

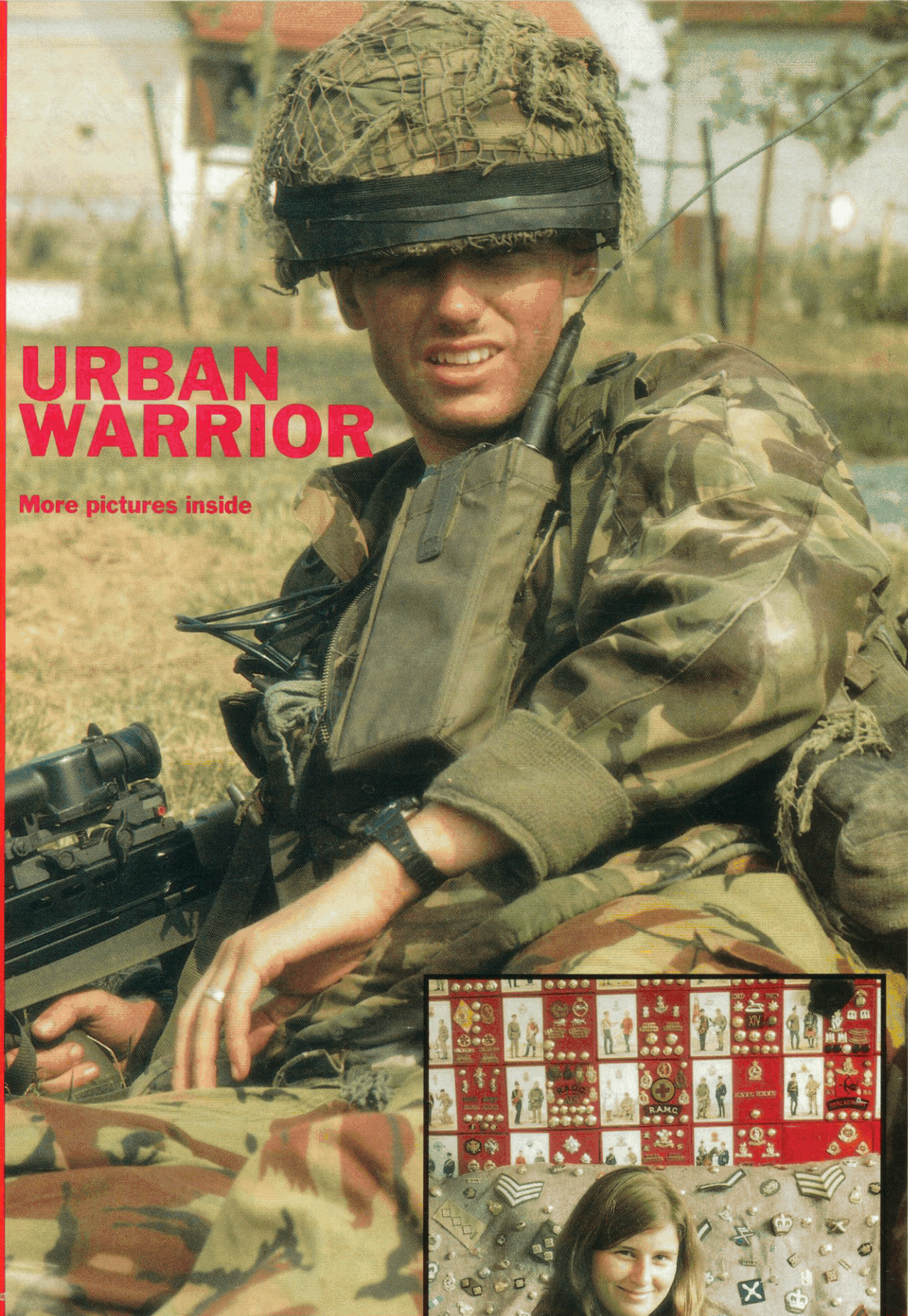
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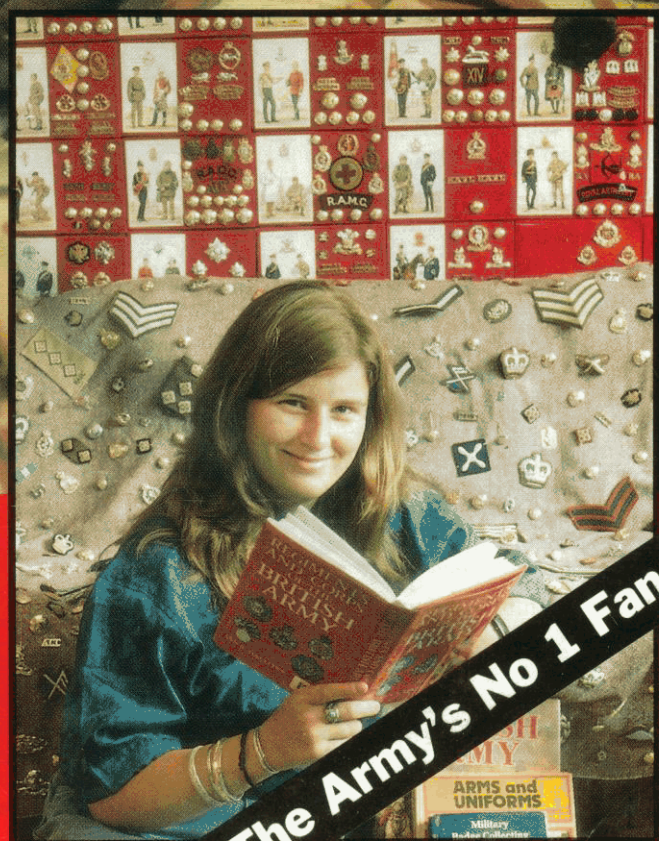
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More pictures inside



ALSO INSIDE:

**27 Regiment RCT
BATT in Gambia
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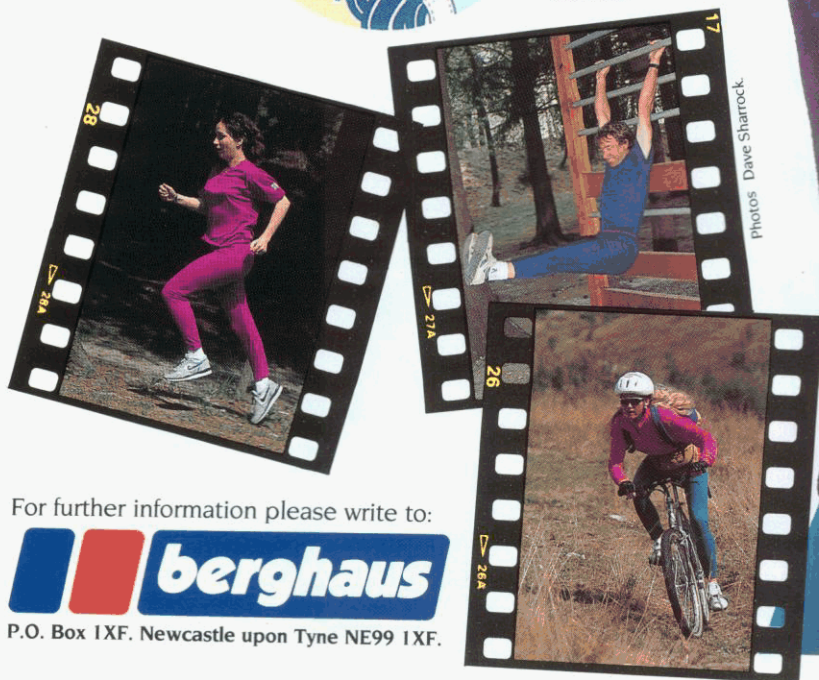
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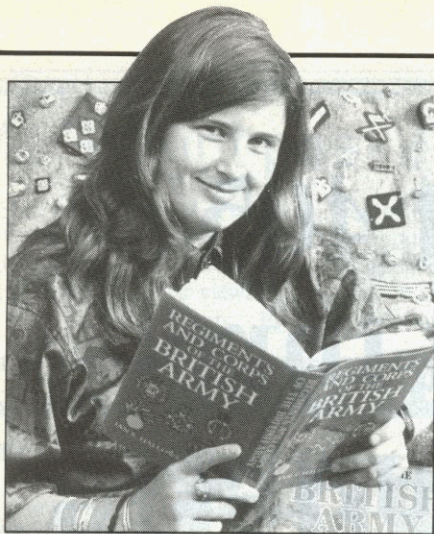


Photos Dave Sharrock

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Fiona's silver Service

Seventeen-year-old Fiona Shepherd thinks the world of the British Army – and the Army obviously rates her pretty highly. So many units responded to her appeals for insignia that the resulting collection of carefully documented badges, buttons, caps and berets has helped her win the Duke of Edinburgh's silver award.

Fiona, from Purley in Surrey, acquired the pieces by writing to individual units over the past four years, and she now has something from virtually every regiment and corps. For that she says a

big 'thank you'. Now Fiona is going for gold – and she is hoping that foreign Services are as generous as the British Army.

(Picture: Mike Perring)

COVER STORY

MAIN PICTURE: LCpl Paul Lee of 4 Company, 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, pauses for breath during Exercise Urban Warrior on Salisbury Plain. A bus driver from Canterbury, he was one of 1,000 Territorial Army paras taking part in the four-day exercise. See Pages 13–15.

(Picture: Mike Weston)

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VOL. 47/20

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Barracks for axing listed

BARRACKS and installations in 29 locations in Germany are to be released over the next four years as the British Army on the Rhine is reduced to about 23,000 from its present 50,000.

The list, announced by C-in-C BAOR, was compiled after consultations with the German Federal Government.

All British troops and their families are to be withdrawn from the following garrisons, which are to be returned in due course to the German authorities:

Bünde, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Hamm, Hanover, Hemmer, Hildesheim, Iserlohn, Lemgo, Lubbecke, Menden, Minden, Mönchengladbach, Mülheim, Münster Oertze, Soest, Soltau, Viersen, Verden, Werl and Wolfenbüttel.

Garrisons to be partially closed are Bielefeld (Catterick, Karstadt, Mossbank, Redcar and Ripon Barracks to be

Four-year run-down announced

retained, all other closed), Celle (MQs only retained), Detmold (Hobart Barracks only retained), Dortmund (Napier and Suffolk Barracks retained), Hameln (Bailey Park, Bindon, Gordon Gundolf Park, Ravelin Camp South, Wouldham Camp retained, Ravelin North Camp closed), Herford (Hammersmith and Wentworth Barracks retained), Lubbecke (Tunis Barracks closed), and Münster (Oxford, Portsmouth, York Barracks retained).

Garrisons to be retained are Birgelen, Dülmen, Fallingb., Gütersloh, Hohn, Krefeld, Lippstadt (under review), Nienburg, Osnabrück,

Paderborn, Ratingen and Rheindahlen.

Factors taken into consideration included the condition of barracks and MQs, quality of life, job opportunities for dependants, the wishes of local populations, security and the ease of access to training areas.

As a result of the changes, about 10,000 civilian posts will be lost over the next four years in Nordrhein Westfalen, and about 1,300 in Lower Saxony. Many of those affected are part-time and some are British dependants.

The announcement said that the impact would be lessened by natural wastage, and that everything possible would be done to assist those made redundant.

"Compensation payments and assistance provided to find other employment will go well beyond the current provisions of the collective tariff agreement," said the announcement.

In total

STRENGTH of the British Army on June 30 was 147,290, according to the latest figures prepared by the Government Statistical Service. The figure is nearly 4,000 down on June 1990.

GREAT VALUE

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AFTER remaining unchanged for 3½ years, the cover price of SOLDIER will go up to 50p with the October 14 issue. Postal subscription rates will also rise from that date.

The changes are the inevitable result of increasing production costs and postal charges. From October 14 the

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Telephone: Army network: Dial internal code and extension number. Civil network: Dial 0252 347 followed by last three digits of extension number.
SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for HMSO.
Photostat by RSB Typesetters, Worpleston, Surrey.
Crown copyright 1991.

Managing Editor: Chris Horrocks (Ext 2355) • Editor: John Elliott (2356) • Assistant Editors: Laurie Manton (2362), Gordon Skilling (2360) • Picture Editor: Terry Champion (2357) • Photographers: Mike Weston, Mike Perring (2357) • Art Editor: Les Gwyer (2169) • Families: Anne Armstrong (2169) • Librarian: Bill Stroud (2351) • Advertising/Promotions: Una Hanson (2352 or 0252 347352) • Accounts/Distribution: Seela McIntosh (2353)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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.....	BFPO £10
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MoD flight passengers to be quizzed on standards

PASSENGERS travelling on all MoD scheduled routes operated by the RAF or civil charter will be able to log their views on a variety of subjects by

completing a questionnaire. About 6,000 of the 200,000 passengers carried each year will receive a questionnaire, which should give an accurate

representation of each flight selected and the route. Passenger preferences and problem areas will be investigated and standards will be

improved where possible and when finance permits. The questionnaire should take about five minutes to complete.

EXERCISE CERTAIN SHIELD

Catterick's 24 Brigade leads way

A RADICAL new approach to military operations in Europe has been trialled in Germany during Exercise Certain Shield, writes Laurie Manton.

Because former Warsaw Pact forces are no longer considered a threat, Certain Shield was very different from the type of troop training developed by Nato armies over the past 40 years.

The collapse of the Soviet threat has made obsolete exercises in which massive Red forces move west to attack Nato Blue formations. Now an enemy Gold force attacks from south to north.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, commander of Nato's Northern Army Group, told SOLDIER: "I recognise that we no longer have a clearly defined enemy to train against, and that this will require fundamental changes in our thinking, concepts and, perhaps training of our armed forces."

Lightly armed rapid reaction forces with heliborne mobility could be the way ahead, said Gen Inge.

"Reaction forces will be increasingly important, perhaps at the expense of augmentation (main armoured) forces."

First of the restructured Nato forces to be tested in the field was the Multinational Airmobile Division (MNAD), spearheaded by 24 Airmobile Brigade from Catterick.

Consisting of British, German, Dutch and Belgian troops, the MNAD was airlifted 75 miles across

German countryside to confront an imaginary enemy.

The 8,000-strong force practised moving anti-tank troops quickly to a threatened area many miles from the main Nato armoured forces, then holding it with British and German anti-tank helicopters until the main force arrived.

The cutting edge of 24 Brigade consists of The Green Howards, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. The three battalions are able to put more than 100 Milan anti-tank missile posts into the field. Air support is provided by 9 Regiment Army Air Corps.

During Exercise Certain Shield a full-scale computer-based war has been fought. Hundreds of computers were linked with a programme simulating 160,000 troops locked in combat.

Guards settle

THREE Grenadier Guardsmen badly injured while training in Canada have reached an out-of-court settlement with the Ministry of Defence. While not admitting liability, the MoD has agreed to pay LCpl John Ray, Gdsmn Adrian Hicks and Gdsmn Sean Povey £105,000 each in addition to their pension entitlements.



Lt Col Lofty Graham (left) presents the first Army 100 badge to Lt Col John Woods

Top shots to get new badge

A NEW badge is to be issued to serving members of the Army who have shot in the Regular Army 100 at Bisley.

It is to be worn by all ranks on all forms of dress on the lower left sleeve.

Designed by Army Rifle Association secretary Lt Col Lofty Graham, the badge depicts the ARA lion supporting crossed rifles – the sign of skill at arms – in gold on a plinth in the green and heather colours of the association and displaying the figure 100 in gold.

To qualify for the Army 100 badge, the last stage of the Army championship, the competitor has had to fire in six matches over a period of five days. It is a severe test of mental and physical fitness in conditions which are, as near as safety will allow, those likely to be encountered on operations.

Approval for the badge has been given by the Army Dress Committee after a 15-year campaign by the ARA, which was supported by most of the Arms and Services Directors.

First to receive the new



Army 100 badge

badges were Lt Col John Woods REME, captain of the Army VIII, and Capt Angus McLeod RS, winner of the Queen's Medal in 1990. He received a Mention in Dispatches during the Gulf War.

Col Woods, an international marksman with both rifle and pistol, is retiring soon after a career in which he has made a major contribution to Army shooting.

● Although the badge is on issue to serving personnel to be worn on uniform, former soldiers who have shot in the Army 100 at Bisley may purchase it from the ARA, c/o HQ SEDIST, Steeles Road, Aldershot GU11 2DP.

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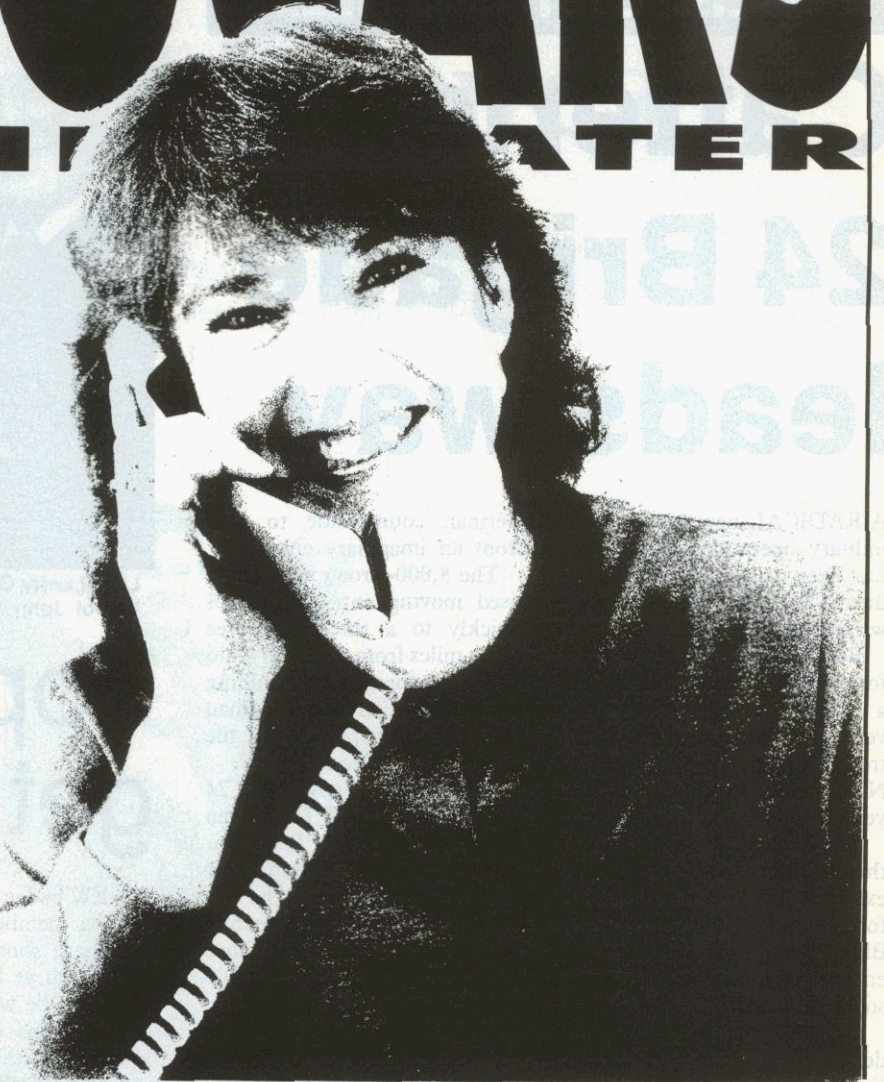
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S/TAN/30/9

Rangers battlegroup takes its Medicine

AFTER much chopping and changing of deployment dates because of Operation Granby, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers have finally completed their Exercise Medicine Man III at BATUS in Canada.

