

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

November 1997 £1.60

SOLDIER

**CGS launches Army's
Equal Opportunities
initiatives**

- Pages 8-9

**REVEALED:
Britain's
hidden
warriors**

**PLUS:
SIMON WESTON'S
TRIUMPH OF SPIRIT
JET-SKI DAREDEVIL
ULAN EAGLE:
TROOPS IN POLAND**



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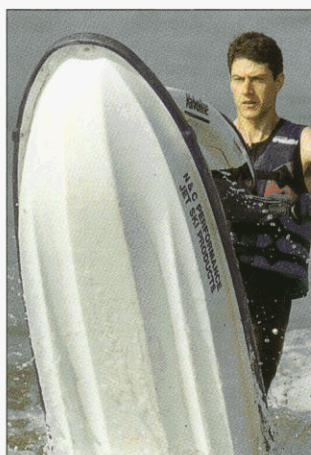
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KRH patrol on horseback in Bosnia



Simon Weston



LCpl Andy Fisher is aiming to be a jet-ski champion

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Picture: Terry Champion

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Bdr Stu Wright was on guard when a 4/73 (Sphinx) Special OP Battery RA underground observation post near Caterick was visited by *Soldier*. The "Stay-Behind" gunners have a new role in the post-Cold War era. Special report

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Women in the front line

SOLDIER to soldier

Finding the Sphinx . . .

WHEN it was suggested that *Soldier* might like to publish an article about the Royal Artillery's Sphinx Special OP Battery, we jumped at the chance. After all, Sphinx is normally a covert, secretive unit, with a fascinating Cold War story to tell and a challenging current role.

"Right," we said, "we'll give it the old exercise treatment, and next time they're out doing . . . well, doing whatever Sphinx types do, we'll pop up to Yorkshire and have a look."

But as the unit's commanding officer pointed out with an interesting mix of pride and sheepishness, that was not a good idea. "Even I can't find them when they're out in the sticks, so I don't think you'd get much of a story."

It was obvious really. If these soldiers had developed techniques to hide from the Soviet Army for weeks, even months, we were hardly going to stumble over them. The solution was to visit the battery during a selection course.

But even on our terms, above ground and in daylight, it was an amazing experience. If you want to know why, turn the page.

As the debate on the role of female soldiers in front-line jobs gains momentum, *Soldier* recalls that Very Senior Officers have voiced in recent months their serious reservations that the British public would accept women casualties sustained on a battlefield.

The furore which followed newspaper reports of a proposed boxing match between 13-year-old girls – and which resulted in its rapid cancellation – suggests they may be right.

Our own straw poll (Page 70) on front-line roles for women soldiers includes a "yes", a "no" and a "maybe" . . . from women soldiers.

PLUS

The inscrutable Sphinx Battery

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE BATTLE scenario was well-known and practised in countless exercises across Western Europe. The Russians and their Warsaw Pact allies were rolling across Germany and, in a pre-planned move, NATO soldiers were falling back and consolidating.

Most of them, that is. Less conventional action was expected of a small and covert unit of the Royal Artillery: the enigmatically-named Stay-Behind Troop, or Sphinx Battery as it later became known. As the red armies approached, these gunners were, quite literally, to go underground.

The Stay-Behind Troop was (and, as Sphinx Special Observation Post Battery remains) a team of crack gunners. The patrols of four to six men, intensively trained in covert observation and survival, were to lie low for days in pre-built lairs metres beneath the surface.

Later, as the rumble of the red tanks receded towards the west, the patrols, now behind the lines, would emerge.

Locating enemy positions, they would transmit bursts of coded intelligence to the regular artillery units on the NATO side of the front. The gunners' biggest artillery pieces, some capable of throwing a shell more than 32km, would then blast

The Royal Artillery has been harbouring one of the Army's best-kept Cold War secrets. In a Soldier exclusive, we meet the secret gunners who, in the event of a Warsaw Pact attack, were, quite literally, to go underground. Now they have come in from the cold and found a new role

the enemy's rear support, command and control networks. Royal Air Force ground attack aircraft would concentrate on the same targets, until the Warsaw Pact advance had ground to a halt and awaited engagement on NATO terms.

That was the theory, and, of course, the gunners were never called upon to prove it. But the threat was horribly real, and demanded constant, often unorthodox,

training. One routinely conducted exercise required individual soldiers to gain entry to a certain West German sugar-beet processing factory, establish an observation post, and remain there, undetected by staff, for a week. From this urban OP soldiers would report on pre-arranged activities in the area, such as passing Stay-Behind Troop vehicles, which would be used to check their observation skills.

Eventually, exhausted and with a lasting aversion to sugar-beet, soldiers would emerge from the factory, leaving no indication that they had been there. The factory workers never realised that they had been the regular hosts for some of the British Army's most unconventional training.

"We became very adept at living rough," said Maj Gen Tony Stone, who conceived of the covert unit in 1981, and is now the Honorary Colonel of its parent regiment, 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery. He described how, with little more than a nod and a wink to authority, the special OP patrols busied themselves for war, bur-

Far left - Optical equipment specialist Cpl Grant Bailey demonstrates the infra-red scope

Left - Old methods are sometimes the best: LBdr Glyn Newham with morse key

Centre - The Sphinx shoulder flash

needed highly-trained men in this role. "Our strength," he explained, "was, and is still, that we train for both rural and urban covert observation, with artillery as well as aircraft. Accurate observation and good intelligence, using men

to interpret enemy intentions and act decisively, remain essential in maintaining an edge over an adversary."

The opportunity to prove this came in 1990, when the underground gunners finally went to war. Attached to an armoured recce group of the 16th/5th Lancers, Sphinx ranged across southern Iraq ahead of the tanks and the artillery.

GULF WAR

The battery's present commander, Maj David Lowles, said: "We proved in the Gulf that to get good intelligence you still need the trained human eye on the ground. When the Iraqis set fire to the oil wells, targets were easily hidden from satellites and some surveillance aircraft. But our men were still able to observe and make informed decisions."

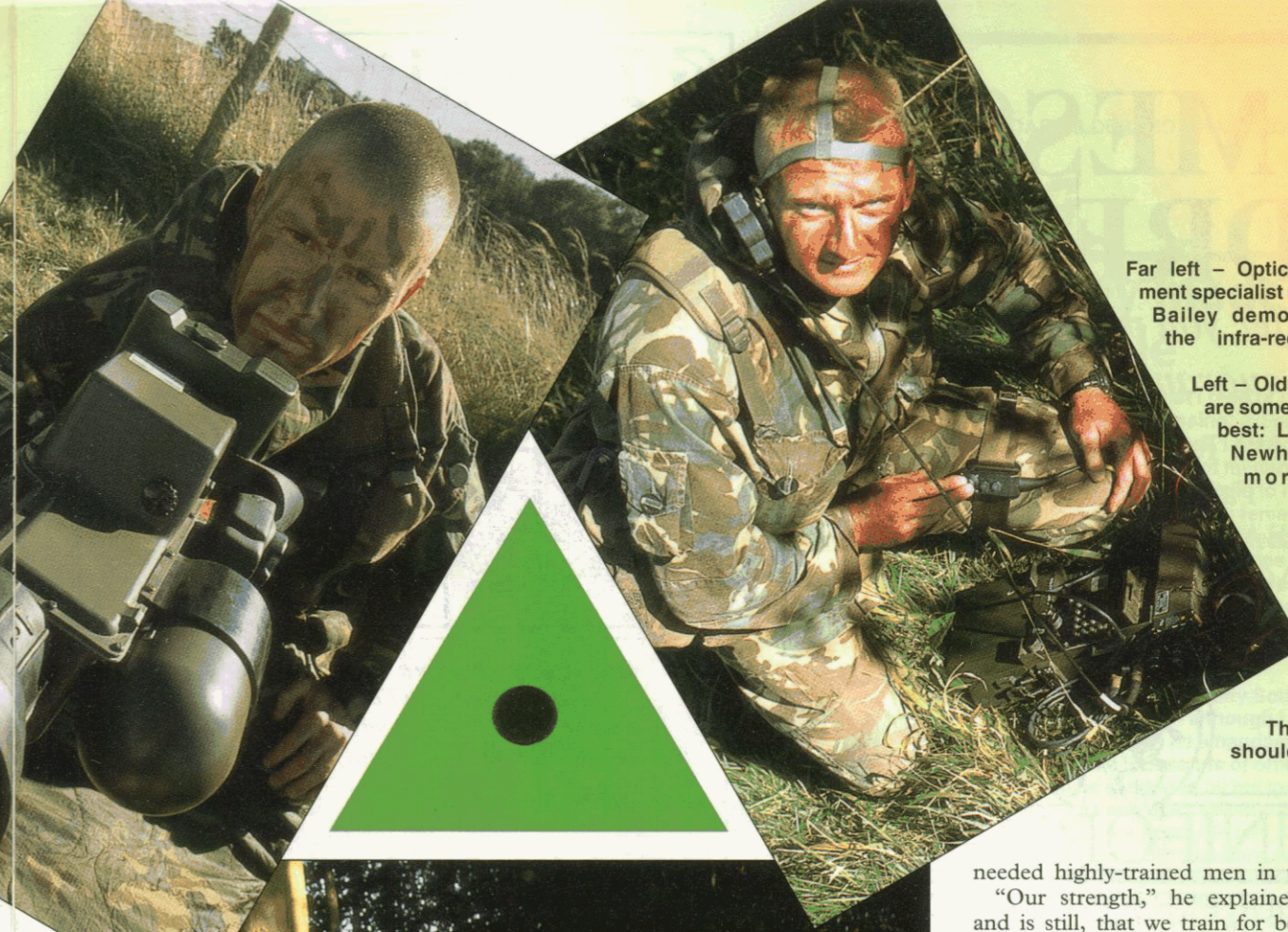
Later, deployment to Bosnia as covert monitors of the peace agreement reinforced the point and quickly led to Sphinx being attached to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

With a very modern role assured, the battery's appetite for suitable soldiers remains high. So are its standards. Sphinx runs two 14-week selection courses each year at its Marne Barracks base near Catterick. Each course can accommodate up to 50 volunteers. Most are already gunners, but many come from other Army units and even the RAF

● Turn to Page 7



Covert OPs. Above ground there's little to see, but below a Sphinx patrol lurks



"They know it gets harder." Volunteers endure the steeplechase

rowing beneath the fields and the noses of unsuspecting German farmers and reconnoitring possible hiding places for caches of ammunition and food in the underground conduits used by West German gas, water and electricity companies.

With such a specific primary role, the

battery's versatility had always been easy to overlook, and, for a while after the Iron Curtain came down, its future seemed in jeopardy.

But Gen Stone, supported by others who knew the value of covert observers, argued convincingly that the Army

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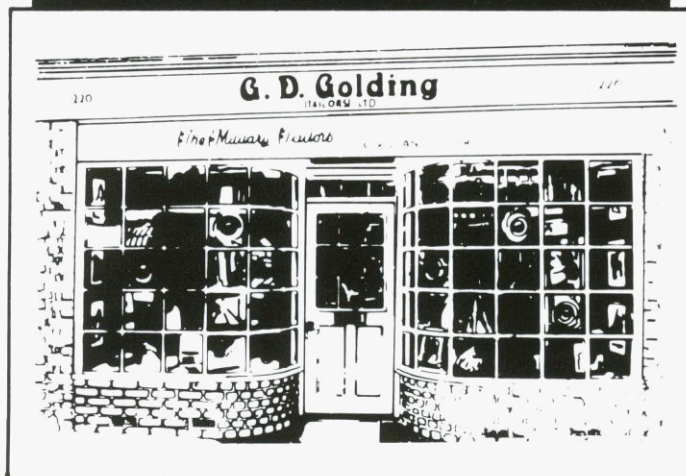
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SOLDIERS



Far left – At a Sphinx HQ, which may be hundreds of miles away on the allied side of the lines, the patrols' "burst" transmissions are de-coded. Bdr Russell Auty (left) and Sgt Mick Hobden check the base antennae

Left – Lightly-armed but highly mobile. Sphinx patrol member Bdr Stu Wright on exercise near the Yorkshire base

Monster's mean message

● From Page 5

and Royal Navy. To say that the courses are hard would be an extreme understatement.

Thirty-six men started the course which began in September, but by week three, the gruelling routine had reduced the cadre to 24. If ten are still with the battery by the middle of December, ready to begin six months of probation, it will be considered a good result.

The senior training instructor, a huge WO1 who took, and virtually shrugged off, two Argentine bullets while fighting with the paras at Goose Green, is known to everyone as "Monster". He surveyed the September cadre as it plunged into a frigid water obstacle on a three-mile-long steeplechase course.

"The good thing for them," he said, "is that they know it gets harder."

SPECIAL SKILLS

Monster is a difficult man to please and his boss, Maj Lowles, is just as demanding. He explained that physical fitness is not the only quality needed. "It is mental stamina and initiative that we are looking for as much as anything else. They have to be able to learn some very special skills and push themselves hard, sometimes spending days or weeks in an OP. If they can't perform when the going gets rough, then we don't want them."

Strangely, many of the aspiring special observers seem to relish the training. Gnr Scott Lowrie, who failed one course but returned to give it another crack, said: "It's tough, but it's got to be. We've got to

press on when we're tired, wet and hungry. But if you're still here at the end of the course, then you know you're a half-decent soldier."

For those "half-decent soldiers" who do get to sew the distinctive triangular Special Observer flash on their tunics, the rewards can be very satisfying. Each

patrol needs specialists in combat medicine, signalling, demolition, recognition and survival. Individuals receive further training in these areas and more. Good performance can lead to early promotion from gunner to bombardier or sergeant, and the role of patrol leader.

The battery will continue to evolve, as it must if it is to remain relevant.

It is possible, for example, that an air-mobile capability may be introduced.

Whatever the changes, Sphinx's Latin motto, *Lateo*, will almost certainly continue to define its unconventional role. Latin scholarship not being the gunners' strong point, the single word is translated variously as "to lie hidden" or "to lurk with intent".

Either way, it sums up the inscrutable and unique Sphinx Battery.

● Are you a good enough soldier for Sphinx Battery? If you want to find out (and that does mean meeting Monster), contact the selection team at 4/73 (Sphinx) Special OP Battery, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery, Marne Barracks, Catterick, North Yorkshire (tel: 01748 875640).



People, places, events

Review to be published in New Year

CONCLUSIONS of the Strategic Defence Review are to be published in a White Paper early in the New Year, Defence Secretary George Robertson said in an interview.

It will include planning assumptions for the Army's operational commitment over the next 20 years or so based on the contribution defence can make to meeting the Government's foreign and security policy objectives.

Mr Robertson said that as a result of the review "we will begin to look in detail at how all these factors affect the size and shape of the forces, how they should be structured, deployed, trained, equipped and supported."

More than 450 individual submissions had been made to the review and the Secretary of State was keen to hear from "those with the most direct interest in the review", members of the Armed Forces and civilian staff in the MoD. The Chiefs of Staff had agreed that all Service personnel should be invited to write directly to the review team.



George Robertson

Mr Robertson said the Government's manifesto had made it clear that it would retain strong conventional forces, remain committed to NATO, support a strong defence industry and retain Trident. He emphasised that the review was policy-led, not resource-driven.

WIDE RANGE OF ROLES

Work on the initial policy stage had indicated that the Armed Forces would need to be able to undertake a wide range of roles, with Europe the primary security focus. He said Reserve Forces "provide an important military capability and a vital link between the Services and the rest of society" and both aspects would be taken fully into account by the review. The review would be a "coherent and imaginative" blueprint for the Reserves into the next century.

Mr Robertson said he had seen the quality of Servicemen and women and MoD civilians in the UK, Germany, Bosnia and the Gulf. "They are second to none and they are doing a superb job."

● Written submissions should be sent to: Director of Defence Policy, Jon Day, Room 7361, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB by November 30.

'If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem' – Chief of the General Staff



Members of the task force which will spearhead the Army's ethnic recruiting drive

Services set to race the world

THREE Service yachts are to battle their way across the high seas next year in a race around the world.

Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy yachts will be manned by volunteers – and the berths are up for grabs. Crew selection is to take place between February and May and half the places will be reserved for novices.

The single-Service entries will be in Nicholson 55s which will be racing around the world in a fleet of about 50. In all, the Army is looking for 108 men and women to fill the crews of 12 for nine separate legs. To be eligible, volunteers must have at least two years' service to complete.

Project officer for the Army entry is Capt John Broadley RLC.

The race, under the auspices of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC), is intended to invoke the Corinthian spirit of the early Whitbread Round-

the-World races, the latest of which is in its early stages.

Sponsorship holds the key to the Services' entries in the RORC Transglobe 98 and the project team based at the Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre at Gosport is looking to industry and any other source to come up with £400,000 to underwrite the cost of the entries.

Destinations on the nine-leg race include the Caribbean, Hawaii, the Far East, South Africa and South America. Costs to individuals are being kept to a minimum and are expected to be less than £600.

Soldiers interested in crewing a leg of the world race should contact the Exercise Transglobe 98 office on Portsmouth Naval Base (78380) ext 65003. Sponsors can contact Capt Broadley on 01705 765003.

● Offshore racing – Page 49

Army launches new policy to counter racism

"IF YOU are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem." With this blunt but crystal-clear statement, the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, launched the Army's campaign to eradicate all forms of discrimination and harassment within its ranks and increase recruitment from the minority ethnic groups.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign on October 13, Gen Wheeler accepted that there is a perception within society that the racism is rife in the Army. Acknowledging the validity of critical reports by the Commission for Racial Equality, which was represented at the launch, the head of the British Army said: "We are going to change". He went on to point out the key features of an action plan that has his personal endorsement. Among them:

- All soldiers will receive leaflets explaining the Army's policy and how their behaviour must reflect this. Another publication, described by the CGS as "user-friendly", will advise on how to handle harassment, and how to take a complaint before a tribunal if necessary.

- The principles of the policy will be discussed with recruits during basic training, and their responsibilities will be explained to them. More senior soldiers will be checked regularly for their knowledge of the policy.

- For soldiers serving in Cyprus, Germany and the UK, confidential telephone support lines will be available from December 1. Manned by trained SSAFA Forces Help staff, the lines will be completely confidential.

- An Equal Opportunities inquiry team has been set up to deal with complaints of non-criminal racial, sexual and other forms of harassment.

Major efforts are also being made

to recruit more black or Asian soldiers. The ultimate aim, said CGS, is to reflect the ethnic mix of Britain today; about seven per cent are black or Asian. The Army is, he pointed out, currently under-staffed, and thousands of vacancies become available annually.

As many of these as possible should be filled with young people from the ethnic minority groups. Spearheading the drive will be a multi-racial recruitment task force of specially-trained officers and NCOs, who themselves represent many ethnic groups.

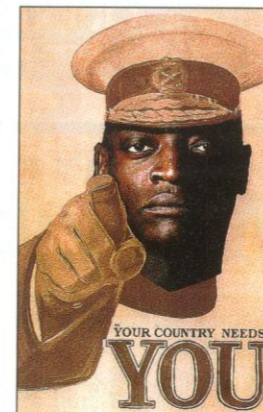
Their mission will be to tour multi-ethnic areas of Britain, promoting Army career opportunities and telling young people of their own Army experiences.

Culmination of the launch was the unveiling of posters and newspaper advertising that began to appear the next day.

One poster depicts the First World War "Your Country Needs You" image, with Lord Kitchener's face replaced by that of a black soldier.

Speaking for the Commission for Racial Equality, Senior Commissioner Bob Purkiss welcomed the Army's initiative, and said that his organisation was committed to working with the Army for five years. "The Army is good at action plans," he said. "They have fought bigger battles than this, but you need to recognise the enemy within, and remove racism."

He appealed for "pride and passion" in the Army, "but without prejudice".



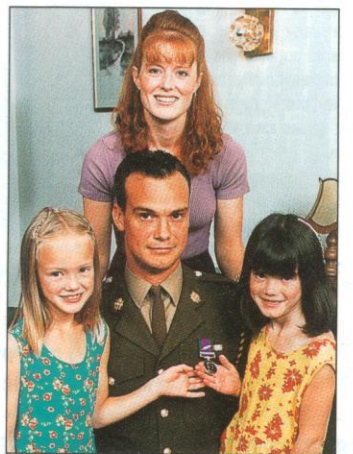
Recruiting poster

● A harassment confidential support line is due to open on December 1. It will be staffed from noon to midnight and then switch to an answer machine.

Freephone numbers are:
UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0130 827 395
Cyprus 080 91065

Commended for bravery

Initiative, quick thinking, calmness and bravery while under attack in Northern Ireland were the qualities responsible for Cpl Stephen Coles being awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. Cpl Coles, of 170 Squadron, RLC, Support Bn HQ AARC, is now back in Rheindahlen with his wife Siobhan and two children Tommasina (left) and Chloe.



Exercising happy families

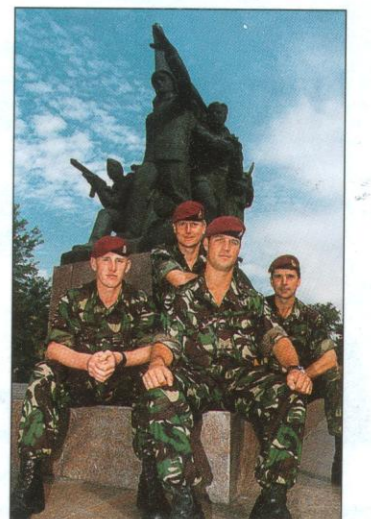


Love is... having the same name on your helmets. Husband and wife team, Dvr Zoe and Pte Mark Pickersgill, of 12 Supply Regiment, RLC, were together running the reception centre during Exercise Rhino Replen – the largest British Army exercise on German soil since the end of the Cold War.

● On exercise – see Pages 16-18

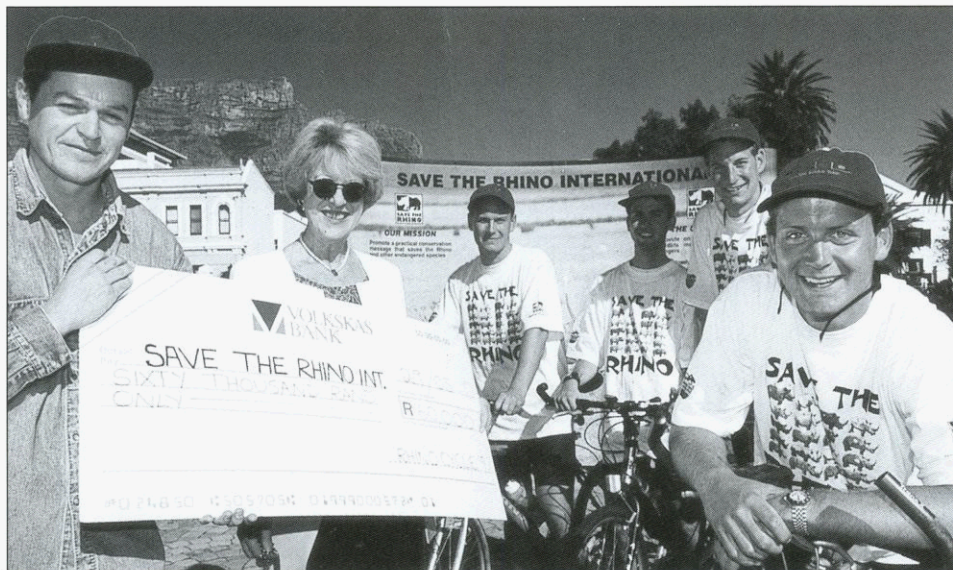
Salute to Ukrainian past

Soldiers from 7 (Parachute) Regiment Royal Horse Artillery sit before a statue commemorating Ukrainian soldiers killed during the last war. They had joined Polish and Ukrainian paratroopers for the week-long exercise Cossack Steppe – the first ever tri-lateral peace-keeping exercise held in the Ukraine. See Page 18.



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People, places, events



With Table Mountain in the background signalling their arrival at Cape Town, members of the 18-strong British Military Advisory Team (South Africa) mark the end of a two-month, 4,000km cycle ride from the Victoria Falls on Zimbabwe's north-western border by presenting a cheque to the Save the Rhino International charity. Pictured with Ben Haborough (left) from the charity and British High Commissioner Miss Maeve Fort are James Beaumont, Sam Williams, Daniel Ling and Jem Allport who joined BMATT (SA) members on the ride from Zimbabwe via Swaziland and the coastal route from north of Durban to the Cape.

tional charity. Pictured with Ben Haborough (left) from the charity and British High Commissioner Miss Maeve Fort are James Beaumont, Sam Williams, Daniel Ling and Jem Allport who joined BMATT (SA) members on the ride from Zimbabwe via Swaziland and the coastal route from north of Durban to the Cape.

Paras first with ultra-low jumps

PARACHUTE jumps from just 250ft – about the height of a 15th floor office – have been carried out by soldiers for the first time.

Nine men from The Parachute Regiment and the Royal Air Force jumped successfully from an RAF Hercules aircraft into a freshwater lake near Toulouse in France as part of a test carried out by the Boscombe Down-based Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. It proved that parachutes can be used when aircraft have to fly to a drop zone below enemy radar.

The Irvin LLP (low-level parachute), which has been in service with the Airborne Brigade and SAS since 1994, had never before been used below 800ft in a live exercise.

"People have parachuted from 250ft or even less when forced to eject from aircraft, and sports parachutists may have done it, but

nobody has ever jumped from this height carrying a full military load," said Lt Col Hugo Fletcher, who took part in the jump.

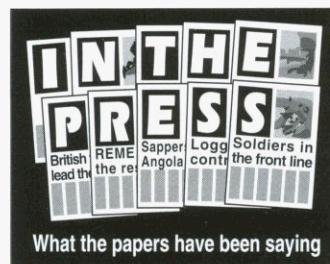
During the ten seconds between leaving the Hercules and hitting the lake, each man had to spreadeagle, steer himself, drop his equipment container and adopt a landing position. Parachutes opened when the men were halfway down and there would have been no time to use a reserve canopy or take remedial action if things had gone wrong.

Because of the risks the trials had to be carried out over water and a lake near the French Airborne Division's HQ was chosen.

Pay office switch delays TA cheques

THE Ministry of Defence has admitted that moving the Army's pay office from Exeter to Glasgow caused a delay in payments to Territorial Army soldiers.

Up to the beginning of October, troops, some serving in Bosnia, had not been paid for three months. Priority was given to Regulars, but TA soldiers needing money urgently and who applied to pay offices could receive a cheque within five days. Delays occurred because so much information had to be transferred to new computers.



