

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SEPTEMBER 16 1996

60p

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Black Watch at Balmoral



● Milan concentration

● 1 WFR in Bosnia

● Exercise Marble Tor (V)



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

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Picture: Mark Owens

Maj Mike Onslow BW in front of the new Ballater Colour laid across the drums of The Black Watch at Balmoral. The Colour was presented by the Queen.

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Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

Mrs Sara Marojevic, Honorary British Consul for the Dubrovnik area, receives a plaque from members of the Pioneer squadron who repaired her 500-year-old farmhouse. Also in the picture is squadron mascot Murphy

Pioneer spirit helps rebuild consul's home

SIX British soldiers have rebuilt the home of Our Man – or in this case, Our Woman – in Dubrovnik, the ancient walled city on the Adriatic.

It was an enjoyable diversion for the six soldiers from Bicester-based 522 Squadron, 23 Pioneer Regiment, who are more often to be found on guard duty and construction work around their camp at Divulje Barracks near the Croatian port of Split.

The Pioneers, deployed on a six-month tour with NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR), offered to help Mrs Sara Marojevic, the Honorary British Consul in Dubrovnik.

She was forced to leave her home five years ago when a shell fired from a Bosnian ship crashed through her sitting room window and blew the roof off.

Both Mr and Mrs Marojevic escaped uninjured, survived five weeks of constant shelling at a hotel in the city centre, and later moved to Zagreb, where she went to work in the British Consulate.

The two-storey farmhouse, which clings to the side of a mountain overlooking the beautiful old city, has been in the family of her Croatian husband for nearly 500 years.

They attempted to return in 1993 but were shot at by snipers. Although friends replaced the roof, the interior steadily deteriorated.

Lunch date

"Then one morning, out of the blue, I received a telephone call from the British Army in Split. They had heard I had problems and asked if they could see for themselves. I invited them over for lunch," explained the British-born Mrs Marojevic.

During their visit the soldiers, under the command of 2nd Lt Brian Howard, drew up a work plan including a new floor, damp course, realigning, and damp-proofing the roof and

sealing windows. Soon afterwards the Pioneers returned with mascot Murphy and completed the job in five weeks.

"The place looks wonderful," said a delighted Mrs Marojevic.

"The Pioneers who worked here are a credit to the British Army. I will be sorry to see them go."

And just to make sure she never forgets them, the soldiers left her a Pioneer plaque to hang on her walls when they are re-decorated.

"It's really been a challenge, but we've enjoyed working here," said 2nd Lt Howard.

Mrs Marojevic, who comes originally from Liverpool, was presented with the MBE last year in recognition of her commitment to the Crown. Her experiences during the former Yugoslavia's civil war have done nothing to diminish her enthusiasm.



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Modernised Marchwood port faces future with style

MODERNISED facilities at Marchwood Military Port near Southampton were opened by the Princess Royal on September 2.

The Princess watched soldiers working in new vehicle workshops which form part of

a multi-million pound modernisation.

Work has taken six years to complete, providing a facility which will give British Forces greater operational effectiveness and rival any to be found in the private or public sectors.

Marchwood is home to 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, whose task is to resupply British forces on a worldwide basis. Port and regiment form a vital element in the recently-created Joint Rapid Deployment Force.

Princess Anne was given a waterfront demonstration of the skills and techniques employed by 17 Regt, including the role of specialist drivers and the loading of armoured vehicles on to RMAV *Ardennes*.

Bosnia bridge takes name of RE hero

AN IMPORTANT river crossing built by British sappers in former Yugoslavia has been named the Durrant Bridge after a Royal Engineers war hero.

Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, unveiled a plaque on the bridge at a short ceremony on August 29.

The 96-ton, 17-bay Mabey and Johnson bridge, the largest in Bosnia, was constructed by 40 sappers from 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment.

It spans a 50m gap over the Vrvas River near Jajce.

Officially described as a triple single bridge, it is three panels thick and one panel high.

FUNDING

Durrant Bridge was funded by Britain's Overseas Development Administration.

Sgt Thomas Frank Durrant RE was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously after he died of wounds sustained during the commando raid on St Nazaire in March 1942.

He was in charge of a Lewis gun on a motor launch which came under heavy fire. Although he had no protection and was wounded several times he went on firing until the launch was boarded and those still alive taken prisoner. Sgt Durrant died the next day.



The Prince of Orange, heir to the throne of the Netherlands, inspects a colour guard of soldiers from F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery and the 11th Dutch Mortar Company at the entrance to their base in Jezero, Bosnia. The prince met mainly Dutch forces during his visit to the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) serving in the Multi-National Division South West



Fd Marshal Inge unveils the plaque on Durrant Bridge near Jajce in Bosnia

D and D up the jungle

C COMPANY of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment has returned from a six-week exercise in the jungles of Central America.

The soldiers were given the chance to go to Belize at short notice when the ending of the IRA cease-fire prevented other battalions training there.

Having completed a tour in Bosnia at the end of last year, the Devon and Dorsets had just spent six weeks training in Canada before leaving for Belize.



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Civil tel: 01252 347 plus last three digits of Aldershot Military extension given below

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BLAZER BADGES

S16	RAA Gold & Silver Wire (Navy).
S16A	RAA Gold & Silver Wire (Black).
S16B	RA Regimental Gold & Silver Wire (Navy).
S16C	RA Regimental Gold & Silver Wire (Black).
S17	RA Cypher Gold & Silver Wire (Navy).
S17A	RA Cypher Gold & Silver Wire (Black).

BLAZER BUTTONS

S35	Flat with Gun Mounted (Large).
S36	Flat with Gun Mounted (Small).
S37	Flat with Engraved Cypher (Large).
S38	Flat with Engraved Cypher (Small).
S76	Flat with Die Struck RA Badge (Large).
S77	Flat with Die Struck RA Badge (Small).
S77A	Presentation/Gift button boxes (Red - hold up to 12 buttons).

CAP BADGES

S104	RA - Small (Brass)
S104A	RA - Large (Brass) Cap Badge. EIIR Revolving Wheel
S104B	Brass Helmet Plate (Reproduction. Victorian c1878)
S104E	KGVI - Large (Brass) Cap Badge Revolving Wheel. (Restrike)
S112	Gold RA Cypher on Blue background.
S112A	Gold RA Gun Badge on Blue background.
P42	RAA Windscreen Sticker - Round (Interior).

CHINA MUG

S73	Large China Mug 8oz. RA Badge in Red. Gold Rim.
S74	Coffee Mug - Stoneware Pottery. RA Badge Relief.

COFFEE MUG

S74	Coffee Mug - Stoneware Pottery. RA Badge Relief.
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CUFF LINKS

S44	Large round, gilt metal with engraved RA Badge. Torpedo fitting.
S44A	Gilt Oval Cuff Links. Regimental Colours. Zig Zag design.
S45	Swivel link fitting.
S46A	Gilt Badge on Blue Domed Oval. Torpedo fitting.
S114A	Oval. Hard Gold Plated with Embossed RA Badge with link chain.
S114A	Large round, gilt metal with engraved RA Badge.
	Cuff links and matching tie slide.
S160	Gilt Enamel RA Badge - Cuff Link & Tie Grip Set.
S161	Gilt Enamel RA Badge - Cuff Link & Stick Pin Set.
S162	Gilt Enamel RA Badge - Cuff Link & Tie Tack Set.
S164	Gilt Enamel Cuff Links.

DIARY New for 1997

P61	Pocket Diary - hardback. Black with embossed RA Gun Badge in Gold. One month to view - useful information includes map of London Underground.
	2.20

FLASKS

S10	Pewter Hip Flask. Mounted RA Gun Badge. In Presentation box with funnel for easy filling.
S10A	Hip flask 6oz. Blue Leather RA Gun Badge.

JOTTER/NOTEBOOK

S107	Suitable for top pocket. RA Gun Badge embossed.
	4.30

KEY RINGS

S51	RA Badge on Tan Leather Tab.
S51A	RA Badge on Black Leather Tab.

LEATHER BELTS

S101	Black/Black reversible Leather Belt. RA Gun Badge on buckle.
S101A	Black/Black reversible Leather Belt. RHA Cypher on buckle.

ZIPPO LIGHTER

S13	Zippo Lighter - badge RA.
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MODEL FIGURES

S131	Gunner carrying 155 Shell, height approx 13" includes plinth.
S132	Gunner carrying 155 Shell, height 10" includes plinth.
S134	RA Trumpeter Pewter Figurine. Height approx 7". Includes 1/2" wooden base.
S134D	RHA Figurine 1840. Antique silver finish. Height approx 4 3/4". Includes 1/2" base.
S134E	Northern Ireland Urban Patrol SA80.

MODEL FIGURES - Bronze

S138	Bronze Figure Officer RHA
S139	Bronze Figure Officer RA.
S140	Bronze Figure Bomby Horse Artillery.
S141	Bronze Figure Northern Ireland RHA (SLR).
S142	Bronze Figure Northern Ireland RHA (SLR).
S143	Bronze Figure RHA Driver.

MODEL FIGURES - Hand Painted

S144	RHA Driver
S137	RHA Officer

MODEL GUNS - Painted

S157	25 Pdr. Olive drab mounted on wood base. (Scale 1/32)
S158	25 Pdr. Sand mounted on wood base. (Scale 1/32)
S91	18 Pdr. Olive drab mounted on wood base. (Scale 1/48)

MODEL GUNS - Plated and Mounted on Black Base

S82A	25 Pdr. (Scale 1/32)
S82B	Pewter 25 Pdr. Deployed in its turntable with spent shell cases and ancillaries. (Scale 1/25)

S83A	5.5 Pewter Gun. On wooden base. (Scale 1/48)
S90	18 Pdr. (Scale 1/48)

S135	105mm Light Gun. (Scale 1/48)
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PAPER KNIVES

S68	Stainless Steel Blade with Crystal handle. RA Cypher.
S70	Solid Brass Dagger Paperknife - RA Badge relief on handle.

S70	Solid Brass Dagger Paperknife - RA Badge relief on handle.
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PEN KNIVES - Multipurpose Swiss Army type

S32	Wonder Knife 3 1/2" 5-tool
S32A	Wonder Knife 3 1/2" 11-tool

S65	Bonded Leather pension book case. Embossed Gold RA Badge. Black
S30	30

PENSION BOOK CASE

S65	Bonded Leather pension book case. Embossed Gold RA Badge. Black
S30	30

SCARVES & CRAVATS

S41	Royal Artillery Regimental Zig Zag pattern scarf. 60" x 12" Zig Zag one side, plain reversed. Polyester.
S41A	Royal Artillery Regimental Zig Zag pattern cravat. Zig Zag design both sides. Polyester.

S41B	Royal Artillery Regimental Zig Zag pattern scarf. 60" x 12" 100% Lambswool.
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SHIELDS & BANNERETTE

S18	Shield - Gun Badge Raised on Curved Wooden Background.
S19	Shield - Gun Badge Raised on Heraldic Type Shield.

S84A	RA Gun Badge Banner. Embroidered Gold & Silver Wire on Navy Blue Background with Gold Edging & Tassels. 9 1/2" x 12".
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S84B	RHA Cypher Bannerette. Embroidered Gold & Silver Wire on Navy Blue Background with Gold Edging & Tassels. 9 1/2" x 12".
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S84C	Heraldic RA Badge - Red Painted Wooden Shield 7" x 6" with Royal Regiment of Artillery Scroll.
------	--

S84D	Superb Wooden Shield 8" x 10" - Hand Painted. Royal Artillery Crest.
------	--

S88	Wooden Shield 5 1/2" x 7 1/2". RA Cypher in Pewter with Scroll. Royal Artillery Association or Royal Regiment of Artillery SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION.
-----	---

S23	Leather effect case in Brown. RA Badge & Cypher.
-----	--

S24	Sweatshirt - Navy Blue - RA Gun Badge Motif. 70% Cotton/30% Polyester. Medium - Large - Extra Large.
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S24A	Sweatshirt - Navy Blue - V-Neck. RA Cypher in Gold. Three sizes only 40", 42", 46".
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S26	Sweatshirt - Long sleeve sweater - Navy Blue - V-Neck. RA Badge in Gold. Sizes 38", 40", 42", 44", 46".
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S26A	Sweatshirt - Sleeveless pullover - Navy Blue - V-Neck. RA Gun Badge in Gold. Sizes 38", 40", 42", 44", 46".
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S26C	Sweatshirt - Navy Blue - V-Neck. RA Gun Badge in Gold. Sizes 38", 40", 42", 44", 46".
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S27	Tankard - 1 Pint Stoneware Pottery Tankard - RA Badge relief.
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S119	Lidded Heavy Gauge Tankard with Mounted RA Gun Badge.
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S20	RA Cypher Etched 'Superior Quality' 1 Pint Pewter.
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S21	RA Badge Etched 'Standard Quality' 1 Pint Pewter.
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TRAY PURSE	Black Leather Tray Purse. Embossed RA Badge. Large.
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S102	Black Leather Tray Purse. Embossed RA Badge. Small.
------	---

S102A	Black Leather Tray Purse. Embossed RA Badge. Small.
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S102A	Black Leather Tray Purse. Embossed RA Badge. Small.
-------	---

S102A	Black Leather Tray Purse. Embossed RA Badge. Small.</td
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WO2 David Brookes, supply specialist for Ammunition Troop RLC at Ballykinler, puts an armful of illegal and unstable fireworks into a disposal unit. More than five tons were destroyed safely

Army puts on a cracking display

Chefs go for gold

A TEAM of ten Army chefs will represent Britain's Forces in the Culinary Olympics in Berlin from September 8-13.

Based at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot, they will take on the best in the world in the military section of the Olympics, which are staged every four years.

In one event, teams will have to produce seven different three-course meals, all of which a soldier could expect to be served in the field.

As a dessert for the second phase - two dinner menus for 200 people - the soldier-chefs have devised a special called "Chocolate St Omer" in honour of their barracks.

WO Garry Young, the team captain, was confident his chefs would win a medal.

AN ammunition troop of the Royal Logistic Corps held a firework display with a difference when it destroyed five tons of illegal bangers recovered by the Royal Ulster Constabulary's explosives branch over the past few months.

The dodgy fireworks, with a street value of £30,000, were highly dangerous Chinese versions sold to the public on streets and markets around the Greater Belfast area.

Capt Graeme Lobb, troop commander at Ballykinler base on the County Down coast, said the display would have been very disappointing for most people, and confusing for others.

UNSTABLE

"For safety reasons we burn them in special pyrotechnic disposal units. There are a lot of bangs, smoke and fire, but these are sealed units, so it's a safe, controlled way of dealing with unstable fireworks."

