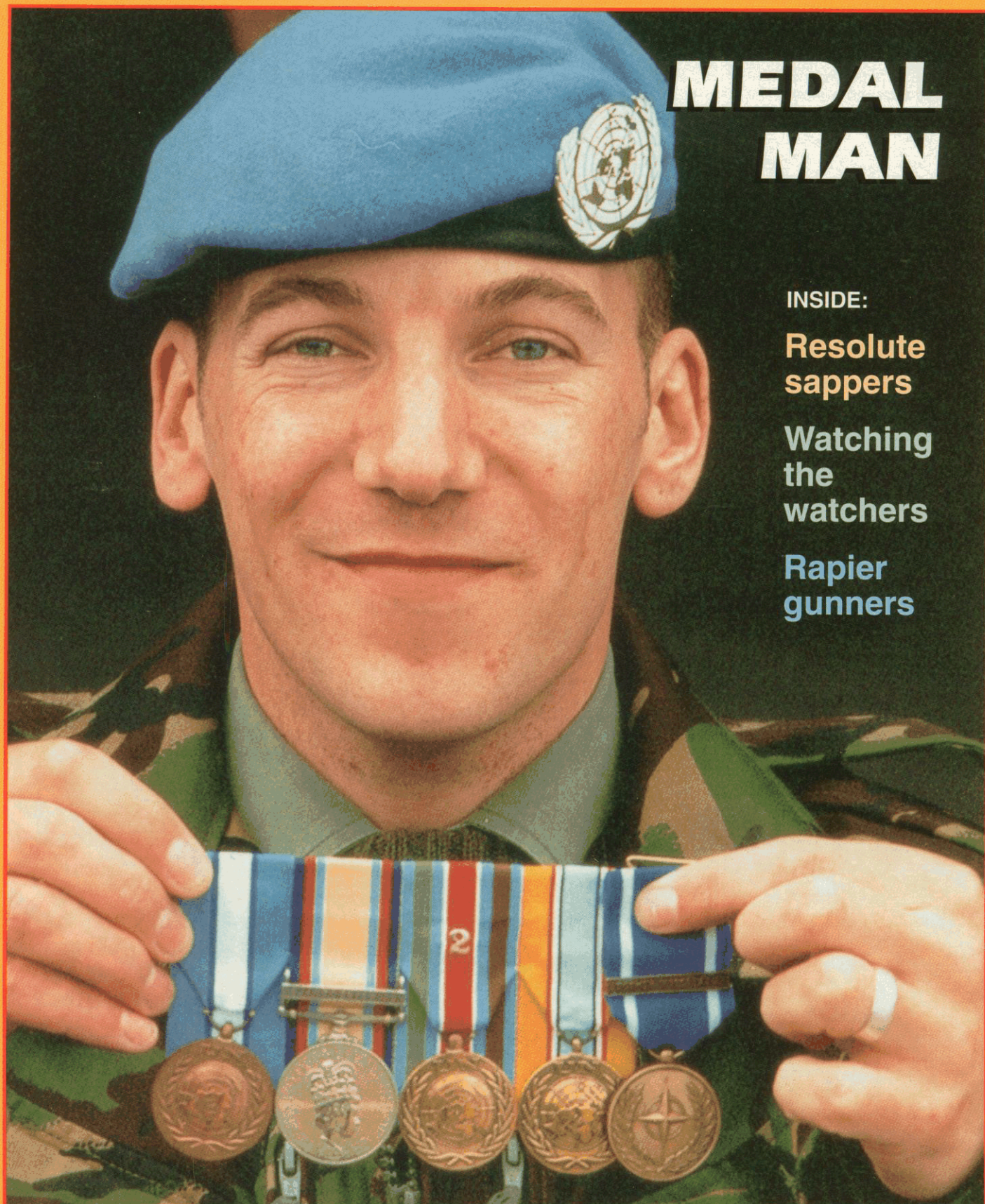


# SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MAY 27 1996

60p



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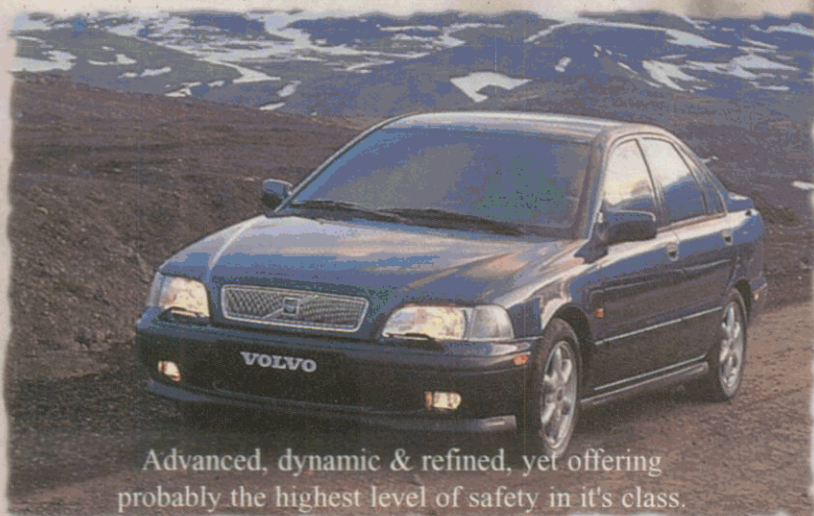
INSIDE:

**Resolute  
sappers**

**Watching  
the  
watchers**

**Rapier  
gunners**





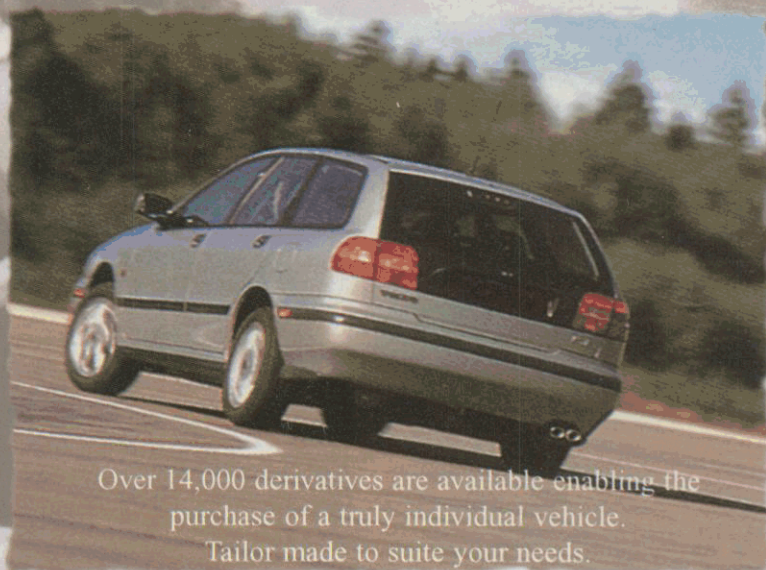
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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

MAY 27, 1996 Vol 52/11

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Picture: Terry Champion

**Medal man:** Cpl Levi Ashley (25), 27 Regiment RLC, received his fifth medal in eight years of Army service during a parade in Aldershot. His medals, (left to right) are for service with the UN in Cyprus, the Gulf, UNPROFOR in former Yugoslavia (twice), Angola and IFOR in Bosnia. See Page 7

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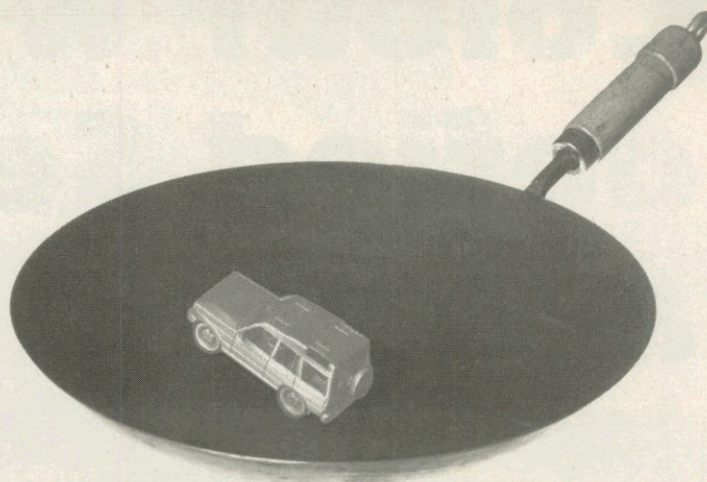
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# Colour who defied Serbs awarded CGC



CSgt Peter Humphreys, B Coy, 1 RWF . . . frequently under fire in the dangerous Gorazde enclave. His is only the second of the recently-introduced Conspicuous Gallantry Crosses to be awarded. The full story of his cool-headed leadership while under fierce attack, and other Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Angola awards and honours, appears in Page 14-15.





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WOK SOL



# The Rat bows out of Bosnia

REIGN of the Rat in the British-led brigade area of Bosnia came to an end this month when Brig Richard Dannett and his staff prepared to return to Germany and handed over area responsibility to 1 Mechanised Brigade from Tidworth.

As the flag bearing 4th Armoured Brigade's Black Rat came down, it was replaced by the Triangle which is the symbol of its successor.

Commanded by Brig Brian Plummer, 1 Mech Bde is breaking new ground by arriving in theatre as a complete brigade.

"Over the next eight or nine months most of the brigade's units, except the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, are coming to Bosnia," he said. The 1st Battalions of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment are already in theatre.

"We had an excellent hand-over from 4 Brigade at the end of their six-month tour and I felt that all its members had done an outstanding task through appalling weather and in difficult circumstances," said Brig Plummer.

"They really saw through the bulk of the change from UN to IFOR operations and took Operation Resolute up to the critical four-month phase and into uncharted waters."

He said he was enormously impressed by the attitude and sense of endeavour among the men under his command.

## Soldier found shot

SIG Andrew Martindale of 7 Regiment, Royal Signals based in Germany was found dead from a single shot to the head while serving in his vehicle with the ARRC tactical headquarters at Visegrad in Bosnia.



Off to the States: Pipe Maj Alastair Mackintosh (centre) of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, with Pipers Kevin Turnbull and Sandy Murdoch, puts in some practice at Fort

Whiterock, West Belfast. They and other pipers and drummers from the battalion will be taking part in one of the United States' largest military tattoos in Washington next month

# Brigades in Star role

**From Laurie Manton in America**  
MORE than 53,000 British and American troops are involved in Exercise Purple Star, the largest combined US-UK deployment since the Gulf War.

Units from Britain were

deployed to 19 military installations and training areas across five American states.

Of the 12,000 British soldiers involved, 3,800 are from Aldershot-based 5 Airborne Brigade. There is a similar number from 3 Commando

Brigade, including Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery and Royal Logistic Corps personnel.

About 270 Territorial Army soldiers, many from the 10th and 4th Battalions, The Parachute Regiment (V) are supporting 5 Brigade.

Key elements of the new Joint Rapid Deployment Force - 5 and 3 Brigades - are using Purple Star to test the formation's even newer permanent headquarters at Northwood.

A massive tented city has been put up at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in North Carolina. It houses 5,500 British soldiers, 1,500 of whom will take part in an airborne assault on Fort Bragg.

On one end of the runway, groups of paras have been going through their anti-tank and heavy machine gun drills. British soldiers exchanged their SA80 weapons for US Marine Corps M16 rifles during cross-training on the ranges.



Already in the States: An all-terrain vehicle of 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery drives through a McDonald's in Blackstone, Virginia during training for Exercise Purple Star. British troops taking part in the huge land, sea and air exercise were visited by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo during a trip to America for talks with his defence counterpart in the US administration, Dr Bill Perry



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**Managing Editor** Chris Horrocks 2355 **Editor** John Elliott 2356 **Assistant Editors** Laurie Manton 2362 Gordon Skilling 2360 Phil Wilcox 2362 **Picture Editor** Terry Champion 2357 **Photographers** Mike Weston 2357 Mike Perring 2357 **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 2169 **Librarian** Gerard Sutton 2351 **Advertising** 2352 **Accounts / Distribution** Janice Follwell 2353 **Fax** 2358

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Picture: Terry Champion

**Medals galore:** Six soldiers serving with 27 Transport Regiment RLC display the medals they received during an extraordinary parade in their Aldershot base. They are (back, from left) Pte Jim Hobbs, Cpl Jim Lucking and Pte Andrew McMillan; (front) Pte Nick Holland, Pte Nicola Brady and Pte Russ Jenkins.

Two hundred men and women received up to

four medals each for operational services completed during the past 18 months. The parade was taken by the regiment's Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester. The medals presented were the United Nations Bosnia Medal, the United Nations Medal for Service in Angola, the Northern Ireland Medal and the NATO Peace Implementation Force Medal for service in former Yugoslavia.

## Sheffield sappers earn full marks for effort

MORE than 60 members of Sheffield-based Territorial Army unit 73 Engineer Regiment worked non-stop for 24 hours preparing landing pads for the RAF's Harrier warplanes – earning praise from NATO's top brass along the way.

The manoeuvres at RAF North Luffenham in Leicestershire, were part of crucial training to prepare the regiment to carry out its role overseas.

Failure to "deliver the goods" on time would have spelt disaster on live operations, but the soldiers completed their task with time to spare.

The sectional alloy mats and



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

**Two of the highly-praised Yorkshire engineers:** Sgt Dean Battersby and Spr Lesley Stevens

taxiways constructed by the sappers had to be capable of withstanding the aircraft's 12-tonne downdraft. Any loose component has the potential to cause a catastrophe.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, C-in-C Allied Forces North West Europe, and 73 Engineers' Honorary Colonel, said: "There is no

room for error in constructing the jump jet tactical landing sites.

"Sheffield's sappers are part of the only TA unit to take on the vital role of supporting the RAF abroad. They can only train in their spare time, yet they put in a performance that any Regular Army unit would have been proud of."

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## New move on Saxon tragedies

PAPERS relevant to inquiries into two fatal accidents in Bosnia involving Saxon vehicles have come to light after being presumed lost, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a Commons written answer.

The accidents occurred within days of each other in September, 1994 and involved Saxons from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. One soldier died in the first and three in the second. Six others were seriously injured.

Replying on April 29 to written questions from Dr David Clark, Shadow Defence Secretary, the minister said a board of inquiry in Cyprus last year concluded that both accidents were caused by driver error.

The board, he said, had commented that certain types of documentation were not available to it because they were thought to have been lost during roulements of units in Bosnia.

It had now emerged that some of the documents had been sent to the coroner before the board met and the MoD had asked for them to be made available urgently for examination.

"Units deploying with Saxon have generally been pleased with how well it has fared," Mr Soames said.

□ □ □

During Defence oral answers on May 7, Mr Soames described a review now taking place in the MoD as "a drawing together of strategic doctrine to reflect the new joint operational structure of the ministry... the establishment of the new permanent joint headquarters and the creation of the joint rapid deployment forces."

□ □ □

With plans for the British Army to exercise in Poland and Ukraine in September 1996, talks over other possible training opportunities in central and eastern Europe are continuing.

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After work to resolve braking problems with the RB-44 heavy utility truck, almost two-thirds of the Army's fleet of 800 are back in service and the remainder are awaiting minor modifications.



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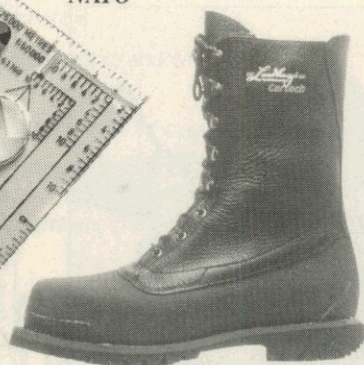
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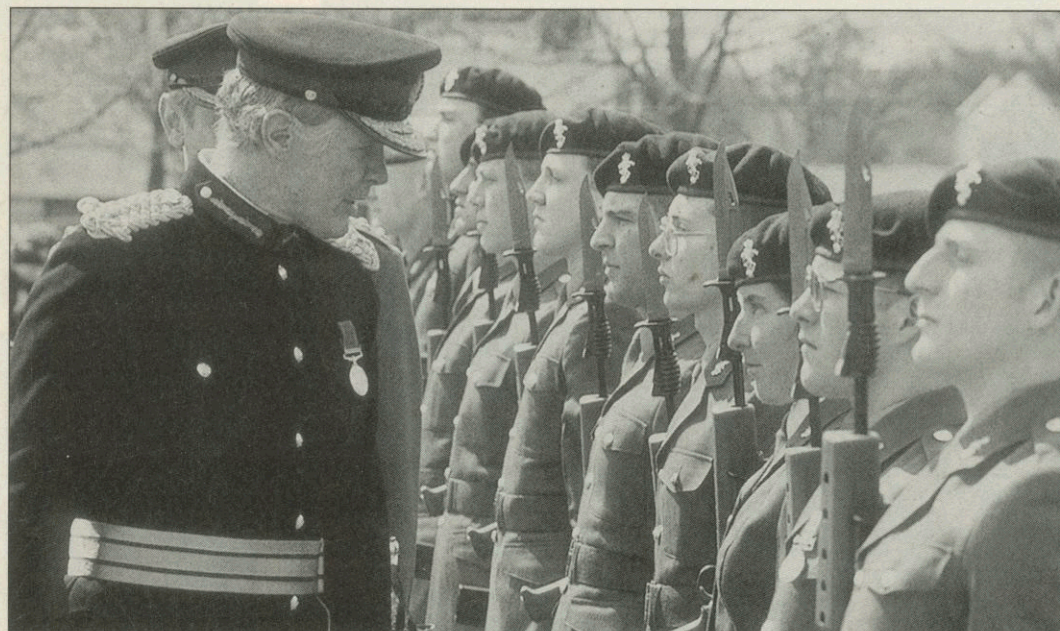
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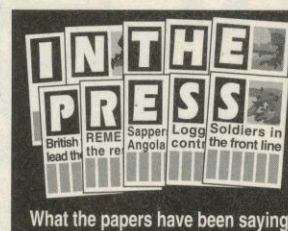
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Newly formed: Maj Gen Philip Corp, Director General Equipment Support (Army), inspects soldiers taking part in the formation parade of the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering at

Arborfield, near Reading. The new SEAE combines two REME trade schools: Electronic Engineering, already at Arborfield, and Aeronautical Engineering, re-located from Middle Wallop



Rapid fire: A new weapon has shattered a record. The Defence Research Agency said the electromagnetic rail gun had fired a projectile at 2,300 metres a second, about seven times the speed of sound. A tank shell moves at about 1,500 metres a second. — *Times*

Humanitarian agencies described the UN Inhumane Weapons Convention conference, which ended without a total ban on anti-personnel landmines, as a "dismal failure". — *Independent*

The SAS is setting up a "disclosure committee" to ensure past members of the regiment who wish to write of their experiences do not damage the effectiveness of Britain's special forces. — *Times*

# Just the medicine to make hospitals better

HOSPITAL care in the Services has entered a new era with the creation of a single streamlined agency.

