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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

MAY 15, 1995
Vol 51/10

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Managing Editor

Chris Horrocks	Ext 2355
Editor	
John Elliott	2356
Assistant Editors	
Laurie Manton	2362
Gordon Skilling	2360
Phil Wilcox	2362
Picture Editor	
Terry Champion	2357
Photographers	
Mike Weston	2357
Mike Perring	
Art Editor	
Les Gwyer	2169
Librarian	
Gerard Sutton	2351
Advertising	
Lindsey Champion	2352
Accounts/Distribution	
Janice Follwell	2353
Fax	2358

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FRONT COVER: Fifty years after the end of the Second World War the nation gives thanks for peace – and the sacrifice of those who gave their lives or their health to win that peace. In Hyde Park, London, and at venues all over the British Isles, Victory in Europe 50 years ago is being marked by a national commemoration. **Soldier's** tribute appears on Pages 23-34.

SOLDIER coverage of Rwanda mission wins national award



From *Soldier*, October 31, 1994: Padre Andrew Phillips administers the last rites to a Rwandan child

FIFTY years after it was launched in the Second World War, *Soldier* has won a national award for its coverage of the aftermath of one of the most horrific conflicts of the 1990s – Rwanda.

In Britain's top competition for "corporate communicators", who include the industrial giants as well as the Armed Forces, a panel of fellow professionals, including experienced specialists from the national media, judged hundreds of entries to arrive at the Editing For Industry (EFI) awards.

Soldier's entry headed "Mission Improbable – to restore health of a nation" (October 31, 1994) was voted the best fea-

ture of the year in the news-magazine class.

Hundreds of British soldiers took part in Operation Gabriel, part of the United Nations Assistance Mission to help ease the initial suffering in the equatorial African state.

Writer Gordon Skilling and chief photographer Terry Champion spent 15 days in trying conditions to gather material which *Soldier* spread across two issues.

It was in the magazine's 50-year tradition of on-the-spot coverage of the Army wherever in the world it is called upon to serve.

In a critique, one of the judges said:

● Turn to Page 5

Borderers go home – at last

FIVE hundred and fifty men of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment are moving into newly refurbished barracks at Catterick, after what is thought to be the longest tour of duty (33 months) in Northern Ireland since the start of the "Troubles".

When they deployed to the Province almost three years ago, they expected to be based at Londonderry's Ebrington Barracks for 24 months.

However, Options for Change and the Army's Operation Grapple commitments in former Yugoslavia meant that a posting out of Northern Ireland for Kings Own Border soldiers and more than 100 of their families had to wait.

Members of the battalion were the first to be re-deployed to rural patrols when the terrorist cease-fires allowed the RUC to patrol Londonderry without military support.

Reduced patrols allowed the battalion to step up training for its future role as an armoured infantry battalion equipped with the Warrior armoured



Pte James Harris, 1 Kings Own Border, lowers the flag for the last time as Reveille is sounded at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, before the move to Catterick

fighting vehicle. A determined campaign throughout the battalion resulted in 1 Kings Own Border becoming the first regiment to raise its level of fitness

during a tour in Northern Ireland, utilising the gym equipment and sports pitches and closely monitoring fitness

tests. Capt Steven Firth, Kings Own Border, welcomed the changing situation in the Province.

"It is good for Northern Ireland and it is good for us," he said. "We all hope very much that progress will continue to be made."

BRITISH TROOPS IN ANGOLA – 14-15

Hong Kong's 1,000-day Regiment – 18-19

VE DAY SPECIAL FEATURE – 23-34

Plucked from Borneo's Death Valley – Page 21



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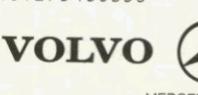
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AG's HQ opens at Upavon

THE new headquarters of the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, was formally opened at Upavon by the Secretary of State for Defence, Malcolm Rifkind, on April 3.

It marked an important step in a line of changes which have taken place as part of a much wider strategy, said Mr Rifkind.

The move to Wiltshire of Headquarters Adjutant General (Personnel and Training Command) is part of the plan to streamline the modern Army, with the AG taking responsibility for individual training.

Upavon is close to several major training centres including Larkhill, Warminster, Middle Wallop, Blandford and Bovington.

The Adjutant General is also responsible for Army administration and pay, manning, military police, medical services, education and legal services.

These responsibilities now stretch "from the cradle to the grave" - from recruiting soldiers, training them, delivering them to the field army and looking after their welfare.

Gen Wilkes opened the Army School of Training Support which provides managers and officers for training schools. It was relocated from Beaconsfield, which continues to be used as the Defence School of Languages.

Paras take Courage

MORE than 200 soldiers from London TA units took part in the 1995 Courage Trophy military skills competition at Pirbright. It was won by No 4 Coy, 10 Para. A shield for the best team with more than three female members was presented to The London Regiment.

From Page 3

ing panel wrote of "An exceptionally well researched feature in which the attention to detail and naming of so many of those involved adds not only to the interest but also to the credibility. The content emphasises the value of having a dedicated reporter and photographer *in situ*; this is also reflected in the



Picture: Mike Perring

The Princess Royal meets soldiers from 27 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps during a visit to Buller Barracks, Aldershot. Seen with the Princess, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the corps, are (left) Pte Sammy McEwan and LCpl Neil Legge,

with SSgt Trevor Jones (7 Squadron). Also introduced to her were groups who have served in the Gulf, Kuwait, Bosnia, the Falklands and Cyprus, and Northern Ireland, and a troop of 30 soldiers scheduled to take part in UN operations in Angola

Victory veterans lose out on medals

SERVICE MEDAL offices have been working flat out to process claims, running at about 2,000 a month, linked to the Second World War commemorations.

But not all the veterans who have made the belated applications will receive them in time to wear at this summer's anniversary ceremonies.

In the House of Commons on April 19 Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames paid "warm tribute" to the staff of the Army Medal Office at Droitwich, Worcestershire, and the Army Record Office at Hayes, Middlesex, who had processed more than 24,000 Second World War cases last year and nearly 8,500 - many involving two or more medals - in the first three months of this.

This was all the more remarkable in view of a backlog caused by the closure of the Hayes archive from May 1993

until February 1994 to clear an asbestos problem.

"With first-time applications arriving on a daily basis, barely weeks before the planned commemoration events, I am afraid it is entirely inevitable that some veterans will be disappointed," said Mr Soames.

"All staff at the three Service medal offices are working regular and substantial overtime in an effort to ensure that as many veterans receive those medals before the VE and VJ Day celebrations, when they will clearly wish to wear their decorations with pride."

He said it was a pity many had not claimed their medals sooner.

Mr Nigel Waterson, MP for Eastbourne, had raised the

matter with reference to the case of a constituent, Mr Tony King, who was injured while serving with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards as a tank crew commander at St Pol in September, 1944.

Mr King had made a belated application in January for his medals so that he, like many others perhaps for the first and last time, could wear them, or miniature replicas, at this year's anniversary ceremonies. He was told there would be a 12-month wait.

Calling for greater effort to be put into clearing the backlog by VJ Day, Mr Waterson said: "It is time to end this medal muddle. The problem will not be repeated."

● **Around the Houses - Page 7**

Winning way with words

style of writing. The graphic account brings out all the stress, pathos, humour and sheer humanity of the troops concerned.

... The design, without being too dramatic, also conveys the message and encour-

ages the reader's interest." *Soldier* just missed an award when it was short-listed in the overall content and design category for frequently-published newsmagazines.

The judge said: "Soldier has all the ingredients of a first-

class newsmagazine. It is topical, crisply written, informative with the right balance of news and features, well illustrated, designed to make impact, and clearly printed. It demonstrates yet again that it is a highly professional newsmagazine."

In 1993 *Soldier's Gulf War coverage* won three awards.

● **Rwanda latest - Page 7**



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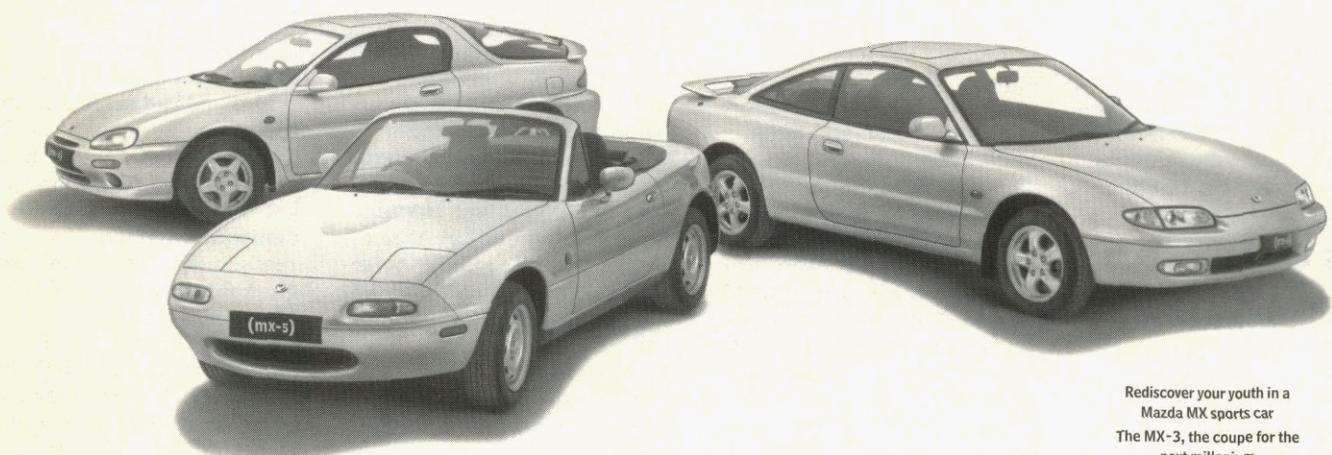
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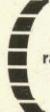
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War widows win VE Day victory

ABOUT 16,500 women who forfeited their war widow's pension on re-marriage will have it restored following a Government change of policy in the run-up to the VE Day anniversary.

During the introduction of the Pension Bill to the Commons on April 24, Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley said the pension would be restored should the former recipient become widowed for a second time, divorced, or legally separated. Subject to the Bill's progress, claims would be dealt with from October, at an estimated cost of £40 million. The weekly pension is £143, tax free.

The change of policy followed a Government defeat in the Lords after a celebrated maiden speech by 24-year-old Lord Freyberg.

Mr Lilley said: "I am sure the announcement will be well

received by the whole country as it demonstrates this nation's recognition of the debt that we owe to so many."

- About 400 war pensioners mistakenly credited with a total of £1million in allowances will not be compelled to repay the money in cases of official error, the Lords were told.

Social Security Minister Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish said on April 19 that the overpayments, on average £2,500 per person, related to attendance and disability living allowances. Most of the mistakes were "at the official end", he added, answering a question by Lord Campbell of Croy.

The problems came to light when a new computer system

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

was introduced at Norcross and Blackpool. "We are very conscious of the debt that we owe to war pensioners, and that is demonstrated in the very much higher benefits that they receive in the mobility and care allowance than the rest of the population," he said.

● ● ●

Examinations of more than 200 veterans have failed to reveal any evidence of the alleged Gulf War syndrome, though the MoD keeps an open mind on the subject, Defence Under Secretary Lord Henley said in the Lords.

Lord Walton of Detchant quoted from a letter by the Surgeon General published in the *British Medical Journal* on April

22: "No evidence has emerged that any organic disorder has occurred more commonly in Gulf veterans than in any similar population over a similar four-year period. As might be expected, certain psychiatric conditions ... can be attributed to the Gulf conflict, though there is no evidence that their incidence is greater than that in earlier conflicts. These findings remain consistent with the earlier British position and recent American findings".

● ● ●

Other points from Parliament:

- The Defence Medical Services' secondary care organisation is to be considered as a candidate for agency status.
- NatWest Markets will act as financial advisers for the proposed transfer of MoD married quarters to the private sector.

MP sees Rwandan slaughter

THE massacre of thousands of Rwandan refugees at the Kibeho refugee camp was witnessed by a British military policeman.

Maj Mark Cuthbert-Brown, acting as United Nations Provost Marshal, watched helplessly as Tutsi soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Army ran amok, killing an unknown number of Hutus.

Australian Army medics, who had worked with British Army medics at the camp during Operation Gabriel last year, counted 4,050 bodies before giving up to concentrate on the survivors.

UN rules of engagement prevented Zambian troops opening fire to stop the killing.

"There was a hell of a lot of ammunition being shot off and people were very scared," Maj Cuthbert-Brown told a reporter. "I saw a soldier pull the pin of a grenade and roll it behind a woman and child – it blew them to pieces."

Many were shot in the back, others stoned or hacked to death with machetes.

Kibeho, a place of pilgrimage until 1,000 people were killed there last April by Hutu extremists, was the largest refugee camp, at times containing up to 800,000 persons.



Picture: Mike Weston

Col David Glyn-Owen, with the help of WO2 Glen Lawson (left) and WO2 Herbie Coyle, holds the Infantry flag which they had lowered at a ceremony to mark the closing of the Weapons Support Wing at Netheravon. The unit transferred to Warminster this month to become an integral part of the new Infantry Training Centre

IN BRIEF

EMPLOYEES of Leyland Trucks watched the last vehicle in a major order of 4-tonne military trucks roll off the production line. It was formally accepted by the Director General Land Fighting Systems, Maj Gen Alan Sharman. Last year the company completed deliveries of its other major military contract – the heavy DROPS ammunition-carrier. The MoD has since placed a follow-on order for 24 more.

- Newbury, a 14-year-old gun horse with the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, is the first in Britain to be injected with a new vaccine to protect the animals against

equine herpes, a virus which has affected horses across the country. All King's Troop horses have been vaccinated.

- The TA's 94 Signal Squadron based at Windsor and Reading has a new role. It will provide support communications to a Combat Service Support Group (CSSG) tasked with a NATO role.

- A third contract from the MoD Procurement Executive to supply 19 more Case 721BXT rough terrain forklift trucks has been awarded to Doncaster-based J I Case Europe.

UK seeks to pull out Gorazde troops

BRITAIN wishes to withdraw its troops from the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde when the tour of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers ends in September.

British soldiers have protected the Gorazde safe area since spring last year. The contingent at present comprises 1 RWF battalion headquarters and two companies.

A Ukrainian unit is to be withdrawn and not replaced in the enclave and it is understood that Norway does not wish to extend its mission of a medical company. The Dutch have asked to be replaced at Srebrenica.

Gorazde, one of the most sensitive areas patrolled by the UN, has recently been very active. British troops continue to carry out the UN mandate.

Bosnian Serbs have refused to allow convoys in for months, fuel is short and patrols have to be carried out on foot. Three fusiliers were injured, one seriously, when they walked into a minefield on April 20.

Gorazde is likely to be the scene of fierce fighting following the lapsing of a four-month cease-fire at the end of April.

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Labour 'would end Armed Forces ban on gays'

A LABOUR Government would lift the ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces, the party's defence spokesman, Dr David Clark, announced. He said the ban was an infringement of civil liberties and not acceptable in civilised society. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Sixty-four teachers are to be made redundant, 16 compulsorily, following the closure of a secondary school for Army children in Germany. — *Daily Mirror*

□ Soldiers who volunteered for chemical warfare research exper-

iments are planning to sue the MoD for compensation after suffering serious damage to their health. — *Guardian*

□ Following the mid-life update of the RAF's Chinook helicopters, more are to be purchased, including nine for the Special Forces. — *RAF News*

□ An airship bought by the MoD last year and now undergo-

ing handling tests at Boscombe Down could replace expensive and noisy surveillance helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft with early warning radar. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Paras at Aldershot made an appeal for doves they could release at a VE Day 50th anniversary ceremony in the town. — *Aldershot News*

□ Celebrations of VE Day are stirring unbearable memories in tens of thousands of elderly men who have never recovered from the Second World War experiences, psychologists say. Many suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. — *Independent*

□ Moves to pull United Nations troops out of Bosnia gained momentum as Russia joined France in threatening to withdraw and the Dutch followed Britain in vowing to leave a Serb-surrounded Muslim enclave in the east of the republic. — *Times*



Corunna Battery leave the Münsterlager ranges after the demonstration, with AS90s and DROPS ammunition carriers in the background

1 Div gunners in show of strength

AN impressive demonstration of the array of weapons available to the Royal Artillery of 1 (UK) Armoured Division was held on the Münsterlager ranges in Germany.

NATO staff officers saw the awesome battlefield capability of the new AS90 155mm gun as eight guns from Corunna Battery, 26 Regiment RA fired 24 shells in 18 seconds.

Also on show was the Rapier 2000 air defence system — to which 16 Regiment RA should be converted by the end of the year — the multi-launch rocket system (MLRS) of 39 Regiment and 12 Regiment's high velocity missile. Visitors included Maj Gen Roddy

Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division.

"At the Battle of Alamein, the British Army fired its largest fireplan of the war," said Brig Graham Kerr, Commander Royal Artillery for the division.

"It involved 876 artillery pieces, lasted for three hours and poured 2 1/4 million tons of high explosive on the enemy positions."

Today, he said, the division's artillery, with 132 guns, could deliver an equivalent amount of fire in an hour and forty-five minutes.

Chieftains blown up

TEN Chieftain main battle tanks (MBTs) have been destroyed at Otterburn training area, Northumberland, under the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty.

Under CFE, Britain has undertaken to destroy 183 MBTs, 30 armoured combat vehicles and five attack helicopters.

THE Golden Lions, the Scottish Division's freefall parachute team, travelled to the first overseas training camp in their history — in Zephyrhills, Florida — in preparation for a busy display season and possible participation in the Army

Combat sappers working together

FIFTY-SEVEN participants and inspectors from ten countries, including Portugal and Denmark, attended Acrobatic Cruise, a combat engineer inter-operability exercise held in München.

Organised by Pionierbrigade 30 (the 7 Panzer Division engineers) and hosted by the German Pionierschule and the Euro NATO Training Engineer Centre, the exercise gave participants the opportunity to carry out "hands-on" training on German engineer equipment.

An Inspectors' Programme gave, among others, commanders of units assigned to the Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) a chance to watch the training and discuss key issues.

Officers serving with the UN in former Yugoslavia and with HQ EUKORPS officers gave perspectives on problems faced by sappers in multinational environments.

Florida freefallers

and national championships.

Bad weather put training behind schedule but once the conditions improved, the team built some impressive six-man stacks, moving on to difficult "rotations" manoeuvres.

The team averaged around 50 jumps — considerably more than could have been achieved in the United Kingdom.

● Coming soon in *Soldier* — all the new badges

All set for the Arctic

Five members of a six-man team from the Adjutant General's Corps taking part in a month-long crossing of the Greenland icecap display their survival kit. The venture, undertaken by (back row) SSgt Mac McLaughlin and Maj Simon Harris with colleagues (front row) Capt Brad Horn, SSgt Reg White and Maj John Wright, is the curtain-raiser to the AGC's Northern Lights adventure training expedition, taking place throughout this year and into 1996. Sixth team member is SSgt Nick Onslow. They hope to raise money for the Royal Hampshire County Hospital's accident and emergency unit.



Picture: Mike Weston

Former Chaplain General the Rt Rev Jim Harkness, pictured at Bagshot Park, has become the new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Having initially volunteered for three years' National Service, he discovered that the chaplaincy was so different from the traditional parochial scene that he stayed on for another 30 years...

He was the first non Church of England Chaplain General and over eight

Chaplain's three years became 30

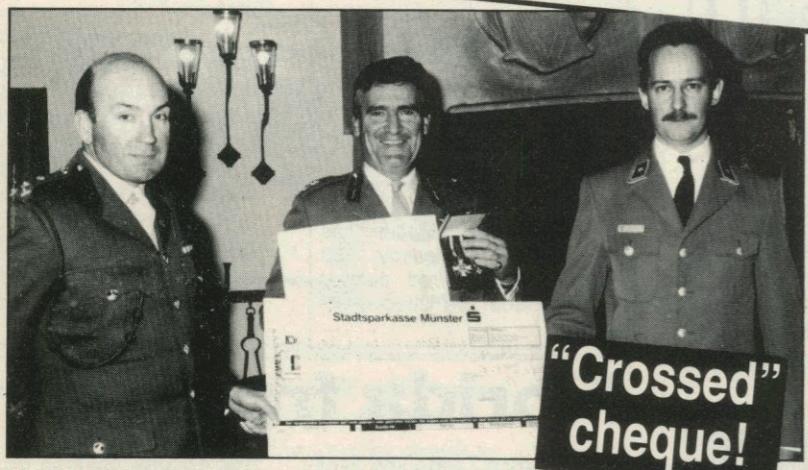
years fought successfully to keep the Royal Army Chaplains' Department separate from the Adjutant General's Corps.



Clocking off ...