The battalion was supported by C Squadron, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment; 3 Troop, 25 Engineer Regiment; and a flight from 3 Regiment AAC.

Royal Air Force commitments meant the Irish Rangers battlegroup deployed in some

comfort by civilian airline.

Torrential rain turned the Suffield "Dust Bowl" into a mud bowl, causing a 24-hour postponement, but the battlegroup maintained a fast and aggressive level of performance and an excellent vehicle

maintenance record during its first BATUS for several years.

When the main body returned to Lemgo in Germany nearly 90 personnel were left behind in the Rocky Mountains for a challenging package of adventurous training.

Billy the kid joins 1 RWF

A BRITISH Airways flight from Birmingham brought a very special cargo to Berlin last month.

Six-month-old Billy, a baby goat from a wild herd in North Wales, was reporting for duty with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, in Berlin.

Billy senior, the present Regimental Goat, is nine years old and due for retirement. He will rejoin the Royal herd at Whipsnade Zoo.

It had been intended that his replacement would also come from the Whipsnade stock, but the herd is small and in-breeding has reduced the goats' hardiness.

The latest Billy, which will take four months to train, comes from a herd of feral goats which roams the Great Orme peak in Llandudno, Gwynedd.

The Whipsnade and Great Orme goats - distinctive for



Flown in by British Airways - Billy junior with Billy senior and Goat Major LCpl Peter Wadey (right) and Fus Neil Frost

their flowing white fleeces - are all descendants of a pair which the Shah of Persia gave to Queen Victoria soon after her Coronation. Queen Victoria presented the regiment with its first royal goat in 1844.

No record exists of the origin of the goat of The Royal Welch Fusiliers but it was apparently a custom of long standing as far back as 1775 when it saw action with the regiment at the Battle of Bunker's Hill during the American War of Independence.

Billy junior was met at Tegel

Airport, Berlin, by a group of Royal Welch Fusiliers including adjutant Capt Gerhard Wheeler and RSM WO1 Richard Irvine.

The verdict from former Goat Major LCpl Peter Wadey: "He's a good-looking goat - nice shaped head and strong, healthy horns. A good choice."

Praise indeed from the man who has been the battalion's Goat Major for seven years. He is being succeeded by Fus Kevin Evans, whose job it is to train the new goat for its role at the head of the parade.

Exped makes Czech mates

A PARTY of British Servicemen has just returned from a mountaineering exercise in Czechoslovakia, the first adventurous training expedition to visit an Eastern Bloc country.

The Joint Services team, drawn mostly from Bovington Garrison, climbed in the beautiful High Tatra Mountains and conquered Mt Gerlach, the highest in Eastern Europe.

Expedition members also tackled demanding rock climbs and the sandstone towers in an area in the north known as the Bohemian Paradise.

East-West detente was further cemented when the party took on a local football team in the Tatras and lost 4-2.

The expedition was led by Maj Tony Rudall RAEC, from 16 AEC at Bovington, who described the Tatras as an ideal location for adventurous training.

● The United Kingdom and Czechoslovakia have conducted a bilateral Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) practice inspection in South West District. Exercise Henley 6/91 is the eighth in a series designed to practise reception and escorting procedures for verification inspections agreed under the Paris Treaty.

Armagh bases repaired

TROOPS from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry and elements of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have been deployed in Northern Ireland to guard a large force of Royal Engineers engaged in repairing and refurbishing bases and watch towers on the border in South Armagh.

A massive transport operation masterminded by the Royal Corps of Transport to take in supplies and equipment went off smoothly with a minimum of inconvenience to local traffic.

Falklands pool tribute

FALKLANDERS have paid tribute to military personnel serving on the islands by donating a £921,500 indoor heated swimming pool to those based at Mount Pleasant. The pool, an important addition to the main sports complex at Mount Pleasant, was built in 15 months by four successive field squadrons of the Royal Engineers on four-month South Atlantic tours.

The Falkland Islands Government paid for the facility and is to contribute £126,000 towards maintenance over the first five years.

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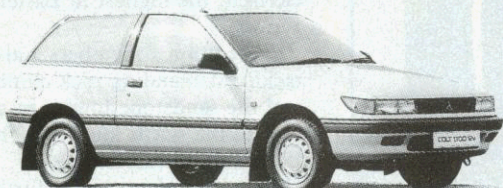
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Cyprus ring story turns full circle

REME personnel had their work cut out to recover a 10-tonne "polo mint" from a mountain road in Cyprus.

The radar turntable base – 7ft across and 3ft 6in high – literally fell off the back of a lorry a year ago while being transported from Mt Olympus to RAF Akrotiri for disposal.

When a securing bolt snapped while the lorry was negotiating a bend on the mountain road between Platres and Troodos, the ring slipped off the flatbed and rolled down into a valley.

Resources for the recovery were not immediately available on the island and the operation was finally started last month.

The road was closed for five hours while Capt Phil Ingram from HQ British Forces Cyprus and his team drawn from the Force Workshops at Akrotiri and the ESBA Workshops at Dhekelia slowly winched the ring up a dry water course and back to the road.

Eleven months after starting its journey, the radar turntable base arrived at its destination.

PAX premiums back to normal

HIGH war premiums for Personal Accident Insurance (PAX) levied after August 13, 1990 on soldiers deployed to the Gulf area have been removed but normal premiums are due to rise on December 1.

Page turned

A PAGE in the book of remembrance of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was turned on September 9 in Canterbury Cathedral by Canadian officer Capt Derm Wilson.



The start of a busy afternoon for Sgt Frank Taylor (left) and Capt Phil Ingram as they check securing shackles on the radar turntable before the winching operation began

US National Guard in form at Pirbright

SSGT Larry Reynolds from the US National Guard in Vermont took places in four of the five shooting matches to become the champion rifle shot and individual champion at arms in the second Royal Ordnance Reserve Forces Association Skill-at-Arms meeting at Pirbright.

Restricted by the Pirbright range capacity, 28 four-man teams from nine Nato nations assembled at the Guards Depot to compete with pistol, SMG and SA 80 for the coveted silverware, won mostly by Denmark last year.

Twenty thousand rounds and

36 hours later the US National Guard had won the electric target, converted gallery, SMG and pistol matches and the grenade throwing.

They take back to America the Royal Ordnance Salver and Cup for their champion rifle scores and the Reserve Forces Association Cup and bowl as individual and team champions.

As the UK is the only country using the SA 80 rifle, British teams were restricted to competing for shields. In this class the 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment took the trophies with a team score

just higher than that of the National Guard. The final test for the visitors was the half day falling plate team rifle event. The week's practice put in by the Americans paid off again but the French medical reservists were only five points behind them.

Putting in a first appearance at the meeting, besides the National Guard, was RD Milano from Italy.

Unfortunately the Norwegians were unable to attend on this occasion but Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands fielded 18 teams between them.

It was confirmed at the meeting that the TA Rifle Association has been given permission to send a rifle and pistol team to the United States on an exchange meeting with the US National Guard.

The 20-man team will leave on October 7 for Tennessee where they will get a week's practice before moving to Arkansas for the main competition. Lt Col Alan Wise, of 9 Ordnance Bn, will lead the team, which includes two women.



The 6 R Anglian team with Lt Gen Mike Wilks (centre), Inspector General TA, who presented the awards at the Reserve Forces Association US SAAM 91

16 Sigs win Great Pud Race



Laying down the law

Instead of writing about the law Cpl **Michelle Clarke** now enforces it – at weekends, anyway. A legal secretary in civvy street, Michelle is in command of the regimental police section of 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle. Husband **Martyn** is a lance corporal in another unit at the same barracks.



Mark's magic moment

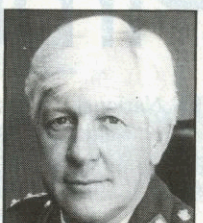
BFBS Radio DJ **Mark Page** and bride **Natalie Stirland** had a rather special guard of honour when they left Elton village church, Stockton-on-Tees, after their wedding. The party from 71 Aircraft Workshop REME at Detmold travelled specially for the occasion after Mark had invited WO1 (RSM) **Peter Kerr** over the airwaves during his "Mark at the Manor" Saturday morning show. Two of the personalised flag staffs used by the guard were given to the happy couple as a gift from the Workshop. Coincidentally, 71 Wksp's commanding officer, Lt Col **Nick Knudsen**, was married in the same church 40 years ago.

Surest sign that summer is receding is the appearance in our postbag of the First Christmas Pudding Stirring Picture. This year's winner (their prize is that they get their photograph published) comes from Krefeld-based 16 Signal Regiment. Pictured doing their stuff are (from left) Pte **Joanne Griffiths**, commanding officer Lt Col

Tony Elford, youngest soldier Sig **Andy Roberts**, Sgt **Kenny Wright**, and Sgt **John Place**, who is holding an Iraqi ladle found by a member of the regiment in an underground officers' mess during Operation Granby. The ladle holds enough for 15 portions.

New man at ACC helm

Brig **Barrie Atkinson**, new Director of the Army Catering Corps, faces the delicate task of steering the Corps along the new path outlined for it under Options for Change.



The ACC, which has been celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, will cease to exist under that name by April 1993 although the catering function will continue under the aegis of a Service Support Corps. Brig Atkinson succeeded Brig **Barry Bloxham** on August 30.

Tank-buster Baron back on parade

Chelsea Pensioner Sgt **Jim Baron** MM looked over some modern armoured vehicles when he visited his old regiment, the Irish Guards, during their field firing camp at Sennelager.

Jim's original plan was to spend a day with the regiment, but there was so much to do and see that his visit was extended to a week.

He was shown over Challenger and a tracked APC, visited 7 Tank Transporter Regiment and its captured Iraqi T55 tank, and proudly presented prizes for the IG's platoon competitions.

Jim won his Military Medal in 1944 when, as the lance corporal driver of a Sherman tank in Normandy, they surprised four German tanks.

Ordered by his commander to ram the nearest tank when their own gun jammed, Jim did just that, then escaped with his crewmates into a nearby cornfield.



Eric hangs up his boots



Forty-three years of service to the Army comes to an end as Quartermaster Lt Col **Eric Herrington** (left) welcomes his successor, Capt **Ian Fisk**, to the 6th (Somerset and Cornwall) Battalion, The Light Infantry headquarters at Bath.

Col Herrington joined the Somerset Light Infantry as a National Serviceman in 1948 and subsequently served with the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry and the Royal Green Jackets in Malaya, Singapore, Tobruk, Gibraltar and Berlin.

Earlier this year Capt Fisk deployed to Turkey and Northern Iraq on Operation Safe Haven with 3 Commando Air Squadron RM.

PEOPLE



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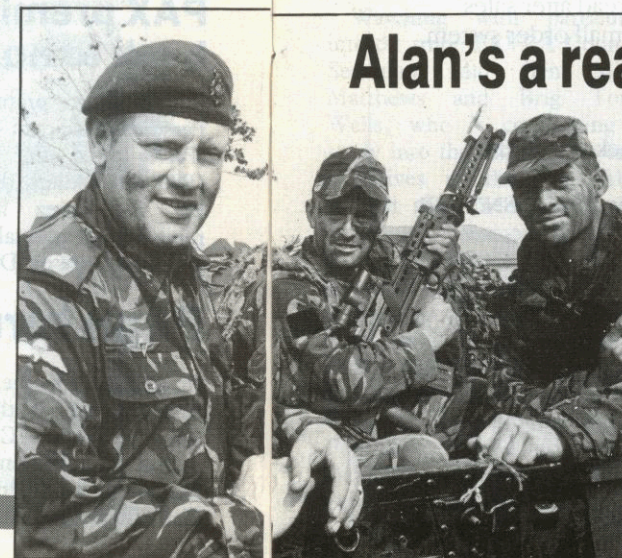
Helping two actors from the television series **Soldier, Soldier** are 2nd Lt **Tom Vallings** (left) and Cpl **Martin Lumber** (third from left). They were briefing actors **Angus Macfadyen** and **Mo Sesay** on life in the Army before filming starts on the next series about the fictitious regiment, now stationed in Hong Kong. Angus plays a junior officer, Mo a private soldier.



Alan's a real Para padre

Padre **Alan Hughes** (left) knew what it was all about when he joined his "flock" from the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment for Exercise Urban Warrior on Salisbury Plain (see Pages 13-15). Maj Hughes, pictured here with Recce Platoon members Pte **Peter Sutcliffe** and Pte **Carl Vinand**, joined up as a Regular in 1965 and completed his P Company and parachute course.

He looks after a parish of four churches in Yorkshire.



Why a family fell out . . .

The **Doyles** turned a Queen's Lancashire Regiment charity parachute jump into a real family affair. Lt **Peter Doyle** (centre), training officer with 1 QLR at Blackpool, gives moral support to daughter **Maxine** and son **Darren**, both Territorials serving with the regiment's 4th Battalion. Maxine is a private, Darren a lieutenant. By paying £45 each to make their first jumps with Merlin Parachute Club near Thirsk in Yorkshire, the sky-diving Lancashires collected more than £1,000 for charity.

Twenty members of the 4th Battalion raised about £700 for St Peter's Church, Burnley, where the old East Lancashire Regiment Colours are laid up.

A smaller group from the Weeton-based 1st Battalion, including commanding officer's wife Mrs **Anne Birtwistle**, also jumped and hoped to raise £500 for a children's unit at Blackpool's Victoria Hospital.

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URBAN WARRIORS

Para
Terriers
out in force
More pictures in Pages 14-15

THE Parachute Regiment Group's 4th, 10th and 15th Battalions have been doing what they do best – jumping into an area, marching to a built-up locality, fighting their way in and securing it.

There was little time for anything else – least of all sleep – during the four-day Exercise Urban Warrior when more than 1,000 men of the three TA battalions and regimental HQ operated together for the first time in 13 years.

Inserted by Hercules over New Sidbury on Salisbury Plain, the men marched 14 km at night before securing Greenlands Camp against an active enemy provided by University Officer Cadets. Recce parties then had a look at the next objective, the Copehill Down FIBUA village.

Another night march, of 11km, took the three battalions to Copehill Down for a dawn assault with 15 Para approaching from the east and 4 Para from the south, with 10 Para following through.

Expertise gained from regular visits to Hammelburg in Bavaria showed through, such as techniques developed for getting a man on a pole up to second and third floor windows quickly. The enterprise shown by 4 Para in patenting equipment such as telescopic ladders also paid handsome dividends.

Watching with particular interest were TAVRA Council Secretary Maj Gen Mike Matthews and Brig Tony Wells, who is conducting a study into the future roles and objectives of the TA. Also present were members of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee and senior RN and RAF officers.

More recces and another night march took the group to Imber where 15 Para led the preliminary operation, 10 Para took the high ground and 4 Para moved in and successfully cleared the village and consolidated the position.

There was an opportunity for



Pt Giles Timms of 16 (Lincoln) Coy, 4 Para, keeps guard while his mates work their way into one of the houses at Copehill Down

live fire and manoeuvre, while specialists such as the mortar and Milan elements did their own live firing. The assault pioneers of 4 Para were also required to clear bridges and

construct foot spans during a river crossing on the way to Imber.

If the object of the exercise was to test the volunteers in their skills and stamina it

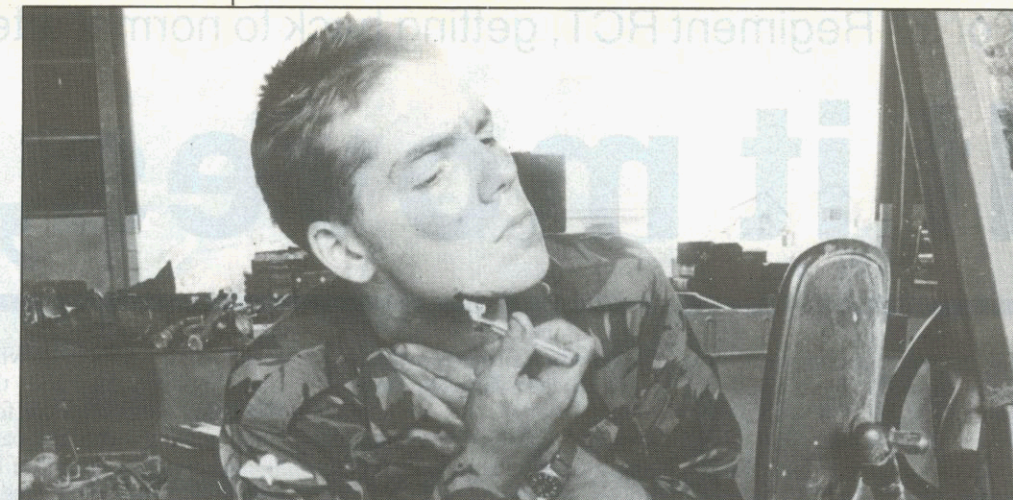
certainly succeeded. With very little opportunity for sleep other than what could be snatched during the day, it was a demanding four days for the soldiers and the staff.