"As we do this close to the coast, we have to notify the Coastguard because people,

quite rightly, ring them thinking it is a distress flare from a ship."

For security reasons the sale of fireworks in Northern Ireland has traditionally been tight, creating a market for sub-standard products. But a forthcoming change in the law will enable members of the public to buy domestic-use, Class 2 fireworks from licensed dealers.

Saudi UN force to move

BRITISH Forces contributing to Operation Southern Watch in Saudi Arabia are to redeploy from Dhahran to the Prince Sultan Airbase at Al Kharj.

United States and French forces currently collocated at Dhahran will make the same



What the papers have been saying

FAMILIES of British soldiers posted from Germany to Bosnia are losing up to £2,500 a year in overseas allowances while IFOR soldiers from other nations are being paid huge bonuses. - *Observer*

□ Defence planners are considering a greenfield site in Wiltshire for the new tri-Service staff college after the planned redevelopment of the Army Staff College in Surrey was found to be more expensive than expected. - *Daily Telegraph*

□ Two consortia have been shortlisted for the final round of bidding for the £1.6 billion MoD married quarters estate. - *Financial Times*

□ Geoffrey Dearmer, the last surviving soldier-poet of the First World War, has died at the age of 103. He saw action at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. - *Times*

□ A small band of war veterans joined members of the British forces in Hong Kong on August 26 to commemorate the territory's last Liberation Day. Next year, under Chinese rule, it will be replaced by Victory over Japan Day. - *Daily Telegraph*

□ Survivors of the infamous Bridge on the River Kwai have condemned plans to turn it into a tourist attraction. - *Daily Express*

□ The US Defence Department has denied it suppressed a 1991 classified report suggesting US troops had been exposed to Iraqi chemical weapons during the Gulf War. - *Financial Times*

□ The Pentagon has admitted that senior US government officials were told as early as November 1991 that chemical weapons had been stored at a large Iraqi munitions dump destroyed by American troops. - *Guardian*

move, which will enable the United Kingdom to consolidate British Forces assigned to the operation with other members of the Coalition and will ensure continuity of operations to enforce the no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

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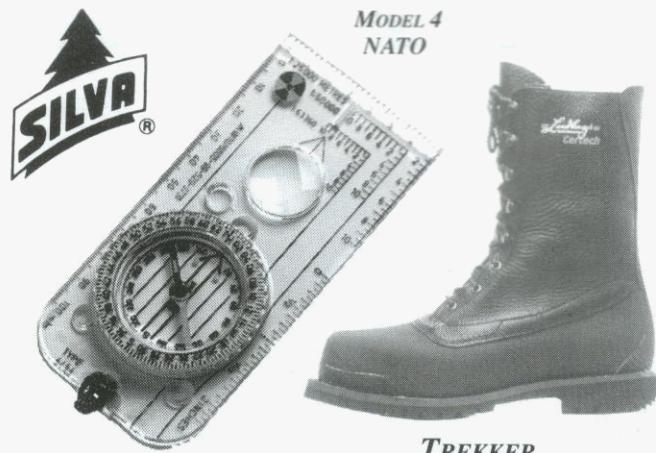
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Sappers open up channel to Hebridean island

TONS of rocks and water rose from a Hebridean loch when sapper diving and explosive experts from 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE helped a tiny Scottish island community.

In an operation lasting sever-

al days they blasted dangerous underwater rocks to clear a passage for local yachting and sailors visiting a 42-acre island at the mouth of Loch Sween in the Sound of Jura.

There is no landing place on the island and the submerged

rocks made it hazardous for people to get ashore. Holes were drilled precisely and filled with explosive, and the resulting blast gouged a natural harbour out of the limestone bed.

Maj Steve Smith, Royal Engineers Scottish Headquar-

ters staff officer, said: "This was an ideal opportunity for us to help the community in a special project. It was perfect for our training needs. Divers have to maintain the number of hours they dive to remain qualified and in-date."

Scottish Terriers warm to French welcome

MORE than 400 Scottish soldiers travelled to La Courtine training area in the south of France to take part in an ambitious and challenging exercise run by The Lowland Volunteers, the Edinburgh-based Territorial Army battalion.

Exercise Liberty Bell was designed to test and develop infantry skills in a different climate and over different terrain. Fourteen cap badges spread among 450 soldiers were involved in the annual camp, including the Royal Military Police, the Royal Logistic Corps, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The Scottish Yeomanry and the Army Air Corps.

COMPLETE SUCCESS

Maj Alan Middleton RHF, training major with Lowlanders, said the exercise had been a complete success.

"Overseas training always has additional challenges and excitement, and it allows soldiers to do and see things they would not normally do. It is sub-unit training on a different level."

Lt Col Kirk Gillies RS, commanding officer of The Lowland Volunteers, was surprised at the comradeship between French and Scottish soldiers sharing Camp de la Courtine.

"We really have invoked the Auld Alliance with this exercise. The camaraderie between us, the French soldiers and local residents has been something to behold," he said.

"The pipes and drums have been so busy playing concerts for people in the area, we are quite overwhelmed."



Lowlander units cross a river at La Courtine in the south of France during Exercise Liberty Bell

Picture: Mark Owen

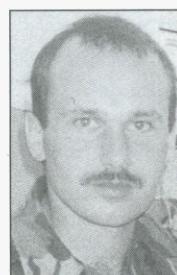
Army Gazelle in stork's role

THERE was a lively little surprise in store for Army doctor Maj Chris Calcott RAMC soon after he arrived in Belize for a tour of duty.

Responding to an emergency call from the civil authorities, he ended up delivering a baby on board a military helicopter when nature took its course in the skies above the Belizean jungle.

Just a few days after taking over as medical officer to the British Army Training Support Unit Belize, Maj Calcott was scrambled to help a woman at risk from a difficult birth.

The Gazelle of 25 Flight,



Maj Chris Calcott

Army Air Corps was piloted by Sgt Ritchie Robinson AAC.

Also on board was civilian nurse Maureen Brown.

The woman was located and taken on board, but as the military helicopter flew towards the hospital in Belize City she went into full labour and gave birth in the cramped aircraft.

It is believed to be one of the first times a baby has been delivered on board an operational Army aircraft in flight.

Mother, daughter and Maj Calcott were later reported to be doing very well.

RRW takes on palace guard duty

FOR the first time in their history, soldiers of The Royal Regiment of Wales are undertaking an 18-month tour of public duties in London.

Men of the 1st Battalion, led by their regimental goat, Taffy, proudly mounted guard for the first time outside Buckingham Palace on September 5.

Their public duties will also involve them in high-profile guard and ceremonial duties at Windsor Castle and the Tower.

In line with tradition, the Captain of the Guard on the first day at Buckingham Palace was the commanding officer of 1 RRW, Lt Col Robert Aitken.

The battalion, now based at Hounslow, recently completed a two-year tour of duty in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland.

Arresting sight

Temporarily swapping shield and spear for bagpipes were these two Zulu sergeants, **Runert Kubheka** and **Sibusiso Xaba**, both serving members of the South African police.

With them are brothers Pipe Maj **Carl** (left) and Drum Maj **Mark Johnstone**, Scots DG, whose band was appearing with the Zulu pair's police dance team at the Edinburgh Tattoo. Last year, the Scots DG band performed in South Africa at the Durban Military Tattoo.

Also with Zulu warriors on his mind is Capt **Rob Dickinson**, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, who is taking part in Project Acorn, in which a community hall for 500 students will be built at the site of Rorke's Drift.

Rob, step-grandson of Lt Col **William Morgan**, who with fewer than 100 colleagues faced thousands of Zulu warriors, is platoon commander of B Coy, still called Rorke's Drift Company in memory of the battle.



Picture: Mark Owens, Army HQ Scotland

Showered with praise



When the Army's new recruiting office in Birkenhead opened for business, staff received a surprise when their first potential "recruit" turned out to be from the health and leisure club on the opposite side of the road – with an SOS.

A pigeon had become trapped in the shower room and was causing havoc.

Enter help in the shape of Tpr **Chris Whyte**, who is joining the 1st Royal Tank Regiment. After some assault course tactics over the top of the cubicles, he managed to capture the avian intruder and set it free, much to the relief and gratitude of the club's **Jan Mahoney**, pictured with Chris.

GLOSTERS OLD AND NEW

An unscheduled visit by members of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment to the Somerset village of Wellow helped to give **Francis Oakley** a pleasant surprise on his 100th birthday.

Not only that, but it provided a unique opportunity for Francis, the oldest recruit of the former Gloucestershire Regiment, to meet the newest recruit, Pte **Philip Mead**, who has been undergoing basic training at Army Training Regiment, Lichfield.

Also there to meet Francis, who was wounded at the Battle of High Wood on the Somme and subsequently served in India, were Maj **Farren Drury**, Capt **Charles Maconochie** and WO2s **Mark Cook** and **Roger Rowley**.



Man and machine were reunited at Defence Test and Evaluation Organisation (DTEO), Shoeburyness, when Col **Peter Marwood**, the Senior Army Officer in the DTEO, set eyes on this M110 8in Howitzer as it was unveiled as a gate guard.

The gun, lovingly restored by Shoeburyness personnel in their own time, was one of a number in his regiment which gave close support to Coalition forces during the Gulf War when Col Marwood commanded 32 Regiment RA.

With him is **Ron Hickton**, a manager on site at Shoeburyness, seen presenting a photograph of the Howitzer firing during the advance into Kuwait.



Picture: Wendy Morton

BOLD BRIGADIER

Setting an excellent example during a visit to the Oxfordshire Army Cadet Force's annual camp was Brig **John Patrick**, Commander 145 Brigade, who demonstrated the art of abseiling at Ramshaw Rocks on the edge of the Peak District.

As well as seeing examples of the cadets' abseiling skills, the brigadier toured stands which included a field exercise, assault course race and conservation work.



Down in the woods

Defence Secretary **Michael Portillo** listens as SSGt **Gillian Foster** of the Army Cadet Force's Cannock detachment explains her role in an exercise near Aldershot. More than 100 cadets, drawn from all three Services, and including a number from Canada and Trinidad and Tobago, took part in the week-long leadership training course at Miley Woods.

PEOPLE



Sterling signaller

The "courageous service and initiative" of Pte **Luke Reed**, A Coy, 1 RGBW (pictured, left, with his twin, **Ben Reed**, also a signaller) has been recognised twice over.

Luke was awarded a Commander British Forces Falkland Islands Commendation, first for moving to the top of a mountain in the Falklands and acting as a re-broadcast station, enabling a casualty evacuation to be made by helicopter after a mortar accident.

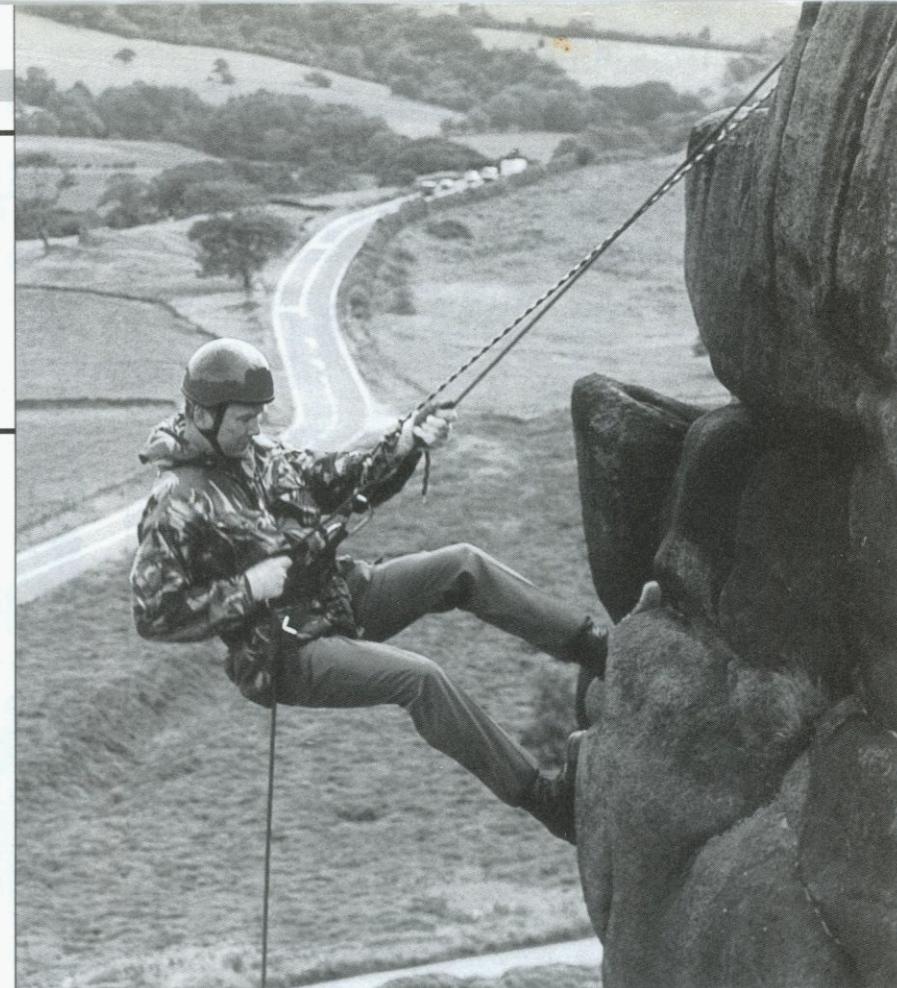
Later the same month, when he and a colleague were isolated at night when their tent and equipment were blown off Mount Wickham with no chance of helicopter rescue during a 72-knot blizzard he guided his companion – who was becoming very ill from exposure – to safety.

Licensed to win

Looking as determined as a certain well-known fictional secret agent are these members of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps (HKMSC), back on home territory and fresh from their triumph in becoming the best pistol shots in the British Army.

The team (clockwise from front) SSGt **Hong Wai-Kai** (holding medal); SSGt **Ng Yau-Ming**; LCpl **Tang Chi-Shing**; SSGt **Liu Kwok-Kin** and LCpl **Ng Ka-Kit** (missing was Capt **Paul Wong**) beat every other unit to take the title at Bisley's annual British Regular Army skill at arms meeting.

It was a sweet farewell triumph for the HKMSC, a training and administrative unit for locally enlisted Chinese soldiers, which disbands in December.



Volunteers on a Wing and a care

IT IS always rewarding when someone comes up with a new angle on something I say. When I wrote recently about the need for R&R to break the cycle of stress, it hadn't crossed my mind to suggest that people volunteer to help out others who need a hand.

