

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

JANUARY 6 1997

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

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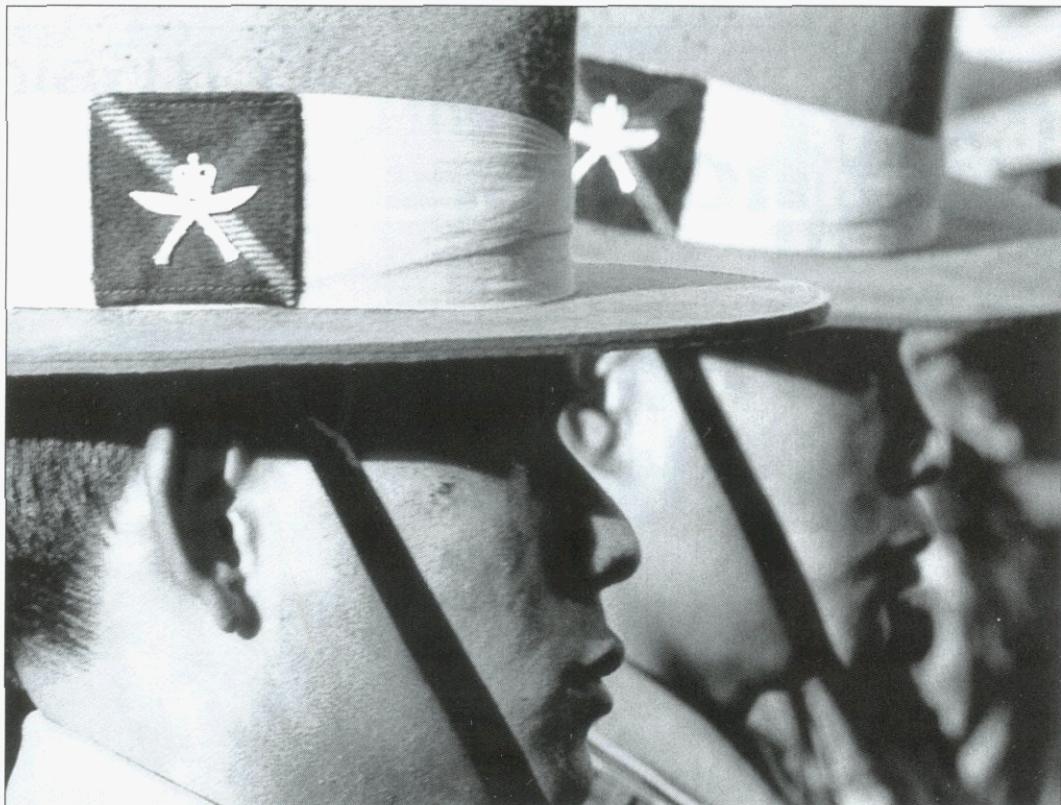
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The Light Dragoons



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Above: The crossed kukris of the Gurkhas rests proudly on a patch of the Royal Scots' Hunting Stuart tartan
Right: Piper Jamie Rutherford introduces LCpl Nar Purja to the pipes as the Royal Scots welcome 100 Gurkhas to their ranks at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester



Tartan Gurkhas reinforce the Royal Scots

PLANS to station 2,000 Gurkha troops in the United Kingdom following the re-structuring of the brigade were outlined in a written reply by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames.

Current plans for Gurkha locations when the re-structuring of the Brigade of Gurkhas is complete were given as: 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, Church Crookham; demonstration companies, RMA Sandhurst and Brecon; Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Maidstone; Queen's Gurkha Signals, Blandford; and the Queen's Gurkha Transport Regiment, Colchester.

Gurkha reinforcement companies are being allocated to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots at Colchester; 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at Canterbury; and 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment based at Aldershot.

One hundred Gurkha soldiers joined the Royal Scots at Colchester at the beginning of December. They will form B

Quartet joins Canadian HQ at Entebbe

A MUCH smaller British contingent has deployed to central Africa than was originally mooted following the crisis in Zaire. A team of four, led by Col David Park, Chief of Staff of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force at Northwood, is based at Entebbe, Uganda, as staff officers with the Canadian HQ co-ordinating humanitarian aid to eastern Zaire and Rwanda.

Company, bringing the battalion up to strength for its new international role with 24 Air-mobile Brigade.

Based at Cavalry Barracks in the garrison, the Gurkhas will wear their crossed-kukris cap badge on a backing patch of Hunting Stuart tartan.

In a Commons question relating to the hand-over of Hong Kong, Mr Derek Fatchett had also asked about Gurkha pay in relation to British troops.

"We intend that the Gurkhas' remuneration will be broadly equivalent to that of British troops of similar rank," Mr Soames said.

