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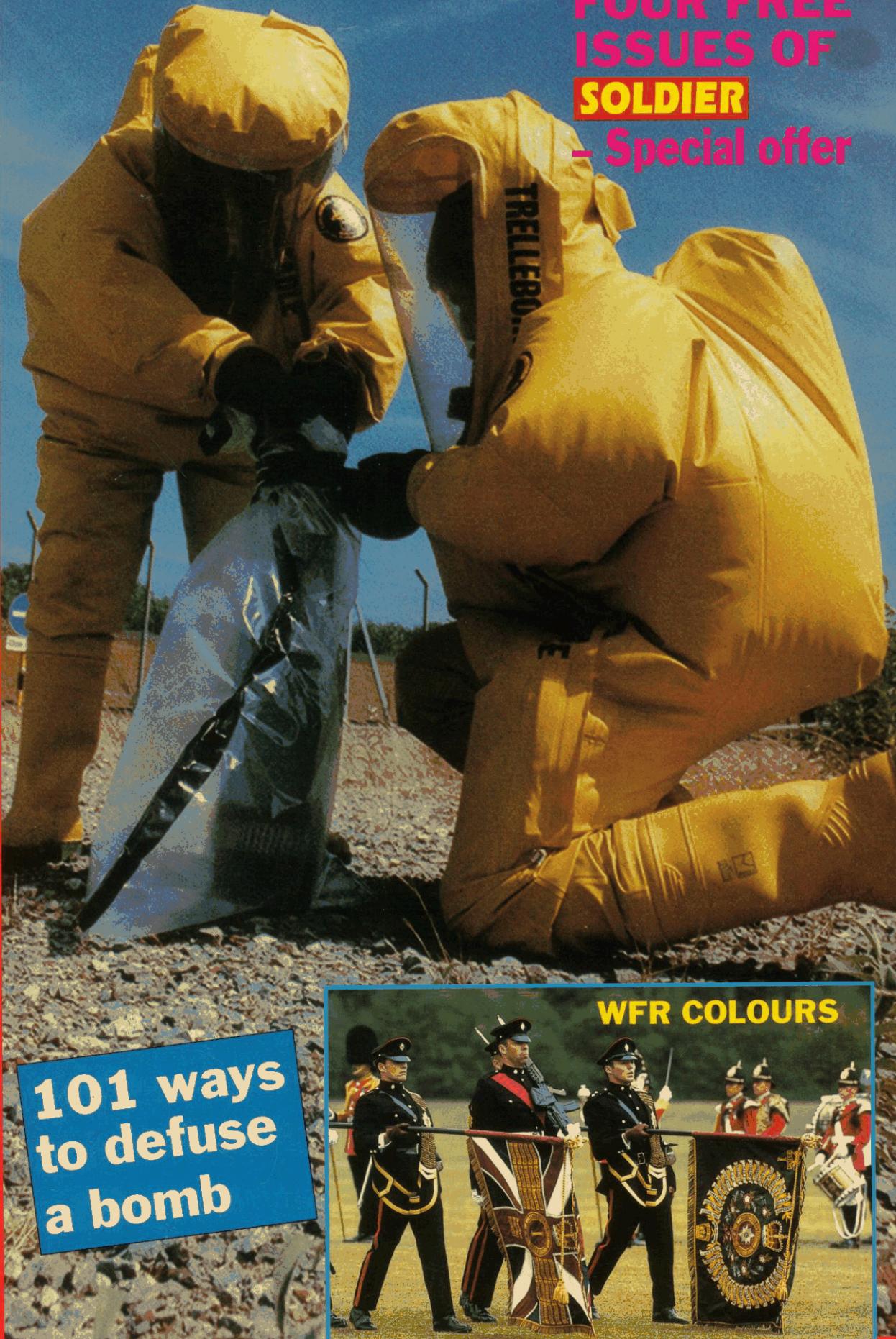
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JULY 24, 1995
Vol 51/15

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COVER: Trialling a Trelleborg protective suit during simulated chemical munitions disposal at the former Woolwich Arsenal are Lt Edward Plummer and Spr Darryl Lobo from 217 Fd Sqn. In the bag is a 155mm experimental shell. Story in Pages 20-21. Inset: Soldiers of 1 WFR at Tidworth during their anniversary and Colours parade. See Pages 13-15. (Pictures: Mike Weston)

Win an MX5 for a weekend – details in Page 22

- **VJ DAY 50th CEREMONIES:** The Prime Minister has announced a nationwide programme of commemoration. – *Page 12*.
- **WFR COLOURS:** The 1st Battalion receives new Colours from the Princess Royal and marks a birthday. – *Page 13-15*.
- **THE POACHERS:** 2 R Anglian reflect on a year of non-stop activity. – *Pages 17-19*.
- **UNEXPLODED BOMB:** 101 (London) Engr Regt (EOD)(V) tidies up. *Pages 20-21*.
- **PARAS:** Airborne in France. – *Pages 25-27*.

HQ Land Command's royal opening



Picture: Mike Weston

The Queen is presented with flowers at Headquarters Land Command, Wilton, which she officially opened on June 29. Accompanying her and the Duke of Edinburgh is Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander-in-Chief Land Command. The Queen opened Inkerman Block, where Army and civilian personnel deal with financial, administra-

tive and legal matters, and later toured Land Command's Joint Headquarters, of which Gen Wilsey is Joint Commander. Approximately three quarters of the Army – Regular and Territorial – is now commanded from Land Command, created in April on the disbandment of HQ UKLF.

● Another picture in Page 5.

OP Chantress is child's play

SIX HUNDRED and fifty British troops stationed in Angola on Operation Chantress have given up their free time to help restore some sense of normality for children in the war-torn country.

Spurred on by the Rev Brian Elliott, Force padre, most members of the British contingent serving with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) have been involved at some time or another in the refurbishment of a school on the outskirts of Lobito.

Even those without specialist building skills

**Troops give
free time to
build school**

have willingly given manpower and muscle.

Royal Engineers have provided much of the construction expertise. Wood is being collected to make desks and benches, the roof is half completed, and the grounds are being cleared and levelled to make a playground.

A number of fund-raising events have been held to pay for the project and schools in other parts of the country have also benefited. At Benguela, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC

● Turn to Page 5

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SOLhy-5

Wessex Colour parades for the Queen

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) took a day off work on June 29 for a special reason.

With 23 members of their 2nd Battalion and 15 soldiers from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, they were privileged to form a guard of honour for the Queen as she officially opened Land Command at Wilton.

Until 1992, 1 Wessex had a unique role as the only Territorial Army infantry unit in the United Kingdom Mobile Force.

Now, after several re-organisations, 1 Wessex is to merge with 2 Wessex on October 1, to form the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

As the Queen took her place in the royal box on the car park serving as a makeshift parade ground, the 1 Wessex Colour, held by Colour Ensign Lt Steve Griffiths, was dipped for probably the final time as the band of the Adjutant General's Corps played the National Anthem.

"It is good to help out the Regulars on an occasion like this," said Lt Col Anthony Lake, commanding officer 1 Wessex.

"We are looking forward to the amalgamation. It will not affect the soldiers, who will go on doing their job, and it will make us the strongest Territorial Army battalion in the country."

Marked on high

FLY-PASTS over a number of towns in Northern Ireland, and a number of static displays, were put on by 5 Regiment Army Air Corps as part of the VE Day celebrations.



Picture: Mike Weston

The Queen, accompanied by Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander-in-Chief Land Command, inspects a specially-invited guard of honour formed mainly of soldiers from 1 Wessex

Angola projects

● From Page 3

and the crew of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Sir Galahad* have virtually rebuilt a school from the ground up.

Schools are also occupying the men of the Welsh Guards in Lobito, where they have been constructing wooden desks. The few troops deployed in Luanda, the capital of Angola, are repairing an adult training facility.

A vital project involving the sappers is the repair of a water purification plant at Catembe. It supplies the Lobito area.

UNICEF, the United Nations children's fund, has asked the Royal Engineers to assist with a drainage task at Lobito. The last UN request was rather more unusual - could the Army bakery please supply fresh bread for a children's street party?

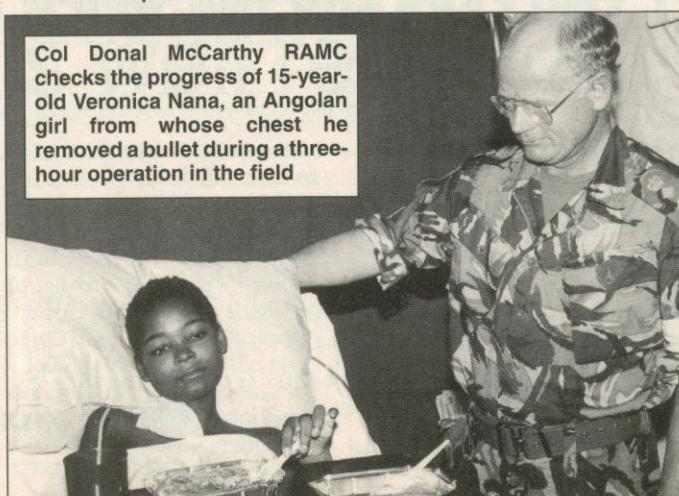
As always, the British Army was happy to rise to the occasion.

The British contingent in Angola is based on 9 Supply Regiment RLC and commanded by Lt Col Harry O'Hare RLC. Limited to three months in the field, it is tasked with providing the logistic infrastructure for all UN forces within the country.



Force padre, the Rev Brian Elliott, explains a school-building project to Baroness Chalker, who visited Angola on behalf of the Overseas Development Administration

Col Donal McCarthy RAMC checks the progress of 15-year-old Veronica Nana, an Angolan girl from whose chest he removed a bullet during a three-hour operation in the field



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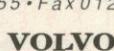
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More one-star jobs for TA officers

MORE STAFF and command appointments at brigadier level will in future be open to suitably qualified TA officers.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written reply that as well as officers commanding their units as lieutenant colonels there were 39 TA colonels in staff appointments and one dedicated TA post at brigadier level in HQ Land Command.

"We intend that in future suitably qualified TA officers should have the opportunity to be considered for a range of staff and certain command appointments at brigadier level," he said.

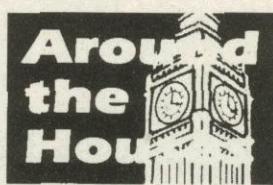
Such appointments would include a brigadier (TA) development and doctrine from 1996 and, from 1997, a one-star officer from the volunteer reserves of one of the Services as director reserve forces and cadets in the MoD

central staff. "I know that this will be welcomed by all reservists as further evidence of our commitment to the reserve forces," added the minister.

Since 1987, 53 compensation

claims have been identified for injury resulting from the negligent discharge of firearms, Defence Under Secretary Lord Henley said. He was answering a written question by Lord Swinfen, who also asked about the advice on

In the Government reshuffle on July 5, Mr Michael Portillo took over as Defence Secretary from Mr Malcolm Rifkind, who became Foreign Secretary. Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman, promoted to the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was succeeded by Mr James Arbuthnot. New Under Secretary of State for Defence is Earl Howe, who takes over from Lord Henley.



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

the availability of compensation given to Servicemen who suffer serious accidents in training.

"The procedure by which present or former Servicemen and women may claim compensation

from my department for personal injury is set out in a Defence Council Instruction published each year," said Lord Henley.

"It recommends that prospective claimants approach the Royal British Legion initially as the organi-

sation best placed to liaise with my department on such claims."

As the MoD continues to investigate claims of a Gulf War syndrome "with scientific rigour", 270 veterans had been examined by June 20, the Armed Forces Minister said.

However, no link between reported illnesses and Gulf war service had yet been found.

Any remaining Gulf veterans concerned about their health were encouraged to come forward for assessment by a Service consultant.

Average annual cost of a Parachute Regiment battalion is £12.31 million, compared with £11.02 million for an infantry battalion of the line. Daily parachute pay of £3.43 per man accounts for the difference.

Princess opens RLC's museum

A NEW £600,000 museum was opened by the Princess Royal at the Royal Logistic Corps Headquarters, Deepcut.

The custom-built museum incorporates the latest technology and has been designed to educate as well as provide a visual display.

It includes a 1940s-style classroom with blackout curtains and a "walk through time", allowing visitors to look in on wars from the Peninsular through the Crimean and the two world wars to the present day.

The museum, which is open to civilians, has an archive containing 20,000 documents, some dating from 1794.

MDC(A) active

BRITISH, Belgian, German and Dutch members of the Multinational Division Central (Airmobile) took part in the command post exercise Active between Leopoldsburg and Zutendaal, Belgium, in preparation for a command field exercise, Cold Grouse, in Denmark in September.



Maj Jim McKee, OC Signal Squadron, accompanies Osnabrück's mayoress on her inspection of the guard

Freedom parade is well received

A LARGE crowd of German spectators clapped and cheered as a guard of honour from locally-based 4th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron marched through Osnabrück's main shopping centre to the cathedral square.

Led by the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons, the guard was exercising the Freedom of the town, granted to Osnabrück Garrison in 1980.

Among other units providing

support were the Queen's Royal Lancers.

The friendliness of the spectators and the congratulations offered after the event were clear indications of the excellent relations currently enjoyed between town and garrison.

Osnabrück Garrison was thanked for its contribution to peace in Europe for 50 years, and for its work in Bosnia.

The squadron is due to deploy to Bosnia in October.

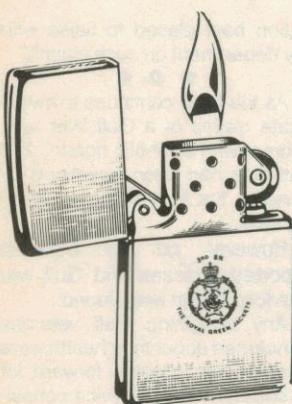
Clegg awaits Army decision

PTE LEE Clegg, of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, released under licence on July 3 from Wakefield gaol after serving four years of a life sentence, was undergoing refresher training for "at least two weeks" during which he was due to undertake physical fitness tests and familiarisation training on military matters.

He was not expected to leave his Catterick barracks during that time, and was scheduled to take a short period of leave while he awaits a decision from the Army Board regarding his future.

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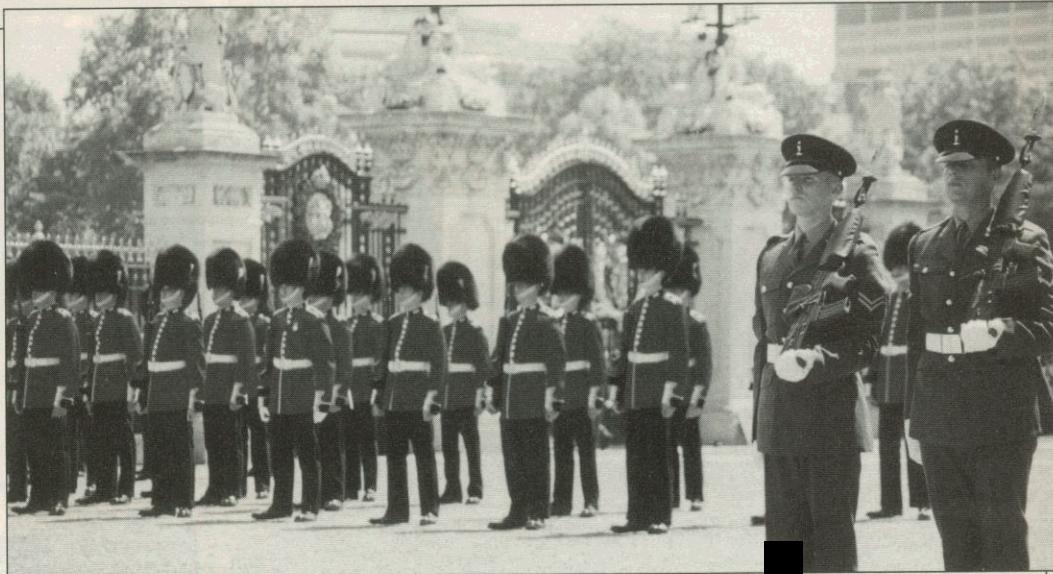
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Signals guard palace

Cpl Gaz Roberts and LCpl Tony Lynch (right), both from York-based 2nd Signal Regiment, take up their positions on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace – 75 years to the day after King George V signed a Royal Warrant establishing the then Corps of Signals. To mark the anniversary, 150 signallers from the United Kingdom and Germany spent five weeks on Queen's Guard, alternating with units of the Household Division. Gurkha signallers from 250 (Gurkha) Signal



Picture: Sgt Ian Liprot, Gren Gds

Squadron took a share of guard duties at the Tower of London.

Other events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Royal

Corps of Signals include a corps dinner in the presence of the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief; the opening of a new wing at the corps museum in

Blandford; and the celebration of the Queen Mother's 95th birthday on August 4 by the Band of the Royal Signals outside Clarence House.

Irish eyes smiling at Bisley success

SOLDIERS from the Home Service units of The Royal Irish Regiment came out top at Bisley when the 3rd, 4th and 8th Battalions dominated the annual Army Rifle Association Queen's Medal competition.

The Royal Irish claimed five of the seven most sought-after trophies in British Army competition shooting.

Cpl Robert Doak, based in Mahon Road Barracks, Portadown, won the Roupell Cup and Gurkha Welfare Trophy, while his 3 R Irish team went away with the Pistol Cup.

The Henry Whitehead Cup was won by Cpl Stephen Brier of 4 R Irish based in Omagh, and Maj Alwyn McClean, also 4 R Irish, took the prestigious Army 100 Cup.

Cpl Doak was narrowly beaten to the most coveted prize, the Queen's Medal, by Capt (QGO) Dharmendra Gurung, 1 RGR, the first Regular to win three times. LCpl Stuart Roleston, 8 R Irish, was third.

Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland, said: "I am delighted with the regiment's success."

Report, pictures in next issue



Picture: Mike Weston

Cpl Monty Rae and 2nd Lt Nick Fletcher of 9 Parachute Squadron, RE at work on a £250,000 bridge-building project at Minley, Surrey. The three-span bridge is made of reinforced steel and concrete and will be used by students on combat engineer courses to practise the positioning of demolition explosives.

