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May 31, 1993
VOL. 49/11

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Champion of the common soldier

MRS JACQUELINE Mayo, better known to **SOLDIER** readers as Anne Armstrong, crusading freelance journalist and broadcaster, died in hospital as this edition was going to press.

She had been seriously ill for several months and had undergone major surgery. But it was typical of her irrepressible vitality and fighting spirit that during her own adversity she continued to work on behalf of others. She contributed family advice articles in this magazine until shortly before she died.

A few weeks ago she was admitted to Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, where she died peacefully on May 17, aged 56.

During many years of tireless campaigning to improve the lot of Service men and women and their families, Anne Armstrong gained a formidable reputation for fearless independence.

She involved royalty, prime ministers, ministers, government departments, local authorities and many other agencies in her crusade. Her influence in changing official attitudes towards Forces' social welfare has been acknowledged at the highest levels.

Her private casework on behalf of individuals, often involving long hours day and night, was immense. Many of her great achievements in the fields of housing, education, employment and State bene-

fits were never publicised.

She was a leading light in the formation of the Federation of Army Wives and the Federation Office Computer Update of Skills (FOCUS) at Bulford. She worked hard for SSAFA and was chairman of

As well as writing her column in **SOLDIER** for 17 years, Mrs Mayo broadcast regularly for British Forces radio under the name of Anne Armstrong. Her views on issues involving Service families were widely sought by the media in general.

When she was made MBE in the 1985 New Year Honours she said: "I am pleased ... that I have been able to influence certain changes that have bettered family life within the Army."

"It is still a challenge because I tend not to take 'no' for an answer. There is always the possibility a bureaucratic decision may be overturned."

Mrs Mayo, a former WRAC officer, is survived by her husband, Col John Mayo OBE, Director General of the charity Help the Aged, and their son, Capt Charles Mayo, Light Dragoons.

A funeral service will be held in the Memorial Chapel of RMA Sandhurst on Tuesday May 25 at 1200. A memorial service in the chapel is being planned for July 2.

Those wishing to attend are asked to telephone **SOLDIER** on 0252 347353/4 (Ald Mil 2353/4).

Flowers (or donations to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society) should go to Camberley and District Funeral Services Ltd, 337 Yorktown Road, College Town, Camberley, Surrey.

A full tribute to Anne Armstrong will appear in the next issue. Her final column for families appears in Pages 28-29.



the Aldershot ex-Service division at the time of her death.

Recent research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation into Service housing was partly inspired by her campaigning on this issue and in March, soon after a serious operation, she took part in a London meeting to launch its findings.

FRONT COVER: LCpl Spencer Taylor of The Life Guards cut a dash in Hyde Park as he and other members of the Household Cavalry Musical Ride unveiled their spectacular 1993 performance, to be seen at tattoos and shows all over the country this summer. The Musical Ride is the display team of The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment based in Hyde Park Barracks, London. It consist of 32 men and 26 horses. (Picture: Terry Champion.)

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Col Bob hands over to the Yorkies

A SIMPLE handshake between commanding officers outside the gates of the British Army's Vitez base marked the passing of command of the Battalion Group from the outgoing 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment to the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Lt Col Bob Stewart and C Company, 1 Cheshire were the last of the Op Grapple 1 troops to depart from the area after handing over to Lt Col Alastair Duncan and 1 PWO on May 11.

The Yorkies, whose Warrior infantry fighting vehicles arrived by sea at Split four days earlier, had moved up the line across the mountain route via Tomislavgrad and Gornji Vakuf to Vitez to take over the British bases in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

B Squadron, The Light Dragoons with elements of C Company, 1 PWO has deployed to Tuzla. B Company, 1 PWO will be based at Gornji Vakuf, while A Company and



Lt Col Alastair Duncan, CO 1 PWO at Hohne before his battalion group deployed to Bosnia

the bulk of C Company have taken over at Vitez.

The Yorkies are being supported by soldiers drawn from the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders; 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; and The Light Dragoons.

Sapper support is being provided by 1 Field and 45 Field Support Squadron of 21 Engineer Regiment, accompanied by 522 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers. The National Support Element is based on 27 Regiment RLC.

New Commander British Forces on Operation Grapple is Brig Robin Searby, late 9th/12th Royal Lancers, who was previously Commander Armoured of 1st (British) Corps at Bielefeld.

Positive PWO sets out to get job done

"WE HAVE all watched on television and seen the horrors going on. But we can do something positive to help the people of Bosnia Hercegovina, and what we want to do out there is simply get the job done."

Positive words from Lt Col Alastair Duncan, CO of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

He was speaking to British,

German and American media at Hohne ranges shortly before the 1,200-strong 1 PWO Battalion Group deployed to the former Yugoslavia.

Hours after troops from 1 PWO had completed their pre-Bosnia training, their Colonel-in-Chief, the Duchess of Kent, spent the day with the battalion at Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück.

Minister meets wives

LORD Cranborne, Under Secretary of State for Defence, visited Minden to meet the wives of soldiers deployed on Operation Grapple and Operation Hanwood.

The fact that the death toll among the civilian population of the former Yugoslavia had not reached the expected half million mark during the hard winter was entirely due to the efforts of their husbands, and they could be proud of this, he told them.

Belize drawdown

BRITAIN's garrison in Belize, which includes an infantry battalion, is to be reduced to a training base of about 200 personnel over the next year.



The Duchess of Kent shares a joke with Ptes Chris Maughan and Andrew McGregor at Osnabrück

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Tidworth Horse Gunners to get first AS 90s

THE FIRST four AS 90 self-propelled guns are due to be accepted by the Royal Artillery at Woolwich Arsenal on May 26 when the Master General of the Ordnance hands them over to the Director Royal Artillery.

The 155mm gun, which will replace the 105mm Abbot and 155mm M109, will arm the 1st

Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery at Tidworth from October, followed by the 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery at Colchester then Topcliffe from July, followed by three regiments in Germany.

The first guns will be used to train instructors before battery conversion and troop trials take place in October, with the

regiment converted by mid-November.

Gunners are delighted with AS 90, which they have had at the School of Artillery for a year. They see it as the first self-propelled "gunner's gun" fully to meet their requirements. The AS 90 should revolutionise the handling of field artillery.

Along with the Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System now entering service, an on-board navigation and sighting system will allow AS 90 to deploy semi-autonomously in dispersed positions and achieve greater accuracy, while presenting a much more difficult target to counter battery action.

All change but REME keeps name

SECOND line support by the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers is to undergo major reorganisation following a wide-ranging review of the Army's requirements.

It has also emerged that the corps is to keep its name. Under the White Paper *Britain's Army for the 90s* published in July 1991, the then Defence Secretary, Tom King, announced that logistic support would be revamped into service and equipment functions, each to have a new name. The Royal Logistic Corps was formed on April 5 to absorb the former.

Four Regular REME battalions will form this year, with one in the United Kingdom to support 3 (UK) Division and three in Germany to support 1 (UK) Armoured Division.

Plans for restructuring and drawdown of REME Territorial Army units have been completed.

Four TA battalions have been created, each with recovery, reclamation and repair capabilities. Their operational roles will include support of the two UK Divisions and National Defence.

The review considered lessons learned on exercises and operations, including the Gulf War. Equipment Support (ES) staff also took into account the increased complexity of new equipment, future operational planning for Nato's Rapid Reaction Corps and constraints associated with Options for Change.

Under the changes, REME

will continue to be organised into two lines of support. The first has undergone limited changes, but the second line has been reorganised into REME battalions. The primary building blocks of the new battalions will be Close Support (CS) and General Support (GS) companies which will be inter-dependent.

CS companies will be equipped to provide highly mobile, armoured support. While similar to forward repair groups, they will provide a wider range of general engineering and electronic repair capabilities.

These companies will be sub-divided into a forward platoon, effectively a forward repair group, and a production platoon.

Production platoons will be capable of the forward repair of key telecommunications equipment and the repair of battle-winning equipment, such as Challenger main battle tanks and Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, within about 12 hours.

General Support company tasks will include power pack, electronic and optronic repairs, as well as backloading equipment from close support companies. They will be sited away from the forward combat areas.

A new Aviation Support battalion based in the United Kingdom will be capable of deploying any one of its sub units in support of 1 (UK) Armoured Division, 3 (UK) Division and 24 Airmobile Brigade.

War bunker uncovered on range

UPGRADING of the Castle-martin training area in west Wales has uncovered links with the past.

Excavations for some 30km of trenching dug during the laying of electric cable across the tank firing range at the area - which is now used by both British and German armoured regiments - revealed, together with various medieval finds, a concrete bunker.

A replica of Hitler's "Atlantic Wall" defences, it had been used when the Allies were preparing for the D-Day invasion.

Officially re-opening the range after its four-month, £2m upgrade, Maj Gen Robert Hayman-Joyce, Director of the Royal Armoured Corps, said: "With the old systems that were in place, the range was coming to the end of its useful life but this upgrade means that it will continue to be a vital training asset well into the next century."

Soldier dies in SupaCat

TWO SOLDIERS were killed in separate accidents on April 29.

Gnr Simon Gee, 23, 7 Parachute Regiment RHA died at Aldershot when the SupaCat all-terrain vehicle, he was learning to drive, toppled over on a driver training area.

In Georgia, America, Lt Mike Whitley, 26, was killed and 16 other members of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment's rugby team were injured when a coach carrying them to a fixture, crashed on a motorway.

IN BRIEF

Croydon freedom

CROYDON in Surrey was the scene of a slice of military history when 151 (Greater London) Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) became the first member of the newly-formed corps to be granted the freedom of a borough.

Senior dignitaries attending the parade, which marched through central Croydon, bayonets fixed and bands playing, included RLC director Maj Gen David Burden and Fd Marshal Lord Bramall.

As a bonus, the regiment also picked up several winners' prizes in three shooting competitions - run by the London District Rifle Association, the RLC SAAM and the REME SAAM - the same weekend.

• • •

History was made when a party from the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment was hosted by its Canadian sister regiment, the Grey and Simcoe Foresters.

Lt Col David Sneath led a party of 13 British Foresters to northern Ontario to join their counterparts in their winter warfare exercise in temperatures down to minus 50 C.

• • •

Royal Engineer ADR Squadron, RAF Leeming, Northallerton passed its war role evaluation test - which included warning orders, post-attack recce, crater repair and ground attack with casualties - with flying colours when examined by Lt Col Michael Paterson and other members of 76 Engineer Regiment, Pitreavie.



Can there be anything worse than bad news about someone we love? Especially if they're a long way away. Imagine Mrs. Jacobs' feelings when news came through that her soldier husband had been

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When Sgt. Jacobs was shot in the chest, here's where it hurt most.

very badly wounded in action abroad. While an expert medical team was taking care of the injured Sgt. Jacobs, an expert team of a completely different kind was called in to support the shattered Mrs. Jacobs.

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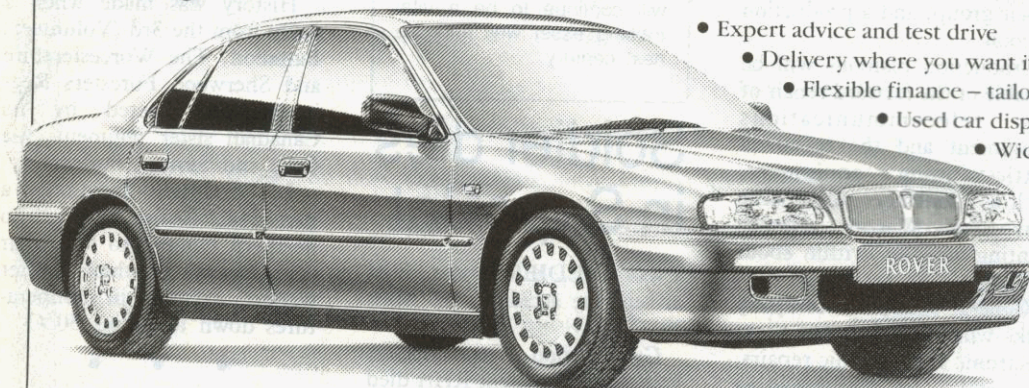


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Sol 31/5

New regiment to retain historic cap badges

'Londons' back in order of battle

LONDON has its own, unique, regiment again with the formation in April of The London Regiment comprising four companies: two English, one Scots and one Irish.

Having surmounted all the problems involved in building a cohesive unit out of such divisive elements, Lt Col Peter McLelland handed over command to Lt Col Peter Swanson, proud that "The Londons" are back in the order of battle.

The new regiment has many elements of the old London Regiment formed in April 1908. The largest infantry regiment in the Army, it was wholly territorial and had 26 battalions in peace, expanding to 88 battalions in the First World War.

Like the original regiment, the new Londons retain their historic cap badges and traditions, and with four companies is the largest infantry battalion. The companies are A (London Scottish), B (Queen's Regiment) – the only unit to retain the old name – C (City of London Fusiliers), and D (London Irish Rifles), plus HQ (Anzio) Coy.

Lt Col McLelland, whose next appointment is at HQ UKLF, said he was immensely proud to have been the regiment's first CO, albeit only for eight days. His parents were both 20th Londons, his father having fought in the Second World War as a West Kent before rejoining the TA and latterly commanding 265 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA. Two of its drill halls, at Camberwell and Catford, are again used by the Londons.

Lt Col Swanson, who was previously at AFCENT, also has experience of the TA, having been training major for 5 (V) Queen's.



Lt Col Peter McLelland hands over command of The London Regiment – plus four different cap badges on beret, tam-o'-shanter and caubeen – to Lt Col Peter Swanson



Cadets on Tors trail

ARMY cadets from Avon, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Essex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Surrey and Somerset were among 2,400 young people who took part in the 34th Ten Tors expedition this month.

Organised by Exeter-based HQ 43 Wessex Brigade, the rigorous two-day competition – involving 24 differing routes allocated according to age and physical ability – was given a mass send-off from Okehampton Camp by Lord Cranbourne, Under Secretary of State for Defence.

Fulwood's finest...

Hoisting the flag at Fulwood Barracks in Preston to herald their unit's arrival on the scene from Germany are local lads LCpl Peter Darlington (left) and Sgt Andrew Clifford, of 5 Field Ambulance. This will be the first time since the Second World War that the barracks – headquarters of 42 North West Brigade – has had an active service unit at full strength in residence



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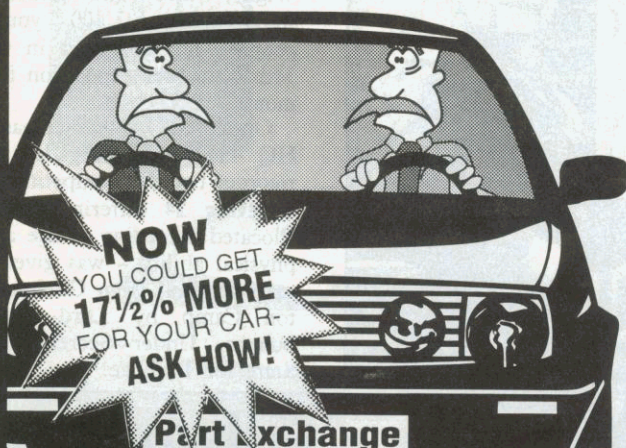
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NEWSLINE

Cavalry Old Comrades salute Princess Royal



Members of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association on parade for their annual memorial service at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park, London on May 9. The 69th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial was attended by the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the King's Royal

Hussars, who took the salute and laid a wreath.

Sixteen regimental detachments of serving soldiers and comrades from Regular and Yeomanry regiments were joined by representatives of the Indian Cavalry and more than 3,500 old comrades

from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

The parade was commanded by Maj Gen John Friedberger, Colonel of the King's Royal Hussars, who led the march to the Cavalry Memorial for the wreath-laying ceremony. Eight cavalry bands took part.

LONDON DISTRICT AWARDS

Stopped in his tracks!

A THIEF who snatched a large amount of money from a bank customer in St John's Wood, London chose his moment badly.

Passing Barclays Bank at the time on his way back to barracks was PT instructor Sgt Robert Bloxham RHA. Alerted by shouts from the bank, Sgt Bloxham – a saddler by trade and a regular participant in the London Marathon – gave chase.

Ignoring the man's threat that he was armed, the NCO pounced and made a citizen's arrest, an action for which he has now received the C-in-C's Certificate of Commendation for Meritorious Service.

He was one of 22 soldiers



LCpl Ian Staples (left) and ex-CSgt James Quintyne, who saved twin boys aged four from drowning in the River Wye last May

from HQ London District to be presented with awards by Maj Gen Robert Corbett, GOC London District and Maj General Commanding The Household Division.

The awards included a number of MSMs, BEMs, LS and GC Medals, and Royal Humane Society certificates to LCpl Ian Staples and ex-CSgt

James Quintyne of London-based 260 Army Youth Team who saved four-year-old twins from drowning in the River Wye last May.

The incident happened while the two men were canoeing on the Wye during a staff training exercise.

LCpl Philip Bakewell of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream

Guards received a GOC's commendation for saving the life of a fellow guardsman during the night exercise on Otterburn training area.

The soldier stopped breathing and had heart failure twice, but LCpl Bakewell resuscitated him on both occasions.

LCpl Roger George, serving with the Household Cavalry Regiment, also received a GOC's commendation for saving a life. He was on leave when he came upon the unconscious victim of an assault.

The man was bleeding heavily, had swallowed his tongue and was convulsing. LCpl George was praised by the judge at a subsequent trial of the assailants.

