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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

March 22, 1993
VOL. 49/6

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Officer acted as human shield against grenade

AN OFFICER who risked his life to shield a soldier from the blast of a misdirected grenade is to receive the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

When the grenade landed five feet away during an exercise on a throwing range in Germany, 2nd Lt (now Lt) Alistair McCluskey of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, pushed the soldier to the ground and covered the man's head and body with his own.

He sustained a minor

shrapnel wound to the back when the grenade exploded. The soldier was uninjured although his equipment was pierced by several grenade fragments.

The incident happened at Sennelager last July while Lt McCluskey was conducting an exercise in which soldiers were required to throw grenades at different targets from a number of tactical locations.

When the misdirected grenade landed on a low embankment a few feet away

there was not time for both Lt McCluskey and the soldier to reach full cover.

The officer later spent time counselling and reassuring the shaken soldier and three days later supervised him through an identical grenade-throwing exercise, this time successfully.

The citation reads: "The gallant behaviour and coolness in danger of this young officer are in the best traditions of the Service and he is most strongly recommended as worthy of official recognition."

BMH Woolwich to close by 1998

QUEEN Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, is one of three Service hospitals in the United Kingdom facing the axe following a two-year review into Defence Medical Services.

It is expected to close by March 1998.

With it will go the RAF's hospital at Halton and the Royal Naval Hospital Stonehouse, Plymouth. BMH Iserlohn in Germany will also close.

Details were given by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton in the House of Commons on February 26.

The outcome of the wide-ranging review, carried out in line with Options for Change, is that 1,730 beds have been judged to be the minimum needed to support operational commitments and training requirements - with 1,500 located in the UK and 230 in Germany.

Three "core" hospitals, one for each Service, may be modernised and possibly extended. Aldershot's Cambridge Military Hospital will increase from 309 beds to 400, RAFH

Cambridge named as Army core hospital

Wroughton from 280 to 330, while RNH Haslar at Gosport will retain its current 305 beds.

Their service to NHS patients will be unaffected.

The concept of military wards in NHS hospitals was born out of the review, with the result that Military District Hospital Units (MDHU) are to be established in Odstock Hospital (Salisbury, 130 beds), Derriford Hospital (Plymouth 101 beds) and East Anglian (100 beds, location as yet unknown).

The Duchess of Kent Military Hospital at Catterick (130 beds, currently 150) will have a "reverse" MDHU, a civilian presence in a military hospital.

The review found that the

MDHU concept was attractive not only because it offered considerable savings, but also because the training base could be enlarged and plans made to provide secondary care in the UK at locations in which Service personnel were based.

In Germany, 230 beds are to be shared between BMH Rinteln and RAF Hospital Wegberg on the closure of BMH Iserlohn.

Details for the creation of "Superservice" centres in some specialities, where one of the core hospitals will provide the main focus for that speciality throughout the three Services, are being worked out.

New battle honours

THEATRE and battle honours for the Gulf War have been approved by the Queen, Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told MPs.

Regiments which took part, as well as the Army Air Corps, will be able to claim the theatre honour "Gulf 1991" and the battle honours "Wadi Al Batin" and "Western Iraq", he said.

After claims have been considered by the Army Board, recommendations will be submitted to the Queen for approval.

FRONT COVER: The smiling face of the British Army's humanitarian mission in Bosnia. Spr Mark Pocklington was one of a number of Vitez-based 42 Field Squadron RE personnel who visited young refugees at Travnik with "goodies" including **SOLDIER** sweatshirts. See also picture in Page 11. **Inset:** A Warrior of 9 Platoon, C Company, 1 Cheshire, leads a convoy of Dutch vehicles laden with essential supplies. (Pictures: Terry Champion.)

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Grapple officers given notice to quit

OF THE 6,460 officers and men who received their redundancy notices on February 25, all but 628 officers are volunteers.

The figures in Phase 2 of the Options cuts include 5,152 soldiers, all NCOs, and 1,308 officers.

The officers who heard they would have to leave are mostly captains, majors and lieutenant colonels. Eight are currently serving in the former Yugoslavia and 36 in Northern Ireland.

In all, 17 officers and 80 soldiers in the former Yugoslavia, and 50 officers and 295 soldiers in Northern Ireland, are on the Phase 2 redundancy list.

Redundancy terms for those with 12 or more years' service include an immediate pension and a special capital payment (SCP) of up to 18 months' salary, as well as normal pension benefits.

Those with less than 12 years receive a similar SCP, but their pension is "frozen" until the age of 60.

Volunteers will leave by October 1993. Those made compulsorily redundant have one year's notice. Notice for those serving in Bosnia starts in May, when their tour ends.

Examples of redundancy terms:
Cpl aged 29: Pension £2,368
preserved until aged 60; special capital payment (SCP) £27,942; terminal grant (TG) £7,105.

Sgt (30) with 13 years' service: Immediate pension £3,080; SCP £19,000; TG £9,240.

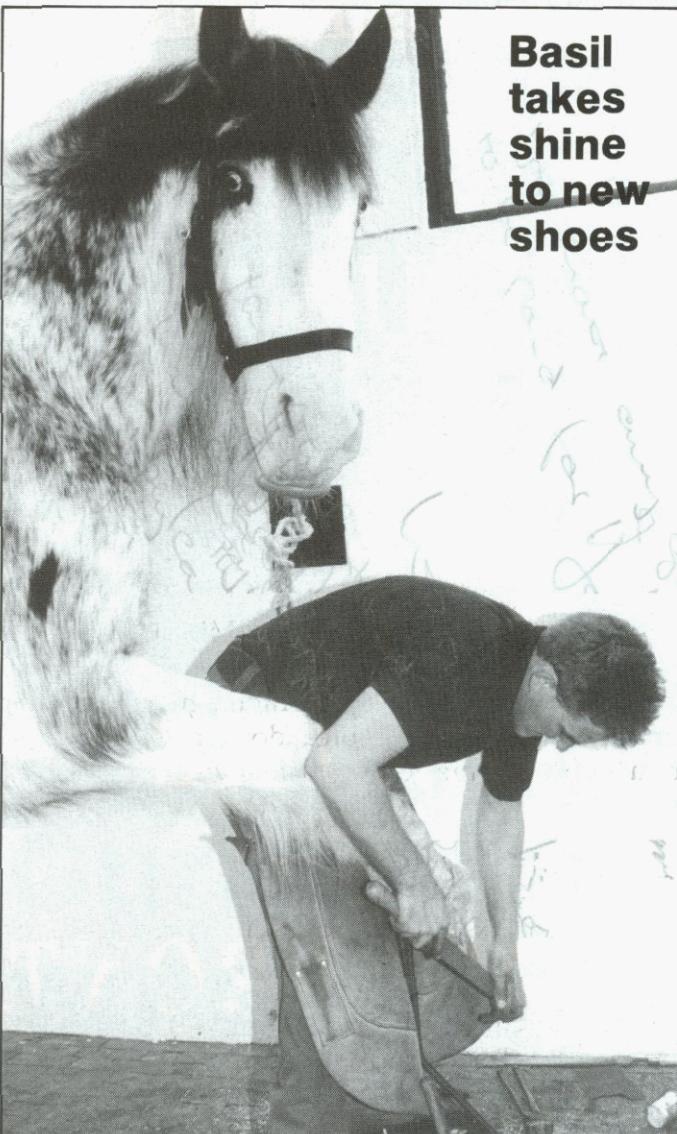
Capt (28): Pension £2,662; SCP £32,824; TG £7,986.

Major (46), 25 years' service: Pension £11,784; SCP £47,364; TG £35,352.

Lt Col: Pension £16,316; SCP £58,368; TG £48,948.

Geographical breakdown of redundancies:

Mainland Britain: 913 officers, 2,895 soldiers; BAOR: 227 officers, 1,655 soldiers; Northern Ireland: 50 officers, 295 soldiers; Former Yugoslavia: 17 officers, 80 soldiers; rest of world: 101 officers, 227 soldiers.



Basil takes shine to new shoes

Leavers face civvy housing crisis

DESPITE encouragement from the Ministry of Defence, only a third of those leaving the Army are making provision in advance for civilian housing.

The shock statistic is reported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which has conducted a research project on housing for ex-Service families.

And the foundation concludes that families of those made redundant need more help in obtaining a civilian home. It says that even those who volunteer for the current redundancy programme are unlikely to own accommodation already or to have made plans in advance to buy or rent.

A study carried out among Tidworth-based soldiers leads the foundation to conclude that the special lump-sum payments for redundants are in some cases not enough for a house deposit.

The foundation acknowledges that since the Options for Change cuts in the Armed Forces were announced, the MoD has launched a number of initiatives to encourage home ownership among serving personnel.

These include reduced-cost mortgages, a subsidised savings scheme, discounted sales of surplus quarters and shared ownership schemes arranged with housing associations.

Research by Judith Dugdale for the foundation suggests that although 70 per cent of soldiers say they would prefer to start buying a home while still serving, a half or more of those who leave require rented accommodation.

A study of 75 married soldiers at Tidworth Garrison who were made redundant last October found that only 30 became, or intended to become, house buyers.

Most of them were renting their civilian home from a local authority, had moved into tied accommodation, or were lodging with friends and relations.

● **More details in next issue**

Picture: Mike Perrin

Keeping a watchful eye on the camera is Belisarius – better known as Basil – as LCpl Lee Francis gets on with the serious business of fitting a shoe. LCpl Francis and his three Household Cavalry team mates won the Military Heavy Horse Shoeing Competition award, presented annually by the Worshipful Company of Farriers. Also competing in the event at the Household Cavalry Barracks, Hyde Park, were teams from The King's Troop RHA and the Defence Animal Centre. LBdr John Suttey, King's Troop, was the winner in the best specimen horse-shoe competition.

ARRC HQ on Guard

THE FIRST deployment of the new headquarters of Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) took place at Sennelager from March 1-5.

Exercise First Guard was also the first occasion that soldiers from so many Nato nations have worked together under field conditions in an operational level Nato headquarters.

The exercise was a trial deployment of the field headquarters to establish operating procedures for 300 officers and men. As they came from 12 of Nato's 16 nations, there were many multinational aspects to practise.

Working together were offic-

ers and men from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The deployment was the culmination of five months' work since the ARRC headquarters was established in Bielefeld on October 2 under former 1 (BR) Corps Commander Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie. His deputy is Maj Gen Alberto Ficuciello and the Chief of Staff is Maj Gen Tony Pigott, formerly of 1 (BR) Corps.

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IN BRIEF

Queen to unveil statue

A STATUE of Field Marshal the Viscount Alanbrooke is to be unveiled by the Queen on Raleigh Green near the Ministry of Defence on May 25.

Commissioned by the Royal Artillery on behalf of the British Army from sculptor Ivor Roberts-Jones, the statue will stand between those of Montgomery and Slim.

An appeal has so far raised half the £150,000 required to cover costs. Donations to complete the task may be sent to the Alanbrooke Memorial Appeal Fund, PO Box 438, Cambridge CB2 2BZ.

• • •
A review of military gallantry awards is to be conducted by the Defence Secretary following the Prime Minister's announcement that he is to sweep away class distinction and automatic titles. The Military Medal, awarded to non-commissioned ranks, will be abolished in favour of a gallantry medal for which all ranks will be eligible.

• • •
A passing out parade of 30 Royal Irish Regiment recruits at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, on February 20 was inspected by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew.

• • •
The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment, visited Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, and the Regimental Headquarters before attending a launch of *Rats' Tales*, the story of 1 Staffords in the Gulf War.

• • •
Concreting, bricklaying and carpentry skills had to be employed by students of Cambridge University Officers Training Corps when they built three six-metre bridges and a number of stiles for the Brecon Beacons National Park's new long-distance trail during a two-week camp.

Houses damaged in mortar attack



Picture: Mike Perrin

The Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, Maj Gen Ian Freer (left) and soldiers from 1 Royal Scots and J Battery, 3 RHA examine the damage caused by an IRA mortar bomb at Bessbrook in south Armagh on March 1. The attack on an RUC station damaged more than 60 houses nearby

Gurkha Pim wins wings

THE FIRST Gurkha soldier to become a pilot was presented with his wings at the Army Air Corps Training Centre at Middle Wallop on March 4.

Cpl Pimbahadur Gurung of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles is the first Gurkha ever to have passed the selection course for the fixed wing and rotary (helicopter) courses, and was presented with his pilot's wings by Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell, Inspector General Doctrine and Training and a former Major General Brigade of Gurkhas.

Cpl Pimbahadur's father served in 6 GR until 1978 and travelled from Nepal to Middle Wallop to attend the Wings Parade.

After a brief spell of leave Cpl Pimbahadur - whose



Cpl Pimbahadur

nicknames include "Douglas Bahadur" and "Pilot Pim" - will be posted to an Army Air Corps Regiment in Germany.

St Pancras unit to go

THE JOINT Services Air Trooping Centre (JSATC) Detachment at St Pancras Station closes on March 15 and use of special trains between the station and Luton also cease from that date.

All passengers using the North West Europe Air Trooping Service will be required to make their own way to Luton.

Until March 31 next year, passengers may still report to the Airbridge House Hotel for overnight accommodation on the evening before their flight.

Cyprus deaths

LCPLS David Storey and James Powe of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment based in Dhekelia, Cyprus, were killed when the car in which they were travelling overturned near Larnaca on February 28.

Army to lead chopper support

BRIG ROBERT Jones will become the first Director of the new tri-Service Defence Helicopter Support Authority designed to rationalise helicopter support.

The unit will be established at Yeovilton by April 1994 with

171 Service and civilian engineers, supply, finance and contract staff in an effort to create a more cost-effective organisation.

Some single Service and civilian staff will be transferred from Harrogate, London and

Andover to join those at Yeovilton, the headquarters of the Fleet Air Arm's Sea Harrier and helicopter force, where REME personnel maintain the Lynx and Gazelle helicopters of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines.

LEAVING THE ARMED FORCES AND WANT TO OWN YOUR OWN HOME?

A unique new scheme can now help you buy a home of your choice at a price you can afford.

A national initiative for service personnel affected by the 'Options for Change' Review is being operated by the Joint Services Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) in conjunction with three housing associations. Under the scheme you can buy a share in the home of your choice as an affordable alternative to renting.

Do-it-yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) enables you to purchase between 25% and 75% of your new home. For the remaining percentage you can pay a low rent to the housing association. As your earning power increases you can become a 100% home-owner in your own time - should you wish to do so.

The scheme, sponsored by the Housing Corporation, is being operated in the following areas:

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Orbit Housing Association
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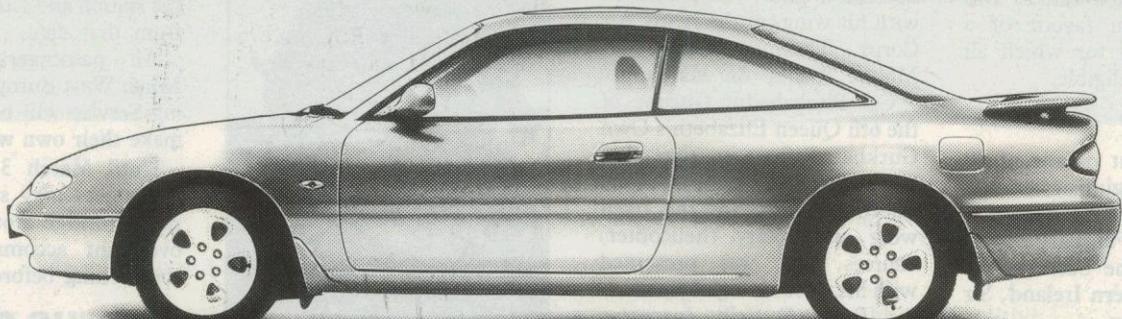
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Pay body to consider lost leave compensation

IF LEAVE lost to Service commitments becomes a significant problem, the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) is to give serious consideration to recommending the introduction of a compensation scheme.

Having expressed concern last year about evidence of lost leave, the AFPRB asked the MoD to produce figures in time for its latest report.

The 1992 survey of working patterns did not, however, analyse the reasons why leave was lost, and the MoD has told the AFPRB that the 1993 survey will seek to differentiate between leave lost by individual choice and leave denied by Service commitments.

Hours worked by Service personnel had remained constant with recent years according to MoD evidence, although AFPRB members had been told by soldiers that there had been an increase, particularly in Northern Ireland.

Review Body members met a wide range of Service personnel last year during 16 visits spanning 62 days to Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus and

the Gulf, and ten locations in the United Kingdom.

PAY SCALES Pages 29-31

Pension schemes

"As we said last year, personnel have spoken to us during our visits about what many see to be inequalities between the pension scheme for officers and that for other ranks," notes the report.

Three main areas of contention were the age from which service was reckonable, length of service required for immediate pension, and the amount of pension available for commutation.

The Review Body welcomed news that the MoD was to review the Armed Forces Pension Scheme in the light of these and other complaints.

Performance pay

On the issue of performance-related pay, the MoD had advised the AFPRB that no final conclusions had been reached "but that Service management perceives a number of disadvantages, including those of compatibility with the structure and ethos of the

Armed Forces; its possible divisiveness; and its possible effect on morale and motivation.

The authors add: "Although we have some sympathy with these views we note that the concept of performance pay as it operates in civilian life has not always been clearly understood by the Service personnel we have met."

SNCOS' pay

AFPRB members have heard with increasing frequency that senior non-commissioned officers would prefer a pay system more akin to that for officers, with increments or bonuses rewarding expertise and experience in the rank.

"We are conscious that many SNCOS feel that pay differentials on promotion have been reduced and that their contribution to the Services is no longer fully recognised."

