

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SEPTEMBER 15 1997

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Sept 15, 1997 Vol 53/18

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'A phenomenal C-in-C'

TWO regiments closely involved with Diana, Princess of Wales have spoken of their distress at her death in a road traffic accident in Paris on August 31.

Although she severed her formal ties as head of The Light Dragoons and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment on her divorce in 1996, her continued pride and genuine affection for them was well known.

Statements from both regiments to *Soldier* as this issue went to press reflected the admiration in which Princess Diana continued to be held.

A message from their base at Hohne in Germany said: "All ranks of The Light Dragoons are enormously shocked and saddened by yesterday's events. Diana, Princess of Wales was a phenomenal Colonel-in-Chief who contributed much over the seven years she held the appointment.

"She gave her time generously and displayed a keen interest in the activities of both 13th/18th Royal Hussars and more latterly The Light Dragoons. The regiment extends its deepest sym-

pathy to her family, and though she relinquished her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief in 1996 she will long hold a place in the regiment's heart."

A statement from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment headquarters at Canterbury said: "The regiment was deeply shocked to hear the news of her death.

"Although she resigned as Colonel-in-Chief in 1996, it was an honour and a privilege to have her as head of the regimental family for four years from 1992 to 1996.

"She was always extraordinarily supportive during our formative years and took a great interest in our many activities."

The Princess of Wales's concern for British Servicemen and women was poignantly conveyed in a message she sent to *Soldier* during the Gulf War. In it she told them they were constantly in her thoughts and prayers.

It was announced that the funeral would take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, September 6, and the burial on the family estate, Althorp, Northamptonshire.



July 1992: An exclusive *Soldier* photograph of the Princess taken at a garden party following the farewell parade of The Royal Hampshire Regiment in Winchester

Training not going soft, says minister

"ARMY recruits will not be mollicoddled," said Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid at the launch of the new Army Training and Recruitment Agency (ATRA) at Pirbright, Surrey on August 27.

ATRA's motto, "Build - don't break, train - don't select", was reinforced by new recruits tackling command tasks and soldiers in their final week of training firing their SA80 rifles on the range.

As part of the drive to find 5,000 soldiers for the Army, the period of pre-training will increase in an attempt to minimise drop-outs.

"These drop-out rates have been caused not by the recruits' failure but by ours," said the Armed Forces Minister.

The old ten-week course has been extended to 11-weeks to

cater for different capabilities, sexes, fitness standards and ages. "This approach is to be modernisation, not mollicoddling. It is not about turning sergeants into social workers," he added.

Dr Reid also rejected some "ill-informed comment" that the changes were in any way a soft option.

Brig Andrew Cumming, Commander Initial Training Group, said: "Recruits will be better motivated and better trained. The aim is to prepare the recruit physically and psychologically to enable him or

her to pass the recruit course first time."

The agency was formed on July 1 when the Army Individual Training Organisation (AITO) incorporated the Directorate of Army Recruiting (DAR).

ATRA has 18 operating divisions which command 123 recruiting offices and 44 schools based in 164 different locations across the country.

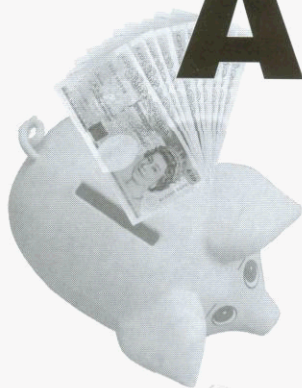
It employs 6,270 military personnel and 4,780 civilians, making it one of the largest executive agencies within the Ministry of Defence.

Airborne Brigade Pathfinders are looking for volunteers with the right stuff - Page 5

How To Buy A

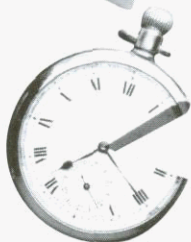


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New SOLDIER off to a flying start

THE DUST was in my eyes, my nose, my mouth, everywhere. The temperature outside was in the high 80s, just a few degrees cooler than inside my double-layered, Nomex fire-resistant racing suit. Breathing took on a new, eager dimension...

A huge rut suddenly appeared on the track in front of us. No time to shout a warning. WHAM... the Land Rover was airborne.

The floored accelerator made the engine scream as the wheels desperately searched for a

grip on the dusty track beneath us...

In our next issue, the first new monthly *Soldier*, we bring you, in the first of our exciting "Who dares..." series, the bone-jarring experience of a white-knuckle ride with the British Army rally team.

In this sport they say that if you want to finish first, first you have to finish. We go



one better and show those of you who dare to rally how to start.

Your new *Soldier*, dated October and out towards the end of September, will also take you inside

Hitler's underground missile base, show you around a famous military town in pictures – and bring you the first in a series of big-name interviews. Don't miss it!

Pathfinders need you

PATHFINDER Platoon, 5 Airborne Brigade's 40-strong advanced recce force, is looking for high-calibre volunteers.

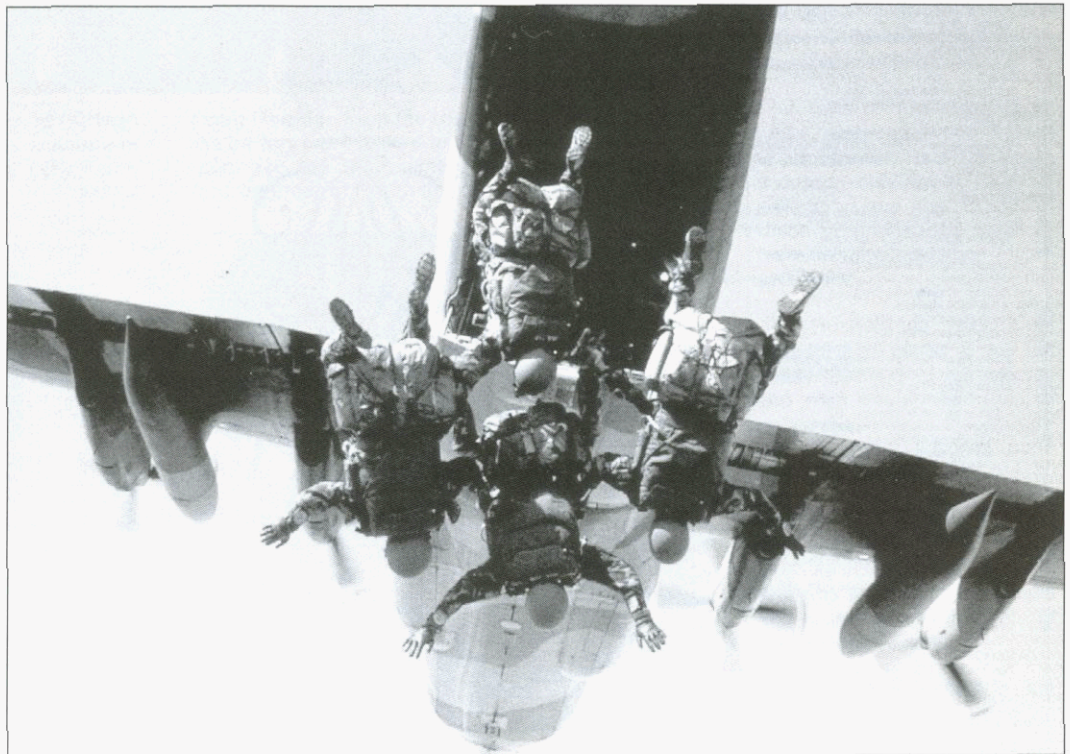
The Aldershot-based platoon, which conducts its operations ahead of any main airborne assault, specialises in air insertions and resupply using parachute techniques which include High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) and High Altitude High Opening (HAHO).

Now the élite Pathfinders, who were formally added to the order of battle on April 1 this year after existing as a "phantom" unit for many years, are looking for volunteers to take part in selection cadres.

Specialist skills required for the Pathfinder role include combat and jungle survival, mobility and mountain warfare, demolitions and route-denial, abseiling and helicopter "fast-roping".

Selection entails a demanding five-week course, held twice a year in February and October, open to officers and soldiers alike.

Volunteers are drawn from across the Army and do not need to be qualified as military



Picture: The Military Picture Library

Pathfinders make a linked exit at 20,000ft. They breathe oxygen, carry GQ360 'chutes, 130lb Bergens and a range of specialist weapons

parachutists to attend. The cadre is very competitive but offers unique rewards, including an excellent grounding for those with aspirations to serve with Special Forces.

Dates of the next three courses are Oct 5-Nov 7; Feb 8-Mar 13, 1998; and Oct 4-Nov 6, 1998. Details are available from CSM J Raeper on Aldershot Mil (722) 4419.

ed during Bosnia's civil wars.

● A company of 119 Gurkha soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles flew to Bosnia at the end of August to boost SFOR during the run-up to municipal elections.

● Czechs in Wales – Page 9

SFOR nations bridge gap

BOSNIA-based elements of 21 Engineer Regiment held a five-day multi-national bridging course involving sappers from Romania, France, Hungary and Canada.

Eighteen very heavily-used logistic Mabey and Johnson bridges (MJBs) have been erected in Bosnia, creating a need for construction, maintenance and inspection teams throughout the country. The course, at Split North Port, was run by WO2 (SSM) Tiny Waterman of 7 HQ Squadron.

Hussars live-fire with Czech battalion

ELEMENTS of 6 Czech Mechanised Battalion joined the King's Royal Hussars battle group at Glamoc ranges in central Bosnia for the first Anglo-Czech live-firing exercise since NATO's newest member nation was admitted.

Firing alongside British Challenger tanks and Czech BMPs were Dutch and Canadian ground forces, and US AH-64 Apache helicopters. The KRH provides armour to the British-led Multi-National Division in areas hotly contest-



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S112	Gold RA Cypher on Blue background.	4.70
P42B	RAA Windscreen Sticker - Round (Interior).	1.50

CHINA MUG

S73	China Mug - Dark Blue China Mug with RA Gun Badge in Yellow	4.85
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COFFEE MUG

S74	Coffee Mug - Stoneware Pottery. RA Badge Relief.	6.60
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CUFF LINKS

S44	Large round, gilt metal with engraved RA Badge. Torpedo fitting.	16.65
S44A	Gilt Oval Cuff Links. Regimental Colours. Zig Zag design.	
S45	Swivel link fitting.	10.55
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S46	Oval: Silver Hallmarked Cuff Links with Gilt RA Gun Badge. Chain Link	35.55
S114A	Large round, gilt metal with engraved RA Badge.	
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S160	Gilt Enamel RA Badge - Cuff Link & Tie Grip Set.	10.00
S161	Gilt Enamel RA Badge - Cuff Link & Stick Pin Set.	9.40
S162	Gilt Enamel RA Badge - Cuff Link & Tie Tack Set.	9.60

DIARY

P61	Pocket Diary - Gilt Corner mounted Black or Maroon 1 Week to View with Notes Opposite and Ribbon Marker	2.70
P62	Notelets - RA Drum Emblazon. 10 Notelets in Blue Card Wallet.	5.15

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S10	Pewter Hip Flask. Mounted RA Gun Badge. In Presentation box with funnel for easy filling.	20.40
S10A	Hip flask 6oz. Blue Leather RA Gun Badge.	13.45

JOTTER/NOTEBOOK

S107	Suitable for top pocket. RA Gun Badge embossed.	4.30
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S13	Zippo Lighter - badge RA.	12.25
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S132	Gunner carrying 155 Shell, height 10" includes plinth.	45.90
S133	Northern Ireland Urban Patrol SA80.	51.00
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PAPERWEIGHT

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SCARVES & CRAVAT

S41	Royal Artillery Regimental Zig Zag pattern scarf. 60" x 12" Zig Zag one side, plain reversed. Polyester.	15.60
S41A	Royal Artillery Regimental Zig Zag pattern cravat. Zig Zag design both sides. Polyester.	12.70
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WINE GLASSES	S60	'Claudia' Crystal Wine Glass - 190ml. RA Cypher engraved.	9.00
	S60A	'Claudia' Crystal Goblet - 230ml. RA Cypher engraved.	9.00
	S60B	'Claudia' Crystal Claret Glass - 230ml. RA Cypher engraved.	9.00
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Bosnia chat: Sgt Yoz Hughes (left) from 79 (Kirkee) Commando Battery, Royal Artillery, exchanges pleasantries with International Police Task Force (IPTF) members Tom Walczac from Poland and

Doug Hawkins from the USA. British soldiers from the battery were tasked to create a secure environment for the IPTF, which was overseeing the restructuring of the civilian police force in Bosnia.

Drugs: 0.62 per cent test positive

THE 19 soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment dismissed the Army after failing drugs tests bring to 332 the number who have tested positive so far this year.

More than 50,000 random tests have been carried out since January 1 under the Army's worldwide programme of compulsory drug testing (CDT). The failure rate is 0.62 per cent of those who provided urine samples.

The tests on 2 R Anglian, based at Warminster, Wiltshire, were carried out in June. Two of those who failed are appealing against dismissal.

A spokesman said: "Every unit in the Army is subject to random drug testing. Notices are put up without warning and nobody is allowed off base. Two samples are taken and, if one proves positive and the person appeals, the other is tested independently outside the forces."

In addition to the UK, Army CDT teams have tested units on exercise and operations all around the world.



Maj Gen Jonathan Hall, GOC Scotland, meets Jamie Christie (12) while opening a new outdoor centre run by the Army Youth Team for the benefit of young people across Scotland.

The centre, at Castlelaw Farm, near Penicuik, gives teenagers the chance to be taught new skills by Army adventurous training instructors during their week's stay. They will have the opportunity to take part in orienteering, climbing, abseiling, canoeing

and hillwalking, as well as team-building and initiative tasks.

● Plans for a new initiative to attract school leavers at 16 into a career in the Infantry were announced at Edinburgh Castle by Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid.

The Scottish School Leavers' Course will last for 28 weeks and offer youngsters a chance to gain qualifications in core skills and information technology leading to vocational qualifications.

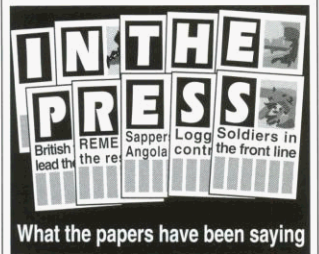
C-in-C visits

GEN Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command, met his opposite number in the German Army, Lt Gen Dr Klaus Rheinhardt, during a visit to Koblenz. Gen Walker was briefed on the Germany Army's crisis reaction force, Special Forces and plans for a new attack helicopter.

German HQ

Maj Gen Mike Willcocks, Assistant Chief of the General Staff, also visited the headquarters, which commands 90 per cent of the 225,000-strong German Army.

He was accompanied by defence attaché Brig Brian Isbell and the new liaison officer, Col Tony Domeisen.



Plastic armour! What next?

