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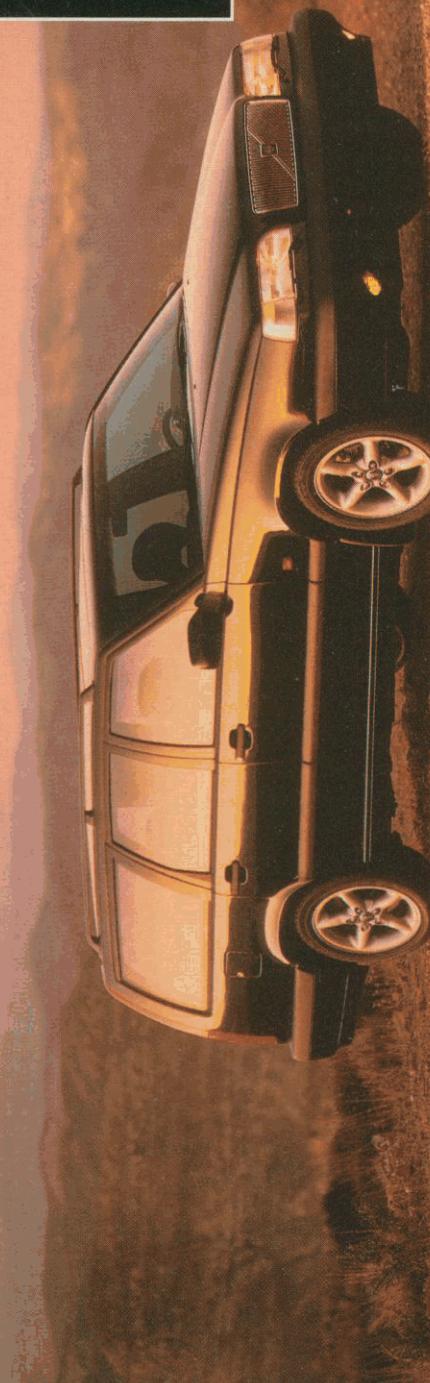
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● Grapple support units ● 4 RGJ ● 3 Cheshire

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

October 30, 1995
Vol 51/22

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COVER – British gunners on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo have cause to thank the Royal Engineers who dug their gun pits and built protective shelters for them. Trying their shelter for size are (clockwise from top) Sgt Chris Young and Gnrs Kevin O'Neill, Nick Coop, Richard Wood and Jason Allan from D Sub, 25/170 (Imjin) Battery RA. (Picture: Mike Weston)

Last Post for QEMH Woolwich

Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital



Picture: Bdr Peter Davies

Brig Guy Ratcliffe, last commanding officer of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich, hands over a symbolic key to Mr David Astley, chief executive of Greenwich Healthcare Trust. Flanking them are two Royal Artillery Band buglers who sounded the *The Last Post* for the

QEMH as the flag was lowered for the last time on September 27. Opened in 1977 and completed the following year, the Queen Elizabeth has been closed under the Ministry of Defence's Front Line First initiatives as part of the reorganisation of military hospitals on a tri-Service basis.

German hospitals to have the British touch

THE LAST two British military hospitals in Germany – at Rinteln and Wegberg – are to close under proposals that will see Service personnel and their families treated in special British units at four as yet unnamed German hospitals.

Front line requirements are not affected and medical cover for Servicemen deployed on operations will continue to be provided by uniformed military medical staff.

Following a market-testing exercise, the contract to provide peacetime medical care for Service personnel and their dependants in Germany has been awarded to the in-house bid. Known as the Health Alliance, the successful consortium is made up of current Defence Medical, Dental and Nursing Services (DMS) staff in association with the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) and Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust.

SSAFA already provides

much of the Service community's healthcare infrastructure in Germany.

About 200 Health Alliance posts will be "ring-fenced" for Service personnel who would be available for operational deployments. The Alliance will be obliged to replace them with locums during enforced absences.

The three field ambulance units stationed in Germany will not be affected.

Under the healthcare scheme announced by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames on October 6, designated British areas will be created in four German civilian hospitals, with a bi-lingual United Kingdom liaison presence at each.

Because contracts have not

INSIDE

Support for 24 Airmobile Brigade – Pages 18-23

Larry
Interview
– Pages 12-13

PLUS:
3 Cheshire and 4 RGJ

been finalised, the four German hospitals have not been named, but all are said to be located close to Army garrisons and RAF stations.

It is proposed that the initial contract will start on April 1 and run for five years. Phasing out of Rinteln and Wegberg will begin as soon as the Health Alliance is up and running. Before Options for Change and

• Turn to Page 5

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British midwives to work on German wards

● From Page 3

the drawdown of Service personnel from British Forces Germany, there were five British military hospitals in Western Europe.

Since the drawdown in Germany there has been increasingly less opportunity for military medical staff. The Service community is now under 80,000, whereas NHS

hospitals in Britain serve up to 250,000 people. And because Service personnel and their families are generally younger and fitter than the community at large, a much smaller percentage is likely to be hospitalised at any time. Maternity cases account for much of the Service usage.

A Service wife in a Health Alliance ward will have the

reassurance of a British midwife during ante and post-natal care and when her child is born.

It is likely that a British Forces Germany watchdog body will be formed to liaise with the Health Alliance and represent the interests of Service chiefs and patients.

SSAFA will provide 75 community midwives in addition to

practice nurses, health visitors, psychiatric nurses and practice managers. SSAFA's Director of Community Health, Agnes Nicol, is expected to be the Alliance's director of nursing.

Brig Willie Shackell, SSAFA's Deputy Controller (Services Support), said: "It is a challenge we are well equipped to meet."

● **Cari's opinion – Pages 16-17**

Airmobile brigade on the way home

AS HOPES of a lasting peace agreement in former Yugoslavia grew, nearly 2,000 soldiers of 24 Airmobile Brigade deployed at Ploce in Croatia were preparing to return to the United Kingdom by the end of this month.

The largest unit, around 500 men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, were due to be withdrawn in stages between October 19 and 24.

Other elements packing up at Ploce for the move back to the UK before the Croatian winter sets in are the Colchester-based Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; 21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery RA from Thorney Island; the Combat Service Support Battalion; 19 Field Ambulance RAMC; 72 Aircraft Workshop REME; the Brigade Provost Unit; 3 Regiment AAC with its Wattisham-based Lynx helicopters; and part of the RAF's Puma and Chinook-equipped Support Helicopter Force.

About 1,250 personnel, including 35 Engineer Regiment from Germany, will remain at Ploce for several more weeks.

A Brigade Rear Party of around 300 will stay behind to look after 24 Brigade's heavy equipment which will remain in Croatia. About 200 members of 51 Field Squadron RE will also remain in theatre until mid-November, with 35 Engr Regt expected back in Germany earlier in the month.

The brigade will remain assigned to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) until February and is to be kept ready for a quick return.

Most of 19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery RA, roled to NATO's Allied Command Europe Mobile Force, has already returned to Larkhill.

● **Ploce force – Pages 18-23**



Picture: WO2 Kevin Capon

From Battersea to Brunei is a long haul for an abandoned dog, but Mungo, a two-year-old black Labrador, has made it with handler Cpl Frank Clifford RAVC.

Now Mungo, who ended up in Battersea Dogs' Home and was offered to the Army, is starting a new life as a jungle tracker dog.

After basic training at the Defence Animal Centre in Melton Mowbray, he was sent to Hong Kong to acclimatise

Jungle Mungo

before he and Frank joined the British Army Training Team in Brunei for a trial period to see if Mungo would make the grade.

Now they are training alongside soldiers undertaking the tough jungle warfare instructors' course.

Mungo has his own shelter and a bowl inscribed OJM. Because of his status on trial, he was nicknamed "OJ".

Gunners complete MND(C) exercise

MORE than 7,000 soldiers of the Multinational Division Central (MND(C)), including Britain's 104 Air Defence Regiment and the Honourable Artillery Company, have taken part in a 16-day command post field exercise, Cold Grouse.

Troops were brought together on the Dutch islands of Zealand, Mon, Falster and Lolland, with units deploying by parachute or the 75 transport helicopters provided by the nations taking part.

MND(C) has a multinational headquarters and four brigades assigned from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. It is one of ten divisions inside NATO assigned to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Maternity clothes to go on issue

FROM February, sets of maternity wear are to be supplied to pregnant women serving in the Armed Forces.

Clothing includes one tunic top, one skirt, two long and two short sleeved shirts, and a cardigan. The clothes will be in green for the Army and in blue for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Nursing ward dresses will be supplied for those in clinical posts and tropical dresses will also be available. None of the items will have to be returned.

*'tis in mind
shattered*

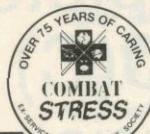
As he closed the door behind him and stepped into the street, the bomb exploded. We collected him after his discharge from hospital.

A bomb can do a lot of damage in a narrow Belfast street where danger was a way of life for over 25 years.

We now look after him in our residential home. He will never leave it because of his fear of the outside. His brain connects the outside with pain, terror and danger. He can now only look at the outside world from the safety of four walls.

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Guards take on Mersey beat

THE WHOLE of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards based at Tern Hill has been committed to providing fire-fighting cover on Merseyside following an escalation of stoppages by the Fire Services.

The guardsmen relieved the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on October 2.

Stoppages, which began on August 17, have been extended to 24 hours rather than the initial nine-hour strikes, and the whole of 1 WG has had to be committed.

Following a four-day training package by the Defence Fire Service, the battalion now has responsibility for manning 24 Green Goddesses, with two crews each of one commander and five guardsmen.

The appliances are based at ten Territorial Army centres and are supported by Royal Air Force rescue teams with specialist fire-fighting equipment.

During the first nine-hour strike which the guardsmen covered on October 7, they were involved in 90 incidents.

On their...

□ Two officers from 4 Field Ambulance RAMC are cycling from Croatia to Aldershot to raise money for the Save the Children charity and the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

□ The furthest Capt Mike McErlain, a doctor, and Capt Alan Bell, an admin officer, have cycled before is the short distance to work. They hope to complete the 1,200-mile journey, via the Alps, in two weeks.

...bikes

KOYLI returns to Yorkshire

A FAMOUS military name will return to Yorkshire with the formation of a new regiment, The King's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry (Light Infantry).

Under the current reorganization of the Territorial Army, the 8th Battalion, The (Yorkshire) Light Infantry is to be given a new role and the new name, one that echoes the



Tracked Rapier and support vehicles of 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery drive past the Town Hall, Woolwich, during the Royal Regiment's Freedom parade on September 28

Woolwich gunners exercise Freedom

LESS than two weeks after unloading its Tracked Rapier and support vehicles at Deptford, 16 Regiment RA exercised the Freedom of the London Borough of Greenwich on behalf of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

A guard of 60 gunners, tracked and wheeled vehicles, and the Band of the Royal Artillery, paraded from the Royal Arsenal to the Town Hall where the Mayor, Cllr Tony Moon, took the salute.

Also on the dais were Col

Nick Richards, the Regimental Colonel, and Lt Cdr Stephen Gledhill, CO 16 Regt.

At the Royal Artillery Barracks the parade was inspected by the Master Gunner, St James's Park, Gen Sir Martin Farndale, who welcomed the regiment back to the United Kingdom after three years in Germany.

Greenwich formally welcomed 16 Regiment to the borough with a civic reception at which a new Freedom scroll was signed in the name of

Greenwich, acknowledging the merger with Woolwich in 1966. The Freedom was originally granted by the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich to the Royal Regiment in 1954.

The regiment is the first active field force artillery unit to be based in Woolwich since the Second World War.

Suman warriors

SOLDIERS from Catterick-based Headquarters 19 Mechanised Brigade under Brig Robert Gordon are exercising in Malaysia.

The brigade is co-ordinating Exercise Suman Warrior, involving troops from Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand, from a former British-built infantry base at Malacca. In support are soldiers from 3 RHA, 16 Regt RA, 1 Kings Own Border and the 19 Bde and Battle Group Trainer Unit.

proud history of the county's own regiment.

The last element of the old King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry disappeared under the defence cuts of the late 1960s when 4 KOYLI became part of the Light Infantry Volunteers. It was not until 1988 that the county regained its own TA battalion, the 8th.

Mounted in stripped-down

Land Rovers, the new regiment will provide a light reconnaissance asset to the 2nd Division. The rifle companies of the 8th will become sabre squadrons under the Yeomanry mantle, infantrymen will become yeomen and colour sergeants will become staff sergeants.

No announcement has yet been made on a cap badge for the new KOYLI.

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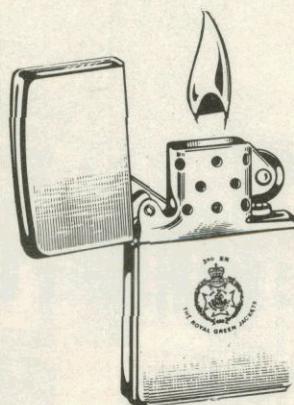
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Training area guidelines published

A REPORT containing guidelines for the management of its United Kingdom training areas has been issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Published on October 3, "Striking A Balance" is intended to further the understanding of why the British Army continues to depend on the land for its training requirements.

The report includes an overview of the eight major

training areas in the UK, which comprise 316,000 acres and are used by about 120,000 Regular soldiers every year.

While the interests of national defence take priority, there was no reason why the MoD should not work constructively with other guardians of open space, said Earl Howe, Under Secretary of State for Defence, speaking at the report's launch in London.

"I know that there are many people who have a deep-seated belief that the military presence is incompatible with protective stewardship of the land," said Maj Gen Richard Oliver, Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ Land Command, also speaking at the launch.

"I believe, however, that the opposite is true and there is a very strong argument that properly conducted and man-

aged training is one of the least disturbing uses of the land."

At ground level, one of the guidelines lays down, the Army accepts the obligation to ensure all Servicemen understand the "considerable duty of care" that they have to reduce any adverse impact on the environment.

All ranks are made aware of their personal responsibilities through briefings and videos.

Terriers beat the Big One

TEN Territorial Army sappers based in Northern Ireland went from scorching heat to freezing temperatures in a few hours when they took on "The Big One".

The team from 3 Troop, 74 Independent Field Squadron RE climbed Pico d'Aneto (3,404m) the highest peak in the Spanish Pyrenees.

The part-time sappers, based at Bangor, Whiteabbey and Antrim, completed the climb, which includes a glacier and boulder field, without incident.

• Adventure – Pages 34-35



All change for Capt David Gillingham (left) who is wearing the old Wessex Regiment headdress while Cpl Peter Cuthbert sports the new RGBW beret and capbadges

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Wyvern makes way for sphinx

A NEW chapter in a proud military history was opened on October 6 when Territorial Army soldiers celebrated the birth of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

The new battalion formed as a result of the merger of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Wessex Regiment, and the changeover

was marked at a parade in Bodney Camp, Stanford training area, when 2 RGBW assembled for the first time for its two-week camp. The old Wessex flags were lowered, and the new 2 RGBW Colours raised.

"It was very sad to say goodbye to the 1st and 2nd Wessex, which were fine and well

respected battalions," said the CO, Lt Col Barry Paddison.

The change has been welcomed by the troops. RSM Tony Dixon said: "It is good news because we now have a Regular sister battalion and will get much support from them."

The 2nd Battalion's 1996 camp will be held in Cyprus alongside 1 RGBW, currently on garrison duty on the island. In addition, 2 RGBW volunteers are being sought to join elements of the 1st Battalion in the Falklands next year.

As a result of the change the famous Wessex capbadges, the wyvern, has made way for the new regiment's sphinx.

Gurkhas may join other regiments

THE possibility of Gurkhas being recruited to serve in non-Gurkha infantry battalions is one of many options being considered by the MoD to overcome a shortfall of 1,200

in the Infantry. The Parachute Regiment, in particular, suffers because many potential recruits are unable to meet its high fitness standards. It is currently under-recruited by 250.