Public debate on women in combat roles

THE public is to be asked whether it approves of women serving in front-line combat roles in the Army and Royal Marines in an opinion poll to be launched by the MoD. – *Times*

(Soldiers' opinions, see Page 70)

□ An Australian inventor has created a gun which can fire more than 1.5 million bullets a minute. – *Independent on Sunday*

□ Defence of the Falklands is being slashed to pay for more hospital beds. Up to 250 – one in seven – troops will be brought home, anti-aircraft patrols cut and a round-the-clock alert for Tornado crews relaxed. – *Sun*

□ The Duke of York is campaigning for a change in Army recruitment policy to end restrictions that keep Sikhs out of the forces. Sikhs are required by their religion to wear turbans at all times, making it impossible for them to don regulation military helmets. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ Classified documents reveal that MoD officials are pushing for the TA to be turned into a weekend "leisure-based" organisation with no operational role. They also said the expense of The King's Troop and the Household Cavalry Regiment is "difficult to sustain". – *Sunday Times*

□ Troops who did not serve in the Gulf War are suffering from the same symptoms as colleagues who saw active service. They were reserve troops, injected with the same cocktail of vaccinations. – *Daily Mail*

□ A review of Britain's draconian anti-rabies quarantine laws has been announced. – *Financial Times*

□ Recruits will be used in experiments to discover the genes responsible for physical excellence, paving the way for new methods of selecting elite soldiers. – *Sunday Times*

□ A relative of a Charge of the Light Brigade survivor appealed for help after his grave was smashed by vandals. – *Daily Telegraph*

(Light Brigade graves letter, Page 66)

Don't miss *Soldier's* superb 1998 calendar

IN ADDITION to their routine duties, photographers from *Soldier* have spent much of the past year recording the ceremonial side of the British Army.

Some of the more striking pictures from the portfolio have been selected for the superb 1998 *Soldier*/British Army calendar, which will be available soon. See the back cover of this issue for details.

People, places, events

In memory of Emma

IT WAS a day Emma Bermingham was to remember with delight for the rest of her tragically short life – thanks to the British Army.

A visit to the guard mount at Buckingham Palace and coffee at Wellington Barracks could have been just an ordinary outing, but it turned into one in which she experienced extraordinary generosity and friendship.

Emma died not long afterwards aged just 22. She had suffered from a rare form of adolescent cancer and in March was told she had only months to live. Despite constant pain she continued to raise funds for holidays for disabled children and her friends thought it was time something was done for her.

David Watson, father of one of Emma's friends in the Red Cross, knew she liked military bands and contacted Army Training Centre, Pirbright to ask if she might be able to watch a passing out parade.

"I received a call from Capt Richard Norris of the Coldstream Guards asking if Emma would like to go to Wellington Barracks, have coffee and then witness the guard mount from the forecourt at Buckingham Palace," said Mr Watson. "From the time we arrived until the moment we left, everyone went to great lengths to ensure she enjoyed every minute."

For Emma, the real star of the day was CSgt Blue Crook, Coldm Gds, who looked after her and her friend, Maria Watson.

"They all made a young girl feel like a lady. On the trip back Emma was in tears... she said that she had never before experienced such generosity or friendship."

Emma, in her turn, made a lasting impression on CSgt Crook. "I have never seen such a bubbly girl in my life," he remembered. "This young girl with that terrible illness had a smile from ear to ear. Everyone was drawn to her because she was a very pretty lady. She held my arm all the way back and I don't know who was more pleased."

Greenjackets on the box

TWENTY members of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets brushed up their TV interview techniques during a command post exercise in Sennelager when they were surrounded by camera crews.

The TV course is part of a regular package run for the Combat Manoeuvre Simulation Centre by Maj Charlie Bishop of the Training Support Unit. Interviews were done by 1 (UK) Armd Div Media Ops officer Paul Barnard and Maj David Wilson, 41 Army Education Centre, Paderborn.



Picture: Kevin Capon

Headphoned: Shenkin II in recruit training with Goat Major David Joseph, 2 RRW

Scapegoat for the Spice Girls

TRAINING recruits is not usually a problem. But the newest member of the 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales has been subjected to a unique induction schedule, writes Dennis Barnes.

Shenkin II, a Royal Windsor white goat, was recruited as new the regimental mascot when his predecessor, also called Shenkin, died suddenly in September.

The battalion requested a replacement from the royal herd at Whipsnade Zoo, but there was no suitable candidate and Shenkin II (or Gadget as he was then known) was suggested. He had been rejected at birth and hand-reared by Margarette and Allan Hartfield on their small-holding in Herefordshire.

The problem was to prepare him for his main RRW public duties of marching in public with a band. Finding a military band to play for him for was impossible, so Goat Maj David Joseph

(widely known as Joe the Goat) attached a Walkman to Shenkin's coat and headphones to his horns... and trained him in record time.

"Normally he likes listening to military music, but I have tried him with a Spice Girls tape and there was a definite reaction. He danced around and stamped his feet," said the goat major.

Shenkin II has already brought the traffic to a halt in Cardiff during walks to prepare him for meeting the public.

IN BRIEF

KREFELD-based 7 Signal Regiment has been awarded the Freedom of the city. Members of the regiment marched to the Rathaus to receive the scroll.

● Prince Edward may make his home at Bagshot Park, Surrey, former HQ of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

● Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike, Deputy C-in-C Land Command, has been appointed

NCO's journey back to hell

FORMER LCpl Richard Mayfield, who took part in the ill-fated Army adventurous training expedition to Low's Gully on Mount Kinabalu, Borneo, is planning to return to the place he thought would be his grave.

Mayfield was a Joint Services rock climbing instructor in 1994 when the ten-man British Army expedition went missing on the mountain. Now he is organising a team of professional cavers and climbers to conquer Low's Gully in February.

Low's Gully was barred to Service personnel after the Army found itself having to defend its policy of adventurous training.

Mayfield, who left the Army in 1995, was commended for his actions on Kinabalu by the Army board of inquiry which investigated the events.

He jointly wrote one book, *Kinabalu Escape – The Soldier's Story**, with Territorial Army sergeant Bob Mann, who was with him on the trip, and has started another which he hopes will include the happier tale of his next expedition, which will be accompanied by a film crew.

He said: "It is going to be a psychological challenge because of what happened, but I have got a brilliant team around me."

*Now out in paperback (Constable, £7.95).

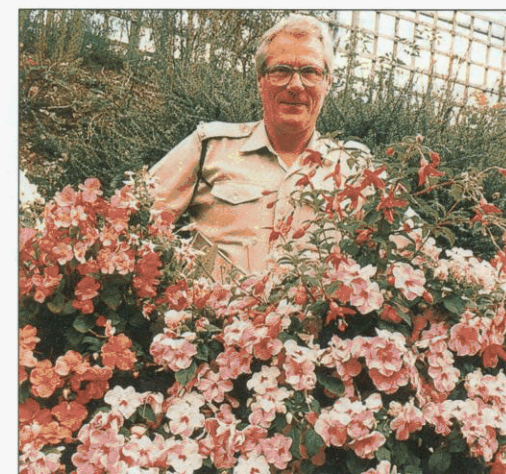


Picture: Mike Weston

Fifteen years after her days of glory as a troopship during the Falklands War (inset picture), the P&O liner *Canberra* returns to the port of Southampton for the last time. The *Great White Whale*, as she was known to troops who sailed in her to the South Atlantic, was played in to the quayside by Bands of The Parachute Regiment and the Royal Marines. The Red Devils marked the retirement by parachuting into a waterfront park and handing a baton to the ship's master, Capt Rory Smith. Salutes were fired from the park by 29 Commando Regiment RA and Royal Navy warships in the Solent. No decision has been made on her future.



Blooming marvellous

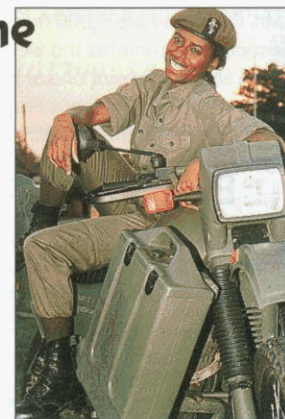


Picture: Sgt Al Green

Wherever WO1 Dougie Edmond is posted he is soon surrounded by blooms. What started as a vague interest in gardening for the green-fingered regimental quartermaster at HQ Land has become a serious hobby. Which is why baskets overflowing with flowers adorned the Wilton sergeants' mess this summer.

High octane nurse

Cfn Janet Thompson, a nurse when she's not in the TA, has been put in charge of a garage full of heavy metal patients. Her unit, Loughborough-based 203 Sqn, 158 Tpt Regt RLC, has been given 14 Harley Davidson motor cycles and Janet is responsible for keeping them in perfect condition. Even the hint of a coughing carburettor has her reaching for a wrench. A staff nurse in Leicester, Cfn Thompson joined the TA 12 months ago.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Knight in shining khaki



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

TA soldier Cpl Robert Knight was on hand to help when 71-year-old Bill Walker, a former RAF Lancaster bomber pilot, took a tumble and injured his wrists. Doctors said Robert's first aid saved his elderly neighbour from infection and possible surgery. Cpl Knight, of 118 Recovery Company REME in Northampton, once took command at a six-car crash on the M1 until emergency services arrived, looking after casualties whose injuries ranged from broken ribs to whiplash.

And he spotted his mother's "headache" was in fact a life-threatening tumour. She is now fully recovered. "I follow my TA training," he said, "it's a real help."

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND



People, places, events

Why Gulf War forms are so, so important

THE Royal British Legion has launched a poster campaign urging everyone to fill in questionnaires they get from research teams looking into possible links between service in the Gulf War and subsequent ill health.

This seems to be a good time for a reminder on just how important it is to return those forms. Trying to get people overseas, in Germany in particular, to give their minds to a contribution to the *Counterpoint* programme has been hard work indeed.

When the latest research projects were announced we invited team leaders on to the programme and discovered that we could have talked for a lot longer than the half hour allotted to us.

The message they wanted to convey above all others was that this information is vitally important.

Even if you didn't go to the Gulf and you're as fit as a butcher's dog they still want to hear from you. To get a balanced picture they need to hear from people without any problems.

They were also keen to stress the confidentiality of the system. Neither is there anything sinister to be read into the issuing of the forms. Everyone will get one form and some, chosen at random, will get another dealing with reproductive health and the health of any children. Again, they want to hear from you even if you are lucky enough to have healthy, happy children and you didn't go to the Gulf.

BOTTOM OF THE IN-TRAY

All this form-filling might seem over the top. I can imagine people doing with the form what I do those the bank or car company send me... they go to the bottom of the in-tray. The reason I eventually answer them is that there does seem to be a genuine desire to tailor the service offered in the most efficient manner.

These questionnaires are much more important because we aren't just talking about getting good service; we're talking about providing the best protection possible for men and women sent into dangerous situations on our behalf.

So, when you get your questionnaires please take a few minutes to answer them carefully and send them back. When the information is collated it will give a clear picture of the situation.

This is going to take some time, so be patient.

The fact that we won't get instant results means that the researchers are not rushing into conclusions. This can only be to everyone's advantage and it'll mean that we will, finally, be sure that we have the best possible answers.

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



Cari's column



This team of (from left) UN interpreter Diana Bridger, Capt Catherine Mavin and Capt Philippa Buckingham (5 Regt RA) beat 38 men's teams to finish 13th in the Walkabout

Picture: WO2 Pete Bristol

Airborne Gunners beat 5 AB on Cyprus march

A HIGH rate of attrition during the tough Cyprus Walkabout resulted in just 22 of the 51 teams that started crossing the finishing line.

Injuries and fatigue (judges retire those lagging too far behind) accounted for the fall-out as 7 (Parachute) Regiment RHA, led by Maj Duncan Francis, took the honours after holding off a determined challenge by fellow Aldershot-based unit HQ 5 Airborne Brigade.

Ahead by 35 minutes at the end of the first day of the 80km event, 7 (Para) RHA eventually finished just three minutes ahead of HQ 5 AB in an overall time of 14hr 7min 13sec.

Best placed island-based team was 259 Signal Squadron, which received the silver boot trophy.

The only women-only team, made up of Cpts Catherine Mavin and Philippa Buckingham (5 Regiment RA) and UN translator Diana Bridger, achieved a creditable 13th place.

One of the most prestigious orienteering events in the Army-RAF calendar, the annual Cyprus Walkabout is contested by teams of three who are given 24 hours to complete a course which takes in hostile and extreme terrain.

Last checkpoint on the first day took competitors nearly to the 6,000ft summit of Mount Olympus in the Troodos mountains. Temperatures soared as the walkers made the difficult descent and return to Episkopi the following day.

IN BRIEF

ARMED FORCES Minister Dr John Reid met officials working on Gulf War veterans' illnesses while on a seven-day visit to the United States during which he had talks with his American counterpart, Deputy Secretary of Defence John Hambré.

Dr Reid called at the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre in Washington and later visited the headquarters of the Supreme Allied Command Atlantic at Norfolk, Virginia.

● A team from 3 (UK) Regiment RLC, formed mainly from 3 Close Support Regiment RLC based at Abingdon, won a falling plate shooting competition run by the Multi-National Division (South West) in Bosnia.

Czech, Canadian and Malaysian troops took part in the event held on the Manjaka ranges near Banja Luka. The loggies – SSgt Gilbert, Cpl Hawkins (captain), LCpls Holbrook, Hope and Marriott, Ptes Sullivan and Sears – beat 2 RRF in the semi-finals and 21 Engr Regt in the final.

● Electronic Data Systems (Defence) Ltd has been chosen as the preferred contractor to provide pay, pensions and administration services for the Armed Forces. Subject to the MoD's approval process it was expected that the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency contract would be awarded to EDS at the end of October.

On exercise

Down in the woods

Forests of Poland provide a very different sort of warfare challenge for the heavy metal brigade

Report: Paul Beaver
Pictures: WO2 Ian Dunning and SAC Darren Sedgewick



All out: soldiers of The London Regiment deploy in the field on Ulan Eagle

POLAND provides ideal terrain for brigade-level training, Brig Nick Parker, commander of 20 Armoured Brigade told *Soldier* as his troops completed a 25-hour road and rail move from their Germany bases to the Drawsko-Pomorskie training area for Exercise Ulan Eagle.

"We are bringing all the elements of an armoured brigade together here for the first time since the Gulf War," he said. "This is the first time for six or seven years that we've been able to conduct all-arms brigade training in high-intensity warfare. I welcome it."

"The brigade was very good at BATUS

but it has been losing the experience from the fragmentation which happens in the British Army."

Although the wide open prairies at BATUS in Canada provide excellent opportunities for manoeuvre and live firing, the advantages of Poland include having to operate in woods and forests, tactics which sent at least one unit scurrying to the RMA Sandhurst library for 50-year-old texts.

"Here in Poland we can use all our infantry, tanks and armour in a new setting that won't upset any of the local population," the brigadier explained. "The

key thing is getting the brigade together. If we are in the heavy-metal business we simply have to train with it."

The three-yearly training cycle of 20 Arm'd Bde has been less than perfect. The brigade headquarters was committed to Bosnia until April and the two mechanised infantry battalions have recently been in Northern Ireland. The 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment returned to Germany in May and were at Drawsko-Pomorskie without mortar and Milan support, while the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets had had since January to re-train in the high-intensity conflict role.

The Queen's Dragoon Guards were not playing a full part in the exercise because of the training demands of a forthcoming Northern Ireland deployment.

FITNESS

"That's all conspired for a less-than-perfect training year but it also demonstrates just how the Army is stretched," said Brig Parker.

"Our aim is to be Level 5 by the end of the year. That means fit for any task which the Ministry of Defence, through the divisional commander, assigns. In other words, by the end of the exercise the brigade must be able to go off and do armoured warfare."

"I have deliberately set the sights high and want my commanders to jump hurdles to get there. We'll all be learning right up to the end."

soldiers. We can turn out rolls, croissants, garlic bread and we are famous for our pizzas. We even make cap badges out of bread."

The bakers, who are all supply specialists in their own right, traditionally indulge in a bit of community singing to get themselves into the rhythm for kneading and shaping the dough.

As a result traditional and pop songs could be heard from the bakery during the early hours of each morning.

Based in Hullavington, near Chippenham, as part of 91 Supply Squadron, the bakery was brought into service in 1980 and has since been out to the Falklands, the Gulf and Bosnia.

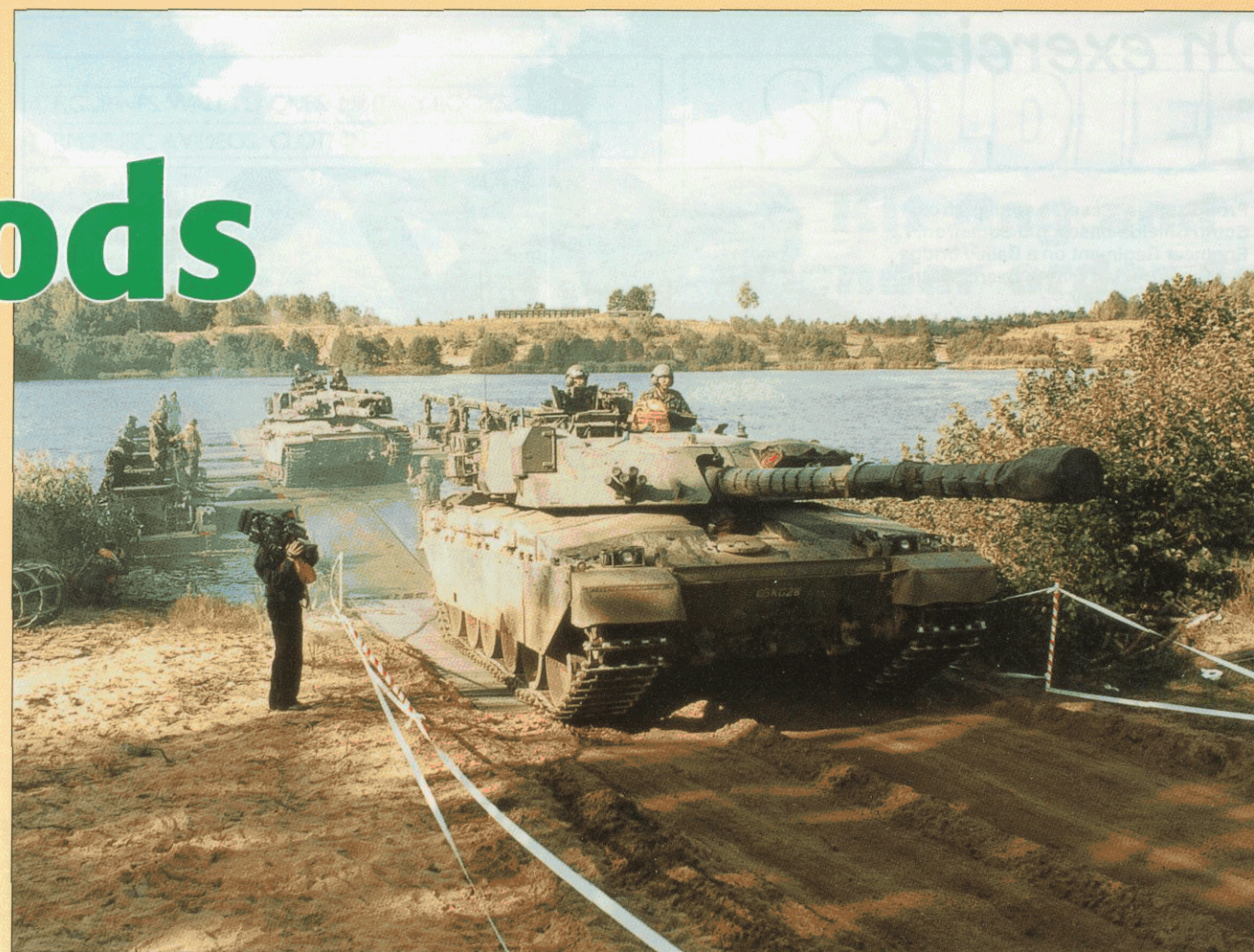


Sgt John Miles

LUCKY 13 FOR ULAN EAGLE

THANKS to a baker's dozen of soldiers, the 4,600 troops taking part in Exercise Ulan Eagle in Poland were able to tuck into fresh bread every day.

It was the first time that 913 Bakery Troop RLC has accompanied British soldiers to Poland and it provided a welcome change from the local rye bread. "We can produce 108 loaves an hour, 2,160 loaves a day," explained WO1 Ken Smith, OC of the Mobile Bakery Section. "We could supply enough bread to support 6,000



Hazards of war: a cameraman gets in close as Challenger tanks of 1 RTR thunder ashore from an M3 in ferry configuration



Field brief: Brig Nick Parker (centre) with Maj Mike Shepherd (left), OC 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron, Royal Engineers

That learning process included all arms training on the new M3 amphibious rig which was fielded on Ulan Eagle by 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron RE.

On the first day, the sappers were busy bringing the 1st Royal Tank Regiment's Challenger 1 main battle tanks across one of the training area's many lakes on four M3 rigs joined together to form a ferry. The tanks followed Warrior infantry fighting vehicles and Scimitar combat reconnaissance vehicles of the 2 RGJ battle group.

Later, all vehicles had an opportunity to cross the 600 metres of lake, some

taking part in opposed crossings with "enemy forces" played by C Squadron, The Light Dragoons and 2 Company, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, on the far bank.

Other vehicles were also put through their paces on the M3, including the repair and recovery vehicles of 3 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and 3 Armoured Field Ambulance.

Although the M3 has been worked up on the River Weser in Germany, the Polish training area provided new challenges and opportunities.

"We know the crossing points on the Weser," said Capt Ben Legg, operations officer of 23 Amph Engr Sqn, "but this site is ideal to give the brigade's battle groups a taste of M3 operations in a new environment."

During the first days of Ulan Eagle, as the individual battle groups worked up, units practised embarking and disembarking from the M3 in its ferry configuration.

As with all the training exercises at

Drawsko-Pomorskie, safety was uppermost in the planners' minds. "We are responsible for all the lives of the brigade," Brig Parker emphasised to his commanders at his tactical headquarters, hidden away in the pine trees of the training area.

"Even without an enemy, armoured warfare is pretty dangerous and we are all charged with protecting the lives of the men and women here. I expect my commanders to think about what they are doing at all times."

During the Soviet tenure of Drawsko-Pomorskie, it was not uncommon for the casualty rate to run into dozens, according to local observers.

UNLOADING

For example, local villagers professed themselves amazed at the way in which the British Army handled the unloading of trains carrying the Challenger tanks of 1 RTR.

A Polish officer observing the move commented: "The Soviets had special drivers to take the tanks from the train and even then people would be hurt, sometimes killed. But the British Army, they just drive straight off, no bother."

Another advantage which the British troops in Poland have over their erstwhile Warsaw Pact counterparts is the Combat Service Support Group (Germany) which was kept busy keeping vehicles refuelled, soldiers fed and every unit supplied with vital stores and equipment.

On exercise

Proud smiles: Reserve soldiers from South Shields-based 105 Squadron, 72 Engineer Regiment on a Bailey bridge they constructed during Exercise Rhino Replen in Germany



Picture: Sgt Dave Bridges

Supporting cast of thousands

PROVIDING a guard force for the Combat Services Support Group (Germany) was anything but dull, as Jocks from the 7th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders found out during Exercise **Rhino Replen**, which ranged from the Dutch border to Paderborn in the east.

The exercise, the largest staged on German soil since the end of the Cold War, involved nearly 12,000 troops, about half of them from Territorial Army units which flew or drove from the UK to

join Regular soldiers of the 1st Armoured Division practising their logistic support capability in the field.

Brig Seamus Kerr, Commander CSSG(G), said: "This is all about exercising our function, our ability to provide everything needed at the start of a major operation, whether it's medical back-up, transport support, ammunition, fuel or rations."

The division is a major contributor to NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Meanwhile...

- More than 500 part-time soldiers from 145 Brigade took part in Exercise **Roe-buck Foray** in South Wales. It was the brigade's first concentration since it was formed in 1995. Main units involved were 5 RGJ, 2 RGBW, 266 Bty (Para Artillery), 163 Pro Coy and 70 Sig Sqn. Aim of the exercise, which was supported by Lynx, Gazelle, Puma and Chinook helicopters, was to simulate a light mobile force being deployed into a war-torn country to drive out an invading army.

- About 700 soldiers from Exeter-based 43 (Wessex) Brigade took part in Exercise **Wyvern Claw**, a two-week concentration in East Anglia. Brigade troops, mostly from the Devon and Dorsets, Light Infantry and Royal Wessex Yeomanry, were under the command of Brig John Powell.

- Members of 103 Air Defence Regiment RA based in the North West invaded training areas at Tenby and Castlemartin for a two-week exercise codenamed **Firebird**. The soldiers from Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Widnes and St Helens would, in time of war, provide air defence to ARRC.

- British support troops were involved in a multi-national NATO command post exercise, **Active Improvement**, staged on Leopoldsbury military training area in Belgium under the command of Maj Gen Rob McAfee, Commander MND(C).

Paras Steppe out

An officer of the Ukrainian Airborne Forces salutes as British paratroopers march off the square at a parade to mark the start of the week-long Exercise Cossack Steppe, the first tri-lateral peacekeeping exercise held in the Ukraine. Troops from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment were joined by Polish and Ukrainian paratroopers.

Picture: Chris Fletcher



People, places, events



QMSI Dave Delaney spots for QMSI "Q" Quilliam during the sniping competition

Army shots are a hit in Canada

TWENTY of the Army's best shots flew to Ottawa to compete in the annual Canadian skill-at-arms competition and produced several notable results.

Led by Maj Roger Shelmerdine-Hare, R Anglian, the team was based on nine Gurkhas from 30 Signal Regiment, which had done well in the annual Tickle competition, and a selected group of individuals, including two from 1 WFR, three from 3 R Irish and two Royal Engineers.

The team scored 18 possibles in the rifle matches, with Cpl Nirmal

Gurung (30 Sig Regt) finishing nine points behind the Canadian Queen's Medal winner.

Sig Lila Sing Gurung did exceptionally well in his first international competition.

Cpl Skinny Chambers (1 WFR) won a medal for the top international firer in the sniper match, while the British Army team had a clean sweep in the LSW match, taking the first seven places.

They were second to the Canadian Reserve team, the hot favourites, in the international match.

Maidstone sappers win Sword of Peace

SIX-HUNDRED soldiers of 36 Engineer Regiment based at Maidstone, Kent have won the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for 1996 for their work in Bosnia.

The unit undertook extensive reconstruction work in the war-ravaged country as part of NATO's peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

A MoD recommendation said the

work done by the sappers led directly to greatly improved freedom of movement, safe infrastructure and the foundation for renewed local industry, medical and educational bases – essential elements of a stable future.

The Sword of Peace was presented during a ceremony at Invicta Barracks at the end of last month.

"The regiment's contribution is both a tangible and long-term legacy to those who have endured horrific hardship in central Bosnia and they consider it to have been their good fortune to have been able to assist when the need was so great," said the recommendation.

Top dogs at RSME

A Guard Dog Service team trophy was won by 3 RSME in competition with 30 other teams at the RE Combat Engineering School, Minley.

BFBS calling ... on the record

WITH its move to new purpose-built studios, BFBS Radio now has one of the largest selections of records of any radio station in the world.

New premises at Chalfont Grove, near Garrards Cross, cost more than £1 million to build and consist of six studios. More than 5,000 records have been transferred to the station's hard-drive and state-of-the-art equipment means they are available at the touch of a button.

The official switch-on by Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid at the end of September marked the end of 12 years of broadcasting from Paddington.

SSVC, which provides the BFBS service as part of a five-year contract, decided on the move so that all its broadcasting services could be united under one roof.

Your chance to be a video star

COMBAT Arms – Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry and Army Air Corps – provide the theme for the latest Army Video Diary due out early this month. Watch out for it because two new competitions will be launched in the video.