Gordons receive a call from on high

Taking a light-hearted break from training at Sennelager, members of 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, talk to the Rt Rev **Hugh Wyllie**, Moderator of the 1992 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, who was on a visit to Germany. Mr Wyllie, who is chaplain to the Hamilton branch of the Royal British Legion and the Lanarkshire branch of the Burma Star Association, also spoke to members of 38 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers and – courtesy of 7 Flight Army Air Corps – enjoyed an aerial tour of the city of Berlin in a Gazelle helicopter.



Lorry lady

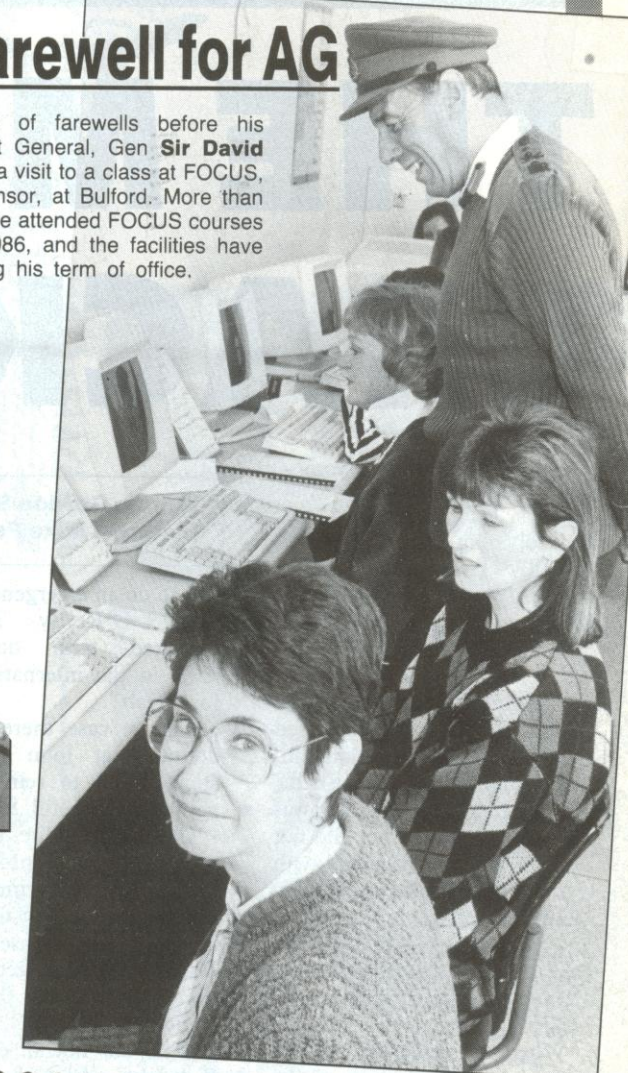
Small wonder that LCpl **Samantha Astbury** is happy: she has become the first female in both the Regular and Territorial Army to complete the Unit Drops MMLC instructors' course successfully. Having left the Regular RCT, she decided to put her past experience to good use and joined 237 (Midlands) Squadron RCT (V) – now part of the Royal Logistic Corps – at West Bromwich, where she is now one of the most highly-qualified personnel in the unit.

Beret smart

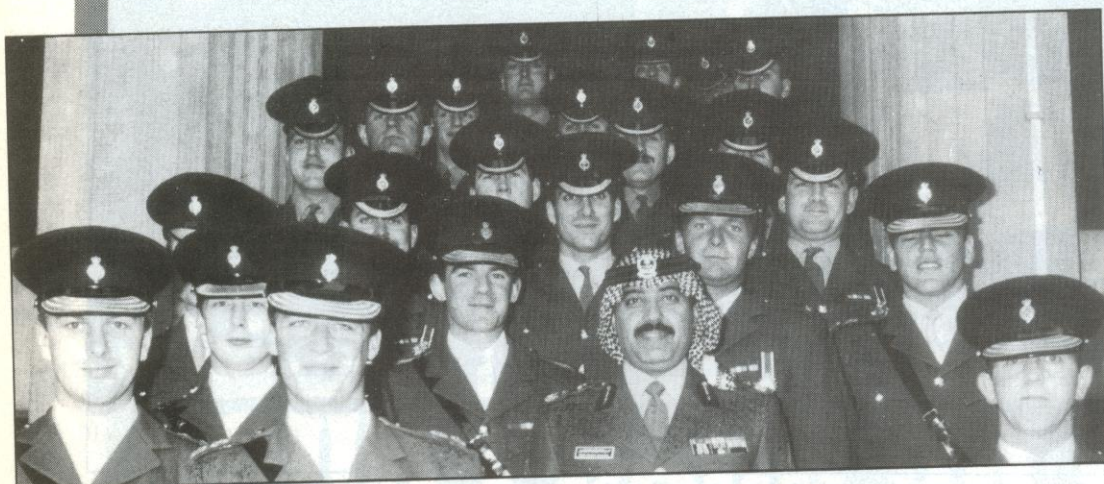


FOCUS farewell for AG

During a busy round of farewells before his retirement, the Adjutant General, Gen **Sir David Ramsbotham** fitted in a visit to a class at FOCUS, of which he is the sponsor, at Bulford. More than 1,500 Service wives have attended FOCUS courses since they began in 1986, and the facilities have greatly expanded during his term of office.



PEOPLE

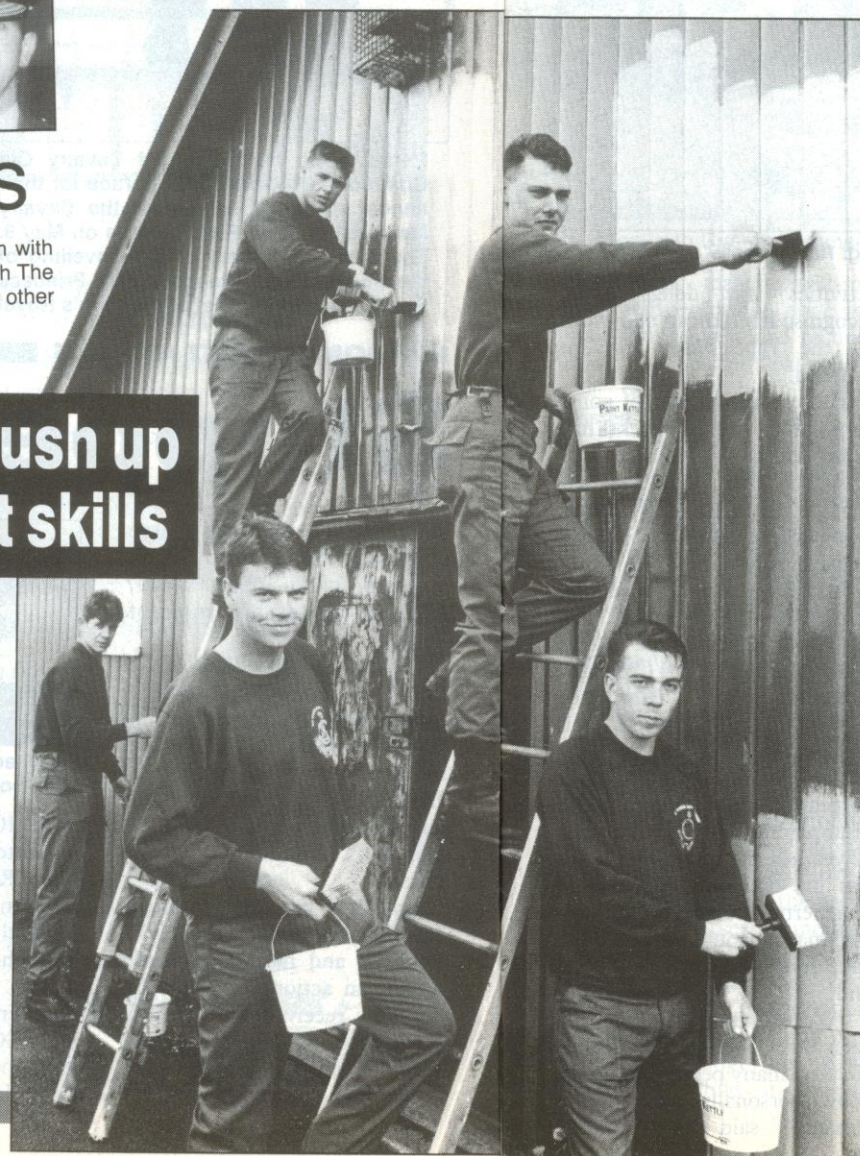


Officers and soldiers of the Household Cavalry share a communal smile with Maj Gen **Prince Mitab Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz**, deputy head of the National Guards of Saudi Arabia, after he had presented them with Saudi Arabian Liberation Medals at Hyde Park Barracks, London. The majority of them served with The Life Guards during the Gulf War, the remainder – mostly from The Blues and Royals – serving with other units or in various military headquarters for the duration of Operation Granby.

Happy liberators

RRW brush up on paint skills

Painting the town, if not red, at least a different colour before setting off for a six-month posting to the Falklands were (front centre) 2nd Lt **Steven Webb** and members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. Normally stationed in Shropshire, they were spending a final weekend in Cardiff giving a helping hand to volunteers from the area in sprucing up the Trelai Community Centre in Ely. Then they were off to the South Atlantic...



Proudly wearing the new beret and badge of the Royal Logistic Corps following its formation in Germany at Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld, are Sgt **Lee Murray** (ex-RCT) and LCpl **Karen Starling** (ex-ACC). The parade, at the home of 10 Regiment of the former RCT, was taken by Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Force.



Making a two-wheeled exit from Hong Kong was Lt Col **Nigel Lithgow**, outgoing CO of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, whose supposedly uneventful car ride to Stanley to board a junk for a final trip was interrupted by two of the strangest-looking rickshaw drivers in the colony's history. Taking over from Lt Col **Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn**.

Wheel meet again...

That's my girl...

Oath of allegiance completed, she's in! **Louise Rosher**, daughter of Maj **Paul Rosher**, 4 ADTR, BAOR (left), is congratulated by Maj **Bob Crabtree**, Army Careers Officer Herford as she sets off on the path to training as an officer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

THE MICKS CRACK ON

THE HEAVY gate of Newtonbutler RUC station was just opening for LSgt Rob O'Reilly's team after a long rural patrol when he stopped in his tracks.

A message was coming over his personal radio – a vehicle was approaching and had to be searched. In a practised movement his 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, team vanished.

They did not know if it was "for real" or not. They did not need to know. Weary and with a brew in view, the guardsmen were still ready for anything and everything was treated with the same professionalism. Perhaps a Lynx circling nearby suggested a particular interest.

When the vehicle came into sight no soldiers were to be seen, but nearing the station it

**Words: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring**

had to do an emergency stop as LSgt O'Reilly suddenly appeared with outstretched hand in the international sign for "Halt".

Just in case there was any doubt LSgt John Dyer also stepped out to reinforce him with a purposeful SA 80.

Close but polite inspection revealed nothing untoward – no explosives, no criminals, no dummy roof ready to shield a mortar. Tension eased and the Micks were soon getting their brew on inside the police station.

This was not an exercise in Pirbright, where the battalion has been based since returning

from Berlin last year. It was the first deployment of the Irish Guards in their own country since the regiment was formed in 1900.

One might have thought they had been doing it for years.

Their success during a roulement tour in Fermanagh was a source of great satisfaction to the Micks, particularly as considerable angst had to be overcome before the regiment could play its part in the formative experience of British infantry.

"Although individual guardsmen have served here, there is no doubt we had missed out on an excellent military experience," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Christopher Langton, whose father, Stephen, commanded the battalion 30 years ago.

"Junior commanders in particular have been under more pressure than they have ever been before, and I am delighted at how they have performed."

Certainly, the Micks' approach, Irish sense of humour and banter – or "crack" – had an undeniable impact on the local community, said the CQMS of No 2 Company, WO2 Paddy Shields.

Over Christmas their sense of humour surprised the nationalist community – people were given Christmas cards – and Santa jumped out of an armoured vehicle to present children with sweets.

It was a surprise to many to be addressed in a soft Dublin or rich Cork brogue as well as the more unusual accents of the north. Even greater the shock to hear, politely and in Gaelic, that their own Gaelic was not quite grammatical.

LSgt O'Reilly said: "We understood little sayings that English guys don't, and got a good bit of crack going."

One former Irish Guardsman demobbed in 1946 and who had not taken part in association

LSgt Rab Tumelty and members of th

activities was delighted to recognise his old cap star worn by the Pipe Major on his caubeen.

There was no sense of going "abroad" . . . the Micks had come home.

Rather than counting the days to the end of the tour, many would have been happy to have stayed on.

"I had not a single man who wanted to go back early," said Sgt Mark Beney of the mortar platoon, attached to 4 Company at Clonatty Bridge. "All wanted to stay to the last week. It is usually the other way round."

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Joe Gough was disappointed only in that after 22 years in the Irish Guards this was his first and last tour in Northern Ireland. "As an Irishman, I would have loved to have done a tour in Belfast," he said.

"We are delighted to have been in Northern Ireland. Helping many people whom we know personally has been a pleasure," said Col Langton.



1st Battalion Irish Guards commemorate their first operational tour in Ireland at the ancient monastic site of Devenish Isle in Lower Lough Erne

Although many guardsmen had relatives locally, none paid visits during rest and recuperation. One soldier's parents did not recognise him as they passed his checkpoint.

The battalion had benefited from the experience, said the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Pat Cloney.

He made a point of going on patrol with his guardsmen, although noticing that the younger lads and junior NCOs were slow in coming forward when the RSM was with them.

But they soon realised they were in charge and became confident enough to take decisions.

"This is something you could never get in Germany," he said. "You rely as much on the most junior guardsman in the patrol, because if he sees something, he still has to react correctly."

Patrolling near the border brought soldiers' fieldcraft to a higher pitch than at any other time, said LSgt Jim Kelly. "After a while it becomes instinct."

With a fair amount of activity along the 103 miles of border in their patch, fieldcraft is vital. "We are mainly looking for movement and possible firing points on the high ground," explained LSgt John Dyer.

It was appropriate that the Micks' headquarters should have been at Enniskillen, which provided some of the oldest Irish regiments to become part of the British Army. During the early Jacobite wars Enniskillen men provided one regiment of horse, two of dragoons and three of infantry.

Along with headquarters in Grosvenor Barracks was a composite B Company from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, which

was the west Fermanagh company. The Lisnaskea company was No 4 Company, the Clogher company was No 1 Company and at Saint Angelo

airfield was the operations company, No 2 Company, plus Echelon.

A troop from the Blues and Royals was also attached.

Walking the roads round Newtonbutler, Lt Willie Pym's multiple were treading where Irishmen had fought the most significant en-

gagement before the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Surrounding them was their own tortuous history.

But it was a deep, rich vein of Irish military flair which was acknowledged when the Irish Guards were formed, as a direct result of the bravery and losses

of Irish soldiers of the Queen in the early, disastrous phase of the Boer War.

The Inniskillings, Connaught Rangers and Dublin's steadfastness thrilled the nation. Stories were told of how the Boers had stopped shooting in admiration as survivors struggled up the near impregnable Inniskilling Hill, preferring to disarm and honour such fighters.

The aged Queen Victoria allowed her gallant Irish to wear the shamrock on St Patrick's Day, and in further recognition of their bravery instituted a regiment of Irish Guards.

After Queen Victoria's death, Queen Alexandra gifted shamrock to the regiment, a tradition which is continued by the Queen Mother.