In its 1992 report, the AFPRB said it favoured an incremental system, in which all three Services had indicated an interest. The Royal Navy had suggested such a system,

for warrant officers and senior ratings, based on the combination of military salary, length of service pay and scale pay.

The Army and Royal Air Force were conducting an attitude survey among WOs and SNCOS to seek their reaction, the results of which would be available for the 1994 AFPRB report.

While accepting the naval system had merit, the Review Body had asked the MoD to consider a common structure for all three Services.

Officer bonus scheme

The financial retention incentives for Army officers introduced in January 1991 had been withdrawn in July 1992 because there was no longer a shortage of officers in the age groups concerned.

It had also become clear, says the report, that some individuals who had received the £6,500 bonus and were consequently time-barred from leaving, were to be selected for redundancy.

"We accept that some officers who had an expectation of a bonus will be disappointed, but we believe that the decision to rescind the scheme was right in current circumstances," comments the report.

Daily rates

The use of daily rates of pay rather than annual salaries within the Armed Forces is an anachronism, says the AFPRB.

"The current system produces monthly variations in gross and net pay which generate complaints from Service personnel. The system also presents complications during a leap year and creates the potential for error in the annual comparability calculations.

"Furthermore, daily rates are an anachronism in comparison with payment practices adopted in civilian life. MoD has advised us that although the implications and cost of such a change could be significant, a small working group is being set up to look further at the concept of annual salaries rather than daily rates of pay . . ."

● Turn to Page 31

Lancers' Aliwal finale

THIS year's annual Aliwal Day celebrations by the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers at Carver Barracks, Wimbish, was the regiment's last before it amalgamates with the 17th/21st Lancers to form The Queen's Royal Lancers.

The traditionally high spirited families' day marks the 16/5's main battle honour, awarded to the 16th Lancers for the series of brilliant charges with which it broke up the fearsome Sikh infantry squares at the battle of Aliwal, 200 miles from Delhi, in 1846.

The day began with gunfire (tea and rum) before breakfast, continued with a series of games and sports during the morning, and ended with the Aliwal Revue of regimental comedy sketches.

Amphibious sapper HQ opens



A guard of honour forms for the opening of Seely House, Aldershot, Hampshire's first new Territorial Army building for 20 years. The centre will be the headquarters of 227 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Amphibious Engineer Squadron, part of 78 (Fortress) Engineer Regiment. The squadron, commanded by Maj Mike Law, will be equipped with 39 M2 rigs in support of 3 (UK) Division.

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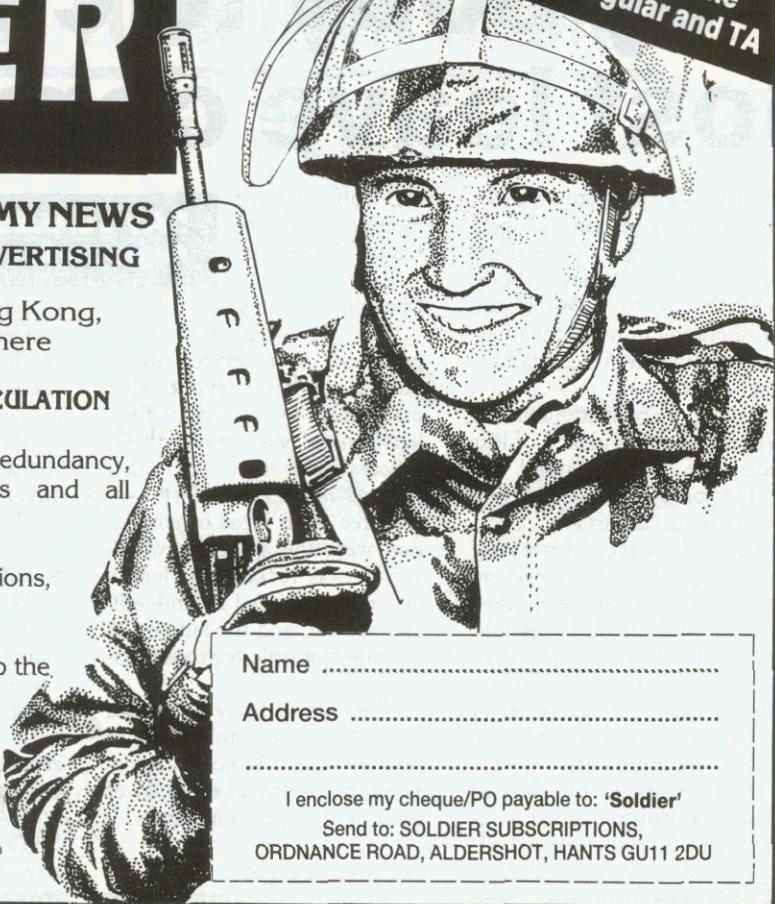
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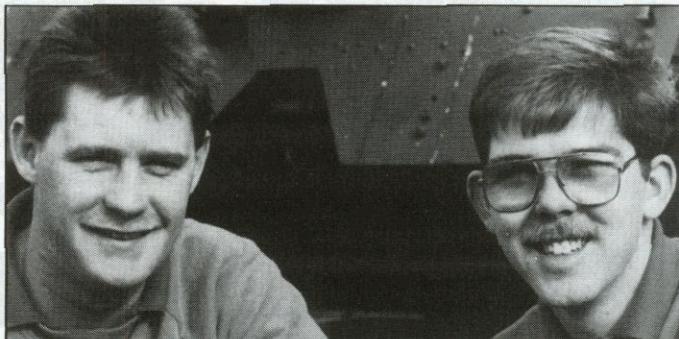
PWO pair in cliff rescue drama

TWO MEMBERS of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire Army Youth Team have received official commendations for saving the life of a Territorial Army staff sergeant in a dramatic Lake District rescue.

Cpl Philip Eastwood climbed down a rope to secure the staff sergeant who had slipped from his harness and was dangling upside down 25 metres from the ground, helpless due to the weight of a large bergen crammed with climbing equipment.

Cpl Eastwood received the commendation of the C-in-C UKLF for what was described as a "lifesaving" action.

LBdr David Rudd, a member of 16 Air Defence Regiment RA, on attachment to 1 PWO, took charge above.



Lake drama: LBdr David Rudd (left) and Cpl Philip Eastwood

He did his best to reassure the stricken man, whose confidence in holding on was waning fast, and ensured that school children in his charge were kept out of the way to prevent them witnessing what looked like being a horrifying accident.

His calmness and good sense were commended by GOC Eastern District.

The incident occurred in September at Foden's Face near Derwentwater. Cpl Eastwood and LBdr Rudd were teaching climbing and abseiling techniques to a group of students and youth leaders.

Nearby, a separate group from the Dudley-based Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry were packing up

after a day's climbing. The staff sergeant was attempting to descend a rope carrying a bergen full of equipment.

Apparently, the tension was enough to unthread the waistband of his harness, which immediately inverted him and left him hanging by nothing more than one ankle in a leg loop and his hands gripping the rope below him.

Cpl Eastwood was able to contrive a makeshift harness and secure the stranded man to the rope. He then returned to the top and with LBdr Rudd pulled him to safety.

The two men were praised for their calm professionalism which, in front of a group of impressionable young people, reflected great credit on themselves, their units and the Army in general, said the citations.

Berlin snipers tested

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment competed against snipers from American and French forces stationed in Berlin during the first week in February. The competition, organised by the Americans, included fieldcraft and marksmanship events.

1 QLR fielded three teams, including Sgt Marshall, Cpl Wilcocks, LCpl Parker, Pte Eastham, LCpl Boocock and Pte Dale, only one of whom was a badged qualified sniper. They approached the competition as a training exercise and a chance to gain an insight into other armies' techniques.

Snipers from all three nations enjoyed four days of excellent training in testing conditions made all the more difficult by the layer of ice covering the training areas.

The QLR team performed better than expected and won three medals, coming first in the sniper stalk and the memory exercise.

A medal was awarded to LCpl Parker for the competitor with the best attitude.



Pte Dale spotting for LCpl Boocock with help from the American judge on Gatow Range

Ministry reviews policy on single parents

SERVICES' policy on the treatment of single parents is under review, Junior Defence Minister Viscount Cranborne announced.

He had been asked by the Earl of Kimberley whether the Government would "allow unmarried mothers in the Armed Services the same rights that other Service personnel with children enjoy in respect of allowances, including those for medical care and education and the right to occupy married quarters."

In a House of Lords written answer, Viscount Cranborne said: "The Ministry of Defence is reviewing the Services' policy on the provision of public married accommodation and associated benefits for single parents serving in the Armed Forces."

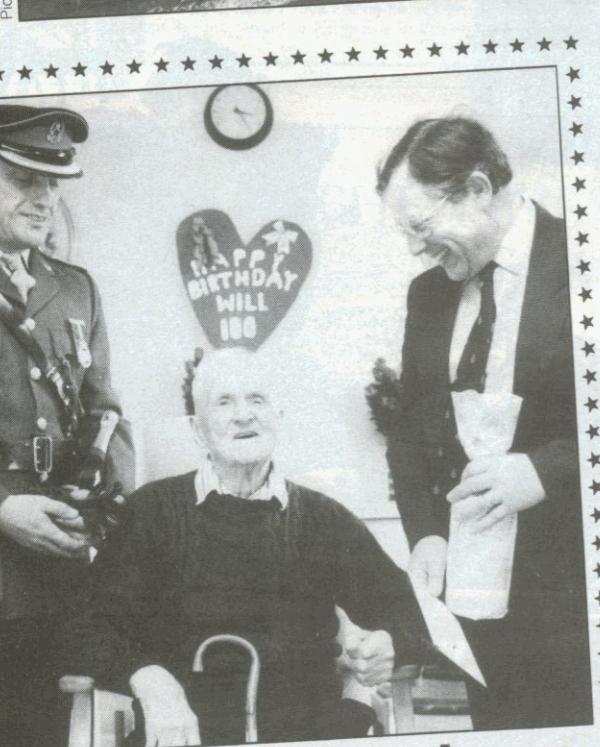
"An announcement will be made about the outcome of this review in due course."

Service personnel who left on or before December 31 on redundancy terms received £83,743m in special capital payments, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton said in a Commons written reply. In addition, £64,647m was paid out in terminal grants and £43,037m on pensions/retired pay and lump sum commutation payments.

It's kids' stuff to us...



Picture: Terry Champion



Somme veteran makes his 100!

Champagne corks were popping as Will Marshall, last known survivor of the famous Accrington Pals, celebrated his 100th birthday in a Burnley rest home. A corporal in the East Lancashire Regiment, Will was badly injured in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, where he lost so many of his "pals". Birthday visitors included two officers of a different generation, Lt Col Brian Pickup (left), commander of 4 QLR, the Territorial Army unit based in Preston, and Lt Col John Downham, secretary of the regimental association, bearing suitable gifts of the liquid variety.



Dozens of refugee children in one part of Bosnia-Herzegovina are much better off than they were following the intervention of Capt **Dick Green** (seated) and sappers from Vitez-based 42 Field Squadron RE.

Operation Pied Piper was launched by Capt Green with the aim of improving the quality of life of displaced youngsters living in a refugee centre at Travnik.

The sappers are appealing to SOLDIER readers to help. They urgently need baby food suitable for children under three months and for children aged three months to one year, as well as powdered milk, baby shampoo and cream.

"Anti-nit and lice powder would also prove useful, and I'm sure that the odd bag of sweeties wouldn't go amiss," said Capt Green.

Supplies should be posted to The Capt Green Children's Fund, 42 Field Squadron RE, Operation Grapple, Vitez, BFPO 547.

Some of the refugee centre children in the photograph are wearing sweatshirts donated by SOLDIER.

Breathe in...



Dealing with a "casualty" is Cpl **Jacci Youle** of 201 (Northern) General Hospital, RAMC (V), the Territorial Army MASH unit based at Fenham Barracks, Newcastle. An accountancy assistant during the week, Jacci, who is a Combat Medical Technician Class 1, recently worked alongside medics from the Northumbrian Ambulance Service on a joint training exercise. A member of the unit for more than five years, she found working with the latest civilian equipment "useful and informative".



Helen's lads pass out



Basic training with a difference at Depot RCT in Aldershot, where Cpl **Helen Walford**, the first female recruit instructor in the corps' history, marched on the passing out parade with her section of male recruits. Cpl Walford, who took over her Depot and Training Regiment RCT recruits in November and instructed them in all aspects of the Common Military Syllabus, will continue as a Royal Logistic Corps instructor at Pirbright after the amalgamation of corps in April.

PEOPLE

Game plan

Nights for troops deployed in Bosnia and Croatia might prove a little less long in the future, thanks to a Middlesbrough company. TDH Publications is sending morale-boosting quiz packs out to the former Yugoslavia, with updated sheets to follow every week. Lt Col **Lois Lodge**, who led 24 Field Ambulance RAMC on Operation Hanwood in Croatia, is pictured at Catterick Garrison accepting the first batch from managing director **Tim Hawkes**, watched by Dvr **Henry Parker**.

RARE COMBINATION



All spick and span before setting off with a cavalcade of RCT vehicles are Lt Col (Retd) **Teddy Penn**, formerly with 154 Regiment RCT Scotland, and his "baby", Field Marshal **Montgomery**'s Rolls-Royce. Lt Col Penn, a voluntary worker at the Museum of Army Transport in Beverley, is one of only three persons with the expertise – and insurance – to drive the vehicle, which was taking part in the RCT's final Freedom of Rushmoor parade before becoming absorbed into the Royal Logistic Corps.

Rowena's arresting performance...

Cpl **Rowena Pozzi Gurung** has a claim to fame. She is the first Hong Kong-based Army nurse to pass the Physical Training Instructor course. At the passing-out parade she gave a demonstration of the arrest and restraint techniques she had learned on the course.

However, Rowena, who recently married former Gurkha **Naran**, said she did not expect to have to try out her newly-acquired skills on her colleagues when she returns to her nursing duties at the British Military Hospital in Kowloon.



Forty-four-year-old Brig Andrew Cumming, late 17/21 L, commands all British forces serving in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. During an exclusive interview at the headquarters of the British Force, Bosnia-Hercegovina Command, he talked about the achievements of British soldiers engaged in the escorting of United Nations humanitarian aid convoys under Operation Grapple.

'If we were not here the valleys would be ablaze'

OPERATION GRAPPLE has proved a great success according to its commander, Brig Andrew Cumming, but the operation has not been carried out without cost, both human and material.

At the time SOLDIER interviewed the brigadier, 279 escorted convoys had delivered 20,376 tonnes of humanitarian aid to communities in need in the British area of central Bosnia. This compared markedly with just 450 tonnes delivered before the arrival of the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group.

Commander British Forces, Brig Andrew Cumming



"We are here as part of the United Nations Protection Force operating in support of the humanitarian operation," said Brig Cumming.

"It is not a peacemaking or peacekeeping operation. It has a very limited mandate, but in order to achieve the free flow of humanitarian aid one has to 'peacemake' by walking and talking with the warring factions."

"It is very much an officer's and senior NCO's war. They have to be very quick-witted. Decisions have to be made fast, and they have to be aware that every day they are stepping into a 'minefield' of negotiations."

"What was agreed today will have no bearing on what will happen tomorrow. Everything has to be renegotiated."

The fall-out from Communism was overwhelming, he said.

"It's a classic case of divide and rule. All their lives the

"Although based in Split, I

Bosnians have led totally ordered lives, being deliberately split by a very tight mechanism of state control.

"They have absolutely no understanding of democracy or a free market. As a result lots of power-hungry people have seized control through the power of the gun and are acting like God in their own particular valley because they trust no one else. It's an extraordinary combination of conflict and emotion.

"Logistics are no longer a problem for us. We have plentiful

stocks of fuel, ammunition and food and the mountain road between Tomislavgrad and Vitez has been transformed from a logging track into a fantastic highway by the Royal Engineers. Their work has been quite exceptional."

The operation has been described in some quarters as a "non-conflict situation", a description with which Brig Cumming disagrees.

"I realise that this is a UN humanitarian operation and that there is no 'enemy', but, actually, there are three factions out there who are determined to have a go at each other."

"Now I don't think, presently, that anybody is targeting UNPROFOR, but through all this we have to escort ourselves and the aid. The chances of being caught in the crossfire are quite high."

"Although based in Split, I

probably spend four days each week in Bosnia and, on many occasions, find myself having to discuss with local commanders the need for a ceasefire, not only to let me through, but to let what is with me through as well.

"I adhere to the principle that anything flying the UN colours, military or civilian, should be given free passage."

● Turn to Page 16

Right - Bosnia-Hercegovina is a land of contrasts. A hay cart trundles past Royal Engineers armoured personnel carriers

Below - British troops skirt round a road block. Note the mines



A different type of humanitarian assistance. Sappers of 42 Field Squadron RE offer assistance to a road crash victim

Cheshires keep the home fires burning



Pte Paul McIlwraith and Cpl David Kearns wait for a humanitarian convoy to arrive

Ablaze

From Page 14

strenuous efforts to ensure maximum safety without cowering behind a brick wall.

"At the end of the day we have to go out there and do the business. It's the only way to do it."

Brig Cumming paid tribute to the attitude of British soldiers after Cpl Edwards's death. They had shown "fantastic resilience" and determination to carry on doing their very best.

The refugee problem in the former Yugoslav republic has been compared to the plight of the Kurds in Iraq, but, said Brig Cumming, there are no Kurdish-style plastic-sheeting makeshift camps on the freezing mountainside in the British area of central Bosnia.

"The Bosnians are very closely knit. Everybody has family somewhere they can go to."

"Eighty per cent of the refugee population have been taken in and are indoors being fed. Not much, but they are not starving."