Units, sub-units and headquarters will be encouraged to make their own short films of their next six months. The best effort will win a video camera to be presented by television reporter Kate Adie and be featured in the May 98 video diary. Entries close on April 20.

And for individual viewers, correct answers to questions posed at the end of the video could earn the winner a day's cross-country driving instruction from Land-Rover on the company's gruelling test track. Replies have to be submitted to DPR(A), Mod Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB by January 12.

Names of the winners will appear in *Soldier*.

Gurkha benefactor's garden

A MEMORIAL garden featuring a *chautara* or traditional Nepalese resting place is to be created at Ampfield near Romsey in Hampshire. The Sir Horace Kadoorie Gurkha Memorial Garden, to be opened on November 15, honours the long-time benefactor to Nepal and the Gurkhas. Dimensions of the *chautara* will be the same as one in the British Gurkha transit camp and HQ in Kathmandu.

● P&O European Ferries has announced reduced autumn and winter fares for Service personnel. The new prices are valid on any sailing, day or night, until January 31 and include free travel for children under the age of 14.

● FORMER SAS member and author Barry Davies will talk about the 1977 Mogadishu, Somalia hostage rescue at the Airborne Forces Museum, Browning Barracks, Aldershot on November 6. Tickets (£6.50) on 01252 349619.

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Pictures: Terry Champion

Duxford's battlefields

Above – France 1944: two British soldiers share a mug of tea
Below – In defence: British troops protect a wounded comrade during the Aden crisis

MENTION the Imperial War Museum's outpost at Duxford to military enthusiasts and they automatically associate the site with aircraft, **writes Laurie Manton.**

Not surprising, really, because Duxford is the largest centre of aircraft restoration in Europe. However, one of its latest attractions has much to offer anyone interested in the British Army.

The Land Warfare Hall is packed with tanks, trucks and artillery dating from the First World War to the Gulf War, and consists of tableaux depicting 20th century battlefield sites.

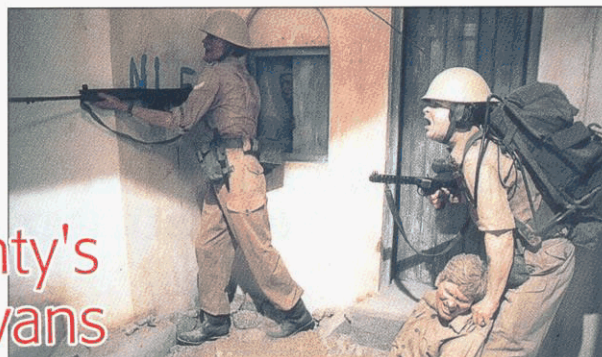
A mine-strewn Second World War desert scene features a British Valentine tank guarding the passage of "soft skin" transport, while another tableau set in a ruined farmyard in northern France, not long after D-Day, depicts tea-drinking soldiers reading letters from home as they rest alongside their Sexton 25-pdr

Imperial War Museum outpost is home to Monty's wartime caravans

self-propelled gun. One of the most striking exhibits is a graphic representation of members of an Army patrol defending a wounded comrade after being attacked in an Aden street.

Fd Marshal Montgomery's caravans, which served as his wartime home and mobile headquarters, are also on display.

Two of the vehicles were captured from the Germans in North Africa, while the third was made specially for Operation Overlord,



the Normandy landings. All three travelled with Monty from the D-Day beaches to Luneberg Heath, where he received the German surrender. A picture of Rommel, which Monty used to contemplate as the desert battles raged, hangs on the wall of one of the vehicles.

The Land Warfare Hall also provides a home for the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum and an exhibition on the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

Imperial War Museum Duxford is open from 10am every day except December 24, 25 and 26. There is a charge for entry. For further information, telephone 01223-835000.

SOLDIER COMPETITION

The winner will receive this Sharp VC-MH64HM four-head NICAM stereo VHS video recorder. Its many features include 48 pre-set channels, mid-drive chassis, built-in shuttle control, skip search and DPSS search system, and infra-red remote control.



WIN A NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER

Here is the third and final question in our competition to win this superb Sharp NICAM hi-fi stereo video recorder.

You should already have made a note of the answers to the first and second questions, which appeared in our September 15 and October issues.

QUESTION 3
Which regiment, formed in 1881, took this title in 1921 and became part of the Royal Irish Rangers in 1968?

The _____ Rifles

Final anagram: To arrive at the six-letter overall answer to this competition, rearrange the initial letters of words noted since the September 15 issue of *Soldier* to spell out the first name shared by a legendary British king and the Iron Duke.

Now fill in the details on the form and post it to Video Competition, Soldier Magazine, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU to arrive no later than November 28, 1997.

If you do not wish to spoil your magazine you may send a completed photocopy or write the details on a sheet of paper or postcard. Only one entry per person can be accepted.

Sender of the first correct entry drawn after the closing date will be the winner.

An announcement about the result will appear in the January issue of *Soldier*. Please note that no correspondence can be entered into.

Entry form

SOLDIER MAGAZINE VIDEO COMPETITION, NOVEMBER 1997

Name (inc rank or title)

Address.....

Postcode.....

ANSWER.....

Send (to arrive no later than November 28, 1997) to:
Video Competition, Soldier Magazine, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

Unit spotlight

Gamekeeper to poacher

Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry undergoes a major transformation

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

"ESSEX man is dead; Recce Man lives!" A small exaggeration, perhaps - after all, there are still more Sierras running around Chigwell and Brentford than there are stripped-down Land Rovers. But there was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Lt Col John Lemon, OC of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry as he described the particular skills and characteristics of his 323 TA soldiers.

The Regular soldier, one of ten attached to this medium reconnaissance unit, was presiding over regimental manoeuvres in preparation for the brigade-scale Exercise Deep Gorge on Otterburn ranges. The preliminary deployment to the West Yorkshire countryside near Ripon was to be the last under Lt Col Lemon's command, but it was satisfying proof that his two years at the helm had borne fruit.

He admitted that he had some reservations about the part-timers when he arrived at the Telford base in 1995, but now he had no doubts about their commitment and ability. "I wanted this regiment to change from being a relatively static and straightforward home defence unit to being a highly mobile light recce unit. And we've done it."

The proof was out there in the rolling Yorkshire countryside. Ranging across the scenic landscape, the three squadrons



of extremely businesslike Land Rovers were pitted against each other in a three dimensional, all-weather chess game.

Their objective was to locate, monitor and harry a smaller but equally mobile "enemy" squadron, attempting to break through the friendly lines. Each probed the zone controlled by the other, manoeuvring and observing as required and constantly reporting back to the headquarters squadron that planned and co-ordinated operations.

Falling back to pre-planned lines and "destroying" bridges as they went, the patrols exemplified the concept of mobile reconnaissance. More often than not, the Land Rovers and their two- or three-man or woman crews were in and out of locations before the enemy realised it.

The key to the RMLY's mobility lies in its minimalist approach to operations. Land Rovers (all basic and elderly Series III long wheel-base models) are stripped of all but the most essential fittings, including doors, windscreens and roofs. This makes for wet rides and draughty



Left - Mobile OP. Sgt Bill Webb, and driver Tpr Jonathan Taylor aboard their minimalist Land Rover. Above - The equally mobile HQ. Cpl Jim Stilgoe (left) and Capt Justin Charlton Jones co-ordinate patrols.

OPs, but mobility and low profiles are all important.

Even weapons are kept to a minimum. Patrols normally carry only rifles and side arms. This does not worry Lt Col Lemon. "Our main weapons," he said, with the smile of a card-sharp who had just revealed a deceptively simple trick, "are the radios and the vehicles. Our fighting power and usefulness comes purely from being mobile and able to send back good intelligence."

A subtle trick indeed, but just in case it does not work quite as well as anticipated, the RMLY does, in some circumstances, make a concession to weight and fire-power by dealing throw-away anti-tank launchers from the bottom of its pack.

At the intersection of two country lanes, and partially concealed behind a dry stone wall, Sgt Bill Webb scanned the surrounding countryside. He summed up the determination and professionalism that his OC so admires.

The patrol commander, a welding supplies salesman in civilian life, was enjoying the work-up to Deep Gorge. "It'll be a hard-fought exercise," he said, emphasising the very real competition that exists between the Yeomanry regiments. "There are going to be some real verbal battles,

but not too many physical ones, I hope."

How useful was the exercise to him? "Very. It's a new role for me," he said, "and it's good to get out for longer than a weekend. We've been preparing to go on exercise since early January. So this is it."

And the exercise was almost it for the RMLY's 100 Land Rovers, because, with some approaching their 18th year of hard use, they are soon to be replaced with the new-style 110 Defenders.

It will not be a day too soon for Sgt Derek Austin, REME attached to the RMLY. "They've served us well, but they're long past their sell-by date now," he said. The sergeant and his small staff had carried out extensive repairs to 12 vehicles in just four days.

But the venerable medium-recce vehicles had one more important role to play before being scrapped or sold off. As the Yeomanry exercise ended, the fully-manned war wagons assembled on the Ripon parade ground and ceremonially drove past their CO.

As he took the salute, Lt Col Lemon may have remembered his words to *Soldier*. "It's been just brilliant; a great job in which we really got our boots dirty. These soldiers have the skills of the poacher. And they are damned good poachers at that."



Lt Col John Lemon: "It's been just brilliant."

Bosnia briefing

Cavalry climbs back in the saddle

HORSEBACK patrols by The King's Royal Hussars to reach inaccessible areas of Bosnia have turned back the clock more than 50 years.

The area around their base, the old bus garage at Mrkonjic Grad, is hilly, the roads are poor and the tracks are rutted and steep. Much of the regiment's work involves patrolling the surrounding villages, where the soldiers make personal contact with local people to promote the Stabilisation Force's work.

Although these patrols have been carried out on foot, in a Land Rover, a Scimitar light tank or even a 62-tonne Challenger tank, some places have been too remote to reach. To overcome this problem one of the regiment's squadron leaders, Maj Henry Joyce, hit on the idea of hiring horses from local farmers as a means of transport.

Now four families in the area supply seven horses and the patrols usually go out on Sundays where the horses are not needed for farm work. They are hired at about £7 a day and the owners are delighted to be making money from animals that would otherwise be standing idle in a field.

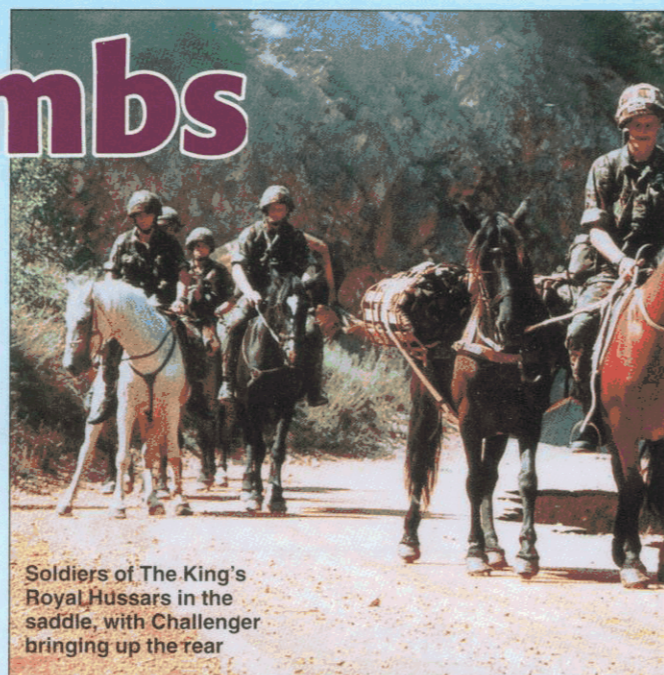
Saddles, some of which are antiques, are supplied by the owners. They include ex-German military saddles which were captured by partisans during the Second World War.

The soldiers on horseback, led by 2nd Lt Justin Kingford, deliver copies of the SFOR newspaper *Mostovi*, mine awareness posters, essential supplies and goods donated by charities. On horses they are not only achieving their aim of reaching the farther-flung parts of Bosnia, but also injecting cash into the local community which will help get the area back on its feet.

According to Army vet Capt Melissa Bowman, the horses also benefit. "The extra income that the farmers receive has led to the horses looking healthier and visibly fatter," she said.

Although units in Bosnia have been

using horses to transport food and fuel to remote locations for some time, the last British horse patrols in an operational area were carried out in Palestine in 1940-41.



Soldiers of The King's Royal Hussars in the saddle, with Challenger bringing up the rear



Branching out: the new bridge at Donji Vakuf. Right: Lt Sean Cunniff

Bridging the gap

SAPPERS from 29 Field Squadron RE, 21 Engineer Regiment, performed a balancing act with a 170-ton bridge they built in the Bosnian town of Donji Vakuf.

Because there was so little room in which to work the sappers had to construct the 60-metre long road bridge over the river section by section, pushing it forward as they went. This resulted in the unusual sight of the huge steel structure hanging, apparently unsupported, over the river's expanse.

"As long as the weight on the bank was greater than that pushed out over the gap, it was all right," said troop commander Lt Sean Cunniff.

With so much suspended over the river there was a need to counterbalance it on the south bank by closing the road and building the bridge back as far as was

needed. Final sections were pushed over the construction on to the far bank and touched down where a war-damaged house once stood. Its cellar was filled with aggregate to provide a base for the concrete pads which held the landing rollers.

When one end of the original bridge over the Vrbas was destroyed in 1993, Royal Engineers put a Bailey bridge over the gap to keep the vital route open.

The old concrete bridge is now to be repaired properly but as the route must stay open the new bridge has been put next to it while work is carried out. Once it has done its job as a temporary crossing for traffic ranging from civilian cars to Challenger tanks, it can be deconstructed and used again wherever it is needed.



Head to head: RSM Peter Woodcock in a battle of wills with Goat

Another fine mess you've Goat me into

GOAT power is being used to keep the sergeants' mess garden in Split, Croatia, clean and tidy.

But the one-year-old substitute gardener, known imaginatively as Goat, does not confine herself to weeds and rubbish.

"Goat eats everything . . . from flowers to the washing line," explained RSM Peter Woodcock. "But she does keep the rubbish out of the garden, and although there are moves to barbecue her every time she does something wrong, we are truly too fond of her. If anything she gets spoilt."

Their "all-weather, all-terrain Croatian

Help for the big freeze

FITTING trainers and jeans and handing out chocolate, woolly hats and socks to children is not the usual job-spec for an officer in the Windsor-based Household Cavalry Regiment.

But as part of a community project in one of the poorest parts of Bosnia, Capt James Mayhew (pictured right) took time off from the more usual side of soldiering to do just that. He and other D Squadron soldiers, along with US Marines, helped to distribute clothes collected by regimental wives and the wives of the Marines.

"It's a very worthwhile project. These people have so little and whatever we can give them makes a difference," said Capt



Mayhew. The village of Orahova is home to 3,000 Serb refugees who moved in at the end of the war, most with no possessions.

As news of the SFOR visit became known crowds flocked to the school where the clothing distribution was taking place. People are under no illusion about the freezing Balkan winter which lies ahead and mothers were searching for warm trousers and sound footwear for their children.

More than 50 families had been selected by the local president to receive help, but many more turned up in the hope of receiving something to help them in the desperate struggle to survive after losing their homes and belongings.

Tea for 2 (00,000)

A POLITE letter from The King's Royal Hussars to a British tea company asked if they could spare a couple of boxes of the brew to add variety to their cuppas in Bosnia.

Variety, and lots of it, was what they got. The Ahmad Tea Company, based in Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, immediately responded by dispatching a lorry carrying

eight tons of more than 50 blends to the three locations at which the regiment is based in Bosnia.

"I had expected to receive a small donation, perhaps just one or two small boxes," explained Capt Luke Williams (left), who wrote the letter. "I cannot believe their generosity."

The regiment now has a wide choice: Darjeeling, Ceylon, lemon, fruit, English and Irish breakfast teas, and the current favourite, Earl Grey.

Ahmad Tea Company has sent several consignments to Bosnia to be distributed by the Army. This was the first time they sent out a supply to be drunk by the troops themselves.

Ahmad's sales manager, Paul Murphy, said: "When you are away from home you miss the English cuppa and it is nice to do something to boost the troops' morale."



gardener" was brought in after the soldiers found it hard to keep their self-made garden tidy. An area behind the mess has been landscaped, with garden furniture and a pond. The shady spot, with the sound of running water, was a welcome relief during the summer - particularly for a goat which would otherwise be living on the sun-baked Croatian scrubland.

What families are saying

'Fewer moves, more dosh'



Serious problems that go with mobility need to be tackled – chairman

Report: Karen Moseley

FOR the first time Gurkha wives were in the audience of the new-look 1997 Army Families Federation (AFF) conference.

The 20 wives from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles arrived in England in July after being allowed to accompany their husbands serving in Britain. Seated near the Duchess of Gloucester, they heard the speakers talk about issues such as housing and allowances which will directly affect them and their families during their stay in the UK.

Chairman Cherry Milne said that although the theme of the conference was Moving Forward Together, another suitable title suggested, but with possibly not the right gravitas, was "Fewer Moves, More Dosh".

"It is so hard to have a career if you are moving every 15 months," she said. "The Army is mobile, but serious problems must be tackled."

"Something has to be done to make it financially attractive to move. Why should the people giving up jobs and homes be penalised? The Pay Review Body must take this into account."

EXCESSIVE SEPARATION

"Many families are finding the length of separation unbearable with far too little time between operational tours. We are awaiting the result of the Defence Review with obvious interest to learn of any alteration to operational requirements. Families need quality time together if they are to stay as a family unit, committed to the modern Army."

The conference was the first to be held since the Army Wives Federation was renamed the Army Families Federation. More than 350 representatives from the UK, Cyprus, Germany and Northern Ireland attended.

Main areas of interest were married quarters and pay and allowances. Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General, acknowledged the role the AFF had



Mrs Sue Capewell, representing Wimbish HIVE, is presented with the Naafi Good Neighbours award by Mr Geoffrey Dart, chief executive of Naafi. The award, consisting of a cheque for £500 and a silver rose bowl for the year, is awarded to the community group which has made the greatest contribution to its local Army community. The runner-up prize and a cheque for £100 presented by AFF was won by Larkhill HIVE

played in improving an approach to housing which was "seriously flawed in a number of ways".

He said: "I know the housing issue is creating its own turbulence at the moment as the Defence Housing Executive (DHE) finds its feet and attempts to re-vamp the stock, but I do see it improving."

He said he knew there were concerns with increases in quartering charges. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body, he said, stated that charges for Army housing should no longer be comparable with those for council housing and the gap must be reduced between charges for Army housing and the civilian market.

TURBULENCE

"They recommended that the gap should be reduced steadily over a period of time," said Gen Harley. "But I and my staff are saying, in the context of this year's pay review, and against all the turbulence and still unsatisfactory housing conditions – and for a whole series of other reasons – that there should only be a minimal raising of these charges."

Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid promised to listen to and attempt to address issues raised by the AFF. He said he was well aware that doctrine could be taught and equipment could be bought, but if morale was not high then the rest was "worth damn all at the end of the day".

Referring to Army families, he said: "Stability is essential to the good conduct of the British Army. Someone with an unhappy family is going to be an unhappy soldier. It leads to premature voluntary retirement, which leads to overstretch, which in turn leads to more people leaving and it becomes a vicious circle."

He said the Strategic Defence Review would address retention as its main priority.

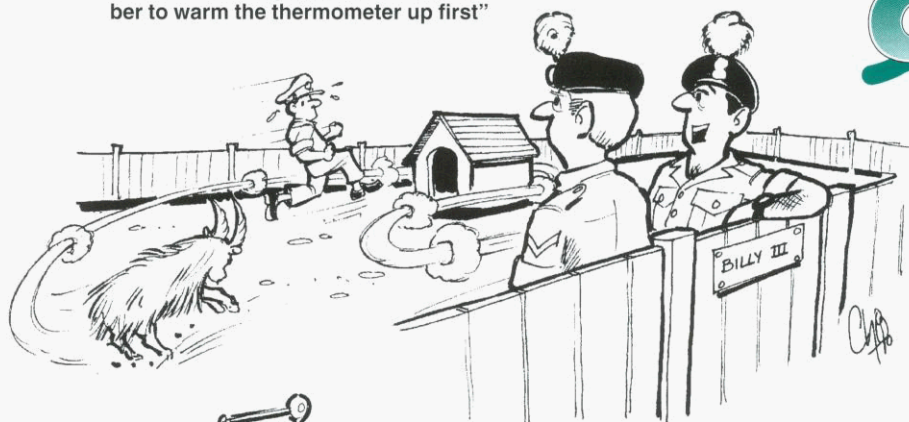
The thorny issue of housing was tackled directly by Colin James, chief executive of the DHE, and Sir Thomas Macpherson, chairman of Annington Homes, the company that purchased the married quarters estate two years ago.

"While I do not think for one moment that everything in the garden is rosy, I do feel the Defence Housing Executive has come a long way," said Mr James, who was presented with a cake in the shape of a house by the AFF to celebrate his 55th birthday.

Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command, set the scene from the military point of view, and wryly admitted that he was the person responsible for "less dosh and more moves".

He said that there was a particularly high level of operational activity at this time and he was not prepared to allow soldiers to go into danger without proper training or resources. Although training was a top priority, the issue of manning, which focused heavily on living accommodation and welfare matters, was also considered extremely important.

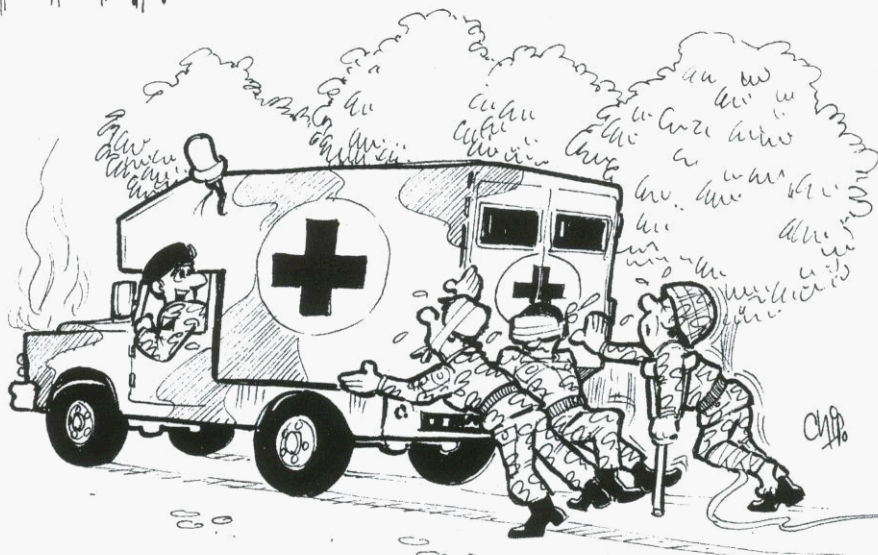
"One of these days the vet will remember to warm the thermometer up first"



Chuckle with Chip



"From the left . . . One OK, two shellscape, three crater, four OK, five crater, six foxhole . . ."



"Look on the bright side . . . This wreck is doing wonders for your cardio-vascular system"



"Next year RSM . . . Please make sure the fire-work lighting chaps stand a bit further back"

On sick parade



Too much living to do

Interview: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE TRAIN journey to Treharris, Simon Weston's home town near Merthyr Tydfil was long. As the crow flies, it is not that far to the Welsh valleys, but with all the delays and changes it seemed like another world as we pulled into the small town.

The sight of a single vacant taxi at the station exit was a relief and we quickly asked the driver to take us to the unmistakably Welsh address. "That'll be Simon's house," he said in response to faltering attempts to pronounce words which seemed seriously lacking in vowels.

Surprised at the driver's familiarity with Simon, even in this relatively small town, we asked if he knew him. "I haven't met him, but we all know Simon."

From the warmth of his voice he seemed to be saying, "he belongs to us". It was a typical response to this man whose cruelly burned face and vibrant personality have, in the 15 years since the Falklands War, come to exemplify the ability of the human spirit to triumph over misfortune.

Minutes later, however, having been welcomed into a pleasant detached home by a smiling Simon Weston, it was already becoming clear that only four people can truly claim him as their own. They are the people he values most: his wife Lucy and three children, James (6), Stuart (4) and Caitlin, just two months.

Simon beamed at the two oldest as they fussed around him, competing for his attention. He chided them gently, before Lucy restored peace by taking them into the garden.

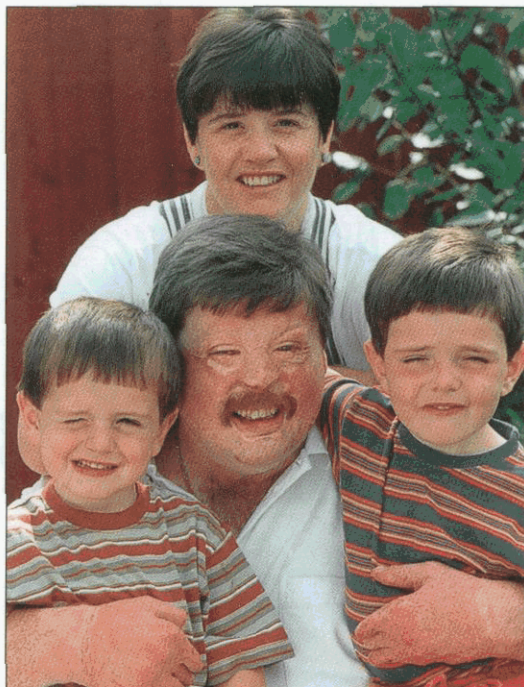
LOVING FAMILY

There is no doubt that surviving the horror of the Falklands has made him appreciate the ordinary pleasures of life more profoundly, especially his family. "I don't think I could love them more," he said as he cast a gaze toward the garden.

He spends much more time with his family than most fathers would, and he is grateful for this. Ironically, he appreciates the fact that it is the continued weakness of his grafted skin that makes it necessary for him to pursue his freelance career from home. "Being injured was an avenue to being able to spend more time with my children."

But the work – a great variety of it – is done, nevertheless, and Simon does travel when the jobs call for it. Describing his

A fit young Welsh Guardsman suffered terrible burns in the Falklands War. Few thought he would live. He went on to become an inspiration to millions. As he told *Soldier*, the Weston spirit continues to soar



Simon and Lucy Weston with Stuart and James. They also have a two-month-old daughter, Caitlin

profession is something of a problem. He laughs and makes a palms-up gesture. "There is no specific description for me." He points out that the Inland Revenue describes him on its forms as a "writer and performer". He is a little worried about the latter word. "It might make me sound big-headed. Nobody has the right to be big-headed."

Fair enough, but most people would show at least a few signs of hubris about the varied skills that he has used to make a very comfortable living. Take writing. His early 1980s launch to fame as the subject of a harrowing documentary about his injuries led to a best-selling autobiography and a second volume telling of his post-war pilgrimages to the Falklands and Argentina. The author then turned his hand to fiction. Working with journalist and friend Pat Hill, they wrote and published two military thrillers.

His social ease, unpretentious way with words and popularity quickly led to radio work. Seven years as a phone-in host on BBC Radio Wales ended recently following the arrival at the station of what Simon described without a hint of bitterness as new brooms. "It was sad really, because I loved it. But I can always return to it if that work ever comes my way again."

