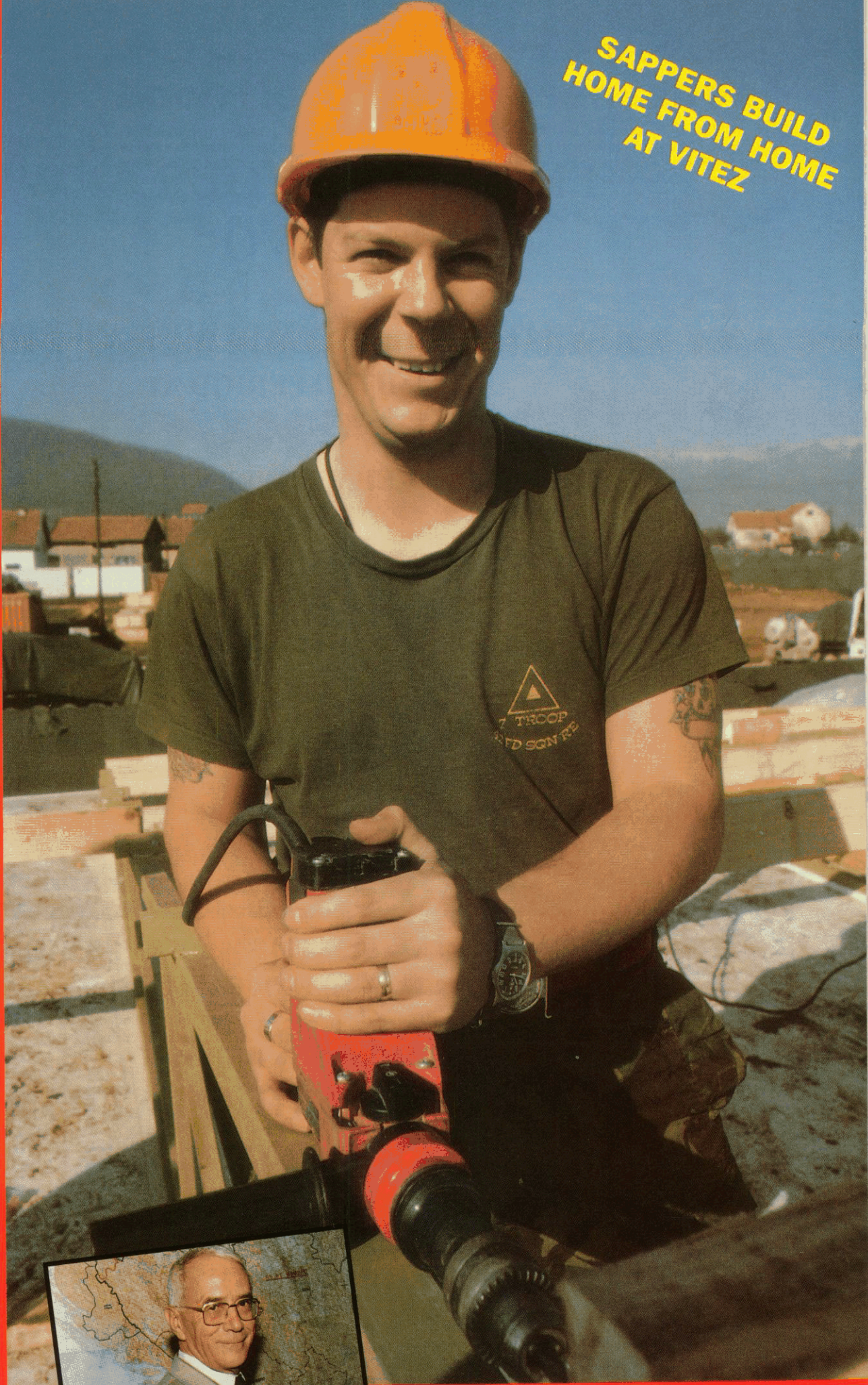


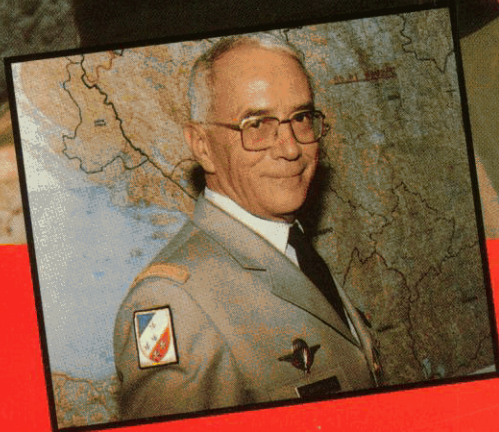
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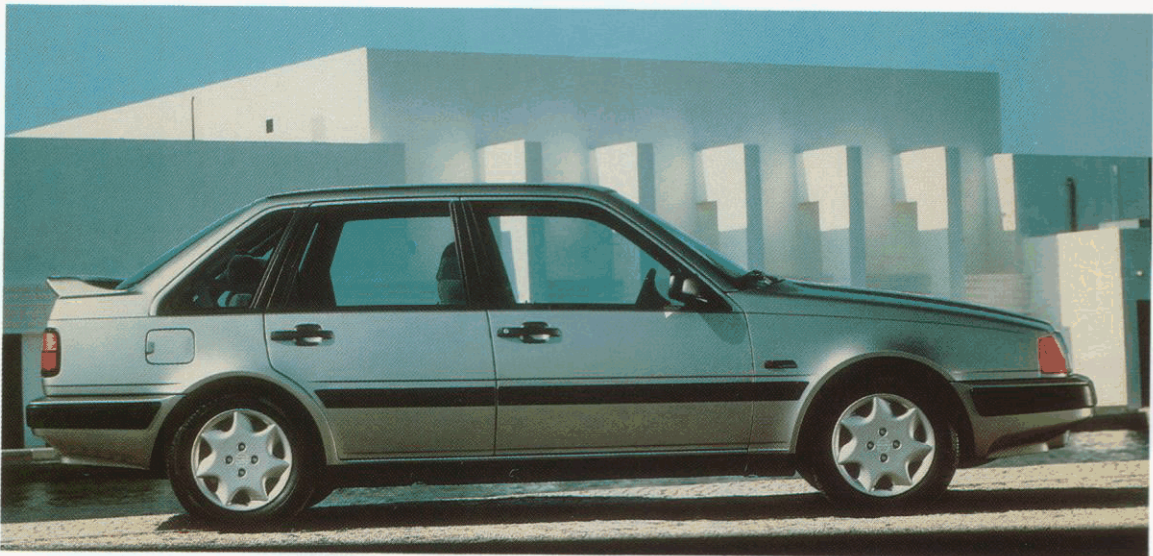
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April 5, 1993
VOL. 49/7

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Loch Ness picture sensation

Just before going to press with this issue, **SOLDIER** was given permission to publish a remarkable picture taken, we understand, with an ultra-modern underwater camera during an Army diving expedition in Loch Ness. The picture, with a story which attempts to unravel the circumstances in which it was taken, appears in Page 19. We are sorry that some items have had to be held over in order to include this item.

Soldiers see town shelled

EFFORTS were continuing to recover three British Army vehicles abandoned by soldiers trapped for 24 hours in the besieged Bosnian town of Konjevic Polje.

The troops, commanded by Maj Alan Abraham, 9/12 L, had escorted a UNHCR team of doctors and nurses into Konjevic Polje with the intention of bringing out 75 badly-wounded Muslims. However, Serbian refusal to allow the removal of adults of military service age led to inhabitants blocking the soldiers' escape route.

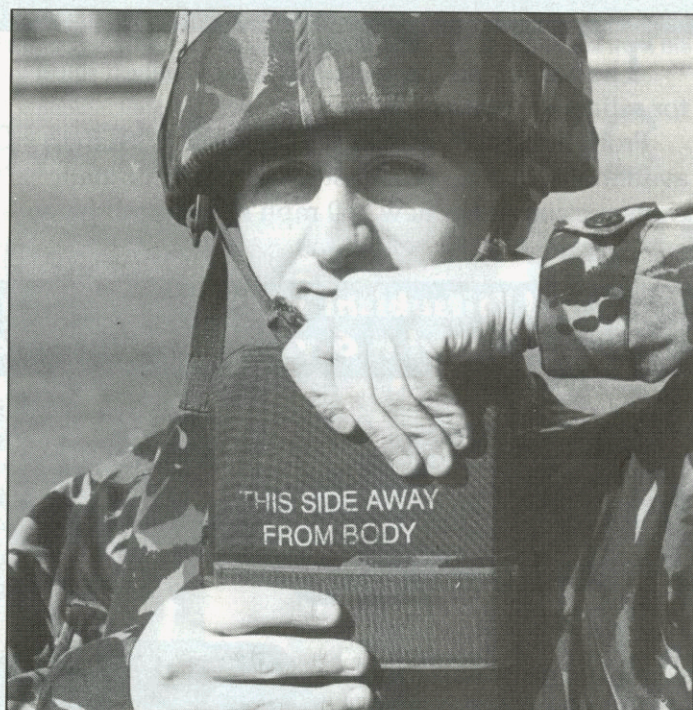
Serbian artillery deliberately targeted women and children in the vicinity of the British troops who witnessed the carnage.

A REME Foden recovery vehicle engaged in towing a Spartan APC received an indirect hit which killed ten civilians standing alongside. Combat medic WO2 John Macnair saw a baby decapitated by shellfire and helped World Health Organisation doctor Simon Mardell perform amputations using scissors and without anaesthetics.

Army spokesman Maj Martin Waters said: "The fire was obviously directed into the groups of women and children."

Maj Abraham and his men withdrew in a Sultan APC, but were forced to leave behind a Spartan, a Foden recovery vehicle and a Land-Rover.

In a separate incident, a



Picture: Terry Champion

Pte Jason of 9 Ordnance Battalion RAOC slides an armoured plate, which is intended to stop high velocity rounds, into the front of the British Army's new combat body armour which is being issued to troops serving in Bosnia. New clothing - see Page 7

soldier from the Royal Irish Regiment attached to the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group was wounded by an anti-personnel mine near Gornji Vakuf. He was flown to Britain and remains seriously ill at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Greenwich.

Body armour

British troops serving on Operation Grapple are being issued with a new type of

combat body armour.

The body armour is similar to that issued to soldiers during the Gulf War and designed to reduce fragmentation wounds caused by shell splinters.

The new version is fitted with removable high velocity round deflection plates front and rear to protect the area of the heart.

In a low-threat situation, commanders may authorise the wearing of body armour without the additional plates.

The Prince of Wales met British troops serving with the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia during a morale-boosting visit.

After talking to soldiers at the British Army headquarters in Split, he was flown in a

FRONT COVER: Cpl Basher Burns of Vitez-based 42 Field Squadron RE is a member of the team of sappers tasked with improving the quality of life for soldiers serving with the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group in Bosnia. Report and pictures in Pages 14-15. **Inset:** Gen Philippe Morillon heads the United Nations Bosnia and Hercegovina Command. A feature on British soldiers working on the staff of his Kiseljak headquarters starts on Page 16. (Pictures: Terry Champion.)

● Turn to Page 7

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Heads up at Pirbright: Members of the Irish Guards adjust their caps after receiving the traditional St Patrick's Day gift of shamrock from the Queen Mother at the Guards Depot

Forty bands to be axed

A REORGANISATION of Regular Army bands announced on March 16 will mean their total being cut by more than half, from 69 to 29, by April 1995.

Total number of bandmen will be reduced to 1,143 (from 1,991).

In addition, a central music authority for the Army, based at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, is to be established.

To be known as HQ Army Music, and headed by an Inspector of Army Music, the new body will be responsible for recruitment, training and appointment of musicians.

The announcement, made by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, followed a lengthy review to reduce bandmen in proportion to the Army's overall size, being cut from 156,000 to 119,000 by 1995.

Bands, though fewer in number, will be larger. Links between reorganised bands and regiments will be retained.

Although the number, size and affiliation of the State bands of the Household

Royal farewell to the RAOC



Picture: Terry Champion

Going out in style at Deepcut were members of the 100-strong guard of honour from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps who were inspected by the Queen, their Colonel-in-Chief, in her final visit before the corps becomes part of the new Royal Logistic Corps on April 5.

Her Majesty, seen here with Maj Gen David

Botting (second from left), the RAOC's Representative Colonel Commandant, and Capt Nick Wilkes, adjutant of the Training Battalion and Depot, RAOC, also planted a walnut tree (traditionally the wood from which the corps' rifles were made) and named a new road - The Royal Way - during her visit.

Division and Royal Artillery - considered an essential part of the national fabric - will remain unchanged, all other bands will have either 35 or 49 musicians.

At present many bands have fewer than 20 musicians. Such bands were not musically viable and had proved difficult to recruit, said Mr Hamilton in a written Commons answer.

The Household Cavalry, Foot Guards and Royal Armoured Corps will have two

bands (35 bandmen in each), five bands (49 each) and four bands (35) respectively.

Four of the infantry divisions, the Scottish, Queen's, King's and Prince of Wales's, will each have two bands of 35; the Light will have a single, 49-strong band.

Of the remaining arms and corps, only the Royal Artillery will contain 49 bandmen and, for the first time, the Army Air Corps will have a band of 35.

Mr Hamilton said it had been considered "highly desirable" to ensure that a substantial link was maintained between an infantry or cavalry regiment and an allocated band.

"It is possible to do this while providing fewer bands overall, by allocating a number of bands to the Royal Armoured Corps, and to each of the divisions of the infantry.

"The precise way in which

● Turn to Page 7

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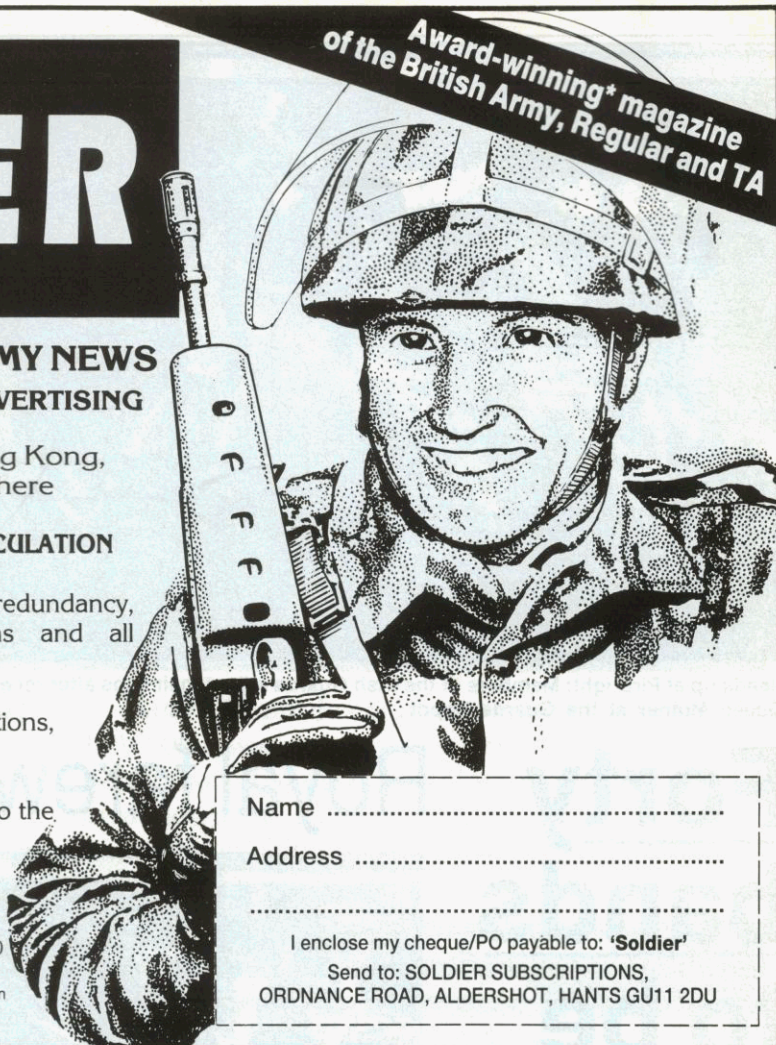
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New boots, combats unveiled

Pte Stephanie Hurst of the Training Battalion and Depot RAOC displays the British Army's new combat assault boot, part of the Combat Soldier '95 range of combat clothing which will enter service over the next two years.

She is wearing a Norwegian-style shirt under a camouflaged fur-pile liner which offers back-of-hand protection through an ingenious thumb loop cuff system.

Full details of the new kit, which includes a quick-drying, windproof field jacket, a stash-away Gore-Tex jacket and an inner contact glove that improves sense of touch, will appear in the next issue.

The clothing includes a quick-drying windproof field jacket and a camouflaged fleece jacket.



Soldier killed in Armagh

A SOLDIER serving in south Armagh has been killed by a sniper. LCpl Lawrence Dickson, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots was part of a joint Army-police patrol operating from Forkhill Security Force base.

LCpl Dickson, 26, from Inverness, was married with an 18-month-old daughter.

He was the fourth member of the Security Forces to be killed by a sniper in south Armagh since last August.

RAC contract

THE Royal Automobile Club has won a £1m two-year contract from the Ministry of Defence to provide a breakdown and recovery service for its UK-based Armed Forces vehicle fleet.

BANDS

● From Page 5

these bands will meet regimental needs will be determined in accordance with the wishes of the regiments within the infantry divisions and of the Royal Armoured Corps."

The operational role of bandmen as medics will remain unchanged.

"These arrangements will ensure that the traditional role of music in support of the regimental system will continue, and that the Army as a whole will enjoy the highest standard of musical support," said Mr Hamilton.

● SOLDIER record reviewer Lt Col (Retd) Rodney Bashford, a former Director of Music of the Grenadier Guards and Kneller Hall, commented: "Reactions from the military music world are of horror. Main concern is for morale among bandmen and their career structure.

"Fewer bandmasters will be needed and fewer bandmen, and as demand decreases, so may supply.

"The regiments themselves are most concerned because the regimental band is now a thing of the past. It can only be considered a great loss to all aspects of regimental life."



Soltau Burgermeister Herr Bargmann and Brig Tim Sullivan inspect soldiers of 207 (7th Armoured Brigade) Signal Squadron during the last Freedom of Soltau parade

Desert Rats leave Soltau

THE DESERT Rats left Soltau in style on February 24 after 43 years' service there.

Their departure was marked by the Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron exercising for the last time the right to march through the streets with flags flying, bayonets fixed and drums beating. The salute was taken by the commander, Brig

Tim Sullivan, who gave his farewell speech to the Stadt in German.

Arguably the most famous brigade in the British Army, the title and coveted symbol of the red jerboa (desert rat) was transferred from 7th Armoured Brigade, which now no longer exists, to 22 Armoured Brigade based in Hohne, on April 1.

Shelling

● From Page 3

Royal Navy Sea King helicopter to meet soldiers from 44 Field Support Squadron RE and others at Camp Redoubt near Tomislavgrad.

More than 300 British troops have been recalled from the Adriatic after spending two months aboard the RFA *Argus*, standing off Split to reinforce or extricate Army units in central Bosnia.

The force's 105mm Light Guns will remain on *Argus* which is to stay on station.

