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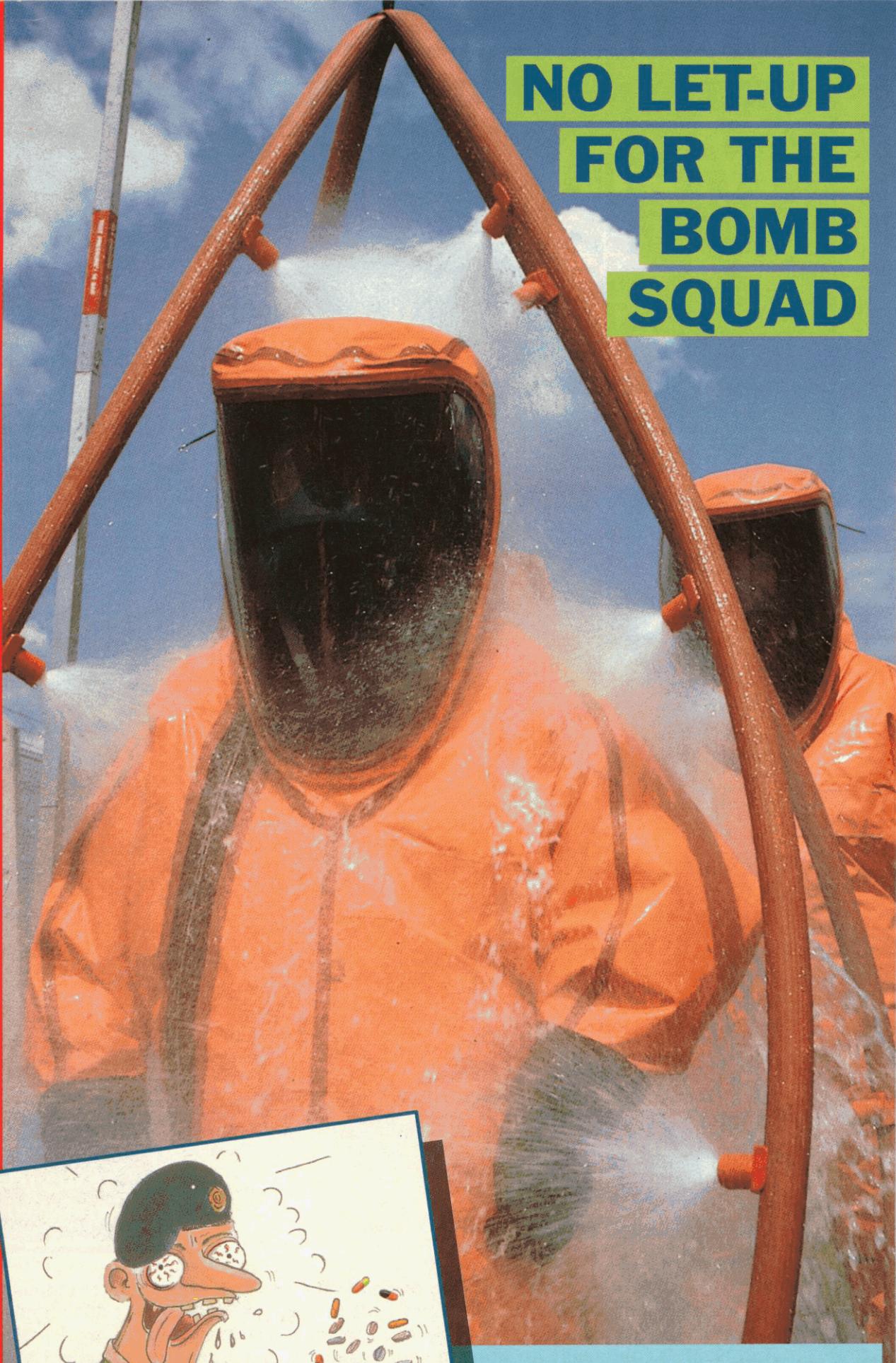
# ARMED SOLDIERS

MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY



02

NO LET-UP  
FOR THE  
BOMB  
SQUAD

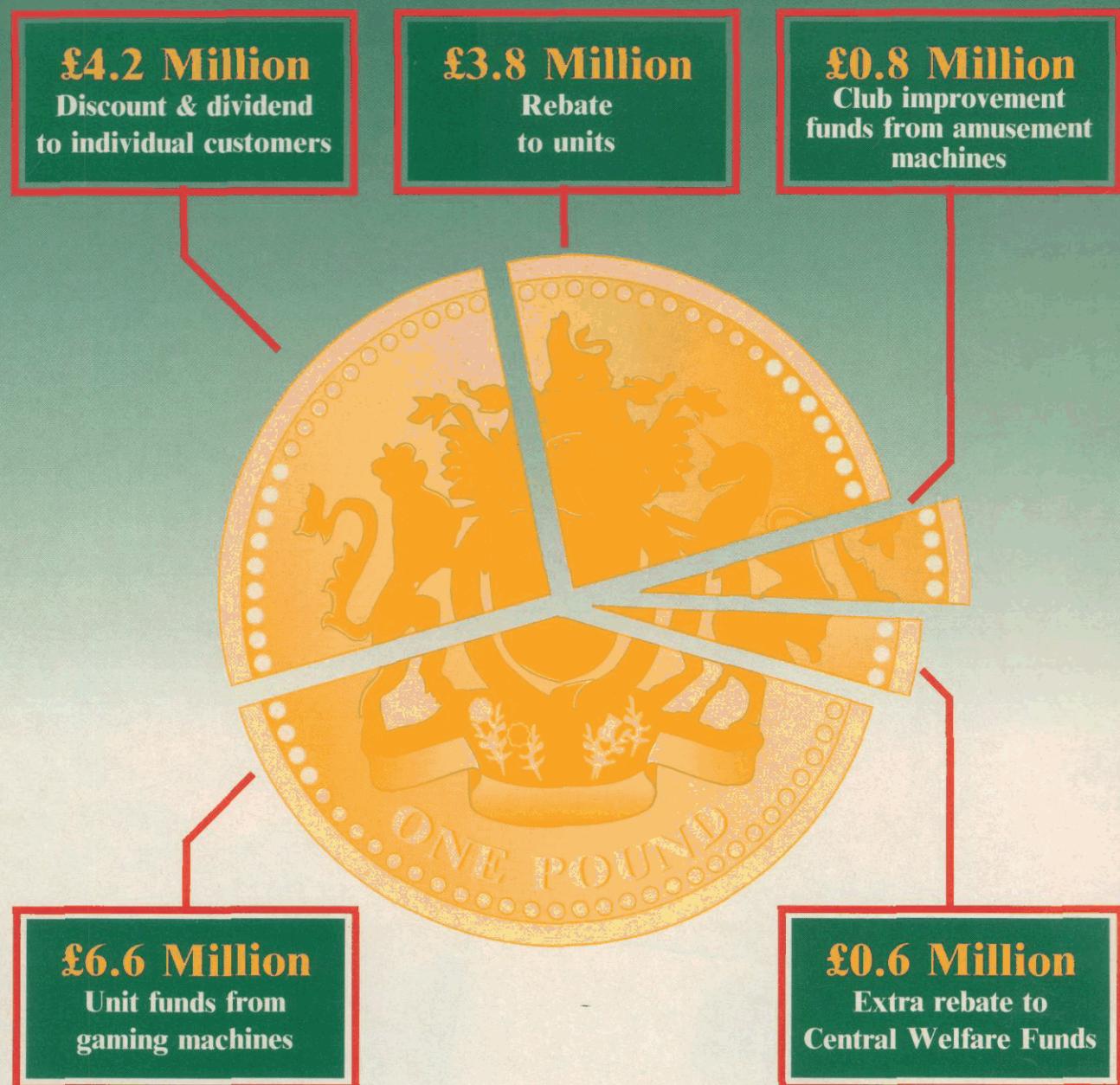


THE ARMY  
GETS FRANK  
ABOUT DRUGS

● Cymbeline in Sarajevo ● Ex Pack Saddle ● Headley Court

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**Naafi**



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

**January 9, 1995**  
**Vol 51/1**

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**FRONT COVER:** Second World War bombs and UK range ordnance keep 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) busy. LCpl Lee Mansell and Spr Wayne Bye decontaminate after dealing with chemical munitions which still surface from time to time. (Picture: Mike Perring)

● **DRUGS:** Compulsory Drug Testing is to be introduced wherever soldiers serve. How, where and when? *Pages 12-13.*

● **BOMBS:** Why does composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber regularly call out the Army's EOD experts? *Pages 15-17.*

● **SARAJEVO:** UN commanders have a good chance of knowing where mortar

rounds come from, thanks to Royal Artillery Cymbeline operators. *Pages 20-21.*

● **WAR ART:** Maj Robin Watt's paintings of what he saw on Operation Granby are now on exhibition in London. *Pages 26-27.*

● **FAMILIES:** Reports and picture from the 12th annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives. *Pages 30-31.*

## How the Territorial Army will change

- Move from infantry to combat service support
- Numbers cut by 700
- Royal Yeomanry to take on new NBC role
- Infantry companies to reduce by 22
- RAC, REME, AGC sub units to increase
- TA SAS element to be maintained
- Wessex battalions to merge, R Anglians to reduce
- Support weapons platoons to be 'concentrated'
- Specialist teams to support NATO and UN operations



The German Fuchs vehicle configured for NBC defence and used by British troops in the Gulf. It is a variant of the TPZ-1 family of armoured amphibious vehicles

# TA to focus on service support

THE TERRITORIAL Army is to be given a more active role in peacetime under reforms announced by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on December 6, writes **Gordon Skilling**.

Its role will change from the "all or nothing" mobilisation concept to one of a general reserve to the Regular Army, with the capacity to reinforce it with either individuals or sub-units in the UK and overseas.

Units will have a general purpose structure and there will be more smaller units rather than fewer larger units.

The TA will reduce from 60,300 to 59,000 by April 1997 and it is likely that some drill halls will close.

The thrust of the restructuring involves a move from infantry to combat service support to meet extended lines of communication and prolonged

operations expected in the future, and is designed to make the TA relevant to today's operational requirements rather than those of the Cold War.

The Royal Yeomanry will become the Army's first Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence Regiment, equipped with Saxon and the German Fuchs armoured carrier used in the Gulf.

A new squadron will be formed in Berkshire and Hampshire to complement squadrons in Surrey, Wiltshire and Leicestershire.

The number of infantry companies will fall from 109 to 87, but the number of sub units in the Royal Armoured Corps will rise from 17 to 22. The Royal Logistic Corps will expand from 69 to 86 sub units, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 13

to 16 and the Adjutant General's Corps from ten to 11.

The TA element of the Special Air Service will be maintained, although R Squadron manpower will be re-allocated into SAS(V) regiments, which will become multi-roled.

Within the infantry, the support weapons platoons of eight battalions will be concentrated into four specialist two-company fire support battalions available to all infantry battalions, a measure which should improve operational effectiveness and allow for higher standards of overall infantry training.

Each heavy weapon support company will have an anti-tank platoon equipped with Milan, one 81mm mortar platoon, and one machine-gun platoon. Strength of the fire support battalions is to be about 336.

The battalions selected are

● Turn to Page 5

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## Flag falls on HQ Rhine Garrison

**HEADQUARTERS** Rhine Garrison, a unit with a history dating back to the end of Second World War, lowered its flag for the last time during a ceremony at JHQ Rheindahlen.

The HQ, which administered troops stationed in the Rhine area, handed over those responsibilities to Headquarters United Kingdom Support Command (Germany).

Measures to reduce staff costs necessitated the closure.

Brig Tony Kerr, last Commander Rhine Garrison, presented the garrison flag, lowered to the strains of *The Last Post*, to Commander UKSC(G), Maj Gen Scott Grant, in front of a parade of garrison unit representatives.

Rhine Garrison was responsible for 12,000 soldiers, families and civilians attached to 90 units. Its demise will place a considerable extra task on the staff of HQ UKSC (G).



The flag of the Rhine Garrison is lowered at JHQ Rheindahlen

## Territorial Army changes

### From Page 3

the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in West Yorkshire and Humberside; the 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment from Cheshire and Greater Manchester; the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire; and the 1st Battalion, The 51st Highland Volunteers in Fife and Tayside.

The Parachute battalions will lose mortar and anti-tank platoons.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Wessex Regiment will merge and the Royal Anglian TA will reduce from three to two battalions, with elements re-rolling to form a new, independent, transport regiment.

The 8th Battalion, The Light Infantry (Humberside and West Yorkshire) will change from three infantry companies to three reconnaissance squadrons and take on the Royal Yeomanry's national

defence recce regiment role.

In future only the four fire support battalions will be specifically assigned to NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps although eight infantry battalions will continue to be available to ARRC.

All general reserve battalions will be trained to undertake ARRC and National Defence operations.

The current ARRC battalions will lose their two support weapons platoons and each battalion will in future have three rifle companies. The London Regiment will lose one of its unique four companies, but not their traditions.

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Associations and regimental personnel have been consulted throughout.

No active volunteer who is suitably qualified will be forced to leave, and the reduction in the size of the TA is to be largely managed by natural wastage

and voluntary transfers. Some infantry may need to re-train with their unit or transfer to another if they wish to remain. Soldiers in support weapons platoons of infantry battalions will have the option of serving in the rifle companies of those battalions, or of moving to one of the new fire support battalions.

Within the Royal Signals, two national communications brigade units will be restructured to provide regional and national communications support to Land Command, and an independent combat service support group squadron will be formed.

Bandsmen will retain their war role as stretcher bearers and decontamination centre staff, and medical units will draw on the Gulf War experience to provide a more flexible operational employment based on a modular structure of smaller field hospitals.

A Workshop company will

## Sappers' Sword of Peace

**THE WILKINSON** Sword of Peace for 1993 has been awarded to Nienberg-based 21 Engineer Regiment.

The award was made for the regiment's "wide-ranging and extensive humanitarian activities" in support of civilian communities in the former republic of Yugoslavia and in Belize, and for assistance to local charities in Germany.

Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division, formally presented the sword to Lt Col Mark Mans, CO 21 Engr Regt, at Assaye Barracks on December 9.

Swords of Peace have been awarded since 1966 to units of all three Services in recognition of outstanding efforts in fostering good relations.

### PM at Staff College

**PRIME** Minister John Major addressed officers at the Army Staff College in Camberley, the first British PM to do so for more than 80 years.

be formed in central Scotland and a Port and Reclamation company on Humberside. An armoured delivery regiment of 150 will be formed in Dorset.

Potentially the most significant development is the establishment of a 50-strong Civil Affairs Group under the sponsorship of the Royal Engineers to provide teams specialising in utilities, transport, public health, and law and order.

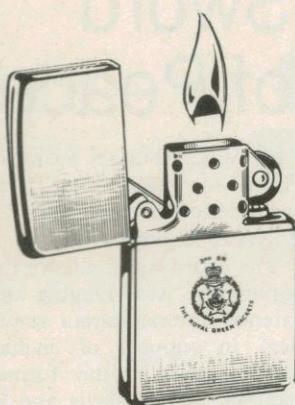
The group could be deployed in support of national, NATO or UN operations and would be designed to co-ordinate host nation or other military support for running the infrastructure of a disintegrated civilian community.

Although not a formed unit, it is seen as a natural development from experience gained during Operation Gabriel in Rwanda.

As the concept evolves it will harness specialist skills within the TA to provide a building block for expansion as needed.

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# Gulf babies: Minister's offer to parents

CLAIMS in the United States of increased birth defects and illnesses among the offspring of Gulf War veterans led to a call by Labour MP Llew Smith for an inquiry in Britain.

Mr Smith referred in his written question to evidence presented to the US Department of Defense by Gulf War veterans.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames replied that he understood the US claims had been investigated and "shown to be unfounded".

He added: "Wider statistics relating to birth defects reported by United States Gulf veterans indicate that the incidence of such defects is no higher than among the general population.

"In the United Kingdom, similarly, there is currently no evidence to suggest that the incidence of genetic defects and

mortality among the children of Gulf veterans' families is any higher than the national average.

"We do, however, urge those who are concerned to come forward for assessment to allow us to increase the statistical and clinical database available to us."

Later, in the House of Lords, the Countess of Mar asked whether the Government had received reports of "unexplained abortions, congenital malfunctions or illnesses" from British forces who served in the Gulf, or their wives.

Defence Under-Secretary Lord Henley replied that the Defence Medical Services had received reports of six cases alleged to fall

## Around the House

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

into these categories, "but no substantive evidence".

Five of the cases related to potential claims against the Ministry of Defence.

While the MoD felt no further research was justified, developments would be monitored.

In answer to another question from the Countess, Lord Henley said no requests had been received on behalf of the civilian wives and pre-war children of British Gulf personnel for medical assessment; nor had there been any reports of "unusual illnesses" among dependants.

"One UK Servicewoman who served in the Gulf and is married to a Gulf veteran has come forward claiming that a medical condition is due to her service there."

At the time of his reply, she had yet to be medically assessed.

Since it started operating in 1956, there have been 215 recorded escapes from the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester. Most of the escapes and the 38 attempts took place between 1956 and 1961, said the Armed Forces Minister in a written answer. Since 1990 there had been four recorded escapes.

The MoD hoped to be in a position soon to make a decision on the replacement for the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft, Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman said on December 2.

Almost £40m was earned in the last financial year by providing military training for 4,566 students from 98 overseas countries.

# Medics pass skill test

MORE THAN 700 Territorial Army troops were involved in a huge exercise at the Army Medical Services Training Centre at Saughton near Chester.

Organised by Newcastle upon Tyne-based 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC, the two-day event involved soldiers from almost every TA medical unit in the United Kingdom.

The annual exercise takes the form of a competition aimed at testing part-time Combat Medical Technicians in a range of military and medical skills. These included rescue of casualties in a nuclear, biological and chemical environment, map reading, and an aircraft crash rescue.

Winners were 211 Field Hospital from Plymouth.

• New matron of 201, an appointment normally associated with a female incumbent, is Lt Col Dennis Cross, who will be responsible for all aspects of nurse training in the unit. "As a male officer," he said, "I suppose I should be called chief nursing officer. But traditionally the person holding this post is referred to as matron, and I am proud to carry on that tradition."

