

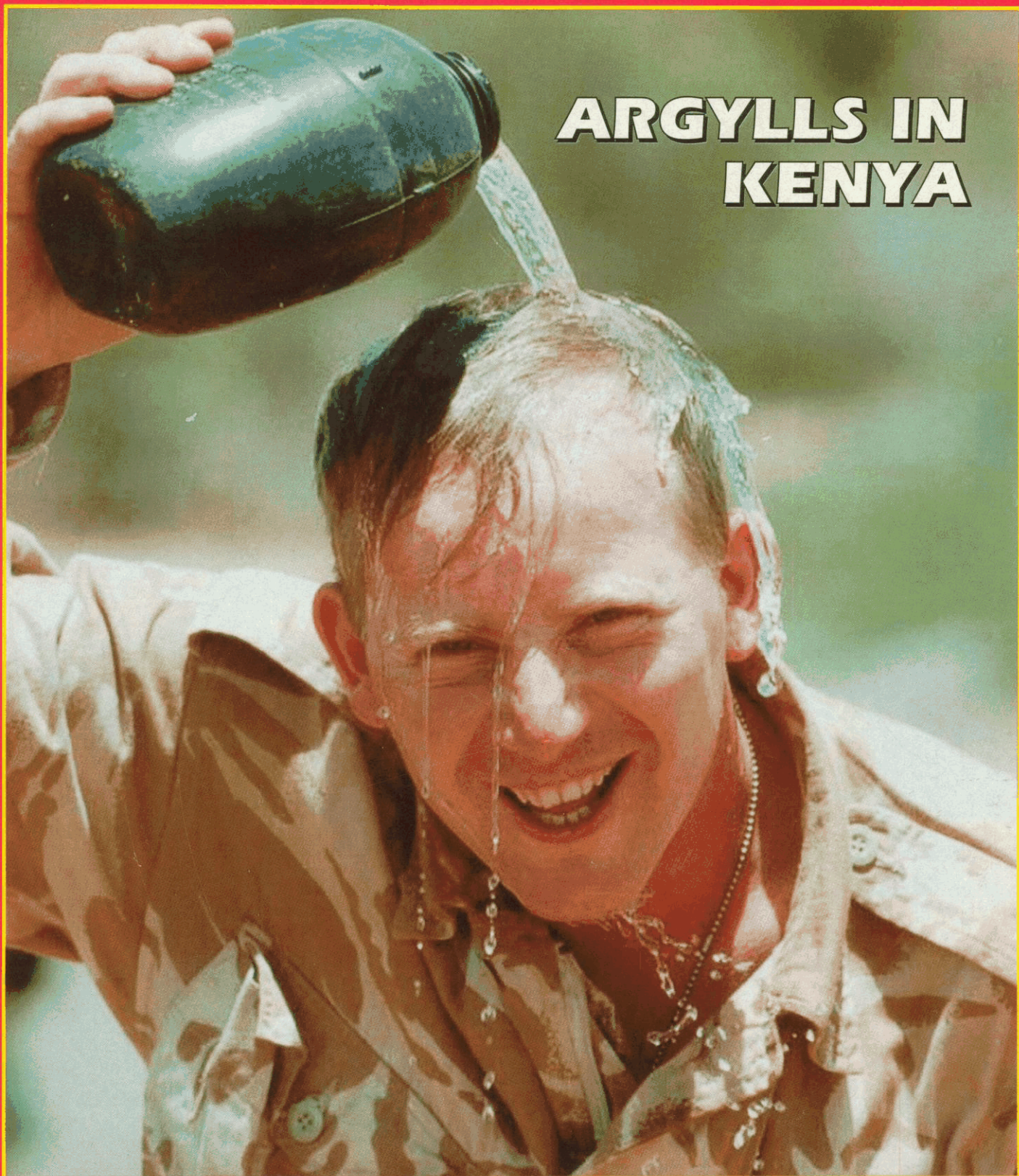
# SOLDIER

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FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

APRIL 29 1996

60p



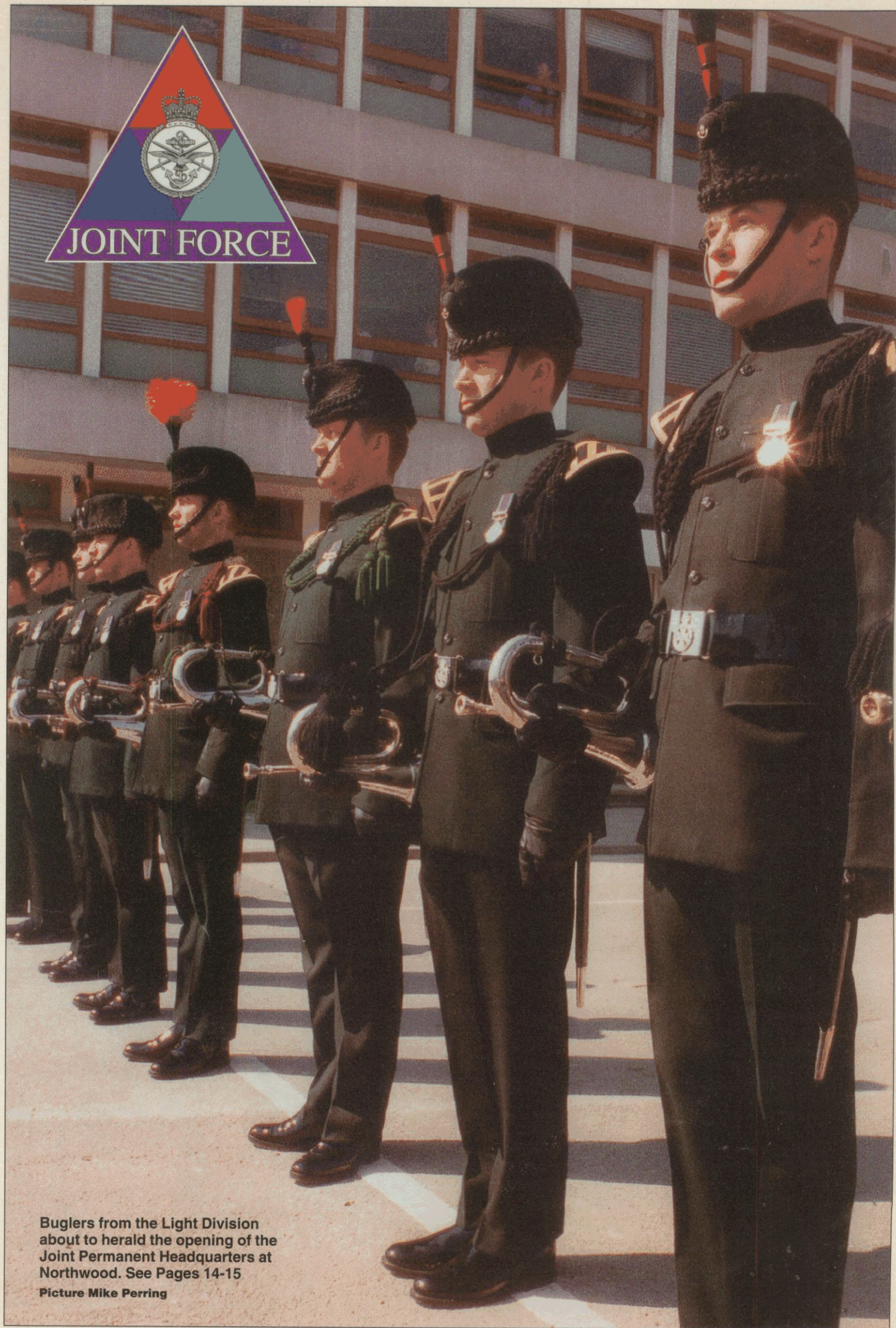
## ARGYLLS IN KENYA

PT Corps selection

Gunners, QLR in Bosnia

JHQ opens at Northwood





Buglers from the Light Division about to herald the opening of the Joint Permanent Headquarters at Northwood. See Pages 14-15

Picture Mike Perring





Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine  
**April 29, 1996 Vol 52/9**

## CONTENTS

### 10 People

### 12 Lifestyle

Why accommodation charges went up

### 14 Joint HQ

Permanent base for worldwide operations

### 17 Spotlight

Paisley's Terrier seachlight specialists

### 18 Bosnia

British soldiers team up with Czech brigade

### 22 PTIs' course

Corps challenge is mental and physical

### 24 Cover story



Picture: Chris Barker

I'm cool! Pte Stephen McPhail, 1 A and SH, takes an impromptu shower while on exercise in Kenya.

### 26 Diary

Col Mark Cook's orphanage odyssey

### 28 Your letters

We trace war hero ... after 56 years

### 30 Reviews

History of the 6th Bn Durham Light Infantry

### 32 Mail order

Cavalry's unique shoulder insignia

### 44 Sport

Army v Navy rugby: Twickenham report

**Centre section**

**Win £100  
in our  
survey**

**See also Page 5**

# From our families . . . with love



Sweet gift: Primary school children in Gornji Vakuf, Bosnia receive a handout of goodies as confectionery collected by Army wives in Germany is distributed by British soldiers in the town

## Red Devils quit Aldershot to secure future

**THE PARACHUTE Regiment's world-famous Red Devils freefall parachuting display team has quit Aldershot to ensure its survival after an association with the Hampshire town going back more than 30 years.**

The team has been re-located to the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon, Wiltshire as part of a package of Army cost-cutting measures.

Its red Islander aircraft, with the distinctive registration letters GO-RED, has been taken over by the centre which will hire it back to the team for displays.

The move to Netheravon should see the independently-funded Red Devils through the next three seasons, although the team is still actively looking for sponsorship to keep itself going without Army help.

Formed in Aldershot in 1964 to boost recruiting for The Parachute Regiment, the 24-strong Red Devils today carry out more than 1,600 individual descents a year.

Bookings this year include six shows in America and the opening ceremony of Euro '96,



**APRIL 1995: Red Devils Pte Finbar Molloy and Cpl Dave Mitchell pictured in front of a famous Aldershot landmark before they made a parachute jump on to the North Pole**

the European football championships at Wembley Stadium.

Last man to lead the team in Aldershot was Capt Terry Carroll who has left the Army to join a public relations compa-

ny. He has been succeeded by Capt Ned Kelly.

The Red Devils instruct first-time civilian parachutists who qualify for the team's coveted "Flying Pig" certificate. Many celebrities have jumped with members of the team.

● Military staff at The Parachute Regiment's regimental headquarters in Browning Barracks, Aldershot have been redeployed following closure of the RHQ last month.

Lt Col Joe Poraj-Wilczynski, regimental lieutenant colonel, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the regiment, has moved to Warminster to join other infantry regiment counterparts at Headquarters Infantry.

A skeleton civilian staff will remain at Browning Barracks, which still provides a home for the Parachute Regimental Association and the Airborne Forces Museum.



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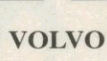
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## Award-winning SOLDIER brings a smile

SOLDIER has won two national awards for the quality of its journalism.

In the annual competition for corporate publications, staff writer Phil Wilcox's profile of the cartoonist Larry, published in the October 30, 1995 edition, won an Award of Excellence.

The British Association of Communicators in Business awarded the magazine a Certificate of Merit for its use of headlines in the same issue.

This brings to seven the number of awards won by *Soldier* since 1991 in this prestigious

competition, formerly known as the Editing for Industry Awards.

The Larry feature, with a photograph by Terry Champion, was described by the judge as: "A nicely crafted, entertaining piece about this popular cartoonist... The story flows at a cracking pace and it's nice to see a publication that doesn't object to the subject criticising its organisation or to the use of the odd swear word, in context!"

"... Great photo of the man, two well-chosen examples of his work and what a gift of a headline ["Happy as Larry"]! I had a smile

on my face almost all the way through..."

In comparing *Soldier* with other news-magazines, the judge said it "appears to meet its objectives very well indeed... Despite the volume of text there's no feeling of overcrowding. I would imagine it is a good ambassador for the Service... *Soldier* contrives to present a nice human touch both in text and pictures. All in all, it's a good read."

Last year a *Soldier* feature on Operation Gabriel in Rwanda was voted best in its class. In 1992 the magazine won three awards for its Gulf War coverage.

## Kupres' old folk warm to loggies

ELDERLY refugees returning to the devastated mountain village of Kupres in Bosnia will receive a warm welcome – thanks to the soldiers of 4 General Support Regiment RLC.

Before the war, 10,000 people lived in Kupres, said to be the highest village in Bosnia. Now there are about 3,000.

Local authorities selected a property on the outskirts of the village as a refuge for the elderly. But it needed heating, furnishing and refurbishing.

RSM Gary Hawker wrote to companies back in the United Kingdom for fuel, cookers, beds, mattresses and blankets. "You name it, they needed it," he explained.

Cpl Paul McGuire and Pte Robert Beard have already delivered smokeless fuel sent to former Yugoslavia by a Derbyshire company.

Soldiers from Abingdon-based 4 GS Regt now serving in Kupres have also distributed 30 boxes of clothes and toys collected by Service families in the UK.

● **Bosnia reports – Pages 18-21**

### It's a fact

Cost of recruitment to Army in the past four years has been £42.2 million, £42.6 million, £48.61 million and £45.91 million. – *Parliamentary answer*



**Performing arts:** Members of the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas throw themselves into a traditional Nepalese kukri dance during the third and final phase of the Kneller Hall inspection, which every band in the British Army must undergo every two years. During one stage of the inspection bands may put on a performance of any description. To demonstrate their versatility the Gurkhas chose a programme of Nepalese folk music and dance

## Rail takes armour strain

THE driver of a Warrior infantry fighting vehicle was unhurt when it rolled down a steep embankment during the official re-opening of 22 miles of redundant railway line in Yorkshire.

The Warrior overshot a low-loader wagon but the driver, Pte Paul Connelly, escaped without injury. The vehicle, undamaged, was later loaded on the first military train to use the revived Redmire track.

Part of the old Wensleydale

line, the rail link will enable armour to go by rail to and from Catterick to Salisbury Plain.

The £750,000 project can cope with vehicles up to and including Warrior. Challenger tanks will continue to be transported by road because they are too wide for the tracks.

The reactivated stretch runs from Redmire near Bolton Castle, through Leyburn, Finghall and Bedale, linking up with the main East Coast line at Northallerton.

## Win £100 in our reader survey

EACH copy of this magazine left the printers with a four-page detachable questionnaire in the centre.

Readers returning completed questionnaires have a chance of winning £100 in a draw to take place immediately after the May 20 closing date.

If this magazine has been passed on to you and the questionnaire has been detached, you may wish to obtain another copy by contacting *Soldier* (details at the foot of this page).

Should you receive the questionnaire too late to qualify for the draw, we would be grateful for your answers anyway. Postage is free from UK and BFPO addresses.



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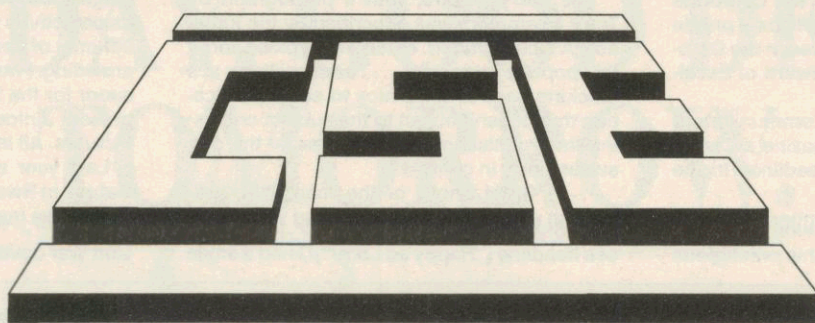
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# HCR causes a light stir in Wales

JUST back from a peacekeeping tour in former Yugoslavia, the Household Cavalry Regiment has completed a major training exercise in Wales.

Using its Scimitar light reconnaissance tanks and other light tracked vehicles, HCR soldiers carried out a Bosnia-style exercise on two

road routes, running from Cardiff in the south to Welshpool in the north.

Aim of the exercise was to test the regiment's ability to communicate over long distances in mountainous terrain in preparation for a possible return to Bosnia as part of the NATO Implementation Force.

Sight of the HCR's tracked vehicles at road junctions and towns along the exercise route attracted considerable interest from the public and particularly schoolchildren.

These types of light military reconnaissance vehicle are seldom seen in the Welsh countryside.



On parade: Essex-based C Company, 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in Bury St Edmunds

# Silver celebration for TA Poachers

MORE than 200 soldiers from the 6th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, hailing from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, put their collective best foot forward to cel-

## It's a fact

Since May 1979 pay for five-star officers has risen by 399.8 per cent and for junior entrants by 207.9 per cent, compared with an increase of 177.9 per cent in the retail prices index.

A field marshal's salary is now £124,640.20, compared with £24,936 in 1979, while the figures for a junior entrant (under 17) are £5,438.50 (1996) and £1,766.60 (1979). — *Parliamentary reply*

brate their 25th anniversary.

The Terriers marked their quarter-century by parading through the centre of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk — exercising the battalion's freedom of St Edmundsbury.

Military marches, played by the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division, echoed round the ancient town, with elements of the battalion's four companies following the band with bayonets fixed.

They were led by their commanding officer, Lt Col Charles Thomas, and adjutant, Capt Paul Bailey, both with ceremonial swords raised.

The Queen's Colour and the

Regimental Colour were trooped in front of C Company.

Two camouflage snipers from HQ Coy, followed by recce platoon vehicles, marked the end of the parade.

The salute was taken by Maj Gen Patrick Stone, Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, Lord Belstead, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and Cllr Colin Jones, Mayor of St Edmundsbury.

Capt Paul Bailey, the adjutant, said: "The battalion was proud to be on parade celebrating our 25th anniversary. The soldiers all worked hard to be ready for the day and it was very worthwhile."

## Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

## Where Apaches will go

THREE regiments of 16 of the Army's new Apache Longbow attack helicopters will be deployed to the front line.