"The other twenty per cent



A refugee pushes his belongings in a wheelbarrow past the British Army base at Gornji Vakuf as a Warrior returns from patrol

consists of people affected when a whole town has fallen. Then you get whole groups, several hundred-strong, moving into community centres.

"Sarajevo is an entirely different situation, because it is so difficult to get supplies in to the city."

He wondered if and when the UN might declare the humanitarian operation a success.

"Is it never going to be a success and therefore we continue, effectively, to keep two armies well-fed, as well as the refugees?"

One thing is certain. A roulement of the first deployment of Op Grapple troops starts this month with the sappers changing over.

Logistic troops will be replaced in April and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire takes over from 1 Cheshire in May.

An ad-hoc headquarters will replace HQ 11 Armoured Brigade as the Headquarters British Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina Command, in June.

THOUSANDS of people living in a large area of central Bosnia have cause to thank Sgt Mark Philpott and the men of 9 Platoon whose presence is helping to ensure the electricity supply is maintained.

Until the soldiers from C Company, 1 Cheshire arrived, workers at a coal depot in Breza were in fear of their lives as they struggled to maintain supplies for a major power station in the region.

The depot is overlooked by Bosnian Serb positions. Snipers and a tank were firing at trucks being loaded with coal and the reluctance of drivers to carry on meant that supplies of the precious commodity were fast running out.

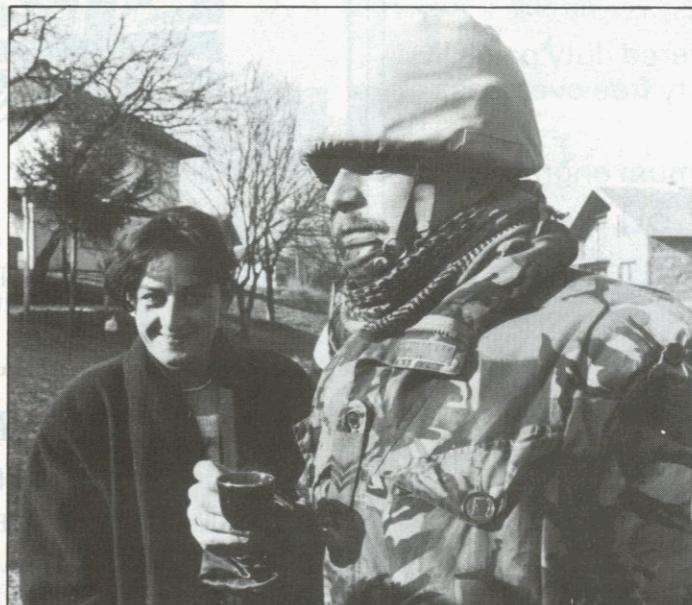
Now, when coal is required, two Warrior infantry fighting vehicles from the 1 Cheshire Battalion Group's base at Vitez are sent to the depot.

So far, the sight of two up-armoured Warriors, armed with 30mm Rarden cannon and a 7.62mm chain gun, taking up defensive positions has proved sufficient to deter the Bosnian Serbs from making attacks.

For the first two months of its deployment on Operation Grapple, the platoon was heavily committed to normal convoy escort duties, but for a two-week period over Christmas, it was sent to the British forward base area at Kladanj.

Soft-skinned Army vehicles would escort convoys carrying aid from Vitez to Kladanj where the trucks were given an armoured escort through "bomb alley" to Tuzla.

"We came under fire in



Warm welcome: Sgt Mark Philpott enjoys a hot drink provided by friendly villagers

bomb alley on Christmas Day," said Sgt Philpott. "During Operation Cabinet, when we escorted a Dutch convoy across the Serbian lines, we were mortared.

"We were also attacked with small arms fire at Busovaca. It happened at night and we could see the tracer rounds coming in and hitting the turret."

As if this wasn't enough, the

Warrior – call-sign "Three-One" – shed a track and left the road. As the crew struggled to get the track back on, they came under fire and were pinned down for more than six hours.

Freezing weather is another enemy faced by troops serving in Bosnia. Sgt Philpott said that at times the cold had been worse than he experienced during a six-month tour in South Georgia.

"It was excruciating. When we opened the back doors of the Warrior each morning, the interior would be covered with a thick white crust of frost."

Now Warrior drivers and gunners, who spend most of their time sitting in the vehicles, have been issued with special clothing to supplement their normal Arctic issue kit.

Each now wears a black dewliner suit and mutlock overboots to keep out the chill.

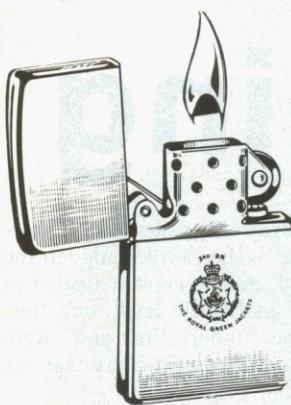
With duties to be carried out at UN checkpoints established at Busovaca and Zenica and a continuing responsibility for guarding the coal depot at Breza, 9 Platoon, C Company has never been busier, but that's the way they like it on Operation Grapple.



A Warrior of 9 Platoon, C Coy, 1 Cheshire leads a convoy of Dutch lorries on another mercy mission

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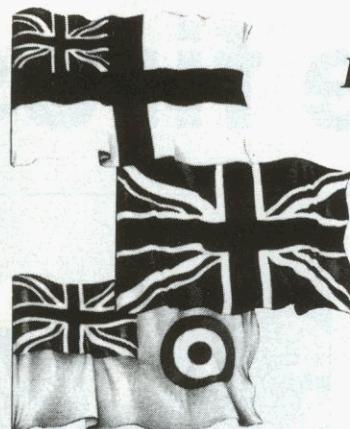
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A British ambulance weaves through the Jordanian no-man's-land which separates warring factions

OPERATION HANWOOD

WHEN MOST families were settling down to celebrate Christmas, the 240 soldiers who form the British contingent in Croatia were saying goodbye to their wives, sweethearts and children.

But their sacrifice was not in vain... for they were joining Operation Hanwood, the British forces' humanitarian effort in Bosnia and Croatia and helping to save the lives of thousands of children, old people and other refugees displaced by the war in former Yugoslavia.

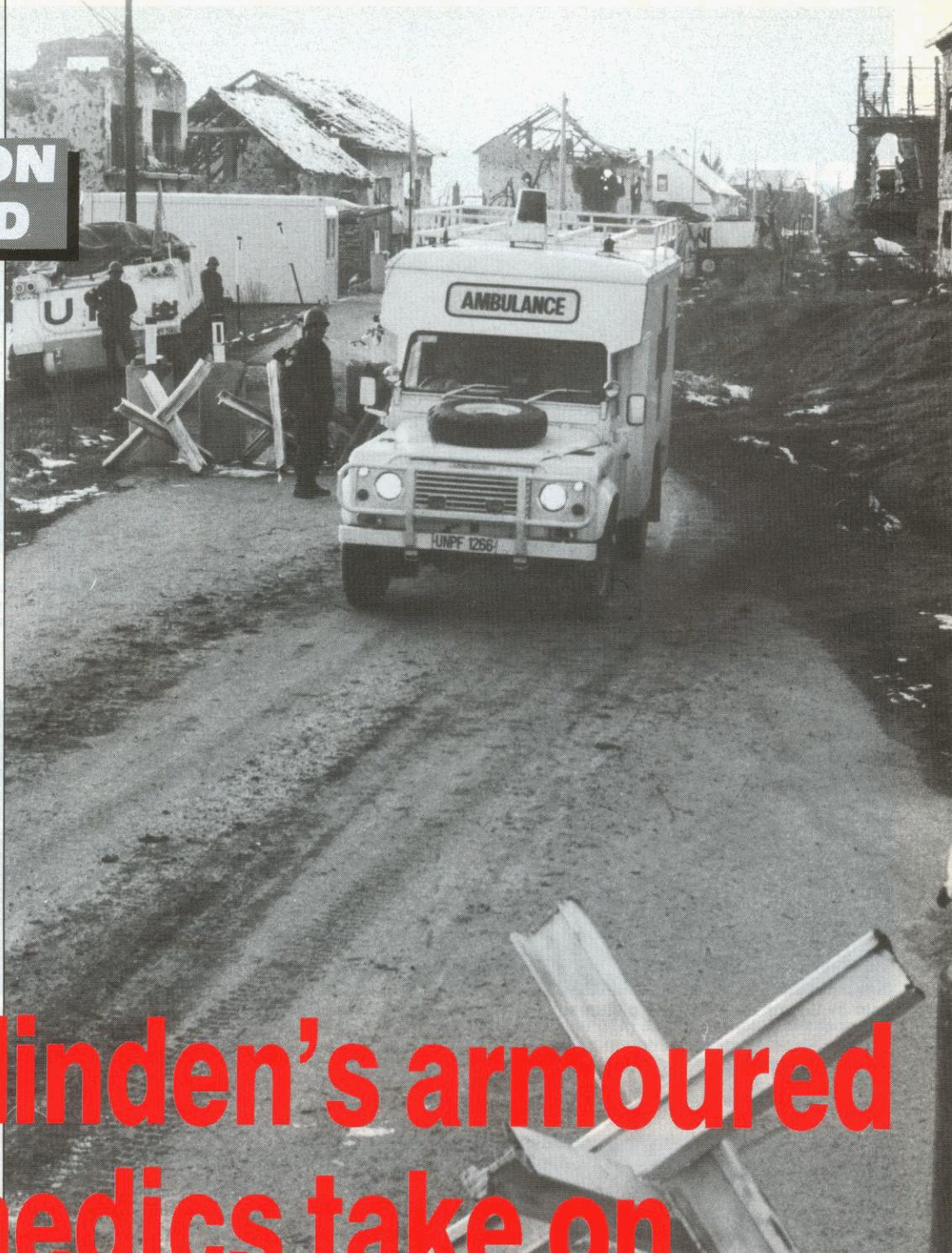
The nucleus of the unit is from 4 Armoured Field Ambulance, based at Minden, Germany and strengthened by officers and soldiers drawn from units in BAOR and UKLF.

They took over from 24 Field Ambulance as the British Medical Battalion for the United Nations Protection Force. The British Contingent includes a number of corps and regiments including the RAMC, RE, R Signals, REME, RCT, RAOC, RADC and AGC.

Hanwood is the name given to the deployment of British troops to Croatia in support of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) which comprises 15,000 troops and several thousand civilians from 30 countries as far apart as Canada and Kenya, the Ukraine and Argentina. Throughout Croatia there are a number of UN Protected Areas divided into four sectors: North, East, South and West.

"The role of the British Medical Battalion (BRITMEDBATT) is primarily to provide medical support for all the troops in the UN Protected Areas" said commanding officer Lt Col Paul Edmonson-Jones.

"We are responsible for collecting a casualty from wherever he is wounded or ill, giving him life-saving first aid and transporting him back to the US Field Hospital (the



Minden's armoured medics take on BRITMEDBATT role

MASH) in Zagreb."

For a small unit this multinational role is quite a daunting task over such a large area, so the unit has teams of about 25 men in each of the sectors, at Vukovar in Sector East, Daruvar in Sector West, Topusko in Sector North and Knin in Sector South, with a headquarters, a quick reaction medical team and support elements based in Zagreb.

Teams in the sectors provide

Words:
Sarah Shepherd
Pictures:
WO2 Arthur Thomson

medical advice, assistance and training for UN troops of other nationalities and regular casualty evacuation exercises are held in order to practise their medical skills.

"Our role in the sectors is to provide primary care for illnesses a soldier may get such

as coughs and colds and, if needs be, get him to hospital," said Maj Bill Maddy, OC of the medical team based in Sector West. "We organise medical evacuation by helicopter for all the UN troops based in our sector, which include Argentinian, Nepalese, Jordanian and Canadian soldiers.

"We run exercises to encourage them to practise their medical skills, get used to using radio procedures and

OPERATION HANWOOD



Knin in Sector South is the picturesque backdrop to a 4 Armd Fd Amb Land-Rover Discovery ambulance

Medics

• From Page 19

overcome the language barriers," he added. "The exercise which we have just completed with the Jordanians worked extremely well, from the time the 'casualty' was wounded to when he arrived at the hospital took only an hour and 15 minutes. Considering that the incident occurred 50 miles from Daruvar we are very pleased with their efficiency."

Headquarters of BRITMEDBATT is at Pleso Camp, a former Yugoslavian Air Force base adjacent to the main civil airport at Zagreb. When BRITMEDBATT arrived in Croatia the situation was quiet, but in January the Croatian offensive to the east of Zadar saw an increase in tension throughout the four sectors and soldiers from BRITMEDBATT have been hard at work sandbagging their headquarters.

"Although the threat at the moment is not high you can't leave yourself in a situation



Thumbs up for the UN Medal by British medics (from left) Cpl Dean Barker, SSgt William McArthur and Pte Andy Marshall

where you may require extra protection," said RSM Max McLellan. "The medical teams in the sectors have been busy at Vukovar. They built a 25,000-sandbag wall outside their headquarters to give them some protection against mortar and artillery damage."

Pleso Camp is occupied by not only BRITMEDBATT but also the French Logistic

Battalion plus forces from the United States, Finland, Norway and Holland.

Producing internationally acceptable food every day for the 1,700 soldiers in Pleso Camp is a constant challenge for the local Croatian catering company. With the arrival of SSgt Rick Thompson and Sgt Adrian Deamer, two chefs attached to 4 Armoured Field

Ambulance, to supervise the kitchen staff, the meals have dramatically improved.

To ensure that everyone had a good Christmas the chefs took it upon themselves to cook a traditional Christmas meal for the medical battalion in Zagreb. Flushed with success they have since produced buffets for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, a Burns Night supper and to date, three regimental dinners, the last one being attended by Archie Hamilton, Minister for the Armed Forces and Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, the Adjutant General.

Morale is important. Not only does food become crucial in the daily routine, but also the receiving of news and mail.

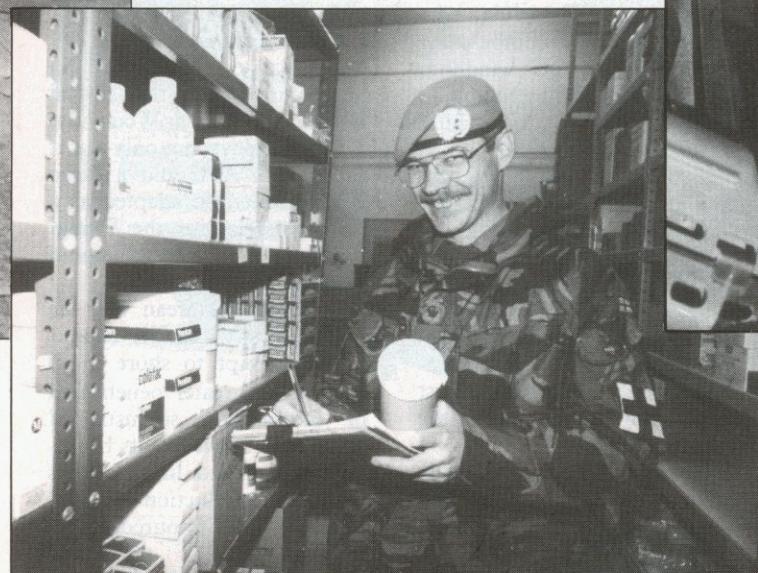
"We keep them up to date with all that is going on out here and I keep in daily contact by phone with my 2iC in Minden," said Lt Col Edmonson-Jones.

"News is a two-way process so please keep your letters coming as mail is very important and its distribution is an absolute top priority."



