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- NBC and the need for risk
- New moves on Gulf syndrome



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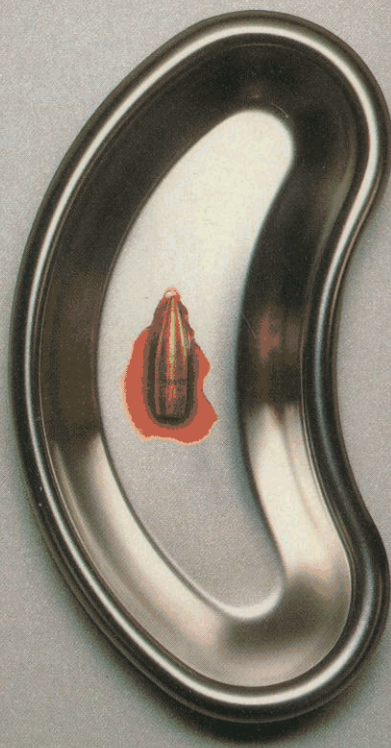
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March 6, 1995
Vol 51/5

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FRONT COVER: Main picture – Cpl Angie Wood bids farewell to her mount, Princess, after the last RMP Mounted Troop patrol of Aldershot. Angie is going to Germany, Princess to a former member of the troop. The troop will formally disband on April 1. See Page 5. (Picture: Chris Fletcher) Inset – NBC training at Winterbourne Gunner. See Pages 15-17. (Picture: Mike Perring).

● **NBC RISK:** For their troops be effective on the nuclear, biological and chemical battlefield, commanders have to take an acceptable risk. – Pages 15-17.

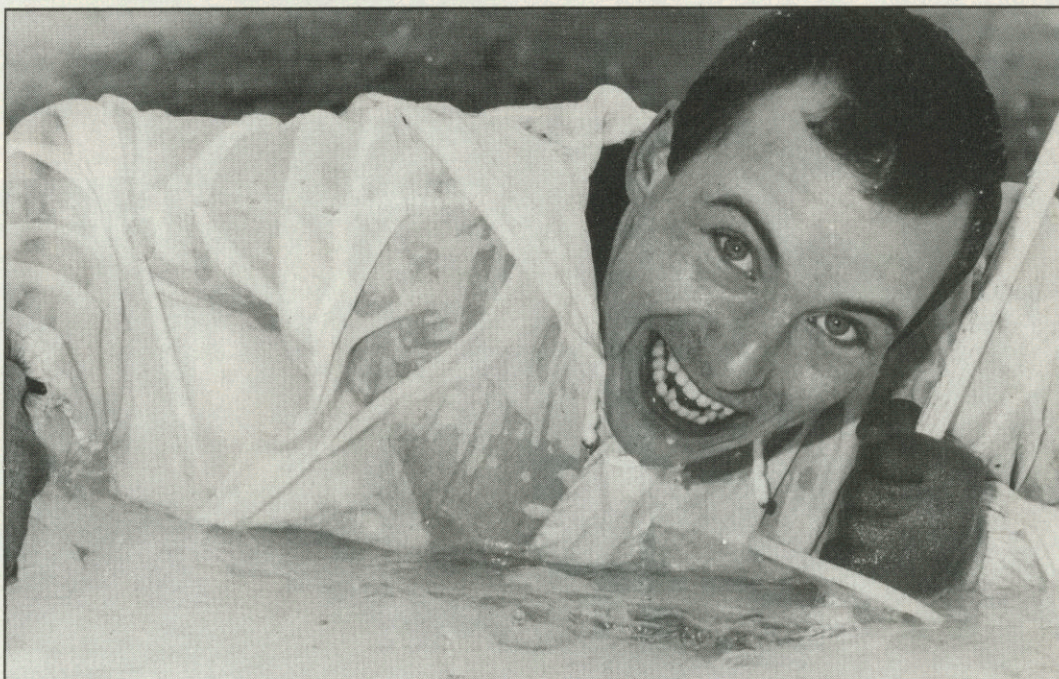
● **GOOD FOOD:** British Army chefs working at Tomislavgrad in Bosnia have earned a reputation for excellence, and with it a host of uninvited guests. – Pages 22.

● **AMMO DUMPING:** Our archive contains many stories of national significance. This was one of them. – Pages 24-25.

● **ARGENTINA:** The Household Division reaches roof of Americas. – Pages 26-27.

● **FAMILIES:** Meet an ex-soldier who shot to success in his business. – Pages 28-29.

Clive keeps his cool on Ex Hardfall



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Ice work, if you can get it . . . Rfn Clive Butcher of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, takes the plunge into a frozen lake during survival training in northern Norway. The battalion was training for Arctic warfare during the annual Exercise Hardfall. After honing individual Arctic skills, 2 RGJ were taking part in Exercise Strong Resolve, a full-scale NATO exercise involving a multi-

national force in the largest cold weather operation of the year.

The Greenjackets, normally based at Connaught Barracks in Dover, have endured temperatures as low as minus 25 degrees during their ten-week deployment in Norway. And Rfn Butcher's thoughts on his icy bath: "After ten seconds you realise just how cold it is. . ."

2.6%

From April 1

● Details in Pages 18-21

MARRIED quarters charges are to go up on April 1 by an average 7.4 per cent while the military salary for all ranks up to and including brigadier is to increase by an average of 2.6 per cent. Some top grades, subject to a different pay review, will receive rises averaging 3.2 per cent.

But the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, whose 1995 recommendations were accepted in full by the Government, believes the combined effect of their recommendations on pay and charges will result in an overall rise for all personnel.

Pay award to be made in full

The increase in MQ charges was foreshadowed in last year's AFPRB report. In a move to reduce the gap between civilian comparators and Service equivalents, officers' MQ charges, including water and sewerage, will go up by eight per cent, other ranks' by five per cent.

No increase in food charges was recommended.

Unlike the 1994 two-stage pay settlement, this year's

increase is to be met in full from April 1.

It ranges between 2.5 per cent and 2.9 per cent.

Army doctors and dentists are to be the subject of a separate report by the AFPRB.

While the rate of X-factor remains the same, length-of-service increments and London pay are increased in the new package, as are additional payments. Additional pay for parachute jumping instructors (PJI) is increased by 11 per cent (from £4.45 a day to £4.94), while reserve

● Turn to Page 5

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DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

SOLDIER celebrates a right royal birthday

ALMOST half a century has passed since Field Marshal Montgomery launched *Soldier* with his famous front-cover "good luck" message on March 19, 1945.

Our next, bumper issue will mark the 50th birthday of the magazine.

Back in May of 1945, issue No 5 featured a denim-clad teenage girl training to be a driver in the ATS. The golden jubilee edition of *Soldier*, cover-dated March 20, 1995, will

contain a message from that 18-year-old second subaltern – now Queen Elizabeth II.

Her words, containing special greetings for the magazine's worldwide readership, will take pride of place in an edition telling the fascinating story of how *Soldier* was born to serve the British Liberation Army in Europe – and survived to become the magazine for the British Army as a whole.

Coinciding with the 50th birthday, a free

exhibition on the history of *Soldier* will open at the National Army Museum, Chelsea on March 15 and last throughout the summer.

Meanwhile, *Soldier* has commissioned a limited reprint of its historic first edition, plus a book of postcards depicting some of the finest front cover designs from the 1950s and 1960s. Details of how to obtain these two collector's items are on Page 38.

Mounted troop trots into history

ONE HUNDRED and forty years of mounted military history came to an end in Aldershot last month when 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police held its last mounted duty parade in the town.

The troop was raised in Aldershot in 1855 when cavalry regiments were asked to provide "intelligent men of sober habits" to act as police-men.

Since then, British Army mounted military police have been active on operations and ceremonial around the world.

Accompanied by a mounted detachment of civil police, 12 horsemen and women, under command of Provost Marshal Lt Col John Nelson, took part in a farewell ceremony at Headquarters Southern District before parading through Aldershot for the last time.

A final farewell to the entire RMP Mounted Troop – axed as a result of the Defence Costs Study – was due to take place on March 5 during a disbandment parade at Chichester.



Lt Col John Nelson and Sgt Major Gerry Russell lead the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop into Aldershot for the last time before the unit is disbanded

Army Lynx in Bosnia

FOUR Lynx Mark 7 battle-field helicopters from 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps have arrived in Bosnia for service with the United Nations Protection Force.

The white-liveried helicopters were ferried from the unit's base at Dishforth, North Yorkshire on board RAF Hercules C130 transporters.

Ground crew and support staff, and more than 9,000lb of

field stores, were also flown to the region to establish a forward operating base.

And a convoy group of eight specialised heavy support vehicles travelled overland through Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia.

Two more Lynx and six Gazelles and their crews remain on standby at Dishforth.

Before their departure to

former Yugoslavia, 9 Regiment personnel made use of snowy conditions on Otterburn training area, Northumbria, to sharpen up their driving and military skills.

The aircraft will be based at Gornji Vakuf as part of an additional United Kingdom contribution to UNPROFOR. Nineteen more British officers have been sent to the region as military observers.

Pay settlement

● From Page 3

bands are to be introduced for personnel absent from PJI-related duties for three years.

Separation allowance is being uprated by 2.6 per cent.

New fifth-year bounties of £900 for Volunteer Reserve Forces and £1,010 for The Royal Irish Regiment Home

Service part-time force are to be paid for the training year completed on March 31, 1995. The remaining R Irish HSPT bounties are as recommended by the AFPRB last year, £385 for the first year, £685 for the second, £960 for the third.

The remaining TA bounties are £275, £575 and £850.

Who gets what

BRIGADIERS' pay goes up from £55,958 to £57,736 and that of colonels with eight years' service from £50,417 to £51,968.

▲ Majors with eight years get £34,323 (from £33,317); captains with six years £26,239 (from £25,473); and second lieutenants £13,352 (from £12,990).

▲ Sergeants on £16,297 will receive £16,766; corporals on £13,782 will get £14,164. Pri-

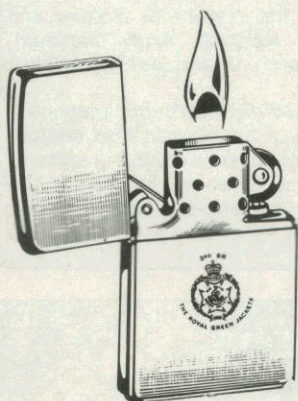
vates currently earning £9,220 will get an extra £256, taking their basic annual pay to £9,476.

▲ Pay of the most senior ranks is determined by the Senior Salaries Review Board. Top grades will receive rises of between 2.5 and 3.8 per cent.

▲ Under the 1995 award, field marshals will receive £121,130 (from £118,179) and generals £97,430 (from £95,051).

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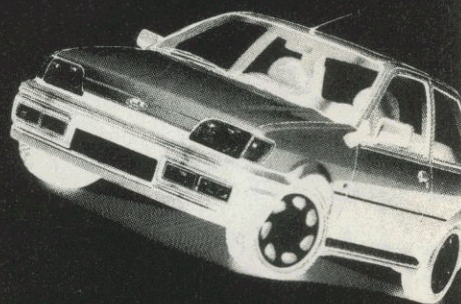
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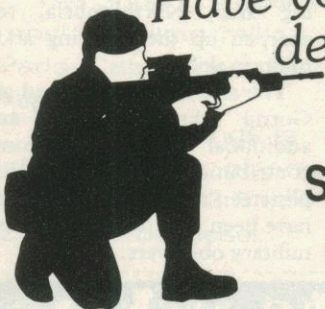
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Special Sword of Peace to be awarded

WILKINSON Sword has announced a special award to mark the increase in humanitarian operations by British Armed Forces around the world. Its new Sword of Peace

is for special operations which make the most valuable contribution to good relations with a community at home or abroad.

Joint Service units and sub-units or operational groupings

up to battalion or equivalent size may put themselves forward for the sword. Winners will be decided by a committee to include the Adjutant General. The details are set out in

Joint Service DCI 1-11, 1995.

The annual single Swords of Peace, awarded since 1966 to units of all three Services in recognition of outstanding contributions, will continue.

Signals put on show for their Princess

ARMY signallers showed their Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal, how they operate when she paid her first visit to the 3rd (UK) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment since it took on its Joint Rapid Deployment Force role.

Since returning from Germany following Options for Change, the regiment has re-roled to provide a headquarters and comms for the mechanised 3rd Division.

The regiment, now the largest in the Royal Corps of Signals, has five squadrons — three (HQ, 202 and 257 Squadrons) from the previously BAOR-based 3rd Armoured Division; a detached brigade signal squadron (206 Sqn); and a trunk squadron (222 Sqn) descended from the disbanded 22 Signal Regiment.

Headquarters Squadron and the troop names commemorate battles and deployment in which the 3rd Division or antecedents of its current squadrons have participated. They include titles derived from Balaclava to the Sword Beach landings.

The regiment played a major part in organising D-Day 50th anniversary events in Normandy last year.

Based in Picton and Wing Barracks at Bulford, 3 (UK) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment also has an amphibious, airmobile and air-portable capability.

It is expected to meet a variety of contingencies, either as part of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) or the Joint Rapid Deployment Force.



Lt Col Ian Foxley, commanding officer of 3rd (UK) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, accompanies the Princess Royal as she meets Service children during her visit to the regiment at Bulford

Picture: Mike Weston

AXE POISED

EIGHT major generals are to go in the final phase of Army redundancies. Details of the final cull will be revealed as part of the Front Line First manpower cuts announced last year. — *Times*.

□ Britain is expected to contribute troops up to one battalion strength for a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Angola. — *Independent*.

□ More than 7,000 animals were used in British military experiments in 1993, according to government figures. — *Independent on Sunday*.

□ Six women soldiers in their early 30s have lost the ability to have children. They are victims of premature menopause following Gulf War service. — *Today*. Three Army nurses claim Gulf War sickness has stopped them having children. An MoD spokesman says no medical or scientific evidence has been found to support the claims. — *Sunday Mirror*.

□ Former WRAC soldier Mrs Alison Mutch, who had to have an abortion to stay in the Army and was discharged after becoming pregnant again, was awarded

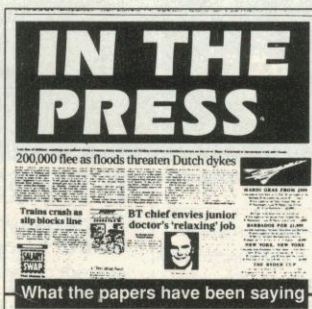
a b o u t £100,000 compensation against the MoD. — *Daily Telegraph*.

□ A 35,000-signature petition is to be presented to 10 Downing Street in an 11th-hour bid to save

the Cambridge Military Hospital. — *Aldershot News*.

□ Belgium has announced the end of conscription and is to reduce its uniformed services by half to 47,000 by 1997. — *Times*.

□ Two members of the Scots Guards have been jailed for life at Belfast Crown Court for the murder of a Catholic teenager in the city in 1992. — *Independent*.



Hard pull for REME

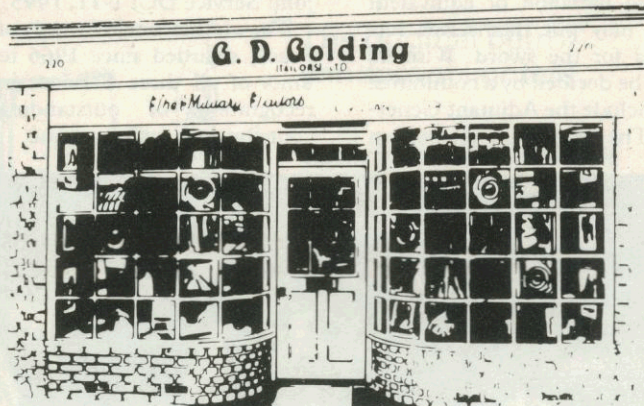
RECOVERY mechanics from the 1st Battalion REME based in Osnabrück spent several weeks hosting Exercise Hard Pull, a divisional recovery camp on Stapel training area.

Tests covering all aspects of their work gave staff an opportunity to assess soldiers for upgrading. The exercise culminated in a demonstration of recovery equipment used by the 1st (UK) Armoured Division. Spectators included Commander 4 Armoured Brigade, Brig Richard Dannatt, and Col Jim Campbell, Commander Equipment Support 1 Arm'd Div.

● **KIT SHOW:** More than 20,000 visitors are expected to attend the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition in Pegasus Village, Aldershot from September 3-10.

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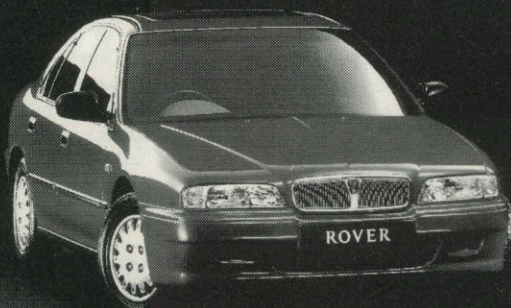
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RB44s affected by handling problems

ALL 846 RB44 Army light vehicles had been taken out of service until a problem associated with the handling of the vehicles while braking had been rectified, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the Commons on February 9 in response to a question from Shadow Defence Secretary Dr David Clark.

The manufacturers, Reynolds Broughton Ltd, had proposed a modification which was incorporated at their expense. "Following acceptance into service there have been further technical problems of a similar nature which are being investigated by my Department in conjunction with the manufacturer," said Mr Soames.

He said the Army light vehicle fleet was currently able to meet all its tasks. The RB44s were bought at a cost of about £24 million and

first deployed in May 1992.

A lance corporal and three privates are awaiting disciplinary proceedings for alleged drug offences in former Yugoslavia, Mr Soames told the Commons on February 9. Investigations are going on into alleged drug offences by two other lance corporals and one private. The number of personnel investigated represents less than one per cent of UK forces in former Yugoslavia.

In written answers, Mr Soames said:

● The Government does not propose to appoint a minister to co-ordinate ex-Service



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

community matters across the range of Government;

● Service families enjoy the same civil rights as other citizens to make representations during public consultations and inquiries and to make complaints under the citizens' charter. The same rights apply to Service personnel provided the impartiality of the Armed Forces is not compromised and there is no unauthorised disclosure of information obtained in the course of duty;

● The estimated cost of messing for UK Armed Forces in 1993-94 was £142 million.

● It is planned to fire AS90 on Otterburn Training Area up to 50

days a year, Defence Under-Secretary Lord Henley said in a written answer.

Responding to a question from Fd Marshal Lord Carver, Home Office Minister Baroness Blatch said the Home Secretary was considering, as part of a new review, a 1980 recommendation of the Criminal Law Revision Committee relating to the charge of manslaughter rather than murder being brought against a person who kills while using excessive force in legitimate self-defence or prevention of crime.

Lord Carver observed that the 15-year delay in effecting the recommendation had made Servicemen liable to prosecution for murder, and life imprisonment, when they reasonably believed they were doing their duty.

Victory to be marked at Earls Court

THIS year's Royal Tournament, marking the 50th anniversary of the Allied victories in Europe and Japan, will end on a majestic and unashamedly festive note.

Most other events this summer will concentrate on commemoration or remembrance, but the tournament is being publicised as "the only celebration by the Armed Forces of the Allied victory in 1945".

The Earls Court show will depict major episodes of the war leading up to a huge massed-band finale in which the audience will be invited into the arena for a VE-Day street party and singalong of wartime hits.

More than 50 ex-Service associations are expected to be represented at the tournament and a special veterans' meeting area with a bar and refreshments will be provided.

Following its successful pioneering at previous anniversary events, a computer tracing system will be on hand to put

Cheshires keep it in the family



Unit family traditions do not come bigger or better than those of the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, currently on duty in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. And the Hughes brothers from Liverpool are there to prove it.

They are (back, from left) eldest brother Sgt Peter, who joined up in 1979 and recruited the others, Pte David (21) and Cpl James (27); (front) Pte John (25) and the "baby" of the family, 19-year-old Pte Eric. Back home, the lads have six sisters.

ex-Service men and women in touch with old comrades.

The Royal Air Force-led tournament, from July 18-29 inclusive, will include the usual Services favourites.

On the bill also this year will be the US Army, the French Foreign Legion and the Russian Armed Forces.

