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VOLVO EXPORT



Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

APRIL 18, 1994
Vol 50/8

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FRONT COVER: Main picture – Scimitar gunner Rfn Karl Crosbie of S Coy, 2 RGJ, is well protected from the cold in northern Norway. See Pages 21-23. (Picture: WO2 Kevin Capon.) Inset – Horses on the racing line during the Grand Military meeting at Sandown. Story in Pages 26-27. (Picture: Mike Weston.)

● Smoking may seriously damage your war pension. An amendment debated in the House of Lords has clarified the law. See Page 9.

● Donald Green "characters" are given pride of place in military messes around the world. Meet the man behind the caricatures. See Pages 24-25.

● The Grand Military meeting at Sandown is a unique Army occasion. See why on Pages 26-27.

● A close in new village-style married quarters at Aldershot has been named after the late Anne Armstrong who campaigned for better conditions for Army families. See Page 30.

D-Day show on the road



Picture: Mike Perring

"We were there": D-Day participants Les Frost (centre), national chairman of the Normandy Veterans' Association (ex-Royal Artillery) and Richard Coyne (formerly of 43 Tank Battalion, Coldstream Guards), NVA national parade marshal, reminisce with Anthony Robins of the D-Day commemoration team, who is wearing

Second World War Parachute Regiment uniform. The three men were at the London launch of the Government's D-Day roadshow – opened by Lord Cranborne, minister with responsibility for the D-Day commemorative programme – which will be visiting ten cities throughout the United Kingdom until June 4.

The lessons of Kinabalu

– Army training chief

ANY LESSONS which emerge from the ill-fated expedition to Mount Kinabalu in northern Borneo will be written into a new British Army Adventurous Training Compendium.

Half the ten members of the Royal Logistic Corps expedition were unable to negotiate the terrain and were on the verge of dying from starvation when they were rescued by the Malaysian Armed Forces in late March after being out of contact for three weeks.

Maj Gen Robert McAfee, Director General of Army Training, told **SOLDIER**

adventurous training would continue to play an important part in the development of junior leadership and in preparing Service personnel for the stresses and strains of operations.

There was a difference between risk and serious hazard to life, he said, and the Kinabalu experience would be used to help those mounting and supervising future expeditions to remote areas.

The group climbed Mt Kin-

abal on February 22 but split to allow the more experienced and fitter members to blaze a trail for the others. The parties lost sight of each other on March 1 and the slower party was unable to negotiate a 1,000ft waterfall.

Lt Col Robert Neill, Maj Ronald Foster (TA), Pte Chow Wai Keung, Pte Lam Wai Ki and LCpl Cheung Yiu Keung were finally located on March 25 after a massive three-week

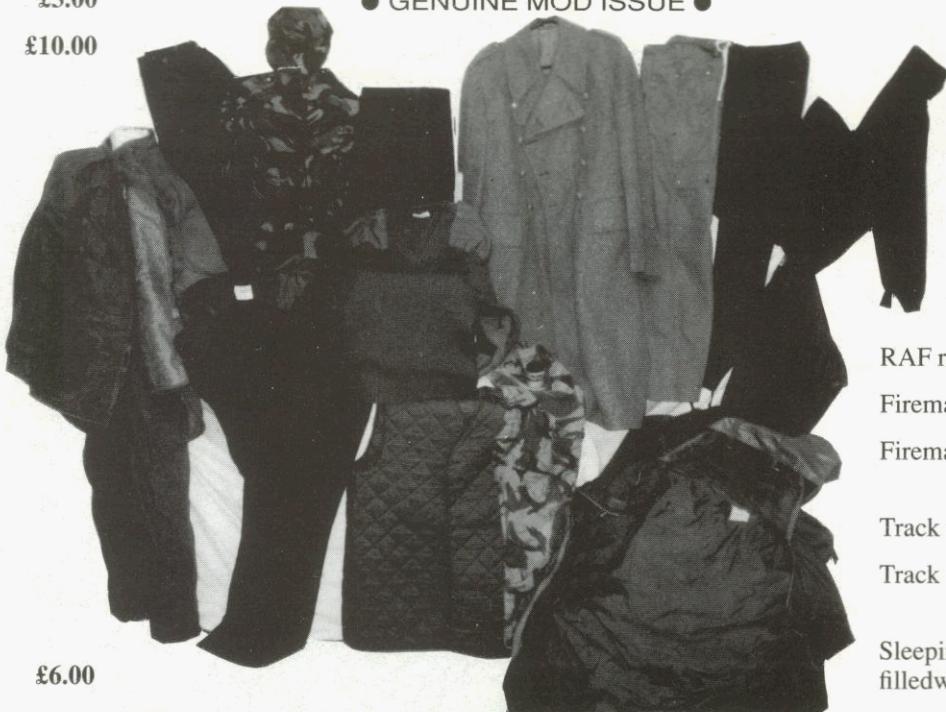
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Roof expedition reaches second Alaskan goal

DESPITE a "white-out" blizzard, temperatures of minus 40C and 60mph winds, 20 British guardsmen taking part in the first stage of the Roof of the Americas expedition have reached their second Alaskan

objective. The abnormal conditions made it hard and dangerous going for humans, huskies and snowmobiles as they reached Point Barrow, the northernmost point of America, after a 1,828-mile adven-

ture across Alaska. Following the recovery of the team to Anchorage by C130 Hercules – scheduled for the end of March – the second phase of the expedition, involving 15 new guardsmen explorers, is due

to set off from London on April 21.

The team will attempt to climb Mt McKinley, at 20,320ft North America's highest, coldest and most inhospitable mountain.

Kiseljak HQ to run down

THE UN's Bosnia-Herzegovina Command (BHC) headquarters at Kiseljak is being substantially reduced while its forward HQ in Sarajevo is expanding.

The chief of staff and operations functions moved to Sarajevo early in April, while the deputy chief of staff, logistic and support elements are expected to form BHC Rear at Split in mid-April.

LIGHT DRAGOONS

Within two days of the decision to send extra troops to Bosnia the first of 104 men and their 26 Scimitar light reconnaissance vehicles from D Squadron, The Light Dragoons, were flying from Hanover to Split.

At the same time the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment was flying from Britain.

Elements of 7 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps deploy in April as part of the planned roulement for the start of Grapple 4, during which the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, will replace the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

LONG VOYAGE

Foul weather did not stop Marchwood-based HMAV *Ardennes* from delivering 14 mortar locating radar vehicles to Split early last month after the longest sea passage undertaken by the logistic landing craft, which completed the voyage of more than 2,700 nautical miles in 13 days.

The crew of 35 RLC and Royal Signals soldiers loaded damaged UN vehicles and returned to Marchwood on March 20.

● **Op Grapple – Pages 16-19**



Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, commander of UN forces in Bosnia, accompanied by his wife, Angela, at Buckingham Palace after receiving his knighthood from the Queen



A Light Dragoons Scimitar is loaded on to an RAF C130 Hercules bound for duty on Operation Grapple

Bosnia victim's military burial

CPL Barney Warburton was buried with full military honours on March 29 in the tiny church of St Peter in his home village of Llanbedr, Gwynedd.

His body was flown to RAE Llanbedr by an RAF C130 Hercules aircraft, and a bearer party was provided by 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD).

Cpl Warburton became the

second British soldier to die on United Nations duty in Bosnia when he was fatally injured by a mine on March 19.

Two soldiers of the 1st Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Royal Regiment, received shrapnel injuries when one of five Serb shells hit their base in Bugojno, central Bosnia, early on March 25.

Lessons of Kinabalu

● **From Page 3**

hunt by the Malaysian Armed Forces, aided by specialist RAF mountain rescue teams and joined by Army pot-holing experts.

Looking like emaciated prisoners of war, they were finally plucked from the uncharted Low's Gully by helicopter. Three days' food had lasted three weeks and each had lost 20 per cent of his body weight.

At the British Military Hospital in Kowloon, the five were in a better initial condition than the party of five NCOs which reached a village and raised the alarm on March 12.

Cpl Hugh Brittan was the most experienced member of this party which comprised Sgt Robert Mann (TA), LCpl Stephen Page, LCpl Richard Mayfield and LCpl Peter Shearer.

Cpl Shearer was badly injured when a tree holding his abseil rope gave way, causing him to fall 60ft onto his face. He also lost a lot of blood one night when a giant leech fastened onto an eye.

But the physical and psychological ordeal, and the determination shown by Cpl Brittan's team in reaching safety with the injured LCpl Shearer, was part of the training which has made British soldiers outstanding in wartime survival situations.

The Commander British Forces in Hong Kong, Maj Gen John Foley, who served with the Special Air Services, said the performance of British soldiers in the Falklands or Gulf might not have been as good without such experiences.

Last year, 10,000 personnel took part in more than 600 Army-sponsored expeditions overseas with no notifiable casualties. An adventurous philosophy remains vital to the spirit of the Army.

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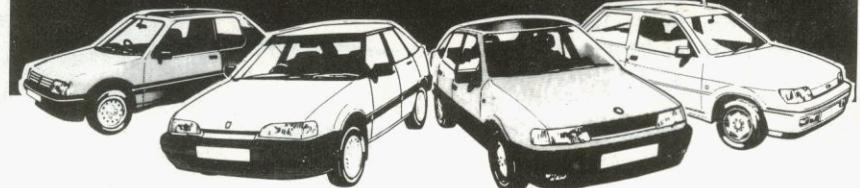
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Ex-CDS warns of 'appalling' problems

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

UNLESS long-term defence strategy is taken into account in cost-cutting exercises, "we store up appalling problems for ourselves in the future", Fd Marshal Lord Bramall said in the Lords.

The former Chief of the Defence Staff, supporting a call by Lord Williams of Elvel for a full defence review, said: "For the record, events in former Yugoslavia will be the fourth occasion in the past 15 years when, totally unexpectedly, we have had to deploy sizeable forces, although we had no particular plans to do so."

Until priorities were sorted out it would be "irresponsible" to re-

design our Armed Forces merely as a result of cost demands from the Treasury.

Referring to a full defence review as "an irrelevance in a fast-moving world", Defence Under-Secretary Viscount Cranborne said the radical value-for-money reviews now taking place would achieve their results without reducing overall defence capabilities.

Lord Peyton called for steps to be taken to improve the co-ordination between government departments involved in han-



dling the problems of those disabled while serving in the Armed Forces.

Defence Under-Secretary Viscount Cranborne, referring

to a detailed study in 1991 and to the work of the Services Medical Discharge Welfare Committee, said such co-ordination was kept under review.

said Viscount Cranborne.

• • •

Three new types of anti-tank mine – mines in the new century (MINX), vehicle-launched scatterable mine system (VLSMS), and aimed controlled effect anti-tank mine (ACEATM) – are being considered for procurement.

"We are also reviewing our future requirement for anti-tank mines generally and for anti-personnel landmines," Defence Procurement Minister Jonathan Aitken told the Commons. "We will continue to ensure that any landmine capability we have fully meets the requirements of the international laws of armed conflict."

Larkhill AD system in control

A SOPHISTICATED system to co-ordinate and control Royal Artillery Air Defence weapons has opened at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.

The Air Defence Command Control and Information System (ADCIS) is a "top to bottom" system equipping all-arm headquarters at corps, division and brigade with air defence management at regimental and battery level.

ADCIS replaces a control system reliant on time-consuming and basic voice-controlled procedures which have changed little in 20 years.

No comparable system operates anywhere else in the world. For the first time large amounts of information will be available at commanders' fingertips. Changes to weapons status initiated at corps level can now be put into force in minutes rather than hours.

More than 250 vehicles of four Regular and three Territorial Army air defence regiments will be fitted with the system, with conversion of the first elements of 5 Airborne Brigade and 3 Commando Brigade starting in January.

First training in the classroom training facility at Larkhill will start in May.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Brig Shane Rutter-Jerome, Commandant of The Royal School of Artillery, tries the new ADCIS training facility under the watchful eyes of (left to right) instructors WO2 (SMIG) Dave Dallimore, WO2 (SMIG) Mick Bowden and Mr Peter Errington of the contractors, EASAMS Ltd

Lone star state

STATUS of the Commander British Forces Falkland Islands will be reduced to one-star level when the present commander, Maj Gen Iain Mackay-Dick, is replaced in June by Air Commodore Peter Johnson.

QRH pass the test

THE Queen's Royal Hussars were thrown in at the deep end last month when the Fallingsbostel-based regiment was set an operational readiness test by Brig Andrew Ridgley, Commander 2 Armoured Brigade.

Exercise Maddened Rat (named after the regiment's ops officer, Capt David Madden) involved organising and running a high-profile regimental gunnery competition.

After all-night work by all departments, including the

REME, the Challenger tanks were brought up to competition standard and on day two the squadrons deployed to the Bergen-Hohne ranges.

Day three saw each tank checked to ensure there had been no changes to the crew or to the vehicles themselves, before each troop was called forward from the holding area to shoot at randomly-displayed targets.

First place went to 3rd Troop, B Squadron.

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Change of command for Pirbright troops

WITH EFFECT from April 1, command and control of all troops based in the Pirbright area changed from HQ London District to HQ South-

ern District at Aldershot.

This command was in turn delegated to Brig Guy de Vere Hayes, commander HQ 2 Brigade, whose headquarters is

located at Folkestone, Kent.

The reassignment of command, a result of the reorganisation under Options for Change, involves no more than

an administrative change of command which removes the anomaly of an enclave within Southern District commanded by another district.

Medics aid victims of Chernobyl

MEDICS from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance based in Aldershot are in Minsk, Byelorussia, training technicians to treat children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986.

Commanded by Maj Roland Gill, the nine men and one woman doctor are part of the American Operation Provide Hope which takes to Byelorussians hospital equipment kept for use during the Cold War.

The medics, who left Aldershot on March 22 and are due to return on April 20, are helping set up equipment in the city's emergency hospital and radiological institute for children. They have also distributed toys which they bought with funds raised by the unit.

Gurkhas to ride the Nullarbor

THE FINAL adventurous training expedition mounted by Brunei-based 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles before it amalgamates in July with the 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles is a 3,400-mile cycle ride across Australia.

The route covers some of the harshest terrain in the world, including the Nullarbor desert and eastern highlands.

The ten cyclists and seven administration team left Perth on April 7 and hope to arrive at Townsville on April 24.

Kenya death

CFN Craig Kerr of 9 Field Workshop attached to the British Army Training and Liaison Staff Kenya died in a road traffic accident on March 28 while travelling on duty from Nairobi to Mombasa.

Bitter-sweet march at Chepstow



Picture: Mike Weston

Members of the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, march through the historic town as part of the college's 70th anniversary celebrations. It was a bitter-sweet occasion, since the college is due to close in June and the apprentices will move out to make way for a Regular Army battalion. Royal Engineer trade skills and education will be carried out elsewhere. See also back cover

Smoking threat to pensioners

SERVICE personnel or their widows may be excluded, with certain exceptions, from receiving a pension if disablement or death is caused by smoking or alcohol-related disease.

Following a recent High Court decision in favour of a widow, the Government has "clarified" the law with an amending order which came into effect on March 28. Earlier, Government proposals were changed slightly following consultations with the Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions.

Social Security Under-Secretary Viscount Astor told the House of Lords on March 15: "We originally proposed to except from the exclusion any individual who suffered from a Service-related mental disablement that was assessed at 80 per cent or more and caused him to smoke or drink.

"Following careful consider-

ation of responses, we have decided to set the minimum level of mental disablement that will be considered at 50 per cent.

"Individual claims will still be subject to the further test that, whatever the assessment level of disablement, it must also cause the individual to smoke, or prevent him giving up."

He added that the change would not affect any war widow or disabled ex-Serviceman already receiving a pension as a result of a smoking-related disease.

Some peers pointed out that it was the stress of Service life, war and prison camps that led many Servicemen to become addicted to tobacco and in the past the Government had pro-

vided free cigarettes to help relieve the stress.

"Cigarettes were supplied to Servicemen during the Second World War as part of a ration for those who smoked. There was never any compulsion to smoke," said Lord Astor, who stressed that there had been no change of policy, only a clarification of the law.

He added later: "In the Navy a tot of rum was issued to those who served. It has never been suggested that as a result we should give war pensions to those who claim that they became alcoholics because of their service."

● The Royal British Legion led a delegation to the Commons on February 24 to voice opposition to the policy.

John's a man of note

The audience at the end of the last band concert to be given by the regimental band of the 1st Battalion the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment in front of the regiment, prior to amalgamation with the other divisional bands, were witnesses to a rather special ceremony.

Colonel of the Regiment Brig James Percival announced that the bandmaster, WO1 John Huggins, was to be promoted, and unveiled his badges of rank.

Following his commission, Capt Huggins, who has the rare distinction of passing all five qualifying examinations in one go, is to become a director of music of the Prince of Wales's Division.