Above - Sgt John Sturgeon REME with some of the models he has made in spare moments while in Croatia. Pictured are an American Bradley tank and a Challenger ARV

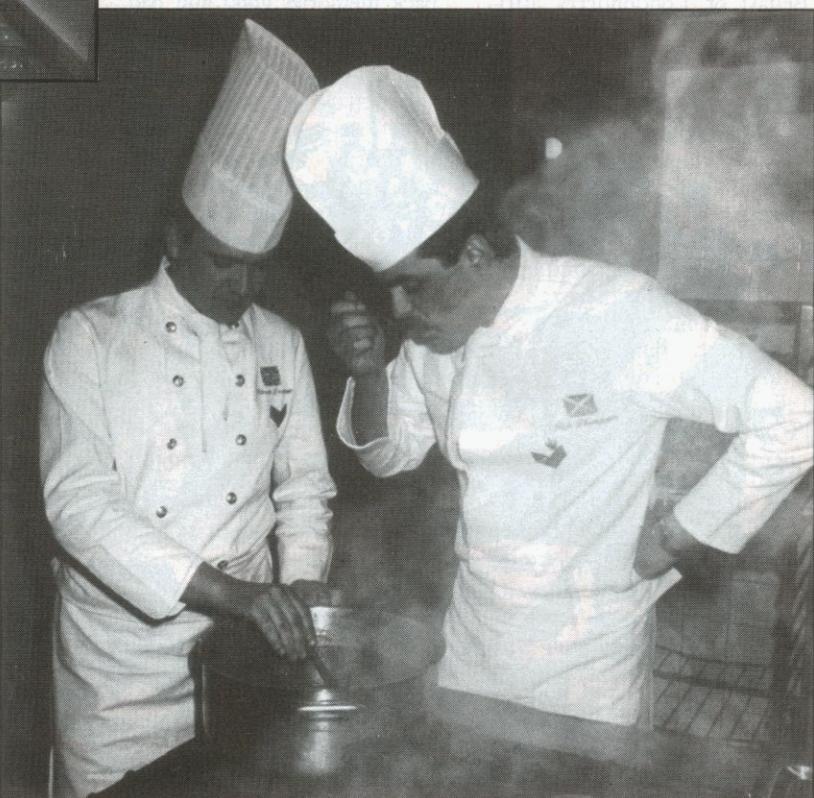
Right: Pte Justin Harris from Rutland checks his kit. He is a combat medical technician serving with 4 Armd Fd Amb in Croatia



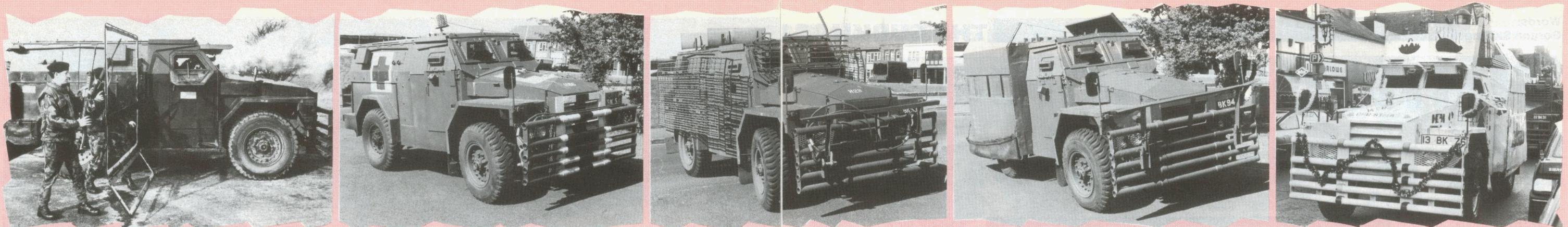
Above - Sgt Simon Lawrence, the medical storeman at BRITMEDBATT in Zagreb



Below - Chefs Sgt Adrian Deamer (left) and SSgt Rick Thompson prepare food for a regimental dinner night at Zagreb attended by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton; Gen Nambiar, the UNPROFOR commander; Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, Adjutant General; and BRITMEDBATT officers



Below - Jordanian medics attend a British "casualty" during a medical evacuation exercise in Sector West



Pig variants (from left to right) – Early version of riot Pig with "wings"; ambulance Pig; Pig with anti-rocket mesh; flying Pig; Christmas Pig (Belfast 1986)

The much-maligned Humber Pig, familiar on the streets of Belfast for two decades, is being replaced. Maj **Richard Greathead** RAOC, until recently serving in HQNI and now OC 62 Ord Coy at Bielefeld, takes an affectionate look at a vehicle that has served the British Army well.

Farewell to the Pig

TWENTY-TWO years after the Humber one-ton "Pig" was introduced to Northern Ireland it is being withdrawn. The old machines are being phased out over the next year, to be replaced by the Saxon.

In fact Saxons can already be seen in Belfast where the current Royal Corps of Transport roulement squadron has received the first consignment of 33.

Although many a disparaging word has been said about the Pig and most would say that replacement has been long overdue, there are also those who viewed the beast with great sentiment. Mythology suggested that if you hadn't got a bruise or cut after a tour in Belfast or Londonderry attrib-



Pig in a poke: A vehicle is the centre of attraction on the streets of Belfast

– and thanks for all the bruises!

buted to a collision with some awkwardly placed piece of the Pig's heavy metal, then you hadn't earned your Northern Ireland Medal!

To the REME vehicle mechanic the Humber was the last great challenge, requiring all trade skills (and a few tricks he'd learned) to keep it on the road as opposed to just changing black boxes.

To infantrymen the smell of the fume-filled passenger compartment and the whine of the 129bhp six-cylinder Rolls-Royce B60 Mk 6A liquid-cooled petrol engine brought back memories good and bad.

To the RCT driver who toiled with the cumbersome gear box and sluggish handling, it was a great feat to be able to manoeuvre its seven-ton hulk through urban streets.

To all, the memory of base lines of Humber Pigs silhouetted against burning barricades on a riot-torn night created an unforgettable impression.

The history of the Pig goes back beyond its special relationship with Northern Ireland, back to 1945 when it first came into service with the British Army.

In all, 1,700 were originally built with the chassis supplied

by Rootes of Maidstone in Kent and the armoured bodies by GKN Sankey of Telford in Shropshire and the Royal Ordnance factory at Woolwich.

In those days, not only was it used as an APC and a cargo vehicle, but also adapted as a missile carrier for the Swing-fires of the Royal Armoured Corps.

During the Korean War the Pig was clad with more armour in an attempt to shore it up against the greater penetration of increasingly sophisticated weaponry. However, its battlefield role ended in the 1960s with the introduction of GKN Sankey's 430 Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) series and the Humbers were gradually put into mothballs or sold off to other countries.

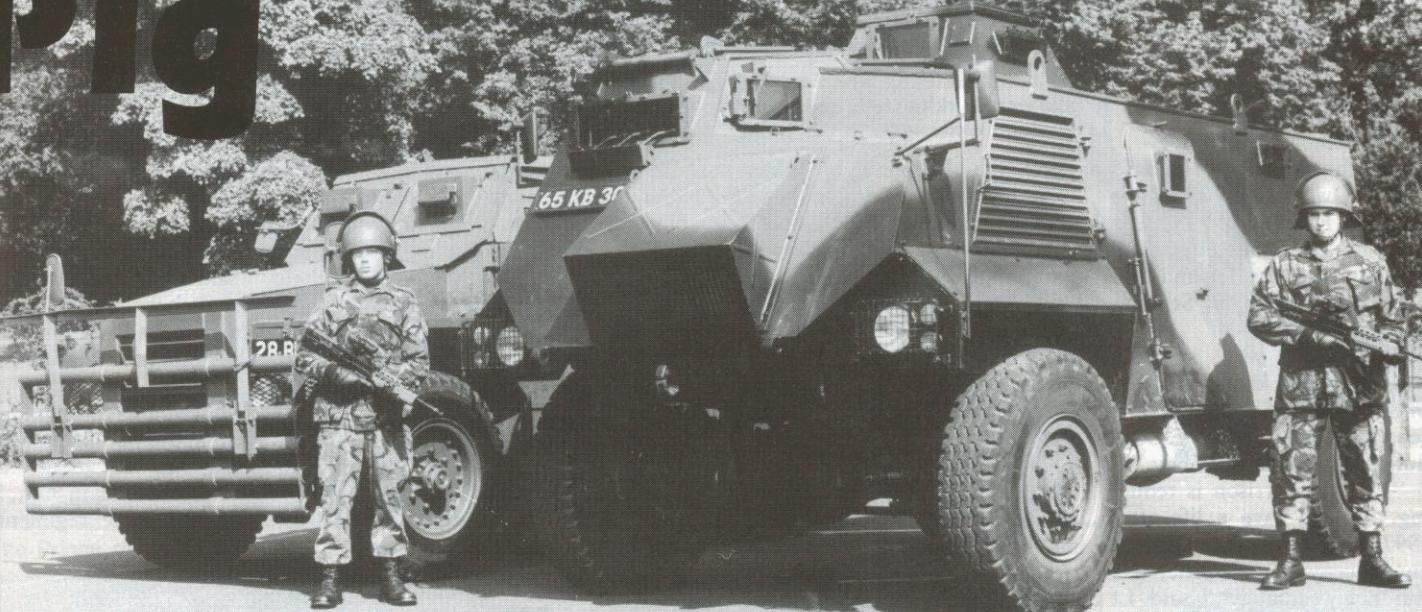
By 1966 they had been virtually phased out of regular service.

In 1969, not long after the outbreak of the troubles in Northern Ireland, two AFV 432s were sent to Belfast as the troops on the streets were in need of some protection during riots and when patrolling. As soon as the first 432 was seen on the streets of Belfast, the cry of "Tank" was heard.

To prevent further provocation of both Catholics and Protestants the 432s were withdrawn and Humber one-ton armoured vehicles were brought out of mothballs from Ordnance depots and deployed to Northern Ireland.

Ironically, in order to make up numbers some of them even had to be bought back from the Sultan of Brunei, who had

Pig



The Pig is dwarfed by its replacement, the high-profile 8.2 litre Saxon

purchased them in the early 1960s.

Further adaptations had to be made to prepare the Pig for its Internal Security (IS) role. New visor units, fenders, quarter hatches and rear door latches gave the occupants better protection.

All vehicles had to be

up-armoured to enable them to withstand an attack from 7.62mm armour piercing rounds. The first rockets were fired at Security Forces in 1972, but it was not until May 22, 1981 that the first Pig was targeted in the Andersons Town Road in Belfast. There were no casualties.

Another attack on August 2 in the Falls Road resulted in two soldiers being injured. Heavy duty wire mesh was added to the exteriors of the Pigs as anti-rocket protection in high risk areas.

A number of specialist

versions of the Pig were improvised, including vehicles with barricade-removing equipment at the front of the hull, special EOD equipment and some with protected observation posts on the roof. Some vehicles were fitted with searchlights and tear-gas launchers.

"Flying Pigs" had their own swing-out riot protection screens ("wings") attached to the sides of the wagons. These opened to block a street or provide cover for police and troops against missiles. Other versions were produced, including water cannon and ambulance.

These modifications increased the Pig's net weight to seven tons 14cwt (with all personnel and their equipment approximately nine tons). This was a great deal for the frame to carry than had been originally intended, which made the

vehicle look heavily laden and the engine sound as if it were permanently toiling.

One particular variant demonstrated a more bizarre use for the much-adapted Humber. Introduced in 1974, the "Foaming Pig" was used to cover a suspect device with liquid foam.

During the mid-1980s there were approximately 500 Pigs in service with the British Army in Northern Ireland.

The new model replacing the Humber one-ton will be Saxon Patrol, the IS version of GKN Sankey's Saxon GWR (General War Role). Those who have served in the United Kingdom will already be familiar with its outline.

Saxon has already started operations from bases in west Belfast, gradually taking over the tasks of patrolling and setting up check points around the city.

There are many fundamental differences between Saxon and Pig. Saxon is more versatile and can be more readily used as a patrol vehicle. It is more comfortable and has a greater capacity for both men and equipment.

Saxon is powered by a six-cylinder, 8.2-litre, Bedford diesel engine capable of producing speeds of up to 60mph. However, the profile of Saxon is higher than the Pig (some say much better in a Belfast traffic jam or for getting a better view of the situation).

But above all, the current RCT roulement squadron (who have now had a couple of months' driver experience) and the current Belfast roulement battalion (who have had a couple of months of travelling around in Saxon) can unequivocally confirm that there are still as many places to trap or bruise a part of the human anatomy!

Sirmoor rejoice at life after Options

A DARK shadow which menaced the Brigade of Gurkhas was lifted when the Options for Change cuts were announced.

With their eternal optimism, the Gurkhas can shrug off leaving Hong Kong in 1997 and the draconian cuts which are being made in their establishment because they have a future to look to.

The senior Gurkha regiment, the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles) was the first unit to feel the effects of Options when its 1st and 2nd Battalions merged on September 14.

The date was specially chosen. On that day in 1857 the Sirmoor Battalion withstood 23 separate attacks on Delhi Ridge during the Indian Mutiny.

"Yes, the garrison is reducing, but we have a life after 1997 and until the Options announcement was made, this was not guaranteed," said Lt Col William Shuttlewood, commanding officer.

"It has removed an immense amount of uncertainty among the soldiers. While these are

Variety is the spice . . .

ONE OF the most interesting military features of a posting to Hong Kong is the varied training it offers. Because of the limitations of very little real estate, overseas exchanges are particularly popular.

A regular exchange of companies occurs between 2 GR and the 2nd First Royal New Zealand Regiment. The Gurkhas have a great admiration for the New Zealanders, whom they fought alongside in the desert at El Alamein, and in 1943 at Monte Cassino.

"The process of building relationships, swapping ideas



Tug of war, Gurkha-style, does not involve the use of a rope. Team-mates clasp each other around the waist

not the happiest of times because we are having to shed a lot of manpower, our survival gives us great encouragement and this is terribly important for the brigade and its soldiers."

The battalion has a tremendous amount to look forward to. It has been selected as the first unit from Hong Kong to train at Wainwright, Canada, drawing into sharp focus its positive future role.

One man who will not be

able to help them prepare is SSgt Duggie Peters, battalion physical training instructor until his recent return to the UK.

"Gurkhas are so powerful in the legs and lower limbs that I did not need to do much work there, but the upper body is quite weak in comparison and I had to develop their

strength there."

The battalion boasts the fastest mountain-running Gurkha, LCpl Kushang Kumar Gurung, who has twice won an international competition in Malaysia.

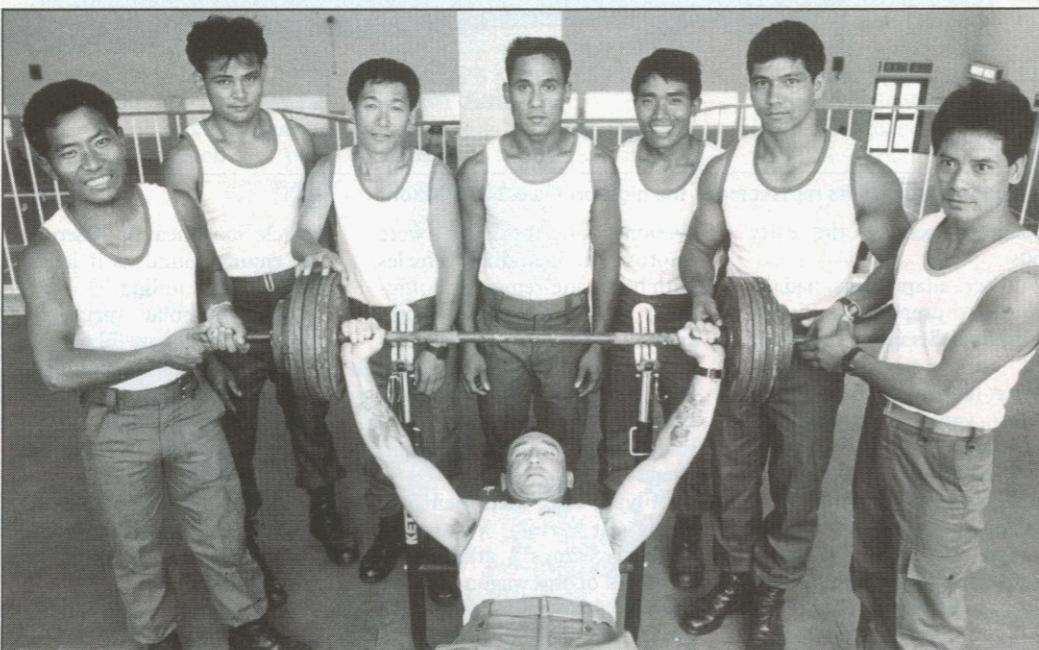
Their love for sport mirrored their enormous respect for the Prince of Wales during a visit he made before Christmas.

The Prince's affection for the Gurkhas was obvious during a relaxed and colourful few hours.

"You cannot underestimate the immense regard in which he is held," said Col Shuttleworth.

"We have been very, very lucky to have had him as our Colonel-in-Chief for the past 14 years.

"He has given us a lot of joy and pride and it is marvellous news that he is going to be the Colonel-in-Chief when the new large regiment forms."



SSgt Duggie Peters, battalion physical training instructor, and his staff

and learning different techniques is extremely rewarding, but the main aim is to allow us to carry out different training," said Lt Col William Shuttleworth, CO of 2 GR.

The visit of the Kiwis was as enjoyable for them as it was for a Gurkha company which had gone to New Zealand. The

Kiwis particularly relished the opportunity of doing low-level training, patrolling, close-quarter battle training and riot control, which are not normally on their syllabus.

The Gurkhas of B Coy 2 GR had glorious weather in New Zealand, said Col Shuttleworth. "The training area is so

unbelievably spacious it is quite unreal for some soldiers after the restraints in Hong Kong. They have been doing a mass of live-firing at platoon and company level, with a chance of supporting arms to make life a little more interesting."

Company level exercises in Hawaii are not run of the mill,



The Prince of Wales admires the Queen's Truncheon, Lt Col William Shuttleworth, commanding officer of 2 GR

A UNIQUE HONOUR

THE QUEEN's Truncheon is unique within the British Army. It is one of several honours which the Sirmoor Battalion earned in 1857 when it suffered heavy casualties defending a picket near Delhi during the Indian Mutiny.

The first regiment to march against the mutineers, it and the 60th Rifles, ancestors of 2 RGJ, along with Tomb's Troop Royal Artillery and others, fought three great battles against odds of 20 to one, repulsing 26 separate attacks but losing 327 of their strength of 490 killed or

wounded, including eight of the nine British officers.

The regiment was allowed to carry a third Colour because of this action. When it became a rifle regiment, it was permitted by Queen Victoria to carry a Queen's Truncheon instead. Carried

during the coronation of the present Queen, this unique honour remains the focus of the regiment's reputation.

The Sirmoor also earned

the privilege of calling its sepoys rifle-men, becoming the first rifle regiment in the Gurkhas. It assimilated the scarlet facings of the 60th Rifles, and this scarlet, or lali, backing is worn on its modern jungle hats.

The 1st Battalion wore a scarlet band, and the 2nd a chequered patch. With the merger, the new composite battalion decided to keep both.

specialist amphibious and helicopter training with the US Marine Corps.

Trenches could not be dug in the solidified lava, but boots, clothing, knees and elbows suffered more than their normal wear and tear.

War scales of ammunition were used, allowing the ranges



Mountain-running champion LCpl Kushang Kumar Gurung

to be exploited to the full.

Techniques used in Vietnam were practised, including special patrol insertion and extraction, which involved eight men hanging from a rope underneath a CH 46 helicopter before being dropped into otherwise inaccessible areas. Jumping 20ft into the sea with



Recruits from the Brigade of Gurkhas Depot, Malay Lines, march off to a new future

New roots in a strange world

HOME FROM home for Gurkha soldiers in Hong Kong is the Brigade of Gurkha Depot at Malay Lines, where recruits go to carry out their initial training and from where they will be administered during their British Army career.

