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Picture: Mike Weston

Lt Col Lois Lodge, RAMC, and her medics at Catterick before their deployment to Croatia

May 18, 1992
VOL. 48/10

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FRONT COVER: On the tenth anniversary of the Falklands War, LCpl John Brothwood (left) and Pte Stewart Roberts of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, pay their respects at the memorial on Mount London to the dead of The Parachute Regiment's 3rd Battalion Group. See Pages 26-29.

(Picture: Terry Champion)

Zagreb-bound

Operation Hanwood main party to deploy by sea

AS THE advance party of British Army medics set up their headquarters in Zagreb, the main contingent of troops and vehicles from Catterick-based 24 Field Ambulance are standing by to follow by sea over the next few weeks.

Forming the bulk of the United Kingdom contingent to the United Nations Protection Force Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), the field ambulance unit will provide medical facilities for the 14,000 strong multinational UN force, which includes soldiers from Argentina and Russia.

There will be four field

ambulance detachments, one in each of the UN sectors, each consisting of a medical officer and a medical section.

Their main task will be to provide second-line medical support and casualty-evacuation by wheeled ambulance or helicopter.

Surgery will not be undertaken by the unit because to do so would prevent casualties being moved for several days.

Commanded by Lt Col Lois Lodge, the medics have been initially deployed for one year, but troops will be replaced by roulement after six months.

● Turn to Page 5

More to join Cambodia's peacekeepers

BRITAIN has offered to send 35 more military observers as part of the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Cambodia. Twenty-nine of them will be Army officers of captain and major rank.

These are in addition to a 13-strong team of Royal Engineers mine-clearance experts already in the country.

Led by Lt Col Mike Warren, the sappers are

● Turn to Page 5

SOLDIER

Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine.
Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.
Telephone: Army network: Dial internal code and extension number. Civil network: Dial 0252 347 followed by last three digits of extension number.
SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO.
Photoset by RSB Typesetters, Worpleston, Surrey.
Crown copyright 1992.

Managing Editor: **Chris Horrocks** (Ext 2355) • Editor: **John Elliott** (2356) • Assistant Editors: **Laurie Manton** (2362), **Gordon Skilling** (2360), **Phil Wilcox** (2361) • Picture Editor: **Terry Champion** (2357) • Photographers: **Mike Weston**, **Mike Perring** (2357) • Art Editor: **Les Gwyer** (2169) • Families: **Anne Armstrong** (2169) • Librarian: **Bill Stroud** (2351) • Accounts/Distribution: **Janice Follwell** (2353) • Advertising: 2352 • Fax: 2358

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual (25 issues)..... UK £19.30
..... BFPO £11.50
..... Other £25.30

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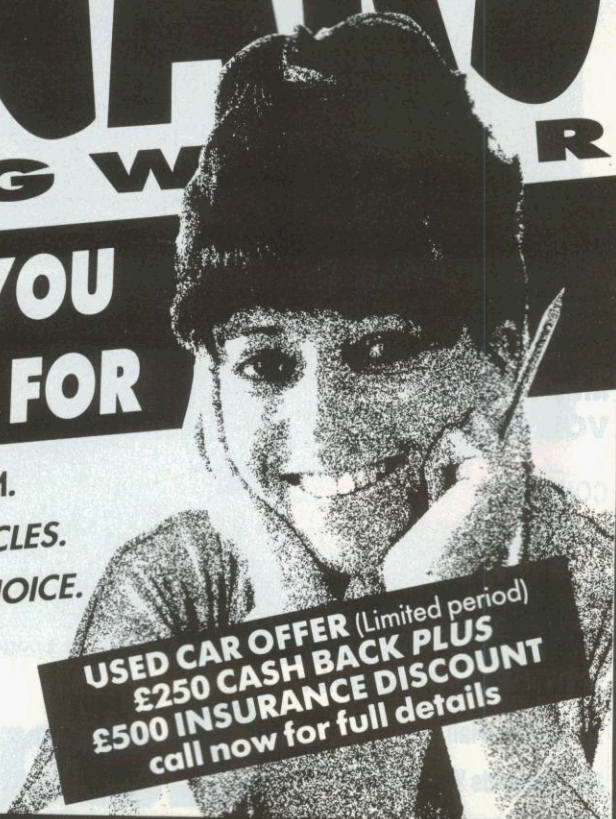
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Advance to Zagreb

● From Page 3

The detachments are to be based at four Croatian enclaves – Klisa (Eastern); Daruvar (Western); Topuska (Northern) and Kanin (Southern). They will provide medical support to battalions from 13 UN countries including Russia, Argentina, Nepal and Nigeria. Logistics support has been provided by the French.

Supporting the 24 Field Ambulance Unit will be 40 sappers from Ripon-based 38 Engineer Regiment, 30 signalers from 30 Signal Regiment at Bulford, and a REME light aid detachment from 3 Field Workshops.

In addition, a Royal Engineers postal and courier detachment will establish a field post office and the RAOC-Expeditionary Forces Institute will provide canteen facilities.

Col Christopher Price is commander of UNPROFOR's British contingent, whose deployment has been named Operation Hanwood.



REME light aid detachment includes (from left) – LCpls Davie Small, Dave Marr, Mal Bohan (RCT), Cfn Colin Lees and Sgt Si Hudson



Above – Eastern Sector commander will be Maj Steven Gac QARANC

Left – Cpl Steve Winstanley, RCT, (left) in one of the Land Rover ambulances that have been painted white for UN deployment

Everest team poised for summit bid

AS SOLDIER went to press, British Services climbers were poised to mount their assault on the summit of Everest from Camp 6.

The expedition has already established its Camp 4 at 24,525ft, and Camp 5 at 27,500ft.

A six-man party, including Capt Simon Lowe, R Signals, completed the difficult task of making a route to Camp 4 and carrying several loads of supplies up to it, reported expedition leader, Col Mike Kefford.

"They did particularly well," he said. "It was all done without oxygen and most of the climbing was above 24,000ft."

"All climbers at Camp 3 have been offered the chance to sleep on oxygen to aid recovery, but

some have declined to take advantage of this luxury."

The expedition, consisting of four Royal Navy, eight Army and six Royal Air Force climbers, is using a new £60,000 oxygen system which incorporates a number of safety features. It has been developed by deputy leader, Maj Bronco Lane, who conquered the mountain in 1976.

Four members of the Queen's Gurkha Signals from Hong Kong are providing a communications link from base camp back to Kathmandu.

Any summit bid will be accompanied by Chomo, the Royal Marsden Hospital teddy bear. On the team's return, it will be auctioned on behalf of the hospital's cancer appeal.

Cambodia

● From Page 3

training Cambodians to clear areas mined during more than a dozen years of civil war.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is monitoring a ceasefire to demobilise and separate the country's rival forces.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said he was pleased the United Kingdom was able to make a contribution to the UN operation.

"Our involvement with UNTAC and the UN's peacekeeping force in Croatia illustrates the government's commitment to, and support for, the peacekeeping and monitoring role of the United Nations," he said.

Coming of age

THE 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Volunteers) based at Brock Barracks, Reading, has celebrated its 21st anniversary.

UDR given Freedom of Ards

THE Regimental Colour of the 3rd (County Down) Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment, was paraded for the first time when the UDR celebrated the Freedom of the Borough of Ards by marching through the streets with bayonets fixed and band playing.

The Colour was presented by the Queen last year.

A guard of honour made up of five officers, seven senior ranks and 72 soldiers, including Greenfinches, from the 3rd Battalion were inspected by the Mayor, Jim Shannon, who was accompanied by the Colonel Commandant, Gen Sir Charles Huxtable.

The Freedom, the 11th to be conferred on the regiment, was granted at a ceremony in Conway Square, Newtownards. Gifts were exchanged and all ranks were later entertained to lunch in Queen's Hall. The parade was led by the regimental Pipes and Drums.

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Lottery to offer a sporting chance?

SERVICE personnel may soon have the opportunity to support Army sport – and hit the jackpot at the same time.

A weekly lottery with a top prize of £2,000 is being considered by the Army Sports Control Board following the success of a similar scheme pioneered by the Royal Navy.

Within a few months of the Navy launching its lottery last September, it was reported to be making a weekly profit of £7,000 to be ploughed back into sport. The Royal Air Force plans to launch its own lottery in September, and the Army version could follow in the autumn of 1993.

The Royal Navy's lottery, based on Football League results in the winter and county cricket in the summer, offers weekly prizes of £2,000, £1,500, £500, £250, £150 and £75.

Only Service personnel would be eligible for an Army lottery, with a maximum of

three 75p tickets available to subscribers. Tickets would be sold directly through pay offices.

The lottery is seen as a way of reducing the burden of sport on Army Central Funds and the pressure on sponsors, now supporting Army sport to the tune of £250,000 a year.

Belfast troops meet Rifkind

NEW Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind made his first visit to troops serving in Northern Ireland less than two weeks after being appointed.

Accompanied by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge, Mr Rifkind was met at Aldergrove by Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, GOC Northern Ireland, and briefed at HQNI Lisburn.

Later he flew to Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh to meet soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets and 4th/6th Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment.

Later he travelled to west Belfast to meet men of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Fusilier killed

ONE SOLDIER was killed and several others suffered minor injuries when a terrorist bomb exploded at the Dublin Road Permanent Vehicle Checkpoint just south of Newry.

The dead soldier has been named as Fus Andrew James Grundy, a single man, aged 22, who was serving with A Company 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, resident battalion at Ballykinler.

JHQ inspected

THE FIRST exercise to practise British Forces Germany in procedures for handling "incoming" arms control inspections other than on declared sites has taken place at Rheindahlen.



Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, accompanied by Lt Col Alastair Duncan, CO 1 PWO, meets men serving in west Belfast

Kingsman receives MID

LCPL Alistair Jemson of the Anti-Tank Platoon, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, was presented with his Mentioned in Dispatches Certificate by Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, Maj Gen Ian Freer, just before the battalion left Ballykelly at the end of a 26-month tour.

LCpl Jemson, Cpl David Weaver and Kgm David Barton

Otterburn guide

OTTERBURN Training Area is the subject of an innovative new guide produced by the National Park in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence. The colour leaflet contains a map and gives advice on public access to the training area.

all received MID's for their selfless actions on the night the checkpoint they were manning near Londonderry was destroyed by a proxy bomb detonated by terrorists while the driver of the vehicle was still at the wheel.

The driver and five Kingsmen died as a result of the explosion.

● LCpl Sherrie Cross and Pte Claire Coles, two medical assistants serving with Somme Platoon in Northern Ireland, received their new RAMC badges from Lt Col Robin Hodges, CO 1 Kings, on the demise of the WRAC.

The medics wore their new RAMC cap badges on the regiment's distinctive red square patch on a blue beret.

IN BRIEF

PRINCESS Alexandra, Colonel in Chief of 17th/21st Lancers, took the salute at the Combined Cavalry old comrades annual parade at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park on May 3. More than 3,500 former and serving cavalymen attended the parade on the 68th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial.

Nottingham's new £4m Territorial Army Centre in Chilwell was opened by the Princess Royal on May 2. The centre is headquarters to the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

The motoring organisation National Breakdown has announced membership schemes developed specially for Armed Forces personnel in the UK and Germany.



Gone are the days when returning to Civvy Street was cause for celebration.

Nowadays it could well prove to be the most inhospitable environment thousands of members of the Armed Forces will have ever had to face.

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Officers reach pole in record ski bid

TWO BRITISH Army officers had to contend with sub-zero temperatures and hungry polar bears during their successful bid to become the first to ski to the north geomagnetic pole without resupply.

Capt Hugh Ward, RE, and Capt Richard Mitchell, AAC, were part of a five-man expedition led by explorer David Hempelmann-Adams.

Capt Ward is a troop commander with 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE based at Plymouth, while Capt Mitchell is a helicopter pilot and 2iC of 654 Squadron AAC serving in Germany.

It took 20 days for the explorers to reach their goal at the end of a 230-mile journey. They had a narrow escape when they were woken by a bear looking for food, but managed to scare the animal away by firing a shot over its head.

On occasions the wind-chill factor caused temperatures to plummet to a mind-numbing minus 58C.

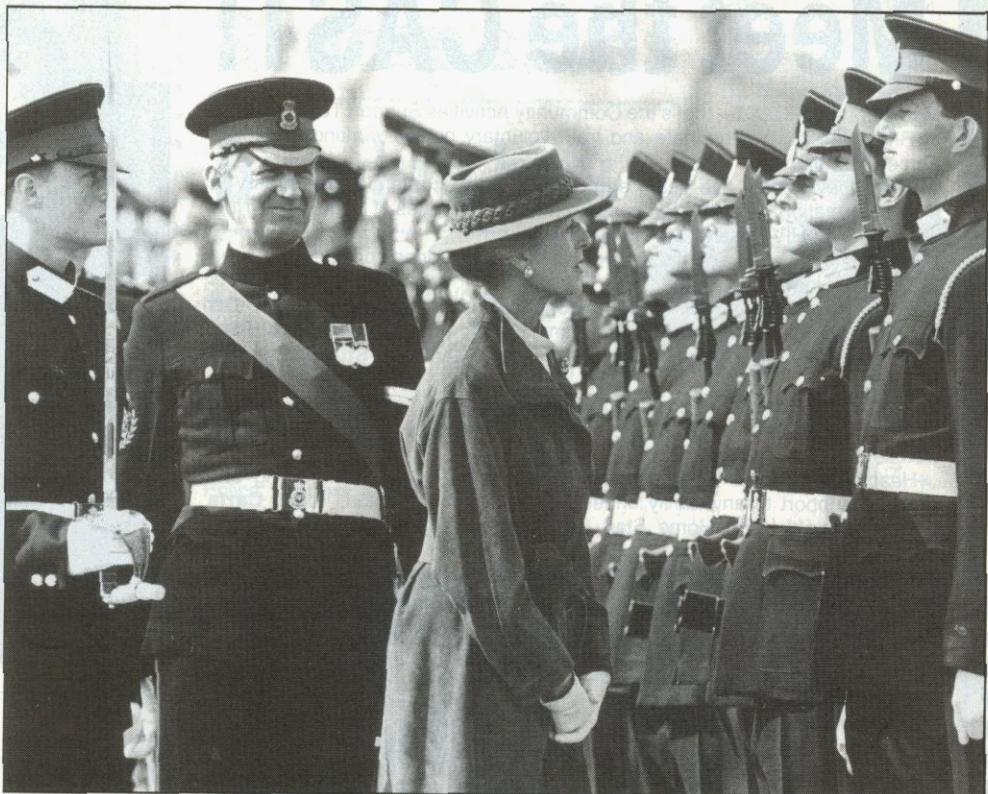
So critical were the supplies that team members, who manhandled all their survival and scientific equipment, arrived at the pole with just one litre of fuel and one meal each remaining.

The two officers were airlifted back to Canada before flying back to their units.

Walsall sappers

join R Mon RE (M)

A PARADE was held at the Walsall headquarters of 143 Plant Squadron RE (V) to mark the unit's re-badging to the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), the Territorial Army's senior regiment. The unit, now roled to the UK-based division committed to Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps, will be known as 143 Plant Squadron (Militia).



Picture: Mike Perring

Princess Alexandra reviews the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on April 10. Of 850 student officers and officer cadets on the parade, 370 received their commissions into the British Army or had their commissions confirmed. In addition, 24 cadets from overseas commissioned. Immediately behind the Princess is the Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 Mike Nesbitt. The Sword of Honour was awarded to Senior

Under Officer Christopher St George, who will serve with the Coldstream Guards. The Graduate Sword of Honour was won by 2nd Lt Justyn Larcombe, who is joining the Army Air Corps, and the Queen's Medal by Cadet Corporal Craig Jamieson, who will serve with the Royal Engineers. The Cane of Honour went to 2nd Lt Annabel Basker, who goes to the Royal Corps of Signals.



