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# 6 Armoured Brigade disbands at Werl Countdown for Spearhead

BRITAIN's most formidable fighting formation will cease to exist on October 1 when the 1st (British) Corps formally disbands at Bielefeld on October 2 to form the nucleus of Nato's new Rapid Reaction Corps.

A large parade at Bielefeld will mark the handover. Lt Gen Jeremy Mackenzie, 1 (BR) Corps Commander, is to command the new 12-nation Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), which will initially have its headquarters in Bielefeld.

The ARRC HQ is expected to move to Rheindahlen in 1993-94.

Known as the Spearhead Formation, 1 Corps was created in 1901 under the command of Gen Sir Redvers Buller at Aldershot. A year later Lt Gen Sir John French took over.

Re-titled Aldershot Command in 1904, the formation reverted to 1 Corps at the outbreak of the First World War, embarking for Europe as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

Placed in suspended animation in 1919, it was re-formed in 1939, sent to Belgium with the BEF and subsequently evacuated from Dunkirk. Four years later 1 Corps re-crossed the Channel on D-Day, capturing Caen and Antwerp before assuming responsibility for the administration of territory occupied after the Rhine crossings.

Further name-changes took place before 1 Corps was again disbanded in 1947. In 1951 it was redesignated 1st British Corps with headquarters at Bad Oeynhausen, moving two years

**FRONT COVER: Main picture** – Cpl Clarence Callender (2 Signal Regiment) explodes into action in the 100m at the Army Inter-Unit team athletics championships in Aldershot. Catterick-based Callender won the Major Units' first string 100m and 200m races. Story and more pictures in Sports Pages. (Picture: Terry Champion).



Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, the Corps Commander, takes the salute at Werl during a vehicle and helicopter drivepast and flypast marking 6 Armoured Brigade's disbandment. On the left is the Brigade Commander, Brig Christopher Elliott

later to its new home at Bielefeld.

There, ringed by garrisons at Herford, Detmold, Sennelager, Paderborn, Münster and Osnabrück, it has been the main combat formation of the British Army.

Until the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, 1 (BR) Corps, augmented by a Division from the United Kingdom, could put 55,000 troops and more than 600 tanks into the field.

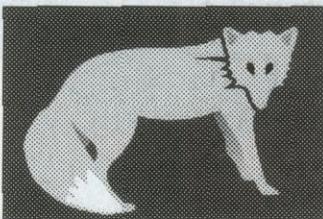
In 1953 Col John Hunt, then serving in the Corps HQ, carried a 1st British Corps flag

to the top of Mount Everest. • Meanwhile, 6 Armoured Brigade held its disbandment parade in Werl in the presence of Lt Gen Mackenzie and Maj Gen Helmut Willman, Commander 7 Panzerdivision, who presented awards on behalf of the German Government. Standards and Colours of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment were paraded with pride.

The brigade, the first in Germany to disband, has a history dating back to 1808 when it was formed and placed under command of the 2nd Infantry Division. It remained part of 2 Div until 1970, since when it has been based in

Soes. The brigade fought with distinction in the Peninsular and Crimean campaigns, the South African War and two World Wars.

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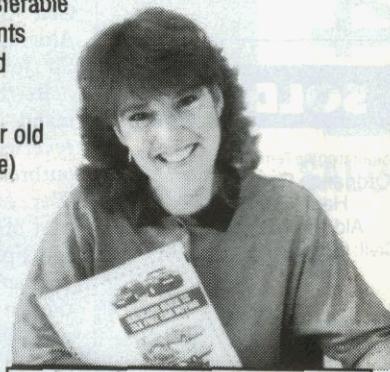
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# National tribute to El Alamein

EVENTS to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein will include a service in Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen on October 14.

The service, being held by the Eighth Army Association, will be welcomed by those unable to travel to Egypt for commemorative services to be held at El Alamein itself on October 25.

Announcing the Queen's attendance at the Westminster Abbey service, Defence Minister Viscount Cranborne told the House of Lords on July 14 that the Government was planning a commemorative service in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

"This will be a national event involving the country as a whole," he said.

Each Service has chosen its own event for a special 50th anniversary commemoration. El Alamein is the Army's selection.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, son of the Eighth Army commander, said news of the Westminster Abbey service would be widely welcomed by many widows and families of desert campaigners who were unable to travel to Egypt.

## Greenjackets battalion cut

AT MIDNIGHT on July 25 the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets stationed at Osnabrück, Germany ceased to exist under the Options for Change cuts.

Its soldiers have been posted to the regiment's two remaining Regular battalions, the re-numbered 1 RGJ based in Omagh, Northern Ireland, and 2 RGJ at Dover.

The regiment's two Territorial Army battalions - the London-based 4th and Oxford-based 5th - are unaffected.



## Medals for Gulf airmen

### AG congratulates SOLDIER trio



Three SOLDIER recipients of the Gulf Medal were congratulated by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, when he visited the magazine's offices in Aldershot. Pictured with Gen Ramsbotham are (from left) photographer Mike Weston, writer Laurie Manton and photographer Terry Champion. They, with the late Bill Moore, filed pictures and stories from Saudi Arabia as the Desert Rats prepared for war, then followed the British armoured brigades into Kuwait City

## Glosters take to the air

FOUR hundred soldiers leap-frogged across the Irish Sea in 30 helicopters during a three-day air mobility exercise featuring an aviation battle-group of the Catterick-based 24 Airmobile Brigade.

Lynx and Gazelle helicopters of 9 Regiment AAC were joined by Dutch Alouettes and Bo

Brig John Reith, Commander 4 Armoured Brigade, presents Gulf Medals to officers and men of 4 Regiment AAC at Detmold on the 50th anniversary of the formation of 654 Squadron.

The regiment, comprising 654, 659 and 669 Squadrons, flew Gazelle and Lynx TOW

helicopters in support of 4 Armoured Division during the war and, with elements of 661 Squadron AAC, successfully completed missions against Iraqi forces.

Brig Reith was Chief of Staff 1 (UK) Armoured Division throughout Operation Granby.

## Milan in action at Otterburn

ANTI-TANK platoons from 32 units took part in the 1992 UKLF Milan concentration at Otterburn where, on alternate days for nearly a month, the hills resounded to the roar of wire-guided missiles.

During that time 631 missiles - worth about £5.3m - were fired by ten Regular Army platoons, 20 TA and two from Royal Marine commandos. For many TA soldiers it was the last occasion they would fire Milan as their units are to re-role to Home Defence and lose the weapon.

Platoons were dropped by helicopter before making a rapid 3km march with equipment to get to their firing positions. Simulated battle conditions were provided by the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, the organising unit.

IN OUR report in the July 27 issue on the formation of The Royal Irish Regiment we referred to the GOC Northern Ireland as Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilsey. He is of course Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey.

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# Fighting finish boosts 13/18 H

A POOR start to the prestigious Boeselager 92 competition for Nato armoured recce units cost the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) any chance of victory.

But against intense competition from 18 other units representing ten nations, 13/18 H fought back to finish a creditable fourth overall and second in the Foreigner's Cup.

Despite being one of only two teams to complete the vehicle patrol mission on the first day, the Wolfenbüttel-based squad was not credited and given a low score.

Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Commander-in-Chief BAOR; Maj Gen Rupert Smith, Commander 1st Armoured Division; and Brig Robin Searby, Commander Armoured, were among the large British contingent which saw the Hussars win the punishing 3.5km assault course event by more than 40 seconds.

The Hussars also won the night orienteering by a clear hour, becoming the first squad for four years to complete all the checkpoints, and later added the recognition phase to their list of first places.

A squad of 18 chosen by team captain Maj Harry Ogden began training four-and-a-half months before the event.

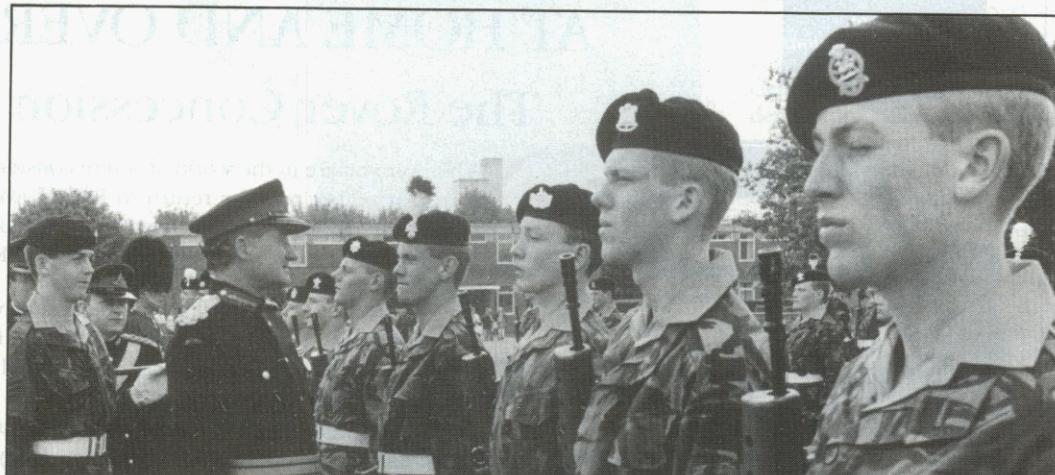
Hosted by the German Army, the competition was this year staged in the Sennelager area and attracted entries from Germany, Holland, Canada, France, the United States, Spain, Turkey, Italy and Belgium.

## Innis DG memorial

A MEMORIAL to the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and 7 Armoured Division has been unveiled at Echt in Holland. It commemorates the liberation of the town in January 1945.



The 13th/18th Royal Hussars team takes a break during the Boeselager 92 armoured recce competition



Maj Gen Mike Tennant, Director Royal Artillery, inspects the first infantry junior leaders to complete their training at Bramcote, Nuneaton. Formerly used exclusively to train Royal Artillery junior leaders on 12-month courses, Bramcote now encompasses infantry and artillery training over a six-month period. Junior leaders then go on to complete special to arms training at other locations

## Workshops to shut next year

DISTRICT and base workshops at Bridgend, York, Liverpool and Wetter, Germany are to close as a result of the reduced volume of repair work undertaken by the Army following Options for Change.

Armed Forces Minister

Archie Hamilton announced in the House of Commons that 39 (Bridgend), 41 (York) and 42 (Liverpool) District Workshops would shut by March 31 next year, and 23 Base Workshop at Wetter by March 31, 1994. The REME-led

## Falklands aid fund to close

THE SOUTH Atlantic Fund, which has paid £16.6m to injured Falklands veterans and widows and dependants of men killed in the 1982 war, is to close on December 31.

About £3m will remain invested for allocation through the three Service Benevolent Funds, and will be used to meet future needs arising out of the Falklands conflict.

Under a formula agreed on numbers of killed and wounded, the Army Benevolent Fund will receive about half the residual money.

Of the 1,062 cases dealt with by the fund, 396 were injured in the fighting or subsequently required help and 124 were Army dependants. Army grants totalled £7,759,775, with nearly £5.3m going to the injured and £2.5 to dependants.

Lt Col Simon Brewis, secretary of the South Atlantic Fund, said: "Recently we have been giving a lot of help to unemployed Falklands veterans."



workshops are almost entirely manned by civilians.

Closures are expected to achieve savings of £7m in operating costs, and create a substantial increase in the volume of contract repair work undertaken by British industry.

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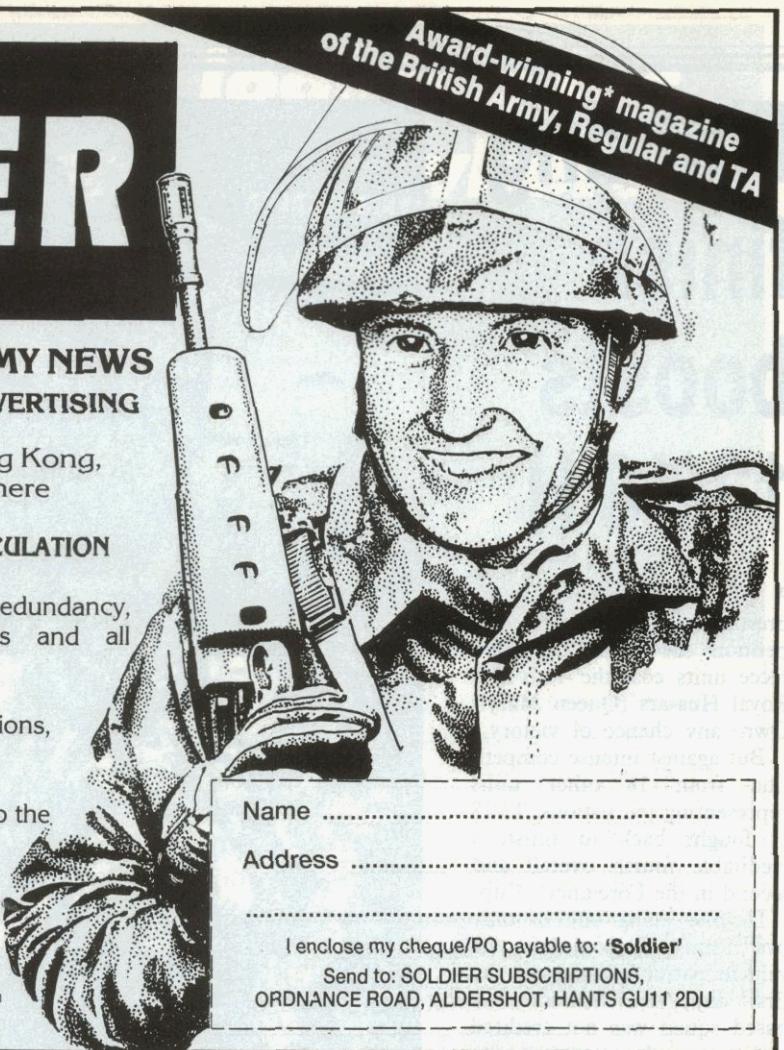
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## Proposed RLC insignia unveiled

Red Inset  
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Gold

Symbols from each of the constituent corps are included in these artist's impressions of the proposed Royal Logistic Corps cap badge and button.

The new corps will be formed in April by the amalgamation of the RCT, RAOC, RPC, ACC and RE Postal and Courier Service.



Gold Inset and  
Surrounds

## Saudi medal award begins

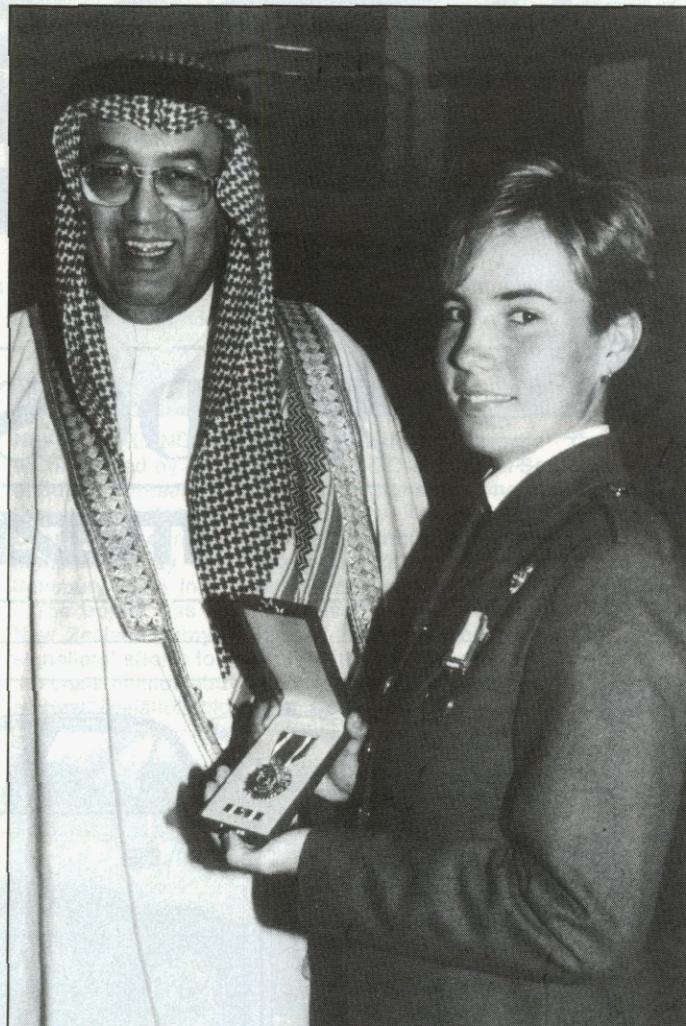
SEVEN soldiers were among 19 Servicemen and women who received medals at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London.

They were chosen to represent the 45,000 Britons who took part in operations to liberate Kuwait.

The Custodian of the Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, thought that the bravery of the soldiers deserved special recognition, and ordered that each participant be given the Liberation of Kuwait Medal.

The medals were presented by the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, who said: "It is a gesture of friendship to all those who stood with us in defeating aggression."