MILITARY traditionalists reeling from the prospect of synthetic bearskins for the Guards now face a new threat: plastic breastplates for the Household Cavalry. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Talks on reuniting Cyprus broke down after the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, accused his Greek Cypriot adversary and the European Union of ignoring the rights of his minority community. — *Financial Times*

□ Russia's air force chief warned that plans to lay off nearly 200,000 of his officers and men could spark "social upheavals" unless the government provided sufficient compensation. — *Financial Times*

□ A retired general, Gen Walter Walker (84) has advised Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses to follow his example and sue the Government for negligence. — *Times*

□ Sick Gulf veterans are increasingly concerned that the cause of their illness may be related to a substance used in experimental inoculations against HIV. — *Independent*

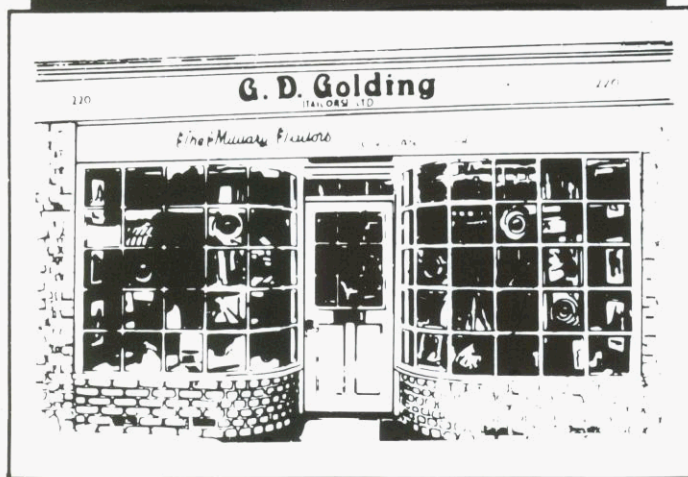
□ A new parachute for use at heights below 200ft could transform SAS operations behind enemy lines. Men from the Airborne Forces Parachute Trials Team will test the design near Toulouse in France. — *Daily Telegraph*

Manchester duo in Texas

SSGT Roy Bowker and Sgt Rob Howell from 75 Engineer Regiment (V) spent two weeks with the US National Guard under a UK-US senior NCO exchange programme. The two soldiers, based in Manchester, were stationed with the National Guard's 386 Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas.

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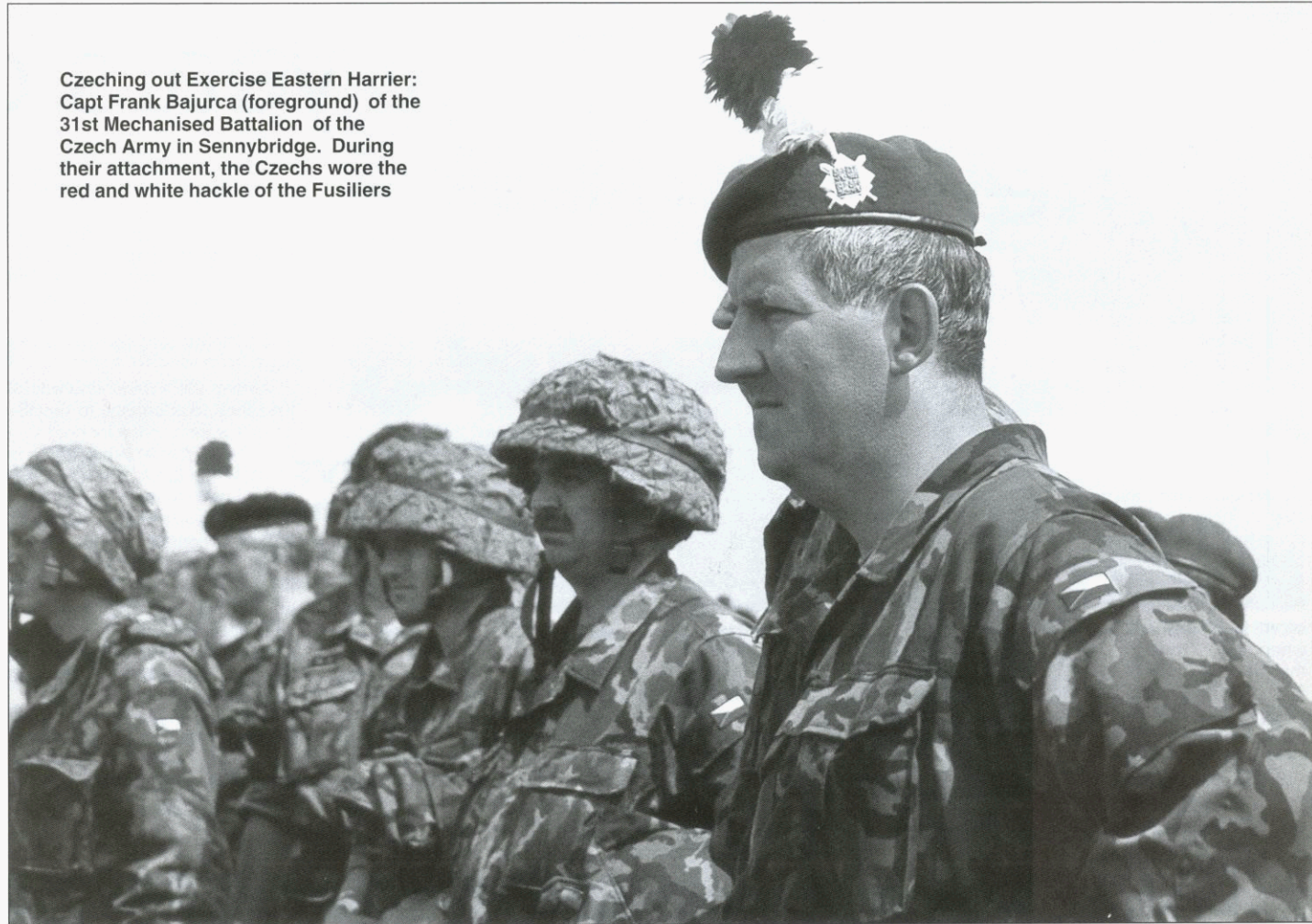
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WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

Czeching out Exercise Eastern Harrier: Capt Frank Bajurca (foreground) of the 31st Mechanised Battalion of the Czech Army in Sennybridge. During their attachment, the Czechs wore the red and white hackle of the Fusiliers



Pictures: Fred Calvert

Fusiliers host Czechs in huge TA exercise

EASTERN Harrier, staged on the Army's training area in Sennybridge, Wales, during the first two weeks of August, was the largest Territorial Army exercise to be held for many years. But the 3,000 soldiers of 2 Division who took part are likely to remember the annual camp for more than its impressive scale.

It was the participation of new partners from the old Eastern bloc that made Eastern Harrier truly unique. For the first time since their country's admission to NATO in July, soldiers from the Czech Republic joined their British counterparts in the simulated battles that ranged across the hills and forests of central Wales.

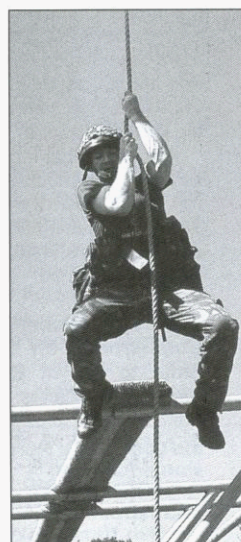
With the famous red-and-white hackles of their host unit, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, sprouting from unfamiliar uniforms, the visiting company of Czechs presented a curious sight to the Terriers.

But the partnership appeared to work well. Britons and Czechs, working closely with interpreters, were deployed in RAF Chinook helicopters, camped in "bashers"

and practised live firing of personal weapons, mortars and Milan anti-tank missiles. The climax was a full battalion live attack, which although a new experience for most of the soldiers, was accomplished successfully.

The exercise, which ranged through the woodlands, ranges and even the villages near Sennybridge, coincided with the extremes of weather that have characterised the summer. First the soldiers cursed the rains that drenched their camp for days on end, and then as the weather swung to the other extreme, they longed for a refreshing shower to relieve soaring temperatures.

It was extreme weather that put the men and women under real pressure and undoubtedly added value to the exercise. CSgt Lenny Barrass, a Regular instructor attached to the Fusiliers at Berwick and Alnwick, observed



Cpl John Graham, 6 RRF, airborne during an assault course event

that he had thought the soldiers might "bin it." But his concerns were unfounded. "They stuck at it, showed a lot of guts and determination, and put a lot into it," he said.

The exercise, with its ambitious scale and foreign partnership, provoked much interest. Visitors included Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Land Command and Inspector General of the Territorial Army, and, from Prague, Gen Lt Jura, Commander of the Czech Army's 1st Corps.

Next year's exercises are already being planned, and they promise to be equally challenging and international. The Fusiliers hope to deploy a platoon to the desert-like conditions on Ascension Island, and a company to exercise with the regiment's new-found Czech mates.

Flexibility is the key

THOSE who opposed the sale of Service married quarters in the United Kingdom have been trying to stop themselves chorusing "we told you so" over reports from the National Audit Office that the MoD lost millions of pounds on the deal. Before they get too carried away, may I introduce a note of calm?

Soldiers and their families overseas have been very worried about the situation. Encouraged by those who claim to speak on their behalf, they have come to believe that when they return to the UK they will be living among civilians, fending for themselves away from the protective cover of the married quarters "patch".

Let's step back from the hype, the numbers game and the hidden agenda. Anyone who read the Bett Review and who has reflected on the world as it will be in, say, 15 years time, has come to face the facts of life. We may have to deal with an army which is more UK-based and more used to dealing with humanitarian rather than overtly militaristic situations.

To do so we need to get used to more flexibility and greater attention to the area known, rather boringly, as welfare. No young person will want to join, or stay in, an army which puts their family into an inconveniently located, poorly maintained house because that's where MQs have always been.

If, for example, there has to be an influx of families into a particular area of the UK where there are no quarters, it makes sense to be able to find a block of houses or flats which can be taken on without delay. It would be unrealistic to expect families to live miles away just because that's where the MoD happens to own houses.

There are other areas where it is no longer good enough to hide behind the mantra of "we've always done it this way". The

sorry saga of the pregnant Service women should have taught everyone the lesson that the MOD is not above the law... and a very expensive lesson it was too.

Among the issues which must be addressed are those of perceived or alleged prejudice based on race, gender or class and that of the exclusion or dismissal of homosexual men and women. On the former, the MoD is to be congratulated on its initiatives. It has to be more than a cosmetic exercise and I'm sure it will be.

A young Muslim Servicewoman told me that she had had a happy time in the Army and was proud to wear her uniform. She had not been paraded at press conferences nor had she been manipulated

ed into positive comments. She had simply had an enjoyable time, quietly getting on with her work thus far. Long may it continue.

On the latter issue, there is much to be done. The law is rapidly moving closer to the grasp of individuals and the time is fast approaching when it will no longer be good enough to say we don't admit homosexual people because we never have.

Flexibility is the key to the future. Young people are creating a world where the rule is "adapt to survive" and the law is encouraging them. Unless policy makers and those who claim to advise them take this on board, the MoD and the tax-paying public will find themselves on the wrong side of a big legal bill, again.

Also, potential recruits will stay away and disaffected new recruits will leave when their time is up. Tradition is a valuable asset, but only where it enhances life rather than diminishes it.

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



Cari's column

Sixty years old . . . and still going strong

BRITAIN'S largest active volunteer organisation, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, celebrates its diamond jubilee next year, writes **Mark Smith**.

Curiously, about 15 per cent of the 120,000-plus strong WRVS are men.

It all started in 1938 when the Dowager Marchioness of Reading was asked by the Home Secretary to form an organisation to help local authorities with the recruitment of women for the Air Raid Precautions Service, initially known as the Women's Voluntary Service for Air Raid Precautions.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, there were 165,000 volunteers, and one million by the end of it. Rumour has it that the reason for the green uniform was due to the late formation of WVS. St John had black, the Land Army brown, ATS khaki and the Red Cross blue.

At home they looked after refugees and evacuees, ran

mobile canteens, set up enquiry points after air raids, and distributed clothing.

Services Welfare came into existence following Dunkirk when 337,000 troops had to be fed and housed at short notice. These services developed into the canteens that survived until the end of the war.

Among the many hundreds of jobs they took on was to provide an eye-wash service for despatch riders at Whitchurch. In October 1943 the WVS expanded its Services welfare programme into combat areas, setting up at Naafi centres in Italy and later France, Germany and the Low Countries.

In between feeding thousands of squaddies, WVS members knitted many thousands of socks and cap comforters for the troops.

A great boost to the morale of returning PoWs was the speed with which WVS women stitched medal ribbons and unit flashes to their battledress.

A roll of honour in Westminster Abbey contains 241 names of those killed during the Second World War.

In 1966 Royal was added to the title and the organisation has been known as the WRVS ever since.

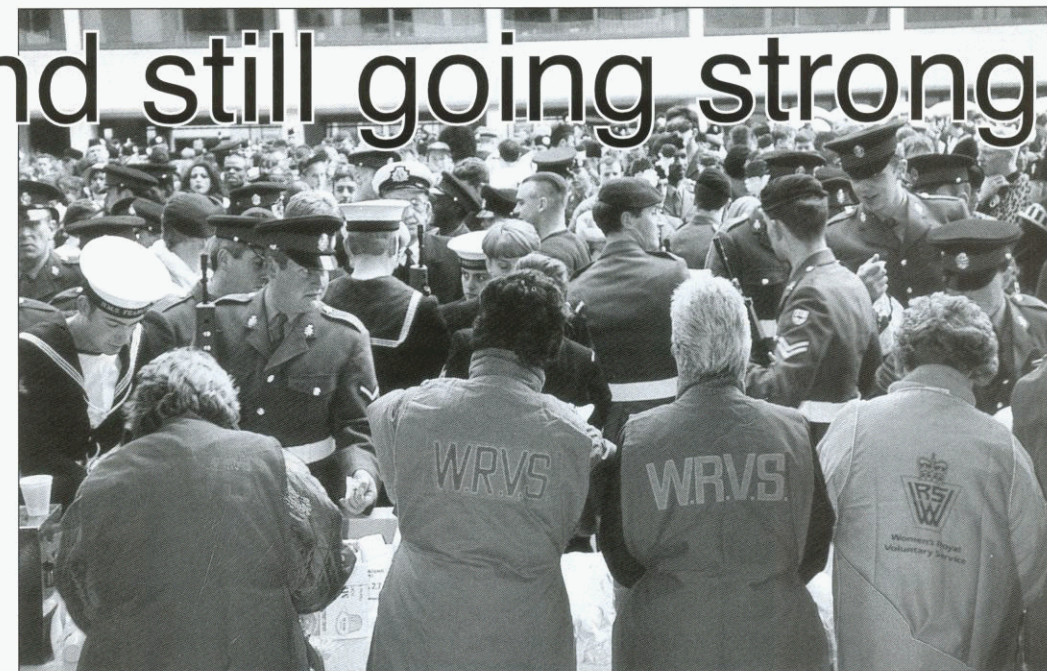
Today its emergency and Services welfare branches are best known to the Army. The latter, the smallest of its services, is responsible for the welfare of young soldiers.

