

JULY 10
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SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
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INSIDE

● Rapier's German swansong

● Rhine show in colour

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Vol 51/14

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FRONT COVER: Men of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards march with precision as they troop their Colour in the presence of the Queen on Horseguards Parade. Inset shows the Colour being trooped past the Queen by 2nd Lt Iain Lindsay-German and the escort (Pictures: Mike Weston)

● **HONOURS:** Full list of military recipients of Queen's Birthday Honours. – *Page 12.*

● **NEW BADGES:** Announcing a colour series on the new cap badges. – *Page 14-15.*

● **TRACKED RAPIER:** As 16 Regiment RA prepares to return to the UK, its potent air defence system is exercised for the final time in Germany. – *Pages 23-25.*

● **RHINE SHOW:** Colour coverage of the Rhine Army Summer Show. – *Centre pages.*

● **ANNE ARMSTRONG:** Tributes paid to our campaigning columnist at Tidworth and Bulford. – *Pages 30-31.*

● **SOLDIER-MUM:** A woman deployed in Bosnia responds to the debate on women soldiers with young children. – *Pages 32-33.*



Picture: Mike Weston

Pte Willy Woolman (left) and Pte Scotty Scott exercising on Salisbury Plain as soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment prepare for a possible deployment to Bosnia. The battalion is part of 24 Airmobile Brigade, which the British Government has made available to the United Nations

Force Alpha in the field

WITH THE arrival in theatre of the remainder of the armoured engineer assets provided by 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, the United Nations Commander in Bosnia's in-theatre reserve, Task Force Alpha, is now complete.

The whole Force has deployed into the field at the southern end of the Route Triangle main supply route near Tomislavgrad for an indefinite period. Its different elements are training together for any task they might be given by the commander of the United Nations' Bosnia-Herzegovina Command, Lt Gen Rupert Smith.

Task Force Alpha includes the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, equipped

with Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, two batteries of 105mm light guns from 19 Regiment Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers' Chieftain bridgelayers and armoured assault vehicles.

Elsewhere in the region, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers have nearly 300 men stationed in the UN safe haven of Gorazde. The battalion's D Company is based at Bugojno, while the Echelon is at Kiseljak where it is responsible for the preparation and dispatch of all convoys moving personnel or equipment to Gorazde or Sarajevo.

The British Logistic Battalion working from the Dama warehouse in the Croatian port of Split

● **Turn to Page 5**

24 AB Bde recce party in Bosnia

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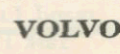
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Hangar's royal opening

Escorted by Maj Gen Philip Corp, Director General Equipment Support (Army), and Lt Col Alistair McPherson, commanding officer of 7 Battalion REME, the Duke of Edinburgh talks to Maj Marcus Ransom during a parade to mark the formal opening of Hangar 700 at Wattisham Station.

The £10.7 million building complex will provide a self-contained test, repair and maintenance facility for Army helicopters, including the new attack helicopter when it is procured. It will also house more



than 500 soldiers and civilians working with 7 Battalion REME and 132 Aviation Supply Unit, Royal Logistic Corps.

Up to 12 helicopters can be

accommodated in the main hangar at a time, and the complex also provides storage space, offices and helicopter landing facilities.

QMG sees ATR Pirbright at work



Picture: Mike Weston

The Quartermaster General, Lt Gen the Hon Sir William Rous, meets recruits of Buckley Troop, 97 (Duchess of Kent) Sqn RLC on the electronic target range at Army Training Regiment Pirbright. Troop commander Lt Kevin Dodgson is on the left. The Quartermaster General was briefed by

Brig Colin Groves, Commandant Initial Training Group, and Lt Col Nigel Cooke RA, commanding officer ATR Pirbright. He watched the Guards Company giving an NBC demonstration and heard about remedial training during a visit to Browning Platoon, the remedial unit.

Tankie led Plain crash rescue bid

CPL Jonathan Staley, 1 RTR, who led the attempt to save two badly burned casualties following a Land Rover accident on Salisbury Plain, has received a commendation from Commander-in-Chief Land.

Cpl Staley, a regimental policeman, took prompt action to secure the site of a potentially very dangerous situation and then tried to resuscitate one of the victims who had stopped breathing.

The burning vehicle was full of pyrotechnics.

Two Oxford University officer cadets died as a result of their injuries.

COMING SOON ... your chance to win a Mazda MX5 for a weekend - plus two nights' accommodation for two people in a prestigious hotel at a location of your choice. Details in the next issue - July 24. Order your copy now.

Airmobile recce party flies to Bosnia

● From Page 3

has increased in strength to 900 personnel following the arrival of reinforcements. The Equipment Support Company remains at the Koncar Factory in the town.

The Royal Engineers headquarters remains at Split with forward elements and other elements under the UN at Gornji Vakuf (1 Fd Sqn), Tomislavgrad (7 Fd Sqn) and Vitez from where 4 Fd Sqn operates.

Headquarters British Forces

is based at Divulje Barracks, Split and has been joined by the Combat Service Support Group (CSSG), which has deployed from the UK.

The British Cavalry Battalion (BRITCAVBAT) now covers a greatly enlarged area of responsibility, from Jelah to Gornji Vakuf.

Army public information officers in the region have been kept busy organising media facilities for an increasing number of media representatives covering events.

The last 22 1 RWF hostages released by the Bosnian Serbs were reunited with relatives at RAF Brize Norton. The soldiers were due to take 14 days' leave before rejoining their battalion.

Proceeding in the opposite direction was a 100-strong recce party from 24 Airmobile Brigade which is visiting Bosnia to plan the logistics of moving the 5,500-strong brigade if it is deployed to the region.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment

and the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry have been using Salisbury Plain training areas to exercise in a variety of scenarios they could face if the United Nations takes up the British Government offer to deploy the 5,500-strong Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade to former Yugoslavia.

They worked on negotiation skills, carried out checkpoint drills, completed a major field-firing exercise and practised fighting in built-up area tactics at Copehill Down FIBUA.

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Clegg case treated 'on its merits'

NORTHERN Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew told MPs that the case of Pte Lee Clegg, the Para jailed for life for the murder of a female joyrider in Belfast, was being treated solely on its merits.

Sir Patrick told the Commons on June 12: "There is no question of any linkage between the case of Pte Clegg and any consideration of possible changes to remission rates or other regime changes for prisoners in Northern Ireland or anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

"Those are matters solely for the British Government to decide. The Life Sentence Review Board met to consider Pte Clegg's case, along with several others, on June 6. I am considering its recommendations and I shall consult the Lord Chief Justice and the trial judge as necessary.

"That is a standard procedure, quasi-judicial in character, which is followed in all life sentence cases.

"As the law requires, Pte

Clegg's case will be treated in accordance with that established practice, solely on its merits.

"There is no question of one law for the security forces and another for the rest, as Pte Clegg's prosecution and conviction plainly demonstrated."

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said in a written answer on June 15 that the MoD would not restrict compensation claims arising from last year's Chinook helicopter crash to an upper limit of £100,000.

The crash, on the Mull of Kintyre on June 6, 1994, claimed 29 lives, including those of nine British Army officers and ten members of the RUC.

Referring to the findings of an inquiry, he said: "On all the evidence it was concluded that the



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

cause of the accident was that the two pilots had wrongly continued to fly towards the Mull of Kintyre below a safe altitude in unsuitable weather conditions. This constituted a failure in their duty and regrettably, therefore, it was concluded that both pilots had been negligent."

A progress report on the setting-up, at a cost of about £12 million, of a permanent joint military headquarters at Northwood was given in a written answer by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

Role of JHQ will be to draw together contingency planning, co-ordinate operational activities, training and exercises, and act as a focus for joint doctrine.

There are expected to be about 330 permanent staff, including

watchkeepers to allow the HQ to function round the clock. Running costs, including manpower and estimated at £15 million a year, are expected to be offset by savings elsewhere.

No overall excess of mortality or incidence of cancer was found by official studies of statistics concerning veterans who took part in the nuclear test codenamed Grapple Y, the Armed Forces Minister said in a written reply.

He said personnel present at the test (on Christmas Island in April 1958) were among more than 20,000 British nuclear test veterans for whom mortality statistics were collated by the National Radiological Protection Board.

A total of 152 Service personnel were killed while training or on non-combat duties in 1994, compared with 169 the previous year. Highest figure for the past ten years was 255 in 1989.

2 LI team take on Swiss march

SEVEN members of 2 LI took part in the Berne march in Switzerland, completing a 50-mile timed march over two days. They had to contend with steep gradients and a snowstorm.

Another 16 members of 2 LI's Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Allenbrooke Barracks took part in a gruelling triathlon to raise money for the Johannestift children's home in Paderborn.

WO2 (RQMS) Barney Barnes completed the 1.25-mile swim, 55-mile bicycle ride and 13-mile run in 4 hr 30 min.

Thirty soldiers from C Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry visited the German Army's Infantry School at Hammelburg to mark the creation of a partnership between British and German infantrymen.

The 2 LI party formed a guard of honour for the parade which was attended by the Director of Infantry, Maj Gen Ray Pett.

Three out of four for Welsh craftsmen



Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Workshops team show off their trophies at the end of Exercise Western Approaches, the annual field training exercise for REME units based in the West Midlands, Wales and the North West. It was the third time in four years that the main trophy has

been won by the R Mon RE(M) Workshop REME (V) from Newport, Gwent. Pictured are SSgt Colin Pretlove, Sgts Jerry Adams, Keith Edwards and Mark Ravetta, Cpls Dave Martinson and Paul Saunders, LCpl Steve Rogers and Cfn Dean Williams, Christian Fortey and Apollo Rai.

IN BRIEF

TOP teams at the Wales Skill-at-Arms meeting at Sennybridge, 160 (Wales) Brigade's premier shooting event, were the Royal Monmouthshire

Royal Engineers (Militia) who won the TA trophy and the Gurkhas from the Infantry Training Centre Wales, Brecon, who won the overall trophy.

● Winning team at the 42 (North West) Brigade Skill-at-Arms meeting held at Altcar Camp was 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.



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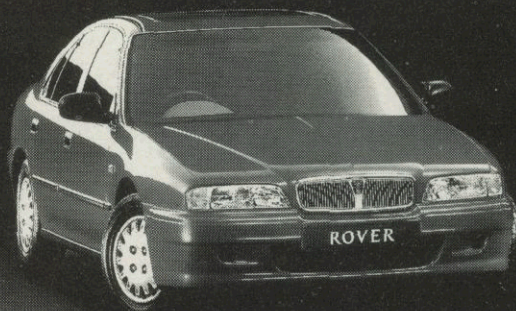
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Police join the EOD class at Catterick

A CATTERICK-based Royal Logistic Corps bomb disposal team has been making a lot of noise on the local training area – in the name of safety.

Exercise Saton Force, run by 521 EOD Squadron of 11 EOD Regiment RLC, assessed bomb disposal operators from the Royal Navy, RLC, Royal Engineers and RAF, licensing them to deal with improvised explosive devices (IED).

Police used it as a training exercise in dealing with explosive-related incidents.

The effects of a range of devices, fuses and explosives were demonstrated on a remote part of the Catterick training area.

A life-size dummy was torn to ribbons by a letter bomb, a chair burst into flames from an incendiary device and large parts of a car were blown into the air.

About 1,000 people took part in Saton Force, along with police officers from 22 forces and constabularies.

Elements of 11 EOD Regiment are located throughout Britain and provide 75 per cent of the bomb disposal teams. The remaining 25 per cent is provided by the Royal Navy, Royal Engineers and the Royal Air Force.

New home for 1 Para

A NEW £24 million barracks has been formally opened by Lt Gen Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, GOC 4th Division, for the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot.

He presented the keys of Normandy Barracks to Lt Col Godfrey McFall, CO 1 Para.

The complex has been named Normandy Barracks after 1 Para's present home on Montgomery Lines in Aldershot. Four hundred and eighty soldiers were moving in during June, with 23 Parachute Field Ambulance due to take over the old Normandy Barracks in September.

London Jocks' 60-year royal link



Picture: Mike Jones

The Pipes and Drums of the London Scottish march proudly past the Queen Mother at Clarence House to celebrate the 60 years she has been their Regimental Colonel.

On parade were two of her personal pipers, Pipe Major Ian King and his predecessor, Pipe Major John Spoor, with 100 serving members of A Com-

pany, The London Regiment, and the Army Cadet Force. During a reception the Queen Mother presented the Territorial Decoration to Maj Mark Ludlow and the Territorial Efficiency Medal to Sgt Carl Fairman before the London Jocks marched along the Mall and past Buckingham Palace back to their Horseferry Road drill hall for a VE celebration.

Lines open at Dering

Maj Gen Ray Pett, Director of Infantry, plants a tree to mark the official opening of the Infantry Training Centre Wales – formerly the NCOs' Tactical Wing, School of Infantry, at Dering Lines, Brecon.

About £20.5 million has been spent on the modernisation and redevelopment of the camp since 1988.

Up to 2,800 students now pass through Dering Lines each year, 1,000 more than in 1993. Nineteen different courses are run at ITC Wales by a permanent military staff of 300, with the emphasis on tactics and skill-at-arms training for Regular and Territorial Army soldiers.



Gurkhas at the Curragh

A TEAM from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles was outgunned in the Irish Defence Forces' falling plates shooting competition at the Curragh – a major military camp and training area in the Republic of Ireland.

The Gurkhas' involvement in the international event, which was won by Limerick-based 12th Infantry Battalion, was the first by British troops at the Curragh since the Irish Republic's independence.

World's 'most professional soldiers'

"AMERICANS were right to be proud of their rescued pilot but we have even more right to be proud of our troops: they have shown once again that they are the most professional soldiers in the world. It's time we said that more often – and more loudly." – Andrew Neil, *Daily Mail*

□ Plans to withdraw United Nations troops from Bosnia have been stepped up by NATO following the threat of all-out war in the region. – *Mail on Sunday*

□ A no-confidence motion filed by Japan's largest opposition party after the government forced a luke-warm war apology resolution through parliament was defeated. The Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, representing 13,000 British veterans,



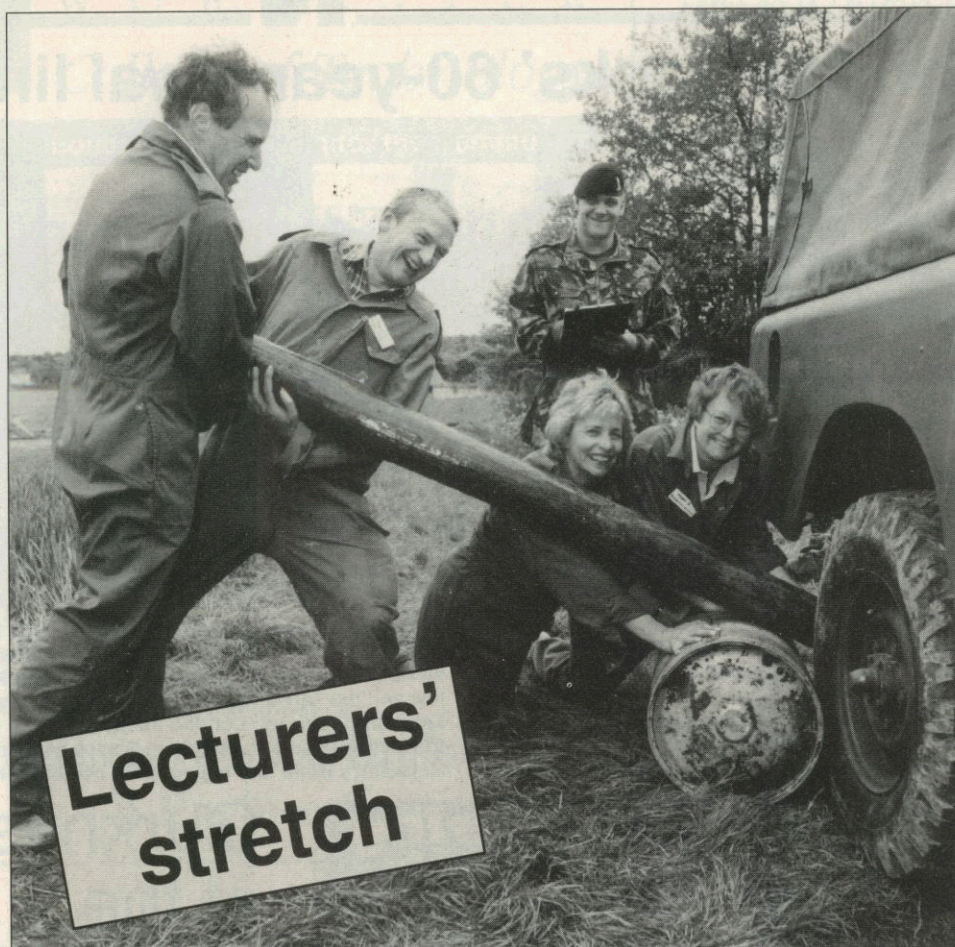
received Prime Minister John Major's backing in their fight for compensation and an apology from Japan. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ A confidential report by the Commission for Racial Equality claims the Household Cavalry excluded applicants from ethnic minorities seeking to transfer from

other regiments. But the CRE welcomed "lots of positive moves" in recent months. – *Sunday Times*

□ The German Cabinet is expected to agree to contribute soldiers and fighter aircraft to the UN operation in Bosnia. The move, opposed by at least half the people of Germany, would mark a five-year transformation of the Bundeswehr national defence organisation into an international fighting force. – *Observer*

□ Capt Jim Wang, the only man charged after two USAF F15C fighters shot down a pair of Black Hawk helicopters over northern Iraq last year, was cleared of all charges by a court martial. Two British officers were among the 26 passengers killed in the "friendly fire" disaster. – *Times*



Lecturers' stretch

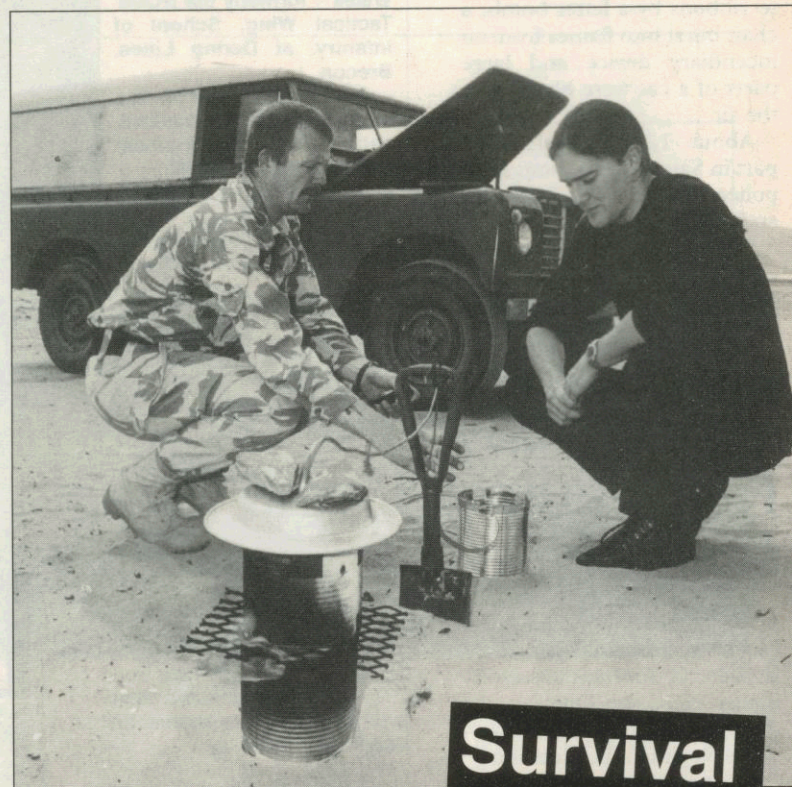
Doing the testing for a change is 2nd Lt **David Goodacre**, a third year mechanical engineering student at the University of the West of England. During Bristol University OTC's Exercise Executive Stretch, 24 lecturers from three local universities, including (left to right) Dr **Robert Mussel**, **Brian Jenkins** and **Kerstin Mussel** of Bristol University and Dr **Barbara Hutton** of Bath University, took part in leadership and team working exercises under the eyes of the student instructors they usually see on the other side of their lecterns.