So I was delighted to hear from a volunteer recruitment officer working with the Winged Fellowship. He said it had occurred to him that the organisation's need for volunteers for one or two weeks at a time might provide a break, particularly for anyone looking for a change of environment or a caring career on leaving the Army.

Set up in 1963, the Winged Fellowship provides more than 6,500 holidays for people with severe physical disabilities. It's a pleasant change for them and a rest for their carers from what is usually an arduous way of life.

At five purpose-built holiday centres – in Redhill, Southport, Nottingham, Chigwell and Netley – residential volunteers take over the day-to-day care under the guidance and direction of experienced staff.

Each centre caters for 36 guests, ranging from 17 to 70-plus, all of whom have a dedicated volunteer helper. The type of volunteer required ranges just as widely. No experience is needed, as training will be given and all food, accommodation and fares within the UK can be provided by the Fellowship if necessary.

So what is it like to work as a helper? SSGt Bunn, for example, was paired up with a man with severe physical disabilities. Since the chap was 6ft 6in and weighed 17 stone, getting him ready for breakfast took up to an hour-and-a-half. As he needed help with every physical activity a shared sense of humour was invaluable.

Many guests don't usually have one person on hand all day. On a Winged Fellowship holiday that's just what they do have. The new friends went on expeditions to Kew Gardens, a bowling alley, the cinema and a West End show. SSGt Bunn described his experience as "rewarding" and said he would be going back.

Volunteers come from all walks of life, with unemployed people



Cari's column

still being able to claim benefit while volunteering. Not only is it a chance to learn new skills, it also puts problems in perspective.

Retired men and women are finding that their experience and maturity are fully appreciated and even those still at work are finding ways of volunteering.

Nearly seven million people provide care at home for their relatives and friends – often a demanding task, according to Andrew Billington, director of the organisation.

"The Winged Fellowship plays a key part in helping a significant number of these people, by providing much-needed breaks for carers and enjoyable holidays for the disabled people themselves," he says.

The organisation has worked out that it has provided more than 120,000 weeks of respite care. That is a lot of hard work.

"It's been exciting, challenging, often very frustrating," says the fellowship's founder, Mrs Joan Brander. "I go to bed with a lot of frightful worries, and always have. People keep saying 'you must feel you've achieved something' – but I've just been so busy living each day."

There is a constant flow of volunteers, but more are needed, particularly until October 19 (Crabhill House, Redhill); up to November 2 (Jubilee Lodge, Chigwell); October 5 - November 30 (Netley Waterside House, Southampton); Skylarks (Nottingham) until November 9 and Sandpipers (Southport) until November 2.

If you're the type who can't sit on a beach and do nothing, and you could do with a change of scene, you might get in touch with the charity at Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD or telephone the 24-hour facility on 0181-303 2155.

Discovering the Winged Fellowship has made me think about recreation in a different way. Volunteering is always a two-way activity. You might think you're doing a good turn – and you are – but you're also getting back as much as you give.

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

Going swimmingly



Harriet Sloss (right), a pupil at the Duke of York's School in Dover, whose father is in the RAMC, seen with her sister Isabelle at Catterick Garrison Pool. They were among 28 youngsters who became "rookie lifeguards" after completing a two-week course at the pool. Teaching from the side are pool manager Ray Butters, a former APTC warrant officer and instructor Joanne Milliken. Both MoD employees were delighted that the Catterick pool had been one of those chosen by the Royal Life Saving Society for a trial of the national pilot scheme.

Millennium SOS for Army computer experts

A WEST Midlands computer training organisation has issued a plea to Service personnel to help fight computer chaos which, it claims, is likely to explode at the turn of the century.

Unless a massive drive to recruit a new generation of computer specialists – helped by, among others, Army experts – is undertaken immediately, British industry could face a £4 billion repair bill for alterations to computer systems with the arrival of the millennium, Computeach International predicts.

"What we are looking for are appropriately qualified staff to boost our nationwide network of self-employed selection officers who provide careers advice to people who want to work in the information technology (IT) industry," says George Parkinson, chairman and founder of the Dudley-based company.

"Most of our 'students' are members of the public who have little or

no experience of IT," he adds.

The selection officers identify each

person's objectives, assess aptitude and ability and then offer advice on how they can best achieve their career goals.

The problem has arisen, says the company's research and development manager Don Frazer, because the vast majority of computers currently process dates as six digits: 01/01/96 to denote January 1, 1996, for example.

"However, when the 21st century comes along, computers will read the date as 01/01/00 and be unable to differentiate between the years 1900 and 2000."

This effectively means that every computer record, file or database which processes, prints or displays dates must be expanded to accommodate an eight-digit

Mixed views on divorce pension payments

CHANGES being introduced in the 1995 Pensions Act to the treatment of pensions on divorce have met with varying reactions from interested Army representatives.

Under the new legislation, courts will have power to direct administrators of a pension scheme to make payments to the former spouse of a member when his or her pension benefits become due.

They will also be enabled to order the scheme member to commute their pension where this is permitted by the rules of the scheme.

"It is long overdue," the Army Families Federation said. "It shows recognition for the years Army wives have put into their husbands' careers: they are entitled to half their pension. There have been no end of cases where people in the Army have been married for a great number of

years, have been divorced when the husband was coming up to retirement and end up with nothing." The new provisions will apply where the petition for divorce, judicial separation or nullity has been filed with the court on or after July 1 this year, but only to pensions which become payable from April 6, 1997.

A former Army wife, forced into divorce after 29 years when her husband left her for a younger woman, told *Soldier*: "It's progress, but there are still thousands of us falling through the net. It is the unfairness of our situation which rankles.

"I supported my husband all those years, never had a career of my own, but I was always reassured to think his pension would

cover us both on his retirement, so I didn't have a pension. He stayed in Germany, I got some sort of settlement, but nothing like I should have got, and it was difficult for me to pursue in the German courts."

She believed things were changing. More women were taking out their own pensions, but it was older women who are suffering.

FAIRSHARES Sallie Quin of Fairshares – the national pressure group which has campaigned for a change in the law to allow an equitable division of pensions on divorce – agreed.

"Essentially, anybody over 45 is the most at risk: like war pensions, it is a tapering problem," she told *Soldier*.

"In the past, practically the only

forms of security were National Savings or a building society. I am less than enchanted by the new legislation, but at least things are being looked into at last."

Some anomalies need to be resolved, she said.

"If, for example, a wife earns a pension in her own right and, after divorce, subsequently remarries, she foregoes it. At present, that does not apply to a man."

There may be a case for looking at the French system, she added. There, irrespective of how many times a man marries, *pro rata* payments, according to length of marriage, are made on divorce.

"Here, having accepted that something has to be done, the powers-that-be are now giving us the meanest possible offer – just above benefit level, but not enough for a decent lifestyle.

"The battle will continue."



Picture: JSPP Hong Kong

Small system, big task ...

● SMALL Systems Group, Adjutant General Information Centre, Worthy Down, has awarded a contract to Autodata Products Ltd to provide a database, capable of

withstanding a harsh operating environment, for the records of 35,000 Gurkha pensioners in Nepal. Maj Robin Stangroom said his team was charged with securing the records for posterity, yet providing an instantly accessible database of documents for local reference.

● ARMY Careers South Wales has received a Compact Award for Industry by the Welsh Office. Over the past year, the unit, in conjunction with 203/204 Army Youth Teams and the Welsh Guards RIT, has arranged activities for more than 15,000 school pupils.

as if this were not enough, the year 2000 is a leap year, and the conventional system utilised by computers to calculate this will not work.

"Computers will simply crash under the strain of such an overload," says Mr Frazer. "It's been calculated that to amend, test and implement the necessary changes to one single program will take a whole working week. So in the average company with around 300 programs, this equates to six years of work just to make systems function properly."

There simply are not enough computer programmers and analysts around to cope with this volume of work – hence the need for more selection officers.

"Interestingly enough," says George Parkinson, whose wartime service included a stint in the Glider Pilot Regiment, "we have found that a great proportion of our most successful officers were once members of the Armed Forces."

Former RLC warrant officer David Liptrot, one of the company's selection officers, was in the Army for more than 28 years.

"I was keen to assist with the resettlement of the thousands of Armed Forces staff being made redundant," he recalls.

"Having worked with computers for much of my Army life I am now working extensively with members of all the Forces to make the transition from a military career to one utilising information technology."



Peaceful vision: Children from Hasan Kikic School, Sanski Most, wave excitedly from their newly-replaced windows

'Most' successful

HUNDREDS of children can return to the Hasan Kikic School in the Bosnian town of Sanski Most, courtesy of soldiers from 26 Regiment RA – The Sussex Gunners – and the Overseas Development Agency (ODA).

Badly damaged during the war, the school has been completely refurbished and stocked with books and equipment.

Work included replacing windows and a roof. The gunners spent free time cutting grass in the sports field, fencing the playground and painting the walls as a final touch to return the school to normal before the regiment reached the end of its six-month IFOR tour.

The project was organised by the regiment's civil liaison officer, Capt Gerry Porter.

Classrooms and other areas in Slatemka School near Banja Luka have been renovated, also with ODA funding, under the direction of locally-based A Squadron, The Light Dragoons. Several hundred children and their parents attended a party to honour the regiment.

Tidworth-based 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and 16 Armoured Field Ambulance held a sports day and tea party for

children from the town of Sipovo. While the tots from the now refurbished kindergarten were put through their paces by the medics at one end of a field, the older ones were trying not to get a dunking by falling off the slippery pole supported between two of the

battalion's Scimitars, and queuing up for burgers at a field bar manned by Maj Richard Hackett and Cpl Richard Dando.

The younger children moved on from their sports to a tea party held at 16 Field Ambulance HQ half a mile away.

Butch's Bosnian bonanza



Picture: Bob Hilson, London District

Capt Butch Maycock loads some of the 140,000 exercise books destined for Bosnian children. Pictured with him is

Sig Shelley Curtis, also of 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V), who will be returning to Bosnia for a six-month tour as a TA volunteer

Borough of Redbridge and the mayors of the still-divided town of Gornji Vakuf.

Capt Maycock and a small team returned to Bosnia in August in a four-wheel drive vehicle supplied by Ford, one of the project's principal sponsors, accompanied by a 45ft articulated lorry crammed with 140,000 exercise books and computer and gymnasium equipment.



Having a field day: children from Sipovo are entertained by Capt Kirsten Edmunds, Dawn Lambert (Salvation Army) and Lt Col Rob Thornton, CO 16 Armd Fd Amb



Toys are them: Local schoolchildren pictured with members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets at Bulford's Kiwi Barracks, during the hand-over of toys as part of Operation Toy Town. The boxes in the background, containing hundreds of items, are a fraction of those collected by organisations throughout the country for the project, to be taken to Bosnia to brighten up children's lives when the battalion deployed there.

Meanwhile, nearer home

EIGHT soldiers from Logistic Support Branch, 24 Airmobile Brigade, Colchester, were cycling the 1,200-mile equivalent distance to its twinned town, Avignon, for ACTIONAID and a local church.

First and final part of their journey, to and from Harwich, was by conventional machine, the rest of the mileage being clocked up on exercise bikes during the course of four sea crossings.

Wessex Children's Hospital appeal.

Also helping to turn miles into money were 24 students



Three-year-old cystic fibrosis sufferer Rachel McGreevy from County Down has said a big thank you to soldiers from the 7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment who organised a public abseil down Scrabo Tower in Newtowndale, raising £420 for a new group set up in Mid Down by Rachel's mother Mary (left) to help toward funding research into the ailment. CSgt Robert Jones presents the cheque.

from Worthy's Potential Officers Course, who took part in a race from Beachy Head to their base, accumulating £200 for the same cause.

More than 160 people from various parts of the United Kingdom attended a charity curry lunch at Church Crookham organised by Sgt Jit Bahadur Gurung of HQ The Brigade of Gurkhas.

He raised more than £2,600 for the Gurkha Welfare and Pahar Trusts.

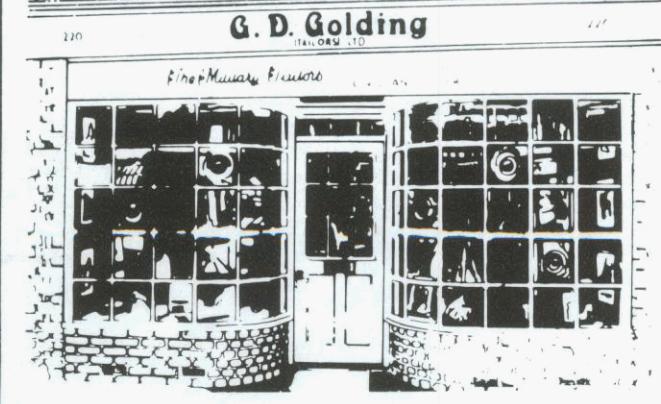
Bulford-based Sgt John Scammell, of 19 Tank Transporter Squadron, RLC, won a new Rover 2000, sponsored by Natocars as first prize in a lottery run in Wiltshire which raised £22,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

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Triumph on Hidden Peak

A HIGHLY successful nine-week Joint Services mountaineering expedition to Pakistan ended when the final 12-man group flew to Heathrow last month.

Led by Col Mervyn Bridges, late RE, the expedition left England in May to become the first all-British party to climb the 26,470ft Gasherbrum - Hidden Peak - an objective they achieved.

To get there they had to trek over Baltoro Glacier, the longest in the world. Despite adverse weather conditions and an unexpected 2m of snow Sgt Dan Carroll, Cpl John Doyle, Surgeon Cdr Andy Hughes RN and Flt Lt Steve Hunt RAF reached the summit.

Sqn Ldr Richard Gammie RAF led the under-23 junior team to the top of an unnamed 19,000ft peak which they christened Jangjampa Brakk in honour of their guide. Projects on dehydration and weight loss and on local medicinal compounds were undertaken by Carol Windle from the Institute of Naval Medicine and Dr Sheila Perrett from King's College, London.

... and a stormy retreat from Eiger

An attempt by a team from HQ Quartermaster General at Andover to climb the Eiger over a long weekend was thwarted by bad weather.

Majs Paul Fish, Steve Shirley, Peter Warden and Peter Wyse set out from Hampshire and by 1900 the following day had bivouacked at the foot of the west ridge of the mountain at 7,000ft.

In the early hours of a clear, mild night, they climbed the first 1,000ft over bands of rock up to 20ft in height.

