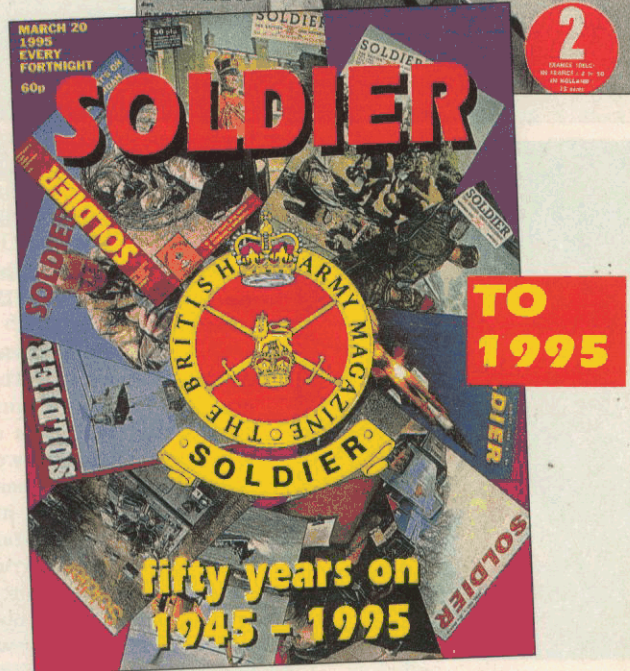
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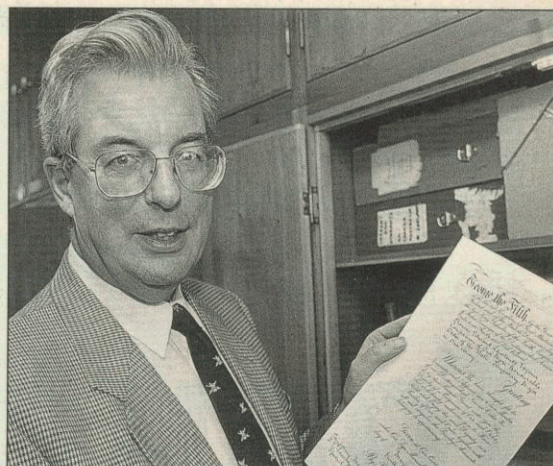
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Lt Col Richard Bird checks an index of names of officers and warrant officers awarded the Military Cross



Lt Col John Sainsbury, who has been reviewing MS1b archives, displays Lawrence of Arabia's original DSO warrant

Honours start here

ALTHOUGH T E Lawrence – Lawrence of Arabia – turned down the award of the Distinguished Service Order at a private investiture with King George V more than 75 years ago, his warrant is still held in a small Army office outside London.

Based at Stanmore near Hendon, MS1b is the branch of the Military Secretary's Department responsible for processing the Army's honours and awards.

Through it pass recommendations for the Queen's Birthday and New Year Honours lists and the recently introduced half-yearly Armed Forces operational gallantry awards.

Lt Col Richard Bird RA is the man in charge. He has a staff of four.

"The Army lower honours

committee decides which names go forward. Obviously there is not an infinite amount of awards. We have an allocation that is divided between the three Services," he said.

"I try not to push quotas down to individual theatres because I am keen that citations should fail or succeed on merit.

"Occasionally, soldiers are put up for a medal they are not eligible to receive, so we check names and details."

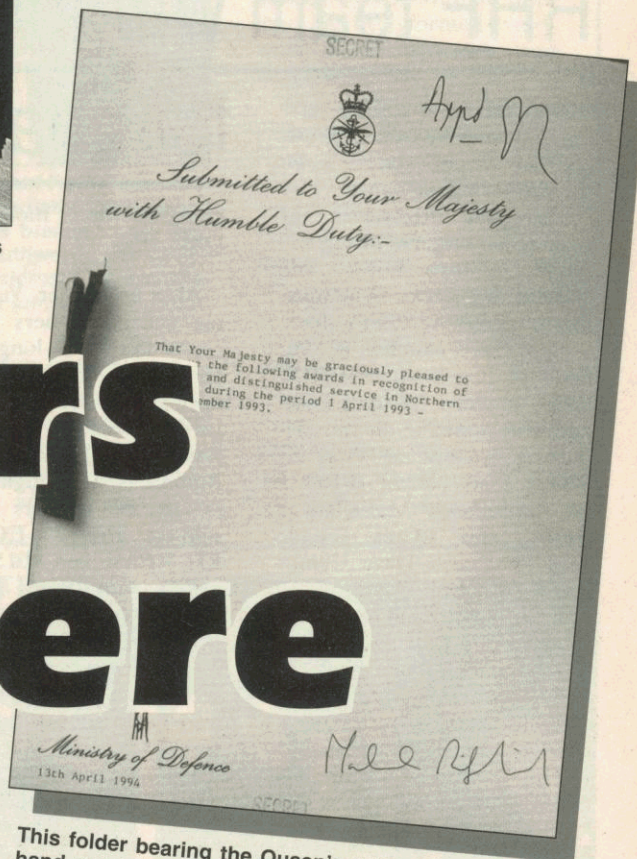
Awards for meritorious service, unlike gallantry awards, may not be awarded posthumously, so if a soldier dies before an award is announced, his name has to be removed from the list.

A higher honours committee decides on recommendations

Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Mrs Liz Whatmore, MS 1b executive officer



This folder bearing the Queen's approval (top right-hand corner) contained a list of names approved for gallant and distinguished service in Northern Ireland

for knighthoods, Commanders of the Bath and Commanders of the British Empire, while recipients of, as Col Bird puts it, "stratospheric" level awards – such as Grand Commanders – are decided by the Military Secretary and the Chief of the General Staff.

After MS1b has done all the paper work and a list has been drawn up, names are put up to the Secretary of State before being submitted to the Queen for final approval.

Once that has happened, Col Bird and his staff arrange for the names to be published in the *London Gazette*. The chosen few are informed a day before the details become public.

As lists are prepared months in advance, the three admin

officers at MS1b have to keep track of recipients.

"It's no good asking HQ in Hong Kong to notify a soldier when he or she has already been posted to Germany," said Col Bird.

The branch also maintains registers for awards including the Victoria Cross, the DSO and Distinguished Conduct Medals. Almost 140 years of daring deeds are recorded in the bulky, leather-bound volumes.

T E Lawrence's DSO warrant was discovered during a review of archives.

With several ongoing United Nations' commitments to world peace, it is likely that the names of more British Army heroes will pass across MS1b's busy desks in the future.

GURKHA MARATHON IS NOT PLAIN SAILING

MORE than 800 runners from 13 countries took part in the second **British Gurkhas Nepal** half marathon to raise money for Nepalese charities.

Sponsored by local companies and organised by Sgt Fergus Anderson of

Nepal Signal Troop, the 12.8-mile course has more than enough obstacles to make up for the missing miles of the classic marathon distance.

Pollution, ducks, pigs, cows, packs of dogs and erratic drivers present hazards

not experienced on other marathons, and significant hills add to the difficulty.

The British Ambassador signalled the start, and 30,000 Nepalese rupees were raised for child workers, a leper hospice and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Tonne-up LADs

RHF team weighs in

SIX members of 1 RHF serving in Bosnia have been throwing their weights about... for the sake of a good cause.

They set themselves the spectacular target of lifting 400 tonnes in two hours, and amazed themselves by managing an incredible 790 tonnes.

Capt Chris Mitchell (EME) and Cpl Kev Burnett (1 RHF LAD) hatched up the project and were joined in the muscle-busting attempt at Vitez by WO2s John Neilan (FRG 2 Bn) and Paddy McLellan (1 RHF), and LCpls Ritchie Middleton and Dave Campbell (both 1 RHF LAD).

Their massive physical effort resulted in an average weight-loss of 3½lb a man over the two hours of squats, calf raises, shoulder presses, pull downs, dead lifts and bench presses.

The Foundation for the Study into Infant Deaths will

for charity

benefit by more than DM3,400.

☆☆☆

Also in former Yugoslavia, ten gallant runners pounded round the 770m-long perimeter of their camp at Bugojno to raise £1,300 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Based on 32 Fd Sqn from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment, the runners included soldiers from 21 EOD Sqn RE, REME and Mil Svy. The run was organised by LCpl Paul Nelson.

Body armour and helmets were kept ready because of the security situation, but they were not needed as the runners clocked up 250 miles around the camp complex in 24 hours. BBC TV reporter Martin Bell



Capt Chris Mitchell on the pull-downs: Cpl Kev Burnett awaits his turn

sponsored them for £50.

☆☆☆

More than £1,000 has been pledged to the British Diabetics Association children's fund following a 48-hour snooker marathon in the 2 RTR WO's and Sergeants' Mess at Lumsden Barracks, Fallingbommel.

A team of six – SSgts Rick Burch and Geoff Austin, and Sgts Taff Anderson, Al Armitage, Pete Glen and Isaac Hunt – played 113 frames and potted 9,517 points. Sgts Dave Couzens, Steve Dennis and Colin Peall refereed.

Inspiration for the event was SSgt Burch's daughter, Anna, who has been diagnosed as diabetic.

☆☆☆

In appreciation of SSAFA's support during their six-month tour in Northern Ireland, the Münster-based King's Royal Hussars raised DM 1,000 (about £450) for the welfare organisation. The money was presented by Lt Rick Kalewski and SSgt Stu Leaver from the families' office to SSAFA social worker Stuart Armitage.

Stuart, who has been posted to Dortmund, has received the heartfelt thanks of the regiment for his help and kindness to families based at York Barracks in Münster.

Lt Kalewski has also presented a cheque for DM 7,000 (£3,167) raised by the KRH for the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Mammogram

Mike proves there is life after MS

TEN YEARS ago Cpl Mike Robbins was a man going places. Recently married to Monika, a German girl he had met in Osnabrück, he had been posted to a busy stores section in Detmold.

It had been a hectic period, with a heavy workload and many exercises. One day, while warming up for a Workshop Cup football match, he noticed a peculiar tingling sensation in his legs.

Over the next few months it got progressively worse until Mike could hardly walk. His eyesight deteriorated dramatically.

Nothing obviously wrong could be diagnosed so he was sent to the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich for further checks. Multiple sclerosis (MS) was found to be the cause of his problems.

MS attacks the central nervous system, affecting the motor functions and, in the worst cases, causing paralysis and blindness.



WO1 Mike Robbins (left) of 12 Supply Regiment RLC presents a cheque for DM2,710 (£1,226) to Flt Lt Kim Bartlett (right), chairman of Mutual Support, the Armed Forces branch of the MS Society. In the centre is Lt Col Michael Southworth, CO 12 Sp Regt. Mike, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, raised the money by making a sponsored parachute jump at Bad Lipp-springe in Germany

A course of steroid medication and a strong determination not to let the disease get the better of him helped, and Cpl Robbins returned to his unit in Germany to

rebuild his life. Always a keen sportsman, he adapted his capabilities to fit in with his day-to-day activities.

Postings and promotions followed, and he started to

organise money-raising events for ARMS, the self-help Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis and the MS Society.

Fellow-sufferer Flt Lt Kim Bartlett RAF got in touch to tell Mike there were others – serving and dependants – with MS in the Armed Forces, and that a Service group called Mutual Support had been formed to provide encouragement and support.

Mike became Mutual Support's BFG contact. Maj Gen Mike Grey, SSAFA Controller, gave the group his backing.

Now promoted WO1, Mike Robbins is proof of what can be achieved by a positive outlook and a determined refusal to give in when MS strikes.

Anyone who wants to know more about Mutual Support can contact him at 12 Supply Regiment, BFPO 44, or Wulfen Mil ext 22212.