The Defence Secondary Care Agency (DSCA), one of several organisations under the Surgeon General which will run centralised medical services, has close links with the National Health Service and is pledged to deliver "efficient and effective" healthcare.

Two others, the Defence Dental Agency and the Medical Supplies Agency, were formed earlier this year.

A fourth is expected to be created to run training across the Services, with a college to be set up at what is now HMS *Dolphin* submarine base in Gosport, near the Royal Hospital, Haslar, the DSCA's core hospital.

Clear aim of the DSCA, set up with a staff of 2,500 as a direct result of the Defence Costs Studies but part of a longer-term evolution dating from 1987, is to provide trained medical personnel for the front line.

To do this it admits it will need to make up shortfalls in staff, particularly among specialists. There is, for example, a shortage of 12 anaesthetists

on the establishment figure of 39. DSCA uniformed personnel, some of whom are working in field hospitals in Bosnia, will retain their individual Service identities.

Chief executive Ron Smith said: "A charge levied in the past against the MoD has been that Service hospitals were under-utilised. I intend that such will not be the case in the future."

"Defence Secondary Care is now more closely integrated with the NHS than ever before. We cannot escape the effects of the NHS internal market and I intend, bluntly, to 'cherry-pick' the best of practice, both managerial and clinical, from the NHS and others who deliver healthcare in order to make the DSCA as efficient and effective as possible."

Mr Smith said he would publish clear waiting-time targets for all secondary care patients.

The other agency hospitals are the Duchess of Kent's at Catterick, the Princess Mary's

at Akrotiri and the Rehabilitation Unit at Headley Court in Surrey.

The agency also runs three MoD Hospital Units which form part of NHS trusts at Plymouth (Derriford), Peterborough and Frimley Park, Surrey.

In addition, the agency provides about 150 staff to the Health Alliance, which supplies peacetime healthcare to forces in Germany; operates the RN Hospital in Gibraltar; and runs small secondary care facilities in Northern Ireland and the Falklands.

The Defence Dental Agency, largest employer of career dental staff in the UK, is treating 292,000 patients in 195 locations worldwide.

The Medical Supplies Agency is responsible for providing material to nearly 2,000 locations and maintains a round-the-clock capability to provide technical support and life-saving products, including blood in association with the NHS.

MSA's chief executive is Brian Nimick, who retired as a lieutenant colonel several years ago after 24 years in logistics.

The new agencies aim to save up to £40 million a year.

# Dukes receive Bradford freedom

REGULAR soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment joined their Territorial Army counterparts in marching through the centre of Bradford with fixed bayonets and flying their colours.

The 300 soldiers, led by the Normandy Band and the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, were exercising their freedom of the city — transferred from the 3rd Battalion's predecessor, the former 70th (West Riding) Field Regiment Royal Artillery (Territorial Army).

# Just passing

GEN Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant General, took the salute at the passing out parade of Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officers' Training Corps at Glasgow University. He was in Scotland to attend a meeting of the Army Board, convened for the first time in Edinburgh.



# Matching medals

A married couple have been awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medals at the same parade.

The pair in the news were WO1 **Gail Fletcher** RADC and husband WO1 **Rick** of the Technical Training Department, Catering Group RLC, who received their gongs from Maj Gen Martin White, Director General Army Logistic Services, at Aldershot's St Omer Barracks.

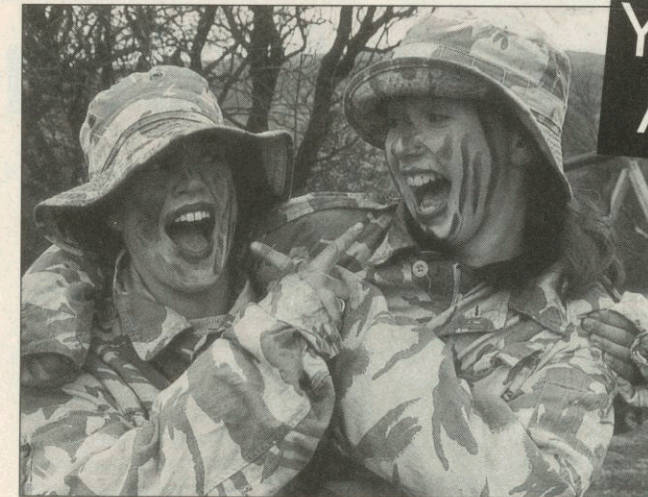
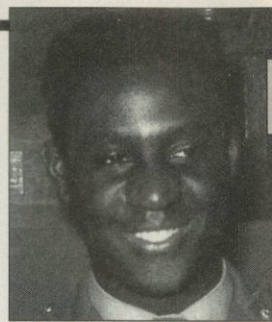
Rick and Gail met when they were serving in Germany in 1985.



## EL-wynners

Awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal for completing 12 years' service in the Territorial Army was Sgt **Elwyn "H" Higgins** (left), currently employed as a Sgt Vehicle Mechanic Class 1 with 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V).

Also presented with an award at the same ceremony at the unit's RHQ in Catford was Sgt **Fred Batten** (lower left), who received a fourth bar to his Efficiency Medal. He is currently the Recruiting and Pay Sergeant at the regiment's REME workshop, where both are based.



Picture: Roy Bevan

## You're in the Army now!

Unable to camouflage their obvious enjoyment at seeing what the Army is like at first hand, at Holcombe Moor Training Camp, are schoolgirls **Kirsty Shanks** and **Elizabeth Bayman**.

Both pupils at Parkview School, Cumbria, they were among "recruits" taking part in School Challenger Day, an Army initiative which provides students aged 11 to 14 with an insight into its workings.

# PEOPLE

## DUTCH PRIDE

Two British soldiers stationed at HQ AFCENT (Allied Forces Central Europe), located in Brunssum, the Netherlands, show off the most recent addition to their medal collections.

Lt Col **George Young** RA and Sgt **Andy Hill** RE, both of whom had previously seen service in Bosnia, were among AFCENT members recently returned from a tour of duty with IFOR in former Yugoslavia who were presented with the NATO medal by outgoing AFCENT Commander-in-Chief Gen **Helge Hansen**, German Army.



## Air of distinction

**Harry Foot**, a wartime bomber pilot and former civil servant, becomes the first recipient of the newly-instituted Army Air Corps Association silver medal.

The award, presented at Middle Wallop by Brig **Peter McQueen**, Association President and Director Army Aviation, marked Harry's many years of voluntary work in organising and maintaining the large and important archive housed at the Museum of Army Flying.



Picture: Cpl Shaun Lewis RLC

## Transkei traveller

Making the journey from South Africa to Scotland was Chief **Nicholas Gcaleka**, who claims to be the leader of the Xhosos tribe of Transkei.

He had come to find the head of his great-great uncle **Hintsa**, king of the tribe until his death in 1835, allegedly at the hands of the 72nd Highlanders (later the Seaforth Highlanders).

However, he left the museum of the Queen's Own Highlanders at Fort George, Inverness without his ancestor's head, but with the consolation of a Seaforth plaque presented by museum chairman Maj Gen **Ian Robertson**.



## THANKS, CHUM



Not for the first time, Pte **Steven Lockley** (left) gives his colleague Pte **Saun Sinnott** a helping hand, as they prepared to fly out on patrol in South Armagh with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Steve recently saved Saun from drowning in a notorious peat bog when both were on foot patrol. Saun, weighed down by kit, was up to his neck in mud when Steven managed to grasp his hand before other soldiers manhandled the pair from the mire.

## WORKSHOP WINNERS

Members of the team from **Workshop REME (V), Newport**, show off their awards from their victory in the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)'s section competition held at Crickhowell, Powys. They beat off strong challenges from the regiment's Royal Engineers sub-units from Birmingham, Bristol, Cannock, Cardiff, Swansea and Walsall.



## Getting physical

It wasn't Hollywood, California but Hollywood, County Down, but PTIs from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, were stars for a day, watched by thousands of people across Northern Ireland as they helped promote the latest series of TV's *Soldier Soldier*.

With them is local television personality **Julian Simmons** (foreground), whom Cpl **Lorraine Jackson** (left), a PTI based at Lisburn with 15 Signal Regt, and Cpl **Dean Williams** (second left), put through the ropes and over the wall on the Palace Barracks assault course. Also pictured are 2 RGJ unit PTIs Rfn **Glenn Palmer**, **Andy Roberts** and **Leighton Cooley**.



# Togetherness: the radical way forward

I WAS talking to the Chairman of the Association of RAF Wives not long ago. She had just returned from Cyprus where she found the women in good heart. She also expressed surprise that RAF and Army wives had discovered that they have more in common than they thought.

Soon afterwards I was chatting to a BFBS broadcaster in Cyprus about a new women's group which meets for coffee and to talk over issues. It was generally thought to be an excuse to chew over the usual gossip, but it seems nothing could be further from the truth.

The two conversations brought home the way in which the life of the Service wife has evolved. It is no longer the case that women are hanging about in the background waiting to be told what to do.

Before anyone accuses me of stereotyping I have to say that I'm deliberately using generalisations. There were always women who stood up, determined to be heard, while the vast majority of us lived

our lives quietly around the constraints of the military.

In recent years, however, we have witnessed encouraging developments in those organisations which support families. The Association of RAF Wives has gone from strength to strength. Acknowledging their relationship with the former Federation of Army Wives, they have chosen a complementary approach to welfare matters.

FAW won the support of the military hierarchy... and had the courage to move with the times and change its name to the Army Families Federation.

The change, more than a desultory nod of the head towards the development of British society as a whole, is significant.

The easy way would have been for its members to bury their heads in the sand. Certainly there would



Cari's column

have been many women prepared to let them do so. It is no longer just the obedient wife who follows her soldier husband. There is a small but increasing number of men who are prepared to take over the running of the household while the woman in the partnership pursues a military career. There

are also military couples trying to maintain a loving partnership while serving their country. Some have children.

If the Army is to continue to attract the best recruits, there will be people who want to share their lives without being married. They, too, will want support.

The FAW's change of name is part of a wider cultural change. The newly-minted AFF will be aiming to streamline the work. At the last AGM delegates expressed a desire to see the organisation

capitalise on what business would call their "human resources".

These resources are what you and I call people. Among its members the AFF has business consultants, PR specialists, accountants, teachers, IT consultants, managers and health workers. I know because I met them over lunch. All are Army spouses.

The challenge is to keep them interested in the organisation. The first step has been taken with the change of name. The next step, encouraging young Army spouses to believe that they can make a difference, is more difficult.

The Army community is becoming ever more dispersed.

In Germany, families are finding themselves housed well away from their units. In Hong Kong they are concerned about the imminent changes. Life in Gibraltar, Belize, Brunei and the Falklands presents other challenges.

In Cyprus, it seems, the spouses are getting down to business.

Discussion groups are a great

idea. Some years ago it was tried in Germany, but the time wasn't right.

When I was an Army wife, women with ideas were regarded with suspicion. They weren't playing the game. I well remember a brigadier (he shall remain nameless) who theatrically and publicly refused to shake my hand because I worked... and worked in the media to boot.

I'm fairly confident that wouldn't happen now.

In the intervening ten years we have seen a sea change in the way in which the Army views its dependants. There may well be pockets of ancient prejudice but, as a generalisation, I really do think that the Army accepts its dependants as an integral part of the package that is the Service person.

Given that that is the case, I hope the Army Families Federation not only takes advantage of its human resources but builds on its links with RAF and Royal Navy

families. If they do, can it be long before we hear someone suggesting that all three groups are brought under one roof as a Service families association? Would it not be a good idea?

Of course there are cultural differences and the approaches taken to welfare issues are very different, but in the conversations I had with the chairman of the Association of RAF Wives and my colleague in BFBS Cyprus there was one thought which struck a chord.

They both said they were surprised by the extent to which Air Force and Army families had common ground. Wouldn't it be nice to see Service families brought together in one large, very powerful group?

Or perhaps that's too radical a thought for today.

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



Julie Williams, new Army Families Federation District Co-ordinator at Aldershot, prepares to launch a balloon race with children at the Clockhouse Playgroup, North Camp. Debbie Robertshaw, playgroup leader, organised a coffee and cake social for the families who came to take part in the local re-launch of the Army families' organisation



## Showtime start for branch in Germany

THE ARMY Families Federation in Germany got off to a grand, albeit wet, start at the Rheindahlen Show at JHQ with a poster competition for children and a raffle.

A questionnaire was devised to canvass family opinion for the new organisation - and with it the chance to win free P & O ferry tickets.

Denise Chaganis, director AFF(G), with the help of Lady Walker and Mrs Miranda Drewry, presided over the formal launch, during which a cake, and glasses of "bubbly" were shared by crowds attending the show.

Introducing the new name, Mrs Chaganis stressed the difficult times families were facing during the year-long tour in Bosnia, and the role AFF would play in fighting their corner.

As well as informing families about the new organisation, the AFF stand offered a range of advice on housing, medical, benefits, employment, training and education issues.

# Sky-high launch for re-named Federation

THE ARMY Families Federation - successor to the 14-year-old Federation of Army Wives - was inaugurated in style on May 3 when balloons were released from its branches in England, Scotland and Wales and, further afield, in Germany and Cyprus.

Each bearing the Federation's new yellow and blue colours, logo and slogan ("The Voice of the Families"), the balloons were launched by children as part of a prize-winning race.

"The change of name demonstrates that, in future, the AFF will be representing all Army families, whether the wife or husband is the soldier," Cherry Milne, chairman of the Federation worldwide, told *Soldier*.

"Whether it is education, health or housing, the majority of the issues we take up concern the family as a whole."

And the future? "It is always hard to predict in the Army what is going to happen in, say, five years' time," said Mrs Milne, an Army wife for 25 years

who has moved house 21 times during that period.

"Times have been turbulent of late, but hopefully there will now be more people in longer postings. The hot issue at the moment is the sale of married quarters, but in a year's time, that will have been resolved."

What will need to be tackled, she added, are the medical concerns of families following the closure of several military hospitals, particularly when they and their children needed secondary care.

"By the time a family gets to the top of a waiting list in an area they have previously moved to, it is often the case that they will have moved on, and will have to register at another hospital."

Launching the balloons at Larkhill, Cherry Milne admitted to assembled Federation members and local mothers: "When I first heard about the change of title, having been associated with the FAW for many years, I was not enthusiastic, for purely protective and selfish motives.

"But the Army Families Federation is an extremely apt title for the families we represent. The homes we live in, the medical services and schools we use concern the whole family and not just the individual."

"When the FAW started, its concerns were not as far-reaching as they are now: we have come a long way as an organisation."

The new federation, like its predecessor, would be cost-effective, she said, and, to encourage happy families, would be "well worth every penny."

Local MP Robert Key, a long-standing associate of the Federation, said that the change of title represented "a new approach by the Army, recognising that different lifestyles now exist, especially with the number of women involved in important roles, including those in Bosnia."

● The Northern Ireland branch launched itself at Lisburn with a cake cut by administrator Janine Carter and Col Trevor White, from HQNI. Kate Hackett, branch director, visited wives at Ballykelly.



Larkhill launch: Pictured just before the start of the balloon race are (left to right) Robert Key (MP, Salisbury); Lady Wheeler (AFF president); garrison children Joshua Green and Steven Hewkin; and Cherry Milne, AFF chairman

Picture: Terry Champion



## RWF colour sergeant wins second CGC to be awarded

THE ONLY Conspicuous Gallantry Cross awarded in the honours goes to CSgt Peter Humphreys, a platoon sergeant in B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers based last year in the dangerous Gorazde enclave.

He was involved in several fire fights during which he showed a total disregard for his own safety in the interests of others. His CGC is only the second to be awarded.

He was leading a two-vehicle anti-sniping patrol near Gorazde when his Saxon vehicles were engaged by Bosnian Serb machine guns. He directed a heavy weight of fire on to their positions, eventually silencing the Serb guns after a fire fight that lasted on and off for more than three hours.

There were no more attacks on the village or UNPROFOR units that day, nor for "a significant period" afterwards.

Five weeks later CSgt Humphreys was commanding Saxons escorting an aid convoy west of Gorazde when they came under heavy attack from Serb bunkers. All three Saxons were struck.

He gave orders to open fire and formed his armoured vehicles into a protective shield in front of the aid lorries, keeping the convoy moving until contact was broken.

In all, CSgt Humphreys's patrol engaged nine Serb positions while successfully escorting the aid vehicles to safety in Gorazde.



CGC: CSgt Peter Humphreys

# 'Inspired' leadership wins DSO for Gorazde force CO

OFFICERS and men involved in the most dangerous tour so far undertaken by a British unit in Bosnia have been cited for medals for bravery, including the only Conspicuous Gallantry Cross to be awarded and several Military Crosses.

Their commanding officer, Lt Col Jonathan Riley RWF, is awarded the DSO for his inspired leadership when his UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) unit was cut off by the Bosnian Serb army in the Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

Lt Col Riley's force, based on the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers which he commanded, was tasked with maintaining a weapons exclusion zone around the town and with peacekeeping duties.

But following last May's NATO air strike designed to reinforce the exclusion zone, Bosnian Serbs attacked a line of 1 RWF observation posts.

After a short fight, Lt Col Riley extracted most of his men to safety. Thirty-three, however, were captured and held hostage. All were eventually released safely. During



DSO: Lt Col Jonathan Riley, CO 1 RWF

the following month the Bosnian Serbs poured mortar and artillery shells into Gorazde at the rate of between 300 and 500 rounds a day.

The fusiliers, trapped in their camp on

the outskirts of the town, remained on the highest alert for 26 days. They wore body armour and helmets at all times, sustained nine casualties from gunshot, mine and mortar, and fired more than 10,000 rounds in self-defence.

With no food or fuel getting through to Gorazde for much of their tour, the fusiliers were strictly rationed, cooking on wood-fuelled stoves and walking when on patrol. They received no mail for up to eight weeks at a time.

At the end of the six-month tour, the 1 RWF force was ordered to withdraw in circumstances opposed by both the Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government armies. Following a particularly fierce fire fight in Gorazde, two renegades were killed in the RWF camp. In a daring manoeuvre next day, the battalion made a high-speed tactical march out of the pocket before either of the warring armies could react.

"We made it in one to the Serbian border and I can't tell you what it felt like to cross that frontier," said Lt Col Riley at the time.

## Igman attack led to MC award

MILITARY Crosses are awarded to Cpl Simon Harvey, a section commander with the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, who led a fire team on Mount Igman, and WO2 James Condon of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

WO2 Condon directed NATO air strikes against enemy tanks while under heavy artillery, tank and small arms fire in the Srebrenica "safe" area, enabling Dutch UN forces to withdraw safely.

His award is for services in the Srebrenica area between March and July last year.