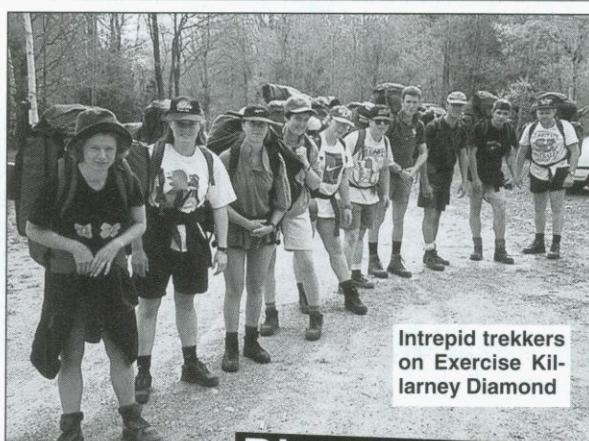
They had been told storms were imminent and the wind was already picking up as the team reached a point just over 11,000ft - about 2,000ft below the summit.

With conditions worsening by the minute, Maj Fish decided the dangers of being caught on the exposed summit snow ridge were too great and the quartet climbed down to relative safety at 7,000ft.

Within minutes, a ferocious electrical storm hit the mountain, complete with spectacular lightning displays, a torrential downpour and high winds.



Heath-rows: Eleven members of the successful main team pictured at the airport on their return to the UK. Missing from the photograph is Maj Mark Watson



Intrepid trekkers on Exercise Killarney Diamond

Diamond sharp
AN adventure training exercise which took the form of a trek in the Killarney Wilderness Park in Northern Ontario was undertaken by 11 self-sufficient members of Hohne-based 1 Armoured Field Ambulance. Covering 120km, Exercise Killarney Diamond took eight days to complete.

The party, consisting of five men and four women representing RAMC, RLC, RADC and QARANC, completed their stay in Canada with two days at Niagara Falls.

Towering failure

A TELEVISION advertisement in which a car is lowered by helicopter on to the summit of the spectacular Castleton Tower, a natural desert landmark in Utah, led a team from Wales literally to aspire to great heights.

Made up of Capt Andy Clark (RRW), WO2 Dave Whittle (RTR), Sgt Bob Eardley and Sgt Martin Good (REME), the team - all competent climbers, but with varying experience - was drawn from the Cadet Training Teams in Wales.

NEVADA DESERT

After a week climbing in the Nevada Desert at Red Rocks near Las Vegas, Zion and Arches National Parks and Potash Canyon near Moab in Utah, they camped at the base of the scree slope in the shadow of the tower.

Capt Clark and Sgt Eardley made three abortive attempts, battered by storms, which included gale-force winds and golf ball-sized hailstones. With prudence winning over ambition, the pair abseiled down, leaving the gale raging.

As they rejoined the others, a fourth storm blew in, arcing forks of electricity on to the top of the tower. It was a lesson in making difficult decisions, and working quickly and safely under pressure in an extreme environment.

DIVERS DENIED VICTORY

EXERCISE Casquets Victory 1, led by Capt Sally Simmons QARANC, set out to locate the wreck of the fourth HMS *Victory*, reputedly sunk in a violent storm off Les Casquets, Alderney in 1744, with the loss of 1,100 men. Ship's spars were washed up in Guernsey, but no bodies were ever found.

Capt Simmons, "press-ganged" by Thorney Island Sub-Aqua Club to be their expedition officer, is a Channel Islander by birth and had heard many stories about the wreck. So the possibility of finding the ship's 100 brass cannon was a golden opportunity to get the club involved in adventurous training among some of the most dangerous reefs in the United Kingdom.

Because 47 Regiment RA at Thorney Island was on Northern Ireland training and unable to fill the team, the expedition was made up of six men and four women, all of dive leader standard or above, from a mix of corps and regiments.

Foul weather delayed the start but team members were rewarded with several dives on Les Casquets before the weather closed in again. They also dived to the north of Alderney and found the wreck of the *Liverpool*, an old sailing ship.

Although they failed to discover the wreck of the *Victory*, the divers picked up valuable information from local people, and a follow-up expedition is planned next year to investigate other sites.



Maj Nancy Maris prepares for an extraction

Carers in the community

INSTEAD of treating soldiers for gunshot wounds or severe trauma – as they did at Arnhem and in the Falklands – the medics of 16 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC are concentrating on the long-term ailments of the elderly in former Yugoslavia.

They visit clinics in remote areas to provide the only medical care which many communities will receive. Fortunately, there have been few war-related ailments. "We have seen a some old gunshot wounds which have healed by themselves," said Maj Nancy Maris, OC Medical Troop. "Normally we are looking at rheumatoid arthritis, angina and heart problems."

From its base in Sipovo her troop runs three clinics which provide general practice cover and a first point of contact for people who need to be referred for specialist care in Sipovo hospital.

"We can use interpreters to get a case history and we can offer very basic therapy but we can't go into any depth," said Maj Gordon Diack.

"The old people we see were uprooted and whisked away, and when they came back their houses were destroyed. We cannot really help with their psychological problems."

After 12 years in the TA Maj Diack found that general practice was no longer fun nor satisfying, so he joined the Regular Army for a second career.

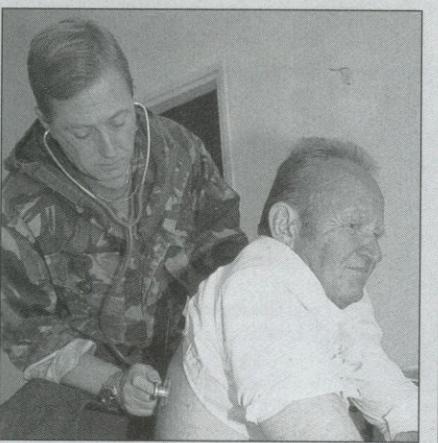
He is on his third tour of Bosnia, having been in a Medical Support Troop in Vitez during Grapple 2, and with 1 RGBW in Gorazde in Grapple 5 during the "uncomfortable phase" when there

was little fuel, food, heat or light.

Commanded by Lt Col Rob Thornton and based in Tidworth, 16 Armd Fd Amb would normally operate with five armoured sections, but for Op Resolute, three are wheeled. The Medical Support Troop takes on the dressing station role.

Forward sections include a medical or nursing officer with advanced training and are deployed with infantry and armoured battle groups.

A surgical facility is provided at brigade HQ in Sipovo to ensure that any injured soldiers will be treated by a doctor well within the hour – critical for the survival of the seriously injured – and be operated on within 90 minutes.



Maj Gordon Diack sounds out a chest



Reports: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Terry Champion

Hillside guardians

Jezero quartet keep the peace

ALL that is keeping a handful of Muslim families from the possibility of brutal death is a fire team of four soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

But A Company's Cpl Gary Burgess and his three colleagues are not fighting a defensive action – they are relaxing in a little house on the hillside outside Jezero. They have plenty of time to sunbathe.

When the civil war swept up the valley and destroyed the pretty town at the cross-roads, it passed by the knot of Muslims. When Serbs returned to their gutted houses at the bottom of the hill, they wanted the Muslims out.

The battalion maintains a permanent presence at Jezero to deter ethnic cleansing.

"There is a very 'anti' feeling. They think we are favouring the Muslims, so we regularly walk down to them to show we have no animosity against them," said Cpl Burgess.

None of the ten children of the four or five extended Muslim families goes to school. The only toy appears to be an old football.

The Muslims are safe as long as the British soldiers are there. Guard duty varies from three days to a week and the British soldiers enjoy their independence.

Since May the battalion has been based in the Anvil, with B Company detached under Canadian control and with C Company of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and B Squadron, The Queen's Royal Hussars also under command.

The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters are even-handed in dealing with Serb, Muslim or Croat, a fact not always appreciated by the rival communities.

One Serb village near the inter-entity boundary is reassured by the presence of a couple of the battalion's 63 Warriors.

When Lisina villagers heard firing at the British range over the mountains at Glamoc, Sgt Ian Cresswell of C Company's 7 Platoon, which occupies a ruined school, had a panic on his hands. Villagers thought the war had started again.

"We found out what was happening and told them, and now there are big posters in Lisina explaining that our guns are using the ranges," said Sgt Cresswell.

Local people are friendly and the politi-



Pte Andy Bisson, Pte Paul Humphrey and Cpl Gary Burgess pass the time of day with a Muslim farmer they are protecting



Left – Pte Simon Flexney, Sgt Lewis Weaver and Pte Ben Haywood carry out essential maintenance

Army's Canadian canoe champion.

There is no drinking water or electricity in the valley, so the platoon uses a generator to provide power, and water is brought in by bowser.

The 1 WFR assault pioneers have proved their value many times over. They were working on clearing a blockage into the school and had just spent seven days in a water-filled trench repairing a wrecked industrial water main.

Pioneer Sgt Glen Fenwick said: "We are doing a lot of plumbing and carpentry.

"In preparation for coming here the lads should practise carpentry skills. Anyone can knock a nail into a piece of wood, but just try it when you are hanging upside down from a top window trying to put in the frame, and then you'll see how easy it is."

Materials were often inferior and inade-

cal secretary is a regular visitor to arrange aid to outlying villages.

The sergeant could be forgiven a longing look at the area's spectacular rivers. Because of his IFOR duties he had been unable to defend his position as the British

● Turn to next page

There's something nasty hidden in paradise

IT'S A great comfort to know that the minefield through which you are strolling was designed to stop tanks and that there are no anti-personnel devices scattered about.

They can be converted to provide an anti-personnel threat, says Sgt Nige Marsh of 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron, but as you step over the wire with its red "Mines" warning triangles, you feel a little more confident knowing they have not been tampered with.

Walking beside the man who actually laid the lethal objects in the first place helps considerably, particularly as he remembers where he put them...

Stepping into minefields in former Yugoslavia is a daily task for Royal Engineer teams from 3 Armd Engr Sqn based at Perham Down, Tidworth.

Initially part of 32 Close Support Regiment, then part of its own parent regiment - 22 Engineer Regiment - 3 Armd Engr Sqn is a combat engineer unit, not an explosive ordnance detachment. But the squadron's reconnaissance assets have been devoted to monitoring the mines situation.

Watching

From Page 19

quate, so the more the pioneers could make do, the better life would be for everybody, said Sgt Fenwick.

Stability on the ground was vital to allow social and economic regeneration work to continue, said C Coy commander, Maj Fred Chedham.

The REME Light Aid Detachment's fitter section had been running tractor clinics and his soldiers had refurbished schools, given health checks and advised on transport systems, he said.

Commanding officer Lt Col Patrick Mercer said that given half a chance, the community would vote for IFOR in the forthcoming elections, a sure sign 1WFR had established a healthy working relationship.

"We maintain friendly relations with everyone and have no axe to grind. They see us as a deterrent to the Federation forces and are reassured by our presence."



Lt Col Patrick Mercer, CO 1 WFR



Pte Ben Haywood and other 1 WFR soldiers provide a reassuring presence as they patrol through Lisina

One of the minefields they frequent is in a beautiful Hercegovian valley near Livno.

Without the swarms of biting, stinging insects which infest the valley, its meadows could be the Elysian fields, the peaceful but mythical last home of Greek heroes.

But the Livno fields hide a grim legacy of death among their wild flowers and tall grasses. It is an area shunned by civilians since fighting last year.

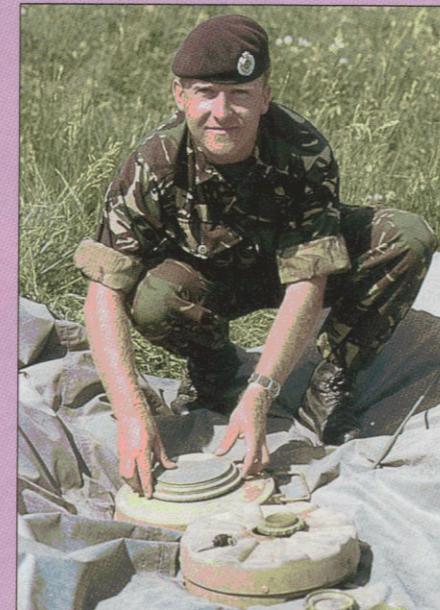
Vast minefields here separated the HVO Croats from the Bosnian Serbs before the Croats swept to victory in September. British sappers are now involved in returning the area to normal. As mines are removed, people re-colonise the valley.

Sgt Marsh and other recce teams have the help of Herbert Lang, a jovial German from Munich who was a reconnaissance commander in the HVO and who knows exactly where his mines are buried.

He is not, however, so sure about the Serbs' mines further up the valley...

Serb records were probably lost in the retreat, and the people who laid them may well be dead, he said.

"The engineers on every side were very professional in what they did," said Maj



Sgt Nige Marsh of 3 Armd Engr Sqn with examples of the mines he encounters

George MacGinnis, squadron OC. "They had a very good eye for where mines should go, laid them with cunning and guile and kept records.

"Some records were lost or destroyed in the fog of war, and in some cases isolated elements were less well disciplined and trained than others."

He stressed that British engineers do not normally become involved in mine clearance unless something specifically threatens the IFOR operation. It is a task for local forces.

"They put the mines there, it is their country, so they remove them," he said. "We are impartial observers and try and chivvy things along."

A breakthrough for IFOR was obtaining the co-operation of the Bosnian Serb army to discuss mines on their side of the confrontation line. A figure of 100,000 in theatre was probably a conservative estimate, said Sgt Masters. He reckoned there could be anything up to three million.

Recce sergeants such as Sgt Marsh and Sgt Ian



Sgt Ian Lyons and Herbert Lang prepare to destroy anti-tank mines

Lyons operate from a CVRT-series vehicle with a radio operator, a driver and a medic.

At a higher level, the sappers have been providing former combatants with better equipment and advanced training.

In oppressive heat and tormented by insects, it was exhausting work, and the sappers aimed to step back over the wire and leave the fields by midday.

"We use the rest of the day for planning subsequent operations, collating the information, writing reports and looking at the minefield to prioritise whether work should be done on the land, villages or routes," said Sgt Lyons.

"It is going to take a long time."

MOVING BUSINESS

ROYAL Logistic Corps soldiers are trained to move supplies, but when Maj Paul Randall of 60 Artillery Support Squadron RLC was asked to shift a battalion of Malayan soldiers, he did not appreciate that there would be a few unusual features in the task.

The Malays had to be transported from three main areas south of Sarajevo to the British-led Multi-National Division South West, where they would be based at Livno.

Maj Randall based himself at the dispatching end of the operation and relied on his sergeant major, WO2 Steven Tinlin, to run the Livno end.