On the run: soldiers of 32 Fd Sqn, 38 Engr Regt pound the perimeter of Bugojno camp in Bosnia



Right: Capt David Duddy, expedition leader, with ACF members who canoed the Grand Union Canal

Appeal. Fund-raising was orchestrated by CO's wife Mrs Sarah Jane Shirreff and the Families' Office and received tremendous support from the wives of the regiment and the rear party.

☆☆☆

Dishforth-based 9 Regiment AAC has given £500 to the Yellow Brick Road Children's Hospice Appeal in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The £5 million appeal aims to build three children's hos-

pices in the North East.

☆☆☆

Lt Col Brian Pickup, CO 4 QLR, handed over a cheque for £7,000 to Lt Col Mike Hardy, North West regional organiser for the Army Benevolent Fund. The presentation was made at a training night attended by the Brigade Commander, Brig Jeremy Gaskell. Events to raise the money included abseiling down Blackpool Tower, a Krypton Factor assault course run and

the Three Peaks cycle race.

☆☆☆

Several local charities, including the Girl Guides and the County Air Ambulance, have received cheques raised by raffles at the Electronics Branch, REME in Malvern.

☆☆☆

Members of Colchester-based 19 Regiment RA presented cheques totalling £2,200 to East Anglian SCOPE and a local boy who suffers from cerebral palsy.

The gunners raised the money at a series of gun displays throughout East Anglia.

☆☆☆

Staff from 14 Cadet Training Team based at Chilwell, Nottingham and cadets from Nottingham and Derbyshire ACFs canoed 145 miles of the Grand Union Canal and raised about £1,500 each for Help the Aged and the Kite Appeal which is providing money to build a new children's hospital in Derby.



Anna Burch takes centre stage with players and referees at the end of the 48-hour snooker marathon

Half a century on . . . a message from Montgomery

VISCOUNT Montgomery of Alamein, son of the wartime commander who helped found *Soldier* and launched it with a good luck message in the spring of 1945, echoed his father's words when he proposed a toast to the magazine 50 years on.

Speaking at a reception to mark both the anniversary and the opening of the *Soldier* 1945-1995 exhibition at the National Army Museum, Lord Montgomery said his father had clear views about soldiers.

"He was the longest-serving officer in the British Army this century in years of continuous active service and towards the end of his time he said that there were 'no bad soldiers, only bad generals'."

Wry smiles turned to a roar of laughter among his 250-strong military and civilian audience as he added: "Of course, in the latter category he was referring to others!"

Lord Montgomery said his father considered the British soldier to be second to none in the communities of fighting men. If properly led, he was capable of anything and was notable for his courage, his cheerfulness and his humour; he was staunch and tenacious in defeat and kind and gentle in victory.

"My father was involved in the founding of this fine magazine and would have strongly approved of the toast I am about to propose, which is to the British Soldier, 50 Years On."

Opening the exhibition, Defence Under Secretary Lord Henley said that since its 1945 Brussels launch *Soldier* had come a long way in terms of its production technology, appearance, image and market.

"When *Soldier* started it was intended very much as a magazine for the British Army of the

Rhine. Its readership is now spread across all soldiers and ex-soldiers and their families and even the general public, with subscribers in more than 50 countries throughout the world."

A superbly decorated birthday cake prepared by the Army School of Catering's Technical Training Division, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, was ceremonially "cut" by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, assisted by Emma Reeves, youngest member of the *Soldier* staff.

The cake, designed by Ms Jan Burberry and carried by chef Mr Phil Rosier, had been piped into the reception by the magazine's art editor Les Gwyer, wearing the uniform of the pipe band in which he plays.

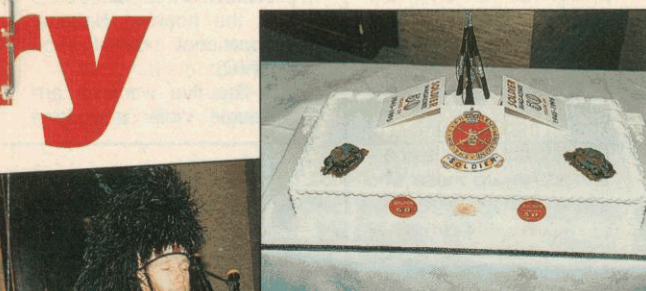
Other assistance with the cake was provided by the Army School of Catering's Maj Rosemary Archer RLC, OIC TTD, and Mr Kevin Byrne, SIO TTD.



Lord Henley



Lord Montgomery, son of the Field Marshal, raises a glass after quoting his father's words



Below: Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, the Adjutant General, cuts the *Soldier* birthday cake (close-up, left) assisted by Emma Reeves. Inset left: The cake, carried by Mr Phil Rosier, is piped in by Les Gwyer



Part of the exhibition, which is open throughout the summer

RELIVING HISTORY

TIMED almost 50 years to the day after the first issue of *Soldier* appeared, the reception to mark the opening of an exhibition telling the magazine's life story took place in imposing surroundings.

Paintings of some of the great military figures of the past lined the walls of the National Army Museum's Art Gallery as officers and soldiers of the present and more immediate past gathered to share the occasion with current and former staff and representatives of many organisations associated with both the British Army and the magazine.

Former *Soldier* staff included five previous editors, two of whom, (Maj) Ernest Turner and (Capt) John Grove, were among a strong representation of the 1945 team.

Other "originals" who were there were reporter (Capt) Richard Elley, photographer (Sgt) Desmond O'Neill, circulation officer (Capt) Ted Tresise and contributing writers (Lt) Reg Foster and (Sgt) John Prebble.



Staff from later years who were present included Peter N Wood (editor 1962-79), Peter Lawrence, Richard Garrett and Dennis Bardens.

Guests travelled long distances to be there; Mme Arlette Gondrée made a special trip from the famous Pegasus Bridge Café

in Normandy, liberated on D-Day. Others journeyed from Germany, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The 250-strong gathering, including representatives of most levels of the British Army, were able to stroll into the adjacent Uniform Gallery for a "private view" of the



Above: Len Oliver (right), loyal reader since issue number one, shares a point of interest in issue 750 with Laurie Milner, of the Imperial War Museum

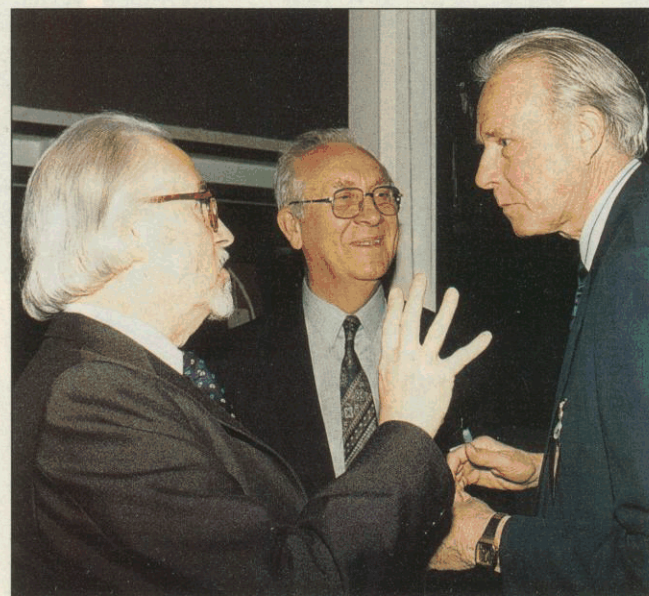
Left: Former *Soldier* staff, with current managing editor Chris Horrocks (standing, right). Seated from left, Richard Elley, Ernest Turner and Peter Lawrence; rear, Bob Hooper, John Grove, Peter N Wood, and Desmond O'Neill

exhibition, which is open to the public throughout the summer.

Many guests vowed to return on another day with family and friends to take another, more leisurely look at the *Soldier* display – and the rest of the highly impressive National Army Museum.

Admission to the museum, in Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, is free.

Pictures by Mike Weston, Laurie Manton and CS Photography



Look into my eyes and I will make you remember. Three former staff of *Soldier* swap reminiscences – photographers Arthur Blundell (left) and Les Wiggs (right), refereed by former managing editor Roland Thick

Time to stop apologising for being in the Forces!

IMAGE is a key word at the moment. Latest salvo has come from "recruiters" quoted in the press as saying that today's youth are far too soft for the Army.

I was delighted. I could not agree more.

Of course, the "yoof" haven't let the accusation pass without comment. One 23-year-old cleaner from Peckham said he thought he was fit. He had even thought of joining up but didn't fancy taking the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

It all started when Army officials said that 43 per cent of those who wanted to join the Army were rejected because they were unfit or "mentally less than robust".

They added that people are fatter than they used to be and many had no concept of how far a mile is, let alone running it.

Back in Peckham a young man thought the problem lay in the lack of travel. "Years ago people wanted to join the Army to see the world. Now all they get to see is Northern Ireland," he said.

Whatever the reason, recruiting is down and by April next year, we're told, there will be significant shortfalls in manpower. So what's to be done?

From my safe position on the sidelines I would suggest that it has a lot to do with that word - image.

Starting this month a new recruiting and promotion campaign aims at presenting soldiers as less macho and more ordinary, committed people living up to their potential and doing a valuable job.

Now that's all very well and good but I think it will

take more than that to attract the shell-suited softies currently being rejected by the Army's recruiters.

I recently took part in a Radio 5 discussion programme which aimed to look at women's role in the Forces. One focus of the discussion was the way in which the military operated as a community. One of the contributors was a woman currently involved in legal arguments about lesbianism in the Services.

Setting aside that particular argument I have to say I was impressed by her dignity and her eagerness to say that she had enjoyed Service life and understood the position of those who had to interrogate her.

She seemed anxious that everyone understood that her argument was a legal one. There was no question of her being unhappy with Service life.

Another contributor talked about her experience of being sacked on becoming pregnant. Again, putting aside that dispute, the impressive feature of her testimony was her love of life with the Services and a longing to return to it.

So why should these women want to get back into a life that civilians still seem to see as one of unthinking obedience and boot-bullying?

I suggest it is because it is a life which is ordered and directed, where everyone is accountable for their actions and everyone has to consider the common good.

As regular readers will know, I live in a village dominated by the presence of US Forces. They are so proud of being American Service people. They make no apologies for their allegiance. Their Government recognises their loyalty in a lifelong commitment to them.

retired Service people have access to the local bases with all the amenities they have to offer.

In Britain, we seem to wheel out our ex-Service people once a year or so. This year they will get lots of

attention being picked up and put down at the whim of the media.

But what of next year? What will happen when there's no convenient anniversary for the film crews and journalists to pin their stories on?

I can guess. The ex-Service men and women will be relegated to the end of the snug bar where their war stories are tolerated by the kindly regulars.

If the new recruitment campaign succeeds in portraying Servicemen and women as people fulfilling their potential and attracts fit and healthy applicants in vast numbers I shall be the first in the audience to give them a standing ovation. But I don't hold out much hope.

What's needed, in my opinion, is a gutsier approach. There has to be less wooing and more showing off. It really is time to stop saying that the Forces are a reflection of civilian life. It's time to

start promoting the Services as a model for modern life. To do that the Government - and by that I mean the Government of the day, not just this one - should reward those who join up with privileges.

Women who renounce their independence to follow their husbands should have special consideration. When they can't construct a career and a pension plan because of turbulence they should not have to face the accusation that they have given up their jobs "voluntarily". It's not like being the wife of an industrialist who moves for economic reasons.

Young men and women who want to join up should be rewarded with extra help with their education. Ex-Service people should be given priority when it comes to housing and job opportunities.