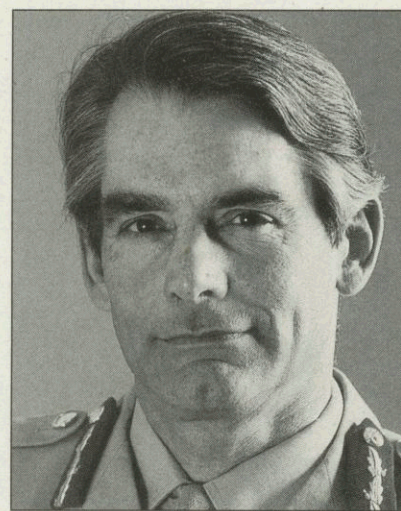
Cpl Harvey saved the day when a Serb

Army unit attacked while he and his team were protecting a party constructing an observation post overlooking Serb positions.

Under mortar and machine gun fire, he organised a withdrawal while returning fire with his own machine gun in the sustained-fire mode.

Only when all his men were safe did he himself withdraw, moving over open ground to make his escape. The following afternoon the team was again attacked in the same position, and again got away unscathed.

It was the last time the OP was attacked and it was completed shortly afterwards.



Bar to DSO: Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith

## Courage of a general

LT GEN Sir Rupert Smith is awarded a bar to the Distinguished Service Order for his outstanding leadership of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia during 1995.

In command of 27,000 personnel from 19 nations, he was the author of the NATO air campaign which led directly to the cease-fire and subsequent Dayton Peace Accord.

The citation says Gen Smith, now GOC Northern Ireland, deserved "conspicuous recognition" for his personal courage, both physical and mental, in the Bosnia theatre of operations.

One of the most high-profile officers to have served in Bosnia, Lt Col Gary Coward AAC (pictured), is appointed OBE. Military spokesman for UN Forces, he provided briefings and explanations for the world's media. His award recognises his calmness and measured dealings with journalists, which played a major part in defusing confusion and furthering the image and purpose of the command.



# Fusiliers tested by Serb offensive

THREE Royal Welch Fusiliers involved in the battles around Gorazde following the NATO airstrike last May are awarded the Military Cross.

Maj Richard Westley, OC B Coy; Lt Hugh Nightingale, a platoon commander in A Coy; and section commander Cpl David Parry, captured on the River Drina, have each been cited for courage and leadership under extreme pressure.

When Bosnian Serbs, reacting to the air strike, attempted to seize three OPs in Maj Westley's area of responsibility, he extracted his men using a pre-arranged plan. While personally in command of two Saxons, his patrol provided covering fire for the first of the OPs to withdraw. The second was also evacuated, but the third, very close to Bosnia Serb lines, was surrounded and the soldiers taken prisoner.

Maj Westley got most of his company out under fire while himself "in the forefront of the danger" for about three hours.

Cpl Parry was one of those captured. When he was forced to lay down his weapons, he communicated covertly with his headquarters throughout the rest of the day and night. Caught in the middle of a battle, he persuaded the Serbs to move his men, under fire, to a safer position.

Until their release a week later, Cpl Parry provided outstanding leadership and refused to allow his men to respond to any order unless it came from him.

Lt Nightingale is cited for his courage and leadership over a prolonged period.

On one occasion he and his men came under a hail of bullets so fierce that the walls of the derelict house in which they sought cover began to disintegrate. Crawling forward with another soldier, he directed his patrol's fire on the Serb positions and ordered his men to withdraw under smoke.

Nearly 1,000 rounds were fired by his patrol during the frantic 15-minute action.

Two months later Lt Nightingale was captured in his OP on the Drina and held hostage with 24 other members of his company. Exercising strong leadership, and disregarding his own safety, he took command of the hostages and insisted that all Serb orders be transmitted through him.



MC: Cpl David Parry

### For distinguished service in the former Republic of Yugoslavia

**Bar to DSO:** Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith KCB DSO OBE QGM, late Para.

**DSO:** Lt Col J P Riley RWF.

**CGC:** CSgt P Humphreys RWF.

**MC:** WO1 J Condon, A and SH; Cpl S J G Harvey, D and D; Lt H N C Nightingale RWF; Cpl D H Parry RWF; Maj R J Westley RWF.

**MID:** CSgt F P Balfe RRF; SSgt A M Donovan, D and D; LCpl M J Harmer RWF; LCpl A R Jones RWF; Lt G D C Llewellyn RWF; Capt J I R Phillips RA; Cpl S J Sullivan, A and SH; Sgt M D Taylor RWF; Sgt E J Timmons RWF; Cpl D W Vaatstra RWF; Cpl J D Williams RWF; Cpl A R J Wood, Coldm Gds.

**QCB:** Cpl J N Lane AGC(RMP)

**QCVS:** CSgt A S Bates, Gren Gds; Maj S C D Baynam, Int Corps; Capt E W T Beck RLC; LCpl P Bird RWF; Maj C J Boag RE; Maj C D Bradley RA; Lt Col J R Cook MBE MC, D and D; Maj S H Cowen RHG/D; Capt R C D Dangerfield RDG; Maj (Retd) P A Edgeworth, R Irish; Capt M J Edkins RRF; SSgt S Ferguson RE; Capt C D S Green RLC; LCpl P L J Hart RLC; Maj S G James RA; Capt C Jones RE; Maj P A Jones RWF; Capt M C J Lloyd, D and D; Col M F N Mans, late RE; Lt Col G A Nield RE; Brig A R D Pringle CBE, late RGJ; Sgt A Pugh RLC; Capt S W Ramsey RRF; Cpl Shailendra Shrestha RGR; Cpl P D Wilcock, R Signals.

**CBE:** Brig A G Denaro OBE, late QRIH; Col H M Fletcher OBE, late Para; Col S D Young, late D and D.

**OBE:** Lt Col R A D Applegate RA; Lt Col J R J Baxter RA; Lt Col G R Coward AAC; Lt Col N M Fairclough RE; Lt Col M J Rutledge, 9/12 L.

**MBE:** Maj J D Bevan RLC; WO2 L J Bradon, D and D; Maj R R Davis RE; Maj J D A Galt RLC; Cpl D Hartley RE; WO2 A Jacques RWF; SSgt K B Jones RLC; CSgt M J Jones RWF; Maj D C Kirk RHF; Sgt B M Langley RLC; Capt J G Lighten QLR; Maj T J Smith, R Anglian; Maj J F Watson, D and D.

### For distinguished service in Northern Ireland

**CBE:** Col J S Kerr MBE RLC; Brig S H R H Monro, late QO Hldrs; Brig C R Watt OBE, late WG.

**OBE:** Lt Col J S Douglas MBE, R Irish; Lt Col R E Harrold, R Anglian; Lt Col K Hodgson, R Irish.

**MBE:** CSgt B J Aitken KOSB; Maj R C L Cliford RDG; SSgt S M Farrag, Int Corps; Capt S J Hayward, Para; Capt D M Herring, Int Corps; Maj C H Hodder QGM, RLC; Sgt B Joyce, Int

Corps; Capt S O'Brien QGM, RLC; Maj A P R Roberts, R Signals; Maj D J Robinson, R Irish; Maj R H D Toomey, D and D.

**QGM:** Sgt C J Knight, Para; Sgt G Tait, Int Corps.

**AFC:** SSgt P G Bookham AAC.

**QCB:** WO2 R C Acott QGM BEM, Int Corps; Cpl R J Collins, Para; Sgt P Lawrence DWR; WO2 A W Johnson QGM, PWRR; Cpl K R Murphy PWRR; Cpl J Turner, Para.

**QCVS:** WO2 A R Ansell AAC; Maj WH Buckley, Para; Cpl D E Buff, Para; Maj J F Burke PWRR; Capt D J Collins, Para; Capt M J Conway, RRF; Cpl R Crane, Kings; WO2 S M Crofts, 9/12L; Lt Col A P Farquhar MBE Green Howards; WO2 D Garrett, Coldm Gds; SSgt K R George RLC; Rev L T J Hillary RACHD; Lt Col C O Hodges MBE, Kings; Maj T J Hurley MBE, PWRR; Sgt N C Kerr REME; Maj P J King RGBW; Lt Col S J Knapper MBE MC, Staffords;

Maj P M Lewis DWR; LCpl D W Lloyd, R Irish; Cpl K MacDonald AGC (SPS); Capt R C Macnamee SG; SSgt KA Mamos AGC (RMP); Lt Col G J J McFall, Para; CSgt J H M McLaughlan BEM, PWRR; WO2 M J Pickard, Int Corps; Lt Col J Potter MC, R Irish; Maj G J T Rafferty, R Signals; Capt R B Rands, Para; Lt J M Salisbury, Cheshire; WO1 C P Shead MBE, R Signals; WO1 D A Stewart R Signals; Cpl R S Tomlinson AGC (RMP); Cpl S J Wills RE; LCpl K P Yorke, R Signals.

### For distinguished service in Angola

**OBE:** Lt Col J H O'Hare RLC

**MBE:** Maj M H Bazire RLC; WO1 PJ King RLC.

**QCVS:** Maj R H W St G Bodington WG; WO2 R Harrison RE; Capt L J Maclean RLC; Maj A C Nixon RLC; Maj C J Rose RE; WO2 M J M Rutland BEM, Int Corps.



## CENTRE POINTS

STANOC is an acronym representing Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Night Observation and Counter-surveillance. Formally established in 1971 to ensure that Arms' user requirements were integrated and that gaps did not occur in the STANOC equipment field, the compact STANOC Centre took up residence within the Larkhill Garrison.

The location was chosen because of its proximity to a training area of sufficient size to carry out trials of STANOC equipment and doctrine, coupled with its accessibility and availability of accommodation.

In addition to a small civilian staff, the establishment consisted of a gunner lieutenant colonel, responsible for target acquisition, command and control as well as command of the centre; and an Intelligence Corps major responsible for surveillance.

Concealment (later counter-surveillance) continued to be the responsibility of the Royal Engineers and was taught at the RSME at Chatham until training was taken on by the centre in 1974.

In 1972, the centre's staff was increased by the addition of an SO2 Communications and Electronics (a Royal Signals post that concentrated on electronic warfare until the post's abolition in 1992) and, in 1973, by an SO2 Counter-surveillance – a Royal Engineers post transferred from Chatham.

By then, the accommodation (in what is now an MoD police hut) was becoming over-crowded so, in July 1974, the STANOC Centre took over the disused garrison cinema, whose refurbished premises included a lecture theatre, offices, stores and administrative facilities.

A QMSI RE from Chatham was appointed to assist in counter-surveillance training.

In 1993, ownership of the centre was transferred to Inspector General Doctrine and Training and responsibility for it fell to RSA Larkhill.

The STANOC Centre became an "independent unit free-standing within the Royal School of Artillery".

With the demise of the CO's post and imminent departure of civilian staff, the instructors are due to move almost literally "across the road" from the old cinema into the Headquarters Director Royal Artillery, to become part of the Artillery Force Development Branch.



The STANOC Centre's instructors with typical equipment.

From the left are CSgt Steve Pocock (Trials/Training/Operations team), WO2 (QMSI)

Paul Darby (Counter-surveillance), Maj Alex Nichol LI (SO2(W) Counter-surveillance), Lt Col Graham Hodgkinson (former CO, STANOC Centre), Bdr John Morley (T/T/O team),

Maj Tim Coombe RTR (SO2(W) Surveillance)

Right – LCpl Steve Parker and CSgt Mick Campbell with the centre's striking logo



# The watching business goes on

SLOWLY, inch by inch, the soldier crawled across the open ground in pitch darkness towards the enemy helicopter.

Blissfully unaware that, with the aid of thermal imagery, his every move was being filmed, he might just as well have tried his suicidal foray in broad daylight.

Luckily for the man concerned – part of a 30-strong fighting patrol – the clandestine observations were being carried out by

**Report: Phil Wilcox  
Pictures: Mike Weston**

friendly forces. Added to that, since he was taking part in an exercise run by the Larkhill-based STANOC Centre, the greatest danger he was in was of being embarrassed when he discovered he had been watched.

The exercise was part of a week-long

course held six times a year by the centre – whose acronym spells out Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Night Observation and Counter-surveillance.

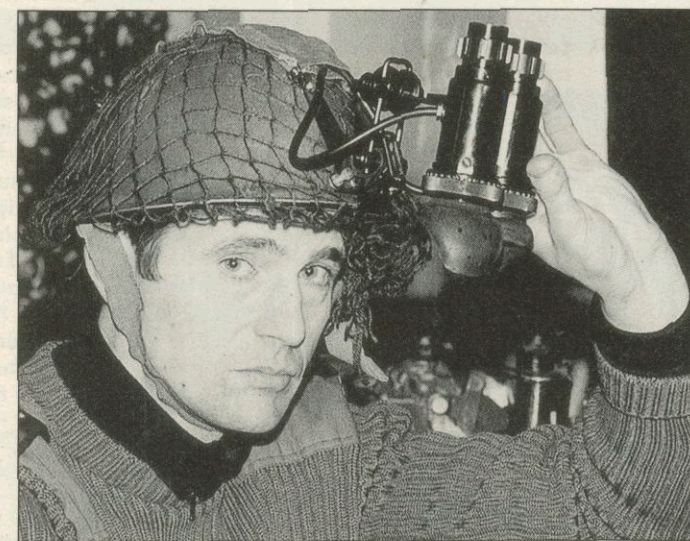
Before the centre is subsumed in the near future as part of Headquarters Director Royal Artillery, a team from *Soldier* accompanied instructors and participants as the final course being run from its premises in the former Globe cinema at Larkhill Garrison was drawing to a close.

"The STANOC Centre's charter is to act as the MoD focus for all battlefield surveillance and counter-surveillance equipment, training and doctrine," explained Lt Col Graham Hodgkinson RA, whose post as the centre's commandant disappears with its move, almost literally over the road, to Headquarters Director Royal Artillery.

"An average 40 per cent of our core activities is devoted to surveillance and counter-surveillance equipment matters, working with NATO, the MoD and private ventures.

"We provide a sounding board to industry, who have a lot of faith in us. It is an informal, two-way procedure for all concerned, but, although we have the expertise, we are not a trials unit."

Doctrine and consultancy matters are other core activities dealt with by the centre, but, as with equipment, a large proportion of its time and resources is devoted to training.



Maj Tim Coombe tries a Common User Binocular Set (now obsolete and on display at the centre's small museum) for size

The All-Arms counter-surveillance unit instructors' course, attended, among others, by students from all the NATO member countries, is "very much a flagship course," aimed at training unit instructors and advisers in camouflage and concealment techniques, according to Lt Col Hodgkinson.

Those taking part (normally 24 students ranging from sergeant to captain) are taught the advancing techniques of battlefield surveillance and how to defeat them using counter-surveillance measures.

Most of the counter-surveillance courses – the next of which is scheduled for October – are over-subscribed.

Both Regular and Territorial Army soldiers attend the "fairly intense and fairly

detailed" STANOC courses, as well as members of, for example, the police force and the defence industry.

Other surveillance cadres, teaching expertise in using appropriate equipment, are held for units about to leave for such areas as Northern Ireland and the Falklands.

And the tiny amount of staff at the centre, apart from taking part in regimental study days, visiting the Army Staff College and RMA Sandhurst and taking to the highways with roadshows, have been known to give a five-hour presentation to TA officers over the weekends.

"It's because we have such a very wide base of knowledge, ranging from satellites to ground sensors: that's our strength," said Lt Col Hodgkinson, who is chairman of NATO's counter-surveillance panel.

Having contacts with both the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force, the centre is very much on a tri-Service footing, dealing with airfield defence camouflage and night observation devices.

One of the wide-ranging breadth of speakers on the counter-surveillance instructors' course, for example, was an RAF fighter pilot who could give the "fast jet pilot's-eye view" of how difficult it is to pick out equipment on the ground in a matter of seconds if it is well-camouflaged.

Later on in the week, as well as experiencing night viewing, the students would

● Turn to next page



Hide and seek: 2nd Lt Don Blanford (Royal Marines, on attachment to 2 RRF) camouflages an AVLB during the skills exercise





CSgt Don Wilson, The Highlanders, experiments with thermal imaging equipment in the field

## Watching business

• From Page 17

witness for themselves from a helicopter how successful or otherwise the fruits of their equipment camouflaging labours (a skills exercise on Salisbury Plain East) had been, and would be given a taste of photographic interpretation.

However, during the intervening period, they had been enlightened on the surveillance and electronic warfare threat and taught how to reduce it through equipment demonstrations.

"Find and fix your enemy under all circumstances, particularly in poor weather," they were instructed.

"Some of our equipment can see in poor weather, some cannot, but we have to be able to adapt and think ahead."

And, on the use of decoys in the field – already put to useful effect at BATUS in Canada: "If you can persuade your enemy to fire at a decoy instead of a real tank, you are not only increasing your chances of survival, but he will also be telling you where he is."

A very equipment-orientated organisation, the STANOC Centre has a need to continue its links with commercial organisations, according to its outgoing commanding officer.

"We are a dynamic and look-ahead organisation. A good proportion of the Army uses our services, and what we offer is valued by the users and is cost-effective."



Undercover job? Sgt Andy MacMartin, 160 Provost Coy, RMP, makes sure that a piece of equipment is as difficult as possible to spot

FEATURE VERSATILE SAPPERS PROVE ALL-ROUND WORTH

# Jacks of all trades

(AND MASTERS OF MOST...)

FIELD engineers, combat engineers, infantry... men of 32 Engineer Regiment serving in Bosnia have proved their worth in all three roles.

Armoured engineer squadrons are normally limited by the equipment which they operate to laying mines, clearing routes and bridging.

But working in Bosnia made an interesting change from regular trips between BATUS in Canada and their home base in Germany, said SSgt Martyn Smith.

His unit was on stand-by to fly to Antigua to help in relief work. When that mission was stood down the sappers prepared themselves for Northern Ireland training before being told they were being sent to Bosnia.

With men of 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron already deployed on Operation Grapple 7 and extended for another four months, 77 Armoured Engineer Squadron and 2 HQ Squadron left Hohne on Boxing Day.

"It was a bit of a 'come as you are' party because we did not have all the artisans we would have liked. But we had enough to do the tasks and so far everybody has done exceptionally well to go from armoured to

combat engineering then infantry," said SSgt Smith.

When A Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry had to deploy away from its area of responsibility, 77 Sqn filled the breach, freeing the "battle-winning" Warrior assets for mobile patrols, said Capt Phil Crick, 11 Troop commander.

Sappers and infantrymen had soon relaxed and got on well together, he said.

Joint LI-RE patrols of Warrior and Spartan moved round the area and mixed foot patrols checked vacated trenches along the inter-entity boundary line to make sure that no one had returned.