Irish soldiers had long fought for the crown – and even longer against it. The red coats of the legendary Wild Geese in the French Army's Irish brigades sometimes faced Irish Redcoats

● Turn to next page



LSgt John Dyer chooses a less obvious route through a hedge

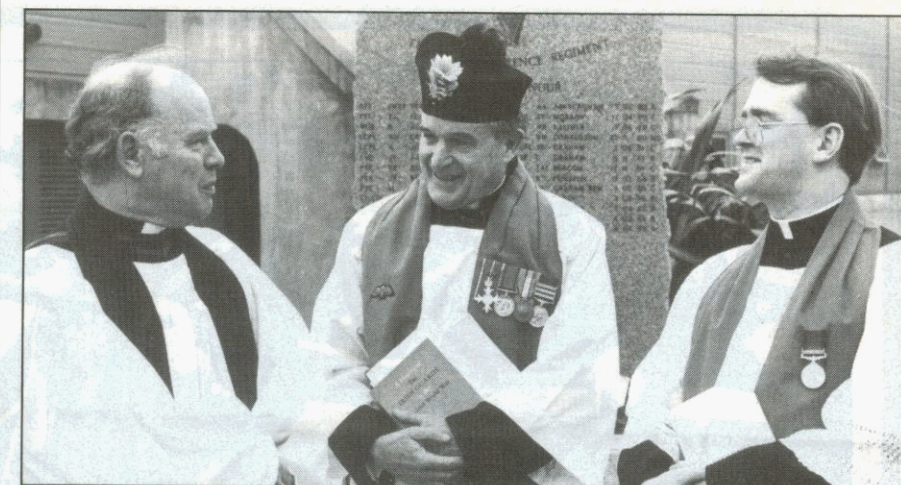


Modern Celtic warriors from No 2 Company, Irish Guards, surround the Iron Age Celtic figure on Boa Island. Clockwise from centre left are Sgt Alan Murray, Gdsm Fergie Ferguson, LCpl Alan Roberts, LSgt Dean Byrne, LCpl Gordon Powell, LSgt Geoff Johnson and Gdsm Ciaran Smith



Above – Before going on patrol on St Patrick's Day CSM Martin Brennan corrects the camouflage of LSgt Jim Kelly and Gdsm Kevin Saggars, Harry Croft and Brian Harris by adding a sprig of shamrock

Right – Following the example of his father, CSgt Loll McEntegart of HQ Company, is Gdsm Stephen McEntegart of 4 Company. Loll has served for 18 years, while Stephen, who joined two years ago, is a qualified piper



Enjoying the crack after the Irish Guards' first St Patrick's Day service in Ireland are the Dean of Clogher, the Rev John McCarthy, Mgr Hughie Beattie, a former chaplain sporting his hackle, and the present chaplain, Father Len Purcell



On long rural patrols the GPMG and L96 sniper rifle are useful additions, carried by Gdsm John Bate and Gdsm Brian McDowell

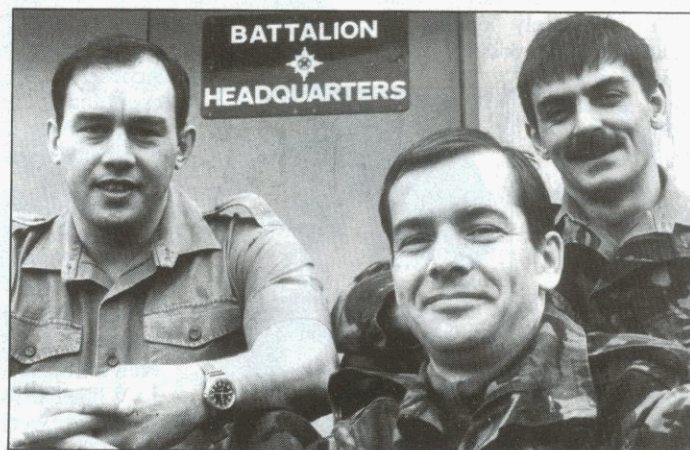
MICKS

● From Page 15

in the British Army. Threatened with severe cuts after the First World War, a furious public outburst saved the Irish – and Welsh – Guards. The fine southern Irish regiments were disbanded when the Irish Free State was created but their descendants are still welcome in the Irish Guards.

"We don't talk about the Troubles at all," said Sergeants' Mess Colour Sergeant Loll McEntegart. "It doesn't matter where people come from. They are a member of the regiment whether they hail from the north, south or are second generation Irish from Liverpool or Birmingham."

It is a remarkable tribute to the Micks that they have risen above the sectarian hatreds that



The three halves of the Irish Guards come from the north, south and Liverpool, represented by Sgt Dave Puttock, LCpl Tony Clark and ORQMS Geoff Lumb

blight their island. Typically, they dismiss political and religious differences in an Irish joke, claiming 50 per cent of their manpower comes from the north, 50 per cent from the south and 50 per cent from Liverpool!

It is a refreshing attitude to a

problem which would not be intractable if others followed their example.

One guardsman put it in context towards the end of his tour, muttering that the battalion could now get back to public duties and "proper soldiering" . . .

Regiment famous for its good manners wins over Fermanagh

MONSEIGNEUR Hughie Beattie did not really need to remind the Irish Guards of Lord Alexander's comment about the inherent good manners of the regiment when he addressed the 1st Battalion and association members from both sides of the border on their first St Patrick's Day celebration on the island.

Good manners were at the heart of their operation in Fermanagh and symbolised their approach to the community of which they are a famous part.

Those manners were noted

by German officers captured during the retreat from Mons in 1914, when they were immediately paroled and invited to dine with the Irish Guards officers.

This was not a week since their charismatic commanding officer, second in command, a company commander and six other officers and 115 men had been killed during the retreat.

The success of the Fermanagh tour has been a remarkable statement on how a disciplined force with a mature attitude can overcome the hatred of centuries.

At their church parade, chaplain Father Len Purcell was assisted by the Dean of Clogher, the Rev John McCarthy, as well as Padre Hughie, a former regimental chaplain who now ministers to apprentices at Arborfield.

The Regimental Signals Officer, Capt Niels Jensen, is a Dane who moved to England in the mid-50s. He loathed being in the cadet corps at school, but when, aged 15, he visited the Irish Guards at Munster in Germany he and his friends were looked after so well that he later decided to join the

regiment. He has had no regrets and revels in the hearty camaraderie.

As in other regiments of Foot Guards, the sergeants often invite their officers for a happy hour on Fridays, an excellent way of relaxing and for the officers to get to know other sergeants in the battalion in a social context.

As the equivalent of full corporals the lance sergeants are also mess members. The mess in a Foot Guards regiment is much larger, which fosters early responsibility and helps cement relationships.



Gdsm Mac Conlin prepares to negotiate an obstacle



Regimental pride as escort to the colours, X Company, 1 RRF, march past, with Lt Terry Robson bearing the Queen's Colour

Duke of Kent presents new Colours to Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Tradition turns full circle



The Duke of Kent with Capt Andrew Whelan, his ADC

IT WAS a case of history repeating itself when the Duke of Kent visited The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at Warminster, Wiltshire, as its Colonel-in-Chief.

Exactly 23 years earlier, he had presented the regiment's 1st Battalion with new Colours and, on St George's Day, on a special occasion for the RRF, the old were once again replaced by the new.

Last August, as a result of Options for Change, the regiment had merged three battalions into two, and the 3rd Battalion had ceased to exist.

It was also a mixed day for members of the battalion's X

Company, who, having earned the honour of acting as escort to the Colours by winning a drill competition, found themselves on the losing side after lunch when, in a match decided on penalties, they were beaten by HQ Company in the inter-company football competi-

tion. The Duke of Kent presented the Newcastle Football Cup to the winners, having completed a busy schedule which included meeting members of the Regimental Association and their families and talking to serving RRF soldiers.

Currently playing the role

of Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group (formerly the demonstration battalion), 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers will remain at Battlesbury Barracks until August next year, when it will move to Catterick as part of the new 19 Mechanised Brigade.

Above - The Ven Alan Dean, Deputy Chaplain General, consecrates the new Colours before they were presented to the regiment



Solemn moment for (left to right) Lt Terry Robson (holding the Queen's Colour), WO2 Charlie Budge and, with the Regimental Colour, 2nd Lt Nigel Lynch



The (comparatively) old brigade: the Duke of Kent meets Regimental Association members, former corporal Tom Jones (left) and retired captain Joseph Roseblade, both from the defunct Royal Warwickshire Regiment



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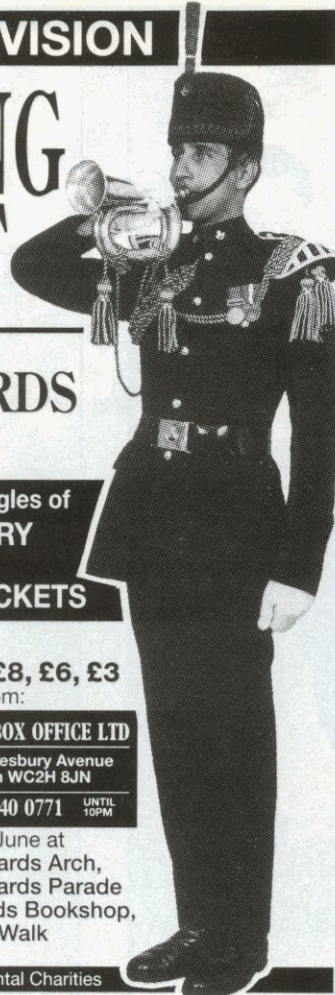
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QLR ON TOP OF THE WORLD



High there: The 1 QLR team photographed on Gokyo Peak, from where the climbers had good views of Everest

Berlin team reach base of Everest

SIXTEEN members of B Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment reached Gokyo Peak (17,900ft) after they had walked to Everest base camp during a 27-day trekking expedition in Nepal.

The Berlin-based soldiers flew to Kathmandu and made a tortuous 12-hour bus journey to their start-point at Jiri. The trek began in earnest at Namche Bazaar, from where the party climbed to 18,522ft and experienced the difficulties of functioning at high altitude.

Low cloud blocked out Everest until the trekkers had left base camp behind them and reached Gokyo on the return loop.

The party was led by 2nd Lt Adrian Peters and included Sgt Ted Campbell, Cpl Jonathan Edmondson, LCpls Steven

Thompson, John O'Neil and Paul Daniels, and Ptes Anthony Gaskell, John Howard, David McLeary, Peter McDonnell, Michael McBride, John Mitchell, Andrew Barker, Mark Davies, Andrew Barlow and Anthony Dale.

The battalion is planning similar trekking expeditions during the summer to Sardinia, Turkey, Crete and the Pyrenees.

● Lt Paul Edwards was flown to hospital from Mt Foraker (17,400ft) in Alaska as a precautionary measure, suffering from mild frostbite. He and two other climbers were returning from the summit.

Lt Edwards, who was leading an expedition from the AMF(L) Logistic Support Group based in Wings Barracks, Bulford Camp, re-joined the group within 12 hours.

Hungarian paras welcome PWRR officer

ADVENTUROUS training had an unusual twist for Maj Paul Corden PWRR, who became the first westerner to undergo military parachute training with the Hungarian Army.

Currently SO2 (W) M R Trigat in France, he was assigned to the 34th Bercsenyi Laszlo Reconnaissance Battalion based at Szolnok, 120km southeast of Budapest.

The 900-strong battalion, whose role is long range/deep penetration recce, has four para companies, two airlanding companies, two special communications companies and an admin support company.

There are around 700 conscripts in the battalion, who serve for only one year, and during his first three working days in Hungary, Maj Corden underwent the normal progression of parachute ground training for new conscripts –

A jump into the unknown



Maj Paul Corden

albeit speeded up.

"Exit training consisted of jumping from a high platform into a large skip full of pieces of foam rubber, holding the tucked position until impact.

After amassing 11 jumps of varying degrees of difficulty – taking his personal tally to more than 100 – high winds grounded him for

the remainder of his stay.

"The Hungarian Army is keen to formalise some form of exchange system with their British counterparts, and this is now being pursued at MoD level," he said.



The military trio at Thatcham: Maj Ken Mullins, Lt Col John Regan and Maj Julian Evers

Thatcham fuels Army quest for excitement

ADVENTURE IN STORE

PASSENGERS travelling by rail from the West Country to London could be forgiven for assuming the British Army had a "canoe unit" at Thatcham.

There is no immediate reason to link the long lines of canoes with a unit which is ready to react to world-wide emergencies within four hours.

When the Royal Logistic Corps' Regional Depot at Thatcham was told at 9pm to get equipment to an airfield for take-off early the next morning, it had lorries leaving before midnight to support the British Medical Battalion rushing to Croatia.

Crises usually happen on a Friday afternoon, but staff were called out eight times over Christmas.

Thatcham is responsible for the UKLF loan and operational pool stores for units training in London and Southern Districts, and all UKLF units training at home and overseas. It also provides simulated ammunition for logistic exercises, equipment packs for the Spearhead battalion and a certain number of weapons.

There are two main sections: loan and mobilisation stores.

Thatcham accounts for eight other depots and supports – with the help of subsidiary posts at Stirling and Catterick – the whole of UKLF in adventurous training.

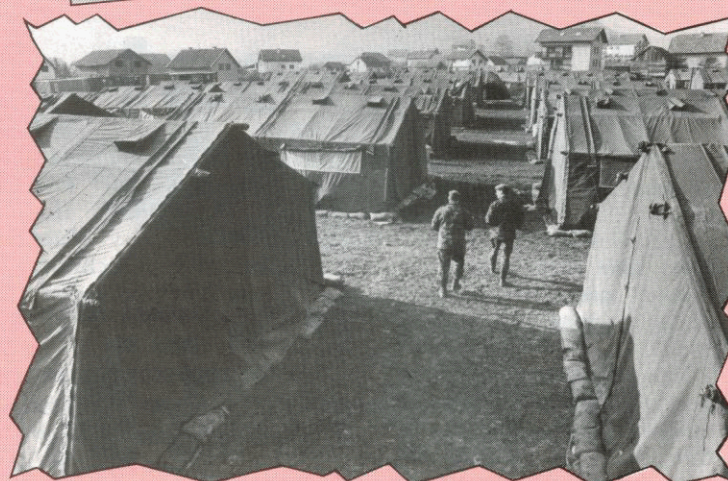
Stirling holds mainly skiing equipment for exercises in Scotland while Catterick concentrates on canoeing and walking equipment. The depot also supports the external leadership equipment tables for junior units and adult recruit units.

With a total value of £80m, the adventurous training pool amounts to only £2.5m, but it is a very cost-effective operation and the racks of more than 1,000 canoes, clearly visible from the railway line, soon shrink each spring as 2,000 pairs of cross country skis and 1,500 downhill and mountain touring skis are returned to one of seven huge warehouses.

With fewer field training exercises taking place, the adventurous training carried out by the Army is taking a higher profile. Enthusiastic commanders take to the snow fields, mountains and waters of the world in a search to enrich the quality of their men's lives.

A 65 per cent increase in

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Weston



All the tentage for accommodation in Bosnia was provided by Thatcham

demand for equipment from Thatcham compared with March last year reflects this interest, and it continues to rise as more troops return from Germany.

"With reorganisation and drawdown, there is a lot of work at the top end of the Army, but there are a lot of soldiers in barracks," said the commanding officer, Lt Col

John Regan.

"Enterprising young officers and SNCOs are still getting their soldiers out of barracks to carry out arduous but satisfying training which they enjoy."

With a staff of two other officers and 250 civilians, the depot's task is to obtain the equipment needed by units, hold it, issue it to units on loan, receive it back, check, clean

and repair it as necessary, and provide it to another unit.

It is the depot's proud boast that no unit has gone without in the last 16 months, even though it had to work overtime and use its own transport.

Another source of pride is the expertise built up in the RLC repair workshop. Improved care and repair means longer life and money saved – a feature which can also be seen in repairs to military kit which would otherwise have been written off.

A weather eye on what causes breakages can lead to significant improvements: weak points identified in canoe trailers have resulted in new trailers being produced.

"We changed the height and neck of the towing bar, up-gunned the metal gauge, moved the fuse box which was always being stood on, and have saved a couple of hundred pounds," said Maj Ken Mullins, officer in charge of Provision Control and Accounts, "and because it is an Army vehicle we can get

military spares, too."

Buying straight from manufacturers, sometimes from overseas, allows the depot considerable discounts.

A marked increase in workload is due to the formal recognition last year that the voluntary arm of the Service may participate in adventure training, not just for leadership training.

The value of doing different, "fun" training in retaining people in the TA and cadet units cannot be underestimated, said Col Regan, nor can the joy experienced by the young soldier landing safely on his feet after his first abseil.

"I never cease to be thrilled by this," said Col Regan. "The hesitancy on his face, gripping the rope even though he is on two or three ropes as he goes off the cliff backwards for the first time – then his face breaking into a complete grin; you cannot measure the value of this."

The benefits of camaraderie and fitness have long been recognised. A more subtle spin-off is how the young

soldier changes when he is out of barracks, in a different environment and under pressure to do something he has never done before.

"On the first day the soldier on the rockface is scared, hesitant and nervous," said Maj Mullins.

"A couple of days later he is lively, alert and enjoying himself as he moves across with the confidence of having overcome his initial reluctance. Suddenly he is showing his mates what to do."

"Commanding officers must be careful to select the soldiers who will most benefit from this training," said Col Regan.

"The sort of soldier who needs training does not normally volunteer for it. You have to be very wary of the volunteers who know its value and have thoroughly enjoyed it before."

"The people who hang back and prefer to lie about in the barracks on their beds are the ones to target, because once they go on and experience it, you invariably see a difference in them."

A distinction has to be drawn between adventurous training and sport. Windsurfing, for example, is not classed as adventurous training, and has to be funded by units. A fine distinction is drawn between the size of downhill skis which may be provided, and units must provide their own competition skis.

Adventurous training is not always simple fun. One group was cut off from its base in South Georgia, missed out on its resupply, had to dig itself out when a tent collapsed, and ate penguins to survive.

Wherever soldiers operate, commanders think carefully about the best way to offer a change of scenery to fill their time usefully during rest and recuperation.

Whether in Bosnia or Kenya, adventurous training packs prove their worth, sometimes doubling in a mountain rescue role, but always available as far as Thatcham is concerned – though staff once queried the need for an altimeter to cross Devon!



Adventurous training kit comes in all shapes and sizes, as illustrated by Maj Ken Mullins



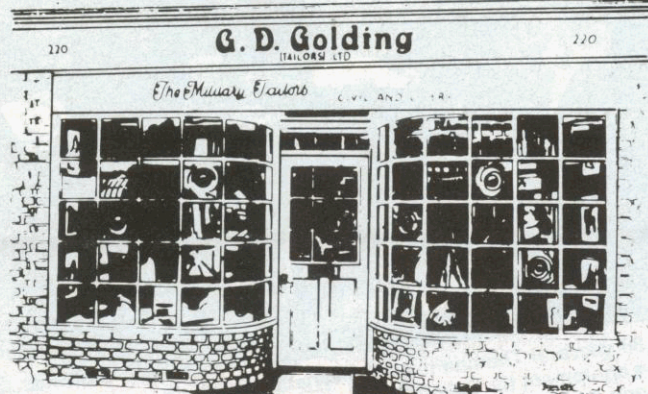
After 39 years at Thatcham, Mrs Gwyneth Watts has no difficulty finding equipment for Cpls Ian Burley and Liz Fellows of 160 Provo Company Recruiting Team



Another batch of canoes leaves Thatcham: Marc Brown helps Tpr David Brookhouse, 16/5 L, load up

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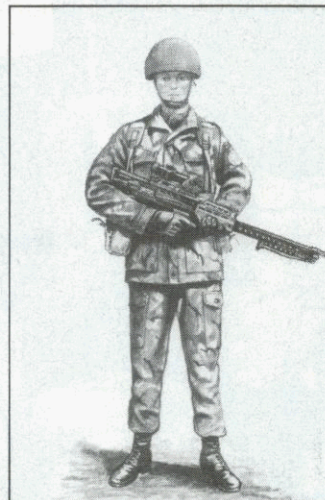
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The Saracen Troop of 28 Sqn QOGTR line up on the MT park of Gun Club Hill Barracks for the last time

Saracen swan-song

AFTER serving the British Army for 40 years, the last Saracens have made their final exit.