Pictures: Mike Weston and LCpl Dave Harris

URBAN WARRIORS



Environmental considerations and SOPs require tidy soldiers, as demonstrated by LCpl Phil Day of 55 Sig Regt's rear link to 15 Para



Vehicles have other uses too, but at the moment it keeps LCpl Shane Marriott up to scratch



There's a long, long trail a-winding on the way to battle



As a carpenter, assault pioneer Sgt Chalky of 10 Para is more used to working in wood than wire, while banker LCpl Fordham tends to move money more than wire cutters

On the way to a gruelling four days: 10 Para drop in on Salisbury Plain



A lot of walking and little sleep is in store for these urban warriors



A nice wash and powder tones up the tired feet of Lt Ranald Munro, 10 Para's Recce Platoon commander

For 27 Regiment RCT, getting back to normal after the Gulf War means that . . .

If it moves, paint it

TWO soldiers serving with 27 Regiment RCT have received commendations for courage shown during the Gulf War when they led recce parties into Iraqi-held territory. The operation involved passing through a breach made in a giant sand berm and negotiating minefields.

Cpls Peter Colledge and Paul McWilliams, both members of 7 Squadron, RCT, led the mission, which took place at night on motor cycles offering no protection against mines.

A third man, Sgt Jim Pearce of Bulford-based 42 Squadron, which was attached to the 27 Regiment Group during Op Granby, also received a commendation from Commander British Forces Middle East, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière.

Sgt Pearce's convoy went off route and its lead vehicle struck a mine. He displayed great personal bravery by riding his motor cycle along the line of

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Perring

trucks, ordering everyone to stay in their vehicles while he found a route out of the minefield.

Since returning to Aldershot from the Gulf there has been little time for 27 Regiment to rest on its laurels. One major task faced by all returning units was changing the camouflage scheme of their vehicles from sand back to the temperate region green and black.

In 27 Regiment's case that has entailed plenty of painting.

"We are receiving a lot of help from 43 Command Workshop. They have set up a spraying bay through which we can push vehicles one by one," said the regiment's commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Verge.

"It has meant washing them down to get all the sand off and cleaning up the optics, driving

them to the workshop where they are sprayed, and then bringing them back here for a final touch-up with the paint.

"We also have dozens of ISO containers full of stores to unload, so our workload is considerable."

All the vehicles are being serviced to flush out any abrasive sand and grit left in the system. On average, the trucks were serviced every eight days in the desert – a strictly enforced policy which did much to boost reliability.

Indeed, when the regiment's drivers travelled to Marchwood Military Port to collect their trucks after a six-week voyage from the Gulf, all but three started first time and got back to camp under their own steam.

The regiment operated from Germany to dispatch troops, trucks and equipment in the first phase of Op Granby.

On their return to the UK they were immediately involved in the district medical support plan and set up a fleet of coaches and ambulances at South Cerney to carry casualties to hospitals. This job left them barely three weeks to prepare for war before their first trucks were loaded at Marchwood.

"We achieved an awful lot in a short time, working 16-hour shifts to get them ready for service in the Gulf. All the spares were forthcoming, which was reassuring. When you needed them, doors were opened and the spares appeared. We had a lot of assistance from other units in the district who sent us additional tradesmen to help out," said Col Verge.

"One of my squadrons changed its role from general transport to fuel, and had to retrain its men to be fuel operators.

"It meant moving up a gear to drive 22,500-litre capacity tanks instead of their normal 8-tonne trucks, and then when they actually arrived in the Gulf, the tankers were exchanged for a much bigger host nation variant."

The regiment's trucks covered more than 4m kilometres during the conflict. At the



Cpl Peter Colledge received a Commander BFME Commendation for his role as a motor cycle-borne section commander during the Gulf War

height of the supply operation, most of the vehicles were averaging 5,000km every eight days.

It transported fuel, ammunition and stores from Dhahran and Al Jubail along Route Audi and MSR Dodge to the Forward FMA at Log Base Alpha, and then up to the assembly area west of Hafir-Al-Batin.

Two squadrons (42 and 7) accompanied the Division through the breach into Iraq and finished the war in a position north of Kuwait City.

Tidworth-based 66 (Phoenix) Squadron ran fuel right up to

the border with Iraq. This reflected great credit on the drivers who managed to negotiate their single-axle drive HGV1 tankers across the desert.

It was no mean feat when properly equipped four-wheel-drive vehicles were getting bogged down.

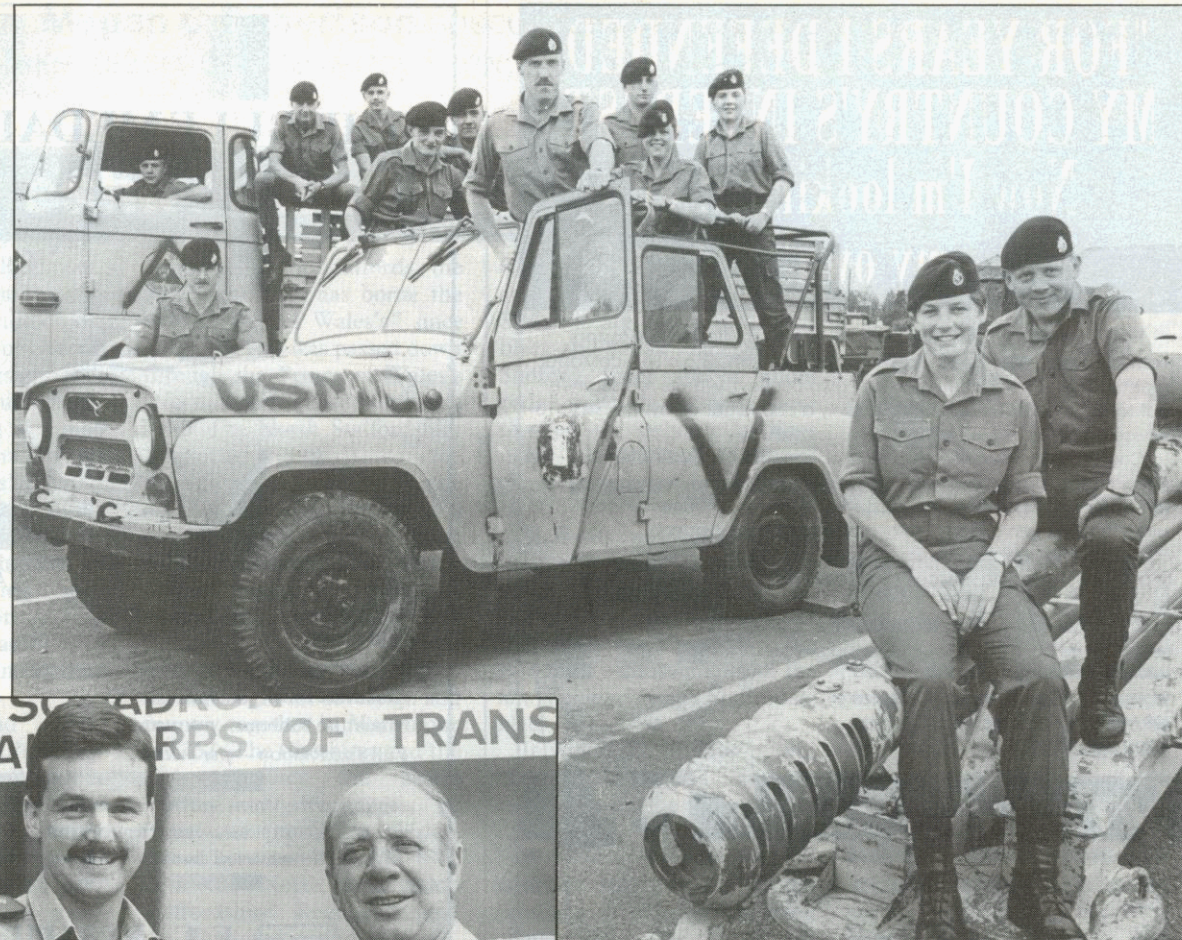
By the end of the war, the regiment was spread over 800 kilometres of desert.

Having its own transport meant 27 Regiment was able to bring back its own war souvenirs, including a trailer-mounted ZPU4 anti-aircraft gun found on the seafront at

Kuwait City, and a 122mm howitzer discovered in an Iraqi artillery position.

As if the big clean-up wasn't enough, the regiment has had a lot of catching up to do and has a number of drivers away on trade training and military courses postponed because of the war.

"In between, we have had to carry on with our normal driving tasks, which included moving naval field gun teams to and from the Royal Tournament and detaching a troop to Marchwood to assist with the movement of vehicles arriving at the port," said Col Verge.



Members of the regiment's headquarters squadron, 77 Squadron RCT with some of their trophies of war – a captured Iraqi 4-tonne truck, jeep and a 122mm howitzer



Above: The Adjutant, Capt Mark Abraham, and admin officer, Capt Keith Meakin, display regimental mascots Baldrick and Billy who are dressed in desert and temperate camouflage kit

Right: Three members of A Troop, 8 Squadron – Pte Sara Hill and Dvrs Stephen Bradbury and Gary Smith – repainting a truck at Travers Barrack in Aldershot



Dvr Tim Long sprays down a sand-coloured truck before it is sent to the paint shop



Dvr Phillip Snaith (left) and Dvr Smith display an Iraqi AK47 Kalashnikov rifle and an RPG 7 now held in the armoury

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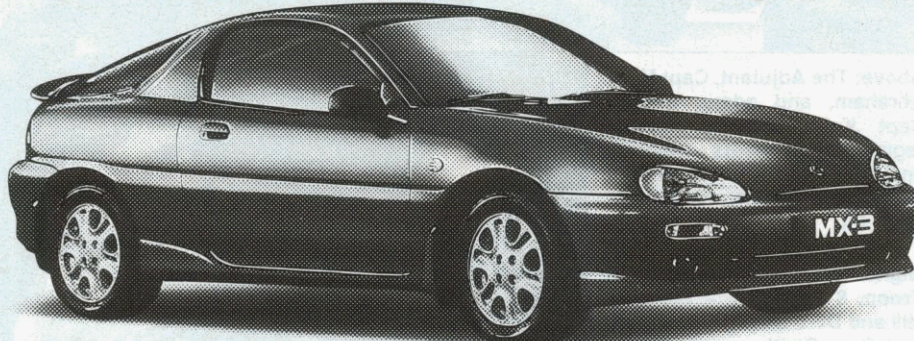
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In a new series, **Megan C Robertson** speculates on how insignia may be affected as consultations take place on the Army's regimental amalgamations

The Cheshires and the Staffords

THE Cheshire Regiment, founded in 1689 by the Duke of Norfolk by beat of drum on the Roodee (now the site of Chester Racecourse) in Chester, will finally lose its proud unamalgamated tradition as it is joined with The Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's).

Hard as such mergers always are, these two fine regiments, with territorial attachments to neighbouring counties, have something in common, as well as their own proud traditions to bring to the new regiment they are to form.

A common thread is the connection with the Prince of Wales. The present Prince is Colonel-in-Chief of the Cheshires, frequently visiting the regiment wherever it serves. He presented new Colours at its Tercentenary Parade – appropriately at Chester Racecourse.

One of the “ancestor”

regiments of the Staffords, the 98th Regiment, has borne the title “Prince of Wales's” since 1876, and this was passed down through the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment (later The North Staffordshire Regiment (POWs)) to the present regiment. The Prince of Wales's feathers are worn as a collar badge, superimposed on the Staffordshire Knot.

Both regiments have seen distinguished service since their foundation – The Staffords most recently in the Gulf – having fought for sovereign and country together in Martinique in 1762 (The Cheshires and the 38th – later the South Staffordshire Regiment), in India and in South Africa, where between 1900 and 1902 both the North and South Staffordshire Regiments and the Cheshires served together.

In dress, both regiments have their distinctions. The

Cheshires wear buff facings and an oak leaf badge while The Staffords are distinguished by black-and-yellow facings, the Stafford Knot and a glider badge worn on the right sleeve to mark the airborne landings made by the South Staffordshire Regiment in Sicily in 1943.

Staffords wear black stable belts and Cheshires buff and cerise ones. In both regiments all personnel above the rank of sergeant wear a lanyard – in the Cheshires a cerise one from the left shoulder, in the Staffords a black one.

It will be interesting to see how the traditions of both regiments will be preserved in the new.

Will the Cheshire custom of wearing oak leaves in the presence of royalty continue, along with the Staffords' commemoration of the bravery of Sgt Kirkland, who captured



a Sikh standard at Ferozeshah, when once a year the regiment's sergeants carry the Colours?

Will the Cheshire's acorn badge appear superimposed on a Stafford Knot, and will a new stable belt appear – maybe black with a cerise/buff/cerise centre stripe?

Time will tell, but tradition will live on. One thing will certainly survive – the new regiment will hold membership in the Wolfe Society, inherited from the Cheshires, and traditionally passed down as regiments amalgamate.

ARRANGED MARRIAGES

The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers

FOUNDED as Sir John Hepburn's Regiment back in 1633, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) have a distinguished record as the senior infantry regiment, their first Battle Honour dating from 1680 in Tangier.

To their illustrious history will soon be joined that of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, who trace their origins back to 1689 when they were founded as The Earl of Leven's or Edinburgh Regiment, again remaining unamalgamated until now.

Both regiments draw their strength from Scotland, and have long connections with that nation, particularly the City of

Edinburgh. The Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Scots is to be found in Edinburgh Castle – which is depicted on the KOSB collar badge.

Leven's Regiment gained the title of Edinburgh Regiment, and permission to recruit in the city with beat of drum . . . until 1782, when they quarrelled with the City Fathers over this privilege and became the 25th (Sussex) Regiment.

Good relations were restored in 1832 when they received the Freedom of the City and permission to use the Edinburgh Castle badge and motto *Nisi Dominus Frustra* (Unless the Lord be with us all is in

vain). In dress, both regiments clearly show their Scottish heritage, wearing tartan trews – Hunting Stuart for the Royal Scots and Leslie tartan for the KOSB – as “Lowland” regiments, although their pipers wear the kilt, which is Royal Stuart for both.

They also wear glengarries with diced bands and black cock feathers, but the KOSB are unique in wearing spats with their trews.

Both regiments, too, are entitled to the Sphinx badge with motto *Egypt* for their services there.

The Royal Scots' regimental badge is the Star of the Order of the Thistle, while the KOSB

wear the Cross of St Andrew in a wreath of thistles with the castle superimposed. Maybe these two proud badges will be united in the new regiment's badge – a Castle on the Star of the Order of the Thistle perhaps.

But under whatever badge, the tradition of service second to none will be continued with pride.





Pte Sarah Horan works in the unit admin office at Depot Para



Maj Alison Treherne

Aldershot's 10 Company WRAC marches into history

LAST OF THE INDEPENDENTS

THE LAST surviving independent unit of the Women's Royal Army Corps, 10 Company, has disbanded after a drumhead service at Aldershot. But the garrison has not seen the last of its female soldiers, writes **Laurie Manton**.

At one time the WRAC, which was formed in 1949, had 30 such companies serving all over the world. Now there are none and the WRAC itself will lose its identity next April.

Some of its members, including staff clerks, will transfer to the new Adjutant General's Corps, while others will re-badge into their employing corps.

The company was originally located at Mandora Hutments in Hope Grants Road, Aldershot, site for the Duchess of Kent Barracks. Guidelines for the barracks, built in the late 1960s, stated "that the women have been sited in an open area where they will not be overlooked".

Because of a drop in the numbers of WRAC Service-women employed in Aldershot units, 10 Company was placed in suspended animation, then revived in 1961.

When it finally disbanded on August 31 it had survived its sister unit, 29 Company, by just four months.

Last OC of 10 Company was Maj Alison Treherne, who will remain as Administrative Commandant of Duchess of Kent Barracks, home to Aldershot's women soldiers.

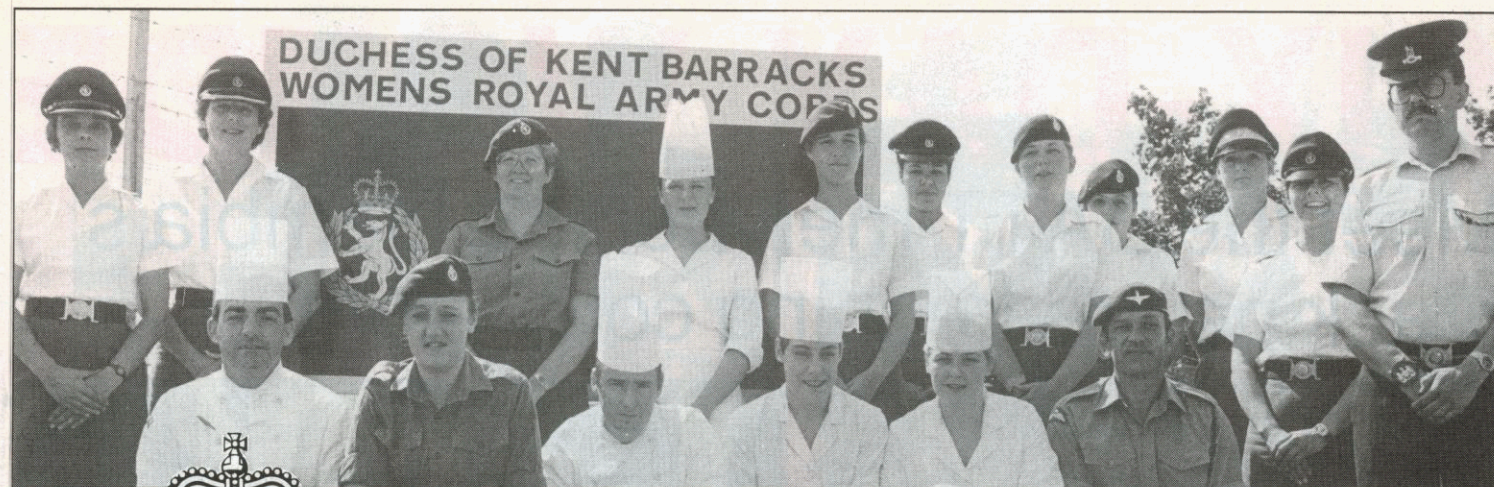
"Most of them will remain here, but we are passing their documents to their new units. Instead of having a platoon officer and officer commanding here, they will now be commanded by their own units."