"When I first arrived the Malays were in their preparation for Ramadan," said Maj Randall. "They would be roused by a trumpet at 4.30am for half-an-hour of prayers before they went back to bed again."

Interrupted sleep coupled with fasting meant the Muslim soldiers became very weary.

Originally the loggiers' task was solely to co-ordinate the move, but it quickly became apparent that the Malays had little experience of Western principles of defence, occupation of a location, engineering aspects or the technical side, said Maj Randall.

WO2 Tinlin effectively co-ordinated the construction of Livno camp, co-ordinating engineering, pioneering and transport tasks between the Malays, hiring cranes, organising the infrastructure of the camp, siting messes, cookhouses, and generators as well as ensuring all-round protection of the perimeter. His remit went way beyond what he would normally have done as sergeant major of a transport squadron.

"They went out of their way to look after my soldiers and tried to provide Western-style food," said Maj Randall. "But the lads did not really take to it after the first breakfast of cold fish fingers and garlic rice."

The British workforce comprised elements of 3 Tank Transporter Squadron, a section from 60 Squadron and a DROPS section commander with eight men.

It took 680 man-days to move the 1,550 Malays with all their vehicles and 90,000 litres of fuel, 250 containers and 250 Corimec containers plus a complete containerised hospital operating theatre, pharmacy and dental centre.

Drivers clocked up 150,000 miles in the move, which had to be completed in eight weeks.



A soldier of the Irish Guards carries Milan tubes through the smoke of battle



A Milan rocket leaves the tube on Otterburn ranges

Pictures: Chris Barker

Irish Guards take on the tanks

MEMBERS of the Irish Guards are pictured taking part in the major Milan concentration exercise at Otterburn Training Area in Northumberland.

The exercise tested platoons who use Milan, an anti-tank weapon on general issue throughout the Infantry.

Experts from the Anti-Tank Division were attached to the 1 IG platoons to help them improve effectiveness and to assess their levels of skill.

For the first time the concentration was run by the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles from Church Crookham,

and principal guests were soldiers from 1 and 2 RGR, based respectively in Hong Kong and Brunei.

In all, ten Regular and three Territorial Army units sent platoons to take part in the 12-day blocks of firing throughout the summer.

Other Regular Milan platoons involved in the exercise came from the Welsh Guards, The Black Watch, The Parachute Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers and The Royal Staffordshire Regiment.



Scimitar joins the advance under cover of smoke

Royal Guard given new Ballater Colour

A NEW Ballater Colour, the unique honour bestowed on the Royal Guards which protect the Queen and members of the Royal Family during their annual summer break at Balmoral, has been presented.

In one of the first engagements of the Queen's annual break it was received outside the gates of Balmoral by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, who volunteered to form this year's guard.

The Queen was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal and Capt Timothy Laurence RN.

Traditionally the Royal Guard is found from the Scots Guards or from a regiment of the Scottish Division of Infantry. Thus the duties of the Royal Guard are performed by a different regiment each year.

Led by guard commander Maj Mike Onslow, 40 men of The Black Watch took part in the parade. The regiment last formed the guard in 1987.

A new Colour is normally presented every 20 years or so; the last time was in 1973 when it was received by The Gordon Highlanders.

Privilege of taking the Colour – the Union Flag with the Queen's Crown in the centre – from the Monarch went to 2nd Lt Robin Lindsay, who with CSgt Alec Brown and Sgt David Easton formed the Colour Party.

Origins of the Ballater Colour, as it is known, are unclear. The Royal Family acquired Balmoral in 1848 and it is believed the Colour came into use between 1873 and the mid-1880s. Documents reveal that it was renewed by King George V in 1920.

Report: Lesley Edgar
Pictures: Mark Owens



Above – Maj Mike Onslow faces the new Ballater Colour draped across the drums of The Black Watch

Right – 2nd Lt Robin Lindsay receives the new Colour from the Queen. On the right is Lt George Gray-Cheape

The old Colour was marched off parade to be laid to rest in Balmoral Castle. During the duty period from mid-July to mid-October the Colour is kept at Victoria Barracks in nearby Ballater, where the guard is based during the three-month duty.

For the rest of the year it is kept at the headquarters of 51 Highland Brigade in Perth.



Accompanied by Maj Mike Onslow, the Queen inspects soldiers of the Royal Guard



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch march off parade with the new Colour of the Royal Guard



The Colours are dipped as 8 LI becomes a Yeomanry regiment

Yorkshire Terriers change cap badge

THE COLOURS of the 8th Battalion, The Yorkshire Light Infantry were marched on to parade by an infantry regiment and marched off again by the cavalry.

It happened at Nostell Priory when the 8th Battalion re-badged as The King's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry (Light Infantry).

Presented by the Queen Mother at Nostell Priory eight years ago, the Colours were trooped through the ranks of two honour guards before leaving the parade.

As they departed, the bands of the Light Infantry and the South Notts Hussars gave a display, and were followed by a pageant depicting the history of the Yeomanry and their uniforms and a tactical demonstration of modern Yeomen in action.

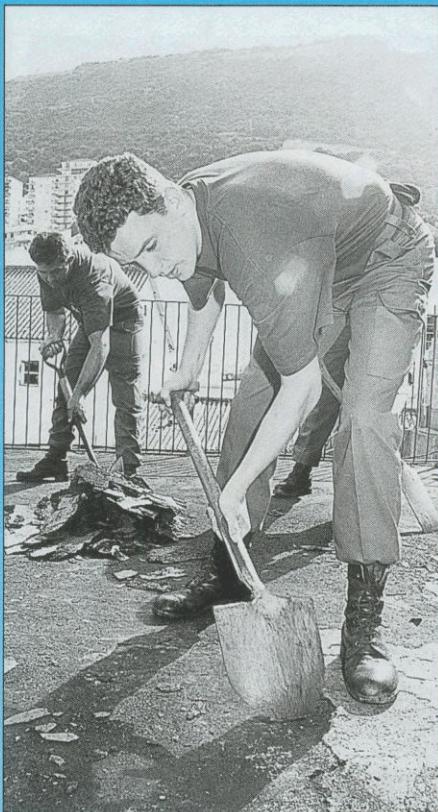
As the coloured smoke cleared, the Army's newest cavalry



Re-roled: 8 LI begins its new recce role in Land Rovers

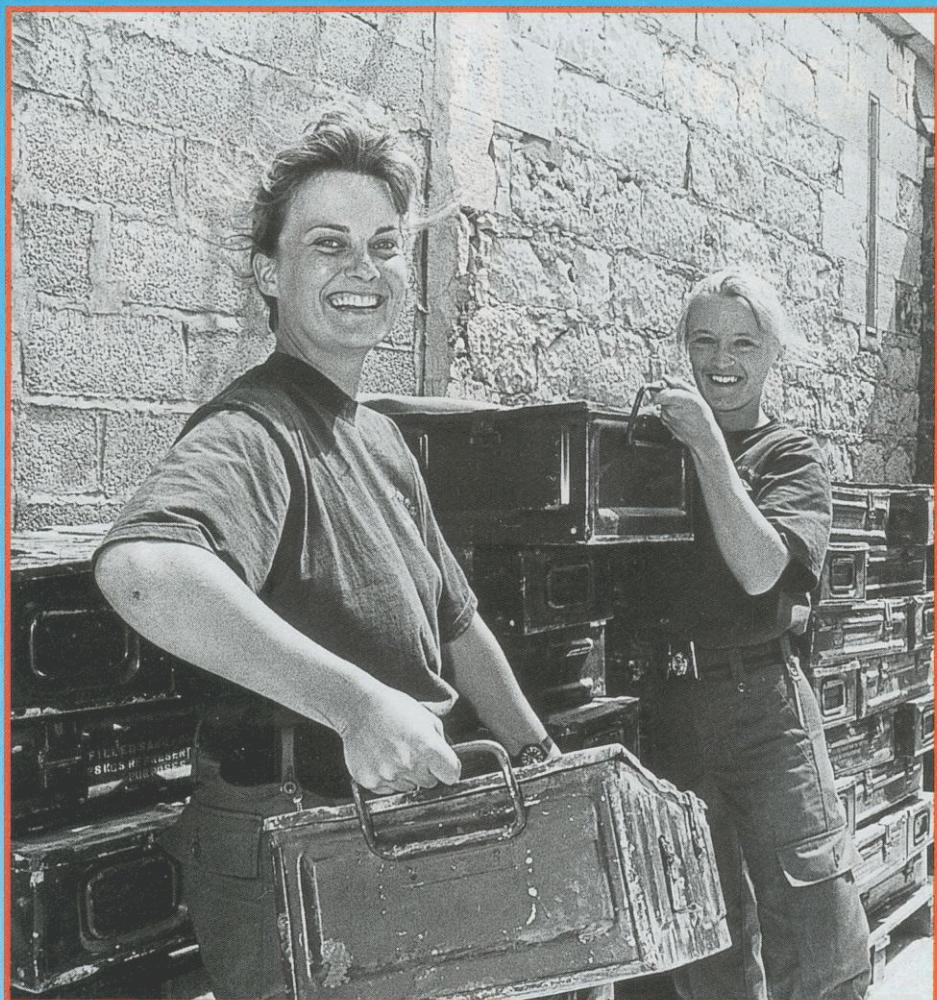
the KOYY's new regimental march.

Re-roled as a light reconnaissance regiment, it will provide the eyes and ears of the 2nd Division, commanded by Maj Gen Dair Farrar-Hockley.



Pictures: Nigel Williamson

Historical dig: TA engineers put their backs into a cultural heritage project at Parsons Lodge, the remains of military coastal defences with a history that extends to the Battle of Trafalgar. The natural harbour at Parsons Lodge was the first port of call for the *Victory* with Nelson's body on board after Trafalgar in 1805, and it also provided a dock for the *Marie Celeste* after she had been found drifting in the Atlantic in 1872



Spr Lynda Gawley and a colleague get to grips with some back-breaking work in Gibraltar. Lynda, a receptionist in civvy street, has been a member of 1 Troop, 74 Engr Sqn for five years

Bangor sappers warm to the task

MEN and women from Bangor-based 74 (Antrim Artillery) Independent Field Squadron, RE (V) completed a series of tough assignments, demolitions and community tasks during a two-week exercise in Gibraltar, **writes Nicola Phoenix**.

For many of the 95 Territorial Army soldiers, Marble Tor (V) was not only their first overseas exercise, but the first time they had been abroad.

And with temperatures soaring above 40 degrees the Northern Ireland sappers were well and truly sapped of excess energy.

Maj Harry Walker, officer commanding 74 Squadron, said: "It was a challenging experience that they all met, including the 13 new recruits, some of whom have been with us only since February."

But he was quick to point out that the trip was far from being a holiday for the part-time soldiers. "We enjoyed a lot of adventurous sports and two days of R and R during which some members of the squadron travelled to Morocco and Spain, but other than that it was tough work.



Sapped: a well-earned rest soon had this sapper back on her feet

"The tunnel warfare phase was particularly difficult for some people, but with a great adrenalin kick at the end of it."

A FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas) exercise was almost as difficult. The Terriers' task sounded relatively easy . . . to carry

20 boxes each weighing between 9lb and 21lb over a series of obstacles in a simulation of an ammunition re-supply to a forward unit.

But the reality was that the task had to be completed with time constraints and under gunfire, sometimes in the pitch blackness of underground tunnels and often through smoke and in soaring temperatures.

When the initial task was completed, the soldiers had to carry the boxes back to a re-stacking point.

Much of the extensive adventurous training programme had a degree of difficulty but provided thrills and a large measure of self-confidence. One officer said: "The soldiers learn a lot about themselves, how far they can push themselves and what they are actually capable of achieving."

Its annual camp is the most important part of the unit's year. The need to keep TA independent units such as 74 Squadron up to speed in their specialist areas and capable of effective teamwork is a vital part of their national role in support of NATO.

Guarded response to matter of honour

YOU were kind enough to publish a letter of mine last year when you described a guard of honour as an honour guard.

You have now (Aug 5) described a guard, paraded by The Light Dragoons for the Princess of Wales, as a guard of honour. This must have been a quarter guard or barrack guard as it was commanded by an NCO and is correctly being inspected at "the Slope".

A guard of honour would be commanded by an officer and inspected at "the Shoulder".

Incidentally, surely the guard commander should have remained on the right of the front rank and to the left of the trumpeter, and not accompanied the inspecting officer? – A J Donald, Horndean, Hants.

Suez is a 'dead horse'

COL P S Newton is flogging a dead horse in his quest for a medal for veterans of the Suez Canal Zone emergency 1951-54 (Letters, Aug 5).

For seven years I have been advocating a medal for survivors of Kohima. I have taken my campaign to the MoD, the Royal British Legion and the Burma Star Association.

I have written to the Queen several times and the answer every time has been that King George VI decreed that no more medals would be struck and that the law would not be changed. – Michael Gavin, Church, Lancs.

Victoria Cross

FURTHER to Maj R R McFaulds' letter (Aug 5), the RAMC, like all regiments and corps, is justifiably proud of its VCs but it would be unwise to enter into the argument of which cap badge has the most.

The RAMC does not lay claim to this. If one was to use the encompassing title of Army Medical Services, which traces its history back to 1660 and includes the RAMC, then 29 VCs have been awarded, plus, as Maj McFaulds states, two bars. If only considering the RAMC, which was not formed until June 23,



Milan concentration – Pages 22-23

You can laugh at us... now

I SEE Len Oliver is having a bit of a backhand swipe at the Home Guard (Letters, Aug 19). So be it, and the best of British to him.

However, to put the matter into perspective it must be said that it could have been the million and a half members of the Home Guard that put off Hitler with any thoughts he may have had regarding invasion plans.

I suppose that when you win you can keep joking at circumstances which were taken very seriously at the time.

I have knocked up a cartoon on this theme which I hope you



"What's the bet someone makes a comedy out of this lot... unless we LOSE the war!"

will have space to print. – H D Pickles (ex-Home Guard), Blackburn, Lancs.

For the record

1898, then only 13 VCs and two bars have been awarded.

Martin-Leake was not a member of the RAMC when his initial award was made but a surgeon captain in the South African Constabulary. – Capt (Retd) P H Starling, Curator, RAMC Historical Museum, Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.

● May I draw your attention to a third VC and bar, Capt Charles

● Soldier welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. They must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Acceptance or rejection of a letter is the decision of the editors, who reserve the right to amend them for length, clarity or style.



Q: Why do Royal Marines bandsmen wear white pith helmets?

WHITE helmets are the ceremonial headdress for all Royal Marines, not only ranks in the bands.

Until 1905, and like most of the Army, the Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry wore the blue cloth helmet.

When drafted to one of HM ships bound for a tropical station a Royal Marine would be issued with an additional, white tropical, helmet.

On grounds of economy and space it was decided that Royal Marines should be issued with only a white helmet and the blue one was abolished.

The Wolseley Pattern Helmet, as worn today, replaced the previous pattern in 1912 but because full dress was placed in abeyance in the First World War it was not seen very much until about 1920. – Maj A J Donald RM, Royal Marines Historical Society, RM Museum, Southsea, Hants.

AS the name implies, the Wolseley helmet became popular at the time of the war in the Sudan and officers found it preferable to the foreign service helmet. – J B Needham, Morden, Surrey.

October

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

November

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

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



General approval: When Lt Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett was asked if he would like a memento to mark the end of his 15 years as chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association, he thought of a former cadet whose painting he had admired.

So Graham Little, who spent two years during his school days with the Black Watch Battalion of

the Army Cadet Force, and is now a 24-year-old graduate from Dundee College of Art, was tracked down. The resulting portrait, which took 11 days to paint, can be seen with artist and subject in the picture. Lt Gen Scott-Barrett, who is handing over as association chairman to Lt Gen Sir Anthony Dennison-Smith, was "delighted" with the result.

Tea and empathy

AT FIRST glance, *Trench Tea and Sandbags* is a modest 44-page booklet recounting the First World War experiences of a soldier of the Canadian Highland Regiment. Closer inspection reveals an evocative series of cameos written in conversational style by the late David McMillan.

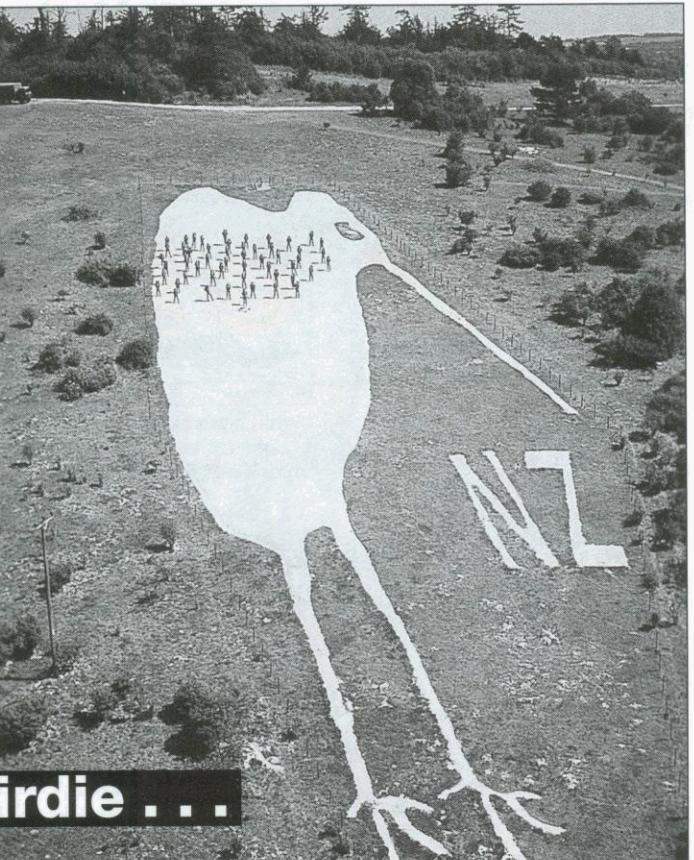
To coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Somme, his great-nephew Ron McAdam has published this little gem with all proceeds going to The Camerons and Seaforths Museum and Archives, Inverness, and The Cameron Highlanders of Canada Museum in Winnipeg.

Cheques for £2.50, inc p and p, should be made out to R McAdam and addressed to him at 141 Chantry Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1XD (tel: 0181-391 0255; pager 01459-10-9851).

Watch the birdie ...

No... it's not a pagan ritual involving the Bulford Kiwi... just soldiers of AMFL Supply Squadron RLC in the middle of a PT session.

The occasion was the tenth anniversary of the restoration of the Kiwi etched out of the chalk hillside to commemorate



the occupation of Sling Camp by 4,500 troops of the New Zealand Division at the end of the First World War.

AMFL's Combat Service Support Battalion, of which the squadron is a part, prides

itself on its fitness and its soldiers frequently include the hill in their training sessions. The picture was taken from a Gazelle helicopter with the co-operation of 658 Squadron, 7 Regiment, Army Air Corps (V).

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1946

DEFENCE OVERSPEND? Parliament recently voted £10 to the Army to make good the difference between £11,056,771 and £11,056,761, an "excess on the grants for Army services". Explained Mr F J Belenger, Financial Secretary to the War Office: "This is merely a book-keeping technicality."

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1971

PEACE SIGNALS For the first time a Royal Signals unit has won the Army's Wilkinson Sword of Peace. The 1970 award goes to 253 Signal Squadron for its work in Hong Kong "in maintaining static communications in the colony and for activities in the interest of the local people."

You can bet on Darren!

STEPPING up to victory, literally, on a recently transmitted television show was SSgt (SSI) Darren Adam, APTC, currently on a seven-month course at the Joint Services School of Remedial Instructors, RAF Headley Court.

He had originally written to London Weekend Television with a suggestion for their *You Bet* programme, in which members of a panel and the studio audience bet whether a challenge will be completed in a set time.

The company liked his idea of a step challenge – man against machine, endeavouring to beat a passenger lift or someone on an escalator – but modified it for TV.

"The final challenge for the show turned out to be against a triathlete, Julian Jenkins," SSgt Adam told *Soldier*. "He ran up the LWT tower, which has 351 steps, while I was in the studio on a step machine trying to beat him to the top in steps."

The machine was calibrated to give soldier the same gravitational force as athlete. SSgt Adam won the bet... by seven seconds.

● A memorial window dedicated to the Royal Hibernian Military School has been dedicated at St Andrew's Garrison Church, Worthy Down.

FD MARSHAL Sir Peter Inge was described in these pages in the last issue as Chief of the General Staff. He is, of course, the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Search for their medals

The custodians of a small museum dedicated to one of the Territorial Army's most distinguished regiments are appealing for help to find the medals and memorabilia of this group of senior NCOs from B Company, 1st Battalion, The Cambridgeshire Regiment.

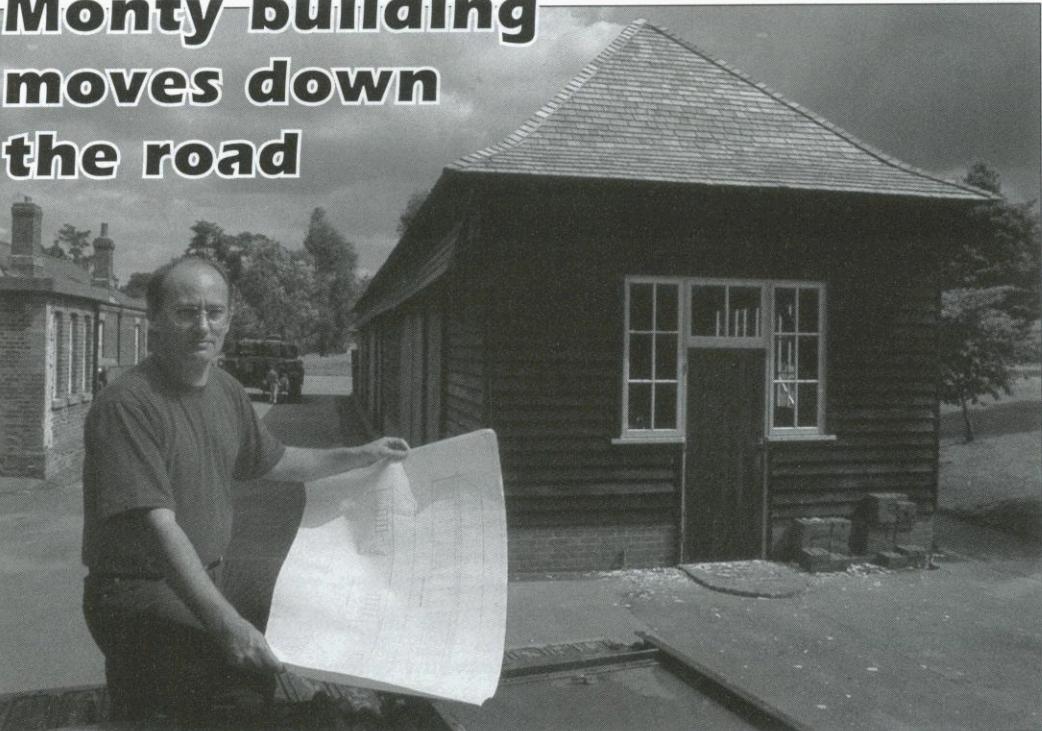
Taken in 1917, the photograph depicts seven soldiers who between them won eight gallantry medals.

If anyone can offer help, they are asked to contact Col Pat Macdonald on 01223 263293 or write to him at the Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection, 15 Wimpole Road, Great

Eversden, Cambridge CB3 7HR. The First World War soldiers in the picture are (front, left to right) Sgt Harry Cox MM, CSM Harry Clarke DCM, CSgt Anthony Hilliam MD; (back) Sgt Fred Hassock, Sgt Sid Dockerill DCM (2), MM, Sgt Fred Touch DCM and Sgt Joe Franklin MM.



Monty building moves down the road



Picture: Mike Weston

Aldershot Military Museum

administrator Geoff Venning checks the plans of a listed building successfully moved from the former home of Fd Marshal Montgomery at Islington Mill near Alton to the grounds of the museum.

Dismantled piece by piece and transported 20 miles to its new site, the Montgomery Gallery once housed Monty's famous wartime mobile command post caravans from which he directed the El Alamein and Normandy campaigns.

The present Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, son of the late Second World War leader, was present for the opening of the building at Aldershot.

SEARCHLINE

3rd Inf Div and 9 Inf Bde Wksps (1944): 9 Field Workshop is planning a battlefield tour of the Normandy landings (Op Overlord) and Falaise Gap battles (Ops Goodwood and Totalize) and wants ex-REME soldiers who served with 3rd Infantry Division, in particular 9 Infantry Brigade Workshops, between May and November 1944 to help by documenting events as they unfolded, especially dates and locations.

Recollections to WO2 (CSM) Chris Carling, 9 Fd Wksp, 6 Bn REME, TTA, Budds Lane, Bordon, Hants GU35 0JE.

F W White wishes to hear from former colleagues in 275 (H) Field Coy RE (1944-45), in particular LSgt Burger and Spr Lach, who were taken prisoner in Holland, November 8, 1944. Replies to 3 Eyre Close, Gidea Park, Romford, Kenton, Middx HA3 8JZ.

5th Corps or 8th Army who took part in the battle of Argenta Gap in Italy, April 1945. Replies to Dr Rino Moretti, Via Vandini, 4-44011 Argenta (FE), Italy (tel/fax 0039 532 804498).

Ron Garnett, Arborfield Jan 1942-May 1944 by Charlie Ashdown, now resident in Canada. Last contact 1953 when Ron is believed to have commissioned and transferred to a new regiment. Replies to Marie Powell (Charlie's sister) on 0181-907 3079 or 16 Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Middx HA3 8JZ.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: M J Ball – To UKNMR(A) SHAPE, Aug 12, P St J Baxter – To ARRC, Aug 14.

Retirements

Brigadier: N G R Hepworth, late Kings, Aug 15.

Essex RM2 6AR (tel 01708 749525).

News sought urgently of ex-REME Ron Garnett, Arborfield Jan 1942-May 1944 by Charlie Ashdown, now resident in Canada. Last contact 1953 when Ron is believed to have commissioned and transferred to a new regiment. Replies to Marie Powell (Charlie's sister) on 0181-907 3079 or 16 Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Middx HA3 8JZ.

Snubbed poet won MC

NEWS in August of the death at 103 of the last surviving poet of the First World War, Geoffrey Dearmer, came just weeks after the publication of a new biographical anthology of these literary soldiers.

Sadly no mention of Dearmer could be found in *Violets from Oversea* by Tonie and Valmai Holt, whose 25 poets include Blunden, Frankau, Graves, Herbert, Owen, Sassoon and Thomas among other perhaps less celebrated names.

Title of the book is taken from a poem by Roland Leighton, a lieutenant in the 7th Worcesters, who was killed by machine-gun fire two days before Christmas, 1915.

He wrote it for his fiancée, Vera Brittain, a VAD nurse in the war, whose poetry is also celebrated in this book.

While Leighton's work seems to exude a general air of despair, the Rev Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy – "Woodbine Willie" to thousands of soldiers – wrote in an uncom-

Violets from Oversea by Tonie and Valmai Holt with contributions and illustrations by Charlotte Zeepvat. Leo Cooper, hardback, £17.95.

plicated way which endeared him to the troops, to whom he used to hand out cigarettes.

They understood what he was saying. So did the powers-that-be, who, when they saw his poem *His Mate*, describing

Britain's killing fields

PINKIE, for those who may not know, is a spot near Musselburgh in Midlothian where the English defeated the Scots in 1547.

Information about this event and 27 others – nine in detail, the rest summarised – can be found in *Battles in Britain 1066-1746*.

These accounts are the most recent in a spate of books about battles fought on British soil.

Author Glen Lyndon Dodds starts with 1066 and all that and ends, inevitably, with Culloden, which had its 250th anniversary earlier

the opening day of the Somme offensive, had him sent home from the front.

But he returned to win the MC for conspicuous gallantry attending to British and enemy wounded under heavy fire.

In all he penned more than 100 poems but many who judge such things have rejected his status as a "poet". As the book points out, he could not have cared less.

Britain's killing fields

Battles in Britain by Glen Lyndon Dodds. Arms and Armour, hardback, £17.99.

this year. Between them he touches on battles over ancient towns such as Lewes in Sussex, where Henry III was defeated by Simon de Montfort in 1266; Neville's Cross near Durham; Shrewsbury; and several other conflicts featuring medieval kings and leaders.

In an illustrated book of just over 200 pages, the battle accounts are necessarily condensed, but the information packed into them will whet the appetite of everyone with an interest in military affairs. – JM

Monument to military music

The History of British Military Bands: Volume Two, Guards and Infantry by Maj Gordon Turner and Alwyn Turner. Spellmount Publishers, hardback, £65. MGA Associates, 19 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LA (tel 0171-494 2526).

VOLUME ONE of this monumental history of regimental bands dealt with cavalry and corps, giving valuable information, lists and short biographies of bandmasters.

Now this treatment is afforded to the Guards Division and the Scottish and Queen's Divisions, which include all the now-amalgamated Scots, Home Counties, Fusilier and Anglian regiments.

Additional articles cover the evolution of the infantry and musicians at war, while there is a very useful list of abbreviations of regimental titles and much else – including corrections to the first volume, reviewed in *Soldier's*



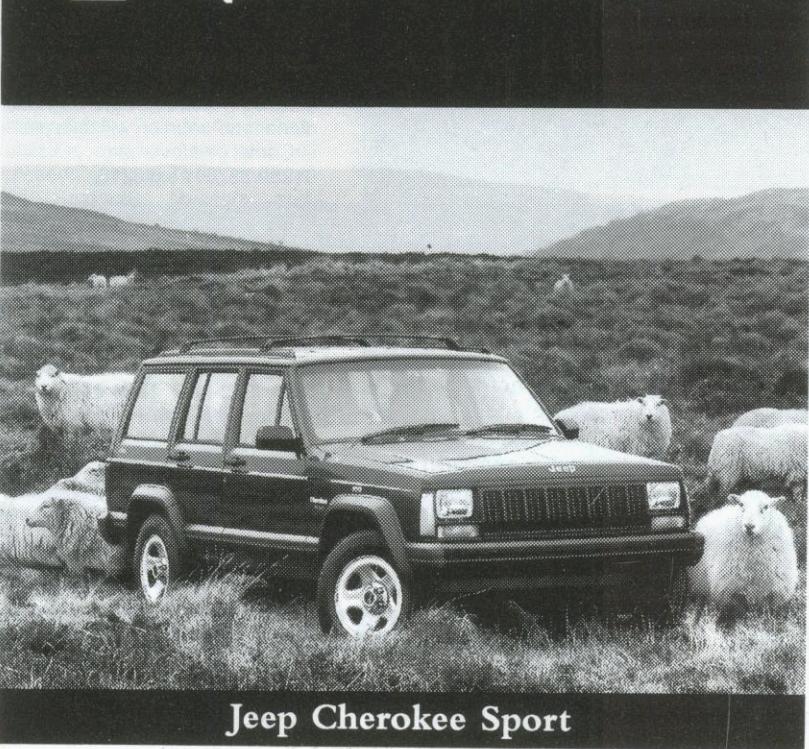
Pipers of the Scottish regiments provide a spectacular climax to the 1993 Edinburgh Military Tattoo

May 29, 1995 issue. These histories are magnificently illustrated in colour and black-and-white and contain fascinating material on the

past glories of regimental music, musicians and bands. They include also a CD of the regimental slow or quick marches of each regiment.

On the face of it this volume is a bit expensive at £65 but the quality of presentation and content is well worth it, especially to band buffs. – RB

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Old Falklands war crime claims given fresh airing

THE ASSAULT by 3 Para on Mount Longdon during the Falklands War is justifiably considered an heroic chapter in the long and honourable tradition of the British Army.

There is, however, a shadow cast on the battalion's heroism. In the 14 years since that campaign allegations have been made of cowardice and worse – the murder of PoWs and the mutilation of corpses and wounded by British soldiers.

The allegations are revived in *Green-Eyed Boys*, by Christian Jennings and Adrian Weale, one a former TA Para, the other an ex-Regular officer.

It appears the nickname "green-eyed" was adopted by a nucleus of 3 Para as an expression of reaction against "blue-eyed", which implies keenness for career advancement and orderly behaviour.

While 1 and 2 Paras had their own traditions to engender pride, the Toms of 3 Para preferred an emphasis on their "no-bullshit" skills.

It is understandable, even

acceptable, that young men, and not only those of an élite fighting unit, should be out to make their mark. But some of the descriptions are more than enough to be endured before reaching the main message of the book: the battle on the night of June 11-12, 1982.

Rumours that American mercenaries fighting on the

Green-Eyed Boys: 3 Para and the Battle for Mount Longdon by Christian Jennings and Adrian Weale. HarperCollins, hardback, £16.99.

Argentine side were lined up and shot have never been substantiated; indeed, they have been consistently denied by US and Argentine authorities.

The authors dismiss the shooting of mercenaries as unlikely but consider that there is unequivocal evidence of two other war crimes: "the mutilation of corpses – and probably living wounded as well – and the shooting of a wounded prisoner after the battle had finished".

Its inquiry lasted 18 months during which more than 400 witnesses were interviewed. In the end, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced no charges were to be brought on the grounds that "the evidence is not such as to afford a realistic prospect of conviction of any person for a criminal offence".

Would it be better to leave the matter at that... or should the quest for the truth be pursued to the end? – BJ

How to live on a penny a day

Go to Your God Like a Soldier by Ian Knight. Greenhill Books, hardback, £29.99.

IT IS amazing that the British Empire survived for as long as it did, considering the quality of officers and men in the Army and the conditions under which they served during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Yet this fighting force was the world's most successful, a fact underlined in Ian Knight's *Go to Your God Like a Soldier*, sub-titled *The British Soldier Fighting for Empire, 1937-1902*.

Conditions of service were harsh, barbaric even – especially when a man could be sentenced to 50 lashes for a misdemeanour – and changed little during the 65 years covered.

Pay was poor: privates received a shilling a day from which stoppages for food, tailoring, laundry, haircuts and kit repairs were deducted.

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What of the officers? No comparison, since most bought a commission, some fashionable regiments charging £8,000 for the rank of lieutenant colonel. They were all in the same Army, but in most cases you would never know it.

This informative, entertaining and well-illustrated book includes descriptions of all the Victorian campaigns, with eyewitness accounts.

There is a chapter on uniforms and weapons; an appendix on infantry, cavalry and artillery organisation and another on infantry titles before and after 1881, with pre-1881 facing colours; and even a substantial guide to further reading. – JM

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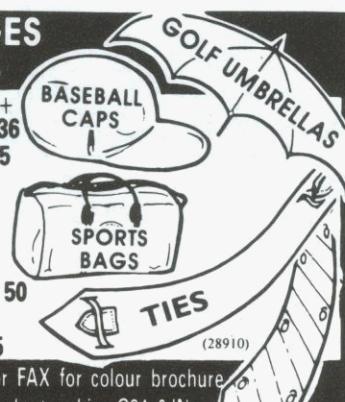
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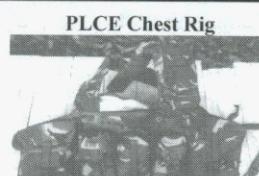
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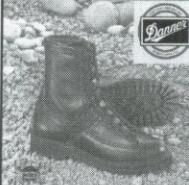


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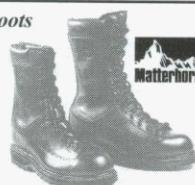


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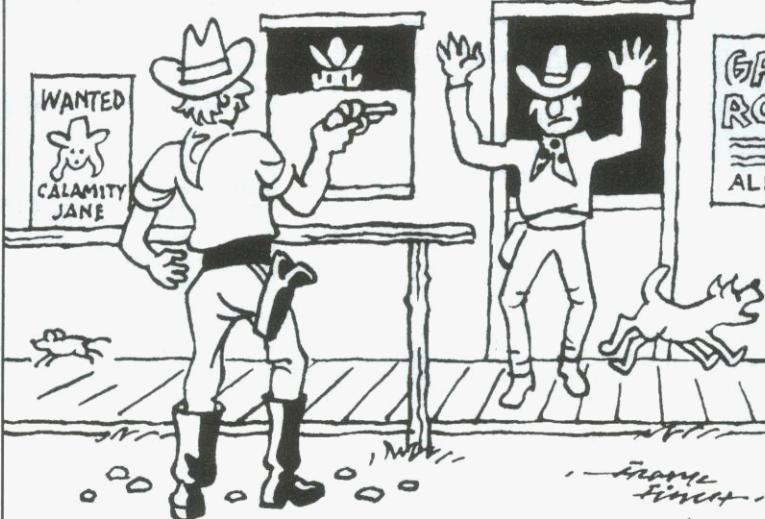
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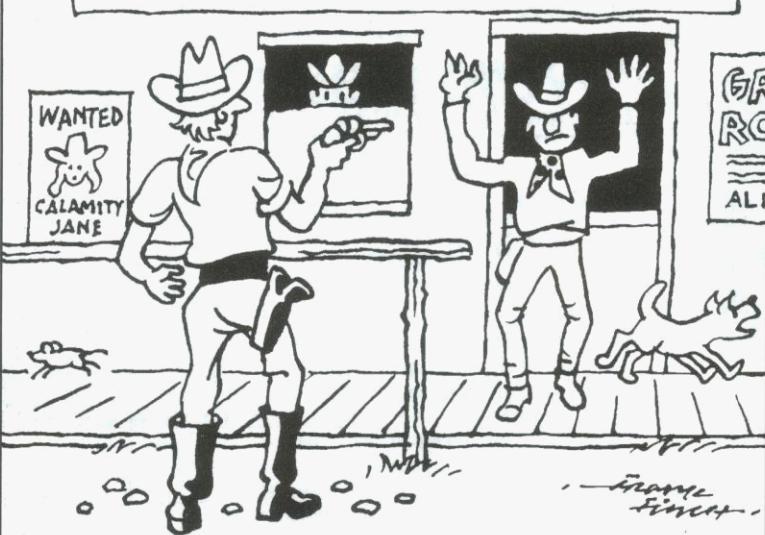
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Competition No 642 (July 8 issue): First correct entry drawn was from CSgt P A Clarke, of Wokingham, Berks, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Spr Smith, of 28 Engr Regt, Hameln, and Lt G Cooke RLC, 43 Spy Sqn, 1 GS Regt RLC, Op Resolute 2B, Lipa, BFPO 541.



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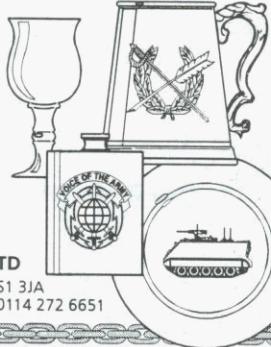
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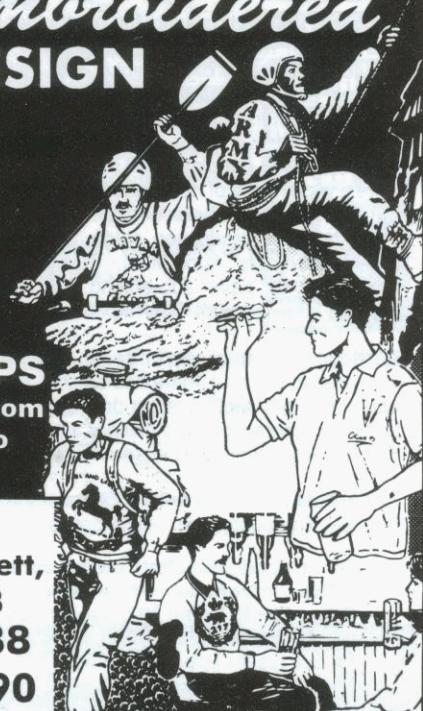
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Helen, 30, 5'4", blonde, blue eyes, tall, bubbly with wicked sense of humour. Enjoys travel, keep fit, horse riding, motorcycles, pubs, socialising and cosy nights in. Seeking male pen pals aged 28-35. **P814**

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Sarahjane, 30, petite blonde working single parent. Enjoys sports especially jogging and horse riding. Also enjoys going out with friends to pubs and clubs. Seeking male pen pals aged 28-35. **P816**

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Charlotte, 23, 5'9", a slim brunette who enjoys travelling, watching most sports, music and socialising. Seeking intelligent male pen pals with GSOH. **P820**

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Second (475 runs, £1,264.29): WO1 K Meek, HQ CSSG (UK), Aldershot.

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Fifth (458 runs, £414.29): Lt Col M F Bowman, SEAE, Aborfield.

Sixth (457 runs, £314.29): WO1 R L P Mathews, Princess Marina College, Aborfield.

Seventh (453 runs, £214.29): Maj (name withheld), MoD Kingstanding.

NB. Only 7 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

AUGUST 24, 1996

First (406 runs, £2,500): Pte W P M Wright, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Second (399 runs, £1,250): Maj A Hollingsworth, HQ 5 Div, Shrewsbury.

Third (374 runs, £750): CSgt D McGucken, Depot R Irish, BFPO 808.

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Eighth (352 runs, £100): Maj D M Rutherford, AGC Centre, Worthy Down.

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D3

Worthy achievement

MEDIUM fast bowler Sgt Mick Worsnop was the hero of the hour as the Adjutant General's Corps Centre, Worthy Down, stormed to a runaway victory in the Army Major Units cricket competition final at Aldershot.

Playing against Cambridge-based 33 EOD Regiment, Royal Engineers, the Hampshire team lost the toss and were put in to bat.

After losing opening batsman WO Ian Kemp for 11, the AGC Centre quickly recovered and piled on the runs, reaching a formidable score of 273-5 after their 40 overs.

Capt Andy Deans top-scored with 79, Maj Phil Renfrey made 69 and WO Jimmy James hammered 42 runs off just 15 deliveries. Pte Wayne Stansby hit a valuable 25 runs.

Worsnop's deadly accuracy and consistency led to the collapse of the 33 EOD Regiment batting. They could muster only 102 as Worsnop finished with match-winning figures of 6-26.

The AGC Centre last won the Army Major Units Cricket Cup in 1993, having previously captured the Minor Units Cricket Cup in 1991 and 1992.

AGC Centre 273-5. 33 EOD Regt RE 102. AGC Centre won by 171 runs.

● To round off a successful season for Worthy Down, the AGC topped the Famous Grouse Army Inter-Corps merit table with a total of 60 points, eight ahead of the Infantry on consolidated results.

Army v MCC Young Cricketers

At 67-5, the MCC Young Cricketers were in some trouble against the Army at Sheneley Park. Inevitably at this level, two of the batsmen dug in and some good batting saw a recovery to 237-9 in 55 overs.

As the rain started, the Army found batting difficult in the middle of the innings, allowing two of the MCC bowlers to complete 22 overs for just 42 runs.

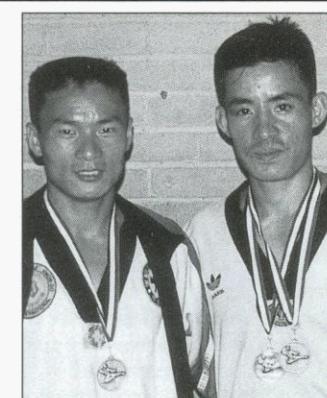
Skipper Lt Chris St George again batted with great skill before a steady downpour put paid to any result and the Army were fortunate to get away with a draw.



Pte Wayne Stansby (AGC Centre) takes runs off LCpl Chris Fuller. The wicketkeeper is Cpl Lee Morris

Picture: Mike Weston

Anything tae kwon do!



Fighting fit: Spr Indrakumar Rai (left) with silver medal, pictured with double medal winner LCpl Jiwanpyara Limbu

Army Careers-ESCA County Championship

In a weekend marked by rain on the Saturday, when there were a dozen stoppages, and fine weather the following day, Sussex won the English Schools Cricket Association under-15 county championship at Aldershot, sponsored by the Army for the third and final year.

Last year, Spr Indrakumar Rai took the European bronze medal at Manchester Olympic Stadium, and this year at Southampton was no different. Tae kwon do is a Korean martial art practised throughout the world, but more especially in Asia. It involves full contact use of the fists and the feet and requires fitness, stamina and extreme suppleness.

The two sportsmen, both British Forces champions, were from 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

LCpl Jiwanpyara Limbu, a second dan grade, fought first and gained a bye through the first round. Spr Indrakumar Rai took to the ring against Spain and effectively destroyed his opponent by the end of the

first round. The margin was three points, which equates to 10-0 by at half-time in a football match.

With powerful punches to the chest and a number of dramatic slaps and turning kicks, he moved through to the final, but injured the top of his right foot in the process.

LISA sails away with prize haul

THE Light Infantry Sailing Association (LISA) returned from its first attempts at the Army Sailing Association (ASA) and Services offshore regattas laden with three trophies.

With 1 LI deployed on roulement in Northern Ireland and 2 LI recently back from Bosnia, this was no small achievement.

Only regiment represented at both events, the Light Infantry plucked its crew from the 1st Battalion, with the exception of the mate, LCpl Potter, 2 LI.

Organised by Maj Ralph Arundell and skippered by Sgt Tim Offley, the crew won the Sadler Cup for best performance by a Sadler yacht at the ASA regatta and a second place cup in the ASA passage race.

At the Services offshore regatta, they were awarded the Committee Trophy for a performance of special merit, as a result of a total disappearance of wind only 30 yards short of the line while lying third in their class.

They also had the consolation of being the only Army crew in the Joint Services competition to win anything.



Man of the match Sgt Richard "Nelly" Nelson (RSME), centre right, closely marks a Prison Service opponent

Army defence locks out Prison Service

Army 44, Prison Service 18

WITH the Prison Service looking for retribution for two earlier mauulings by the Army, the third Rugby League meeting between the two teams at Eastmoor RLFC in Wakefield promised to be a fiery tussle, writes Steve Tranter.

The Army expected a hard fight as they were fielding a side considerably weakened by operational commitments.

Taking advantage of early pressure, the Prison Service were awarded two penalties, both of which they missed.

Ultimately, the Indra lost on a split decision.

In a final twist to the day's proceedings, the coaches of the national squads, having seen Jiwan in the earlier rounds, asked him to take on the Hong Kong and Southern district champion in an exhibition match.

This proved to be anything but a "friendly" and, having successfully countered his opponent's aggressive and spectacular attacks, Jiwan was awarded a gold medal to add to his bronze.

Speaking at the Army Rugby League's annual meeting, president Lt Gen Scott Grant said the game was thriving and "the qualities required of a soldier in combat were exactly what was required in the game".

Twenty-one major units play regularly and compete for the inter-unit Yeoman Cup, currently held by the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Seven

verted a difficult touchline kick to make the score 6-0. The Prison Service rallied, but some stout defence from the Army, in particular from Mark Wilson (RDG), kept them at bay.

Building from defence, the Army started to get a grip of the game. Captain and full back Bob Hinton (1 Para), along with Glasgow, caused havoc down the left side.

Glasgow ran in another try to make it 10-0 after a superb run from halfway by the Army captain.

Substitute Kevin Davies (RE) went over on 20 minutes after an excellent dummy by Paul Jones (R Sigs).

The Army were unstoppable, and two more tries by

corps teams have been formed, and an inter-corps competition for the Lawson Cup, initiated last year and won by the Royal Engineers, was an outstanding success.

As a result, the Army team now has a larger base to choose from and has several notable victories under its belt.

Any unit interested in forming a team, or individuals without a parent unit wishing to play, should contact Martin Coid on Chatham Mil (766) 2686 or WO2 Steve Tranter, 1 QLR, on Tidworth Mil (734) 2564.

Richie Naivalurua (SEAE) gave them a huge advantage just before the interval. Their opponents scored a cracking try on the left wing to make it 28-4 at half-time.

After the interval the pattern continued, with Army scrum half Kevin Wright (RE) making a brilliant solo run from halfway to score under the sticks; 34-4 after 50 minutes. Five minutes later, Steve Fox, who had converted so many of the Army's tries, himself scored under the posts and added the extra points to make the score 40-4.

Taking advantage of tired Army legs, the Prison Service then made a remarkable comeback, scoring three tries and a conversion in 15 minutes, bringing the score to 40-18. It was a gritty performance from them, but it was not enough and Andy Shaw (REME) went over four minutes from the final whistle to give the Army a decisive 44-18 victory.

Man of the Match, chosen by the Prison Service, was second row Sgt Richard (Nelly) Nelson (RSME).

The match proved to be a useful warm-up to the Army's German tour in October, where they are due to play British Forces Germany and the French Army team.

WIN-BLEDON

Women's team lift Inter-Services crown for the fourth year in a row

WITH wins in five out of their six singles matches on the first day, the Army women's tennis team got off to their best start in a long time at the Inter-Service championships at Wimbleton.

LCpl Claire Whitney beat both the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force number one players to become Combined Services champion, with Cpl Helen McChlery beating the RN and RAF number twos.

Capt Lorna Wood, the team captain, lost to her RAF opponent, but beat the RN player.

Although the second day's results were mixed, with Lorna Wood and Sgt Heather McNair winning both their doubles matches while McChlery and Whitney and Maj Susie Greenwood and Anna Steele lost theirs, the team had done enough to hold on to their lead from the previous day.

This ensured that they "netted" the Inter-Services trophy for the fourth consecutive year.

The Royal Navy came second with six wins and the Royal Air Force third with five.



Services with a smile? The victorious Army women's tennis team. From left to right (back) are Sgt Heather McNair, Maj Susie Greenwood, Maj Anna Steele, LCpl Claire Whitney and Cpl Helen McChlery, and (front) Col Val Batchelor (chairman of AWLTA), Gen Sir Charles Guthrie (president of ALTA) and team captain Capt Lorna Wood

Jumping to it in Germany

MORE than 130 competitors – 92 of whom were military – took part in the 32nd Rhine Army parachute championships at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Lippespringe.

Most of the year is taken up with basic parachute courses, but, for a ten-day period, the entire centre and its staff is devoted to hosting what has become one of the largest international and military parachute competitions in Europe.

Teams this year included units from British Forces in UK and Germany, the German Bundeswehr and the United Arab Emirates.

British military units taking part were REME, RLC, Parachute Regiment, AAC, RA, RE and RAF.

Events were an accuracy competition, involving a precision landing with a 3cm disc as the target and four-way, eight-

way and 16-way formation skydiving.

All the formation events were judged using air-to-air video cameramen.

Overall British Forces team winners in the Services' events were RE A, with RE B taking the silver, a result repeated in the team accuracy event, with the Silver Stars taking the bronze.

NOVICE GOLD

ATPr Henson, 1 Regt AAC, won the gold medal in the novice accuracy event, with Cfn Edge, SE & AE (REME) notching up the equivalent award in the open events.

Best student, winning the Wagstaff Cup in the open events, was Cpl Jay, 6 Support Regiment.

British Forces results

Intermediate 4-way formation skydiving (FS): Gold, RE B; silver, 2 Para.

Senior 4-way FS: Gold, RE A; silver, Silver Stars.

Novice accuracy: Gold, ATPr Henson, 1 Regt AAC; silver, Spr Powell, 21 Engr; bronze, Spr Osbourne, 32 Engr.

Intermediate accuracy: SAC Beechey, RAF Laarbruch; silver, Cpl Jay, 6 Supp Regt; bronze, Spr Gaskell, 21 Engr.

Senior accuracy: Gold, SSgt Worthing, JSPC; silver, SSgt Kalinski, 1 Regt; bronze, WO2 Moore, 35 Engr.

Team accuracy: Gold, RE A; silver RE B; bronze, Silver Stars.

Overall team: Gold, RE A; silver, RE B.

Open events (Army winners)

4-Way intermediate FS: Silver, RE B; bronze, 2 Para.

Novice accuracy: Gold, Cfn Edge, SE & AE (REME); silver, Cpl Baston, 25 Engr.

Women's intermediate accuracy: Silver, Cpl Jay, 6 Supp Regt.

Overall team: Gold: Silver Stars.

Best student (Wagstaff Cup): Cpl Jay, 6 Supp Regt.

Get out your snowboards

Snowboarders are urgently needed by the Army Winter Sports Association (AWSA), which is keen to hold an event at AWSA 50, its 50th gathering of championships at St Moritz-Pontresina, from January 25 to February 8 next year.

"We have biathlon, Nordic, Alpine, bob, skeleton, ski bike and Cresta races, and if there is a decent response, we would include snowboard," said Lt Col Mark Goodison, director of the event.

He can be contacted at AWSA 50, PO Box 50, Brecon LD3 0WD (fax 01 874 711 629).

Snowboarding will be included at the Salt Lake City winter Olympics in 2002.

Keith's way in front of the field

THE 1996 season has been a good one for Army cyclists, who virtually swept the board at the Army Cycling Union Festival at Ripon.

Spr Keith Murray (38 Engr Regt) was streets ahead of the rest of the field in the time trial events, winning the Army ten-mile and 25-mile titles as well as the Inter-Services ten and 50-mile events and the hill climb.

Murray is the Army's number one time-trialist, and ranked among Britain's top dozen riders.

BEST OF BRITISH

Last season he was placed fifth in the British Best All-Rounder (BBAR) competition, and is expected to be highly placed again this year.

The BBAR tables are calculated by the fastest performances over 50 and 100 miles and 12 hours events, and the flying sapper has a 3hr 48min 10sec 100-mile time trial to his credit.

Last season, Murray won 16 civilian events and was runner-up in 25 other races.

During the festival, 1 RTR battled hard against SEME Bordon to win the Inter-Unit championship Fraser Cup.

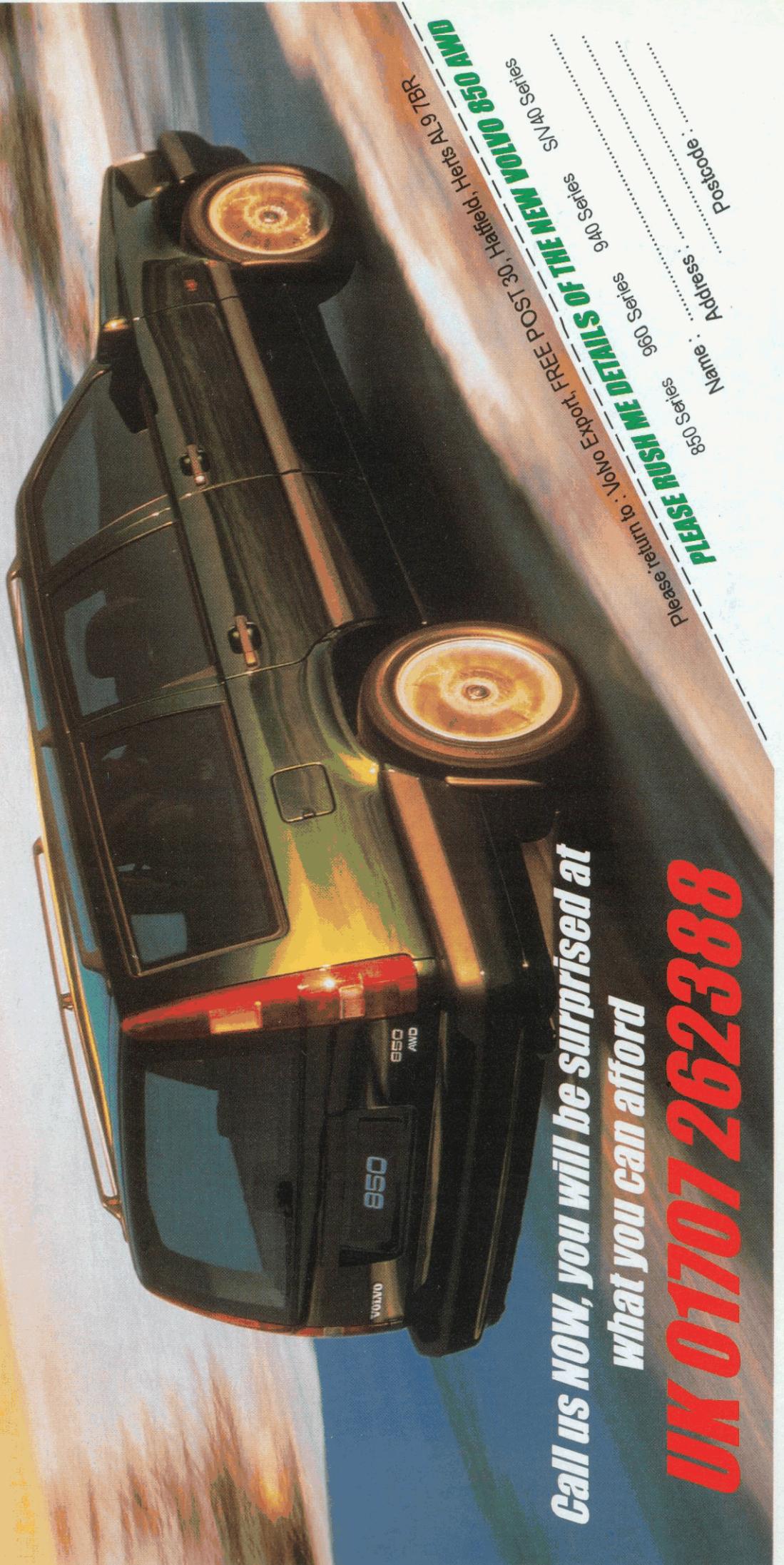
International rider LCpl Pete Rice (1 IG) won the Army circuit race championship.

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A Lynx helicopter of 652 Squadron, 1 Regiment AAC flies over hills near Banja Luka in Bosnia. The squadron is supporting IFOR troops based in the area
Picture: Capt Kevin Harvey PWRR(V)

SOLDIER