The Saracen Troop of 28 Squadron, The Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment disbanded following a final drive through Kowloon at the end of nearly 17 years supporting the Brigade of Gurkhas in countless exercises and operations.

Known as the Iron Troop, it was established in the summer of 1976 when 28 Sqn was located at Sham Shui Po Camp. Before this the vehicles were maintained by the 16th/5th Lancers.

By 1983 the fleet comprised 30 vehicles, including three ambulances. Four of the Saracens were designed to break barricades during internal security operations, earning

the nickname "Chinese Pusher" (their "cousins" in Northern Ireland were dubbed "Paddy Pushers").

Weighing ten tons and an imposing eight feet high, the Saracen had a crew of two and a maximum cruising speed of 45mph. It was equipped with a general purpose machine gun on a fully traversible turret and had room to transport eight fully-laden soldiers protected by half an inch of armoured plating.

With an operating range of 220 miles, the Rolls Royce engine provided a well-proven and powerful automotive system, and it was easily able to cross ditches 5ft wide.

The Iron Troop enjoyed the unique role of operating the only armoured element for the British Forces in the Far East. It was always heavily commit-



A final lap round Kowloon by the Saracens of C "Iron Troop" 28 Sqn QOGTR after almost 17 years of exercises and operations

ted to exercises within 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade and as well as helping with recruit training, it took part in many community relations projects throughout the territory – particularly over weekends.

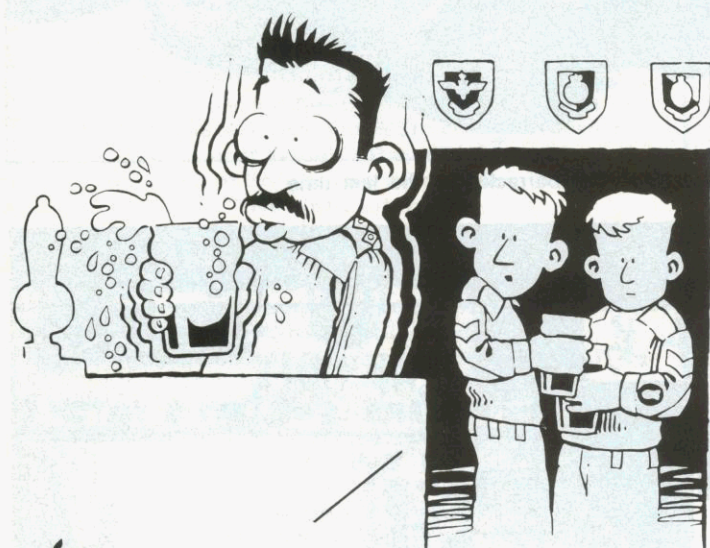
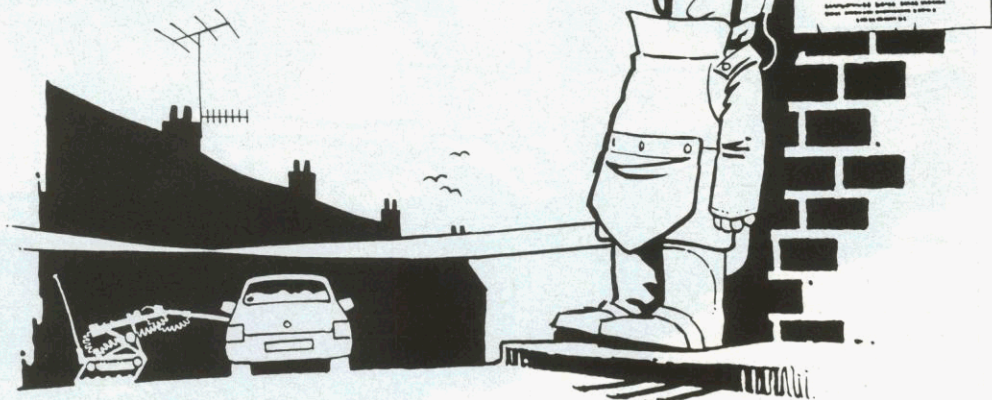
During the regimental re-badging parade, the Saracens bowed out in style in front of

the Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen John Foley, with heads high and searchlights on full beam.

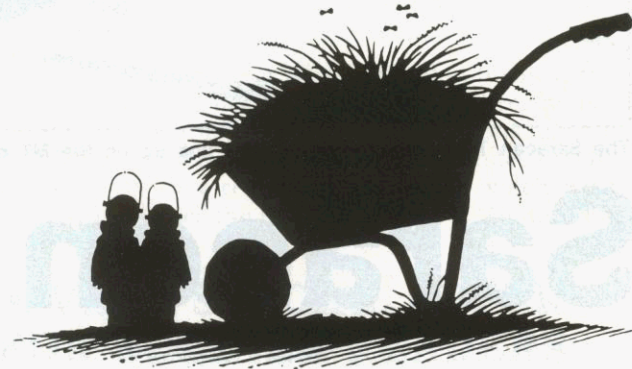
While some of the veteran vehicles will go to military museums around the world others will be converted into mobile drilling rigs and sent to Australia's opal fields.

Tom

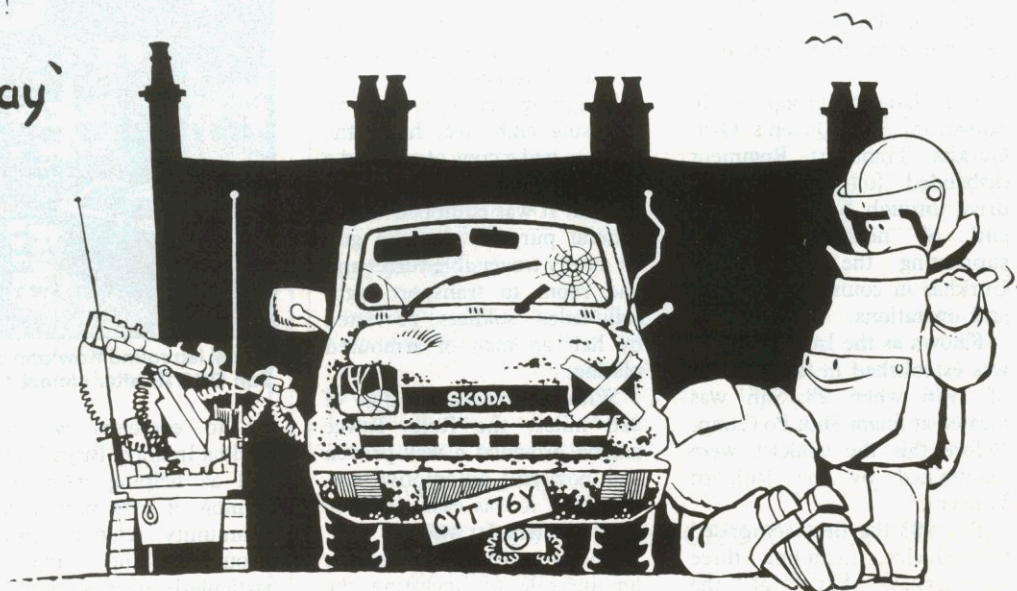
LOOKS AT EOD



'the Boss had a tricky one today'

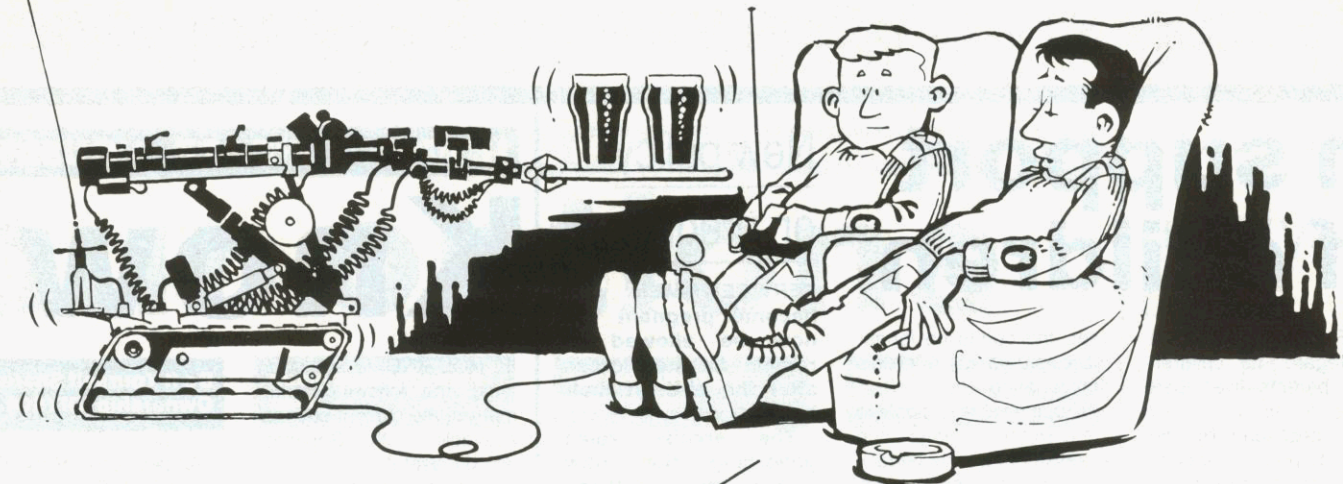


'it's the covert ops model'



'The owner says could we let it go off?'

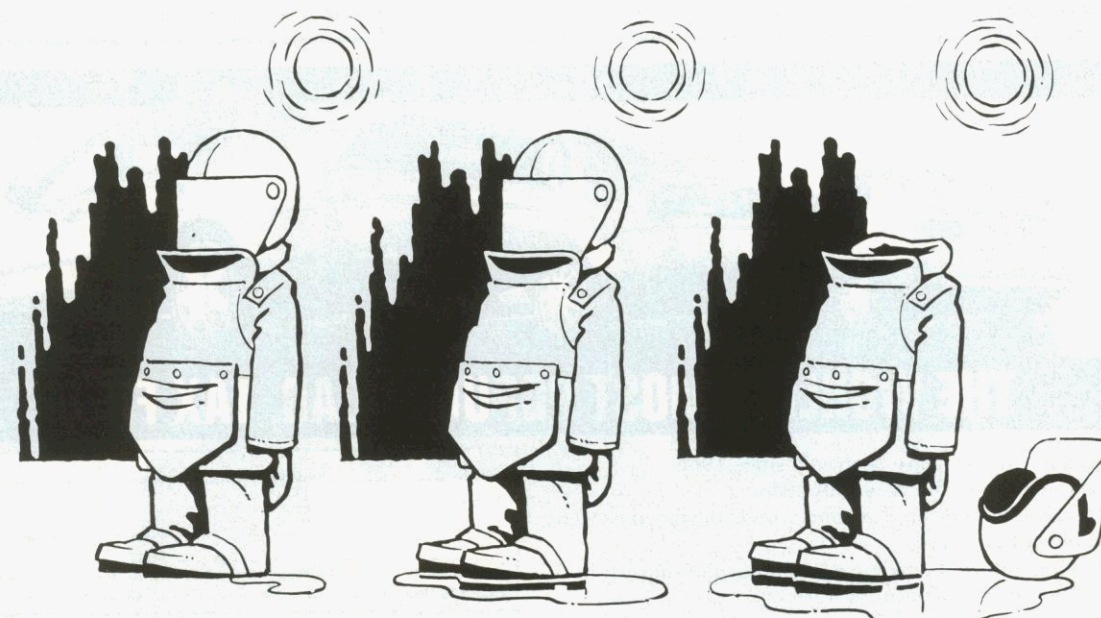
by
Lyles ©



'You forgot the crisps'



'You and your SOPs'



COs who would like Lyles to subject their unit to Tom's particular brand of humour are asked to contact the Editor



In support of children

HELPFUL financial advice with regard to children whose parents live apart can be found in a new booklet published by the Child Support Agency (CSA), part of the Department of Social Services.

Among those the publication covers are natural or adoptive parents of a child whose other parent lives elsewhere in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. I understand that it also applies to those in the Services overseas.

Those other than the parents, such as a grandparent, who have care of a child whose parents live elsewhere in the UK might also find guidance on applying for child support maintenance.

"The parent with care" is the term used for the parent who lives with the child or children for whom maintenance is needed.

"Absent parents" are those who do not live with the child or children concerned.

Under the law both parents have a legal responsibility to support their children financially if they can afford to do so.

Where an absent parent lives outside Great Britain or Northern Ireland, child maintenance will continue to be a matter for the courts to settle. In most other cases, as from April 5 this

year, the courts no longer make orders for a child's maintenance.

Those eligible to apply to the CSA for a maintenance assessment will not usually be able to get help through the courts.

They will be able to go to court about other family matters such as maintenance for themselves from their former spouse, maintenance for stepchildren, property settlements and issues of contract or residence involving the children. A solicitor's advice may be needed about these matters.

Since April 5 the CSA has started taking on cases in stages. For example, you can ask for help if you are a parent with care and do not receive income support, family credit or disability working allowance and do not have an existing maintenance arrangement.

The term "existing maintenance arrangement" covers court orders, voluntary agreements, maintenance agreements, or minutes of agreement. If you have any of these, then you will not be able to apply to the CSA until 1996.

Meanwhile study the booklet (CSA 2001 Jan 93) or ring the inquiry line (0345 133133) between 9am and 6pm weekdays.

New policy on pregnancy

SERVICEWOMEN who become pregnant will now be allowed to remain in the Forces after the birth of their baby.

The precise rules governing this new policy are, however, extremely complicated – and readers are advised to study the details concerning eligibility for maternity leave.

They can be found in the Manning and Records Office circular, AGC 1/93, which also covers the rights of lone parents.

Furniture reduction

LAST year the Armed Forces Pay Review Body approved the introduction of a part-furnished rate for married quarters.

This was announced to all occupants returning to the UK on posting. It also applies to those who have underdrawn the majority of their MQ furnishings and those who request only a partly-furnished quarter. Both would qualify for a reduction in rent.

Your local unit will be able to tell you how much furniture it is required to retain or withdraw under this new rate.

HOUSING UPDATE HOUSING UPDATE HOUSING UPDATE HOUSING UPDATE HOUSING UPDATE

Know your options

IF HOUSING is on your mind, the following summary of the current options available to the Services will be useful.

It has been compiled by Cdr Bob Cribb RN, officer-in-charge of the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) in Salisbury.

Ministry of Defence Nominations Scheme

JSHAO is happy to receive applications for nomination to housing from Service leavers who wish to rent Housing Association property in the following areas:

- Portsmouth and Gosport (Portsmouth Housing Association – available now).
- Portsmouth (Swathling Housing Association – available later 1993).
- Bristol (Haig Homes, who will consider nomination to their stock in other parts of the country – available now).
- Shawbury (Bromford Corinthia Housing Association/Beth Johnson Housing Association – available autumn 1993).
- Chatham (London and Quadrant Housing Association, who will consider nomination to other parts of their stock in the South-East – available now).

Do It Yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO)

Applications for the Services DIYSO scheme in England are now being accepted for those leaving the Service during this financial year.

The Housing Corporation has recently confirmed that it is happy to accept completion before the last day of service. The individual, however, must be able to raise his part of the purchase funds. This will, of course, usually be funded from the terminal gratuity.

In order to confirm eligibility and to apply, applicants should first complete a JSHAO housing proforma. JSHAO will confirm eligibility and set in motion the application to the appropriate housing association.

There are also DIYSO schemes to which JSHAO can provide contact in Wales and Northern Ireland but currently not in Scotland.

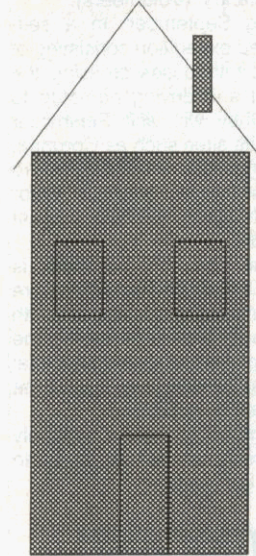
Self Build

JSHAO has available copies of a video produced by a timber frame specialist company which describes in detail the self build process.

Local authority data base

JSHAO has a data base of information about all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. Details are available to all Service personnel.

The data base includes details of local authority policy towards housing ex-Regulars, addresses of the housing offices, names and addresses of housing associations providing family accommodation, private rental options, low-cost and shared ownership schemes within the authority and lists of estate agents for all areas.



Home Savings Scheme

A career in the Services means accepting the possibility of being posted almost anywhere in the world at any time. But at the same time, will you be able to buy a permanent home of your own?