● RS exercise – Pages 24-25

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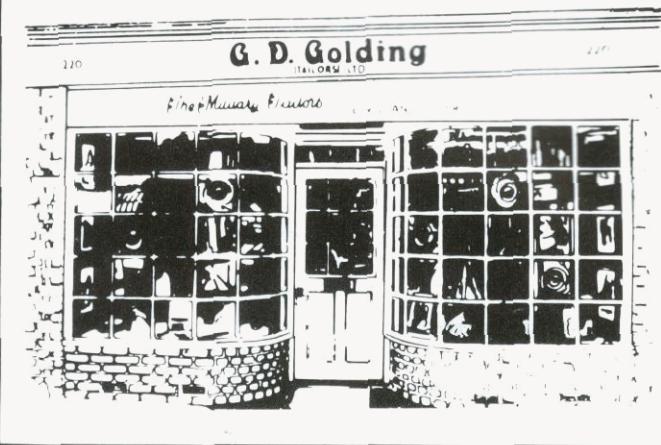
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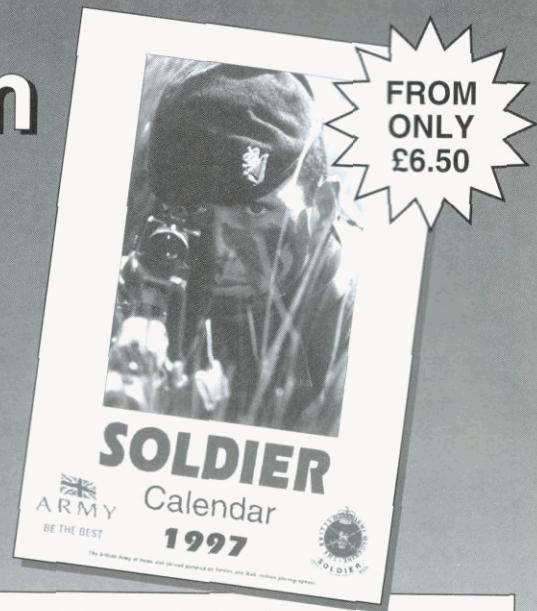
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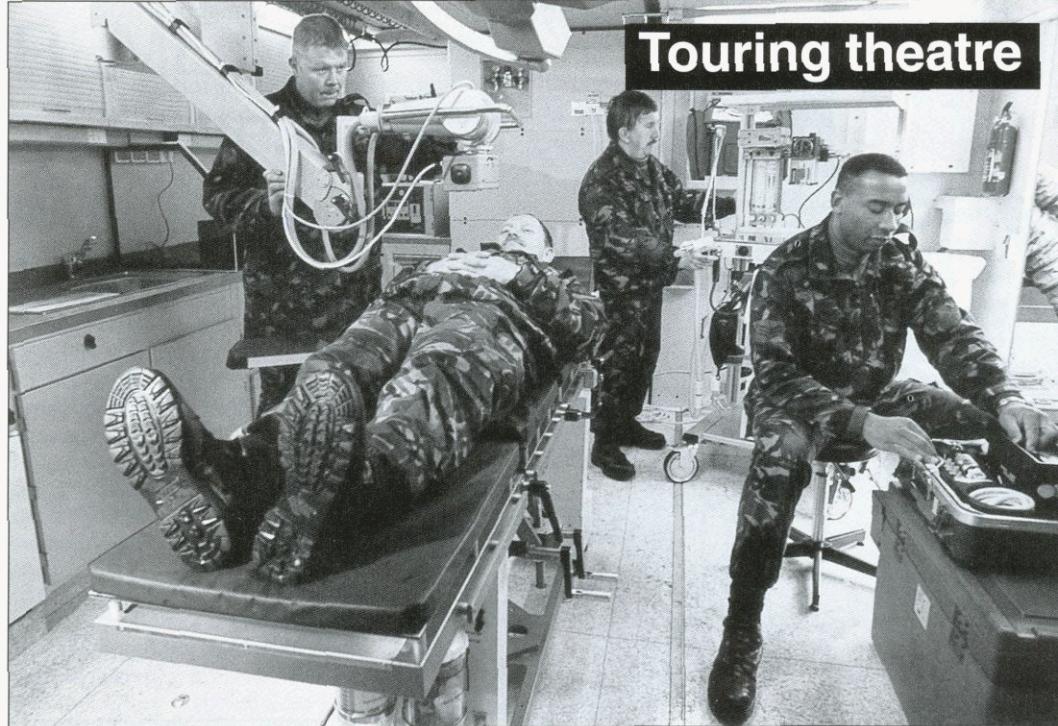
Terriers prepare to go up the jungle

OUR HUNDRED part-time soldiers from London and the South are preparing to exercise in the jungles of Belize during January and February. The

Territorial Army troops, including some from the Aldershot-based 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, will see and touch live snakes

as part of their jungle survival training.

It will be the first time whole TA units have been sent to the South American region.



Army Medical Services personnel show off the facilities in a new mobile operating theatre at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot. Pictured are Sgt Martin Keane, Sgt Gary Stone (on the table), Sgt Kevin Nolan and Sgt Ken Ferdinand, all from 33 Field Hos-

pital based at Gosport. Two of the air-transportable theatre, resuscitation and utility units have been bought. One will be deployed to Bosnia and the other retained in the UK for training purposes. They are the same size as a standard ISO container.

Stay-in-Army bounty scheme hits the mark

SUCCESS of a campaign to persuade soldiers to remain in service for an extra year has delighted its sponsors.

By November 1, 3,330 soldiers had decided to take up the bounty of £1,400 (£1,000 after tax and ERNIC), which represents an 88 per cent acceptance rate.

The re-engagement scheme was introduced in October

1995 in a bid to retain quality soldiers serving on open engagement in the Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery and Infantry when they had completed less than three years' service. They were offered a bounty if they agreed to withdraw their right to give 12 months' notice for a year after receiving the bounty.

The success of the scheme has helped alleviate critical under-manning and reduced the peak levels of outflow experienced at the three-year point.