Events marked during the show will include the Battle of Britain, the Dambusters raid, the Blitz, D-Day, the advance into Germany, VE Day and VJ

Day. Outside the arena there will again be a large exhibition and activity area for the young and not-so-young in which visitors will get a chance to meet members of the Armed Forces and see at first hand some of the equipment and vehicles they use.

Tickets ranging from £5 to £24 are available from the box office on 0171-244 0371. Special discounts are available for children, senior citizens and groups of 20 or more.

Bicester's the place for kit

THE Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency (DCTA) is to be based at Bicester, from where it will be responsible for placing on the shelf the best clothing and kit available to British Forces. DCTA is currently dispersed over seven main locations: Andover, Bath, Bicester, Colchester, Didcot, Glasgow and Harrogate.



The lady's in command

Lt Col **Sue Reynolds**, now in charge at Bristol, is believed to be only the second female commanding officer of a university Officer Training Corps. Sue (left), pictured with cadets at a weapons handling course, has succeeded Lt Col **Andy Hodson**. She is no stranger to OTCs, having served as a cadet during her own days at Liverpool University. Her most recent post was in HQ UKLF, Wilton. Her two brothers and sister are serving in the Regular Army or TA.

Major congratulations

Prime Minister **John Major** congratulates LCpl **Lisa Howe**, the first woman to complete the gruelling Regular Army category of the Cambrian Patrol competition, during his visit to 3 R Irish at Portadown in Northern Ireland. Lisa's contribution helped the battalion to its second successive silver medal.

"It was the hardest thing I have ever done," said Lisa, who was promoted from private just hours before the Prime Minister arrived. Mr Major met a number of the battalion's 158 Greenfinches and heard first-hand how they are operating under the cease-fire.



On his bike . . .

When Capt (Retd) **Alan Green** (right) of the RAEC retired from the Army in January after 35 years in uniform he had been closely involved with Army cycling, as competitor, organiser and time-keeper, for 26 of those years. To mark his departure, Maj **Ross Graham**, R Signals, presented Alan with a framed print of the late, great Tom Simpson.

Among his claims to fame, Alan organised no fewer than four Harrogate-Land's End-John o'Groat's-Harrogate charity rides, established the annual Army Cycling Festival in 1980 and coached Sgt **Rob Young** to a roller cycling world record of 311 miles in 1990.



Over to you, RSM . . .

WO1 **Dane Swallow** (left) hands over as RSM of 102 Battalion REME (V) to WO1 **Martin Lyons**. Dane had been RSM of the senior TA REME battalion since its formation two years ago, and is retiring after 24 years in uniform. Martin joined the battalion from Tidworth-based 3 Fd Wksp, 6 Battalion REME.

Honour candidate

Cpl **Robert Jackson** of Tidworth-based 1st Royal Tank Regiment was one of only two A Grade candidates to pass through the NCO Instructors' Driving and Maintenance Course at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Driving and Maintenance School at Bovington last year. And to ensure the achievement is not forgotten, his name has been recorded on the school's honour board.



IN CHARGE

Brig **Austin Thorp** (right) has been appointed Commander 15 (North East) Brigade based at York. Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1965, he was following his father into the sappers. His grandfather was a gunner. Brig Thorp has taken over from Brig **Christopher Marchant Smith** who retired before Christmas.



PEOPLE PEOPLE



Capital signing . . .

The first Army recruits to sign up at a London Jobcentre are pictured outside the Deptford office. From left to right are Employment Service project manager **Keith Hunter**, ex-RMP; London trial liaison officer SSgt **Peter Robertson**; new recruits **Zena Dallison** (who will join the RLC) and **Richard Morgan** (who wants to become a combat engineer) and Maj **John Desmond**, London ACIO officer. Since October, South East London Jobcentres have been handling the initial stages of recruitment to the three Services on a trial basis.



FAMOUS FIVE

Kent's Lord Lieutenant, Lord Kingsdown, had his work cut out when he visited Ashford TA Centre in Kent. Waiting for him were these five senior NCOs from 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V), all recipients of medals. From left to right are Sgt **Peter Ransley** (Lord Lieutenant's Meritorious Service Award), SSgt **Andy Jolly** (TA Efficiency Medal), WO2 (QMSI) **Nobby Clarke** (Meritorious Service Award), SSgt **Ginge Edwards** (Efficiency Medal), and WO2 (SSM) **Colin Saunders** (Meritorious Service Award).



Off to Siberia

Pictured before their departure to Siberia are members of the Osnabrück-based 1st Battalion, The Green Howards team taking part in the King Olav V Lake Baikal expedition. They are attempting to make a 4,500km crossing of the frozen lake on 300cc Honda all-terrain vehicles. Also in the party are a number of civilians.



Brothers-in-arms

Carl and **Mark Johnstone** serve in the same regiment, hold the same rank and have closely linked jobs. Carl (right) is pipe major – in the rank of sergeant – while younger brother Mark is a drum major (also in the rank of sergeant) with the Catterick-based Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Carl is in charge of the regiment's 24-strong Pipes and Drums platoon in all musical matters, while Mark – with mace – is in charge on the parade ground. When not performing as musicians, the brothers and their platoon train as tank crewmen.

When Weedon reined over the world

TO READERS of *Soldier* the name Weedon will mean nothing, unless they happen to live in that Northamptonshire village split by the busy A5 near Daventry – or are white-haired old cavalymen and gunners of the horsed days, writes **John Brereton**.

In 1922 Maj C T "Taffy" Walwyn RHA persuaded the War Office to approve the

founding of an Army School of Equitation at Weedon.

By 1939 it had become the Mecca of all dedicated horse-soldiers. To achieve a pass with credit on the six-month "Long Course" was the equivalent of an honours degree at Oxbridge.

Came the war, and in 1939 the school was translated into the 110th Cavalry OCTU (no,

there weren't 109 others – it was just to deceive Hitler).

While the British Expeditionary Force was

being harried back to Dunkirk, 140 of us officer cadets – plus 200 horses – were eagerly

preparing to lead death-or-glory charges against the Nazi hordes. Imbued with "the cavalry spirit", we galloped over the cross-country course and rode at dummies with our 1908-pattern swords.

Our Bible was the latest (and last) issue of the official manual, *Cavalry Training*, which stressed that "cavalry will fulfil its role only if it makes full use of the mobility conferred on it by the speed and endurance of horse."

It laid down that "in the charge each man will ride

at his opponent at full speed with the fixed determination of running him through with the sword..."

I recall one of our instructors, a staff sergeant in the 7th Hussars saying: "When you meet one of them Nazis, stick him in the balls and stop the bastard breeding – Sir!"

We were not instructed in the correct procedure should our opponent be mounted in a tank.

Continuing the curriculum of the former School of Equitation, we spent hours in the classroom studying the finer points of horse management and elementary veterinary knowledge.

Such equine stoppages as laminitis and stringhalt became as familiar as stoppages on the Bren LMGs – carried out on pack horses, of course.

Occasionally we were subjected to what would later be termed a "crash-out": rush to saddle up with sword and rifle and clatter through neighbouring villages to intercept an imaginary paratroop landing at Newham Hill or wherever.

Evidently Hitler's intelligence warned him of our vigilance, for he never dared to confront us with real paratroops, nor did his Luftwaffe drop a single bomb on our riding school.

Thus in those glorious summer months of 1940 we budding cavalry leaders played our own role in the war effort. The fact that all but two Regular regiments and half a dozen Yeomanry had succumbed to mechanisation with their "Farewell Mounted Parades" was of no concern to us – nor, seemingly, to the Whitehall mandarins.

And so, a newly-commissioned second lieutenant ("Weedon trained"), I sailed to join an Indian cavalry regiment, with riding boots, breeches and Wilkinson sword in my baggage.

No one had hinted that none of it would be needed. On reporting I had to forget all that Weedon training and devote myself to the arcane mysteries of light tanks (Mk VI). But that is another story.

As for Weedon, that too is another story, and a sad one. A few months after the last intake of cadets had been posted away to armoured regiments, the OCTU (née Equitation School) was abolished, barracks taken over by the adjacent RAOC Depot, riding schools demeaned as warehouses, horses demobbed or drafted to the Army Remount Centre at Melton Mowbray

Above – The flag is lowered on Weedon for the final time

Left – Brig J Eaton, Commandant Donnington, receives the flag to mark the formal closure of Weedon on February 17, 1965

Far left – Weedon-trained horsemen made their mark all over the world. This soldier was photographed in Syria during 1941

(whom did it remount?).

The final *nunc dimittis* came in 1965 when the RAOC closed down its Weedon depot.

At the ceremonial lowering of the flag, Maj Gen J Sheffield, late of the RAOC, paid tribute to the days of the horse-soldiers: "In saying farewell to Weedon we should not forget the equitation training here which helped to make the British Army world-renowned for its horsemanship."

Today the barracks and the riding schools have been demolished, giving way to the sprawl of an industrial trading estate.

But the traditions of Weedon live on. The Army still needs horsemen for the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and The King's Troop RHA.

At what has become the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray, their young officers, WOs and NCOs still graduate on the "Long" equitation courses, modelled exactly on those of the Army School of Equitation 60-odd years ago.

Plus ça change...



Shades of Weedon... soldiers on the modern six-month Advanced Military Equitation Course at the Army School of Equitation at Melton Mowbray

NEW RELEASE

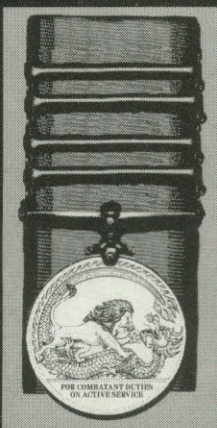
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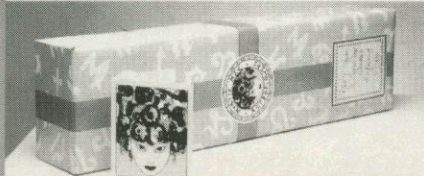
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LEO



ARIES MUM is energetic, warm and loving, so her starsign bouquet reflects this with a mix of luxury and spray carnations in her zodiac shade of red.

TAURUS MUM has a way of making a family feel secure. Her hidden gentle romantic streak inspires a star mix of carnations, with freesias, all in pink.

GEMINI MUM can be her kids' best friend with a non-clings love inspiring her star flowers, mixing freesias and carnations in her own zodiac yellow.

CANCER MUM will be the emotional heart of family life, with a great secret strength. And this inspires white carnations, with sweet lilac freesias.

LEO MUM can make her family feel good with a sunny smile and proud love. Orange and yellow carnations and freesias with gold ribbon is Leo.

VIRGO MUM is such an interesting, complicated, caring mum. This inspires a rich mix of colours in her starsign bouquet of carnations and freesias.

LIBRA MUM has charm, glamour and fun, and her kids love this. She'll love carnations and freesias in pink daring mixed with mauve in her gift bouquet.

SCORPIO MUM may hide the depth of her love but it is so strong, so loyal. Carnations, symbol of a woman's love mix with freesias in deep red.

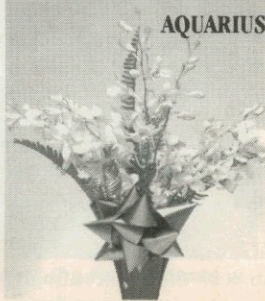
SAGITTARIUS MUM is the action mum, who'll mix love of life with a kindness that's captured in pretty pink carnations with vivid purple ribbon.

CAPRICORN MUM works hard to make family life a success so may skimp on treats for herself, yet adores luxury, like chosen orchids in richest purple.

AQUARIUS MUM has the gift of listening to her family and has a taste for the unusual. So her flowers are intriguing, yellow Singapore orchids.

PISCES MUM has endless love and cuddles for the family yet has a romantic imagination captured in a starsign flower mix of lime and purest white orchids.

AQUARIUS



Learning to live with a black art

CHEMICAL defence has improved since British soldiers were advised to knock the bottom off beer bottles, fill them with earth, and breathe through the neck.

Other desperate measures against German gas attacks in April, 1915, included breathing through handkerchiefs, sacks or socks which had been soaked in urine.

The terror such attacks induced remains a folk memory, and was relived during the Gulf War when the threat of chemical attack was perceived.

British protective equipment for the individual, widely recognised as the best in the world, was greatly in demand by all forces deployed to the Gulf.

The principles of chemical defence have changed little since phosgene, chlorine and mustard gas first drifted towards unsuspecting soldiers. But the technology has changed out of all recognition, with nuclear and biological factors compounding the threat.

The Defence Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC)

The first poison gas attacks hit Allied soldiers near Ypres 80 years ago this spring. **Gordon Skilling** looks at how nuclear, biological and chemical defence measures are taught today. Pictures by **Mike Perring**

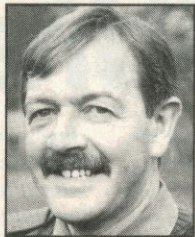
Centre at Winterbourne Gunner in Wiltshire plays a major role in protecting UN Forces to survive and continue to operate in the face of possible NBC attack.

It is an internationally renowned tri-Service centre of excellence in this field, dealing with all aspects of UK NBC policy, doctrine, equipment and training at all levels of command and staff, including the MoD.

It is also responsible for teaching NBC officers and instructors, plus selected specialists, the skills of NBC defence in order to combat what many still perceive to be a black art.

"The average person can accept us being killed by bullets or shells, but cannot accept us being poisoned or 'bugged' to death," said Maj Steve Garrick RLC, training officer at the centre before his departure to staff college.

Skills are taught to protect soldiers from the effects of NBC attack; Britain has no



Maj Steve Garrick RLC



LCpl Mick Brown searches for traces of gas

offensive chemical warfare capability.

Supported by 70 civilians, the military staff of 38 officers and NCOs say that principles of what they teach have changed little since students laboriously wrote their notes in copper-plate handwriting during the First World War.

Those notes are on display in the centre's comprehensive museum. Some huts still in use were erected in 1916 when Thorneydown Camp was opened as a trench mortar school.

Research was carried out at an experimental establishment at Porton Down, but a chemical warfare school was established at Winterbourne in

1926 - where an annual allocation of more than 400 phosgene 45in howitzer shells were part of an annual allocation for "demonstrations of cloud formation".

The school became a joint Army and Royal Air Force establishment in the late 1940s and the name changed several times until it became, in 1975, the Defence NBC Centre.

Now tri-Service, it offers training in all aspects of NBC defence on land. About 80 per cent of students come from the Army; and 13 per cent from the RAF, including the RAF Regiment, while the remainder are from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

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NBC Centre

● From Page 19

Command rotates between an RAF Regiment group captain and an Army colonel. The present commandant is Gp Capt Dick Moore and his chief instructor Lt Col Ray Aldis QLR.

Most courses are open to foreign and Commonwealth students. Annual intake averages 20 foreigners from up to 15 different countries. Several Middle Eastern countries have shown a lot of interest since the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, which has carried out chemical attack on the Kurds.

Close links are maintained with the French and German NBC schools and the American chemical corps in Alabama, where Lt Col Paul Musgrove REME is an exchange officer.

Each of the 1,500 people trained annually at Winterbourne Gunner is expected to return to his or her unit and pass on the knowledge. As a centre of excellence, the centre brooks no slipping of its high standards and has no qualms about rejecting students who do not measure up.

Mistakes could lead to casualties.

There are four primary courses: for officers, advisers, NCO instructors, and a warning and reporting module otherwise known as the cell controllers' course.

Other courses range from defence medical officers to collective protection.

Specialist briefings are provided to most of the arms and services as well as to those going on operations. Before the Gulf War 200 journalists were taught defensive measures in case Iraq used chemical weapons.

A training support and information team of a major and two senior NCO instructors is also available to give advice, information and assistance to units to help them carry out effective training.

This team also supports Tactical Engagement Simulation Exercises (TESX) at BATUS in Canada, and at the Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) at Warminster.



Gp Capt Dick Moore
RAF Regiment, Com-
mandant



Water discipline is essential to stop dehydration

A staff studies and trials wing investigates NBC equipment, working very closely with the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at nearby Porton Down, where scientists may pass on ideas for practical assessment.

"Scientists come up with ideas such as a new harness for a respirator, and we put a military slant on it with instructors testing it on courses," said Maj Garrick. The instructors are high-calibre SNCOs and it is a cost-effective and efficient way of testing. It is very much two-way

traffic. The staff studies wing may suggest improvements to the Ministry of Defence, which then tasks Porton Down with researching them.

Individual protection is only one element of the NBC problem. Units have to train to operate effectively in an NBC environment, and commanders and men have to be practised in their primary roles while wearing full protective equipment for extended periods.

This is achieved on the Porton Battle Run, which has been specially designed and organised to achieve maximum realism, including the use of NBC simulants.

The run, which has been in operation since 1980, is located on the experimental ground controlled by Porton Down. It gives commanders a chance to examine their command and control procedures at sub-unit level and test them while their performance is being degraded in a simulated toxic environment.

It is an excellent facility. Capt Dave Butler RDG, who supervises the battle run as well as officers' courses, assists units with a number of scenarios.

It up to them to decide which part of which skill they need to deal with the situation.

Units do not have a problem in absorbing individual skills but the corporate use of those skills can be grey area, said Capt Butler.

"All our troops could survive attacks, but the big challenge is how to continue the mission. Units have to practise how to work in the environment and carry out concurrent activity while finding out what they

have been hit with.

"Perhaps they have not been hit . . . in which case they should quickly start unmasking drills."

The ultimate aim is not merely to survive in a hostile environment, but to fight in it. To do this, said Capt Butler, commanders had to accept risk.

Protective equipment was often worn in case there was an attack rather than as protection against an actual hazard.

Inappropriate precautions lead to unnecessary heat stress and psychological casualties. Because of this, a unit's mission could take twice as long to complete.

"People have to be made to realise that if they go onto a battlefield where there is a threat of NBC weapons, they don't have to remain in protective kit all the time," said Maj Garrick.

SSgt Shaun Topham RA sees initial low standards rise steeply as he supervises practical exercises.

"Poor command and control means that soldiers are kept in respirators longer than necessary, which reduces their efficiency," he said.

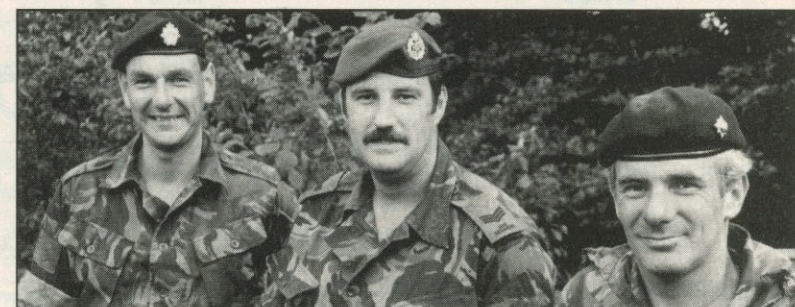
He believed some unit performances were degraded because commanders had not had the practical training of the lower ranks, causing delays in decision-making.

The importance of medical cover is strongly emphasised by Sgt Adrian Millward RAMC, who attends exercises. Because CS riot control agents are used, excess exposure has to be avoided.

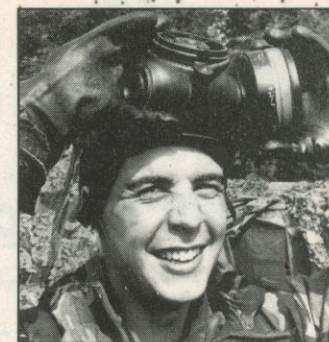
"Accidents are not likely to happen because the amount used is strictly controlled by regulations," he said, "but in summer, heat degradation is quite substantial, particularly for foreign students and more senior TA members who may not be as fit as they could be."



Above - Sgt Shaun Topham explains the CAM detector to students from Kuwait and Bangladesh
Below - The highest alert state is three Romeo



Capt Dave Butler RDG (right) with two of his instructors: Sgt Dave Farey RLC and Sgt Dave Walker, RAF Regiment



Above - Lt Andrew Mould comes up for air - students have to endure training in temperatures up to 90 degrees Fahrenheit in summer
Below - Lt Ian Lawrence RWF and Flying Officer Dave Williams of the RAF Regiment are chemical sentries with the NAIAD detector

Meet the threat . . . don't invent your own

SOME commanders have a perception difficulty when dealing with NBC defence, according to staff at the Defence Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Centre at Winterbourne Gunner.