Among the soldiers to receive their medals were 20-year-old Dvr Amanda Tillotson, of 56 Squadron RCT who drove fuel tankers across the desert to resupply units, and Sgt Tony Hastie, RA who received a Commander Royal Artillery Commendation for service in an



Picture: Mike Weston

Saudi Ambassador Dr Ghazi Algosaibi presents Dvr Amanda Tillotson RCT with her liberation medal

ammunition control point in Iraq.

The remainder of the medals will be issued in due course by the Ministry of Defence to Service personnel who qualified

for the British Gulf War medal with the clasp "16 Jan to 28 Feb 1992".

Each will be issued with a copy of King Fahd's decree for the medal and a translation.

been forming at Dishforth over the past year.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, who took the salute and inspected the parade, said that 9 Regiment faced a challenging future as part of a multi-national airmobile division alongside German, Dutch and Belgian forces.

The audience included civic leaders, the GOC Eastern District (Maj Gen Michael Walker), the Commander Aviation UKLF (Brig Edward Tait) and a group of British former ground crew of 426 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, which was based at the North Yorkshire airfield during the Second World War.

## Dishforth revamp celebrated

WAVE after wave of Lynx and Gazelle helicopters landed to disgorge 250 soldiers who formed up in front of an invited audience at the official opening of the £40m revamp of Dishforth Airfield in North Yorkshire.

The occasion was also the official introduction of 9 Regiment, AAC, which has

## Carry on, RE posties

A NEW agency which aims to streamline the Forces postal service without affecting the role of the traditional sapper postie has been launched by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton.

Based at Mill Hill, the Defence Postal and Courier Services Defence Support Agency (DPCS DSA) will allow the Royal Engineers (Postal Courier Service) to operate along more commercial lines and expand its entrepreneurial activities within a budget.

The agency – made up from a combination of the Directorate of Postal and Courier Services and the Postal Courier Depot – is the first in the Quartermaster General's area and has been set demanding targets to achieve.

Before planting a commemorative tree, Mr Hamilton toured the RE (PCS) postal depot at Mill Hill and officially inaugurated the appropriately titled "Archie" – a machine capable of scanning and sorting 25,000 letters an hour for all BFPO numbers from 1 to 5000.

## Fair shares

ABOUT 2,000 Service personnel serving overseas at the time of the Abbey National Building Society flotation in July 1989 are believed to be eligible for free shares worth up to £260.

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# BW given town's freedom

THE 1st Battalion, The Black Watch has been awarded the Freedom of Market Drayton less than a year after moving into Clive Barracks, Tern Hill, near the Shropshire town.

Commanding officer Lt Col Nigel Lithgow described the Freedom as "an unprecedented honour", especially as the battalion will be based in Shropshire for a relatively short time. In December it is due to deploy to Hong Kong.

The Freedom, the first bestowed by Market Drayton on the Armed Forces, was exercised for the first time when the regiment marched through the town on July 17.

• • •  
Lt Col Mike Syms, commanding officer of 8 Regiment RCT, laid a wreath at Dresden War Cemetery during a two-day cultural visit by officers and warrant officers of the Münster-based regiment to Dresden and Colditz.

• • •  
A United Nations water bowser which rolled off the Buffer Zone track at Garland's Bend – named after Dvr Garland of the RCT who was killed in a vehicle accident on the same corner in 1987 – was recovered by Plant Troop of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE.

• • •  
More than 1,300 people took part in the 26th Rheindahlen Allied March on July 1.

## The ammo movers

Drawn up behind 2i/C Capt Steve Hawley in Goojerat Barracks, Colchester, are men of 1 Squadron RCT who received their Gulf Medals from Maj Gen Michael Walker, GOC Eastern District. The squadron deployed to the Gulf in December 1990 and was primarily responsible for the resupply of ammunition to a front-line artillery regiment. Also present at the ceremony were Brig Evelyn Webb-Carter, Commander 19 Infantry Brigade, and Maj Eain Crossen, OC 1 Sqn RCT

Picture courtesy of Essex County Newspapers Ltd.

## Bulford medal parade



NEW ZEALAND High Commissioner George Gair, accompanied by Maj Paul Oldfield, OC 249 Signal Squadron at Bulford, presents Gulf Medals to signallers who served in the war. He also presented the Kiwi Trophy to Cpl David Connolly (inset right) who won the annual march and shoot competition by completing the 22km course across Salisbury Plain in 2 hours 23 minutes.

The trophy was originally given to the squadron by the New Zealand Army's Chief of Staff in recognition of the signallers' efforts to keep clean the Kiwi monument cut into the chalk hillside above Bulford, and for tending the graves of New Zealand soldiers at Codford.



## Cerney ceremony

SEVENTY-FOUR men and women of 29 Transport and Movements Regiment RCT were presented with Gulf Medals by Brig Hugh Pye, Commander Bulford Area, at their Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney.

The regiment is commanded by Lt Col Ritson Harrison, RCT who also commanded the Logistic Support Group (ME) in the Gulf.

Soldiers from 29 Tpt and Mov Regt were responsible for all aspects of the movement of personnel and equipment to and from the Gulf.

## Belle's back

MARCHWOOD Belle, Soul Train and Thunderstruck are home at last. The three Boss G2512 all-terrain container handling trucks – familiar to soldiers passing through Jubail and the Forward Maintenance Area during the Gulf War – are back with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT at Marchwood military port.

They unloaded more than 50 ships – recorded as "battle honours" on their sides – and handled more than 27,000 containers.

# Ready to take on Nato's finest

Britain's first female team to compete in the CIOR military pentathlon being staged this month in the Netherlands has been training under the direction of Reserve Forces Association squad coach Lt Col **Eric Ironside**. Pictured in front of him are (from left) Officer Cadets **Emma Fryer** of Northumbria UOTC (with SMG), **Lynda Trehearne**, from Bristol UOTC (with 9mm Uzi), **Cathy Hawley** from Southampton UOTC (with the SLR), and **Amy Brooker** of London UOTC (with 9mm pistol).

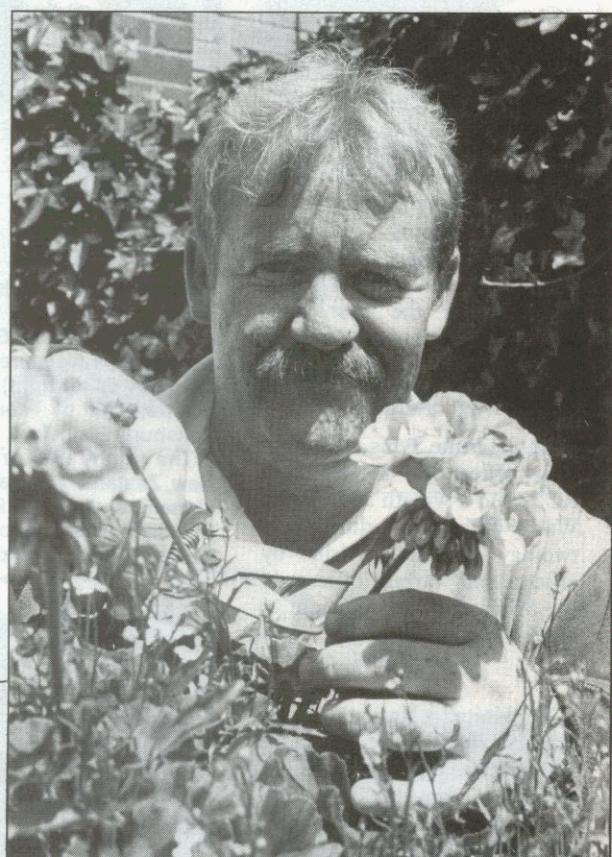
The girls will be members of a 27-strong British RFA squad taking part in the tough military skills competition for Nato reserve officers. They will be tested on shooting, swimming, orienteering, first aid and on an assault course.



## Mark's in top flight

Cpl **Mark Breach**, a pilot serving with 651 Squadron, 1 Regiment AAC based at Hildesheim, Germany has won the Hughes Master Pilot Trophy for 1992. A written test of pilots' knowledge of the principles of flight, tactics, meteorology and aviation procedures, the trophy is contested annually by AAC pilots and aircrew worldwide. Capt **Richard Felton**, also 651 Sqn, was runner-up.

The trophy, a model of the unconventional eight-engined Spruce Goose aircraft, was presented by Mr **William Frederick** of Hughes International Germany.



## French leave

Pte **John Todd** of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots pipes the French minesweeper *Phenix* out of Inverness Harbour as Midshipman **Fabieen Postel** gives a final salute. During the warship's four-day visit, Lt Col **Bill Sylvester**, new CO of the Fort George-based Royal Scots, was entertained on board.

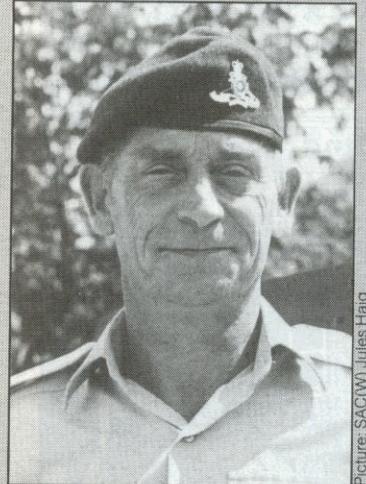
The *Phenix*, the oldest warship in the French Navy, is soon to be decommissioned.



## Drum role

Past and present drum majors of the Apprentice Band from Princess Marina College, Arborfield met when the band visited Livingston, West Lothian during the Edinburgh KAPE (Keeping the Army in the Public Eye) tour. App Drum Maj **Mark Kane** (left), the current incumbent, is pictured with Sgt **George Lyell**, REME, at present serving as a special recruiter with ACIO Bathgate. George was at Arborfield from 1975-77 and joined the Pipes and Drums as a drummer.

Mark (18) was a pupil at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, and a member of their Pipes and Drums which play at Murrayfield before Scotland's international rugby matches.



## Geordie's last round

SSgt **Geordie Mavin**, a Commando Gunner from Newcastle, has fired his last gun after 27 years with the Royal Artillery. Retiring after a two-year attachment to the Gibraltar Regiment, his final act was to fire the 21st 25-pounder in a royal salute by Thompson's Battery on the Rock.

Picture: SAC (W) Julian Haig

## Eric's a legend in Hameln!

SSgt **Eric Sykes** introduces himself to the crowd as Pied Piper of Hameln during the annual re-enactment of the legend. Since 1977, when the British Garrison was granted the Freedom of Hameln, an all-British cast drawn from the garrison and youngsters at local Service schools has put on two performances of the play, which is performed each weekend in the summer by a German cast and draws visitors from all over the world. Apart from dressing up to save the town from its annual plague of rats, SSgt Sykes serves with Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment.



# PEOPLE



A contingent of 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment leads a parade of Old Comrades at Bassingbourn to mark the final Grand Reunion of The Queen's Regiment before amalgamation with the Royal Hampshire Regiment on September 9.

# We will never forget you



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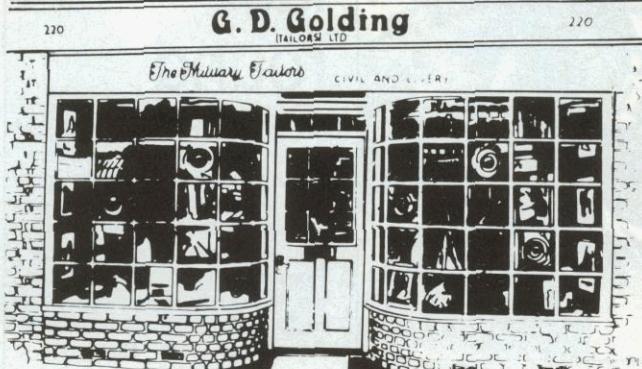
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The Queen inspects her Second Battalion of Scots Guards on arriving at Holyrood Palace

# Royal celebration for Scots Guards

SCOTS GUARDS went on parade in combats as well as in ceremonials before the Queen when they celebrated the 350th anniversary of their formation in Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh.

It nicely illustrated how they can turn their hands from operations to parades with little preparation – as they did in reverse ten years ago during the Falklands War.

The 1st Battalion is on roulement in West Belfast from its base in Hohne, and is not issued with ceremonial dress. The battalion could spare only a representative company to attend the parade, spending just a few days in the Scottish capital before returning to Northern Ireland.

The 2nd Battalion, which will go into suspended animation late next year, is based at

Redford Barracks in Edinburgh, its first posting in Scotland since the mid-1960s.

Parade commander was the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Brig Mike Scott, the 2nd Battalion's CO in the Falklands, and taking part were 360 Regulars and 700 association members including several from Canada.

On parade were 11 ex-Scots Guards members of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers. Out of 350 Archers the regiment provides 40. The Third Guards' Club, including two eminent MC holders, Lords Runcie and Whitelaw, the Regimental Association and in-pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, represented

those who served in the past.

Extra-regimentally employed Scots Guardsmen returned to join the two battalions, the regimental band, and the two Pipe Bands and Corps of Drums, while contingents from The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and the

20th (Dreghorn) Detachment of Lothian and Borders Battalion, Army Cadet Forces, held promise for the future. In all, and including families, about 5,000 people enjoyed the birthday celebrations.

The 2nd Battalion had a problem celebrating its 300th anniversary at Gazala in the Western Desert in 1942. It had hoarded six Naafi tins per man and declared a "holiday" when the Germans decided to attack.

The issue of beer had to be curtailed, said Gen Sir Michael Gow, former GOC Scotland.

The Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief, told her Scots Guards men it was no easy task to follow the men who closed the gate at Hougoumont, stood fast at Alma and covered their Colours in battle honours in two world wars. But many on parade had shown in the Falklands and in the Gulf that the modern regiment is worthy of the heroes of the past.

Passing into suspended animation next year would be a sad moment, the Queen said, but she drew grins from her guardsmen as she added: "I suspect that any Scots Guardsman worth his salt will always reckon that one Scots Guards battalion is worth two from anywhere else."

● See also Pages 16 and 17

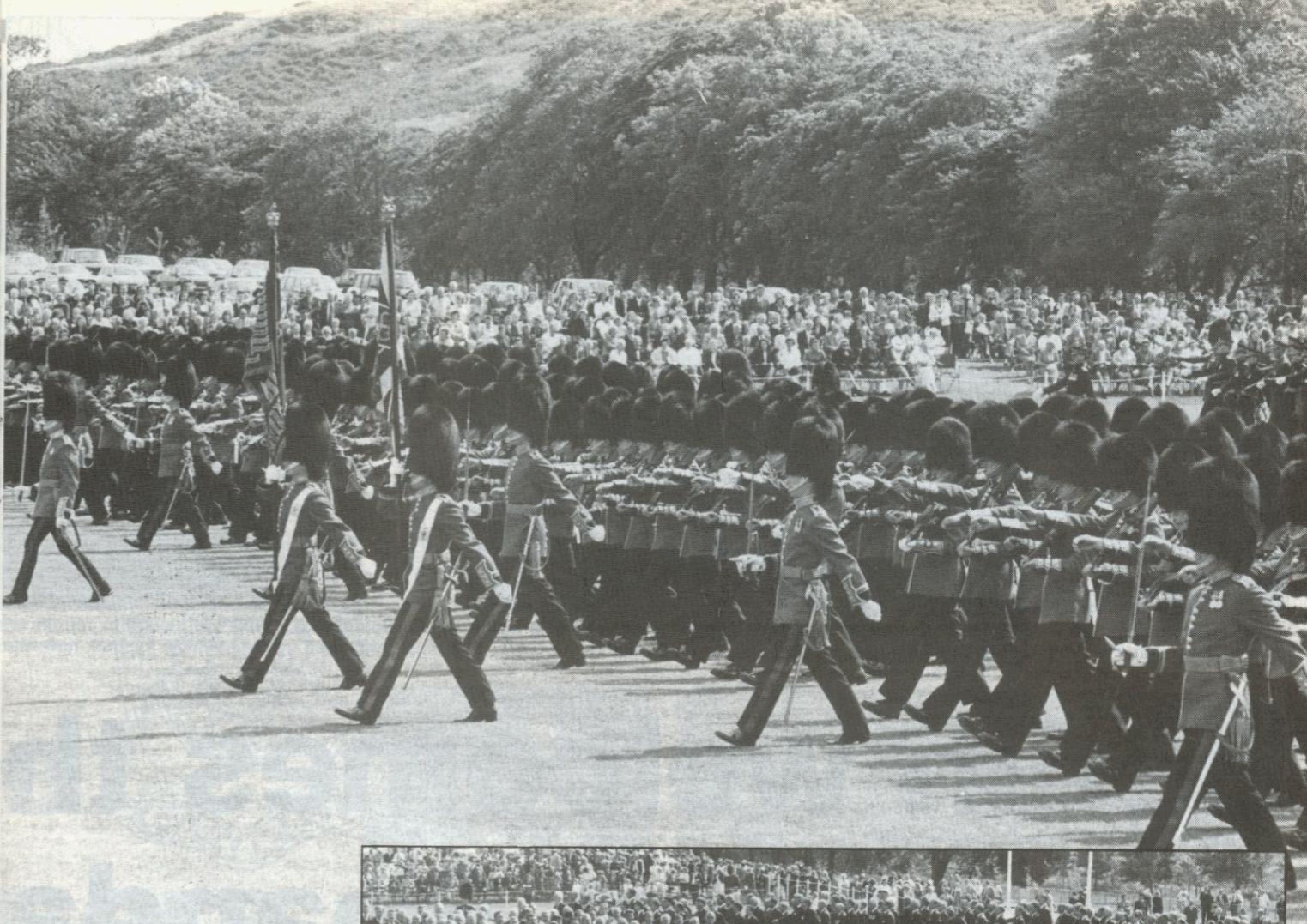
Words:  
**Gordon Skilling**  
Pictures:  
**Mike Perring**



The State Colour flanked by the colours of both battalions



Bearskins are now synthetic but are still required for rehearsal – and still shrink during parade



Above – The Scots Guards advance in review order

Left – Faces in a crowd: Lords Runcie and Whitelaw, both holders of the Military Cross



Association members have a proud past



The Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's bodyguard for Scotland, numbers 40 ex Scots Guards in its roll of 350.