Corporal's century

Taking centre stage at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln, is **Fred Ingall** MM, a former corporal with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. Uniformed colleagues, bandsmen and past and present regimental members were paying tribute to him on his 100th birthday.

Fred, who was awarded the Military Medal for his part in the capture of a German machine-gun post at Passchendaele, spent three Christmases on the Belgian battle front in the first World War.

He frequently gives talks to schools in central Lincolnshire about his experiences.



Showing County Down student **Garth Millar** how to make drinkable water from body fluids on the beach at Ballykinler is Gulf War veteran CSgt **Mark "Smeggers" Smith** of the locally-based 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment.

Garth, studying maths at Queen's University, Belfast, is the only person from Northern Ireland to be invited on

Survival secrets

a 4,000 mile trek, backed by the Royal Geographical Society, across the Sahara, in temperatures of up to 120 degrees. Soldiers from the regiment have been teaching him survival techniques.

Hello, grand-dad

Making a nostalgic return to his birthplace during a stint as safety officer on Onion Range in the Falkland Islands was TA Cpl **Stephen Ford**, A (WFR) Coy, 5 LI. Stephen, from Worcester, moved from the islands when he was nine, but, with his commanding officer's blessing, was able to make the hour-long trip to Stanley to visit his grandparents. He is pictured with his grandfather, **William Pool**.



Taylor made for Trust

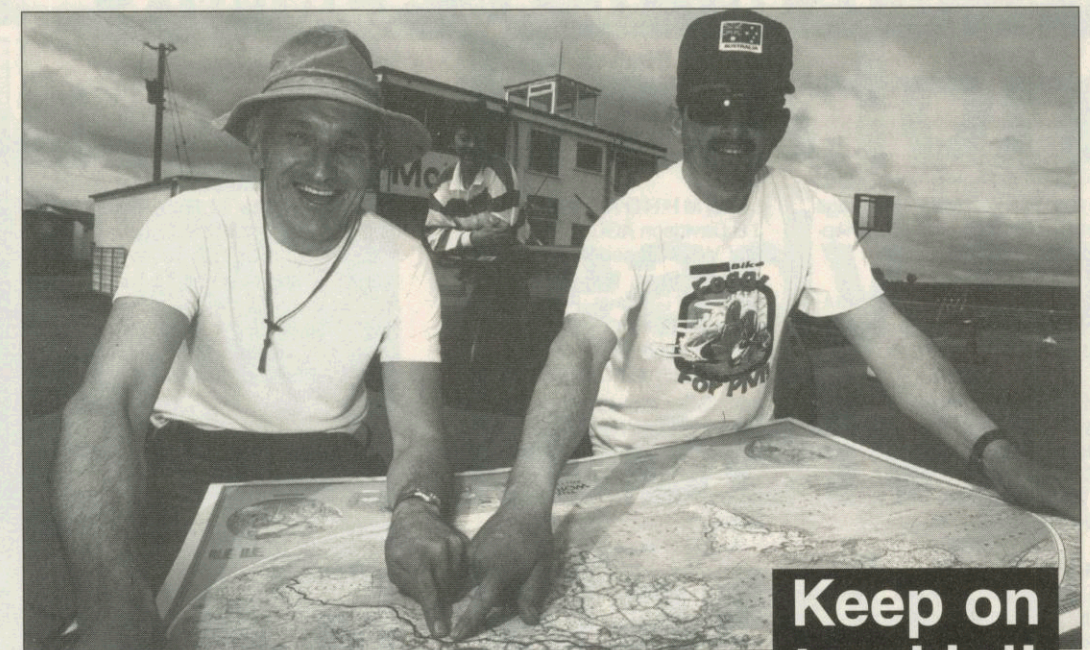
Cpls **George** and **Julie Taylor**, both signallers with the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, were among the men and women from the battalion who helped the National Trust celebrate its centenary on Lake Derwentwater, Cumbria. Soldiers from A Coy, based in Carlisle, provided radio communications for the celebration, and helped recreate events which took place at the Derwentwater regattas 200 years ago. The couple met during a TA exercise at Catterick when George dived into a trench occupied by Julie!



Eighty soldiers serving on the Long Service List gathered at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess in Aldershot to bid farewell to Lt Col **Peter Holmes**, (left) the last independent Oic of the Central Manning Support Office (CMSO) in Exeter. The office has now been subsumed into the Combined Manning and Record Office, to pave the way for the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. Thirty-three regiments and corps

Well served!

were represented, and a total of more than 2,300 years were achieved at Peter's dining-out, which was organised by WO1 **Geoffrey Wright**, Staff Assistant in the Exeter CMSO. Peter, "commanding officer" to 620 Long Service personnel serving worldwide, and who himself notched up more than 37 years' Army service, will now concentrate on the private school which he and his wife run at Bulford.



Keep on trackin'!

Driving almost 11,000 miles, but travelling no further than the Kirkiston race track in Newtownards, County Down, was this threesome from B Coy, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. Capt **David Ramsey** (left), Pte **Emily Maguire** and Cpl **William Forsythe** were taking a breather from driving sponsored cars to complete the 10,800 mile distance to Australia – in reality a repetitive journey round the short-circuit course. They are raising money for the Northern Ireland Down's Syndrome Association.

PEOPLE



Disabled Tpr **Terry Ahrens** of A Sqn, The Queen's Royal Lancers, pictured in action at Beistolen, Norway, has qualified for a place in the British paraplegic biathlon team. Employed in the SQMS's stores, Terry, who only has one arm, was included after he successfully skied in the national championships. He has just returned to the QRL's Osnabrück base after a stint with UNFICYP in Cyprus.

Queen's Birthday Honours

KCB

Lt Gen M J D Walker CBE, late R Anglian.

CB

Maj Gen S C Grant, late RE; Maj Gen F B Mayes, late RAMC; Maj Gen R A Pett MBE, late Kings Own Border; Maj Gen P J Sheppard, CBE, late RE.

CBE

Brig J W M Kincaid, late RA; Col M C H Manners-Smith, late RGJ; Brig R C Walker, late RA.

OBE

Lt Col M E Bradley, Green Howards; Lt Col M G Coulson TD R Mon RE(M); Lt Col P J T Maggs RLC; Lt Col T F L Weeks LI; Col A J G Wight, MBE MC, WG; Lt Col J D Woolmore BEM, Int Corps.

MBE

Maj H D Allfrey, Scots DG; Maj B B Archer RA; Maj P A J Arsenault, Canadian Military Engineers; Sgt I L D Bailey, R Signals (disch); Maj G T Baldwin QDG; Maj N A C Baverstock RGJ; WO2 D J Bell APTC; LCpl A-M Bevan RLC; Maj B K Billsberry, R Sig-

nals; Maj R A Boddy RA; Sgt D A Bridge RA; WO1 G J Bright, CAMUS; WO2 E Brown, Kings; Lt Col R I Buckley, R Signals; Cpl V Clydesdale, R Irish; Sgt A Craig RLC.

Maj M H R D'Apice QLR; Sgt R J B Davidson AGC (SPS) (disch); Maj W G Fraser RLC; Maj P M Gibson, Para; Maj J Gillison, R Irish; Maj G Guest, Para; Cpl C A Harvey RE; WO1 S H Henning REME; WO2 A G Hesketh, Int Corps; Maj A P Hudson, R Signals; CSgt N J James LI; SSgt M P John RLC; WO2 S C Johnston, R Signals; Capt Lam Ping Wai RHKR; Maj C M Lavender RGBW; SSgt S Leaver KRH; Maj (QGO) K Limbu MVO, RGR.

Maj P J Macey RRF; Cpl A J Matthews, AGC (PRO) (disch); Sgt M Maxted RLC; Maj D J McCaig PWRR; Capt D McCrum, R Anglian; Maj C A McGrath IG; WO2 J G Napolitano RLC; Maj R D Newton ACF TA; Maj S C Newton DWR; WO1 C M Nicholson, AGC (SPS); WO2 E F

O'Connor, R Signals TA; Sgt W O'Donnell RLC; Capt J Parker RAMC TA; LCpl M T Plumb, R Signals; Maj M A Poffle REME; Lt Col R F Robinson RLC.

Lt Col A Schumacher, Kings Own Border; Maj M R G Stockdale, R Signals; WO2 N J Sullivan AGC (SPS); LCpl K A Touhey, R Signals (disch); WO2 A M Tustin RE; Lt Col J M Umbers, Staffords; WO1 R J Underhill, R Signals; Maj M A F Vincent RA; WO1 S A Walsh, Hldrs; Maj R G Woodfield ACF TA.

RRC

Col J M Arigho ARRC, late QARANC.

ARRC

Capt A A Jolly QARANC; Capt N O Jones QARANC; Sgt L Thompson QARANC.

Recommended by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

MBE

Maj Keung Pak-chung, RHKR (V); SSgt Ng Yuk-chiu, RHKR (V).

Shenkin earns his first stripe



Pte Gwilym Jenkins receives his promotion to lance corporal from Lt Col Martin Davies, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. On hand to sew the new stripes on to Pte Jenkins's coat is Goat Major David Joseph.

Shenkin, as he is popularly known, is a Kashmir Royal Windsor white goat, hand-picked from the royal herd at Whipsnade Zoo.

Lt Col Davies said Shenkin had received accelerated promotion "for sterling work that he has done over the past 12 months. Like any soldier he

has to be up to the standard demanded by the rank."

Shenkin joined up in October 1993 and in the past 12 months alone has done well over 100 parades and personal appearances, including two royal occasions.

He has become something of a local celebrity in South Wales, and is being invited to an ever increasing number of public events. His role has been marked by Brains, the brewers, who have named a Cardiff pub, The Goat Major, in his honour.

Rebuild marks Catterick's emergence as the Army's biggest garrison



Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, GOC 2 Div, and Mr Jan Holleman, chairman of Ballast Nedam Construction Ltd, unveil the plaque marking the formal opening of Megiddo Lines

Oldest known battle gives name to home fit for Challenger 2

CATTERICK Garrison's Megiddo Lines, named after the first recorded battle in history, is now home to the very latest in military hardware.

It is the site of a £12 million project to provide garaging, maintenance and a tank drivers' training area for a regiment equipped with Challenger 2 main battle tanks.

First occupants are The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who are due to move to Fallingbowl, Germany in late August in a swap with The Queen's Royal Hussars.

Megiddo Lines will house 50 tanks for the cavalry regiment of 19th Mechanised Brigade based at Catterick.

It will also boast the most modern workshops in the British Army, staffed by 15 Field Workshop, 6th Battalion REME, which will be responsible for more serious repairs and overhauls of the



Challenger 2 dwarfed by the cavernous new facilities at Megiddo Line

Challengers. The regiment's own light REME aid detachment (LAD) has its own workshops to carry out routine servicing and minor tasks.

Towards the rear of the site a 7,500 square metre area of land has been set aside for tank driver training. Another fea-

ture is an indoor firing range utilising fixed weapons which fire into a long pipe.

GOC 2nd Division, Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, cut the tape at a formal opening ceremony on May 9.

● Megiddo, in ancient Israel, was the site of a battle in 1469 BC.

Bourlon ready to receive Warrior

THE NEWLY-designed and rebuilt Bourlon Barracks were opened on June 1 by the Director of Infantry, Maj Gen Ray Pett.

The £12 million project took 15 months to complete, converting the former home of an airmobile brigade regiment to its new role as the base for a mechanized infantry battalion

equipped with Warrior armoured fighting vehicles.

More than 20 new buildings have risen on the site off Plumer Road and three major refurbishments - of the officers' mess, the junior ranks' accommodation and the Naafi - have now been completed.

"The airmobile brigade regiment needed a lighter scale of building, so adapting the barracks for an armoured infantry brigade regiment required a complete re-think in organising the barracks," said Maj Charles Smethurst of the Army's Catterick-based works team overseeing the project.

Most of the demolitions involved removing buildings constructed during the 1960s, while many erected in the 1930s have been retained.

"It is often cheaper to build new rather than rebuild," said Maj Smethurst. "Some things had to be moved simply because they were in the wrong place. The build has

brought a sharp improvement in the working and living areas."

First tenants of the new barracks are soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, which recently completed a 30-month tour of Northern Ireland based at Londonderry.

Commanded by Lt Col

The village of Bourlon and nearby Bourlon Woods in France were the site of savage fighting during the First World War battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917.

The British Tank Corps led a surprise assault on the trenches south of Cambrai, ripping through enemy barbed wire to make a path for the infantry.

The Germans counter-attacked in force, and after a week of hanging on grimly around the area of Bourlon Woods, the British fell back.

Tony Schumacher, the battalion is now being retrained in a variety of new trades, including driving and maintaining tracked vehicles.

"We are looking forward to the new challenge of converting to our new role as armoured infantry," said Lt Col Schumacher.

"Being equipped with Warrior puts us at the forefront of the British Army's high-intensity war-fighting capability."

The project, by Shepherd Construction of York, is part of a £73 million programme of works which will make Catterick the biggest British Army garrison in the world.

The works team is also overseeing projects at Ripon, Topcliffe and Dishforth in North Yorkshire and at Harlow Hill in Northumberland, bringing spending under its control to about £113 million.

Gen Pett inspected a guard and met key members of the project team before unveiling a plaque to mark the opening.



The Life Guards



The Blues and Royals
(Royal Horse Guards and
1st Dragoons)



Royal Horse Artillery



1st The Queen's
Dragoon Guards



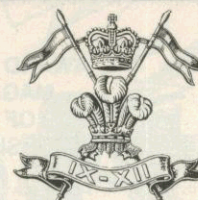
The Royal Scots
Dragoon Guards
(Carabiniers and Greys)



The Royal Dragoon
Guards



The Queen's Royal Hussars
(The Queen's Own and
Royal Irish)



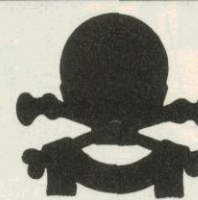
9th/12th Royal Lancers
(Prince of Wales's)



The King's Royal
Hussars



The Light Dragoons



The Queen's Royal
Lancers



Royal Tank Regiment



Royal Regiment of Artillery



Corps of Royal
Engineers



Royal Corps of Signals



Grenadier Guards



Coldstream Guards



Scots Guards



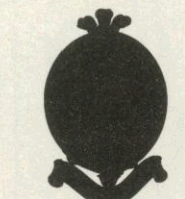
Irish Guards



Welsh Guards



The Royal Scots
(The Royal Regiment)



The Princess of Wales's
Royal Regiment



The King's Own Royal
Border Regiment



The Royal Regiment of
Fusiliers



The King's Regiment



The Royal Anglian
Regiment



The Devonshire and
Dorset Regiment



The Light Infantry



The Prince of Wales's Own
Regiment of Yorkshire



The Green Howards
(Alexandra Princess of Wales's
Own Yorkshire Regiment)



The Royal Highland Fusiliers
(Princess Margaret's Own Glas-
gow and Ayrshire Regiment)



The Cheshire
Regiment



The Royal Welch
Fusiliers



The Royal Regiment
of Wales
(24th/41st Foot)



The King's Own
Scottish Borderers



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



The Royal Gloucester-
shire, Berkshire
and Wiltshire Regiment



The Worcestershire and Sher-
wood Foresters Regiment
(29th/45th Foot)



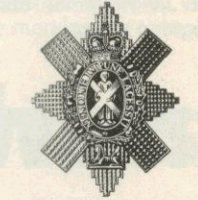
The Queen's
Lancashire Regiment



The Duke of Wellington's
Regiment
(West Riding)



The Staffordshire
Regiment
(The Prince of Wales's)



The Black Watch
(Royal Highland Regiment)



The Highlanders
(Seaforth, Gordons
and Camerons)



The Argyll and
Sutherland Highlanders
(Princess Louise's)



The Parachute
Regiment



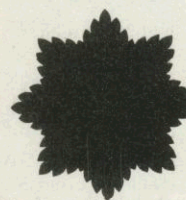
The Royal Gurkha Rifles



The Queen's Gurkha
Engineers



Queen's Gurkha Signals



The Queen's Own Gurkha
Transport Regiment



The Royal Green
Jackets



Royal Army Chaplains
Department



Royal Logistic Corps



Adjutant General's
Corps



AGC
(Royal Military Police)



Royal Army
Veterinary Corps



Small Arms School
Corps



Royal Army Dental
Corps

ORDER OF BATTLE

A MODERN soldier browsing through the 1957 bound volume of this magazine would be forgiven for feelings of déjà vu as he read reports of a White Paper detailing plans to create an all-Regular Army by 1963. Conscription was to end; the British Army of the Rhine would be cut by 13,000, many officers and NCOs were to be discharged; and a new recruiting drive was launched.

Within five years the Army was cut by half and became an all-Regular force. But it was a harder-hitting, more mobile Army, its "teeth" almost twice as strong as its "tail".

In the process of reorganisation – the most drastic since the Standing Army was created in the 17th century – 51 major units and many smaller ones were axed.

Thirty infantry regiments were told to amalgamate and be grouped into 14 administrative brigades.

The Brigade of Guards and The Parachute Regiment kept their badges, but it was planned that the remain-

der would give up regimental cap badges in favour of brigade versions.

The scale of the cuts was massive: 15,000 sappers, 13,000 signallers and 18,000 Royal Army Service Corps personnel were axed, as were 23,000 REME and 11,000 RAOC soldiers.

The Army survived an even worse fate. It had been suggested that the three fighting Services should be merged into a single defence force. Ministers had even considered lumping all infantry regiments into one common corps and disbanding the 15 most junior regiments.

In 1991 the Options for Change announcement began another period of upheaval and reorganisation that leaves today's British Army smaller in size, but packing a harder wallop.

Five years on, the frontline Army has almost completed the process. Infantry and Royal Armoured Corps regiments have been amalgamated and corps combined to reduce the strength of the Army from 156,000 to about 116,000 soldiers. Several thousand troops have been made redundant.

A few minor adjustments to the Army's

support tail remain to be implemented, but, effectively, the establishment settled into its new mode on April 1 when Land Command was formed.

The amalgamated regiments and new corps with new cap badges are:

- The Royal Dragoon Guards.
- The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish).
- The King's Royal Hussars.
- The Light Dragoons.
- The Queen's Royal Lancers.
- The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).
- The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.
- The Royal Irish Regiment (27th (Inniskilling), 83rd, 87th and The Ulster Defence Regiment).
- The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).
- The Royal Gurkha Rifles.
- Royal Logistic Corps.
- Adjutant General's Corps.

