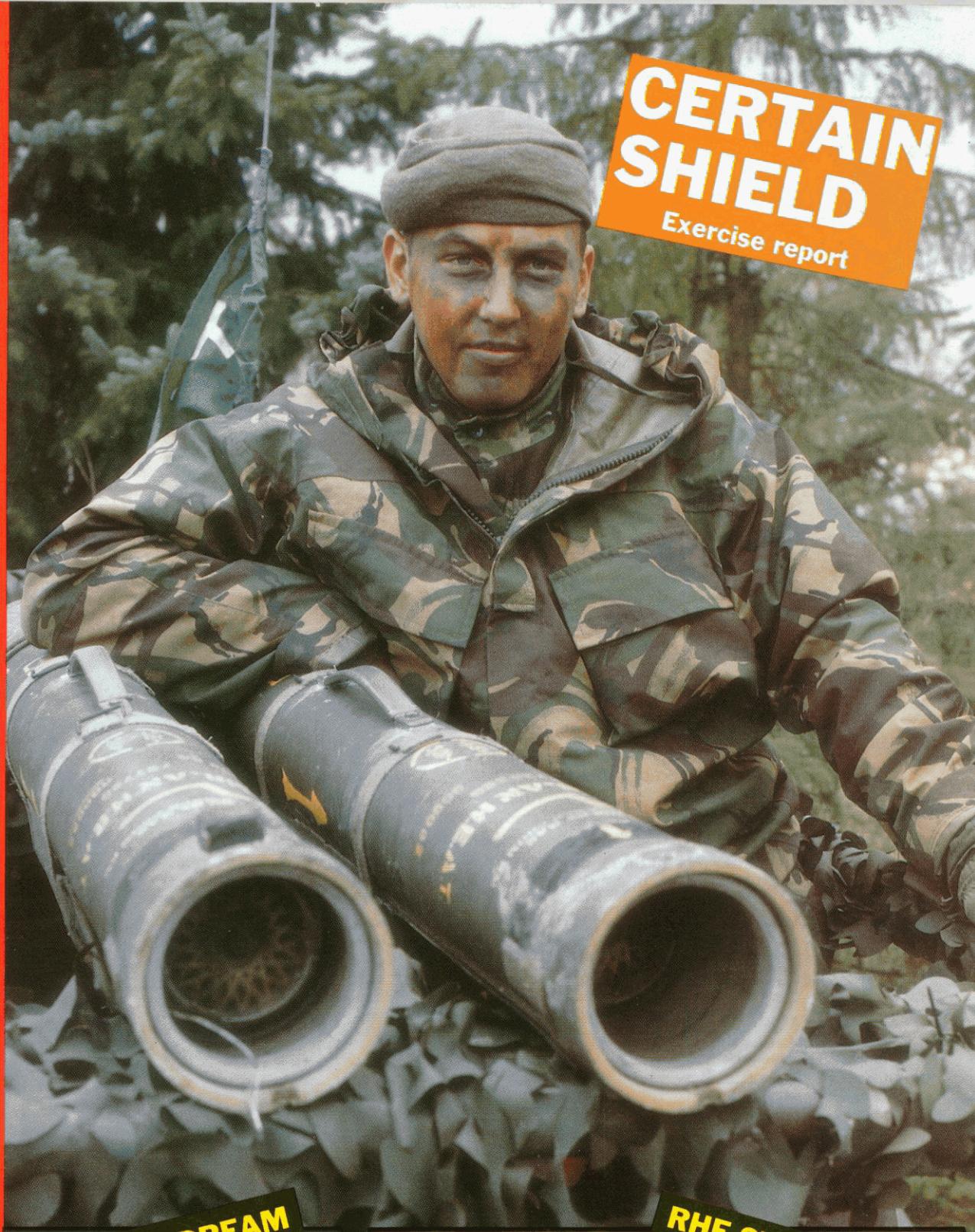
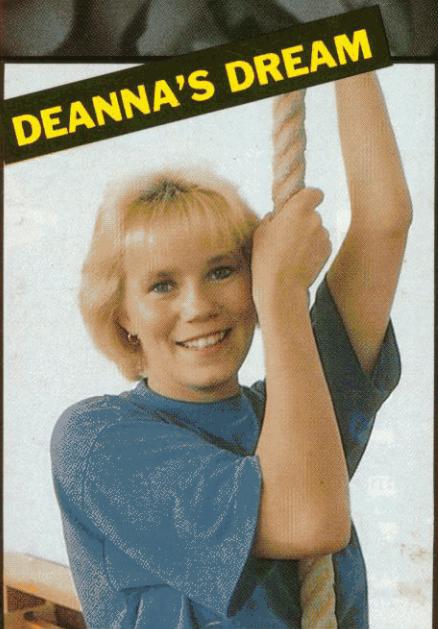


ARMY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 28
1991
EVERY
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**CERTAIN
SHIELD**
Exercise report



INSIDE: COLDSTREAM IN ARMAGH



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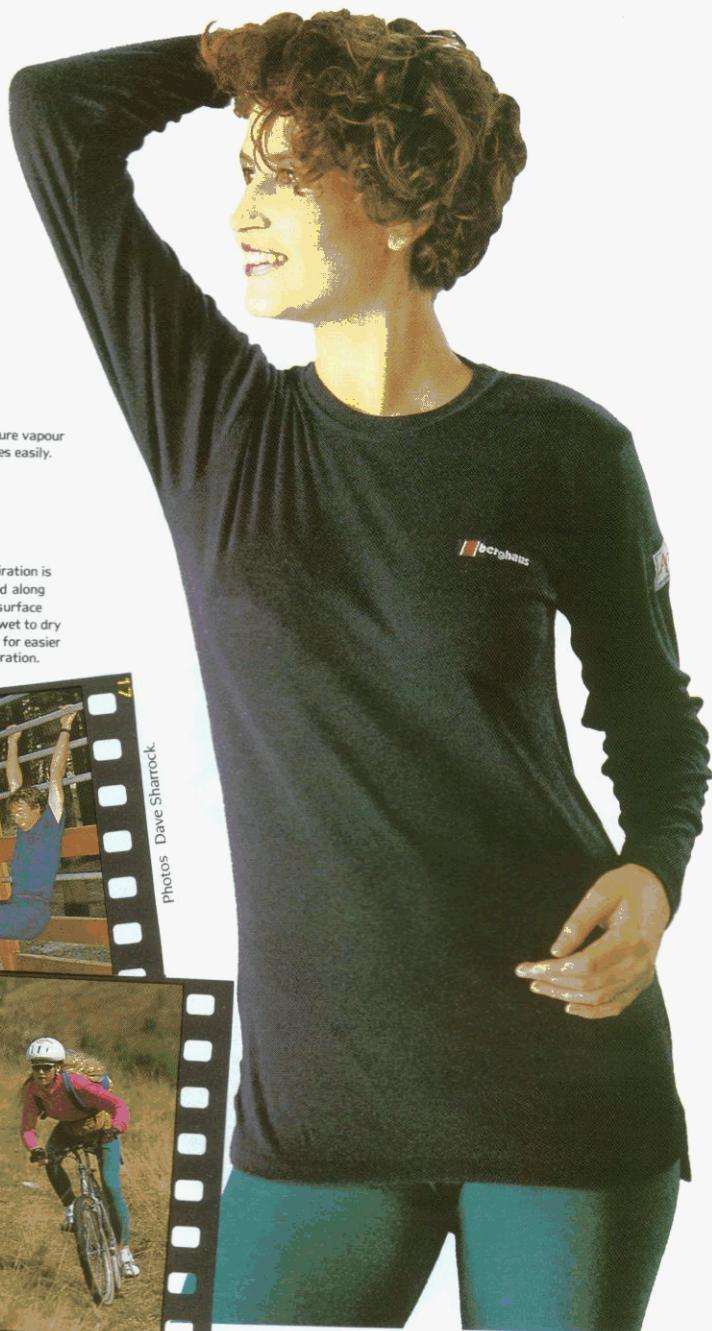
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Photos: Dave Sharrack.

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Phantom mouse joins Cuneo's Desert Rats

SHARP-EYED readers may fancy they see two mice in Terence Cuneo's magnificent painting of the Gulf War reproduced on the back cover of this issue.

But the artist insists he included his famous "second signature" only once, in the bottom left-hand corner of *Operation Desert Storm 1991*, which was specially commissioned to aid the Army Benevolent Fund.

To those who are convinced there is another mouse, bottom right of centre, he says: "It's a phantom. People are always imagining they see mice that aren't there!"

Cuneo prepared for the painting by visiting the Royal Armoured Corps headquarters at Bovington (see picture)



where he sketched and rode in a Challenger in its Gulf configuration and talked to veterans of the campaign.

Proceeds from limited edition prints of his painting, countersigned by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, will benefit the

ABF. Prints from a painting by Frank Wootton will be sold in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund. Special versions are available to holders of the Gulf Medal.

Full details appear in Page 12.

Meanwhile, Cuneo has just completed another Gulf War painting, commissioned by The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. It shows the QRIH on the Basra road as they await confirmation of the ceasefire.

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Massed Bands at Wembley



Picture: Sgt M Teague
The Princess of Wales, escorted by Maj Gen Robert Corbett (left), is presented with a bouquet by Joanna Watson (9), daughter of Sgt Phillip Watson, a musician in the Irish Guards, before a charity concert by the Massed Bands of the Household Division at Wembley. The pageant, involving more than 500 musicians, raised money for the Gulf Trust Fund, Army Benevolent Fund, Household Division charities and the Royal Marsden Hospital Appeal.

FRONT COVER – Main picture: Pte "MG" Brown, Green Howards, leans on a brace of Milan missile tubes mounted on a Light Strike Vehicle during Exercise Certain Shield. See pages 19-24 (Picture: Terry Champion)

Lower right: Men of C Coy, 1 RHF fire Dragon, an anti-tank weapon, on the US Army's range in the Mojave desert. Full story in Pages 26-27. (Picture: WO2 Arthur Thomson)

Lower left: Pte Deanna Long fulfilled a dream by joining the RAOC after a serious motor accident left her on a life support system. Story in Page 10. (Picture: Terry Champion)

SOLDIER

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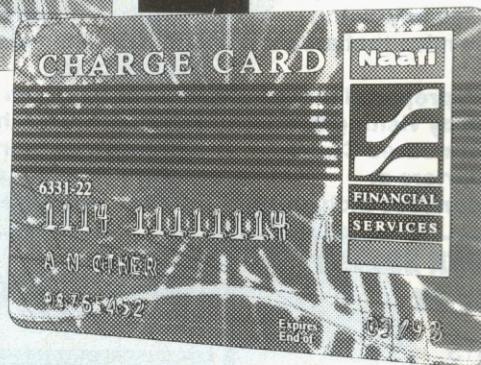
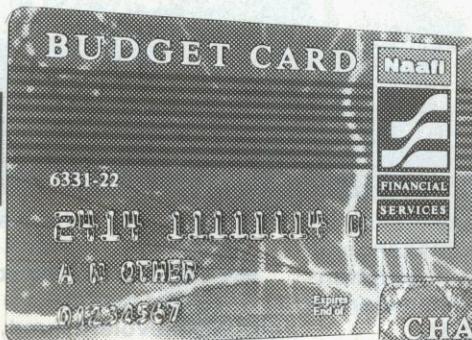
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Signed off

Staff at the Command Pay Office BAOR mark its last day by removing the sign after 34 years of service in Mönchengladbach. The unit is the first to leave Germany as part of the drawdown and, with CPO UKLF, is forming the new Army Finance and Audit Office alongside the Army Pay Office (Officers' Accounts) at Ashton under Lyne.

Old signals title revived

Wrecked

TWENTY-FIVE Territorial Army sappers from 508 Specialist Team RE (Works) were called in to complete an unusual assignment at the Royal Navy's disaster exercise site at Portland Naval Base.

Their task was to construct a bombed-out building!

At the end of the two-week job the volunteer sappers were proud to have built a complete wreck.

THE 2nd Infantry Division Signal Regiment is expected to revert to its former title of 2 Signal Regiment when the division disbands next year.

Its probable role will be to provide communications support to the new British-led Rapid Reaction Corps to be set up by Nato.

Already earmarked to support the new formation is the York-based signal regiment's Catterick neighbour, 24 Airmobile Brigade, which was part of the multinational force taking part in Exercise Certain Shield in Germany.



Kilo, the dog rescued by Colchester-based LCpl Michael Garner, RCT, during the Gulf War, has finally arrived at his new home. After six months in quarantine, the lucky mongrel was collected by LCpl Garner and taken home to wife Debbie and daughter Michaela.

Michael bought Kilo named after Kilo section of 19 Field Ambulance RAMC in Saudi Arabia to save him from being drowned.

Terriers on Plain

MORE than 650 Territorial Army soldiers from 43 Infantry Brigade took part in Exercise Drake's Drum on Salisbury Plain, fighting a series of battles against tanks, helicopters and guns of the Regular Army.

The brigade is based in Exeter and draws its soldiers from Gloucester to Land's End.

Units taking part included the 6th Battalion, The Light Infantry; the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; the Royal Wessex Yeomanry; and 266 Observation Post Battery RA.

Energy savers

WARD Barracks in Bulford Camp, Wiltshire, has received an award for energy efficiency by British Gas. The barracks is home to 41 Tank Transporter Unit and HQ BATAU.



Soldiers of Devon-based D Company, 6 LI leave a Chinook on Salisbury Plain during Drake's Drum

Yeoman on home ground

THERE was an unusual aspect of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron's Exercise Summer Gallop. It was conducted entirely on land owned by retired members of the unit.

The exercise involved recce and communications phases and a military skills competition, and ended with a social function attended by many of the landowners.

Most of them had fought in the Second World War and served when the Essex Yeomanry was a gunner unit, both field artillery and Royal Horse Artillery.

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Wreath laid at Thorney Island ceremony

GRAVES of German airmen shot down over Thorney Island, Hants, during the Second World War were visited by Lt Gen Bernd Klug, German Commander of Allied Land Forces Schleswig-

Holstein and Jutland when he called on 47 Field Regiment RA during his tour of units in the United Kingdom Mobile Force.

Gen Klug was given a briefing on the history of

Thorney Island, visited 21 Air Defence Battery and, accompanied by Brig Gage Williams, Commander 1 Infantry Brigade, laid a wreath in the island's military cemetery, in which both German and Allied

airmen are buried.

Now home to a gunner regiment, Thorney was an RAF Coastal Command airfield during the war and was subjected to a number of German air raids.

Paras back at Arnhem

NEARLY 500 men of The Parachute Regiment took part in the annual service at Arnhem in memory of those who lost their lives during Operation Market Garden in the Second World War.