# Hong Kong recruits on final parade



Picture: Pinto Hong Kong

The last Gurkha recruits to be trained in Hong Kong were inspected by the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, before their passing out parade. The Prince, accompanied by Brig Mervyn Lee, Brigadier of the Brigade of Gurkhas, also commissioned nine Queen's Gurkha Officers, presenting Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and an award to

the best overall recruit, Hombahadur Gurung. Addressing the Gurkhas, Prince Charles said they were as proud and as smart as any he had seen.

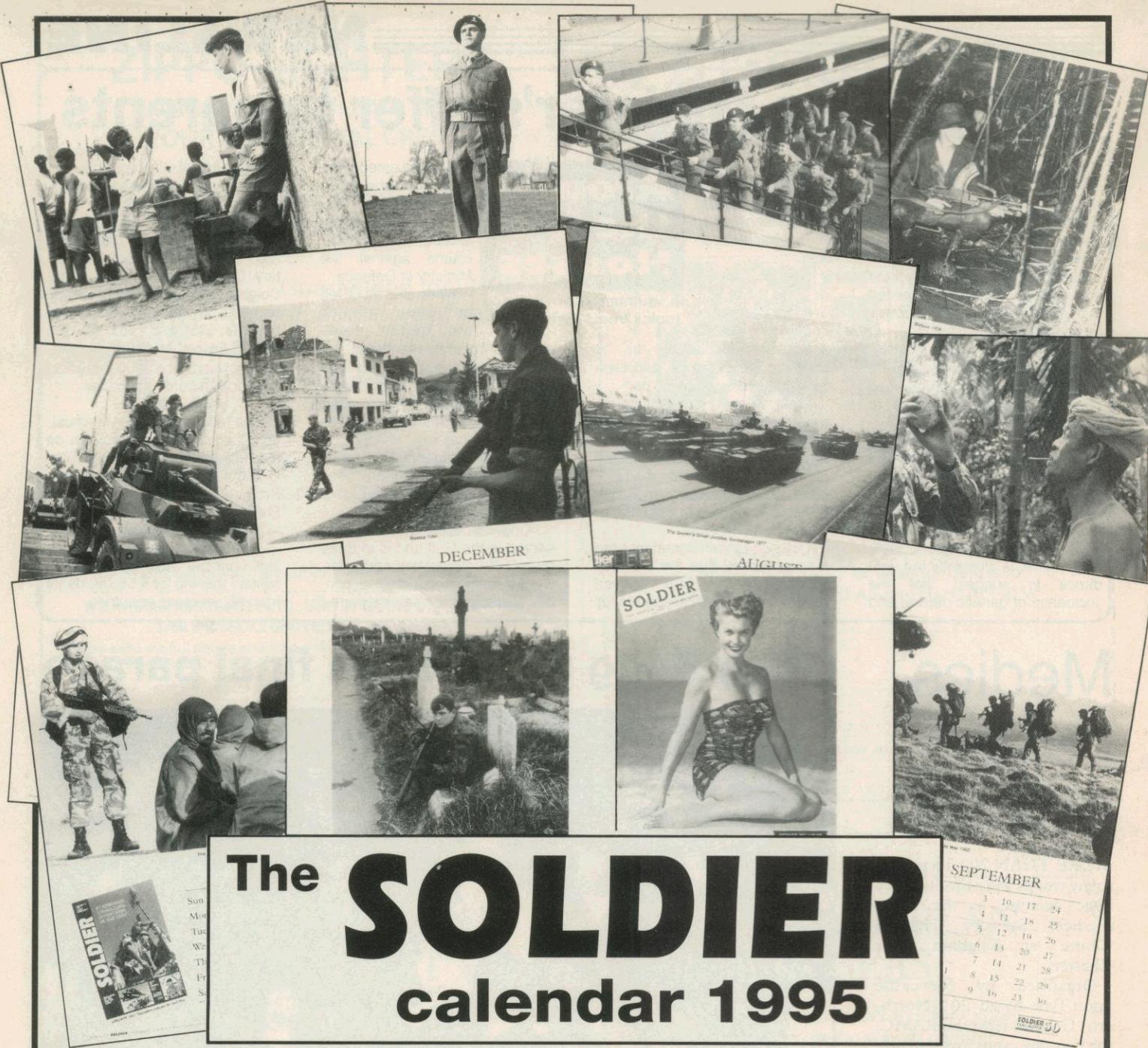
Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas, moved to Hong Kong from Malaya in 1971 since when more than 8,000 recruits have been trained at Malaya Lines. Future recruits will train at a new wing to be established at Church Crookham.

## Forces' figures

TOTAL strength of UK Regular Forces on October 1 was just under 245,000, according to Government Statistical Service figures, down 7.8 per cent on a year ago. Total strength of the Army was 119,507.

## Photo deadline extended

CLOSING date for entries in the 1994-95 Army photographic competition has been extended to February 10. Prizes total £4,000. Entry forms for the competition, open to the Regular and Territorial Army and dependants, and MoD (Army) civilians, are available from the Army Photographic Competition, G3 P Info, HQ UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 OAG (tel 0722 433315 or Salisbury Mil 3315).



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# Forces Minister in defence talks with Germany

THE GERMAN and British governments remain firmly committed to the continuing presence of British forces in Germany, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told German state secretary, Herr Schonbohm, during talks on

key defence issues covering Europe, Bosnia, the future of European defence and the Partnership for Peace programme.

The extensive exchange of UK and German military personnel and joint training pro-

grammes were of mutual benefit, he said. Discussions were also well advanced for UK-German co-operation on peace-keeping, and for joint participation in multilateral exercises under the Partnership for Peace programme.

On the land side, British forces in Germany were all part of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), he added.

● Lt Gen Mike Walker has taken over from Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie as Commander ARRC.

# German honour for Op Grapple troops

HUNDREDS of people crowded the pavements of Bergen Hohne as 320 soldiers who had deployed on Op Grapple 4 marched to the Rathaus to the accompaniment of the Band of The Royal Tank Regiment.

Burgermeister Herr Dr Hans Wegner welcomed them back and granted HQ 7 Armoured Brigade the Freedom of the City for its work in Bosnia.

Other detachments on parade, led by Brig Andrew Ridgway, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, included members of The Light Dragoons, 7 Armd Bde Signal Squadron, 1 Armoured Field Ambulance and a Royal Military Police detachment.

Herr Wegner said the Op Grapple troops had carried out their humanitarian and peace-keeping duties for the United Nations in "exemplary fashion, despite being required to perform a task that was arduous, dangerous and fraught with difficulty".

● The 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales is due to relieve the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment in Bosnia in March.

## Farewell to MK

THE last of the Bedford MKs – the MoD's principal transport and cargo vehicle for more than 30 years – were auctioned off at the MoD (PE) stores at Aston Down last month.



Maj Jeremy Wilson, OC 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, presents the UN medal to Pte Nicki Fulstow who was based at HQ BRITFOR in Split



Capt Richard Williams, Welsh Guards, with his Military Cross outside Buckingham Palace after receiving it from the Prince of Wales.

Held hostage by Khmer Rouge guerrillas while serving with the United Nations in Cambodia, he risked his life to save 100 villagers. On one occasion, when he and seven Indonesian soldiers were ambushed by 25 guerrillas, he took command and routed the attackers, killing four and sustaining no casualties.

## MoD freight goes via Chunnel

THE first movement of Army and RAF containerised freight by rail through the Channel Tunnel set off from the military railway sidings at the Army stores depot, Bicester to its equivalent at Dulmen in north Germany last month. It is anticipated the rail link will become a regular option for supporting British Forces in Germany.

● Household Cavalry Regiment Scimitars were transported in containers through the Chunnel when the regiment deployed to Bosnia on August 23.

## IN BRIEF

### 663 marks its 50th birthday

A FLYPAST of modern and historic aircraft and helicopters featured in the 50th anniversary celebrations of 663 Squadron AAC at Watton on December 3. Formed in 1944 from the Free Polish Army with Auster aircraft in the Air Observation Post role, its Lynx helicopters are now part of 24 Air-mobile Brigade.

● ● ●

A ceremony at the Tower of London marked the end of an Army connection with the Tower since at least the first half of the 16th century. Lt Col Eric Pitchforth RLC, the last Ordnance Officer at the Tower, took his formal leave – modern military weapons are no longer held at the tower and the office is closing – accompanied by the Staff Band of the RLC and a quarter guard drawn from 20 Transport Squadron RLC.

● ● ●

Intense instruction in drill, field-craft, physical training, first aid, NBC defence and live weapon firing was on offer for 14 recruits to the Expeditionary Force Institute, Naafi's military wing, during a week's training by Royal Logistic Corps instructors at 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Bracht.

● ● ●

Territorial Army officers Capt Ian Webster (120 Field Squadron, RE(V)), Capt Steve Edmunds (RLC) and Lt Hilton Moore (289 Commando Battery, RA(V)), won an international military skills competition for officers of Reserve Forces. It was held in Tenerife.

● ● ●

Four Grantham-based TA chefs from the Catering Support Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps (V) won a team bronze trophy and individual medals in the Military World Cup in Luxembourg.

● ● ●

A £1.62m Territorial Army centre is to be built in Aberystwyth to house the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, University of Wales (Aberystwyth) Officer Training Corps, Dyfed Army Cadet Force and 561 Squadron Air Training Corps.



Picture: The Courier, Dundee

## Hackles High

Climbers tackling Ben Nevis were amazed to see men of the machine gun platoon of K Company, 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers on their way to the top of Britain's highest mountain - in full kit. Each man from the Leven, Fife-based company carried 42lb of equipment to the 4406ft summit where platoon commander Capt David McConchie claimed the highest gun line in Britain. Pictured are Pte George O'Neill, Pte Jackie Yacomini, Pte Mark Fowler, Cpl David Graham, Pte Steven Gibb and Capt McConchie.

## HAPPINESS IS A HOUSE

Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland, takes time off from his busy schedule to perform a stone-laying ceremony at a new housing scheme for the elderly and disabled at Ballymena (the regimental home of The Royal Irish Regiment of which he is Deputy Colonel). Gen Wheeler (second from left) is pictured with some of the guests.



## Their cups runneth over

Members of recent 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment teams which competed in Reserve Forces Association competitions pose with the extraordinary collection of trophies they have amassed during the past few years both in the United Kingdom and abroad.

## 'ROAR' RECRUITS

Three "rookie" rider recruits and potential members of the Royal Signals White Helmets display team (left to right) LCpl Darren King with Sigs Paul Teague and Robert Woodward, relax after another punishing morning of training.



Picture: Terry Champion

## Bright chap!

All set to take a photograph of himself being photographed is Maj Joe Bright of AIS (A), Worthy Down, who was taken by surprise when he discovered he had come out top of 1,500 students who sat an 'A' Level photography course. "I didn't think I would get anywhere," said Joe, whose projects included a series of pictures of craftsmen in nearby Winchester, not to mention a set on the theme of liquorice allsorts...



## Girls on their metal

The Army's first female metalsmiths have successfully completed their ten-month course at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon. Hammering the message home were Cfn Gail Bell and Cfn Tracey Spencer, pictured with the school's chief instructor, Lt Col Phil Waterman REME.



## Thanks, Frank

SSgt Frank Robertson, attached to the Royal Logistic Corps with Naafi's Expeditionary Forces Institute, has received a C-in-C UKLF's commendation for his work managing a shop and bulk issue store for the British Medical Battalion in Zagreb, Croatia.

## PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE



## Hang on, sir!



## Falklands First

Capt Philip Middlehurst (right) receives an MBE from Falkland Islands Governor David Tatham, the first time he has been called upon to make a presentation to a member of the garrison. Philip, who received the award in recognition of outstanding performance while serving at SHAPE, was eligible to attend a medal ceremony at Buckingham Palace, but opted for a less formal occasion. He already holds the BEM.

# Drugs testers stand by to move in

SOLDIERS based anywhere in the world can expect to be tested without prior notice for drugs misuse.

Teams made up of two or more Compulsory Drugs Testing officers from the Army Board by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes.

Units will be expected to assist the team by providing an officer (each unit will have appointed a drugs testing officer).

Anyone selected, from the

Chief of the General Staff to the newest recruit, will be required to provide a sample of urine for analysis.

The programme is being sponsored for the Army Board by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes.

Units will be expected to assist the team by providing an officer (each unit will have appointed a drugs testing officer).

Procedures are in place to ensure that specimens are collected without causing embarrassment. Legal advice has been taken to ensure that the collection methods conform to the United Nations and European Conventions on Human Rights. CDT monitors will observe individuals giving specimens from a discreet distance and female personnel will be allowed to use a modesty screen. All procedures are featured in an information pamphlet issued to every soldier.

The Laboratory of the Government Chemist has been contracted to analyse the specimens collected from soldiers. Each specimen will be divided into two bottles, one of which will be used for immediate analysis.

If the soldier has a positive

test result the second bottle will be available for independent analysis at the soldier's expense.

First person to be notified of the result will be the commanding officer.

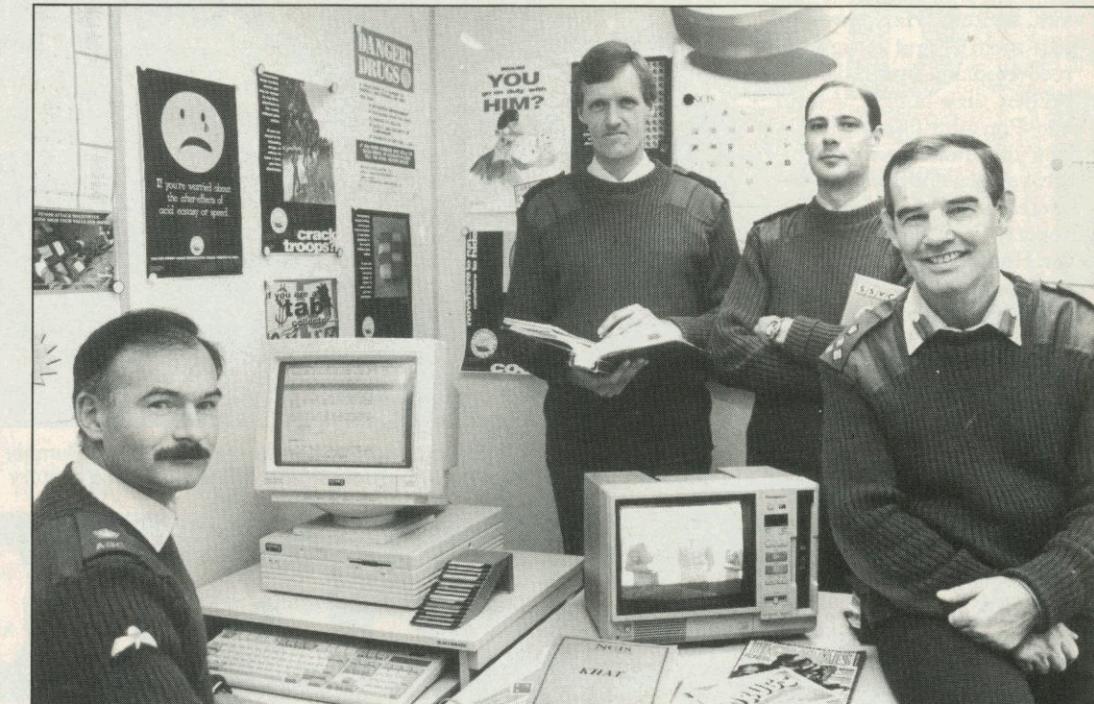
The drug culture in civilian life primarily affects those under the age of 30 and this is reflected in the Army. The aim of the CDT programme is to deter soldiers from misuse through an effective means of detection.

Selection of soldiers or officers for testing will be totally random.

Officers who have a positive test result will be required to resign from the Army. Soldiers who test positive will be discharged administratively.

In exceptional circumstances, under tight criteria, lance corporals and privates may be given a second chance and retained in the Service.

The British Army is following the example of other nations' armies by adopting a protective, caring and sensible approach to a condition endemic in modern society.



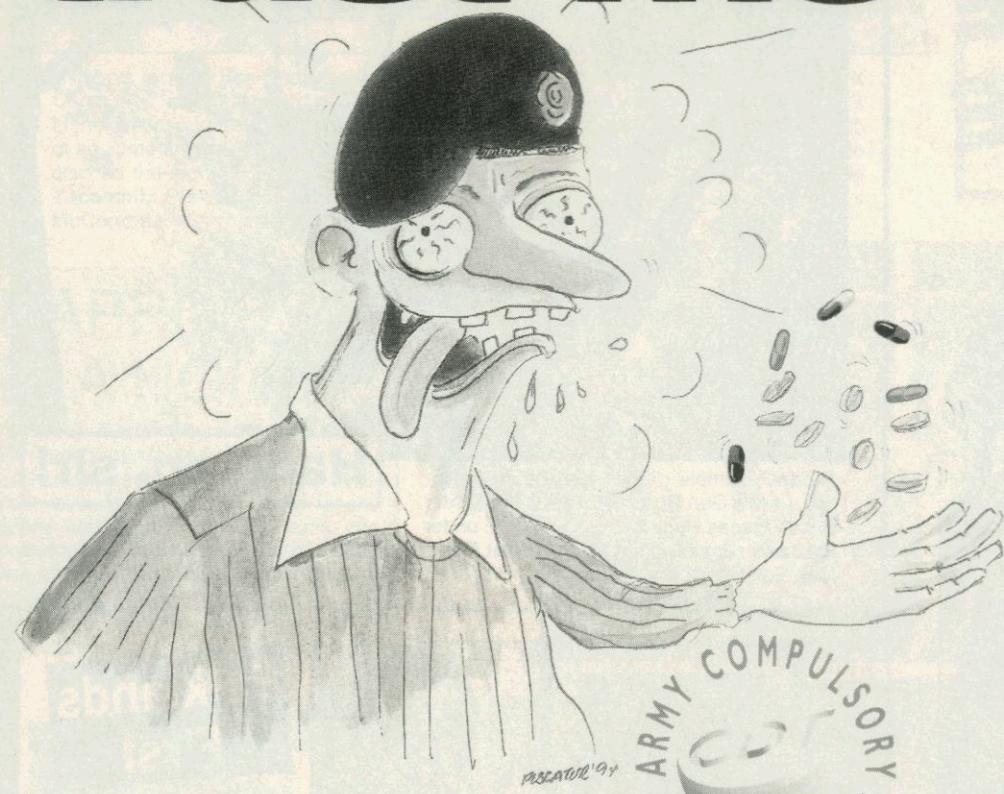
The CDT team at Worthy Down: Right, Brig Ian Osbourne, with (from left) Maj Chris Caswell AGC (ETS) Maj Peter Smith WFR and Lt Col Peter Maggs RLC

Civilians in aviation, the oil and transport industry, and those operating dangerous machinery already face mandatory random urine tests.