Provided they remain in service, these soldiers are also eli-

gible for another £2,000 bounty shortly after they complete their re-engagement.

This financial retention incentive bounty is payable to all soldiers serving on the open engagement for the completion of six and nine years, although it is actually paid at the completion of five and eight years' service because of the requirement to give 12 months' notice.

The first payments against this entitlement were actioned in January 1996, with an increasing number of soldiers receiving the bounty each month.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Challenge for the Tunnel

THE PROSPECT of Challenger tanks crossing to the Continent via the Channel Tunnel was raised by a Commons written question.

Shadow Defence Secretary Dr David Clark, who asked about such a possibility, was told in a letter from Defence Transport and Movements Chief Michael Hodson that the tunnel loading gauge is large enough to accept Challengers.

However, the UK rail loading gauge could not accommodate Challengers so they would have to be moved by road to Cheriton to be loaded. On the French side either rail or road could be used, depending on the eventual destination.

While there were no current intentions to move tanks through the tunnel, Mr Hodson said, planning continued "in order that this could be a future option".

□ □ □

Transfer of the Royal Defence Medical College from Millbank to HMS *Dolphin*, Gosport, will take place this year, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written reply.

"The new health studies division of the college is already located at HMS *Dolphin* in temporary accommodation; it will expand and move into a purpose-built building [in 1997]."

The remaining college facilities at Millbank would move to the Gosport site, near the Haslar tri-Service hospital, when accommodation becomes available, he added.

□ □ □

Reporting that there were four substantiated bullying cases in the Army in 1994, the last year for which figures are complete, Defence Minister Earl Howe told the Lords: "Bullying in the Armed Forces, when it occurs – and it occurs only rarely – is a serious matter which the Services will stamp on at the first opportunity."

It's a fact

Current membership of the Army Cadet Force is just under 40,000. – Parliamentary reply.



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MoD's Whitehall HQ up for tender

PLANS to redevelop MoD Main Building in Whitehall involve invitations to the private sector to undertake the work and operate the building.

Key services such as heating

and ventilation in the Grade 1 listed structure require urgent attention, and the accommodation falls far short of modern standards.

A major programme of

work, outlined by Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot, would increase capacity from 2,800 to 3,250 staff in an efficient, modern working environment.

REME hot air solves workshop problem

SOLDIERS of 1st Battalion REME found an air-tight solution to the accommodation shortage in Bosnia... by blowing up their own workshop.

Just arrived from Osnabrück, the battalion was affected by a serious lack of local roofed shelter. Its troops were issued with four inflatable Airshelters, specially designed to take the Army's large DROPS vehicles, with the cab tilted.

Capt Chaz Scholefield, 1 REME, said: "They are simple to erect, require little maintenance and are rugged enough to survive the Bosnian winter."

The first shelters were officially handed over to Col Ken Ferguson, Commander Equipment Support, by the managing director of Airshelter, Mr Richard Bailey.

SIB units of the Royal Military Police in Bosnia are using a smaller version of the shelter.



Surgical precision: Maj Gen (Retd) John Matheson cuts the first turf on the site of the replacement medical reception station at Redford Barracks, Colinton, in Edinburgh. He was the commanding officer when the current MRS was built in 1946. Helping contractor is Alan Munroe

Fewer UK troops for Bosnia

BRITISH contribution to an international military presence to succeed the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia could be about 5,000 ground troops, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said in a Commons written reply.

The international community developed its political strategy during a conference in London on December 5. The exact size and nature of the military force were being worked out in Brussels as this issue went to press.

In principle the United Kingdom was prepared to contribute 5,000 ground troops to such a force, subject to conditions, said Mr Portillo.

The Implementation Force became SFOR (Stabilisation

Force) on December 20 when the German-led Land Centre headquarters replaced the British-led Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Force HQ. It has 31,000 troops under its command.

Britain's contribution would be roughly half the force it deployed to IFOR, retaining armour and artillery elements.

Paderborn-based HQ 20 Armoured Brigade, commanded by Brig David Leakey, took over from 1 Mechanised Brigade in Sipovo in late October. It is the first brigade headquarters to return to Bosnia.

Supported by 200 HQ and Signal Regiment, 20 Bde is expected to be in theatre for six months. At the same time, the 1st Battalion, The Green

Howards replaced the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, but are based at Gornji Vakuf instead of Sipovo. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets returned early from Gornji Vakuf and has not been replaced.

The Queen's Dragoon Guards swapped with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards from Fallingbostel, while The Household Cavalry Regiment from Windsor also provided reconnaissance forces.

Other changes included 1 Royal Horse Artillery being replaced by 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery from Osnabrück, and 36 Engineer Regiment handing over to 39 Engineer Regiment from Waterbeach.



What the papers have been saying

No plans for large Chinese garrison

China has no intention of marching large numbers of troops into Hong Kong on July 1, when the territory reverts to Chinese sovereignty, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, said following talks with military chiefs in Beijing. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Part-time SAS soldiers from London-based 21 SAS (V) have been suspended for acting as extras in a TV documentary about the élite regiment. — *Daily Mail*.