More than 300 took part in a parachute drop on to the wartime DZ from six Hercules aircraft, then formed up for a remembrance service in the town.

Later the paras visited battlefield sites including the "bridge too far" that had cost so many lives.

Next day they were joined at Oosterbeek Military Cemetery by many Arnhem veterans for a moving ceremony during which hundreds of Dutch children placed flowers on the graves.

Reserve raiders

SOLDIERS from the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment travelled to Montpellier in France to take on other volunteer forces in the tenth annual commando raid competition.

Forty-five five-man teams from all over Europe and the USA took part. Reserve and auxiliary units interested in entering the 1992 competition should contact the Reserve Forces Association at the Duke of York's Headquarters in London (tel: 071-730 6122).



The Duchess of Kent presents her annual trophy to Sgt Tony Smith, leader of the winning D Company team. Commanding officer Lt Col Wade Tovey and Honorary Col I G Norton are behind the Duchess

Posted!

TWENTY-FIVE men of the Coldstream Guards delivered the biggest greetings card ever made to mark World Animal Day. They carried the 270 square metre card from London's Docklands to the City Airport - saving the organisers £1,680.70 in stamps!

Duchess calls on the Yorks

TERRIERS of the 1st Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers met their Honorary Colonel when the Duchess of Kent visited them at their annual training

camp at Lydd in Kent.

The Duchess was met by commanding officer Lt Col Wade Tovey and watched platoons competing in the annual military skills competition held in her name.

Winners of the Duchess of Kent Trophy were D Company from Harrogate.

She spoke to many of the soldiers, who come from North Yorkshire and Cleveland.

Spit and polish for Dorbaum

DORBAUM Training Area near Munster was given a face-lift by 250 British and 40 German soldiers during a conservation day designed to maintain and improve the environment. The area, which has been used by British and German forces for more than 50 years, is acknowledged as being of great natural history interest.

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Soviets made welcome by 22 Armd Bde units

THREE Soviet officers have visited 22 Armoured Brigade units in the first such inspection made to British barracks under the agreement on confidence-building mea-

sures signed in Vienna last December.

With just five days' notice, the brigade laid on a full programme of visits to three stations, allowing the visitors to

talk to soldiers and inspect equipment.

The Soviet Army officers were made welcome by the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, 40 Field Regiment RA and 1st

Regiment RHA at Hohne; the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment at Celle; and the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and 1 Regiment AAC at Hildesheim.

Jobs agency cash warning

LACK of funds could force the Regular Forces Employment Association to curtail its services, RFEA president Admiral Sir Simon Cassels has warned.

He told the association's annual meeting in London that although the RFEA is ready for a significant increase in ex-Service customers when the Defence manpower cuts take effect next April, cash limits could "degrade" the help on offer.

"For ten years the association has penny-pinched and saved to help the Ministry of Defence cope with financial stringency," said Admiral Cassels.

"As we face a major redundancy programme I would have hoped that the association would receive a generous advance so it was ready to provide a quality service. Instead it seems that the association will continue to be cash-limited."

He said it was not too late to repair the situation if urgent action was taken.

Last year the RFEA found nearly 5,000 jobs for ex-Regulars out of the 11,000 who registered. It provides its services free to both employers and ex-Regulars.

RFEA general manager Maj Gen Derek Crabtree said skilled and mature ex-Servicemen remained in demand despite the recession.

The association, which last year had a total expenditure of £737,785, has 40 branches throughout the United Kingdom.



Socking it to the lads of 21st Highland Regiment (V) during their Highland Games on the Rock are a guest team of Gibraltar-based Service wives. The Jocks organised the event - which included tug of war and tossing the caber - during their annual camp. The wives were led by Mrs Caroline Royal, whose husband is a major serving on the Rock

Picture SAC Glen Harrop

Farm boy Gareth to rescue



Picture: Oriental Daily News

Cpl Gareth Thomas, 1 RRW, carries the calf to safety

HAVING grown up on a small farm in the hills of South Wales, Cpl Gareth Thomas was more than a match for the crisis caused by a cow and her calf getting stuck in an ornamental pond near the entrance to Hong Kong's Sai Kung Country Park.

Gareth was one of eight MT drivers waiting with their four-tonners to pick up members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales at the end of a two-day exercise in the park.

The sound of a fire engine attracted their attention and they found attempts being made to extricate the cow and calf which could not get out because of a surrounding wall.

A fireman was having difficulty getting hold of the calf, so Cpl Thomas stepped in to help.

As a boy on his father's 40-acre smallholding in Dyfed, Gareth looked after all kinds of animals, so it was no problem for him to secure the calf and carry it to safety.

Then he returned to the pond to help in the cow's removal with the aid of ropes and planks.

Co-ed Welbeck

WELBECK College, the Army's all-male residential sixth form, is to open its doors to female students in a year's time.

Thirty places will be created for women, bringing the number of students to about 170. Students who achieve the necessary standards at Welbeck join RMA Sandhurst, and most go on to graduate in engineering or related sciences.

Deanna's back, in great shape

"Model soldier reports for duty" said the tabloid headlines when 23-year-old **Deanna Long** joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Their interest was stirred because Deanna is the reigning Miss Lyme Regis beauty queen.

Already a soldier in the Territorial Army, Deanna volunteered for active service during the Gulf War and worked in field hospitals in Riyadh and Al Jubail.

Joining the Regulars had been a long-held ambition for Pte Long. A serious car accident five years ago appeared to shatter her plans to follow dad, ex-RSM **Trevor Long**, into the RAOC (he spent 26 years in uniform). But with his help she got herself fit, applied again, and is now based at COD Bicester.

And she is also going to find time to complete her Miss Lyme Regis duties.



Caubeen-ed cooks



LCpls **Kiree Gardner** and **Vickie Kavanagh**, both cooks with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers based at Warminster, risked getting flour on their caubeens for this photograph. They, like all officers and soldiers serving with the battalion, wear the distinctive headwear – but not usually while cooking!

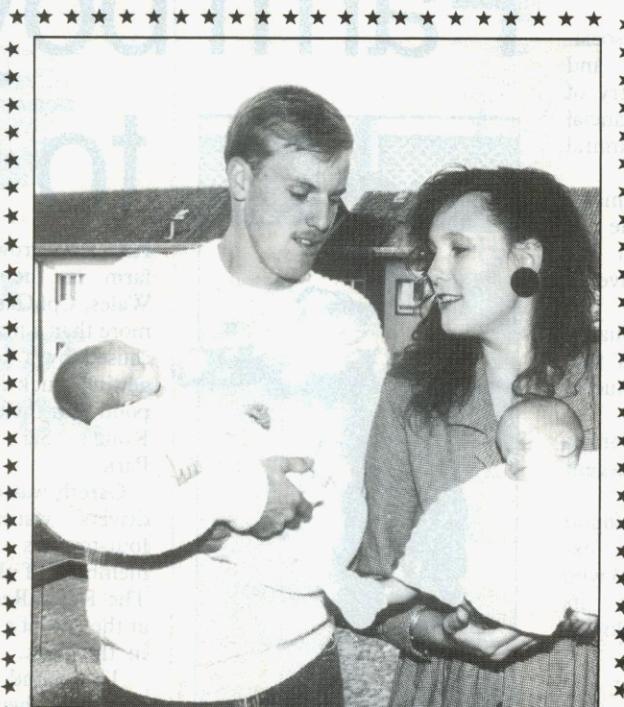


Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Mrs **Eleanor McLaughlin**, is introduced to the SA 80 at Hohne by three soldiers from her home town, (from left) Sgt **Gerald Sanderson**, LBdr **Richard Martin** and LBdr **Samuel Kelly** of 40 Field Regiment RA. The Lord Provost spent five days with the Lowland Gunners, who recruit from all over Scotland, and Edinburgh in particular.

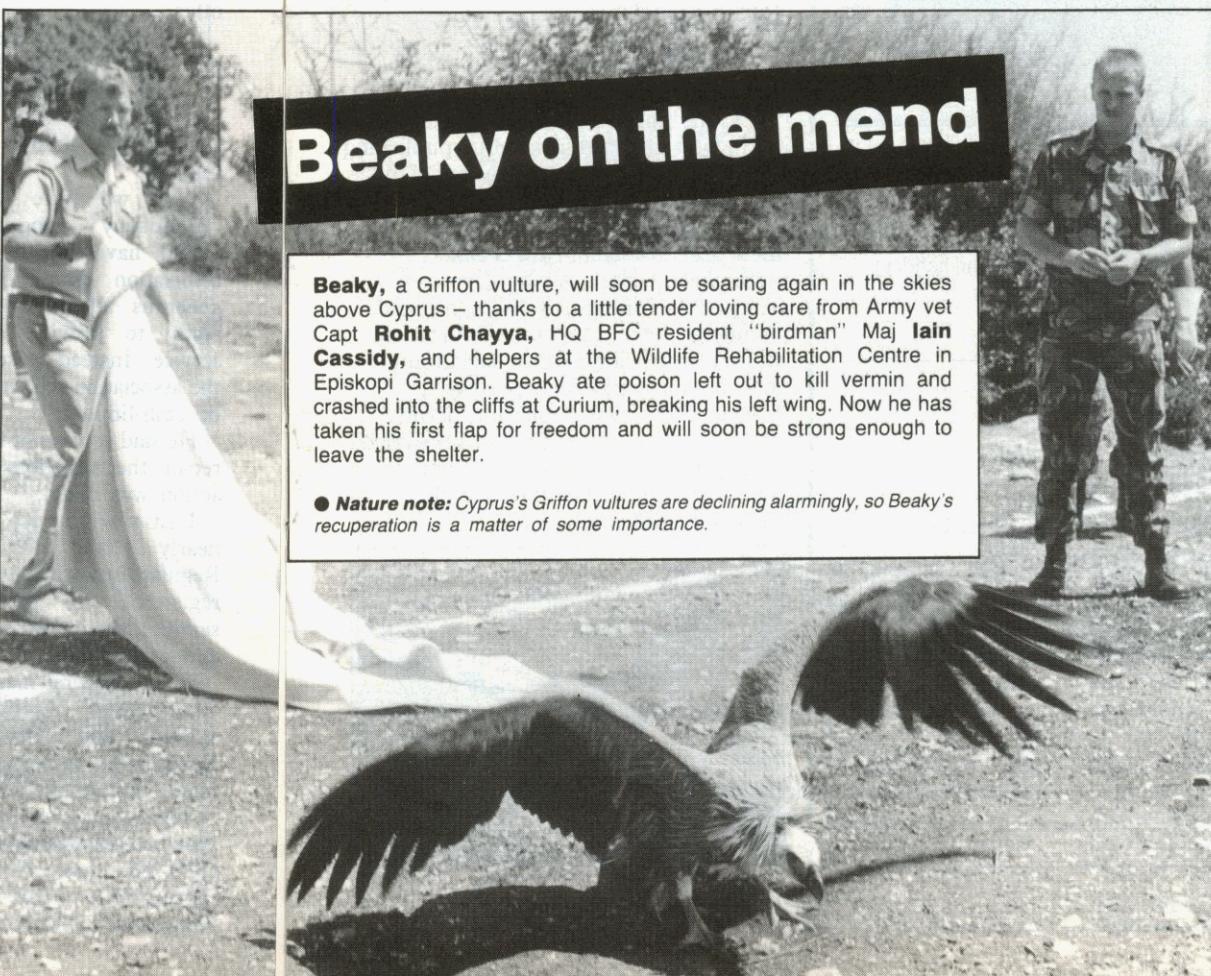
UNITED NATIONS



B Company, 1 Glosters had a real multination feel during Exercise Certain Shield. Recent Exercise Long Look exchange postings led to Capt **Ken Butterworth**, Royal Canadian Regiment, assuming command of the company, with Lt **Tim Tuatini** from New Zealand and Cpl **Michael Behrends** from Australia taking charge of a platoon and section respectively.



Presenting **Kyle** and **Aaron McCaffery**, the first British twins to be born in Berlin's American Military Hospital since the British Garrison began to use the facilities there. The two likely lads are pictured with proud mum and dad, Gdsm **Jeffrey** and **Rebecca McCaffery** of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards.



Beaky on the mend

Beaky, a Griffon vulture, will soon be soaring again in the skies above Cyprus – thanks to a little tender loving care from Army vet Capt **Rohit Chayya**, HQ BFC resident "birdman" Maj **Iain Cassidy**, and helpers at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Episkopi Garrison. Beaky ate poison left out to kill vermin and crashed into the cliffs at Curium, breaking his left wing. Now he has taken his first flap for freedom and will soon be strong enough to leave the shelter.

● **Nature note:** Cyprus's Griffon vultures are declining alarmingly, so Beaky's recuperation is a matter of some importance.

First flight

Barbara Massey had to wait 70 years for her first helicopter ride, but it was worth it in the end. Barbara, who served with an experimental gunnery unit in north Wales during the Second World War, had her secret ambition fulfilled when a nephew contacted the Army.

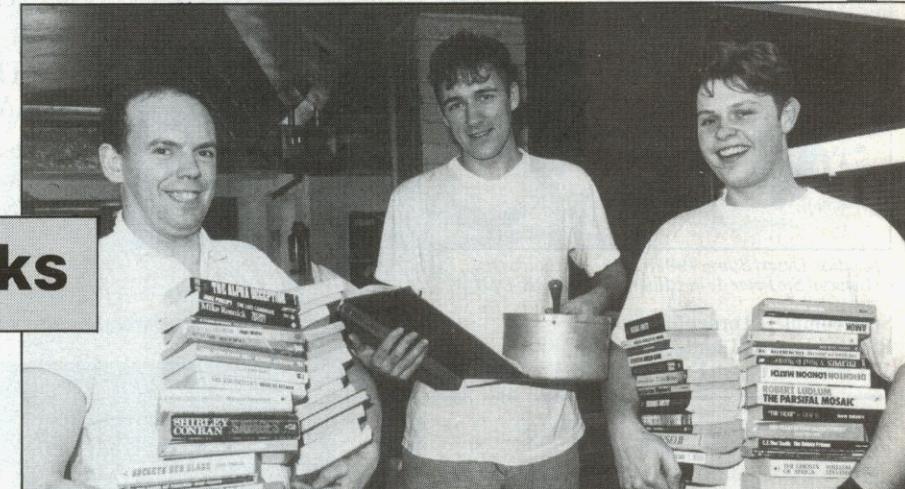
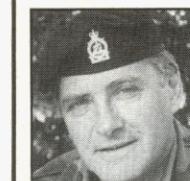
Barbara lives at Congleton in Cheshire and was taken up by WO2 **Mick Farmer** of 666 Squadron AAC (V) during a civil emergency exercise in Chester.



