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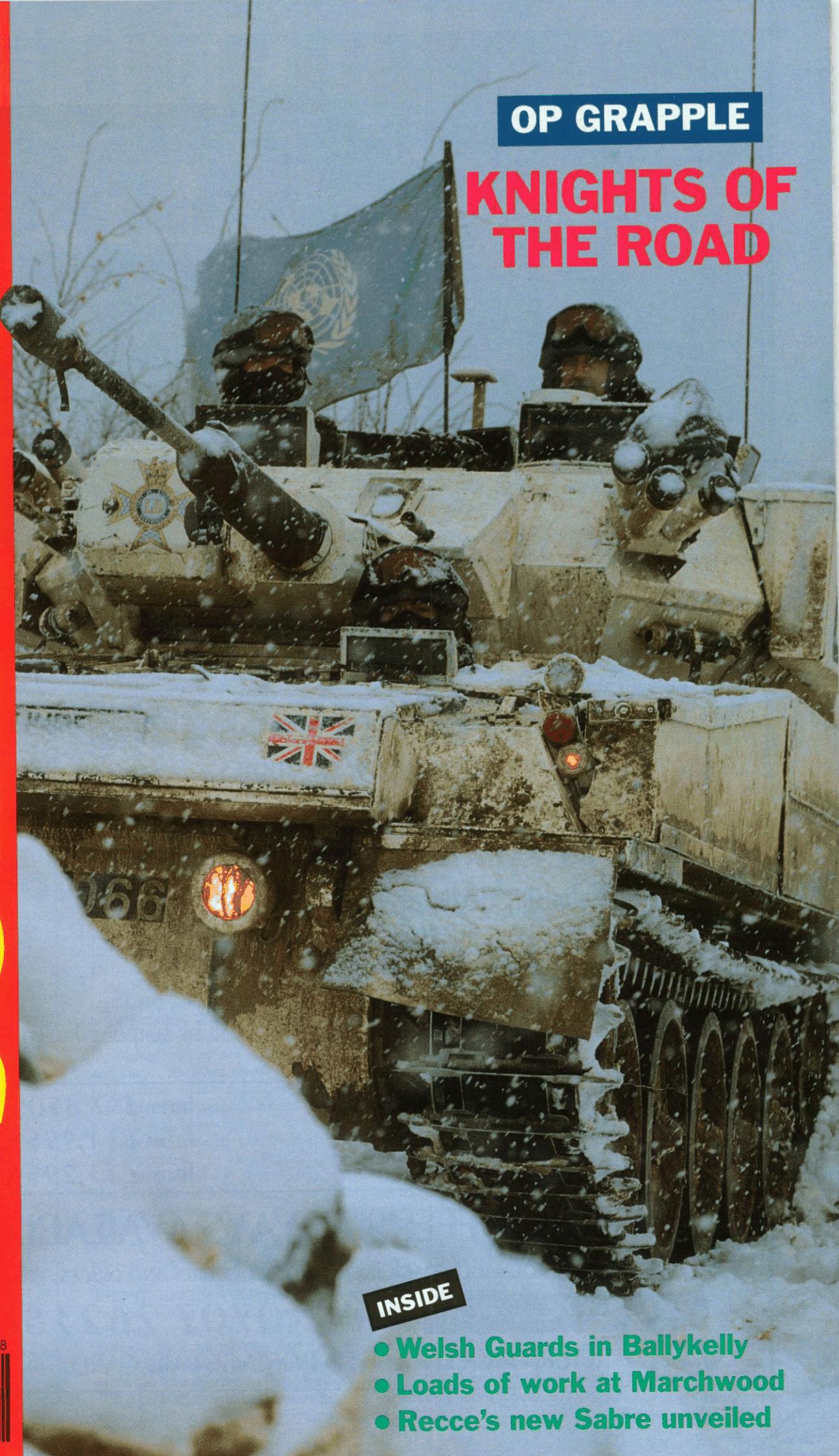
08

OP GRAPPLE

KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD

INSIDE

- Welsh Guards in Ballykelly
- Loads of work at Marchwood
- Recce's new Sabre unveiled



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

February 21, 1994
Vol 50/4

CONTENTS

- 5 Newsline
- 10 People
- 12 Introducing Sabre
- 13 Berlin Signals
- 14 Welsh Guards
- 16 52 Port Sqn RLC
- 18 Ex Kamet Quadrant
- 19 Operation Grapple
- 24 For families
- 26 Toye, Kenning and Spencer
- 28 Briefings
- 30 Letters
- 32 Book reviews
- 34 Resettlement feature
- 39 HOAY competition
- 40 SOLDIER Mart
- 45 Classified advertisements
- 48 Sport

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Lull before the storm? WO2 SQMS Cass Cassidy (seated right) and chefs from 845 Naval Air Squadron and 4 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron at Split will watch developments at Tomislavgrad with keen interest during a trial of the UN catering system

UN FOOD PROVISION SYSTEM TO BE TRIALLED

Big breakfast under threat?

From Gordon Skilling, Split

A PLAN to make British troops in Bosnia eat Continental-style food has sent a shudder through the caterers' ranks.

A trial of the UN system of providing food, to be carried out in Tomislavgrad, may threaten the British breakfast, cut hot lunches and drastically restrict choice at night.

At Kiseljak, the UN command HQ squaddies initially had no choice. They had to eat Continental breakfasts and lunches of cold meats, cheeses and salads provided under the UN system. It is a nourishing diet, but not what many would have chosen.

After complaints, a limited hot breakfast of egg and sausage or bacon was provided for British soldiers serving in the headquarters.

Hot, stodgy puddings, six choices of hot meal at lunch and dinner, and gargantuan

breakfasts as required are still provided by British Army cooks from Vitez to Split, but this may change.

"Soldiers can go back to the hot plate for second helpings under our system, but a UN breakfast would be rationed to one sausage or one piece of bacon," said the Force Cater-

- **New medal** – Page 5
- **Pay award** – Page 7
- **Op Grapple** – Pages 19-23

ing Warrant Officer, WO1 John Collis.

Choice would be restricted because the present cash entitlement would be changed to an ingredient entitlement which does not reflect the British palate.

"Our kitchens now provide at least six hot meals, but under

the new system it would be one or two choices and if you don't like it, tough," he said.

A wide variety of cheeses might be acceptable in an officers' mess, but few British soldiers would appreciate it, said Capt Simon Melrose, Force Catering Officer.

"In Zagreb the British Medical Battalion was given a compulsory issue of squid instead of fish fingers, and very few of our lads jumped for joy."

Cans of juice, crisps and chocolate bars would be replaced by rolls and fruit – substantial enough, but not what the squaddie wants for his lunch en route.

British Operational Ration Packs for ten, four and one would disappear, to be replaced by French or German individual 24-hour packs, making it difficult for chefs to produce meals in bulk.

A trial at Tomislavgrad (TSG) would certainly test the system because of the number of extra drivers who regularly turn up unexpectedly. Feeding an extra 450 on top of a permanent population of 200 would be virtually impossible under the UN catering arrangements.

Staff are investigating the

FRONT COVER: A Scimitar of the Light Dragoons watches for trouble along Bosnia's route Triangle – a vital artery for aid convoys – as heavy snow falls. The light recce tank was crewed by commander Sgt Les Stoker, gunner Tpr Robin Dowland, and driver Tpr Lee Beney. More Operation Grapple pictures and stories in Pages 19-23. (Picture: Mike Weston.)

● The bobsleigh brakeman on our February 7 front cover was LCpl Eric Sekwalor (Para), not Lenny Paul

● Turn to Page 5

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Thousands qualify for medal

THOUSANDS of ex-Servicemen and serving soldiers could qualify for a new medal intended for holders of the General Service Medal 1962.

Eligible for the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal, approved by the Queen last month, are all who have completed 36 months' accumulated service since August 14, 1969 in theatres where the GSM 1962 with clasp has been awarded.

Holders of the GSM 1962, with one or more clasps, who satisfy the criteria, will receive the new medal.

Theatres of operation that qualify are Northern Ireland (August 14, 1969 and continuing); Dhofar (October 1, 1969 – September 30, 1976); Lebanon (February 7, 1983 – March 9, 1984); mine clearance Gulf of Suez (August 15 – October 15, 1984); Gulf (November 11, 1986 – February 28, 1989); Kuwait (March 8 – September 30, 1991) and Northern Iraq/Southern Turkey (April 6 – July 7, 1991).

But earlier clasps to the GSM 1962 for service in Borneo, Radfan, South Arabia, Malay Peninsula and South Vietnam will not count as qualifying service. The 1969 Northern Ireland commencement date is acknowledged as the time when soldiers started doing repeated short tours on operations.

The reverse of the silver medal will be inscribed "For Campaign Accumulated Service", set within a four-part ribbon surrounded by a branch of oak leaves with laurel and olive leaves woven through the motto ribbon. The ribbon colour will be purple and green with a stripe of gold.

It will take some time to establish how many recipients of the GSM 1962 will qualify for the medal. Up to December 31, 298,226 Northern Ireland medals and clasps had been issued. A serving soldier who has completed a two-year residential tour and two six-month roulement tours in Northern Ireland would qualify for the new medal.



Maj Huw Edwards escorts the Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Anne Scicluna, as she reviews soldiers from 6th/7th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The city has transferred its Freedom rights to the regiment following the amalgamation of the original holders, The Queen's Regiment, with The Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the PWRR

EOD team saves dog

SAPPERS from 33 Engineer Regiment RE (EOD) joined the Fire Service and water authorities to find and save a Jack Russell terrier trapped for two days in a collapsed rabbit warren.

The ten-strong EOD team, based at Wimbish near Newmarket and trained in the delicate skills of digging out bombs, was called in to help with the search and rescue operation.

Lilybess was found eight feet below ground and restored to her owner.

Driven out

Rain forces Omis exodus

DRIVERS of the British Transport Squadron in Bosnia are to move to new accommodation from their beach-front site at Omis.

Unusually persistent wet weather gave rise to a potential health hazard as the drains backed up and tents were moved to higher ground. Despite sapper efforts to pump out the site, the squadron is to share the Dalma warehouse with the Supply Squadron.

Rising pressure on space in the port area has persuaded the UN to fund the new site for

Big breakfast threatened

● From Page 3

ramifications of introducing a new system. Brig John Reith, the commander, is happy to carry out a two-month trial, but has reservations.

"The UN food allowance is quite reasonable if you are an officer in Zagreb but is not flexible in that it is only geared for normal circumstances," he said. "It is not reasonable if you are doing a 16-hour day in the snow. The British Army has

developed various special allowances for arduous duties."

The UN food delivery would be made weekly instead of twice a week, and there is at present no chilled storage available for extra food.

● Bird's Eye-View – Page 31.

"I have said we will trial it, and if we have a degradation in standard, then we will have to discuss it further," said Brig

Reith. "We are proud of good food in the British Army and I will not allow our soldiers to have worse conditions than they have now."

Life at Kiseljak has its advantages. Working in a UN headquarters means the British are given three weeks' leave, and there is no two-can limit on their beer ration...

● *Squid or fish fingers – what's YOUR idea of a good meal? Why not drop us a line – Editor*

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AFPRB recommendations approved in full

THE Government has accepted in full the Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendation of salary increases of between 3 and 4.4 per cent for all Service personnel (excluding medical and dental officers) up to and including brigadier rank.

The award will be staged, with all ranks receiving a 2.7 per cent increase from April 1,

and the balance – averaging 3.6 per cent – from January 1 next year.

And in a separate development, the MoD has announced a wide-ranging independent review into Forces pay, allowances and terms of service.

It will begin this spring and is unconnected with the Defence Costs Study (see story below).

The review will take account

of changes in military commitments and deployment patterns and ensure that career management and remuneration for Service personnel are appropriate for the 21st century, says the MoD.

Pay, overseas allowances and lodging pay, school fees, length of engagements, flying pay, moving costs, and pay by rank structure and qualifica-

tions will be examined.

It will take the review committee – yet to be appointed – about 12 months to complete the study and a further year for the recommendations to be implemented. The AFPRB has welcomed the initiative.

• A separate review of civilian pay and grading structures within the MoD will take place at the same time.

Bielefeld bakers bow out

AFTER almost 50 years of bread production in BAOR, the final slice was cut in the RLC Bakery in Bielefeld as 64 Ordnance Company, the last ordnance company in Germany, marked the occasion by getting "upercrust" assistance to help bake and distribute the finished product to German charities.

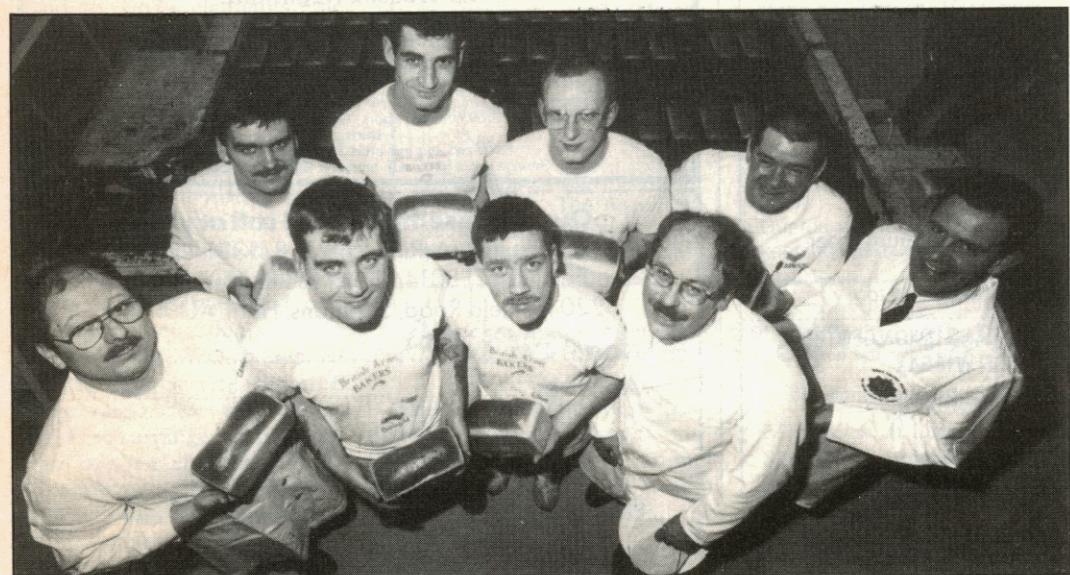
Pte Billy Atkinson, who was in charge of the final bake, had help from Brig David Harris, Commander Logistic Support in Germany, Brig Graham Ewer, Commander Gütersloh Garrison and Lt Col Trevor White, CO 6 Supply Regiment RLC.

Maj David Cousins, OC 64 Ord Coy, said: "Originally every Food Supply Depot in Germany had its own bakery. In the 1970s and 1980s most closed and production moved to Berlin and Bielefeld."

QGTR in Colchester



Lt Col Philip Gosling receives a ceremonial kukri from Capt Manbahadur Limbu to mark the arrival at Colchester of 28 Squadron, Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment. It is to form a task squadron with 54 (East Anglia) Brigade's 10 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps. The remainder of the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment is serving in Hong Kong



Maj David Cousins (front right), OC 63 Ord Coy, with members of the baking team

Cost cut reports due soon

INTERIM assessments from the Defence Costs Study teams – tasked to identify ways of slashing millions of pounds from the MoD budget – are being studied by defence chiefs.

Completed by the end of January, the interim reports were, in effect, statements of progress on the first month of studies into how the MoD will make enormous reductions over the next few years.

The final report is due by the end of March.

Although time is short, suggestions for better ways of working are being sought from all levels of the Army. Ideas should be forwarded quickly through the chain of command to the study team secretariat.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind announced the costs review, entitled Front Line First, after November's Budget statement, in which defence spending was cut by £780m over the next two years (£260m over previous plans for 1994-95, and £520m over previous plans for the following year).

To achieve these enormous savings, 20 teams are looking into different aspects of the defence function. Subjects range from defence command structures (led by Maj Gen Robert Hayman-Joyce) and training (Maj Gen Mike Willcocks) to information systems, market testing, research and development and the defence estate.

Minor studies will cover areas including music, animals, catering, chaplaincy and legal services, forms and publications and uniforms.

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Prince Philip to be Highlanders' Colonel-in-Chief

THE DUKE of Edinburgh is to become Colonel-in-Chief of The Highlanders, the new regiment to be formed on the amalgamation of The Queen's

MoD pays £7.8m to Service mothers

BETWEEN 1979 and 1991 more than 2,400 women left the Army because they became pregnant.

Figures for all Services given to MPs in a written answer by Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley include 166 officers and 2,265 non-commissioned females who left the Army between the 1979-80 and 1990-91 financial years.

Before August 1990, Servicewomen who became pregnant were compulsorily discharged.

From that month pregnant Servicewomen could choose whether to leave or take maternity leave.

In a separate written answer on January 21, Mr Hanley said a total of £7,822,943 had so far been paid in compensation to women who were compulsorily discharged from the Armed Forces on grounds of pregnancy between August 1978 and August 1990.

Compensation had been paid to 1,679 claimants, the average amount being £4,659.

The maximum awarded by a tribunal, £172,921, would be the subject of an appeal by MoD to the employment appeals tribunal, he added.

In reply to a further question, Mr Hanley said the MoD had no legal obligation to provide crèche and child-minding facilities for Service and personnel and dependants.

As with the civilian population at large, Service personnel were responsible for making their own arrangements for the care of their children and for meeting the costs involved.

Any crèche and child-minding facilities currently available on Service bases resulted from local initiatives.

Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and The Gordon Highlanders on September 17.

Deputy Colonel-in-Chief

will be the Prince of Wales, Duke of Rothesay, and the first Colonel of the regiment will be Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.

First operational tour of The

Highlanders will be to Northern Ireland next year under the command of Lt Col Hughie Monroe, currently commanding the QO Hldrs.