The Services Home Savings Scheme (SHSS) has been created by the Ministry of Defence to provide better housing opportunities during a Service career or on leaving.

With a SHSS account, you save directly from your pay each month. Once you

have made at least 60 monthly payments and use your savings and the interest earned to buy a home, the MoD will provide you with an additional amount known as the Home Savings Allowance, which must be used with your savings towards the purchase.

Details and application forms are held in the JSHAO. If you have more than five years to serve and are not a home owner, can you afford not to be in the scheme?

House purchase information

Copies of the Council of Mortgage Lenders' booklets, *How to Buy a House (England)*, *How to Buy a House (Scotland)*, *Hints for Homebuyers* and *Taxation and the Home Buyer* are available on request.

Commercial initiatives

• Homefinder Services – happy to take your calls or applications if you are looking for rental, part-buy and full-buy options. Details from JSHAO.

• SSAFA/Birmingham Midshires scheme offers investment/rental and home ownership options. Details from JSHAO and SSAFA.

• AML Properties Ltd, Cosham, provides a comprehensive property purchase and home relocation service linked to finding a second career. Details from JSHAO.

• JSHAO also has details of builders who will offer special discounts for Service personnel.

NB: Many building societies are reluctant to offer mortgages to Service leavers until they are in secure full-time civilian employment.

Nationwide Surveyors Services Scheme

JSHAO has details of the different types of survey that house-buyers may consider, and their relative merits.

Nationwide Surveyors have announced special discounted rates for Service personnel. The following fees for homebuyers' report and structural survey include a free report on the energy efficiency of the property to be acquired. The fees do not include VAT:

Value up to £50,000: house-buyers' report, energy audit and MVR, £165; structural survey, £299. £50,001–£75,000: £200; £75,001–£100,000: £226; £100,001–£150,000: £269; £150,001–£200,000: £317; £200,001–£250,000: £365; £250,001–£300,000: £413; £300,001–£350,000: £456; £350,001–£400,000: £500; £400,001–£450,000: £543; £450,001–£500,000: £587; £500,001–£550,000: £629; £550,001–£600,000: £671; £600,001–£650,000: £713; £650,001–£700,000: £755; £700,001–£750,000: £797; £750,001–£800,000: £839; £800,001–£850,000: £881; £850,001–£900,000: £923; £900,001–£950,000: £965; £950,001–£1,000,000: £1,007.

Who to contact

For a housing proforma or further details of any of the above, contact: Joint Services Housing Advice Office, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN (tel: 0722 336222 ext 8350, 8351 or 8355).

How to apply rules on BSA

THERE has been some confusion, I gather, over some of the rules for both boarding school and day school allowances.

When, for example, are parents able to bid for the higher rate of Boarding School Allowance?

The BSA higher rate applies to middle and senior schools, the lower rate to preparatory schools.

To clarify the cut-off period, a child at a prep school or attending the junior department of a senior school at which there is a fair fee increase at the age of 11 will be eligible for the higher BSA rate at the start of the autumn term following his or her eleventh birthday.

This applies to a child progressing from preparatory to senior level in the same school at 11+ where the transition will normally occur at the start of the academic year after the child's eleventh birthday.

There will be some border-line cases and it is advisable that these are submitted to the Ministry of Defence for a ruling.

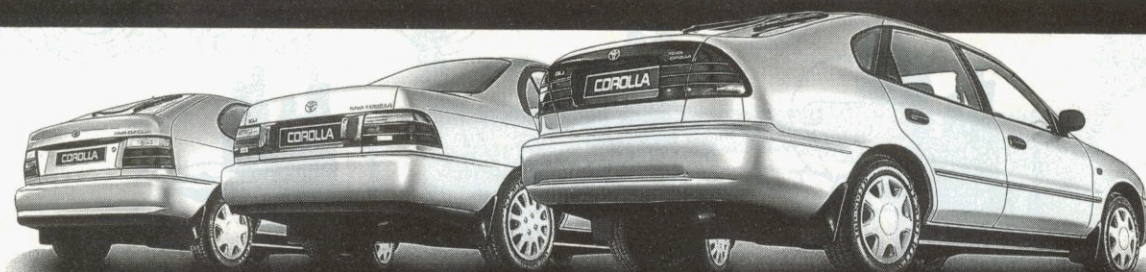
With regard to BSA and Day School Allowance (DSA) for redeundees, the question is exactly when the concession for the final two years of study is granted.

It is stressed that this concession applies when the child is in the final two years of study for the appropriate examination.

For most children this occurs between the ages of 14 and 16 during study for the GCSE. For A-level children, the ages are 16 to 18.

Many children sit some GCSE papers a year before they take the majority, but this does not count. Being within two years of taking such preliminary papers does not qualify for the concession as the children are not within the final two years of study.

Further clarification can be obtained from your unit or the Service Children's Education Authority.



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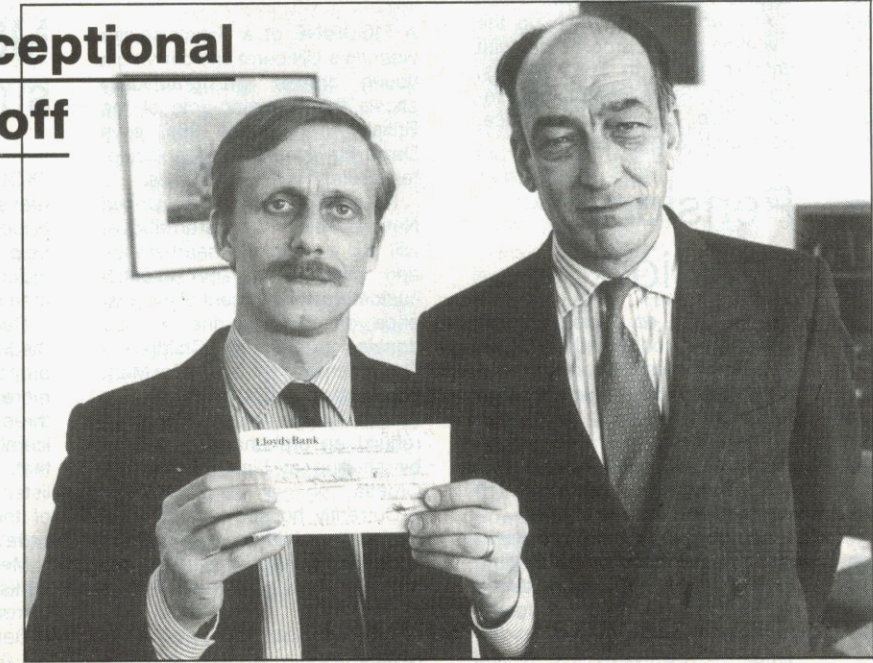
Title/Rank _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Tel: _____
I would like to receive information on the following schemes and Toyota models. ☐ Personal Export ☐ Direct Export ☐ Welcome Home Deal ☐ Saloons & Estates ☐ Sports ☐ Specialist

For more information fill in the coupon and send to Mike Sturgeon, Tax Free Sales, Toyota (GB) Ltd, The Quadrangle, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1PX or Tel: (0737) 768585.

THE NEW COROLLA. THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

John's exceptional idea pays off

Recognition for Grantham-based Sgt John Tomlinson, who was presented with a cheque by Maj Gen Mike Jackson, Director General Personal Services (Army) for a well-received suggestion on subsidised mortgages. Although on this occasion the suggestion could not be implemented, so much effort and original thought had been put into it since it was conceived three years ago that it deserved an exceptional award.



Picture: Mike Wason

Signing on ... and off

COULD 25 Tpt and Mov Regt RLC be on the shortlist for the shortest-lived regiment in history?

On April 5 the regiment, based in Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld, re-badged from the late Royal Corps of Transport to the new Royal Logistic Corps – and started changing its signs.

But just 56 days later – on June 1 – it will perform another about-turn when it amalgamates with its sister regiment to emerge as 24 Regiment RLC.

The regiment reckons it will have the dubious distinction of being the first of the new corps to disband. *Guinness Book of Records* please note.

Capt Gerry Briggs RLC, the RQM, hoped to have the corps title amended on all signs and noticeboards – just in time to start changing them again 56 days later.

Uppingham honours VCs

UPPINGHAM School has honoured its five Victoria Cross holders with the dedication of a specially-commissioned memorial.

All five VCs are long dead, but many relatives attended the service in the school's stone chapel and saw a collection of VC memorabilia compiled by regiments and families.

The five heroes are: Capt G A Maling RAMC (VC gazetted November 18, 1915, died July 1929); Capt T H B Maufe RGA (VC gazetted August 2, 1917, died March 1942); Capt A M Lascelles DLI (VC gazetted January 1918, died France November 1918); Lt Col J S Collings-Wells, Beds Regt (died in action March 27, 1918; VC gazetted April 24, 1918); and Lt C A W S Clarke, Royal North Lancs Regt (died in action April 23, 1943; VC gazetted June 1943).

Victorians, take arms!

THE Victorian Army – in the form of the Victorian Military Society – is about to fight old battles.

A non-commercial organisation which encourages the study of military history during the period 1837-1914, the VMS has set up a re-enactment group and is now looking for recruits.

No special skills required, so contact Graham Gillmore, 81a Wainwright, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 5AH (tel: 0733 570312) if you want to sign up.



Can anyone shed more light on the background to this retired AEC Matador, recently purchased by a former REME soldier and friends for restoration to its former glory? They know the vehicle started its Army life on March 23, 1940, but there is no record of its intervening career until its "demob" from the Royal Artillery in Germany in 1963.

On stripping the paintwork on the cab, red and blue RA colours were revealed, with the figures 96 or 98 in white. However, the brigade or divisional flash on the nearside is a mystery. Any clues?

SOLDIER to Soldier

Edinburgh invitation

REGIMENTAL association coach parties attending the Edinburgh Tattoo (August 6-28) will find a warm welcome in the city's Scots Guards Association Club.

Any who wish to take up the invitation should drop a note with date of arrival to Tom Winters, Secretary, Scots Guards Association Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5DR.

Pensions decision

THERE ARE no plans to modify Service pension awards for those whose careers ended between 1976 and 1978, the Prime Minister told the Commons.

The question had been raised because the relevant pensions were restricted by pay restraint in force at that time.

Mr Major said the retired pay or pensions awarded them the time "were calculated in accordance with the rules of the armed forces pension scheme in force at the time."

LI returns to Corunna

FOLLOWING IN the footsteps of their forebears in September will be members of Shropshire-based 5th (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers).

During September, in a self-contained expedition consisting of two unit mini-buses crossing the Channel and driving non-stop to Spain, they will visit Peninsular War battle sites such as Corunna, Salamanca and Talavera, where the Light Infantry played a major role in helping Wellington defeat Napoleon.

Another aim of the expedition is to raise funds for the Shropshire Regimental Museum appeal, with holidays as prizes, by asking the public to pay to guess the total distance travelled by one of the participating vehicles.

The museum was extensively damaged by an IRA fire-bomb in August last year.

Memorial to Contemptibles

A MEMORIAL to the Old Contemptibles is to be unveiled by the Queen Mother in Westminster Abbey on July 15.

An appeal for funds towards the cost of the £5,000 memorial, plus grants to chums in need for travelling and hotel expenses, has been announced by the Old Contemptibles' Association.

Tickets for the ceremony, on a strictly first-come-first-served basis, are available at £5 (payable to Old Contemptibles' Memorial Fund, crossed A/C Payee only) from Brig G M S Sprake, 42 Wear Bay Crescent, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6BA.

MS sufferers' support group

"YOU ARE not alone" is the reassuring message from Mutual Support, a group which aims to help multiple sclerosis sufferers, including those in the Army or members of their families.

Recently made a full branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the purpose of the group, which has more than 50 members from all three Services and the MoD, is – literally by mutual support – to show that "there are those who can listen and those who know the sort of things with which those who have MS have to cope."

Members are drawn from all ranks in the United Kingdom, Germany and Cyprus.

Details from Flt Lt Kim Bartlett, tel: 0400 61201 ext 6435.



Figure of hope

A FIGURINE of a British soldier wearing a UN beret and carrying a young orphan girl graphically shows the changing role of the British Army in the 90s, says David Hawkins of military sculptors Peter Hicks Associates.

He is hoping that "The United Nations Soldier" (pictured above) will pull at both the heart-strings and purse-strings of potential customers: ten per cent of the cost price of each figurine will be donated to SOS for Children – Lipik, a charity set up by Col Mark Cook, late 10 GR.

Col Cook is raising money to rebuild an orphanage destroyed by shelling at Lipik in northern Croatia.

Currently housed in a refugee hostel, the children, who include Serbs, Croats and Muslims, are desperate to return to their former home.

David can be reached on 0380 828382.

DIARY

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

MAY

25: Queen unveils Alanbrooke statue on Raleigh Green, Whitehall.

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

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

JUNE

2-3: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Household Division on Horse Guards Parade (2130 hours).

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).

12: Queen's Birthday Parade (1100 hours) on Horse Guards Parade. Colour trooped by 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

JULY

3: 1 Kings host Open Day to mark bicentenary of Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow (2pm to 6pm) with military music and displays, following presentation of Colours to 1 Kings the previous day.

10-16: Stoke Mandeville Challenge 93, first international ex-Service wheelchair games. Contact Jonathan Powell 071-973 0633.

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)).

NOVEMBER

14: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

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

REUNIONS

● **Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regiment:** Regimental annual reunion takes place at Pitchcroft Racecourse, Worcester on June 5. Details from RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA.

● **Grenadier Guards Association:** Shropshire Branch lunch party at The Palms Tropical Oasis, Stapeley Water Gardens, nr Nantwich, Cheshire on June 27, followed by Beating Retreat. Ex-drummers particularly welcome. Details from R Woodfield on 0743 363688.

● **RGJ Association:** Royal Green Jackets Association reunion will be held on July 10 at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester. Details from Bettie Hicks, RHQ Peninsula Barracks (tel: 0962 864176).

● **Army Catering Corps Association:** Reunion on July 11 in the form of a memorial service at the Memorial Hall, Aldershot. Social gathering followed by lunch in various messes. Details from Mr B Dyson (tel: 0252 340893).

● **Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot):** Regimental reunion dinner at City Hall, Cardiff on July 31 followed next day by parade and service at Llandaff Cathedral. Details and tickets

from RHQ, The Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8215/8202).

● **15 Battery/15 Loc LAA Battery RA, Korea:** The fifth reunion for officers and men who served with these batteries in Korea will take place at Sywell Airport Motel on August 21. Details from R Fox, The Gables, Willoughby Road, Cumberworth, Alford, Lincs LN13 9LF (tel: 0507 490661).

● **ATS Dinner Club:** Annual luncheon on October 2 at Forte Crest Hotel, Bloomsbury, London. For membership details Mrs Marguerite Fellows, 20 Mount Nod Way, Coventry CV5 7GX, enclosing sae.

● **Ex-POWs:** National Ex-Prisoner-of-War Association reunion takes place at Warners Lakeside Holiday Village, Hayling Island from October 22-25. Ex-PoWs and supporters requiring details should send sae to Charles Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG (tel: 0722 333599).

● **4 Company, 3 Battalion, Coldstream Guards (1950-55):** Second reunion dinner in Birmingham, October 23. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel: 0482 503649).

APPOINTMENTS

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

MAJ Gen M I E Scott CBE DSO to be Colonel Commandant the Scottish Division from April 6 in succession to Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham KCB CBE.

Gen Sir John Wilsey KCB CBE to be Colonel Commandant the Royal Logistic Corps from April 5 in a new appointment.

Maj Gen J D MacDonald CB CBE to be Colonel Commandant the Royal Logistic Corps from April 5 in a new appointment.

Maj Gen D F E Botting CB CBE to be Colonel Commandant the Royal Logistic Corps from April 5 in a new appointment.

Maj Gen G W Field OBE to be Colonel Commandant the Royal Logistic Corps from April 5 in a new appointment.

Brigadiers – K O'Donoghue – To SHAPE Staff (BAE), April 26; M R Raworth – To be Comd Arty 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt, April 26; I A Johnstone – To be Comd HQ BR Forces Belize, May 5; J E Neeve – To be Comd 2 Sig Bde, May 6.

Colonels – R J Lawson – To be DA/MA Buenos Aires, April 24; J L Seddon-Brown – To be D A Malaysia, April 26; H Grenville-Jones – To MoD, April 26; R K Williams – To RSA, April 29; H B Hannah, late RAMC – To Cambridge Mil Hosp, May 4; A S Mumford, late RADC – To 3 Dent Gp, May 9; M M Slattery QARANC – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, May 10; J M Arigho, late QARANC – To Dep and Trg Cen QARANC as Comdt, May 24.

Lt Cols – P G Barry RA – To HQ ARRC, April 19; M S J Filler AGC(ETS) – To be Comd ETS HQ BFHK, April 23; J Johnston AGC(PS) – To HQ AFNORTH (BAE), April 19; R A E Legg KOSB – To be CO 2/52 Lowland(V), April 20; N C D Lithgow BW – To HQ UKLF, April 20; H H McNinch REME – To be CO Cdo Log Regt RM, April 23; J A Poole-Warren RGJ – To MoD, April 19; M S Southworth RLC – To be CO 154 FAD, April 19; T O G Stokes RA – To BMATT Zimbabwe, April 22; P R P Swanson PWRR – To be CO 8 QF, April 20; L R J Tilson, R Signals – To be OC RSDT 8 Sig Regt, April 22; J R J Baxter RA – To Staff Coll, April 19; N M Fairclough RE – To RMCS, April 19.