PEOPLE



Two members of C Squadron (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Royal Yeomanry, which acted as enemy during Exercise Certain Shield, had years of experience to draw upon during their last annual camp. SSgt **Brian Mulcock** (top), 60, has served the Crown for 43 years, the first ten in the Royal Navy, while Cpl **John Evans** did two years' National Service before joining the TA in which he has completed 33 years. He holds the Territorial Efficiency Medal with two additional long service bars.



Cooking the books

Soldiers in Northern Ireland have benefited from "goodies" donated by the public during the Gulf War. These books, held by Sgt **Phil Player**, Pte **Gary Cumming**, and Pte **Scott Wilkinson** of the ACC, were diverted to 2 Coldrm Gds serving in South Armagh. See Pages 13-17.

Woman in command



Lt Col **Lois Lodge** became the first female commanding officer of a Nato-roled unit in the Regular Army when she assumed command of 24 (Airmobile) Field Ambulance RAMC at Catterick last month.

Commissioned in 1977 after graduating in medicine at Liverpool University, Col Lodge has served with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and with 1 DERR in Germany and Northern Ireland.

Until July she was chief medical officer to the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

● The 130-strong unit spent six months in the Gulf during Op Granby.

Coldstream in south Armagh

Gdsm Cass Clay on patrol on the streets of Forkhill



Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring

MEN of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards have had more time than most soldiers to get to know the highways and byways of south Armagh. They returned to the mainland recently at the end of a tour which lasted six months rather than the usual four or five.

In fact, because a major repair and refurbishment operation was carried out on Security Force bases and watch towers in the border area as their deployment was coming to an end, they remained on

duty an extra fortnight, taking their time in the Province to nearly seven months.

"We patrol the whole of our tactical area of responsibility," said the Operations Officer of No 3 Company, Capt Simon Barclay, at Crossmaglen Security Force base.

He explained how the establishment of lookout towers along the border with the Irish Republic had allowed surveillance of much of what goes on in the border area.

The base has a number of

armoured pigs used to collect mortar baseplates and the like following attacks.

"We have had two landmine explosions and one mortar attack on us here at Crossmaglen. The last was on June 22, but without injury," he said.

The battalion had a busy time. A patrol from Number 2 Support Company came under fire from four terrorist gunmen in the Conlon Hill area.

More than 1,200 rounds were exchanged but luckily there were no casualties among the

Coldstreamers. A week later a foot patrol from Number 3 Company commanded by Sgt Robert Cooper decided to wade a fast-flowing river instead of crossing by a small bridge.

As they crossed the river about 20 metres from the bridge a 200lb bomb fired by terrorists at the end of a 650-metre command wire exploded on the approach to the bridge.

Sgt Cooper's wise decision undoubtedly saved the lives of

● Turn to next page

Coldm Gds in Armagh

● From Page 13

his patrol. LSgt Steven Lee from the Corps of Drums had a lucky escape when he was thrown across a field by a large explosion. Miraculously, neither he nor any of his patrol was injured.

The bases at Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton were both attacked by mortars and there were a number of other attempts to attack foot patrols, one of which resulted in the murder of LCpl Simon Ware of Number 4 Company, who died in a massive explosion south east of Newtownhamilton on August 17.

Much of the battalion's time was spent undertaking search operations which resulted in a large amount of explosives, a number of weapons and a quantity of ammunition being recovered.

Two hundred metres from the base stands the permanently-manned Borucki Sangar, named after Pte John Borucki of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. He was killed on the site of the sangar in 1976 by a bicycle bomb.

The sangar was built in a single day and is used to monitor the town square to lessen the chance of surprise attacks on the base.

At the far side of the town square stands an unusual memorial. It was erected by the IRA in memory of members who have died in the cause of Irish "freedom".

Among those for whom Borucki Sangar was home were

Sgt Lee Hardiman, Cpl Dinger Bell, Drummer Nigel Rowe and Gdsm Jason Searle. There is barely enough room to swing a writer's notebook in its cramped confines, but the soldiers had more than six months to get used to it.

"It takes a while to adjust," explained Sgt Hardiman. "We have our disagreements, but you just have to work through them and learn to get on."

Their main grouse was the pub just down the road which has a late night music licence. "We sometimes had to ask them to turn it down," joked Sgt Hardiman.

Living accommodation at the SF base itself is little better, consisting of bunks constructed in three tiers and packed closely together.

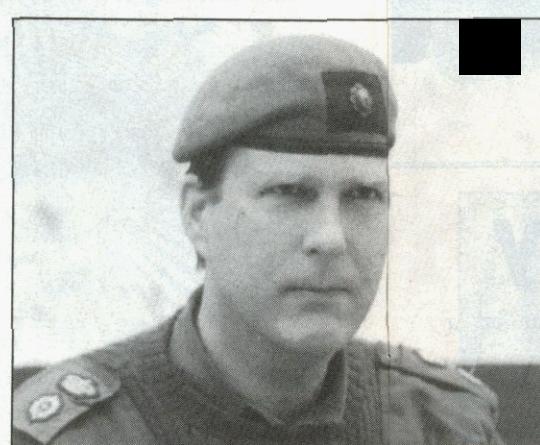


Above: Cpl Dinger Bell and Sgt Lee Hardiman on watch in Borucki Sangar

Left: Members of callsign November Forty Three leave Forkhill to begin a patrol

Right: Bunked up in Borucki Sangar are Drummer Nigel Rowe (top) and Gdsm Jason Searle. Comfort in the cramped quarters is at a premium

Left: Lt Col Anthony Biggs, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards



Firm, fair friendly approach pays off

POPULARITY of the Provisional IRA in south Armagh is on the wane, says the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, Lt Col Anthony Biggs. "The population as a whole is heartily sick of the whole thing."

With the exception of some problems with loyalist units operating to the north of the Armagh roulement battalion area, all the 2nd Battalion's efforts have been directed at countering terrorism in their own "patch".

Said Col Biggs: "We are up against what have been described as probably the most professional terrorists in Northern Ireland and, perhaps, the world."

"They are country boys, very tightly knit and linked by family. They are also linked by tradition, cause and belief in a common hatred of us. The local population is beginning to get fed up with them. The mass support the terrorists could once drum up in places like Newry and Crossmaglen is no more."

"Part of the reason is that we go out of our way to avoid

● Turn to next page

Coldstreamers stationed at the Forkhill Security Force base encountered the IRA more often than most, but that's because a number of suspected terrorists live in No 1 Company's area of responsibility.

Indeed, the Three Steps Inn at Drumintree lies only a mile or so east of their base. It was from there several years ago that a Grenadier Guards officer, Capt Robert Nairac, was lifted by a terrorist hit squad, driven to a remote border location and murdered.

Since two RUC vehicles were blown up by a massive landmine ten years ago, movement of the Security Forces by road is restricted. The narrow country lanes provide too great a risk for ambush and explosion, so the bases have to be self-contained.

"Everything here comes in or out by air," said WO2 Michael Freeman, Company Sergeant Major of No 1 Company.

"Even the rubbish is taken out by helicopter. Because there is so little room in the aircraft, rubbish is burned and crushed before being triple-bagged for the flight to Bessbrook. All flights are

operational so the bags have to be lifted out with an outgoing patrol. Nine times out of ten, you find yourself stuck in the back with a stinking bag of rubbish."

Heli-lift resupply leads to the allocation of priorities for movement of both personnel and stores.

Newspapers and mail tend to arrive two days late, but soldiers are kept up-to-date on news by televisions donated by

A CRUEL BLOW

THE 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards is not afraid to admit that the death of LCpl Simon Ware so close to the end of its tour as Armagh roulement battalion was a severe blow. But it also admits to being pleasantly surprised by the public response to the incident in which the popular young NCO was killed by a bomb while on patrol in South Armagh. The battalion's commanding officer, Lt Col Anthony Biggs, said he received a large number of letters of condolence and had been very touched by them.

Puzzling case of the dizzy sheep

THE PROVISIONAL IRA is one of the largest importers of drugs into Northern Ireland and is using profits from this trade to fund its terrorist activities, according to the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Most of the drugs are smuggled across the border from the Republic of Ireland.

Goods worth millions of pounds, ranging from bananas to cattle, videos to women's tights and vast quantities of petrol were smuggled across the border last year.

The efforts of the Coldstreamers, who have just completed a six-month tour of duty in south Armagh, paid off handsomely in helping the authorities to reduce cross-border smuggling.

Among the more popular items of contraband are cigarette lighters. One smuggler's hopes of a quick financial gain were extinguished when sharp-eyed Guardsmen stopped a van and found it contained several hundred thousand lighters.

"Historically, south Armagh has always been known as a place where smuggling happens," said Capt Mark Hutchison, the No 1 Company's Operations Officer.

"As soon as we can put a stop to that, we can break the back of the extortion rackets. The more we can stop smuggling and petty crime, the more we are able to bring south Armagh back to normality."

Life in the area is not without humour. Troops serving there are always amused by the curious phenomenon of the dizzy sheep. Unscrupulous farmers take their sheep to the South where they can collect duty on the animals. The woolly wanderers then trot back across the border, from where they can be "re-exported" to the Irish Republic to collect more duty.

"The animals are dubbed 'dizzy' because most of their life seems to be spent going round in circles," explained Capt Hutchison.



LCpl Rick O'Shea, Coldm Gds, rides shotgun in a Lynx helicopter on operations in south Armagh

Coldstream Guards in Armagh



Above: Gdsm Cass Clay takes up a defensive position

Left: The 2nd Battalion has made sure its tour of duty will be remembered at Crossmaglen by bricking its name into a wall at the base. From left to right are Sgt Neil Sprot, LSgt Craig Bancroft, Gdsm Paul Harris, LCpl David Wood and Gdsm David Bowness

Below: Proving that the British soldier can be a softy, Gdsm Jim Watson helps out at the cattery. The kittens are the offspring of a Forkhill SF base resident and, once weaned, will be "posted" to border lookout towers to keep down rodents

Firm, fair and friendly

From Page 15

giving them cause. The behaviour of my officers and soldiers is exemplary. It is stupid to be threatening or engage in slanging matches when they meet a known terrorist in his car or on the street, because they have been

at it for more than 20 years and are actually much better at it than we are.

"On the other hand," said Col Biggs, "that must not be interpreted by the locals to mean that we are going soft - we can be as tough as anybody when it comes down to it and

we have proved that on a number of occasions."

The firm, fair and friendly approach has been noticed by local people, according to community leaders and clergymen.

"We are not trying to win recruits for the Army. What we are not doing is driving people into the arms of the terrorists. I believe that, in itself, is an achievement."

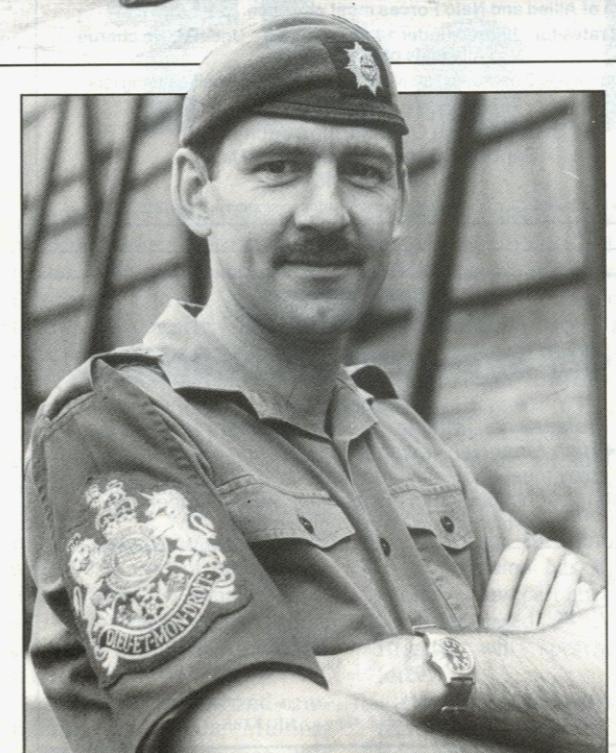
Col Biggs is full of admiration for RUC personnel based at Crossmaglen and Forkhill. He believes that establishing good relations with the police is a fundamental requirement for successful operations in south Armagh.

Facing up to Options

FOR A battalion facing up to the prospect of being placed in suspended animation, 2 Coldm Gds are fairly philosophical about their impending fate.

"We are not very happy about it," said Col Biggs, "but we all realise that the Army has

got to get smaller. I think those most concerned are the members of the Sergeants' Mess. They are men with careers who want to get on and who are worried that their opportunity to get to the top has been reduced by 50 per cent."



They do it their way . . .

The Coldstream have their own way of doing things. WO1 (RSM) Mick Gajda (left) is known as "Regimental Sergeant Major" or "Sergeant Major". The title is never shortened to RSM. Similarly, CSMs are known as "Company Sergeant Major". The device on his arm is the coat of arms of the regimental sergeant major - nicknamed "Fighting Dogs". This colourful version was introduced two years ago for No 2 dress and shirt sleeve order. WO1 Gajda wears a darker version on his combat smock.



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Above: Cpl Bob Watson of the Green Howards checks his map before moving his potentially weaponed light strike vehicle to a new location. Left: An RAF Chinook helicopter makes light work of lifting Supacat into the field

The concept of a multinational airmobile division was put to the test during Exercise Certain Shield in Germany. Writer **Laurie Manton** and photographer **Terry Champion** were there to record the British Army's contribution

The big lift

CERTAIN SHIELD was launched with the largest helicopter-borne exercise ever flown in Germany. During an eight-hour period, nearly 700 sorties were completed. Of these, more than 500 involved lifting stores and vehicles. Just 16 loads were dropped during the complicated operation carried out in radio silence.

More than 170 helicopters moved several thousand troops and 500 tonnes of equipment. These included small tanks, anti-tank weapon systems and a complete command headquarters.

Command, control and communications for the multinational NORTHAG Airmobile

Division (MNAD) was provided by the 2nd (UK) Headquarters and Signal Regiment, which deployed a forward headquarters and elements to the Belgian, Dutch, German and British brigade command posts (CPs).

Nato has decided to create a multinational airmobile division to support the Rapid Reaction Corps announced in the summer, but composition of the division has still to be agreed. One certainty is that Catterick-based 24 Airmobile Brigade will spearhead the force.

Ptarmigan, the British area trunk communications system, provided a secure telephone,

telegraph and facsimile network. The signallers also exploited satellite technology to link forward CPs into the Ptarmigan system.

This integration of Ptarmigan and satellite communications proved itself during the Gulf War and allows the Divisional commander greater freedom from the constraints of distance and terrain.