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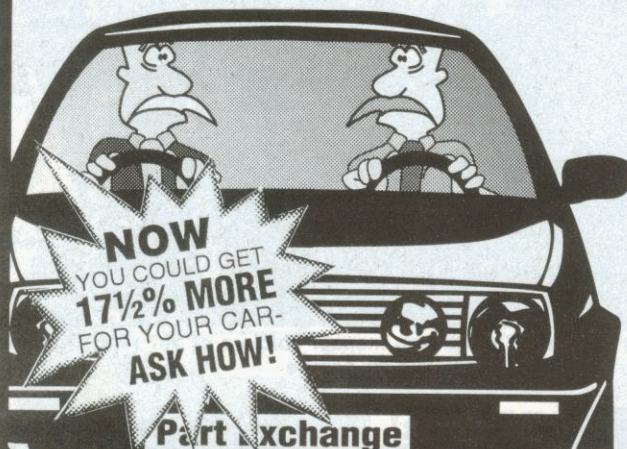
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Woofers exercise in Jordan

A VIDEO of low-level tactics demonstrated by the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters is being considered for inclusion in courses run by the Jordanian School of Infantry.

The video was made during a joint exercise with the 5th King Ali's Mechanized Battalion of the Jordanian Army during Exercise Saffron Sands south of the Jordanian capital, Amman.

The Jordanian hosts took a keen interest in the Woofers' operation, with up to 70 visitors turning up to watch them training.

The exercise was the culmination of six days' live firing, with each company spending two days on ranges for exercising ambush, advancing and assaulting drills, both by day and night.

The field firing ranges were planned by Maj John Cotterill with support from a troop of sappers commanded by Lt Stuart Browse from 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Recce Platoon undertook particularly interesting joint training with the 81st Special Forces Battalion, running its own exercise which involved being inserted 50km into the desert by two Gazelles of 16 Flight AAC, commanded by Maj Bob Crosby.

Recce also provided the enemy for a battalion attack, launched after a minefield breach by night.

An impressive firepower demonstration was laid on by Maj Andrew Cholerton.

Irish leeks!

LEEKs were more in evidence than shamrock at Ballykelly when Maj Ray Evans, Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, attached a St David's Day leek to the cap of Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Commander-in-Chief BAOR and a former battalion commander in the late 1970s.

Gen Guthrie distributed the traditional leeks to the guardsmen and families and presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.



Juggling figures: lottery manager Maj Adrian Cassie will give away a top prize of £2,000 each week

Cash in on a lottery logo

SOLDIERS will have a chance to make money out of the Army sport lottery even before it is launched in September – by designing a logo to promote the enterprise.

Prizes of £100, £50 and £25 are on offer for the three best ideas submitted to lottery manager Maj (Retd) Adrian Cassie by April 30.

Designs should incorporate the themes of "Army, sport and money", text should be kept to a minimum, and entries – serious or humorous – should be submitted in black ink on white A4 card or paper. The

logo should be recognisable when reduced to 5cm by 3cm.

Rank, name, initials, unit and address should be written on the reverse, and the entry submitted to Lottery Logo Competition, Army Sport Control Board, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG.

Winners will be announced in SOLDIER.

Maj Cassie, late RAPC, is a man with a mission – to make every officer and soldier in the British Army aware that the lottery will be up and running by September. He was appointed to manage it on

March 1 having taken voluntary redundancy just before Christmas.

Serving personnel will be able to buy a maximum of three 75p tickets, deducted at source, for the chance of winning a top weekly prize of £2,000 plus several other large cash amounts.

The self-supporting lottery will be based on Football League scores during the winter and County Championship cricket matches in the summer. Full instructions will be printed on each ticket and winners will be notified automatically during the week following.

It is hoped that the scheme, similar to one successfully introduced by the Royal Navy in 1991, will generate several hundred thousand pounds each year for Army sport and adventurous training. Money will be available in the form of grants at every level from unit teams to international competitors.

The lottery will reduce the burden of sport on Army Central Funds and the pressure on sponsors, currently contributing up to £250,000 a year.

D and D trekkers take high ground

FLEXIBILITY and patience helped eight members of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, based in Werl, when they succeeded in completing what is believed to be the first British Army expedition in Patagonia, southern Chile.

Led by Lt Simon Kelson, the highlight of the month-long expedition was a ten-day trek across the Torres Del Paine,

introducing soldiers to the trials of crossing high altitude and rugged terrain.

Meanwhile, six other members of the battalion, led by Lt Philip Allen, carried out a two-and-a-half-week, 150 km trek in the Himalayas. They carried their own kit rather than be limited by porters, and suffered bouts of acute mountain sickness because of the altitude and their exertions.

Picture: Mike Perring

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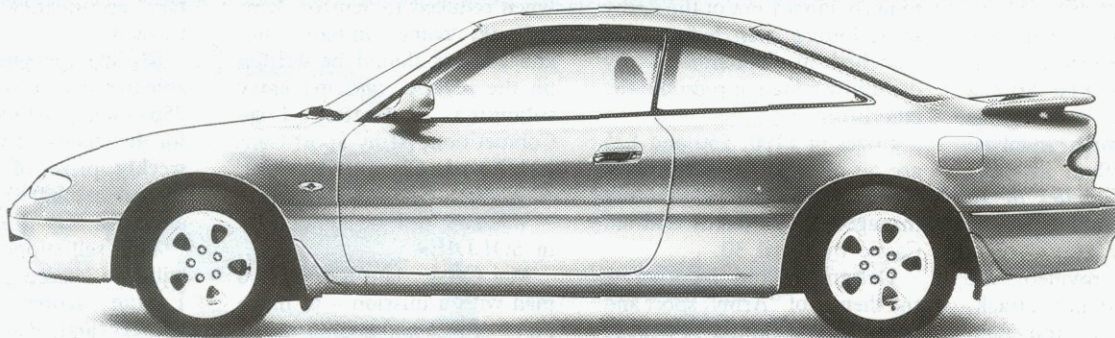
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IN BRIEF

Infantry brigade moves to Colchester

PAST commanders of 19 Infantry Brigade and its predecessor, 7 Field Force, attended the brigade's farewell parade at Colchester.

The brigade has been based in Colchester for 42 years and became 19 Mechanical Brigade in Catterick on April 1.

At the same time 24 Airmobile Brigade moved from Catterick to Colchester.

The Flying Dragons, the freefall parachute display team of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, leave this month for southern California, where they will spend six weeks.

During a routine inspection of a 16 Flight Gazelle at Dhekelia Cpl Mark Allford noticed movement in a bolt caused by three small fractures otherwise almost impossible to



Cpl Mark Allford REME

detect, but which could have led to a disastrous failure of the tail rotor mechanism. He has received a commendation from the Commander of Army Aviation.

Chinese dragon boat teams from the Regular Army, TA, UOTCs, Junior units, ACFs, and CCFs are invited to take part in the second Kineton challenge over 300 metres on June 13 at the Central Ammunition Depot.

Battery training warms snow-hit Hohne gunners

THE GUNNERS of 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at Hohne were too busy to be cold when snow storms hit the region.

Tackling the Field Battery Training Unit (FBTU) on Munster Sud ranges, for example, were members of 137 (Java) Battery.

A daunting trial even in normal conditions, the FBTU – which resembles a village – is designed to test the battery's operational role in a realistic environment.

Two VIPs witnessed the regiment's training activities.

Maj Gen Anthony Denison-Smith, GOC 4 Armoured Division, visited gun positions and forward observation parties as 38 and 137 Batteries exercised on Munster Sud.

Three weeks later, the Master Gunner, St James's Park, Gen Sir Martin Farndale, saw at first hand the Lowland Gunners' capability with high frequency radio nets. During his flying visit, he also presented WO2 Jim Clark, Sgt Roger Escott and Sgt Bill Johnson with Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

Taking a brief respite from

training exercises, members of 40 Regiment were delighted to provide an exhibit – a collection of badges which they wore during the Gulf War – to the German Army's Armed Forces museum in Rastatt.

And the chefs from 6/36, 38 and 137 Batteries were set the challenge of producing the most imaginative meal they could with standard rations. They were restricted to using only the equipment normally issued to a battery.

The 6/36 team, under the appropriately named Sgt Cook, won the competition.

RAC's last Catterick-trained recruits pass out



Maj Gen Robert Hayman-Joyce, DRAC, inspects some of those on the last passing out parade of RAC recruits at Catterick

THE LAST 18 recruits to pass out from the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment, currently the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, were inspected by Maj Gen Robert Hayman-Joyce, Director RAC, to mark the end of 45 years' basic RAC training at Catterick.

Some 21,000 recruits have completed their Phase One training there. New recruits now learn basic military skills at Winchester.

Phase Two training will continue at Catterick into 1994, when it will move to Bovington.

Teams need 18 paddlers facing forwards, one steerer and a drummer to keep time. Half the £50 entry fee will be donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

As one of the TA units attached to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) will hold a mini-Milan concentration at Otterburn in July which will involve four of the eight TA Milan platoons.

Formation parade of 78

(Fortress) Engineer Regiment (V) will take place on May 8 at Gibraltar Barracks and Hawley Lake, Minley.

The Army, in common with the other two Services, had a lower intake level from civvy street in the final quarter of last year – down by 34 per cent, in comparison with the Royal Navy (59 per cent) and RAF (66 per cent).

Total intake of male Army officers during October to December was 135 (292 in 1991); Servicemen 1,811 (2,542); female officers 23 (43); Servicewomen 178 (384).

The overall strength of the

Army also fell during the year: a total of 137,422 at January 1, 1993, down from 146,018 at the beginning of 1992.

Mock anti-tank attacks and troop landings by more than 30 Army Air Corps helicopters were part of Exercise African Eagle, which involved 9th Regiment AAC operating as an aviation battlegroup on Dartmoor in March.

Based in Dishforth as part of 24 Airmobile Brigade, the Lynx attack and Gazelle reconnaissance helicopters worked with infantry, air defence artillery and engineers' support.

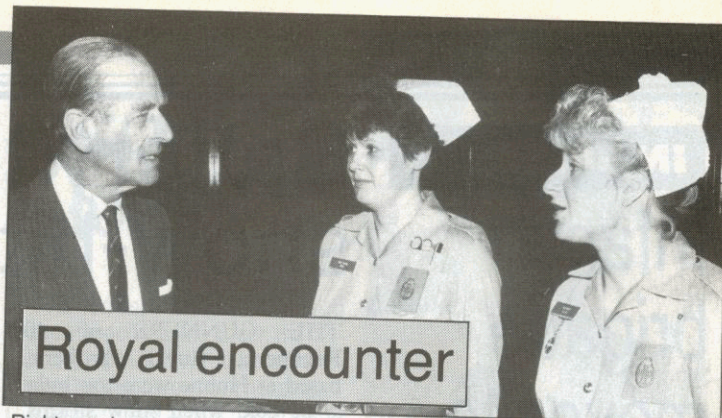


Name that train!

Maj Gen **David Botting** received a surprise when he attended the naming of a British Rail train at the Central Ammunition Depot at Kineton. Nobody told him there was a second train to name.

Gen Botting, Colonel Commandant RAOC, christened the BR train "Royal Army Ordnance Corps" in honour of the Corps, but was surprised when his wife was called forward to name an Army train in his honour. The "Major General D F E Botting CB CBE" will see service moving military supplies around the depot and be a permanent reminder of the last Colonel Commandant RAOC.

The BR train, a Class 47 locomotive, will be the third engine to bear the corps' name and will initially go into service on proving trials for the Channel Tunnel with BR's Central Services Sector.



Royal encounter

Right royal moment for QAs Sgt **Joyce Poole** (left) and LCpl **Maxine Baker**, both general nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, as they meet the **Duke of Edinburgh**. Joyce, who works with eye patients, and Maxine, from the oncology ward, were presented to Prince Philip when he visited the Victory Services Club in London.

Picture: Mike Perring



New secretary of the Council of Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Army Reserve Associations is Maj Gen **Andrew Evans**, who retired as GOC of the old Eastern District in June 1992. A former commander of The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, he also commanded 4th Armoured Brigade.



Family regiment

It was like home from home for Burnley soldier Pte **Darren North** (centre) when he joined the Berlin-based 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. Darren met his two uncles, Sgts **Bryan** (left) and **Graham North**, who are also serving with 1 QLR.

Darren's father **Alan** served with the regiment for 20 years before joining the Adjutant General's Corps, and his aunt **Linda** is married to a sergeant who also serves with the battalion in Berlin!



Models by appointment

National Army Museum secretary **Debbie Gerrard** admires models unveiled by **Peter Kingsland**, managing director of Hadencroft Limited of Sheffield who have been appointed official suppliers of model soldiers to the museum. The traditional scale, hand-painted, fine pewter miniatures include the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales in their uniforms as Colonels of the Foot Guards.

Picture: Mike Perring



Services... with a smile

Picture: LA(Phot) Wollie Wilkinson

They are a mixed bunch in 846 Naval Air Squadron, and they don't mind who knows it. As the berets and cap confirm, the pilots flying Sea King helicopters in support of Operation Grapple from HMS Ark Royal on station in the Adriatic include Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Army Air Corps, Royal Marine and US Marine Corps personnel. Lt Cdr **Nigel North**, squadron CO, is pictured in front of (from left) Capt **Jeff Niblett** RM, Capt **Carl Ingebrechtsen** USMC, Flt Lt **Mark Fisk** RAF, Capt **Neil Dalton** AAC, and Lt **Steve Richards** RM.

A GOOD OLD STICK!

It was a case of jolly hockey sticks when CSgt **Steve Bell** of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, was presented with a framed copy of his regimental colours certificate and an engraved hockey stick. The gifts marked his completion of 22 years' service with both the battalion (where he is in the regimental band) and 1 WFR's hockey squad. Steve's hockey career includes playing in the Army (Cyprus) team in the Inter-Services match last year at the tender age of 39.



Picture: Terry Champion



Picture: Mike Perring

These two happy chappies from Aldershot Garrison are WO2 (RQMS) **Dennis Adderley-Kay** RA (RQMS, Transit Coy) and Garrison Sgt Maj WO1 **Tony Cartwright**, Royal Signals, who had just been presented with a Meritorious Service Medal apiece. Qualifications for MSMs don't come too easily: recipients must hold a substantive sergeant rank at least, be in possession of a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, have 27 years' reckonable service (Dennis, pictured left, has 30, Tony 27) and, not least, have displayed "good, faithful, meritorious service and irreproachable conduct".

Men of merit

New Naafi director

Naafi's new Army director is Col **John Houchin**, former Commander Headquarters Support Command, JHQ, Rheindahlen. He takes over from Col **Barrie Harban** the role of liaising between Naafi and the Army.

Col Houchin sees one of his main priorities as: "Selling Naafi to the Army. Not enough soldiers are aware of the benefits they obtain from Naafi. The amount that individual units can earn in rebate is quite high, when people support their local shop and club. However, the sums received, and the use the money is put to, seldom receive the publicity that is deserved," he said.



Picture: Peterborough Evening Telegraph

A Service life for him? Sgt **Stephen Duffield** of the Peterborough Army Careers Information Office advises **Ross Ayres** of John Masefield School during a job roadshow to introduce pupils to different walks of life.

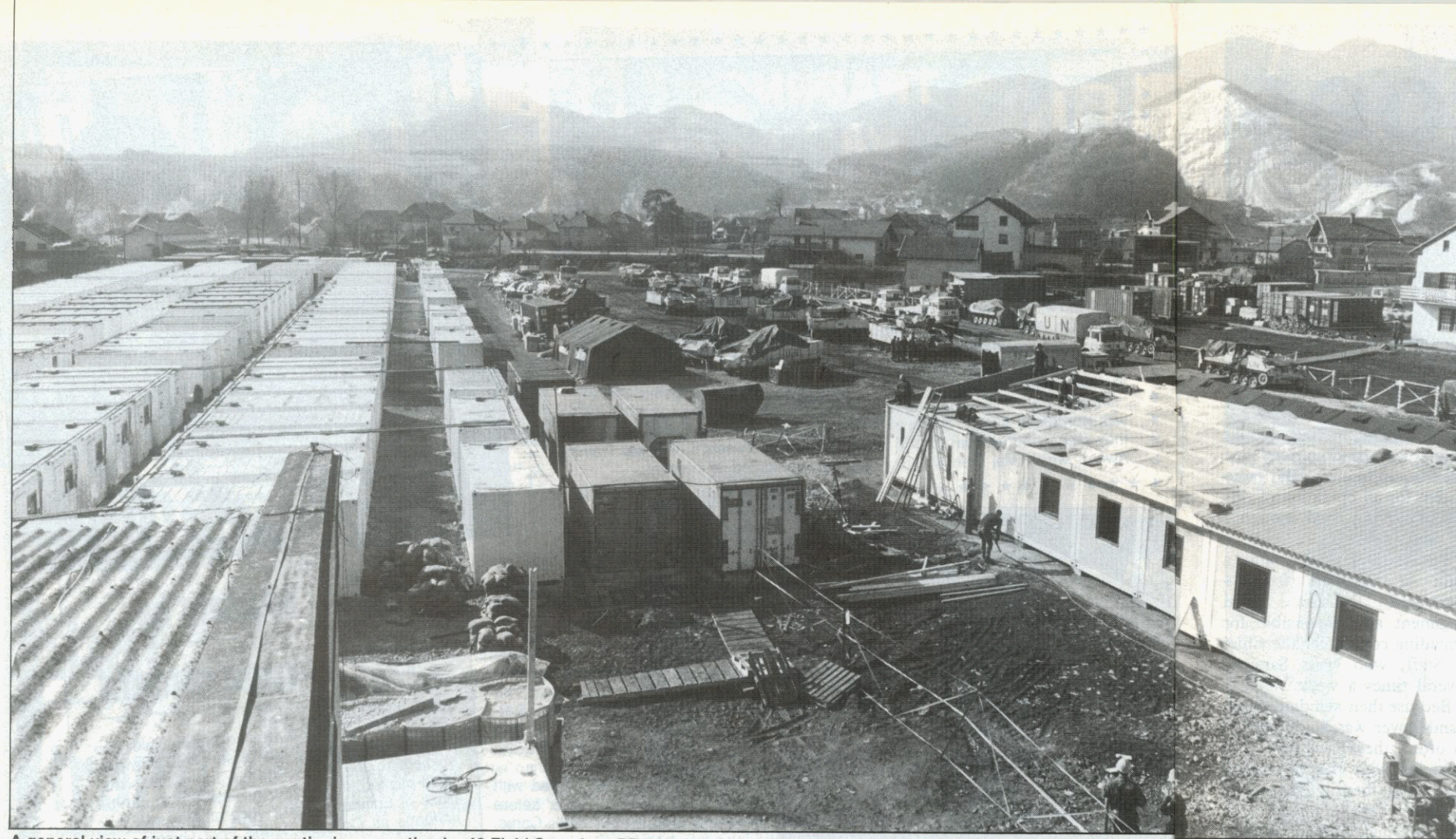
PEOPLE

Voice of the Gurkhas



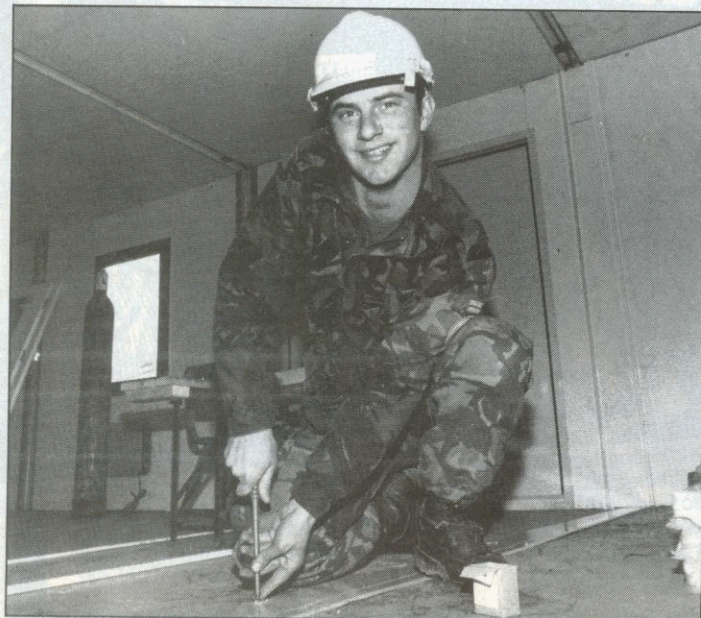
The world's best known Gurkha voice belongs to **Kishore Gurung**, network director of the British Forces Broadcasting Service Nepali Service at Borneo Lines, Hong Kong. Assisted by **Devi Limbu**, wife of Cpl **Sukraj Limbu** of the QGE, his friendly programmes keep Gurkhas throughout the world in touch with home.