W A Bailey RE – To be CO 73 Engr Regt, April 26; P Firth RLC – To be CO 150 Tpt Regt, April 27; G M J Grieve RLC – To MoD, April 26; D M Homewood RLC – To be CO TDU, April 26; I R Howard-Williams RLC – To UK Move and Lias Staff (LC), April 26; S F Owen RLC – To HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC, May 1; J P Coles RADC – To 9 Den GP, May 1; A J C Fisher RLC – To MoD, May 6; J P Hoskinson RE – To

RMCS, May 4; G M Simmonds AGC(ETS) – To DGAGC, May 4; N S Southward LD – To be Comdt Depot HK MSC, May 4; C S K Anderson LG – To MoD, May 4; P Woodward-Court RADC – To 12 Dent Gp, May 17; N M Young RADC – To Washington, May 21; C R Hodgkinson RAMC – To 17/21 L, May 26.

RETIREMENTS

Brigadiers – S G McK Gordon, late R Signals, April 27; M F John – late RAOC, May 1; R H Hardie, late RAMC, April 30; D T Kinnear, late RCT, May 7.

Colonels – H M Sanders, late QOH, April 24; P J Worthington, late RE, April 23; P R Rostron, late Glosters, May 1; D Verschoyle, late RE, May 4; A A Ward, late RAOC, May 4; N A Barry, late RAMC, May 29.

Lt Cols – L G A Clarke RAMC, April 30; J G Francis RAMC, May 6; A F G Groom RAMC, May 30.

SEARCHLINE

● **Military Policeman "Wally":** Arman Ramaekers (Sneppenlaan 22, 2630 Maasmechelen) is trying to trace Wally, who was an MP in a tank unit at Boersers at the Meuse, Belgium, late 1944/early 1945. He left for Arnhem in March 1945.

● **Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Armoured Corps:** The WO's and Sgts' Mess wishes to invite all ex-JRSMs to the final Pass Off of the JLR RAC at Bovington on June 18. Contact WO2 (SSM) R C Titchener, JLR RAC, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JB (tel: 0929 403355).

● **E A G Croucher** wishes to contact any ex-PSIs and cadets of B Coy, 9 Bn, Middlesex (C) Regt 1947-50; A Bty, 1st City of London (C) Regt RA (RF) 1950-55 with a view to a reunion. Replies to Fen Cottage, South Lopham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2JN.

● **Cpl Sam Storr:** 16 (Lincoln) Det 4 Para has a pewter plate engraved "Presented to Cpl Sam Storr by 3 Troop B Squadron QRH". It came into this unit's possession from a garage where it was discovered under the seat of a vehicle. If Cpl Storr or any person with sufficient information would contact the Admin Officer, 16 (Lincoln) Coy, 4 Para, TA Centre, Newport, Lincoln LN1 3DT (tel: 0522 524389), the plate will be returned to its owner.

● **John Cox:** Donald Jacobs, Corona 8, 3204 CL Spijkenisse, Holland (tel: 01880-18486) is trying to trace ex-boy apprentice John Cox (Chepstow 1950-53).

My lot spread far and wide

I REFER to the article on the merging drop for 4 and 15 Para (Newsline, April 19), in which it was stated the new battalion claims to be the widest-spread in the Army.

This honour I feel once lay with my old units, firstly 280 MC Sqn RCT(V) and latterly with 287 MC Sqn RCT(V) with which 280 merged in 1983. Initially 280 recruited from the whole of the UK including Northern Ireland, with the most southerly member being a Dvr Dyer from the West Country, and I the most northerly.

As a result of the Irish problems we slowly lost the Irish members. On the merger with 287 the spread increased from the West Country to Shetland.

Sadly, with the formation of the Royal Logistic Corps, the subsequent reorganisation of

the Volunteer Movement Control Squadrons into more condensed recruiting areas and the reduction of the upper age limit to 48, it is very likely that 4 Para is now the widest spread in the Territorial Army.

Incidentally, 287 MC Sqn RCT(V) was unique, in that four majors, two WO1s and ten WO2s were on the strength.

Can any other unit counter 4 Para's claim or beat 287's upper echelon? — **WO2 D C Donald, Inverness.**

Tankies were there first

I HAVE just read with interest your article (April 5) concerning 1 D and D in Chile. I am sorry to disappoint you but this was definitely not the first British Army expedition in Patagonia, southern Chile.

This time last year a team from 1 RTR, led by Lt Robbie

Scots' councils so enterprising

YOUR article on Action and Support Teams (April 5) mentions Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) and describes their Scottish counterparts as Local Employment Councils (LECs).

The organisations that I am sure this article is referring to are the Local Enterprise Companies (LECs).

There are 23 of these LECs in Scotland.

They are independent companies and their remit is to

develop the local economy within their particular area, improve the environment and provide training in the community at all levels.

The wording in the April 5 edition may give the impression that the LECs are employment agencies, and this is not the case.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know that the LECs and their "umbrella" organisations within which they operate, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, have given tremendous support to the Army HQ Scotland Action and Support Team and the ETS Resettlement Officer in helping soldiers and their families to settle in Scotland. — **Maj R Edwards AGC (ETS), Educational and Training Services Resettlement Officer, Army Headquarters, Scotland.**

Graham, visited the area as part of the Ironsides Diamond series of exercises.

Whether or not that was the first British Army exercise to the area I do not know — but the First were there first! — **Capt G H Davies RTR, Gaza Company, RMA Sandhurst.**

He's put his Foot in it!

RICHARD DOHERTY (April 5) is correct when he says that the 16th Foot was never the 14th Foot, but he is incorrect when he states that the 16th Foot exchanged its county title with the 14th Foot.

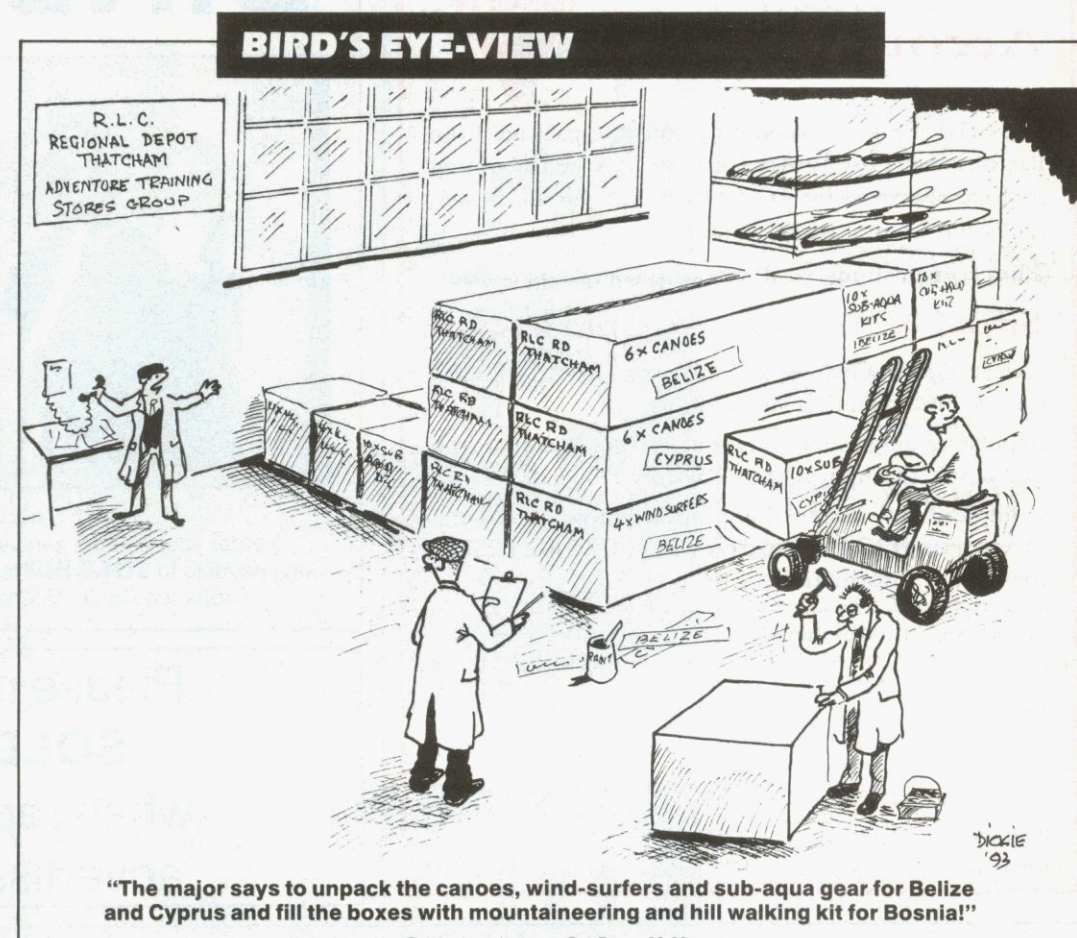
In 1809 there was animosity between the colonels of the 14th and 16th Foot Regiments. The colonel of the 14th wanted to relinquish the Bedfordshire title, which was meaningless to his regiment, so he exchanged titles with the 15th Foot (whose colonel was a relative).

The 15th Foot exchanged the Bedfordshire title with the 16th Foot, receiving the Buckingham title in return.

The 15th and 14th once more exchanged titles, with the 15th Foot receiving back its original title — The York East Riding Regiment — and the 14th receiving the equally meaningless Buckingham title.

The ultimate aim of the 14th Prince of Wales's Regiment was to acquire a Yorkshire Riding title, thereby linking the 14th and 15th regiments in sequence in the same area.

This the regiment finally achieved in 1881, when the 14th abandoned its Buckingham title, and became The Prince of Wales's West Yorkshire Regiment, with the 15th becoming the East Yorkshire Regiment. The 14th could not pick up this title prior to 1881 because it was held by the 33rd Foot, who after 1881 became the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. — **Peter de Wood, ex-WO1 RAC, Germany.**



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2. What is the speed limit on a single carriageway road (not in a built-up area), unless otherwise stated?
a. 70mph b. 60mph c. 50mph d. 40mph
3. What is the meaning of this sign (black bar on white circle)?
a. No entry b. National speed limit applies c. 70mph speed limit d. No parking
4. What is the meaning of this sign (white numbers on blue background)?
a. Minimum speed b. Maximum speed c. Time limit for parking d. Motorway junction number
5. From what age does a vehicle require an MoT?
a. 1 year b. 2 years c. 3 years d. 4 years
6. What is the meaning of this sign (black bicycle, white background, red border)?
a. Parking for bicycles b. Cycle lane c. Beware of cycles d. No cycling

Closing date for the competition is June 7. Winners will be notified by post. Employees of SOLDIER Magazine and Campius Martius may not enter the competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

A zone out of sight and mind

FOR MORE than ten years I have followed the correspondence concerning the absence of any recognition of service in the Canal Zone for the period following the unilateral abrogation by the Egyptian Government of the 1936 Treaty and the Sudan Condominium of 1899.

It seems that the campaign so ably undertaken by Col P S Newton, but without success, must end all hopes of any future change of Government stance.

Traditionally, politicians have given soldiers nothing without some return benefit in mind. It must be remembered

that the majority of present MPs were schoolchildren at the time and will have little detailed knowledge of Middle East history of the period.

Who now remembers that in addition to Zone troops, 1st and 3rd Divisions fielded something like 16 battalions of infantry, seven regiments of artillery and two-and-a-half regiments of armour? The scale of deployment was quite considerable.

However, the important points to remember were the lack of instant television reporting and the fact that most of the troops were low-cost National Servicemen without a strong UK families electorate to be considered.

Without allies in support, there was no one to set an example and shame the UK into recognising its Servicemen's efforts. — **J D Adams (ex-39 Inf Bde), Bristol.**

Lima Jack was quite a lad

WHILE working in Lima, Peru, recently I had the good fortune to meet the Gubbins family, who regaled me with the interesting story of Juan Alexander Gubbins, A/Sgt (6748) 16th Manchester Regt, 1st City Battalion (Pals).

Jack, as he was known by the British authorities, ran away from Lima as a 17-year-old in 1913 following his jealous, armed assault on a rival for the affections of a young lady.

He joined up soon after the declaration and served until August 1917, at which time he was granted leave to return to Peru because of the failing health of his father.

In 1949 he returned again to the UK, this time as commercial attaché at the Peruvian Embassy, a post he was to hold for some 30 years, well beyond his retirement age.

During his time in London he purchased for £32 from the

Motcombe Galleries, Knightsbridge, two Picasso lithographs which he presented to a Lima-based charity to decorate the office.

One picture, "The Bullfighter", was discovered to have on the reverse an original Picasso ink sketch. It was reported in 1965 to have an estimated value of £8-9,000 (what present-day value, one wonders).

He died, aged 93, five years ago. — **L A Palmer, Bath.**

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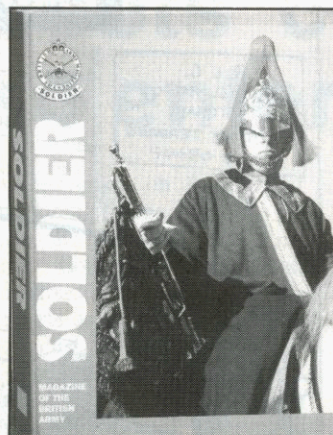
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- The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
- The Royal Welsh Fusiliers
- The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- The Light Infantry
- The Royal Military School Kneller Hall
- The Royal Scottish Country Dancers
- Bedfordshire Youth Orchestra will play the '1812' Overture



Col Victor Nicholls, Commander AGC SPS, cuts the ribbon to formally open 19 Regiment Royal Artillery's new-style administrative office. Beside him is Maj Ena Foster, who heads the RAO team

The A-Team

THE HIGHLAND Gunners are pioneering a concept which could revolutionise the way in which the huge task of administration in the British Army is handled.

Topcliffe-based 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, part of 24 Airmobile Brigade, has become the first major field force unit in the United Kingdom to form a Regimental Administrative Office (RAO).

The new concept means that, with the exception of medical aspects, all the regiment's "A" services will be gathered together to cater for the financial and administrative needs of its military personnel.

Headed by Maj Ena Foster, former Director of Music of the WRAC Staff Band and now part of 19 Regiment,

Highland Gunners usher in new concept in admin

Royal Artillery, the 22-strong RAO is a mixture of personnel from the Adjutant General's Corps Personnel Support (AGC SPS) branch and the Royal Artillery.

Indeed, the regiment's first, all-important, staff support subaltern, Lt Gillian Anderson, cut her teeth as the assistant adjutant to 45 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

And the incumbent of the newly-created post of regimental administrative warrant officer is SSgt Martin Meek, formerly chief clerk of 27 Regiment, who will act as office manager.

The regiment has been selected as one of the two

units in the United Kingdom to trial the Unit Computing Project (UNICOM), a system which came replete with office automation package and will provide for the administration of personnel, equipment, supply and Service funds.

Col Victor Nicholls, Commander AGC SPS, cut the tape to open the new office.

The new concept will mean that regimental CO, Lt Col Paul Molyneaux, will now have management information literally at his finger-tips, as well as an electronic mail capability linked to other establishments.

Age no limit as TQ Germany opens the door

VOCATIONAL training of young and not-so-young dependants of the British Forces in Germany is being conducted under a new banner after the re-launch of the parent organisation on May 19.

With the title Training and Qualifications - Germany (TQG) the new scheme supersedes BFG YTS, or British Forces Germany Youth Training Scheme.

The change has come about because although youth training will still play a large part in the parent body's activities, TQG is now able to offer recognised qualifications in the form of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) to dependants of any age.

Sponsored by both the Army and the RAF, the organisation already has an excellent reputation of providing successful training.

It offers programmes in business administration, catering, community care, engineering, hairdressing, wholesaling and warehousing, vehicle services, dental surgery assistance, equitation and information technology.

All applicants will work towards achieving a recognised qualification, with flexibility the keyword - where possible, training will be organised around their other commitments.

TQG, which has offices all over Germany, each with a resident professional training consultant, will pay for examinations, protective clothing, and a training allowance up to the age of 24.

More information is available by telephoning JHQ Mil 22358 or 02161 4722358, or by visiting a local TQG office.

ChildLine opens in BFG, Cyprus

CHILDREN of British Forces personnel stationed in Germany and Cyprus now have access to ChildLine, the United Kingdom's free 24-hour telephone helpline.

The new service has been set up by ChildLine in partnership with SSAFA and means children can speak to counsellors at the London HQ.

Anne Woodruff, SSAFA Director of Social

Work, said Forces children could feel isolated.

"They need an independent listening ear for their troubles and worries - especially children living in Germany, who are likely to have a parent serving in Bosnia or Northern Ireland."

● The international freephone numbers are:

From Germany - 01 3081 7777

From Cyprus - 0809 1111

Poet-artist who refined essence of the trenches

MOST memories of the First World War are based on diaries but *The Fateful Battleline* is derived from Capt Henry Ogle's remarkable contemporary water colours and sketches on which he had written short notes.

Some 20 years later he started writing the first of 159 separate essays which he finalised in their present form between 1955 and his death in 1963.

These have been very skilfully edited by Michael Glover and woven into a continuous narrative with succinct introductions to each chapter and instructive explanatory notes.

The whole book makes fascinating reading about his three years in the ranks and his year as an officer, mostly in France and Belgium.