The project, one of a number involving sappers in the construction of training facilities

A bridge to blow

for the Army in the United Kingdom, is scheduled to be completed before the squadron deploys to Northern Ireland in September.

They began work on the bridge in January following post-Rwanda leave.

IN THE PRESS



What the papers have been saying

A FEMALE soldier with an exemplary record has won £47,500 in compensation from the MoD after it was admitted she had been subjected to a stream of abuse by male officers during a course at Catterick. Acting Sgt Lynn Goodall's award is the first successful sex discrimination claim against the MoD on grounds other than pregnancy or improper recruitment procedures. – *Sunday Times*

□ NATO ambassadors have given provisional approval to a 1,300-page contingency plan for the use of up to 60,000 troops to evacuate United Nations peacekeepers from former Yugoslavia. – *Financial Times*

□ The death of a soldier caught in a landmine blast brought to 40 the number of French peacekeepers killed in former Yugoslavia. – *Times*

□ The bullet which helped to convict the now released Pte Lee Clegg of The Parachute Regiment, jailed for life for the shooting of a joyrider at a Belfast checkpoint in 1990, was probably fired by another soldier according to a new study. – *Daily Mail*

□ The Royal British Legion has accused the British Government of treating veterans with contempt by rejecting their campaign for a Whitehall unit to deal with veterans' affairs. – *Daily Telegraph*



Riding into the sunset...

An outing on Salisbury Plain on horseback was the offbeat farewell gesture arranged by Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, Adjutant General, (above right) for Director General Army Manning and Recruiting Maj Gen Jack Deverell, an accomplished horseman, who was leaving his post to take over as Commandant RMA Sandhurst. A party of one and two-star officers joined the two generals for a picnic lunch in the woods. Gen Wilkes left his own post on July 7 to become Lieutenant Governor of Jersey. Inset: Maj Gen Deverell said farewell to his staff at Empress State Building on his other favourite form of transport – two wheels.

Picture: Mike Weston

Picture: CS (Photography) P3

High ambitions

Contemplating her next move is Rachel Horsaman, one of six local schoolgirls who challenged members of 250 (Hull) Field Ambulance to tackle an assault course at their barracks for a Zambian charity. The girls – with a little coaxing from the soldiers – beat them at their own game over walls and water jumps and through tunnels.

And Rachel? She wants to join the Army on leaving school...



Staff leaves the staff

A 300-mile daily round trip from Ilminster to south London, not to mention 44 years' continuous service, has come to an end for SSgt Frank Spiers. A member of Southfields-based 31st Signal Regiment (V), Frank, pictured with his wife at a farewell dinner held by the regiment, enlisted in 1951 and was one of the longest-serving NCOs in the Territorial Army.



Canvassing for success

Saving the Army thousands of pounds is Sgt Chris Crabtree, of 14 Signal Regiment LAD, whose technical brainwave won him a £450 cash prize and certificate from the Army Department's technical suggestions and awards committee.

Chris, who recently completed a Bosnian tour, designed a more effective and cheaper thin sheet metal cover to replace expensive canvas vehicle covers.



Tired LADS

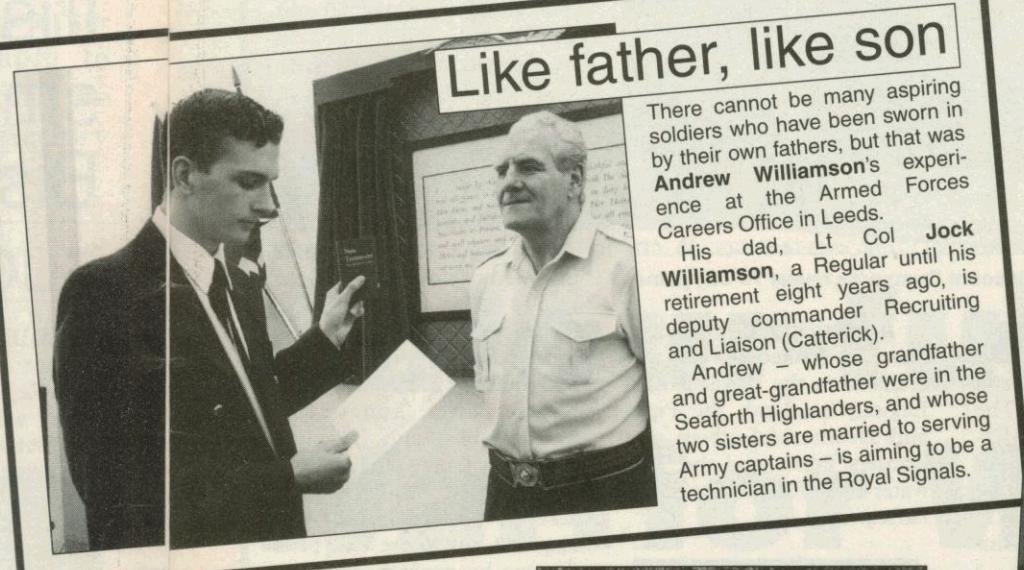
Marchers from 7 Signal Regiment (LAD) complete an exhausting 30km course, one of several organised by Support Battalion Headquarters, HQ ARRC as part of the 28th Rheindahlen Allied Marches. More than 1,200 participants were sent on their way to a background of stirring military marches performed by the Normandy Band of The Queen's Division.

PEOPLE



Where there's soap...

Getting in a real lather at Ivelagh Primary School, Castle Hill, Rathfriland, was Pte Michael Cullen, of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, who was taking part in an action-packed day for more than 70 children from Ivelagh and St Mary's primary schools. The youngsters were competing for the Castle Hill Cup, sponsored by the battalion's C Coy, who are based in the town.

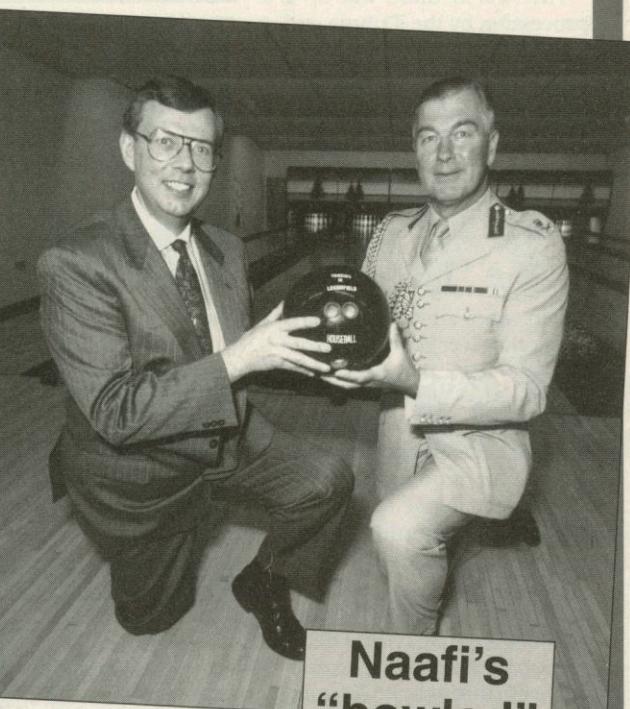


Like father, like son

There cannot be many aspiring soldiers who have been sworn in by their own fathers, but that was Andrew Williamson's experience at the Armed Forces Careers Office in Leeds.

His dad, Lt Col Jock Williamson, a Regular until his retirement eight years ago, is deputy commander Recruiting and Liaison (Catterick).

Andrew – whose grandfather and great-grandfather were in the Seaford Highlanders, and whose two sisters are married to serving Army captains – is aiming to be a technician in the Royal Signals.



B for Brothers

An appropriate initial on the helicopter for family members Cpl Keith (left) and RAF Chief Technician John Francis, who both find themselves serving at Sek Kong, Hong Kong.

Keith, a vehicle mechanic with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, served in Bosnia with SHAPE prior to his Hong Kong posting. He was transferred to Sek Kong when the battalion moved from Cassino Lines.

He and John, an aircraft engineer co-ordinator with the RAF at Sek Kong, have four other brothers.

Job at the (mountain) top

Although he has been with the Royal Military Police for the past ten years, it was his culinary skills – acquired during a two-year stint at the beginning of his Army career – which gained Sgt Charles Colley one of just eight places left on a 22-man joint Services expedition to the Andes.

A member of Catterick-based 150 Provost Company, Charles says: "My job on the Wings over the Andes expedition was to work out how many calories each person on the team would need each day, and calculate how much food to buy before we set out. It's quite a science."

Highlight of the expedition was the launching of two hang gliders from 21,000ft up the Andes.



Naafi's "bowled" move

An empty hangar at the Army School of Mechanical Transport, Leconfield, has been transformed by Naafi into a "complete entertainment package under one roof". Known as Yorkies, the £500,000 leisure centre, opened by Quartermaster General Lt Gen the Hon Sir William Rous, pictured with Barrie Starck, Naafi's regional manager Northern, houses a six-lane ten pin bowling alley, bar, fast food diner and state-of-the-art amusement arcade.

Nation pays tribute

GOVERNMENT plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War have been announced by Prime Minister John Major, writes Laurie Manton.

Official events taking place over the weekend of August 19-20 have themes of thanksgiving and commemoration. A special fund is helping to bring Commonwealth veterans to London to march in the parades.

London

On Saturday, August 19, an open air service of remembrance and commitment will be held outside Buckingham Palace. During the two-minute silence, a Lancaster bomber from the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will drop poppies. This will be followed by a veterans' march past along The Mall.

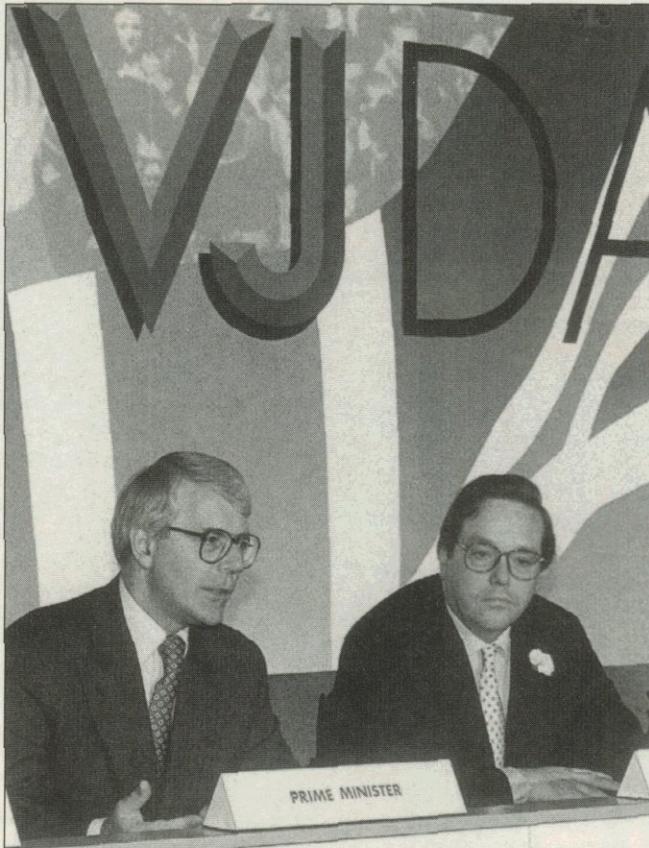
Afterwards there will be a procession by the Tribute and Promise group - more than 100 charities which have got together to demonstrate how much is owed to the wartime generation and to highlight their continuing needs. The parade will end with a tri-Service march past.

Later in the day, attention will switch to the Thames for water- and air-borne events along the river between Westminster and the Tower of London.

Fly-pasts and helicopter displays including the Red Arrows are among the major air events planned, and the evening programme will end with a huge fireworks display on the Thames.

On the following day, Sunday, August 20, the occasion will be marked at church services throughout Britain, culminating in a nationwide peal of bells at midday to signal the final day of commemoration.

Major services are planned in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. Official commemorations will conclude with Beat Retreat and Sunset ceremonies in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.



The Prime Minister and Viscount Cranborne reveal VJ Day plans

Scotland

In Scotland, the Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Highland Band of the Scottish Division will be playing at a special service in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

In the evening, Edinburgh Castle itself will form the backdrop for a Sunset ceremony, a musical commemoration to mark the end of the Second World War. It will be performed on the Esplanade

by more than 500 musicians from the Armed Forces, veterans from the Royal British Legion, Scotland, the Pipes and Drums of Lothian and Borders Police and the Witwatersrand Rifles from South Africa.

Wales

The official VJ Day commemorations in Wales will be centred on Cardiff Castle, where the largest gathering of veterans in Wales since the end of the war is anticipated.

All three Armed Services will take part in a drumhead service at which the Drums and Colours of all Regular and Territorial Army Welsh regiments, and the branch standards of ex-Servicemen's associations, will muster on the Castle Green.

An evening Beat Retreat will include a Sunset ceremony with a finale involving military massed bands and Welsh choirs.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, VJ Day is being marked by a weekend of spectacular events. On August 19, there will be a "dress rehearsal" Beat Retreat at Carrickfergus Castle with 300 musicians from the Royal Marines, Irish Guards, Royal Irish Regiment, the Territorial Army and the Royal Air Force.

It is due to be followed by a parade of Royal British Legion standards.

On August 20, thousands of veterans are expected to lead a huge parade to the RUAS Showgrounds at Balmoral for a drumhead service. Five military bands, as well as representatives from clubs, associations and civilian groups, will take part.

At noon, church bells across Northern Ireland will ring out and there will be a fly-past by modern and historic helicopters and aircraft.

A Beat Retreat that evening at Carrickfergus will use the 12th century castle as a backdrop for a pageant of sound and military precision to mark the events of 50 years ago.

No Japanese representatives invited

IN recognition of veterans' feelings, no Japanese representatives have been invited. Reconciliation with Japan is a theme noticeably absent from the commemoration plans.

Endorsing the programme of events, the Prime Minister said it would be wrong to ignore the war crimes committed against

British and Commonwealth troops in the Far East.

"The world is immeasurably different today, but the fact it has changed does not mean that we can or should forget what happened, forget past injustices or forget past crimes," he said.

The president of the Burma Star Association, Viscount Slim,

said he did not believe that British soldiers had ever faced such a courageous or tenacious enemy.

"However, the way our prisoners and wounded were treated was something we will never forget. If people want to forgive, that is an individual business, but no one will forget.

"Our sadness is

quite simple, that the government of our former enemy have not informed their own new and younger generation exactly what happened, not just to soldiers and civilians from Britain and the Commonwealth, but also the way they treated the inhabitants of the countries they conquered."



The new Colours are lowered at Tidworth. Alongside stands one of the regiment's Warrior infantry fighting vehicles

Colourful day as Warrior Woofers adapt to new role

JUNE 6 was a D-Day in more ways than one for the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

After ten years serving away from armoured vehicles, their battalion was able to signal its successful conversion to an armoured infantry role.

In little more than four months, they had taken part in a variety of conversion cadres. More than 200 soldiers trained as Warrior drivers and commanders for the 27.5-tonne infantry vehicle.

The Woofers also found time to receive new Colours from

the Princess Royal and celebrate the regiment's 25th anniversary and its founding regiments' tercentenaries with a parade at their Tidworth base.

They also learned the battalion had won the British Army's prestigious Tickle Award for shooting for the tenth year in a row.

"Shooting is the bread and butter of infantrymen, and we take the subject very seriously," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Mark Jackson. "As a result, we have been asked to represent the British Army in

Exercise Sharp Shooter, an international shooting competition in Canada later this year."

The Woofers are the first infantry battalion in the UK to convert to Warrior.

"It was a tight schedule. We were on an operational tour in Northern Ireland while the whole thing was being set up and various experts were posted in to help," explained Col Jackson.

Maj Mike Carpenter, who was responsible for converting the battalion to armoured infantry, said the first Warrior

was delivered only in February and the last did not arrive until April.

"Our gunnery wing came on line from the builders just two weeks before the first cadre started, and we still, then, had to install equipment in the instruction rooms."

More than 90 armoured vehicles and a wheeled-vehicle fleet of another 50-plus have been taken on strength by 1 WFR.

The Woofers were also the first armoured infantry battalion to carry out field-firing on the tank gunnery ranges at

● Turn to next page

Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Above – A 1 WFR Warrior negotiates a slope on the Salisbury Plain training area

Right – Three rousing cheers were ordered and that is precisely what the Princess Royal received ...



Above – The Princess Royal enjoys a joke at Tidworth. Pictured with her are Maj Mark Shaw (left) and Sgt Johnathan Fenwick

Right – 1 WFR has won the Tickle Award for shooting for the tenth consecutive year



Woofers adapt to new role

From Page 13

Castlemartin in Wales, and later this year, 380 of its soldiers will be training at BATUS in Canada.

In line with its new order of battle, the battalion has increased its manpower by more than 150 soldiers. This was achieved through a successful recruiting campaign and the transfer of a number of soldiers surplus to the strength of 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment following amalgamation.

Formed in 1970 by amalgamation of The Worcestershire Regiment with The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), WFR battle honours include South Africa, Sevastopol,

Abyssinia, Gallipoli and Burma.

The regiment maintains a number of customs which reflect its past. Swords are worn in the mess by duty officers and sword frogs are always worn with the Sam Browne belt in recognition of a surprise attack by supposedly friendly Red Indians in North America while the officers were at dinner. Hence the regiment's nickname The Ever Sworded.

On April 6 each year a scarlet tunic is flown from regimental and battalion headquarters to commemorate the siege of Badajoz in 1812 when an officer of the 45th Regiment, later the 2nd Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, during the French-held fort, tore down the Tricolour and hoisted his

tunic to signify the capture of the objective.

Each September 20, the Regimental Colour is trooped through camp by a private soldier to commemorate the Alma in 1853 when the colours of the 95th regiment were

guarded by Pte Keenan because no officers or colour sergeants remained unscathed on the battlefield.

Also on parade at Tidworth was the battalion's ram mascot, Derby XXVI, presented to the regiment by the Duke of Devonshire from his flock at Chatsworth in Derbyshire.

The first ram was acquired by the 95th Regiment of Foot, later the 2nd Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, during the siege of Kotah in India in 1858.