The time has come to stop apologising for being in the Forces. It is time to be militant about the military. Never mind the Lycra-clad lobby who want the "yoof" to fulfil their potential. Those in uniform have to start shouting about their successes.

I for one hope that the new campaign says that we've got something you won't see every day. We've got energy, we've got challenges and we've got small, spherical objects - even the women!

And I hope that, above all, it will promote the message that we're proud to say so.

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

HARD work has paid off for five estate wardens working with the Families' Housing and Welfare Service.

They are among the first in the country to achieve a number of units of the housing National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

The five wardens are Dougie Vidler and John

FHWS wardens hit the NVQ trail

Matthews, both former Royal Engineers, Gary Gibbs of the NW Kent FHWS, and Frank Platt and Brian Hearn, based at Marchwood.

All five were appraised by Chatham assessment centre manager Maj (Retd) Ron Goodin and

joint co-ordinator Lynne Holland. Both are assessors and verifiers.

The Chatham centre has gone from strength to strength since it was approved to offer the housing NVQ a year ago. After an initial pilot operation, the NVQ has spread

throughout the FHWS, with more than 130 candidates now in the system and 45 undertaking the assessor qualification.

A sister centre has been created in York to handle candidates from the North, Midlands, Wales and Scotland.

Both Ron Goodin and Lynne Holland have put a considerable effort into making the Chatham centre one of the most successful in the United Kingdom. It is set to expand into other NVQs and is close to achieving the Investors in People

award which demonstrates the organisation's commitment to training and development of staff.

The Defence Housing Executive, which came into being on April 1 to run the married quarters estate for all three Services, has already expressed its commitment to the training initiative.

JSTC - your one-stop shop for the world

SINCE its formation a year ago, the Joint Service Travel Centre has developed into the Armed Forces' very own "one-stop" travel shop.

The JSTC now provides a 24-hour operations room, teams at three of London's airports, a family travel cell, a visa service and a booking operation which handled about 250,000 transactions in the first year.

Movements, booking and administration are managed by three separate squadrons within the JSTC, which was formed from the old Services Booking Centre and the Joint Services Air Trooping Centre.

The movements personnel, drawn from all three Services, handle the operational aspects, including the support of MoD staff using airports for air trooping or scheduled commercial flights.

They also help individual passengers needing special assistance, ranging from VIPs to compassionate cases.

Movements Squadron staff form a vital link in the compassionate travel system, arranging travel from the UK point of arrival to the final destination - using anything from hire cars to helicopters.

Air reservations from the UK are the responsibility of the Booking Squadron. This includes travel by RAF Air Transport Force, MoD charter and civil chartered flights.

The bookings staff also provide quotations for flights, special facilities

for VIP travel, surface travel bookings and indulgence flights.

Most JSTC business customers prefer to travel using fully flexible airline tickets. The centre reckons to provide the lowest fares available on the market on 95 per cent of occasions.

Bookings on the Channel train by Eurostar and Le Shuttle are offered by the JSTC and it is negotiating for corporate discounts from both companies.

Chances of getting an indulgence flight are said to be better than ever. Indulgence staff can also give advice on alternative methods of travel. Their number is MoD Main Building extension 81477 or 81478.

Leisure fare facilities are available to Service and ex-Service personnel, full and part-time MoD civilians and dependants.

More than 75 per cent of bookings are made by telephone, and a new, more flexible system has been installed.

From September 1 this year a daily part-charter will replace the Monday and Friday VC10 flights to Washington. The new service will include onward travel to other destinations in the USA at discounted and, it is hoped, leisure fare arrangements for



Wing Commander John Macdonald RAF, commanding officer of the JSTC, pictured with a cross-section of his staff

Some useful discount numbers:

- USA, Tokyo and Hong Kong destinations (Virgin Atlantic) - 01293 747747.
- European destinations Air UK, Stansted) - 01603 487171.
- BA Travel Shops holiday hotline - 0171 730 1673.
- BA military sales hotline, including car hire and hotel reservations - 0141 226 4321.

MoD personnel and their relatives.

Constructive comments on the centre's services are welcomed by the Customer Relations Desk on MoD Main Building extension 81411.

Some facts you may not know about the JSTC:

- The MoD is now BA's

largest corporate customer;

- More than 180 different airlines are used a year;

- Half the indulgence passage applications are successful;

- MoD has negotiated discounted fares with more than 30 airlines worldwide.

Service charities join tribute appeal

SSAFA and the Royal British Legion are among leading welfare, charitable and voluntary organisations which have signed up to the Tribute and Promise banner to highlight the needs of the surviving ex-

Service and civilian wartime population.

The Tribute and Promise campaign was launched by Dame Vera Lynn as part of the nation's 50th anniversary events commemorating the end of

the Second World War.

August 20 has been set aside as the day for the community to pay its own tribute to the elderly. The project hopes to raise millions of pounds to help the wartime generation.

HOUSING TRUST MANAGERS LEAVE

HOUSING Trust chief executive Mr Mike Robinson is expected to receive about £200,000 in severance pay following the formation of the Defence Housing Executive on April 1.

He and another senior manager, Mr Mark Taylor, appointed on three-year contracts to oversee the creation of a housing trust for MoD quarters, were made redundant on March 31.

Mr Taylor is to receive about £170,000, said Armed Forces Minister Mr Nicholas Soames in a House of Commons written answer. Payments to both men will depend on the final assessment of performance against milestones agreed with their

line management, he said.

Trust proposals had to be abandoned when it was concluded that the proposed new body could not properly be classified to the private sector, and would not therefore be able to gain access to private sector capital to fund its operations and improve the housing stock.

Mr Soames revealed that in addition to the Defence Housing Executive initiative, the MoD was continuing to consider alternative possibilities for transferring the married quarters estate to the private sector.

The third manager recruited to the trust, Mr Colin James, has been appointed chief executive of the new housing body.

Lords decision gives war widows hope

WAR widows have won a battle in their campaign over pension rights.

Lord Freyberg's amendment which would restore to divorced widows the right to a war pension was approved by the House of Lords, a defeat for the Government. If the Pensions Bill is not reversed in the Com-

mons, the cost of restoring pensions to war widows who have been bereaved or divorced from their second husband is estimated to be about £40 million.

War widows' pensions are forfeited on remarriage or cohabitation, a penal and widely-resented constraint that condemns many to a

life of loneliness. In 1993, one in 100 war widows under the age of 50 took the financial risk of re-marrying.

One war widow has said that under present pension rules, she would be allowed to change partners every week without jeopardising her pension - but was barred from having a stable

relationship. The widow of a man who left the Armed Forces before 1973 receives only a third of her late husband's military pension (as opposed to half after 1973), and most widows who married Servicemen after they left the Forces receive no Forces Family Pension at all.

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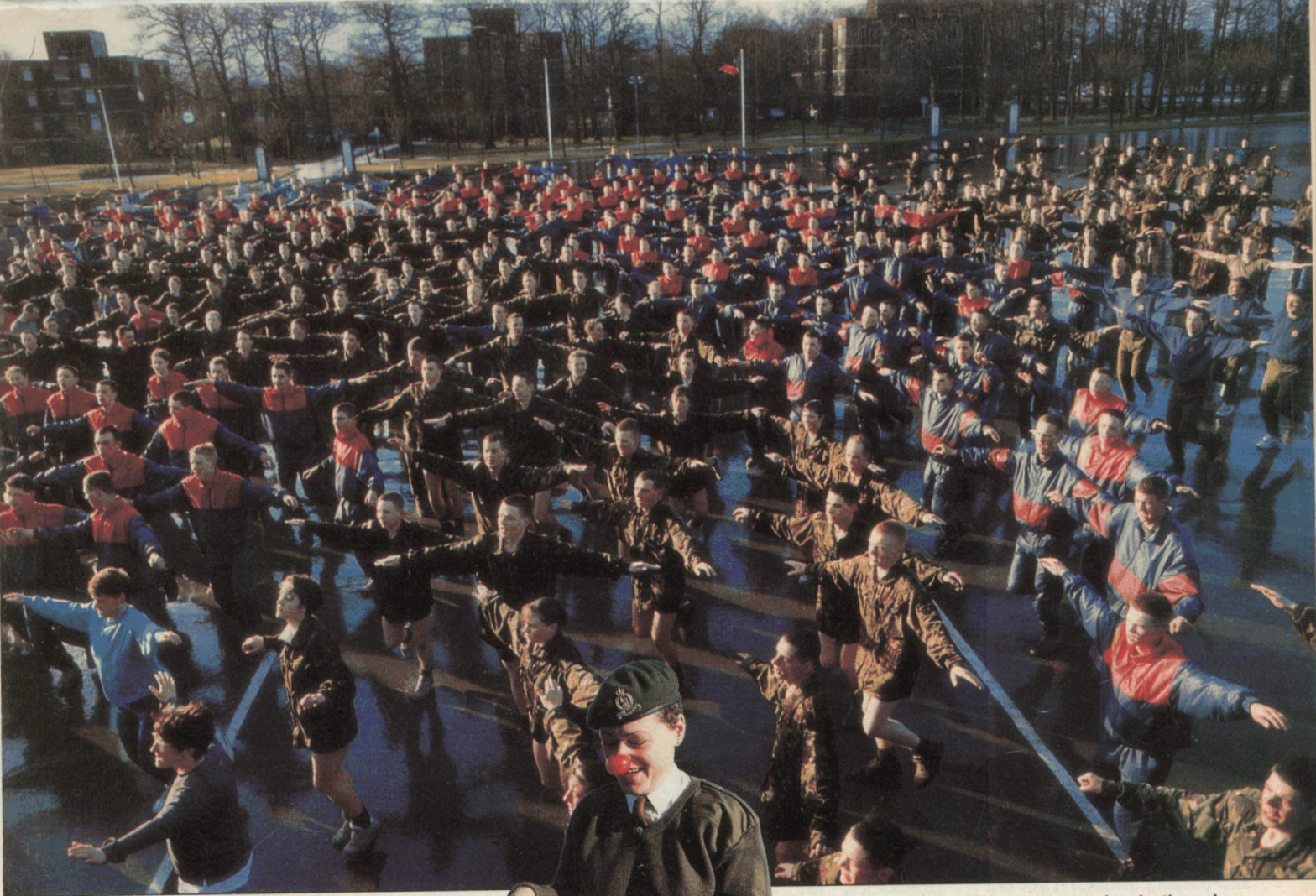
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Above: Swinging and prancing in the rain – sponsored aerobics at ATR Pirbright
Left: Hands-on experience for Sgt Chris Howse of HQ Coy

RED NOSE ARMY

IT IS as plain as the nose on your face that when there's money to be raised for charity, the British Army will turn out in strength.

As our main picture shows, there was no shortage of volunteers at Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, when £800 was raised for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day, March 17, by charging £1 each for 30 minutes of aerobics. Other events boosted the total to £1,400.

Red noses were (unusually) in evidence on the Pirbright parade ground when soldiers of ATR's 76 Battery underwent their final rehearsal before passing-out.

And the Officers' Food Manage-

ment Course at the Army School of Catering, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot did not turn their noses up at the chance to help when they set out to raise £500 for the charity.

Using ingredients sponsored by Naafi, they baked red-nose buns and distributed them at local schools and Army units in exchange for a small donation.

These were just a few of the Army's contributions. As to how many other events took place, and how much was raised...who nose?



Red noses on parade: 76 Bty's final rehearsal before passing-out



Even the buns got in on the red nose action at the Officers Food Services Management Course – with them are Lt Pete Thomson, Capt Wendy Rose, Lt Sarah Symes, and (back) Lt Angela Tilley

Stirring the pot over 'best chefs in Bosnia' claim

ALTHOUGH I found your article on the chefs at Tomislavgrad, "Their guests are in for a treat" (March 6) a good read I feel I must complain about the wording of the final paragraph, which has caused controversy.