At moment there are 70 women at locations in the Falklands, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Germany and the UK.

Their role is to provide support for the well-being of junior ranks by letting them talk in confidence about any problems and, with the soldier's permission, referring them to someone in their company or another outside agency.

Clubrooms run by WRVS are stocked with TV, video, games, books and newspapers, and provide a place to relax.

In Northern Ireland, WRVS personnel are attached to resident



Backs to the wall: WRVS provide cuppas for Service personnel involved in the Lord Mayor of London's Show

battalions but spend most of their time on the road visiting soldiers in isolated locations, delivering books, magazines and anything else requested by the soldiers.

All staff now attend courses in

Army welfare, sexual abuse, bereavement and alcohol abuse before the start of the tour.

Anyone who wants to find out more about WRVS may call 01235 442954.

● A new WRVS centre, the Weavers, has opened at Mount Pleasant in the Falklands. Two members, Allison Roden-Meyer and Pauline Baldwin, are serving there on two-year postings.



First World War veterans Robbie Burns of the Cameron Highlanders (left) and former sapper Frank Parsons, flanked by Laura Giles and Virginia Melville of SSAFA Forces Help, were sponsored to take part in a record-breaking attempt

Centenarians take to the air

SSAFA Forces Help got more than 8,000 years of experience airborne with a record-breaking bid by Belgian airlines Sabena and VLM.

Eighty veterans with ages ranging from 107 down to a mere 100 flew from Antwerp to London City airport. Each of the centenarians, who were either First World War soldiers or the widows of soldiers,

was accompanied by a carer and a relation or friend.

After the flight and a welcome by a piper from the London Regiment, the party was given lunch at the Marlborough Hotel, where a message was read out from the Queen Mother, who, at a mere 97, was too young to attend.

Among the travellers was 101-

year-old Robbie Burns, the last remaining Cameron Highlander to fight in the 1914-18 war. He joined up at the age of 14, pretending to be 18, and went over the top at the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916. He also fought at Cambrai and Passchendaele.

Robbie is regularly visited by SSAFA Forces Help caseworkers.

Naafi brews up a new partnership

NAAFI has announced a new partnership with Bass and Scottish Courage.

The £5 million contract will involve the brewers with Naafi in an extensive redevelopment of Service clubs and pubs across the United Kingdom and Germany.

Naafi chief executive Geoffrey Dart said: "We look forward to working with Bass and Scottish Courage and plan to invest £15 million over the next three years to ensure the continued modernisation of our clubs. The partnership is part of our new approach to work in conjunction with leading UK businesses to provide a quality service to the Armed Forces."

The three-year deal will give the brewers an exclusive contract to supply brands including Carling Premier, Caffrey's, John Smiths and Fosters to more than 200 clubs and pubs.

... and opens new shop in Belize

● A new new purpose-built shop with the latest in refrigeration equipment was opened by Naafi for the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) at Airport Camp last month.

And on the same day 25 Flight AAC took charge of their recently

erected temporary aircraft hangar.

During what was a big day for the unit, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Deputy British High Commissioner and leading figures from the military and defence community attended the double opening.

Among the guests were Lt Col Ian Marshall, Senior Loan Service Officer; Col Stephen Daniel, British Defence Attaché to Belize and Mexico; and Col David Simpson, Britain's Defence Attaché in Guatemala.

Maj Bob Petrie, OC 25 Flight AAC, welcomed the VIPs to the new hangar and dispersal area, which had been designed by Nottingham-based specialists from the Military Works Force.

● Naafi's new-look Wilson's pub at Larkhill has been opened after an ambitious re-design. It now offers a warm, comfortable family atmosphere during the day and is proving popular as a nightspot for young soldiers in the evening.

● A refurbished foodhall has been opened at Rheindahlen, Germany by Maj Gen Christopher Drewry, GOC UKSC(G).

A new in-store café allows customers to enjoy a full meal or a snack while shopping. In partnership with Spar, Naafi plans to modernise all its shops in Germany during the next 18 months.

Inspiring story of Gifford House

SOME readers may not have heard of the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home but many ex-Servicemen have been grateful for its existence over almost 80 years.

It was founded in Roehampton in 1919, thanks to the vision of Gladys Marchioness of Ripon, to care for permanently disabled casualties of the First World War.

Members of the royal family have been among those who have volunteered to help a cause marked by patients' courage and their carers' devotion.

It has another reason to be proud: long before the Welfare State it pioneered procedures now taken for granted, including physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Since the Home moved to Worthing in 1933 it has become better known as Gifford House but its principles and work have remained unchanged, if perhaps unsung.

Now the Home's chaplain, David Farrant, has written *The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home: A History*. It is published in hardback at £14.95 by Phillimore and Co Ltd, Shopwyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6BG (tel: 01243 787636).

SOLDIER readers may claim a £2 discount on tickets for the Birmingham Ski and Snowboard Show at the NEC on October 17-19 and the Daily Mail Ski and Snowboard Show with Mitsubishi Shogun (Olympia, Oct 21-Nov 9).

The discount is available for those who book tickets in advance on the ski shows hotline - 0121 767 4433 - quoting

the code MSO. Normal admission prices are:

NEC: Adults £7, children £3.50 (Open Fri noon-9.30pm; Sat/Sun 10m-6pm).

Olympia: weekly, Adults £6, children £3; weekend, adults £9, children £4.50 (Open Mon-Fri noon-9.30pm; Sat-Sun 10am-7pm; Oct 31 noon-7pm; Nov 9 10am-6pm).

(A 75p p and p fee will be charged per transaction)

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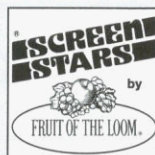
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Monmouthshire sappers get stuck into some concrete training

"GO TO Germany and build an engineers' training area in two weeks. Oh, and if you find time, have some fun."

That (more or less) was the order that went out to the Territorial Army's senior regiment, the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), in July, and it was a challenge that the part-timers took up with gusto.

More than 270 of the sappers, most of whom were from the South Wales home of the regiment, but including detachments from the West Midlands, Bristol, and even the regiment's twinned ship, HMS *Monmouth*, crossed the North Sea and drove to Sennelager in Germany.

Work started almost immediately on the massive training complex, where engineers and their associated armoured units will soon be able to exercise logistic skills, bridge-building and heavy plant operations.

First priority was the building of 1,200m of crushed aggregate road and several heavily-reinforced concrete parking and manoeuvring areas. Gullies were also to be excavated and given reinforced bases for the engineers' bridging equipment.

If Exercise Militia Meister was to result in important infrastructural work for the Army, the TA sappers were also to gain a lot from it. Some had to learn new skills in reinforced concrete-laying and the construction of earth structures. And all had to learn (or at least remind themselves of) the virtues of patience and making-do.

There were some frustrated sappers at Sennelager when it was realised that insufficient tipper trucks had been provided to move the concrete, aggregate and excavated earth. The lorries did eventually turn up, but not before the sappers had put in some very long nights of labour in order to keep the project on schedule. But keeping



Up to their ankles in it: Spr Vicky Homfray and Spr Jocelyn Lewis spread concrete



Site surveyor SSgt Steve Green checks the levels of the concrete bridging points

on schedule meant that there was time for the fun that should be an important ingredient of any TA annual camp.

There were barbecues in the evenings, memorable excursions to Dortmund, Hannover and the Rhur Dams, and enough sports to tire the most energetic sapper.

The high point (literally) for seven of the more daring was parachute training and their first drop. Others were happy to keep their feet on the fairways of the local golf club, the loan of a few artisans to tidy up the clubhouse having resulted in a warm welcome for the regiment's golfers.

The sporting climax came when the sappers took over Sennelager stadium for a regimental athletics meeting. At the end of a hotly-contested day of running, throwing and jumping, 225 Field Squadron (M) emerged as overall winners.

The day ended with a drumhead service and an enthusiastic rendition of *Cwm Rhondda*. It was a fitting climax for an essentially very Welsh exercise.



Brave faces: Spr Danielle Millner and Lce Cpl Pauline Williams ready for their first jump at the Rhine Army Parachute Centre

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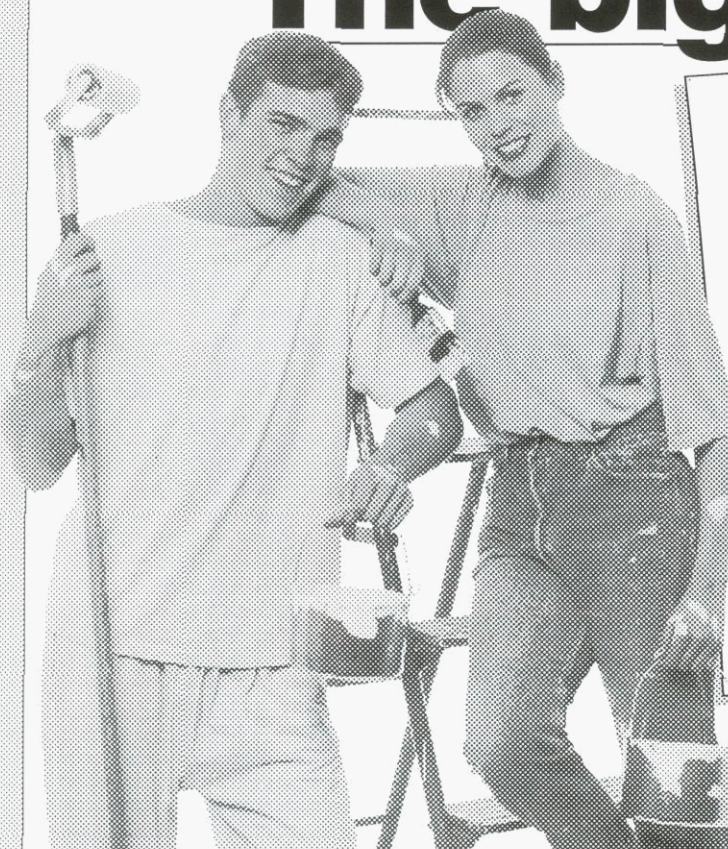
For an application pack please contact:

Falkland Islands Government
 Falkland House 14 Broadway
 Westminster London SW1H 0BH.
 Tel: 0171 222 2542
 Fax: 0171 222 2375

Completed application forms and CVs should be sent in confidence to Julia Thain, Recruitment Officer, at the above address.

Closing date for applications: October 31 1997

The big idea:



Dave

Claire can't believe it! She's finally living in a house we can decorate! We bought it from Annington Homes, the company which is selling former MOD properties. And with my service and base discounts the price was unbelievable!

I've been given a bit of grief about my technique with a paint roller (apparently I'm slow). Still, the house is looking brilliant, and we're not arguing too much.

Anyway, you and Sue must drop by soon and check out my handiwork (map enclosed). I might even be allowed to slip out for a couple of swift pints!

Regards, Steve

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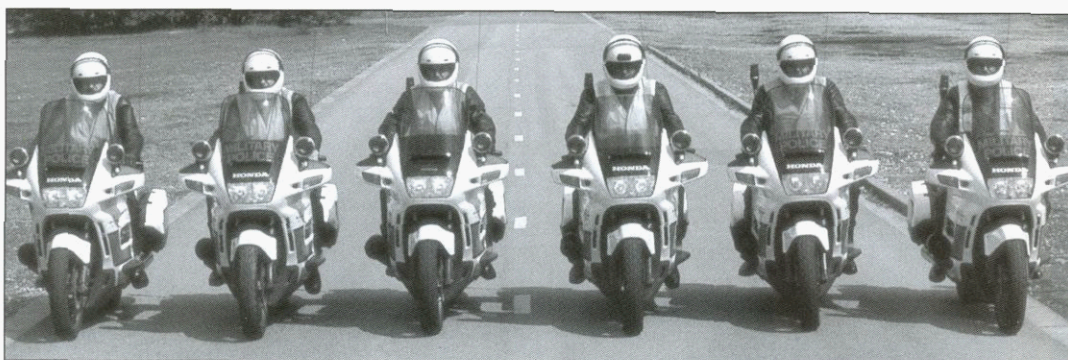
"Bringing homes to life"

New bikes on the block

THERE have been wide grins on the faces of a select few Royal Military Police motorcyclists since they took delivery of the new Honda ST1100 police motor cycles. The high-performance bikes, with their whopping 1,100cc engines and full-farings, are giving the red cap riders a high profile and an enhanced operational capability that matches that of their civilian counterparts.

The new machines were put to the test on August 14 and 15, when ten of the Hondas and riders from three RMP units were tasked to escort an entire Dutch armoured brigade as it deployed on exercise from Marchwood military port, near Southampton, to Salisbury Plain.

As the 796 wheeled and 158 tracked vehicles moved in convoys through the south of England, the new bikes and their riders from 160 Provost Company (Aldershot), 156 Pro Coy (Colchester) and 158 Pro Coy (Bulford) patrolled the route,



RMP on the road. Military policemen with some of the force's new high-profile Honda ST1100 machines

providing accident and breakdown support, and ensuring that none of the Dutch drivers got lost.

The major traffic control operation was co-ordinated by SSgt Scott Innes, platoon commander of 160 Pro Coy based in Aldershot, who said that the motor-cyclists performed well. "The bikes leap-frogged ahead to difficult points, controlling junctions and setting up signs. The ST1100 is very similar to the machines used by civilian forces, so it was a great help that civil-

ians as well as military personnel were able to recognise them as police bikes."

SSgt Innes is only sorry that he is likely to remain on four wheels instead of two. Conversion course from the standard Harley Davidson 350 Army bike to the ST1100 involves a tough one-week course and places on it are keenly sought.

"Realistically," said SSgt Innes, "it is not something that a platoon commander should be doing. I'll just have to be content with my patrol car."

Photographic contest: time running out

ENTRIES for the new-look Army Photographic Competition close on October 17. Long-term aim of the contest is to enhance unit capabilities and encourage more PR photography.

Eight entry categories are available (including the *Soldier*-sponsored best Army image) and entrants must be members of the Regular Army, Territorial Army or cadet forces. Civil servants and civilians working for the Army and retired personnel working for the Army are also eligible.

Entry forms are available from local Media Operations staff or direct from the Army Photographic Competition, DPR(A), Room 0326, MoD Main Building, London SW1 2HB (tel 0171 218 1508, or Mod Main Building ext 81508).

Some great prizes are on offer from sponsors including Nikon, Fuji, Kodak, Vickers Defence Systems, Kiwi, Method Publishing and Grosvenor Television Productions.

● Entries for a tri-Service photographic competition in Northern Ireland close on October 10. It is open to all members of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, dependants, cadets, Ministry of Defence personnel and civil servants working for or attached within units in Northern Ireland. Contact is Capt T D Bell RLC, SO3, Log Sp, HQNI, BFPO 825 (Tel Lisburn Mil 42548).

SOLDIER COMPETITION

The winner will receive this Sharp VC-MH64HM four-head NICAM stereo VHS video recorder. Its many features include 48 pre-set channels, mid-drive chassis, built-in shuttle control, skip search and DPSS search system, and infra-red remote control.