The 70 water colours and sketches of people, places, incidents in battle, equipment and trench life are exquisite and give many scenes unrecorded by photography and substance to this very human story of a terrible war.

From the beginning one senses the poet in him by such dramatic phrases as: "It was light enough to attempt to carry three stretchers through the gluey slime. It was squelch, suck and splash with feet unwilling to move at all. The sun beat down on our shoulders and the evil-smelling vapour rose from the churned slime and stiffening glue of the mud."

It was not surprising, therefore, to find in an appendix two of Henry Ogle's War Poems, *Very Light* and *J T* (Jack Taylor, a friend who was killed at the Somme in 1916). One wonders how many more poems he wrote and whether they have been published.

This descriptive power pervades these memoirs and his

account of the discovery of the bodies of five of his battalion is very dramatic: "One red-haired boy lay on his back, legless and the others were more or less dismembered."

"In their midst the crater made by the exploding shell that had killed them was no more than sod-deep. Our shell or German? We could not tell but I remembered the warning, 'Don't group'. Ahead was the first line."

But these memoirs are not all about the horrors of the Western Front. They are about humour – "when along came the sergeant-major bearing that well known herald of action, the rum jar".

They are about comradeship

– when his sergeant heard that Ogle was leaving for a commission, he said: "Quick boys, off out of this before Jerry tries to say goodbye." Then he turned abruptly and went forward." He never saw his friend Sgt Davis again as he was later killed in action.

They are also about relaxation in rest areas, admission to hospitals, training, leave and much more.

This book will grip your attention from the moment you pick it up. – PSN

The Fateful Battleline. The Great War journals and sketches of Capt Henry Ogle MC, edited and introduced by Michael Glover. Leo Cooper, £17.95.

Visitors' guide to Ypres battlefield

EVERY night at 8 pm at the Menin Gate in Ypres, a bugler sounds the Last Post in memory of those who died defending the town in the First World War.

While the town was never taken by the Germans, it was all but flattened by heavy artillery fire.

So it is unsurprising that the people of Ypres – known to the British Tommies as "Wipers" – should welcome visitors to the town and battlegrounds to remind them of the terrible toll of soldiers' lives and the devastation of the area.

To help visitors and locals alike, history teacher Nigel Cave has produced a handy-size paperback book telling something of Hill 62, Sanctuary Wood, Hoge, Hellfire Corner and many other places in the area to help them find their way round the trench lines, the museums and the cemeteries, of which there are scores.

Mr Cave made his first visit to Ypres 25 years ago and says it was then possible to find

relics of the war. Even today bits and pieces can probably still be found, but any responsible Western Front guide will warn against picking up anything because of the danger of old ammunition.

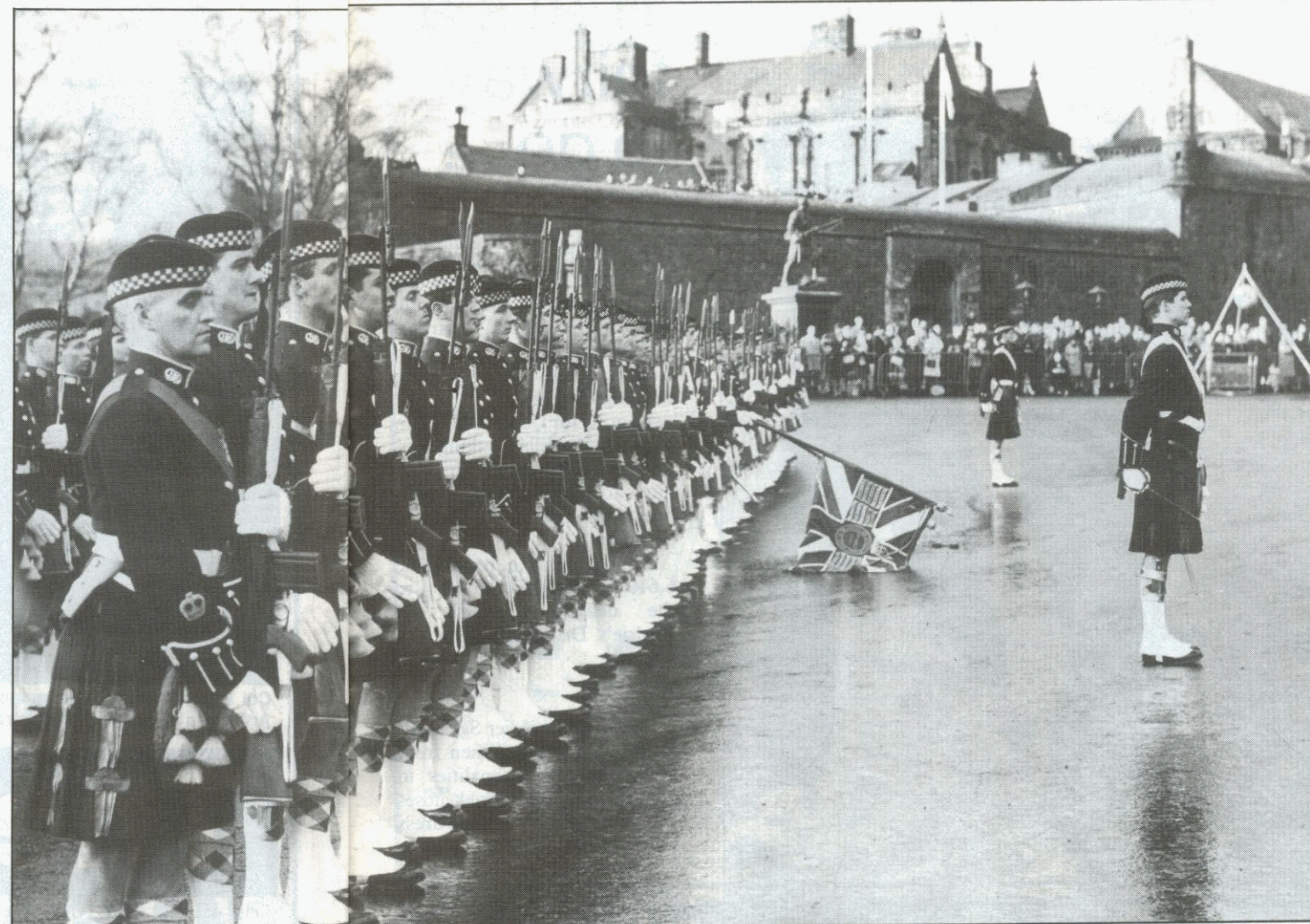
With his obvious deep interest in the history and battle details of the area, the author complains that some of the museums do not carry enough

information about the items on show, or even what they are.

Perhaps the answer is that they, like him, don't know and leave the visitors to make up their own minds.

A useful and enlightening little book. – JM

Sanctuary Wood and Hoge by Nigel Cave. Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword Books, £6.95.



Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders do the Colour during the Queen's visit to Stirling in March 1971

The regiment they dared not disband

MORE THAN 20 years ago one million people petitioned the Government protesting against the threatened disbandment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

As with most of its battles over almost 200 years, the regiment won that one – and, if similarly threatened, would probably triumph again.

On the eve of the bicentenary, Patrick Mileham, a recently-retired Royal Tank Regiment major, has produced in *Fighting Highlanders!* the first full-length history of this fine infantry unit.

Its colourful history and traditions of courage and service are charted here, from the Cape in 1794 to recent

duties in Northern Ireland. As for the future, the author believes the Argylls are good for at least another two centuries.

Without being sycophantic, his story presents a glowing picture of the regiment's battalions down the years – avoiding, as he confesses, "detectable shortcomings".

He admits to a shortage of superlatives to describe the extremes of courage displayed and suffering endured by members of the regiment, particularly in the intensive combat of two world wars.

The book works out at about a page for each year of the regiment's existence – not enough, of course, since it

would take volumes to tell the full story. So this is a selective, but nonetheless readable, history.

Patrick Mileham writes in his introduction: "Rumour has it no Whitehall warriors or politicians dared to disband or amalgamate the regiment during the current wave of reductions and reorganisations, after the experience of 1968-72."

"Perhaps in peace as well as war the essence of regimental spirit lies in self-fulfilling prophecy!" – JM

Fighting Highlanders! The History of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders by P J R Mileham. Arms and Armour Press, casebound, £19.99.

Sgt Maj Amin puts a sting in the tale

AN ENCOUNTER with the notorious Idi Amin is among the many anecdotes from 42 years of military service told by Lt Col Alexander John Ward in a fascinating autobiography, *The Call of Distant Drums*.

Sandy Ward joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the age of 17 in 1943 and retired as Adjutant General of the Zimbabwe National Army in 1985.

In his easy-to-read and often humorous style he recounts many tales of experiences with well-known people, including royalty.

The one concerning Amin occurred when the dictator-to-be was his sergeant-major in the Uganda Rifles Shooting Team.

Resting after a successful match, team captain Sandy had fallen asleep in long grass and awoke to find the big man towering over him and warning him not to move a muscle because a seven-inch poisonous centipede was crawling over his chest.

Idi deftly removed the deadly insect and cut out its sting, which was "big as a cat's paw".

When the Queen Mother visited the 4th Battalion, King's African Rifles (Uganda Rifles) in 1959 the word went round that she never drank gin.

Champagne cocktails were a favourite, sometimes sherry and wines, and she had been known to have a small whisky. A refrigerator was stocked up with every drink imaginable – except gin.

On being asked what she would like, HM replied: "I would love a gin and tonic please."

Luckily, a bottle was found containing one large tot to save everyone's blushes. – JM

The Call of Distant Drums by Lt Col Alexander John Ward. The Pentland Press, £16.50.



The Menin Gate at Ypres, September 1977

Münster concert boosts charity

THREE British military band concerts have raised a massive DM45,000 (about £18,800) for the German Red Cross in Munster – the largest single donation ever received by the local branch office.

At an informal ceremony in the Garrison Officers' Mess in York Barracks, Brig John Reith handed over the bumper cheque, proceeds of the **British Military Music Show** organised by HQ 4 Armd Bde last December in the Halle Münsterland.

The show has been a popular annual event since 1972, since when it has raised some DM660,000 for charity.

★ ★ ★

The men of Belfast-based **16 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC** have been going nowhere fast – in the name of charity.

The squadron, which has seen off the majority of the Province's Humber one-ton patrol vehicles (universally known as Pigs and now being replaced by the Saxon) during the current tour decided to mark the passing of the RCT and the formation of the RLC by staging a sponsored treadmill run in Moscow Camp.

Teams "ran" 199 miles and collected more than £1,400 for a children's charity in Northern Ireland.

★ ★ ★

Royal Highland Fusiliers' wives at Oakington Barracks, Cambridge proved they have hearts of gold by handing over £800 for Great Ormond Street Hospital and £292 for the Disfigurement Guidance Centre.

★ ★ ★

Cpl Ned Kelly, a member of the RP Staff at **Princess Marina College**, Arborfield was raffled off and jailed to raise funds for a computer for the local Coombes County infant and nursery school.

The raffle raised £1,784.



Feeling doubly pleased with themselves are 55-year-old veteran runners, Lt Col (Retd) Paul French (left) and twin brother, former colonel Peter. Working these days as Services Liaison Officers in Münster and Paderborn respectively, they completed the London marathon, raising approximately £2,000 in the process for a German children's cancer charity and SSAFA. Paul has run in six London marathons to his brother's five ...



Lots of drive: Gdsm Norman McMillan and LSgt Keith Dawes collect a few more balls for their six-hour marathon in which they hit a total of 6,610 balls over 100 yards

That's a fairway to go . . .

A CHARITY "drive" with a difference by two members of the **Scots Guards** regimental information team has helped to add a further £2,000 towards a visit to EuroDisney by children from a school for those with learning difficulties.

LSgt Keith Dawes and Gdsm Norman McMillan, taking it in turns to drive, initially aimed to hit a total of 4,000 golf balls over a distance of 100 yards in six hours.

In the event, a remarkable 6,610 balls crossed the line – to the delighted benefit of Airdrie's Drumpark School.

★ ★ ★

Op Grapple soldier Sgt Mark Hayward persuaded men from nine different nationalities to wear Comic Relief red noses and held a red nose fancy dress horse race.

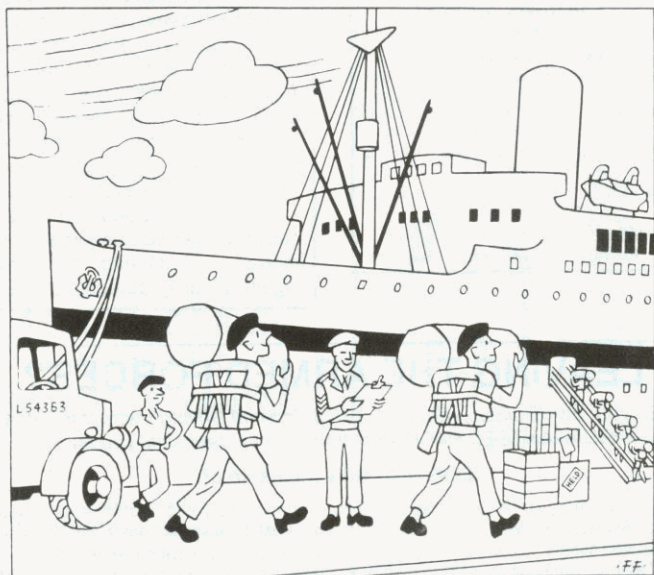
Mark, from Herford-based 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and currently serving with 211 **Signal Squadron** on detachment in HQ Bosnia-Herzegovina Command at Kiseljak, was later able to give Chief of Staff Brig Roderick Cordy-Simpson more than £560 for Comic Relief.

WIN £50

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the July 12, 1993 issue. See story below.

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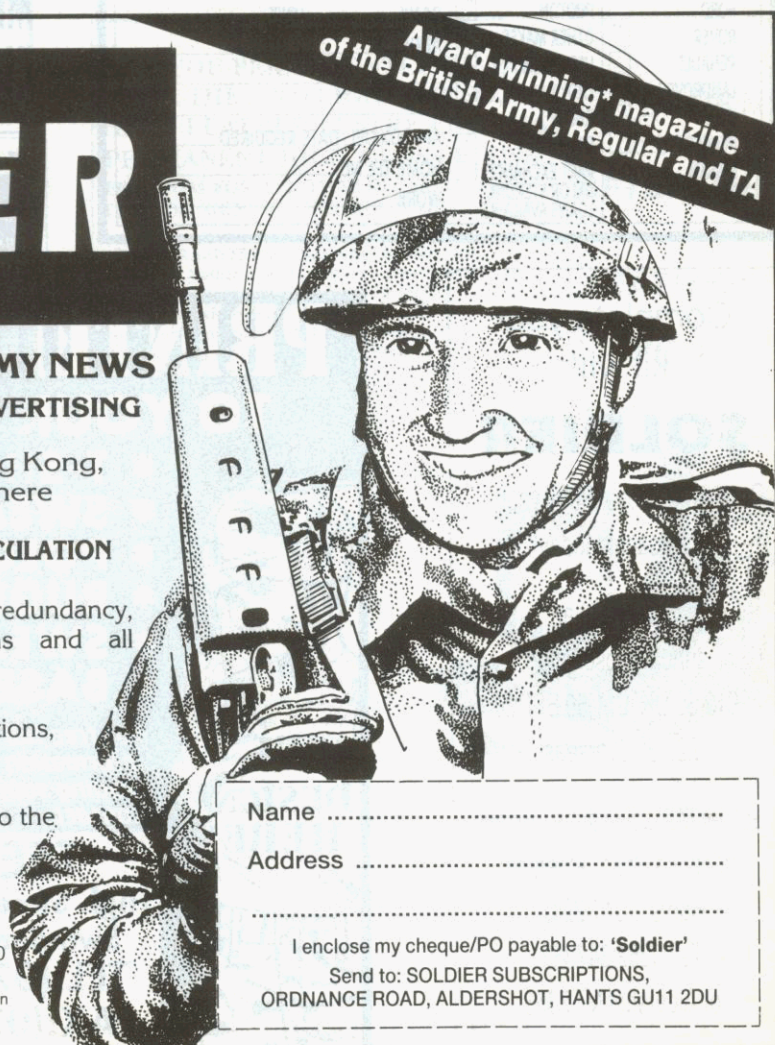
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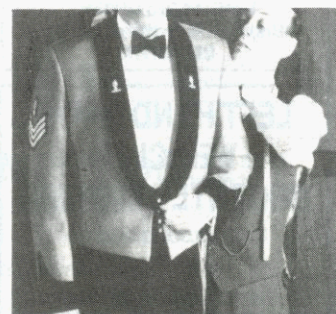
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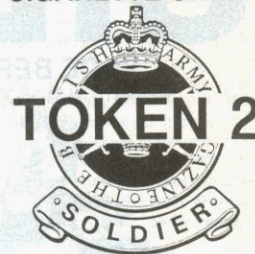
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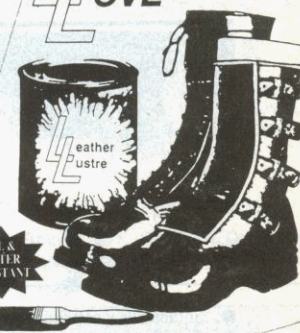
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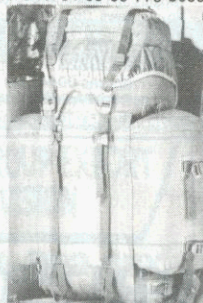
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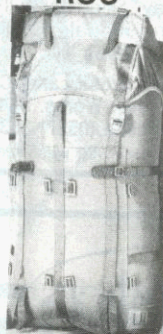
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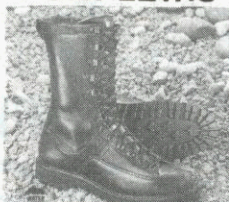
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Charities for the benefit of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

Scheme for the regulation of the Charities

Ref: RLB-150587-SC

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this Charity. Copies can be obtained from them at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL (Ref: RLB-150587-SC). DONS

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Scheme for the regulation of the Charities

Ref: BWG-246849A/2.246850A/1-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: BWG-246849A/2.246850A/1-SC) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today. DONS

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A FORCE FOR THE FUTURE

WHILE the Army's senior footballers were stealing the headlines with a series of championship-winning performances, the youth side has been setting its own high standards.