Maj Geoff Price and Capt Chris Bradley (front centre) and the Phoenix Military Team at Larkhill

AS90 firings on Salisbury Plain are to be curtailed at night if possible. Salisbury MP Robert Key asked the Army to impose a deadline after residents had been angered by firings made late at night.

Trials on the new gun, due to continue until March, involve AS90 being tested under battle conditions, requiring a full charge which makes considerable noise.

• • •

The Queen was visiting the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Sir John Moore Barracks, Folke-

Noisy AS90 trials annoy neighbours

stone on February 10 to mark the regiment's bi-centenary.

• • •

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd visited British troops serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina during a two-day visit last month. He visited 1 Coldstream Guards at Vitez and sappers keeping open convoy routes.

Asbestos 'traps' pension records

SERVICE documents "trapped" in contaminated surroundings since last summer are at last being freed so that war pension claims can be processed.

Last June asbestos-contaminated dust was found at the

MoD Records Office at Hayes, Middlesex. It barred access to Service documents needed by the War Pension Unit at Norgrove, Blackpool.

Parliament was told in a written answer that in September, contingency plans were

Phoenix launched on trial

WITH THE acceptance into service of Phoenix, the British Army has launched a series of trials to familiarise users with the new battlefield surveillance and target acquisition system.

Phoenix (pictured left) is a small unmanned aircraft equipped with a thermal imaging sensor and zoom lens which transmits pictures of the battlefield, day or night.

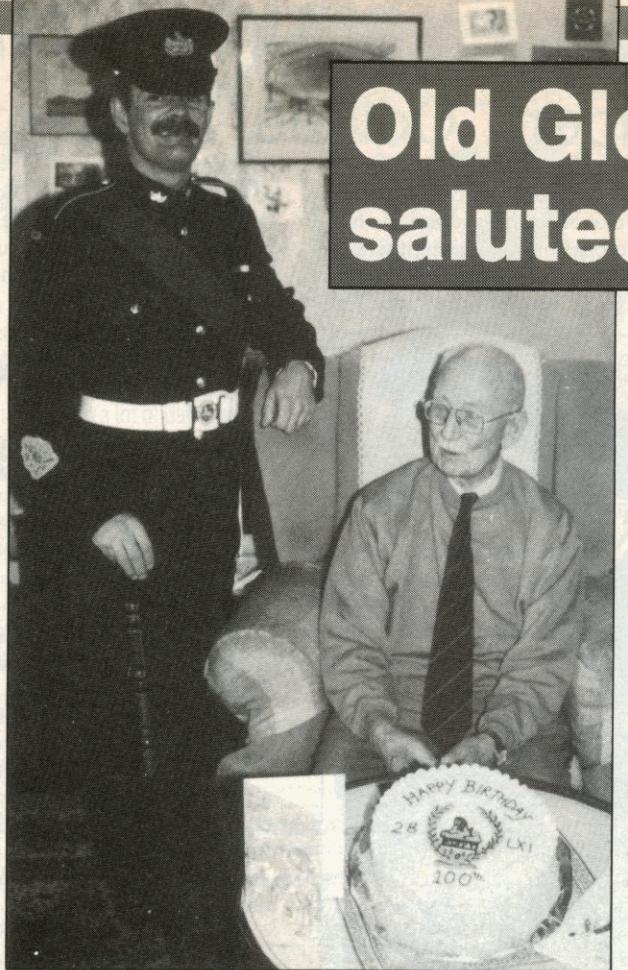
The trials on Salisbury Plain, which will last until mid-summer, have been organised by the Phoenix Military Team at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Commanded by Maj Geoff Price, the team has been supplemented by additional personnel drawn from 1st Battery, 14 Regiment RA and 22 Battery, 32 Regiment RA.

"The trial will enable us to establish the system's performance and give ourselves and the Army's logistic support services early experience of Phoenix," said Capt Chris Bradley.

Phoenix will begin operational service in 1995, with a primary role of detecting, recognising and marking targets for artillery and multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) batteries.

Phoenix, which is electronically instructed by a ground control station, will replace Midge, the recce drone which made its operational debut and final appearance in the Gulf. The 30-year-old system overflew Iraqi positions to take photographs.

introduced to retrieve documents for particularly urgent claims. As a result of a decontamination exercise now under way and due to be completed in April, other claims will be dealt with as the records become available.



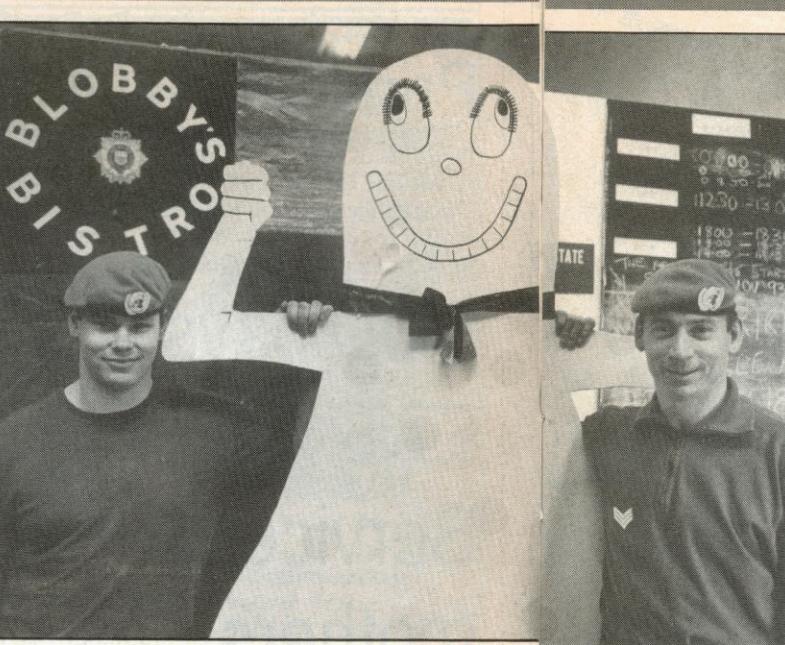
Old Gloster saluted

WO1 (RSM) Ivor Wood of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, pays tribute to the oldest living Gloster. Former machine gunner **Norman Edwards**, who celebrated his 100th birthday on January 13, joined the 1/6 Battalion in 1914 and fought on the Somme.

To mark his centenary, Norman was presented with a regimental birthday cake adorned with the famous back badge of the Glosers.

Asked what his ambitions were on leaving school, Norman said: "I wanted to be the man who ran in front of new cars with a red flag."

Picture: Mike Weston



No escape from Mr B

Even a tour of duty on Operation Grapple is no guarantee of a Blobby-free existence. Posing with the ubiquitous Mr B in the Royal Engineers' Blobby's Bistro at Tomislavgrad, Bosnia, are chefs LCpl **Shaun Collins** (left) and Sgt **Nigel Fox**.



Picture: Mike Weston

PEOPLE

Noble appointment

Adding a touch of nobility to Northampton-based 118 Recovery Company REME(V) is the recently-appointed officer commanding, **Maj the Countess Attlee**, believed to be the first woman to command such a unit.

Maj Attlee, pictured at the jib control of a Foden EKA recovery vehicle, has been in the Territorial Army for nearly eight years.

Her husband, the **Earl Attlee**, is also in the TA, serving with the REME.



FIRST PAST THE POST

News takes a little time to reach us from Hong Kong, but we can now reveal exclusively that the first Army babies of 1994 were **Grant Lockley**, son of Pte **Kevin** and Mrs **Debra Lockley** (pictured left with Grant) and **Susan Rai**, daughter of Cpl and Mrs **Nepal Dhu Rai** (right), of 10 GR.

Hong Kong has an eight-hour time advantage, so Susan and Grant – both delivered in BMH Kowloon – arrived well before Europe's first New Year babies.

Pte Lockley is serving with The Black Watch at Stanley Fort and reckons that, with the time difference, young Grant was probably Dunfermline's first New Year baby...



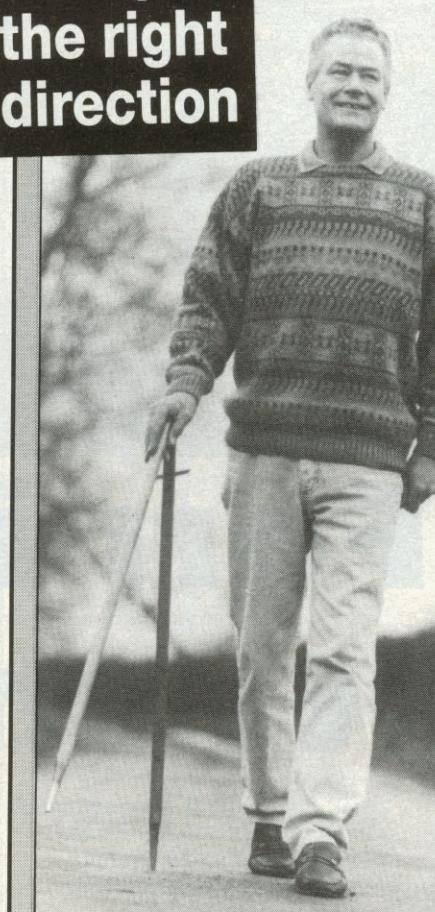
Ron hangs up his old boots

After a part-time military career spanning 25 years, CSgt **Ron "Grandad" Stockley**, has said farewell to the TA's 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment. Among the items of kit he returned to the QM's stores were his original batedress, issued in 1969 when he joined the then 4th Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment.

Lt Col **Anthony Lake**, CO 1 Wessex, paid tribute to Ron's employers, the Avon Tyre Company, for their support of his TA commitments over the years.



A step in the right direction



Two ex-soldiers haven't put a foot wrong since arriving in civvy street. And very soon British Army sergeant majors will be instilling the finer points of drill on parade grounds around the world thanks to **Colin Davison** (pictured), 25 years in the REME, and **John Needham**, late of the RAPC.

From their small workshop in the North Yorkshire village of Alne, 12 miles from York, they turn out precision military pace sticks, hand-fashioned from Canadian birch and maple, brass and leather.

Currently making about 800 a year for sale through military outfitters, Colin and John have just won an MoD order for 300 of their instruments.

Many are made to measure, and can be altered from a pace setting of 12in to 40in, depending on which regiment is marching.

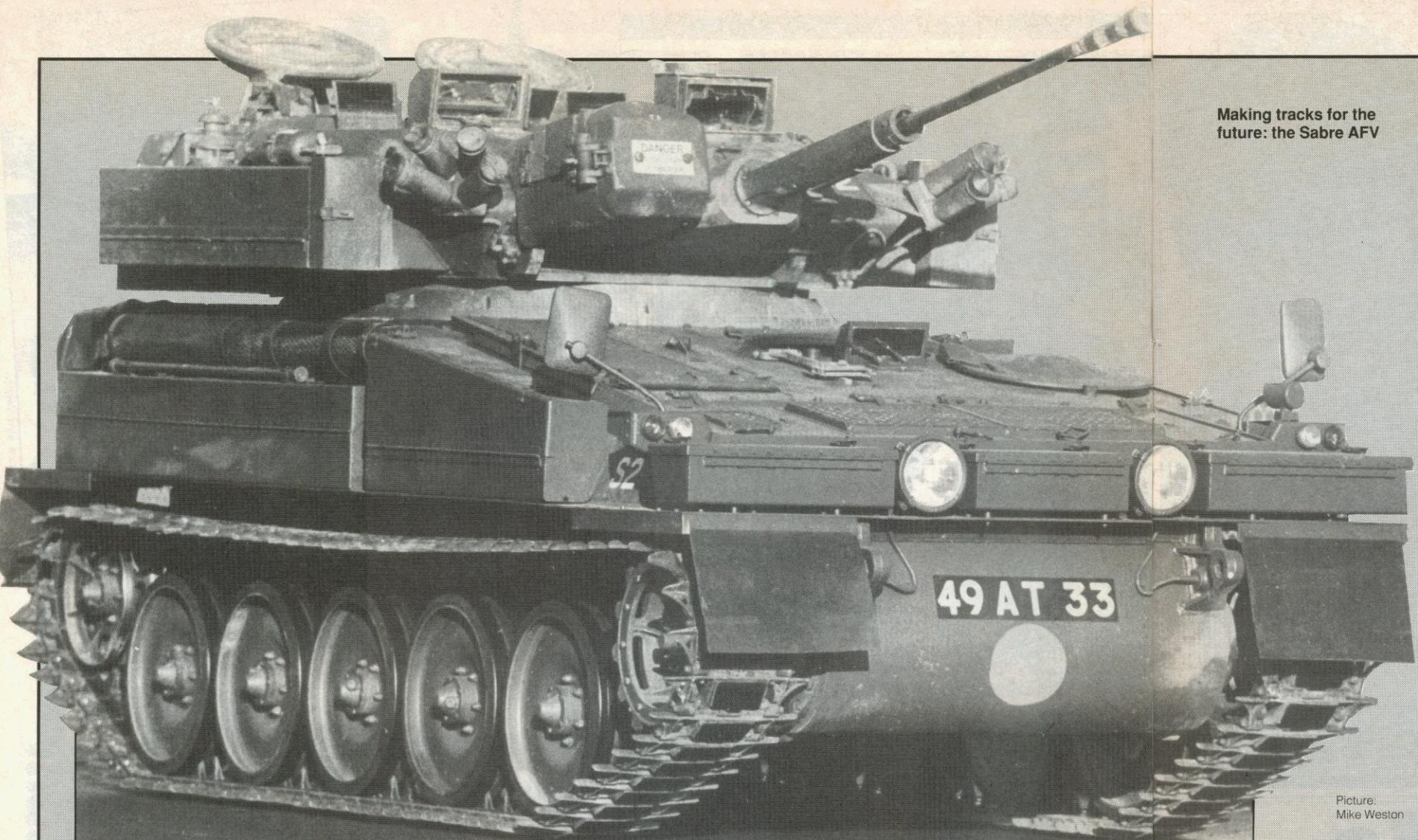
"Some are short and sharp. Others, like the Guards, step at 33 inches," explained Colin.

Sweet charity



Army wives at Osnabrück have brought a smile to the faces of children in former Yugoslavia. They raised funds to buy a large consignment of sweets which have now been distributed by Royal Signallers deployed on Operation Grapple.

From left to right are WO2 **Dave Smy**, Cpl **Lee Hopkins** and WO2 **Jock Robertson**, whose wife Ingeborg led the Osnabrück Wives Club project. Also involved in the fund-raising were families' officer Capt **Jeff Ashwell**, RQMS WO2 **Geoff Hawkins**, and soldiers serving in Osnabrück Garrison.



Making tracks for the future: the Sabre AFV

Scox or Forpion? Oh, no, it's the Sabre!

PERHAPS a more appropriate name for the Sabre AFV – scheduled to be introduced into the Army in the spring – would be the Scox, writes **Phil Wilcox**.

Or even the Forpion.

Because the vehicle, currently reaching its final stages of preparation at Coventry-based Alvis Vehicles Ltd, is to all intents and purposes an amalgam of a Fox armoured car turret and a Scorpion hull.

The company, design authority for the combat vehicle reconnaissance (tracked) – or CVR(T) – variety of vehicles, supplies kits to the Army, whose 34 Base Workshop at Donnington carries out the work.

"Our development programme began in October 1992, when we were asked to look into the feasibility of carrying out such a conversion," said Alvis's John Moore.

As part of the CVR(T) fleet rationalisation programme,

CVR(T) Scorpions, with their 76mm guns, were being withdrawn from service.

A prototype of the Sabre, natural successor to both the Scorpion and the Fox (which suffered a similar fate), was given a thorough assessment at the Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) at Bovington.

Smoke grenade bins, power cables, fire extinguishers and clarity of rear vision among other aspects were all looked at in detail.

Experiments carried out at Bovington by the Army Personnel Research Department also revealed height and foot-space restrictions in the commander's and gunner's workstations. Over the ensuing months, modifications were made by Alvis.

"Apart from the internal and external stowage facilities being improved, one major change has been the introduction of the Scorpion commander's domed hatch cover to replace the flat hatch cover on the (two-man, manually operated) Fox turret at the gunner position," said Mr Moore, a post-design services engineer.

"This has given additional headroom and improved vision."

The general layout of the Fox turret has been retained, the main change being to the mantlet, which has been modified to accept the 7.62mm chain gun – replacement for the L37 co-axial machine gun.

Other improvements include the provision of a fire extinguisher in the driver's worksta-

tion units in the vehicle.

Two Sabre prototypes were constructed, one of which, currently at Donnington for familiarisation, has been extensively buffeted in blast trials.

"Sabre 2" has been retained by Alvis as a reference vehicle.

Because the trial programme is so tough, only running trials have been held at Alvis's gleaming modern factory.

All other trials have been held at Bovington, at AWRE Foulness or at Pershore.

Many of the Scimitar's features have been incorporated in the new vehicle, including new shell stowage fittings and stowage retaining net.

Under the RAC's reorganisation, it is planned that a number will also replace Scimitar in the recce elements of BAOR-based Challenger 2 armoured regiments.

been incorporated into the vehicle build standard.

Formally accepted for British Army service last July, Sabre is backed up by a mandatory post-design services contract between Alvis and the MoD.

"It is the intention that the first three vehicles which Donnington produce will be given reliability trials," John Moore said.

A proportion of the Sabres ordered will go into service with the Territorial Army's Queen's Own Yeomanry, and the remainder will be put in war reserve.

Under the RAC's reorganisation, it is planned that a number will also replace Scimitar in the recce elements of BAOR-based Challenger 2 armoured regiments.



International co-operation? It's as easy as pushing a log, as LCpl Gee and an American team member put their combined muscle power into the assault course

Allies get the message

FRENCH, German and American signallers joined their British equivalents on the Ruhleben training area in Germany to participate in Exercise Rondo Challenge, a two-day Allied signals units activity.

Object of the exercise – hosted by 229 (Berlin) Signal Squadron – was to promote co-operation, understanding and friendship between soldiers who perform similar roles but serve in different armies.

Two of the three aspects were certainly much in evidence, but in some cases the "understanding" element left something to be desired...