While civilians may be fined, soldiers face losing their job and all the security that it holds for the soldier and the family. A programme of testing

American military personnel was an unqualified success, resulting in abuse dropping rapidly by 82 per cent between 1980 and 1988.

## Frank, trust me-



## I'm your MATE

Compulsory Drugs Testing means you may be tested at any time, anywhere in the world, without prior notice.

If you are found to be misusing drugs, or refuse to take a test, you face discharge.

Produced by ETS Graphics for MoD PS2 (Army), Worthy Down, Winchester, SO21 2RG1  
1b

A new "Frank" poster has appeared to hammer home the CDT message

## Every winner is a loser ...

A GAME show with a difference is to hit British Forces broadcasting screens soon.

Fast-talking comedian Jim Davidson, popular with troops around the world, presents the brash show in which contestants — squaddies, sergeant majors, officers, nobody is exempt — are selected at random to provide a urine specimen for drugs testing.

An audience of soldiers drawn from units based in southern England enjoyed taking part with Jim.

Soldiers who test negative are the winners and those with a positive result are the "big losers", winning star prizes of lost livelihood, no



Jim Davidson (right) finds the loser while the audience awaits its cue to cheer

pension, no job prospects in civvy street and loss of self respect.

The message is clear — be a winner in the drugs game

and you will be a loser in life.

The anti-drugs message is hammered home on a series of widely-available colourful and dramatic posters.



Picture: Mike Perrin

# How a Humber LRC escaped from the grave

TO MOST of us, "R and R" means one thing only - rest and recuperation. But for Preston farmers Dave and Alan Heaton it stands for hard work, **writes Brian Jewell**.

To them R and R signifies "recovered and restored".

When they bought a farm near Preston, Lancashire in 1986 the brothers, both vintage vehicle enthusiasts, discovered a real treasure on the property - a Second World War Humber light reconnaissance car.

The previous owner of the farm visited one day and, seeing Alan's Dodge WC 52 weapons carrier in the yard, confessed that 25 years earlier he had buried what he called a "Humber scout car" in a field.

For some years he had used the vehicle, partly stripped of its armour, to tow machinery.

When it came to what seemed the end of its useful working life, he dug a hole and consigned it to a rust-to-rust finale.

Dave and Alan enlisted a group of helpers and dug up the Humber, which turned out to be a light reconnaissance Mark III rather than a scout car.

The venerable old vehicle was in a miserable state. Most of the body aft of the scuttle was missing, the chassis had broken in two, and the rear axle was beyond repair.

But it was not all bad news. The front axle turned out to be in excellent condition and the Super Snipe engine showed promise of resuscitation.

The Heaton brothers started working on the chassis and engine while Humber enthusiast Michael Bell and his son made themselves responsible for the body work. A pleasant surprise came when a suitable chassis frame and rear axle were found near Birmingham, courtesy of fellow members of the Military Vehicle Trust.

Surviving parts and the overhauled engine were



Visitors to vehicle rallies find it hard to believe the refurbished Humber light reconnaissance car has not been mothballed in an Army store for the past quarter of a century

## Resurrected

mounted on the chassis and a new steel hull was built using plywood templates carefully formed by taking measurements from another similar preserved vehicle.

Door hinges and locks had to be hand made - a task that took several months.

A second agreeable surprise

was the discovery that the original tyres, underground for 25 years, were perfectly serviceable.

After 12 months of restoration the engine started at the first attempt and the LRC was ready for a test drive.

"The feeling was fabulous, just like driving a Rolls

Royce," said Michael Bell.

The Humber made its first public appearance in 1990 while still in red primer paint. After fitting out the interior, the car was finished in the livery of the 3rd Infantry Division Reconnaissance Regiment that landed on Sword Beach on D-Day, and this is how visitors to military vehicle rallies see the resurrected vehicle today.

The car is one of 3,600 Humber light reconnaissance cars produced during the Second World War.

Marks I and II were built on the Humber Super Snipe 4 x 2 chassis in 1940. Mark III of 1941 and 1942 had the same 4 x 4 chassis as Humber's heavy utility 8-cwt truck and ambulance.

Mark IIIA of 1943 had a fully floating rear axle. In common with all wartime Humber vehicles, the LRC was powered by the Super Snipe 6-cylinder 4-litre 85bhp engine.



Like some prehistoric monster, the Humber LRC emerges from a field on the Heaton brothers' farm 25 years after it was buried

# Why economic upturn spells boom for EOD

ONE Royal Engineers regiment is bracing itself for an upsurge in business as the economy recovers and more houses and roads are constructed.

The highly-trained men of 33 Engineer

**Report:**  
**Laurie Manton**  
**Pictures:**  
**Mike Perring**

Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), commanded by Lt Col Chris Sexton, live every day with the consequences of the Second World War. They are responsible for defusing German bombs and clearing training areas within the UK of conventional and chemical munitions.

The "clean-up" has been going on since 1945 over countryside used as bombing ranges during the war. More than 100 civilian searchers are employed to remove unexploded bombs and shells, and it is estimated their task will take at least another 30 years to complete.

Options for Change added to the workload. As the Army's training estate changes shape, ranges are closing and others are being realigned. In each case, 33 Regiment has to ensure no nasties are left behind.

Construction work to rebuild shattered homes immediately after the Second World War revealed many unexploded bombs dropped on London during the Blitz and on other towns and cities.

A slump in the construction trade ten years ago was reflected in a reduction in the number of call-outs received by bomb disposal sections. That trend is set to reverse.

Royal Engineers bomb disposal began in 1940 when units were formed to build sandbag walls around enemy bombs before detonating them.

By the end of that year, about 10,000 sappers had been formed into 25 companies involved in bomb disposal. The massive increase coincided with the Blitz.

Sappers were given the job for good reason. Few bombs fell conveniently on the surface. When they landed they usually buried themselves underground or beneath collapsed buildings.

Actually defusing the bomb was only part of the problem. The rest was a matter

**There's no let-up for  
33 Engr Regt (EOD)**

of field engineering – finding the bomb, removing rubble to gain access, lifting it out and taking it away for disposal.

For the first five years after the war, the work-load of bomb disposal units was exceptionally heavy. Thereafter the strength of BD units reduced sharply until 1967, by which time only two Regular Army sapper bomb disposal troops remained. Since then the trend has been

LCpl Barry Atkins attaches wires to a rocket wrench which spins off bomb fuses

reversed. Today, 33 Engineer Regiment has three EOD squadrons and a headquarters squadron – about 550 soldiers in all, plus more than 120 civilians employed on operational duties.

The regiment was collocated at Chatterden, Kent with the Royal School of Military Engineering until 1993 when the EOD sappers moved to a former Second World

• Turn to next page





## Bomb disposal

• From Page 15

War air station at Wimbish in Essex. Main reason for their renaissance was the formation of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), for which the sappers have been tasked to provide bomb disposal support in time of war.

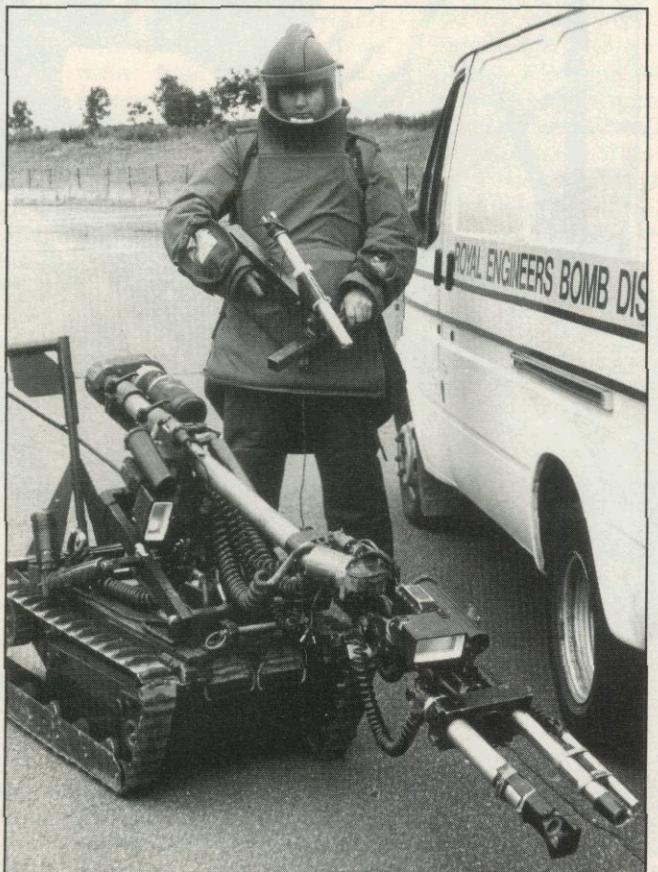
The 1st (UK) Armoured Division would be supported by 21 Field Squadron, and 3rd (UK) Division by 49 Field Squadron. Until it became available for release to the ARRC, 58 Squadron would remain under national command.

"We have three main tasks in war," said Col Sexton. "The disposal of all chemical and biological munitions, the disposal of sub-munitions (bomblets and the like), and the clearance of conventional munitions from around high priority targets.

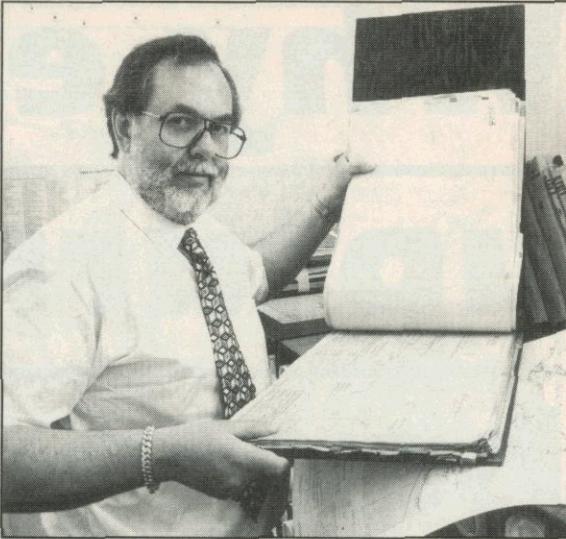
"Imagine an enemy bomber dropping bombs all over the place. Up to 20 per cent wouldn't go off. Those that landed out of harm's way would be ignored until after the war.

"During the war, the ones we would worry about would be those which landed on a headquarters, fuel and ammunition dumps or a hospital. We would dispose of cluster-bomb bomblets, large bombs lying around and chemical or biological weapons."

There are five stages to an EOD task - locate the bomb; gain access to it; defuse it; remove it to a safe area; and dispose of it by burning the fill, washing it out or blowing



Royal Engineer EOD operators equipped with Wheelbarrow have been in the front line against terrorist bombs



Above - Ops officer Roger Beaumont checks old documents and maps detailing sites of Second World War ranges and training grounds

Left - LCpl Lee Mansell and Spr Wayne Bye use plaster of Paris to seal a leaking chemical munition

it up. Each squadron has three troops of three EOD sections to carry out these tasks, giving the regiment 27 sections in all, each equipped to deal with any emergency.

The regiment's operations room is manned 24-hours a day and provides a point of contact for outside agencies. Shelves stacked with folders contain original plans, maps and records of Second World War bombing ranges and training areas.

"Some years ago when the *Danger UXB* series was on television, we experienced a surge of activity, because public awareness of what a grenade or a butterfly bomb looked like increased," said special projects officer Maj Nick Sutherland.

"They realised they had unexploded bombs sitting on their mantelpieces and called for help.

"Quite often, unwanted ammunition buried by members of the Home Guard at the end of the war comes to light."

Sappers from 22 Headquarters Squadron (EOD) support the three field squadrons in peacetime, and have three additional responsibilities:

battle area clearance, countering terrorist bombs, and Operation Crabstick, codename for the search and removal of Second World War pipe mines (explosives-filled tubes which were buried under runways so they could be blown up when the Germans invaded).

Maj Mick Rush said: "When an airfield is sold for redevelopment, we clear the mines, using excavators to uncover them. My men operate the machines from the safety of an armoured vehicle, some distance away, using cameras and remote control."

Battle area clearance is a full-time occupation for civilian explosive ordnance searchers employed by the Ministry of Defence.

At any one time, they might be clearing the site of an old munitions factory in Lancashire, the route of the A13 road realignment and Channel Tunnel rail link, or range boundaries in Wales.

Part of an estate owned by composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber was once used as a bombing range. A team of searchers is sent regularly to find and remove unexploded ordnance from farmland on the estate.

SSgt Paul Eldred, responsible for three search sections covering the north of Britain, told *Soldier* his men worked in pairs searching an area 50 metres square.

"One uses a locator (a sophisticated mine detector) to find buried ordnance. The other digs down and exposes the item. When they start digging, they don't know if it is expended or live."

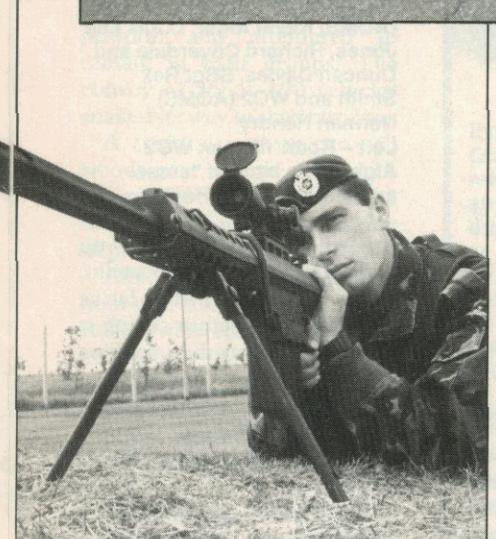
"They have found all sorts, from a Mills grenade to a cannon ball," he said. "On one occasion they found a Second World War



Above - A line-up of personnel and the equipment they would use in different situations, ranging from parachute and commando operations, to service with the UN and underwater and terrorist bomb EOD clearance

Left - LCpl John Adams uses a Barrett .50 calibre sniper rifle to dispose of explosive ordnance. With a range of 1,800 metres, the weapon is ideal for exploding bomblets and other munitions from a safe distance

Right - LCpl Mick Abbott and SSgt Paul Eldred with unexploded munitions found by the regiment's civilian searchers during battle area clearance



experimental fragmentation bomb."

LCpl Lee Mansell and Spr Wayne Bye of 21 Field Squadron would be responsible for disposing of unexploded chemical and biological munitions on any future battlefield.

Their job involves testing the shell for leaking vapour, encasing it in plaster of Paris to form a sealant and placing it in a gas-proof container before taking it away for disposal.

The soldiers wear a gas-tight Respirex suit which enables them to work in areas contaminated by chemical and other agents. A compressed-air breathing apparatus is enclosed.

"It is uncomfortable to work in, especially in hot weather. You can lose pounds," said LCpl Mansell.

"There is a lot of training involved and, because much of our work is carried out in



confined spaces, not everyone wants to take it on."

Their training was put to the test when First World War mustard gas shells were unearthed at a disused ammunition depot in Hampshire. Soldiers from the regiment were able to clear the dangerous ammunition without too much risk.

Maj Mark Hainge commands 49 Field Squadron which would support the 3rd (UK) Division in war.

"We would concentrate on choke points - main supply routes which could not be diverted or hospitals whose casualties could not be evacuated quickly. We would also defuse bomblets scattered across our stockpiles of battle-winning logistic supplies such as MLRS ammunition," he said.

Because 3 Division includes 5 Airborne Brigade and 3 Commando Brigade, the field squadron has on its strength dedicated

paratroop and commando troops. In the past 18 months, elements of the squadron have served in Cyprus, Belize, Canada, Norway, Kenya, Mexico and the Falkland Islands. It has also provided EOD detachments for service on Operation Grapple in Bosnia.

What attracts soldiers to bomb disposal?

"I think it's the perception that we are actually doing a real, worthwhile job," explained Maj Hainge. "I found in the Falklands, ten years ago, that people were grateful that I had cleared up the mines scattered around their homes."

"It's the same in the UK when we are called to a suspect device. It could be a section of drainpipe or an unexploded German bomb, but by dealing with it we have removed fear and uncertainty from their lives. It has tangible results and we can feel modestly pleased about it," he said.

Adventure on the road and in the jungle

# BATUS's (very) long-range rovers cross the Rubicon

It is a mighty long way from BATUS at Suffield in Canada to Lake Tahoe in California, especially in two Land Rovers and a jeep. WO2 (AQMS) Norman Hendry REME, who took part in Exercise Rubicon Run with five Army colleagues, reports:

THE Rubicon Trail is a four-wheel-drive adventure across the Sierra Nevadas from Georgetown to Lake Tahoe, California - 35km of rough, boulder-bashing, metal-bending, axle-twisting terrain.

After many calls to the event headquarters in Georgetown, the team of six was entered in the 42nd annual Jeepers Jamboree, the first occasion a Land Rover 90 had crossed the "Rubicon".

The BATUS entry consisted of two diesel Rover 90s and a Jeep Cherokee support vehicle.

One Land Rover, driven by WO2 (AQMS) Kevin Algar and navigated by LCpl Richard Coverdale (both REME), was standard apart from the tyres, winch and underbody protection. The second Land Rover, driven by WO2 Hendry and navigated by SSgt Rex Smith RLC, had a locker installed in the rear axle, special shock absorbers and mud terrain tyres, as well as underbody protection and winch.

Both Rovers were equipped with custom-made canvases for greater visibility and draught exclusion, and



Above - Canadian-American "Rovers". Left to right are WO2 (AQMS) Kevin Algar, LCpls Lee Jones, Richard Coverdale and Duncan Davies, SSgt Rex Smith and WO2 (AQMS) Norman Hendry  
Left - Rock 'n' hole: WO2 Algar finds himself "cross-axed" at Walker's Rock



mandatory CB radios.

The convoy left Suffield, Alberta for California, with LCpls Lee Jones RLC and Duncan Davies REME in the

driving in 13 hours), set up camp for the night in Pocatello.

The party travelled as far as Winnemucca before calling it a day. When the soldiers parked outside a local restaurant, their vehicles attracted a crowd of on-lookers, most of whom had never seen a Land Rover.

The green pastures and woodlands of California were a

## Belize marauders

JUNGLE school and field firing were included on Exercise Mayan Marauder, for which 123 men from 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment flew to Belize.