# Regiment's Irish role began in 1642

SERVICE in Ireland for the Scots Guards today is a six-month roulement. Their ancestors were left there six years – usually without pay – when they were sent in 1642 to protect Scots settlers from rebellion.

The regiment attended his coronation at Scone on New Year's Day 1651 and escorted him into England to regain the English crown but was crushed at Worcester in 1651. The survivors kept a low profile until the Restoration in 1660, when the Scottish Foot Guard was re-raised to garrison Edinburgh and Dumbarton.

Within a week of Charles I's execution in 1649, the Scots proclaimed his son king and the "Irish companies" were made his "Lyfe Guard of Foot". Charles II presented them with Colours at Falkland Palace in 1650, on the very day that Cromwell crossed the Tweed against him, and the young



Armed with pike and broadsword Gdsm Allan McMillan recalls the uniform of 1642, while Gdsm Peter Millar bears the SA 80 at Arthur's Seat

Guards and Coldstream Guards with whom it was quartered in Hounslow and who dubbed it "the kiddies".

"Caledonian dress" was worn by a company to police

the Highlands a generation before it became accepted more widely. Today, while the 1st Battalion has about 60 per cent Scots and the 2nd Battalion about 75 per cent, the regiment has 13 recruiting sergeants in northern England. The old Commonwealth is also well represented.

Guarding the sovereign is one of the most prestigious military tasks, traditionally only given to the best soldiers. The value of Scots soldiers was recognised by the French King Louis XII who formed his own Garde Ecossaise in 1425.

Value was not always recognised at home. One company got no pay for ten months in 1670 and were on the verge of starvation and rebellion. With public sympathy behind them, they finally received their arrears in Holyrood Palace. The whole regiment received an extra two

months' pay for keeping the peace during the fury against the Act of Union with England in 1707.

Pipers had no pay in 1670, being kept and maintained on the whim of their captain. Today they provide double value as combat soldiers and a fine Army pipe band. The military band, too, has some of the finest instrumentalists in the Services, but is subject to military law, unlike its predecessors, who were hired from London theatres and paid by the month.

The regiment's continuing value was proved at Tumble-down in what General Menendez called the decisive battle of the Falklands conflict.

It has lived up to its motto, translated as "Wha daur meddle wi' me?", and the "who dares" element continues in the motto of the SAS, started by a Scots Guardsman.



QLR soldiers cross the River Havel during an amphibious training exercise to defend Berlin, in conjunction with the French Forces



Soldiers of 1 QLR are having to retrain on the Fox armoured fighting vehicle for their new role in Berlin



A high priority is placed on fitness in the battalion. Soldiers regularly go running in the surrounding area and many are training to run in the Berlin Marathon in September

# Berlin welcomes the Lancashire Spandauers

WHEN the British forces withdraw from Berlin in just over two years' time it will be the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment who turn out the lights.

Starting what will be the last tour by a British infantry battalion in this historic city, the 650 officers, NCOs and men, accompanied by 600 wives and children, moved into Wavell Barracks, Spandau, in April.

In line with the French and American sector troops, the battalion will remain on duty in the German capital until the last former Soviet soldier has left Berlin soil, which is expected to be towards the end of 1994.

Since that momentous day in November 1989 when jubilant Berliners from East and West embraced each other for the first time in 28 years across the Wall, change has been rapid in the city.

Young entrepreneurs now crowd the tourist traps of East Berlin selling military insignia and Eastern bloc Army caps, and in many places there is no physical trace that the Wall ever existed.

Our aim will be to play our full part in all the activities of Berlin and in particular to maintain and strengthen the traditional friendship between British soldiers and the people of Spandau."

To that end, the battalion is



Commanding officer Lt Col Geoff Sheldon is training hard for the Berlin Marathon in September, along with 50 of his soldiers

taking several community initiatives and the "North Country" warmth of the soldiers has already made such an impression with the resident Spandau population that the local paper now refers to 1 QLR as the Lancashire Spandauers!

While some who served on the battalion's last German tour to Paderborn are brushing-up their language skills, all the soldiers and their families are being encouraged to take German classes.

Berlin is very much an international city and an ability to speak in other tongues is a major asset. CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) representatives were particularly impressed to discover that the only Russian speaker in 1 QLR is the assistant adjutant, 2nd Lt Jessica Stam, who studied French and Russian at Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

Her father, Lt Col Bernard Stam, is now serving with the Territorial Army and is a former commander of the 4 QLR TA battalion. He left the Regular Army in 1979, when Jessica was 11, and several older soldiers remember her as a young girl taking part in the battalion's family life.

"I think the fact that I am a Lancashire lass has certainly helped to ease my acceptance by the boys," she said. "I have had absolutely no problems working with them. I formed a good working relationship with the soldiers in Northern Ireland and that makes life here a lot easier."

More than 90 per cent of the soldiers are Lancastrians by birth, which helps to foster the regiment's family atmosphere.

Sgt Maj John Bradshaw and



RQMS Steven Darlington have known each other since they were at school together 30 years ago.

They have enjoyed joint postings to Cyprus, Paderborn, Gambia, Belize and recently again to Northern Ireland.

Unlike many county infantry battalions, 1 QLR can also boast a high proportion of Lancastrian-born officers. One, Lt John Lighten, from Blackpool, was commissioned into the battalion after first getting a taste of Army life with the Territorials of 4 QLR while studying for his A levels.

Along with the CO and about 50 other soldiers, John is training for the Berlin Marathon in September.

The battalion has hit Berlin firing on all cylinders as it retrains for general warfare.

But as Col Sheldon explained: "To come somewhere like this and just train would be a tragedy. The facilities are superb and we are trying to balance the programme with sport, travel and adventure training. It's a wonderful place to do all these things."

Words: Lynn Pegler



2nd Lt Jessica Stam, the only woman in the battalion



The Queen's Lancashire Regiment prides itself on being a family county regiment. Fleetwood is home to three of 1 QLR's senior warrant officers. Pictured (left to right) outside the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Wavell Barracks, Berlin, are Steven Darlington and John Bradshaw, who attended the same infant school, and Jeff Ashton



Queen's Lancashire Regiment soldiers pose for a photograph at the now defunct Checkpoint Charlie



Commandant, Col Tony Ward with a line of the new Leyland DAF 4 ton trucks awaiting issue to units

## BAOR drawdown means big business for CVD Ashchurch

# CAR PARK FULL!

Words: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE SCALING down of the British Army under Options for Change has meant a massive increase in work for an already busy West Country unit.

As the BAOR drawdown gathers pace, Central Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire has been kept flat out taking back vehicles from disbanded units.

Commandant of the CVD is Col Tony Ward, late RAOC, who is responsible for two vehicle sub-depots and, for the next few months, most of a Royal Air Force base.

Accommodating the return of matériel from Operation Granby and an initial influx of 2,000 back-loaded vehicles from Germany led to the depot "bulking out".

As a result, the CVD was granted the use of the 536-acre airfield at RAF Kemble. It has proved an ideal holding area for

the overflow until Ashchurch can get to grips with the huge number of vehicles involved.

Kemble is already holding 1,700 vehicles, and several thousand DROPS flat racks will be delivered there by manufacturers over the next 12 months.

Headquarters of the Central Vehicle Depot is co-located with the B vehicle sub-depot at Ashchurch, while tanks, armoured personnel carriers and scout cars are stored at the armoured vehicle sub-depot (OC, Maj Andrew Whately) at Ludgershall near Andover.

The depot also stores all manner of technical equipments such as generators, cranes, rough terrain fork lift tractors and bulldozers.

"We also look after a number of less common vehicles - old fire engines, two royal Land Rovers and a highly-polished black London taxi, to name just a few," said Maj John Alford. "The taxi is destined for use as VIP transport on a major airfield."

CVD Ashchurch is not exactly a hi-tech organisation, but it does have a number of

Army, Royal Air Force or the Defence Equipment Sales Organisation.

The wide range held at the Ashchurch sub-depot covers all softskinned vehicles including the new-to-Service Leyland Daf 4-ton truck, the Reynolds Boughton 1 tonne replacement and Defender Land Rovers.

The depot also stores all manner of technical equipments such as generators, cranes, rough terrain fork lift tractors and bulldozers.

strangely named electronic systems to help keep track and control. SLAVE, SALOME and KISAS are due to be replaced by the new Management of Equipment Resources, Liabilities and Information Network (MERLIN) system.

Built in 1939 and covering 235 acres, Ashchurch has an internal road circuit of 7.5 miles and covered storage sheds with a capacity of 330,000 square metres. The US Army



Left - Cpl Phil Hawkins inspects an 82/30b TEREX dozer that has been returned direct from service in the Gulf. It is soiled with tar deposits from oil-field fires

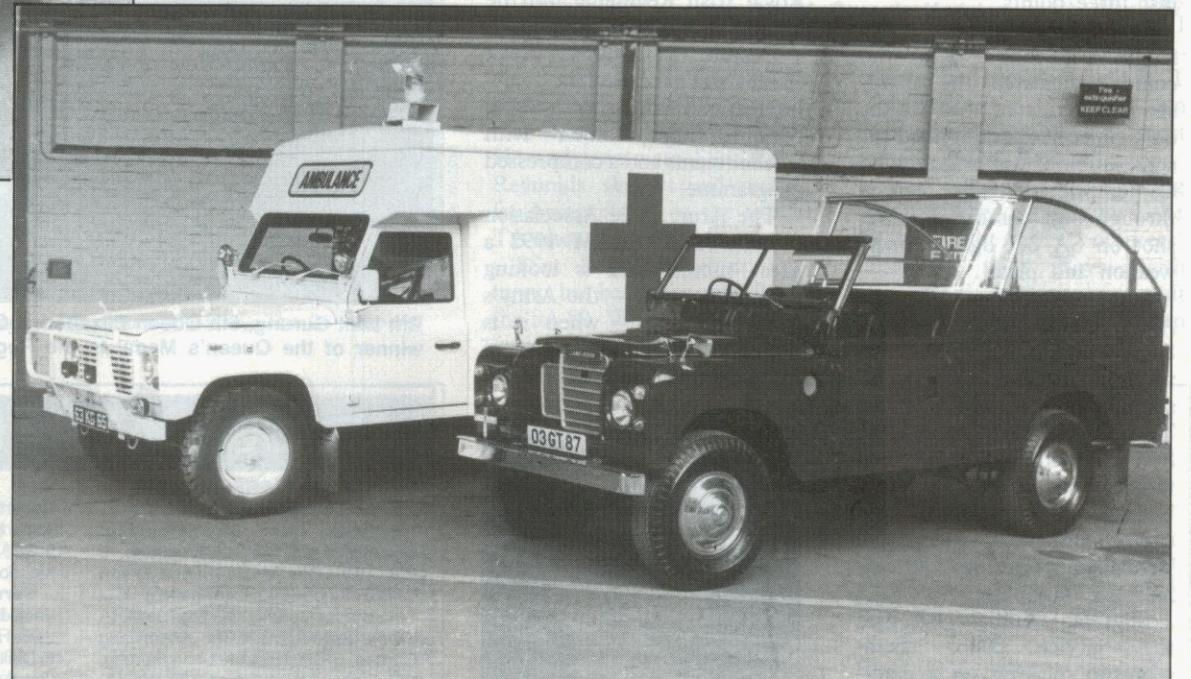


The depot also holds vehicles for the other two Services including this Royal Navy light load carrier

Right - LCpl Robbo Robinson with a variety of jacks ready to be taken into store from de-kitted trucks



SSgt Stan Bowles assists civilian driver, Mr Ivan Munn, to connect up a tow rope. Mr Munn has worked at the depot for more than 40 years and is the longest serving driver



Land Rover types: a white-painted ambulance variant being prepared for service with the British Medical Battalion in Croatia and one of two "royal" vehicles held at the depot. Note the chrome-plated bumpers

was based there from 1942 to 1945.

B

vehicles form more than

three-quarters of the depot's stock. Plant capacity at

Ashchurch is limited to 10,700

vehicles parked in echelon.

Current

RAOC

military

strength at Ashchurch is more

than

200.

Of these, 43 soldiers

are

undergoing

initial

trade

training

as

vehicle

specialists.

More than 150 civilians are

employed

as

storekeepers,

drivers and in other grades.

Every vehicle that arrives at

Ashchurch is de-kitted of

Complete Equipment Schedule

(CES) items including jacks

and tool kits, which are stored

separately and re-issued when

trucks are collected by units,"

explained the 2iC, Capt David

Carter.

The vehicle depot played a

vital part in the logistic

build-up to the Gulf War,

issuing more than 1,400 tanks,

trucks and APCs to troops deployed on Operation Granby.

Staff at Ashchurch reckon it will take two years to bring the sand-ravaged Op Granby stock back to spec, mainly because the time they spend on continuing commitments like the BAOR drawdown and the issue of vehicles for peacekeeping operations.

CVD recently processed vehicles at very short notice for Operation Hanwood, the de-

ployment of the British Medical Battalion to Croatia.

The depot recently exercised its Freedom rights at Tewkesbury for the 21st and last time under the Royal Army Ordnance Corps badge. Next year it will become part of the Royal Logistic Corps.

By 1995, the British Army will have a clearer idea of what vehicles it requires. Until then CVD will maintain its stocks at current levels.

# 6 GR provides the Top Guns

TOP GUNS in the 1992 Regular Army Skill-at-Arms competition at Bisley were 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, who provided the winner of the Queen's Medal (Rfn Lalit Gurung) and had three other men in the first seven of the top 100 Army riflemen, writes Laurie Manton.

Rfn Gurung, a member of the Army team which went to Australia earlier this year, pipped team mate LCpl Khamirjang Gurung to the prestigious Queen's Medal by just three points.

Defending champion Capt Angus McLeod, 1 RS, who could not match the sharp-shooting skills of the Gurkha duo, finished third. He had the consolation of winning the Old Contemptibles Cup earned through best combined scores shot on SA 80, light support weapon and pistol.

Some competitors in the Army 100 used iron-sighted SA 80 (Series B) individual weapons against the vastly-superior optical sight versions. To allow for the variation, the Series B entrants shot against targets with a slightly larger bullseye area. Highest iron sight competitor was LCpl Tekbahadur Gurung, QG Signals, in 16th place.

SSgt Paul Quilliam, RE, won the Service pistol championship, beating off a determined challenge by Sgt Ng Yau Ming, Hong Kong Military Service Corps, and Sgt F W Musselwhite, AG Corps (MPS).

Teams from the Canadian Forces, US Army Reserve Forces and the Omani Army were honorary entrants in this year's RASAAM.

The Canadian Forces met with some success, winning the rifle team match in Series B, and taking second place in the team snapshooting match Series B.

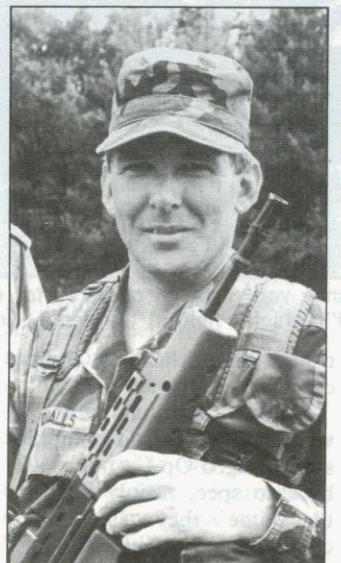
Individually, Canadian War-

rant Officer J R Surette and Sgt J F Cameron tied for first place in the Whittaker Trophy, while MCpl F J Snow earned best score in the Vallis Cup. Cpl S T Wills and Sgt S S Little were second and third in the Roupell Cup.

There was disappointment for the British Army in the Methuen Cup, the premier team rifle match between Corps, Divisions of Infantry and Services. Top honours went to the Royal Marines who beat off a strong challenge from the Brigade of Gurkhas, the Royal Irish Regiment and the Prince of Wales's Division.

Despite the two-year break (Bisley was cancelled last year), interest in Small Arms shooting remains high, albeit with smaller teams and a compressed programme.

The Army Rifle Association considered RASAAM 1992 a great success and is looking forward to 1993 - the Army's centenary year - when it is hoped to invite a number of foreign armies to compete.