Picture: Mike Perring



A general view of just part of the continuing operation by 42 Field Squadron RE to improve facilities at the Vitez base of the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group. To the left can be seen rows of accommodation units, toilets and showers. Right, under construction, is the new dining hall building which includes full kitchen facilities

Sappers lay on all mod cons for Grapple units



Spr Paul Green screws down another section of flooring

SAPPERS operating in support of the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group are having a particularly arduous tour of duty in central Bosnia.

More than 160 members of 42 Field Squadron of 35 Engineer Regiment are engaged in major construction projects to upgrade Britain's United Nations bases at Gornji Vakuf, Vitez and Tuzla.

Aim of the up-build operation is to improve facilities for troops serving in the region. At Vitez this includes replacing the original 400-man tented camp with a complex of portable buildings big enough to house 1,000 troops.

"So far, we have erected more than 100 accommodation huts and 26 shower and toilet units," said WO2 (SSM)

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Terry Champion

Tommy Henderson.

"We have also set up a bank of eight generators which power the site through an array of switch gear, and thousands of metres of cable, and the task of plumbing in water supplies, storage tanks, drainage and sewage has now been completed," he said.

As if all that were not enough, the sappers have a continuing commitment to provide engineer support to humanitarian aid convoys.

This can involve the removal of road blocks and mine clearance. Eight wooden bridges have had to be rebuilt to improve mobility and the

road routes require constant repair and upgrading.

One particular success story involved the hardening of defensive positions around the base using Concertainer Bastions, a new construction system designed to replace conventional sandbagged emplacements. It was first used by the Army in the Gulf during Operation Granby.

Said SSgt Bos Boswell: "The system is very good and very quick. We just pull it out and fill it with hardcore and sand using plant equipment."

Two other major projects completed by the squadron involved the construction with the RAOC of a 600,000-litre bulk fuel installation and the building of a hospital for the

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Battered media turn to MST Bravo medics

MORE than 100 patients have been treated by MST Bravo, the medical support team deployed with the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group. The team has carried out 28 surgical operations.

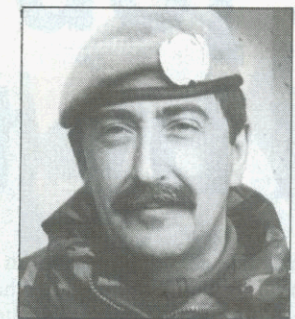
Commanded by Capt Kevin Griffin, the MST provides a forward resuscitation and surgical facility at Vitez for British troops. Another two medics are based at Tuzla with the detached infantry company stationed there.

"The road to Tuzla is quite horrendous and it can take up to 14 hours to drive back,"

explained the team's senior nurse, Capt Pete Ordway.

"We have treated quite a number of journalists, including members of a Reuters team injured in a mine explosion, but mostly bumps and scrapes sustained as a result of media vehicles going into ditches."

The 29-strong unit, based on a permanent cadre from 22



Capt Pete Ordway is senior nurse and 2IC of MST Bravo

Field Hospital at Aldershot, has drawn its surgical staff and some of its nurses from Army hospitals at Catterick, Woolwich and Aldershot.

Medical Support Team Bravo has an additional section from 1

Armoured Field Ambulance equipped with ambulance variants of the FV432 armoured personnel carrier.



A Concertainer Bastions wall provides protection for the new military hospital at Vitez manned by these medics from MST Bravo. Pictured are Cpls Dave Hutton and Steve Astles, LCpls Mark Rees and Sharon Gregory, Sgt Rick Bowman RAF and RCT ambulance driver LCpl Dickie Field

Command HQ does the job – but not by telephone!

SUPPORT TO the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) humanitarian relief operation in the former Yugoslavia is the responsibility of UNPROFOR's Bosnia and Herzegovina Command (BHC).

Its main headquarters is located 15 miles west of

Sarajevo in the town of Kiseljak, where more than 60 British soldiers ranging from brigadier to private soldier are based.

BHC's French commander, Maj Gen Philippe Morillon, works with a minimal staff in his forward headquarters in Sarajevo, leaving his British

Chief of Staff, Brig Roderick Cordy-Simpson, effectively in charge of BHC's operations at Kiseljak.

Not only is the brigadier responsible for co-ordinating military staff efforts in support of UNHCR, but he has also been chairman of the mixed military working group which brings together the commanders of the three warring factions.

"The group aims to achieve a lowering of the tension. Our mandate is escorting humanitarian aid convoys and not peacemaking, but the level of tension in this country is so violent that unless we try and lower it we will never get aid through," said Brig Cordy-Simpson.

Since the Command was established, the level of aid being delivered throughout the country has risen to 1,500 tonnes per day.

"Thanks to our efforts, the warehouses in Sarajevo are full and the bakery is now producing 120,000 loaves each day compared with 20,000 before we arrived.

"But the city is full of people busy killing each other. It's like a medieval siege."

Despite the success of the operation, the headquarters has faced problems.

Most of the staff came from Nato's Northern Army Group headquarters at Rheindahlen, with the Command being funded by contributing nations to Bosnia and Herzegovina Command rather than through normal UN channels.

The resulting pool of money pays for everything from food to transport and communications, but according to Brig Cordy-Simpson the money has been slow in coming and there have been moments of severe financial crisis in the headquarters.

"However, the greatest single difficulty is communications. There are no working telephones in our area and, quite

simply, our headquarters' one satellite and one HF radio system for an operation of this size is just not good enough," he said.

Sgt Mark Hayward and a team of signallers from 4 Armoured Division Signal Regiment are responsible for providing comms for the Chief of Staff, who visits Sarajevo several times a week.

Because their standard Army Land-Rover was being shot at so often, they have now been provided with the very latest model, a heavily armoured "snatch" vehicle of the type just entering service in Northern Ireland.

The headquarters G1 section administers personnel matters including pay, notification of casualties and organising the all-important R and R (rest and recuperation) leave. It also provides dates of service for British personnel qualifying for a United Nations medal.

"All soldiers who serve as part of UNPROFOR's Bosnia and Herzegovina Command for 90 days or more qualify for the UNPROFOR medal awarded for service in the former Yugoslavia," explained Maj Bob Prophet, WFR.

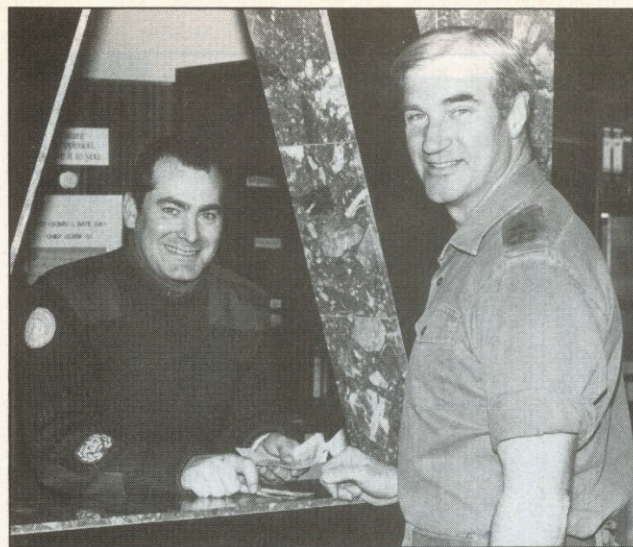
"Those of us who came out last autumn have just been presented with medals, but we still await the Queen's authority to wear it."

Majors Andy Griffiths, Staffords and Paul Edwards, Int Corps run the MILINFO (military information) section.

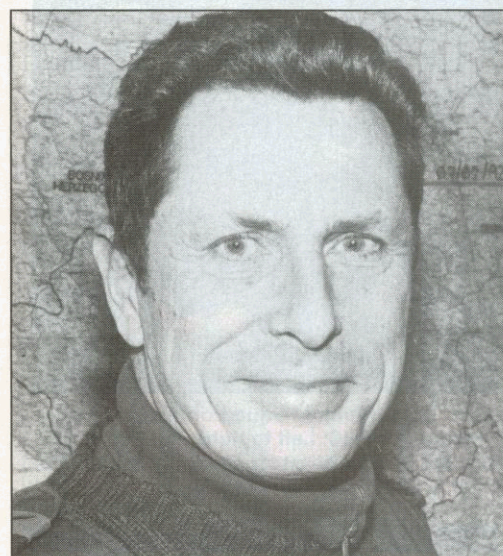
In this non-conflict situation, MILINFO is a euphemism for Intelligence, but the section uses the information received for peaceful purposes.

It helps predict where trouble spots might occur, so preventing humanitarian aid convoys from blundering into a pitched battle.

Said Maj Griffiths: "The main difficulty is the unpredictability of the warring factions. Their command and control structure is weak and while the



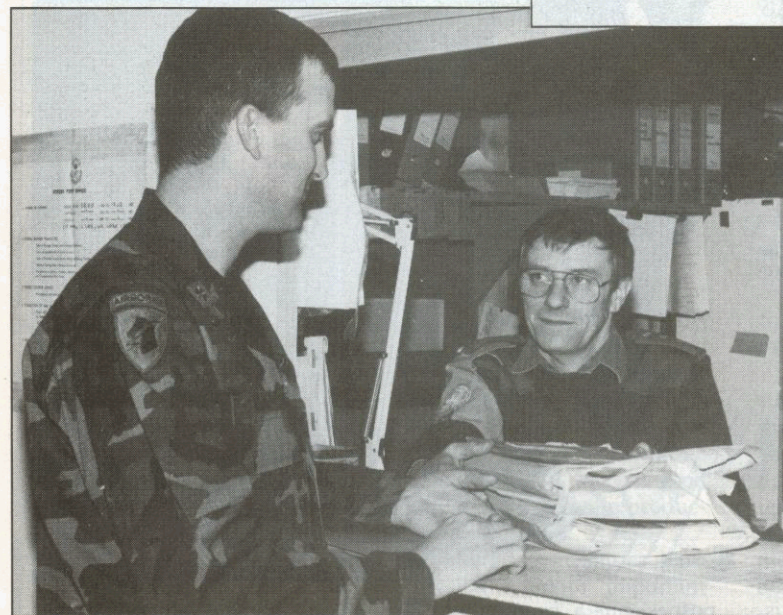
The G1 Chief Clerk, WO2 (SQMS) Les Bate (left), changes currency for Maj Bob Prophet



Brig Roderick Cordy-Simpson

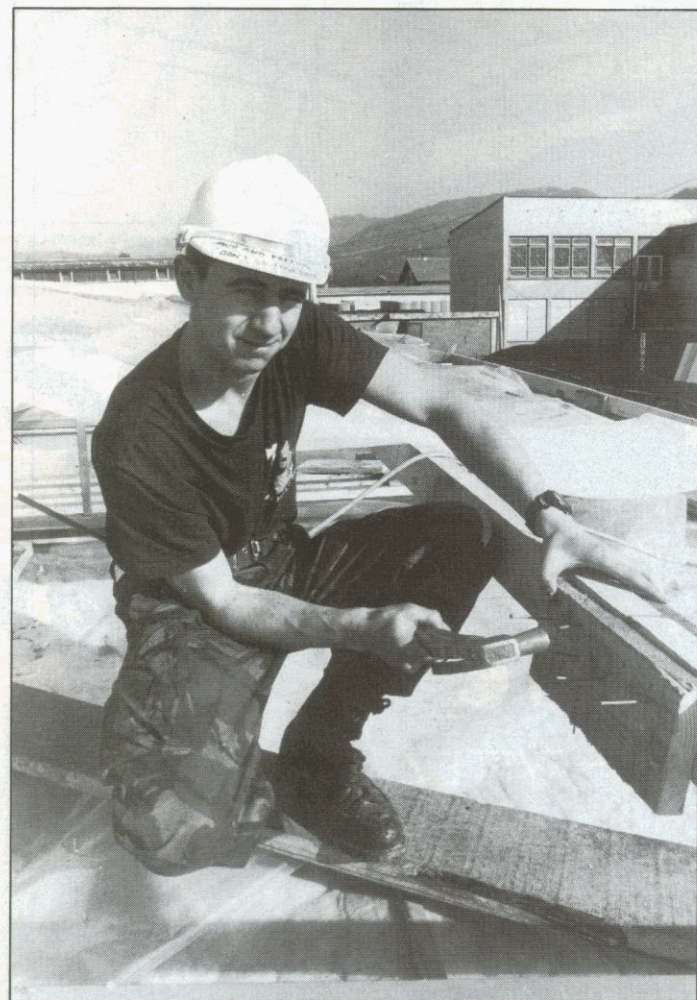


Pictured with their armoured Land-Rover are three signallers from 4 Armoured Division Signal Regiment who provide comms for Brig Cordy-Simpson. Left to right: Sig Lee Williams, Sgt Mark Hayward and Cpl 'Nige' Kerr



Above – Maj Mike Clay, US Army (left) collects his mail from Capt Ted Ryan of 14 Postal and Courier Squadron Royal Engineers

Right – Maj Paul Edwards and Maj Andy Griffiths interpret intelligence at the military information section, MILINFO



After laying loft insulation, Spr Jase Kitchen helps fit a room to a new building at Vitez

All mod cons

● From Page 15

battalion group's medical support team. The latter offers full surgical facilities and took just six days to erect.

Sappers from 35 Engineer Regiment's three squadrons in

Bosnia are currently being replaced by Nienburg-based 21 Engineer Regiment's 1 Field Squadron and 45 Support Squadron, accompanied by 522 Specialist Team Royal Engineers.

commanders say one thing, the forces on the ground will do something entirely different.

"The fact that their organisation doesn't reflect the norm also creates difficulties. A British brigade would normally

be 5,000 strong, but a 'warring faction' version has a strength of fewer than 300 men."

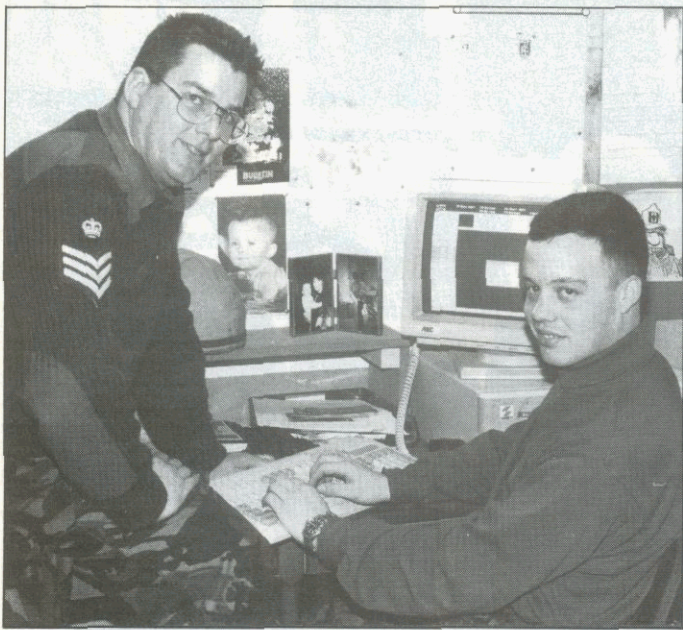
A small Royal Engineers geographic group headed by Maj Steve Anderson supports BHC by supplying all maps

within the command with stocks held at Kiseljak, Zagreb and Split.

It also provides BHC with computer graphics and is responsible for reproducing its vital tactical maps.

"The maps are overprinted with information such as ethnic groupings and tactical situation summaries showing the hot-spots and routes. We produce ten different types each week,"

● Turn to next page



Above – SSgt Terry Maguire and Cpl H Herron co-ordinate logistic support

Right – Sgt Chris Vale displays his UNPROFOR medal. The Queen's authority is being awaited before soldiers may wear the medal



14 Independent Topographical Squadron RE provides a geographic section for BHC. Left to right: Cpl Paul Black, Spr Stu Tillyer, Maj Steve Anderson, Cpl Andy Rudd, LCpl Richard Collier and Sgt Graham Caisley



Above – Maj George Tomlin in G3 Operations helps marry-up aid convoys and escorts

Right – Pte Gary Tyson, AG Corps (right) works closely with French NCO Nadia Flesch and a European Community monitor



Command HQ

● From Page 17

said Maj Anderson.

Morale of the troops receives a major boost when letters from home arrive in theatre.

Capt Ted Ryan runs a multinational forces post office at Kiseljak staffed by British, French, Canadian and Belgian posties.

"We all had to learn each

other's systems, but ours is proving the best. Several nations are using the British system which seems to get the mail through faster than the UN international mail box.

"Mail from Germany takes two days to arrive, while that from the United Kingdom takes just a day or two longer," said Capt Ryan.

Working in the forces post office is no soft option. The

posties run a gauntlet of fire twice daily to collect mail from Sarajevo airport.

Probably the most hectic section at headquarters is G3 Operations, which has the responsibility of controlling what is happening on the ground. The section organises the running of convoys into Sarajevo and eastern Bosnia and has to monitor their progress and protection, ensur-

ing escorts and vehicles link up.

"We also pass them details of shelling on the routes. Unfortunately, it's very unpredictable. A road can be quiet one minute and subject to an enormous artillery barrage the next," explained Maj George Tomlin, R Anglian.

Britain also provides REME mechanics and RCT drivers for a multinational workshop and transport section.

Nessie: We publish secret SAS picture

SOLDIER was given special permission just before going to press to publish this dramatic underwater photograph, which was among a selection posted to the magazine to accompany the report of an underwater adventurous training expedition to Loch Ness.

The pictures were apparently sent to the magazine by mistake. An officer who took part in the expedition telephoned us as soon as the error was discovered asking us to take no action until he called with the set of pictures intended for publication, which had inadvertently been switched with the others after he had been involved in an accident in his Range Rover.

Realising the news value of the photographs, SOLDIER pleaded with the officer and after considerable negotiation the magazine was allowed to retain the one published here – but only because he said he was confident it was not good enough for quality reproduction.

Subsequent inquiries have revealed a more important factor: the diver in the foreground cannot be identified. All the other pictures showed obviously elated expedition members facing the camera with their thumbs up, and the huge four-flipped creature, partly obscured by them, disappearing into the murky background.

The author of the article had described a fairly routine

A four-flipped creature can be seen swimming away from one SAS diver. The photograph was “snapped” on secret new equipment being trialled in the loch

multi-cap badge expedition, led by Royal Engineers, which dived in the waters of Loch Ness last summer. The typed captions had been intended to accompany group photographs taken on the shores of the loch. Written underneath in longhand was the plea: “Will one of these make the front cover?”

However, our inquiries suggest that the expedition was partly used by the SAS and the Royal Marines’ Special Boat Section (SBS) to test revolutionary photographic and ultrasonic equipment on behalf of a British defence contractor.

The equipment is believed to include a camera which can take clear photographs even in the murkiest water.

A surprised spokesman for the contractor, who asked us not to name him or his company, said: “Basically, we needed to test some new kit in fairly deep water and asked the MoD if they would like to help. The Army happened to

be about to do this routine training in Loch Ness and it seemed ideal.