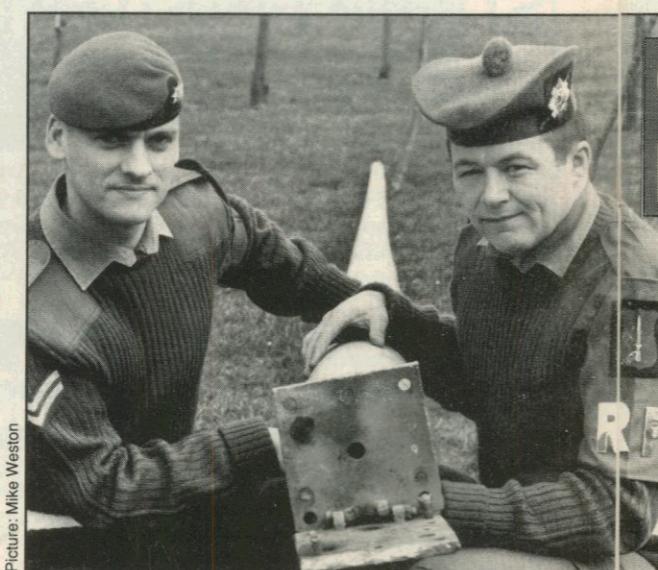
Brig Kevin Goad, Director Base Depots, holds the last issue of store - a clock - from the Ordnance Support Unit (OSU) at Liphook, Hampshire. With him at the closure ceremony on March 31 were Maj Gen David Burden, Director General Logistic Support (Army) and Maj David Marsh, officer commanding the unit, which was developed during the Second World War and has been closed as a result of the Defence Costs Study.

Stores held on the site over the years have included war reserves, special task stores, pre-stocked unit equipment and disaster stores for Field Army operations worldwide.



Maj Gen Walter Courage (centre) received a pleasant surprise when, as head of the British Force's External Affairs Division in Germany, he went to Münster to present the Knights of Malta with a cheque for more than £25,000 - the proceeds of last year's British military music show held in the city.

His "excellent services" in promoting their work was recognised when the Knights awarded him their Distinguished Service Cross with Swords. With the general, who is now Director General Territorial Army, are Brig Richard Dannatt (left), whose 4 Armoured Brigade mainly organised the show, and Rudolph, Erbprinz of Croy, head of the Knights of Malta in the Münster area.



Picture: Mike Weston

One for the pol(e)-ice?

It can get pretty windy in the North-East, as these two soldiers from Infantry Training Battalion Ouston can testify. Cpl Shaun Turner and LCpl Wully Horsburgh (a member of the establishment's regimental police) examine the flagpole which, until an overnight gale, was proudly in position outside the battalion's Albemarle Barracks...

PEOPLE

WELL DONE, WARDEN

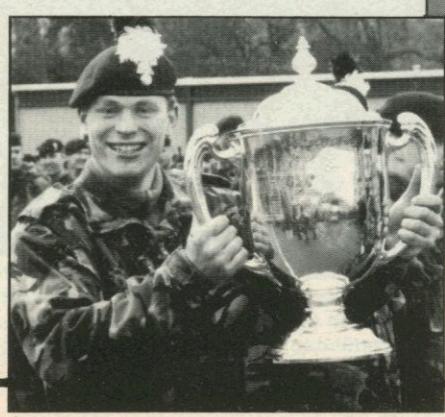
Ivan Bond (left), already a holder of the Long Service and Good Conduct and Meritorious Service Medals, receives a C-in-C's Certificate for Meritorious Service from Brig John Patrick, Commander 145 (Home Counties) Brigade. A former staff sergeant in the Royal Military Police, Ivan looked after the officers' married quarters at Aldershot (North) until his retirement last year and was chairman of the UK southern area of the wardens' union.



Impressing the judges with their culinary skills in the Welsh regional final of the annual Territorial Army Exercise Combat Caterer at Crickhowell Training Camp were Cpl Pete Hillidge, Carol Molyneux and Roy Camp and Sgt Steve White, of Prestatyn-based 119 Recovery Company, 101 Bn REME. Their mouth-watering concoction of soup, chicken, ham and leek lattice and Queen of Puddings won them the trophy for best unit.

Cups...

Running out of hands to hold the silverware he and his team-mates are accumulating is cross country runner Cpl Craig McBurney (Light Infantry) of ITB Ouston. Among their triumphs are a third consecutive win in the Eastern District (North) Minor Unit championships, the Army Minor Unit championships at Longmoor and the Army relay cross country Minor Unit cups.



... and sorcerers!

Merlin was a magician, and helping to uphold his name was a team from Newcastle-based X Company, 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Captained by 2nd Lt John Marsden (holding trophy), they were the winners of Exercise Martial Merlin, a two-day test of skill and stamina described as 15 (North East) Brigade's toughest competition.



Above - Lt Col Alec Bain, CO ITB Ouston

Left - Ouston's Regimental Administrative Officer Maj Richard Reay and Financial Systems Administrator SSgt Glyn Poolford prepare for the young soldiers' first pay parade

Ends, Romans, infantrymen

On July 28, the Infantry Training Battalion (ITB) Ouston leaves its home and becomes part of the newly-established Infantry Training Centre at Catterick. *Soldier* visited the organisation as it approaches the end of its brief, but productive, life.

IT TOOK eight years for the Romans to build Hadrian's Wall, and a further turbulent 250 years and more before its military occupation ceased.



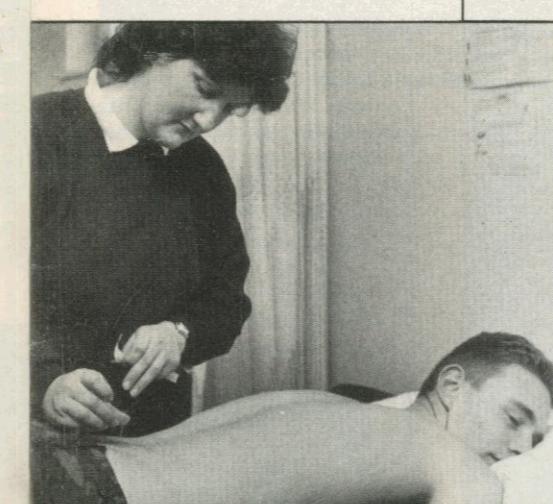
Marathon task: ITB Ouston Adjutant Capt Richard Garrett, LI, (right) takes his pick of the trainers in the battalion's QM's department, under the watchful gaze of, among others, WO2 (RQMS) Phil Ibbotson (second right), before setting off to run in his fourth London marathon (inset). He finished in 3hr 5min 8sec, 13 minutes quicker than his previous best, and ended in a creditable 1,944th position in a field of 26,000, raising £300 for charity in the process

Very shortly, within marching distance of its remains, Lt Col Alec Bain, RRF, commanding officer of ITB Ouston, and his team will also have made their mark on Army history - not over 2½ centuries, but 2½ years.

Opened in January 1993, the ITB, formerly the Junior Infantry Battalion (Scottish and King's Division), will have seen about 3,000 new "starts" by Regular soldiers by the time it closes.

"Because we all began at the same time, with the same posting orders, at a new location with a new course, the training team had no preconceptions, so we have been constantly re-visualising what we have done as we put it into action," said Lt Col Bain.

The battalion trains infantrymen primarily for the Scottish, Light and Queen's Divisions and the RLC's Pioneer Services. They come from all areas, from as far apart as the south east of England and the two-day journey from the Isle of Bara, explained chief instructor and 2iC Maj Keith Oliver.



Above - Getting the needle: Pte Danny McGinn, A and SH, based at ITB Ouston HQ, receives acupuncture treatment from S1 Physiotherapist Gillian Peel, who will join other physios at Catterick

At present there are two training companies, one with three platoons, one with four platoons, he said. A third, three-platoon, company had its final pass-out last month.

The ITB (60 per cent of whose staff will be moving to Catterick) will take with it at

least two innovations which it has pioneered, Lt Col Bain says.

"In the old system, people were taught at platoon level: we deal with in-take companies, with a company commander being responsible for a full-size company of anything up to five

platoons (200 men) - a system which is to continue at Catterick."

Another revolutionary move has been the introduction of a battalion paediatrician, also transferring to the new organisation, whose early treatment has reduced referrals to orthopaedic specialists by about 70 per cent.

The ethos established at Ouston will also, the CO is confident, be continued.

"This is the infantryman's first professional course: he comes here as a trained soldier, • Turn to next page



Above - Recruits from B Coy (Cassino Platoon, Queen's Division) get down to some serious PT in the first week of eleven scheduled for their course...

... before setting off (below) on a testing mile-and-a-half run



Report:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Mike Weston



As one trainee put it: "It's tough and hard here, but it's meant to be – and the food's good!"

Infantrymen

• From Page 13

but we produce a trained infantryman.

"We expect greater motivation and higher standards from him, and overall we feel we have been successful in our aim of turning out a confident and competent soldier."

On the whole, nothing much has changed in the region, said Lt Col Bain, a Geordie by birth and currently on his second tour with his regiment in Northumberland.

"There were soldiers training here 2,000 years ago, and the distances for their 'combat fitness tests' were roughly the same."

"The main difference was that the Romans would have been carrying a sword, spear and shield and wearing a small amount of armour."

However, not only would they be "fed and watered" at watchtowers along the route, but, unlike their 20th century counterparts at Ouston – who combine marching and jogging – they probably dispensed with the marching...

• 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, is due to take over Albemarle Barracks, the ITB's base, when it moves to Ouston from Paderborn.



Cold at Otterburn: a member of C Coy, in his ninth week, samples the joys of the six-day field firing exercise

Chantress troops in theatre

AFTER weeks awaiting the final decision to deploy, the British contingent to Operation Chantress has moved into Angola to arrange for the arrival of 7,000 United Nations Troops.

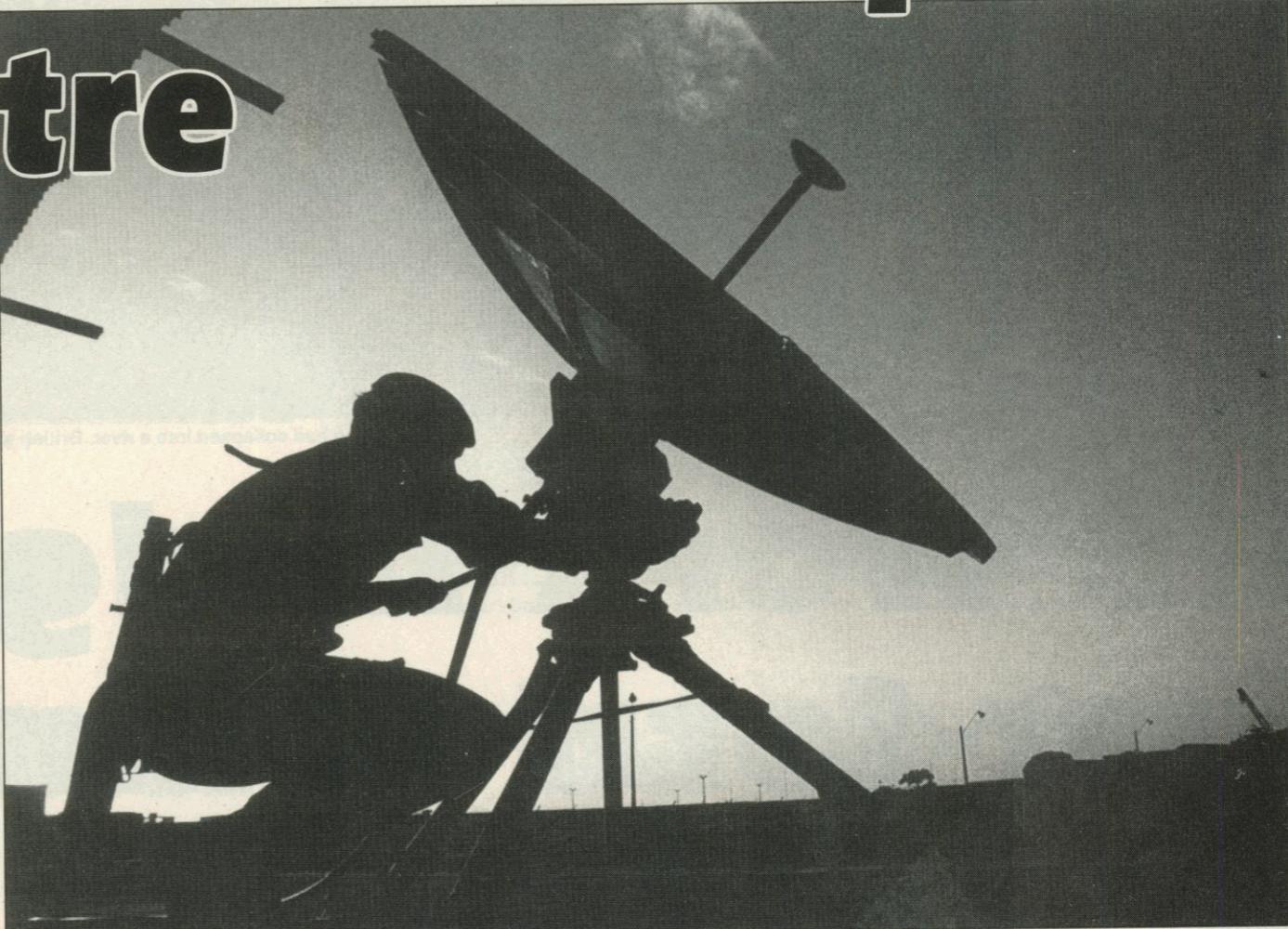
The contingent of 650, commanded by Lt Col Harry O'Hare and based on 9 Supply Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, is due to return to the UK at the end of August.

As forerunner of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III) the force will set up the main reception and storage facilities to bring other UN contingents into theatre and move them to their places of deployment.

These facilities will then be handed over to a United Nations contractor to operate on behalf of UNAVEM III.

Based at Luanda and Lobito, the British force will be involved with infantry contingents from Brazil, India, Pakistan, Uruguay, Zimbabwe and Romania, which is also providing a field hospital.

The British contingent is supported by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Sir Galahad*, which arrived at Lobito



One of the first tasks for British troops arriving in Angola was to set up a satellite dish at Lobito to ensure good communications. Bramcote-based 30 Signal Regiment will deploy nearly 50 personnel to supply strategic satellite communications back to UK

on April 20. The ship is now being used in a supporting role.

• The RLC Postal and Courier detachment in Angola has declared BFPO numbers for troops serving there. The number for those based in Lobito is BFPO 640, for the few in Luanda, BFPO 641.



Above – Lt Col Harry O'Hare (centre), commander of the British contingent of the UN peacekeeping force in Angola, briefs Lobito port workers through his interpreter, 2nd Lt Graham Cable. Their task is to receive, store and distribute supplies to peacekeepers in the field

Left – Nerve centre of the UN peacekeeping operation in Angola is UK Land's Wilton Operations Room, with Col David Glyn-Owen, Capt Graham Snell and Maj Jackie Gavin. "Operating 4,900 miles away in a far-flung country which has been at war for 23 years is challenging," said Col Glyn-Owen, "but with satellite communications by voice and fax we are in almost instant touch with personnel and can react promptly to any situation."



Soldiers of 1 RGBW distribute aid collected in the UK to villages north of Bugojno



This road had collapsed into a river. British sappers repaired it



Thank you, soldier! Bosnian children smile for the camera after British troops had rebuilt their school

G5 work nudges a war-torn community back to normality

BY THE time an agreement on the cessation of hostilities between Bosnian Muslims and Croats was signed last year, most of central Bosnia lay in ruins.

Towns and villages caught up in the fighting were surrounded by minefields, regular communication between communities was non-existent and the only movement on the roads was of humanitarian aid or military traffic. Essential services – gas, water, electricity and medicine – suffered extensive damage.

To focus local attitudes away from a "dependency culture", people needed to be given the facilities to rebuild their own lives.

As a result, G5 tasks – projects intended to provide assistance to the civil community – undertaken by British soldiers serving with the United Nations in former Yugoslavia were given a new importance. Soldiers willingly set out to help Bosnian Croat and Muslim alike.

Over three months the Household Cavalry Regiment from Windsor took on 114 different G5 projects.

The result was that most of the towns and villages on their



Sappers, with the help of a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter, prepare to topple a war-damaged minaret tottering over a village

patch had electricity at some time during the day, and water, sewerage and telephone exchanges were reconnected. Operation Grapple soldiers did not ignore small-scale commu-

nity projects, such as the construction of a handball court in Maglaj.

Under a UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) programme, both sides have carried out mine clearance and minefield marking operations.

In the Vitez area alone, the Muslim BIH Army reported that 80 per cent of their mines had been removed. Mine recognition talks are given by 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) sappers to local children.

Before the war an amazing variety of water distribution methods – ancient gravity-fed pumps, electrical pumps and modern high pressure systems – were in use. The work of local craftsmen and British Royal Engineers to reconnect water supplies has been augmented by Overseas Development Agency expertise. Chlorine has been provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organisation.

The Household Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, and other non-engineer UN units have repaired damaged and leaking pipes. Because of a shortage

of local services, troops in Bosnia are no strangers to the collection and disposal of refuse.

Unsafe and war-damaged buildings have been demolished and their sites cleared by the UN. British soldiers, in particular, have been helping to repair schools and hospitals, and encouraging local communities to contribute to the work.

The medical infrastructure of the region was left in tatters by the fighting. The United Nations has had considerable success in ensuring the delivery of drugs, evacuating casualties by land and air, and repairing hospital buildings and equipment.

Particularly valuable, when poor weather makes it difficult for people to travel, are the UN's mobile medical and dental clinics. The shortage of local trained staff is being partly overcome by British medics from the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot. Military musicians have frequently put on concerts in schools, and sports events con-

tinued to be held between UNPROFOR and local teams.

Other tasks undertaken by British soldiers include the emptying of household septic tanks at Maglaj and Zavidovici; the supply of 500 chickens for local agriculture in the Maglaj finger; and the delousing of children at schools in Kacuni.

More unusual jobs included the provision of escorts for funerals in the Voljice valley, visits by Croat families to graveyards in towns and villages held by Muslims and vice versa, and the escorting of an imam (religious leader) to ceremonies outside Zenica.



A river-bed recce by Royal Engineers preceded their repairs to a vital bridge near Zepce

Sappers also demolished two unstable minarets which were threatening to topple on to villages below.



Cpl Lee Cowsell takes up his fire position on the top of High Island Reservoir during the 48-hour exercise

Right – Members of the 1,000-Day Regiment, the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment, find themselves in uncharted waters at Wong Shek Pier. LCpl Woon (front left) and Cpl Pete Tufton (front right) find paddling hard work

Below – Sgt Barry Ehlan enjoys the short water crossing at Wong Shek Pier while LCpl Tilak Gurung (left) looks more concerned



Hong Kong's 1,000-Day Regiment takes the field

ON A day-to-day basis members of Hong Kong's newest – and shortest-lived – regiment, the Hong Kong Logistic Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, are employed in a variety of specialist occupations, from cooks to drivers, from storemen to mechanics, **writes Ruth Vernon**.

However, like all members of the British Army they are fighting soldiers first and foremost, and have just taken part in a field training exercise designed to test their abilities under a series of difficult conditions.

The regiment, known as the 1,000-Day Regiment because of its short lifespan, is unusual in that it is made up of person-

nel of three nationalities. During the 48-hour exercise two 20-man platoons of British, Gurkha and Chinese soldiers were put to the test.

First phase began at Stonecutters Island where the men conducted a series of drills. After being transported by the Royal Navy to High Island Reservoir, they spent their first night in the hills.

The following day the men were tasked to build rafts to transport the platoons across a 150-metre inlet at Wong Shek Pier after which they moved to the Main Dam at the reservoir where they took part in a 30-metre abseil.

The platoons were then

flown by Wessex helicopter from 28 (AC) Sqn, RAF Sek Kong, to Lo Wu ranges for a night shoot. The exercise ended with a series of patrols at Castle Peak Ranges before troops returned to their headquarters at Osborn Barracks.