Two will go to 24 Airmobile Brigade at Wattisham and one to 3 (UK) Division at Dishforth, Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot said in a written answer.

The regiments will also provide support to 1 (UK) Division and to the Royal Marines.

Nine aircraft will be based at Middle Wallop for training and trials and one at Boscombe Down for trials.

The remaining nine of the 67 now officially ordered from GKN-Westland will be held at the RN Aircraft Yard, Fleetlands, as a peacetime attrition reserve.

A regiment from 24 Airmobile Brigade will form the core of the

### Defence Committee — Page 8-9

lead aviation battle group of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force.

The Apaches, which will replace the Army Air Corps' Lynx anti-tank helicopters, will be equipped with the Longbow fire control radar and powered by Rolls-Royce RTM322 engines.

### Other written answers:

□ Most of the beef supplied to the Forces (since October, 1994, through Naafi) originates in South America, though a range of products including mince, offal and burgers is produced from British beef. "There is no perceived reason to change existing arrangements," said Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot.

□ The MoD has offered no objection to the names of Service personnel killed in Northern Ireland being inscribed on dedicated war memorials in Great Britain.

□ The Ministry of Defence Police, whose HQ and training schools are at Wethersfield, Essex, became an agency of the MoD on April 1. First chief executive is the chief constable, Mr W E E Boreham.

□ Contracts for the supply of 81mm mortar ammunition to the Army are expected to be in place by the end of April.



## SEAE is ready for take-off

THE ARMY's newest school for excellence was due to open at Arborfield, near Reading, on April 25 when the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering (SEAE) holds a formation parade.

Two trade schools of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) – the School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield and the School of Aeronautical Engineering at Middle Wallop – have been merged within the new SEAE.

A plaque marking the opening of a £7 million ultra-modern aircraft hangar was to be unveiled by Maj Gen Philip Corps, the Director General Equipment Support (Army).

Lt Col Mike Bowman, CO SEAE, said the school gave the Army an opportunity to demonstrate that it utilises the best training methods and equipment available.

### In brief

THE Thorne Trophy, awarded to the minor unit which has made the largest contribution to sport in Germany, has gone to 1st Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC for the third time since the trophy's inception in 1985.

● Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, visited Portadown-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. He was shown the operations room and met soldiers about to leave on patrol.

● A team of chefs from 104 Regiment, Royal Artillery won the regional final of Exercise Combat Caterer, the annual Territorial Army test of culinary and military skills held at Cwrt-y-Gollen training camp. They will go on to represent Wales in the UK finals of the competition at Grantham on April 27.

### It's a fact

About 23 per cent of Army and RAF personnel will qualify by age for the Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) for house purchase. Speculative take-up figures suggest there would be a three-fold increase over those who annually benefited from the Married Quarters Discounted Sales Scheme. – *Parliamentary answer*



An NBC-suited member of 5 RGJ's Milan team on guard as the battalion prepares to fire its first missiles

## Greenjackets settle into new Milan role

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets fired Milan for the first time last month despite wintry conditions on Salisbury Plain.

In a comprehensive live-firing exercise, Sharpe Support, the unit reached a crucial phase in its re-rolling programme as a fire support battalion.

Torrential rain turned the ground into a mire as fire teams moved forward in Wessex helicopters from RAF Benson and Saxon personnel carriers provided by the regiment's Regular 1st Battalion based in Bulford.

Engaging an imaginary enemy, 5 RGJ's Milan, mortar and sustained-fire GPMG weapons broke the advancing armoured infantry.

As the first Milan rounds struck home, there was real satisfaction for Lt Col Robert Martin, CO 5 RGJ. "Sharpe Support is the result of months of hard work. The Milan teams have proved they can do the job and you could certainly see the evidence of that today," he said.

"However, we are not going

to stand still and it is important that we continue to train and develop the necessary skills for our new role."

This will be particularly relevant as 5 RGJ and other TA units play an increasingly important role in supporting the Regular Army. Soldiers from 5 RGJ are currently serving in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and the Falklands.

The exercise was visited by Lt Gen Hew Pike, Deputy C-

in-C Land Command; Brig John Patrick, Commander 145 Brigade; and Professor Robert O'Neill, honorary colonel of the battalion.

### It's a fact

Estimated strength of the Army at April 1, 1999, is 114,000, a figure which includes Gurkha strengths but excludes the Royal Irish Regiment home service force. – *Parliamentary answer*

## Women in front line: debate sought

MEMBERS of Parliament have called for a debate in the House before a decision is taken to employ women in Army combat roles.

The all-party Defence Committee's latest report on manning and recruitment notes that women are eligible for only 47 per cent of posts and are excluded from "contact battle roles" in the infantry and armoured regiments.

Decisions following a review aimed at widening employment opportunities for women, who comprise six per cent of the Army, are expected

in mid-1996, says the report. Meanwhile a separate study is being carried out by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) to develop a series of fitness standards and tests capable of predicting an individual's physical capacity, after training, to carry out future work in the Army.

The committee says it welcomes the prospect of extending opportunities for women in the Army, not just because this may help solve personnel shortages, including a 2,500 deficit in the infantry.

"Deployment of women into

## Queens' strike winning form

OVERALL winners of this year's Exercise Lightning Strike, the Royal Signals' annual national Universities Officers' Training Corps competition, were Queens UOTC from Belfast.

Eighteen out of a possible 19 UOTCs took part, with teams consisting of 11 students.

In addition to permanent staff instructors and commanding officers, 222 students attended the event, held over three days at Westdown Camp.

Main aims of the exercise were to introduce the students to a wide variety of Royal Signals units, and involve them in some of the basic military and signalling skills covered in the first year of UOTC.

### SAS STAND

Officers and soldiers from nine Royal Signals units ran stands, including 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron who produced a survival exhibition and a squadron from 14 Signal Regiment (EW), who introduced the students to elements of electronics warfare.

Members of 30 Signal Regiment, 21 Signal Regiment (AS), 11 Signal Regiment (making use of small arms weapons effects simulator equipment on loan from Warminster) and 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) were also involved. The mandatory



London UOTC team members sweat it out during the log race



Cheers: Queens UOTC, Belfast, relax after the competition

log race, organised by 5 Airborne Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216) was a feature of the exercise, and the climax, the final

race, was once again run by York-based 2 Signal Regiment.

Bristol UOTC were overall runners-up.

## PWO Terriers beat Regular marksmen

A TEAM from the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire has won a nationwide Army shooting competition – the first Territorial Army victors since 1959.

Taking part in the Match 118 UK Land Command final at Bordon, Hampshire, the PWO team of four scored 1,517 points out of a possible 1,600, beating Regular counterparts The Royal Irish Regiment by two points.



## Pentagon: No Gulf syndrome evidence

AFTER a huge study of Operation Desert Storm veterans, the Pentagon has declared that no evidence has been found of the so-called Gulf War syndrome. – *Guardian*

□ British soldiers in Bosnia fought a covert struggle against all three sides in the conflict between 1993 and last year, killing Croat, Muslim and Serb troops in far greater numbers than has been admitted by Whitehall officials. – *Guardian*

□ A task force of 1,500 British American and French troops in southern Turkey is planning a celebration to mark the fifth anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort, the humanitarian mission offering protection to Kurds of northern Iraq against Saddam Hussein. – *Guardian*

□ The Government is facing mounting pressure to withdraw Britain's troops from Cyprus after the conviction of three British soldiers for the abduction and killing of a Danish tour guide. – *Sunday Telegraph*

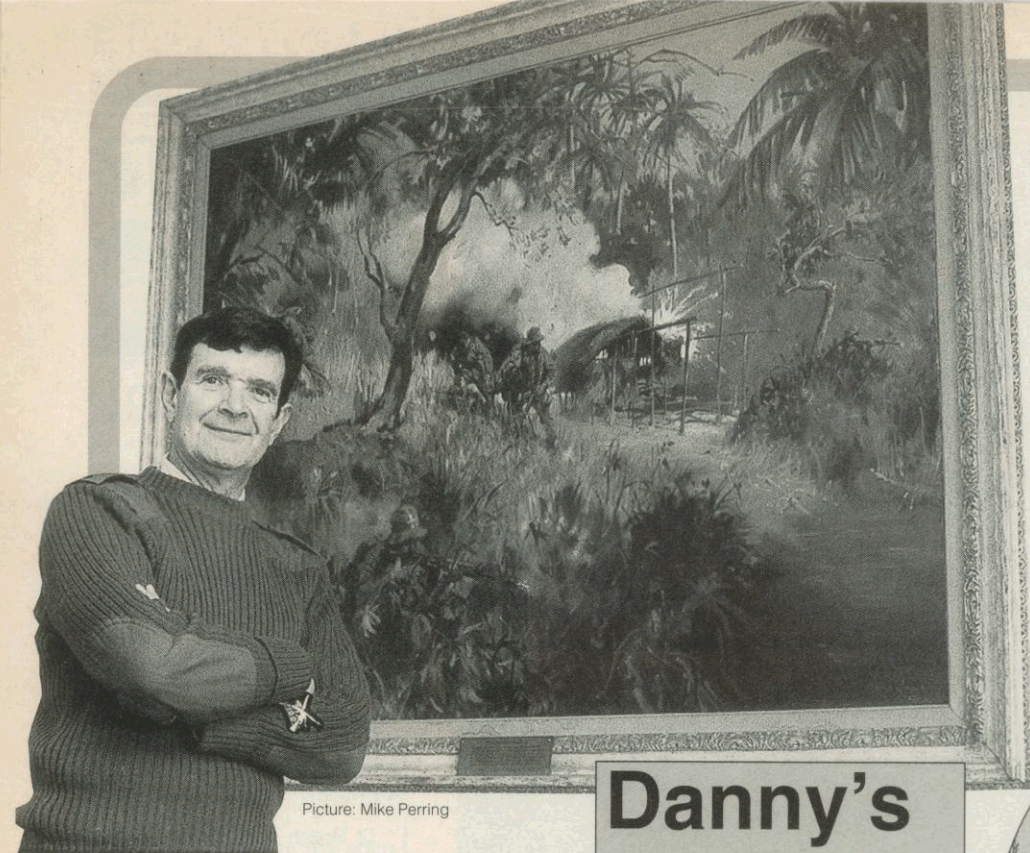
□ Landmines have little military significance, according to a report commissioned by the International Red Cross. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ The ominously named Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down has changed its name to the Protection and Life Sciences Division. – *Daily Express*

□ To foil egg thieves in Wales, SAS troops have set up spy cameras and booby traps at nesting sites of 30 red kites. – *Daily Mirror*

□ Numbers claiming war pensions have risen dramatically following a Royal British Legion campaign. In 1995-96, 331,000 veterans or their widows will be claiming or getting pensions. Between 1967 and 1987, only 76,000 veterans were awarded pensions or gratuities. – *Times*





Picture: Mike Perring

## Danny's gone – but not forgotten

Retiring from the Army after more than 38 years' service was Maj **Danny Hunt**, OC HQ Coy, 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

But, after he had been cheered on his way through the camp to the main gate of the Greenjackets' Bulford base, where he was presented with a statuette subscribed to by all ranks in his company, he left behind a permanent reminder of his long association with the regiment.

On the wall behind him is a Terence Cuneo painting, proudly displayed in the officers' mess, which depicts an incident in North Borneo in 1965 when Danny – then a platoon sergeant – helped to rescue a wounded rifleman under fire.



## Lancer leaves

After 22 years in the Army, serving with the 16th/5th Lancers and the Queen's Royal Lancers, WO1 (RSM) **Terry Middlemas** (left) has been commissioned into the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment in Northern Ireland, where he will take up the position of Quartermaster Technical.

He is seen handing over control as the QRL's RSM to WO1 (RSM) **Paul Snelling**, who arrives at the regiment's Osnabrück base from the AFV Gunnery School at Lulworth with 21 years' service with the 17th/21st Lancers and QRL behind him.

## RECCE SKILLS RECOGNISED!

Thanks to US troop commitments to the NATO Peace Implementation Force (IFOR), two members of 4/5 (V) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers were able to take up a couple of vacancies on the Combat Arms Reconnaissance Course held at the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School at Weingarten.

And Sgt **Norman McElwee** (left) and LCpl **Sid Stevenson** did their battalion proud in a battle of wits with Regular officers and soldiers from the UK, US, Belgian, Italian and German armies.

Sgt McElwee attained the highest marks in the final tests and was given best student award, while LCpl Stevenson finished a creditable sixth overall and second among UK personnel.



## Goat's gong

Holding his head proudly as he receives the Northern Ireland General Service Medal from Lt Col **Robert Aitken**, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, was **Taffy V**, otherwise known as Pte Gwilliam Jenkins, the three-year-old regimental goat.

Since joining 1 RRW in County Antrim more than a year ago, Taffy, seen with Pte **Gavin Woodroffe**, the Regimental Goat Major, has proved a great attraction at public appearances throughout the Province.

## ONE YEAR ON . . .

Brig **John Patrick**, Commander 145 (Home Counties) Brigade, surrounded by staff, cuts the cake to mark the first anniversary of the brigade's formation. Based in Aldershot, the brigade, which has a dependency of some 43,000 personnel, with troops serving worldwide, consists of four garrisons and 11 stations and covers six counties.



Picture: Mike Perring



Picture: Sgt Alan Jones, 2 RRW

## 'High' there!

Young **Gareth Joseph** found someone to look up to in 6ft 4in former Welsh Guardsman LCpl **Chris Dutton**, a Territorial Army member of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales's Regimental Police, at the regiment's Freedom of Merthyr Tydfil parade.

Gareth, whose brother is serving with the Welsh Guards, was wearing a uniform made from a cut-down No 1 Service Dress which he wore last year as a pageboy at his sister's wedding.

## Last of his kind

Lt Gen Sir **Anthony Denison-Smith**, GOC 4th Division, waves farewell to his headquarters staff in Aldershot on his retirement from the post. As a result of the HQ changing from a district to a division last year, he will be the last three-star officer to command the region. His replacement will be a major general.



Picture: Chris Fletcher

# PEOPLE



Picture: Cpl Stephen Taylor

Mrs **Sarah Jones**, widow of Falklands hero Lt Col 'H' Jones – awarded a posthumous VC for his actions while leading the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in the Battle of Goose Green in the Falklands War – is pictured with WO2 **Kev Robison** (left) and WO2 (RQM) **Dave Abols**, both of 2 Para.

The soldiers were among six from the battalion presented with the first bricks from a disused chapel in Salisbury which is to be moved, brick by brick, to Pangbourne College in Reading to build a memorial chapel in the grounds to commemorate those who died in the 1982 Falklands conflict.

## HAND'S HELPING HAND

New recruits from 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital (V) got more than they bargained for when they arrived at the Army training camp at Leek, Staffordshire for a weekend exercise.

Heavy snow showers meant that not only did they learn as much about Arctic warfare techniques as basic fieldcraft – courtesy of Sgt **Richie Hand** (in picture) and WO2 **Keith Norman** – but, with their safety and welfare paramount, returned to their unit much earlier than planned.





# Rent rises and the challenge of change

NONE of us likes paying bills. All of us object when they seem to get bigger every year. It is even more infuriating when the bill is for a service we can't do without.

The recent rent rise for quartering has caused the predictable outcry.

More than one person has written to me saying that it will force families to live apart because of financial pressure. It has been suggested that Service families are having to pay for the privatisation of quarters.

One writer suggested it might be "another nail in the coffin of Service life".

First of all, the facts (set out in more detail below). Speaking on BFBS, Jeff Glading, the Deputy Director of Service Policy 1, said: "... the Review Body perceives that there has been an increasing gap between the charges levied and rents outside over the past few years ... this is no more than a catching-up exercise."

Like it or not, this is true.

Those of us who have worked with the Services for many years have been saying as much for a long time. We have consistently made the point that unless small increases were made every time the position was reviewed, there would be a time of reckoning.

Of course, Service families who want to buy a house while living together in the head of household's posting will be faced with two sets of bills, and an increase in rents will place an extra burden on the budget. There is no way around this.

It may be possible to rent out the house you are buying while living in quarters, although it may not be an option you want to consider. If you have decided to buy while living in quarters, you will already have worked out a household budget which takes this into account.

**Setting the rent rise against the pay rise, I cannot believe that there will be many people for whom the rent rise will break the bank.**

If it will, then the purchase may have been ill-advised in the first place and you will need to take financial advice from your lender.

Will increasing rents deter people from buying houses?

This is a serious issue because, over the years, we have all encouraged Servicemen and women to get into the housing



Cari's column

market as soon as they can against the day they leave the protection of Service life.

There are schemes in operation to help Service people save for and buy property. Will these be as popular in the light of rent increases? Should we still be encouraging them to buy? I think we should be encouraging them to take the management of their money very seriously.

Many of the benefits that we used to enjoy are being eroded. There is no way of stopping this process so we must confront it and deal with it.

To the charge that increasing rents will lead to married couples splitting up I would say this is a simplistic view of relationships. There are many reasons for marriage breakdown and, while economic factors cannot be discounted, I would argue that the rise in rents will make only a small difference.

One correspondent says the rent rise is "the final straw in a mounting catalogue of underhanded put-downs".

She is not alone. But the fact is that the Services are undergoing

the most massive changes. The world has changed dramatically over the past few years. No matter how much we dislike these developments, we do have to live with them.

**It is time to stop being beaten by change and to start looking to ways in which the community can begin to accommodate it.**

When I voiced this opinion recently I was accused of failing in my duty as an "agony aunt".

I see no conflict. I am not on anyone's side. Like many, in or out of the Services, I have frequently had to accept a difficult situation and turn my attention to making the best of it.

There have been many occasions on which I have felt an overwhelming urge to throw in the towel with shouts of "it's not fair!"