There is a new badge also for The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment following its re-titling.

Not all the new regiments and corps have new badges. Formed on October 19, 1992, The Household Cavalry Regiment was a union of The Life Guards and The Blues

and Royals. Customs, traditions and uniforms of both have been retained within the regiment. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, responsible for carrying out state ceremonial duties, is unchanged.

Also introduced to the Order of Battle, but without its own cap badge, is The Corps of Army Musicians. Its members are the musicians who make up the British Army's 29 remaining bands, although their loyalties and ties will be to their individual cap badges.

Proposed amalgamations between The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and The Cheshire Regiment and The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) were cancelled.

The 1st and 4th Royal Tank Regiments and 2nd and 3rd Royal Tank Regiments amalgamated to form 1 and 2 RTR respectively.



Intelligence
Corps



Army Physical
Training Corps



General Service
Corps



Queen Alexandra's Royal
Army Nursing Corps



Special Air Service
Regiment



Royal Army
Medical Corps



AGC
(Military Provost Staff)



Army Air Corps



Corps of Royal Electrical
and Mechanical Engineers



AGC
(Army Legal Service)



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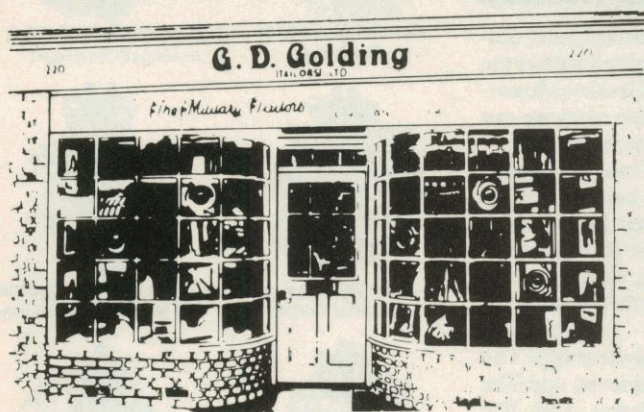
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BRITISH ARMY*

MAGAZINE

MARCH 19 1945
FORTNIGHTLY
VOL. 1 - No. 1

FROM
1945

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THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am glad to have the opportunity of taking
this message to all soldiers in the B.A.F.
through the first number of 'SOLDIER'.

And what is the situation looking like?
We are now in a position to be able to
take the situation in the B.A.F. and to be
able to take the situation in the B.A.F.

And what are we fighting for?
We are fighting for the peace and for the
peace and for the peace and for the peace.

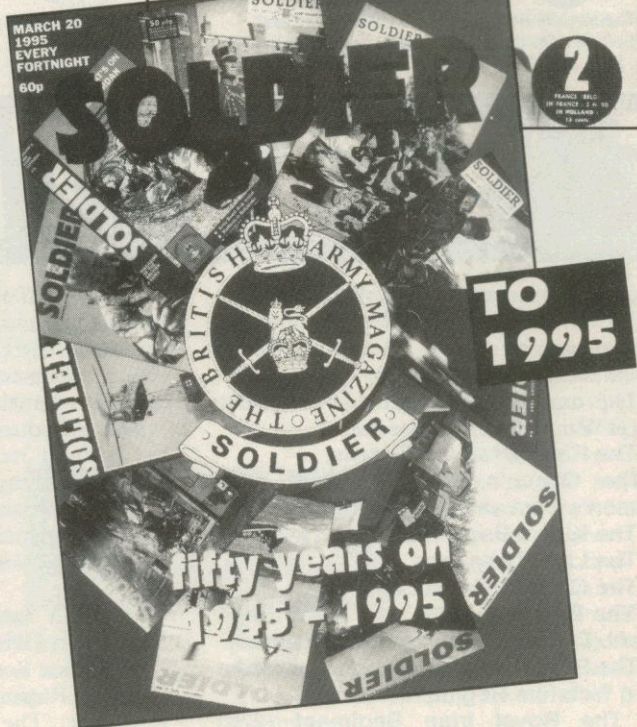
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peace and for the peace and for the peace.

And what are we fighting for?
We are fighting for the peace and for the
peace and for the peace and for the peace.



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*Best feature (Rwanda) 1995 Editing for Industry Awards

Softer image beckons for 4 R Irish

HOME Sweet Home for the 4th (Co Fermanagh and Co Tyrone) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment is the imposing St Lucia Barracks at Omagh, which, according to the commanding officer, Lt Col Wayne Harber, is one of the finest Victorian barracks in the United Kingdom.

The 1,100-strong battalion was formed from the old 4th and 6th Battalions, The Ulster Defence Regiment which amalgamated in 1991. Eight months later, on July 1, 1992, the short-lived 4/6 was renamed 4 R Irish on the amalgamation of The Royal Irish Rangers and the UDR.

A mix of full and part-time soldiers, 4 R Irish operates in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Omagh subdivision. It has eight rifle companies spread across its tactical area of operational responsibility (TAOR), and has bases at Enniskillen, Lisnakea and Clogue.

Until the IRA's cease-fire last year, the threat across the TAOR came from the Provisional IRA. One of the worst incidents was the 1988 Bally-

gawley bus bomb-which killed and maimed several British soldiers.

Sixty-six serving or former members have been murdered by terrorist action.

Col Harber said: "The fact that a larger number of attacks against my soldiers were unsuccessful is a testimony to their bravery and professional-



ism. One of my corporals who retired recently held both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

"We have a highly sophisticated welfare organisation at both battalion and regimental

Above - Now border crossing points have been reopened, patrol bases could be a thing of the past

Left - Lt Col Wayne Harber, CO 4 R Irish

level to look after the interests of past and present members and the families of those who died."

Before the cease-fire, 4 R Irish spent much of its time on patrol to counter the terrorist threat. It also carried out searches for explosives and arms. "My soldiers live in the

● **Turn to next page**





A squad from 4 R Irish marches across a Bailey bridge connecting their barracks with another site

Below – Cpl Irene Vaughan received a People of the Year award for her tireless work with the families of Servicemen and the local community. Since 1988, Irene has cared for serving members of the battalion, the widows and children of soldiers who have been killed, and ex-soldiers who needed help and advice



Softer image beckons for 4 R Irish

● **From Page 17**
community and have great local knowledge. Our relationship with the RUC is quite excellent," said Col Harber. Although patrols continue, they are less frequent and on a smaller scale. Community relations remain a high priority, with all members of the public treated with courtesy, consideration and impartiality.

As the cease-fires lengthen, the Army's public image has changed, with a reduced presence of troops patrolling the streets and countryside. There are now plans to plant trees around some Security Force bases to soften the outline of high security fences and barbed wire. Links with local communities are being continuously strengthened through projects

and good works. The soldiers of 4 R Irish are also hoping to devote more time to sport. The battalion has a reputation as one of the top competition shooting units in the Army. Last year it provided five out of six members of the Northern Ireland District team for Bisley. It also won the Army table tennis and Inter-Service and Army indoor tug of war championships.



During a visit to a 4 R Irish rural patrol, Maj Gen Anthony Leask, Commander Land Forces, is briefed by a Royal Irish soldier

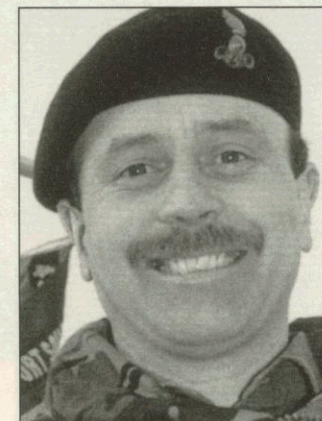


Lt Steve Broadhurst and members of 13 Field Support Squadron pictured on a Terex medium-wheeled tractor

Communities reap sappers' 'peace dividend'

THROUGHOUT the long years of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, Royal Engineers filled a vital role in support of Security Force operations against terrorism. Three years ago, 25 Engineer Regiment was formed at Antrim to replace an existing RE field squadron and field park. Commanded by Lt Col Mike McAlpine, the regiment consists of 12 (Nova Scotia) Headquarters Squadron, 33 Field Squadron and 43 Field Support Squadron. The CO is double-hatted, also acting as Commander Royal Engineers at the Army's headquarters in Lisburn. "My regiment provides general engineer support to the military in Northern Ireland,

carrying out construction tasks as and when required," said Col McAlpine. "These have, over the years, included rebuilding Army bases in various parts of the country. The regiment has a modern, computer-driven design cell at its disposal. Maj Paul Chambers, a chartered engineer, commands a 25-strong team whose work included a rebuild of Crossmaglen Security Force base and the adjoining Barucki sangar, as well as refurbishment work to Army installations at the Maze Prison. An additional roulement engineer squadron is based at the Maze. When *Soldier* visited, it was found from 37 Field



Lt Col Mike McAlpine, CO 25 Engineer Regiment

Squadron, part of 35 Engineer Regiment based at Hameln in Germany. The squadron provides a

roulement search troop which undertake all high-risk search assignments in the Province. Its RE search teams remain at a high state of readiness to assist Protestant troops who require their specialist support. According to Col McAlpine, his regiment has been busier than ever since the IRA cease-fire. "Besides maintaining existing bases, we have stripped out and demolished a number of patrol bases no longer required, and constructed a range at Ballykinler." As Northern Ireland returns to relative normality, soldiers from 25 Engineer Regiment have become involved in a number of tasks which will benefit the civilian community.

Most recently, it constructed a floating pontoon bridge for a water sports centre run by a Belfast charity which brings Roman Catholic and Protestant children together, and refurbished a footbridge linking nationalist and unionist communities living on separate banks of the River Bush in the north of the Province. It has also built an access ramp and put in a winching system to allow a voluntary body to launch its rescue boat from the banks of the River Foyle at Londonderry. The longer the peace goes on, the more civilian communities will have cause to praise the efforts of the sappers.

More pictures on next page



Above – Putting in place a sheet of steel mesh at Ballykinler are (left to right) Sprs Andy Jones, Steve Parkes and Bob Lochery, LCpl Pete Smith and Spr Peter Fitzsimmons

Below – An operational diving team in action. Cpl Brian Meadows hands a torch to diver Cpl Steve Thurgood. LCpl Andy Smith controls the line while diving supervisor, Sgt Lyndon Davies looks on



Sparkling Jewell keeps history alive



Above – On top of sangar “Charlie” at the Maze are Sprs Ben Jenkins (top) and Gary Ashton

Below – Royal Logistic Corps pioneers of 187 Squadron, 23 Pioneer Regiment use a redundant sangar to get a better view of proceedings



WALK UP an old staircase in a small building in the peaceful spa town of Harrogate, Yorkshire, and you find yourself stepping into a microcosm of wartime memorabilia stretching back eight decades, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

The War Room, set up by Brian Jewell – model vehicle consultant, lecturer, writer and one-time “Old Codger” with the *Daily Mirror*’s questions column – bulges with items associated with the two World Wars and more.

Vying for space among the usual paraphernalia of badges, scale models, gas masks, caps and uniforms, are a trench telescope and three striking drawings of an airship raid on a London newsagent and tobacconist’s shop.

This turns out to be a true episode in Brian’s family history: the legend over the shop doorway, G H Jewell, testifies to that.

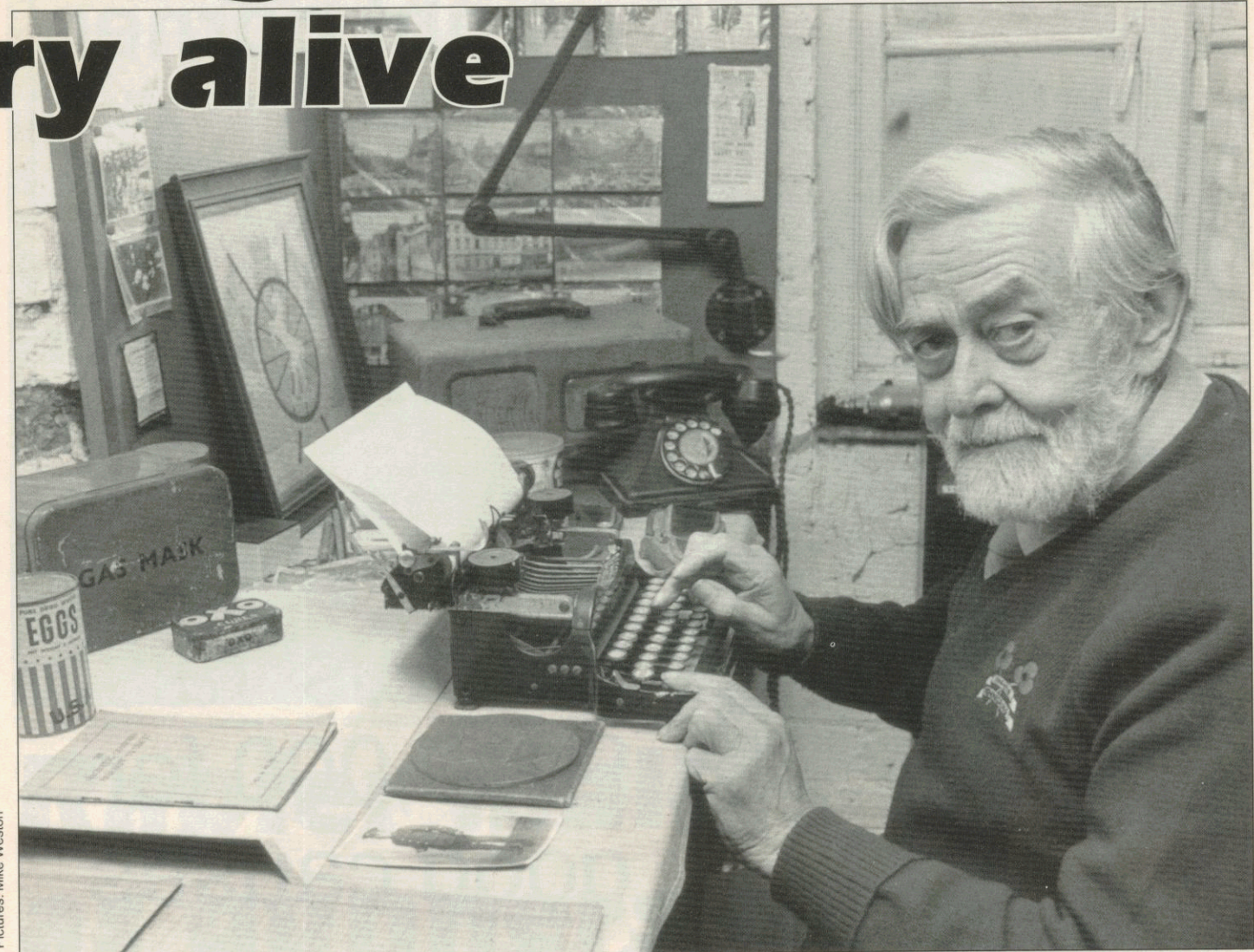
His father, a rifleman with the City of London Regiment in the First World War who later transferred to the 25th Battalion, The King’s Royal Rifle Company, staying with the Territorial Army until 1938, is depicted on the roof of the shop, eyeing the airship through a telescope.

A “scramble” speaker, purloined from some long-defunct airfield, hangs on the wall of the crowded room in Harrogate and, on one of the tables, a pile of Second World War sheet music adds to the air of pure nostalgia.

“When my wife and I moved to Yorkshire from the south a few years ago, the idea was that I would have a “War Room” – somewhere secluded where I could write,” said Brian, a regular contributor of book reviews and articles, particularly on military vehicles, to *Soldier*.

“I never set out to be a museum, but I find that the collection has accumulated, and that there is a steady flow of people who are fascinated by tangible reminders of wartime.”

He says that many schoolchildren who visit the War Room are mystified, and find the war difficult to conceive.



Pictures: Mike Weston

Above – War Room correspondent: Brian Jewell bashes the keys on a typewriter dating back to the Russian Revolution

Left – Pack up your troubles: just a cross-sample of the items on view in the War Room



His own experiences as a soldier during the 1940s could almost make museum entries of their own.

A member of 554 Field Company RE, Brian worked on mine clearance and took part in the Rhine crossing and beyond.

At one stage, his parents were informed that he was missing.

The one blight on his horizon in recent months was an opportunistic burglary at the War Room, when thieves also broke into the adjacent property.

“I was awoken at 3am by the

police. I didn’t want to go across the courtyard to the museum, for fear of what I would find. I still cannot account for all that is missing,” he said.

Undeterred, Brian carries on, making friends with his local dustmen and occasionally uncovering gems which have been thrown out, including a First World War death plaque.

His favourite items, he says, are probably a Serviceman’s task knife with a bone handle and, bizarrely, a tin of foot powder...

He is seriously considering expanding the War Room, since items such as a trench gramophone and lovingly embroidered regimental pictures are all competing for space.

Once down the rickety stairs, past a dedication plaque unveiled on a deliberately

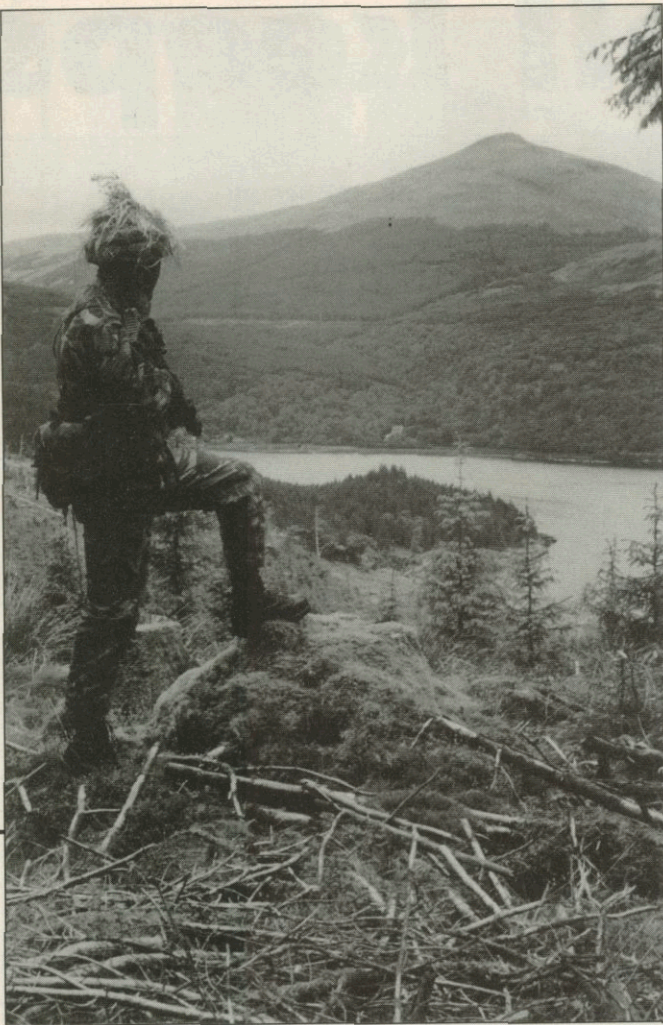
appropriate date (September 3, 1989) to “all who served in the two wars 1914-18 and 1939-45”, one encounters a large room devoted in part to another passion of Brian’s – a reference collection of miniature cars.