In one of the most successful Army seasons on record, the youth team won the Inter-Services title, beat the national Scottish Schools FA Under-18 team, and notched up a tremendous victory over the Association of Scottish Youth

FCs in the final game of a tour of Scotland.

Although losing all three South West Counties Championship games with weakened teams, the players proved they could hold their own against the best county and representative sides when at full strength.

Among their scalps during the season were Chelsea FC (beaten 6-3) and the Boys Clubs of Wales (5-0).

Utility player Pte Lee Bradbury (1 PWRR) showed

outstanding form throughout the season and was named player of the year. Fus Taff Jones (1 RWF) posed a considerable threat to opposition defences and scored 26 goals in 19 games, more than twice as many as any other youth team striker in the past 16 seasons.



Lee Bradbury

Two other players whose performances revealed genuine potential to go further were the very competitive midfielder ACpl Simon Johnston (Army App Coll Harrogate) and striker Gdsm Andy Cooke (2 Coldm Gds), a latecomer to the squad and the "find" of the season.

The youth squad was coached by WO2 (QMSI) Dick Parker APTC and WO1 Robbie Bayston RLC and managed by Lt Col (Retd) Stan Goold.

Army claim county crown

The Army 3, Royal Navy 2

The Army rounded off a highly successful season by lifting the South West Counties Championship when they defeated the Royal Navy by three goals to two in an all-Service final at the Military Stadium, Aldershot on April 29, writes Derrick Bly.

But the Navy got the better start when Portsmouth triallist LAEM Nigel Thwaites's low centre was headed by Pte Pete Batey past his own goalkeeper, Cfn Mickey Taylor, in only the second minute.

But the big central defender atoned 60 seconds later when he got on the end of a free kick from Sgt Garry Williams and neatly side-footed it into the net.

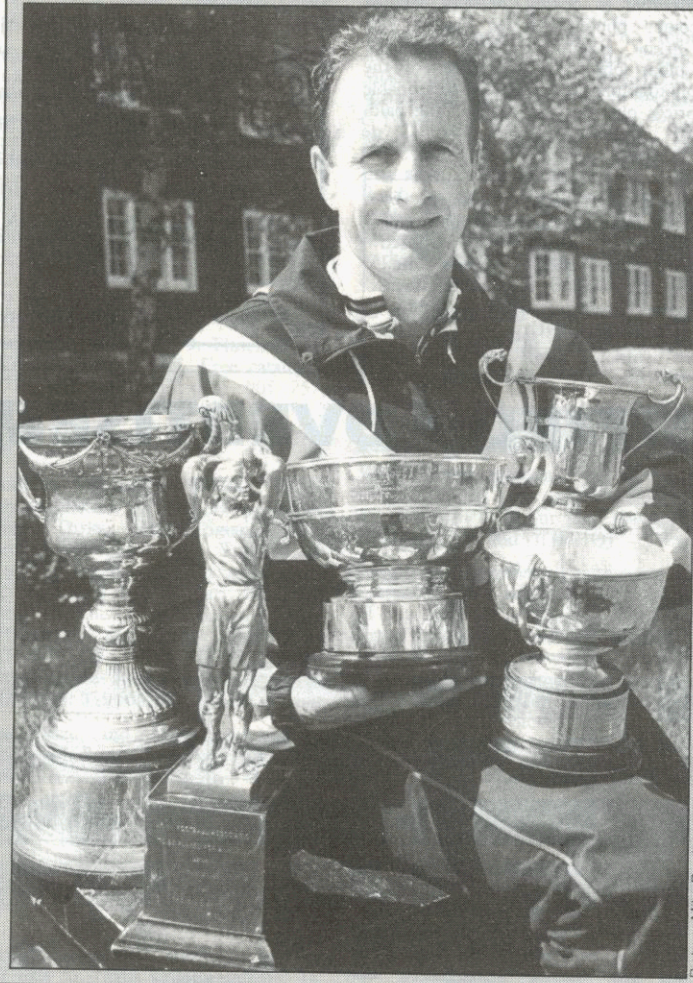
Although Navy coach WPOT Tommy Johnson was shown the red card after an altercation with a linesman the visitors went ahead in the 20th minute, an advantage which they did not hold for long.

Sig Paul Brown scored a clinical equaliser after controlling a long pass by Army player of the year Cpl Tony Wright.

Bdr Steve Bates replaced Cpl Dave Maynard in the second half, but the sailors continued to look the better team in a match which had an end of season look about it.

Taylor raced off his line to

Roach the coach with the smooth approach



Picture: Mike Penning

The man widely credited with plotting one of the most successful Army football seasons in memory is coach WO2 (QMSI) Joey Roach (APTC). His commitment, and that of his staff, has played a huge part in filling the Army Football Association's trophy cabinet.

He is pictured with the Constantinople Cup (Inter-Services champions), Carlington Cup (Army v RAF), Mercury Cup (Army v RN), South West Counties Championship Cup and the Civil Service Trophy.

Roach, now attached to 27 Regiment RLC, was a Liverpool triallist as a schoolboy. He won more than 100 caps for the Army between 1976 and 1991 as a defender and played for Combined Services on many occasions.

A qualified FA coach, he has helped Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion with their pre-season training.

Roach the coach puts the season's success down to the efforts of others. "I've had brilliant support from the backroom staff, and from the players both on and off the field," he said.

1 PWRR 1, 1 Gordons 0

A goal by Pte Justin Turnhill after just seven minutes settled the Infantry Football Challenge Cup final at York Barracks, Münster on April 24.

He pounced for 1 PWRR after the 1 Gordons' goalkeeper had failed to gather a shot from Army Youth team player of the year Pte Lee Bradbury.

Both sides missed a number of chances but 1 PWRR always looked more likely to score.

Combined Services 1, Belgian Services 1

A BELGIAN Armed Forces side containing six national Under 21 caps and one full international was rocked on its heels when Sig Jim Strouts gave the United Kingdom Services the lead in the second minute of their Kentish Cup match at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth.

But the Belgian equaliser in the 26th minute made their hosts' target of a four-goal win highly unlikely.



Picture: Mike Weston

SSgt Chris Spowart, the Army centre, dives over to put 1 RRW further ahead in a one-sided Touche Ross Army Sevens final against 2 Signal Regiment

Giant killers!

Welshmen run rest ragged

THE DAVIDS of 1 RRW withstood the rugby Goliaths of 7 Para RHA and 2 Signal Regiment to carry off the Touche Ross Army Sevens at the Military Stadium in Aldershot.

Having overcome their fallibility in the pool section and qualified for the competition proper, the Tern Hill-based Welshmen hammered RSA Larkhill 32-0 in the first quarter-final before confronting 7 RHA, the dominant force in Army unit rugby, in the semi-finals.

The Horse Gunners scored first after a tense start, but 1 RRW stuck to their open style of play and eventually galloped away to a 19-7 win through three tries by Lt Chris Jones, two of which were converted by LCpl Ben Bailey.

Clear favourites to take the title were 2 Signal Regt, who had eliminated 2 RTR and 22 AD Regt on their way to the



Welshmen on the attack in the sevens final. From left (white shorts) are Lt Chris Jones, LCpl Terry Cooper, SSgt Chris Spowart and ball-carrier Sgt Kevin A'Hearne

final and dumped 1 RRW out of the Army Cup a few weeks earlier.

But the decider proved to be a bit of an anti-climax as the Welshmen took complete control to win by 29 points to 14, with tries by Cpl David "Fives" Williams (2), skipper Capt Simon Butt, SSgt Chris Spowart and LCpl Terry Cooper, and two conversions by Bailey.

The 1 RRW success was based on solid experience

gained during their time in Hong Kong, when several of their players appeared for the national side. Jones, Spowart and Sgt Kevin A'Hearne were members of the team that won the plate competition in the 1992 Hong Kong international sevens, and the remainder of the squad had a good deal of sevens experience.

In the final of the Touche Ross plate competition, 7 Signal Regiment beat 1 Para by 21 points to ten.

3 RHA's 'heavies' in form

THOSE who remember the great 3 RHA 56kg tug-of-war team will not be surprised to learn that the Horse Gunners are back on the scene. What may be a surprise is that 3 (Para) RHA now have a very good heavy side.

At the inaugural competition at the Aldershot Horse Show ten teams took part in the 660 kilo class, with 3 RHA beating 40 Regt RA in the final of a fierce competition.

The 620kg competition was even more intense, with 14 teams in contention. The draw favoured 12 Regt RA and 17 Port Regt RLC who finished as winners and runners-up.

They avoided 40 Regt RA, 14 Regt RA and 94 Loc Regt RA to name just three. The men from 19 Loc won their pool, but having worked through a top quality seven-team group could not sustain their challenge.

● A governing body for tug of war in the Armed Forces worldwide has been created by the formation of the Combined Services Tug of War Association, which aims to promote the sport, train officials, liaise with civilian bodies and advise the single Service associations on the conduct of competitions.

Army representatives on the CSTOWA are Army secretary Maj Dick Field (0252 312186), training coach WO2 Peter Halstead (737 2259), and officials secretary SSgt Barry Mann (729 8306).

The CSTOWA intends to hold its first course for coaches and judges in March 1994.

Herring heads dualathlon race

MAJ ROB Herring (5 AB Log Bn) dominated the men's race in the ATR Winchester dualathlon at Winchester against strong opposition from civilian Trevor Ward.

Herring was stronger on both splits and won by 16 seconds. Third was Sgt Stu Dinwoodie.

The women's race was won by Capt Pauline Jump, with Capt Seward second.

National league honours Jennings

HOCKEY star SSgt Ian Jennings APTC (42 Svy Engr Gp) has been named the Pizza Express player of the year after taking his civilian club, Guildford, to the brink of Division One of the national league.

Player-coach Jennings saw his Guildford team miss out on

goal difference despite an inspired late run which saw them inflict the only defeat of the season on champions Reading and a valiant effort to overhaul Indian Gymkhana's superior goal difference.

This involved an amazing final game against Cambridge City when Jennings scored five

in a seven-goal blitz in the final 25 minutes.

Jennings, a current England international indoors and credited with one of the hardest shots in Europe, scored 20 goals during the season.

The prize, a holiday paid for by the national league sponsors, also acknowledges his lead-

ership at Guildford, whose disciplinary record was second to none.

Jennings, who also coached Slough Ladies and the Army and Combined Services teams, led 42 Survey to the final of the Army Cup where they were beaten by HQ Northern Ireland in a penalty shoot-out.

Captain signs on with a century

CAPT Richard Greatorex, who is to lead the Army cricket team this summer, made a captain's contribution to the innings of the President's XI on the final day of the cricket festival at Aldershot.

Greatorex smashed 119 before retiring as his side piled on the agony for the Chairman's XI bowlers. The left-handed opening batsman, currently with 51 Port Sqn RLC, struck three sixes and 12 fours as he laid the foundations for his side's massive total of 282 for six off 55 overs.

Capt Jim Cotterill (3 RHA), the 1992 Army captain, contributed 28 in an opening stand of 58.

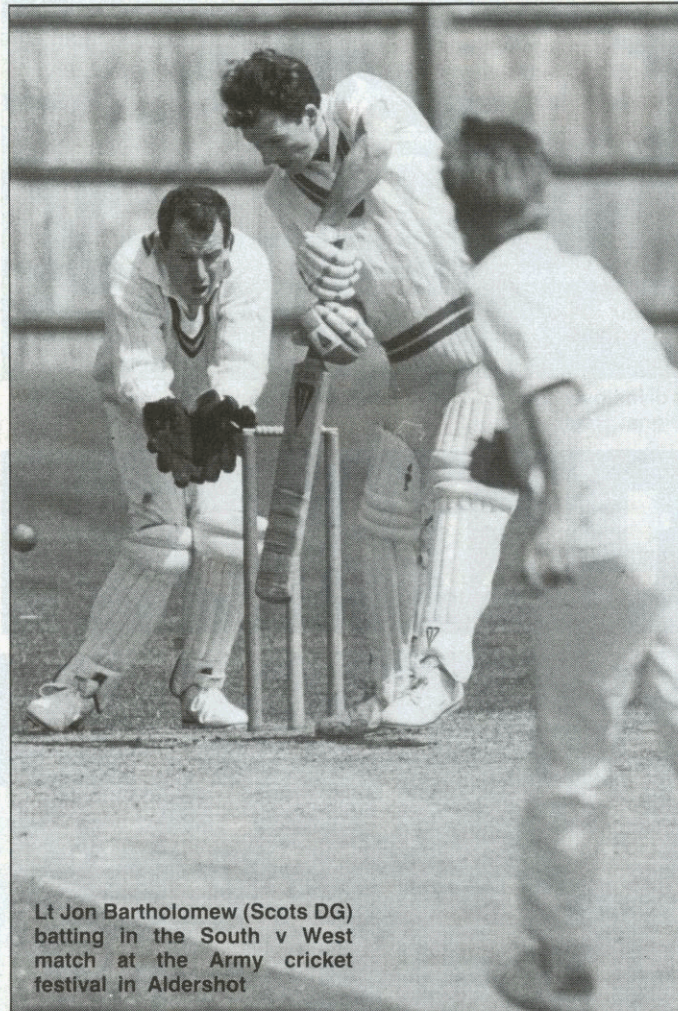
The Chairman's XI were never likely to get near that total, although Cpl Nick Palmer, serving with 668 Sqn AAC, compiled a fine innings of 80.

Palmer, a regular in the senior side last season, is still young enough to captain the Under 25 side this summer.

President's XI 282-6 (55 overs) (Greatorex 119 ret, Cotterill 28, Capt David O'Kelly 36, Capt Tony Wilby 31, 2nd Lt Edward Thesiger 25, 2nd Lt Richard Sutton 25 no; 2nd Lt Patrick Logan 2-43). **Chairman's XI** 177-7 (Palmer 80, 2nd Lt Chris St George 40, Lt Brian Thompson 24 no; Cfn Chris Swaby 2-21, Lt Andrew Wilson 3-57).

Two welcome features for the players taking part in the three-day festival at the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club in Aldershot were the quality of the wickets - hard and fast - and the improvements being made to the pavilion.

Although not quite finished,



Lt Jon Bartholomew (Scots DG) batting in the South v West match at the Army cricket festival in Aldershot

Picture: Mike Perring

the new kitchen and dining room added greatly to the pleasure of playing on the ground.

New flagpoles and a new scoreboard were also in evidence.

The Army's opening representative fixture is against Arabs on May 23, followed by Wiltshire at Trowbridge on the 26th. Fixtures against Middlesex, Sussex, Kent and Essex 2nd XIs will test the Army as they prepare for the Inter-Services festival from August 9 to 11, again sponsored by The Famous Grouse, at Vine Lane, where the RAF will be defending their championship.

The Under-25 festival is at Aldershot a month earlier, from July 9 to 11.

Gurkha first on mountain

RUNNERS from Hong Kong-based 2 GR took the first five places in Malaysia's annual Mount Kinabalu international, a gruelling race up and down the highest mountain in South East Asia.

They were competing in the men's international category in a field of 70.

LCpl Kusang Gurung won the Sabah race for the second consecutive year, completing the 21km climb from 1,800m to 4,405m and down in 2hr 46min.

Bessey blasts back to victory

LCPL CHRIS Bessey of 27 Regiment RLC won the ABA welterweight title by outpointing West Ham's Chris Roberts in Birmingham's vast National Indoor Arena.

Bessey, whose gun-barrel straight lead and tight defence make him so difficult to beat, had to survive a standing count in the second round before fulfilling the predictions

so confidently made about him when he joined the Army as a ready-made contender for NABC honours.

Bessey, bloodied by a straight left and combination that had him in trouble in the second, stormed back in the third round against the tiring Roberts to win a majority points decision.

There was disappointment, however, for the Army's other two finalists, lightweight LCpl Vinny Powell (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) and heavyweight LCpl Steve Burford (REME).

Powell was stopped by Scottish champion Bradley Welsh of Leith while Burford went the distance against Repton's Paul Lawson but lost a majority points decision.

Royal Marine Rob Wileman, the CSBA's other contender, also lost when he was stopped in the light-welterweight final by Peter Richardson of Wales. It was Wileman's second unsuccessful appearance in an ABA final.



Chris Bessey

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C.223

SOLDIER

Split-second timing caught the shell in flight as an M109 self-propelled gun from 129 Battery, 40 Regiment RA opened fire during a 4 Armoured Division firepower exercise at Munsterlager, Germany. In all, 48 guns of 4, 26 and 40 Regiments RA fired 2,500 155mm rounds in one of the largest Divisional live-firing exercises seen in BAOR for several years.

Picture: Roger Lortie, Plinfo BFG