The culture shock in turning young hill farmers from Nepal

into doughy Gurkhas is even more severe than for a British Serviceman arriving in Hong Kong.

Johnny Gurkha comes from a poor but proud country, and the fact that he has survived to his 18th birthday proves that he is tough, said Maj Bob Barber, 2 GR, 2iC of the depot.



"The Gurkhas come into a world of boots from a country where boots don't exist. We have to explain how trousers go on, how zips work and how to tie laces," he said. "The transition is tremendous."

Gurkhas can serve for 15 years, SNCOs for up to 20 and officers for 24. The apogee of a soldier's career is becoming an officer. Along with the colonel and RSM, Gurkha battalions have a senior officer, the Gurkha Major, who is responsible for cultural matters.

Most Gurkha service is unaccompanied. They will be allowed to have their families with them for three of the 15 years. Recruits will not return to Nepal for three years, when

Left - WO2 Franklin Mukhia is commissioned into 7 GR. Maj Gen John Foley, Commander British Forces, presents his new badge of rank



SSgt Chetbahadur Thapa's wife admires his Gulf Medal

they are granted three months' leave. The prospect of returning to hill farming after 15 years in the Army is not attractive.

"We owe them something so we've organised the most comprehensive re-employment and resettlement organisation in the British Army," said Maj Barber. "Our whole purpose is to be able to say to them 'This is your job'."

The Education Department runs courses in Nepal and familiarisation classes in Hong Kong. Once Gurkhas leave the Army, their names are entered on a data base. The resettlement

Boat Troop in war of smugglers

GURKHA engineers play a pivotal role in the war against smugglers around the myriad islands off Hong Kong and the New Territories.

Commanded by Lt Sean Stewart, the only Boat Troop in the Army can put a company on a beach in 20 minutes.

It supports the infantry on exercises and covert beach landings, the police by carrying out operations against illegal immigrants and smugglers, and the rest of the garrison by providing courses to train boat operators, including running a

course in Brunei once a year.

Lt Stewart said his unit was

the only one in the Army to be

issued with sunglasses.

Based at Perowne Barracks, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers have, however, ceased to mount boat patrols.

Maj John White was troop commander from 1982-84 and constructed a rifle range; his successor, Lt Ian Stainsby-Smith, has built a new high-explosive anti-tank range at Pak Nai.

It was with a wry smile that LCpl Bhakta Bahadur Basnet reflected on his fate as he dug foundations for the new range. Formerly with the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), he opted to transfer to the sappers rather than leave the Army.

"Digging is not new to me," he said bravely, still wearing his old regiment's red lali on his jungle hat. "I used to dig trenches!"

Part of the Castle Peak Road, built by sappers in 1990, was washed away during a particularly torrential downpour and some heavy repair work had to be done to reinforce it.

"The ridge is very sharp and



Before any VIP visits to Hong Kong the engineers check for bombs

in May we had the heaviest rain since records began," said Maj White. "In 90 minutes there were 5½ inches which completely washed away a spur to the demolition range and a section of the main road. Several people drowned, including two children washed down storm drains."

Gurkhas have served as engineers with the British since the Malayan emergency in 1948, becoming the Gurkha Engineers in 1977 and forming in 1981 one of the first field squadrons, No 69, at Chatterton.

Two field squadrons and a field support squadron, numbers 67, 68 and 70 are based in Hong Kong. They have had their first redundancies, but have also taken on 15 riflemen

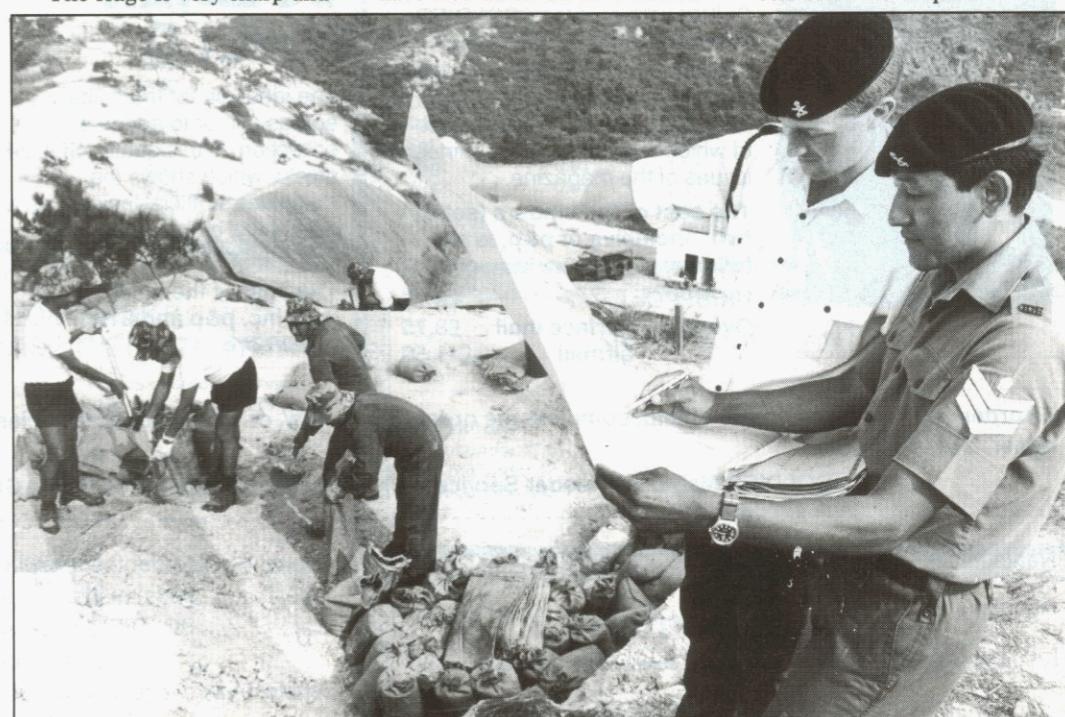
following the merger of 2 GR's two battalions.

A posting to the UK is highly prized, even in the dead of winter!

Capt Kate Williams, one of the few women cap-badged Royal Engineer and the regiment's operations officer, greatly enjoyed working with Gurkhas in Hong Kong.

It has been a unique experience working in such a vibrant atmosphere," she said. "They are very loyal, hard-working and genuine people, and gentlemanly soldiers."

When her sister, Capt Bridget Perks, R Signals, was recently based in Hong Kong they were unique in the Brigade of Gurkhas. Both have done the language course, and happily conversed in Nepali.



Lt Ian Stirling Stainsby and Sgt Prem Kumar Gurung check the drainage plot for the new HEAT range

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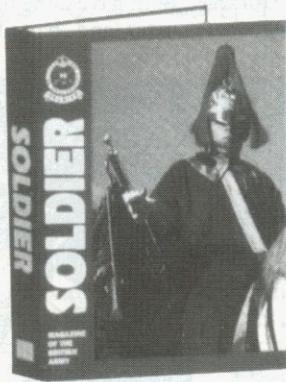
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OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Rank	Service	Daily rates
2 Lt	On appointment	13.64
Univ Cadet	+1 year	16.58
	+2 years	19.37
	+3 years	21.72
2 Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	25.91
	After 9 months	27.68
2 Lt	On appointment	34.55
Lt	On appointment	45.69
	+1 year	46.88
	+2 years	48.08
	+3 years	49.28
	+4 years	50.48
Capt	On appointment	58.14
	+1 year	59.71
	+2 years	61.29
	+3 years	62.86
	+4 years	64.43
	+5 years	66.01
	+6 years	67.58
Maj	On appointment	73.27
	+1 year	75.09
	+2 years	76.91
	+3 years	78.72
	+4 years	80.54
	+5 years	82.36
	+6 years	84.17
	+7 years	85.99
	+8 years	87.81
Lt Col	Special list	101.03
	On appointment/under 19 years service	102.79
	2/19 years in rank/service	105.50
	4/21 years in rank/service	108.21
	6/23 years in rank/service	110.92
Col	8/25 years in rank/service	113.63
	On appointment	119.72
	+2 years	122.87
	+4 years	126.01
	+6 years	129.16
	+8 years	132.31
Brig		146.85

SOLDIER'S SCALE RATES

Rank	Class	Band	A	B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	Band 1	21.62	21.92	22.38
		Band 1	24.22	24.52	24.98
		Band 2	28.13	28.43	28.89
		Band 3	32.46	32.76	33.22
		2	Band 1	27.09	27.39
	1	Band 2	31.01	31.31	31.77
		Band 3	35.34	35.65	36.10
		Band 1	29.39	29.70	30.16
		Band 2	33.30	33.61	34.06
		Band 3	37.64	37.94	38.40
LCpl	3	Band 1	29.39	29.70	30.16
		Band 2	33.30	33.61	34.06
		Band 3	37.64	37.94	38.40
		2	Band 1	31.40	31.71
		Band 2	35.32	35.63	36.08
	1	Band 3	40.00	40.31	40.76
		Band 1	33.79	34.09	34.55
		Band 2	37.71	38.01	38.47
		Band 3	42.39	42.69	43.15
		Band 1	36.29	36.59	37.05
Cpl	2	Band 2	40.19	40.50	40.96
		Band 3	44.88	45.19	45.64
		Band 1	38.95	39.25	39.71
		Band 2	42.86	43.17	43.62
		Band 3	47.55	47.86	48.31
	1	Band 4	42.47	42.77	43.23
		Band 5	46.69	46.99	47.45
		Band 6	51.31	51.61	52.07
		Band 4	44.90	45.21	45.66
		Band 5	49.13	49.43	49.89
SSgt	WO2	Band 6	53.75	54.06	54.52
		Band 7	59.34	59.64	60.10
		Band 4	48.02	48.32	48.78
		Band 5	52.24	52.55	53.00
		Band 6	57.95	58.25	58.71
	WO1	Band 7	63.64	63.95	64.40
		Band 4	51.21	51.51	51.97
Sgt	SSgt	Band 5	55.43	55.73	56.19
		Band 6	61.19	61.50	61.96
	SSgt	Band 7	66.89	67.19	67.65

OFFICERS REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

	Daily rates
On appointment/commission	£
1 year	70.39
2 years	71.45
3 years	72.50
4 years	73.56
5 years	74.61
6 years	75.67
8 years	76.72
	77.78

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI) Daily Rates

Rank	9 yr	12 yr	15 yr	18 yr	22 yr
	£	£	£	£	£
Pte	0.76	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
LCpl	0.76	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Cpl	0.76	1.07	1.27	1.27	1.27
Sgt	0.91	1.27	1.57	1.88	1.88
SSgt	0.91	1.27	1.57	2.18	2.18
WO2	0.91	1.27	1.57	2.18	2.49
WO1	0.91	1.27	1.57	2.18	2.84

OFFICERS FROM RANKS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

	Years of soldier service		
	<12 yrs	12-15 yrs	15 yrs+
On appointment/commission	£	£	£
1 year	63.89	67.14	70.39
2 years	65.52	68.77	71.45
3 years	67.14	70.39	72.50
4 years	68.77	71.45	73.56
5 years	70.39	72.50	74.61
6 years	71.45	73.56	75.67
8 years	72.50	74.61	76.72
10 years	73.56	75.67	77.78
12 years	74.61	76.72	77.78
14 years	75.67	77.78	77.78
16 years	76.72	77.78	77.78
	77.78	77.78	77.78

JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Age	Daily rates
17.5 and over	£
17 but under 17.5	21.62
16.5 but under 17	16.34
16 but under 16.5	13.47
	13.47

DOCTORS/DENTISTS

The pay of doctors and dentists will be increased by 1.5 per cent on April 1, 1993.

ADDITIONAL PAY

Daily rates of additional pay have been increased as follows:

Officer pilots and flying instructors	£	Falkland Islands	£	
Initial rate	8.55	All Ranks	3.86	
Middle rate	14.36			
Top rate	21.69			
Lt Col after 6 years	20.52	Northern Ireland	£	
Lt Col after 8 years	19.32	All Ranks up to Brig	3.86	
Colonel on appointment	18.10			
Colonel after 2 years	16.89	Gurkha Service	£	
Colonel after 4 years	15.69	Lt Col and above	4.92	
Colonel after 6 years	13.89	Major	4.31	
Colonel after 8 years	12.07	Capt	3.65	
Brigadier	7.24	Lt/2 Lt	3.10	
Soldier pilots and flying instructors	£	Gurkha Language	£	
All ranks	Initial Rate	All ranks	Lower Rate 0.51	
	Middle Rate		Higher Rate 0.86	
	Top Rate			
Parachutists	£	Experimental	£	
All Ranks	3.23	All ranks	per test 1.62	
Parachute jump instructors	£	Sea command money	£	
All Ranks	4.30	All officers/WOs	1.00	
Air Despatch	£	Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst	£	
Under Trg/Lower Rate	2.96		5.69	
High Rate	4.79	Special Communications	£	
RCT helicopter crews	£	Sgt to WO1	6.86	
All Ranks	2.96	Sgt to Cpl	5.15	
Aircrewmen	£	Divers	£	
All Ranks	Initial Rate	All ranks	Category	
	Middle Rate			
	Top Rate			
SAS	£	ACAD	1 2.48	
	Lower Rate	UDS: Army	2 4.95	
All Officers and WO1s	14.31	AAD	3 7.10	
WO2, SSgt, Sgt	11.48	ADS	4 12.05	
Cpl and below	9.33	ADI	4 12.05	
Special Forces Communicator	£	Separation Allowance	£	
Cpl and below	6.00	UK and NW Europe	2.74	
Sgts and above	7.00	Elsewhere	3.50	
Work of an objectionable nature	£	Work in unpleasant conditions	£	
All Ranks	Basic Rate	Soldiers only	0.56	
	Higher Rate			
		London	Inner London	Outer London
			£	£
		Basic Rate	2.56	1.44
		Additional Housing Rate	4.00	2.02

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TA OFFICERS

Rank	Service	Daily rates
2nd Lt		32.54
Lt	On appointment	43.03
	After 3 years	46.41
Capt	On appointment	54.75
	After 2 years	57.71
Maj	After 6 years	63.64
	On appointment	69.00
	After 4 years	75.84
Lt Col	8 years	82.69
	On appointment with less than 19 years service	96.80
	After 2 years or with 19 years service	99.35
	After 8 years or with 25 years service	107.33
Col	On appointment	115.52
	After 6 years	124.96
Brig		144.75

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service	Daily rates
Lt, Capt and Maj	On entry	66.28
	After 6 years	72.25
	14 years	76.58
Lt Col	On appointment	87.61
	After 3 years	88.85

TA OFFICER CADETS AND JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Rank	Daily rates
Cadet (on entry)	22.84
Junior Soldier	12.69
Young Soldier	15.39

TA SOLDIERS

Rank	Class	Band	A £	B £	C £
Pte	4	Band 1	20.34	20.65	21.10
	3	Band 1	22.79	23.09	23.55
	2	Band 1	25.50	25.80	26.26
Pte	1	Band 1	27.66	27.96	28.42
LCpl	2	Band 1	29.56	29.86	30.32
	1	Band 1	31.80	32.10	32.56
Cpl	2	Band 1	34.15	34.46	34.92
	1	Band 2	40.35	40.65	41.11
Sgt		Band 4	39.97	40.28	40.73
		Band 6	48.30	48.61	49.07
SSgt		Band 4	42.26	42.57	43.03
		Band 6	50.61	50.91	51.37
WO2		Band 5	49.18	49.48	49.94
		Band 6	54.55	54.85	55.31
WO1		Band 5	52.18	52.49	52.94
		Band 7	62.97	63.28	63.73

ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Daily Rates – Furnished quarters

Specific charges for the Contribution In Lieu of Council Tax (CILOCT) will be published later. These charges may apply overseas if LOA is not adjusted separately.