WIN A NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER

In this and the next two issues, *Soldier* invites you to enter a competition to win this superb Sharp NICAM hi-fi stereo video recorder.

Answer the question below and make a note of the answer. Repeat the process for the second question, which will be published in the October issue of the new monthly *Soldier*.

Do not send in your entry until you receive the November issue which, in addition to the third question, will contain a clue to help you form an anagram from the initial letters of the words you have collected.

Correctly rearrange the letters, post the entry form in that issue to us by

the specified time and you're in with a chance of winning this excellent prize.

Sender of the first correct entry drawn after the closing date will be the winner.

An announcement about the result will appear in the January issue of *Soldier*. Please note that no correspondence can be entered into.

QUESTION 1

Which Royal Regiment is Everywhere?

Dragon the rest behind them

Some frantic paddling was demanded of the 21 men and women of **C Coy, 3 Staffords (V)** who took on 15 other teams in the annual Burton Regatta dragon boat race.

But it seems that the soldiers were in fine form following their two-week training camp in the United States, because, for the second year in succession, the Staffords carried off the impressive dragon-shaped trophy, which retains its role of major conversation piece in the unit's bar.



PEOPLE

Solid gold effort

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is as relevant to young men and women serving in the Army as it is to their civilian counterparts. That was the message to emerge from a presentation ceremony at the headquarters of The Light Dragoons in Hohn, Germany, when Tpr **Tony Carr** of HQ Squadron was presented with his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award badge by Col **Peter Villalard**.

The young trooper had started the DEA scheme when still at school and worked his way through the bronze and silver levels. But when he joined the Army, Tony thought that routine soldiering would not allow the time needed to attain his gold badge. Not so. With the encouragement of his RSM, Trooper Carr completed the gold programme with an expedition to Norway.



Smiles from Sennybridge

Derby-based TA soldiers LCpl **Michael O'Donnell** and Pte **Rob Wood** are captured by the camera during Exercise Eastern Harrier at Sennybridge, Wales.

The two men were among 230 members of the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment to take part in the battalion's first mass exercise since the end of the Cold War.

Eastern Harrier involved about 3,500 TA soldiers as well as Regular troops and visitors from overseas (see feature on Page 9).



Royal humour at Arborfield

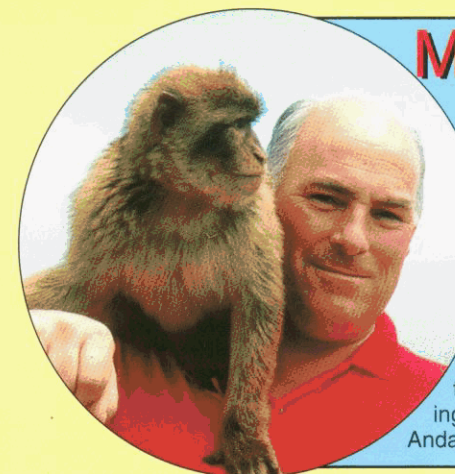
Picture: Chris Fletcher

Apprentice tradesman **Sarah James** (far right) appeared to appreciate **Prince Philip's** humour when he visited the Army Apprentice College at Arborfield on August 1. The Duke of Edinburgh was visiting the college in his capacity as Colonel in Chief of REME.

Monkey business

The locals who inhabit the uppermost region of the Rock of Gibraltar are quite friendly – in fact a bit too friendly sometimes. This young barbary ape, one of the symbols of British rule on the Rock, was all over Capt **Alan Bulmer** of 107 (Lancashire and Cheshire) Field Squadron RE when it realised he was carrying a packed lunch.

Capt Bulmer and his colleagues spent two weeks involved in engineering tasks and field exercises that took them from the top of the Rock (and the attention of marauding monkeys) to the high mountains of nearby Andalucia in Spain.



Last Post from the Rock?

HMV *Britannia* was given a truly royal send-off following a recent visit to Gibraltar that many people thought would be her last. Although now temporarily reprieved, it is at least possible that the ship will not visit the Rock again, so the local authorities and the garrison decided to push the boat out when they said farewell. With fireworks exploding overhead, *Britannia* steamed out of Gibraltar's harbour carrying mail that had been ceremonially delivered to the yacht's crew by LCpl **Callum Jee** of the Royal Logistic Corps (inset, right).



Nostalgic flight for TA pilot

Army Air Corps TA pilot Capt **Peter Barrett** embarked on a nostalgic journey when he flew his Gazelle helicopter back to his childhood home town of Bury, near Manchester.

Capt Barrett, who flies as a commercial pilot during the week, but joins his AAC unit in Derbyshire in his free time, was re-visiting the branch of the Army Cadet Force which introduced him to military life back in 1964.

Pictured above is the special moment when Capt Barrett touched down at the cadets' camp to be greeted by **Neil Kay**, the man who was his cadet force Sgt Major all those years ago, and who is still fully involved in the cadets.

During the day, Capt Barrett and his Gazelle took more than 100 of the cadets on short training flights.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

In a class of his own

Seen (bottom left) with proud colleagues from the Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force is 15 year-old schoolboy **Edward Redgate**. Edward amazed Army instructors when he took top honours in an adult recruit course.

The schoolboy had been gaining work experience at the Royal Logistic Corps' centre in Grantham. To get an even more vivid flavour of Army life, he was invited to join 120 adults on a gruelling two-week Territorial Army recruits course.

As Edward was too young to join the TA, he could have watched from the sidelines as the others slogged for their essential pass mark. Instead, he got stuck in and beat his class mates to win the coveted best recruit trophy.

However the youngster, who now hopes to join the Royal Signals when he is old enough, claimed that he did have an advantage. Two years with the Army Cadet Force had, he said, been a good preparation for TA recruitment.

When Benebecula went ballistic

FORTY years ago, missile technology was still in its early stages – so much so that the Germany's pioneering V2 rocket was still considered sophisticated.

Driven by the Cold War threat, the race was on to develop missiles that would deliver conventional and nuclear warheads across Europe.

In the early days, delivering them across Hyde Park would have been a bit of a challenge, so the Army needed somewhere, far from prying eyes, where the new missiles could be safely tested. Benebecula in the Outer Hebrides was ideal, and so in 1957 work started on the missile range.

The rest is history, as we reported in our June 23 issue (*Rockets Galore*).

The photographs reproduced here are taken from *Soldier's* archives. Benebecula in those days may have lacked the glamour of Cape Canaveral, but does that matter? There was something delightfully British about this rocket range.



On the beach: Rockets arrive on Benebecula from the mainland

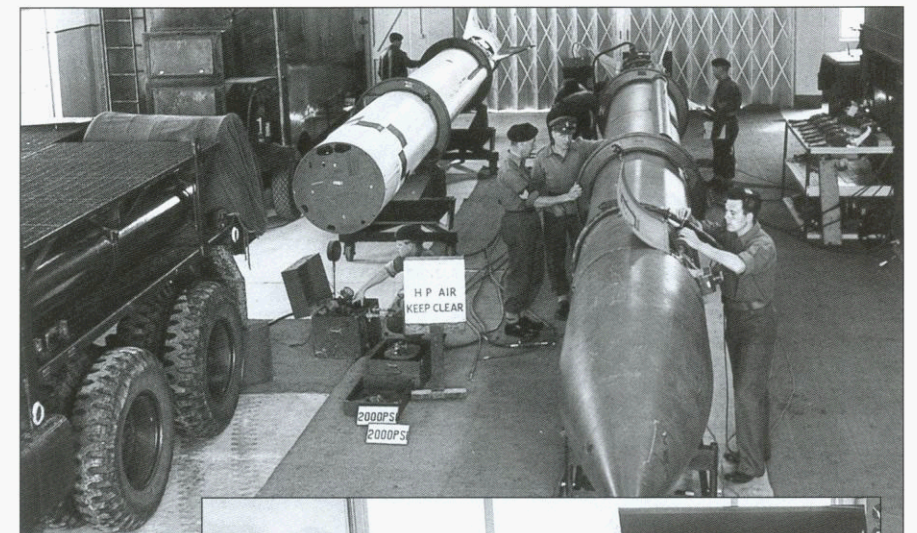


Culture clash: The Army may have preferred rocket fuel and Nissen huts, but the locals stuck to their crofts and peat



There goes another Naafi wagon. Goings-on at the Benebecula range in its early days provided good material for an Ealing comedy. *Rockets*

Galore, the sequel to *Whisky Galore*, starred Donald Sinden and Ronnie Corbett, who is seen here explaining another near miss

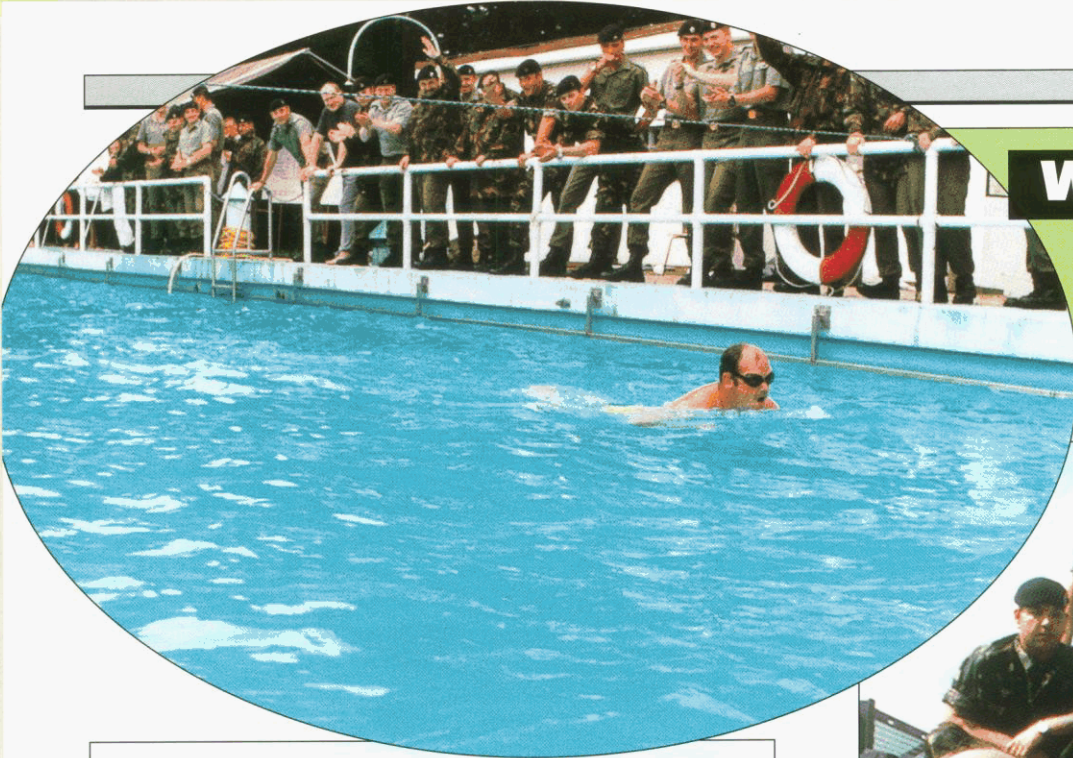


Above – “Pass the plug spanner”: Preparing a Corporal for lift off



Right – Mission control: Eyes down as staff at the rocket range prepare for another launch

Light the blue touch paper and perspire. The 45ft high Corporal rocket was known for its nasty habit of biting the hand that fuelled it. The rocket sometimes had soldiers diving for cover as it changed course by 180 degrees



Water long way to go . . .

Leading by example: WO1 Keith Black ploughs his way towards completing another length of the Wulfen pool during a 25-mile marathon swim by five members of 12 Supply Regiment RLC. He, SSgt Andy Miller, Sgt Rich Vernon, Cpl

Sean Temple and former WO2 Mark Osborne covered 1,200 lengths of the pool in a shade over 12 hours and hope to raise several thousand pounds for Children in Need, Caged and Enraged and a local German children's charity.



Dateline Adriatic: Above (from left) Sgt Mick Thwaites, Sgt Georgie McLoughlan and LCpl Darren Bryce of 2 Battalion REME cross the finish line at the end of their Adriatic Challenge, during which they paddled 160km around the island of Brac in just under 17 hours and raised DM 1,500 (£530) for charity. Over the course of five days they had to contend with rough seas, rain and badly blistered hands.

Dateline North Antrim: Right (from left) Capt Hugh Montgomery, WO2 Matt Duncan and CSgt Ian Neil of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment relax after a 200-mile paddle from Benone to Warrenpoint down the North Antrim coast. They hope their efforts will raise more than £4,000 for the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Mencap Appeal.



End-to-end stuff: Cheques for £1,000 each were presented to three charities following the Land's End to John o'Groat's walk by 20 soldiers from the Regimental Workshops REME of 27 Transport Regiment RLC. Left to right (front) are Ted Eves, chairman of NE Hants Motor Neurone Disease Association; Capt Neil Graham, OC Workshop; Ian Lavender (Pte Pike of *Dad's Army* fame), on behalf of the President's Sporting Club; Lt Col Ian Alexander, CO 27 Regt; and Sue Crawford, from the Lady Hoare Trust.

Picture: Mike Weston



Pit stop

A young lad hopes for a share of Capt Martin Newnham's water during the Marathon des Sables in the Sahara. Martin was a member of the three-man team from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment which completed the six-day race over 145 miles and raised more than £2,000 for the Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association. The other R Irish runners were LCpl Jeremy Martin and Pte Andrew Marshall, who finished 36th in the race.



Eager recruit

Cpl Billy Eager of 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital (V) takes the blood pressure of a young volunteer during a fund-raising event for the Francis House Children's Hospice at Arley Hall near Knutsford. A team led by Maj Sue Garner provided medical cover for the event.



● Local Rotarians joined staff at HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade for an 80ft abseil off the Keep to raise funds for Tenovus (Wales Cancer Research Institute) and the Rorke's Drift Appeal, where Rotary aim to set up a bursary trust fund to enable a child to go on to further education.

Saddled with ambition: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders can afford a smile before setting out on a non-stop cycle ride around Britain.

The ten-man Cycle for Life team was starting at the end of August on a 4,100-mile relay trip beginning and ending at Regimental Headquarters in Stirling Castle.

The cyclists were expecting to be in the saddle for ten days and hope to raise up to £100,000 for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Team leader SSgt Tony Boyd said: "We have undertaken this challenge to mark the golden jubilee of the Queen as our Colonel-in-Chief. She is patron of the cancer research fund."



Record run: SSgt Scott Wolls sets off on another leg of the 180-mile Offa's Dyke, which a team of 13 from Aldershot-based F Battery, 7 Parachute Regiment RHA completed in just over 37 hours. The Airborne Gunners hope their achievement will get them into the record books, as well as raising more than £1,000 to pay for the training of a guide dog. Idea for the challenge came from team leader Karl Brennan, whose soldier brother lost an eye in

a training accident. They are to name the guide dog Edward after Gnr Edward Jennings, who won the Victoria Cross in the last century. Sgt Gareth Phillips said there did not appear to be a previous record for the run from Prestatyn to Chepstow. "Local people were great. We took buckets along with us and collected loads of money in all the towns we ran through. We're thinking of doing it in the opposite direction next year."