When eight-man teams consisting of two soldiers from each nationality tackled assault courses, all went well. But it was in the driving competitions where breakdowns in communications were most apparent.

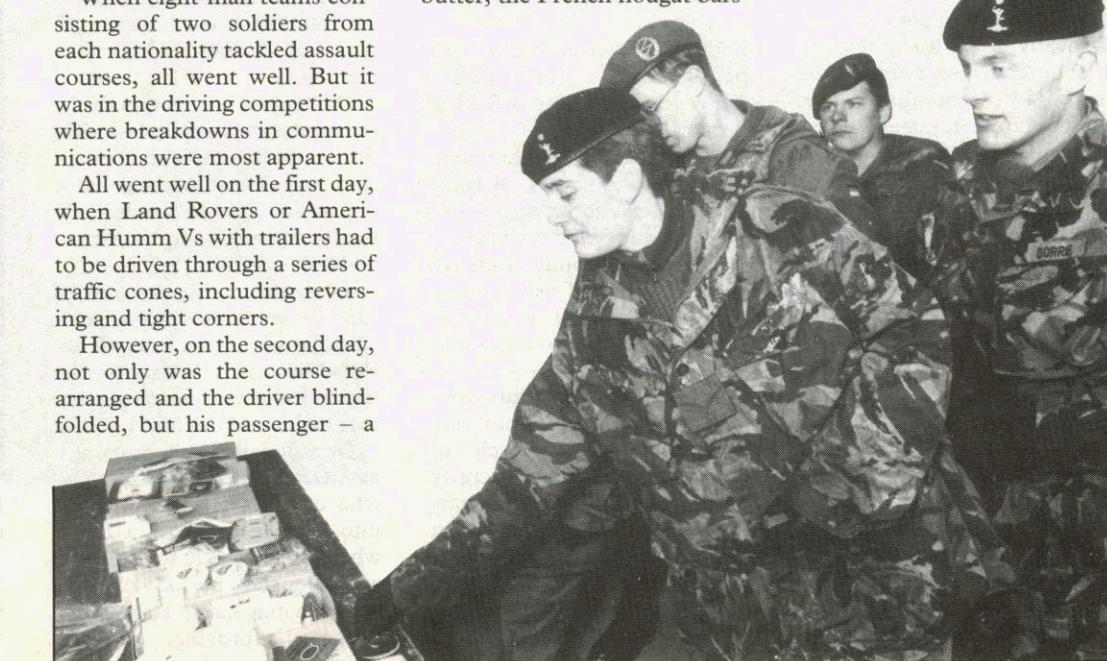
All went well on the first day, when Land Rovers or American Humm Vs with trailers had to be driven through a series of traffic cones, including reversing and tight corners.

However, on the second day, not only was the course rearranged and the driver blindfolded, but his passenger – a

soldier of another nationality and language – was required to give directions in his best "understood" language.

The difference between the fastest time for the course (6min 34sec) and the longest (58min 4sec) gives some idea of the linguistic barriers...

National idiosyncrasies were also very apparent when it came to food. On the ration stand, the Americans had peanut butter, the French nougat bars



Anyone for paté? LCpl McChesney tries out French rations during Exercise Rondo Challenge



Above - Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tim Purdon

Left - CSgt Trevor Stubington enthralled the audience with a virtuoso performance on the post horn

Music to their ears as Welsh Guards make the effort

WHEN LSGT Martin Posnett sang "Love Changes Everything" at a concert in Limavady, there was a real air of hope in a community still shocked by recent murders in a bar at nearby Greysteels.

The Band of the Welsh Guards and the Royal Ulster Constabulary Male Voice Choir gave a joint performance at a local recreation centre, enthraling an audience from both sides of the divide.

Based at Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly, on the windswept shore of Lough Foyle, the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards is currently on a two-and-a-half year accompanied tour as one of Northern Ireland's resident battalions.

The barracks is located on a former RAF base which, during the Second World War, was a staging post for American aircraft flying across the Atlantic. More recently, it was

Words: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Terry Champion

home to Shackleton maritime patrol aircraft. The British Army took over the airfield in the early 1970s.

Others had been temporarily redeployed to west Belfast with the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment as a precautionary measure following the Shankill bombing incident.

To make it harder for terrorists to transport arms and ammunition from the Irish Republic, many border crossing points have been closed by barricades and ditches.

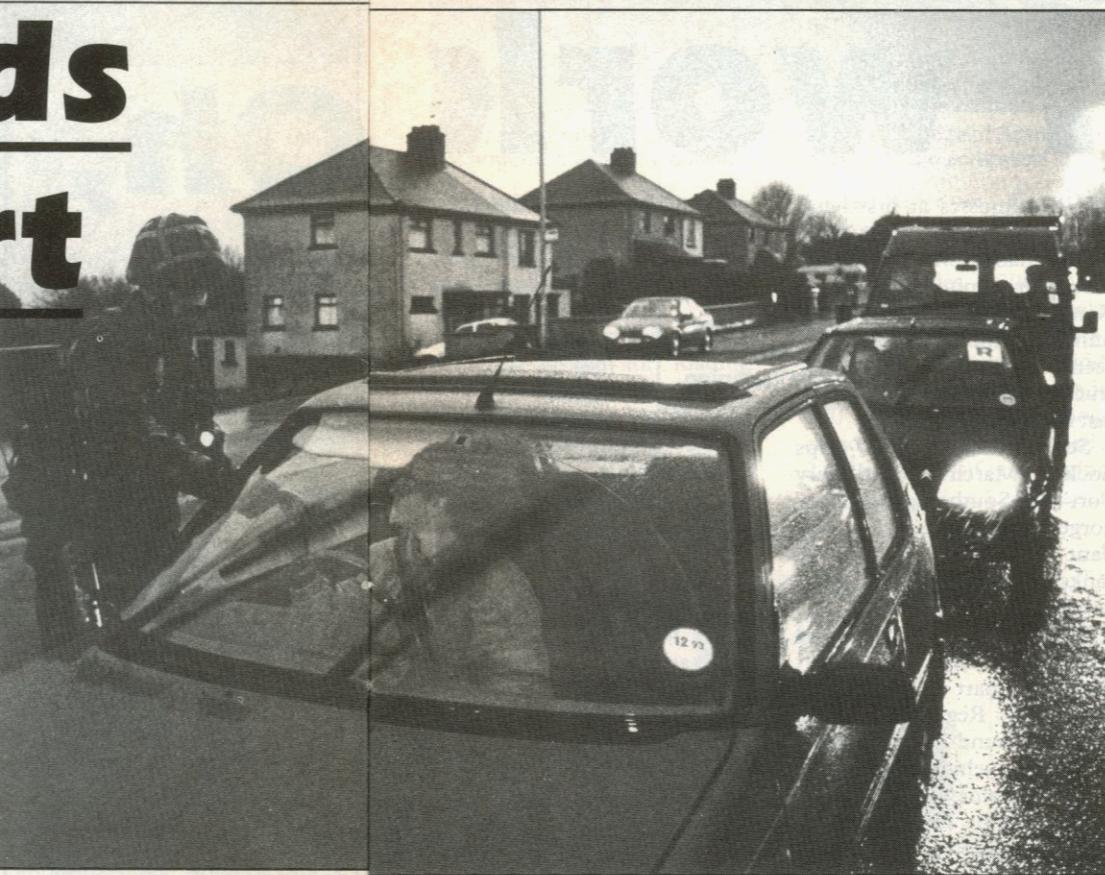
Occasionally, the crossings are re-opened by local people who use diggers to push earth into ditches to allow a four-wheel drive vehicle to cross, or a prolonged period of dry weather may cause streams to become fordable. Welsh Guardsmen have been deployed to protect teams of

soldiers had been sent to south Armagh on operations surrounding the rebuilding of patrol bases and border crossing points.

The 650-strong battalion provides 8 Infantry Brigade with a reserve force, and its soldiers are employed on a variety of tasks throughout Northern Ireland. So far, Welsh Guardsmen have served in all six Northern Ireland counties and West Belfast.

In order to sustain this work load, the battalion's four rifle companies work a cycle of operations, training, security duties and leave. A headquarters company at Shackleton Barracks provides logistic support for soldiers deployed on operations.

At the time of SOLDIER's visit, two companies had been deployed to Fermanagh. Early



Royal Engineers closing off illegal crossing points.

Commanding officer, Lt Col Tim Purdon, stressed the importance of community relations to the Welsh Guards.

"We work hard with the community and they are



Above - About to take over VCP duties are (left to right): Gdsm Anthony Boswell, LCpl Simon Hack and Gdsm Clive Jones, Phillip Millard and Ian Davies

Left - A Guardsman checks identity papers at a roadside vehicle checkpoint at Ballykelly

Below - Guard 2iC at the married quarters Guardroom is LCpl Andy Campbell



The Welsh Guards are a family regiment and possess a fine sense of humour. Perhaps the best example of this came when GOC Northern Ireland visited troops from 5 R Irish after a massive bomb exploded in Maghrafelt.

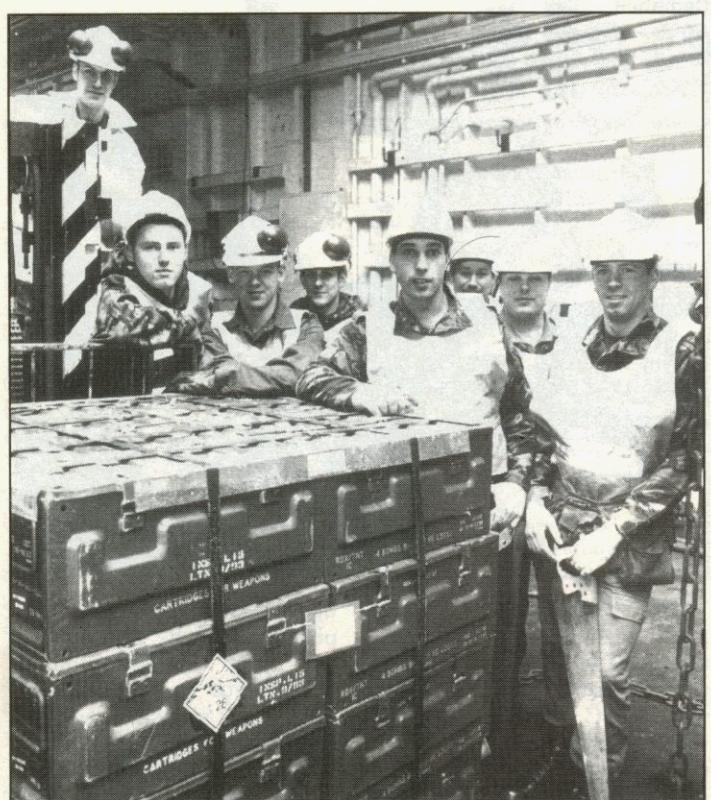
Asked by the general, what lessons had been learned from the incident, the soldier replied: "If all windows were made of pint glasses, glaziers would go out of business!"



A gang of Royal Logistic Corps stevedores waiting to unload shipping containers at the military port

Never a dull moment for 52 Port Squadron RLC

This unit has loads of work



Pictured (left to right) loading ammunition in the hold of RFA Sir Tristram are Ptes Paul Atkins, Paul Tranor, Stuart Breadmore and Darren Manning, LCpl Steve Brown RE, WO2 Dick Whittington, LCpl Chris Churchyard RE and Cpl Lee Dickinson RE

AS IT witnesses at first hand the effects of the drawdown in Germany, one particular United Kingdom-based unit has probably seen enough tanks, trucks and guns to last it a lifetime.

Several times a week, ships dock at Marchwood Military Port near Southampton to disgorge their cargoes of redundant Chieftain main battle tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

Gangs of plant operators and stevedores from 52 Port Squadron, part of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, beaver around the quayside, unloading vehicles and shipping containers filled with stores ranging from nuts and bolts to combat clothing and furniture.

The port's massive parking lots are soon covered by endless rows of FV432 APCs and Scimitar light tanks destined for scrap, storage or re-sale as the Army of the '90s re-equips. These giants saw service in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, shifting

insignia of 1 PWO which used them in Bosnia.

Marchwood is home port to the bulk of the Royal Logistic Corps' fleet as well as a number of Royal Fleet Auxiliary LSLs (Landing Ships Logistic).

The LSLs can carry up to 1,400 tonnes of general cargo. Responsibility for stowage lies with 52 Port Squadron's four troops: 425 and 427 are stevedore troops, 426 and 428 troops operate plant equipment, from fork lift trucks to cranes.

The squadron also has three massive 47-ton rough terrain cargo handlers for moving Iso containers. These giants saw service in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, shifting

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Terry Champion



Operations officer, Capt John Fenn heads a long line of Scimitar light tanks brought back from Germany. The squadron has unloaded hundreds of armoured vehicles to await sale, storage or the scrapyard

hundreds of containers to construct an "Iso City" holding 50,000 tonnes of ammunition, 12,000 vehicles, 6,000 Iso containers and 1.5m composite ration packs as part of HQ 5 Ordnance Group (Middle East), the squadron loaded 150 vehicles a day aboard cargo ships and Ro-Ro ferries, 2,500 tonnes of ammunition

United Kingdom. Given the immense task of recovering 50,000 tonnes of ammunition, 12,000 vehicles, 6,000 Iso containers and 1.5m composite ration packs as part of HQ 5 Ordnance Group (Middle East), the squadron loaded 150 vehicles a day aboard cargo ships and Ro-Ro ferries, 2,500 tonnes of ammunition

every four days, and 700 containers a month.

The squadron still has overseas commitments. It maintains a permanent roulement section in the Falkland Islands and has another working with the United Nations in the Croatian port of Split. Further detachments have been sent to South America to assist in the removal of equipment during the drawdown in Belize.

Current task for the squadron's port operators is loading vessels involved with the ACE Mobile Force's Exercise Arctic Express in Norway, and a major Royal Marines exercise in Scotland during March.

"We have warrant officers here who have spent two decades with 52 Port Squadron," he said. "There is obviously a lot more to the job than just humping heavy loads. Different types of cargo require different handling, and, while the British Army continues to train for, and take part in operations, the squadron has a vital role to perform."

Despite the end of the Cold War, there seems little chance of its workload diminishing.



The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Sir Tristram sits in her berth at Marchwood. This landing ship logistic can carry 1,400 tonnes of cargo

High drama hits REME expedition

WHEN REME soldiers gathered at SEME Bordon for the start of Exercise Kamet Quadrant, they could hardly have expected their Himalayan expedition would expose them to landslides, avalanches and a life-saving medical evacuation.

The expedition was a joint venture involving the REME and their counterparts from the Indian Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Led by Col Jatinder Kumar Bajaj, Indian Army, the expedition had three aims: to plant 50,000 saplings; to clear piles of refuse left rotting in areas popular with climbers and religious pilgrims; and to get soldiers to the summits of two mountains, Kedarnath (6,940m) and Kedardome (6,831m).

British Army team leader Capt Andy Syme had a narrow escape when a jeep in which he was travelling became trapped between two landslides. At one point the vehicle was nearly swept down a hillside to a river 500 metres below.

A following convoy carrying the remainder of the team and equipment negotiated further landslides before team members had to ferry stores and equipment over a 300-metre barrier of mud and boulders.

With the whole team and their equipment, plus 20 porters, crammed into just three trucks, the remainder of

the journey proved "quite scary", according to deputy leader, SSgt Mike Smith of 7 Battalion REME.

Two months before, an Indian environmental task force had set up a nursery and collection area at the expedition's logistic base at Dharali, where 50,000 saplings waited to be planted by the climbers.

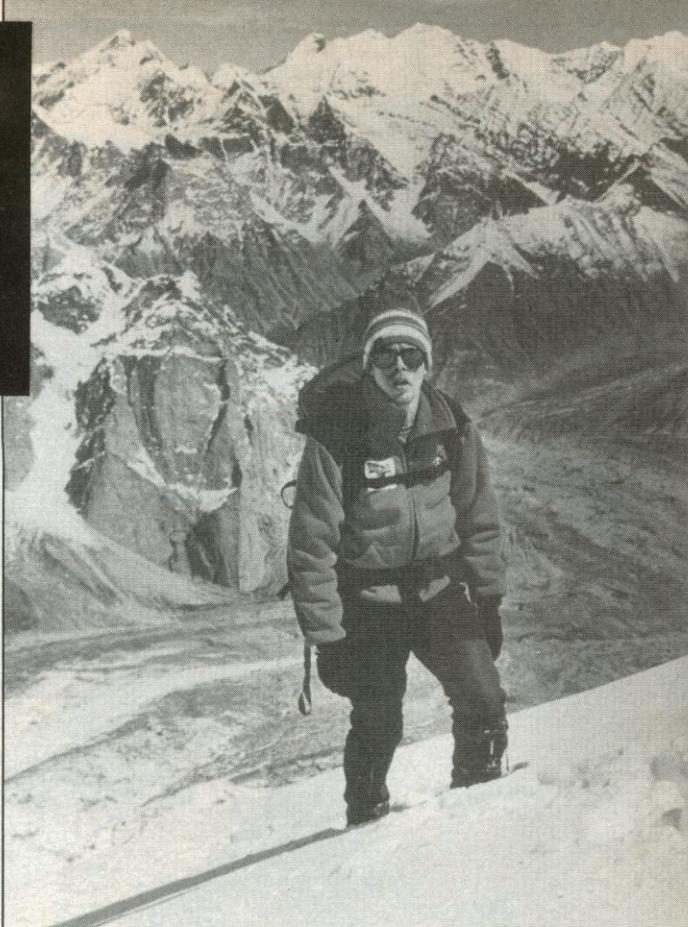
One of four areas chosen for rubbish clearance was the snout of the Gangotri glacier, known as Gaumukh, which has a special significance in Hindu mythology. It is the source of the Ganges, India's holiest river, and frequently visited by pilgrims.

Dozens of sacks of litter were cleared from the site.