Col Boris Tretyakov (left), head of a Russian inspection team, with Col Roy Giles, Commandant Joint Arms Implementation Group (JACIG) inside a hangar at 9 Regiment AAC, based at Dishforth in North Yorkshire.

The two men first met when Col Giles led a British inspection team to Russia last year. The latest visit

Confident colleagues

under the 1990 Vienna agreement on confidence-building measures was made by three Russian officers to 24 Airmobile Brigade at locations in Catterick, Ripon, Topcliffe and Dishforth.

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More information can be obtained from The Secretary, IEEE, Savoy Hill House, Savoy Hill, London WC2R 0BS (tel: 071-836 3357).

Meet the CAST!

Meet the cast of CAST – that's the Community Activities Support Team – based at Rheindahlen to co-ordinate and train voluntary bodies working for British Forces Germany.

When they started five years ago, CAST had to contend with two HIVEs (Help Information Volunteer Exchanges) and two branches of Home Start. Now there are 46 HIVEs, and 18 Home Starts.

Options for Change and the Drawdown have also added considerably to the CAST work-load.

Pictured are (from left) **Ruth Rixon** (assistant secretary), **Pearl Ott** (librarian), co-ordinators **Myra Arnot** and **Karen Wright**, **Marilyn Liptrot** (secretary), **Anne Larsen-Burnett** (co-ordinator), and **Joy Stuart** (assistant librarian).

They have an extensive library to help them answer telephone enquiries from HIVE co-ordinators all over Germany, and produce a fact sheet and newsletters.

Heading the Home Start scheme, which offers confidential, caring and practical support to any family under pressure for any reason, is Mrs **Carla Chaszczewski**, BFG Home Start Consultant, 3 Group RCT, BFPO 34.



Former chef goes back...



Lt Col **Wally Torrington**, ACC, the first ex-apprentice to command the Army Apprentices College, Army Catering Corps, reviews his first passing out parade at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot.

He joined the Army as an apprentice chef in 1964, passing out as App RSM two years later. Col Torrington was commissioned in 1971 and has served in the United Kingdom, BAOR, Northern Ireland and Hong Kong.

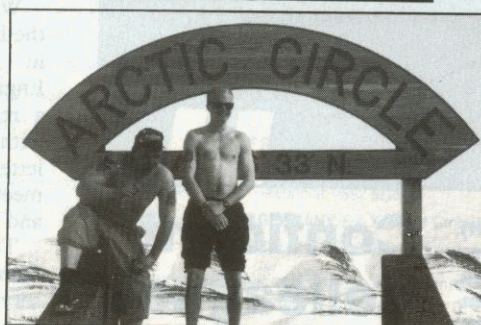
Gift horse

Lt Col **David Roe**, Royal Hussars, Commandant of the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot, was given a four-legged send-off befitting a cavalierman. His staff "borrowed" Beaumont, who belongs to the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop, for the occasion. Col Roe has been succeeded by Lt Col **Tudor Quare**, the first APTC officer to hold the appointment.



We're cool...

Spr **Hugh Taylor** and LCpl **Wayne Elliott** of the REME brave the elements to "sunbathe" in the Arctic Circle. They were members of the 16-man team from the British Army Training Unit at Suffield, Canada, to spend ten days inside the Arctic Circle during March. The annual Exercise Arc-



tic Roller expedition, this year led by Lt **Fiona Gordon**, RAOC, was based at Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. The soldiers carried out community projects, repaired vehicles, fished in the ice and saw a caribou hunt.

...in command

First man to command the new United Kingdom Division of Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) is Maj Gen **Hew Pike** (pictured above), whose headquarters is at Bulford Camp. After attending Sandhurst in 1961-62, Gen Pike joined The Parachute Regiment, commanding the 3rd Battalion in The Falklands in 1982.

The three brigades under his command are 1 Infantry Brigade based at Tidworth, 5 Airborne Brigade at Aldershot and 19 Infantry Brigade at Colchester.

Pam the 'temp' takes her leave

Twenty-two years after starting a "temporary" job at the Army Careers and Information Office in Canterbury, Mrs **Pam Neil** has retired.

Staff at the office reckon Pam prepared or checked about 10,000 sets of enlistment docu-



ments – apart from typing countless letters, dealing with thousands of enquiries from potential recruits and helping to ease the anxieties of parents whose sons have been posted to Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf.

Redcap saves burning boy



A small German boy probably owes his life to SSgt **John Twells** (pictured). The boy's clothing caught fire while he was playing with petrol and matches, but luckily for him SSgt Twells, serving with 113 Provost Company Detachment RMP at Munster, happened to be driving past. He smothered the flames, administered first aid and called the emergency services. Now SSgt Twells has been praised for his action by the Munster Head of Police, **Robert Steinecke**.

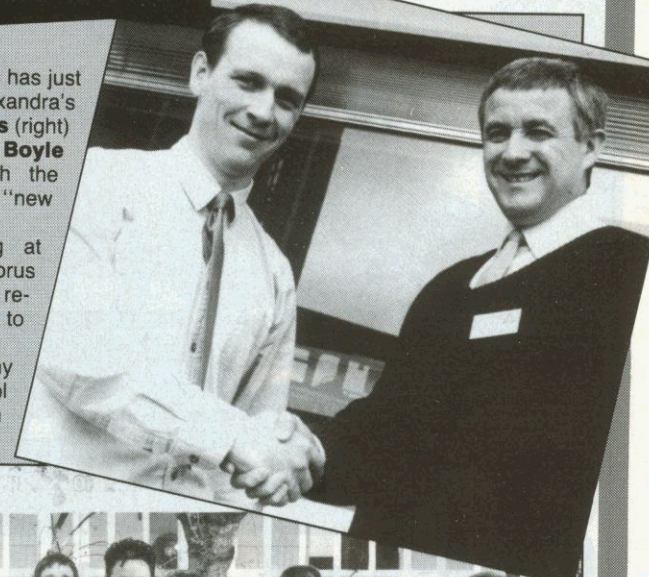
PEOPLE

Men join the QAs

Burnley Army Careers and Information Office has just enlisted its first male member of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. WO **David Dukes** (right) welcomes nurse and former soldier **David Boyle** back into the Army. Having served with the Intelligence Corps and the Royal Marines, "new recruit" David is no stranger to uniform.

Meanwhile, male Army nurses serving at Princess Mary's RAF Hospital at Akrotiri in Cyprus (below) were among those worldwide who re-badged from the Royal Army Medical Corps to the QARANC on April 1.

Maj **Ann Quickfall** (4th right), Senior Army Nursing Officer at the hospital, welcomes LCpl **James Hand** to the QAs. Cpl **Paul Watson** and LCpl **Paul Brown** also re-badged.



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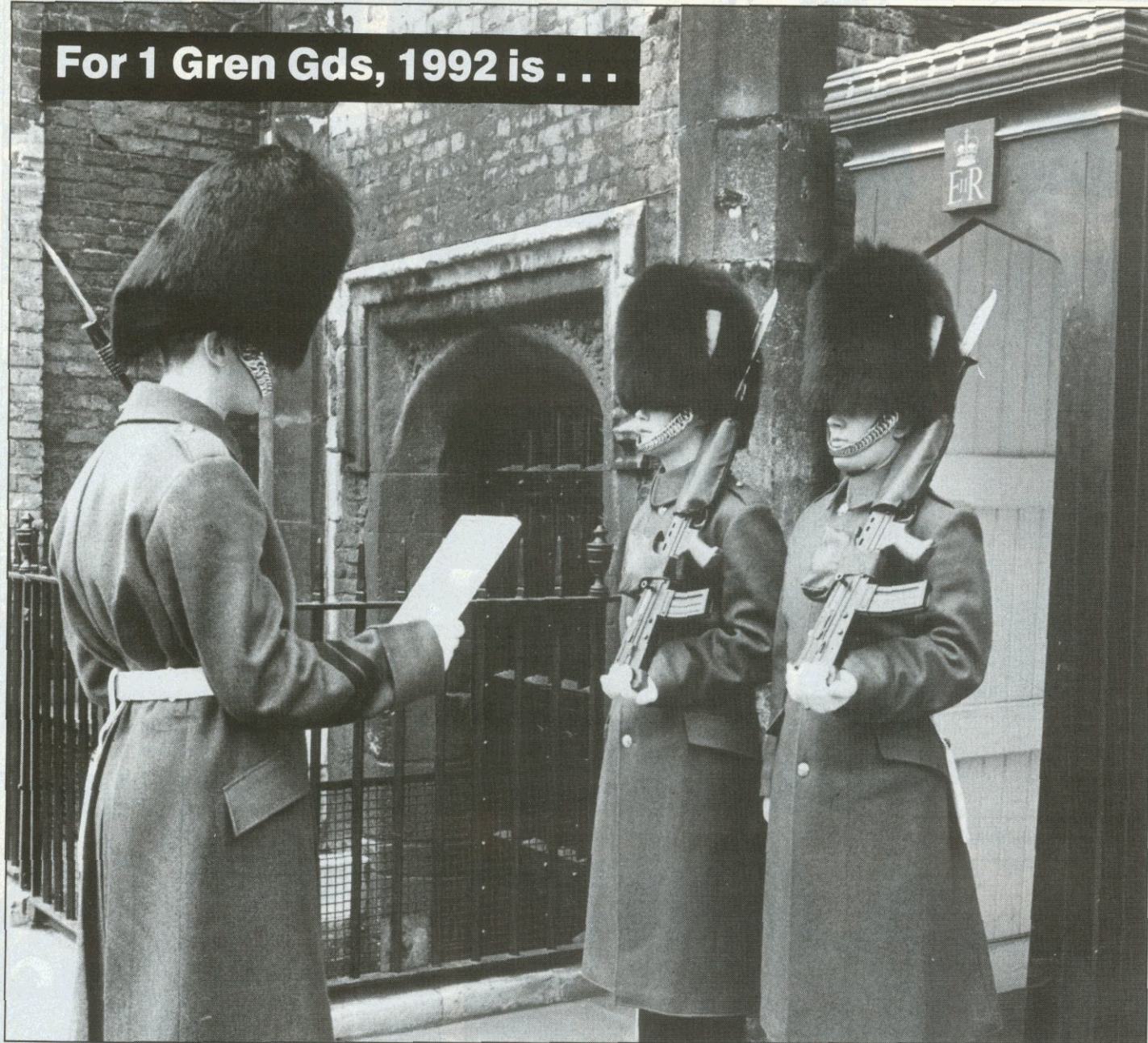
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For 1 Gren Gds, 1992 is . . .



LCpl Kevin Edwards reads orders to Gdsm James Bradley and Danny Birkenshaw at St James's Palace

A SPECIAL YEAR

THERE are 2,236 bricks in the wall opposite No 5 Post at St James's Palace.

One of the youthful guardsmen in the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards can vouch for that.

His role as a sentry is one of the less glamorous, but no less essential, parts of a special year for the battalion.

Recently returned from a lengthy stint in Germany, the Grenadier Guards – currently on public duties – will be presented with new Colours by the Queen on May 26 and will troop their own Colour in her Birthday Parade next month.

"It's a huge contrast to our previous six years at Oxford

Barracks in Munster," said Lt Col Robert Cartwright, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion.

"There we were, basically armoured infantry soldiers, maintaining vehicles, preparing for exercises and so on – not to mention going to war at the end of it all."

It was not generally well known, said Col Cartwright, that nearly 500 men from the regiment had been in the Gulf, attached to The Royal Scots,



The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Staffordshire Regiment.

The battalion had been the first to be issued with the Warrior armoured fighting vehicle.

Since returning to London, public and ceremonial duties had been a full time job for the Grenadiers. They now had to find time for training, whereas in Germany training had been the *raison d'être*.

"Having been in Germany for six years, clearly there was a

large number of men who had not seen the other side of a guardsman's life. Many have been quite surprised at the intensity of the London public duties roster."

Stints at Buckingham and St James's Palaces, the Tower of London and Windsor are only part of a hectic few months to come, which will include ceremonial occasions such as the opening of Parliament and State visits.

"Even when we are on public duties, we take our part in rosters and are capable of acting as "Spearhead" battalion at short notice," said Col Cartwright.

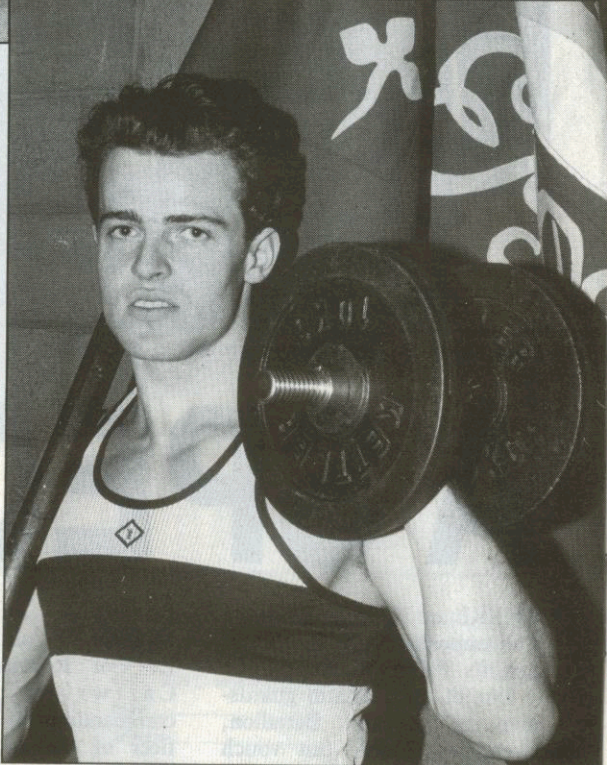
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Drum Maj Reg Sargeant with drummers and members of Sustained Fire Platoon



Master Tailor John Woodhouse checks summer tunics of 2 Coy, 1 Gren Gds



2nd Lt Charlie Allsopp gets down to serious training with weights and practice Colour



Dishing out the jabs are LCpls Simon Robinson and Kevin Edwards



Asst Drill Sgt Dave Barrett checks Colour party drill



Silver bugler Dmr Andrew Edis on parade



Tailor-made: Gdsm Tim Hill mounting Gulf Medals while LSgt Larry Straw sews buttons on to tunic



Special year

● From page 13

Overseeing the vaccination of the entire battalion for "Spearhead" was Sgt Don Trayner, who runs the medical centre at Wellington Barracks.

Recipient of a British Forces Commander's Commendation in the Gulf, Sgt Trayner served

with HQ Force Maintenance Area during the conflict.

"We were the ones who shipped in the ammunition and rations, and had to get parcels to the troops," he said.

"Quite a difference to sticking needles in their arms, which I do now!"

Physical fitness is obviously important to all members of the regiment, but, in the case of

2nd Lt Charlie Allsopp, it was essential.

He was given the honour of holding the regiment's Royal Standard in last month's Queen's Company review at Windsor.

"Naturally, I was delighted," he said, "though I needed to be good on the old biceps – even the practice Colours are extremely heavy. Hence my

frequent weight-lifting sessions in the gymnasium."

Out on the square, Assistant Drill Sergeant WO2 David Barrett was putting the Colour party through a tough drilling for the Birthday Parade.

"There will be eight ensigns – usually very junior officers – on the day, and it's very important that there are no hitches," he said.

"In the weeks immediately before the big day, the two drill sergeants go round making sure that everyone is giving one hundred per cent," said CSM Gary Taylor.

"They will also give advice to any CSMs who have just been promoted."

Supplying a suitably percussive musical background each time the Grenadiers mount

guard are the battalion's drummers.

They also double as machine gunners in the Sustained Fire Platoon, said Sgt Steven Staite.

Leading the birthday parade this year will be Drum Major Reg Sargeant.

A veteran who joined the regiment as a boy in 1971, he was commander of an armoured infantry platoon in

BAOR and served in the Gulf.