Lincoln Museum flies the flag



A flag presented to Lincoln Museum will serve as a permanent reminder of the city's part-time paratroopers. Parachute Regiment Territorials had had a base in Lincoln from 1950 until 16 (Lincolnshire) Company of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment moved out last year. Now veteran George (Skip) Vickers (left), seen admiring the flag with Capt Les Ratcliffe, has promised, as a corporal who served with the Paras for four years in Malaya, to "look in from time to time" on the battalion's historic exhibit.

The unit now has a reconnaissance role.



LCpl David Farrow, Depot Regiment RE, has received his Army cycling colours. Soon to start a Clerk of Works course at the Royal School of Military Engineering, David is a time trial and road race specialist. He has represented the Army and competed in the national trophy series and national championships.

Chip chat

Sgt Clive Chippindale, Light Dragoons, talks to the Duke of Kent in the officers' mess, Schloss Bredebeck, where the Duke presented him and Sgt Paul Gibson with long service and good conduct medals. With the Duke, who called at the mess as part of a visit to see the regiment preparing for its tour in Bosnia, is CO Lt Col Robert Webb-Bowen.

The Duke was met at Wunstorf airbase by Brig Andrew Ridgeway, Cmdr 7 Bde.



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"A person who has not only epitomised the volunteer ethos of determination, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice but has provided a shining example both within the TA and to all employers of the mutually beneficial activities that volunteer service can provide."

That was part of the citation for 2nd Lt Ibrahim Kabia, pictured with his mother at the presentation, who received this year's Burberry Trophy as "Volunteer of the Year".

A finance officer with the London borough of Southwark, he is serving as a troop commander in 210 General Support Squadron RLC (V).

</div

PLAIN SAILING

OPERATIONAL commitments of two major units reduced the scale of First Crusade, 1 Mechanised Brigade's inaugural field training exercise on Salisbury Plain last month.

The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment had deployed to Bosnia on United Nations duty and the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment

was training for Northern Ireland.

Part of 1st Royal Tank Regiment was also training for Northern Ireland but the remainder was augmented by a Dutch conscript squadron from the 101st Tank Battalion, Prins Alexander's Hussars.

Nevertheless, it was one of the largest exercises held on the Plain for many years.

Dutch Leopard 2s exercised



On the attack: a soldier of 4 Platoon, 1 RWF, rushes a house in Copehill Down FIBUA village

for the first time in Britain alongside 1 RTR's 25-year-old Chieftains which gave a good account of themselves, said Capt Bobby Gould.

Before they could work together, however, differences in drills and procedures had to be ironed out. Leopard is capable of operating at twice the speed of Chieftain.

The Dutch were not used to British voice procedures and had to learn codes and secure orders cards so they could understand signals, said Maj Marcus Hutchings, OC H Squadron.

A second operational manoeuvre group was provided by the 1st Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers under new CO Lt Col Jon Riley. Following a tour in Berlin the battalion had started training for duty in Northern Ireland – its eighth since 1969 – and since Christmas has changed to a mechanised role.

The infantrymen relished the opportunity to re-learn urban fighting skills in Copehill Down FIBUA village. This most difficult form of warfare had dominated recent conflicts, said the adjutant, Capt Sean Price. Even a small village was potentially horrendous to clear.

Responsibilities for clearing casualties fell to 16 Armoured Field Ambulance. As well as a forward medical squadron, its principal facility was a dressing station which in wartime would deploy 17 officers and 38 combat medical technicians to deal with reception, treatment and evacuation of casualties to a field hospital.

One of five field ambulances dedicated to 3 (UK) Division, 16 Armd Fd Amb covered half a square kilometre, took three hours to set up and required six hours notice to move.

Many of its personnel were



Guns of E Battery, 1 RHA fire at target six kilometres away. The battery is effective up to 24km

TA, and its nine doctors, five nurses and two dentists could treat a large influx of casualties, said the 2iC, Maj Sam Johnston.

The unit was capable of treating 300 conventional casualties.

An enhanced capability to cause enemy casualties is possessed by 1 Royal Horse Artillery, which still enjoys the novelty of being the first unit equipped with AS90.

The gun's inertial navigation system, computer laying, and ability to fire three 96lb shells

in under ten seconds made it the best 155mm howitzer in service, said Maj Gerry Berrigan, OC E Bty.

Among the brigade's other affiliated support units which deployed were 10 Air Defence Battery from Thorney Island; 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron of 22 Engineer Regiment; 9 Regiment AAC from Dishforth, Yorkshire; 21 Support Squadron RLC; 3 Field Workshop REME; and 158 Provost Company RMP.

Although much could be done conceptually, commanders would never know if their soldiers were really fit for operations unless they were tested in the field, he said.

The Tidworth-based brigade had received new equipment following drawdown in

part, First Crusade was the largest exercise seen on Salisbury Plain for many years, said the commander, Brig Iain McNeil, who took over 1 Infantry Brigade after commanding the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Although much could be done conceptually, commanders would never know if their soldiers were really fit for operations unless they were tested in the field, he said.

The Tidworth-based brigade had received new equipment following drawdown in



Operating together in Britain for the first time on First Crusade were 1 RTR Chieftains and Dutch Leopard 2 main battle tanks



Dutch Hussar Bern Chrispyn (left) learns about the uprated AVRE from Lt Lou Martin of 22 Eng Regt

Germany and had changed from an infantry to a mechanised role.

After unit-level exercises, Brig McNeil put his whole brigade through its paces before himself being tested by 3 (UK) Div.

A major part of the exercise involved two night moves. Wheeled and light armoured vehicles made an 80km journey through Trowbridge and Devizes for which detailed planning with the county highways department and constabulary was essential. Heavy armoured vehicles

went on a different loop from Uphaven to the east of the area.

"It was a very complicated exercise with critical timings," said Brig McNeil.

He was acutely conscious of minimising potential damage to the chalk downs after the wettest winter for 60 years. The 4,500 soldiers were made aware of sites of special scientific and archaeological interest and special teams were deployed to clear mud from roads and lessen the impact of a mechanised brigade moving over the Plain.

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Perring

Last dance in Seattle



Above - Nicole (left) and Chana (both 9) enjoy trying their hand at drumming, much to the amusement of Drum Major Neil Nairne

Below - Pictured (left to right) at the gates of Fort Lewis area Lt Col Hughie Monro, CO QO Hldrs, Specialist Steven Barnard of 571st MP Co at Fort Lewis, and Pte Campbell Nicol



IT CAN still pay to join the Army if you want to travel – especially if you join the Queen's Own Highlanders.

In just a few months they have moved from Münster in Germany to their new barracks in Dreghorn, Edinburgh, and a few weeks later crossed the Atlantic for a month-long exercise in the United States, probably the last time Highlanders will exercise together as a full battalion.

Codenamed Trumpet Dance, the exercise took place at Fort Lewis, Seattle on the American western seaboard. It was an all-arms tactics exercise at company group level. Fort Lewis is one of the USA's largest military installations.

Situated in some 90,000 acres of woodlands, prairies and lakes, Fort Lewis lies 45 miles south of Seattle and is overlooked by Mount Rainier, a dormant volcano standing an impressive 14,000ft above sea level.

"To say that the sheer size of the installation is enormous by British standards would be an understatement," said Lt Col Hughie Monro, CO QO Hldrs and Battle Group Commander. "In addition, the facilities on offer at sub unit, company and battalion level allow great training flexibility which we could not duplicate in the UK."

Taking part in Trumpet Dance was a battle group of 700. In addition to the Highlanders the group contained a detachment from 658 Squadron, 7 Regiment AAC, a

battery from 7 Parachute Royal Horse Artillery, a troop from 8 Armoured Engineer Regiment, and elements from The Gordon Highlanders.

The battle group used three main locations for their training – Fort Lewis, where the troops were based, the Yakima live firing ranges in the mountains to the south and east, and Camp Bonneville to the south.

The February weather caused a few problems, and a heavy mist which hung over Fort Lewis most mornings caused firing schedules to be reorganised. The many firing ranges available offered the battle group plenty of opportunities to fire their SA 80s and mortars, and there were excellent facilities for simulating house clearances and platoon attacks.

The mountain at Yakima offered an ideal setting for exercising in harsh weather conditions.

Co-operation and liaison with the American hosts remained high throughout the exercise. The US Marine Corps Reservists invited elements of the battle group to familiarisation sessions in the use of their weaponry – including their large and impressive 50mm M2 machine gun which has a range of 7km.

The Band and the Pipes and Drums provided a touch of Caledonian military music which played a great part in enhancing the already flourishing community relations on the base.

By devoting time to enter-

Words:
Lesley Edgar
Pictures:
Mark Owens



Sgt Robert Washburn of 4th Landing Support Battalion, US Marine Corps Reserve, instructs members of the Queen's Own Highlanders in the use of the 50mm M2 machine-gun

taining the children and relatives of US Servicemen at local schools and community centres, the bandsmen broke many barriers.

Their performance of Beating Retreat in front of 300 guests helped to ensure that Trumpet Dance was a success

in social as well as military terms.

Back in Edinburgh, the Highlanders face a heavy season which includes ceremonial duties, Edinburgh's Royal Week and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo... and, of course, amalgamation.



Queen's Own Highlanders at a live firing exercise briefing at Fort Lewis



Sunrise over Sarajevo

SUNRISE over Sarajevo is strikingly beautiful. Looking east from UN headquarters at Kisieljak orange shafts of light pierce winter clouds but the silhouetted hills still exude a strange menace.

They were Bosnian Serb firing points for bombarding Sarajevo.

When one bang came at Kisieljak early in the morning there was no indication in which direction the 120mm mortar shell was travelling. Seconds later it exploded near the house of the UN Commander, which itself is only 100 yards from the HQ.

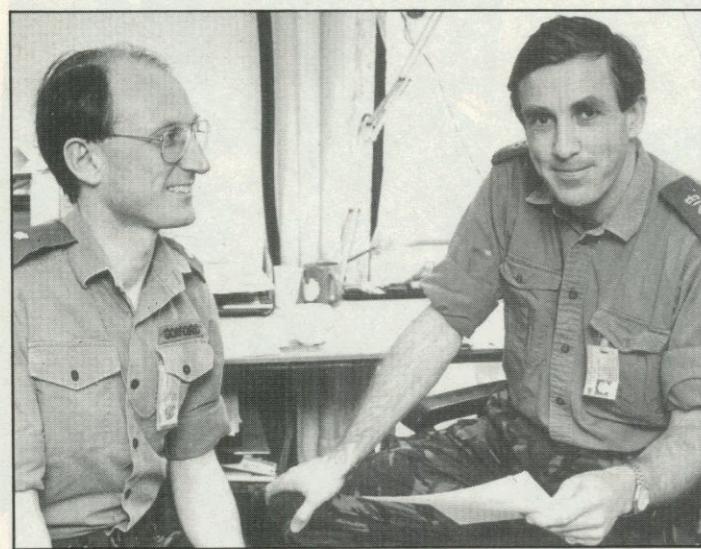
A chunk of shrapnel hit a workshop within the UN perimeter. Nobody was in at the time, but the shell claimed a victim in the town and within a few minutes civilian emergency service sirens were heard.

It was not a Serb shell. It was fired by the predominantly Muslim Bosnian Army which surrounded the Bosnian Croat pocket of about 50,000 souls.

It was to remind the Croats that they were next on the list after the Vitez pocket fell, said SSgt Mick Downie, chief clerk for the G3 Operations staff.

The odd shell did not worry him. There had been no real pressure on the Kisieljak pocket since last year and, until the recent ceasefire, there was only sporadic shelling. One got used to that.

What he and the 45 British soldiers at Kisieljak found more stimulating was working in an



Maj Paul Gorford and Lt Col Alick Finlayson, linchpins of the international operations room at Kisieljak

Pictures: Mike Weston

international environment.

The former Dalmajsk Hotel is the headquarters of the United Nations Bosnia-Hercegovina Command (BHC), which is commanded by Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose. The chief of staff under his predecessor, the Belgian Lt Gen, Francis Briquemont, was Brig Angus Ramsay, who was replaced in March by a Dutch brigadier.

BHC controls Sectors South East, commanded by Brig John Reith at Gornji Vakuf; Sector North West at Tuzla; and Sector Sarajevo, which is about 30 km away. There is also a BHC forward headquarters.

The main HQ also operates an integral Nato Air Operations Co-ordination Centre.

Working on operations in Kisieljak was completely different for SSgt Downie from his previous work at SHAPE or in the operations room with 1 Armoured Division when it was in Verden.

Rather than peacetime planning all the time, staff in Kisiel-

jak were usually reacting to what happened – until Lt Gen Rose started calling the shots.

Even before then, morale had been extremely high, said Maj Paul Gorford, Royal Signals, one of the staff officers working in the operations room with Lt Col Alick Finlayson, Queen's Royal Lancers.

Morale was high despite the accommodation. The hotel was built for the Sarajevo Olympics ten years ago and was never designed to hold the 500 UN staff which now crowd it.

Typical of the buildings erected by the former regime, its low quality concrete broke up, dust was everywhere, ablutions creaked and both power and water was intermittent, said Maj Gorford. Rooms could not always be protected by sufficient sandbags in case the whole structure collapsed.

Soldiers working in overdrive could cope with the conditions, but it was difficult having the capability to help and being continually frustrated by suspicious combatants.

The primary mission was to organise delivery of aid throughout Bosnia. Secondary activities included arranging the exchange of military or civilian casualties, and trying to re-introduce some infrastructure by improving electricity and the road system.

Soldiers had to look to the small victories and rise above the cruel disappointments, said Lt Col Finlayson.

One of the enjoyable facets of working at Kisieljak was the quality of the UN soldiers. Life was particularly pleasing because the headquarters worked extremely efficiently against all the odds and in spite of language and procedural problems.

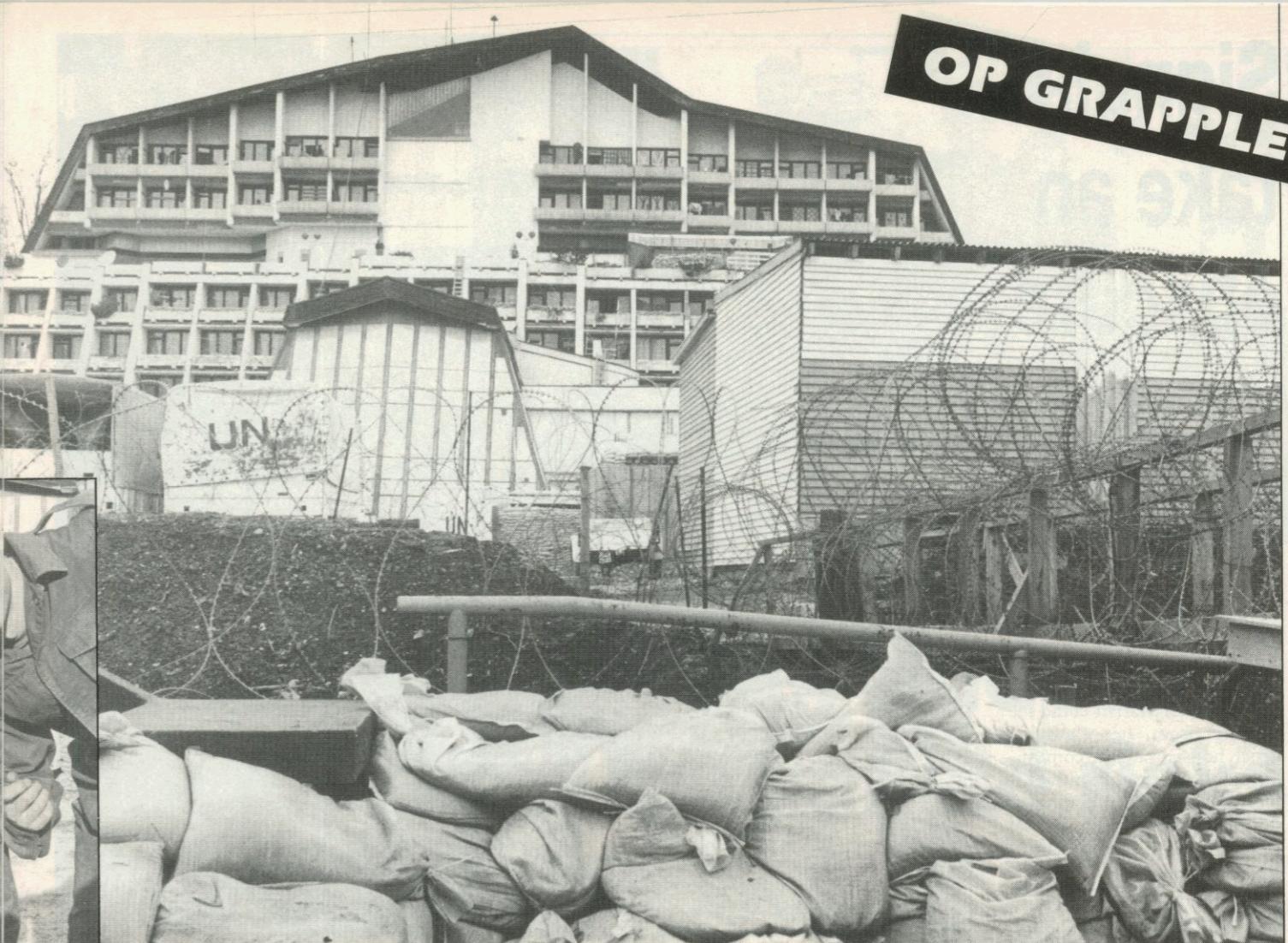
"I have representatives from 30 different nations here and can throw jobs at anybody,



Equipped with a crystal ball to understand and predict developments are Sgt Adrian Ferris AGC and Maj Guy Chambers LI of Military Information

knowing they are well motivated, will take it on even if not in their job description, and are prepared to work all hours the good Lord gives to solve it," he said.