□ Three female sergeants have secured a total of £130,000 compensation after claiming sexual discrimination over their rates of pay. — *Sunday Times*

□ Stress may have made some Gulf War soldiers more likely to fall ill after taking anti-nerve gas agents, research in Israel suggests. — *Guardian*

□ The Brazilian representative at a conference on Aids and the disease's impact on armed forces in Latin America said his country would begin distributing condoms and Aids information to new recruits. Brazil has more HIV-positive soldiers than any other Latin American country. — *Guardian*

□ Detailed plans of the SAS Regiment's proposed new headquarters are open to public inspection at the offices of South Herefordshire district council. — *Daily Express*

It's a fact

Number of females serving in the Armed Forces (excluding the Royal Irish Regiment) at October 1, 1996 was 15,259, of whom 1,073 were Army officers. Of these, the highest ranking were ten colonels, followed by 36 lieutenant colonels, 213 majors and 471 captains. — *Parliamentary replies*.

A very happy (consolidated) New Year to all

THE arrival of a New Year traditionally presents an opportunity for reflection on the past, and for the setting of an agenda for the coming months. For Service people and for their families, 1996 was a challenging year.

We have seen subtle changes in attitudes to meet the demands of a developing society and, for many, there has had to be a shift in the way we view Service life.

During 1997, many of the trends which began over the past 12 months will be gathering momentum. For families who have seen their head of household only infrequently, the question of intervals between tours of duty will continue to be at the top of their wish list.

Although the Army cannot be run exclusively with the needs of the family in mind, I hope that fewer families will have to get used to parents who are frequently absent for long periods of time.

Without wishing to appear flippan t I would include pets as family members. I hope that the coming year sees some change in the quarantine process which would allow properly vaccinated pets, with the appropriate identification papers, to remain with their family on return to the UK.

In Germany, 1997 will see the new health-care provision system developing even further. So far the changes seem to have been well planned and sensitively managed. German health workers have gone out of their way to help – many brushing up their language skills.

When the new system was introduced fears were expressed about the use of German hospitals. In the event many families have found that the service is even better than they hoped.

This is not to say that there haven't been problems, but where they have occurred they have been quickly resolved.



Cari's column

Attitudes in the workplace have also had to undergo a change in the past 12 months, and the Army has had to listen to criticism about discrimination and harassment. While action has been taken to address perceived problems I can foresee the issue coming to the surface again.

With the structure of the family continuing to evolve in our society generally, and with the nation becoming ever more litigious, I think we have not heard the last of many issues in this area. Among them, I think the position of single Service parents and the contentious matter of sexual orientation and Service life will re-surface in 1997.

The most persistent theme of 1996 centred on the need for stability. Many have said that what is needed now is a period of consolidation. The Army needs no more reviews, no more reports and no more cost-cutting measures.

In the past few years we have seen huge changes in the culture. Many have been necessary, if painful, but I believe it is to the credit of all Service people – from private to field marshal – that those changes have been incorporated with very little whingeing and a great deal of dignity.

We have watched the Army respond to international demands with efficiency and we have seen soldiers' families supporting them with stoic calm.

Many unpredictable events will happen in 1997... but you do not need a crystal ball to know that, whatever occurs, the British soldier – male or female – will continue to serve with honour and their families will go on supporting them.

I hope that the rest of the world leaves them alone to get on with it.

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

Fancy that!

SIX members of 1 Kings Own Border swapped combat for fancy dress and a pantomime cow costume to help Children In Need.

Led by Cpl Phil Norbury, the team – all trained PTIs – featured British cross-country skier LCpl

Colin Hayton and fellow LCpls Mark Toner, Jay Noble, Simon Grey and Wayne Martin.

Take a peak...

Spinal injury charity ASPIRE is calling for teams of climbers and



Sweet thought: Lt Col Mike Dyer, commanding officer of Krefeld-based 7 Signal Regiment, and his wife Annie help to pack sweets for local children who took part in the traditional St Martin's Day festival hosted on this occasion by the regiment at its barracks. Local Bergverein officials were closely consulted in the weeks leading up to the event to ensure tradition was served.

IN BRIEF

NAAFI has set up a mail order business – Select Catalogues – in partnership with Lanica Trust, with worldwide rights to sell non-food products and services to personnel in the Armed Forces.

A survey of the gardens of more than 70 homes adjacent to Rocroft Barracks in Ashford, Kent – mounted by the Defence Radiological Protection Service – has revealed no signs of radioactivity resulting from the burial of luminous paint deposits burnt in 1966 at the barracks.

Good news for the 'Parent with Care', the person with whom a child is living, and who provides for them on a daily basis. If they are in receipt of maintenance and wish to return to work, they could receive a lump sum of up to £1,000 if Parliament approves the Child Maintenance Bonus planned to come into effect on April 7.

Key role for Brian

walkers to undertake the Three Peaks Challenge over the weekend of June 7-9. Participants have to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon in 24 hours in teams of four. Details from Ann Frampton, tel 0181 954-0701.

Good and bad news at AFF conference

THE Child Support Agency has reached an agreement with the MoD – subject to a timetable – to treat women who have a BFPO address as a "habitual resident in the United Kingdom", Defence Minister Earl Howe told a well-attended annual Army Families Federation Conference in Herford, Germany.

On another contentious issue,

he said the 24-month tour gap, which he had spoken about at the 1995 conference, had not come into being, although he felt it was still achievable.

Lord Howe also assured the 300-strong audience that rumours that the Bett Report had been shelved were without foundation.

An open forum at the conference addressed issues which

included the possibility of a change in Britain's quarantine laws, and whether the nursery voucher scheme would be introduced in British Forces Germany.