Formed from C Company, the soldiers were commanded by Maj Chris Tatham.

During the exercise period, the company was responsible for all guard duties of Airport Camp and assisted in the draw-down of



Taking aim - Kgn Clayton, 1 Kings, concentrates at Baldy Beacon

British Forces Belize.

All soldiers on the exercise completed nine days' jungle school (run by Lt Simon Routledge), seven days' adventurous training and five days' field firing at Baldy Beacon.

Each platoon also spent four days at Sartreja, northern Belize, on a community project helping to build various parts of a youth wildlife education centre.

welcome change after the oppressive heat of the Nevada desert.

En route to the gold-panning town of Coloma the BATUS party called at Elks Lodge, South Lake Tahoe, designated "finish" of the Rubicon Run.

At Georgetown, the Land Rovers attracted a good deal of interest from other drivers, not only because they were new to the event, but because they were diesels.

There were looks of disbelief when the Brits explained that they had driven 2,374km to participate. Most others had trailered their jeeps to the event in case they broke down on the way.

The start was organised chaos, as "jeepers" jostled for position and attempted to remain in their groups. The convoy of about 150 vehicles snaked its way to the start-line.

A tranquil journey through woods gave way to giant slabs of granite which formed a series of differential-smashing steps and deep rock channels.

After averaging two miles an hour over this terrain, the Land Rovers were confronted by the infamous Walker's Rock, where more than one driver found himself in need of help.

Sheer muscle power freed many a jeep stuck fast on the rock.

The fuel tank of WO2 Hendry's vehicle was pushed rearwards and pierced by the pounding, and WO2 Algar's vehicle suffered the same fate after landing heavily on its tank after bouncing over a large rock protrusion.

Having come from Hong Kong, the sappers adapted quickly to the heat and humidity.

The sappers learned a great deal about jungle skills and river crossings in the first week of training and a non-tactical night in the jungle allowed them to adjust to the demanding environment.

After emergency repairs had been completed, the two Land Rovers negotiated the Big Sluice - a dried up waterfall featuring a mildly suicidal descent - without further damage.

The finish line was greeted with mixed feelings by the BATUS team. Having survived the "Rubicon" they faced the long journey home. Back at Suffield after nine days, the vehicles had logged 5,024km and behaved faultlessly.



Capt (QGO) Bibakumar Rai demonstrates how to set a monkey trap during survival training

## Gurkhas improve their jungle skills

Every year, 50 men from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers refresh their infantry and construction skills in Brunei during Exercise Jungle Trooper. The 1994 exercise was led by Lt Richard Wardlaw and involved men from B Troop, 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron QGE. LCpl Bishwa Rai reports:

FROM the moment it reached Sittang Camp, an hour's drive from the main base in Brunei, B Troop was busy sorting out kit, accommodation and rations.

Having come from Hong Kong, the sappers adapted quickly to the heat and humidity.

The sappers learned a great deal about jungle skills and river crossings in the first week of training and a non-tactical night in the jungle allowed them to adjust to the demanding environment.

A navigation exercise proved the point. With most of the trooper worried about getting lost in torrential rain, only Sgt Deepak's section finished the course on time.

The second week was given over to survival training under the guidance of Capt



SSgt Dewey (7 Flt) keeps a close watch on Spr Ghan during a casevac exercise

(QGO) Biba Kumar Rai.

A live-firing package took up the trooper's third week, with three days of close quarter battle range-related work, followed by the trooper laying

and springing an ambush.

A highlight of the phase was provided by LCpl Bimal who shot a wild pig which wandered across the range. The curry that night was particularly tasty.

Exercise Hariyo Sipahi (Green Soldier), a six-day full training exercise completed the infantry phase, after which the trooper launched into the building of an Iban longhouse deep in the Brunei jungle.

Troop helicopter support was provided by two Scouts of 7 Flight AAC.

Stores were moved upriver in six rigid raiders and a fleet of seven assault boats.

After 12 days of hard work by two sections under the guidance of the trooper QGO, Capt Bibakumar Rai, and Cpl Balaram, the house was completed.

Final phase of the exercise allowed for a period of adventure training and R and R in Kota Kinabalu.

One team climbed the infamous Mt Kinabalu, while another went white water rafting in Sabah, and a third party travelled to explore the famous Miri caves.



Pte Shaun Conway (left) and other members of 3 DWR on exercise in Belgium

## Dukes of Belgium

OFFICERS of the 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment have traced the battlefield of Waterloo on which their predecessors, the 33rd of Foot, fought 179 years ago.

The chance came during the battalion's first overseas camp.

Based at Camp Bastin, a former Belgium Light Cavalry Regiment barracks now being converted into the Belgium Army's School of Infantry training centre, 3 DWR had access to 20 ranges, a heavily forested training area and extensive private farmlands.

Deals were struck with local farmers, with eggs and milk being swapped for compo sausages, bacon grill and other ration pack delights. Barbecues to which local people were invited were a great success.

Each company spent a day



Lt Col Tom Bonas



Maj Barry Richardson (left), OC A Coy, receives the Duke of Wellington's Trophy from Colonel of the Regiment Brig Dick Mundell

trench system, repelling a simulated attack before withdrawing under bombardment.

With thousands of rounds available to the soldiers, tens of pounds of PE for the bombardment, GPMG sustained fire and 51mm mortar illumination on call, it was an exciting shoot.

The GPMG SF team won the inter-platoon competition for the second year running, although the Duke of Wellington's Trophy for champion company went to A Coy from Barnsley and Rotherham.

During a 36-hour R and R period many soldiers visited

the battlefield sites of Bastogne, scene of fierce fighting in 1940 and 1944.

A battalion exercise during the second week was supported by Puma helicopters from 21 Squadron based at RAF Laarbrück in Germany.

Lt Col Tom Bonas, CO 3 DWR, said: "For many of our soldiers from Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Halifax, Huddersfield and Keighley this was their first trip to Belgium, and, with the experience of this camp behind them, I have a feeling it will not be their last.

"We have had a cracking exercise, been thoroughly well looked after by the Belgians – from the Lord Mayor downwards – and achieved a very great deal."

# Locating trouble

## Cymbeline keeps Sarajevo peace brokers in the picture

ROYAL Artillery Cymbeline mortar locating radars are playing a key role in keeping the peace in Sarajevo.

UNPROFOR commander Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose said the equipment was remarkably successful.

"Thanks to the Cymbeline we were able to stop a major attack in total violation of the UN Security Council resolution and the February airport cease-fire agreement."

British Cymbelines were deployed to Sarajevo in the aftermath of the February 1994 market massacre and the subsequent imposition of a heavy weapon exclusion zone around the city.

Five towed Cymbeline Mk 1 mortar locating radars from 1 and 3 Regiments, Royal Horse Artillery were promptly flown in during the February crisis because political sensitivity to NATO or United Nations retaliation against infringements of the exclusion zone or attacks on the Sarajevo "safe area" meant accurate information on firing points was essential.

In September, G Troop from Hohne-based 40 Regiment RA, equipped with four FV432 armoured personnel carrier-mounted Cymbeline Mk 2 radars, deployed to Sarajevo for a six-month tour. The 63-strong troop, the largest British unit in the Bosnian capital, works to the French-run Sector Sarajevo HQ.

G Troop's radars were deployed at the airport in the west of the city and at the old Turkish fort to the east, with its admin base set up in the Sarajevo television building in the centre of the city – a location close to "sniper



G Troop gunners prepare Cymbeline for action at the Turkish fort

alley" and one which ensures them regular appearances on television news reports.

High ground shields the base from Serb positions, so it has not yet come under sniper fire.

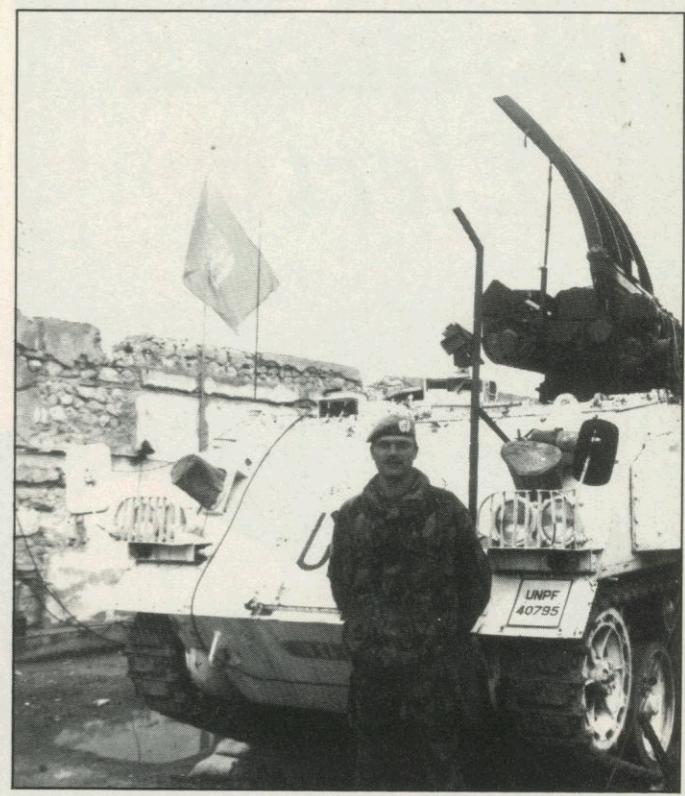
Troop commander Capt Andy Lewis said the terrain and limited radars meant not all the city was "covered" all the time.

"We do a pretty decent job, but there are limitations," he said. "If we are looking at an area and something is fired, we would find it 95 per cent of the

time or more. We are guided by intelligence reports, so if we learn something is going to happen we switch on the radars or swing them to cover the threat. They are set to cover those areas where, in the past, things have happened.

"Given the nature of the country and the war, UNPROFOR cannot be in all places all the time.

Capt Lewis said the troop reported its observations up the chain of command to Sector Sarajevo and to Gen



Bdr Jeff Yates and Cymbeline Mk 2 at the Turkish fort in Sarajevo

Rose at Bosnia-Herzegovina Command.

If a breach of the exclusion zone was proved, air strikes could be used in retaliation.

On September 17 the Bosnian Army put in a platoon-sized attack on the Sharp Stone feature, supported by 290 mortar rounds in 35 minutes.

"We made a lot of locations that evening," said Capt Lewis, "and Gen Rose was able to use the information to put a stop to it."

Cymbeline's effectiveness is based on high-level skills by

operators who constantly scan a screen inside the system.

So far the British Cymbelines have not been attacked directly, although radars at the airport have taken stray small-arms hits during cross-runway fire-fights between BiH and Serb units.

LBdr Kev Elwin explained that it was the first time his unit had done the job "for real". Although Cymbeline was deployed to the Gulf it was not used in combat.

From a sand-bagged position at the old Turkish fort, inside BiH-held territory, G Troop soldiers enjoys a panoramic view of Sarajevo.

"We have many visitors," said Capt Lewis, "including VIPs and politicians. Gen Rose came to watch the Sharp Stone battle."

People living near the Turkish fort are friendly, although a brick was thrown through the window of a Land Rover recently.

"The most serious incident we've had was when someone stole the telephone line we had laid to Sector Sarajevo headquarters. We put it on the bottom of the river, but it still got nicked," said Capt Lewis.



Sarajevo's "sniper alley", pictured from the G Troop base in the city centre television studio

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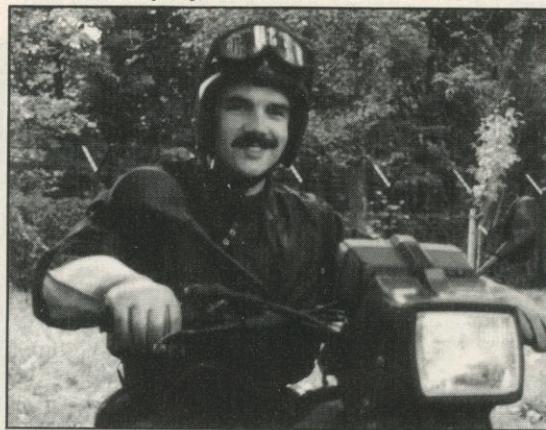
Written details on request. All details correct at press date and subject to terms, conditions and status.



Above: Sgt Robert Cooper, a section commander at West Bromwich, is a policeman in civilian life

Right: Checking their map are Cpl Jason Roebuck (left) and LCpl Paul McGlone from the Manchester detachment

Below: Sgt David Bowers is recruit training sergeant with 116 Provost Company, Manchester



SSgt Dirk Smith of the West Midlands specialist training team at Lichfield was back with his parent unit, 116 Provost Company, RMP(V) for Exercise Pack Saddle in Germany. A fluent German speaker – he was born there while his father was with the regular RMP – Dirk was acting as a liaison officer with the civilian police



Maj Robin Mudford, OC 116 Provost Company, RMP(V)

Left: LCpl Andrea Burgess checks her target during range practice

# TA redcaps pack their saddles

Report and pictures:  
Richard Shields

VOLUNTEER military policemen and women from the Midlands and Manchester played a key role in Exercise Pack Saddle in Germany.

More than 90 members of 116 Provost Company, Royal Military Police (Volunteers), which has detachments in West Bromwich and Manchester, were in their mobilisation role as part of the Combat Service Support Group (CSSG) providing essential back-up for the

Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

For the Territorial Army police on Pack Saddle, this involved reconnaissance and planning of supply routes for fuel, food, ammunition and other stores from the Channel ports to Northern Germany.

They were then kept busy escorting and controlling convoys from the Regular Army's 6 Supply Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, based at Gütersloh, and the TA Scot-

tish Transport Regiment, RLC, from Dunfermline.

Much of the movement was at night, with the exercise scenario providing sudden changes to test the CSSG soldiers' ability to re-plan under pressure.

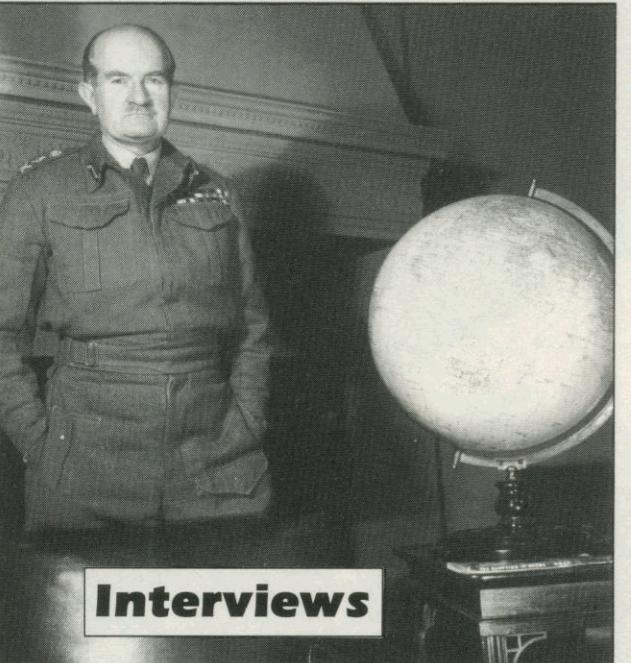
During the two-week annual training period members of 116 Provost Company also undertook other military police tasks, including security patrols and garrison duty

alongside their Regular colleagues from Gütersloh-based 110 Provost Company, RMP.

During the exercise 116 Provost Company, commanded by Maj Robin Mudford, was visited by the Provost Marshal UKLF, Col Maurice Nugent, who is also Commander RMP TA; the Deputy Commander RMP TA, Lt Col Tony Mercer; and the Provost Marshal 1 (UK) Division, Lt Col Tony Figg.

# SOLDIER to SOLDIER

50 years on, we look back to our first, pioneering eighteen months



## Interviews

Face to face with Fd Marshal Sir William Slim, hero of the Burma campaign

## Features

elsang, in the Rhineland hills—now a battle school for British troops—was written one of the most blasphemous chapters in the Nazi New Order. Here future world leaders were "married" before a Hitler altar and fathered children they never saw again

## Star pix



Cover girl: Ava Gardner, who only had eyes for you

## VOGELSANG: THE BLACK SHRINE OF ADOLF HITLER

### Scoops



THE MOST DRAMATIC PICTURE OF THE WAR

WHILE Europe prepares to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, *Soldier* has reason for a double celebration – its own golden jubilee.

Launched with Monty's blessing, the magazine hit the streets of Europe on March 19, 1945 as the British Liberation Army's own fortnightly.

Printed first in Brussels, it soon moved to presses in Hamburg (used during the war by the editors of the Nazi propaganda sheet *Signal*), and later to the United Kingdom.

The story of *Soldier* during the past 50 years is the story of the post-war British Army. Its archives contain reports and pictures from every part of the world, every conflict since 1945, every operation and every emergency.

But the magazine has always been more than a record of soldiering: most things that have touched the lives of the military community have

passed across its pages. War, military training, uniforms, equipment, housing, pay, resettlement, humour, sport, glamour – the list is endless.

These pages, in the first issue of *Soldier*'s 50th anniversary year, contain a random selection from its early



First front cover of *Soldier*, with its good luck message from Monty

# SOLDIER to SOLDIER

## Cartoons



"Just my luck at this stage of the war to be made Unit Education Officer, old man."

issues. Its staff, all in uniform and many plucked from Fleet Street, served a truly world-wide Army. In the closing months of the war they witnessed Hitler's Germany being over-run, the liberation of concentration camps and the emergence of a free Europe. Back at home a wartime

Army quickly adapted to new routines and revised priorities. The magazine's writers and photographers were there to record it all. *Soldier*'s story will be told more fully as the year progresses.

• Staff from the early years who have lost touch are asked to contact the *Soldier* office.

## Picture specials



Above – A lance corporal trials a new wardrobe design – complete with a niche to stow his rifle

Below – Even this was "rationed"

## Pin-ups

Lana Morris: Snow joke when your kit's gone missing



## Ads

**"BRYLCREEM"**  
By Jove!..some chaps are lucky!



And men in B.A.O.R. are luckier than most fellows because supplies of Brylcreem for B.A.O.R. are still getting priority through N.A.A.F.I., Y.M.C.A., etc. But even this concession cannot satisfy the demand for Brylcreem so, when you get a bottle, please use it sparingly.