What the papers have been saying

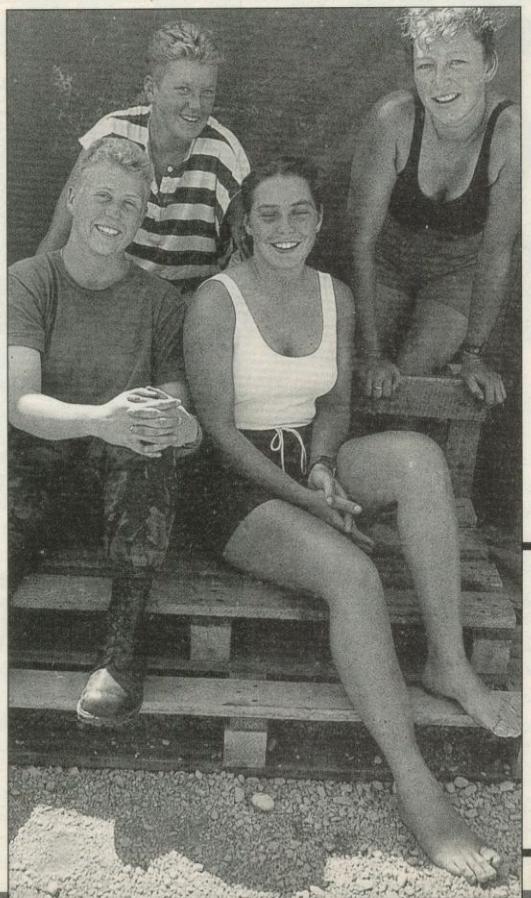
□ NATO plans to send a heavily armed force of up to 60,000 troops to Bosnia as winter begins. The forward headquarters will be commanded by Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, Commander Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). – *Guardian*

□ MoD rules barring women from front line service are to be challenged in a sex discrimination test case backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission. The challenge involves a cook made redundant from the Army Catering Corps ten years ago. – *Observer*

□ SERVING Paras are being offered a £50 bounty for every recruit they enlist who successfully completes his training with The Parachute Regiment. – *Aldershot News*



Using one of their recovery vehicles as a backdrop, members of 19 Field Workshop pause from their work on Mount Igman to gather for a group photograph. The REME soldiers have been supporting 19 Regiment RA.



Patio by pallet

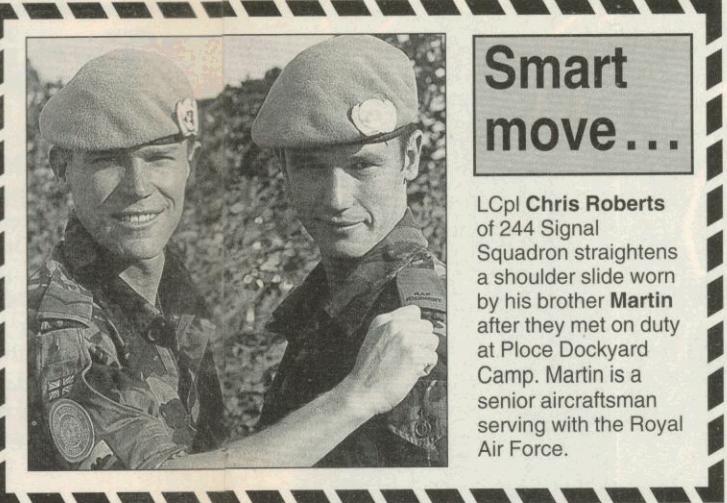
Improvisation means the difference between comfort and discomfort at Ploce Dockyard Camp. Four girls from 19 Field Ambulance RAMC used wood from old pallets to make patio furniture. Pictured outside their tent are (back, left to right) Ptes Jackie Hodgson and Jane Morton, (front) LCpls Alison Lee and Shelley Brown.



Taking messages at 24 Airmobile Brigade's headquarters in Ploce are 2nd Lt David Worden and Sig Simon Sedgwick of 210 Signal Squadron. Their unit is responsible for co-ordinating radio communications for the brigade commander and his staff.

Vehicle drill . . .

Ploce-based LCpls Tony Vines and Ivan Green of the Combat Service Support Battalion prepare a Land Rover for modification. The two REME mechanics from 8 Field Workshop have fitted modified roll bars to stripped-down vehicles for 24 Airmobile Brigade's teeth elements.



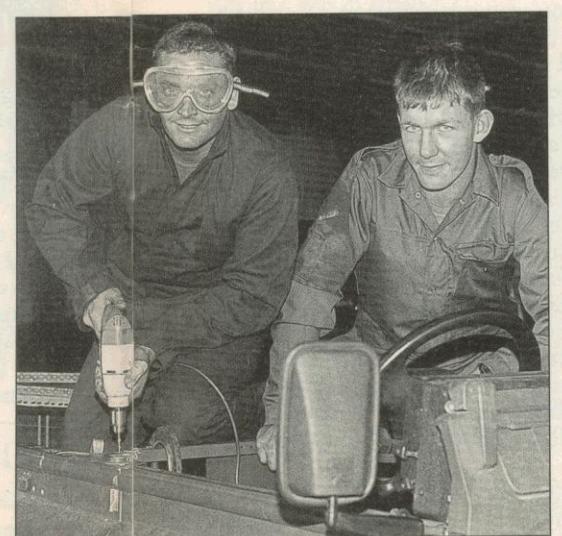
Smart move . . .

LCpl Chris Roberts of 244 Signal Squadron straightens a shoulder slide worn by his brother Martin after they met on duty at Ploce Dockyard Camp. Martin is a senior aircraftsman serving with the Royal Air Force.



Ready for battle

Preparing a supply of ammunition are Gnr Terry Teed and Topsy Turvey of 19 Regiment RA. The regiment fired hundreds of rounds and destroyed dozens of Bosnian Serb Army guns and mortars within the total exclusion zone around Sarajevo.



Médecins sans Frontières



Sharing medical facilities at the Mount Igman infirmary are these British and French troops. Pictured are (front) LBdr Westy West, anaesthetist M C Leroy, Lt Col Ross Walker RAMC, and surgeon M P Faucompre. Behind them are Pte Tommo Tomlinson, Nurses Dereuder and Dremière and LCpl Dave Tulloch.



Lee's special

Based at Ploce, Sgt Lee Pearson of 72 Aircraft Workshops prepares the door of a 3 Regiment AAC Lynx helicopter for welding. He is one of only four serving specialist metal welders.

BOSNIA PEOPLE

WITH HIS instantly recognisable style and distinctive signature, cartoonist Larry has, over the years, brightened up the pages of magazines such as *Punch*, *Private Eye* – and, on more than one occasion, *Soldier*.

Having been conscripted

into the Royal Artillery for National Service in 1946, he has fond memories of two “cushy” years, latterly as one of a handful of soldiers in a tiny, neglected, holding regiment.

Larry (real name Terence Parkes – the nickname stuck,

he says, when he started teaching, at a time when *The Jolson Story* film with the actor of that name was doing the rounds) recalls his Army experiences and talks about what he describes as his years of making an “easy living” out of putting nib to drawing paper.

Happy as

IT WAS Frank Finch, whose “How Observant Are You?” drawings are still a regular feature in *Soldier*, who contacted Larry to contribute a page of cartoons for the magazine.

“At that time (in the late 1950s), most of us had been in the Services,” said Larry. “He could have chosen anybody, but he liked my stuff in *Punch*.”

His first of several subsequent contributions, he recalls, was a page of cartoons about the First World War Army Cyclist Corps, “trying to salute an officer and that sort of thing”.

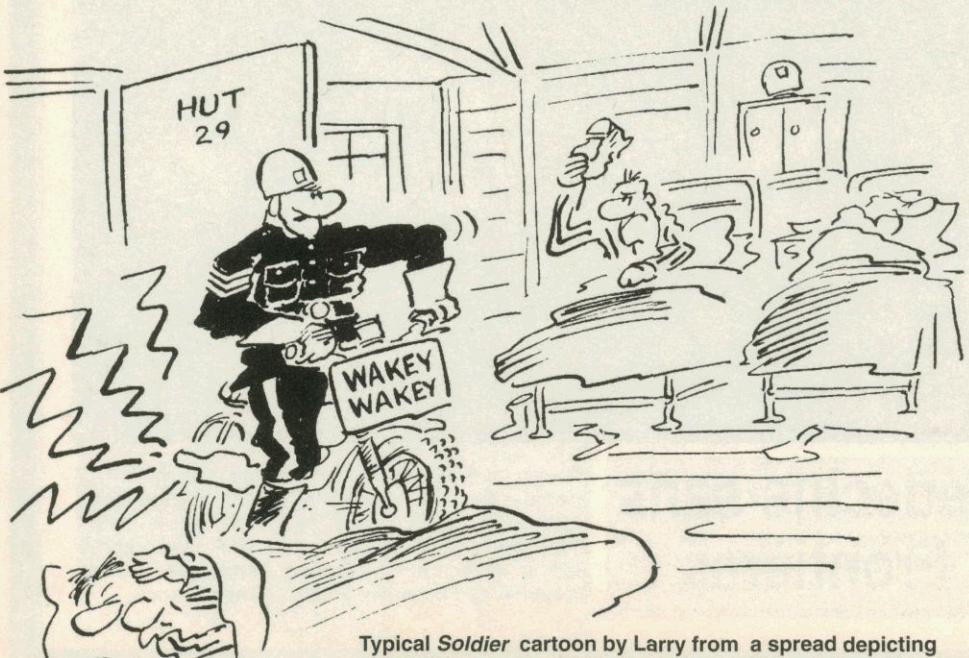
Larry’s own father had been in the Royal Flying Corps on the Italian Front, having previously volunteered for the Worcestershire Yeomanry at the age of 16 and seen action at Gallipoli. He was bitterly disappointed when he was only a Reservist in the Second World War.

There are further Army connections in the cartoonist’s family: his uncle, a sergeant, was killed three days after D-Day, and his cousin’s son served with the Staffords during the Gulf War.

But what of his own less than illustrious military career?

“For some reason, I was in the artillery,” said 19011692 LBdr Parkes, T.

“I was mostly a battery clerk, but that did mean I had perks like having my own room. I had some ack-ack training in Wales, then went to Barnard Castle, County Durham,



Typical *Soldier* cartoon by Larry from a spread depicting the White Helmets motor-cycle display team in the 1970s



A war-time Army cartoon from Larry's latest book, *Larry at War*

and Catterick before being posted to 268 Battery in Gosport.

“Since we were just a holding regiment, there were only 30 of us, and, with the exception of one major, the officers used to disappear for long weekends.

“It was just like a Will Hay film. I spent a year doing bugger all: as battery clerk, I had finished my work by eleven.”

Despite war-time rationing, the hungry 18-year-old enjoyed four meals a day, with

bacon and eggs every morning. “We learned how to drink beer. You got 38 bob (about £1.90p) on the Friday, and, if you didn’t spend it over the weekend – with just enough to buy some rock cakes for the rest of the week – you were a cissy.”

In the bitterly cold winter of 1946-47, Larry and his mates were snowbound at Deerolt Camp in Barnard Castle.

Others, including the RAF, had been sent home on leave, but the bombardiers chopped trees and parts of huts for fuel. So much slush was walked in that the floors were soon swimming in water.

“You can imagine what it was like when you had to go to the ‘bogs’ about a quarter of a mile away in the middle of the night,” said Larry. “Especially when, like me, against all the rules, you weren’t wearing any boots.”

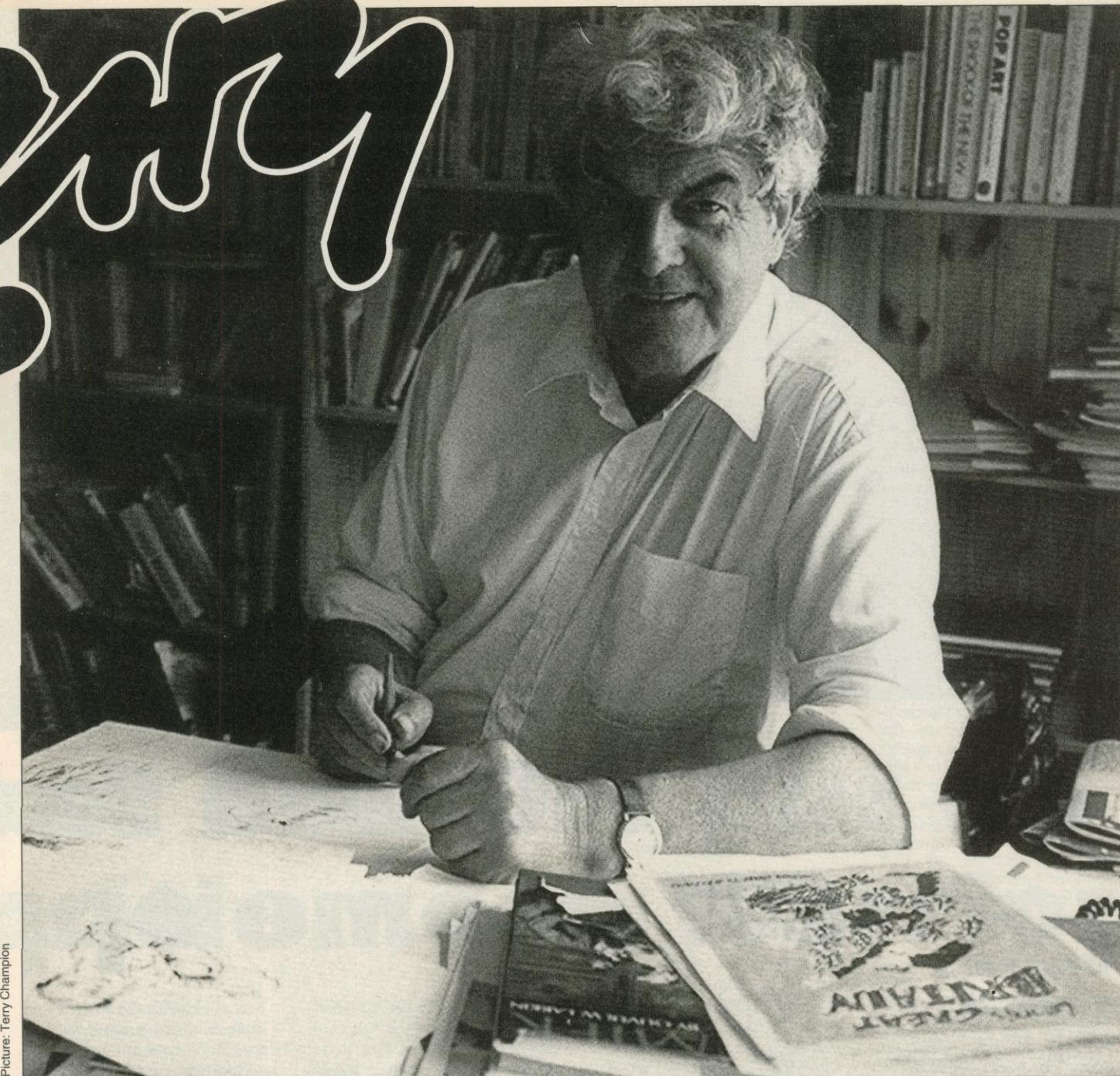
Incidents like that, and the sight of squaddies using kitchen knives to cut the grass outside their huts for a general inspection, coupled with him and his fellow gunners taking part in a homecoming parade in Portsmouth for the King and Queen on their return from South Africa – and, not being used to marching, being unable to keep in step – were all wasted opportunities.

He had no ambitions to be a cartoonist at the time . . .

Although the war was over, there were still many men in uniform, Larry said.

“I could have gone to Palestine, but, although it was better pay, it meant you had to sign on for an extra year.

“A lot of my mates were in Korea, and



Larry draws a lightning-fast cartoon of photographer Terry Champion in his Stratford-upon-Avon studio. See the result in Page 30

Picture: Terry Champion

Larry talks to Phil Wilcox

The
SOLDIER
interview

“I would have to have a crash course, to get rid of the clichés: I think ‘spud bashing’ is a thing of the past now, isn’t it?”

“But, as in my day, PTIs and body-building are always good subjects.”

Has he any regrets?

“Only three: I was disappointed I was never sent abroad with the Army; there is not a great deal of humour about; and they don’t make mapping pens like they used to.”

But it is his National Service days on which Larry looks back with a smile.