More radio work has already turned up.

Working with an old colleague from Radio Wales, he went to Hong Kong just before it was handed back to the Chinese and recorded two programmes for Radio 4 in which he interviewed and discussed many of the unique people and institutions that were soon to leave the territory or pass into the control of the People's Republic.

Much of the time was spent with the Services. "I loved working with them again, because nothing is too much trouble for squaddies, or for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. They just love to be recognised and appreciated."

Radio comes easily to him, and there is an obvious next step. "It is ideal for me because, being a Welshman, I can waffle for God. On TV you need to be able to use fewer words and be more incisive. But the transition from being on radio to being a TV presenter shouldn't be that hard."

He has already tested the water... and liked it. Last Christmas he hosted the Falklands end of a TV link-up with the Forces, while Anthea Turner anchored the programme at the London end. Not surprisingly, he has ideas for more programmes.

I steered our conversation back to the Army because I was keen to know how this confident, media-friendly and quite unaggressive man had fared in uniform. Why

did he even join the Army at 16 in 1977?

"I joined up because I had lost my way. I had left school without a single qualification, taken various menial jobs, but really needed some discipline and something to focus on."

"I was told that I was just above average intelligence, and, to be honest, that was probably about right. But I loved the Army. The thing about my career was that if there was a way of getting out of something mundane and boring, then I would try to find it. But, if a job had to be done, then I was one of those people who would get in and get it done."

"What the Army gave me I will cherish for the rest of my life, but I wouldn't change places with any serving soldier now. We're expecting too much from them these days and spreading them too thinly."

Simon never rose above what he calls "the giddy heights of Guardsman", although he undoubtedly could have. "I was due to go on a corporals' course after we got back from the Falklands – if we got back."

NO GRUDGE

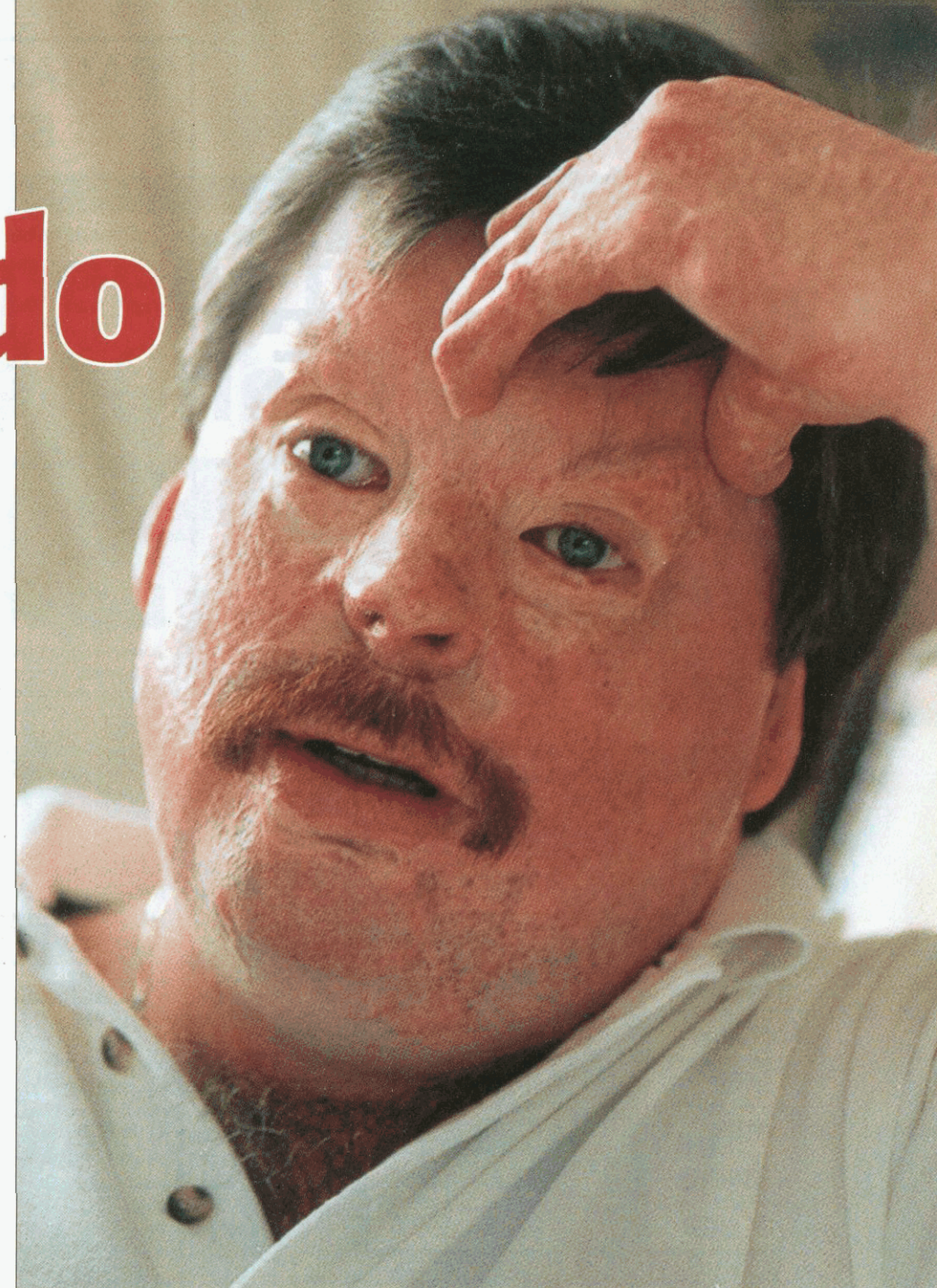
The Argentine Air force ensured that a stripe was not to be, and he was pushed in other directions. Simon seems to hold no grudge against the Argentines; he even visited Buenos Aires with a television team and to research the second part of his autobiography.

He met the pilot who bombed his ship, killed his friends and seared him with flames (a hellish experience that he says he will never forget, but which no longer haunts his dreams).

"The pilot couldn't believe that he was sitting there in front of me without any protection," said Simon, smiling. "But it was really nice. He sent me a letter on the anniversary, and I've got it in there." He gestured towards his office, but did not offer to show the letter to us. Even for this supremely amiable man, some things are very private.

"It would be so easy for me to stand here and be really horrible about the Argies, but I don't do that. They are typical South Americans; hot-blooded in one way, but very relaxed in another. Nice people. They still say the islands are theirs but they always add that if you want to fight about it, you can keep them."

The first trace of bitterness, albeit one that Simon had to dig deeply to find, emerged when he was asked about the veterans' physical and mental scars and their



Simon Weston: writer, broadcaster and Falklands veteran

welfare. As a founder member of the South Atlantic Medal Association, which works with suffering veterans, he is convinced there is a significant number of men who remain traumatised by their experiences. He believes that society, even the Army itself, has not given them the care and attention they deserve.

"I have a really hard time coming to terms with people who are supposed to look after you, but as soon as the wheels come off, they do everything they can to destroy your memory and your presence."

He says he did not suffer such treatment personally. He was never "swept under the carpet", as he describes it, but explains that through his work with the veterans' association he has heard several worrying stories.

Simon Weston is not a man who sits back. If he thinks his fellow veterans are being unfairly treated, he can be expected to say and do something about it. He is a big-hearted doer, as his own charity, the

Weston Spirit, demonstrates vividly. Although no longer involved full-time, he relishes the time he is able to spend with young people being given a second chance at education and work by his inner-city based teams.

What of his plans for the future? Another book written with Pat Hill is in the pipeline; this time an historical novel that breaks the link with today's Army.

And there are the TV projects too. He will come up with the goods, although unlike many achievers Simon's ambition is not ruthless. He is happy with his lot, but wants to make an even greater mark.

"I have too much living to do, and I have a simple philosophy on life. It is that we shouldn't just be visitors to this planet. We need to take part in life and make a difference. I want to be able to disappear one day – in an orange box on a bonfire will do – and leave a legacy, so that my children can say: 'My dad did all that. My dad: what a good guy. What a man!'"



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Cadets out and about



Longmoor pictures: Mike Weston

Pte Richard Edwards adjusts the chin-strap of Cadet Gary Hyatt (14) of Swansea Coy, 3 (Cadet) RRW, at Longmoor with SI Alex Allen looking on



Getting a taste of Army life

Best quartet of 3 (Cadet) RRW recruits, out of 73, at Longmoor were (front, from left) Laura Wilson, Cerys Hooper, Anthony Elliot and Malcolm Osborne



Instructor Darren Davies, a Territorial Army private with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, watches Cadet Mark Davies (16) on the Burma Bridge at Longmoor

An important part of any Army cadet's life is the summer camp. This year thousands of Army cadets took to the training areas of Britain to practise their skills.

Soldier visited Longmoor training area in Hampshire to watch the 3rd (Cadet) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales on camp. Other units sent us pictures.

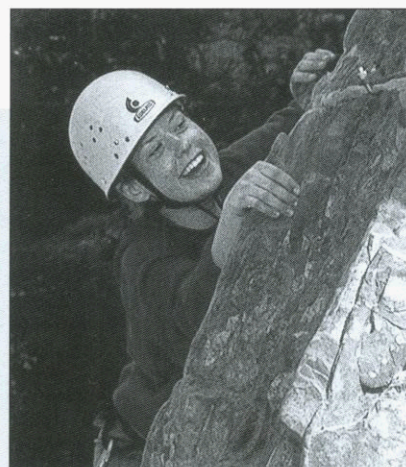


More than 470 cadets from Staffordshire and the West Midlands took to the great outdoors of Sherwood Forest. LCpl Karen Alexander tried her hand at navigation in an Army Air Corps Gazelle. The area around Proteus Camp has seen cadets in the throes of bridge-building, sailing and field exercises.

Busy on the recruiting front. The Royal Irish Regiment visited Merseyside Army Cadet Force and received a full blast on the bagpipes from Cadet Stacey Taylor. Piper Paul Tosh had other ideas about 15-year-old Stacey and her musical abilities.



Cadet Under Officer Sarah Cartwright of Welbeck College clings to a rock-face in Tywyn, Wales. Sarah was on a leadership and development course run by the Joint Services Mountain Training Wing. The ten-day course combined British cadets and military scholarship holders with their Canadian counterparts.



Who dares...

Moto-cross on water

IMAGINE the scene: a small hut at the edge of the water, with several sun-bronzed wanna-be Australian surfer types, in studied laid-back poses that stop just short of cockiness. Beyond them, at the edge of the gently lapping water, neatly parked in a line, are half a dozen sleek and brightly-coloured jet-skis.

But something is not quite right. There is a persistent and loud buzz in the air, and it is not the sound of equatorial insects. It is, I realised, as my carefully-crafted illusion was cruelly shattered, the M4. Just a few hundred yards away from the lake which is now revealed as a gravel pit, and the palm-roofed hut (a Portakabin), is one of Britain's smoke-choked arteries.

It was an slightly unkind initiation into the world of jet-skiing, but an appropriate one. Because there is a growing band of serious jet-skiers for whom the location doesn't matter a jot. The important thing for them is speed and ranking on the British racing circuit. The new breed of adrenalin-seekers will drag their souped-up machines around the country to race wherever there is a few feet of water and some buoys marking out a circuit. For them, gravel pits are fine.

Nevertheless, as a complete greenhorn, I could certainly think of some better places to try the sport for the first time - hence the fantasy. But my teacher for the day, LCpl Andy Fisher of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, and possibly the Army's only jet-ski racer, quickly had my mind on other things.

Ready for a gentle introduction, I was admiring my newly rubber-clad body and my rather chic multi-coloured buoyancy aid ("float coat" to the initiated), when he interrupted my reverie. "These things go like the clappers," said Andy. "Some of them will go from zero to 50 in two and-a-half seconds and reach up to 60mph. Just think of it like moto-cross on water, and you'll get the idea."

"This," he said, gesturing towards the

We race jet-skis with the soldier who plans to be a champion

Graham Bound dared, Terry Champion took the pictures

sleek little machine floating benignly a few feet from us, "is my Kawasaki 750. It's what we call a stand-up solo."

"So it's a little like standing up on a motorbike, then," I asked. Andy nodded enthusiastically. "You've got it!"

I was rapidly getting it, and not sure that I liked it that much.

A demonstration was in order, and both Andy and Rob Sagers, who is the British novice champion as well as the manager of the jet-ski lake, were happy to oblige. A quick stab at the start buttons, and the fast-revving two stroke engines screamed to life. Both men were on the skis, climbing to their feet and accelerating towards the course within seconds.

Leaning into the curves à-la motorbike, and jockeying for position, they demonstrated the remarkable acceleration of these racing 'skis. They are to those sit-down Benidorm beach machines what a Porsche is to a Fiesta.

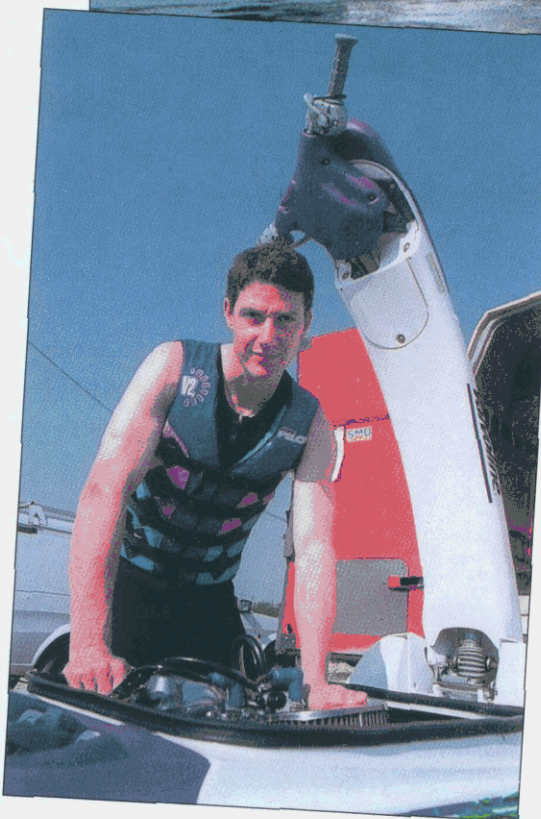
Then the two went into a trick routine, alternately making the 'skis stand on their noses and their jet pipes; almost submerging and then bursting to the surface in a welter of spray. "Not only do these speed

freaks race stand-up," I thought, "but they dance too."

It was my turn next, and I began to feel the same toe-curling sense of imminent humiliation that I once experienced in Spain while being dragged onto the stage by a troop of flamenco dancers.

But Andy's instructions were good. "Accelerate slowly and let the 'ski drag you along horizontally. Then when it begins to lift up, crawl up on to it and kneel. Don't worry, and enjoy it!"

It has to be said that being dragged along the surface of a gravel pit horizontally is quite easy, but not a lot of fun, and



Left - Andy Fisher and his racing 'ski. Could he be the first Army champion? Above left - Our man (left) gets the theory from the master. Above right - "Hey, this is fun!" Pride comes just before the fall for Soldier's reporter

so there was some incentive to do the kneeling bit. What followed was every bit as wet and humbling as I had expected it to be. As I clambered to my knees, so the machine sped off or toppled over. It happened again and again. The learning curve, it seems was so steep that I was in danger of stalling and falling off it. But suddenly - as it always is with this kind of thing, I was there, accelerating and even steering the thing. Sort of.

Narrowly missing the landing stage while saluting the masters, I heard Andy shout: "Now accelerate and stand up." The result was predictable, but then, on my fifth or sixth erratic circuit, I was on my feet, accelerating and bending my knees to cushion the blows as my 'ski left the water and then crashed down again. At last I was having fun.

There was to be no real racing for me - at least not that day - but steering this high-powered water motor cycle around the buoys with Andy shouting encouragement from a safe distance was as invigorating as anything I have done (well, on

water anyway). Back on shore, my teacher was even complimentary. "You did exceptionally well for the first time. You've got the confidence and balance."

Maybe so, but I'm not likely to take up racing as seriously as Andy Fisher and Rob Sagers. They are truly committed, as they have to be if they are to stand any chance of winning prizes on the national circuit. It takes skill, time and money in almost equally large quantities.

Rob, who has already made a name for himself on the British circuit, tells a cautionary tale. "I spent between four and five thousand pounds on the circuit last year, and may not be able to defend my title because I can't afford it. Sponsorship is the answer, but it's hard to come by."

Andy has already secured some commercial support, and thinks he will be able to get through the season. But he would welcome other sponsors, and would like to be joined by more Army enthusiasts who would help him to raise the sport's profile.

"I'd like to see an Army club started,"

I'd like to race jet-skis! What should I do next?

Andy Fisher would be happy to give you a few pointers, and perhaps even discuss the formation of a club. Contact him at Mike Troop, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot. Tel: 01252 349533.

If you're not sure, but would like to taste, sorry, test the water, you could book a session at Jet Ski Leisure, near Aldershot, where Soldier tried the sport. The lake is just to the south off exit 11 of the M4. Ring Rob Sagers on 01189 885959. A session on one of the centre's jet-skis costs £18, including instruction.

If Aldershot is too far away, try calling the Royal Yachting Association on 01703 627400. The RYA is the sport's governing body and can let you have a list of authorised training centres.

You'll get wet - very wet. But fun is guaranteed.

he says. "Then we could negotiate some discounted charges for the use of equipment and facilities, and perhaps even convince the Army Sports Council to support us."

Meanwhile, he doesn't mind being one of the very few soldiers who races these unique machines. "I don't like following the crowd, and I do this because it's different," he says. "And, of course, it's fast and it's fun."

I can vouch for the first point, and, yes, even for the second. It's even fun in a gravel pit.

Sappers who drew the line

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne

THE MILITARY SURVEY arm of the Corps of Royal Engineers can trace its heritage to the autumn of 1747 and the survey of Scotland.

An eight-year task led by William Roy (who went on to become a general) produced the first large-scale map of an entire country by military personnel for a solely military purpose, the repression of the Jacobites in the Highlands.

During the remainder of the 18th century, military map-makers were involved in major surveying tasks, including the geodetic connection of England and France and the production of maps for the Napoleonic Wars.

During the 19th century surveyors from the Royal Engineers carried out surveys of the British mainland and Ireland, delineated the boundaries over the ever-expanding Empire, particularly in Africa, and provided maps for the Crimean and Boer Wars.

This century has produced a massive increase in technology and subsequent tasks for Military Survey. As well as providing traditional geographic support to

the Army during the First World War, military surveyors were often found above the front line in balloons, spotting and co-ordinating the flashes from enemy guns while drawing enormous amounts of enemy fire.

They won many awards for gallantry on the battlefield.

Aircraft were first used for this task during the Gallipoli campaign, although the dubious decision to issue maps only when troops were on the ground and in the correct position negated their immediate value.

Remarkable advances in map-making were achieved during the Second World War, with one of the surveyors' finest hours being their detailed descriptions of the Normandy shoreline defences in the lead-up to the D-Day landings.

Military Survey has provided support to all post-colonial brush-fire wars and crises and is one of the major providers to NATO. A high proportion of its military personnel are currently deployed in Bosnia while the civilian staff are producing an impressive array of essential geographic products.



Sgt Andy Gray and Cpl John Leighton check the data from the Trimble 4000 SSE Survey Grid GPS receiver over the cannon head in Hounslow

Size really is everything

AS PART of the 250th anniversary of Military Survey, the Hounslow Baseline, the birthplace of modern mapping, was remeasured – and found to be an extra 4½ inches long.

Originally measured on Hounslow Heath by military surveyors under the command of Gen William Roy in 1784,

the Baseline was used to establish the world's first accurate land survey.

Stretching some five miles between Hampton and what is now Heathrow Airport, the baseline originally took four months to survey, and is still marked at each end by 18th-century cannon barrels.

The modern military survey team used state-of-the-art Global Positioning Sys-

tem (GPS) satellite receivers, allowing the work to be performed in a matter of hours.

Sgt Andy Gray, a section commander with 19 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (STRE), was on hand to explain the maths and physics to a fascinated audience, which included four-year olds from a local nursery and an A-Level geography course from a nearby school.

Freedom marks school links

RETIRED Military Survey engineers from all over the world gathered in Newbury to see their fellow sappers granted the Freedom of the town.

They watched 250 Royal

Engineers, from Denison Barracks in Hermitage, march through the town with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying.

The School of Military Survey has been based in

Newbury for almost 50 years. It trains military engineers from all over the globe. Soldiers from America, Saudi Arabia and several former Warsaw Pact countries are currently studying there.



Section of an 18th-century geodetic plot of the distance between Greenwich and Paris

GPS plots Bosnia's new boundaries

GEOGRAPHIC information is essential to contingency planning for potential operations, support for current operations and military exercises, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

While the Armed Forces will always need paper maps, military operations are now undertaken with the support of

increasingly complex electronic weapons systems requiring highly accurate information.

Military Survey provides geographic, geodetic and aeronautical data to assist precision weapons guidance, navigation and intelligence for both military exercises and operations.

Since becoming a MoD agency in 1991, Military Survey

has continued to review requirements, current technology and future production systems to keep abreast of change.

Using state-of-the-art Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, sappers in Bosnia have plotted the inter-entity boundaries established under the Dayton Peace Accord.



The cartoon in its 250th anniversary symbol has been used as a logo by Military Survey for decades.

It was drawn by the cartoonist "Fougasse", better known as Cyril Kennedy Bird. Born in 1887 he joined the Royal Engineers as a lieutenant in 1914. Severely wounded at Gallipoli, he started drawing cartoons while recovering in hospital. Probably his most famous wartime examples were the series "Careless Talk Costs Lives".

He was appointed editor of *Punch* in 1949 and continued drawing until his death in 1965.

Escape maps released

THE 250th anniversary of Military Survey has provided a unique opportunity for members of the public to acquire genuine "escape and evasion" maps from the Cold War period.

Printed on silk-like material, the 21 small-scale maps date from the early 1950s and cover large areas around cities such as Stalingrad and Moscow.

Also available to mark the anniversary are four limited edition prints, including a section of the original Military Survey of Scotland 1774-1755, printed for the first time, and reprints of a number of rare maps covering the Aldershot, Farnborough and Sandhurst areas.

Several sheets of the Peninsular War plus examples of Victorian cartography and maps from both world wars are also available.

For a full list contact Gordonwood Associates, 1 Majorca Avenue, Andover, Hants, SP10 1JW (tel 01264 363392).

Behind the scenes at Gurkha base in north Hampshire

DEPARTURE from Hong Kong has, curiously, brought the Gurkha community closer to the United Kingdom than ever before. For the first time, soldiers from Nepal serving in Britain are now permitted to bring their wives and children with them. In fact, the first Gurkha babies to be born in the UK were twin girls born to Cpl Surya Bahadur Gurung and his wife Maya, writes **John Elliott**.

A range of family-related measures has been introduced following the loss of Hong Kong as the traditional home of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Church Crookham, its own future the subject of speculation, is currently home to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles and the Gurkha Training Wing. As these photographs show, it is an establishment which reflects the cultural roots of its occupants. It has been a Gurkha preserve since the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's moved there in 1971. Commanding officer was Lt Col Ian Elliott, father of Capt James Elliott, adjutant of the 1st Battalion.

CLOSURE

With the base near Aldershot pencilled in for closure in 1999, the next Gurkha battalion to serve in the United Kingdom will do so from headquarters at Shorncliffe in Kent.

Until then, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, remains a home from home for the men from the mountain kingdom. First thing that strikes the visitor is the polite and friendly manner of the pin-sharp soldiers transplanted to north Hampshire. The genuine warmth of their welcome is as striking as their reputation for courage and ferocity in battle.

New recruits learn the ropes during nine months of varied instruction in the training wing. At the end of it, during the Kasam Khane Parade, they swear an oath of allegiance to the Royal Gurkha Rifles. It is their second such oath. During the initial selection process in Nepal they are asked to pledge loyalty to the Queen.

MUSEUM

There is some local resistance to the possibility of Church Crookham making way for new development. Its Second World War wooden huts are among the last of their kind in the UK. Some feel the camp would make an ideal museum when 1 RGR leaves for Brunei in 1999.

Meanwhile life goes on, albeit with a few differences. National food, religion and customs of the Himalayan region are reflected in the way Church Crookham goes about its business. An ageing Army hut houses a temple, the modern kitchen boasts a gas-fired wok of truly heroic proportions – *bhat* for all – while in another corner of the camp a goldsmith plies his trade.

Nepalese people set great store by gold as a means of saving, and soldiers can buy gifts and souvenirs to take with them when they return home.