During preparations for the ascent, two climbers, including expedition doctor, Territorial Army Capt Charles Sanderson RAMC(V), suffered acute mountain sickness and pulmonary oedema. Fortunately, Capt Sanderson was able to administer life-saving medication to LCpl Steve Bishop, 1 RRF LAD, before his own condition deteriorated.

Both men had to be evacuated to lower altitude. The doctor managed to climb down the mountain, but LCpl Bishop's plight caused concern.

He was strapped into a stretcher with an emergency oxygen supply. Eight porters and six climbers accompanied the stretcher, but their progress



SSgt Rick Coomber approaches Camp 2

was painstakingly slow. To add to the difficulties, the stretcher party arrived at the edge of the glacier as darkness fell.

Said SSgt Smith: "It took almost four hours to cross. Fortunately, Steve's condition showed signs of improvement, which was lucky as the second and last emergency oxygen bottle ran out half way across.

"At Gaumukh, we were met by a large group of Indian soldiers whose help had been enlisted. They picked up the stretcher and sprinted the remaining five kilometres.

"Steve soon recovered, but it was a short, sharp shock at how deadly altitude can be and how important it was to recognise the symptoms early."

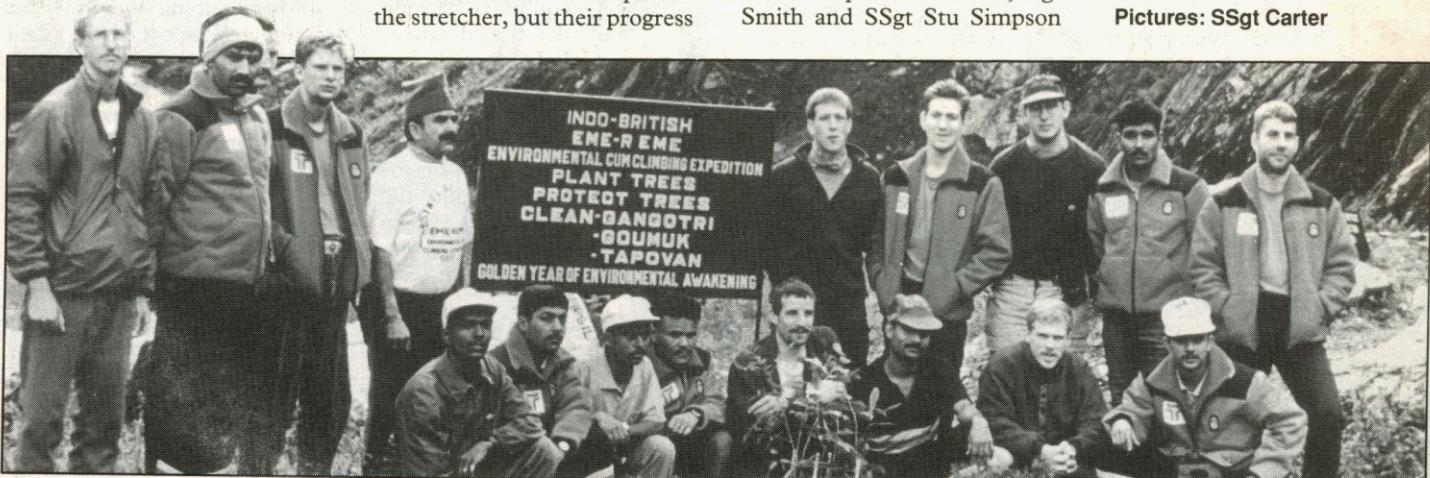
In a separate incident, Sgt Smith and SSgt Stu Simpson

had to negotiate their way past a vertical wall of moraine (glacier debris). As they did so boulders, some the size of cars, and rivers of mud, came crashing down and, helmetless, they had to run a dangerous gauntlet.

Bad weather prevented the expedition conquering Kedarnath, but a summit party led by SSgt Graham Carter APTC reached the top of Kedardome. In all, 21 climbers of both nationalities climbed to the top of the 6,831m peak.

Challenging and confrontational, Exercise Kamet Quadrant demonstrated why adventurous training is such a good character-building exercise for soldiers.

Pictures: SSgt Carter



Members of the UK team on Kamet Quadrant. Among those standing are WO1 Mark Kowalewski, Cpl Ian Shazell, Capt Andy Syme, SSgt Stuart Simpson while SSgt Mike Smith. Expedition doctor Capt Charles Sanderson, SSgt Rick Coomber, LCpl Steve Bishop and Cpl Duncan Brindley appear in the front row



LCpl Danny Downham directs drilling while LCpl Charlie Chapple in a Terex dozer clears the road approaching Prozor

Ripon sappers keep crucial routes open

KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD

SAPPERS keeping open the only main supply route through Bosnia are concerned at how it is standing up to a severe winter.

The 259 officers and men of 11 Field Squadron Group from 38 Engineer Regiment based at Ripon represent every sub-unit in the regiment.

There are complete troops from 15 and 32 Squadrons, major elements of HQ Squadron and some from 51 Squadron, which is preparing for a tour in the Falklands.

An augmented squadron operates in Vitez in direct support of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards Group; another in Tomislavgrad (TSG) primarily maintains route Triangle; and the echelon is based in Split with the resources elements.

At TSG the main base is a warehouse. A mountain troop is at Redoubt, at an altitude slightly higher than that of Ben Nevis.

There is a forward camp at Orasac near Ramsko lake. It gets its name, Church Pond, from the pond in front of the nearby village church. Plant is parked there overnight while sappers upgrade the last ten

kilometres of route Triangle.

A small cell administers the base, which houses a plant section, recovery vehicle and a troop of Light Dragoons for security.

Op Grapple sappers have a highly satisfying, if demanding, job. In the United Kingdom they are limited by resources but in Bosnia they have the kit and a real task, with their artisan skills really proving their worth.

The squadron is working its back off with a regiment's worth of plant, using equipment it would not normally operate.

Primary role of the United Nations forces is to create the

Words:
Gordon Skilling
Pictures:
Mike Weston

● Turn to next page

Knights of the road

• From Page 19

conditions to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered. For Britain's sappers, this means road construction and maintenance, and continuous maintenance of camps with support and essential services such as water, power and sewerage.

The road - from Split to Vitez - has the highest profile. After the worst November since 1911, the engineers have been hard at work. During a blizzard on Christmas Day they cleared snow all morning, broke off to eat a traditional Christmas lunch, then returned to the snow.

On one occasion they worked 36 hours on the road, and it is their proud boast that the road has never been closed by snow after eight in the morning, when the convoys are expected through.

If snow falls during the night, the sappers move it during the night.

Freeze-thaw conditions this winter have weakened the road. Water, freezes, expands and produces potholes. Layers of compacted snow and grit - which filters through the slush when there is a thaw - do not make the best foundation.

When the Mostar route, Gannet, was open last year relatively few UN Protection Force convoys made their way



Vehicles get filthy in the Bosnian mud: Spr Clive Dimmock cleans up at the wash-down point at TSG

over routes Triangle and Diamond to Vitez.

But since the Mostar route was closed by Bosnian Croats blowing up two strategic bridges, about 18 convoys pass up and down Triangle and Diamond every day.

Vehicles also move UNPROFOR stores, personnel on R and R, and roulement units, all of which give the road a hammering. It was not expected to take even before Nordic battalion Leopard 1 tanks crunched over it on the way north to Tuzla.

"I don't believe the road could have coped in the summer with the weight it is having to take this winter, and I predict the biggest problem will come in March when melting snow cascades off the mountains," said Maj Alan Macklin, the Force Engineer.

"Slush and ice frozen under the road will start to thaw, and that is when we will really earn our keep."

The route has been repaired and re-surfaced five times in the first half of the tour.

In addition, the sappers have looked at a new route - Monk - over the mountains north of Vitez to avoid fighting which has blocked route Packman from Vitez to Kisieljak.

But resources are stretched almost beyond limits, said Maj Macklin, and extra British support would be provided only after other avenues had been explored.

In addition to the British, UNPROFOR has French, Belgian and Slovak engineer resources. Former Warsaw Pact ferries provided by the Slovaks are being considered to bridge the Mostar gap which British engineers were originally asked to recce.

At the UN headquarters at Kisieljak, Maj Andy Wilson has an overview of the political frustrations as well as the practical considerations.

Normally 2iC of 35 Engineer Regiment in Hameln, he now works in the Engineering Branch of the Bosnia-Herzegovina command.

"We cannot use the good low-level routes which exist because they cross the lines of confrontation, so we have been restricted to two routes from the Adriatic: the main road Gannet through Mostar which was damaged in November, and the high-level route Triangle," he said.

The weight of traffic is therefore being borne by the British route, though Maj Wilson

has been considered to help the



LCpl Mark Grundy and radio operator Tpr Karl Lambie, probably the youngest British soldier in Bosnia, have an interested visitor from the Croat police post at the highest operational rebroadcast station in the world on the shoulders of Mt Vram on Route Triangle

To the Light Dragoons, it's a matter of 'understanding'

IT IS difficult making friends with people who point rocket launchers and Kalashnikovs at you, but the Light Dragoons based at Tomislavgrad have come to an understanding.

If HVO soldiers manning the checkpoint close the route to UNHCR convoys, then the Light Dragoons insist on closing the route to the HVO's mil-

itary traffic. "It is a massive British engineering effort to keep the road open, so if they do it to us, we do it to them," said the commander of C Squadron, The Light Dragoons, at Tomislavgrad, Maj Patrick Darling.

"At the moment relations couldn't be better," he added with a wry grin.

hoped that the Mostar route would soon ease traffic on Triangle. However, political difficulties were greater than the technical considerations.

"The water level of the river depends on who controls the sluice gates of the dam, but once there is political agreement and the water is high enough for the ramps, the capacity of the ferries will increase dramatically and convoys will be able to pass the difficult stretch in about 90 minutes," he said.

The weight of traffic is therefore being borne by the British route, though Maj Wilson



A Scimitar of the Light Dragoons escorts a convoy through a mountain village



Maj Patrick Darling, OC C Company, Light Dragoons

In fact, now the British and HVO police share the same checkpoint.

The squadron expected to be moved to Srebrenica to

relieve Canadian troops and was disappointed when this was vetoed by the Serbians. Most of the squadron's assets are based at Tomislavgrad, but two troops operate a monthly exchange with 24 men from the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

The task at Tomislavgrad is perhaps more varied than that

flow of aid. A bypass round Prozor is under consideration, and Scimitars of the Light Dragoons have been nosing around the hinterland to see if a route is feasible which will bypass the confrontation in Gornji Vakuf.

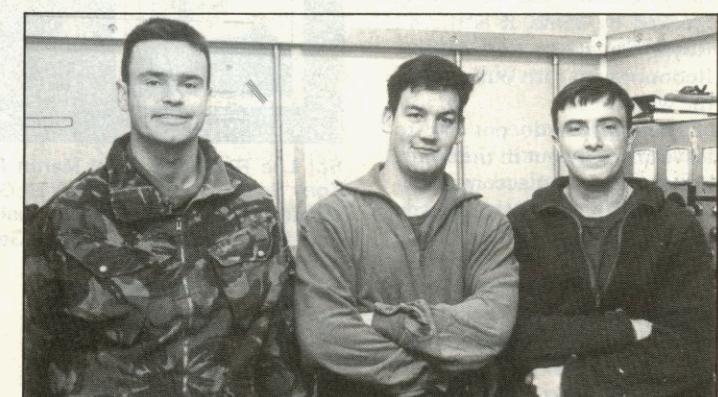
Serbians and Bosnian Serbs are notoriously intransigent in allowing vehicles to pass through their lines but with negotiation it may be possible to move from TSG via Kupres to Travnik.

The Commander of the British Force, Brig John Reith, is also confident that negotia-

tions will allow aid convoys to resume past Vitez as they now do past Gornji Vakuf.

Route Monk, bypassing Vitez, is not in his equation because it would be a massive engineering task to provide a road suitable for articulated lorries.

Whatever is required, the British sappers will be in the thick of it, deriving tremendous job satisfaction from delivering a product which they can see is benefiting the humanitarian aid effort to a population which desperately needs their help.



LCpl Steve Brown, Cpl Gus Ryrie and Spr Ian Jones of 11 Fd Sqn detachment at Gornji Vakuf provide water maintenance and up to 300 kw of electric power for the camp

Their tasks are traffic control on the only semi-reliable supply route into central Bosnia, monitoring no-fly areas and the front lines, and carrying out route recce.

There has been scope for reconnaissance of possible new routes which could be used if political agreement is reached.

• Turn to Page 23

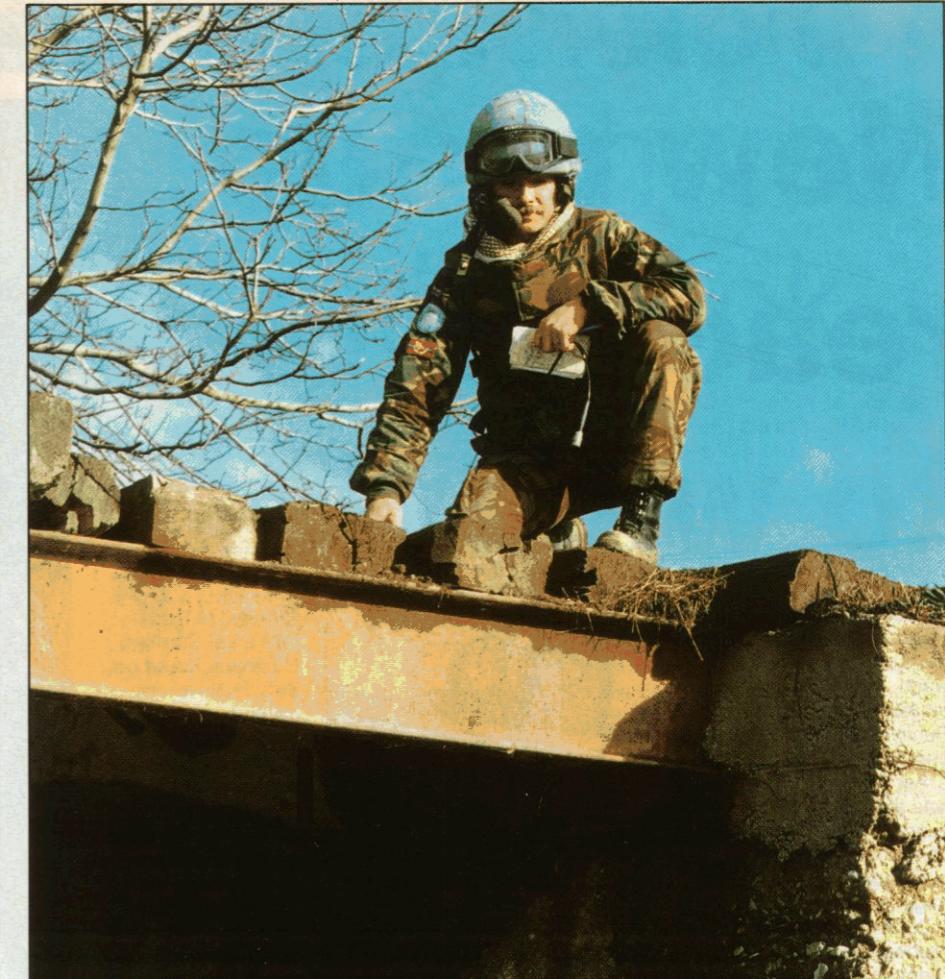
OP GRAPPLE



SSgt Si Garner, LCpl Phil Nickels and Cfn Iain Finlayson recce the new temporary Monk route to bypass fighting in Vitez



The Volvo snow blower is a vital asset for Cpl Paddy Dinsmore and Spr Nick Jacobs clearing the route



Redoubtable sappers build for the future

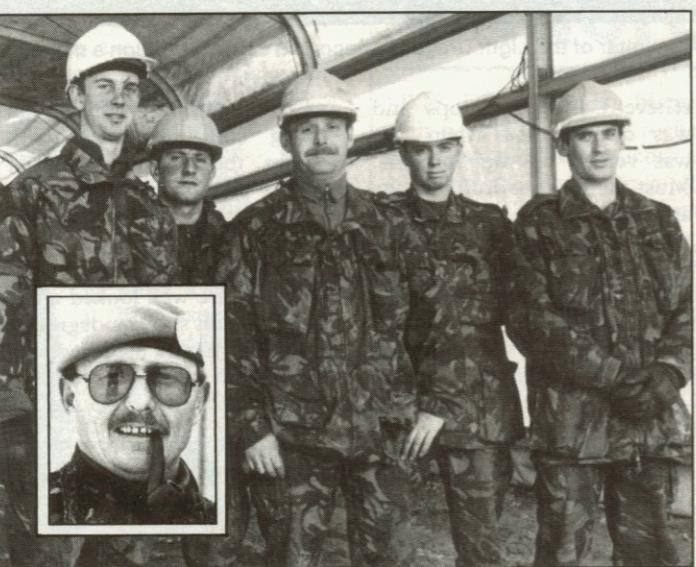
A NIGHT on the "Bear Mountain" is not recommended by Military Plant Foreman WO2 Colin Gears. As well as bears and wild boar, there are wolves which carry out recce's on the solitary Scimitars of the Light Dragoons.

As the Force Engineer's adviser on roads, WO2 Gears is based at Mountain Troop in Redoubt.

He is more interested in the human life flowing along route Triangle, and when convoys carrying vital aid are being blocked by snow, it is the 42 Royal Engineers at remote Redoubt who turn out to clear the way.

The sappers do not like to leave anybody out in the wilds, but they have no accommodation to offer. No help is given to the military vehicles of the Bosnian Croat army. They are pushed to the side and left to their own devices.

Mountain Troop, which has two plant sections, a REME section and a Combat Engineering Section which doubles as a drilling team, is concentrating on widening the last dif-



Spr Lee Robinson, LCpl Martin Donohoe, Cpl Mick Hughes, Spr Tony Smith and LCpl Wayne McGregor in the GPMA shelter being erected at Redoubt by the Combat Engineering Section. Inset - Military Plant Foreman WO2 Colin Gears

ficult stretch up to the Varvara quarry, where convoy personnel have to don flak jackets and helmets before moving towards Prozor and the confrontation areas.