● Garrison churches in Germany have been asked to help victims of the catastrophic floods along the Polish border. Liebe Jesu, a small organisation based in Monchengladbach, is appealing for any items that can be handed over to the churches.

Food is the first priority, followed by clothes and shoes, and, in the longer term, bedding, furniture, cutlery and crockery. Church centres and HIVES can arrange for items to be collected.

Search on for Light Brigade graves

A MILITARIA group is anxious to trace the final resting places of as many as possible of the survivors of the famous, if ill-fated, Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava in October 1854.

Many are believed to have been buried in paupers' graves.

When they find them, members of the Victoria Cross and Balaklava Survivors Society restore the often very neglected sites.

In 1984 the society cleaned up a memorial stone in Grove Road

Cemetery, Harrogate, to Sgt Maj Johnson, 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, who rode in the charge.

Secretary Les Swales says that of the 670 who rode into the "Valley of Death" more than 200 survived the charge, of whom the graves of about 30 are known.

He is off to the South Coast in the near future to search for graves he knows to be in Bournemouth and Portsmouth cemeteries. Some survivors are believed to have died in South

Africa and elsewhere overseas.

He is also looking for photographs of Charge of the Light Brigade plaques, stained glass windows, memorial seats, newspaper cuttings or anything which might throw up clues. When the project is finished, it is intended to pass the information to the Imperial War Museum and regimental association.

Les can be contacted at 12 Tyson Place, Harrogate HG2 7QB (tel 01423 884492).

Mad Jack – a tribute

OUR Letters pages carried a Points in Question item last September on the identity of a kilt-wearing Lt Col Jack Churchill who had lectured at the Army Outward Bound School at Gwynedd. Could, the writer asked, anyone confirm that he was the same "Mad Jack" Churchill of Second World War commando fame?

Yes, responded one reader, who recalled Mad Jack as "quite a character", permanently attired in a kilt and given to wearing shirt-sleeve order throughout the winter. No, said another, who said there were two Churchills in the commandos.

Now the definitive Mad Jack is revealed in a glossy 25-page publication entitled *Jack Churchill "Unlimited Boldness"* written by long-time friend Lt Col Rex King-Clark.

Jack Churchill (pictured), DSO MC, was commissioned into The Manchester Regiment and served with distinction in The Gordon Highlanders, the Highland Light Infantry and the commandos.



The book describes his exploits with bow and arrows (he had been in the British archery team before the war) against the Germans while with the British Expeditionary Force, his capture during the assault on the Yugoslav island of Brac (around which three REME soldiers recently kayaked to raise money for charity – see centre pages), his escape from Sachsenhausen concentration camp and his single-handed attempt to prevent a massacre of Palestinian Jews in post-war Israel.

Jack Churchill, whose attitude to war, according to the author, was an extension of his zest for living, with more opportunities for adventure, died peacefully in March last year, aged 89.

His is an extraordinary, albeit briefly told, story.

Copies are available from RHQ(I), The King's Regiment, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6HD at £4.95 plus 45 p and p.

House proud

TRADESMEN soldiers from 509 Specialist Team (Construction) RE (V) used their summer camp to restore a historic mining house in north Cornwall.

Stone-built Ligger House on Penhale training area dates from the early 19th century. Repairs were made with traditional materials such as lime mortar and limewash.

Another group from the unit, part of 198 Field Park Squadron (V), resurfaced a 240m length of track running from the remains of an old mining steam engine house and once used to draw ore from a cliff working.

Chapel for Falklands fallen

THE ROYAL Fine Art Commission has launched a contest to design a chapel to commemorate the 257 British Servicemen who died in the Falklands War of 1982.

The plan to design and erect a new building at Pangbourne College in Berkshire follows the failure of a previous plan to remove from the original site and re-build a redundant 19th century chapel.

Lord St John of Fawsley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art com-

mission, has said that the building should convey "a feeling of grateful remembrance without being in any way triumphalist".

The Chapel Trust, which is responsible for building the new memorial, is chaired by the Falklands task force commander, Admiral Sir John Woodward, who said that the main challenge facing the trust would be the raising of the £1.1 million required for the project.

them under 73 years of age – "got fell in" under the Garrison Sergeant Major and paraded proudly behind the band of the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers.

Alongside the gunners, the Ack Ack girls saw active service in the London blitz and enemy bombing raids on other cities, and during the V1 "doodlebug" campaign, writes Maj (Retd) Ronald Morley, whose wife, Margaret, served with 486 and 490 Mixed Heavy AA Batteries of 141 Regiment RA.

During a band performance at Imphal Barracks, one bemedalled veteran left her seat and marched on to the central arena. She was joined by another, then another, until the grass perimeter was completely circled, forcing the unofficial parade to contract its front into one, two, three and finally four ranks until the spontaneous marching display ended in huge applause.

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the ATS, forerunner of the WRAC.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1947

SITTING PRETTY

Is it a fact that there are three Scottish regiments which are not obliged to stand when the National Anthem is being played, because they once fought against the King? – Pte C Rowley, 4 Trg Bde. (Letter to the Editor).

● We know of regiments that do not drink the King's Health, but not of regiments which sit through the Anthem. – Editor

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1972

HAIRY TOUR

More than 300 men of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers grew moustaches and mutton chop whiskers during a four-month tour in Northern Ireland. Sgt Maj David Shaw's was judged the most regal on the battalion's return to Colchester.

Change of mind on withdrawn TA medals

A 1962 decision that if a Territorial Efficiency Medal covering the period of the Second World War included any period of service on War Emergency Commission, that medal could not be worn in addition to a Territorial Decoration (TD) gained through post-war TA Service, has been reversed.

In certain cases the Efficiency Medal was withdrawn before the TD was issued.

Arrangements are now in hand to restore the medal to retired officers who apply for its return. Applications should be made to the Officer in Charge, Army Medal Office, Government Buildings, Worcester Road, Droitwich Spa, Worcs WR9 8AU.

The Ministry of Defence has emphasised that this is not a general invitation to apply for surrendered TEMs, but is restricted to those which were handed in when a TD was awarded. Generally, this will turn out to have been during, or shortly after, 1962.

For clarification, the actual wording of the amended regulation, says: "The Efficiency Medal, with or without clasp(s), may be worn together with the Efficiency Decoration, with or without clasp(s), only if the full qualifying service in respect of each award has been completed."

Full qualifying service is 12 years for each award.



Pipers from the Liverpool Scottish pay a musical tribute at the new memorial to Capt Noel Chavasse

New memorial honours double VC

MERSEYSIDE soldiers past and present gathered in Belgium to honour one of Liverpool's most famous and distinguished sons, Capt Noel Chavasse, the Army doctor who won two Victoria Crosses on the battlefields of the First World War.

Thirty members of V (The Liverpool Scottish) Company, 5/8 Battalion, The King's Regiment (V) and the same number from the Liverpool Scottish Association travelled to Ypres for the unveiling of a new memorial to Capt Chavasse on the 80th anniversary of his death.

The monument was raised near Brandhoek church by a Belgium historical society which invited the Liverpool contingent to the ceremony. Also present were local dignitaries and a nephew of Capt Chavasse.

Capt Ken Ravenscroft from V Coy said: "I was very impressed that our young soldiers were prepared to pay for their own fares to travel overseas and pay tribute to a local hero in this way. It was a moving and worthwhile experience for them all."

Chavasse was awarded the Military Cross in 1916 for extraordi-

nary bravery at Bellewaerde in scouring the battlefield for casualties. His first VC followed in the same year for acts which included tending the wounded under heavy fire and rescuing wounded men from a shell-hole just yards from the enemy trenches.

The bar to his VC was awarded posthumously following his death from wounds sustained on August 2, 1917 at the third Battle of Ypres as the Liverpool Scottish advanced towards Passchendaele. Despite his injuries he continued to tend his men for as long as he was able.

REUNIONS

1st Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry (1955-59): Reunion planned for October. Where are you, Reg Hathaway? Contact David Williams, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8JH (tel 01278 683022).

Royal Pioneer Corps Association past and present officers' dinner, Oct 17; WOs' and Sgts' Reunion Club dinner, Oct 18; RPC Association all ranks lunch, Nov 1; all at 23 Pioneer Regt RLC, St

David's Barracks, Bicester. Details from Maj (Retd) Geoffrey Crook on 0171 834 0415, or write to RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE.

Suez Veterans Association: second reunion visit to Egypt planned for February 1998. Cost approx £500 for return flight and ten-day stay at Hotel Mercure, Ismailia. For full details send sae marked "Egypt 1998" to Frank

Evans, 6 Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6QY.

Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory) last official pilgrimage to Cassino and Anzio war cemeteries, the monastery, battlefields and Sorrento will take place in June 1998. Veterans who are not members and relatives who would like to join the party should write to John Clarke, 41 Aldermay Road, Manchester M21 7QW.

SEARCHLINE

El Alamein Cemetery: Anyone making a pilgrimage this year to the El Alamein Cemetery is asked to contact Derek C Scholfield, (Secretary, Exeter Branch, Royal Regiment of Artillery Association) at 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AH (tel 01392 258267).

Army Apprentices, Harrogate intake Sept 1947 sought for 50th

anniversary reunion. Mostly destined for REME and moved to Arborfield in 1949 when the RE moved in. Contact David Burnell, 18 Woodland Drive, Southwell, Notts NG2S 0DA (tel 01636 813212).

Reunion planned for **260 Signal Squadron**, Napier Barracks, Dortmund, Germany, late 60s-early 70s. Contact Eddie Ridley, 127

Hall Lane, Willington, County Durham DH15 0QD.

Information, close-up pictures, line drawings sought of **Bedford Mk (FV 13801, 4-tonne, 4 x 4)** for use in construction of scale model. Also pictures of it in Gulf and UN livery in Bosnia. Replies to P Bennett, 118 Avenue Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5LQ (tel 01803 214016).

DATES

OCTOBER

7-8: Cyprus Walkabout.

12: Military Historical Society annual exhibition, National Army Museum.

24: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance. Tickets: 01843 292882.

NOVEMBER

16: Wargames, re-enactment groups, military books, Gala Leisure Centre, Edward Street, West Bromwich.

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

Boss of the year prizes to be won

Entries for the 1997 DHL-Executive PA Magazine boss of the year competition close on September 19... and no soldier has yet won the title, say the organisers.

The judging panel is looking for bosses who possess a range of qualities, including communication, team-building, leadership and ability to motivate others, as well as enthusiasm, a sense of humour and compassion.

More women have won the title than men since the event started eight years ago.

Prizes include a £1,500 holiday and a two-night stay at the Champneys health resort, so get your nominations in (maximum 250 words, photograph optional) to DHL Boss of the Year 1997, Executive PA Magazine, Weir Bank, Bray-on-Thames, Berkshire SL6 2ED, to arrive no later than Sept 19.

● Brig Kim Ross, former Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Scots Guards, has taken over as Honorary Colonel of Middlesex and North West London Army Cadet Force. He has succeeded Col Rex Cain.

CLOSURES

HQ Merseyside Garrison Officers' Mess is to close on March 31 1998 and those who made presentations and wish the items to be returned should contact Maj S Hargreaves on 0151 242 2736 by Oct 31. Items include barometer (presented by Lt Col H Hodges, gong (Maj MacAvoy), scissors (Lt Col Hodge), salver (Peter Piller), pictures (Maj Ormerod), water-front (Lt Col Maxwell), tankard (Bill Hutchins), wall clock (Maj Dady).

With the future demise of **HQ Engr Resources**, Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, all personnel who donated presentation pieces to the **WOs' and Sgts' Mess** are requested to contact Sgt Phil Hamilton, CEP, Long Marston (tel 01869 259396) by Dec 31 if they require the items to be returned.

Linda's run signals Rock record

PART-TIME signallers have set a new record for the Rock race, the lung-busting climb to Gibraltar's highest point.

LCpl Linda McDonald, a keen athlete from Coventry, slashed almost two minutes off the best recorded time as she reached the top in under 28 minutes. Now Linda, a physical training instructor with 96 Signal Squadron, part of 37 Signal Regiment (V), must wait several weeks for her time to be officially ratified.

"It was very hard work," she said, "but I enjoyed it and I'm really pleased to have beaten the old record. It's great for the unit."

She was with 100 colleagues from 96 Sqn, based in the West Midlands, who flew to Gibraltar to take part in infantry training under the Marble Tor series of exercises. It was the unit's first overseas camp since it formed in 1992.

The reservists were praised by instructors from The Gibraltar Regiment for their professional attitude and enthusiasm during the unfamiliar infantry package.

Commanded by Maj Dickie Short, the squadron's primary role is to provide national communications throughout the United Kingdom in time of war or national emergency. It is equipped with the National Communication Radio System (NCRS).

While the squadron deployed with personnel drawn mainly from its Coventry

base, soldiers from other reserve units within 37 Sig Regt and based at Cardiff, Blackburn, Stratford and Redditch, joined the composite formation.

Marble Tor is a two-week package designed for TA units. It is co-ordinated and managed by instructors from The Gibraltar Regiment, many of whom are former members of The Royal Anglian Regiment, the last Regular battalion to serve on the Rock.

The intensive programme provides training in all aspects of operations in built-up areas (OBUA) and a wide range of infantry tactics, and culminates in an exercise during which the unit's performance is assessed by instructors from the Gibraltar Regiment.

As the Rock sweltered in one of the hottest periods of the Mediterranean year, the signallers found themselves engaged in house-clearance operations and night assaults, as well as assault course races carrying boxes of ammunition.

But it was not all work. Every member of the squadron had a chance to take part in adventurous training, including rock climbing, wind surfing and swimming, before getting back to military training on the range.

Maj Short, a TA soldier for 32 years, described the deployment as "a 100 per cent success" which highlighted the value Territorial units gained from overseas camps.

"We could not have asked for more. Our soldiers excelled in the infantry package and won



Record breaker: LCpl Linda McDonald

Man in charge: Maj Dickie Short

Getting to grips with the Rock: LCpl Julia Maidment's very real achievement on the Marble Tor camp was to overcome her fear of heights during adventurous training. She was cheered on by colleagues

praise from the instructors.

"And, of course, LCpl McDonald set a new Rock run record.

"We worked very closely with the Gibraltar Regiment and it gave our younger soldiers an excellent insight into Army life and highlighted the many opportunities that the Territorial Army has to offer."

The squadron draws on all sorts of people; its ranks include university students, postal staff, factory workers, policemen, bank clerks, barmen and recruitment consultants.

Gibraltar civil police paid tribute to two NCOs from the squadron who attempted to save the life of a pedestrian hit by a



Hot work if you can get it: Members of 96 Sqn, complete with ammo boxes full of sand

vehicle in Gibraltar's crowded main street. Sadly, despite their efforts, the accident victim died.