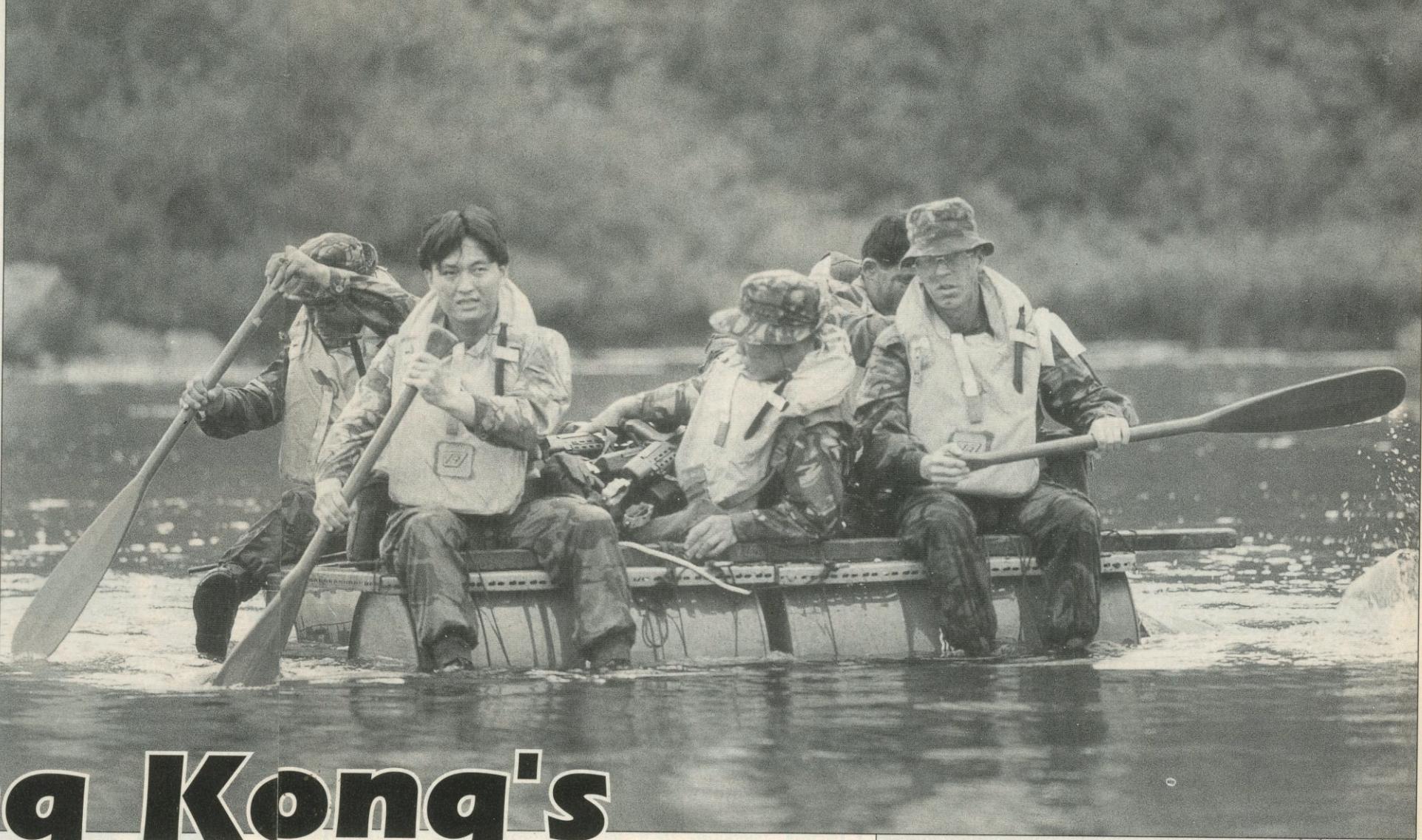
"Although we weren't doing anything we haven't done before, the exercise was a welcome opportunity for the men to take part in operations which fall outside their normal sphere of work – abseiling, patrolling, craft building, practising first aid," said 2iC Maj Mark Underhill.

Over the weekend they worked under difficult conditions and the whole command

structure, from the commander downwards, came under a different kind of pressure to see how they would react.

"Every day, throughout the year, the regiment provides support to the British Forces in Hong Kong," he added.

"During the 48 hours we were on exercise everyone we normally supply to gave us sterling service instead and we were able to call on the assets of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the RAF, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, The Queen's Gurkha Signals, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, the Army Medical Services and the Depot HKMSC – for that we thank them."



It's a long way down for Cpl John Hunt as he loses communications abseiling at the Main Dam, at High Island Reservoir

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

Please be there when they need you

The Army Benevolent Fund provides help to any man or woman and their families if they are serving or have served in the British Army and are in real need. This help is given in two ways: through grants to supplement Corps or Regimental aid and by financial support to over 70 national charities providing for the special needs of those in distress.

Our overall aim is to bring help to the many cases where state assistance is inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the immediate need.

Your donation, covenant or legacy will provide invaluable assistance for those who served their country.

Please help them in their hour of need.

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41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR

Registered Charity No. 211645

We owe a lot to the soldiers who fought so hard for our freedom and our future and continue to protect us. I would like to make this contribution to help those of them who are in need.

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
Remembering & Supporting the Brave



June 3, 4, 5 Bad Lippspringe Showground Paderborn

It's that time of year again – The Rhine Army Summer Show this year will take place over the Whitsun weekend (3-5 June) and will be as big and exciting as in previous years. This year's Main Arena events include:

● THE ROYAL SIGNALS WHITE HELMETS

The oldest and best known motorcycle display team in the world, the White Helmets provide a thrilling and unique display consisting of fast cross-over rides, spectacular jumps and skilful feats of balance.

● THE HUNGARIAN POLICE BAND OF BUDAPEST

A professional level marching band who have played at many international venues.

● THE QUEEN'S COLOUR SQUADRON OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Awes with its precision drill movements, and the

● ROYAL AIR FORCE POLICE DOG DEMONSTRATION TEAM

Performs exciting demonstrations of the dogs' agility and bravery, which has amazed audiences all over Europe throughout the team's 20 year history.

● HER MAJESTY'S DRAGOON GUARDS BAND AND THE NORMANDY BAND OF THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

These two bands playing in massed formation carry on the long tradition of British Army marching bands.

● THE JOINT SERVICES PARACHUTE CENTRE

Will put on a free-fall parachute demonstration of difficult skydiving and canopy formations, capturing the crowd's attention from above!

● BRITISH FORCES ALPINE PARAGLIDING SCHOOL

Will thrill the crowd with its flying skills at this year's Rhine Army Summer Show.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

● POLO AT THE SUMMER SHOW

Saturday's Polo will be the final of this year's inter-regimental competition between the King's Royal Hussars and the Light Dragoon Guards.

Sunday the Rhine Army Polo Association Team will be pitted against the Deutscher Polo Verband in an exhibition match. Both days' polo will start at 13.30.

● EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

Since 1958 the British Forces stationed in Germany have held a major competition for German and British riders. In those days there were no other attractions – today the equestrian events still remain one of the core attractions both for those competing and for those who love to watch the show jumping and dressage events.

Other attractions include a Funfair, the Village Green, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, Food Stalls galore and numerous traders selling everything from Army Memorabilia to Barbour jackets.

Officers' story of their dramatic rescue from Borneo's Mount Kinabalu

To Death Valley and back



Lt Col Robert Neill conserves energy on the overhang

THE FATE of five soldiers trapped in the Borneo jungle dominated the headlines in March last year as a desperate search was made to find them, writes Gordon Skilling.

Their emaciated figures, more like concentration camp victims than soldiers, shocked the world when they were eventually plucked from the jungle.

In their newly-published book *SOS*, expedition leader Lt Col Robert Neill and his deputy, Maj Ron Foster, both RLC, record how they and others survived the first descent of Low's Gully – a precipitous ravine which plunges down the north flank of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in south-east Asia.

Exercise Gully Heights started on February 22, 1994 as a well-planned, ten-day adventurous training exercise involving ten soldiers. But the party became split from its climbing instructor, and five soldiers were stranded for almost a month.

Two groups of British NCOs managed to reach safety on March 12 after going forward to establish a route. This was done while the descent was dry, but a late monsoon hit the remaining members of the team and turned the gully into what Lt Col Neill described as a "ginormous drain" which nobody could ascend or descend.

Running out of food, Lt Col Neill, Maj Foster and three Hong Kong Chinese soldiers were in desperate straits, latterly surviving on Polo mints and water while 300 Malaysian and British troops searched the jungle for them.

A flashing light and their SOS signal set out in pebbles was finally seen through the mist and a helicopter winched them to safety – ironically with



All's well that ends well. Lt Col Robert Neill, Maj Ron Foster, Cpl Kevin Cheung and Pte Victor Lam enjoy a beer after their ordeal

an RAF Mountain Rescue Team only 200 metres away.

Written in the third person as an adventure story involving rescuers and rescued, the book redresses the balance after incomplete and inaccurate press coverage, and leaves readers to draw their own conclusions, Lt Col Neill told *Soldier*.

Press reports highlighted the problems which beset the expedition, but only relatively minor amendments were made to the Army's policy on adventurous training as a result.

Many experienced adventurous training hands had privately admitted to narrow squeaks when their own expeditions went awry, Maj Foster told the magazine. He looks to the positive results of what was a very near disaster. Future expeditions should learn the importance of staying together and getting as much information and advice as possible, he said.

It was important for team members to know each other thoroughly before setting out, and to have a goal recog-

nised by the adventurous training authorities.

Having three Hong Kong Chinese soldiers with them who had never taken part in adventurous training gave the officers an additional spur of providing leadership and hope.

"There is a great temptation to give up to despair and panic, particularly when you see your muscles wasting away and feel bones you didn't know you had," said Maj Foster.

He tried to get a balance between conserving energy and exercising. "If you don't exercise, your body functions slow down a lot, so you have to keep moving, but slowly."

For Maj Foster, adventurous training began with cycling. Now aged 56, he is taking a course to qualify as a ski instructor. During 25 years in the RAOC and now the RLC, adventure has played an important part in his life.

He believes it is right to take a man to the limit in training, introducing him to danger in an environment which stretches him physically and

mentally. "Cycle racing was very aggressive. You could be absolutely shattered but had to find that extra bit of effort to help you get through, and this can be important on the battlefield," he said.

One of the values of adventurous training in an environment of controlled danger was that it developed self discipline, self reliance, initiative and the ability to overcome fears – all qualities essential in combat, said Lt Col Neill.

It was only when the chips were down that reactions could be assessed.

"The pressures on the leader when things go wrong are quite immense and it's not easy to sit back and be objective, rather than be driven by desperation into doing something which the force of circumstances prompts you to do," said Lt Col Neill.

Because they saw no sign of rescuers on Kinabalu, Lt Col Neill was convinced his recce party of NCOs had died in the appallingly dangerous terrain.

A cruel dilemma faced them: stay put, conserve energy and run the risk of not escaping, or try to escape and use up vast amounts of energy which could bring death that much nearer.

Lt Col Neill said that as leader he had preceived an overwhelming need to escape and redress the situation, but he is quite clear that if they had struck out into the jungle, their bodies would still be there.

A year after the event, Neill and Foster can reflect on the support they were given by family, friends and the Army during their trials and over the following difficult months.

SOS – The story behind the Army expedition to Borneo's 'Death Valley' by Lt Col Robert Neill and Maj Ron Foster. Century, hardback, price £16.99.



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Tel: 01734 763567
Fax: 01734 763255

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Hants GU11 2LG. Tel: 01252 314598

Aldershot Museum takes a behind the scenes look at daily life over the past 140 years in the Home of the British Army. Photographs, models and displays – including a recreated 1900 barrack room – tell the story. A second gallery tells of the Canadian Army's contribution to the two World Wars from their base in Aldershot. Guns and armoured vehicles are displayed outside.

Open daily: March–October 10.00-17.00hrs
November–February 10.00-16.30hrs
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Adults £1.50, OAPs £1, Children 50p

LIGHT INFANTRY MUSEUM

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road,
Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS

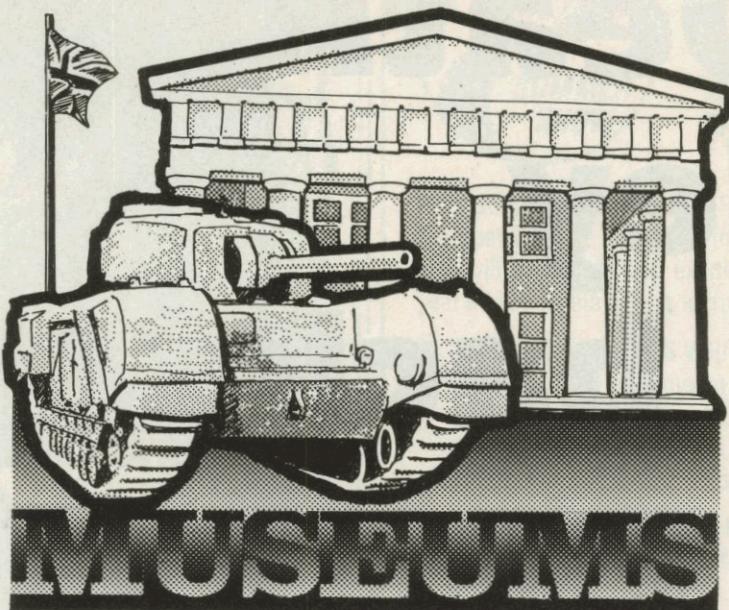
Tel: 01962 828530

This Museum shows glimpses of the distant past, but concentrates on a modern Regiment and more recent events around the world – Berlin Wall, Gulf War and Bosnia.

ADMISSION FREE

**Don't miss our next
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The forgotten army and the Royal
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Discover the history of this famous British
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Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
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Admission: Adults 50p, OAP & children 25p
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Telephone: 0161-764 2208

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Closed Jan 1, Dec 24-25,
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opening times.

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original uniforms, gallantry award medals,
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The museum contains fine displays of Silver, Colours, Uniforms, Medals, Weapons and artifacts. There is a World War I theme and dioramas with commentaries. Entry is free, but donations are welcome.

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(end Oct to end March) 09.30-16.00.
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VE/VJ day picture exhibition in summer.
New video on Zulu wars £10.50
including postage.
Open 09.00-17.00 April to September,
every day. October to March weekdays.
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Five years and eight months of war in Europe had ended in victory. The people of Britain went out onto their streets to celebrate. They walked in their tens of thousands to Whitehall and Buckingham Palace.

One report said 300,000 people spent all night long in

VICTORY PARADE

OVERLEAF: VE Day in 1945 was a day of spontaneous joy, an informal celebration of a great victory in Europe. But there were still months of bitter fighting to be done in the Far East before all our soldiers, sailors and airmen returned home.

The pageantry which marked the end of the Second World War had to wait a little while yet.

This photograph, first published in *Soldier* a year later, in June 1946, was of the great Victory Parade in London. Taken from the top of Admiralty Arch, it shows the columns marching towards Buckingham Palace in the distance.

A family celebrates

front of the Palace. And the Royal Family went into the sun-bathed streets to share the joy of victory.

As *Soldier* recorded at the time:

"Maybe the greatest thing of all was the absence of pomp

and ceremony – just a policeman here and there who laughed and said: 'Move over a little, please.' And some of the great British family moved over, and their Queen moved on and mingled with them.

"The Royal Family and their people had a very happy day."

Not quite the end of the war

NOT everybody was able to relax when the Germans surrendered, as Pte Arthur Ellis, a King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry "D-Day Dodger", found out in Italy. Celebrations were cut short as the British, Americans and New Zealanders were stood to arms again.

"When we heard Churchill's speech about the war in Italy being over, we flung our tin hats and ammunition away, but the next day we were told we were going to Yugoslavia to sort out partisans still fighting for the Nazis," he said.

Tito's partisans were also ready to fight to take over disputed Italian and Austrian land and had to be faced down in probably the first confrontation of the approaching Cold War.

"Some of the partisans were just little kids who had Mills grenades which they threw at us," he remembers.

Arthur Ellis first joined the

militia then the 2nd Battalion, The London Scottish with a Gordon Highlanders number in 1939. After guarding bridges near Northolt, he volunteered for the Middle East with the 1st Battalion – known as "Maxwell's Circus" because of the 36 moves it made. Arthur also made many moves after "losing" his unit while hospitalised in Tripoli. He finished the war with the KOYLI but always wore the cap badge of the London Jocks.

From burning African sands to snowy Austrian Alps, much of the fighting for the 8th Army was against a tough, well-equipped and resourceful enemy.

In Italy the Allies were usually outnumbered because they were periodically depleted to provide manpower for other fronts, par-

ticularly the "main effort" in Normandy. "I never saw more action than in the north of Italy, and though Monte Cassino was reckoned the worst fighting of the war, the Gothic Line was very bad, too," recalls Mr Ellis.

With 23 divisions to the Germans' 27, the final fighting was as bitter as ever at the heavily fortified Argenta gap in early April, 1945.

Pte Ellis took part in the last push across the Po. Many took the chance of celebrating the crossing by "peeing in the Po".

A few days before Montgomery took the surrender of all German forces in north-west Europe, the campaign in Italy reached its climax with a million Germans surrendering to the 8th Army and American 5th Army.

By pram to freedom



TOWARDS the end of the war in Europe, most of my compatriots who earlier, like me, had had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by the Germans were, sensibly, prepared to stick things out and await liberation. But me . . . impatient as always . . . I just couldn't wait.

During my period of captivity I had succeeded in escaping twice – with very different results.

The first was in 1944 from Poland. The spur was the devilish conditions in a Silesian coalmine, my transport – other than my two feet – was a goods train (which changed direction soon after the feat of boarding it, taking me out of Poland back into the Reich proper) and a first-class coach of a passenger train in the company of a couple of unsuspecting Luftwaffe officers (who took me for a Hungarian).

My objective was the advancing Red Army which – perhaps fortunately – I failed to reach, and my fate was to fall into the hands of the Gestapo who gave me the full treatment before transferring me to the transit cage of Auschwitz.

The second escape took place in Czechoslovakia following the worst excesses of the terrible "death march" and migration of millions fleeing or being forced to flee ahead of the aforesaid Red Army.

Unable to contact the partisan movement as hoped, I found succour – and a wife – from a brave Czech family.

Long after the cessation of hostilities and the regaining of contact with the lady in question who daily had brought me fodder, the only method I could envisage to be with her was by cutting my way through the Iron Curtain via three electrified and mined fences.



Christopher Portway pictured soon after the war

Christopher Portway's war ended when he was shot at by the advancing American Army. What happened before that is the stuff of books. He enlisted in The Essex Regiment in 1942, transferred to The Dorset Regiment in 1943 and was captured at Caen in Normandy on July 10, 1944. He is now a travel writer and lives in West Sussex

In this endeavour I was caught and sentenced to 104 years in jail for "spying". Eventually released, I wooed and won the girl – but that's another story.

So, after a further bout of slavery, this time for German Railways in Bavaria, I suppose I was pushing my luck by doing a bunk yet again. Not that it was all that difficult in that late stage of the war, and with the Americans as my intended liberators.

While leaning on my shovel in the railway yards a force of 400 United States bombers "took out", as they say, both the target and town to which it belonged.

Being in the middle of the former I was lucky to survive. A Red Cross parcel train had been hit so when I took off on my own I departed in style, taking a wheelbarrow



Anne

front line. He even suggested I take to the fields since about 10,000 of his colleagues would soon be retreating down those

● Turn to next page

By pram to freedom

From Page 25

roads. So I took his advice and was negotiating a fence when a Thunderbolt fighter-bomber of the USAF made a sneaky low-level attack on my pride and joy. Spreadeagled on the ground I watched the pram collapse under a swatch of half-inch cannon shells.

There and then I decided to go to ground and allow the war to pass me by. Gluttony it was that pinpointed the wood in which to do so since it was the nearest to which to carry my hoard. But I craved understanding; a couple of months before I'd been trying to stay alive by sharing muddy swedes with pigs.

For several days I lay up in that copse watching the German army fall back all around me as I stuffed myself with spam and candy. A would-be suicide squad set up a spandau at the further end of my copse but a salvo of shells, their bursts chasing one another across the open meadowland towards the do-or-die trio – persuaded them that life was sweet and they left in some disorder.

More shells and mortar bombs fell around me and things got distinctly uncomfortable. Then all went quiet.

Next morning I joined a cowherd milking his charges as if a small matter like a world war was not going to interfere with his routine, and from him I learnt that "Amerikano panzers" were just over the brow of the hill.

Incredulous, I dashed off, my heart pumping with the effort, to gain the crest, there to behold the beautiful sight of six Shermans laagered below.

But my beholding was short-lived as a burst of machine-gun fire again had me grovelling in the dirt. During the pause that followed I shouted my credentials but it seemed that GIs had heard similar stories before to their cost.

There followed a ludicrous exchange on the subject of baseball and football teams then in vogue. But it was my very lack of knowledge on these subjects that decided things in my favour, the Americans concluding that, so ignorant was I that I just had to be a limey.

My hands high in the air, I was allowed to walk slowly forward into a multitude of levelled hardware. I was a prisoner no more.

Christopher Portway finished the war in the company of the American Third Army advancing steadily towards the Czech border.

One for sorrow

From Page 25

THE DRINKING fountain on the left as one passes through the huge double gates of Bergen-Belsen camp is a provision for basic human comfort that none of the original occupants of this desolate place could have hoped for, writes **Phil Wilcox**

But on April 15, 1945, relief of a kind did arrive for the 60,000 prisoners – albeit too late for the vast numbers who were dying or dead from disease and starvation.

At 15.30 hours, Brig Glyn Hughes, Deputy Director of Medical Services, 2nd Army, and an anti-tank battery of 63 Anti-Tank Regiment, RA, entered the camp.

They immediately set about organising the decent rehabilitation of men, women and children incarcerated there, and the unpleasant duty of burying the thousands of corpses which lay alongside their living counterparts in huts or strewn across pathways.