One of six official mascots in

the British Army, Derby XXVI wore a replica of the Indian General Service Medal and a Northern Ireland GSM on a scarlet coat emblazoned with battle honours.

The Regimental Colours trooped at Tidworth for the last time were presented by the Princess Royal in 1971. The Colonel of the regiment, Brig Ronnie Silk, was then the adjutant, and the current commanding officer carried the Queen's Colour of the Sherwood Foresters on that parade.

Presentation of the new Regimental Colours and the celebration of the regiment's tercentenary should have taken place last year, but an operational tour in Northern Ireland caused a postponement.

But the royal parade at Tid-



worth more than made up for the delay.

The Regimental Call summoned the four guards of 1 WFR on parade and, after the old Colours were trooped through the ranks for the final time, the new were carried on parade by quartermaster Maj Peter Roderick and laid across an altar of silver drums.

They were consecrated by the Chaplain General, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, attended by the principal Roman Catholic Chaplain, the Rt Rev Mgr

Stephen Louden, and the battalion's chaplain, Rev Andrew Totten.

The Queen's Colour is a Union Flag bearing the 33 most highly prized battle honours won by the regiment in the First and Second World Wars. The Regimental Colour – in the Lincoln Green of the regimental facings – bears the 38 battle honours earned by the regiment before 1914.

After receiving them from the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, Lts



Above – Driving and maintenance instructor, Sgt Andy Smallpage (left) and gunner Cpl Andy Buchanan (A Coy) try Warrior for size

Left – The standards of the respective old comrades' associations lead the march past of veterans

Mark Richards and Fergus Mayne and the New Colour Party slow marched back to the battalion.

Taking part in the parade were 1 WFR, 400 TA soldiers from 3 WFR and A (WFR) Coy, 5 LI, 300 Army and Combined Cadet Forces from across the traditional recruiting counties of Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and more than 1,300 old comrades. About 3,000 spectators watched the ceremony.

Forty armoured vehicles including Warrior, CVR(T)s, FV 432s and REME recovery vehicles joined in the march past.

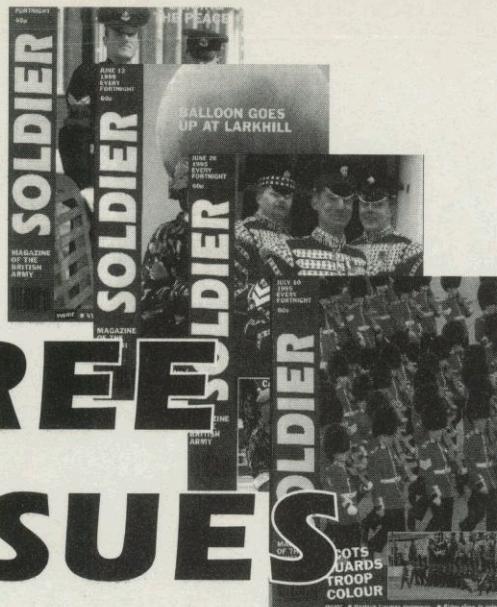
After attending a lunch in the garrison officers' mess, Princess Anne toured Lucknow Barracks, viewed equip-

ment and met soldiers and their families.

She visited the gunnery wing, where she tried out a 30mm Rarden cannon simulator, before presenting a number of Long Service and Good Conduct medals and attending a battalion fete where the old and new Colours and the regimental silver were on display.

The day was tinged with sadness at the death of 71-year-old Henry Bunn, who collapsed and died shortly after taking part in the march past. Mr Bunn, who served with 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment in the North West Europe campaign during the Second World War, was a regular attender at regimental reunions.

4



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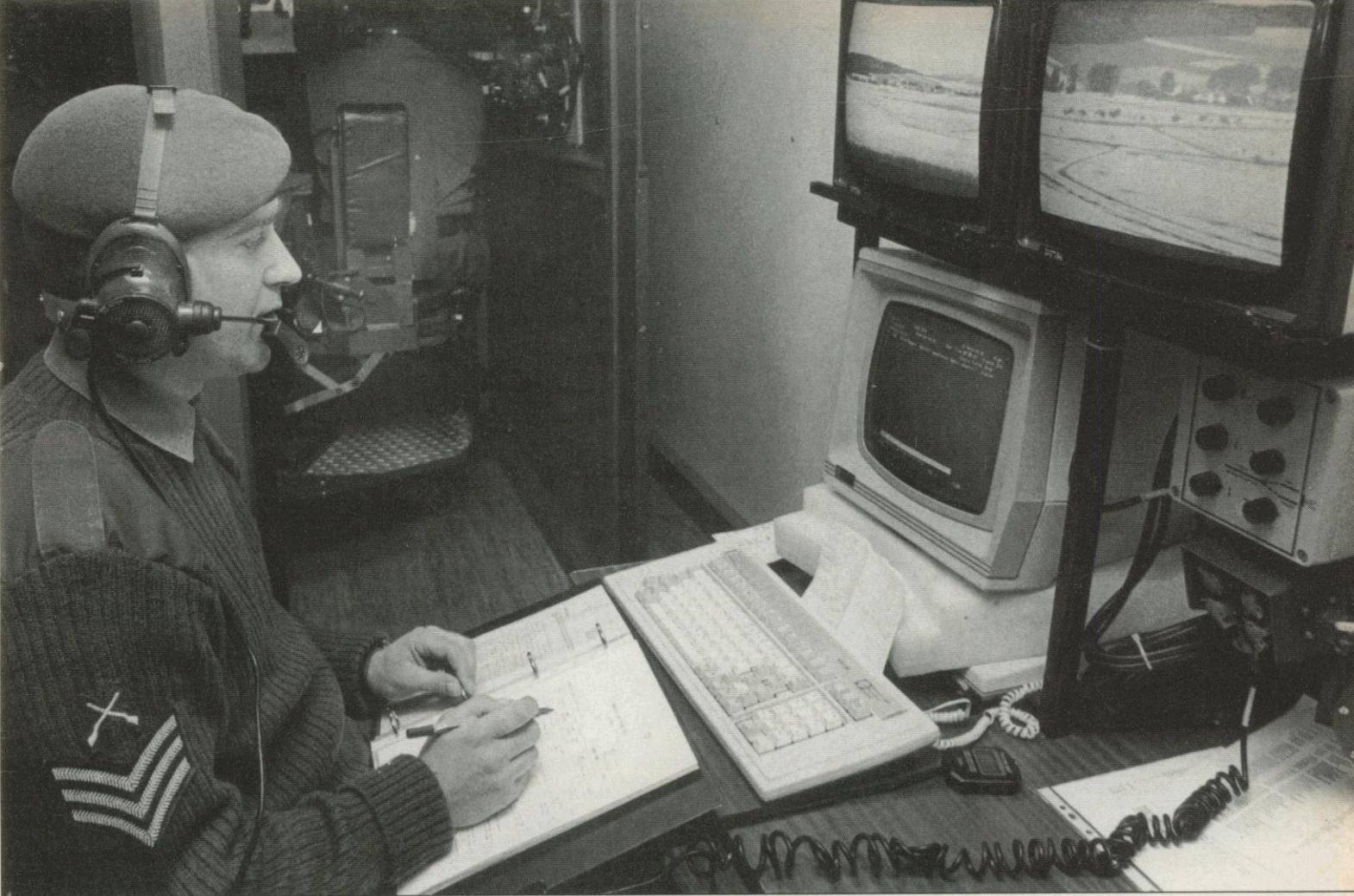
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Senior regimental gunnery instructor Sgt Mick Hammond in the confines of the platoon trainer, with pupil in background

FOR THE 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, last year was the Year of Bosnia, with six months spent in preparation and the latter six on tour. Since returning to their base at Celle, Germany, life for them has been no less hectic.

The big target which two of the battalion's companies have been aiming at - in the metaphorical sense - during 1995 has just come to fruition.

Culmination of several months' hard training, both indoors and out, was a stint on the Canadian prairies at BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield).

They also spent some time passing on the benefit of their experience gained in Bosnia to the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Add to these a representative body of Poachers who travelled to Duxford to participate in the parade when new Colours were presented to each of the Royal Anglians' Regular battalions, and the amount of activity can be gauged.

"It's been a busy and challenging year so far," said Maj



Maj Richard Kemp, OC A Coy

Richard Kemp, OC A Coy.

"On the face of it, with no operational tour, this might not have been the case, but in fact the opposite has applied."

Since their return from Bosnia, he explained, the main emphasis had been on preparations for Exercise Medicine Man 3 at Suffield, but much

time had been spent on preparing 1 D and D for Op Grapple 6.

"The majority of training to go to Bosnia is basic infantry skills: you have to be able to protect yourself," said Maj Kemp, who became company commander last year.

"We emphasised that, while keeping low profile public relations with the local people - at

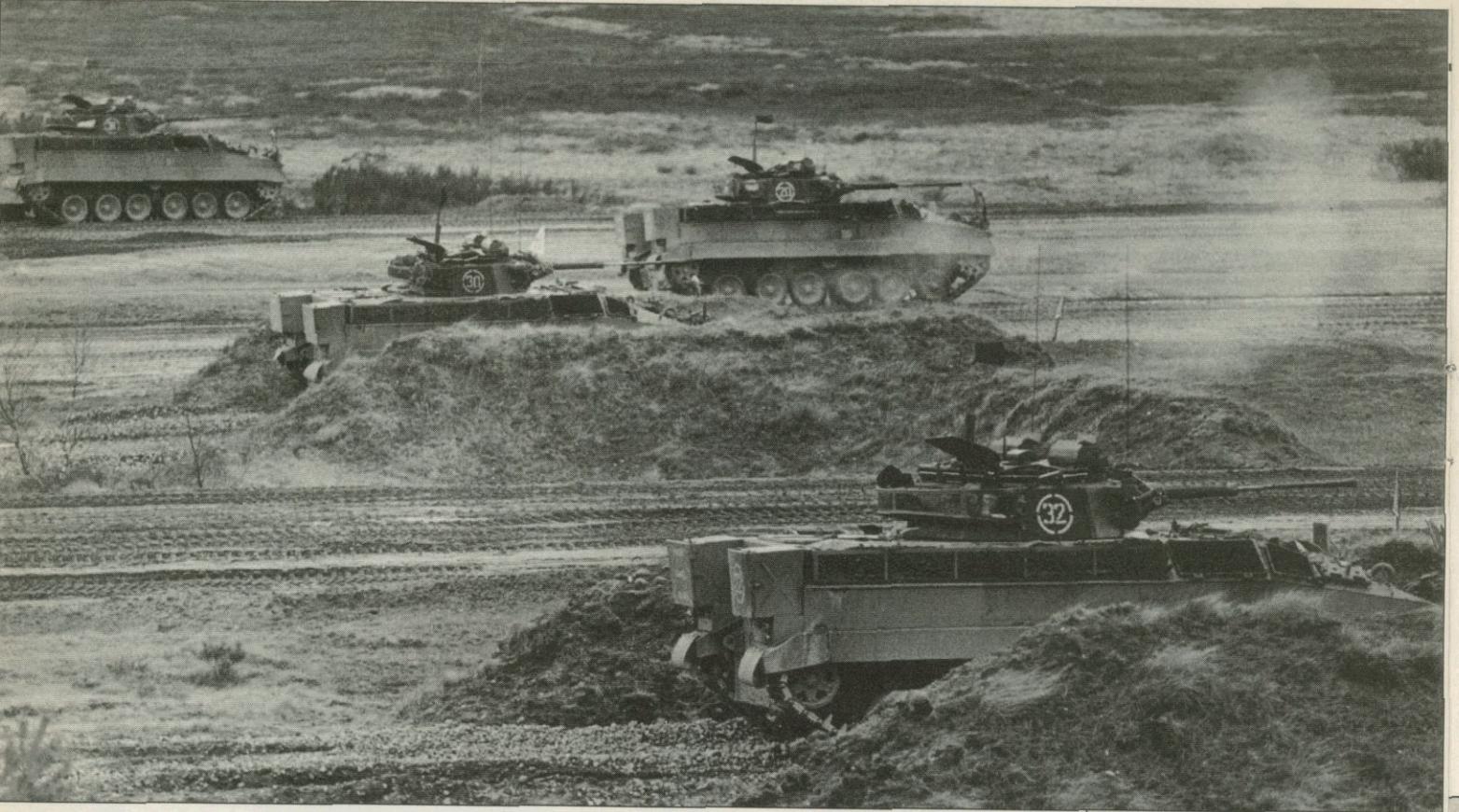
the same time remaining neutral and transparent, which UNPROFOR depends on - they should be ready to react rapidly to any danger."

Relationships with the local media and the privations of living in the field were also stressed to the Devon and Dorsets.

Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

"My company in Bosnia
● Turn to next page

POACHERS BAG THEIR SHARE OF TRAINING



POACHERS FIRED UP BY WARRIOR

From Page 17

lived out of Warriors, never in barracks, and didn't bat an eyelid," said Maj Kemp.

"If you train them properly and lead them properly, they are just as able to look after themselves."

Relieved of their peace-keeping role, A Coy switched to high intensity operations this year – and a very different use of Warrior.

Although much of the training was relevant, such as single section work – checkpoints, escorts and so on – the emphasis had been at a company

level, working with 14 Warriors and tanks to achieve a successful operation in Canada.

"To that end, we concentrated on gunnery, from a single-vehicle shoot to all 14 Warriors firing in combination. To achieve that, we trained on simulators," Maj Kemp said.

He had been impressed with the calibre of the new recruits joining him for training: the standard was as high as it had ever been.

In one of the classrooms in the Warrior wing, an electronic turret trainer in a mock Warrior interior tested youthful Poachers on their skills at target engagement control, kill times and number of rounds used.

Another room contained a detached Warrior gun for loading and unloading practice.

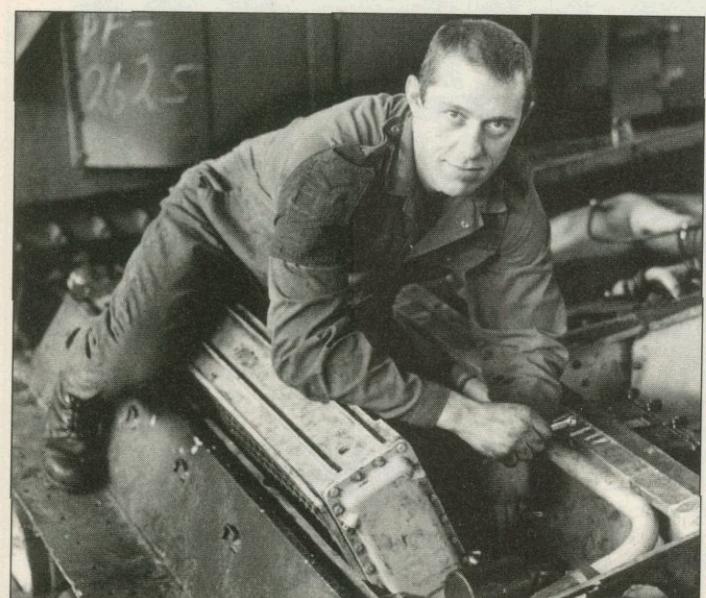
Outside, four metal cabins with darkened interiors housed the platoon trainer, in one of which senior regimental gunnery instructor Sgt Mick Hammond was overseeing a crew as they engaged the enemy in a realistic night shoot on screen.

If necessary, all four cabins can lock on and engage the same targets simultaneously.

In the spectacular open spaces of Höhne's Range 9, the soldiers from C Coy had progressed from simulators to the real thing.

Lined up, motionless and menacing, by their markers as they awaited orders were 14 Warriors, their crews divided into two platoon groups – one forward and one back.

They were taking part in a



LCpl Stan Standage of D Support Coy fitter section works on a Scimitar's brakes. "They clock up a hell of a lot of mileage", he says, "and take some looking after"



gunnery standard target exercise known as OSCAR, run constantly by the Royal Armoured Corps, but until that morning, when the Anglians' B Coy had been put through the motions, never by the infantry at company level.

"We have a mixture of men who have been to Bosnia and BATUS, and seven of the 14 gunners are new," explained Maj Richard Clements, OC C Coy.

They were taking part in a

gunnery test and 30 per cent loading.

Kemp was enthusiastic. "In this battalion, we try to encourage soldiers to think independently and act on their own initiative. It is something we have always done, and I think it pays off.

"Warrior is probably the best infantry combat vehicle in the world today. The equipment gives them confidence, and they feel and look like soldiers."

Next year, those same soldiers and their families face a different sort of challenge.