Long hours escorting convoys are part and parcel of the job for Sgt Colin Preece. Along with Cpl BJ Smith and Keith Francis, he and two Dutch soldiers provide REME support for the international transport platoon. The platoon is commanded by a Dutch lieu-



Above – The former UN headquarters at Kisieljak

Left – Cpl Bernard "BJ" Smith and Sgt Colin Preece REME



LCpl Jason "Stumpy" Harding, driver for a two-star Russian adviser

tenant and numbers another six British drivers in its ranks.

Every convoy includes a Mercedes recovery vehicle and despite the icy conditions drivers often welcomed bad weather because children then stayed inside their homes. Many windscreens and headlights had been smashed round Prozor, said Sgt Preece.

Cold winter mists were

preferable to beautiful sunny mornings because they were a better protection than the Danish APCs which escorted them along the Visoko road.

Murky weather also shields drivers from the sniper who killed one of their number late last year.

LOOKING death in the face was one of the less agreeable experiences of LCpl Jason "Stumpy" Harding RLC during a six-month tour driving the UN's two-star Russian chief civil affairs adviser.

He was used to working with VIPs during his current posting in AFCENT, and regular trips from his base in Kisieljak via Sarajevo for discussions at the Bosnian Serb HQ in Pale were no problem.

The Russian got on well with the Serbs, and over a whisky LCpl Harding was even invited by the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, to go skiing with him.

A sniper's bullet once hit his armoured staff car, but things turned really nasty late one night when three Croats boxed them in.

As they started ranting and raving, LCpl Harding quickly locked the doors and closed the windows.

"It was very hairy because they spat at us and then cocked and aimed their weapons," he said.

The Russian was very shaken but LCpl Harding protected him by stopping him getting out of the car and eventually the three thugs left them alone.

OP GRAPPLE

Driver Jason's night of terror

Signals take an obscure view of Kiseljak

THE BURNT houses outside the Dalmajska Hotel in Kiseljak rather spoil the view from the balcony.

Cpl Karen Marritt could see nothing from her "shack", which housed satellite communications equipment for the Air Operations Control Centre at the main headquarters of the United Nations Bosnia-Herzegovina command.

It used to be a sun lounge before the hotel was taken over by the UN to run the humanitarian aid operation to central Bosnia.

The room is now completely enclosed, with sandbags and windows taped up as protection against the occasional shell which was lobbed into the town before the ceasefire in February.

Cpl Marritt fell in love with the gentle countryside she could see from the hotel balcony, but walking outside was neither sensible nor pleasant.

Former Muslim houses and shops have long since been gutted; the wretched inhabitants who survived fled to refugee camps.

Cpl Marritt was happy with her hotel room, which she shared with two other girls in the detachment, and readily admitted that many in the hotel were much more crowded.

Her signallers, from 30 Signal Regiment in Bramcote, serviced equipment in Sarajevo, which gave variety, but travel was normally in armoured convoys with passengers enclosed in Danish APCs, so there was not much to see on the journey.

It is unusual for her to be a detachment commander in an operational theatre, particularly as there are not very many women in her regiment. Options for Change has made



Royal Signals detachment at Kiseljak includes (front to rear) Cpl Karen Marritt, LCpl Debbie Hill, Sig Stu Coope, Sig Sarah Guthrie and Sig Jase Hodgkinson

Belgrade boyhood gave Chief of Staff a unique understanding

WITH THE replacement of Brig Angus Ramsay as Chief of Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina command headquarters in Kiseljak the UN has lost a unique understanding of the hatreds which fire the Balkans.

Brig Ramsay's father, Col Iain Ramsay, fought alongside the partisans as a junior Royal Scots Fusiliers officer on the British military mission to Tito. After the war he spent part of his childhood in Belgrade,



Brig Ramsay

where his father was a particularly successful defence attaché.

There was a tremendous temptation to blame the UN for the problems of Bosnia, said Brig Ramsay. UN soldiers had to accept that all

three sides would criticise them for their own inadequacies.

It was a hard to take casualties and not react but British soldiers had learned the same patience and tolerance in

Northern Ireland.

"The conflict is medieval in its ferocity and nastier than most civil wars," said Brig Ramsay.

"But it would have been much worse if the UN had not done what it has."

The Serbs had seen the UN as sustaining the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, but the mission had been a success story.

"Bombarding the city was an incredible waste of shells, but we continued to feed the people who were not interested in fighting each other and were just trying to keep alive," he said.

a difference.

"Females have to do exactly the same as the blokes, so we find ourselves in situations we would never have dreamt of before," she said.

She joined the Army as a static communicator, wore a

skirt and make-up, and loved being an office worker. On operations at Kiseljak it was strange to be working with people who 18 months before were potential enemies. Now they were friends, as she discovered when Slovakian sap-

pers joined the British one evening in the bar. The Slovaks brought a case of their famous beer, and greatly enjoyed the English bitter they received in return. Neither group understood the other, but communications were still good.



Pte Gary Rothwell, Pte Davie Dunn, Pte David Holloway and Pte Danny Lane redecorate a school near Tomislavgrad



Tomislavgrad Medical Detachment: Pte Ian Stokes, Cpl Stuart Griffin, Pte "Woody" Wood, Pte "Doc" Docherty, LCpl Justin McConnell, Pte Tony Steele and LCpl Iain Thompson, with Tpr Andrew Ovington LD and Cpl Shane Chapman RLC who were recovering from 'flu

OP GRAPPLE

How a serial killer added to the medics' battlefield risks

MEDICS are hardened to the sight of maimed and mangled bodies but dealing with the distress of abandoned mentally handicapped patients during a battle was still a disturbing experience.

When fighting engulfed Bakovici near Kiseljak and forced staff to flee last November, Lt Col John Skipworth,

Senior Medical Officer, and 14 medical technicians - newly arrived in theatre - went to help.

Half the 560 patients in two hospitals were children. Over three days 103 were evacuated in armoured personnel carriers.

There was a double risk: heavy fighting and violent

patients who had to be treated with great care.

"One was a serial killer who had murdered an inmate a few days before we arrived," said Lt Col Skipworth.

Medical support for UN forces is provided mainly by a medical squadron comprising combat medical technicians and administrative staff from 3 Armoured Field Ambulance in Sennelager, plus specialists from the UK.

Because of the hazardous nature of the route between Tomislavgrad and Gornji Vakuf, a mountain rescue team was formed. During a special instructional cadre it learned how to extract casualties from situations requiring a good knowledge of ropework.

The Medical Centre at Split is run by an RAF doctor who supervises medical evacuations to Britain or Germany. The supply and transport squadrons have two small satellite detachments run by combat medical technicians, as have the two Royal Engineer locations at Redoubt and Church Pond.

Medical force headquarters is at Tomislavgrad, with a clutch of staff to cover the Light Dragoons and Royal Engineer Group South. Collocated are the theatre reserve of medics and a duty crash team.

Gornji Vakuf has two medical teams which provide support for the Warriors which

clear the route north every morning.

A Medical Support Team (MST) in Vitez provides a 12-bed surgical facility which can extend to 25 beds if a disaster occurs. Its main work is dealing with everyday trauma and stabilising patients.

There is enough surgical capability to deal with 40 patients before re-supply, but there are no second or third line resources on hand so seriously-ill patients are made surgically safe than evacuated.

Most of the surgery has been on gunshot and fragmentation wounds, and two British civilian survivors of an execution in Zenica were glad to pass through the MST.

A dilemma confronts a military doctor who must try to avoid helping unentitled civilians with resources he may need for UNPROFOR personnel. But the MST CO, Lt Col David Jackson, supplies civilian hospitals with drugs and blood when he has no requirement for it.

With his long experience, he knows a few tricks to help local doctors manage their resources, and he is frequently involved in advising them.

"I often go with a liaison officer to assess problems and put the medical mumbo-jumbo in perspective," he said. "It can be fun reducing the medical smoke screens which are sometimes erected by local doctors."



Medical Support Team at Vitez includes (front to rear) LCpl Sharon Amour and Lt Col David Jackson, Sgt Tony Holmes, Pte Mark Monroe and Pte Sean Smythe and LCpl Vince Brennan and Sgt Chris Gregory

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

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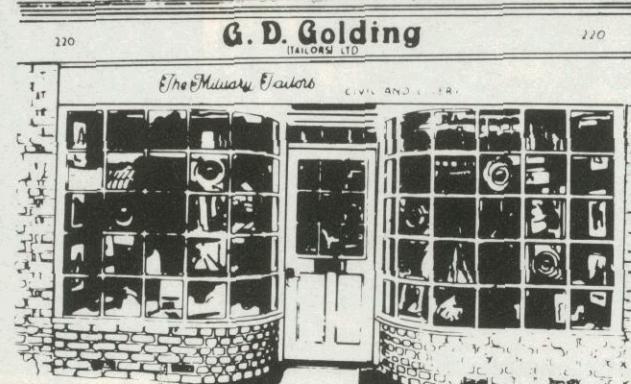
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Ice-breaking drills with the Support Squadron, 42 Squadron RLC

Warming up - at minus 20

THE temperature was minus 12 C although the breeze created a wind-chill factor of about minus 26. With a pall of steam drifting off them, the panting soldiers resting on their sticks beneath a clear blue sky, huddled together under a cornice of snow and poured hot, sweet tea from their flasks.

They were glad to shelter from the wind, and for the chance to rest their weary limbs before embarking on the next stage of their four-day ski-march. Already the snow was turning pink as the crimson sun slipped behind the mountains. Yet they had another hour's cross-country skiing ahead of them before they could make camp by digging a cave out of the snow and lighting a candle for warmth.

Soldiers of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) - AMF(L) for short - have been training in Norway since January. Their role is to protect Nato's Northern Flank along Norway's border with Russia.

Their intense training in the severe climate of the central Norwegian mountains has included long distances on cross-country skis, living in snow holes and skiing into a frozen lake so they can practise getting out again!

During the survival course, soldiers have to ski through a hole cut in the ice. Fighting to keep control and gasping for air, they wriggle their bergens off their backs, unclip their skis and hurl both on to the ice before hauling themselves out by their ski-poles.

The 1,600 members of the

British element of the AMF(L) have been training for their Arctic role on Exercise Hard-fall '94, before moving to northern Norway to join troops from the United States, Germany, Canada, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and host nation, Norway.

In northern Norway, AMF(L) will be at least 250km within the Arctic Circle. There they will be fighting the Orange Forces to protect Norway's 4.5m population from aggression, as well as taking on the uncompromising terrain and

weather. It is because the climate is so severe that the basics have to be got right. Learning to ski is, of course, fun - although to carry all the equipment, weapons, food and ammunition over the mountains requires a very high level of fitness, especially in the upper body.

Personal administration, especially of clothing, has to be spot-on. In milder climates a mislaid sleeping mat or glove might cause discomfort; in the Arctic it may cause death. Equipment requires careful

● Turn to next page



Above – A Scimitar of 2 Company, 2 RGJ, on the move during exercise Hardfall in Norway

Right – Soldiers of the Transport Squadron of the AMF(L) Logistic Support Battalion are covered while hitching a lift behind a BV 206

WARMING UP

● From Page 21

husbandry... and a certain amount of tender loving care.

Snow left in the engine compartment of the BV cross-country vehicle overnight can be a solid block of ice the next morning, causing the starter motor or fan-belt to jam and giving the driver a headache before breakfast. Engine oils and brake and steering fluids have to be maintained at the correct mix.

Before anyone can move to northern Norway to take part in Exercise Arctic Express with the rest of the multi-national AMF(L), they have to complete a Nordic ski and survival course.

For the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets this has posed a particular problem because this is their first season in their new Arctic role. Everyone has had to do the course.

Sgt Doug Fisher, the platoon sergeant, 9 Platoon, explained: "When the lads first came here, it was a shocker, especially as some of them had only recently come back from Belize. There are two key issues, getting the personal admin right... and superb fitness."

"We ski across the mountains with 120lb in our bergens and pull a section pulk – a type of sledge. That requires strength, endurance and, more than anything else, bottle."

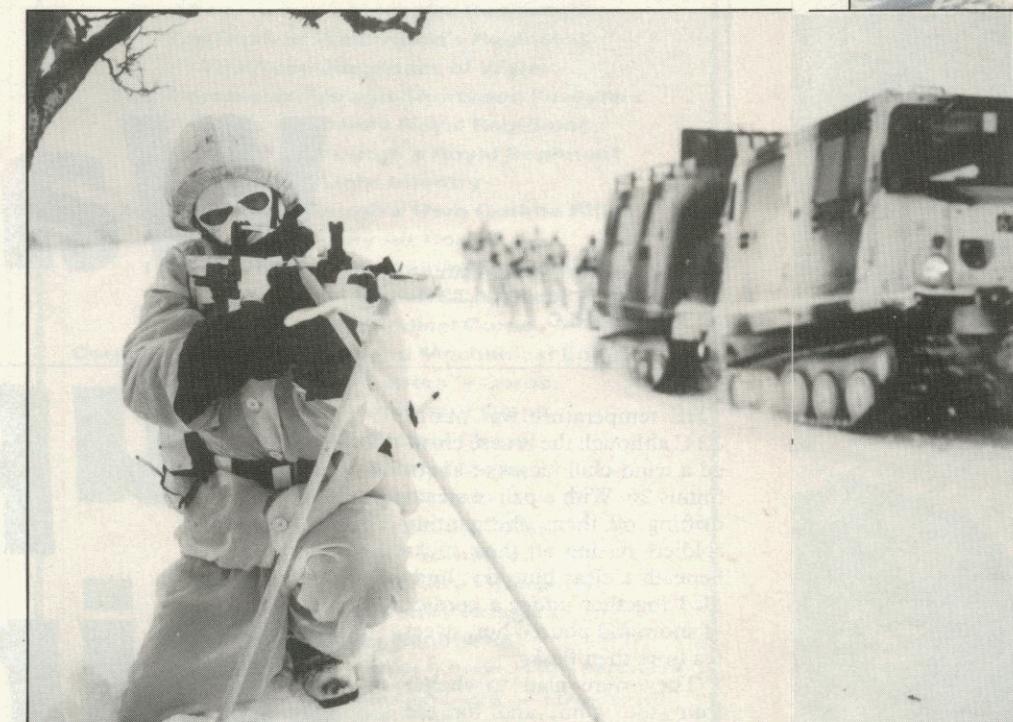
For Cpl Leo Healy, C Company, 2 RGJ, navigation is important: "When the weather is closing in, especially at night, you can't tell whether you're approaching a dip or a rise, even in a steep, narrow valley, because all you can see is whiteness."

"During a 'white-out' you have to send a man forward to the limit of visibility, on the correct bearing and then the rest of the patrol moves up to him."

For everybody in AMF(L), the techniques of surviving overnight in the mountains have to be learnt. Keep your boots in your sleeping bag or they will be frozen solid in the morning; sentries stag-on for only 30 minutes at a time – any longer and the cold will get to them.

Clothing, damp with sweat or snow, must be dried overnight – not easy by candle-power.

Things take more time in extreme cold. Even with the excellent gas cooker, it takes up



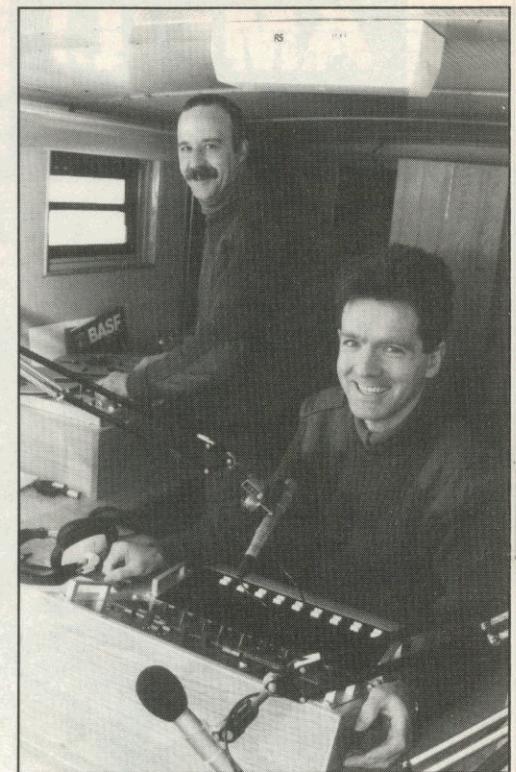
to 40 minutes to heat enough water for a brew.