Concepts such as accepting casualties and taking risks in a toxic environment are difficult to take on board and soldiers are frequently left too long in full individual protection kit.

There is a tendency to compartmentalise NBC skills,

which means that during an attack the mission may quickly be forgotten.

"It is an extremely unpopular subject and always has been," said training officer Maj Steve Garrick. "It is something people will put off until tomorrow, by which time it may be too late as we nearly discovered to our cost during the Gulf War."

For the past ten years NBC has been identified with donning an NBC suit and remain-

ing in it for 24 hours, which could exacerbate physiological stress and the break down of command and control.

Winterbourne Gunner teaches a different approach by means of a progressive risk sequence so that soldiers do not have to be in NBC kit for long periods. In essence, it is educating Servicemen to meet an actual hazard . . . not invent their own.

While everybody acknowledges the importance of NBC

countermeasures, few spend sufficient time on it.

It was remarkable how interest quickened at that time of the Gulf War, although interest has faded since.

Sqn Ldr Hugh Cross, senior instructor at Winterbourne Gunner, knows of no military exercise which was cancelled because the SA80 was too heavy, or because firing it wasted time.

"Yet people cancel NBC because they don't want to put

on the kit, it interferes with the battle and slows the action down. Instead of wearing it for two hours, they make it 15 minutes," he said.

On the other hand, the spectre of helpless victims from the First World War gas attacks taking days to die has led to a reluctance to accept risks.

Capt Dave Butler regularly observes this phenomenon. He well remembers days when the "NBC phase" of an exercise

would be a five-mile night march in full individual protection kit with respirator. Soldiers, he believes, learned nothing for their exertions.

Last year he took a hard look at training at BATUS in Canada and applied an NBC overlay to the final five-day exercise. It was a timely visit.

"It was tremendously useful to see how our teaching is being applied," he said. "Clearly, NBC is not being given the priority it needs, and

when it is introduced, the ability of soldiers to integrate NBC with their normal tasks is often unsatisfactory."

In both individual courses and the battle run, the centre is trying to educate soldiers of all ranks to integrate NBC defence into their defensive posture and into all of their training.

Improved chemical detection and monitoring equipment plus a good understanding of

● Turn to Page 39

YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

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OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Rank	Service	New Daily rates
£		
2nd Lt (UC)	On Entry	20.92
	+1 year	24.01
	+2 years	26.96
	+3 years	29.43
2nd Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	27.35
	After 9 months	29.22
2nd Lt	On appointment	36.48
	+1 year	48.22
	+2 years	49.49
	+3 years	50.76
	+4 years	52.03
Capt	On appointment	53.30
	+1 year	61.67
	+2 years	63.34
	+3 years	65.01
	+4 years	66.68
Maj	On appointment	68.35
	+1 year	70.02
	+2 years	71.69
	+3 years	73.36
	+4 years	75.03
	+5 years	76.70
	+6 years	78.37
Lt Col	On appointment	78.26
	+1 year	80.20
	+2 years	82.14
	+3 years	84.08
	+4 years	86.02
	+5 years	87.96
	+6 years	89.90
	+7 years	91.84
Col	On appointment/under 19 years' service	93.78
	2/19 years in rank/service	110.33
	4/21 years in rank/service	113.23
	6/23 years in rank/service	116.13
	8/25 years in rank/service	119.03
Brig	On appointment	121.93
	+1 year	128.47
	+2 years	131.85
	+3 years	135.23
	+4 years	138.61
SPLT Lt Col	On appointment	141.99
	+1 year	157.75
Brig	On appointment	157.75
	+1 year	108.19

OFFICERS COMMISSIONED FROM THE RANKS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

	Years of soldier service from age 18		
	<12 yrs	12-15 yrs	15 yrs+
On appointment/commission	£ 68.32	£ 71.79	£ 75.26
1 year	70.05	73.52	76.35
2 years	71.79	75.26	77.47
3 years	73.52	76.35	78.59
4 years	75.26	77.47	79.71
5 years	76.35	78.59	80.83
6 years	77.47	79.71	81.95
8 years	78.59	80.83	83.07
10 years	79.71	81.95	83.07
12 years	80.83	83.07	83.07
14 years	81.95	83.07	83.07
16 years	83.07	83.07	83.07

OFFICERS' REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

	Daily rates	
	£	£
On appointment/commission	75.26	75.26
1 year	76.35	76.35
2 years	77.47	77.47
3 years	78.59	78.59
4 years	79.71	79.71
5 years	80.83	80.83
6 years	81.95	81.95
8 years	83.07	83.07

SOLDIERS' SCALE RATES

Rank	Class	Band	A	B	C
£					
Pte	4	Band 1	22.84	23.14	23.59
		Band 2	25.59	25.89	26.34
		Band 3	29.71	30.01	30.46
	3	Band 1	34.28	34.58	35.03
		Band 2	28.61	28.91	29.36
		Band 3	32.76	33.06	33.51
LCpl	2	Band 1	37.34	37.64	38.09
		Band 2	31.12	31.42	31.87
		Band 3	35.26	35.56	36.01
	1	Band 1	39.83	40.13	40.58
		Band 2	33.24	33.54	33.99
		Band 3	37.39	37.69	38.14
Cpl	3	Band 1	42.34	42.64	43.09
		Band 2	35.76	36.06	36.51
		Band 3	39.91	40.21	40.66
	2	Band 1	44.86	45.16	45.61
		Band 2	38.40	38.70	39.15
		Band 3	42.55	42.85	43.30
Sgt	1	Band 1	47.51	47.81	48.26
		Band 2	41.22	41.52	41.97
		Band 3	45.36	45.66	46.11
	2	Band 1	50.32	50.62	51.07
		Band 2	45.51	45.81	46.26
		Band 3	50.04	50.34	50.79
SSgt	3	Band 1	54.98	55.28	55.73
		Band 2	48.13	48.43	48.88
		Band 3	52.64	52.94	53.39
	2	Band 1	57.61	57.91	58.36
		Band 2	63.58	63.88	64.33
		Band 3	51.46	51.76	52.21
WO2	4	Band 1	55.99	56.29	56.74
		Band 2	62.09	62.39	62.84
		Band 3	68.19	68.49	68.94
	3	Band 1	54.88	55.18	55.63
		Band 2	59.39	59.69	60.14
		Band 3	65.58	65.88	66.33
WO1	2	Band 1	71.67	71.97	72.42
		Band 2			

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI) Daily Rates

Rank	9 yrs	12 yrs	15 yrs	18 yrs	22 yrs
Pte	0.79	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12
LCpl	0.79	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12
Cpl	0.79	1.12	1.36	1.36	1.36
Sgt	0.96	1.36	1.68	1.99	1.99
SSgt	0.96	1.36	1.68	2.31	2.31
WO2	0.96	1.36	1.68	2.31	2.64
WO1	0.96	1.36	1.68	2.31	3.03

JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Age	Daily rates
£	
17.5 years and over	22.84
17 but under 17.5 years	17.27
16.5 but under 17 years	14.23
16 but under 16.5 years	14.23

- Average increase in daily rates is 2.6 per cent.
- Medical and dental officers' pay subject to separate report.

ADDITIONAL PAY

Daily rates (first stage)

Officer pilots and flying instructors		Army flying pay reserve band		Work of an objectionable nature		Basic rate	
£		£		All ranks		Higher rate	
Initial rate		9.09		South Georgia		£ 2.29	
Middle rate		15.26		All ranks		£ 11.44	
Top rate		23.06		Northern Ireland		£ 4.13	
Lt Col after 6 years		21.82		All ranks		£ 4.13	
Lt Col after 8 years		20.53		Gurkha Service Pay		£ 5.25	
Colonel on appointment		19.24		Lt Col and above		£ 4.58	
Colonel after 2 years		17.95		Major		£ 3.90	
Colonel after 4 years		16.68		Capt		£ 3.30	
Colonel after 6 years		14.77		Lt/2nd Lt			
Colonel after 8 years		12.83		Gurkha Language		£ 0.52	
Brigadier		7.69		Lower rate		£ 0.90	
Soldier pilots and flying instructors		£ 9.09		Experimental		£ 1.73	
Initial rate		£ 9.09		All ranks per test		£ 6.09	
Middle rate		15.26		Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst			
Top rate		23.06		Divers (all ranks)		Category 1 £ 2.62	
Parachutists		£ 3.44		ACAD		2 £ 5.28	
All ranks		4.94		UDS		3 £ 7.54	
Parachute jump instructors		£ 4.94		AAD		4 £ 12.82	
All ranks		4.94		ADS		ADI £ 12.82	
Air Despatch		£ 3.15		ADI			
Under Trg/Lower Rate		£ 3.15		Separation Allowance		£ 3.75	
Higher rate		5.09		UK and NW Europe		£ 2.92	
RLC helicopter crews		£ 3.15		Elsewhere			
All ranks		3.15		Work in unpleasant conditions		£ 0.60	
SAS		£ 15.21		Soldiers only			
All Officers and WO1		Lower rate		London		Inner London	
WO2/SSgt/Sgt		12.21		Basic rate		2.69	
Cpl and below		9.92		Additional housing rate		1.48	
		Higher rate				Outer London	
		21.32				1.51	
		18.28				0.59	
		15.97					

NEW ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Daily rates with effect from April 1, 1995

All rates assume furnished quarters

- Unless otherwise stated, the daily accommodation charge is inclusive of water/sewerage charges but exclusive of council tax

Married quarters		England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas				Northern Ireland			
Type		Grade				Grade			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I	F	9.65	8.78	6.13	3.88	7.22	6.02	3.03	0.47
	HF	9.00	8.19	5.72	3.63	6.83	5.69	2.87	0.45
	UF	8.35	7.60	5.30	3.38	6.44	5.37	2.70	0.42
II	F	8.72	7.92	5.55	3.52	6.26	5.20	2.63	0.41
	HF	8.14	7.39	5.18	3.30	5.91	4.91	2.49	0.39
	UF	7.55	6.86	4.81	3.08	5.56	4.62	2.34	0.37
III	F	7.65	6.97	4.90	3.15	4.01	3.25	1.42	0.00
	HF	7.14	6.52	4.59	2.96	3.78	3.07	1.34	0.00
	UF	6.64	6.08	4.27	2.77	3.56	2.89	1.26	0.00
IV	F	6.72	6.11	4.45	2.85	3.46	2.79	1.26	0.00
	HF	6.26	5.69	4.15	2.67	3.25	2.63	1.19	0.00
	UF	5.80	5.28	3.85	2.49	3.05	2.46	1.11	0.00
V	F	5.89	5.38	3.87	2.56	3.05	2.47	1.10	0.00
	HF	5.48	5.01	3.61	2.40	2.86	2.32	1.04	0.00
	UF	5.07	4.65	3.35	2.24	2.68	2.18	0.97	0.00
D/WO	F	4.60	4.19	3.09	2.00	2.60	2.13	1.04	0.00
	HF	4.32	3.94	2.91	1.89	2.46	2.02	0.98	0.00
	UF	4.05	3.69	2.73	1.79	2.33	1.91	0.93	0.00
C	F	4.24	3.87	2.84	1.88	2.39	1.96	0.95	0.00
	HF	4.01	3.66	2.69	1.79	2.27	1.86	0.90	0.00
	UF	3.77	3.45	2.54	1.70	2.15	1.77	0.86	0.00
B	F	3.92	3.58	2.63	1.74	2.16	1.77	0.86	0.00
	HF	3.72	3.40	2.50	1.66	2.06	1.69	0.82	0.00
	UF	3.52	3.21	2.37	1.59	1.96	1.61	0.78	0.00
A	F	3.00	2.74	2.04	1.42	1.67	1.37	0.67	0.00
	HF	2.84	2.60	1.94	1.36	1.59	1.31	0.64	0.00
	UF	2.68	2.45	1.84	1.29	1.51	1.24	0.61	0.00

YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

NEW ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Per Additional Bedrooms (applies all areas)

Soldiers	F	0.18	0.16	0.13	0.06
	HF	0.16	0.14	0.11	0.05
	UF	0.14	0.12	0.10	0.04
Officers	F	0.42	0.37	0.29	0.14
	HF	0.39	0.34	0.27	0.13
	UF	0.36	0.32	0.25	0.12

Single Accommodation

Rank	England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas			
	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
Major and above	3.88	3.51	2.56	1.63
Capt and below	3.24	2.95	2.12	1.38
SNCO	2.36	2.14	1.57	1.02
Cpl and below	1.37	1.25	0.94	0.65
Juniors	1.07	0.98	0.75	0.53

Garage and car port charges (applies all areas)

Standard garage	0.66
Substandard garage	0.45
Standard car port	0.33
Substandard car port	0.23

Combined weekly rent and rates element. Council Tax element will follow when revised rates announced.

Grade		England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas				Northern Ireland		
		Grade				Grade		
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Type A	F	17.85	16.03	11.13	6.79	10.14	8.18	3.75
	HF	16.73	15.03	10.42	6.34	9.58	7.73	3.54
	UF	15.62	14.03	9.70	5.89	9.02	7.28	3.33
Type B	F	24.29	21.91	15.26	9.03	13.57	11.00	5.07
	HF	22.89	20.63	14.37	8.50	12.87	10.43	4.81
	UF	21.49	19.35	13.47	7.97	12.17	9.85	4.54
Type C	F	26.53	23.94	16.73	10.01	15.14	12.29	5.69
	HF	24.89	22.46	15.67	9.38	14.32	11.63	5.37
	UF	23.24	20.99	14.60	8.75	13.50	10.96	5.05
Type D/WO	F	29.05	26.18	18.48	10.85	16.65	13.49	6.31
	HF	27.11	24.44	17.23	10.11	15.68	12.71	5.94
	UF	25.18	22.70	15.98	9.38	14.71	11.92	5.56
Type V	F	37.73	34.16	23.59	14.42	19.75	15.89	6.84
	HF	34.88	31.60	21.78	13.30	18.47	14.87	6.39
	UF	32.02	29.04	19.96	12.18	17.18	13.85	5.93

FOOD CHARGES

Standard food charge	£ 2.99
MU food charge	2.20

● New fifth-year bounty for Volunteer Reserve Forces £900; Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Part-Time Force, £1,010

NEW RATES OF PAY FOR THE R IRISH HSFT AND HSPT

OFFICERS HSFT AND HSPT

Rank	Service	New Daily rates
		£
2nd Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	27.35
	After 9 months	29.22
2nd Lt		36.48
	On appointment	48.22
	+1 year	49.49
	+2 years	50.76
	+3 years	52.03
	+4 years	53.30
Capt	On appointment	61.67
	+1 year	63.34
	+2 years	65.01
	+3 years	66.68
	+4 years	68.35
	+5 years	70.02
Maj	+6 years	71.69
	On appointment	78.26
	+1 year	80.20
	+2 years	82.14
	+3 years	84.08
	+4 years	86.02
	+5 years	87.96
	+6 years	89.90
	+7 years	91.84
	+8 years	93.78

SOLDIERS R IRISH HSFT (pre April 21, 1977)

Rank	New daily rates
	£
Pte B 19 and under	22.84
Pte B aged 20	25.96
Pte B aged 21	29.07
Pte A	32.81
LCpl	36.95
Cpl	45.36
Sgt	50.04
SSgt	52.64
WO2	62.09
WO1	71.67

SOLDIERS R IRISH HSFT (post April 21, 1977)

Rank	Scale A	Scale B	Scale C
	£	£	£
Pte B 19 and under	22.84	23.14	23.59
Pte B aged 20	25.96	26.26	26.71
Pte B aged 21	29.07	29.37	29.82
Pte A	32.81	33.11	33.56
LCpl	36.95	37.25	37.70
Cpl	45.36	45.66	46.11
Sgt	50.04	50.34	50.79
SSgt	52.64	52.94	53.39
WO2	62.09	62.39	62.84
WO1	71.67	71.97	72.42

● R Irish HSPT bounties – 1st year, £385; 2nd year, £685; 3rd year, £960.

TA PAY RATES

Illustrative new rates of TA pay

OFFICERS' NORMAL RATES (TA REGS 1978 PARA 7026)

Rank	Service	New Daily rates
		£
2nd Lt		34.35
Lt	On appointment	45.41
	+1 year	46.60
	+2 years	47.80
	+3 years	49.00
	+4 years	50.19
Capt	On appointment	58.07
	+1 year	59.65
	+2 years	61.22
	+3 years	62.79
	+4 years	64.37
	+5 years	65.94
	+6 years	67.51
Maj	On appointment	73.70
	+1 year	75.52
	+2 years	77.35
	+3 years	79.18
	+4 years	81.01
	+5 years	82.83
	+6 years	84.66
	+7 years	86.49
	+8 years	88.31
Lt Col	On appointment	103.90
	2/19 years in rank/service	106.63
	4/21 years in rank/service	109.36
	6/23 years in rank/service	112.26
	8/25 years in rank/service	115.16
Col	on appointment	123.96
	+2 years	127.34
	+4 years	130.72
	+6 years	134.10
	+8 years	137.48
Brig		155.49

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY RATES

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
Lt	On appointment	70.87
Capt	6 years service	77.17
Maj	14 years service	81.80
Lt Col	On appointment	93.57
	3 years service	94.89

OFFICER CADETS

Rank		£
Cadet	On entry	24.11

NRPS OF THE TA/ADMIN STAFF FOR ARMY SECTIONS OF CCF

Rank	Service	New daily rates
		£
Capt	On appointment	55.50
	After 3 years	60.01
	6 years	64.52
Maj	On appointment	70.43
	After 3 years	75.67
	6 years	80.91
Lt Col	On appointment	99.30

SOLDIERS' RATES

Rank	Class	Band	A	Scale B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	Band 1	21.49	21.79	22.24
	3	Band 1	24.08	24.38	24.83
		Band 2	27.96	28.26	28.71
		Band 3	32.26	32.56	33.01
	2	Band 1	26.92	27.22	27.67
		Band 2	30.83	31.13	31.58
		Band 3	35.15	35.45	35.90
	1	Band 1	29.29	29.59	30.04
		Band 2	33.19	33.49	33.94
		Band 3	37.49	37.79	38.24
LCpl	3	Band 1	29.29	29.59	30.04
		Band 2	33.19	33.49	33.94
		Band 3	37.49	37.79	38.24
	2	Band 1	31.28	31.58	32.03
		Band 2	35.19	35.49	35.94
		Band 3	39.85	40.15	40.60
	1	Band 1	33.66	33.96	34.41
		Band 2	37.57	37.87	38.32
		Band 3	42.23	42.53	42.98
Cpl	2	Band 1	36.14	36.44	36.89
		Band 2	40.05	40.35	40.80
		Band 3	44.72	45.02	45.47
	1	Band 1	38.80	39.10	39.55
		Band 2	42.70	43.00	43.45
		Band 3	47.37	47.67	48.12
Sgt		Band 4	42.84	43.14	43.59
		Band 5	47.11	47.41	47.86
		Band 6	51.76	52.06	52.51
SSgt		Band 4	45.31	45.61	46.06
		Band 5	49.55	49.85	50.30
		Band 6	54.23	54.53	54.98
		Band 7	59.86	60.16	60.61
WO2		Band 4	48.44	48.74	49.19
		Band 5	52.71	53.01	53.46
		Band 6	58.45	58.75	59.20
		Band 7	64.20	64.50	64.95
WO1		Band 4	51.66	51.96	52.41
		Band 5	55.91	56.21	56.66
		Band 6	61.74	62.04	62.49
		Band 7	67.47	67.77	68.22

GROUP A NRPS – SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt	After 3yrs	6yrs	9yrs
	£	£	£	£
Pte	28.01	28.11	28.21	28.31
LCpl	32.18	32.28	32.38	32.48
Cpl Class 2	38.97	39.07	39.17	39.27
Cpl Class 1	41.50	41.60	41.70	41.80
Sgt	45.71	45.81	45.91	46.01
SSgt	48.05	48.15	48.25	48.35
WO2	56.56	56.66	56.76	56.86
WO1	65.18	65.28	65.38	65.48

GROUP B NRPS – SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt	After 3yrs	6yrs	9yrs
	£	£	£	£
Pte	28.01	28.11	28.21	28.31
LCpl	32.18	32.28	32.38	32.48
Cpl Class 2	38.97	39.07	39.17	39.27

● Territorial Army bounties – 1st year, £275; 2nd year, £575; 3rd year, £850

Their 'guests' are in for a treat

From Susan Coulthard in Split

MASTER chef Sgt Paul Bailey reckons he gets through 2,500 eggs, 150 kilos of flour, 300 litres of milk and 700 kilos of meat in a week – and that's just the basics.