Master chef Sgt Paul Bailey said: "We have a reputation as the best cooks in theatre, which could be why we get so many visitors."

I am sure Sgt Bailey and his team are doing a sterling job catering for those stationed in and passing through TSG but the comment about being "the

"We have a reputation as the best cooks in theatre, which could be why we get so many visitors."

best cooks in theatre" upset the remainder of the catering element in both Croatia and Bosnia.

Chefs, as we know, work long hours in sometimes arduous conditions and have to be adaptable. As just one example, in Gorazde, due to supply difficulties, the chefs have often resorted to using locally

chopped wood to fuel their cooksets.

Each catering troop meets its own problems and attempts to cope with them accordingly.

Likewise, many chefs throughout the theatre feel they produce the best they can with the rations provided, without making such bold statements. — **Op Grapple reader (name and address supplied).**

THE writer of your article, "Their guests are in for a treat" has obviously not visited the small dingy hole that civilians call Koncar.

We are thankful to have three rather worn-out shells to help us in the preparation of the most magnificent food.

Word has been passed by the "belly-load" to such faraway places as Sarajevo, from where they come and gorge themselves on what we consider to be the best food available anywhere in theatre.

The Royal Navy in Divulje Barracks have often indulged in the excellent delights served by Cpl Jim Kearney, Pte Dougie Hall and Pte Andrew (Bomber) Brown.

If this is not enough to set your mouth watering, ask any of the Canadians or New Zealanders near Zepce, or various visitors from UK. — **Sgt Andy Comfort (and others), Vehicle Electrician Section, Force ES Coy, Gen Pl, BFPO 544.**

THANKS FOR SUEZ FORUM

LAST year *Soldier* letters included a selection of thoughtful comments on the matter of medals and the recognition of service. Or, more correctly, the lack of either.

The exclusion of Suez service from formal recognition, and the hurt and anger which that decision engendered, have been well aired. For a Suez veteran who has been out of touch these many years, it has been encouraging.

May I, therefore, offer my

appreciation to all those earlier contributors for their efforts to right an injustice. My thanks, also, to the magazine for providing a forum.

One day justice will be done and we shall receive our medal. Perhaps the 50th anniversary will provide a stimulus and a change of heart. Meanwhile, the case for obtaining privately minted commemoratives seems more legitimate as the years go by. — **D Atkinson, British Columbia, Canada.**

IWM exhibit could help Suez cause

I THINK Laurie Milner's plan for a permanent Suez display in the Imperial War Museum (Letters, February 6) is excellent and I am sure it will be very useful to our medal campaign.

I have dug into my memories and sent on a few newspaper cuttings and observations, and I am sure other Suez veterans have done the same. It is conjectured that when all these "bits and pieces" are consoli-

dated the injustice of the non-award will be overwhelming.

I do hope Fd Marshal Lord Bramall stays in touch as the exhibition will throw light on the "original political rationale" (Letters, February 8, 1993). — **C L Golder, Bolton.**

● PS for J B Adams (Letters, February 20): an ACC cook once told me a veteran is an old soldier who doesn't eat meat — sausage doesn't count. CLG.

What was highest NS rank?

AS A regular contributor to *Duty First*, official journal of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, I have been asked to write articles on National Service in the British Army.

To complete the series I am trying to uncover the total number of NS officers who were awarded a commission between the commencement of the National Service Act of July 1947 through to the discharge of the last conscripts in 1963.

I am also seeking the most senior rank that was achieved by a National Serviceman. Can readers help? — **Jim Jacobs, 15 Angus Close, Fareham, Hants PO15 6BA.**

No shortage of work for Remount Centre

IN YOUR article on the Equitation School at Weedon (March 6), where, incidentally, the Long Course was ten months and not six, the question was asked in reference to the Army Remount Centre, Melton Mowbray, as to whom did it remount in 1941.

At that time the majority of remounts were required for the mountain artillery and pack transport units, which after training in the Welsh mountains came together in 1942 to form part of the 52nd (Low-

land) Division in the north of Scotland.

This division was trained in mountain warfare for two main reasons. First, to take part in an invasion of Norway should this be necessary, and secondly to keep the Germans guessing as to the area of the landings for the second front.

Apart from a few riding horses, the mountain artillery had mules while the pack companies used mostly Highland ponies and Welsh cobs. There were also a number of Canadian horses which were being shipped to the French Army but diverted to the UK before the fall of France.

The total horse and mule strength of the mountain division was about 3,000.

In addition to the RASC Animal Transport Training Wing at Aldershot, a number of horse-drawn wagon companies were formed throughout the UK to save fuel on short-haul transport work in garrison

towns and dock areas.

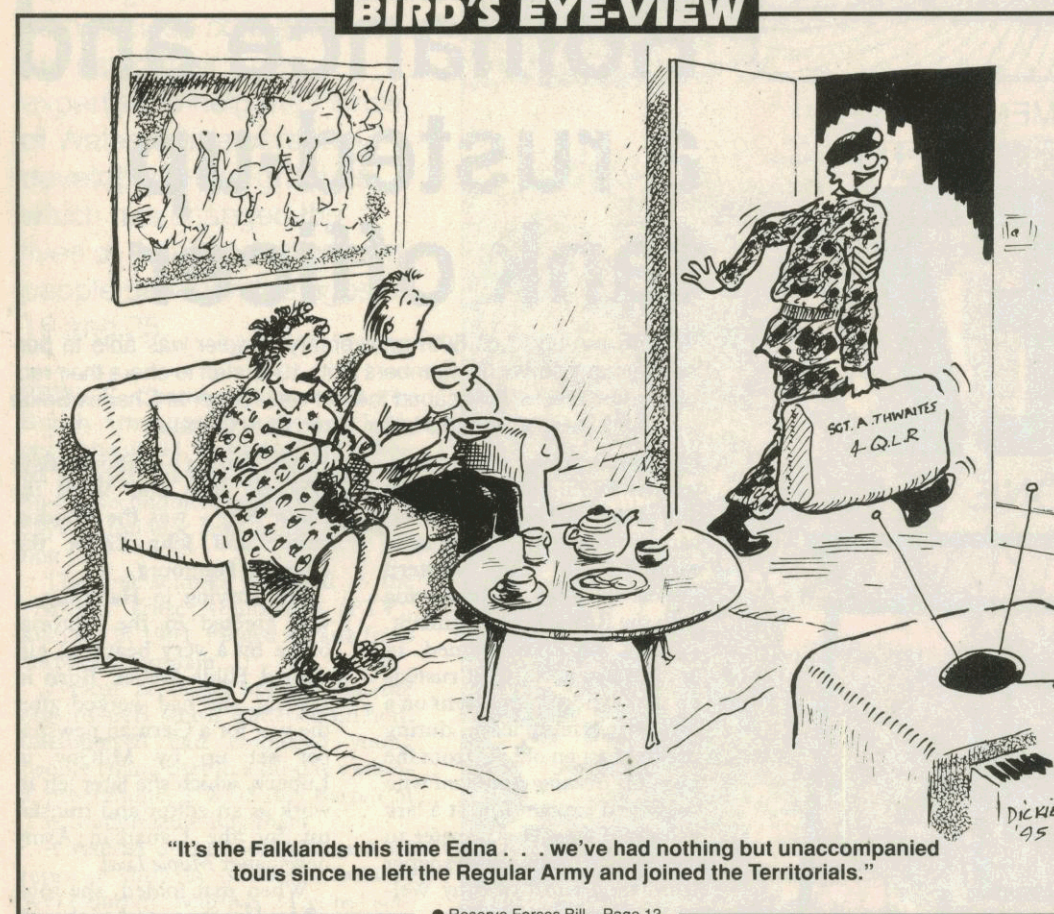
It will be apparent that there was considerable work for the Remount Centre at Melton Mowbray which, during the war, was largely and efficiently staffed by a branch of the Women's Land Army.

The total number of equines was small compared to foreign armies. The Russians started the war with about 30 horsed cavalry divisions and built up to more than 70 by 1945. The German Army had one cavalry division in 1939 and later formed the notorious Cossack Cavalry Corps.

In addition, each of their 100 or so infantry divisions had an establishment of more than 900 horse-drawn vehicles and about 4,800 horses.

With an average loss of 865 horses a day for every day of the war it is evident that the German remount problems must have been considerable. — **Maj (Retd) R A Hill, Melton Mowbray.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It's the Falklands this time Edna . . . we've had nothing but unaccompanied tours since he left the Regular Army and joined the Territorials."

● Reserve Forces Bill — Page 13

Stick men took a bit of stick

TO me the position of stick man (Letters, February 20) was a myth. I was always of the opinion that the guard duty had to be extra smart, particularly if they were to be in view of the public.

Any man not quite up to scratch would be chosen as stick man. After all, you don't get rid of the smartest man on parade.

Any soldier who mentioned to me how many times he had been made stick man got the same reply: "It couldn't have been nice to know you weren't the smartest man on parade." Some got rather miffed. — **A W Cregan, London.**

Secret Army

YOUR "Secret Army" article (February 6) heightened my respect for these potential resistance fighters.

What was the strategic plan behind this formation? Were they to fight to the last bullet or lump of explosive, or fight a drawn-out battle with an occupying enemy force? — **H E Clarke, Ipswich.**

Candy cannon

CHIP's cartoons in the January 23 issue making fun of Army cost-cutting reminded me so much of soldiering in the UK in 1930. I have a photograph showing soldiers of 2nd Glosters grouped around a Tate sugar box with an attached pipe representing an anti-tank gun. — **F E Wright (late Glosters), Devon.**

Info, please

I ENLISTED in the Army in December 1946 into The Royal Welch Fusiliers and did my initial training at the 28 Inf Ldr Trg Bn in Palace Barracks, Holywood, near Belfast.

I understand there were three such establishments in the UK for training potential leaders. Can any reader give me information on 28 Trg Bn and what eventually happened to the unit? — **R J McCormack, No 2, The Smyth Flat, The Masters House, St Johns WTB, St John Street, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 6PB.**

Tattoo scenery took a tumble

LT COL Rodney Bashford's glowing review of the new CD of the great Army showbiz days of the Aldershot Tattoo 1932-8 (Reviews, December 12, 1994), reminds me of something he mentions — the "fantastic representation of the Field of the Cloth of Gold".

A giant backdrop scenery of the Palace of Ardes, which I saw and photographed by

peeping over the Rushmore Arena fence, was in fact blown down in a gale and smashed a few days before the tattoo was due to open.

But the sappers undertook a crash project and made another one half the size — just in time. — **Capt (Retd) W A Ewbank MC RE, Upland, Indiana, USA.**

● More letters on next page

Romance and a rusted-up tank officer

IN THE run-up to its 50th anniversary, *Soldier* was able to persuade many surviving members of its 1945 staff to share their recollections. One who escaped the net was former Lt Charles Smith . . . until we received this letter, faxed from Canada:

I JOINED *Soldier* around September 1945. I had just spent three years in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany, having been captured in the Western Desert in 1942 while serving with the Royal Tank Regiment.

Since no one seemed to know what to do with rusted-up tank officers, I was sent on a sort of indefinite leave, during which I met an old pal from the London *Evening Standard* who suggested I might find it a lark if I could wangle a transfer to the British Army Newspaper Unit, then run by Army Welfare 3, at its London HQ.

This I did, and a couple of months later I was back in Germany on the *Soldier* editorial team, where my boss in Hamburg was Capt Jack Hallows, a former *Daily Mail* news editor. Another writer at the time was John Prebble, later to become author of *Culloden*, *The Highland Clearances* and several novels, while a senior figure was SSgt Haig Gudenian, who later became my editor at *John Bull* magazine.