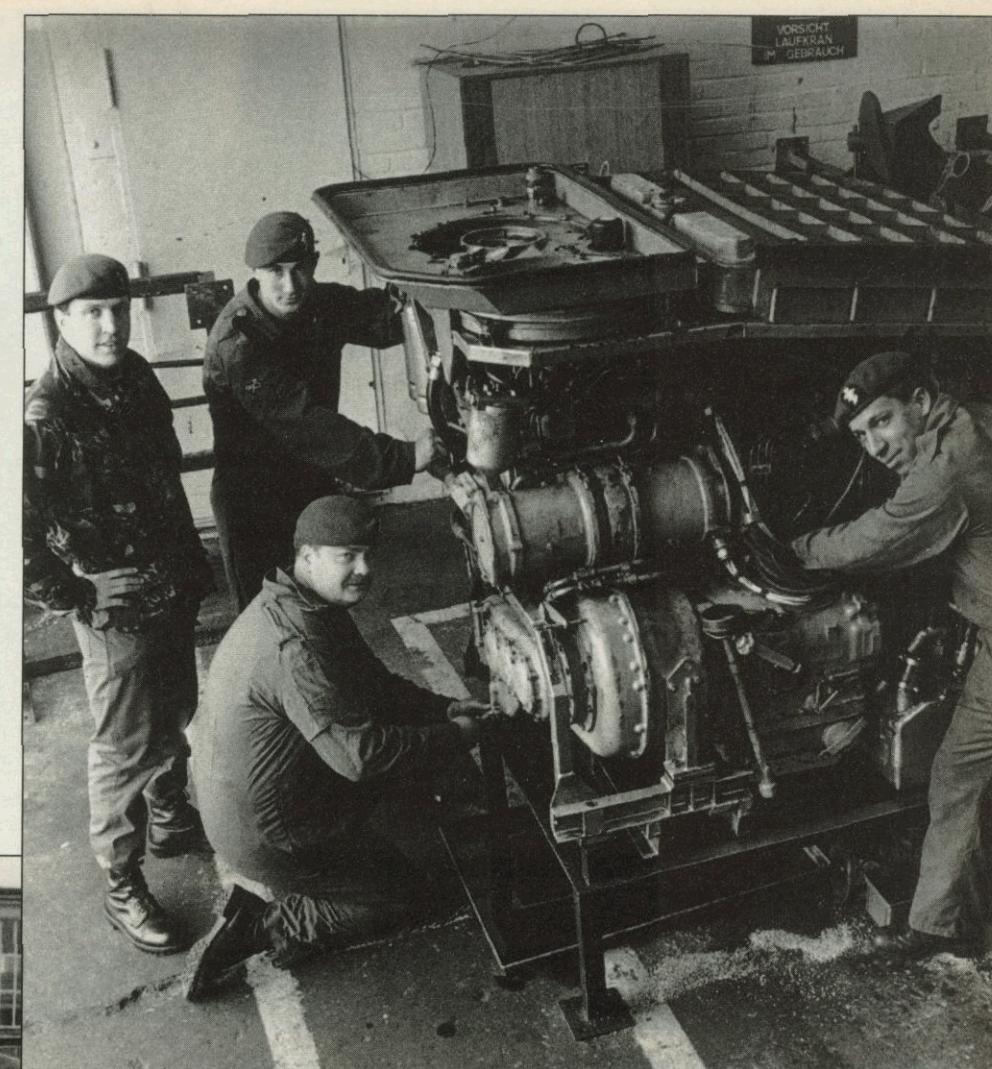
Based at Celle since 1987, the battalion is due to move to the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group in Warminster.

Above – On the lookout: Maj Richard Clements, OC C Coy

Left – C Coy's trusty Warriors on the move at Höhne ranges

Right – Unsung heroes: Capt Colin Robson, OC D Support Coy fitter section, with LCpl 'Bomber' Harris, Cpl Jerry Yeo and Cfn Matt East, who are carrying out a 432 pack repair

Below – Chain gang: Cpl Tommo Thomson and Cfn Phil Mills of the armoury shop work on the top casing of a cannon, while LCpl 'Washy' Washbourne tackles the main body of a chain drive from a chain gun



Engaging in Light rivalry

ALSO battling it out on the Höhne ranges were company groups from Sennelager-based 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

They were engaged in friendly rivalry with their opposite numbers from the Queen's Dragoon Guards, with whom two of their companies are scheduled to deploy to Bosnia at the end of this year.

Prior to their stint at Höhne, the battalion had been engaged in a two-week field firing package at Sennelager, involving full company, squadron and group attacks, trench clearance and grenade posting, with helicopter recce control.

"It was excellent training, especially for the new recruits, for whom it was their first taste of live firing," said Capt Noble.

The Höhne exercise had been more tactical this year, and more akin to what the battalion would be required to do in the future, he added.

VORSICHT
LAUFVAN
GEBRAUCH



Above - Summer heat and NBC conditions proved exhausting work for sappers wearing protective clothing. After being stood down Spr Angus Henderson used a water hydrant to keep cool

Left - Bomb disposal can be a lonely task. Sgt Dave Nunn fits a rocket wrench to the fuse of a 250kg bomb

Right - Squadron OC Maj Phillip Wilmott (standing, left) and members of Heston-based 220 Field Squadron with a 1,000kg high explosive bomb uncovered at Lodge Hill training area, near Chattenden



101 ways to defuse a bomb

A HUGE mound of earth marked the spot where bomb disposal operators from 220 Field Squadron (EOD) (Volunteers) had uncovered a 250kg high explosive bomb which was blocking a route along which humanitarian aid convoys would have to travel.

It was difficult, dangerous work, but someone had to do it.

At the bottom of an adjacent shaft, Sgt Dave Nunn was labouring to defuse the deadly device. After removing a time

delay and anti-removal fuse on the side, he fitted a rocket wrench to another, an impact fuse on the nose of the bomb.

Report: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston

The bomb disposal operation formed just one part of Exercise McKeeane's Moles, intended to exercise all ranks of 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V) in a United Nations-style humanitarian operation.

Capt Terry Smith, who was observing the operation, told *Soldier* that the bomb had been found using a locator. "It can detect a 1,000lb

bomb buried as deep as six metres. Operators sweep in lanes to find the highest reading from two angles. A simple mathematical calculation determines the depth of the bomb," he said.

Mechanical diggers are used to remove the earth and lightweight aluminium sheeting is fitted around the edges to prevent the sides of the shaft collapsing. Once the site has been excavated to within a metre of the device, the sappers dig by

hand to expose the bomb. In one location, sappers from 222 Field Squadron (EOD) had been tasked to clear sub-munitions from a road and railway track. An airstrike had left bomblets strewn across a wide area. About ten per cent of air-dropped weapons and ground-to-ground missiles fail to explode on impact and have to be defused.

Maj Peter Baron, OC 222 Squadron, detailed his sappers to sweep the area and neutralise the devices.

"Methods of disposal depend entirely on the type of weapon. We look them up in a book to identify the type of bomblet and the best method of disposal.

"In this case, because they cannot be touched or moved, my soldiers are placing lumps of plastic explosives alongside and detonating them 20 at a time," he said.

The sappers must also know how to defuse chemical munitions and improvised explosive devices (IED) laid by enemy agents and special forces.

EOD operators also train as

combat engineers and become expert at dealing with mines, providing water supplies, demolition and construction of roads.

About 300 soldiers from 101 Regiment took part in the two-week exercise, during which the unit's bomb disposal operators were hassled by "local militia", came under simulated sniper fire and coped with refugees and casualty evacuation. Locations included training areas and sites at Crowborough, Chattenden and Woolwich.

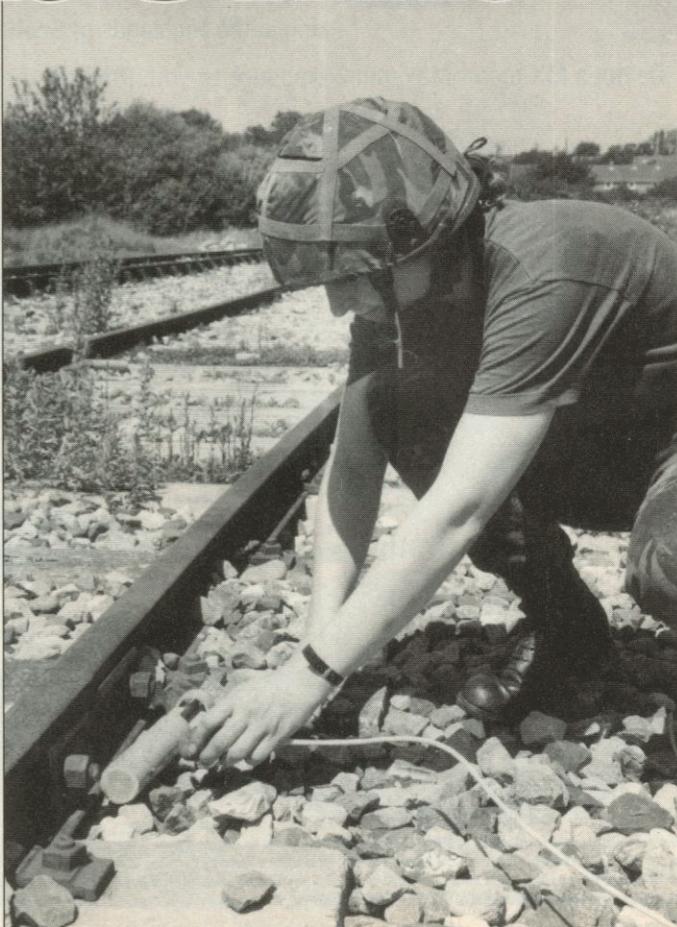
Said Squadron Sgt Maj Chris Perry: "The exercise has gone well. The humanitarian operation scenario has been tested and kept us on our toes."

Commanded by Lt Col Garth Whitty, 101 has its headquarters in Catford. Its field squadrons are based in Holloway (217 Squadron), Rochester (221 Squadron) and Greenhithe (222 Squadron).

Two outstations are manned at Camberwell and Brighton, and a dedicated REME workshop is based in Croydon.



Bomb disposal operatives from 222 Fd Sqn (EOD) carry out a detailed search for unexploded bomblets



Sgt Nicola Sanger lays a small explosive charge beside a bomblet

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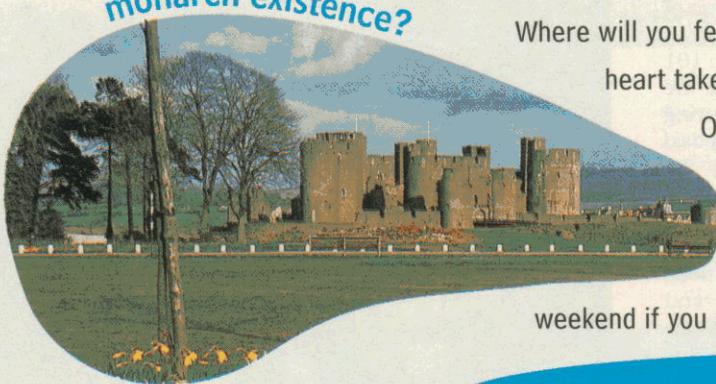
For others, MX is a Mellow Experience. Total relaxation in a place half a world away, like the tranquillity of the Lakes.

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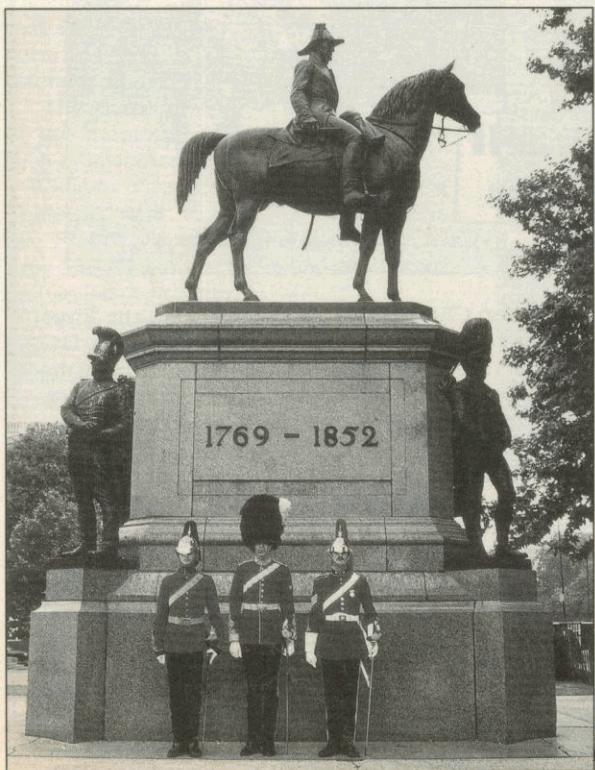
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Representatives of the majority of the Waterloo Regiments gather in the Dining Room at Apsley House. The Portuguese Service centrepiece was presented to the Duke of Wellington in 1816

Colourful evening recalls Waterloo



MILITARY ranks from brigadier to private attended a colourful reception in London to mark the 180th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Waterloo.

Apart from those involved in recent deployment to Bosnia, all the regiments which bear the battle honour "Waterloo" were represented at the charity event, held at the newly-restored Apsley House (No 1, London), residence of the first Duke of Wellington.

The date chosen for the reception, at which the current Duke of Wellington – whose family is

Left – Present-day ancestors of the Union Brigade which charged under Sir William Ponsonby, capturing the Eagles of the French 45th and 105th Regiments, in front of Wellington's statue: (from left to right) Lt Alex Dick, Blues and Royals, 2nd Lt Tom Spenlove-Brown, Scots DG, and Sgt Robert Prince, RDG

in residence at the House – was present, was Thursday, June 15.

It was on Thursday, June 15, 1815 that the news was taken to Wellington at the Duchess of Richmond's Ball in Brussels of the clash with French troops south of Quatre Bras, leading him to order Sir Thomas Picton's division to secure that key road junction.

The Battle of Quatre Bras took place the following day and the Battle of Waterloo followed on Sunday, June 18.

A wind ensemble from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, played at the contemporary event, described as a "financial success".

Proceeds were shared by the Army Benevolent Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum, which administers the House and its collections.

Pictures: Doug McKenzie



Above - Guardsmen and 42nd Highlanders marching into battle

Right - Ramillies, drum horse of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, in the pageant

Scots DG go out in blaze of glory

Fond farewell to Yorkshire



Pictures: Chris Barker

THE Royal Scots Dragoon Guards said farewell to their North Yorkshire hosts with a recreation of the Battle of Waterloo when they prepared to leave Catterick Garrison after three years, **writes Sarah Bilton**.

The re-enactment of one of the regiment's finest hours took place in the splendid setting of Richmond Castle, with 50 soldiers from the historically authentic Napoleonic Association providing most of the manpower.

After a short delay because the Napoleonic troops were held up in heavy traffic on the A1, Pipe Maj Johnstone walked into the castle grounds on a perfect summer evening to play his pipes and signal the beginning of the proceedings.

More than 1,300 spectators watched while scenes from the battle and the days leading up to it were recreated, including the famous capture of the Imperial Eagle of the French 45th Regiment (the

Invincibles) by Sgt Charles Ewart.

The Eagle has been the capbadge of the Scots Greys and is now centrepiece of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards capbadge, mounted on crossed carbines.

Exploding cannon fire and the sound of muskets echoed around the castle walls while the opposing armies were wreathed in smoke. Three of the regiment's horses took part in the pageant, including the drum horse, Ramillies.

After the action, the Pipes and Drums of the Scots DG were joined by the Band of the Royal Lancers in a rendition of many of the regiment's traditional marches. One of the final numbers was *Amazing Grace*, which topped the charts in the 1970s.

The regiment, which arrived in Catterick in spring 1993, is moving this month to Fallingbostel in Germany, where it will be the first to receive the Army's new main battle tank, Challenger 2.

Anglo-French paras forge links on Winged Crusader

"BRITISH paratroops are friends - they have the same spirit as us, the parachutist spirit," Gen Maurice Godinot of 11 French Parachute Division told *Soldier* during Exercise Winged Crusader in the south of France.

Gen Godinot, who directed the exercise, said all the objectives of the exercise had been met, both French and British establishing a compatibility by working together.

"This is important if we are to make use of the training for practical applications such as operations in Bosnia."

Winged Crusader took place near Toulouse, with 15 British Hercules and two French aircraft making two passes to drop 539 men plus vehicles and equipment on parallel drop zones.

The DZ was described by one British officer as "sporty". Maj John Patchett, a Gurkha TA liaison officer with Aldershot-based 5 Airborne Brigade, reckoned the exercise had proceeded well despite the obvious problems of language and the different ways the two armies carry out tasks.

This was the third joint exercise between the French and 5 AB Bde. The first took place two years ago in Corsica and last year the French visited Otterburn.

Unseasonal low temperatures and cold rain in the south of France ensured the British paras felt at home. The weather was straight out of the Otterburn training manual. But the food, for those not in the field, was superb.



Pte Kenny Millar of 3 Para covers the approaches to a bridge in the Massif Central

Maj Rob Herring, acting Chief of Staff for 5 Bde, said the detailed planning for the exercise had taken place over the past few months although the calendar date had been arranged with the French 18 months earlier.

"The French have been very hospitable

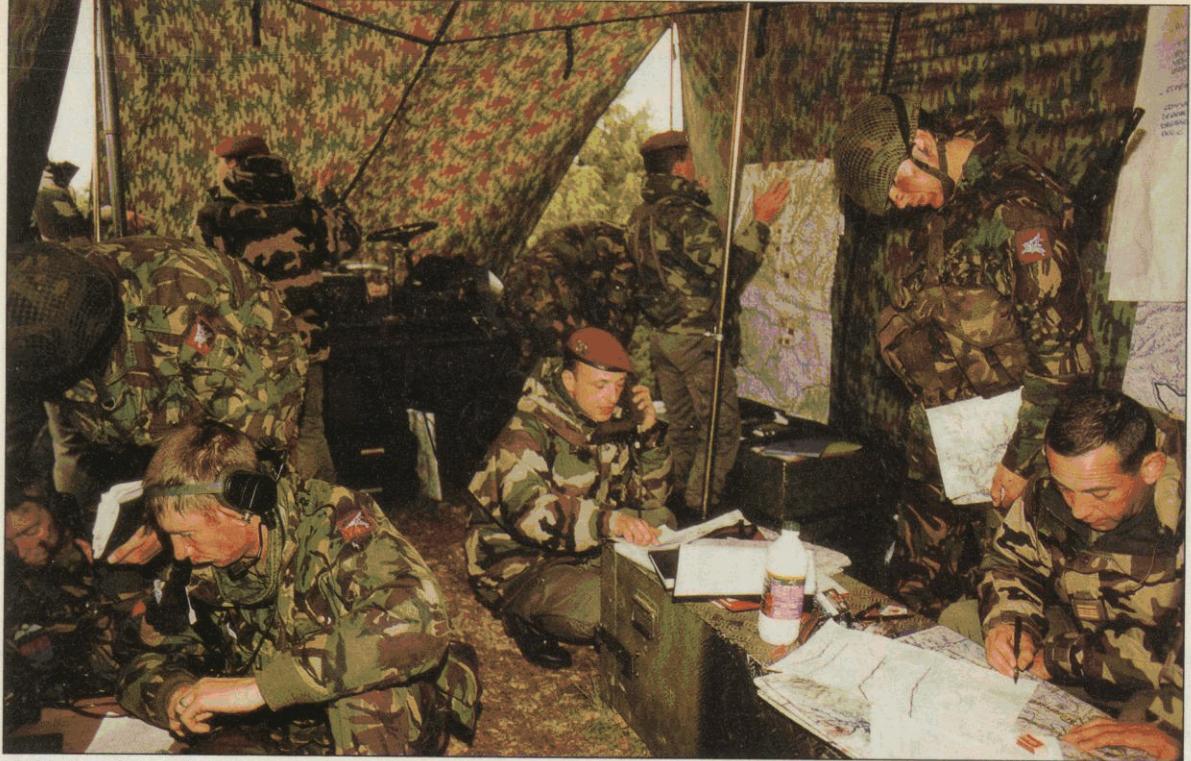
and co-operative throughout," he said. "They have kept us abreast of the main exercise picture by providing interpreters."