Of key importance to the rapid passage of battle information during the exercise was the Divisional Computer System (DICS) networked between command posts. DICS was also a success in the Gulf and is proving invaluable because in a multinational environment the

written word leaves less room for ambiguity.

Commanding the MNAD for the trial was Maj Gen Michael Rose, commander of the 2nd (UK) Infantry Division, who said: "The comms I have in my headquarters are probably unequalled by any divisional command in the world. I can talk to my brigades by terrestrial means or by satellite.

"Most important is a digital data stream by which my computers and those of my brigades are linked so we can instantly produce sets of orders or incorporate changes without using voice communications or liaison officers."

● Turn to Page 21



Wiesel with TOW - small and easy to conceal. Designed by Porsche, it is a nippy mover and its tracks are made of rubber

Big lift

● From Page 19

MNAD was formed by 24 Airmobile Brigade, Germany's 27 Luftlande Brigade and the Belgian Regiment Para Commando, with helicopter support provided by 9 Regiment AAC, the Heeres-Fliege Kommando 1 from Germany, a Dutch light aircraft group, and the Royal Air Force Support Helicopter Force.

The 27th Luftlande Brigade has three airborne battalions, one of which is anti-tank, as well as mortar and supporting companies. Their principal mobile-weapons system is TOW mounted on Wiesel.

This remarkable airportable armoured vehicle is a lightly armoured mini-tank with a crew of three.

A second two-man version



Maj Gen Michael Rose

mounts a 20mm cannon.

Wiesel can be carried underslung or inside helicopters. The heavy-lift CH53G helicopters used by Heeres-Fliege Kommando 1 were each able to accommodate two vehicles.

Belgium's Regiment Para Commando is the division's lightest formation. It has two airborne battalions, a recce company and an anti-tank company armed with ILTIS and Milan.

The helicopter fleet was a real mixture, including Lynx

Glosters impress

IN command of B Company, the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment during Exercise Certain Shield was Capt Ken Butterworth of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

He is a big fan of the Glosters.

"I found it very easy to fit in, and I've enjoyed myself so much I would like to stay with them for a third year," he said.

armed with TOW, Bolkow 105 helicopters equipped with HOT missiles, and Alouette anti-tank helicopters. Lift capacity was provided by Chinook, Puma and CH53G Sea Stallion, as well as a large number of smaller UH1D Huey helicopters of the type widely used by the Americans in Vietnam.

A new concept trialled on Certain Shield was the Green Howards' use of the Longline LSV (Light Strike Vehicle). Now there are plans to issue it to the other two battalions in 24

The exchange officer is in charge of training the battalion's snipers and thinks both the British Army's SA 80 personal weapon and the new L96 sniper rifle are first rate.

"The L96, which has a free-floating barrel, was used during our sniper cadre and produced excellent results. I confidently expect the snipers to pass their badge test this winter without difficulty," said Capt Butterworth.

Airmobile Brigade, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

The LSV, unveiled at the British Army Equipment Exhibition last year, has been in service with the Hereford-based 22nd SAS Regiment for more than 2½ years and was used in the Gulf War.

The highly-mobile vehicle was originally designed for military operations demanding a stealthy approach and rapid

● Turn to next page



Cat with claws – a Glosters Supacat armed with Milan and a general purpose machine gun

Big lift

● From Page 21

exit. Fully laden it can reach speeds of more than 100kph over rough terrain.

In its reconnaissance role, the LSV has a range of 200km and can accommodate the latest in satellite navigation and communications equipment.

The LSV can mount a variety of fits including twin Browning machine guns, a 40mm M19 grenade launcher or, as with 24 Brigade, Milan missiles.

Said Gen Rose: "The light strike vehicles performed extremely well during the trial and have solved the problem of our lack of ground mobility. It gives us a helimobile weapons platform that can be airlifted forward to give us ground protection."

"We have gone for light strike, but the Germans have gone for something heavier. They have Wiesel mini-tanks, but there are limitations in the number that can be carried forward because of the weight."

The brigade also has a large number of Supacat all-terrain

How DERR ruined Dutchmen's day

THE DUTCH unit acting as enemy "Gold" forces didn't have a good day when they came up against A Company of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

Maj Russ Wardle, OC of A Coy, explained: "We deployed our anti-tank platoon of ten Milan posts with a rifle platoon in support and dug in. After an overnight wait, we got lucky when a Dutch armoured infantry battalion moved into our area and deployed itself into battle formation ready to attack.

"When they got to within 1,500 metres we opened up with Milan, and the umpires stopped the battle saying we had knocked out the entire enemy force."

vehicles which were used to carry troops and stores. Now designated as All-Terrain Mobile Platform (ATMP), Supacat can be fitted with a Milan firing post at the rear and a pintle-mounted general purpose machine gun in the front.

The anti-tank platoons of Support Company, 1 Glosters were given ATMPs fresh from service in the Gulf. Although repainted in a camouflage scheme of black and green, some sand paint was retained to break up the dark silhouette.

"When we get the new helicopters, Lynx will revert to the role for which it was designed – that of armed recce and section lift."

The balance of helicopters to infantry is about right for counter-penetration, but once the division's role in the central region becomes clearer, it might prove necessary to change the ratios.

Working national systems for control of artillery fire has not worked, said Gen Rose. "There are too many different levels in the system for it to work fast enough and it will have to be improved."

Eastern training areas depend on Soviets

WITH discussions on the future of the Soltau-Lüneburg training area (SLTA) taking place, there has been speculation that British troops could end up exercising on vast tracts of land previously devoted to military training in what was East Germany.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, who in February will succeed Gen Sir John Chapple as Chief of the General Staff, told SOLDIER of the challenges and changes faced by the British Army in Germany.

"I have always made it clear that we were not hanging on to SLTA just for the sake of it. In fact, for environmental reasons we would have been happy to give up Soltau," said Gen Inge.

"What we have always said is that we need somewhere else to train, and the training needs of a professional army are different from those of a conscript

army. The difficulty is not that we mind leaving Soltau, but in finding adequate training space on other training areas. That is part of our negotiations.

"It is too early to say whether we will be allowed to train in East Germany, because under the Two Plus Four agreement it was made quite clear that no Nato forces could train in what was East Germany while Soviet forces remain.

"It would be first class if we could, but it would have to be negotiated and depend on the

reaction and views of the Soviets."

Gen Inge said environmental pressures had increased in the past few years and the Army was making every effort to lessen the impact of its training.

"I think we have all become much more environmentally aware. Germany as a nation is more so than any other in Europe, so we can't train quite

as we used to. I believe that, provided we can get computer simulation both in training our headquarters and in tactics, and

find adequate training areas, standards won't drop."

Gen Inge believes the need for Nato troops to remain in Germany for the present has been recognised.

Under the redevelopment of Nato, Britain has been given the role of spearheading a Rapid Reaction Corps, providing the Commander and main element of its headquarters.

"The idea is we become the lead nation in that headquarters. Already there are two multinational divisions earmarked for that headquarters – an airmobile one based on the MNAD seen on Certain Shield and another that will include the Italians, Greeks and Turks.

"BAOR, as you know, is starting to run down. We will go to well under half the size we are now. It's going to be quite difficult forming this challenging new role, while at the same

time drawing down the British Army significantly.

"What we mustn't do is to allow our concern with the drawdown to cause us to neglect the importance of the individual."

What remains of the British Army in Germany will be known as 1st (UK) Armoured Division, but its name will be the only thing it has in common with the current formation. It will have brigades based in the Paderborn-Sennelager area, around the Osnabrück garrison and another in the Fallingsbostel-Hohne area. Two brigades which were part of the old 1st Division will be retained but given new numbers.

Surviving in the new Order of Battle will be the 4th and 7th Armoured Brigades, which performed with distinction in the Gulf War, and the 20th Armoured Brigade.

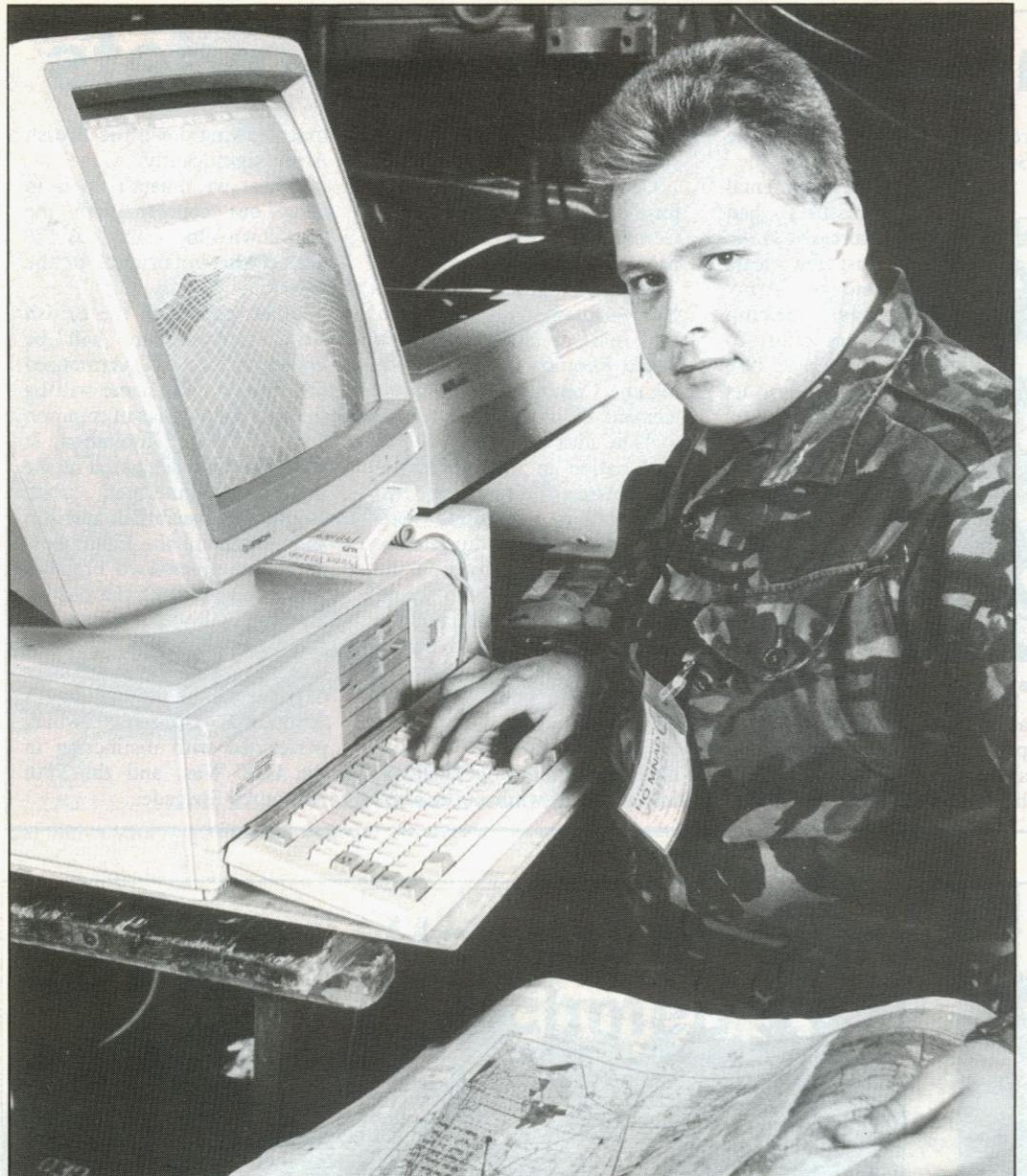


Pte Geoff Wager and Pte Phillip



White of A Coy, 1 Glosters

Not a bush on wheels, but a heavily-armed Supacat deployed by the Green Howards



LCpl Stephen Bamforth RE with Terrabase

Terrabase reveals the lie of the land

COMMANDERS in the field can now site weapons and observation posts (OPs) without the need for a reconnaissance party spending hours checking out the lie of the land.

The solution has been provided by a terrain analysis system employed by Royal Engineer surveyors supporting Headquarters 1st (British) Corps and three British divisions in Germany.

Called Terrabase, the system provides height information which can be reproduced on computer screen or paper to give commanders three-dimensional views of the battlefield.

It can also indicate lines of sight, plot dead ground, and

print out elevation and contour maps.

Operators can punch-in the location of an observer and the direction in which he is looking, and the computer will give an impression of what he can see, taking into account built-up areas and trees that may obstruct his view.

The American-built equipment enabled the commander of the Multinational NORTH-AG Airmobile Division (MNAD) to work out the best location for his anti-tank units to place their Milan posts.

The geographic cell also supplies maps and print-outs indicating ground speed restrictions, likely choke points for traffic and suitable killing

grounds for attack helicopters.

Terrain analysis support to the 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment was provided by sappers from GEO Cell, 1 (BR) Corps whose OC, Maj Chris Dorman, is looking forward to an increased workload for his department.

"Until now, each national corps studied and trained over a pre-designated area of Germany that it would have to defend. Now, with the establishment of Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps, they will have to cover an area from the north of Norway to Turkey in the south.

"Fortunately, the Terrabase system covers the whole world," he said.

Irish Guards join forces with Berlin's sappers to stop the 'revolution'

Back to basics at Putlos

WHEN friendly folk in Schleswig Holstein called for help after an uprising by nationalist "Balticans", their plea was answered by the Berlin-based Irish Guards and Royal Engineers.

Entirely fictitious, needless to say, but it provided an ideal scenario to test the soldiering skills of both units.

Exercise Hungry Bear was based on the Bundeswehr's Putlos training area, a Lulworth Cove lookalike with military roots dating back to the mid-1930s, when Hitler's panzers fired their first shots along its ranges.

In 1940 Wehrmacht units trained on the Putlos shoreline for Operation Sealion, the intended invasion of Britain.

The 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, and 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, deployed into the countryside around Putlos for three weeks' intensive training.

They were joined in the final week by Berlin Brigade Commander Brig David Bromhead and elements of his headquarters staff and were supported by a Lynx helicopter of Hildesheim-based 651 Squadron, 1 Regiment AAC, crewed by SSgt Mike Sinclair and Cpl Paul Spencer.

The Irish Guards – including Wolfhound mascot Connor – arrived by rail in the dead of the night in dimly-lit cattle trucks. As part of the exercise play, their train was stopped short of its Kiel destination.

Disorientated, the battalion disembarked and was met by members of the recce platoon who pointed it in the right direction. A week was spent brushing up on low-level skills in the open countryside before the various units formed up as a battle group for battalion and brigade exercises.