The Pipes and Drums in summer dress after their arrival from Hong Kong

Wok's going on at Church Crookham



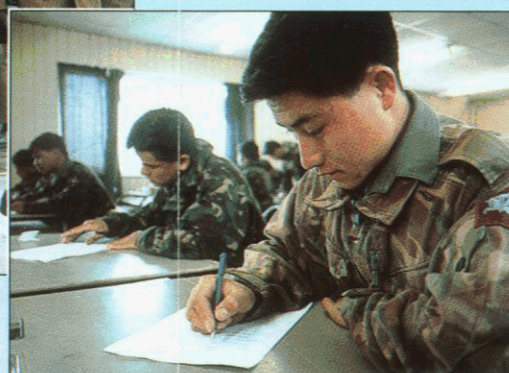
Left – Riflemen Nanda Bahadur Gurung and Dol Rana clean up the gate guard at Queen Elizabeth Barracks. The gun was captured at the Battle of Kandahar in 1880



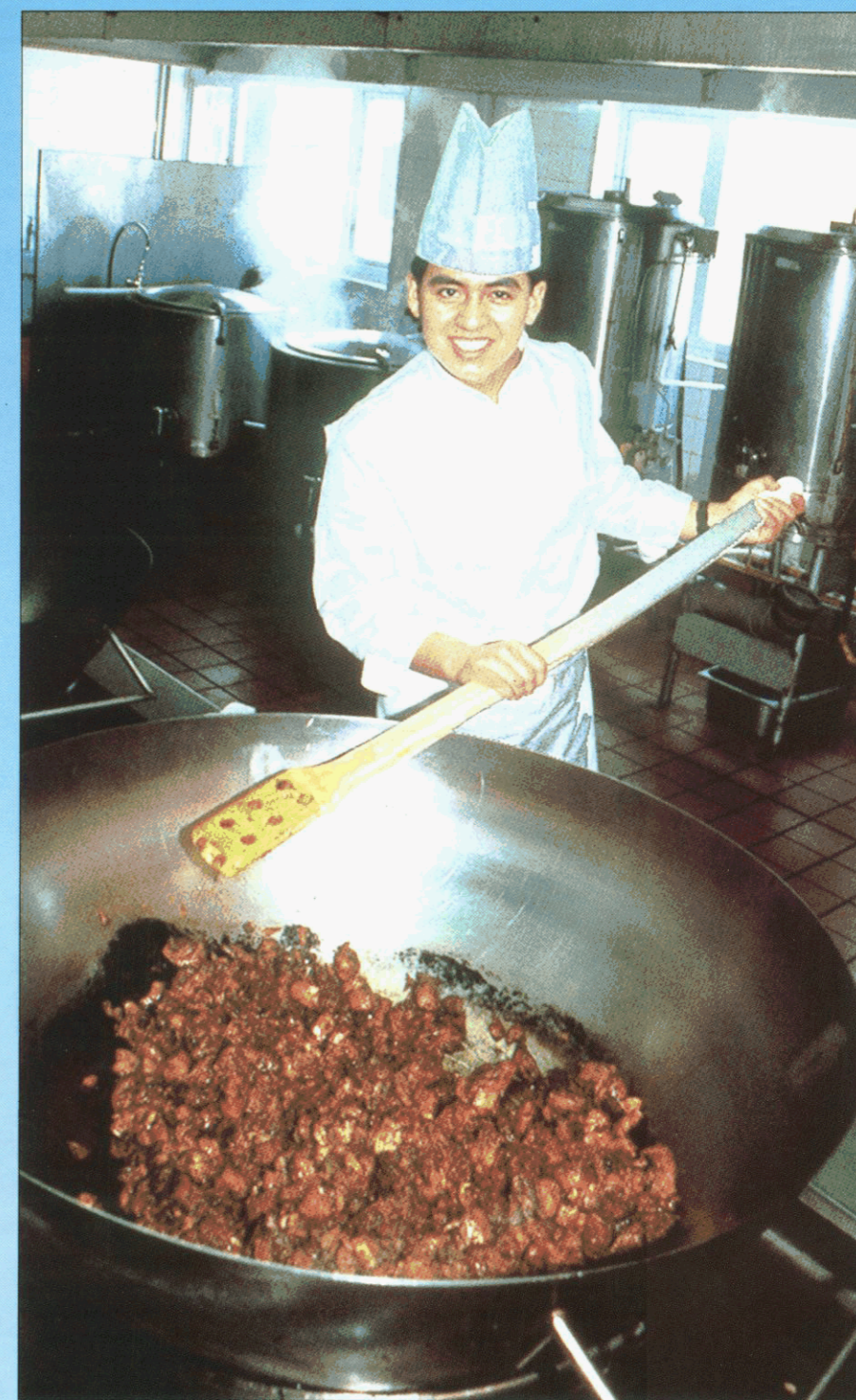
Above – Precision drill on the parade ground



Right – A place of worship has been set aside within the camp for the Gurkha soldiers



Right – As with other British regiments, modern complex weaponry requires extensive classroom preparation



Above – Rifleman Man Bdr Rana "paddles" through lunch prepared on a king-size wok

Below – Accommodation of character – Church Crookham's Second World War huts



Pictures: Terry Champion

Jim Barcock

ARTIST & CALLIGRAPHER



Jim Barcock, MA ATD, is a freelance artist and calligrapher. His work has been commissioned not only from within the UK but Europe, Japan, USA, Australia and New Zealand. He tends to specialise in portraits of people and animals but is capable of undertaking most subjects. As an ex-Army officer he has knowledge and expertise of military subjects. His calligraphic work includes origins of Christian names, poetry and prose, citations and eulogies. He has for several years produced the long-service certificates for Argos Ltd.

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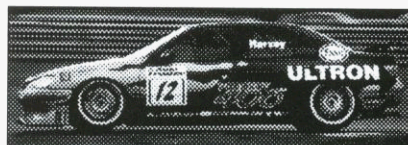
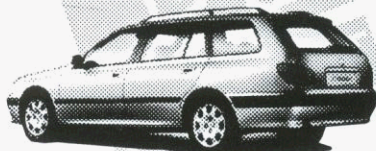
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PEUGEOT

Soldier looks at new developments in clothing and equipment

Ugly, large and loud – but it works

Reports: Karen Moseley

LAND-MINES have become the worst threat to life in Bosnia, with up to five million lying in wait around the country. Now an ugly but effective vehicle has been added to the British Army's inventory to help tackle the problem.

Military experience and technology learnt on the D-Day landing beaches have been combined to come up with the Aardvark mine clearance vehicle.

Named after the African ant-eater, it has chains hanging from its angular bulk which give the appearance of a vicious, slaving dog.

It is now being used by 21 Engineer Regiment to clear land-mines posing a threat to British troops serving with the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) on the firing ranges at Glamoc. The machine first came into service in 1986 and was used by Royal Engineers during the Gulf War.

Its correct military name is Joint Service Flailing Unit and it uses rotating chains mounted on the front of the vehicle to detonate land-mines in its path – technology invented in Britain and first used on the Normandy beaches in 1944.

The protective, heavily-armoured boat-shaped cab is a result of experience



Aardvark, the British Army's mine clearance vehicle, raises the dust in Bosnia

gained in recent conflicts in South Africa.

Extended flails remove the damage or threat to a distance of 30ft from the operators.

The 48-gear machine (available only in green) normally travels cab first, but moves backwards when flailing. Driver and commander sit in a cab at one end of the vehicle protected by 30mm of armour.

The Aardvark has a 350 brake horse power diesel-powered Ford engine, weighs 13.5 tonnes and has a top speed of

12kph – which slows down to 800 metres an hour when it is actually flailing.

Various permutations of low, high and reverse plus a hare/tortoise gear, a split gearbox and different ratios give the machine great versatility, although according to the sappers, when the Aardvark starts sliding in the mud it requires as much brawn as skill to control it.

It could well be the ultimate ambition for those who want to drive big, heavy vehicles with loads of noise.

Durability is the watch word

"BEWARE of imitations" warns Silverman's Ltd, the exclusive distributor of CWC military watches. The distinctive gun-metal grey and black MoD-approved watches are designed to be durable, accurate, and withstand the rigours of combat.

They are made of stainless steel and armoured glass, and are water resistant to a depth of 60ft. Tritium on the hands and numbers will stay luminous in the dark continuously for up to ten years. The tough wristbands, with their "up-and-under" security strap, mean that even if one breaks the watch will not fall off. The bars for the straps are welded on to the watch for even greater security.

Not surprisingly, although they are issued to units, quartermasters tend to regard them as controlled items and keep them under lock-and-key when not being used by commanders or watchkeepers.

A British company, CWC, makes a selection of the watches – the most famil-



Left to right: pilot's chronograph quartz (£220); general service (£75); pilot's chronograph mechanical (£299)

iar being the general service version which sells at £75 (with date, £89). The most expensive, at £299, is the 1970s-issue pilot's chronograph with stop watch, 17 jewels and mechanical movement.

Watches with mechanical movement and a manual wind are more expensive than quartz watches because real old-fashioned craftsmanship is required to put the

tiny intricate workings together. A fully-battery-operated pilot's chronograph quartz version is also made with a stop watch and tenth-of-a-second counter at £220.

Plain and old fashioned, they are not the most beautiful watches to look at, but Malcolm Silverman, the managing director of Silverman's, says that ironically they are becoming fashionable again.

"The fashion now is for highly functional, easy-to-read watches, and manufacturers are beginning to make watches like these again," he said.

Although fairly straightforward to operate, they need to be used with an instruction book initially to understand which buttons go with which dials.

A special limited edition of 500 of the general service watch with a date function and mechanical movement (the watch rewinds as it is moved on the wrist) is on sale for £150.

Tidworth Golf Club is top hole

Lip-smacking lunches are par for the course

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

SEVE BALLESTEROS and his Ryder Cup heroes have not yet dropped in for a snack at the 19th hole of Tidworth Garrison Golf Club, but if a recent report in one of the country's leading golfing publications is anything to go by, the professionals may soon be queuing up for a pie and a pint there.

According to *Fore* magazine, the relatively little-known club near Salisbury is right up there with Gleneagles, Woburn and the Belfry in one respect at least: the quality of its food.

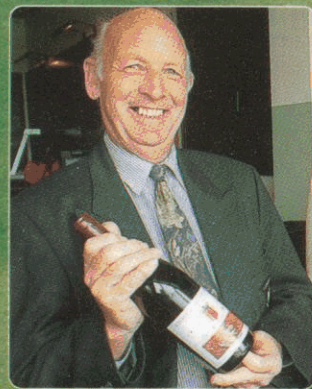
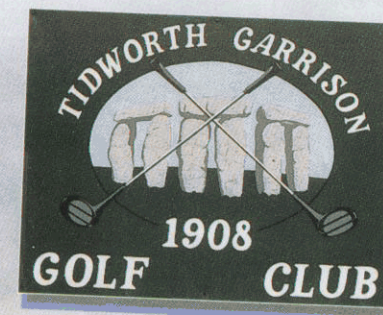
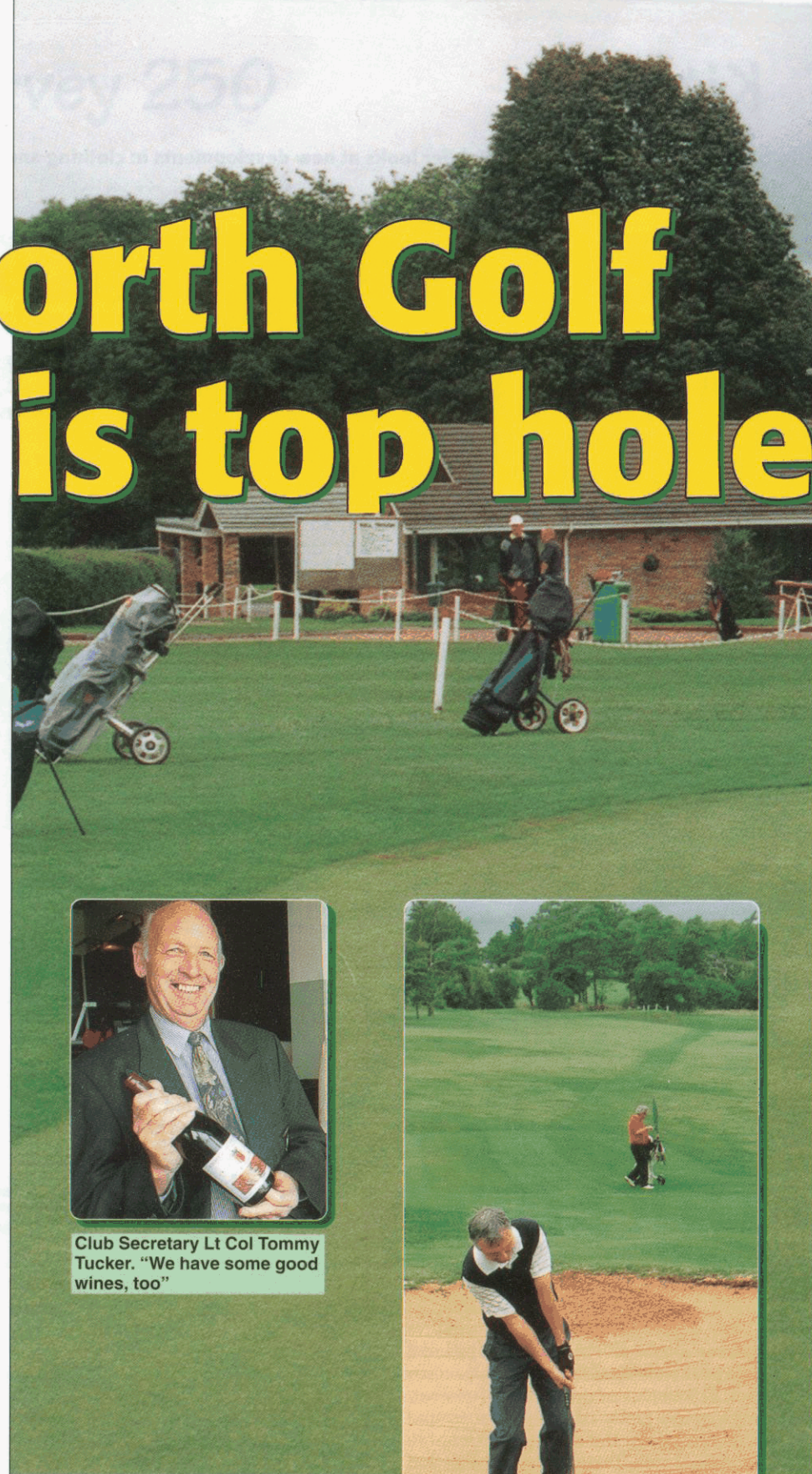
Readers from all over Britain voted for their favourite golf club restaurant and Tidworth emerged as the tenth most popular; not far behind world famous Gleneagles in seventh position. Woburn, the magnificent Buckinghamshire course, occupied the number one slot.

PROUD

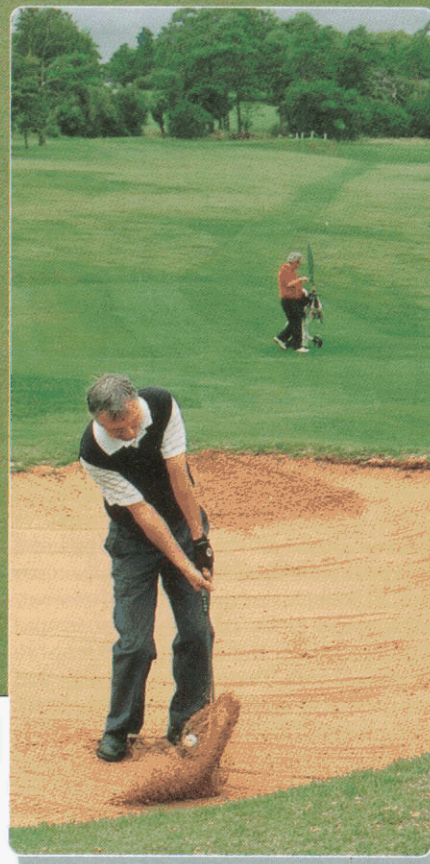
Tidworth club secretary Lt Col Tommy Tucker evidently considered that any placing in such a big-name league was an honour. "It's not often that a club of this standing gets associated with the top clubs of the country," he said. "We've always been exceedingly proud of our course, but we didn't know we were noted for our food. This just shows that we are giving the members a good package."

The colonel is himself an enthusiast for the club's food. Asked to name his favourite item on the lunch menu, he does so with lip-smacking relish: "Chicken tikka baguette. Can't beat it."

Restaurant manager Marilyn Currie, who, with her husband Doug and eight staff runs the restaurant and bar was also pleased, if slightly perplexed. "We only provide simple food," she said. "Very much what I would do at home, but on a much larger scale. Perhaps they like it because it's so fresh. We're very busy so we're constantly making fresh food.



Club Secretary Lt Col Tommy Tucker. "We have some good wines, too"



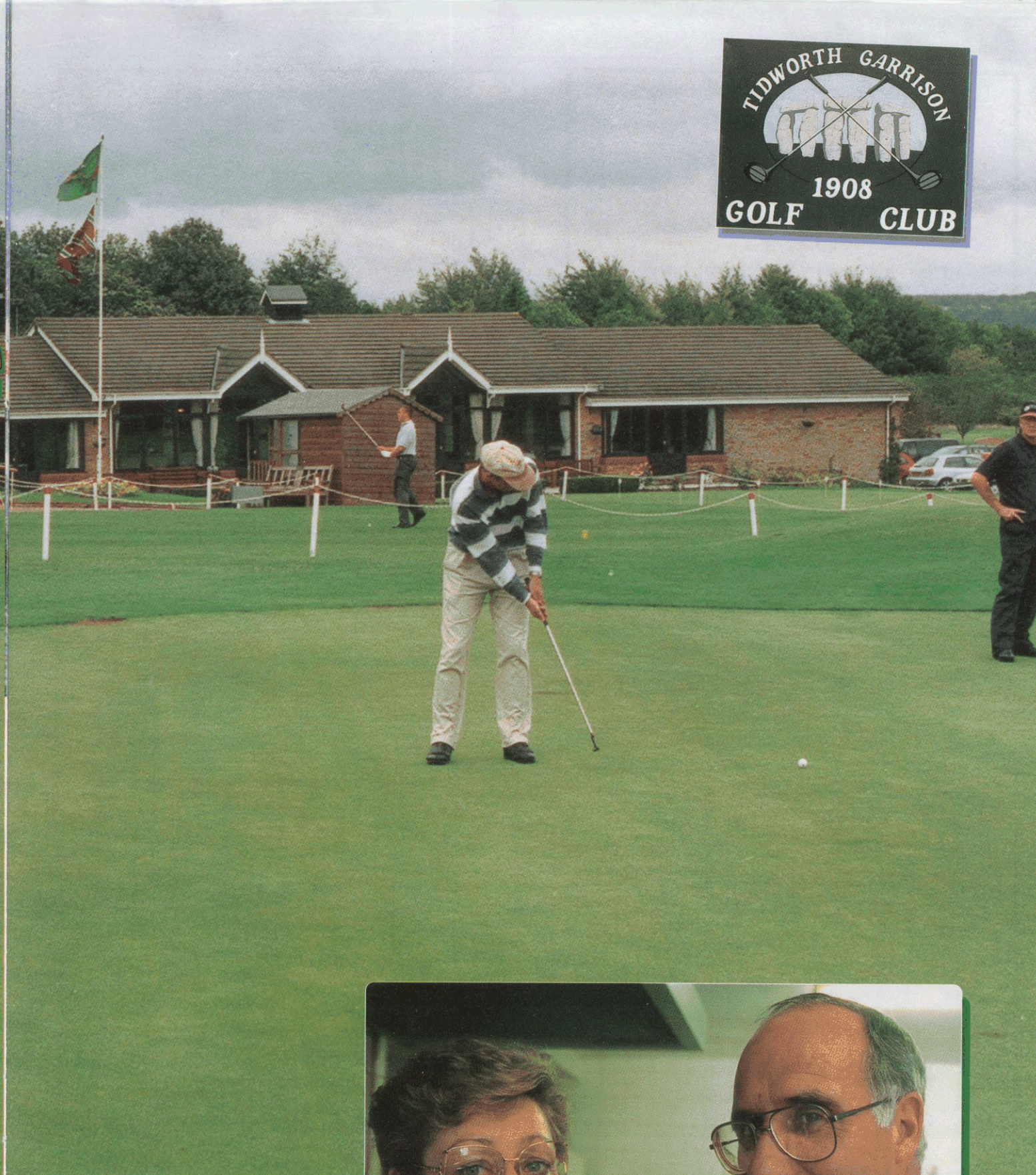
There is simply isn't time for it to become old and stale."

And the most frequently-ordered dish? "Definitely steak pie," said Mrs Currie. "It's got our special ingredient in it." She did not offer to elaborate... Gleneagles might, after all, have spies about.

The Tidworth club has an interesting military history. It was founded in 1908 by three locally-based commanding officers, each of whom designed and constructed two holes. Since then the course has grown to 19 holes, and opened its

membership to civilians. Now about 60 per cent are civilian, but there remains a strong military influence. According to club rules, all Servicemen and women living within a 50-mile radius are welcome to join the club... and many do.

And with good reason. According to



Main picture: A view of the clubhouse with its top-class restaurant

Left: Bunkered... but for Maj John Larkham from 5 Div HQ a warm welcome beckons at the 19th hole

Fore, the food is not the only thing that represents good value at Tidworth. A round of 18 holes costs just £18, compared with £120 at Wentworth and £65 at Gleneagles. You can get a lot of chicken tikka baguettes at Tidworth with that sort of money.



Stewards Marilyn and Doug Currie: "They like the food because it's so fresh"

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TRIATHLON

Hutton speeds to Docklands title

ARMY champion Cpl Des Hutton (REME), an instructor at the Royal Engineers' Combat Engineer School near Camberley, was the first amateur to cross the line at the London triathlon staged in Docklands.

He beat 350 Service entrants and more than 3,000 other competitors to win the Army race staged in conjunction with the main swim-cycle-run event, sponsored by SSAFA Forces Help.

Hutton finished in 1hr 59min, the only amateur to beat two hours. Thirty professional triathletes also took part under slightly different rules.

"The professionals were able to use the slipstream from the cyclist in front, but we had to stay at least 10m behind the nearest bike," he said.

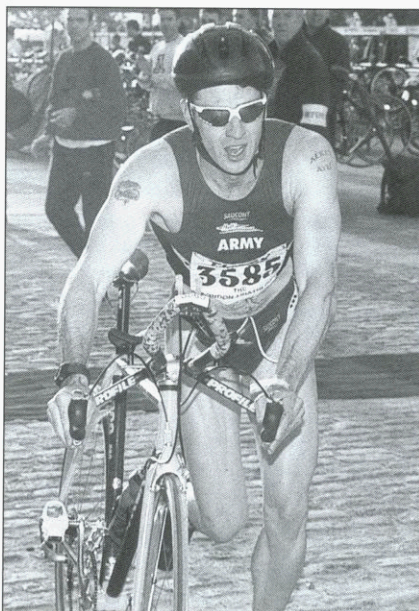
He will be representing Great Britain in the 25-29 age group at the world triathlon championships to be staged in Perth, Australia this month.

Hutton received the SSAFA Forces Help Wilkinson Sword for his victory in London. Runner-up was Sgt Russell Clash, an APTC instructor serving with the Catterick-based Highlanders.

Four Wattisham soldiers – Capt Peter Pain, WO Ray Robinson, SSgt Dave Bosher and Cpl Mal Little – teamed up in Docklands to win the Army triathlon unit title for 7 Battalion REME based at Wattisham.

Robinson and Little were subsequently selected for the Army team which was competing in the Inter-Service triathlon championships in Dorset.

● A six-man team from the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, currently stationed in Belfast, were fourth in the Army championships in Docklands. Only one of the six had competed in a triathlon before and team captain Lt Simon Fawcett believes that with more experience, 3 Para can win the team event.



LCpl Des Hutton, London triathlon winner

● Also qualified for the British team to compete in Australia are Rheindahlen-based husband and wife team WO1 Gary Kilsby (APTC, UKSC(G)) and SSgt Janine Kilsby (16 Signal Regiment), who will be making their international debuts. They will be joined by Lt Richard Brady, currently serving in 21 Brigade Support Squadron RLC, part of 4 General Support Regiment based at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, and LCpl Ian Shankland (R Irish).

Brady, who represented GB at the same event a year ago in the USA, has deployed to Bosnia with his regiment and is attempting to keep up his fitness at his base in Kupres.

Training has been a problem for him this year because of exercise and operational commitments, so his Perth selection came as an unexpected surprise.

end of an era in Services shooting. All three Services and the GB team were present and the following day fired their annual match for the last time.

The national team won a close contest, beating Combined Services, led by CPO John Crawford of the Royal Navy, by ten points in centre fire and 22 points in standard pistol.

IN BRIEF

QDG rugby tour

SENNELAGER-based 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards won three of their five-match, two-week rugby tour of Cardiff, despite the absence of key players on exercise in Cyprus and Poland. The QDG beat Cardiff Saracens 17-15, Llamishen 21-12 and Hereford 10-0, and lost to University of Wales OTC 42-12 and Carmarthen Athletic 21-12. The tour was sponsored by Vauxhall Motors and funded by the Army Sports Lottery and 1 Arm'd Div. Eight of the squad toured Fiji and New Zealand with British Army (Germany).

Football

A STRONG Prison Service side halted the Army's flying start to the football season, winning their annual fixture 4-1. Pte Derek Rhodan scored a consolation goal in the last minute of the game, which was played at Rugby.

Target shooting

WO1 Gordon Lumsden (RS) finished as all-round individual champion at the Army clay target shooting championships held at the Southern Counties shooting ground. WO2 Darryl White (LI) was second, SSgt Tony Masters (RA) third and Sgt Simon Arbuckle (RMP) fourth.

Judo champions

WINNERS of the Army novice team judo championships were 5 Regiment AAC, with 11 Signal Regiment the runners up and 42 Svy Engr Group and SEME Bordon tied in third place.

Akrotiri tens

AN Army Under-21 side won the Akrotiri rugby tens festival, beating RAF Strike Command 14-0 in a superb final. The plate trophy was won by RAF St Athan. Spr Terry Richards (Army U-21s) was voted players' player of the festival.

Smallbore rifle

MAJ Peter Underhill (D and D) easily won another Army smallbore target rifle title at Ash ranges near Aldershot. Second in a championship which attracted only six entries was Maj Alistair Aitken (SASC).

Swimming record

OFFICER Cadet Chantal Guillot, Aberdeen University Officers' Training Corps, set a new Army record in the 100m butterfly and was awarded Army and Combined Services' colours.

TARGET PISTOL

Bisley hosts GB's last handgun match

THE LAST top-level centre fire target pistol matches in Great Britain were shot at Bisley a few days before new laws on ownership of handguns came into effect.

The Royal Air Force won both centre fire and standard pistol events in the Inter-Services matches, with the Army second and the Royal Navy third. That evening there was a dinner to mark the

RUGBY

Story behind the story of the tour

ALTHOUGH bruises from the highly successful British Army (Germany) rugby tour to New Zealand and Fiji have long healed, there was no immediate rest for the man who covered the tour for SSV TV and BFBS radio.

Gerd Medoch, BFG Media Ops TV cameraman for 35 years, spent more than 40 hours putting together six 20-minute tapes of the tour. He also edited 18 short tapes for regional television stations in the UK.

A "sound" man of the old school, he lifted 35 sound interviews for British radio stations from the video tapes via his own system of plugs, wires, tape



Gerd Medoch and Lt Col (Retd) Bill Butt, secretary of British Army (Germany) rugby, prepare to post radio and TV tapes of the New Zealand and Fiji tour. Picture: Pinfo BFG

recorders . . . and a scalpel. And he reckoned 75 per cent of them would be broadcast.

He also reckons he was so busy filming and getting interviews that he didn't have time to get his feet wet in the South Pacific during the ground-breaking tour.

Ready for big lift-off



Picture: Terry Champion

Water way to go: Lt Col Pat Callan, the driving force behind Army water-skiing, makes his mark on the slalom course at the National Water Sport Centre near Nottingham

FOR MOST of us, water-skiing is one of those sangria-induced and undignified beach-holiday experiences, about which the best that can be said is that it seemed like a good idea at the time, writes **Graham Bound**.

There is, however, a small but growing group of water-skiing soldiers who say that it does not have to be that way. They are hoping that their enthusiasm for the sport will soon lead to it becoming the latest Army-subsidised sport.

Nineteen keen skiers met at the National Water Sports Centre near Nottingham during September for five intensive days of training and competition. Despite autumn weather, which was often wet and cool, the soldiers of all ranks trained and competed in slalom, jump and trick events.

For Lt Col Pat Callan, the leading force behind the Army's embryonic Water Skiing Association, it was the second such annual meeting and evidence of growing interest in the sport.

An experienced competitor himself, Lt Col Callan was pleased at the enthusiasm and skill shown by the less experienced skiers. "Some of the guys had minimal experience before this week," he explained with evident amazement. "But now they are all doing tricks and some are even jumping."

One such newcomer to the airborne variety of the sport was Lt Simon Barry, one of nine members of The Royal Irish Regiment who were enjoying the wet week.

"I only came here to do the slalom," explained the exhilarated soldier. "But I did my first jump on Monday, and I'm hooked. It's fantastic."

● If you would like to try water-skiing with the new Army association, contact Lt Col Pat Callan, on 0171 2182182. Or write to him at Room 7258, MoD Main Building, London, SW1A 2HB.

WATER SPORT

With a second successful annual training camp and competition behind him, Callan now hopes that he and his fellow enthusiasts will be able to prove to the Army Sport Control Board that water skiing merits the prestige status of an official Army sport, and – more importantly – the financial assistance that the sportsmen and women need if they are to become skilled enough to compete against the other Services and civilian clubs.