**It is not fair that soldiers who gave all their energies to the Army were made redundant. It is not fair that Army wives who had successful careers of their own have had to put their work on hold to be with the men they love.**

Equally, it is not fair that an able accountant has twice been made redundant by companies which promised him a long career. Or

that a gifted teacher has, once again, lost her job because of cuts in budgets.

It could be argued that Service people should be protected against the realities of life in the late 20th century because they have pledged their lives to the service of Her Majesty's Government.

Personally, I believe that this should be so - but the reality is that notions of duty are being discarded by the society for whom the Armed Forces work.

Pressure groups are doing their best, and they should be applauded for doing so. Raising issues and not allowing changes to pass unremarked and unchallenged takes hard work and a lot of thought. It also takes courage to speak up.

But complaints must be tempered with pragmatism. Rents have risen and will continue to do so. Now that the protests have been made, attention must be given to helping Service families for whom change, and all the stress it brings, presents a personal challenge.

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



Picture: Terry Champion

**Tower of strength:** Some of the 18 members of The Parachute Regiment who were on duty every day at this year's *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition at London's Earls Court, helping adventurous visitors to abseil, parachute or slide off a specially-constructed giant tower. Supervised by Sgt Chris

Larcom, the paras helped raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, who were running the stand. The 50ft tower had three abseil ropes, a parachute exit training jump and a giant flume slide. Tallest structure in the hall, the tower proved to be one of the exhibition's star attractions

# Increased accommodation charges not linked to new housing body - MoD

CONCERN that increases in Service accommodation charges have been linked to the sale of the married quarters estate has prompted the Ministry of Defence to issue a strong denial.

It believes the wrong perception could undermine confidence in the independence and impartiality of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body Report, which recommended the increases to the Government, and unfairly stigmatised the Defence Housing Executive and the Married Quarters Estate privatisation project.

A statement from the Directorate of Personal Services (Army) says the increase in accommodation charges is NOT linked to the privatisation of the married quarters estate or to the formation of the Defence Housing Executive.

**AFPRB's main recommendations were:**

□ Increases in Service Family Quarters (SFQ) charges ranging from ten per cent for Grade 4 accommodation to 25 per cent for Grade 1 Types I to III.

□ Severing the link between married quarters and single accommodation charges resulting in a reduction of £22 a year for

Grade 4 charges for junior ranks to an increase of £44 a year for more senior officers' accommodation.

□ Equalising water charges to reflect the average civilian rates across the country.

□ Reduction in garage charges to £157 a year.

**Why does the AFPRB set accommodation charges?**

The AFPRB's task is to recommend to the Prime Minister levels of Service pay, allowances and charges using a process known as "comparability". As regards pay, this basically means maintaining military salaries at a level broadly comparable to those outside the Service for jobs of similar size and weight.

To achieve comparability the AFPRB also looks at charges and has recommended that "charges levied on Service personnel should compare fairly with the costs civilians might expect to incur for comparable housing" (1996 AFPRB Report para 58). The Review Body therefore sees that "Armed Forces

pay and charges are linked inextricably in terms of achieving broad comparability" (1996 AFPRB Report para 58).

**How does the AFPRB calculate the charges?**

In the past the Review Body has looked at rents charged by local authorities and compared them to Service rents, taking into consideration such things as standard of accommodation and grade. However, the Review Body has for some time considered that using local authority rents as the sole comparator is no longer appropriate.

For this year's review it looked at a broad range of housing available to civilians to establish more appropriate comparators, including housing associations, private rents and owner-occupiers (mortgage payers).

As a result, the Review Body "adopted a method of comparison with civilian costs based on a weighted average derived from all

relevant housing sectors" (1996 AFPRB Report para 62).

Once the comparison has been carried out appropriate Service charges are set.

The Review Body is aware that there are differences between Service and civilian accommodation. The Services suffer from lack of choice, quality of decoration, no right to buy and lack of security of tenure. As a result the Review Body considers there is a relative disadvantage to Service personnel and an abatement of about 30 per cent is applied to both MQ and single accommodation charges.

**Why was there such a big increase this time?**

During the 1970s and early 1990s Armed Forces pay, along with other public sector workers, was pegged back. At the same time civilian housing costs rose significantly. The AFPRB took account of this when recommending accommodation charges to

ensure Service personnel were not unduly penalised.

Over the years "this had led to an increasing gap between charges levied within the Services and comparator rents" (1996 AFPRB Report para 59).

The AFPRB gave notice in its 1995 report that the gap was considerable and started to close it last year.

Because the comparator process looks at all standards and grades of accommodation, the gap was shown to be greater for superior quarters than for those of poorer quality. This accounts for the larger percentage increases for Grade 1 married quarters, particularly Types I to III.

**How long will it go on for?**

The Review Body cannot be exact on this. "It is difficult to predict the number of years required to close the gap between the Services' accommodation charges and payments made by compara-

ble civilian households because it is not possible to forecast future changes in comparable house prices and rents, or the level of pay settlements for the Armed Forces" (1996 AFPRB Report App 4 para 19).

The Review Body expects that "a considerable number of years will be required to close the gap between accommodation charges for officers and payments made by civilian comparators and even longer for other ranks" (1996 AFPRB Report App 4 para 19).

However, the Review Body expects that future increases should "not be of the magnitude of those recommended this year" (1996 AFPRB Report para 65).

**What about single accommodation?**

The Review Body looked at the link between married quarters and single accommodation and found it to be no longer relevant. Better comparators in the form of NHS trusts, university accommodation and hostels for medium-term occupancy for those people in work,

were more appropriate. It therefore set charges (and the subsequent abatement) accordingly. This resulted in reductions for the more junior accommodation and increases for those in more senior accommodation.

**Will charges be staged like the pay rise?**

Yes. Charges will not increase earlier than the parallel increases in pay. Only when the full pay award is in issue on December 1, 1996 will the full recommended charges for this pay round also be implemented.

**What if the increase in charges outstrips pay?**

This should not happen. In its deliberations the AFPRB takes great pains to ensure "each year that increases in accommodation charges do not result in a net decrease in pay for any Service personnel" (1996 AFPRB Report App 4 para 19).

**How can I find out my new accommodation charge?**

A signal outlining levels of pay and charges was sent to all units on the day of the Pay Review announcement.

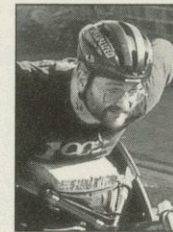
## SSAFA is ready for showtime

SSAFA's Western Europe Children with Special Needs Fund is one of the charities set to benefit from the proceeds of the Rheindahlen Show on May 3-5.

And to help publicise the cause, SSAFA has enlisted wheelchair athlete Paul Guest.

Paul (pictured) was disabled while serving in the Royal Navy and has become a leading wheelchair marathon and basketball competitor, all in support of SSAFA. Last year he completed a 413-mile tandem ride from Edinburgh to London to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

He will be visiting schools and clubs in Rheindahlen, and lead a parade of youngsters into the show arena to launch the Great SSAFA Balloon Race.





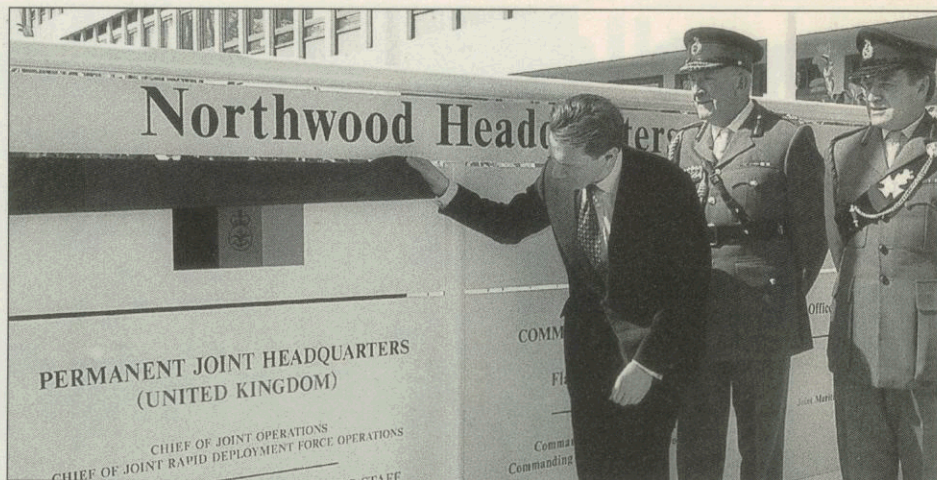


● The Permanent Joint Headquarters is the first permanent operational headquarters in the United Kingdom, bringing together the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

● It is responsible for monitoring potential trouble spots worldwide; contingency plans for operations; joint warfare doctrine and procedures; planning joint training; establishing joint operational standards; and commanding joint operations.

● Although the headquarters is a tri-Service organisation, there will not be a strict rotation of commanders on a Service-by-Service basis. Future commanders will be selected on merit, experience and the ability to carry out the demanding role.

● In time of tension, three two-star deputies to the C-in-C will provide high-level single-Service advice to the CJO and direct links with single Service commands.



Open for business: Defence Secretary Michael Portillo unveils the PJHQ sign at Northwood, watched by Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, and Lt Gen Christopher Wallace, who is in command of the new joint headquarters

# Combined

THE LEAFY west London suburb of Northwood has become home to a new Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) which will enhance the operational effectiveness of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces, writes Laurie Manton.

Opened by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, the PJHQ is commanded by the Chief of Joint Operations (CJO), Lt Gen Christopher Wallace.

It is the first permanent operational headquarters in the UK. Until now, combined operations involving all three Services have been put together at short notice, usually in times of crisis.

Accommodation has been refurbished, above and below ground, on the Northwood site for the new HQ, which will be occupied by 330 Service personnel and

civilians. "There have been hard lessons in the past on the need to improve planning and co-operation between the three Armed Services," said Mr Portillo.

"The PJHQ heralds a new chapter in developing the Armed Forces' capability to conduct joint operations, on our own or with allies. I am confident it will ensure the Services are properly prepared for the operations they are likely to be asked to undertake in the future."

The new headquarters is responsible for planning all UK-led joint, combined and multinational operations. It will work in close partnership with MoD Main Building in the planning of operations and their conduct.

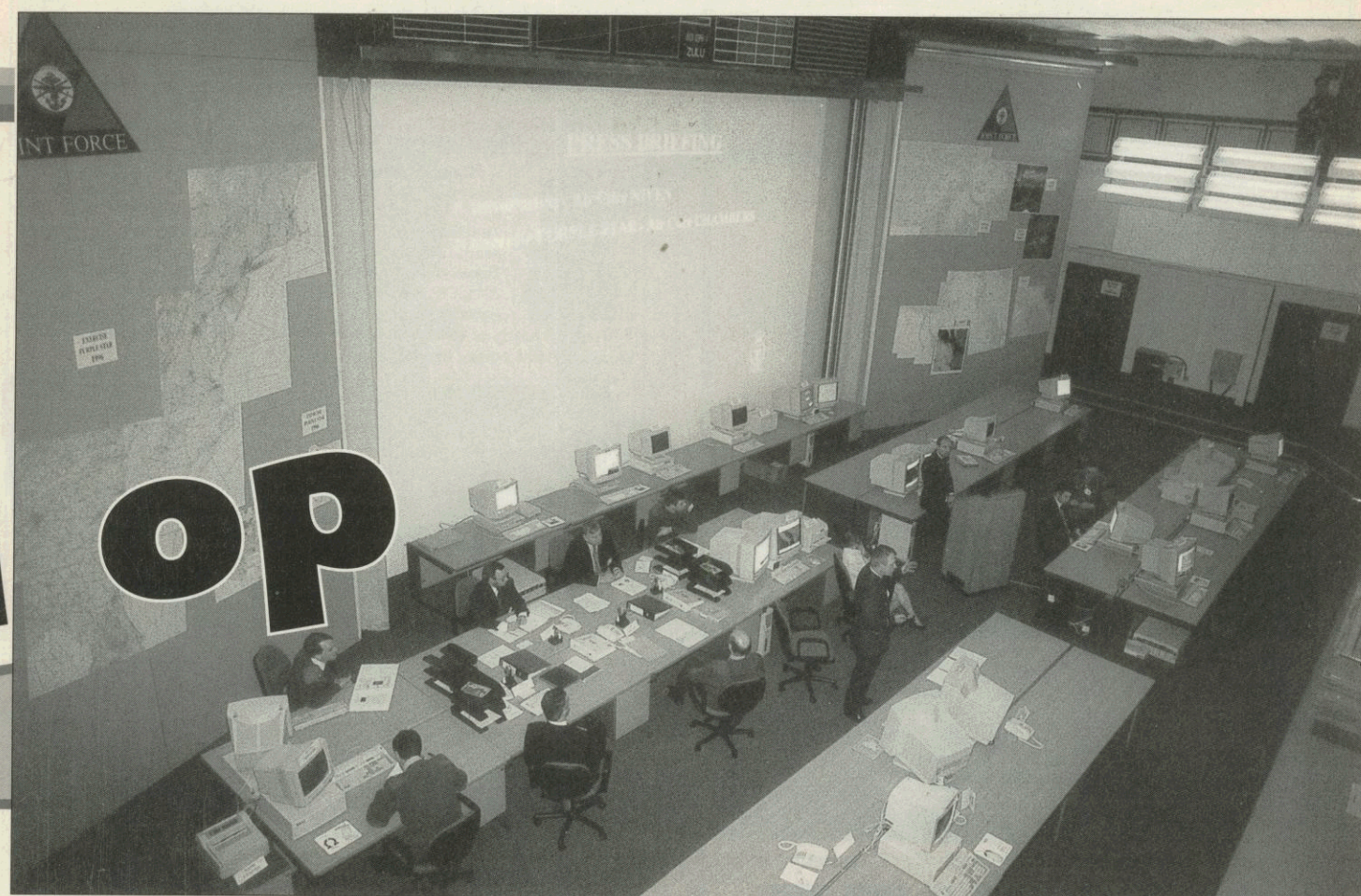
When another nation has charge of an operation, PJHQ will exercise operational command of UK forces involved.

The intention is for it to be a proactive and forward-looking organisation which will monitor potential trouble spots, anticipate crises and develop contingency plans.

Being permanent, PJHQ will provide continuity of experience from the planning phase to the execution of the operation, and on to post-operation evaluation and learning lessons.

Manned around the clock, it will have the capacity to run several operations simultaneously.

This summer PJHQ will take on respon-



Above - Nerve centre: The operations room at Northwood

Left - Top team: Lt Gen Christopher Wallace (seated left), Commander PJHQ, and members of his senior staff

tions and of the enemy's intelligence."

Supported by a database and graphic displays, the JOP will be projected, in large size, on to a wall in the command bunker so that everyone can see it.

The Northwood headquarters also has a role as a centre of excellence for preparing for joint operations. Its responsibilities in this respect include developing joint doctrine and procedures, training and exercises, and establishing joint standards.

A number of non-core functions are being delegated from MoD Main Building, including day-to-day management of Overseas Commands in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Hong Kong and the Falkland Islands.

This will allow Defence Chiefs at Main Building to concentrate in particular on policy formulation and strategic direction. As a result, Main Building is being restructured to take full advantage of the benefits that the establishment of PJHQ offers.

Running costs of PJHQ are estimated at £16 million a year, but these will be offset by manpower reductions elsewhere as headquarters staff are brought under one roof.

sibility for current operations in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. But before going "live" it will work-up with a series of exercises to test its structure, organisation and methods.

This process will include exercises Purple Viva and Purple Star, a combined United Kingdom-United States exercise taking place on the Eastern Seaboard next month. With more than 57,000 troops taking part - 12,000 of them British - it will be the largest combined UK-US deployment since the Gulf war.

Acting Chief of Staff at the PJHQ, Air Vice Marshal David Niven, told *Soldier* that a new piece of computer technology was being introduced to the headquarters.

"It is called the Joint Operational Command System and will link PJHQ with its forward commands deployed on operations," he said.

"The system allows for forward planning, and will enable us to produce a Joint Operational Picture (JOP) which gives staff a good feel for our own opera-



Joint approach: (front) LWren Karen Skinner and LCpl Ann Halsall; (back) Sgt Vince Mott, WO1 Pat O'Connor and Cpl Wyn Dun-Davies outside the central registry at PJHQ





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Making light of it: LCpl Donnie Begg and Cpl Danny Connor of 102 Field Support Squadron, 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (V) direct one billion candlepower of light on to Beinn an Lochain near Arrochar

# A little light work by Paisley TA

MEMBERS of 102 (Clyde) Field Support Squadron, 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment, a Paisley-based TA unit, lit up an entire Argyllshire mountain, enabling two civilian mountain rescue teams to carry out a simulated rescue.

The squadron's Movement and Light Troop used three of their powerful searchlights to illuminate Beinn an Lochain, to provide enough light for Arrochar mountain rescue team and Strathclyde police support unit to operate in safety.

Only eight of the one billion candlepower lights – each with a range of 15km – exist in the Army, the other four being held by Swansea-based Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia).

Since 102 Squadron was

given the searchlights in 1992 after the Gulf War, they have been used for battlefield illumination tasks, but are ideally suited to mountain and air accident rescues, where the success of an operation depends on the amount of light available.

After the demonstration, attended by Col James Finlay, Chief of Staff of the Army in Scotland, Maj David Shepherd, OC 102 Squadron, said: "We hope, by this exercise, to have demonstrated to the civilian community, the police and the rest of the Armed Forces that we have this equipment, it is available for use and that we can assist all the mountain rescue teams and emergency services in Scotland to carry out the extremely important job they do."

## North West chefs set high standard

STANDARDS at the North West's Exercise Combat Caterer were described by Brig David Shaw, Commander 42 (NW) Brigade, as the best he had seen at a catering competition.

Aim of the annual event, held at Weeton Camp, is to stimulate interest in the skills of field catering by encouraging chefs of all ranks, through competition, to improve both military and technical standards while working under pressure.