Part of the work involves using WO2 Gears's blasting

skills. He attended a civilian blast design course and demonstrated his skill in this exact science by detonating half a ton of explosive in 120 holes 100m from a house without rattling its windows.

As well as route widening,



the Redoubt sappers are looking to the future by trying to establish a permanent drainage system on which any Grapple 4 successors can build.

• The Church Pond detachment deployed at Orasac has a permanent staff comprising a sergeant, corporal, chef, fitter, medic and two signallers. They run what is known as "Hotel Orasac", home to half a dozen plant

operators, two Royal Military Policemen and a guard force of a dozen from the Light Dragoons.

They have created accommodation for 100 people, but only after nauseating work clearing and disinfecting a school building where chemical toilets had rotted the floors.

A stream flowing past the school is contaminated by livestock round the pond, so feet

have to be disinfected and hands washed after the mud has been cleaned off boots.

Mud around the "hotel" is up to 2m deep in places. In the absence of the sergeant, Cpl Iain Turner, as "hotel manager", became known as Cpl Fawley. He nearly disappeared into the waist-deep mud, and had to be dug out by the sappers. He was retrieved safely, but not his valuable wellies.

The countryside is particularly well-suited to work by Scimitars, which can cope with hills in a way Warrior cannot, said Maj Darling.

In addition to the Dragoons, Tomislavgrad is the base for a

Above - SSgt Si Garner checks if a bridge on the temporary route Monk can stand the strain of heavy aid vehicles bypassing the fighting round Vitez

Left - Staff at Church Pond's Hotel Orasac are Pte Jon Boswell, cook; Spr Martin Davis, Cpl Iain Turner, LCpl Andy Ashworth (12 Armd Fd Amb) and LCpl Brent Batley, fitter

Dragoons

• From Page 21

The squadron comprises 101 Dragoons with five extra support personnel attached. Its 16 Scimitars and four Spartans are split into four troops of three Scimitars and one Spartan, and one troop of four Scimitars. This gives a passenger-carrying capability, for extra medics and interpreters for example.

It is an exciting time for probably the youngest British soldier in Bosnia, Tpr Karl Lambie, who will be 18 in March. He joined the Army in September and is now a driver with HQ Squadron, LD.

He is one of the crew of a relay broadcast station which the squadron deploys to help communications over the mountain. With a 2,020m mountain in between, the relay stations are essential.

New group reaches out to widows

EARLIER this month the Federation of Army Widows took a giant step forward when it held its inaugural meeting at 5/8 Kings' Peninsula Barracks in War-rington.

For Mrs Jane Burrows it was the culmination of two years of soul-searching, careful planning and hard work born out of personal tragedy.

Jane became an Army widow when her husband, Stephen, a 30-year-old lance corporal serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment in Londonderry, was murdered by IRA terrorists in October 1990.

He and four Kingsmen died when a proxy bomb exploded at a checkpoint on the Buncrana Road on the outskirts of the city.

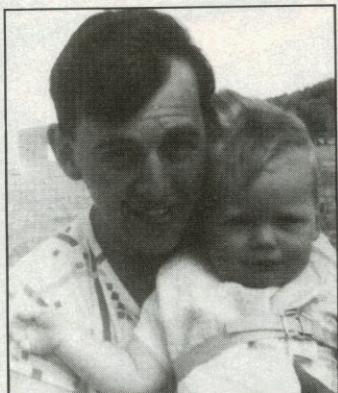
The couple's son, Mark, was three at the time.

"When you are newly widowed it is very difficult to understand what is happening to you," Jane recalls.

"In most cases, the new widow is moved as soon as possible to be near her parents, so leaving her friends and home behind.

"At the most traumatic time in her life she loses her friends, her home and her whole way of life within a few days, in some cases within a few hours.

"It is then that she most needs to talk to someone who has already been through the terrible ordeal, someone who can reassure her and tell her what is going to happen to her in



Clockwise from left: LCpl Stephen Burrows, killed on duty in Northern Ireland, with son Mark; Stephen's widow Jane speaking at the wives' conference at RMA Sandhurst; and Janet Cross and Kirsty Fryer, founder members with Jane of the Federation of Army Widows



the months ahead."

After Stephen's death, Jane desperately wanted to confide in someone who knew what she was going through. There wasn't any-

● Contact the Federation of Army Widows c/o Eclipse House, 2 School Road, Winsford, Cheshire.

Jane, the offer was taken up. That's how she met Janet Cross, whose husband, CSM Phil Cross, had died at the Musgrave.

Recognising there would be many others in the same sad situation, the two women decided to set up a sup-

port group. The result is the Federation of Army Widows, through which the bereaved can make contact with each other for

port group. The result is the Federation of Army Widows, through which the bereaved can make contact with each other for

To her surprise, says

IN WHAT is probably a first for the Army, WO2 Phil Holbrook of the Royal Artillery, a member of the resettlement staff of the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG), stationed at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, spent three days on attachment with West Lindsey

District Council. Phil (pictured right) went to learn about the skills and qualifications needed when applying for a post with a local authority, so that he will be better able to advise Service leavers in his unit. Under the guidance of the Lincolnshire Training

During his three days



emotional support and reassurance.

Kirsty Fryer was the third founder member.

Just 19 years old, married for less than a year and with a three-month-old baby, Kirsty lost her husband, LCpl Gary Fryer of Herford-based 7 Signal Regiment, when he died in an autobahn accident while escorting an aid convoy to Bosnia.

"She's been absolutely tremendous in contacting people and organising," said Jane.

The three of them launched the group last autumn and were given a public platform at the annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives (FAW) at RMA Sandhurst in December.

Strong support was given to their appeal for widows to be allowed to remain in Service quarters for up to a year, and the FAW later passed a resolution to include the

There are now 24 members and the number is increasing rapidly as the word spreads.

The Federation of Army Widows plans to apply to the Charities Commission for charity status.

and Enterprise Council, resettlement officers in the county are having the chance to visit local employers and gain first-hand knowledge of what these employers are looking for when they recruit staff.

During his three days

with West Lindsey District Council, Phil learned about clerical skills such as pay-roll and revenue systems. He studied the authority's client contractor role and visited workshops, the HGV and leisure and recreation departments.

Phil becomes a local authority!

local authority, so that he will be better able to advise Service leavers in his unit. Under the guidance of the Lincolnshire Training

During his three days

WANTED: YOUR DETAILS

APRE needs you!

As part of its on-going work, the Army Personnel Research Establishment is embarking on another survey of wives and the bigger the return the more accurate the picture.

We'll be talking more about it in a future edition of Counterpoint but, in the meantime, if you get a copy of a survey (and this applies to the men as well!) take a few minutes to fill it in.

Your views are carefully collated and the information is used by the Army's Directorate of Personnel.

And, if you're worried about being a little too frank in your responses – don't be.

Andrea Hampson and Sarah Smith, who took part in the programme recently, assure me that it's not possible to track down information about the respondents after the graphs are drawn up. All responses are handled in confidence.

HOUSING news first – the latest bulletin detailing the sale of surplus MQs under the discounted scheme is out.

As well as the properties available, there's a round-up of news from the Joint Service Housing Advice Office and a reminder about the Home Savings Scheme.

The scheme has been created by the MoD to give serving personnel better housing opportunities during their careers and when they leave. With a Services Home Saving Scheme (SHSS) account you save directly from your pay every month.

Once you have made at least 60 monthly payments and use your savings and

Cari Roberts



month. They are designed for couples who are newly married or about to be so.

The emphasis is on discussion among members of the group in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The Cot Death Helpline is in operation 24 hours a day. There will always be someone to listen, to ask about the baby and what happened, to give explanations where possible and offer information, advice and reassurance.

It may not be the parents who need to talk. It might be another member of the family who finds the situation overwhelming and the Helpline is there for them, too.

It's not the only service on offer from the Foundation – there are two excellent leaflets aimed at parents and at befrienders.

Befrienders are volunteers who have attended a Regional Befrienders Preparation Course and who have their work supervised by the Foundation. They visit families and let them talk.

The Befrienders can also liaise with the Foundation for information and professional help if parents ask for it.

One other aspect of the Foundation's work is CONI – Care Of Next Infant. CONI is a programme to be used by Health Authorities and NHS Trusts to develop a system of practical help and professional support for every family affected by a cot death with their next baby.

The Cot Death Helpline number is 071-235 1721. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week including public holidays. All you have to do is dial.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths is located at 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB.

Cot Death Helpline

ABOUT ten babies every week die unexpectedly and for no obvious reason. It

Home save scheme is well worth a look

the interest earned for the purchase of your home, the MoD will provide you with an additional amount known as the Home Savings Allowance.

The allowance must be used with your SHSS savings towards the purchase of your home.

If you have more than five years to serve and are not currently a home-owner it really is well worth looking into.

Side by Side at Bagshot

THE next series of Side by Side courses at Bagshot Park in Surrey starts this

RHF families have hearts of gold



Capt George Connelly, families' officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers at Oakington Barracks, presents a cheque for £1,000 to Mrs Charlotte Edwards, whose husband commands the battalion. The money, which has been given to the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (RSSPCC), was raised at a families' fun day and by raffling a holiday donated by the Services Travel Centre at Bognor Regis.

The Royal Highland Fusiliers are preparing to move to Fallingbostel, Germany, where they will take over from the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, in an armoured infantry role.

can happen to any family and the tragedy leaves parents feeling devastated and confused.

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths has been supporting families as well as offering advice and support since 1971. Now the organisation is offering a new service.

The Cot Death Helpline is in operation 24 hours a day. There will always be someone to listen, to ask about the baby and what happened, to give explanations where possible and offer information, advice and reassurance.

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• • •

You can write to Cari Roberts at Counterpoint, BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o SOLDIER.

Weaver's legacy leaves a mark of distinction

ENOUGH Gulf Medal ribbon to link Aldershot with High Wycombe has been produced by a British company which has been dressing soldiers since Waterloo.

More than 25 miles of the stuff has so far been woven in the factory of Toye, Kenning and Spencer, a Warwickshire company founded by a penniless Huguenot weaver who fled to London disguised as a cattle dealer to avoid Louis XIV's persecution of French protestants.

Guilliaume Henri Toye used his skills as a weaver of silk, velvet and gold and silver lace to establish a thriving business supplying uniforms, insignia and military accoutrements to the uniformed services. Today it is kept particularly busy by

the amalgamation of regiments and corps of the British Army.

One of its biggest orders involved supplying thousands of shoulder titles and rank badges to establish the identity of the largest single unit - the Royal Logistic Corps - which makes up 20 per cent of the Army's manpower.

Caps and headwear made by one of the company's factories include one of the most famous products supplied to the military sector: the ceremonial cap of the Guards - the traditional Bearskin.



Enid Brunskill is keeper of patterns at Toye, Kenning and Spencer

on horseback by the Household Cavalry on ceremonial occasions.

Toye, Kenning and Spencer holds a Royal Warrant for embroidery, a traditional art which has been part of the company's repertoire for more than 300 years. Embroiderers have been working on Royal Household State trumpet banners which each take four months to create by hand.

Another embroidery project under way is for two drapes for the great kettle drums carried

on horseback by the Household Cavalry on ceremonial occasions.

More than 50 per cent of the products manufactured by the company are exported, and Toye, Kenning and Spencer are seeking to exploit markets in eastern Europe, until recently a no-go area for British military suppliers.

It is seeking orders from former Warsaw Pact nations and allies, and has already sold uniform items to Mozambique following that country's decision to change its military rank system from the Soviet to British style.

A bank of clattering weaving machines is proof that ribbons form an important part of export output. Hundreds of miles of ribbons have been sold to America, where many Vietnam war heroes sport medal ribbons woven in the company's workshop at Bedworth near Coventry.

According to its records, Toye, Kenning and Spencer has yet to be stymied by an order. That is a rare claim considering the nature of some requests. Not an eyelid was batted when Madame Tussaud's asked for a ribbon for the ancient Chinese Order of the Chrysanthemum to replace the worn-out one on a wax effigy. Orders still come in for Waterloo, Trafalgar, Boer War and Indian Mutiny medal ribbons.

They present no more problem than the weaving of chequered cap bands for the police.

When the rifle became a

weapon of deadly accuracy, officers striding into action with gold-embroidered uni-

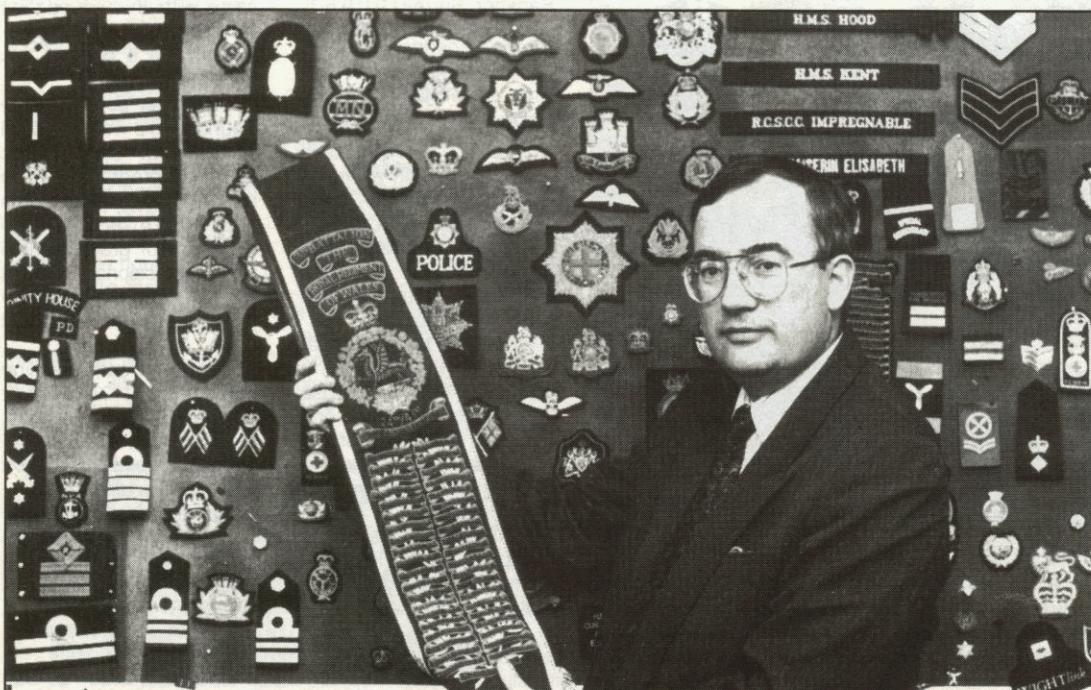
forms were picked off like sitting ducks. And so khaki was introduced. It saved the lives of countless soldiers, but brought

the company to the brink of financial ruin.

The day was saved by broadening production to include regalia for masonic lodges and friendly societies, as well as beautifully embroidered and hand-painted banners for the emergent trades unions.

The First World War also brought problems. Frederick Ernest Toye, grandson of the founder, volunteered for military service, as did most other eligible men, from executive to shop floor level. Many skilled women were diverted to munitions factories and other essential war work. It took three years after the Armistice to get the firm back on its feet.

To this day, the Services, social and sports clubs, corporations and official organisations throughout the world continue to express their identity through dress. Whether it is a badge and chain for a lord mayor, a button badge for a brewery, a T-shirt or a club tie, Toye, Kenning and Spencer have made it their business to create that identity.



Against a backdrop of international badges of rank, shoulder titles and cap titles, military sales manager, Steve Mills displays a goat major's sash that the company has made for The Royal Regiment of Wales



Mrs Pauline Smith sews delicate gold thread into ornate drum drapes for the Household Cavalry. She has worked 40 years at Toye, Kenning and Spencer



Wayne Burton operates a weaving machine producing thousands of yards of mine tape for the British Army

SOLDIER to Soldier

Welcome to the Lakes!

FIRST military users of Denton House, a new adventure training facility in the heart of the Lake District, were Chindit Company, 1 Kings Own Border, who spent a week developing their fitness and honing mountaineering skills.

Situated in Keswick, the year-round facility – which can accommodate up to 40 personnel and is fully self-catering – holds equipment for hillwalking, sailing, canoeing and climbing.

Enquiries to the Adjutant, 4 Kings Own Border (tel: Lancaster Mil (754) 8126 or 0524 843210).

Commission's work on show

AN EXHIBITION of photographs illustrating the work of the Commonwealth War Graves commission is on display at the National Army Museum, London.

Open until April 4, it depicts aspects of the Commission's work throughout the world. As part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the display focuses on cemeteries in Normandy.

Diary of tank guardsman

FORMER Grenadier Guardsman Dennis Kennedy has published a vivid account of the last five months of the war in Europe, based on his own wartime diary. The booklet details his fascinating experiences in Churchill tanks with the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards as part of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade.

He landed in France as a battle casualty replacement, took part in some ferocious tank battles and ended his war in Germany.

Constructed on the sites of Second World War OPs, many of the bunkers offer clear views across south and south-west England. They are expected to sell for prices ranging from a few hundred to many thousands of pounds.

Tigers in the wood

THERE may never be real tigers in the woods at Bagworth, Leicestershire, but the spirit of the Tigers will always be present.

Money raised by the Royal



Members of Chindit Coy, 1 Kings Own Border, outside Denton House, which was acquired by the regiment from Cumbria County Council

Tigers Association – the old comrades' association of the late Royal Leicestershire Regiment – has helped create a new 37-acre broadleaved wood for the National Forest at Bagworth.

"Royal Tigers Wood will be a perpetual and living memorial to 300 years of Leicestershire's county regiment and the men who served in it," said Maj Gen C B Pollard, president of the association, when he planted the first tree on January 29.

Tell us your D-Day story

CALLING all D-Day veterans ... what are your special memories of the great invasion?