The ASCB has already shown some support by granting the club several hundred pounds to purchase equipment. But it wants to see evidence of substantial interest in water skiing before giving the sport official status.

The sport is not cheap. Although Army skiers are already enjoying somewhat reduced costs thanks to sponsorship from the optical and electronics company Canon, members of civilian clubs can face wallet-draining costs. Membership can

cost several hundred pounds a year, with each tow behind one of the high-powered speed boats costing up to £12. Considering that a run can end in a large splash and damaged pride within seconds, the pounds may not go far.

Simon Barry has some simple advice for those whose introduction to water-skiing left them coughing, spluttering and humiliated. "Don't be put off by a bad holiday experience," he said. "We may not have the sun here, but with the good tuition we offer, newcomers come along in leaps and bounds."

Championship results

LT Gavin Whitehead carried off the overall champion's award, thanks to a commanding performance in the advanced slalom and jump events. Other winners included Lt Simon Barry, who performed well in the novice jump and slalom, and Capt Andy Broad, who won the novice trick event. Cpl Danny Watson won the expert trick prize while LCpl Winky Moore was awarded the most improved skier prize.



Picture: Sgt Alan Green

Lou's great feet of endurance

Sgt Lou Hawkins from HQ Land Command was one of many soldiers who took part, along with more than 36,000 other competitors, in Europe's biggest athletic event, the Great North Run. She trained hard for the race and got herself sponsored to raise about £140 for a school in Kenya. She plans to run in next year's London Marathon.

Jenny on martial mission

CPL Jenny France (right), based in Northern Ireland with 2 Regiment RMP, is off to Hong Kong to compete for Great Britain in the tae kwon do world championships. Britain's top middleweight, she is hoping to improve on her success in the World Cup in Cairo, when she reached the quarter-finals, and the bronze medal she won at an international tournament in Belgium earlier this year.

France has gone down a weight and feels fitter for it. Now her sights are set on the Olympic Games in Sydney. In 1996 she was the Combined Services Sportswoman of the Year.





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CANOEING

Paddlers on course for Britain

THE Army sprint and marathon canoe and kayak racing team rounded off a superb year of competition with resounding wins at the Inter-Services.

SSgt Jim Ross (RE ATW) and Maj Duncan Capps (RLC, HQ Land) again achieved international status, with Ross having a particularly successful year representing Great Britain at World Cup marathon events in Belgium and Poland.

In Belgium he and his partner were second in a thrilling sprint finish, while he also paddled strongly in Poland to finish fifth. Ross also represented GB in K2 at the European Championships in Pravia, Italy, and individually in the K1 in the Netherlands.

Capps competed in K2 in Portugal, finishing fifth, and was fourth in K1 at the international Tour de Gudena marathon in Denmark. This 80-mile long course over the inland lakes and twisting rivers of eastern Denmark was held over two days of gale-force winds.

The Inter-Services were held at Nottingham with a 12-mile marathon on the Trent and the sprints run concurrently with a civilian regatta on the Holme Pierpoint course at the national water-sports centre.

Ross teamed up with Lt Richard Walker (36 Engr Regt) to win the marathon ahead of second-placed Capps and Sgt Andy Dunne (JSMTC(W)). In



SSgt Jim Ross and Maj Duncan Capps, winning for the Army and representing Britain

the K1, LCpl Brendon Reese (24 Air-mobile Brigade CSS Battalion) managed to outspurt Pte Herbert (2 Para) at the finish to make it an Army double. SSgt Chris Lloyd (3(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt) and WO1 Martin Garrett (HQ 4 Div) were fifth and sixth.

Former junior international Lt Sue Fowler (RHQ RAMC) won the women's K1, and Lt Clare Hanlin (38 Engr Regt) and LCpl Julie Portlock (16 Sig Regt) and Sig Nicola Burnip (1 ADSR) and Lt

Annabel Taylor (Sch of Sigs) took first and second in the K2.

Army paddlers won all the singles and doubles titles, Capps beating Ross to the line in the K1 500m, and Capps and Herbert winning the K2 500m and 1km with Ross and Reese second. Reese also took an outstanding victory in the K1 200m.

Fowler made a clean sweep of the women's K1 and, with Hanlin, the K2 200m and 500m events.

MOTOR-CYCLING

Leader of the pack

WO2 Shaun Skinner (RLC) proved he is the leader of the pack when it comes to military motor-cycling by producing an outstanding performance at the Army championships at Thetford, writes Simon Smith.

He won the coveted Norton Trophy for the best overall rider and, with Capt Gwynn Barraclough and Pte Gavin Hogben, collected the Gort Trophy for the best overall team.

Despite being a veteran of 15 Army championships, this was Skinner's first taste of outright success. "I have collected many runners-up prizes along the way in these championships," he said, "but this was the first time I've won the best overall trophy. It's a great feeling."

The two-day championships attracted



First: WO2 Shaun Skinner

more than 100 competitors from units in the UK. Teams from Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany added an international flavour.

On the first day the navigation skills of riders was tested on a demanding 100-mile course, followed on day two by an endurance and speed circuit. The task of staging the event fell to last year's winners, the CSS Battalion

attached to Colchester-based 24 Air-mobile Brigade.

Capt Mike Tizard, one of the organisers, said: "All the riders completed day one, which was a fine achievement. The weather was good on both days, there were no major injuries and the overall standard of riding was very high."

MILNGAVIE - FT WILLIAM

Beast of Dartmoor wins Highland race

BDR Brian Davidson, from Plymouth-based 29 Commando Regiment RA, won the annual West Highland Way race, a gruelling 95-mile run from Milngavie, Glasgow to Fort William, for the third time.



Bdr Davidson

"Beastie" Davidson was one of only 26 out of 42 starters to make it to the end of the race, which starts at Milngavie at 3am. Five minutes under 18 hours later he crossed the winning line in a personal best time. Having won the race in 1993 and 1994, he was denied his hat trick by David Wallace, from Balerno, who finished second in the 1997 race after himself winning the previous two.

Davidson's winning time was only the eighth to beat the 18-hour mark in the 14-year history of the event.

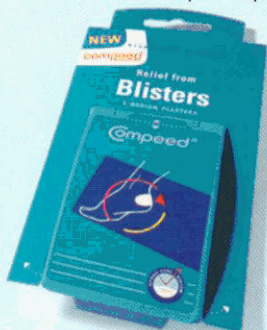
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OFFSHORE RACING

Redcoat wins through at national level

Channel victory tops record season

A NECK-AND-NECK heavy-weather race across the Channel to Cherbourg in September clinched the Class 2 championships for the Army Sailing Association's yacht *Redcoat III*.

So the Sigma 38, which has been achieving excellent results, has now topped the bill at national level.

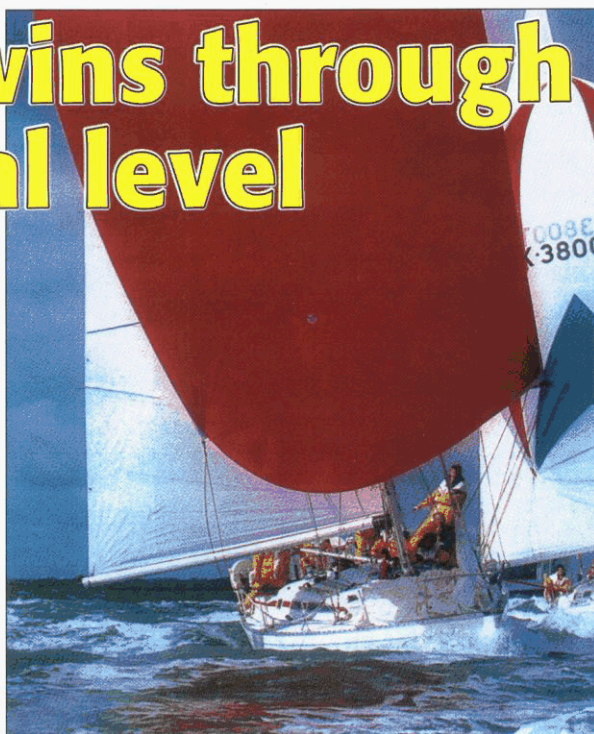
Col David Glyn-Owen, Rear Commodore (Offshore), said: "For three years we have been campaigning *Redcoat III*, the Army's own racing yacht, with increasing success each season.

"This 'first' is a significant victory, racing on a points system in a large group of some 270 other yachts who registered to enter the Class 2 competition during the year. The success is due to the dedicated and enthusiastic Army skippers, crew bosses and crews who have prepared and raced our yacht most weekends of the season with skill and determination."

Redcoat has also won the Best Service Yacht award from the Royal Ocean Racing Club for the third year in succession, believed to be a record.

Based at the ASA Nuffield Marina at Gosport, Hampshire, *Redcoat III* is owned by the association and financed entirely from charter income and other non-public sources. Contributions have also been gratefully received from Peugeot Export and the Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund.

Maj Ben Archer RA, Army offshore team captain and several times *Redcoat*



Redcoat III, the Army Sailing Association's Sigma 38 class yacht, leads an inshore around-the-buoys race in the Solent

Picture: Mike Perring

cleaned up many of the prizes in the Universal 500 race in August, sailing and running down to the West Country, to Alderney and then the Isle of Wight.

The previous month, as part of a three-boat Army team against the RN and RAF, she won her class in the Tri-Service Offshore Regatta, skippered by highly-experienced former Army offshore team captain Maj Nick Bate.

In an unprecedented year of success offshore, the Fastnet Race performance of *Redcoat* and other Army-crewed yachts was exceptional. Two

skipper, has achieved a notable ambition: in addition to points-earning offshore races, he has been a winner in the Scottish Island Peaks Race and last year in the Sigma class in the Round Ireland Race.

Crews have been drawn from committed and mostly experienced officers, NCOs and soldiers. This season, 46 principal crew contributed to *Redcoat's* successes. Maj Andy Bristow, a Royal Signals officer serving in the MoD and a Whitbread Race veteran, clinched several keynote races during the season, skippering *Redcoat* at the upper limits of her performance potential.

His wife, Maj Fiona Grundy, serving with the AG Corps (SPS) at DRA Shoeburyness, both crewed in and helped administer the yacht for several races.

In the hands of SSgt Paul Andersen RLC, also a highly experienced ex-Whitbread Race crewman, an RLC crew

Army-crewed Sigma 38s were first and second of that class and the Inter-Regimental Cup and Culdrose Trophy were also won by Army teams.

Redcoat will continue to race in the winter programme in the Solent until December, coming out of the water for a three-month break before starting the 1998 season in March.

Any interested officer, NCO or soldier may apply to join to race (those with previous dinghy racing experience are particularly welcome) and are advised to join the Army Sailing Association or contact their unit sailing officer.

Those who relish the challenge of a long offshore race should consider applying to join the Army-entered Nicholson 55 for the RORC Transglobe Race 1998-99, which takes contestants around the middle of the world in nine separate legs. Details are in DCI(JS) 9/97.

BOXING: DOUBLE TAKE

Army Boxing Association referees and judges qualified to officiate at national level admire their England jackets. Behind the mirror are (from left) Capt Mal Shaw (APTC), Lt Col David Richardson (Kings), who is on the executive board of ABA England Ltd, and WO1 (SMI) Jack Goodwin; reflected are WO2 Tony Reid, the Army boxing referees' secretary and an AIBA world-qualified referee, SSgt (SSI) Bob Price and SSgt Stephen Vaughan-Atkins (AGC).

Army boxing has produced some of Britain's best amateurs over the years and has recently been concentrating on qualifying its senior officials at national and international level.

The men in the photograph have all passed written and practical examinations to join the England ABA major panel of referees and judges, with SSgt Price going on to sit the European ABA exam for referees and judges.



Picture: Mike Weston

Questions of rank

Continuing our new series

Insignia of distinction

BEFORE the beginning of the 19th century rank could only be distinguished by the form of uniform. For example, senior officers wore gold lace on their coats while junior officers had silver lace. They also displayed aiguillettes on the right shoulder and infantry officers additionally had a crimson silk sash.

Sergeants initially wore worsted sashes, usually red with a stripe of the regimental facing colour, while corporals had a white worsted shoulder knot. A long halberd (combined spear and battleaxe) was also carried by sergeants as a rank distinction but this was replaced by a short pike in 1791.

Officers began to wear epaulettes, by order of Royal Warrant, in 1768. Although the Indian Army had rank markings in the late 18th century, the British Army did not introduce them until 1810 - with crowns and stars etc on the epaulettes.

Chevrons, with point downwards, became insignia for non-commissioned ranks in 1802/3: a sergeant-major and quartermaster-sergeant had four, a sergeant three and corporal two.

MARK OF SUPERIORITY

Chevron comes from a French word meaning the upside down 'v' shape forming a roof-top. This was in a superior position above the ground, hence anyone wearing this symbol stands out above his fellows. Although many foreign armies use the chevron pointing upwards, the British Army has inverted it.

The standard star or "pip" worn by many British Army officers is insignia of the military division of the Order of the Bath. It depicts the crown of England, Scotland and Ireland with the motto *Tria juncta in Uno*, indicating the United Kingdom. This was also worn by the Foot Guards until 1923. Since then the Grenadier, Coldstream and Welsh Guards have used the insignia of the Order of the Garter; the Scots Guards the Order of the Thistle; and the Irish Guards the Order of St Patrick.

The gorget patches worn on the collars of senior officers are a heritage of the last vestige of armour - a metal plate hung around the neck to protect the throat. A gorget plate, bearing the name *Feldgendarmarie* (Military Police), continued to be worn in the German Army. The plate, which was hung on a chain, earned the nickname *Kettenhund* (chained dog) since their duties did not endear them to ordinary soldiers. - **Hugh Howton**

Bulletin board

SEARCHLINE

Robert F Wray, 6 Windsor Drive, Cleadon Village, nr Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR6 7SY (tel 0191 537 2633) seeks photos, text, data on the former BAOR **Lewes Barracks** at Cologne Butzweilerhof 1945-53. During the Second World War it was a Luftwaffe night fighter unit and pilot training school.

BBC TV seeks memorabilia of **Fd Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum and Broome** for a documentary. Contact Jad Adams on 0171 428 3100.

Author commissioned to write a book on **attitudes to death** in the 20th century seeks Servicemen and women, past and present, to interview. They may have experience of losing a comrade, of fear of death under fire, or of giving medical help to the dying. Serving personnel who wish to take part should obtain permission from COs. Contact Michael Waterhouse on 01892 521373 Or fax 01892 541399 or E-mail boundes@netcomuk.co.uk.

Mrs E Duddridge, ex-ATS 1942-45, seeks comrades who took part in a **Salute the Soldier exhibition** which toured the UK in 1943-44. Replies to her at 47 Danes Road, Kings End, Bicester, Oxon OX6 8LN (tel 01869 240456).

J Ram, who lives in Australia, seeks anyone who remembers his late father-in-law, **John Stuart "Jock" Anderson**. He was a PoW in Stalag 8B E351. Served 2/7th Battalion, Australian Army, missing in action in Crete, 1941, and reported PoW June 1942. Replies c/o A M Smith, 57 Norwich Close, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 7SJ.

Author of one published military history (*By God They Can Fight!*) now working on history of **Territorial Army 1919-1939** wishes to hear from anyone who joined up before conscription in April 1939. Contact Capt A P Caddick-Adams, Hurcott Manor Cottage, Hurcott Hall Farm, Hurcott, nr Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 3PH (tel 01562 863235).

Alex Mykytka wishes to contact members and former members of **CAD Kineton RPL RAOC 1989-92**. Replies to 38 Davidson Avenue, Leamington Spa CU31 1LT.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: J D Lacey - To Dep Comm HQ Colchester Garrison, Sept 29; R K Williams - To HQ LANDCENT, Oct 1; D M H Wright - To UNICOM team, Sept 29.

Lt Cols: J D Bleasdale RA - To SHAPE, Dec 10; N R Plowright RLC - To HQ UKSC(G), Feb 9.

Retirements

Major General: A R D Pringle, late RGJ, COS to Chief of Joint Operations, Oct.

Colonels: J G Aldous, late RRF, Oct 3; J S Doody, late R Sigs, Sept 30; A J Hamilton, late RAMC, Sept 30; D E Smith, late RAPC, Sept 30.



Can anyone identify the group above, or any of the individuals, believed to have been photographed in Haifa in May 1945? Replies to Adrian Smith, 1 Hillymead, Seaton, Devon EX12 2LF, who seeks information about his grandfather, Lt William Pye RE (believed to have served with 153 Railway Operating Company RE), and who is standing on the far left of the group.

Ronald van Grinsven, Heer en Beekstraat 36, 5242 ad Rosmalen, Holland, seeks news of British soldiers who were in the **s-Hertogenbosch** area in 1944: **William Swindell** from Dunstable, **Arthur Slade** (London SE5), **Albert Deal** (Mitcham), **H Tyrer** (Wallasey), **Sidney Pridmore** RA (Nottingham), **Robert Wolfendale** RA (Morecambe), **Henry Clarke** (London SW11), **Ronald Brooks** (Blackpool).

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If you think your organisation should be included in this column, please contact the Editor.

Channel 4 producers making a documentary wish to speak to Service personnel who have suffered nightmares associated with wartime experiences. Call 0171 915 5487.

164 Railway Operating Company RE (1939-46): L R Swindale

(6 Yew Tree Crescent, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9QL, tel 01283 538322) seeks news of Frank Shepherd, Jock Lythgoe, William Knutt, Cpls Furmorr and Tyrell and others from MT Section.

Peter Brimacombe is anxious to trace British soldiers **Cpl Smith UDF**, **Gdsm Jones**, **Coldm Gds**, and **Cpl Gomersall**, who were with his late father, **LCpl Harold Barker Brimacombe** of Kerang, Victoria, Australia in northern Italy during the Second World War. Replies to PO Box 68, Kerang 3579, Victoria, Australia.

Karin Matthée, Blokstraat 5, 2440 Geel, Belgium seeks news of her father, **William (Bill) Robbins**, who in 1967 was on detachment in Olen, near Herentals, Belgium from Dusseldorf-based 3 BAOR Map Depot.

Researcher in USA is attempting to trace the military career of **Michael Mulhare** of County Cork, who joined the British Army in about 1870. He may have held the rank of major and, following his retirement in 1900, married **Mary Canary** before emigrating and settling in New York. Replies c/o Brian Jewell, The War Room, 30 Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AG.

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How observant are you?



To mark the new monthly *Soldier* we have doubled the first prize in this popular competition to £100. Two runners-up will each receive a £10 gift voucher.

Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings. Circle the ten differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 672, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by December 5.

For those who do not wish to cut their magazine, a photocopy is now acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.

Do not include anything else in your envelope. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £10 gift vouchers. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner and runners-up will be announced in the January issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

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Competition No 669 (September 1 issue): First correct entry drawn was from Cfn P Cheadle, Holding Platoon, Q Coy, SEME Regt, Bordon, Hants. Book prizes go to runners-up LBdr J P Winter, 14 Fd Regt RA, 1st Blazer's Bty, Wpns Troop, RSA Larkhill, and Mr J W H Curzon, of Hastings, E Sussex. The ten differences were: left-hand tent; mallet; horizon near second tree; left-hand soldier of three on bank; centre bush; length of paddle on left; canoeist's shoulder; canoe rim near knees; wave breaking over canoe; shape of stern.

Competition No 670 (September 15 issue): First correct entry drawn was from M Ward (ex-Pte, 1 DERR), of Winson Green, Birmingham, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Capt P T McGrath, 234 Tpt Sqn RLC(V), Birkenhead, Wirral, and Mr P Gorman, of St Nicholas, nr Cardiff. The ten differences were: shading on window pane; front leg and hind leg of toads, centre right; leg of toad disappearing into pot; chef's ear, collar and top bow; line of lower wall behind chef; spoon handle; cat.



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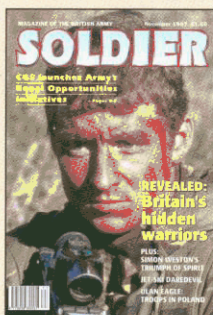
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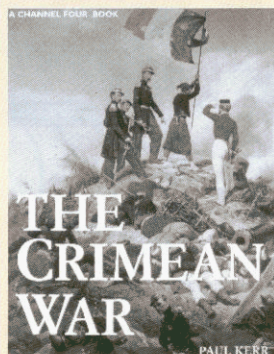
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The last of the old wars and the first of the modern ones, the Crimean was a war of innovation – the first to use the telegraph and purpose-built railways, the first to which war correspondents were assigned and the first to be photographed. This lavishly illustrated story, *The Crimean War* by Paul Kerr, is told by letters and diaries, and paintings of those who were actually there.

This book is published in conjunction with the major new Channel 4 series and can be **yours** in time for Christmas.

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During which years was the Crimean War fought?

Send answers on a postcard to: Boxtree Competition, *Soldier* Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Closing date: December 5, 1997

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Impressions of Hong Kong by Anne Came

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World of wheels

This charmer has winning looks

THE PERT and chic Corsa has been the style-leader in the small car sector for some years and now the revised models rôle is to keep Vauxhall ahead of its rivals for credibility and buyers' favour, **writes Syd Taylor.**

What's clear straightaway is that even though the design is not new the Corsa looks a whole lot more stylish than most competitors with their outdated or outrageous shapes. The Corsa looks alert, agile and stable and the neat uncluttered design is one of the most appealing – it oozes character. Modern and distinctive, it evokes affection in most people's eyes.

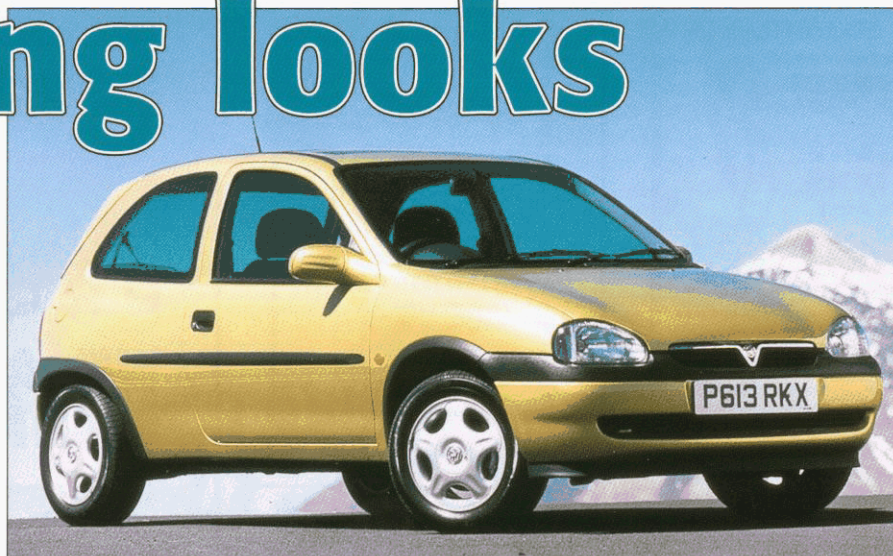
Always under pressure from quality-conscious consumers, manufacturers have made great strides in the design and solidity of their cars and Vauxhall is certainly at the forefront. Strong on quality of materials and solidity of construction, the Corsa exudes an air of mature sophistication with unbreakable "last-forever" integrity that is not normally found in this sector – its level of finish is above the class average.

Inside the three-door LS model tested – which costs £9,255 on-the-road with the new three cylinder 12-valve engine – the predominantly grey and black interior is understated and offers good design harmony. There's plenty of legroom and headroom for driver and passengers and it is a comfortable four-seater or a five-seater at a squeeze. The luggage area is quite generous too – although there's a high load-lip to negotiate. The rear seat backs split 60/40 and fold down to give lots of extra space when needed.

STURDY FEEL

Fixtures and fittings are good quality and high-grade interior plastics contribute to the general feeling of sturdiness and apparent durability: it's the equal of any rival in the solidity stakes. It appears to have all the qualities to withstand hard use – not a rattle or squeak developed during the test period despite travelling over badly surfaced roads at speed.

Equipment levels are quite fair for a mid-range small car and the LS model features driver's seat height adjustment, an electronic engine deadlock immobiliser, electric headlight beam levelling, a slide and tilt glass sunroof with interior blind, rear window wash/wipe, a good radio/cassette and body-coloured



Vauxhall Corsa LS 3-door 1.0i 12v

bumpers to enhance the external appearance. For safety there are twin side-impact door bars, a front body-lock seatbelt pretensioner system and anti-submarining rumps in all seats.

The moment you climb into the Corsa it feels right. The driving position suits virtually everyone and the supportive high-backed seat is firm and welcoming. You enjoy a position which puts you in a good relationship with instruments and controls.

FUEL ECONOMY

A new generation in power is the big news with the latest Corsa and the 1.0 litre three cylinder 12v Ecotec unit is particularly compact and light. It enables this model to deliver the best fuel economy of any petrol-engined supermini, achieving nearly 49 mpg in the new combined fuel cycle. It's more powerful than the 1.2 litre four-cylinder engine and in nearly all respects seems markedly superior, giving the car a higher top speed of 95 mph and quicker acceleration too. With numerous technical advances like hollow overhead cams and extremely small hydraulic tappets, the weight saved adds to the engine's efficiency, making for a particularly smooth and refined unit which is free-revving and always eager.

With the new fuel-air injection system the high-tech "Compact" engine is cleaner and greener too. Translated into on-road performance, the 1.0i Corsa goes astonishingly well. Always feeling zippy and lively, the performance belies the 55 PS developed at 5600 rpm. You don't really need to overwork the engine to achieve sparkling performance because

there's enough torque to cope with most overtaking situations so that you don't have to frantically change down through the gears – which is just as well. Although better than previous Corsa gearboxes it lacks that slick precision of some rivals. Nevertheless it's still more than acceptable.

High-speed cruising is a fairly relaxed affair with no intrusion from wind, road, or general mechanical noise. Driver and passengers are well insulated from any disturbance, even when travelling rapidly over rough surfaces. On motorways you can sustain high speeds easily and at 70 mph there's plenty in hand to take you nonchalantly up steep inclines or to provide brisk acceleration if needed.

COMPOSED

With substantial input from Lotus, the revised Corsa certainly displays much improved chassis dynamics. Steering is ideally weighted, giving precisely the directional response expected through corners. It never loses its composure and every last bit of grip can be wrung from the tyres. Suspension is well tuned so that the ride is composed and compliant over challenging surfaces and overall the changes make for better ride and handling. It cannot, however, match the brilliant dynamics of the likes of Ford's Ka.

There is no doubt that dramatic improvements all-round have revitalised Vauxhall's supermini to make it even more desirable. With the new three cylinder engine it sets high standards of economy, performance and refinement and with its winning looks the future looks bright for this charming little car.