“Gaiters were perhaps one of the most stupid items of Army kit,” he said.

“Our trousers would come out of them, so we used to put a string of lead weights in the trousers to hold them down.”

“In that very cold winter, one chap was standing with his back to the barrack room fire and suddenly started hopping up and down. The weights had become red hot.”

Now that would have made a great cartoon.

* *Larry At War* is published by Park McDonald in paperback at £3.99.

are not the same things to be funny about these days. Things are a lot more sombre,” Larry laments.

“The first stuff I sold was to the *Sunday Mercury* in Birmingham. I had struck gold.”

Larry’s technique from the outset has been to stick with purely visual humour, drawing a cartoon in two or three minutes, generally with no captions, but cheating by using labels such as a notice on a door.

“I’m not into social comment – I was brought up more on clown humour like Laurel and Hardy. Current events don’t amuse me.”

Commissions from *Punch* followed and Larry turned to freelancing in 1957, drawing for house magazines and the *Daily Express*, whose own famous cartoonist, Carl Giles, died in August.

“With Bosnia and Aids and so on, there

“How the hell can you draw a cartoon about empowerment?” he asked.

To mark this year’s huge VE and VJ events, he produced a book of cartoons,

Larry At War.

Would he like to do any cartoons about today’s Army?

“If I was asked, I would jump at it.

THE CORRESPONDENCE columns of newspapers and journals have always been a guide to the concerns and issues of the day. The letters pages of *Soldier* 50 years ago were no exception. This selection is taken from the issue dated October 27, 1945:

Clem, Chad or is it Urgi?

THE sign of "Clem" is well known over here.

My friends say it is a recognised divisional or formation sign. I say not. Please enlighten us. — Gnr R B Appleton, 12 LAA Regt.

● Known otherwise as "Mr Chad" or "Clem", this much-discussed doodle is "Urgi" to 20 Troop Carrying Company RASC. For them at least he IS a recognised unit sign, peering over the tailboards of their vehicles. "Urgi", doodled by Cpl Dawes of the unit, was quickly accepted as the official unit sign and became familiar to many who took part in last autumn's advances — for 20 Troop Carrying Company claim to have provided transport for all BLA [British Liberation Army] formations (except 49 Div) from Villers Bocage to Nijmegen. — Editor

Brother's ribbons

MY brother was killed on operations over Europe in the RAF. Am I allowed to wear his ribbons and, if so, where are they worn? His grave is in France, and I am stationed in Germany. Is it possible for me to see his grave, and how do I go about it? — Pte M, 53 Coy, PC.

● You are not allowed to wear your brother's ribbons. Permission to see the grave can only be granted by your CO. — Editor

I've got no overcoat ...

AS, on four occasions, my house was severely damaged by enemy action I have no overcoat. Compensation for lost and damaged articles can be claimed, but as, according to my information, a minimum of three months' notice is required when ordering a coat or overcoat, and I am

due for release in November, the possibility of obtaining one before February seems remote.

Is there, therefore, any proviso not mentioned in

Release Regulations which covers the issue of an overcoat in lieu of a raincoat? — Cpl H Clark, 28 Coy, PC

● You cannot, on release, be issued with an overcoat in lieu of a raincoat, but after release you will have to collect your civilian clothing coupons at the National Registration Office, plus additional release coupons. You should state your losses there, and subject to investigation you will receive supplementary clothing coupons to enable you to obtain an overcoat. — Editor

One-way traffic

CAN members of the Royal Air Force who were transferred to the Army during the war now be restored to their former Service? — Dvr J C Corbin, 2 Army Postal Unit, REPS.

● No. The situation remains exactly as it was. — Editor

Fellow traveller

I HOPE to be released early in the New Year and wish to recommence business in the export trade (woollen piece goods). This entails making personal contacts in North Africa and France. Will I be allowed to leave the United Kingdom for such purposes? — Sig A G Ward, 33 TOS, Berlin Area Signals.

● Yes. You should write now to the Department of Overseas Trade, Hawkins House, Dolphin Square, London SW, giving as much information as possible about your business and what you propose to do. — Editor



Above — Members of B Coy 4 RGJ in a Warrior await orders to move. Left to right are LCpl Justin Hays, Rfn Steve Coote, Rfn Duncan Jones, LCpl Paul Bruce and Rfn Eddie Molloy

Right — RSM Phil Ibbotson (right) and Provost Sgt Billy Taylor — star of a television commercial for a well-known orange drink — in charge of the defence of battalion headquarters



A brace of Warriors move menacingly over the plain during Tesex 6/95

Green Jacket Terriers put up some opposition — in Warrior

TRAINING for the London-based soldiers of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, on their annual camp was aimed primarily at taking part in Tesex 6/95.

It was the first time a complete Territorial Army battalion had been involved on the

battlefield with the Army's new Tactical Engagement Simulator (TES) equipment.

Sponsored by 1 Mechanised Brigade, the Tesex on Salisbury Plain was the 1st Battalion, The Worcester and Sherwood Foresters' battle group exercise. The Woofers

operated as Blue Force. Involved in 4 RGJ's deployment as Opposing Forces battle group were TAC/Main HQ, commanded by Lt Col Tom Hamilton-Baillie; C/B Coy mounted in Warrior and commanded by Maj Tim Matthews; SP Coy, tasked with an infiltration role, commanded by Maj Richard Lawrence; an echelon commanded by Maj Tony Marvin; B Sqn, 9/12th L supported with Challenger tanks; 1 PWO Recce Platoon in Scimitar; and A Coy 4 RGJ (V), commanded by Maj Charles MacDowell, deployed in Warrior to the 1 WFR battle group.

Field training began once 4 RGJ, based at Rolleston Camp, had fitted and tested the simulation equipment and gained confidence in its use.

Adapting to Warrior and the chance to operate with tanks and other armoured vehicles was a fascinating training experience for 4 RGJ. Starting on foot, they progressed to Warrior, finally incorporating tanks



Members of the OPFOR with simulation equipment



Lt Col Tom Hamilton-Baillie, CO 4 RGJ (V), discusses battle plans with operations officer Lt John McEwing and intelligence officer Lt Cathy Spong

and Scimitars as a build-up to the main battle.

Using the simulation equipment meant the volunteers were able to witness the results of accurate shooting and gain a

"Those soldiers and officers (and even commanding officers) who fail to reach the required standard get shot and end up with their personal pride dented."

Medical shake-up points way to new culture

ONE WORD caught my attention in the press release on the closure of hospitals in Germany. The word was "culture".

We were assured the *krankenhaus* wards allocated to serve the German community would be run in line with British culture. I do hope not.

I also hope there won't be a massive protest about the new way in which health care for Forces families in Germany is to be managed. Naturally, those whose jobs will be affected may be distressed and I hope every effort is made to help them.

But medical provision for Forces families has always been an emotive subject. When I lived in a fairly rural

part of Germany alongside a single regiment, our nearest British Military Hospital (BMH) was an 85-minute drive away in an ambulance well past its retirement date.

The BMH was run by dedicated and warm-hearted staff who were battling against cut-backs and shortages of equipment and manpower.

The option of using the local, well-equipped and conveniently sited *krankenhaus* was reserved for dire emergencies because it caused nightmares for those dealing with the consequent admin work.

This is, I suspect, where Service families want to be assured that they will be treated in an environment which reflects British "culture".

What's the difference?

In the United Kingdom, more and more Service

have done the wretched paperwork themselves if only they could have gone into the German facility.

When you are in pain and feeling ill it doesn't matter to you who treats you as long as they are able to make you feel better.

Routine treatment is another matter, as is treatment for those with special medical needs.

This is, I suspect, where Service families want to be assured that they will be treated in an environment which reflects British "culture".

Friends in early labour who made the ride to the BMH told me they would

families are finding that they have to use local NHS facilities – particularly the RAF for whom it is a new experience. If you don't live in a town with a hospital offering a full range of facilities you might find yourself travelling miles for tests and procedures.

Operations may be postponed again and again because of staff or equipment shortages.

And standards vary according to where you live. On a ward I visited recently there were only two instruments to take blood pressure readings. In another, the lavatory to which patients were sent to

This is the way that our

produce a specimen was so filthy it must have constituted a health hazard.

There are also many examples of excellence. It would be all too easy to be carried away with the notion that the prospect of being treated in a German hospital is something to be feared.

In one of my regular calls to Germany I heard families were worried that the rationalisation of medical services meant some would have to travel further for their appointments.

While sympathising, I have to say that the same fate has fallen on civilian families in areas such as East Anglia due to the closure of hospitals.

This is the way that our

British "culture" is going. Service families in Germany will have to adapt to the changes in European culture: it would be foolish to attempt to hold back the tide. Adopting a "little Britain" mentality would be the worst possible course.

I hope all affected by the new approach to medical provision seize the opportunity to build on the new relationship between German and British medical staff.

They now have an opportunity to build something better in the face of the new challenge.

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

Service schools go top of class

HER MAJESTY'S Chief Inspector of Schools is pleased with what he found when visiting British Service schools in Germany and Belgium.

Reports on six schools run by the Service Children's Education Authority North West Europe (SCS(NWE)) reflect uniformly high standards.

A notable strength of the school is the attention it gives to the support and guidance of its pupils by providing a consistently caring, secure and safe environment.

Prince Rupert School, Rinteln (11-19) – This is a

good school with a civilised and positive ethos. The school is a pleasant and orderly community. The quality of teaching is high in comparison with standards observed in England. Pupils at Prince Rupert Lodge receive boarding education of very high quality.

Blankenhagen Primary School, Gütersloh (5-11) – The school successfully promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its pupils. A positive ethos and a strong sense of purpose are apparent and pupils' behaviour is good.

Haig Primary School, Gütersloh (5-11) – Quality of education is good. A strong, positive ethos is created. The school is efficiently managed and provides good value for money.

Bishop Park First School, Paderborn (4-9) – The quality of education is good, pupils are well motivated, well behaved and polite.

St Patrick's Primary School, Rheindahlen (4-11) – There is a close harmony and a strong sense of purpose among the teachers and their work is well organised. Throughout the school there is a positive ethos and a strong sense of purpose.

Riders in the rain

THE WHITE Helmets ignored heavy rain to complete a slick display for appreciative visitors to the 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron's fair at Höhne to mark the 75th anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals.

The corps' motor cycle display team got through its entire programme, including jumping eight motorbikes and a car.

The corps band was drier, playing in a marquee.

Lt Col Peter Wall, CO 32 Arm'd Engr Rgt, and RSM Rocky Rock, were guests at a dinner for squadron officers and senior NCOs, and the celebrations ended in style the following day with an all-ranks party.

Loo-vely, say low veterans

VETERANS on the Isle of Wight can go to the loo in peace, thanks to a generous £266,500 donation by the Trust of the late Richard Tomkins, the Green Shield Stamps magnate, and a fund-raising campaign by the Forces Help Society in the island.

The new wing at St Vincent's, the veterans' residential home in Binstead Road, Ryde, opened on October 1, means that the 15 residents – men and women – can enjoy the privacy of their own self-contained rooms with *en suite* bathrooms.

They are delighted with the improvements.

"At last we can go to the loo in peace," was how former Para Chalky White (74), a resident for five years, reacted.

Now the Forces Help Society is looking for volunteers to raise a further £364,000 – so they can build another extension at St Vincent's for five more needy veterans.

BUPA discount

ARMY personnel and their dependants qualify for a 40 per cent discount on current BUPACare rates. For details, ring BUPA free on 0800 600 500, ask for extension 5700 and quote reference MIS 12417.



Picture: Mike Perring

AWJ comes of age

Here's to the next milestone: Polly Christoperson, Editor of the *Army Wives Journal*, and her assistant, Susie Robertson, take a breather from their hectic schedule as the magazine celebrates its 21st edition.

The publication is funded by advertising and distributed to 68,000 Army wives.

"The primary aim of the magazine is as a method of communication between wives and

the chain of command," says Polly.

"We are in the fortunate position of being over-subscribed, and it is wonderful that people are interested in having their views heard."

Does she have a message for Army wives of the future, for example in December 2002, when the *Journal* should, with any luck, be celebrating its 50th edition?

"Use the magazine as your voice," was Polly's instant reply.

● The Duchess of Gloucester, patron of the Federation of Army Wives, attended a reception at Bulford Manor to mark the AWJ's 21st edition.

● The FAW will be voting at its 13th annual conference at Sandhurst on November 29 on a possible change of name.

Tribute paid to caring Chrissy

CHRISSEY Naylor has been the very best of neighbours in Nienburg, Germany.

In recognition of her ceaseless work for Army families, she has been voted 1995 winner of the Anne Armstrong Award.

The rose bowl, in memory of the late Anne Armstrong, families' welfare campaigner, is awarded by the Federation of Army Wives.

She worked with the Brownies, kept the pack going when it was in danger of closing and made a major contribution to the Regimental Wives' Club and station HIVE (Help Information Volunteer Exchange).

An active Home-Start volunteer, originally in Hameln, Chrissy helped many families through a difficult time after the drawdown resulted in many of her husband's squadron being made redundant.

"If there were more than 24 hours in a day, Chrissy would probably use them to do something for others," wrote Marion Simonini, who nominated Chrissy.

Isn't this fun . . .

and thorns on our hands and faces as we crawled and crouched and squirmed, using some very inventive sign language so as not to make a sound, not entirely sure of where we were, I think it was probably the most fun we'd had in years," was how another summed it up.

Inset: Michele Jackson (right) helps Shirley Mealey with her SA80

HUSSARS' HAREM ON WARPATH



In good voice despite some seriously challenging tasks during their Exercise Hawks Harem, the indomitable wives of The King's Royal Hussars at Münster sing the praises of Recce Troop who organised their latest field venture.

Patrolling, ambushing and attacking enemy positions were written into the programme, turning the group into "a seriously psyched up fighting unit", according to one of their number.

"Alone in the dark woods, creatures scuttling over us, rabbit holes to fall into, murky puddles soaking us, nettles



Brigade ready to return at short notice

WHILE elements of 24 Airmobile Brigade return to the United Kingdom this month, they will remain assigned to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia.

When the brigade returns to Colchester, it will leave behind in Croatia a support group and much of its equip-

ment so that it is capable of returning to theatre within seven days.

The redeployment of 24 Airmobile Brigade and other forces from 11 nations, announced by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo on October 5, will reduce the total strength of UNPROFOR troops in theatre by more

than 8,500 to just under 22,000. The United Nations announced that 24 Brigade, deployed as part of the Rapid Reaction Force to make UNPROFOR more effective, had achieved its objective.

Mr Portillo said it made operational sense to relocate the 24 Brigade to the

United Kingdom during the winter months. "This will enable the brigade more easily to carry out maintenance and training," he said.

Following the redeployment there will still be 8,000 British Service personnel, including almost 5,000 ground troops, in former Yugoslavia.



Three R Anglian soldiers patrol an abandoned railway yard at Ploce. Left to right are Ptes Matt Collison, Jonah Jones and Danie Wallace

Hanging in there with the Anglians

Reports: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Weston

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment spent the first few days of their UN deployment in former Yugoslavia acclimatising to rather warmer conditions than the battalion endured on Salisbury Plain during pre-deployment training.

The battalion learned new techniques relevant to Grapple operations including abseiling from helicopters. Troops spent some time sliding down ropes slung from an overhead gantry under the watchful eye of instructor Sgt Simon Hale.

A stretch of disused railway track, complete with rusting goods wagons,

proved an ideal site for bayonet practice. Sandbag dummies were hung at various points and hoisted into view as soldiers patrolled through the area.

Pte Danie Wallace of C Company, 1 R Anglian was particularly enthusiastic. His blood-curdling battle cries and venomous stabbing techniques would have been enough to make any enemy soldier surrender immediately.

The commanding officer, Lt Col Roger Brunt, said his battalion had been carrying out recce and other preparations while waiting to be used as a reserve in Bosnia.



Lt Col Roger Brunt



Sgt Simon Hale demonstrates the art of abseiling

City the sappers built



Sappers from 9 Troop, 42 Squadron put down a road base for the bulk fuel installation at Ploce

ONE group of soldiers has earned the unanimous praise of all 24 Airmobile Brigade troops based at Ploce - the hard-working sappers serving with 35 Engineer Regiment Group.