Rodney Bashford: a life of military music

LT COL Rodney Bashford, who died peacefully at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, on August 13, was one of the best known and most influential figures in modern military music. He was 80.

His first review appeared in *Soldier* in 1969, and he had been a regular contributor to these pages ever since. His notes on the recordings made by military bands were distinguished by their style, humour, enthusiasm and gentle encouragement, even of those whose efforts he did not, perhaps, fully appreciate.

Born within a mile of Kneller Hall, Twickenham in 1917, he "first fell foul of the bugle", aged 11, at the Duke of York's Royal Military School.

He joined the 2nd Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1932, playing the French horn. He served in Palestine in 1936-37, a period during which he received lessons on the French horn from the famous Salomon and was accorded the rare honour of being allowed to watch Toscanini rehearse the then New Palestine Symphony Orchestra. Few people not in the orchestra were ever permitted to watch the maestro rehearse.

Rodney Bashford saw active service during the Second World War and was taken prisoner at Calais in 1940.

After graduating at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, he was appointed bandmaster of the 17th/21st Lancers in 1950, completing a highly unusual series of family appointments. His grandfather had served with the 17th Lancers, while his father had served with the 21st Hussars and himself been a pupil at Kneller Hall in 1887.

Four years later Rodney returned to Kneller Hall as the School Bandmaster and in 1959 was commissioned as Director of Music of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. The following year, Maj Bashford became Director of Music, Grenadier Guards, with whom he was to remain for ten years.

In 1968 he became Senior Director of Music, Household Division, and was appointed MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours two years later.

Promoted lieutenant colonel in 1970, he was appointed Director of Music at the Royal Military School of Music, and con-

ducted the Kneller Hall trumpeters in Westminster Abbey for the wedding of Princess Anne in 1973. For this he composed the fanfare *Toccata for Trumpets*.

Rodney retired from the Army in June 1974, although he had no intention of leaving military music. He remained at the school as Assistant Director of Music and Professor of Conducting, being made OBE in 1974.

When his old regiment, the Grenadier Guards, found itself without a director two years later, Rodney was persuaded to return to uniform to resume his former

post. During this period he took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade, a state visit, guard mounting and the funeral of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

He also made a record titled *Music for Royal Occasion*, which was enthusiastically reviewed in *Soldier* by none other than "RB".

In addition to his reviews for this magazine, he wrote for the Gramophone journal, was a resident examiner at Kneller Hall, and took a keen interest in the school museum.

His writing was not confined to reviews. In the January 20 issue, *Soldier* published his reflections on a lifetime of "reacting to the

call of bugles", in which his sense of humour was much to the fore. Having bemoaned the "tyranny of the omnipotent" instrument, he signed off with a flourish:

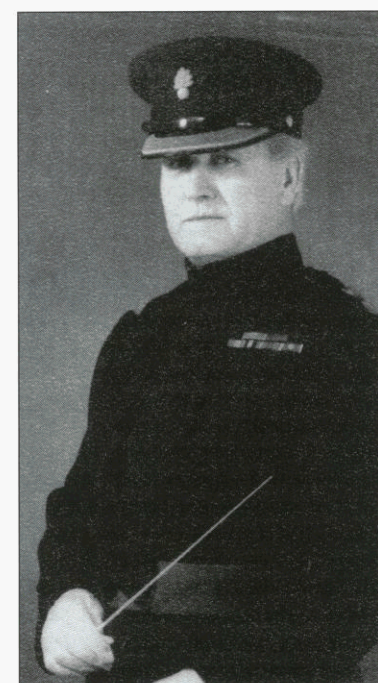
"No escape unless you specify in your last will and testament 'no bugling by request' . . .

"As an oh-so-superior bandsman myself I must drop a line to my solicitors. The *feu-de-doleur* will not apply to this old sodger but, please sirs, no bugling at my crossing of the bar.

"And yet. And yet. Ah well, damn it, why not? It will be the one clear call in half a century of service the sounding of which will require me to do absolutely nothing. So sound off old pal, sound off."

He and his wife, Beryl, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. He leaves, also, two daughters, Jane and Joanna.

Rodney Bashford was cremated at a private family service on August 22. Details of a memorial thanksgiving service are to be announced. - Gordon Turner



1970: Director of Music, RMSM



On the attack: 2nd Lt Julie Lodge and her troop stand by for an assault on the OBUA village within the training centre

Report: Capt David Reynolds
Pictures: Media Ops Gp (V)

Planning was secret of the wartime escapees

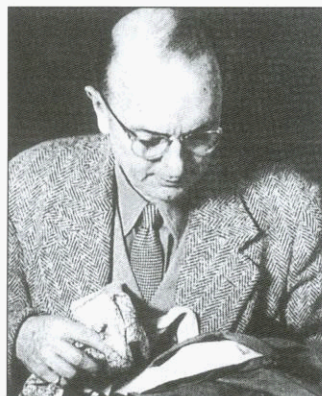
THOUGHTS of instant escape from a PoW compound should be quickly forgotten, unless, of course, plans are already in place and the opportunity for a successful getaway arises.

Such is the basic advice to PoWs in *Escape and Evasion*, which tells the stories of numerous flights by prisoners of both sides in the Second World War, detailing their routes to safety.

Don't do as Winston Churchill did in the Boer War and hop over a wall when the guards were looking the other way. He had no escape kit, nor any idea where he was. But luck was with him and he made it back.

What he might have found really useful were some of the gadgets devised by Christopher Clayton Hutton of M19, an organization formed to help Second World War PoWs escape.

Clutty, as he was known to his colleagues, produced a mass of ingenious ideas, including tiny compasses of which more than two million were produced. They were so small



Clayton Hutton, whose PoW escape kits included a magnetised pen holder which could be balanced on a pencil tip to act as a compass

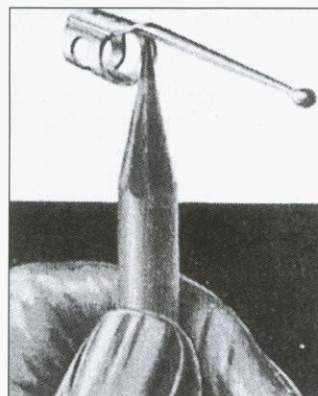
they could be concealed behind cap badges and inside collar studs and buttons.

To go with the compasses he produced maps of Germany

Escape and Evasion by Ian Dear. Cassell, hardback, £17.99.

and France on very fine, strong paper which could be screwed into a small ball and later smoothed out with hardly a crease.

His brief also included providing concentrated food for escapers – malted milk tablets,



Benzedrine, chewing gum, chocolate and water-purifying tablets, although this type of survival pack was designed mainly for aircrew.

Medical saws disguised as bootlaces, German money made into gramophone records and magnetised pens to be used as compasses, all were products of M19 and its teams of inventors. Inevitably the Germans discovered many, but they never ceased to be amazed by the ingenuity of the men from M19. – JM

Smiling through all the horror

WHEN the auctioneer couldn't get a bid for a copy of *The Wipers Times*, the magazine for soldiers fighting at Ypres, he bought it himself. What a little gold-mine of humour and information (with overtones of sadness) it turned out to be.

As a result John Ivelaw-Chapman, whose interest in the First World War was first stirred by the film *Oh, What a Lovely War*, has produced this intriguing illustrated study.

The men fighting amid the horror of Ypres (known to all as Wipers) had little to smile about, so the magazine, with its riddles, cartoons, spoof ads ("Are

The Riddles of Wipers: An Appreciation of the Trench Journal *The Wipers Times* by John Ivelaw-Chapman. Leo Cooper Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £25.

You a Victim to Optimism?"), sports reports, racing tips, agony aunt column, letters and serials, gave much amusement. It was the *Private Eye* (or perhaps *Viz*) of its day.

It was also swamped by poems, many of which, the author says, were triggered by shellshock (now known as post traumatic stress disorder).

Ivelaw-Chapman takes the view that most correspondents and readers of *The Wipers Times* were punchdrunk by the constant shelling – and thus suffering from some degree of shellshock.

An early symptom of this condition, it seems, is an urge to express thoughts and feelings in verse. – JM

Worthy if wordy analysis of war

FOR a quarter of a century at the University of Yale a popular course of lectures has been delivered under the title "Origins of War".

It has been conducted by Professor Donald Kagan, who, in 1995, published his analysis of events that led to four wars of his selection: the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC), Hannibal's Second Punic War (218-201 BC), and the two world wars of this century. He also examined a war that might have been: the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

Kagan's book, *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*, has now been released in paperback, bringing it within reach of a wider readership.

It is as though Hitler's politi-

cal strategies can be reasonably explained through the power politics of the Greek city states,

On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace by Donald Kagan. Pimlico (imprint of Random House), paperback, £14.

and that the American-Russian Cold War was resolved by what happened in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Regarding the latter, one is left wondering about other "components" of that Cold War: Korea, threats to peace in Europe, and of course Vietnam. We must hesitate to suggest that the Cuban crisis was chosen because it was a Cold War triumph for the USA.

What is really disturbing is the way Professor Kagan plays

down the effects of public and political leaders' ideology, in some cases as though these were factors of no or little importance.

The chosen case studies are given remarkably detailed and, therefore wordy, factual analysis, taking in the self-interests of the combatant powers but seemingly neglectful of social and ideological motivations for war that lie beyond the predictable and, in retrospect, obvious causes of war.

Possibly these considerations are hidden within the many words of this book, a valuable academic work none the less.

It is also well-meaning, for, as the author writes in his introduction: "The secret of the success of our species has

been its ability to learn from experience and adapt its behaviour accordingly. The aim of this book is to provide some useful studies that may help in that effort."

That is, of course, a laudable aim but what can be criticised is the limited range of case histories examined and how easy it is to forget after reading so many words the lessons it was hoped to learn.

With the greatest respect to Donald Kagan's obvious analytical skills, it must be said that most readers, and reviewers for that matter, would appreciate a concise edition. However, one thing is certain, the author will be liberally quoted by future military historians. – BJ

Egg on our face

TROOPS at South Cerney going into Exercise Pegasus Strike (Aug 4), must have been shell-shocked well beforehand. A total of 350,000 eggs to 3,500 men – Edwina would have been aghast!

I make it 100 apiece – more than my annual intake – and I'm not exactly an eggphobe. Perhaps a couple of "ducks" crept in on the figures. – **L A Clack, Exeter.**

● We know those troops were pretty hard-boiled, but 100 eggs each must have taken a lot of beating. There is a lot more pun potential in this, but an oeuf is an oeuf. – **Editor.**

'Refute this slur on Army'

I MUST take issue with the remarks stated as facts by your reviewer JM about the morale of the Army after Dunkirk (*Time to Kill*, Aug 18).

I was at the affair and came out with my unit having gone to France with the BEF in September of that year.

Our morale after the battle was very high and all ranks were keen to have another go at the enemy because whenever we stood and fought we gave them a bloody nose.

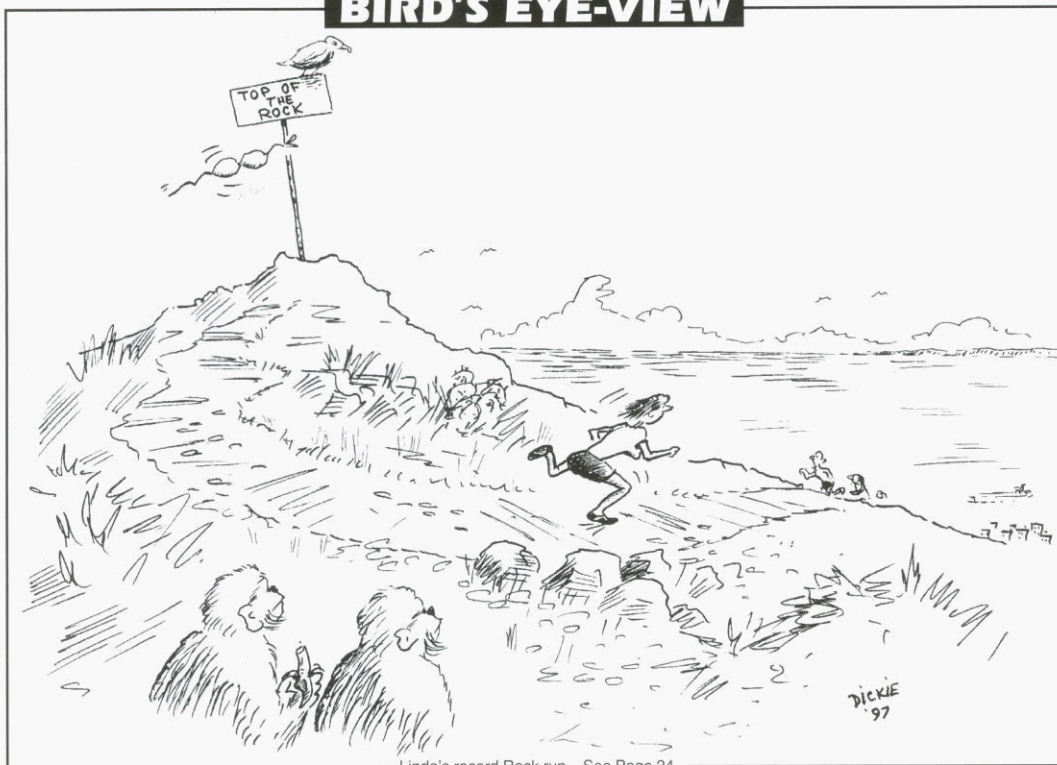
Everyone was aware that the withdrawal was the result of the collapse of our allies on both flanks. We were cold in the winter in UK in common with the civilian population, but not hungry, and the average pay was above £1 a week, which anyway was not bad pocket money with beer at 4d a pint and fags at 10d for 20! Nobody lived for weeks without baths or clean clothes.

Who is this man "Len Deighton"? Was he ever a soldier and if so, what unit? Ditto JM, who regards this book as "fact". Who is he?

The whole thing is a slur on the British Army and should be publicly refuted. – **Maj (Retd) H E R Martin RA, Farnham, Surrey.**

● JM, who served postwar with the Royal Tank Regiment, stands by the interpretation in his review. Len Deighton, a former RAF National Serviceman, has written many acclaimed books about the Second World War, including *Bomber, Fighter, and Blitzkrieg*, which chronicled the rise of Hitler to the fall of Dunkirk. – **Editor.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Linda's record Rock run – See Page 24

'Use Gurkha statue money for pensions'

I READ the report (Aug 18) about the intended bronze Gurkha figure by Philip Jackson with great concern, as I see it will cost about £250,000.

The church at Howe Barracks, Canterbury recently sent a donation to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which seeks to support former Gurkha Servicemen living in Nepal with little or no means of income.

The great majority of these are Second World War veterans who did not serve long enough to qualify for a Service pension.

In a letter of thanks to me, Lt Gen Sir Sam Cowan wrote that over the past 12 months

the number of pensioners to be supported has risen from 10,500 to 11,200, all receiving £10 per month.

This is likely to rise by another 4,000, while the pension has had to rise by seven per cent this year to counter inflation in an impoverished country.