Each team of three chefs and a driver had to complete a series of stands over two days, finally producing a three-course meal which was judged by master chefs WO2 (SQMS) Ian Patterson and WO2 (SQMS) Mike Smith, and SSgt Paul Clarke. Overall winners were the 4 Kings Own Border (V) team, who qualified for the Army UK finals.

Cpl Tom Forster (4 QLR (V)) won the driving skills competition; the first aid was won by 208 Fd Hosp RAMC (V); the marksmanship and physical



Dish of the day: Pte Sarah Dunphy, the only female competitor at Weeton Camp, shows off 156 (NW) Tpt Regt RLC (V)'s winning meal

agility sections by 4 Kings Own Border; the NBC test by 5/8 Kings (V); and the final field cookery phase by 156 (NW) Tpt Regt RLC (V).

Capt Chris Mehigan took overall command of the exercise, assisted by controller WO1 (SSM) Tom Cairns.



# Czech mates

THE SIGHT of a British Warrior armoured fighting vehicle operating with its Soviet-style equivalent is something many soldiers thought they would never see.

For years, NATO and the Warsaw Pact prepared to fight each other in just such vehicles.

Training with former enemies in northern Bosnia has added a certain spice to life for gunners from 17/159 Battery, 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The battery's AS90s provide support to the 6th Czech Mechanised Battalion within the Dayton Peace Implementation Force's 2nd Canadian Multi-National Brigade. Three British forward observation officers and their five-man crews each live and work with a Czech company.

The Czechs were not part of the 3rd Shock Army which faced 1 British Corps before the fall of the Berlin Wall, so their massive OT 64 armoured personnel carriers are not well known in the West.

But the BVP variant of the nippy BMP 2 AVF which equips two of the Czech companies was standard throughout Warsaw Pact armies.

A standing joke developed between Capt Simon Wing's team and the Czech company they worked with at Stari Majdan.

On their first joint patrol, in bad weather over snow, the heavy Warrior slipped off the road. Two BMPs hauled it out.

The two commanders looked at each other. "You wouldn't have done that five years ago, would you?" asked Capt Wing.

"No," said the Czech company commander with a grin.

The BMPs were adept at self-recovery and were used to their potential, said Capt Wing. At 13 tons, the Czech vehicles could



Above - Ops officer 1st Lt Vaclav Vleck of 6 (Cz) Mech Bn and Maj Mike Redmond, 17/159 Bty commander, show some of the 80 weapons confiscated from intruders into the Zone of Separation

get to locations the up-armoured Warrior, weighing in at 33 tons, was unable to reach.

"When the snow was here it was dangerous to go out in Warrior so we used to patrol in BMPs and the

Czechs would let us drive them," said Capt Wing. The BMP has a manual

gear box while the Warrior is automatic, which led to some interesting driving.

On the other hand, the Czechs were profoundly impressed by the sheer weight, size and power of Warrior. When their vehicle ran over a mine, the Chobham armour saved Capt Matt White, his crew and much of the AVF.

The Czechs took a robust approach to their vehicles, which were well used... and well dented. One early patrol in the snow was particularly entertaining for Capt White and his crew as the Czech vehicles slid precariously into each other.

The company commander merely shrugged and they all got on with the job.

"At first the Czechs were very reserved but we invited a few over for a coffee and a beer and now they come over by themselves," said Capt White.

As part of the Czech 4th Airborne Brigade, 6 Cz Mech Bn has 30 per cent of its soldiers parachute-trained.

"We have a slightly different doctrine so we adapted to operating in a multi-national framework," said Maj Mike Redmond, OC 17/159 Bty. "We welded together very easily



in the first two-and-a-half months and are quite happy operating under a common policy within the Canadian brigade. At the lowest level, the soldiers are very professional, and their headquarters are efficient."

The Czechs quickly adapted to offensive support from a British artillery battery and everything had dovetailed neatly.

It is only when soldiers are away from British Army chefs that they truly appreciate them. European rations were very different. At battalion HQ there was a

● Turn to Page 20



Joint operations staff at Multi-National Division (South West) HQ include Lt Col Josef Proks (Czech Republic) Maj Russ Santala (USA), Maj Buster Bowes (Canada), Col Andrew Ritchie, British Chief of Staff, Lt Col Jan Vlastnik (Czech Republic) Capt Robert Van-Putten (Netherlands) and Maj Phillipe Hochart (France)

## IFOR achieves its objective, but now the real work begins

SPRING comes late to the desolate snow fields on the high plateau round Kupres in Bosnia, where British, Dutch and Malaysians of the Dayton Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) shiver in the wind.

To the south, the blossom is out in Split and further north, on the line where the fighting stopped, primroses and snowdrops are pushing up past the anti-personnel mines. As the snow melts and the ground softens these areas will be cleared so new life can return.

This is only possible because of the presence of IFOR troops, who have ensured that the opposing armies have evacuated their lines of confrontation and that all non-Bosnian troops have withdrawn.

In the British area of responsibility, Multi-National Division (South West), the most significant progress was the peaceful return of the Serbs to the area round Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo from which they were ejected last September.

The military objectives of IFOR have been achieved, but its task is not finished, said Lt Col Peter Wall, CO 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment and deputy brigade commander.

"The way ahead for the military is not prescribed in the Dayton agreement further than D plus 120, when weapons had to be secured in cantonments," he said, "so there is scope for factions to make their own assumptions."

"It is very important that we continue the dialogue through the Military Commissions process to ensure that everybody is in sync with IFOR's view, and that ours is a realistic view in terms of what the factions are going to do militarily."

The military effort is now switching to place more emphasis on community work, helping civilians to help themselves, he said. There was a gap between the assistance needed now and what would be available through aid agencies in the longer term.

"Between now and the elections in September we have to give people the clear impression that the vestiges of peace are worth pursuing," said Col Wall.

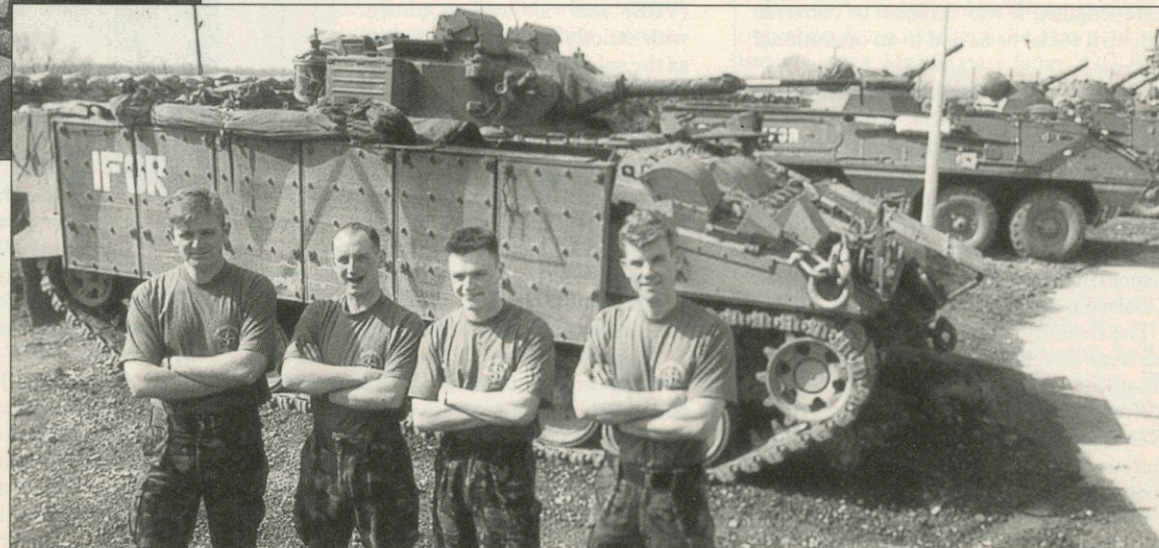
"If we don't seize the chance this summer, and then find ourselves in a situation next winter in which there has been no progress, then people's perceptions of the benefits of peace will fall far short of what we would like."



LBdr Simon Hickman (foreground) works in the Czech battalion HQ operations room with 1st Lt Bretislav Sedlacek

Above - 2nd Lt Lukaj Kvuoe liaises with Bdr Dean Perryment, Bdr Darren Barton and Capt Simon Wing before a joint BMP-Warrior patrol

Right - Operating with Czech OT 64s are Bdr Dave Wood, Gnr Tom Hilton, Gnr Vinny Oakes and Capt Matt White with call sign 11A, which survived an anti-tank mine



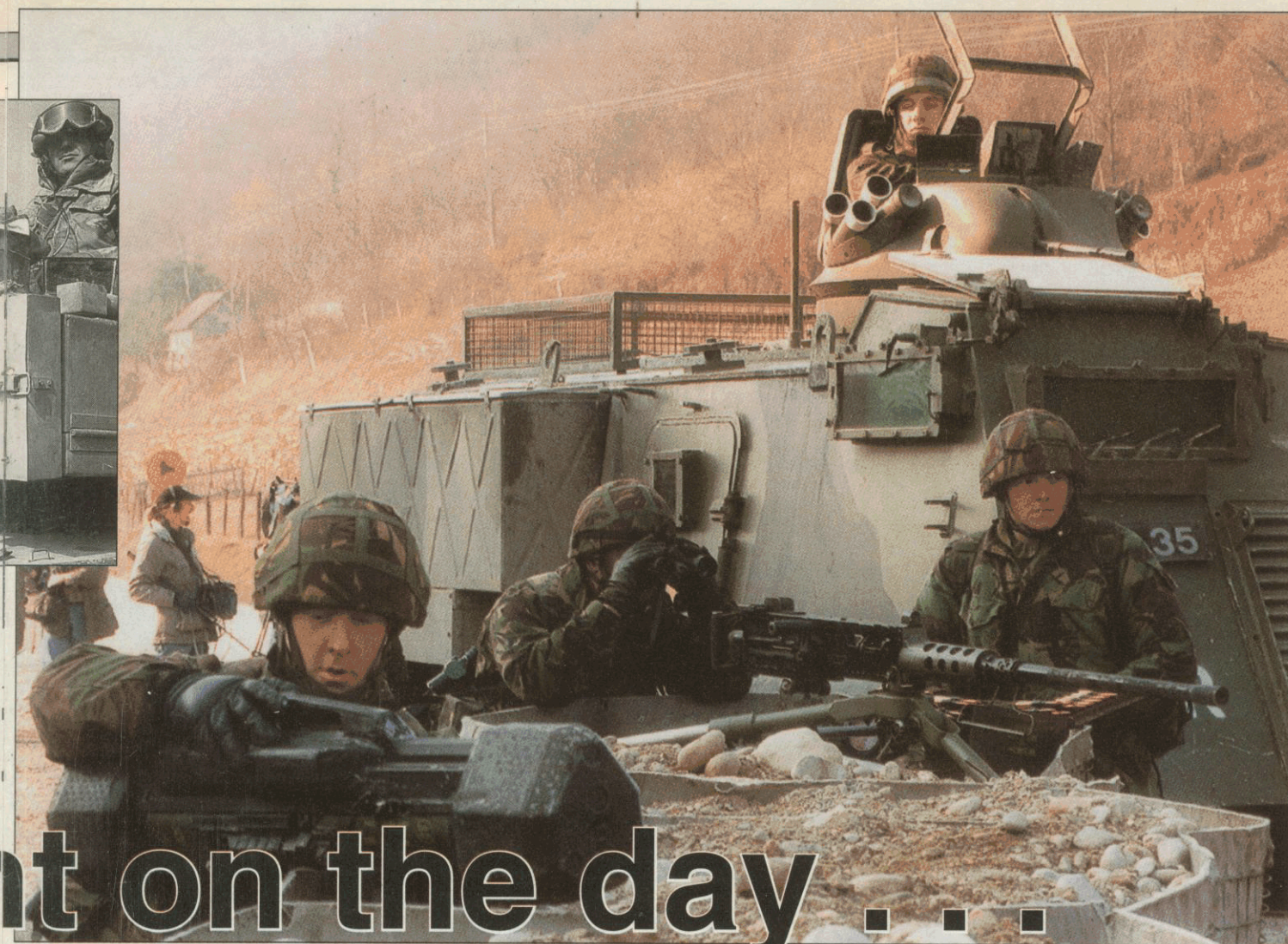




Above – Cpl Waine Staveley (driver), Pte Steve Corbett (gunner) and vehicle commander Cpl Mick Bradley of 1 QLR Recce Pln on duty in their Sabre outside the Serb Kula barracks

Left – 1 QLR Support Company flies in by Chinook to strengthen the B Company position

Right – Queen's Lancashires stand ready at Black Dog



## Czech mates

• From Page 18

preponderance of pasta, rice, meat and boiled potatoes for breakfast or tea, and cold suppers of sardines were not unusual.

The British and Canadians linked a Canadian satellite decoder and disc, and a British TV and video. But the home shopping programme they picked up wasn't popular, nor were a Spanish channel and what the gunners thought was a Polish transmission.

But Eurosport gave some relief. "They try very hard to look after us," said Sgt Colin Chester, "like giving us extra room, and letting us have showers when a lot of their own boys can't use them."

British, Canadians and Czechs were initially segregated in the ops room, but information is now passed more freely.

Although several Czechs speak adequate English, it was difficult to converse both on a social basis and in an operational setting.

"They are strong-willed and keen to do everything themselves, but speaking one-to-one we get to know them and they now ask us to send reports to the Canadian brigade HQ, because they understand us better," said Bdr Russ Chant.

"They recognise that we have no chance of speaking Czech so they are trying hard to learn English."

The British gunners fly Czech pennants and wear Czech flashes as well as their own Union Flag insignia.

Working with Czechs and Canadians gives an added dimension to the gunners' operation, and because the Czechs are anxious to join NATO, they are taking a keen interest in operating with the Royal Artillery.

# It'll be all right on the day . . . thanks to 4 Brigade's rehearsals

IT WAS not a good Monday morning for Maj Duggie Brown and B Company of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

The battalion had deployed to a small village near the zone of separation to supervise the return of the Bosnian Serb Army (VRS) to the Anvil, an area from which they had been ejected in the recent war.

Under the Dayton peace agreement, the Serb Army (VRS) was allowed to return with strictly limited forces, but as the soldiers moved south they had with them three tanks and nine infantry fighting vehicles.

IFOR had not given permission for this strength to return to an area previously occupied by Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

The VRS soldiers demanded access through the zone of separation so they could occupy a transistor factory taken over – and cleaned out – by B Company.

Maj Brown explained this was not allowed under the terms of the peace agreement.

He was confident he could deal with the situation. He had four Milan posts deployed to guard the junction. But the brigade reserve of A Coy, 2 LI and B Sqn, QRH were deployed, and 1 QLR Support

Company was "chopped" into the valley in two Chinook lifts.

An American four-man section equipped with loudspeakers deployed with them to tell the opposing force the error of their ways, and to let them know their co-ordinates were known and could be shelled.

When one tank and three AFVs arrived at their checkpoint the Lancashires fired a burst over their heads and gave them five minutes to move back.

They moved back. It was, in fact, a notional burst of fire. The confrontation was actually a worst-case scenario for an exercise organised by HQ 4 Armoured Brigade to practise procedures they might have to carry out when the VRS Army re-occupied the Anvil two days later.

The forces moving against them were actually A Squadron, The Light Dragoons in their Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles. At other locations, Warriors of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry were probing to find weak spots.

B Company's sergeant major, WO2 Danny Bennett, said: "Before we go on patrol we rehearse everything so that the soldiers know what they are doing."

It was a valuable exercise, but in the



Lt Col Grahame Flood, CO of 1 QLR, chats to Col Milenko Lazic, deputy commander of the 30th VRS Division, as his soldiers approach Black Dog

event, the Serbs co-operated to the letter and the whole operation went like clockwork. Just before the flag-waving lorries arrived, the commanding officer of 1 QLR, Lt Col Grahame Flood, chatted to Col Milenko Lazic, deputy commander of the 30th VRS Division.

Relations were cordial.

Serb mine clearance teams were soon working with British EOD detachments to clear unexploded ordnance from farms and fields they had re-occupied.

Towards the end of the operation, Maj Ross Anderson and Champion Company

stopped two Serbs on their final task. They had to deliver an anti-aircraft system, which, under the Dayton agreement, was not allowed into the Anvil. The soldiers asked if they could dump the gun in the river. No, they were told, that would not be environmentally friendly.

Having taken the gun as far as they could, the pair demolished it themselves and abandoned it with C Company.

A few days later the Queen's Lancashires came under genuine gunfire when several rounds were loosed off in their general direction.

They decided against returning fire; such incidents are rare when they used to be common, and can usually be attributed to a high-spirited or drunk soldier announcing his presence with a typical "Balkan unload".

It was a memorable moment for the battalion, which replaced the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers as one of the two British infantry battalions dedicated to IFOR.

Headquartered along with Support Company at Sipovo near the 4 Armd Bde HQ, 1 QLR has B Company at Gornji Ribnik, A Company based on Mrkonjic Grad, C Company guarding the Bosca dam and B Squadron QRH under command at Kljuc.

Lt Adrian Peters and his reconnaissance platoon, equipped with eight Sabres, have one of the more interesting tasks. Their winter tracks took them over snow to places Saxon could not reach.

The battalion deployed in late February with some 580 soldiers, including additions from 1 Kings, 5/8 Kings and 4 QLR, and after the six-month tour will return to Tidworth where it is part of 1 Mechanised Brigade.

It was a completely different kind of operation from anything the regiment was used to, said Maj Rupert Janes, OC Support Company. Maintaining peace when there was no real enemy required a particular kind of discipline.

The destruction they saw came as a shock to young men from Western Europe, said Lt Col Flood. "Although they are trained soldiers, if they hadn't been in a theatre of war before and experienced this kind of thing then the sheer devastation, just in terms of infrastructure, hits home."

Being in former Yugoslavia has had a powerful effect on Pte John Christian. His wife hails from Zagreb and he is conscious of being in a position to help her country and people.