Capt Aksel Haagaas, the vastly-experienced Norwegian Army liaison officer attached to 2 RGJ, believes the snow must be treated as a friend, not as an enemy.

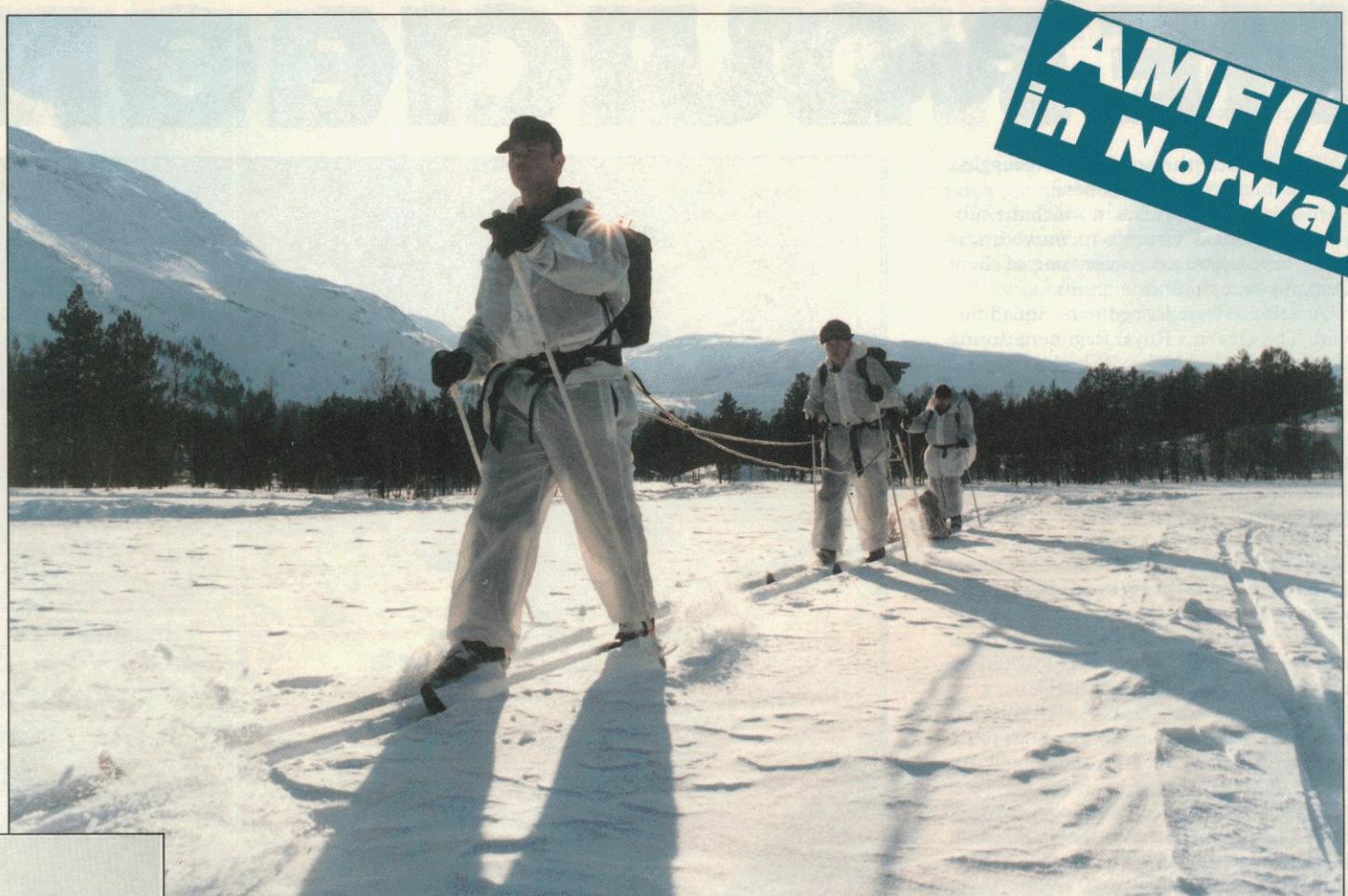
He says: "The biggest problem for British soldiers in Norway is fear of the unknown. Often I see them wearing too many layers of clothing."

"Too much clothing makes people sweat, which is bad for two reasons; it causes dehydration and damp clothes lead to hypothermia."

After a season in Norway,



Sgt Geordie Monworth (REME, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill) helps Rory Higgins of BFBS broadcast from Gladys II



Above – S Company, 2 RGJ pulls support gun equipment during a ski march

Left – SSgt Stuart Norreys, 42 Logistic Support Squadron RLC, on candle watch in a snow hole



because it lacks the special skills or the equipment).

The loggers also co-ordinate and control logistic troops from all the other nations taking part. The battalion increases in size from 400 back at base in Bulford to more than 1,200.

The Logistic Support Battalion is proud of its professionalism and works hard to get things right. It included in its warm-up training the largest logistic exercise conducted under Arctic conditions for many years.

The battalion was able to move to Norway and practise supplies in their own vehicles

to take on to forward troops.

Sgt Mark Tivey and Alpha Troop of 21 Signal Regiment from Colerne near Bath, provide the ground-to-air communications for the Force Helicopter Unit and also a secure link to the headquarters of AMF(L). They have specially purchased equipment which gives them the extra power necessary for the Arctic.

Four RAF Puma helicopters are in constant demand to allow others to do their training, yet Sgt Tivey and his team, and the 100 members of the AMF(L) Flight of 33 Squadron RAF, all have to learn to survive just in case the worst happens.

The force military police platoon comes from Bulford-based 158 Provost Company. Sgt Phil Floyd explained they have two main functions: "real" policing, such as discipline and road traffic accidents, and provost operations, which include route reconnaissance, route signing and manning traffic and information posts.

On AMF(L) exercises, the British provide provost headquarters for a section of MPs from each of the participating nations.

Sgt Floyd is due to be posted soon and looks back fondly on his three-year tour with AMF(L), during which he has spent up to five months every year in Norway.

Gladys is also on Exercise Hardfall '94 under the watchful eye of Sgt Geordie Mensworth, on loan from the REME Wing of the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill. Gladys, a four-ton truck with a radio studio in the back, first saw service with the 8th Army more than 50 years ago in North Africa.

Her "daughter", Gladys II, freshly painted white after a visit to British UN troops in Bosnia, is now gently waking up AMF(L) soldiers with good music, news and the cheery voice of BFBS's Rory Higgins. The station can also pass on road warnings or other urgent messages.

Rory – officially Station Manager Norway – explained: "We are here as an experiment. Although we don't have the kit to reach everyone in the British element, we're getting a very favourable response."

**Words: Maj Tim David
Pictures: WO2 Kevin Capon**

HE'S QUICK ON THE DRAW!

Words:
Phil Wilcox

DID YOU hear the one about the juggler, the newt and the car salesman?

Just three of the guises in which the subjects of Donald Green's military caricatures have appeared – every one of them instantly recognisable.

A self-confessed "ordinary squaddie" with The Queen's Royal Regiment during the Second World War, he had dashed off the odd Army likeness at the time, as well as posters for ENSA shows.

But it was not until the late 1970s – following 12 years as *The Tatler* magazine's theatrical caricaturist – that his soldierly connections cropped up again.

A tentative telephone call from 4 Royal Tank Regiment led to him producing caricatures in the officers' mess, though the enquirer was under the impression that, as a theatre man, Donald would "only draw actors – he didn't believe that I would be interested in portraying soldiers".

That supposed "one-off" was followed within a couple of years by a request to fly to Herford to draw the officers of 4th Armoured Division.

Commission has followed commission, both in Germany and the UK, with Leicester-based Donald toting his much-travelled mobile easel and setting up a couple of chairs a few feet apart.

Turning the clock back almost 50 years, he said: "It was strange how it all happened. I was shunted to Gravesend, where the holding battalion for the Queen's was based.

"One day, I did a caricature of the major in charge, emphasising his large and prominent nose. Two days later, I was summoned to the colonel and informed that I had 'discovered my *métier*' and was being posted to Luton Hoo, a stately home being used as an Army college.

"On seeing some examples of my work, I was told: 'Oh, yes, you can draw Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse or Popeye, but you can't really draw.' So I swept the place, lit the fires, did anything so long as I could sit in with the art class."

He eventually found himself posted at a moment's notice to "the Athens of the north", as his colonel put it – Edinburgh – and nurtured his skills part-time.

Since the 1950s, he says, he has drawn for "every magazine worth knowing", running the gamut from the *Radio Times* to *Lilliput*, *Men Only*, *Everybody's*, *John Bull*, *The Field and Country Life*.

These days, he will invariably start work on an average set of drawings for a unit after lunch and the "roughs" will be ready the next day.

"With a normal mess of between 30 and 35 people, I can generally wrap them up from 2 till 5 the first day and between 8.30 and noon the following day."

First stage is for a "character assassination squad" of two or three officers to suggest any particular idiosyncrasies of the subjects concerned for suitable illustration.

"I always make the point, however, when I am asking a person how they would like to be drawn, that I will re-



Picture: Mike Weston

draw any caricature if two or three people agree that I have got it wrong," Donald Green said.

"Other people see the subjects with their face relaxed; it is different when the person is looking into a mirror, posing."

The "roughs" stay laid out so that people can suggest changes as they like – an essential process, since the drawings get traced down and then cannot be altered.

"Some of the candidates say to me: 'You've given me far too big a chin', when in reality they have chins like ice-breakers," Donald chuckled.

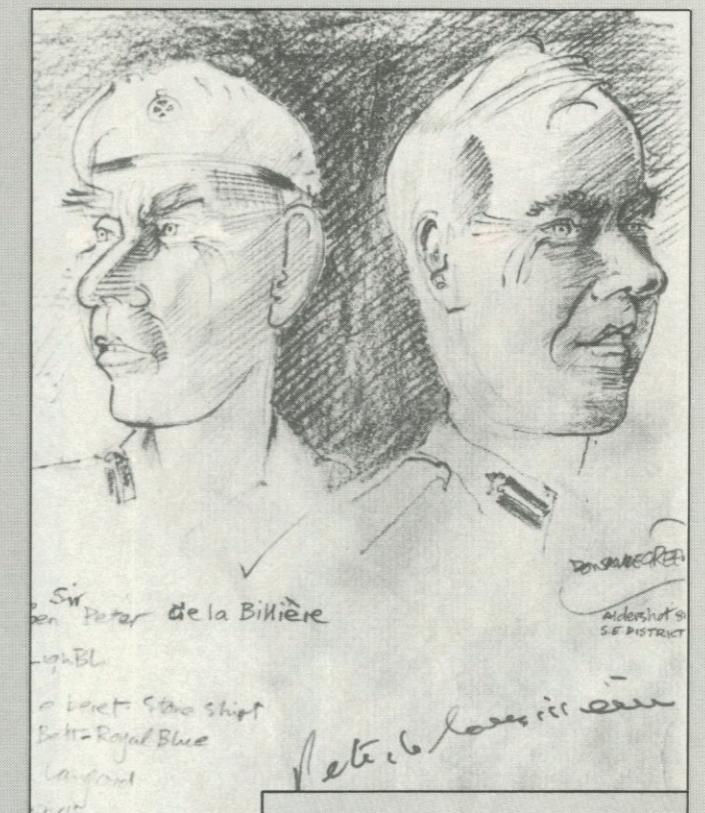
On one memorable occasion, he was covering a divisional HQ where he had 90-odd people to draw in the space of a week. All was going well, with Donald waiting in an ante-room for one of his final sitters.

Someone repeatedly went past the door, until Donald established that he was to be his next "victim".

"I know I have a long nose, but you won't draw it in profile, will you?" the officer said.

Donald was able to appease him by quoting the case of no less a personage than Sir John Gielgud in reply.

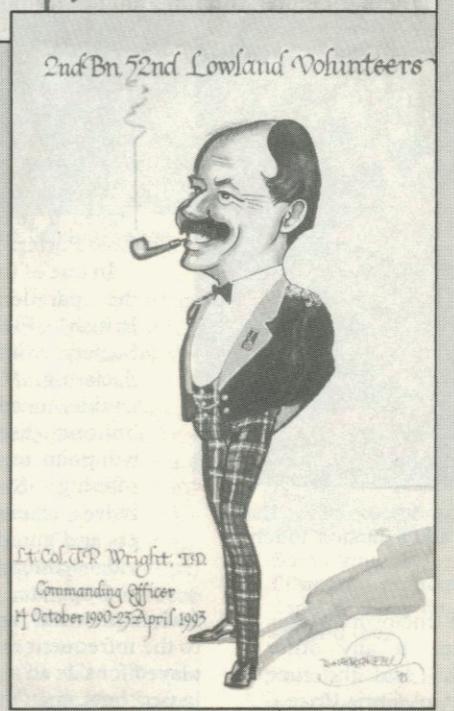
Picture: Mike Weston



Above – Proud possession: Donald's autographed sketch of Gen Sir Peter de la Billière

Left – Putting people in the picture: Donald Green at work on the QLR's second commission

Right – Donald's caricatures of individuals are frequently commissioned as outgoing mementoes – or even Christmas presents



He had said to Donald: "I suppose you are going to include the famous nose in this sketch?"

In the event, he had been so delighted with the "warts and all" portrayal (for *Tatler*) that he had bought the original.

Gielgud was only one of myriad theatrical subjects committed to paper over the years by Green.

He has his great favourites among them, but two military "sitters" stand out in his mind: one is Sir Oswald Mosley – the most-decorated British soldier at the time Donald drew him – whose portrait by Donald was hung in the National Portrait

Gallery. The other is Gen Sir Peter de la Billière – his sketch of the Gulf commander is a treasured autographed item of Donald's.

"I was originally allocated only 20 minutes in which to draw him (at Aldershot), and he told me exactly how he wanted to be drawn: facing right with his beret on.

"In the event, he must have liked the result because I was in there over an hour, and we ended up chatting about the Second World War."

One of the more unusual locations for an Army drawing, he said, was in one of the OP posts on the Armagh border,

where, as an unofficial stipulation to carrying out his commission, Donald, a helicopter fanatic, asked if he could be flown in and out in a "chopper".

His request was duly granted.

"It was raining and the light was poor, but the finished product was extremely dramatic."

On another occasion, carrying out a commission for one particular Scots regiment, he started drawing at 8.45 outdoors on a sunny day, and by noon had drawn not only a total of 25 people but a crowd of onlookers.

And his most outrageous requests?

They have invariably been made by members of certain regiments who wanted to be portrayed with a glamorous girl on each arm, swinging from chandeliers and drinking champagne out of riding boots.

"I usually manage to tone them down somewhat," said Donald.

A recent commission from the officers of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment gave him the opportunity to visit Berlin, a location he had missed out on almost half a century previously.

"I had been hoping for many years to get out there. Then, because the sergeants and WOs in the QLR asked me to do caricatures of their side of the house as well, I found myself going to Berlin twice."

With 128 "victims" in the drawing, taking a total of eight days to complete, it turned out to be the largest Donald had done to date.

He did draw the line – almost literally – however, at depicting the subjects in the pose which they had originally requested.

"To a man, they had wanted to be portrayed in Wigan Rugby League strip, each holding a can of beer and a pork pie.

"That would have been taking things a little too far . . ."

Now Donald, whose sharp likenesses hung on the walls are generally subjects for comment at mess nights, has several group and individual commissions in the pipeline.

A soldier once said to him: "In the average group regimental photograph which one sometimes sees in messes, the individuals are often like tiny pinheads, with caps over their eyes, and people find it hard to identify even themselves. Caricatures are so much better."

Things have come a long way since he was paid for his first drawing – for *The Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Magazine* – in the form of 10s 6d-worth of sheet music.

"I was supposed to retire three years ago," said this genial man, who was wounded during the latter part of Operation Goodwood, south of Caen, and is "very proud" of his 7th Armoured Division badge.

"But I am never going to stop drawing."

On a recent holiday in Spain, he was banned by his wife from taking a sketchbook with him. He had bought one by the second day . . .

● Further details from Donald E Green, tel: 0533 881077.

A GRAND MILITARY OCCASION

AMID A plethora of binoculars and felt trilbies, the annual two-day Grand Military Gold Cup meeting was placed under starter's orders last month.

In the years 1970 to 1972, a horse named Charles Dickens won the eponymous trophy, a hat trick achieved only once since then.

This year, like one of his two-legged namesake's classic stories, there were great expectations that Maj Oliver Ellwood, Light Dragoons, on the Queen Mother's horse, might ride himself into the military history books for a very special reason.