He was flipping his 100th pancake of the day as he spoke in the cosy cookhouse at 28 Engineer Regiment's headquarters in Tomislavgrad.

Sgt Bailey has four chefs serving with him – he describes them as "a superb team" – and can frequently be found slaving over a hot griddle.

Pancakes, apparently, are a favourite on the base, so the engineering workshop constructed a griddle out of armour plate from designs drawn up by Sgt Bailey.

"I was with an armoured unit in Germany and that's where I first thought of the idea. It has adapted well and the boys like to have a go and do their own pancakes, omelettes and fried eggs."

Sgt Bailey and his chefs feed 210 "regulars" every day and provide for up to 80 more last-minute guests dropping in uninvited.

"Our biggest challenge is the huge variance in numbers that we might be asked to cater for. Because of where we are [the last main base before Route Triangle and the mountains] the extras arrive simply because the weather prevents them going any further.

"We've never let anyone down. We have always managed to feed them and put them up for the night."

The Tomislavgrad base was used for the United Nations food trial. All rations orders, placed through UN HQ in Zagreb to Monte Carlo, were delivered to a cash and carry warehouse in Split.

"We buy it from there on a local purchase agreement. It's



Sgt Paul Bailey with (left to right) Ptes Sharon Sims, Cookie Wilson and Sharon Botley

Every day is pancake day in TSG

a long-winded process and means planning everything three weeks ahead. And we only get one delivery a week when we used to get three a week under the British system," explained Sgt Bailey.

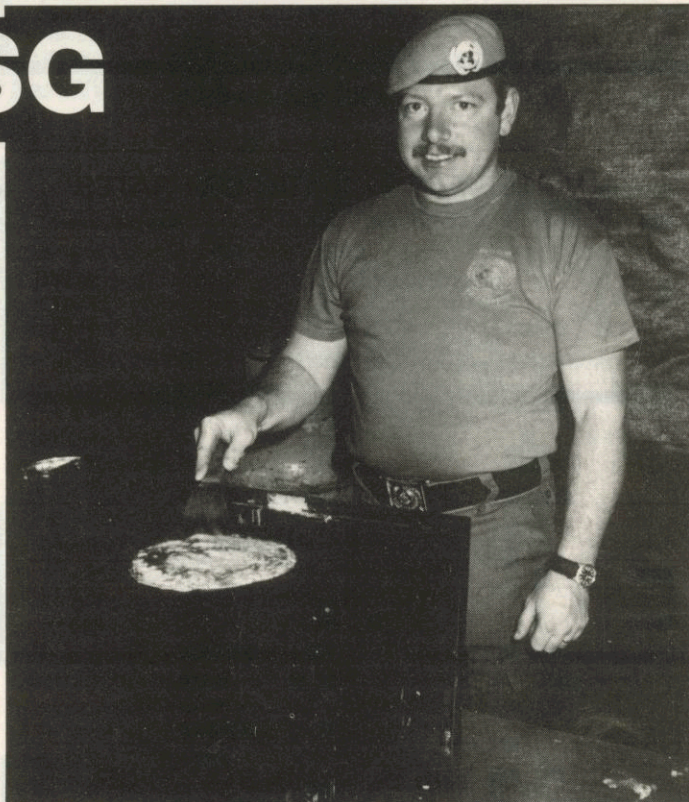
After getting over the culture shock, they found the new system worked so well it has been extended to the whole of the theatre.

"There haven't been any complaints about the UN food. If anything, we've had nothing but compliments."

The chefs have laid on three regimental dinner nights so far, begging and borrowing silver from all over the theatre to transform the humble cookhouse into an officers' mess.

Everyday meals at TSG are a little less lavish, although a typical lunch menu offers six choices of main course. There are usually four dishes to choose from in the evening.

Saturday night is theme night. "It's the most popular meal of the week – so far we've had German, Chinese and curry themes, with fish and chips to come."



Master Chef Sgt Paul Bailey with his home-made griddle

Whatever the source of provisions, chips remain firmly on the menu, said Sgt Bailey.

"The engineers work very long hours so we have to supply them with substantial food. Chips are a perennial favourite so we serve them

every lunch time." The chefs feed Danish, Belgian, Kenyan and French troops as well as British soldiers.

"We have a reputation as the best cooks in theatre, which could be why we get so many visitors."

Independent audit to be made of Gulf syndrome findings

THE PLIGHT of Gulf War veterans who claim their health has been damaged by service in the Gulf was again put under the microscope when Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames announced a series of measures designed to allay their fears, **writes Laurie Manton.**

These include an immediate increase in the existing medical assessment programme and the introduction of an independent clinical auditor, the Royal College of Physicians, to verify findings.

Mr Soames said his department was concerned that any serving or former members of the Armed Forces should be worried about their health following service in the Gulf.

"It was for this reason that numerous appeals have been made for individuals to come forward for a thorough medical examination under our Gulf Medical Assessment Programme," he said.

"Under this programme, which has been the main focus of our investigations into the alleged Gulf War syndrome, British Gulf veterans receive a full medical evaluation by military medical specialists. Approximately one third of the 233 veterans who have so far come forward under this programme have now been assessed and diagnosed, enabling some provisional conclusions to be drawn.

"Although there remains no scientific or medical evidence of a syndrome, the substantial statistical assurance which these investigations provide now make it appropriate for these preliminary findings to be subject to independent verification and publicised."

Replying to a written Parliamentary question, Mr Soames explained that the Royal College of Physicians had been approached to carry out an independent clinical audit of the MoD's assess-

ment programme and its results to date.

"It has been our intention to make public the detailed preliminary findings of the programme at an appropriate stage, when sufficient Gulf veterans have been examined, and I have agreed with the Surgeon General that he should do so in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* after 100 such assessments have been made.

"I again urge all current and former Armed Forces personnel with concerns about their health as a result of service in the Gulf conflict to come forward, through their normal doctors, for assessment under the programme. For those still serving, I repeat my assurance that their careers will not be jeopardised as a result."

Mr Soames later announced the rate of examination of veterans would be increased to provide reassurance for those worried by "alarmist and inaccurate reporting".

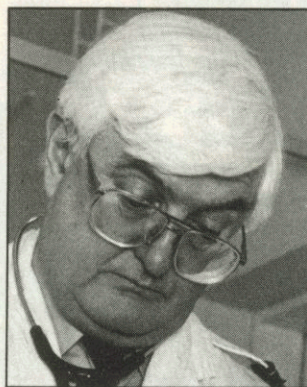
Other bodies are taking an interest. They include the Royal British Legion, which is backing veterans' claims for war pensions and compensation, and a joint Lords-Commons committee formed by Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South.

RBL Welfare Controller Col Terry English said the Legion knew of 500 individuals who had served in the Gulf and suffered ill health since.

"They are suffering from a wide range of serious complaints, such as cancer,



RBL's Col Terry English with MP Edwina Currie



Wg Cdr Bill Coker RAF

leukaemia and motor-neurone disease, and minor ones.

"Our advice, if they have left the Service, is to apply for a war pension. To date, more than 240 have done so and of these 118 have been granted pensions. We have also advised them to go for compensation, and we have forwarded 500 cases to our solicitors, who are waiting to hear from the Ministry of Defence," he said.

The Legion has written to the Armed Forces Minister and is advising those still serving to go through the normal military medical channels.

"We are open-minded about the existence of a syndrome, but do not know if there is some common factor which may have triggered a weakness in the body's immune system and exposed these individuals to these complaints."

Speaking at the House of Commons, Mrs Currie told *Soldier* she had invited the main Service charities to be represented on the committee and that several, including the Legion, SSAFA, the Ex-Services Mental Welfare

Society and the Army Benevolent Fund had offered support.

She said Wg Cdr Bill Coker - who is conducting the tests at RAF Wroughton - had told her that he had seen 78 of the 230 veterans referred to him. Of those, he said 32 per cent were suffering from non-life-threatening physical conditions including irritable bowel syndrome, Crone's disease, bronchial asthma and skin conditions such as acne, eczema and psoriasis.

"Fourteen per cent had serious medical conditions. Several had kidney disease or epilepsy, one has an enlarged heart and another has a brain tumour," she said.

Mrs Currie said she had been told that 28 per cent of those seen were suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, while 12 per cent had been diagnosed as suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Dumped in the deep

IF *Soldier* reported today that the British Army was dumping condemned ammunition in the Irish Sea there would be an instant and almighty outcry.

How times have changed. When feature writer John Grove wrote in July 1957 that tons of the stuff were being chucked overboard from landing craft, he did so with the blessing of the MoD and the co-operation of the Army.

His "scoop" of nearly 40 years ago was brought into focus by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames's recent statement in the House of

Commons on the disposal of munitions at sea (see panel).

Beaufort Dyke – "Davy Jones's Locker" to the crew of Tank Landing Craft No 406 – lies off the coast of south-west Scotland. It is an enormous hole under the Irish Sea, 130 fathoms deep, seven miles long and two wide.

Grove, soon to become editor of *Soldier*, and cameraman Frank Tompsett watched men of the Royal Pioneer Corps tip 90 tons of mortar bombs, fuzes, 25-pounder and 40mm rounds over the side. It brought to nearly a million

tons the amount of bombs, ammunition and explosives jettisoned into the Irish Sea since 1946.

Two Royal Army Ordnance Corps corporals, both of them ammunition examiners, stood by as the 100lb crates were heaved overboard. They carried boat-hooks to retrieve any that burst open and floated.

"On the bridge, the skipper surveyed the scene intently. His crew – members of the Royal Army Service Corps' fleet – stood by with fire hoses in case of accidents."

An hour later LC 406 was setting course for Cairnryan Port, her home port two hours away on the eastern bank of Loch Ryan in Wigtownshire.

For 12 years, wrote John Grove, Beaufort Dyke had swallowed nearly all the three Services' condemned ammunition which could not be disposed of by any other means. Every day, weather permitting, RASC dumping craft set out from Cairnryan on Scotland's west coast.

During the previous year more than 60,000 tons, including the Royal Air Force's heaviest bombs, had been consigned to the sea.

Especially dangerous cargoes were taken 300 miles out into the Atlantic and sunk. Ships which had known better days were loaded with chemical munitions and scuttled far out in the ocean. One such vessel,

laden with mustard gas shells, was the *Emma Alexander*, the vessel on which Charlie Chaplin made his film *The Gold Rush*.

Only the best Pioneer Corps seamen were used for these longer voyages which could take three to four days.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames told the House of Commons that in the period 1945-49 the United Kingdom disposed of about 120,000 tonnes of chemical weapons munitions, bombs and shells, mainly filled with mustard and phosgene gas by deep sea dumping; an additional 25,000 tons of residual United Kingdom munitions stocks and ex-German Second World War aerial bombs, containing the nerve agent Tabun, were sea dumped in the Atlantic between 1955 and 1957.

Dump sites were located between 50 and 100 miles west of the Hebrides, 80 miles north-west of Northern Ireland, 250 miles south-west of Land's End in the Western Approaches, and in Beaufort Dyke in the north channel.

Sea dumping was considered to be the safest and most practical disposal method at the time.

"Current scientific evidence indicates that such CW dump sites present no significant risk to human health or to the marine environment," said Mr Soames.

Cairnryan, built by the Royal Engineers in 1942 in case the Merseyside or Clyde docks were destroyed by German bombers, was then the only deep-sea port between Barrow and Glasgow, and the Army's only port.

Following its sale in 1961,

the dumping operation was moved to Marchwood military port near Southampton.

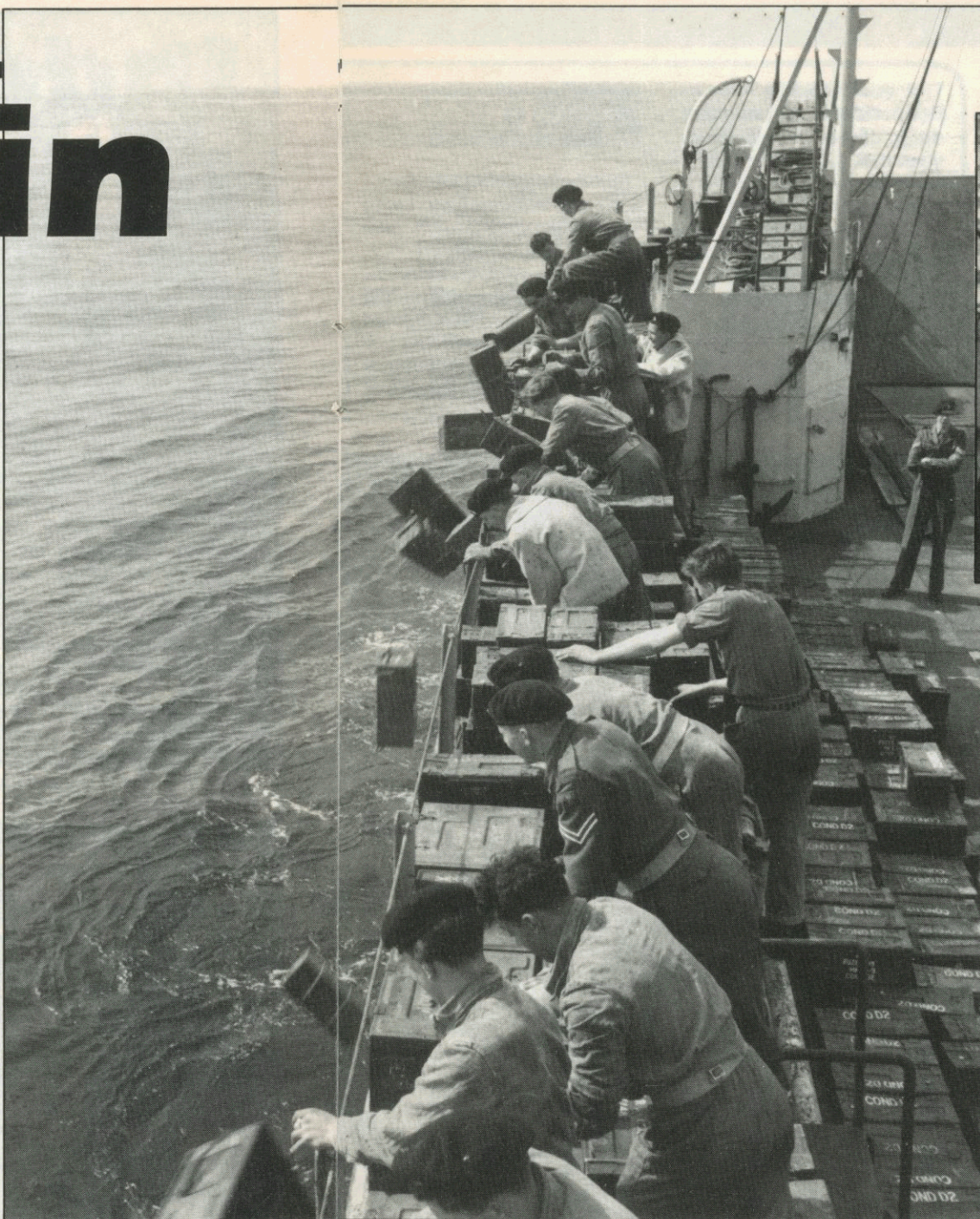
Cross channel ferries operated a daily service from Cairnryan to Northern Ireland during the Second World War and part of the D-Day Mulberry harbour was built there.

With its own railway and dockside cranes, Cairnryan was ideal for ammunition dumping. In the early years, reported *Soldier*, as many as six Army craft a day sailed to Beaufort Dyke.

The operation continued even when, from 1946 to 1950, the port was taken over by the



Above – Dumping complete, the skipper, Capt F Murray, and Cpl J Parkinson RAOC, ammunition examiner, countersign a certificate declaring all ammunition has been safely jettisoned



Left – Ammunition overboard! Pioneers on a landing craft toss another consignment into Beaufort Dyke. Two corporal ammunition examiners of the RAOC keep a watchful eye

Ministry of Supply as a ship-breaking yard. Two battle-ships, the *Ramillies* and *Valiant*, ended their days there.

The vessels used for dumping – three tank landing craft, two coasters and a trawler – were operated by 99 Company RASC (Water Transport), part of the RASC fleet.

While the RAOC ran the operation, the men who handled and dumped the ammunition belonged to 13 Company RPC.

They were provided with duffle coats, rubber boots and waterproof clothing. To prevent them being washed overboard in very rough seas, they were tied to ropes lashed to the rails. RAMC medics accompanied every vessel.

All munitions arriving at Cairnryan was inspected by ammunition experts from the Explosives Disposal Wing of

the RAOC who also gave technical advice on how it should be handled, and accompanied vessels to Beaufort Dyke. They also destroyed explosives – mostly cordite – at nearby Luce Bay. The Pioneers provided the labour as up to 50 tons of cordite was burned a week.

"Beaufort Dyke is likely to go on serving as an ammunition graveyard for many years," Grove noted. In fact, it ceased in 1973.

All deep sea dumping came to an end in October, 1992 when the practice was abandoned following the Paris Convention of that year.

Today, redundant ammunition is disposed of by demolition or open burning. No stocks of chemical munitions have been held in Britain since the Atlantic dumpings ended in the mid-1950s.



Soldiers of the Royal Pioneer Corps at Cairnryan stack thousands of boxes of condemned ammunition which have been swung aboard a vessel by crane



Landing craft crew hose down the deck after dumping in Beaufort Dyke. All traces of explosive and inflammable material have to be washed away



LCpl Bob Bullock (left) and Cpl Richard Gallagher (front) with members of the phase four team on the Mazaruni River in Guyana



The long, straight, desolate road south through Argentina to Mendoza, jump-off point for the Aconcagua expedition

THE Household Division's Roof of the Americas expedition began more than a year ago. Led by Capt John Warburton-Lee, it is now making its way across the Patagonian ice-cap to Cape Horn on the final leg of the six-phase mission.

The great adventure began from the northernmost tip of Alaska with a 2,000-mile journey by dog-sled and snowmobile round

Southbound – to the Horn

the Arctic tundra. The journey south to the Horn took the second team to Mt McKinley, the highest mountain in North America, while the third part kayaked and rafted the entire 225-mile length of the River Colorado as it flows through the mighty Grand Canyon.

The fourth team ventured deep into the Guyanese jungle on foot and by boat to find the source of the Mazaruni, while the gruelling fifth leg was in two parts, a 4,000-mile trek through South America from the jungles of Ecuador to Argentina, followed by

the ascent of Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the southern Americas.

For almost all of the 2,000-mile trip through Peru, the travellers stuck to the coastal desert strip, as much to avoid the resident drug barons as the Maoist terrorist organisation known as the Shining Path.