On a chilly spring afternoon in 1995, the paths between the 12 ominous mounds echoed eerily to the footfalls of modern-day pilgrims to the camp.

Muted, reverent exchanges were the only sound one could hear, except for the distant drone of the traffic on the road to Hanover.

Row upon row of virtually leafless trees lined the horizon and, in the distance, an obelisk speared the skyline like a space rocket.

But it was the mounds which immediately caught the eye.

Covered in sparse, brown gorse which does not change, year in, year out, each

bears a simple, stark plaque to signify the vast numbers of corpses buried underneath.

"Hier ruhen 800 (or 1,000 or, astonishingly, 5,000) tote. April 1945", they read.

On top of the plaques, over the years, pebbles, pine cones and flowers have been placed as a simple gesture of remembrance.

Another pathway is punctuated by symbolic gravestones, and a more recent commemorative stone from former Israeli president Chaim Herzog.

Near the vast memorial wall, with its inscriptions in Hebrew, Latin, English, Russian, Polish and several other languages, a woman openly wept.

A single sprig of roses and a tribute from a young Europeans' group were propped against the memorial.

In the hollow centre of each figure nine at the base of the nearby obelisk, where 1943/1944/1945 had been meticulously carved, a single red nightlight had been placed.

Three generations of one family approached from the direction of the camp entrance. The little girl held the mother's hand, her elder brother his grandmother's.

When they had paid their tribute to a relative, they might write something in the adjacent Belsen museum's current visitors' book – already bulging, though the first entry had only been written in January.

In the coach park, a boy among a laughing party of German schoolchildren who had visited the camp was wearing an American-style jacket which, whether by conscious irony or not, bore the slogan on the

Picture: Mike Weston



Above – Bleak, but not soul-less, and a permanent reminder for generations to come: one of the mounds at Bergen-Belsen

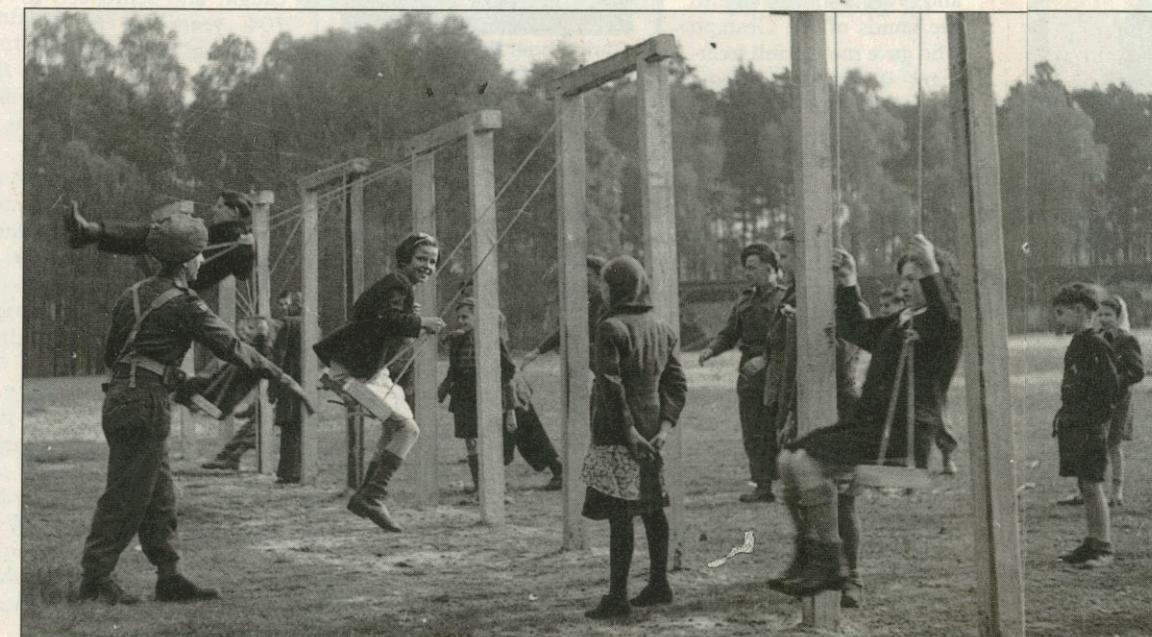
Right – End of a cruel era: Belsen burns, May 1945

back in English: "To live and die in the ghetto."

Today, not a great distance from Belsen-Bergen, members of the RAMC form part of the units based at Höhne, and a barracks in the sprawling Army camp has been named in honour of Brig Glyn Hughes.

He would surely have appreciated a note of symbolism which occurred as the *Soldier* team was being driven back to Höhne from Belsen, along the road where, in the other direction, and more than half a lifetime ago, thousands of unsuspecting prisoners had walked from the railway station to the camp.

A single magpie flew out of the forest and settled on a nearby roadside...



End of the nightmare. Children enjoy swings put up by a REME detachment at Belsen

Richard Elley recalls that his chief memory of the few hours he spent at Belsen 50 years ago is of a survivor – a small boy in an oversize cap – standing completely alone. He had "a haunted look about him, not one I would like to see again".

But the day was not without black humour.

"The last hut, complete with a huge flag and picture of Hitler covering it, was due to be 'torched' by two vehicles equipped with flame-throwers.

"While all the spectators were waiting for the ceremony to start, someone accidentally pressed the wrong button and the hut was nearly burned down prematurely."

It was a highly emotional occasion, he says, but, half-a-century on, he has no intention of returning.

They saw the horror

MANY other British Army units and members of voluntary organisations played their part in saving 27,000 lives at Bergen-Belsen.

On April 17, two days after the arrival of Brig Glyn Hughes and 63 Anti-Tank Regt, came 32 CCS, followed the next day by 113 LAA Regt, RA, 224 Military Government Detachment and HQ, 10 Garrison, which was in control of the camp

until April 30, when 102 Control Section took over.

Other Army units which worked at the camp were: 35 CCS; 11 Lt Field Ambulance; 163 Field Ambulance; 30 and 76 Field Hygiene Sections; 7 Mobile Bacteriological Laboratory; 9 (British) General Hospital; 102 and 104 Mobile Laundry and Bath Units; Mobile Bath sections of 11th Armoured, 15th Scot-

tish and 6th Airborne Divisions; Camp DADOS Dump; Camp Laundry; 1575 (Light) and 1576 (Heavy) Artillery Platoons, RASC; 166 DID; 224, 618 and 904 Military Government Detachments; HQ, Military Government (SMGO); DP Assembly Team; 3 Mil Gov ID; 113 REME Workshops; Fire and Water Gp HQ; 14 Amplifier Unit; and JAG War Crimes Commission.

Moment of freedom

A great moment captured on a forbidden camera. The time was 0930 on April 12, and the first US Army jeep was arriving at the gates of Oflag 79, a PoW camp in Brunswick, Germany. The picture was one of a number taken by British War Office photographer Lt G Vanderson inside German PoW camps and published exclusively in *Soldier*.

Lt Vanderson, captured at Tobruk in June 1942 and taken to Italy, was recaptured after the armistice with Italy and transferred to Germany.

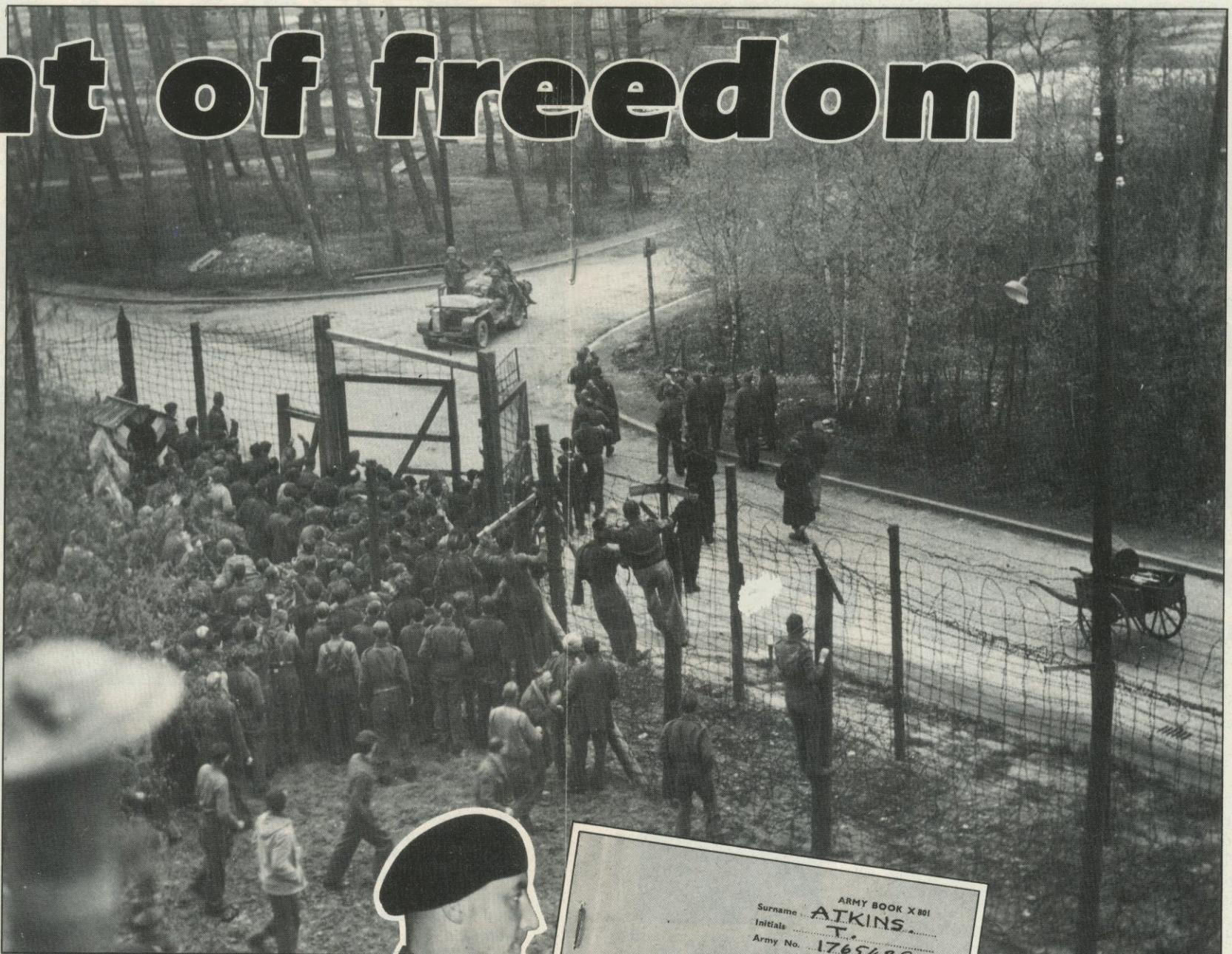
He spent most of the rest of the war in Oflag 79, "acquiring" a number of forbidden cameras and risking

severe punishment by taking pictures – and, incredibly, developing them on home-made equipment – of life in the camp.

When he heard the guns of the approaching liberators he positioned himself in the attic of a building overlooking the camp gates and waited...

His patience was rewarded when the first jeeps of the American 9th Army drove up a track leading to the PoW camp.

Twelve days later he and the other prisoners were returned to England by a fleet of Dakotas which landed on a wrecked Luftwaffe airfield to the north of Oflag 79.



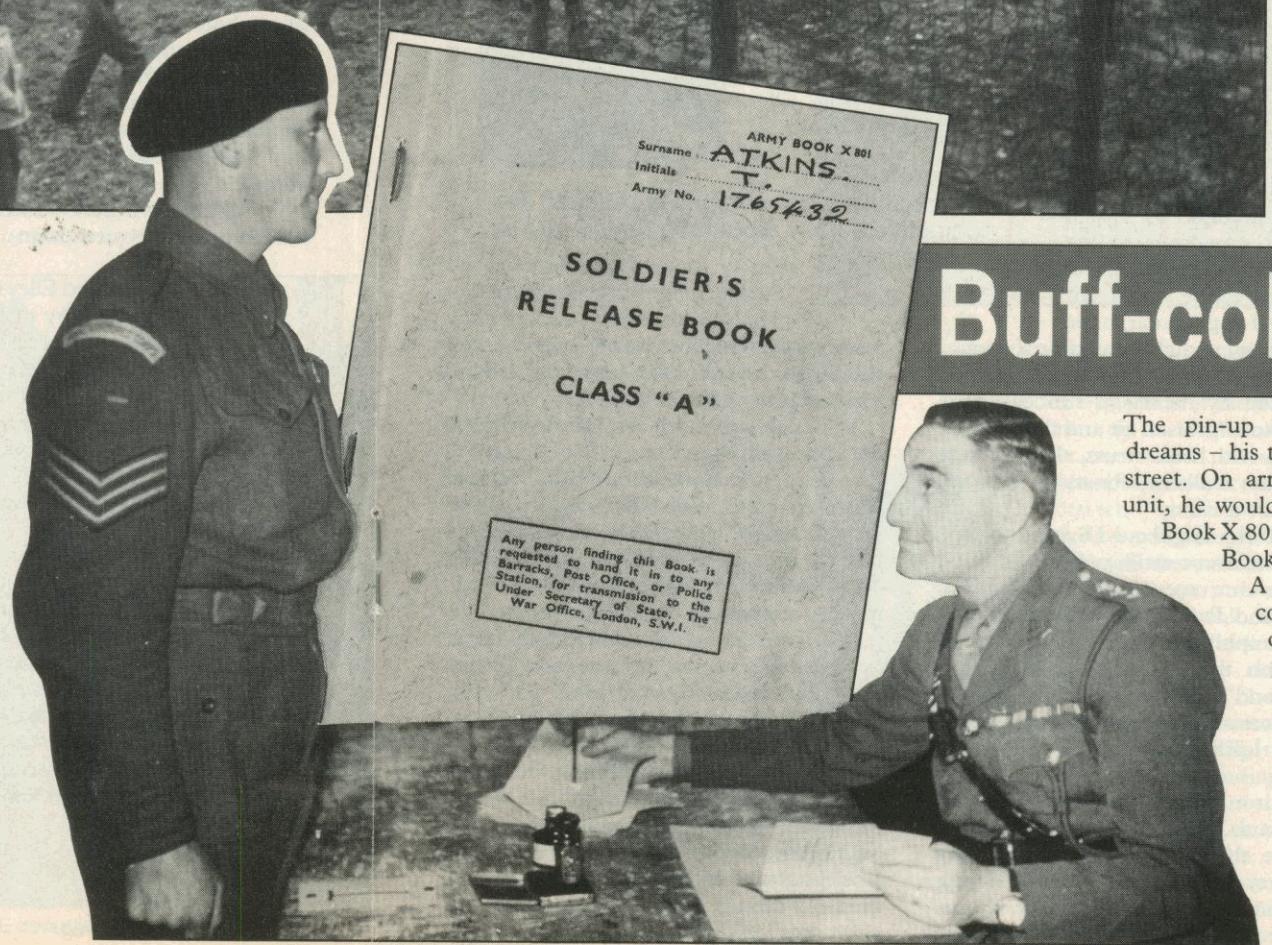
Dozens of Union flags were strung across the road and flags fluttered from every window in Slaidburn Street, Chelsea when Pte Charles Daley, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, returned home. Charles had been a prisoner-of-war in Germany since Dunkirk, where he lost a leg. He arrived home with a wooden leg which he had made himself while in captivity

After the guns...

Please extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to Cfn J Prebble on his article "After the Guns... the Cuckoo" (*Soldier* No 7). As the saying goes, "only Lucifer himself knows hell." So only the man who has fought, starved, sweated and cursed his way through this war can say: "Well it's over," and sit down in his fox-hole and have a good cry. Thanks a lot. – Tpr C Mitchell, A Sqn, 7 RTR.

– Letter to the Editor, *Soldier*, June 1945.

(Footnote: John Prebble went on to win acclaim as a novelist, historian, film writer and author of dramatised documentaries for TV and radio. His trilogy *The Highland Clearances*, *Glencoe* and *Culloden* are classic works of Scottish history.)



Buff-coloured dream

The pin-up in every soldier's dreams – his ticket back to civvy street. On arrival at a dispersal unit, he would be handed Army Book X 801, Soldier's Release Book Class "A".

A small, buff-coloured document of 13 pages, already perforated and ready to be torn out as necessary.

By the time the soldier received Book X 801 two vital pages – 3 and 4 – were already missing, having been removed

at the disembarkation camp. Pages 3 and 4 notified the authorities of impending release and contained particulars filled in by the man's unit overseas.

On a table in the dispersal unit was a pile of money, each man receiving a couple of weeks' allowance to tide him over.

Fixed payments laid down that a warrant officer should be given £10, staff sergeants and sergeants £8, lance sergeants and corporals £7, and lance corporals and privates £6.

The inside of the front cover was covered with circles, ready for the Post Office stamp when the ex-soldier drew his pay and allowances.



First out

One of the first men out of the British Army at the end of the Second World War was, according to *Soldier*, RSM Charlie Stilwell. And the magazine's cameras were at his home in Farnham, Surrey to record his return to civvy street. The picture shows Mrs Stilwell waiting at the front door. For RSM Stilwell it was a journey that had started when he joined the Hampshire as a lad of 17. In 1914 he had gone to India to serve for two years.

WHILE MONTY was receiving the surrender of the Germans at Lüneburg Heath on May 4, 1945, *Soldier's* Ken Pemberton-Wood was in the tent next door, helping to send the story to a news-hungry world.

He remembers it as a very busy time, assisting press photographers and writers. Lüneburg was, after all, the Aldershot of the German

Army and the surrender was arguably the biggest PR job of the war.

"The roads were absolutely filled with thousands of German prisoners, all very depressed and flinging their rifles onto dumps," said Ken.

The officers who arrived for the surrender ceremony were straight-backed and arrogant, while Montgomery was quite relaxed, recalls Ken.

A newsman at the surrender

"Excitement was bread and butter to us because we were in the news business and weren't surprised at anything that came our way," said Ken.

"We tagged along behind the infantry and forward

troops with tanks and any one else going up the line."

Ken enlisted in the Royal Artillery and was commissioned in the field from staff sergeant to captain. He later commanded No 1 British

Army News Unit, of which *Soldier* was part.

British Army News Units collected news and arranged facilities for photographers and writers, passing on anything of interest.

"Everybody in the information business was concentrated into the Forward Press Camp. We fed and slept them, provided transport and were their intelligence. We got all the information that was going

on at the front and the reporters went with us to where the action was."

He joined Number 2 Press Relations Section at Eindhoven in 1944 just after the Arnhem disaster, and followed the front edge of battles such as the Ardennes offensive, the bloody Reichswald campaign, and the crossing of the Rhine.

One of his saddest memories is of seeing the V2s taking

off, knowing they were targeting London. Nobody realised the horror of what they would see at Belsen.

"We didn't bother with the German troops much," he remembers. "They were no longer marching – they were walking along like Belsen prisoners and were very depressed, though the officers tried not to show it."



"Here's old Foster – back from a fog-dispersal unit"

Where's the beer?

WHAT is the present position with regard to Good English Beer for issue to the troops? We in this unit have not seen one little drop since mid-December 1944, and I think that something should be done about it.

As far as I can ascertain, there seems to be no general shortage in "back areas".

Why cannot the back areas be transferred forward so that we may all have "a go".

Surely we have earned it? – Maj J C Stormonth Darling, 52 (L) Div Recce Regt RAC.

Naafi's answer is: Where we are able to brew beer locally – and we are in most parts of North-West Europe – we make sure that the beer is of the same gravity and quality as English. It saves labour and shipping space. We provide malt and other ingredients, but at the moment we are held up by the general coal shortage.

What clothes?

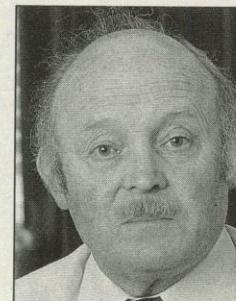
WITHOUT intending to deride the Service issue of civilian clothing, I must point out that it is not everyone's idea of what should be worn, and after six years of regimentation we deserve a break. – Cpl D Adams, 105 SP, RAF.

– Plaintive letters to *Soldier*, June 1945

Soldier turned sailor for the Rhine crossing

Bernard Cuttiford, a trooper serving with 2 Troop, C Squadron, Staffordshire Yeomanry QORR, recalls vividly the day he turned into a soldier-sailor for the Rhine crossing.

His tank foundered on a sandbank and he eventually reached his objective across a pontoon bridge and in a new tank.



made of canvas, were holed several times. Unable to use lights, we had to feel around and patch any holes we found.

Then came the order to move. I started up and waited my turn, 1st Troop, C Squadron, then mine – 2nd Troop. "Driver advance" came the order over the intercom, I engaged emergency low and let out the clutch, relying on the commander (Capt Dennis Underhill) to give me steering instructions as, when the screen was raised, the driver was blind without an extended periscope. After a short time, came the order "Driver halt" and then "Driver prepare to launch", "Driver advance".