Sgt Garry Qualls, US National Guard is serving with the Texas-based 240 Armoured Division. He has become a fan of the British Army's SA 80 individual weapon.



Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles earned the praise of the whole of the Brigade of Gurkhas at Bisley. The 24-year-old winner of the Queen's Medal is the Regular Army's best shot

## REGULAR ARMY RESULTS

### RASAAM RESULTS

#### Individual

##### Service Rifle Championship:

Queen's Medal, Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR; ARA Gold Jewels (Series A) Rfn Lalit Gurung, 65 GR, (Series B) LCpl Tekbahadur Gurung, QG Signals; ARA Silver Jewels (A) LCpl Khamirjang Gurung, 6 GR, (B) Lt Krishna Gurung, QG Signals; ARA Bronze Jewels (A) Capt A McLeod, 1 RS, (B) Cpl Yamkumar Gurung, QG Signals; Young Officer's Cup, 2nd Lt N Price, 7 GR.

Watkin Cup, Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR; Manchester Regiment Cup, Rfn Dipesh Rai, 6 GR; Rifle Brigade Cup, Rfn Dilip Gurung, 1/2 GR; Cheylesmore Cup, (A) Rfn Manbahadur Garbuja, 1/2 GR, (B) Sgt D P Delaney, 36 Engr Regt; Henry Whitehead Cup (A) Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR, (B) Cpl Yamkumar Gurung, QG Signals.

Governors Cup, Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR; Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Cup, LCpl S J Tickle, 1 QLR; Graham Trophy (A) LCpl R Doak, 6 R Irish, (B) Lt Krishna Gurung, QG Signals.

Association Cup, Capt A McLeod, 1 RS; Vallis Cup, Lt Navindra Gurung, QG Signals; Gurkha Welfare Match (A) Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR, (B) Lt Krishna Gurung, QG Signals; Staffordshire Regiment Cup, Sgt Malin Pradhan 10 GR; Whittaker Trophy, LCpl Liu Kam

Sum, Hong Kong DASU RAVC; Roberts Cup, Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR; Army Hundred Cup, Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR; Old Contemptibles Cup, Capt A McLeod, 1 RS.

##### Service Pistol Championship:

(including Pistol XXX Cup, ARA Gold Jewel and NRA Bronze Medal), SSgt P F Quilliam, 1 Trg Regt RE; ARA Silver Jewel, Sgt Ng Yau Ming, Depot HK MSC; ARA Bronze Medal, Sgt F W Musselwhite, MCTC; Southern Command Cup, Sgt Ng Yau Ming, Depot HK MSC.

Watkin Cup, Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR; Manchester Regiment Cup, Rfn Dipesh Rai, 6 GR; Rifle Brigade Cup, Rfn Dilip Gurung, 1/2 GR; Cheylesmore Cup, (A) Rfn Manbahadur Garbuja, 1/2 GR, (B) Sgt D P Delaney, 36 Engr Regt; Henry Whitehead Cup (A) Rfn Lalit Gurung, 6 GR, (B) Cpl Yamkumar Gurung, QG Signals.

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Signals.

##### Minor Unit Skill-at-Arms Championship:

(A) GDC RMA Sandhurst; Company Shield, GDC RMAS, (B) Depot HK MSC; Royal Army Service Corps Cup, Depot HK MSC.

##### Team Snapshooting Match:

(A) 6 GR and 1 WFR (tie); Britannia Trophy, 6 GR and 1 WFR (tie), (B) QG Signals.

##### Rifle Team Match:

(A) 1/2 GR; Northamptonshire Cup, 1/2 GR; Royal Anglian Cup, 6 R Irish, (B) QG Signals; Ulster Defence Regiment Trophy, QG Signals.

##### Minor Unit Sharpshooting Match:

(A) GDC RMAS; Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Cup, GDC RMAS, (B) Depot HK MSC; Royal Hussars Cup, Depot HK MSC.

##### Coronation Team Match:

6 GR; Queen Victoria Cup, 6 GR.

##### Falling Plates Match:

6 GR; Royal Ulster Rifles Cup, 6 GR.

##### Pistol Team Match:

Depot HK MSC; Provost Marshal's Cup, Depot HK MSC.

##### Pistol Tiles Match:

4 R Irish; Southern Command Cup, 4 R Irish.

##### LMG Aggregate Match:

(A) 4 R Irish; Eastern Command Cup, 4 R Irish.

##### Minor Unit LMG Match:

(A) GDC RMAS; Household Division Cup, GDC RMAS, (B) Depot HK MSC; Royal

Brigade of Gurkhas; REME Trophy, Royal Engineers; Woolwich Trophy, Royal Engineers; Royal Ordnance Trophy, 4 R Irish.

##### Section Match:

(B), QG Signals; Small Arms Cup, QG Signals.

##### Fibula Rifle Concurrent Team Match:

6 GR.

# Second Queen's Medal for Phil

SHARPEST shooter with both rifle and pistol at the Territorial Army Skill-at-Arms competition was Queen's Medallist Sgt Philip Dougan of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers.

The Ranger, who last won the Queen's Medal in 1989, was in fact beaten in the pistol match by guest participant SSgt Millard Butler of the United States National Guard, who was shooting for "honours" only.

The popular American also led his team to an "honorary" victory in the pistol team match, in which they beat 150 Regiment RCT. He and teammate SSgt Larry Reynolds also earned medals for being placed in the top 50 TA shots.

SSgt Reynolds, from Vermont, has become a great fan of the SA 80. When fitted with an optical sight, he prefers it to his



Top shot in the Territorial Army being chaired away after his victory is Sgt Philip Dougan, 5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers who won the TA Queen's Medal at TASAAM

US Army-issue M16 rifle.

Entries were restricted this year to 40 teams of five. In 1990, when TASAAM was last held, there were 50 teams of eight. All units taking part had

to qualify for entry through their District Skill-at-Arms meetings.

Issue of the SA 80 individual weapon is now almost complete. Only three units fired the SLR, which was probably making its last appearance at TASAAM.

Cpl Anthony De Cross, 151 (Greater London) Transport Regiment RCT (Volunteers), with an iron-sighted SA 80, won most of the Series B awards.

Not content with taking the top individual honours, the team of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers also won the main unit championship, The Dragon Trophy.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY RESULTS

### TASAAM RESULTS

#### Individual

##### Rifle Matches:

Mullens Trophy (Series A), WO2 Smart, 6 R Anglian, (Series B), Cpl De Cross, 151 Regt RCT; Wiltshire Volunteers Cup (A)

SSgt Butler, US National Guard

(honours only), CSgt Wiggins, 4 RGJ,

(B) Cpl De Cross, 151 Regt RCT; 51st

Highland Volunteers Quaich (A) Kapt

Westerfeld, KR Augustdorf (honours

only), Cpl Fenwick, 7 LI, (B) LCpl Pake,

150 Regt RCT; TARA Trophy (A) Sgt

Dougan, 5 R Irish, (B) Cpl De Cross,

151 Regt RCT; Imperial Tobacco

Trophy, Pte Doughty, 3 Cheshire.

##### Pistol Team Match:

Depot HK MSC; Provost Marshal's Cup, Depot HK MSC.

##### Pistol Tiles Match:

4 R Irish; Southern Command Cup, 4 R Irish.

##### LMG Match:

Pte P R Browne, 4 R

Irish; Worcestershire Cup and ARA

Spoon, Pte P R Browne, 4 R Irish;

Queen's Own Highlander Cup, Rfn

Beindrakumar Magar, 7 GR.

##### Pistol Aggregate Match:

(A) 4 R

Irish; Eastern Command Cup, 4 R Irish.

##### Minor Unit LMG Match:

(A) GDC

RMAS; Household Division Cup, GDC

RMAS, (B) Depot HK MSC; Royal

Brigade of Gurkhas; REME Trophy,

Royal Engineers; Woolwich Trophy,

Royal Engineers; Royal Ordnance

Trophy, 4 R Irish.

##### Section Match:

(B), QG Signals; Small Arms Cup, QG Signals.

##### Fibula Rifle Concurrent Team Match:

6 GR.

##### Queen's Medal Jewels:

Gold, Sgt

Dougan, 5 R Irish; silver, Cpl Rolfe, 6 R

Anglian; Bronze, Cpl Fenwick, 7 LI; (B)

gold, Cpl De Cross, 151 Regt RCT;

silver, Capt Fenge, 151 Regt RCT;

bronze, Cpl Hagan, 74 Engr Regt.

##### Pistol team:

US National Guard

(honours only), 150 Regt RCT.

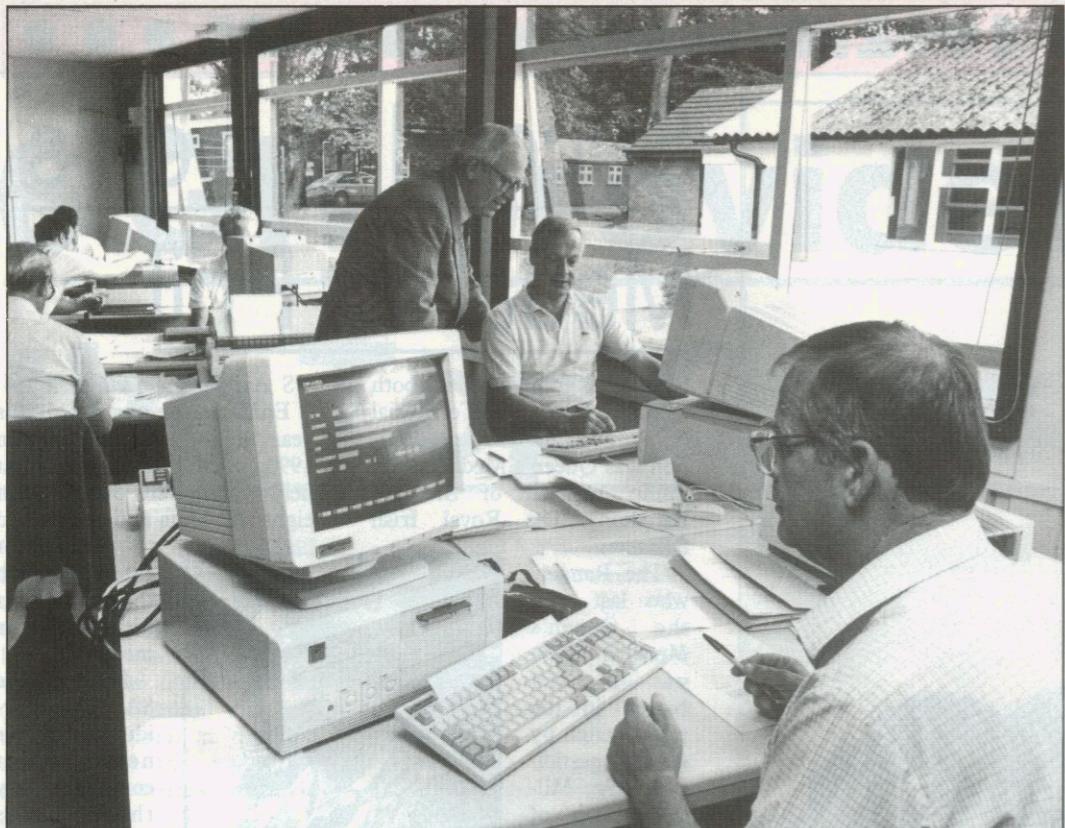
##### Pistol individual:

SSgt Butler, US

National Guard (honours only), Sgt

Dougan, 5 R Irish. Class B/Young

soldier, Pte Cathcart 5 LI.



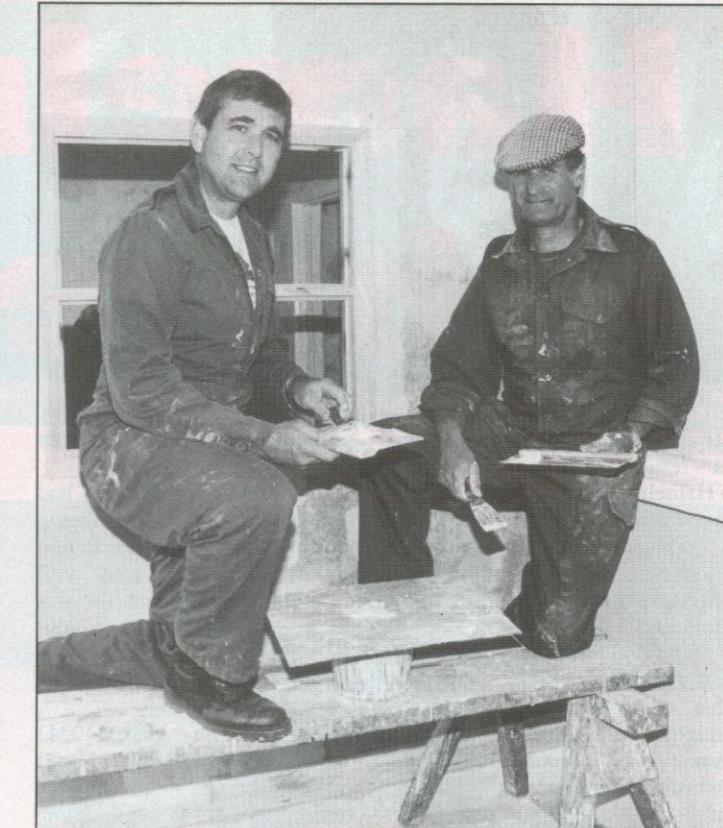
Maj Des Heyes (second from right), communications officer with 241 Signals Squadron at Donnington, has worked on computers before, but is learning their civilian application with the help of John Fry



Sgt Keith Cocks, 16 Air Defence Regiment RA, learns how to make welds



Pte Michael Jackson, Training Dept, RAOC Deepcut, replaces an engine cowling



Less than perfect walls won't defeat WO2 Paul Sherwood, 157 Tpt Regt RCT, Cardiff (left), and Maj Bob Etherton, 2 Sig Regt, York

# Catterick centre smooths the path to civvy street

**Words: Gordon Skilling**  
**Pictures: Terry Champion**

Howitt, a former deputy commandant of the centre who now teaches computer studies with another former deputy commandant, John Fry.

"It can be difficult for regimentally-minded WOs, but senior officers tend to be more relaxed," he said. "A Chief of the Defence Staff and a GOC quite happily took turns making the tea when they attended the centre."

First step outside the unit is the District Resettlement Advice Team, which briefs on housing, schools, job-seeking strategy, career opportunities and regional employment. Six months before they leave the Army soldiers have a final resettlement board with representatives from the Department of Employment and the Regular Forces Employment Association during which they

WALLPAPERING a room where the corners are anything but right angles can be a recipe for frustration – or it can help ease a soldier into civilian life.

At No 1 Resettlement Centre in Catterick those about to leave the Services keep on the straight and narrow by learning managerial or mechanical skills.

Corporals and colonels are on first-name terms – a radical break after years spent rigidly observing rank distinctions. But coming to terms with unemployment after the security of Service life is even more traumatic.

Although ranks are retained at No 2 Resettlement Centre at Aldershot and No 3 at Portsmouth, in the Yorkshire Dales it is considered important to dispense with them to help soldiers adjust to civilian life.

"We have to encourage people to talk and be relaxed at all levels," said Maj John

are asked how they plan to secure their future.

Catterick's No 3 Resettlement Advice Team has a lieutenant colonel and three resettlement officers plus administrative staff to cover the area from the Scottish border to the Thames.

"It is a mid-life crisis," said the 2iC, Maj John Hopkins. "The run-out date means the end of job security, uncertainty about our homes and doubts about the great unknown, particularly for those providing for a young family."

Officers volunteer for resettlement services, but for warrant officers and other ranks after five years' service it is mandatory. Nobody need leave without training in some skill wanted in the job market, said Maj Hopkins.

Every year about 1,800 men and women from all three Services attend four-week courses at the Catterick centre

## This shop has a lot more to offer than jobs

JOBS FOR the girls is the specialisation of the Jobshop in Catterick. Started three years ago when a lecturer gave a two-hour course for six Army wives, it now caters for 600 people a year who gain qualifications, some after full-time degree courses.

"We are an examining body and it is important that Army wives can show proper qualifications to new teachers or employers," said the manager, Mrs Helen Truman. About 20 per cent of her students are men and she hopes to introduce the new

to prepare them for civilian life. Those leaving under Phase 1 of the redundancy programme have swollen numbers attending job search briefings, and classes are often heavily over-subscribed. But there is no discrimination in favour of or against redundants, said Resettlement Centre Commandant Lt Col Gordon Cummings.

"Places are allocated nine



Lorraine Thornton, whose husband is with REME, checks job cards

National Vocational Qualification soon.

Courses also have a valuable welfare function, said John Byrne, Senior Commandant, Families Housing and Welfare Service, and a former commanding officer of the Green Howards.

Over Christmas 1990,

1,100 heads of family out of 1,700 families were away in the Gulf, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kenya or Belize. Wives poured their hearts out to the tutors.

One German wife, with two ill children and her husband away in the Gulf still got a distinction in her exams.

With redundants on top of normal departures, the centre is under considerable pressure. Courses have been increased but only so many can get into a classroom at one time.