"We feel we are doing something useful in stopping the violence and she is really proud of us," he said.

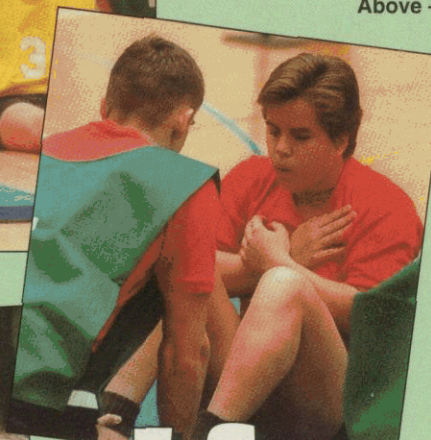




This is how you do the abdominal curl conditioning test. SSgt (SSI) Mark Woodhouse and SSgt (SSI) Paul Stewart demonstrate

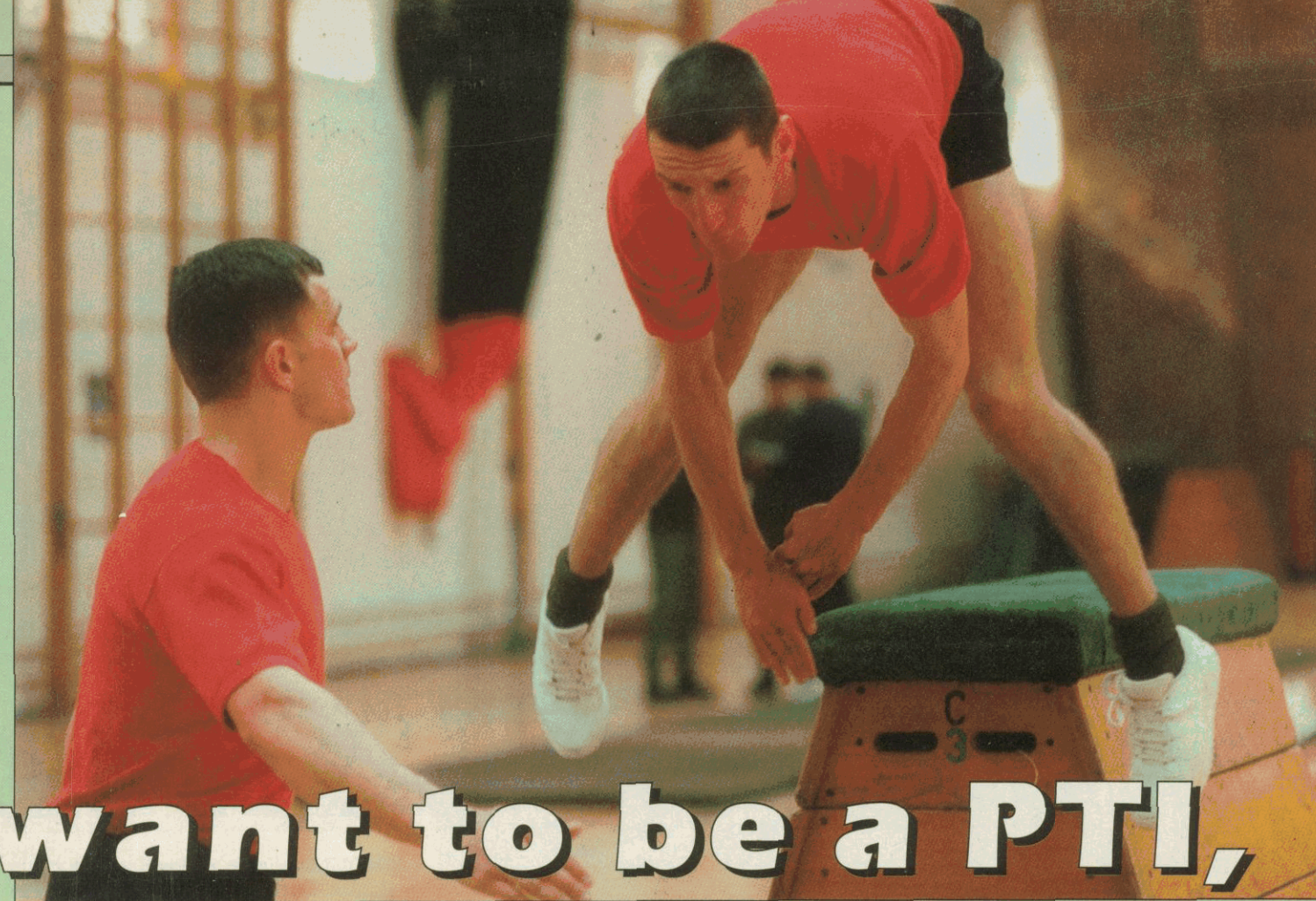


Above – An eye for detail: Directing staff WO2 (QMSI) John Berry and WO2 Jock Goodwin



Left – Gym test: Cpl Nicky Pearce (9 Sig Regt) in action

Right – Up and over: LCpl Marc McLean (25 Engr Regt) vaults the wooden horse



# If you want to be a PTI, engage the muscle . . . and the brain

**QUESTION** – How do you become a member of the Army Physical Training Corps?  
**ANSWER** – With difficulty.

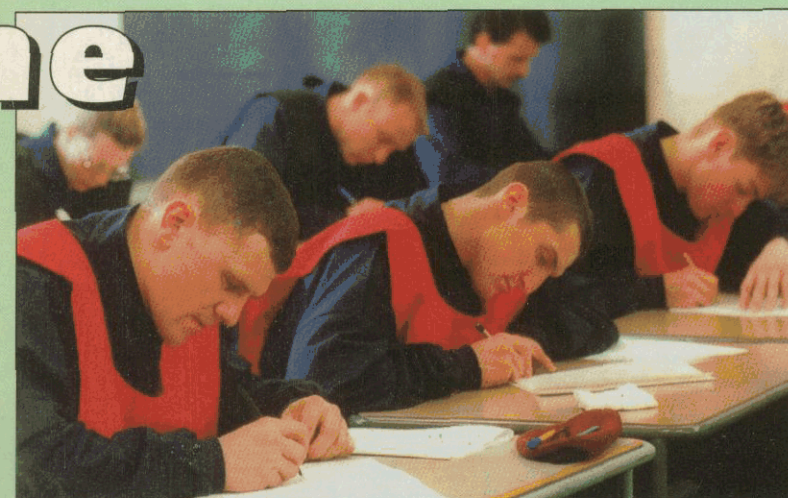
For starters, you have to pass a selection course, held three times a year at the Army School of Physical Training in Queens Avenue, Aldershot.

Each course lasts four days and puts up to 32 candidates – working in small syndicates – through a rigorous programme of physical and aptitude challenges.

Education assessments test arithmetic and English skills and include an essay on a PT-related topic.

An important part of the assessment is a half-hour interview during which would-be corps instructors are marked on their ability to communicate and interact with personnel of all ranks.

But the heart of the course is the sweaty bit. Directing staff at ASPT look for potential members of their corps to demonstrate high levels of physical fitness and gymnastic prowess.



Testing times: APTC candidates complete an education assessment

The stamina-sapping programme includes a 1½-mile run (in 9min for men, 9min 45sec for women), heaves, dips, trunk curls and vertical jumps.

Throw in gymnastic tests, an obstacle course, swimming and the eagerly-awaited grand finale, a group endurance event disguised as a muscle-busting log race, and you have the picture.

Candidates are selected on their ability to reach the standards and operate in an alien unit on their own. The selection board decision is given on the fourth day. Successful soldiers are invited to a six-month probationers' course, in the rank of sergeant. And that's when the really hard work begins . . .



Water stop: LCpl Sonia Hurst (2 DS Regt RLC) and LCpl Tracy Heatherington (Army School of Catering) catch their breath after the log race



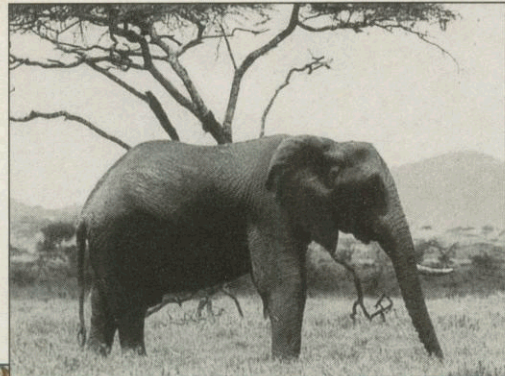
Up and under: Capt Gareth Davies APTC assesses LCpl Mark Marsden (35 Engr Regt) in the gym



Cpl Andrew Galbraith (2) from 33 Regt EOD, and LCpl Mark Marsden (6) from 35 Engr Regt, lead the way on the log race

**Pictures: Mike Weston**





Right – Dawn chorus:  
From left are Pte Paul  
Cuprie, LCpl David  
Duncan and Pte Krist-  
ian Clezy

Below – Dunbarton  
soldiers Pte David  
Izett, Pte Matt Ban-  
natyne, Pte Barry  
McGuire and Pte Ian  
Dunn take time out for  
a cuppa on Mount  
Kenya



# African adventure

SHOULD you be walking down a chilly Princes Street in Edinburgh during the next few weeks, wrapped in gloves and warm coat, and you bump into four young lads wearing T-shirts and sporting tans, you have probably just met some members

of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Jocks have returned from Exercise Grand Prix III, more than six weeks training with engineers and gunners in Kenya. They acclimatised with low level training at Solio Ranch before a programme of intense work and live-firing on the close quarters battle range at Mpala Farm, jungle warfare at Kathendini and adventurous training at Lake Naivasha and at the coast.

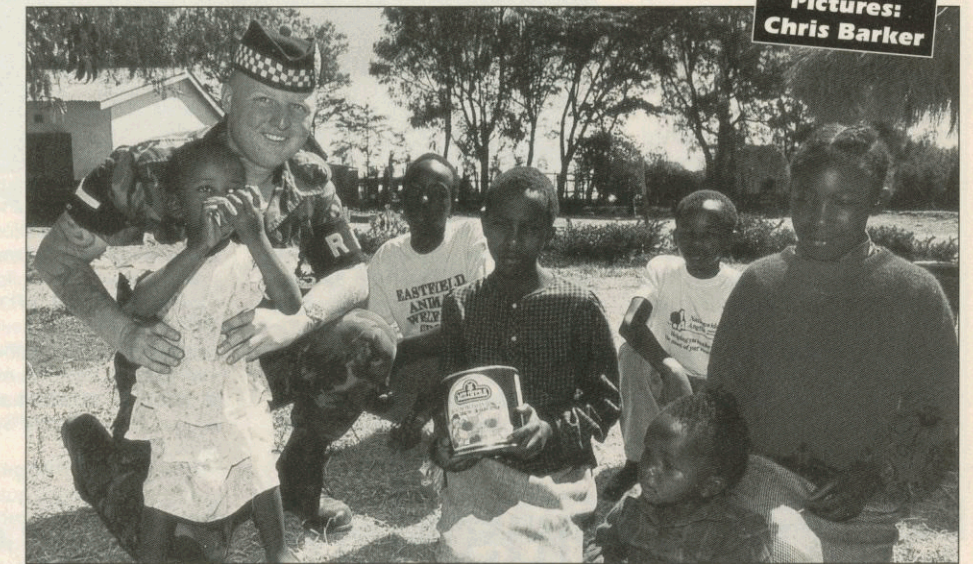
The range at Mpala Farm was not without its hazards.

One soldier on stag spotted a lion approaching his position. As a tribesman had been killed and eaten by a lion in the district only the week before, the soldier nervously fired his mini flares. The lion, unimpressed, continued its advance. At this point the soldier reported over the radio that he had a problem and was going to throw a thunderflash.

When help arrived the lion had disappeared into the bush and the unfortunate soldier was found hiding under his poncho behind a jerrycan.

Wildlife was very impressive and members of the battalion who were paying their first visit to Kenya were lucky enough to see most varieties of big game, including elephant, giraffe, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, and lion. The RSM, WO1 Hugh Ballantyne, and adjutant Capt Mike Hay even got to stroke a cheetah.

As the exercise progressed assaults developed from two-man to full company attacks in the blistering heat of the north Kenyan plains. It was important for the Argylls to take in as much water as possible



LCpl John Reid helps distribute supplies to a children's home near where 1 A and SH were camped in Kenya. The "goodies" were donated by the battalion

to avoid dehydration. Fortunately the Jocks took sensible precautions and no major medical problems were encountered.

For the next phase the soldiers moved to the cooler rarefied slopes of Mount Kenya to learn about jungle warfare and survival.

The Jocks were shown how to construct shelters, trap animals, and find water and food.

This was followed by a period of patrolling and living in the jungle. Soldiers lived on compo rations so as not to deplete the area of wildlife and food.

Back at base in Nanyuki, the padre, the Rev David Kingston, was galvanising HQ Coy into action. A local children's home

short on resources benefited from surplus stores. "They may not be able to use all that we gave them, but they will certainly be able to trade the stuff for things they can," said the Rev Kingston.

The adventurous training gave troops the chance to see some of equatorial Africa and its wildlife, as well as get to grips with serious rock climbing, white-water rafting, mountain biking around extinct volcanoes and canoeing in the hippo-infested waters of Lake Naivasha.

Final phase of the exercise was a battalion battle group attack on the Kenyan army range at Archers Post – a real test of stamina with temperatures in the high 90s and soldiers fighting over a large area of difficult terrain in the dismounted infantry role. Excellent facilities and hard work over the ensuing weeks ensured a successful conclusion to this African adventure.

Story and  
Pictures:  
Chris Barker

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## Colonel's orphanage odyssey that began in Croatia

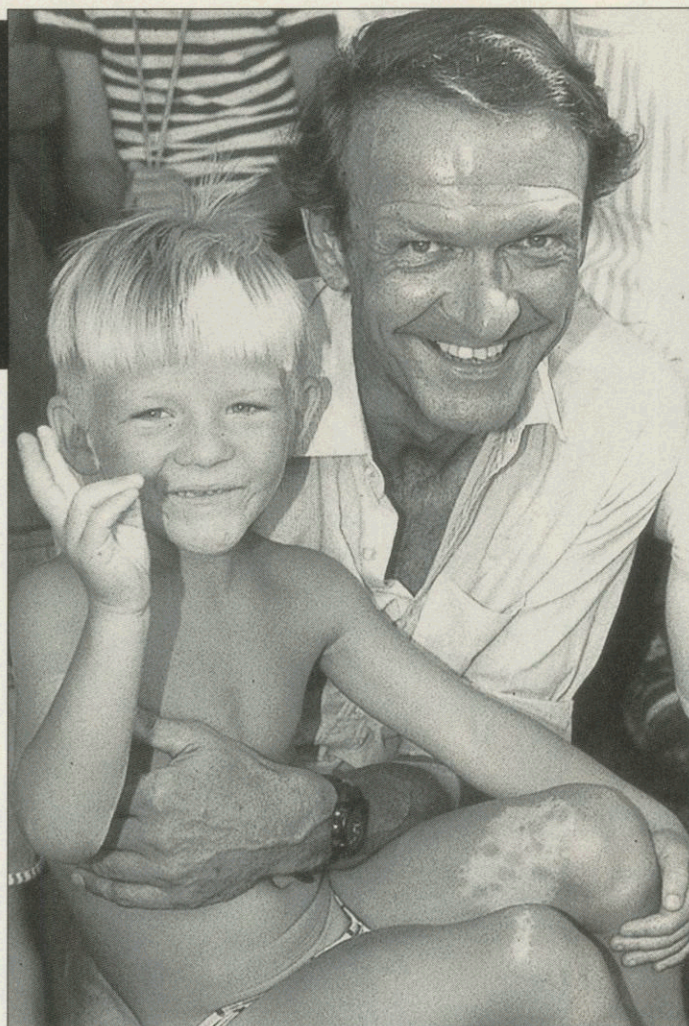
WHEN Col Mark Cook arrived in Croatia in June 1992 to command the British contingent of the United Nations Protection Force, he could not have dreamt that within a short time he would have fallen for a young Croatian doctor and agreed to spearhead a campaign to rebuild an orphanage wrecked by Serbian shellfire.

His involvement almost wrecked his marriage and incurred the displeasure of his military superiors, but, within 18 months, Mark and his wife, Caroline, had reconciled their differences and were working together to achieve his mission to rehouse Croatia's lost children.

Mark Cook retired from the Army in August 1993; four months later the home at Lipik re-opened. In the preceding months, dozens of British soldiers based in the region had given up spare time to help clear rubble from the site.

Mark and Caroline established a charity, Hope and Homes for Children, and organised the rebuilding of other children's homes in Sarajevo, Albania and Sierra Leone.

Their aim is to give hope and shelter to children who, because of war or disaster, have nowhere to live. The Cooks, who live in Wiltshire, hope to create an international "family" with a network of homes around the world and a mother home in the UK, where



**Soldier photograph of Mark Cook and a smiling youngster in the Croatian orphanage the colonel helped to rebuild**

children from different countries will be able to meet and develop bonds. As these children grow up, they will have been given the chance to become ambassadors for peace.

Possible locations for future projects include Rwanda, Liberia, Somalia, Angola and Chechnya.

Donations can be sent to Hope and Homes for Children, East Clyffe, Salisbury SP3 4LZ (tel 01722 790111).

● Mark Cook's book, *Promise of Hope*, detailing his experiences in war-torn Croatia, has been reissued in paperback by Penguin, price £6.99.

## Signals museum paid for – nearly

A MASSIVE fund-raising effort by the Royal Corps of Signals to finance the extending and revamping of its museum at Blandford has almost – but not quite – succeeded in finding the £1,100,000 needed to complete the ambitious project.

Now the museum trustees are hoping to twist a few more arms to pull in the £150,000 outstanding.

Construction of the new wing began in late 1994 and was sufficiently advanced to be formally opened by the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the corps, last July.