The barracks, which was opened in 1969, actually housed five different female units - 10 Company, 251 Signal Squadron, women from 41 Squadron RCT, and junior

NCOs from 160 Provost Company RMP, as well as WRNS and WRAF chef trainees from the Schools of Catering.

Women accommodated at the barracks, including those recently posted to 27 Regiment RCT, work at units throughout Aldershot. They include chefs at the Cambridge Military Hospital, veterinary assistants at the RAVC Support Group, clerks with Headquarters South East District, and trainee physical training instructors at the Army School of Physical Training.

When the unit was visited by the Director of Army Manning



Admin Commandant, Maj Alison Treherne (2nd left) with some of the staff at Duchess of Kent Barracks



last autumn, the report that followed highlighted the fact that 10 Company was effectively just running a "hotel" and that it was time for the girls to be commanded by their parent units.

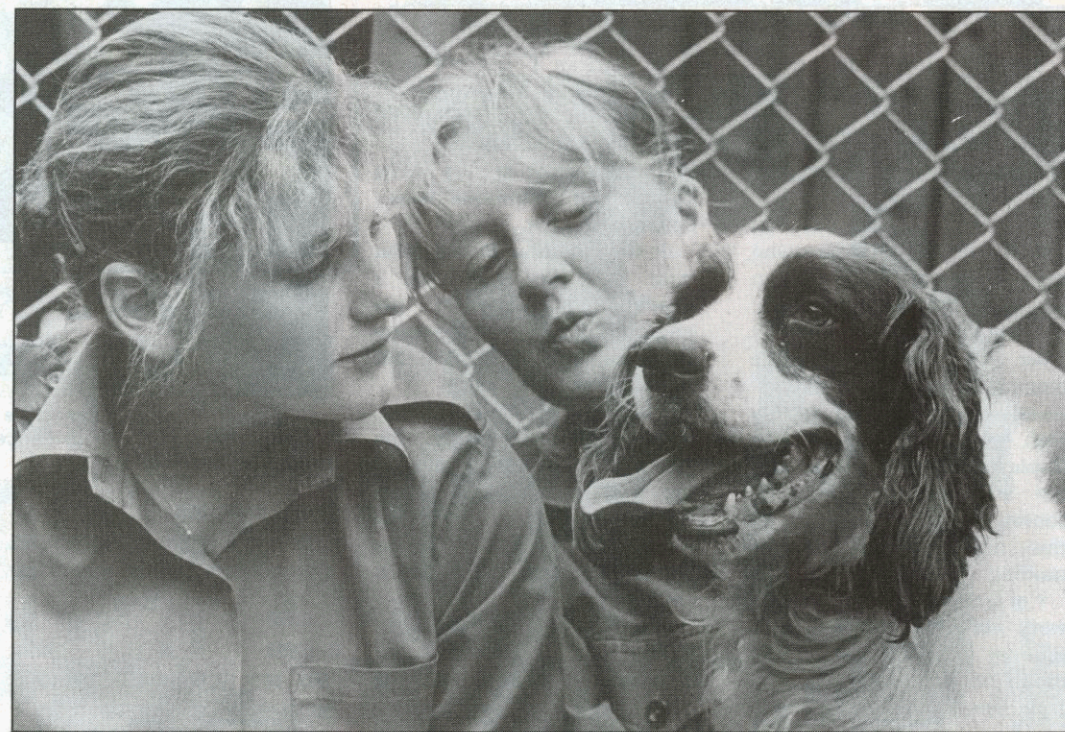
Some, such as the trainee chefs, will move out of the Duchess of Kent Barracks. St Omer Barracks, the home of Army catering, is refurbishing living accommodation so that the girls can move there.

The disbandment means that 10 Company WRAC's name will no longer appear on sport trophies. It established a fine reputation for sporting prowess, having a large number of Army and Combined Services representatives among its ranks.

In its final 12 months, the company won a variety of awards including the Army netball and volleyball championships, and the Army half-marathon.

"In reality, Aldershot is not actually losing a large number of women soldiers. It is very much a change of name and a passing of command," said Maj Treherne after the parade, which was reviewed by the General Officer Commanding South East District, Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, and the Director WRAC, Brig Gael Ramsey.

"The day of our disbandment was tinged with sadness, but we know the move is part of the way ahead for women in the Army."



Arms and explosives search dog Rupert is popular with veterinary assistants Ptes Keely Dermody and Paula Millington



Members of 10 Company WRAC march off the square at the end of their disbandment parade

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SIX-DAY WONDERS!

Meet the BATT men behind Gambia's crack peace-keeping contingent

THE accomplishments of the British Army Advisory and Training Team (BATT) in The Gambia have received international recognition, attracting praise from other African states, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

BATT's efforts came under public scrutiny when, for the first time since 1945, Gambian soldiers deployed on active service overseas last year.

BATT, led by Lt Col Jim Shaw, Glosters, had just six days to prepare 136 troops who were joining a West African peace-keeping force in Liberia.

They were later praised by other armies serving alongside them as a disciplined, professional force with noticeably high morale, well-trained and displaying considerable initiative and courage. A second contingent has now taken over, this time after six weeks' training.

Col Shaw said: "We had to work very hard in the short time we had, and we are very proud of the compliments."

A General Service Medal, based on the British design, is to be struck and awarded for campaign service, and the

Gambian Army is to be given the freedom of its capital, Banjul.

There has been a four-man BATT team in The Gambia since 1986 when the Gambian Army, a descendant of the West African Frontier Force, was formed following an unsuccessful coup in 1981 by the Police Field Force.

The new Army started with a platoon and is now 888-strong, spread over five camps.

It has an infantry battalion with five rifle companies, a headquarters company, an engineering squadron, a marine unit and a small Army headquarters.

When SOLDIER visited, Maj John Payne, REME, the team administrative officer, was busy with one of his many other jobs – which include quartermaster and logistics – as financial adviser to the Gambian Army.

He also organised an inter-Services skill-at-arms competition run on Bisley lines. The Gambian President presented the prizes, and it has become an annual event.

WO2 Paul Sellors of the



Lt Col Jim Shaw, who leads the British Army Advisory and Training Team (BATT), gives guidance to a Gambian soldier during a training session

Grenadier Guards is the Training Officer, while Maj Steve Tilt, RCT commands the Gambian Marine unit.

BATT's tasks are many and varied. A typical range includes devising drills for Chinese stick grenades, counter-revolutionary warfare training to company level, a pay and allowance review, defence

review, writing tactical aides-memoire and Army Standing Orders, and mounting the annual tri-Service Independence Day parade – to list just a few!

The main unit, whose roles include fishery protection and air-sea rescue, is equipped with two patrol boats given by China in 1988 along with the loan of a five-man engineering team.

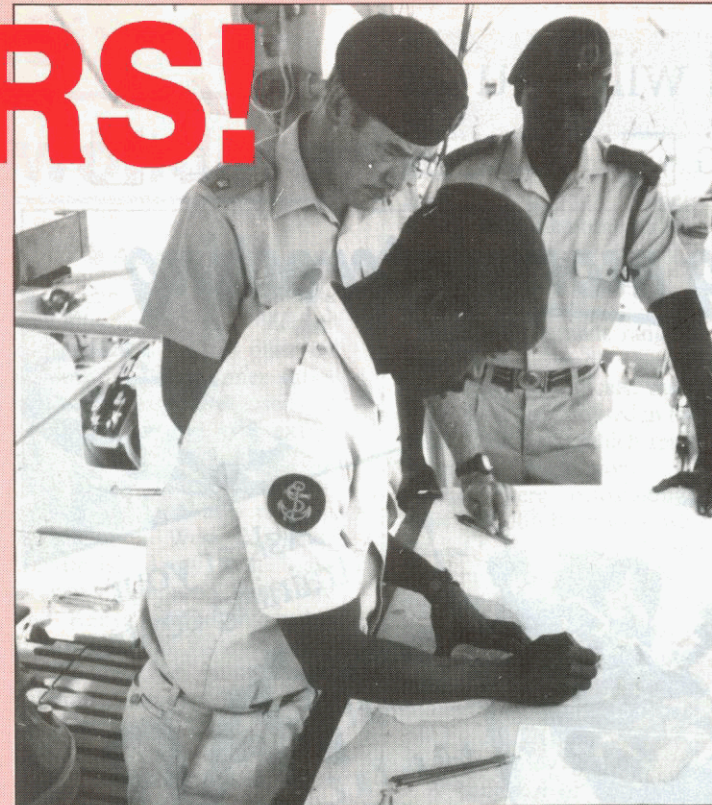
China has also recently provided 800 rifles and one-and-a-half-million rounds of ammunition.

With America, Luxembourg, France, Turkey, Nigeria and Pakistan, it has contributed to a variety of aid packages to The Gambia, one of the few truly multi-party, democratic nations on the West African coast.

Recruiting is never a problem in the New Army, with vacancies invariably oversubscribed. Selection is stringent and the quality of recruits high.

They undergo a 15-week training programme, drawn up and monitored by BATT, but run by the Gambian Army, which also conducts its own JNCO cadres.

Col Shaw said: "The standard of recruit is very good, and was remarked on by two SNCOs on detachment from Marchwood to help run a



Maj Steve Tilt planning a course for an offshore patrol with members of the Gambian Marine Unit, which he commands



Gambian Army soldiers on exercise under BATT supervision

seamanship and navigation course.

"They said the Gambian students were learning more in three weeks than some of the students on the same course in the United Kingdom could learn in six weeks."

A soldier in the Gambian Army is paid 500 dalasi a month (about £33), while their commander earns £2,000 a year.

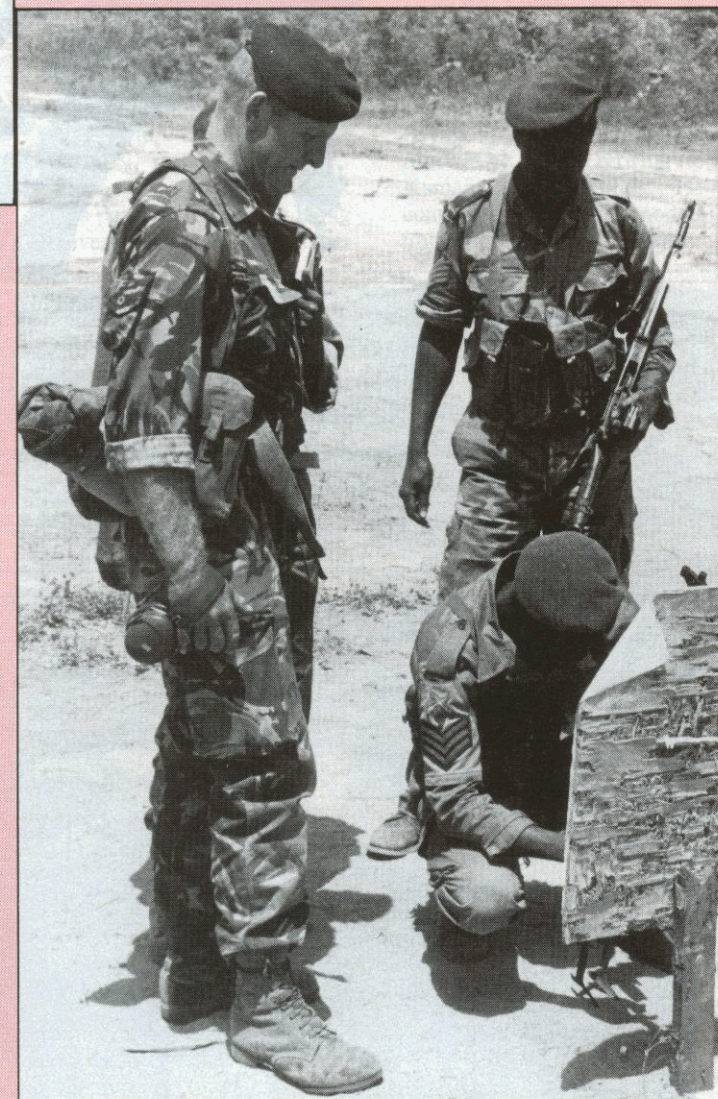
Col Shaw said the army was attractive because of outside unemployment allied with a strong sense of nationalism and patriotism.

"The Gambian people are very proud of their army."

Most soldiers enlist for a basic six-year engagement and a minor retention problem is being tackled by a pay review, incorporating a retention bonus.



Col Momodow N'Dow N'Jie, Commander of the Gambian Army, inspects his Guard of Honour



WO2 Paul Sellors supervising the scoring of a Gambian soldier's annual range firing

About 65 per cent of private soldiers are married – high compared with the British Army. Because they are Moslems, some have up to four wives.

Accommodation is a problem – the main camp is adapted from a former chicken farm, and overtures are being made to the Chinese for a new-build programme.

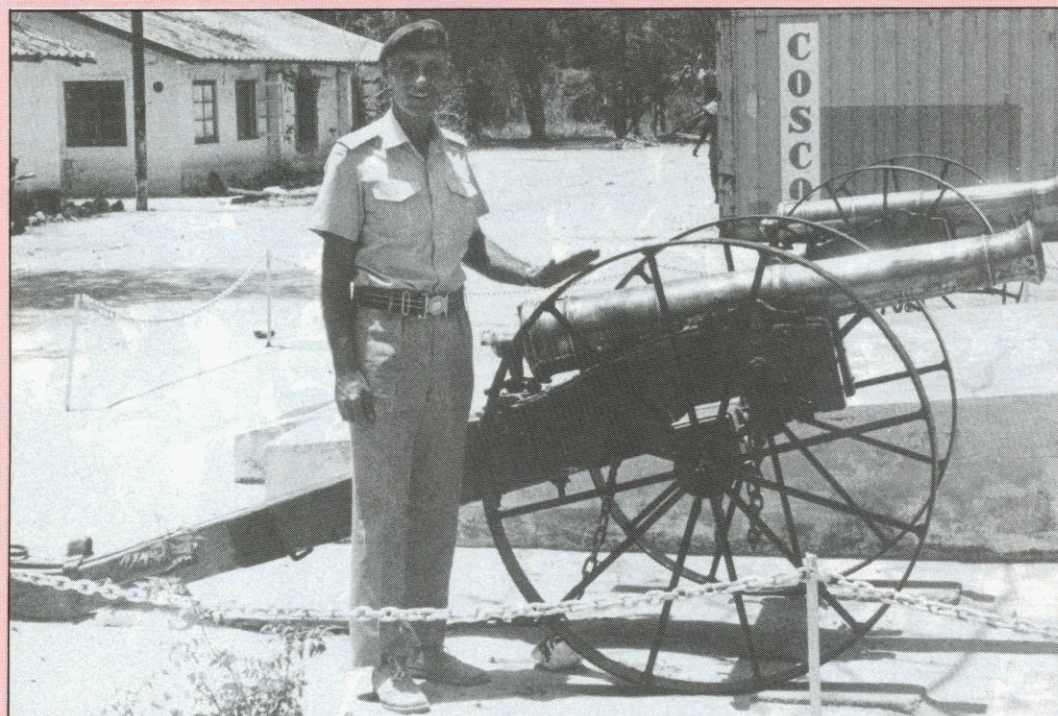
The Gambian Army has, in

its turn, been helping out in the community. With the help of American aid it has refurbished a school block. It has also helped build clinics in the country and their labour is available for worthy projects.

Col Shaw said: "We have the labour and the expertise, but no money. The lack of cash is a constant struggle."

Wherever possible BATT

● Turn to Page 25

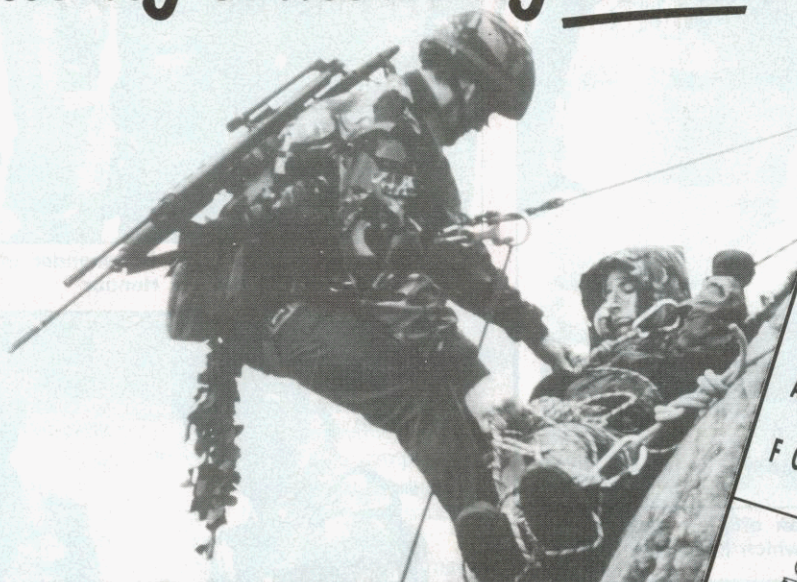


It is difficult to believe that this gun, with which Maj John Payne proudly poses, was found buried in a camp on the site of an old chicken farm. He organised its resurrection among volunteers in the Gambian Army, who have restored it to its former glory. The gun's history is still unknown

This weekend will you be:

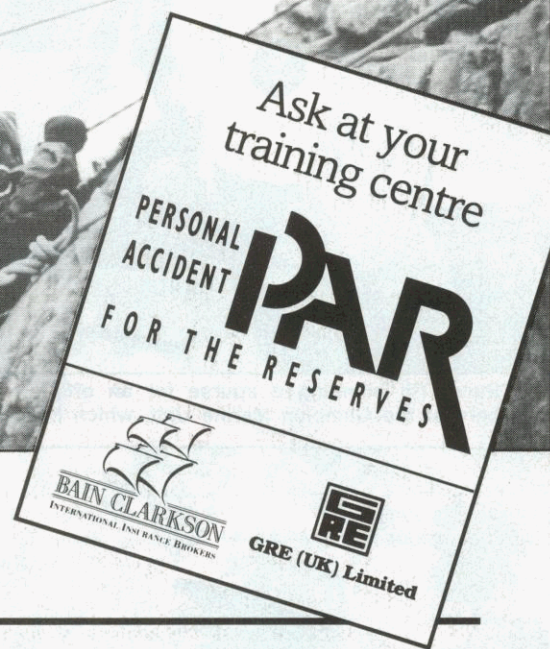
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Six-day wonders

● From Page 27

encourages the army to use existing resources. Helmet camouflage is kept in place by strips of old tyre inner tubes and rice bags are used as sandbags, to give two examples.