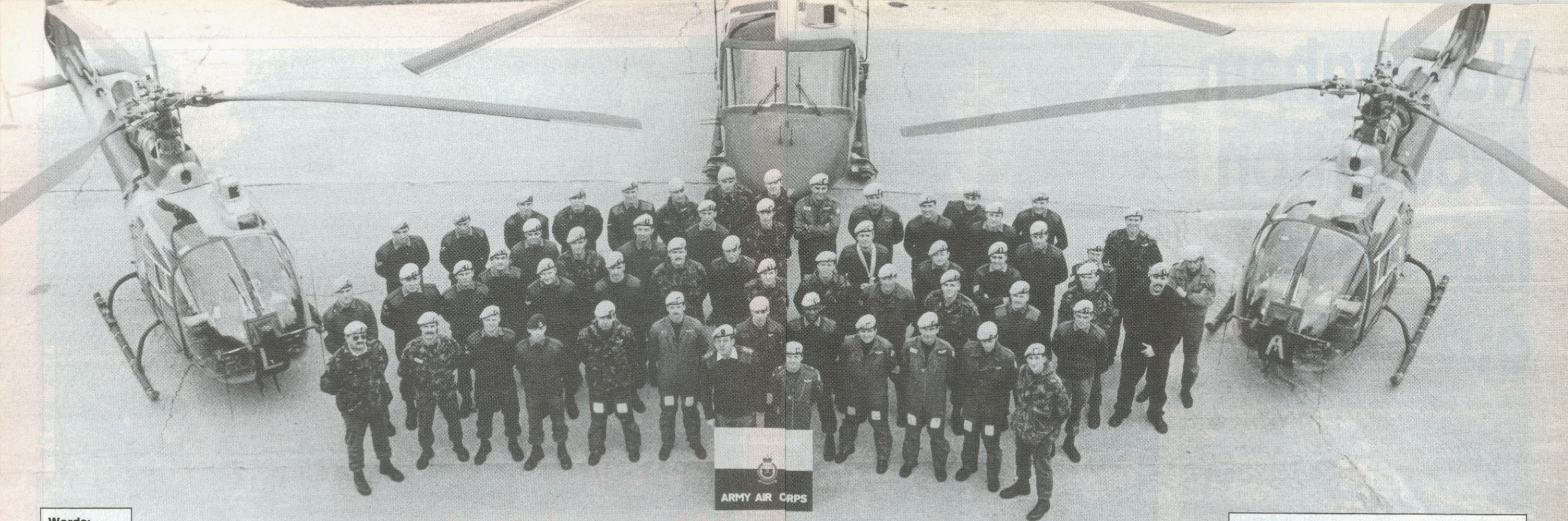
“The whole thing seems to have snowballed from there, with various other outfits coming in on the act, but I’m afraid I can’t comment on that side of things.

“Somebody said early on that if we could use this kit to prove once and for all that there is no such thing as the Loch Ness Monster, it might be a nice bonus and result in some good publicity.

“I feel rather foolish because I did not know about this sighting – and certainly had not been told about these photographs. Someone must have been trying to keep this very quiet.”

Normally, SOLDIER would decline to report an event which took place so long ago, but in this case we make an exception – if only because it gives us the chance to publish exclusively what appears to be one of the best pictures of Nessie ever taken.





Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Perring

Members of 656 Squadron, AAC, including the REME LAD, pose with some of their hardware for a jubilee picture – taken, incidentally from the roof of their soon-to-be-renovated 80-year-old hangar

Golden day for 656 Squadron

FROM BURMA to Dishforth, via Netheravon and various points east.

That, in a nutshell, will bring the history of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, up to date by the time its flag is hoisted at its new Yorkshire base on January 1 next year.

In the half century – and hundreds of thousands of flying hours – between, this justifiably proud outfit has seen action in Borneo, Hong Kong and the Falklands, to name only some of its operational areas.

What is more, along the route, members of the squadron have been awarded 22 DFCs and seven DFMs.

"656 is unique in two ways," said squadron commander, Maj Gary Coward. "No other AAC squadron has a formal association of Old Comrades: ours currently has more than 250 members."

Also, he said, although

almost every other squadron had been disbanded after the war for several years, 656, because it had been based in the Far East, could boast a continuous record in that area right up to its involvement in security operations against illegal Chinese immigrants in Hong Kong in 1973.

A large number of the Old Comrades – 100 of whom served in the early days before 1950, according to Maj Coward – were expected to turn out for a memorable golden jubilee occasion at the squadron's base at Netheravon, Wiltshire on March 27.

In celebration of 50 years' distinguished service, the serving squadron was due to parade in front of inspecting officer Gen Sir John Learmont, Colonel Commandant of the AAC, accompanied by the Royal Artillery Band.

A flypast of Auster, Beaver, Sioux, Scout and current

squadron aircraft was planned in a programme which included prayers of remembrance and thanksgiving, and the laying of two wreaths: one to be transferred to the squadron's memorial at Nether Wallop, the other to the memorial at Kluang in Malaysia, to commemorate members of the squadron who died there.

The present-day 656 Squadron numbers around 100 men, consisting of 60 aviators from various regiments and a 40-strong REME light aid detachment (LAD), using and maintaining a total of six Gazelle and six Lynx/TOW helicopters.

At the end of the year, the squadron moves to Dishforth to join 9 Regt AAC in support of 3 (UK) Division, the Army's new UK-based rapid response strategic formation.



In the transitional period, however, the rotor blades of 656's "flying chicken legs" – as the Gazelles are somewhat irreverently called – and Lynxes have not exactly been inactive.

Exercises in Canada and Denmark and support for troops in Northern Ireland, together with aircraft detachments in Belize and Kenya, have kept the squadron fully occupied.

And in July, two Lynxes are

due to fly to northern Italy to participate in an exchange exercise.

"Our immediate focus, though, apart from supporting troops in Northern Ireland and Kenya, is preparation for our annual firing," said Maj Coward, a former gunner.

"We are improving our night flying goggle capability, flying twice a week locally in winter when the weather is suitable, but we need to practise a lot more with the goggles."

Since other organisations such as the local flying school also needed the air space, 656 tried to move further afield as much as possible, he explained.



Maj Gary Coward, 656 Squadron commander

"The Mull of Kintyre, where there are very high winds, lots of trees and, most importantly, long hours of darkness during the winter, is an ideal location," Maj Coward said.

"Nightwork for our aviators is a priority. Some have 6,000 flying hours to their credit – but only about eight on night aviation goggles. I have notched up 2,000 flying hours, but a mere 20 on goggles."

At the end of this year, the squadron will be fully night-capable when its Mark I Lynx, which currently has only an optical targeting system, is replaced by the Mark 7, replete with composite rotor blades

and thermal imaging sight.

None of the squadron's machines, Maj Coward acknowledged, could get off the ground without the teams of maintainers and ground crew who, working through the night if necessary, prepare the aircraft for the following day.

REME LAD's Capt Andy Thornton told SOLDIER: "We are fully integrated with the squadron, operating on a crew system of 12 on, 12 off."

"For every flying hour on a Lynx, there are nine maintenance man-hours, although there are less with a Gazelle."

"There is also an RAOC chap with us who controls the supply of spares – a very important part of the operation – and, apart from maintaining the helicopters, there is an emphasis on maintaining the ground support equipment such as hydraulic testing rigs."

All this and a contribution to the squadron's trophy cup-

board as well: a current Army angling champion and the Army gliding champion come from the LAD at the base.

Just another facet of 656, of whom Squadron Sgt Maj Ken Footman, who served in Northern Ireland and Germany before starting at Netheravon in July last year, said: "It's the first squadron I have been to with this amount of history. When I have been with other units I have thought they were unique – but I wouldn't swap this bunch of lads."

Gary Coward, adjutant of the squadron when he was previously at Netheravon in 1985, admitted that he will have mixed feelings when he leaves 656 later in the year, on promotion.

He also made another admission: he wished that the Army had more helicopters than horses.

Of course, he may have been biased . . .

Nottingham production line irons out SA 80

THE SMALL BOY pointed excitedly to the 105mm light gun on display at the entrance to Earls Court, as he hurried in to see the Royal Tournament.

"My dad made that," he proudly told the warrant officer on duty.

A fatal remark, as Ken Malia, the father in question, and based at the time at the Nottingham Small Arms Factory, told SOLDIER.

"The chap then spent the next ten minutes explaining to me in great detail exactly what he felt was wrong with the gun," he said.

Ken, however, proved more than equal in championing the product.

Now, as general manager of Nottingham-based Heckler & Koch (UK), he waxes lyrical about another piece of hardware, while at the same time acknowledging its sometimes troubled history: the British Army's standard personal weapon, the SA 80.

"A number of people will tell you that the SA 80 is not a very good weapon, and my view is that there was some validity in that," Ken Malia pointed out.

"It initially went literally straight from development of a design drawing into production, and that is how many of the early shortcomings arose.

"But at this facility nowadays, the design guy sits next to the manufacturing guy in the same office. This means that any arguing is done on the CAD (computer aided design) terminal before anyone starts cutting metal."

Formerly known as the Nottingham Small Arms Facility (NSAF) – itself the result of

the Enfield factory's move to the city in 1988 – Heckler & Koch (UK) came into being on January 1 following restructuring within NSAF.

The company now acts as the UK production facility of the famous German firm of small arms manufacturers, purchased in 1991 by Royal Ordnance.

"There was some logic in bringing the Enfield set-up here, alongside Royal Ordnance's heavy and large guns factory," said Ken Malia – one-time chief accountant at Enfield before returning to the small arms side of the house.

"We closed a 35-acre site there, where more than 230 components for the SA 80 were made, and brought the factory into a two-acre site here at Nottingham, where we manufacture only about 15 components – the other parts being made elsewhere in the UK by specialists."

But those 15 components, Ken Malia said, are the ones which are strategically important and of high technical value in enabling the company to maintain a competitive position in the market.

The factory is currently reaching the end of the MoD contract for 330,000 SA 80s, which started production in 1986 at Enfield, when the changeover from the SLR weapon was instigated.

"I have no hesitation in saying that in the early days there were justifiable criticisms of the SA 80," said Ken Malia.

"It was basically designed by committee, with scientists, project managers – everyone but the manufacturers – throwing ideas into the pot."

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Above – Ken Malia with the first-ever SA 80

Right – The range personnel, who between them have a total of 87 years' Regular and TA service. Manager Bob Reid (right) is holding a left-handed development weapon which dates back to the Enfield era



But during the latter part of the 1980s, a combination of Royal Ordnance engineers and MoD representatives had resolved these problems.

"The change from gun-maker to engineering components manufacturer, using sophisticated machine tools and process controls, has allowed our workers to produce components that are right first time."

The well-lit shop floor is unashamedly based on the "flowline" system of car factories, where material comes in through one door and ends up as a finished product at the other end.

An SA 80 starts life as a piece of raw material in the factory's barrel line cell. A hole is drilled down the middle and a tapered profile – in contrast to the parallel lines favoured by most manufacturers – is turned.

Scratches are removed from the barrel – "there is a 10 per cent drop-out through scratches these days instead of the previous figure of 50 per cent," said cell controller Shaun Jones

– and the final form, including rifling, is hammered into the barrel. Lastly, in the one traditional element of the gun-maker which remains, it is then straightened by hand.

Now starting to take shape, the SA 80 has its breech block and firing pin made in the cylindrical parts manufacturing cell.

Unlike the Enfield era, where it would have taken half a day to complete the manufacturing cycle, using several machines, the SA 80 block is now fed in as a bar and the turning, drilling and sawing operations are all carried out on one machine in eight minutes.

The flexibility of the machine is vital for the company's future, Ken Malia said.

Not only will spare SA 80 firing pins be a major order but, by changing tools, it could be programmed to make firing pins for Heckler & Koch's other weapons as well.

Another area where the process has been dramatically streamlined is the prismatic



Above – Sharp-shooter Sgt Chris Hazlehurst, who manages to fit in a spot of quality control in between championships

Right – Sandy Pollard (left) and Linda Greenhalgh making final checks to the latest batch of SA 80s



component cell, where the SA 80 carrier undergoes electrochemical de-burring.

Using a salt solution, all the burrs – which could seriously harm the effectiveness of the weapon – are removed at the rate of eight per hour per machine.

Painting, phosphating and chrome plating are carried out in the automated process area.

Chrome plating of each barrel is a vital part of the operation: without it, the life of the weapon would be rapidly reduced.

The guns are put together in two halves: body and barrel assembly and trigger mechanism housing, with a production capability of up to 2,000 weapons a week if necessary.

"Each assembly worker builds a sub-assembly of the SA 80," said assembly cell controller Kevin Abley.

"The maximum number of components is about a dozen, so they get to know them almost with their eyes shut. The operators are totally responsible for their own work

and carry out their own inspection."

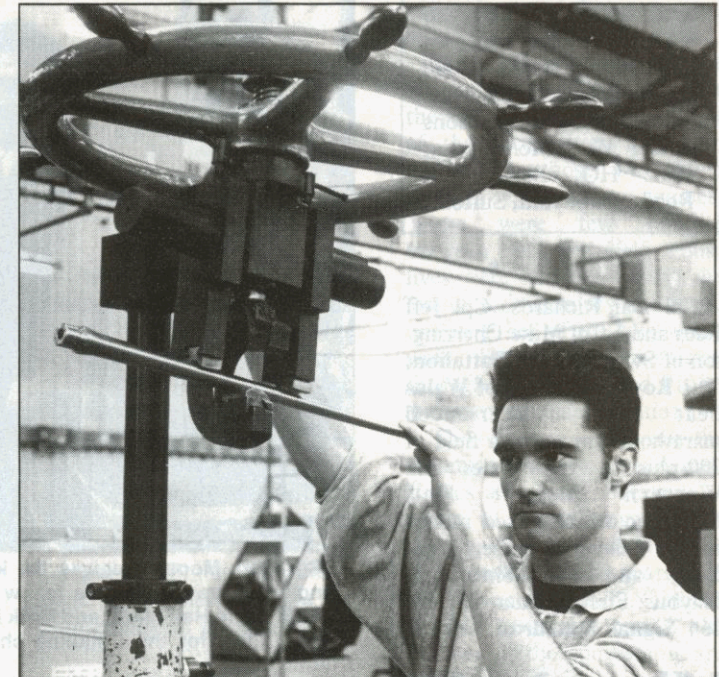
Only when everyone is satisfied that all the components are working efficiently are the two halves put together and a serial number stamped on the weapon.

An automatic conveyor then carries the SA 80s to the factory's underground range, housed in an old air raid shelter.

There, under the supervision of manager Bob Reid, a former WO1 (ASM) with REME, and his team of six examiners, the weapons are tested for accuracy on machines which "see" the bullets arrive and "hear" the shots go off, then give an on-screen summary.

"Last year, we shot 1.7 million rounds of ammunition," said Bob, five of whose team are in the Territorial Army and are well used to using the SA 80 at weekends.

After a complete clean-out of the working parts of the weapon – since 20 rounds will by now have been fired – and the application of a hand guard,



Straight and narrow? Sean Brady using a barrel-straightening press to ensure that the SA 80's bore is true

the pristine product is almost ready to be dispatched to Central Ordnance Depot in Donnington.

But not before a random check has been carried out by one of the quality inspectors.

"We inspect four weapons out of every batch of 20," said Sgt Chris Hazlehurst, REME, attached to the 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment – and battalion and brigade small bore top shot.

"If a fault is found in any batch, all 20 are checked. But that is the exception rather than the rule: I think the SA 80 is a damned good weapon, it is accurate and boosts confidence."

With production of the 7.62 chain gun – fitted on Warriors

currently in the former Yugoslavia – a spotting rifle for the Law anti-tank missile and a GPMG barrel being made using a new hammering process, MoD contracts for the company are healthy.

Add to that "at least another 20 years or so of SA 80 spares requirements" and overseas contracts in the pipeline for countries as diverse as Ghana and Jamaica, not to mention the manufacturing capacity being installed to take on Heckler & Koch products, and the future looks bright for Ken Malia's 380 employees.

After all, he said, whatever happens, be it war, peace, or Options for Change, the one thing that a soldier will always need is a personal weapon.

Sappers go to work in Romania

ROMANIA has again been the target of welcome attention by sappers keen to provide practical help.

After seeing a notice in squadron orders Sgt Rick Tootle of 39 Engineer Regiment at Waterbeach enlisted colleagues to help raise £800 to send him and his wife, Corinne,

to join a team working at an orphanage.

Before disbanding in April, 23 Engineer Regiment in Osnabrück made its mark on Romania when 47 tradesmen and combat engineers from 73 Field Squadron carried out four civil aid projects. They converted a school to a self-

contained base for 50 relief workers, constructed two laboratories in a secondary school, repaired one orphanage and installed ablutions in a second orphanage.

The squadron's OC, Maj Nigel Holland, decided on the project after previous contact with relief work in Romania.

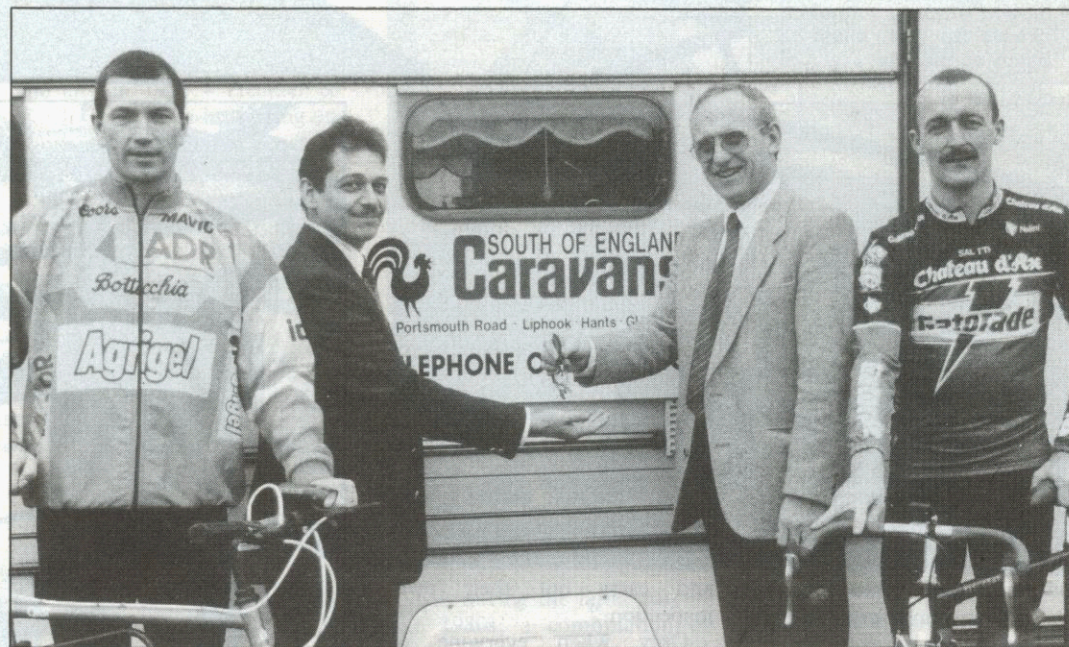


Cpl Jono Johnston, 73 Fd Sqn, at work in Romania

Southwold Reydon Branch of the Royal British Legion wants units and ex-Servicemen to support a fun run on August 1 to raise £1,000 for Christmas food parcels. The contact is pensions officer Mr J McMillan at RBL HQ, Black Mill Road, Southwold, Suffolk.