"Prospective students can come here for a whole day and look at a trade," said Maj Duncan Bell, Chief Instructor and Deputy Commandant. "They can talk to instructors and confirm which course will

be most suitable." There are also 22 one-day briefings on topics such as applying for a job, franchising and supervisory management. Practical help leading to a qualification is given in four-week courses.

In the plumbing and domestic heating course students each drain a hot water system, replace a hot water cylinder, replace sink unit taps, change a toilet siphon and ball-cock, remove a radiator and do the plumbing associated with a washing machine – all in a day.

It's not always that simple. The squint walls in the decorating cottage are an example, but practical courses are not just aimed at the person wanting to renovate his retirement home. Main purpose is to provide a second career, because many will have half their working lives in front of them.

DIY firms frequently employ

older people and familiarity with the application of products is a decided advantage. Students studying professional selling techniques spend five days actually selling – sometimes with surprising success. This course is recognised by firms as pertinent and is well respected.

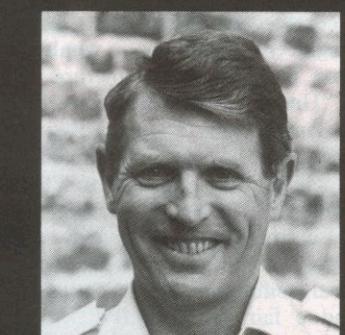
Ex-Servicemen often return to lecture at No 1 Resettlement Centre, proving that leaving the Services is not the end of the road.

Following his solid foundation four years ago in furniture restoration, former Royal Engineers Capt Jack Gillham now has his own dealing and antique business and regularly returns to the centre to pass on his expertise.

One RAOC captain who attended a course at Catterick and who now returns to lecture certainly landed on his feet. He is a probationary police constable – on the beat.



Lt Col Gordon Cummings, the Commandant



Maj Duncan Bell, Chief Instructor

# Hameln sappers step ashore into new role

IF THE Pied Piper were to pay a return visit to Hamelin (Hameln), he'd be in for a few eye-openers.

In the centre of the town, for example, there is a sprawling barracks populated by British soldiers.

And down the road on the nearby river, his astonished gaze might well fall on some vast metallic wheeled monsters which drive into the water and turn into boats...

A few explanatory words from Lt Col Steve Sherry, commanding officer of the recently re-constituted 28 Engineer Regiment, would soon put him in the picture.

"Under our previous title of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, we have been stationed in Hameln for more than 20 years," he said.

"During that period we have forged relationships with the local community at all levels, and a fair proportion of our

soldiers have married girls from the surrounding area."

Although 28 Engineer had changed its role from being entirely amphibian to that of a general support regiment with an amphibian element, he was delighted the unit would continue to be based on the River Weser.

The trusty M2 amphibious wet support bridge - in service since 1969 - is still going strong. In fact, some of the trainees who regularly used it had not been born when it was first introduced...

Col Sherry is anxious to foster the corporate spirit of the new regiment as it tackles the different aspects of its changed role.

"We have a peacetime organisation somewhat different from that prepared for war," he explained.

"With more than 1,200 men assembled from here and the UK, we would be the most potent regiment in the British Army should the occasion arise, with skills ranging from general engineering and amphibian resources to plant handling and bomb disposal."

The regiment's current role is, to say the least, diverse.

Col Sherry has recently taken under his wing some previously independent units, one of which mapped out its own offices - on a computer.

That was 522 STRE (Specialist Team Royal Engineers)

When he is not winning championships as captain of the regiment's football team, Cpl Jim Lind (foreground) does a mean bit of welding. With him is Cpl "Woz" Worrall (also RE)

Works, one of 28 Engineer's latest acquisitions.

"We are a different organisation from the rest of the regiment," explained Maj Steve Pearce, RE, the officer commanding. "There are only 26 of us. We are a design team, a bit like consultants in the construction industry."

In war, the unit would provide the main professional engineering expertise available to the Army, he said.

If a barracks building needed to be converted into a hospital, or the maximum load capable of being carried by a bridge hit by a bomb needed to be calculated, STRE could be called on.

Last September the unit received a call of a different kind.

Based at Willich at the time, 522 STRE had to move to Hameln at the end of February, and come up, rapidly and at minimum cost, with an office designed to its own requirements, said Maj Pearce.

"We converted an accommodation block at the Hameln barracks, starting from scratch."

A team of surveyors - all corporals - was first on the site, working under a sergeant.

Trainees who do well on their trade courses are recommended for an intensive Clerk of Works training course at RSME Chattenden, said Maj Pearce. This generally led to rapid promotion to staff sergeant within 18 months.

"Because of their technical job, all our soldiers are very highly motivated. It's a complete break from combat engineering."

"Our rank structure is rather abnormal: our small military staff currently includes four



Due to be introduced shortly: the gargantuan M3

officers, six staff sergeants, one WO2 and a single sapper."

Maj Pearce, who describes the OC's job as acting, in effect, as a liaison man, is also in the rather unusual position of commanding a "civilian squadron" of up to 150 locally-employed craftsmen - all of whom come under the RE cap badge.

All STRE's design work is carried out on a contractor basis. Projects at the time of SOLDIER's visit included a building for an Army-sponsored yacht club.

Maj Pearce admitted: "It's early days, but we find it difficult at the moment. We can save units money, but nobody believes us - and very few people know we are here."

In contrast, amphibian activities at Hameln are well and truly established.

The M2 rig is a familiar sight at nearby Upnor Hard, the permanent amphibious training centre.

Weighing 23 tons, these giant four-wheel drive vehicles are the same size as a single-decker bus and are generally operated by a three-man crew.

Once the rig has been driven into the water and the wheels have been raised, direction is controlled by three propellers, and a pilot takes over.

"In most units you have to travel miles for training. This is right on the doorstep, which is ideal," said Cpl Chris Pearson, 71 Amphibian (Training) Squadron.

It was hair-raising to drive the M2 at speed down the ramp and into the water, he said.

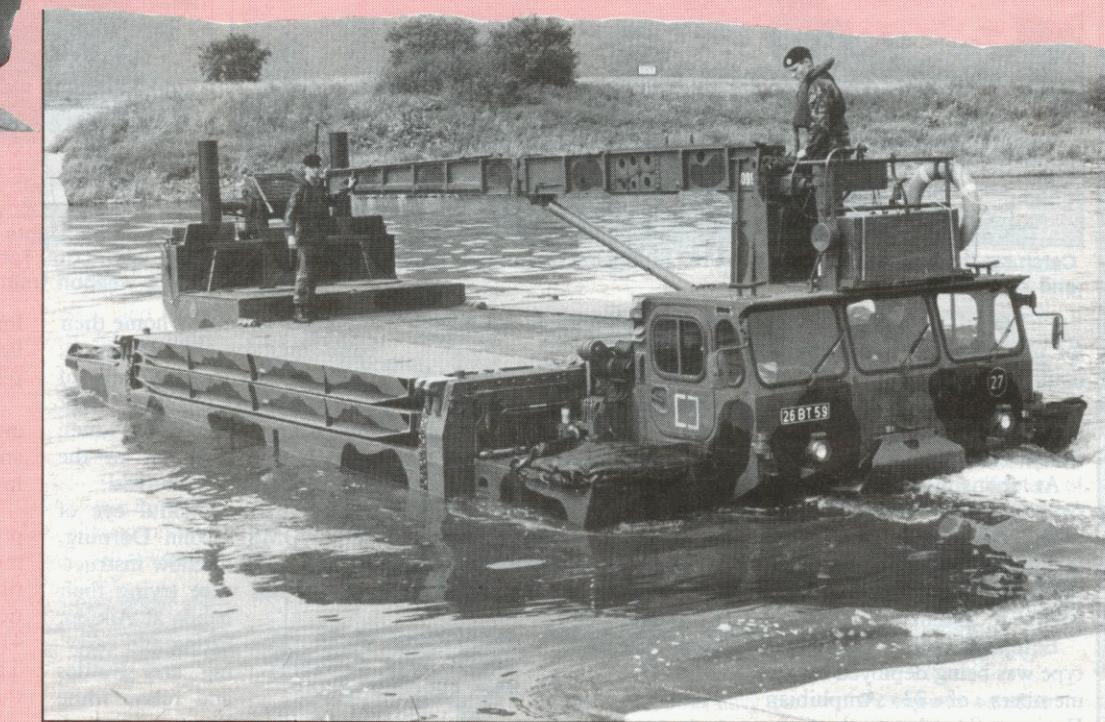
"They're so big that even huge lorries tend to give us a wide berth when we are on the road."

Valued at £330,000 apiece 17 years ago and now said to be worth £1m each, the M2s have proved a sound investment.

Making sure the inevitable wear and tear is dealt with speedily is the regiment's REME workshop - unofficial motto "They bend 'em, we mend 'em".

"The M2s were originally meant to go out of service in 1985, but they are still going strong," said OC Maj Graham Moore, REME.

"With the amount of stress which the bodywork has to



Floating asset: trusty M2 prepares to re-emerge on shore

undergo, our welding section in particular is kept very busy."

REME, RE and RAOC soldiers are based side by side at the workshop, situated at the town's Gundolph Park.

"We handle anything from chainsaws to 30-ton bulldozers," said OC Maj Jo Ward, whose 300-strong squadron has a 40 per cent military, 60 per cent civilian complement.

The organisation has three



Spr Baz Shore, one of 522 STRE's computer-aided design experts



LCpl's "Ali" Luya and Chris Newell with Cpl John Hicking (522 STRE), complete with tools of their trade

basic functions. It acts as an engineering (RE) workshop - equivalent to a light engineering firm - repairing equipment and manufacturing small items such as one-off signs which cannot be bought locally.

The squadron also handles and manages engineer matériel resources such as bridges. It also functions as a vehicle park

● Turn to next page



Not averse to a spot of physical self-torture himself, 28 Engineers CO Lt Col Steve Sherry (third right) joins one of the three teams in their 5½ km exercise



Catch me if you can: members of 64 HQ Sqn being taught how to feel good at the end of the week ...

● **From Page 27**  
for units which borrow equipment for training.

"In that respect, we are rather like a civilian plant hire firm," said Maj Ward.

At the time of Operation Granby, 5,500 tons of equipment left the park at Woudham. On its return from the Gulf it was re-sprayed from yellow to green.

Equipment of a far lighter type was being deployed by the members of 23 Amphibian Engineer Squadron, who were undertaking conversion training from the SLR rifle to SA 80 at the regiment's Holtensen ranges.

In January, the strength of 23 Squadron was increased from 57 to 230 by taking most of the manpower from 64 Amphibian Squadron, said OC Maj Robbie Gibson, RE. It was now the largest sapper squadron in BAOR.

"We have two amphibian

troops, each with 12 M2 rigs," he explained.

"The squadron has been organised to operate independently of 28 Regiment – or any other regiment – or to be able to join them if necessary. This makes us very responsive. With our wide-river crossing capacity, our role in wartime would be to support one UK division for NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps."

A few kilometres away, at the top of Ravlin Camp – formerly a tented training area for units arriving in Hameln, but now used for sports – members of 64 HQ Squadron were demonstrating that on Friday afternoons the regiment keeps them on their toes in more ways than one.

● **SAPPERS of 28 Engineer have a formidable sporting record.**  
The current Army Football Challenge Cup holders, they have won the competition three times in succession, the first such feat for 60 years.

The regiment's athletics and hockey teams have also found success. See Page 51.

provided an excellent facility for road running and marching, said Maj Stevenson.

"Since most of my men are

As well as getting home their basic military skills training, the idea was to have a bit of fun, explained OC Maj Mark Stevenson, RE, whose men support the regiment in the barracks and in the field.

Under the watchful eye of WO2 (QMSI) Colin Dornin, APTC and two fellow instructors, sappers were trying their

hands at Aikido, lifting and carrying, and shuttles and relay, while three groups, including an enthusiastic Col Sherry, tackled a timed 5½km tab in the hills.

The huge expanse of wooded area surrounding Hameln

former 64 Amphib, many have been used to driving and piloting rigs and so on.

"I am having to guide them away from relying on vehicles and getting them used to being in the field."

With the introduction – probably next year – of the much more sophisticated M3 rig, and the imminent formation of the Continental TA's 412 Amphibian Engineering Troop, it does not look as though Maj Stevenson and his colleagues – unlike the fabled rats – will be leaving Hameln just yet.

● Latest addition to the 28 Engineer "fold", 12 (Nova Scotia) Field Squadron RE, arrived at their new home at Bindon Barracks on foot.

The squadron covered the 125km from their previous base at Osnabrück in relay stages, the first man crossing the finish line set on an M2 rig on the square in under eight hours.



Man with his sights on a target is LCpl "Toob" Lee, with LCpl Taff Davies (rear), during 23 Sqn's weapon training



## Distressed ex-soldiers need our support

I MET 48-year-old ex-Fusilier X in the crypt of St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square.

He was homeless, without shoes and very depressed. His troubles had begun when his wife died. Later, at St Botolph's

Aldgate tube station, I met three former gunners in similarly distressed circumstances.

I became involved at the invitation of the Rev Nerrisa Jones, an Army wife before her husband's retirement. "I am worried about the increasing num-

ber of ex-Servicemen who come to St Botolph's for help," she had told me on the telephone.

Of the 200 or so desperate men and women who turned up that evening for a few hours of warmth and food, 47 were ex-Servicemen.

I approached SSAFA and the Royal British Legion Ex-Service Fellowship for help, with the result that Dr Tony Beauchamp of SSAFA is holding weekly clinics in St Botolph's and St Martin's. Help the Aged and Combat Stress have also become

involved. Toynbee Hall has lent an office.

Donations of money or clothes would help the helpers to make life easier for these ex-soldiers fallen on hard times. Write to me at SOLDIER or contact Dr Tony Beauchamp on 071-377 0866.

### HOME FRONT

## Move refunds rules relaxed

RULES ON claiming a refund on house-moving expenses have been made easier for Service personnel who through no fault of their own may have exceeded the time limit.

Some owners have run into difficulty when, having sold their property with the aim of buying again later, they run out of time to claim back expenses.

Now the necessary re-entry certificate can be issued by a commanding officer when an eligible Serviceman or woman is posted abroad or to the Scottish islands, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Northern Ireland.

This can also apply to those who have to occupy a "tied married quarter" at the new duty station.

Those posted within the UK can apply for a re-entry certificate if:

- They are unable to buy a home at the new duty station because of much higher prices or lack of suitable property; or

- If they are unable to let their property at the former duty station and can't

up their application with evidence to show they have made reasonable attempts to do so.

In the event of doubt about eligibility a case may be submitted through the chain of command to MoD PS10(A) for consideration.

The change of rules on obtaining a re-entry certificate took effect at the beginning of May (see AFAB bulletin 11/2B dated July 1992).

THE announcement that Crown exemption from the town and country planning system is to end raises the hope that MoD land might be released for low-cost housing.

The Citizen's Charter White Paper noted the progressive removal of immunities which shelter Government departments and Crown bodies from the regulations, inspection and enforcement requirements placed on others.

A consultation paper will be followed by legislation, which will also apply to Scotland.

HAIG HOMES have 800 family-sized houses on 44 estates throughout the UK for letting unfurnished exclusively to ex-Service personnel on long-term assured tenancies.

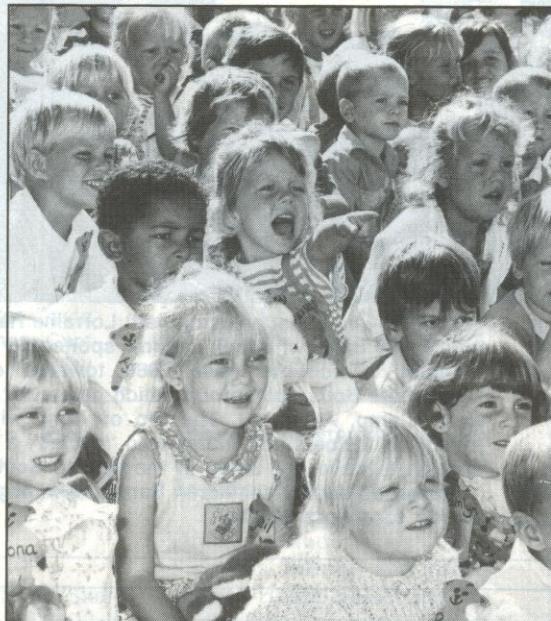
Rents range from £35 to £60 a week.

Vacancies for immediate occupation exist in Glasgow (2-bedroom detached, £40pw) and Penzance (3-bedroom, £50pw), and houses in Grimsby, Liver-

pool, Sunderland, Newcastle, Cardiff and Hull will become available soon.

Waiting lists are open for Haig homes in 33 other towns and cities throughout the country, from Belfast to the Isle of Wight.

Applications should be made to John Holt, General Secretary, Haig Homes, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5NS (tel: 081-648 0335 fax: 081-646 6247).



Rapt attention by children from Service nursery schools on Gibraltar ensured they missed nothing during Terry Bredin's magic and puppet show in the grounds of the Mount, home of the Commander British Forces Gibraltar, Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders and his family. More than

## Rock bears on picnic

100 children and their teddy bears enjoyed the annual event organised by playgroup co-ordinator Jean Stowell.