SOLDIER invites recollections of June 6, 1944 to be considered for publication in a special anniversary feature this summer.

Contributions should be restricted to no more than 175 words, and should include your rank at the time and name of unit.

And put us in the picture . . .

DID you have a camera with you and on D-Day? Photographs taken on June 6 will be considered for our anniversary issue

advancing British and American soldiers is to be held in a 13th century chapel near Caen. Organiser Jacqueline Wurminger said troops carved their names and those of their units on walls and doors throughout the area. Others drew or painted badges or war scenes.

"For many years, we have been recording and photographing the wartime graffiti. Now, in this 50th anniversary year of the Battle of Normandy, we have decided to put our findings on show," she told SOLDIER.

The exhibition will be open every day from April 15 to September 15 at the Chapelle Saint Clair, Banneville-sur-Ajon, about 20 miles north of Caen. A small charge will raise funds to pay for the chapel's recent restoration.

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SEARCHLINE

● **HMLST 362 RASC survivors:** Clay Maxwell, secretary LST Club, 45 New Road, Water Orton, Birmingham B46 1QP (tel: 021-747 2418) wishes to hear from members of 463 Water Tank Company RASC, torpedoed aboard HMLST 362 in the Bay of Biscay on March 2, 1944, by U744. Survivors were picked up by HMS Rockwood, HMLSTs 324 and 413.

● **Ex-sapper postie Pat Heavey** is trying to trace posties he served with, in particular Bob Phipps and Freddy Campbell and those in 11 Armd Div Post Office, Herford 1952-53. Replies to son Graeme Heavey, 43 Thames Crescent, Corringham, Essex SS17 9DU.

● **Round family, 1 WFR, late BFPO 58:** Family friend Jason from Coleraine who visited at

DIARY

MAY

14-15: International Air Show, Middle Wallop.

21-23: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

28-30: Military Vehicle Trust D-Day 50th anniversary commemoration rally, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Details from Chris Pearce, 2 Locks Road, Locks Heath, Southampton SO3 6NT (tel: 0489 572582).

JUNE

1-2: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130 hours. Tickets £12, £10 and £3 (unreserved) from Household Division Funds Office, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (enclose sae).

11: Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, Colour trooped by 1 Gren Gds.

JULY

11-12: Guild of Aviation Artists annual exhibition, The Carisbrooke Gallery, 63 Seymour Street (behind Marble Arch), London W1. Entry forms and schedules from the Guild of Aviation Artists, The Bondway Business Centre, 71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ.

16-23: Nijmegen Marches, the Netherlands.

19-30: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (tickets available January 4 onwards from box office on 071-373 8141).

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

REUNIONS

● **Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron:** Annual dinner on March 17 at Officers' Mess, RAF Finningley will mark the 25th anniversary of the squadron's formation. Details from Squadron Adjutant, Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron, RAF Finningley, Doncaster, S Yorks DN9 3LQ (tel: 0302 770771 ext 7421).

● **R Signals TA, Eastbourne:** All ranks 25th anniversary reunion dinner, March 26. All past members of 858/859 Tps and 56 Sig Sqn (V) welcome. Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN2 7NL.

● **RAOC/REME Middle Easters Association:** Annual reunion lunch on April 9 at Oval Banqueting Suite, Kennington, SE11. Contact Charles Baxter, Secretary, 129 Benhill Road, London SE5 7LZ (tel: 071-703 5365).

● **1115-1115 Boys Battery:** Reunion to take place at Royal School of Artillery on April 15-17. Details from T C Holden, 3 Kilburn Street, Watershedding, Oldham, Lancs OL1 4JF (tel: 061-633 8194).

● **RASC Jersey Boys:** Gathering at Doncaster, April 22-24. Arrangements are being made for a reunion in Jersey in 1995 (May 6-13). Contact T/88196 Joe Guttridge, "New Horizon", 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806).

● **150th Regt RHA South Notts Hussars OCA:** Annual reunion dinner in the Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham, April 23. Details from Geoff Clarke on 0602 815711.

● **138th (City of London) Fd Regt RA Association:** Reunion on April 25 at Victory Services Club, London. Details from Frank

Flack, 2 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel: 081-570 5267). News from ex-members welcomed.

● **RAMC/RADC WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club:** The 1994 dinner and reunion is to be held on May 7 at the RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler RAMC, RAMC Trg Gp and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● **Second World War Air Forces RADAR reunion:** Blackpool, May 20-22. Details from Harry W G Jurd, 9 Chelmer Court, Basingstoke RG21 2DT (tel: 0256 25980).

● **201 RCZ Wksp REME(V):** 23rd joint mess reunion at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwick on May 21. Details from Maj R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

● **2 Troop, 9 Para Sqn RE:** Falklands reunion will be held on June 11. Details from SSgt Lilliecrapp, 1 Tp 9 Para Sqn RE, Rhine Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AZ (tel: 0252 349460).

● **High-speed wireless operators:** Ex-4th Wireless Group OWKs (Egham 1943-45) not on Ron Weldon's list are asked to contact Alan E Foot, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 1AN. Reunion planned for June 17.

● **Combined Ex-Services Association:** Annual reunion and conference weekend, June 17-19. The alternative D-Day celebration. Tickets £6 from Ticket Secretary, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington, E Yorks YO16 5RN.

● **Harrogate final reunion:** A reunion is planned for July 23 to mark the move of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate to Blandford in mid-1995. If you served, trained or instructed at Penny Pot Camp, Army Apprentices' School 1947-66, Army Apprentices' College 1966-93 or Uniacke Barracks, and have not already registered, send your details to SO2 Coord, Army Apprentices' College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate HG3 2SE by April 1.

MILITARIA

● **651 AOP Squadron, Fayid, Egypt (1950-52):** Researcher Sara Stanton wishes to contact squadron members who served in the Canal Zone. Replies to PO Box 694, Burtonsville, MD20866, USA (tel/fax: 301 890 7213).

APPOINTMENTS

Senior Appointments

LT GEN Sir Richard Swinburn KCB to be Commander UKLF from Jan 17, 1994.

Maj Gen A A Denison-Smith MBE to be GOC Southern District in the rank of lieutenant general from Feb 28 in succession to Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn KCB.

Maj Gen S C Grant to be Chief of Staff Headquarters BAOR/Headquarters United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) from Feb 14 in succession to Maj Gen A A Denison-Smith MBE.

Brig C G C Vyvyan CBE to be Chief of Staff Headquarters UKLF in the rank of major general from Feb 18 in succession to Maj Gen C M Gordon CBE.

Brig J M F C Hall OBE to be Director RAC in the rank of major general from Feb 21 in succession to Maj Gen R J Hayman-Joyce CBE.

Maj Gen R A Cordy-Simpson CB OBE to be GOC 1 (United Kingdom) Armoured Division from Feb 21 in succession to Maj Gen A A Denison-Smith MBE.

Brig N W F Richards OBE to be Chief Combat Support ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of major general from Feb 28 in succession to Maj Gen G S Hollands.

Brigadier – D G Sharp – To be Comd Avn HQ UKLF, Jan 19.

Colonels – C R Elderton – To MoD, Jan 17; R S Fox – To HQ

RAO, Jan 26; M F Gibson – To HQ Scotland/1 AFHQ, Jan 25.

L Cols – A G R Carroll RTR – To BMM SANG, Saudi Arabia, Jan 20; M J P Collins, R Signals – To BLT Kuwait, Jan 19; J G T Dewar PWRR – To HQ RAO, Jan 18; N R Drayton REME – To CO 102 Bn REME (V), Jan 21; R Elliott RLC – To UNHCR Zagreb, Jan 17; R T Hoole, R Signals – To MoD, Jan 17; P W L Hughes PWRR – To UK Del and Sp Unit AFCENT, Jan 17; K I F Lamb REME – To REME MRO, Jan 17; P R Searle RE (Svy) – To HQ RAO, Jan 18; A J N Simkins AAC – To HQ EDist, Jan 17; C E M Snagge RGJ – To Staff Coll, Jan 18; R E P Spencer AGC (ALS) – To HQ BFHK, Jan 18; R M

Thornely QRH – To Herford Garr, Jan 17.

A A B Booth REME – To TDT REME, Jan 24; G Meakin, R Signals – To MoD, Jan 24; K A Moules RLC – To CO 11 Ord Bn (EOD), Jan 24; C J Nicholls RA – To CO 26 Fd Regt, Jan 24; C B Smith-Rewse AAC – To HQ UKLF, Jan 24; C Stoddart RA – To CO RA Range Hebrides, Jan 24; C A Storey RLC – To MoD, Jan 24; I A Brazier RRF – To HQ ARRC, Jan 24.

RETIREMENTS

Colonel – A J Hawkes, late RADC, Jan 31.

Lt Col – C R Chowdhury RAMC, Jan 31.

LETTERS

Code 'seems catalogue of self-evident truisms'

I WAS surprised to read (January 10) that there is being issued a Standards and Discipline Paper, otherwise known as the "Conduct Code".

The code, as quoted in SOLDIER, seems to be a catalogue of self-evident truisms: for example, overindulging in alcohol is wrong, so are drug taking, dishonesty, bullying,

racial discrimination, sexual harassment, adultery and so on. So what is new?

"It is made clear," says the Adjutant General, "that standards of discipline are not just the responsibility of the Army Board and the senior officers of the chain of command, but of everyone in a position of responsibility."

Has this not always been so, and known to be so?

Commanding officers are instructed to "set aside time to explain the issues personally to their officers and senior NCOs in order that the message is understood". Do not commanding officers do this routinely?

While the code is, in the main, superfluous and inconsequential, there is one section which some will find offensive: "... while marriage between officer and other ranks is not prohibited, it inevitably causes

difficulties and is to be discouraged".

Whatever one's view on this matter, airing it in a magazine which is on open sale can only expose the Army to public ridicule.

I expect that commanding officers will politely take note of the code, and of the Adjutant General's comments, then set them aside and get on with their military duties, as they always have, honestly, conscientiously and competently. — Col (Retd) J P Sellers, Scarborough.

Let's set language standards

I HAVE just been watching a television programme about a failed leader in a national sport, whose failure was probably exacerbated by his lack of vocabulary, not least in his flow of repetitive gutter language.

Surely in the 1990s a prerequisite of leadership remains personal example.

I have become alarmed, too, at the lewd filth used in television programmes by those portraying NCOs and officers.

The best-trained troops ever, in my opinion, were those trained in 1942-45. We were taught to hate the enemy, yet as I recall — in my corps at least — the use of gutter language by an NCO or officer was regarded as a serious offence.

Now I cannot believe that discipline requires obscene language, neither do I accept, as a professional trainer of long experience in the construction industry, that the principles of systematic training need the use of violent language.

Those of us who have a high regard for the Army, who support it on all occasions, welcome the "Code of Conduct" statement on standards.

"The Journal is not only a means of cohesion and communication within the corps but also a source of research material for posterity."

I think this sums up perfectly what both SOLDIER and all regimental and corps journals should be aiming at.

After all, SOLDIER is now

the only magazine in its field, especially for anyone who is not a serving member of the Forces.

For the benefit of researchers, present and future, may I make a plea to all editors to ensure that a copy of their journal is sent to the

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BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"No, no, Wayne... I tell a lie. They're frogs' legs, not sardines!"

● UN trial threatens big breakfast — see Page 3

Historical importance of your magazine

National Army Museum Library as well as to the Army Central Records Office. It is a good idea to deposit one in your recruiting area's local public library too.

Remember, when your history comes to be written your journal will be among the most important sources of material if it is well maintained.

Unfortunately the recording of detail in regimental histories, quite a number of which have been prompted by the recent amalgamations, varies tremendously and I have been disappointed in several of them.

I would have thought that any worthwhile history would have had an appendix detailing the stations in which it had served during the period of the history concerned.

I am forced to the conclusion that there are some regiments which don't know where they or their battalions have been over the years.

It would be useful to have the comments of readers on how they view the importance of the travels of their regiment, battalion and so on. — Ken Goodson, Lincoln.

No room for index

MANY thanks for reviewing my recent book, *The Black Bull: From Normandy to the Baltic with the 11th Armoured Division*, which sold out in eight weeks and is now in its second edition.

The reviewer referred to the lack of index and glossary. With 252 pages of text and photos, there was simply no room for an index.

As for a glossary, I would have thought 80 per cent of your readers are familiar with

basic Army terms and jargon, and certainly 95 per cent of those who actually bought the book.

The original divisional history of 1945 was called *Taurus Pursuant*, a Bull Ram-pant — hence that reference!

My book, *Churchill's Desert Rats*, which will be published in April (I was a troop commander with 3 RHA) has a four-page index, but no glossary. — Patrick Delaforce, Brighton, E Sussex.

CHELSEA'S NAUGHTY GIRLS WERE EXILED

I WAS interested to read your article "Dukies ready to welcome back girls" (October 4).

However, I must point out that the Duke of York's Royal Military School did not occupy the site now occupied by Chelsea Barracks in London.

The fine building that housed the original school entitled The Duke of York's Royal Military Asylum was erected on the King's Road, Chelsea under the direction of the Duke of York, for orphans of soldiers of the British Army in 1801.

The architect was John Sanders, who also built the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

It originally housed 700 boys and 300 girls. The girls were exiled to Southampton in 1826 "owing to the extremely naughty, not to say giddy conduct of the fair sex".

The boys moved to Dover in 1908 when the building was purchased by the War Office to house the County of London Territorial Force Association.

The original fine buildings remain to this day as the Duke of York's Headquarters and house the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Association for Greater London and eight Territorial Army units. — Brig P C Bowser, Secretary, TAVRA for Greater London, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.

Home units deserve a medal, too

I THINK Mr H V Cossons (Letters, January 24) is incorrect in saying that RAF ground crew, soldiers and RM gunners who served on Battle of Britain airfields in south-east England in 1940 are not entitled to the Defence Medal.

Provided they served in the UK for three years they were entitled to the medal.

Presumably most of these men and women either remained in England or went to non-operational areas overseas subject to, or closely threatened by, air attack, which also qualified them for the Defence Medal.

I thank Mr Cossons for his good wishes in my campaign to get a medal for the Suez Canal Zone Emergency veterans. — Col (Retd) Pip Newton, Staff College Museum, Camberley.

MSM rule rankles

AS A serving soldier with almost 28 years' service, can you inform me why a corporal cannot be awarded the Meritorious Service Medal? It seems only sergeants can. I think Queen's Regulations need amending, don't you? — T Martin, North Humberside.

● We are told that the MSM is not a medal that "comes up with the rations". Selected recipients have to be of the rank staff sergeant or above, and recommended by their commanding officer. Sorry. — Editor

FEATHERS TICKLER

CAN ANY reader explain how the custom of presenting a white feather to a non-combatant originated, and can anyone name the regiment which portrayed the British Army battalion in Alexander Korda's film "The Four Feathers"? — George Robinson, 36 Grove Street, Edinburgh EH3 8AZ.

Birdie's sequel: a life of adventure

THIRTY-six years a soldier and every one of them packed with adventure of one sort or another – Brig “Birdie” Smith could be described as a man who’s been there, seen it, done it.

In his latest book, *Wars Bring Scars*, an extremely apt title in his case and a sequel to *Even the Brave Falter*, which covered his life from 1942-45, he recalls his life and times with his beloved Gurkhas from the end of the war to 1968. And what times they were.

Certainly his years with the men from Nepal saw him involved in some hairy situations, which he describes in detail.

A flight in a Wessex helicopter over the Borneo jungle all but cost him his life when it crashed and toppled into a ravine in 1964.

Smart jungle surgery by a

young medic named Patrick Crawford, who later became a major general and retired from the Army last summer, saved his life.

As it was, Birdie lost his right arm and sustained some terrible injuries. That crash almost saw an end to his Army career, but when he recovered he talked his way past a medical board to return to Borneo and take command of a Gurkha battalion.

From then on he was wary of flying not only in helicopters but in Hercules, since he was on board one of the transports when it was forced to crash-land with a smashed undercarriage.

This warts-and-all autobiography is told, at times, with startling candour even to the extent of recalling the trauma he and his wife endured when one of their twin baby girls died

soon after birth. Other passages show black humour: he starts his story by telling of the time one of his Gurkha soldiers shot and killed a camp intruder.

At the inquiry Birdie asked the man: “Did you challenge him before you fired?” “No, Sir,” replied the man. Said Birdie to another officer: “Take him outside and educate him.”

When the man returned, Birdie said: “Now, did you challenge him before firing?” “Yes,” said the sentry, “but he couldn’t understand my Gurkali.” Apparently the intruder was a Greek. – JM

Wars Bring Scars by E D Smith. Published in paperback by R J Leach and Co, 73 Priory Grove, Ditton, Aylesford, Kent ME20 6BD (tel: 0622 791243), £6.95 (add 10% postage UK, 20% overseas surface, 40% overseas air).

VICTORIAN CAVALRY DREW ON EXPERIENCE

ANYTHING bearing the imprint of the National Army Museum is worthy of respect, as is *The Victorian Soldier*, a compilation of essays by 16 members and ex-members of the staff, all authorities in their several fields.

The coverage is wider than the title, for it spans the period 1816-1914, and deals with arms, dress, equipment, logistics and a great deal more.

While some of the 24 chapters read like university doctoral theses, they are none the worse for that, offering many little-known facets of the military scene when Britain was attaining the zenith of her imperial power.

For instance, who now has heard of the New Zealand Cross? A local equivalent of the VC, it was instituted by the colony’s governor in 1869 and awarded to 23 members of the Militia and Constabulary (including three loyal Maoris) who distinguished themselves in the Maori War of 1862-72.

It is one of the rarest gal-

lantry awards in the records of the NAM. The chapter on the VC proper lists well-known recipients, but oddly, omits notice of Gen Sir Sam Browne (he of the belt) who lost an arm and gained his award in the Indian Mutiny.

What on earth was the “Cavalry Sketching Board”? A chapter describes and illustrates it: a map board fitted with compass and clinometer, strapped to the bridle arm of a mounted officer so that as he trotted along on a recce he could take bearings and angles and sketch the landscape.