Left – Dramatic confrontation between Australian Infantry and the enemy at El Alamein in a photograph that came to light after the war



Left - Graphic depiction of carnage and destruction on the Mutla Ridge

Below - Death on the Mutla Ridge. Watt's drawing of an Iraqi soldier killed during the America attack on a convoy fleeing Kuwait



Pte Graham, Royal Pioneer Corps, sketched at HQ 7 Armoured Brigade on December 3, 1990



Tank crews of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards load a Challenger, December 31, 1990



Above left - Going home. Queen's Royal Irish Hussars' Challenger tanks en route to Al Jubail

Above right - Iraqi T-69 tanks destroyed by Allied airpower, drawn in March 1991

# Artist who went to war

A NEW exhibition at the National Army Museum - *A Soldier's Sketchbook* - features the Gulf War paintings of talented soldier-artist Maj Robin Watt, writes Laurie Manton.

The Royal Hussars officer observed the Gulf War from a unique perspective. Both his father and grandfather lived and worked in Iraq, and he spent school holidays there as a child.

From November 1990 to March 1991, he was attached to the headquarters of 7 Armoured Brigade, part of the 35,000-strong 1st British Armoured Division which took part in the liberation of Kuwait.

Riding in a Warrior infantry fighting vehicle, he advanced with the tanks of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars during Operation Desert Sabre, the ground offensive. Later, in Kuwait, he witnessed shocking scenes of devastation in the aftermath of the war.

His rich palette, often wielded in the most difficult of conditions, captured the daily activities of the brigade itself, but also many facets of the desert environment of Saudi Arabia, such as camels, scorpions and exotic flowers.

Robin Watt's first one-man show consists of 180 paintings and original sketches made in the field and includes studies of wildlife observed while serving in Canada, the Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland.

To accompany the exhibition, the National Army Museum, in Hospital Road, Chelsea, has published the artist's vivid account of his experiences in the Gulf, taken from letters and diaries, and illustrat-



Maj Robin Watt, ear defenders on to block out the noise of nearby Challenger main battle tanks, concentrates on his sketch book in the desert

ed throughout by many of his watercolours.

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, opening the exhibition, paid tribute to Robin Watt's artistry.

"His work makes an important contribution to the history of the British Army," he said. "It is a unique record of soldiering in the field and provides an appropriate tribute to the memory of those who died."

Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, who commanded 7 Armoured Brigade during the Gulf War, agreed.

"It was our good fortune that my brigade was asked to employ Robin Watt in November 1990. He came to the Gulf to fight and also to record, through his drawings, a brief moment in history.

"Like many of us he kept a diary. These will all record a war that, as with others, contained mistakes and human frailty, a war in which each man's tent or foxhole was a private battlefield of concern and emotion.

"Robin Watt's writings are unique

because of the addition of beautiful, painstakingly detailed drawings which help the reader not only to understand the curious conditions in which we lived for six months, but also the sights we saw during and after the battle. For me they are powerful reminders of dramatic and peaceful moments, in many ways far more vivid than the written word or photographs.

"His work also highlights the strange juxtaposition of beauty and horror that becomes familiar to soldiers in war. The

darkness, in sandstorms or driving rain, almost without being able to see either the point of the pencil or the paper on which the sketch was made. I always worked on the principle that something was better than nothing.

"Robin's artistry, lasting evidence of his talents, will be much appreciated by all of us who were there, and also by those wishing to understand the nature and atmosphere of warfare," said Gen Cordingley.

According to Robin, who left the Army in 1993, his purpose was to produce a record of 7 Armoured Brigade in the field to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund.

He told *Soldier* he instinctively avoided the popular label "war artist", which he found repugnant.

"My purpose was simply to record whatever I found. The sketches were not originally intended for public view. Later I decided to include some of them because no subsequent work made in the comfort of a studio can match the immediacy of drawings and field notes made on the spot.

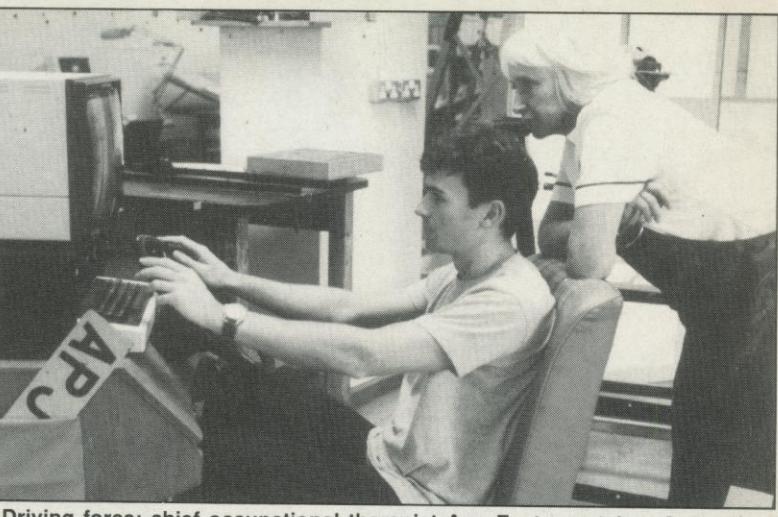
"A few, made during Operation Desert Sabre, were drawn at night in almost pitch

"As time passes, I expect we will dwell less on its destructive aspect and more on its antithesis . . . those sometimes surprising qualities of human nature that provide a balance and give us cause for hope, such as respect, selflessness, humour, dignity, compassion, patience, humility and great comradeship, to name but a few."

*A Soldier's Sketchbook* is on show at the National Army Museum until February 12, 1995. Admission is free. The book of the same title is published by the museum and costs £12.95.



Basics to back: Sgt Howard Ripley, 2 Signal Regiment, York, who injured his spine in a car accident, gets the lumbar treatment from physiotherapist Mary McAllister



Driving force: chief occupational therapist Ann Foster watches Capt Mark Wheeler, 1 RRW, who suffers from the spine disease ankylosing spondylitis, test his reactions on the driving assessment equipment designed and manufactured by the occupational therapy team

# The caring Court with a common goal

PATIENTS and staff at the Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit at RAF Headley Court have a motto.

"You are 100 per cent of what you are today – not 70 per cent of what you were yesterday" is their boast.

And, in an establishment which aims to return Service personnel who have been injured or seriously ill to full psychological and physical fitness and duty in the shortest possible time, that is no bad philosophy.

Headley Court, near Leatherhead in Surrey, has for many years been on trust to the Royal Air Force for the rehabilitation of injured pilots, and to all intents and purposes functions as an RAF station.

Anyone who is admitted to this medical unit (it is not a hospital, the management stresses) is required to participate in station duty and off-duty life as soon as their disability allows.

Approximately 80 per cent of its intake of patients is from the Army, with injuries ranging from hamstrings damaged in Bosnia to the results of explosions in Northern Ireland and road traffic accidents.

"The emphasis here is on teamwork," said WO1 (RSM) Brian Wilson, one of 19 Army representatives on the 190-

strong, mixed Service and civilian staff at Headley Court.

"Everything dovetails in, from group therapy to physiotherapy to occupational therapy, with none of the sections working in isolation."

"Once they are discharged, it

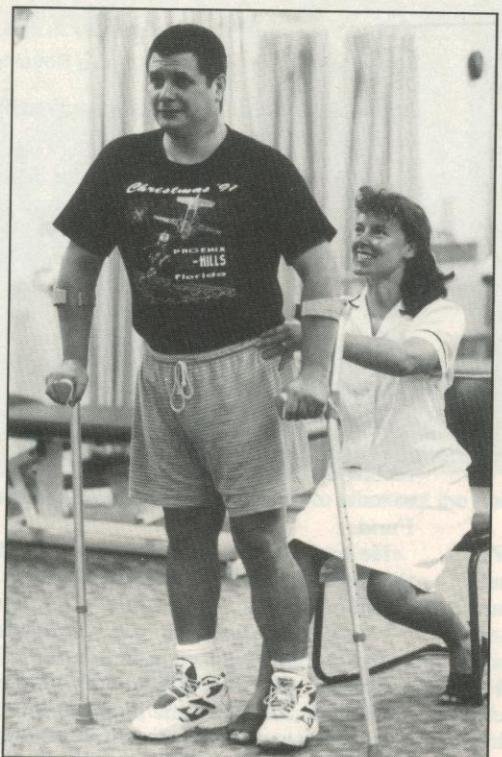
dier is treated the same here, whether he is a para or a major general," said retired RAMC major and former APTC member Sean Kibbey, who is on the Headley Court staff.

WO1 Wilson – who has since moved to Bagshot Park after almost five years at Headley Court – emphasised: "We treat the patient as a whole. It's not just the body."

A full residential rehabilitation programme is provided in the 182-bed unit, with a limited provision for outpatients.

To emphasise the special nature of the place, most patients live a normal Service life, staying in the mess, doing station duties and returning home at weekends.

"Every sol-



On the slow road to recovery: civilian Georgina Ford, a senior physiotherapist, steadies Bdr Chris Murphy of the Royal Artillery parachute display team as he improves on his walking pattern

is back to their unit like any other soldier," he added.

The two occupational therapy (OT) departments at Headley ("Minds are like parachutes: they only function when open" says a notice on one of the walls) are a vital ingredient.

So, too, is an essential "in-house" facility, the aids-to-daily living flat, with its various heights and types of door handles. In it a Serviceman can live, buying-in his own food, cooking and cleaning in conjunction with his occupational therapist, to improve his level of independence.

A workshop gives some of the station's RAF staff a chance to apply new technical skills such as making splints and slipper casts to the physiotherapist's specifications.

Six gymnasium areas are used by patients in various stages of recovery. Average length of stay is six weeks.

To take an example, the unit's hydro pool helps the early needs groups to increase their stability, balance and strength after kneecap and cartilage operations.

Individual treatment is given to patients with neurological injuries, with part of the physiotherapy unit being devoted to aspects such as increasing their range of movements.



Sgt Janet Kilsby APTC prepares to lead a group of patients, including paras and commandos, on a run. Headley Court has extensive heathland on its doorstep

Chief occupational therapist Ann Foster, one of Headley's numerous civilian staff, said: "What we do with patients varies according to their needs, social or emotional.

"We don't tell them what they must do – they tell us. We are empowering the patient."

Sean Kibbey and other team members, such as social workers, provide patients with vital contact with "the outside world," she added.

All the administrative back-up which a soldier might expect his unit to have – including resettlement advice – is available at Headley.

"If there is something niggling a patient, we can usually deal with their problem – and they can concentrate on the

Report: Phil Wilcox  
Pictures: Mike Weston

ing on it, we do that before he goes back to his corps or regiment," said WO1 Wilson.

Key words for working at Headley, he said, are to be "very, very flexible, and to have a sense of humour."

But the job satisfaction was tremendous.

"Every patient initially comes into this office, and books out from here at the end of their stay, so we actually see the improvement."

To quote another of the unit's mottos, emblazoned around the premises, it is neither individual staff nor patients alone who produce results there.

It is: "Per mutua" – or, in plain English, mutual effort.

Year of change and upheaval induces strain

## Minister concedes burden on families

LORD Henley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence, told delegates he recognised the strain placed on the families of Servicemen who played crucial roles in the world-wide peace-keeping commitments of the United Nations.

The military commitment in Northern Ireland would remain although the profile of Armed Forces deployed there was being lowered, he said.

He attributed the decline in the standard of maintenance of married quarters to pressure on the Defence budget, and went on to explain that the proposed Housing Trust had been abandoned because it was felt it would not take management of the estate sufficiently far into the private sector.

The result of this was the Defence Secretary's announcement on November 17 to establish a cen-

tral Defence Housing Executive.

Lord Henley confirmed that a number of specialist positions would be axed under the reorganisation of defence medical services. The only remaining military hospital in the United Kingdom would be the proposed new tri-Service hospital at Gosport in Hampshire.

## Praise for UN troops

GEN Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C UKLF, gave details of the new Land Command structure.

The command will have

world-wide responsibilities, primarily in Germany. Its annual budget is £2.8b, 85 per cent of which is fixed costs, leaving only £170m for the maintenance of the command.

Gen Wilsey said half of the infantry battalions – a

third of all UKLF manpower – in his command had deployed during the year. British troops had done superb work in Bosnia and Rwanda.

He mentioned the practical difficulties involved in returning large numbers of troops and equipment to the UK.

Gen Wilsey listed as legitimate concerns facing Army personnel: condi-

tions of service (Bett Review); housing; career aspirations; manning levels; and overall job satisfaction. He stressed there was no point in talking the situation down.

He concluded that the Army can expect an improved quality of life with better treatment for wives and families and a realistic conditions-of-service package.

## Annual conference No 12 hears a message of renewed optimism

AS ONE who remembers the emergence of the Federation of Army Wives, I find it incredible it should already be holding its 12th annual conference. But the 12th it was, and a very enjoyable day too.

Speakers were well chosen, although over lunch many delegates admitted that, for those who kept up with developments, there was nothing much new in the speeches. There were, however, notes of encouragement and support.

Lord Henley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence, rather rashly, I thought, said his door was always open for those who wanted to talk. He won

many over by referring to the late Anne Armstrong and her vigorous campaigning.

He also found himself answering many of the questions in the open forum section of the conference.

Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, the Adjutant General, gave a briefing on the way ahead. He spoke of the need for good communication and highlighted the desire for a period of stability. Many heads nodded in agreement.

Gen Wilkes said consideration would be given to requests that unit moves coincide with school terms.

(By the way, keep an eye out for the scheme which will help you send parcels to Service personnel



Cari's column

Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C UKLF, using maps and photographs, took the conference on a guided tour of former Yugoslavia and paid tribute to Servicemen and women working there.

In a lively address delivered with panache, Gen Wilsey spoke of the need to avoid low spirits and gloom.

My own remedy would be to release the C-in-C from his duties and send him around the world to see up troops and their families.

(By the way, keep an eye out for the scheme which will help you send parcels to Service personnel

nel on Op Grapple). His references to the importance of avoiding gloom also hit home. I got the impression Gen Wilsey wasn't suggesting we all wander around with fixed grins but, while recognising the past few years have brought many challenges, we should not forget that much good work has been going on all over the world.

Perhaps we should pledge to balance criticism with praise in the future.

As always, the real business of the day was carried out over lunch.

I spotted delegates from a number of organisations connected with family welfare, among them SSAFA, the Samaritans, WRVS, WNC, SCEA, Women's Corona

Society, British Diplomatic Spouses Association and the Federation of Army Widows.

Two young women I met from the widows' organisation had lost their husbands in Northern Ireland. They told me people sometimes adopted a strange attitude to Service widows, almost as if they wished to sweep them out of sight.

I wish them luck. Incidentally, they are in need of a computer for their office. If you can help, let me know.

Sherie Williams Ellen, administrator of the Federation of Army Wives, thought the conference had been a great success and was grateful to the speakers for their candour

and their co-operation. With such powerful women on its side, the Federation is assured of a voice.

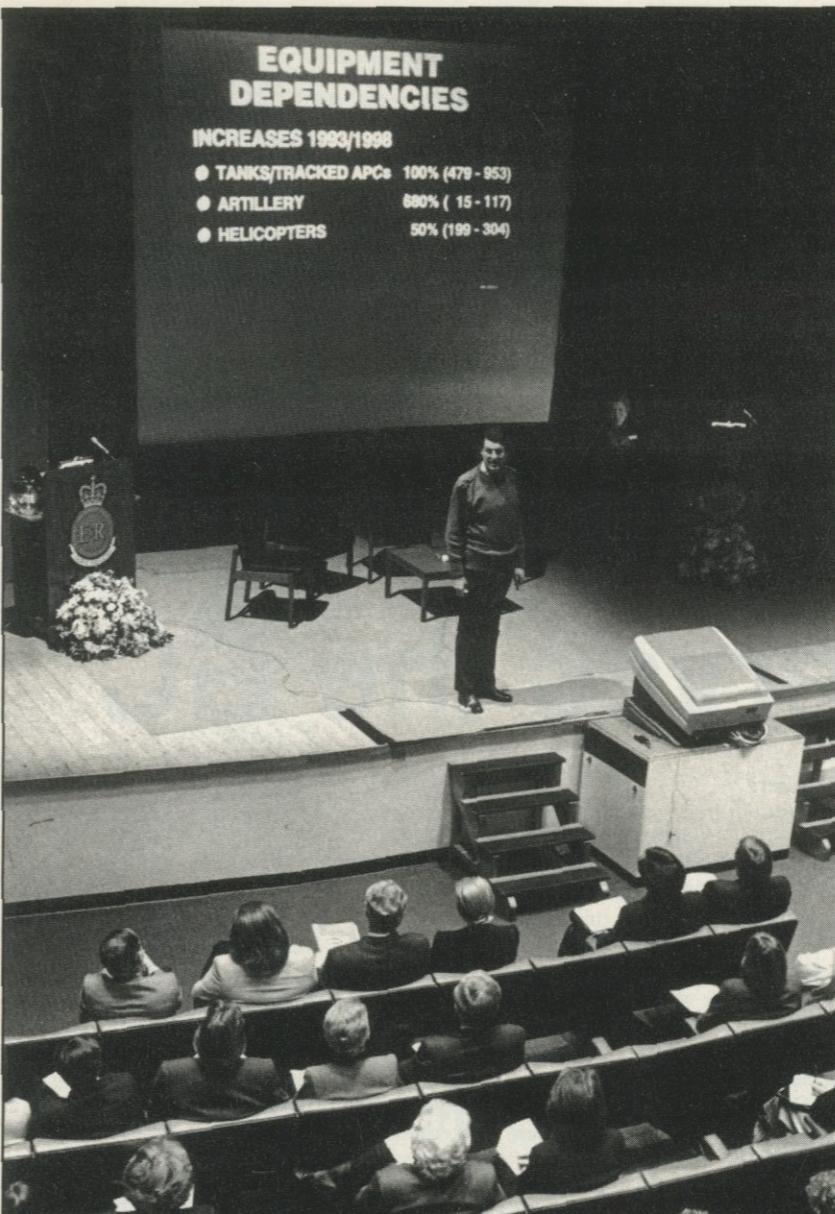
Jill Bullock, in her last conference as chairman, highlighted in her report FAW's achievements and hopes for the future.

She also remarked on the Federation's fund-raising efforts – £7,000 for Breakthrough (the charity concerned with women's health); and, over the years, nearly £27,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital, which now has a waiting room named in honour of the Federation of Army Wives.

The chairman thanked Lady Wilsey, FAW president, for her support and wise counsel.

I saw Lady Rose, who is working hard in areas of concern to Service families, at the conference.

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



Picture: Mike Weston

Gen Sir John Wilsey takes centre stage for his up-beat presentation to the 12th annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives at Camberley

## New housing service 'best' in the country

THE Housing Trust concept was an "idea before its time", chief executive Mr Mike Robinson told the conference.