High HQ was run by the French, although French-speaking British officers were involved.

Aim of the exercise was to plan and conduct joint combined airborne operations

● Turn to next page

Report and pictures: Terry Champion



British and French personnel work together in the joint exercise headquarters close to the drop zone (right)

Winged Crusader

From Page 25

against a light armour opponent, operating over a strategic range from the UK base while maintaining logistic self-sustainability.

There were five phases, the first being the deployment to Evreux near Paris where the second phase of joint planning got under way. The main exercise "play" took place in the Massif Central, far to the south.

This was followed by a fraternisation period during which British and French paratroopers had the opportunity to gain each other's wings before the brigade returned to the UK.

Winged Crusader was directed from the village of St Julien de Piganion where Gen Godinot commanded a staff of British and French officers from army and air forces.



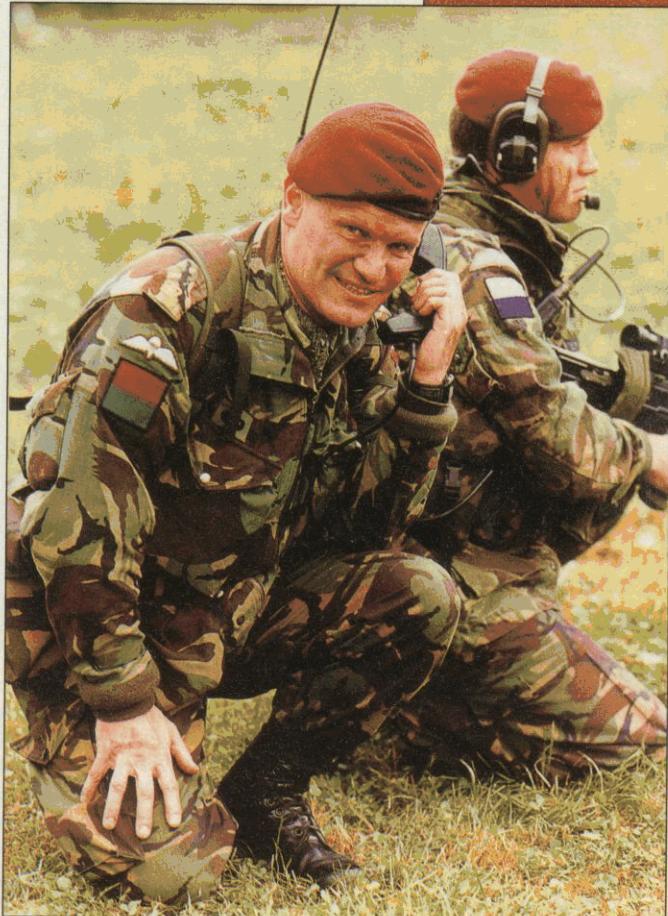
Lt Col Chris Brown (third from left), CO 7 Para RHA and commander of the British element, discusses tactics with his opposite number

Lt Col Eric Kohn, one of three TA officers from the watchkeepers' pool on the exercise directing staff, told *Soldier*: "There is a strong link in 5 AB with the para TA battalions, who have provided more than 20 soldiers for this exercise."

Commander of the British element was Lt Col Chris Brown, CO 7 Para RHA. Part of his task was to conduct a squeezing operation on an enemy terrorist force.

This was challenging for men on the ground over terrain which was hilly with deep valleys. Some soldiers from 3 Para tabbed for more than 40km with full kit in two days.

British and French Pathfinders had deployed a day earlier by free fall and static line at night, marking the drop zone for the main force. They then became the eyes and ears of the force commander, observing and sending back intelligence.



Among units taking part were 3 Para and a company from 2 Para, the "Pathfinder Platoon, elements of 7 Para RHA, 5 AB Bde Log Bn, 23 PFA, 47 Air Defence Sqn, 4 GS Regt RLC, 50 MC Sqn RLC and 49 Fd Sqn (EOD) RE, an RMP detachment from 160 Pro Coy RMP, and a detachment from 14 Sig Regt.



Above - Maj Bob Laurence, OC Rifle Company, exchanges pleasantries with an interested observer



Above - Camouflage - French-style

Left - Maj John Patchett, Gurkha TA liaison officer with the French battalion. Behind him is Sig Mark Fielding

Left - Capt Peter Houston RLC (right) of Logistic Support Services finds the French cuisine to his taste

GRIP OF STEEL

How the war against Japan might have ended

THE MILITARY situation of Japan is desperate. The Japanese navy has been beaten. The air force is in decline. Only the army remains extremely formidable, but even the army – by spreading itself far and wide across East Asia – has dissipated much of its strength. Above all, the initiative rests wholly with the Allies.

When they are ready, MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz – joint commanders-in-chief of the US Pacific Command – may either invade Japan itself or land in force on the China coast, or else do both, according to the decision of the Joint Chiefs of Staff back in Washington.

Meanwhile, the Allied fleets and air forces in the Central Pacific will continue to blast the industries, airfields and communications of Japan and Korea with an ever-growing weight of air bombardment, and to destroy Japanese shipping by mine, bomb, shell and torpedo; operations in which the British Pacific Fleet is already playing its part – with British air forces in all likelihood soon to follow.

Nor is this all: away to the south, in SEAC (South East Asia Command) and the South-West Pacific, British and Australian forces are converging – to cut off great Japanese armies and to reopen the Malacca Straits.

For their part, the Japanese can do little to affect the course of these events. True, they can try, in the face of immense difficulties, to withdraw their outlying forces from their farthest conquests – in order to concentrate these forces in defence of their “inner zone” of Japan and the adjacent mainland. But, for the rest, they must sit down and “take it”.

What, then, is the Japanese attitude of mind to all this? In their own view, we must always remember, the Japanese are a chosen people, dedicated to the service of the Emperor, whom they worship unquestioningly as the Son of Heaven.

The Americans are now close enough to Japan to pick up the radio programmes meant only for home consumption. In these, there is no talk whatever of surrender.

Rather are the Japanese taught to believe that their land is under attack by an enemy capable of the most unspeakable barbarities; in such circumstances, death in defence of Emperor and country is a duty glorious as it is welcome.

When the invader lands, so the people are told, they must build in his path a wall of their own bodies, just as their forefathers once built a human wall to stay the Mongol invaders.

Every Japanese knows that story – how,

after the Mongols had withdrawn to their ships, weary with killing, the Divine Wind blew – and the enemies of Japan were scattered.

As long as this spirit persists, so long will the Allies look for wholesale surrender to end the fighting either inside Japan or out of it. In the latter stages of the war in Germany, German soldiers in their thousands surrendered on their own initiative. Not so the Japanese.

With them, the decision to quit must come from above. Meanwhile, obedient to orders, the vast majority, not only of the Japanese armed forces but also of the Japanese people, will fight to the death. General Blamey, commander-in-chief of the Australian and Dutch forces in the South-West Pacific, has said:

“When you engage a European army and break up its organisation, you have won. But when you fight the Japanese, every man becomes a combat unit on his own and continues to fight. There is no end to such fighting until we have killed them all off.”

Killed them all off – yes, but unfortunately that is a biggish order.

There are four million soldiers, actual or potential, in Japan today, and three million more overseas; while altogether the Japanese people number more than 100 million – more than twice the 45 millions of Great Britain.

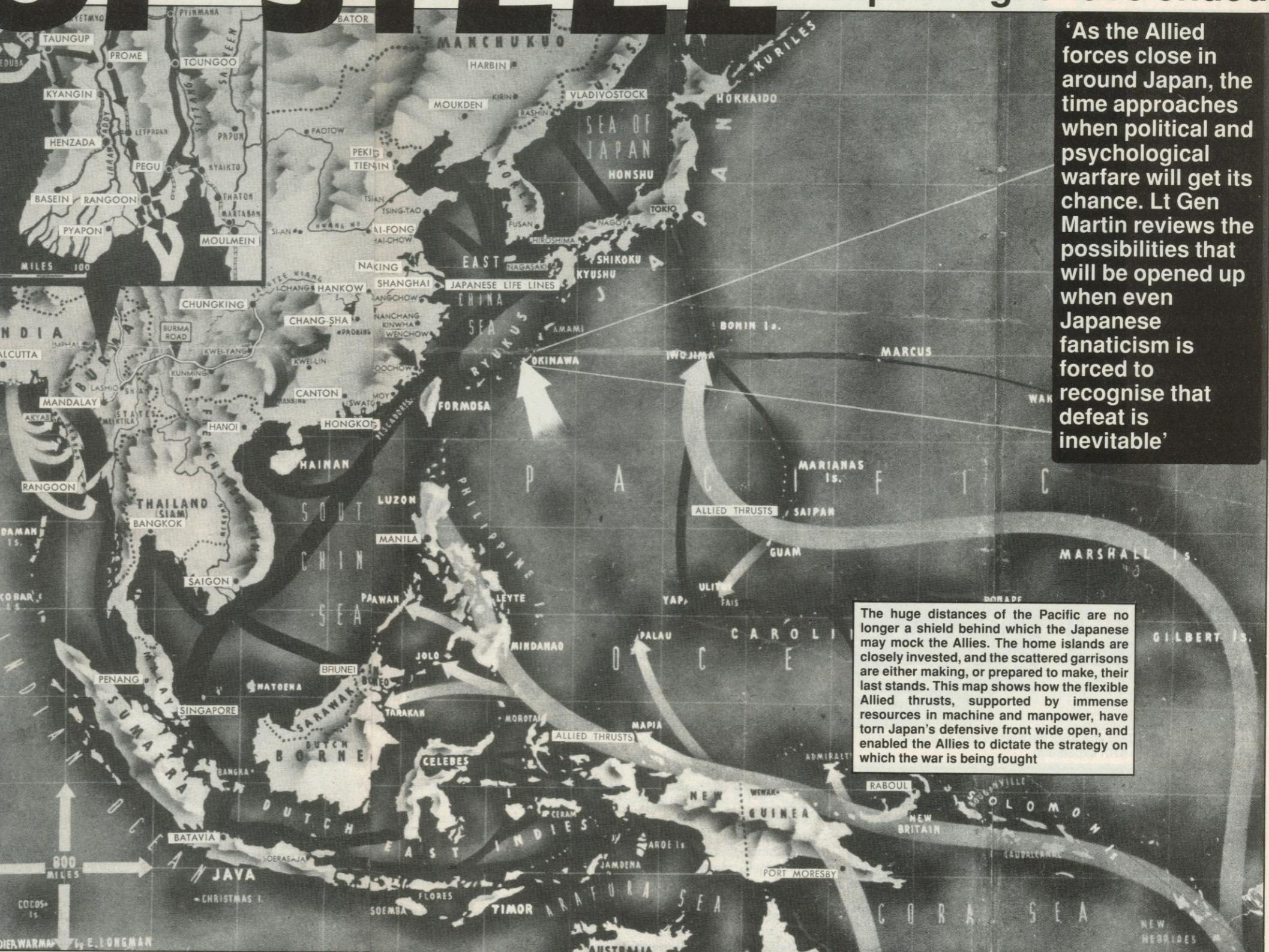
What, then, is the alternative to slaughter on this scale?

The answer seems to be this: for the Japanese people reprieve may come either through their Government or directly from their Emperor. For their part, the Allies have made their position perfectly clear.

They mean to finish once and for all with Japanese aggression. Any other course would be criminal folly.

Therefore they demand unconditional surrender. Moreover, they will require Japan to disgorge all her conquests, including Korea.

All this is eminently just. None the less it



adds up to a pretty stiff price for any Japanese Government to pay. It is by no means certain that any government could or would pay it. If, however, a government could be found which would pay and look pleasant, then that should end the war everywhere. *The Emperor, advised by his cabinet, would issue a rescript that all resistance must cease.* There would be all the difference in the world between a surrender ordered in this manner from above and a surrender which

must begin below. If on the other hand a Japanese Government could not screw its courage to the sticking point, there would still be the Emperor himself. He is a fairly enlightened man, who has seen something of the world; he cannot wish to see his people utterly destroyed.

If, therefore, in course of time he should find an opportunity to act, he might be inclined to take it.

What it comes to is this, then. The Japan-

ese have lost the war. The Allies have still to win it – to win it, that is, by a clean-cut decision as opposed to a gigantic process of mopping-up, as long drawn-out as bloody.

To this end the Allies are preparing everywhere – from SEAC to the Pacific – to redouble their blows and so to break once and for all the will to resist of the Emperor and his government.

It is for the Emperor to give the word that would end the fighting everywhere.

‘As the Allied forces close in around Japan, the time approaches when political and psychological warfare will get its chance. Lt Gen Martin reviews the possibilities that will be opened up when even Japanese fanaticism is forced to recognise that defeat is inevitable’

□ Gen Martin was right – the Emperor’s word was crucial. Barely 16 days after this article appeared in the *Soldier* dated July 21, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Two days later Nagasaki lay in ruins. But still Japan’s Supreme Council could not agree an end to the war. The Emperor intervened, expressing his desire that terms offered by the Allies, with the reservation that the imperial institution be preserved, be accepted. Four days later the Emperor’s imperial rescript was broadcast to his nation. The war was over.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD



Sapper on the summit

Sgt Ian Roberts (right) celebrates on the summit of the 5,800m-high Pokalde peak in the Nepal Himalayas. Despite acute altitude sickness, several members of a climbing team from 21 Engineer Regiment reached the top of Mera peak (6,471m), main objective of Exercise Remera Diamond. The regiment is based at Nienburg, Germany



Hussars call on Mountain Kingdom



Tpr Mark Hodgson (left) and SSgt Ian Forbes trek in the Mountain Kingdom during the KRH expedition

Windies is just plain sailing after Belfast

LBDR David Johnson swapped the cold streets of Belfast for the golden beaches of Rodney Bay in St Lucia.

David, who had completed a busy tour of Northern Ireland, has now returned to his unit, 3/29 (Corunna) Battery RA at Osnabrück, Germany. His sunshine break came when he was offered the chance to go sailing in the Caribbean on a Joint Services expedition.

His home for the next two weeks was a 40ft yacht.

First stop was Martinique where, despite sweltering temperatures, the crew enjoyed the food of the French-speaking colony.

The crew made a night passage to Guadeloupe and a two-day run to Union Island in Tobago. Rough seas caused most on board to become sea sick, but humour for the return trip to St Lucia was restored by the white sands and palm trees of the sparsely inhabited Union Island.

SOLDIERS from Münster-based King's Royal Hussars used their recent Belfast tour to plan an adventurous training expedition to Nepal.

Led by Lt John David, on attachment from 1 RGR, and Lt Alex Potts, 15 all ranks flew to Kathmandu to trek in the Annapurna region of the Himalayas and go white water rafting on the Trisuli Khola, a mountain river fed by melting snow.

The destination also gave the KRH soldiers a chance to see the home of the Gurkhas, with whom their regiment has strong ties.

Fifty years ago 14/20 H and 2/6 GR fought side by side in the battle of Medicina in Italy.

The worst snowfalls in memory in neighbouring Tibet prevented the KRH group from crossing their chosen pass

so they switched instead to the other side of the Annapurna Massif, walking through the spectacular foothills of the Himalaya Mountains, including the deepest valley in the world between Tuckuche Peak (6,920m) and Annapurna 1 (8,091m) and a desert-like fossilised river valley.

Incredible sights included huge mule trains laden with salt from Tibet, natural gas flames and hot springs.

The month-long expedition ended with three days of rafting down 40km of grade three and four rapids before the return to Kathmandu where the Hindu festival of Phagu was being celebrated.

One of the main features of the festival was the hurling of buckets of water and dye-filled balloons at passers-by, especially Westerners.

AGC hunt for the ill-fated Pheasant



Geared up and ready to go. Six divers from the Adjutant General's Corps assemble for a final photograph before taking the plunge, spending two weeks undergoing technical diving training off the Orkney islands. They will be returning to the area next year in an attempt to locate and dive on the

wreck of HMS *Pheasant*, a Royal Navy destroyer which sank with all hands in March 1917. The team are (from left to right) WO2 Ian Bellamy, SSgt Brumby Marshall, Brig Tom O'Donnell (chairman of the expedition committee), team leader Maj Neil Russell, Cpl Stewart Harper and Lt Pete Weston

Picture: Joseph Bright

Horse Gunners in the fast lane

NINE members of North Yorkshire-based 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery experienced the highs and lows of ocean sailing when they rounded the Canaries in *British Steel*, the 59ft yacht made famous by Chay Blyth.

They joined the vessel at Gran Canaria but were grounded by an engine fault

which meant they spent a few frustrating days learning basic nautical skills.

But it was time well spent, because soon after *British Steel* put to sea the crew hit the "acceleration zone" between Gran Canaria and Tenerife, an area of sea over which the wind

is channelled by the islands. For the rookie crew, it was a case of being thrust in at the deep end.

Before their supply of food ran out, the crew struggled into an anchorage at Tenerife for a night off and the luxury the following morning of a full English breakfast.

Then they were back to sea, across the exhilarating acceleration zone to Puerto Rico for the final few days.

The 3 RHA trip was made possible because every year the Royal Artillery Yacht Club (Germany) allows a regiment one of its boats for three weeks of adventurous training.



Landmark leap



The Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe, Germany, took delivery of its new Pilatus Britten-Norman Islander aircraft (pictured above) just in time for the commandant, Maj Stewart McNeish (inset), to complete his 1,000th jump. The

centre runs two Islanders and decided to part-exchange one for the latest Isle of Wight-built model.

Last year JSPC achieved a total of 18,035 descents and introduced 760 students to the sport of parachuting.

Jamaican jaunt for sapper signallers

SOLDIERS from 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron's Signals Troop trekked across Jamaica's Blue Mountains to Bluff Bay on the north coast.