Among key speakers were Gen Sir Michael Rose, Adjutant General; AFF chairman Cherry Milne; Maj Gen Christopher Drewry, GOC UKSC (G); and Bob Wilcox, Chief Executive of the Health

Alliance, who announced that more speech therapists, dentists and other medical staff will be available in the New Year.

• June Mouat was presented with the Anne Armstrong Award at the conference for her help in supporting the wives of ARRC personnel during their year-long deployment to Bosnia.

BFBS aims for millennium with £60m Forces' contract

BFBS – the familiar "voice" from home which reaches British Servicemen and women all over the world – has signed a contract worth £60 million which will allow it to go on providing radio and television services to the Armed Forces overseas.

The deal, with the MoD, runs for five years and closely follows the move of Service broadcasting into the commercial sector. The SSVC Group recently launched two new companies, TLI (Teleport London International) and Visua.

Under the terms of the contract,

SSVC will continue to manage BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) Radio and Television, formerly known as SSVC TV. BFBS TV transmits a range of programmes from BBC 1, BBC 2, Channel 4 and BSkyB, as well as news magazine and children's material produced by SSVC.

"BFBS has been operating since 1943," said Peter McDonagh, Director of the SSVC Group's broadcasting division. "It became clear that the MoD felt we were the only organisation that could handle the complex business of providing



Hot stuff: poster for SSAFA Forces Help's "potty" day

How do you brew?

ON January 1, SSAFA merged with the long-established Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops to form a single caseworking charity – SSAFA Forces Help.

The group will also maintain a sales and distribution operation providing consumer products and video rental for military personnel through shops on overseas bases, and will operate the 20 Forces' cinemas which attract an annual audience of more than 155,000.

In a separate deal, SSVC was awarded a three-year contract worth £2.5 million by the British Defence Film Library. The arrangement will provide the MoD with a comprehensive archiving, distribution and international sales service for its training programmes.

The library has an unmatched archive of material spanning the history of British Armed Forces since the Second World War.

Red-employed

BRITISH Army resettlement expertise has helped more than 1,500 redundant Russian officers to prepare for civilian life since a pilot project began in October 1995.

Aimed at helping Russia cope with massive cutbacks in its armed forces, the British scheme – drawing on MoD experience in the post-Options for Change years – has been so successful that Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, on a visit to Moscow, announced that the UK will contribute a further £3.3m for re-training Russian officers over the next three years.

These are taking place between June 7 and 15, but the main event – which SSAFA Forces Help says will be run annually – is *The Big Brew Up* on June 11.

On that date, "tea parties" are planned for locations as diverse as Salisbury Plain and mid-air in a helicopter.

D-Day might have been on June 6, but TEA-Day is June 11.

• A feature on the new organisation will appear in the next issue.



When Catterick Garrison Welfare Services identified a need for transport for local soldiers and families for hospital visits, doctors' appointments and family and youth activities, they approached a local car dealer for help. That's how former King's Regiment officer Stuart Metcalfe – now a military sales consultant for the firm – came to be handing the keys of an eight-seater vehicle to his father, Brian, a retired AGC officer who works for Welfare Services in the garrison

YEAR OF THE PEACEKEEPERS

JANUARY

BRITISH main battle tanks and heavy guns arrive at Split as the British contingent to the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) beefs up its presence in former Yugoslavia. Two Challenger 1 squadrons from The Queen's Royal Hussars based at Catterick are shipped to the Adriatic as Britain's 11,500 IFOR troops pour in from Germany and the UK.

Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, closes its doors after 117 years.

The MoD announces that it is to place orders worth more than £200 million for thousands of new Land Rover vehicles to meet the Army's utility truck and ambulance needs.

A 42 Survey Engineer Group unit deploys to Bosnia with Tacisys, a high-tech, 3-D mapping system developed at its Hermitage headquarters in Berkshire.



End of the cease-fire: IRA decision to resume its campaign of violence means the return of soldiers to the streets of Northern Ireland

FEBRUARY

A massive bomb blast in London's **Canary Wharf** on the evening of Friday, February 9 kills two and injures more than 100 just 30 minutes after the IRA announces that it has ended the cease-fire which began on August 31, 1994. Soldiers in Northern Ireland exchange berets for helmets as a precautionary measure and 500 troops, based on the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment from Catterick, are flown to the Province, taking the number of soldiers to 17,000.

Soldiers are offered £250 to recruit a friend in a move to improve manpower shortages.

In response to the **Bett Independent Review**, the ranks of Field Marshal, Admiral of the Fleet and Marshal of the Royal Air Force, the highest in the Armed Forces, are to be abolished in peacetime. It is said the move will cut costs and make the officer structure compatible with the UK's partners in multi-national operations.

Two-stage **military pay rises** of between 3.2 and 3.8 per cent are recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body and accepted by the Government.

Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames announces that health records of thousands of soldiers who served in the **Gulf War** are to be screened in an attempt to establish whether there is an increased incidence of illness among the veterans or an unusual number of birth abnormalities among their children.

In Bosnia, three members of **The Light Dragoons** are killed when their Spartan light reconnaissance vehicle is blown up in an unmarked minefield.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps personnel unveil **protective footwear** for search dogs working in bomb-damaged, glass-strewn environments.

women soldiers who have been paid less than male soldiers on the same terms of service are to be compensated and offered new engagements.

Officers and men of 21 Engineer Regiment march out of Nienburg-Weser to mark the end of a British Army association with the German town stretching back 46 years. The regiment will be based in Osnabrück.