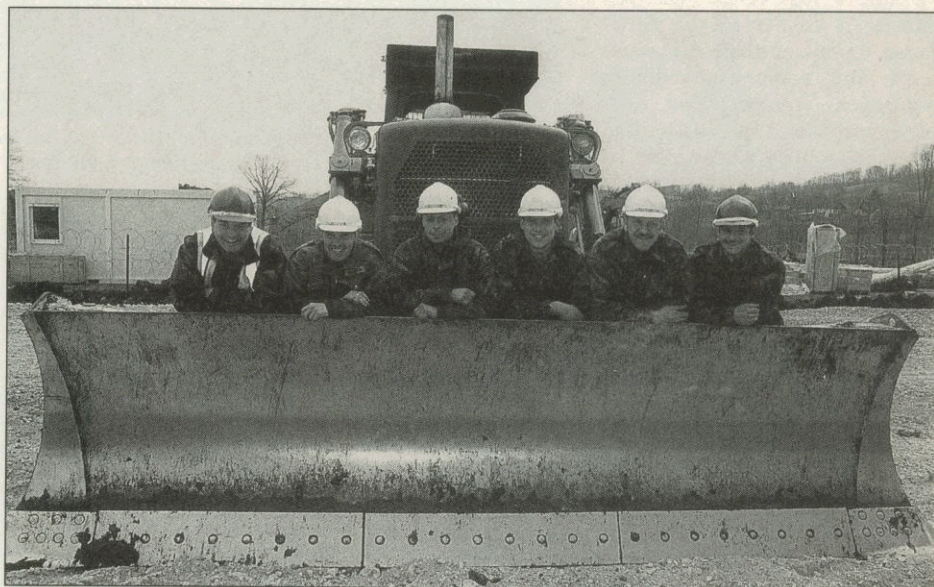
"Local people have been dismantling fortifications for firewood which is a good sign," said Cpl Irvin Randerson of 2 LI's 9 Platoon, who found the joint work instructive.

"Usually all we see of sappers is of them working about camp. We never see them out doing what we do, so it is a good cross-over of experience."

Although all sappers are infantrymen first, Spr Frank McGuckian enjoyed returning to patrolling. It was a change from installing toilets...

But their tasks were not always pleasant.

**Report:**  
Gordon Skilling  
**Pictures:**  
Mike Weston



Plant Section of 77 Armd Engr Sqn in front of their D8 Caterpillar bulldozer are Cpl Alan Dinsdale (section commander) LCpl Chris Sheehan, LCpl Peter Maher, LCpl Roly Rudge, and LCpl Steve Gass with SSgt Baz Broomhead

Until the sappers arrived there was no equipment for the removal of heaps of rotting rubbish and decomposing animals piled high by many buildings occupied by IFOR.

Aside from that it was an engineer's playground at first, with camp construction, installation of water and power and some minor construction tasks.

Containerised ablution units and "Corimec" accommodation huts had been an early sappers' priority among tasks ranging from improving roads to building helicopter bases.

Early installation of efficient infrastructure was vital to allow the 4 Brigade units to operate.

Most of the tasks involved camp construction and the installation of water and power. Once they had been laid on, facilities for washing and getting rid of waste had to be maintained.

Lack of some specialist trades, plumbing in particular, was not too much of a problem. Armoured Vehicles Royal Engineers are filled with high-pressure hydraulics and experience showed that soldiers could cope well with the simple sewerage and hot water connections which existed in the towns.

As the Light Infantrymen were thinking of going home, sappers from the regimental plant group were erecting a tin city to house their replacements, the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, at Banja Luka. "We



A 16-bay heavy girder bridge now spans the River Ugar, border between the Serb and Croat communities, thanks to Lt Rob Thomson and 3 Tp, 26 Armd Engr Sqn



AVLB driver/operator Spr Fuzzy Foster

had to pull plant guys from 2 Sqn to join those of 77 Sqn," said SSgt Baz Broomhead, whose troop had already provided ten sites.

Helping the British engineers was a fleet of 19 lorries from the Austrian Army, which transported hard core from local quarries.

Canadians also provided their own hard core support: Capt James Stewart, one of five Canadian engineers serving with British units, is 2iC of 26 Armd Engr Sqn.

Royal Dutch Engineers provided invaluable help when 3 Troop, 26 Sqn erected a heavy girder bridge to allow the Dutch Leopard 2 main battle tanks to cross the boundary between the Bosnian Serbs and

Bosnian Croats. The 42nd Netherlands Armoured Infantry Battalion operates under command of the 4th (UK) Armoured Brigade and another bridge had already been provided on the same route by 77 Sqn.

The 16-bay reinforced bridge was constructed in eight days, two less than planned. Their biggest task so far, it was a source of great satisfaction to the men of 3 Troop.

"We could not have built it without Dutch help because they offered us their German-made crane, the saviour of the project," said 3 Tp commander Lt Rob Thomson.

The sappers found the Dutch extremely co-operative in making specialist equipment available from their Leopard engineer vehicle.

"It was good for our boys to see how another nation works, and the Dutch were very impressed with the way we work," said Lt Thomson, whose great uncle, Cpl Charlie Garforth, won the Victoria Cross with the 15th King's Hussars in the retreat from Mons.

The Dutch had never seen a heavy girder bridge and took several high-ranking visitors to inspect it.

"When we had finished they had an official welcome for us and the troop commander and staff sergeant had to stand at a bar and drink a thimble full of some 'rocket fuel', to the amusement of everyone else, as they all sang the Dutch engineer song."

IFOR  
ИФОР



# Lethal work

CPL Ginger Campbell was enjoying two months with 3 Troop of 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron on Exercise Grand Prix in Kenya until his staff sergeant told him to sharpen his bayonet for Bosnia.

This proved difficult as bayonets were not required in Kenya although there would be specialist requirements in former Yugoslavia.

When 32 Engineer Regiment arrived in Bosnia in 1995 to provide close support to the 4th (UK) Armoured Brigade a counter-mine campaign was urgently required.

Every position along the agreed cease-fire line in Bosnia-Herzegovina was reinforced by mined areas ranging from heavy pattern minefields to individual protective stake mines with trip wires.

Unrestricted freedom of movement for the Implementation Forces meant little if routes were denied by mines.

Before high-profile IFOR patrols could dominate the ground, all mines in the Zone of Separation (ZOS) had to be identified and marked, an impossible task in the available time.

The whole ZOS, 180km by 4km, was therefore treated as an enormous minefield, with safe lanes established through the obstacle.

Reluctance by Serb and Croat-Muslim Federation soldiers to leave their trenches had to be overcome by guaranteeing their safety while clearing mines and assuring them that the resulting hole in their defences would not lay them open to attack.

IFOR control points were established at either end of mined routes, with NATO troops present to deter any further outbreak of fighting.

The IFOR engineer commander and his EOD advisers were in overall technical control, with liaison officers from the Serbs and Federation to co-ordinate simultaneous clearance by their own teams.

After routes had been cleared, IFOR would provide static checkpoints on the former confrontation line and control movement through the gap.

Serbs, Muslims and Croats were hospitable as Lt Col Peter Wall, CO of 32 Engineer Regiment, carried out his shuttle



WO1 Liddicoate with some of the millions of mines scattered throughout Bosnia

diplomacy, selling the plan to each faction commander. Most were exhausted by the war.

Tangible animosity between the representatives who faced each other in the Sanski Most area did not stop agreement for 32 Engr Regt and 49 Fd Sqn (EOD) to monitor mine clearance while the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, provided security.

Warriors, Scimitars, Lynx helicopters and 105mm light guns were much in evidence, and although snow and ice foiled some efforts the principle was established and greater mobility was established.

This work could only deal with the known minefields; a more sinister threat remains with random, unrecorded mines sown by infantry soldiers as local protection. Other confrontation lines south of the final ZOS were also heavily mined, but most of these records were lost in the fighting.

Capt Kevin Copsey, Battle Group engineer operations officer with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, made a breakthrough when a former Croat mercenary with an intimate knowledge of old minefields was located.

He was able to show Capt Copsey where some of the danger lay.



Sappers and Light Infantry on joint patrol



Spr Cam Cameron on guard at an 11 Tp checkpoint monitoring a Bosnian Serb brigade headquarters

## Light relief comes to Mrkonjic Grad

SEEING the lights go on in Mrkonjic Grad gives Maj John Deverill real satisfaction.

This Bosnian town in the area known as the Anvil had been reduced to a darkened ruin by the fighting; everything of value had been stripped. But thanks to the Royal Engineers, electric lights can be switched on again.

As the officer commanding 77 Armoured Engineering Squadron, most of his work has been co-ordination, helping local engineers to work for themselves, and giving advice.

Royal Engineers deployed in the Balkans are neither tasked nor equipped to rebuild the infrastructure of this devastated country.

But comparatively minor tasks, such as helping to repair electricity pylons, gave the British sappers a sense of satisfaction.

"We may bring in replacement parts and help local engineers put things back together again, but the emphasis is to help local engineers identify the work that is necessary."

He said the peacekeepers had to take care not to make local communities dependent, so that when the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) departed, they did not

leave a gaping hole the Bosnians were unable to fill themselves.

Giving a gentle shove to civilian engineers, planning programmes of work to be done and liaising with international agencies is Maj Deverill's stock-in-trade.

"It was easy for me to make recommendations, but hard for local people. They did not have access to international management groups and the Overseas Development Agency, which is providing a small amount of money to kick-start the process."

He said it was gratifying to bring together people who had worked together before the fighting started four years ago.

"Electricity doesn't mind where it goes. I often have to get engineers from the different sides to meet at a point in the middle to clear a line," said Maj Deverill.

"There was no bitterness between individuals; the business would be cracked in a few minutes and then they would produce a bottle or two of slivovic and have a party."

"There were tears and hugs and kisses



Maj John Deverill, OC 77 Armd Engr Sqn (9/13)

and most of the talk was of each other's families."

He remembered particularly arranging for the Serb director of a dam to talk to the Croat who had run it for four years. The Serb soon had his arm round his fellow Croat engineer as they worked out a technical problem related to equipment safety, and then both sat down with a bottle in the shadow of the dam.

"That was something nice to be associated with," said Maj Deverill.

Restoring electricity and water to the two major towns in the Anvil was cheaper and easier than supplying bulk water or continual use of generators.

Many NATO soldiers are also based in the towns and if drinkable, chlorinated mains water had not been available there would have been a severe health danger.

Urban water supply networks had been disrupted more by smashed pipes and chopped-off taps rather than by damage to the mains systems.

When IFOR leaves, the Anvil will be a

better place for Royal Engineers having worked there.

Of course, not everything went smoothly, and sometimes the sappers had to adopt a more forceful stance.

"On one occasion it was obvious the Croats had no intention of allowing us to build a bridge at Novi Grad or remove minefields they had placed across the road, so I thought I should apply a bit of pressure," said Maj Deverill.

"I bellowed across that I wanted to speak to the Croat commander and when a surly soldier appeared I demanded an answer in 30 minutes."

In 31 minutes he had his permission and the next day the bridge was erected.

"If we had waited for political clearance there still wouldn't be a bridge. You could say we forced a crossing."

Local police were summoned to the centre of the new bridge and the sappers established ground rules for using it. The police were allowed to control their own civilian traffic, but not that of IFOR or the international aid agencies.

The Novi Grad bridge was constructed in appalling conditions. As the rain froze, ice had to be chipped off every component before the pieces could be assembled.





Down town: LCpl Paul Nouch, now on pre-Bosnia training, and LCpl Jenny Baynes

**Report:**  
Pat Pearson  
**Pictures:**  
Mike Perring



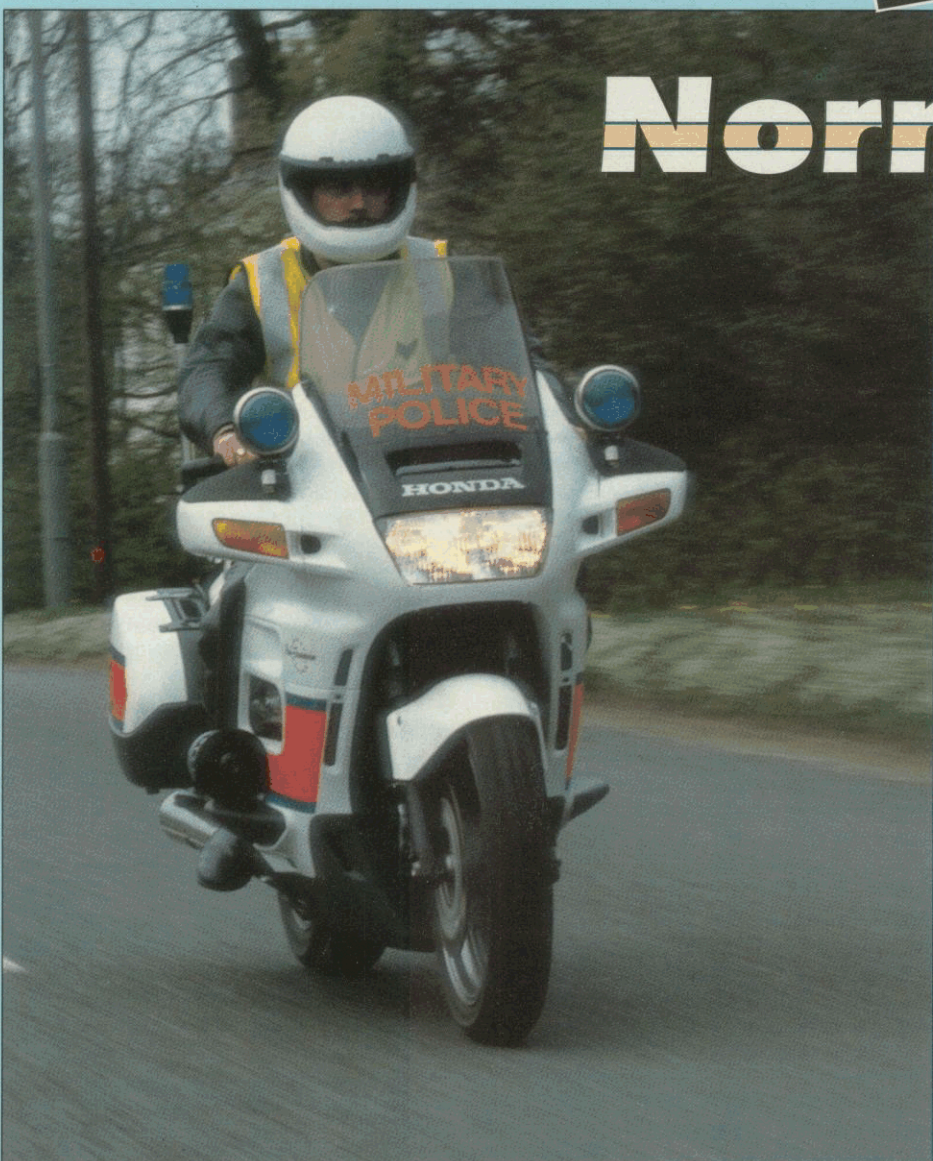
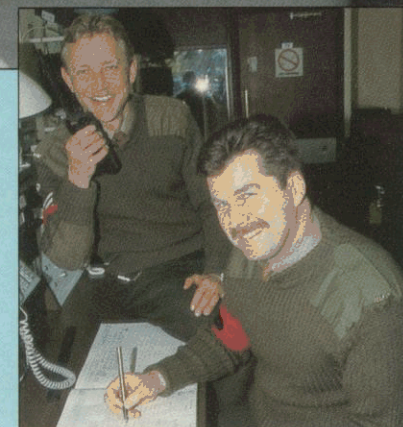
Terrier team: Capt Mark Dillon (front), the officer commanding, with (from left) Sgt

Waffle Wright, WO2 Derek Griffiths, SSgt John Martin, LCpl Paul Nouch, Cpl Neil

Cogger, LCpl Jenny Baynes and LCpl Trevor Spencer

## Normal duty resumed as TA takes over

Right - Duty desk: SSgt John Martin (left), the platoon commander, and Cpl Neil "Taff" Cogger in the duty room at Aldershot Police Station



On the road: A TA military policeman on his motor cycle in Aldershot Garrison

ROYAL Military Police patrols continue to be a reassuring sight in the Aldershot area despite the deployment of 160 Provost Company, Aldershot's Regular military police unit, on Exercise Purple Star.

The gap in the lines has been filled for a six-week period by soldiers of the RMP Territorial Army in the form of 163 Provost Company, Royal Military Police (Volunteers).

Soldiers from the unit, which has its headquarters in Brighton and detachments in Southampton and Cardiff, have been performing the crime prevention and law enforcement duties normally carried out by their Regular Army colleagues.

It is thought to be the first occasion in modern times that a TA unit, supported by a skeleton staff of Regular soldiers, has taken over the general policing function of a Regular provost company.

Traffic accidents, theft, alleged assaults, lost property and domestic disputes - the Aldershot Duty Room Daily Occurrence Book, describing incidents responded to, tells the everyday story of a busy garrison with all its problems.

Although all TA military policemen are taught police work, the training focus in recent years has been on provost operations in the field. Because of this, the emphasis



Here's the plan: Capt Mark Dillon (left), OC 160 Pro Coy, and Capt Pat Pearson, TA Press Information Officer and a former Ops Officer with 163 Pro Coy

had to be changed before the deployment and all ranks went through refresher training at the RMP Training School, Chichester, to hone their skills.

TA officer Capt Mark Dillon usually commands the Southampton Detachment but during Purple Star has also been Offi-

cer Commanding 160 Provost Company. He believes this has been an important test for the TA RMP and something of which he and his staff can be rightfully proud.

"With the Regular Army committed to so many theatres at present, there is a genuine need to cover the responsibilities of

the troops deployed on operations and exercises overseas. I believe that we have effectively demonstrated how the TA can enhance the capabilities of the Regular Army by providing well trained and highly motivated manpower.

"Of the 35 soldiers in Southampton, two have been in Germany for 12 months, two in Bosnia since Christmas and one in Aldershot since January."

Five other Southampton NCOs finished their duties in Aldershot by taking a train north to Catterick, rather than homewards, to start pre-Bosnia training in preparation for a six-month deployment on IFOR2.

Although the work in Aldershot has been demanding, the soldiers, who come from all walks of life - bank clerks, builders, engineers and a scattering of civilian policemen - have risen to the challenge. Some of the duties have involved close liaison with the civilian police and NCOs have carried out joint patrols with Hampshire Constabulary and assisted at the scenes of traffic accidents, including one fatality.

With TA soldiers manning the duty room and patrolling the streets, the fact that the RMP's customers have not noticed a difference in the service received is the greatest compliment to the men and women of 163 Provost Company.





Rapier force: Among the crew of this detachment deployed on Salisbury Plain were (left to right): Gnr Brad Peters, LBdr Chris Durrant and Sgt Philip Yee

# RAPIER

WHEN the gunners of 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery deployed their entire force of tracked Rapier air defence weapons systems to Salisbury Plain last month, they made history – twice over.