The building was taken into use on February 29 and archives have been moved into a new home in the Greenwood Room, where new

racking in memory of the late Sig Harold Greenwood was provided by his family.

The museum's restaurant has been opened by Naafi in the form of a Second World War canteen.

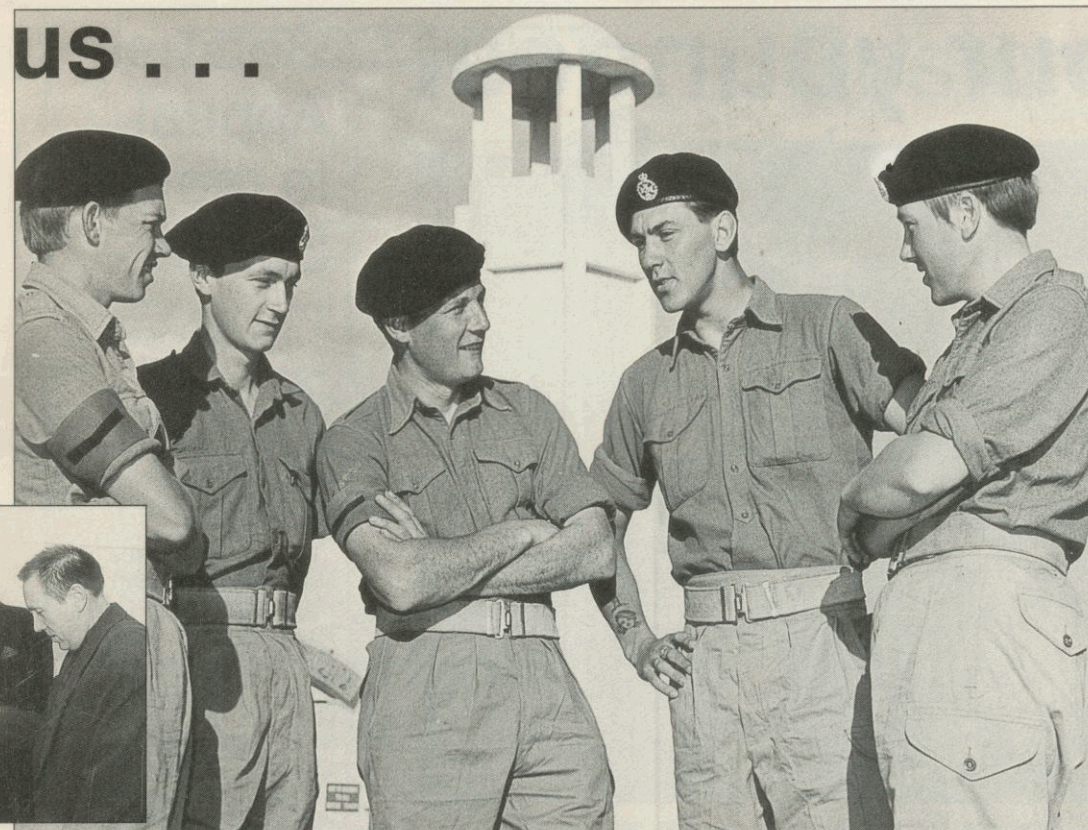
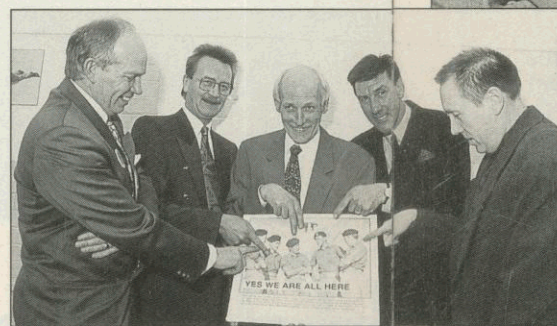
If you can help with fund-raising, contact the New Museum Project Team, Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH (tel 01258 482258).

□ A memorial in oak has been unveiled at St Dunstan's, Ovingdean, near Brighton. Provided by *Combat Stress of Eindhoven*, it is an expression of gratitude from the Dutch people to British Servicemen and women who liberated their country in 1945.

## That was us . . .

THE five soldiers pictured right were on exercise in Sharjah in the Gulf with A Coy, 4 RGJ when a photograph of them appeared in a local newspaper. That was 26 years ago.

When Roy Palmer turned 50 this year he got the lads together for a reunion. In the same order in both photographs, they are, from left, Roy (who retired in 1981 in the rank of CSgt); Brian Smith (1971, rifleman); Len Corbett (1977, WO2); Maj Paddy Proctor, who is still serving; and Dave Gildner (1971, rifleman).



### CLOSURES

**Officers' Mess, Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool** closed on March 31. Anyone who presented property to the mess is asked to contact Maj (Retd) Stan Hargreaves on Liverpool Mil 2736 (0151-242 2736) by June 30, after which items will be disposed of appropriately.

As part of the Hong Kong draw-down, the **Hong Kong Military Service Corps** will disband on March 31, 1997. Donors of presentation pieces to the Corporals' Warrant Officers' and SNCOs' and Officers' Messes are asked to state their wishes for return or disposal. Items unclaimed by May 31 will be sold off to raise funds for the Hong Kong Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust which will continue to support soldiers and their families. Contact Maj N C Li, Corps Adjutant, HQ and Depot HKMSC, Stonecutters Island, BFPO 1 (tel Hong Kong 27460492).

### APPOINTMENTS

**Major General:** N W F Richards – To be GOC HQ 4 Div, Mar 31.

**Brigadiers:** G E Ratcliffe – To RN Hospital, Apr 1; G C M Lamb – To be Cmdr 5 Airborne Bde and Aldershot Gar, Apr 5; W R Short – To MoD, Apr 9.

**Colonels:** P R Horobin – To Primary Health and Dental Care Svcs (G), Mar 25; P Lynch – To Surg Gen, Mar 25; J I Montgomery – To Primary Health and Dental Care Svcs (G), Mar 25; A L Moorby – To HQ Land, Mar 25; F R Steer – To IMS Brussels, Mar 31.

J M Arigho – To Surg Gen, Apr 1; Hon S J T Coleridge – To AG,

### REUNIONS

**4 Bn, Northamptonshire Regt (1939-46):** All ranks reunion dinner on May 3 at Clare Street Drill Hall, Northampton. Tickets (£7.50) from Maj D P Scopes, Rectory Cottage, Barnwell, Northamptonshire PE8 5PG (01832 272814).

**2nd Bn, The Monmouthshire Regiment:** London Group OCA annual reunion at the Plough, 27 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LH on May 4. Details from S J Stapleton 0181-560 2203.

**Devonshire and Dorset Regiment:** Regimental day, and association dinner and reunion, May 4, at Exeter. Details from RHQ on 01392 492435.

**Italy Star Association 1943-45:** May 7, Service of remembrance at the National Memorial day, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury. Details from A James on 01843 597700.

May 18, London Guildhall reception and Beating Retreat by AGC Band in Guildhall Square. May 19, annual parade and luncheon of the Italy Star Association. Standards of regimental and old comrades' associations welcome. Details from D Cooke on 01705 366721 or S Leech on 01329 664874.

**Cheshire Regimental Association:** Birkenhead and District Branch's fifth Oak Leaf Dinner, Hesketh Hall, Port Sunlight, May 24. Tickets (£10) from Bill York on 0151-630 2917.

**74 Med Regt RA:** Annual reunion at TA Centre, Brighton, on June 1. Details from Ron Somers, 104A Lee Road, London SE3 9DE (0181-852 6716). New contacts unable to attend will be included on newsletter mailing list.

**25 Regiment RA 1947-84:** Bi-annual reunion takes place on July

7. Details from Len Haddow, 4 The Rise, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3SF (01634 388156).

**497 and 976 Squads, Royal Marines:** Combined reunion, August 31 at Royal Fleet Club, Plymouth. Details from Peter Wye, Pet-a-Pat, 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 434784).

**6th Bn, Gordon Highlanders 1939-45:** Annual reunion dinner at the Royal British Legion, Buckie, on September 6. All Gordon Highlanders welcome. Details from A Robson on 01542 833254.

### SEARCHLINE

Ex-Cpl R G Hazell would like to hear from staff of **British Military Hospital Münster (1952-54)**, particularly RSM Glenn, Lt Brunt, Maj Hyde, Lt Col Aitcheson, all RAMC. Replies to 20B Homecroft Road,

### DATES

**May**  
3-5: Rheindahlen Show.  
4-6: Aldershot Show.  
25-27: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.  
25-27: Overlord 96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.  
9-12: Military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot.  
11: RBL 75th anniversary Big Band dance, Dunstable (tickets 01582 603326).

**June**  
5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards Parade.  
15: RLC at Home. Displays, demonstrations, sideshows at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey, 2-6pm.  
15: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade. Colour trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

29-30: SSAFA Lincolnshire fund-raising event at Air Day, RAF Waddington, Lincoln.

**July**  
5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past and reunion, Royal Henley.  
9-20: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

21: Oxon-Bucks RBL gala day, Stonor Park nr Henley-on-Thames. Details from County Field Officer on 01865 53151.

28: Tank Museum battle day, Bovington.

**September**  
7-8: Berwick Military Tattoo. Proceeds to SSAFA.

**October**  
6: Aldershot militaria exhibition and fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey.

**November**  
16: Classic military band concert, Band of RAF College Cranwell at Cranwell in aid of SSAFA Lincolnshire. (details: 01406 425550).

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

Sydenham, London SE26 5QG.

Autumn reunion planned for ex-**Aldershot Manor School for Girls** (1970-75). News sought of Amanda Astbury, Sandra Brown, Christine Goodall, Sian John, Amanda Lambert, Amanda Link, June Stabbach and Deborah White. Please call Kathryn Gale on 01252 375860.

L Gray would be pleased to hear from old comrades from the **Pioneer Platoon, 2nd East Surrey Regiment** stationed at Haifa, Palestine 1945-47. Replies to him at 28 Highfield Road, Northwood, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6QX.

Researcher seeks details of uniforms of local volunteer regiments worn at the 1860 Royal Review in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. Replies to John Thomson, Flat 12, The Beeches, 22 Church Road West, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6QF.



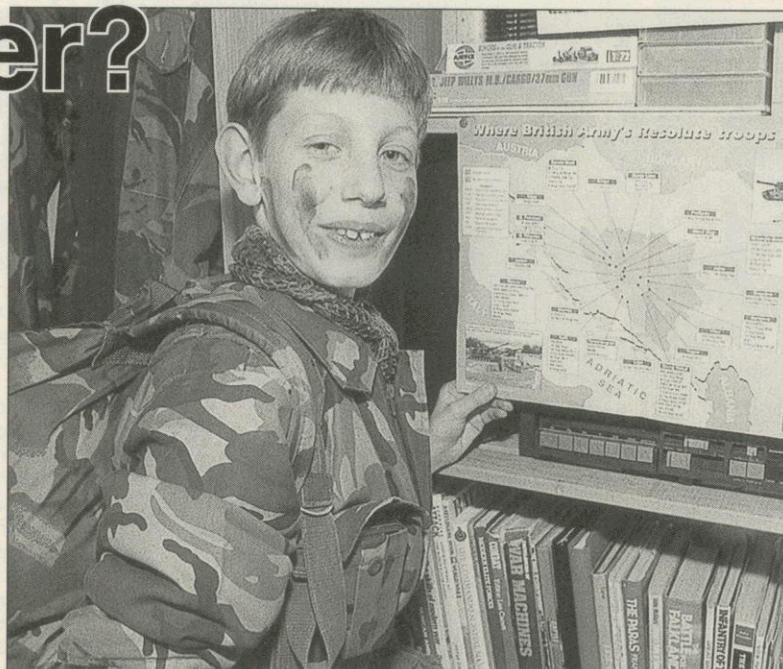
# Am I your youngest reader?

MY NAME is Jamie, I am 11 years old and have two sisters called Katie and Becky. I live in Gomshall and I go to school at Tillingbourn.

I really love the Army and have loved it since I was seven. I have lots of Army things, like trousers, jacket, webbing, waterproof jacket, torch, lots of Army hats and much more.

I am a really big fan of *Soldier Magazine*. I have been reading it since June, have loved every magazine so far, and like the new design.

I would be very grateful if you would send me some photographs or pictures if you have any to spare. And I would also be very happy if you would put my letter into the magazine. Thank you. — **Jamie**



Army barmy: Jamie with items in his extensive military collection

Westbrook, Guildford.

PS: Do you think I am your youngest reader?

● Well, is Jamie our youngest

reader? Perhaps anyone who knows otherwise will let us know. Meanwhile, Jamie has received a special *Soldier* pack including photographs and stickers. — **Editor**

## Gurkhas: Appeal to the Sultan

YOU reported (In the Press, April 1) that thousands of Gurkhas who fought beside British soldiers during the First and Second World Wars are now living in "poverty and penury" (to quote the *Daily Telegraph*).

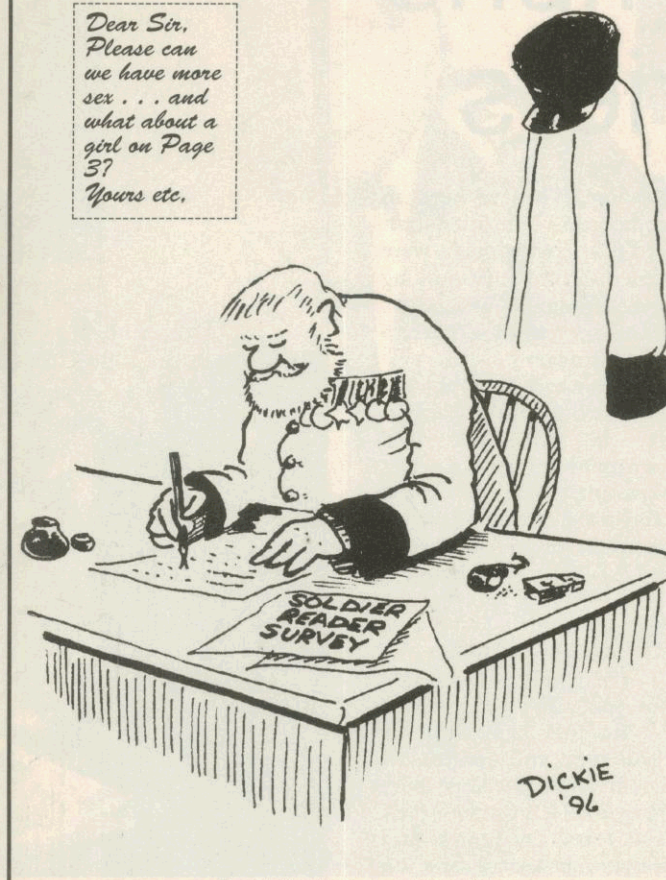
In the same issue you also said that the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Regiment is due to deploy to Brunei in December.

If we are to believe all we read, the Sultan of Brunei is the richest man in the world.

Could he not be approached to make a contribution to these brave, heroic Gurkha veterans in recognition of their former service? — **P Beaton, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.**

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW

Dear Sir,  
Please can we have more sex... and what about a girl on Page 3?  
Yours etc.



Readership survey — see centre section

## Restorers seek descendants of Gen Lennox VC

LOCATED in Woodvale Cemetery, Brighton, is a family vault containing, among others, the remains of Lt Gen Wilbraham Oates Lennox VC KCB, who won his Cross as a lieutenant during the Crimean campaign.

The memorial and site are now in a dilapidated state and the Military Historical Society and The Institute of Royal Engineers have shown an interest in having the memorial restored.

Before any further decision is taken we would wish to identify any possible living descendants of Gen Lennox.

Perhaps your readers may be able to assist. — **Anthony J Murphy, 71 Farm Hill, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6BG.**

## Why can't we have the new stuff, too?

PLEASE could you answer a question. Everyone else I have asked hasn't got a clue.

I have been a member of the REME (Volunteers), based at Ashford, for more than a year. When I was issued with kit, I knew it wouldn't be the latest which our infantry friends get.

We are issued 58 Pattern webbing and sleeping bags — and an annual rumour that the new stuff is on its way.

My question is: why doesn't the Army make it possible for soldiers who want extra kit to buy it through the military chain rather than having to go to surplus stores?

These surplus stores, I might add, appear to advertise all the latest Army issue — while we have to put up with 58 Pattern equipment.

If they can buy it, why can't we? — **Sean Johnson, Folkestone, Kent.**

● We haven't a clue either, but not for want of trying to get an answer. Can anyone help? — **Editor**

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## We had a positive inducement not to save our pennies

SOLDIER never ceases to amaze me. We get all the update "gen" ... then you read something that takes your mind back 56 years.

Fred Dawber of Cheshire (Letters, April 1) says he got seven shillings a week — lucky him!

I was standing on the barrack square with The Black Watch at Queens Barracks, Perth, drawn up for my first pay parade. I stepped smartly forward and threw up my best salute (as taught by Sgt Currie), tendered the pay book and signed for my pay — all two half-crowns of it (25p in today's money).

As I gazed at the coins RSM "Big" Andy Drummond roared out: "Well, don't you want it, soldier?"

I slung up another salute and retreated to the ranks, where I was informed that was all I would get as I had been

deducted two shillings (10p) for "barrack room damages".

My two half-crowns would have to buy blanco, Brasso, Cobra boot polish and toothpaste — and the rest I could spend on char and wads in the Naafi, or get drunk.

Incidentally, where did all the "brass" we spent on barrack room damages go?

Later we got a rise of a shilling (12p) a day, half to go on post-war credits and half to the soldiers' pay. We were rich indeed.

Then we were summoned on parade and told the Government would be grateful if we would save by opening a bank account. All those willing, please step forward ...