After my demob in 1946 I was invited to carry on working for *Soldier* as a civilian, first in London and then in Hamburg.

Ernest Turner – author of *Boys Will Be Boys* and *What the Butler Saw* – was the London editor and John Grove the editor in Hamburg.

On arriving in Hamburg, I was greeted in the editorial office by a very beautiful girl named Hilde Weber. Born in Danzig, she had worked after the war for a German newspaper set up by MilGov in Lubeck, which she later left to work as an editor and translator for the Canadian Army newspaper *Maple Leaf*.

When that folded, she took off for Hamburg and a job with *Soldier*. For me, it was love at first sight. Three days later I proposed and much against her better judgement she finally accepted.

This family can offer you 50th birthday greetings from three ex-*Soldier* editorial staff: Hilde, myself, and my brother-in-law, Karl-Heinz Bottger, a former German officer who met and married my wife's sister Gerda while he was working in Hamburg for *Soldier*. – **Charles W Smith, 812 Frederick Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V7K 2Y3.**

50 years of reading

CONGRATULATIONS on your 50th anniversary edition of *Soldier* – a splendid way to celebrate the milestone.

Like others you mention I, too, can claim to have read every copy published. I joined what was then the Boys Battery Royal Artillery at Woolwich in June 1945 and was able to get hold of the editions published previously. I have bought every one since.

One point in your 50-year sport round-up – Keith Miller was not a petty officer but a pilot, flying night fighters in the RAAF.

Keep up the good work. I

look forward to receiving *Soldier* for many more years. – **Graham Day, Port Glasgow.**

I AM happy to have been a reader of *Soldier* throughout your first 50 years.

I doubt that there is a Service magazine in the world that can touch the standard that people like me enjoy.

The old eyes, like the old soldier, are getting dim, but I hope to enjoy the company of your most excellent magazine for many years to come. – **Donald R Hordle, Northwich, Cheshire.**

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A growing number of professional soldiers, some from regiments with which he has close connections, are using their Army expertise to help the Prince of Wales with a personal development programme which has changed the lives of thousands of young people between the ages of 16 and 25.

PRINCE Charles believes that the British Army produces the best leaders in the world, so soldiers are enlisted as team leaders to undertake an 80-day secondment which includes 20 days of training and course preparation.

The first soldiers recruited to the Prince's Trust Volunteers (PTV), founded in 1991, ranged in rank from corporal to captain.

Typical of those working for the organisation, whose leaders train both unemployed and employed young people taking part in a 60-day national programme, is WO2 Roy Barrett of The Staffordshire Regiment.

A veteran of the Gulf War and six tours of duty in Northern Ireland, WO2 Barrett, who has 24 years' service and a mention in despatches to his credit, joined the PTV on pre-release, having read about it in a resettlement bulletin.

"I am interested in youth work, so it seemed almost tailor-made for me. I jumped in, and have never regretted it," he said.

"I found that I was putting into practice all the skills the Army taught me over the years. The programme has so many management qualities, and any soldier thinking of a civvy street career in human resources management, for instance, could do worse than have a look at what PTV offers and see if it is for them."

Sgt Ken Fudge, Royal Signals, who was discharged in March after 22 years' service, and his predecessor as a team leader on Teesside, Gordon Highlander Lt Dougie Graham – seconded at the end of five years' service – have also both gained an invaluable experience of civilian life.

It was a culture shock for Lt Graham to have three team members who were on probation but it introduced him to an alien and sometimes difficult environment which has helped him in a psychology course at Newcastle University.

The aim of the Trust is to build up the self-esteem and confidence of young people, both employed and



CSgt Jack Lemmon, Para puts volunteers through their paces at Sandhurst

Trust-worthy soldiers help young people



PRINCELY TASK

PTV liaison officer is former 16th/5th Lancer Maj Charles Winstanley. He knows of no other job like his within the TA, and finds that the spirit of co-operation when he mentions the Prince "is a joy to behold!"

unemployed, through experience in community work.

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, has also helped by presenting four teams of Trust volunteers with a challenge set by the Rowallan Company.

Maj David Pointet, RA, OC Rowallan Company, devised 24-hour programmes including fieldcraft, navigation skills, a sense

deprivation course and night activities.

It was the first opportunity the cadets had had to lead others, and there was a mutual benefit, with both learning much about leadership techniques.

Employers realise that releasing people for programmes is one of the best things they have done in human resource management because of their employees' enhanced abilities, while

the unemployed enter the job market with boosted confidence and skills.

Soldiers from corporal to captain gain immense satisfaction from watching a positive attitude develop under their leadership, with young people learning to face up to the tough challenges set by the Army.

● Information from The Prince's Trust Volunteers is available on 0171- 430 0378.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Gurkhas given actor Brian's blessing

OTHER projects permitting, actor and mountaineer Brian Blessed is hoping to be in London on May 20 to run an auction in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

The auction will be part of the fun at a Kukri Ball at Cadogan Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. In true Gurkha style, the evening will be based on *raksi* (drink), *bhat* (curry) and *nautch* (dancing). About 250 guests are expected to attend.

A champagne reception with Gurkha pipes and drums will be followed by dinner, tombola, raffle and magicians. Tickets are 2,500 rupees (about £35).

Cover marks new command

LAND Command's birth on April 1 has been marked by a special commemorative cover produced by the British Forces Post Office.

All profits from the sale of the limited edition cover, which bears the insignia of Land Command's principal formations, will go to Service charities.

The cover bears the 24p special edition stamp issued in 1992 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession.

Only 2,450 covers have been produced, 2,000 "standard" at £2 each and 450 in a silk finish bearing VIP signatures.

Fifty each of the silk edition are signed by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind (£15), Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames (£15), and Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Charles Guthrie (£12); 100 by

Land Command's first C-in-C, Gen Sir John Wilsey (£10); and 200 by Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose (£10), the Deputy C-in-C.

Orders should be sent to the Philatelic Officer, HQ Land Command, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 OAG. Cheques payable to Central Bank HQ Land Command. Please include 50p p&p.

● Another commemorative cover marks the closure of the NCOs' Tactical Wing at Brecon, which became the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Wales on April 1.

Of the 3,000 covers printed, 50 have been signed by the Director of Infantry, 50 by the Commander Infantry Training and 50 by the Commandant ITC Wales.

Signed covers cost £5 and unsigned covers £2, plus 30p postage. Proceeds go to the Army Benevolent Fund and local charities and covers may be obtained from OC PRI, ITC Wales, Brecon, Powys, tel Brecon mil 2518/2618.

Victory Club pays tribute

IN 1944 the Victory Services Club in London was given its present name as a tribute to the expected outcome of the war.

During that year an appeal for funds was launched from Mansion House with the support of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Frank Newson Smith.

The fund-raising enabled the club, formed in 1907, to move in 1948 from small premises in Holborn to its present site in Seymour Street, near Marble Arch.

Appropriately, the present Lord Mayor, Alderman Christopher Walford, visited the club on March 21 when at a luncheon the Victory (Services) Association affirmed its support to the concept of Tribute and Promise, designated by the Government for the nation's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

Ald Walford, who was a National Serviceman in the Royal Artillery, subsequently served for many years in the Honourable Artillery Company. The club,

ROYAL SCOTS



It's a pushover for the Royal Scots

Lt Col Robbie Scott-Bowden (right), commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, presents a cheque for £3,000 to Lt Col Iain Shepherd of the Army Benevolent Fund at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh. The Royal Scots raised the money by organising a variety of events, including a sponsored bed-push, an aerobathon and an 180-mile run from Edinburgh to Inverness

whose fine facilities include double and single bedroom accommodation for 300 members, is open to all ranks of the Armed Forces, serving and retired, and their spouses, as well as widows of ex-Service personnel.

Medallions for Anzio veterans

WHEN members of the Italy Star Association (ISA) and the Sherwood Foresters Association attended events to mark the 50th anniversary of the landings at Anzio last April they received a special honour.

At an impressive ceremony the veterans were presented with a commemorative medallion by the town mayor on behalf of the citizens of Anzio and Nettuno.

Since then, requests have been received from veterans and widows unable to attend the ceremony but who wish to obtain a medallion.

Through the efforts of an Italy Star Association member who lives in Rome, the Anzio town council has agreed to supply medallions to those who took part in the campaign at Anzio, at a cost of £6.50 each, including postage, provided at least 50 are ordered.

The bronze medallion, suitably inscribed in Italian, is for souvenir purposes only – it cannot be worn as a chest decoration. Any veter-

an who is qualified and who wishes to buy a medallion can apply to the ISA with particulars of service at Anzio (regiment, battalion, etc) with a cheque payable to the association. Cheques will be returned in the event of insufficient support.

Applications should be made to G Swain (2/7 Bn Queens Royal Regt), National Secretary, Italy Star Association, 76 Manor Road, New Milton, Hants BH25 5EN.

Your poetry in print . . .

THERE is rarely room in *Soldier* to publish more than a short quotation in verse – but budding bards need not despair.

Suzy Goodall, of Peterborough's Arrival Press, is collecting verse from members of the Armed Forces and their families about their lives and how service of their country affects them.

Readers are invited to submit up to two poems, each no longer than 30 lines, for an anthology.

The work should be sent, with self-addressed envelope, by May 31 1995 to Arrival Press, The Armed Services, 1-2 Wainman Road, Woodston, Peterborough PE2 7BU.

And there's a bonus – Arrival Press tell us all those who have work published will be offered royalties.

Imperial War Museum

London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

May 4-6: 1940s fashion shows.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

VE Day – MAY

6: Reception and banquet, Guildhall, City of London.

6: VE Day Freedom parade at Camberley by Royal Logistic

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Corps.

6-8: Public event activities, Hyde Park.

7: Service at St Paul's Cathedral. 7 or 8: Services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

7-8: Belsay Hall, Northumberland, English Heritage public events.

8: VE night concert, Hyde Park.

8: Dover Castle salute to victory, English Heritage's main VE Day event.

27-29: Victory Show rally by Military Vehicle Trust, Southsea

Common (tel 01489 572582).

28: Battle Abbey, E Sussex, English Heritage public events.

JUNE

24-25: Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear VE commemoration.

VJ Day – AUGUST

12-19: VJ week in Pwllheli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

19: Open-air service in central London; Tribute and Promise parade, central London; fireworks display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating the Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

26: South Bedfordshire RBLs celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

● Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans

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

Lodge VC's headstone is restored

AN HONOUR guard of ten from Q (Sanna's Post) Headquarters Battery, 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery, took part in a service of rededication of a restored headstone for Gnr Isaac Lodge VC on the 95th anniversary of his gallantry on March 31.

Battery Commander Maj Edward Grace had been approached by Lt Col Mike Darnody, general secretary of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, about the bad state of disrepair of Gnr Lodge's grave in Hendon Park Cemetery, London, and the battery had taken on the task of restoring it as a project.

At the service The King's Troop was represented by two swordsmen and six trumpeters who played the Last Post and Reveille as the youngest gunner, Gnr Damien Turner, placed a wreath. Also present was Maj Gen Tony Stone, Regimental Honorary Colonel and a former commander of Q Battery.

A reception was held later at St John's Wood, where Gnr Lodge joined a service battery before going to India with B Battery, RHA.

Gnr Lodge stuck to his guns during an action in the Boer War despite accurate sniping which picked off all other members of his section near Bloemfontein. Three other VCs were awarded, to Q Battery's Maj Edmund Phipps-Hornby, Sgt Charles Parker, and Driver Horace Glasscock.