Consequently the Trust is this year facing a £75,000 shortfall in income to meet its commitments. The National Lottery fund has declined to make a contribution.

We have a Gurkha reinforcement company at the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, so I

know the high calibre and total loyalty of the Gurkhas today.

Surely it would be a greater tribute by far to their brave forebears, who were there when we needed them most, to spend a quarter of a million pounds on meeting three years' worth of shortfall, than placing a statue in London that none of them will ever see. – **Rev J Ball, 1 PWRR, Canterbury.**

TROOP FIT FOR KING

IN JULY I had the honour to be invited to become a mess hand for the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery and since I started I have enjoyed every day of my work.

I have found all the troopers to be friendly and courteous at all times and, of course, dedicated to their duties.

I am impressed by their professionalism, hard work, and first-class presentation.

I would like to mention in particular the CO, Maj K M T Brooks, and his officers, as well as RSM McKay. The whole troop has much to be proud of. – **Julian Bell, London NW8.**

Write us a prize letter

HOT under the collar? Want to take issue on a serious topic? Need to settle a difference of opinion on a burning question?

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As ever, Soldier welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90.

All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point.

We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names and addresses in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

End of a nightmare

A VAST pile of rubble lying by the side of the junction is all that is left of the Catholic Church in the Bosnian town of Kupres. It is topped by a wooden cross strung with lights so it shines at night.

The local priest has asked that it not be cleared for at least another year.

He wants it to stay as a reminder of the horrors the small town went through during the civil war. Not only was the church looted, shelled and blown apart, but the attackers dug up the foundations so there was no easy way of rebuilding.

Surrounding hills and fields are strewn with mines, so children ride bikes and play games on a patch of grass in front of the community hall, a picture of normality which belies the fact that the square was once a mass grave for 28 bodies.

Kupres remained on the confrontation line throughout the civil war and changed hands several times.

**Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Maj Jen Stocks**

Serbs ruined virtually all the houses when they were finally forced to withdraw.

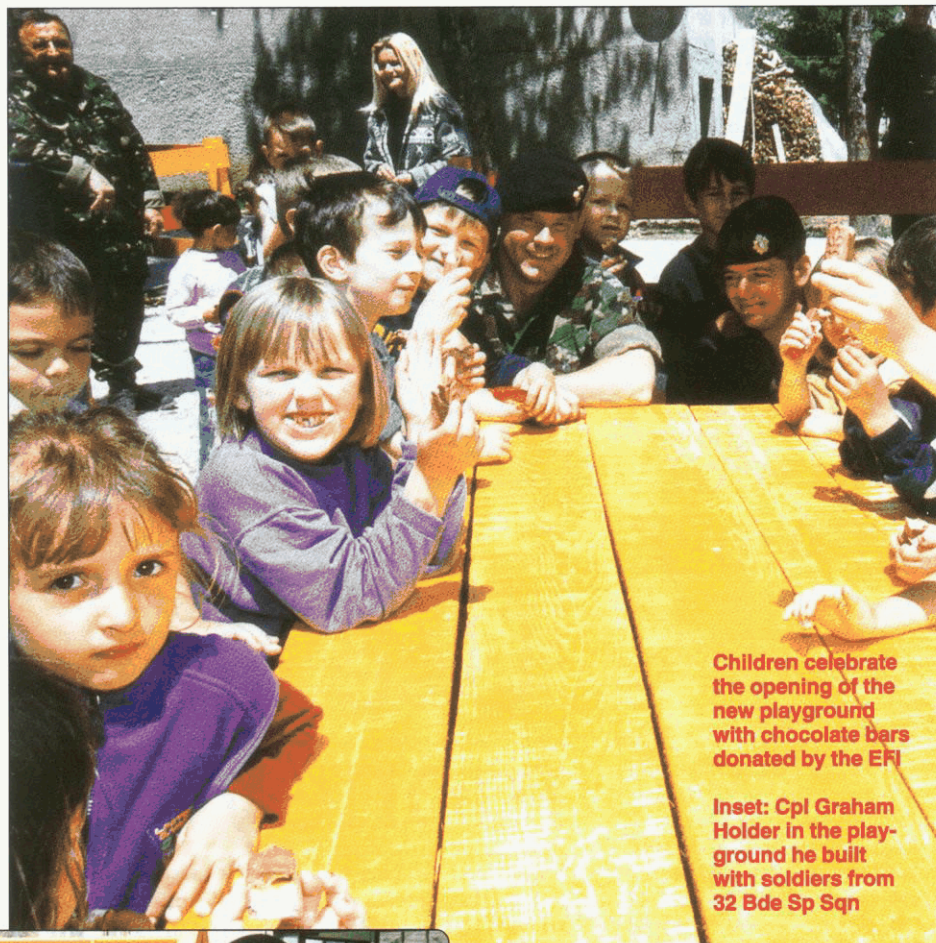
Despite its horrific recent past, Kupres is a town with an air of confidence, thanks largely to the British Army, whose main supply route for the Multi-National Division (South West), Route Gull, runs past. It was because of Route Gull that the British Army decided Kupres was the logical place to base a support squadron. So it is from the Wood Factory, across the road from the town, that the daily convoys fan out across the rest of the country to supply other British bases.

Since the camp opened at the beginning of last year, units there have taken Kupres to their hearts. The list of projects carried out by soldiers, or which have been recommended by the community liaison officers and funded by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), is a long one.

Current occupiers of the Wood Factory, 32 Brigade Support Squadron RLC from Abingdon, are no exception and their G5 projects, as the tasks are known, are transforming the community. In one soldier, Cpl Graham Holder, a section commander with the Combat Support Troop, the town has found a particular champion.

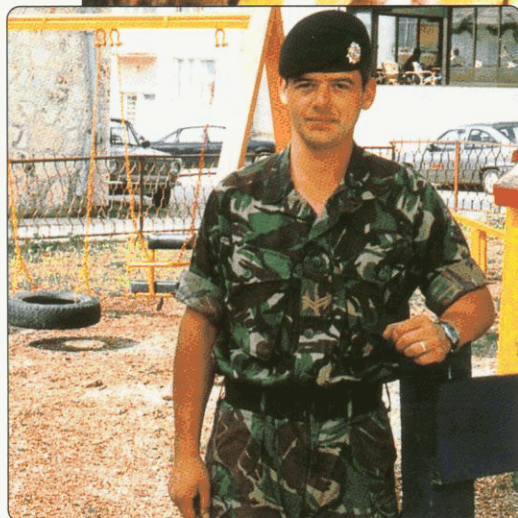
Cpl Holder, a father of two from Wellington in Somerset, spent his last tour of Bosnia in Sarajevo and promised himself if he ever returned he would try and do something to help the children. Before arriving in Kupres, he travelled across the United Kingdom, appealing for teddy bears.

He collected 1,000, gave one to each child at the town kindergarten and distributed the remainder. And it was during his first visit to the kindergarten – a cheerful place paid for with ODA money and enlivened by murals painted by soldiers – that he realised the youngsters had nowhere to play outside. "It was a quag-



Children celebrate the opening of the new playground with chocolate bars donated by the EFL

Inset: Cpl Graham Holder in the playground he built with soldiers from 32 Bde Sp Sqn



mire," he recalled. "Full of rubbish, mud, dirty nappies. I realised we could make a playground for virtually no money, just a bit of time and energy.

"We started by taking down some of the trees, dug out the road, laid down hardcore and put up brightly-coloured fencing. The camp welder made swing frames (from Land Rover seats) and seesaws and I made a Wendy house."

The result was a resounding success and 50 children use it constantly while at school. During the long summer holiday Cpl Holder could be seen tidying up and mowing the grass – when he was not

involved with other aid projects in the town.

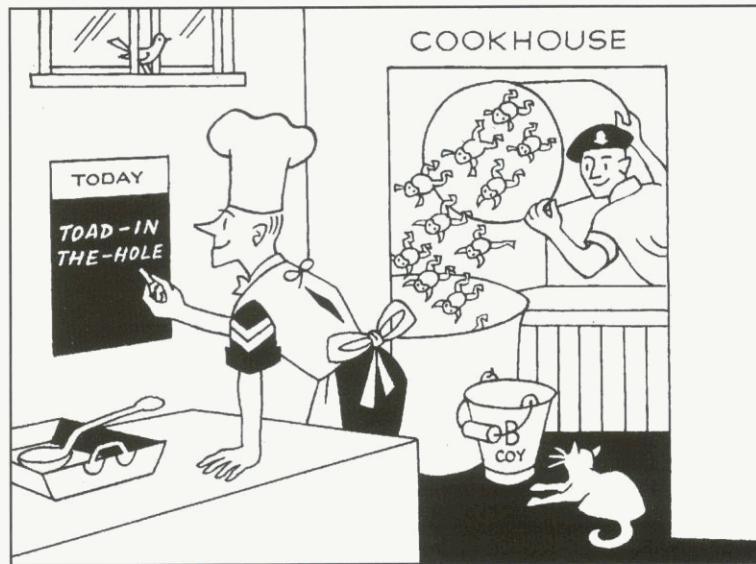
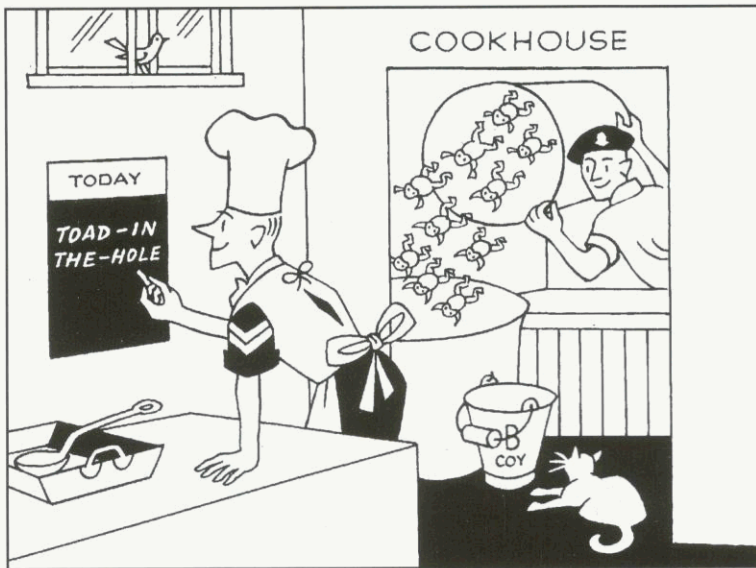
British projects are obvious throughout Kupres, which now has a population of 2,500 Croats, with 1,000 to come as more housing becomes available. The reinstallation of electricity was staffed up the G5 chain to HQ at Banja Luka, with much of the funding, on the recommendation of the Army, coming from the ODA.

A Union flag on the gleaming window of the new bakery – the town's first – proclaims more ODA assistance. To the west is a quarry which produces quality aggregate. British funds paid for refurbishment to the mechanical separator which grades the aggregate. The town's ambulance was donated by the South Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service.

Britain paid for an ultrasound scanner and refurbished the X-ray department. Cpl Holder organised British Army medics to go through all the medical supplies, sorting out what was safe and what was not.

Other projects in which 32 Bde Sp Sqn is involved are schemes to improve the sewage system, develop a veterinary practice, refurbish a courtroom, set up a company to supply windows for houses being rebuilt, and refurbish a school gymnasium.

The pile of rubble which was once a church remains, but with the help of British soldiers like Cpl Holder, and the ODA, life is slowly returning to some semblance of normality in Kupres. There is hope.



COMPETITION 670

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the bottom picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 670, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by October 3. Do not include anything

else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the November issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

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Competition No 667 (Aug 4 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Mrs Sarah Hill, of Swansea, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Maj (Retd) R A Hill, of Melton Mowbray, Leics, and Mr B J Daniels, of Stroud, Glos. The ten differences were: Top of dumper; scaffolding; "E" in "SITE" and sign support; cab rear window and radiator; workman's collar; soldier's spade; left-hand bird's beak; second bird's tail.



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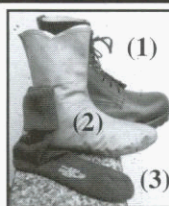
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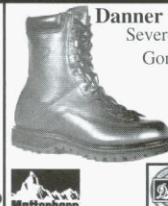
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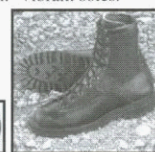
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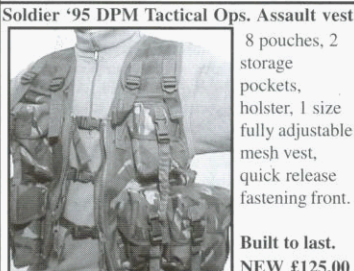
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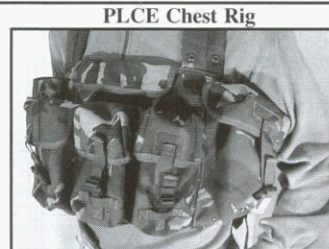


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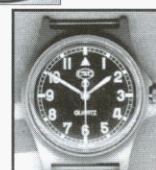
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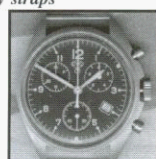
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19/97

Julia, 32, 5'9", Long curly hair. Enjoys days out, visiting historical attractions, good food and wine, watching rugby, exploring the countryside. Hampshire based. Seeks interesting correspondence from servicemen world-wide. **P064**

19/97

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19/97

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19/97

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AUGUST 23, 1997

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Second (504 runs, £1,500) Sgt M Orchard, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36.

Third (484 runs, £900) SSgt S Nurse, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 40.

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Close-quarter action in the taekwon-do competition at Bulford Camp

How's that for starters?

ARMY teams produced convincing results at the inaugural Inter-Service martial arts competition held at Land Command's School of Physical and Recreational Training at Bulford Camp.

Hosted by the Army, the

In brief

The 1998 Army, Land Command and Territorial Army orienteering championships are to be held in the Longmoor Training Camp area near Bordon, Hants, over the weekend May 8-10. The event has been brought forward a week to avoid clashing with the Harvester Trophy relays. Enquiries to Lt Col R A Mount REME, School of Equipment Support (Army), Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NJ (tel 725 2757).

● The Inter-Service mountain bike cross-country and downhill championships are to be held at Bulford Camp on October 11-12. Entry details from W02 (RQMS) Dennis on Bulford Mil (732) 2772.

● Vosper Thornycroft is to sponsor the Army Rugby Union inter-corps ten-a-side competition at Havant Rugby Club, Hants, on September 10.

● The Royal Welch Fusiliers are to sponsor the Wrexham and District Youth Football League Under 16 Challenge Cup. A trophy has been presented to the league by Brig David Ross, Colonel of the regiment.

championships involved the Royal Air Force in two main events, karate and taekwon-do.

Each discipline was divided into individual fighting, team fighting, team kata in karate and patterns in taekwon-do.