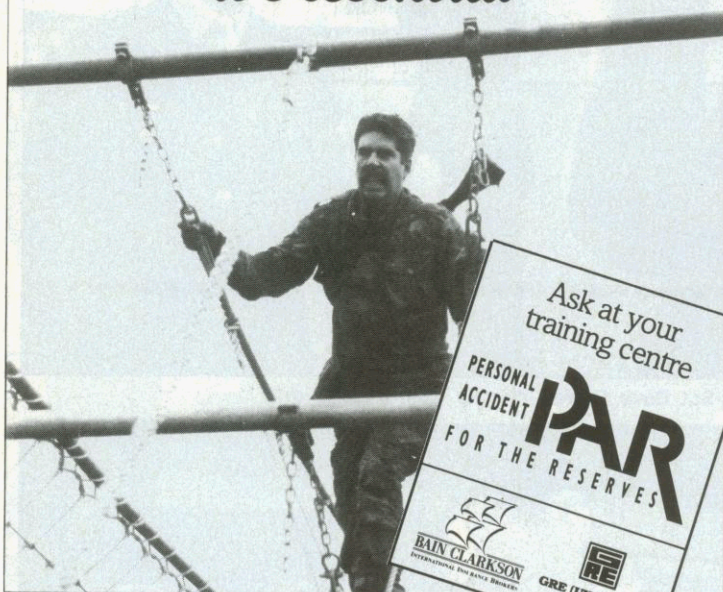
Dmr Andrew Edis holds the coveted Silver Bugle, awarded in a competition to the best bugler in the battalion.

Apart from routine calls throughout the day at the barracks, and sports calls, the Silver Bugler "does the honours" at the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of

● Turn to page 17

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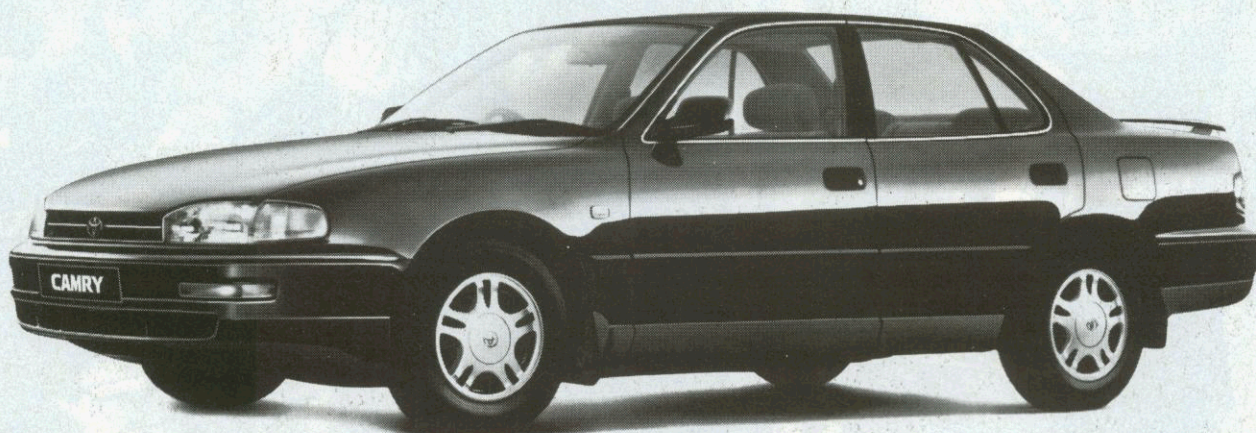


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S5



Special year

● From page 15

London. "The standard of competition is improving all the time," he said, "but I don't intend to give the bugle up easily."

Making sure the 1st Battalion was spick and span on parade was Master Tailor CSgt John Woodhouse.

His title is redolent of the days when Army tailors were civilians, with regiments hiring their own tailors. Indeed, he, together with a small staff, run a tailor's shop at the barracks.

Resplendent in trilby (more commonly a homburg) and pinstripe suit – the Master Tailor only wears uniform on the CO's parade – CSgt Woodhouse was on the parade ground inspecting the guardsmen's summer tunics for their season of public duties.

"If one tiny thread is loose, it reflects on the whole battalion," he said.

In the shop, staff were



Members of The Queen's Company, whose average height is well over 6ft, see if Gdsm Mark "Stumpy" Sansby measures up

working on a consignment of Gulf Medals.

These days, medals are Court-mounted – a direct result of an order from Queen Victoria, who said that she disliked the sound of loose medals, calling them "jingle jangles", said LSgt Larry Straw.

Busiest period for the shop is in the period leading up to the annual Major General's Inspection.

"For a month, we work flat

out doing alterations and so on, from 7am until 3am the following morning, seven days a week," said the Master Tailor.

"Luckily, it's only once a year!"

In between their tailoring work, the tailor's shop staff carry out the same duties as many other guardsmen.

All served in the Gulf.

If the war had gone on longer, the battalion had been tasked to provide battlefield casualty replacements. As it happened, a highlight of the tour for Gdsm Darran Everett was when "we had a barbecued camel, courtesy of a Kuwaiti prince."

The Queen's Company of the 1st Battalion, senior company in the Guards Division and senior infantry company in Britain, was also prominent in the Gulf, attached to the Royal Scots under Maj Grant Baker.

By tradition there is no height limit for officers in the Queen's Company, but it has been noticed that the average height has been shrinking of late: 6ft 3in for officers and 6ft 2in for other ranks.

"We have got some lads who are 6ft 8in with their boots on," said CSM Vernon Overton.

He explained some of the company's traditions.

"When the Colours are paraded, the regimental Colour goes over the Queen's Colour to protect it. Also, once a major has been company commander for two years, when he leaves he is presented with the

company's Camp Colour, paid for by members of the company."

One of the more intriguing items at Wellington Barracks is the padlocked black box which contains hand-written details, prepared by the then CSM and captain towards the end of the last century, of who stands where, who puts the coffin on the gun carriage and so on at the funeral of the Sovereign.

"It's not written down anywhere else," said CSM Overton.

The company Colour is always buried with the Sovereign.

Some members of the 1st Battalion still pine for the exercises they experienced in Germany and find the repetition of public duties tedious. But all confess that, despite a greatcoat being "like wearing a groundsheet" and the boots "sending your feet numb", the six weeks of rehearsing for the Queen's Parade have passed very quickly.

Last word should go to Capt Giles Inglis-Jones, 2nd Captain of the Queen's Company (in practice the 2iC), whose uncle and grandfather were both in the company, and whose great-grandfather was with the Grenadiers.

"I think the 1st Battalion is one of the best in the Army. Morale is extremely high and discipline is superb. The Queen can be proud of us."

**Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Perring**



Last-minute preparations for parade as Gdsm Danny Birkenshaw combs the bearskin of Gdsm Shaun Briggs

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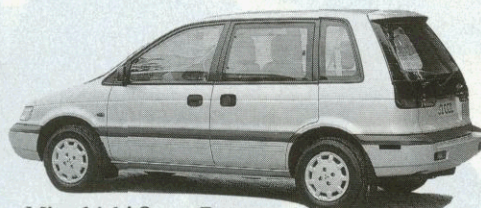
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Royal Flying Corps veterans gather for final reunion



Flanked by AAC personnel in RFC uniform, the 12 veterans pose outside the RFC's original mess entrance over which hangs the corps' badge, pictured right



The last roll-call

EIGHTY years after its formation, surviving members of the Royal Flying Corps came together for what was their last full reunion, writes Laurie Manton.

The First World War aviators – the youngest is 92 years – were hosted by 7 Regiment, Army Air Corps based at Airfield Camp, Netheravon. The camp's officers' mess was originally the Royal Flying Corps' first purpose-built mess. It dates from 1913 and the RFC's wings emblem hangs over the front door to this day.

It had been planned to launch the reunion with a flying display of historic aircraft and a mock aerial battle between British and German First World War aircraft, but gale-force winds limited proceedings to a static display inside an aircraft hangar.

The dozen airmen inspected an SE 5 biplane which flew in 1917, two replicas and a

Sopwith Pup that was said to have been twice brought down over the Somme. All were desperately disappointed that the wind was too strong to allow flights in the old biplanes.

Only aircraft that could be flown was a Gazelle helicopter of 656 Squadron AAC piloted by Capt Mick Goss. He took several of the veterans up over Netheravon.

Sqn Leader Gerald Dixon, who joined the Army in 1917 and qualified as a pilot, said: "The trip in the helicopter was very enjoyable, but I think it would have more exciting in the open cockpit of an SE 5.

Sir Owen Aisher, 92, was reunited with his original wartime motor cycle. He served as orderly to First World War Victoria Cross winner Maj Billy Bishop, whose squadron eventually shot down Baron Von Richthofen.

He remembers visiting the Army trials at Larkhill in 1912 to choose aeroplanes for the

RFC and watching helplessly as one of the aircraft taxied into a crowd of spectators with fatal result.

During the First World War, 13 Victoria Crosses were awarded to aircrew on the Western Front and in Mesopotamia and more than 7,000 flying personnel died.

One the most colourful British aces was Capt Albert Ball VC, a singing and violin-playing pilot credited with 44 "kills" who became the most decorated member of the Royal Flying Corps by the age of 20.

A Sherwood Foresters officer, Capt Ball also won three DSOs, an MC, the French Legion d'Honneur, and the Russian Order of St George.

He was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross after he died in action in 1917.

These early fliers were the predecessors of today's pilots of the Army Air Corps, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force. In

August 1916 their operational life expectancy averaged just 92 hours.

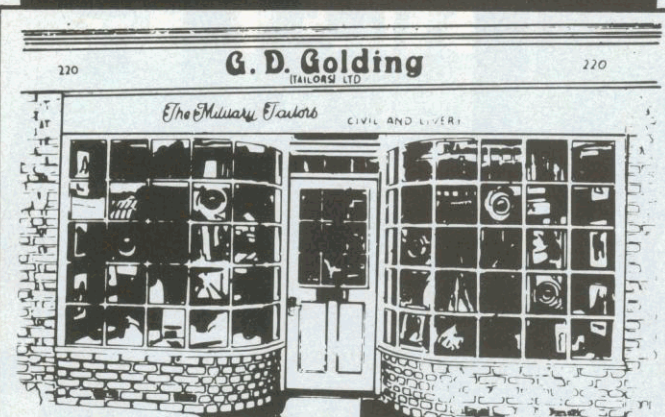
Mr Harold Lindsey, who joined the RFC in 1917 and flew SE 5s, has strong links with the fliers of today. Both his two grandsons were decorated after the Gulf War. Tornado pilot Wing Commander Glen Torpy won a DSO and WO2 Mark Torpy, an AAC helicopter pilot, earned the Air Force Medal.

Arriving at their former mess for a farewell luncheon, the aviators were greeted by several members of today's Army Air Corps dressed for the occasion in authentic Royal Flying Corps uniforms borrowed from the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop.

Lt Col Charles Blount, CO of 7 Regiment, said: "It was a pleasure to welcome them back to Netheravon. We hope it brought back many happy memories to the veterans who fought so bravely in the skies."

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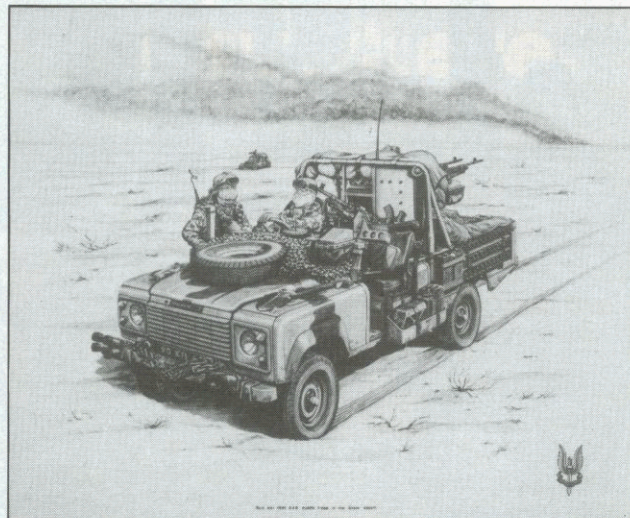
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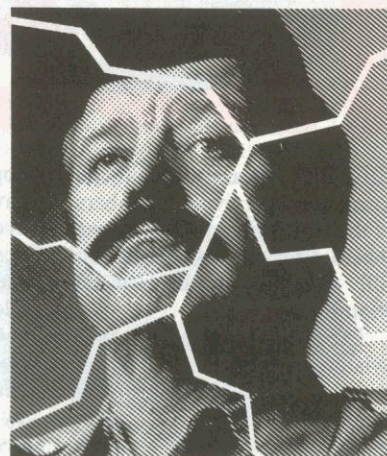
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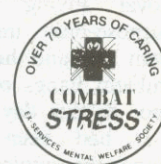
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Student Bandmaster Tony Clarke rehearses band and choir for a church service in the school chapel

Kneller Hall tradition of excellence brings . . .

Music to our ears

WHAT IS the connection between a disgruntled duke, a royal painter – and Army musicianship of the highest standard?

Kneller Hall is the simple answer.

And, with the future of Army bands very much in the melting pot, SOLDIER paid a timely visit to the Royal Military School of Music based in the eponymous building in Twickenham, Middlesex.

Situated almost within kicking distance of English Rugby Union's headquarters, the hall was originally the country house of Sir Godfrey Kneller, court painter to King Charles II.

And that is where the less-than-pleased Duke of Cambridge comes into the story.

"At the end of the Crimean War," explained Student Bandmaster David Milgate, "around 1,500 to 2,000 bandmen were assembled from different British regiments to celebrate the occasion.

"It was a total shambles, because, not only were they unable to keep to the same tempo, they all played out of tune."

As a direct result, as professional head of the Army at the time, the Duke of Cambridge made a proposal that all Army musicians should from then on be trained "to uniform and high standards, by one central organisation".

Kneller Hall was duly purchased, and the school was

Words:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston

founded in 1857.

A member of The Royal Anglian Regiment, Student Bandmaster Milgate is one of

Kneller Hall's typical success stories.

In 1979, he was a pupil on one of the school's one-year instrumental courses, on which musicians are given advanced-level theoretical and practical tuition on their own principal instrument.

Nine years later, with tours in – among other locations – Bermuda, Nova Scotia and Germany behind him, he was recommended by his CO for one of the fairly exclusive (classes tend to be very small) three-year student bandmasters' courses at Kneller.

During those three years, student bandmasters over the age of 25 are taught conducting, harmony, orchestration, aural perception and history of music. They are also given a thorough grounding in every string, wind, keyboard and percussion instrument used in Army bands – and examined in them.

Additionally, they learn the practical business of managing a symphonic wind band.

David Milgate is following a family tradition.

His father also attended Kneller as a pupil (in 1957) – and was his Band Sergeant Major in the regiment. His three brothers are also in the Royal Anglian Band.

"It's really hard work,

● **Turn to next page**



Student Bandmaster David Millgate takes advantage of some of the school's technology, watched by Student Bandmaster Denzil Clarke (from Jamaica) and Pupils James Edgar, Jamie Sweetlove and Phillip Wood. To save himself laboriously writing out an entire score when he composes a march, he can instruct the computer to write out the parts separately



Tutors Clifford Jones, John Hardy and Patrick Harrild



School founder, the Duke of Cambridge

Follow that. The name of Rodney Bashford, SOLDIER's record reviewer, appears among Kneller's Directors of Music, immortalised in stained glass

Music to our ears

● From Page 21

especially after our six-month probationary period has been completed," said David, who joined the course as a sergeant.

"Apart from preparing lengthy essays, complete with illustrations, composing a fanfare and, in the final year, conducting a church service in the school chapel, the most difficult thing we have to do in the other two-and-a-half years is to play all 11 different wind instruments in the band up to Grade 5 Associated Board standard."

Now qualified, and promoted to WO1, he is currently acting as the school's accountant while awaiting a posting as a bandmaster. "I am really looking forward to doing the job I have been trained to do," he said.

Current Director of Music at Kneller is Lt Col Frank Renton, due to retire later this year. He took over from the aptly named Lt Col Duncan Beat in 1988.