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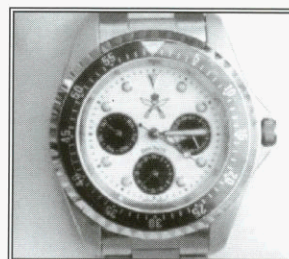
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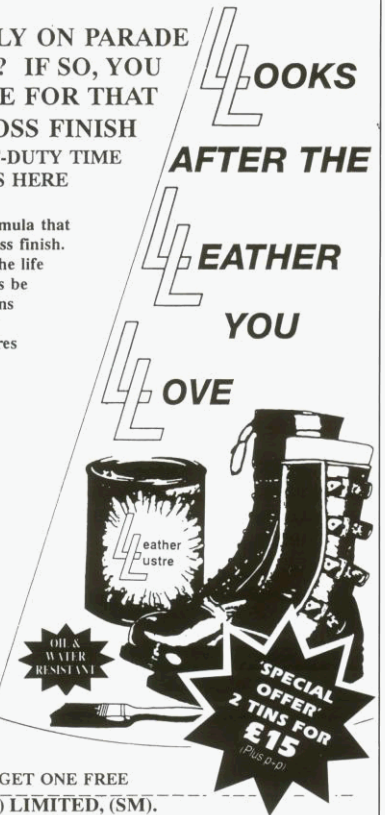
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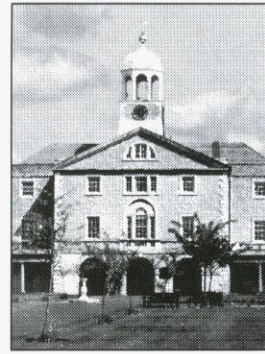
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Mary, 5'3", a blue-eyed blonde who enjoys speedway, bowling, dancing, pool, going out, poems and animals. Divorced with older children. Seeking male pen pals aged 35+. **P067.** 21/97

Single female, 5'5", with fair hair and green eyes. Enjoys music, travel, arts and crafts. Seeking male pen pals aged 30+ with GSOH. **P084** 21/97

Dawn, 29, 5'4", with long, brunette hair and hazel eyes. Single mum with young son. Enjoys pubs, pool, rugby, ten-pin bowling, cinema, walking and reading horror thrillers. Seeking pen pals of any age. **P085** 21/97

Easy-going female, 30 years old. Likes most things in life and seeks pen pals from near or far. Must have GSOH. **P086** 21/97

Josephine, 46, 5'6", vivacious and attractive. Enjoys keeping fit, rock climbing, hill walking, socialising, dancing and the theatre. Seeking male/female pen pals aged 39-49 in the Forces. **P087** 21/97

Carol, 32, 5'7", slim with blue eyes and long, dark hair. Likes medical matters, true crime stories, dolphins and the Forces. Widow with four children. Seeking pen pals aged 30-40. **P088** 21/97

Jan, 5'5", attractive with green eyes, wavy, long hair and GSOH. Adventurous and well travelled. Likes swimming, photography, reading and walking. Seeking male pen pals of any age. **P089** 21/97

Margaret, 39, 5'4", slim brunette with dark blue eyes. Enjoys gardening, keeping fit, eating out, wildlife, watching sport and visiting her family and friends. Seeking male pen pals aged 30-45. **P090** 21/97

Nikki, 27, 5'5", with dark hair and green eyes. Attractive with GSOH. Enjoys travelling, meeting people, pubbing, clubbing, keeping fit, beaches and eating out. Seeking fun-loving, genuine pen pals aged 25-32. **P091.** 21/97

Alison, 28, 5'6", bubbly, lively, outgoing blonde, with blue/green eyes and VGSOH. Enjoys socialising, music, pubs/clubs and watching football. Seeking male pen pals aged 28-38. **P092**

Sally, 5'3", slim with dark hair and eyes. Enjoys keeping fit, cooking, music, history, books, travel and having a good time. Seeking male pen pals aged 30+ with a GSOH. **P093** 21/97

Charlotte, 5'8", very lively 19-year-old with green eyes and long, brown hair. Enjoys pubs/clubs, sport, travelling, aerobics and swimming. Seeking male pen pals aged 20-25. **P094** 21/97

Pretty blonde woman, blue eyes, tall and slim. Loves travel and dancing. Would like friendship with nice, kind man, late 30s/early 40s. **P095** 21/97

Ceris, 24, 5'7", Welsh with long, blonde hair and green/blue eyes. Interests include music, meeting new people and socialising with friends. Seeking pen pals with GSOH. **P096** 21/97

Jane, 36, 5'4", with dark brown hair and eyes. Enjoys reading, entering competitions and gardening. Seeking pen pals 30+. **ALA. P097.** 21/97

Debbie, 23, 5'6", slim, blue-eyed blonde. Enjoys pubs/clubs, music, fast cars, travel, rugby, football and keeping fit. Seeking male pen pals aged 25-35. **P098** 21/97

Julie, 36, 5'7", with black hair and green eyes. A widow with four children who enjoys dancing, walking, swimming, the gym and running. Seeking male pen pals aged 32-45. **ALA. P099** 21/97

Shirley, 42, small build and fair hair. Young at heart. Enjoys reading, writing, music, snooker, walking, crosswords, the cinema, and meals out. Seeks male pen pals aged 35-45. **P100** 21/97

Female, 42, tall, cuddly with VGSOH. Enjoys dinghy sailing, music, CD collecting, driving and cats. Young at heart. Seeks male pen pals aged 37-47. **P101** 21/97

Kirstie, 21, 5'7", slim, blonde, part-time model. Enjoys sports, motorbikes, horse-riding and clubbing. Seeking male pen pals aged 22-30. **P102** 21/97

Carolyn, 30, 5'7", brown hair. A single mum who enjoys cycling, reading, eating out and learning to play the guitar. Seeking male pen pals aged 28-35. **P103** 21/97

Female, 30, 5'6", from Army background. Interests include travelling, socialising, nights in/out and the movies. Seeking tall, male pen pals with the same interests. Photo appreciated. **P104** 21/97

Jean, 35, 5'1", shy, slim brunette with GSOH. Enjoys swimming, walking, animals, reading, travel and music. Seeking male pen pals aged 28-38. **P105** 21/97

Diane, 32, 5'3", blue-eyed blonde with GSOH. Likes the cinema, pubs/clubs, motorsport, the countryside, socialising and having fun! Seeking reliable male pen pals aged 28-37. **P106** 21/97

Marie, 18, 5'4", with dark brown hair. Enjoys keep fit, reading, clubbing, eating out. Seeking male pen pals aged 17-22. **P107** 21/97

Kerry, 17, 5'5", slim with long, brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys collecting photos, writing, dancing, aerobics, clubbing, playing the piano, and animals. Seeking male pen pals aged 19-23. **P108** 21/97

Joanne, 19, 5'6", with green eyes and red hair. Interests include computers, reading, music, travelling, writing and football. Seeking male pen pals with GSOH aged 18-30. **P109** 21/97

Catherine, 25, 5'5", brunette with medium build and blue eyes. Enjoys travel, modelling and partying. Seeking male pen pals aged 25+. **P110** 21/97

Louise, 29, 5'6", attractive, adventurous, well educated, slim blonde with VGSOH. Enjoys all sports, dance, drama, travelling, socialising, cinema, music, fashion, animals and writing. Seeking male pen pals aged 28 to 38. **P111.** 21/97

Kirsten, 18, 5'8", attractive with brown eyes. Enjoys music, clubbing, pubbing, reading and having a laugh. Seeking male pen pals aged 18-25. **P112** 21/97

Julie, 36, 5'2", with GSOH and blue eyes. Enjoys walking, dancing, nights in/out, the cinema, pubs and clubs. Would like to write to genuine male soldiers aged 37+. **P113** 21/97

Gemma, 16, 5'3", a blue-eyed blonde who loves football, (especially Spurs), and most types of music. Seeking male pen pals aged 17-22. **P114** 21/97

Jackie, 48, 5'2", very outgoing with mousy hair and blue eyes. Enjoys meeting people, pubs, entertaining, horse racing, walking and gardening. Seeking pen pals aged 48-50 for friendship. **P115** 21/97

Ruth, 30, 5'7", with brown eyes and hair. A football mad nurse who also enjoys most sports, music, travel, writing letters and photography. Seeking male pen pals aged 25-35. **P116** 20/97

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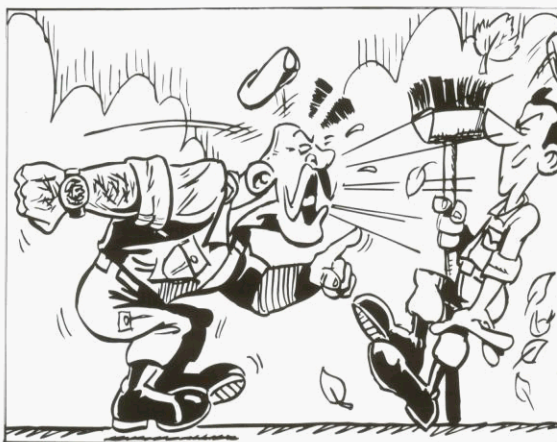
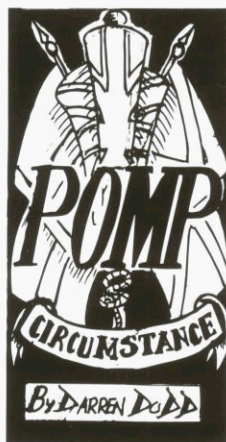
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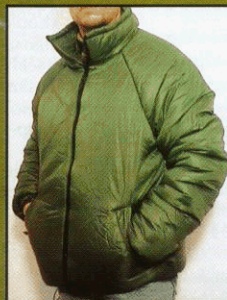
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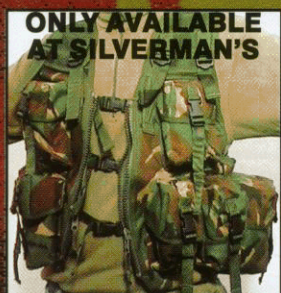
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NOTICES

Black Watch Association London Branch, The Red Hackle Dinner 1997, Thursday 20 November 1997. Victory Services Club. New members wishing to attend contact: J Hubble 0171 488 9760 evenings only.

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charities:
1. The Soldiers' Widows and Widowers Fund
2. The Single Soldier's Dependents Fund
3. The Soldiers' Widows and Widowers and the Single Soldiers' Dependents Common Investment Fund.
Scheme for the amalgamation of the charities
Reference: RM-233533/45641-SC

The Charity Commission have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy can be seen for the next month at Building 43, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wilts SN9 6BE or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Chirly Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TSA1 4BL, quoting the reference above.

Canadian Ex-Armed Forces Resident (UK) – become a member of the Canadian Veterans Association (UK). Write to: CVA, Cal Heywood, 2a Windhere Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2JA. Or tel: 0181 668 6132 for application form.

21/97

WANTED

1997 Trooping The Colour BBC video recording wanted. Alan Pawson, 129 Wheler Street, Higher Openshaw, Manchester, M11 1DS. 21/97

Private collector seeks Falklands and Gulf War souvenirs. Prefer Argentinian or Iraqi items, but will consider anything. Write with details: Mr J Moore, 14 Alnwick Road, South Shields, NE34 0LB. 21/97

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

SEPTEMBER 20, 1997

First (19 goals, £3,000): LCpl G Pogue, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

Seven-way tie for second prize (18 goals, £571.43 each): SSgt IJ Allen, MDHU Frimley Park; Cpl AT Howe, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; SSgt JH Laffey, HQ London District; WO2 B Morgan, 3 RHA, Topcliffe; Cpl DA Siford, Rhine Area Sp Unit, BFPO 40; Capt K Steel, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford; LCpl BE Williams, 1 RRW, Hounslow.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

Three-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,800 each): WO2 AS Davies, HQ Land, Wilton; Sgt JH Marshall, HQ TSU, BFPO 16; SSgt PR Robinson, 14 Inde Topo Sqn RE, BFPO 19.

Eight-way tie for fourth prize (17 goals, £200 each): Sgt C Anderson, 14 Sup Regt RLC, BFPO 44; SSgt M Haywood, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill; Capt AC Illidge, 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, BFPO 16; Capt PJ Lestrane, Depot R Irish BFPO 808; Cpl DE Maynard, 2 CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Maj SJH Pattinson, HQ AG, Upavon; Maj EW Simmonds, APC Glasgow; Sgt MJ Storey, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113.

OCTOBER 4, 1997

16-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £437.50 each): Sgt D Bruce, 1 LI, BFPO 53; WO2 N Caswell, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36; Sgt P Corfield, QDG, BFPO 16; Maj AP Couzens, HQ QMG, Andover; Capt JM Cowan, 3 R Irish, BFPO 809; Sgt SR Frake, RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth; CSgt S Giddins, 1 RRW, Hounslow; Cpl CJ Harvey, 1 KORBR, Catterick; Sgt AM Hynds, 1 RTR, BFPO 22; LCpl RA

Lockyer, QDG, BFPO 16; SSgt AN McKenna, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Bdr CC Parry, RSA, Larkhill; Cpl D Pinkerton, 9 R Irish, BFPO 808; Cpl DM Scholey, 176 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 807; SSgt (name withheld), MOD Hitchin; Cpl DV Wright, 1 QLR, BFPO 804.

OCTOBER 11, 1997

67-way tie for first prize (15 goals, £104.48 each): SSgt JR Angus, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; Lt Col PB Baker, 222 (EM) Fd Amb (V), Leicester; Sgt TM Bamford, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; LCpl JD Bean, 2 Signal Regt, York; Atpr SC Bradbury, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Cpl SJ Brewin, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17; SSgt MP Burgess, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808; Sgt M Caldwell, ITC Catterick; SSgt ER Carter, 3 Bn REME, BFPO 22; Sgt JA Cocks, 1 Regt AAC, BFPO 47; Maj RM Collins, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down; WO2 GD Cotterill, 1 WFR, Tidworth; Sgt M Davidson, 20 Armd Bde Signal Sqn, BFPO 22; WO1 SJJ Davies, DMS Trg Centre, AshVale; Sgt JA Dixon, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey; WO1 SJ Dunn, HQ NI, BFPO 825; Capt MR England, 24 Trg Sp Sqn RE, Chatham; Lt MH Evans, 2RTR, BFPO 38; SSgt CS Evans, QRH, Catterick; Lt Col TH Eveleigh, HQ Land, Wilton; SSgt C Fewdsdale, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; Bdr GD Fidler, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill; Maj RC Fram, RMCS Shrivenham; Cpl D Garside, 2 LI, BFPO 806; LCpl G Hale, NI Trg Wing, Shorncliffe; Lt Col JM Heron, 73 Engr Regt (V), Nottingham; Sgt SR Higgins, 14 Inde Topo Sqn RE, BFPO 19; LCpl AJ Hill, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; WO2 MA Hoyle, 2 Trg Regt AAC, Middle

Wallop; Sgt K Jobbins, 1 RGBW, Colchester; SSgt WJ Kerr, 23 Para Fd, Amb, Aldershot; Cpl DP Macey, 7 Regt AAC (V), Netheravon; Capt DA Malley, HQ NI, BFPO 825; WO1 B Martin, AFPA, Worthy Down; LCpl MA Marvin, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15; SSgt G Mason, MOD, London; Cpl DM Mason, 47 AD Sqn RLC, RAF Lyneham; Capt PT McGrath, 234 Tpt Sqn RLC (V), Birkenhead; SSgt AN McKenna, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Cpl SA McVitie, 2 Para, Aldershot; Musn DG Moody, Lowland Band, Edinburgh; WO1 WA Morris, 3RHA, Topcliffe; LCpl BC Morrison, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Bdr WA Nelder, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle Upon Tyne; Sgt KP Overton, AFCO London; Capt D Parkin, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Pte IP Parkins, 2 RTR, BFPO 38; CoH PM Paternotte, HCMR, London; WO1 MG Paul, HQ QMG, Andover; WO2 AD Pratt, HQ DRAC, Bovington; 2Lt AC Quantrell, 1 R Irish, Catterick; Cpl DG Reynolds, ATR Winchester; Cpl SJ Shaw, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36; Maj RC O'M Shaw, NATO Defence College, Rome; Sgt PJ Shearman, 2 Regt RMP, BFPO 825; LCpl CJ Simmons, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley; LCpl GJ Southall, HCR Windsor; WO1 DM Stachini, ATR Bassingbourn; Cpl A Stark, 1 BW, Fort George; Capt RA Sutton, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36; LCpl S Tanner, 2 RTR, BFPO 38; LCpl J Taylor, 32 Engr Regt BFPO 30; Lt Col RM Thornely, MOD DAR, Upavon; Sgt MA Wakeford, 1 GS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; WO1 DL Wilson, 33 Fd Hosp, Gosport; LCpl G Woodroffe, 1 RRW, Hounslow; Maj HAP Yorke, 54 Sqn GL Sect, RAF Coltishall.

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DATES

NOVEMBER

8-10: Salisbury Militaria Society 26th annual exhibition, Red Lion Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury.

16: Wargames, re-enactment groups, military books, Gala Leisure Centre, Edward Street, West Bromwich.

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

Nursing chief

Brig Jane Arigho has been appointed Director of Defence Nursing Services. She will combine the duties of the tri-Services chief nurse with those of her current post, Director of Army Nursing Services and Matron in Chief (Army).



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, November 1947

FAREWELL, ITALY

The British Army is pulling out of Italy after 662 days of hard-waged war and 863 days of waiting for a peace treaty. Italy has "worked her passage". Now trimmed of her northern territories, her islands and, perhaps, her African empire, she must settle her own domestic problems and rebuild her pulverised towns.

To the battle honours of British and Allied regiments will be added the names of Salerno, Cassino, Anzio and half the rivers of Italy; victories won bloodily in a gruelling and exasperating campaign.

DESERT AIR-DROPS

The first of the Army's air despatch companies – No 223 Air Despatch Company RASC – is experimenting in new methods in the deserts of the Middle East.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, November 1972

ALL A TWITTER . . .

World attention centred on Northern Ireland's Magilligan Point earlier this year when violence flared at the internment camp there. But a battle in the war for conservation passed unnoticed at Magilligan Point when the efforts of Army ornithologists allowed 11 pairs of little terns to nest where only two pairs had bred in the previous season.

'Mr Fix-it' retires

AFTER 17 years as the "Mr Fix-it" of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Capt Ernie Merchant was given the red carpet treatment by the cast of the 1997 show. Pictured with his wife, Maria, Capt Marchant sat in front of the VIP box at the castle as the cast gave him a five-star musical send off.

He has been the behind-the-scenes genius who helped bring everything together as Camp Commandant of Redford Barracks, where the tattoo has its operational base every year.

Capt Merchant masterminded plans to look after the cast of 1,000 who stayed at Redford Barracks on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

On the day he finally retired at the age of



65, he was given lunch in the officers' mess in the castle before emerging to face the massed pipes and drums of nine bands waiting to honour him . . . watched by hundreds of tourists.

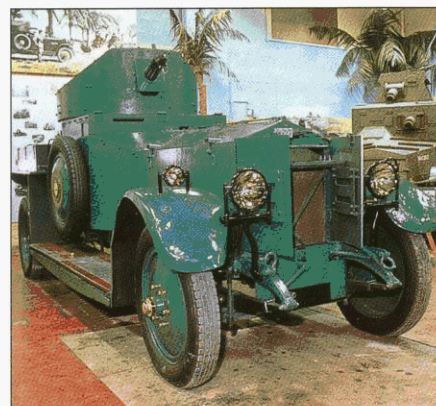
Sounds good . . .

A LITTLE bit of British military musical flair was heard in Australia when the 1997 Adelaide Tattoo opened with a fanfare, *New Images*, written by WO1 Mike Smith, Bandmaster of the Prince of Wales's Division (Clive).

New images was the theme of the show and was part of a challenge to Army musicians who were asked to organise a competition to find a suitable fanfare.

WO1 Smith wrote the winning entry while still in training as a student bandmaster at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. His prize: a cheque and a tankard presented by Australian High Commissioner Neal Blewett at an open air concert at RMSM.

AN in-depth examination of the Boer War is being undertaken by the Granby War Studies Group at Harrogate. Weekly evening gatherings will look at the origins, campaigns and outcomes of the conflict. Telephone Brian Jewell on 01423 500704 to enrol.



This green Rolls-Royce armoured car from the Tank Museum in Bovington took its place among rare and beautiful automobiles at the world's most prestigious historic vehicle show in Paris. The 1920 armoured car, based on a Silver Ghost chassis, was specifically sought out for the 1997 Louis Vuitton Concours Automobiles Classiques at the Parc De Bagatelle. Armour-plated and featuring a water-cooled Vickers .303 machine-gun, the Rolls weighed in at a spring-bending 2.8 tons.

Write the wrongs with public relations booklet

JOURNALISTS involved with Army Cadet Force public relations have produced a newspaper style book for the officers around the country who write news releases. But interest in the booklet, to be published this month, has been shown by Regular and TA PROs, so it might well find a wider audience than intended.

Man behind the project is Lt Col Aubrey Chalmers, who spent more than 30 years with the *Daily Mail*. He will be launching the booklet, *Apostrophes, Abbre-*

viations and "Quotes", at a writing skills course in Nottingham this month.

"We are not trying to make PROs into professional wordsmiths, but a news story does need to be written in a reasonably professional manner.

"Other than examining newspaper columns to see how abbreviations and quotes are used, there is something of a vacuum when it comes to any kind of reference book. So we produced our own."

He can be contacted on 01827 880145.

London Welsh weren't part of the Londons

A REPORT in *Soldier* (Sept 1) on The London Regiment receiving new Colours contained the statement that "The London Welsh suffered so badly in 1915 that they were not reconstituted..." Surprisingly, the London Welsh, unlike their Scottish and Irish counterparts, were not part of the London Regiment, but of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, writes Lt Col (Retd) Richard Sinnott.

The 15th Battalion, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1st London Welsh) had been inaugurated at a meeting of Welshmen in London on September 16, 1914. The HQ was at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, and the benchers of Gray's Inn lent their garden and square as training grounds, where to this day the battalion's war memorial may be seen.

When the 15th left London in December 1914, it was 1,100 strong. In February 1916 a second battalion, the 18 RWF (2nd London Welsh), was raised. It recruited 3,500 men, and in September 1916 was turned into a training reserve battalion.

In December 1915 the 1st London Welsh went to France with the 38th (Welsh) Division. It fought with distinction in many battles for the next two years, including the Somme in 1916 and Ypres in 1917. Its awards for gallantry included at least two DSOs, ten MCs, eight DCMs and 21 MMs. In these two years the battalion had 278 men killed, losses which were less than half those suffered by some other battalions in the division.

In January 1918 an Army Order required all brigades to reduce from four battalions to three. To their great sorrow and anger the London Welsh were disbanded in February, along with three other battalions in the division.

SPRIT LIVED ON

Although this ended its brief life, the 15th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers Association ensured that its spirit and memories lived on. In 1924 it had 450 members, and did not "fade away" until the mid-1980s. (Incidentally, the RWF title changed from "Welsh" to "Welch" in 1920).

In 1936, as a result of the efforts of a committee of prominent Welshmen in London, the War Office agreed that a London Welsh Company could be incorporated into the 26th (London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion (TA). By late 1937, 50 volunteers had come forward, but I do not know whether the unit came into being.

What is more certain is that in 1939 the 99th Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA (TA) was raised as a new unit from London Welshmen, with its HQ in Kensington. In 1940 its title was changed to the 99th (London Welsh) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA (TA). This unit fought in North-West Europe in 1944-45, before going into suspended animation in 1946.

In 1947, when the TA was reactivated, 499 (M) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA (London Welsh) (TA) became its successor. In 1951, following the adoption of the regiment by the Royal Borough of Kensington, the title of the regiment was changed, with the word "Kensington" replacing "London Welsh". (I must acknowledge Norman Litchfield's *The Territorial Artillery 1908-1989* as the source of the post-1939 information).

There may still be some gaps in this account. If, however, your readers have more information, it will have served its purpose.



Heavy mob: Lowland sappers who moved the war memorial

War memorial saved by sapper power

A SCOTTISH war memorial was saved from the bulldozers when 1 Troop, 124 (Lowland) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (V) moved it to another site.

The eight-foot high granite structure, weighing more than six tons, stood in the grounds of Woodilee Mental Hospital on the outskirts of Kirkintilloch. The hospital was being demolished to make way for a new housing development, and the memorial, erected in memory of hospital

staff who gave their lives in the First World War, was also going to be bulldozed.

A section of ten men was tasked with dismantling and reassembling it in the grounds of a nearby bowling club. It was taken in six large blocks by Scammel transporter to the bowling club's car park. Because the actual site was inaccessible to the Scammel the engineers had to physically carry the blocks, some weighing more than a ton, to their new home.



Top recruit
Getting hands-on experience of life as a recruit was Sue Scott-Curtis, Head of Personnel at the Army Training Recruiting Agency, during a familiarisation visit to the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington. Mrs Scott-Curtis met Phase 2 recruits and drove the Challenger 2 training tank around the all-weather driving circuit.

TWO Army medics were among 100 people of many nationalities invested into the Order of St John at a ceremony in London. Cpl Ian Stevens, 22 Field Hospital, and LCpl Glen Prosho, 5 Field Ambulance, were admitted as Serving Brothers in recognition of long-term service to St John Ambulance.

Rare medal on show

A RARE medal issued to survivors of battles and campaigns in India between 1803 and 1826 has been loaned to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. One of only 87 awarded, the Army of India Medal will go on display the gallery devoted to two of the city's "local" regiments, the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars (whose modern incarnation is the Light Dragoons) and the Northumberland Hussars. It has been lent to the city by Alfred Fellows, creator of the Fellows Hughes Medal Collection.

I have traced 300 'Valley of Death' graves

YOU reported (Diary, Sept 15) on the search for the graves of survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade.

It may interest the Victoria Cross and Balaclava Survivors' Society to learn that in fact almost 500 survived the charge, and are buried in cemeteries on every continent. Since the early 1960s I too have been tracing them, and to date have found about 300.

I have also been tracing VCs' graves, and of those of the 1,320 deceased holders have found 1,296 and have photographs of most of them.

Early next year a 400-page, illustrated book will be published accurately listing the location of each grave and putting right the many errors which have been

Prize letter

perpetuated over the years. Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen at Richmond, Surrey. Five-and-a-half years ago, while on research, I was struck by a hit-and-run vehicle and I am now severely disabled and housebound.

Once the VC Memorial book is out, I hope to continue the search for Balaclava survivors and if Mr Swales, the society's secretary, cares to contact me next spring, I will add to his list. — **David Harvey, Obitolodge, 1 Claremont Avenue, Herisham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4NR.**

Social workers 'not namby-pamby'

WHAT IS IT about social workers that Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid (Sept 15) and the CO 42 Commando (newspaper reports, August) find so namby-pamby?

Referring to recruits' pre-training being extended, Dr Reid said: "This approach is to be modernisation, not mollicoddling. It is not about turning sergeants into social workers." It would seem from their reported remarks that being a social worker precludes discipline, focus and, worst of all, any thought of meeting challenging behaviour head-on.

I was a Regular for seven years (1965-73) and followed it up with five years as a

Territorial. I "did my bit" in the Middle East and Northern Ireland. Are my credentials acceptable?

Here's the rub. I am a social worker and have been for the past ten years. I work in a secure facility for young people of 10-18 years and, with respect, if either of the above-named gentlemen thinks that my professional approach is soft, then my practice is seriously flawed and I would be failing the youngster.

My colleagues and I try to see that our practice is firmly rooted in reality, just as good soldiers do. — **William E Roberts, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham.**

Brigadiers were really sergeants

READING Questions of Rank (Oct) brought to mind another archaic title.