As it transpired, fate decided otherwise.

Always held at Sandown Park, Surrey – apart from 1982-83 when the stand was being reconstructed – the event has had an illustrious history since it was first run in 1841.

The 18 jockeys, all members of the Regular or Reserve Forces, riding in the Gold Cup steeplechase were following in the hoof-prints of, for example, the present Princess Royal and her elder brother.

And they were given the full support of a large crowd, with former colonels and generals as well as high-ranking officers and VIPs among the spectators.

One of those watching, no doubt with some nostalgia, was Gen Sir Cecil Blacker, formerly of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, who, as a major, won the race exactly 40 years ago on Pointsman.

"There are more people in



Faces at the races: members of the Band of the Life Guards add a musical touch to the proceedings

board behind them informed them that the official going was good.

In the car park, as the enclosure began to fill, a Combat Stress mini-bus disgorged its passengers from nearby Tyrwhitt House before parking cheek-by-jowl with numerous L-registration Range Rovers.

The Life Guards' Band, under the baton of Maj Colin Reeves, and whose costs race sponsors *Horse and Hound* contributed towards, played a selection from Cole Porter.

In one of the halls near the parade ring, the British Field Sports Society, with its poster declaring: "The countryside needs you: If hunting disappears, so will point-to-point", was offering Swiss Army knives, champagne coolers and gun dog training videos among its wares.

Opposite, another stall, somewhat enigmatically to the infrequent racegoer, displayed for sale an assortment of ladies' hats, men's trilbies and – for a tenner more – gentlemen's trilbies . . .

Racing proper, involving no military riders, began at 2pm, but it was the "big one" at 3.05 that everyone had come to see.

The course was given a thorough going-over with brooms, the Surrey Union Hunt paraded its faithful hounds in front of the grandstand to loud applause. Then, in a flurry of bright yellows, blues, greens, mauves and pinks, the jockeys walked out of the weighing room to join their mounts in the parade ring.

the members' enclosure at this meeting than on any other jumping day," said the race committee's Col Chris Price – himself no slouch when it comes to this most prestigious day in the military racing calendar.

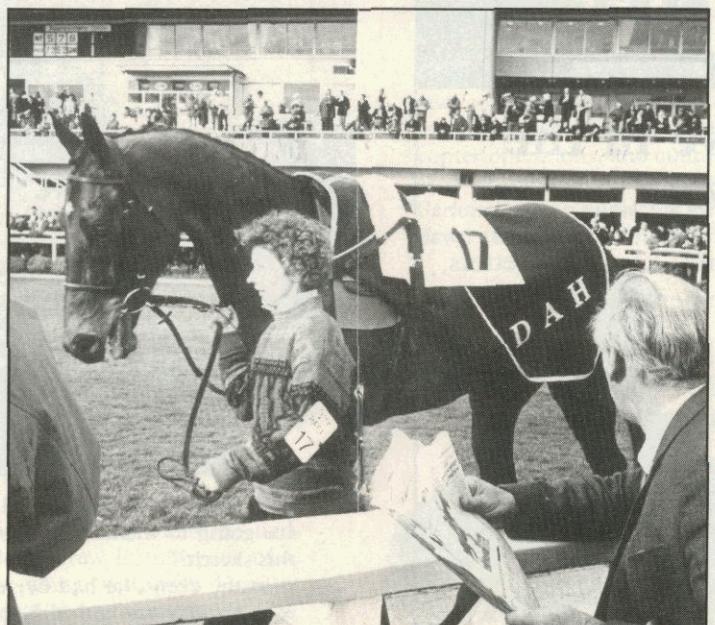
He has ridden at the meeting 15 times, and has won the trophy twice (as a captain in 1977 and as a major in 1982).

Two-and-a-half hours, and two races, earlier, to the strains of the National Anthem, the Royal Standard had been raised, while officers around the members' enclosure stopped in their tracks and stood stiffly to attention.

The runners' and riders'



Bring on the empty horse: every picture tells a story as Maj Oliver Ellwood's mount, Keep Talking, keeps up with the Gold Cup field after unseating him



Eventual Gold Cup winner Quick Rapor takes a circuit of the parade ring before the race

Among them were Capt Adam Ogden, Life Guards, hoping to repeat his victory of the previous year, and Bdr Brian Elliott, one of several jockeys who had attended a week-long course at the British

Racing School in Newmarket in preparation for the event.

His tutor, former Blues and Royals captain Christian Ward Thomas, a reserve officer, was also up in the saddle on Fiddlers Three.

But the main focus of attention – and the subject of not a few wagers – was the aforementioned Maj Ellwood.

He had flown from Hohne to represent the Queen Mother – faithful patron of the meeting for 35 years or so, and a winning owner on four occasions – on her horse, Keep Talking, before making a speedy return to join the men of his recce troop who had been dispatched to Bosnia.

His CO, Lt Col Robert Webb-Bowen, was also trying his hand in the race.

But for both it proved a fruitless journey, more especially for the hapless major, who was unceremoniously ditched as he rounded the course for the second time.

"The horse stumbled on landing, then got up fast, which has the effect of shooting up the rider's backside. So poor old Ollie took a toss," said Col Price.

"Weighed in" came the announcement over the PA system, then the Queen Mother, dressed in blue and



Some you win . . . Maj Oliver Ellwood contemplates on "one of those days" after the second race

looking a touch frail, handed over the treasured Sir Guy Cunard Cup to King's Royal Hussar Lt Dominic Alers-Hankey, whose horse, Quick Rapor, had finished 20 lengths clear of his nearest rival.

Maj Ellwood tried again an hour or so later, riding in the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Hunters' Steeplechase, but finished out of the frame.

Lt Alers-Hankey was a happy man.

"It's the third time I've competed in the Cup, and I've never made the winners' enclosure. It's incredible," he said.

His third place in the Duke

of Gloucester's race gave him an additional boost before he moves to Canada shortly for four months as a member of the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) safety staff.

Gold Cup winner two years ago, Bdr Brian Marquis, Kings Troop RHA, came in a creditable third.

In his teens, he spent three years as an apprentice at Newmarket with trainer Henry Cecil, joining the Army when he became too heavy.

"I was aiming to be in the first four today," he said, "and was just as pleased to get placed as I was to win. I still get a buzz from the atmosphere here on the day, and the butterflies and adrenalin work overtime."

By the time the last two weary jockeys had trudged, holdalls and saddles in hands, through the hall of the weighing room and out into the late afternoon air, the roaring log fire inside had died down and the stewards had started preparations for the second day of a truly British military tradition.

Long may it survive.



Pte Tam Harlow on the ranges behind Radio Sonde Camp

Cyprus was no soft option for Royal Scots

Words:
Lesley Edgar
Pictures:
Mark Owens

THOSE WHO think that training on the holiday island of Cyprus during winter falls into the soft option category of sun, sea and sand should think again.

Members of C Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) taking part in Exercise Lion Sun had to battle against elements more usually encountered in their home base at Fort George, Inverness. Rain, hail and mud

greeted the company for the first part of their stay on the island, but spirits remained high throughout and no one wanted to swap Cyprus sleet for Scottish snow.

"The terrain on the island is ideal for training purposes because it is so arduous," said Maj John Kerr, officer commanding C Company. "The bad weather endured at times made our task even more demanding and the Jocks cer-

tainly proved themselves during the exercise."

Lion Sun belongs to a series of exercises which take place on the island throughout the year and allow independent sub units to train in a challenging overseas environment. Each exercise lasts about four weeks and is run at company level.

Operating out of Radio Sonde Camp, Episkopi Garrison, on the island's south-west coast, the 120-strong company was tested in a wide range of military activities as offensive tactical and weapons skills were practised at individual, section, platoon and company levels.

This served as preparation for a four-day exercise several miles west of Radio Sonde. It began with an amphibious landing followed by platoon and company attacks, including night patrolling and helicopter operations, and culminated in the disused village of Paramali being subjected to a dawn attack by the entire com-



Under the watchful eye of Sgt Maj Mark McLeod (right), Cpl Michele Moyes checks her target practice

pany carried in helicopters, followed by extensive house and street clearance operations.

"The exercise has been a huge success," said Maj Kerr. "We have achieved our objectives which were to train to a standard where we are a force

that can be deployed to do a job anywhere in the world, and to create and maintain a corporate identity and feeling of support within the company.

"Exercising in Cyprus has

meant that the company has been able to devote itself to intensive training simply not possible in a barracks environment."

The aim of the exercise was not purely to test military skills, however, and when the weather did permit, the Jocks took part in adventurous training activities on the island.

"Adventure training activities are an integral part of the exercise," said Sgt Maj Robert Wallace, who organised the events. "They are important



Maj John Kerr, officer commanding Charlie Company

because they serve as a confidence-building exercise for the troops."

Rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, water skiing, scuba diving and horse riding were

among the adventure training pursuits attempted. Coupled with familiarisation trips to Nicosia and the ancient coastal town of Paphos, the soldiers of C Company can look back on Lion Sun with a real feeling of achievement.

They returned to Fort George to resume their public duties, included in which were a Keep the Army in the Public Eye tour in their regimental recruiting area of the Lothians and Peebles-shire.

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GULF WAR LETTERS

Did you serve in the Gulf War?

And did you, or your family, keep the letters, photographs or any other mementos of your time out there?

Or have you any moving/amusing/interesting experiences or stories that you would like to reach a wider audience?

If so, and you would like to be included in a book of personal letters from the war then we would be very pleased to hear from you.

No need to send letters at this stage, just a note with brief details and a contact number and we will be in touch.

Please contact

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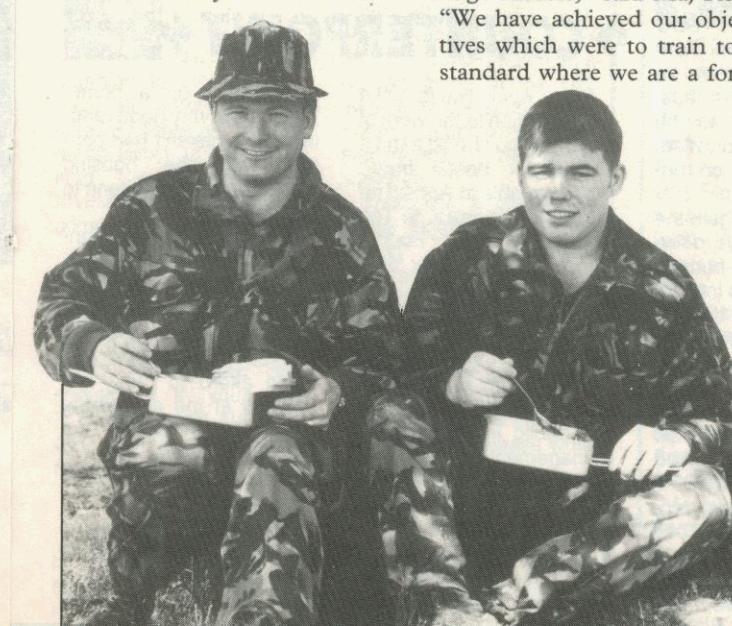
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Left - LCpl Nick Roddam and Pte Darren Ferguson enjoy a welcome break and a hot meal

Married quarters, Armstrong-style!

FIRST 16-house phase of a new village-style married quarters estate was handed over to the Army at Aldershot on March 24.

At the same ceremony a road on the Camp Farm site was named Anne Armstrong Close in memory of the SOLDIER columnist who campaigned for better conditions for Service families.

When finished, the estate's 144 semi-detached houses in varying styles will partly replace 253 1960s-built flats at Ramillies Park, Aldershot, whose demolition is due to be completed in the next few months.

A further 120 new quarters will be built on the Ramillies Park site.

Anne Armstrong was the pen-name of Mrs Jacqueline Mayo, who died last May. Performing the road-naming ceremony, her widower, Col John Mayo, said she would have been delighted with the Camp Farm estate.

For 20 years, he said, she campaigned to improve housing for soldiers' families and for wives to have a say in the choice of furnishings and decoration.

"She helped initiate the House Purchase Scheme," he said. "She was also instrumental in producing the Wives' Guide – the first time wives had a guide to the complexities of living in an Army environment. She wanted an environment in which families could live with pride."

Col Mayo said his wife had also campaigned remorselessly for adequate play areas – and would have been "thrilled and delighted" that there was a playground at the end of Anne Armstrong Close.

But she would also have said: "That's absolutely splendid – now what are you going to do next?"

The new estate, built by developers Higgs Hill on a green field site off Alanbrooke Road, North Camp, was officially opened by

Brig John Patrick, Assistant Chief of Staff at HQ UKLF, Wilton.

Great care has been taken to break with the regimental appearance associated with married quarters in the past and create a more homely, village atmosphere.

Four different types of house are planned for each site and as well as special play areas for the children, extensive landscaping has been incorporated into the estates.

Brig Patrick handed over the keys of the first house to the Orton family, who have moved there from Ramillies Park. Mrs Suzanne Orton described her new home as "brilliant – a definite improvement".

Her husband, Pte Darren Orton, of 27 Regiment RLC, was making the most of settling in with his wife, their daughter Kayleigh (2½) and son Martin (14 months). "I am on 24-hour standby for Bosnia," he said. His word for their new home: "Fantastic!"

THE BEST opportunity to deliver more aid to the people in need in former Yugoslavia could be lost without an urgent increase in funds.

That is the warning from the Disasters Emergency Committee, which is made up of the British Red Cross, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, Oxfam and Save the Children.

Despite recent ceasefire agreements, many parts of Bosnia remain besieged and in desperate need. Hospitals lack even the basics like bandages and detergent.

In Tuzla there are 250,000 displaced people adding pressure to the city's already limited resources.

The DEC agencies are providing medical care, milk and vitamins for 8,000 children, and wool, shoes and clothing for 145,000 people in the city.



Right – pride and delight: Col (Retd) John Mayo after unveiling the roadsign in his wife's memory

Below – "fantastic!": Pte and Mrs Orton with daughter Kayleigh (holding keys) and son Martin

Pictures: Terry Champion



Bringing hope to desperate people

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←



If you would like to make a contribution to the work of the DEC you should send a cheque or postal order, made payable to Appeal for Former Yugoslavia, to The Appeal for Former Yugoslavia, PO Box 999, London EC1M 9AA.

• • •

The Money Management Council is an independent charity set up to educate the public in the efficient management of their own personal financial affairs. It aims to give impartial advice in principle rather than personal advice.

The factsheet on setting up home has some useful warnings about furnishing your new home and being



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Chaplains rev up a gear

Army chaplains the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin (left) and Father Michael Crosbie will be instantly recognisable as they travel about Southern District to minister to soldiers and their families.

Each now drives a brand new Vauxhall Corsa finished in a shade of purple which almost perfectly matches the colour of their cap bands, collar tabs and badges of rank.

Wags at the Southern District headquarters accused 41 (Army) Transport Squadron, which supplied the official vehicles, of having

a sense of humour, but the chaplains are delighted with the diesel vehicles – and the distinctive livery.

Now other Army chaplains are to be issued with similar cars to speed them about their parishes. Victor is Assistant Chaplain General (Southern District), Michael is the district's senior Roman Catholic chaplain.

Trust on course to run housing

IT HAS been confirmed that former Bristol chief executive Mr Mike Robinson (45) will head the new housing organisation expected to be running the Ministry of Defence married quarters estate by April next year.

His appointment as Chief Executive (Designate) of the Housing Trust was announced in a written answer in the House of Commons by Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley.

Price Waterhouse have been appointed as lead consultants to assist Mr Robinson in developing the operational and business plans for the new trust.

Finance and housing directors are to be appointed soon.

As Bristol's director of housing, Mr Robinson masterminded the decentralisation of the council's housing services, making Bristol one of the most effective housing authorities in the country.

He will work closely with the Housing Trust Team to define in detail the structure and manning requirements of the new body, and to plan the implementation of

changes to existing Service housing organisations.

The Housing Trust Team completed the validation phase of its work in December, concluding that a trust would be able to meet Service needs cost-effectively.

The concept is that all married quarters will be sold to the Housing Trust on a leasehold basis, the trust paying the MoD a capital sum for the lease. In return, the MoD will rent properties from the trust.

Part of the contract requires the trust to upgrade the standard of MQs to Service specifications.

No change to the way MQ charges are levied is anticipated and the level of charges will continue to be recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

The study team's timetable requires it to submit by June another report confirming proposals for the trust remain valid, and by September it is planned that a memorandum of understanding be signed between the MoD and the Housing Trust following agreement on the terms of the transfer.



Mike Robinson

Health cover offer

A MEDICAL and dental insurance plan designed specially for Service dependents has been launched by the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS).

Underwritten by Norwich Union Healthcare, Forces Healthguard offers customers the choice of dental or medical cover, or both, at a special discount of 20 per cent.

It is also available to serving members of the Armed Forces and those leaving.