Formerly a student at the school himself, Col Renton said: "It is my job to see that Army musicians are real musicians - educated and trained in exactly the same way as they would be at any of the leading musical colleges of the

world." But the other side of Army life is certainly not overlooked.

"At every level here, there is a degree of military influence," said Col Renton, "whether it is in administration, leadership or discipline. And of course,

at any time, musicians might be mobilised - invariably as medics or drivers. In fact, 700 Army musicians went to the Gulf."

Alongside their male counterparts on this year's pupils' course are two females, Sally Bentham and Nicola Coles, specialising in clarinet and oboe respectively.

"For years I wondered what it was like at Kneller Hall: now I am here, I am going to make the most of it," said Pupil Bentham.

"I was a music teacher before I joined the WRAC, but the school closed down. I hadn't any diplomas, I wanted one, so I enlisted. I am gaining experience all the time at Kneller: it will give me the confidence to play in front of large audiences."

Her main regret, she added, was that the course was too short.

At the end of the year, she will go back to the new AG



Pupils get down to some serious rehearsal for one of Kneller's frequent concerts for local organisations. Training is carried out to high standards. Hence the motto "Second to Nothing"

Corps band. "I'm looking forward to it: it will be a new start, a pleasant change to be in a mixed band, with some different engagements."

In charge of the student trumpeters at Kneller Hall is Student Bandmaster David Bertie of The Royal Green Jackets. He is in his final year.

"Anything to do with fanfares, whether engagements or in the school, is my responsibility," he said.

A keen arranger, he has had three arrangements played on "The Rock" - Kneller Hall's famous outdoor public bandstand - during his stint at the school.

"I joined the Army as a basic

Associated Board Grade 5 trumpeter, and having had the right doors opened for me by successive bosses, I am here now, enjoying every minute, despite the hard work."

At the time of SOLDIER's visit, he had just learned that he had passed his final exam.

"I'm now qualified as a bandmaster, so I've succeeded in what I came here for," he said.

He had no preference of band - "just one ready and willing to play music".

More than 20 tutors, culled from the cream of London symphony orchestras and music colleges, work part-time at the school and cover

instruments ranging from double bass and bass guitar to trombone, piano and flute, as well as tuition in orchestration and harmony.

Mrs Yvonne Clarke, for example, teaches musical theory and harmony two days a week in Kneller's piano laboratory.

Here, pupils from Britain, and Army and police representatives from other Commonwealth countries, learn playing technique, using a silent keyboard and tutor-linked headphone system.

"It's an exciting, but somewhat eerie experience," said Mrs Clarke, who qualified as a teacher at the Guildhall



Pupil Russell Kidd, Gordons, one of 20 pupils transferred to Kneller from the junior school of music at Bovington when it closed last year



Day release student Sgt John Sayer (REME regimental band) brushes up on keyboard technique under the watchful eye of tutor Veronica Clayton

School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music.

"You can actually feel the terrific amount of energy coming out into the room - but it's all silent."

Teaching piano three days a week on a more conventional, one-to-one basis is Miss Veronica Clayton, Associate of the Royal College of Music and Fellow of Trinity College.

She started teaching at the Guards Depot in Pirbright in 1978 and continued her Army connections with a transfer to Kneller four years ago.

"With the odd exception, they all work very hard here," she said.

Clifford Jones, Kneller's

trombone professor, bought himself out of the Irish Guards 28 years ago after six years, joined the BBC Concert Orchestra, and has now come full circle, he said.

He is "back in the Army" at the school, working there four days a week, teaching euphonium as well as trombone.

On a full working day he sees about eight pupils individually, sometimes coaching all of them as an ensemble.

Cornet professor John Hardy can usually be found in the evenings playing in the pit at the Royal Opera House.

He regards himself as the new boy - this is his third year at the school, having been

recommended by his orchestral director to Col Renton.

Despite not having a military background, one of his most enjoyable experiences, Prof Hardy admitted, was being part of the stage band in a production of *La Bohème* - dressed as a 19th Century soldier...

It is apparent that the Duke of Cambridge would have little to be ashamed of today.

As Col Renton said: "The training here is of a professional quality, and we are striving to create a professional product all the time."

Long may Kneller Hall's motto, *Nulli Secundus* (Second to Nothing) flourish.

It's already earned its stripes.



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SD 18/05

Munster trio lump it and pass the test

THREE members of 31 Ordnance Company RAOC based at Munster used their initiative to raise £158 for Barnardo's.

Cpl Jeff Lowe, LCpl Ginge Woolhead and Pte Smudge Smith were tasked by commanding officer Maj Trevor White to find Geevor Tin Mine and return with a lump of raw tin ore.

Despite a false start to Llangollen, Wales, and the fact that the mine (it's in Cornwall!) had been closed for a year, the trio successfully completed their mission, with help from National Express, 8 Regiment RCT and P&O European Ferries.

★ ★ ★

Sponsors from all over the world were backing Maj Sam Hamilton, **RAPC**, to complete the London Marathon last month.

He finished the course and has been calling in pledges from Hong Kong, Kathmandu, Africa and the United Kingdom to pay for a chemotherapy infusor machine for Ward 10 at Queen Elizabeth Military Hos-

pital, Woolwich. The £4,000 machine, bought in memory of his wife, Patricia, who died of cancer last year, was made available at almost half-price by suppliers IMED.

Mrs Hamilton, a nurse, felt the machine would help patients on Ward 10 and increase the mobility of those undergoing chemotherapy.

★ ★ ★

Several Army teams will be among the 100 taking part in the seventh Krypton Factor Challenge at Bury next month. The event is expected to raise more than £50,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

● More than £2,000 was raised for SSAFA and CRMF by a celebrity cocktail party at Berwick on Tweed, and the ABF and the Macmillan appeal are also set to benefit from the Army Air Corps' international air show at Middle Wallop this month.

● The Army Benevolent Fund has received a cheque for £3,579 from the Berkeley Scott Charity Challenge, an annual event organised by the catering industry and supported by



Maj David Fisher (left), captain of HMAV *Arakan*, and members of the crew get their own back on Wessex Cancer Trust appeal co-ordinator Jane Carley

Army Catering Services (UKLF). Commander of ACS (UKLF), Col Andrew Fisher, presented the cheque to ABF appeals secretary Brig (Retd) J D F Alexander.

★ ★ ★

A hairy problem on board the RCT ship HMAV *Arakan* resulted in a cheque for the Wessex Cancer Trust Radiotherapy Appeal. The crew, led by captain Maj David Fisher and ship's engineer Capt Kim Dunstan, grew beards

during a trip to Norway after hearing of the appeal on the radio.

A system of payments and fines for growing, or not growing beards was so successful that appeals co-ordinator Jane Carley was able to collect a cheque for £200 when the ship returned to Marchwood Military Port.

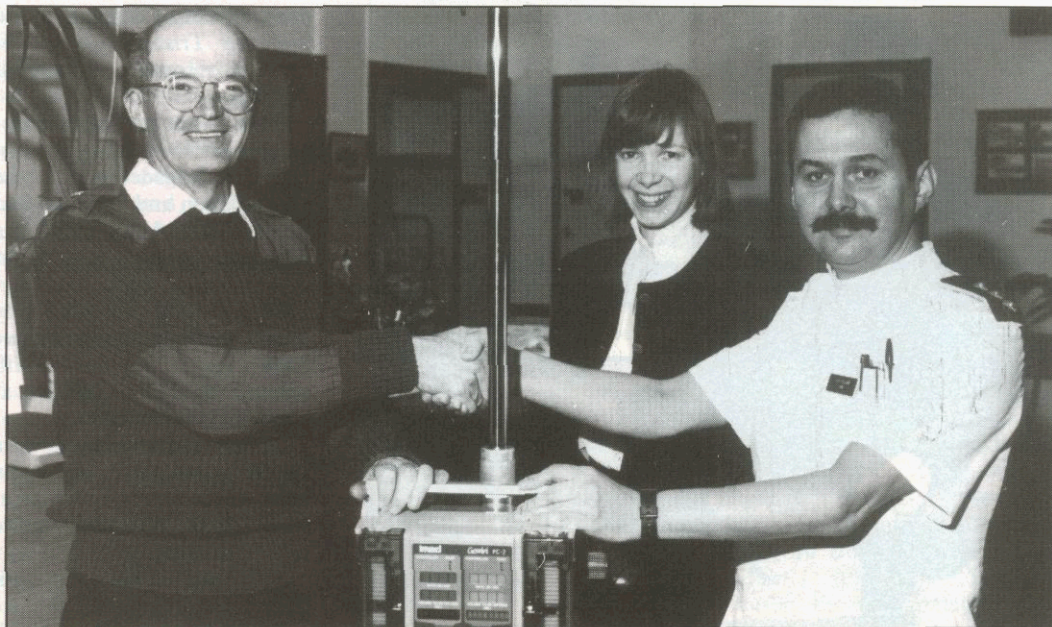
★ ★ ★

Brig Christopher Hammerbeck, outgoing Commander of 4 Armoured Brigade, has presented a cheque for DM20,000 to the German Red Cross. The money was raised at the 19th British Military Music Show 1991 staged at the Halle Munsterland.

So far the military music shows have raised DM660,000 for the German Red Cross. Another is planned this year.

★ ★ ★

A team from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment RE (now 28 Regt) ran in the New York Marathon and raised more than DM4,270 for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association appeal. Their main sponsors were Schottel, the marine engineering company which supplies marine propulsion units for the new M3 bridging equipment on trial with 28 Regiment.



Maj Sam Hamilton (left) hands over the chemotherapy infusor to Capt Ray Pollard, Ward Sister in QEMH Woolwich's Ward 10. Pippa Cole of IMED, who supplied the machine, looks on

Fighting fit... that was the key

To mark the tenth anniversary of the ground war that liberated the Falkland Islands, **Gordon Skilling** spoke to men who took part in the campaign...

THE GUTS and drive of British soldiers sent at very short notice to fight in the Falkland Islands impressed the world.

The first Paras and Royal Marines were on their way within a week of the decision to send a Task Force. Six weeks later 5 Brigade followed.

There was not much wrong with training methods if a battalion on ceremonial duties could be ready to move off to war in 24 hours, according to Maj Iain Dalzell-Job, who commanded G Company of the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards. They had to jump to it when the South Atlantic crisis broke.

So, too, did the Welsh Guards, who had done more military training than public duties.

Although not as fit as The Parachute Regiment, whose role does not include guarding palaces seven days a week, the Guards adapted quickly.

"We had a short reminder that we were out of condition during training in Wales," remembers Maj Dalzell-Job, "but it was like giving a race horse its first run out and after a good blow, we were basically ready."

How 2 Para moved from the beach over the Sussex mountains, fighting both the elements and the enemy to take Goose Green without proper fire support in the face of double their number, is one of the marvels of the campaign.

"Regimentally, we take training one step further," said Lt Col Tony Malkin, 2iC of 3 Para before taking the ops staff post at HQ British Forces Falkland Islands (BFFI).

"This really paid dividends in the most harsh terrain and climate you could imagine. If you did to animals what we do in training, you would have the RSPCA asking questions, but it proves the old maxim 'train hard in peace, fight easy in war'."

Transport, always a major problem, was one of the root causes of the Fitzroy disaster. The route taken by the Paras was not feasible for non-parachuting infantry facing greatly worsened weather (although the Gurkhas pressed on regardless).

The Scots Guards made the move by sea first but there were no landing craft for the Welshmen. After being returned to San Carlos they had



Members of 5 Infantry Brigade from the *Canberra* about to go ashore in a landing craft at San Carlos

to join the others at Bluff Cove, but were delayed in leaving.

"Of course, if we'd known we would be hit, we would have got off there, but we had been on and off so many times, and had our orders," said Maj Tony

Davies, Welsh Guards RSM during the conflict.

Transport provided a major headache for Lt (now Maj) Roy Dade at San Carlos Water. He had been prepared to supply MT and tactical spares, but half his unit, 81 Ordnance Company, had been bombed on the RFA *Sir Tristram*, so he did forward resupply of combat supplies.

With all but one Chinook lost on board the *Atlantic Conveyor*, 5 Brigade became the poor relation and Lt Dade had to make do with one fork lift, a borrowed tractor and a trailer with burst tyres.

"The fog of war was very thick," he said ten years later, back again in the South Atlantic as SO2 Logistics at Falklands Force HQ.

"There didn't seem to be a specific plan, but we knew what the overall requirement was, so we did whatever we could to meet it.

"We made it work, by hook or by crook."

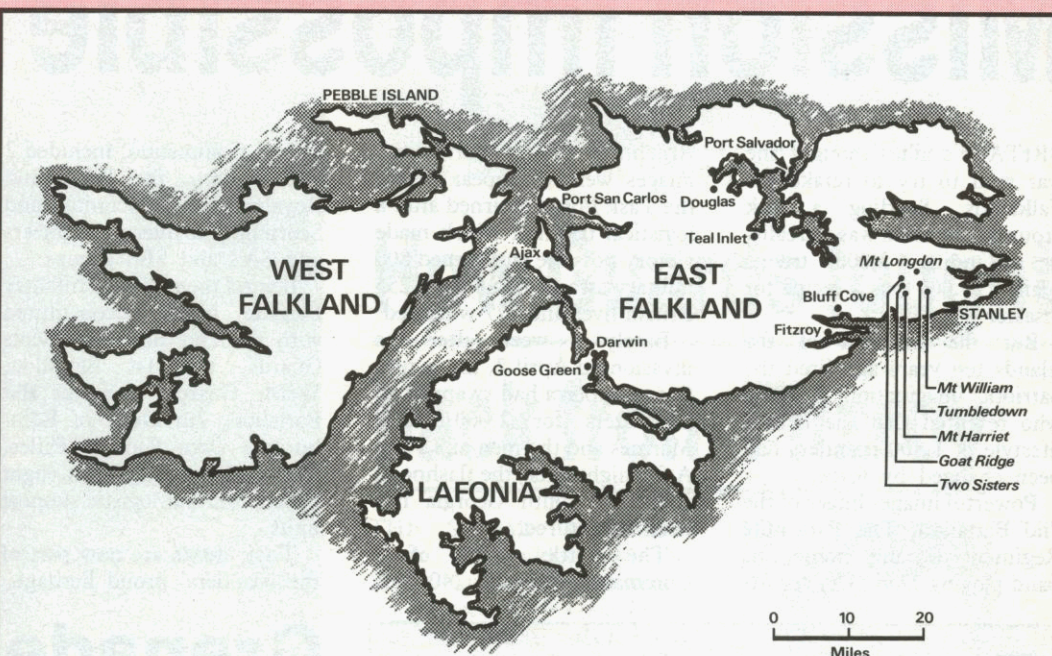
Sometimes it was very much by crook, and he admits to a bit of bribery and corruption to

borrow a sapper and his vehicle one night to move supplies from the beach to the main dumping area, at one point splitting individual pallets of 105mm ammunition, manhandling them up the hill, and reassembling them. Nearly 100 tons of supplies were moved daily.

Maj Dade learned that the Gurkhas had not had anything to eat for three days, so he hijacked a naval helicopter, wrote the grid reference on a piece of cardboard and off it went. He heard later how Gurkha morale shot sky-high when a strange helo arrived with rations. The brigade commander's tent had to wait!

The conflict profoundly affected him, but he felt it was worse for the families. His wife did not hear from him for three weeks and thought he had been bombed.

Many conflict veterans who return are deeply touched at seeing where friends died. Sgt Dean Welsh, now with the Falkland Islands Field Squadron, served with 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers.



OPERATION CORPORATE DIARY

March

19: Argentinian scrap dealers land on South Georgia.