But it is transport of somewhat larger proportions which will be preoccupying him in the immediate future, in between looking after the ever-expanding War Room and endeavouring to finish an on-going tome on the life and times of Blücher.

“I am expecting to take delivery of a full-size Humber staff car which someone is donating. Where the hell am I going to store it?” he asked.

Now, that would have been a poser for the Old Codgers...

● For further details on the War Room, contact Brian Jewell on 01423 500704.



A soldier from B Coy, 9 R Irish, enjoys the scenery at Loch Long in Ardgarten Forest, Garelochhead

Royal Irish in a tight corner

DETERMINATION and fitness were not the only qualities needed by soldiers of the 9th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment exercising in Scotland for the first time.

Vast quantities of insect repellent and hundreds of pairs of women's tights were hastily added to the list of essential equipment when the battalion was attacked by marauding hordes of midges.

Tights and sprays were pressed into action to repel them.

The ferocity and quantity of the Scottish variety took 9 R Irish by surprise, although fighting off the insect world was not the priority. Counter-revolutionary warfare skills

were put to the test for the first time in the unfamiliar terrain of Garelochhead. With the situation in Northern Ireland more stable since the cease-fires, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment are taking the chance to brush up on basic infantry skills.

Lt Col Charlie Sloan, CO 9 R Irish, said: "Every time we went out of the gate we had a potential challenge ahead. Now, in quieter times, we need variety."

The three full-time companies involved on Exercise Cobblers View were B Coy based at Carrickfergus, F Coy from Lisburn and D Coy from Antrim.

'Medals' raise £200,000 for good causes

A COMPANY producing unofficial medals has disclosed that it has so far handed over more than £200,000 from royalties and donations to charities and veterans' groups.

The information has been given to *Soldier* against a background of debate and controversy surrounding unofficial "commemoratives".

The official medal issuing authorities are concerned about the number and variety of unofficial medals being produced by commercial organisations, who are being required by the Ministry of Defence to include the following paragraph in their advertising:

"This is an unofficial medal which has not been approved by the Sovereign. It should be considered as a souvenir or keepsake only and should not be worn with or alongside official medals."

The charity donation figures have been given by Award Productions Ltd, which at present designs, sponsors and produces seven commemorative medals "all at the request of, or in conjunction with, a bona fide veteran group or charity who benefit

considerably from the sale."

Latest venture by Award Productions is an international 50th anniversary Peace Medal, struck in conjunction with the British Red Cross, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and which has so far benefited by £7,500 from the revenues.

Biggest money-spinner for veterans' organisations is the National Service Medal, which the company says has resulted in £149,500 for the Royal British Legion.

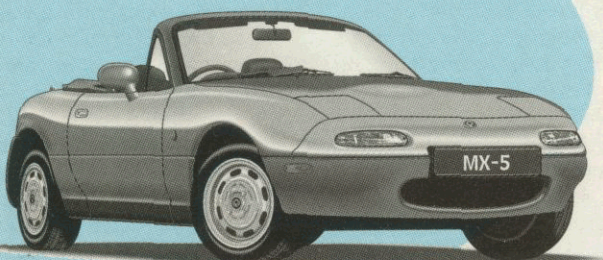
A medal commemorating Suez service has resulted in £2,500 for the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress).

Other commemorative medals sponsored by the company on behalf of organisations, with the sums so far given, are:

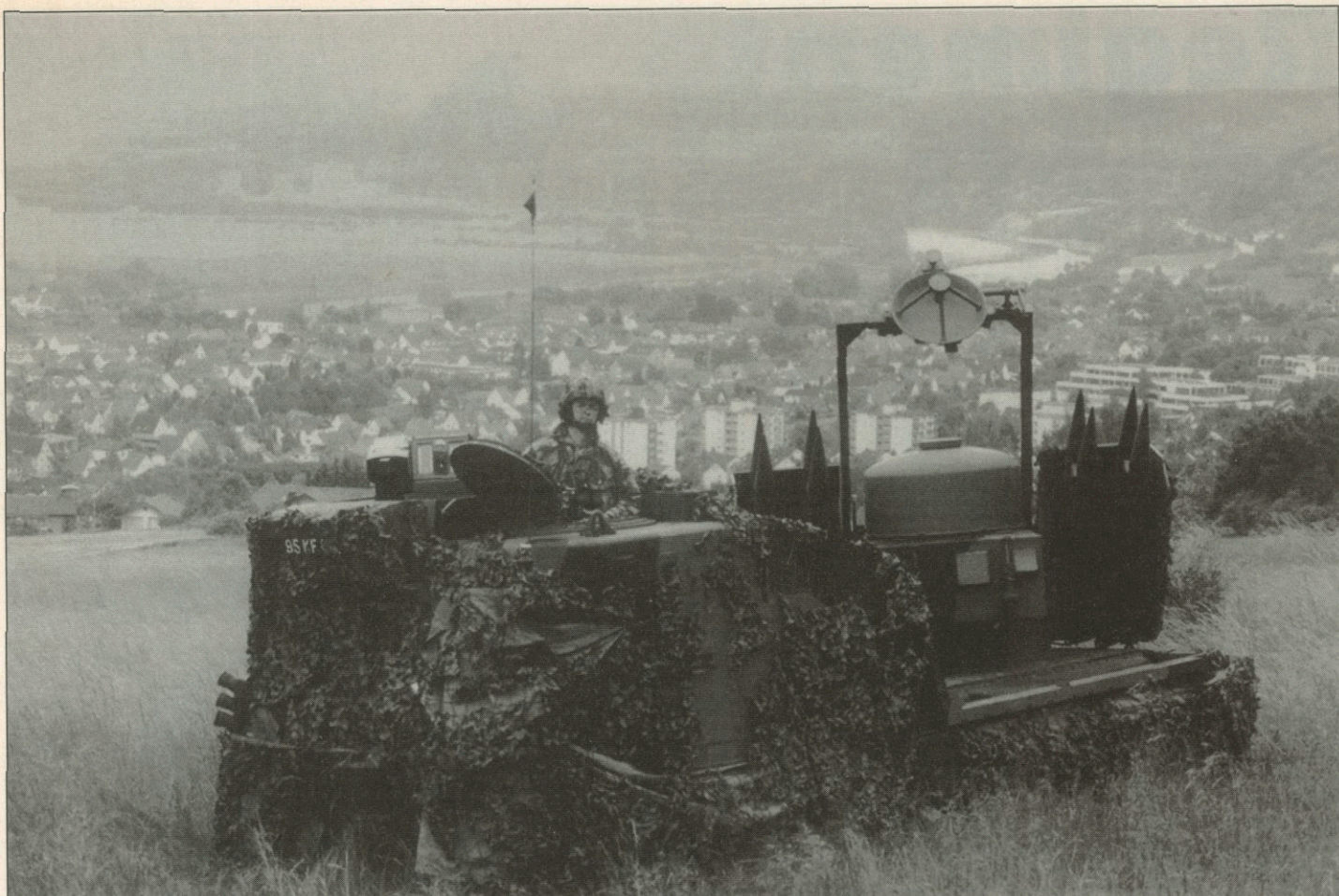
Normandy Medal (Normandy Veterans Association), £23,500; Bomber Command Medal (Bomber Command Association), £10,000; Arctic Medal (North Russia and RCC Clubs), £3,500; Ex PoW Medal (National Ex PoW Association), £4,500.

Win an MX-5 weekend

(See next issue for details)



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Tracked Rapier will no longer be seen on watch over the Weser when 16 Regiment RA returns to the United Kingdom soon

Rapier makes tracks as gunners prepare for Woolwich return

AS the Army's tracked Rapier air defence system clanked round the German countryside for the last time, gunners of 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery had mixed feelings.

They were looking forward to returning to Britain during August and September, when they will move into their new base at the Royal Regiment's ancestral home at Woolwich.

But they were sad to be leaving Germany, particularly Dortmund, which has had a Royal Artillery presence for nearly 50 years.

The gunners were conscious there would be little opportunity in Britain for the kind of exercises they have been used to in Germany.

Exercise Flame Centaur was conducted between Paderborn and the Harz mountains, and covered an area ten times

greater than can be expected on a United Kingdom training area.

Flame Centaur was a "443" field training exercise, which allows units to deploy over realistic distances and countryside without being restricted to training areas.

Permission having been granted by the German Government, there are few limitations on where soldiers can go, although they are obviously careful to avoid nature reserves, ploughed land and crops.

Detailed planning is essential to ensure troops do not stray into areas that are environmentally sensitive, and procedures for refuelling and deploying are tailored to make sure there is no adverse effect on the environment.

Although effectively ruled



Lt Col Stephen Gledhill, CO
16 Regiment RA

out for heavy tracked vehicles such as Warrior and Challenger, the opportunities offered by 443 exercises are available to tracked Rapier, a light vehicle.

Sgt Bull Richard, the regiment's Provost Sergeant, had happy memories of past deployments, particu-

larly when contacting Germans for locations to site the launcher. "You would go to a farm house and ask permission to use their land, and the next thing they would be bringing you freshly baked bread, cakes and a bucket of milk," he said.

Once a family brought his detachment a picnic and a few beers – then helped them pack up at the end of the exercise.

"I don't think that would happen on Salisbury Plain," he said.

The B mark of Rapier has been in service for 15 years as a tracked or wheeled system but is now being replaced as the Army's principal air defence weapons system by Field Standard C Rapier, an advanced weapons system capable of taking on the most sophisticated aircraft, cruise missiles and

● Turn to next page

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring

Regiment adopts flexible approach

● From Page 23

remotely-piloted vehicles.

"Along with the new High Velocity Missile these two systems will give us a quantum leap forward in capability," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Stephen Gledhill.

While the traditional principles of providing air defence for an armoured division are largely unchanged and have been well exercised, Col Gledhill purposely introduced a challenging new dimension into the gunners' final training on tracked Rapier.

When Col Gledhill joined the Royal Artillery 19 years

ago, training was aimed at general war in Europe, with a secondary focus on deployment to Northern Ireland.

"Our thoughts are now much wider, and while a soldier needs to be equally well trained as ever he was, he must be more flexible in his approach and outlook to life," he said.

Physical robustness and mental flexibility were essential to cope with the challenges facing today's soldiers in places like Bosnia.

So the exercise scenario called for the traditional protection of an armoured division in general war, but also



Sgt "Jazz" Oakley, detachment commander, on exercise

explored other roles which the regiment could carry out in a peace support environment.

During one phase the regiment deployed out of role to guard and mark routes through possibly hostile territory and take part in moving humanitarian supplies to villages cut off by hostilities. This allowed the CO to test the regiment's flexibility not just in general military operations but by exercising across the complete width of its capabilities.

When they were given their orders, sub-unit commanders were presented with a new set of challenges and had to adapt their procedures and routines to a new context.

"We have to train ourselves to be flexible and to be ready to adapt to any number of new rules," said the CO.

"Tracked Rapier support vehicles are the only high mobility load-carrying vehicles possessed by the British Army. They took humanitarian supplies over a tricky route which wheeled vehicles would not be able to manage."

Not that it was made easy for them.

Maj Adam Grew and 30 (Rogers's Company) Battery were waiting with road blocks, sniping incidents, and an ambush.

Dressed as irregular militia, they were ready to be obstructive,

insisting on documentation the convoys did not have, demanding to search vehicles, and stealing anything they could get away with.

Battery Sergeant Major Val Williams, in his role as militia commander, was looking forward to making life difficult for the echelon column commanded by Capt Chris Brawn, an ex-ranker and now Quartermaster Technical.

While the gunner irregulars may not have been as menacing as Bosnian Serbs with loaded AKs, useful lessons were learnt.

It was particularly instructive for Capt Reinhard Siegfried, a Swiss Regular officer on attachment to 16 Regt for the exercise with two Swiss warrant officers.

He serves with one of three Rapier units in the Swiss Army and was reassured to find that most of what he did tied in with what he saw in 16 Regt.

The trio greatly enjoyed looking over the shoulders of men who have deployed to war.

"We do things in the same manner but are sometimes a bit more complicated. The British are uncomplicated and they handle things much more easily because they are combat-proven," he said.

After the exercise, RSM Simon Betty was keen to move on. There is much work to be done on the move to Woolwich,



Sgt Darren Lee and Gnr Jimmy Horrocks of F Troop, 14 Battery pictured in front of a tracked Rapier launcher in a German town



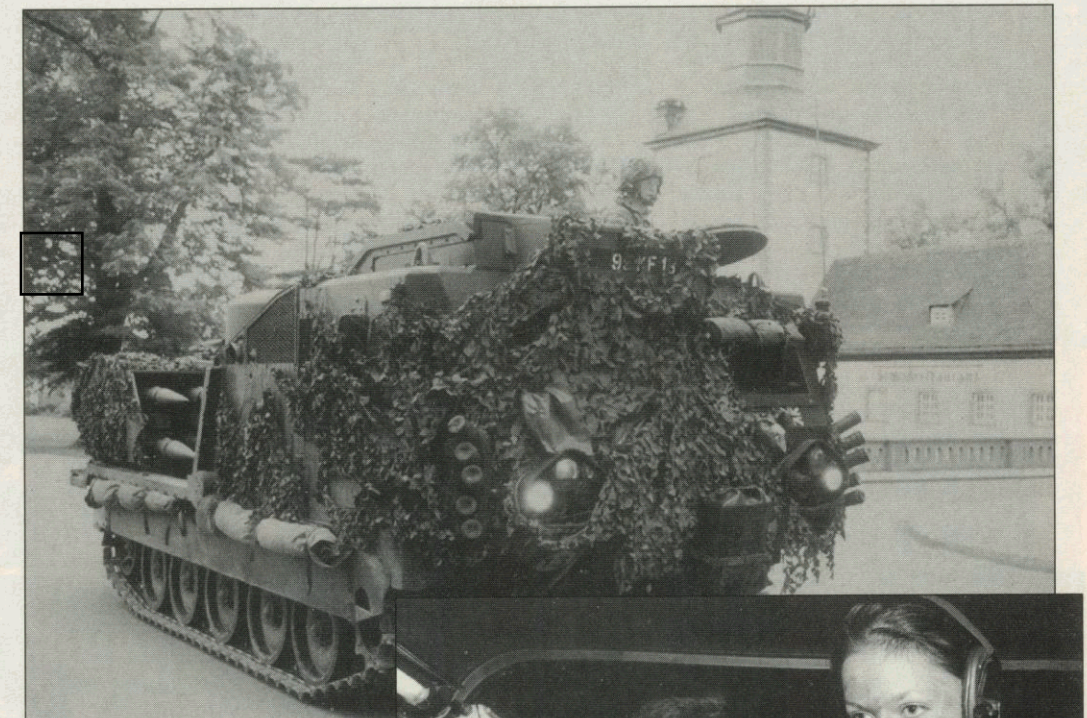
Above: Sgt Ash Houghton REME tests Rapier's amplifier electronic control in the electronic repair vehicle of A2 echelon

Right: Tracked Rapier moves past a typically Germanic Schloss for the last time

and the regiment is due to become the first to be equipped with the highly sophisticated air defence command and control system early next year, followed by the Field Standard C Rapier.

A farewell concert is planned in the middle of the city on July 12, after which 16 Regt will be repatriated and 12 Regt will move to Sennelager.

They are the only remaining gunner units from a city which used to host five regiments.



WO1 Betty was delighted by 16 Regt's impending return to Woolwich.

"After it was closed in September last year there was only a support unit and the Royal Artillery Band. With all its history and associations, it would have been absolutely stupid to have lost the barracks," he said.

Right: Gnr Caroline Baker and Bdr Lee Plaster of 112 HQ Battery on duty in the command centre



Sgt "Bull" Richard and RSM Simon Betty hammer home the last "tac" signs near Schloss Corvey



Tug of war team from 15 Regiment RLC takes the strain against 7 Tpt Regt RLC

Right - Cpl Ridley riding Unicum IV, owned by Osnabrück GSC, in the Bacardi Rum military show jumping competition



RASS-a-matazz

BETTER known as RASS, the Rhine Army Summer Show has helped to strengthen the links between the 10,000 British Army personnel stationed in Paderborn Garrison and the local German population, writes **Lindsey Champion**.

It has become a major annual occasion, and this year's was no exception. The show's origins date back to a show-jumping and hunter trial event in the 1950s. Over the years it grew to include a triathlon and summer ball. The arena activities were added, and today the show includes a funfair and trade stands. Many visitors spend the whole weekend there.

Undeterred by unseasonal weather, more than 70,000 people visited the 1995 show

over the three-day bank holiday period, but it is unlikely that any of them gave a second thought to the logistics behind staging the show. More than 190 military personnel under the supervision of retired RQMS Rupert Richards, the Garrison equipment manager, and two assistants, Cpl Paul Mahoney from the QM Department, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and Cpl Nick Bealey from 3 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC, made sure the show went on.

Equipment and expertise was provided by Hameln-based 37 Fd Sqn RE, on hold for Bosnia, who spent nearly three weeks on the Sennelager training area to erect and strike the site. In the

run-up to the show, manpower came from 39 Regiment RA. During and after the event The Queen's Dragoon Guards provided the muscle.

Responsibility for gate control and pay staff was down to The Royal Dragoon Guards, who also provided ring parties. Other ring parties came from 12 Regiment RA.

The main arena party was provided by the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry and co-ordinated by WO2 (RQMS) Steve Brown of 26 Regiment RA.

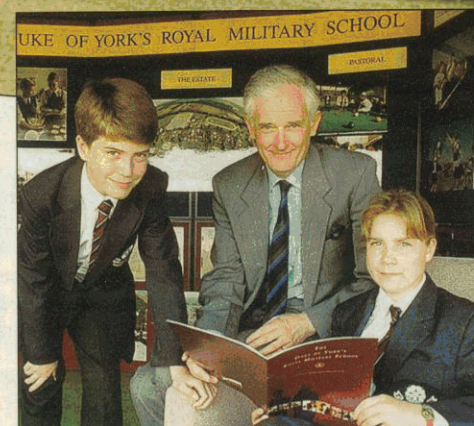
A variety of trade stands included various service charities, Army Careers, Service

schools, Service publications, commercial organisations, and of course most popular of all, the usual beer tents and food outlets.

Up to 800 workers and guests were fed on site every day by the Garrison catering officer, Capt Dave Lowe, and WO1 Dave Griffith.

Interestingly this year the largest trade stand was the Jobscene marquee. Jobscene stage regular exhibitions in the United Kingdom and had various individual exhibitors offering career advice and information to anyone facing the transition from Army to civilian life.

Pictures: Mike Weston



Headmaster Col Gordon Wilson of the Duke of York's School, Dover, mans the school's stand with first-year students Craig Askew and Helen Swarrick



The Royal Signals White Helmets motor cycle display team perform their moving pyramid stunt



Army bobsleigh team members WO2 Pete Gunn (left) and WO2 Dave Pope (in bob), both of 1 AAC, show Gemma and Lydia Nagi their machine. The sisters' father is serving with 2 Bn REME at Fallingbommel

Right - The Rhine Army Polo Association (cream shirts) compete with Bad Bentheim Polo Club



Anyone want to be a diver? Sgt Colin Wilson (left) of 12 Regiment RA Workshop REME and advanced diving instructor Craig Taylor (Property Management Department BFG) prepare RASS visitor Guether Woehl (right) for a dive in their tank

Left - Inside the RMP crime prevention tent. Sgt Mark Poole of 11 Pro Coy RMP takes "dabs" from Sean Haycock while mum, Gwen, looks on. Sean's father is serving in Bosnia with 1 D and D

Two boy soldiers who won Victoria Crosses

THE ARMY CADET is the soldier-to-be. The organisation to which he belongs – the Army Cadet Force – is the school which trains him mentally, morally and physically,

and develops his sense of patriotism and citizenship.