After flying to the West Indies via New York, the sapper signallers acclimatised to the hot Caribbean weather – and the local cuisine – during a stay at the Jamaican Defence Force's training depot at Newcastle.

Meals included spiced liver and hot chocolate for breakfast, lunch of fish heads and rice, and dinner of curried goat.

They later visited the JDF Engineer Regiment at Kingston during a trip to stock up on supplies.

The party, based at Höhne in Germany, climbed Jamaica's highest point at 2,245m to watch the famous Blue Mountain Peak sunrise, only to find the peak shrouded by thick cloud.

After days spent hacking through thick vegetation – even their ranger guide reckoned it was hard going – the team reached the coast, staying at police stations, banana plantations, a health clinic, camping resorts, and even a church.

But a few days of sun, sea and Red Stripe beers at a beach resort restored everyone to full health before the return to duty in Germany.

Let's tackle overstitch . . . without killing the Service's unique variety of life

ONE OF the (many) great things about BFBS is the fact that it makes it possible to talk to people all over the world "live" in one programme.

These days the technology is used for matters rather more challenging than the exchange of greetings – an international phone-in on the Bett Review is a recent example.

On the panel were three men from MoD whose business is welfare and personnel matters. Calls came in thick and fast from Germany, Hong Kong and Cyprus. What struck me was the range of questions and the extent of knowledge. It was obvious that a lot of people had actually read the report.

An area of concern that attracted

much attention was that of pay and allowances. It is clear Servicemen personnel want assurance that they are not the subject of yet another cost-cutting exercise.

One caller asked the panel to identify one recommendation it would like to see implemented and one it would want ignored.

Given the number of recommendations it is impossible to isolate the single most important or attractive feature. High on the list, though, is the following:

"The effects of overstitch on individuals (as opposed to units)



Cari's column

should be more closely monitored, to enable posting authorities to take account of excessive individual turbulence, in order to provide better management information for those who commit units to changes of role or location."

Such a commitment to the needs of individual Service personnel would be universally welcomed. The effects of overstitch in the broad sense is there for all to see. What tends to go unnoticed, in my view, is the small families crises.

How many family holidays or spe-

cial events have to be postponed because mummy or daddy has to go away again at short notice?

In the great scheme of things a cancelled birthday party has no significance. Just one more little disappointment to add to the list.

People want to know that they are valued and that their needs are being taken into consideration. That is not to say units should be managed to fit in with the social lives of Service personnel. But if those who plan ahead had the information to hand they might be able to spread the load more evenly. At least those affected would know that effort had been made to address the problem.

As to which recommendation we

would like to see dropped, I think I would like the one about amalgamation of rank looked at very carefully.

Rank structure has evolved through tradition and need. I regard both as important.

It might seem that tradition is an unnecessary trapping these days. Not so. In a world where tradition is undermined and thrown out wholesale, it can be a useful bond.

Where an archaic rank structure leads to over-manning it should be re-examined, however, and I would welcome comments from those with first hand experience.

One thing is clear. Bett is an excellent basis for discussion about the future. And it's worth saying that

the review is looking ahead to how the world might be 15 years from now. Given that a week is a long time in politics, 15 years is a very long time.

By the time decisions are taken about the implementation of Bett, our needs and commitments may have changed significantly.

I sense a restlessness in the

young that has, I think, a lot to do with a feeling of rootlessness. The Services should seize the opportunity to offer a way of life that has become unique. One member of the BFBS phone-in panel

was a little irritated by the suggestion that the Armed Forces were being "civilianised". He responded that we couldn't go too far down the road of civilianisation because, if we did, the Services would have so much less to offer.

Who, he wondered, could want a normal life while putting themselves on the line to be moved about and shot at in the bargain? He was, of course, injecting some levity into the business but I believe there is a serious point to be made in this. Life in the Services does not have a great deal

to offer. For a young man or woman the Armed Forces offer a sense of purpose, of belonging, and of duty to others. There are precious few places in the civilian world where you can get these values. Many young people I've met recently have been taking exams. Added to that stress there seems to be an anxiety about what to do afterwards.

In this context the Services have much to offer. My hope is that the opportunity to do so isn't lost on the decision-makers.

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

Terry engineers his way to top degree

FORMER warrant officer Terry Norman is one of three ex-Servicemen to have graduated from University College London with degrees in electrical engineering.

He took advantage of UCL's first mid-career degree scheme which was established in 1993 to enable non-graduate former Armed Services personnel to study for Bachelor of Engineering degrees.

The UCL degree course was specifically tailored and designed to take account of, and give accreditation for, engineering experience gained during employment in the Forces. It is funded by the Department of Employment.

Terry, who served in the Royal Signals, said: "Although the work load was heavy, I'm glad I stuck to it."

He completed the course with two former Royal Navy chief petty officers.

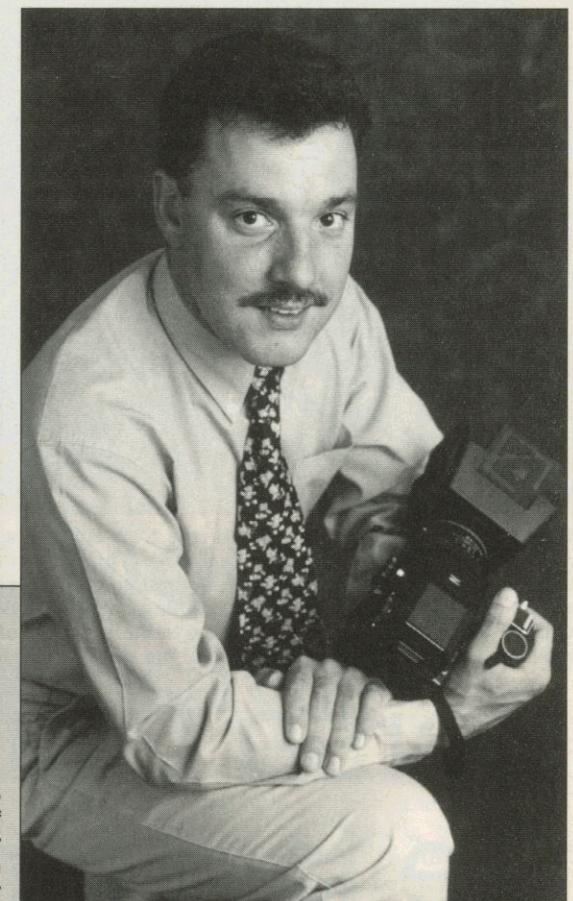
The attitude of all three Servicemen was an eye-opener for Professor John Midwinter, head of the UCL Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

"They set an example to our other undergraduates through their sheer hard work, guts and determination," he said.

He also acknowledged that the Servicemen's ability to recognise a problem and solve it had an impact on the administration of the course. It was an area, he said, where the university could "learn from military efficiency and know-how".

All three have received job offers since completing their degrees.

The university is keen to continue the scheme if it can attract adequately qualified individuals from the Armed Forces. Further information can be obtained



Stones put Mark in the picture

MARK Hopper spent 15 years in the Royal Corps of Transport – but never dreamt he would be given his big break by rocker Mick Jagger.

A keen photographer since childhood, Mark volunteered for redundancy under Options for Change and set about building his own photographic business in Barnsley.

Barely a year later, he was awarded the contract for photography in the corporate entertainment suites at the Rolling Stones concert in Sheffield.

As a regimental "snapper", Mark who left the Army as a corporal, had plenty of opportunity to record high-profile royal and VIP visits to the units in which he served. He qualified as a

heavy goods vehicle driver with the intention of serving a full 22-year career. But Options made him change his mind, and after leaving the Army he worked on a local newspaper to build up experience and contacts, then launched himself into his own business.

In addition to standard photographic services, Mark offers a specialised package – developed for Army social events – in which prints are supplied in frames and presentation boxes to make corporate gifts.

who read for a BSc degree to boost his prospects when he goes into civvy street after 22 years' service.

● Jim Hayden, a former WO2 with The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, bet on himself making a new

career after 21 years in the Army. He is now heading a new concept in telephone betting for Servicemen based abroad.

With no betting shops in Germany, he approached Coral, the UK bookmakers,

with his idea of offering a telephone service to expatriates and the Forces abroad.

To prevent the pitfalls of debt, Jim's service has strict monthly limits based on rank structure.

IT'S SHOWTIME AT RATHFRILAND

Supermodel Pte Mumbles Mullan brought the house down when he appeared on the catwalk with his "Back to Basics" ensemble as members of Rathfriland-based C Coy, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment put on a

fashion show which was enjoyed by 100 local women.

"Usually our drill hall is used for marching, not catwalking," explained Capt Philip Morrison, the organiser. The show, primarily for the battalion's

widows' group, was described as a "glittering evening" at the Rathfriland base.

"Thanks to enormous support from the local Fairytails boutique we

were able to stage a really splendid two-hour show," said Capt Morrison. Women's fashions, bridal outfits and children's clothes were featured on the catwalk.



Penpals offer unique way to improve writing skills

WRITE AWAY is a penfriend club for children and young people with special needs.

A registered charity, the club allows children to communicate with their peers through their chosen means of communication – pen and paper, braille or cassette.

It is also open to brothers and sisters, and those without special needs who wish to correspond with a child with special needs.

Write Away covers all aspects of special needs, from dyslexia and asthma to the visually and hearing impaired, physically disabled and other learning difficulties.

Writing letters to other children improves communication and social skills and eases the fear of isolation.

The charity also runs a class-match project.

For details, contact the Write Away penfriend club on 0171 724 0878.

An updated and reprinted

IN BRIEF

Railcard extended

EFFORTS are being made to secure the long-term future of the Forces Railcard in the light of rail privatisation. Meanwhile, the current railcard arrangement has been extended until March 31 next year.

● Passports for Pets, a non-political campaign dedicated to the replacement of the quarantine system with a viable, safe alternative, is looking for members. Its address is 44 The Little Boltons, London SW10 9LL (tel 0171 373 2498, fax 0171 244 9786).

● Delegates from the Army and the Royal Air Force attended a briefing

Just for the record

BBC TV's *Record Breakers* programme is on the look-out for new attempts – and they don't have to be in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Last year the BBC filmed a dozen or more units in Germany taking part in an attempt on the medium bridge-building competition record, and for this series they have already recorded Paras taking part in an abseiling marathon in London.

Two years ago Army cadets were featured taking part in a shaving marathon.

If your unit has an event you feel would interest the *Record Breakers* team, contact the Director Public Relations (Army) on fax 0171 218 4920, stating unit name, location and point of contact.

Filming takes place between now and September.

on training opportunities and NVQ awareness at RAF Coningsby. The seminar was hosted by the joint Lincolnshire TEC/Armed Forces Resettlement Programme.

● BFBS Germany's 50th anniversary celebrations continue this month with a competition offering listeners the chance to win a holiday in the Caribbean.

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

And YOU have your chance to shape the changes. Tell *Soldier* what you think of the proposals... good, bad, indifferent. The implementation team needs to know YOUR views.

MANAGEMENT

People should not be moved unless it is necessary for operational or career needs, says Bett. Is this achievable or desirable?

Could career management for NCOs and junior ranks, currently conducted at unit level, be improved, and is there scope for better career counselling?

Has the Army gone far enough in providing opportunities for women?

Time promotion beyond private and captain should be phased out, says Bett. Do YOU agree?

Why should seniority in rank, length of service and age, in themselves, be bars to promotion?

SPEAK NOW...



number of Service personnel in London reducing, you believe it is only fair to pay more to those who have to go on working in an environment generally alien to normal Service life.

Is it fair that you have to pay for the first seven miles' travel from residence to place of work?

Would a single Deployment Allowance (replacing separation allowance and Northern Ireland and South Georgia pay) compensate for special circumstances attached to these duties?

Proposals for a simplified and reduced package of allowances and charges appear to hinge on an improvement in family stability. What about single soldiers?

Bett proposes all leave travel allowances should cease, except for Service personnel under the age of 18. A "modest adjustment to pensionable pay" would compensate for the loss.

The review favours a pay-as-you-dine system for food consumed – without differentiating between voluntary or involuntary separation, married, partnered or single. Would such a system be popular? Would you prefer to pay for what you eat rather than a daily food rate?

Radio fun

I HAD to chuckle while reading of the delay in the introduction of the Army's new Bowman radio system which is to replace the "aged Clansman" (*In the Press*, June 12).

While serving in 1 LI in the mid-1970s as a regimental signaller using the "prehistoric" Larkspur radio, we dreamed of the day when the Clansman would actually be issued, with the promise of the small pack model far outranging our vehicle-borne C42s. – Steve Perry, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

SCHOOL COLOURS

YOUR story (People, June 26) mentioning Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose's visit to Cheltenham College states that the college and Eton are the only two schools to have their own Colours.

I attended the Duke of York's Royal Military School and carried its Colour on the 1988 Grand Day parade. Am I correct in assuming that, with the Duke of York's, three schools have their own Colours? – OCdt Michael Hay, RMA Sandhurst.



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Double trouble

CONGRATULATIONS to RSM twins Keith and Kevin Humphrey (People, June 26), but alas they are not the first!

I have the dubious honour of working alongside Maj Ron James who, in 1982, was Regimental Sergeant Major with 4 Regiment Army Air Corps.

It has affected him so gravely that I, as the trusty Typist, have had to pen this letter on his behalf. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Ron. Keep taking the tablets. – Erika Stone, HQ Director Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, Hants.

Both were in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

The Overd twins were also RSMs in the Corps of Royal Engineers in the early 1970s.

● A similar letter about the James brothers has been received by C C Wicker, of London N1 – **Editor**.

□ IN THE 1960s the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers had twin RSMs – the Connelly brothers.

The story goes that one was RSM of the regiment and one RSM of the training depot.

On drafting, the RSM used to send them off by train with the usual comments from the draft about his parentage, only to be met at the other end by his twin brother. – WO2 RQMS W Kirk, RHQ, 5 Territorial Army Training Regiment RLC, Grantham, Lincs.

Eagle Patrol

— by John Wynne Hopkins —

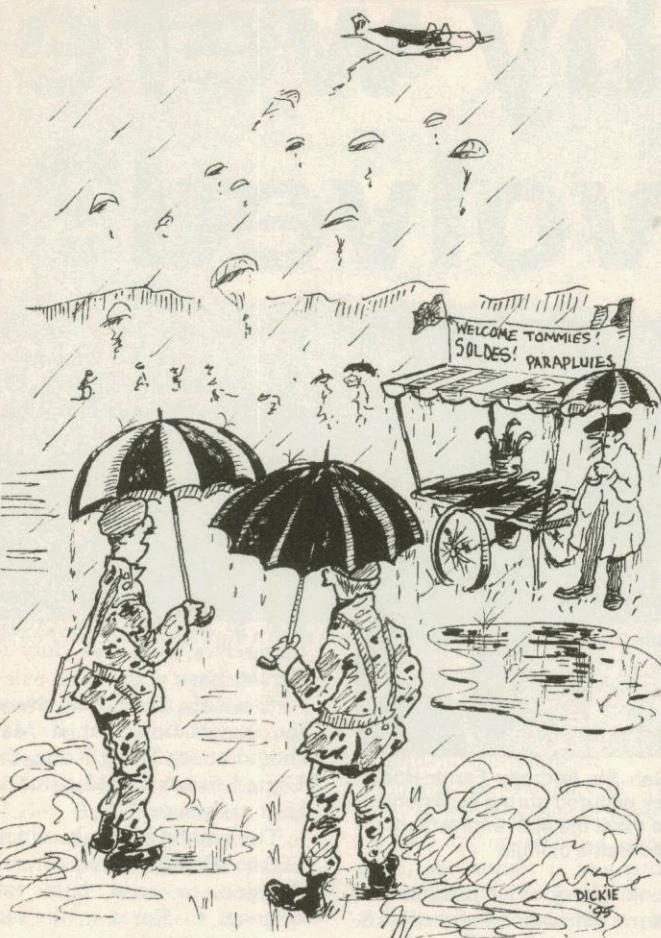
Lynx MK7 deplanes chalk, South Armagh

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BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



'You have to admire the French, Padre... damned enterprising!'

Paras exercise in South of France – see Pages 25-27

Badges and privilege

WHY do colonels and above who have previously served in the Royal Tank Regiment wear the tank arm badge on their right sleeve but a similar privilege is not afforded to former soldiers of the regiment?

On the formation of the T and AVR I was serving with 156 Regiment RCT (V) and one of the unit's squadrons, 238 (Sefton) Squadron RCT (V), was composed almost entirely of men who had served in the disbanded 40th/41st (Liverpool and Oldham) Royal Tank Regiment (TA).

A request that the squadron be allowed to wear the tank arm badge was refused. – John D Shaw, Liverpool.

□ FOR years I have advocated that members of the Parachute Regiment have earned the privilege of wearing their wings on their chest like every other army.

One general told me it was a British idiosyncrasy and that the men prefer them on their shoulder. Other explanations are that they are worn on the shoulder by royal decree or because of sour grapes by the

RAF. I recall that up to the 1960s SAS wings were worn on the chest. I would like to hear soldiers' views. – James B Cummings, 2111 Sutherland Road, Victoria BC, Canada V8S 2Z9.

● Flight specialisation insignia are worn on the chest; trade badges on the sleeve. – **Editor**.

Greece service deserved GSM

HAVING read the comments about the issue of the General Service Medal (or lack of it) I would like to remind your readers of a conflict that pre-dated Suez and Cyprus.

I refer to the Greek Civil War of 1947-49, where many National Servicemen served with the 10th Infantry Brigade 4th Division, later to become 2 Infantry Brigade, 1st Division.

I was part of the latter, serving with the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, which was based at Salonika.

Greek medal rule is absurd

to recognise service in Greece and Crete.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has agreed that the Greek awards may be accepted as souvenirs or keepsakes which should not be worn. The Greek Government has accepted that they have to inform recipients that the awards should not be worn.

I served with the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade throughout the fighting in Greece and travelled the length of the country from Megara to Kozani and back to Athens for a very bloody confrontation with the Elas forces.

We lost a great many fine men and it was not until recently that I discovered the Greek Government had issued an award.