Unbelievably, this device was still being offered in 1916, price £1 12s 6d . . . “also suitable for use on bicycles”.

And military bicycling receives a chapter to itself. We learn that on the command “Prepare for Cavalry” the cyclists should dismount, fix bayonets, and turn their machines over with wheels spinning “as this both frightens horses and discomposes the aim of carbines”.

For instance, who now has heard of the New Zealand Cross? A local equivalent of the VC, it was instituted by the colony’s governor in 1869 and awarded to 23 members of the Militia and Constabulary (including three loyal Maoris) who distinguished themselves in the Maori War of 1862-72.

It is one of the rarest gal-

Today’s residents of Aldershot may be shocked to read that in the 1860s the burgeoning garrison town was “inhabited principally by publicans, brothel keepers, prostitutes, thieves” and the soldiers quartered there were thus exposed to “every temptation of vice”.

But there is much else that will be familiar to military historians: the development of machine guns and breech-loading artillery, the emergence of khaki Service Dress, and for good measure the hierarchy of the Indian Army, with a complete list of Commanders-in-Chief from 1813 to 1914 (“Victorian”?).

Copiously illustrated in colour and half-tone, this is a work that will repay study by serious students of the period and browsers. – JMB

The Victorian Soldier. Studies in the History of the British Army 1816-1914 edited by Marion Harding. National Army Museum, paperback, £16.95. Available by post from the Museum at £20.

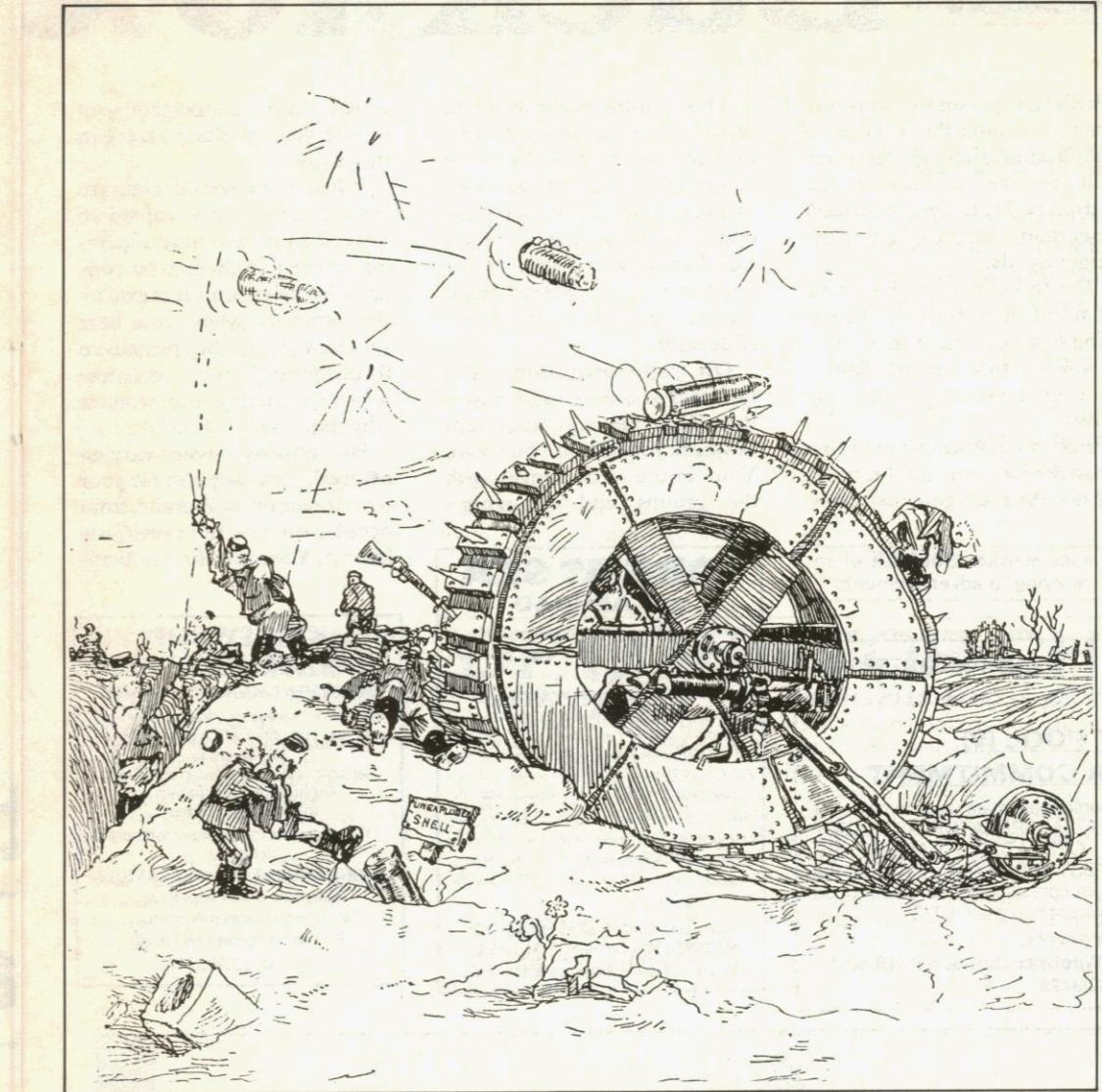
Trench journal raised a smile

DO any readers find the following at all amusing? A correspondent to the *Fifth Gloster Gazette*, a First World War trench journal, asks the editor: “Is it usual for officers to wear respirators when on foot inspections?” Replies the editor: “No, not usual, but often.”

How humour has changed. Maybe it raises a titter now, maybe not. But for a soldier in the 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment fighting in the mire of the trenches in 1915 it might have raised a wry smile. At the very least it would have helped boost morale a little.

That was why the *Fifth Gloster Gazette*, believed to be the first British trench journal, was launched – to encourage soldiers to submit jokes, cartoons, stories, poems and generally let off steam about their superiors and their lot.

The men of this famous outfit responded well and took full advantage to voice their thoughts. Although in this



“Why not make use of our Mobile Veterinary Section?” – a cheerfully ferocious war machine suggested to *The Fifth Gloster Gazette*

compilation of all 25 editions of the *Gazette* there are a few serious pieces, in the main it is all cheerful, upbeat stuff.

Living and fighting in those terrible conditions, the men turned to the *Gazette* for some vital, light relief.

The paper started as a

newsletter in April 1915 and ran until January 1919 when the 5th Glosters – a TA unit – returned home.

That signalled the end of the *Gazette* which, when it first appeared, was printed by a Frenchman who couldn’t speak English, working for an

editor who couldn’t speak French. That must have been amusing in itself. – JM

The Fifth Gloster Gazette 1915-1919 with an introduction by Christine Beresford and Christopher Newbould. Alan Sutton Publishing, paperback, £10.99.

Memories of a hard man from Dorset

ALTHOUGH his service with 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment dated from 1805-21, Sgt William Lawrence, who was illiterate, did not start dictating his reminiscences to a friend until 1857.

He died aged 80 in 1869, three years after *The Autobiography of Sgt William Lawrence* was first published.

What is surprising is the detail of names, places, dates, casualties and so on which he remembered without reference to diaries or notes.

Either Lawrence had a phe-

nomenal memory or, as is most probable, the “friend” who acted as his amanuensis also included editorial additions.

Eileen Hathaway, however, has now done an admirable job of editing the 1886 version, correcting some of the many factual errors and adding illuminating notes.

This has resulted in *A Dorset Soldier*, a fascinating account of Lawrence’s enlistment and service in the South American Expedition of 1806-7, the Peninsular War 1808-14, the aftermath of the Battle of New

Orleans 1814-15, and the Battle of Waterloo 1815.

As the 1886 edition finishes in 1821 on his discharge, Mrs Hathaway has reconstructed his remaining 48 years by some interesting research in the Dorsetshire archives.

She speculates that he might have been involved in a little smuggling which was rife on the Dorset coast near Studland, where he was landlord of the Wellington Inn until he retired in 1856.

Lawrence suffered all the hardships associated with

active service in the early 19th century, including 175 lashes (reduced from 400 when his CO thought he had had sufficient), hunger, cold, wet, heat, battles and numerous wounds.

His body became so hardened that when he was billeted on a French family in 1814 and provided with a feather bed “it was too soft for my hard bones and I lay on the floor and sank into a profound slumber”.

He had also become very battle-wise by the time he reached Waterloo.

“Some of the younger

Closing chapter for the Norfolks

IN *The Royal Norfolk Regiment 1951-1969*, fourth volume of a quartet, Bob Godfrey manages to tell the sad story of a famous county regiment’s last years and demise in a lively and readable way.

Unlike many who pen military histories, he writes in a bright style which carries the reader through.

Formed in 1685, the Royal Norfolks remained a Regular Army regiment until 1959. They struggled on as a TA unit for another ten years but the financial axe fell yet again, compelling them to amalgamate with the Suffolks to form The 1st East Anglian Regiment.

Godfrey’s descriptions of regimental events over 18 years are fascinating without being overloaded by trivia and detail. For a unit which must have guessed its years – if not its days – were numbered, there were memorable times in Korea, Hong Kong, Cyprus and BAOR, bringing a glorious past to an illustrious finish.

Just for the record, the Norfolks were the last unit to wear the Britannia capbadge. – JM

History of The Royal Norfolk Regiment 1951-1969 by Maj F A Godfrey. Published by The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association, Britannia Barracks, Norwich NR1 4HJ, £19.95.

recruits were very frightened at the thought of fighting, yet in battle it was often the timid ones who rushed forward and got killed first. Disciplined soldiers know better.”

As Mrs Hathaway rightly concludes: “Sgt William Lawrence’s story is all about survival.” – PSN

A Dorset Soldier. The Autobiography of Sgt William Lawrence 1790-1869, edited by Eileen Hathaway. Spellmount Ltd, 12 Deneway, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0NX, £16.95.



PHASE THREE
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D5

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seldom forgotten and, if you take this advice, it is never mentioned.

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● Turn to next page

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● From Page 35

because most civilian redundancies occur when a company has gone bust: even their last salary cheque bounces.

The word "redundancy" is bad ju-ju and should never be spoken. You just have to learn to live with it and not to notice it.

Financial advice. Redundancy is bad news and good news. The good news is the money. It is a mistake to think of it as a windfall. Now is not the time to upgrade your car, take a month's trip to the USA or install double glazing.

Redundancy money is *wages in advance*. You may need it simply to keep your life running.

What you do with it ultimately is your business alone, but you might canvas several advisers for their suggestions simply because you may not have known about some ideas they come up with.

Individual advice. The Royal Bank of Scotland (Holt's Branch) in Farnborough offers an individual counselling service. Lloyds Bank (Cox's and King's) Services Liaison Unit, PO Box 1190, 7 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5NA (071-389 5162/5163/5178), offers a write-in advice service that is

not available anywhere else.

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Group advice. If you would prefer non-individual advice, you should put yourself down for one-day financial briefings (such as "Financial Aspects of Resettlement"). Consult your Unit Resettlement Officer or clerk for dates from the Services Resettlement Booklets (SRBs). Applications on form MOD 363 to Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation (TSRO), 14 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 6EJ.

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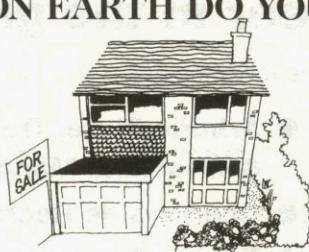
- **Familiarisation attachment** up to five days: Travel allowances as for educational courses. No subsistence allowance. Taken as part of a strategy to find out about civilian conditions within or outside your usual area of employment. Can also act as an excellent "secret" interview if done a couple of months before applying for a job. (Army: Manual of Army Education para 08227.)

- **20 working days or four weeks' resettlement training.** Travel and subsistence allowances apply. If you do a mixture of free and payment courses this allowance is reduced by £26.30 per day of free courses taken. The training may be taken in whole or in

● Turn to Page 38



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NORTHERN ROCK

Subject to status

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37

Back to civvies

From Page 36

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2 - MoD Sponsored Courses. Courses run commercially at colleges around the country. The student pays a fee and arranges his own accommodation.

3 - Civilian Attachment. The applicant attaches himself to a civilian firm or organisation without pay for a period of up to 20 working days.

4 - Individual Resettlement Preparation. The time is taken up writing CVs, letters of application

and sending off forms. Getting and attending interviews, usually from home. (No allowances apply.)

Repayment courses. Even though you have used up your entitlement there may be other courses at resettlement centres you wish to do. If there is a vacancy and you have the time you can purchase a place. Tuition costs £75 per week regardless of the course, and you need to fix up your own accommodation.

Applications are made direct to the Resettlement Centres operating the course from two weeks to a couple of hours before the course starts. (Aldershot Resettlement Centre is happy to deal with applications by 'phone and fax: Admin WO Aldershot Mil ext 3519, fax 0252 348579 or Aldershot Mil ext 3579).

Private help. If you need to reconsider seriously all of your life and career to date before deciding on a future course of action, the Open University, School of Education, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, runs an excellent tutor-

assisted course over about three months for less than £120: E530 Personal and Career Development.

If, on the other hand, you need only to organise yourself to find a new job, an excellent Jobsearchers personal training course is available at 20 per cent discount if you mention TSRO: "I Can Do That" (with discount £23.99 + £4.35 p&p) from Delta Management, Abthorpe, Northants NN12 8QT - Access/Visa (Tel: 0327 857374 or fax 0327 858483).

STOP PRESS: Last-minute vacancies on Resettlement Courses are being offered at discount prices to:

- Service leavers who have used their 20 days' resettlement training period and can obtain leave from their unit;

- Service leavers not normally eligible (those with less than five years' service), provided they can obtain leave from their unit;

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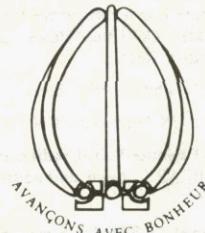
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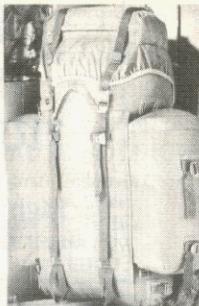
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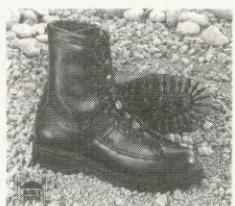
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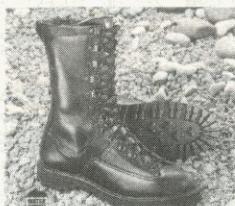
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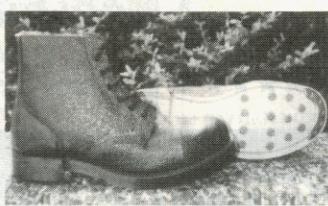
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A pen pal advertisement costs £11.75. Send your details (maximum 30 words) and a cheque or postal order for £11.75, payable to "Soldier", to the address below. The advertisement will appear in the first available issue and all replies will be forwarded.

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

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

Fit, but feminine farmer, 38. Independent type, bored with trying to make intelligent conversation with her sheep. Seeks more interesting correspondents at home or abroad. Could this be you? **P843**

Hi! We're two semi-divorced girls aged 25, looking for two hunky squaddies aged 25-35 to write to. Good sense of humour essential. No train spotters please. Photos appreciated. **P844**

Hi, I'm Mike, 25, 5'8", UK based, live in Sussex, own house, bike, car. If you like having fun, and bikes, please write. Photo if possible. **P845**

Gill, 25. My hobbies include writing, running, weight training, aerobics, St John Ambulance, vegetarian food, concerts, Liverpool FC and music including Shamen. I'd like male pen pals 18+, all letters answered. **P846**

My name is Martine, I'm 22, 5'7" and live in Basingstoke. My hobbies are the cinema, writing and receiving letters and looking after my young daughter. I'm a lone parent. **P847**

Single female, 38, two sons. Seeks like-minded pen pal. Good laugh, good letters, varied interests. Photo appreciated but not essential. All replies answered. **P848**

Hello, my name is Vicki. I'm 23 and have a boring office job. I enjoy reading, listening to music, pubs and clubs. I'll write to anyone, anywhere - photo appreciated. **P849**

Hi, I'm Wendy. Would anyone like to write to me? I love to dance and socialise at night, but by day I'm a bored single mother. Fancy cheering me up? **P850**

Single parent, 5'1", blue eyes, brown hair. Loves cooking, TV and outdoor activities. Seeks a lonely soldier as a pen pal. Photo please. **P851**

Linda, 38, dark hair and hazel eyes, non-smoker. Would like to hear from any sincere, unattached forces male aged 30+. **P852**

Calling Mr Nice-Guy, where are you? Attractive, divorced lady, 41, looking for a nice man of similar age. If interested please write. Photo if possible, but not essential. **P853**

I'm Alison, 23 and work as a security guard. I'd love to hear from a soldier pen pal aged 23-30 serving home or abroad. Please write. **P854**

Single mum, 33, with 20-month-old son. 5'6", fairish hair, blue eyes, good looking. Own home and very supportive family. I'd love pen pals anywhere, all letters answered. **P855**

Samson required for Delilah, aged 28+. Blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'2". Hobbies: reading, dancing, drinking. I've got a zany sense of humour. If possible please send photo for dart board. **P856**

Pamela, 36, 5'7" tall, very slim, red hair, green eyes, divorced. Hobbies: step aerobics, swimming, music including U2, Simple Minds, INXS. I love dancing and meeting people, gosh. **P857**

Tall, attractive, brunette would love a soldier pen friend. I am a 38-year-old female, divorced, one child and have a hectic job. Hobbies are gardening, martial arts, horseriding and walking. **P858**

Very attractive slim, brunette, female, 27, 5'2". Seeks good looking soldier pen friend of similar age who is fit, reliable and sincere. Photo much appreciated. **P859**

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(Cheques to Soldier).