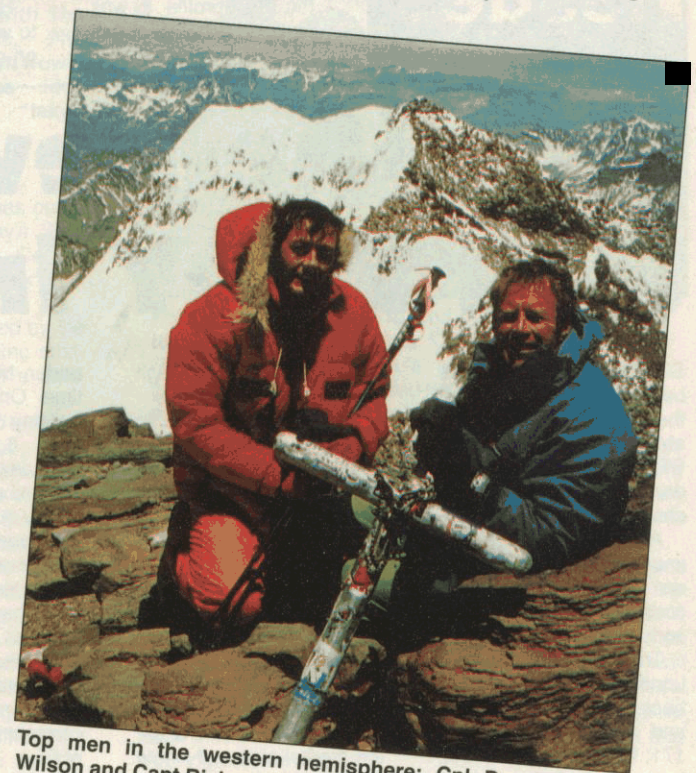
From Peru, the expedition crossed Bolivia into Argentina.



Phase five team members acclimatise with Argentinian military guides



On the march: team members on the lower slopes of Aconcagua



Top men in the western hemisphere: Cpl Douglas Wilson and Capt Richard Gaffney on the summit

Summit success caps Argentina's warm welcome

A LARGE sign at the customs post proclaiming "Las Malvinas son Argentinas" did nothing to reassure the small party of British soldiers as they crossed the border from Bolivia.

This was the start of the second leg of phase five of the Household Division's ambitious Roof of the Americas expedition.

The soldiers were told they would not be permitted to camp in the countryside or at civilian sites but would have to spend each night in a military barracks.

However, early apprehension about the reception they would receive was quickly and comprehensively dispelled.

The Argentinians could not have been more helpful, nor their hospitality more generous. Enormous traditional barbecues were

laid on for members of the British Army expedition, the second to enter the country since the end of the Falklands War.

Although none of the Roof of the Americas' soldiers had fought in the Falklands, there were among them representatives from each of the Household Division regiments involved in the war.

Wherever the British came into contact with the Argentinian military, a rapport was quickly established.

Far from being sensitive about the conflict, they frequently appeared eager to talk about it.

One junior officer gave a fascinating

account of being taken out of basic training to command a platoon of similarly untrained conscripts with whom he fought in three major battles before being captured.

A healthy repartee developed between the two camps, and the British soldiers found little difference between their own infantry and cavalry barracks and those of their hosts.

The expedition's objective in Argentina was Mount Aconcagua, at 20,320ft the highest in the western hemisphere. Getting there involved a 1,100-mile drive across the coun-

try to Puente del Inca in the Andes, where they were welcomed by Maj Jose Hernandez, commander of the Compania de Cazadores, Argentina's military climbing specialists with whom the expedition was to train and acclimatise before attempting the summit.

The Cazadores planned a fast ascent, climbing 5,000ft from Nido de Condor to the top on a summit day which began in darkness and bitter cold at 4am.

Altitude sickness – in the form of acute

headaches, vomiting and breathlessness – reduced the British team to ten at this point, accompanied by seven Cazadores

guides. The fast pace took its toll and four more expedition members – two of them by now vomiting uncontrollably – turned back, accompanied by a guide.

At about 20,000ft one more had to give in to the altitude, leaving four British and six Argentinians to press on.

To reach the shelter of the Canaletta, just 1,500ft below the summit of Aconcagua, the remaining climbers had to defy blasts of wind which threatened to blow them off an exposed ridge line.

Gdsm Neil Laurie made it across, but had to give up. Maj Hernandez and expedition leader Capt John Warburton-Lee nobly offered to lead him back to safety.

It took Capt Richard Gaffney and Cpl Douglas Wilson, and the five remaining Cazadores, resting every four or five paces, another four hours to reach the small cross on the summit.

For Richard Gaffney it was a particularly fine effort. He had been one of only three to make it to the top of Mt McKinley.

● Members of the sixth and final team were travelling south to Patagonia to trek and mountaineer before sailing through the Straits of Magellan and the Beagle Channel to Cape Horn, final destination of the Roof of the Americas expedition.

Gulf illness cause raises wider issues

"TWO hours of pure theatre." That's how Edwina Currie MP described the Commons Defence Committee's hearing on so-called Gulf War syndrome.

I talked to her after the meeting broke up and she appeared to be fired up by the morning's evidence. Mrs Currie has been following the story since it first appeared and has promised to appear on my BFBS *Counterpoint* programme.

I was asked recently on a radio programme if I thought it was worth the high-profile it was getting. I think so, but not for the reasons in

the presenter's mind. Whether the veterans prove their case or not, the main point for me is the raising of a wariness among civilians of the price paid by those who serve. (See Page 23)

☆ ☆ ☆
In an interview given to *The Yorkshire Post*, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, said he saw the restoration of confidence – for which I read morale – as one of his top priorities.

He tied his comments to what he sees as the on-going funding battle

with the Treasury, but I think there's a bigger battle in the background. There has been much said in the papers about the way the men at the top of the Services manage their budgets.

I may be wrong, but I can't believe that our senior officers signed up for the lure of an accountant's life. ☆ ☆ ☆

The next few months will see an outbreak of nostalgia as we pay tribute to those who had their lives cut short by war. We in the world of the Armed Forces will

promise never to forget and will pledge ourselves to honouring the men and women who serve. But will we?

SSAFA created not a few waves in the world of advertising with their hard-hitting campaign highlighting the need to care for ex-Service people. In one film members of a family are seen anxiously averting their gaze from a young man at the dinner table. As the camera swings round we see him trying to cope with his false hands.

It sums up the attitude of those who haven't really understood the gift given to all of us by

those who take the risks. We honour them in principle, but the reality is too uncomfortable.

The reality of honouring Service people means making them feel valued and respected; maintaining traditional rank and pay structures; not subjecting them to endless reviews; and housing them properly and treating their wives with respect.

☆ ☆ ☆
The Federation of Army Wives' access to highly placed people is much envied by others. At a meeting with Mike Robinson, head of the Defence Housing Executive, it was suggested

there should be a liaison committee to help feed comment on housing from wives directly to the top.

This is excellent news. Sherie Williams Ellen, the FAW administrator, says she will pass on any comments about housing and I will field them. Write to me, at the address below, in complete confidence and I will pass your queries and suggestions to FAW.

It is a unique chance to let the Housing Executive know what you think.

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

Colin's feat of clay pays off in time

Redundancy under Phase 1 of Options has, after a shaky start, paid dividends for a former warrant officer with The King's Hussars. Phil Wilcox reports on how a bright business idea has, literally, "taken flight".

THE BARBOUR and wellies brigade was out in force at Germany's Senelager Training Centre, rifles at the ready and alert for the target.

A bang, followed by the sound of something shattering, indicated a successful shot.

But this was no ordinary clay pigeon shoot... it was being held *inside* the mess. And there was no whiff of cordite in the air.

Clayton's Lasersport was holding one of its increasingly popular target shooting evenings.

At the drop of a colonel's napkin, the five competitors could have swapped the five static targets (A5-size boxes), which appear at random on a screen, and retired outdoors.

There, they could have taken pot-shots at flying, luminous clays, fired from a conventional launcher at different positions, speeds and angles.

"It is very competitive and very addictive," says the eponymous Colin Clayton, whose Warrington-based firm is also in demand for day-time "shoots".

Until 1992, he was more familiar with an Army rifle than the specially adapted 12-bore shotguns – each firing a harmless infra-red beam – from which he now makes a profitable living.

Joining the Army from school at 15, he completed his training in 1973 and stayed with the 14th/20th King's Hussars, reaching the rank of warrant officer before taking redundancy three years ago.

A leisure management



Former warrant officer turned businessman meets former footballer ditto as Colin Clayton and Sir Bobby Charlton launch a series of nation-wide business games organised by the latter's company, at which Colin's shooting games were featured

course attended as part of his resettlement package shaped his future.

The lecturer intrigued Colin by extolling the virtues of the laser shooting systems developed in Great Britain by manufacturers and distributors Powercom (UK) Limited.

"Some months later, while I was on job experience in a leisure centre in Warrington, I went to Birmingham and saw the system at first hand.

"Within two months I had invested more than £15,000 on an outdoor shooting system."

The indoor version costs about £5,000 extra.

Colin had allowed himself £20,000 out of his redundancy money to help start his business.

In hindsight, he says, that should have been £30,000, with, apart from working capital, money set by for items such as a trailer to carry the equipment, computer, fax, brochures and insurance.

He approached his local Business Venture, obtained a government grant of £1,200 and attended day courses on running a business.

It was, however, slow going at first.

Colin's solution was to put on free shows for

breweries and leisure centres, plus some charity events. He grabbed at any bookings that came his way.

With mixed weather and high ground rent his first summer was not quite a disaster, but he swore then that he would wait for the right offers in future.

Colin invested more money in night shoot and indoor systems.

On his first outing with the new venture he received seven bookings on the spot, and such was the impact that it had paid for itself within a month.

Since then he has gone from strength to strength.

Apart from entertaining at four officers' mess summer balls and attending the open day of The King's Regiment in Hounslow, Colin travels regularly to bases in Germany.

"It's entertainment with a difference," says Colin, "and tailor-made for Army and other Forces personnel and their families."

Should anyone in the Forces be interested in this type of future employment, he would be delighted to assist.

Like his clays, Colin's new career appears to be taking off fast...

He can be contacted on 01925 575683.

Use the new codes and STAY in touch

SERVICE personnel are being urged to make sure their families, home and abroad, are aware that STD codes to United Kingdom telephone exchanges change on April 16.

After that date it will be impossible to get through on the old codes. New codes are simply the old code prefixed by 1.

Thus the dial code for London (0)71 – or (0)81 – becomes 0171 – or 0181 – and from Germany 0044 171; for Cheltenham 0242 becomes 01242 and from Germany 0044 1242.

STD codes and telephone numbers in Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester and Bristol will change completely, numbers increasing from six to seven digits.

Leeds: 0532 changes to 0113 (from Germany 0044 113) plus seven digit number beginning with 2;

Sheffield: 0742 changes to 0114 (from Germany 0044 114) plus seven digit number beginning with 2;

Nottingham: 0602 changes to 0115 (from Germany 0044 115) plus seven digit number beginning with 9;

Leicester: 0533 changes to 0116 (from Germany 0044 116) plus seven digit number beginning with 2;

Bristol: 0272 changes to 0117 (from Germany

0044 117) plus seven digit number beginning with 9.

The 010 prefix used in the UK for making international calls changes to 00 (the prefix to Germany changes from 010 49 to 00 49. After Phoneday, UK telephone users using the old 010 prefix for international calls will not be connected.

Changed status

UNITS have been reminded of the need to change the marital status of single parents following ministerial approval of a new policy which entitles single parents to Service family accommodation and other associated benefits.

Commutation

MANY officers are confused about how transitional arrangements for the phasing out of life commutation will affect them.

The basic principle of the phasing out arrangements was that those in service on or before March 31, 1978 would remain eligible for the option of life commutation, although only reckonable service up to April 6, 1980 would be used to assess their entitlement under this form of commutation.

Resettlement and life commutation are alternative schemes and personnel are not normally permitted to commute

under both at the same time. Only officers whose last day of service is before April 6, 1996 will be allowed to do so, providing the maximum amount is taken out under resettlement commutation.

Officers whose last day of service is April 6, 1996 or later have the following options:

● Take resettlement commutation, which will bar them from taking life commutation until the age of 55;

● Take life commutation, which will prevent them from ever taking resettlement commutation.

Course refunds

A NEW system for claiming partial refunds of exam or education fees paid to civilian bodies is to be brought in on April 1.

Under it, claims will be paid automatically through individual pay accounts, doing away with the current method which is seen as labour intensive and lacking adequate controls.

Applicants will need to obtain authority for the course from the local Group Education Officer (GEO) and submit an AF 09578 form to the GEO on completion of the course. The GEO then authorises the payment and returns the claim to the individual's parent unit which dispatches it to the Pay Office.

UIN reminder

PAY offices are reporting an increase in the number of units failing to apply for sub unit identity numbers, which could lead to a delay in the update of pay and records.

Family Credit

FAMILIES with a total income of less than £73 a week and not more than £3,000 in savings are eligible for full Family Credit (FC) of £56.50 a week. Families with an income of more than £73 will get less.

To be eligible, the claimant (or the claimant's partner) must be working at least 16 hours a week; support a child under 16 (or 19 if in full time education); and have total savings (claimant and partner taken together) of less than £8,000.

Example 1: One child under 11 – (£45 for claimant plus £11.40 for child; net earnings about £70 a week), FC about £56.50 a week.

Example 2: Two children aged four and six – (£45.10 for claimant plus £11.40 per child; net earnings about £90 a week), FC about £64 a week.

Example 3: Three children aged three, six and nine – (£45.10 for claimant plus £11.40 per child; net earnings about £100 a week), FC about £60.40 a week.

Cash aid for war veterans outlined

DETAILS of financial assistance available to war pensioners living at home were spelled out in the House of Lords.

In a written answer, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish said that in addition to the maximum tax-free war disablement pension, currently £98.90 a week, there are tax-free allowances which severely disabled war pensioners may claim to help them cope with their disabilities.

These range from a maximum invalidity allowance of £12.15 a week to a maximum constant attendance allowance of £74.80 and include an unemployment supplement, an exceptionally severe disability allowance, a comforts allowance, an age allowance and a mobility supplement.

A single, severely disabled war pensioner could, he said, receive a maximum war pension of £356.30 a week.

In addition he might be entitled to a clothing allowance of up to £126 a year and a house adaptation grant of up to £750 may also be payable.



Eyes on the clays as guests prepare to fire at the summer ball at Government House, Aldershot

Hands-on help wanted

A "HANDS-ON" pilot venture for up to 50 children with moderate or mild learning difficulties is being planned for the Princes Hall, Aldershot on April 26.

Schoolchildren from Basingstoke, Bordon and Farnborough are to be given a taster of jobs they may consider when they leave formal education.

Organiser Roger Buck of Hampshire Education

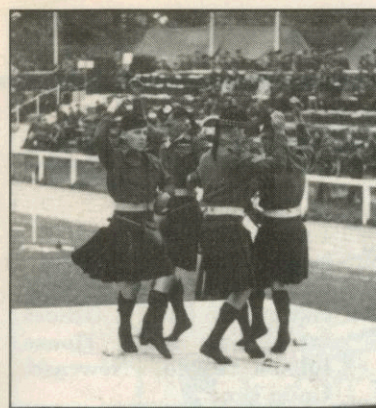
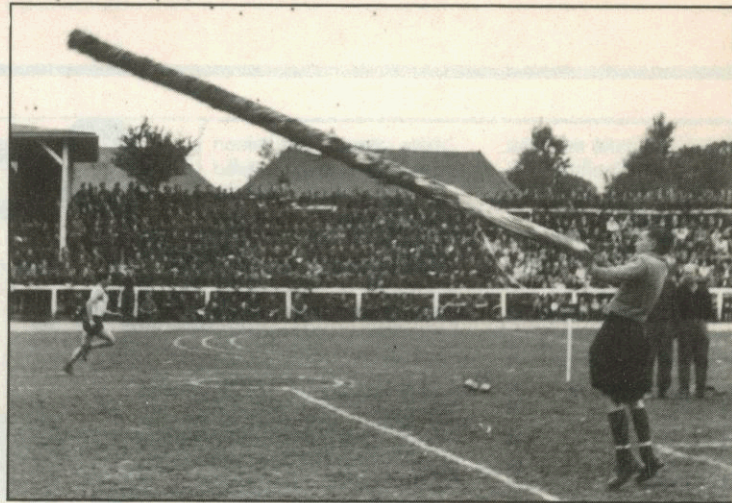
Partnership would like to hear from anyone who can give up a day to help. Areas he is interested in include fault-finding in vehicles, operating a small printing press, preparing a room in a hotel, sugaring and putting jam in doughnuts, potting plants, and so on.

Contact Roger at The Bury, Odiham, Hants RG25 1NB (tel 01256 701294, fax 703 955).



Above — This was the kind of effort that took the 3rd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders to the tug-of-war final at the 51st (Highland) Division reunion in Perth in 1963

Right — Tossing the caber at the 15th (Scottish) Division Highland Games at Lubeck, 1945



Dancers from the 51st (Highland) Division compete in the finals of the Broadwords at Verden, Germany in September 1945



The Black Watch regimental tailor, CSgt Archie Don, checks the hang of a kilt during a Black Watch fitting parade at Ballykinler

Provoked, vilified, mocked and banned . . . but they couldn't bring down the kilt

Soldier lifts the fringe of a garment which was banned by kings and the War Office, ruled "unsuitable for mechanical warfare", inspired the nuns of Quebec to knit undergarments, struck terror into the Queen's enemies and provoked the French to remark: "For love, yes; for war, no"

FOR MORE than 200 years the kilt as a soldier's garment has invited controversy. It has been admired, derided, outlawed and reprieved. Colonels and high commanders, kings and queens have been drawn into the fray.

After the 1745 Jacobite rising, the kilt was banned throughout

Britain — except for soldiers, and in 1757 the War Office began the first of many attempts to abolish the garment in Highland regiments.

It was forbidden to the 78th (Fraser's Highlanders) when they landed in North America that year on the grounds that "it was unfit for the severe winters and hot summers in that country".

In his *Sketches of the Highlanders*, Gen Stewart of Garth wrote: "The officers and soldiers vehemently protested . . . and Colonel Fraser explained to the Commander-in-Chief the strong attachment which the men cherished to their national dress and the consequence that might be expected to follow if they were deprived of it."

"The representation was successful . . . We were allowed to wear the garb of our fathers and in the course of six winters

showed the doctors that they did not understand our constitutions, for in the coldest winters our men were more healthy than those regiments who wore breeches and warm clothing."

It was a different story when the Highlanders entered the ruins of Quebec two years later.

So cold was the weather that sentries had to be relieved every hour to prevent frostbite. They were very grateful for a supply of woollen hose knitted, as much for decency's sake as for charity, by the city's nuns.

The *History of the Seaforth Highlanders* records of the march through Holland and Westphalia in 1794 and 1795: "The troops suffered great hardships there through want of food but the 78th were saved much sickness from the fact that they always wore the kilt, the warmth of which round the body is a wonderful protection against chills that lead to dysentery and the like."

But the War Office was unimpressed. It considered the kilt unsuitable, not only for cold climates, but for hot weather too — Scottish troops were sent to India in trousers.

During the Peninsular War, the 71st Regiment told the inhabitants of a town that the

92nd Regiment wore the kilt as a badge of disgrace, being cowards and felons. The townsfolk refused supplies to the Scots.

When the row was referred to the divisional general and the colonel of the 71st, officers responsible were reprimanded, NCOs were reduced to the ranks and privates were court-martialled.

A year later George III ordered Highland regiments to discontinue wearing the kilt. Official reason was that after the heavy losses sustained by the Highlanders at the Battle of Corunna it was becoming difficult to find recruits to keep regiments up to strength.

Some regiments ignored the royal command.

The kilt was seen on the field of Waterloo, and afterwards in occupied Paris — where French ladies expressed excessive and unseemly curiosity as to what was worn beneath it.

In 1823 the Royal decree was rescinded and most Highland regiments were again allowed to wear a form of Highland dress, although they had to adopt the tartan trews or pantaloons.

In 1871 the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were asked by Queen Victoria what the regiment would like most. The colonel told her they would like



Deeds of derring-do! Piper Kenneth Mackay of the 79th Cameron Highlanders playing during the Battle of Waterloo, 1815

the kilt restored, a request to which the Queen readily agreed. Military authorities objected, however, so the battalion remained in trews.

Most Highland regiments were not allowed to wear the kilt again, except in full dress, until 1881.

As a camouflage measure an ochre-coloured kilt-apron was introduced for Highland regiments in the South African War, and again during the First World War. It was not popular. Highlanders claimed the apron

was more conspicuous than the dyed tartan cloth of the kilt.

It was during the Great War that kilted Scots earned their most famous tribute from the enemy . . . "the Ladies from Hell".