They were tasked with preparing facilities at the dock to accommodate up to 4,000 troops. More than 700 tradesmen helped build the camp.

An army of Royal Engineer plumbers, carpenters, electricians, painters, welders, fitters and combat engineers set to work to turn an expanse of polluted wasteland into four tented camps, initially named Namur, Chard, Perie and Jarvis Lines.

Vegetation was cleared, thousands of cubic metres of aggregate laid, drainage installed, toilets constructed and tents put up.

Hardstanding for helicopters was put down and surfaced with steel matting, and a derelict building was refurbished to provide accommodation for the brigade headquarters.

Other tasks included construction of bulk fuel installations, vehicle parks and a

refuelling site for helicopters.

Capt Ben Davies said: "We also laid a road system. Our plant operators worked round the clock to complete the job in a week."

The regiment's diving team had the unwanted task of recovering the bodies of four Army Air Corps soldiers whose helicopter crashed into the sea. The divers also helped to recover the aircraft and searched the sea bed for debris.

The Hameln-based regiment was reinforced by other sub units to form a deployed force comprising 37 and 42 Field Squadrons, 44 HQ Squadron, 45 Field Support Squadron from Liebenau, 522 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works) and a REME Workshop.

Two 24 Brigade units - 51 Field Squadron RE and 516 STRE (Bulk Petroleum) were also attached temporarily for the initial tasks.



WO2 Andy Moorehouse and Capt Mark Shanks consult a map outside the military police post at Ploce Dockyard Camp

ON THE BEAT



From left, LCpl Scotty Gall, Spr Fish McFadden, Spr Wolfie Clark, and 2nd Lt Paddy Smith of Support Troop, 37 Fd Sqn, pause in their work

MILITARY police support to 24 Airmobile Brigade has been provided by the Brigade Provost Unit (BPU) drawn from Colchester-based 156 Provost Company RMP.

The company also provided manpower to Op Grapple 5, with the result that some soldiers have begun a second six-month tour of duty in less than a year.

Under OC Capt Mark Shanks, the unit established a police station at Ploce Dockyard Camp and set up a traffic circuit around the British base.

"We also police the flow of

military traffic. This might seem trivial, but it is vital to prevent road accidents. Hundreds of civilian heavy trucks collecting loads from the port drive through our area."

Other tasks have included the policing of out-of-bounds areas in Ploce itself and R and P locations, liaison work at border crossing points and reconnoitring convoy routes in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The unit, which has a provost section from 19 Brigade attached, has also provided bodyguards for visiting VIPs. It has a number of close protection trained personnel.



LBdr Phil Morgan of 21 Battery RA has his leg bandaged by LBdr Mark Clyshaw, Bdr Christopher Rydings and LBdr Martin Jarvis

Gunners stand Rock solid

GUNNERS of 21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery, Royal Artillery were taking their training rather seriously.

One stand depicted – with shocking realism – a soldier lying in a minefield. His arms were blown off.

Pairs of gunners cleared a path to the “casualty”, prod-

The battery, part of Thorney Island-based 47 Regiment RA, had two troops of 12 detachments in Ploce to support 24 Brigade's infantry and aviation battlegroups.

Each of the detachments is equipped with the S15 Javelin surface-to-air missile system, which includes an add-on of the new HVM (High Velocity Missile) technology.

“It's a very good missile,” said Capt Peter Quartermaine, “and our soldiers have become expert in its use.”

“An imaginative training programme has prevented them becoming bored.”

Based at Camp November, 21 Battery shared its base with

19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery, the senior battery in the

Royal Regiment. Normally part of NATO's Allied Command Europe Mobile Force, 19/5 is equipped with 105mm

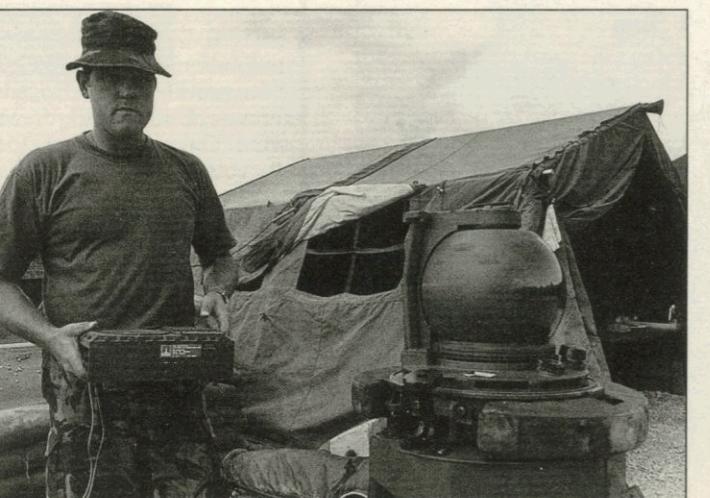
Light Guns and commanded, overall, by Lt Col Richard Lungmuss, Commander Force Artillery.

A miniature Bosnian village had been improvised to give gunners a chance to practise recognition skills. They used telescopes to spot more than 20 model vehicles concealed in the landscape.

Old oil filters and tin cans represented a power station, air bricks make realistic blocks of flats. Some were damaged to mirror the buildings in Sarajevo hit by Bosnian Serb shells.

Maj John Stroud-Turp, commander of 19/5 Battery, said his men had helped fill bags with 300 tons of sand to build a collective shelter.

“Because both batteries have Gibraltar in their titles, we renamed the camp Gibraltar Lines,” he added.



Bdr “Del Boy” Shannon operates an Air Defence Alerting Device (ADAD) during a training session at Ploce

Forget the blues, here come the blueys

TROOPS serving with 24 Airmobile Brigade were writing about 85,000 letters a month from Ploce. That works out at a staggering 21 blueys – Forces Airletters – for each soldier, calculates Maj Angus Tavener.

“Their families in Britain responded with 10,000kg of mail during the same period,” he said.

The vital two-way link with home is handled by a 14-strong detachment from 80 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC.

According to the posties' team leader, WO2 (SSM) Pat Barclay, there has not been much for soldiers to do during off-duty hours at Ploce Dockyard Camp . . . and the blueys are free.

The detachment sorts the daily deluge in a small military tent in the corner of a former cattle pen.

It takes about three days for a letter to reach Ploce from Britain. Each goes by air from London to HQ British Forces at Split, via the Croatian capital of Zagreb, before finally being transported by road to the camp.

“Letter writing is a compulsion for troops on operations. It provides a link



Posties LCpls Kris Grant and Damon Godfrey, Cpl Paddy Lee and WO2 Pat Barclay of 80 PC Squadron sort another delivery of letters and parcels

with families and friends which allows them to forget the rigours of duty in the field for a few brief minutes,” said WO2 Barclay.

LCpl Damon Godfrey is quite clear about the importance of his job.

“If a soldier doesn't get mail one day, he tends not to visit the communal showers, because news from home is all that's

talked about there,” he said.

Dealing with mail for the 19 separate units based at Ploce can be a daunting.

“Proper addressing helps,” said Cpl Paddy Lee, whose tips for speedy delivery are: “Put the unit name quite clearly on all letters and use the correct BFPO number.”

Despite the long hours worked and inclement

weather, Sgt Major Barclay has only one gripe: soldiers writing lonely hearts letters to national newspapers. “They are a menace,” he says.

“The current record is held by a REME lance corporal who received 300 letters in one day. I made him collect them himself. I am also going to make sure he replies to them all.”



TRUNK CALLS

Sgt Joey Joburns of 2 Signal Regiment adjusts a communications mast inside a warehouse at Ploce. The hole in the roof was caused by a shell from a Serbian gunboat.

The York-based signals unit normally supports a Territorial Army brigade in peacetime, with additional responsibility to 3 (UK) Division during operations.

It is providing Ptarmigan trunk communications to headquarters throughout the theatre.

These HQs include 24 Airmobile Brigade at Ploce, a UN rapid reaction force logistic group in Split, the Multinational Brigade HQ at Tomislavgrad and the headquarters of the Rapid Reaction Force Operations Staff (RRFOS) at Kiseljak.

Two detachments provide comms for an RRFOS liaison officer in Sarajevo and units on Mount Igman.

The secure system enables users to communicate via satellite with other formations and back to the United Kingdom and Germany.



Ptes Denzil Woolcock and Drew Drewery get to grips with another load of washing. The mobile bath and laundry unit, commanded by Sgt Robin Dornig, had provided shower and laundry facilities for troops stationed at Ploce Dockyard Camp. At its busiest, more than 4,000 soldiers and airmen were taking advantage of the service.

The ten-strong staff work shifts during a 22-hour day to deal with a daily average of 400 bags of laundry. About 500 soldiers make the long walk to the distant shower units which offer the only hot water on tap in the camp.

Spin doctors



Cpl Paul Lamb, LCpl Andy Anderson and Capt Gary Cartwright of Recce Platoon, W Coy, 1 RRF on duty at Gornji Vakuf. Their vehicle, in the background, is Sabre – a hybrid of the Scimitar chassis and Fox turret. It is the first time the new recce vehicle has been deployed on operations

RESIDENTS of Zepce have been getting to grips with a strange new accent on their streets – the Geordie sounds of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The battalion, recruited mainly in the North East, has taken over an area of Bosnia formerly patrolled by the British Cavalry Battalion (BRITCAVBAT).

As their armoured Saxon vehicles replace the familiar Scimitars, the predominantly Geordie "First Fusiliers" are bringing a different style – as well as accent – to life in the Maglaj finger.

They have taken over from the reconnaissance squadrons of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, The Household Cavalry Regiment and the Queen's Royal Lancers.

"The cavalry have left us a worthy legacy," said the commander of X Company, Maj Christopher Claridge.

"We have more men on the ground than they had, so there are more hands to help out in the community, rebuilding homes and handing out aid."

"BRITCAVBAT provided us with our first big challenge. They opened up a route just before they left, and that has cleared the way to many new

Howay the Maglaj lads

villages which we intend to target for humanitarian aid."

As the cavalry flags were lowered at the battalion headquarters town of Zepce, the soldiers could look back on a tour during which they completed nearly 80 community projects.

They ranged from major road works to providing batteries and tyres for an invalid's chair.

TEN-SHUN!

ONE regimental sergeant major is enough to strike fear into the heart of most soldiers . . . but 24 Airmobile Brigade had TEN of them at its base at Ploce in Croatia.

The senior RSM, Jim Pascoe, thinks it may be the first time since the end of the Second World War that so many have served together.



Pte Ashley Monie uses a pick helve to bash sandbags into position for 19 Field Ambulance



Maj Kate Farrington RADC and Cpl Stuart Taylor treat a dental patient

Mobile medics quick off the mark

WHEREVER they may be serving, medical staff attached to 24 Airmobile Brigade have to be ready to move – quickly.

On operations, the 170-strong 19 Field Ambulance RAMC is fully airmobile.

"Our tentage and medical equipment can be stripped down, put into nets as underslung loads and flown forward by helicopter," explained Capt Bob Lawrence.

The unit has two squadrons. "Our Forward Squadron provides medical sections to support battlegroups on the ground, and ambulance drivers and attendants for the journey back to a dressing station manned by Rear Squadron.

"The dressing station offers everything from an accident and emergency facility to an operating theatre and ward," he said.

The unit has an 18-strong fleet of one-tonne Land Rover ambulances for casualty evacuation.

According to the motor transport officer, Capt David Bryan RLC, the vehicles are nearly 20 years old.

"They may be manpower-intensive on maintenance, but they have a good few years life left in them yet. The ambulances also have a four-stretcher carrying capability, twice that of newer variants," he said.

Staff of 19 Fd Amb estab-

lished a medical reception station (MRS) at Ploce Dockyard Camp to treat injuries sustained during training and to cope with the daily sick parade.

Attached to the unit have been WO2 Taff Jones and Cpl Steve Stevenson, who advised the brigade commander on all environmental health matters within the camp.

WO2 Jones said his main area of concern was water purification.

"We had to ensure there was a wholesome water supply available to 24 Brigade. The water has been sampled every day and samples sent to a laboratory for analysis."

Field sanitation was another concern for the environmental health specialists. Few comforts have been available to troops based at Ploce.

"Because we are living in a close, confined community, it wouldn't take much for sickness to spread quickly. We have arranged for local contractors to remove swill from the kitchens and human waste from the latrines to prevent disease," he said.

Earlier in the summer WO2 Jones and Cpl Stevenson moni-

tored heat stress. At its peak, temperatures at Ploce touched 112F, and commanders at all levels were briefed to ensure troops drank enough water and took frequent breaks in the shade.

The precautions worked and the camp suffered a very low rate of heat-related illness.

Other responsibilities for the

two-man RAMC team included giving health and safety advice on construction sites at the camp and pest and rodent control.

Work by sappers constructing a bulk fuel installation on the site of a rubbish tip was halted while soil samples were analysed. Cpl Stevenson trained soldiers to kill rats in their own unit lines.



WO2 Taff Jones checks a heat stress monitor

Wayne's way

SPR Wayne Barker, attached to 42 Fd Sqn, part of the 35 Engr Regt Group building Ploce camp, took the plunge to raise £3,000 for the National Children's Homes.

Wayne (25), was brought up in a NCH home in Gosport, Hampshire, and wanted to do something to express his gratitude.

Normally based in Hameln, Wayne dived into the cold Adriatic from the island of Hvar and swam 4km to Drenvik on the Croatian coast. He was in the sea for nearly 2½ hours.

"The National Children's Homes did so much for me that I wanted to try and do

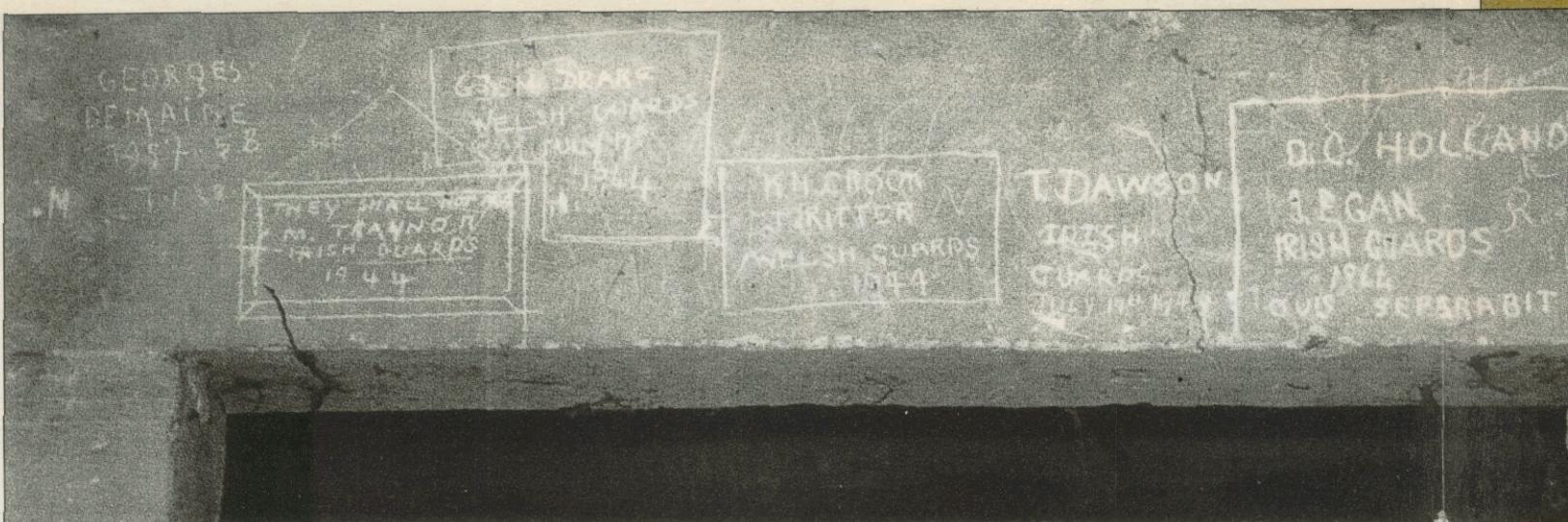


Wayne is escorted by a canoe as he swims to Drenvik

something for them in return," he said.