Playing enemy was the 40-strong, Berlin-based A Company of the US Army's 5th Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

A period of freeplay enabled both sides to engage in extensive patrolling and OP



Sappers piece together the medium girder bridge

Baltican Bears



A guardsman heats his early morning brew



Early morning shave for Capt Bill Blakey, 1 IG

infantry assault bridge, two water supply kits, truck loads of fascines and all their plant vehicles – the squadron was well prepared.

It put together the medium girder bridge three times during the warm-up phase; during the day, at night and in a speed-build when they achieved their 90-minute target with a minute to spare.

Between laying charges on the exercise area for battle simulation, they found time to dig a pond on the training area to enable range staff to study bird, plant and animal life.

An innovation was the award of "iron crosses" – large, painted wooden crosses with citations – to those who had done well during the engineer training. Maj Whitechurch said: "It's a different way of saying 'well done'."

The weather, in finest exercise tradition, was anything but dry but, as the old saying goes, if it's not raining, it's not training.

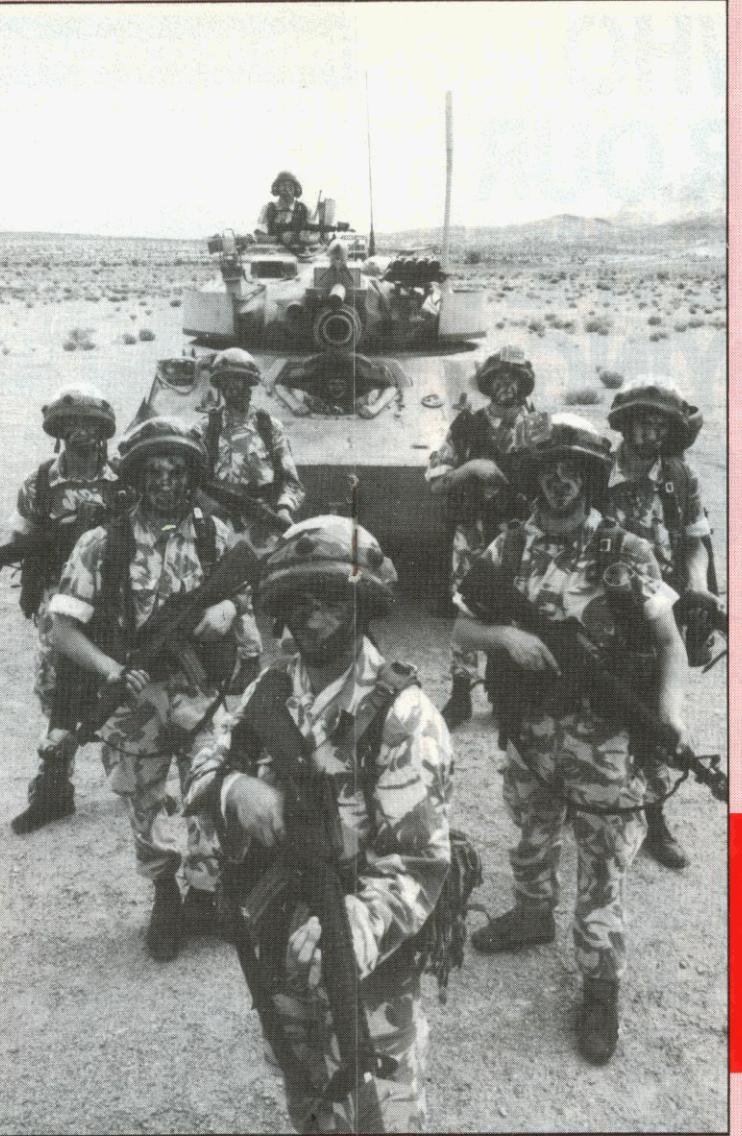
Equipped with 120 tons of engineer material – including a medium girder bridge, the pontoons and trackway for an

type role as well." The variety of tasks which a combat engineer might find himself facing range from laying minefields to erecting tentage, but Hungry Bear concentrated on providing water crossings, water supply, PoW cages and aircraft vertical take-off and landing sites.

Words: Mervyn Wynne Jones
Pictures: Hendrik Pastor



Wearing MILES as well as smiles during an exercise at the National Training Centre, Fort Irwin are (from left) Fus Stewart Connell, Fus Thomas McCormack and Fus Garry Graham



Fus Allan Smith and Cpl Lindsay Suitters get involved with a couple of gun-totin' cowboys at Calico "ghost town" outside Barstow in California



STAR



A COMPANY of soldiers from The Royal Highland Fusiliers has made a breakthrough into Star Wars-type battles at the United States Army's top hi-tech range in the Mojave desert, California. It is the first unit from overseas to take part in an exercise there.

More than 100 men from the regiment displayed their talents before Nato Chiefs of Staff at the range, using laser weaponry in the role of a Soviet-type rifle regiment.

Main task of the resident 177th Armoured Brigade – to which the Scots were attached – is operating as an Eastern bloc force against other US units in the harsh desert terrain where temperatures reach a searing 130 degrees. They seldom lose.

Battlegroup exercises are played out with a realism that can only be surpassed by actual war conditions. With laser beams and receivers attached to men and equipment, every shot is registered on computer and video, and the results are instantly available at the operations headquarters – aptly named the Death Star room.

The unique training centre at

Fort Irwin, between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, is where the Americans gain what they call the "ultimate training experience".

Every US unit that went to the Gulf trained here and took on the 1,500 strong Soviet-type opposition named OPFOR.

"We don't just go into the

actions of war – we actually live it," said Maj John Wagstaffe, US Army, who heads the camp's public affairs department.

Fourteen times a year, units from all over the United States travel to Fort Irwin on a National Training Centre rotation lasting 20 days and

involving two days of equipment issue followed by 14 days of intensive force-on-force and live-fire training.

The units then spend four days cleaning up and turning in equipment.

Key to the electronic warfare is the equipment with which the men are kitted out –

Above: RHF soldiers with a M 551 Sheridan tank modified to look like a Soviet tank. In the turret is LCpl Thomas Wright, with Fus Robert McAllister in the driving position. On the ground (from left) are Fus Derek Thorpe, Fus Francis Smith, Fus Barrie Neil, Cpl James Donald, Fus Stephen Tennent, Fus Kenny McCutcheon and Fus Peter Wilkinson

Left: Fists full of dollars for Royal Highland Fusiliers paymaster Sgt Kevin McFarlane

Right: Fus Michael Jackson pictured at the main entrance to the United States Army's National Training Centre, Fort Irwin, in California's Mojave desert

Words: Bert Houston
Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson

Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System or MILES for short.

Cpl Alex McDivitt said: "It's a much more sophisticated system than we have in Britain and is used against armour and aircraft as well as men.

"It takes the guesswork out of the 'bang, bang you're dead

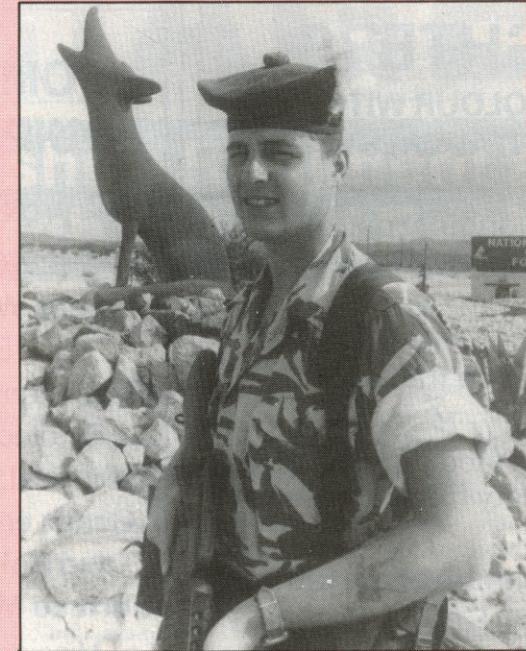
or you're not dead' situation."

The invitation to the British Forces followed the success of the two armies' combined operations in the Gulf, and it was the Royal Highland Fusiliers, based at Oakington Barracks near Cambridge, who were dealt the hand that took them to a terrain immediately

south of the notorious Death Valley. The burning sun serves to intensify the stress and fatigue.

The only "foreign" forces to take part in operations at the centre prior to RHF have been companies from Canadian units.

Company commander Maj



Niall Campbell said: "The exercise is of value in two ways in giving the men a war-reality situation without the bloodshed, and allowing them to be able to analyse their mistakes.

"In addition, it is giving them a grounding in basic Soviet-type tactics. Although the situation in Russia has changed considerably, it has to be remembered that there are at least 30 other countries which adopt these Eastern bloc tactics, such as Iraq."

Throughout the exercises at the centre, units receive instant feedback via video and data banks.

Leaders can analyse the results of their actions – both good and bad – and develop approaches to improvements before the next battle.

The US Army believes the National Training Centre is changing the way the army trains. For the first time it can objectively evaluate unit performances in a realistic combat environment.

It is an experience, they say, that the visiting rotational units cannot duplicate or approach on their home bases.

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The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment

THE Queen's Regiment has been formed by the successive amalgamations of no fewer than ten infantry regiments. The oldest, The Tangier Regiment – later the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment – dates back to 1661.

Today's Queen's was formed in 1966 when The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Sussex Regiment and the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) joined together.

Now their illustrious history is to be joined with that of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, formed in 1881 as The Hampshire – the "Royal" title

being awarded in 1946 in recognition of their services during the Second World War – by the amalgamation of the 37th (North Hampshire) and 67th (South Hampshire) Regiments.

Ironically, in 1970 the Royal Hampshire were reduced to company strength in preparation for an amalgamation with the Glosters, but by 1972 they were back to full strength and off for a tour in Northern Ireland.

The insignia of The Queen's Regiment bear testimony to the past, with a collar badge made up of the 35th (later Royal Sussex) Regiment's Garter star, the Queen's Own Buffs' White

Horse of Kent and the Roussillon Plume won by the 35th at the Battle of Quebec; while the cap badge shows a dragon (The Buffs), a Garter (Royal Sussex Regiment) and the Prince of Wales's feathers (The Middlesex Regiment). The regimental motto is *Unconquered I serve*, an imaginative combination of the Queen's Own Royal West Kents' *Invicta* (Unconquered) and the Middlesex Regiment's *Ich Dien* (I serve).

The Royal Hampshires have TWO cap badges. The officers wear an eight-pointed star bearing a rose surrounded by a crowned Garter – based on the Hampshire Militia badge and



adopted in 1987 – while sergeants and below wear the Tiger and Rose within a crowned laurel wreath. The Tiger was bestowed on the 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment by George IV in token of their service in India 1805-1826.

Combining all these badges will cause some difficulties – but at least both regiments wear the same pattern of forage cap, blue with a scarlet band and crown welt!

ARRANGED MARRIAGES

Part 2

The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment

THE Gloucestershire Regiment was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of The 28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment – founded in 1694 as Gibson's Regiment – and The 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiment, which dates from 1758.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment is much younger – in its present form it is a mere 32 years old, formed by the amalgamation of The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's).

Both regiments, incidentally, have appropriately-named Colonels-in-Chief, The Glosters having the Duke of Gloucester and DERR the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Glosters are notable for their Back Badge, a unique honour awarded for the 28th's

famous back-to-back stand at the Battle of Alexandria in 1801.

This distinction is sometimes conferred on personnel of other regiments and corps serving on attachment ... and will, I hope, survive as a proud "trademark" of the new regiment.

In 1951 the Glosters emulated their illustrious ancestors by fighting back-to-back again, this time defending themselves against Chinese troops in Korea. For this exploit, they were awarded a United States Presidential Unit Citation, and wear the gold-framed blue ribbon of the award on the right sleeve, displaying the blue streamer on the Regimental Colour on the Regimental Day, in the American style.

On the other hand, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment bear a dress distinc-

tion dating from their service AGAINST the Americans – the red triangular flash behind their cap badges being worn in honour of the Light Company of the 49th Regiment (later amalgamated with the 66th (Berkshire) to form the Royal Berkshire Regiment), who wreaked havoc on American revolutionaries at Brandywine in 1777.

When the Americans threatened vengeance, the 49th promptly affixed red feathers in their caps!

The DERR's badge shows a dragon in two coils of rope surmounted by a ducal coronet, while the Glosters wear a Sphinx in a laurel wreath.

Both the 28th and 61st earned the Sphinx in Egypt, and the DERR badge combines the Royal Berkshire's dragon. The rope commemorates the 49th's marine service and the

ducal coronet was originally given to the 99th Regiment – who amalgamated with the 62nd (Wiltshire) to form The Wiltshire Regiment in 1881 – in 1874 when they received the title Duke of Edinburgh's.

History, proudly worn and hopefully to be continued as the new regiment develops its own traditions, just as the Glosters fought in the style immortalised by their ancestors, the 28th.



Personally speaking

RAF Wittering takes the lead in MQ ownership project

Share delight

IF YOU want a recommendation for the new shared ownership scheme opened by the Earl of Arran at RAF Wittering near Peterborough, just ask Sgt Robin Free and his wife Carolyn who received the keys to their house from the Under Secretary for the Armed Forces.

Fifty 1950-built two and three-bedroom semi-detached houses on a married quarters estate just outside the camp have been leased by the MoD to the Sanctuary Spiral Housing Association and comprehensively modernised.

Shared ownership means the buyer takes out a mortgage in the usual way to purchase a share of

the value of the property (minimum stake is 25 per cent, maximum 90 per cent) and pays rent on the balance to the housing association.

Personnel opting for the scheme will never be able to own the house outright, but having a share in the value will give them the first crucial step to entering the private property market.

Nine different designs are available for Wittering-posted RAF personnel to choose from, with prices

independently valued at £41,000 to £47,000.

The restriction on base-only buyers is being lifted to allow enquiries from personnel serving at ten satellite units within a 50-mile radius.

Robin and Carolyn now own a share of the house, and pay rent on the remainder plus a service charge.

When they leave the RAF or are posted elsewhere they will have to sell the house back to Sanctu-

ary Spiral. If independent valuation shows the price has risen, Robin and Carolyn share the profits with the housing association; if it falls, Sanctuary Spiral will buy back at the original purchase price.

Carolyn told me: "We never thought we would have a chance of getting into the property market, let alone Robin being on the doorstep for work."

Robin added: "We will have to budget carefully, but I would rather do this now than have a horrendous problem trying to finance a house when I leave the Service. We have a foot on the ladder – and a house anyone would love to live in. In effect we are on a private housing estate within walking distance of work."

"We don't have to have a second car, there are no travelling expenses, and

although we live in our own home we are still part of the station community."

She is thrilled with the Laura Ashley wallpaper, wall-to-wall carpets, bright new kitchen and patio doors to the back garden. MQs were never like this!