Col Shaw, whose immediate past posting was as a training major of a West Midlands Territorial Army unit, says previous training in Zimbabwe and Kenya proved invaluable for working in West Africa.

"Though the countries are different, many of the aspects of serving in West Africa are the same – such as a lack of cash, a problem in getting spare parts, and the time it takes to get things done.

"I was aware of these aspects before I arrived and it helped me."

Col Shaw said Gambian Army camp routine seemed to be based very much on the Guards – perhaps reflecting the background of some of the first BATT sergeant majors.

But punctuality can be poor because there is often no transport or fuel. Daily routine is based on British Army lines, except that lunch is between 1330 and 1430 to accommodate Moslem prayer times.

The wives of BATT staff have also been busy on the expatriate scene. Lynne Sellors and Anne Payne made the costumes for a pantomime, while Jill Tilt teaches ballet and tap dancing. She is a member of the local Caledonian Society ladies' demonstration dance team. Her father is Lt Col (Retd) Jerry Grint of the RAPC.

Catherine Shaw, formerly Lt Catherine Barrie, QARANC, is resident nurse at the British High Commission. She is Chieftain of the Caledonian Society.

The success of the Gambian Army owes much to the leadership, foresight and ability of its commander, Col Momodou N'Dow N'Jie.

He said BATT enjoyed an excellent relationship with his force.

"We are the best of friends. They are excellent instructors with first-class leadership qualities. We are indebted to the British Government for the loan of them."

Bramwell models on display

THE superb Bramwell Collection of military models, books and memorabilia has gone on permanent display in the garrison library at Episkopi, Cyprus.

It includes a wide range of hardbacks and bound volumes of periodicals, but it is the dioramas, housed in two display cabinets, which really catch the imagination.

They were painstakingly built by Colin Bramwell, who retired to Cyprus in 1981 and died in January 1990. Now they have been donated by Mr Bramwell's widow, Mavis, to the library, where the collection has been officially opened by Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice Marshal Sandy Hunter.

A hallmark of Mr Bramwell's work was the animated expressions on the faces of his



One of the Bramwell models, complete with "personalised" tank commander, which is on display at Episkopi, Cyprus

model figures. Four of his originals became moulds used by an international model-making company.

During the Second World War Colin Bramwell served with the Durham Light Infantry, mainly in Greece.

Soon after the war he took up a post with the Hong Kong Government, becoming chief

architect and subsequently Head of Public Works. He designed the imposing HMS Tamar, headquarters of British Forces in the Colony.

Later he moved to Saudi Arabia as general manager of Mobil Oil before retiring to Kamarees near Paphos. He continued to make models until shortly before his death.



Picture: Hendrik G Pastor

LCpl Nigel White ACC, attached to 1 RWF, in action on the Ruhleben assault course

Berlin chefs compete

TEAMS drawn from Berlin Garrison's 70-strong complement of Army Catering Corps were put through their paces at the Ruhleben training area in the first of a year-long series of competitive events.

The assault course – complete with bread basket hindrance factor – was tackled straight after a BFT run from Brigade HQ and was followed by a pistol shoot.

Competing for the Sustainer Challenge Cup – an old trophy

renamed for the competition – the teams will tackle a variety of challenges in coming months, drawing on sporting and military skills. Points will be totted up and a winning team declared next summer.

Five teams are competing, drawn from 1 IG, 1 RWF, 1 Gordons, the Berlin Garrison Administration Unit, and a mix of 14/20 H, 38 Fd Sqn RE and 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT.

The competition is the brainchild of Capt Bob Pearce

and WO1 Alan Brown.

Even cooks attached to an infantry battalion may not get much chance to flex the military skills they learnt during basic training.

This can lead to problems when taking their annual tests, said Capt Pearce, and a spin-off of the Sustainer Challenge Cup activities will be a better preparedness and greater awareness of military skills such as first aid, NBC and weapons handling.

ESPLANADE OVERTURES

EDINBURGH
TATTOO

THE RAIN gods must have struck a pact with Lt Col (Retd) Leslie Dow, who retired this year after 18 years as producer of the Edinburgh Tattoo, writes John Boyes.

Apart from one evening of light drizzle, the tattoo's 24 performances took place on dry and at times even warm evenings and played to packed houses.

Edinburgh was "en fête" for its annual festival, of which the tattoo is an important and traditional part. Tradition too was evident in the line-up of performers – the Massed Bands, Pipes and Drums and the lone piper – but there was variety as well.

The Queen's Colour Squadron impressed with their impeccable drill and were more than ably supported by accompanying music from the WRAC Staff Band.

A selection of Scottish songs from the famous Kevoek Choir was followed by an assault course competition which led into a tribute to the Scottish regiments which had been in the Gulf.

Sounds of Singapore brought together music and dance from the Singapore Police Band, the Gurkha Police Pipes and Drums, the Police Women's Pipes and Drums, the Singapore Girl Pipers and the Kampong Glam Community Centre Lion Dance Troup.

Making a popular and welcome return were the Docklands Honda Imps Motor Cycle Display Team, aged from six to 16.

All the performers filled the Esplanade for the finale, the climax to which was a noisy "1812 Overture" with portrayals of Napoleon and the skyline of Moscow above the Castle ramparts.

The Pipes and Drums of 1 RHF, 1 Gordons and the Guards Piping Depot were joined by the Singapore musicians and the Pipe Band of the Citadel Military College of South Carolina.

After the firework display had signalled the final performance, Col Dow was piped off the Esplanade for the last time.

Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson



Drum Major Thomas Watt, RHF



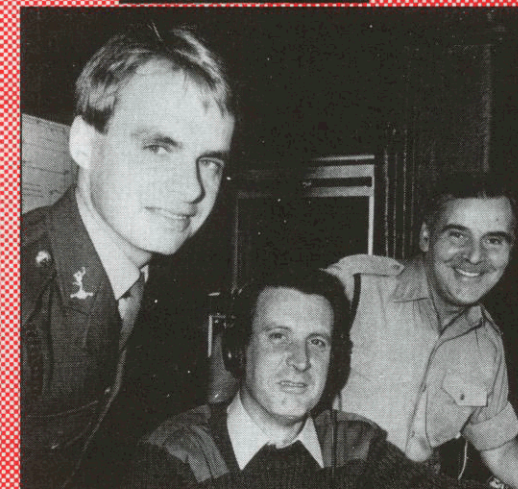
Arena party provided by 1 RS



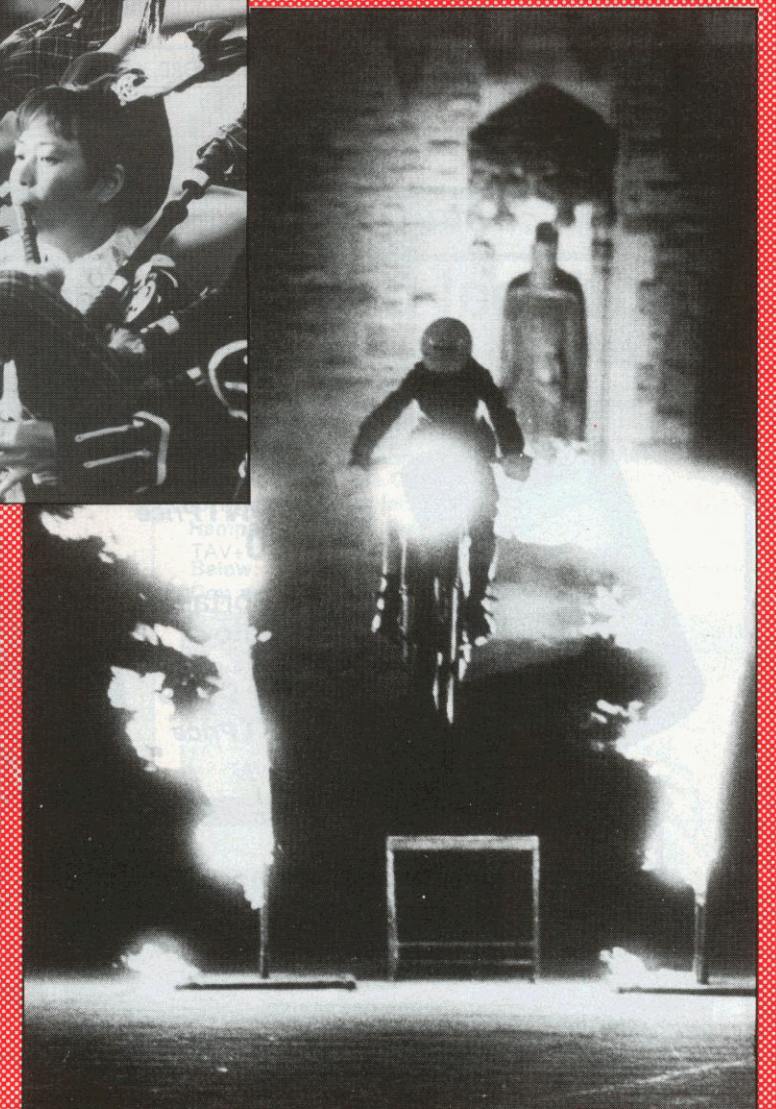
Singapore Girl Pipers



Massed bands performing on the Esplanade



Sound Control by 242 Sig Sqn – Sgt Finlay, Foreman of Signals Simpson and Sgt Nicholl



The Docklands Honda Imps in action

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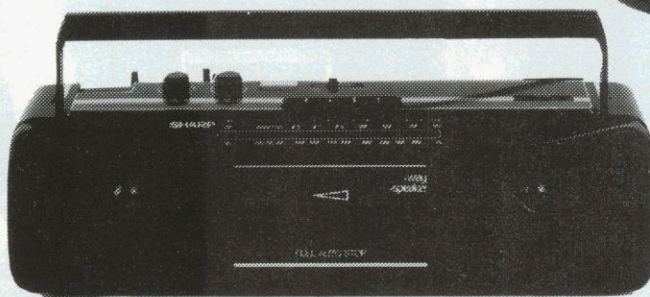
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Farmer's Boys head north

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment travelled south to Northumberland for their annual camp at Otterburn Training Area and the nearby Kielder forest.

First week of the camp was allocated to field firing. Companies lived in the field and started with single fire and manoeuvre exercises before completing company battle runs supported by Milan and mortar firings.

Two long hot days were spent in the Kielder on a counter-insurgency exercise that included a crossing of the reservoir at night followed by a dawn attack on a quarry defended by "terrorists" and clouds of biting flies.

The battalion, which recruits mainly in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Berkshire, but has links with Avon, Dorset and Hampshire, has companies based in Swindon, Gloucester, Devizes, Newbury and Poole.



Full speed across Kielder Water



Above: At least the Directing Staff were smiling. From left to right are WO2 Ian Tait (DERR), WO2 Kevin Hack (R Hamps) and WO2 Paul McLeod (DERR)

Below: Looking for snipers, Maj John Wort OC B (Swindon) Coy and Pte Brian Brown scan the crest line



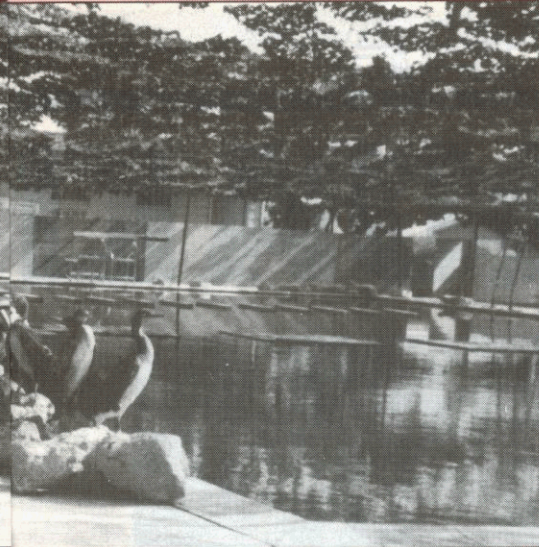
LCpl Francis Turner at the wheel of a Recce Platoon Fox



A large turtle being de-oiled



Clean Socotras at the pool



"Arnold" the great cormorant drying off

REME (and lots of others) TO THE RESCUE

WHILE the 1st (British) Armoured Division was playing its part in the defeat of Saddam Hussein's forces in Kuwait, a handful of Service volunteers was dealing with the after-effects of Iraqi environmental terrorism on wildlife in the Gulf.

Maj Jonathan Gilbert, in Al Jubail as a REME battle casualty replacement (BCR), heard that a wildlife centre was looking for volunteers to clean birds trapped by the oil slicks.

"I, like most of my unfortunate colleagues, was experiencing the 'BCR blues'. We had no jobs, were not part of any units, and had no idea what was going to be thrown at us by our own side let alone the enemy.

"In the latter case the odd Scud missile was a fair bet!

"We needed to feel we were contributing something, and if we were unable to do so militarily then the least we could do was assist environmentally."

Maj Gilbert, who later assumed command of the REME BCRs in Blackadder Camp and is now back at Bordon, Hants, where he is in command of A Company, SEME Regiment, writes:

The Jubail Wildlife Centre, a converted recreation centre located in one of the many immigrant worker camps dotted around Al Jubail, had been opened by a Belgian zoologist, Peter Symens, employed by the Saudi Royal Commission. He had been studying antelope in the desert before the crisis.

Most of the hands-on rescue work was undertaken by European volunteers from Aramco, an oil company based

in Jubail, the bulk of the Royal Navy liaison team under their OC, Lt Cdr Mike Hudson, and a British Army team of 11, mostly REME BCRs.

The work involved bringing the oil-contaminated wildlife from beaches to the north of Jubail, tagging, feeding and strengthening them, followed by washing and rehabilitation.

Wildlife concerned were predominantly birds such as great cormorants, Socotra cormorants, grebes, gulls and the occasional mallard.

Priority for rehabilitation were the Socotra cormorants, as they were peculiar to this area, and consequently the species most under threat. Several very large turtles were also rescued and rehabilitated.

Birds brought into the centre were very weak because the oil in their feathers had prevented them from catching their daily quota of fish.

Washing was an extremely stressful experience for the birds. Great cormorants could take up to three hours to wash, Socotras up to 2½ hours depending on size, and grebes about an hour.

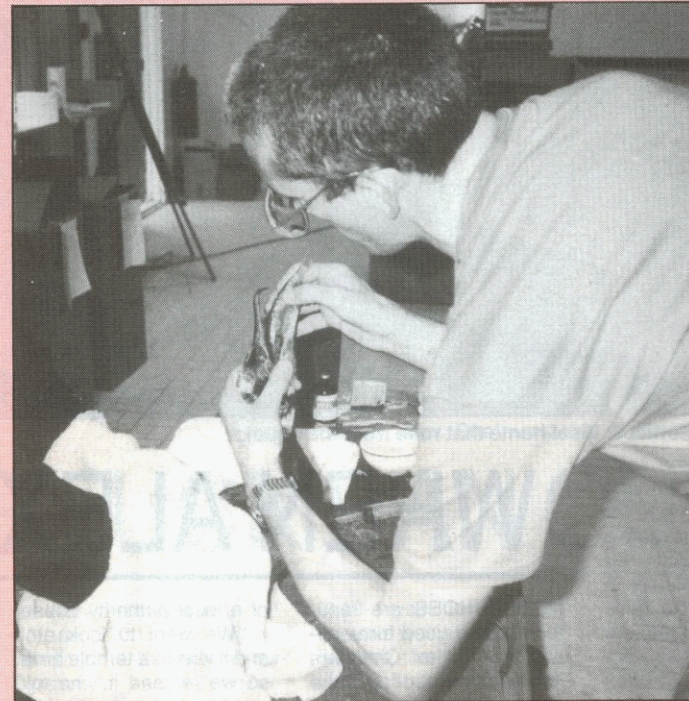
Most of the birds were great cormorants or Socotras of a pretty substantial size. The former had wing spans as much as 4ft, with long, powerful necks and large, straight beaks, with a sharp hooked end.

The natural reaction when bitten was to draw the hand or arm away – the worst thing to do since it resulted in the hook ripping a small trench through one's flesh.

I'm still sporting several cormorant scars on my forearms and hands – fortunately my only Gulf War wounds.



Maj Jonathan Gilbert, Lt Cdr Mike Hudson and Sgt Shane Abbot washing a great cormorant



A great cormorant being force fed, a hazardous operation for fingers

How Gulf War BCRs helped to save stricken wildlife

A strong bird would struggle furiously throughout the washing process and the last thing that was needed was a sharp beak cramping your style. Cleaning out the beak was very important as it would invariably be full of oily deposits from the bird's attempts to preen its feathers.

Once the beak was clean the next task was to tape it shut. Then came the washing process, the most time consuming, as every feather had to be purged of oil.

One had to be careful not to get one's head too close to the creature during the wash, to avoid being head-butted.

Another cormorant characteristic that one quickly wised up to was their "Jekyll and Hyde" nature. After a period of being quite docile they would suddenly explode into a fit of frenzied activity, covering everyone within range with oily washing up liquid.

One such incident occurred when Mike Hudson and I were washing a great cormorant of enormous proportions which we nicknamed Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Halfway through the wash we were visited by the Saudi Arabian Minister for Wildlife with his entourage of deputies, advisers and minders. Immacu-

late in his white silk robe, he told us how pleased he was that we were helping to rescue his country's wildlife.

It proved too much for Arnold, who decided to have a complete sense of humour failure while the minister was taking a closer look. He and half his entourage ended up soaked!