His commanding officer, Lt Col Neil Fairclough, said: "Spr Barker typifies the spirit and determination of the soldiers

of the Royal Engineers. We have other plans for raising money for good causes during our tour in Croatia. This is a fine achievement and I am proud of him."



Graffiti on a door-lintel in a hay loft north of Bayeux. The names read M Traynor, Irish Guards; G D M Drake, Welsh Guards; K M Crook and J Ritter, Welsh Guards; T Dawson, Irish Guards; and D C Holland and J Egan, Irish Guards. Part of the last inscription is the Irish Guards' motto, *Quis Separabit* (Who shall separate?)

Writing is on the wall for Normandy's graffiti artists

PRIVATE KILROY WAS HERE

IN THIS graffiti age, it is a stone-cold certainty that soldiers caught drawing on walls or carving their initials on trees would at the very least incur the wrath of their NCO.

Even in the wartime conditions of France a half a century and more ago, a dim view might have been taken of such acts of vandalism, writes **Chris Horrocks**.

In the words of Normandy veteran Mr Ron Plater, "If I had caught them I would probably have told them to get up off their backsides and do something useful!"

But there is a twinkle in the eye of this spry 75-year-old, and a certain irony in his voice.

For Ron knows that examples of graffiti that have only relatively recently come to light again in Normandy are part of the folk history of war – and some are being viewed as works of art.

They may not be in the Pompeii class but they are in the same genre. And they are causing great excitement, not least because many of the



The Graffiti Lady, Mme Jacqueline Wurmlinger. Anyone who thinks they may have created graffiti she has discovered in Normandy should write to her at 28 Rue des Jardins, 14790 Fontaine Etopefour, France

British, American, Canadian and even German Kilroys who created them are probably still alive.

The hunt is now on for all Servicemen who "left their mark" so artistically in the Normandy area.

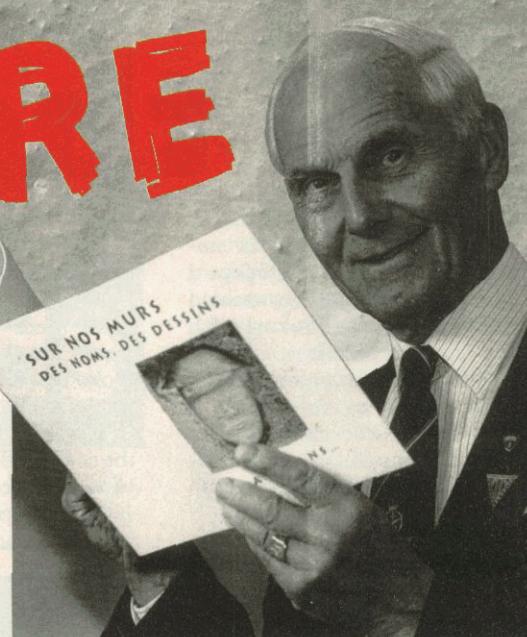
"To find all this now, after all these years, is amazing," said Ron, who as an RAF sergeant with a special beach unit was involved in the landings at Sicily and Salerno as well as Normandy.

"There must be many people who would be delighted to go back there and find the graffiti they drew and carved more than 50 years ago."

Mme Jacqueline Wurmlinger, a friend of Ron's who lives near Caen, has conducted such an extensive study of the drawings and inscriptions left by soldiers that she is now known in Normandy as "The Graffiti Lady".

Some examples have been found in farm houses, stables and hay-lofts. Others, inscribed on stone and exposed to the weather, have lain hidden under lichen for decades.

Still more have been photographed in the nick of time before



Picture: Terry Champion

Ron Plater with Mme Wurmlinger's brochure. He is a member of the Portsmouth D-Day and Normandy Fellowship, which has formed lasting links with the people of Normandy

the buildings which have cherished them for 50 years have been renovated.

In a hay-loft at Bazenville was found a map of France drawn in coloured chalk on a cement wall; in a garage in Caen a superb bas-relief of a Spitfire carved out of stone.

So much interest has been created in her

A timely photograph preserved a German text found on a farm building wall which was about to be re-painted. Translated, the Gothic inscription read: Don't pass judgment on the ways of soldiers./ Men who will die soon./ Let them do what they want./ Let them love, let them kiss./ Who knows how they will die tomorrow?



Genuine 1944 pin-up which had been partly hidden by a clock and a fridge in the kitchen of an elderly Normand couple. They think they know who the model was, they say



Local people say that a German NCO, using charcoal, drew these central European or Russian horses on the plaster wall of a stable in 1942. He even left a signature but has not been traced

project that Mme Wurmlinger has formed an association called Friends of Graffiti.

To mark last year's 50th anniversary of D-Day she produced an illustrated brochure of her findings to accompany an exhibition in the newly-restored 13th century chapel of Saint-Clair, deep in lovely D-Day country-

side at Banneville sur Ajon, south-west of Caen.

The captions in the brochure make fascinating reading, but perhaps even more intriguing for Normandy veterans on the northern side of the Channel is her separate typed list of more than 60 British soldiers' names engraved on walls in the Bayeux-Caen area in the days and weeks following D-Day.

Each entry gives, where known, the location where they are still visible in 1995. Among them are "T Buckley, Royal Engineers Sept 3rd, 1944, Mondeville... Crook K M, Welsh Guards 1944, Le Gibet, near



Time and nature have distorted the letters gouged into the bark of this ivy-clad beech tree in a lane leading to a water pumping station at Banville

Bayeux... Harden, Hemmings, Taylor, three London Boys, Vauculey, near Rots... F F Stokes, 1 Troop 3 Grade 6th Airborne, Grangues..."

One drawing of a shapely lady named Ivy discovered in Mesnil Patry even had a name and address alongside – Oliver Highball, 3 Horstal, Wainfleet, Skegness, Lincs. A letter sent to the address was returned undelivered.

Mme Wurmlinger and Ron Plater hope that not all attempts to trace these bygone graffiti artists will, as it were, draw a blank.

"I had a phone call recently from someone in Normandy who says he has British graffiti dated 1943 in his house," Mme Wurmlinger said, emphasising the significance of a year when an Allied invasion of France was still a year away.

And with all the dedicated enthusiasm that has earned her the sobriquet "The Graffiti Lady", she added: "I can't wait to go and have a look at it.

"It may be the start of another story..."



A building for the training centre at Dol Dol awaits its roof

Sappers lift Dol Dol out of doldrums

SNAKES, irritable zebra and cantankerous tribesmen were among the unique challenges that confronted sappers from 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron during their Exercise Oak Apple 95 deployment to Kenya.

The engineers, part of

EXERCISE OAK APPLE — 95 —

Perham Down-based 22 Engineer Regiment, are normally tasked with supporting armoured battle groups. For their trip to equatorial Africa they reorganised into two construction troops, a plant troop and a sizeable echelon to provide support in the bush.

In contrast to previous exercises, 3 Sqn deployed into the semi-arid scrub north of Dol Dol to complete projects designed to rejuvenate an area in recession.

Their tasks involved the construction of a livestock husbandry training and education centre, a dispensary, a dam and reservoir, and an airstrip for the flying doctor.

As a little extra job, the sappers improvised a 20m footbridge out of two bus chassis.

The building projects provided great satisfaction to the soldiers and will be of lasting benefit to local communities.

'A dam to quench our thirst, a training centre to remove our ignorance, and a dispensary to cure our illnesses' — the Hon Ole Kaparo, Speaker of the Kenyan Parliament

Report: Gordon Skilling Pictures: Terry Champion

Cheshires in support

After a remarkably short period characterised by intensive training, the 3rd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment has successfully fired its new support weapons at the culmination of its annual camp at Otterburn, Northumberland.

The battalion, which has its headquarters in Chester, was selected last November as one of four TA battalions given the new support weapons role following the Options for Change reorganisation.

In place of its four rifle companies, the battalion now has two heavy weapons companies, each 146-strong, with nine 81mm mortars — a stronger detachment than in Regular Army units — nine general purpose machine-guns in the sustained fire role, and six Milan firing posts.

A drop in personnel from 525 to 306 was a traumatic experience for the part-time battalion, but after some haggling over establishment it



Lt Col Peter Thomson, CO

regained the Macclesfield drill hall it had lost some years before and manpower was increased to 365.

HQ company is based at Chester, while Gaza and Salerno companies are split between Crewe, Northwich, Ellesmere Port, Stockport and Macclesfield.

His battalion's selection for the support fire role delighted the commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Thomson. A Scot who

lives in Wales and commands an English battalion, he is even more rare in that he has been a member of the TA for 16 years.

As well as having Army Cadet Force experience, he is a head of year at a Chester high school, so teaching and training are second nature to him. Although he was given only two years to make 3 Cheshire fit for its new role by April 1997, he feels he has certain advantages.

"Every man has to be re-trained, with officers and men



Ptes Tony Bally and Richard Corlett with LCpl John Collins prepare to fire the 81mm mortar under the watchful eye of LCpl Darren Cassidy

starting from the same base line," he said.

He also has an achievable aim. If the TA is given a specific aim it will excel, he said, and for the first time in his many years with the reserves he had been given a specific target in providing support fire.

Before being allowed to fire their weapons, his soldiers had to pass stringent training tests. There is little margin for error in their new role.

As well as normal infantry skills many specialist skills had to be mastered. This was achieved during intensive cadres run mainly by permanent staff instructors (PSIs) from the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.

Both the anti-tank platoon and the mortar platoon had three permanent staff, said Sgt Andy Williams, one of the mortar PSIs. He thought the



Pte Joe Mudoon prepares to fire a mortar

younger soldiers had coped well.

It was harder for the sergeants. "They have to

learn to be mortar fire controllers and section commanders as well as running a command post and learning how to use the weapon," he explained.

The annual camp was a little frustrating for the CO, whose command was fragmented because of the number of soldiers carrying out other training.

"I wanted to get as many members away on career courses so that they could bring their expertise back into the battalion," said Col Thomson.

In time of war, however, 3 Cheshire would be fragmented: his young captains and sergeants would be farmed out with their sub units in penny packages to three other battalions.

It has been a huge leap from the unit's previous role of pro-

tection to Ptarmigan signal equipment to providing support fire, but Maj Ronnie Goodwin was full of admiration for how 3 Cheshire had coped.

As Regular Quartermaster with 34 years' service including a spell as RSM of the 1st Battalion and garrison adjutant in Belize, he has vast experience of the Army.

One of his sons, Ronnie, is an instructor at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; another son, Richard, is serving with the Royal Logistic Corps in Bosnia; and his daughter, Jackie, has married into the Adjutant General's Corps.

He and his TA counterpart, Capt Ronnie Campbell, are known as the "Two Ronnies" because of the banter between him and the former Queen's Royal Irish Hussar.



The Two Ronnies: Capt Ronnie Campbell and Maj Ronnie Goodwin

British civilians earned a medal

SUEZ veterans are not alone in their pursuit of recognition.

Australian Government approval of the Africa Star for the Syrian campaign and the 1939-45 medal to Australian Servicemen in the Darwin area during the Japanese bombing raids of 1942, paves the way for recognition of British Forces involved in the Berlin Airlift, the occupation of Japan, and Korea post-1953.

London was bombed on 59 consecutive nights and subjected to three months of terror attacks by flying bombs. Apart from those in Tobruk, how many Servicemen saw such a sustained period of action?

Maybe it is time the British Government saw fit to recommend the award of a 1939-45 Home Front medal to civilians in London, South East England, the Home Counties, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Bristol, Coventry, Liverpool, Belfast, Glasgow and other areas which suffered bombing.

Death and injury as a result of enemy action are the same whether those involved are civilian or military – and the former had only gasmasks and an air raid shelter for protection. – P Roberts (ex-Cpl, 11 Hussars PAO), Emerton, New South Wales, Australia.

Aussie example

THE AUSSIES and the Canadians know the answer to the long drawn-out problems of "missing" medals (Soldier, September 5 1994, August 7, 1995).

Why can't we take a lead from them and introduce an official service medal with bars to cover all the disputed areas mentioned in Soldier over the years? I would say there is some substance in all of them. – Len Oliver, Colchester.

Write to: SOLDIER Ordnance Road Aldershot Hants GU11 2DU

Why I shall not wear my Greek medal

I AM one of those still waiting for a Greek medal commemorating the 1940-41 campaign.

When and if it comes, it will go proudly into the family archives, but I shall not wear it.

This is because it seems

unfair that people like me should flaunt our medals when men who took part in other, equally meritorious, campaigns have none to show.

I am thinking of men who fought in Eritrea and Ethiopia,

in Syria and Madagascar among others, or were involved in myriad operations with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

I think Britain's issue of campaign medals, niggardly as

it might seem to some, was essentially fair and the recipients can be proud of medals which have not been devalued by over-abundance, like those of some countries. – Richard Elley, Chester.

Double take

I WAS amused by your letters about Army twins (July 24).

I and my identical twin, Tony, served in The Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

We joined together and had consecutive Army numbers. There were many funny incidents when people did not know there were two of us.

Our paternal grandfather was also a twin. He and his brother served in the Indian Army in the last century and both became generals.

There must be many other pairs of twins in the Army – or even sets of triplets. It could make good comedy. – Maj (Retd) I A D Gordon, Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Scotland.

Victory Parade film had something for everyone

LIKE the "Forgotten Army" of the Far East, we in Palestine also felt forgotten.

In 1946, as adjutant of the Palestine Regiment at the Palestine Training Depot (PTD) at Rehovoth, I heard that the Army Kinematographic Service (AKS) had the official film of the London Victory Parade and asked if it could be made available to Depot personnel and friends.

This was agreed provided I could lay on some sort of "cinema".

I knew we couldn't use benches from the cookhouse because they would vanish as soon as the show was over, so, as I was friendly with the local Army Salvage Depot at

Sarafand, I managed to borrow 450 empty fuel tins – a seat for everyone – and set them up on a nearby hillside. No 64 AKS unit set up their gear and we waited for dusk and, we hoped, a reasonable audience. It turned out to be a full house with quite a few standing.

It was a most enjoyable film, with much nostalgia for the homesick Brits, glimpses of the Jewish Brigade contingents for the Jewish community and, for our Palestine Police guests, a shot of their band.

PTD, incidentally, was the base depot for the Palestine Regiment, a Regular British regiment and the only one to have a badge with three different languages on it.

In 1943 it was decided to have a Palestine Regt cap badge to be worn by all recruits, but the Jews wouldn't wear it because it had Arabic on it, and neither would the Arabs because it had Hebrew on it. And the British just wouldn't wear it!

Eventually it was changed to a very unimaginative affair. I still have the Mark 1 badge but did not keep the Mark 2 version.

When the unit was disbanded in 1946 the QM was ordered to collect and destroy them and made a very thorough job of it. – John Woods, Chairman, Salisbury Militaria Society.

OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY (circa 1991)

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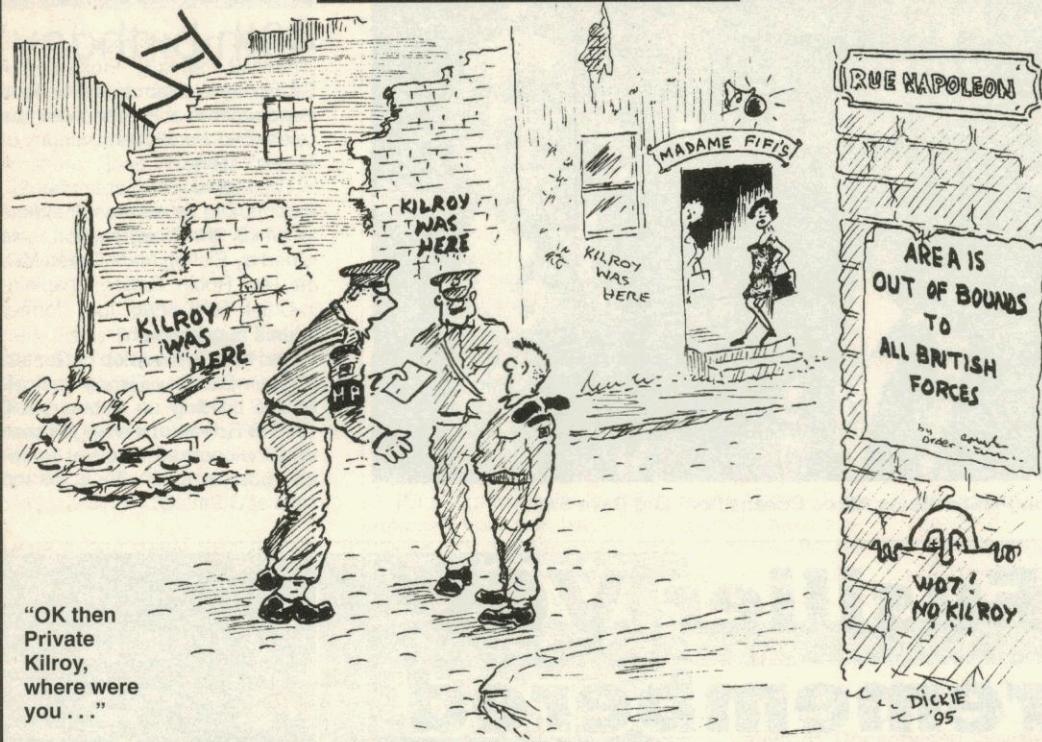
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7. The Queen's Own Hussars
8. The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
9. 9th/12th Royal Lancers
10. The Royal Hussars
11. 13th/18th Royal Hussars
12. 14th/20th King's Hussars
13. 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars
14. 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers
15. 17th/21st Lancers
16. The Royal Tank Regiment
The Corps
17. The Royal Regt of Artillery
18. King's Troop RHA
19. Corps of Royal Engineers
20. Royal Corps of Signals
The Guards Division
21. Grenadier Guards
22. Coldstream Guards
23. Scots Guards
24. Irish Guards
25. Welsh Guards
The Scottish Division
26. The Royal Scots
27. The Royal Highland Fusiliers
28. The King's Own Scottish Borderers

29. The Black Watch
30. Queen's Own Highlanders
31. The Gordon Highlanders
32. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders
The Queen's Division
33. The Queen's Regiment
34. The Royal Regt of Fusiliers
35. The Royal Anglian Regt
The King's Division
36. The King's Own Royal Border Regt
37. The King's Regt
38. The Prince of Wales's Own Regt of Yorkshire
39. The Green Howards
40. The Royal Irish Rangers
41. The Queen's Lancashire Regt
42. The Duke of Wellington's Regt
Prince of Wales's Division
43. The Devon & Dorsets
44. The Cheshire
45. The Royal Welch Fusiliers
46. The Royal Regt of Wales
47. The Gloucestershire Regt
48. The Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters
49. The Royal Hampshire
50. The Shropshire
51. The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt
The Light Infantry
52. The Light Infantry
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55. 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles
56. Sandhurst Cadet (an unlimited edition but signed by the Artist)

Please allow 14 days for delivery

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



● Normandy graffiti - Pages 24-25

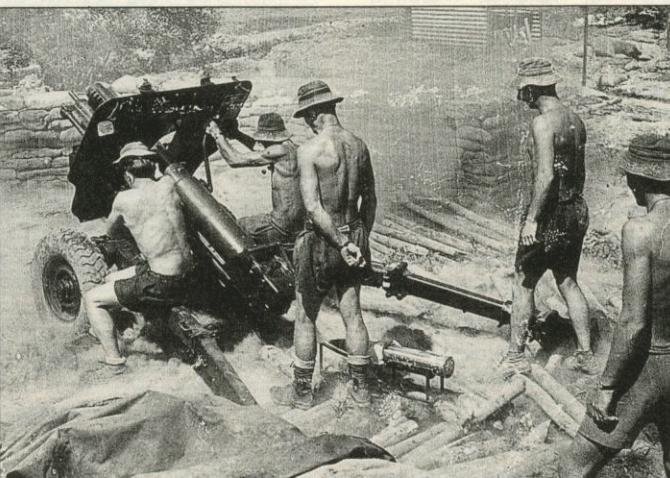
Football greats in the Army

HAVING read your article (October 2) about Army footballers who have left the Service to join professional clubs, I recall three National Servicemen who went on to fame.

They were Bobby Charlton, the late Duncan Edwards (who both played for Manchester United), and Malcolm Allison, who I served with in The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Allison went on to West Ham United before a managerial career that included Plymouth Argyle and Manchester City. I still have photographs from the regimental journal, dated November 1947, of Pte Allison, captain of the 2 Hamps team, receiving the cup for the 138 Brigade football competition.

I recall that Bobby Charlton met Duncan Edwards in barracks at Nescliffe, an RAOC depot. Bobby had just completed his "square-bashing" at Hulsea, Portsmouth. – Tom Parrott, Newport, Isle of Wight.



Men of 176 (Abu Klea) Battery, 45 Light Regiment Royal Artillery, fire their 105mm Pack Howitzer in Sarawak during the Borneo confrontation

Borneo topped Bosnia 'record'

IN A REPORT in the *Daily Mail*, 19 Regiment RA, at present in Bosnia, claimed to have broken the record for the longest time an Army unit has been dug in at a single location – 64 days.

No details were given apart from describing conditions as being similar to the First World War.

I wonder if anyone has any information on this record.

As an ex-REME gun fitter attached to 137 Bty, 40 Lt Regt RA, I spent a year in Borneo, 1965-66.

I believe we were the only

teeth arm unit to serve a continuous 12-month spell, most units rotating on shorter tours. We lived in sandbagged dugouts in jungle forts surrounded by barbed wire and claymore mines.

With only a short break for R and R in Singapore or Hong Kong, a 64-day spell on a gun position would have been considered unremarkable.

Incidentally, I was pleased to read in *Soldier* that the Imperial War Museum is to enlarge its meagre display on the Borneo conflict. – M J Tanner, Reigate, Surrey.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Room mates were long-lost cousins

AN astonishing coincidence took place when Scottish veterans assembled in Fife before flying to London for the national VJ Day 50th anniversary weekend in London.

Two men were billeted in a double room in HMS *Cochrane* at the start of a series of events organised by the Royal British Legion.

The two were not merely brothers-in-arms, but real, live cousins – and they had not seen each other for 62 years, each believing the other long dead.

Dave Smith (75) from Brechin, a former sergeant in the Royal Engineers, fought in Burma, while cousin Alfred Cosans (74), from Arbroath, a gunner RSM with the 51st (Highland) Division, saw action from North Africa to Italy and Normandy.

"There seemed to be a lot of friends we had in common from years back," said Alfred. "Then the penny dropped..."

"It was an amazing experience," said Dave. "We spent a lot of time catching up on the years."

The last time the two men met was at a funeral in about 1933. Now both are the only male survivors of their respective branches of the family.

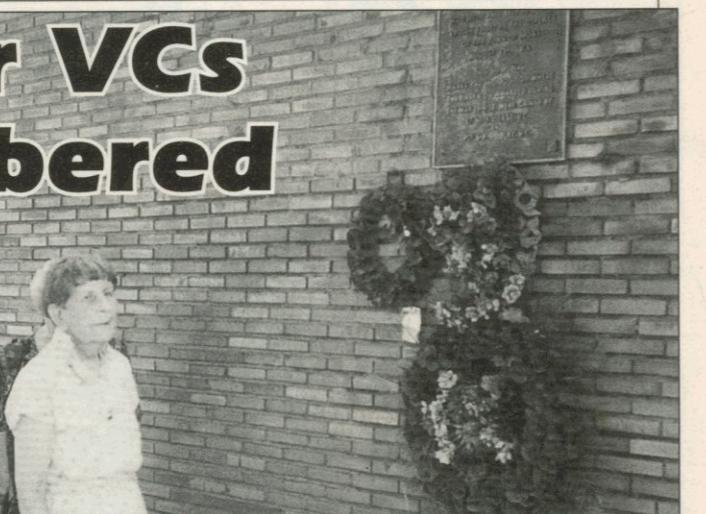
RBL Scotland spokesman Neil Griffiths said: "We thought someone would bump into an old friend, but for two cousins to end up in the same room defies belief."

Two old soldiers have made contact in Dublin for the first time in 49 years. Dennis Thewlis, then a lance corporal, and Robert Miller, a rifleman, were both serv-



Long-lost cousins Alfred Cosans (left) and Dave Smith

Fusilier VCs remembered



Miss Kit Hamblett places a wreath at the memorial plaque at Nîmes rail bridge where it spans the canal at Mons. The plaque commemorates the 4th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers who held the line at this point on August 23, 1914, and the Fusiliers who won the first two Victoria Crosses of the First World War.

They were awarded to Lt Maurice Dease, who died from his wounds that day, and Pte Sidney Frank Godley who, although injured and taken prisoner, survived the war.

Miss Hamblett's father served in the Boer War and

was a company sergeant major in the Fusiliers when he was killed in action south of Arras in August 1918.

Miss Hamblett's father

served in the Boer War and was a company sergeant major in the Fusiliers when he was killed in action south of Arras in August 1918.

Christmas past . . .

WE have passed a fading, signed Christmas 1943 dinner menu to the Royal Signals Museum at

Blandford. It fell from the pages of a library book borrowed by reader G G Long of Skipton, North Yorkshire, an ex-Scots Guardsman now in his 84th year.

The menu was for the 1st British Armoured Divisional Signals WOs' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas dinner, and bears the division's rhino sign. One of several signatures on the cover is that of Clegg, Able Seaman, HMS *Catterick*.

A verse on the back of the menu refers to "Old Tim Cole" (described as the RSM in a pencilled note).

And the feast of '43? A choice of wines, tomato soup followed by roast turkey and pork with roast and cream potatoes, cauliflower and green peas, Christmas pudding, mince pies, and a selection of "licquers".

Sounds familiar . . .

• The new commander of the Royal Armoured Corps Centre is no stranger to Bovington. Col John Gillman led the Armoured Trials and Development Unit before taking over from Col Charlie Pyman, who has left the Army to take up horticulture in Devon.

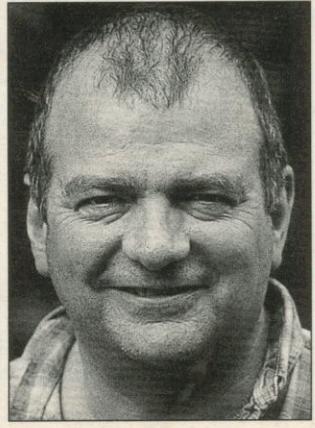


That's our Terry, by Larry!

There are some benefits in this job . . . like having your portrait drawn by a famous cartoonist. When Terry Champion, *Soldier's* chief photographer, called on Larry (see Pages 12-13), he came away with his very own signed caricature.

And it happened so quickly that Terry barely had time to remove his lens cap.

The likeness appeared on Larry's pad in a flash. "I asked him to sketch something while I took my photographs, so he did me. He dashed it off instantly . . . it was finished in less than three minutes."



St Boniface's 40th birthday

ST Boniface Church in the Joint Headquarters at Rheindahlen has celebrated the 40th anniversary of its dedication.

The birthday, on September 17, was marked by a series of events at which the congregation was joined by Bishop Mark Green MC, the Rev Robin Turner, Chaplain-in-Chief RAF, and four former padres at the church.

The then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, dedicated the building on February 18, 1955 to Boniface, the Englishman who evangelised much of northern Europe and who is patron saint of Germany.

REUNIONS

Royal Regiment of Artillery Association (Exeter Branch): Annual dinner, dance and social evening takes place on November 18 in St Loyes Conference Centre, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon. Contact L J Seatherton, 8 Seabrook Avenue, Countess Wear, Exeter (tel 01392 874072) for details.

1996

Task Force Bravo Signal Troop 1978-81 (Höhne Garrison): Reunion planned at Union Jack Club, London, on April 27. Details from Sgt Graham Perch, 28 CTT, Fox Barracks, Liverpool Road, Chester CH2 4BU (tel mil (755) 2749; civ 01244 352749).

45 Regiment Royal Artillery: An all ranks reunion is to be held on August 10 at the East of England Showground, Peterborough. Details from P Miles, 48 Bringhurst, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5RS (tel 01733 237606).

Royal Tank Regiment: Ex-Warrant Officers of the regiment interested in a reunion in Meriden, near Birmingham on a date to be decided in 1996 are asked to contact J "Charlie" Welchman, 29 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4EE (tel 01929 553466).

DIARY

November

11-12: Salisbury Militaria Society annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury. 16: Dien Bien Phu, the end of French military involvement in Indo China. Lecture evening, speaker Lt Col A Kennett, Airborne Forces Museum, Boving Barracks, Aldershot, 1930. Tickets (£5) from Diana Andrews 01252 349619.

1996

May

11-12: Army centenary international military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: G I G Brett – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), Sept 25; M Huntley – To MoD, Sept 25; C T Rogers – To HQ Land, Sept 28; D M H Wright – To MoD, Oct 2; P H Marwood RA – To P&EE Shoeburyness, Sept 26.

Lt Cols: S R P Ford RDG – To RAC Centre, Oct 1; H A R Hancock, R Signals – To be CO 39 Sig Regt, Sept 27; M R Keen RLC – To MoD, Sept 25; J H O'Hare RLC – To HQ 4 Div, Sept 29; A C L Potter PWO – To HQ Land, Sept 25.

P J Cable RGBW – To BMATT

LUCKY ALBERT!

ALBERT Price reckons he had a lucky war, despite being buried alive at Monte Cassino.

On moving into the Hounslow area recently, he was reminded by a signpost for Vicarage Farm Road, Heston, of his war-time training with the Royal Fusiliers there 55 years ago.

A few days before his intake left to join the British Expeditionary Force in France, it was decided that Fus Price need spectacles ("to enable me to shoot straighter at the enemy"). He stayed behind and learned later that his unit's ship had been dive-bombed and sunk.

Lucky escape number one.

Re-assigned to the 2nd Battalion in Scotland, he returned from sick leave (strangulated hernia sustained during a game of football) 36 hours after his unit had sailed for Algiers and action.



Albert Price (back row, right) with fellow recruits at Hounslow Barracks in 1939

Lucky escape number two.

In due course Albert rejoined the battalion in Egypt and took part in the final battle to break the Gustav Line. He was buried when a German shell collapsed his trench not far from Monte Cassino, but eventually dug out with "only a fractured vertebra".

Lucky escape number three.

After more action in Italy and Greece he was demobbed in May 1946 "reasonably sound in mind and limb".

• Vicarage Farm Road, Heston, is now home to 220 (Searchlight) Field Squadron (EOD).

Leconfield signallers win NVQ acclaim

ARMY signallers at Leconfield, Humberside have won their way through to the finals of a national training competition.

The Combat Support Signals Division, part of the Army School of Mechanical Transport, beat competitors from all over Yorkshire and North East England to win the regional title in the National Training Awards run by the Department of Education and Employment.

More than 1,500 entries are received each year.

Spearheading the signallers' entry in the employers category were Maj Ron Chisholm, OC Sigs Trg Div, and Divisional WO Andrew Card who helped write and design the first National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in telecommunications.

The unit recognised the need for its students from the logistic services to achieve nationally recognised qualifications to equip its soldiers for civvy street and set about developing the NVQ.

In March the Combat Support Signals Division won the Humber-side Training Enterprise Council award for good business through training, and in May was formally recognised by the Telecommunications Vocational Standards Council as the focal point for telecommunications NVQs for all three Services.

Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, GOC 2 Div, said: "The Army is making great strides in equipping its soldiers with civilian qualifications that are recognised nationally. It is good that a unit from 2nd Division is leading the way."

How Allies took a material advantage

THERE HAS been an enormous number of books describing the events of the Second World War, but far fewer have been concerned with explaining the reasons behind the Allied victory.

Richard Overy's book, *Why the Allies Won*, examines the cultural, technical, military and psychological backgrounds to the conflict's outcome, while explaining how close-run the race really was. By 1942, almost

Tuning to Wireless Ridge and the Gulf

The Mammoth Book of Battles, edited by Jon E Lewis. Robinson, paperback, £5.99.