But he believed the Defence Housing Executive which replaces it would "provide Service families with the best housing service within the country" and that its top priority would be the need and requirements of Service families.

He hoped the "rough and tumble" of budget allocations which dumped housing on the bottom of the heap would be prevented by the new executive, which would have resources dedicated to housing and its budget "ring-fenced".

It will operate from within the MoD and be managed by a single headquarters.

The Defence Housing

Executive will be organised on a basis of 25 areas, said Mr Robinson, each manager dealing with between 2,000 and 4,000 properties.

MQs in any area will be available to personnel of all three Services, leading to more efficient management of stock.

There would also be a significant investment in training for existing staff and methods of consulting Army wives would be investigated.

Mr Robinson hoped there would be an adequate fund for maintenance.

He felt that one method of improving efficiency would be to cut down the paperwork. He revealed it took 12 stages in the MoD to get a repair completed, against three to four in most civilian housing services.

## Report condemns 'dangerous' MQs at Marchwood

POTENTIALLY dangerous prefabricated married quarters on the Mulberry Road estate at Marchwood, Hants are to be redeveloped under a two-phase programme.

Fifty prefab Stent houses – condemned by an independent survey commissioned by the MoD – are to be demolished.

New, modern housing will replace them before 54 "underscale" maisonettes are demolished and replaced.

Rebuilding is due to start in 1996, and a total of 64 houses will be built, each with a garage.

The MoD survey found the prefab MQs to be in a "potentially dangerous situation". The report identified defects which included failure of gable walls, sagging roofs, settlement and subsidence of the foundations and

deflections of suspended floors.

"Demolition is urgently recommended," the report concluded.

The MoD had planned to dispose of the Mulberry Road estate and to build MQs on a new site. But the unavailability of an alternative site, local planning difficulties and the deterioration of the present quarters left no option other than the redevelopment of Mulberry Road.

## Naafi spreads the tea taste

NAAFI tea has moved into civvy street. Following an enthusiastic response to its commemorative D-Day packs, Naafi has placed its tea bags in 1,600 Londis stores in the UK. And 1,000 boxes of the distinctive tea bags are to be distributed in the USA.

## Magnificent, regardless . . .

MAY I answer D J Macleod (November 14), who objected to Royal Air Force bands taking part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

As an ex-RAF Leuchars and ex-Black Watch Territorial Army piper, my point is that 1994 was not the first time by any means that RAF bands have taken part.

## Parade of standards

FOR ONE last time, at this year's Victory Celebrations, could there not be a parade of standards of the old county regiments?

This would be a fitting recognition of all they achieved in the Second World War and other conflicts, before they were sacrificed on the altar of Defence cuts to be merged into conglomerates that bear little relationship to the counties.

For example, The Royal Anglians mean little to the majority of Northamptonshire people, unlike their old regiment, The Steelbacks.

What a chance for Mike Parker to put on a great display of the nation's and the Army's history. — Bob Aveling, Northampton.

## CALLING ALL ARMY POETS

WHY did you join up? Poetry Now seeks verse for an Armed Forces anthology on the rewards and risks of Service life. All who have poems accepted will receive royalties.

I believe the pipe bands' first involvement was in the late 1960s. And what about the Royal Navy bands that have taken part over the years? Whoever is included, the tattoo is always a magnificent spectacle and long may it continue. — Charles Cameron Carruthers, East Lothian.

## French First Army deserves the GC

AS I WRITE, some Members of Parliament have been spraying bile over France and Germany by careful selection of past events. Others make perhaps more balanced judgements.

In 1940 I was in France when the French 9th Army, composed of the First World War-weary veterans collapsed in the Ardennes and we had to retreat to Dunkirk.

At the time the then War Office estimated the Royal Navy could take off 20,000 troops: in the event the number was 300,000.

There were two reasons — the lesser being that each German division had 5,000 or 6,000 horses which moved at three mph and each horse needed to eat ten times the weight of a soldier's rations.

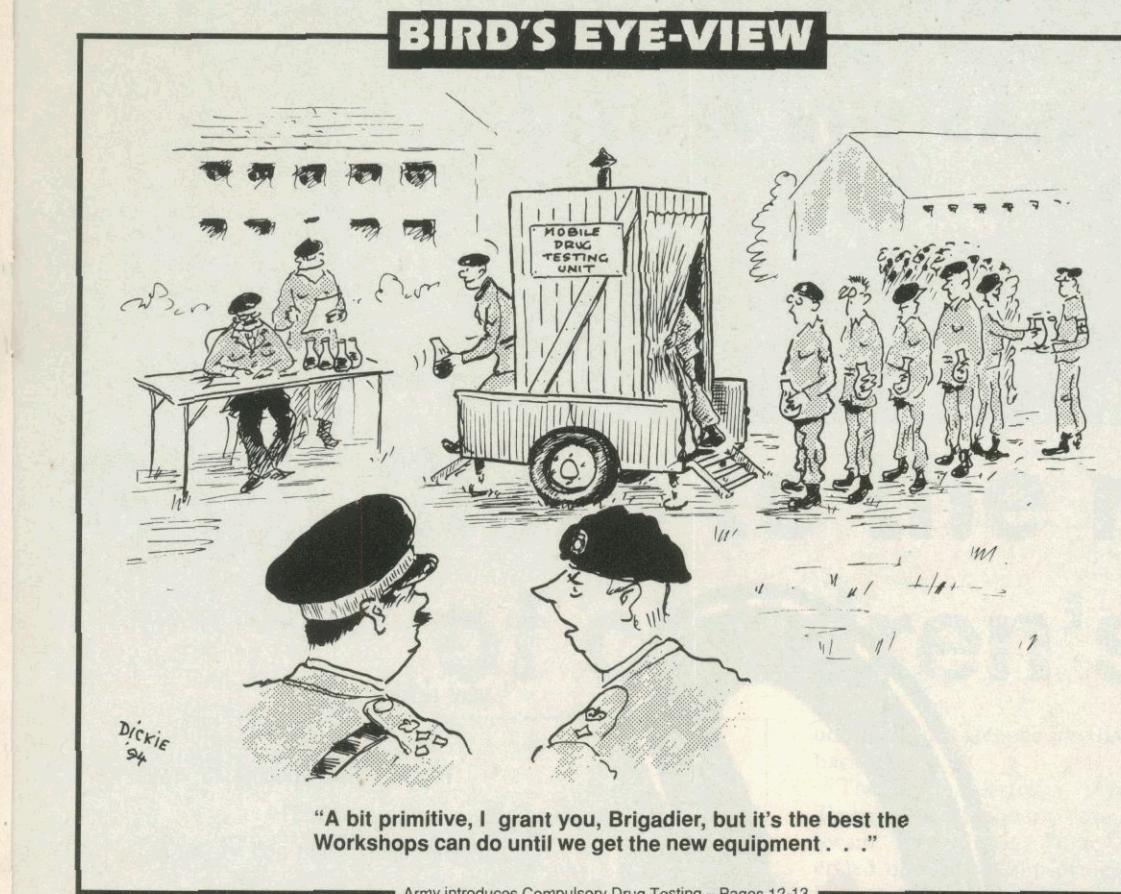
The major reason, however, was that the French First Army at Arras fought the Germans to a standstill, allowing us to escape.

At the D-Day commemoration, the Queen looked the happiest I have seen her in public.

Why not, 55 years after Dunkirk, award either the

## The last Brits

FRED Kibble (November 14) disputed that The Black Watch (manned by British nationals) is the last resident British battalion to be stationed in Hong Kong, citing the 1st Royal Gurkha Regiment. This is nitpicking. I think the Gurkhas of 1 RGR would want to be known as a Gurkha regiment in the British Army, retaining their own nationality. — Bob Lambert, Newcastle-on-Tyne.



Army introduces Compulsory Drug Testing — Pages 12-13

## Anonymous note recorded Suez medal decision

LEN OLIVER (November 14) finds it hard to believe there is nothing on file regarding the decision to turn down a Suez Canal Zone medal.

The minutes of Army Council meetings for the period 1951-54 have been examined by a number of Canal Zone veterans and they have pointed out that there are no details of the Council's deliberations on this matter.

It may have been, therefore, that the decision was taken informally, out of session, by the Council.

The department's records are also not explicit but do confirm that a decision was taken. This is an unsigned, undated minute posted in a 1960 Medal Office Decisions Book and sadly it is not worth the paper it was written on.

As I have said before, we were on active service and a Suez Canal Zone medal ought to be awarded to all those who

## All-in-one medal from the State

I AGREE with A W Tibbins's call for an all-embracing service medal (November 14). It should, however, originate from the State, with the Queen's head on the obverse.

The idea of commission by purchase has long gone, so why create a medal award by purchase which, in any case, is not permitted to be worn on the same brooch as official issues? — M P Cocker, Cleveleys, Lancs.

● CORRESPONDENTS are asked to include their full name and address, printed in block capitals where handwritten. Letters should be brief and to the point; they may be edited for publication.

C R DAVIS of Ontario (October 31) tells of Canadian Morse operators who insisted on using both AR ("reply expected") and VA ("no reply required") at the end of a transmission. I was also an Artillery signaller and do not remember using VA. In our Service AR (known then as Ack R) meant Acknowledged and Received. — A J Jewell (ex-Gnr Signaller, Driver/Op), Morden, Surrey.

## RASC's despatch role at Arnhem

AS A fellow Canadian may I reply to Frank Smith, of Alberta (November 14), who asked whether the RASC or the sappers were responsible for air despatch at Arnhem and for the rest of the Second World War.

I am an exchange officer and fill the Regimental Operations Major appointment with 29 Regiment RLC, the last regiment in the British Forces which has air despatchers.

This regiment has the "experts" on the history of air despatch and I asked the officer commanding 47 Air Despatch Squadron to provide the answer to the query.

Air despatch was the responsibility of the Royal Army Service Corps in Europe from the formation of the Airborne Forces. In the Far East this task was carried out by the units of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

Ten aircraft of 437 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force were provided for re-supply sorties to Arnhem on September 21, 1944 and the despatch crews were from 799 and 800 AD Companies RASC.

The squadron provided a further 15 aircraft on September 23 and all of the despatch crews were from 223 AD Coy RASC.

These were the only sorties flown by 437 Sqn RCAF during the Battle of Arnhem. All the other sorties they flew were glider towing missions. — Maj Mike Titus, Cdn Exchange Offr, 29 Regt RLC, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Glos.

## Received wisdom

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# RMA GUN RUNNERS PULL IN THE MONEY

Taking the strain (right) are some of the 71 cadets and ten staff who took part in the Marne Company gun run at RMA Sandhurst to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign, a special care baby unit at Sheffield's Jessop Hospital for Women and St Columba's Hospice for the terminally ill in Edinburgh.

Three platoons each pulled a 105 pack howitzer around a measured circuit in the Academy's grounds, completing 21 miles in 19.5 runs and collecting £7,300 for the charities.



Picture: Mike Perring

# Signallers to the rescue of children's camp

AN ANNUAL holiday camp for 40 deaf and dumb Russian children suffering from blood disorders was in danger of being cancelled until members of Sennelager-based 200 Signal Squadron stepped in.

For the past four years the people of Bad Lauterberg have financed the camp for disabled and disadvantaged schoolchildren from Chernobyl.

But this year the camp was threatened by escalating costs.

Following a plea from Herr Horner, owner of the campsite in the Harz mountains where the squadron was holding its adventurous training camp, 2iC Capt Simon Parry and QM Capt Mick Pawlak agreed to provide tentage, bedding, power, lighting, labourers and chefs. The squadron did not actually have any of the kit needed, but acquired it all with the full support of Brig Andrew Pringle, Commander 20 Armoured Brigade.

For two weeks, the children and their teachers took part in activities laid on by the people of Bad Lauterberg and St Andreasberg.

"I think I can say on behalf of the lads that it was an enjoyable time, and we were proud to represent the squadron and the brigade in what we think was a really worthwhile cause," said Cpl Duncan.

The Paderborn and Sennelager Anglo-German Club and 3 Armoured Field Ambulance helped four pupils and parents from St Hildegard's Kindergarten special needs school in Sennelager, and 12 children and



**Slim-line WO2 (AQMS) Bob Chappell REME helped raise £440 for the Aitken Nursery at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald. Serving on attachment with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in west Belfast, Bob managed to shed 21lb despite a busy work schedule supporting his unit in the city. He is pictured with children and staff in the nursery**

three helpers from the Variety Club of Great Britain (tickets courtesy of P&O Ferries) on a fun adventure training week.



When the wives of The King's Royal Hussars take on a good cause, they really throw themselves into it. One such cause is the Services' Mammogram Appeal for the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

Someone whispered "parachute jump" and four wives volunteered.

One, Jeannie Baldwin, was posted before the event, but

others quickly stepped into her harness.

The final quartet - Wyn Tyson, Jackie Stobart, Lynne Swain and Nicola Binge - ended up at Bad Lippspringer for instruction.

Their tandem jumps - from 15,000ft - were supported by the Families' Officer, friends and even a husband clutching an insurance document.

A Hawks' wives fun day at Munster raised more than £600.



Soldiers from The King's Own Border Regiment have helped to keep a Lancashire horse sanctuary spick and span as it plunges itself into fund-raising activities which will ultimately support the Army Benevolent Fund.

They painted, scrubbed and cleaned the stables and moved equipment at the Nelson-based Only Foals and Horses Sanctuary.

"They did a really good job," said area support group organiser Khrissie McCammon, whose husband, Kevin, a sergeant with 1 WFR, in between helping at the sanctuary, moves this month from the Army Careers Office at Chesterfield to Tidworth.



About 350 all ranks, civilian staff and guests, plus sundry cows, pigs, donkeys, chickens, ducks, goats and geese all helped to provide atmosphere

when ATR Bassingbourn converted a hanger into a convincing barn dance venue. Proceeds from a raffle raised £500 for BLESMA.



A 12-mile sponsored cycle ride and other fund-raising activities by A (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars) Squadron, Royal Wessex Yeomanry resulted in the Gloucestershire Macmillan Cancer Nurse Service being presented with a cheque for £4,000.



The Royal Logistic Corps at Deepcut provided more than 30 soldiers to act as collectors for the Poppy Appeal at the Clacket Lane service area of the M25 during the first two weeks of November. RBL county field officer John Whiteley visited Princess Royal Barracks to thank the RLC and members of B Squadron who had helped collect more than £5,400.



Gunners from 53 (Luisberg) Battery, 22 Regiment RA helped to restore Parson's Lodge Battery on Gibraltar during breaks in their daily duties on the Rock as replacements for The Gibraltar Regiment, who were training in the UK. They cleared 17 tons of rubble, moved guns on to the site, sealed roofs, felled trees and erected railings.

## War museum plans battle at the Oval

WHAT HAVE cricket, gardening, fashion and furniture to do with the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War?

Plenty, if the Imperial War Museum's 1995 Victory Festival, running from March 17 to August 28, is anything to go by.

Surviving players who took part in the Victory Test matches between England and Australia in 1945 will attend a match at the Oval on Saturday May 6, organised by the museum in conjunction with promoter David English.

In the same month, to mark the anniversary of VE-Day, the museum is joining with Harkness Roses (Hitchin) to launch a new variety of the symbolic flower.

Part of the proceeds from sales of the peachy pink classic hybrid tea, to be named Reconciliation, will go to the Royal British Legion.

Fashion and furniture in the 1940s are the themes of two of a series of special events and exhibitions which start with *London at War*, in which a Lyons Corner House, a prefab, part of a theatre and an art-deco cinema will be re-created.

And in the Home Front Memorial Gallery the names of the 60,000 men, women and children killed by enemy action in the war will be displayed from records compiled by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

As a tribute to those who fought in the two world wars and other conflicts and to their families, the museum, in Lambeth Road, London SE1, will be free to all visitors on VE Day (May 8) and VJ Day (August 15).

## KRH's round of gunfire

GUNFIRE at dawn marked the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Balaclava for men of The King's Royal Hussars serving in Belfast.

But the "gunfire" in question was of the liquid variety, a lethal concoction of rum and tea, stirred by the CO, Lt Col Richard Shirreff, and RSM Bill Stobart, and delivered.

## SOLDIER to Soldier

ered to the troops as they were wakened by trumpet calls at 0630 on October 25.

Later the KRH beat the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at five-a-side football and the day ended with a dinner in the officers' mess attended by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and the CO, A and SH, Lt Col "AK" Miller.

A piper from the Argylls played during the dinner, which commemorated the Balaclava battle honour awarded after the Charge of the Light Brigade to the 11th Prince Albert's Own Hussars, now KRH, and ten other cavalry regiments and an infantry regiment.

## Non-shining example

THE IRISH Army has been issued with a new combat boot. Each pair is accompanied by instructions on cleaning and maintenance. Black dubbin only is to be used instead of polish, leading to the unusual situation of soldiers being under orders not to polish their boots...

## Cathedral back to its pomp

THE Army's "Cathedral", the Sandhurst Military Chapel, has been restored at a cost of £1m.

The restoration work, managed by Gibb Architects Ltd, was fitted around normal daily use of the chapel, built in 1897, and had to be guaranteed maintenance-free for at least 60 years.

External work included particular attention to stonework and the commission of hand-made bricks and terracotta units. Art, damaged woodwork and polished surfaces inside the chapel were also refurbished.

## 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### Imperial War Museum

Until February 5: The Italian Campaign photo display. Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition. From March: London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season. From April: Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition. May 4-6: 1940s fashion shows. From August: Victory in the Far East display.

● Other events to be announced.

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



Maj Gen Bala Bredin views a tableau, recently installed in the new regimental museum of The Royal Irish Regiment in Ballymena, which recreates an incident in 1944 before the fall of Monte Cassino. The scene shows the aftermath of an O Group which took place on May 14, 1944, with Maj John Horsfall, who had just assumed command of 2 LIR, on the left, the then Lt Col Bredin (commanding 6 Inniskillings) in the centre, and Brig Pat Scott, Brigade Commander, 38th (Irish) Brigade, on the right. Gen Bredin is holding a Battleaxe pennant of 78 Division, of which 38 Brigade was a part throughout the Italian campaign.