Next came the rinsing process which was essential if the bird's feathers were to regain their pre-oil slick properties. It could take up to an hour and was not complete until the water beaded on the feathers.

Finally, the tape was

removed from the beak, and the bird was placed in a box in the clean room with a powerful lamp to dry it off.

Once the birds were clean and dry the task was to get them to feed. The washing experience had been so traumatic for them that they would often refuse to eat for days, so force-feeding was required.

Feeding small birds such as the grebes was simply a case of forcing bits of fish down their gullets in carefully calculated quantities. Feeding the cormorants was a different matter. One person held the bird on a table while another inserted six or seven whole fish, head first,

down its gullet. The bird was not impressed by this procedure and would seize every opportunity to snap at its feeder's fingers.

The procedure with self-feeding birds was no less hazardous as it involved dangling each fish in turn in front of an eager audience of about four snapping beaks. Full concentration and ultra quick reactions were required if fingers were to be spared.

Most of the birds could have been returned to the wild straight after leaving the clean room. However, the problem was where to release them. There was no point in returning them to an area where they could once again become covered in oil. Various options were looked at including the Red Sea on the other side of the Arabian peninsula.

When it was realised that the slick was not as great as originally feared and that most of the oil was confined to a bay well north of Jubail, a suitable island to the south was identified for the birds' release.

Catching fish for the birds proved quite challenging. It involved going to the beach with a couple of nets to catch minnows for the grebes (larger fish were obtained from professional fishermen). Sgt Mick Burden, a REME gun fitter attached to 15/19 H, proved the expert here. He would strip to his trunks and rush around in the shallows scooping up the minnows from the vast shoals.

Another wildlife diversion that came our way was a trip to several islands in the Gulf to clean them up for the turtles that used the beaches for laying

their eggs. The trip was organised by Nick Pilcher, a British zoologist who happened to be doing a thesis on turtles as part of his PhD studies.

He was greatly assisted by Maj David Vassallo, RAMC, a surgeon from 33 Field Hospital, who organised the transport in two RAF Chinooks and recruited much help from 33 Fd Hosp personnel.

Other REME personnel in the team included WO2 (AQMS) Tony Stockham (4 Armd Wksp), SSgt Mick Pierce (SEME), Sgt Shane Abbot (4 Armd Wksp), Sgt Danny Cane (45 Fd Regt LAD), and Sgt Roy Jeffery (20 Electronic Wksp). The Royal Artillery and Life Guards were represented by Bdr Dave Burch (5 Hy Regt RA) and Tpr Hoffmeier.

Maj Vassallo recruited many additional 33 Fd Hosp personnel after the ceasefire when mass casualties were no longer expected. Their medical training was a distinct asset.

WO2 Stockham deserves special mention for organising the military effort and co-ordinating its activities, especially during the early stages.

Although keen to get back to our families, we were all sorry to leave our work in the wildlife centre. It had given us a sense of purpose and achievement during a period that could otherwise have been very frustrating.

● **SERVICE personnel who helped at the wildlife centre are eligible for a certificate of thanks from the Saudi Royal Commission running the project. They should contact Sgt Karen Mitchell at 158 Pro Coy RMP, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9ZJ (Bulford Military ext 2260).**



HOME, SQUALID HOME!

Time to take the initiative on housing

IT WAS with a mixture of elation and relief that two ex-Army families heard that, after court proceedings, they would not have to face going into bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

Separate local authorities offered one family a two-bedroom ground-floor flat and the other a house, to replace the Army quarters of which they had been irregular occupants.

Reality hit them when they were shown the state of the homes in which they were expected to live.

Now both hope that publicity of their plight might help to warn others in similar situations that they must be prepared to use large chunks of their gratuities to make such accommodation habitable.

They gave us £200 to decorate a derelict flat

"I COULD not believe what I was seeing," said Mrs Pam Kettless, describing the home she and her husband were offered by a local authority.

"A derelict flat — no doors, no light fittings, no switches, no heating; broken toilet, blocked drains, filthy floors and non-existent decoration. And that's just for starters.

"I felt sorry for the two council ladies who showed us the flat. 'The local authority has run out of money', they said.

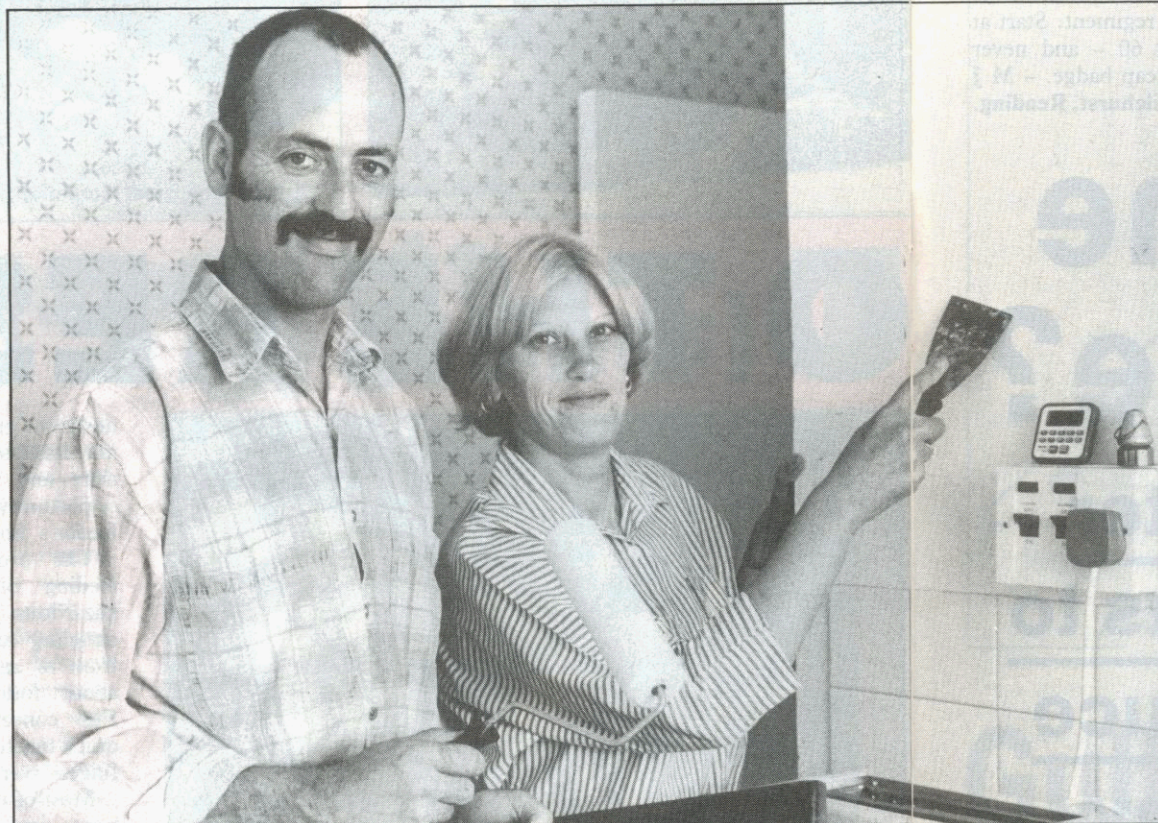
"It has cost us hundreds to make it habitable, but we have no choice as we are classed as homeless, even

though I have lived here, been to school here, and have been on the housing list.

"All this counts for nothing because we are Forces and so are not offered alternatives."

She and her husband Steve worked hard for two months to strip all the walls and floors, and bought new doors and fittings. The local authority repaired the toilet, installed a sink unit, kitchen cupboard and part of a work top and contributed £200 to the redecoration.

"One problem is that we do not know our rights — the division of responsibility between the local authority



Steve and Pam Kettless: Ideal home that rose from the squalor

and the tenant," she said.

Having to make inroads into the gratuity to pay for DIY materials did not help a situation in which Mr Kettless found difficulty in getting his own business off the ground and his wife was unable to work because of a back problem.

"Having put so much money into the flat to avoid living in squalor we are now trapped — for how do we move on?"

"So many Service families are just unaware of the reality of homelessness. Perhaps our story will help. Now we are back at the bottom of the ladder."

WHEN ALEX' S LUCK RAN OUT...

HORSESHOES are reputed to bring good fortune — but when Alex Chalmers left the Army and faced the harsh reality of housing his family, his luck flew out of the window.

Having retired from the Household Cavalry in the rank of farrier major, Alex had continued for some weeks as an irregular occupant of his married quarter with his wife and two daughters before being offered the rare opportunity

of a local authority house.

"We went to look at it and it was in a terrible area, so we refused it," he told me. "In doing so we took a gamble, but we were offered another house which no one wanted. There had been a fire in the kitchen and it needed a lot of work before we could move in."

Little did he know that he would be expected to meet most of the cost of making the house habitable.

With a decoration grant of just £200, Alex had no choice but to eat into his gratuity and pension, already stretched, to make a home fit for his family to live in. The alternative was to become homeless.

Once you take over the keys of a council house you have to pay rent. Alex's new mobile farrier business needed time to take off and he could not afford to pay the £37-a-week council rent on top of the

£110-a-week for the quarter while waiting to move in. So the family quit the quarter and moved into his parents' home.

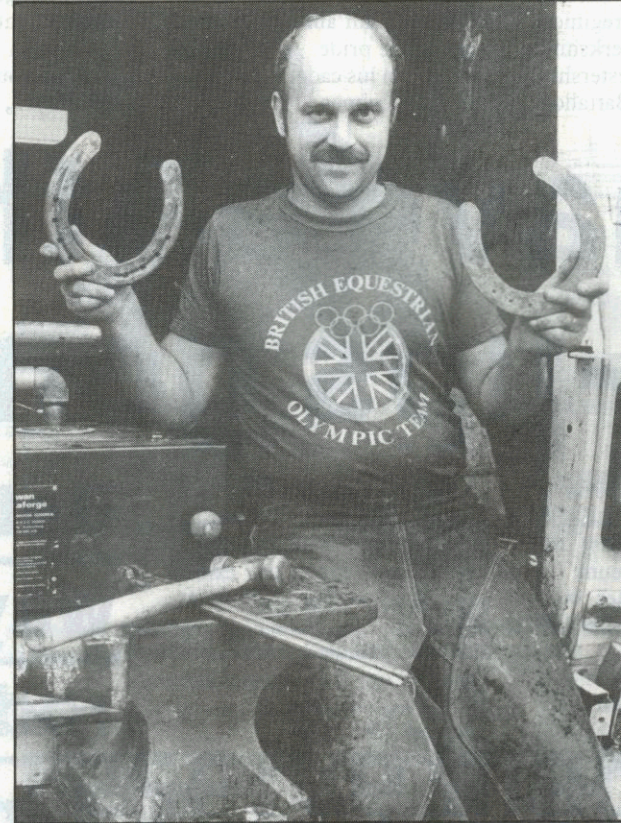
"All the financial planning in the world would not prepare you for this," he said.

"It's better than taking bed-and-breakfast accommodation but all the stress, worry and uncertainty is dreadful.

"Local authorities know Service families have a

small amount of money and are not prepared to live in squalor, so will do repairs and decoration to council properties at their own expense."

Alex, who was official farrier to the 1988 British Olympic team in Seoul and the British three-day event team which won the European Championships a year earlier, now has good reason to question the horseshoe's reputation for good luck ...



Mobile farrier Alex Chalmers: his housing luck ran out

I MAKE no apology for writing again on the subject of housing, and will continue to do so until a constructive policy has been implemented to solve the desperate housing needs of those leaving at the end of their natural engagements and those made redundant.

Unless a short-term rescue package is formulated soon the 2,000 ex-Service families already waiting for local authority housing will multiply dramatically.

Lord Arran's housing task force is due to make its first report within a few days, but a drastic re-think is needed to enable current low-cost initiatives to be extended to ex-Service-men.

So far MoD has been unable to take advantage of:

- Low-cost housing schemes (there is one such scheme at RAF Wittering);
- Cash Incentive Schemes;

- Housing Association shared ownership;

- Affordable MoD land for low-cost schemes;

- Self-build and refurbishment schemes on MoD land;

- Parkway homes on MoD land.

Cash incentives of £16,000 have encouraged many council tenants to move out of local authority housing into the private

sector — so releasing their accommodation for homeless families.

With similar incentives our ex-Service families irregularly occupying MQs could move straight into the private sector without the trauma of being dumped into bed-and-breakfast shelter.

I have yet to hear of a Service family being accepted for the cash incentive scheme, even though it would surely save money in state benefits

and B and B charges.

If just £1.5m was spread in high-density Service areas, 100 irregular occupants could move out tomorrow — so releasing 100 much-needed MQs.

Perhaps then I wouldn't feel quite so inadequate when desperate, depressed and estranged families ring me to ask for help.

Read it

USEFUL reading for those facing redundancy is *The Mid Career Action Guide* by Derek and Fred Kemp, available in paperback for £8.99 from bookshops or from publishers Kogan Page, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 (add £1 for p&p).

● More useful reading comes in the form of DCI JS 73 1991. It contains 58 pages of resettlement briefing dates and courses scheduled for 1992.

Check SMP

IF you are overseas and have been getting Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) since April 1, 1991, check what you have received.

From that date the lower rate was increased to £44.50 a week. The higher rate remains at 90 per cent of the individual's average weekly earnings over the previous two months.

Divorce docket is such bad form

THE ARMY's "I divorce thee" form — or AFO 1700 to give it its proper title — needs to be updated so that both husband and wife can sign it to confirm they are aware of what will happen 94 days later.

In fact, I'd like to see the wretched form scrapped altogether. It has been a sore point for years.

AFO 1700 has no standing in law; it is used to transfer the MQ licence from the serving spouse to the estranged spouse who is then responsible for occupation charges.

Bottom line is that the estranged partner has 93 days' use of the married quarter after the form has been completed.

One AFO 1700 I saw recently had three different dates on it. The date of changed material status was given as the 1st of the month, then responsible for occupation charges. The unit commanding officer had added his signature a day later. From which of those dates was the 93 days starting?

Incidentally, that form also lacked the unit stamp, and Part 3 had not been filled in even though there was a child involved and Boarding School Allowance was being claimed.

In many cases the estranged wife doesn't see the form until it is produced in court. Surely she should be given her own copy?

After all, she has to look after the quarter, pay the increased rent and find new accommodation.

The commanding officer has to be satisfied both parties have been counselled, but few estranged spouses seem aware that in the last resort Sections 151 and 152 of the Army Act can help them.

Legal refund limit doubled

REFUNDS of legal expenses for Service personnel letting or selling their main residence because of a posting have been doubled from £2,500 to £5,000.

New and stricter rules are outlined in a MoD letter, D/AG Sec 2/261/1 dated August 13. They mean that

Service house owners who let in the United Kingdom and wish to safeguard their right to eventual repossession must employ a solicitor or Scottish equivalent.

They must also comply with the 1988 Housing Act if they want to apply for a refund of reasonable solicitors' costs for drawing up the agreement.

Costs such as house agents' fees, advertising, inventories and checking references do not qualify for a refund.

Check with your pay office, the DoE Housing Booklet No 19 and SAFAB fact sheet 1/6.

Give every Regular regiment a TA counterpart

NOW the Ministry of Defence is considering the future of the Territorial Army, perhaps the planners should take a step back in time and ensure that all Regular regiments have a TA counterpart, both in name and tradition.

For example, my old regiment, the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, is to amalgamate with the Glosters. It follows that the TA regiment should recruit from Berkshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire and become the 4th Battalion,

taking on the battle honours and traditions of previous TA regiments from the three counties.

What I am aiming at here is cap-badge pride. A 14-year-old could join his cadet unit badged to his regiment, then follow

through into the 1st Battalion.

Later he could join either his TA or Home Service Force unit, badged, of course, to the same county regiment. Start at 14, finish at 60 – and never change your cap badge. – **M J McIntyre, Tilehurst, Reading.**

Where have all the pin-ups gone?

Not royal

YOUR People page article on Arthur Eacock headed "Long server" (September 2) mistakenly conferred the title "Royal" on the Worcestershire Regiment. – **L A Knight, Evesham, Worcs.**

● We can always trust our ever-alert readers to keep us on our toes. Thank you for putting the record straight, Mr Knight. – **Editor**

AFTER the recent success in tracing former SOLDIER pin-up Cherry Richards, the Imperial War Museum is wondering where other wartime and postwar pin-ups are now.

The museum is planning an exhibition about wartime romance entitled *Forces*

Sweethearts and hopes to invite former Servicemen's pin-ups along to meet their present-day counterparts when the exhibition opens on Valentine's Day, 1993.

These morale-boosting girls must be out there somewhere, perhaps now glamorous grandmothers like Cherry.

Maybe one or two of them even ended up marrying soldiers who had once pinned their picture on some far-flung barrack-room locker.

Bringing things up to date, has your unit adopted its own "official" pin-up? If so, the museum would like to know. We are especially interested in hearing from women's units who have their own male pin-ups.

Please contact me at the museum. – **Penny Ritchie Calder, Exhibitions Officer, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ (tel: 071-416 5323).**

Munster date

ON A historical note, may I point out that BMH Munster, featured in SOLDIER (September 2), has closed its doors after 40 years, rather than 46.

The hospital was opened in 1951 by an advance party of about 30 medics commanded by Lt Col Aitcheson, RAMC.

I was a corporal during my three-year stay in BAOR 12 and now buy the magazine every fortnight. No criticism is intended; just a point of interest regarding dates. – **R G Hazell, Sydenham, London.**

Better ways to reduce Army

I AM sure there must be a better way of reducing our regiments than mangling them up like so much mincemeat.

The RAF Regiment should be disbanded and the duties of airfield defence taken over by the Infantry. The Royal Engineers already have airfield units.

Anti-aircraft defence could be provided by the Royal Artillery. Battalions could take over the running of divisional depots.

Here are some ways to safeguard our ancient regiments:

- Merge the Paras into the Light Infantry (Airborne). After Arnhem we used parachutes only for special operations.

- Merge the Royal Hussars into the Air Arm;

- Disband Gurkha engineers, signals and transport.

Unwanted armoured and infantry regiments should be placed in special reserve and rotated every few years to preserve the names. – **W A West, Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"We appreciate these arranged marriages can be difficult, Colonel, which is why we offer the pre-amalgamation counselling service..."