Ball will aid SSAFA

VE-DAY events in London include a Victory Ball at the Café Royal on May 5 for 3,000 younger guests and 500 veterans. Part of the proceeds will benefit SSAFA.

Tickets are £38 until April 23, when the price goes up to £40. Details from 0171-931 8849.

REUNIONS

2nd Battalion, The Monmouthshire Regiment OCA (London Group): Annual reunion, May 6, at the Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1. Details from S J Stapleton on 0181 560 2203.

105 Provost Company RMP, BT Austria: Members' reunion, Birmingham, May 20. Details from Bill Taylor 01252 548693 or 01252 524826.

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards' Association: Annual reunion at the Union Jack Club, London, May 20. Details from J L Foreman, Secretary London Branch, 1134 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Association: Reunion buffet lunch in the Victory Services Club, London on May 21. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel 01222 227611 ext 8213).

Herts and Beds Yeomanry: 86th, 135th, 191st Fd Regts; 79 HAA Regt, 148th Fd Regt and 52nd Hy Regt; post-war Herts/Beds Yeo units. Annual meeting and reunion at TA Centre, Marsh Road, Luton, June 3. Enquiries to Hon Sec R J Currell, 28 St Margaret's Close, Old Fletton, Peterborough PE2 9EA.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments – Maj Gen S Cowan to be Inspector General of Doctrine and Training in the rank of lieutenant general from March 20 in succession to Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell.

Maj Gen R J Hayman-Joyce to be Master General of the Ordnance in the rank of lieutenant general from April 28 in succession to Gen Sir Jeremy Blacker.

Maj Gen M I E Scott to be Military Secretary from April 13 in succession to Maj Gen R J Hayman-Joyce.

2 Queens Colours: The Colours of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment are to be laid up in Canterbury Cathedral on June 1. A reception and luncheon will follow the service. All former Queensmen welcome. Details and tickets from the Secretary on 01227 818054.

Motor cycle despatch riders: Reunion on June 17-18 to coincide with South Devon Railway Trust "Railway at War" weekend, Buckfastleigh. Details from W A Wright, 31 Hillcroft Crescent, Oxhey, Watford WD1 4PB (tel 01923 229962).

Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven 1947-72: The Wilhelmshaven Association is planning a reunion in June for ex-pupils and staff. Details and newsletter from Mrs Hilary Seaborn, 37 Daking Avenue, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 5QA (tel 01787 210177).

EI Adem Radio Service (TEARS): Third reunion planned for June. Presenters, controllers, librarians, technicians and listeners sought. Contact John Moir on 01705 595489.

Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion combined with celebration of 50th anniversary of VJ Day, August 19, Lichfield City and Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Reg-

iment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (enclose sae please).

40th Regiment Royal Artillery: Lowland Gunners regimental reunion, August 26-28 in Edinburgh. All past and present members welcome. Details from WO2 (BSM) K G Doyle, Tac Ops, 40th Regiment RA, Girdwood Roulement Battalion, BFPO 806 (tel 01232 429507).

RE Darland Boys' Association 1939-41: 15th reunion at King Charles Hotel, Gillingham, September 8. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton LU2 0RB (tel 01582 27569).

1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers): Farewell parade before amalgamation on September 17 in Devizes. Final officers' dinner, September 30. Final WO's and Sgs' dinner, September 2. All former members of messes and regiment welcome. Details from Chief Clerk, 1 Wessex, Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2ER (tel 01380 723145).

Gordon Highlanders London Association: Reunion dinner in London on November 17. Details from M H Burge, 19 Barricane, Woking GU21 1RB. London Association covers all of southern England.

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More Briefings on Page 39

Small-screen documentaries mark VE-Day

SIX hour-long "Victory" videos released by British Pathé News have joined the fast-growing library of titles in this medium marking the 50th anniversary of VE-Day and documenting the Second World War in general.

The first three in the Pathé series, entitled **Soldier**, **Sailor** and **Airman**, tell the story of ordinary Servicemen in their own words, with narration by Michael Elphick.

Soldier follows "the great British Tommy" from the trenches of France to the deserts of North Africa and traces his progress from call-up through to his first taste of active service and on to the joys of demobilisation.

The second group of three titles, narrated by Willie Rush-ton, focuses on Home Front memories, dealing with **The Blitz Years**, **The Long Years** and **The Victory Years**.

Each is priced at £12.99, or in two boxed sets of three at £34.99 each.

Six historical documentaries from Polygram Video to mark the VE-Day anniversary cover the battles of France, Britain, Midway, Stalingrad, Normandy and Berlin.

Their archive film includes rare colour footage and is enhanced by "3-D" graphics. Each two-hour tape costs £12.99.

From DD Video comes **Britain's Victory in Europe**, which again uses rare colour footage as well as black-and-white film as it charts the progress of the Allies across the Rhine and into the heart of Germany.

This 65-minute tape, which also records victory celebrations at home, is priced at £12.99 or is available direct (plus £1 postage) from DD Video, 5 Churchill Court, 58 Station Road, N Harrow, Middx HA2 7SA.

The same company is also releasing two long unavailable

VIDEOS

feature films from the war years.

Now It Can Be Told features wartime heroes of the resistance and Special Operations Executive, including Capt Harry Roe and Jacqueline Nearne, showing how they were trained and recreating their hazardous missions on D-Day.

Journey Together, a brilliant documentary-drama with a very young Richard Attenborough alongside Edward G Robinson, describes the arduous training of RAF pilots, bombers and navigators.

Both are available at £12.99 or direct from DD Video (see above).

Other recent video releases include:

South Africa's Fighting Forces. Review of the major campaigns and battles from Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift, Ladysmith, the Somme, Tobruk and Korea to the bush wars of recent years. Takes a look at the country's special forces. DD Video, 53 min, colour and b/w, £12.99 or (with £1 postage added) direct from DD Video (address in column 1).

Triumph Over the Will. Leni Riefenstahl's famous film record of the 1934 Nuremberg Rally, banned for 50 years, plus recently-rediscovered **Day of Freedom** showing Germany's pre-war military might. DD Video, 127 min, b/w.

The Battle of the Bulge. rare footage helps tell story of this crucial episode of the Second World War. DD Video, 55 min, Colour and b/w.

This Rat's tale is familiar ...

FOR old soldiers there will be a distinct feeling of *déjà vu* in the introduction to *My Moving Tent - Diary of a Desert Rat*.

It will not be illusory, either, as many wartime soldiers will recognise A A Nicol's description of his call-up in 1939 and his induction to the Army.

For them, his words will provide an instant flash-back.

This book is an impression of what conditions were like for the average soldier in North Africa and other theatres - rough and tough.

There was sadness when comrades became casualties but there were laughs, too.

As Mr Nicol's story of soldiering throughout the war unfolds, so it improves.

His account was compiled from his wartime diaries as he moved around the world.

It is interesting and readable. - JM

My Moving Tent by A A Nicol. Pentland Press, £19.50.

SOBERING STORIES OF GALLIPOLI VCs

EIGHTY years ago, Gallipoli, the Turkish peninsula on the western shore of the Dardanelles, was the scene of a massive blunder which cost thousands of lives.

As First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill's aim in sponsoring a naval action followed by a full-scale invasion on April 25, 1915, was to knock the Turks out of the First World War.

As we know only too well, the plan failed and by January, 1916, when the last man was evacuated from the peninsula, Allied casualties totalled 205,000, of whom 43,000 died.

Of the 410,000 British Empire troops who took part, 39 were awarded the VC. Their stories are told by Stephen Snelling in *VCs of the First World War - Gallipoli*.

Some stayed in the Forces

and achieved promotion, while others, like many 1914-18 heroes, died young from their wounds or faded into obscurity.

The chapter about 1st Lancashire Fusiliers, six of whom won their VCs "before breakfast" on invasion day, stands out.

The battalion stormed the heavily-defended beach at Cape Helles with little chance of success and within less than 24 hours could muster only 16 officers and 304 men out of a total of 1,029.

This slaughter on a grand scale was to be repeated many times with other units.

Eighty years on, it is difficult to imagine what the VCs thought and felt at the time.

Or is it? The author took four years to research their stories and his vividly detailed and well illustrated accounts

make compulsive if sobering reading.

He also helps to put the events of April, 1916 into strangely ironic perspective.

As he writes in his introduction: "To the majority of the 39 VC winners, the acts of valour performed on the battlefields of the Gallipoli Peninsula or in the waters of the Dardanelles marked the zenith of their military careers and, for some, their whole lives.

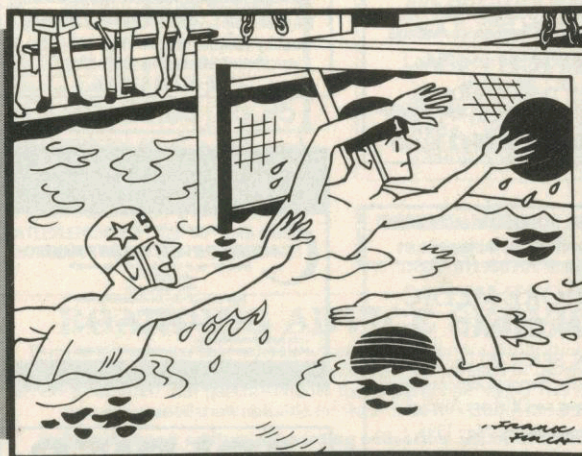
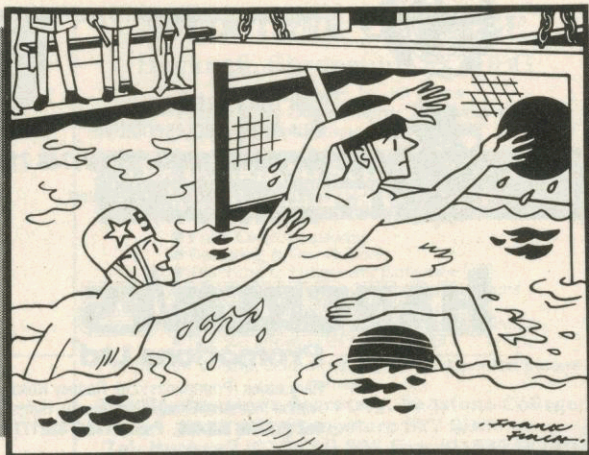
"Their experience was probably best summed up by Leonard Keyser, the London-born Australian bomb-thrower of Lone Pine fame, who once confessed: 'The war was the only adventure I ever had'."

VCs of the First World War - Gallipoli by Stephen Snelling. Alan Sutton Publishing, hard-back, £17.99.

WIN £50

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the May 29 issue.

Address:



Competition No 606 (March 6 issue): Congratulations to Pte Parkin, of 31 Sqn, Op Grapple 5, BFPO 544, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs G A Reid, of Leven, Fife and Pte A J Martin, of Signal Platoon, HQ Coy, 1 Cheshire, BFPO 813.

BRIEFINGS

DIARY

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

sought of lives and careers of paymasters, paymaster clerks and schoolmaster sergeants. Replies to John Black, Associate Lecturer, Bristol Business School, University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Bristol BS16 1QY.