No one moved. What the RSM didn't hear was a certain NCO hissing: "I'll break the legs of the first one that moves!" — **Don E Smith MM (ex-Black Watch), Telford.**

## SOLDIER appeal traces war hero — 56 years on

THANKS to *Soldier* and my appeal through your Searchline column (April 1) I have been able to locate an old soldier to pass on thanks to him from Canada for an act of bravery 56 years ago.

James Walters, of Ontario, had been trying to find Pte F Hockley, of A Company, 1 Bucks, who attempted to save the life of James's uncle, Pte Robert Walters, near Dunkirk in 1940.

Pte Walters, shot in the neck, was carried by Pte Hockley for two miles through enemy territory to Hazebrouck, where he died on March 27 of that year.

On behalf of James Walters I had appeals published in every local newspaper in the Buckinghamshire area, but in vain.

Then I turned to *Soldier*. It appears that the son of Mr Hockley's brother read my Searchline appeal, passed it on to Mr Hockley's son, and he in turn to his father, who lives in Devon.

I am now in contact with

former Private Hockley and I am sure the family in Canada will, like myself, be over the moon.

I can only express my feelings to you in the easiest way

possible, yet so seldom done.

A very sincere "thank you" to *Soldier*. You made an old "Bucks Boy" very happy. — **Jack Cheshire, Aylesbury, Bucks.**

## For the record... For the record... For the record...

### Back badge

IN YOUR April 15 issue Mr Brian Kirkwood refers to the back badge of the old Gloucestershire Regiment (now worn by members of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment).

While he is entirely correct in saying that the back badge dates from the battle of Alexandria in 1801, the laurel wreath was first used on the badge in 1878 and has never had an additional surrounding wreath awarded.

However the 1st Glosters, once again surrounded, fought with such gallantry at the battle of Festubert in 1918 that they wore a greatly enlarged back badge for some years, until changes in headdress made it impractical. It seems probable that this is

the origin of Mr Kirkwood's belief. — **Maj (Retd) C P T Rebbeck, Regimental Secretary, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, Custom House, Gloucester.**

### Chefs and cooks

I WAS interested in the letter "Chefs, not cooks" (For the record, April 1) and the definition that chefs are professionals and cooks are not.

Chef taken from the French means the head male cook of a restaurant and he has cooks or commis chefs under him — all professional.

Cook, on the other hand, is usually the name given to a woman, especially in a domestic situation: that does not make her an amateur.

Delia Smith is hardly an amateur, but is she a chef?

So don't be disappointed, Chefs. You are all doing a splendid job wherever you are, a credit to the RLC in particular and the Army in general. — **Lt Col (Retd) Bruce Dyson (ex-ACC), Secretary, The Army Catering Corps Association, Deepcut, Surrey.**

### No fooling!

WHATEVER makes you think April Fulcher? She didn't! ("Super soldiers sought in new recruit drive", April 1).

Nice try, better luck next year. You'd have done a better job checking the RADC WO (Page 7, same issue).

His belt buckle was almost at his back. — **Alec Coleman, Bury, Lancs.**



# Horror and triumphs of Durham Terriers

ALTHOUGH the story of the 6th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry is typical of many Territorial battalions, it must be said that in the Second World War few were in action in such widely contrasting environments.

These soldiers covered the wild hills of Iraq, the heat of the desert and of Sicily, the dangerous bocage of Normandy, and the cold squelching ground of Holland in the winter of 1944-45.

In *The Faithful Sixth*, Harry Moses writes of the unit from its first uniformed parade as the 4th Durham Rifle Volunteers (later re-titled 2nd Volunteer Battalion, DLI) at Bishop Auckland on Whit Monday 1860 to the merger with another Territorial battalion, the 8th, in 1967.

He draws on personal and war diaries as well as oral and written accounts.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Volunteers from the unit served in South Africa in 1900 and, as the 6th Battalion (into which the 2nd was incorporated on the formation of the Territorial Force in 1902) fought heroically and with grievous loss in the "horrorifying nightmare" of the First World War as part of the Northumbrian Division.

In the Second World War, the Sixth - which had re-emerged after the Territorial Army was re-formed in 1920 - was part of 151 Bde of 50th (Northumbrian) Division, the same formation with which it served in the earlier conflict.

After being evacuated at Dunkirk and following almost a year's preparation at home the battalion headed for the Mediterranean.

The author describes its part in the mobile force based on Cyprus, its shipment to Haifa and the long haul overland to Iraq, a theatre often neglected by historians.

Transfer to the Gazala Line in Libya came in 1942, followed by desert action at Tobruk, Mersa Matruh and Alamein, leading to Operation Supercharge and the advance

**The Faithful Sixth: A History of the Sixth Battalion The Durham Light Infantry** by Harry Moses. County Durham Books, paperback, £12.95. Available from Light Infantry Office, Elvet Waterside, Durham DH1 3BW or DLI Museum, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TU, price £12.95 plus £3.75 p & p.

Picture: Imperial War Museum



Maj Spike Galloway MC, 6 DLI, of Newcastle on his way to hospital after being wounded at Verrières on June 14, 1944. He later returned to his battalion and was killed in action at Le Plessis Grimaud. (From *The Faithful Sixth*.)

westward to the Mareth Line, where the battalion was engaged in desperate fighting.

After the German collapse in the Western Desert, the 50th Division returned to the Canal Zone from where it sailed for the invasion of Sicily in July 1943.

The Sixth played a prominent part in the hard-fought battle for Primrose Bridge near Catania.

On October 23, 1943, the battalion sailed for the United Kingdom, after two-and-a-half years' service abroad, but was in action again with the 50th Division in the Normandy invasion.

Landing on Gold beach between Le Hamel and La Riviere on D-Day, the Sixth fought fiercely through France, crossing the Belgian frontier on September 6, 1944.

Its last battle was fought at Gheel, where an exhausting and bloody 36-hour stand denied the enemy its objective - the Albert Canal.

When the division was with-

drawn and broken up in December 1944 the 6th Battalion DLI companies were posted to an infantry training unit at Skipton in Yorkshire... and were soon settling down to civilian life again.

This, however, was not the end of the line for the Faithful Sixth. In 1947 the 50th (Northumbrian) Division was re-formed as part of the Territorial Army. Recruitment for the re-established 6 DLI began on August 1, 1947 - slowly, as after the previous war.

## AMALGAMATED

The battalion continued for nearly 20 more years.

Towards the close of 1966 it became clear that it could not be sustained as an individual unit after nearly 110 years of Volunteer and Territorial service and on February 26, 1967 the 6th and 8th Battalions' Amalgamation Parade was held on College Green in Durham City.

Each reader, particularly those who served in the Sixth, will have preferences for the plums to be extracted from this pie of history, the chronicle of a distinguished Territorial Army infantry battalion. - BJ

# TEMPERS FUGIT

CHAMBERLAIN'S personal gimmick was an umbrella and Churchill's a cigar, while Anthony Eden, later to become the Earl of Avon, wore a Homburg.

Eden was just as famous for his sartorial elegance, suave manner and film star looks.

According to Scott Lucas in *Britain and Suez - The Lion's Last Roar*, there was something else for which Eden was noted - an ill temper. And when he resigned as Prime Minister in January 1957 after 20 months in the post, he was a sick man.

This book is a compilation of official documents describing the events which led up to the Suez crisis and its outcome.

It is supported by Prof



## Return to the family seat

Mrs Diana Quentin-Wallace (centre) has the first copy of a new history of Frimley Park Manor House signed by the author, Gordon Wellard (left).

Mrs Quentin-Wallace and her son, Lt Gen Christopher Wallace (right), whose family were the last private residents of the manor, near Camberley in Surrey, before the property

was bought by the then War Department in 1947, were present at a regimental dinner night held at the Manor House, now home of the Cadet Training Centre, to launch the book.

Lt Gen Wallace has just taken command of the new Joint Headquarters at Northwood. (See Pages 14-15.)

**Britain and Suez - The Lion's Last Roar** by Scott Lucas. Manchester University Press, paperback, £12.99.

Lucas's analysis of the collusion between Britain, France and Israel to invade Egypt and capture the Canal Zone, forcibly nationalised by the Egyptian president, Col Gamal Abdul Nasser, within a few weeks of British troops leaving the Canal Base in June, 1956.

Eden, who hated Nasser, was so enraged by this act that he set about planning with Israel and France to regain control of this short-cut sea route linking Europe and the

East. Prof Lucas, lecturer in modern history at Birmingham University, threads his way through the international political maze of mayhem and subterfuge surrounding the complicated Suez affair in a bold and uncluttered style.

He gives the who, what, when and where - or as much as he can, since many documents are still under official wraps, so denying answers to many of his questions.

But he gives a clear account of the machinations in the build-up to the war, which will interest the many *Soldier* readers who have campaigned for the recognition of service in the Zone between 1951 and 1953.

- JM

THE TRAGIC story of Gen Charles Gordon's last-ditch defence of Khartoum is well documented.

Many books have been produced about this episode in Victorian military history, but few will better Robin Neillands's account in *The Dervish Wars - Gordon and Kitchener in the Sudan 1880-1898*.

About three-quarters of the book covers the time up to Gordon's death when the garrison was overrun and he was killed and then decapitated by the Mahdi's hordes.

The remainder tells of the end of the 20-year long British involvement with the Sudan

and the revenge taken by the then Maj Gen Horatio Herbert

Kitchener who in 1915 was to become Secretary of State for War with the rank of field marshal.

The two-year re-conquest of the Sudan ended at Omdurman in September 1898, when Kitchener's army killed more than 26,000 Dervishes for the loss of 48 killed and 382 wounded.

The killing fields of Omdurman pointed the way forward

# Great English battles fought by the book

SHOULD you wish to be reminded what happened in this country between August 22, 1642 when Charles I declared war on Parliament until January 30, 1649, when he was beheaded in Whitehall, then a copy of Wilfred Emberton's *The English Civil War Day by Day* is a must for your bookshelf.

For aspiring occupants of the famous *Mastermind* black chair, and others who seek detail of the Civil War, this daily record of events gives instant answers to questions about the reign of the king and his battles with Oliver Cromwell.

Most of the entries are of just a few lines: "December 25,

**The English Civil War Day by Day** by Wilfred Emberton. Alan Sutton, hardback, £19.99. **The Battlefields of England** by Alfred H Burne. Greenhill Books, hardback, £25.

1642. The King keeps Christmas at Christ Church College, Oxford, with splendour and ceremony."

"December 28. A fast day at Oxford. A trumpeter comes from Essex with a message for the King. Charles is playing tennis and is not pleased to be disturbed."

Of course there are more serious items which build a total picture of the war, but the minutiae of everyday life and the effect of the conflict on ordinary people are all here as well.

While Emberton writes only of one traumatic episode in English history, Alfred H Burne's 1950s two-volume classic *The Battlefields of England*, now re-published in one book, goes the whole hog by describing 39 battles spanning 1,634 years.

## NEW EDITION

The new edition is published in association with the Battlefields Trust, set up as a preservation body after the Naseby site was partially destroyed by a new road in 1992.

Starting with Mount Badon, in which the author assures us King Arthur figured in AD 500, the combined volume takes the reader through its 500 or so pages to Langport (July, 1645), weaving back and forth to take in Caradoc's last fight in AD 51 and Sedgemoor on July 6, 1685.

In a project assisted with maps and drawings, Col Burne offered his personal thoughts on the tactics used in each battle.

He is well supported in a 1996 introduction by actor Robert Hardy, who advises battlefield visitors to take this book with them above all others.

It's the best, he says. - JM.

## Death and glory in the sands of Sudan

to 1914, showing once and for all that spears, swords and bravery were no match for bullets and shells.

In common with many military commanders before or since, Kitchener did not like newspapermen.

He made clear his intense dislike by referring to them as "drunken swabs". Included in their ranks was one

Winston Churchill, who fulfilled the dual role of supernumerary officer in the 21st Lancers and correspondent for the *Morning Post*.

Kitchener did not like him, either.

This is a tremendous story of one of the last bloody wars fought by the Victorian Army and arguably marked the beginning of the end of the British Empire. - JM

**The Dervish Wars - Gordon and Kitchener in the Sudan 1880-1898** by Robin Neillands. John Murray, hardback, £19.99.



# Last of the chain-mail

ON PARADE in No 1 Dress, today's cavalrymen of the Royal Armoured Corps take pride in the glistening shoulder chains which distinguish them from others whose shoulders are unadorned, writes **John Brereton**.

Like many little idiosyncrasies of dress these embellishments originated for strictly utilitarian purposes . . . in war. You could say they are the last vestiges of the chain-mail armour in which Norman knights rode into battle.

It all began during the Indian Mutiny when an unidentified British officer of the 5th Punjab Cavalry hit upon the idea of affixing the steel curb chains from his bridles on to his epaulettes to afford protection from sabre cuts by mutinous sowars [Indian troopers].

It was such a good idea that other officers of the Indian cavalry followed suit, among them Lt Hodson of the future Hodson's Horse and Lt Browne of Sam Browne's Cavalry.

In his memoirs, some 30 years later, Gen Sir Sam Browne VC recalled an encounter with one of the mutineers: "... a sowar rode at me and smote me on the shoulder with his tulwar. If I had not been wearing those curb-chains he would surely have severed my arm."

Ironically, Sam Browne did lose an arm, but that was later, in another skirmish.

It was not long before British cavalry regiments aped their Indian comrades, but instead of purloining curb chains from government-issue saddlery, they had their armourers fashion purpose-made chain-link alternatives, rather like the steel burnishing pads used for shining sword scabbards, stirrup irons and other metal-work.

## DECORATIVE FEATURES

By the time these had become officially approved by the War Office, in 1900, they were no more than decorative features of the cavalryman's uniform. But the War Office mandarins apparently persisted in the belief that they might have a more serious role.

Thus regimental dress committees must have been bemused to find stringent strength specifications laid down in the 1900 issue of *Dress Regulation*: "The chains must resist a tensile strain of not less than 160lb and the permanent elongation after such strain must not exceed 1/16th of an inch over the full length of the chain."

On the conclusion of the Boer War in 1902, Khaki Service Dress became the regulation attire, both for parade ground drill and field service, and the cavalryman continued to take pride in the shoulder chains that distinguished him from lesser military mortals.

Right: Men of the 16/5 The Queen's Royal Lancers on their amalgamation parade with the 17th/21st Lancers in 1993.  
Inset: Detail of cavalry shoulder mail



In Allenby's victorious campaign in Palestine and Syria, 1918-19, a single squadron of the regiment served, mounted, throughout. The rest, with RHQ, were fighting in France. Thus, with only one squadron involved, no battle honour could be granted. Instead, so the story goes, the whole regiment was allowed the unique distinction of wearing shoulder chains in No 2 Service Dress.

It was "a sort of consolation prize" as one officer remarked. As the years passed, the regiment happily flaunted its conspicuous embellishments - authorised or not - on all the many occasions when it paraded in No 2 Dress. And no questions were asked.

It was not until January 1972 that the matter came to the attention of the Army Dress Committee which ordered that as no official authorisation could be traced, the wearing of shoulder chains in No 2 Dress should cease.

## DECISION RESCINDED

However, at a subsequent meeting of the Committee in October 1973 that order was rescinded on the recommendation of the Honours and Distinctions Committee.

And so, after some 50 years the regiment received MoD authorisation for its unique distinction.

Sadly, the DLOY (founded 1798) no longer exists as a regiment. In November 1993, Options for Change resulted in its being cut to a single squadron in the newly-created Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry.

But when the DLOY Squadron parades in No 2 Dress with its "Mercian" partners it is still proud to be the only unit in the Army to wear shoulder chains in that Order of Dress.

But with the outbreak of war in 1914 these purely ornamental features were abolished - which prompted an officer of the 7th Dragoon Guards to lament in the regimental magazine: "We are sorry to give them up, because it is extraordinary what a difference little things of this sort can make to a man's pride." He surely spoke for all soldiers who cherish distinctions of dress - the "little things".

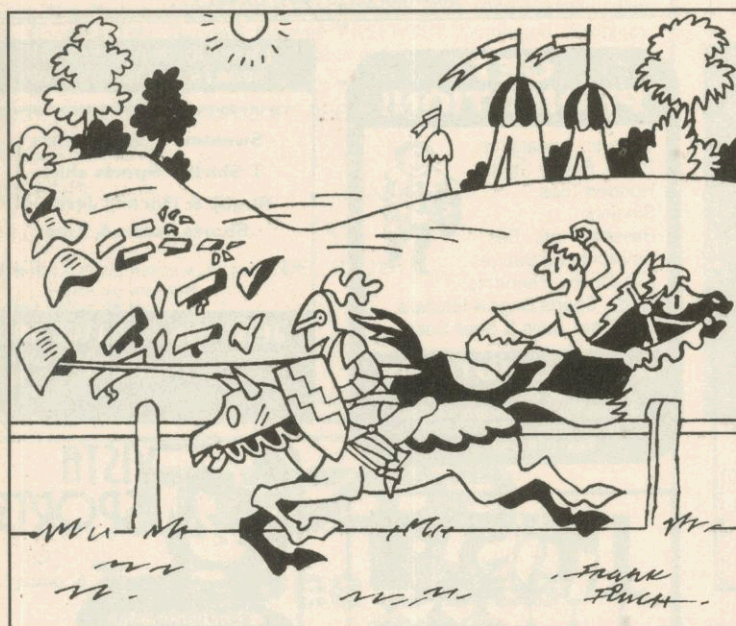
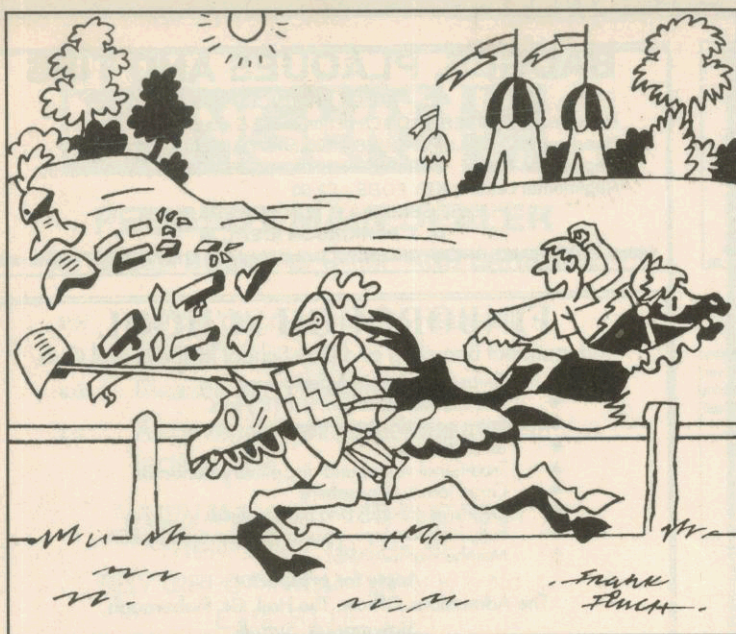
However, the abolition proved only temporary: in 1922 shoulder chains were reintroduced. But there were restrictions. At home they could be worn only on what was then termed Blue Patrols - the Number One Dress of today. Abroad in India, Egypt and other stations East of Suez they could adorn the No 2 Tropical Dress, the Khaki Drill attire for the hot weather season.