A new TA regiment forms at Peterborough when the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment is renamed and re-roled to become 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps.

APRIL

A new Permanent Joint Headquarters opens at Northwood. It will co-ordinate combined operations involving all three Services.

The Army Welfare Service and Defence Housing Executive come into being. Changes in the Services medical field result in the creation of three agencies owned by the Surgeon General. They are the Defence Secondary Care Agency, which will manage MoD hospitals and military units within NHS hospitals; the tri-Service Defence Dental Agency; and the Medical Supplies Agency, to provide medical, dental and veterinary material, blood and blood products, and technical and logistical support to UK Armed Forces worldwide.



End of the cease-fire: IRA decision to resume its campaign of violence means the return of soldiers to the streets of Northern Ireland

MARCH

An overwhelming majority of Servicemen support the MoD's ban on **homosexuals** enlisting in the Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force, says a report published by the MoD's Homosexuality Policy Assessment Team. The Army signs up to a five-year programme of **racial equality** measures drawn up in liaison with the Commission for Racial Equality. It is announced that



End of the line: 21 Engineer Regiment marches out of Nienburg-Weser in Germany

MAY

The Army Individual Training Organisation is launched with responsibility for the majority of the establishments needed to train 85,000 soldiers every year to meet the needs of the Field Army and the Quartermaster General.

Cpl Levi Ashley, aged 25, receives his fifth operational and theatre medal, for service in Bosnia, at a parade by 27 Regiment RLC in Aldershot. During his eight years in the Army, Cpl Ashley has served with the UN in Cyprus, the Gulf, Angola, and UNPROFOR and IFOR in former Yugoslavia.

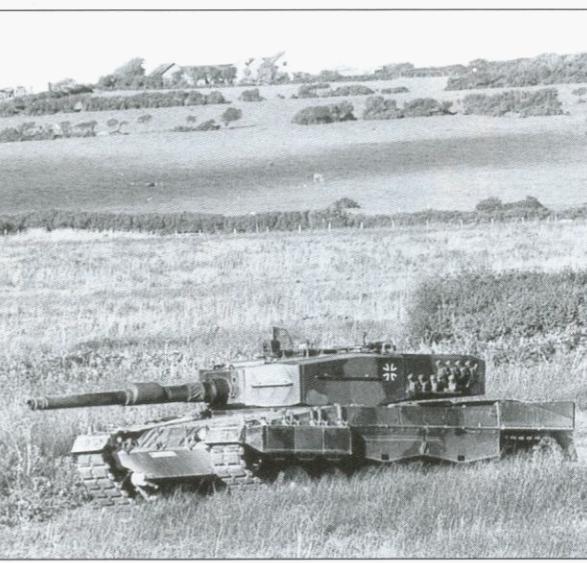
British soldiers from the Aldershot-based 5th Airborne Brigade taking part in Exercise Purple Star in the USA join American soldiers in the biggest Allied airdrop since the Second World War.

The Federation of Army Wives is relaunched as the **Army Families Federation**. Soldier wins three national awards in the annual competition run by the British Association of Communicators in Business.

JUNE

Criticism from MPs, ex-Service personnel and dependants' organisations follows media reports that a Japanese consortium is among four which will bid to buy the MoD's **married quarters estate**. The IRA launches a mortar bomb attack on **Quebec Barracks, Osnabrück**. There are no casualties. The Army - with the address <http://www.Army.mod.uk> - launches itself on the Internet.

Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, visits Shen Zhen in southern China to meet the general who will command the People's Liberation Army in Hong Kong.



End of the line: German Panzers quit Castlemartin's ranges

JULY

A stress fracture ruins **Sgt Kelly Holmes**'s chances of winning a medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Running after injections of local anaesthetic to numb the pain in her leg, Holmes finishes fourth in the 800m and leads for much of the way in the 1,500m final before finishing, almost at a walk, in 11th place.

The House of Commons **Defence Committee** comments that the Armed Forces would be hard-pressed to operate effectively at a higher level of activity or undertake any additional operational commitments. Main problems are manpower shortages, meeting the Bosnia commitment, and training. **Diana, Princess of Wales**, relinquishes her Service appointments - she was Colonel-in-Chief of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and The Light Dragoons - on her divorce.

Cpl Lorna Waud, R Signals, finds herself on national television when singer Sir Cliff Richard puts his arm round her while serenading the Centre Court crowd at rain-affected Wimbledon.



Medals: Cpl Levi Ashley RLC

AUGUST

Two British soldiers from 39 Regiment RA serving with the United Nations in **Cyprus** are hurt during violent clashes between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on the Green Line which partitions the island.

In a gesture of historic reconciliation, cadets from the Southampton University Officers' Training Corps and detachments from the Royal Engineers and Royal Regiment of Wales build a community hall at **Rorke's Drift** in Kwa Zulu Natal.

Veterans return to Hong Kong for the city's final **Liberation Parade** before China takes over in 1997. The annual parade commemorates the end of Japanese occupation during the Second World War.

SEPTEMBER

All leave in Bosnia is cancelled as British soldiers keep a watching brief during crucial **elections**. Troops, vehicles and equipment from the 7th Armoured Brigade pour into Poland for Ulan Eagle, a major exercise using former Warsaw Pact training grounds. Modernised facilities at **Marchwood Military Port** are opened by the Princess Royal following a six-year, multi-million pound building programme.