## Are you paying too much tax?

CALLING ALL Service dependants – if you earn less than £3,445, you may be eligible for gross interest on your bank and building society accounts.

A special leaflet (IR110) telling you how to claim and including a registration form (R85) is available from banks, building societies, post offices and Inland Revenue offices.

Some savers who do not qualify for gross interest may also be paying too much tax. This is because your interest is taxed at 25 per cent even if you pay tax at the new lower 20 per

cent rate which applies to the first £2,000 of taxable income.

You could, potentially, be up to £100 better off. Reclaim forms are available from local tax offices.

- The Inland Revenue Bus will be calling at Tidworth Garrison on August 18 to answer your questions.

## Car seats allowed on troopers

CHILDREN aged between six months and three years and weighing 9-18kg may be carried in their own forward-facing car seats when travelling on RAF Tristar, VC10 and Andover aircraft. Strict rules govern the use and type of car seat allowed, so seek advice.

### Services discount

Every Serviceman and woman should receive a personal copy of the new Forces Discount book. It has a deep mauve cover, so cannot be confused with the last issue.

Remember to complete the MoD certificate of eligibility. When filling in civilian forms, don't forget the importance of Service anonymity and don't give away more details of your Service connection than is absolutely necessary.

### Passport advice

Look out for the light blue, pocket-sized UK Passport Agency booklet. It contains a wealth of information – visas, drugs, health aids, foreign law, British Consular help and so on – for those abroad.



## Aldershot mums in the saddle

Getting nowhere fast are (from left) Lorraine Hayden, Sue Hammett and Mandy Black who took part in a sponsored cycle marathon (on-the-spot version) to raise £980 towards equipment for the Clocktower House playgroup which caters for Service children in North Camp, Aldershot. The trio of Army wives were among a number of helpers and mums who "cycled" a total of 576 miles – enough to have got them all the way to Scotland.

Playgroup supervisor Karen Barron, who organised the event, is aiming to collect £1,000

## Paddling sappers navigate the Weser

EIGHT canoeists from 29 Field Squadron, part of Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment, completed a sponsored 200-mile paddle along the Weser from its source at Munden to its mouth north of Bremerhaven. Their efforts raised £2,000 to buy a computer for British children at a special learning facility at Lancaster School in Minden, and play equipment for a German kindergarten at Hameln.

★ ★ ★

Rugby-playing members of 22 Air Defence Regiment RA from Dortmund raised nearly £240 to support the charity Bobath Cymru's work for cerebral palsy sufferers. The Welsh Gunners, soon to return

## Returning Red Dragons held up by storm in Channel



All smiles... with 1,000 miles to go. Pictured at the Brandenburg Gate are 1 RWF's (front, left to right) Fus Andrew McCarthy, Capt Ian Cave, LCpl Ian Evans and LCpl David Mathias; and (back) Lt Harvey Reed, Fus Adrian Jones, Capt Justin Muscat, LCpl Gareth Hughes and Fus Duncan Housley

ROUGH weather prevented nine members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers swimming the English Channel in an ambitious attempt to raise money for charity. The Channel swim was to have been part of a triathlon from Berlin to Cardiff signalling the battalion's return to Tidworth from Berlin.

Having cycled 700 miles to Calais, the Red Dragons were led into the water by LCpl David Mathias. But an hour into the Channel their British Channel Swimmers Association boat was hit by high winds and the attempt was abandoned.

Undaunted, the triathletes completed the Channel distance in the JIB Shorncliffe pool (140 lengths of it!), then ran the 275-mile leg to Cardiff.

They hope to raise £3,000 for the Welsh Paraplegic and Tetraplegic Sports Association.

to the United Kingdom, collected the money during a tour of Wales arranged when they won the RA's BAOR rugby championship and travelled to the UK for the final.

They also attended the Schweppes Cup Final at Cardiff Arms Park and helped Bobath Cymru collect another £2,796.

Eleven people from Skelmersdale Breakaway Disabled Club will never forget the

eight-day programme laid on for them at Hameln by 28 Engineer Regiment.

They were feted in the Officers' and WOs' and Sergeants' messes, and visited Church House BAOR and the former East Germany. Some of the party had never been out of



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On October 4 little Amanda Ferguson will spend her fourth birthday at Disneyworld in Florida thanks in part to the cheque LCpl Nigel Phillips, RCT is presenting to Lt Col Dick Carman, OC Falklands' Supply and Movements at Mount Pleasant.

The cheque, from British Servicemen in the

Port unit lays on Disney treat

Falklands, helped 460 Port Troop RCT at Marchwood – the port which supplies the Falklands garrison – raise £2,779 in a month for Amanda, daughter of Marchwood-based chef LCpl Dave and Mrs Jane Ferguson. Amanda suffers from sensory motor neuropathy Type 3, curvature of the spine and recurring pneumonia.

Lancashire before, and for most it was their first trip abroad.

★ ★ ★

Servicemen on the four-nation Operation Provide Comfort, including a detachment from 30 Signal Squadron and seconded Army personnel, at Incirlik in Turkey have raised £1,000 for the NSPCC. British Forces are in the area to protect Kurds in northern Iraq.

★ ★ ★

Twenty-eight Teesside-based medics of 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC completed a cross country run carrying a hospital bed, a feat which has so far raised more than £700 for the Struth Funding Heart Research. The medics lifted an old cast iron hospital bed from their Coulby Newham base to the top of the 1,690ft Roseberry Topping.

★ ★ ★

Six boys from the Scottish Down's Syndrome Association enjoyed an afternoon of Army fun laid on by recruits from Minden Platoon, Scottish Division Depot, Glencorse. The platoon, commanded by Lt James Gray-Cheape, QO Hldrs, ran in the Stonehaven half marathon last month to raise £1,000 for the association.

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE

## Operation Edinburgh

SERVICE children from Munster and Osnabrück Garrisons have benefited for the past five years from Operation Edinburgh, the adventure programme created to mark the silver jubilee of Munster's Edinburgh School.

Latest expedition aims to climb the Grosser Daymen via the Hinderlang route. Not bad for 12-year-olds!

Op Edinburgh has received tremendous support from units and individuals in both garrisons, but organiser Alan Middlemiss (c/o Edinburgh School, BFPO 17, or Munster Mil 609) is appealing for fresh cash donations, raffle prizes and unwanted kit to keep the project alive and well.

## Wessex Tattoo

PARACHUTES of the Red Devils and motor cycles of the White Helmets will make starring appearances in the Wessex Regimental Tattoo at Devizes on September 12 and 13.

The event, with both arena and static displays, is being held to

celebrate the silver jubilee of 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers). To reflect the dual role of the TA soldier, the proceeds will support both civilian and military charities, including PHAB, Mencap, Portage, SSAFA, the Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund.

## For the record

PROMPTED by the inevitable disappearance of bands and ceremony as a result of Options for Change, the Military Music Archive is being established to make high quality recordings of all disciplines of Army music.

Maj Richard Powell, RAOC HQ, London District, Chelsea Barracks, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW1H 8RF (tel: Chelsea Mil 2432) has the details.

## Rugby draw

THE ROYAL NAVY scooped the pool in the 1992 Tri-Service rugby draw. POMEA Rooks (HMS Arrow) won the £2,000 holiday. Lt Cdr Kent (Fearless) the electrical

## SOLDIER to Soldier

equipment worth £250, and the CO of 800 Naval Air Station the sports goods to the value of £100. The draw raised more than £6,000 for Service rugby.

## Rorke's Drift memorabilia

LT JOHN TIGAR of the 2nd Battalion, 24th South Wales Borderers broke his toe in 1879

tripping over a tent peg, an accident which saved his life. It prevented him from crossing the River Buffalo into Zululand where 600 members of his battalion were massacred at Isandhlwana.

Now his granddaughters have presented artefacts belonging to Lt Tigar – including a letter written from Rorke's Drift, brass cymbals recovered from the battlefield, assegais, and Padre George Smith's folding chair (depicted in Alphonse de Neville's painting of the famous defence) – to the South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regimental Museum in Brecon.

## Pals' chapel

DONATIONS towards the upkeep of a memorial chapel dedicated to the 11th East Lancashire Regiment (the Accrington Pals) would be welcomed by its creator, Canon Dennis Crook, St John's Vicarage, 11 Queens Road, Accrington, Lancs BB5 6AR. The chapel houses a Book of Remembrance, is open to visitors and used daily.

The Accrington Pals were virtually wiped out on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

## Southport remembers

NAMES of 570 soldiers from Southport killed during the Second World War have been added to the 1,007 from the Great War on the town's war memorial. A 20ft high table bearing the 1939-45 roll of honour was dedicated on June 7 following a two-year campaign by Southport veterans to raise £20,000.

Southport Project '91 is still seeking more names of local war dead and fund-raiser Mr Geoffrey Riley, a former commando, may be contacted at 84 Cambridge Gardens, Southport, Sefton, Merseyside.

## Back on track

SAPPER visitors to the Isle of Wight may have a chance to ride in their own train. The island's steam railway has borrowed Royal Engineer, the former MoD loco No 198.

The 48-ton Hunslet-designed Austerity, built in 1953, has been loaned to the railway for five years by the RCT Museum Trust.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Colonels** – D M M Stobie – To BMM Sang Saudi Arabia, July 11; G J Barrett – To Brit Appts USA. Student US Army Cse, July 10; V J Nicholls – To be Comd SPS HQ EDIST, July 6; C E Price – To Mod, July 6; J H Roberts – To RSRE, July 6; C R Watt – To Mod, July 7.

**Lt Cols** – E B C Aitken, RAOC – To HQ UKLF, July 6; A W Blackett, A and SH – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, July 10; D C L De Burgh Milne, Gren Gds – To Mod, July 6; G Dodgson, RA – To be MA Oslo, July 6; J B Gunson, RAOC – To be CO Ord Svcs

Berlin, July 6; A R N Jackson, RCT – To IMS Brussels, July 6; A K M Miller, A and SH – To be CO 1 A and SH, July 6; J C R Webb, RACD – To be Chaplain HQ Bulford Area, July 8; J A Wraith, R Signals – To IMS Brussels, July 6; A P Farquar, Green Howards – To RMCS Shrivenham, July 6.

### Retirements:

**Brigadiers** – A R Bell, late RMP, July 7; W I C Dobbie, late RE, July 11; P P Glass, late REME, July 8.

**Colonels** – B G Johnson, late Green Howards, July 10; J R Orde, late AAC, July 11.

## Campaign for a memorial

VETERANS of the 1940-41 Greek campaign are being asked to support a project to establish a memorial to comrades they left behind.

Veteran Edwin Horlington of Walton on Naze in Essex is financing the memorial himself – "to get it off the ground" – until funds start to come in.

Plans for the memorial, a column with a Celtic cross mounted at the top, and a three-tier plinth, to be sited in the Military Cemetery in Athens, have been drawn up by a veteran of the campaign. The project has been approved in principle by the authorities in Kalamata.

Donations, payable to the Greek Memorial Fund, should be sent to Mr Horlington at 163 Walton Road, Walton on Naze, Essex CO14 8NE. An account opened at the Midland Bank, Frinton on Sea, will be available for inspection.

## DIARY

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

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

### AUGUST

1-9: Pembroke Dock Army Week.

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

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

### SEPTEMBER

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

6-13: Farnborough International Air Show.

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

### OCTOBER

4: Aldershot Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey (details from 0252 716303).

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

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

## SEARCHLINE

### ● Command Workshops, Ceylon/1 Gordons, Malaya 1946-1953:

Ex-SSgt Taffy Jones, who served with Command Workshops, Colombo, Ceylon; 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, Tapah, Malaya; and 12 Inf Workshops, Mentakab, Malaya, 1946-53, wants to hear from anyone who remembers him. His address is: 17 Elizabeth Road, Cambridge, East London 5247, Republic of South Africa.

### ● Edward "Ted" Hyde and Patrick George O'Brien:

Documentary film makers Anne Parisio and Alison Woodhead of Twenty Twenty Television (tel: 071-284 2020) seek information about Ted Hyde who served in Egypt in 1940 with the RASC unit of 7 Armd Bde attached to 7 Armd Div. He was a brigadier's driver. Also Pat O'Brien who spoke fluent

Swahili and served in Kenya during the Mau Mau rebellion, 1952-60.

### ● ACF, Ripon:

Army Cadet Force, Ripon N Yorks (formerly 272 Cadet Sqn RE) celebrates 50th anniversary on June 4, 1993. Former members, particularly those who joined the RE, and memorabilia are sought for a reunion event. Details from Secretary, Ripon Royal British Legion (tel: 0765 604237) or write to Ssgt (SS1) PD Hasney, HQ A Coy, Yorks (N and W) ACF, TA Centre, Thirst Road, Northallerton, N Yorks DL6 1PE.

● Sgt Ron Westgarth: Mrs Marion Westgarth, 23 Kingsley Road, Mutley, Plymouth PL4 6QP (tel: 0752 668172) wishes to hear from anyone who served with her late husband, Sgt Ron Westgarth, who served with 1st Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment in Korea.

### ● Fayed, Suez Canal, 1949-52:

To assist research into which regiment or regiments wore the ceremonial red dress jacket of British forces at this place and time, officers or enlisted men who served in this area of Egypt and who can help are asked to call or write to Sara Doremus, PO Box 694, Burtonsville, MD 20866, USA (tel: 301-890-7213).

### ● 1st (1st London)/10th Casualty Clearing Station:

Ex-members wishing to attend a proposed reunion are asked to contact B C Miller, 83 Gardner Court, Kelvin Road, London N5 2PH.

### ● Ex-Juniors' Reunion:

All ex-junior soldiers who served at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs, between January 1969 and November 1971 are asked to contact John Hogan on York (0904) 662837 or 662864, day or night. Please leave name and contact address or phone number.

## 27 REGT PARADE

### ● 27 Field Regiment RA:

Former members who wish to attend the 27 Fd Regt RA disbandment parade at Munster Orte (Munsterlager) on November 28 should contact WO2 Spense, HQ Bty, 27 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 20 (Dortmund Mil ext 3360). Limited accommodation available in Dortmund on request.

## BARI GRAVES

### ● Bari Commonwealth War Graves:

Commanding Officer of UK Support Unit, HQ Allied Forces Southern Europe, BFPO 8, advises interested parties that ceremonies will take place at Bari Commonwealth War Graves on September 21-22.

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# LETTERS

Write to:  
SOLDIER,  
Ordnance Road,  
Aldershot,  
Hants GU11 2DU.

## Glosters' standard backbadge is unique

YOUR excellent article on the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (June 29) included a photograph of Tpr Bowden wearing the unique white bearskin cap.

What concerns me is the reference to a badge worn on the rear of the bearskin.

To my knowledge there is only one unit in the British Army entitled to wear a badge at the rear of the headdress and that is the Gloucestershire Regiment 28th/61st (Glorious Glosters).

This unique honour was awarded to the 28th of Foot after the Battle of Alexandria on March 21, 1801.

For their gallantry on this day in fighting back to back, the 28th were granted the distinction of wearing a badge at the back as well as the front of their caps.

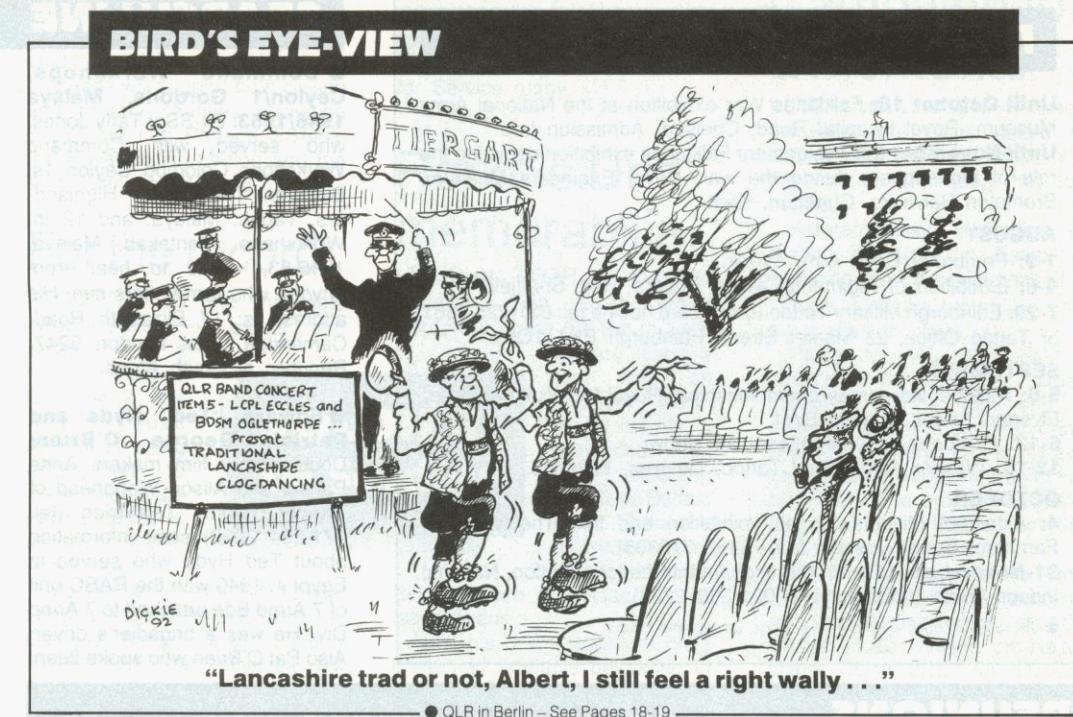
The Battle Honour (with Sphinx) together with the laurel leaves denoting victory are borne on the Regimental Colour and cap badges (front and back) to this day. – WO1 (RSM) J J Dineen, 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment (28th/61st), Catterick.