April

- 1: Britain calls emergency meeting of UN Security Council.
- 2: Argentina invades Falklands. Three hours later, Governor Mr Rex Hunt orders 79 resident Royal Marines to surrender. Three Argentine soldiers killed.
- 3: Twenty Royal Marines defend South Georgia. Three Argentines killed. UN Security Council calls for Argentines to withdraw. Task Force announced by Britain.
- 5: Naval Task Force sails with 100 ships, 28,000 men and women.
- 9: *Canberra* sails with reinforcements.
- 21: MV *Norland* sails with 2 Para.

25: South Georgia taken by RM after two-hour fight.

May

- 1: RAF Vulcan bombs Stanley airfield.
- 3: *General Belgrano* torpedoed by HMS *Conqueror*.
- 4: HMS *Sheffield* sunk by Exocet missile.
- 12: QE2 sails with 5 Infantry Bde.
- 14: SAS raid Pebble Island: 11 aircraft, ammo and fuel destroyed.
- 20/21: British forces land on Falklands.
- 21: Sea King with 21 men (18 SAS) crashes into sea.
- 22: Port San Carlos and Ajax Bay taken.
- 23: HMS *Antelope* crippled.
- 28: Goose Green, Port Darwin taken by 2 Para; 15 paras, one marine, one sapper killed. Argentines lose 250 killed and 1,400 taken prisoner.

30: Royal Marines take Douglas settlement and Teal Inlet.

June

- 5: Army Gazelle helicopter shot down, four soldiers killed. RFAs *Sir Tristram* and *Sir Galahad* attacked at Fitzroy. Fifty-six die, including 38 Welsh Guardsmen killed and 85 wounded. HMS *Plymouth* attacked.
- 6: Fitzroy and Bluff Cove taken.
- 9: British forces established ten miles from Stanley.
- 11/12: Mount Longdon taken by 3 Para (18 Paras, one sapper killed); Two Sisters, Mount Harriet, Goat Ridge taken.
- 13: Tumbledown and Wireless Ridge taken by Scots Guards (eight killed, 43 wounded) and 2 Para. Mount William taken.
- 14: Argentines formally surrender.



Sgt Dean Welsh finds nothing left of all the constructions erected round Stanley

He was with the Welsh Guards until they were hit, then moved to support the Scots Guards by clearing minefields. A fellow sapper was one of those who died making the diversionary attack which helped the Guards secure the first crags of Tumbledown.

There are also happy memories. One task the Scots had not expected after Tumble-

down was a double baptism, but G Company were billeted on a remote West Falkland settlement and two West Highland families presented their children to padre Angus Smith for the sacrament.

That's how Sgt Wayne Hanson became godfather to young Elvis MacRae.

(The Guards still keep in touch and SOLDIER located

the father, Jim MacRae, in Stanley and bought him a pint from the battalion.)

Maj Tony Davies also made a friend. Watching a group of prisoners shuffling in a circle to keep warm, he called one English-speaker over for a mug of tea and a chat, to discover he had been a lecturer at the University of Wales six months previously.

Proud heritage of a Mission Impossible

BRITAIN's allies thought she was mad to try to retake the Falklands. Sending a task group 8,000 miles was unrealistic. Landing 3,000 troops against 25,000 was a recipe for disaster.

But the invasion of the islands ten years ago fired the patriotic imagination of those who resented that the British lifestyle of 1,800 islanders had been changed by force.

Powerful images linger of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment leaving home, its band playing *Don't Cry for Me*

Argentina. More, harrowing, images were to appear before the Task Force returned after a logistical triumph which made victory possible and earned 800 military awards at a cost of 255 British lives and 777 wounded.

Barely a week after the invasion on April 2, the luxury liner *Canberra* had swapped its passengers for 2,000 Royal Marines and the men of 3 Para. A fortnight later, the flashpoint island of South Georgia had been recaptured.

The battle group of 3 Commando Brigade (40, 42,

and 45 Commando) included 2 and 3 Para, the Blues and Royals with eight Scimitars and Scorpions, artillery, engineers and SAS and SBS groups.

Behind them came 5 Infantry Brigade, hastily reconstituted with the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, and the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, plus artillery, engineers, light helicopters and logistic support units.

Their deeds are now part of the islanders' proud heritage.

Grenade attack seemed logical!

THE NEXT Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards' Depot is a man who leads by example. When Bob Jackson, then a platoon sergeant with the Scots Guards, was pinned down by machine gun fire near the summit of Tumbledown and his officer walked into an ambush, everything ground to a halt.

So Sgt Jackson decided to take a short cut. He ditched his rifle, scrambled across the rocks and attacked the machine gun position with grenades.

It had seemed the logical thing to do. He didn't feel he should ask a lance corporal to do something he wasn't prepared to do himself.

"It doesn't seem difficult now, but it was at the time," he admitted. "On the boat going down we thought they were going to jack their hand in and we'd all get a nice sun tan at Ascension Island then come home. But the closer you got, the more it preyed on your mind."

Thanks to a diversionary attack, the enemy was facing

in addition to his engineering stores. With the gun, weighing 26lb, ammunition of 30-40lb and sapper stores of 20-30lb, he said it was pure aggression which got him through the long tabbing.

After being shelled in their captured positions, the Paras continued to Stanley and stood around for six hours before watching the Royal Marines come down from the mountains.

Sgt Raes, who is based with the sappers at Hillside Camp, has been back to Longdon before. During a posting in 1985 he took the memorial cross down for refurbishing.

This time he has set himself another task: to hunt for the clasp knife he lost there ten years ago.

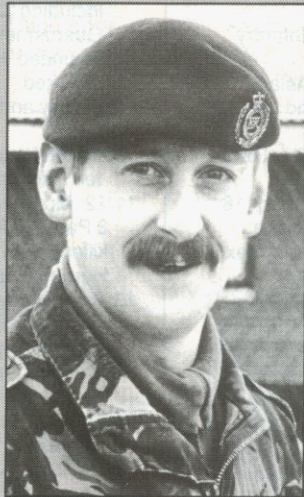
Para's tribute on Mt Longdon

SGT Dave Raes plans to pay his respects to his mates of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, by spending the tenth anniversary of their attack on Mt Longdon camped out where Sgt Ian McKay won the VC and 17 other Paras and one attached Royal Engineer died in the early hours of June 12, 1982.

Another three Paras and a REME craftsman died there in subsequent shelling.

A former assault pioneer with 3 Para before he transferred to the Royal Engineers just before the war, he went south with 2 Troop, 9 Para Squadron RE, and found himself attached to his old mates in 3 Para.

On the Longdon attack he provided fire base cover with a .30 Browning he had carried



Sgt Dave Raes



Scots Guards on Mt Tumbledown celebrate news of the Argentine surrender. Several of these Guardsmen are still serving with the regiment



Gurkhas pose with a captured Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun

the wrong way and G Company went through its objective on Tumbledown with hardly a shot fired and none of the 30 per cent casualties expected. Left Flank Company took the brunt of the defensive fire.

"The majority of the casualties came with the first volley of shots, and when we heard the firing and screaming, the blood really started pump-

ing," said RSM Jackson, who was in the final phase with Right Flank Company. "When we saw our boys lying there, it spurred us on to destroy the men who had killed our friends."

"They fought well, no doubt about it," he said of the enemy. "We were against Argentine Marines, the only Regular soldiers on the island. They

could have run any time they wanted, but they didn't. They also had a company-strength counter attack ready and it was just as well they finally bottled out, because we were almost completely out of ammunition."

For his gallantry in clearing the machine gun net, RSM Jackson was awarded the Military Medal.



RFA Sir Galahad on fire in Fitzroy Creek

How Guards fought back from Fitzroy

THE STIGMA of Fitzroy Creek still rankles with the Welsh Guards. In 60 catastrophic seconds two companies and the mortar platoon on board RFA Sir Galahad suffered 38 killed and 85 wounded.

Ten years later, the story of how they pulled themselves together and launched their own attack on the last hill before Stanley is largely ignored.

The Fitzroy tragedy was one of those unfortunate combinations of circumstance which in war can lead to disaster.

One man who supports their actions to the hilt is the then Welsh Guards RSM, now Maj Tony Davies, present QM of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, and back in Cardiff where he joined the Welsh Guards as a 16-year-old 30 years ago.

"If there had been any negligence, we would have put it right," he said.

Despite the disaster, the commanding officer, Lt Col Johnny Rickett (now a brigadier serving as military attaché in Paris) and RSM Davies galvanised the survivors and, strengthened by two companies of Royal Marines, looked to their front.

They were involved in securing for 42 Commando the Mount Harriet start line, where two guardsmen were killed in a minefield, and were also involved with the Scots Guards at Tumbledown and the Gurkhas at Mount William. Strong resistance at Tumbledown caused their own attack



Maj Tony Davies, ex-Welsh Guards RSM

and that of the Gurkhas to be postponed.

When the Gurkhas occupied Mount William, the Welsh Guards were quickly deployed by helicopter. One platoon was landed at the wrong point and came under enemy fire, suffering two minor casualties.

Then as the Argentines were on the point of surrendering, the battalion made a sharp forced march to seize Sapper Hill with barely a fight. As they did so white flags were breaking out in Port Stanley.

The battalion occupied the town as winter set in, imposing discipline on thousands of Servicemen and prisoners, sorting out the civilian administration, and clearing enemy mines sown in the town.

The battalion was also tasked with clearing snow from the runway for the RAF's Phantoms. Bad luck struck again when a missile exploded on the runway, seriously injuring five Welsh Guardsmen.

See book review, Page 37



The Occult History Of The Third Reich



Helena Blavatsky was a Russian mystic and self-professed telepath, claimed to have seen esoteric symbols foretelling the rise of the Aryan race. Her followers would commit atrocities that shocked the world.



HITLER, Adolf: Obsessed with the occult creed of Aryan superiority spread by Blavatsky's followers, he saw himself as the mystical 'Strong One from Above' sent to purify the German race - the bloodstock for the 1,000 Year Reich prophesied by the psychics. It lasted just 12.



HIMMLER, Heinrich: Infamous for his direction of the SS, he supervised the extermination of Jews in East Europe. Also obsessed with ancient rituals, he believed himself to be the reincarnation of the Saxon king, Heinrich I and heard voices from the past.



GOERING, Hermann Wilhelm: Established the Gestapo and set up the concentration camps, while looting occupied Europe for some £20 million worth of art treasures. Condemned to hang at Nuremberg, he committed suicide before the execution could take place.



GOEBBELS, (Paul) Joseph: From 1933 he was Minister of Propaganda where he manipulated information with a cynical disregard for truth. He committed suicide with his wife after taking the lives of his six children during the collapse of the Third Reich.

Did dark forces shape Germany's war leaders?

What was the link between Madame Blavatsky and the use of the Swastika?

How did an ancient symbol of creation become a dreaded emblem of terror? Was the destiny of the Third Reich determined by more than Hitler's mad dreams? And how did an interest in mysticism turn to megalomania?

Was the SS subject to supernatural influences?

How much did Himmler use secret rituals to control his black-clad killers? Why were they required to study ancient Runes? Was this infamous regime fuelled by the power of an occult-based evil?

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rallies, hysterical oratory and theatrical symbolism that roused the masses to blind fervour.

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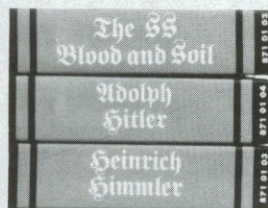
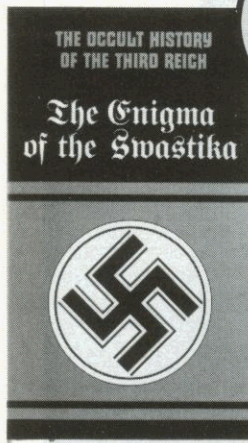
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Caribbean diary

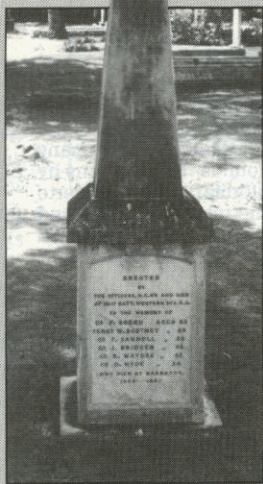
THE long-neglected Barbados Military Cemetery, a last resting place for British soldiers since 1780, is once again a neat and peaceful haven.

Situated behind a high stone wall close to the seafront and not far from the Hilton Hotel, it has twice been "rescued" from the jungle.

Men of the Royal Fusiliers, the Border Regiment, and the Hampshires are buried there beside colleagues from 30 other regiments and corps.

Restoration of the cemetery began in 1979 and goes on to this day. Behind it are Maj (Retd) Mike Hartland and a small band of volunteers from the Jamaican Legion.

Mike, who joined the Barbados Defence Force as Garrison Officer on retiring from the British



Army, told me how the work of repairing grave-stones, restoring names and dates, and keeping the jungle at bay is funded entirely by donations.

As well as keeping a watching brief on the cemetery, he is

documenting the island's military history. He reckons Barbados has one of the finest collections of artillery in the world.

"Ships had to leave an artillery piece and a cannon ball behind on their departure," he explained.

★ ★ ★
OLDEST veteran on Grenada is 101-year-old Pte Nathaniel Lewis, who served with the West Indian Regiment in Europe during the First World War and now lives in Johnson's Home at Morne-Jaloux.

After the war he became a celebrated jockey in Barbados, and his proudest memory is of being presented to the Queen. He and 100 other old soldiers are members of the Grenada Veterans' Association.

Many of them now rely on Poppy Day appeals and donations and grants from the British Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen's League and the Canadian Legion to help with expenses.

★ ★ ★
BARBADOS Defence Force Wives' Club members were very interested to learn about the thriving Federation of Army Wives (FAW) set-up in the United Kingdom and Germany.

BDFW president Fernela Downes explained that the new wives' club is viewed with a certain amount of suspicion by top brass.

But she and committee are keen to establish an organisation both acceptable and helpful to the BDF, and would welcome contacts with FAW.

Briefly...

THE NEW weekly Fam-grant rates came into effect last October but have only just been published. Retrospective claims are not required, but it is just as well to check your pay slips since October 1.

The rates are: wife – £39.65; dependant children over 18 years – £31.40; children 16-17 years – £23.90; children 11-15 – £20; children under ten – £13. Weekly amount for dependant children is to be abated by any child benefit – £7.50 a child or £9.25 for the eldest child.

CURRENT legislation precludes members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) from also having a personal pension plan (PPP). If you wish to purchase a PPP, make sure you opt out of AFPS.

FIVE years ago I discovered that Servicemen posted to Sudan and Zimbabwe had not been issued with AIDS packs. On a recent visit to the West Indies, I was told by British Servicemen stationed there that they too had not received the packs. Every Serviceman and dependant leaving the UK on duty should be issued with one. If you haven't got one – ASK!

SERVICE personnel who let their properties under the shorthold or assured tenancies scheme may find that when they renew the lease, their building society charges them £50.

An officer tells me he challenged this charge with the head office of the It is worth checking to see if this applies to other building societies.

FAMILIES staying on in Europe after leaving the Services will be interested in a new Independent Schools Information Service publication – *Education in Western Europe* – by Peter Mason. It explains in great detail independent education in the 12 EEC countries and also covers Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

It costs £5 and is available from ISIS, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG.

Don't be misled by the title, it's . . .

Never too late to claim war pension

THOUSANDS of ex-Servicemen fail to claim "war" pensions to which they are entitled, according to Kevin Blanchfield, a welfare officer with the War Pensioners' Welfare Service.

The award, commonly known as a war pension, is actually the Armed Forces' version of industrial injury benefit. Anyone who suffers from a disability or condition attributable to or aggravated by service in the Forces is eligible.

War pension is an extremely misleading title, and gives the impression that only those injured on active service are eligible. It is probably the reason many former Servicemen fail to claim the pension.

Most injuries and conditions arise as a direct

consequence of military activity, but soldiers hurt on the rugby field also qualify. The important factor is that the claimant must have been on duty, or travelling to or from duty.

Medical discharges are now automatically referred to the Department of Social Security's War Pensions Branch at Norcross, Blackpool. But this was not always the case and many former soldiers are unaware of their entitlement.