I moved off and felt the tank start to dip down the river bank. I eased her down, using the steering tillers which were also brakes. She levelled up and we were afloat. I released the propeller catches, allowing them to drop down and engage in bevel gears running off the tracks' idler wheel.

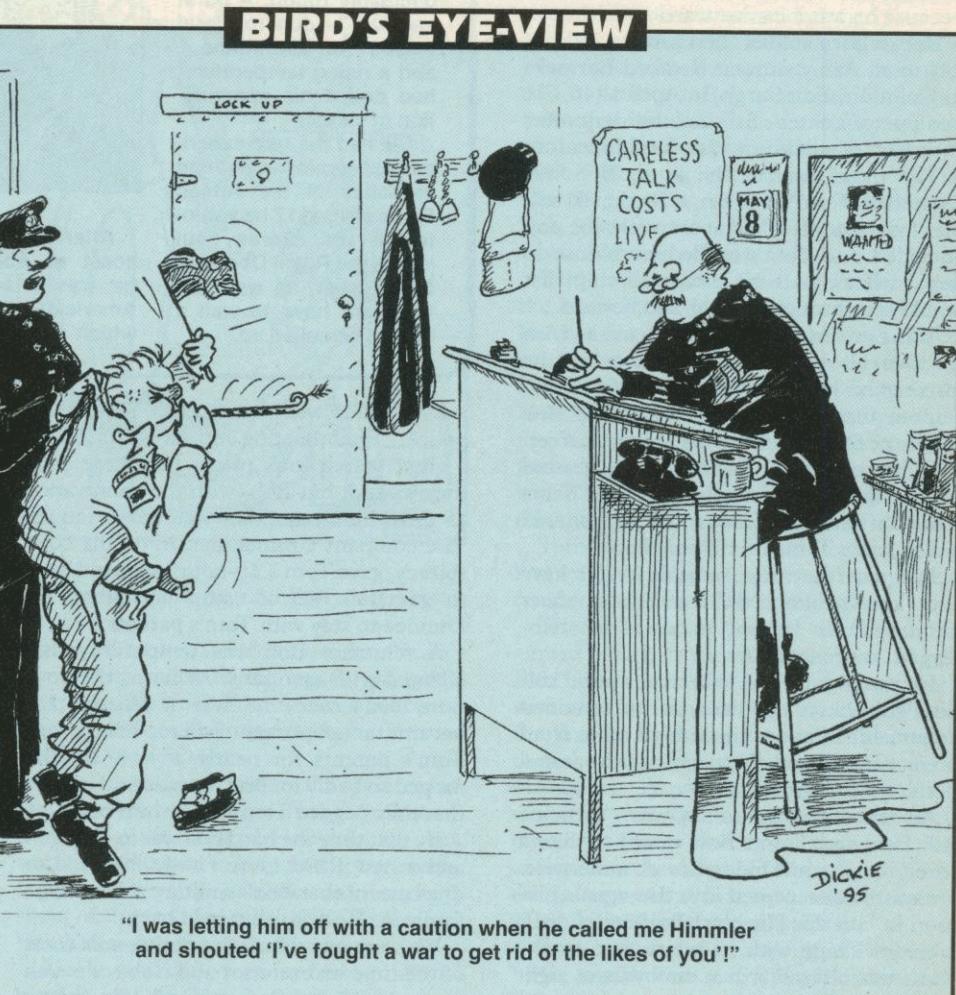
I gave it full throttle and put on the lock. The steering at this time was done by the commander, standing on a metal platform, using a large tiller bar – like a barge – welded to the back of the turret. The tiller was connected via linkage to the propellers, which turned them to give steerage.

As the action hotted up the commander fitted his extended periscope and climbed down into the turret, telling me to take over steering on his instructions, by means of a hydraulic tiller in the driving compartment. We made slow progress diagonally into the strong current.

The river was about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile wide at the point we crossed. Suddenly a yell from the co-driver told us water was pouring into his lap through the ball mounting which usually housed a .300 Browning machine-gun.

We had either been holed in the inflation area or by shelling or small arms fire on the way over. The commander shouted on the intercom: "For God's sake, keep going... we are only half-way over."

The co-driver and I checked our escape equipment, a miniaturised version of the Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus. The outfit fitted on the chest like a gas mask with a flexible tube with an on/off valve to the mouthpiece, pulled in place with an elastic strap. A spring clip was fitted to the nose, the valve



"I was letting him off with a caution when he called me Himmler and shouted 'I've fought a war to get rid of the likes of you'!"

turned on and breathing was then done through the mouth.

About three-quarters of the way over we ran up a sandbank and the engine stalled. Despite being waterproofed, it would not restart.

The co-driver and I stuck it out until the water was over our waists, the tank slowly sinking into the sandbank. We climbed out on to the hull, where we were stuck like ducks in a shooting gallery. The tank sank lower and lower into the sandbank, until finally there were five of us standing on the turret, treading water.

We had started crossing at about 2am and it was now getting light. Buffaloes were scurrying to and fro carrying infantry, ammunition and stores, and taking back casualties and prisoners, but it was some

time before we could persuade one to take us off as the shelling was so heavy.

We must have had charmed lives, as despite near misses, no one was hit. Finally we jumped on to a Buffalo drifting past and so got back to the friendly shore where we were immediately loaded into a three-tonner and driven to an ordnance park to collect a meal and a new tank.

Mine turned out to be a Sherman Firefly with the British 17-pounder, and a Curtis Wright Radial engine as used in aircraft, so I had to get the tank park corporal to show me how to start it. I had only been on Chrysler-engined Shermans, and the Radials had different instructions.

"Thought you were supposed to be ay driver," snapped the corporal, as he went through the starting procedure. I pondered his parentage but said nothing. I eventually crossed the Rhine over a pontoon bridge because the Firefly was a land tank and could not be used in the DD role.



Bernard Cuttiford – 1945 style

The story of soldier Bob

by Bill Aitkenhead

THE TRUE story of Soldier Bob has, to my knowledge, never been told. Like many anonymous soldiers, Bob's name has never appeared in a unit history of the 1939-45 conflict, but he deserves a mention, if only because he was a canine warrior – a dog.

Bob, a born soldier, first saw the light of day in an Army store at Redford Barracks in Colinton, Edinburgh, in April 1940. He was one of a litter of six to a border collie, the result of a liaison with a local labrador.

The most alert of the litter, Bob was spotted by Tom McLaren, a Territorial soldier from Dundee, and at six weeks the pup snuggled into Tom's battledress blouse to begin what was to be a comradeship that would last through the war and beyond.

Tom, an infantry signaller, worked on the switchboard in the barracks where he also had his bunk. It was in this little haven, seldom inspected by authority, that Bob spent the first months of his military career.

In late summer, 1940, Tom was posted to the signals platoon of a Lowland Scots battalion near Stranraer, which was where I got to know Tom and his pal, Bob.

Bob was the most sensible dog I have ever known. For intelligence and sheer commonsense he put many of his two-legged comrades to shame.

He never got in the way, like a good soldier was always obedient, and maintained an amiable relationship with all ranks from private to colonel. In every way he was a perfect comrade.

All that Tom had to say was: "Now lie still Bob, man" and Bob would lie like a stone image until bidden to do otherwise. He was soon accepted into the signals platoon in Hut 25. His black half-collie, half-labrador shape with its white star on the chest was a familiar but unobtrusive sight around the camp in the winter of 1940-41.

If I said that Bob got on well with all ranks there were one or two exceptions; he could not stand regimental sergeant majors or regimental police sergeants. Like the sensible dog he was, he generally kept out of their way, but then came the time when Bob really blotted his military copybook.

One spring morning in 1941 the RSM was holding a battalion drill parade on the square. His stentorian voice lashed around the huts as Bob lay at a discreet distance and observed with ears pricked high.

Suddenly he got up and trotted over to the RSM, growled and proceeded to tug at the gaitered leg. A ripping noise of torn cloth signalled the lower part of the RSM's trouser leg parting from the top. There was a stunned silence, and then came the explosion, with Bob running for dear life, a torn piece of khaki cloth still in his mouth.

It was so untypical of Bob that I will never understand what devil got into him although I suspect that Bob had been the target of the RSM's highly-polished boot.

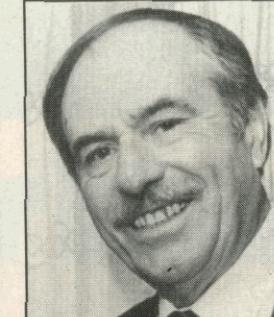
Bill Aitkenhead, now a SSAFA caseworker in south-east London, spent VE Day in Maidstone Hospital, feeling decidedly rough. A burst eardrum – due to "loud noises" on the Rhine – and a rising temperature, had dulled his appreciation of victory.

Bill had the rare experience of serving in all three branches of the Armed Forces. Aged 17 he volunteered for aircrew, but joined the Royal Observer Corps when he was told he might have to wait a year to be called up.



Bill, then and now

After service on the coast of Aberdeenshire, he was attached to an American Liberty ship which arrived off Omaha



Beach on the eve of the D-Day landings and eventually converted to the Glider Pilot Regiment in time for the Rhine crossing.

The order went out to the regimental police: "Find that dog and shoot him," and a great search took place. For three days they looked, but Bob, with the connivance of the whole battalion, was never found.

The company commander, in on the conspiracy, gave Tom a 36-hour, weekend pass to get Bob out of camp and home to Dundee to stay with Tom's parents.

On a road in Belgium he was even honoured by a pat from the great Monty. We had halted for a roadside "brew-up" when that exalted person stopped his staff car and offered us tins of cigarettes.

He saw Bob sitting on the lowered tailgate of the truck, asked his name and said: "Well old man, I can't offer you cigarettes, do you take ration chocolate?" Bob gazed into the face of the field marshal and spread his mouth in an enormous yawn. Not quite the way to treat the Army Group Commander, but he got his chocolate all the same.

As infantry signallers we spent most of our time at battalion HQ. Although just behind the forward positions, HQ was near enough to be shelled, or "stonked", regularly. Even in the heaviest bombardment I never saw Bob flinch. If it got really bad he would lie with his eyes closed, ears flat, but he took it like the soldier he was.

By that time the battalion was in England and a new RSM more kindly disposed to dogs meant that Bob's military sin could be forgiven. He was welcomed back.

We were on a Norfolk training area most of the time on exercises and Bob rode with us in the 15cwt platoon truck. He shared our life and rations and was regarded as a member of the unit, proudly carrying on his collar the cap badge of the regiment.

One of the most amusing sights of the war to me was seeing Tom on guard duty at the main gate with Bob at a discreet distance standing guard with him. When Tom marched up and down on his beat so did Bob, always at a decent three paces behind.

Until recently I had a yellowing, disintegrating "snap" taken by a member of the platoon showing us on parade with Bob in his place in the front rank, sitting rigidly to attention. The broad grins on the tam-o'-shanter-topped faces show it was all in fun.

D Day came and we went off to the concentration area for embarkation to France. It was a unanimous decision that Bob was to accompany us. Without going into too many details, it was on D+15 that Bob went ashore at Normandy. I will never forget the look of astonishment on a Royal Navy beachmaster's face as the flap of the canvas top of the signals truck was pushed

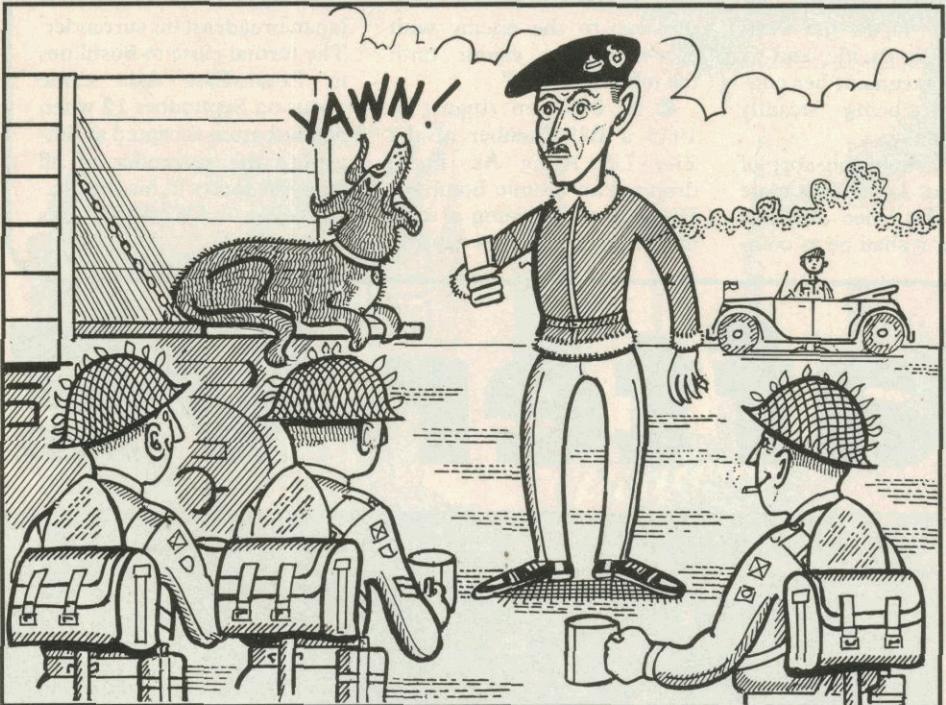
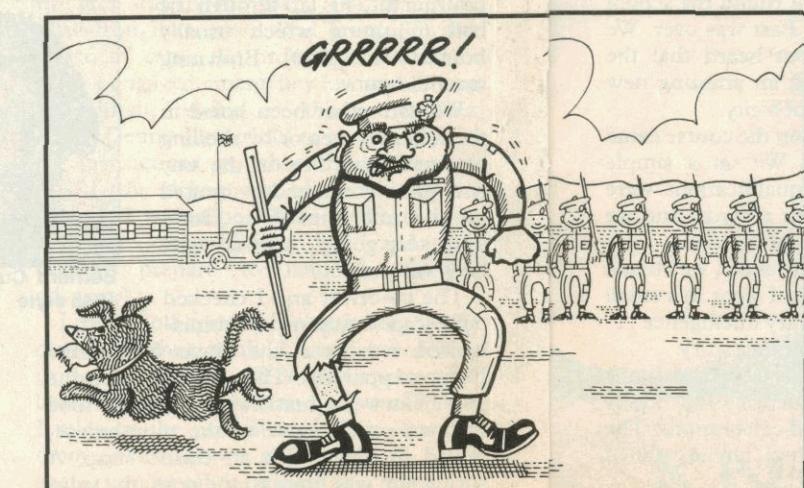
aside by an inquisitive snout. There followed four dusty months of campaigning through France and Belgium in which Bob was our constant companion.

On a road in Belgium he was even honoured by a pat from the great Monty. We had halted for a roadside "brew-up" when that exalted person stopped his staff car and offered us tins of cigarettes.

He saw Bob sitting on the lowered tailgate of the truck, asked his name and said: "Well old man, I can't offer you cigarettes, do you take ration chocolate?" Bob gazed into the face of the field marshal and spread his mouth in an enormous yawn. Not quite the way to treat the Army Group Commander, but he got his chocolate all the same.

As infantry signallers we spent most of our time at battalion HQ. Although just behind the forward positions, HQ was near enough to be shelled, or "stonked", regularly. Even in the heaviest bombardment I never saw Bob flinch. If it got really bad he would lie with his eyes closed, ears flat, but he took it like the soldier he was.

When we dug-in Tom would make a pit large enough for Bob to sit in. Often, in the



Cartoons by George Robinson

full of a "stonk", I looked across to see Bob's black muzzle sticking above the ground, sniffing the air expectantly.

In November 1944 on the wet and flat Dutch landscape near the Lower Rhine we took over positions from an American airborne division. During this time our battalion shared the same group of farmhouses with the outgoing US paratroop unit.

A tough, cigar-chewing Yank cook sergeant took a fancy to Bob and offered Tom \$100 (then about £25) for him. Tom refused but two hours after the Americans had left it was clear that Bob had disappeared. The American cook had kidnapped him, for we knew Bob would not be enticed away from Tom, or from us. It had been tried before.

Tom was inconsolable and there was little we could do to cheer him up. The next morning the quartermaster, grinning all over his face, drew up in his jeep. Sitting on the back seat was Bob.

A big cheer went up from the platoon and Bob responded by barking his head off, one of the few times I saw him get excited. The QM explained that he had overtaken Bob trotting back up the line and had

offered him a lift. Around Bob's neck was a frayed rope.

He had broken free from the Americans, now many miles to the south, probably jumping off a truck. It took him a couple of days to get over his long march, but he was soon his old self again.

In December 1944 the Germans launched their offensive in the Ardennes. We were pulled out of Holland and sent south in a blizzard to help to halt the seemingly unstoppable panzers. In the deep snow of the wooded hills of the Ardennes, Bob had to struggle to move around.

A coat was made for him from an Army blanket and, as Tom had been promoted lance corporal, we felt it was only right that the single chevron be sewn to Bob's coat.

It was in the heavy fighting of the Reichswald Forest on the border of Germany in February 1945 that LCpls Tom and Bob were wounded. An air-burst from a German 88mm cracked above our heads. Tom had a lucky escape when shrapnel ripped his steel helmet and in all probability the same piece glanced off Bob's back.

Our medical officer found that Tom had been concussed and Bob required stitches to the wound, but after two days in the casualty clearing station they were returned to duty. Tom said Bob never uttered a whimper and soon recovered.

After that it was the crossing of the Rhine and the drive into Germany where we ended the war in May 1945. The only separation Tom and his dog had was when Tom went home on leave.

We knew Tom must be returning when Bob started to get restive one day. Sure enough, that evening Tom came back to a

rapturous welcome from Bob.

Just before the winter of 1945 set in we moved out of requisitioned, German civilian houses into a large barracks. Post-war changes were taking place, including a new CO and RSM who were determined to reintroduce peacetime soldiering.

Dogs, apparently, did not figure in a peacetime barracks setting and Tom was told to get rid of Bob – or else! The argument that Bob had been an active member of the unit for four years did not cut any ice.

The Werners, a German family living near the barracks, were willing to look after Bob. The two comrades then only met when Tom was off-duty.

Time was coming for demob. Tom and the majority of the signal platoon were in Release Group 26, which consisted of the younger men called up at the very beginning of the war. What was to happen to Bob? Tom was tempted to leave Bob with the Werners. The family, especially nine-year-old Ilse, loved the dog dearly and Bob would be assured of a good home, but Tom could not bring himself to part with him.

Tom felt that anyone, man or dog, who had fought through north-west Europe was entitled to return to his homeland.

The boys due for release in Group 26 agreed that between them they could get Bob home. A special kitbag was prepared with ventilation holes. The tricky part was the journey by military train to Calais and then the troop ship to Dover. Once we were through the Army and customs control all would be well. Of course, there were strict regulations even then about the import of animals but the danger of rabies from Western Europe was at that time more theoretical and practically non-existent.

On a bitterly cold morning in February 1946, the Werners paid a tearful farewell to Bob, who spent most of the next 24 hours in his hiding place, surrounded by his old comrades of the signals platoon.

Everything went well and fittingly Bob's military career ended where it had started, at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, by now a release centre for demobbed Scottish soldiers.

Tom and Bob returned to Dundee to live with Tom's parents. They remained inseparable and I saw them from time to time. At 15 years the old soldier was fading, his daily walk slower because of his rheumatism, his eyes clouding over.

One day during their walk to the park it happened suddenly and painlessly.

Bob gave a sigh and collapsed on the pavement; a last look at his master full of trust and loyalty and he was gone.

Although he, too, is no longer with us, Tom could never bring himself to replace Bob. "There will never be another like him," he said on the last occasion we met, and to me this is the most fitting epitaph that could be paid to Soldier Bob.

Now our eyes turn to the East

THE other half of the war has still to be won, *Soldier* reminded its readers in a special VE Day souvenir issue.

"There are two main campaigns to consider – the battle of the Pacific Islands and the battle of the mainland of South-East Asia, embracing operations in Burma and China.

"It is more than possible that the two campaigns may be made one by the Ameri-

cans striking out from the Philippines to the China coast, making China the base for the final assault on Japan.

"Combined sea and air power gave Japan her swift success in the Pacific, and by the same instrument her conquests are being steadily wrested from her.

"There can be no sort of doubt about Japan's ultimate defeat, or the Allies' determination that it shall be as com-

plete and final as that inflicted on Germany.

"The question now is – when, and how?

"The answer will be to carry the war to the enemy with ever-increasing vigour until the job is finished."

● At 0815 on August 6, 1945 a B29 bomber of the 21st US Army Air Force dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, flattening a wide area of the major port city and

killing 70,000 people. Three days later, at 0915 on August 9, a B29 dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. On August 14 the Emperor of Japan broadcast his surrender. The formal close to hostilities in South-East Asia came about on September 12 when Mountbatten accepted at Singapore the surrender of all Japanese forces in his theatre.