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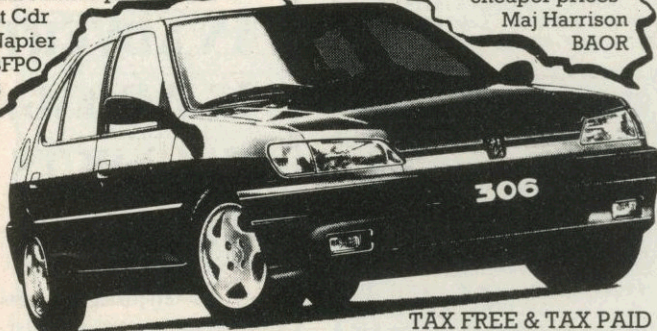
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REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8"x4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

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

Hi. I'm Susan, 32, single with a wicked sense of humour. Hobbies include: travelling, theatre, cinema, music, writing and all sports, especially football. I would love to hear from genuine pen pals anywhere. **P350**

Joyce, 29, 5'4", long brown hair. I like motorbikes, driving, going to the pub and having a laugh. I would like to hear from someone aged 30-35. **P351**

Marion, 34, 5'1" with brown hair and green eyes. Hobbies include: pop/rock music, pubs, wrestling, swimming, reading and meeting people. I'm currently learning German and would like to hear from anyone aged 25-35. **P352**

Hi. I'm Michelle, 5'11" with green eyes and fair hair. I enjoy outdoor pursuits, music, TV, cinema, animals and a good joke. I would like to hear from single soldiers aged 25-35 with gsoh. **P353**

Tracey, 27, 5'6" with blonde hair. I enjoy pubs and clubs and weekends away with friends. I would like to hear from any single soldiers, aged 27+, with gsoh, home or abroad. **P354**

Debbie 26, 5'3" with blonde hair and blue eyes. I like pubs, clubs, evenings in or out and music. I'm a single parent and would like to hear from genuine soldiers aged 27+. **P355**

Jeni, 28, 5'7", blonde hair and brown eyes. Hobbies: history, reading, animals, swimming, cycling and dancing. I'm recently divorced and would like to hear from anyone aged 30-45. **P356**

Sharon, 32. A pen pal is what I'm looking for, fun and laughter is no chore. So if you'd like to find out more, pop some post through my door. **P357**

Gwyneth, 21, 5'3", medium build with blonde hair. Interests: rock music, reading, socialising, social work and fitness. I would like to hear from anyone aged 19-29, write to **P358.**

Lorraine, 32, Staff Nurse, lives in London. Interests: rock/blues, socialising, drinking, bikes. Would love to hear from anyone, anywhere, age unimportant. All letters answered. **P359**

Anyone over 30 out there? I'm a genuine, honest, thirtysomething. Fair hair, blue eyes, average build. I have a gsoh and enjoy sport, pubs and animals. Write to Chrissie. **P360**

Hi, my name is Lynn. I am 26 and enjoy a good laugh. My hobbies include: swimming, cinema, pubs and clubs. I am looking for pen pals of any age, must have gsoh. **P361**

Sophie, 16, 5'10" with hazel eyes and brown hair. I enjoy cricket, football, rugby, swimming and Shotokan Karate. I am currently studying Business and Finance at A Level. **P362**

Male Officer, 45, 5'8", slimish. Interests: sports, dancing, reading, horses. Good sense of humour. Would like to hear from ladies aged 35-45, photo appreciated. All letters answered. **P363**

Lesley, 32, 5'2", brunette, green eyes. Hobbies: travel, cycling, pubbing and clubbing, reading, cooking and swimming. I would like to hear from pen pal aged 25-36. I'm a single nurse with a gsoh. **P364**

Ruth, 28, 5'7", brown hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys: most sports, collecting things, music, travelling, photography and animals. I would like pen pals aged 25-35, you must like football. **P365**

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MARCH 25, 1995

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D8

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D3

Dorset sunk by Parkins hat-trick

Army 6, Dorset 1

A BRILLIANT hat-trick by Army skipper SSgt Kevin Parkins against Dorset on his 100th appearance completed the Army's South West Counties programme and put them second to group winners Sussex, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Parkins scored the first in the fourth minute and another 15 minutes later. Dorset reduced the lead through Shaftesbury striker Simon Freak when LCpl Jim Strouts deflected a shot past SSgt Nigel Wiscombe. Top-scorer Pte Lee Bradbury restored the margin soon afterwards.

WO2 Pat Russell headed a majestic goal in the 75th minute, Parkins completed his hat-trick and substitute Pte Bowey added a sixth with time running out.

Former AFA secretary Maj Alan Dobson picked Sig Joe Collins as the JBI man of the match. LSgt Paul Fagin was named by the players and coaches as player of the year.

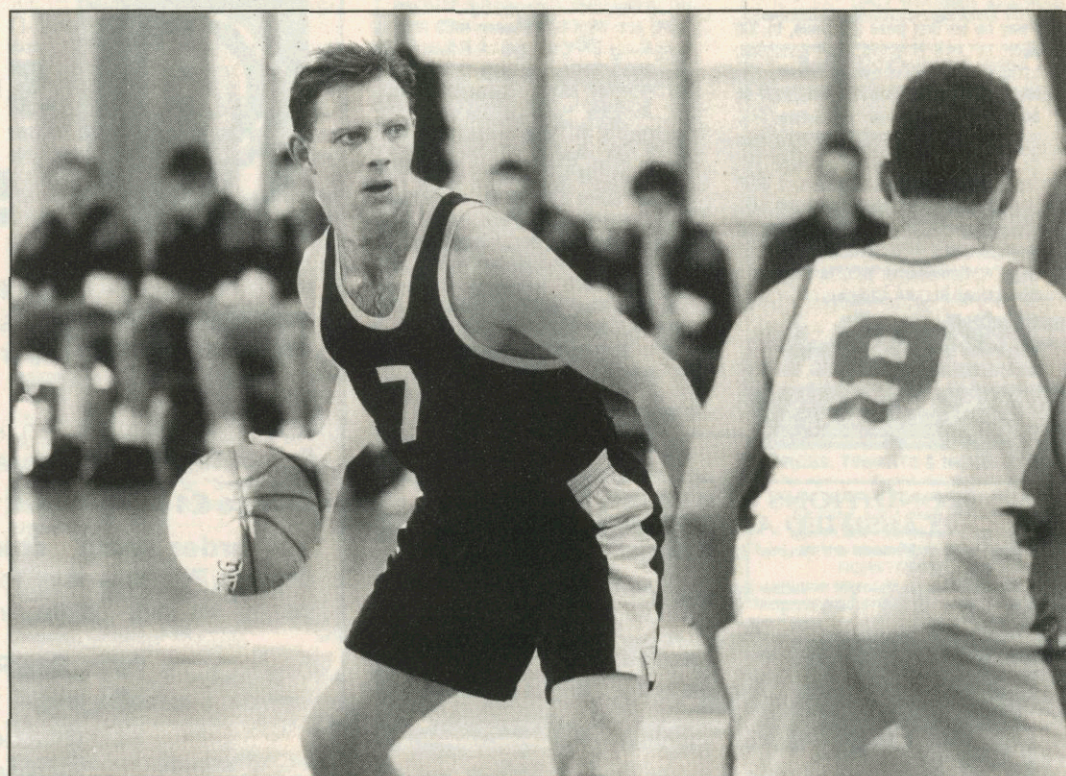
Parkins, SSgt Alan Higgins and QMSI Joey Roach all received silver salvers marking their 100th caps. Senior coach Roach has handed over the reins to QMSI Paul Holden, his assistant for the past three years.

Stars to line up for paras

Airborne charities will benefit from a major charity football match at Aldershot on May 10 involving former international, Premier League and First Division players.

Star names already lined up by the Airborne Forces Charities Development Trust include Steve Coppell, Neil Webb and former Scotland captain Willie Miller.

Many famous clubs in Britain have donated kit to be raffled and auctioned on the day. Part of the profits will go to Guildford's Pond Meadow School for mentally and physically handicapped chil-



Picture: Mike Perring

WO2 (QMSI) Frank Pask (17 Port and Maritime RLC) faces up to 22 Engr Regt during the Major Units basketball finals at Aldershot. Pask later received an award for services to the sport.

BATTLE OF SAPPERS

EIGHTEEN matches in three days produced a high standard of competition at the Inter-Unit basketball finals hosted by the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot.

Top seeds 22 Engr Regt and 39 Engr Regt met in the final Major Units game, with 22 running up a 17-9 lead after five minutes, only for 39 to square the score at 24-24. At the interval Perham Down-based 22 Regt led 42-39 before exerting their authority in the second half to run out winners by 101-80 over their Water-beach counterparts.

LCpl Carl Black (REME at 22 Engr Regt) scored 42 points and was voted the most valuable player. The other qualifiers in the Major Units finals were 17 Port and Maritime and 39 Regt RA.

Foul trouble undid ATR Pirbright in the Minor Units decider against ASPT. The first half was evenly contested, Pirbright leading 31-28, but the loss of Nesbitt and Sansom in the second half allowed ASPT's SSgt Phil Hughes to control the boards.

He scored 35 points as the home side ran out winners by 76 points to 69, and, not surprisingly, was voted most valuable player of the tournament.

Runners up were NCO Tac Wing. The other qualifiers from the Minor Units competition were 6 Sup Regt RLC.

Women's Services Northern Ireland and 99 Postal and Courier Sqn RLC reached the final for which they had been seeded, with the posties running out winners by 47 points to 16.

Other qualifiers to reach the final stages of the competition were 10 Regt RLC and the AGC Training Centre, Worthy Down.

LCpl Martina Supiot (99 PC Sqn RLC) was chosen as most valuable player for her all round efforts. She and Lt Anna Carpenter (10 Regt RLC) were rewarded with elevation to the Army squad for the Inter-Services at Portsmouth.

Presentations were made to WO2 (QMSI) Frank Pask for services to Army basketball and to Cpl Sue Blake for table officiating.

Watts blasts into final

CPL Chris Bessey and Spr Danny Watts will box for national titles at Birmingham on April 12, writes **John Elliott**.

Neither man will be overawed by the occasion. Watts (36 Engr Regt) is defending the super-heavyweight crown he won last year, while Bessey (27 Tpt Regt RLC), now boxing at light-middleweight, lifted the welterweight title in 1993.

Bessey's appearance at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth in the ABA national semi-finals was, incredibly, his fourth appearance at this stage in four years.

Combined Services will also be represented at Birmingham by the two Royal Air Force semi-finalists, Cpl Darren Fox (light-flyweight) and SAC Owen Spensley (bantamweight).

Both Bessey and Watts struck impressive form at Portsmouth, the big man destroying former kick-boxer Gavin McGhinn with a right hook two minutes into their first round after a succession of clinical straight jabs had reddened the face of the North Eastern champion. Bessey, ranked second in the country,



Pte Kath Houlihan (99 PC Sqn RLC) concentrates on the basket as she is surrounded by players from 10 Regt RLC in the Inter-Unit basketball finals at Aldershot. The posties won the title

had a much tougher job against Liverpool's John Jones, ranked three and a vicious body puncher.

But the Sefton ABC welterweight hardly got a shot on target for the best part of two rounds as Bessey stung him with southpaw jabs and swayed away from the counter-attacks.

In the third round, bursts of applause from an appreciative audience rewarded the stylish



Spr Danny Watts

soldier as, in the manner of a bullfighter, he avoided Jones's increasingly desperate assaults and picked him off with long rights and short left hooks. The points decision in Bessey's favour was as wide as it was unanimous.

The biggest disappointment for the Army camp was the defeat of Cpl Vinny Powell, a genuine lightweight contender. Powell (3 RSME Regt) was

mugged in the opening seconds by Middlesborough's rugged Andrew McLean, and never came to terms with his clubbing right hook. That Powell remained in contention said much for his strength and courage.

Featherweight LCpl Peter Williams (1 Kings) had no answer to the unrelenting right hand of David Burrows from Manchester and the referee stopped the fight in the second round after a third standing

count. A livid bruise under the winner's left eye paid testament to a plucky performance by the outgunned Kingsman.

Pte Kevin Bennett (7 Tpt Regt RLC) lost a majority decision to Hull's Lance Crosby in a light-welterweight contest that was close enough to turn on the public warning Bennett received for leading with his head at the start of the third. It was a refereeing decision as mystifying as it was out of context in a clean contest.