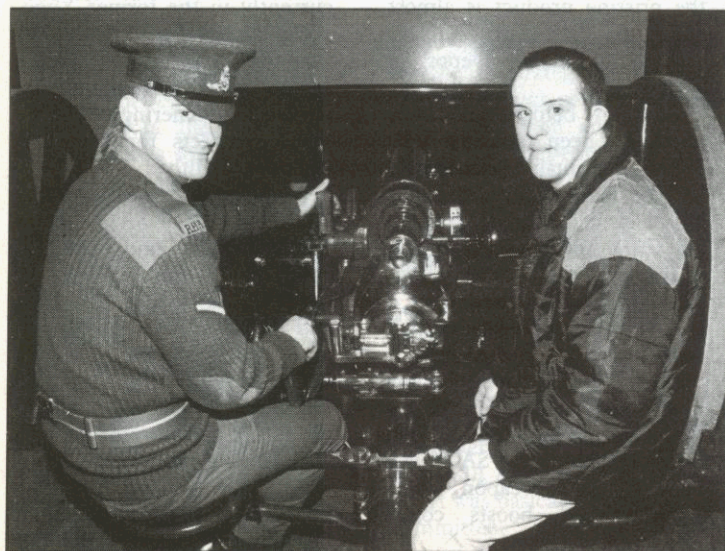
★ ★ ★

Cpl Dai Richards, Cpl Jeff Rees and LCpl Mike Cherrington of Swansea's 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales beat many experienced marathon runners in a field of 200-plus at the Wales and Western District Half Marathon which raised money for St Giles's Hospice, Lichfield, and the Shropshire Playbus. First Regular unit was 264 Signal Squadron.



SSgt Mark Moosa receives the keys to a support caravan from Mr Jeffrey Southwick of South of England Caravans before fellow members of the Adjutant General's Corps Centre, Worthy Down, SSgts David Haith (left) and Mark Huttley, cycled from Land's End to John o'Groat's. They raised more than £1,000 for the Childline charity

King's Troop lays on a treat



Picture: Mike Perring

LBdr Jon Dade, Royal Horse Artillery, shows Andrew Cook the firing mechanism of a 13-pounder field gun.

Andrew was one of a group of disabled and handicapped people who travelled from Nuneaton to be guests of The King's Troop at St John's Wood for the day.

Organised by RSM Rob Holland of the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Bramcote Barracks, Nuneaton, and Ron Starkey of Riding for the Disabled, the visit, which included a tour of the stables and farriery, was a great success, culminating in the presentation of a silver horseshoe to WO2 (QMS) AC Dennis Norris, Chief Clerk, King's Troop.

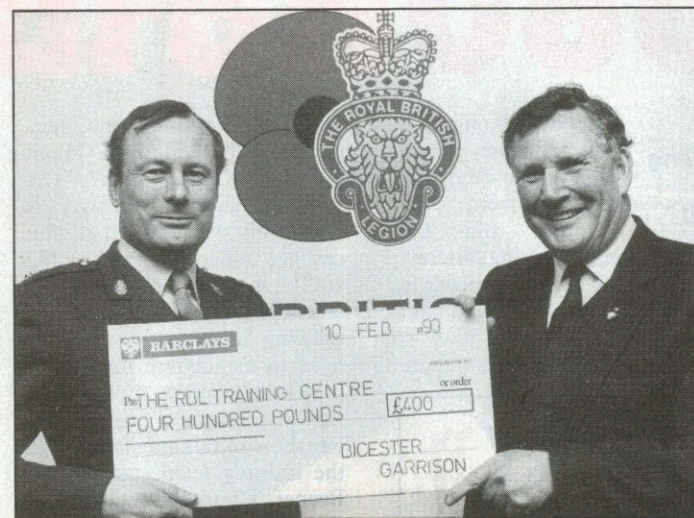
The Scots Guards Regimental Information Team is on the ball. It expects to hit 4,000 golf balls in six hours to raise money to enable handicapped pupils of Drumpark School, Edinburgh, to go to Euro Disney.

★ ★ ★

Before leaving Duisburg, 3 Armoured Division Transport Regiment's voluntary SSAFA committee cleared its bank book by making substantial donations to SSAFA's Homeward Bound Project and Dusseldorf Station SSAFA. The balance will go to a new SSAFA fund-raising committee to be established at the regiment's new home at Abingdon.



Man – and woman – power from A Company, 1st Battalion, The Wessex Volunteers, raised £1,151 for the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital... by tugging a 4-ton truck and 120mm Wombat anti-tank gun 12 miles along the A40 from Cheltenham. Sgt Morris Vizor (left) hands over the cheque



Picture: Mike Weston

Cheque mates: Lt Col Mike Wilcox (left), CO of Bicester-based 16 Ordnance Battalion, hands over a donation from members of the unit in response to an appeal for funds for the Royal British Legion's new Joint Services Resettlement Centre at Tidworth Garrison. Legion National President, Gen Sir Edward Burgess was only too pleased to accept

★ ★ ★

Sgt John Clegg RRF and Sgt Sandra Elliott from the Newcastle Army Careers Information Office made a surprise donation to Maj Harry Faulkner-Brown, Northumbria chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund, after the ACIO staff of eight had raised £250 by walking from Edinburgh to Tynemouth. Maj Faulkner-Brown was presented with the unexpected cheque while attending a function at 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC.

★ ★ ★

The Governor of Gibraltar has passed on thanks from the BBC Children in Need appeal to The Gibraltar Regiment which raised £5,000 by a sponsored abseil.

★ ★ ★

Arborfield Garrison apprentices joined civilians to collect clothing, food and bedding for Bosnian refugees, which App CSM Mark Wilding handed over at the Princess Marina College.

★ ★ ★

After 176 squash games in 24 hours with only 90 seconds between games and two minutes between sets, six soldiers of 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT at Sennelager raised more than £1,000 for the Royal British Legion's Joint Services Training and Resettlement Centre.

★ ★ ★

Loggies from 73 Ordnance Company (V) at Romford, Essex, pulled their way into the Guinness Book of Records by hauling a 25-pounder gun weighing one-and-a-half tons for 88.47 miles in 24 hours. They also raised £1,500 to buy a wheelchair for Multiple Neurofibromas sufferer David Baty.

★ ★ ★

Lowland Gunners of 40 Regiment Royal Artillery at Hohn had a surprise in store for a young cystic fibrosis sufferer when he arrived at Hohn to visit, as he thought, his father's regiment.

He did not realise the gunners had spent the summer raising money to send him on a two-week holiday to Florida and had the tickets ready for him. Disneyworld proved a dream for Christopher and his family when they went there in January.

Combat Stress merits a place on list

MENTAL casualties of war far outnumber physical casualties, but, luckily, most of them recover. Too many don't however, and rely for the rest of their lives on Combat Stress to provide that comfort and reassurance.

More than 3,000 men and women receive help each year from Combat Stress (the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society). They suffer because the wounds they received, the stresses they bore, the experiences they underwent, proved more than they could bear.

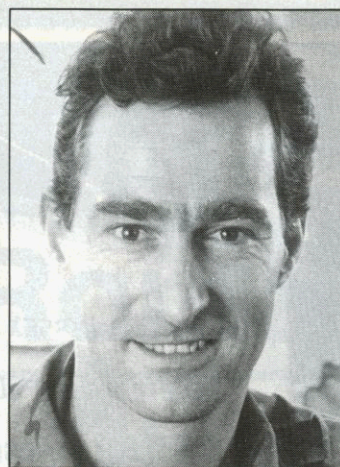
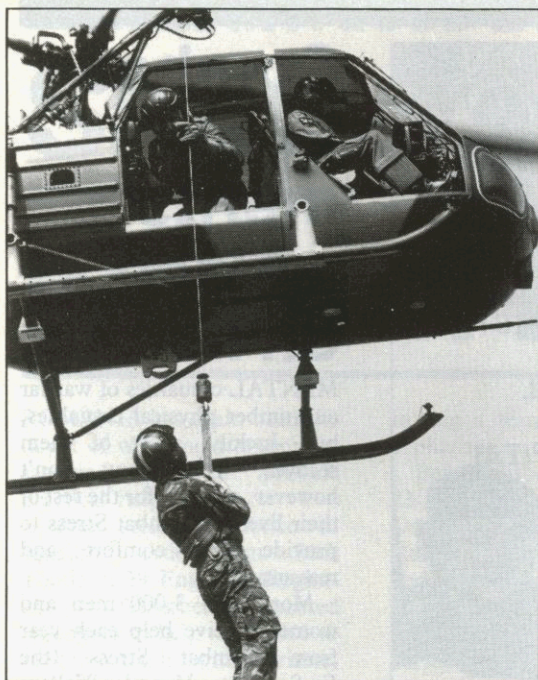
Since the founding of the Society in the first days after the 1918 Armistice, the plight of these casualties has been funded by those who lived through the same agonies. There were few families between 1914 and 1945 whose lives were not affected by the loss or serious injury of a loved one in either of the two world wars. This situation persisted through the Forties and Fifties and into the early Sixties.

Though we are at peace the commitments of today's Armed Forces are many. Everyone is aware of major engagements such as the Falklands War, the Gulf conflict and nearly 25 years of operations in Northern Ireland, where even the families of the combatants are sometimes at risk.

But because we are "at peace", and because knowledge of the stresses and strains of battle or internal security operations is now so confined, few younger people sympathise with the mentally wounded ex-Serviceman or woman. Yet it is they who will ensure the Society can operate into the next century.

Who better to understand this tragic situation than the Serviceman of today? Which is why Combat Stress is asking to be added to the Army's list of good causes.

For more information, contact Maj Colin Crawford at Combat Stress, Broadway House, Wimbledon Broadway, London SW19 1RL (tel: 081-543 6333).



Above – Maj Hugh Northam, OC 660 Sqn AAC

Left – Winching drills are perfected in Hong Kong before deploying to Brunei

Right – Inserting patrols into the jungle is a tricky business



City jungle is all the same to 660 Squadron

AIRCREW and technicians serving with 660 Squadron Army Air Corps at Borneo Lines, Hong Kong, are very experienced operators.

With Scout helicopters used only in the Far East and at Netheravon, the experience is an extra dimension for young engineers who would not

otherwise come across the aircraft.

The squadron has 11 Scouts, of which two are reserves and three are permanently detached to Brunei. It has 64 personnel based in Hong Kong and 21 in Brunei.

Flying is not too demanding

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring

in Hong Kong, but over Brunei, where the jungle canopy is 200ft from the ground and the winch is only 75ft long, aircrew skills must be of a high order to insert patrols or carry out casualty evacuations.

"It is only the more

experienced aviators who operate there," said Maj Hugh Northam, OC 660 Sqn. "The primary hardwood canopy is reasonably well broken so you can get under that, but at the 100ft mark you meet the secondary layer of everything growing in between, and you have to manoeuvre for gaps."

His helicopters support the British garrison of one Gurkha battalion and its ancillaries, and the training team stationed in Brunei. Units send their recon platoons for long-range patrol courses and jungle warfare instructor courses, and the aircraft also support Royal Marine exercises and part of the SAS selection course.

The detachment inserts troops and resupplies them as well as practising casevac procedures. In a normal year roughly 100 casevacs will be carried out, 40 by winch.

A roulement of six months or a year operates for all posts apart from a helicopter instructor and an artificer, who have two-year tours.

Since the British Army came off the Hong Kong-China border in April 1992, the flying task has changed to give primacy to the Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force. Instead of a main role supporting the civil police, 660 Squadron now concentrates on supporting



A Scout helicopter from 660 Squadron passes over Hong Kong. HMS Tamar, Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong, is behind its tail rotor



Sgt John Broughton checks a droop stop ring while Cpl Nick Bird selects a tool and Cpl Mark Stainthorpe lifts the blade of a Scout undergoing maintenance at Borneo Lines

Inset – Capt Andy Allen, OC LAD, swears by the Aircraft Maintenance Operating System

British Forces in Hong Kong.

This is still an important role because of the distances involved. The squadron is also involved in disaster relief, and along with the Auxiliary Air Force is the only unit which offers a 24-hour-a-day standby commitment 365 days a year for all types of casevac.

"We have an important role

in command and control of airmobile operations," said Maj Northam.

"A big effort is going into 48 Brigade's Gurkha battalions to prepare them for this before moving to the field forces in the UK".

With most of the aircraft 25 years old, some will be scrapped in 1997. Being at the

end of a long supply line, shortage of spares is a fact of life which is accepted.

So is the fact of salt water erosion and the effect of moisture on electrics. During the monsoons from January to June rain up to a metre a day can descend on the aircraft.

Capt Andy Allen has 27 technicians looking after the

REME aspect of the squadron. As captain of British Forces rugby, he also looks after Hong Kong's national rugby team, and has toured America, Japan, Korea, Dubai and Sicily.

For a small unit the squadron takes an active part in the life of the community, regularly contributing thousands of Hong Kong dollars to charity.



Royal Hong Kong Regiment cadets took part in the Trailwalker marathon

Clock runs down as Volunteers face up to 1995

ONE OF the poignant losses when Britain leaves Hong Kong in 1997 will be the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

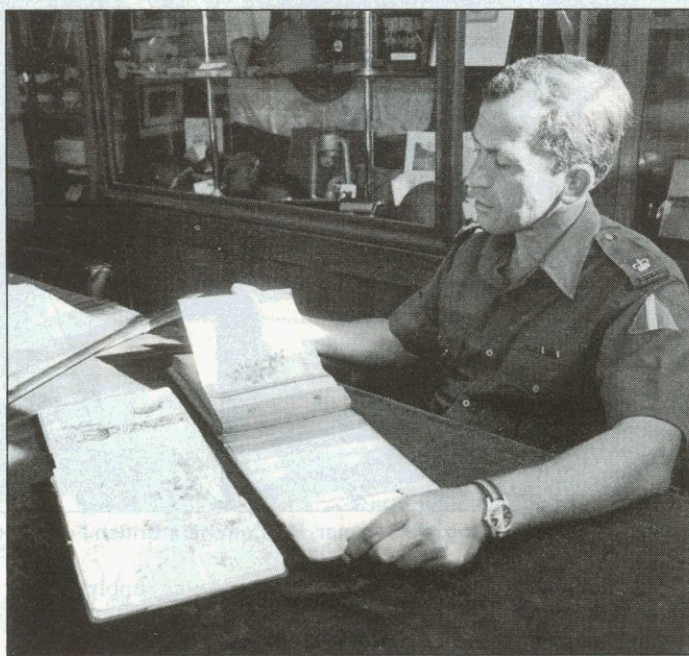
After nearly 150 years' service, there will soon be no place for a British military force in the community and it will disband in 1995.

Originally raised to help defend the community against pirates in 1854, the regiment had its most effective annual camp when it was deployed on the border during the illegal immigrant emergency in 1980.

Previously equipped with Ferrets, the Volunteers' four reconnaissance squadrons now operate in Land-Rovers. The regiment is also composed of an HQ, home guard and training squadrons, a junior leaders' corps and a regimental band.

Volunteers still carry out this operational role during camps and weekends, taking over sections of the border from the police and performing well.

With 950 members, the Volunteers have a commanding



Maj Colin Strong QOH, QM and curator of the Volunteers' museum

officer, training office, quartermaster, RSM and five permanent Staff Instructors loaned by the British Army. They have a unique appointment in a WO1 volunteer, who works

alongside the RSM.

Unlike Territorial Army units in the UK, the regiment is not spread to the four winds, but concentrated at its headquarters in Happy Valley,

AS A YOUNG nurse in Hong Kong, Maj Teresa Shang Mui Houghton used to wave to sailors and soldiers on ships as they left the harbour.

"The ships hooted at us and the Servicemen would all wave back," she said.

With several regiments in Hong Kong the parties were much better, she reflected wistfully. Today there are far fewer Servicemen to wave to, and even if there were the Hong Kong technical college and other high-rise skyscrapers block the view from the British Military Hospital, Hong Kong.

Born in Hong Kong, Maj Houghton went to Britain in 1957 and returned ten years later as a midwife with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

She watched as the new BMH was completed in 1968, providing 240 beds with a medical, surgical and psychiatric department and a busy maternity unit and children's ward. Apart from geriatric nursing, the hospital provided all the experience necessary for the 28 pupil nurses posted in.

After a celebration to mark the hospital's 25th anniversary, the pace of life is slowing as it starts its run down. It is no longer a training hospital, and staff miss the buzz of activity. The number of beds has decreased to 94 and by 1997 medical cover on Hong Kong itself will be limited to a medical reception centre.

Both Maj Houghton and her husband, Col Ivan Houghton, serve at the BMH, she in the

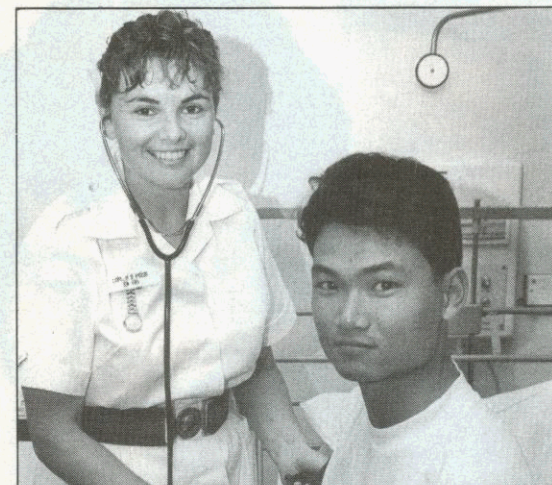
dwarfed by skyscrapers.

The regiment, which comes under 48 Brigade for training and when mobilised, has a closer connection with the Hong Kong government than TA units in the UK.

"People feel very strongly about the Volunteers, and over the years thousands and thousands of people have served," said the present commanding officer, Lt Col Nick Coombe RTR, who has held the position since 1990.

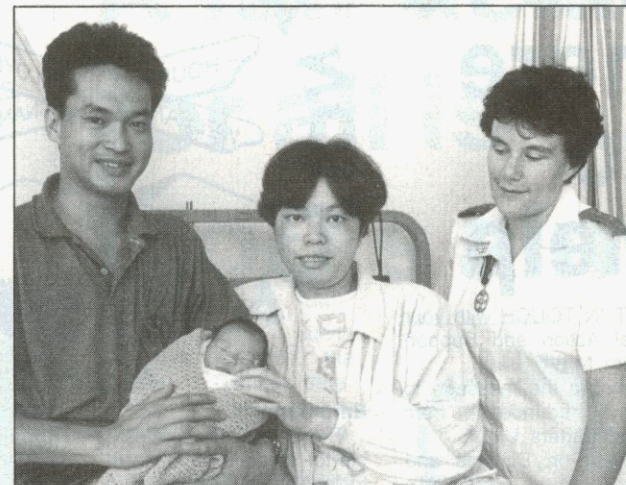
"Originally we were to be disbanded in 1992 or 93, but I insisted that we should commemorate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Hong Kong."

Last year the Volunteers marked the fall of Hong Kong



Left - Cpl Rowena Pozzi Gurung tends Dvr Sun Yuk Cheung

Right - Driving an ambulance through minefields during Operation Granby made such an impression on Dvr Yao Chi Fai of 29 Sqn RCT that he and his wife, Hui Yur Chun, named their son Granby. On the right is Capt Judith Minchin



Above - Maj Teresa Shang Mui Houghton and Lt Col Tom Price at BMH Hong Kong

Right - Col Peter Lynch, Commanding Officer of BMH and Matron, Lt Col Laura Murray, cut the 25th anniversary cake



operating theatre, he as an anaesthetist and resuscitation specialist. They have seen something of the practice of oriental medicine; one colleague used acupuncture to give

up smoking, and another went to Beijing to learn the art.