It is in fact the “ante-room” to the Army – the Army’s Little Brother, and yet the serving soldier knows very little of

the ACF or the way these boys are moulded into shape as good soldiers and intelligent citizens.

For example, did you know that the ACF can boast a long and varied career which began during the Napoleonic wars? In those days cadet units served as elementary training units for the Regular Army, but some years later – in 1859 to be exact – a voluntary cadet movement was set up, its activities being largely associated with public schools.

Cadet battalions were affiliated to famous British regiments as early as 1884, and an East London Cadet Corps was inaugurated in 1885.

The Cadet Corps was recognised by the War Office, appeared in the Army List, and the appointment of officers appeared in the London Gazette.

During the last war (1914-18), apart from providing a valuable source of manpower to the forces when they reached military age, cadets guarded vital bridges and reservoirs, and carried out other important military work at home while their fathers and brothers fought in the front line.

In 1930 when the Government withdrew its recognition and financial support, the ACF seemed doomed to extinction, but it was kept alive by the formation of the British National Cadet Association.

It survived, but only just, and when war broke out it was a weakened and sadly depleted Cadet Force which faced a grim future.

There was a time lag of two more years before the Government restored its official support to the movement in 1941. The ACF grew. It grew so rapidly that by 1943 there were

180,000 cadets in all parts of the British Isles.

Today, after nearly six years of war, the Army Cadet Force is nearly 200,000 strong – the largest youth movement in Britain.

Occasionally it is called a “Hitler Youth Club” by misinformed and unkind critics. No such jibe could be more removed from the truth. The ACF is entirely a voluntary organisation. Any boy may join – and leave – when he wishes.

Militarism is not forced down their throats... but they make good soldiers.

Do you remember Fusilier Dennis Donnini of the Royal Scots Fusiliers? He won the Victoria Cross for superb gallantry and self-sacrifice in an action between the Roer and the Maas and lost his life by deliberately drawing enemy fire on to himself.

Fusilier Donnini was a cadet. He served for three years with the 11th Cadet Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry.

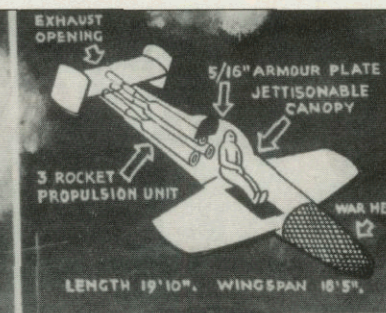
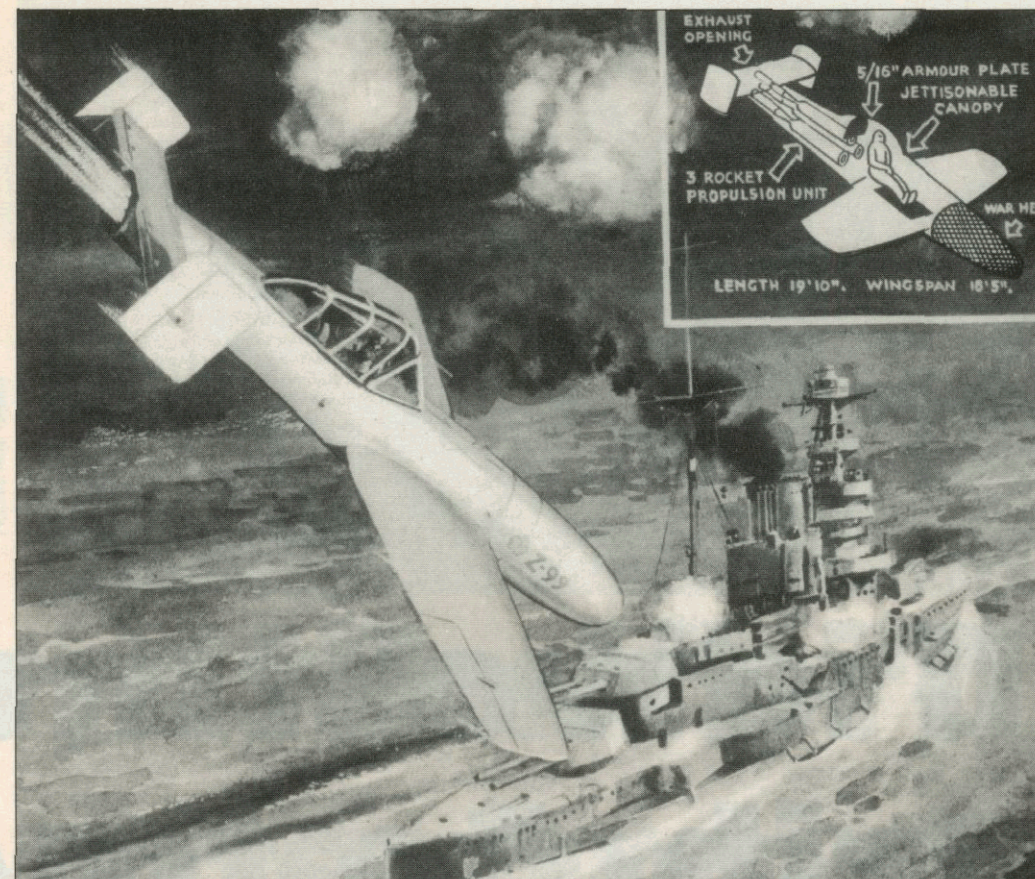
Lieutenant John Hollington Grayburn of the Parachute Regiment was posthumously awarded the VC for “supreme courage, leadership and devotion to duty” during the airborne attack at Arnhem last September. He was the first former member of the ACF to obtain Britain’s highest award for valour.

He was commissioned to the 1st (London) Cadet Battalion, the Queen’s Royal Regiment in 1936 and served with them as an officer until he joined the Army in 1940. Many other ex-cadets have been decorated and mentioned in dispatches.

Yes, cadets make good soldiers and the Army Cadet Force is proud of its great service during this war. – E J Grove.

Cadets proud of their service during the war

Death plane – first details



SOLDIER publishes the first pictures of the remarkable new Japanese rocket-propelled piloted bomb, which has been in use against the Allies in the Pacific in the past few months.

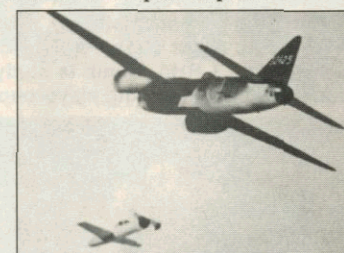
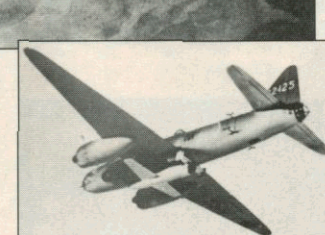
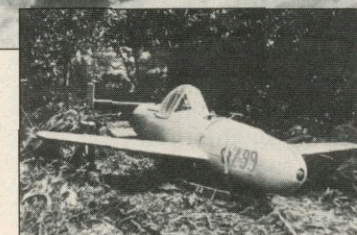
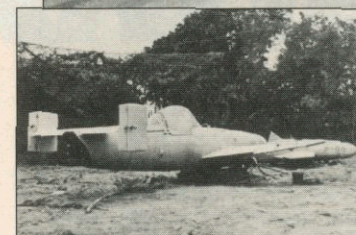
Known as the “Baka” – Japanese for “Fool” – this latest type of “suicide” plane is in reality a midget air-launched aircraft with a heavy explosive warhead.

Baka is a low-wing monoplane, only 19ft 10in from nose to tail and with a span of 16ft 5in. The warhead fairing is over 6ft long and forms the complete nose section of the plane. It is here that the high explosive charge is carried.

While being carried on its parent aircraft, “Betty”, the “Fool” plane’s cockpit fits into the bomb bay, as seen in the pictures (), which also show a captured specimen.

Baka’s three rocket propellant units are carried behind the cockpit, two on the bottom of the fuselage and the third at the top.

A control column and rudder bar, which the “suicide” pilot can use after Baka is jettisoned from “Betty”, can also be locked while attached to the parent plane.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

First in Belsen

Maj F S Waldron RAMC, 76(Br) Field Hygiene Section: In the interests of correct recording, the following amendments are suggested to your article “Burning of Belsen” (SOLDIER No 7). The first individual to enter the “Horror Camp” was the ADMS, 11 Armoured Division, Colonel D Bluett, OBE.

The first unit to enter the camp did so with Colonel Bluett. It was 76 Field Hygiene Section and it had the unique experience of harbouring inside the concentration camp and commencing work while the SS were still in control.

Boney of contention

I sat next to two WAAFs in a canteen, and overheard one saying she had visited the site of the Battle of Waterloo. Asked how she enjoyed it, she said: “Oh, I was disappointed. I thought it wouldn’t go out of their depth. If people couldn’t swim they wouldn’t get drowned trying to save other drowning people. My theory isn’t so silly as it sounds. Think it over. – Sapper (name and address supplied). PS – I’ve just been for a swim in the Elbe.

No Africa Star, but ...

I served throughout the fire blitz on London with Heavy Ack-Ack and followed this with two years in Gambia defending ferry airfields. For the latter service I am apparently not eligible for the Africa Star.

As a result of never being dry during those two years I am now a “crock” and have been reduced to office work – editing two news sheets in BLA. For producing news from D plus 11 to date (I blush at the thought of it) I am eligible for the France and Germany ribbon and probably for the 1939-45 Star. – Bdr C H R Thomas, Leave Unit, 21 Army Group.

Watertight logic

Does anybody agree with me that if nobody was taught to swim fewer people would be drowned? If people couldn’t swim they wouldn’t go out of their depth. If people couldn’t swim they wouldn’t get drowned trying to save other drowning people. My theory isn’t so silly as it sounds. Think it over. – Sapper (name and address supplied). PS – I’ve just been for a swim in the Elbe.

PS – I’ve just been for a swim in the Elbe.

A ‘D’ on the ribbon

I suggest that those who, thanks to Providence and good luck, survived from D-Day to VE-Day should have the letter “D” superimposed on their France and Germany ribbons. – Cpl L Caltins, East Yorks Regt.

Can’t argue with (t)hat ...

You say (SOLDIER No 10) that British troops “gasp at the extravagance” of Brussels women’s hats.

I have heard it argued, and see no reason to disbelieve, that these exaggerated hat styles were introduced in order to exasperate the Germans when Belgium was occupied. In this they appear to have succeeded.

Very few German women wear a hat like the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and get away with it. – Lieut A Kerr, RASC.

Things that really matter

The only thing I ask recognition for is better housing, an equal chance for my child in the Britain of tomorrow, the chance to share tomorrow the freedom won by six years of unparalleled sacrifice and devotion to duty.

Let us not, in seeking “Ds” for D-Day and “Rs” for Rockets forget the things that really matter, those things that can guarantee that the meaning of D-Day and the will to defy the Rockets shall not have been in vain.

What do the medals of the last war mean to the present generation? What will the medals of this war mean to tomorrow’s citizens? – Pte Frank Bayliss, RAOC, 4 Coy, 54 RHU.

FRATERNISATION WITH CHILDREN

The following message has been sent by the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Montgomery.

To all members of 21 Army Group.

1. I have been considering the present orders about non-fraternisation. We cannot let-up on this policy.
2. But these orders need no longer apply to small children.
3. Members of the British Forces in Germany will be allowed to speak to, and play with, little children. This will come into effect at once. In all other respects the orders issued by me in the card dated March 1945 will remain in force.

(Signed) B L MONTGOMERY
FIELD-MARSHAL
C-in-C 21 Army Group.

12 June 1945.

– From SOLDIER No 8

NON-FRATERNISATION: Latest

This is the text of Letter No 3 by the Commander-in-Chief on non-fraternisation:

To all members of the British Forces in Germany –

Great progress has been made in the de-Nazification of the British Zone and in removing Nazis from all responsibility in German life. Further, the Germans have shown themselves willing to obey my orders and to co-operate to the reconstruction of their country on non-Nazi lines.

I have already modified my orders about non-fraternisation and allowed you to speak and play with little children.

I now consider it desirable and timely to permit a further modification of these rules. You may now engage in conversation with adult Germans in the streets and in public places.

You will not for the present enter the homes and houses of the Germans nor permit them to enter any of the premises you are using except for duty or work.

I know the non-fraternisation policy has been a strain upon many of you who have to live and work in close contact with the Germans, and I appreciate the loyal way in which you have honoured it.

(Signed) B L MONTGOMERY, Field-Marshal.

– From SOLDIER No 11



Above – In focus: The scene at Bulford as wives, family members and friends gather for the dedication of Anne Armstrong House, the FOCUS training centre

Below – Child's play: Chrys Lee (left), deputy general manager of the RBL Training College, Tidworth, in one of the college's playgroups for children of staff and trainees, such as Mrs Sarah Poole (also pictured), who is married to SSgt Alex Poole REME, attached to 1 RHA. Sarah is studying for a diploma in running playgroups



Tidworth and Bulford pay tribute to Anne Armstrong

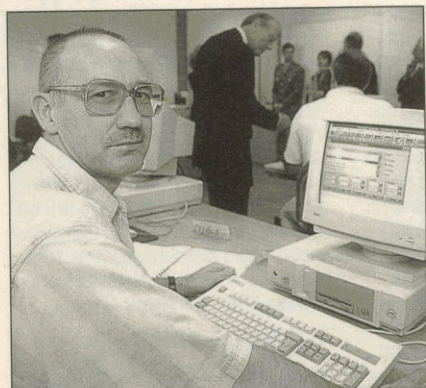
GLEAMING in the morning sunshine, the plaque on the new sports pavilion at Tidworth Park said it all: "Dedicated to the memory of Anne Armstrong MBE in deep appreciation for all she did for the welfare of all ranks and their families."

Anne, real name Mrs Jacqueline Mayo, campaigned tirelessly to improve the lot of the Service community in all

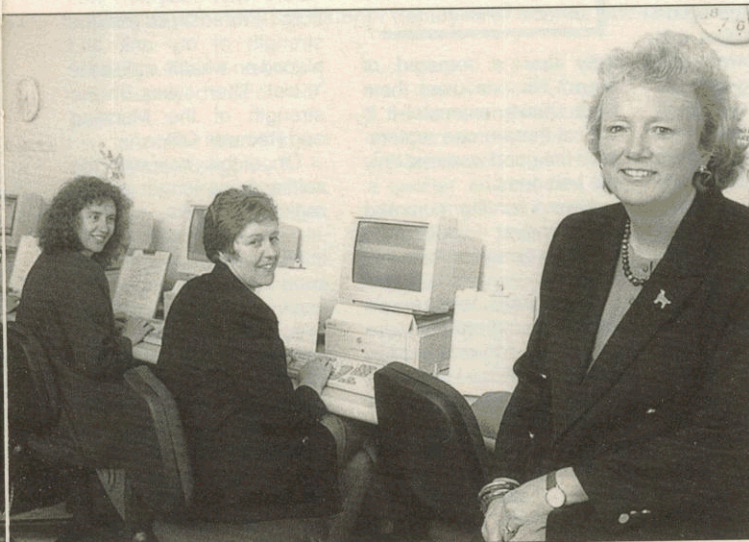
sorts of areas. The famous column she wrote in *Soldier* for 17 years was just part of the crusade which ended only with her untimely death from cancer, aged 56, two years ago.

The pavilion, opened by her husband, Col John Mayo, was one of three projects for which she fought and which were dedicated to her memory on June 9.

In the boardroom of Tid-



Booking a future: As he approaches the end of his Army career WO2 Kelvin Hill broadens his horizons with a computerised bookkeeping and accountancy course at the Royal British Legion Training College, Tidworth



worth's magnificent Royal British Legion Training College Col Mayo unveiled a huge photographic portrait of her and later at Bulford the FOCUS training centre, which teaches wives and mothers new office skills in their local environment, was named Anne Armstrong House.

Exhortation and dedication ceremonies were performed by the college chairman, Ron

Buckingham, and former Deputy Chaplain General, the Rev Graham Roblin.

Tributes were paid at all three locations to Anne Armstrong's vision, motivating influence, and fearless tenacity in identifying needs, helping to initiate projects and seeing them through.

The RBL training college plays a key role in the post-Options resettlement opera-

tion. An accommodation block for trainees is now being built on the 7.4 acre site.

FOCUS, which started with two computers in a borrowed room in Bulford, is now a

modern centre. Manager Mrs Margaret Nicholson said the training gave students not only the technical skills but the confidence to use them in the workplace.



Above – Perfect pavilion: Gen Sir Jack Harman, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (left), with Col John Mayo (centre) and his son, Capt Charles Mayo, Light Dragoons. Col Mayo opened the Tidworth Park pavilion in the background, named after his late wife, who wrote in *Soldier* as Anne Armstrong. Gen Harman was Adjutant General when Anne began writing her column in 1976

Left – Compu-tence: Fiona Joint (right), senior tutor at the FOCUS training centre at Bulford, with Army wives learning new computer skills, thanks mainly to Anne Armstrong

Pictures: Mike Weston



Name to remember: Col John Mayo unveils the nameplate to Anne Armstrong House at Bulford watched by FOCUS staff members including Mrs Margaret Nicholson (right)

In praise of those who care

I WAS delighted to be invited to SSAFA's annual meeting – a fascinating insight into the world of charitable work at the grass roots level.

Those who gathered in London for the AGM were, as you might expect, well-dressed, many with a Service background. At first sight, one might have lumped them together in a sweeping generalisation about Middle England.

But the moment they got to their feet, all such assumptions were dispelled. These are people who take their work seriously and are in touch with welfare needs across the generations.

Prince Michael of Kent, the SSAFA President, selected highlights from the year. Among them was a visit to Germany to meet staff

and volunteers. He said that in uncertain times for Service families, it had been heartening to see high standards of care.

I got the impression that SSAFA had had a good year. The volunteer network had increased by more than 1,000 to about 7,000 in all.

Six SSAFA projects had been launched in the United Kingdom, offering friendship and support to families in troubled times.

Overseas, health care continues apace. Campaigns focused on smoking, drinking sensibly and looking after the heart.

The conference message was upbeat, positive.

Bearing in mind the Prime Minister's exhortations to us to be more aware of the joys of volunteering, this group provided an excellent example.

But how much should we be asking of those who volunteer? Last year SSAFA was involved in repercussions from the Care in the Community Act.

Volunteers found themselves having to raise money for household adaptations and special equipment.

In Germany volunteers face hours of driving because, following Drawdown, families are increas-

ingly scattered. Reference was made to the problem of families finding themselves in German hospitals because they are too far from military facilities.

I cite these examples to demonstrate an important point about volunteering.

The volunteer becomes like the Dutch boy with his finger in the dyke, trying to stop enormous forces overwhelming the community.

If we as a society are prepared to let volunteers prop up our communities, we must also be prepared to fund them and their agencies. A delegate referred to income from legacies. This, I understand, is fairly

substantial, but it is obviously an area which could be developed. To do that, the organisation might need to be rather more assertive.