ENGLAND, WALES AND OVERSEAS

Married quarters

Type	Grade	1	2	3	4
I		8.49	7.71	5.39	3.40
II		7.66	6.96	4.87	3.09
III		6.72	6.12	4.30	2.75
IV		5.90	5.37	3.90	2.48
V		5.17	4.72	3.39	2.23
D/WO		4.11	3.75	2.74	1.76
C		3.78	3.45	2.52	1.64
B		3.48	3.18	2.31	1.52
A		2.66	2.43	1.80	1.22

Single accommodation

Rank

Rank	Grade	1	2	3	4
Maj and above		3.42	3.11	2.25	1.43
Capt and below		2.85	2.60	1.87	1.21
WO/SNCO		2.12	1.93	1.41	0.91
Cpl and below		1.23	1.13	0.84	0.58
Junior		0.95	0.87	0.67	0.47

NORTHERN IRELAND

Married quarters

Type	Grade	1	2	3	4
I		6.53	5.43	2.74	0.43
II		5.63	4.68	2.38	0.38
III		3.60	2.91	1.27	NIL
IV		3.10	2.51	1.13	NIL
V		2.73	2.21	0.98	NIL
D/WO		2.38	1.95	0.94	NIL
C		2.17	1.79	0.86	NIL
B		1.97	1.61	0.78	NIL
A		1.52	1.25	0.61	NIL

Single accommodation NIL

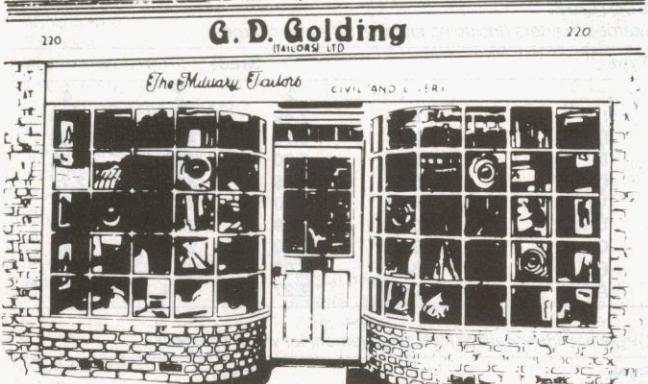
SCOTLAND

Married quarters (Including element for water charges)

Type	Grade	1	2	3	4
I		8.26	7.49	5.17	3.18
II		7.44	6.74	4.65	2.86
III		6.50	5.90	4.08	2.53
IV		5.67	5.15	3.67	2.25
V					

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- Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.
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- The Light Infantry.
- 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.
- The Army Air Corps.
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- Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
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- The Royal Army Educational Corps.
- Royal Army Dental Corps.
- Royal Pioneer Corps.
- Intelligence Corps.
- Army Physical Training Corps.
- Army Catering Corps.
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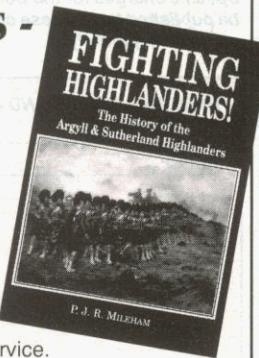
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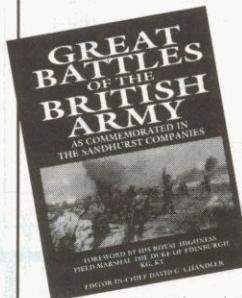
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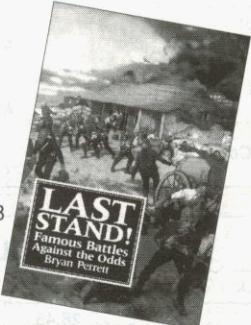
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Crowded years at the helm of FAW

GABRIELLE TAIT, who handed over last month as chairman of the Federation of Army Wives (FAW), is perhaps better qualified than most to advise on Army redundancies, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

By coincidence, on the morning that **SOLDIER** interviewed her in her office at Bulford Camp, her own husband had learned that he was to lose his post – albeit voluntarily – as part of the latest MoD tranche.

"We thought it through carefully and decided it was time to change. Because I had been so closely involved with resettlement, I was able to advise him on where to apply," she said.

"He went along for what he thought would be a ten-minute initial briefing and came out an hour-and-a-half later laden with a great wedge of material."

Like many soldiers, regardless of rank, Gabrielle's husband, Brig Edward Tait, Commander Aviation (UK), HQ AAC, had to confess that he hardly knew where to begin in finding a contact to help him through the intricacies of looking for a new job.

As Mrs Tait said: "Redundancy is still quite traumatic even if you are a volunteer: there is no turning back."

That may very well also have been her feeling in November 1990 when, as the new incumbent of the Federation's chair, she found herself embroiled in the first rumblings of the Gulf War.

"When Tom King (the then Defence Secretary) announced the establishment of the Gulf Trust, I received a telephone call on the Friday night asking the FOCUS (Federation Office and Computer Update of Skills) office at Bulford to handle all the credit card donations.

"By the end of the week, in an operation reminiscent of Anneka Rice's television programme, the place had been re-wired, eight computers had been lent to us and more than 150

Army wives had volunteered to help. It was a huge undertaking and was a great success, I'm pleased to say."

The approach from the MoD indicated that the Federation was being taken seriously – and being used for something worthwhile, said Gabrielle.

One of her aims on taking over the chairmanship had been to give the FAW a higher profile and, in what she described as a team effort, she believed this had been achieved.

"I feel we have a lot more credibility these days, and much more rapport with the more senior echelons within the Army.

"It is nothing unusual for the Adjutant General (Gen Sir David Ramsbotham) to spare us the time for a meeting. He is always supportive, and we can get on with the business."

Originally voted in for the normal one-year stint as chairman, Mrs Tait took up the traditional option of a second year's tenure and in fact "broke the mould" by staying on for an extra three months to ensure a smooth transition for her successor.

"The tradition had always been to hand over at the Federation's annual conference at Sandhurst. But, to equate it in Army terms, a commanding officer wouldn't take over a new post at the annual inspection, would he?"

Instead, the handover to new chairman Jill Bullock



Picture: Terry Champion

Gabrielle Tait: the brooch, which she wears with pride, is the AAC's wings

had taken place at a management meeting only the day before.

In the intervening two-and-a-quarter years, Gabrielle Tait had been involved in the various redundancy briefings and roadshows, where she had been encouraged by the attentiveness and eagerness for advice which had been demonstrated.

She had visited the wives of soldiers based in Belize and Hong Kong where, unlike in Northern Ireland and Germany, there was no formal FAW set-up.

Mrs Tait had also talked to all the HIVEs in Hong Kong, finding out what the wives were concerned

about, and had laid the groundwork for setting up a federation in Cyprus.

Add to that FAW meetings in Northern Ireland, Germany and Scotland, sessions on the SSAFA committee and, like all Federation chairmen, regular addresses at Bristol University on Support for Service Families, and one gets an indication of her frenetic life during her term in office.

During that period, Gabrielle – with support from fellow tutor Fiona Joint – also continued with her part-time job as a word and data processing tutor with FOCUS at Bulford.

To cap it all, she had just heard that the FAW is to receive the accolade of royal patronage.

"For the Federation's tenth annual conference last year, we thought it might make the occasion somewhat special if we were to invite a member of the royal family to attend.

"The Duchess of Gloucester kindly not only opened the conference but stayed for lunch and talked to various groups of people. I think she was genuinely very interested. We are delighted that she has accepted our invitation to become our patron."

With a father who was in the Royal Artillery, as is her brother – currently serving in Germany – and an Army husband for the past 26 years, Gabrielle Tait has never known anything else

but the military way of life.

A minor regret, she said, was that her son, an art student, did not want to sign on to continue the tradition.

"Maybe he is right in the current climate. In these days of a 'small but better' Army it is a very painful process for those going through the transition, and of course, with it being a way of life rather than just a job, it is so much more traumatic when someone has to go."

And had she any advice to offer her successor?

"The Federation must continue to keep as high a profile as possible. We are taken very seriously at the top end of the scale, but unfortunately many young Army wives don't know that we exist."

"Because we are a mobile and young organisation, the wife who is, say, away from home for the first time should be able to turn to us for assistance. So it is vital that the FAW is seen more and more as a body where wives can communicate problems and, even if the Federation can't solve every one, can point them in the right direction."

Gabrielle Tait's own direction is uncertain.

She will continue to teach at Bulford for the time being, but she and her husband will now have to start the process of looking for a house and job outside the Army environment.

"I have enjoyed my stint as chairman enormously," she said. "It's been a fantastic challenge and I am sorry it has come to an end. I wish Jill Bullock every success. Here's to the FAW's next ten years."

In the immediate future, she said, she needed to give her patient husband some of her time, and for both to take stock.

However, Gabrielle added, nothing significant was to be read into the title of the West End show – a treat from her daughter – which they were due to go to that evening: "*Les Misérables*" . . .

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REUNIONS

● **ACC Association:** The Association's AGM in the War Memorial Hall, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, on March 12, starting at 1430, is significant in view of the amalgamation to take place in April. Details if required from the secretary on 0252 28873/348119.

● **121 Company (AGRA) RASC, BAOR 1955-58:** Members of 121 Coy (Paderborn/Dusseldorf) are trying to arrange a reunion in the UK in mid-1993. Don Hodges, 43 Mulberry Close, Swindon, Wilts SN2 1HU and David Watts, 1 Merlewood, Harms Water, Bracknell, Berks RG12 3PA would be pleased to learn the present whereabouts of former members of the unit.

● **656 Air Op Sqn RAF/AAC:** Golden Jubilee reunion celebration planned for March 26-27 at Netheravon. For details contact H C (Nobby) Clark, 1 Marlborough Buildings, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR (tel: 0458 250009).

● **150 Regt RHA/South Notts Hussars OCA:** Annual reunion dinner will take place at the Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham on April 3. Details from D W Parker on 0602 875790.

● **159 (W) Fd Amb RAMC 1939-46:** Reunion to be held on April 21 at the Dolphin Hotel, Swansea. Details from F E Margetts, 41 Summerland Park, Upper Kilby, Swansea, W Glamorgan SA2 7HX.

● **1993 BAOR Artillery Clerks' Dinner:** will take place in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Moore Barracks, Dortmund, on Saturday April 24. Enquiries to WO1 (QMS(AC)) P Headford, 12 Regt RA, BFPO 20 (tel: Dortmund Mil 3577).

● **659 Squadron AAC:** 50th annual reunion, weekend April 30-May 1, at Detmold, Germany. All serving and ex-members welcome. Details from Capt Pidgeon on Germany (01049) 5231 747 489.

● **RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club:** The 1993 annual dinner and reunion is to be held on May 8 at the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● **Middlesex Regiment:** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 on May 8. Details from Maj A E F Waldron, Lynsore

Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE (tel: 0227 87445).

● **70th Battalion, The Buffs:** 70th Bn The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) 1940-42 reunion. WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, May 14. Details from Len Hulcoop, Albuhera, 84 Daleway Road, Finham, Coventry CV3 6JE (tel: 0203 414696).

● **Combined Operations Museum, Inverary:** Proposed reunion on May 17-19. For details, please send large sae to J Jepson, Curator, Combined Ops Museum, Cherry Park, Inverary, Argyll PA23 8XE.

● **El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** Reunion on June 19 at Stakis Country Court Hotel, Northampton, to mark 35th anniversary of first broadcast. Ex-TEARS personnel based at RAF El Adem 1958-1970 are asked to contact John Moir, 27 Wilton Drive, Horndean, Waterloo, Hants PO8 9QY (tel: 0705 595489).

● **Beachley Old Boys Association:** Annual reunion weekend, July 2-4. Details from College Liaison Officer, Beachley Old Boys Association, Army Apprentices College, Beachley, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG (tel: 0291 627212 ext 5343).

● **Darland Boys:** The RE Darland Boys will be holding their 13th reunion in Brompton on September 11-12. All boys and staff who served at Fort Darland or with M Coy Boys, Kitchener Barracks, welcome. Details, newsletter from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB.

● **Christmas Island reunion:** All ex-Service and civilian personnel on the island from 1956-60 are welcome at a reunion at The Bull and Bush, 1 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey on September 18-19. Contact Jim Cooper on 0903 232108.

● **MC and MM holders' luncheon:** A church service and luncheon for holders of the MC and MM will be held at Carnforth, Lancs, on October 9. Details from Col D B Long, 6 Main Street, Townend, Warton, via Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9NR (0524 736415).

● **Greek Veterans 1940-41:** Third reunion of Army/RN/RAF veterans to be held at Clacton in October. Pilgrimage to Greece to unveil memorial being arranged. Details from Edwin Horlington, 163 Walton Road, Walton-on-Naze, Essex (tel: 0255 677178).

DIARY

UNTIL OCTOBER 15: Forces Sweethearts Exhibition, Imperial War Museum.

MARCH

21: Massed Military Music, Southport Theatre, Lancs, in aid of Army Benevolent Fund. Tickets (£5) from theatre box office (tel: 0704 540404).

MAY

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust "Overlord 93" rally on Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

30: Winchester Militaria Society exhibition and fair, The Guildhall, Winchester.

JUNE

8-10: Massed Bands of The Light Division Sound Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, London. Seats £3, £6, £8 from Horse Guards Project Office, HQ The Light Division, Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, Hants SO22 6HQ (tel: 0962 888220).

JULY

20-31: 103rd Royal Tournament, Earls Court, hosted by the Royal Navy. Tickets available from box office on 071-373 0100.

AUGUST

1: Military Vehicle rally, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

6-28: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card and postal bookings from Booking Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel: 031-225 1188).

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

MILITARIA

● **2 Signal Regiment and York Garrison Sergeant's Mess:** Now that 2 Infantry Division no longer exists, the 2 Sig Regt and York Garrison Sgts' Mess has a number of items, including goblets, donated since 1979 when the regiment was at Bunde in Germany. Donors or their families who wish these items to be returned should contact Sgt A Donaldson, Provo Sgt, 2 Sig Regt, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4AU (tel: 0904 662228).

● **Captured ambulances:** Author seeks confirmation of possible use of captured German and

Italian ambulances by Allied medical units during the Italian campaign of 1943-45. Also loan of photographs. Contact G J Packer, 61 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea SA7 9JR.

● **Norfolks in Korea:** Maj F A Godfrey, The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, Britannia Barracks, Norwich NR1 4HJ (tel: 0603 628455) is writing the final volume of the history of the regiment (1951-59) and seeks good photographs for inclusion, particularly of the 1st Battalion in Korea (1951-52) and Cyprus (1955-56).

Medal in demand

WE CONTINUE to receive so many enquires about the Royal British Legion-sponsored National Service commemorative medal, that here are the details again:

Application forms can be obtained by sending an SAE to the co-sponsors: Award Productions Ltd, Dept BL, PO Box 30, Haslemere, Surrey GU26 6UT.

The medal costs £23.50, with ten per cent going to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

It is available to all who served between 1939 and 1962 under the terms of the National Service Act 1939, and includes non-combatant organisations such as the ATS, Land Army and WVS.

SEARCHLINE

● **2 Cheshire (1939-46):** Please contact Reg Shickle, 73 Denman Drive, Ashford, Mddx TW15 2AP (tel: 0784 250960).

● **Tpr David "Vicky" Vick:** Tpr Vick 23301845, 1st Royal Dragoon Guards (Royals) 1956-58, wishes to contact former comrades. Served at 67th Trg Regt RAC, Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle; Weisendorf near Celle, and Mons OCTU Perm Staff at Aldershot. Replies to 273 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 9EF.

● **Fayed, Suez Canal 1949-52:** Help urgently needed to complete 40-year-old project. Army Air Corps soldiers and officers, Glider Pilot Regiment, Parachute Regiment and SAS who served in this area of Egypt at this time please call or write to Sara Doremus, PO Box 694, Burtonsville, Maryland, MD 20866, USA (tel: 301-890-7213).

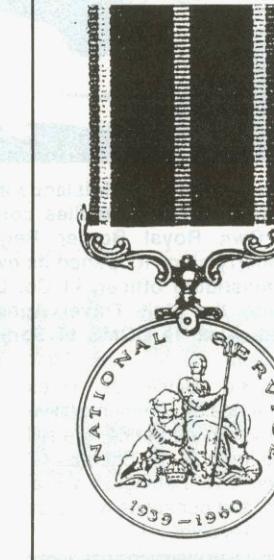
● **Ex-Cpl Leslie Croombs:** 104 Harewood Road, Keighley, W Yorks BD22 7NW (tel: 0535 600953) wishes to contact the 26 ACC chefs attached to the Royal

Highland Fusiliers between 1960-67 (Edinburgh, Aden, Malta, Germany) with a view to a reunion. Other contacts: Colin Crawford on 0506 33924 or ex-Pte McLeish on 041-812 1100.

● **German soldier:** of Frundsberg Division would like to contact British soldiers who fought in the Normandy campaign, especially the battle for Hill 112 west of Caen. Veterans interested in exchanging details of their experiences should contact Herrn Gerd Rommel, Harlinger Strasse 15, DW-2800 Bremen 66, Germany.

● **El Adem Radio Service (TEARS):** John Barker, Spook E Darin, Phil Dasher, Rick Old, Dave Petett, Ron Shipton and other personnel based at RAF El Adem in 1960s are asked to contact reunion organiser John Moir on 0705 595489.

● **HSF Coy 4 RGJ:** Dave Hemstead (tel: 081-648 8021) is trying to contact Fred Attle, with whom he served in HSF Coy, 4th Royal Green Jackets.



No pardons for soldiers shot at dawn

A LONG-RUNNING fight to win posthumous pardons for 307 British soldiers shot at dawn for cowardice, desertion or other military offences during the First World War has failed.

In a letter to Thurrock MP Andrew MacKinlay, who has led the campaign for royal pardons, Prime Minister John Major said that, after long and hard reflection, "I have reached the conclusion that we cannot re-write history by substituting our latter-day judgment for that of contemporaries, whatever we might think.

"With the passage of time attitudes and values change.

"I am sure that all people when they think of this subject now, recognise that soldiers who deserted did so in the most appalling conditions and under terrible pressures," said the Prime Minister.

The executed men included 268 found guilty of desertion, 18 of cowardice, seven of quitting their posts, five of disobedience, five of striking senior officers, four of mutiny, two of sleeping at their posts and two of casting away their arms.

Mr MacKinlay, who is to continue his campaign for royal pardons, said many of those executed were suffering from shell shock, sleep deprivation and cold. Forty per cent were volunteers.

Pals' fund is growing

LIVERPOOL Pals Appeal Fund is reported to be making excellent progress since it was set up by Merseyside Branch of the Western Front Association two years ago.

With just under £6,000 already collected, the Colours of the four Pals battalions are being refurbished on Merseyside, and approval has been granted for the placement of a commemorative plaque in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres.

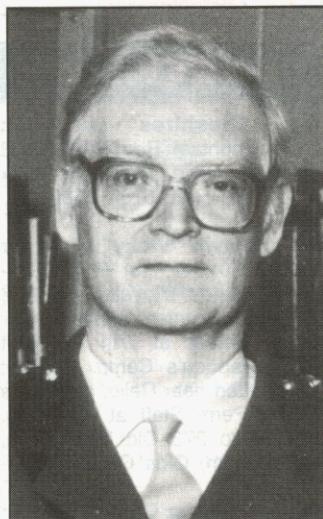
Plans to erect a memorial to the Liverpool and Manchester Pals Battalions at Montauban-de-Picardie on the Somme are well in hand following the donation by a local farmer of a plot of land. It is hoped that the memorial will be ready for unveiling and dedicating on July 1, 1994.