The Second World War was over.

Life after VE

by Ex-Gunner Wallace Brereton

THE "DURATION" has a convenient vagueness about it that enabled the Army to hold on to those fit young men a little longer. True, they had worked out a formula to demobilise them based on age and service.

However, my group, who had been in khaki since September 1939, still had a year added to our sentence . . . sorry, "duration".

I was a signaller in a field artillery unit, and as my battle-scarred battery rolled into the outskirts of Hamburg towards the end of April 1945 we knew the war was over.

We had established ourselves in a school that was still intact when we were told it was all over. The question now was: what did the future have in store?

None of us believed that we would be going home, and the most enduring rumour was that we would become a kind of police force to control any unruly natives.

The younger ones would obviously be kitted out for the orient.

I did not have long to wait for the answer. I was called into the office and told that I was to be a clerk, and dispatched to Brussels.

The great Belgian capital was a scintillating fairyland after the rubble of Hamburg. My only concern was that its many attractions would seriously erode my accumulated credit balance.

However, a permanent job in Brussels was too good to be true and within days I returned to Germany on a course to obtain qualifications.

I have been on many courses in my time, but nothing was to prepare me for the sheer luxury of the clerks' school in Lippstadt. It was something between a university campus and a holiday camp. After life



Class of 1945 at the School of Army Clerks, Lippstadt. Wallace Brereton is front row, right

in the field, the comfortable living conditions were like a dream.

Everyone was amiable, the work was interesting and all the fatigues were done by civilians who were grateful for the employment. Meals were of the highest standard and served by pretty German girls.

My fellow students had a variety of cap badges and formation signs. All had the

entrance IQ and there were no bullies. Coming from different parts of the front, they all had interesting experiences to relate.

The most memorable day at Lippstadt was when the word went round the school that the war in the Far East was over. We could not believe it, but heard that the Americans had dropped an amazing new bomb that had wiped out a city.

All too soon the course came to an end. We sat a simple exam, the qualifications were added to our records, and we went our separate ways.

Unlike university, we all had jobs to go to. I went to a small unit of military intelligence . . . but that's another story.

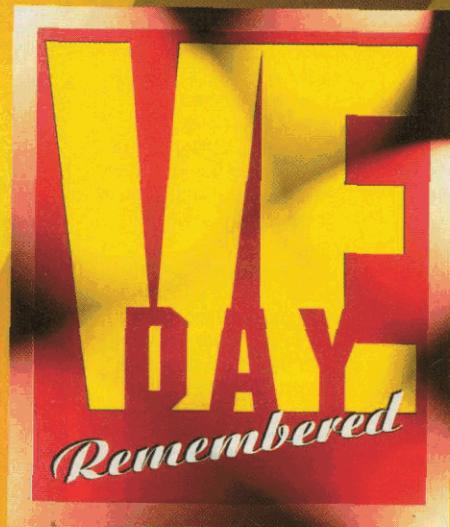
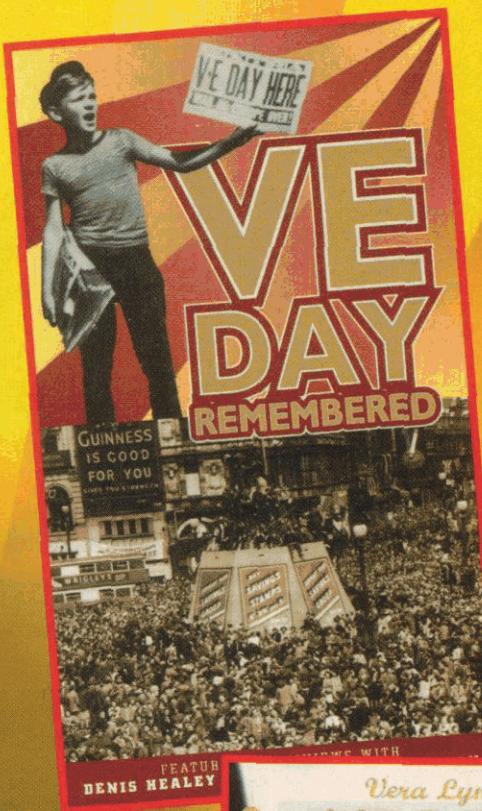
I eventually returned home in the summer of 1946. There were no wild celebrations. The Armistice had already faded into history.

Nine days in May

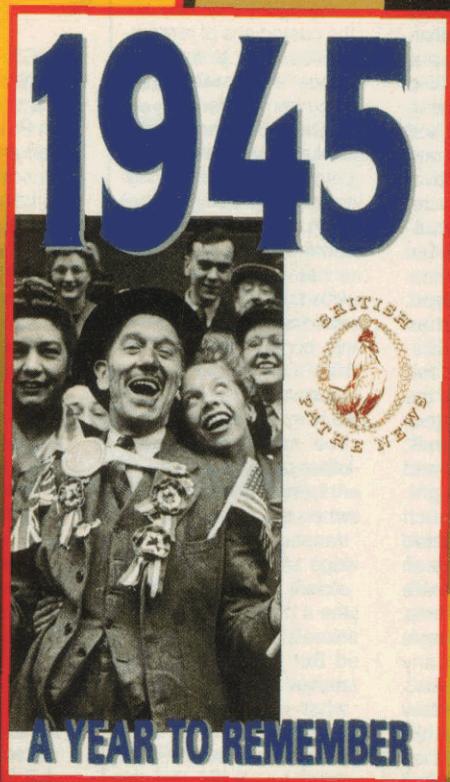
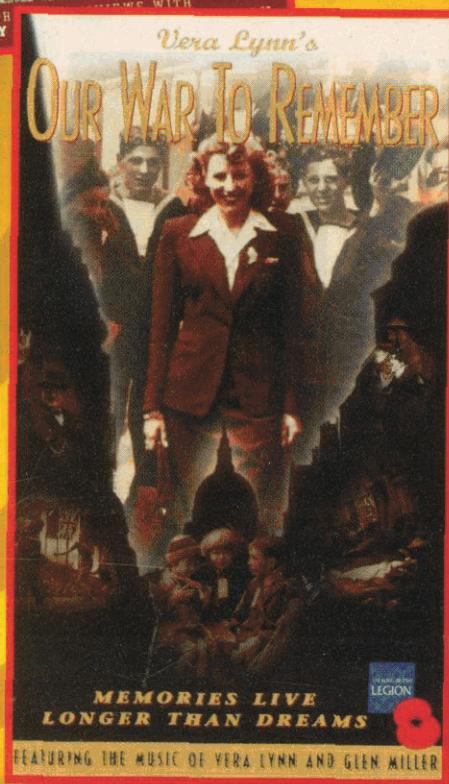
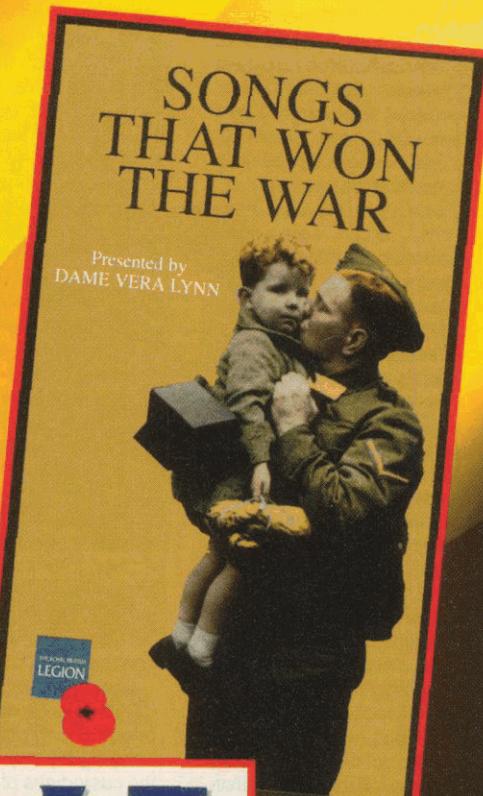
- Hitler commits suicide on April 30, 1945. He leaves orders that his body be burned.
- Churchill announces surrender of German forces in Italy, May 2.
- Surrender of German forces in Holland, North-West Germany, the German islands, Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark accepted by Montgomery at his headquarters near Lüneburg on May 4, 1945.
- Jodl surrenders on behalf of the German Supreme Command at Rheims on May 7.
- General surrender formally ratified in Berlin on May 9.



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Time for silence...

THE Royal British Legion has launched a campaign to restore the two-minute silence on Remembrance Sunday. It deserves to be successful and has been backed by political leaders, but I don't hold much hope that it will be respected by everyone without a change in public perception.

In the silence, the Legion says, people will remember what they want to. It might be the world wars, more recent conflicts, or today's peace-keeping missions. I recall church parades on Remembrance Sundays when the young soldiers would shuffle into the gym, some with their wives and babies, some with their mates. The smell of the curry lunch would waft across the square and they would be impatient to get the event over with.

There would be hymns and a word from the padre. Then the familiar, haunting phrase from the bugle echoing into silence. At first the young men and women looked uncomfortable. As one minute became two, thoughts turned to the seriousness of the occasion. Who knows what they were thinking...

I was always moved. But this took place in an environment where discipline, commitment and tradition were part of the fabric. I would suggest these, for the most part, have been abandoned by Young England.

We've read much about the shell-suited inhabitants of Nelson Mandela House who are too unfit to join the Army. The same youngsters will be oblivious to any sort of commemoration.

The Legion says they might want to give thanks that neither they nor their parents have been called upon to go to war. Is this realistic? Even the Falklands and Gulf conflicts happened far away, a gruesome soap opera into which you could tune

at any hour of day or night. At no stage was the UK itself threatened.

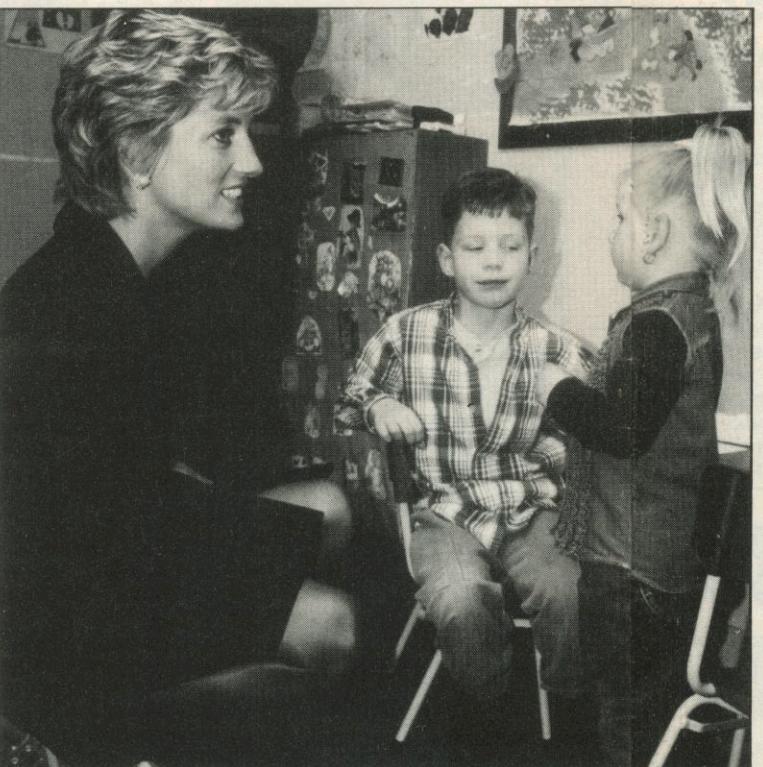
Those old enough to remember a time when it was would probably thank God for that. But the young have no such memory. We need to show the civilian world that Service life is also about day-to-day duty.

The Princess, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, also spoke to children of the battalion at their play school (right). She was met at RAF Aldergrove by the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, and flew in a Queen's Flight Wessex to Omagh where she was welcomed to Lisanelly Barracks by Lt Col John Russell, CO 1 PWRR.

The Princess, on her ninth visit to units in Northern Ireland, spent more than four hours meeting officers, soldiers and their families.



Cari's column



Mrs Denise Chaganis

being market tested continued to be given to suitably qualified wives.

Market testing of health services was a cause of great anxiety, she said. While wives supported the MoD's aim of improving the service and reducing costs, it was essential the health service continued to meet the needs of transient Forces' families in Germany and the UK.

Administrative and personal inconvenience must be kept at a minimum, and in Germany it was important that priority for jobs

made on operations, will they have to pack up their quarter, move home to mum and spend the next five to ten years visiting hubby in Her Majesty's Prison?

Mrs Chaganis told the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, and his audience that wives were relieved that the MoD had begun to fight back against claims by women for unfair dismissal. She said huge payouts for loss of career and potential earnings for getting pregnant and having to leave the Army, or for being a lesbian, when the rules were very much against both, could not easily be reconciled with the loss of a soldier's future after he had lost his legs on exercise or become a "cabbage" as a result of injury on operations.

It was to be hoped payouts would be kept to reasonable levels, she said.

"Understandably, many of them are confused and worried about the prospects for their husbands on security operations or peace-keeping duties.

"...where mistakes are

turned out to be unequal for their husbands.

"For example, when husbands have to do more than their fair share because female soldiers are not physically up to some of the jobs, or where a pregnant soldier stays on the regiment's books but is unfit for duty because of the accepted rules regarding employability of pregnant women."

The allocation of married quarters to pregnant single Servicewomen was another issue causing disquiet among wives, particularly in remote garrisons in Germany.

"Wives should not be expected to rally round giving practical support to these female soldiers who have no husband or family to take care of them, and I doubt that the regimental welfare system will be able to cope."

"You can be assured that any priority given on the quartering list would be deeply resented," said Mrs Chaganis.

On absence, she

said wives were quite happy for their husbands to go away on operational tours, but called for sufficient quality time at home between tours, deployments and exercises.

She said the Federation had no desire to be seen as an anti-establishment organisation "hell bent on lobbying against any unpalatable decisions".

She concluded: "We are prepared to stand up and be counted where the fabric of military society is being threatened as a result of changing attitudes or legislation, or simply a lack of funding."

"There is nothing deliberately militant about this. For the vast majority of wives, the Army is a way of life, and there is much about this way of life that needs to be preserved and protected."

The main speakers at the conference were Maj Gen Tim Granville-Chapman, the Assistant Chief of the General Staff; Maj Gen Mike Regan, Chief of Staff HQ AG and Director Adjutant General's

Corps; Brig David Webb-Carter, Director Personal Services (Army); Maj Gen Jack Deverell, Director General Army Manning and Recruiting; and Brig Gage Williams, Director of Resettlement.

Delegates also heard Anthony Beevor, historian and author of *Inside the British Army*, speak on the Army's standing in the public eye, and Patrick Elias QC on the impact of social legislation on the Armed Forces.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind attended the final session and gave the closing address.

He said the new Defence Housing Executive would provide a real opportunity for all Service married quarters to be brought up to the highest standard.

He emphasised that the Bett Review was a discussion document and that no part of it would be forced on the Army. The period of consultation was designed to give the Service the fullest opportunity to influence its development into the next century.

Princess of Wales drops in on her regiment in County Tyrone



Points from the Adjutant General's Conference

TOUR GAP: The Army is moving towards a three-year cycle of training, commitments and operations that should see a 27-month tour gap in place by 1997.

AGENCIES: Directories of Recruiting and Manning, and of Training will become Defence Agencies and the Services Children's Schools organisation is to become a world-wide agency.

BETT: The Bett Review is not a savings exercise. Its recommendations for the British Army of 2010 will be carefully examined, and wide consultation will take place. Its strategic thrust is sound, but there is a need for caution so that the unique structure of Army life is not unbalanced.

DRUG TESTING: Twenty units and 2,500 individuals have been tested under the Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT) regime. Four hundred tests are outstanding. Fifteen individuals tested positive for use of cannabis, ecstasy or amphetamines. Testing will be expanded to Northern Ireland and Germany, and to troops on exercise.

CDT is already a great success story in the Army and the drug-free society it will help to create will be seen as a huge attraction by many outside the Service.

MEDALS: Papers for 500 Accumulated Service Medals have been processed by the Army Record Office at Hayes so far. Records are proving difficult to verify.

GLASGOW: The Army Personnel Centre is on target to open in Glasgow by April 1997 and will aim for Defence Agency status.

NEW JOBS: The Services Employment Network found jobs for 6,000 leavers during the past year, the Regular Forces Employment Agency placed 4,902 in work, and 83 per cent of redundants who took advantage of the Coutts job search briefing had a job on the day they left the Service.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CONFERENCE 1995

Wives' unease over pregnancy payouts

HUGE payouts for unfair dismissal of pregnant Servicewomen, the conviction of Pte Lee Clegg and market testing of health services for the Armed Forces were issues concerning Army wives, the 1995 Adjutant General's conference heard.

The RBL also invests in the future through its commitment to training. In this it is doing something practical about remembering.

I am one who grew up with the long shadow of war touching the rim of my consciousness. This VE Day, and every Remembrance Day, I am truly grateful that I am free and safe because other people died.

Giving one of the keynote speeches, Mrs Denise Chaganis, chairman of the Federation of Army Wives (Germany), told delegates at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London of FAW's unique relationship with the Army and spoke on issues of concern among wives.

Market testing of health services was a cause of great anxiety, she said.

While wives supported the MoD's aim of improving the service and reducing costs, it was essential the health service continued to meet the needs of transient Forces' families in Germany and the UK.

Administrative and personal inconvenience must be kept at a minimum, and in Germany it was important that priority for jobs

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It was to be hoped payouts would be kept to reasonable levels, she said.

"Understandably, many of them are confused and worried about the prospects for their husbands on security operations or peace-keeping duties.

"...where mistakes are

Denise Chaganis summed up FAW's relationship with the Army by quoting from Cari Roberts's column in *Soldier*: "The Federation of Army Wives is the envy of many an Army officer for the way its representatives are granted access to the people who make the decisions. It is a privilege the Federation takes very seriously."

DEEPCUT TRAINED, AND STILL ONLY 16

AT LAST I have spotted in *Soldier* a reference to the Infantry Leaders Training Battalions (RJ McCormack, April 17). I believe they were formed around 1943 to cater mainly for young volunteers of 17½, most of whom had received pre-Service ACF training.

In 1945 I went to the 29th Battalion at North Frith Barracks, Deepcut, near Aldershot, and I understand other battalions were stationed at Derby (28th), Ayr (30th) and

Belfast (31st). We received six months' intensive training before joining the infantry regiment of our choice. In theory we were then 18 years of age.

Around VJ Day, a group of us wrapped our sergeant in his blankets while he was sleeping and dumped him on the parade ground. We nipped back to our first floor barrack room and watched him come in before diving back into bed "fast asleep".

He got his own back by

ordering the platoon to camouflage with ferns in a nearby wood, then doubled us up and down until the foliage had fallen out of our battle order.

As master of ceremonies at our passing out dance, the same sergeant announced that we were now "trained soldiers" – which greatly pleased me as, having falsified my age to join up, I was still only 16 years old. – **Mal Martin, Beccles and District Branch secretary, Suffolk Regt OCA, Suffolk.**

Stick man correspondent on sticky ground

THE smartest soldier on parade with the guard at the Reconnaissance Corps Training Centre, Catterick, in 1945 was made stick man (Letters, April 17) and did not do the guard duty. I was one of the lucky stick men.

I am also an ex-soldier who

should be entitled to a Suez Canal Zone medal (1951-52).

More power to your efforts in providing such an excellent forum for this injustice.

Finally, although I can't claim to have read every copy of *Soldier*, I took the magazine most of my Service life

(depending where I was stationed) from 1945 to my retirement in 1993. Now I find it even more interesting as a means of keeping up with the modern Army. – **Maj (Retd) Adrian Harding, Plymouth.**

• *Soldier* wishes you a long and happy retirement. – **Editor**

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How can they sue?

I FAIL to understand how Servicemen who have volunteered to serve their country can possibly sue the MoD for supposedly being the victims of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Unlike the conscripts of the Second World War, and National Servicemen who saw action in Malaya, Korea and elsewhere, those who fought in the Falklands did so as paid Regulars who knew that enlistment in one of the three Services entailed the possibility of active service. – **Brig (Retd) E D Smith, Devon.**

Big tank was for trials only

IN RESPONSE to J F Coombes's letter (April 3) and his query about the Caernarvon tank, it was only a trials tank used to test the automotive components of the Conqueror as these were ready before its turret.

There were two types of Caernarvon, one with a conventional Centurion turret, the other with a heavier mock turret simulating the weight of the Conqueror turret.

The mock turrets were cylindrical with extra weights bolted to their tops, giving a

castellated appearance, and nicknamed the "Castle Line" or "Windsor" turrets. Mr Coombes is correct: the 14th/20th King's Hussars did the desert and hot weather trials in Libya, I think in early 1954. In Germany, one Caernarvon of each type was tested by the 8th Royal Tank Regiment. From memory, I think the Windsor arrived in 1953 and the Centurion-turreted one in February 1954.