● The Glorious Glosters are certainly unique in wearing a backbadge on their standard headdress. However, while the Scots DG's unique white bearskin cap has carried the White Horse of Hannover on the back since 1777, it is not worn on forage cap or beret. – **Editor**

## Postscript on sloppy berets

AS my final word on the "sloppy beret" controversy may I invite Mr (CSgt) Wilson and Mr Doherty (Letters, June 29) to write to me on the topic if they wish. I would just like to say that I am very proud of my company's title (Sobraon) and what Sgt Bernard McCabe and the officers and men of the 31st Regiment of Foot did on February 10, 1846.

I will gladly tell the correspondents more about the



● QLR in Berlin – See Pages 18-19

## RFC veterans still active

MEMBERS of the Bath RFC/RNAS Association read with great interest your article about the Royal Flying Corps reunion (SOLDIER, May 18).

They spent a memorable day at Netheravon to celebrate their 80th birthday and Lt CO Charles Blount, Col of 7 Regt AAC, and his team are to be congratulated for initiating and hosting a splendid occasion.

However, the impression may have been conveyed that no more reunions would be held.

The Bath Association is still very active – eight members are in your photograph – and the

day at Netheravon was only one, albeit the best one, of many enjoyed throughout the year.

Some members meet for lunch each month. Each year a reunion lunch is held at RAF Lyneham, with veterans from as far as Newcastle, Cornwall and Sussex attending.

This year the reunion lunch at Lyneham will be held during the first week of October. Any RFC/RNAS veteran will be most welcome (the association is always seeking, and still finding, new recruits) and of course may bring a guest.

If any readers know of anyone who served in the RFC or RNAS in any capacity who has not been to the reunion previously and would like to come this year, would they please contact me and I will ensure they receive an invitation. – I D Heavers, Hon Sec Bath RFC/RNAS Association, 59 Warminster Road, Bathampton, Bath, Avon BA2 6RX.

● The Netheravon event was billed as the last full reunion at this particular location. The veterans are obviously still very active and long may they continue to be so. – **Editor**

## CAPSULE OF TIME

RECENTLY examining an Army watch acquired in Chester ten years ago, I found it contained a wealth of Second World War history which may interest readers.

Scratched inside the back cover are references to place names from Italy and the Middle East, some with dates, including Monte Cassino, Cairo 1940, Tobruk 1941, and El Alamein 1942.

Engraved on the back cover is "GSM K11 A26006" and, scratched beneath, "(CWD SSM RE)".

The watch is in excellent condition and keeps time. – W Parish (ex-Sig, National Service 1949-51), Runcorn, Cheshire.

## Out of order

MY LETTER about the Army Catering Corps Association, Keighley (June 29) carried the headline: "Keep AAC flag flying".

I fully realise it was a printing error, but it was noticed by our Corps Secretariat, who wanted to know how long we had been part of the Army Air Corps! – B S Budd, Keighley, W Yorks.

● Apologies to both the ACC and the AAC. We were obviously suffering from initial fatigue. – **Editor**

# More fine examples of great marches

## The Great Marches Vol 5

Various Service Bands

REACHING volume five in this great series means that more than 100 fine examples of the genre have now appeared on CD from the equally great Bandleader label, part of the Valentine Music Group.

The bands here represented include Royal Marines, RAF, Guards, Kneller Hall, and several of the line regiments. There are 24 of the best marches which are all in the British Army's regular repertory and can be heard wherever bands play.

Alford has *The Vedette* and *HM Jollies*, no Sousa, but America has Frank Panella's *On The Square*, Karl King's *Barnum and Bailey's Favourite*, and *Marche Americaine* by true Brit Terry Kenny.

*The Contempts* is the classic by Kenneth Alford's brother Leo Stanley, *Alma* by Maj David Price of the Scots Guards, and *Aces High* by Ron Goodwin.

The remainder need little introduction and are *The King's Guard*, *Hoch und Deutschmeister*, *Carmen* (from Bizet's opera), *Sounding Brass*, the brass band *B B & C F* arranged for military band, *Royal British Legion* (or Bidgood's "British Legion" as was), *The Flying Eighth*, *Guards Parade*, *Old Gray Mare*, *Grandioso*, *Flying Eagle*, *Cavalry of the Steppes*, *Thro' Night to Light*, *Blue Devils*, and *My Regiment*.

Oh yes, and there is a trumpet march called *Cavalry Walk*, a sister march to "Cavalry Ride" and "Cavalry Trot", in which I now find I have (unconsciously I assure you) cribbed a couple of bars from Johann Strauss. An occupational hazard for those who conduct or play marches for a livelihood.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick Street, London WC2E 9AR or dealers, price £12 inc p and p.

## Staff Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Conductor: Capt L P Tyler

A VERY interesting and varied programme from REME; too long a time no hear.

The disc's title is Corps Celebration, the corps being formed 50 years ago in 1942 to amalgamate the technical resources of the Army – and recommended by none other than Sir William Beveridge, he of The Report.

Celebratory items are supplied by Capt Tyler by way of a *REME General Salute*, a version of *Heigh-Ho Heigh-Ho It's Off to Work We Go* which once formed part of the Corps March, *The Silver Horse* – a march referring to

the centrepiece of the cap badge – and the *REME Corps Flourish*.

And that punishing composer (ged it?) Robert Ely provides a fine concert march *Corps Celebre!*

The meat of the programme contains Shostakovich's great *Festive Overture*, a work from an American composer, *Emmanuel Variants*, based on the Advent carol "O Come O Come Emmanuel", and the final item, John Williams's music for the film *ET*.

Marches are *Sons of the Brave*, *Grandioso*, *Winder-mere*, whose title ends with a suitably anagrammatic four-lettered word), and of course the corps quick and slow march pasts.

Laurie Johnson's emotive

*Vivat Regina*, the famous tune from Beethoven's *Sonata Pathetique*, an arrangement of the corps tune *Lilliburlero* by Cy Payne, and Alford's xylophone solo *Sparks* give variety to the proceedings, and in lighter vein the big band sound is heard in *Woodchopper's Ball*, *Li'l Darlin'*, *Here's to that Rainy Day*, and with a flugel solo in Gershwin's song *Summertime* from "Porgy and Bess".

Although not officially recognised until 1947, the band will no doubt share in the forthcoming festivities, with this disc as a fine offering in payment for hospitality received.

● From Bandleader, CD price £12, double cassette £12 inc p and p.

# Life Guards act will be difficult to follow

## Crown Imperial

Band of the Life Guards  
Conductor: Maj Colin Reeves

TO INAUGURATE a new Sovereign Series from Music Masters we have a most appreciative programme worthy of the name.

Not only appropriate but ambitious, demanding, and as this old player knows, very tiring. The band meets all demands with skill and stamina.

How better to start a new series than with a fanfare on cavalry trumpets? *Emblazoned* does the job, and Walton's great Coronation march *Crown Imperial* sets the seal.

To end his programme with Walton's later Coronation march *Orb and Sceptre* Maj Reeves certainly gave his brass players plenty to think about; he must have been a woodwind player I think.

How any other band will justify the series title I cannot imagine, or perhaps the repertory with "royal" in the title will be ransacked.

*Salute the Horse* comprises four items which do just that, with Alf Young's fine march *Boots and Saddles*, the *Sabre Dance* by Khachaturian for the Cossacks, and a nice tribute to those backroom boys of the Household Cavalry, the farriers, with the *Anvil Chorus* from Verdi's "Il Travatore".

Mozart's *Musical Joke*, the signature tune for TV's Horse of the Year Show, could be a tribute to each and every horse which endures, with such patience, its five-hour stint for the Queen's Birthday Parade.

The inclusion of the concert march *The Triumph of Right* reminds me that I once promised, in these columns, to copy it out for a marching band. I make that promise again, and mean it this time, for it deserves to be heard on parade.

An arrangement by Robert Farnon of the 2nd Life Guards' old march *Men of Harlech* reminds us that there were once two regiments of Life Guards; a luxury inconceivable in these times.

Gordon Langford's *Rhapsody for Trombone* is given a virtuoso performance by newcomer to the band, Justin Field; the work is very approachable, melodious, and for the soloist demanding.

Band Corporal Maj Morris is the soloist in Cimarosa's *Oboe Concerto*, making a restful interlude in such an energetic programme, except perhaps for BCM Morris, who plays it beautifully.

The most difficult item though is the overture to the play by Aristophanes, *The Wasps*, by Vaughan Williams. A first recording on wind band I think, for so few bands now have the instrumentation to perform it. A pity, for it is a fine work and steeped in the English pastoral tradition. All I can say about this, and the rest of the programme is – follow that!

● From Music Masters Ltd, End House, Gurnells Road, Seer Green, Bucks HP9 2XJ, or dealers, price £10 for CD, £7 for cassette.

# The man who defied Idi Amin

DENIS HILLS is remembered as the Englishman Idi Amin sentenced to death in 1975 for calling the Ugandan dictator a "village tyrant" in a book and who was rescued from the condemned cell by the personal intervention of the then Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan. But there is much more to Hills than even that dramatic experience.

In *Tyrants and Mountains* Denis Hills writes of a life of wandering far and travelling light that began in 1933 with an undergraduate trip to Germany, the first of many journeys in Europe. The Nazis seem to have fascinated him, as they did many at Oxford in the 1930s. Some were recruited to the Fascist cause, but not Hills.

In 1936 he took on poorly paid editorial work with an English language magazine in Danzig because he had been told that Poland was where the next war would begin. It did, and Hills and his Polish-born actress-wife crossed the frontier into Romania and took a job with the British Council in Bucharest, a lifestyle vividly portrayed in Olivia Manning's much publicised *Fortunes of War*.

Hills then went to Cairo and joined the Army as a liaison officer attached to the Polish Carpathian Lancers Brigade. He was less than impressed by Cairo society. Olivia Manning, fresh from Bucharest, was "diffident and rude", and Lawrence Durrell "kept to his own literary clique".

The landings at Taranto in January 1944 with the Polish Kresowa Division appeared to be a welcome change, but the Poles' part in the Battle of Monte Cassino was undoubtedly a most unpleasant experience.

Thirty years before Denis Hills' near-fatal confrontation in Africa he was personally connected with the shameful return to the USSR of the Don

● Turn to next page

# MacDonald Fraser's war in Burma

GEORGE MacDonald Fraser is best known as the author of novels about the military adventures of Flashman, the Victorian arch-cad, and scripts for the films *The Three Musketeers* and *Octopussy*.

Now he has turned to the Second World War with a personal and factual account of the Burma War in *Quartered Safe Out Here* – the title being part of a quotation from Rudyard Kipling.

It is about life and death in the insular world of 9 Section, B Company, 9 Battalion, The Border Regiment, a section mostly composed of men from Cumberland.

Complaining is a well-known military habit but, as the author tells us, Cumbrians are the only soldiers who can moan and laugh at the same time.

There was plenty to moan about in the 17th Indian Division's part in the last great land battle of the war, and there had to be laughs in order to remain comparatively sane.

## WHO DARES READ...

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Not all succeeded and there was "... a seasoned veteran who, in a lonely *basha* at night, swore there were Japanese outside, hundreds of them but only eighteen inches tall, and led by his Member of Parliament . . ."

It is a remarkable book by an excellent wordsmith who can make his reader feel what it is like to kill at close quarters and to share a sense of loss when members of the section are killed.

"I felt what I feel now, and what every old soldier feels: a gratitude for having been there, and an abiding admiration amounting to awe for the sheer ability of my comrades.

"Nowadays the highest

praise a soldier can get is the word 'professional'.

Fourteenth

Army weren't professionals.

They were experts."

He is quite intolerant of the

currently-held belief that all

who experience stress are in

need of counselling:

"Fortunately for the world, my

generation didn't suffer from spiritual hypochondria – but then, we couldn't afford it. By modern standards, I'm sure we, like the whole population who endured the war, were ripe for counselling, but we were lucky; there were no counsellors . . ."

The author shows that he is uncompromising and unrepentant about prejudices born long ago and which survive to this day. "It is difficult for me to equate the Japanese of the 'forties with those neat, eager, apparently polite young men whom I see in airports and tourist centres . . . But old feelings persist . . ."

Anyone who did not serve in the Far East during the war will learn some good oral history from this book. For instance, about the *up-you* bird, which is in fact not a bird at all but a large lizard that "drives strong men mad, for its call is a harsh whirring sound culminating in a melodious 'Up you! Up you!'".

We are introduced to the

delights of the military canteens run by a contractor named Wazir Ali, and famous for the speciality of "egg banjo" – a fried egg between two slices of bread.

Suffice to say that anyone

wishing to know how

Servicemen at the sharp end

thought and acted half a

century ago can do no better

than to read this book. – BJ

**Quartered Safe Out Here: A Recollection of the War in Burma** by George MacDonald Fraser. Harvill Publishers, hardback, £16.

## Detailed look at pistols

IT WAS old Sam Colt who offered the first practical solution to firing a pistol more than once without reloading.

He developed the world-famous six-gun, beloved by heroes of the Old West and the stars of every Western film because it made shooting villains easy.

All they had to do was cock the hammer and a new round slid into place ready for the next baddie to bite the dust.

Until Sam perfected his famous Colt it has been a hit-and-miss affair, even though gunmakers had been experimenting for about 200 years to overcome the problem of load, shoot, load . . .

Sam's firm went on to world fame and to amass a fortune from the Civil War of 1861-65.

Although Sam Colt died young (in 1862, aged 47), his



Picture: Mike Weston

Last rounds: Men of the HAC ended a long association with a famous gun when they fired their 25-pounders for the last time on July 17. The regiment is to be re-equipped with the new Light Gun

## A tale of C Battery HAC

SOMEBODY somewhere once said that "life is just a string of memories . . .".

Latest in a long line of those who have drawn, perhaps not on their own memories, but on those of others who were in the thick of it, is James Colquhoun in *Action Front! A History of C Battery HAC in War and Peace*.

In this chronological account of the battery's 34 years of existence from 1939, Mr Colquhoun relates a story of heroism and regimental spirit which, because of its very subject, is similar to that of scores of other wartime units.

But for all that it is still a good read and will be of particular interest to those who have served, or are still serving, in the Honourable

Artillery Company. The author, while not a Regular in the Army, served as a National Service officer in the RAOC in Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles in 1954-55. So he is not without considerable military experience of life at the sharp end.

After his African service and his return to civilian life he joined C Battery 1st Regiment HAC, RHA in the TA in 1959.

In a modest cover blurb about himself, he says he stayed a gunner in C Battery for five years as he didn't want to "peak" too early.

Then, still peakless, he joined the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers HAC – a unit he is still with in the rank of Musketeer.

Mr Colquhoun's book is

much like many others where young men surged forward to join a TA unit at the start of the war, went through the whole bit, in this case mostly in Italy, and returned home to see the unit disband for a time then re-form into what was to become almost a club for the next 26 years.

The unit attracted at least half of its officers from the financial institutions of the City of London, while most of them went to some of the country's top public schools, which Mr Colquhoun lists.

It's all a bit esoteric. Nevertheless those officers set high standards, both militarily and socially. – JM

**Action Front! A History of C Battery HAC in War and Peace** by James Colquhoun. Leo Cooper, £18.95.

every one of its 351 pages.

This book targets revolvers

and automatics, starting with the Abadie, a 9.1mm Belgian-made revolver dating from 1878, and ending with the Zwylacka, a six-round 6.35mm automatic of unknown manufacture, thought to be Spanish in origin, and resembling a Baby Browning. – JM

**Pistols of the World** by Ian Hogg and John Weeks. Arms and Armour, £29.99.

## From Page 37

Cossacks and Georgians who had been coerced into German service during the war.

Hills regarded it as his job to save all those he could from the cattle trucks and many owed their lives to his efforts. But many more had to go, and Hills obviously feels a sense of failure. "Major Ivanov, looking haggard but calm and in control of his men, broke away and came over to me. This was the Judas moment I had feared. I must go through with it. 'So you are sending us to our death,' he said, 'I believed in you. Democracy has let us down . . .'"

In the 1950s and out of the Army, Hills resumed his wanderings, teaching in Germany and Turkey, skiing alone over the Alps, cycling to the North Cape, and mountain climbing in Kurdistan and Iran.

Between 1963 and 1984 he was in Africa and there, more than at any other time, one has to admire his courage. It is not for the faint-hearted to write critically of Idi Amin in Uganda and of Ian Smith in Rhodesia, and to have carried on living in

# The things soldiers say . . .

CONFUCIUS said: "Finding the right quote at the right time is very, very difficult."