The good news is that there is no time limit on claims.

There are many reasons why Servicemen fail to take up war pensions. Many are simply unaware that the condition – for example, hearing damaged by the blast of artillery, small arms, or heavy machinery

– might lead to problems in later life. Often the condition does not develop until years later.

The message is: **It is never too late to claim.** The relevant Service medical records will still be available.

It is easier to claim within seven years of discharge. The burden of proof after that time becomes more complicated.

War pensions are not liable for tax and do not affect Service pensions, full-time wages, or Social Security benefits (except Income Support, Housing Benefit and Community Charge Benefit).

Awards range from a lump sum of £1,470 to weekly payments of £89. Other allowances are available for loss of mobility,

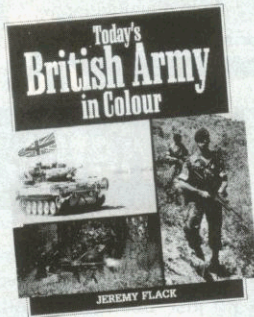
loss of earnings, and so on. War pensions do not prevent you exercising your rights under the Crown Proceedings Act 1987 or the Criminal Injuries Act.

To claim, write to the War Pensions Branch, Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3TA, or contact the War Pensioners' Welfare officer in your area. The War Pensioners' Welfare Service will be listed in the telephone book or at your local DSS office.

Service welfare organisations such as the Royal British Legion and SSAFA have helped in thousands of cases.

Kevin Blanchfield is based at Hightown Barracks, Wrexham in Clwyd. His telephone number is 0978 291111.

THE TRADITIONS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN PRINT

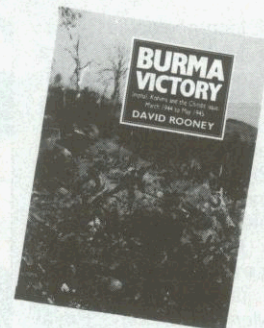


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Dover muster goes on

THE letter from George Robinson (April 20) suggesting that amateur military historians make chronological lists of regiments which have been based at their local barracks alerted my interest.

For some years now I have been tracing the Regular infantry regiments of the Dover garrison, going back to 1685.

It would be far too colossal a task to include them all so I settle for the Regular infantry battalions who occupied the barracks.

For the Second World War period I try to include all supporting Arms and Services I can find. I know of paratroops at Old Park Barracks in 1943 but do not know which battalion. Can anyone help?

To make the muster more interesting, I endeavour where possible to note where the battalion came from and its subsequent destination.

It's great fun being an armchair soldier – and much easier. – **Barry Smith, Dover.**

Brigade badge mystery



WHEN I served with the 12th (Brit) Infantry Brigade in Italy in 1944 it was part of the 4th (Brit) Infantry Division.

We wore, of course, the normal 4 Div flash, but in addition all troops wore a brigade flash – a golden rope intertwined round a white anchor on a blue background.

The brigade was commanded by Brig Algernon Heber-Percy, Grenadier Guards, and I cannot imagine that he would have allowed unauthorised wear.

I have totally failed to trace the origin of this brigade badge and I am wondering if any readers can help. – **Lt Col (Retd) Geoffrey Davis, R Signals, Harpenden, Herts.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"I gather the one with the beard was on balloons before graduating to Sopwith Camels."

● Final reunion for RFC veterans – See Page 19

How wives joined battle for KOSB

WITH the implementation of Options for Change, it was announced that The King's Own Scottish Borderers would be amalgamated with The Royal Scots. Our first reactions were of shock and disbelief.

How could the Government consider merging two of the oldest and best recruited regiments in the Army? These two proud Scottish regiments have totally different traditions.

There were only two possible options, to accept and submit or to fight.

To wives of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, the former was never even considered.

Our husbands, as serving soldiers, were obliged to make any possible merger work. But feelings ran deep among Borderers and plans were made for resistance at a high level. It was up to the wives and ex-regimental members to do any lobbying or protesting.

Former members of the regiment, including brigadiers and generals, had organised Operation Borderer, part of the



Wives' lobby on the terrace of the House of Commons. From left are Irene Neil, Kate White and Fiona Davies

Keep Our Scottish Battalions movement. We contacted them, offered our support and immediately became involved in gathering names for a petition. Expatriates as far away as Canada and Australia signed, and 980,000 signatures were soon gathered.

Wives attended a rally on Calton Hill in Edinburgh to launch the campaign, and then marched to the train to see the petition on its way to the House

of Commons. Irene Neil, Fiona Davies and I travelled down on the sleeper, arriving in time to march to the Commons with the boxes.

We decided to wear the regimental tartan and drummers' brooches for the sake of the cameras. It worked and we were questioned and photographed many times.

Much was still to be done. Carol Campbell and Carol

● Turn to next page

● From Page 33

Irvine were interviewed by newspapers and attended rallies in the Border regions. We wrote to MPs and newspapers all over the country and attended rallies.

Irene and myself were interviewed by Channel 4 News, BFBS Radio, Radio Borders and Radio Scotland.

Amalgamation – we do not want it! It is imperative that the Government, now that the Election is over, realises its decision was too hasty.

It must realise the depth of feeling, not only among Scots, but throughout the country.

Medal muddleThe cases FOR and AGAINST

I WAS saddened by A W Percy's letter (May 4) castigating the issue of commemorative medallions and the impudent reference to "medal-laden veterans".

As one who was involved in the issue of such a medallion an explanation of why such an issue was made is in order.

At a gathering in the Tower of London in 1988 to organise the 45th anniversary of the four battles on Monte Cassino, all the famous regimental associations whose members had fought there and whose regiments proudly display the battle honour "Cassino 1, Cassino 2" decided that such an issue was in keeping with the event.

It was a commemorative medallion, something that could be handed down in families and shown with pride.

Of course it was known that such medallions cannot be worn with decorations and campaign medals. If any veteran does so it is because he is proud to have been there.

Surely, A W Percy, you do not begrudge old men and women the right to be proud of their efforts in war. Your remark about civilians being bombed and not receiving any award is childish.

I still receive requests from widows from all over the world for the Cassino Commemorative Medallion. Sadly, only 2,000 were minted.

I am sorry you feel we vets like to show off. But if we have done it, why not? Better than envy for not having done it. – **John Clarke (Hon Sec, The Monte Cassino Veterans Association), Manchester.**

The Defence Committee Report was damning and we can only hope that the new Defence Secretary, a canny Scot, will reflect that the cost of retaining the KOSB would be less than the redundancy, benefits, and re-training.

Let us hope common sense prevails. If it does, the new Defence Secretary will have the respect and gratitude not only of the men of 1 KOSB but also of their wives and families.

The fight will continue. We intend to be here for another 300 years. Save the KOSB. – **Kate White (Mrs), Weeton, Preston.**

UNDER the heading "Sort out the DIY medal muddle", A W Percy referred to the medals sponsored by ex-Service associations.

Ex-Servicemen were once content to mark their regimental and association links with a simple brooch or blazer badge, but such are the feelings of comradeship among Second World War veterans that the past few years have seen an unprecedented rise in the popularity of wearing these commemorative medals.

One of the earliest pseudo-medals to be worn beneath official medal groups was that of the Dunkirk Veterans Association. Then a proliferation of European "campaign" associations started selling medallions identifying the people who bought them as veterans of this or that.

In recent times other medals, none official, have been commercially produced in the UK to mark service in Bomber Command, having been a prisoner of war or done National Service, and to denote membership of the Normandy Veterans Association.

The resulting spectacle of veterans marching past the Cenotaph each November with chests smothered in brightly-coloured baubles that were not officially awarded for war, campaign or long and meritorious service leaves these old soldiers open to ridicule.

It is a practice that should be discouraged, but these sterling old comrades will not be around for ever and besides, who would have the heart to implement the rules? – **Laurie Manton, Aldershot.**

BBC has the war taped

"DON'T let the enemy dictate to you. The moment that happens we are failing to carry out our task..." A year after they were spoken, Maj Gen Rupert Smith's opening words at his final briefing before the ground war in the Gulf began are as dry as the paper on which these lines are written.

Captured on tape they carry the same dramatic impact they had on the ears of men about to engage the Iraqi army in the biggest tank battle since the Second World War.

To mark the first anniversary of the conflict, BBC News and Current Affairs has released a six-cassette record of *The Desert War*. Punctuated by the crunch of artillery and the scream of aircraft over Kuwait, the story of the campaign is told by BBC defence correspondent Mark Laity, whose thoughtful, accurate reporting of Operations Granby and Desert Sabre was compulsive listening in many British homes.

We hear again voices which became so familiar at the time – Gen Smith, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, British and American airmen over their targets, Brig Ian Durie matter-of-factly describing the effects of MLRS as a bombardment begins in the background, Desert Rat tank crews, infantry and gunners.

The series, much of it culled from previously unbroadcast BBC and Army sources, spans three hours and covers the conflict from beginning to end, culminating in post-war interviews with Prime Minister John Major and other key figures.

The tapes are available only by post at present, from NCA Marketing Unit, BBC White City, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS (cheques for £14 including postage should be made payable to BBC Marketing Unit).

Memorial to Crimean dead

NOT much remains of the memorials erected to the memory of the 21,000 British Servicemen who died during the Crimean War of 1854-6.

But now the battlefields around the naval bases of Sevastopol and Balaklava are once again open to visitors, the town of Sevastopol has given back part of what was the largest British cemetery for the construction of a new memorial. The site is on Cathcart's Hill, overlooking the town.

Local architects and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission reckon it would cost about £15,000 to build a 25ft high

SOLDIER to Soldier

obelisk surrounded by gardens and wall, with marble plaques to commemorate the dead by ship and regiment.

A public subscription to raise the money has been started by the Foot Guards, and donations should be sent to The Crimean War Memorial Fund, c/o Lt Col Julian Lancaster, Headquarters Foot Guards, Wellington Barracks, London SW1E 6HQ. Cheques should be made payable to Household Division Funds.

Queen clears Malta medal

MALTA siege veterans will be delighted to learn that the Queen has approved the acceptance and wearing of the Malta George Cross 50th Anniversary Medal.

The Army Medal Office has advised that it should be worn after all official British honours, decorations and medals, and after any official foreign awards.

Applications for the medal should be made to the Malta High Commission, 16 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH (mark letters "George Cross 50th Anniversary Medal").

Monty's home in IWM hall

THE "CARAVANS" which carried Monty into war will be on show in the Imperial War Museum's new Land Warfare Exhibition, which opens in late May at Duxford, near Cambridge.

Three lorries which comprised Fd Marshal Montgomery's bedroom, private office and map room were his base for the latter part of the Second World War as the 21st Army Group advanced towards Germany.

He was visited there by King George VI and also used the caravans for meetings with Churchill and Eisenhower. It was from this command centre that Monty went to accept the surrender of German forces on Luneberg Heath in May, 1945.

Although best known as an aviation museum, Duxford's tank and military vehicle collection is one of the finest in Britain.

The new Land Warfare Hall will house more than 50 tanks and military vehicles and 40 artillery pieces.

The Imperial War Museum Duxford is just south of Cambridge on Junction 10 of the M11 motorway and is open daily from 10am.

DIARY

Until October 18: Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

MAY

9-10: Middle Wallop International Air show, Stockbridge, Hants (advance bookings: 0264 384421 or 384461).

15: 76th US Army Band concert at Southport Theatre, Southport, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

16: Military in Miniature show, British Model Soldier Society (Aldershot Branch), Princes Hall, Aldershot.

23-25: Military Vehicle Trust D-Day show, Weston-super-Mare.

26-June 5: Sotheby's exhibition of British gallantry medals, New Bond Street, London.

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust Overlord 92 rally, Portsmouth.

JUNE

6: Garrison 92, Warminster summer show including massed bands and displays.

12-14: Rhine Army show, Bad Lippspringe, near Paderborn.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

27: RAF Halton show, near Wendover, Aylesbury.

JULY

1-6: Armed Forces Week, a Tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

6-12: Public events at Royal Citadel, Plymouth, to mark completion of its renovation and 30th anniversary of Commando Gunners.

8-25: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office: 071-373 8141).

11-12: Men at Arms display, Military Vehicle Museum, Exhibition Park Pavilion, Newcastle upon Tyne.

17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

18-19: Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society tenth annual rally, Whitbread Hop Farm, Beltring, Maidstone.

29 and 31: Prince of Wales's Division Massed Bands display, Cardiff Castle (tickets from Massed Bands Display Office, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE, tel: 0222 227611 ext 8244).

AUGUST

4-8: Exhibition of regimental silver, Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield.

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

6-13: Farnborough International Air show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo, Devizes, Wiltshire.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers – J G W Dean – To RMAS, April 15; A G Denaro – To be Bde Comd 20 Armd Bde, April 24; J M Roulstone – To be Director Women (Army), April 28; J A Wright – To be Director UKCICC, April 24; N J Ridley – To RMCS, April 27; C T J Wright – To be Pres RCB, April 30.

Colonels – J Anderson – To BMH Rinteln as CO, April 20; R C Menzies – To RAM College as Director Pathology, April 25; A D Meek – To Berlin HQ and Sig Regt, April 27; D H A Shephard – To Soltau/Lunenber Trg Staff, April 27.

Lt Cols – M J Crabbe, REME – To DEE Andover LE (A), April 13; D Eliot, LI – To HQ The Light Div, April 13; J Johnston, RAPC – To be Comd Fin 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, April 13; P W C Read, RA – To DEE Andover LE (A), April 13; J I Whittaker, RAPC – To APO (Offrs Accts), April 13; B J Vearncombe, RAPC – To be CO Army Fin and Aud Office, April 13; M C Wilkinson, R Signals – To 8 Sig Regt, April 13; Maj M C Pyott

Cooper, QARANC to MoD, April 20.

J M Bowles, RCT – To be CO 17 Port and Maritime Regt RCT, April 21; A H Clark, Para – To CATC, April 20; M J B Graham, RCT – To HQ Trg Gp RCT, April 21; P W Harper, RCT – To RCT MRO, April 20; R J Hulmes, REME – To be CO REME Wg RSA, April 20; G C Parkes, RE (Svy) – To HQ RAO, April 20; D J Peerless, AGC (SPS) – To 641 Sig Trp (HQ 2 ATAF), April 21; D R Quinn Hall, RCT – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), April 21; S H P Sanderson, RRF – To be CO 2 RRF, April 24; M Summerton, REME – To DGES (A) LE (A), April 21; R T Carman, RAOC – To RAF Mt Pleasant (AE), April 24.

R E S Faulkner, 16/5 L – To HQ SEDIST, April 27; J E Harrington, RA – To MoD, April 27; T J Murray, RAOC – To HQ 1 (BR) Corps, April 27; R F Richardson-Aitken, 6 GR – To HQ Sch of Inf (Warminster), May 3; H P Stanley, RE (PCS) – To be CO of 1 PC Regt, April 27; K A P Stevenson,

REUNIONS

● **Royal Pioneer Association:** London lunch at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, on June 6, and annual reunion at Northampton on June 19-21. Details for both events from Geoffrey Crook, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071-834 0415).

● **Combined Ex-Services Association:** The association's conference weekend and reunion takes place in Bridlington on June 19-21, with a "dance, sing-song and chinwag" in the Spa Royal Hall on the Friday night, the conference on Saturday, and church parade and inspection on Sunday. Details from J L Thomas, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington YO16 5RN (tel: 0262 673101).

● **St Boniface, Rheindahlen:** The 1992 St Boniface reunion takes place on June 28 at St Clement Danes RAF Church, London. Choral evensong followed by supper at Chelsea Barracks. Former St Boniface choir and congregation welcome. Contact A P M Hole, 39 Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel: 0737 244001).

● **The King's Regiment:** Regimental Association visit to 1 Kings at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, on July 4-5. Details from RHQ Kings, Graeme House, Derby Square, Liverpool L2 7SD (tel: 051-236 6363).