More information on Forces Healthguard can be obtained from the AFFAS Helpline on 0800 243592 or 0532 343059.

in the UK, for women in the Service community who have been affected by divorce.

Some women, who have been Service wives – for want of a better definition – find that starting again as a woman alone in the UK, away from the support of a Service community and their friends, is a very lonely business.

There are a number of formal supports – SSAFA, among other agencies, offers a lot of practical help – but the suggestion was that a group offering a focal point for a kind of network might be fun as well as offering moral support.

If you have any thoughts on the matter, please write to me.

You can contact Cari at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier magazine.

Peninsula Band will play at Italian campaign events

MR D DEAN (Letters, March 21) wrote about the marginalising of the Italian campaign vis-à-vis D-Day.

Seen from over here there is a certain truth in this, but in case you should be inundated with similar letters, perhaps I as Defence Attaché can pass on some information that Mr Dean and others are clearly not aware of and which you may feel is worth mentioning.

The Ministry of Defence has indeed allocated a band for the Cassino commemoration in Italy, in spite of the fact that it was never budgeted for.

The Peninsula Band of the Royal Green Jackets will take part in the Royal British Legion service of commemoration at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cassino Cemetery on Sunday May 15 at 1100.

The band will also participate in a similar service at the Anzio Beach Head Cemetery at the same time the following day.



After the battle: the Rome-Naples road, where it passed through Cassino. Many died on the "mad mile" overlooked by the abbey

On May 19, UK and international veterans' associations will be parading at both Cassino and Gaeta and musical sup-

port will be made available for both parades. — **Brig J H Thoys, Defence Attaché, British Embassy, Rome.**

Making an old soldier blush . . .

I AGREE with C T Wareing (Letters, February 21) that standards have deteriorated and that language on television contains words regarded as filth.

I am now in my eighties and, after some 32-plus years as a soldier, finished up in my sixties as bursar at a school with 1,500 girls.

The language I heard from 15- and 16-year-olds was far worse than I ever heard in my Army career.

As boys in the 1920s, our mouths were washed out with soap if we even said "damn". Now I hear quite small children F-ing and blinding.

What a pity this is allowed. — **George Lewis, Llandstadel, Dyfed.**

REFERRING to ground crew, soldiers, gunners and others who served on Battle of Britain airfields in SE England, Col Newton states (February 21) that provided they served in the UK for three years they were entitled to the Defence Medal.

As the Battle of Britain lasted for only some 16 weeks none of the above personnel could possibly qualify for the

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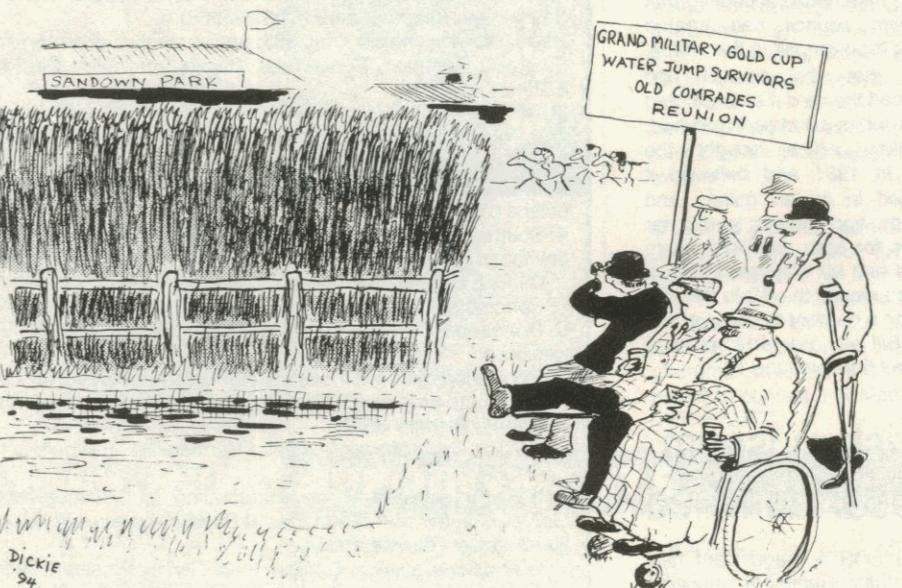
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BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



● Grant Military Gold Cup — see centre pages

I'll be proud to purchase these medals

medal within that limit.

With regard to the 1939-45 Star, Dunkirk men were not granted this at first. Later the Government reversed its decision, saying the non-award would be hard on these men.

I believe those who served at Lympne, Manston, Biggin Hill, Hawkinge and so on were also hard done by. After all, the bombers blasting these airfields were the same ones which had blasted Dunkirk.

These two won't be cheap and easy to get, unlike many others, and I will be proud to possess them. — **H V Cossons, Wincanton, Somerset.**

MANY of those who served on airfields during the Battle of Britain went overseas to Burma, the Middle East and other theatres of war. Few stayed in the UK.

As for defending the South East airfields, what about those young soldiers (some underage) who defended airfields in the South West (10 Fighter Group)? We also risked our lives and lost men.

In the past I have refused to buy commemorative medals on the principle: "Why should I buy back the honour snatched from me by the Government when they should return it to me?"

With the advent of the Frontline Britain Medal for those who served in East Kent — Hell's Corner — in the seas around or skies above it, or

NOTHING TO SHOW FOR THEIR SERVICE

AS A former Regular and Territorial Army soldier and now a senior prison officer, I read with interest Constable Fowler's letter (February 7) regarding commemorative awards for service other than that for which an official award is already given.

In this respect we have fallen behind Europe and the Commonwealth.

I have met many Service personnel who have completed their engagements and have nothing to show for it. I will watch developments with interest. — **Paul Biddle, Dorset.**

I REFER to C T Wareing's letter (March 21). May I add to the list of operations omitted from the post-1962 Accumulated Campaign Service Medal that of Eritrea, where British Armed Forces served under United Nations mandate. We

Commuting rule unfair to NCO pensioners

COMMISSIONED officers have what amounts to a basic right to commute their pensions — not so non commissioned officers.

I have tried to redress this distinction, but to no avail. I approached my MP, who agreed that there should be no distinction and duly forwarded my case to the MoD.

Regrettfully, the decision was to leave things as they are.

My MP, while agreeing that an injustice exists, believes there is little chance of changing the regulations.

Should rank be the deciding factor in the commutation of pensions? If you don't think so, joined up before 1980, were non commissioned and have tried (or thought about) commuting your Service pension, contact me, enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope. — **C Sweeting (ex-WO), 3 Holmford Crescent, Kempsford, Gloucestershire GL7 4EP.**

● An MoD spokesman acknowledged that there were differences between the life commutation regulations applying to officers and to other ranks, but pointed out that this was the case for many other aspects of terms and conditions.

As the arrangements for life commutation were now open only to those with reserved rights, there was no case for making changes to a practice which, with the passage of time, would come to an end.

The rules relating to resettlement commutation, which has replaced life commutation for those under the age of 55, are applied equally to officers and to other ranks. — **Editor**

Eritrea not on the list

did not get a medal despite soldiers getting killed and wounded.

This was before the Korean War, when the first UN medal was awarded. — **Maj (Retd) John Kingsmill, Antwerp, Belgium.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

Citizens host D-Day heroes

HOTEL and guest-house beds in Portsmouth during the D-Day 50th anniversary weekend in June are about as scarce as sunbathers on the beaches of Normandy in 1944.

However, veterans still seeking accommodation for the commemorative events in between June 3 and 6 need not despair. City folk are rallying round in much the same way as they did half a century ago and hundreds are opening their homes to visitors.

To date more than 200 households have volunteered to make 260-plus beds available.

Veterans who wish to be matched up with Pompey hosts should telephone the city's Special Events Office on 0705 834800.

VC battle in Commons

A 40-YEAR battle by a VC's son to get his father's medal moved from Burnley to the Coldstream Guards Museum has resulted in a Bill being brought before the House of Commons.

Coldstreamer Pte Tommy Whitham was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the trenches in the First World War. But only a year or so after he was feted as a local hero, Burnley Corporation turned down his plea for manual work to ease the poverty in which he was living with his young family.

Tommy's son William, now in his late 80s, has never forgotten that slight and, supported by the regiment, wants the medal moved from its current location in Burnley to the regimental museum in Wellington Barracks, London, where all 11 other VCs won by the Coldstream are displayed.

Now Nick Hawkins, MP for Blackpool South, has brought in a Ten-Minute Bill to regulate the public display or exhibition of decorations for gallantry.

The Bill, which had its first reading in the Commons on March 9, would give the Defence Secretary the ultimate decision-making power over where the highest awards for gallantry are displayed to the public.

Mr Hawkins told the Commons: "Tommy Whitham VC was forced to leave his young family to seek work elsewhere. His Victoria Cross medal was pawned on two

occasions to raise money for the family and eventually, only six years after the war ended, Pte Tommy Whitham VC died in penury."

Opposing the Bill, Burnley MP Peter L Pike, while accepting that the town council had treated Tommy "appallingly" in the 1920s, added that the council had redeemed the medal and returned it to him when it had been pawned.

Burnley, which bought the medal in 1931 and believed it belonged in its art gallery and museum, had offered to pay for replicas for both the Coldstream Guards and Mr Whitham junior. It had also loaned the VC to the regiment on a number of occasions.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on June 17.

R Irish museum appeal launched

PLANS FOR a magnificent new Royal Irish Regiment museum complex at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, have been unveiled by GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler.

The museum, which will be open to the public, has been designed to give visitors a dramatic journey from Enniskillen in 1689 to the modern streets of Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

A major appeal for funds from industry, commerce and the public has been launched. Contributions may be sent to the Regimental Secretary, The Royal Irish Regiment, St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena BT43 7BH (tel: 0266 661379).

Jump to it for charity

FANCY making a parachute drop over Normandy, Holland or Germany on one of the Second World War anniversaries?

Thousands would, well, jump at the chance... and the opportunity is being offered to the public by an organisation helping good causes.

The Commemorative Airborne Landings (CAL) initiative was formed to raise funds for charities caring for disabled Service veterans from all conflicts.

Its activities will coincide with the 50th anniversaries of D-Day, the Battle of Arnhem, the Rhine airborne landings, and the end of the Second World War in Europe and the Far East theatres.

The aim is to offer the public the opportunity to make a commemorative drop into British and American battle sites on or about the anniversary dates.

A fixed percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Royal Star and Garter Home in Rich-

D-DAY DIARY

MAY

25: 50th anniversary of Review of the Fleet, Portland Harbour.
27-28: Hampshire remembers D-Day, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, near Southampton (0703 285968).

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce (0489 572582).

JUNE

2: Parade of veterans, bands and vehicles, Weymouth (0929 426310).

3: D-Day Tattoo, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet (ticket hotline 0749 823270).

4: Southwick House garden party, HMS Dryad, near Portsmouth (invitation only).

Beating Retreat, Portsmouth. Portsmouth Guildhall dinner.

5: Drumhead Service, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Veterans welcome.

Flotilla departs Portsmouth for Normandy, led by Royal Yacht. Parachute drop near site of Pegasus Bridge and unveiling of bust of Gen Sir Richard Gale.

Service of commemoration, Hermanville military ceremony, Normandy.

6: National services of commemoration in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries at Bayeux, Douvres la Délivrande, Hermanville, Ranville and Ryes.

International service, Omaha Beach, led by President Mitterrand. Arromanches march and fly-past.

25: 50th anniversary reunion festival, Royal Albert Hall.

26: 50th anniversary parade on Horse Guards, followed by service at Cenotaph.

SPECIAL D-DAY EXHIBITIONS

- National Army Museum (071-730 0717).
- Tank Museum, Bovington (0929 403463).
- Museum of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Cathedral Close, Salisbury, story of the Beach Groups (0722 414536).
- Imperial War Museum, D-Day to Victory exhibition (071-416 5000).
- D-Day Museum, Portsmouth, includes Overlord Embroidery (0705 827261).
- Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (0252 349619) and Aldershot Military Museum (0252 314598).
- REME Museum, Arborfield, Reading (0734 763567).
- Waterfront Museum, Poole (0202 673322).
- Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, D-Day display (0264 384421).
- Military Vehicle Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-281 7222).
- RAF Museum, London, "Flying for Invasion" (081-205 2266).
- Hall of Aviation, Southampton (0703 635830).
- Southwick House near Portsmouth, Eisenhower's operational HQ (0705 210522).
- Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth (0705 733060).
- Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport (0705 529217).

• To include public events in this diary contact the Editor.

mond, Surrey; the Airborne Forces Security Fund and the Airborne Forces Charities Development Trust (including the Parachute Regiment Association); and the Paralysed War Veterans Association of America.

"The parachute drops will be conducted with the utmost reverence and respect to those who took part in the war," a CAL spokesman told SOLDIER.

"The jumpers will have the opportunity to wear authentic uniforms of the period, jumping with military-style olive drab or khaki parachutes.

"The plan is to make the largest ever peacetime drop of civilian and ex-Service parachutists in the cause of charitable donations."

The offer is being made worldwide to men and women between the ages of 16 and 65.

Belting up - with pride

Sappers serving with the Jersey Field Squadron are proudly wearing this unique new buckle (pictured) on their Royal Engineer stable belts.

Authorised by the Queen, it depicts three leopards on a Norman shield (in recognition of the unit's Norman French heritage) and the heraldic arms of Jersey enclosed by the RE wreath and insignia.

A Plantagenet crown surrounds the shield denoting long loyalty to the British Crown, while the Queen's



Picture: Jersey Evening Post

crown surrounds the design.

Squadron commander Maj Ian Redwood said the buckle matched the badge on the Channel Island squadron's berets.

SEARCHLINE

• Sgt Harold Brown: Mrs E Wood (48 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BG) wishes to trace Sgt Harold Brown, a wartime friend of her late husband. He served with The King's Regiment and worked as a dental mechanic in Market Drayton before the war. Went to Isle of Man after Dunkirk and possibly to India in 1941.

• Drums SOS: As part of the D-Day commemorations, the Biggin Hill International Air Fair is planning to hold a Drumhead Service on June 18 and 19 but is having difficulty in locating a suitable set of drums. Anyone who can help is asked to contact J R Maitland on 0959 572277.

• Television documentary: Observer Films is producing a one-hour documentary to coincide with the 25th anniversary of British troops being sent to Northern Ireland. The programme wants to hear from ex-Service personnel who served there and friends and relatives. Call Observer Films researcher Jane McWilliams reverse charge on 071-713 4343, or write to her at 75 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3YJ.

• Mr P Jackson (95 Constantine Avenue, Taig Hall, York YO1 3SZ) wishes to hear from anyone who served with his late brother, Bob Jackson, also from York, who served in tanks in Tunisia and took part in the Battle of Cassino.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels - R J Morris - To be Comd BBGT(LG), Mar 14; C M Sexton RE - To be CO 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Mar 14; R H Aitken RRW - To HQ UKLF, Mar 14; R N M Eggar RA - To MoD, Mar 14; A J Hutt, R Signals - To Sig Sch RAC Cen, Mar 14; J F Wheeley RE - To HQ EinC, Mar 14.

Lt Cols - G D Duthoit, R Anglian - To be CO ATR Bassingbourn, Mar 14; R S Hewitt, R Signals - To be CO Tayforth Univs OTC, Mar 14; C N Holman RE - To be CO 72 Engr Regt (V), Mar 14; M J Morgan RA - To

JACIG(AE), Mar 14; C M Sexton RE - To be CO 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Mar 14; R H Aitken RRW - To HQ UKLF, Mar 14; R N M Eggar RA - To MoD, Mar 14; A J Hutt, R Signals - To Sig Sch RAC Cen, Mar 14; J F Wheeley RE - To HQ EinC, Mar 14.

K D Arnold RA - To RMAS, Mar 23; I J Murray, QO Hldrs - To be CO 1/51 Highland, Mar 24; P Norrington-Davies RRW - To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Mar 22.

Hohne Garrison, Mar 21; C E Thom, Green Howards - To HQ BF Cyprus, Mar 21; D C Thorneycroft BW - To RMCS Shriverham; Mar 21; R W Batho, R Signals - To be CO 40 Sig Regt, Mar 21; P R C Flach KRH - To RMCS Shriverham, Mar 21; G H P Flood QLR - To be CO 1 QLR, Mar 22; A V Pedder RA - To HQ ARRC, Mar 21; J N E Watson RA - To HQ AFCENT (Staff), Mar 22.

REUNIONS

• 4 Bn, The Northamptonshire Regiment (1939-46): 48th all ranks reunion dinner (£7), May 6 in Kettering. Details from Maj V Harding, Old Barn Cottage, Oasby, Grantham, Lincs NG32 3NA (tel: 05295 345).

• 2 Bn, The Monmouthshire Regiment OCA: Informal reunion at the Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1A 2LJ on May 7. Details from S J Stapleton, The Gables, 113 Windmill Road, Brentford, Middx TW8 9NH (tel: 081-560 2203).