It was the first tracked Rapier exercise to take place in Britain . . . and the last. The regiment is to change to the Field Standard C towed Rapier system (Rapier FSC).

"We are converting one battery at a time. Allowing for other commitments, it will be mid-1998 before the regiment exercises together again," said the 2iC, Maj Andy Astbury.

Compared with the old system, Rapier FSC is several leaps ahead in technological terms.

The towed launcher mounts eight missiles and can fire two simultaneously. It offers two warheads: an armour-piercing version to deal with fixed-wing targets and a fragmentation head for engaging cruise missiles and remotely-piloted vehicles.

"In the future, mobile air defence will be provided by the High Velocity Missile (HVM), while Rapier will be used to provide greater coverage of a battlefield area," said Maj Astbury.

"It is the most expensive equipment programme the Army has ever had and will cost more than Challenger.

**Report: Laurie Manton  
Pictures: Mike Weston**

"A single detachment, of which we are getting two dozen, costs about £25 million, but, as the Gulf War demonstrated, if an Army does not have decent air defences, then it has major problems on its hands."

The exercise, code-named Spring Centaur, was set within an ARRC general war scenario. Tensions on the Salisbury Plain salient between the fictional Westlandia and Devonia nations led to NATO multi-national formations being deployed to the region.

The gunners occupied several main defensive positions and provided air defence to convoys passing through the area.

"We have been lucky enough to get a lot of air co-operation," said Maj

Astbury. "Thirty missions were flown against us over three days. They involved Hawk, Tornado and Harrier jets and Gazelle helicopters from 666 and 658 Squadrons of the Army Air Corps.

"The regiment was also 'attacked' by two



Virtual reality: Operators wear a sophisticated electronic helmet sighting system. Where Sgt Philip Yee looks, the Rapier's radar dish follows



Making waves: Mud sprays out from this tracked Rapier as it races to take up a new position during Exercise Spring Centaur. Inset – Maj Andy Astbury, 2iC, 16 Regt

# FORCE

Falcon electronic warfare aircraft which tried to jam our surveillance radar systems."

The regiment, commanded by Lt Col Nigel Philpott, has recently taken delivery of the British Army's new Air Defence Command Information System (ADCIS) which provides weapons control orders to individual air defence weapons platforms, so allowing the safe passage of friendly aircraft.

ADCIS also increases the effectiveness of air defence forces against enemy air operations. It is designed to cope with the pace of modern air warfare, in which individual operators have to make split-second decisions on whether to open fire on aircraft entering the engagement zone.

The exercise involved the regiment's three tracked Rapier batteries – 32 (Minden); 30 (Roger's Company) and 14 (Cole's Kop) – as well as 11 (Sphinx) Headquarters Battery and the regiment's vast REME workshop.

Sgt Philip Yee, a tracked Rapier detachment commander, was full of praise for the air attack phase of the exercise.

"The aircraft over-flying our position gave my crew a chance to track their flights. It provided an excellent opportunity to practise our skills and engage live targets," he said.



Exercise despatches: Sgt Steve Stewart with one of the Harley Davidson motor cycles that have just entered British Army service. Gnr Mel Byren discusses its merits. The pannier mounted on the rear is designed for weapon stowage. An SA80 fits easily into the compartment



# One for the road for Gurkha sappers

SOLDIERS from 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers are back in Hong Kong after six weeks "hard labour" in their home country of Nepal, where they worked on a major road-building project in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Exercise Holdfast, the last such task to be undertaken by the squadron before it disbands in September, was a fitting way for the Gurkha engineers to bow out and will long be remembered in Nepal as something of a life-saver.

Villagers, some as young as eight or nine, from the remote Himalaya area of Sagarmatha trek barefoot for days to pick up essential supplies from the regional centres of Katari and Okhaldhunga. In the absence of a road they pick their way along a dry, rocky river-bed. It is a tortuous journey, made even more hazardous during the three-month monsoon season when the river bed becomes a raging torrent, the pathway a treacherously narrow track cling-

ing to the steep terrain. On average, one villager a day is swept away and drowned.

Now, thanks to the men of 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn, their journey will be shorter – and safer. As part of a plan to make all of Nepal's regional centres accessible by road, the 120 sappers worked alongside a battalion of the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) to build a 100km gravelled road to Okhaldhunga.

"Building a road is a dynamic process, particularly in Nepal," said squadron commander Maj Alistair Sheppard. "Nepal gets earthquakes and a lot of landslides, and the monsoon rains are a problem every year. A road in this terrain will be literally washed away unless it is built properly."

With only six weeks on site project officer Capt Jim Fernandes had little time to identify the most vulnerable areas before setting his men to work.

"Support Troop covered a 3km section of the road with gravel which had to be hauled up from the river bed to the site

where the men were working," said Capt Fernandes.

"A Troop identified an area where there had been a landslide and the road was in danger of slipping away during the next monsoon.

"They constructed a 20m-long, 8m-high gabion step retaining wall to support the road and then, on the gabion slope, we used a technique known as bio-engineering – the laying of a jute net which was pinned down on the slope and planted with grass seedlings to encourage revegetation and to stop the rain washing it away."

Further up the road, B Troop built a masonry breast wall to support the slope above the track while C Troop constructed a mini-causeway on a site where a gully crossed the road.

"The exercise tested our military engineering skills, leadership and command and control," said Capt Fernandes. "One of the great things about having troop tasks was that each troop commander had his own site, his own challenges and his own problems. It really tested the whole squadron."

Maj Sheppard explained: "It gave sappers the opportunity to take charge of 20 to 30 local civilian labourers and then go away and get on with the job. In all we employed 120 civilians."

Safety was paramount. During the 2½ years RNA engineers have been building the road they have lost nine men to landslides in the monsoon season.

"Regardless of where in the world we are operating we observe normal health and safety practices," said Capt Fernandes. "Short bursts of heavy rain were our biggest threat. All our soldiers wore hard hats and luminous vests while on site and luckily we had no major injuries or accidents."

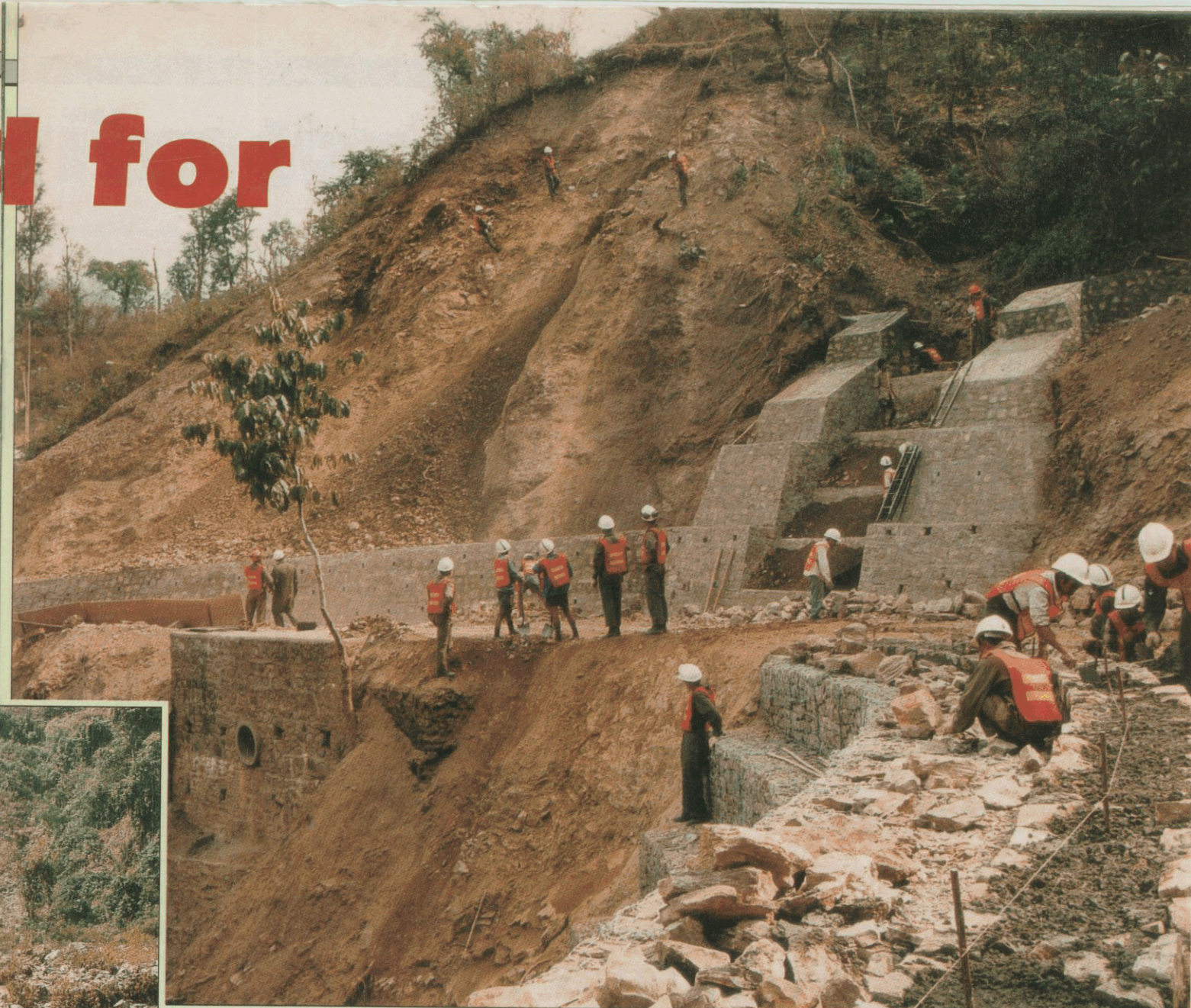
As a precaution the squadron took two combat medical teams who supported the sappers and were also on hand to offer medical treatment to villagers who went to the Gurkha's camp looking for help.

Rocky path: Villagers pick their way along a dry river-bed. During the monsoon season it becomes a raging torrent and on average one person a day is swept away and drowned

Story and Pictures: JSPRS Hong Kong



Pleased to see you: Members of the squadron enjoy a break with children from a nearby village



Built to last: Sappers of A Troop construct a gabion step retaining wall, while B Troop work on the supporting wall above the track



Left – Rough passage: A Land Rover negotiates a tough mountain track

Working in such a remote area presented the quartermaster, Capt Les Thomas, with several unusual problems: 29 tons of freight had to be flown from Hong Kong to Katmandu and then taken by road to the site.

"We also needed a lot of vehicles and plant," said Capt Thomas, "and these came from four different sources. We borrowed Land Rovers and four-tonners from British Gurkhas Nepal (BGN) and hired other vehicles such as the two Toyota Landcruisers we used."

"We borrowed from the RNA and hired other plant from the East Region Roads

Maintenance Project, an Overseas Development Agency-funded project, based at Dharan."

Capt Thomas was also responsible for the advance party which established the sappers' camp – flooded by heavy rain the day before the main party arrived. "We still set up the accommodation tents, field kitchens and hot water," he added, "and we even managed to rig up a satellite dish so we could watch TV."

As well as being beneficial to the people of Nepal, Exercise Holdfast provided something of a bonus to the Gurkha sappers, some of whom were able to visit their

families for the first time in three years. Several wives travelled to nearby Katari, where they stayed during the project, while other Gurkhas travelled to see their families during the week of R and R enjoyed by the squadron before its return to Hong Kong.

The road-building project is now in its third year and although the RNA's rough pilot track extends 42km – almost half way – it will take another eight years to complete. Exercise Holdfast was, however, the last time engineers from 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn would be able to make a personal contribution.

"The project is a huge task but our time there provided the squadron with a superb training exercise in a remote and challenging environment, and we achieved quite a bit during the short, but very busy, six-week visit," said Maj Sheppard.

"Our disbandment in September will be a sad occasion but I am happy and proud that my men were able to return to their home country and contribute so much during our final task."



## Paper points

More than 98 per cent of the claims from former Servicewomen compulsorily discharged on grounds of pregnancy have been settled, at an average cost of just under £11,000 each. Total cost is expected to reach approximately £55 million. The deadline for submitting claims passed on May 1 last year.

By mid-March, about 400 Gulf War veterans had been assessed for a possible Gulf-related illness. "Their diagnoses continue to show a pattern of recognised illnesses that are a type and prevalence expected in the general population." A research programme, expected to last three years, is being commissioned into the health problems of Gulf veterans and their families.

About 2,500 surplus properties are expected to be disposed of as part of the initial sale of the married quarters estate. Sale arrangements in subsequent years will provide for the release over the next 25 years of a guaranteed minimum number of further surpluses by sale, letting or re-development.

A profit-share regime is proposed which will allow the taxpayer to benefit from the enhanced value where disposals are particularly successful.

During 1995, Service bomb disposal teams investigated 3,608 incidents outside Northern Ireland. Of these, 3,241 involved conventional munitions disposal, 37 were improvised explosive devices and 330 were false alarms or hoaxes.

# The best of friends

THE EXTENT of British involvement with former Warsaw Pact adversaries since the end of the Cold War is outlined in the 1996 Defence Estimates.

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo says: "The United Kingdom is expanding its efforts to help Russia embed the results of democratic and economic reform into a stable framework for the management of defence."

Contacts had been established through channels which included NATO and its Partnership for Peace programme, the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) and projects arranged on a bilateral basis through the UK's Outreach programme.

"Over the last year, the number of activities carried out through these channels has continued to grow, allowing British and

Russian officers to share their wealth of experience and expertise in an increasingly cordial atmosphere and making an important contribution to mutual understanding," said Mr Portillo.

Notable features of the 1995 Outreach programme included the visit of 37 young, middle-ranking Russian officers to the United Kingdom for two weeks, working and living with their British colleagues; and the visit of the Chief of the Defence Staff to Moscow and St Petersburg.

The Army had helped re-train 500 Russian officers to re-enter civilian life and a visit to Russia by a group of young British officers is planned this year.

Last year UK forces exercised in Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Romania, and negotiations are in progress for the use of Drawsko Pomorskie exercise range in

Poland and the Lvov training area in Ukraine.

The number of courses run by the Defence School of Languages available to military personnel from central and eastern European countries has been increased due to demand.



Apache: British Army's largest single procurement programme

## Apache: attack helicopter for the millennium

EQUIPMENT on order for the Army includes 67 Westland Apache attack helicopters.

At about £2.5 billion it is the largest single equipment programme on the Army's books. The Apache, which will replace Lynx, is expected to be in service in the year 2000.

Also on order are:

- 29 Vehicle-Launched Scatterable Mine Systems, to enter service in 1999;

- 8,000 light and medium utility Land Rovers, and 800 Land Rover medium mobility battlefield ambulances, expected to enter service later this year.

## Hong Kong withdrawal on track for June 1997

BRITAIN's military presence in Hong Kong is due to end on June 30 next year when the final elements of the garrison will be withdrawn.

Until then the role of the garrison remains to assist the Hong Kong Government in maintaining stability and security, and in sustaining confidence in British sovereignty in the territory until 1997 while helping to bring about an orderly transfer of sovereignty to the People's Republic of China.

The garrison is now concentrated at four core sites within the territory. The White Paper says the next phase of the withdrawal, including the replacement of the Gurkha resident battalion with one from the United Kingdom, will take place towards the end of this year.

Discussions are going on between the garrison and the Chinese Ministry of National Defence on arrangements for the transfer of defence responsibility.

## More set to leave by next April

FOLLOWING the completion of redundancy programmes by April 1 last year, the Defence Costs Study and efficiency programmes generated a need for more redundancies in 1995-96 and 1996-97.

For the Army, up to 17 major generals, 91 brigadiers and colonels, 51 other spe-

cialist officers and 120 soldiers will leave on redundancy terms on April 1 next year.

Trained strength of the Army is about 104,000, excluding the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service battalions, a shortfall of 4,000. The shortages lie primarily in junior ranks of the RAC, RA and Infantry.

## Joint way ahead

MANY of the operations on which Britain's Armed Forces will be engaged in future will be conducted in coalition with NATO allies and other partners, says the White Paper.

With the effective conduct of operations depending crucially on all three Services working together as a joint force, the Defence Costs Study had generated initiatives intended to enhance interoperability.

These included the creation of a permanent Joint Headquarters (officially opened at Northwood on April 3), and the formation of a Joint Rapid Deployment Force (based on 3 Commando and 5 Airborne Brigades and on schedule to become operational in August).

### HIGH-INTENSITY CONFLICT

"Our experience is that forces structured for high-intensity conflict are, with training and equipment enhancements as necessary, readily adaptable to lower-intensity operations; and that it is much more difficult to adapt less capable forces for high-intensity conflict," says the White Paper.

Operations in former Yugoslavia had shown the ability of capable, all-round forces to respond to the changing nature of the operation, and particularly to an escalating situation in which "access to combat capabilities for self-defence" demonstrated resolve and helped to put a stop to the escalation.

"We do not therefore intend to create forces with only limited capabilities and training, for example for peacekeeping operations."

On capability, the White Paper states that Britain's Armed Forces have never been better equipped.

## SAS authors warned off

STORIES about the UK's Special Forces will be resisted by the MoD if it is believed they are potentially damaging.

The White Paper says the Government's first priority is the preservation of Special Forces' operational capabilities and the safety of their personnel. Where an official account of a Special Forces operation can be given without detriment to these capabilities, it will be allowed.

"However," says the White Paper, "the interests of national security will always come first and, where necessary, the Department will pursue all appropriate legal options to prevent the publication of information about the Special Forces which it considers to be potentially damaging."

The warning follows an increase in the number of books written by former members of the SAS.

## Tour plot intervals

THE MoD has long held the view that average intervals between operational tours should be about 24 months. Last year operational tour intervals were 60 months for the RAC, 48 months for the RA, 22 months for the Infantry and 11 months for the RE.

On the basis of current commitments, the 1996-97 projections are 25 months for the RAC, 24 for the RA, 20 for the Infantry and 12 for the RE.

## On course

During 1995-96, about 4,270 students from 117 nations attended military training courses in the UK. On January 1, 353 British Service personnel, including 226 from the Army, were on loan in 22 different countries.

## Out-flanked

Nearly 50,000 items of military hardware were destroyed or converted to non-military uses during the three years of the reduction phase of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty which ended in November. Central and eastern European countries reduced nearly 34,000 items. UK personnel made more than 100 verification inspections in central and eastern European states.

Serious concerns included the so-called "flank issue", with Russia wishing to station more military equipment in the flank zones than allowed under the Treaty; outstanding equipment in Belarus and reductions associated with the Black Sea Fleet in the Crimea; and the treatment of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The operation of the CFE Treaty is about to be reviewed.

## In the black

Last year the Defence budget was under-spent by about £500 million, mostly because of a lower than anticipated spend on equipment and spares. Some projects proceeded more slowly than expected.