Initially I was trials officer. My successor, David Hancock, took the two tanks down

to the American Zone to test the US Army's new bridge. This was necessary because the British Army had exceeded all previously agreed bridge sizes and classifications by producing this 13ft wide, 65-ton tank.

The tanks' drivers, Cpl Parker and Mortimer, greatly impressed Gen Hodges, the US Army Commander, with their skill in taking the new tanks across the bridge at speed (20 mph) with only two inches of deck width to spare.

The other thing which

impressed the Americans was the ability to change straight from first to top gear while going down forward slopes.

The Caernarvon was never meant as a battle tank and one of the BAOR pair was made of ordinary steel. It had a red and white triangle on the glacis plate stating "Caution Unarmoured". Both were scrapped at the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (now RARDE, Chertsey), between 1955-57.

– **Maj (Retd) D D A Linaker, Dunbartonshire.**

Thank you, comic Jim

YOU noted (March 20) that comedian Jim Davidson had helped the family of Wayne Edwards to visit Bosnia after the Royal Welch Fusilier was killed by a sniper on active service. He also took the trouble to visit The Royal Welch Fusiliers in theatre.

An excellent show was put on at Kiseljak and by all accounts those who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately, because Mr Davidson was not permitted to come to Gorazde may more of us missed out on the opportunity.

However, I would like to thank Mr Davidson here in writing for his kindness. I shall also be writing to him personally to invite him to attend a party as a guest when we return to England.

May I congratulate *Soldier* on continually producing such an excellent publication. It helps to promote a "feeling of belonging" and for troops in Gorazde it reminds us that home is not that far away. – **Capt Ian Lawrence, B Coy, 1 RWF, Gorazde, Bosnia, BFPO 547.**

Do you recall Hong Kong's deliverance?

Only an official medal will do

REFERENCE the advertisement in *Soldier* (April 17) for a commemorative medal for service in the Suez Canal Zone, 1951-54, the company is cashing in on the interest, and annoyance, felt by veterans that their anti-terrorist operations did not attract the General Service Medal.

The firm has misjudged the situation. What is wanted is for the public at large and the MoD in particular to acknowledge that we did a good job, and for the disrespect to our general to be rectified.

This can only be achieved through an official medal. The commemorative meets neither requirement. – **W H D Podd, Suffolk.**

WHAT is wanted is public acknowledgement for service. This mass produced bauble now on sale to any old Tom, Dick or Harry will not meet this purpose. – **Suezvet (name, address supplied).**

and military historian, is seeking to publish, at short notice, a collection of memoirs and anecdotes covering the events of 1945, before, during and after the Liberation itself, and of the years up to 1950.

Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong is assisting him with this project and if any readers have personal memoirs, articles, pictures, extracts from publications, tips, guidance, views or opinions we would be delighted to pass on their material to Phillip Bruce.

It was a strong force which sailed from Australia, including at least three aircraft carriers, a battleship, cruisers, destroyers and minesweepers. The task force and the Service personnel who followed in the immediate post-war years re-established British authority and laid the foundations for the economic phenomenon that Hong Kong is today.

Much has been written about the 1941 battle for Hong Kong and the years of Japanese occupation, but the events at the end of the war, and the years that followed, have not been so well covered, perhaps because they are seen as the final chapter of a military story.

Now, however, they are increasingly being recognised as the opening chapter of Hong Kong's post-war miracle.

Satisfying the customer is the top priority, and it is taken as read that, having completed the courses at the Army School

I WOULD like to take to heart all that has been said about chefs' catering capabilities (Letters, April 17) while serving on Operation Grapple 5.

Catering for foreign armed forces on operations overseas requires a daily menu of dishes from various lands, but cooked by British chefs.

Chefs – the (usually) unsung heroes

Finally, chefs on other tours of duty in other parts of the world are also demonstrating their culinary flair. Let's all stick to what we know and remain, as ever, the unsung heroes. – **Sgt Alan Keenan, Production SNCO, 1 RHF, Op Grapple 5.**

SOLDIER to Soldier

We'll meet again... on the blower

UNTIL May 13 BT is offering a unique – and free – Veteran Link service to old soldiers.

The basic manoeuvre for veterans wishing to make contact with old chums could not be easier. All they have to do is complete a simple registration form at any one of BT's 120 telephone shops around Britain, with any information on former colleagues they wish to contact.

BT will process the details to the Chamber of Shipping's central Veteran Link database and pass the results directly to the enquirer or to their local BT shop.

• BT is giving all veterans to the Hyde Park VE Day festival Veterans Centre (May 6-8) a commemorative phonecard.

Secret base under threat

UNLESS it can raise sufficient funds to cover its running costs, the Combined Operations Museum at Cherry Park, Inveraray, site of one of Scotland's Second World War secret training bases, will close.

Curator James Jepson says the income generated by visitors is not enough to keep the museum viable. Its closure in the year of the VE and VJ 50th anniversary commemorations would be particularly sad.

James can be reached at the Combined Operations Museum, Cherry Park, Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8XE (tel 01499 500218, fax 01499 302421).

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Imperial War Museum
London at War exhibition; Home Front Memorial Gallery roll of honour; special film season.

Channel Islands occupation and liberation exhibition.

From August: VJ display.

Until August 31: D-Day to Victory exhibition.

MAY

20-21: 50 Years On racing extravaganza at Donington Park in aid of SSAFA.

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

28: Battle Abbey, E Sussex, Eng-

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

lish Heritage public events.

JUNE

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

VJ Day – AUGUST

12-19: VJ week in Pwllheli, Wales (tel 01758 614066).

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

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Berwick on Tweed floodlit tattoo.

• Entry to Government-sponsored events free to veterans. To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.

In fond memory of Anne Armstrong



Picture: Terry Champion

Memories of the late Jackie Mayo, better known as Anne Armstrong, Soldier columnist and indomitable campaigner for soldiers' rights, were stirred at a small ceremony in Aldershot last month. A wooden bench, presented by her husband, Col (Retd) John Mayo (seated, right) and son, Capt Charles Mayo, Light Dragoons (standing right), was unveiled in the playground of the married quarters in Camp

Farm Estate – situated, appropriately, at the end of Anne Armstrong Close. Among those present were Brig John Patrick (seated), Commander 145 (Home Counties) Brigade, and (standing) Lt Col (Retd) John Woodliffe, Senior Commandant, Families' Housing and Welfare Service, Aldershot Area, and the Ven Graham Roblin, a long-time family friend who dedicated the bench.

Gurkhas to Beat a fast Retreat

THERE is a chance to see the quick-stepping Gurkha musicians in action when they Beat Retreat at a spectacular fund-raising event at the Vehicle Depot, Royal Logistic Corps, Ashchurch, near Tewkesbury on June 3. The Pipes and Drums of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas will perform in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the Tewkesbury Abbey Appeal. The event is open to the public.

In addition to being outstanding musicians, the Gurkha Band marches at an incredible 140 paces a minute.

The parade will be followed by a three-course dinner limited to 300 (price £20), including a traditional Nepali curry prepared by Gurkha cooks. Guests will include Fd Marshal Lord Bramall. See DIARY for booking details.

CLOSURE

The Hong Kong Officers' Mess wishes to return presented property to donors. Any person from the former Blackdown Mess or Support Troops Mess who presented items is asked to contact QM, Log Sp Regt RLC, BFPO 1. Closing date is August 1, 1995.



Redcoat III on Three Peaks Race

Lady Angela Rose unveils the name of Redcoat III, the new Sigma 38 offshore yacht, at the Army Sailing Association's Nuffield Marina, Gosport. Pictured from left to right are Maj Nick Bate (Army offshore team coach), Lady Rose, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose (Commander ASA), Col David Glyn-Owen (Rear Commodore Offshore), Capt Alan Healey (Secretary ASA), and Maj Gen Alan Yeoman (Director Army Sport Control Board).

Redcoat III will be used primarily by the Army offshore racing team, but will also be available to ASA clubs for adventurous training and racing.

The yacht was purchased with non-public funds generated by the ASA from welfare grants and money accumulated by the ASA offshore fund.

The new boat has been chartered to the Scottish Infantry Depot Glencorse for the Three Peaks Race during May.

Redcoat II is based in Hong Kong and will return to home waters in 1997. Redcoat I was sold three years ago.

SEARCHLINE

Veterans (soldiers, sailors and airmen) interested in joining the Eighth Army Veterans' Association should write for an application form to Mrs Linda Kenyon, 38 Pinewood Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs FY5 5EW.

□ THE EIGHTH Army Veterans' Association seeks a "young" volunteer to edit its quarterly newsletter, *New Crusader*. Col W M S Jeffery, Chairman EAVA, Beech-thorpe, Waddington, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 3HY 01200 27835) has the details.

Shropshire SY12 9DJ (enclose sae) or tel 01691 622300.

Armourers' Association: Reunion for armourers and artificers weapon will be held on June 24 at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London. Details from Chris Dennis, 18 Willowlea Road, Worcs WR3 7QP. Members not been in contact for more than three years will be removed from mailing list.

PWRR WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner: July 1 at Bassingbourn. Details from secretary on 01227 818054/56.

Royal Regiment of Wales: 27th annual reunion at Brecon on July 29/30. Details from Lt Col R J Ashwood, SWB Museum, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB (tel 01874 613310 or Brecon Mil ext 2310).

F Coy, Boys Royal Signals: Reunion at Union Jack Club, London, on September 27. Contact John Dadswell (1939-42) on 01993 771755.

To RSA Larkhill, Apr 10; P F Kelly RA – To be CO 103 Regt RA(V); Apr 10; C P C Sloan, Hldrs – To be CO 9 R Irish, Apr 10; S P Varvill QRH – To JACIG(AE), Apr 10.

REUNIONS

Royal Green Jackets (West Midlands Branch) Association: Reunion planned for May 13. Details from the secretary, P J Knight, 22 Prescely Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 8QA (tel 01203 328549).

Black Watch Association: Stoke-on-Trent (Midlands) Branch dinner dance, Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent rescheduled to May 19 from May 12. To include 6th Battalion's Battle of Monte Cassino reunion. Details from Frank Bailey on 01782 280912.

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards' Association: Annual reunion at the Union Jack Club, London, May 20. Details from J L Foreman, Secretary London Branch, 1134 Eastern Avenue, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex.

2 Queens Colours: Colours of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment are to be laid up in Canterbury Cathedral, June 1. A reception and luncheon will follow the service. Former Queensmen welcome. Details, tickets from secretary on 01227 818054.

Army Medical Stores - Equipment Depot, Ludgershall: Reunion at Drummond Barracks on June 17-18 for Regulars, TA, National Servicemen and civilians. Details from C Mason, Lanville, Grange Road, Ellesmere,

Mrs Eileen King wishes to hear from former 8th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders members who were at the Boccaleone/Cossondolo area of the Argenta Gap, Italy and may have recollections of her late father, Pte Rennie Simpson, 8 A and SH, who died of wounds sustained there on April 19, 1945, aged 27. Replies to 66 Langroyd Road, Colne, Lancs BB8 9EQ.

Luba Liliana Dorogina, Hamburg 1945-48, is asked to contact Ms Lillian Bain, 755 Gaylord Street, Denver, Colorado 80206, USA or Ms Winter McDonnell, Monticello, Mount Pleasant, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7AZ (tel 01989 566526).

Ex-RAF Sgt D A Brimson, 29 Chaulden Terrace, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2AN, is researching a book on the lighter side of life on the football terraces. He seeks supporters, male and female, any age, willing to complete questionnaires on the great game.

APPOINTMENTS

Cols: S C Matthews – To HQ Land Command, Apr 10; A H Millington – To RHQ REME, Apr 10; A F Birtwistle – To MoD, Apr 10.

Lt Cols: S C J Hutchinson RA –

Frank T Smith wishes to contact former members of 600th Regiment RA to find out the circumstances and location of the mortal wounding of Francis William Yarker in the Dunkirk area in mid April 1945. Replies to 31 Startforth Park, Barnard Castle, Durham DL12 9AL.

18: A Soldier's Life, new permanent gallery at Newcastle Discovery Museum, opened by Duke of Gloucester.

21: Cavalry Sunday parade and service of Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in Hyde Park.

JUNE 3: Gurkha Band, 3 RGR Pipes and Drums Beat Retreat, Vehicle Depot RLC, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury for Gurkha Welfare Trust and Tewkesbury Abbey Appeal. Tickets (Beat Retreat £2 adults, £1 under 18, £5 family; dinner £20) on 01386 725224.

7-8: Beating Retreat, Guards Massed Bands, Horse Guards, Whitehall, in aid of Army Benevolent Fund and Household Division charities. Tickets: 0171 839 5323. (All reserved seats £10, £8, £5.)

13,14,15: Tri-Service Beat Retreat by Massed Bands on Horse Guards Parade in aid of SSAFA. (Enquiries to SSAFA on 0171-403 8783.)

25: Colchester Garrison County Day, enquiries on 01206 782020.

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

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

Why listeners turned deaf ear on VE Day

RECENT invective hurled against the BBC by politicians of all shades is nothing new. They and hordes of others have been doing it for years.

In *What Did You Do In The War, Auntie?* journalist Tom Hickman reveals what the Corporation was up against in its fight against censorship during the dark days of the 1939-45 conflict.

At the outbreak of hostilities Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain wanted the BBC closed down because he reckoned no

one would have time to listen to it. A year later when Winston Churchill took over as leader he, too, had firm ideas on controlling the BBC. The Corporation's policy to tell the truth about the progress of the war led him to describe it as "the enemy within the gates".

He soon changed his tune when he realised the power of broadcasting and revised his views on controlling the air-waves, using them instead to boost the nation's morale, not to mention his image.

You have to be at least in your mid-sixties to remember anything Tom Hickman writes about in this book. That is not to say you won't have heard of Tommy Handley and ITMA, the Radio Doctor, Vera Lynn (still warbling), Robb Wilton and many household names made famous by their broadcasts.

It is the story of Auntie BBC at war through to VE Day, of which Hickman says little. His deficiency in this department is not surprising, since he

claims it was the day of the big wireless switch-off – he doubts whether anyone heard anything broadcast that night.

The nation had heard Churchill's victory speech and that was enough. From then on, for a week at least, it was just one big nationwide party.

This book is a string of memories well worth recalling.

– JM

What Did You Do In The War, Auntie? by Tom Hickman. BBC Books, £15.99

Masterly study of 'rogue' the soldiers adored

IN 1981 Nigel Hamilton published *Monty: The Making of a General*, the first of a trilogy about the Second World War commander.

The two following books were *Monty: Master of the Battlefield* (1983) and *Monty: The Field Marshal* (1986) and the three-volume biography won Hamilton a Whitbread Prize and Templer Medal.

The work has now been revised and condensed into a single-volume paperback with emphasis on Montgomery's battles from his arrival in the desert to his acceptance of the German surrender on Lüneburg Heath.

In *Monty: The Battles of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery*, Hamilton reveals the general at his best and at his worst.

"Though a hero to his troops, Monty displayed a sheer arrogance that became intolerable to his struggling Allies and superiors, reducing Eisenhower to the point of resignation, and Churchill to despair," he writes.

Though the book also deals with the ups and downs of his earlier life, the major part of this extensive study – easy to read, though 650-plus pages – is concerned with the man as

Army commander from the Battles of Alam Halfa and Alamein. The latter was a near-run thing because of a mixture of reluctance of unit commanders to carry out their part of the plan and the sheer inability of others to move.

Montgomery may have been unrealistic in his assessments but was sufficiently flexible to modify his failed master plan and gain the victory that made him Britain's favourite general. As he noted in his diary: "The public, and the Army, are

Montgomery at his best... and worst

firmly behind me and would support me to the end."

As we know, there was an anguished and taut relationship between Montgomery and the Supreme Allied Commander Eisenhower and with the field commanders of the US forces.

Hamilton describes all the differences and confrontations fully. In fairness, he also tells us: "... though Eisenhower never said it publicly, both he and Bedell Smith remained to the end of their lives clear how much the free world owed to Monty in the mounting of

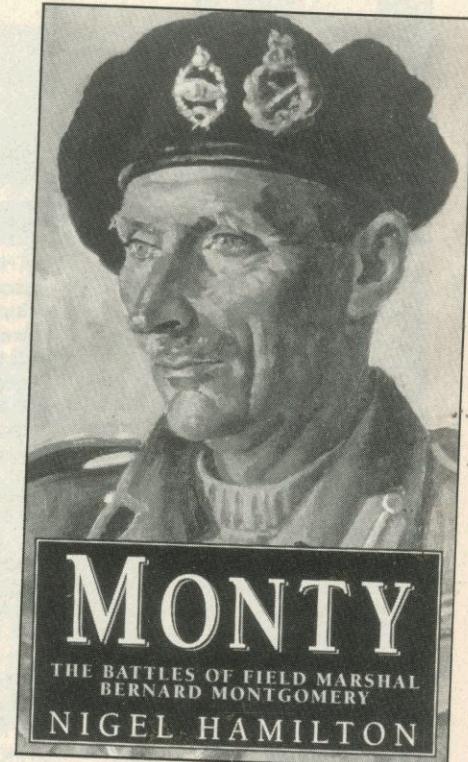
Overlord". The book raises the perennial question whether Eisenhower lost touch with the campaign in Germany towards the end of the war.

"No biographer or historian would ever adequately explain Eisenhower's strange and sudden metamorphosis in the last days of March 1945.

"Certainly Monty never understood the decision to halt him in his tracks and wreck the logical conclusion of the campaign – though his shrewd suspicion was that Bradley had a significant hand in what was to him SHAEF's skulduggery."

Hamilton later expresses the view that Montgomery had only himself to blame for some of the disputes in higher command.

"Not only had he humiliated Bradley in the preceding months; he had himself rejected Eisenhower's proposal to insert Bradley's Army group headquarters north of the Ruhr and thereby ensure overwhelming Allied strength in northern Germany – the very policy Monty now criticised Eisenhower for relinquishing."



Hamilton does not portray Montgomery as an infallible genius in battlefield strategy and certainly not in diplomacy. His strength comes out as a hawk-like ability of perception; in the words of one of his staff officers, William Mather, "it was an extraordinary thing about Monty that he always knew what you'd been up to! He was such a rogue himself in many ways that he could see through anybody..."

There is no exaggeration in calling this book a masterly study and it shows a remarkable grasp of the situations as they occurred in those fateful years, 1942-45. – BJ

Monty: The Battles of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery by Nigel Hamilton. Hodder & Stoughton, paperback, £14.99.

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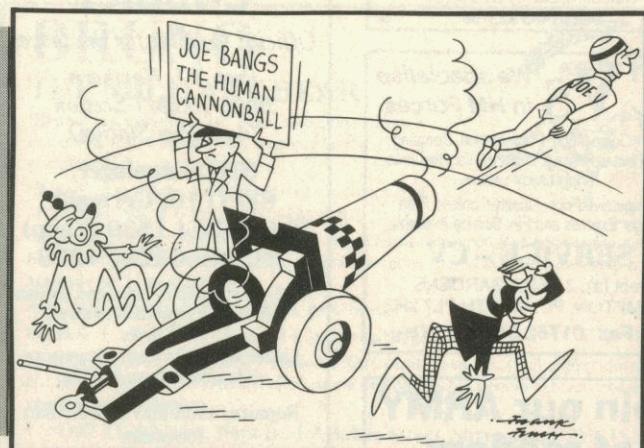
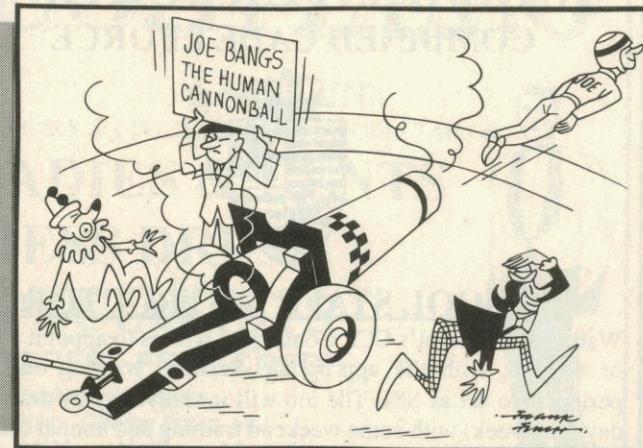
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in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the June 26 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

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Competition No 608 (April 3 issue): Congratulations to Cpl P D Driscoll, of Cardiff, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr C J O'Connor, of Nottingham, and Mrs Dorothy P Tomlinson, of Halifax, W Yorks.

Celebration and denigration

ALTHOUGH his book is entitled *Celebration of Victory*, Richard Connaughton has spent a lot of space in recounting disasters such as the sinking of HM ships *Courageous* and *Royal Oak* in 1939 and practically none on successes such as El Alamein and Normandy.