• 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Regimental Association: Reunion buffet lunch at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2 on May 8. Details from Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

• North Irish Horse: 50th anniversary of Hitler Line Battle, May 23, 1944, anniversary weekend May 20-22 at Ballykelly, Co Londonderry. Ex-members and supporting arms (51 RTR, 142 RAC etc) welcome. Details from Admin Officer, 69 (NIH) Signal Squadron (V) (tel: 0504 49077).

DIARY

APRIL

17: Queen to review Year of the Yeomanry parade in Windsor Great Park.
21: Queen's Birthday. King's Troop RHA to fire 41-gun salute in Hyde Park; HAC to fire 62-gun salute at the Tower.

MAY

8: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service at Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.
15: Cassino 50th anniversary commemoration service, Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cassino cemetery.

16: Anzio Beach Head Cemetery commemoration service.
19: UK and international veterans' parades, Cassino and Gaeta.
21: Monte Cassino 50th anniversary remembrance service, St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 2 Gren Gds.

17: AGC Corps Day, Worthy Down (ticket details on 0962 887254/887427 or Winchester Mil 2254/2427).

26: Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, 1000-1600.

JULY

11-12: Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.
19-30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available from box office on 071-373 8141).

• To include public events in this diary contact the Editor.

Back-tracking on Ordnance

LESLIE Sharpe describes *The Field Train Department of the Board of Ordnance* as "a rather specialised book with a limited appeal, which may be of interest to gunners, sappers, REME and ex-members of RAOC."

Since it tells the story of the Army's ordnance suppliers from 1793 to 1859 he could be

right – but such is its detail that his book could also interest military historians and students of how the Army was supplied in those early days.

There is no doubt that Mr Sharpe, a former colonel in the RAOC, has put much effort into producing this work.

His labours are rewarded by

its pleasing presentation as well as by the kindly foreword by Maj Gen D F E Botting, Director General of Ordnance Services from 1990 to 1993, who describes the book as "fascinating, extremely well researched and fills a major gap in the history of British Ordnance Services."

The book costs £20, but £1 of this goes to the RAOC Charitable Trust. – JM

The Field Train Department of the Board of Ordnance 1793 to 1859 by L C Sharpe. Obtainable from the author at Lania Village, Limassol District, Cyprus, £20 inc p&p. Telephone and fax 357-543-2409.

Return to hell

IT IS OFTEN said: "Never go back, you'll regret it." But the late Sir John Fletcher-Cooke did – 25 years after being a prisoner of the Japanese he returned on a pilgrimage of remembrance to the camps where he had been incarcerated from 1942 to 1945.

Like the mountaineer who, asked why he bothers to climb, replies, "Because it's there", Fletcher-Cooke returned to the scenes of his personal hell as a Japanese PoW. He felt he had to go back.

In *The Emperor's Guest*, first published in 1971, the airman who became a Southampton MP related his life and times as a captive and of the horrifying treatment he and his fellow prisoners endured at the hands of their guards.

In common with many others he suffered badly, but time can be a great healer and he showed no bitterness towards his captors, despite bearing the scars of their beatings, mentally and physically, till the day he died.

When he came face-to-face with some of his former guards, his attitude towards them was one of magnanimity.

Not for him a mission of revenge, but an overwhelming desire to visit the camp sites, talk to his one-time gaolers and refresh his memory of those terrible times.

To accompany this second edition of *The Emperor's Guest*, the author's widow, Lady Fletcher-Cooke, paid her late husband this tribute:

"John never spoke openly of

the harrowing experiences he underwent as a prisoner-of-war. It was only when he insisted on my accompanying him to Japan that I finally saw.

"During this visit, we took photographs of the various camps he had been in, we walked in the jungle and we met with former guards.

"This visit gave me insight into the suffering of my husband, and others like him. For this reason, I encouraged him to write his book.

"John's first operation in 1977 came as a result of the sadistic beating he suffered in the Miyata Coalmine. During his convalescence, he asked me to read a few pages of the book every day. It was a reminder that this illness was nothing compared to what he suffered as a PoW.

"Though his mind and body still bore every wound inflicted, he never despaired and never spoke of them, other than in his book. John was the

epitome of a gentleman.

"He presented his diary, in which he recorded his memoirs of his life as a PoW, to the Imperial War Museum. His hope was that it may serve as an historical reference and a lesson to the younger generation."

Sir John was adamant in his belief that, had it not been for the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and had the Allies instead launched an invasion, few, if any, PoWs would have got out alive. There would have been mass slaughter, so freeing camp guards to fight for the Emperor.

This thought-provoking book will have been of particular interest to former PoWs, especially to members of the Far East Prisoners of War Association. – JM

The Emperor's Guest by John Fletcher-Cooke. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.95.

IN BRIEF

D-Day – 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. Excellent, 164-page, official guide to the commemorations in A4 paperback format, endorsed by the Southern Tourist Board and the Royal British Legion, with £1 from every sale going to the Poppy Appeal. Southern Newspapers PLC, £5.95.

D-Day Landings by Sub Lt W B Carter RNVR. Main selling-point of this 32-page paperback are the previously unpublished photographs taken (against the rules) by the author, first lieutenant of an American landing craft, of the 13 landings on Utah and Omaha beaches. Silent Books, Boxworth End, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5RA, £4.95.

Enemies in Love by Muriel Mae. True story of the clandestine love affair between a Derby factory worker and a German prisoner of war, the inevitable problems they faced, and their eventual marriage. Pentland Press, 3 Regal Lane, Soham, Ely, Cambs CB7 5BA, paperback, £7.50.

History of the 53rd (Welsh) Division (1939-45) by Brig C N Barclay. Primarily concerned with the Second World War but also covers the period 1918-39 and 1945-55. First published 1956 in hardback. Original copies in mint condition available from HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade (G1/G4), The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EA. Price £12 (includes p&p UK and BAOR), cheques payable to Comds Fund, HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade.

Time to establish the HSM?

MEDALS on a soldier's chest reflect service to the Crown given by generations of Servicemen and women, and often mirror the fragility of world peace.

An increasing commitment to support United Nations peacekeeping operations and humanitarian missions has led to a plethora of UN medal ribbons appearing on soldiers'

tunics. It could be argued that the time is right for a Humanitarian Service Medal, but medals, or the lack of them, remain an emotive subject.

Campaign Medals by Robert W Gould details every medal and clasp awarded by Britain to her Armed Forces from Waterloo to the Gulf. The book is a roll call for the nation's military history and

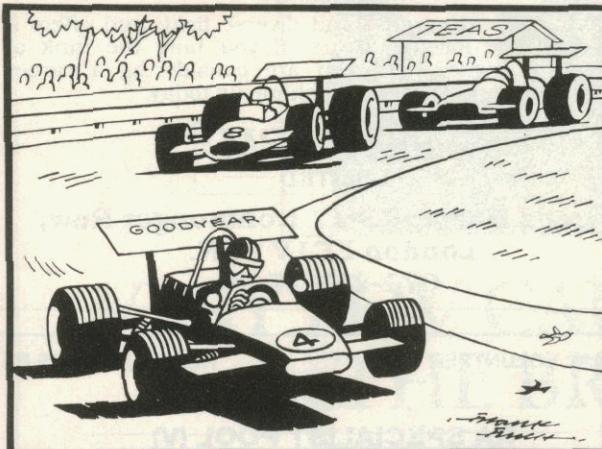
includes advice on display and cleaning, where to buy or view medals and how to research the recipients.

This latest revised edition is complemented by a useful price guide. – LJM

British Campaign Medals – Waterloo to the Gulf by Robert W Gould. Published by Arms and Armour, hardback, £12.99.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 585

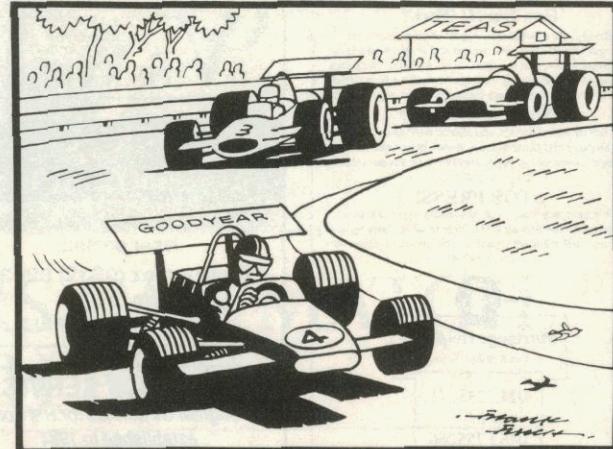
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Competition No 582: Congratulations to WO2 S Blyth, RHQ 152(A) Regt, RLC(V), BFPO 801, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up WO2 P G Mitchell, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and Mr P Springfield, of Swindon, Wilts.

REUNIONS

From Page 35

● **AGC Corps Day:** June 17 (1130-1800), includes Beating of Retreat by Band of Adjutant General's Corps. Fun day for families. Ticket admission details from Asst Regt Sec on 0962 887254 or 887427 or Winchester Mil 2254/2427.

● **The Gordon Highlanders:** Bi-centenary and Trooping the Colour will take place in Aberdeen on June 25. Former Gordons wishing to attend should contact RHQ, The Gordon Highlanders, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 7XH (tel: 0224 318174).

● **Army Basketball Association:** 50th anniversary reunion at ASPT, Aldershot, on June 25. Details from Maj Terry Goulding APTC, HQ W and WDIST, Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury SY3 8LZ tel: 0743 262269 or Shrewsbury Mil ext 2269/2294.

● **Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry:** Bi-centenary parade, July, at Dorchester. Units connected with QOYD were 94th, 141st, 294th Fd Regts RA TA; 250th, 255th, 341st Med Regts RA TA; Dorset Garrison; 241st and 522nd Coast Regts RA TA. Old comrades are asked to contact Maj L E N Neville-Jones, Audlem House, 68 Blake Hill Crescent, Poole, Dorset BH14 8QS.

● **219 Signal Sqn (Tripolitania):** Reunion to be held Sept 10 at Loughborough. Details from Roy Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

● **Staffordshire Regiment:** Annual reunion and 50th anniversary of Burma, Arnhem, D-Day landings and Anzio, Sept 17, Lichfield City and Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (please enclose sae).

● **RE Darland Boys Association 1939-41:** 14th reunion due to be held in September at King Charles Hotel, Chatham, Kent. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB (tel: 0582 27569).

● **Well-drillers reunion:** 30th anniversary reunion of all who served with the Royal Engineer Well-drilling Team is planned for Oct 8-9. Details from Sgt L Morrice, 521 STRE (WD), Chilwell Station, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5HA (tel: 0602 572385).

● **Bangalore OTS:** Indian Army Cadets (Queen's Regiment) Maidstone platoons 15 A/B, sailed *Empress of Scotland* en route OTS Bangalore (Draft i/c David Harley 2 GR), October reunion proposed. Contact A M Nolan

MILITARIA

● **Regimental plaques (1st King's Dragoon Guards and The Queen's Bays):** Mr J D Johnson, Secretary of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, wants to hear from anyone willing to donate or sell the regimental plaques of the KDG and Queen's Bays to display in branch headquarters. Replies to Hapsberg, 3 Hawarden Way, Mancot, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 2EL (tel: 0244 536570).

● **Napoleonic guards:** The 1st Lifeguard Regiment (1815), Waterloo Troop, which gives displays during the summer, seeks serving and ex-serving personnel to swell its mostly ex-Regular ranks. Horsemen preferred but non-riders accepted. Trumpeters, troopers and prospective NCOs also required. Apply to CO on 0737 360561.

● **Books programme:** Do books deal with life in the Services and wartime accurately? Are authors badly informed about military life? Daisy Goodwin, Room 5012, BBC TV, Kensington House, Richmond Way, London W14 0AX (tel: 081-895 6611) wants to hear from anyone who could talk cogently on a new books programme starting in the autumn.

CLOSURES

● **The WOs' and Sergeants' Mess:** HQ Berlin, will close in May. Anyone who has presented property and lost touch with the mess, please call WO2 (SSM) G T Bardley on Berlin Mil 4495 or write c/o BGAU, BFPO 45.

Melaka, Oakfield, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4JR (tel: 0580 753305). Also seeking RWK instructors Sgts Morris, Jefferies, Jones and Cpl George, Stokes, Cox.

● **Small Arms Corps and connections (ex-Hythe):** Proposed final reunion in Hythe, November 11-13. Details from Fred Gray, Blaenblodau, Dryslwyn, Car-

marthen, Dyfed SA32 8RN (tel: 0558 668719).

● **26 Regiment RA:** all ranks reunion, past and present members of 26 Regt (16, 17, 159, 76 and M Btys), November 25-27. Details of reunion from (and where abouts of past members to) Brian Henderson, 3 Duke Street, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2HL (tel: 0933 442684).

To all those leaving the Service . . .

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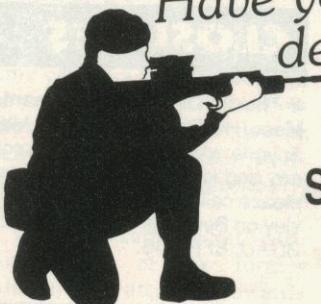
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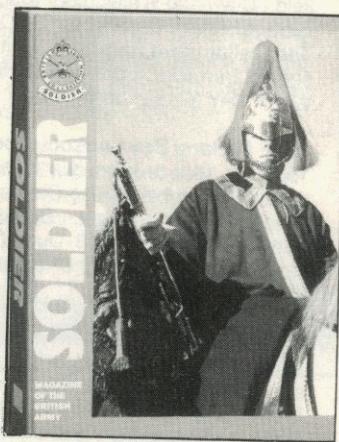
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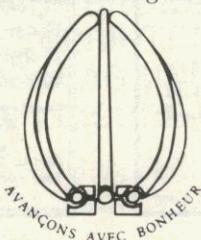
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FEATURES: Side pouches + Yoke (makes day patrol pack)
PRICE: £139.99

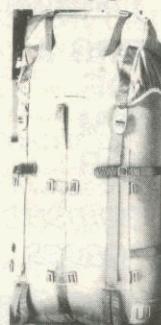
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COLOUR: Green
FEATURES: Side pouches make day pack (straps incl.)
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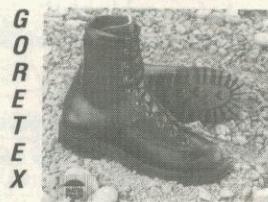
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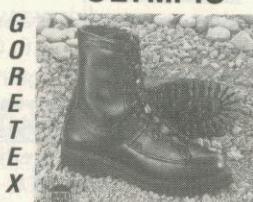
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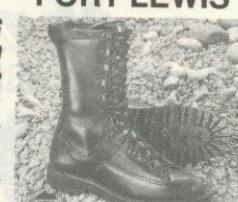
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08/94

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08/94

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08/94

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08/94

Susan, 35, 5' tall, green eyes, chestnut hair. Interests include: cooking, action videos, pool, romantic music, walking and dressmaking. Seeks lonely, down to earth, soldier, 35+ with gsoh, as pen friend. Home or abroad. **P915**

08/94

Attention all unattached soldiers. I am Chris, a 42-year-old blue eyed blonde, 5'5" tall. Interests include swimming, films, theatre, and writing letters. Come on, make my day! **P916**

08/94



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08/94

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D5

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T/C

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07/08

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T/C

SOLDIER SHIELD - the ideal gift for the military enthusiast, or to add to a collection. The SOLDIER shield shows the magazine's official insignia on a dark wood base, and measures 180 x 140mm. The cost of the shield, inclusive of VAT and p&p, is £17 UK and £19 elsewhere. Send your cheque/PO payable to "Soldier" to Soldier Shield, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

T/C

Silverman's have available the following new PTI kit: Old Pattern PTI Tops £32.99, PTI Vests £7.99, PTI Belts £9.99, PTI Cloth Badges £2.99, Ron Hill Tracksters £14.99, New Rugby Shirts all cotton £15.99, Timex Sports Watches from £16.99. Free catalogue 0717 900 900 Info 0717 905 257, Order 0717 905 585. Silverman's, 2 Harford Street, Mile End, London E1 4PS.

T/C

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Coins, English silver and copper for sale. For free list write to: 26 Vulcan Street, Holyhead, Gwynedd LL65 1TL. Stamp appreciated.

08/94

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T/C

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EO14

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EO194

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21/94

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D5

Notices

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charities for the benefit of the former the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion the Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/21st Foot) Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Scheme for the general re-organisation of the Charities Ref: 148369

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: RLB-148369-SC (RB 437)) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, and may be seen at 2 RRW, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE. Objections and suggestions may be sent to the Commissioners within one month from today.

D4

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D5

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charities of the Former 9th (Territorial) Battalion the Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex)

Scheme for the amendment of a previous Scheme Ref: RLB-150709-SC

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales propose to make an Order establishing a Scheme for this and other purposes. Any objection to the proposed Scheme or suggestions modifying it should be sent in writing within one month from the date of this notice to the Secretary, Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the reference above.