● **Essex Regiment:** All-ranks reunion at Warley, near Brentwood on July 4 to mark 50th

anniversary of the Battle of Deir-El-Shein during which the 2nd/5th Battalion, The Essex Regiment fought with particular distinction. Tickets available from Capt Frank Coe, Highfield, Little Cambridge, Dutton Hill, Great Dunmow, Essex (0371 870307).

● **70th Bn, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regt) 1940-42:** All ranks reunion, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe Camp on July 10. Details from Len Hulcoop, Albuhera, 84 Daleway Road, Coventry, Warwickshire CV36 6JE (tel: 0203 414696).

● **35 Squadron RCT:** Past members are invited to attend the disbandment parade at Duisburg on July 7. Details from Admin Officer, 35 Squadron RCT, BFPO 34. Information, photographs and stories from ex-members of 35 Sqn RCT and 35 Coy RASC wanted for corps archives.

● **Darland Boys:** 12th reunion of the RE Darland Boys at Brompton on September 12. Further details of reunion, nominal roll and newsletter from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB (tel: 0582 27569).

● **Warwickshire Yeomanry:** A service of remembrance will be held in Stratford on Avon on October 24, exactly 50 years after Stratford soldiers fought Rommel's Afrika Corps at El Alamein. Ex-Warwickshire Yeomanry are asked to contact OCA secretary Neville Warner (tel: 0789 205818) for details.

● **National Ex-Prisoner-Of-War Association:** Reunion and annual general meeting at Warners Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hants, October 23-26. Details from C Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 8HG.

SEARCHLINE

● **Fayed, Suez Canal, 1949-52:** To assist research into which regiment or regiments wore the ceremonial red dress jacket of British forces at this place and time, officers or enlisted men who served in this area of Egypt and who can help are asked to call or write to Sara Doremus, PO Box 694, Burtonsville, MD 20866, USA (tel: 301-890-721).

● **Class 3 (V) Medics 1990:** Andrew Grime, 42 Ashenhurst Court, Blackley, Manchester M9 3HF, wishes to contact members of the September-October 1990 regimental MA Class 3 (V) course at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.

Army's loss was fireplace industry's gain

THOSE readers who were lucky enough to obtain a copy of the best seller *Return Ticket* written by Tony Deane-Drummond in 1951, and long since out of print, should not be put off by his new autobiography.

Even though the first 131 pages of *Arrows of Fortune* are virtually a copy of his original book with some rearranging of words, some omissions and some paraphrasing, there are two major additions to this phase of his life.

First is his assessment of the effect of Operation Colossus, the airborne raid on the Tragino Bridge in Southern Italy on February 11, 1941,

which he rightly considers raised morale in Britain, even though it had little effect on the Italian war effort and led to the capture of the entire party.

He also discloses, from research at the Public Records Office, that the submarine which was due to pick them up was cancelled due to a failure in security by an RAF aircrew which got into difficulties, so their capture would have been inevitable anyway.

Second addition is his revelation of an interview about the Battle of Arnhem given by the late Gen "Windy" Gale to the curator of the Airborne Forces Museum in 1970-71 which he stated should not be

disclosed until after the main participants were dead.

In this interview, Gale, who was GOC 6th Airborne Division during the planning of 1st Airborne Division's assault on Arnhem, disclosed he had been asked his opinion of the plan by Gen Browning and replied: "The whole division have to be landed on or close to the bridge to be certain of success, or at the very least, a *coup de main* drop of a parachute brigade to hold the bridge until the main force arrived. Without such a drop the chances of success were slim."

When Browning asked what he would do if he had to accept the plan (of dropping 11km to

the west), Gale replied, "I would resign."

Needless to say the author, who landed at Arnhem and was again taken prisoner, like many others, agrees with Gen Gale.

But then the author freely admits: "I have always tended to be a bit of a rebel when someone puts forward policies as though there were no alternative", which is probably why he led such an exciting life.

His two escapes, from Italy and Arnhem, are spell-binding and his account of his passage along a 6in wide ledge in the dark on the fourth floor of a hospital in Florence still produces goose-pimples.

Even his pastime of gliding

was filled with excitement and danger and his descriptions are enthralling.

So also are the detailed descriptions of his period of command of 22 SAS in Malaya and Oman, the latter covering in great detail the unconventional assault on the Jebel Akhdar in 1959 by Headquarters and two squadrons 22 SAS and other local troops.

Having subsequently commanded 44 Parachute Brigade (TA) and 3rd Infantry Division, one imagined he was destined, quite rightly, for the Army Board.

But sadly he was posted to Ministry of Defence Central Staffs, where his rebellious

nature did not fit ("Being wise after the event I should have turned down the Ministry of Defence appointment") and he retired. What a great loss to the Army.

But he made a second career in industry and then became an entrepreneur selling fireplaces in Somerset.

So we may not have heard the last of this colourful character who has left us meanwhile with such an exciting and readable autobiography. — PSN

Arrows of Fortune by Anthony Deane-Drummond. Leo Cooper Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £21.95.

No way to treat heroes

"DOWN the Strand he saw many men, including one of his officer friends who had the medal ribbons of MC and bar, standing in the gutter trying to sell matches or shoe laces."

This was in the aftermath of the First World War.

It is an indisputable fact that the British attitude to her soldiers returning to civilian life has for centuries been little short of disgraceful and, even now, compares unfavourably with that of many other countries.

This is the theme of Peter Reese's timely book *Homecoming Heroes* — not a story to swell the British breast with pride.

The author traces the British distrust and even resentment towards returning soldiers to the situation that existed after the Hundred Years War when men who had never known any life other than that of killing were set free but destitute.

"The relatively few outlaw bands were easily dispersed by the local shire levies, but in an island where memories tend to be long-standing the seeds of suspicion and antipathy were sewn against ex-professional soldiers."

Through the pages it becomes apparent that the classic civilian reaction has

been that ex-soldiers need to be brought back to the realities of life!

Apart from examining the civilian population's attitudes to the problems of returning Servicemen, former RAEC officer Peter Reese presents a detailed study of government support (and non-support) and assistance given by the many charities both extant and extinct.

The work of ex-Service charities is praised (although they do not always emerge completely unscathed) and it is unusual these days to read complimentary opinions of Earl Haig, described by the author as "the most notable champion British ex-Servicemen have ever had."

This is a somewhat rambling book, albeit written from the highest of motives, heavily seeded with some bewildering statistics.

One cannot but feel it would have had more impact if there had been greater stress on individual case histories. — BJ

Homecoming Heroes: An account of the re-assimilation of British military personnel into civilian life by Peter Reese. Leo Cooper Pen and Sword Books, hardback, £17.50.

Gulf view in prose, poetry, pictures

AT THE start of the Gulf crisis, *Time Magazine* assigned two dozen reporters and as many photographers to cover every aspect of the war.

Using their reports and pictures from Baghdad, Cairo, Jerusalem, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, London, Washington and elsewhere, the magazine's editors have put together *Desert Storm*, the story of the war from the US point of view.

This glossy account, containing more than 100 stunning photographs and 14 pages of maps and charts, comes complete with a Gulf War map and the offer of a free personalised book cover to those who served in the operation.

Lessons are learned in war through the experiences of commanders and their men; *Military Lessons of the Gulf War*, edited by Bruce W Watson, was written by a committee of defence experts.

They are said to have observed the conflict in an



A British soldier guards Iraqi prisoners of war in the Gulf

official capacity and from a distance. The resulting overview produced from their combined efforts makes heavy reading and is for the theorists rather than the Gulf War soldier looking for a readable account of the conflict.

One book which cannot be faulted for either readability or the quality of its photographs is *The Saddam Verses*, by Charmian Steele, a British archaeologist with a long professional association with the Middle East.

Dr Steele's personal sketch of the Gulf War in verse and prose is illustrated by photographers working for *The Independent* newspaper and has an introduction by the distinguished diplomat Sir Anthony Parsons.

The entire proceeds from the sale of the book will aid the Kurdish victims of Saddam Hussein's oppression, by way of the Kurdish Cultural Centre's Disaster Fund. The money will directly assist self-help groups in Kurdistan.

Desert Storm by the Editors of *Time Magazine*. Little, Brown and Company, London W14 0SH, hardback, £12.95.

Military Lessons of the Gulf War edited by Bruce W Watson. Greenhill Books, hardback, £16.50.

The Saddam Verses by Charmian Steele. Available from the Kurdish Cultural Centre, 14 Stannary Street, London SE11 4AA (p&p £1 extra) and other bookshops, softback, £8.95.

In brief

Field Security — Very Ordinary Intelligence by Lt Col A A Mains. Autobiographical account of security work before and after the 1942 Burma Retreat by this former Gurkha officer who ended up as Chief Intelligence Officer of Central Command India. Picton Publishing, Chippenham, paperback, £12.95.

Three Marshals of France: Leadership After Trauma by Anthony Clayton. Biographies of Alphonse Juin, Jean de Lattre and Philippe de Hauteclocque (Leclerc) by a senior lecturer at Sandhurst. Brassey's, hardback, £24.95.

The Valedictory by Charles Wallace. This British diplomat's odyssey includes the story of his time as ambassador to Peru at the time of the Falklands crisis. The Book Guild, hardback, £14.95.

DMZ Diary by Jeff Kelly. A combat Marine's riveting first-hand story of the most intense fighting of the Vietnam war — DMZ, 1968, where "death was sudden, life stripped of the superfluous." McFarland & Co, Inc., softback, £12, available from Shelving Ltd, 127 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BL.

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Some second thoughts on the Falklands

IN THE Falklands War Brig Julian Thompson was commander of 3 Commando Brigade, a formation that carried out the initial landings and saw most of the action in the battles to repossess the islands.

In 1985 his book *No Picnic* was published as one of the first and undoubtedly one of the best accounts of the operation.

Since retiring from the Royal Marines with the rank of major general, Julian Thompson has adopted a more academic career and is the Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of War Studies, Kings College London. With this somewhat differently shaped and coloured hat he has now brought out a second edition of *No Picnic*.

As he tells us: "Writing in 1983-4, I was in a good position to put the record straight and sort out fact from fiction."

"My Brigade War Diaries... had at that time not been sent to the Public Records Office. They were sent soon after, and, under present legislation, will be closed to public inspection until AD 2012... At that time I also had access to the official reports from all other units in my brigade."

"Although I could not quote from any of these documents I could refer to them for facts, figures, timings and other aids to establishing what did, and what did not happen."

This means that the basic narrative about the actions of 3 Commando Brigade and other British units is virtually unchanged, but since the publication of the first edition the author has had the benefit of access to information contained in the Argentine Army Official Report on their part in the Falklands War, which he now uses to advantage.

There are also some additions reflecting what one suspects were the author's personal feelings but which would have been rather strong meat at the time.

For instance, writing about a pre-operational meeting at

Brize Norton for the debriefing of the small party of Royal Marines who had returned from captivity in Argentina after being taken prisoner at the Governor's residence in Port Stanley:

"The only light relief was provided by the junior minister tasked with meeting them. He kept interrupting to remind us that if we persisted in our questioning he and the detachment would be late for tea with the Prime Minister, a prospect that he clearly did not relish."

"I resisted the temptation to remark that as the politicians had got themselves into this mess, they might at least allow those of us who were tasked with extracting them the opportunity to glean as much information as we could."

In 1982 few civilians in Britain were aware that military opinion in the United States regarded the operation as "Mission Impossible" without three large-deck carriers and a force of a hundred assault helicopters.

Some senior British Army and Air Force officers were also opposed to the operation because they feared it would fail. But it did not fail, due, in some degree, to luck but mainly because of the professional competence, courage and tenacity of commanders like the author of this book and men who served with them.

It was an enormous risk taken by the Armed Forces and politicians, but the politicians chanced to lose only their jobs!

No Picnic will not be the last word on the Falklands; with the tenth anniversary of the campaign upon us there will doubtless be numerous books to join this and the other excellent first-hand accounts, such as Max Hastings's *Battle for the Falklands* and Robert Fox's *Eyewitness Falklands*.

It is, however, a pretty safe wager that Julian Thompson's work will not be bettered. — BJ

No Picnic by Julian Thompson. Published by Leo Cooper Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £18.50.

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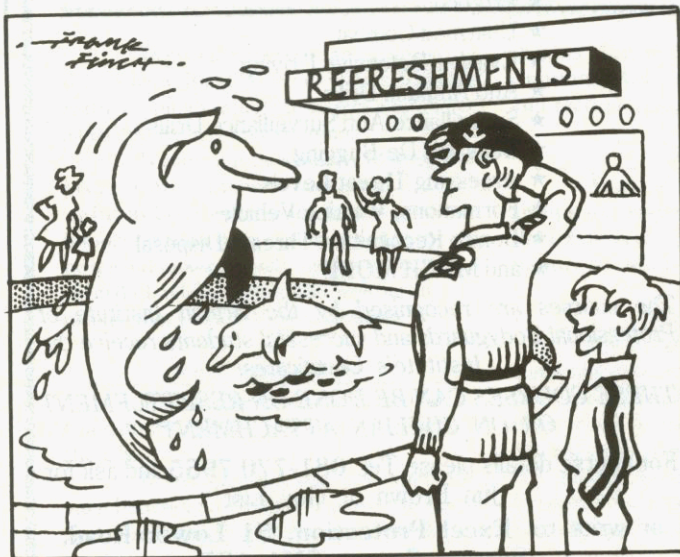
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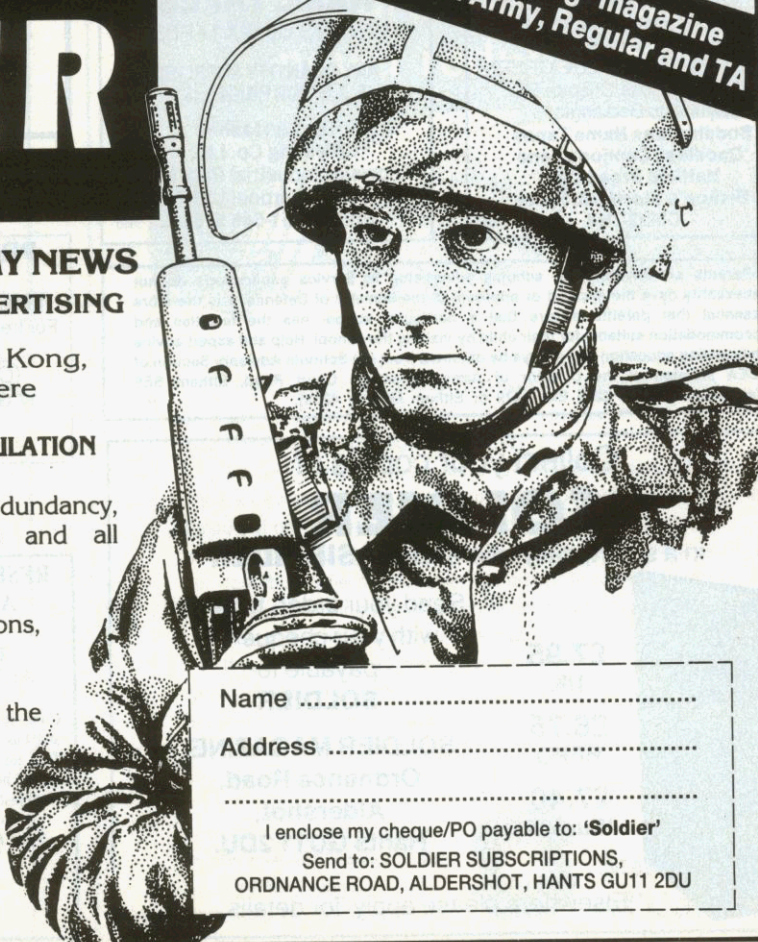
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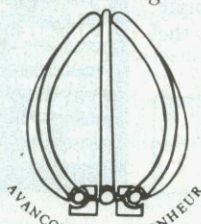
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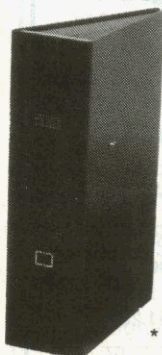
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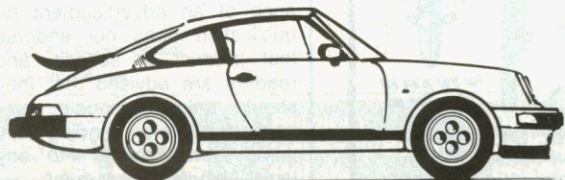
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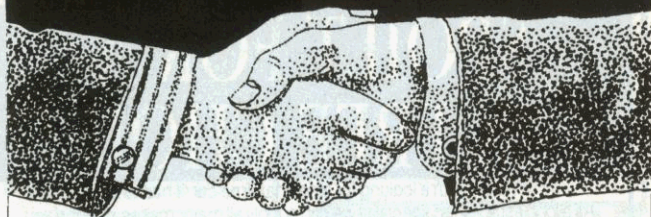
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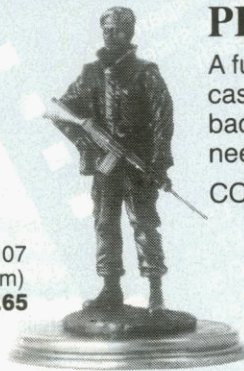
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Worthy bow out as champs

RAPC Worthy Down went out of Army shooting on a high note, winning the UKLF Inter-Unit small bore target rifle shooting competition at SEME Bordon just a week before the corps was absorbed into the Adjutant General's Corps.