The Queen presents a new Colour - the **Ballater Colour** - to her royal guard at Balmoral. This year her guard is provided by the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch. Two more units disband: 50 Hong Kong Workshop and 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Contracts worth £1,662 million are exchanged between the MoD and Annington Homes for the

sale of the Armed Forces' **married quarters** estate in England and Wales. British Army **chefs** sweep the board at the culinary Olympics in Berlin.

The Royal Army Chaplains' Department leaves **Bagshot Park**, its home for nearly 50 years. It will be collocated in a new Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre near Andover, Hampshire.

OCTOBER

REME WO1 James Bradwell dies of injuries sustained when the IRA explodes two bombs in the British Army's Northern Ireland headquarters at **Thiepval Barracks**, Lisburn. Parades and concerts mark the departure of German Army tank

units from **Castlemartin**, Dyfed, Wales, where they have trained for the past 35 years. **Gen Sir Charles Guthrie**, Chief of the General Staff since March 1994, is to succeed **Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge** as Chief of the Defence Staff in April. **Gen Sir Roger Wheeler**, C-in-C Land Command, will be CGS.

Paderborn-based **HQ 20 Armoured Brigade** relieves 1 Mechanised Brigade at Sipovo, becoming the first brigade to return to Bosnia. A parade at Woolwich marks delivery of the first of the new generation **Rapier** low-level, anti-aircraft system - Field Standard C (FSC) - to the Royal Artillery.

An escalation of the humanitarian tragedy developing on the **Zaire-Rwanda** border prompts Britain to consider sending a military force to assist the international aid response. A recce party receives little co-operation in the region and the return of refugees eases the problem to the point where the military force is stood down.

As soldiers the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles returns to the UK from Hong Kong, their conditions are reviewed to address the question of accompanied service, not previously allowed for Gurkhas posted to Britain. The 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment deploys to Hong Kong to provide an infantry presence until relieved by The Black Watch in February.

HQ ARRC, led by Lt Gen Sir Mike Walker, returns to Germany from Bosnia. Gen Walker will succeed Gen Sir Roger Wheeler at Land Command. Defence Secretary Michael Portillo announces that the UK is prepared to send 5,000 ground troops to any successor to the Implementation Force (IFOR) in former Yugoslavia.

Britain's most decorated peacetime unit, 321 EOD Squadron RLC, marks 25 years of operations in Northern Ireland.

A guard of honour from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers lines the bridge at Coldstream as the Stone of Destiny is returned in an Army Land Rover to Scotland, 700 years after it was looted by Edward I. Hundreds of soldiers from Scottish regiments take part in a major ceremony as the Stone arrives at Edinburgh Castle.

DECEMBER

Remaining units in **Hong Kong Garrison** prepare to reduce further at the beginning of the final phase of the drawdown that will end when China assumes sovereignty at midnight on June 30.

Women 'net' a sponsor

Even the Queen seems delighted as **John Pirie**, managing director of Mandrake Associates, who have been involved with Army women's football since it began, hands a cheque to **Maj Gen David Burden** (right), chairman of the Army Football Association, for the sponsorship of the latter's women's section over the next three years.

With them are Army women's team captain **Sgt 'Max' McCue** and **Col Mike Crabbe**, chairman Army women's committee.



So long, Neville!

After 42 years as a National Serviceman, Regular and Territorial Army soldier, including service with three Light Infantry regiments from Kenya to Northern Ireland, **CsGt Neville Carrick**, 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) bade farewell to the Army and his commanding officer, **Lt Col Andrew Mortimer**.

Neville will not be severing all his "light" connections, however: he is looking for a new job in security – and light driving...

Highlander's highlights

A memorable final day for **WO2 James McLavin** as he retired from his post as Officers' Mess manager, 3rd Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers, was crowned, not only by the award of a GoC's Commendation for 39 years' exemplary service to the Territorial Army, but by the attendance of six of his former commanding officers at the presentation.



One of them, **Maj Ron Smith** – a former company commander who served with James in 5th/6th Highland Light Infantry and 1/52 Lowland – is seen admiring the four clasps which James has earned to his Territorial Efficiency medal.

Dust the job...

SSgt Steve Parker of the Army's Special Investigations Branch checks for fingerprints on a scenes-of-crime assignment.

Serving with the Tidworth detachment of the SIB, Malcolm is one of 30 Army detectives who are the first to achieve a National Vocational Qualification in the "investigations" category – newly-instituted under an Army initiative.



Musical merger



Husband-and-wife team Musns **Ed** and **Jane Lowden** have brought the Highland and Lowland Bands of the Scottish Division closer together by a merger with a difference.

Jane, the first Regular woman member of a Scottish Army band, plays piccolo and flute. Formerly a member of the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps at Worthy Down, she joined the Highland Band shortly after her marriage to Ed – a cornet and violin player in the Lowland Band – last year.