I find the five-year clause totally absurd and lacking in sympathy and understanding. The men in contention for these awards will be in their 70s and 80s with very little time left to enjoy wearing the awards for which this country sent them into battle.

As for the Italy Star recognising service in Greece and Crete, a lot of men fought in the latter two without seeing Italy at all!

The Greek medal is not a paid-for souvenir but a genuine award for services rendered and the non-wearing stipulation should be scrapped now, while we are still alive. – Les Ross (late C Coy, 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment), Liverpool 11.

soil. Of my two years' National Service I spent 20 months on active service in Greece without a day's leave.

We too were subject to curfew and martial law, as well as poor living conditions, and exposure to malaria, cholera, dysentery and typhoid.

A far cry from all those lucky enough to serve their time in Blighty.

And others feel this service should have qualified us for the GSM. – O Rivers, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Korea: Why were British involved?

OFFICIAL histories of campaigns in which the British Army has been engaged take a very long time to be published. The cynical may say it is to allow many of those who took part the chance to die, but a more balanced reason must be to give a better perspective without the influence of political and higher command expediency.

Volume I of *The British Part in the Korean War: A Distant Obligation* was published in 1990 and now, nearly 45 years after the event, Volume II, subtitled *An Honourable Discharge*, has been launched.

Both books are by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, an appropriate author for the task. Not only is he a well-respected

military historian; he was also adjutant of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment in the Korean War until captured in 1951 by the Chinese, a personal experience reflected in a specific chapter but more fully and subjectively recorded in his *The Edge of the Sword* (1954).

It is always something of a headache to review any large book, particularly an official history which by its nature has to contain many events and interpretations of a multitude of archival records.

At best, all that a reviewer can expect to achieve is a scan of the skeleton of operations, but even with this modest aim there is the risk of missing the fundamental message of the



Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley pictured during ceremonies to mark the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Imjin

extent of the Soviet involvement, it would be fundamentally wrong to allow armed aggression to flourish as it had done in the 1930s.

"On further reflection, both Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary took the view that they could not, in any case, seek American assistance in countering Communist expansion in Europe and excuse themselves from this duty in the Far East.

"Besides, there was always the expectation that if Mao should attack Hong Kong, the United States would come to their assistance."

The author is openly critical of the British Government's decision to send only two brigades to Korea in the late summer of 1950 instead of a full division.

"A bold decision to form the Commonwealth Division at the outset would not have cost more over the term of the war.

"The presence of a major-general in command of three brigades, fully supporting arms and services would have precluded the intermittent misdirection of the 27th and 29th Brigades."

This is not too lightly con-

cealed criticism of a number of American flag and general officers and their command system.

The presence of numerically inferior British forces in the field was scarcely known to many Americans, "but those who fought closely alongside them valued their company, foremost the United States Marine Division".

The author, despite his reservations about their command, praises the Americans for carrying the great military burden at this time, not the least of which were commitments to NATO.

He concedes that "Britain has rarely conducted a major campaign without discovering that a proportion of its senior officers lacked the talents for



Korea 1951: The view from a light machine-gun post manned by soldiers of The Gloucestershire Regiment

the unrelenting demands of war." This surely is a classic example of a backhanded diplomatic compliment!

Failings on the part of the Army of the Republic of Korea are also recognised but, here again, the author is less condemning of "a force then almost wholly without seasoned leaders and lacking for much of the time a proper complement of artillery. What is remarkable is that regiments of the ROK Army held together on many testing occasions..."

At £59 this book is not destined to be a best-seller. Sir Anthony will know this but he will also be aware that he has contributed an honest and valuable documentation of a war forgotten by many but nevertheless a conflict in which numerous fighting men suffered and died. - BJ

Historians and those who play war games will probably want a copy of this encyclopaedia of war (albeit in a soft-cover), since it could provide them with enough battle fodder to last a lifetime.

Several lifetimes, in fact, such is the volume of wars and battles catalogued. Researching this vast timescale accurately must have been a nightmarish task.

As the author freely admits, verifying "traditional facts and figures and deciding what degree of conflict constitutes a battle" is not without its difficulties.

A modest understatement, but he hasn't let such problems put him off producing an extremely useful bookshelf addition.

Many of the wars and battles mentioned take up just a few lines, but others, including the fight for the Falklands, are treated more generously.

Of the 1982 affair he says: "Historically, the war is interesting because it was an imperial 19th-century type of conflict, reminiscent of scores of British campaigns in Africa, India and Asia."

"It is militarily interesting because the British fought the war without a land base at the end of an 8,000-mile sea supply line; they won it as much by logistical competence as by military efficiency."

This is a book to excite the curiosity of anyone with an interest in military history - ancient or modern. - JM

Brassey's Battles by John Laffin. Brassey's, paperback, £14.95.

Ancient battles and modern wars

MORE than 7,000 wars, battles and conflicts over a 3,500-year period - including a supplement of more than 30 which have taken place since 1986 - are listed alphabetically in a revised edition of *Brassey's Battles* by John Laffin.

Historians and those who play war games will probably want a copy of this encyclopaedia of war (albeit in a soft-cover), since it could provide them with enough battle fodder to last a lifetime.

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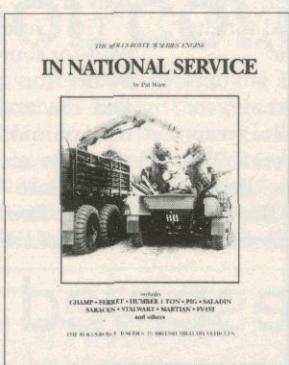
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Cassino and its prelude: the facts and the fiction

ST BENEDICT founded his famous monastery on the summit of Monte Cassino in 529. In 1944 it lay in ruins after Allied bombers and artillery had reduced it to rubble.

Controversy still rages as to why the ancient building's destruction was allowed. (Rebuilding of the town and its monastery was completed in 1956.)

In *Countdown to Cassino*, Alex Bowlby, wartime Greenjacket, postwar SAS TA soldier, and painter, has written a blow-by-blow account of the battle of Mignano Gap, which "opened the way to Cassino".

Thousands of soldiers died in this savage episode between

autumn 1943 and May 1944.

Lt Gen Mark Clark, commander US Fifth Army (which was one third British) and Fd Marshal Albert Kesselring, commander German Tenth Army, are among scores of named officers and men who played major and minor roles in the battle fought in atrocious conditions with, in some cases among the Allies, inferior weapons and equipment.

The author is determined to show that, while lacking the emotive appeal of the subsequent battle for the hilltop monastery, it was of equal importance.

In the event victory in this

vital if Clark's army was to take the town of Cassino, guarding the Liri Valley and the road to Rome.

The book is a tribute to the villagers of Mignano and to the soldiers who died and to those who survived.

While this is by no means the first time fact and fiction have been woven to produce a story, there is an abundance of material about the battle of Cassino for the author, with his special interest, to have produced a factual account of how a true-life family coped during the bombardment, rather than a 100-page novel about the comings and goings of a fictional family in the surroundings and conditions of an historic event.

Aitken recounts the battle and destruction of the town and monastery through the eyes of a local family, basing the book on

This book is aimed at teenagers and is being distributed to Italian schools. Perhaps the youngsters will take more to a fictional story than a factual account which might be construed by some Italians to be politically incorrect. - JM

Countdown to Cassino - The Battle of Mignano Gap by Alex Bowlby. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

Nowhere to Hide - A Story of Cassino by Tom Aitken. Obtainable from KiwiFruits, Royal Opera Arcade, and The Italian Bookshop, Cecil Court, London at £6.50 or from the author at 43 The Vineyard, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6AS at £7 inc p & p.

Amir's gift puts Chelsea veterans on course for Normandy

CHELSEA Pensioners have received 120,000 thanks from the Amir of Kuwait – in the form of a cheque for £120,000.

The donation from the Amir, and a further £250,000 to be divided between the three Service benevolent funds, is in recognition of the part played by the British Armed Forces in the liberation of Kuwait.

The gift will pay for a visit by Chelsea Pensioners to the Normandy battlefields of the Second World War, the first such project undertaken by the Royal Hospital. The balance will go towards a new recreation centre for In-Pensioners and an extension to the infirmary.

Accepting the cheque from Kuwait Ambassador Khalid Al-Duwaisan, Gen Sir Brian Kenny, Governor of the hospital, said: "We in Britain were immensely proud to take part in the coalition forces that defended Kuwait. Military links between the two countries go back over 100 years and that military link is maintained in Kuwait today. We are honoured and delighted to be receiving this gift."

Gen Kenny also accepted a cheque on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund.

Tears span 50 years

ARNHEM and Normandy veterans in Britain and America have been visibly moved by a poem, Fallen Warrior, which has been recited at religious and secular ceremonies connected with the 50th anniversaries.

They have been even more deeply impressed to discover that the 12-line tribute was written by a young man born more than 20 years after the end of the Second World War.

Charles Whittaker, 28, of Leicester, penned the lines last year while watching televised archive film of the D-Day landings.

He told *Soldier* that the famous footage of a soldier going back to help a fallen comrade had moved him to tears.

Fallen Warrior, which includes such evocative images as "Your life given for us on crimson poppy sands", has been read in Lincoln Cathedral, published in a newsletter distributed to thousands of Normandy veterans, and attracted the interest of old comrades of the US 82nd Airborne Division.

It cuts both ways for Fred

IN June 1944, on his way from Normandy to the front line, Fred Dobson lost his Army-issue clasp knife and was issued with a replacement.

Some weeks later, while in hospital in South Shields, he discovered his pay had been docked one shilling and sixpence, the cost of his mislaid knife.

For an 18-year-old private on three shillings a day (one of which was deducted and sent to his mother) the "fine" was a serious financial blow.

Last year Fred, now 69, was given a rusty old Army knife found near Caen during a battlefield tour of Normandy – and it was suggested, tongue-in-cheek, that he return it to the MoD and ask for his money back.

"I am sure the knife is mine," he wrote, "as it has no War Department mark and has a broken blade which I did opening an ammunition box. I am returning it



Former Gordon Highlander Fred Dobson with new cheque and old knife

to you, so please may I have my one shilling and sixpence back, plus postage."

To Fred's delight, the MoD duly obliged. He received a cheque from HQ Land Command at Wilton for the princely sum of £1.20 – seven pence for the knife

and the balance for his postage.

Fred served briefly with the Beds and Herts and the Dorsets before spending much of his Army career in The Gordon Highlanders. His knife is destined to go to the regimental museum of The Highlanders.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Highland drive takes initiative

VAUXHALL Motors have given free loan of two Frontera four-wheel drive vehicles to the Airborne Initiative (Scotland), a charity which runs a rehabilitation programme for young offenders at

a spartan 29-acre training camp in Lanarkshire.

The instructors, all former soldiers of The Parachute Regiment or Special Forces, are selected for their ability to rehabilitate youngsters during the tough ten-week course, half of which takes place in camp, the other half under canvas in the Highlands.

All students who complete the programme are found work or further training, and have their progress monitored by the Airborne Initiative.

The rugged loan vehicles will be used to transport students to and from the camp and to re-supply expeditions in the Highlands.

Model Victoriana

THE VICTORIAN Military Society, which promotes the study of military history of all nations and races during the period 1837-1914, is to expand its activities into the field of military modelling.

Information about the non-commercial society can be obtained from the publicity officer, Dan Allen, 20 Priory Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7QN (tel 01635 48628).

Big increase in demands on BCEL

THE BRITISH Commonwealth Ex-Services League faces a growing number of demands for help but has insufficient funds to meet every request as generously as it would wish, Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi, Deputy Grand President of the League, said in his annual report.

"Our welfare work increases as Commonwealth veterans grow older, and our ability to cope is not helped by certain governments who fail to meet their obligation to pay pensions at the proper rate, or sometimes fail to pay them at all."

Sir Desmond conceded that while ultimate responsibility remained with the successor governments concerned, it would be helpful if Britain could find ways of urging compliance on those gov-

Bound for Gateshead



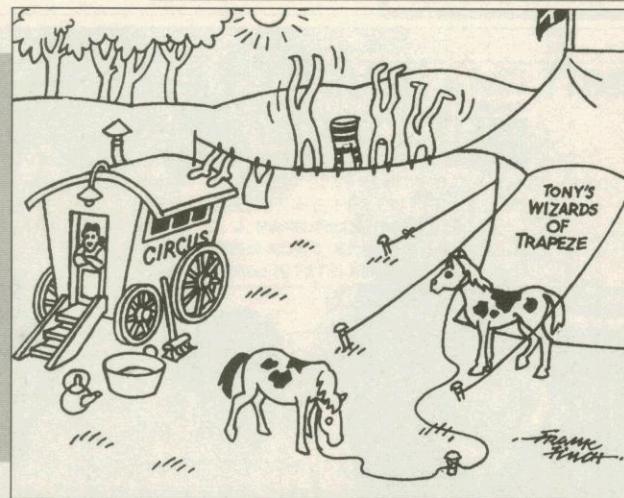
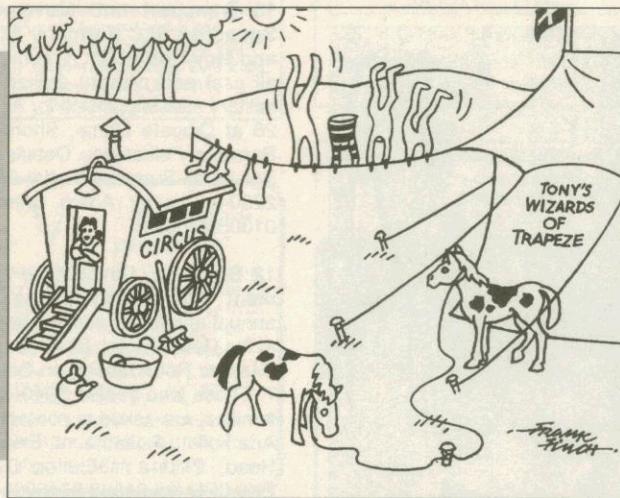
Don Paine, chairman of the British Ex-Services Sports Wheelchair Association (BEWSA) receives the Wilkinson Sword of Peace from former Olympic champion Sebastian Coe MP, a patron of the association.

The sword has been chosen as the official symbol of the Disabled Ex-Services Invitation World Games at Gateshead Stadium from September 7-10. It will be paraded in the Royal British Legion's double-decker Poppy Bus in towns and cities throughout the country to raise funds for the games.

More than 1,000 athletes from 43 countries are expected to take part in the event which follows the success of the 1993 ex-Services games held at Stoke Mandeville.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 616

The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 616, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by August 11. Do not include anything



Competition No 613 (June 12 issue): Congratulations to Mr E E Hemmings, of Hove, E Sussex, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Hill, of Middlesbrough, Cleveland, and Mr Nigel L Rylatt, of Huddersfield.

ernments with obligations taken on at independence.

"It should not be left to BCEL to try to meet these deficiencies," he said.

Last year 2,730 ex-Servicemen and women were assisted by the League, an increase of 120 per cent since 1989. As a consequence, the welfare committee had been restrained in allocating funds for veterans' homes and clinics, and self-help projects including the supply of rickshaws and sewing machines.

Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the BCEL, founded by Earl Haig in 1921 to ensure no Commonwealth ex-Serviceman or woman, nor their dependants, would be without help in time of need.

□ The BCEL is based at 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG (tel 0171 973 0633).

Carry on rambling ...

CYPRUS Services Rambling Club, founded in a Limassol bar 25 years ago, is to celebrate its silver jubilee by retracing the first walk undertaken by its founder members on November 22, 1970.

It featured a picnic at the halfway point, followed by post-ramble refreshments in a local taverna. Both are traditions which have sur-



Ancient and modern: Kingsmen in an assortment of uniforms dating from 1695 turned a few heads when they teamed up at Liverpool's Albert Dock to publicise a fund-raising appeal for the Museum of Liverpool Life's latest gallery.

The £300,000 project will tell the 300-year-old

history of The King's Regiment which became the city's regiment in 1881.

From left (back row) are Kgm Ian Murray, Kgm Neil Draper and Kgm Billy Manning; (front) LCpl Ian McCarthy and Kgm James Kilroy. All are serving with 5/8 Kings.

vived to this day. The club, which presented its first badge for 500 accumulated miles in 1981, jealously guards the Services part of its title and draws its members from personnel in the Western Sovereign Base Area and MoD civilians and their families.

Apart from three short periods when heightened security states on

the island prevented it from doing so, the club has met and rambled on every alternate Sunday since 1970. Most walks are between five and ten miles.

Former members interested in a reunion to mark the anniversary in November should contact Phlyn Simpson, EEF, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 57 (tel 010 357 527 6611).

WIN £50

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:

DIARY

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

JULY

18-29: 105th Royal Tournament.

SEPTEMBER

7-10: Disabled Ex-Services Invitation World Games, Gateshead.

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Imperial War Museum

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

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

VJ Day – AUGUST

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

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

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

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

26: South Bedfordshire RBLs

celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

28: Liberation parade, Cenotaph, Hong Kong.

29: Battlefield tour, Hong Kong.

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

VJ Day

SEPTEMBER

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

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

REUNIONS

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

Crewe VE and VJ drum head services and reunion: Including Burma Star service, August 20. All Colours, Standards and members welcome.

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

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

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

1996

Boys' Battery, India: All who served in Boys' Battery in India during the Second World War and at Woolwich from November 1942 until the battery moved after the war, are invited to a reunion to take place at the Royal School of Artillery on April 26-28, 1996. Permanent staff included. Further details from T C Holden, 3 Kilburn Street, Watershedding, Oldham OL1 4JF (tel 0161 633 8194).

CLOSURES

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (Volunteers) disbands on September 3 and the disposition of Volunteer Trust property in Officers' Mess, WOs' and Sgts' Mess and RHQ is planned. Anyone who presented an item should contact Frank Mullens by July 28 at RHKR(V) (Property), 1 Sports Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong, BFPO 1 advising what should be done with the property should it not be found a home in the new Association Rooms.



Picture: Colin McMullen

Sgt Dave Smallwood (left) and WO2 Steve McManus (right), serving with 4/5 Rangers based at Portadown in Northern Ireland, completed the Belfast marathon in the same time – 4hr 5min – to raise £700 for the neo-natal ward at Craigavon Area Hospital. HQ Coy and Recce Platoon donated gen-

erously, and the TA WOs' and Sgts' Mess, through the RSM, WO1 Chris Whewell, pledged £100 a runner if it was reported in *Soldier*. Pay up, RSM!