And they did it in style, setting a new competition record of 1,541 out of a possible 1,600.

Lisburn Garrison were second, 30 behind, and a hotly contested battle for third place was won by 16 Air Defence Regiment RA (1,507), who edged out Cambridge UOTC by seven.

Highest individual score was achieved by Worthy Down's Cpl Mick Bagot, who has been chosen to represent Great Britain in the world championships at Seoul. Bagot, adjutant of the Regular Army SBTR team, shot 396 out of 400.

WO1 J Anderson (SASC), with 391, and Pte R Williams (WFR) and WO2 Herme Emary (WRAC), with 388, were the next best individuals.

For the winning team, Bagot and Emary both achieved possibles of 100.

There were a record 151 entries for the match, of which 34 were from Regular units, the rest from the Territorial Army and university OTCs.

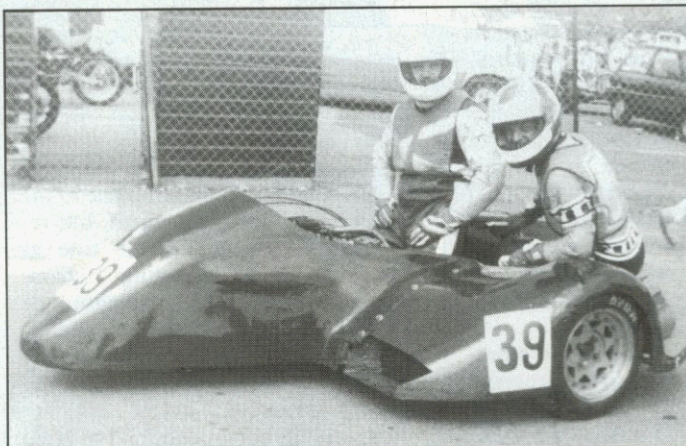
Army Apprentices College Chepstow won the Junior Soldiers Inter-Unit small bore championships staged at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

Rally winners

THREE two-man Land Rover crews from 40th Ulster Signal Regiment, which has TA centres at Lurgan, Belfast and Larne, took first place in the TA class, first in the Royal Signals class and third overall in the Army rally championships on Salisbury Plain.



A study in concentration. WO1 Jim Cairns takes aim during the Army Target Shoot Club pistol championships at Bisley. He won the individual championships with a score of 1,116.



Cpl John Ryland (left) and Cpl Ian Hines

Back on track

TWO instructors at the Royal School of Military Engineering will be back in action in the second round of the Clubman sidecar championships despite a crash in the opening race at Snetterton.

Driver Cpl John Ryland and passenger Cpl Ian Hines, both serving at the Plant, Roads and Airfields Wing of RSME, were knocked off the track in the open class Formula One event, putting Hines in hospital briefly and the sidecar in the workshop.

The two men have graduated from the 600cc F2 competition to the 1,000 open series this summer, and will be racing in Ryland's Yamaha-engined

BLR ex-European Championship chassis.

They will be racing on all the major circuits – including Brands Hatch and Oulton – and paying their own way. A day's racing costs them about £100 in entry fees, fuel and food.

Colleagues at RSME are very supportive, particularly in giving up time to help maintain the sidecar.

Ryland, a relative newcomer to racing, is due to leave the Army at the end of the year, but plans to settle locally and keep the team going. Hines spent several years in enduro and cross-country motor cycling, starting with Army Motor Cycle Club events in BAOR.

Duncan walks into finals

DVR Scott Duncan from Bulford-based 16 Field Ambulance RAMC is through to the finals of the National Association of Boys' Clubs boxing championships in London on May 11.

He received a walkover in the semi-finals at Stevenage, where the Army's other contender, Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF), was retired in the second round.

Three other Army boxers went out at the quarter-final stage of the NABC championships at Milton Keynes, all losing on points. They were Pte Darren Dugan (1 R Hamps), JLD S Boreham (JIB Shorncliffe) and Pte Sven Hamer (1 Queens).

Army Novices Individual Championships 1992: Flyweight – Pte C Welsh (1 Staffords), wo; feather – Pte T Wiles (1 Queens), wo; light – Spr A McGlynn (23 Engr Regt) bt Rgr W Kinkad (1 R Irish), pts u; light-welter – Pte L Cooksey (1 Queens) bt LCpl G Tongue (1 Staffords), pts u; welter – Pte J Grimby (2 Para) bt Spr K Sharp (26 Engr Regt), pts u; light-middle – Rgr D Clarke (1 R Irish) bt LCpl P Mills (59 Indo Cdo Sqn RE), pts m; middle – Pte P Klucznik (1 Queens) bt Gnr J Searle (26 Fd Regt RA), rsc 1; light-heavy – Gnr V Jones (32 Hy Regt RA) bt Spr A Peters (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE), pts u.

Tourists put to test in Barbados

A NUMBER of players on the Army's pre-season tour to Barbados put down early markers for representative honours this summer, foremost among them batsman Capt Peter Istead (Green Howards) who scored twice as many runs as anyone else.

He made 141 in his six knocks against some excellent bowling and fielding, and was always prepared to play his shots. Next highest aggregate was the 76 scored in four games by 2nd Lt Mark Day (RA), who although lacking power showed good technique and looks a good prospect for the future.

The side, captained by Capt Jim Cotterill (RA), won two of its six games and came up against some high-class opposition.

One of the "finds" of the tour was Lt Christie York (RGH/D), who bowled with pace and was outstanding in the field. He and Capt Mark Dyer (WG) were the leading wicket takers and, with all-rounder 2nd Lt Rupert Harvey (WG), will be making strong challenges for Army caps this summer.

All six matches were contested over 35 overs a side, with bowlers restricted to seven overs each.

Pre-match rain meant that only the Telecommunications wicket – on one of the better grounds in Barbados – was hard and fast. Both opening bowlers in the home team had played Barbados state cricket and made life extremely difficult for the Army batsmen.

The other side that proved too much for the tourists were Banks Brewery, who blasted a formidable 254 for six from their 35 overs and quickly reduced the Army to six for three. Peter Istead and Lt Will Pye steaded the innings – but the visitors were back in the



SSgt Mogg of The Royal Hussars receives the BAOR Cavalry Cup from Brig Robin Searby after his team had beaten defending champions The Queen's Own Hussars in the final at Hobart Barracks, Detmold. RH, whose goals were scored by Cpl Surridge (2) and Cpl Grainger (penalty), were due to meet UK cavalry champions 16th/5th Royal Lancers in the Cavalry Cup final at Burton Court, Chelsea.

Festival start to season

OPENING batsmen Capt Jim Cotterill, RA, who will again lead the Army this summer, had a chance to run his eye over potential candidates for senior honours during the cricket festival at Aldershot on May 8 to 10.



Capt Jim Cotterill

The senior representative programme gets under way against Free Foresters at Aldershot on May 24, culminating in the senior Inter-Services festival – sponsored by The Famous Grouse – at Portsmouth in August. The Army, who will be defending their title, play the Royal Air Force in the

opening encounter, and the hosts on the final day.

Last summer the Army lost to the RAF in a rain-affected finale to the tournament, but retained the title as defending champions because the airmen had already suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of the unfancied Navy.

County 2nd XIs from Middlesex (Aldershot, July 9), Sussex (Eastbourne, July 20), Kent (Woolwich, August 4) and Essex (August 7) will offer stern opposition during the season, and the fixture list includes Oxford University,

British Police, MCC Young Cricketers and the Civil Service.

The Army Under 25s, whose Inter-Services tournament is hosted by the RAF, the champions, in July, are due to take on the touring Combined Public Schools of Western Australia at Aldershot, and their fixtures include matches against both Wiltshire and Buckinghamshire Under 25s.

The Major and Minor Units finals are scheduled for August 28 at Aldershot. Defending champions in the Major competition are the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, but the Minor champions, RAPC Worthy Down, will be playing under new colours.

pavilion for just 107 – defeated by a massive 147-run margin.

Barbados Defence Force 160-7 (30 overs) (Capt Mark Dyer 2-26, Lt Will Pym 2-30). **Army** 87 (Capt Peter Istead 23, LCpl John Checkley 14). **Army lost by 73 runs.**

Army 113-9 (35 overs) (2nd Lt Iain Wood 26, Lt James Illingworth 21), **Barbados Police** 114-5 (Capt Jim Cotterill 2-28). **Army lost by 5 wickets.**

Wanderers 112-7 (24.4 overs) (Checkley 2-16, Lt Christie York 2-14, 2nd Lt Rupert Harvey 2-9). **Army** 116-9 (Istead 46, Cotterill 26 not). **Army won by 1 wicket.**

Banks Brewery 254-6 (35 overs) (Cotterill 2-12, Checkley 1-28). **Army** 107 (Istead 30, Pym 29, Lt Rob Thompson 14 not). **Army lost by 147 runs.**

Army 157-6 (35 overs) (2nd Lt Mark Day 49, Wood 23, Pym 19, Harvey 19 not). **Barbados College** 50 (Dyer 4-19, York 3-20). **Army won by 107 runs.**

Army 113 (34 overs) (Istead 33). **Barbados External Telecommunication** 114-4. **Army lost by 6 wickets.**

Gold call-up

CPL Shane Neill (D and D) from JIB Shorncliffe has been awarded his 1st Kyu in judo following a number of successful competitions at international level.

He won a gold medal for Great Britain in the Busan championships in Paris in March, came second in the International Budo Federation (IBF) championships, and third in the IBF Dutch Open.

Youths held in Wales

Boys Clubs of Wales 2, Army Youth 2

GOALS from App Cranks (ACC App Coll) and Gnr Clarke (47 Fd Regt RA) gave the Army Youth football team a 2-2 drawn against the Boys Clubs of Wales at Port Talbot.

But the player who really made his mark was reserve goalkeeper App Paddy McGreechan (ACC App Coll) who replaced the injured Tpr Jim Clark (RAC Tg Centre) in the 11th minute.



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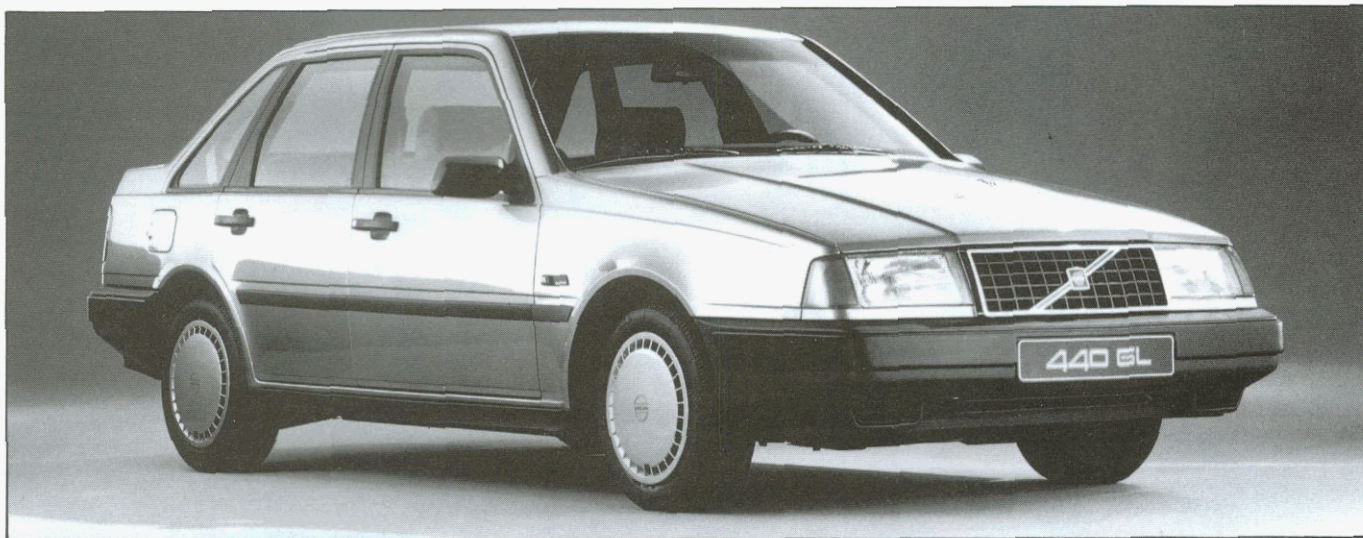
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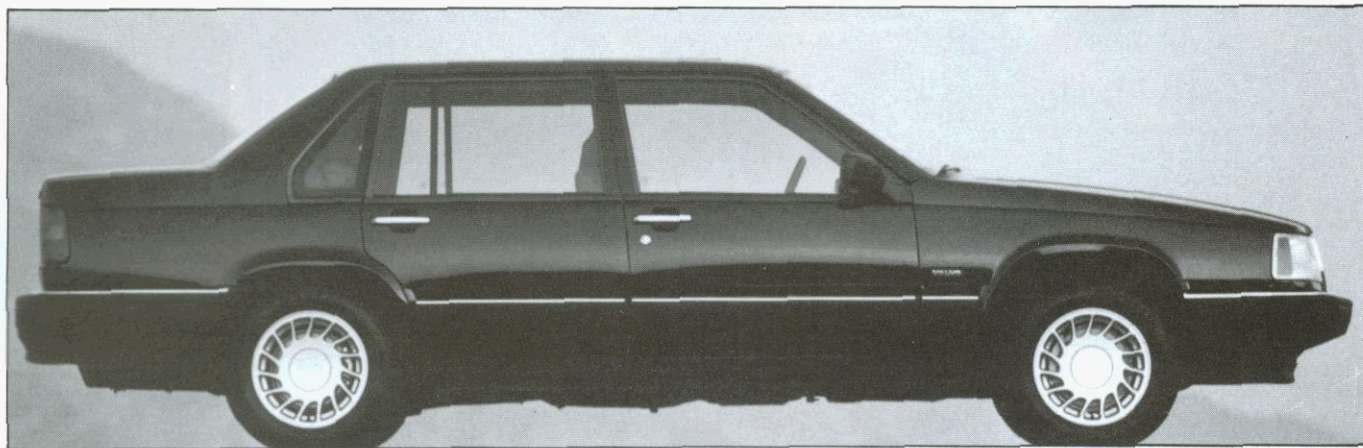
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Fanfare to the future? Trumpeters show off their skills in front of Kneller Hall's magnificent facade. A feature on the Royal Military School of Music appears on Pages 21-23.

Picture: Mike Weston