Capital show by Combined Services

DESPITE a below-par performance by defending welterweight champion Gdsm Kevin Short, Combined Services beat London 7-6 in the national ABA quarter-final staged in the Army Boxing Centre, Aldershot.

Short (1 WG), who has been in prime form this winter, never looked at his best as he went down on points to Pat Wright. "It just wasn't there for him," said coach RSM Tom O'Connor. "It goes like that sometimes, and the best man on the night won."

Story of the quarter-finals, however, was provided by featherweight LCpl Peter Williams (1 Kings), whose points win over Sean Murray, rated number three in the country, was a huge upset. It was Bennett's 14th contest.

His plan, to hit Murray as early as possible, succeeded spectacularly. The Londoner sustained an eye injury, his boxing skills deserted him, and the doctor ordered him out of the ring at the end of the second round.

Cpl Jeff Ollerhead (1 Kings)

was involved in a battle royal with No 2 ranked Jason Matthews before losing on points. In a contest memorable for raw courage, determination and will to win, it was a pity there had to be a loser.

Light-heavyweight Pte Mark Quirey (2 PWRR) lost to James Branch and LBdr Vinny Jones (32 Regt RA) was knocked out in the third by Lynn ABC heavyweight Fola Okesola after boxing the bigger man's ears off for most of two rounds.

Williams, Pte Kevin Ben-

nett, Cpl Vinny Powell, Cpl Chris Bessey, Spr Danny Watts and the RAF's Cpl Darren Fox and SAC Owen Spensley all won through to the national semi-finals.

More than 140 entries have been received for the Army novices boxing championships at Aldershot and Knightsbridge on April 26-28.

Northern Ireland-based 1 Para were due to host 7 Tpt Regt RLC at Palace Barracks, Holywood on April 11 in the finals of the Inter-Unit Grade 3 team championships.

Bubbly beginning for Light Infanteer

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière sprays Champagne over himself and the Light Infantry's new Sadler 34 yacht at Whale Island, Portsmouth while naming the vessel. The *Light Infanteer*, bought jointly by the Light Infantry and the Infantry Sailing Association, is ideally suited for adventurous training, cruising and inshore racing. It was built by Bowman Yachts of Southampton.

Regulars too strong for Terriers

CPL Kenny Butler (BAD Kineton) sacrificed an opportunity to run for his club in the national cross country championships to represent the Regular Army against the Territorial Army and Wales in a triangular match at Mill Hill, London.

In finishing third, Kenny was the first Army runner to cross the line and ahead of the whole Welsh team. He was closely followed by Cpl Paddy Cairns (ATR Basingstoun) and WO2 Geoff Wade (3 RHA).

Army squad strength manifested itself in a flood of red vests as the Regulars comfortably took the senior men's match. Cpl Lee Boston and

Sigs Kev Conlon and Charlie Ellis (all from 2 Sig Regt) ran strongly into team medal positions alongside Cpl Paul Goble (42 Svy Engr Gp) and Northern Ireland-based LCpl Mark McLean (25 Engr Regt).

Sgt Bill Bailey led the Regular veterans to victory over the TA. New faces WO1 Paul Kurjeza (23 PFA) and Capt Tony Fryer (ACO Deepcut) both earned medals with fine runs.

Army performance of the day came in the women's race, in which SSgt Melanie Bradley (HQ 3 Dental Gp) finished second to former GB international Angela Tooby-Smith. Bradley saw off some quality



opposition, as did Capt Fiona Gordon (27 Regt RLC), who had her best run of the season to finish ninth.

But the depleted women's and junior squads missed out on team medals, although Pte Nigel Bamford (23 PFA) beat two of the strong Welsh junior team.

● Cpl Alan Shepherd (23 PFA) won the Fleet half marathon on March 19, and with it the Army half marathon title. His winning time was 1hr 7min 24sec. Cpl Kenny Butler was second in 1hr 8min 42 sec. Melanie Bradley was 75th in 1hr 21min 22sec. Of the 1,900 runners who took part, 370 were from the Services.

BAD Kineton won the Army inter-unit race run in conjunction with the half marathon, with 2 Signal Regiment second and 41 Tpt Sqn RLC third.

Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital won the women's inter-unit race ahead of 9 R Irish and 41 Tpt Sqn RLC.

● With five scoring runners in the first 11, 1 Armd Fd Amb won the Army Medical Services UKSC(G) unit cross country championships run on a bitterly cold day at Hohn.

The women's race was won by 2 Armd Fd Amb whose three scoring runners finished in the top six. BMH Rinteln, the only AMS static unit entry, took the Talbot Memorial Trophy.

● SSgt Mel Bradley and Cpl Paddy Cairns are the Army's female and male Runners of the Year.

Pete leads Germany walkabout

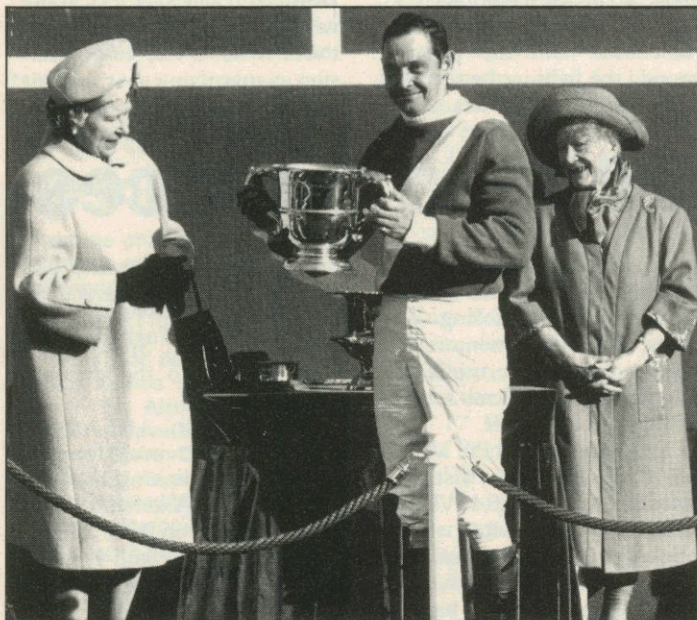
BRITISH M40 orienteering champion Capt Pete Blomquist, Cpl Jock McIvor and Lt Tom Kay of 3 Tk Tprr Sqn won the three-man team event at the BFG Walkabout in the forests south of the Mohnesee Sailing Club.

They completed a tough 45km course with 11 control points in 6hr 17min to finish nine minutes ahead of 7 Signal Regiment. The signallers led for much of the way until a mistake in the later stages cost them valuable time. The Queen's Royal Hussars were third, and 35 Engr Regt fourth.

Twenty-one of the 36 teams who started completed the course. Honours for team spirit went to 16 Tk Tprr's B string who were first away and got home 13 hours later having navigated the forest in darkness and pouring rain.

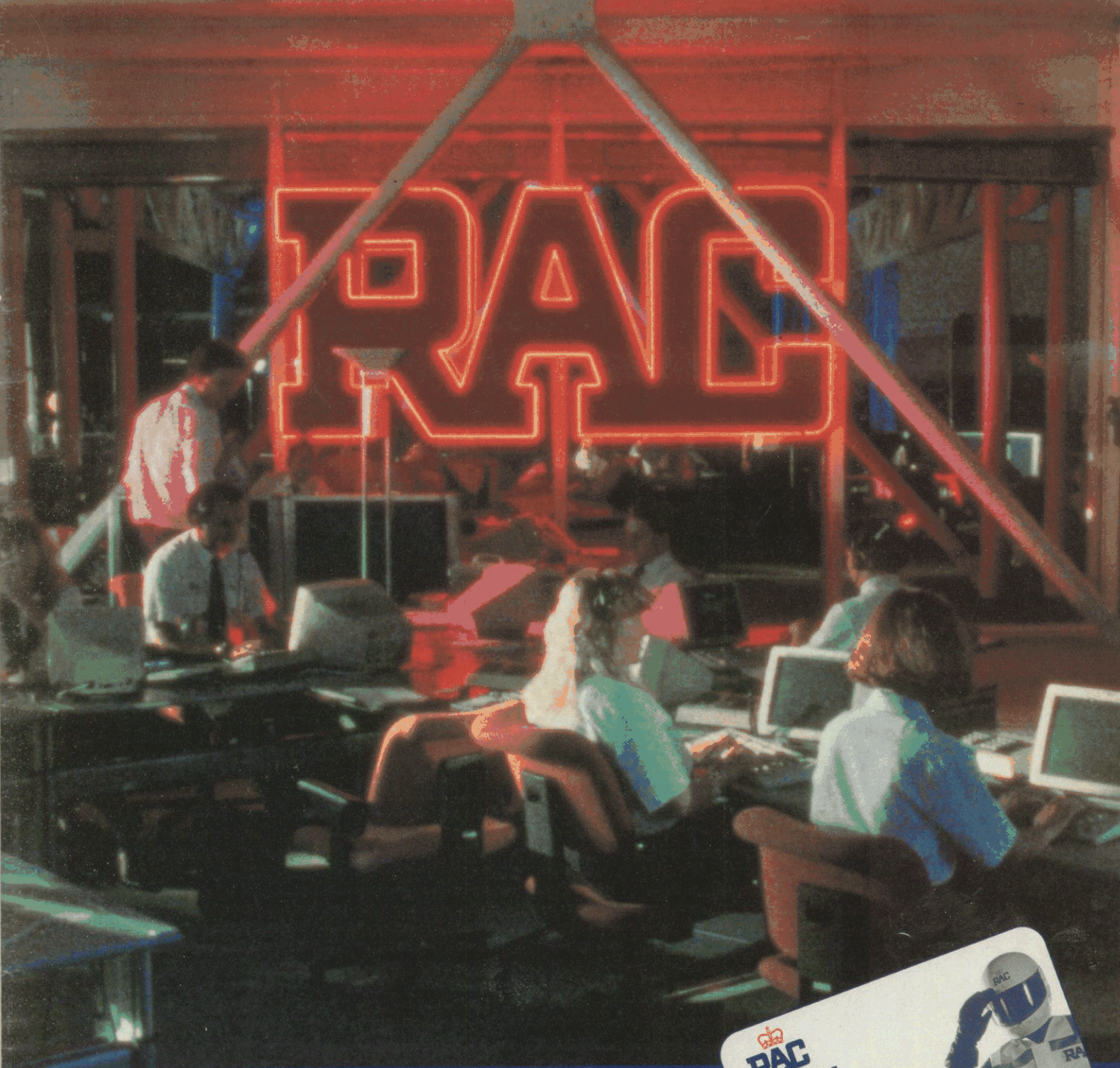
Sixty-seven athletes competed in the individual event the following day over a more technically demanding course with seven control points.

Maj Nick Bateson ran very well and showed good orienteering techniques to win in 2hr 27min, 18 minutes ahead of the QRH's Cpl Dave Thompson.



Maj Oliver Ellwood of The Light Dragoons receives The Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup from the Queen at Sandown Park as the Queen Mother looks on. See also pictures on back cover

Picture: Mike Weston



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THE NEW KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD

SOLDIER



Eventual winner Country Member (No 11), ridden by Maj Oliver Ellwood LD, in the lead in The Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown Park on March 10. Buckboard Bounce, ridden by Capt Adam Ogden LG, finished second in the three-mile steeplechase. Inset: Before the race the runners and riders were led out by Cpl Mike Thompson and Tpr Dean Gibbs, both RSDG. Their mounts were Trooper, provided by the Blues and Royals, and Rebecca (Life Guards).

Pictures: Mike Weston