There were varying views on the suitability of the kilt in trench warfare. But Field Marshal Earl Haig,

a Scot, had his doubts. On March 6, 1917 he wrote in his private diary:

"At Ambrines 44th Brigade (15 Div under Brig General Marshall). All Highland Battalions in kilts looked very fine, but some of the poor fellows' knees seem to suffer much in this inclement weather. General Joffre's criticism of the kilt seems justified: 'Pour l'amour oui, mai pour la guerre non' (For love, yes; for war, no)."

In 1939 the War Office banned the wearing of the kilt

in action "in view of its unsuitability for mechanical warfare". In future it would be worn only for ceremonial and walking-out (some Scottish regiments took the kilt overseas). Highlanders who took part in the Commando raid on St Nazaire in 1942 were given special permission to wear it.

When the Black Watch were leaving for France in 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth commiserated with them over the loss of the kilt.

"Nothing less than royal sympathy and royal ingenuity in helping to make the best of a bad job could have averted a genuine bitterness and a sad slump in morale," says Col Bernard Fergusson in *The Black Watch and the King's Enemies*.

It had been given out that the chief reason for withdrawing the kilt was to prevent the regiment from being identified. "But, damn it," said Big Mac, alias CSM MacGregor, "we want to be identified!"

Long afterwards it was discovered that the decision came

not from high command but from an ordnance officer.

Two Highland officers, a Cameron and a Gordon, parachuted into France in 1944 wearing the kilt and Fitzroy Maclean is said to have dropped into Yugoslavia in tartan.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders fought in Korea in battledress but wore the kilt out of the line. They were grateful, during the severe winter of 1951, to accept an issue of drawers, woollen, winter, long.

A few years ago the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders Regimental Association commissioned a painting to mark the last wearing of the kilt in action.

That particular bit of history was made in 1940 by the 1st Cameron Highlanders in the hard-fought battles around the Escaut Canal and La Basée before the withdrawal to Dunkirk.

No other Scottish battalion fought in the kilt during the Second World War, nor has any since.

Veterans' group seeks independent investigation

WE are writing to express our appreciation of the articles you have been publishing with regard to the symptoms and illnesses suffered by veterans of the Gulf War.

As you know, the Gulf Veter-

ans Association's prime concern is to gain medical and scientific investigation on an independent basis to establish the cause of these problems and to gain medical help for those who are suffering.

The coverage your magazine has given has undoubtedly made many, many more people aware of the problem and the need to establish the facts, not only for those who are suffering now but also to

ensure such events do not happen again. - Denise Parker, Gulf Veterans Association, c/o SSAFA Offices, 5th Floor, MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Secret Army's separate signals

I ENJOYED very much the article and excellent photographs on the "Secret Army" (*Soldier*, February 6) but must correct one part concerning the Royal Signals.

They were the Auxiliary Units Signals, the other half of the Resistance, which were completely separate from the patrols who had no radio communications.

Auxiliary Units Signals operated a complex network of radio telephony links to out-stations near the coast. The coastal cells were manned by civilians with "runners" to supply information of enemy activity, relaying this back to the defending forces through the signals base stations, hidden in dugouts, which could themselves operate under enemy occupation.

- Arthur Gabbitts, ex-Auxiliary Units Signals, Rayleigh, Essex.

Clegg dilemma applied in Suez

PTE Lee Clegg is unlucky. His plight could have happened to any soldier doing a duty in an area where there were terrorists.

Orders for "legitimately" opening fire which protect both soldier and peaceful citizens are impossible to devise. The most recent efforts reported in national newspapers are riddled with loopholes and will get more of our men shot.

Guard commanders in the Suez Canal Zone used to summarise orders given to sentries by saying return fire was only officially authorised if your head was blown off, and only then if you could ensure that your shot never left the camp confines!

Let's face it, troops in such circumstances should be judged by a different set of rules than those which normally apply and, in all cases, a man on a charge - if one needs to be raised - should be treated sympathetically and given the benefit of any doubt. - C L Golder, Bolton.

EVER since Pte Lee Clegg was found guilty of murder and gaoled I have given considerable thought to the system that failed him.

It is a travesty of justice that a soldier is given a gun and told to control a situation where civil authorities have thrown in their hand, then for those same authorities to bring him to book on a split-second decision taken in good faith in hazardous circumstances.

I served in the Suez Canal Zone in the early 1950s, where there was a similar situation in some respects and, by the grace of God, came out unscathed.

Ex-Sgt K Saunders (Letters, July 26, 1993) put our case in a light-hearted but significant way when he said: "Being shot at... wasn't much fun - all the more so since we were not allowed to fire back, except in dire circumstances, for fear of upsetting the delicate political balance." How long can this state of affairs go on? It has not changed for the past 40 years.

In trying to protect civilian rights, the rules are biased

against the soldier, as anyone who has tried to implement them would agree.

I see the Ministry of Defence is having yet another go at altering the Yellow Card. I reckon I can help them here if

they really want to get to grips with the situation by suggesting:

1. Put signs on lamp posts and in newspapers, and broadcast: "Terrorists are operating in this region."

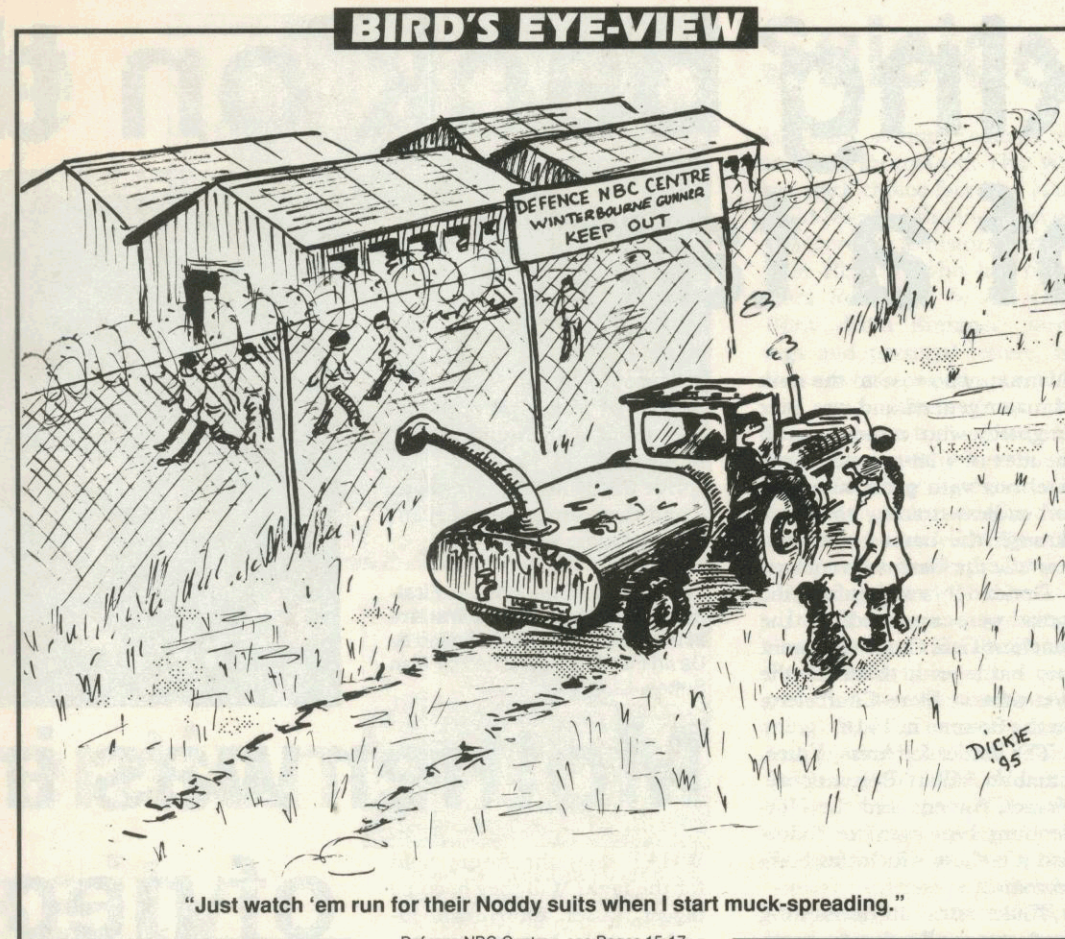
Obey orders given by soldiers or you may be shot."

This would eliminate doubt and legal wrangling which springs from trying to use more subtle language so as not to offend.

2. Let it be known that in the worst possible scenario a soldier on duty will only be charged with conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, or the unauthorised discharge of a firearm.

This would put breaches in perspective and prevent another "Cleggy". - W H D Podd, Suffolk.

Being shot at wasn't much fun



"Just watch 'em run for their Noddy suits when I start muck-spreading."

Defence NBC Centre - see Pages 15-17

There's just no stopping this Chelsea Pensioner

I HAVE just been reading the story in the sports pages (*Soldier*, November 14) about Army runners who competed successfully at the world veterans road race championships in Toronto.

It may be of interest that I was the first member of the Royal Hospital to win a gold team medal in the Over 65 10km race in those championships in Canada.

I also took part in the 25km race the following day. I was also the first member from the Royal Hospital to complete the London Marathon, which I finished in a time of 4hr 12min.

I will be running in the Bury St Edmunds 20-mile race and then this year's London Marathon. After that I will be representing Great Britain in Spain in May before taking part in the world veterans athletics championships in Buffalo, New York. - In-Pensioner J W Harris, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.



Aldershot's old Louee recalled with affection

I FOUND your cover picture (February 20) of the Princess Louise Margaret Maternity Wing staff very nostalgic.

Sixty-three years ago I worked in the "Louee" as one of the two RAMC other ranks staff.

As far as I can remember, I did all the daily returns, ordered rations, dispensary and laundry, worked in the

theatre and even fed babies in my spare time.

One of the midwifery trainees became my wife, and my memories of the Louee of 1932 were that it was one big, happy family. I enclose a photograph (above) of the Matron, Sisters Wright (Senior Midwife) and Gregory, and a staff nurse. - George Rowls, Dyfed.

Rank and burial honours

CAN any reader inform me what rank one of my distant relatives would have attained to warrant burial with full military honours?

In December 1874, at the age of 68, my great, great grandfather was killed in an accident at Dudley, Worcestershire when he fell down a mine shaft. His death and subsequent funeral were recorded in local newspapers.

One report of the time states: "The Himley Troop of the Staffordshire Yeomanry Cavalry marched in front of the hearse with arms reversed, whilst behind the hearse was a small detachment of the Worcestershire Yeomanry Cavalry."

"Solemn and appropriate music was played by the Dudley Rifle Corps."

A relative believes he held the rank of captain in the Household Cavalry, but Army Lists for the 1800s have no record of him. Two books written in the last century and covering both the Yeomanry regiments throw no light on the matter.

Am I right in assuming the officer establishment for a local yeomanry unit was a captain, one or two lieutenants and an ensign? - W G A Deeley, 128 Ridgacre Lane, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1PX.

A Whitehall farce, surely

I HAVE just seen *Soldier* (February 6) and couldn't believe my eyes when I read about the compulsory drug testing of officers in MoD's Whitehall HQ. What a waste of time and money.

Who will they test next... Captain Mainwaring and the rest of Dad's Army? - Paul Goodge, Putney, London.

● Since December 1, everyone in the Army - from the highest to the lowest - has been liable to be tested without warning for drug misuse. The testing of some of the Army's most senior officers in Whitehall was a high profile way of driving that message home. - Editor.

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Is Tony our oldest driver?

CAN any of your readers help to prove what we think may be a record?

Cpl A Hedley (Service number 23186791) completed National Service with the RASC and two years ago, at the age of 55, was still driving a Ferret as a serving member of The Royal Yeomanry.

Tony will be retiring from the Yeomanry this year and it would be appropriate to establish that he is the oldest serving member to have driven a Ferret CVR(T). Does anyone know of an older A vehicle driver, and can we make Tony a "record breaker"? - Mrs J Smith, Erith, Kent.

Tracking back on the sex of a tank

IT is necessary to know that the essential difference between a male and a female tank, 1916 vintage, was in the armament. That's the first thing to sort out in *Tanks and Trenches*, which is a collection of first-hand accounts of tank warfare in the 1914-18 war.

Male tanks were fitted with 57mm guns and females with Vickers water-cooled machine guns. Other than that they had much in common in that they were constantly breaking down. Which is not surprising considering they were a brand-new invention introduced to break the deadlock of trench warfare, which they did with great success, despite mechanical unreliability and the ever present mud.

It was Army officer Ernest

Swinton, who rose to the rank of major general and was later knighted, who came up with the idea of a 28-ton armoured steel box with guns, mounted on endless tracks, to break through the barbed wire and straddle the German trenches.

Derided by many at first, the tanks were operated by the Machine Gun Corps who went into battle with them for the first time at Flers-Courcellette on the Somme in 1916.

The battles for Arras, Ypres, Cambrai, Villers-Bretonneux, Hamel, Amiens and the Hindenburg Line were to follow and it is these which this book recounts.

While it is an interesting read, especially for tankmen past and present, the accounts are somewhat repetitious

because many of them were written by young officers who had to follow the military style of the day.

But this is no real drawback – and there are some excellent photographs. – JM

Tanks and Trenches – First-hand Accounts of Tank Warfare in the First World War. Edited by David Fletcher. Published by Alan Sutton, £19.99.



Three Cs – The Comet (above), the Cromwell (top) (advancing through the ruins of Stadthohn, west of Münster, 1945), and the Crusader (left), pictured in numbers on exercise on the South Downs during August 1942 (note the censor's contribution)

Mother was invention of necessity

WHAT does the future hold for the tank? Will they become bigger, faster, more manoeuvrable with heavier armour and weapons, or will new anti-tank devices see their eventual demise?

Who knows? But if you want the history and development of these "landships" explained, then Christopher Chant's *World Encyclopaedia of the Tank* tells the story from inception to the present. The author has no doubt that the tank is far from dead, offering the Gulf War as an example of its supremacy.

"The war with Iraq saw the heaviest armoured fighting

since the Second World War, but was so one-sided that few lessons could be drawn from it," he writes.

This is an interesting and well-illustrated book which, not least because of its technical details of every tank since Mother (Tank Mk 1) of 1915 vintage, will excite the attention of everyone who has ever been involved with these vehicles.

Inventor Swinton and his supporters had to wait until

November 20, 1917, when 400 Mk IV tanks rumbled towards the German lines in the first mass tank assault to begin the battle of Cambrai – still celebrated by the RTR – and prove these vehicles to be war-winners.

Hardly coffee table reading, this, but a fine reference book. – JM

World Encyclopaedia of the Tank by Christopher Chant. Haynes Publishing, £25

Nuts! Little word that said it all...

THE hundreds of photographs in *Nuts! The Battle of the Bulge* prove to a large extent that words are sometimes superfluous in the telling of a story.

While the text in this case is fine, giving the details of the last big Nazi offensive, it is the pictures and captions which really capture the reader's eye.

An all-American production by Donald M Goldstein, Katherine V Dillon and J Michael Wenger, this is a finely-produced account of the Ardennes Offensive for two months from December 1944 to the end of January 1945.

The title of the book comes from an exclamation by Brig Gen Anthony C McAuliffe, commanding the 101st US Airborne Division defending the town of Bastogne during the battle.

He and his command were completely surrounded and getting seriously battered when the enemy demanded their surrender.

"Aw, nuts!" said McAuliffe, on receiving the enemy note. That message was conveyed to his opposite number and the battle went on until the garrison was relieved in early January.

The Battle of the Bulge took a heavy toll, with this book claiming around 81,000 US casualties of which 19,000 were killed. British casualties are put at 1,400 with 200 killed. Estimated German figures are 100,000 killed, wounded or captured. The fight for the Ardennes was the enemy's last desperate bid to split the Allied line.

The rest is history, but with the forthcoming VE Day celebrations, survivors of that decisive battle will, no doubt, be remembering those harsh days of 50 years ago. – JM

Nuts! The Battle of the Bulge by Donald M Goldstein, Katherine V Dillon and Michael J Wenger. Published by Brassey's, £25.

The Art of Warfare in the Age of Marlborough by David Chandler. Re-issue of scholarly work by former RMA Sandhurst Head of War Studies. First published 1976. Spellmount, hardback, £19.95.

Regiments of the British Army 1939-1945 (Armour and Infantry) by Malcolm A Bellis. Comprehensive lists of regiments, battalions, locations. Military Press International, £19.99.

This Kind of War by T R Fehrenbach. Re-issue of the classic history of the Korean War, first published 1963. Brassey's, hardback, £22.95.

Salient Points: Cameos of the Western Front, Ypres Sector 1914-18 by Tony Spagnoly and Ted Smith. Edited by Ted Smith. Aimed at giving the Great War bat-

IN BRIEF

tlefield visitor a deeper insight into the activities and minor actions, accompanied by maps and photographs. Leo Cooper, softback, £9.95.

A Western Front Companion 1914-1918 by John Laffin. A to Z source to the battles, weapons, people, places and air combat. Alan Sutton Publishing, hardback, £19.99.

An Englishman's Peace and War by Neil Boyd. The author, a British soldier, survived a Japanese labour camp and Hiroshima. The Pentland Press, hardback, £14.95.

Scottish Units in the World Wars by Michael Chappell and The

Royal Marines 1939-93 by Nick van der Bijl (colour plates by Paul Hannon). No 56 and No 57 in the Osprey Military Elite Series. Each £8.50.

M3 Infantry Half-Track 1940-73 and BMP Infantry Fighting Vehicle 1967-1994 by Steve Zaloga (colour plates by Peter Sarson). No 11 and No 12 in the Osprey Military New Vanguard series. Each £7.50.

The Battle for Moscow by Col Albert Seaton. First published 1971. Spellmount, paperback, £9.99.

The War Against Japan. The US Army's official pictorial record from the Center of Military History,

United States Army. Brassey's, hardback, £25.

Five Years to Liberty: The war poems of John Buxton 1940-45 introduced by Murray Maclean. The Pentland Press, paperback, £8.50.

Artillery: Guns and Rocket Systems by T J O'Malley. Illustrated by Ray Hutchins. Greenhill Military Manuals, hardback, £12.95.

In Hell before Daylight by Ian Fletcher. The storming of Badajoz during the Peninsular War by Wellington's infantry. Spellmount, hardback, £8.95.

Air War Normandy by Richard Townshend Bickers. How air superiority was won over the D-Day beaches. Leo Cooper, hardback, £18.50.

Suicide or death!

EITHER commit suicide or face trial for treason. That was the stark choice faced by Nazi Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

According to history and Dr John Pimlott, who has compiled *Rommel – In His Own Words*, from Rommel's writings and personal letters, he chose to take poison to save his wife and family from the ignominy of a trial and to preserve his reputation as one of Nazi Germany's greatest soldiers. He was 53 when he died after being accused of involvement in the bomb plot to kill Hitler in July 1944.

It is unclear whether Rommel ever officially joined the Nazi Party, but it is very clear that he supported everything that Hitler represented and planned for the Third Reich and the world. Whether he was the "great General" and "military genius" as claimed in the blurb for this book is a matter for the reader – especially for those Desert Rats who fought against his Afrika Korps and won.

Known throughout North Africa as the Desert Fox, his non-stop victories engendered much fear among Allied troops

who began to consider him unbeatable. Senior officers, too, were similarly pessimistic and respected his ability to knock hell out of them.

The situation deteriorated to such an extent that Gen Auckinleck, C-in-C Middle East at the time, was so alarmed at Rommel's "bogeyman" image, that he put out a directive "begging" his commanders to "dispel the idea that Rommel represents something more than an ordinary German General and a pretty unpleasant one at that. PS: I am not jealous of Rommel," he wrote.

Jealous or not he lost his job soon after to Montgomery who, as is well known, knocked Rommel "for six."

This book neither debunks Rommel nor enhances his reputation as a "military genius", but shows him as the complete professional, ready to follow Hitler's orders to wipe out the enemy. The facts, though, are that for whatever reason, he failed. – JM

Rommel – In His Own Words by Dr John Pimlott. Greenhill Books, £17.99.