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# Loyal Gurkhas are a priceless asset

I NOTE from recent UK press reports and my sea-mail edition of *Soldier* (Feb 19) that the Army is so short of recruits that it is spending large amounts of the Defence budget to try to fill the shortfall.

This includes £250 "bounties" to Servicemen to persuade them to "sign up a

mate". During the cutbacks of the 1960s it was seen fit to amalgamate regiments such as the Seaforth and Cameron Highlanders, both of whom were so up to strength that they were knocking back recruits.

While those two full-strength regiments became one excellent regiment, several English regiments which could barely field a couple of rugby teams were allowed to remain on the Army's orbit.

Options for Change more or less repeated the procedure, further exacerbating the situation by marrying up the Queen's Own Highlanders with the "recruits nae" problem, pal" Gordon Highlanders.

## 'CLEARANCES'

All this amounts to a modern equivalent, by stealth, of the Highland clearances of the 18th century.

On top of all this it has been seen fit to cut the strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas from 7,000 to a miserable 2,500 men. With the Gurkhas' new reduced quota, they are having to turn away about 375 excellent men for every recruit taken.

The loyal Gurkhas are Britain's most cost-effective troops, quite apart from being, arguably, her best. They do not have their families with them in the UK, with the associated responsibilities and extra costs.

Gurkhas serve for a minimum of 15 years, compared

with the average 3.7 years for British soldiers. Thus they save millions on wastage rates and related expenditure.

When they leave, the Government, due to the tripartite agreement with Nepal and India, has to pay them only "peppercorn" pensions. Another huge saving.

For example: the only Gurkha to get into the Australian Army, as a sergeant, having retired as a warrant officer of 20 years' service with 10th Gurkhas, gets £16-£18 per month, depending on exchange rates. This just affords him one small can of beer a day. Luckily, the Australians top this up!

The Australian Army is in the same very under-strength state, with wastage rates as high as 35 per cent. Despite requests, through me, from many highly-trained, about-to-be-made-redundant Gurkhas wishing to join the Australian Army, Australia will not bend her immigration rules to allow them more easily to join. They would save the Australian government squillions in wastage and training costs.

To my mind this so-called "clever country" (Prime Minister Bob Hawke, circa 1992) is about as stupid and lacking in economic *chutzpah* as you lot back there in the present disunited United Kingdom. — **George S Mackenzie, late 7 GR, Leura, New South Wales.**

## Photograph reveals our King's Corporal

ON THE subject of the rank of King's Corporal a recent correspondent said something to the effect that "many people remembered meeting one but none could recall the details".

My photograph of 51 Squad, 3 OTB, Royal Signals, Whitby, taken on May 7, 1945 shows [enlarged for illustration] our very much respected King's Corporal R A Cos-

grove, Middlesex Yeomanry (drafted into the Signals), sporting his crown above two stripes. You need a magnifying glass to see it!

I will draw a veil over what happened to the other smart-looking soldiers in the photograph the very next day, which was, of course, VE Day. — **L A Griffith, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.**

## Scottish Rifles wore Sam Browne braces

ON the subject of Sam Browne Braces (March 4) Mr E H Lewis asked if regiments other than the 43rd/52nd (Oxf and Bucks) wore them.

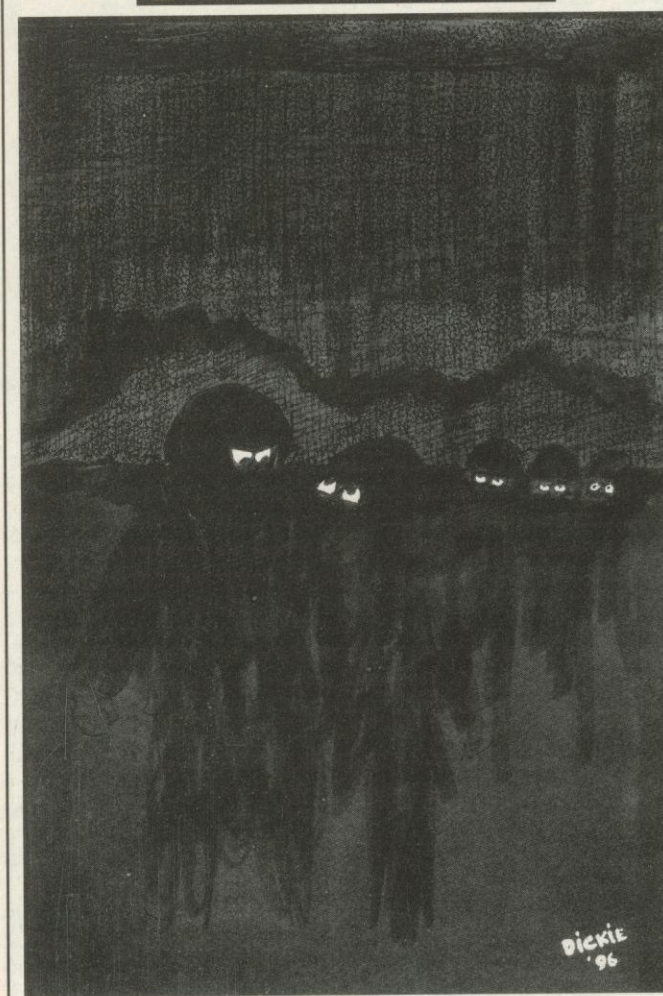
I did my training at the Gordon Barracks, Brig O Don in Aberdeen early in 1944. The instructors were of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). These fine men taught us well and imparted some of the love of their regiment to us, including the unusual arrangement of their Sam Brownes.

Sure enough, in the front row at Church Parade on Sunday were resplendent officers, in trews, Glengaries, and Sam Brownes with two straps. "Just like the cavalry," said the instructors. — **George B Crawford, Canton, Ohio.**

□ A 9ft model of the River Kwai bridge has been dedicated in our garden as a memorial to all who died on Burma's Railway of Death. The model was built by Billy Cole, a disabled craftsman. An embroidered tablecloth recording the ceremony is to be raffled at £1 a ticket for the Royal British Legion and other ex-Service charities. Readers can contact me. — **Kevin Fletcher (ex-RAMC), 51 Sunnyside Road, Great Massingham, Kings Lynn PE32 2JH.**



## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"No, Jenkins, I have the map . . . YOU should have brought the night vision binoculars . . ."

Watching the watchers — Pages 16-19

# No appeasement — on either side

THE validity of a medal for the Canal Zone cannot be in doubt, as the main objections of the establishment have been eroded over the years by Col Newton, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall and others.

The only remaining objection is solely political.

The Egyptian paramilitary who defended the Police Barracks at Ismailia in January 1952 were in communication with the Minister of the Interior in Cairo.

His orders were to "fight to the last" (Gregory Blaxland, *Objective Egypt*). As the engagement came to an end I was situated to the rear of the barracks. The evidence as to the degree to which his orders had been carried out were the dead bodies laid out in rows on

the ground (ibid, 50 killed and 100 wounded).

The fact remains that "politically we do not want to upset the Egyptians" could not be further from the truth. There was no appeasement that day, on either side. — **Ray Gardiner (ex-80th LAA Regt RA), Cookhill, Worcs.**

IT IS gratifying to know that Col Newton is still wielding the cudgel over the Suez medal.

I was posted to the area in August 1952 during service with the Sherwood Foresters, the battalion taking over from the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

I have written to my MP but the reply has been as negative as the many received by other correspondents and implies

# Scorpions and snakes and big yellow spiders

AS ONE who was stationed with PAIFORCE in Iraq from November 1942 to January 1946 I read with considerable interest the article about the UN observers and headed "Snakes, scorpions and kamikaze locusts" (March 18).

In all the years I was stationed there the only scorpions I saw were three or four very small ones under my row of shoes one morning. I never saw a live snake, but did come across a snake skin which had been shed.

A colleague was stung by a scorpion and had quite a bad arm, but he survived. Our Indian MO would always ask the colour of the scorpion and if you said it was white, he would tell you it was the black ones you had to worry about. If black, then it was the white ones you had to watch!

We regularly saw very large yellow spiders, almost half the size of a saucer, and it was after I had been out there some time

that I found out they were harmless. However, I saw men fresh out from home jump up on chairs in the mess to avoid them.

I certainly agree with the temperatures mentioned in the article and well recall the terrible humidity when the date-ripening winds sprang up.

Sandstorms occurred every day at one time. It did not often rain but when it did there was much flooding.

We had a daily ice issue for the ration store tent. Butter from Australia was in tins; in summer you would spoon it out, in winter dig it out.

Strangely enough, despite the conditions, there was little moaning and we were a happy crowd. — **F R Beville, Reading, Berks.**

● Mr Beville, just turned 80, wrote very colourfully and at great length of his time in Iraq and Jordan. Sadly, lack of space prohibits a fuller account. — **Editor.**

## For the record . . .

### Touch of distemper

THE Commandant of the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, shown in the photograph and quoted in the text of the feature in the May 13 issue, is Col Andrew Roche, and not, as stated, Brig Paul Jepson, who is Director of Veterinary and Remount Services, Aldershot.

A touch of distemper in the word processor also demoted Capt Damien Bush, senior veterinary officer at the centre's hospital, to the rank of corporal. Our apologies to all concerned.

### Light Brigade

REF J W Bell's letter (April 1), five regiments of the Light Brigade advanced ("673 officers and men"). The 17th Lancers and 13th Light Dragoons in the first line and the 11th Hussars in the intermediate line moved off. The 4th Light Dragoons and 8th Hussars in the second line followed some 200 yards behind. "Some way further back" came the Royals and Greys in support. — **Maj (Retd) C G Owen, Regimental Secretary, Home HQ, QRH, London.**



# Six of the best

**Masters of Battle** by John Wilcox. Arms and Armour, hardback, £19.99.

FROM fighting men over the past 1,200 years or so, author John Wilcox has selected six classes of warrior which, he claims, were "the best at their trade the world has ever seen".

Chances of anyone agreeing with his star six are remote indeed, but they are his personal choice and he makes out a strong case for them in the entertaining *Masters of Battle*.

His super six are the Vikings, the Longbowmen of England (and Wales?), the Riflemen of Saratoga, the Zulus of Isandhlwana, the Kaiser's U-boat captains and Hitler's Panzer commanders.

A mixed bag, but in each case the author says he picked them for pedestal positions in his personal temple of fame because by their deeds they changed the course of history in ways which possibly affect the world even to this day.

As Wilcox concedes, it's all so subjective. His choice of two German warrior classes is puzzling, partly because both were on the losing side. — JM

## YOUR GUIDE TO BANDS ON THE BOOKSHELF

### These words make music

THOSE wishing to increase their knowledge of military music through the written word as well as through listening will be interested in the following list of suggested reading.

It has been compiled for *Soldier* by Maj Richard Powell, UK chairman of the International Military Music Society.

Almost all the books mentioned, plus both new and secondhand recordings, are available from Discurio, 9 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HN (tel: 0171-828 7963).

**Music of the Scottish Regiments** by David Murray, Pentland Press (1994). A fine work and fundamental to understanding British military music in all its vagaries, it also delivers the detail of Scottish regiments' music promised in the title. Probably the essential book of military music.

**The History of British Military Bands** by Gordon and Alwyn Turner, Spellmount (1994). A cornucopia of military bands, their directors of music and men. Volumes 1 and 2 are available, with volume 3 to follow. Each volume contains a CD of marchpasts played by the band of the Royal Corps of Signals and these have to be worth £10 each. This is a beautifully assembled series at £60 per volume and is essential

when referring to bands, composers or their histories.

**What a Lovely War** by Roy Palmer, Michael Joseph, London (1990). Fascinating study of wartime Service songs from the Boer War to the present day. (Separate cassette VT121, from John Howson, 44 Old Street, Haughley, Suffolk IP14 3NX.)

**Colonel Bogey to the Fore** (1991). A goodly and sympathetic biography of Kenneth Alford, who made his name as Bandmaster, 2nd Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and went on to be a most respected Director of Music, Royal Marines. **A Life on the Ocean Wave** (1990). Another from the same pen but this time on one of Britain's more popular exports, the bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. Both of these books are by John Trendell, published by Blue Band Magazine.

**Music in State Clothing** by George Lawn (1995). Goodly study of all aspects of the Life Guards band.

**They Shall Have Music** by Beryl Williams (1995). Women's Auxiliary Air Force/Women's Royal Air Force bands. Includes mention of corps of drums, pipe bands, trumpet bands and the eventual WRAF Central Band. From the author, 23 Regent Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8NN.

**The Highland Bagpipe and its Music** by Roderick Cannon, John Donald (1988). Bagpipe book most likely to satisfy the needs of specialist and non-specialists alike, especially when read in conjunction with Lt Col Murray's *Music of the Scottish Regiments*, above.

#### SOCIETIES

Maj Powell has also supplied the following notes on organisations for students and aficionados:

**International Military Music Society:** Hon Sec, Eileen Pearson, 76a Lawrence Road, Hove, BN3 5QD. **Corps of Drums Society:** Hon Sec, R J Davenport, 50 Station Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7DJ. There are no equivalents in the Highland bagpipe or bugle worlds, albeit that some of the bugle tradition is covered by the Corps of Drums Society. For serious students of Highland bagpipe history there is the **Piobaireachd Society**, c/o The College of Piping, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH.

# Great War, great poetry . . .

DR Martin Stephen seeks to examine the myths concerning the generals, officers and men who fought in the Great War, the poets who wrote about it and the tactics used in the conflict.

"My aim," he writes, "is to look anew at the greatest poets and authors of the war (such as Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Paul Fussell) with a view to establishing whether or not the present orthodox view of their merit is justified and seeing if anything new can be added to our understanding of them."

He also examines several well-known authors (such as Edward Thomas) who have not normally been associated with the war and several who have been clearly misrepresented, as well as truly popular poetry, such as that by John Oxenham, "Woodbine Willie" and those who wrote for the

*Wipers Times*.

In addition he includes the largely neglected poetry by women and the largely unknown poetry of A P Herbert (later Sir Alan Herbert MP), who wrote for *Punch* such gems as *After the Battle*:

*We have done well; we like to hear it said.*

*Say it, and then, for God's sake, say no more.*

*Fight, if you must, fresh battles far ahead,*

*But keep them dark behind your chateau door.*

For reasons of space he had to omit any examination of the considerable body of poetry written about campaigns outside Europe, and the war at sea.

He also examines the myths of pre-war England, in particular those relating to the public

**The Price of Pity: Poetry, History and Myth in the Great War** by Martin Stephen. Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

schools, pre-war poetry, and the so-called Edwardian summer.

Dr Stephen took a first degree in both English and History, so it's not surprising he has included an excellent chapter on Gen Haig and his generals.

"Why was it," he writes, "that when I read about Haig as a historian the conclusions seemed to clash with what I would have felt were I reading about him as a student of English Literature."

He commences with Sassoon's poem *The General* (probably Sir John French):

*"He's a cheery old card," grunted Henry to Jack*

*As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.*

*But he did for them both by his plan of attack.*

Dr Stephen concludes: "His crime was to launch attacks that were wasteful of soldiers' lives and which, until 1918, did not bring victory; his real crime was to be seen not to care about these losses and to be the agent whereby British society was brought to terms with the reality of modern war."

This book is mostly about the poets and poetry of the war and no one reading it will, I am sure, fail to seek out the full context of many of the poems from which only extracts have been given, but there is no need in the case of Wilfrid Gibson's three-liner *Peter Proudfoot*:

*He cleaned out the middens for his daily bread;*

*War took him overseas and in a bed*

*Of lilies-of-the-valley dropt him dead.*

— PSN

# Quacking good war story ended in tears

IN A stream of books concerned with the deadly serious aspects of battle or the overall tactical and strategical conduct of war, it comes as a refreshing interlude to find a story about the humane and compassionate instincts that can emerge in the stress of conflict.

The book is *Corporal Haggis* by Frank and Julian Akers-Douglas and it is based on the true tales told to Julian by her father, Lord Bruntisfield who, as John Warrender, was a tank commander with The Royal Scots Greys.

It is a tribute to one of his crew whose war began with the invasion of Italy and ended on the Baltic coast.

Haggis was no ordinary tankie; he was, in fact, a Muscovy duck or, more properly, a drake.

As Lord Bruntisfield writes in the preface, Haggis was a "very real and valuable crew member. A warm-blooded, trusting little creature with whom to share fears, fatigues and anxieties - a beating heart, to comfort and be comforted."

Haggis was found and "captured" in an Italian barn by the Sherman crew who had every intention of making him a welcome and tasty complement to their ration packs, but before the deed could be done the tank was ordered into action.

Afterwards, as the crew relaxed, they found the bird preening his feathers on the pile of spent shell cases. Culinary desires were forgotten; "they gazed in amazement and knew, of course, that he had become their friend. The duck knew it too."

He became the special friend of Smudger Smith, the Sherman's driver, and over the next 20 months they became constant companions, with Haggis travelling mostly on Smudger's knees while he was driving, only rarely to be distracted by a female duck as they progressed through Italy.

In towns and villages Haggis would sit on the tank's turret to acknowledge the cheers from



Haggis, as depicted on the cover of the book by Frank and Julian Akers-Douglas wearing the cap badge of the Royal Scots Greys

the inhabitants. Promoted to corporal with two stripes clipped to his wings, he proudly wore the cap badge of the Royal Scots Greys attached to a black boot lace round his neck, together with the ribbons of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Italy Star. He wore these adornments on formal occasions.

"At other times, members of the crew would stroke and caress Haggis in their strong arms and he loved this attention. Little did he realise how important he had become to the crew." When the time came

for the unit to return to Scotland in preparation for the invasion of Normandy, Haggis was forced, to his disgust, to

spend the ten-day voyage shut in a wooden crate.

When they arrived back at Shildhall Dock the soldiers were confronted with the little problem of smuggling their duck through Customs.

This was achieved by making him drunk on whisky and hiding him in the middle of Smudger's bed roll. Inevitably, he awoke protesting at the inopportune moment, causing the crew to sing and

shout raucously to disguise his quacking.

Haggis accompanied the crew through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and took part in all the unit's actions. "Miraculously, neither the driver nor the duck had been even slightly hurt through the whole campaign since the invasion."

The war ended for Haggis and the crew at Wismar on the Baltic coast. In the victory parade through the town "there was Haggis perched on top of his tank . . . feeling every bit the conquering hero alongside his comrades."

Apart from The Greys, the Canadian Parachute Regiment had also arrived at Wismar. Of course, none of the Canadians knew of Haggis and when he appeared through a hedge and into their lines, they assumed he was just another duck from a local farm and could be considered a prize of war.

When Smudger Smith arrived on the scene he found that his friend, who had survived so much, had lost his life for the same reason it had very nearly ended by Smudger's own hand 20 months earlier.

Just outside Wismar stands a 60ft oak tree which marks the spot where, on a sad day in May 1945, a very special grave was dug. Over this was placed a metal plaque, made from the top of an ammunition box and inscribed:

A DUCK SERVED AS ACTING UNPAID CORPORAL HAGGIS, A SCOTS GREY OF THE 1939 - 45 WAR.