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A wise old bird, Confucius. But so was Winston Churchill, who has been quoted by all and sundry whenever they thought a situation warranted the Churchillian touch.

But while the Great Man, according to the biographical index in *Warriors' Words*, has been quoted 64 times in the book, two of his most memorable speeches are not represented.

There is nothing from

either "The Few . . .", considered by many to be his most famous, or his impassioned call to arms when Hitler threatened invasion, "We will fight them on the beaches . . ."

Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks appears in the biographical index with his Christian name spelt as Bryan.

A small error, but one which should have been picked up by the six librarians who helped author Peter G Tsouras, a lieutenant colonel in the US Army Reserve, compile this 500-page tome of quotes by more than 250 soldiers from Pharaoh Sesostris to General H Norman

Schwarzkopf.

In the preface Col Tsouras says he hopes his book will help junior officers.

That would be unlikely if a young soldier were to quote General Moshe Dayan, who is alleged to have said: "It is better to struggle with a stallion when the problem is how to hold it back, than to urge a bull which refuses to budge."

Now that will baffle anybody and could earn either instant promotion or a swift boot out the door. - JM

**Warriors' Words** by Peter G Tsouras. Arms and Armour Press, £19.99.

these countries. His final visit to Poland ended in expulsion because, he claims, of inaccurate reporting in the Peterborough column of the *Daily Telegraph*.

A friend wrote to Hills in

1988 warning him "not to get bogged down in a bed-sitter but to keep on travelling".

Now, in his eighties, Denis Hills lives in a Twickenham bed-sitter, but his reckless free spirit and wanderlust survive in

this highly readable adventure-packed book. - BJ

**Tyrants and Mountains: A Reckless Life** by Denis Hills, published by John Murray, hardback, £19.95.

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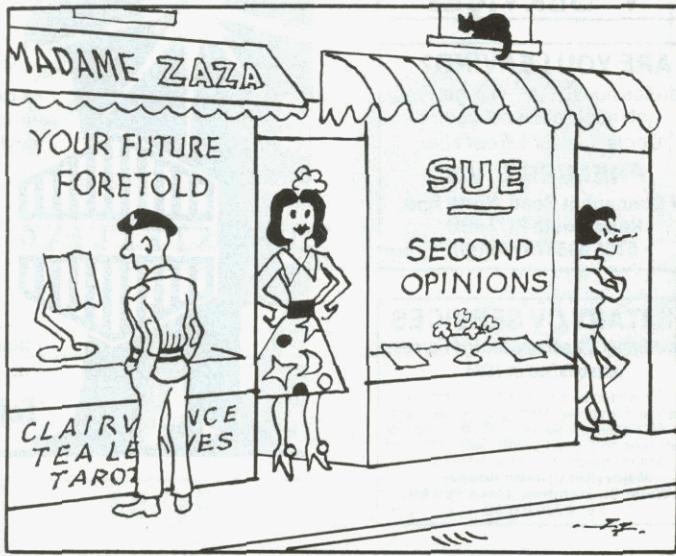
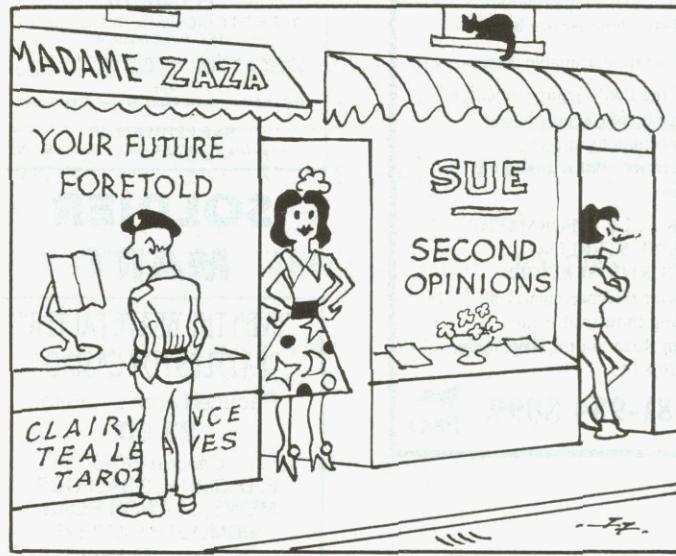
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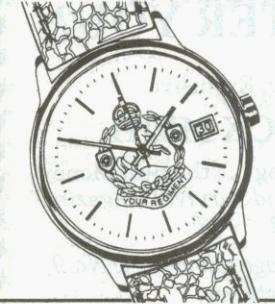
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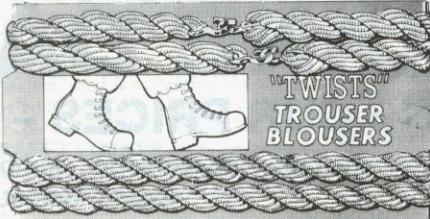
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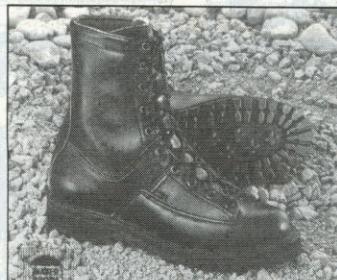
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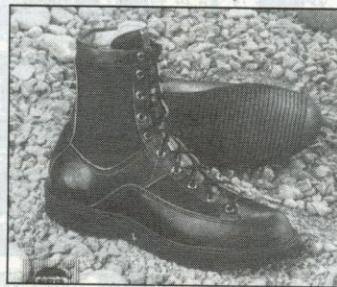
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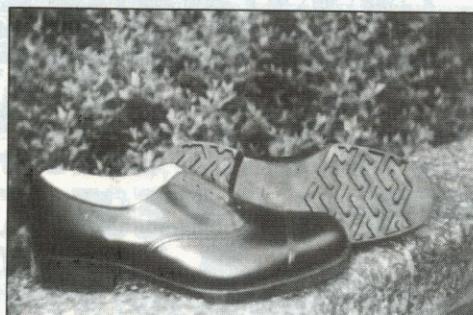
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**Carterton/RAF Brize Norton.** 3 bedroom house in cul-de-sac. Small garden, garage, gas central heating. £63,500 quick sale. Phone 0993 844478 evenings. 31/92

# Army hangs on to title

THE ARMY won the Inter-Service team championships based at the Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre at Crickhowell, Wales.

All three classes of competitor looked forward to good flying with a favourable weather forecast, but very light winds on the opening day resulted in the novices flying from Merthyr and the open and intermediate classes going from Blaenau Gwent, 1,500ft above Aberavon.

The Army's slim lead at the end of the day was maintained and increased as the competition developed.

Pilots and gliders were



The winning Army hang gliding team. From left (standing) are Sgt George Cumming, Air Commodore Gove, RAF, who presented the trophies, team captain WO1 Dave Fenwick, Maj John Aldridge; (kneeling) Cpl Karl Butler, Cpl Tony Hallam, WOCDT Liz Dallyn, SSgt Phil Freeman, Cpl Ian Tremble

pushed to their limits in the open class, with tasks varying from open distance cross country to duration flying.

But despite spot landings in

nil wind causing a lot of bent aluminium, one slightly damaged knee and a few bruised egos were the only casualties after five days of safe flying.

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Water polo skills among soldiers serving with British Forces Cyprus have improved sharply following a coaching course for players and referees run by former Army, Combined Services and Welsh International Capt Ted Martin, APTC (front right), from the Army Apprentices' College ACC, Aldershot, and Maj Jim Dryburgh, R Signals (front left), commanding 259 Signal Squadron in Cyprus

## Netheravon unit in darts final

THREE Army teams reached the quarter-finals of the Naafl-Carlsberg national darts championships, with WO Mick Shackleton, CSgt Dave Kerr, Sgt Tam McGaw and Cpl Gary Lewis of Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon

reaching the grand final before losing to RAF Uxbridge.

The Royal School of Signals were beaten by RAF Odham in the quarter-finals and SWW Netheravon beat Gaza Barracks, Catterick in the semi-finals.

## Aldershot Garrison saddles up



## Divers impress county judges

THE ARMY diving championships at Guildford last month were the best for many years with scores of seven from the Southern Counties ASA judges commonplace - a level of performance unheard of in previous championships.

WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson, APTC serving with the Depot and Trg Regt RCT TA in Grantham, retained the senior 3m springboard title by a margin of just five points from newly commissioned 2nd Lt Christian Munro (3 RTR), a young Farnham-based diver with tremendous potential.

A re-count was needed to confirm the top three places in an extremely close men's senior 5m highboard competition, before Munro took the honours ahead of Sgt Amos Greenfield (22 AD Regt RA). Kempson, now aged 37 and the Army's best diver for nearly 20 years, was third.

Tpr Richard Beecher (QDG) and ATpr Neil Wilson (4 AAC), who graduated to the seniors this season, were separated in fourth and fifth places by fractions of points.

The women's senior 3m springboard and 5m highboard competitions were won by Cyprus-based Cpl Amanda Davies, the defending Army and Inter-Services champion,



Army coach WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson

who was unable to train for the event.

Serving with 9 Signal Regiment, she should benefit hugely from the new Olympic pool and diving facility just opened in Nicosia.

New divers, both men and

FOR THE first time for several years a new name has been engraved on the Morrison Cup following the Royal Signals BAOR athletics championships.

In the absence of perennial winners 21 Signal Regiment who were unable to compete because of their move to the

women, were able to compete and develop their confidence and technique at lower levels in the intermediate competitions, and many impressed the ASA officials.

Mike Kempson, the Army diving coach since 1976 and a competitor for Great Britain at last year's European Masters diving championships, is bringing on an Army squad already close to national standard.

Anyone wishing to take up the sport, or be considered for the squad, can contact WO2 Kempson by calling the ASA secretary on Aldershot Military ext 3581.

The Army has won the Inter-Service diving championships on 27 occasions in the past 32 years, and the squad has been training hard to make it 28 at RAF Cranwell on August 4.

Facilities include an indoor riding school and excellent local hacking. Inquiries should be made to club secretary Lt Liz Morgan on Aldershot Military ext 3286.

## Opening form

LT RICHARD Greatorex gave Combined Services a solid start to their annual one-day fixture against NCA Young Cricketers at Lord's.

After an opening partnership of 36 with Army skipper Capt Jimmy Cotterill (16), Greatorex went to compile 72 in Services' total of 262 for nine declared in 74 overs.

Lt Ian Fielding scored 23 bat at number six.

The match ended in a draw as the NCA replied with 161 for three in 43 overs.

## Newcomers on Morrison Cup

retained the trophy for a third year despite strong challenges from 202 and 207 Squadrons.

The major tug of war tournament was won by host unit 7 Signal Regiment who then beat minor champions 3 Squadron, 21 Signal Regiment in the final for the Morrison Cup of War Cup.



Cpl Steve Robinson (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) who was second in the first string high jump with a clearance of 1.85m. Cpl Trevor McSween (21 Signal Regt) won with 1.90m

# 21 Signs inspired to treble triumph



Leading by example - SSgt Neil Killen, first in the shot

FOR THE third consecutive year 21 Signal Regiment has won the Leyland DAF-sponsored Army Major Units team athletic championships.

And this year the athletes literally ran away with the trophy, finishing more than 40 points ahead of second-placed 1 PWO, who filled the runners-up spot for the third year.

Driving force behind 21 Signal's success is SSgt Neil Killen. His coaching showed up particularly strongly in the technical events, in which his athletes were streets ahead of the opposition.

Epitomising the standards Killen has set were LCpl Richardson and Tomlinson in the hurdles over 110m and 400m. Both are now good enough to beat their tutor, who earlier in the summer claimed the Army decathlon title for the tenth time.

Competition in the minor and women's events was more intense, with the former

eluded Dulmen, so dominant over cross country in recent years. But they made amends at the Military Stadium, Aldershot by edging out Depot Queen's Division, the defending champions, in the 400m relay.

Bielefeld Garrison held off the Army Women's Training Centre, the 1991 champions, to win the women's trophy.

Four trophies were won by 21 Signals on the day, the 1,500m Carrington Cup, the Track Events Cup, the Field Events Cup and the Major Units Shield. The Bissett Cup for runners up went to 1 PWO.

The Young Guns of the Junior Leaders' Regiment RA dominated the youth competition for the second year, but the junior event was closely fought by AA College Chepstow and Princess Marina College, the former winning by 60 points to 52.

Addressing the athletes after prize-giving, Army Athletic

Association chairman Maj Gen Hew Pike urged units to encourage participation and so keep the championships going despite the reductions caused by Options for Change.

Final orders in the men's events were:

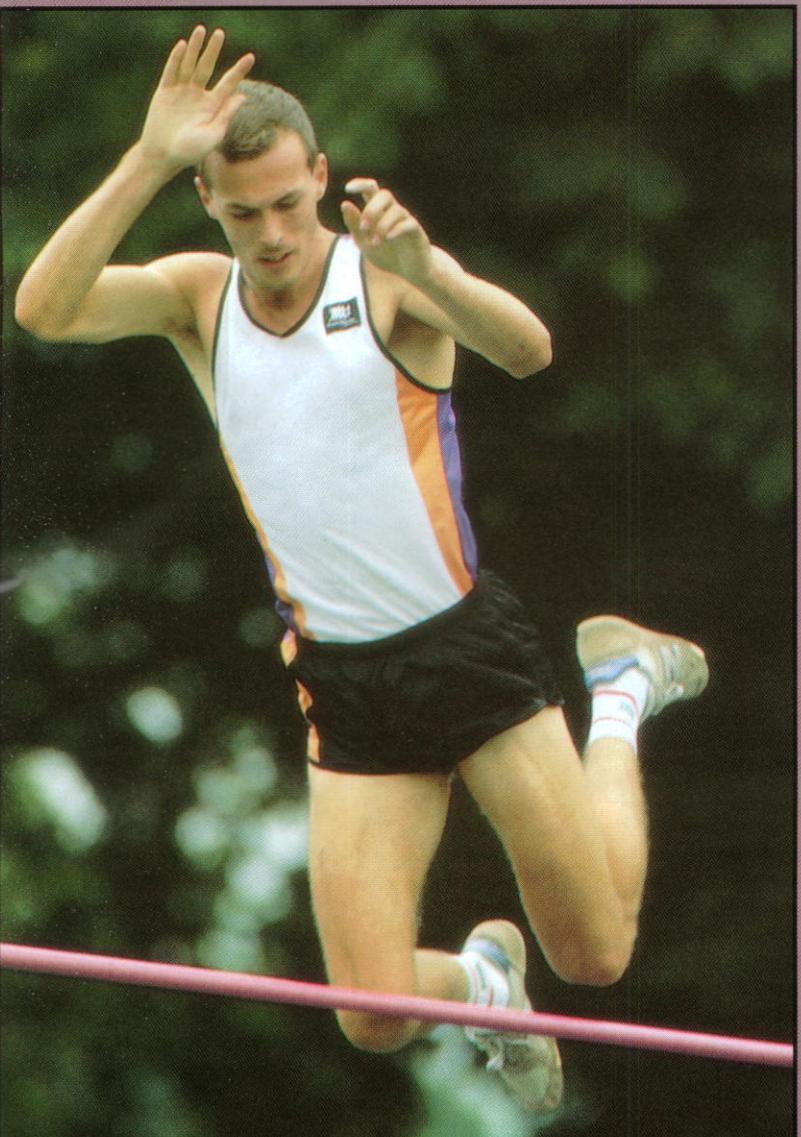
**Major Units** - 1, 21 Signal Regt, 249 points; 2, 1 PWO, 202; 3, 2 Signal Regt, 149.5; 4, RMAS, 139; 5, 1 R Anglian, 133.5; 6, SEME Regt, 105; 7, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 82. **Minor Units** - 1, FOD Dulmen, 77; 2, Depot Queens, 70; 3, 9 Ord Bn, 68; 4, 1 Armd Fd Amb, 50; 5, POW Div, 45; 6, 4 Armd Fd Amb, 41; 7, 23 Para Fd Amb, 40.

So that the Army's 1992 athletics rankings can be compiled as soon as possible, meeting organisers are being asked to send results to Sgt D C Collins, Fwd Ord Depot Dulmen, BFPO 44. Individual athletes who wish to be included may also submit results of civilian and open meetings, including road races, with proof of performances.



Sporting stars: Members of 28 Engineer Regiment's successful football, hockey and athletics teams on parade for "inspection" by WO1 (RSM) Davey Quinn RE at Bindon Barracks, Hameln. See Pages 26-28.

Picture: Mike Weston



Action from the Army Inter-Unit team athletics championships at Aldershot: Pole vaulter Cpl Andy Ingham (left) of the winning 21 Signal Regiment team; the women's 1,500m race (above); and Sig David Parry of 4 ADSR in the long jump. See sports pages.

Pictures: Terry Champion and Mike Weston





Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards prepare to welcome the Queen, their Colonel-in-Chief, to Holyrood Palace before celebrating the 350th anniversary of their formation. See story and more pictures in Pages 15-17.

Picture: Mike Perring

**SOLDIER**