I found the reference to the problems of families having to use German hospitals unhelpful. As part of Europe, we should not be expressing such a concern. If postings become more a matter of choice, those going abroad should accept that they may be treated in local hospitals.

What would help is an increase in people coming forward from their own communities. It has happened in Cyprus where SSAFA/FHS caseworkers have been recruited from the expatriate community.

I found the conference interesting and cheerful. To spend time in the company of dedicated and energetic people was like finding an oasis in a desert.

To find out more about being a SSAFA volunteer, write to Ann Needle at SSAFA Central Office, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP (tel 0171 403 8783 ext 223).

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



Carli's column

'My husband should be father of the year'



SGT Lesley Skinner, whose views on soldier-mothers are published below, joined the Army 11 years ago because she was bored with being a clerk typist in civvy street.

She is far from being bored now. Her current post is at Vitez in Bosnia with the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. She rates the job satisfaction highly and intends to remain in the Army.

She married seven years ago and has an 18-month-old daughter,

Left: Sgt Lesley Skinner pictured at Vitez School, central Bosnia, where she is serving with 1 D and D as part of the BRITBAT 1 contingent

Lauren. Her husband, Charlie, is a sergeant in the RMP.

"Life is very different being a mum and working in the Army, but my husband is absolutely excellent," she said. "I couldn't have done it without him and he helps out in every possible way."

"When I went back to work after my maternity leave I was posted within six weeks to Canada and my husband had to learn all about looking after a baby."

"Although I have a

good childminder, obviously a lot of the burden fell on him, so he managed very well. I think Charlie should be nominated as father of the year."

Sgt Skinner said her six-month posting to Bosnia had not created any undue worries. "I am quite confident my husband will cope magnificently."

She believes the creation of the Adjutant General's Corps has given women much more credibility within the Army.

"It has allowed us a better career choice and given us much more opportunity to advance. It was a good change because it moved with the times and the Army is now able to adapt to the changing status of women within its role."

"I think I have been lucky because when I first joined the Army I was in the all-female WRAC before moving into the AGC. It has given me the best of both worlds because I've seen both aspects of women in the Army."

Soldier mums who are doing a 'brilliant' job

IT WAS with some dismay that I read the article "Wives' unease over pregnancy payouts" in *Soldier* (May 15).

I am sick of hearing the pessimistic view regarding women in the Army who have children. Of course, the biggest story of all is the one about girls claiming from the MoD for being discharged because they were pregnant.

While I can appreciate the wives' point of view, that the women who were discharged are being paid too much, why don't they consider for one minute that if the MoD had changed its policy in line with the rest of Europe these women would not now be claiming compensation?

My biggest moan is the comment that: "For example, when husbands have to do more than their fair share because female soldiers are not physically up to some of the jobs or when a soldier stays on the regiment's books but is unfit for duty because of the accepted rules regarding the

employability of pregnant women."

People are always quick to quote examples of pregnant women who cannot carry out their duties, but what about the women who carry on throughout their pregnancies and do the full

by Sgt Lesley Skinner
serving with the British Army in Bosnia

duty that is required of them? No one uses them as a shining example. It is typical that no one remembers the good workers, only the bad ones.

I am a serving mum and have never used any excuses to avoid doing my full duty.

The only differences when I was pregnant were that I had to wear civilian clothes because I could not fit into my uniform and I was put on light duties.

Light duties for me meant I wasn't allowed to carry out combat or basic fitness tests (CFT/BFT),

patrol and guard duties, or lift heavy objects during the period of my pregnancy. But I carried out my duties to the full, and the only time I was absent from work was when I had ante-natal appointments.

Not once was I late for work, nor did I use my pregnancy as an excuse to skive off duty. When I finished work six weeks before my daughter was born I was struck off the strength of my unit and placed on what is called the Y List. Then I was on the strength of the Manning and Records Office.

Once this happens the soldier is no longer on the regiment's books.

I was posted to an infantry regiment on the completion of maternity leave last August and within two days completed and passed a BFT. Consequently I was medically upgraded because I was considered fit to return to normal duties.

Two days later my unit deployed to BATUS in Canada for six weeks on a



Sgt Lesley Skinner with 18-month-old daughter Lauren. The photograph was taken days before Sgt Skinner deployed to Bosnia. She is now serving in Vitez

Medicine Man 5 exercise, and I deployed with the battalion.

I am now serving on

Operation Grapple 6 in Bosnia. I am a military clerk and not an infantry soldier, so my duties are totally different and I am not expected to carry out the same tasks as them. But neither, then, are the male clerks.

There is nothing the male clerks do that I don't, and vice versa. This year I have completed the same military training as them.

Many girls are now combining motherhood with a career in the Forces. One

such person, a single mum also deployed on Grapple 6, is a committed officer doing an excellent job.

Why shouldn't she have a quarter and receive the same benefits as a married couple? She has, after all, paid a fortune in taxes and national insurance (as have her male counterparts), so why should she not receive the benefits of a house?

Countless single fathers have been allocated quarters in the past – so why discriminate against women?

Single parenthood is so much more acceptable in

civvy street. Why should the Army be different? The MoD must move forward with the times and take into consideration the changing face of society.

This, I believe, has been assessed by the Bett Review. Had a more realistic view been adopted by the British Forces earlier, the MoD would not now be having to pay out vast compensation claims.

When my unit is not on operational duties, we have a commanding officer's run every Friday afternoon – and it's not an easy run either. I have to do each



ANOTHER soldier-mum serving with the United Nations forces in Bosnia is Cpl Tracey Dodding, pictured above. With the Royal Military Police, she is involved on general police duties and operational patrols with local police to counter banditry in the area.

Cpl Dodding has a 19-month-old son who is being looked after by her mother in Clacton. "I miss him very much, especially when I speak to him on the telephone. He is talking a lot more, so it gets to me a bit."

She has quite enjoyed her three-month tour in Bosnia. "It's something different and it is the first tour I have been on. I can say I have been out here and done the job that I trained for."

and every one (there are no excuses for skiving off, although I try a different one each week!), but quite a few of the men find some reason for not running, or are medically unfit to do so.

No one has yet bothered to mention the men who are unable to carry out their duties fully and who are medically downgraded. Believe me, in the Army there are plenty of men incapable of doing their own trade employment, and who have to rely on their colleagues to cover for them, or have to be employed elsewhere in the unit in a less taxing job.

Evasiveness exists in both sexes.

I think Army wives are on dangerous ground to suggest that women workers are voluntarily putting themselves up as invalids by becoming pregnant. This blatantly goes against a right for which women have fought for decades, and which has repercus-

Tracey's Bosnia beat

sions against the board, not just in the Armed Forces.

There is the comment that "We (the Federation of Army Wives) must move with the times and be a truly representative body by encouraging young and new Army wives to become involved." This, I feel, is not being done because the serving Army wives' feelings have not been considered at all.

The title of the Federation of Army Wives should be changed to the Federation of Non-Serving Army Wives, unless, of course, a serving member could be invited to attend meetings and conferences to give a "truly representative" view.

Just for a change, why can't we hear some positive comments on serving mothers?

I think that under the present circumstances we are doing a brilliant job. And as we are here to stay, people had just better get used to us!

SPEAK
NOW...

THE BETT Review recommendations on pay, career structures and conditions of service will affect British Army personnel well into the next century.

And YOU have your chance to mould the changes. Tell *Soldier* what you think of them. Good, bad, indifferent... the implementation team needs to know what YOU think.

If you do not wish your name, rank and address to be published, they will be treated in complete confidence, but please include them with your letter.

Here are a few topics on which you may have an opinion.

PAY

Tell us your views on performance-related pay or the scrapping of daily rates in favour of an annual salary.

Should Service boards be able to pay cash bonuses of up to 25 per cent of basic salary, with increased periods of notice, where there are unacceptably high wastage rates for key skills?

RANK

Is the current rank structure inviolate? Would a reduction in the number of ranks produce a higher level of operational efficiency? Should job evaluation be used to indicate the rank appropriate to a specific post?

Is the balance of jobs between officers and other ranks correct or are there posts currently filled by officers that could be done by SNCOs or WOs?

CAREER/PENSIONS

Is Bett on the right lines with his recommendations for a three-stage career (up to ages 30, 40 and 55) and is the option of a Stage 2 completion bonus a viable alternative to the current policy of providing immediate pensions for all who leave in "mid career"? Does it matter that resettlement proposals take place after discharge?

Should contracts be offered incrementally and is the review's recommendation that the initial engagement be for 8-12 years too restrictive? Do you think shorter initial engagements, say of five years, might be more appropriate for the Infantry?

How would you see the best WOs/SNCOs retained and employed beyond 22 years to stop the haemorrhage of valuable expertise? Is the proposal to pay pensions only at the end of a full career (at age 55) fair?

If pension proposals are accepted, you may be able to transfer yours to the new scheme. Would you be tempted to surrender the option of an immediate pension?

More topics in next issue

Straight talking on homosexuals

I AM neither homosexual nor a writer of endless letters to the media, but I do feel compelled to write to you concerning the case for allowing homosexuals into the Armed Forces.

Serving homosexuals are unable to defend their own corner as this would result in the destruction of their military career. It is time to slay a few of the "myths" concerning homosexuality.

First, homosexuals (whether the ratio is one in 90 or one in five), are a recognised minority, with legal rights, who have been with us since the beginning of recorded military history.

Secondly, homosexuals are serving in the Armed Forces at the moment (albeit "in the

closet"). The fact that there have not been hundreds of cases of their abusing their position to procure young soldiers for sex gives the lie to the idea that they would prey on the vulnerable.

Thirdly, as someone who served seven years as a Regular, including two "active service" tours, I personally didn't care if the soldier in the trench next to me was male, female, white, brown, or came from Mars.

All I was concerned about was whether they were professional enough to get the job done. I am sure that if push came to shove most people in the Service would rather go into action beside a dependable soldier who happens to be homosexual than a heterosexual one

who is a poor soldier. Finally, the fact that this issue has provoked such outcry in military circles only goes to prove that the Army is as usual lagging behind changes in society.

I feel that in the long run the Army will find it increasingly difficult to justify its "not compatible with Service life" attitude and will in time be forced to allow homosexuals to serve their country with the dignity they deserve. — J D Ellis (ex-LCpl), Stroud, Glos.

● The High Court last month upheld the Armed Forces' ban on homosexuals. The case was brought by four homosexuals who had been discharged from the Services. They said they intended to appeal. — Editor.

Campaign to clean up memorials

AS AN ex-Serviceman I have been greatly concerned for some time that many war memorials in Great Britain appear not to be maintained to a worthy standard.

Being disabled I am now retired and intend to give my full attention to putting this right. My aim is to form an organisation of "Armed Forces Associates" with the motto "Our Debt to Our Dead" to recruit volunteers to help this cause.

This may take the form of lobbying authorities where they do not appear to have fulfilled their obligations, or of arranging the actual cleaning of memorials where responsibility for them is not clear.

For both purposes, and for the national promotion of the project, funds will be necessary and I have fund-raising projects in prospect (there is no government or military funding available). Maintenance work will be voluntary and unpaid.

Encouragement will be given to the younger generation to become members, benefiting from working closely with older people and increased aware-



Ian Davidson in front of his corps' 92-year-old memorial in London

ness of the sacrifices made by the older generations to provide the way of life they enjoy today.

The association is seen as a very worthwhile focus and much of the groundwork for setting it up has been done.

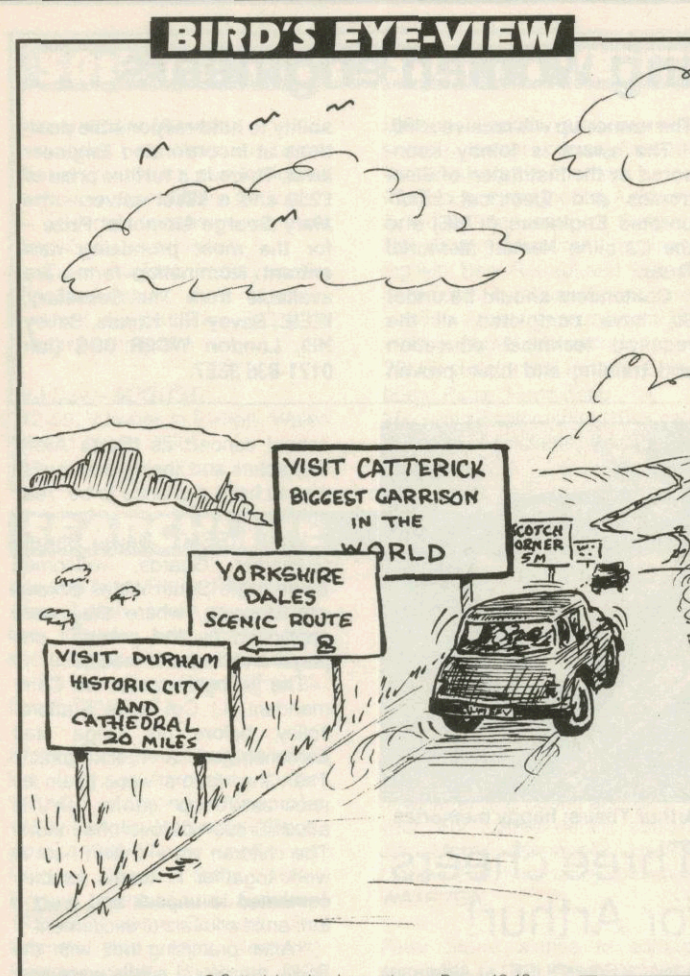
I would welcome the support of your readers and if any know of a memorial that appears to be in a shabby condition perhaps they would tell *Soldier*.

Do we honour our war dead? — Ian (Jock) Davidson, former (D) Cpl RM, London NW9.

DO US THE HONOUR...

ON OCCASIONS in the past you have used the term "honour guard" and in a caption to a photograph of a VE Day anniversary service of remembrance on Vis (May 29) you used it again.

I have consulted Ceremonial for the Army and Queen's Regulations and have found references to guards of honour and quarter guards (sometimes



Indian Army and equivalent ranks

IN THE caption to your picture of the Queen Mother talking to Subedar Major Umraq Singh VC (May 29) you refer to his British Army equivalent as sergeant major.

A subedar major was a Viceroy commissioned officer, pre-independence, and he was the most senior in his battalion.

The equivalent of sergeant

major was havildar major, a senior NCO. We did not have warrant officers in the Indian Army.

The equivalent of RSM would have been battalion havildar major and of CSM, company havildar major.

In my time in the Indian Army the subedar major wore three crowns on his epaulette.

Wartime hell of one 12-year-old

LIKE W McMillan ("Youngsters should be told more about our wartime hell", Letters, May 29) I also will never forget when in 1942 the Afrika Korps, led by the legendary Rommel, was only 60 miles from Alexandria.

As a 12-year-old barrack rat living in married quarters at Allenby Barracks, Jerusalem, Palestine, I was led to believe with others that our last defence at Mersa Matruh had fallen and the Axis would soon enter Egypt.

In turn Palestine, and Jerusalem, would be occupied and all our families would be under German rule.

We all waited in terror, especially those wives of Jewish origin and, of course, the Jewish civilians who had escaped persecution in Hitler's pre-war Germany and who thought they were safe in their

new homeland. After all the worry and uncertainty a new day dawned and, as one, all the church bells in Jerusalem, of all religions, rang non-stop.

When I asked an adult why, I was told joyfully that the Eighth Army, under Gen Montgomery, had won a great victory at El Alamein and the Afrika Korps was broken and in full retreat.

The relief and joy I felt on that day is with me still, 53 years later. — D L Taylor, Canterbury.

Tigers in their tanks

YOUR picture (May 1) of members of 6th Airborne shaking hands with Russian soldiers at Wismar meant a lot to me.

We in the Royal Scots Greys carried the Airborne Forces on the backs of our tanks from Lauenberg to Wismar.

It is strange that you mentioned in your caption that the Russian armoured column had been ranging westward from Rostock.

Our own objectives were Schwerin and Rostock but for some unknown reason we were halted at Wismar. We could have reached Berlin at the speed we were travelling, so the decision must have been political, as later we withdrew and Wismar became part of East Germany.

So many Germans were pouring back from the Eastern front that we had a job clearing a way. Numerically they could have swamped us, but they had had enough.

As we approached a level crossing the barriers were down and a train passed through carrying Tiger tanks. We had to let it go to avoid blocking the road. Ironically, they were travelling north west towards Schleswig Holstein on the Baltic! — Charles Salt, Hon Sec Derby and District, Normandy Veterans Association, Chaddesden, Derby.

ACF joins the fight against street crime

TWENTY cities in Britain have been targeted by an Army Cadet Force scheme to attract youngsters away from crime on the streets.

Launching the £23,000 a year initiative at St James's Palace in London, the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the ACF, said: "It is better for young people to learn the good things of life than the bad things."

The Army cadets hope to persuade up to 80 young people in each city to take part in challenging discovery weekends and "achiever" weeks.

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who attended the launch, said: "I am enormously impressed by what we manage to achieve for those who are cadets. We now want to offer that to many more youngsters, in particular those who are causing us all much anxiety, the disaffected, bored, crime-vulnerable youngsters hanging around on the streets."

He said it was not only the ACF's duty to help with care and leadership, but it was in everyone's interests that it did so.

Battlefields of England

MOTORISTS battling their way through Newbury's choked rush-hours have ample time to reflect on the town's need for a bypass.

But a proposed A34 re-alignment would take them closer to the site of a real battle, that of Newbury in September 1643, when a Parliamentary army under the Earl of Essex held off King Charles and his Royalists.

Essex, returning from Gloucester to London, occupied Round Hill and his men fought off Royalist attacks all day. When the Royalist army withdrew at nightfall, the king

Calling all young women engineers...

YOUNG female electronic and electrical engineers are being invited once more to enter for a competition which carries cash prizes as well as considerable professional prestige.

A cheque for £750 and a silver rose bowl will be presented to the 1995 Young Woman Engineer of the Year at a ceremony to be held next January.

The runner-up will receive £500.

The award is jointly sponsored by the Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers (IEEIE) and the Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust.

Contenders should be under 30, have completed all the required technical education and training and have proven

ability to hold responsible positions at Incorporated Engineer level. There is a further prize of £250 and a silver salver – the Mary George Memorial Prize – for the most promising new entrant. Nomination forms are available from The Secretary, IEEIE, Savoy Hill House, Savoy Hill, London WC2R 0BS (tel: 0171-836 3357).

SOLDIER to Soldier

had lost his best chance of winning the Civil War.

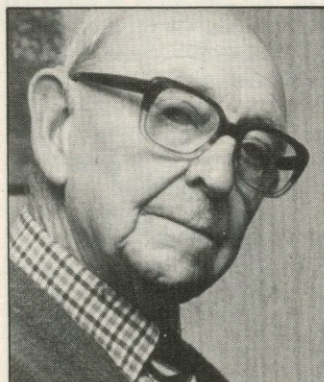
The battlefield north of Round Hill towards the river is readily accessible with good viewpoints, and key details appear in the new Register of Historic Battlefields published by English Heritage.

Designed to conserve and enhance England's battle sites, the register lists 43 (the National Army Museum originally researched 69 contenders) validated after a three-month public consultation process and consideration by experts.