With civilian officials brought in to see fair play, the Army squad won six of the eight heats in the individual fighting events. But two RAF competitors, Flt Lt Paul Allison and Cpl Boast, made it to the semi-finals, and Allison went on to beat Cfn Craig Hadley in a close final.

The taekwon-do individual competition was closer, with the title hinging on the last match when SSgt Alan Bissett beat ACpl Till of the RAF in a contest featuring very different styles of combat. While Bissett favoured his feet, Till relied heavily on his skill with his hands.

The kata trophy went by a narrow margin to the three-man Army team led by SSgt John Gilliland while the taekwon-do pattern competition was won by the RAF. Sig Pam Hardy, the sole female in the championships, led the Army trio.

Both karate and taekwon-do team fighting events were won with something to spare by the Army even though Flt Lt Allison again won his matches.

Bowlers put Army in the driving seat

CRUSHING wins over the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy at Aldershot allowed the Army to retain the Inter-Services cricket crown with some conviction, writes Rupert Ross-Hurst.

The margins of victory in both games were emphatic.

On the first day of the three-day tournament, the RAF put the Royal Navy in on a surprisingly hard wicket given the torrential rain in previous days and at one point had the matelots all at sea at 66-6.

BATTLING TAIL

But the experienced Piers Moore and Andy Procter put on 50 before the tail battled through the 55 overs to post what was, in the circumstances, a very respectable 192-9.

After a memorable 14-ball opening over from Moore, the airmen were soon in trouble themselves, slumping to 54-4. Their batsmen continued to find ways to be dismissed and the side was bowled out for 162 in the 51st over, giving the Navy victory by 30 runs.

The Army began their defence of the title with a six-wicket win over the RAF, thanks largely to their trio of spinners backed up by accurate seam bowling.

The prolific RAF openers, Bray and Lumb, fell cheaply to Capt Jim Cotterill and LCpl David Matthews, and the middle order lost its way against high-class bowling from Capt James Carr-Smith, Cotterill and Matthews, before Capt Paddy Logan and Capt Ben Langman cleaned up the tail. The Army's fielding was outstanding and their was an impressive display behind the stumps from Cpl Tony Pick.

During his innings of 26, Flt Lt John Ridell passed 4,000 runs in RAF cricket, a milestone achieved by very few Service cricketers.

Skipper Capt Chris St George scored an undefeated 48 as the Army overhauled the RAF total in the 49th over. His knock, taken with some astute captaincy, earned him the Man of the Match award.

Heavy overnight rain penetrated the covers, delaying the third day start until after lunch and reducing the Army-Navy



Capt James Carr-Smith: outstanding bowling



Waiting game: Cpl Tony Pick has a breather as Capt Jim Cotterill prepares for the next delivery in the Army's championship-deciding game against the Royal Navy. Inset: Sgt Nick Palmer works the ball away to leg against the Royal Air Force. He went on to make 25

decider to a 45-over a side contest.

Cotterill overcame the problems posed by a drying and two-paced pitch to top score with 52. St George, Sgt Nick Palmer and Pick ran themselves out before Capt Ian Fielding, in his last game for the Army, took them to a gettable 171-8.

After Sig Keith Ford had

taken a smart catch off Cotterill, Carr-Smith took charge. His figures of 3-17 from nine overs speak for themselves, and with Langman also impressive in taking 3-11 in four overs, the Navy were rushed to defeat in the 34th over.

Given the conditions, the groundstaff produced three surprisingly good, hard tracks under pressure from the



Main picture: Mike Weston, inset: Terry Champion

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL AIR FORCE	
Bray b Cotterill	25
Lumb c Ford b Matthews	5
Riddell run out	26
Sperry run out	5
Cartmell lbw Carr-Smith	0
Phillips ct Fielding b St George	4
Myers b Langman	23
Aunger b Logan	15
Turner ct Pick b Logan	2
Singleton not out	14
Whybourn run out	3
Extras	20
Total (for 10 wts, 44.5 overs)	140
Logan 10-1-41-2; Cotterill 11-4-20-1; Matthews 11-4-19-1; Carr-Smith 11-6-14-1; St George 6-1-22-1; Langman 5.5-0-20-1.	

ARMY	
Cotterill run out	52
Pick ct Lumb b Sperry	7
Palmer ct and b Sperry	5
St George not out	48
Wilby ct Aunger b Phillips	15
Fielding not out	7
Extras	20
Total (for 4 wts, 48.4 overs)	143
Ford, Langman, Matthews, Carr-Smith and Logan did not bat.	
Turner 10-4-2-27-0; Whybourn 11-1-29-0; Sperry 7-1-23-2; Bray 3-0-8-0.	

Army won by 6 wickets

ARMY	
Cotterill ct Slocombe b Owen	52
Pick run out	7
Palmer run out	5
St George run out	29
Ford ct and b Owen	0
Wilby run out	15
Fielding st Burt b Owen	26
Langman ct Falconer b Owen	5
Carr-Smith not out	4
Matthews not out	4
Extras	24
Total (for 8 wts, 45 overs)	171
Logan did not bat.	
Miles 9-0-23-0; Pinder 4-0-12-0; Procter 9-0-31-0; Slocombe 6-0-32-0; Owen 9-1-35-4; Moore 8-1-26-0.	

ROYAL NAVY	
Owen ct Ford b Cotterill	25
Berry lbw Carr-Smith	5
Falconer b Carr-Smith	0
Burt ct Logan b Matthews	25
Moore run out	8
Needham b Carr-Smith	7
Toogood b Langman	9
Procter b Langman	12
Pinder run out	3
Slocombe b Langman	1
Miles not out	0
Extras	6
Total (for 10 wts, 33.4 overs)	101
Logan 5-0-13-0; Cotterill 9-2-19-1; Carr-Smith 9-1-17-3; Matthews 8-4-1-37-1; Langman 4-1-11-3.	

Army won by 70 runs

of his inspired spells. He took 5-36 off nine overs after being hit for 19 off his first three, as The Hague team were bowled out for 202 in the 43rd over.

The value of the tour was confirmed a few days later back at Aldershot where the Army retained the Inter-Services title with some ease.

Divers take the honours

ARMY divers swept the board at the Inter-Service and Combined Services championships staged at HMS *Temeraire*, Portsmouth.

In the Inter-Services, team coach SSgt Amos Greenfield (att MTWG) and Capt Christian Munro (2 RTR) were first and second in the springboard event. Greenfield also won the Mike Kempson Trophy for the highest scoring dive - an inward 2½ somersaults in the tucked position which earned him 55.35 points - and was first in the

highboard. Kgn Dave Cox (1 Kings) was second.

In the women's events, Sgt Amanda Davies (MCTC) dominated off the springboard, closely followed by new girl App Lizzy Brown, who went on to win the highboard as Davies stood aside. Cpl Paula Rowan came a terrific second.

The Combined Services, the major event of the diving year, turned out to be something of an anti-climax as the Army continued to dominate. Greenfield was first in the

springboard and the highboard, with the British Police finishing second and third respectively.

Cpl Andy Broad earned his CS colours with a third place in the springboard and Sgt Darren Wilcock was second in the highboard, an achievement which secured his colours.

Lizzie Brown and Cpl Nicki Brown dominated the women's springboard and Rowan was second in the highboard behind the RAF's Cpl Gaye Williams.

Going Dutch pays off

A WEEK before the Inter-Services cricket tournament, an Army team travelled to Holland to enhance team spirit and take on high-class opposition in the form of VRA Amsterdam and HBS The Hague.

BA(G) provided transport and two good cricketers to make up the numbers. Amsterdam, who include a few South African professionals in their line-up, were bowled out for 190 in the 47th over of a 50-over game and the Army won comfortably by six wickets. Former Army skipper Richard Greatorex and Capt Adrian Grinonneau each

weather and the secretary. And the standard of lunches and teas was outstanding. Roll on next summer.

scored 43, and LCpl Stephen Hole (38) and Capt Chris St George (37 not out) saw the tourists home in the 37th over.

St George (98 not out) and Hole (67) laid the foundations for an respectable total of 234-6 against a very strong HBS XI including Holland's most prolific international batsmen and more South Africans.

After losing an early wicket, the Dutch side prospered against the quicker Army bowlers until Capt James Carr-Smith and LCpl Dave Matthews applied the brakes. That was the prelude to Capt Ben Langman producing one

Gunners' strong bid seen off by REME

THE largest ever Army Sailing Association windsurfing fleet assembled at Portland Harbour when 78 sailors turned up for the three-day 1997 championships.

Although winds never got above 12 knots, there were close races at all levels and the Royal Artillery made a convincing attack on the Inter-Corps Trophy.

However, it was the REME squad who, from the first race, had their six sailors in the top 20 and went on to consolidate that lead in each of three races. In the final corps event they managed to get all six in the first 12 to establish the biggest winning margin on record.

The gunners were represented by 47 Regiment's Thorney Island team who sailed well but lacked the strength and experience of their rivals. The Royal Signals dropped out of the top



All at sea: competitors involved in close racing during the ASA windsurfing championships at Portland

two for the first time, the RE were fourth and the RLC fifth. REME B won the trophy for the second string teams.

Capt Jonathan Coleman (ATR Basingbourn) stamped his skill on the fleet, winning three of the four individual races and retaining the overall championship for the second year.

Although he is threatening to spend more time coaching and less racing next year, a third challenge is not out of the

question, in light winds at least.

The lightweight fleet was won by Maj Tim Sands (Army App College) with Gnr Ian Beaton (47 Regt RA), last year's novice champion, in second place one point behind.

There was a close battle in the heavyweight fleet between windsurfing's grand old man, Maj Dave Gilchrist, Bdr Mick Greasley and SSgt Norman Finnigan. Only two points separated them. The super-heavy honours were taken by Capt

Eddie Corrigan, who is about to start a two-year tour in Kathmandu. In second place was Cpl Richie Townsend.

A solid 17 knots offshore on the second day was a windsurfer's dream, but not safe for the novice fleet so their result was based on one day of racing. As the main fleet sailed out to the start the wind dropped to a sad and shifty eight knots, leading to very tactical sailing for those who could read the wind-shifts.

Sporting ethos was the winner

EX-BRITISH Lions captain Willie John McBride was in the stands at Ravenhill rugby ground, Belfast to cheer on teams from Northern Ireland Combined Services and an Ulster Development XV.

The match, which raised £1,000 for the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment's Blair Mayne Memorial Trust Fund, was won 22-3 by the Ulster team.

Lt Col Paddy Blair Mayne, an Irish rugby international and one of the most highly decorated officers of the Second World War, served with the Royal Ulster Rifles.

Recipient of the money will be a young aspiring rugby player in the Province.

The match was hosted by Portadown-based 3 R Irish.



Action from the Blair Mayne rugby match hosted by 3 R Irish

Tour puts team in good form

A SIX-DAY tour of Germany produced some excellent results for the Army badminton team.

In the first match, at Rheindahlen against British Forces Germany, the teams were level at 8-8 with one to play. Pte Cindy Dougherty and Sgt Andy Ball won it 2-0 to secure victory for the tourists.

A convincing 12-5 victory was recorded over a local German club before the Army players took on a very athletic team of Dutch teenagers. Although many of the matches could have gone either way, the Dutch won 13-4.

Among several very good performances which boded well for the Inter-Services, Sig Mhairi McIntosh lost only one of her nine games on tour.

Picture: Mobile News Team HQNI



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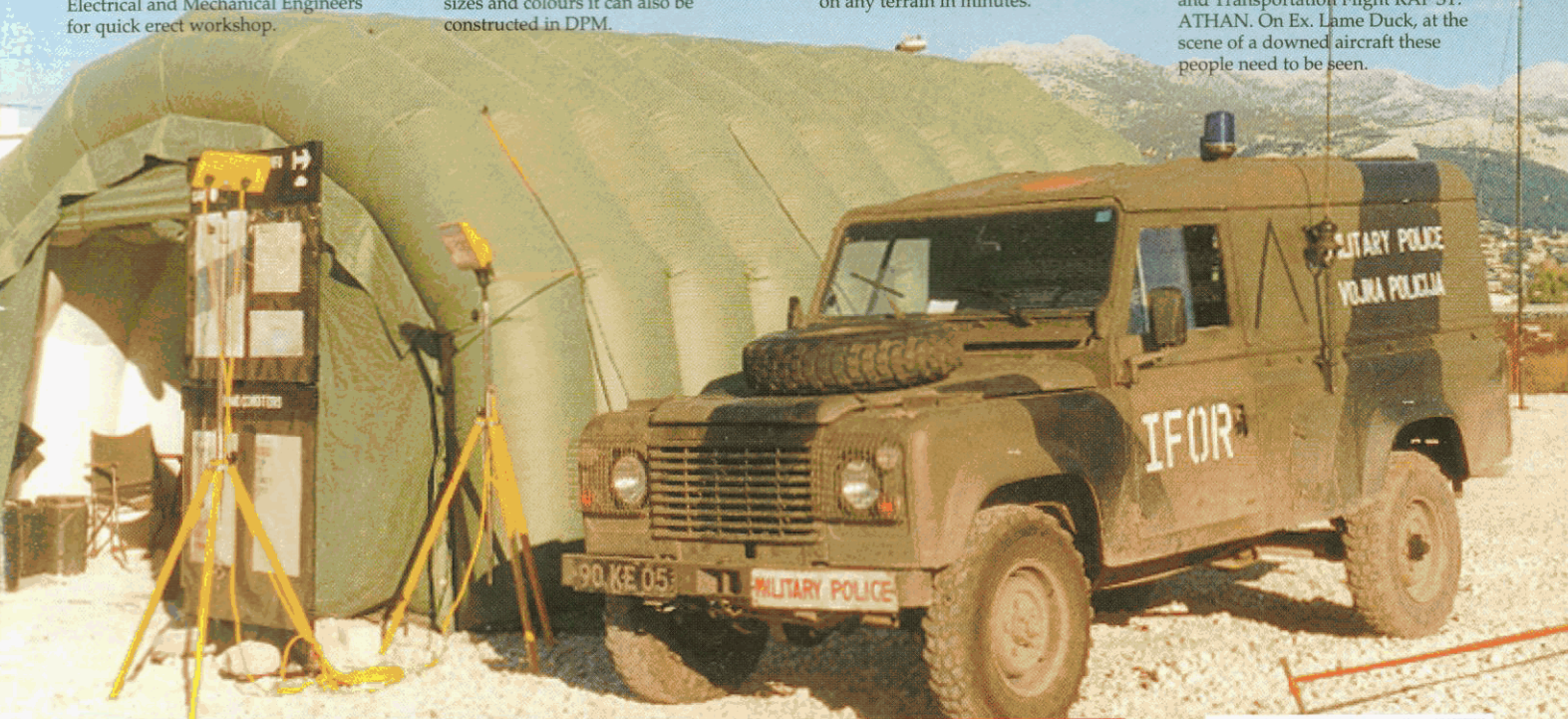
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Soldiers of the anti-tank platoon of the 1st Battalion, The
Highlanders fire the Milan system at Otterburn Training Area

Picture: LCpl Bobby Nelson 1 Hldrs



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