Generations of British troops have had cause to thank the medical services in Hong Kong. When the 98th Regim-

ent, ancestors of The Staffordshire Regiment, arrived in 1841, their makeshift bamboo huts were breeding grounds for mosquitoes whose connection with malaria was unknown.

Today there is excitement in the medical world about the potential of a drug, known for centuries in the East, but only now being developed to eradicate the disease.



Left - Lt Ulco Chan with Tprs Tam Shui Shing and Chan Kwok Leung of B Squadron prepares to enter a building during house clearing exercises

diaries hidden from the Japanese, fading photographs of emaciated soldiers.

The Volunteers are gathering what they can, but some preferred to forget the past. The late Sgt

of his to pass on to her grandchildren.

The regiment's records verified his service and with the help of the museum's curator, Maj Colin Strong, she obtained the war medals her father never bothered to claim.

To show her gratitude, Mrs Andrews bought trophies which were presented to the first of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment's 17 teams to complete the Trailwalker charity walk.

With disbandment only four years away this gesture will sadly not become a long-standing tradition.

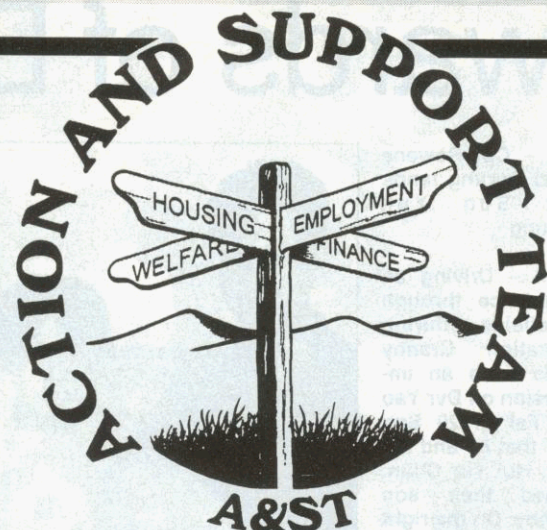
at Christmas 1941, with 300 Canadian and Royal British Legion veterans making the journey.

The experiences of the infamous Shamshuiipo camp

come to life in the Volunteers' museum which is being expanded to conserve artefacts which tell their painful story - illustrated programmes of the famous drag artist Sonia,

Ernest Tuck never spoke to his daughter, Jennifer Andrews, of how he dropped from 15 stone to five while he was a prisoner of the Japanese. When he died in 1971 she wanted something

We're here to help



GET IN TOUCH with your local Action and Support Team NOW.

That is the message to Army redundees from Headquarters UKLF.

Based in Districts and Garrisons, the A and STs provide a focal point for co-ordinating resettlement action on behalf of the leaver and for monitoring progress through the resettlement process.

So how do they work?

Working on a regional basis, the teams liaise with all the local resettlement agencies dealing with housing, employment, finance and welfare. This includes all the Service organisations, the ex-Service organisations and local civilian agencies.

Housing

Constant contact is maintained with the Joint Services Housing Advice Office, SSAFA, the Royal British Legion and local housing associations to keep up-to-date with the large variety of initiatives and opportunities on offer to Service personnel, and supply leavers with the latest information.

The A and STs also work closely with the Families Housing and Welfare Services and assist where they can with any re-housing issues, including the provision of rental accommodation for those returning from overseas.

Financial jobs fair

THE FIRST Northern Financial Services Jobs Fair to be held at the G-MEX Exhibition Centre in Manchester takes place from April 20 to 22.

Exhibitors at this "jobs marketplace" represent the key names in the financial services industry, including more than 40 life assurance groups, banks and building societies – all keen to recruit new talent to their sales teams.

The fair, say the organisers, is aimed at men and women between the ages of 25 and 55 – in groups ABC1C2 – who have considerable business, management or professional expertise and are prepared to put energy and enthusiasm into every working day.

More than 3,000 visitors attended the inaugural fair held in London last November.

Employment

The teams are responsible for spreading the word to local employers on the transferability of Service skills through the Access to Excellence package.

They will follow up employment openings and exchange information with the Services Employment Network and other agencies – including informing Service personnel.

In conjunction with the Employment Services and Training and Enterprise Council (or Local Employment Council in Scotland) and Education and Training Services Resettlement Officers, the A and STs will also, where appropriate, set up job shops, job clubs, job skills briefings and job seminars.

Finance

They are aware of the dates of financial seminars in the area and encourage the leaver and spouse to attend and seek counselling. In some cases they are able to provide the Army agents with a counselling facility for families.

Welfare

The teams liaise with the many Service, ex-Service and civilian welfare agencies and can provide information and guidance on where to go for expert

advice on any subject. They also work closely with regimental associations.

What can they do for me?

The A and ST will market your skills to potential employers and offer support and guidance to the leaver and family on any resettlement subject.

Most A and STs offer a library facility where you can browse through the store of information in a friendly and relaxed environment, take your time to research any resettlement issue – and ask the questions you may feel vulnerable in asking outside the Army environment.

You and your family can talk to any member of the team, who will be on hand should you need them.

Most A and STs have a line available for you to telephone potential employers and, in some cases, help can be given with the preparation and printing of your CV.

If you are returning from overseas and looking for rental accommodation, the A and ST from the District in which you are posted, or wish to settle, can send you information and advise on suitable accommodation and rental costs.

How can I get in touch with my local A and ST?

Ask your Unit Chief Clerk or your Paymaster/Regimental Administrative Officer. They will have names and telephone numbers – so telephone now and make personal contact.

As UKLF points out, the A and STs are there to help you...

AHP still £5,000

ELIGIBLE redundees may claim £5,000 under the Assisted House Purchase (AHP) scheme, not £8,500 as stated on these pages in the February 8 issue.



Anne Armstrong, long-time campaigner for a fair housing deal for Service families, who played a key role in initiating the Joseph Rowntree Foundation project, with researcher Judith Dugdale (right). Anne left her sick bed to attend the London launch of the Rowntree report.



Picture: Mike Perring

Leavers opt to rent rather than buy

TIDWORTH Garrison played a key role in Judith Dugdale's research into housing for ex-Service families.

As part of a wider study at the garrison, in September 1992, when the first phase of the redundancy programme took effect, 75 families of redundant personnel who had been living in married quarters at Tidworth were asked about their civilian housing destinations.

More than half went into council housing; another 30 per cent bought homes in the six months before discharge; six made temporary accommodation arrangements with relatives; and most who remained in their MQs as irregular occupants on October 1 had already obtained housing commitments from local authorities.

However, it was forecast that problems in obtaining civilian housing would be greater for the second two phases of redundancy, when, it was felt, there was a case for allowing irregular occupants to remain in their quarters until perma-

nent accommodation was found.

The survey also concluded that the local authority requirement for Service families to be evicted from MQs before being accepted as homeless should be changed because it was expensive and unnecessarily traumatic and stigmatising for the families.

Fewer married redundees than expected used their special capital payment to buy a home, possibly because:

- They preferred to rent a council house and use the money in other ways, such as to start a business.

- They were unable to buy a house outright with the money and unwilling or unable to obtain a mortgage, perhaps through lack of information or because mortgage lenders were reluctant to make loans without a record of secure, civilian employment.

- Service men and women were deterred from

The contribution made by private research into solving the civilian housing problems of those leaving the Services, outlined in the last issue of SOLDIER, has been welcomed and is being studied by the Ministry of Defence.

In these pages we give more details of the research, carried out by Judith Dugdale on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and summarise the MoD's response.

buying by the continuing slump in the property market.

Judith Dugdale said: "It is clear from this and other survey evidence that the emphasis placed on home ownership by the Ministry of Defence does not fully accord with the requirements of ex-Service personnel and their families."

These include improvements to the policy of offering surplus MQs for sale at a discount which has so far enjoyed only limited success.

The MoD is also urged to improve its liaison with local authorities to secure more rented accommodation for those leaving the Services.

This would include offering surplus properties to councils in areas of high demand for rented housing in return for the right to nominate a proportion of the tenants.

The report also notes that rents charged by housing associations are seen by some Service families to compare unfavourably with those of local authorities.

It concludes that housing associations should be offered surplus MoD properties at bigger discounts than are currently available.

And it suggests that whole estates of married quarters could be transferred, giving Service personnel the chance to rent, buy or share the ownership of their existing home.

● A summary of the findings and policy options from Judith Dugdale's research is available free from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Homestead, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP.

It also suggests that whole estates of married quarters could be transferred, giving Service personnel the chance to rent, buy or share the ownership of their existing home.

● Provision by the Housing Corporation of 500 opportunities for Do-It-Yourself Shared Own-

ership (DIYSO) specifically for Service leavers. There were already 180 applications for the scheme.

● Establishment of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office – a central point of information for all. Measures in place specifically to help those who wish to buy a home before they leave include the Services Home Savings Scheme, a preferential mortgage scheme, and sales of surplus married quarters at a 30 per cent discount.

A fair deal for all is MoD's aim

IN WELCOMING Judith Dugdale's research, the Ministry of Defence says: "The Government remains committed to ensuring that Service men and women get a fair deal in housing terms."

This was reiterated by Maj Gen Michael Jackson, Director General Personal Services (Army) at the London launch of the research findings, when he presented the MoD's response.

In pointing out the difficulties of planning and forecasting, he said that, for example, the Army would be 3,000 larger than previously envisaged following the recent reprieve of four infantry regiments.

This meant that at least 1,000 more families would now need to be housed at a time when plans were being made for the return of families from Germany. If the Army's stock of available married quarters ran out, more rent allowance funds would have to be found to enable Service personnel to live in the private sector.

The MoD response notes that the research findings acknowledge the new initiatives set in motion by its own Housing Task Force, some of which focus on alleviating difficulties which may face those leaving the Armed Forces.

Measures introduced to help redundees and other leavers with housing difficulties include:

- Sympathetic treatment of irregular occupants, who will be allowed to stay on provided their MQ is not needed for serving personnel.

- Sale or lease of surplus property to housing associations in return for a reservation of a proportion of places for rent by Service leavers.

- 1,000 married quarters are currently under negotiation.



Maj Gen Michael Jackson, DGPS(A)

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● Establishment of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office – a central point of information for all.

Measures in place specifically to help those who wish to buy a home before they leave include the Services Home Savings Scheme, a preferential mortgage scheme, and sales of surplus married quarters at a 30 per cent discount.

More than 4,000 properties had been sold under the discount scheme since 1983, including 378 of a total 863 sold in 1992.

The MoD says many of Judith Dugdale's suggestions on the treatment of surplus and vacant accommodation are particularly relevant to work now under way on the future management of the married quarters estate.

The Housing Task Force recommended transferring the ownership and management of MQs to a new non-profit-making body in the private sector to provide better quality housing for Service personnel. The merits of such an approach are now being examined.

"In the next three or four years we may see a radical change in the way the Married Quarters Estate is managed," said Maj Gen Jackson.

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LETTERS

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IT MIGHT be helpful if I were to correct an error in the second paragraph of your excellent review of *Challengers and Chargers* (March 8).

There has been no amalgamation between The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, and it is misleading to say so. As your reviewer correctly says in the penultimate paragraph there has been a union of the two regiments at Windsor to form an armoured reconnaissance regiment called the Household Cavalry Regiment.

However, it consists of two squadrons of The Life Guards, two squadrons of The Blues

and Royals and a mixed Headquarters Squadron. Unlike other regiments, members of both regiments retain their own regimental dress, traditions and customs, something which has occurred in the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment for over 40 years. – Lt Col H P D Massey, The Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge.

Thanks to Col Newton

I WISH to thank Col P S Newton very much for all he has done to try to reverse the decision not to award a medal for the Suez Canal Zone emergency.

I spent eight years as a driver in the RAOC. I went to Tel El Kebir in January 1950, driving a coach for soldiers' families, travelling to Ismailia every day until the trouble started, when the families were sent home.

I was then attached to 2 Base Workshop stores section, travelling many miles in the Zone driving a Leyland Hippo and trailer, and saw quite a bit of trouble.

To me this was worse than the Gulf and yet we are still not entitled to a medal. I think it is disgraceful.

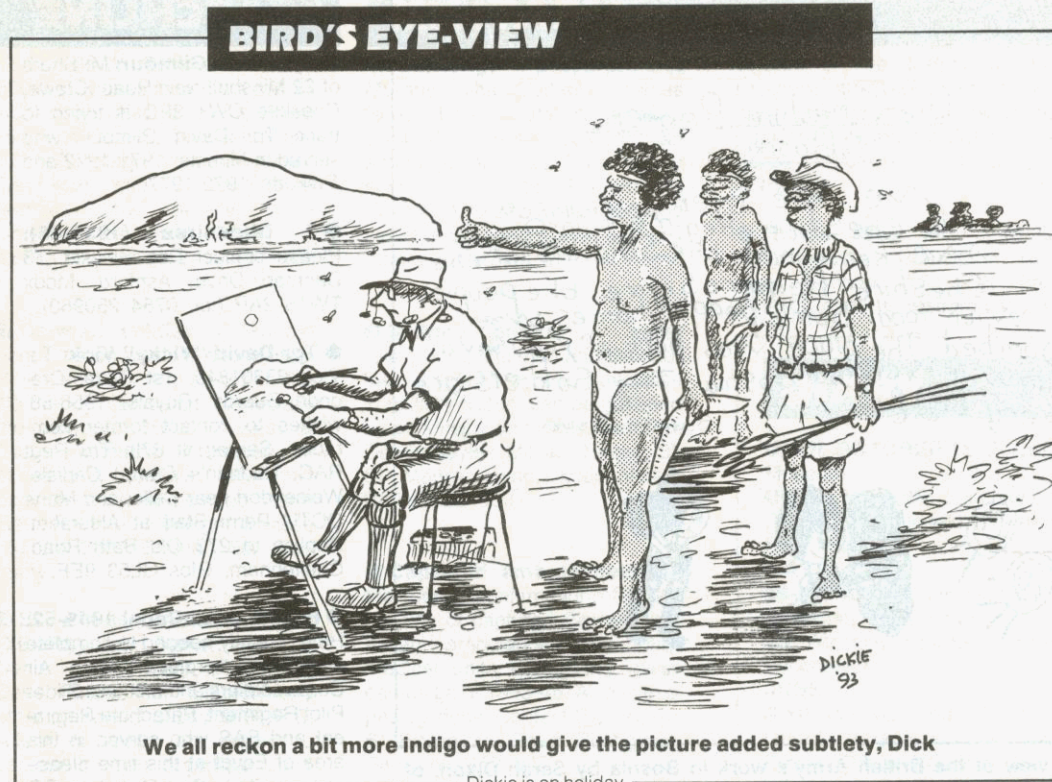
Once again, on behalf of all Canal Zone comrades, thank you Col Newton and please don't give up now – we are all behind you. – R C Pilgrim, Norwich.

A MOST PECULIAR WAY TO PARADE ATR FLAG

WE EXPATRIATE old soldiers do not, alas, get to see our young comrades in the flesh, but we do scrutinise SOLDIER with great interest.

I have noticed an increasing tendency for units and groups to carry regimental or unit flags in addition to the authorised regimental colours.

This movement, reflecting *esprit de corps* as it does, is encouraging, but I must say I was surprised to see such a flag, of the Army Training Regiment, carried *horizontally* by four smart NCOs like an



Dickie is on holiday

upside-down umbrella (January 25). In the same issue, 2 R Irish and RTR flags are at least *held* vertically, if not on poles.

At the official opening of the 13th Commonwealth Games by Prince Philip, a huge CG flag was carried on parade by eight soldiers and a CSM of 1 Black Watch, but this was a different situation.

Presumably the Army Training Regiment flag, which seems to be about 12ft by 8ft, was later ceremonially hoisted on the flagpole awaiting it.

Incidentally, the excellent

SOLDIER picture of the 1 BW guard of honour with Queen's Colour shows one of the smartest guards of honour I have ever seen, and an excellent advertisement for the Army.

In the same issue as the flags, I am wondering why the RAMC officer leading the guard with SA 80 at the slope has not drawn his sword. Is it a tradition that RAMC officers never draw their swords on parade? – Capt (Retd) W A Ewbank MC RE, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, USA.

Gulf Medals for Danes?

I NOTICE in a military magazine that Norwegian Army medics supporting British troops during the Gulf War have been presented with the British Gulf Medal.

I was one of a small number of Danish Army medics operating with a surgical team as part of the British Army's 33 General Field Hospital based in Saudi Arabia, and we have not received a medal from Britain. Would any SOLDIER reader know the reason why? – Capt Lars Hollaender, Norresundby, Denmark.

First Grapple was a 'holiday'!

MY involvement in Op Grapple was back in 1958 while serving in 2 Special Engineer Regiment Workshop REME. We were on one of the Christmas Islands which were all coral with beautiful lagoons and many palm trees.

The island was very small so the sea was always in walking distance, and being almost on the equator the weather was perfect – for our leave breaks where else could we fly to but Hawaii, staying at Hickham or

the YMCA in downtown Honolulu.

Pity about the three H bombs and two A bombs I sat through!

On December 29, 1992 my son Trevor flew out to join 35 Engr Regt TSG at Tomislav, Bosnia, again for Op Grapple. How times change. Gone was the holiday of a lifetime on a coral island in the central Pacific, to be replaced by winter in the mountains with unfriendly natives lobbying

shells with gay abandonment.

How on earth did they manage to use the same name for both these operations? – S Johnson, Estate Warden, FHWS Arborfield.

● The name Grapple for the current operation in Bosnia was chosen at random by computer. The MoD felt there was no practical reason why the name should not be used again as the Christmas Island operation took place more than 40 years ago. – Editor

Army and the Irish connection

R SMITH (Letters, March 8) suggests that I was "incorrect on one point" in my letter (January 25) and then goes on to deal with recruiting in Ireland by the 16th Foot.

I mentioned the recruiting pattern of the Essex specifically because I was comparing two regiments which captured French Eagles: the 87th at Barrosa and the 44th at Salamanca.

Although I am aware that the 16th also recruited in Ireland I did not consider that fact to be relevant to the point of my letter. If Mr Smith cares to check with SOLDIER of August 24, 1992 he will see a letter from me on the proportion of Irish soldiers in Wellington's Army in the Peninsular War.

It could be argued that it was really an Irish Army, led by an Irish general. Figures of 50 per cent of an apparently English or Scottish line regiment's manpower coming from Ireland were quite normal throughout the entire Army.

Mr Smith's reference to the 16th Foot having been originally the 14th is wrong.

He is confusing an exchange of titles with regimental numbers: in 1782 the 16th received the county title of "Buckinghamshire" and in 1809 this was exchanged with the 14th Foot for their title of "Bedfordshire".

The exchange was at the request of the Colonel of the 14th. Neither regiment changed its precedence.

The suggestion that Bedfordshire's strong Irish community may be rooted in the Irish recruitment for the 16th might be partly right. However, there are other, later, factors such as emigration from Ireland in search of work in the 19th century and the great famine.

I would never want to suggest that the 16th and 44th were not fine regiments. When Mr Smith writes that they deserve to have been left alone I assume that he is referring to the effect of Options on 3 R Anglian: there are few who would disagree. – Richard Doherty, Londonderry.

SOLDIER
to SoldierWell read
thanks to
Cheshires

YOUNG pupils of North Reddish Junior School, Stockport, have found an interesting way of improving their English language skills. They have been writing to soldiers of The Cheshire Regiment serving in Bosnia.

The seven-to-eight-year-olds have also been able to gain more understanding of the work the Army is doing by studying photographs and information supplied by SOLDIER.