Inclusion on the register confers "material consideration" status which must be considered in local planning for new roads or developments.

Bracelet picked up at Ranville

A GOLD bracelet found on the car and coach park at Ranville War Cemetery soon after the D-Day commemorations in June 1994 has turned up. It was found by the Mayor of Benouville, who believes it may belong to a veteran's wife. Lilian Turnbull on 0191 3840343 now has the bracelet and is anxious to restore it to its rightful owner.



Arthur Thairs: happy memories

Three cheers for Arthur!

A "PACKED HOUSE" at Aldershot Crematorium ensured that 97-year-old Arthur Thairs, former boy trumpeter with 1 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers and one of the dwindling group of Old Contemptibles from the First World War, went out in style.

True to his wishes, his funeral service was a happy, cheerful occasion, with a strong military musical flavour.

Attended by, among many others, representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Engineers Association, the service started with the singing of the sappers' anthem, "CRE", led with gusto by the RE elements, complete with lusty "Hurrah".

Hymns, prayers and an informal chat with members of the congregation by Padre Bob Green (Army Caterers, RLC) all contributed to a joyful send-off for Arthur, who, up to November, had continued to lay a wreath annually on behalf of the Old Contemptibles at Aldershot's Royal Garrison Church of All Saints.

At the end of the ceremony, the curtains closed, there was a short silence, then three cheers rocked the building.

Arthur would have liked that.

Sennybridge fulfils a dream

A DREAM came true for ten youths with severe learning difficulties when they visited the Army's training area at Sennybridge. They had taken part in a

school concert as "Dad's Army" characters and their greatest wish was to have a chance to be "real" soldiers.

WO1 (RSM) Dave Barrett, Grenadier Guards, welcomed them to the South Wales Borders Museum, where they were captivated by the colourful displays, uniforms and medals.

The youngsters met the Commandant, Lt Col Russ Stafford-Tolley, before his range staff demonstrated a mock attack. Then the visitors were taken by snow-cat troop carrier on an adventurous ride over the moors. The children were shown how to work together in teams as they competed to unpack and erect a tent amid squeals of excitement.

After practising drill with the RSM, the proud pupils were presented with special certificates by Lt Col Stafford-Tolley.

Jocks save the bird

A homing pigeon which fell exhausted from the sky in west Belfast is feeling perky again – thanks to some fast footwork by quick-thinking soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch. It fluttered on to a football pitch at the Girdwood Park base, where it was attacked and wounded by a marauding crow.

The Jocks sprinted over to chase off the crow and rush the pigeon to a local vet.

"When we saw the crow grab the pigeon and hit it with its beak, we couldn't believe our eyes," said one of the soldiers. The bird sustained a broken wing, but the vet believes it will recover.

A ring on the bird's leg carries the identification number 028709.

DIARY

Until the autumn: *Soldier* 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free. JULY

9: Royal Military Academy open day. Free entrance and parking. 18-29: 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

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

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Imperial War Museum

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

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

VJ Day – AUGUST

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

19: Open-air service in central

London; Tribute and promise parade, central London; firework display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, culminating with Beat Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London. Also largest parade in 50 years in Newcastle upon Tyne.

22: Fleet Veterans' Parade, Edinburgh Place, Hong Kong.

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

28: Liberation parade, Cenotaph, Hong Kong.

29: Battlefield tour, Hong Kong.

30: Beating Retreat, Stonecutter's Island, Hong Kong.

VJ Day

SEPTEMBER

2: Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V) disbandment parade.

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

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

SEARCHLINE

London Irish Rifles Regimental Association seeks new members. Details from membership secretary A J Batchelor, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4SA.

Kathy Young (née Sturgess) would like to hear from any former WRAC stationed Manorbier 1955, Tanglin Barracks (Singapore) 1956-57 (in touch with Gladys Jones, Edna Hope, Doreen Fisher) and Episkopi 1959-60 (Anne Collinson, Pim Bennett and Anita Griffiths). Replies to Mrs K Young, 224 Seven Sisters Road, Lower Willingdon, East Sussex BN22 0PF.

Carol Thomas wishes news of Edwall Thomas (No T/106699, B Pln, 187 Int Cnog Coy RASC, Polar Bear) and George

Stagg (RN 2147529, 75 Rd Const Coy RE). Replies to 386 Wythen-shawe Road, Northern Moor, Manchester M23 9DD (tel 0161 945 8533).

DUSSTAMPS, the postal stamp club for Service personnel worldwide celebrates its 200th monthly newsletter and postal auction this year. For further details contact Jim Morris, Kennerley House, Lindow End, Mobberley, Cheshire WA16 7BA.

Peter Stone wishes to contact members of the Armourer Boy Apprentices RAOC, Hilsea, Portsmouth batch of January 7, 1937. Replies to 626 Shropshire Drive, West Chester, PA 19382, USA.

Anyone who knew Keith Wood, who served in cavalry or RAF,

1945-46, Castle Ehrental, Klagenfurt and in Zwettweg, Syria, is asked to contact Mrs Sybille Frimmel, Dammgasse 19, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria (tel code plus 0463 41640).

R K Gegram seeks cap badges of units involved in Italy between 1943-45. Replies to PO Box 6116, Durban 4000, Republic of South Africa.

G Robson wishes to hear from former 6th (Border) Bn KOSB members who fought in the Reichswald Forest area of Germany and who have recollections of his late grandfather, Pte William Davis, killed going to the aid of a Maj Malone or Molony on February 23, 1945. Replies to 4 Castle Mews, Farringdon, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR3 3DX.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments

Maj Gen J F Deverell OBE to be Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from June 26 in succession to Maj Gen H W R Pike DSO MBE.

Maj Gen H W R Pike DSO MBE to be Deputy Commander-in-Chief Land in rank of lieutenant general from July 1 in succession to Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose KCB CBE DSO QGM.

Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose KCB CBE DSO QGM to be Adjutant General in the rank of general from July 7 in succession to Gen Sir Michael Wilkes KCB CBE.

Maj Gen D L Burden CBE to be Director General Army Manning and Recruiting from July 10 in succession to Maj Gen J F Deverell OBE.

Brigadier: G Risius – To HQ Land, June 19.

Colonels: T H E Foulkes – To MoD, June 1; B W F Holt – To UKMIS NY, May 29; J R Snowdon – To MoD, May 30; J N Barclay – To HQ UKSC(G), June 12; P B Kirby – To MoD, June 19; D W Wonson – To MoD, June 19; R K Williams – To RCB, June 19; D A Lynam – To MoD, June 19; D R D A Willis – To be Comd HQ Bde of Gurkhas, June 19.

Lt Cols: D W Brown RLC – To MoD, May 30; G A James, R Signals – To MoD, May 29; R J Kershaw, Para – To HQ LANDCENT, May 29; C G Patey RTR – To HQ Land South East (BAE), May 30; A J Roberts RHF – To CATC, May 30; A M Wallace, R Signals – To SANGCOM, May 31.

R G Campbell RLC – To 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, June 5; P Davies RRW – To MoD, June 5; J R Durance RE – To RAF Staff Coll (DS), June 5; R J Guille RA – To HQ Salisbury Plain Trg Area, June 5; D Littlewood RLC – To BOD Donnington, June 5.

G W Henderson RRF – To RMCS, June 12; D W Lethwaite RA – To be CO 14 Regt RA, June 12; T W Perks REME – To MoD, June 12;

D M Steele, R Signals – To be CO 21 Sig Regt (Air Sp), June 12; R D Symonds, R Signals – To HQ 4 Div, June 6.

K T Bacon AGC(PRO) – To HQ Land, June 19; R T Carman RLC – To MoD, June 19; C H B Garraway AGC(ALS) – To MoD, June 19; J H Gibbon RA – To MoD, June 19; H H McNinch REME – To RMCS, June 19; J M Phillips RA – To be DA Dhaka, June 19; J A Hamilton RA – To CVHQ RA, June 19.

Retirements

Brigadier: S R Gilbert, late RE, May 31.

Colonels: M M Ayrtton, late R Signals, June 1; D M Stobie, late RAOC, June 5; C P Newlyn, late RADC, June 4; R J Davy, late RAOC, June 25.

CLOSURES

Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital is due to close in the near future. Property donors who wish items to be returned should contact the Admin Officer (0181 781 2229) or Staff Assistant (0181 781 2490) by July 1. The QEMH will ensure all unclaimed items are forwarded to the most appropriate Service medical establishment.

Plaques, caricatures and photographs may be offered to hospital staff. Persons who donated items to messes within QEMH should write to the Mess Secretary as soon as possible.

The RHKR(V) disbands on Sept 3. A plan is being made for the disposition of Volunteer Trust proper-

REUNIONS

Resettlement at Hipswell Lodge, Catterick Garrison, will be marked with a garden party on July 14. Past members of staff, military and civilian, are asked to contact (by June 20) the Commandant, Resettlement Centre, Catterick, N Yorks DL9 3AX (tel 01748 872898 or 872900, fax 81748 872906). Photos and relevant memorabilia for the event appreciated.

Birmingham Association of Far East Prisoners of War Association: JV Day service of remembrance, St Martins-in-the-Bull Ring, Birmingham, August 20 at 1830 hours.

18 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC (formerly 43 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT): Reunion for all past and present civilian and military staff on August 26 at Dibgate Camp, Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone. Details from Sgt Peter Summerell (tel 01303 225044) or Mr Adam Brint (tel 01303 225054).

12 Bn Devonshire Regt (6th Airborne): 49th annual reunion dinner will be held at the Devon Motel, Exeter bypass (Matford Roundabout) on October 7. Those who served 1940-45, or families, are asked to contact Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel 01392 874596).

Somerset LI (Malta and Cyprus 1955-59): Reunion planned at Ladymead School, Cheddard Road, Taunton, Somerset on October 14. ACC, RAEC and APTC also welcome. Details from Dave Williams, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, nr Bridgwater, Somerset (tel 01278 683022) or Trevor Fackrell, 6 Greatwood Close, North Petherton, nr Bridgwater, Somerset (tel 01278 455934).

7th and 3rd (V) Battalions, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment (TA): Annual reunion at The Armoury, Stockport on October 28. Past and present members of 3, 4 and 7 Cheshire, and A Coy, The Mercian Volunteers, welcome. Tickets (£3) from the Secretary, 95 Hazelwood Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 4NB.

South Notts Hussars Association: Reunion dinner in Nottingham on November 11. Details from Col A J Haines, 54 Rivergreen Crescent, Bramcote, Notts NG9 3ET (tel 0115 9285371).

ty in Officers' Mess, WOs' and Sgts' Mess and RHQ. Anyone who presented an item should contact Frank Mullens by July 28 at RHKR(V) (Property), 1 Sports Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong, BFPO 1 advising what should be done with the property should it not be found a home in the new Association Rooms.

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Sue Tinker on 0151-357 2938 or write c/o TRBL Training Company, Unit 14, Poole Hall Industrial Estate, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral L66 1ST

Goose Green: the myth and the reality

IT IS RIGHT that attempts be made to get historical facts as straight as possible, while recognising that complete accuracy can never be achieved.

Further, it is the duty of every military historian to seek out the truth from behind the curtain of official and biased accounts of campaigns and battles.

Any writer who takes on himself the task of drawing attention to inconsistencies in accepted accounts must expect something nasty to hit the fan when the work is published, especially when the events examined are well within the living memory of those who took part.

Spencer Fitz-Gibbon knew well that his book *Not Mentioned in Despatches ... The History and Mythology of the Battle of Goose Green* would provoke controversy and possibly cause offence.

As he writes in his introduction, he was told, "by a recent chief of the general staff, who was sent a draft of the doctoral thesis on which this study is based, that I seemed 'to have fallen into the modern practice of wanting to decry everything'."

"Sometimes," Fitz-Gibbon adds, "one may feel that the utmost rot may be written about the British Army, as long as it is complimentary rot ..."

The author puts forward his accusations with emphasis. For instance, further into the book we read: "It seems ... that the British Army has done its best not to look too deeply into the death of Colonel Jones or the action at Darwin Hill; but has in fact spun some ripping yarns conducive to misunderstanding the episode."

With remarks like this, Fitz-Gibbon cannot really expect to be flavour of the month within the establishment or among some of those who returned from the Falklands after the conflict.

The main questions posed in this book are: "Was Goose Green really a 'feat of arms and gallantry probably unsur-

passed in the glorious history of the British Army?" And did 2 Para really attack two, possibly three, battalions, and out-fight "successive lines of excellently prepared Argentine positions"?

The author's case when it comes to analysing the performances of Col H Jones VC and 2 Para at Goose Green is based on the two military doctrines of restrictive control (emphasising detailed planning and strict obedience to precise orders) and directive command (emphasising the right of commanders to command in their own sphere without interference from above).

It is clear which doctrine the author prefers and his argument that Col Jones leaned too heavily towards restrictive control is generally convincing.

The author quotes the ancient Chinese military philosopher Sun Tzu in support of favouring directive command; however, he omits to refer to another of Sun Tzu's rules of strategy: "Much computation brings triumph. Little computation brings defeat."

"The events surrounding Col Jones's much publicised death," the author writes, "have raised a great deal of controversy ... On the one hand there is the criticism that Jones was too far forward; that he lost the broader perspective by allowing himself to be drawn into A Company's fighting."

"... On the other hand is the defence of Jones's up-front command as being rather in the style of Rommel or Patton or Guderian, in that he grasped where the problem was and hastened to the scene."

The overall impression given by Fitz-Gibbon is that the Colonel's conduct in the action was akin to that of Ney at Waterloo, "rushing about the battlefield trying to get himself killed in a death before dishonour effort", to use the words of a sergeant who was present at Goose Green.

The book reaches a climax in Chapter XII when there is a



Helmets, weapon magazines, ammunition and water bottles litter the ground after 1,200 Argentine troops surrendered at Goose Green

footnote with a sinister implication: "There is disagreement about where, and from which direction, Jones was shot. It has even been said that he was shot by one of his own side, allegedly because he was about to lead a suicide attack." These allegations seem to have been

passed to Fitz-Gibbon through second- and third-hand reports.

Not many players in the drama of Goose Green come out squeaky-clean, nor do authors of books on the Falklands War. *The Battle of the Falklands*, by Max Hastings

Man who said 'Pass, friend' to the King

CANDIDATES for top jobs might, if pressed, admit to being tense at the initial interview, but nothing more.

Not so wartime sergeant Norman Kirby who, in *1,100 Miles With Monty* (updated from the 1989 original) describes how scared he was by the abusive manner of his interviewers.

His experience was not so much an interview, more an interrogation by a couple of loud-mouthed bullies who, by his own admission, scared the daylight out of him.

Fluent in French and German, he was ordered to a camp near Portsmouth for an

interview for a mystery job which transpired to be that of NCO in charge of security and intelligence at Montgomery's Tactical HQ 21st Army Group.

As it turned out his bullying inquisitors were two "distinguished actors" hired to bawl at him in German and French, which left him "shaken and nervous by their shower of abuse".

But he survived the grilling and the dual role - of issuing passes to the great and good who wanted to see Montgomery, and acting as his official interpreter - was his.

He signed passes for every-

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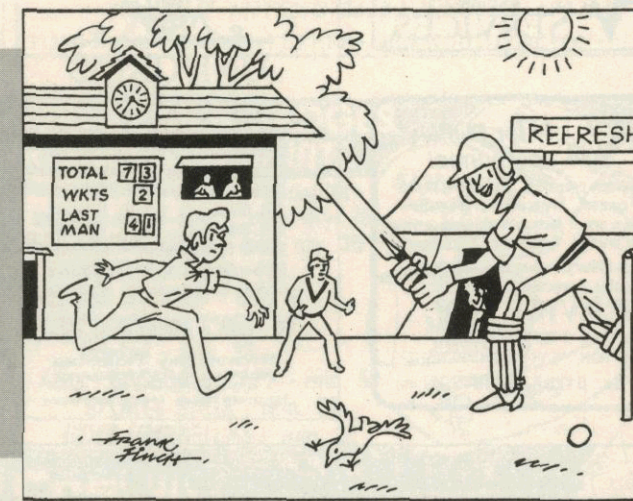
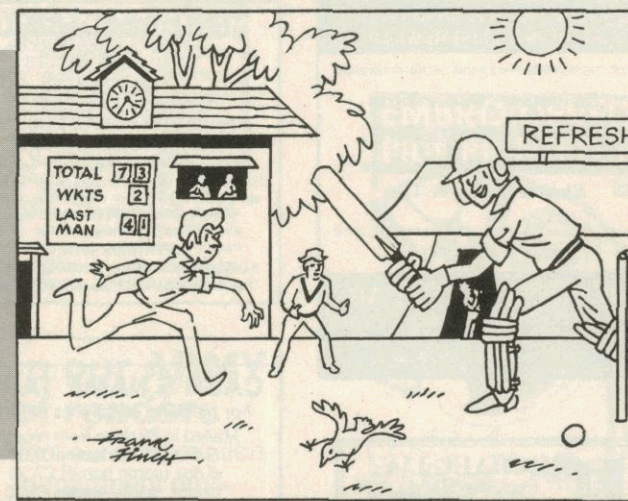
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Competition No 612 (May 29 issue): Congratulations to In-Pensioner J Connolly, of Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Maj L Brown, of Harwich, Essex, and Mr Bill Thackray, of Croydon, Surrey.

and Simon Jenkins, is subjected to considerable criticism, as is, to a lesser extent, Maj Gen John Frost's *The Battalion at War*.

We read what can be interpreted as scathing comments such as: "... niceties such as consistency appear irrelevant to writers bent on glorifying military achievements as though the results of a battle were fantastic cricket scores."

It is a remarkably outspoken

book, but it must be said that when closing it the impression is that something of this kind could have been written about almost any battle in history.

The recording of a factual account of any conflict is a notoriously difficult, even impossible, undertaking. - BJ

Not Mentioned in Despatches...The History and Mythology of the Battle of Goose Green by Spencer Fitz-Gibbon. Lutterworth Press, hardback, £17.99.

Life on nine bob a week all found

THE inside cover blurb of *War on the Ground 1939-1945* claims it provides "uniquely revealing insights into the lives of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary events".

Maybe those interviewed by Colin Bruce were - or are - "ordinary" and some of the memories they recount of their service both before and during the war a bit unusual, which makes them interesting, but not necessarily unique.

But for all of that, this is a book which will hold the attention of all those who served at the time and subsequently.

It begins with the enlistment of a young chap in the King's Regiment in Liverpool in 1930 and a descriptive mix of the good and bad times he endured, and ends in similar vein with a story of the "Forgotten Army" and the war in the Far East. In between are one girl's

memories of joining the ATS a few weeks before the outbreak of the war. It was during the lull before the storm - the "phoney war" - and, while her story has a *Girl's Own* air, it is revealing in that the Army acted as mummy, daddy and nanny towards them and paid them nine shillings and fourpence (less than 50p) a week with everything found.

Other stories tell of harsh battle conditions which, while quite remarkable, have numerous parallels in other published works.

Nevertheless, this is one of those books which will be of interest to anyone with a modicum of curiosity about life in the Army over those five dangerous, exciting, but ultimately tremendous years. - JM

War on the Ground 1939-1945 by Colin Bruce. Constable Publishers, hardback, £18.95.