Dave and Steve say the running was easy; the hard bit was collecting all that money before they could present the cheque (pictured above).

SEARCHLINE

September 1976 intake, Nicholson Troop, 40 (Wardrop Battery), JLR RA: Anyone interested in a 20-year reunion is asked to contact Malcolm (Taff) Davies, 45 Lon Masarn, Tycoch, Swansea SA2 9EX.

Anyone who served with the Gurkhas during the Malayan Emergency (1957-59), or 15 Section, 199 Battery, 68th Regt RA and spent time in Ipoh, Perak, and recalls National Serviceman LBr Frank Storey, from West Hartlepool, and Regular soldier John "Badge" Cullen, from Deptford, is asked to contact Ann Storey, 59 Sidaway Street, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 6HJ (tel 01384 410695 after 6pm).

Ex-platoon sergeant and CSM Alan Robinson seeks former members of E, F, and K Cos, 2nd Cadet Bn, Middlesex Regt ACF (Uxbridge or Rayners Lane 1943-47). Replies to 43 Rudsdale Way, Prestygate, Colchester, Essex CO3 4LP (tel 01206 549617).

East of Hamburg, 1945: Karl-Heinz Böttger, of Lilienweg 3, 22850 Norderstedt, Germany, seeks information on which division or regiment occupied the area east of Hamburg after the city surrendered on May 2, 1945. He has a black-and-white photograph showing a vehicle bearing a sign showing 87 in a halved rectangle.

D L Prior wishes to hear from anyone called up in January 1940 to Woolwich and then to Preston Park, Brighton (A Battery, 74 Med Regt RA), Dorking or Sevenoaks. Replies to 140 Cressingham Road, Reading, Berks RG2 7LN.

London Irish Rifles Regimental Association seeks new members. Details from membership secretary A J Batchelor, Duke of York's HQ,

King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4SA.

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

Carol Thomas wishes news of **Edwall Thomas** (No T/106699, B Pln, 187 Int Cnog Coy RASC, Polar Bear) and George Stagg (RN 2147529, 75 Rd Const Coy RE). Replies to 386 Wythenshawe Road, Northern Moor, Manchester M23 9DD (tel 0161 945 8533).

APPOINTMENTS

Lt Cols: G M Kennedy-Smith, RE (Svy) – To MoD, June 26; M N Roberts RLC – To BOD Donnington, June 26; G J Binns PWO – To

Staff Coll (DS), June 26.

Retirements

Brigadier: H S Dixon-Nuttall, late QARANC, June 30.

Colonels: P E A Chaddock, late R Signals, July 1; R A Sale, late LI, July 1; J M W Stenhouse, late Gordons, July 1.

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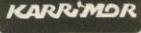
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15-18

Notices

The RHKR(V) disbands September 3, 1995. A plan is being made for the disposition of all Volunteer Trust Property currently housed in the Officers' Mess, WOs' & Sgts' Mess and RHQ. Anyone who presented an item to the Regiment should contact Frank Mullens by July 28, 1995 at the latest at the address below, advising him what you would like the Volunteer Trust to do with the property should it not be found a home in the new Association Rooms.

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Ref: RLB-268220/452-SC

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D5

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First (459 runs, £2,500) LSgt D D Smith, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17.

Second (454 runs, £1,250) Cpl J R Dooley, 111 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 30.

Third (442 runs, £750) Sgt P T Price, 33 Signal Regt (V), Liverpool.

Fourth (438 runs, £500) WO2 P W Handley, DA Malaysia.

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Seventh (435 runs, £200) Sgt B E Lauchlan, HQ Brunei Garrison, BFPO 11.

Eighth (432 runs, £100) Pte D Baker, 1 RGBW, BFPO 53.

JULY 1, 1995

First (524 runs, £2,500) Cpl A O Bennie, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Preston.

Second (517 runs, £1,250) Sgt W R D Wilson, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36.

Third (505 runs, £750) Sgt A P Cross, 1 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 47.

Fourth (499 runs, £500) Cpl J E Williamson, BFPO 808.

Fifth (495 runs, £400) Sgt P H Smith, AFCO Reading.

Sixth (490 runs, £300) Capt K J Card, RMP Training Centre, Chichester.

Seventh (488 runs, £200) Sgt G A Oldershaw, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38.

Eighth equal (483 runs, £50) WO2 D W S Chisholm, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

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D3

Army puts Ulster on biathlon comeback

ARMY involvement in the community life of post-ceasefire Northern Ireland took another positive step forward when 39th Infantry Brigade sponsored the reintroduction of a once thriving athletic event - the Ulster modern biathlon.

Nearly 200 competitors took part in the biathlon, which it is hoped will become a fixture on the Province's sporting calendar.

The run-swim competition attracted some of Northern Ireland's top athletes and swimmers, including international triathlete John McLaughlin and Commonwealth Games swimmer Sharlene Brown.

Teams from 25 Engineer Regiment, 39 Inf Bde HQ, including Maj Nick Metcalfe and Capt Sean Burke, and the Maze prison also took part.

Driving force behind the event was Capt Stuart Mason REME, who before his posting to 39 Inf Bde was secretary of Army modern pentathlon. He was assisted by staff from the Army Modern Pentathlon Training Centre at Arborfield, in particular former Great Britain Olympic coach SSgt Bernie Moss, who runs the centre.

He drove much of the necessary equipment from Arborfield to Stranraer in a minibus.

Statistics were provided by WO1 Ken Austin, presently serving at the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering at Arborfield, and his wife Glynis. The couple cover many domestic competitions including the national championships.

Capt Dave Mulholland, current secretary of Army modern pentathlon, was chief time-keeper for both the run and swim phases.

SSgt Moss (Arborfield Mil (725) 2214) is always on the look out for talented sportsmen and women interested in trying modern pentathlon. Besides running and swimming, the other disciplines required in the sport are air pistol shooting, fencing and horse riding.

So nearly an arresting performance

BRITISH Police have not lost to a Service side for three years, but they only just maintained that record on a glorious day against the Army at Imber Court in a 55-over match.

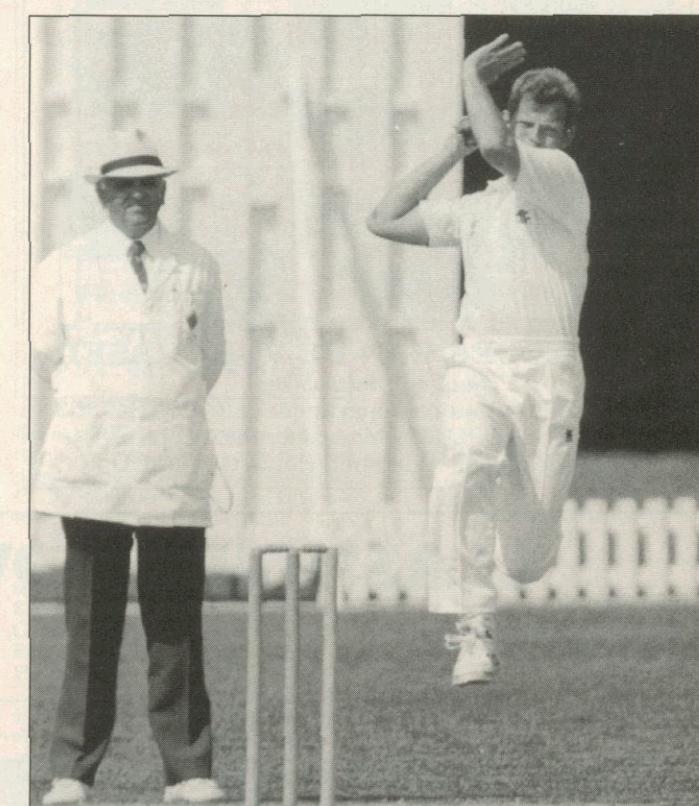
Having beaten the Royal Air Force by a resounding margin the previous day, the policemen were confident of victory after restricting the Army to a modest 192-8. Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) top-scored with 51 off 115 balls.

But a splendid opening spell by LCpl Martyn Hutton (RDG), who took 3-24, and Capt Paddy Logan (9 Regt AAC), 1-20, left the home side in some disarray at 39-4 after 14 overs.

A determined skipper's knock by Fraser-Darling (35) steadied the police innings and pushed them towards a two-wicket win with two overs to spare.

Pte David Matthews (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) bowled 11 tidy overs to return figures of 2-23.

Extras of 29 swayed the match towards the police but were no reflection on Lt Dan Wilkinson (1 IG) who stood in with the gloves. He is not usually a wicketkeeper.



Capt Paddy Logan in action during his impressive opening spell against the British Police at Imber Court

Army 192-8 (Capt Richard Greatorex 29, Lt Chris St George 51, Sgt Nick Palmer 30). British Police 193-8. British Police won by 2 wickets.

Three full days of cricket played in glorious weather and an excellent spirit at Fenners resulted in Combined Services beating Cambridge University



Out! Pte David Matthews narrowly fails to make his ground at Imber Court as British Police 'keeper Young removes the bails. Matthews made 13

in the final over by a healthy margin.

First innings highlights for the Services included a superb undefeated 150 from Sgt Glyn Lumb (RAF) and 53 from Lt Chris St George which allowed Capt Richard Greatorex (29 Regt RLC), the skipper, to declare on 298-8.

The undergraduates closed their first innings with a deficit of 50, which was increased to 255 when Services batted again. St George (42) was again in the runs and Pte David Matthews contributed 39 not out.

Pace bowlers Paddy Logan (4-46) and Flt Lt Paul Singleton (5-53) set up the last over win for Combined Services, with Flt Lt Andy Spiller bowling very economically and David Matthews picking up a wicket in each innings.

The visitors cracked 100 in the first 75 minutes, eventually totalling an ominously large 317-6 in 55 overs.

Services were in good shape at 210-2 in reply, but when the RAF's Cpl Adrian Jones (86)

and Lt Chris St George (74) departed in rapid succession the wheels came off.

Capt Richard Greatorex (16) and Capt Jim Cotterill (20) opened the innings.

Australian Crusaders 317-6. Combined Services 260. Crusaders won by 57 runs.

With several results still outstanding, the unbeaten Royal Logistic Corps currently heads the Famous Grouse Inter-Corps merit table.

Wins against RA, R Signals, the Infantry and Army Medical Services have given them 58 points, one ahead of REME, who have won three and lost three.

Infantry have also won three and lost three and are third with 51 points. The sappers have won two matches, lost one and drawn against the AGC to be fourth in the table.

Loggies lift Hong Kong athletics crown

A SOLID track and field display by Logistic Support Regiment earned them five individual gold medals and a 4 x 400m relay title at the British Forces Hong Kong athletics championships in Shatin Stadium.

Lt Col Nick Lloyd won the discus with a throw of 28.99m, LCpl Chung took high jump gold with a clearance of 1.65m, LCpl Tilka won the 100m in 11.83sec and SSgt Larry McFarlane (23.94sec) and Capt Nick Fodden-Ellis (54.51sec) took the 200 and 400m titles.

Fodden-Ellis anchored the relay team to victory by .01sec over RAF Sek Kong.

Log Sp Regt took the overall team title, with RAF Sek Kong second, and C, B, and A Cosys, 1 RGR filling the next three places. QG Engineers and RMP Hong Kong also took part.

The Army heptathlon championships will be held in conjunction with the Inter-Services event at RAF Cosford on July 31-August 1.

Qualifiers for the PAX Plus Inter-Unit team athletics finals are 5 Regt RA, 7 Para RHA and 3 Para in the major units competition and BAD Kineton, ASPT and 3 BAD in the minors. The women's qualifiers are 27 Tpt Regt RLC, ATR Pirbright and AGC Worthy Down.



BKYC marks 50 years

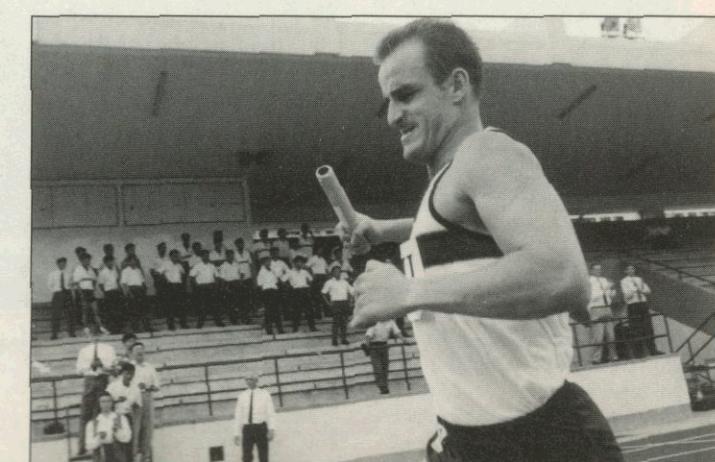
Skua III leads the fleet during a regatta to mark the British Kiel Yacht Club's 50th anniversary and its purchase of a new fleet of Halberg Rassy 31s. All the races were won by ex-Sgt Gordon Witty in Curlew III with LCpl Sharp of the Kiel Training Centre in second place.

Witty won the William Grant and Halberg Rassy Trophies and Lt Col Gordon Allen the Polland Cup for best novice.

The BKYC was formed on June 11, 1945, by a group of officers who gathered together

a fleet of mostly Kriegs-Marine craft. All were made of wood, or composite wood and steel frame, had paraffin navigation lights and bunk mattresses stuffed with straw.

Long, sleek and very, very wet, they were eventually replaced by Dan boats which in turn gave way to Cutlasses, Sabres, Contessa 32s and, in 1980, Contessa 28s. The latter gave noble service until they made way in 1991 for a new fleet of the excellent Halberg Rassy 29s.



Capt Nick Fodden-Ellis anchors the 4 x 400m relay team in Hong Kong

Signallers celebrate on tour to Canada



Team captain WO Bobby Snow and manager Lt Col Geordie Gainford (right) and the squad of players who marked the 75th anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals with a rugby tour to Canada. It was the corps XV's first overseas trip.

The 20 players and reserves were all drawn from units in the United Kingdom and Belgium and include six who also play for Leeds RUFC.

Their itinerary took them to Kingston for a game against the Kingston Bulldogs, with three

further matches against the Belville Blues, Ottawa and the Toronto Nomads.

Back row (from left): LCpl Steve Adams, Sgt Ned Kelly, Cpl Vince Key, Cpl Paul Hanlon, Sig Lee Hepworth, Sig Lee Francis, team coach Ian Cairns, Maj Mike Burke, Sig Lee Denham, Capt Peter Drew, Sgt Trevor Henry, LCpl Dave Dorking and Cpl Kev East. Front: Cpl Matt Haley, Cpl Steve Bartliff, Cpl Garry Cassidy, Sgt Mark Jolly, Sgt Nigel Roberts, Sig Steffan Gibbs and SSgt Dick Tredwell

Welcome to the Fellowship

THE ARMY's contribution to English basketball has been recognised by the award of the prestigious English Basketball Fellowship trophy.

The presentation is seen as recognition of the Army's outstanding service to the sport over many years.

Formed from ex-players and officials of the English Basketball Association, the fellowship each year singles out an organisation or individual.

Army's roots in basketball go back to the 1960s when the Aldershot Warriors dominated the sport, going on to become national champions.

The Army continued to provide players and administrators to the national side, and has always been quick to offer facilities for courses and matches.

The award coincides with the Army Basketball Association's 50th anniversary.

The presentation took place at West Court Officers' Mess, Arborfield, and was attended by four members of the Fel-



lowship executive and past and present Army players and officials.

Lt Col (Retd) Peter Harrison received the trophy on behalf of the ABBA from Fellowship secretary Ken Charles.

Lt Col Peter Harrison (left) receives the Fellowship trophy from Mr Ken Charles. Holding the rosebowl is Fellowship member Mr Ian Jenkins. Immediately behind and to the side of him are Mr Geoff Boulby (left), Maj Trevor Stipling REME, secretary ABBA, and Mrs Molly Boulby. To the rear are Col John Houchin, Army director of Naafi, which sponsors Army basketball; Capt Tim Brown RLC, the current team manager and coach; and Maj (retd) Terry Goulding, former Combined Services player, coach, manager and secretary

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The Royal Dragoon Guards



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The Royal Dragoon Guards came into being on August 1, 1992 on the amalgamation of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. The RDG uniform derives from the most distinctive features of its parent regiments: the royal blue hat and cross belt of the 4th/7th and the green trousers of the Skins. The capbadge follows this theme, with Inniskilling Castle on a cross of St George within the 4th/7th St Patrick's Star.

The regimental quick march of the new regiment is that of the Skins, "Fare Thee Well Inniskilling". The 4th/7th was itself originally formed in April 1922 on the amalgamation of the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards and the 7th Dragoon Guards (Princess Royal's).

The Skins formed the same month from the 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Inniskillings (6th Dragoons). Battle honours shared by the two regiments included Blenheim, Balaclava, South Africa and Ypres.



4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards



5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards

The Queen's Royal Hussars



SOLDIER
The British Army Magazine

(The Queen's Own and Royal Irish)

The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish) was formed on September 1, 1993 by the amalgamation of The Queen's Own Hussars and The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. The QRH uniform derives from the best parts of the constituent regiments, which include the distinctive QRIH tent hat worn by officers and striking Garter blue of the QOH which has been retained as the regimental colour. The capbadge incorporates the Angel Harp of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars superimposed on the regimental cipher of The Queen's Own Hussars – originally bestowed on the 7th Hussars in 1727 – surmounted by a crown and lion, with a scroll underneath giving the regiment's title in blue and gold.

The regimental quick march of the new regiment combines the marches of both regiments. The QOH was originally formed in November 1958 on the amalgamation of 3rd The King's Own Hussars and 7th Queen's Own Hussars, while the QRIH was formed a month earlier from the 4th Queen's Own Hussars and the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars. Shared battle honours include Dettingen, Mons, Cambrai and El Alamein.



The Queen's Own Hussars



The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars