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Swinburn launches the new Southern District with the help of Lucky, a female tiger cub from Longleat. A tiger's head has been adopted as the motif of the new district, formed on April 1 under Gen Swinburn's command. It amalgamates the former South East and South West Districts. For details of a Longleat Safari Park free outing offer and Eastern District changes, see Pages 14-15. (Picture: Chris Fletcher)

INSET: The waiting game. Netting reduces the risk of a chance glint from A Company sniper Cpl Salty Stevenson's binoculars as he watches the "enemy" and searches for a target during the School of Infantry's firepower demonstration. See Page 30-31. (Picture: Mike Weston)

SOLDIER

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Medics join Croatia peacekeeping force

MEDICAL personnel from Britain's Armed Forces are joining the United Nations peacekeeping force in Croatia.

The 260-strong unit is mainly drawn from Catterick-based 24 Field Ambulance under the command of Lt Col Lois Lodge (pictured), and will provide medical facilities for the 14,000 troops in the multi-national UN force. They will be supported by troops from a range of other units.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said: "I am pleased to be able to announce that the Government has agreed to the United Nations Secretary General's request for medical support. Britain has consistently made significant contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations in many parts of the world.

"This is one more example of our ability and willingness to continue to support the UN in the cause of peace."

The advance party was due to fly to Croatia within a few days of the announcement, with the main contingent following over the next few weeks.

There will be four Field Ambulance detachments, one in each of the UN sectors,



with a headquarters in Zagreb. Their main task will be to provide casualty evacuation by wheeled ambulance or helicopter and to supplement the medical support of the UN battalions.

The overall British commander, Col Christopher Price, and a number of medical advisers are already in Croatia and Britain provides three military observers. Six British personnel served with the UN Military Liaison Mission which was established in January and whose task was superseded by the full peacekeeping deployment.

Saudis to award liberation medal

BRITISH troops who served in the Gulf are to receive a second medal for their part in the fight to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, and the General Service Medal is to be more widely available in Northern Ireland.

Personnel who served in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will be allowed to accept the Liberation of Kuwait medal issued by Saudi Arabia to Coalition Forces as a keepsake, but it should not be worn on uniform.

Distribution details will be announced. Earlier this year, the US Department of Defence authorised the award of the

medal to American troops, who have been permitted to wear it.

It has also been confirmed that the Saudi Badge of Honour will be awarded to next of kin of those who died and to Servicemen and women who were wounded in the fighting to liberate Kuwait.

The Badge of Honour is in the form of a medal ribbon mounted on a metal bar, and a certificate will accompany the badge. Like the Liberation of Kuwait medal, it is intended as a keepsake and may not be worn.

Changes to the qualifying

● Turn to Page 5

Managing Editor: Chris Horrocks (Ext 2355) • Editor: John Elliott (2356) • Assistant Editors: Laurie Manton (2362), Gordon Skilling (2360), Phil Wilcox (2361) • Picture Editor: Terry Champion (2357) • Photographers: Mike Weston, Mike Perring (2357) • Art Editor: Les Gwyer (2169) • Families: Anne Armstrong (2169) • Librarian: Bill Stroud (2351) • Accounts/Distribution: Janice Follwell (2353) • Advertising: 2352 • Fax: 2358

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New-look Defence ministry

IN A message to members of the Armed Forces, new Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said he looked forward to visiting units throughout the world.

"The British Armed Forces are justly renowned world-wide for their skill and professionalism. I look forward to seeing this for myself," he said.

Mr Rifkind succeeded Tom King as Secretary of State for Defence in the Cabinet reshuffle following the General Election.

Archie Hamilton remains as a Minister of State in the new Defence line-up and is joined by Jonathan Aitken.

Medics in cap shuffle

MORE than 500 personnel in the Army's Medical Services will change cap badges following the opening to men on April 1 of the previously all-female Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

In all, 82 officers and 204 soldiers are changing from the Royal Army Medical Corps to QARANC, 15 QA officers and 71 soldiers will transfer to the RAMC, and 130 soldiers are to move from the Royal Army Dental Corps to QARANC.

Gen Mackenzie to command ARRC

LT GEN Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander 1 (BR) Corps, has been appointed commander of Nato's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. His headquarters will eventually be located at Rheindahlen.

Bulford Camp became the home of the Headquarters of the United Kingdom Division of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) on April 1.

The three brigades of the division are 1 Infantry Brigade in Tidworth, 5 Airborne Brigade in Aldershot and 19 Infantry Brigade in Colchester.

Gen Hew Pike is to be the first General Officer Commanding the Division.



Sappers from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment RE based at Hameln in Germany ran all the way to the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall to mark their change of role. Under Options for Change the regiment has dropped the word Amphibious from its title. The 426-mile marathon, achieved with the help of P & O European Ferries, was also used to raise funds for the Royal British Legion.



A replica 4 RTR flag flies as the third crossing of the Rhine is made by Lt Col Martin Speller, WO1 (RSM) Stuart King and four former commanding officers

Liberation medal

● From Page 3

conditions for the General Service Medal 1962, Clasp Northern Ireland, retrospective to August 14, 1969 have also been approved.

These extend qualification for the medal to Regular personnel filling permanent staff posts in Reserve units in Northern Ireland, and to uniformed professional mem-

bers of four welfare organisations - the Women's Royal Voluntary Service; the Order of St John of Jerusalem and British Red Cross Society, Joint Committee Service Hospitals Welfare Department; the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, Community Health and Social Services; and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association.

Tank flag crosses the Rhine

THE 4th Royal Tank Regiment flag crossed the Rhine on March 23 to commemorate two previous crossings - during the First and Second World Wars.

As on the two previous occasions, the 4 RTR flag was carried by the CO and RSM of the day, only this time it was a replica. The original, encased in a glass box because it is now too fragile to be exposed to the elements, was also ferried across.

The crossing was made at Rees near Nijmegen, where 47 years ago 4 RTR ferried the 5th Black Watch and 5/7 Gordons of the 51st Highland Division across the Rhine in Buffalo amphibious vehicles.

On this occasion the commanding officer, Lt Col Martin Speller, and RSM, WO1 Stuart King, were met not by enemy gunfire but by civic leaders, townsfolk and the regimental pipes and drums.

The flag first crossed the Rhine at Cologne in 1918.

Recruiter murdered

SGT Michael Newman (34), Royal Signals, died in hospital after being shot as he left the Army Careers and Information Office in Derby. The INLA claimed responsibility.

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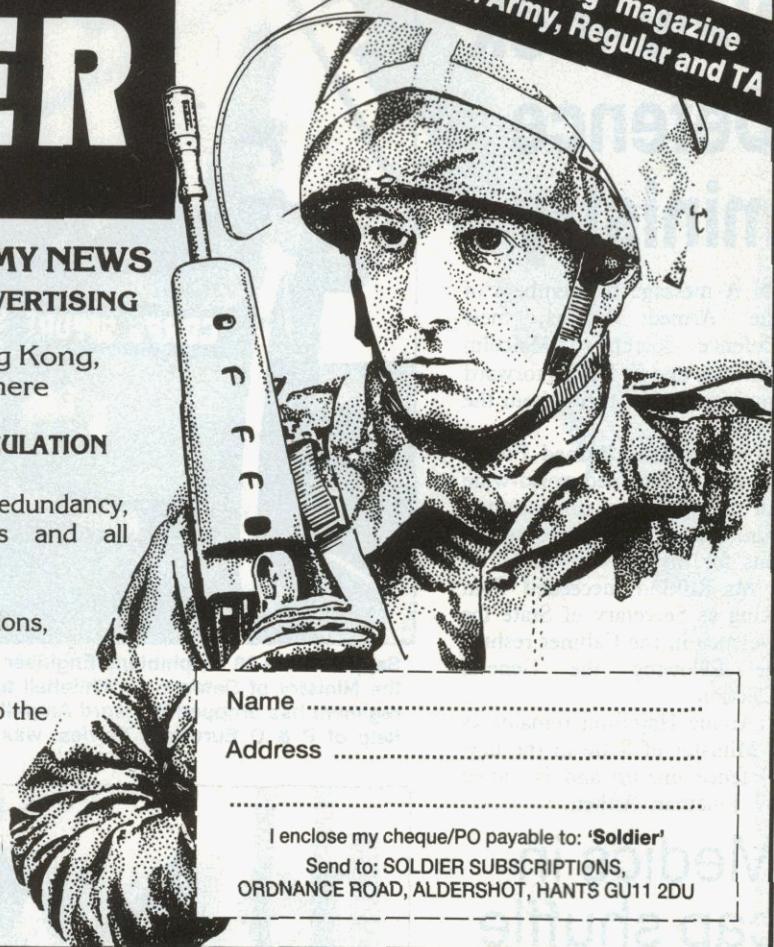
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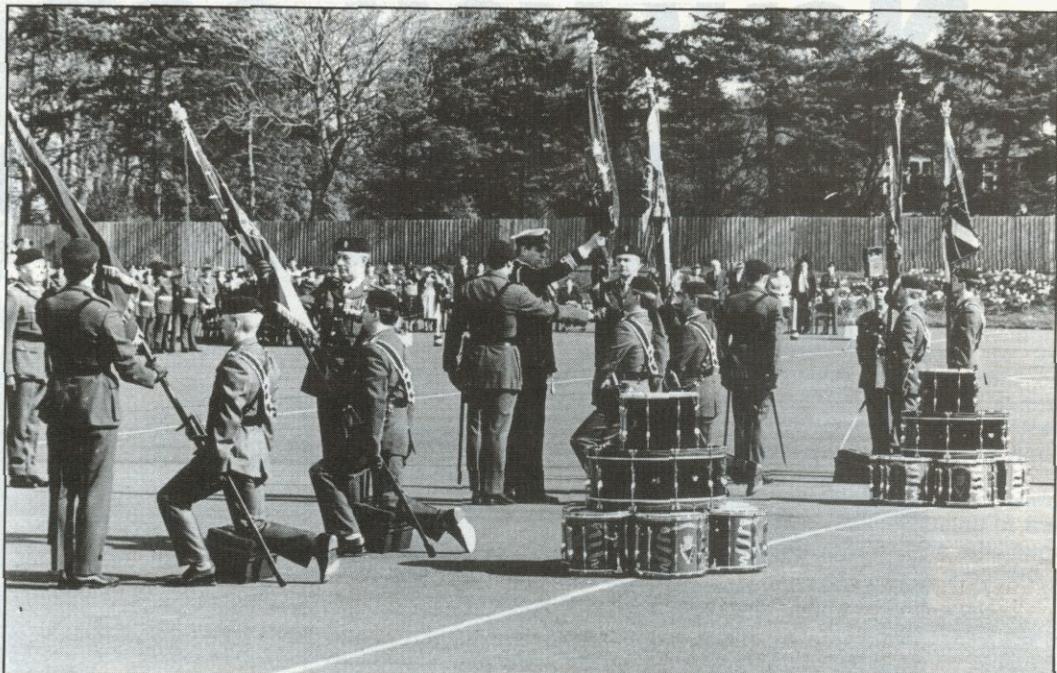
Skins lay up old standard

THREE battalions of The Ulster Defence Regiment have been presented with new Queen's and regimental Colours, while the standard of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards has been laid up in St Macartin's Cathedral in the town of Enniskillen.

The Duke of York presented new Colours to the 2nd/11th (Craigavon), 7th/10th (City of Belfast) and 8th (County Tyrone) battalions of the UDR in front of more than 300 officers, soldiers and Greenfinches at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

All battalions of the UDR, due to merge with The Royal Irish Rangers this summer to create The Royal Irish Regiment, have received new Colours since last June.

The Duke, who is to be Colonel-in-Chief of the new



The Duke of York presents Colours to three battalions of the UDR at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh

regiment, was met by GOC Scotland, Gen Sir Peter Graham, a former Commander of the UDR; the Colonel Commandant, Gen Sir Charles Huxtable; the Representative Colonel Commandant, Sir Dennis Faulkner; and Commander UDR, Brig Angus Ramsay.

Col Ian Clarke commanded the parade and the Colours were blessed and dedicated by the Rev James Harkness, Chaplain General to the Forces. He was attended by the Rt Rev Joseph Mallon, the Army's Principal Roman Catholic Cha-

plain (Army) and other clergy.

At Enniskillen, 120 soldiers of 5 Innis DG paraded through the town with Colours flying, band playing and bayonets fixed for the laying-up of their standard.

The "Skins" are determined to keep their historic link with the town whose name they have borne for more than 300 years. When the regiment amalgamates with the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards to form The Royal Dragoon Guards, the name Inniskilling will be

lost from the title.

The standard laid up in St Macartin's was presented in 1961 in Germany and was used until 1985 when it was replaced by one presented by the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of 5 Innis DG. The previous standard, laid up in 1964, also hangs in St Macartin's.

Farewell to Enniskillen



A squadron of 5 Innis DG currently serving in Northern Ireland leads the regiment past the war memorial at Enniskillen on the way to St Macartin's Cathedral

Scots on march in Pyrenees

A PARTY of ten soldiers from the Scottish Division Depot at Glencorse Barracks, Penicuik plans to walk across the French Pyrenees from Hendaye on the Atlantic coast to Banyuls on the Mediterranean.

The 35-day, 700km expedition, led by RSM Gordon Stacey, BW, follows the Depot's success last year in climbing all 277 Scottish Munroes (mountains over 3,000ft) for charity.

All seven regiments of the Scottish Division are represented on Exercise Ecosse Tartan.

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Women PTIs re-badged

Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, talks to WO2 Maggie Fowers, after presenting her with a new cap badge to mark her transfer from the Women's Royal Army Corps to the Army Physical Training Corps.

Gen Inge, Colonel Commandant of the APTC, presented cap badges to 26 women ranked sergeant or above in a ceremony at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, on April 10.

In all, 27 women were eligible for re-badging in the APTC, in which the minimum instructor rank is sergeant.

Picture: Mike Perring

RAPC bows out at Winchester

Grins all round as Maj Gen B M Bowen, Representative Colonel Commandant of the Royal Army Pay Corps, meets members of the corps exercising their rights as Freemen of the City of Winchester for the last time.

Three days later the RAPC disbanded to form part of the new Adjutant General's Corps.

The parade was inspected by the Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Capt Richard Bates RN (retd).

Serving officers and soldiers from throughout the United Kingdom were joined for the Freedom march by RAPC Association members.

The honour was granted to the corps in 1970 and has been exercised twice before, on the RAPC's centenary in 1978 and to mark the opening of the RAPC Computer Centre in 1988.



Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: WO2 Arthur Thomson

SSgt Janice Garnett (right) received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in addition to her new Adjutant General's Corps badge from Gen Sir John Waters, C-in-C United Kingdom Land Forces. Pictured with her are other WRAC personnel who received their badges after a drumhead service at HQ UKLF to mark the formation of the new corps



Col Jane Arigho, Commander Medical Services, HQ BAOR, presents a Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps cap badge to Sgt David Harris at BMH Iserlohn on April 1 as male nursing personnel transferred from the Royal Army Medical Corps to the QARANC. The parade marked the centralisation of Army nursing services in one corps



Kings of the close recce



Clement Attlee was the British Prime Minister when Maj **David Metherall** joined the Army in February 1947 as an apprentice tradesman at the Army Technical School, Chepstow. David, who has just retired from the Army Careers and Information Office in the Strand, is pictured holding Battalion Orders of the 1st Battalion, The Somerset Light Infantry, dated August 1952, promoting him to acting lance corporal.

A REME gunfitter, he was with 1 SLI until the battalion deployed to Malaya "without guns", and later served in BAOR, Aden, Singapore, Borneo, Hong Kong.

Nicola's giant leap helps spastic appeal



WO1 **Ross Ashe-Cregan** of the External Leadership Team from the Light Division Depot at Winchester lowers daughter **Nicola** (13) from the top of the Civic Centre in Fareham, Hants. Encouraged by Nicola's plucky example, so many members of the public "volunteered" for a sponsored abseil that the Depot raised the magnificent sum of £13,000 for the Spastics Society.

His number's up!



Two fingers, one thumb, keep counting... Lt Col **Ian Whittaker** (standing) hands over the Command Pay Office abacus at Episkopi, Cyprus, to his successor, Lt Col **Terry Lowry**. Col Whittaker is returning to Manning and Records in the United Kingdom, while Col Lowry's last appointment was in the Paymaster-in-Chief's Office at Worthy Down.



Tracey's trophy

WO1 **Tracey McInally**, serving with East Kilbride-based 222 Squadron RCT (V), was judged the best novice in the Scottish Territorial Army's Exercise Combat Caterer 92, a preliminary round of the TA field cookery competition. Tracey, who joined the Terriers eight months ago, had just finished her recruits' course at Grantham.

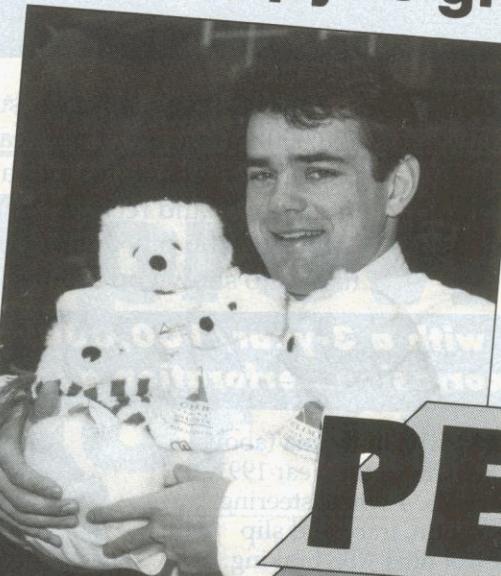
The cream of the TA's volunteer chefs took part in the exercise at Barry Buddon, north of Dundee.

Dvr Alex is in the right gear

Sgt **Phil Linghan**, Provost Sergeant at 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment, checks new recruit **Alex Beagle**, one of the pupils from Saint Peter's School at Luebbeke, who "traded places" with soldiers based at Minden to raise cash for research into breast cancer. OC 19 Squadron, Maj **Chris Murray**, was very impressed with the children's turnout on their final parade, and seven-year-old Alex was able to put up a tape just hours after joining up. The pupils raised DM1,000 for the Trading Places appeal.



Will, happy to grin and bear it...



England Grand Slam rugby captain **Will Carling** has his arms full... of teddy bears. Will, who played for the Army while commissioning into The Royal Regiment of Wales, is helping to publicise the Royal Marsden Hospital's £1m "Climb Your Own Mountain" cancer appeal.

People taking part in the appeal are being asked to climb their own mountain or personal goal. You can ring 081-466 4060 for details.

Star turn is Chomo, a little white bear at present heading for the summit of Everest with the Joint Services expedition. On his return he is to be auctioned to raise money for the appeal.

PEOPLE



While the attention of the Hong Kong media was focused on the departure of the Commander British Forces, Maj Gen **Peter Duffell**, a less formal farewell was taking place at the British Military Hospital. After three years as Commander Medical for the Territory, Col **Jimmy Weir** left Hong Kong to take up the appointment of Commander Medical in UKLF's new Eastern District. Clutching a commemorative bedpan, he was rickshawed away from BMH by his warrant officers.

During his time in Hong Kong Col Weir became a familiar sight with his video camera. He compiled an extensive video library of the Gurkhas in Hong Kong and Nepal.

Goodbye, Hong Kong

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Brig Gael Ramsey and the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, with representatives from the new corps

Picture: Mike Piering

Adjutant General's pledge for his new corps . . .

We'll provide the best for The Best

"A MOMENTOUS day in the illustrious history of the British Army."

That was the description by Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, of the formation on April 6 of the new corps which bears his name, writes Phil Wilcox.

For the first time, he told members of the Adjutant General's Corps, the Army will have a corps whose sole task is the management of its most precious resource: its soldiers.

"In world terms," he said, "they are the finest Servicemen and Servicewomen anywhere – and therefore they deserve nothing but the best."

"I am sure that the delivery of the best, to those for whom the corps is responsible, including its own members, will be its ethos from day one."

He was aware, he added, that the next two years would be a period of "considerable" disruption and turmoil throughout the Army, as the drawdown took effect.

"But, because the AG Corps knows what it has to do, knows what it will look like in the future and has the opportunity to influence how it gets there, I believe that this is something that can be seized upon with



Pte Rachel Stevens and SSgt Chris Myers with new corps flag at Worthy Down

advantage by those joining the new corps now or in the future."

Everyone changing title, role or badge on formation day would naturally be feeling a certain sadness about what they were yesterday, he continued.

"But, from personal experience, I know that tomorrow can be made better by the adoption of all that the future has to offer

... build on the record, the standards and traditions that you have inherited, and out of that will come something that I believe will make a very real and special contribution to our Army in the future."

al Corps and Army Legal Corps) which have amalgamated to form the other branches of the AG Corps.

The Adjutant General was accompanied by Brig Gael Ramsey, Director Women (Army), formerly Director WRAC.

A flag-raising ceremony and presentation of belts and berets to more officers and soldiers of the AG Corps Special Support Branch was later held at AG Corps Headquarters at Worthy Down, Hampshire, in the presence of the first Director General of the corps, Maj Gen Robin Grist.

"There can be no doubt that our new corps has an absolutely essential contribution to make to the operational effectiveness of the Army in its new role, but it will not be business as before," he said.

"What we have to do is identify what that contribution is and ensure we can deliver it."

Organised in four branches, Staff and Personnel Support, Provost, Educational and Training Services and Army Legal Services, the corps will grow from 6,800 to 8,000 officers and soldiers in 1994 when clerks from all the remaining Arms have been incorporated.

To mark the formation of the corps, Gen Ramsbotham presented berets and belts in the new corps colours – green, yellow and red – to representatives of the three corps (Royal Army Pay Corps, Women's Royal Army Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps staff clerks) who will form the AGC Staff and Personnel Support Branch.

In a ceremony outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall he also welcomed representatives of the four other corps (Royal Military Police, Military Provost Staff Corps, Royal Army Education-



Sgt Jeffery Martin (left) and WO1 Geoff Ellis, RSM of 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt, with the divisional flag at the end of the parade



Soldiers of The Green Howards salute the Colonel of their regiment, Gen Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the General Staff, at 2 Inf Div's disbandment parade.



Right: An armoured car of The Queen's Own Yeomanry drives past the saluting base at 2 Div's disbandment parade at Imphal Barracks, York

FAREWELL TO THE SECOND

SECOND Infantry Division has hung up its boots 183 years after being formed during the Peninsular War.

A special farewell parade was held at Imphal Barracks, York, to mark the Division's disappearance from the Army's active list — a victim of reorganisation under Options for Change.

The Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Inge, who commanded the Division from 1984 to 1986, took the salute as contingents marched past representing divisional troops and four brigades (24 Airmobile, 29 Engineer, 15 and 49 Infantry).

They were followed by two armoured cars from The Queen's Own Yeomanry, the Firing Troop of 101 Field Regiment, RA (V), and the combined bands of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and The Green Howards.

A formation of Gazelle and Lynx helicopters from 9 Regiment AAC flew overhead.

At the rear came a three-man flag party from the 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment bearing the divisional flag, with its crossed keys emblem, en route to its next resting place in the divisional museum which is to remain at Imphal Barracks.

Seven other former divisional commanders were in the invited audience which heard

...and the Wyvern

"The officers of HQ SWDIST assembled to mark the district's final day send you greetings. This district was first founded as a military region by Cromwell in 1655 with the task of collecting taxes, censoring printed matter, enforcing morals and reducing the number of ale houses. We cannot claim great success! As we disperse we send you best wishes and thank you for your support. Tomorrow the Wyvern will imitate the Phoenix." — **Text of a message from the GOC on the demise of South West District.**

in the United Kingdom.

"This is a sad moment for all of us," Gen Inge said, "but we shouldn't let sadness cloud the fact that this division has been part of the most successful military alliance in history and has played its part in bringing about the end of the Cold War."

As the notes of the Last Post sounded across the parade square, the divisional flag was slowly lowered by Sig Gary Bowman, the third generation of his family to have served with the division. His grandfather was with 2 Div in Burma and his father with the post-war division in Germany.

Five days after the 2 Div flag went down, a new flag was raised at Imphal Barracks to mark the inauguration of the new Tweed-to-Thames Eastern District and the establishment of its HQ at York.

New flag rises in East



LCpl Gaynor Moore shows off the new Eastern District flag, a combination of the black background, red cross and gold lions of the old Northern Command, and the pierced crown of St Edmund in the centre, the symbol of the old Eastern District based at Colchester.

General Officer Commanding the new district is Maj Gen Michael Walker.



The tiger's head: Southern District's new motif

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Above: It was all change at Flagstaff House, Colchester, when the Eastern District flag was hauled down for the last time to be followed the next day by the raising of that of 54 (East Anglia) Brigade

The new Eastern District HQ is at York with 54 (EA) Brigade covering the six counties of East Anglian Region and 49 (EM) Brigade with headquarters at Chilwell, Nottingham, taking over the five East Midlands counties of the former Eastern District.

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LEAVE YOU
STILL NEED
A ROOF OVER
YOUR HEAD

HAIG HOMES

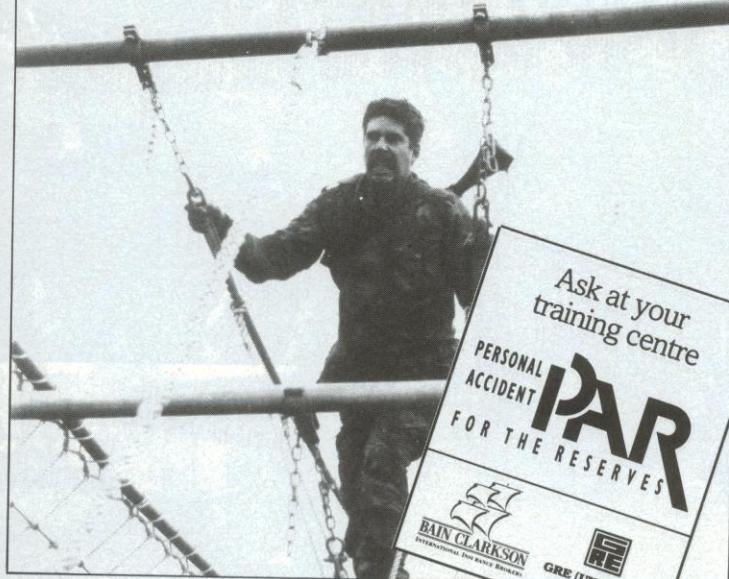


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Two faces of the Para Provost: Cpl Kiwi Ormsby (left) in patrol order and Sgt Paul Thompson in No 2 dress

Picture: Mike Perrin

Airborne Redcaps in maroon berets

WITH its future as the British Army's specialist Out of Area force assured, 5 Airborne Brigade is continuing to develop and refine the skills and capabilities which enable it to be deployed anywhere in the world at short notice, writes Laurie Manton.

And one element of the brigade which last saw active service during the Falklands War is set to increase in size as a result of Options for Change.

The 5 Airborne Brigade Provost Unit is made up of an airborne element of para-trained NCOs and an airmobile element who fly in for operational purposes.

Currently the Para Provost, as it is known, consists of a section of one sergeant and five junior NCOs who have passed P Company at Depot Para and completed a basic parachuting course at No 1 Parachute

Training School, RAF Brize Norton.

Soon the unit will increase in size to an enhanced platoon of more than 20 RMPs commanded by a staff sergeant. In addition, a lieutenant will be attached to brigade headquarters as an operations officer and an RMP captain will command both the airborne and the airmobile element which is also being increased.

During out-of-area operations, the Para Provost are roled for airborne insertion. They jump in with the paratroopers and are tasked to carry out specialist and personal protection duties.

They would also provide Provost support to 5 Brigade in out-of-area operations, including Service-protected or Service-assisted evacuation of Britons at risk in other countries.

This involves the Provost unit establishing an evacuee handling centre at which evacuees would be screened and searched before being put aboard aircraft. The process is designed to weed out infiltrators and allow the RMPs to interview people to establish the facts of alleged war or other crimes.

Standard RMP duties are not neglected during operations. The military policemen remain responsible for operating traffic control at critical points such as bridges, crossroads and other choke points. They also carry out tactical route signing by putting up small black bitumen pointers.

After the initial landing, the Para Provost do what most paratroopers do - hoist their kit on their backs and march.

"Once the heavy drop comes in they have access to

motorcycles, which gives them greater flexibility," said Maj Paul McIvor, OC 160 Provost Company RMP, of which the Para Provost is part.

"One man can be of much greater use on a motorcycle than in a Land Rover, which is bulky and takes up a lot of space on an aircraft.

"We are also trialling a number of different types of vehicle to evaluate their suitability for these operations, including a lightweight high mobility vehicle which can be dropped by air," he said.

When the NCOs are not on exercise or training, they form part of 160 Provost Company's central policing complement at Aldershot, but with one difference. When out on patrol they wear the Airborne Forces maroon beret instead of the normal red cap of the Royal Military Police.



Brig Jack Deverall, Director of Army Recruiting, cuts a symbolic ribbon to open the revamped ACIO in the Strand. Holding the ribbon are Sgt Mick Watts (left) and SSgt Pete Jones

Strand recruiters unfurl new Colours

THE BRITISH Army's high profile recruiting office in the Strand, London, has been formally re-opened after a three-month refurbishment.

Overlooking Trafalgar Square and opposite Charing Cross, the office is regarded as the Army's most prestigious high street "shop window".

During both the Falklands campaign and the Gulf War, the Army Careers and Information Office in the Strand was in regular use as an unofficial briefing centre for national and international media representatives.

ACIO Strand, now boasting a striking new fascia and internal layout from Army design and development consultants Purcell Miller Tritton, reflects the intention of Brig Jack Deverall, Director of Army Recruiting, to revitalise the Service's image in the high street using a fresh Army careers logo and colour scheme.



Pictured in the Strand outside their new recruiting office are Col Trevor Ongley, Commander Recruiting and Liaison Staff, London District, and office manager WO2 Les Griffiths

The new look has already drawn praise from Westminster City Council and neighbouring businesses.

Current office manager is WO2 Les Griffiths, WG, a Falklands veteran who survived the attack on the RFA Sir

Galahad. Another member of the staff, SSgt David Brindal, served with 26 Field Regiment RA throughout the Gulf War.

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Pictures: Mike Perrin

Col Nigel Gilbert, Commander Transport and Movements Southern District, brings a smile to the face of Cpl Caroline Coleman during a re-badging parade at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. Nearly 100 women, mostly serving with 41 Squadron RCT, swapped their WRAC badges for those of the Royal Corps of Transport. Lt Col Crawford Harvey, CO Depot and Training Regiment RCT, and Maj Dave Roberts, OC 41 Squadron, helped present badges during the parade, which also involved women serving with 251 Signal Squadron and 61 Squadron RCT.



Proud to be RCT are (from left to right) Dvrs Jean Watkins, Debby Quinn, Sarah Peachey, Marie Irvine, Julie Thomas and Julie Tingle, pictured after the parade at Buller Barracks

New badges for old...



Former QA Pte Morag Powell uses a dental mouth mirror to inspect her new Royal Army Dental Corps badge, admired by (from left) Cpl Karen Jackson, Pte Karen Holdsworth and Pte Tracey Smith. QARANC personnel serving at HQ and Central Group RADC, Aldershot, were presented with their dental corps badges by Col Stuart Poole, Commandant HQ and Central Group. In all, 130 QAs serving with the corps as dental nurses, hygienists and technicians have been re-badged to the RADC.

Hong Kong's adoption process was . . .

Worth their wait in gold

WE DECIDED to try to adopt a Chinese child after seeing a successful adoption by another Army couple.

After much thought and discussion, we made an appointment with the Adoption Unit of the Social Welfare Department.

At the first interview with the social worker, we were told all about the workings of the adoption system. Age limits here are 42 for the wife, 45 for the husband.

Then the questions started. How much longer had we left in Hong Kong (by this time only a year)? What about employment, finances, living conditions, reasons for adoption?

When we were asked whether we would accept a physically or mentally handicapped child, we were honest and said we would prefer a "normal" child.

All the information was duly recorded, a case file was opened, and a social worker assigned to us – the same one,

WHEN they arrived for a two-year tour of HQ British Forces Hong Kong in February 1988 with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Sgt Jim Calicut and his wife Julie had no idea how dramatically their lives would change.

Little did they know then that their stay would be extended for a further two years – nor did they dream that they would be hearing the patter of two pairs of tiny feet around the house.

This is their story – a tale of determination, patience and triumph over red tape . . .

to our delight, who had conducted the initial interview.

Two months later, with the adoption process about to begin in earnest, we hit our first obstacle. Time was running out.

Our regiment was due to return home and we would not have long enough in Hong Kong for the whole procedure. There was only one thing for it: to seek permission to stay on for a few months.

Permission was granted – and extremely gratefully received. We could now get to work on the business of adoption.

The next stage was to fill in miles of forms (in triplicate)

and give details of our insurance, savings, salary, monthly expenditure, daily timetable and complete family and medical history.

We had to provide three character references – two from the UK and one from Hong Kong, or vice-versa. We were required to undergo a full medical check-up and get letters from the doctor.

A week later came the first of many interviews. Separately, we were asked in great detail about racism, relationships, how our families would react.

Then – for the first time – the social worker visited our home. It had been three months since the initial interview, and we still had to wait for all the processing work to be completed.

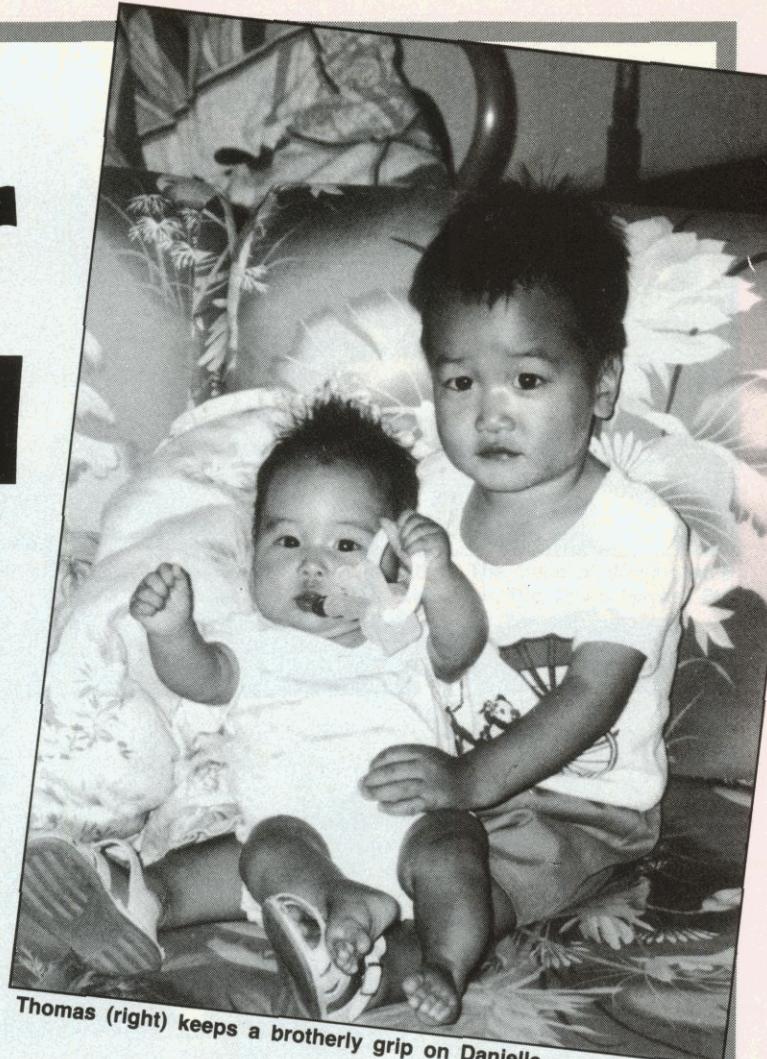
It is the waiting that is the hardest part.

More and more interviews followed, together and separately. Question upon question was relentlessly asked. Two more months passed. Nervous tension built up.

Was it all worth it?

That question was answered for us when the phone call eventually came. They had a child in mind for us. Could we come to the office?

An hour after the phone went down we were there, waiting anxiously for the news.



Thomas (right) keeps a brotherly grip on Danielle

We have a son!

We were given his family history and the reasons for adoption. Shown photographs of him. Would we consider him? Yes!

We saw him the same day. We were taken to Portland Street Home and met our son, Choi Yui Wong – seven months old and beautiful.

For about an hour we held him, played with him. Then came the trauma of having to leave him there.

But not for long. We saw him every day for a week. We took up the option of a medical check-up by our own doctor.

At the end of the week, we took our son home permanently. We named him Thomas.

Under Hong Kong Government regulations the formal adoption could not be completed until Thomas had lived with us for six months. During this time we were not allowed to take him out of Hong Kong. We were visited regularly by our social worker to check his and our progress.

After four months we filed a petition to the High Supreme Court for the adoption order. We were required to pay 1,400 Hong Kong dollars for legal and administrative fees.

Two months later we were told to attend for a formal hearing. An awesome thought . . . but in the event we were in front of the judge for only about four minutes. The adoption was granted and Thomas was ours. He was two years old on March 9.

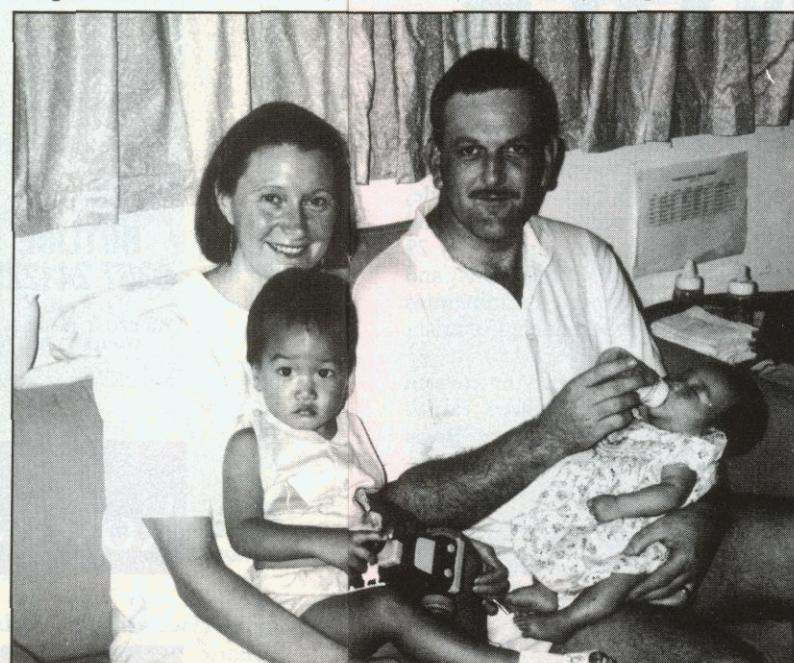
We now also have a daughter, born Soi Yee Wong on May 23, 1991. We have been through the same process as for Thomas and have named her Danielle. We leave Hong Kong for the UK in July to rejoin our regiment in Catterick.

Any couple in a similar position with enough determination and patience to endure the stresses of the bureaucratic process has every chance of adopting the right child.

Our two children are little monsters sometimes but are both intelligent, are developing well, and are our pride and joy.

We hope this story will encourage other couples serving in Hong Kong to consider adopting. Please contact us through SOLDIER if you need any more information or contacts. We will be pleased to help.

Adoption is definitely to be recommended.



Sgt Jim Calicut and wife Julie with Thomas and Danielle



The 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade goes ashore. Overhead are CH46 Sea Knight and CH53 Sea Stallion helicopters. Inset: LCpl Tracie Swit, serving with the US Marine Corps military police, on duty during the landing

British troops join Nato forces in Arctic Norway

This is teamwork

FOR 20 days in March armed forces from 11 Nato countries took part in a maritime, air, amphibious and field training exercise inside the Arctic circle.

Teamwork 92 was designed to improve the effectiveness of Nato's defensive responses in the Norwegian Sea.

Teamwork brought together 170 ships, 300 aircraft and 45,000 troops under the overall leadership of Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, Admiral Leon A Edney, US Navy.

The co-operation and professionalism of commanders, operational headquarters, communications and logistics was applauded by many observers.

Only dissenting voice was heard from Norwegian student protesters on the beaches to meet soldiers of the US 4th

Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) as they came ashore.

This impressive amphibious landing staged by the US Navy and 4th MEB was a highlight of the Teamwork programme. Particularly spectacular was the new LCAC (Landing Craft Air Cushion) - a ferry platform hovercraft used to deliver vehicles and equipment from cargo ships directly to the shoreline.

A number of Regular and part-time Servicewomen in all branches of the Nato force were to be seen among troops aboard ship and on the ground. LCpl Tracie Swit from Cleveland, Ohio was on duty at the beach head with US Marine Corps

Words:
Capt Chris Robinson
Pictures:
WO2 Arthur Thomson

these great looking Vikings I've heard about."

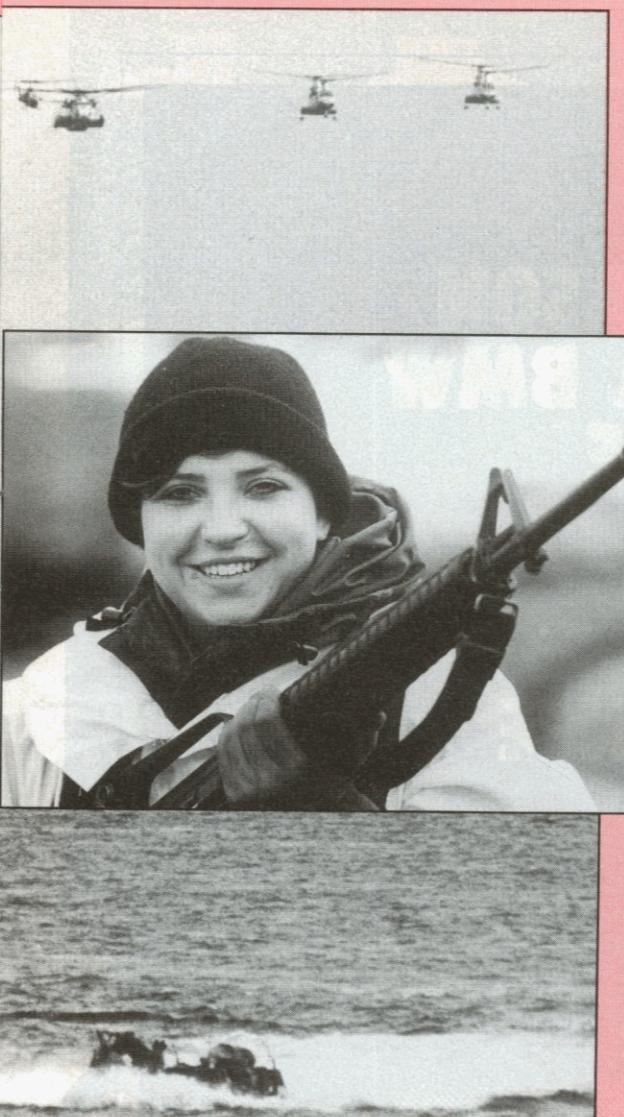
King Harald V of Norway visited the exercise in the Troms area and met British and Norwegian soldiers in the snow. He was a serving officer in the Norwegian Army until the death of his father King Olav in January last year, and showed a great interest in all he saw.

Among the British troops on Teamwork 92 were 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, based at Plymouth, who had joined forces with Dutch Marines to form the United

Military Police. "This is my first time in Norway," said Tracie, "and I'm looking forward to seeing all these great looking Vikings I've heard about."

King Harald V of Norway visited the exercise in the Troms area and met British and Norwegian soldiers in the snow. He was a serving officer in the Norwegian Army until the death of his father King Olav in January last year, and showed a great interest in all he saw.

Principal Army units taking part in Teamwork were Regular members of the AMF (L), based at Bulford, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) and a detachment of the Logistic Support Battalion.



Tea time for Recce Platoon of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. From left to right are Pte Paul Skillicorn, Pte David Hayes, Pte Jason Magee, Cpl Chris Hollinshead and Pte Keith Wilson



King Harald of Norway meets British and Norwegian soldiers in the Troms area during his visit to Teamwork 92



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Gen Sir Peter de la Billière presents Capt Richard Bennison with a C-in-C's commendation

Gulf recce unit on medal parade

NINETEEN years ago, Mick Borde's mate bet him he wouldn't join his local regiment.

Mick won the wager, and has never regretted it.

He enlisted in the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, at whose barracks in Wimbish, Essex, he was one of several recipients of special Gulf awards presented by Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Commander British Forces Middle East during the war.

The 16th/5th was 1 (UK) Armoured Division's recce regiment in the Gulf.

The Lancers' main role during the ground war was to push deep into enemy territory ahead of the advancing Allied troops, locate Iraqi tank formations and call down air and artillery fire, clearing the way for the advance.

Twelve months on, with a busy stint in Herford, Germany, behind them and a major exercise on Salisbury Plain due to start the following day, the regiment had somehow managed to fit in rehearsals for the special presentation parade.

Making one of his final public appearances before his retirement in April, Gen de la Billière presented Gulf Medals to 257 members of the 16th/5th.

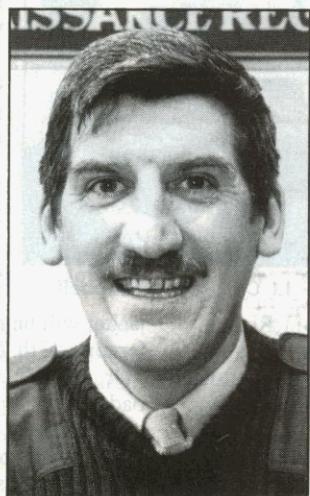
He also presented four "Mentions in Dispatches", a British Empire Medal, his own Commendation, a US Army Bronze Star and Medal and a BAOR Commander-in-Chief's Commendation.

WO2 Borde, who received the Commander British Forces Middle East Commendation for his outstanding service during

Operation Granby, said: "I'm chuffed. It's a rarity to be presented with an award by the person who commended me."

Before leaving for the Gulf, part of WO2 Borde's job was to get the regiment (including attached personnel from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers) up to scratch in areas as diverse as first aid and gunnery.

Once in the desert, as 2 iC Intelligence Staff, he and his men carried out forward reconnaissance for the division, noting enemy positions and



"Mr Fixit", WO2 Mick Borde

minefields . . . "in fact, anything that would endanger the division following forward," WO2 Borde explained.

"We were an Intelligence Cell, keeping the regiment up to date not only with Iraqi movements, but our own.

"We got our information from divisional and Brigade information cells, then built our own

picture up and informed the regiment of what to expect. Once the battle started, we still kept them informed on such

● Turn to next page



Big day for (from left) Cpl Andrew Flannagan, LCpl Darren Siddaway, Cpl James Scattergood, Tpr Danny Stewart and Wayne Moreton, Cpls Andrew Foster and Simon Cunningham (QDG). Cpls Foster and Cunningham were part of a single squadron of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards which carried out initial reconnaissance in the Gulf from October 1990 until the 16th/15th arrived three months later



Tpr Wayne Moreton with British and, now, US medal



Ready for the off: Lancers prepare for the medal parade at their Wimbish barracks

Medal parade

From Page 25

things as the kill rate and how we saw the battle was progressing."

Known as something of a "Mr Fixit", WO2 Borde's ingenuity came into play once the 100-hour battle had finished and the regiment moved into a holding area near Kuwait City.

To help maintain morale, he organised an "It's A Knock-out" competition and flew in nurses from Al Jubail to take part.

"We finished off with a barbecue and an Aliwal (the regimental battle honour) Revue, which gave the lads time to relax and take the micky out of everyone from the CO downwards."

He is philosophical about the regiment's amalgamation with the 17th/21st Lancers in July 1993.

"I joined the Army as a soldier, and as far as I am concerned my job is to serve Queen and country 24 hours a day, no matter what the

regiment is called." Lt Col Peter Campbell, commanding officer of 16/5 L, confirmed that everyone, "from the Colonel of the Regiment downwards" had been very positive about the amalgamation from the outset.

"We understand the reasons behind it, and we will get on with it, throughout the rank structure," he said. "Of course, it will be extremely disappointing to lose traditions which we hold dear."

But, he added, a suitable compromise has been reached.

The regiment has always been known as the Scarlet Lancers, and the scarlet hat and mess jacket will be retained – but the famous 17th/21st death's head "Or Glory" will be the cap badge.

Exchanges of soldiers have been taking place between the two regiments.

"As soldiers come in on interview, I have been asking them what they think of the new cap badge," said Col Campbell.

"One NCO said: 'I'll wear bloody anything on my 'ead as



Gongs galore: Men of 16/5 L received a total of 257 Gulf Medals

long as I'm with the new regiment.' I think that sums up the attitude."

Tpr Wayne Moreton, who received the United States Army Commendation Medal at the parade, was modest in his description of the incident which led to the award.

"Being closed down in the vehicle, you are limited in your vision. Cpl Andrew Flannagan and I were being towed and saw a vehicle in the distance.

"As it came nearer we could see it was an Iraqi tank. They fired, had a misfire, then were trying to clear the gun. We

fired, hit the tank's turret ring, then the Iraqi crew dismounted. It was all over very quickly."

One of their colleagues described another incident.

"The trooper's vehicle had broken down and we recovered him and were towing him away. We suddenly found ourselves caught up in the battle, about 300 metres away. It was horrendous, but I managed to engage the tank and hit it twice."

Another recipient of an award, the Commander-in-Chief BAOR Recommendation, was Capt Richard Bennison.

He had been itching to be sent to the Gulf at the time of the war, but, as Families' Officer, he was politely told that "under no circumstances" would he have been allowed to go.

"To retain a home base was very important," he explained.

"I had already done over a year as Families' Officer, so I knew all the wives and children and welfare agencies. You were always waiting for the telephone to ring, and when it did, you always thought the worst."

However, although most were, in fact, routine adminis-

tration calls, the telephone preyed on Capt Bennison's mind up to the final whistle.

"During the Gulf period I was not me: everyone was on automatic pilot," he said.

"We were dealing with all sorts of background problems, day in, day out, but I had good support from the Wives' Club.

"I felt sorry for other units which were not family regiments like ours. The 16th/5th's home representation was like a rear party that was pushing together all the time, including the wives. All the usual gripes disappeared, because they knew we had things to do."

Both Capt Bennison and his wife had brothers who served in the Gulf with the regiment.

Another vital cog in the regimental wheel during the war was RSM Steve Driver, RQMS in the Gulf.

He and his team had to ensure that essential combat supplies such as rations, ammunition and water reached the SQMSs, as well as dealing with everything from respirator repairs to mail distribution.

"We did most of our work at night," he said, "collecting rations between 9pm and 1am. We were working an 18-hour day, dealing with five regiments. It was quite a task getting rations to 770 blokes every night."

His regimental comrade, WO1 RSM Lee Bowers (now with The Queen's Own Yeomanry) spent his 40th birthday in the Gulf.

"I towed a JCB on the back of my eight-tonner north to the Iraqi border, for 14 hours over bumpy ground. Not one person wished me a happy birthday!" he said.

As far as the battle itself was concerned, RSM Driver said he had not really had an opportunity at the time to reflect on it – and had been back again at Herford in Germany before he knew it.

"We were fairly lucky, because we went out there just after Christmas and by March we were back," he said.

"I felt sorry for the people who had been in the Gulf since September. We went out to beef everything up: it was an experience not to be missed. It's what we train for."

Like many of his colleagues, he is resigned to the forthcoming amalgamation.

"It's going to happen. We

are taking it in true cavalry spirit – getting on with the job."

He and his opposite number in the 17th/21st, RSM Joe Adkins, have been in contact and have "partaken of refreshment" in each other's mess.

Praising members of the 16th/5th after their Colours had been paraded for nearly the last time, Gen de la Billière said: "I wish you all the very best in the future."

"You are not leaving anything behind you. You take with you a great history and a great reputation – and you have all made your operational contribution to it."

Indeed, as this fiercely proud family regiment prepares to march off into the history books, there is a feeling of its vital reconnaissance role in the Gulf War being merely a continuing part of a job well done.



RSM Steve Driver

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Words: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Perring

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Rgr Derek Watters checks the sights on an Infantry Demonstration Battalion Warrior IFV

Battlefield commanders of tomorrow see . . .

An explosive performance

SEVERAL times a year for more than 40 years, thousands of spectators have tramped their way to the Battlesbury Bowl area of Salisbury Plain to witness an impressive presentation of 20th century weaponry at an All-Arms Firepower Demonstration.

Aim of the demonstration is to show the characteristics and effects of the weapons which a battlegroup commander would expect to have under his direct command and others that would be available to support him.

It is primarily staged for the Junior Division Staff College (JDSC), but is open to Regular and Territorial Army soldiers, officer cadets from Sandhurst and Army Cadets. Up to 2,000 visitors attend each show to see at first hand the awesome killing power of weapons ranging from the standard SA 80 individual weapon through to the battle-winning Challenger main battle tank.

The event was organised by

the School of Infantry's Infantry Demonstration Battalion, currently the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, who were supported by mortar and heavy machine gun platoons of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, D Squadron 17th/21st Lancers, medium recce troop 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, 3 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment and the school's signal platoon and Warminster Support Unit.

OC Demo was Maj Mike Devlin, 1 R Irish, who told the expectant audience that the weapons to be fired had been grouped according to type.

"There are those intended to kill personnel unprotected by armour or hard cover, others designed to destroy armoured vehicles and other hardened targets, close air support and battlefield-shaping weapons," he said.

Before each of the man-

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

front of

way of clearing trenches, bunkers and buildings. The L2A2 high explosive grenade inflicts casualties up to 190 metres from the point of detonation.

One thrown into the centre of a bunch of Figure 11 targets draped with condoms full of red liquid produced a shiver down the spines of many of those watching as the ensuing "bloody" spray indicated the spread of shrapnel.

Especially spectacular was the phosphorous grenade which produced an instant wall of smoke. This was the weapon seen exploding with such effect in a series of stunning Gulf War photographs taken when Pte Tam Gow, 1 Royal Scots, won the Military Medal for gallantry.

Close air support is vital to any commander and this was demonstrated by attack runs from Royal Air Force Harrier jets and A10 Thunderbolt "tank-buster" aircraft.

The Harrier fired SNEB

portable weapons were fired, Sgt Thomas O'Brien choreographed the static display team who doubled out in

the stand to give spectators a closer look at the weapons about to be fired.

At one stage, a ghillie-suited sniper equipped with the L96 sniper rifle stood on a podium flanked by two Rangers armed with SA 80 and a light support weapon. His "Worzel Gummidge" outfit hid the serious nature of his work. His aim is to kill the enemy and the only exposed piece of flesh was his trigger finger.

It took three men to double

on with the .5in medium machine gun. Units of 5 Airborne Brigade are equipped with this weapon for use against aircraft or against soft-skinned vehicles. It is also on issue to some units in Northern Ireland.

Grenades, as was proved in

the Gulf, remain an effective



A Ranger lines up his sights during the firepower demonstration



Left to right: Light Support Weapon, L96 sniper rifle and SA 80. Note the sniper's cutaway glove which leaves the trigger finger exposed

rockets at tank hulls on the distant range. Each pod contains 19 68mm rockets which can penetrate up to 300mm of armour plate. The rockets also knock out the optical sensors used to provide data for tank fire control systems.

The A10 aircraft is built round a 30mm Gatling gun and fires more than 4,000 rounds a minute. It can also carry a variety of other weapons

including TVB-guided anti-tank missiles, cluster and laser-guided bombs.

SOLDIER reported one of the first firepower demonstrations in 1949. The soldiers were equipped with bazookas and flame-throwers, and entered the battlefield in an early version of an armoured personnel carrier - Sherman tanks with the turrets removed.

Today's armoured infantry battalions go to war in the

Warrior infantry fighting vehicle, with its greatly enhanced mobility and firepower.

It has a higher power-to-weight ratio than any comparable vehicle and is armed with a 30mm Rarden cannon which can fire single shots or a short burst of six rounds in as many seconds.

The weapon, fired into bunkers, persuaded thousands of Iraqi soldiers to give up the fight during Operation Desert

Salute, saving many Allied lives in the process. Soon the Irish Rangers will be handing over their role of Infantry Demonstration Battalion to another regiment. Whatever weapons enter service with the British Army, they will eventually make an appearance at Battlesbury. There will always be a requirement to demonstrate the effects of weapons on the battlefield to the commanders of tomorrow.

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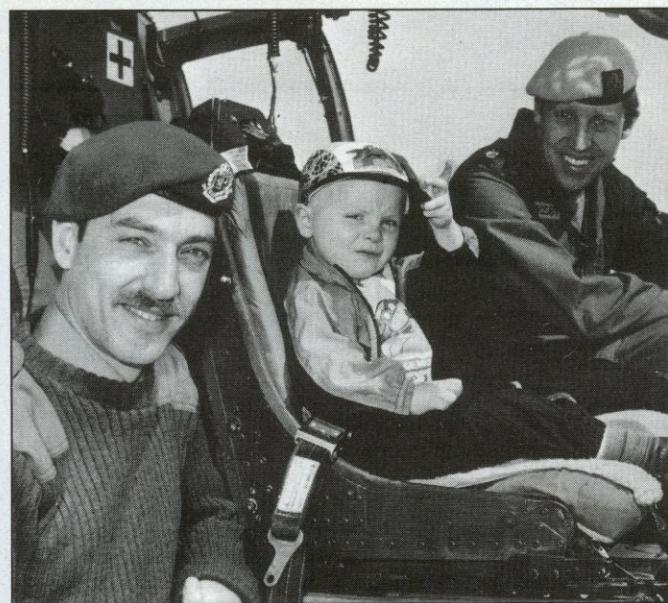
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ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE



Stefan at the controls of a Gazelle helicopter, watched by pilot Maj Bob Crosby and SSgt Steve Hunt

Army brightens up Stefan's sunshine break

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THREE-year-old Stefan Cox has had the holiday of a lifetime in Cyprus . . . with a little help from the British Army.

Stefan, who lives in Kennedy Crescent, Darlaston, near Walsall, West Midlands, suffers from neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer, and was due to go to Disney World in Florida with funds raised by local people and the Press in his home town.

Doctors, however, thought that the trip would be too long for him and the West Midlands Police, who have been sponsoring him, suggested Cyprus.

Chief Inspector Les Leek contacted RSM Dave Painter of the Royal Military Police based in Episkopi and asked for help in organising Stefan's time in Cyprus.

At very short notice, the Redcaps rallied round and arranged a trip around the unit, including a car ride with a motor cycle escort, the taking of fingerprints, a visit to the armoured cars of The Royal Hussars, a ride in a fire engine of the base Fire Service and a trip in a Gazelle helicopter of 16 Flight Army

Crosby from Dhekelia.

Stefan also visited the Red Arrows who were in Cyprus for their annual work-up training.

Now Stefan faces a bone marrow transplant and several weeks in Birmingham Children's Hospital.

★ ★ ★

Dortmund Garrison chefs reckon they achieved a charity "first" to raise DM6,000 for the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal - they got themselves sponsored to pull a Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) for 500 yards!

Under the direction of WO2 (SQMS) Paul Shaw, Master Chef serving with 5 Heavy Regiment RA, 36 chefs tugged the 29-ton rocket launcher across the finish line in a sprightly 14 min 40 sec.

★ ★ ★

RSM Mick Berrill and Provost Sgt Dave Combes "traded places" with Naafi staff Wilma Ross and Babs Hully at **Swinton Barracks**, Andover, and helped to raise £400 towards the breast cancer research appeal.

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

Sort out the DIY medal muddle

THE first two parts of the charter of the Army Medal Office charge it with:

● Responsibility for the award and issue of medals approved by the Sovereign to those soldiers entitled to receive them or, if deceased, to the immediate legal beneficiary; and

● Upholding the integrity of these medals and maintaining the esteem in which they are held.

With this in mind I refer to the do-it-yourself medals being sponsored by ex-Service associations.

The Army Medal Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office say these association commemorative medals cannot be worn officially. I personally disagree with the wearing of them, considering it to be a form of egotism which should be discouraged.

Ask any woman or child who endured the horrendous bombing of our cities, or the women who worked 12-hour shifts towards the war effort, where their medals are!

Isn't it time that this medal muddle was sorted out before one of our medal-laden veterans falls over on parade and is unable to get up because of the weight of them? — A W Percy, Portsmouth.

You didn't fool me

YOU must have been well "lit up" to expect readers to believe the Royal Military Police are standing about waiting for a power cut so that they can dash out to control traffic (April 6).

It's about time you saw the light. Good try for April 1. Better luck next year. — Alec Coleman, Whitefield, Manchester.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



● Tiger cub "launches" new Southern District. See front cover and Page 15.



From SOLDIER, September 1953 — two sergeants of the 2nd Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, with sashes on the right shoulder



A Colour party with sashes on the left shoulder and in the uniforms of 4 LI at the time of the laying-up of the old 1st Bn, DLI's Colour

Right way to wear a sash?

AS Editor of a monthly newsletter for Mess 356 of the Fellowship of the Services I am attempting to clarify certain points in the history of the Durham Light Infantry.

Most of the history of this fine regiment is at hand but for one item which is causing a slight argument. Why did WOs

and sergeants wear their red sash over the left shoulder tied at the right? — Thomas H Truswell, South Heston, Durham.

● According to SOLDIER Librarian Bill Stroud, the WOs and sergeants of the DLI wore the sash on the right shoulder until the regiment was amalgamated in

Sloppy berets rankle

I FEEL I must point out the sloppy way some berets are being worn in the Army today — right over the eyebrows, as exemplified in some SOLDIER photographs.

I belonged to two beret-wearing regiments — The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Parachute Regiment — and nothing short of one inch above the eyebrows was considered regimental.

If this is pointed out in your magazine we may get a bit of uniformity in the ranks instead of some soldiers looking as if they are wearing sunshades! — D Wilson, Leeds 12.

Poet's grave

RECENTLY I re-visited the First World War battlefield near Ieper and came across the grave of John McCrae, who wrote *In Flanders Fields*.

Above the inscription to that effect is the crest of the Province of West Flanders. — Kenneth Heselwood, Bouillon Street 2, 1060 Brussels, Belgium.

1968 to become the 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry. Reason for the change was that in the senior regiment of the LI — the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, which became 1 LI in that year — sergeants wore the sash over the left shoulder and this tradition was adopted by all four battalions. The 4th Bn was disbanded in March 1969.

As Anne discovered in Jamaica . . .

They're the same old problems, the world over . . .

THEY say old soldiers never die. I was reminded of that recently when I accompanied my husband on a Help the Aged visit to the Caribbean.

Former British Servicemen are to be found all over the world, and I was privileged to meet several being cared for in Jamaica by an organisation similar to our own Royal British Legion.

First stop was at the Jamaican Legion's purpose-built headquarters at Curphey Place, where general secretary Lloyd Johnson and welfare officer Stanley Ott explained how they provide welfare support and leisure activities to old soldiers.

From Curphey Place a whole network of Legion activities radiates across the sunshine island.

Thanks to the commander of the Jamaican Army Air Wing I was whisked in a green Jet Ranger helicopter from the Jamaican Defence Force HQ at Up Park Camp, Kingston, on a flying visit to the remote Curphey Veterans' Home near Mandeville.

The Jet Ranger, piloted by Lt Christopher Douglas and Lt Robert Gordon, is more usually employed in the island's never-ending battle against drugs.

Stark white gravestones in a nearby cemetery pinpointed the huts of Curphey Home, an R and

R centre for American troops during the Second World War.

Warden for the past 13 years has been a veteran known universally as Scotty. Now 67, he is one of the younger inhabitants, whose ages range into the high 90s.

In spite of many financial difficulties, the home hopes to find the funds it needs to complete a 20-bed extension and modernise the kitchen. Both projects will considerably improve the quality of life of the old soldiers who live there.

Only six of the 20 I spoke to have pensions, while some have no income at all and rely on the ten dollars they are given a week from donated funds. That's sufficient for one cigarette a day . . . or a can of beer a week.

Scotty is helped by a nurse who needs a new blood pressure gauge and a small fridge for medicines. They are both small items, and they would save her a 28-mile round trip to the surgery in Mandeville.

Ex-NCO Norman Carpenter told me he had worked all his life in the West Indies and had now decided not to return to the United Kingdom. The British Ex-Services Commonwealth Association had just managed to fix him up with a pension.

Norman joined the Sherwood Foresters in 1932

and left in 1936 after three years in Jamaica. Called up again in 1940, he recruited a local unit to guard 6,000 German and Italian POWs, eventually escorting them back to Hamburg in 1948.

He arrived at Curphey Home last year to recuperate from pneumonia and decided to stay on.

Edward Brown (90), a First World War veteran, suffers from deafness, a legacy of being blown 150ft in the air in France more than 70 years ago. Playing cards and dominoes – a passion with islanders – were ex-Royal Pioneer Charles Samuel (71) and Charles Armstrong (74).

They devoured the copies of *SOLDIER* I left with them.

My escorts flew me over the mountains to Moneague, home of the Jamaican Defence Force, whose training regiment is commanded by the dynamic Lt Col Linton Graham, a professional soldier who spent many years with the British Forces.

The regiment has a group for Service wives, started five years ago, which mirrors the work of the Federation of Army Wives.

Col Linton told me: "Everyone wants a house. We have a few married quarters for those on certain duties, but we cannot get the number of houses we need."

Soldiers I spoke to, most of whom commute home to Kingston every weekend,

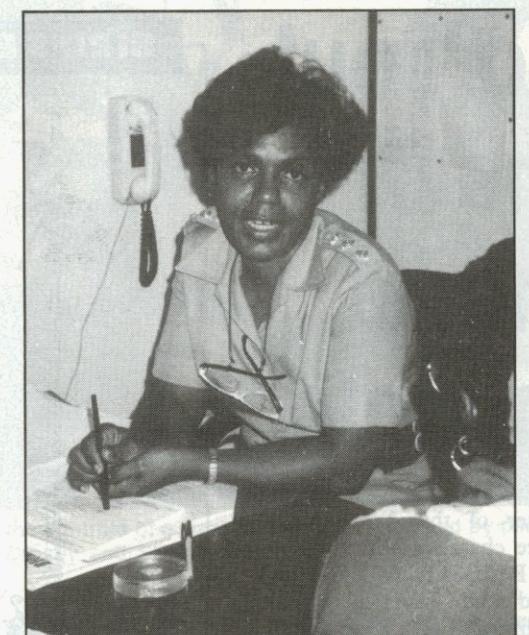
had much in common with their British Army counterparts. Their concerns were about separation, pay and allowances, housing during and after service, education for children and jobs for wives.

Col Linton explained that a resettlement board helped those leaving the Service after 12 years.

Medical, welfare and money matters were given top priority. "Financial management is one of the key issues I talk to my men about," he said.

And the management does not stop there. Energy conservation is taken very seriously in the camp, and Col Linton intends to turn stagnant lakes on the site into fish farms.

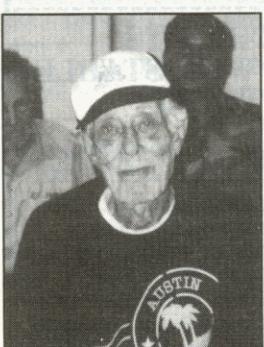
Back in Kingston, I met Capt Norma Reid, a nursing officer who counsels JDF families with



Jamaican pilots Lt Christopher Douglas and Lt Robert Gordon



WO1 Ian Foster and his wife Davidina plan a weekend trip



Ex Sherwood Forester Norman Carpenter

age of every soldier's pay goes into a national housing trust, which helps considerably when he leaves. He also gets an allowance towards rented

accommodation." Col Linton explained that a trained counsellor and social worker, she places great emphasis on the recognition of stress in all forms – financial, emotional, physical, work-related.

For her, looking after Service personnel and their dependants is a full-time job. The system appears to work very well.

I was indebted to WO1 Ian Foster of the British Army liaison team for arranging for my visits to the Legion and the JDF. Ian and his wife Davidina, whose two sons are at school in the UK, arrived in Jamaica last September and have explored the island extensively.

IN MY . . .

Goodbye to all that

THE SUCCESSES, achievements, history and traditions of the Women's Royal Army Corps will find new homes in the corps to which the Army's women soldiers have re-badged.

As I stood with more than 100 other former corps members on the WRAC Centre parade ground at Guildford, awaiting the arrival of our Commandant-in-Chief, the Queen Mother, memories of six very enjoyable years flooded back. Such as:

- The time I forgot the command during a drill competition and my platoon disappeared off that very square;
- The loss of my khaki bloomers in mid-stride, courtesy of perished elastic kept too long in the stores;
- My one-and-only excursion in a tank, when I demolished a row of bollards;
- The ejector button "incident" at Guttersloh which left a prized RAF aircraft scarred by my visit;
- And most of all the friendships, the camaraderie, the excitement of new postings . . . and the tremendous fun of it all.

. . . VIEW

Long odds on a discounted MQ

Dear Anne,

THE APRIL Joint Surplus MQ Sales Bulletin listed just six Royal Navy and 17 Royal Air Force houses – no Army – which means

that as an Army person it's very unlikely I would get a sniff at a property. Will there be more houses coming up in time for me to bid?

Anne writes: This letter prompted me to look more closely at the sale of surplus MQs. There are 1,560 dwellings in the process of being sold (as reported in *Hansard* on February 28), so I asked for information on how many

would make their way into the JS MQs Bulletin.

Unless a significant number come on the market shortly there will be a lot of disappointed Servicemen.

In January, March and April the number advertised were: Royal Navy 20, Army 29, RAF 37, a total of 66. There's a long way to go to reach 1,560 this year.

Each Service has priority on its own houses offered, with just 29 given priority for Army personnel in the past four months.

If you are hoping for a surplus MQ when leaving at the end of your engagement, make sure you see DCI JS 18, 1992.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

EVERYONE connected with Service Children's Schools in North Western Europe will want to be kept informed of changes taking place in the education system, home and abroad.

First issue of *Schools News*, a recently-launched newsletter, covers such subjects as moving back to the UK, the National Curriculum, the Parent's Charter, and transfer of a child's school records.

The second issue will contain articles on special educational needs, school advisory committees and reports of school inspections.

Newsletter editor Maj Duncan James, of HQ BAOR, welcomes letters – and anyone seeking to have a particular topic covered should drop him a line, addressing it to the Editor, Schools News, HQ SCS (NWE), BFPO 14.



Charities cash in on computers

SERVICE benevolent funds are being helped by the MoD computer discount plan announced last October.

More than 800 people have so far responded to the scheme, which enables Service personnel and MoD civil servants to benefit from some of the best deals around on computer equipment.

Companies involved make a direct contribution to Service charities for each computer sold under the plan.

As a result, computers have been presented to a young RCT driver and an RAF cadet hurt in accidents. It is hoped the equipment will help in their rehabilitation.

The scheme includes six of the most popular direct-selling computer companies in the country. A limited range of Apple-Macintosh computers for Mac devotees has been added to the list, until recently confined to IBM-compatible machines, and it is hoped to bring in Amiga soon.

For more information, contact Maj I Sanderson, Room 407, 071-218 5116.

Dover Castle is a-maze-ing!

ANYONE with an interest in either military history or telephones will find that Dover Castle is well worth a visit. Anyone with a fascination for both will probably never want to leave.

The largest military telephone exchange on display to the public, in the maze of tunnels under the castle, was opened last summer by Mike Bett, vice-chairman of (what else?) British Telecom.

Hellfire Corner, as the tunnels are known, housed the command centre for Operation Dynamo, the 1940 evacuation of Dunkirk, which identified the need for better communications.

Military Exchange East at Dover, with its 12 switchboards, was the largest of six which served the combined headquarters 24 hours a day for the remainder of the war. It has

been re-created using old equipment.

Determined not to be left behind in the military nostalgia boom is the Hampshire-based Defence of the Realm organisation, which is urging the historical sleuth to follow the D-Day trail with a colourful brochure listing 20 sites to visit in Hampshire and Normandy. Details are available from Nicola Horsey on 0705 504332.

A third venue for the enthusiast which has come to our notice is the Combined Operations Museum at Inverary Castle, Argyll, described in the publicity as "Scotland's Secret Training Base".

In the Second World War British, American, Free French, Polish, Norwegian and Russian soldiers learned commando techniques at the castle.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N (tel: Main Building ext 84321) or Wg Cdr R F Blunden, Room 8/B1, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL (tel: MB ext 87478, fax 071-218 5116).

SSAFA's celebration

SSAFA representatives from all over the world are expected at Westminster Abbey on May 12 to commemorate 100 years of nursing and welfare care for Service families.

They will be joined by members of SSAFA's nursing guild for retired staff, including one aged 101.

The uniformed nursing branch

was established in 1892, and although SSAFA's service in the United Kingdom was taken over by local authorities in 1948, the overseas service continued with funding from the Ministry of Defence.

Today, SSAFA employs more than 230 qualified health visitors, social workers, midwives, school nurses and other specialists.

Gallantry medals on show

A MAJOR exhibition of British gallantry awards from 1800 to 1950 is to be mounted at Sotheby's in New Bond Street, London, from May 26 to June 5 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Orders and Medals Research Society.

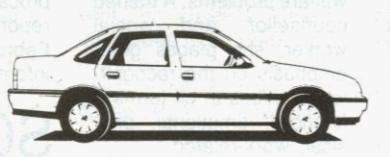
Open every day of the week from 10am to 4.30pm, the display will feature hundreds of decorations from all three Services.

Too many to mention them all, they include Sgt Joseph Malone's Victoria Cross won with the 13th Light Dragoons in the Charge of the Light Brigade, and the George Cross awarded to Lt Robert Davies, the Royal Engineer bomb disposal expert credited with saving St Paul's Cathedral at the height of the Blitz.

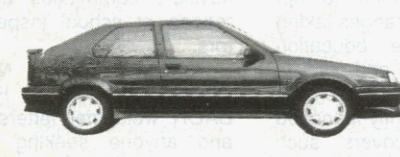
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Wargamers do battle

WARGAMERS are warming up for their Olympics in London in September.

The national championships at the Royal Horticultural Halls in Elverton Street on September 5-6 are expected to attract more than 300 competitors.

With an April 30 deadline for entries, enquiries should be addressed to Andy Wilcox, 24 Rickmansworth Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3TG.

Silver lining

A SPECIAL display of regimental silver is to feature in an extravaganza at Sheffield's famous Cutlers' Hall for five days in August.

The priceless collections, mounted by the historic Company of Cutlers, can be seen from August 4 to 8. It will include magnificent pieces from the 1st Royal Horse Artillery, the Coldstream Guards, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Green Howards and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

DIARY

Until October 18: Falklands War exhibition at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

MAY

7-8: Helimeet international flying competition and helicopter exhibition, Stockbridge, Hants.

9-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants (advance bookings: 0264 384421 or 384461).

15: 76th US Army Band concert at Southport Theatre, Southport, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

16: Military in Miniature show, British Model Soldier Society (Aldershot Branch), Princes Hall, Aldershot.

23-25: Military Vehicle Trust D-Day show, Weston-super-Mare.

26-June 5: Sotherby's exhibition of British gallantry medals, New Bond Street, London.

29-31: Military Vehicle Trust Overlord 92 rally, Portsmouth.

JUNE

6: Garrison 92, Warminster summer show including massed bands and displays.

12-14: Rhine Army Show, Bad Lippspringe, near Paderborn.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade. Colour Trooped by 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

27: RAF Halton show, near Wendover, Aylesbury.

JULY

1-6: Armed Forces Week, a tri-Services event on Plymouth Hoe.

6-12: Public events at Royal Citadel, Plymouth, to mark completion of its renovation and 30th anniversary of Commando Gunners.

8-25: Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office: 071-373 8141).

11-12: Men at Arms display, Military Vehicle Museum, Exhibition Park Pavilion, Newcastle upon Tyne.

17-25: Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

29 and 31: Prince of Wales's Division Massed Bands display, Cardiff Castle (tickets from Massed Bands Display Office, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE, tel: 0222 227611 ext 8244).

AUGUST

7-29: Edinburgh Military Tattoo (credit card hotline tel: 031-225 3661 or Tattoo Office, 22 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QB).

SEPTEMBER

6-13: Farnborough International Air Show.

12-13: Wessex Regimental Tattoo, Devizes, Wiltshire.

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

REUNIONS

Black Watch Association, Stoke-on-Trent (Midlands)

Branch: Annual dinner-dance will take place in Stoke-on-Trent on May 8. Details from F Bailey, 1 Brianson Avenue, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST6 2NG (tel: 0782 280912).

The King's Regiment

Regimental Association visit to 1 Kings at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, on July 4-5. Details from RHQ Kings, Graeme House, Derby Square, Liverpool L2 7SD (tel: 051-236 6363).

Combined Ex-Services Association

The association's conference weekend and reunion takes place in Bridlington on June 19-21, with a "dance, sing-song and chinwag" in the Spa Royal Hall on the Friday night, the conference on Saturday, and church parade and inspection on Sunday. Details from J L Thomas, 17 Hustler Road, Bridlington YO16 5RN (tel: 0262 673101).

The Royal Berkshire Regiment Old Comrades

agm and reunion, Brock Barracks, Reading, July 25-26. For details send SAE to Maj (Retd) J J Thompson, The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2EX or telephone 0722 336222 ext 2683.

● **St Boniface, Rheindahlen:** The 1992 St Boniface reunion takes place on June 28 at St Clement Danes RAF Church, London. Choral evensong followed by supper at Chelsea Barracks. Former St Boniface choir and congregation welcome. Contact A P M Hole, 39 Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel: 0737 244001).

● **Warwickshire Yeomanry:** A service of remembrance will be held in Stratford on Avon on October 24, exactly 50 years after Stratford soldiers fought Rommel's Afrika Corps at El Alamein. Ex-Warwickshire Yeomanry are asked to contact OCA secretary Neville Warner (tel: 0789 205818) for details.

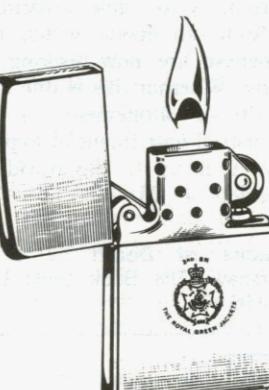
SEARCHLINE

Army Leave Hostel, Cairo

Mr J S Attle, of 10 Essex Court, Rockhurst Drive, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN20 8UU, seeks information on the exact whereabouts in Cairo (street name if possible) of the hostel, then called Hibbert House. He recalls it was near the city centre and Azbakiya Gardens.

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Auction plea for RA museum

FORMER gunner captain Roy Lane is seeking military memorabilia for an auction he plans next year in aid of the new Royal Artillery Museum at Larkhill.

Roy, 72, a Royal Artillery Association gunner friend, is putting his own valuable collection of books, badges, medals, photographs and documents under the hammer, including a RA canteen token issued in 1850. Sponsored by The Times, the exhibition will be at Hull Town Docks Museum until the end of May. Later venues include Coventry, Nottingham, Worcester and Cirencester.

The new museum, planned for 1994, will house 400 years of gunner history. Anyone who

Living history turns out to be stillborn

THE publishers of *The Great British Soldier - A Living History* claim that this is "a uniquely informative guide both to the history of the British fighting man and to the museums and sites of special interest... complemented by an up-to-date gazetteer which documents all the relevant places of interest and will become an essential touring companion".

than 50 per cent from only four museums.

What, one might ask, is the point of a two-page spread of an American P51 fighter aircraft or a Junkers 88 German transport aircraft, let alone an Italian human torpedo craft in a book dealing with "The Great British Soldier"?

Which brings one to the historical content.

At whatever level an author decides to pitch his story the facts should be right and this book is scattered with such inaccuracies as that at the Battle of Waterloo the farm of La Haye Sainte was garrisoned by the British, whereas it was valiantly held by 400 troops of the German Legion until overrun; and that the farm of Hougoumont was held largely by the Hanoverians who beat off the French attack, whereas it was the Light Companies of two brigades of Foot Guards who bore the brunt of the attack aided by a battalion of Nassauers.

He also states that the Queen's Regiment was formed in 1971 (instead of 1966) and that bomb disposal in the 1939-45 war was carried out by RAOC/REME (instead of RE), to name but a few.

As for "charting the soldiers' progress through major campaigns and wars" readers will be astonished to find that the invasions of Italy and NW Europe are dealt with in 12 lines, four of which deal with The Glider Pilot Regiment, and there is no mention of The Gloucesters in the half page on Korea!

This book can only be described as one of missed opportunities.

It is also annoying to be told that the Duke of Wellington Museum in Halifax contains "exhibits relating to the regiment". What would one expect to find - butterflies? - PSN

The Great British Soldier - A Living History by Philip Warner. David and Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, £14.99.

Years of hell relived in a FEPOW's diary

ON New Year's Day 1941 G F Kershaw was a young soldier sailing with his unit to Singapore.

A little over a year later, in February 1942, he was a prisoner of the Japanese and destined to suffer, with thousands of others, barbarous treatment at their hands.

Half a century has passed since the start of those terrible days and, while admitting to possible memory failure, faulty recollection and prejudice, the author has put together a chilling story of cruelty and horror.

He has based his book on secret diaries he kept throughout nearly four years of captivity, starting with the fall of Singapore through to his release and return to the UK.

The 175 pages of *Tracks of Death* tell of brutality and death at the hands of Japanese and Korean guards. He writes: "It blasphemes God to refer to such creatures as part of the divine creation."

He starts his story with the fall of Singapore and how the GOC, Gen Percival, on surrendering the garrison to General Yamashita, was smashed in the face with a heavy wooden ruler by the Japanese commander who felt he had somehow "lost face" in the proceedings.

It was the first of many

barbarities and obscenities that were to be inflicted on FEPOWS (Far East Prisoners of War) in the succeeding years, he writes.

Seemingly the official figure for British soldiers captured in Singapore was put at 110,000. Kershaw disputes this, claiming that this number was put out by the British "to impress the Australians". Those in Singapore estimated the figure nearer to 68,000, he says.

Referring to the film *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, he says it was excellent entertainment, but "insulted the memory of every person who had worked on the infamous project.

"We did not go to work dressed in full khaki drill with bush hats, long hose, boots and wearing watches and rings and whistling Colonel Bogey. We went as coolies, with only our pride to support us."

Kershaw says he has relied heavily on previously recorded chronicles to "give verisimilitude to an epoch which the Japanese are now seeking to deny. Whether this is due to a spirit of atonement or to industrial and financial expansion it is up to the world to decide." - JM

Tracks of Death by G F Kershaw. The Book Guild Ltd, £12.95.

Longmoor: Home of military railway

HERE is a good quiz question. What do the following have in common: Sir John French, Selborne, Kitchener, Earl Roberts, Gordon, Marlborough, Kingsley, Earl Haig, Wellington?

Answer: They were names of the locomotives on the strength of Longmoor Military Railway at the outbreak of war in 1939.

This is one of the facts to emerge from *Steam Sapper* by Charles Meacher, the wartime memoirs of a young railwayman who in 1940 joined the Royal Engineers and returned to the LNER on demobilisation in 1946.

Sapper Meacher, despite experience on LNER foot-plates, did not go straight into the Railway Operating Branch of the Royal Engineers.

Instead, up to the end of 1942, he served with 931 Port Construction and Repair Company RE, working on the construction of No 2 Military Port at Cairnryan in Scotland, part of which still exists for car ferries serving Northern Ireland.



End of the line for Longmoor as Gordon pulls the last train to Oakhanger

In the period before Meacher found his "home" he came across quite a few colourful characters - for instance, a certain Capt Meirs: "He was keen on discipline and set the pace by example, so much so that he gave himself seven days CB when he was late on parade one morning."

RSM Dimmock at Longmoor, he tells us, "had been in the corps for donkey's years, in fact it was rumoured he was once on a charge for having a dirty bow and arrow."

Charles Meacher was obviously now at home and gives us an excellent description of the Longmoor Military Railway in its heyday, including details of locomotives and

stock used by Railway Operating Companies, making this a book that will appeal to both railway buffs and sappers of all generations.

The importance of Longmoor has not yet been given the appreciation it deserves. "Over the years more than 150 locomotives of various types actually worked at Longmoor," says the author. It was there that 76,000 men were trained during the war years, including agents going into Europe as railway saboteurs.

From Longmoor, Charles Meacher was posted overseas, first to North Africa then Italy, with 153 Railway Operating Company RE. In Italy numerous adven-

tures included an occasion when he had to use an American Baldwin locomotive to bring some loaded tank wagons out of a burning oil depot.

Longmoor is no longer the home of Britain's military railways and the responsibility for running them has passed to the Royal Corps of Transport. However, Longmoor remains part of the sappers' folklore. Charles Meacher's book tells us what it was all about. - BJ

Steam Sapper by Charles Meacher. Square One Publications, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UA, paperback, £7.50.

Napoleon's invasion that never came

BONEY was a warrior. He came, he saw and he conquered his way around Europe and he scared the pants off the British Government of the day when they realised that his plan to invade England was a reality.

In *The French Are Coming*, Peter A Lloyd tells how in 1805 Napoleon Bonaparte created an invasion force of 2,000 custom-built ships and 100,000 men to cross the Channel and subdue Britain once and for all.

It all came to nothing, as did Philip of Spain's massive Armada and Adolf Hitler's crazy scheme for world domination.

Like Hitler a century-and-a-half later, Napoleon stood on the French shore gazing across the Channel and dreaming while his troops waited for his signal to launch their attack.

But it never came, thanks largely to the Royal Navy, which kept him penned in the French ports.

As with the 1939-45 war and the formation of the Home Guard, so it was in 1803 when 380,000 volunteers trained with pikes and anything else they could lay hands on at weekly drill sessions.

According to Lloyd the whole thing was a bit of a

hotch-potch and the part-time soldiers a poor lot.

But it never came, thanks

Beaverbrook's ploy in the 1939-45 war when he urged housewives to hand in aluminium pots to help aircraft production.

The pots were useless and were thrown away, but as a propaganda wheeze it was a winner, with millions believing they were "doing their bit".

The French Are Coming is an interesting and racy read and suggests many "might-have-been" situations had Boney seen his invasion plan through.

What if he had won and

the publishers also claim that "with the aid of over a hundred illustrations the author explains the changing lifestyle and experience of the everyday soldier... [and charts] the soldier's progress through major campaigns and wars."

Fifty per cent of the 60 photographs of museums/locations are from only 20 of the 180 mentioned and of these, ten are from both the Imperial War Museum and Tank Museum and six each from the Museum of Army Transport and The Royal Signals Museum - more

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Phantom of the Castle



MOST soldiers are neither nervous nor given to flights of fancy, yet many, by virtue of the locations they serve in and the hours they work, witness strange phenomena.

Although ghosts are the most common, two other types of haunting are also experienced.

Private T of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is one of many to have seen a ghost. One night in early 1985 he and another soldier were on patrol in the grounds of Edinburgh Castle when they saw a figure on the battlements.

The two men shouted a challenge but were ignored by the figure, which started to move away. Private T and his companion gave chase and scrambled over a high wall onto the lower part of the battlements.

It was at this point that they got their first good sighting of the intruder, who seemed to be wearing the uniform of a British soldier of Napoleonic times.

As the two men raced towards the figure it passed through a tower door at the end of the battlement. When they got there they found the door firmly locked. There was no other exit off the battlement other than a sheer drop to the street below.

Private T reported the incident to the guard commander who told him to forget about it as he had probably seen one of the castle's many ghosts.

Phantom footsteps are another oft-reported occurrence. Colonel P was stationed at Longmoor Camp, Hampshire, in the late 1960s as a captain with the Royal Corps of Transport.

One weekend he borrowed the keys to the camp museum so that he could show his father

by Adrian Smith

round. He let himself in with his father and locked the door behind them so they would not be disturbed.

The high-ceilinged building had once been an engine shed. An upper floor had been added to house the museum library.

After a short while the men were startled to hear footsteps on the floor above. The sounds were those of a soldier getting out of bed and pulling on a pair of studded army boots.

The two men went upstairs to investigate but found no one. They then searched the museum and found all the doors and windows locked. They were alone in the museum but, made uneasy by the footsteps, they soon left.

Although there was no logical explanation, it has since been suggested that this was the ghost of a Second World War soldier who committed suicide while on guard duty and who

was often spotted or heard about the camp.

Unnatural happenings are harder to define. They can range from unpleasant smells to moving furniture and can normally be stopped by exorcism.

During the 1970s, Major J, then a sergeant living in married quarters in Bulford, noticed that one quarter had been empty for months.

After being posted elsewhere he thought no more about it until talking to another officer some years later.

Unaware that Major J had lived in Bulford, the officer told of strange events in the married quarters there.

A corporal had come to see him to request a house move. After some prompting the corporal explained that his child's bedroom was haunted.

The officer, then the adjutant, was scornful but agreed to spend the night in the room to see for himself. Accompanied by the padre, he

took up temporary residence in the bedroom.

Nothing happened until the early hours of the morning, when the temperature suddenly dropped sharply and the child's cot began to shake violently.

The adjutant picked up the frightened child and made a strategic withdrawal. That day the corporal was re-housed.

After a priest was summoned from London to conduct an exorcism, things returned to normal. The house could once again be used as a married quarter and there were no further reports of problems.

Subsequent investigations found that the house stood on land that once formed part of a military graveyard.

There are a wealth of such stories in the Services but unfortunately many people, through fear of ridicule, keep the details to themselves.

I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has similar stories to tell. Your anonymity is guaranteed.

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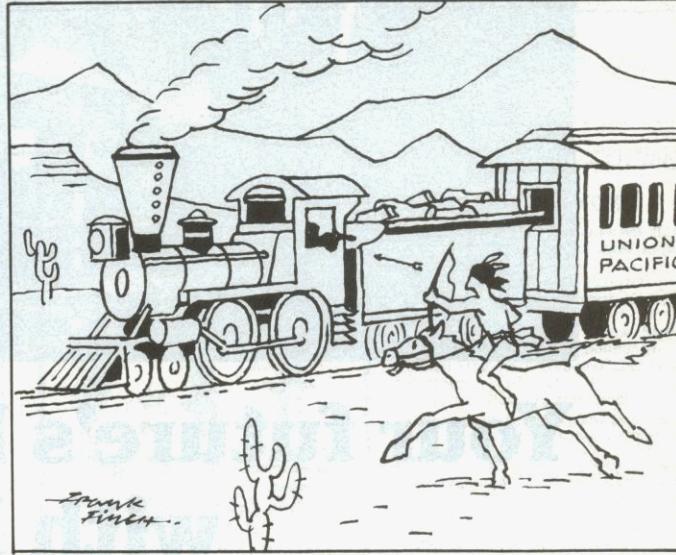
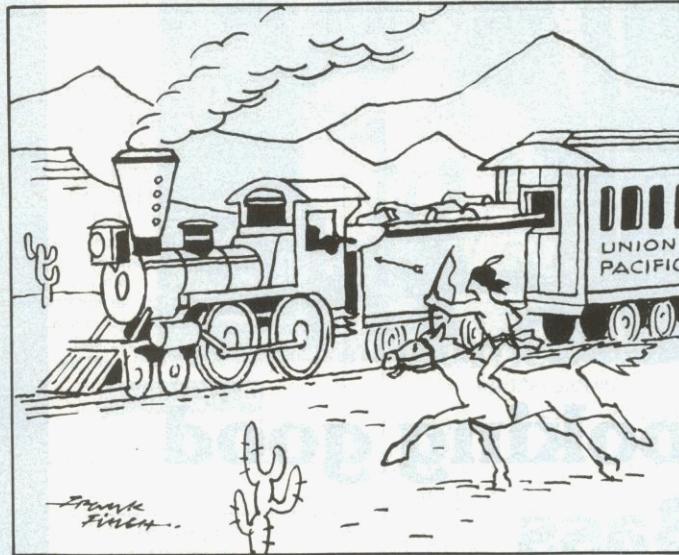
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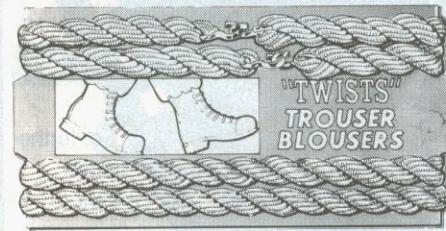
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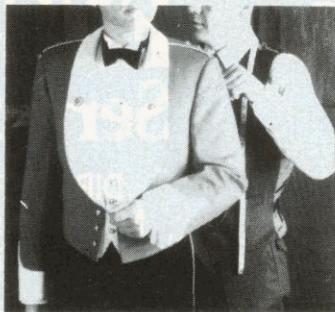
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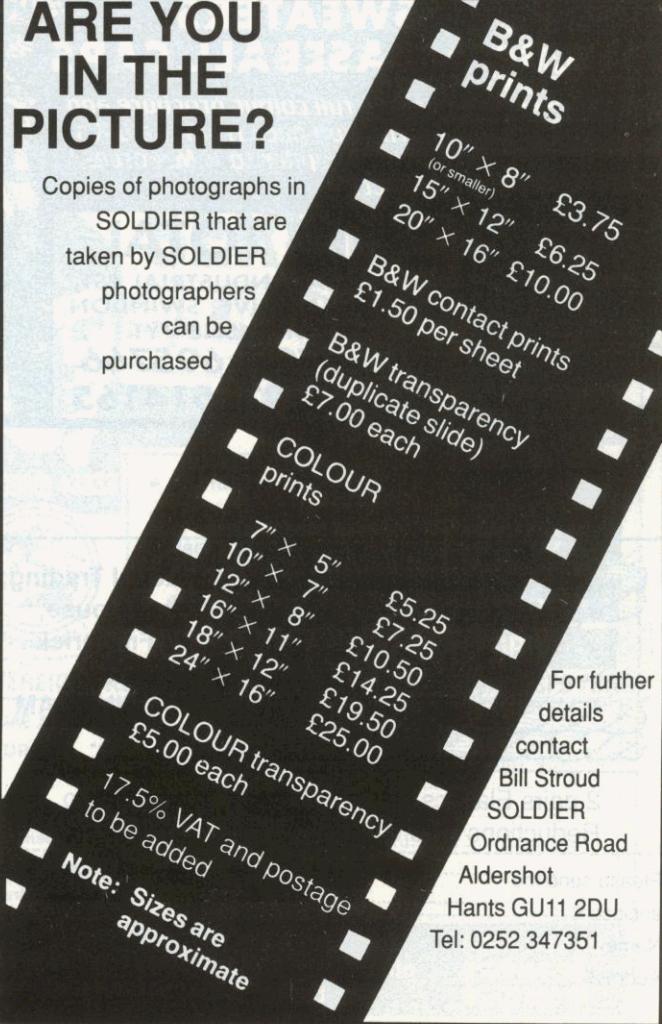
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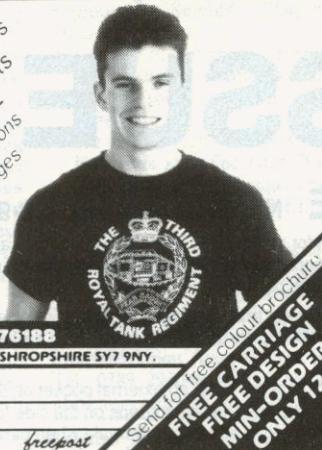
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TC

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Postcards of The Life Guards. Set of 10 coloured cards 6" x 4" depicting the changes of uniform from 1660 to 1991. 52 figures £4.25 inc postage. A W Rowlinson, 21 Gadals Road, Llysfaen, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 8TD.

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15-17

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17/23

Houselets

Gerlings (incorporating Scotlet Ltd). We provide a complete property factoring and management service for members of H.M. Forces in Scotland. So relax about the posting, profit from your property and let Gerlings look after your property. For details write to Gerlings, 101 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh EH9 1AT or phone us 031-447 0111.

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Wiltshire/Dorset/Hampshire. Comprehensive letting and management agents. A family firm who know from experience the particular problems of Service families. We operate a full rental and management service with the accent on individual service. Write or telephone now to: Sarum Properties, The Beeches, Broadchalke, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 5DJ. Telephone: 0722 780153.

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Curriculum Vitae professionally compiled, prepared and presented to help you secure that vital first interview. A first class service without breaking the bank. Send SAE for FREE information pack to: Sharpe Office Services, 6 Rossmore Gardens, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3XF.

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CVs Business Letters, dissertations and reports produced on a word processor. Reasonable rates, CV+1 copy £10. Tel: 0252 511592.

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Wanted

Gulf War militaria bought by historian, e.g. badges, propaganda leaflets, photographs, printed ephemera and souvenirs etc., Laurie Manton, c/o Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

TC

Milton Keynes Pipe Band requires experienced drummers. Preferably ex-Forces pipe band, others considered. Contact Trevor, 0908 640177 after 6pm.

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Cheshire Regiment. Collectables, posters, pictures, helmet, plate, etc, wanted by collector. D Noonan, 150 Ridgehill Lane, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK14 1SJ.

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Ash Vale near Aldershot. Spacious two bedroom apartment (lounge 16'5" x 15'3"). Purpose built, first floor, overlooking Basingstoke Canal. Gas c/h, modern fitted kitchen, garage in nearby block. £58,500. Phone 0252 311646.

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Bodyguard Training. Comprehensive 2 day introductory course. Price £75. Advanced courses available. For full details contact 0432 359563 or 0893 934989.

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ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT,
HANTS GU11 2DU
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11/11

Louisa 30,
fair hair, blue eyes, 5'4".
Slim, attractive, quiet, works
as a secretary. I would like a
soldier 29-35 years, to write
to. I'm looking for someone
tall and sincere.

Box P77

15/92

Divorced Mum
of 3-year-old twins seeks sincere
soldier pen pal with view to
friendship/relationship. Reliable,
humorous and romantic,
unattached. Photo appreciated.
All letters answered.

Box P92

17/92

Pen Pal wanted
for single 18-year-old girl.
I need a bit of excitement in
my life. If you have a good
sense of humour and nice face
then write and cheer me up.

Box P89

15/92

Gary, 30-year-old, male
Blue eyes, light brown hair, 5' 8",
medium build. Likes discos,
pubs, dancing. Would like to
write to unattached female.
Photo if possible. Generally I like
having a good time.

Box P91

17/92

Medium Built, Fair Haired
artistic lady 21, 5' 4". Seeks
unattached male soldier 22+ for
long lasting relationship,
outgoings and days out. Must be
tall and sincere. Highland
princes welcome. PS: No fast
rides please. Write soon.

Box P99

17/92

**DO YOU WANT
PEN PALS**
in Britain, America, or
Canada?

We've got lots of them
just waiting to hear from
you! Send SAE for
details and include your
age and brief details to:
All Our Pen Pals,
Dept Sol,
PO Box 10, Upton,
Wirral L49 4WJ.

13/92

**PEN PAL
REPLIES**
To reply to a Pen Pal
write to:
Soldier Magazine,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

Write the Box
Number clearly in the
top left corner of the
envelope.

26-year-old Secretary
from Southsea who
appreciates the quiet way of
life, country walks, day trips,
listening to Phil Collins and
Enya.

Box P96

17/92

I'm Maxine
20 years old with a son
aged 10 months. I get quite
lonely at home and would
welcome some pen pals.

Box P98

17/92

Divorced 30-year-old mum
5' 9" who loves writing letters.
Would love to hear from you if
you're over 25. I've found a
great new life in the TA,
so let's compare notes,
photo if possible.

Box P87

15/92

Two Lifers
Love travelling and a laugh.
So if you are a couple of nice
girls sharing roughly the same
interests send us a photo and
we'll reply straight away!

Box P84

15/92

Make Me Smile
Please write to attractive
39-year-old lady. Tall,
non-smoker preferred,
photo please.

Box P95

17/92

Jan, 34
Divorced, 5' 8", slim. Looking
for Pen Pals. I love writing
letters, music, nightclubs,
walking, cycling, cinema and
eating out. Come on lads,
drop me a line!

Box P94

17/92

Wanted. Two Genuine Guys
We are two divorced girls
with kids, but still have lots of
love left over to give to the
right person. So, if you're in
need of TLC get in touch.

Box P90

17/92

Hi, I'm Steve.
I'm 19, slim with short brown
hair and blue eyes. I need a
Kelly McGillis in my life, so if
you are between 19 and 23
drop me a line.

Box P85

15/92

25-year-old Lady
I am divorced with a 5-year-
old daughter. I would like to
correspond with a 20 to 35
year-old soldier with a
friendly personality and a
good sense of humour.

Box P93

17/92

Hi, I'm Jackie
I'm 24 and have a flat of my
own in London. I enjoy most
things and think I'm quite fun-
loving. I look forward to
hearing from anybody who
enjoys a variety of things.

Box P83

15/92

According to Astrologers
I'm talented, mysterious and
sensitive. According to me I love
adventure, challenge, excitement
and fun! What about you?
If you enjoy writing/receiving
letters, why not 'drop me a line'?

Box P86

15/92

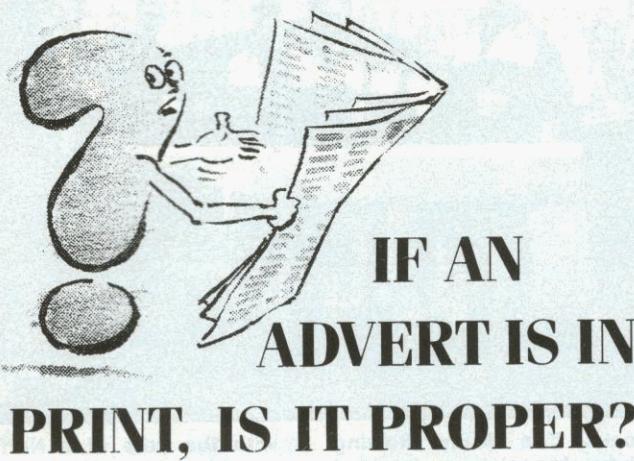
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out going woman, late thirties,
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Same age group or as near as
possible.

Box P88

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Bowlers hit peak form at nationals

THE POPULARITY of tenpin bowling, a demonstration sport at the Barcelona Olympics, was reflected in the entry of 274 for the Army championships staged at the Charrington Bowl at Tolworth in London.

Players from UKLF, the Rhine Army and Cyprus bowled a total of 3,362 games in three days, scoring a tournament pinfall of 534,226.

Winner of the singles competition was WO2 Alec Hone (REME), the doubles went to WO2 Tony Duckworth (Kings) and SSgt Roy Holcombe (R Signals), and the team honours were taken by the School of Electronic Engineering REME (Major Units), RAPC Training Centre Worthy Down (Minor Units), and Rhine Army A (non-unit team).

SSgt Val Bellamy (RE) achieved a new tournament record in winning the women's competitions and teamed up with Cpl Jane Hill (RE) to win the women's doubles.

Sgt Mick Langley (R Signals), with an average of 201 over 12 games, was the all-events champion, and 6 Armoured Workshop REME won the all-events team prize.

Juniors on the run in Wales

A COMBINED Services junior cross country team did well to finish third behind Southern Counties and Welsh Schools in an invitation event at Llan Martin, Wales, which is likely to become an annual event.

Pte Porter (94 Loc Regt) was 11th overall, Cfn McKenna (SEME Regt) 17th, Pte Hammond (1 Para) 24th, and Sig Richards (8 Signal Regt) 36th.

ACF at Twickers

NORTHERN Ireland Army Cadet Force beat London ACF by 16 points to 10 in the final of the cadet rugby sevens played at Twickenham.

Led by Brig Barry Reeves, chairman of Army tennis, RAEC dropped only one set, against Royal Signals, on their way to the semi-finals. Signals were the other qualifiers from their pool. Winners of the other pool were the RCT, with the sappers also qualifying.

Sgt Paul Tague beat LCpl Mark Bolton in a tie break to decide the Royal Signals-RCT semi-final in favour of the

Lt Col Johnny Billson, RAPC, chairman of the Royal Military College of Science Boat Club, performs a naming ceremony for the Shrivenham club's new

boats. The Army Rowing Clubs Association allocated RMCS a new four bought with a grant from the UKLF Sports Board, and the club has also acquired a two-year-old eight

with the help of a Nuffield grant. Also pictured are (right) Sqn Ldr Ian Millar, the coach, and members of the club who plan to race in the Joint Services regatta in May.

Chairman leads by example

chairman of Army tennis, RAEC dropped only one set, against Royal Signals, on their way to the semi-finals. Signals were the other qualifiers from their pool. Winners of the other pool were the RCT, with the sappers also qualifying.

Sgt Paul Tague beat LCpl Mark Bolton in a tie break to decide the Royal Signals-RCT semi-final in favour of the

Anglian novices triumph

THE 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment beat the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards by seven bouts to two in the final of the Army Inter-Unit novice Grade 3 team boxing championships at Celle.

Results (R Anglian names first): **Bantam** - Pte Sheerin bt LCpl Walton (rsc); **feather** - Pte Farrell bt Dmr Profit (rsc); **light** - Pte Payne bt Pte Atkins (pts u); **light welter** - LCpl Batty bt LCpl Brasher (pts u); **welter** - Pte Whitsey bt Sgt Robinson (pts u); **light middle** - Pte Groom bt Pte Pearce (pts u); **middle** - Pte Berridge bt LCpl Beanland (rsc); **light heavy** - Cpl Askin lost to Pte Keisler (ko); **heavy** - LCpl Lewis lost to LCpl Elsdon (pts u).



Where's the ball? Goal line action in the Junior Challenge Cup rugby final at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, between Princess Marina College, Arborfield and Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery (hooped shirts) from Bramcote. The Arborfield lads won by 11 points to six, with tries from App Tdsm Ball and Haig, and a penalty by App LCpl Wilding.



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Gurkhas third in Annapurna



Sgt Dhanbahdur Gurrung finishes the 12km final leg of the third Annapurna triathlon. A Gurkha team, which included SSgt Steve Walton and Capt Trevor Batchelder, finished third overall on an arduous course set around the idyllic Phewa Tal lake in the foothills of the Himalayas. The 1993 event, which is expected to attract another high class international field, takes place on March 27 in Pokhara, Nepal. Details are available from Kulcha Tours, 5 Lucas House, Argyl Walk, London WC1.

Title split in three by airmen

THE 1992 Inter-Services rugby tournament ended in disappointment for the Army when they went down to the reigning Services champions, the Royal Air Force by 18 points to six, writes John Quin.

Having had such a well deserved win over the Royal Navy, who then went on to beat the RAF, the Army lads were on a high and knew what had to be done to claim the title that they had lost to the airmen last season.

The Army were determined and resolute to claim what a few short weeks previously had looked so unlikely. But the RAF won, on a glorious Saturday at Twickenham, simply because on the day they were the better side and took their scoring chances.

For the Army, chances went begging and the bounces of the ball were not what the lads in red wanted. Even a clearance kick from behind the red goal line, struck the goalposts!

There were a few forced changes from the side that beat the Navy. The backline remained intact as did the front row, but in the second row that long serving cook, Capt Richard Castleton (ACC), took over from Lt Chris Buss (DWR), who has left the Army, and in the back row England man Lt Tim Rodber was missing through injury, while Lt Rob Wainwright (RAMC) reappeared after his brace of Scottish caps this season.

So the 1992 championship for the seniors ended in a shared title, which in itself is a feather in the Army's cap. With the youth of the side still prominent and with the youngsters coming up from the U-21 side, the future looks good. Next year could see both trophies coming the Army's way again.

One historic note this year was the final programme notes

(those that were correct, that is), listing for the last time those regiments and corps that will have changed titles by next year. Somehow AG (ETS) doesn't have the same ring about it as RAEC.

By the way, don't forget the Touche-Ross Army Sevens at the Military Stadium on Wednesday, May 6. It is always a good day for all.

Dry run for UKLF skiers

THE FIRST two weeks of March were supposed to encompass the UKLF downhill ski championships, but a distinct lack of snow meant that they were cancelled. The only slope open was a few metres of the Coire na Ciste, and with the typical Aviemore 60mph winds meant that skiing on snow was impossible.

Instead, a course of 24 RAOC personnel, who were staying at Nethy Bridge for intensive downhill skiing, were introduced to the joys of skiing on plastic.

To compensate for the lack of Army championships, it was decided to hold a RAOC ski championship on plastic.

First place in the individuals was won by LCpl Charlie Allen from 42 Ord Coy who won all three races, and in second place was LCpl Chris Antress from 521 EOD Coy. The team prize was closely contested, with Bicester coming first followed by HQ RAOC TA.

Skiers for Bicester were Sgt Fram Framington, LCpl Gordie Horn, LCpl Thomson and Pte Cass Cassidy.

Best novice was LCpl Smudge Smith and the veteran prize went to LCpl Oakes, both from CAD Kineton.



Pictures: Mike Perring

The 2 Signals defence (dark stockings) scrambles the ball away as 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment turns up the pressure

Super sappers

28 Engineer Regt RE 2, 2 Signal Regiment 0

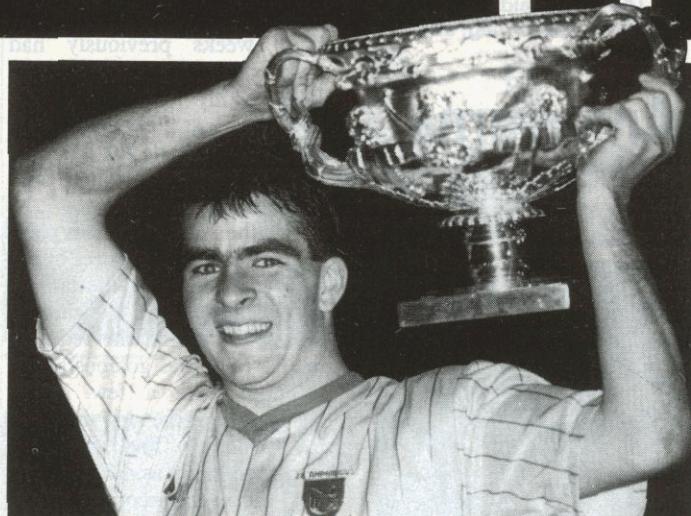
FOR THE first time since the Sherwood Foresters did it in 1931, and only the second time ever, a hat-trick of consecutive wins has been achieved in the Army Challenge Cup competition, writes Pat Massey.

BAOR football champions 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment RE – retitled 28 Engineer Regiment on April 1 – thoroughly deserved their victory at Aldershot, beating 2 Signal Regiment from York by two goals to nil.

From the start the Hameln sappers were quicker on the ball and fierce in the tackle, and the UK champions, who had not conceded a goal in the competition, looked distinctly shaky. It was no surprise when Cpl Bobby Lockwood ran through four defenders in the 11th minute to end 2 Regiment's long-running defensive record.

There was an element of luck about the sappers' second goal. Cpl Andy McWilliam raced out of his area to cut off LCpl Alex Nangle and got to the ball first, only to see his fly kick cannon off Nangle and roll inside the post.

The signallers, also renamed on the disbandment of 2



Man of the match Alex Nangle with the Bill Wilson Memorial Trophy

Infantry Division, took the battle to 28 Regiment in the second half but twice missed good opportunities to get on to the scoresheet. The game ended with the sappers back in control.

Mr David Sergeant, managing director of sponsors Wilsons Hogg Robinson, presented the trophy and shields to players and officials, including the Bill Wilson Memorial Trophy to man of the match LCpl Nangle.

Nangle, the third player from the regiment to win the trophy in three years, was selected by England World Cup star Alan Ball, now manager of Exeter City.

Past winners include Pompey striker Guy Whittingham (1987) and Mick Cheetham (1988), now with Cambridge United.

Belgian Armed Forces 0 Combined Services 0

Combined Services failed to wrest the coveted Kentish Cup from the Belgians, although the British team could claim to have edged a moral victory over the all-professional home side.

A wonderful game of football kept the partisan crowd of 3,000 on the edges of their seats. If the opening half belonged to the young Belgians, the second period was

dominated by the Services, who slowly wore down the home side's resistance.

Army 1, Wiltshire 1

Without a number of senior players, the Army fought out an entertaining 1-1 draw against a young Wiltshire side in their final Group A game in the South West Counties championship.

Sgt Norman Naife (RE) gave the Army a spectacular lead after 20 minutes when Cpl Dave Maynard (1 DERR) created the space for him to crack in a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Wiltshire's equaliser 13 minutes later meant the Army, with three draws and a defeat in the competition, finished two points above Hampshire at the bottom of the Group A table.

Naafi Jubilee Cup

York-based 2 Signal Regiment, the UKLF Challenge Cup winners, meet Royal Air Force unit champions Lyneham on May 6 and Royal Navy champions RNAS Culdrose on May 13 in the 22nd Naafi Jubilee Cup competition. Last Army team to win the Jubilee Cup was SEME Bordon in 1983.



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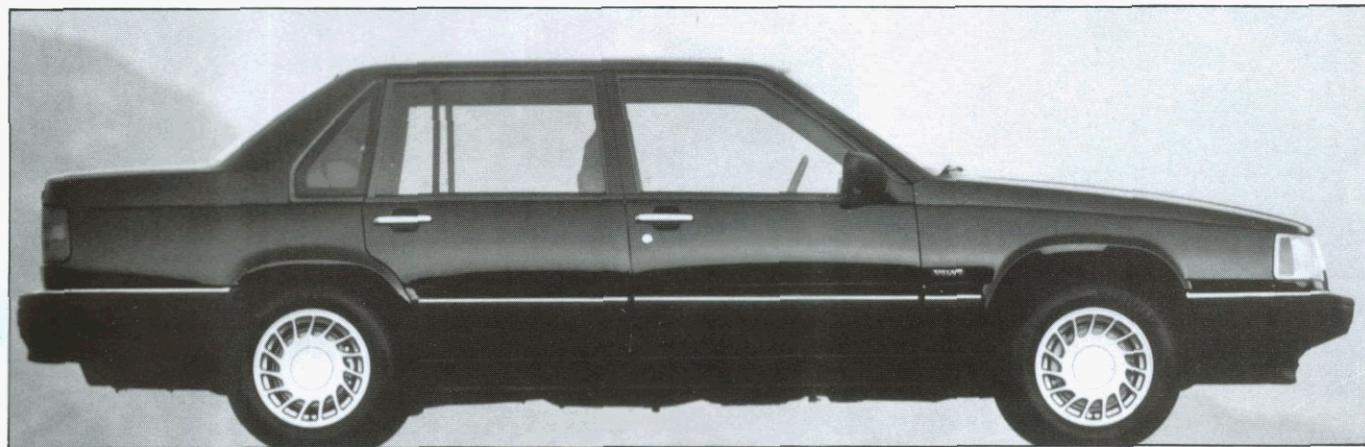
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SOLDIER



Members of the Gibraltar Regiment's Corps of Drums perch on Lord Arieys Gun, the highest accessible point on the Rock. They were among many Service musicians who took part in two recent episodes of Sir Harry Secombe's *Highway* religious programme filmed on the Rock and hosted by British Forces Gibraltar.

Picture: Sgt Geoff Whyham