OF THE many famous combats featured in *The Mammoth Book of Battles*, two accounts will be of particular interest to readers who took part in the conflicts in the Falklands and the Gulf.

Part two explores the elements that conditioned the successes and, certainly not least, the moral contrasts between the warring camps.

As the author puts it, "The belief that their cause was on the side of progress in world history gave a genuine moral certainty to the Allies, which the Axis populations largely lacked.

Final story in this 500-page paperback is that of Desert Storm in which Coalition forces under US General Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf and Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who headed 40,000 British soldiers, defeated Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army in 100 hours of fighting in February 1991. - JM

Why the Allies Won by Richard Overy, published by Jonathan Cape, hardback, £20.

the entire resources of continental Europe were under German domination and Japan had wiped out the Western colonial presence in Asia in a couple of months.

"On the face of things, no rational man in early 1942 would have guessed at the eventual outcome of the war," Overy writes.

The situation for the Allies was desperate, and yet by 1944 despair had been dispelled and those nations sitting on the fence were seeing which side the bread had the butter. States that had hedged their bets, notably Turkey, Spain and Sweden, now looked for an association with the winning side.

"Somewhere in the changing fortunes of war between 1942 and 1944 lies the heart to our question of why the Allies won."

The book is divided into two parts, the first examining the four main zones of conflict in which the Allies prevailed – the war at sea, the land struggle on the eastern front, the aerial bombing offensive, and the reconquest of Europe.

Part two explores the elements that conditioned the successes and, certainly not least, the moral contrasts between the warring camps.

As the author puts it, "The belief that their cause was on the side of progress in world history gave a genuine moral certainty to the Allies, which the Axis populations largely lacked.

Popular commitment to war in the aggressor states was half-hearted and morally ambiguous. In Allied communities, on the other hand, there was a powerful crusading rejection of the forces of fascist darkness . . ."

"It is widely believed that rubbing a pickled onion over

MUSIC/Rodney Bashford

Dragooned into a quiz

Festivo

Band of HM Dragoon Guards
Conductor: Capt C C Gray

THIS IS the first recording of a band with commitments to serve three regiments, and which has the benefit of acquiring the use of pipes and drums.

Can anyone remember, other than members of the regiments concerned, the circuitous route by which a regimental band of Dragoon Guards inherited pipes and drums?

The programme begins with a "German thumper", as we call them, but its title *Regimentsgruss* is most apt on this occasion; it is followed by four more of less-aggressive nature in *Namur*, *Marche Lorraine*, *Barnum and Bailey's Favourite*, and *The Welshman*.

Philip Sparke's jaunty *Yorkshire Overture* and its perfect foil, a *Rhapsody on The Minstrel Boy* by Robert Farnon, make a pertinent contribution, the regiment having Irish, Scottish and Yorkshire connections.

These ties are further explored with a medley *Celtic Folk* by Capt Gray, *Finnegan's Wake*, *Ensign Ewart's Air*, *Three Yorkshire*

Dale Dances by Charles Wood, composer of *The Archers* tune, and of course contributions from the pipes and drums and the regimental marches.

Other music is of fine quality: James Curnow's *Rhapsody* for euphonium, played by Alistair McDonald; the Vaughan Williams hymn tune prelude, *Rhosymedre*; lovely *Sicilienne* from "Pelleas and Melisande" by Faure; and the title piece, Edward Gregson's *Festivo*.

The pipes and drums under Pipe Major C Johnstone are in good form and add greatly to the variety of the musical programme, but even this old soldier is finding it difficult to recall the origins, and reason, for inclusion of much of the music played by these "new" bands.

Some now have connections and affiliations with half a dozen or more regiments. The Royal Lancers band, for instance, could quite reasonably be expected to play the march of my father's old regiment, The 21st Hussars, later Lancers.

● **Bandleader BNA 5118, CD £12, cassette £7.60.**

Moral righteousness alone cannot win wars. Material advantage has to be achieved and Overy contends the key to eventual victory lies not only in the US arsenal but in the remarkable revival of Soviet military and economic power.

"How and why this happened, against every reasonable expectation, remains the central question of the war."

The Soviets increased their output of war material even when moving their factories eastward in the face of the German advance.

Turning points against Japan were the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, resulting in Japan being brought into range of US bombers. Strange superstitions arose in Japan.

It is Overy's exploration of the deeper factors behind success and failure that makes this a compelling book. - BJ

Photo parade par excellence

On Parade: The World's Great Military Units, photography and text by Carlos Lorch. Action Editor, Airlife Publishing Ltd, Shrewsbury, hardback, £39.95.

"WHEN you're the finest it's hard to be humble."

These words, on a US Marines car sticker photographed by Carlos Lorch for *On Parade*, could just as easily be describing the book itself.

For the glossy, large-format publication gives excellent photographic and textual coverage of more than 30 corps or regiments from South America through Europe to the Middle and Far East.

Lorch's colour pictures of military units in the field, as well as on parade, are simply stunning, especially those spread across two pages. And the book is packed with historical information on battle honours and traditions, supported by military libraries around the world, that will keep an enthusiast



Face of the legendary French Foreign Legion, by Lorch

captivated for many hours.

The subjects differ so much in appearance that the repetitive style of many of the photographs hardly seems to matter. Smaller military out-

fits, such as the Swiss Guard of the Vatican, make an appearance as well as large.

British units featured are the Household Division and the Gurkhas, as well as the Yeomen Warders of the Tower of London.

Among historical illustrations is the famous picture of Scots Guards celebrating on Mount Tumbledown at the end of the Falklands conflict in 1982, taken by Soldier photographer Paul Haley.

One interesting spread focuses on the 302nd Military Police Company, Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force (GSDF), with its US Army-influenced uniform.

But this reviewer's favourite parts of the book are the portraits of individuals from the various units.

Carlos Lorch has found faces that manage to illustrate the character of their regiments and corps as well as the countries they represent. - TC

Spreading NATO's word

1914-18 front-line message to the rear which started as: "Send reinforcements, we're going to advance." It ended as: "Send three and fourpence. We're going to a dance."

True or false, it illustrates the need for clarity if cock-ups, especially within NATO's military arms, are to be avoided.

To this end NATO, to prevent misunderstanding and confusion, issued a standard definition of words known as STANAG – Standardisation Agreement (NATO).

It's as well that it did, for confusion was commonplace on joint exercises because of the

difference in military terms and meanings. Now, because everyone within NATO uses the same terms, everyone should (in theory, anyway) be able to understand what is going on.

If they don't, this dictionary will go a long way towards clarifying any doubts they might have.

Take the term "Y-scale". This means: "On an oblique photograph, the scale along the line of the principal vertical, or any other line inherent or plotted, which, on the ground, is parallel to the principal vertical."

Clear? Good. Go to the top of the NATO class. - JM

Lucky 13 kept this tankie alive

Armoured Odyssey by Stuart Hamilton. Tom Donovan Publishing Ltd, £17.95.

THIS BOOK, which tells of life – and death – in a tank, is enough to deter most of us from ever wanting to ride in one, let alone go into action with all guns blazing.

Although not superstitious, he considers the number 13 to have played an important part in his survival with the 8th Royal Tank Regiment.

When he joined in 1940 he was posted to 13 Troop; six months later he was one of 13 commissioned; when the regiment went to the Middle East in 1941 its serial number was 175 (which adds up to 13); it disembarked at Suez on June 13; it first saw action at Tobruk with 13 Corps and had only 13 troop officers instead of 15. Within a week only three were left.

That trio went on to survive the war, seeing action with the regiment through the Western Desert, Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Italy.

Hamilton's battle descriptions are vivid: what it is like, for example, to have a shell smash into a tank and the damage it inflicts.

When a comparison is made of German and British armour, it is amazing how he and other tank crews survived; the Valentine, with which the 8th was equipped at the time, had a three-man crew, a two-pounder "pop-gun" and a machine-gun.

Facing them were Panzer Mk 3s and 4s with 50mm and 75mm guns, not to mention the 88mm anti-tank gun which could pick off the British tanks at 3,000 yards.

But survive he did and as the war progressed the 8th's tanks were improved, with heavier armour, bigger and better guns and more speed.

Stuart Hamilton has known and seen real fear and he tells a powerful story about himself and his fellow soldiers looking out from the inside of a tank in action. - JM

Because it was there . . .

MOUNTAINS have loomed large in the lives of units recently, whether trekking through them, scaling them or negotiating the icy rivers at their bases, as this round-up shows.

ARMED with good walking boots and plenty of sun cream, 30 members of 1 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC from Höhne circumnavigated the Picos de Europas mountain range in Northern Spain.

Led by Capt Phil Harrison RAMC, a survivor of three similar treks, the medics set off early from Potes to avoid the searing mid-day sun. The first day's walk from Espinama to Fuente De involved six hours of climbing.

Only way down to the next campsite was via a precarious cable car which dropped almost 1,000m.

Each group managed to find a different way down the mountain before embarking on a 14km trek the next day along the edge of the breathtaking Cares Gorge.

Laden with tents, rations, sleeping bags and warm clothes, most of the groups set off 24 hours later to stay on the mountain overnight.

The aim was to climb from Puente Poncebos (300m) to the base of Naranjo de Bulnes (2,100m), a spectacular rock dominating the skyline.

New territory for Borderers

SOLDIERS from Lancaster and Cumbria-based 1st and 4th Battalions, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, broke new ground when they went climbing and trekking in Pakistan.

The expedition, Exercise Pakistan Dragon, was organised at the invitation of Lt Col Fazal-e-Maqbad Afridi, com-



Peak fitness: Members of 1 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, Höhne (left to right) LCpl Graham Mailer REME, Capt Steve Willingham RLC, LCpl Daz Whittern RLC and Ptes Matt Rawlings RAMC, Paul Bond RLC and Robbo Robinson RAMC, with the mountain range in the background



Holding the PWRR regimental flag on the summit of the world's highest active volcano, Mount Cotopaxi (19,348ft) are Pte Mark Anderson DWR and Cpl Paul Cook and Cpl Lester Wainwright, PWRR

manding officer of the regiment's affiliated unit in Pakistan, the 15th Battalion, The Pakistan Frontier Force.

Aim of the exercise was to attempt to climb mountains over 20,000ft in the Karakoram region of North Pakistan and to trek to the Naltar region up to heights of 15,000ft.

Capt Guy Sutcliffe, who led the group, said: "My aim was to introduce soldiers with little trekking experience to a part of the world where the altitude, terrain and hazardous conditions would test them to the full. This was achieved."

So far and so near

THREE soldiers from the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and 3rd Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment scaled five peaks in Ecuador.

One, Mount Chimborazo (20,703ft), is the highest peak in Ecuador. Due to the Earth's bulge, it is also the furthest point from the centre of the earth, and the nearest part of the surface to the sun.

Canada climb . . .

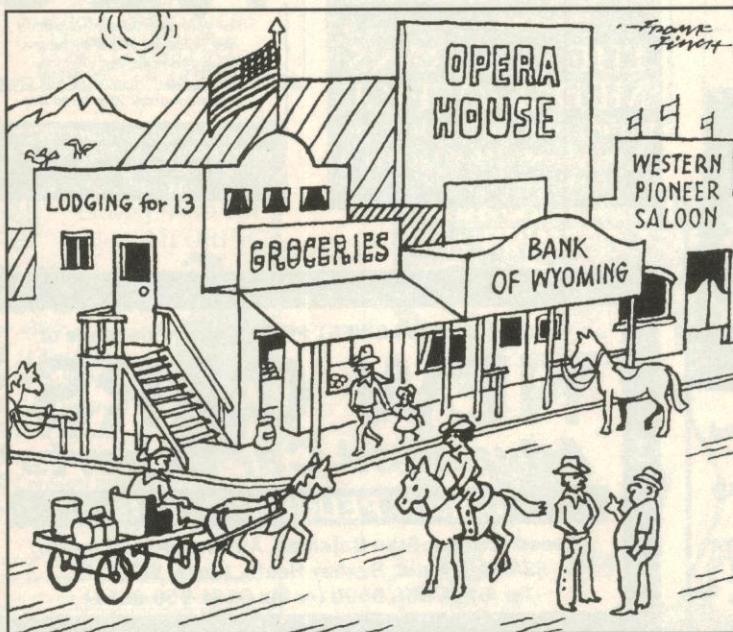
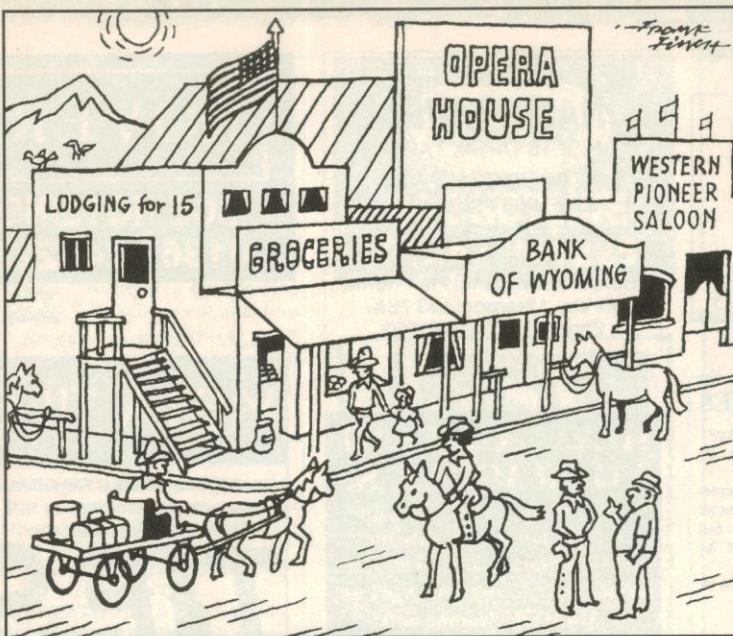
A NINE-man team of Territorial Army soldiers from 4th/5th Battalion, The Green Howards has climbed Mount Athabasca, the second highest mountain (11,520ft) in the Canadian Rockies.

Led by CSgt Rob Robson, the team trained hard for the assault, covering all the techniques of glacial and mountain travel at the Jasper National Park before setting out for the summit.

The expedition was one of a series conducted by the Regular and Territorial battalions of the Green Howards. Regimental expeditions have recently taken place in South Georgia, Siberia and Sardinia.

Hussars on a high

TWELVE officers and soldiers from The King's Royal Hus-



COMPETITION 623

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PLEASE NOTE: The closing date for Competition 622 is November 3, 1995, not November 30, as published in the October 16 issue

than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners.

No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the December 11 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition 620 (September 18 issue): Congratulations to Mr M H Cardwell, of Blackpool, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr F J Whitehouse, of Quinton, Birmingham, and Mr R W Newcombe, of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

REDCAPS IN BAVARIA

Cpl Charlie Kennedy learns the ropes as he tries a spot of kayaking in Bavaria. He was one of 80 members of Osnabrück-based 115 Provost Company RMP who spent two weeks on Exercise Redcap Diamond learning new skills in climbing and trekking as well as kayaking. Based at the 4th Armoured Brigade hut, their expeditions took them as far afield as Austria



in the snow and on glaciers.

The expedition was led by SSgt Trevor Winchcombe, who is already planning an expedition in the Rockies next year, when the KRH are due to spend nine months as the enemy force at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

sars walked the 150km "Tour de Mont Blanc" circuit through France, Italy and Switzerland in almost perfect weather.