In the meantime, the organisers need to raise another £1,500 to fulfil their objectives. A few copies



Holidays from the Greek Islands and Spain to the USA have been taken up by Service families courtesy of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry since it opened its own travel centre in January. Here the commanding officer, Lt Col Dennis Flynn, checks the latest offer with the Unit Travel Agent, Mrs Veruta Barlow, whose husband, Alex, is CQMS of Somme Company

of the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) commemorative postal cover (priced at £4) are still available from D W Sheard, 47 Venables Drive, Bebington, Wirral L63 9LY, and donations would be gratefully received.



Brig Rodney Giles, Commandant ACC Training Centre

ACC forges degree link

A LINK between the Army Catering Corps and Bournemouth University will allow ACC officers to improve their academic qualifications within their specialist field.

Pioneered by Brig Rodney

Giles, Commandant of the ACC Training Centre at Aldershot, the project has resulted in the accreditation by the university of the centre's Officer Management Development Training Programme.

Accreditation will cover the whole career structure of ACC officers, ranging in three levels from a one-year residential course to courses culminating in the award of a Master of Business Administration degree.

The scheme is designed to be flexible and sympathetic to the demands of Service life while retaining the academic standards of the awarding body.

Royal Signals postal covers

THE FIRST four postal covers of a series of 20 designed to raise funds for a major extension to the Royal Signals Museum of Army Communications at Blandford have been issued.

Others will be released during the next three years.

Each cover commemorates an historical event - from the Peninsula and Crimea to the Falklands - involving Army signalling.

Details of the covers, which include standard (£2.50), flown (£3.50) and special (£5) versions, can be obtained from the New Museum Project Office, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Gulf War bereaved to get together

DURING a recent visit to Kuwait by most of the families of British Servicemen killed during the Gulf War, it was agreed to form an association similar to that formed by families of those who died in the Falklands War.

The Gulf Families Association is now up and running and is preparing for its first annual general meeting in late March. It was formed to maintain and strengthen friendships between relatives of those killed during the Gulf War and between the Kuwaiti Martyrs and PoW Association in Kuwait.

Membership is open to all relatives of Servicemen killed during the war and associate membership to all friends of the Servicemen and all members of the Kuwaiti British Servicemen's Memorial Committee based in Kuwait.

The address is: The Gulf Families Association, Territorial Barracks, Barrows Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3BE. Telephone queries: 021-743 6040 or Bramcote Military 8138 during normal office hours. - Capt A T Sutton, Chairman, Gulf Families Association, Birmingham.

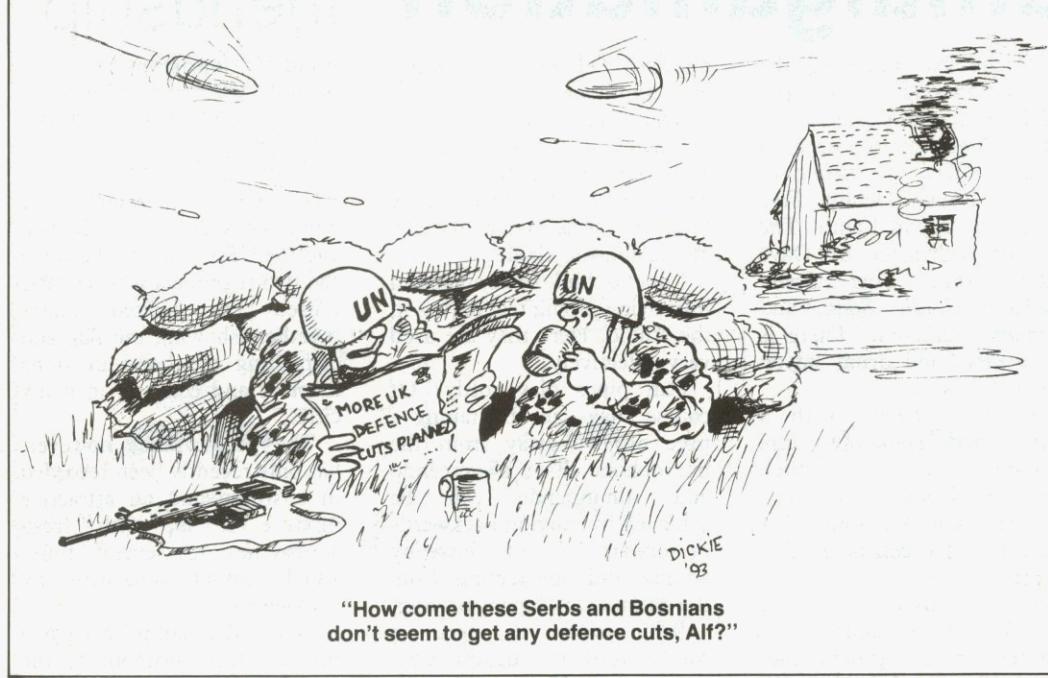
LIGHTNING PROMOTION

I WOULD like to know if I hold a record in the British Army for being made up to lance corporal and reduced to private within the space of two hours.

It happened at Osnabrück in June 1953 while I was serving with the King's Own Royal Rifles. I was admitted to hospital suffering from sunburn and, on my return to the regiment a week later was told by the RSM that I had been made up to lance corporal in my absence and to collect my stripes as I would be on CO's orders at 1000.

At 1200 I lost my stripes due to "self-inflicted wounds"! - Ex-Cpl Edward Gardiner, Mullion, Cornwall.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Fighting Fifth is Fusiliers' nickname

I READ with astonishment your article on 5 Field Squadron RE and headed "Fighting Fifth" on the move to UK" (February 22).

The nickname "The Fighting Fifth" is that of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and originates from a remark by the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War period when he referred to the regiment as "The ever fighting, often tried but never failing Fifth".

This clearly outdates 5 Field Squadron RE who, with such an illustrious person as Lt Chard, are undoubtedly a brave and resourceful squadron.

However, the nickname "The Fighting Fifth" belongs solely to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and is now embodied in the regimental tradition and history of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

I trust that you will correct this plagiarism. — **Capt (Retd) P H D Marr, Regimental Area Secretary (Northumberland), The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Alnwick, Northumberland.**

Canal Zone merits gong

GONGS obviously do not speak louder than actions and I do not apologise for raising the subject again.

Having served with the Royal Artillery in Aden 1964-65, through the well-documented unpleasantness of this theatre, and rightly receiving recognition for our efforts, nothing was ever considered for the far more taxing period of the Canal Zone of Egypt 1951-54, where conditions and internal security duties were much wider-ranging and just as dangerous.

In retrospect, having served through both actions, it is strongly felt that a medal with clasp "Egypt - Canal Zone 51-54" should be awarded as a recognition of service in that Godforsaken zone. — **K M Taylor, Taunton, Somerset.**

Mystery colonel was not at Rorke's Drift

I WAS intrigued by the reference in your RE Museum feature (February 22) to "a bullet removed from a lieutenant colonel killed at Rorke's Drift".

It was headlined, "This man knows his sappers from A to Z!"

I do not like to think that Col Napier knows his "Z" less well than his "A".

A perusal of the muster rolls

prepared by CSgt Bourne and Lt Chard immediately after the action reveal no one of the rank being present. Lt Chard RE was the senior officer present.

Commissariat Officer Dunne was not wounded in the action but I doubt whether his then rank was equivalent to a lieutenant colonel.

Assistant Commissariat Officer Dalton was wounded — and later awarded the Victoria

Cross — but he would certainly not be of that rank.

Similarly, Surgeon Reynolds's rank was equivalent to that of captain; he was promoted surgeon major after the action.

Apart from Lt Bromhead, who commanded the troops of the 24th Regiment, there were no other officers present. The Rev George Smith was not commissioned as an Army chaplain until after the action.

All very mysterious. — **Bernard Rowland, Ferndown, Dorset.**

● Col Napier's impeccable reputation as a sapper historian is intact.

It was the writer of the article who, by his own admission, clearly does not know his D'Arcy (a captain in the Frontier Light Horse awarded the VC at Ulundi) from his Melville (the lieutenant and adjutant from First Battalion, 24th (Second Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot who made an ill-fated attempt to escape with the battalion's Colour at Isandlwana).

To put the record straight, it was in fact there, and not at Rorke's Drift, that the brevet colonel in question, A W Durnford, was killed. — **Editor**

Cap badge collared

IN YOUR article "A change of Options" (February 22) I believe the badge of The Staffordshire Regiment shown is its collar, rather than its cap badge.

The same error can be found in two books about British regiments, so it seems the poor old Staffords are jinxed!

That said, I have to say I believe the Staffords' collar badge would have been a better

choice for its cap badge than the current design.

I have been a SOLDIER reader for 43 years and wouldn't miss an issue for anything. Please keep up the good work. — **Norman Miller, Reading, Berks.**



● Thank you for your loyalty, Mr Miller — and for pointing out the error. The correct cap badge is reproduced here. — **Editor**

Tankies make tracks to mark amalgamation

Making Tracks

Band of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment
Pipes and Drums 4th Royal Tank Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster V F Eckerman
Pipe Major: G Nicholson

NOT THE first time Making Tracks has been used as a disc title, but here it is justified by a newly-commissioned work of that name by Michael Short, well-known as a composer, and also a professor at Kneller Hall.

The disc marks the amalgamation of the 1st and 4th

Marches great and small

The Great Marches Vol. 6

Various bands

HERE IS another collection of 26 marches, some flattered by the description "great" but all deserving of inclusion in such a wide-ranging series as this.

Performances vary of course, being by so many different bands (and conductors, who can make or mar even such a winner as *Colonel Bogey*).

But since all march collectors are music critics manqué they can have fun sorting the sheep from the goats.

From Britain, USA and Canada are *The Guardsman* (Steck), *Parade of the Champions*, Wembley Way, and *On Parade* by Albert Elms, *Namur* (W V Richards but probably Alford's 18th), *Jolly Airman*, *Nairn* (D E Price), *Wings* (RE March), *Death or Glory*, *The Prince* (Tulip), *The Captain General* (Dunn), *Light Division* (Bashford), *Advance Guard* (Ord Hume), *Schoenfeld*, *Les Clarions Anglais*, *Danish March* (Sir Arthur Sullivan), *Pathfinders*.

From elsewhere are the great *Valdres March* from Norway, *Europe United*, now enjoying a welcome resurgence, *Light of Foot*, *The Watch Tower* (Hoch Heidecksburg), and *Spanish March* (by Senor Terry Kenny!).

● From Bandleader, CD £12, cassette £7.60 inc.

RTR, the 1st inheriting the very useful services of the Pipes and Drums of the 4th.

Those services are used to pleasant effect in *Stirling of Kier* by Louise Denny, *Pipe Dreams* by Kevin Lamb, *The Rose of Kelvinside* by Dave Knox, *Skye Boat Song*, *Highland Cradle Song*, and *Highland Cathedral*. There is also a pipes and drum set on several tunes.

The band begins with a light-hearted *Petite Overture Dansante* by the Dutch composer Henk van Lijnschooten, who for some odd reason uses the pen name Ted Huggens!

Selections from the shows *Les Misérables* and *Chess* brighten up the programme, though *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* fails to do so in spite of its title; it is by Eric Idle, which may account for it.

The title piece itself comprises three movements – *Revving Up*, *Under the Night Sky*, and

On Patrol, all well put together and confidently played.

The disc was made in Germany, so the march *Lippe Detmold* gets another airing, with *Scotland the Brave* and the regiments' fine march *My Boy Willie* for the finale.

I like to think I had a hand in improving piping techniques in the studio. Here they are used very effectively.

Can pipes play softly? Of course they can, by taking a pace or two away from the microphone. Even a crescendo and diminuendo can be achieved by moving backwards or forwards. Or of course by adding and subtracting from the number of pipers playing.

Why does it need a McBashford to suggest such techniques? Most conductors are anti the sound engineer controlling dynamics. Pipes are an exception.

● From Music Masters or dealers, CD £12, cassette £7 inc.

ROUSING ROUNDUP BY THE YORKIES

The Yorkies in Step

Band of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire
Conductor: Bandmaster S A Thompson

HERE IS a case of a county regiment doing its own thing to good effect, and with the very minimum of resources – only 17 players according to the sleeve, plus a chorus of junior sergeants!

Every scrap of regimental music and tunes associated with it by tradition, ancient and modern, is included in a programme lauding the Prince of Wales, the regiment itself and Yorkshire in particular.

It starts with a fanfare by Mr Thompson, *York Minster, God Bless the POW*, and a march version of Ilkla Moor; followed by a rendering of (and in) *The Yorkshire Vernacular* – you are left in no doubt as to the origins of this particular regiment. The vernacular, rendered by Sgt Peter Watts, appeared on a previous disc by the Yorkies

but easily bears repetition.

Truly regimental music comprises the *General Salute*, several bugle calls, the *Duke of York* march, three quicksteps, the slow and quick march pasts, regimental toasts, and for good measure the dinner calls, *Last Post*, *Reveille*, and the dreaded call of my young soldiering days – *Rouse*.

A former march of the East Yorks, *Yorkshire Lass*, finds the sergeants in good voice, and also in a medley of mostly *Austrian Songs*. *Yorkshire Relish* is another medley; Beethoven's *York'scher March* and Percy Fletcher's *Spirit of Pageantry* add weight to the programme, and to complete it we have *Sunset*, *The National Anthem*, and *Auld Lang Syne*. Quite a source of useful music for all occasions – even if you hail from Wigan.

● From Bandleader, 7 Garrick St, London WC2E 9AR or dealers, price CD £12, cassette £7.60 inc.

Fanfare to a special friendship

Bond of Friendship

Band of the Coldstream Guards
Pipes and Drums of the Queen's Own Highlanders
Conductor: Maj D Marshall

THE DISC's title refers to the bond between Great Britain and the USA, and also between the two regiments who in 1991 toured the United States together, showing the flag and cementing the bond in arena displays and concerts in many cities.

The programme, however, has only recently been recorded in a studio and an attractive mixture it is, with fresh approaches to several tunes which would otherwise be hackneyed.

David Marshall provides two fine fanfares pertinent to the occasion, the first *For Our Heroes* and the second *Pride of London*.

The obligatory marches for the display are *Scarlet and Gold*, *Army of the Nile*, *The Purple Pageant*, and a couple of medleys.

The pipes and drums play the *Pibroch of Donal'Dhu*, *Crags of Tumbledown*, *Sands of Kuwait*, and two medleys.

Traditional tunes given a new lease of life are *The Duke of York* march, *Jack's the Lad*, *When the Guards are on Parade*, *Ode to Joy*, *A Nightingale Sang*, and *Auld Lang Syne*.

Recently-honoured Sir Malcolm Arnolds *HRH The Duke of Cambridge March*, *The Magnificent Seven*, and all the trimmings that go to make up an emotional finale are there, and the famous march by an earlier director of the Coldstream Band, J MacKenzie Rogan, holds pride of place, it having the title *Bond of Friendship*.

Army bands, supported by pipes and drums, have been touring America since the war, their ambassadorial role being to the benefit of both countries.

Shall we be able to spare a band from the Army's depleted numbers after those dreaded options have taken their toll? More likely a case of California, here we don't come.

● From Bandleader, CD £12, cassette £7.60 inc.

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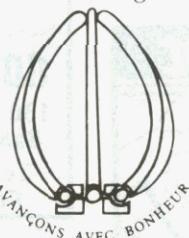
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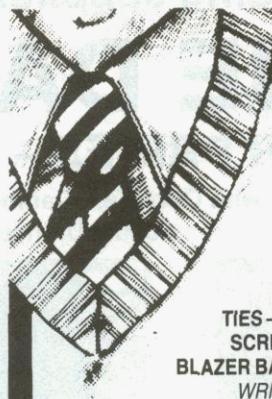
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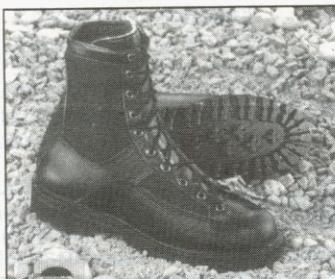


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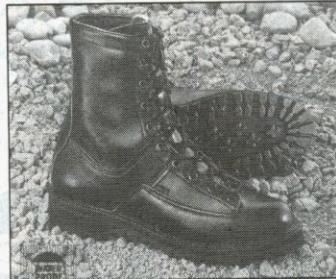
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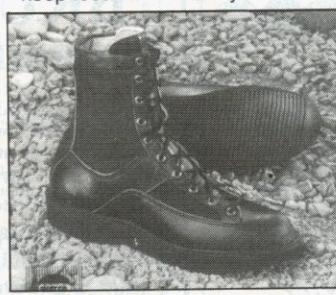
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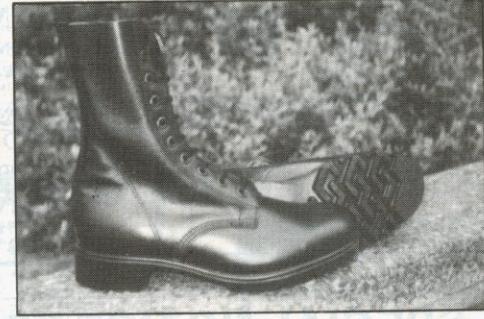
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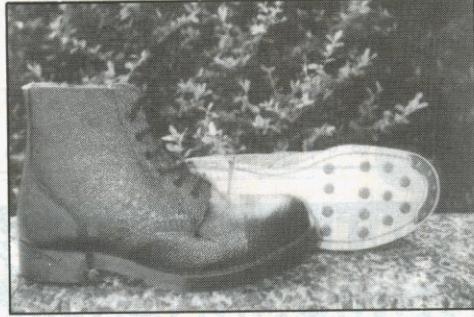
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REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to Soldier Magazine at the address below. The Box number must be **CLEARLY** written in the **TOP LEFT CORNER** of the envelope. Your envelope must be no larger than 8" x 4" and should only contain a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

8/93

All correspondence to: Pen Pals, Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Are you sincere and between 35 and 40? I'm a lady of 37 who would like a pen pal to restore my confidence. I will reply to all letters. P449

06/93

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I am a fun loving, single mum with a good sense of humour, I'm 25 and have blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 5'6" tall. Enjoy aerobics, letter writing and socialising. P455

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(Cheques to Soldier). 4/29

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Ingham ends Watts decade

THE 1993 Army indoor tennis tournament, sponsored by Sun Alliance, produced the first new men's winner for more than ten years. Capt Nigel Watts AAC, the champion, was beaten in the semi-final by Spr David Ingham, a newcomer to the Army, who went on to victory over Sgt Eric Simpson APTC in the final.