Now the school has sent us a selection of the follow-up work in connection with their correspondence - well-reasoned assessments of the situation in the former Yugoslavia as faced by

*The Cheshire Regiment
in Bosnia*

*We have been writing to
the Cheshire Regiment in Bosnia.
We know now the soldiers of the
Cheshire Regiment serve the people
with food. Some peoples homes were
bombed. The place was part of Yugoslavia.
Now it is called Bosnia. The soldiers are
very brave.*

Sarah Dixon



A view of the British Army's work in Bosnia by Sarah Dixon, of North Reddish Junior School

British troops on Op Grapple.

Above a picture of a tank, Christopher Clayton wrote: "The soldiers we are writing to are the best soldiers in the world. They

are the best fighters."

A teacher told SOLDIER: "Writing to The Cheshire Regiment has helped the class develop invaluable skills in English."

SEARCHLINE

● **Tpr David Gilmour:** Mr Shore of 22 Minshull New Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3PD is trying to trace Tpr David Gilmour, who served in Munster 1971-1972 and Tidworth 1972-1977.

● **2 Cheshires (1939-46):** Please contact Reg Shickle, 73 Denman Drive, Ashford, Mddx TW15 2AP (tel: 0784 250960).

● **Tpr David "Vicky" Vick:** Tpr Vick 23301845, 1st Royal Dragoon Guards (Royals) 1956-58, wishes to contact former comrades. Served at 67th Trg Regt RAC, Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle; Weisendorf near Celle, and Mons OCTU Perm Staff at Aldershot. Replies to 273 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 9EF.

● **Fayed, Suez Canal 1949-52:** Help urgently needed to complete 40-year-old project. Army Air Corps soldiers and officers, Glider Pilot Regiment, Parachute Regiment and SAS who served in this area of Egypt at this time please call or write to Sara Doremus, PO Box 694, Burtonsville, Maryland, MD 20866, USA (tel: 301-890-7213).

● **Ex-Cpl Leslie Croombs,** 104 Harewood Road, Keighley, W

Yorks BD22 7NW (tel: 0535 600953) wishes to contact the 26 ACC chefs attached to the Royal Highland Fusiliers between 1960-67 (Edinburgh, Aden, Malta, Germany) with a view to a reunion. Other contacts: Colin Crawford on 0506 33924 or ex-Pte McLeish on 041-812 1100.

● **German soldier** of Frundsberg Division would like to contact British soldiers who fought in the Normandy campaign, especially the battle for Hill 112 west of Caen. Veterans interested in exchanging details of their experiences should contact Herrn Gerd Rommel, Harlinger Strasse 15, DW-2800 Bremen 66, Germany.

● **El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** John Barker, Spook E Darin, Phil Dasher, Rick Old, Dave Petett, Ron Shipton and other personnel based at RAF El Adem in 1960s are asked to contact reunion organiser John Moir on 0705 595489.

● **HSF Coy RGJ:** Dave Hemstead (tel: 081-648 8021) is trying to contact Fred Attle, with whom he served in HSF Coy, 4th Royal Green Jackets.

MILITARIA

● **Anthology of prayers:** J E G Murphy, The Cottage, Innings Road, Little Frieth, nr Henley, Oxon RG9 6NR is compiling an anthology of prayers written for specific purposes (Fisherman's Prayer, Motorist's Prayer etc) and seeks a Soldier's Prayer and any others connected with the Army.

● **Military books:** A leaflet listing 36 antiquarian and second-hand booksellers who specialise in military history can be obtained by sending a first-class stamp to: Derek Hayles Military Books, 35 St Mark's Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6DJ.

● **Captured ambulances:** Author seeks confirmation of possible use of captured German and Italian ambulances by Allied medical units during the Italian campaign of 1943-45. Also loan of photographs. Contact G J Packer, 61 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea SA7 9JR.

● **Norfolks in Korea:** Maj F A Godfrey, The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, Britannia Barracks, Norwich NR1 4HJ (tel: 0603 628455) is writing the final

volume of the history of the regiment (1951-59) and seeks good photographs for inclusion, particularly of the 1st Battalion in Korea (1951-52) and Cyprus (1955-56).

● **Thekla 1945:** Mrs J M C Robinson, 141 Gloucester Terrace, London W2 6DX (tel: 071-402 4908) is researching the

circumstances of an accident off the coast of Norway on September 1, 1945 when the *Thekla* blew up while Germany ammunition was being dumped at sea. One of those killed was SSgt David Cohen RAOC of No 6 Disarmament Team RAOC located at Begen and in charge of the ammo dumping party operating out of Floro.

DIARY

UNTIL OCTOBER 15: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

UNTIL MAY 26: Lunchtime lectures on nursing military history, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW.

MAY

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust "Overlord 93" rally on Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

30: Winchester Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Guildhall, Winchester.

JUNE

8-10: Massed Bands of The Light Division Sound Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London. Seats £3, £6, £8 from Horse Guards Project Office, HQ The Light Division, Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, Hants SO22 6HQ (tel: 0962 888220).

JULY

3: 1 Kings host Open Day to mark bicentenary of Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow (2pm to 6pm) with military music and displays, following presentation of Colours to 1 Kings the previous day.

10-16: Stoke Mandeville Challenge 93, first international ex-Service wheelchair games. Contact Jonathan Powell 071-973 0633.

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 0100.

AUGUST

1: Military Vehicle rally, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

6-28: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card and postal bookings from Booking Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel: 031-225 1188)).

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

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments

MAJ GEN S C Grant to be Team Leader Command Structure Review, March 15; Maj Gen R P Craig late RAMC to HQ UKLF.

Brig R W M McAfee to be Director General Army Training in the rank of Maj Gen, March 15, in succession to Maj Gen S C Grant.

Brigadiers - C D Daukes - To MoD, March 12; A P A Grant Peterkin - To be Comd 24 Airmobile Bde, March 11; R M Hardie - To RAM College, March 15; Brig C J Lewthwaite late RAMC - To RAM College.

Colonels - S G Hughes - To MoD, March 5; W M Davidson - To HQ UKLF, March 12; G N R Sayle - To be DA/MA Cairo, March 8; R A Wright - To SANGCOM, March 10; M W Foster - To be Comd HQ Mil Wks Fce, March 16; P M R Hill - To MoD, March 19; D S Macfarlane - To HQ SDist, March 19; M Nugent - To HQ UKLF, March 17.

Lt Cols - A V Malkin, Para - To HQ ARRC, March 1; R J S Smith

RA - To be CO 39 Hy Regt, March 1; D A Tickner RACHd - To be Sen Chap Arborfield Gar, March 5; P J Gilbert RE - To MoD, March 1; J J Little RCT - To RMCS, March 1; G W Dawson RE - To be CO HQ RSME, March 8; R H East KRH - To BLO Post FRG, March 10; C M G Elcomb LI - To MoD, March 9; R J J Ellis, R Signals - To MoD, March 8; M P Manson RA - To RMCS, March 8; K R Pople AAC - To MoD, March 8; R G Cartwright, Gren Gds - To RNSC Greenwich, March 22 (amended entry); A C Rutherford RAMC - To 19 Inf Bde Fd Amb, March 15; D S C Gamble RAMC - To BMH Hong Kong; D Ghosh RAMC - To Royal Brunei Armed Forces; P B Williams RA - To RMCS, March 15; J J Bethell REME - To MoD, March 15.

RETIREMENTS

Colonels - W F Charlesworth, late DWR, March 13; O J M Lindsay, late Gren Gds, March 10; C G Peacocke, late QDG, March 11; E S Parry, late RAMC.

Lt Cols - D J Bench RAMC.

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REUNIONS

● **159 (W) Fd Amb RAMC 1939-46:** Reunion to be held on April 21 at the Dolphin Hotel, Swansea. Details from F E Margetts, 41 Summerland Park, Upper Kilby, Swansea, W Glamorgan SA2 7HX.

● **1993 BAOR Artillery Clerks' Dinner** will take place in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, Moore Barracks, Dortmund, on Saturday April 24. Enquiries to WO2 (QMS(AC)) P Headford, 12 Regt RA, BFPO 20 (tel: Dortmund Mil 3577).

● **Royal Berkshire Regiment 250th anniversary:** Service of thanksgiving and dedication at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor on May 1 to mark the 250th anniversary of the regiment's formation in 1743. Widows and families welcome. Admission tickets from E Vicary, Hillcroft, School Road, Windlesham, Surrey (tel: 0276 472307).

● **Devonshire and Dorset Regiment:** Annual reunion, including march past and service of remembrance, takes place in Plymouth on May 8. Details from secretary of regimental association in RHQ Exeter (tel: 0392 410389).

● **Middlesex Regiment:** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street,

London W2 on May 8. Details from Maj A E F Waldron, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE (tel: 0227 87445).

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards:** Regimental Association annual dinner takes place on May 8 at the Oval Banqueting Suite, Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SS. Details from Maj (Retd) K D McMillan, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● **Cavalry Sunday:** Annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades, Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park on May 9.

● **70th Battalion, The Buffs:** 70th Bn The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) 1940-42 reunion. WO's and Sgts' Mess, Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, May 14. Details from Len Hulcoop, Albuhera, 84 Daleway Road, Finham, Coventry CV3 6JE (tel: 0203 414696).

● **201 RCZ Workshop REME (V):** 22nd reunion takes place on May 15 at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Details and application form from Ron Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP (tel: 051-928 4493).

● **Combined Operations Museum, Inverary:** Proposed reunion on May 17-19. For details, please send large sae to J Jepson, Curator, Combined Ops Museum, Cherry Park, Inverary, Argyll PA23 8XE.

● **7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT:** Biennial reunion at Atwerp Barracks, Sennelager, June 18-20, to include inter-squadron athletics. Details from the Adjutant, 7 Tk Tptr Regt RCT, BFPO 16 (tel: Sennelager Mil 2353) or AO 414 Tk Tptr Unit RCT (tel: Bulford Mil 2397).

● **Regimental Band of 17th/21st Lancers:** The pre-amalgamation reunion will take place on June 19. Details from Band Sergeant Major WO2 W G Gunion, 17/21 L, Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, Hants SP9 7AS (tel: 0980 46221).

● **Cambridgeshire Regiment OCA:** Annual memorial service at Ely Cathedral on June 20. Details and tea tickets from R Stubbings, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambs (tel: 0353 663249).

● **Beachley Old Boys Association:** Annual reunion weekend, July 2-4. Details from College Liaison Officer, Beachley Old Boys Association, Army Apprentices College, Beachley,

Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG (tel: 0291 627212 ext 5343).

● **Darland Boys:** The RE Darland Boys will be holding their 13th reunion in Brompton on September 11-12. All boys and staff who served at Fort Darland or with M Coy Boys, Kitchener Barracks, welcome. Details, newsletter from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB.

● **Christmas Island reunion:** All ex-Service and civilian personnel on the island from 1956-60 are welcome at a reunion at The Bull and Bush, 1 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey on September 18-19. Contact Jim Cooper on 0903 232108.

● **MC and MM holders' luncheon:** A church service and luncheon for holders of the MC and MM will be held at Carnforth, Lancs, on October 9. Details from Col D B Long, 6 Main Street, Townend, Warton, via Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9NR (0524 736415).

● **Greek Veterans 1940-41:** Third reunion of Army/RN/RAF veterans to be held at Clacton in October. Pilgrimage to Greece to unveil memorial being arranged. Details from Edwin Horlington, 163 Walton Road, Walton-on-Naze, Essex (tel: 0255 677178).

Rats will fight another day

THE Staffordshire Regiment provided the leading armoured infantry battalion in the British 1st Armoured Division's assault during Operation Desert Storm.

A company of the Staffords and the tanks of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards led the first major engagement of the war with their assault on objective "Copper" on the night of February 25, 1991, the first ever armoured infantry attack carried out by the British Army.

In *Rats' Tales: The Staffordshire Regiment at War in the Gulf*, Nicholas Benson, who served with the regiment between 1981 and 1990, tells the story of the Staffords in the war, using the words of those involved in that conflict, from the more junior soldiers to the British commander, Sir Peter de la Billière, and of those who reported the campaign for the media, such as BBC's Kate Adie, who is widely quoted through the book.

These are personal impressions of what was a highly public war. But public or not, the adrenalin of war is the same, as are the emotions of love, hate, fear, humour, compassion and grief.

"The television sets and newspapers were full of

pictures and stories about the high-technology aspects of war... but there was relatively little accurate reporting of what it was like for men at the sharp end who ultimately had to get out of their vehicles and confront the enemy face to face."

Efforts made by individuals to get into the action were exceptional. The author himself tried to rejoin the regiment he had left in the previous year, and there is the case of Sgt Dixie Oliver, on detachment to the Ulster Defence Regiment, who underwent disciplinary reduction in rank for flying back to his battalion in Germany at his own expense.

There are descriptions of the Staffords' reception in the Gulf and of their desert training, especially the live-firing exercises at Devil Dog Dragoon ranges.

It was war that called for a grim sense of humour. Cpl Ford of C Company showed his when he told a *Sunday Telegraph* correspondent: "I'm going to get myself cremated and my ashes put in a jar. Then my boys can play cricket for me every summer!"

Cpl Ford survived but two Staffords were not so fortunate. At 0830 hours on February 25, a single shot was heard in the

vicinity of C Company's Warriors. A soldier who was checking his rifle had accidentally fired a shot which hit Pte Shaun Taylor, a member of the Milan Section. The other fatality was Pte Carl "Ted" Moul, who was killed instantly by a RPC 7 shoulder-launched anti-tank rocket.

There were also some wounded, one of whom was Capt Toby Tennant, hit in a blue-on-blue incident when a British Challenger fired a HESH round at a Staffords' Warrior.

His comments are typical of many soldiers left permanently damaged by such accidents: "... I'm happy to be alive, but I would like to know who did it, because whoever it was messed me up good and proper."

"My legs were probably the best part of my body, because I could run quite fast and play sports, and they are really wrecked now."

"There is nothing I could do about it now, but I would like to know, I would like to talk to the guy. I don't think I would be angry if I met him now. I would just really like to talk to him."

An appendix lists 16 awards for gallantry and meritorious service granted to Staffords and



Men of 1 Staffords in a trench they had stormed during an exercise in the build-up to the Gulf War

attached personnel during the Gulf War.

The author concisely sums up the regiment's achievements thus: "In less than 100 hours, the Staffords had driven 290 kilometres through three different countries."

"They had been involved in action against a numerically superior enemy who'd had many months in which to prepare his defensive positions and strategy. Stafford soldiers fought in every major engage-

ment that was undertaken by 7 Armoured Brigade... They took part in more fighting than any other British infantry battalion in the Gulf."

Throughout the book there are references to "an atmosphere of foreboding, very real and tangible", that hung over the barracks after the battalion returned from the Gulf, because of the proposed British Army cuts, embodied in the consultative document Options For Change.

The intention was to amalgamate the Staffords with The Cheshire Regiment in September this year.

However, on February 3 it was announced that the merger would not take place. It is regrettable that the threat and its effect on morale should have hung over this and other regiments for so long. - BJ

Rats' Tales: The Staffordshire Regiment at War in the Gulf by Nicholas Benson. Brassey's hardback, £13.50. Available by post from RHQ The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY. Cheques for £14.50 (including £1 p and p) payable to RHQ Staffordshire Regiment.

BOOK REVIEWS Extraordinary escapades

IVAN GANDY is described in the blurb to his book *Through the Wires* as an "ordinary soldier". The description does him an injustice.

It would be far more accurate to describe him as extraordinary since the blurb goes on to claim that he was "the only soldier to go successfully through main (PoW) camp wires four times and the only man to have escaped from solitary confinement in Stalag XXB Marienberg."

Mr Gandy, then a private soldier with 210 HAA Bty 73rd Regiment RA (TA), tells his story in 100 pages from the time he joined the Terriers in 1938, through his subsequent capture in the spring of 1940 by Rommel's K Division 7th Army and his life and times as a PoW escapee, to his return home to Darlaston, near Birmingham, and a hero's welcome.

A man of quiet religious belief at the start of the war, his experiences, it seems, left him somewhat sceptical of his earlier thinking.

His questioning began on his arrival home when a priest invited him to attend a special thanksgiving service for his safe return. Remembering the "catalogue of killing" he had seen, he declined.

In this book Ivan Gandy, "a

man of outstanding guts and character", gives thanks for his salvation instead to the fellow PoWs who cared for him when wounded and helped him with his many escape attempts. - JM

Through the Wires by Ivan Gandy. Merlin Books Ltd, £9.95.

Playwright in a desert theatre

PLAYWRIGHT Don West is the latest ex-soldier in a long line to pen his memoirs of the Western Desert campaign and in particular his version of the 62 days of Operation Compass.

In that theatre the Desert Rats and a large number of Indian and other Commonwealth troops saw off an Italian 10th Army five times larger than the Allied force.

According to West in *Fox Killed in the Open* this desert victory paved the way to Alamein two years later.

He tells in vivid detail the start of progress of Compass, describing the opening attack by Indian infantry on the Italians at Nibeiwa.

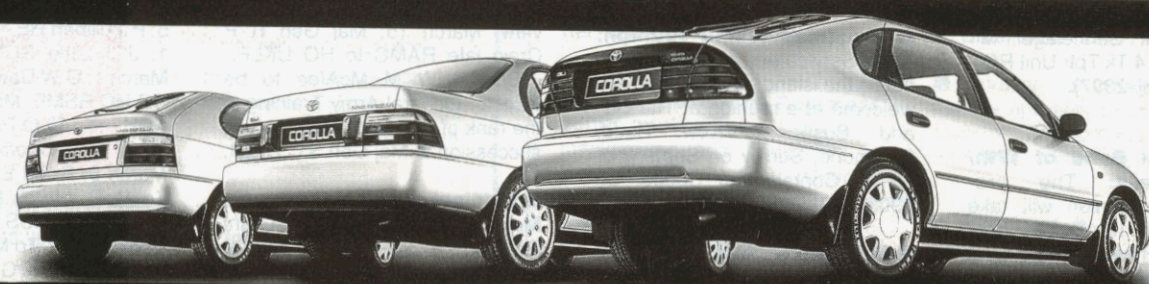
The onslaught lasted just an hour with a follow-up by the Cameron Highlanders, the Rajputana Rifles and 7 RTR with their Matilda tanks.

Hundreds of Italians died and more than 4,000 were taken prisoner. Conversely, the Allied infantry had "practically nil casualties".

West goes on to say that when the Matildas with their two-pounders had reduced the Italian tanks to "heaps of twisted metal", the Italian artillery shells, despite scoring direct hits, "bounced off" the Matildas without effect.

Allowing for the passing of time - remember, this battle took place 53 years ago - he may well be right in his description, for he was there. But for all that this paperback tale, with its ringing patriotism,

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ing the seven company marches, *Long Reveille*, *Mess Pipers*, *Jock's Favourites*, and a medley for solo piper and band.

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And that's only the main titles. I make it 70 tunes played in the space of 76 minutes, yet there is no sense of being short-changed on any of them, at least not to this sassenach.

• From Bandleader, CD £12, cassette £7.60 inc.

BOOK REVIEWS

Desert theatre

● From page 37

has the air of a *Boys' Own* adventure about it.

It would have made superb propaganda at the time, but it's still a good, exciting read and will stir many memories for those who took part in it. — JM

Fox Killed in the Open by Don West. Warrior Press, 2 Comberton Road, Barton, Cambridge, £9.50 inc.

Dodo, rebel with a cause

IT IS unfortunate that the late Dodo Lees should claim the same birthday as Hitler and Charlie Chaplin.

She was born on April 20, 1920 and Hitler on the same day in 1889. But Chaplin, according to the record books, entered the world four days earlier than the dictator.