A highlight of the ten-day expedition was a cable car trip to Helbronner, one of the highest points in the Alps, where the Hussars tried body-surfing

KRH expedition leader SSgt Trevor Winchcombe takes a tentative step on snow in the French Alps



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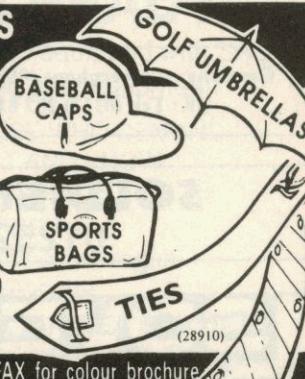
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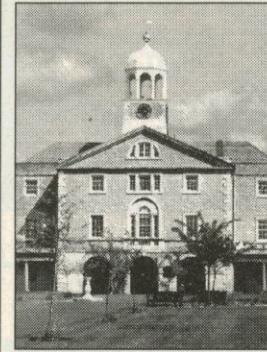
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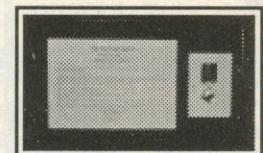
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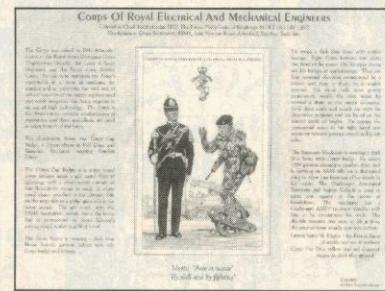
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Ref: VPC-245291-5726-SC

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OCTOBER 7, 1995

First prize (19 goals, £2,500) LCpl R B Pedley, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage.

Seven-way tie for second prize (18 goals, £500 each) Col J M Arigho, MoD AMD, Ash Vale; Capt D J Haws, 3 RHA, Topcliffe; Cpl J E Lynn, ADU NI RAVC, BFPO 803; Cfn M D Millar, 237 Signal Sqn, Chippenham; LCpl D J Sheppard, MoD; Sgt R C Whitaker, 40 Regt RA, BFPO 30; Sgt T E Wright, 3 Armd Fd Amb, BFPO 16.

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D4

Busy baptism for Redcoat III

IT HAS been a busy first season for *Redcoat III*, the Army premier racing yacht.

Raced primarily by the Army's offshore team under skipper Capt Nick Bate QRL, the Sigma 38 competed most weekends in Solent and cross-Channel races, and is currently lying second overall in her class.

Her overall points position

was considerably helped by a third in class in the five-day Fastnet Race, again skippered by Nick Bate. *Redcoat III* was actually second across the line behind a Nicholson 55 skippered by Col David Glyn-Owen, Rear Commodore Offshore Army Sailing Association (ASA).

Another Sigma 38 (Maj Ben Archer) helped the Army to

win the team trophy in the Fastnet, a major achievement in what is universally regarded as a very demanding offshore yacht race.

So successful has *Redcoat III* been that she is now recognised as one of the fastest yachts in the Sigma fleet. She is currently involved in the Lymington autumn series.

Commissioned and named

in March by Lady Angela Rose, the yacht is run largely on a self-funding basis with contributions by those who sail in her.

Owned by the Army Sailing Association, she was bought with non-public contributions from the Army Central Fund, HQ Land Command and the ASA's offshore sub-account.

(Picture - back cover)

REME in national cup draw

REME hosted the Inter-Corps hockey tournament at Aldershot and won the Challenge Trophy, a feat which earns them automatic entry into the national Hockey Association Cup competition.

REME defeated the Royal Artillery 2-0 in the final after hitting six past the Royal Engineers in the semis. The gunners beat the Royal Signals 3-0 in the other semi-final.

There was consolation for the signallers in the plate competition which they won by beating the sappers 2-1 in the final to take the Matchmaker Trophy.

The Army's representatives in the Hockey Association Trophy tournament will be the Adjutant General's Corps.

Capt Simon Hazlitt (LI), the Army and England player, has received the Charlie Wood Memorial Salver awarded annually to the person contributing the most towards Army hockey.

Place relays

MORE than 450 men and women from 20 countries took part in the biannual United Nations relay race at Ploce in Croatia.

BRITMEDBAT lost the title to bare-footed runners from Pakistan, with 2 Signal Regiment finishing second, followed closely by 35 Engineer Regiment Group. The medics had some success when 19 Field Ambulance were first in the women's race.

Irish make mark on Infantry rugby

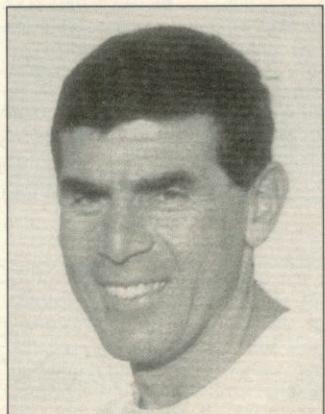


Following comprehensive victories over former Army champions 1 DWR (27-13), 1 BW (77-0) and 45 Cdo RM (25-17), Portadown-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment has had four players selected for the Infantry team.

They are (left to right) second row forward Sgt Dean Murten, loose head prop Sgt Dave Singleton,

stand off LCpl Chris O'Connor and wing forward LCpl Andy Brookes. In a further recognition of the battalion's rugby strength, O'Connor has been chosen to lead the Infantry XV, an honour which surprised and delighted him. Now 3 R Irish are hoping that one of their number will make it all the way into the full Army side.

Ted's on top of world



Capt Ted Martin, quadrathlon world champion

THE ARMY has a new world champion.

Capt Ted Martin, serving at ATR Winchester, won the world quadrathlon title in the 40-44 age group on Ibiza last month.

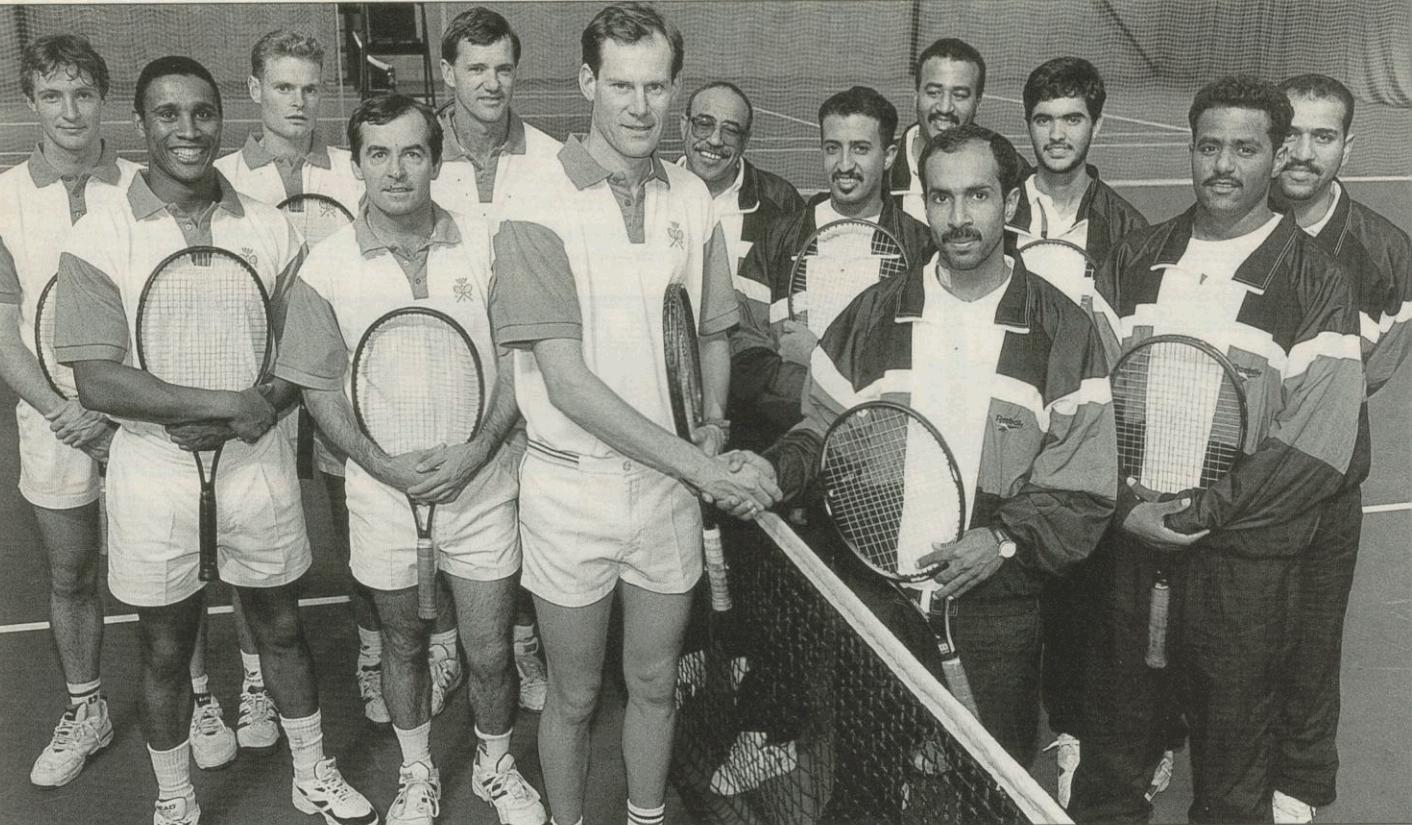
Representing Great Britain, the APTC officer completed the gruelling four-event competition in 7hr 59min 33sec.

The world quadrathlon course involved a 5km sea swim, followed immediately by a 20km race in sea kayaks, a short run from the beach to mount racing bicycles for a 100km circuit on the moun-

tainous island, and a 21km run.

Martin was placed 25th in the world in all age groups and was the fifth GB athlete to finish. Now in training for the European championships, he is looking for a sponsor and can be contacted c/o the OC A Sqn, ATR Winchester, Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester SO22 6NQ (tel 01962 888239).

Martin took part in the 1984 world triathlon championships in Nice, France. He is a former Army, Combined Services and Welsh water polo player and swimmer.



Picture: Mike Perring

Net call

SEAE Arborfield win sixes trophy

SEAE Arborfield won the Army six-a-side tournament, defeating 3 RSME 2-1 in a close final at the end of a hard slog in heavy conditions, writes Derrick Bly.

On their way to the finals, SEAE won their group by beating 22 Engr Regt, 1 RHA, 1 KOSB, 2 RRF and 1 Kings. They were held to draws by 1 Gren Gds and 1 QRH.

In the first semi-final the Arborfield outfit met arch rivals SEME, runners-up from the second pool, and won in extra time by the odd goal in three.

Despite losing to SEME in their opening game, 3 RSME recovered to win the group, then beat 1 Kings 3-0 in the semi-finals.

The trophies were presented by Mr Harry Stead of ISOSTAR, who sponsored the tournament for the third suc-

cessive year. The Thorpe Trophy, awarded for the most goals scored in group matches, was won by 1 Staffords who knocked in 20 in their seven

games and conceded nine.

Man of the final, chosen by former AFA stalwart Lt Col (Retd) Pat Massey, was SSgt John Scott of SEAE.

A HALF TOO FAR

Hellenic League 2, Army 0

A BELOW-strength Army side made the long journey to Nailsworth in Gloucestershire only to lose to the Hellenic League by two second-half goals after having much the better of the first half.

Coach QMSI Pat Russell and his predecessor, QMSI Joey Roach, were both forced into action when injuries and Service commitments forced late withdrawals from the squad.

Cpl Tosh Williams wore the skipper's armband and he and fullback Pte Steve Bowey, back

from a week's trial with Bristol Rovers, found time to support the attack. Russell and Pte Simon Yeo were just off target with goal attempts, while Cpl Alfie Alford had a shot palmed away after being set up by Bowey and Cpl Alan Woodall.

During this period LCpl Dominic Joyce was virtually a spectator in the Army goal. Yeo and Sig Barney Bambrook both tested the Hellenic League goalkeeper before the hosts went ahead on 57 minutes.

They went further ahead with five minutes remaining.

Early Bird catches APTC out

Infantry 3, APTC 0
Pte Stephen Bird (Cheshire) gave the Infantry an early lead when he fired in from close range after the APTC had failed to clear a corner.

Debutant Cpl Steve Hack (Staffords) increased the lead on the half hour before another player making his debut, Pte Michael McMullen (A and SH), scored with a header just before half time.

The Infantry squandered chances in the second half and should have won by a bigger margin although the APTC never gave up.

Silver Olsson

OLYMPIC bobsleigh star Cpl Sean Olsson (1 Para) won a silver medal in the four-man event at the world push-start championships in Monaco.

Olsson also took part in the two-man competition over a specially-prepared 80m track in Monaco harbour. He was partnered by former soldier Lenny Paul.

Master divers in the medals for Britain

ARMY divers won gold, silver and bronze medals for Great Britain at the European Masters diving championships at Riccione in Italy.

Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR), Sgt (SI) Amos Green-

field (APTC, Comms and Sy Gp UK), and LCpl Neil Wilson (4 AAC), joined the rest of the British squad in Italy a few days before the outdoor competition.

Munro won gold in the 3m

event, with Wilson taking bronze and Greenfield just missing out in fourth place.

Munro scored consistently in the 1m competition to take gold again, Wilson picking up a bronze medal and Greenfield

finishing in a creditable fifth place. But Greenfield took his chance to pick up a medal in the final event, the highboard, winning the gold with the highest score of the day. Munro was second and Wilson fifth.

Paddlers' power

Sprint team back in front

THE ARMY sprint and marathon canoe racing team rounded off a superb year of competition with victory in the Inter-Services sprint championships and the runner-up spot in the marathon.

There has been a resurgence in Army racing, and paddlers are again competing well at national and international levels.

A team which included SSgt Jim Ross (CVHQ RE), Cpl Andy Beegan (3 RSME) and Spr Digger Blake (33 EOD Regt RE) raced in a series of marathons during August in the Asturias region of northern Spain.

The sport is a passion in Spain, with national television coverage ensuring very strong fields and thousands of spectators.

Ross also took part in "Le Classic", a 110-mile Canadian doubles marathon in Canada, and recorded the best result for a paddler not from the American continent.

Capt Duncan Capps (RLC), currently at RMA Sandhurst, and Ross achieved international status, with Capps representing Great Britain at marathon events in Eindhoven (he was fourth), Amsterdam (fifth), and the Grand Prix race in Hungary in both singles and doubles.

Ross and Capp teamed at



The victorious Army K4 500m crew at Nottingham. From the front are Cpl Andy Beegan, Cfn Brendan Reese, LCpl Rob Hazzard and WO2 Bill Wheeler

the beginning of September for GB to race in the 80-mile Tour de Gudena marathon through the inland lakes and narrow rivers of eastern Denmark.

In gale force winds which made conditions very difficult on the big lakes, the pair finished third, a memorable achievement in a large international field.

The Inter-Service sprint races were again held on the Holme Pierrepont course at the national watersports centre in Nottingham. The marathon was paddled over 12 miles of the River Trent.

Hit by illness, the Army paddlers did well to finish second to the Royal Air Force in a close marathon.

Cfn Beth Rees (9 Fd Wksp REME) had an excellent race in the singles, beating her own class and all the women's doubles. Ross paired up with Cpl Steve Martin (3 RSME) to

finish second in the K2, and Capps was second in the K1.

Army paddlers fared better in the sprints, Capps winning the 500m K1 and finishing second in the 1,000m K1 in which Ross was third.

Together, they won both 500m and 1,000m K2 races.

Rees took the women's K1 500m and, with Capt Tina Tosi (3 RSME), the K2 500m, completing a clean sweep of the women's Inter-Services events.

Blake and Sgt Tim Rowe (REME) volunteered for the Canadian singles and did well to finish first and second in these very unstable canoes.

The Army rounded off a good weekend with victory in the four-man kayak 500m, Beegan, Cfn Brendan Reese (PMC), LCpl Rob Hazzard and WO2 Bill Wheeler (both 1 RSME) powering down the course to win in a photo-finish.

Ref Chris joins pros

Former Army and Combined Services boxer Chris Kelly (pictured) has qualified as a professional referee.

A WO2 (QMSI) in the Army Physical Training Corps when he left in 1990, Chris applied to the British Boxing Board of Control at the beginning of 1994 for his licence, and spent a year marking at ringsides all over the country.

He was finally granted his licence in July.

Chris was the Army and Combined Services light-middleweight champion between 1971 and 1975.

In 1973 he reached the ABA semi-finals.



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GBR 5330



The British Army's *Redcoat* (left) leads *Arthur* and *Red Arrow*, the RAF contenders, past an Isle of Wight ferry during the Sigma national championships in the Solent last month. *Redcoat*, a Sigma 38 crewed by the Army offshore team and skippered by Capt Nick Bate QLR, came third in the race and second overall in her class. Story in sports pages.

Picture: Mike Perring