Spr Ingham

In the women's event, 2nd Lt Lorna Hambly AGC (ETS) beat LCpl Clare Whiting RCT to take her first title.

The men's event attracted 14 entries for the qualifying rounds with six qualifiers joining ten players in the main event. In the semi-finals Simpson was too sharp for Maj Allan Butterfield AGC(ETS), only dropping one game before Watts pushed Ingham to the limit in a thrilling match.

Ingham took the first set 6-4 with penetrating ground strokes which never allowed Watts to play his normal serve and volley game. Watts was more successful in the second set, winning it 7-5 but not able to sustain it in the third, losing 6-3. In the final, Ingham was too strong for Simpson winning 6-4, 6-1.

In the qualifying event final, Cpl "Vinnie" Vincent ACC beat Sgt Ali Simmonds REME 6-3, 6-4.

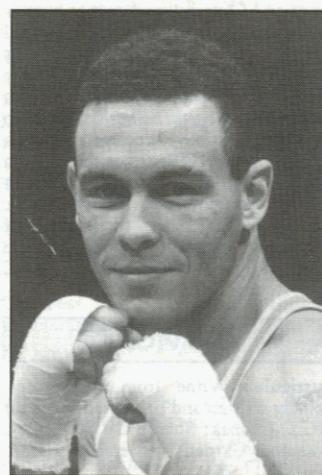
Also for the first time, a women's qualifying event was held, with Lt Sam Erskine-Tulloch AGC(PS) and Cpl Helen McChlery APTC going through to the main event. McChlery took Lorna Hambly to three sets in her group match and went on to the semi-finals to be beaten by Clare Whiting 6-2, 6-2. In the other semi-final, Hambly beat Capt Nia Linnell AGC(PS) 6-1, 6-0.

The final produced some excellent rallies and close games with Whiting narrowly failing to clinch the second set. Hambly won 6-4, 7-5.

CSBA titles prove hard to come by

AFTER a comparatively relaxed stroll through the Inter-Services team competition, Army boxers found the going altogether tougher in the CSBA individual championships at HMS Nelson on March 4, writes John Elliott.

The not unrealistic prospect of seven Combined Services titles was dashed by some notable Royal Navy performances which restricted them to just four - Pte Bob Basford (1 Staffords), LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE), Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Regt RCT) and LCpl Steve Burford (REME).



LCpl Burford

Honours were very much even by the end of the evening, with the Navy taking four titles and the Royal Air Force three.

A high point for the Army was Burford's return to heavyweight action after a long injury-ridden absence. He looked understandably ring rusty until a right uppercut decked his opponent at the end of the first round.

Former ABA finalist Mne Bob Wileman returned from exile to outpoint Spr Jhapat Singh Bhujel (QGE) at light-welterweight. Wileman's mobility and variety more than compensated for any lack of fitness.

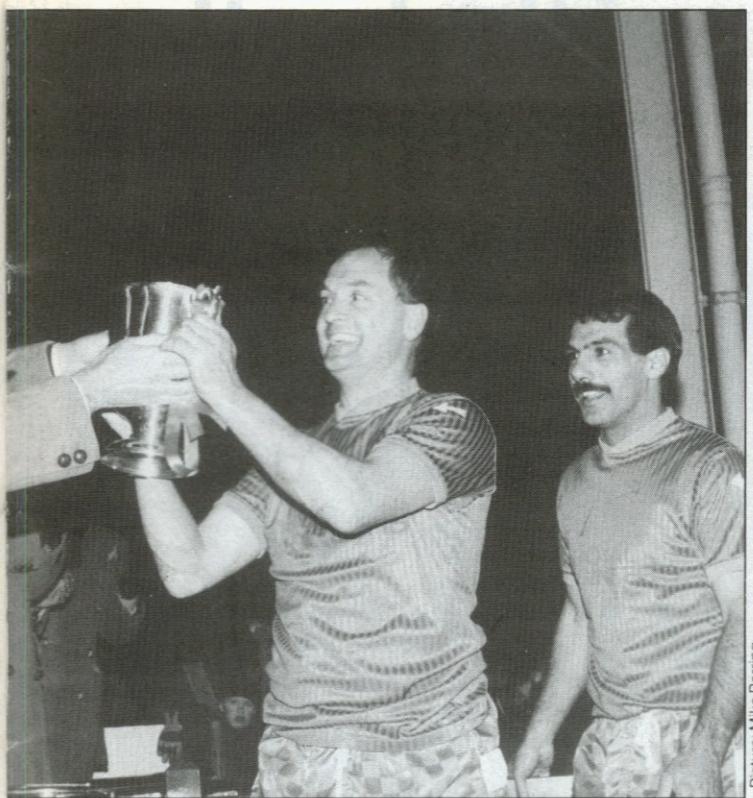
Fus Dale Duncan (1 RRF) lost to the impressive SAC Owen Spensley (RAF) in a flyweight contest crackling with quality, and Gnr Vinny Jones (32 Hvy Regt RA) at light-heavy had two composed rounds against SAC John Gosling before the hard-punching airman whipped a right hook over his defences.

Light-flyweight - Cpl Darren Fox (RAF) bt AB Lennie Woodcock (RN), pts m; **fly** - SAC Owen Spensley (RAF) bt Fus Dale Duncan, pts u; **feather** - Pte Bob Basford, walkover; **light** - LCpl Vinny Powell bt Tech Darren Rudd (RAF), rsc 3; **light-welter** - Mne Rob Wileman (RN) bt Spr Jhapat Singh Bhujel, pts u; **welter** - Cpl Chris Bessey bt SAC Tyrone Gonsalves (RAF), pts u; **light-middle** - Mne Ian Thompson (RN) bt LCpl Lee Innes, rsc 1; **middle** - Lwt Ian Cummings (RN) bt Cpl Jeff Ollerhead, pts m; **light-heavy** - SAC John Gosling (RAF) bt Gnr Vinny Jones, rsc 3; **heavy** - LCpl Steve Burford bt Cpl Micky Humphreys (RAF), rsc 2; **super-heavy** - Mne Kevin McCormack (RN) bt SAC Paul Fiske (RAF), rsc 2.

Powell lifted the lightweight crown with his third consecutive win inside the distance and Pte Bob Basford was given a



SSgt Steve Tusz, the TRRE captain, receives the Army Challenge Cup (UKLF) from Lt Gen Sir Peter Duffell. Also in the picture are AFA secretary



Maj Terry Knight (left) and goal-scorer Sgt Norman Naife (right)

NO DUTCH TREAT FOR SERVICES

Netherlands AF 3, Combined Services 1

BRITISH Combined Services lost 3-1 to the Netherlands Armed Forces in their opening Kentish Cup encounter at the NAC Breda Stadium in Holland, writes Derrick Bly.

The Dutch were the better side on the day. Many of their players, ten of whom were National Servicemen, play for well-known First and Second

Division clubs in their national league. They scored twice before the interval but were fortunate that Gdsm Neil Treble (Gren Gds) missed two clear chances.

Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals) gave away a penalty in the second half when he was harshly adjudged to have handled in the area, and Services had to wait until the 76th minute before scoring.

Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) was put clear by Bdr Steve Bates (7 RHA) and his centre into a crowded goal area was rammed home by Sig Jim Strouts (R Signals). In a final flurry of Services' pressure, Neil Thwaites of the Royal Navy, Maynard and Sgt Pete Brown (R Signals) all had goal-bound efforts blocked.

Sappers rise to challenge

Trg Regts RE 2, 2 Signal Regt 1

ARMY CUP favourites 2 Signal Regiment were beaten by Training Regiments RE in the final at the Military Stadium, Aldershot on March 3 after conceding just one goal and scoring 21 in the competition, writes Derrick Bly.

Both sides tackled hard and Army and Combined Services player Sig Paul Brown was booked in the fifth minute for a lunge at SSgt Steve Tusz. Two others, Cpl Pete O'Brien (2 Sig Regt) and sapper Cpl Steve Reeves, also received yellow cards in a combative first half.

The sappers went ahead against the run of play when Sgt Norman Naife headed home Cpl Shawn Mancrief's floated cross.

Soon afterwards Cpl John Edwards put them ahead from the penalty spot.

Five minutes from the end WO2 Phil Carter (R Anglian) struck an unstoppable shot from fully 35 yards to produce the draw both sides deserved.

MPSC 2, SASC 2

The Small Arms School Corps earned a creditable draw in their first football fixture at representative level in living memory. The Military Provost Staff Corps team, unbeaten in the Eastern District League this winter, took a two-goal lead before SASC equalised through WO2 Tony Bexon and WO2 Frank Gregan.

Downhill kings

BRITISH Army men skiers swept the board in the British Services international ski championships - with their female counterparts not far behind.

The championships, raced at Altenmarkt in Austria, partly in the presence of the Duchess of York, pitted the Army men against a very strong challenge from the other Services. But they took an early lead in the week-long competition and succeeded in holding off other British opposition.

In the international section of the championships, raced simultaneously, there was rather less success, with the superior skills of the "skiing nations" such as Italy coming to the fore. But the overall men's champion, declared at the end of the week, was Dvr Sacha Zvegintsov (RCT), a newcomer to Army skiing who finished the week with 14 trophies and medals.

Racing, on a course used for world-championship events, was dominated in the men's section by the very strong Italian Alpini team, with the Russian military vying strongly for first places but largely having to settle for second. Of the British Service teams, the

Army consistently outperformed the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

The best British Service individuals, Dvr Zvegintsov and the RAF's Craig Bonnington, both hail from the same town, Oban.

In the women's competition, with less international opposition, British Servicewomen dominated. The Royal Air Force took first place with the Army second and Navy third.

Results

Individuals

Smirnoff giant slalom - **Women** - 1, Jenny Davidson (RAF); 2, Viv Price (RN). **Men** - 1, Sacha Zvegintsov (Army); 2, Craig Bonnington (RAF); 3, Ian Dryden (Army).

Portakabin men's downhill - 1, Sacha Zvegintsov (Army); 2, Craig Bonnington (RAF); 3, Ian Dryden (Army).

Women's combined individual competition - 1, Jenny Davidson (RAF); 2, Jude Shenton (Army); 3, Carol Strong (RN). **Best newcomer** - Judy Palmer (Army).

Men's combined individual competition - 1, Sacha Zvegintsov (Army); 2, Craig Bonnington (RAF); 3, Jamie Clarke (Army).

International - 1, Sacha Zvegintsov (Army); 2, Gianpiero Bendotti (Alpini); 3, Bruno Kurath (Swiss Army). **Best British newcomer** - Sacha Zvegintsov (Army).

Results

Team Awards

Super Giant Slalom (Graham Hollands Cup) - British Army.

Women's Open (Moet et Chandon Special Award) - Royal Air Force.

Women (Wilkinson Sword) - Royal Air Force.

Men's Open (Williams & Glynn Challenge Cup) - Italian Alpini. **Men's** (Inter Services Cup) - British Army.

Engineers sweep up judo honours

THE senior judo team champions at ASPT Aldershot were dominated by 22 Engineer Regiment, whose A, B and C teams filled the top three places. Guests 7 Signal Regiment tied for third place.

Individual winners

Senior

U65kg - LCpl Johnston (22 Engr); **U71kg** - Pte Booth (Para); **U78kg** - Spr Bett (22 Engr); **U86kg** - OCdt Rickard (RMCS); **Over 86kg** - Cpl Mills (22 Engr).

Intermediate

U65kg - LCpl Hill (RSA); **U71kg** - AT Jones (PMC); **U78kg** - AT Robins (AA Coll AAC); **U86kg** - Spr Brett (22 Engr); **Over 86kg** - Pte Vincent (22 Engr).

Junior novice team

- 1, AA Coll Harrogate; 2, Princess Marina Coll; 3, JLR RA and AA Coll AAC.



Cpl Willy Williams

Willy wins sabre title

THE ARMY has another national champion to its credit.

Cpl James "Willy" Williams has won the much-prized Cole Cup at the Sabre Club Championship of Great Britain.

Fighting off the cream of civilian opposition culled from more than 60 entries from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, first seed James – based at the Depot Regiment, Royal Engineers gymnasium at Chatham – did not lose a single match on the way to the final.

He then had the satisfaction of beating namesake Ian Williams, who had toppled him from his British number one ranking only a couple of weeks earlier, in two straight contests.

Currently suffering from the after-effects of a patella injury sustained during the championship, Barcelona Olympics participant Cpl Williams hopes to redress the temporary set-back to his status when he meets the other Williams in the British championships in Bath on March 27-28.

Varsity match

OXFORD UOTC beat their Cambridge counterparts by eight points to five in an alternative 'varsity' rugby match at Oxford. The hosts also won the 2nd XV fixture, by 48 points to five.

Cambridge UOTC won a hockey match played at the same time by five goals to two.

RHA's six of the best!



Super six: These members of the 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery rugby XV, current UKLF Major Units champions, have all been in action for the Army this winter – which must be something of a record for a unit team. Five of them will be in the starting line-up or on the reserves' bench at Twickenham on March 13 for

the Army's match against the Royal Navy. Unlucky not to make the final selection was WO2 Martyn Lewis (front centre), the 7 RHA captain. But he will be cheering on colleagues (back, from left) Bdr Jim Fowers and reserves Bdr Chris Wood and Sgt Dave Coghlan; and (in the "second row") Lt Howard Graham (left) and 2nd Lt Dave Dahinten

Picture: Mike Perrin

Skeleton crew in world class

THE ARMY and Great Britain skeleton bobsleigh teams have recorded their most successful season ever, with Cpl Tim Hathaway of REME Wksp, 40 Fd Regt RA winning the British championship and going on to finish ninth in the overall World Cup placings.

Several riders graduated from the Army novice championships at Igls, Austria in November to do well at the world championships at La Plagne in France and on the World Cup circuit.

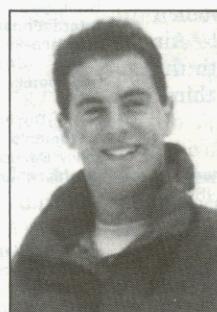
Cpl Steve Robinson (4 ADSR), winner of the Army novice title, finished ninth in the world championships, with Hathaway tenth, and Cpl Rob Watson 25th. The only other top 20 British finish in the history of the competition had been 18th.

Hathaway's top ten place in

the World Cup rankings was supported by Watson (23rd), with Cpl Mark Wood (one race) and Cpl Dave Black in joint 32nd and Robinson 34th. Hathaway's seventh place at Oberhof in Germany was the highest World Cup position ever achieved by a British competitor.

Army riders, led by Hathaway, filled four of the top five places in the British championships at La Plagne, even though Cpl Wood, the defending champion, was prevented by injury from competing.

A major factor in the development of the team was the time allowed for training by commanding officers of several units, including 40 Fd Regt



Cpl Tim Hathaway, British champion

RA, 4 ADSR, 50 Msl Regt RA and 71 AC Wksp.

Another factor was the support provided by the BAOR Sport Board, an Army grant, Land-Rover UK who provided a 110 Defender for the squad, Save and Prosper and Berghaus.

Now British skeleton bobsleigh is looking to build on its Army-inspired World Cup circuit success to have a medal chance at the 1998 Winter Olympics at Nagano in Japan.

Anyone wanting to get involved should contact WO1 P A McClellan, Army Skeleton Bobsleigh Association, Materials Section, Plant, Roads and Airfields Wing, Wainscott, Rochester, Kent ME3 8BD.



British bobsleigh champion WO2 Peter Gunn and Sgt Al Carter from Detmold-based 4 Regiment AAC on course for victory at the Inter-Service championships at La Plagne in the Haute Savoie region of France. Gunn, crewed by Capt Richard Mallet AAC, had won the British title the previous week. Inset, the winning British Army squad (standing, from left) Lt James Gray-Cheape (QO Hldrs), Sgt Tony Boyd (APTC att 1 Regt AAC), WO2 Tony Shanahan (662 Sqn, 3 Regt), Sgt Al Carter (9 Regt AAC), Cpl Simon Burrows (AAC), LCpl Frankie Franklin (1 Regt AAC) and Cpl Bob Talbot (RAMC). In the bob are WO2 Jeff Schuneman (659 Sqn, 4 Regt AAC) and WO2 Pete Gunn (669 Sqn, 4 Regt AAC).



Warrior infantry fighting vehicles in Bosnia are not only used for convoy escort duties. They are often deployed as static sentry posts at key points on the main supply routes. One role of Callsign "Three-one", pictured here, has been to guard a coal depot at Breza, where trucks loading coal have been attacked. While Pte Paul Bennison keeps radio watch, Sgt Mark Philpott (front) checks his map.

Picture: Terry Champion

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