Robin told me: "We never thought we would have a chance of getting into the property market, let alone Robin being on the doorstep for work."

No conflict war pension

MANY people may be unaware that they need not have served in an armed conflict to qualify for a War Disability Pension after they have left the Service.

They are entitled to make a claim if they consider that their service in the Armed Forces is related to a current medical condition, the most common being noise-induced deafness.

A War Disability Pension is paid by the Department of Social Security, completely separate from normal Service Retirement or Invaliding Pension.

Individuals can submit a claim direct to the War Pensions Directorate, DSS, North Fylde Central Offices, Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3TA, or through the Pensions Department, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

There is an advantage to using the second route. Claimants have the right of appeal to an independent tribunal if the claim is rejected or if they are not satisfied with the award. In such cases, the RBL would be happy to give further assistance or provide free

representation. Entitlement to a War Disability Pension is considered automatically if a person is discharged on medical grounds, on completion of Service Form Med 24.

The amount paid for a successful claim will depend on the current disablement. The War Pensions Directorate will assess the loss of physical ability or mental health by making a comparison with a healthy person of the same age and sex.

Disablement assessed at 20 per cent or more will result in a tax-free pension; Priced at £4.50, it is available from Disability Alliance ERA, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA (tel: 071-247 8776).

at less than 20 per cent, in a tax-free gratuity.

Further information is available from the RBL at the above address (tel: 071-973 0633).

Since raising the difficulties of compensation claims after death or injury on military duty I have been asked for further information. The *Disability Rights Handbook* is a useful guide.

What a good idea to have one in every MQ, listing such items as the state of insulation; purchase dates of furniture, furnishings and cookers; structural and rewiring alterations, and so on.

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Rowntree paper identifies post-Service housing crisis Second year of research to look at solutions

THE Joseph Rowntree Foundation is to fund a second year of research by Judith Dugdale into the housing problems faced by personnel leaving the Services.

Publishing the findings of Mrs Dugdale's first year, Rowntree Trust director Richard Best announced that the grant is to be extended so the work can go on. The trust finances a programme of research and development in the fields of housing and social care and policy.

I can claim to have got the ball rolling, having spoken to Mr Best several times about the problems facing Servicemen. A conversation with him during a charity function on board *HMS President* set me on the path to obtaining a research grant to investigate the problems faced by Servicemen leaving the forces during the 1990s.

While he was at Wittering, the Earl of Arran was shown Tarmac's excellent manual which goes into each house.

What a good idea to have one in every MQ,

listing such items as the state of insulation; purchase dates of furniture, furnishings and cookers; structural and rewiring alterations, and so on.



Judith Dugdale discusses her findings with John Howe, Assistant Under Secretary of State (Personnel and Logistics)

Devon dozen

TWELVE four-bedroom fully-carpeted executive houses at Newton Abbot, Devon, are available under the "option to buy" Patriot scheme from the Royal British Legion Housing Association.

Rents are in the region of £450-£500 a month.

For details and waiting lists of properties coming up in the West Country, Norfolk, Kent, Gloucestershire and north Wiltshire, write to RBLHA Patriot Scheme, PO Box 32, St John's Road, Penn, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8JF (tel: 049481 3771).

FIRST FINDINGS

The Judith Dugdale report

RESEARCHER Judith Dugdale was given full access by the Ministry of Defence for her year-long study into the housing crisis among ex-Service families.

A full report, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, is to be published soon. Her preliminary report concludes that the reduction in

Main points in her first findings are:

• A total of 1,700 families were living illegally

in married quarters this summer, a 120 per cent increase over five years.

• Half of all irregular occupants are Service men's estranged wives living with their children.

The report says that "contrary to popular belief", divorce rates for Service families generally are not higher than those for the country as a whole.

• Many local authorities require the Services to seek eviction orders before they will accept families as homeless and in need of re-housing. This runs contrary to Department of the Environment policy for the past 16 years.

• The "follow the flag" policy which requires the families of Army and RAF personnel to accompany them to duty stations has led to low levels of home ownership compared with the civilian community.

• Of the 1,000 or so MQs offered for sale each year, fewer than a third are sold to serving personnel.

• Lump sum gratuities paid to non-commissioned ranks on completion of service are increasingly inadequate for buying a house, yet are treated by local authorities as "savings" which can disqualify ex-Service families from priority on waiting lists.

• Home ownership is low among Army (29 per cent) and RAF (49 per cent) families compared to civilians (68 per cent).

Just capital

SOLDIERS who leave on redundancy terms and are re-employed in the Territorial Army as non-Regular Permanent Staff will not be required to refund their Special Capital Payments.

FORMER irregular occupant Mrs Charmaine Camp was involved in a small but significant piece of legal history when her case went to court.

Mrs Camp, already on Income Support, asked the judge to waive the MoD's court costs, and her request was granted.

It was a small but welcome victory. Soon afterwards Charmaine and her four-year-old son David

were accommodated in a £180-a-week one-room B and B and told it would be for 18 months followed by a further 18 months in a hostel before they could expect to be housed properly.

By my reckoning, her somewhat unsatisfactory accommodation during the next three years will cost the authorities about £30,000. There has to be a better way.

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LETTERS

All part of the Service

Robert W Widders poses the question "Am I unique" (Letters, September 30) having served in the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and now the Territorial Army.

I have met a number of people who remustered, including a radio mechanician RN in Malta 1952 who claimed to have served in all three Services.

I served as a seaman RN for seven years and took part in the field gun competition at the Royal Tournament. Two years later I returned as a gunner in The King's Troop musical ride.

It is said "once a gunner always a gunner". Although the transformation may have been rather painful I did emerge as a soldier - which I remain! A few weeks of boots and spurs at riding school soon removed any traces of "Jolly Jack". - G Freeman, Banbury, Oxon.

Graphic badge

ON the subject of "div signs" (SOLDIER, October 14), surely the most apt during the Second World War was that of the anti-aircraft defences.

It shows a black silhouette of a witch on her broomstick on a red background. Motto: "We sweep the skies". - R J C Holmes, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

RAF Regiment not unscathed

I DISAGREE with W A West's idea (Letters, Sept 30) to disband the RAF Regiment, in which I formerly served.

He seems to forget that the reason for the cuts in the Army is the diminishing threat in Europe, resulting in the need for fewer troops there.

I must point out that the RAF has not come out of the reductions unscathed. The RAF Regiment will be losing three squadrons. - L Milledge, South Ockenden, Essex.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



'Get on wi' it McSnurdski, the CO is depending on the regimental dancing team to put up a good show at the end-of-exercise concert!'

RHF joins "Soviet" force in California - Pages 26-27

Forgotten campaign

A RECENT 50TH anniversary has passed unheralded.

This was the anniversary of the short but bitter Syrian campaign of June-July 1941, when British, Australian, Indian and Free French troops fought the Vichy French in Syria and the Lebanon.

What made this campaign so remarkable and indeed historic was that it was the last occasion when a British cavalry regiment (albeit yeomanry) saw action as a complete horsed unit.

The Cheshire Yeomanry, equipped with swords, Lee Enfields, Hotchkiss guns, Vickers medium machine guns and some Tommy guns, was part of the 5th Cavalry Brigade

(three horsed regiments: the others were the Yorkshire Dragoons and North Somerset Yeomanry).

The brigade was based in Palestine, and the Cheshire Yeomanry was ordered into Syria and the Lebanon as divisional cavalry to two Australian infantry brigades.

Although there was no "last charge", the horses proved their worth in the rough, hilly country where the Yeomanry was operating and the regiment was in action on numerous occasions, suffering casualties to both men and horses.

After the campaign the Cheshire Yeomanry provided a mounted squadron to represent

the British forces in the Victory Parade into Beirut.

I feel that the year should not pass without at least a mention of the campaign to honour those last true cavalrymen.

Ironically, the Cheshire Yeomanry was not the last regiment to keep its horses; this honour, by a few days, went to the Yorkshire Dragoons. - Denis C Bateman, Ruislip, Middlesex.

Charity Commission

Charities - The Soldiers' Widows and Widowers Fund and The Single Soldiers' Dependents Fund Scheme conferring wider powers of investment

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: BWG-233533A/1-CD(SC)/256443A/1-CD(SC)) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4AY. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today.

I WONDER if W A West has any knowledge of the Gurkha Engineers, which he suggests should be disbanded as one of the better ways he advocates to reduce the Army.

In 1948 I was one of a team of British all-ranks posted to Kluang, Malaya, to undertake the formation and training of the first Gurkha Infantry transfers.

I served three years with these gentlemen.

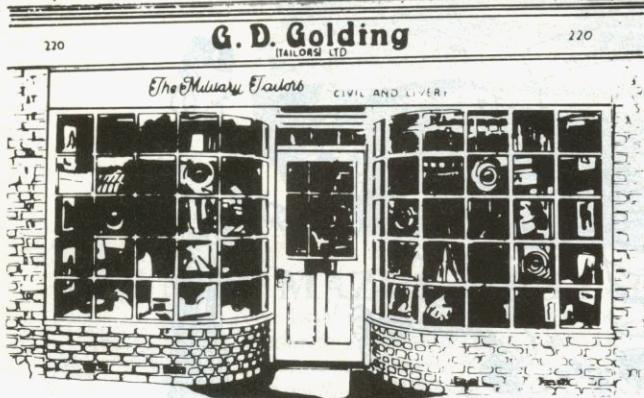
Now, after 43 years, the

Queen's Gurkha Engineers are a fine, trained unit of tradesmen and field engineers.

I served in the Royal Engineers from 1927 to 1957 and if age allowed I would still be serving and would still be proud to serve with the Gurkhas. - C N Walker (WO2 RE Retd), Swansea.

● Letters taking issue with various points in W A West's letter have also been received from L Kerr, of Peckham, and R Ellis, of Harlow. - Editor

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- The Royal Hampshire Regiment.
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- The Light Infantry.
- 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.
- The Army Air Corps.
- The Royal Army Chaplain's Department.
- Royal Corps of Transport.
- Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
- Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
- Corps of Royal Military Police.
- Royal Army Pay Corps.
- Royal Army Veterinary Corps.
- Small Arms School Corps.
- The Royal Army Educational Corps.
- Royal Army Dental Corps.
- Royal Pioneer Corps.
- Army Physical Training Corps.
- Army Catering Corps.
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Montgomery, Rommel and Ultra . . .

Alamein: Nothing new to report

MANY books have been written about the three battles of El Alamein, the second better known as the Battle Alam Halfa. One of the best is by Michael Carver, better known as Fd Marshal Lord Carver, who was present at all three.

Alexander McKee, in *El Alamein: Ultra and the Three Battles*, strangely makes no reference to Carver's book in his biography but makes great use of quotes from a disparate number of individuals and sources which hardly give a balanced or historical record of the battle.

There is, for example, no mention of the crucial action fought by 22nd Armoured Brigade at Point 102 during the Battle of Alam Halfa between August 31 and September 2.

Presumably from the title the author hoped to prove the value the Allies' possession of the German Ultra code machine had on the outcome of the battles. He suggests that the receipt of the Ultra message on August 15 about Rommel's intended attack on August 25 caused Montgomery to move 44th Division from the Delta to

This throttling of his

the vital position of Alam Halfa.

In fact Montgomery's assessment of the situation on his arrival on August 13 led him to give orders for advance parties of the Division to move up on the 14th and the remainder on the 15th before he received the Ultra message; your reviewer happened to be in the group which moved on August 14.

That Ultra code messages had a profound effect on the interdiction of Rommel's supplies and reinforcements by sea cannot be denied and McKee provides ample examples of submarine and aircraft attacks initiated from this source.

But at the same time he emphasises the part played by other intelligence sources such as photographic interpretations, especially by the RAF PRU in Malta and Wing Cdr Warburton in particular.

McKee continually refers to Montgomery as a "staff college lecturer", whereas he was a member of the Directing Staff both at Camberley (1926-29) and at Quetta (1934-37) with

Tanks between the wars . . .



Gen Sir Bernard Montgomery, Commander of the 8th Army, takes a picnic lunch

supplies and the attrition of his tanks undoubtedly led Rommel to order a withdrawal from El Alamein on November 2 - an order that was countermanded by Hitler until Rommel was forced to go three days later.

There are some annoying inaccuracies such as the statement that 4th and 5th Royal Sussex were "transferred from 44th Division to the North to help the tanks get forward". These battalions were part of 133 Infantry Brigade which was transferred to 10th Armoured Division at the end of September and reorganised as a lorried infantry brigade, hence their presence at Kidney Ridge in the north.

One wonders why the author bothered to write this book which adds nothing new, apart from some quotes from submarine and aircraft crews, and causes a certain amount of confusion about the land battles of El Alamein. - PSN

El Alamein: Ultra and the Three Battles by Alexander McKee. Souvenir Press, £15.99.

shortages of cash existed even then.

Overall, the machines of the war years were not thought suitable for peacetime use, and new designs were evolved very quickly to replace them. The Medium tank from Vickers was to be a mainstay for many years, yet it was by no means the only vehicle around.

Several innovations were made, not all of which stood the test of trials or time, and steady if unspectacular improvements produced successive machines each moving slowly towards

those in service in the early years of the Second World War.

There is a huge wealth of material to include, and the author has done his usual fine job of telling a readable story in detail, with some touches of humour.

Each chapter covers a specific vehicle type, from the mediums, tankettes and lights through to armoured cars, from a technical point of view. This is far easier to follow than a chronological coverage with several streams of thought to

follow at any one time.

The commercial side is also dealt with, for Britain, or at least Vickers, had some success in arms sales then as now.

Other chapters deal with testing each design, vehicles in India and the Middle East, and the activities of the various experimental mechanised forces which tested the ideas of armoured warfare for the British Army and were copied by others with great success.

The text is complemented by 150 photos and 33 drawings from the museum collection.

Montgomery: A critic of note

"I WANT first of all to introduce myself to you. You do not know me. I do not know you. But we have got to work together; therefore we must understand each other, and we must have confidence each in the other . . .

"We will then work together as a team; and together we will gain the confidence of this great Army and go forward to final victory in Africa."

In this somewhat simplistic way Bernard Law Montgomery made himself known to officers of HQ Eighth Army, command of which he took over on August 13, 1942.

Montgomery and the Eighth Army is a compilation of Montgomery's letters, pamphlets, memoranda and diary notes, selected and edited by Stephen Brooks.

The papers cover the period of his command of the Eighth Army up to the time of his return from Italy to England in December 1943.

The letters are characteristically outspoken and often critical of almost everyone.