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Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer badges, medals, insignia. Send £1 for list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorks YO14 9HV. 21/94

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Jigsaws made from your colour/bw photo. 40 pieces A4 size £9 or 80 pieces A3 £11 each. Cheque/PO with picture to: Robert Peart, 2 Quakers Way, Guildford GU3 3NF. Special rates for bulk orders for unit welfare/museums etc. 04/94

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CHARITY COMMISSION

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Scheme for the amendment of previous scheme

Ref: RLB-227006 A/3-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: RLB-227006 A/3-SC) at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL and may be seen at the DLI Museum, Aykley Heads, Durham. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today.

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Jigsaws made from your colour/bw photo. 40 pieces A4 size £9 or 80 pieces A3 £11 each. Cheque/PO with picture to: Robert Peart, 2 Quakers Way, Guildford GU3 3NF. Special rates for bulk orders for unit welfare/museums etc. 04/94

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JANUARY 22, 1994

37-way tie for first prize (12 goals, £121.62 each): Sgt T Barnes, ACIO Newcastle upon Tyne; Capt C W Brown, 16 Regt RA, BFPO 20; Cpl I Britnell, 4 Regt RA, BFPO 36; Sgt C Burnsall, BMH Iserlohn, BFPO 24; Lt Col S J S Cameron, 70 Ac Wksp REME, Middle Wallop; Cfn D J Corsar, 1 D & D, BFPO 103; LCpl S Dodsworth, 22 Fd Hsps, Aldershot; Sgt D R Falconer, 5 Airborne Bde Log Bn, Aldershot; Pte A J Freeman, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 17; Lt Col J H Gibbon, 17 Regt RA and Depot, Woolwich; WO2 W J Graydon, 4 R Irish, BFPO 813; Maj A Hayward, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; SSgt R P Hodgkinson, 1 MI Bn, BFPO 140; Sgt D Holland, 9/12 L, BFPO 15; Sgt C M Lewis, 29 Regt RLC, Cirencester; WO1 J F MacAlpine, UK Force Arty AMFL(L), Larkhill; SSgt T B Maddison, 1 D and D, BFPO 103; Capt R Marsh, COD Bicester; WO2 S McHale, 125 Rat Sqn, RLC (V), Glasgow; Sgt E M McLaren, 15 Fd Wksp, Catterick; WO2 C N Murray, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Sgt P C Newson, 10 Regt RLC, Colchester; Capt D Quinn, 3 RSME Regt, Blackwater; Cpl C A Reeves, 170 Pnr Sqn RLC, BFPO 39; Sgt N

Richardson, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 39; Maj S R Roberts, JDSC, Warminster; Cpl B D Saunders, HQBF Hong Kong, BFPO 1; Sgt D L Sawford, 39 Regt RA, BFPO 16; Cpl C Shepherd, 1 Staffords, Chester; Pte D Thomas, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Maj P M Turrell, OSU, Liphook; Cpl D S Varley, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Sgt M Whitfield, ACIO Sunderland; Sgt G C Wilkie, ITB Catterick; WO1 J C Williams, BFPO 825; Capt M L Woollard, 1 DWR, Bulford; Cpl P W Wright, 2 RTR, BFPO 38.

JANUARY 29, 1994

First prize (15 goals, £2,000): WO1 B W G Gates, HQ Eastern District, York.

Ten-way tie for second prize (14 goals, £250 each): LCpl D Blackett, 1 WFR, Tidworth; Pte J V Flynn, 1 DERR, Catterick; Pte M H Hanna, HQ 7 Armd Bde, BFPO 30; WO2 P J Leebody, 1 GS Regt, RLC, BFPO 47; Maj C S T Lehmann, 1 DWR, Bulford; LCpl F J Lanning, 24 Airmobile Bde C55 Bn, Colchester; Pte J T Moran, JATE, RAF Brize Norton; Cpl A P Noble, 29 Regt RLC, Cirencester; WO2 P W Stockil, 100 Regt RA (V), London; LCpl P M Unsworth, 13 Sig Regt (Radio) BFPO 42.

Music

Drum Major - Ex-military required to assist with training Corps of Drums. Remuneration dependent upon level of involvement - approx 1 hour per week anticipated. Apply to Officer Commanding, Skinners School CCF, Tunbridge Wells. Tel: 0892 520732. 04-05

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Sappers' title

From Page 48

ahead of 1 GS Regt RLC and 2 RTR.

The last finishers took more than seven hours to complete the toughest patrol race anyone could remember.

It involved 32km of skiing, walking, climbing, shooting and command tasks. The 4 AFA team commendably jeopardised their own performance by stopping to treat a member of the 2 RTR team who was in some distress.

Gold went to 35 Engr and silver to 1 GS Regt RLC, whose trio of Lt Jamie Clarke, SSgt Chris Knight and Cpl Steven Hutchinson made it a clean sweep in the Alpine events.

Newly designated 1 (UK) ADSR from Herford achieved second places in the 4 x 10km relay, team giant slalom and team slalom.

Noteworthy performances were turned in by SSgt Andy Brown and Sig Stephen Massey, third respectively in the individual giant slalom and downhill.

The Queen's Royal Hussars performed consistently to finish third overall in the divisional championships. They also became RAC combined Alpine and Nordic champions, and took the bronze in the divisional Alpine combination. Capt Mike Johnston, the Army Alpine captain, narrowly failed to win a medal.

BAOR other unit champions and winners of the Norfolk Cup were 1 Gordons, followed by The Light Dragoons and 39 Regt RA.

Other notable individual performances came from Tpr Mark Rayner of 2 RTR who became 10km novice champion, while Bdr John Read (12 Regt RA) took the gold medal in the 15km individual. In an exciting race, Read beat LCpl Palmer of 28 Engr Regt, who himself narrowly failed to qualify for the British Olympic team.

In the Alpine, Lt Peter Cooper (1 Regt AAC), took gold medals in the Other Units individual slalom, individual giant slalom, downhill and individual Alpine combination.

In all four categories he beat Capt Richard Detemeyer (LD) into second place.

However, strength in depth ensured that the positions were reversed in the team slalom, team giant slalom and team Alpine combination, with the Light Dragoons running out convincing winners.

The Army women's team had a fine championship in both Alpine and Nordic, showing many of the male competitors a clean pair of skis. Sgt Jude Shenton (ASPT) recorded a particularly satisfying result, taking the bronze medal in the individual slalom championship.

Wanted

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Army takes lead at ski international

AS THIS issue went to press British Army teams were in the lead in both men's and women's competitions of the British Services international ski championships at Tigne in France.

The Army women's team were first in the Courage-spon-

sored slalom, followed by the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

First four to score were Sgt Jude Shenton (ASPT), Capt Judy Palmer (AAC Harrogate), Capt Lisa Giles and Lt Julie Prentice. Also in the team were Lt Rachael Hunt, Lt

Tanya Dennison (1 GS Regt RLC) and Capt Liz Hyde.

The Army men also held off the RAF and Navy in the Portakabin-sponsored downhill, finishing third overall to the Italian and Russian teams. Scorers were Cpl Dave Crawford (1 ADSR), Lt Jamie

Clarke (1 GS Regt RLC), Lt Peter Cooper (AAC) and Sgt Andy Brown (1 ADSR).

Non-scorers were Capt Mike Johnston (REME), Capt John Crossley (9/12 L), Capt Arthur Daley (QRL), Sgt Geordie Dryden (QRH) and Sgt Les Pont (35 Engr Regt).

Downhill all the way for Div signals

WINNERS of the Alpine team combination Challenge Cup at the British Army ski championships at Serre Chevalier in France were Herford-based 1 (UK) Armd Div Sig Regt, with 1 GS Regt RLC second and the Queen's Royal Hussars third.

Sgt Jude Shenton (ASPT) won the women's individual Alpine combination title ahead of Capt Judy Palmer (AAC Harrogate), while Lt Peter Cooper (1 Regt AAC) regained the men's combination title from Lt Jamie Clarke (1 GS Regt RLC) who finished third. Cpl Dave Crawford (1 ADSR) was runner-up.

Individual women's honours were taken by Sgt Tina Edwards (ATR Winchester), Nordic champion, and SSgt Pauline Doran, novice Nordic champion. In the men's competitions, Pte Geary (2 R Anglian) won the junior novice title; Gnr Neimarlja (3 RHA) the senior novice; Spr Nadollek (35 Engr Regt) the junior title; and Bdr Read (12 Regt RA) the individual Nordic championship of the British Army.

A record 33 teams took part in the Nordic events at Les Saisies and produced the best standard of skiing seen for many years. Particularly encouraging was the presence of six Infantry teams.

The military combination title was retained by 2 RTR, ahead of 35 Engr Regt.

A technical infringement cost 1 GS Regt RLC victory in the Princess Marina Challenge Cup, which involves the four Alpine and four Nordic disciplines.

Going into the final patrol race, 1 ADSR and the RLC team were level on points, with the QRH four behind. Despite skiing the 30km course faster than the other teams, and shooting better, 1 GS Regt were disqualified and lost the coveted Marina to the signallers.

More than 40 teams and 350 competitors, the most ever



Picture: Roger Lorrie

SSgt Andy Brown, a member of the successful 1 (UK) ADSR Alpine team and an Army downhiller, in action

SAPPERS' TITLE

TWO TEAMS dominated the 1 (UK) Armoured Division ski championships at Les Contamines in the French Alps, 1 GS Regt RLC storming to victory in all five Alpine events while 35 Engr Regt dominated the Nordic competition, writes Paul Barnard.

Greater strength in depth allied to excellent individual performances earned the sappers the overall 1994 championship.

Boasting several British Nordic and British junior biathlon team members, they won all the Nordic team events

assembled, took part in ten days of thrilling competition in the Haute Savoie, a change of scenery for the event after 20 years at Galtur in Austria.

Led by Cpl Ed Nicoll, 35 Engr Regt were always going to be the team to beat, and were boosted by the return of their Alpine contingent who had been in Bosnia for the 1993 championships.

The Hameln-based sappers won the gold in the 4x7.5km biathlon relay. He will be representing Great Britain at the Junior World Cup.

The Hameln-based sappers won the gold in the 4x7.5km biathlon relay but finished second to an international-class French Army team. Pushed hard by the French guests, 35 Engr finished just

● Turn to Page 47



Gnr Dale Jefferies (7 RHA) attempts an outside break as the 2 Signal Regt defence moves across to block his path in the UK cup final

Airborne Gunners' reign goes on

7 RHA 11,
2 Sig Regt 0

THE HORSE Gunners continue to dominate Army Inter-Units rugby and were, in the end, worthy winners of the UK final played at Aldershot on January 26. The difference between the two teams lay in the 7 RHA pack's relative ability to secure tidy ball.

The much lighter signallers were under pressure from the start, being forced to scavenge wherever the gunners made mistakes. They in turn, principally through their Army front row and Lt Dave Dahinton, dominated the set play.

The signallers had a number of opportunities to go ahead in the early stages but for once Cpl Kevin Bowling failed to find his range and accuracy.

Cpl Howard Graham (7 RHA), who is well used to the

Pack power too much for county

Hampshire 16
The Army 30

A DETERMINED Army XV emerged as worthy winners in the annual match against Hampshire writes Roger Thompson.

For the first 20 minutes they systematically stretched the more "seasoned" county side before running in two well worked tries through Capt John Fenn (17 Port Regt) and Capt Gareth James (2 Sig Regt).

The pack, vigorously led by skipper Capt Julian Brammer (42 Svy RE), created a stream of quality possession as the Hampshire pack failed to

pressures of the big occasion, made fewer mistakes and the gunners' 6-0 advantage at half time was a fair reflection of the game.

Early in the second half the 7 RHA pack drove the ball down to the signallers' line where they sustained considerable pressure. As the black-shirted gunners rammed into the defence

match the power of the Army set play and their speed around a tacky Havant pitch.

However, over-elaboration on a scale seldom seen outside synchronised swimming squandered strong scoring possibilities, until Pte Leon White (PWRR) drove over close in.

With conversions by Cpl Howard Graham (7 RHA) and Cpl Kevin Bowling (7 Sig Regt) the Army led 19-0.

In the second half the backs were provided with effective balls from which Capt John Merritt (2 Sig Regt) and Cpl Kevin Bowling (2 Sig Regt) produced exciting but, all too

too frequently, solo runs.

From one such foray deep into the Hampshire territory Cpl Steve Bartliff (2 Sig Regt) finished off an excellent team effort by sweeping past his opposite winger to score a classic try near the right hand corner. Bowling kicked two penalties before, in the final minutes, Hampshire scored a consolation try.

This is a promising and relatively young side with many players new to the Army squad. It is rich in talent and has an impressive will to train hard under Lt Col Ken Lawson and Capts Graham Morgan and Bobby Mathews.

posts with the signals back row nowhere to be seen. Their opportunity had gone.

The experienced Steve Commander calmed his back division while he continued to turn the ball back towards his increasingly effective pack, either with huge touch kicks or by bringing in WO2 Martyn Lewis from the back row.

Bristol to stage first indoor climbing championships

THE FIRST ever Army sport climbing championships are to be held at Bristol on April 20. Indoor climbing is gaining in popularity and the Bristol venue is one of Britain's best.

Maj Richard Holt, Para, on

Tennis centre heralds new era

THE ARMY's new £570,000 indoor tennis centre at Aldershot came a step nearer reality on February 3 when the first turf was cut on a site near the Military Stadium in Princes Avenue.

Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, president of the Army Lawn Tennis Association, gave the signal for the diggers to move in and begin work on an ambitious project designed to lift the profile of the sport within the Service.

Built to international standards, the centre will boast four courts, conference and disabled facilities, a workshop, store, bar and lounge. It will replace the 21-year-old bubble tennis courts near Farnborough.

Col John Edwards, project officer, said: "The bubble is restrictive, noisy and downright primitive. You were always running into the sides trying to play shots, and the hard court stone surface was unforgiving on the feet.

"The Army Tennis Centre will be completely different with a delightful cushioned acrylic surface, generous space around the courts and fantastic viewing galleries. It will be a perfect venue for televised competitions."

Col Edwards believes tennis could become a major Army sport, played by all ranks and not confined, in the main, to officers.

The partnership with Hampshire LTA will mean the standard of tennis within the Army rising dramatically, he said.

Main driving force behind

Salisbury Mil 3915 (fax 3589) or 0722 433915 has the details.

The Army Mountaineering Association chose the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre at Ballachulish near Fort William in Scotland for its

annual New Year meeting.

Twenty-five AMA members, encouraged and advised by meet leader Capt Peter Ardwick RE and Capt Bill Manners RE and Flt Lt David Peel of the centre's permanent staff,

spent a week tackling a variety of climbs.

More information on the AMA can be obtained from the membership secretary c/o ASCB, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BG.

Soldiers match Sky Blues

**Coventry City 3,
The Army 3**

FRESH from fitness tests at Lilleshall, the Army fought out an exciting 3-3 draw with a Coventry City side made up mostly of youth team and YTS apprentices, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Pte Mike Lippiatt forced the City 'keeper into two good saves then put the Army ahead in the 19th minute when he pounced on the rebound after Sgt Steve Bates's thunderous drive from 30 yards had been parried.

The second half began with controversy when Army goalkeeper QMSI Nigel Wiscombe was harshly shown the red card for a hand-ball offence outside his area. Lippiatt donned the jersey, only to see SSgt Steve Davis score at the other end.

Coventry pulled one back before Davis scored his second and the Army's third after good work by LSgt Patsy Fagan.

In the last 15 minutes the young Sky Blues scored twice to earn a draw from a match which contained much good football.

**Royal Artillery 2,
Infantry 1**

DESPITE having to play most of the match with ten men after their left back was sent off, the Infantry were unlucky to lose to the Royal Artillery.

Gnr Lee Bluck opened the scoring early in the second half when he raced through with the Infantry defence apparently expecting an offside flag.

Pte Lee Bradbury (PWRR) equalised after sustained pressure but LBdr Mark Keller took advantage of a defensive error to score the winner for the gunners.



First service: Gen Sir Charles Guthrie and Brig Gael Ramsey signal the start of work on the new tennis centre

the scheme has been Aldershot Area Commander Brig Gael Ramsey. She explained: "Hampshire LTA is hoping to bear a third of our costs, and this means we can genuinely provide an international standard facility for everyone who enjoys the game, from top Army players and Hampshire county champions, to military or civilian personnel in Aldershot Garrison, and the general public who we hope will come from all over Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire."

Benbecula marathons

MARATHON runners get used to the wide open spaces, but they don't come wider or more open than the ranges on Benbecula, venue for a full and half marathon and fun run on June 18. Details from SSgt (SSI) Bettany, RA Ranges Hebrides, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland PA88 5LN (tel: 0870 602384 ext 4307).

STOP PRESS: Sgt Rod Finch won the men's race at the Army cross country championships at Longmoor, Hants, on February 2. Cpl Sarah Bradbury won the women's race. Full report in next issue.



Left – Pte Paul Treslove (1 Para) has his arm raised in victory after beating Mne Paul Murphy in the second round of their middleweight contest during the Army–Royal Navy boxing match at Aldershot. Below – Newcomer Pte Sven Hamer (2 PWRR) in action against LCpl Nick Harvey of the Royal Marines who retired in the third round. The Army won the match by nine bouts to three and are on course to win an 11th successive Inter-Services team championship.

Pictures: Mike Perring



Home move for globe-trotting signallers

Soldiers of 30 Signal Regiment mark their move from Dorset to Warwickshire by showing off the variety of uniforms and roles the regiment employs in providing strategic communications for British Forces deployed worldwide. From left to right (back row) are LCpl Amber Gurung (Gurkha No 2 dress); Sig Andrew Moloney (desert combats); Cpl Rulra Gaha (Gurkha piper); Sig John Worthington (No 2 dress); Sig Lynn Bell (UN beret); and (front) Sig Lee Lomax (combat dress with UN helmet); Sig Rai Jiwan (barrack dress).

The regiment recently moved from Blandford, its home for 33 years, to Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, near Nuneaton.

About 100 of its 550 personnel are currently deployed on overseas operations.

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