NEW OPTION ON BADGES

THERE is no more evocative item of British militaria than the cap badge. To a soldier, serving or retired, it is the proud symbol of loyalty to his or her regiment. To the collector who may never have experienced the dubious barrack room pleasures of the button-stick, Brasso and Duraglit, cap badges are compelling relics of military history and the changing regimental system that distinguishes the British Army from any other.

For nearly a quarter of a century John Gaylor's *Military Badge Collecting* has come to be a "first reference" guide, as testified by its well-worn condition on many a collector's bookshelf.

This new and revised edition is the fifth since the title first appeared in 1971 under the Seeley Service imprint, and it takes the story of head-dress badges to 1994.

It includes the new badges brought about by Options for Change. As the author observes: "Even the most naive student of British parliament-speak is well aware that a Defence Review means defence cuts, and the 1990s were no exception." Quite so, but for the militaria enthusiast,

the regimental mergers mean new badges to collect.

As in previous editions, the book has several chapters of guidance for collectors, explaining the complexities of sealed patterns, how badges are best displayed, and advising on restrikes.

Regimental lineage and more than 750 illustrations of badges take up the greater part of the book, which also has a number of appendices such as the listing of hackle colours, tartans worn by Scottish regiments, and all the volunteer battalions in existence in 1908, immediately before the creation of the then new Territorial Force.

Head-dress badges are difficult to document in a clear and concise form, and John Gaylor succeeds in making this a much easier to follow reference book than many other publications on the subject. – BJ

Military Badge Collecting by John Gaylor. Published by Leo Cooper, hardback, £16.95.

Imperial War Museum
Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

From March: London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

From April: Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

May 4-6: 1940s fashion shows.

From August: Victory in the Far East display.

VE Day – MAY

6: Reception and banquet, Guildhall, City of London.

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

6-8: Public event activities, Hyde Park.

7: Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

7 or 8: Services in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

7-8: Belsay Hall, Northumberland, English Heritage public events.

8: VE night concert, Hyde Park.

8: Dover Castle salute to victory, English Heritage's main VE Day event

27-29: Victory Show rally by Military Vehicle Trust, Southsea Common (tel 01489 572582).

28: Battle Abbey, E Sussex, English Heritage public events.

JUNE

24-25: Tynemouth Castle, Tyne and Wear VE commemoration.

VJ Day – AUGUST

19: Open-air service in central London; Tribute and promise parade, central London; firework display along the Thames.

20: Tribute throughout the nation, including services in Belfast,

Cardiff and Edinburgh, and culminating with a Beating the Retreat and Sunset ceremony in these cities and London.

26: South Bedfordshire RBLs celebration, Dunstable (tel 01582 663166).

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

● Admission to Government-sponsored events free to veterans.
● Other events to be announced.

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

UKLF takes the initiative over wildlife

EVERY member of United Kingdom Land Forces – general, private, civil servant, spouse and cadet – is being asked to do their bit in saving Britain's wildlife.

A notice on UKLF Orders tells staff about the "Cultivating Wildlife" initiative, and how they can help in their homes, gardens, barracks and training areas.

"Anyone, from field marshal down, can join in," explained UKLF Conservation Officer, Col (Retd) Ian Nason.

Those in charge of barracks can encourage conservation areas in which birds can shelter and nest; wild flowers can survive without the dreaded lawn mower executing them, and boggy bits can be maintained for frogs.

Soldiers and MoD civilians have been asked to feed birds during the winter and occupants of married quarters are being encouraged to leave part of their garden in a natural state.

"They could sweep up a pile of leaves for hedgehogs to sleep in, or leave uncut a patch of nettles for breeding butterflies. They could even establish a pond for frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies," said Col Nason.

A bird in your ear . . .



Word is that Spr Dick "Red" Adair is breeding budgies for Bosnia. "It's not true," he says from the Resources Depot of 28 Engineer Regiment at Split. "One of the officers was given a budgie for Christmas and didn't know what to do with it so gave it to me."

"I then got another one, as company for the first, and now I have found out I've got a pair. What they get up to is up to them."

The Hameln-based welder is in the process of making the "biggest and best" budgie cage in Bosnia.

Croatian Silvesters beware, these Tweety Pies are protected by quarter-inch steel bars . . .

SOLDIER to Soldier

Tribute to RAMC VC

ROYAL Army Medical Corps representatives took part in a service at the grave of LCpl Eric Harden VC, the only RAMC soldier to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the Second World War.

He was killed at Brachterbeek on January 23, 1945 while making his third attempt under heavy fire to rescue wounded men of 45 Commando RM, with whom he was serving. He is buried in Nederweert cemetery near Roermond in Holland.

Heroes, all

ARMY bomb disposal expert John Phillips, who won a DSC in the Falklands, is one of six heroes whose courage will be celebrated in *For Valour*, a series of half-hour films on BBC 1 during the run up to the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

WO2 Phillips of the Royal Engineers had never worked on a ship before he was called to HMS *Antelope* to try to defuse bombs lodged in the badly-hit frigate.

Cold War recollections

THE BBC wants to hear from British Service personnel and their families stationed in Germany since the Second World War.

As part of a special series about the Cold War years, Radio Four is

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: C A Heggie – To BMM Sang Saudi Arabia, Feb 16; J C Richardson – To RAM College, Feb 13; R J Evans – To MoD, Feb 13.

Lt Cols: I A Milne RLC – To 3

(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Feb 13; L A Relph, R Signals – To be CO Royal School of Signals, Feb 13; C W Harrison – To MoD, Feb 13; J P Edmondson-Jones RAMC – To AMS Trg Gp, Feb 13.

REUNIONS

Sandhurst Comprehensive School: Pupils who started in 1970 invited to reunion on March 11. Contact Debbie Roderick on 01344 772982 asap.

HQ Sqn, 39th (City of London) Sig Regt (V): As a result of restructuring, HQ Sqn is due to disband on March 31 as the regiment relocates to the Bristol area. All past members invited to a farewell party on March 11 in Chelsea, London. Details from HQ Sqn, 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V), Mercury House, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, London SW3 4SB (tel 0171-414 5483).

4 QORWK (Kohima reunion): April 8 at Boxley Road TA Centre, Maidstone. Contact Capt J Brown on 01634 850573 for details.

Klagenfurt 1945-95: Reunion April 18-30 for all Army personnel who served in Trieste, Udine, Venice, Tarvisio, Klagenfurt, including following years to 1950. Details (please enclose sae) from G Swain, National Sec, Italy Star Association, 76 Manor Road, New Milton, Hants BH25 5EN.

ACC Association: Annual general meeting takes place at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, March 24. Ex-corps members welcome.

1st Reconnaissance Regiment: Annual reunion dinner, The Crown, Stamford, Lincs, April 22, followed by memorial service at All Saints, Stamford on April 23. Details from Brig E W Anstey, Ardnagag, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0EP (tel 01350 727313).

RAMC/RADC WO's and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club: Annual dinner-reunion on May 6 at Keogh Barracks. Details from WO1 (RSM) M G McLennan RAMC, AMS Training Group, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

16 Regiment RA: All ranks reunion, May 6 at Scunthorpe. Details from N Murray (tel 01652 640348 or York Mil 8455). Final date for returns March 25.

201 RCZ Workshop REME(V): 24th annual reunion at The Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warks, May 12-13. Details from Maj R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L52 5NP (tel 051 928 4493).

APTC Association (York Branch): Annual dinner at Imphal Barracks, York, May 19. Details from Hon Sec, Capt D Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (tel 01226 207046).

Cavalry Sunday: Annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in Hyde Park on May 21, the 71st anniversary of the unveiling and dedication of the Cavalry Memorial.

Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Plymouth: First reunion for past Junior Leaders (including Permanent Staff) who served at Plumer Barracks, Crownhill, Plymouth. To be held on May 26. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentyrch, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

7 Transport Regiment RLC: Regimental weekend Bielefeld-Sennelager, June 16-18. Details from (UK) Capt P B Widdows, 19 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9LT, or (Germany) Maj P A Duncan, 7 Transport Regiment, Catterick Barracks, BFPO 39.

Combined Services Association: Combined drumhead service and reunion, August 20, Queen's Park, Victoria Avenue, Crewe. Details from J G Davies

6 Mavor Court, Flag Lane, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel 01270 257092).

15th (Isle of Man) Light AA Regt RA (TA) OCA: Special reunion planned in Douglas, Isle of Man, starting on August 31. Details from E L Kissack, Secretary OCA, 5 Fort William, Douglas, IOM (tel 0624 623069).

219 Sig Sqn (Tripoli), 235 Sig Sqn (Malta), anyone serving at Prinn Barracks (Tripoli) 1958-65: Second reunion, September 8-9 at Loughborough. Details from Roy Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

Edinburgh University OTC: Reunion planned for September 9. Details from Maureen Clowe, Development and Alumni Services Office, University of Edinburgh, Old College, Edinburgh EH8 9YL (tel 0131-650 2234, fax 0131 650 2239).

976 Squad, Royal Marines: Second reunion, September 16, Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth. Also **497 Squad.** Details from L E P Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (tel 01255 434784).

RAPC Apprentice College: 33rd anniversary reunion for staff and ex-apprentices, London, September 22. Details from RAO, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, London SW1 7SE (tel 0171-414 2549).

Black Cats, 56 Div Sigs (to 1961) OCA and successor regts/sqns: Membership details from the secretary, Sam Elliott, 24 Dymchurch Close, Polegate, E Sussex BN26 6ND (tel 01323 483132). Next dinner on November 24.

CLOSURE

British Military Hospital Hong Kong is due to close in June. Anyone who presented items to the Officers or WO's and Sgts' Messes and who wishes their return should contact the property member of the relevant mess c/o JSMU Hong Kong, BFPO 1 in writing by March 1.

PILGRIMAGE

A pilgrimage to 12th Bn, Devonshire Regt (6th Airborne) glider landing sites and cemeteries in Belgium and Holland is planned for June 6-12. All veterans are welcome. Details available from Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road Exton, near Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ.

MILITARIA

Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent: W G Allen, Trelone, 13 Poplar Lane, Lydd, Kent TN29 9LA is preparing an article on the long and friendly association between the Army and the townspeople of Lydd and would like to hear from soldiers who have stories of their time in the area.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS

Awards for Meritorious Service:
Household Cavalry – WO2 P J Richards and SSgt R B M Jones, Life Guards.

RAC – WO2 P R Knox, RDG.
RA – WO2 A W Johnson, SSgt A Currie.

RE – WO1 A M Browne.
R Signals – WO2 R M C S R Cook, WO2 R G Heppenstall.

Guards Div – SSgt G R Cochrane, SG; SSgt L Griffiths, WG.

Scottish Div – WO2 R A Jackson, KOSB.

Kings Div – WO2 F J Pattison, Green Howards.

Prince of Wales's Div – SSgt F A Whitbread; WO2 M L Aston, RGBW.

RLC – WO1 T Edge; WO1 S F McNaughton; WO2 S M Duke; WO2 R S Gately; SSgt J J Miller-ship.

REME – WO1 A Paterson; WO2 R Davies; WO2 R A Granger; Sgt J G Hood.

AGC (SPS) – WO2 J P Gleeson, WO2 M Postill, WO2 F P Statham.

DIARY

APRIL

28-30: The Aldershot Show, Rushmore Arena (tel 01252 347152 or 347009).

MARCH

15: *Soldier* 50th anniversary exhibition opens at the National Army Museum. Admission free.

MAY

21: Cavalry Sunday annual parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in Hyde Park. Salute to be taken by the Queen.

JULY

18-29: 105th Royal Tournament, Earl's Court.

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

SEARCHLINE

651 Air OP Squadron, including flights: Proposed reunion-association. Contact Nigel Driver, 41 Laburnum Road, Sandy, Beds SG19 1HG (tel 01767 682451). Please enclose sae.

Brian Robinson, 261 Thornaby Road, Thornaby, Cleveland TS17 8PD (tel 01642 614622) wishes to hear from ex-1st Royal Dragoons and ex-RAMC, BMH Fayid, who served in Suez area, 1950-52.

David Williamson, PO Box 1886, Toowoomba 4350, Australia wants to contact **Bernard Thomas "Nick" Nicholas**, late 2 Green Howards, with whom he served in UN Forces Cyprus, 1981.

Mr David Atherton wishes to hear from Maj (formerly RSM) **Price** with whom he served in 2 Lancs Fusiliers in 1952. Replies to 3 Mersey Mount, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral L42 3UM.

Mrs Betty (nee Edwards) Armstrong wishes to trace her ATS uniform sold in 1962 to a shop in Frances Road, Cotteridge, near Birmingham. Uniform was labelled Sgt B Edwards. Replies to 246 Exhall Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Worcs B98 9JB.

Ms Chrissie Bugg-Ludkin wishes to trace Mrs **Sue Bexon**, with whom she worked at the Garrison Officers' Mess, Woolwich Barracks, BFPO 36, from 1980-85. Replies to 17 Boston Avenue, Benton Lodge Est, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7SR.

Details of a book which describes heavy fighting by **46th Bn Royal Fusiliers** against Bolshevik forces in Russia in 1919 are sought by A W Card, 1 The Paddock, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4TF (tel 01325 310890). His uncle, Cpl Alfred William Card, was awarded a DCM for helping to repulse an attack at Gorodok. Mr Card also wants to contact paras who trained at Kabrit, Ramat Davit and Gioia de Colle in Italy.

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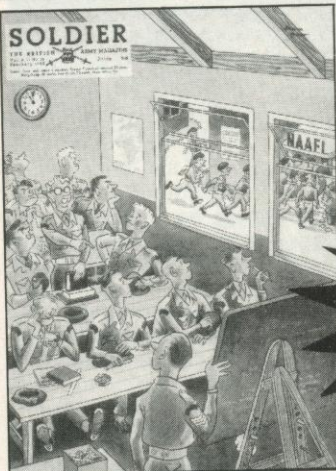
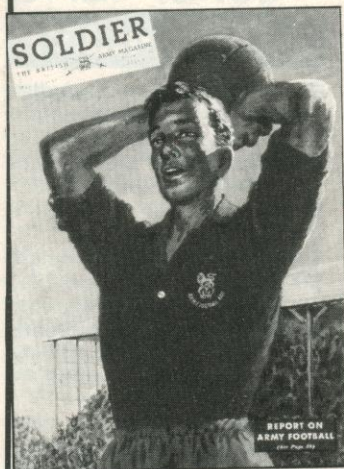
Sue Tinker on 0151-357 2938 or write c/o TRBL Training Company, Unit 14, Poole Hall Industrial Estate, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral L66 1ST

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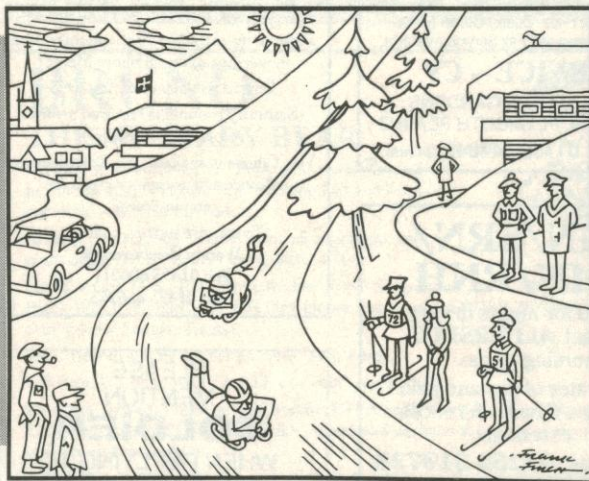
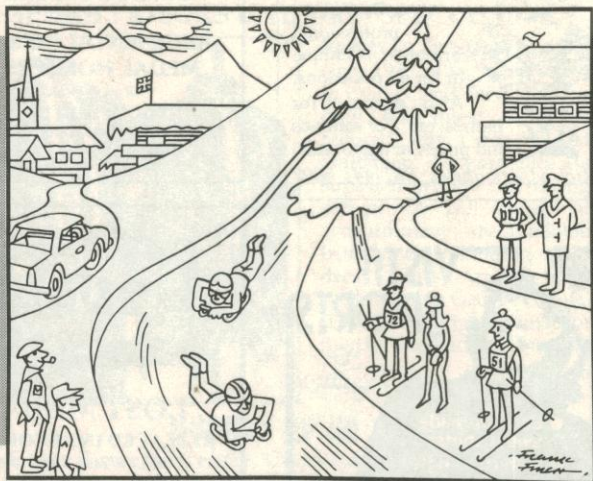
The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 606, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by March 24. Do not include anything

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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the April 17 issue.

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Competition No 603 (January 23 issue): Congratulations to LCpl Cole, of HQ Coy, 1st Bn Welsh Guards, Tern Hill, Shropshire, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mrs Dianne L Stevens, of Weston-super-Mare, and P C O'Keeffe, of L'Erife, Guernsey.

Meet the threat

● From Page 17

the threat, allows commanders to take calculated risks depending on the urgency of their operational task.

Although it is a tri-Service establishment, the centre

comes under functional control of the Inspector General of Doctrine and Training at Upavon. Unlike the other Services, the Army has no single staff officer to whom units can turn for advice on the whole range of NBC.

Sqn Ldr Cross believes the Army finds it difficult to carry out NBC defence exercises because there is no formal external organisation to test it.

The Royal Air Force has periodic tactical evaluations where NBC defence is rigorously tested, and the Royal Navy can swiftly introduce NBC on its vessels as part of ship-borne management.

While there was a clear chain of command within the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the Army had a convoluted line stretching through Larkhill Garrison, Bulford Area and Southern District.

Despite a very high reputation for NBC defence, Britain could learn much about chemical reconnaissance from former Soviet countries, said the Commandant, Gp Capt Dick Moore, who recently saw dedicated chemical defensive

The horror lingers

The mathematics of mass chemical warfare casualties is frightening. In the First World War gas caused 91,198 deaths and injured 1,205,655. By the last months of the war, one in every six casualties was caused by gas and about a quarter of all shells were filled with chemicals.

Today, anyone with a pharmaceutical and brewing industry can produce chemical and biological agents. With extremist and fundamentalist nations eager for the power they believe such a capacity gives them, chemical and biological defence is as relevant now as it was 80 years ago.



Echoes of the First World War: soldiers learn how difficult it is to move blind and without a good grip on their overboots

units in the Czech Republic.

Britain has a high reputation for NBC defence. Despite the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, it remains prudent to maintain sensible precautions, he said. More than 30 countries had a chemical capability.

The introduction of an Area Weapons Effects Simulator in 1997, followed in 1999 by Combined Arms Tactical Trainers, will significantly increase familiarity with the correct response to NBC hazards.

The panic that gripped French, Algerian, Canadian and British soldiers near Ypres in April 1915 may not be entirely dispelled in the event of a gas attack today, but training and confidence in equipment means that the British ranks will be able to survive and fight back effectively.

As did the courageous 1st Devons and 1st Bedfords who charged through the gas, many without masks, to support the 1st Dorsets and stop an attack on the evening of May 1, 1915.