Montgomery's *Review of the Situation in the Eighth Army from 12 August to 23 October 1942* is damning by any standard, describing his command as being ". . . in a bad state . . . The whole 'atmosphere' was wrong . . . Auchin-

leck was very difficult to deal with . . . The CGS [Lt Gen Thomas Corbett] was quite useless . . . The VCGS [Brig Eric Dorman-Smith] was a menace . . . Harding (DCGS) seemed to me to be the only officer at GHQ who talked sense . . ."

It is interesting to note that the latter had been a student of Montgomery's at Staff College!

The papers reveal much of the Army commander's thinking during the campaigns, his assessments of other generals being of particular interest.

For instance: "Eisenhower came and stayed a night with me on 31 March. He is a very nice chap. I should say he is probably quite good on the political side.

"But I can also say, quite definitely, that he knows nothing whatever about how to make war or to fight battles; he should be kept right away from all that business if you want to win this war."

We learn something of Montgomery's philosophy of command: ". . . I work on a few very simple rules: **First**, I will not have any failures. **Second**, in order that this is so, I limit the scope of any operation to that which can be done successfully. **Third**, I do not launch the operation until I am ready. I then hit hard and quickly."

It was to be these "rules", which formed part of his pamphlet *Some Notes on Morale in an Army* written in August 1943, that were later in North West Europe to be the cause of criticism from Eisenhower and other Americans.

Montgomery's opinions of some of the Allies were far from complimentary, not that he had overwhelmingly high regard for his own countrymen. He said in April 1943: "We are an amazing race, and it is quite wonderful how we ever win any wars." But win we did. - BJ

Montgomery and the Eighth Army edited by Stephen Brooks. The Bodley Head, hardback, £20.

British armour – the missing link

TANK Museum librarian David Fletcher has added a further section to his series covering British armoured vehicles from the earliest times to date.

He has already written on the First World War and the first half of his Second World War history has been published. Here he slips back a little in time to link the two wars.

There is a lot to cover here, for these 20 years saw many changes in attitude and requirements. Some may seem familiar to modern readers for

shortages of cash existed even then.

Overall, the machines of the war years were not thought suitable for peacetime use, and new designs were evolved very quickly to replace them. The Medium tank from Vickers was to be a mainstay for many years, yet it was by no means the only vehicle around.

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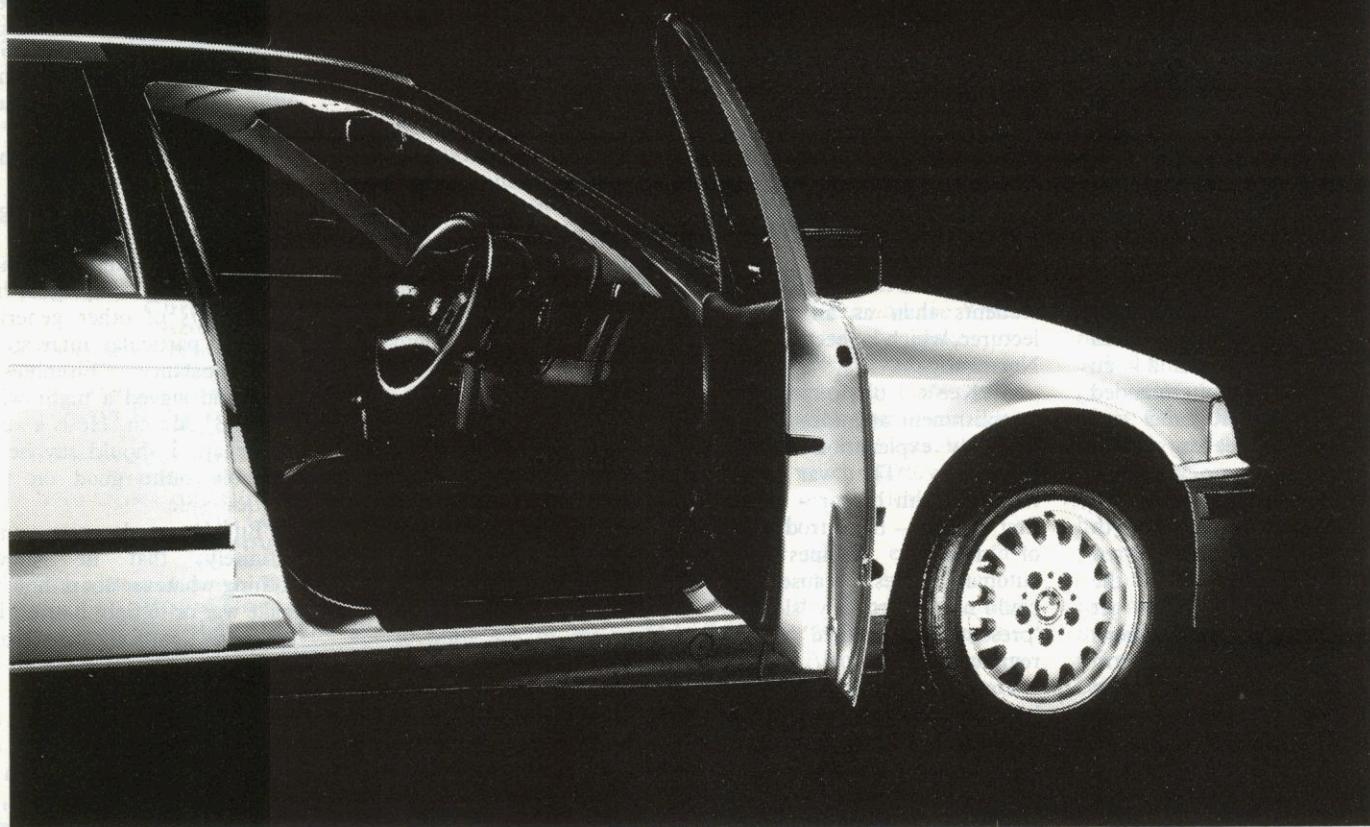
Other chapters deal with testing each design, vehicles in India and the Middle East, and the activities of the various experimental mechanised forces which tested the ideas of armoured warfare for the British Army and were copied by others with great success.

The text is complemented by 150 photos and 33 drawings from the museum collection.

Taken together this is a comprehensive record of a neglected period, which deserves to be read thoroughly and will be enjoyed by anyone interested in armoured vehicles. To hear an enthusiast on his chosen subject is always an uplifting experience. When that person is knowledgeable and lucid, it is doubly so. - PB.

Mechanised Force – British tanks between the wars by David Fletcher. Published by HMSO for the Tank Museum, Bovington, softback, £14.95.

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Malta siege medal struck

VETERANS of the siege of Malta may apply for a medal struck by the island's government to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the lifting of the siege on the George Cross island.

The commemorative medals will be issued during the Mediterranean island's anniversary celebrations next summer.

During these festivities, which will be attended by members of the Royal Family, a ten-ton bell and cupola in memory of those who lost their lives will be unveiled.

More than £660,000 is being raised by the George Cross Island Association to pay for the memorial.

The medal is for members of the Maltese, British, Commonwealth and Allied Services, merchant navy, nursing and civil defence units who took part in the defence of Malta, or in operations to resupply it, between June 11, 1940 and May 13, 1943.

It is reckoned that from the British Army alone thousands of veterans are eligible.

Those wishing to register can do so by joining the George Cross Island Association. Application forms are available from Mr Fred Plenty, 43 Sydenham Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4QD, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. His telephone number is 0278 424641.

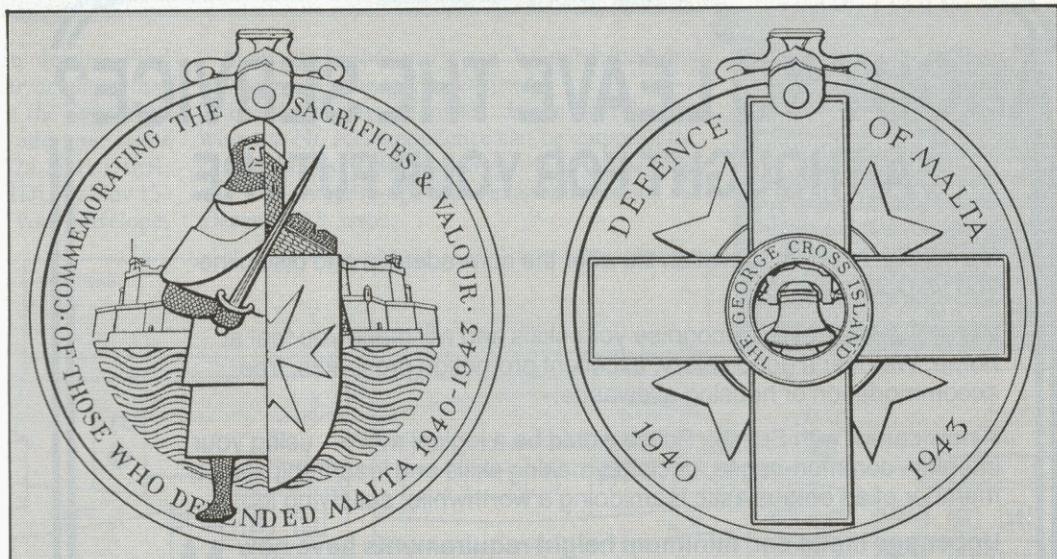
Incidentally, Mr Plenty, founder and life vice-president of the GCIA, is keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming an associate member. "We're all in our seventies now," he said, "and soon we will need younger people to continue the work of the association."

Crete battle study day

A distinguished panel of experts will be speaking at a study day on October 26 to conclude the National Army Museum's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battle for Crete.

Although defeated and forced to evacuate the island, the Allied defenders inflicted such heavy casualties on their opponents during the ten-day battle that the Germans never again used airborne forces in a strategic role.

Lt Gen Sir Napier Crookenden, CO of 9 Para in 1944-46, will be talking on Operation Mercury, the German airborne attack on the island, and former Bletchley Park intelligence officer Ralph Bennett



Defence of Malta medal: obverse (left) and reverse

DIARY

Open until further notice: Gulf War Exhibition, Tank Museum, Bovington.

Open until March 15: Nursing in the Gulf War exhibition, Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW (opening details on 071-620 0374).

November 1-17: The Great War, a third exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture presented by David Cohen Fine Art at the King Street Galleries, 17 King Street, St James's, London SW1 6QU.

November 9: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

November 20-26: Armed Forces Art Society annual exhibition at National Army Museum, Chelsea. (Handing-in days Nov 9 and 11. For

entry forms send SAE to Capt W Blake, D Block, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4SE.)

1992 DATES

February 8: Victorian Military Society annual military fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. The 1992 theme will be Highland Regiments. Further details from Richard Caike on 0424 437103.

May 8-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants.

June 13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

July 8-28: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

July 17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

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

SEARCHLINE

● **Reece family history:** Mr W Reece, of 227 Wensley Road, Reading, Berks RG1 6EE, researching family tree, seeks information about the family of 9808 RSM William Henry Reece, DCM and Bar, 1 Glosters 1913-37, Yeoman Warder, Tower of London 1937-50.

● **Abbassia Garrison School, Cairo:** Mr Bob Carrington of 19 Highfield Avenue, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3BY (tel: 0252 20575) is trying to contact former pupils of the Abbassia Garrison School, Cairo (pre-Second World War) for a reunion. Thirty-five former pupils have already made contact.

REUNIONS

● **Liverpool Scottish Officers' Association:** The annual meeting will be followed by the Regimental Association reunion at the Officers' Mess, Forbes House, Childwall, Liverpool, November 22. Details from Secretary, Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum, Forbes House, Score Lane, Childwall, Liverpool 16 (tel: 051-722 7711).

● **Ghana 1957-70:** Possible reunion or visits to Ghana in 1992 or 1993 for those who served as seconded personnel, as members of BJSTT or on contract. Details from Peter King, 12 Orpwood Way, Abingdon OX14 5PX (SAE please) or tel: 0235 527167 (evenings, weekends).

● **RA Association (Exeter Branch):** Annual dinner dance takes place at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter, on November 16. Details from D A Goodheart, 20a Burnthouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH (tel: 0392 73862).

Gulf story helps Trust

Copies of the book *Op Granby - Britain's Gulf War* are still available, with half the £2 cover price going to the Gulf Trust.

With forewords by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière and Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, plus a perspective of the war by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, the book tells the full story with colour pictures of the road to war and the history behind Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

To take account of post and packing the price is £2.60 from the Gulf Trust Office, Room 721, Adastral House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RU.

BFBS at home

SERVICE families no longer have to sever all links with the British Forces Broadcasting Service when they return to the UK from overseas. The flagship programme *Simon and the Squad* can now be heard at lunchtimes on BBC Radio 5 (909 and 693 Medium Wave).

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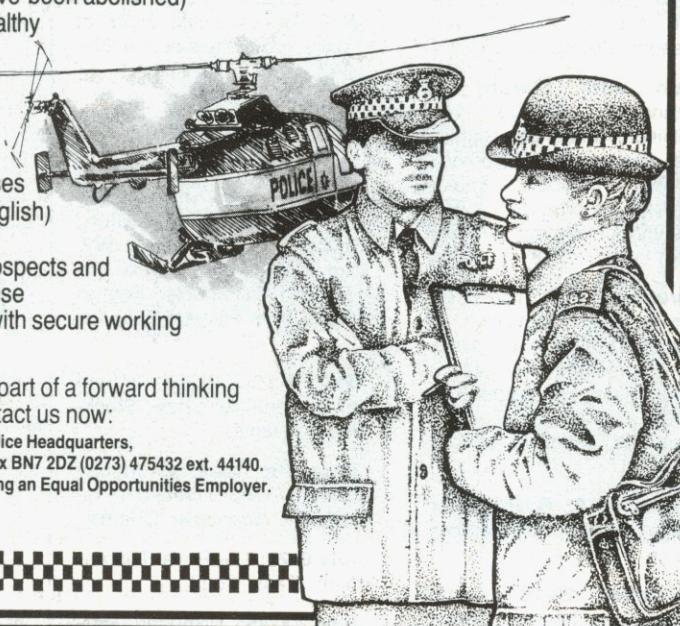
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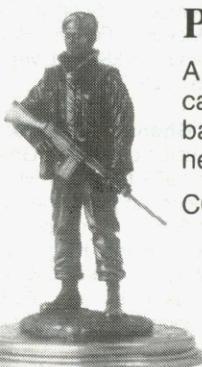
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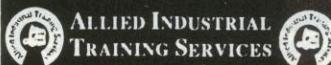
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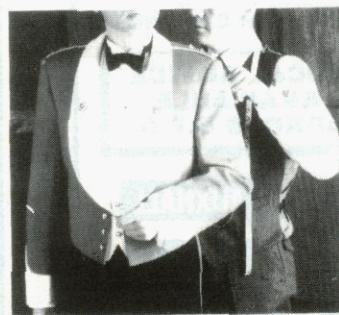
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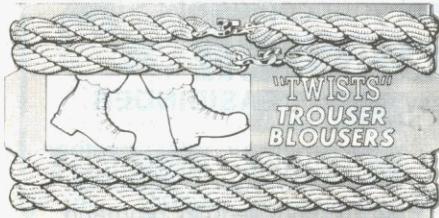
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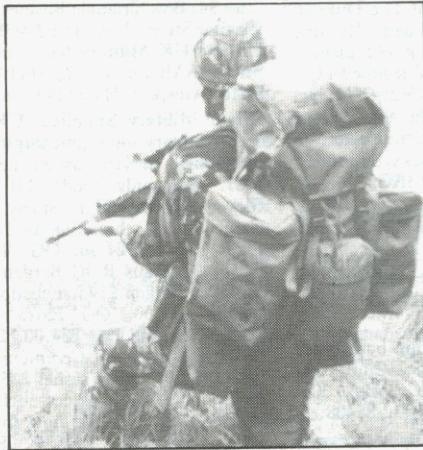


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Pyatt wins at a canter

A COMPETITIVE entry, including five past champions, assembled at Netley to contest the 1991 Army dinghy championships.