There was one unique exception to the ruling about Home Service No 2 Dress, or serge Service Dress as it was then known.

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (DLOY) was the sole unit of the British Army permitted to wear the shoulder chains in the Home Service No 2 Dress.

How this came about is open to question and rests entirely on regimental tradition.





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Competition No 632 (March 18): Congratulations to LCpl McEvoy, Admin Tp, A Sqn, Light Dragoons, BFPO 553, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Ms M E Barter, of Bicester, Oxon, and Mr H E Russell, of Carshalton-on-Hill, Surrey.

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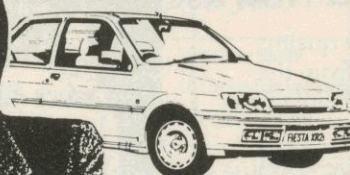
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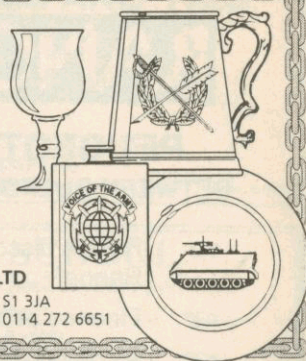
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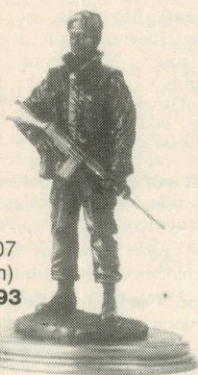
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As part of the Hong Kong Garrison drawdown and transfer of sovereignty to the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Military Service Corps will disband on 31 March '97. The Corps has many items kindly donated over the years to the Corporals', WO's and NCO's and Officers' Messes. Donors of presentation pieces are asked to state their wishes for disposal, including return if desired. It is the intention to sell off all presentation pieces unclaimed by 31 May '96, in order to raise funds for the Hong Kong locally enlisted personnel trust which is designed to cater for the welfare needs of Hong Kong Chinese soldiers and their families who may fall on hard times post 1997.

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 30, 1996

First prize (19 goals, £2,500): SSgt D Milner,  
RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth.

14-way tie for second prize (18 goals, £250 each): Sgt C Anstey, 3 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, BFPO 16; Sgt D G Boyd, BFPO 804; Cpl T T Boyd, QRH, Catterick; LCpl P A Cox, 2 RGR, BFPO 11; Capt A M Freeborn, 105 Regt RA (V), Edinburgh; CSgt N F Gambon, BFPO 808; Sgt K Gould, 7 Regt AAC, Netheravon; LCpl R Laing, HQ D Army Avn, Middle Wallop; WO2 M E Mason, AFCO Cardiff; Brig J Milne, MoD DAR; WO2 P D Phillipson, 5 TA Trg Regt RLC, Grantham; LCpl Rakesh Rai, 2 RGR, BFPO 11; Cpl P A Rogers, 1 R Irish, Catterick; Cpl A P Sivyver, Princess Marina College, Aborfield.

April 6, 1996

Two-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £1,875 each): Sgt B Birchmore, Dhekelia Garrison Wksp REME, BFPO 58; Sig G L Stewart, 2 Signal Regt, York.

14-way tie for third prize (18 goals, £160.71 each): Cfn P E Davis, 3 Bn REME, BFPO 22; LCpl D Fyffe, BFPO 804; SSgt W H Griffiths, Fl Fd Sqn RE, BFPO 655; Cpl A F Hales, 158 Pro Coy RMP, Bulford; CSgt S Hankinson, 1 KOSB, Edinburgh; CSgt T S Hunter, MoD PB2, Stanmore; WO1 M H Jarrett, AFCO Exeter; WO1 D J Larcombe, 2 RTR, BFPO 38; Maj A S Maclaren, BVD Ludgershall; Sgt P W Matthews, Warminster SP Unit; Maj A D Neale, HQ Land, Wilton; Capt V K O'Neill, 9 Para Sqn RE, Aldershot; Sgt S B Savage, 1 Green Howards, BFPO 36; Maj P R Todd, ASMT, Leconfield.

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## Sarah sets sights on Olympics

LCPL Sarah Smith, in her first season of competition, finished fourth in the North American skeleton bobsleigh championships at Lake Placid.

Smith, serving at Falling-bosel with 16 Tank Tptr Sqn RLC, is one of a number of women competitors hoping that the discipline will be taken in to the Winter Olympics as a demonstration sport.



LCpl Sarah Smith

### Shooting

A 4 Division team won the Inter-Command Smallbore Trophy and eight ARA medals and gold bars, with Northern Ireland finishing as runners up.

Although standards were high – 4 Div scoring a creditable 3,036 – only five commands and divisions entered.

### Cycling

A cycle event for military personnel only, on the card for the Brompton Criterium road races on May 19, is aimed specifically at Service riders with little or no experience of this form of racing.

There are also two open events at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, for race riders seeking good competition. First prize in the main race is £70.

BFC licences and membership are needed, and can be obtained through LCpl Dave Farrow on Chatham Mil (766) 2411.

He also has details for any road-racing cyclists interested in competing in the Kent league.



Front row seats at Twickenham. Royal Navy scrumhalf Cpl Paul Livingstone (9) waits for the packs to engage. The Army's LCpl Matt Stewart, SSgt Dave Coghlan and Capt Julian Brammer eyeball the opposition

## Plundered . . . by Long John Silver

The Army 6, Royal Navy 9

THE ARMY lost to the Royal Navy by nine points to six in a hard, pulsating match at Twickenham, writes Roger Thompson.

Before a crowd of 20,000, the irresistible force challenged the immovable object. Neither gave ground and it took long-range penalties to separate the two sides.

The Army started confidently, running the ball from set pieces, second phase and counter-attack positions in what promised to be a feast of attacking rugby.

The Navy defended courageously, but in the first ten minutes allowed the Army backs a sufficient number of half breaks to suggest that wingers Lt Brian Johnson (R Signals) and Capt Howard Graham (RA) were in for a bountiful afternoon.

Against desperate naval defence which traded possession for penalties, the Army were content to take a 6-0 lead through Lt Paul Knowles (RRF). With such a cushion, and a degree of feel-good factor returning, skipper Capt Julian

Brammer (RE) ran penalties which were probably within Knowles's repertoire.

It boded well until the Navy counter-attacked. They grabbed the nearest red jersey and laid into it, creating a brawl of some magnitude.

For the next 30 minutes the Army forwards, to a man, concentrated on repaying the debt, to the detriment of them running the more cumbersome naval pack off their feet.

Two armies met head on, firing over open sights. There were no prisoners and few unscarred survivors – not what the smarter regions of the West car park expected, but it certainly got the 20,000 going.

The Navy created nothing, yet lost little. The Army created much, but gained little.

In the scrums the front row of LCpl Matt Stewart (PWRR), Brammer and SSgt Dave Coghlan (RHA) worked hard for a clear edge, while Capt Dave Dahinton and Lt Andy Newsham, the heavy Horse Gunners, achieved Himalayan heights in the lines out.

The back row of OCdt Nigel

Richardson (RMAS), Cpl Giles Powell (QDG) and Spr Rob Hunter (3 RSME) were everywhere in defence and attack.

Capt Simon Pinder and Knowles moved well while the new centre pairing of Sgt Lee Douglas (APTC) and Cpl Andy Sanger (1 RSME) were almost through on so many occasions. The machine worked well . . . it just needed a little luck.

The pulses of players and crowd were pumping at maximum output, all willing their team to take an advantage as time ran out. That moment fell to Lt Kurt Eyre, the Navy full-back, who kicked the decisive penalty with three minutes left.

It was not so much a great naval victory as piracy on the high seas, plunder and pillage. The naval back row of Henry Morgan, Bluebeard and Long John Silver had played the game that just about matched the occasion.

It was a titanic struggle which probably enriched the very basic traditions of the Army-Navy game.

Pride, not money, continues to be the priority.

## Three-goal MCTC retain Minors' trophy

ATR Basingstoke 1, MCTC Colchester 3

MCTC Colchester successfully defended the Minor Units Football Challenge Cup in a highly entertaining game at the Aldershot Military Stadium, writes Derrick Bly.

They beat ATR Basingstoke by three goals to one after a scoreless first 45 minutes

during which ATR's Hamilton had a good effort tipped away by Young, headed the resulting corner narrowly over the bar – and was booked for a rash tackle.

MCTC took the lead five minutes into the second half when Foley was pulled down in the box and skipper Burnett beat Walker from the penalty

spot. In the 55th minute full-back Gill burst down the right flank and crossed accurately for Foley to head a superb second goal for the defending champions.

ATR's Taylor struck a post at the other end, but it was MCTC who went three up when Daly, excellent in central defence, hit a long ball to Foley

who raced clear and gave the goalkeeper no chance with an accurate finish.

Cutts scored for Basingstoke in the final seconds before the Colchester side, watched by AFA president Lt Gen Sam Cowan, collected their trophies from Mr Peter Stanyer of Naafi, the competition sponsors.

## Belgium win ends seven barren years

Belgian AF 1, British CS 2

IN the final game of the Kentish Cup competition a below-strength Combined Services side put on their best display against the Dutch and Belgians for many seasons to lift the sought-after trophy for the first time in seven years, writes Derrick Bly.

On a cool, clear evening at

## England beaten in thriller at Twickers

Combined Services U-21 29, England Students U-21 25

SIX soldiers, six sailors and three airmen took on the pick of England's students in an Under 21 opener before the Army-Royal Navy game on Twickenham's hallowed turf, writes Tom Wye.

Although the match was meant to be a curtain-raiser, it turned out to be the most entertaining game of the afternoon.

Play was fast and furious and the result was undecided until the final minutes of a game memorable for 15-man rugby. That there had to be a loser, if that is an appropriate word for a splendid sporting exhibition, was a shame.

From the Army, Gnr Jones (RHA), Sprs Hughes and Green (RE), Rfn Taylor (RGJ), Cfn Smith (REME att 1 SG) and Fus Kemble (RWF) experienced the thrill of playing in the superb new Twickenham stadium.

Westerlo in Belgium, Services lined up in the Belgian Second Division club's magnificent stadium without several regulars including SSgt Kevin Parkins, LSgt Paul Fagin and Sig Joe Collins.

LCpl Jim Strouts fell back into the heart of the defence and turned in a superb performance.

LBdr Gary Tootill, the substitute, was soon in action.

The Brits stunned a partisan home crowd in the 15th minute when skipper SSgt Alan Higgins's free kick fell to Strouts who instantly thundered a shot into the top far corner of the Belgian Armed Forces goal.

Cpl Lee Innes was just wide

with a header as Combined Services looked to be the better side going forward.

Three minutes before the break they scored a vital second goal when Innes set up a chance for POAEM Nigel Thwaites of the Royal Navy.

At the other end, SSgt Nigel Wiscombe kept the Belgians at bay with two excellent saves before finally conceding a goal midway through the second half.

The last 20 minutes was fairly frantic, with Strouts to the fore in keeping the Belgians in check.

It was a delighted Alan Higgins who raised the trophy for the British Servicemen for the first time in seven years.

Infantry 4, RLC 3

A rain-soaked pitch induced defensive mistakes by both sides as the RLC established a two-goal lead by half time through LCpl Bob Hope and Cpl Steve Tweddle. They added a third shortly after the interval when Hope scored again.

Cpl Tosh Williams of 1 Cheshire pulled one back from a free kick and substitute LCpl Jimmy Parke (IG) made it 3-2 with 20 minutes left. The Infantry kept battling away and fullback Cpl Rikki Bainbridge (Staffords) equalised five minutes from time.

Two minutes from the end Parke headed the winning goal to give the Infantry a thrilling victory that had seemed well beyond them after the first half.

1 Cheshire 4, 1 DWR 0

A goal just before half time by Cpl Ian McDonald and a second-half hat trick by Pte Simon Yeo gave 1 Cheshire a 4-0 victory over 1 DWR and the Infantry Football Challenge Cup for the third successive year.

The Dukes started brightly and matched the Cheshires until the break.

## Tunnel vision

TO MARK the opening of the new Medway tunnel to traffic on June 12, 1 RSME's annual road race is to be held a week earlier.

About 700 competitors are expected for the race – which will benefit charity – on June 5. The 10km course will start in Brompton Barracks and take the runners through the tunnel. The race is usually run through Chatham's historic dockyard.



Mutual congratulations as Maj Ollie Ellwood receives the Royal Artillery Gold Cup from the Queen Mother after winning the 3½ furlong steeplechase at Sandown Park. Maj Ellwood, Light Dragoons, rode the Queen Mother's horse Norman Conqueror to victory. Last year the horse provided the Queen Mother with her fifth win in the Horse and Hound Grand Military Gold Cup.

Maj Ellwood is also a previous winner of the RA Gold Cup, having ridden Camden Belle to victory in the 1992 race.



# Sappers crack as SEAE confirm top billing

WO2 Steve Turner (11) of 39 Engr Regt and SSgt Nick Johnson (5) of 39 Engr Regt clash in their Major Units pool match

A CLINICAL display of basketball by the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering in the final against 39 Engineer Regiment powered them to victory in the Major Units competition hosted by the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot.

There was a "home" win in the Minor Units championship, with ASPT narrowly beating ATR Lichfield in a high-quality final, while 27 Regiment RLC won the women's competition.

The Majors were severely depleted by operational commitments but produced several close games from two pools.

The draw pitted 39 Engr Regt against 32 Engr Regt in the opening game, and it was their APTC members, SSgt John Johnson (39 Engr) and WO2 Pete Town (32 Engr) who led the way.

The eventual finalists finally broke away in the closing minutes to win 70-59.

## FAVOURITES

SEAE, led on court by Cpl Neil Tolson, were pre-tournament favourites but lost Army player Sgt Dale Hinds the day before. Despite his absence, they beat 39 Engr 92-64 and 32 Engr 78-62.

In the other pool, 17 Port and Maritime, minus Cpl Jim Green in Norway, battled to beat 1 R Scots 68-59 and 32 Regt RA 55-54. The gunners defeated the Royal Scots 49-46 in another nail-biter.

SEAE earned their place in the final by beating 32 Regt RA 68-56, while 39 Engr accounted for 17 Port and Maritime on a default.

Port were ahead until they ran into foul trouble and were reduced to just two players. They even managed to score during this period.

But when Cpl Robbie Burt was left alone on court – the first time this has happened in the Army championships – they had to forfeit.

Although the SEAE-39 Engr final was closer than their pool encounter, it was only when the sappers switched to man-to-man marking and began to chase the game in the second



Picture: Mike Weston

half that they cracked. It became obvious that they did not have the players to cope with SEAE, in particular SSgt Hamish MacFarlane, who quickly ran in 16 points.

In the Minor final, Capt Martin Toney (AMS) and WO2 Phil Hughes (APTC) demonstrated why they are Army and Combined Services material in leading ASPT to victory. Nevertheless, ASPT's WO2 Pat Russell was judged

the most valuable player for his performance.

Only four teams contested the women's competition on a round robin basis, with 27 Regt RLC scoring easy wins over Women's Services Northern Ireland and Comms and Sy Group, Loughborough. They had to fight all the way against Germany-based 7 Tpt Regt RLC.

Comms and Sy Gp finished as runners-up and Capt

Hannah Carpenter (7 Regt RLC) was awarded the most valuable player trophy.

At the final presentations, Hamish MacFarlane was named most valuable player of the tournament and there was a special mention for the ever-green Maj Trevor Stipling (REME), who won his first Army Cup winner's medal in 1966 playing for SEE, and his seventh this year as coach and player for SEAE.

## Shepherd, Bradley lead the pack

CPL Alan Shepherd and SSgt Mel Bradley have been named as the Army's runners of the year following consistent performances in Army and representative cross country championships during the winter.

Shepherd (2 Sig Regt), the current Army cross country champion, finished clear of Sgt Kenny Butler, formerly of BAD Kinton and now with 82 AB Sqn, and Bdr Barry Stoddart (4 Regt RA).

Bradley (HQ 5 Dent Gp, att SEME) was in excellent form throughout the season. A string of impressive results earned her the women's title ahead of Sgt Sue Sharp (RMAS) and Pte Alison Armstrong (2 (CS) Regt RLC).

● SSgt Del Graham (REME, att 7 (Para) RHA) won the senior men's race at the Army inter-unit road relay and one mile championships held at ATR Basingstoke.



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A unique photograph of joint operations in former Yugoslavia as a Royal Artillery forward observation officer Warrior of 17/159 Battery, 26 Regiment operates with Czech BMP 2 variants of the 6th (Cz) Mech Bn in Stari Majdan. Story in Pages 18-21  
Picture: Mike Weston