Gulf reserve medics 'discarded' in haste

HAVING volunteered as a Reservist RAMC Cpl Operating Theatre Technician, I served in the desert with 22 Field Hospital.

We operated on our own as

well as on Iraqi casualties.

Reservist and TA men and women pitched in to make a first-class team, our ages ranging from 18 to old soldiers of 49 like me.

With very indecent haste at the end of the war we were flown home from Dhahran. We landed at Brize Norton at 3.30am and by 10pm I was standing with others at Swindon Station feeling as I do now – that we were welcomed when the Government wanted us, but discarded as soon as they could do without us.

The medical services would not have functioned without the Reservists and TA, some of whom were more qualified than the Regular RAMC personnel.

I served for ten years, first with the Parachute Regiment and then with the RAMC. I am very patriotic and would volunteer for anything if it served my country.

I and colleagues with whom I served feel aggrieved that no official thanks or recognition has been given to a force that played a major part in the Gulf War. – **G F Dean, Peacehaven, Sussex.**

What happened to Greek medals?

I WAS surprised to read in the national press that as far back as 1978 the Greek Government had offered two medals to British veterans of the 1940-41 Greek campaign.

It was the first this veteran of that campaign has heard of it.

According to the story, the Foreign Office has said that we could accept the medals but not wear them. All that was needed was for the Ministry of Defence

to confirm the list of claimants. Has anyone knowledge of any progress?

It would be nice to have some token of recognition. I felt a bit jealous when all that fuss was made, deservedly, over the 50th anniversary of Dunkirk.

Now a couple of medals, wearable or not, would put us one up on the Dunkirk veterans and redress the balance. – **R L Elley, Chester.**

Bravery knows no rank

THE publication of the Gulf Honours List draws attention again to the inequitable system of recognising bravery in the Armed Forces. For the same level of bravery there are "decorations" for officers, "medals" for other ranks.

The only award to rise above such old-fashioned concepts of class distinction is the most prestigious, the Victoria Cross. In the Falklands conflict two members of the Parachute Regiment, Lt Col Herbert Jones and Sgt Ian John McKay, were awarded the VC for conspicuous gallantry. At lower levels of bravery, recognition of each would have been different, dependent on their rank, not their bravery!

In contrast, civil awards for bravery – namely the George Cross, George Medal, Queen's Gallantry Medal – granted to members of the Services for their actions in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, and the Gulf have no such restrictions of rank or status.

It is time for the Armed Forces to do likewise, for bravery knows no rank. – **Brig Stuart Ryder, Radlett, Herts.**

Am I unique?

I HAVE just received my discharge from the RAF, following service in the Royal Navy and Army.

Am I unique in having had Regular service with all three?

My service includes: Royal Navy, leading seaman 1970-78; 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, trooper 1979-82; Royal Air Force, senior aircraftsman 1990-91.

I have also served in the Territorial Army, RAMC(V), and I am due to continue my career with the Yorkshire Volunteers. – **Robert W Widders, Doncaster.**

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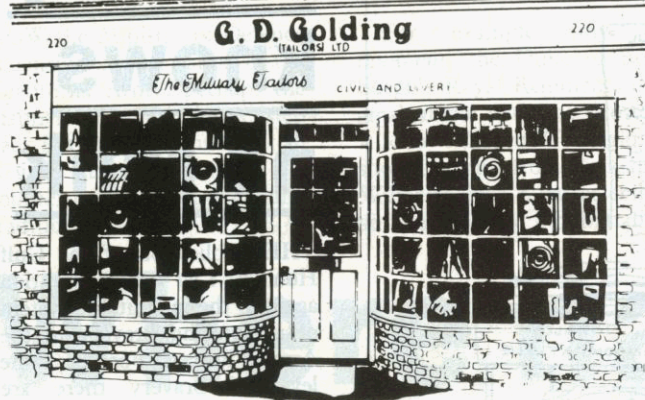
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THIS was recorded on a very wet and windy evening and the producer apologises for any extraneous sounds! It matters not, at least in the showpiece *The Battle of Waterloo*, for what with commentator's voice, words of command, cheers, and much gunnery, rain spots on microphones all add to the glorious din.

A pity these poor musicians, aided by the Napoleonic Association, were so wet and cold; the actual battle took place in glorious summer weather!

For the remainder of the programme either there were too many bass drummers on parade or the damp atmosphere caused the drums to carry more than the music.

After the opening fanfare the corps of drum play *The Ash Grove*, *Whistling Guardsman* and *Hazelmere*.

The massed bands play *Birdcage Walk*, *Royal Standard*, *The Prince*, *Under the Double Eagle*, and *Army of the Nile*.

The muster has *Bill Bailey*, *Old Comrades*, *Abide With Me*, *Sunset*, and the *National Anthem*, and march off is to *Blaze Away*, *Under Freedom's Flag*, *Something About a Soldier*, and *Auld Lang Syne*.

Military tattoos are so scarce these days that you must needs get your entertainment where you can, perhaps from Bandleader, CD price £10.50 and cassette £7.00.

And would you please note that, owing to an error on my part, all single cassettes have been £7 from Bandleader for the past few months, should you have ordered any. Double cassettes are £10.50.

All the best!

The Great Marches Vol. 4

Various Bands

A FURTHER run on previously-recorded marches, on CD for extra fine reproduction, and of course a saving in shelf-space. All the best bands of the three Services are represented, and there are 25 titles including a few rarities.

Alford's are *Dunedin*, *Eagle Squadron*, *Old Panama*, *The Middy*. No Sousa on this one for a change. Arnold Steck has two, *Drum Majorette* and *Birdcage Walk*, but the following could be said to be one-march composers: J F Wagner's *Under the Double Eagle*, S Dicker's *Crown of Joy*, Rauski's *Le Regiment de Sambre et Meuse*, Chas Payne's *Punjab*, Da Silva's *San Lorenzo*, Brepant's *Bel-*

phegor, Hubert Bath's *Out of the Blue*, J R McKenna's *Secundrabad*, David McBain's *Mechanised Infantry*, Henrion's *Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch*, and Mick Lane's *Star of St Patrick*.

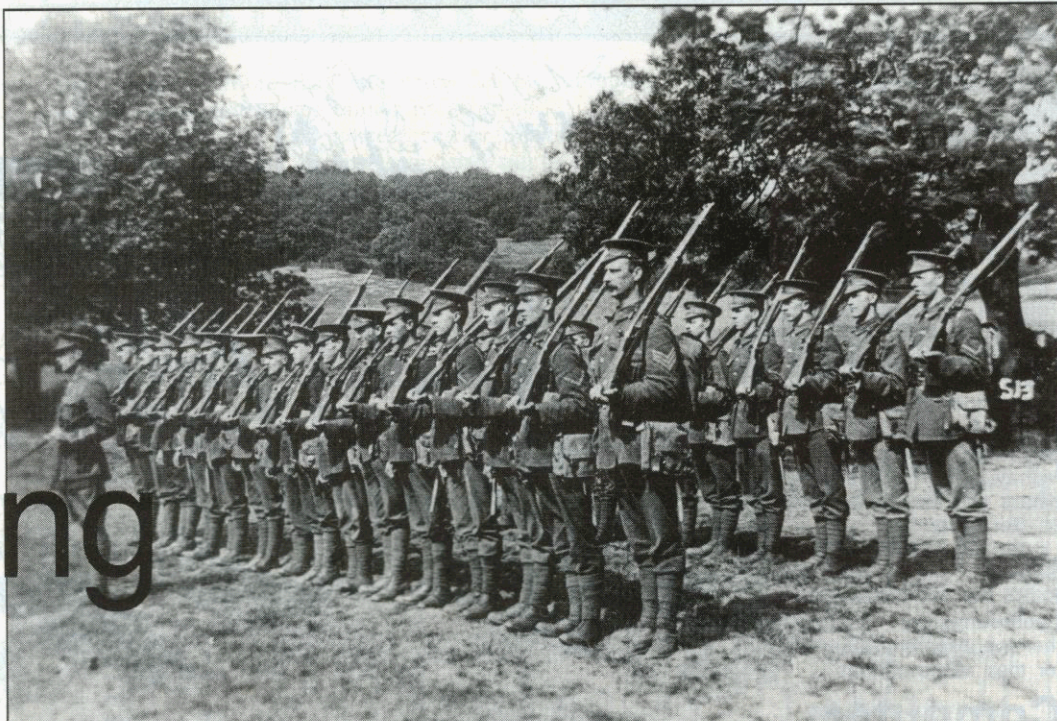
Kelly's *Arnhem*, Fucik's *Fearless and True*, Zehle's *Trafalgar*, Willcocks's *Guards Armoured Division*, Derek Kimberley's *Nijmegen*, Ord Hume's *The Black Horse*, and R B Hall's *New Colonial* make up a very interesting and desirable list.

The one not yet mentioned is *The Queen's Company*, an undisputed masterpiece by . . . er . . . um . . .

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR, price CD £10.50, or record shops.



The brass Eagle and Child cap badge of the Liverpool Pals



Zeppelin guard of Liverpool Pals at Grantham in September 1915

Fighting Pals from Liverpool

LIVERPOOL PALS is the seventh in the highly-regarded series about the New Army Pals battalions formed in particular cities from among fellow workers in the First World War.

With two more additions on the stocks and four under consideration, if they are anything like half as good as this one by Graham Maddocks we are in for a treat. It is exceptionally well written, full of good contemporary oral and written material and contains excellent maps and photographs.

This is the story of Liverpool's considerable contribution of four battalions formed in August and September 1914 under the enthusiastic leadership of The Earl of Derby, who also conceived their cap badge of "The Eagle and Child" from his family crest; he presented the 4,000 original volunteers with a silver version.

The Battalions were formed into 89th Brigade of 30th Division and were declared fully trained on August 27, 1915, exactly a year after the first recruits were enlisted at a public rally in Liverpool.

They embarked for France in November and went to The Somme, where they were ultimately committed to the

disastrous attack on July 1, 1916.

The Liverpool Pals Brigade, however, though suffering over 600 casualties (the 18th Bn bearing 500 of these) were one of the few to seize all of their objectives.

A month later they were committed to the attack on Guillemont, the three battalions losing another 500 men, making this "a black day for Liverpool".

Action in October at The Battle of Ligny-Thillois caused further losses of 13 officers and 213 other ranks which brought the total killed during the Battle of the Somme to nearly 1,400. As Maddocks puts it: "The Somme had been their introduction to active Service, their baptism of fire and the graveyard of their best."

April 1917 saw the Pals at the Battle of Arras with another 280 killed, in June at the Battle of Messines with a further 36 killed and in July, at the Third Battle of Ypres, with a further 234 killed and 650 wounded.

These enormous losses required replacements and 16 officers and 290 men of The Lancashire Hussars were drafted into the 18th Bn, whereby it changed its name to 18th (Lancashire Hussars) Bn and in January 1918 the 20th Bn was disbanded and dis-

persed among the remaining three battalions.

These three were next caught up in the German offensive of March 21, 1918 when they were told: "You will go into your positions and will not retreat. You will be either killed or taken prisoner. There is to be no retreat, and anyone retreating will be fired on as an enemy."

By March 29 there were just under a thousand fit men in the three battalions!

A further German offensive known as the Battle of Lys resulted in further losses and the amalgamation of 18th and 19th Battalions. The 17th returned to England in June and subsequently served in Russia for nine months until September 1919.

Just under 2,800 Liverpool Pals (listed in an appendix) had perished in the conflict, or the rough equivalent of three fighting battalions. However, according to Maddocks, "there is no evidence at all that these crippling casualties, or the turnover of men that they brought, diluted the city's battalions' fighting spirit or dented their resolve to win." — PSN

Liverpool Pals 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th Battalions, The King's (Liverpool Regiment), by Graham Maddocks. Leo Cooper, £13.95.

IN BRIEF

Congo Warriors by Mike Hoare. Stirring stories of Col (Mad Mike) Hoare's days as the commander of a mercenary unit during the armed uprising in 1964. Robert Hale, £12.95.

Top Brass and No Brass by Sir Ralph Kilner Brown. The author, who joined the TA as a private and ended the Second World War as a brigadier in Monty's HQ and then went on to be a High Court judge, argues that Britain's contribution to victory was greater than America's. The Book Guild Ltd, £14.95.

The Diary of an Unprofessional Soldier by T A M Nash. Story of a Territorial at the front in the First World War. Fascinating for those who can battle their way through 202 pages of eye-wearing typescript. Picton Publishing, Chippenham, £14.95.

The French Foreign Legion by Douglas Porch. When it was formed in 1831 this legendary army was intended to provide a temporary solution to a refugee problem; it evolved into the elite fighting force which saw action most recently in the Gulf. This thorough, 728-page history attempts to separate the myth from the reality. Macmillan, London, £16.99.

The Desert Air War 1939-45 by Richard Townshend Bickers. Drawing on his own experiences and those of his contemporaries, both in the air and on the ground, the author paints a vivid picture of life in the Desert Air Force. Leo Cooper, £18.50.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Teachers' challenge

Scotch whisky distillers Wm Teacher and Sons are launching their second annual military challenge this month in aid of the major Service charities, including the Army Benevolent Fund.

All you have to do is work out who killed the secret agent! Julia Murray on 071-935 3076 has the details and the challenge closes on December 31.

Last year several thousand Servicemen attempted to rescue a British diplomat held captive on a Caribbean island – and some of them were appropriately rewarded for their spirited efforts ...

Computer discounts

MoD personnel and their families can obtain substantial discounts on a wide range of top quality computers – and at the same time swell the coffers of the three Service benevolent funds.

Akhter, Blue Chip, Opus and Walters have so far joined the scheme, offering discounts of up to 20 per cent on all models and promising a contribution to the Service charities.

The person to contact is Sqn Ldr Ray Blunden who thought up and negotiated the scheme, and who is hoping to raise at least £5,000 for charity.

For a computer information pack write to him at Room 2247, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB, ring him on



'The British colonel thanks you. He says without your help they would never have met their deadline.' Six-day wonders – See Pages 22-23

Main Building ext 87878 (071-218 7478) or fax your request on MB 87474 (071-218 7474).

Parachute Centre

Catterick Services Parachute Centre is now open (Monday to Friday only) to all Service personnel, the dependants, and MoD civilians. Information is available from courses clerk Mr Brown on Catterick Military 2564.

(Poor weather prevented Maj Gen Michael Rose, GOC NE District and 2 Inf Div, making the first jump to open the new centre on July 23. A week later Capt

Bridget Perks and OCdt Terry Southern of 8 Sig Regt completed the course and made their first jumps.)

Chess

Tactical manoeuvres of a cerebral nature will be much in evidence at the Army chess championships to be staged at Shorncliffe from April 17 to 20.

Details of the event are available from Maj Jack Cohen, RADC(V), 220 (1 HC) Fd Amb RAMC(V), Training Centre, London Road, Ditton, Maidstone, Kent ME20 6DB (tel: 0732 842424).

Membership secretary of the ACA is WO1 Joe Adams, 16/5 L, HQ DRAC, Bovington Camp, near Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JA (tel: Bovington Mil 3551).

SEARCHLINE

● **Capt Thomas H Huxley-Duggan** who served with The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in India, 1946-48 and it is believed later served with the Malaya Police until 1954, is sought for records purposes. Information to: The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Association, The Castle, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh.

● **52nd Royal Armoured Corps:** Compton H Herbert, c/o 12 Broad Street, Nottingham NG1 3AL (tel: 0602 473333) wishes to contact old comrades in D Company, B Platoon (Sgt Fitzgerald), 52nd RAC at Bovington Camp, Dorset, May 1944 onwards.

● **Saxons Hockey Club, Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus:** Ex-Saxons are being sought for a 21st anniversary reunion festival on April 17-19, 1993. Contact is Robin Cowin, Chairman Saxons HC, St John's School, BFPO 53.

● **Middlesex Regiment:** Ex-members living in and around North London who want to join a Middlesex OCA being formed in Enfield should contact Jack Warner, 2 Albuhera Close, Enfield, Middx EN2 8NR (tel:

081-367 0737). Also ex-National Servicemen who served with the regiment in Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Cyprus, Austria and Germany.

REUNIONS

● **The Queen's Own Hussars Regimental Association Annual Reunion Weekend:** Midlands reunion dinner, Birmingham, Nov 9, 1900hrs; buffet lunch, Nov 10, 1230hrs. Details from Regimental Secretary, HHQ QOH, 28 Jury Street, Warwick CV34 4EW (tel: 0926 492035).

● **Malayan Veterans 1st Bn, Manchester Regt:** The sixth annual veterans' ball will take place at the Town Hall, Ashton, on Friday September 20. Tickets, £7 each, from RHQ Ardwick. Maj R Young (tel: 061-273 6191).

● **El Alamein Reunion** of Eighth Army veterans, the Desert Rats, will be held at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, Saturday October 26, to celebrate the 49th anniversary. (This is a separate event from the annual reunion of the Sussex Branch on October 19, noted in SOLDIER, July 22.)

DIARY

Open until at least October 31: Gulf War Exhibition, Tank Museum, Bovington.

Open until October 20: Battle for Crete 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, London.

October 2: Massed Bands, Pipers and Drums of the Household Division concert at Wembley Arena in aid of Gulf Fund and Household Division charities, 1930.

October 13: Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicles Association national competitions at the Tank Museum, Bovington. Details from Peter Brown, 8 Saddle Close, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2UN (tel: 0202 883939).

October 24: Logistics in the

Gulf War presentation by Col Roy Lennox and Lt Col Steve Thornton at Gloucester Hotel, London. Tickets £50 plus VAT in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Details from Institute of Purchasing and Supply Conference Department on 0780 56777.

November 9: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

November 20-26: Armed Forces Art Society annual exhibition at National Army Museum, Chelsea. (Handing-in days Nov 9 and 11. For entry forms send SAE to Capt W Blake, D Block, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4SE).