The book, profusely illustrated with drawings by Angelika Elsebach, succeeds in awakening a sharp sense of memory in readers old enough to recall events of those days, so long ago and far away.

To others it acts as a reminder that amid chaos and bloodshed there is always a better side to man and beast. Call it comradeship or compassion, it matters not.

Or should it be said it matters a great deal? — B J



## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 25, 1946

### HAIR RAISING

Hundreds of pounds of hair from Army barbers all over Britain is being put to a good cause by a factory in Hackney, London. The hair is boiled in bubbling cauldrons at the premises of Ashe Laboratories to make a substance known as cystine - used in the manufacture of penicillin.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1971

### HAILE DELIGHTED

Nearly 3,000 Ethiopians turned out to watch the band and pipes and drums of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers march through Asmara - first time they had seen a similar parade since British troops were stationed in Eritrea 20 years ago, before its amalgamation with Ethiopia. Emperor Haile Selassie - himself a British Army honorary field marshal - had invited the musicians.

# Bring on the Royal Marines

THERE will be a relatively rare opportunity for military music enthusiasts to hear and watch the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London, next month.

Arranged to honour the Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General of the Royal Marines, on his 75th birthday, the ceremony will be staged on the evenings of June 11, 12 and 13.

Prince Philip will take the salute on the final evening.

Tickets for the June 13 performance, to which the Queen will accompany the Duke in the State carriages with a Captain's Escort of the Household Cavalry, have sold quickly, although there are a limited number of £10 seats left.

The RM Massed Bands last performed the Beating Retreat ceremony in 1991, and next month's show could well be the last of this millennium. All five RM bands, comprising about 300 musicians, will be on parade.

Receipts from ticket, programme and advertising will go to RN and RM charities. If individual purchasers quote their support for SSAFA or King George's Fund for Sailors, 15 per cent of the seat price will go directly to that charity.

For details of how to book, see the advertisement opposite.

# Veterans return to Imjin River

by Jim Jacobs, a gunner during the Korean War

THE IMJIN River Battle, fought in Korea in April 1951 by two British battalions and one from Belgium against the Chinese 63rd Army of three divisions, is commemorated annually at Solma-ri, the scene of the Glosters' defiant stand against overwhelming odds.

Last month I was privileged to attend the ceremony with fellow members of the British Korean Veterans Association. Also present were representatives of Hong Kong Garrison, including a British Army padre and Gurkha pipe major and bugler, headed by GOC Hong Kong, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton.

The moving ceremony, speeches and wreath-laying completed, scholarships donated by major British businesses in Korea were awarded to students of Kyonggi and Choksung High Schools.

A fine resumé of the battle's progress, 45 years ago, was related by Brig Colin Parr, Defence Attaché, and a good friend of the BKVA.

Following the formal events, a buffet lunch and bar was quickly surrounded. As I mingled with the guests, drink in one hand, food in the other, a senior American officer approached, hand held out.

Attempting to shake one of mine, he opened with "Hi, I am General Norwood. It is my pleasure to meet you, Sir."

"Sir", to me, who, 45 years earlier had been but a lowly gunner

in a mortar troop. I enjoyed my 15 minutes of fame.

With lunch and socialising complete, we moved to Castle Hill, from where a panoramic view was obtained of the start point of the attack by 30,000 Chinese infantry on April 22, 1951. Brig Parr, who organised a splendid day, provided an excellent account of events as they had unfolded, as viewed from that same hilltop by A Company, 1 Glosters.

On the following day we attended similar ceremonies held for our Australian, Canadian and New Zealand colleagues at their respective memorials at Naechon and Mok-dong-ri, in the shadow of Hills 677 and 504, where they had fought with great gallantry.

A short march through Kap'young town led us to the combined Commonwealth Memorial, where we were pleased to be joined by local veteran groups who had fought in their war for survival.

Revisiting a remarkably improved country, last seen in a state of utter devastation, hosted by one of the most generous and hospitable races on this earth, was a marvellous occasion.

It was good to be there once more, in comradeship with our colleagues from the Commonwealth, with whom we had served 45 years earlier, when we were still full of the enthusiasm of youth.

For the British veterans the final day in Korea was one of quiet contemplation, each alone with personal thoughts during a visit to the UN Military Cemetery at Pusan. It was a sentimental time as headstones were sought of those who remain faces still, and voices, remembered over 45 years.

We never forgot the Korea we knew in war. Like the smell of the earth, the colour of the rocks, the feel of the rain, you don't forget.



THEN: Self-portrait of Gnr Jim Jacobs, circa 1951, with 4.2in mortar in Korea



NOW: Jim Jacobs pictured last month near the original gun position of 170 Mortar Battery during the Imjin River battle

When I left Seoul (Kimpo) Airport, the immigration officer paid particular attention to my departure card. The reason stated for my visit to his country was entered "Korean War Veteran Visit". Handing back my passport, he leaned across and said: "Thank you for coming to our assistance in 1951, and thank you for coming back."

It made a touching finish to a perfect week.

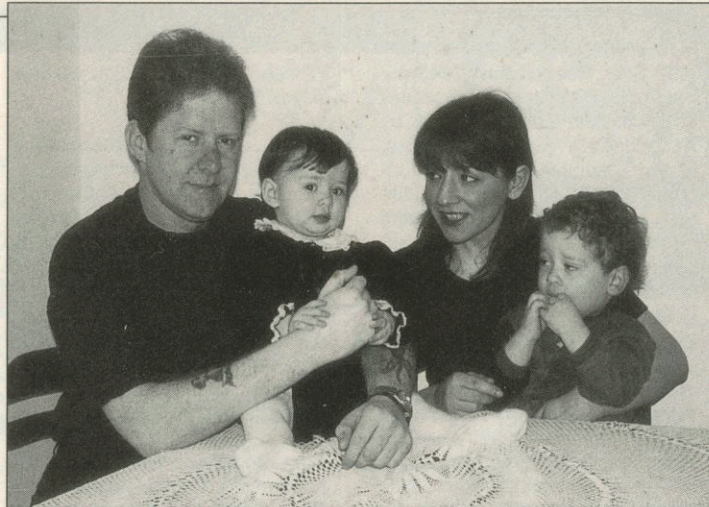
# Gary's Legion of helpers

Former RMP Gary Thom, hurt when a horse rolled on him, is enjoying some relief from pain thanks to hydrotherapy bath system paid for by the Royal British Legion.

Gary (37), pictured with his family, served with the Redcaps from 1976 to 1980. A year before he left the Army he was thrown at the Army Riding School at Aldershot.

Although he appeared to make a good recovery, it was found that a number of vertebrae in his back had been seriously damaged. Last year he was given a 40 per cent war pension.

Although Gary can walk with difficulty, his condition can,



unfortunately, only get worse. The bath system will allow him to ease the continuous pain and reduce wear and tear on his spine so that the condition will deteriorate more slowly.

The Royal British Legion bought the hydrotherapy bath for £1,353 with the help of the

Army Benevolent Fund, the Red Cross and St John of Jerusalem, and the Poppy Appeal.

Gary is studying for a law degree and wants to qualify as a solicitor. He is also about to take an exam to qualify as a driving instructor.

# Raiders of the Greek SAS

OUR feature on the origins of the wording of the Kohima epitaph ("The Greeks had a word for it", *Soldier* Feb 5) stirred other memories of Greece in reader Harry "Poppy" Harris.

They were of the Greek Sacred Squadron which fought alongside the SAS-SBS (Force 142) in the Aegean Islands during 1944-45. A signaller, he was a member of the 400-strong raiding force which terrorised the German army occupying the Dodecanese, Aegean, Cyclades and Sporades groups of islands.

The little-known unit's quite astounding successes were overshadowed by the battles going on in Europe, says Poppy, now living an altogether quieter life in Essex.

Led by Brig D J I Turnbull, the raiders made 381 attacks on 70 German-held islands, destroying 125 ships, wireless and cable installations, and fuel and ammunition dumps during what was a nightly schedule of mayhem.

The 1st Squadron of the Sacred Regiment was formed in 370 BC to fight the Spartans at Thebes. It was wiped out, as was the 2nd Squadron formed in 1821 to fight

the Turks. Its third incarnation was in November 1942 as the Greek Sacred Squadron of the SAS, and it went on to fight with great success alongside Turnbull's raiders.

Vastly outnumbered by German garrisons, the British forces, backed by 1,200 members of the Greek Sacred Squadron, vindicated their audacious tactics of striking swiftly and silently before melting into the night.

The raiders inflicted 4,131 known casualties and themselves lost 29 killed, 35 wounded and 39 captured. Their activities pinned down more than 40,000 enemy troops and prevented them from playing any part in the Italian campaign or, after D-Day, from reinforcing France and Belgium.

The 3rd Greek Sacred Regiment SAS was disbanded on July 21, 1945. A record of its achievements closes with the words of Pericles:

*Take these men as your example, like them, know that Prosperity belongs to the free, and that Freedom is the sure possession of those who have the courage to defend it.*

## NOT LONDON...

ITALY campaign veterans: Don't go to London on May 18-19 for the annual Beating Retreat, reception and parade... it's all happening in Portsmouth!

A misunderstanding resulted in the venue for the Italy Star Association 1943-45 parade weekend being incorrectly publicised as London in these pages.

National chairman Maurice Cheadle says it is definitely taking place at Portsmouth Guildhall. The parade will be reviewed by the Association President, Col W K Pryke, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, and the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

# Early days for BAOR

DID you serve in Germany with the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) in 1946? Do you remember serving with the Army and waiting for your wife and family to join you - or perhaps you were the wife of an officer, packing your bags for Germany in the summer of that year to go and join your husband?

If so, BBC Radio would like to hear from you. *Backtrack*, a daily series due to start on July 8, will look at the news of the same day 50 years previously.

Radio 4 is interested in hearing what it was like to be a BAOR family living in Germany in 1946. You can telephone researcher Liz Senior on 0161-244 4249 or write to her at Room 2121, New Broadcasting House, Oxford Road, Manchester M60 1SJ.

## ART SOCIETY REMINDER:

Handing-in day for the 63rd London exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society is May 24. The event is being staged in the Lady Butler galleries at the National Army Museum, Chelsea.

Details from Sqn Ldr J Ashton on 01494 440427.

# BEATING RETREAT BY THE MASSED BANDS OF HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES

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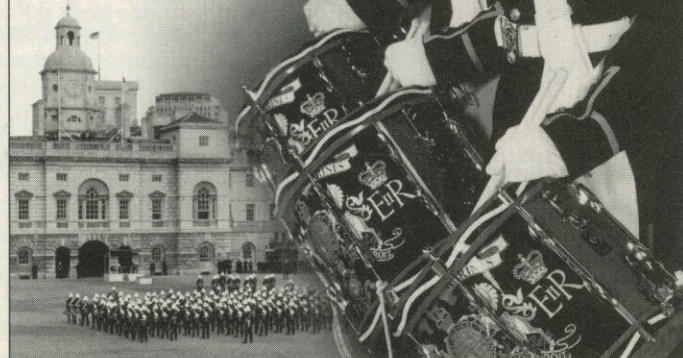
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## DATES

## May

**25-27:** Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

**25-27:** Overlord 96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.

**30-June 6:** Armed Forces Art Society 63rd exhibition, National Army Museum, Chelsea.

## June

**3:** Military band spectacular in aid of SSAFA, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, 7.45pm. Tickets £5 (payable to Greater London TAVRA) from Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY.

**5-6:** Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130. Salutes to be taken by Princess Margaret (June 5) and the Duchess of Gloucester (June 6). Tickets, £10, £8 and £5, from 0171-414 2271.

**11, 12, 13:** Beating Retreat by Royal Marines on Horse Guards Parade to mark Captain General's 75th birthday, 6.15pm. Tickets from 01705 547205.

**15:** RLC at Home. Displays, demonstrations and sideshows at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, 2pm-6pm.

**15:** Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

**15-21:** Weymouth annual international military and veterans' festival.

**23:** Colchester Garrison Country Day, Fingringhoe Ranges, including 24 AB Bde military display and music by Minden Band, Corps of Drums, 1 R Anglian. Proceeds to ABF, SSAFA and local charity.

**29-30:** SSAFA Lincolnshire fund-raising event at Air Day, RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

## July

**5:** RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past, reunion, Royal Henley.

**9-20:** Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

**11:** RBL 75th anniversary service, Westminster Abbey.

**14:** Para spectacular, Southsea Common, in aid of Airborne Forces welfare. Red Devils display, Gurkha Pipes and Drums, marching bands and military displays. Free entry.

**21:** Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details from County Field Officer on 01865 53151.

**28:** Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

## September

**7-8:** Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.

## October

**6:** Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

## November

**16:** Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA Lincolnshire. (details: 01406 425550).

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

## REUNIONS

**Italy Star Association 1943-45:** May 18, Portsmouth Guildhall reception and Beating Retreat by AGC Band in Guildhall Square. May 19, annual parade and luncheon of the Italy Star Association. Standards of regimental and old comrades' associations welcome. Salute taken by Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. Details from D Cooke on 01705 366721 or S Leech on 01329 664874.

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment:** Regimental annual reunion takes place at Pitchcroft Racecourse, Worcester, on June 1. Details from RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA (01905 354359).

**16 Signal Regiment:** Reunion for all former 1960s personnel to be held at Southend on Sea in June. Details from Chris Bartlett on 01702 524620, or sae to him at 45

Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR.

**Royal Artillery Association (Exeter Branch):** The branch celebrates its golden anniversary with a luncheon at St Loye's Conference Centre, Exeter, on June 8, followed the next day by the dedication of a new standard at St Michael's and All Saints Church, Aphington. Details from John Seatherton, 8 Seabrook Avenue, Countess Wear, Exeter EX2 7DW (01392 874072).

**40th Regiment RA:** Regimental reunion of Lowland Gunners, past and present, takes place in Edinburgh on August 24. Details from WO2 (BSM) Pivett, 40th Regiment RA, Caen Barracks, BFPO 30.

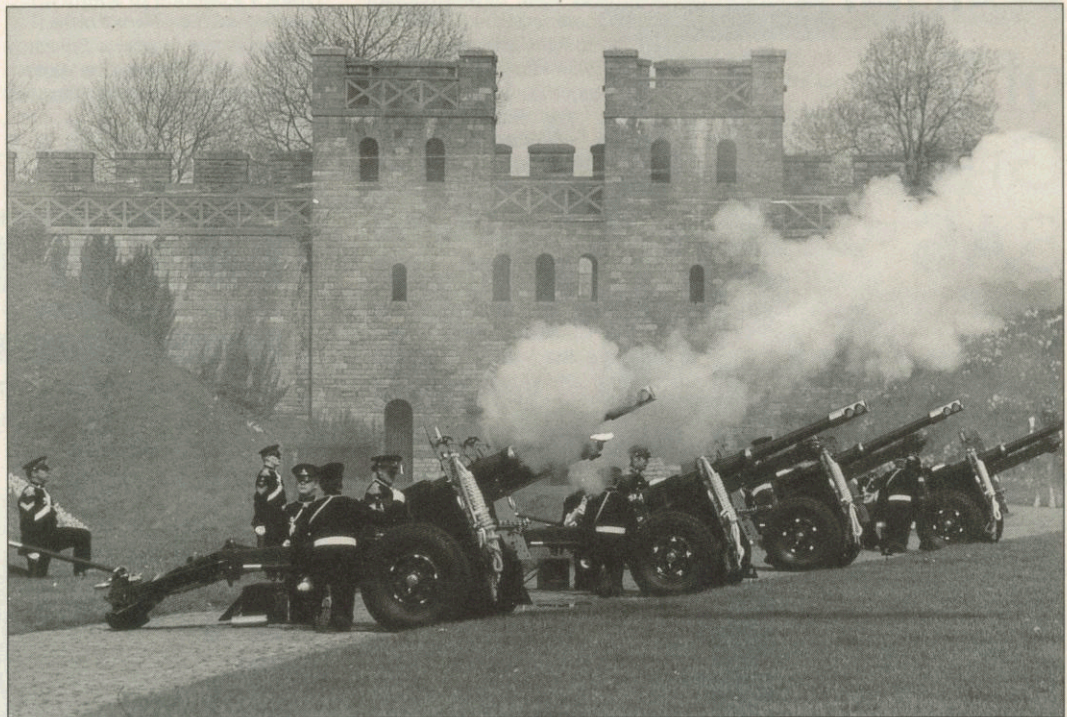
**RE Darland Boys' Association 1939-41:** 16th reunion takes place on September 13 at the King

Charles Hotel, Gillingham. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB.

**238 (London) Sig Sqn, 1989-92:** Reunion planned at Chelsea Barracks, London, on September 28. For details send sae to Sgt S M L Samuel, 30 Signal Regt, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks CV11 6QN.

**Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders Battalion:** Former boys and permanent staff, Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth, Oswestry please note the second annual reunion dinner has been rescheduled from August 3 at Worthy Down and will now be held on October 19 at 5 RGJ Training Centre, Milton Keynes. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pen-tyrch, Cardiff CF4 8QQ, please enclose sae (or tel 01222 891274).

## Happy birthday, Ma'am . . .



**Royal salute:** Soldiers of 104 Air Defence Regiment fire a 21-gun salute at Cardiff Castle to mark the Queen's 70th birthday. The regiment, which has Territorial Army centres at Newport, Worcester, Wolverhampton, Cardiff and Abertillery, normally deploys with the Javelin anti-aircraft missile system, but brings out the four ceremonial guns for special occasions such as the Queen's birthday

## CLOSURES

As part of the Hong Kong draw-down, the **Hong Kong Military Service Corps** will disband on March 31, 1997. Donors of presentation pieces to the Corporals' WOs' and SNCOs' and Officers' Messes are asked to state their wishes for return or disposal. Items unclaimed by May 31 will be sold off to raise funds for the Hong Kong Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust. Contact Maj N C Li, Corps Adjutant, HQ and Depot HKMSC, Stonecutters Island, BFPO 1 (tel Hong Kong 27460492)

## SEARCHLINE

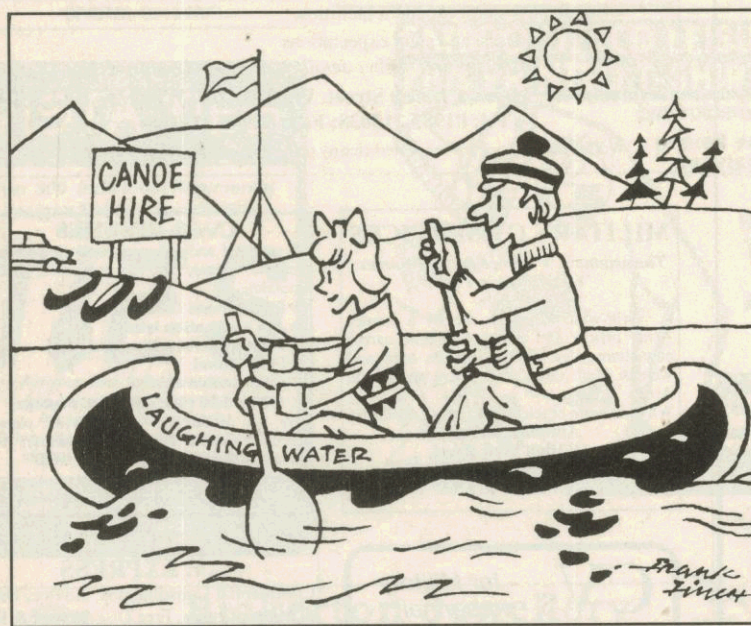
**164 Railway Operating Company 1939-46:** L R Swindale seeks news of Frank Shephard, Jock Lythgoe, Jock Guilder, Cpls Tyrell and Furmer, William Knutt and any former members of MT Section. Several members already traced. Replies to 6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL (01283 538322 or 0378-491 343).