This little slip-up appears in

line four on the first page of her autobiography, *Dodo*, a book which moves at a tremendous rate — reflecting the speed and excitement of her self-confessed life of privilege.

Beautiful, 6ft and with a fine pedigree, she was a natural rebel — but she had a cause. She always supported the underdog.

To get into action in the war she used her social connections to transfer from the British Red Cross, in which she was a VAD nurse, to that of the French and get near to the front line; she became involved with the Maquis, penetrating the German lines to get to Switzerland for medical supplies for their wounded.

After the war she joined the Labour Party and stood for Parliament — unsuccessfully — while her husband was an avowed Tory.

She helped launch Malta's tourist industry and got to know many of the great and the good — and some not so — in political circles, the armed forces and the newspaper world.

She also got to know many "nobodies" who drew her interest and help throughout her life. She died in 1991. — JM

SECRET OF GIAP'S SUCCESS

HOW GREAT a soldier is General Vo Nguyen Giap, the man who crushed the elite battalions of the French Foreign Legion at the battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1953-54?

The question is posed by former British Army brigadier Peter Macdonald in his book *Giap — the Victor in Vietnam*.

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Vietnamese people and the country's military leaders — especially Giap, a man he holds in some awe.

With more than 30 years' service in the British Army, specialising in bomb disposal, Macdonald is not easily impressed, but his story of Giap gives the feeling that this general would be worth five stars in anyone's army. — JM

Giap — the Victor in Vietnam by Peter Macdonald. 4th Estate, £17.99.

Dodo by Dodo Lees. Images, Hanley Swan, Worcestershire WR8 0DX, £14.95.

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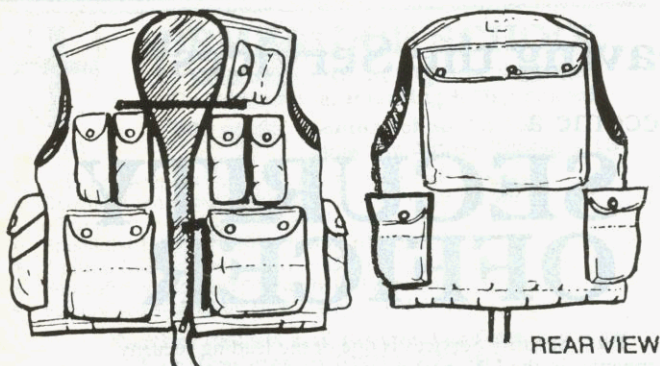
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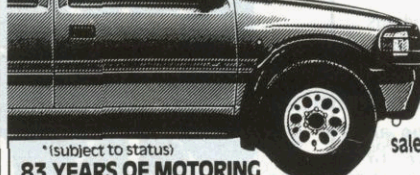
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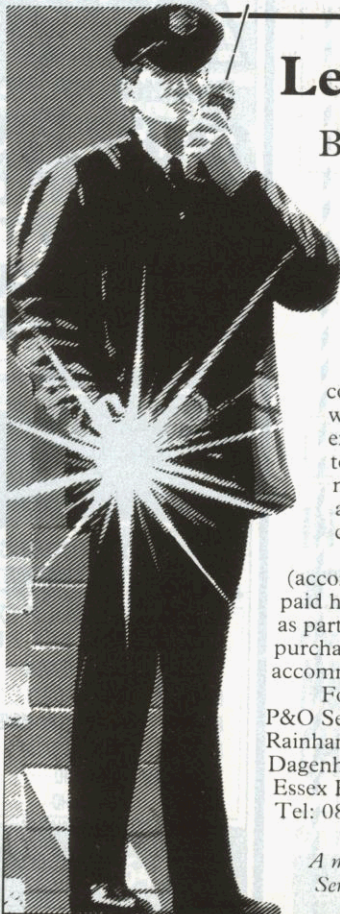


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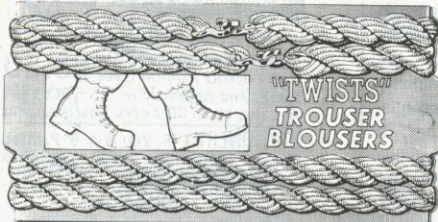
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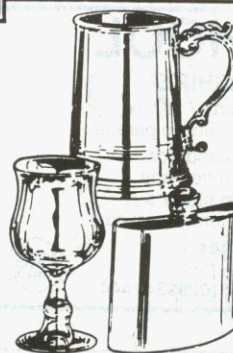
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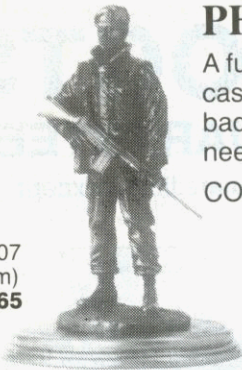
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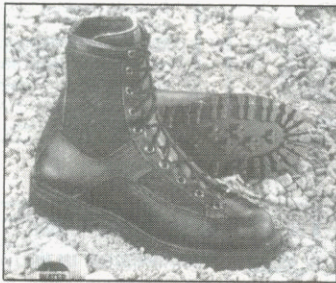
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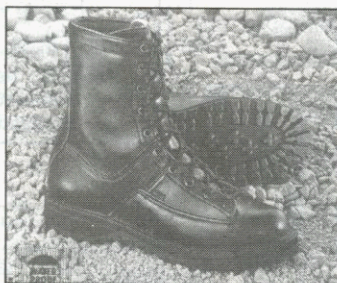
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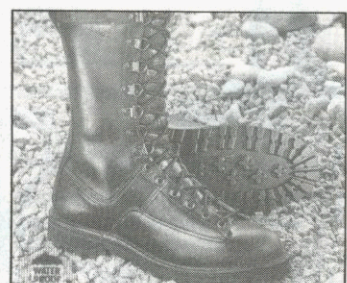
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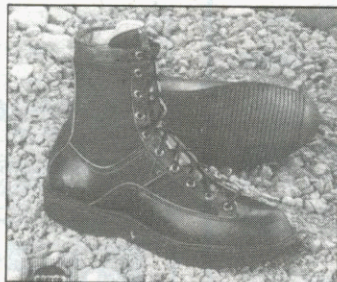
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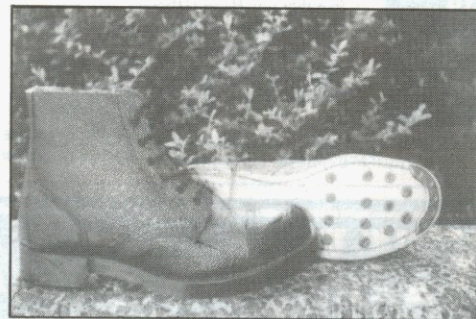
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organisation of the Charity Scheme for the reconstruction of the body of Trustees

Ref: RLB-272357-SC(RB 35)

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them [ref: RLB-272357-SC(RB 35)] at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month of today. 2018

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Late winner stuns airmen

The Army 1,
Royal Air Force 0

THE RAF could feel a little displeased with the result of this Inter-Services championship match after conceding the only goal of the game with barely a minute remaining.

They had looked the better

Final count favours sappers

SAPPER units will provide three of the four sides contesting the two forthcoming Army Cup football finals, writes Derrick Bly.

The senior final will be between Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment and UKLF champions Training Regiments RE in Aldershot on April 7, while the Minor Units final at Bracht in Germany on April 24 will be contested by CAD Kinton and BAOR champions 3 Postal Courier Depot RE.

CAD Kinton 3,
15 Sqn RCT 0

With eight corp players in their team, Kinton were favourites for the Leyland DAF-sponsored UKLF Minor Units final against 15 Squadron RCT.

Honours were pretty much even for an hour until the pressure began to tell on the Catterick side's defence and Kinton scored three times in the final 20 minutes.

LCpl Steve Tweddle, son of former Army team manager Maj Bill Tweddle, broke the deadlock when he was put through by an inch-perfect pass from Cpl John Edwards.

Tweddle, arguably the man of the match, undid some of his good work by getting himself cautioned for a late challenge.

side for all but the final 20 minutes, writes Derrick Bly.

A crowd of about 800, including GOC Southern District, Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, and Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, saw a tough encounter.

With the Army having problems stringing their game together, they resorted to Wimbledon-style long balls, missing out the midfield altogether.

With seconds ticking away the RAF conceded a free kick on the edge of the area, but Sgt Alan Higgins's low drive was pushed aside by the goalkeeper. Then, with the referee checking his watch, a long kick by Army 'keeper Cfn Mickey Taylor reached Sgt Kevin Parkins who nudged the ball on to substitute Cpl Jamie Smith (on for Sig Pete Brown) who pushed the ball home.

The Carrington Cup was presented by Gen Swinburn to Army skipper Parkins, whose side now needs only a draw against the Royal Navy at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth to win the Constantinople Cup for the first time in three years.

● Maj Gen John MacDonald has presented a superb Trophy for the Inter-Corps and Services Merit Table competition to be introduced next season. It will be called the Massey Trophy after the chairman of the AFA executive committee, Brig Andy Massey, whose brainchild the competition is.

Gen MacDonald also presented the AFA with a cheque for £1,000 from the Royal Corps of Transport.

Wiltshire 1,
The Army 1

Needing only to avoid defeat against Wiltshire by more than two goals to reach the South West Counties Championship final where the Royal Navy await them, the Army were well worth a 1-1 draw at Devizes.

Pte Pete Batey (Para) returned, bringing the Army back to full strength, although Sig Paul Brown took an early

knock and was replaced by Sgt Gary Williams (R Signals).

Batey, Sgt Alan Higgins and Cpl Tony Wright were outstanding in the Army defence and Wiltshire hardly got a sight of Cfn Mick Taylor's goal in the first half.

Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) eventually put the visitors into the lead from ten yards after SSgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) had flicked on a long ball by Pte John Wills.

The county equalised from the penalty spot a minute later, but the result means that the Army will meet Group B winners, the Royal Navy, in the SW Counties final at Aldershot on a date to be arranged.

Army Youth 2,
Royal Navy Youth 1

In the Inter-Services youth championship, the Army edged home against the Royal Navy by the odd goal in three at Aldershot.

Fus Jones (1 RWF) broke the deadlock in the 33rd minute. He made ground on the right, cut inside a defender and fired an excellent shot from fully 25 yards which dipped just below the Navy crossbar.

The Navy had a chance to level matters a minute later but a harsh penalty award saw Army goalkeeper AT Miller (AAC Harrogate) make a brilliant save.

The Navy fell further behind in the 78th minute. A good ball by ACpl Johnson (Harrogate) was headed on by Jones for Cooke to score.

Seconds later the Navy pulled a goal back when a pile-up in the Army penalty area resulted in Purvis getting the final touch.

Veterans wanted

VETERAN footballers who wish to be considered for an Army-RAF side to play in an Over-35s tournament sponsored by Manchester United from July 28 to August 1 should contact Capt Mick Doig (York Mil 8930 or 0904 83251) as soon as possible.



Lt David Shillingford goes close for the Army against the Royal Navy. The Army won by six goals to one and went on to claim the championship

JUST CHAMPION!

FOR THE fourth successive year the Army are Inter-Services hockey champions, writes Alan Healey.

They hammered the Royal Navy 6-1 and held the Royal Air Force in a tense draw to take the title on their artificial pitch at Aldershot. The three-day Inter-Services festival included, for the first time, the women's Inter-Services as well as the veterans' and Under-21 competitions.

The Army squad went into the tournament after a run of mediocre performances, including 0-2 and 0-1 defeats by British Police and the Civil Service.

Short corner drills were not up to standard and players and coaches spent time perfecting their techniques.

A further blow to the Army was the news, just before the tournament, that Maj Ian Jolly would not be able to join the team from BAOR.

Negative thoughts were brushed aside on the opening day, however, when the hosts

took on the Royal Navy. The Army played superbly to win by six goals to one, a result which gave them a great boost for the match against the RAF on the final day.

But the Army U-21s lost 2-1 to the Navy and the veterans were beaten 0-1. In the day's other match, the RAF women beat the RN women 2-1.

Next day the Army women played their first game, beating the Royal Navy 2-0. In the men's competitions the RAF took on the Navy, winning the senior match 1-0 and the veterans' match 2-1. The Navy U-21s won their game 2-1.

In the opening match of the final day the Army veterans lost to the airmen 2-5, the U-21s went down fighting 2-3 and the women also lost, 3-1 in a penalty stroke shoot-out after there had been no score at the end of normal time.

For the Army, 2nd Lt Sara Billingham was exceptional although the team's lack of scoring edge was disappointing.

The climax of the tourna-

ment was the eagerly awaited clash between the Army and the RAF. It drew a good crowd which included representatives from Army sponsors and kit suppliers, Peake Sports.

Play ranged from end to end, with the airmen thwarting every attempt by the Army to break down their defence. Capt Simon Hazlett and Officer Cadet Matt Way – the first RMA Sandhurst cadet for

many years to appear at this level – were outstanding.

The RAF fired in a penalty corner, but the umpire ruled the ball had not been correctly stopped.

Neither side could break the deadlock and the final score was 0-0. Under the rules of the tournament that was sufficient to make the Army champions for the fourth successive year.

The Combined Services team

is to take on the President of the Hockey Association's XI at Aldershot on April 7, the same day as the Army Cup Final.

The Army senior squad for the Inter-Services tournament was Capt John Williams (R Signals), 2nd Lt Igor Johnstone (REME), Capt Rob Mercer (RE), Capt Bryan Hemmings (RE), Capt Simon Hazlett (Infantry, captain), Cpl Dave Antonelli (REME), Lt David Shillingford (RA), LBdr Ian Gall (RA), OC Matt Way (RMAS), SSgt Ian Jennings (APTC), Cpl Stuart Greenwood (REME), SSgt Frazer Millar (RE), LCpl R Burton (R Signals) and Cpl Mick Bale (REME).



Army Under 21 defenders line up for a Royal Navy penalty corner. They lost 1-2

Picture: Mike Weston

Picture: Terry Champion

Run-away win sets standard

The Army 37, Royal Navy 15

IT WAS as though the spirit of Spring had touched the heels of the players, writes **John Elliott**.

Statistics stretching distantly to 1878 fail to reveal if there has ever been a more sublime afternoon for rugby than that which welcomed the Army and Royal Navy to Twickenham on March 13.

Or whether the combatants of yesteryear ever used the conditions as effectively as their 1993 heirs.

But to the delight of a 12,000-plus crowd – and the particular joy of its khaki component – the latest match in this 115-year-old fixture produced both the largest winning score and the greatest aggregate of points.

Given royal patronage in the form of Prince Edward, the players responded royally. At the end of 80 breathtaking minutes the Army had won by three goals, two tries and two dropped goals to a goal, a try and a penalty.

The Army took a quick advantage through a fourth minute Spowart drop after skipper Deans had set up the

position with an incisive break into the Navy 22. Three minutes later Deans added a second dropped goal from 40 metres.

The Army however, could well have reached the interval in arrears. Under severe naval examination, their defence was resolute.

Bethwaite closed the gap with a penalty award when the red shirts were held responsible for the players' one and only lapse from grace – a brawl that erupted in the shadow of the royal box.

Sanity was quickly restored on the field, although off it the boorish whistling which accompanied every penalty goal attempt continued to the end.

Palmer dived over for the Navy after Deans's sliced clearance had put pressure on the Army line, and evergreen Chalky Atkins ran in a try conjured by the backs when Dahinten's surge was stopped under the posts. Spowart converted.

Minutes earlier fullback Graham had dropped the ball on the Navy line when he was tackled as he finished off a loop move by the creative Army backs.



Forward we go. Army players (white shorts) are, from left, 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten, 2nd Lt Tim Rodber, Cpl Michael Watson, Lt Gareth James, Capt Julian Brammer, Bdr Jim Fowers and Sgt Dave Coghlan

Play immediately switched to the other end of the field where the Navy's Sibson reached up for a Kaye "bomb" among a clutch of Army defenders. Bethwaite converted and the Navy were ahead 13-18.

But the final action of the half had to wait until injury time when debutant No 8 Watson barged over from five

metres following scrumhalf Williams's precise kick to the corner flag. The Army's jumpers – Dahinten and Swan were dominant throughout the afternoon – won the lineout and Watson's alertness took them back into the lead.

The abiding memory of the second half was of red shirts ripping dark blue defence to shreds. The rugby was as exhilarating as the sunshine brightening the new tiers of the famous old stadium.

First Deans, whose line kicking was wonderfully sure, jinxed under the posts from the 22 after Graham had run back from halfway a missed touch. Rodber, in support, took his pass and the skipper finished it off with style. Spowart converted the goal.

Then Watson burst out of broken play midway into the Navy half. Suddenly he was clear, galloping over unopposed for his second try.

Two minutes from time a memorable Army move swept from East stand to West and back again. The forwards' part in it was rewarded when hooker Brammer received the scoring

pass and dived over, with undisguised delight, close to the posts. Graham kicked the extra points.

As the whistle blew for no-side the Army pack was again threatening the Navy line after marching the ball fully 40 metres up the field.

It was the Army's sixth consecutive win, a feat achieved previously only in 1932-37.

After the match six players – Simon, Glasgow, Stewart, Dahinten, James and Watson – received their first caps from Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff.

The AFFAS-sponsored Willis Corroon Trophy match was preceded by an entertaining Under-21 curtain-raiser in which England Students were too sophisticated for Combined Services, winning by 36 points to 14.

Army – Lt Howard Graham (RHA); SSgt Paul Simon (REME), Capt Tony Glasgow (RE), SSgt Chris Spowart (APTC), SSgt Chalky Atkins (R Signals); Capt Andy Deans (AGC, captain), Cpl David Williams (RRW); Lt Seb Stewart (DWR), Capt Julian Brammer (RE), Bdr Jim Fowers (RHA), 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten (RHA), Capt Tim Swan (RAMC), 2nd Lt Tim Rodber (Green Howards), Lt Gareth James (RRW), Cpl Michael Watson (REME). Replacement – Sgt Dave Coghlan (RHA) for Stewart.



Picture: Mike Weston

RAOC bows out in style with corps title

WITH EIGHT runners packing into the top 30 on home territory at Blackdown on March 10, the RAOC won its second successive – and last – Inter-Corps cross country championship before merging into the Royal Logistic Corps.

Led by SSgt Ray Keeney in fourth and Cpl Kenny Butler ten seconds behind him in fifth, the RAOC finished comfortably ahead of the Infantry with APTC third, Royal Engineers fourth and Royal Signals fifth. Eleven teams entered.

Individual honours went to Pte Darren Stephenson (1 PWO), who stormed home in

the 10km senior race a commanding 40 seconds ahead of SSI Geoff Wade (APTC) and Maj Glen Grant (RA). They were involved in a close battle for second place before Wade edged away to cross the line just six seconds ahead of Grant.

Cpl Kelly Holmes comfortably won the women's individual honours in leading the Adjutant General's Corps to victory. Sgt Mel Bradley of Army Medical Services was second, and Cpl Sarah Bradbury (AGC) third.

AMS finished second in the team competition, followed in by the ROAC, RCT, APTC, R Signals and ACC.



Pte Darren Stephenson crossing the line in first place

Picture: Mike Perring



Army skipper Capt Andy Deans lifts the Willis Corroon Trophy in triumph after receiving it from Prince Edward (right). On the left is Mr Dudley Wood, secretary of the RFU

Inserting patrols into the jungle is such a skilled operation that 660 Squadron, Army Air Corps, practises this regularly in Hong Kong before aircrew leave to support Gurkha units in Brunei. A Scout helicopter takes off with a patrol to carry out the drills. Story and more pictures in Pages 26–27.

Picture: Mike Perring