Saturday's races were sailed in very light and flukey conditions and race officer Col Bill Roper set exceptionally fair courses. The first three races were won by Capt Bill Scullion, Maj Patrick Clarke and Maj John Pyatt, all of the Royal Engineers. Lt Col Nick Ross, Capt Stuart Hudson and Maj John Baird all had consistent results and were close behind.

The morning race on the Sunday was lost because of lack of wind but later a good sea breeze got up, allowing two competitive races to be sailed. Ross won the first with Pyatt second and Baird third, so it all depended on the final race.

Steve Pyatt, crewed by 2nd Lt Peter Cooper, produced shattering boat speed in the increasing breeze to win at a canter from Stuart Hudson, crewed by Netley SC member Eddie Holmes. Nick Ross, crewed by son Adam, was fifth to finish second overall.

RESULTS

1. Maj Steve Pyatt, RE and 2nd Lt Peter Cooper, AAC; 2. Lt Col Nick Ross, REME and Adam Ross; 3. Capt Stuart Hudson, RAMC and Eddie Holmes; 4. Maj John Baird and Richard Holt, both Para; 5. Maj Patrick Clarke, RE and Cpl Paddy Carroll, RE; 6. Capt Bill Scullion, RE and LCpl Mark Hudson, RE.

1st woman, Lt Janice Clarke, WRAC; 1st veteran, Lt Col Nick Ross; 1st civilian, Adam Ross.

Silver fleet – 1. Capt Andy Brookes, RE and Stuart Pitman; 2. Capt George Odling and Capt Sheilagh MacLeod, both R Signals; 3. Maj Simon Douglas, RE and Maj Colin Walsh, RA.

Infantry on goal-spree

THE Infantry football team knocked in ten goals in their first two games of the season, beating the ACC 6-1 and following up with a 4-0 victory over the RAMC/RADC at the Tidworth Oval.

Infantry scorers in the opening match were Sgt O'Brien (R Irish) 4, and Sgt Reid and Cpl Lundie (both A and SH). Pte Vincent scored for the Army Catering Corps. LCpl Thorne (R Hamps) scored three and Cpl Taleb one against the medical corps.

Signalmen hit the rest for six

ARMY six-a-side champions are 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, who won the tournament with a display of sound, controlled and patient football that carried them through their nine fixtures without losing a point, writes Pat Massey.

In the process they swept the board, winning the Thorpe Trophy by scoring 27 goals in their Group A matches, and, avenging their loss to 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt RCT (3-1) in the final of the North Eastern District competition by ousting them in the semi-final tie by two goals to nil.

Fielding three of last season's Army and Combined Services squads, the signalmen went through the morning programme comfortably with wins over 1 KOSB (5-0), PCD RE (3-0), 8 Fd Wkspes REME (4-2), and against a five-man 1/3 Trg Regt RE (4-1) – a result that was to prove crucial in the qualification for second place in the group and cost the sappers a place in the semi-finals when "points difference" was required to separate them and 1 BW.

After lunch, the signallers extended their unbeaten run with wins over 29 Cdo Regt RA (1-0), 26 Sqn RCT (4-1) and 1 BW, eventual runners up in the group, 5-1.

In Group B, SEME Bordon beat 1 RHF (4-1) in their opener. They followed this up with a 4-0 win over the School of Signals, then beat 1 Royal Scots 2-0 before ending their morning programme with a hard fought 1-1 draw against the eventual group runners-up, 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt RCT.

After lunch, they took the scalps of 17 Trg Regt RA (2-1),

15 Bn RAOC (3-1) and 7/10 UDR (3-0).

The men from 2 Div Tpt Regt RCT were themselves rattling up an impressive points total with a 1-1 draw against 1 Royal Scots, a 3-0 win over 17 Trg Regt RA, a win over 1 RHF (2-0), School of Signals (1-0) 7/10 UDR (3-1) and 15 Bn RAOC (4-0) to qualify for the semi-finals as Group B runners-up and a clash with 2 Div Sig Regt, the side they beat earlier in Catterick (3-1).

Second qualification place from Group A called for a review of the points scored over the seven group matches.

When 1 BW were walloped 5-1 by 2 Div Sig Regt in the last of their group games, with the sappers from 1/3 Trg Regt still to play 26 Sqn RCT, and only two points adrift, it was anyone's guess who would come out on top.

The sappers beat the Northern Ireland side 2-0 and were confident that they had done just enough to claim that second spot. On count back, however, with both teams equal on match points, when the goals and corner kicks were converted into points, the Jocks had much the better points difference and moved into the last four.

In the final analysis, it was that 4-1 defeat by 2 Div Sig Regt, when they could only field five men, that cost the sappers their semi-final place.

SEME Bordon, the SE District champions, reached the final with a clinical 4-0 win over the Black Watch and set up the clash of the two unbeaten sides in the final. 2 Div Sig Regt started in fine style with a goal in the first few

minutes. SEME were not going to go down without a struggle and they quickly hit back before going ahead just before the interval break.

In the second half, however, the signalmen rapped in three further goals to give themselves a two-goal cushion.

SEME were awarded a penalty kick two minutes from time for a handling offence by the signals 'keeper.'

But the shot was saved, and with it went SEME's last chance to get back into the game.



Sgt Gavin Wood, the SEME captain, receives the South East District six-a-side football trophy from Brig Wardle Barker, chairman of SEDIST football

Parkins – at the double

TWO strikes by skipper Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) – the first an unstoppable effort hit on the run, the second assisted by a deflection – gave the Army a 2-1 win over Windsor and Eton at Aldershot. If the Army players were able to read the opposition game plan it was because four of the side – Parkins, Bdr Basher Bates (RHA), Cpl Sean Gilman (RAOC) and Gnr Mark Mahoney (RHA) play for Windsor and Eton in the Diadora League.



Picture: Mike Perring

Dvr Paul Darwood attacks against the Hellenic League

Strikers blunted

The Army 1, Hellenic League 1

ON AN evening when the Army's strike force were unable to penetrate a strong visiting defence, it was left to skipper Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) to score ten minutes from time.

In fact, the strikers didn't record a shot on goal worth a mention in the opening half.

The half-time introduction of Dvr Paul Darwood (RCT) did improve matters up front. But although he looked dangerous, he lacked his usual punch in front of goal and a number of chances went begging.

Pistol team beats Britain

FOR only the second time in the seven years that the Combined Services target pistol team have shot against Great Britain, the team won a thrilling victory in the second of two matches on October 6.

In the morning's standard pistol match, GB led by just four points after the 150sec series, increasing this by one point in the 20sec series. Unfortunately, the 10sec series proved too difficult for the Services, who eventually lost with a total score of 3,297 to GB's record equalling 3,341.

In the centre fire match, GB looked comfortably ahead after the precision series with a lead of 21 points and with their normally stronger discipline, the rapid fire, to follow.

However, the Services, captained by Lt Col Ken Hook, RE, dug in deep and whittled away the GB lead, finally finishing joint equal with 3,418. After much scrutinising of the targets and checking of the scores, officials consulted the rules book to determine how to resolve the stalemate.

The rules revealed that a count back was in order and as the Services had the better scores in the final series, they were declared the winners. The Army was represented by Maj Peter Hawkes, REME and WO1 Jimmy Cairns, SASC.

Bagot shoots Army to victory

CPL Mike Bagot from RAPC Worthy Down is the Army small bore target rifle champion after winning the final stages of the competition at Ash Ranges near Aldershot.

Bagot, a member of the Great Britain national squad, dominated the Army long range and three positions matches that make up the final stages of the

championship, and in doing so achieved a record 1,173 (out of 1,200) in the long range event.

He increased his lead over each of the three stages of the target rifle championships, his closest competition coming from Lt Col Alan Glasby GM (BAD Longtown) and Maj Peter Underhill (1 D and D).

Bagot was again in superb

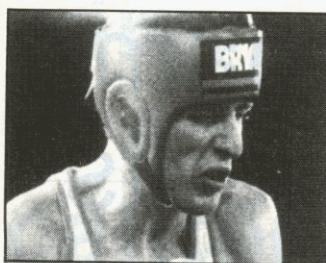
form over the following two days for the Inter-Services long range small bore championships on Ash Ranges. He had a clean sweep in the PSK (prone/stand/kneel), long range and 50m matches, leading the Regular Army to victory in each.

With WO2 Tony Cheese and Capt Cameron Ferguson also in

terrific form and filling the second and third individual places, the Army retained the Gilbert Trophy with the maximum 21 points.

Concurrent team matches resulted in wins for the Regular Army over the Police Athletic Association, and the English Small-Bore Shooting Union over Combined Services.

Stage set for international boxing



Cpl Neil McCallum

Flying Gurkhas smash Kinabalu record

GURKHAS from 2/2 GR and 10 GR dominated the annual Mount Kinabalu climbathon men's international open race in Sabah, with LCpl Kusang Kumar Gurung (2/2 GR) winning in a record 2hr 42min 33sec.

Nearly 70 hill runners from all over the world entered the race, which involves a gruelling course 7,500ft up and down the side of Mount Kinabalu.

Gurkhas have dominated the event in recent years and filled 12 of the first 15 places in the 1991 race.

First to the top in record time was Rfn Gajendra Kumar (10 GR). He was eventually

INTERNATIONAL boxing makes its debut at Aldershot on November 15 when the Army entertains Austria.

Army boxing secretary Maj Dennis Sears is hoping that the enterprise will be rewarded by a large crowd at the military boxing centre in Montgomery Lines, Aldershot.

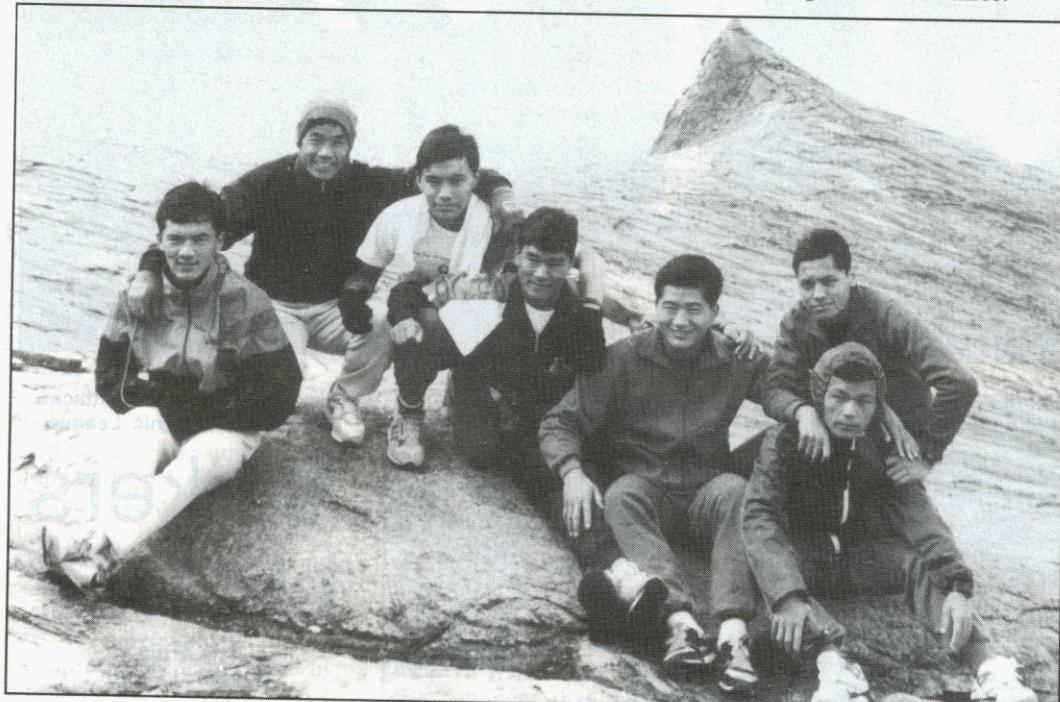
Tickets are available to

Service personnel and members of the public from HQ Aldershot Garrison, Sports Ground Office, Wavell House, Cavans Road, Aldershot (tel: 0252 347887) at £6.50 for reserved ringside seats and £4 for unreserved seats.

Last year the Army boxing team travelled to Austria at the invitation of the host nation and

were narrowly beaten in an exciting contest.

Army bantamweight Cpl Neil McCallum (10 RCT) won his third international vest when he boxed for England against Poland. His unanimous points win ensured he kept his unbeaten record in England's colours. Poland won the match by eight bouts to three.



The 2/2 GR team on Kinabalu, just below the 13,500ft summit, Lowe's Peak. From left are race winner LCpl Kusang Kumar Gurung, Rfn Phabendra Pun, Rfn Bhimabhadur Pun, Rfn Gangabahadur Pun, Rfn Naniram Rana, Rfn Santabahadur Chand and Rfn Krishnabahadur Limbu

caught and passed just metres from the line by Kusang. Fifty seconds behind them were Dioman Lawati (10 GR) and Rfn Krishnabahadur Limbu (2/2 GR).

Kusang's prize was US\$4,500 and a return flight to Los Angeles.

The great strength of the

Gurkhas is in running downhill, which they do at breakneck speed by the most direct route, taking enormous strides. Rfn Gangabahadur Pun of 2/2 GR was offered a helicopter evacuation when he hurt his wrist and hand in a bad fall, but after a short rest he set off again and finished 15th.

So successful have the Gurkhas been in the event that the sponsors are considering barring them from the international category, a move that will be strongly opposed by the Gurkhas and competitors from the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Germany and Switzerland.



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