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

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More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

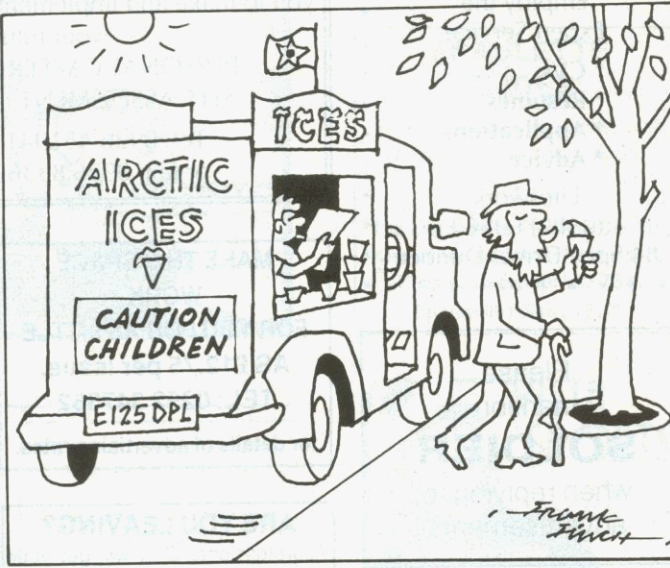
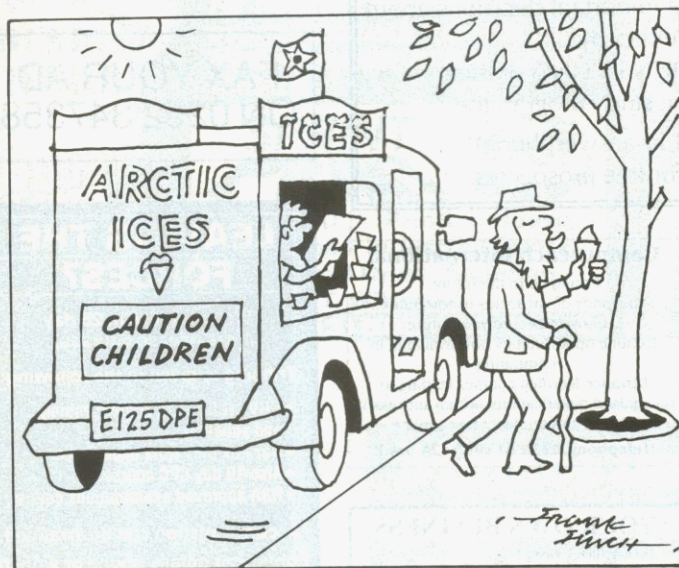
The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the November 11 issue.

Competition No 519:
Congratulations to Mr A E Boister, of Portchester, Hants, who wins the £50 first prize. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs E Summers, of Warsash, Hants and Mr A M Press, of Rochester, Kent.

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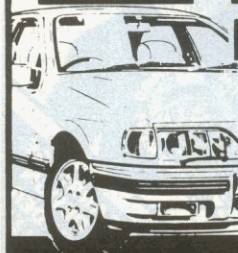
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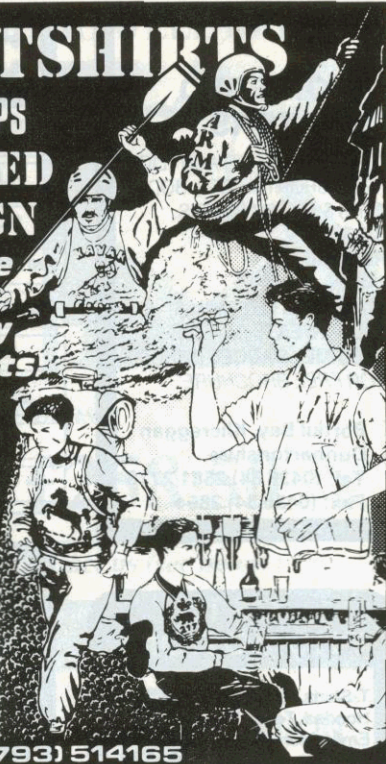
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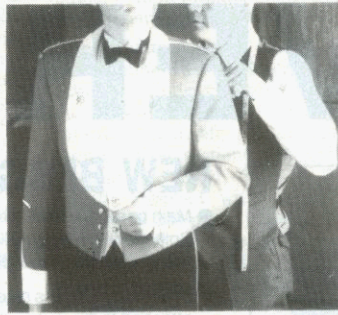
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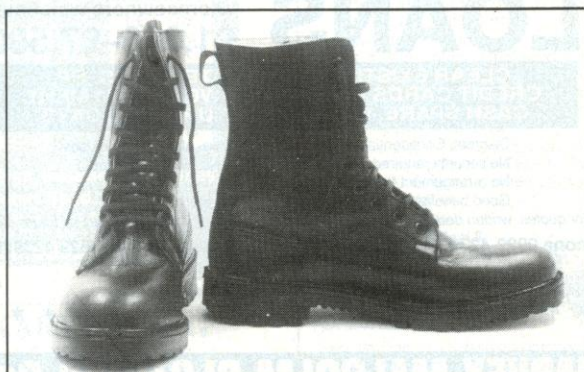
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Maria, aged 25 from Cornwall, 5' 4" tall with blue eyes, requires penpals. Interests include: travelling, music and winter sports. Box 157. 39 91

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Golden Dragons

FOLLOWING their success in the national parachuting championships in June, the Flying Dragons, free-fall parachute team of The Queen's Regiment, won gold and bronze medals at the Army championships last month.

The Flying Dragons A team, led by WO2 Brad Reader, won the gold for canopy relative work, and the B team under Cpl Ian Cashman took bronze in the same event.

Members of the team also won silver and bronze individual medals in the championships staged at the Joint Services Parachuting Centre, Netheravon.

Tug date

FIRST indoor tug of war championship of the season takes place when the Light Depot at Winchester hosts the UKLF event on November 13.

Mathis on target at Uxbridge

Uxbridge 3, An Army XI 3

A LAST-MINUTE penalty deprived the Army of a deserved win in the opening match of the season, writes Pat Massey.

The Army management used the game as a trial and fielded a number of newcomers. But it was Sgt Johnny Mathis (RE), now in the twilight of his career, who put them ahead in the sixth minute when he converted a penalty after Sgt Darren Adams (APTC) had been brought down.

Adams was involved in the

build-up to the Army's second goal, a fine through pass setting Dvr Paul Darwood (RCT) free to score from the edge of the box.

Although they continued to control the game, the soldiers conceded a goal when the ball was deflected past 'keeper Cfn Mark Taylor (REME) just before the interval.

Uxbridge equalised soon after the break when Sgt Alex Armstrong (APTC) headed into his own net.

In the 65th minute Darwood, an exciting addition to the footballing ranks, was floored in the area after a great run and Mathis scored his second from the spot. But it was Mathis who handled in the Army area just before the final whistle to concede Uxbridge's equalising penalty.

An Army XI 6, Camberley Town 0

A number of injuries sustained in the Uxbridge match forced the Army to call up a couple of "old-timers" to reinforce a squad of triallists for the game against Camberley Town at Aldershot.

Cpl Podge Lehaney (RE), always happy to help out, obliged by rapping in a couple of first-half goals, while Sgt Gavin Wood (REME) added considerable experience to a back four with potential.

LCpl Daisy May (RCT) was twice called on to make brave saves in the Army goal.

In the final quarter the home side took complete control. Gnr Mark Mahoney (RHA) tapped home after a smart one-two with Sgt Steve Davis (APTC), Cpl Dave Veal (who at the weekends plays for Camberley Town in the Diadora League) headed home a cross provided by LCpl Toots Tootle (RHA), and, to complete the rout, Davis and Tootle got themselves on to the scoresheet.



Capt Matthew Rudd of 1 WG departs as LCpl Richard Sidwell makes the catch off Cpl Nick Palmer's bowling and ASM (WO1) John Morgan appeals. Rudd made 27. The other batsmen is 2nd Lt Rupert Harvey who hit 116 not out in the Major Units final between 1 WG and Northern Ireland Regiment AAC

Pictures: Mike Perring

Halton to host boxing

THE ARMY boxing team open their campaign to win a ninth consecutive Inter-Services title with an "away" match against the Royal Air Force on January 30. RAF Halton is the venue. The airman have not contested the competition for the past two years.

Last year's championship was decided during a remarkable Army-Royal Navy clash at Portsmouth. Ahead 4-1, the Army were stopped in their tracks by a resurgent Royal Navy squad who levelled the match at 5-5. A draw, however, was good enough for the defending champions.

This year's confrontation is due to take place at Aldershot, on February 13.

The Army squad begin their competitive season with an international match - against Austria at Aldershot.

The CSBA individual championships will be hosted by RAF St Athan on February 26-27, and the CSBA-Western Counties match - which doubles as an England ABA quarter-final - returns to RAF Halton on March 12.



Col Ian Holmes R Irish of Depot Kings Division bowls to RAPC Worthy Down top-scorer Maj Simon Leadsom in the Minor Units final. The wicketkeeper is Cpl Neil Bulmer (DWR).

Harvey puts Guardsmen in control

SECOND Lt Rupert Harvey led the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards to a 23-run victory over Northern Ireland Regiment AAC in the Army Cup Major Units cricket final at Aldershot.

Harvey hit a superb undefeated 116 to guide the Guards to 179 for eight in their 40 overs.

Army opening bowler Capt Matthew Rudd took three for 16 as the AAC side was dismissed for 156 in their 38th over, their main contribution coming through a half century from Army cap Cpl Nick Palmer.

Maj Tony Bowen also chipped in with three wickets. The victory capped two

successful days for the Welsh Guardsmen, who also reached the finals of the Infantry Cup by beating The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

But 1 WG met their match in the final at Tidworth, where they were beaten by The Green Howards in a very exciting finish.

Harvey (85 not out) and Rudd (74) pushed the Guards' total to 218 for six, but the Green Howards, needing five off their final over, got home thanks to Capt Peter Istead's innings of 79.

Winners of the Minor Units Cup by 23 runs were RAPC Worthy Down who beat Depot Kings Division in the final, also played at Aldershot.

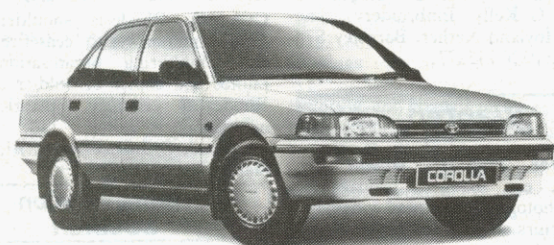
Worthy Down were asked to bat and were bowled out for 174 with the best part of three overs unused. Their innings owed much to Maj Simon Leadsom (46) and WO1 Jez Miles (45).

Pick of the Depot Kings bowlers were Army Under 25 player Lt Kirk Steel (4-23) and Sgt Paul "Jonah" Jones (3-33). Steel scored 49 when the Depot batted, but the rest of the side struggled, and with Miles taking four for 19 they were bowled out for 116 in the 40th over.

Lt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RCT) scored his fifth representative century of the season when he opened the batting for Combined Services against the MCC in a drawn one-day game at Vine Lane.

His 109 shored up a Services' reply of 208 for seven in reply to the MCC's daunting 292 for four declared off 54 overs. Two of the MCC wickets fell to Cpl Nick Palmer, who finished with 2-28 from five overs, and one to Lt Willie Pym (IG), who was not out on 23 at close of play.

LCpl John Checkley (3 Fd Wksp REME) opened the bowling for Combined Services.



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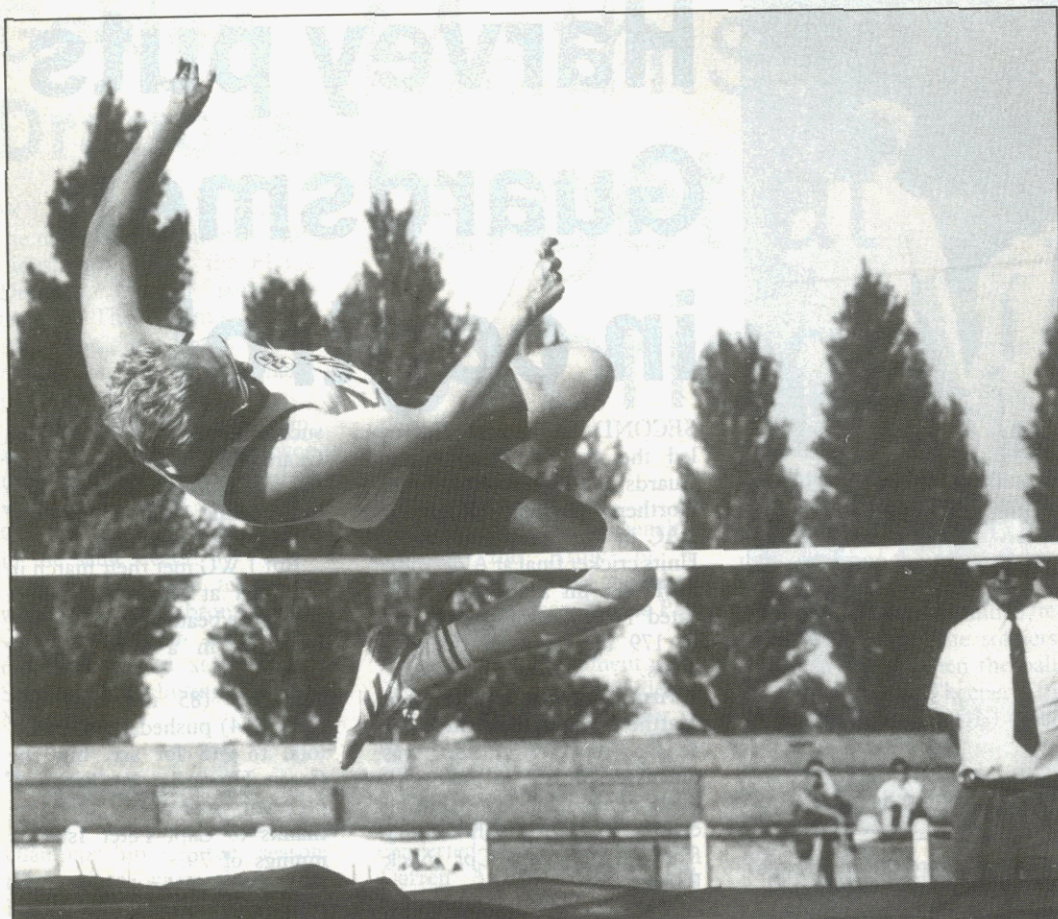
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Cpl Ossie Osborn jumps for silver at the Hull championships

Ossie strikes gold

FALKLANDS veteran Cpl Robert "Ossie" Osborn, SG added another national title to his huge collection at the British Sports Association for the Disabled senior athletic championships in Hull.

Osborn, who lost his left leg in action with the Scots Guards during the battle for Mount Tumbledown, took the gold

medal in the shot putt, silver in the high jump and was unplaced in the discus.

But he did set regional records in all three events, taking his tally this year to 12.

Cpl Osborn, who is now attached to HQ London District and runs Burton's Court, the London District sports centre opposite the

Royal Hospital, has accumulated 99 national and 57 international medals since taking up athletics as a disabled sportsman.

Earlier this year he took part in the Paralysed Veterans of America championships in Miami and the international club championships in Wrexham.

Paddlers take charge

THE ARMY canoe team dominated the Inter-Services canoe racing championships staged at the national water sports centre in Nottingham and on the Trent.

Lt Fergus Murray (1 DWR) and Cpl Vincent Gallagher (43 Svy Engr Regt) teamed up to win the 15-mile marathon doubles, with the 1 D and D pairing of WO2 Steve Keane and Cpl Nigel Emmerson finishing a close second inches ahead of rival RAF and RN crews in a massive sprint finish.

Sgt Alan Heath (HQ MWF) finished second overall in the singles event, with Capt Duncan Capps (3 ADTR) in third place.

The women's marathon was won by 2nd Lt Char Morcom (School of Signals).

In the sprint racing championships, Gallagher dominated both the 500m and 1,00m singles races, with Heath second in both. They combined to win the 500m and 1,000m doubles, followed in by Murray and Capps.

In the 500m kayak fours, Cpl Chris Lloyd (Sch of Sigs), Emmerson, Keane and Capt Steve Jackson (Sch of Sigs) won by eight seconds.

LCpl Pete Stroud (RSME) and LCpl Ivan Key (Gren Gds) joined Lloyd and Jackson to win the 1,000m K4 by a huge margin of 16 seconds.

Posties win sunshine sevens

TRADITIONAL curtain raiser for the Army women's winter sports season is the popular hockey sevens tournament at Aldershot, this year contested by 400 hockey players from 42 units, writes Desmond Leach.

One team made the journey from Cyprus and six travelled from BAOR. The weather was glorious and the organisation under WO1 Sharon Hope went like clockwork.

Seven pools, each of six teams, battled it out for qualifying places in the final leagues. The top teams in each

pool went into the elite AA group and among them were 68 Sqn and B Company Rebels from BAOR; and the winning team of the last three years, Postal Courier Depot RE.

The 68 Sqn team, who last won the competition four years ago, did well in the morning but soon after lunch had to face and beat PCDRE if they were to stand a chance of a trophy. It turned out to be one of the most exciting matches of the weekend, with the Postal attack putting pressure on 68 Sqn's defence from the start. The

goalkeeper was called upon time and time again.

With just two minutes to go a penalty stroke was awarded and despite a brave dive the 'keeper was unable to save the goal.

PCDRE won the match and with it the championship title for the third year, with 68 Sqn having to be satisfied with fourth place. The B Company Rebels took sixth place in the league.

Other BAOR teams were well placed, with 13 Signal Regt winning the CC pool, RAOC Viersen and Dusseldorf

Station taking second places in their pools, 16 Signal Regt placed third and BMH Iserlohn fifth. It was pleasing to see a number of teams from the nursing services.

The suntanned girls from Cyprus made their long journey worthwhile by winning their pool and UDR took the honours in theirs.

The Army selectors were delighted at the very high standard of players available for the representative team. Armed Forces Financial Advisory Service sponsored the event.

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Men of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery prepare to take over the duties of The Queen's Life Guard from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment who were about to depart to Thetford in Norfolk for their three-week summer camp. There are only two occasions a year when it is possible to see the King's Troop and the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment on parade together.

Picture: Mike Perring

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