## Fox Corner cross back on its feet

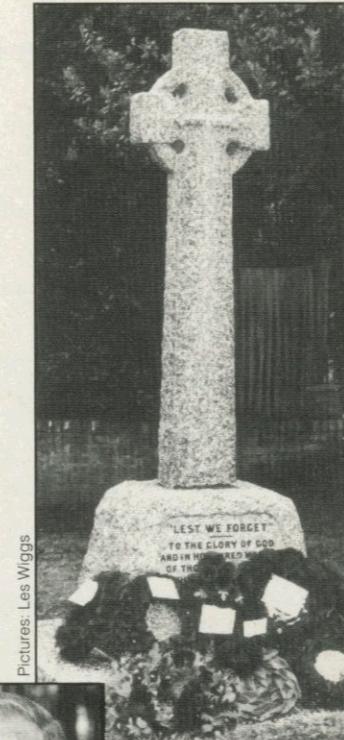
A RARE cross at Fox Corner near Bagshot which was damaged by a vehicle has been refurbished thanks to the efforts of the Guildford branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

The 10ft cross stands near the Bullswater and Pirbright camps where thousands of men were trained, and commemorates the many men who passed the spot and later fell in the First World War.

It has been adopted as a memorial to soldiers of other wars but bears no names of the fallen; their names are on memorials scattered round the globe, said Mr Ken Pemberton-Wood, branch welfare officer and one of the first staff members of Soldier.

The cross was re-dedicated at a service organised by Mr Pemberton-Wood with Brig Dick Purvis and Gnr Michael Hall, president and chairman of the Guildford Branch of the RAA.

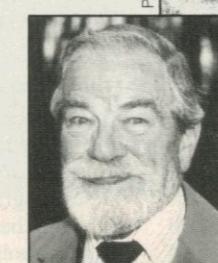
Maj Crispin Ingham and gunners from Mr Pemberton-Wood's old TA regiment in the Midlands before the war, now 59 Battery, Royal Artillery, at Pirbright, were present along with Parachute



The cross at Fox Corner

Regiment and Gurkha representatives, Gen Mike Steele, Chairman of the executive council of the Royal Artillery Association and both mayors of Guildford and Woking.

A drummer from the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment sounded The Last Post and Reveille and a piper of the Black Watch played a lament.



Welfare Officer Ken Pemberton-Wood

## SEARCHLINE

**AEC/RAEC history:** The curator of the RAEC Museum is trying to compile a dossier of personal accounts of serving and former members of the AEC/RAEC, with particular emphasis on operations. Memories of training, educational methods, Army lifestyle also gratefully received. Write to S J Anglim, Curator, The RAEC Museum, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Buckingham HP9 2RP.

**New WFR association, Staffs:** Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association newly formed in Rugeley, Staffs, meets second Thursday of every month. Contact secretary R Bailey, (RPWMC), Mansfield House, 10 Market Street, Rugeley (tel 01889 582808) for details.

**Plant Troop, 73 Sqn RE, Christmas Island, March 1961-March 1962:** George Snell (ex-Cpl, RAOC laundry) seeks copy of a squadron or group photograph taken at the time. Will meet expenses. Replies to 38 Randolph Street, Anfield, Liverpool L4 0SA.

**Battle School Training:** 80 Reserve Division, Balhol School, Sedbergh (now Cumbria), early 1942. If anyone has information of the training school and staff, please contact S Barrington, 6

Ramree Island 1945: Royal

Barford Close, Spaxton, Somerset TA5 1AE.

**Timothy Lawrence Outten Cassap:** ex-Sgt/Drum Maj 24159057, 1 R Hamps Corps of Drums, HQ Coy, last known Connaught Barracks, Dover. Please contact Hannah M Robins, 4 Daston Close, Broadway, Worcs WR12 7BN (tel 0386 853194).

**Sikh executions, Maler Kotla, 1872:** G S Aujalay, GPO Box 226, Rangoon, Burma seeks family or regimental details of an incident involving Deputy Commissioner Cowan, when 50 Man dhari Sikhs (Kookas) were executed on Jan 17, 1872 at Maler Kotla, Ludhiana District.

**VE Day BBC TV programme:** Producer seeks photographs taken on or near VE Day and the reminiscences of people in the photographs. Contact Jenny Abbott, Room GO28, Kensington House, Richmond Way, London W14.

**503 Field Company RE:** Ex-members wanted for proposed reunion. Contact L E Peasland MM, 35 Frobisher Way, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6EX (tel 0903 232728).

**Armagh and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) Association:** Scottish branches' annual dinner-dance will be held at Stakis Normandy Hotel, February 24. Former members and friends invited to contact J Gaughan, 49 Cartha Crescent, Paisley (tel 041-889 9120) or Lt Col J M Lauder (tel 041-884 8483) for details.

**REME Association (Scotland):** Dinner-dance in Scotland area, Feb 25. Details from WO1 (ASM) Sandy Wilson, ES Branch, Army HQ Scotland, Craigiehall, South Queensferry EH30 9TN (tel Edinburgh Mil 2689).

**The Queen's Regimental Association:** Annual reunion and AGM, March 4 at Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. Tickets (£8.50) from the Secretary, RHQ, PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (tel 0227 818054).

**RETIREMENTS**

**RHA Association, Trowbridge:** Reunion dinner, Civic Hall, Trowbridge, March 25 open to all past and present members of any Royal Horse Artillery unit. Membership not essential, ladies welcome. Details from Dinner Secretary, 44 King Street, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6HF (tel 01225 708223).

**2nd Bn Coldstream Guards (Aden 1964-65):** Reunion for those who served in Aden to be held in London on September 15. Details from Maj F P Horsfall, Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (tel 071 219 3213 or 081 882 6072).

**56 Signal Squadron (V) Eastbourne:** All ranks past and present, and wives, annual reunion dinner, October 14 (previously arranged for Oct 7). Details from WO1 (RSM) S Sculley or Mr Skeet on

Canadian Legion historian seeks details of events and units involved at Ramree Island, off coast of Burma, February 1945, when 1,000 Japanese soldiers trapped by British forces were decimated during the night by crocodiles. Replies to Wayne Padgett, 64 Weston Drive, Daly City, CA 94015, USA.

**Pte John Ivan Hyde:** Relatives of Pte Hyde, of D Coy, 4th Lincolns, who was killed in Holland on March 6, 1945, aged 18, are sought by Mrs Florence Britten, formerly Mcnee, whose husband,

## REUNIONS

J J Mcnee, died in the same incident. A plaque has been erected where they died and Mrs Britten, of 238 Gibson Lane, Kippax, Leeds LS25 7JL, would also like to hear from Pte W Evans, who was wounded at the time.

**Carinthia/Styria:** Reunion of liberating forces, army of occupation and those who "passed through", to be held in Carinthia, Austria, between May 3 and 12 1995. All families welcome. Details from John Lewindon, Market Square Chambers, Rochford, Essex SS4 1AL (tel 0702 547580).

01227 462769/761397.

**4 Coy Coldstream Guards 1950-55:** Third reunion dinner, Birmingham, April 8. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokey Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 0482 503649).

**F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7th Para RHA** will celebrate Akhl Medhel Day on April 28-29 in North Camp, Aldershot. Former members of "Yellow Dog" who wish to attend should contact WO2 Nobby Clarke, F Para Bty, 9 Para RHA, Lille Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2NQ.

**Polar Bears:** 143 Fd Regt RA reunion luncheon, May 27. Contact T Weller, 8 Seapoint Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1TH (tel 0843 861660).

**Combined Ex-Services Association of Bridlington:** 14th annual conference and reunion weekend, Bridlington, June 16-18. Tickets (£6.50) from Mags Whittlesea, 6 Springfield Avenue, Bridlington YO15 3AA.

**669 Squadron AAC:** Past members sought for reunion weekend at Wattisham Airfield, July 8-9. To include predecessor units **669 Sqn RAF, 1912 Light Liaison Flt, 12 Independent Flt, 131 Flt RASC and 131 Aviation Flt RCT.** Details from CoH Knowles, 669 Sqn, 4 Regt AAC, BFPO 41 (or c/o Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk IP7 7RA after January 20).

**2nd Bn Coldstream Guards (Aden 1964-65):** Reunion for those who served in Aden to be held in London on September 15. Details from Maj F P Horsfall, Staff Superintendent, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (tel 071 219 3213 or 081 882 6072).

**5 PWRR:** WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Past and Present reunion dinner, April 1. Open to all SNCOs (Regular, NRPS, TA) who have served with 4 Buffs, 5 Buffs, 5 Queens or 5 PWRR. Details from WO1 (RSM) S Sculley or Mr Skeet on

## MILITARIA

**Gordons' memorabilia:** Gordon Highlanders memorabilia sought to decorate function room used by local Gordons OCA. Contact J S Spindley, 30 Jennys Lane, Ravenstone, Coalville, Leics LE67 2AP.

**Akrit (April 6, 1943):** during which three VCs were won and many lives lost. Involved were 3rd County of London Yeomanry, 4th Indian Div, 51st Highland Div, 50th Northumbrian Div plus supporting units. Contact B S Barnes, 3 Mansfield Court, Newland Park, Hull, N Humberside HU5 2DF (tel 0482 46704).

## Fund of memories captured on video

WISELY, perhaps, the Army Benevolent Fund has opted for the minimum of voice-over, and has dispensed entirely with commentary, on its video of *The Drumhead Service of Thanksgiving*, a record of its 50th anniversary commemoration held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in June.

Instead, supplemented by captions to introduce key players, it lets the pageantry and music tell their own story of a unique occasion attended by the Queen Mother.

Every Standard, Guidon and Colour of the British Army was represented, and parties from those regiments and corps which do not have Colours were also there.

The Bands of the Coldstream and Scots Guards, the colourful entrance of the Military Knights of Windsor to a flourish of Elgar, and the main parade are inter-cut with shots of the guests.

Addresses by, among others, Sir Tasker Watkins VC, are captured for posterity, as is a poignant moment when the pensioners stand to attention as buglers from The Light Division play *The Last Post*.

The 25-minute video contains footage from the reception in Burton's Court, when Maj Michael Parker, producer of the event, a representative of one of the fund's homes, a young lieutenant from the AAC (whose Guidon was on display to the rest of the Army for the first time) and ABF Controller Maj Gen Mike Swindells, speak about the occasion.

Although perhaps edited a little fiercely in places, that is a minor quibble about a marvellous souvenir. After all, how many times in the next 50 years are no fewer than seven field marshals likely to be filmed at one fell swoop? — PW

**The Drumhead Service of Thanksgiving** 30th June 1994. Available from Malcolm Havergal, Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR or Chelsea Hospital shop, price £11.75. (Proceeds to ABF funds).

# Heroism in the hell that was Kohima

“THE hill-stations of the Raj were enchanted oases for plainsmen from the humid valleys of the sub-continent far below.

“From the sticky, terrible heat of the Punjab, Madras Presidency or Assam, cars and little railways carried sweating planters, officials and their families . . . up terraced slopes, winding around the hills of Simla, Ootacamund and Kohima.

“Under oak and conifer, in cool, almost English landscape, the English rode and walked over the pine needles in the woods and rides, played golf, billiards and tennis or danced in the club”.

It was at one of these “oases” in April 1944 that all hell broke out, a hell known as the Battle of Kohima, which is the subject of a recently-published book, *Not Ordinary Men*, by John Colvin.

Mountbatten said it was “probably one of the greatest battles in history . . . in effect the Battle of Burma”. It is, however, an action about which there is much ignorance – not entirely surprising when the Allied forces in Burma are constantly referred to as the Forgotten Army.

Even Maj Gen (later Fd Marshal) Slim underestimated the enemy.

The author contends that had Kohima been a few thousand miles to the west and not in the obscurity of North Burma, it might well have become a byword for heroism. It lasted through April, May and June of 1944 and, because of crucial events in Europe, attracted little media attention.

Gen Wavell believed the Japanese were militarily inca-



Kohima: trenches looking towards DC's bungalow. Kohima town and the beginning of Maya village on the right

pable. Alexander seems to have thought there were enough Allied troops available and even turned down Chiang Kai-shek's offer of Chinese troops at the end of 1941.

Even Maj Gen (later Fd Marshal) Slim underestimated the enemy.

Wingate's 3rd Indian Division – the Chindits – and his long-range penetration of occupied territory convinced Gen Mutaguchi, commander of the Japanese 15th Army, that if the British could handle the mountains and jungles of north Burma, so could he . . .

“For him full-scale invasion of India via Imphal now

became an obsession . . .”

The Japanese did not have it all their own way in Burma and were as vulnerable as anyone to the hazards of the jungle.

Their willingness to fight to the death is apparent from the casualty figures. Although 150,000 Japanese were killed, only 1,700 prisoners were captured, of whom 400 were not seriously ill or wounded. No one above the rank of major was taken prisoner.

The protracted battle for Kohima is described in detail which is often disturbing and always informative.

There were reprieves for the defenders. On April 17 they

were exhausted by nearly two weeks of hand-to-hand fighting and shelling, made worse by lack of sleep and water.

“Even the bravest began to fear. Supply Hill and Kuki Picket fell . . . had the enemy pressed home its attack that night, Kohima would probably have fallen.”

By June 3 1944 the Battle of Kohima was over. The hill station “oasis” had been relieved and the rout of 15th Japanese Army was on. A tribute to his commanding officer and chaplain comes from a private in the 4th Royal West Kents, who wrote: “Padre Randolph and Col Laverty saved India, the Padre through prayer for the strength for us all to hold on.”

This is a comprehensive history of the battle. It is also a reader-friendly book of short chapters, each describing a specific aspect of a campaign all to often neglected. — BJ

**Not Ordinary Men: The Battle of Kohima Re-assessed** by John Colvin, published by Leo Cooper Pen Sword Books, hardback £18.95.

**Hindenburg: An Illustrated History** by Rick Archbold with paintings by Ken Marschall. Tribute to the era of great airships. Weidenfeld and Nicolson / Madison Press, large-format hardback, £18.95.

**Saturday Night Soldier** by John Siminson. Memoirs of Second World War cavalryman. Janus Publishing Co, paperback, £5.99.

**NeeBee Safety Guide for Hill-walkers, Backpackers and**

**Mountaineers** by Chris Townsend. All profits to mountain rescue teams. NeeBee, Kettering, Northants, paperback booklet, £2.95.

**Christmas Truce: The Western Front, December 1914.** By Malcolm Brown and Shirley Seaton. Re-issued in revised and expanded form to coincide with 80th anniversary. Paperback £10.99.

THE CORPUS of literature recounting the sufferings of PoWs on the notorious “Railway of Death” in Thailand, 1942-45, must surely fill many a library shelf. Two were recently reviewed in *Soldier*, and now comes a third.

One might ask, is there anything fresh to tempt purchasers? Well, Jack Shuttle's *Destination Kwai* may not add greatly to our knowledge of those dark days, but it is worthy of adding to the shelves.

Soberly written, without any of the hyperbole so often encountered in such reminiscences, this is a book that will be avidly digested by survivors of the jungle camps even though it will revive memories best forgotten.

The author enlisted in 1939 as a private in a Territorial battalion of the East Surreys, then was drafted to the Regular 2nd Battalion in Shanghai. In 1940 the battalion was posted to Malaya and thus became involved in the humiliating campaign that led to the surrender of Singapore.

But Shuttle saw none of the fighting. Of superior education, he was initially detached on clerical duties in Penang where he endured the Japanese bombing until the garrison's hasty evacuation to Singapore.

After the surrender, he

# Good on yer, Jack

describes the ordeals of “the Selarang incident” when, refusing to sign a form of parole, 15,400 PoWs were incarcerated in the barracks built for 900 men. With no sanitary facilities (the Japs cut off the water), rations reduced to a bare minimum, deaths from dysentery began to mount.

To add insult, renegade Sikh guards patrolled the perimeter, many recognised by the former British officers.

To save further deaths the senior British commander reluctantly ordered the signing of the parole “under duress”. This affair was just a foretaste of the Japanese methods of treating their captives.

The meat of the book is of course the slavery on the River Kwai, where the prisoners were regarded as an expendable work force to build the jungle railway, no matter the cost in lives.

Here is much that is dreadfully familiar: the brutality of the Jap (and Korean) guards, unrelenting toil in searing sun or

monsoon downpour, the horrific death toll from disease and malnutrition.

Constantly afflicted with malaria, dysentery, beriberi, jungle ulcers, Jack Shuttle's indomitable spirit enabled him to survive and to write this account which should be read by others than his fellow ex-prisoners. It if reaches the eyes of any Australians who suffered with him, their response will surely be “Good on yer Jack”.

The book, at a remarkably modest price, is illustrated with 60-odd photographs culled from the Imperial War Museum and the Far East Prisoners of War Association. Many depict scenes in the jungle camps and one wonders how they came to be taken. It was a crime punishable by severe beating and confinement in the “No-good house” (a bamboo cage) to be found with a camera. — JMB

**Destination Kwai** by Jack Shuttle. Tucan Design & Print, Heighington, Lincoln. Softback, £4.50.

# Dragoon Guards' tribute

## Fame and Renown

Band of the Royal Dragoon Guards  
Conductor: Bandmaster R Pennington

A GLANCE at their programme makes obvious the strong Irish connection of this new regiment.

Formed from four regiments of Dragoon Guards, the Irish element comes from the 4th RIDG and the 6th Inniskilling DG, the others being the 5th DG and the 7th DG.

What more impressive opening than Handel's *Dettingen Fanfare*, written to celebrate the victorious battle.

The 5th RIDG slow march was from Bellini's opera *Norma*, and their quick march Gounod's *Soldiers' Chorus* with

*Sprig of Shillelagh*. The quick march of the 4th/7th DG was *St Patrick's Day*.

The slow march of the new regiment retains tunes from the 4th and 7th DG marches, while the quick march retains that of the 5th RIDG, *Fare Ye Well, Inniskilling*.

Killaloe is popular with the troopers so gets an airing here, with the pipe major joining in.

That virtually ends the direct regimental music, but plenty of associated tunes to come, with Clare Grundman's *Irish Rhapsody* a fair choice, as is *Yorkshire Relish*, a medley of popular Yorkshire songs: the 4th/7th was practically a Yorkshire regiment.

*Nessun Dorma* gets in for variety, as do *Les Misérables*, *One Moment in Time*, *I Know Him So Well*, *That's What*

*Friends are For*, and the *Post Horn Galop*.

The Pipe Major and Trooper Cochrane bring a breath of Scotland with *Highland Cathedral* but Ireland is soon back again with *Londonderry Air*.

I'm pleased the name Derry hasn't caught on, for *Derry Air* would sound distinctly anatomical to a Frenchman.