Norman Kirby pictured in May

1,100 Miles With Monty - Security and Intelligence at TAC HQ by Norman Kirby. Alan Sutton Publishing, paperback, £9.99.

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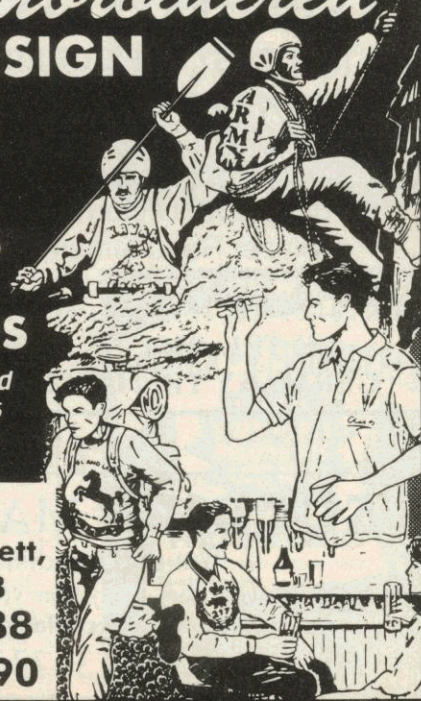
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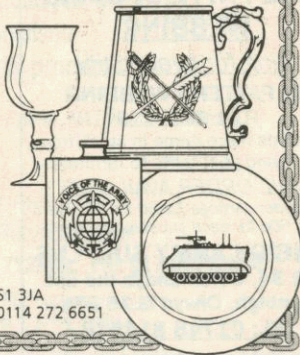
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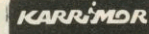
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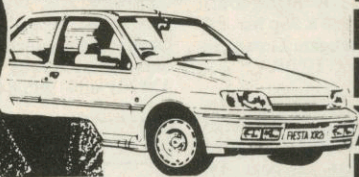
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D6

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

Janet, 48, 5', blue eyes, salt and pepper hair, pleasantly plump. I have a wide range of interests and would like to hear from single, non-smoking pen pals of any age. **P431**

14/95

Linda, attractive, thirtysomething. Dark hair and hazel eyes, non-smoker. I have varied interests and would like to hear from any sincere forces male aged 30+. **P432**

14/95

Anne Marie, 29, 5'7", gingery brown hair and blue/green eyes. Interests: music, dancing, walking, football, cooking, clothes and writing. I am single, have a bubbly personality and would like pen pals aged 30+. **P433**

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Single soldier, 22, fair hair and blue eyes, gsoh. Interests: pubs, night clubs, travelling, music, having a good time and sports. I would like female pen friends aged 18 to 30. **P434**

14/95

Janice, 27, 5'6", medium build with blonde shoulder length hair. I love travelling abroad (especially Cyprus), Indian cookery, eating out, night clubs and theatre. I would like to hear from anyone aged 20+. **P435**

14/95

Would any officer or SNCO aged 35-45 like to write to an army barmy lady called Wendy? Interests: photography, nights in and out, good food, music and good wine. ALA, photo appreciated. **P436**

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My name is Gill, I'm 30ish with blonde hair and blue eyes, slim and attractive. GSOH. Interests: swimming, walking, nights at home. If you are 25-35 get writing, photo appreciated. **P437**

14/95

Joanne, 23, 5'7" with blonde hair and blue eyes. I enjoy going to pubs, watching TV and writing letters. I have a bubbly personality and would like to hear from soldiers aged 23+. **P438**

14/95

Denise, 5'1", slim with dark hair. I like clothes, music, reading, pubs etc. I would like pen pals aged 34+ with a good sense of humour. **P439**

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Sian, 26, 5'2" with dark curly hair and brown eyes. I enjoy going out, cinema, reading and most music. I am single, quiet with gsoh. I would like to hear from unattached pen pals aged 25-33. Photo if possible. **P440**

14/95

Nikki, 22, tall, attractive, slim with blue eyes, based in the Midlands. I would like to hear from tall soldier pen pals aged 23-29. Please send a photo. **P441**

14/95

Lorna, 27, 5'7", blonde hair and blue eyes. I enjoy music, going out, keeping fit and cooking. I'm a single mum to a six-year-old boy and would like pen pals aged 26-32. **P442**

14/95

Carole, 34, 5'3", blonde hair and blue eyes. I like music - soul, reggae, Motown and dance - films, pubs, clubs, having a laugh and tap dancing. I would like to hear from pen pals aged 32-38. **P443**

14/95

Fun-loving nanny would like to hear from Forces pen pals anywhere. Please write to **P444**

14/95

Hi chaps, I would love to hear from you soon. I am 50, a divorced mum, easy going and cheerful with gsoh. I enjoy walking, countryside, reading, yoga and family history. **P445**

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Jackie, 21, 5'4", green eyes, light brown hair, petite. I used to play in a marching band. Interests: learning British sign language, self-defence, nightclubs and poetry. I would like pen pals aged 18-26. **P446**

14/95

Lady, enjoys shooting, country sports and travel. Would like to hear from officers aged 45-50 with similar interests. Photo appreciated. **P447**

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Ros, 39, divorced professional lady. Would like to hear from pen friends anywhere. **P448**

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JUNE 17, 1995

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Army to host Swedish riders at Longmoor

AN international military match between three-man Swedish and British Army teams is to be included in Exercise Hard Ride, the Army motor cycle championships on September 30-October 1.

Hosted by 9 Field Workshop REME at Longmoor training area in Hampshire, the championships will include individual and team competitions, testing riders' endurance and ability to maintain their machines in a tough environment.

The event is open to riders, on standard Service or civilian machines, from the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Police.

Details about Hard Ride can be obtained from SSgt G Gorse, 6 Battalion REME, Louisburg Barracks, Bordon, Hants GU35 0NE (tel Bordon Mil (729) 2228, or 01420 482228).

Staffords' challenge

NEARLY 300 children from both sides of the Irish border battled it out for honours in a five-a-side football challenge organised by the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment at their base at Ballykinler.

The Ballykinler junior challenge started last year when WO2 Billy Cottom of the Staffords organised a competition for local teams who regularly use the football pitches at Ballykinler Barracks in County Down.

Soldiers from the battalion and panel of officials from the Army Football Association helped to run the event, which was watched by the Northern Ireland football manager, Bryan Hamilton.

He said: "I can only thank the Staffordshire Regiment for putting so much effort into organising this event."



Endurance team Lt Col Val Hall and Warnitz at speed. The "hat" on the horse is to protect the ears from midges and small insects

Long haul rider aims for GB call

ENDURANCE rider Lt Col Val Hall has been long-listed for the Great Britain team to ride in the European championships in France in September.

Before that, she has to negotiate the 100-mile national championship course at Cirencester on July 22.

Val Hall, currently posted to the MoD, became involved in long-distance equestrian events while stationed at Fallingbommel in Germany. She bought Warnitz, then a four-year-old Trakehner-Warmblood cross, from a farmer in Luhmühlen, but found the horse unsuited to dressage or jumping.

A 30km ride in the Bremen area with two horses from the Royal Hussars' stables convinced her that longer distances were Warnitz's forte, and on their return to England she joined the Endurance Horse and Pony Society (EHPS).

Postings at Beaconsfield,

Shrivenham and Catterick enabled them to undertake rides in different parts of the country to build up fitness, culminating in their entry in EHPS set speed events known as competitive trail rides.

At the end of the season Hall and Warnitz finished fourth in the novice championships which are scored over ten rides, the limit for a novice.

Points are awarded for mileage completed, with horses having to finish sound and fit. Each horse is graded according to the number of penalties it incurs, and its heart rate and physical condition at the end of the endurance event.

After another flirtation with three-day eventing, Val Hall and Warnitz returned to endurance. They increased their distances over the next four years until they entered the British open event at Market Rasen last year, finish-

ing tenth over 100 miles which had to be completed in a single day. The pair averaged just over 8mph.

The result, taken with nine other rides of between 40 and 60 miles, earned them the EHPS senior open championships for 1994.

The result brought her to the attention of the Army Saddle Clubs Association, who supported her successful application for an Army Sports Lottery grant which will go towards competition expenses.

First major event of this year was the Golden Horseshoe ride on Exmoor, a British Horse Society 100-mile event over two days from Exford.

Warnitz won a silver award in a field of 48.

Lt Col Hall is looking for three more potential endurance riders to form an Army team. She can be contacted on Main Building (780) 80246.

Over to you, skipper!

WARM sunshine, a morning of incident and a remarkable finish combined to make the Army's game against Free Foresters at Aldershot one to remember.

The visitors turned up a player short so "borrowed" the Army's 12th man. When an Army player also failed to arrive, the home side were left one short.

The Army were inserted and, in keeping with the friendly nature of the fixture, lunch was taken at 1400 hours so that players from both sides could watch the start of the England-New Zealand World Cup rugby match.

Capt Kirk Steel (3(CS) Regt RLC) made 56, Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) 66 not out, and skipper Capt Richard Greatorex (29 Regt RLC) an undefeated 35 as the Army

Foresters accept a friendly offering

moved confidently towards a declaration total of 251-5.

At 121-6 the Foresters were in dire trouble. But Greatorex decided to make a game of it and introduced himself into the attack. His figures of 2-99 off 14 overs reflect how successful he was in achieving his objective.

His last over, the final of the match, was blasted for 19 as Free Foresters achieved an unlikely victory, their final pair

at the wicket, with a boundary off the last ball.

One of the two sixes in the over was caught on the boundary before the player fell over the rope.

Army (251-5 dec) lost to Free Foresters (254-9) by one wicket.

A depleted Army side was no match for a very strong Club Cricket Conference team on a bitterly cold day at Uxbridge.

The CCC won the toss and, on a good track, predictably chose to bat.

Their daunting 55-over total of 293-4 was never likely to be threatened, and only Sgt Nick Palmer (2 (Trg) Regt AAC) and Greatorex offered any prolonged resistance.

Both men scored half-centuries, Palmer 52 off 62 balls, Greatorex 51 from 97.

A defiant 18 off the final three balls of the match by Lt

John Allum (Para ITC Catterick) lifted the Army reply to 191-9.

CCC (293-4) beat the Army (191-9) by 102 runs.

Poor weather on the first two of their three-day fixture against Oxford University in The Parks failed to prevent the Combined Services falling to a ten-wicket defeat.

Pte David Matthews (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) scored 27 in the Services' first innings of 145. Oxford responded with 215, Matthews taking 3-46 and Capt Paddy Logan (9 Regt AAC) 3-64.

The Servicemen, 70 behind on the first innings, could manage only a modest 223 in their second knock and the students cruised to a comfortable ten-wicket win on the third day with a 157 opening partnership.



Maj Hugh Dawnay (front) with (from left) King's Royal Hussars officers Capt Felix Gedney, Maj Adrian Bradshaw, Lt John Fisher and 2nd Lt Charlie Valdes-Scott during a three-day polo course held in the KRH's York Barracks at Münster, Germany.

Maj Dawnay, a former 10th Hussar, has been teaching polo since 1976, and this was the tenth

year that he has run courses for the Rhine Army Polo Association. All aspects of the game, including riding skills, shots, tactics and rules were covered during the three days, which culminated in a series of chukkas which revealed a remarkable improvement among all the players.

Pupils included five from the KRH, four Light Dragoons and two Germans from the Höhne area.

Warriors win volleyball promotion

PROMOTION to Division 3 of the English Volleyball League rewarded the Army team, playing as the Warriors, for another excellent season.

The side lost just twice, dropping only four points all

season, to head Division 4 (South). The squad included Capts Martin Shakespeare and Simon Mann, player-manager WO2 (SSM) Dave Williams, SSgts Leigh Pilcher, Micky Pearce and player-coach Ian

Lester, Cpl Pete Barlow, LCpl Scotty Scott and Mr Steve Flitcroft.

Based at Princess Marina College, Arborfield, the Warriors will be sponsored next winter by the Brand Group.

PMC lead junior unit swimming

PRINCESS Marina College, Arborfield, finished ahead of 82 Training Squadron RE, REATW, in the Army junior unit team swimming championships held at Arborfield.

Results in the individual events were:

400m freestyle - AT Cpl Pearce (PMC), 5:06.11; AT Flitter (PMC), 5:33.51. **50m breaststroke** - AT McDonald (PMC), 37.66; 2, AT Thurlow (PMC), 38.40; 3, AT Skene (82 Trg Sqn RE), 39.40. **50m backstroke** - AT Snarey (PMC), 33.67; 2, AT Barratt (82 Trg Sqn RE), 36.40; AT Phippen (PMC), 36.07.

50m butterfly - AT Hollyfield (82 Trg Sqn RE), 30.98; 2, AT Connell (PMC), 37.14; 3, AT Barratt, 37.56. **100m breaststroke** - AT Marcus (PMC), 1:21.55; 2, AT Thurlow, 1:26.20; 3, AT Hewitson (82 Trg Sqn RE), 1:26.55. **50m freestyle** - AT McDonald (PMC), 27.94; AT Sken, 30.40; 3, AT Perry-McLeod (PMC), 32.10.

100m freestyle - AT Hollyfield, 1:01.93; 2, AT McDonald, 1:06.43; 3, AT Flitter, 1:07.86. **100m backstroke** - 1, AT Snarey, 1:15.87; AT Barratt, 1:19.82. **200m ind medley** - AT Hollyfield, 2:39.44; AT Cpl Pearce (PMC), 2:45.34.

Gurkha black belt loses Europe gold – by a nose

BLACK belt Spr Indrakumar Rai won the British bantamweight championship at the British International tae kwon do championships in Manchester's Olympic Sports Centre and went on to gain a European bronze medal.

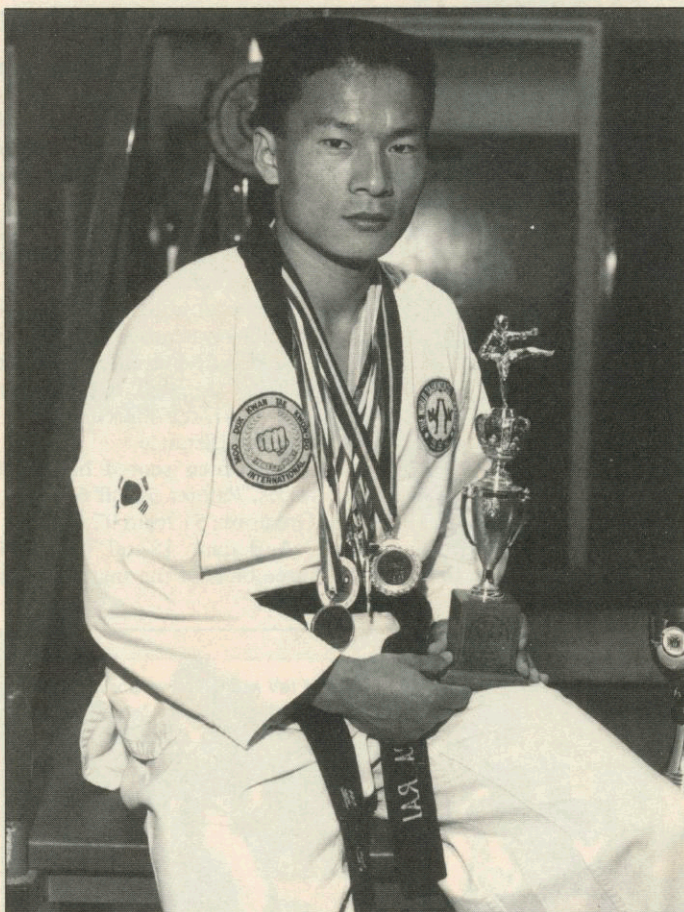
Indra and fellow black belt Cpl Netrakumar Rai, both serving with 36 Engineer Regiment's 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, represented British Forces at the prestigious tournament. They had trained with coach Spr Jhapatsingh Bhujel for several weeks before the championships, delaying their return to Nepal on leave so that they could compete.

More than 700 players from 22 countries took part at Manchester.

Indra's first contest matched him against the Great Britain bantamweight champion. Giving away several inches in height, the Gurkha sapper opted for counter-attack in a tactical fight, who led by three points at the end of the second round.

The final round was hectic, Indra knocking his opponent to the floor and out of the ring to win.

Netra gave away a full 12 inches in height in his opening match against a Finnish international who employed a



British champion: Spr Indrakumar Rai of 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn RE

hammer kick technique to fend off the smaller Gurkha and score points.

Although he attempted to

reduce his opponent's ability to defend by attacking the shins, thighs and groin, the Gurkha lost by five points to three.

Indra knocked his next opponent out in the opening moments of the second round and moved into the quarter finals of the European phase of the tournament.

He quickly overcame a French opponent to set up his semi-final match against another Olympic competitor from Finland.

Although scoring some impressive points with head shots in the first round, Indra lost a point on a warning for pushing. Only a knock-out was likely to rescue him, and the result was spectacular.

The Gurkha harried his opponent relentlessly, delivering a punishing array of body and head blows.

But on moving forward to finish the fight, Spr Indrakumar sustained a defensive kick to his nose.

The bleeding which resulted could not be stemmed in the 30 seconds allowed and the Gurkha lost his chance of adding European gold to the British title.

The British Army's tae kwon do expertise is based mainly in Hong Kong with the remnants of the Brigade of Gurkhas. On their return to the United Kingdom in 1997 the Army can expect to compete at team and international levels.



Bessey's in Olympic reckoning

ENGLAND, Army and Combined Services boxing champion Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) has been asked to join the Olympic Games training squad when it gathers for the first time at Crystal Palace.

Bessey won a bronze medal at the prestigious Liverpool multi-nations tournament, and was thought by many observers to be unlucky not to

reach the final. On the computer scoring system he was just a single point behind his opponent when he had appeared to be in control.

Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt), the super-heavyweight, also won a bronze medal.

Gary's a Long Ranger

LCpl Gary Clarke of the 7th (City of Belfast) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment with some of the many trophies he has won during the long range target shooting season. On display are the President's Scottish Open Championships Trophy, the Season Cup which he won at the same meeting, and the Wood Cup for long range competition in the Army championships.

IT WASN'T THE BULLET THAT CRIPPLED HIM.

IT WAS THE PENSION.

Hopefully nothing serious will ever happen to you.

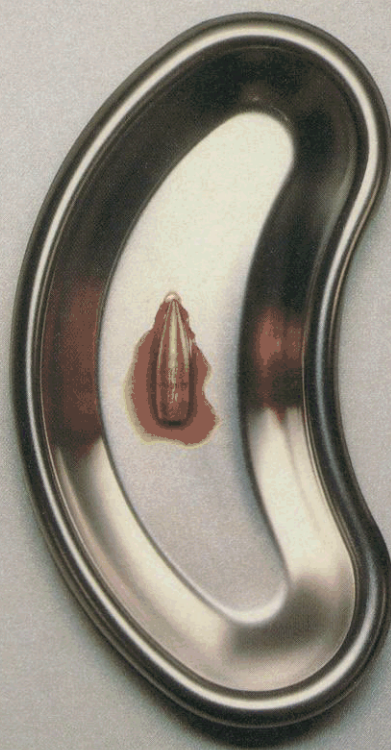
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These unique tracked Rapier support vehicles – the only such high-mobility load carriers in the British Army – take part in their last exercise in Germany before the return of 16 Regiment RA to the United Kingdom. Story and more pictures in Pages 23-25.

Picture: Mike Perring