During the 17th and early 18th centuries the terms brigadier and sub-brigadier were frequently used to describe personnel in Troops of Horse (Life) Guards and Regiments of Horse who performed the duties and responsibilities of sergeant and corporal. They were also referred to as "Right-Hand Men".

These titles were later altered to the present format, except for the snobbish

Household Cavalry, which adopted corporal (from the Italian *capodi* meaning head of, etc) rather than sergeant (from the Latin *serviens* meaning to serve).

The rank of brigadier is continental in origin and is still used by the present French cavalry and gendarmerie. As Charles II had close associations with France, he probably modelled his heavy cavalry upon the Gardes du Corps and Gens d'Armes of the Maison du Roi. — **R A Hamilton, Ainsdale, Southport.**

BEST wishes for your new-look magazine from a mere ex-RAF type. You ask for amusing stories from readers, so here goes.

Some wit once pinned a foolscap sheet to the mess noticeboard inviting comments on what had appeared in annual confidential reports. They could be to do with your own, sneaked glances at your friends', or indeed hearsay.

Here are a few from memory which are repeatable:

- "Pedals hard but moves slowly."

Not so confidential

- "This officer is recommended for promotion with no qualifications whatsoever."

- "I would not breed from this man."

- "I cannot imagine anyone following this officer except perhaps out of idle curiosity."

Perhaps fellow sufferers could add to the collection? — **H D Pickles, Blackburn, Lancs.**

- As it happens, a hilarious book has just been published on this very topic (see "Laugh or we'll report you", Page 68). We welcome other contributions.

Write us a prize letter

HOT under the collar? Want to take issue on a serious topic? Need to settle a difference of opinion on a burning question? Or do you just want to share a good story with thousands of other readers around the world?

As ever, *Soldier* welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Soldier: worth every penny

YOUNG or old, the excitement of waiting for *Soldier* to arrive is now being afforded to us only once a month. But at least the magazine will still be there.

It is nice when reading it to be taken back in time when names appear of former bases and countries in which we served.

Soldier is worth every penny when you compare it with some other magazines on the shelves, with well-written articles and excellent photography. And it's not too heavy on the ads — which are interesting and informative in themselves. Wishing you well into the next millennium. — **Reg Briggs, Peterborough, Northants.**

A NOTE to congratulate you on the excellent new look to your magazine. It is first class. Keep up the good work. — **Bernard Rowland, Ferndown, Dorset.**

I RECEIVED my copy of October's *Soldier* this morning and while I think it was an excellent magazine in the ten years or so I have been reading it, I think you are on to a winner if your first monthly issue is anything to go by. — **P Gleeson, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.**

CONGRATULATIONS on the recent improved format — excellent! — **Dr Peter Jackson, Cambridge.**

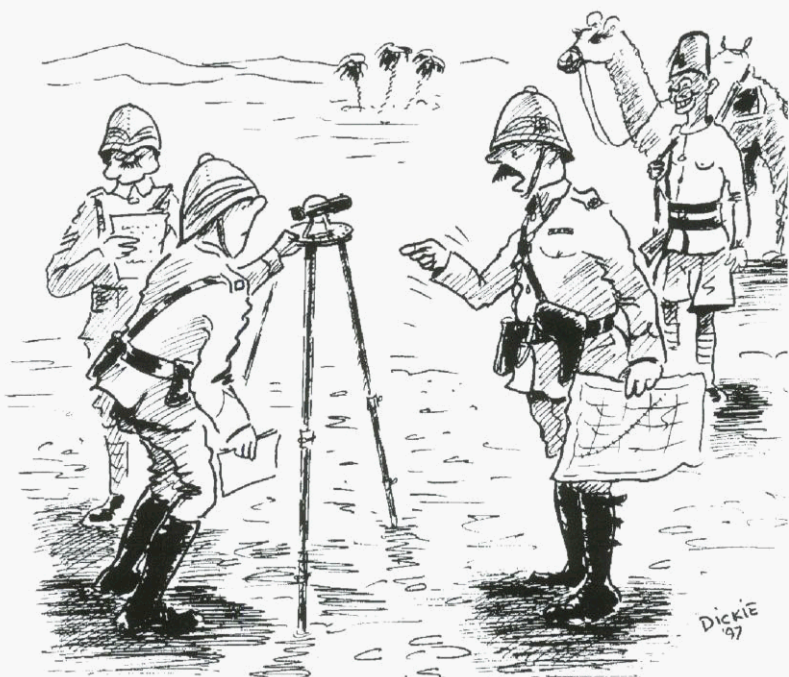
For the Record

Marble Tor

AS a Gibraltarian I was particularly interested in your feature about the Marble Tor series of exercises by 96 Signal Squadron, 37 Signal Regiment (V) on the Rock (Sept 15).

However, may I point out that the last Regular unit of the British Army to serve on the Rock was the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, who left in March, 1991, not The Royal Anglian Regiment, with which The Gibraltar Regiment has an alliance. Secondly, the civil police do in fact have the title Royal Gibraltar Police. — **Ernest Reading, Harrow, Middx.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"It may look like miles and miles of damn-all to you Fanshaw . . . but the expression 'It'll do, give or take 100 yards or so' will not do for General Kitchener"

Military Survey 250 – See Pages 34-35

Let's all sponsor a Gurkha family

IT WAS suggested by the Rev J Ball (Sept 15) that the £250,000 to be spent on a bronze Gurkha figure would be better spent on Gurkha pensions.

Although I agree we need to help these pensioners, I disagree strongly with his solution, which would be only temporary and would take away the reminder to future generations in this country of our debt to the best friends we ever had. Why not take a long-term solution?

If members of 1 PWRR and of other regiments and corps, as well as the many

ex-Servicemen and women, sponsored a Gurkha family, the Gurkha Welfare Trust's shortfall in the income it needs to meet its commitments would not exist. Money would also be available for projects such as medical aid and water on tap, things we take for granted.

My wife and I are both ex-Army and on pensions, but with a bit of juggling £10 a month would be no hardship, nor was a contribution to the statue appeal by the Gurkha Brigade Association. – **R Parker (and Mrs M Parker), Telford, Salop.**

**Soldiers
air their
views in
Vox Pop
– Page 70**

Best form of recruiting – by 'Sgt Nasty'

SO MUCH nonsense has been written about National Service that I would be interested in the views of your readers.

In the late 1950s I was a superintending sergeant at the Guards Depot, Caterham. Presumably I was a so-called "Sergeant Nasty". Many recruits I dealt with were outstanding and some became officers.

In the late 1970s I was the quartermaster of the Guards Depot at Pirbright. When a recruit decided to leave the Army at his own request he had to report to me to ensure he had no debts or kit deficiencies.

I took the opportunity to ask why he left the Army. A number said that the basic training was nothing like as tough as they had been given to expect. It takes some believing that the youth of today do not expect to be shouted at and are "soft-centred".

The best form of recruiting remains to retain the outstanding talent serving NOW.

Congratulations to *Soldier* for maintaining such high standards of reporting and photography. – **Maj Peter Horsfall, Southgate, London.**

PS . . .

Rodney made me smile

IT WAS with sorrow that I read of Lt Col Rodney Bashford's passing. A *Soldier* reader for almost 50 years, I always read with interest his reviews of military recordings. He brought many a smile to my face with his unique style and his remarks about words to bugle calls were so true.

I learned all the "naughty" ones as a young bugler more than half a century ago. I never had the privilege of meeting RB but many will miss his repartee. This old sodger will. – **Owen Wheeldon, Lincoln.**

AS A contemporary at Military School of Lt Col Rodney Bashford – although I didn't know him personally, he a bandsman and a gunner – I, like thousands of other ex-Dukies, will be saddened by his loss.

Rodney was one of 43 ex-bandsmen of the Duke of York's Royal Military School who went on to be bandmasters and directors of music. Many became professors of music at Kneller Hall and the Royal College of Music. Best-known was Thomas Sullivan, father of Sir Arthur of Gilbert and Sullivan fame. Apparently Thomas wanted his son Arthur to enter the school as a bandsman but his mother considered it too tough and overruled her spouse. – **J V Lewis (ex-RQMS RE), Longfield, Kent.**

The mystery of . . .

THE "Heidi-Hi" Colonel (Mailbag, Oct) was the cause of several newspaper articles at the time and aroused much interest. It is possible he got his idea from Gerald Kersh's account of his recruit training in 1940 with the Coldstream Guards in his book *They Die With Their Boots Clean* (1941). His sergeant addressed the squad thus: "When I say 'Hi-di-hi!' you shout 'Ho-di-ho, sergeant!'" – **L F Edwards (Essex Regt and Parachute Regt, 1942-46), Colchester, Essex.**

. . . Heidi-Hi Col . . .

I DISTINCTLY remember reading in the national press (probably the *Daily Mirror*) about the "Heidi Hi, Heidi Ho" Colonel, who insisted on saluting and calling out "Heidi Hi", to which the response was "Heidi Ho". I recall that he was promoted, probably to get him out of the way! – **Mal Martin (The Suffolk Regt Old Comrades Association), Beccles, Suffolk.**

. . . is solved!

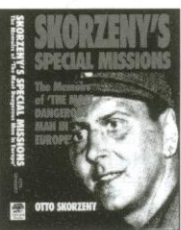
THE "Heidi Hi Colonel" was the former Maj Valder Gates RASC who, at Dunkirk, led his men on a 15-mile march to La Panne, waded out to incoming boats, water round his neck, and spent several nights offering his men the chance of safety.

This then was the "character who commanded a training depot" – and surely he earned the right to do so? I cannot explain his reason for "Heidi Hi!" – but he was far from being the only officer in the Army who had unusual training methods. He was eventually "promoted to glory", well-deserved, I think. – **H V Cossons Wincanton, Somerset.**

Reviews

Europe's most dangerous man

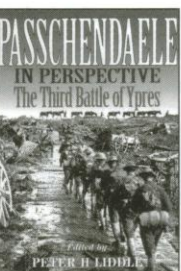
WHEN Mussolini was overthrown and imprisoned in Italy in 1943 the man who planned and led the daring rescue was Otto Skorzeny, dubbed "the most dangerous man in Europe" and one of the most famous men in the history of special forces. Now those who like a racy tale have another chance to read his 1957 memoirs, **Skorzeny's Special Missions**.



Published again in hardback by Greenhill Books (£19.95), they contain fascinating insights into his relationships with Hitler and Himmler.

Passchendaele analysed in depth

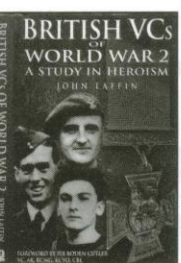
THIS month marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the battle of Passchendaele, one of the bloodiest of the First World War. During the five-month campaign, more than 320,000 men died. **Passchendaele in Perspective: The 3rd Battle of Ypres**, edited by Peter Liddle, is a monumental and scholarly work with thought-provoking contributions by 30 experts, from various national points of view.



It is published by Pen & Sword (hardback £35, paperback £25).

Death and glory of VC heroes

DURING the Second World War, the chances of performing an act of courage considered worthy of the VC and of living to receive it were 50-50. Of the 106 British armed forces VCs, 61 were awarded to the Army, 23 to RN, RM, RNR and RNVF, and 22 to the RAF; half were posthumous. In **British VCs of World War 2: A Study in Heroism** (Sutton Publishing Ltd, hardback, £25) John Laffin, himself a 1939-45 infantryman, tells each enthralling story and answers intriguing questions.



Second is Napoleon and third Alexander the Great. Saddam Hussein, at No 81, is not there through any military prowess, says the author, but simply because he is still a threat to world peace.

Laugh – or we'll report you

CONFIDENTIAL staff reports are a serious fact of life in the Services and the Ministry of Defence. Promotion and pay rises depend on them.

Now along comes aptly-named Falklands veteran Rick Jolly to convince us all they're just a barrel of laughs.

Laughs? *In Confidence*, Rick's collection of 600 uncharitable character assessments – gathered, he tells us, over 25 years – are screamingly funny.

And even if you doubt the provenance of some of them (the word apocryphal is the kindest), does it matter? It's for a good cause, so let's be charitable and have a laugh at our own expense for a change.

In these enlightened times when PC stands for politically correct as well as personal computer, some of these cleverly-worded insults could keep European lawyers in well-paid work for the rest of their careers:

● "It takes only one drink to make Lt Y drunk, but it is difficult to be sure whether it is the ninth or the tenth."

● "2nd Lt A has given an unexceptional performance, apart from an outstanding

In Confidence: The Jackspeak TriService Guide to Staff Reporting by Rick Jolly. Published by Palamanando Press and available from Maritime Books, Liskeard PL14 4 EL (tel: 01579 343663) at £10.95 inc p&p. Author's royalties plus £1 per book sold go to the South Atlantic Medal Association (1982), which looks after Op Corporate veterans.

characterisation of a poof in the unit pantomime."

● "This cadet must be the one person to have sixth sense, because there is no evidence of the other five."

● "I have come to the conclusion that Apprentice Y is even smarter than Prof Stephen Hawking, because only a dozen people understand Hawking, whereas no one can understand App Y."

● "I understand from the psychiatrists that he is totally psycho-ceramic – a genuine crackpot."

● "In evolutionary terms,

CSgt L is on the return trip."

● "This officer candidate's style of soft sell would be more successful if he was given the right vehicle for his talents – an ice-cream van."

● "This young MoD desk officer appears to be frank and earnest with women. In London he is Frank, in Portsmouth he is Ernest."

● "When asked what he thought about Red China, this potential officer said that it was acceptable as long as it didn't clash with the tablecloth."

● "Cpl D claims royalty among his ancestors. Judging by his build and speech, it must have been King Kong."

● "This applicant for a replacement South Atlantic Medal claims to have been in the 1982 Falklands campaign, but we suspect the only war record he has is Brothers in Arms by Dire Straits."

Christmas is coming and if you're feeling generous, why not cheer up all your friends with a copy of this book? Or even buy them one each. – CH

● See Mailbag, Pages 66-67.

Churchill and Slim left out of top 100

IT'S STRANGE how some people categorise others. Take Lt Col Michael Lee Lanning's list of *The 100 Most Influential Military Leaders*.

It has already sparked controversy – not so much about those in the list but about those omitted.

It's unsurprising that Lanning, a decorated American Vietnam veteran, has appointed George Washington, first president of the United States, to head his list. He describes him as "the most influential military leader of all time".

Second is Napoleon and third Alexander the Great. Saddam Hussein, at No 81, is not there through any military prowess, says the author, but simply because he is still a threat to world peace.

The 100 Most Influential Military Leaders by Lt Col Michael Lee Lanning. Robinson Publishing, paperback, £7.99.

Although 19 Britons are listed – Cromwell is highest at 19, Wellington is at 22, Montgomery at 63 and Allenby at 100 – there is no mention of Winston Churchill or Fd Marshal Bill Slim, commander of the 14th (Forgotten) Army, the man largely responsible for victory in Burma.

Col Lanning, like others past, forgot him, too. – JM

● Do YOU have a personal view of the world's most influential military leaders – and where in the rankings you would place our British heroes? Let us know and we'll print the best letters.

Forty-Two Months in Durance Vile by E Keith Mitchell. Remarkable account, written from secret diaries, of a signals operator's brutal years as a Japanese prisoner-of-war. Recommended. Robert Hale, hardback, £18.99.

Brixmis by Tony Geraghty. Now in paperback, the former Para's extraordinary revelations about the British Military Exchange Mission, which gathered Cold War intelligence behind the Iron Curtain. Harper-Collins, £8.99.

Red Lights and Redcaps by Don Bastow. The lively and entertaining encounters of a conscript in 105 Provost Company RMP (BTA), Austria, 1952-53. Available from W A Taylor, 38 Jubilee Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6BE, at £12 (inc p&p) payable to 105 Club Austria.



Under orders by Robert Gemmell Hutchison, shows soldiers of The Black Watch and their families in a barrack room at Edinburgh Castle before embarking for Egypt in 1882. This National Museum of Scotland picture appears in *The Thistle at War*, reviewed below

One in the eye for the Aussies

WHEN Brig Sir Bernard Fergusson first took command of a force which included Australian troops in the Second World War he inspected them wearing his usual monocle.

The next time they met, every one of the Australians on parade before him had the metal crown cap of a beer bottle screwed into the same eye. The brigadier took one look, removed his monocle,

The Thistle at War by Helen McCorry. National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, £7.99.

threw it in the air and expertly caught it again in his eye socket. "Now, do that," he

said. Needless to say, he won the instant approval of the Aussie troops...

Helen McCorry, a senior official with the National Museums of Scotland, relates the story, passed on by her father, in *The Thistle at War*, a paperback which she has compiled and edited in fine style.

Dealing with the Scottish experience of war in the Services and at home, this is one of those books to delve into at any time for a quick read and in many cases a good laugh.

The benefits of the kilt are described in one eight-line story by a man around the turn of the century who, having drunk too much at a party, adjourned to the men's room where the only other occupant was a middle-aged major of the Highlanders.

"He was holding up the front of his kilt with one hand and leaning against the wall. He turned to me in this position and said portentously: 'Join a Highland regiment, me boy. The kilt is an unrivalled garment for fornication and diarrhoea.'"

So now you know. – JM.

In brief

VCs of the First World War: The Spring Offensive 1918 by Gerald Gliddon. Latest in the Sutton Publishing series details the 57 VC winners of this phase. Hardback, £17.99.

The Malayan Emergency 1948-60: The Domino That Stood by Donald Mackay. Well-written account of how the British defeated Communism in Malaya. Brassey's, hardback, £25.

Sabre Squadron by Cameron Spence. Six weeks behind Iraqi lines with the SAS, including the famous mess meeting to discuss curtains for the sergeants' mess. Michael Joseph, hardback, £15.99.

Heroes of World War II by

Robin Cross. Well-illustrated stories of extreme bravery in the face of battle told concisely in large-format hardback. Greenhill Books, £15.99.

From Blue to Khaki by R Harvey Blizard. Lightly-written tale of an RAF erk's conversion to an officer with the 26th Indian Divisional Signal Regiment in Burma. Pentland Press, Bishop Auckland, hardback, £15.

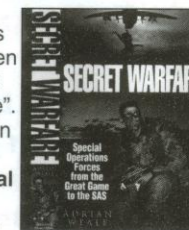
SBS: The Inside Story of the Special Boat Service by John Parker. "Authoritative" documentary by former Fleet Street editor who has written investigative books on the Mafia and Elvis Presley. Headline, hardback, £16.99.

To the Wars by G A Morris. Family saga of the 19th century by Second World War sapper/tankie. The Book Guild, hardback, £14.95.

SAS: the other side of the story

FORMER Intelligence officer Adrian Weale considers the role of the SAS since the Second World War – especially in Malaya and the Falklands – to have been "minimal and unimpressive".

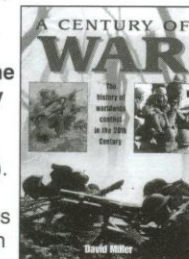
However, in **Secret Warfare – Special Operations Forces from the Great Game to the SAS** he concedes that when it comes to intelligence-gathering, rescuing hostages and providing civil aid backed by military activity, our elite regiments are second to none. The provocative book is published by Hodder & Stoughton in hardback at £18.99.



If you're looking for trouble...

WHICH are the potential trouble-spots of the 21st century? David Miller pinpoints 46, from Quebec to the Kuril Islands, in **A Century of War: The History of Worldwide Conflict in the 20th Century** (Greenhill Books, hardback, £15.99).

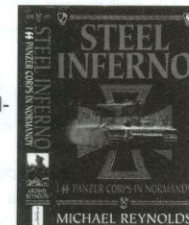
The concise text and tables of statistics, in large-format pages, are complemented by more than 150 pictures, including some from *Soldier* magazine's Gulf War archives.



Normandy campaign put in perspective

FOLLOWING his acclaimed analysis of Panzer leader Jochen Peiper, *The Devil's Adjutant*, now revised and reissued, Maj Gen Michael Reynolds brings the bigger picture of the Normandy campaign sharply into focus in **Steel Inferno** (Spellmount, hardback, £20).

Aided by typically meticulous research, the Korean War veteran and former commander of NATO's International Mobile Force examines the battles between Hitler's 1 SS Panzer Corps and its British, Canadian, American and Polish adversaries and questions the adequacy of the Allies' equipment compared with the Germans', especially their tanks.



Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue of the moment

This month the big question is: "Do you believe that women soldiers should have front-line roles?"

Tpr Gayle Clarke, RMLY

"I'm not one of those who thinks that we can be on the front line. We have a role in the Army, but not in front-line units like our Sabre Troops. It's difficult to mix men and women in situations like that. In peacetime, it's good to get out with the Sabre Troops, but to do it all the time - I don't think so."



SSgt David Sayer, 1 RTR

"I think it would be a bad move because you only have to look at the experiences of the Israelis



and the Americans. They found out that it caused morale problems. If we have not got enough men joining up, then we need women, but putting them in front-line roles would cause more problems than they are worth."

Cpl Annie Rhodes, RAMC

"I don't think that the front line is the best place for women soldiers. Women are not as physically capable as men. I think there would be other problems too. If, for example, there is a front-line situation

with, say, one woman and two men, the guys would not want to leave the woman and go on. Women can be deployed in roles where they are more useful to the Army. We make very good administrators and medics, for example. But even in that role, I wouldn't want to see an all-woman ambulance crew."



Maj Edward Widgery, HQ 143 West Midlands Brigade

"It sometimes works and sometimes doesn't. Women are better than men at some things, for example radio work. And they are much easier to train. But there are some jobs that they should be protected from."



LCpl Sue Mullett, RMLY

"If that's what they want to go for, why not? You'll find that most women don't have a hang-up about serving in front-



line roles, but some of the men do. If they have the strength and stamina, then they should do the job. Women join up to be soldiers, so let them be soldiers."

Pte Anthony Young, 10 Tpt Regt RLC

"I can't really see women being very good at the front line. They



are fine as chefs and clerks, but not as infantry. Even in tanks it would be difficult because of the lack of privacy. I reckon the blokes would feel uncomfortable."

SSgt Derek Austin, REME

"I have no complaint about women soldiers at all. The lasses that we've got in our unit make a great contribution. I've got a lot of time for them. Also, they give us a very down-to-earth perspective on things."



Cpl Scott Dreever, 1 RHf

"I agree in an increased role for women to a certain extent, but there are jobs that I think they just wouldn't be able to do.



Infantry work is one area that is not suitable for women. I don't think many women would be able to carry the kit, for

one thing. And then there are 'women's things' to worry about. I just don't think it would work."

LCpl Sarah Owens, RMLY

"I think we all join the Army to be soldiers. I would like the chance to drive a tank and do things like that. But a lot of the men do tend to give women a hard time, and make it difficult for us."



LCpl Matt Murphy, 1 PWO

"My grandad would have said it was a bad idea, but obviously, with changing times, women want the right to go to the front line. We don't really have a say in it. If they are deployed on the front line, then that's the way it goes. It will lead to some friction, but it's like anything: you've got to give it a go."



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Terry Champion and Mike Weston

COMING SOON IN YOUR GREAT NEW SOLDIER

● Know your allowances: easy-to-read guide to the new package launched in December.

● We'll be looking behind the scenes at the Combined Arms School, Warminster, where up to 1,000 combat and combat support arms commanders - from corporals to brigadiers - train in the tactics of high-intensity warfare.

● Want to fly Apache, the helicopter set to revolutionise the Army's air warfare capability into the 21st century? Our intrepid Who Dares reporter attempts the aptitude and intelligence tests that face would-be pilots. Find out if he had what it takes.

● And, talking of Apache, we watch Guter-sloh-based 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps exercise new tactics as it prepares to receive the Army's potent new weapon.



● In our My Army series of interviews we meet Bernard Cornwell (left), author of the best-selling Richard Sharpe novels, and D-Day hero Maj John Howard, who talks about the glider-borne assault on Pegasus Bridge, one of the

defining moments in the battle for Normandy.

● Got a problem? Write to Cari Roberts, whose new advice column starts next month.

● The Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover has a unique connection with the Armed Forces. Read our special feature.

● As the inquiry into the future of Otterburn training area nears a conclusion, Soldier looks at the issues at stake.

● And enjoy a Christmas chuckle with Soldier's resident cartoonists Chip, Dickie and Darren Dodd.



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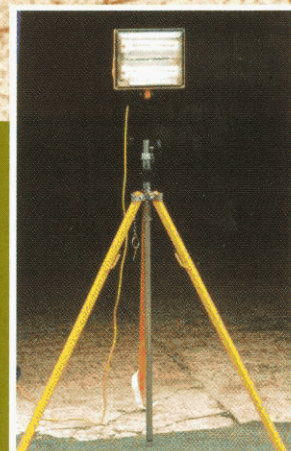
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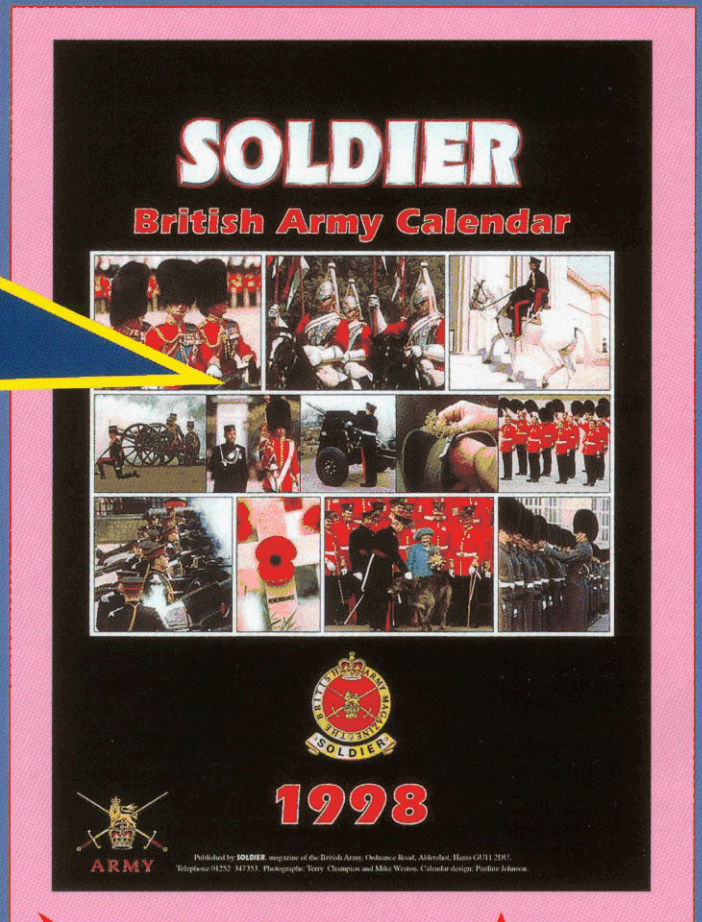
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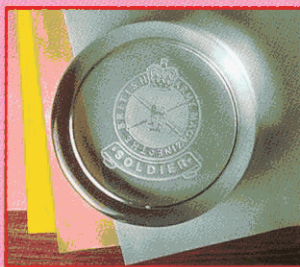
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To order these and other items, please turn to page 55