Mrs M Hadley wishes to hear from anyone who knew or served with her father, **T/250950 Driver John**

**Leslie Lloyd RASC**, who died as a result of battle injuries while serving with **57 Company RASC** in Italy 1943-44. Replies to her at 44 Farmstead Way, Great Sutton, South Wirral L66 2RU.

Dick Field seeks news of **Alec Armit** with whom he served in **656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, Malaya 1958-60** during the Emergency. Replies to him at Colliers Brook, Aylburton Common, Lydney, Glos GL15 6DX (01594 529404).





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Competition No 634 (April 15): Congratulations to MoD Guard Service supervisor Mr P Johnson, c/o 49 Signal Sqn, Carlton Barracks, Leeds, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up LCpl Feilder, of 22 Fd Hospital RAMC, Aldershot, and Lt Col C G O Hogg, RHQ, The Kings Own Scottish Borderers, The Barracks, Berwick upon Tweed.

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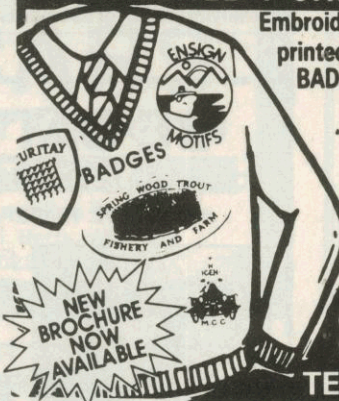
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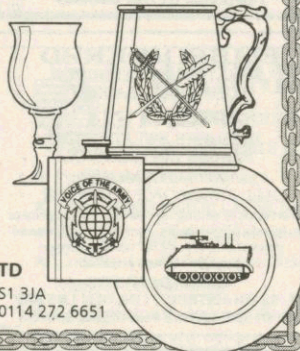
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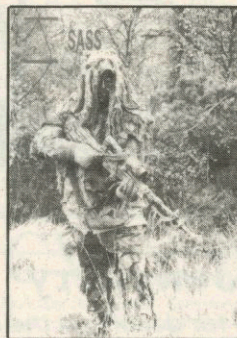
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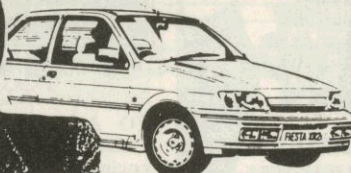
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# Gunners surprise favourites

A GOAL by Army player Bdr Gary Tootle in the first half was enough to give the Royal Artillery victory over the much-fancied Royal Engineers at Aldershot Military Stadium and with it the Quadrangular Trophy, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Having scored 14 goals to two in demolishing REME and the Royal Signals on the opening day, the sappers were favourites at the start of the final day.

In arguably the best final of the tournament for many years, the sappers required just a draw to lift the trophy, and camped in the gunners' half after conceding the early goal.

Sgt Basher Bates and his defenders put up stubborn resistance to deny them, much to the delight of their supporters.

The Signallers finished in third place with one win from three games, and REME were fourth, having sustained three straight losses.

## Five-goal Cheshires in control

**RAF Coltishall 0, 1 Cheshire 5**  
THE Cheshires gave themselves a two-goal cushion going in to the final match of the Naafi Jubilee Cup competition when they hit five past RAF Coltishall, writes **Derrick Bly**.

HMS Neptune had beaten the RAF champions 3-2 in Scotland, so the Royal Navy's unit champions must beat the Cheshires by three clear goals when the two sides meet in Cambridgeshire.

A strong crosswind at Coltishall made ball control difficult, but the home side had the better of the first 20 minutes during which they missed two early chances.

But the Cheshires gradually

wrested control and took the lead in the 27th minute through LCpl Morrison. Pte Simon Yeo missed from in front of goal before Pte Bird scored the second soon afterwards. Yeo hit the bar just before the break.

Coltishall began the second half strongly but fell away after Yeo had put the Cheshires 3-0 ahead in the 72nd minute. Cpl MacDonald headed home the fourth soon afterwards, and man of the match Yeo, fed by an inch-perfect pass from skipper Cpl Tosh Williams, rifled home a lethal left-foot shot to complete the rout.

## Right on, Rangers

# Kyu newcomers take title

AN ARMY kyu grade squad composed mainly of new faces won their competition at the 1996 Inter-Service judo championships staged at Fox Gym, ASPT, in Aldershot.

First match for kyu grade players resulted in a comfortable 4-2 win for the Royal Air Force over the Royal Navy, followed by a 7-0 victory by the Army over the Navy.

With the championship rest-

## Army put on the spot

**Royal Navy (1) 6-Army (1) 4**

FOR the second time in three years the Royal Navy won the South West Counties football championship when they beat the Army in a penalty shoot out in the final at Portsmouth.

Level at 1-1 after extra time, the game went to penalties. Army Player of the Year SSgt Alan Higgins smashed his against the crossbar after Cpl Lee Innes, LCpl Jim Strouts



LCpl Stephen Calderwood, captain of the C Company, 4th/5th Royal Irish Rangers (V) team, holds aloft the Territorial Army Football Cup after his side had beaten 238 Squadron, 156 Transport Regiment RLC (V) 4-1 in the final at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. He received the trophy from Maj Gen Walter Courage (right)

ing on the outcome of the final match between the hosts and the RAF, the airmen took an early lead when Fus LCpl Mick McKee and Sgt Simon Horridge (APTC) lost.

Sgt Phil McGregor (APTC) turned the tide, and SSgt Sean Bennett levelled the scores at 2-2. The U-71kg class went to the RAF on the defeat of Pte MacDonald (Hldrs).

With the match standing at

and Cpl Shane Smith had converted theirs. The Navy's triumph completed a double over the Army, who they beat on goal difference in the 1996 Inter-Service championship.

LCpl John Wills got the Army off to a great start with an excellent goal in the fourth minute of the match, but the Navy equalised in the second half and the soldiers were left to regret a number of chances.

3-3 after the RAF were unable to put a player up against Pte Harris in the U-60kg category, all depended on the U-65kg bout between Pte Dave Gibb and SAC Wilson. Gibb won a very close contest to give the title to the Army, a superb result given that all the players except Bennett were new to the squad.

Then it was the turn of the seniors in a competition long dominated by the Army. There was a surprise when the up-and-coming Navy team soundly beat the RAF 6-1 and held the Army to a draw.

To take the title outright the Army had to beat the airmen 7-0 or 6-1 with a superior points difference, but they dropped two bouts to give the naval team an unexpected success.

In the individual competition, LCpl Ardley (women's O-60kg), LCpl Graham Hooceley (U-60kg), LCpl Mick McKee (O-90kg) and LCpl Crabbe (open) won titles.



Cpl Vicky Hardisty rounds a gate at speed during the British ski-bike championships in Switzerland

# Juniors salvage Army pride as RAF roar back

HOPES of a repeat of 1994 when the Army swept the board at the Inter-Services basketball championships – winning senior, Under-23 and women's competitions – were dashed at SEAE Arborfield.

They failed even to defend the men's and women's titles they won last year, and it was left to the juniors to salvage Army pride with victory in a close-fought competition.

After the Royal Navy U-23s had beaten the Royal Air Force 64-59, the airmen pulled out all the stops against the Army, leading 29-27 at half time. But the hosts reversed the deficit and led 59-48 with two minutes on the clock.

But a lack of discipline saw the RAF bounce back and in the end the Army youngsters were happy to hang on at 61-58.

They went on to take the title with a fairly comfortable

68-49 victory over the sailors.

The RAF's women dominated their match against the Navy, winning 72-25. They were given a much tougher examination by the Army who held a ten-point lead going into the final five minutes.

The RAF clawed their way back to 50-50 before the Army scored 15 seconds from time. In a frantic finale the RAF netted with the last shot of the match to force overtime, and then went on to beat a deflated home team 61-54.

After losing 64-39 to the RAF, the Navy's senior men went down 113-60 to the Army, setting up another championship-deciding confrontation between the soldiers and the airmen.

After the Army had taken an early 17-9 lead, both sides slipped into foul trouble as the RAF began to look the more cohesive unit. A purple patch

by the airmen saw them score 18 points in four minutes to take a 27-19 advantage.

Fouls and petty violations crept into an increasingly bitter confrontation as the RAF got to the break 43-39 in front.

The lead changed hands constantly during the second half with neither side dominating. In the end the Air Force won by two points – 78-76 – to regain the trophy.

For all the fouls – 57 were called by over-zealous officials who constantly stopped the action for minor violations – it was a thrilling match that could have gone either way. But from the spectators' point of view the game was ruined by the stop-start action, and both sets of players would have preferred a more fluent contest.

Maj Trevor Stipling was presented afterwards with the Bunnett Trophy for services to Army basketball.

# Ski-biker wins national honours

CPL Neil Pollitt (7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) put his World Cup ski-biking experience to good effect to win the British championships at Adelboden in Switzerland.

The GB event was held concurrently with the Swiss championships over a very technical giant slalom course and a quick super giant slalom run.

Civilian Graeme Spence, Cpl Paddy Maybin (16 Sig Regt) and Pollitt were the main contenders in the giant slalom, but Spence crashed out on the more technical part of the course leaving Pollitt to make a superb descent which put him three seconds clear of Maybin.

But Maybin capitalised on small errors by Pollitt in the next race to take a two second lead into the second day.

Maybin's hopes of the title ended when he crashed out of the super giant slalom, leaving Pollitt with a clear run to his first British championship.

Lt Col Ric Platt (MoD (PE)) took the runner's-up place.

In the women's competition, Cpl Vicky Hardisty (16 Sig Regt) was in a class of her own. She retained the title she won last year. Sgt Jane Robinson (10 Tpt Regt RLC) was second.

Pollitt, Platt, Hardisty and Robinson will all compete for Great Britain in the World Championships to be held at Willach in Austria.

# Clay squad on target

TWENTY-TWO shooters, ranging from novices to Army-level representatives, received some impressive instruction during a coaching course run by the Army Clay Pigeon Shooting Association at Edge Hill.

Those who took part found they were being advised by world champions Arnie Palmer and Carl Bloxham, English sporting champion John Wells and Olympic Games medal-winner Paul Bentley.



# Gurkhas hit a lucky streak

THE GURKHA reputation for enjoying the odd flutter has been enhanced since their entry into the Army Sports Lottery last summer. Their latest success, £250 won by LCpl Rakesh Rai, based in Brunei with 2 RGR, brings their total winnings to £2,869. This compares with ticket sales to the Gurkhas of £1,572 to that point . . . not a bad return on "investment".

Relatively few Gurkhas have actually joined the lottery, and most who have are serving with the 2nd Battalion.

Biggest individual win for a Gurkha was the £1,080 scooped by Sgt Sunil Rana of 1 RGR based in Hong Kong.

Prizes are going to corps and regiments in roughly the same proportions as their participation, with the AGC heading the list on just over 20 per cent of winnings.

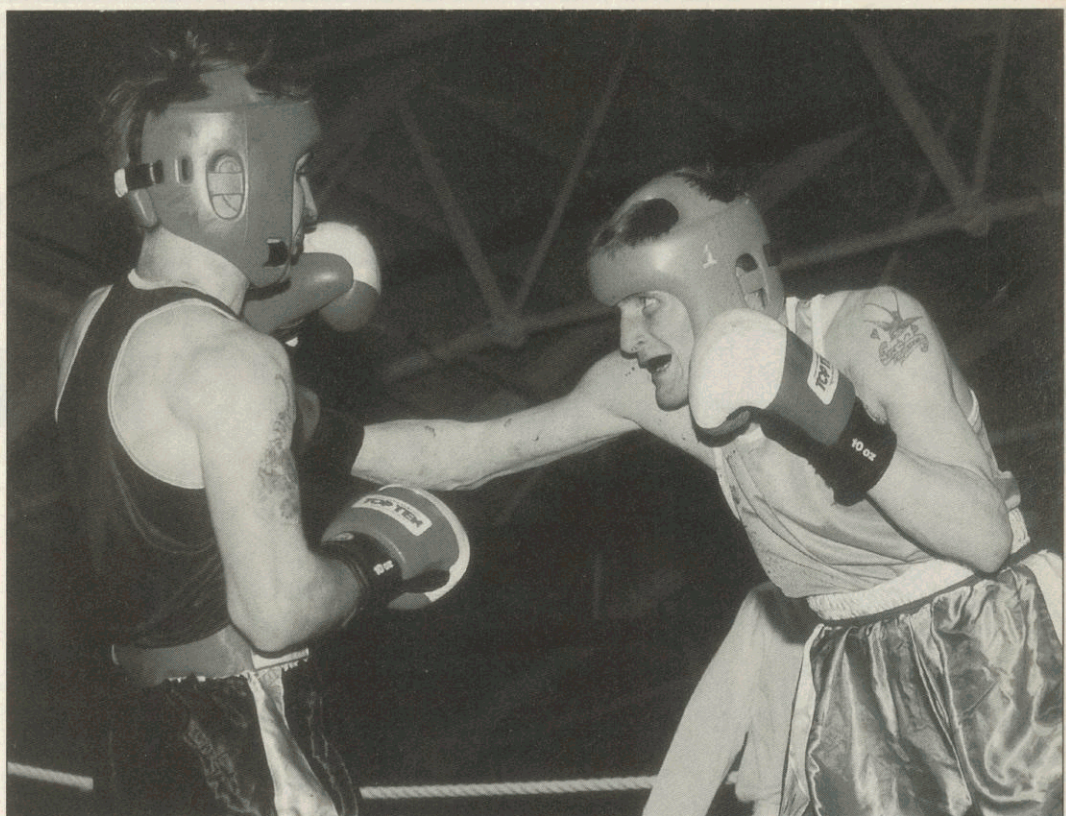
Latest grants helped the RLC rugby tour to Hong Kong (£3,750), a Hong Kong golf tour to Thailand (£1,400), the RMAA cricketers in India (£3,600), and 9 Signal Regiment hockey players go to Malta (£1,800).

In all, 16 tours were assisted to destinations which included Portugal (tennis), the Netherlands (hockey and rugby), the USA (AFA referees), Sweden (rugby), Gibraltar (Army Rifle Association), and Denmark (rugby).

Individual grants were given to divers, canoeists, cyclists, cricketers, squash players, athletes, boxers, rugby players and skiers. In addition, 12 grants were made to units and associations to help with purchases of equipment and coaching courses.

## Running behind

AN Army cross country team depleted by Bosnia commitments, Exercise Purple Star and non-starters finished fourth in the annual match at Woodford Bridge while the Army women won their match against Cambridge University.



Pte Steven Quinn (8 R Irish) throws a jab on his way to a win over Pte Richard Wilcox (1 Staffords) in the bantamweight division at the Army individual novices championships at Aldershot

# Battling battalions fly novice flag with style

THERE was an incredible effort from two battling battalions at the Army individual novices boxing championships as they produced 14 finalists between them.

Eight members of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment team reached the finals at Aldershot, picking up two titles between them, while the team from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Army current grade 3 novice team champions, had six men in the ring and won four titles.

The Dukes were led from the front by their coach, Cpl Eddie Towler, who won the light-welterweight division inside the distance.

Pte Steven Quinn of 8 R Irish was awarded a £100 voucher after turning in the most promising performance.

Boxing in the bantamweight division, he outpointed Pte Richard Wilcox (1 Staffords) in the first championships to be staged in the new boxing centre created in Maida Gym.

Quinn received his award from sponsors Protecta Sports.



Cpl Darren Marsden, a winner for 1 DWR against 1 R Anglian in the grade 3 novices final

The best boxer award, in the form of the Naafi Cup, was won by LCpl John Woodgate (5 AB Log Bn), who won the welterweight title.

The standard of boxing on show bodes well for the future of the sport in the Army.

Results were:

**Bantamweight** - Pte S Quinn (8 R Irish) beat Pte R Wilcox (1 Staffords), pts u; **feather** - LCpl L Wiles (1 Staffords) bt Pte S

Tomkinson (1 Staffords), pts u; **lightweight** - Cpl D Marsden (1 DWR) bt Pte L Hill (1 Staffords), rsc 2; **light-welter** - Cpl E Towler (1 DWR) bt Pte P Jones (1 Staffords), pts m; **welter** - LCpl J Woodgate (5 AB Log Bn) bt Pte S Cowley (1 Staffords), pts m.

**Light-middleweight** - Fus J Pascoe (1 RWF) bt Gdsm C Weir (1G), rsc 2; **middle** - Pte N Hannan (1 DWR) bt Cpl L Hingley (1 Staffords), pts u; **light-heavy** - LCpl D Holding (1 Staffords) bt LCpl D Collins (1 DWR), rsc 2; **heavy** - Pte P Decarolis (1 DWR) bt Pte R Camplin (1 DWR), rsc 2.

## CHAMPION DUKES

Preston-based 1 DWR won the Army grade 3 team title by defeating 1 R Anglian 7-2 in the final at Colchester. It was the first time in 18 years that the battalion had entered an Army boxing competition.

Dukes' boxing officer Maj Mick Sullivan PWO paid tribute to squad coach Cpl Eddie Towler, a former Army boxing squad member and the current novice light-welterweight champion.

In the semi-finals, 1 DWR travelled to Germany where they beat 7 Regt RLC.



Fus Jeremy Pascoe (right) of 1 RWF avoids a left lead from Gdsm Colin Weir (1 IG) during their light-middleweight contest at the Army individual novices boxing championships at Maida Gym in Aldershot. Pascoe went on to win the bout.





LCpl Jenny Baynes, watched by colleague LCpl Paul Nouch, reports back to base. Both members of the Territorial Army RMP, they volunteered for duty in Aldershot Garrison while their Regular counterparts were in the USA on Exercise Purple Star. Full story in Pages 22-23.

Picture: Mike Perring