For obvious reasons the title *End of an Era*, a Beatles medley, is played a lot these days. I am sure it is played here as a small homage from the present to its past, those old regiments of dragoon guardsmen. A worthy tribute it is. — Rodney Bashford

**From Bandleader**, CD BNA 5110 £12, cassette £7, from Sound & Picture Co, P0 Box 177, Dorking, Surrey.

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Competition No 599 (November 14 issue): Congratulations to Capt D Pritchard, HQ Warwickshire and W Midlands ACF, Solihull, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Pte D Poxon, of Gosport, Hants, and Miss F MacDougall, of Runcorn, Cheshire.

# SOLDIER

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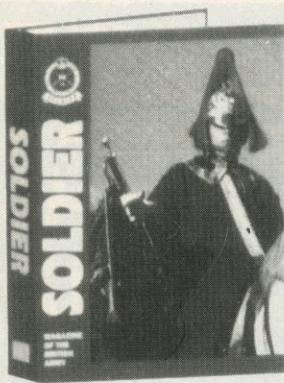
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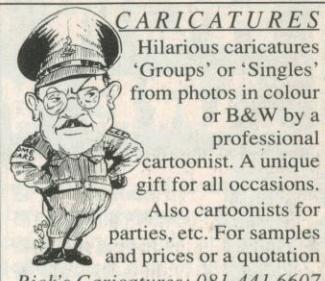
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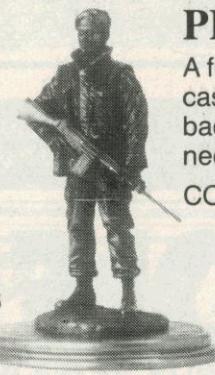


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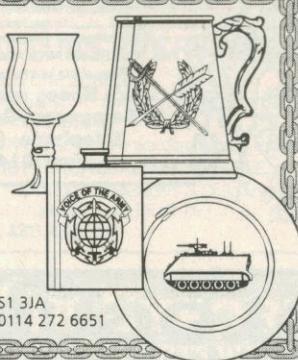
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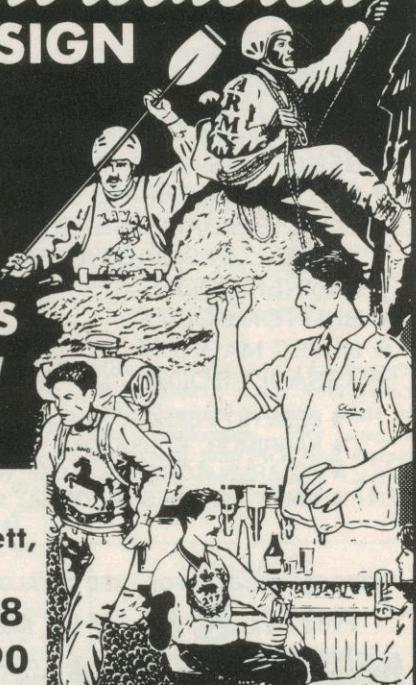
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01/95

**Bubbly female**, 34, young at heart. Loves to travel and has gsoh. Seeks like-minded male pen pals. Photo much appreciated. P161

01/95

**Patricia**, 37, 5'2", divorced. Slim with dark brown hair, blue eyes and quiet personality. Hobbies: football, travelling and music. Would like to hear from anyone aged 35-45. P162

01/95

**Lisa**, 23, 5'8", brown eyes, brunette. Clerical assistant and part-time student. Would like to write to unattached soldiers aged 20+. Serving at home or abroad. Photo appreciated but not essential. P163

01/95

**My name is Joe**. I would like to hear from anyone, anywhere. I'm 19, 5'11" and enjoy clubs and having a laugh. Please send photo if possible. P164

01/95

**Hi, I'm Sarah**, 26, single, slim, attractive. I enjoy travelling, most music, cinema, TV, letter writing, sports and having fun. I would love to hear from soldiers at home or abroad. ALA, photo appreciated. P165

01/95

**Jackie**, 32, 5'4", very attractive, brunette, hazel eyes, divorced mum of two. I have an outgoing personality and varied interests and enjoy life in general. Love to hear from you soon, photo appreciated. P166

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24-01

**Jeanette**, 5'2", blonde hair. Interests: genealogy, walking, reading, local history and the countryside. I'm easy going with gsoh and would like to hear from anyone aged 45-55. P151

01/95

**Hi, I'm Fran**. I'm 29, 5'10", Scottish and have fair hair. I enjoy nights in or out, drawing, music, holidays, animals and writing letters. I would like to hear from single, sincere guys. Photo appreciated. P152

01/95

**My name is Dawn**, I'm 45 and come from Edinburgh but live in London. I'm 5'10" with brown eyes and brown hair. I would like to hear from anyone, anywhere. P153

01/95

**Vicky**, 24, brunette, green eyes, 5'7". Would like to write to sincere, mature soldiers aged 25-35. Must have a good sense of humour. Photo appreciated, but not essential. P154

01/95

**Jo**, 25, redhead with green eyes, 5'4". I'd like to hear from serving or ex-soldiers who are mature and sincere and aged 25-35, must have a good sense of humour. Photo if possible, not essential. P155

01/95

**Sue**, 25, 5'6", long dark hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, comedy, cinema, theatre and pepperoni pizza. Will write to absolutely anyone. Go for it! P156

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First prize (20 goals, £2,000) Cpl K Blackburn, 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, BFPO 38.

Eight way tie for second prize (19 goals, £312.50 each) WO2 P J Blackhurst, Rheindahlen Sp Unit, BFPO 40; WO2 C A Coggins, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill; Sig P Eustace, 1 (UK) Armd Div, HQ & Signal Regt, BFPO 15; Pte P B Hughes, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30; Capt E W M, Hereford; Spt S C Robinson, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; SSgt A T Rogers, 1 RTR, Tidworth; Sgt M Tyler, 16 Flt AAC, BFPO 58.

DECEMBER 3, 1994

First prize (22 goals, £2,000) Cpl K M White,

HQ 19 Mech Bde, Catterick.

**Four way tie for second prize (21 goals, £550 each)** Capt A A Cameron, 2/51 Highland, Elgin; Cpl C A Johnson, 1 BW, Pirbright; SSgt N A McMillan, 1 BW Pirbright; LCpl P I Parsonage, BFPO 801.

**Six way tie for sixth prize (£50 each)** Capt D G Barrington, 1 WFR, Tidworth; Capt P A A Eastwood, 203 (W) Gen Hosp RAMC (V) Cardiff; SSgt T P Harwood, 243 Pro Coy RMP (V), Edinburgh; WO2 A K Maceacher, Scottish Tpt Regt (V), Dunfermline; Capt D A J Paterson, Army School of Catering, Aldershot; Sgt S M Thorndyke, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippenham.

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D3

## Sappers hold off REME's battling challenge

OLD adversaries met again in the final of the UK Inter-Corps badminton tournament at Prince Philip Barracks, Bordon when the sappers defeated the REME in a closely contested final.

An expected strong challenge from the RLC and AGC

did not materialise, leaving the finalists of the past four years to do battle once more.

Having been comprehensively thrashed by the REME last year, the jubilant Royal Engineers took the honours this time. The Royal Signals finished third, the AGC came

fourth and the RLC were fifth.

When the score was at 4-4 in the final, the outcome hinged on the RE second pairing of Sgt O'Hara and Cpl Bruce against the REME's Maj Noakes and LCpl Harrow.

The REME pair took the first game 15-8 with relative

ease but the sappers responded by winning the second 15-7 and looked to be running away with it.

Noakes and Harrow fought back superbly to 12-12 in the decider before going down 15-12 in a fitting climax to the match and the tournament.

## Bailey and Co running into form

THE Safeway international cross country meeting at Gateshead was once again an ideal development race for the Army, writes Terry Hall.

It is now an integral part of their build up to the Inter-Services championships.

Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) confirmed his international status with a superb third place in the M40 class. SSgt Jeff Baker (ACIO Peterborough) was also in the prizes in 15th.

The women also ran very well, with Potential Officer Nikki Hawkins (CMETS Beconsfield), from last year's TA team, making a fine debut.

SSgt Melanie Bradley (ATR Pirbright), back from injury, finished strongly to overhaul Sig Sharon Elder (238 Sqn) on the run in. They finished in the top 30 to earn joint second in the team event.

The men did superbly in the feature race to finish 5th, 6th 7th and 14th in the team event behind Kenya. There were encouraging runs from Cpl Steve Cairns (ATR Bassingbourn), LCpl Steve Thomas (160 AYT) and Sig Jim Richards (2 Sig Regt), and Cpl Craig McBurney (ITB Ouston), on the fringe of Army selection, also did well.

Team manager Capt Peter Marsh said: "The quality of our athletes' performances proved the value of getting together for training weekends. Team spirit was tremendous."

Sgt Stuart Rankin (28 Engr Regt) and LCpl Carl Dunne (1 R Anglian) were among the top British finishers in a shorter two-lap race.



Referee Maj Dudley Giles makes sure his instructions are heard by the front rows. Facing him is the 3 R Irish front row of WO2 (RQMS) Jack Harper, LCpl John Gibson and LCpl Stephen Clarke

## Welsh through in Ballymena final

1 RRW 13, 3 R Irish 11

THE 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Wales beat the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment 13-11 in the Northern Ireland final of the Major Units ARU Challenge Cup competition, earning themselves a quarter-final tie in the main competition against 2 Signal Regiment.

Team manager Capt Peter Marsh said: "The quality of our athletes' performances proved the value of getting together for training weekends. Team spirit was tremendous."

Sgt Stuart Rankin (28 Engr Regt) and LCpl Carl Dunne (1 R Anglian) were among the top British finishers in a shorter two-lap race.

no mistake with a penalty kick.

LCpl Billy Doherty levelled the scores 12 minutes later from a penalty in front of the visitors' posts, and hammered over a second from the Welsh 10m line.

An Irish try ten minutes from half-time gave the home side an 11-3 advantage at the break. The Irish were awarded a scrum 10m from the RRW line, drove the Welsh back and swung the ball out to LCpl Chris O'Connor who scored at goal.

Former British Lions scrum half Steve Smith presented the shields and trophies.

The Welshmen responded immediately after the restart, Pte Robert Hall crossing the Irish line after a 20m dash for the corner after a miss move in the centre. James added the conversion to narrow the deficit to a single point.

Cpl Steve Webb kicked a penalty to ease 1 RRW into a two-point lead which they held to the end despite two missed Irish kicks at goal.

Former British Lions scrum half Steve Smith presented the shields and trophies.



Picture: Mike Perring

Cpl Wendy Parker (Trg Regt and Depot RLC) and Cpl Ally Garven (Duchess of Kent Barracks) battle for possession in the women's six-a-side final at Aldershot. The RLC side won the competition, the third of six tournaments planned this season.

Cpl Ally Shields scored twice for the RLC and Garven replied for the Duchess of Kent Barracks.

It was the second time the two sides had met in the final. With two tournaments remaining the Trg Regt and Depot leads the table with 15 points to Duchess of Kent's 13, with Women's Services Northern Ireland third and 15 Regt RLC fourth.

Prizes were supplied by sponsors Mandrake Associates and presented by Brig Colin Groves.

## Goals galore

Army 5, TA 0

THIRTEEN goals in two games at Aldershot put the Army in complete control against the Territorial Army and the officers' club, the Crusaders, writes Derrick Bly.

High winds and an uneven Military Stadium playing surface did not prevent the Regulars from putting together some good, constructive football to pierce the TA rearguard five times at Aldershot.

Sgt Simeon Bambrook, Pte Lee Bradbury (PWRR) and Sgt Bob Corner gave the Terri-

ers' defence a torrid time, although 30 minutes had elapsed before Bradbury opened the scoring with his seventh goal of the season.

With the gale at their backs in the second half, the Army launched raid after raid on TA territory. Bradbury scored again and LSgt Paul Fagin added a third before Bambrook completed the job with two goals in the last four minutes.

Army 8, Crusaders 0

On a quagmire of a pitch at the Military Stadium, the

Army overwhelmed the Crusaders in their annual fixture against the officers who were sponsored for the first time by Northern Telecom.

Crusaders goalkeeper Capt Kevin Clarke made two superb saves in the opening minutes, but could do nothing to prevent Bradbury - twice - and Sig Joe Collins from scoring before the interval.

LCpl Lee Innes, Bradbury (for his hat-trick) and Corner (2) added to the officers' misery as the Army went on the rampage in the second half.

There were 21 entries for the men's U78kg, won by Sgt Chapple (3 RSME), with 1 RRF's Fus Gardner in the silver spot and SSgt Patey (SEE) and Fus Brown (1 RRF) sharing bronze.

Pte Sullivan (23 Pnr Regt) won an excellent U86kg final against Spr Bowler (22 Engr Regt). Fus Adams (1 RRF) and Spr Palmer (22 Engr Regt) were joint third.

CSgt Brown (1 RRF) beat the lighter, more aggressive Sgt McGregor (RMAS) in the O86kg final. Pte Conroy (1 WFR) and Pte Russell (1 PWRR) were third.

The Army individual intermediate (1st Kyu and below) championships are at ASPT Aldershot on January 21, followed by the open on February 18-19. Maj Nicholas (Bulford Military 2207) has the details.

## Late strike swings CS cup match

THE Army retained the Civil Service Cup on an uneven Chiswick pitch by virtue of a two-goal draw, writes Derrick Bly.

A threadbare Army football squad of 12 - reduced by injury and operational commitments - was further erod-

ed when LCpl David Hope damaged a knee in the 17th minute and had to be replaced.

The Civil Service took the lead in the 38th minute, an advantage which they just about deserved on the run of play.

Newly promoted Sgt Chris

Brown watched his long cross land on top of the Civil Service net early in the second half as the Army enjoyed the better of the exchanges.

Sgt Simeon Bambrook levelled the score in the 75th minute when he charged through unchallenged.

## Fusiliers refuse to fall

A RECORD entry of 20 teams in the Army novice judo championships failed to prevent the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from retaining the Falklands Trophy.

SSgt Mac MacDonald APTC has a thriving squad at 1 RRF, enabling the Catterick-based battalion to enter three three-man teams. His final selection was spot on, with the fusiliers' A team beating their B team in the final.

His A team saw off, among others, 9 Regt AAC, and 1 WFR, while the B trio beat 2 PWRR and 22 Engr Regt.

In the individual competition, LCpl Tymon of 1 RRF won the women's lightweight title against LCpl Morgan (19 Fd Amb). Cfn Tweedie (SEE) gained the bronze medal.

LCpl Pool (ATR Winchester) edged a close women's heavyweight final, defeating LCpl Horn (19 Fd Amb), with Pte Wagg (SEE) third.

WFR players dominated the U65kg men's category, Pte Porter striking gold, and Ptes Ford and McGeady the bronze medals. Bdr Cruwys (29 Cdo Regt RA) took the silver.

Pte Booth (2 Para) beat Fus Nicklin (1 RRF) in the final of the U71kg, Cpl Brown (3 RSME) and Spr Redding (22 Engr Regt) sharing third place.

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Army senior coach RSM Tom O'Connor (left) with his squad outside the Military Boxing Centre in Aldershot

## RLC in control

THE RLC won the second Army women's Inter-Corps hockey championships on the Astro pitch at Aldershot, beating a gallant Royal Signals side 3-0 in the final.

Ten teams, including a joint REME-AAC squad, competed in two qualifying pools, from which AGC A moved easily into the semi-finals following comfortable wins over the Int Corps, REME-AAC, Army Medical Services and RLC B.

The other draw was closer, a much improved Royal Signals finishing ahead of RLC A.

AGC A and RLC A, last year's finalists, met in one semi-final, with the AGC exerting early pressure through Cpl Terry Bennett and Capt Lucy Finney. But the RLC defence stood firm and was supported by good goalkeeping from Pte Naomi Burden.

LCpl Claire Whitney scored a fine individual goal to put the RLC through.

A single goal from the Signals against AMS earned them their place in the final.

Sgt Karen Lincoln (88 PC Sqn) opened the scoring in the decider with a solo effort before LCpl Hazel Hunt (27 Tpt Regt RLC) and Whitney (21 Tpt Sqn) made it 3-0.

Although the signallers battled away and 2nd Lt Ruth Pilkington went close on several occasions, the RLC were worthy winners.

# Army beat the pride of London

AN emerging squad of Army boxers began their representative programme with an encouraging 6-4 win over a London ABA select team at Stoke-on-Trent.

New coach RSM Tom O'Connor (1 Kings) has had 25 men in training at Aldershot and was reducing his squad to 20 by the Christmas break.

There were several encouraging performances in Hanley's Victoria Hall at Stoke, with newcomer Pte

Kevin Bennett (7 Regt RLC) setting the standard when he unanimously outpointed international Craig Stanley in a light welterweight match.

Coach O'Connor was impressed by Bennett's skill, strength, timing and mobility.

England's Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) saw off the hard-hitting Spenser Fearon.

Gdsm Kevin Short (WG) beat Peter Mills of England and Gdsm Jason Thomas (WG) scored a majority decision against Young England

contender Graham Robinson.

With former Army coach Sgt Norman Phillips (PWRR) now on a resettlement course, O'Connor has taken over full coaching responsibilities. He is quietly pleased with the way the squad has worked in the pre-Christmas period and is looking forward to his first Inter-Services clash, against the Royal Navy in their HMS Nelson stronghold at Portsmouth on February 2.

The Army host the RAF at Aldershot on February 16.

## IN BRIEF

ALDERSHOT is to host the annual Army Cadet Force seven-a-side rugby championships on April 22, with teams from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland due to take part.

The event has been boosted by sponsorship from Healey and Baker, City-based international real estate consultants.

Entries for the 1995 Army half marathon, to be run in conjunction with the Fleet event on March 19, have to be with the Fleet Half Marathon Office, PO Box 1, Fleet GU13 9JU by February 25.

A mini team competition is to be introduced at the Army athletic championships at Aldershot on June 7 to encourage more competitors to take part in the individual events.



Goal-scorer LCpl Claire Whitney (21 Tpt Sqn RLC) moves past Cpl Sue Neate (R Sigs) in the final. At the back is Sgt Taff Jones (RLC)

Picture: Mike Weston

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A projectile flashes down Bindon Range at Bovington as Challenger 2's 120mm gun lights up the darkened sky. The image, captured during a spectacular live night firing put on by the Armoured Trials and Development Unit for a foreign military delegation, was captured by Southern District photographer Chris Fletcher



**SOLDIER**