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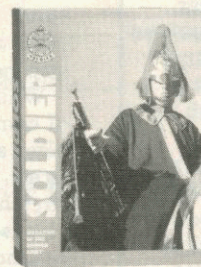
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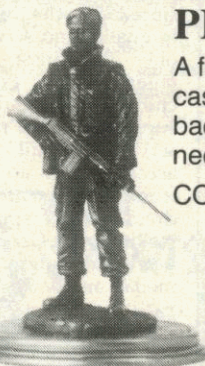
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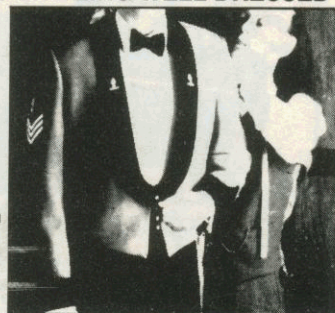


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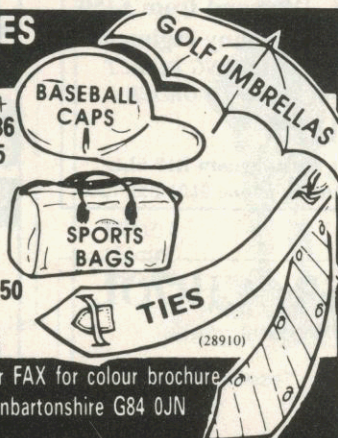
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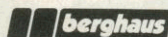
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Two single girls (28 and 30) would like to hear from soldiers aged 28+. Interests: dancing, drinking and having fun. Come on, any unattached soldiers, write today. P314

Lyn, divorced, shy, caring, late 30s. Would like to correspond with unattached, fun loving, pen pal 40+ with gosh, to bring the sparkle back into her life. Likes socialising with right company. ALA. P315

Amicable, optimistic female, 32, slim, 5'6", redhead, divorced with two children. Would like to hear from mature, unattached soldier 28+. Interests: cinema, music, eating out and letter writing. P316

Attractive, kind, business lady, 34, auburn hair and brown eyes. Non-smoker with children. Interests: walking, writing, music and dancing. Would like to hear from sincere, understanding soldier aged 30-40. P317

Clare, 16, 5'9", slim, brown hair and brown eyes. Interests: dancing, travelling, exercise and music, especially soul. Would like to hear from friendly pen pals aged 17-22. P318

Julie, 31, 5'7", blue eyes and dark hair. Interests include keep fit, running, cinema and music. I would like pen pals home and abroad. P319

Sharron, 34, single, petite, redhead with 8-year-old daughter. I would like to write to soldier aged 30-40, you must have a good sense of humour. P320

Tracy, 23, 4'11", brown hair and green eyes. Hobbies: working out, writing letters, music, movies, socialising and enjoying myself. I will answer all letters from anyone, anywhere. P321

Susanna, 17, 5'6", green eyes and red hair. Interests: swimming, surfing, going to the beach, music, travelling and horror movies. Would like to hear from anyone 17-26 who likes football and has gosh. Photo appreciated. P322

36-year-old divorced mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, easy going personality. Hobbies: walking, keep-fit, writing, country pubs. I would like to hear from pen pals aged 30-40, home or abroad. P323

Michelle, 24, attractive single mum, 5'4" with blonde hair and blue eyes. Hobbies: TA, skiing, keep-fit, golf, eating out pubs, clubs, travel. I would like to hear from an NCO aged 24-34, home or abroad. P324

Lisa, 24, brown eyes and auburn hair, gosh. Single mum of two small boys, I enjoy writing and receiving letters, getting out and enjoying life. I would like to hear from anyone, anywhere. P325

Sharon, 25, 5'3" with brown hair and blue eyes. I am currently studying French at night school and enjoy walking and sports. I would like to hear from anyone aged 25-30. P326

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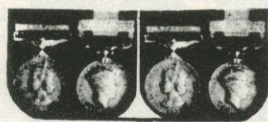
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First prize (20 goals, £2,000) Tpr W M Rees, ODG, BFPO 16.

Four-way tie for second prize (19 goals, £550 each) Sgt J Hope, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; CSgt S G Kilpatrick, 1 R Irish, BFPO 53; SSgt T R Wheat, HQ RSME, Chatham; Maj D Wroe, 2 LI, BFPO 16.

13-way tie for sixth prize (18 goals, £23.08 each) Cpl M R Champion, 3 (UK) Div HQ & Signal Regt, Bulford; SSgt K N Davies, R Mon RE(M), Monmouth; Maj P A Eadie, RMCS, Shrivenham; Cpl S R English, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; SSgt W A Evers, 2 Armd Fd Amb, BFPO 36; WO1 L R Headrick, Army School of Catering, Aldershot; Capt A A Jolly, AMS Trg Gp, Aldershot; Cpl D J Kendall, The Light Dragoons, BFPO 30; Cpl

G King, HQ Brunei Garrison, BFPO 11; Capt G J Mead, 1 Green Howards, BFPO 36; SSgt M Moore, HQ AFCENT, BFPO 28; SSgt S L Smith, 9 Signal Regt (Radio), BFPO 59; LSgt M D Thompson, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17.

FEBRUARY 11, 1995

Two-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £1,500 each) Capt E W Fry, 1 Wessex (V), Cheltenham; Cpl O Jarvis, ATR Basingbourn.

Five-way tie for third prize (21 goals, £300 each) SSgt T Fleming, RA Range, Hebrides; Capt C M Gerry, Cyprus Log Unit, BFPO 57; Col T E Hall, UK Mil Rep NATO, BFPO 49; WO2 S M Traynor, HQ UKLF, Wilton; WO2 S D Windus, 14 Signal Regt (EW), BFPO 36. 07

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Army on course for county final

Gloucestershire 1, Army 4

GLoucestershire were no match for the Army on a bumpy Fairford Town pitch and went down 4-1 in this South West Counties Championship match, writes **Derrick Bly**.

With Sussex having dropped a point, the Army are now the only side in the competition with a 100 per cent record and have an excellent chance of making the finals.

Goals from Pte Lee Bradbury, his 13th for the Army this season, and Sig Simeon Bambrook gave the confident Servicemen a 2-0 lead at the interval. Cpl Wayne McHugh hit the third and Cpl Lee Innes got the fourth just before the final whistle.

Much hangs on the Army's next South West Counties game, against Sussex at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on February 28.

Fire Service 0, Army 1

A Fire Service side which included several good-quality non-League players provided a stiff test for the Army at Ossett Town FC's ground.

A goal just before the interval from Cpl Tash Williams (Cheshire) settled the outcome of a match in which the Army's new-look midfield pairing of Williams and Bowie made an impressive contribution to an entertaining game.

The back four of Shaw, Sellers, Cucher and Fagin dealt competently with everything the fast and direct firemen threw at them.

Williams capped a fine performance with his 44th minute strike and deservedly earned himself the Fire Service's nomination of man of the match.

Both sides produced entertaining football during a rare old tussle in the second half, and with Wills, Collins, Higgins and Stouts available, the Army looks to have quite a squad for the Inter-Services matches.

Combined Services 0, Diadora League 5

A five-goal drubbing at the hands of the Diadora League representative side brought Combined Services' Kentish Cup warm-up programme to a less-than-satisfactory conclusion. The side has now conceded



Class of '95: skibob students at the British Forces Hang and Paragliding Centre at Kranzegg in Bavaria

ed nine goals in their last three outings.

A goalless first half in which Cpl Wayne McHugh, Pte Lee Bradbury and Sig Simeon Bambrook had half-chances and SSgt Kevin Parkins headed off the line was followed by mass substitutions during the interval and a shambles of a second half as the rampant Diadora Leaguers fired in five.

Six new players were introduced as coach Quincey (RAF) looked at his options, with McHugh, Bradbury, Bambrook, Parkins, SSgt Nigel Wiscombe and Cpl Dave Maynard making way.

Loggies take charge of Hong Kong badminton

LOGISTIC Support Regiment RLC, led by HQ Squadron's Sgt Li, dominated the British Forces Hong Kong badminton championships.

Drawdown and unit commitments affected entries badly, with only 19 men and no women taking part. The standard, however, was high, with all the previous year's champions present to defend their titles.

Sgt Li, secretary of British

Courts impress as Ingham powers in

SPR Dave Ingham's accuracy and power was too much for a below-par Maj Nigel Watts (AAC) in the final of the Army indoor singles tournament.

His 6-1, 6-0 victory means the Royal Engineer now holds

both indoor and outdoor titles.

The 1995 championships were held in the Army's superb new complex at Aldershot. Boasting four excellent playing surfaces, it must rank as one of the best potential venues in the country.

Although not complete, the playing area, lighting and surrounds fulfil the long-held dream of committee members and players alike.

Eighteen men and eight women took part, the top seeds reaching the semi-finals without upset.

Watts defeated Sgt Eric Simpson (APTC) by two sets to one, while in the other semi-final Ingham (RE) beat Maj

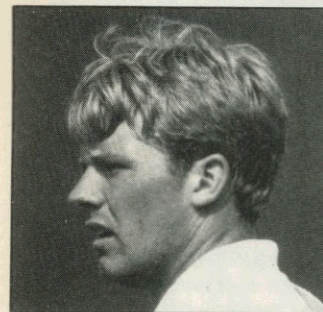
● APPLICATION forms for the 11th annual Benbecula half marathon and fun run on June 17 are available from P and RTC, RA Range Hebrides and the Bank of Scotland.

Forces badminton, won three of the five titles on offer. He paired up with Maj Ferguson to take the inter-unit doubles against the TDBG team of Capt Lalit Limbu and Rfn Padam, and the open doubles against Padam and Cpl Birka of 1 RGR. Lalit Limbu and Chetri retained the veterans' doubles.

Li also won the men's singles, beating Cpl Prem Ale in a very competitive final.



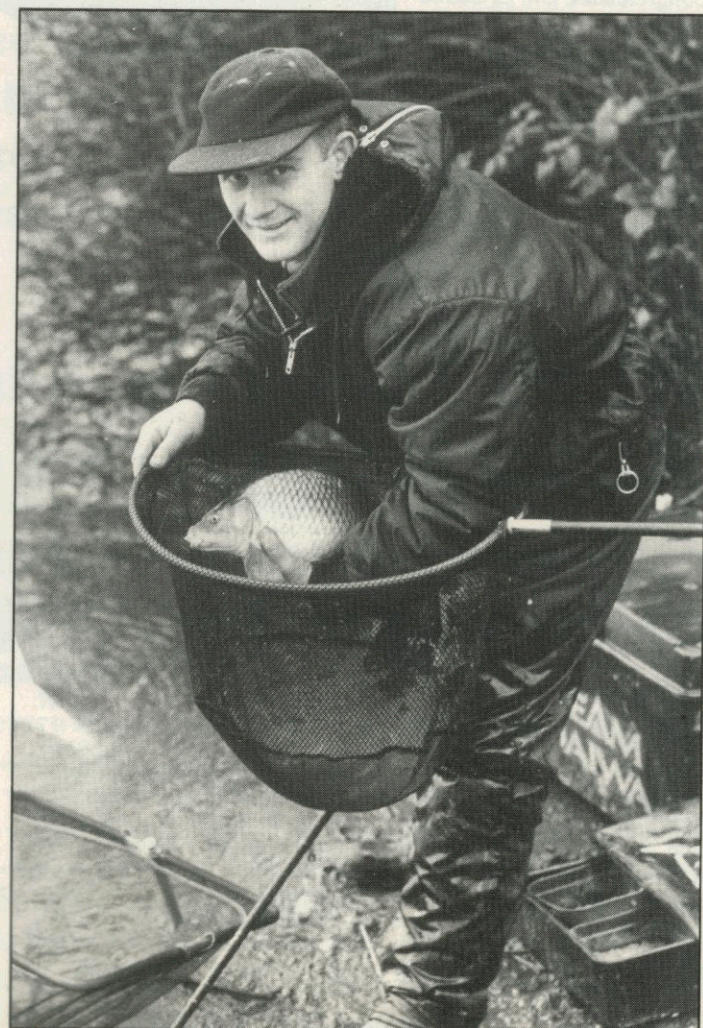
Up and away: 2nd Lt Darren Offord (7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) in action on the bicycle-like skibob



Spr Dave Ingham

Alan Butterfield (AGC) in straight sets.

In the women's competition, LCpl Clair Whitney defeated LCpl Alison Little by two sets to love in one semi-final, while Sgt Heather McNair beat SSgt Judith Haynes by the same margin in the other. The final between Whitney and McNair produced some excellent rallies before the aggression of Whitney proved decisive. She won 6-2, 6-4.



Another 4lb carp in the bag for Cpl Chris Reeves of 27 Regiment RLC during the UKLF pairs angling championships on lakes at Ash, near Aldershot

Picture: Mike Weston

SPORT

Skibob takes off in big way

SOLDIERS from 16 Signal Regiment are midway through a successful first season of skibob or ski-biking courses at the British Forces Hang and Paragliding Centre at Kranzegg in Bavaria.

Ninety Servicemen and women and a number of civilians from the UK and Germany have so far been introduced to the sport.

With the exception of the final event – the Inter-Services novice championships which will be by invitation only – every course is fully booked.

Instructors include Cpl Paddy Maybin (16 Sig Regt), the 1994 British champion; Sgt Jayne Robinson (10 Tpt Regt RLC), who was third in the championships; Cpl Vicky Hardisty (16 Sig Regt), the 1995 women's champion; Cpl Wayne Ballard (16 Sig Regt), fifth in the championships; and Cpl Neil Pollitt (7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), the 1995 parallel slalom champion.

The popularity of skibob reflects the ease with which it can be mastered. After two days of tuition, novices can take off down the slopes at speeds of over 100km an hour.

An Army championship was being held at the end of February and many soldiers were expected at Fort William in March for the first world cup event to be staged in the UK.

Maj Dick Offord, 16 Sig Regt, BFPO 40 is looking for sponsors interested in becoming associated with the sport.

ORIENTEERING: WO2 Mark Todd and Capt Di Shepherd of Workington-based 4 Kings Own Border won the TA men's and women's trophies at the Wales and Western District orienteering championships in Delamere Forest near Chester.

Boxers become victims of their own success

WITH the Royal Air Force unable to field a side against the Army at Aldershot on February 16, the men in red are once again the Inter-Services team boxing champions, writes John Elliott.

But the RAF's late withdrawal leaves a hollow ring to the competition and must raise questions about its future.

For the record, it is the Army's 12th consecutive title, a fact which suggests the cham-

pionship has become too one-sided for its own good.

In the 1995 opener, the Royal Navy comfortably overcame the RAF 7-4, but were themselves swept aside by 11 bouts to one by the Army at Portsmouth. With the Army so superior, the spark that has so often ignited this confrontation into one of the truly memorable Inter-Services sporting occasions was missing.

The Combined Services indi-

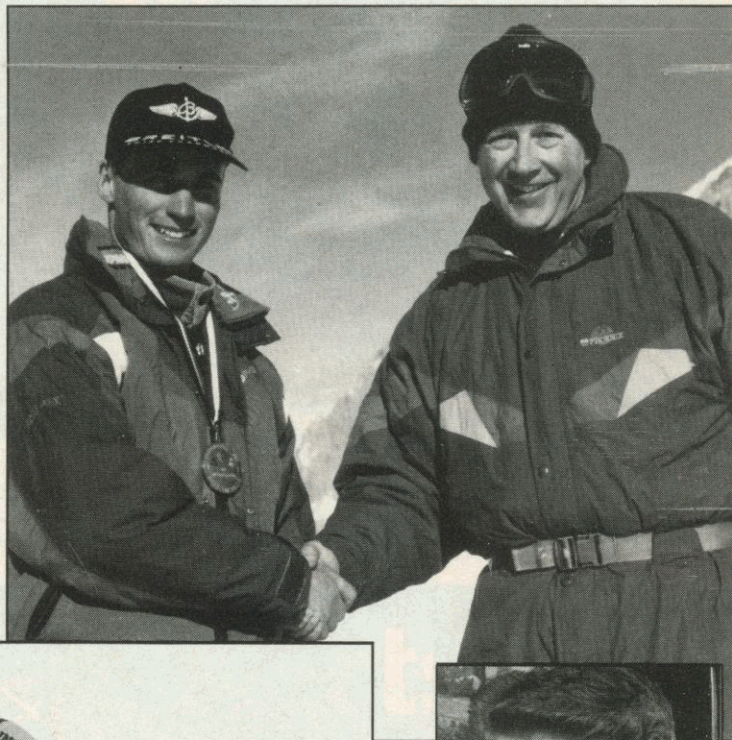
vidual championships will go ahead at RAF Locking, Westonsuper-Mare, on March 1-2, but the Army will now host the CS-London ABA quarter-final. That match is due to take place at the Army Boxing Centre at Aldershot on Saturday, March 18.

London ABA asked for the date to be switched to the weekend to accommodate their boxers.

Tickets may be reserved on 01252 349084 or 349155.

Sasha skis to super six

Brig David Radcliffe (right) congratulates 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintsov, pictured below during the team giant slalom



FOLLOWING the first major fall of snow only four days before the UKLF Alpine ski championships at Monetier, Serre Chevalier, in France, a flexible race programme had to be adopted, writes Stephen Harris.

But the Monetier team produced excellent courses and all races were completed, a couple in a slightly truncated form.

Competition began with 84 racers on the Monetier hill, the Territorial Army teams taking part in the 3 (UK) Division event to achieve a better balance of numbers.

A high quality field included five Army team racers and the current No 1, 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintsov of 2 Regt AAC, who won all six races. The British Army women's team and a female team from Wales UOTC were also present.

Men's competition was dominated by 2 Regt AAC, who won all four team races, with 9/12 L and 1 Hldrs in hot pursuit. Both 9/12 and the Highlanders fared badly in the downhill, allowing other teams to squeeze in front for



the overall medal positions.

The Minor Units competition was won convincingly by 42 Svy Engr Gp. With a couple of units failing to produce women's teams at the last moment, there was not much competition for Wales UOTC.

Star of the show for the women was Sgt Judy Shenton (REATW Minley) who finished first in all six women's races and ninth overall.

Giant slalom - 1, 2 Regt AAC; 2, 9/12 L; 3, 1 Hldrs. **Individual** - 1, 2nd Lt Zvegintsov (2 AAC); 2, Capt Lai (HQ UKLF); 3, LBdr Pearson (19 Regt RA).

Super-G - 1, 2 AAC; 2, 9/12 L; 3, 1 Hldrs. **Individual** - 1, 2nd Lt

Zvegintsov; 2, Capt Lai; 3, Capt Crossley (9/12 L).

Slalom - 1, 2 AAC; 2, 9/12 L; 3, 19 Regt RA. **Individual** - 1, 2nd Lt Zvegintsov; 2, LBdr Pearson; 3, Capt Determeyer (2 AAC).

Downhill - 1, 2 AAC; 2, 1 BW; 3, 42 Svy Engr Gp. **Individual** - 1, 2nd Lt Zvegintsov; 2, Capt Determeyer; 3, Cpl Hannay (42 Svy).

Individual giant slalom - 1, 2nd Lt Zvegintsov; 2, Capt Lai; 3, Capt Determeyer. **Slalom** - 1, 2nd Lt Zvegintsov; 2, LBdr Pearson; 3, Capt Lai.

Alpine combination - 1, 2nd Lt Zvegintsov; 2, Capt Lai; 3, Capt Determeyer; 4, Lt Fanshawe (3 AAC); 5, Sgt McClelland (3 R Irish); 6, Sgt Shenton (APTC); 7, LBdr Pearson; 8, 2nd Lt Orme-Smith (1 IG); 9, 2nd Lt Gray-Cheape (1 BW); 10, Capt Tunstall



Pte Robin Morville (above) helped the Royal Logistic Corps team to gold in both slalom and downhill in the Army junior Alpine ski championships at Serre Chevalier. The RLC team, who also took silver in the grand slalom and super giant slalom, were overall champions.

In the individual competition at Alp D'eux, Morville won the grand slalom and was second in the downhill.

(1 Kings Own Border).

Team - 1, 2 Regt AAC (UKLF Alpine champions); 2, 19 Regt RA; 3, 1 BW; 4, 1 Kings Own Border; 5, 1 Hldrs; 6, 3 Regt AAC; 7, 1 IG; 8, 3 RSME; 9, 14 Regt RA. **Minor Units**: 1, 42 Svy Engr Gp; 2, 9 Sup Regt RLC; 3, 22 Fd Hosp. **Women** - 1, Wales UOTC.

UKLF overall results (Alpine and Nordic)

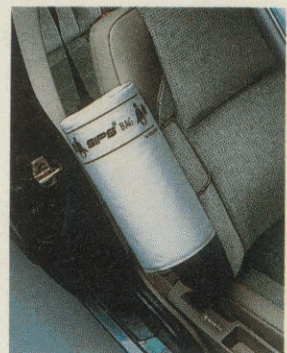
Major Units - 1, 1 Kings Own Border; 2, 1 Hldrs; 3, 19 Regt RA. **Minor Units** - 1, 42 Svy Engr Gp.

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Gunsmoke obscures the London skyline as 2 Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, Royal Horse Artillery marks the 43rd anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne with a 62-gun salute. The squadron fired the salute from four 25-pounders on the Thames Embankment near the Tower of London.

Picture: Mike Perring

SOLDIER