Copies of the proposed Scheme will be supplied on written request to the Charity Commissioners (quoting the reference above) and may also be seen at their office or at the following address: Secretary, 2 Ryecroft Meadow, Mannings Heath, HORSHAM, West Sussex RH13 6JN.

Dated the 22nd Day of March 1994.

D6

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D6

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 19, 1994

First prize (21 goals, £2,000): Lt Col J B Kennedy, HQ Wales & Western Dist, Shrewsbury.

Six-way tie for second prize (20 goals, £416.67 each): LSgt R M Beckett, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17; Pte L Guest, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 17; SSgt D Hudson, 24 Int Sect, BFPO 34; Sgt J Kay, 9 Signal Regt (Radio), BFPO 59; WO1 J S Roach, 27 Regt RLC, Aldershot; Cpl T J Score, 9/12 L, BFPO 15.

MARCH 26, 1994

First prize (24 goals, £2,000): Sgt M Goodrum, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38.

Three-way tie for second prize (23 goals, £633.33 each): LCpl C B Kaighin, 42 Log Sp Sqn RLC, Bulford; Cpl M M Marriner, 24 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, Catterick; Cpl A J Symon, HQ Wales & Western District, Shrewsbury.

Nine-way tie for fifth prize (22 goals, £66.67 each): Lt Col S F Boyd, SHAPE, BFPO 26; Cpl G I Brown, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 48; WO1 B Cawley, HQ ARRC, BFPO 39; Lt E M Halfmann, KRH, BFPO 17; LCpl D C T Holder, MoD DAR; LCpl J Jesty, HQ QMG, Andover; Sig N C O'Connor, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regt, Bulford; Cpl A W Thomas, Rheindalen Sp Unit, BFPO 40; Sgt I M Turner, 1 QO Hldrs, Edinburgh.

D5

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D4

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D3

ARMY RULES THE WAVES NAVY WAIVES THE RULES

Army 18,
Royal Navy 6

FOCUSING directly on WO2 Steve Powley's six successful penalty kicks *The Sunday Telegraph* headline read simply: "POWLEY LANDS SIX".

But that hid the true nature of an uncompromising and frequently bruising affair against a very competitive Royal Navy side with eight new caps, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The Army opened well and for ten minutes the pace was frenetic. Not so much the thin red line but successive waves of scarlet jerseys battering the Navy goal line.

The pressure brought two penalties which Powley, amid considerable noise from sections of an over-zealous crowd, failed to convert.

All credit to Powley who, despite similar distraction, continued to punish the misdemeanours of a Navy pack too frequently embarrassed in the close quarter battle. Early on, the Army led 6-0.

Despite a large territorial disadvantage, the Navy managed a number of raids to put pressure on the Army line.

Geraint Davies of the Liverpool Society had the sort of eyes which made up for all the blind Irish and Scottish referees you have ever met. This allowed Jerry Price, the Navy fly-half, to equal the score at six points each.

These naval raids brought the best out of SSgt Steve Commander (7 RHA) who had his finest inter-Service game for years. He marshalled the pack shrewdly in defence, and his line kicking was sure, and as long as it needed to be.

Tony Glasgow (71 Regt RE) and Powley in the centre were threatening while John Fenn (RLC) and particularly Steve Bartliff (R Signals) had strong runs, the latter being only a whisker away from sweeping around Marine Brown – one of the fastest men in the West.

Behind Commander, Cpl Steve Bowling (2 Sig Regt), a new cap at full back, had a very promising game.

After half-time the game, for a period, became rather static.



England forward Tim Rodber carries the ball for the Army against the Royal Navy at Twickenham. Dave Dahinten (wearing headband) moves in to support him

Only when Tim Rodber (Green Howards) and Mike Watson (REME/3 RHA) launched drives deep into the Navy defence did the attack ethic return.

They both found space to run and, supported by a pack once more flexing its muscle, the gaps in the Navy defence started to appear.

The ball, supported by the ever present flanker Gareth James (2 Sig Regt), reached successive areas from which to launch phased attacks, only to find the Army making minor errors or the Navy deliberately killing the ball.

Had the Army "clicked" at this stage 40 points would have not been unrealistic. Even so,

the scrums and line-out which followed created opportunities for the Army physically to dominate.

Jim Fowers (7 RHA) and David Coghlan (7 RHA) provided the uncompromising "rock and a hard place", while Julian Brammer, the Army skipper, led well from the front. David Dahinten (7 RHA) and Andy Newsham (22 Regt RA) jumped competitively against equally determined Navy locks.

Newsham, a new Army cap at 20 years of age, is learning the ways of the street. On one occasion, to the referees' displeasure, he was seen to be getting his retaliation in first.

Dark Blue hands were fre-

quently to be seen in the sort of places that suggested that Diego Maradona was part of the RN coaching set up.

The new laws almost invite negative attitudes and hallow terminal spoilers who are prepared to take risks with the referee. The laws of the game offer no appropriate sanctions against such a rancid strategy and on March 26 prevented, in part, the match becoming a spectacle.

The hard-running game is certainly within this Army team's capability. It has exciting attack options which must now wait until the Royal Air Force match at Twickenham on Wednesday April 20. See you there.

Strength in depth tells on piste

STRENGTH in depth allowed the Army to retain the Inter-Services championships at this year's British Services international ski meeting at Tignes Val Claret in the French Alpes.

Teams from all three British Services and six other nations – Italy, France, Russia, Switzerland, Australia and the USA – were involved in intense competition, watched on the final day by the Duchess of Kent, patron of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association.

The Italian Alpini dominated the Portakabin men's downhill on the challenging Lognan course, 2km long with a drop of nearly 600m. Army skiers Cpl Dave Crawford (1 ADSR), Lt Jamie Clarke (1 GS Regt RLC) and Lt Peter Cooper (1 Regt AAC) finished 14th, 15th and 16th to secure third team place overall.

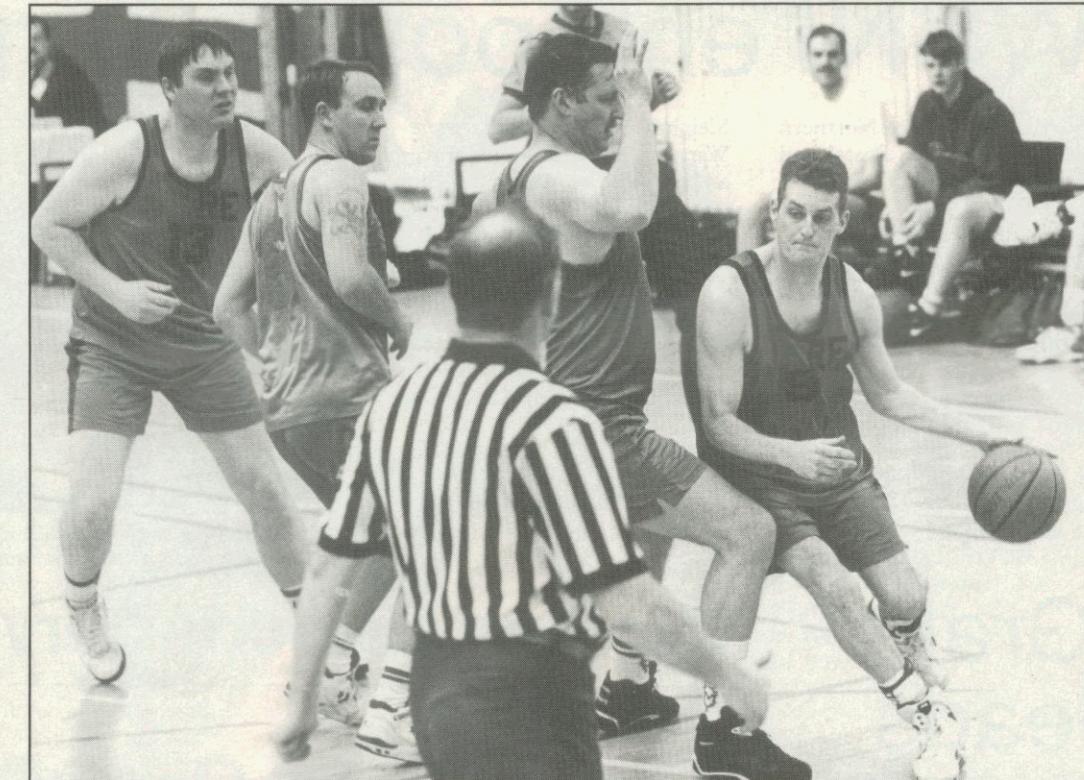
CLEAR WIN

Sgt Jude Shenton (ASPT), Capt Judy Palmer (AAC Harrogate), Capt Lisa Giles (ADC to Cmdr ARRC) and Lt Jules Prentice (32 Regt RA) earned a clear win for the Army in the Courage women's slalom, although the RAF women gained revenge in the Beefeater Gin giant slalom.

The Alpini battled out the individual places in the men's competition, with only the Russian Army providing any real competition. The RAF's Craig Bonnington was the top British races in both the giant slalom and the Willis Corroon men's super giant slalom, followed by Cooper, Crawford and Clarke.

SACW Jenny Davidson of the RAF won the women's super giant slalom to claim the individual combined title and lead the RAF to their fourth consecutive team championship. The Army were second.

Bonnington was first British skier home in the Courage men's slalom to clinch the combined title ahead of Crawford and Clarke.



Cfn Carl Black (right) of 22 Engr Regt looks for a way past the 16 Sig Regt defence during the Army Inter-Unit basketball finals. Black was named most valuable player

SUPER SEVEN

SEVEN Servicemen – five soldiers and two airmen – reached the England ABA semi-finals by beating Western Counties opposition in their quarter-final eliminator at the Army Boxing Centre, Aldershot, on March 17, writes **John Elliott**.

Through to the next round at Gateshead on April 12 are LCpl Jason Gardner (89 Sy Coy), Gdsm Kevin Short (WG), LCpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC), Cpl Steve Burford (REME) and Spr Danny Watts (RE Trg Regt) from the Army and Cpl Darren Fox and SAC Owen Spensley from the Royal Air Force.

Western Counties seldom provide easy opposition for the Servicemen and this clash was no exception.

Bessey, bidding for his second consecutive ABA title, was made to work particularly hard before stopping Penhill banger Justin Turley in the third round of their light middleweight bout.

Under intense first round pressure, Bessey boxed superb-

22 Engr move in at top

THERE is a new pecking order in Army basketball. Former champions 16 Sig Regt and 39 Engr Regt – who have dominated the sport at major unit level for several years – were relegated to third and fourth places by Perham Down-based 22 Engr Regt.

A new format to the championships at ASPT Aldershot introduced a women's tournament and BAOR competing as a district in the men's event.

Defending champions 16 Sig from Krefeld had to settle for third place. SEE Arborfield lost 61-79 to 22 Engr in the final, a reversal of the Southern District zonal result.

Women's Services Northern Ireland took the honours in the ladies' tournament, edging out 99 PC Sqn.

Major units: SEE 82, 16 Sigs 73; 39 Engr 72, 22 Engr 99; 16 Sigs 55, 22 Engr 86; 39 Eng 53, SEE 83; 16 Sigs 63, 39 Eng 62; 22 Eng 79, SEE 61.

Minor units: 110 Pro Coy 99, ASPT 96; ASPT 80, Burford Gar 72; 110 Pro Coy 85, Burford Gar 60. Most valuable player: Cpl Tony Baxter (110 Pro Coy).

Women: 99 PC Sqn 36, WSNI 47; Camp Comdt (AD) 49, Burford Gar 33; WSNI 81, Camp Comdt 28; 99 PC Sqn 45, Burford Gar 23; WSNI 91, Burford Gar 18. Most valuable player: SSgt Stephanie Paul (Camp Comdt).

Picture: Mike Perring

WSNI end posties' final run

WOMEN's Services Northern Ireland denied the Postal and Courier Depot RLC a fourth successive Army women's Inter-Units hockey championship at Aldershot last month.

Having lost to the posties in the qualifying pool, the team from Northern Ireland met them again in the final and went behind to an early goal from Cpl Donna Druce.

But Cpl Lofthouse equalised in the second half and WSNI scored again soon afterwards. Sound defence by WSNI captain WO2 (QMSI) Helen

Sleightholme and SSgt Angie Warnes denied Donna Druce and Cpl Campling as the defending champions piled on the pressure in the closing minutes of the final.

Nine teams – seven from the United Kingdom, two from Germany – qualified for the final stages of the competition, with WSNI beating Aldershot Medical Services 3-0 in one semi-final which was decided on penalties, while PCD RLC defeated Training Regiment and Depot RLC 1-0 in the other semi.



Picture: Mike Perring

WO2 Helen Sleightholme, WSNI captain, receives the Inter-Units hockey trophy from AWHA chairman Lt Col Mary Rook

Grant leads golden oldies

MAJ Glen Grant (JSDC) came within a whisker of setting a world record in the 40 age group 800m at the British veterans indoor championships in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall.

His winning time of 1min 56.31sec was just 0.8 of a second outside the world record and earned him one of four gold medals won by Army athletes.

Grant achieved a golden double by winning the 40 age group 1,500m in 4min 8.52sec. In the 45 age group 1,500m Maj Les Wood (2 Sig Regt) ran brilliantly to finish second in 4min 18.40sec.

Capt Terry Hall (ACO Log Sp HQ) took full advantage of poorly supported technical events to win both long (5.28m) and high jumps (1.55m), and finish third in the 60m hurdles (10.2sec) and fourth in the triple jump (10.99m).

Sgt Bill Bailey (2 Sig Regt) took the silver medal in the 3,000m in 8min 58.19sec. Capt Peter Marsh (16 Regt RLC), suffering from a heavy cold, was tenth in the same race in 9min 45.63sec.

Grant, incidentally, was assistant manager of the British team – including Sgt Rod Finch (3 Para) – which competed in the European indoor championships in Paris.

Duchess supports Service skiers



The Army women's ski team at Tignes Val Claret with the Duchess of York. From left are Lt Jules Prentice, Lt Tanya Dennison, Capt Liz Hyde, the Duchess, Sgt Jude Shenton (kneeling), Capt Judy Palmer, Capt Lisa Giles, 2nd Lt Rachel Herit and Maj Paul Ford (trainer/manager). Story in Page 49

HONOURS EVEN

RAF 1, Army 1

A MUCH improved performance by the Army against a determined Royal Air Force side at RAF Halton produced a 1-1 draw resulting in the Constantinople and Carrington Cups being shared, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Both Services had beaten the Royal Navy by the same margin earlier in the championship.

The result was a fair reflection of the play, with both sides

enjoying periods of pressure after a lack-lustre first 45 minutes during which neither keeper was tested.

Sgt Steve Bates, Sig Jim Strouts and SSgt Alan Higgins were involved in a good move and Cpl Chris Brown, back in the side after five months out with a broken leg, found SSgt Steve Davies who was crowded out by defenders.

At the other end, SSgt Nigel Wiscombe saved bravely at the feet of Thompson.

The second half was more

exciting, with both sides attacking. Strouts broke the deadlock on the hour when he converted a half chance from 25 yards after Bates and Davies had broken down the right.

Wiscombe (players' Player of the Year) brought off three outstanding saves before the airmen equalised at the end of a 15-minute spell of pressure.

As time ran out, Brown brought the best out of RAF goalkeeper Tapp with a shot that might have won the championship outright for the Army.



Midfield contest in the Army women's Inter-Unit hockey championships at Aldershot between, left, LCpl Mandy Smith (BODSU Donnington) and Lt Penny Halligan (HQ York Garrison). In the final, Women's Services Northern Ireland beat PCD RLC 2-1.

Picture: Mike Perring

Your excellency!

BRITISH and Army women's luge champion Pte Susan Dawson (right) has set her sights on becoming the best in the world.

The 24-year-old driver, currently serving with 41 Squadron RLC in Aldershot, is aiming to represent Britain in major national and international competitions, including the World Cup and the next Winter Olympics. For her impact so far on the high-speed sport, Birmingham-born Susan has just received the Embassy Award of Excellence.

Her involvement with luge – a sport

which involves the rider sliding feet first on a slim tray down Europe's fastest bobsleigh courses – began two years ago. Fresh out of the Army School of Mechanical Transport at Leconfield, she read in squadron orders an appeal for volunteers to take part in luge training.

Despite the fact that Susan wasn't quite sure at that stage what luge actually meant, she went on to win the Army women's novice title and finish second in the British novice championships.

Last year she became British women's champion.





Fiery finale to a memorable day for young soldiers from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, who had earlier marched through the town and Beat Retreat at its historic castle as part of the college's 70th anniversary celebrations. The impressive pyrotechnic display, which dramatically illuminated the castle for miles around, was prepared by Mark Lancaster, a Territorial Army lieutenant.

Picture: Mike Weston

SOLDIER