In fact the desert victory is dismissed with the bland statement: "Then in October and November 1942 Montgomery defeated Rommel at El Alamein."

The denigration of Montgomery is completed by the opinions of two peers in a postscript as "too big for his boots" and "wearing his vanity like a foulard" – what a judgement of our finest field commander since Wellington for whom his troops, including your reviewer, had nothing but praise and adulation.

Admittedly, the reference to the sinking of the two warships in 1939 is part of the chapter on "Causes and the Beginning of War" but his opinions that "Chamberlain had been hard done by" and "his policy of

appeasement was an entirely realistic policy" stick in the gullet as there were other ways of gaining time.

The Battle of Britain is well covered as is the Home Front, including ARP, WVS (originally formed as the women's section of ARP), the fire services, "Bevin Boys", air raid shelters and all the many other aspects, including the evacuation of children from London, supported by many excellent photographs.

There are a few surprising inaccuracies in what is a well-

Montgomery attacked... and praised

researched book, such as "3rd Home Counties Division" whereas it was the 44th Division which bore this title,

and the popular dance *Knees Up Mother Brown* being called "Knees Up Muvver Brahn"!

The celebrations on May 8-9, particularly in London, although impromptu, are given massive and slightly repetitive cover and reference is made to someone going "later to the Victory celebration parade" without pointing out that that was a year later, in 1946.

One assumed that this

résumé of the 1939-45 war and the celebrations of victory in Europe, summed up by one sailor in a poem, "Sad to say/I cannot recall what I did/On VE Day/I must have rejoiced with everyone else, of course/ That the War in Europe was won/ So we could turn all our strength to the East/ Against the Land of the Rising Sun", would have concluded this book.

There is however a postscript covering the Beveridge Report and the defeat of Churchill and the Tory Party at the Election on July 5, 1945 with the unnecessary political comment: "The Tory Party was hammered at the polls. It happened in 1832, in 1906 and it will happen again."

His actual conclusion cannot be faulted: "It seems that the real importance of the Celebration of Victory on May 8, 1945 is that it was a deciding moment in history which delivered what 1914-18 had only promised." – PSN

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Jokes That Won The War. The Video Collection (VC6482), 63 min, mostly b&w, £12.99.

Celebration of Victory: VE Day 1945 by Richard Connaughton. Brassey's, paperback, £14.95.

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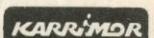
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APRIL 15, 1995

Three-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,166.67 each) LCpl M Carne, MoD SOGS; LCpl R R Peace, 15 Regt RLC, Donnington; WO1 C R Woodley, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester.

35-way tie for fourth prize (17 goals, £28.57 each) WO2 T A J Bennett, 3 BAD RLC, BFPO 40; Spr M J Boyall, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; SSgt T E Callaly, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Sgt S J Conneely, 19 Regt RA, Colchester; Sgt M A Cotchin, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester; Cpl P Egerton, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Cpl M A Fawcett, Camp Comdt (AD) London; Sgt V H E Gale, 3 Dental Gp RADC, Shorncliffe; Cpl R J Galloway, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt J C Graham, 1 ASLS RE, RAF Marham; Capt E M Halfman, ATR Winchester; Maj P A Harrington, HQ DGAGC, Upavon; SSgt M A Holstead, 521 EOD Sqn RLC, Edinburgh; Cpl C M Jenkins, 1 DWR Preston; Cpl D Jones, 16 Regt RA, BFPO 20; Sgt A J Marshall, BVO Ashchurch; Capt C J McIntosh, 2 Signal Regt, York; Sgt E R Mee, 5 Regt RA, Catterick; Lt Col N F Mulliner, MoD MDS1 (Engr); SSgt S Oates, QOY, York; LCpl C M Pauley, BFPO 801; Sgt C T Pyper, SEME, Bordon; WO2 P Raeburn, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Lt S R I Scott, QRH, BFPO 38; LCpl A L Simon, 1 Kings, Hounslow; SSgt T J Smith, 19 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Bulford; Sgt J Stocker, 146 Wksp Coy REME (V), Rotherham; Lt Col M K Stretch, 34 (N) Signal Regt (V), Middlesbrough; LCpl A N Thompson,

BFPO 804; LCpl D I Thornton, 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, BFPO 38; Sgt P K Tricker, BFPO 825; Capt S J Warwick, BFPO 801; WO2 R M Watson, 4/5 Green Howards, Middlesbrough; LCpl N G Williams, 2 RTR, BFPO 38; Pte G Woodroffe, BFPO 802.

APRIL 22, 1995

Two-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,500 each) Cpl L L Lomanovskis, 79 Rly Sqn RLC, BFPO 19; Maj M A L Milligan, 3 RHA Topcliffe.

Three-way tie for third prize (19 goals, £400 each) WO1 A J Hayes, APO (OA) Ashton under Lyne; SSgt T G McKibbin, 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, London; LCpl A J Miles, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham.

18-way tie for sixth prize (18 goals, £16.67 each) WO2 J G Allen, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; Sgt M J Ault, 39 Regt RA, BFPO 16; LCpl D J Cleaver, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31; Col P C Cort, HQ QMG, Andover; Sgt S Curran, 19 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Bulford; WO1 B J Gee, 1 WFR, Tidworth; Cpl B M Gough, 1 Green Howards, BFPO 36; Cpl P Harling, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; WO1 R T Lupton, HQ Colchester Garrison; Sig S A McDonald, 4 Armd Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, BFPO 36; CSgt D McGucken, BFPO 803; Spr J M Nicholson, BFPO 808; Lbdr A J Oliver, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill; LCpl A J Rhymers, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham; WO2 K J Roberts, BFPO 808; SSgt M P Robertson, ACIO Blackheath; SSgt J E J Rowbottom, HQ SIB RMP Cyprus, BFPO 53; Pte R Ryan, QRL, BFPO 36.

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Bessey wins second national boxing title

CPL Chris Bessey (27 Regt RLC) added the national light-middleweight boxing title to the welterweight crown he won two years ago when he outpointed North East Counties champion Mike Barker at the National Indoor Centre in Birmingham on April 12.

But Army joy was constrained by the dismissal of super-heavyweight Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt), who was disqualified at the

beginning of the second round for throwing a punch, in the referee's opinion, after the bell for the end of the first.

A perfect left hook from the defending champion landed flush on the chin of Preston's Rod Bell, knocking him down. Many around the ring thought the punch had started its journey before the bell, but the referee thought otherwise and that was that.

The RAF's Cpl Darren Fox made it a good night for Combined Services by winning the light-flyweight title, while the RAF's other contender, bantamweight SAC Owen Spensley, was beaten on points.

All four finalists have been selected for the prestigious Liverpool Multi-Nations' tournament from June 5-10. Nineteen countries are expected to take part.

• The Army Inter-Unit novice grade three boxing championships were won by the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who defeated 7 Transport Regiment RLC 6-3 in the finals staged in Northern Ireland.

Ptes Ruffle, Grant, Houghton, Brewer, Purkins and Greensmith won for the Paras, Ptes Sherrett and Ord and LCpl Garvie for 7 Tpt Regt.

Under 21 XI dumps Cyprus tourists

Army U21 5, Cyprus CS 3

THE ARMY fielded its first Under 21 side when the touring Cyprus Combined Services played the second of their four UK tour fixtures at the Daly Ground, Bordon, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Pte Simon Yeo, fresh from his Army debut on the Channel Islands tour, found the corner of the net in the seventh minute, and skipper Cpl Wayne McHugh put the ball just wide after a mazy run took him past four defenders.

The game was played at 90 miles an hour and flowed from end to end.

Cyprus goalkeeper Rfn Nicky Strefford pushed a Pte Lee Bradbury shot behind, but the Army's midfield quartet of McHugh, Cfn Alan Woodall, Pte Steve Bowey and A/Cpl Smudge Smith battled hard to give Yeo a chance to hit a crucial second goal a minute from the interval.

Substitute App Tdm Dinger Dennett scrambled the ball home for the Army's third in the 58th minute, before the visitors pulled one back minutes later when the aggressive Cpl Jason Penn (RAF) fired past replacement Army goalkeeper Cfn Ian Elliott.

Sgt Ian Rutherford made it 3-2 from the penalty spot in the 72nd minute and the final hectic quarter of an hour produced three more goals, Woodall heading in the fourth and Yeo completing his hat-trick for the Army, and Penn getting his second for the Cyprus Servicemen.

We are the champions . . .



Members of the 3 R Irish football team raise the Northern Ireland Challenge Cup after beating 15 Signal Regiment 1-0 in the final at Ballykinler. The Irishmen scored 62 goals on their way to the final

Dutch retain trophy

Netherlands AF 5, CS 2

COMBINED Services, without several first-choice players, struggled to get others fit for the match against powerful Netherlands Armed Forces, the Kentish Cup champions, at Wezep in Holland.

Three goals in the first ten minutes got the match off to an explosive start, LCpl Jim Strouts heading home to reduce the early Dutch lead.

A third Dutch goal put the defending champions in a strong position at half time, and they snatched a fourth after having a player sent off and sustaining a spell of strong Combined Services' pressure.

A fifth Dutch goal put the game well beyond the reach of the visitors before SSgt Alan Higgins scored their second

with five minutes remaining.

In the first round of the tournament, the British Combined Services beat Belgian Armed Forces 2-0.

Jersey 4, Army 1

SSgt Alan Higgins's first half penalty was the Army senior side's only success against Jersey in the first match of the Service side's Easter tour to the Channel Islands.

Jersey scored twice in the first half and went further ahead in the 70th minute after a more confident Army side had put them under pressure. A good Army performance was spoilt by defensive blunders, and the home side went further ahead in the 76th minute.

Guernsey 1, Army 3

The Army retained the Victory Cup against Guernsey

despite kicking off into a very strong wind. It played its part when a 25-yard drive from an islander flew past Andy McWilliams (2 Sig Regt) in the Army goal.

Two more promising Guernsey chances were denied by good defending.

The Army dominated the second half but failed to score until Cfn Alan Woodall blasted home from three yards in the final minutes. LCpl Jim Strouts slid the ball home a minute into extra time after an Army shot had rebounded from the crossbar.

The tourists' third goal was the result of a fine move from their own half, Pte Simon Yeo eventually following up his own shot to put away the rebound.



Skibobbers, from left, Cpl Wayne Ballard, Cpl Vicki Hardisty, Cfn Dave Lewandowski, Cpl Paddy Maybin and Cpl Neil Pollitt

Skibobbers take on best in the world

MORE than 60 top skibob racers from all over Europe converged on Anoch Mor, Scotland to take part in the first skibob World Cup competition to be held in Britain.

In the women's competition, Cpl Michelle Turner (Trg Regt and Depot RLC) was the best-placed British competitor, finishing in an excellent seventh place.

Sgt Jayne Robinson (10 Tpt Regt RLC) and SACW Pam Grainger (RAF Henlow) both recorded respectable times. Cpl Vicki Hardisty (16 Sig Regt), the current British women's champion, was disqualified for going over rather than through one of the gates.

Cpl Neil Pollitt (7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) and Cfn Dave Lewandowski (26 Regt RA) were involved in a close battle for British honours with national champion Graeme Spence. Pollitt eventually finished 22nd, a place ahead of Lewandowski and two ahead of Spence.

Others to finish were Cpl Wayne Ballard (16 Sig Regt), Cpl Stuart Irving (32 Engr Regt), SAC Bob Hunt (RAF Rheindahlen Support Unit), SSgt Maurice Lidster (MCTG), Cpl Peter O'Sullivan (2 Sig Regt), WO2 Willy Rushton (7 Bn REME), WO2 Ian Drysdale (Hameln Station) and Sgt Ronnie Biggins (ASMT Leconfield). Spr "H"

Hardy (Sp Bn HQ ARRC) was disqualified.

An all-military team of Ballard, Hardisty, Pollitt and Lewandowski and trainer Cpl Paddy Maybin represented Britain at the final skibob World Cup event in Austria.

Hardisty finished 16th in the women's race over a long, fast super giant slalom course, while Maybin headed the GB competitors with 28th place in the men's. Pollitt was 30th, Lewandowski 32nd and Ballard 33rd.

In the B nations' event, for non-Alpine and novice Alpine countries, Hardisty finished fourth, failing narrowly to win a medal, and Pollitt achieved second place in the men's elite event. Lewandowski was fourth and Ballard seventh. Maybin narrowly retained his men's senior (over 30) title.

Before half time the airmen were forced increasingly to take desperate measures to balance the deficit while the Army

Nevertheless, feeding off scraps and some dreadful Army kicking from defence, the RAF converted an "iffy" try to take a seven-point lead before Andy Deans (3 Para) scythed through the defence to show what was possible.

This was a severe jolt to the airmen, who responded with a good try and penalty. But when Brian Johnson (7 Sig Regt) rounded Gavin Sharp, recently included in the Scotland shadow squad, with time and space to spare, the RAF pack crumbled at the core.

Punching the air is not this

pack, relishing the chance to take the game to the Air Force, grew in confidence.

With the pack in tight control, Simon Pinder, the Dukes' scrum half, exposed an RAF back row, forcing the backs to accept some serious tackling.

Twice Pinder broke down the blind side, first to send Dahinton clattering in at the corner. Next he took advantage of a wheeling scrum to outflank a hesitant defence before feeding Knight, a fellow Duke, who thundered half the length of the East Stand to score a hugely symbolic try and put the Army ahead.

The Scottish centre pairing of Deans and Glasgow (71 Regt RE) worked harmoniously, especially in defence where they never allowed their illustrious opponents an inch.

With 15 minutes to go, Paul Knowles (2 RRF), winning his first cap at fly half, smoothly and judiciously brought the Army backs into the attack. Rob Abernethy (RGR) and Steve Bartliff (2 Sig Regt) steamed powerfully through the centre, varying the angles, while Brian Johnson attacked

spontaneously off the flanks, instinctively changing direction to lift his attack.

In turn, the RAF backs, forced to exploit scraps off the back foot, attempted to use the sort of ball that would normally be booted into the Thames.

Fortune, not infrequently, favours the unexpected, and flat, swift handling created a single overlap with Rory Underwood poised to score on the left.

Johnson, crossing from the opposite wing, overhauled the England flyer and struck the ball from his grasp just moments before he started his descent for the try line.

For sheer bloody cheek this was the "plat du jour" - the RAF's biggest gun spiked with the shell halfway up the barrel.

The airmen never recovered their poise, were forced increasingly to infringe to survive, and Abernethy kicked the vital points.

This was a first class Army effort. With nine new caps in 1995, the future looks bright, although nothing should be taken for granted.

The Royal Navy has recovered and is strong. The RAF has some gifted players.

Under a new chairman and a fresh coaching team, the airmen may well be in a position to rebuild and challenge again in the near future. For 1995, however, the win by four tries to three and 28 points to 26, was very satisfying.

Ken Lawson, Graham Morgan, Bobby Matthews and Tim Rodber, the Army coaching quartet, released the spark and psychological frame of mind necessary to do what they all know should have been accomplished in 1994.

For the record: Both Rob Wainwright (Scotland) and Tim Rodber (England) made themselves available for selection for the Willis Corroon championship but were not, in view of the Rugby World Cup, selected for either match.

The Army selectors considered the possible consequences, but judged the Army, as a whole, would understand that, in 1995, the national teams of Scotland and England should come first.

Stop press: The Navy, 34-17 conquerors of the Army, beat the RAF 43-19 to win the Inter-Services crown outright for the first time since 1987.



That winning feeling ... Capt Gary Knight (DWR) touches down for the Army's fourth try against the RAF at Twickenham to put his side ahead for the first time in the game

Picture: Mike Perrin

Veterans share badminton honours

OLD RIVALS SSgt Adrian Quinney and Cpl Steve Pengelly battled out the final of the men's badminton singles hosted by 21 Signal Regiment at Colerne.

Pengelly took the first game but veteran Quinney fought back to take the next two.

They teamed up in the doubles to beat SSgt Chris Sturdy and LCpl John Harrow.

There was an upset in the women's singles when Sig Mhairi McIntosh lost to SSgt Judith Haynes, another veteran. The women's doubles was won by McIntosh and Sig Jinty McTurk, who beat Haynes and LCpl Jo Fraser.

Pengelly and Haynes teamed up to beat the more experienced Quinney and McIntosh in the mixed doubles. Inter-

Unit doubles champions are LCpl Mork Hamilton and Pte Walter Purcell of 5 R Irish who beat WO1 Terry Inman and Pengelly of 2 Sig Regt.

The veterans' doubles was won by WO2 (AQMS) Steve Cryans and SSgt Stuart Chidgey who beat Hamilton and Purcell. SSgt Dave Omerod won the plate singles, beating WO2 (AQMS) Steve

Hajduk Split 3, Brit Engr Bn 2

THE 1994 Army football champions, 28 Engr Regt, may be serving on Op Grapple, but they can still find a game.

Players from the regiment teamed up with fellow Hameln-based sappers from 35 Engr Regt to play Hajduk Split, recently defeated by Dutch club Ajax in the quarter-finals of the European

Champions Cup competition.

Deployed over a large area of Bosnia and Croatia, the sappers spent up to eight hours on the road to the coast to take on the Hajduk Split

Veterans, a side made up of former professionals.

Ross opened the scoring for the engineers and Francis put them further ahead. Hajduk pulled one back before the

interval, sent on several younger players and equalised in the 61st minute. Hajduk took advantage of a close off-side decision to take a winning 3-2 lead as time ran out.

It was an enjoyable break for the sappers from their Grapple 5 role of keeping the roads open, repairing buildings and providing power and water to war-torn communities.

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Champions Cup competition.

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Airborne Gunners in a class of their own

THE ONLY team playing proper sevens rugby were simply miles ahead of the opposition at the Army Touche Ross sevens competition at Aldershot on April 19, writes Roger Thompson.

Army XV-a-side champions 7 Para RHA went through the preliminary rounds showing a marked ability to move the ball swiftly into space.

Throughout they maintained an ebb-and-flow pattern across the field, if necessary retreating under initial defensive pressure before springing forward at the decisive moment, invariably to score.

Three of their Army players exerted influence on the style of play and the ability to break cleanly. Howard Graham at fly half acted as a pivot, controlling the direction and tempo of play, while Will Bramble unleashed his telling power and pace at the critical moment to break the initial cover, after which few, if any, could catch him.

John Denwood, scrum half and flanker combined, tightened the perimeter of the scrums and lines out. Wood, until injured, and Wade were



Picture: Mike Perring

Tug of war... from left to right, Cpl Vince Key (2 Sigs), Gnr Rory Jones (7 Para RHA), Cpl Steve Bartliff and LBdr Dale Jefferies contest possession in the Army Touche Ross sevens final at Aldershot

always on hand to kick-start a moment of hesitation. Having beaten 15 Regiment RLC (a superb effort from a minor unit) in the semi-finals, they swept aside last year's champions, 2 Signal Regiment, in the

final. The signallers scored first with a kick and chase, but thereafter the Parachute Gunners constructed a series of superb tries combining purist sevens skills, power and speed.

They ran out undisputed

winners by 30 points to 14. Howard Graham received the trophy from the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, in his last appearance as President of the Army Rugby Union.

Welsh beard the Irish

3 R Irish 15, 1 RRW 26

TWO teams who have dominated Army rugby in Northern Ireland this winter met in the NI ARU Major Units league decider after finishing on level points.

Despite the pressure put on them by 3 R Irish, and the "away" venue - the match was played at Depot R Irish in Ballymena - the men of 1 RRW kept their composure to earn a fine victory.

The Irish kept the ball tight from the start and put together a string of back row moves. But the departure of RQMS



Irish and British Lion hooker Stevie Smith presents the NI ARU Major Units League Cup to Capt Simon Butt, the 1 RRW skipper

Jackie Harper with a severe facial injury upset the 3 R Irish rhythm and the Welsh crept back into the game.

LCpl Doc Doherty gave the Irish a short-lived 3-0 lead when a Welshman strayed off-side in the tenth minute. LCpl

Barney Barnard replied with a simple penalty from in front of the posts.

With the two goal-kickers exchanging more penalties, the Irish took a 12-9 lead into half time.

The Welsh began to dominate in the line out and generally look more dangerous. They took the lead when Williams ran in a try after hooker Llewellyn had snatched the ball from an Irish line out. Barnard added the conversion and restored the margin with a fourth penalty after the Irish had kicked a penalty of their own.

With the score at 15-19, a desperate Irish attack ended when a pass was dropped and the ball hacked up the field. Welsh winger Cpl Charlie Brown won the race to score in the corner.

Barnard kicked to goal to put the result beyond doubt.

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ABOVE ALL, WE'RE ROVER SPECIALISTS

The Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, accompanied by Maj Gen Hew Pike, Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, completes his inspection of the Sovereign's Parade at RMAS on April 13. The Sword of Honour and the Queen's Medal were awarded to Junior Under Officer Richard Wallwork, who is to join the Royal Artillery.

Picture: Mike Perring



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