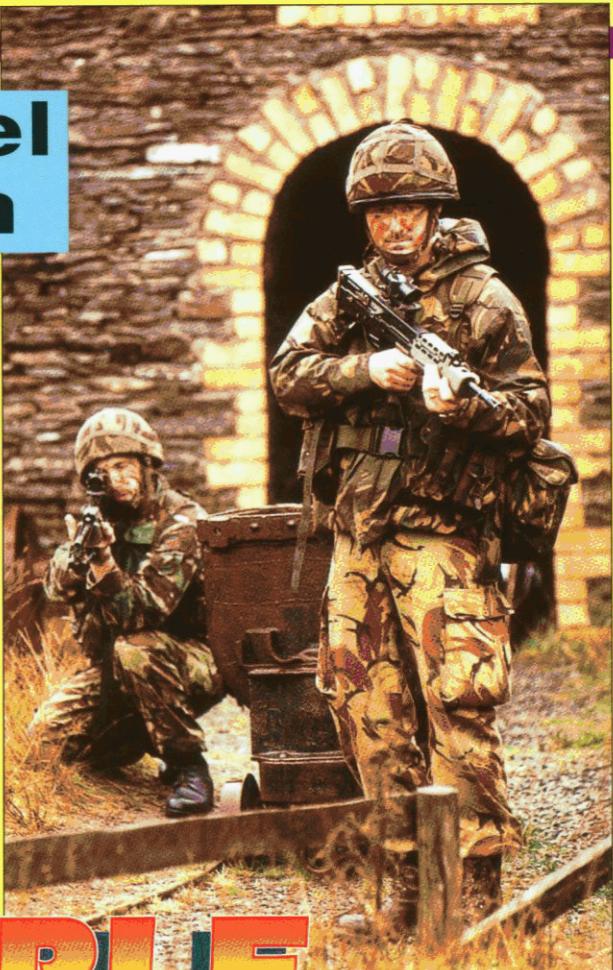
Both are delighted to have been posted to the Edinburgh area.

Tunnel vision

Guarding the entrance to the Llywernog silver and lead mine near Aberystwyth – starting point of the latest Cambrian Patrol – were **Terriers Cpl Greg Dunne** (foreground) and **Pte Michael Quinn**.

Brig David Ross, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, praised the overall training standards of the Regular and Territorial Army teams who were among the participants in the exercise, which was held in appalling weather conditions.

"The 1997 Cambrian Patrol will see some changes to the event, and I hope more units will be able to send teams to this excellent training opportunity," he said.



PEOPLE

Opportunity Knox for Mark

Since arriving in the United States in October 1995 as the British exchange warrant officer to the US Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, **WO2 Mark McAllister**, Royal Dragoon Guards has certainly made an impression.

Now qualified as a Master Gunner on the M1/A1 and M1/A2 tanks, he is the first British soldier to complete the M1A2 tank commander course.

Among Mark's duties is keeping a close link with the Fort Knox-based US Marine Corps training company, part of 181st Training Brigade.

Two other British Army representatives – **Lt Col Mark O'Reilly**, QRH and **Maj Peter Hunter**, LG – are also currently serving at Fort Knox.



AUCTION STATIONS!

Being kitted out for a novel few hours by **WO2 Chris Dickson** of the QM's department at the RLC Training Regiment and Depot at Deepcut were **Susie Hyne** (left) and **Joanne Dixon**.

Joanne, who had paid £800 at a charity auction for the "privilege" of taking part in recruit training, soon found herself with Susie trying to sort their left foot from their right as **Cpl Jim Revell** put them through their paces on the parade square.



Picture: Terry Champion

Life-support

WHEN Sgt Dave Newsam arrived at Kupres to cater for 1 General Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps his corporal told him there were a thousand for breakfast the next morning.

The new master chef nearly packed his bags and went home.

Starting at 5.30am, the chefs didn't stop until 1am the next morning, and Sgt Newsam considers they earned their four hours' sleep before starting again later that morning.

As a corps-level convoy support centre available to all IFOR nationalities, streams of vehicles pour into the camp.

Many IFOR convoys diverted to Kupres to take in the British camp, where they were assured of excellent food and accommodation.

Every Tuesday the chefs staged a theme night, on one occasion building a Taj Mahal out of cardboard packing boxes for an Indian curry evening.

On another, Americans and Germans who arrived were not aware that a tramps' ball was in progress so they did not immediately understand why two "down-and-outs" were dossing down in cardboard boxes surrounded by tattered blankets, empty beer cans and other cast-offs.

Vehicles past their best could have a quick shot in the arm and be rejuvenated by REME mechanics under Capt John Muirhead and WO1 Steve Cannon.

With Belgian, French, Dutch, German, American, Romanian and Malaysian equipment passing through they had an interesting time fixing vehicles they had never seen before.

**Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Weston**



Grub's up: Sgt Dave Newsam, Pte Andy Sissions, Cpl Sharon Miller and LCpl Daz Seedat at Kupres claim the best food in Bosnia

take Corimec accommodation containers to Sarajevo to prepare for the influx of people replacing the ARRC headquarters.

The tasks did not seem logical to Squadron Sergeant Major Vic Abols and the drivers. The Corimecs were originally only an hour's drive south of Sarajevo, but they had to be taken a six-hour drive north to be checked by the Americans at their logistic base on the Croatian border before returning to Sarajevo.

Because the General Support regiment does not have a close support capability, it borrowed 23 Close Support Squadron from 2 CS Regt, also in Gütersloh.

Based in Sipovo, 23 Sup Sqn has detachments widely spread among the units of the British brigade and those operating under Canadian command.

To the south of Kupres is the logistic complex at Lipa, a desolate site where proper roads ended in Grapple days before convoys had to tackle the treacherous route Triangle.

The bulk fuel installation established during Grapple One is still the main provider of fuel, oils and lubricants; other fuel dumps at Sipovo and Vitez have closed.

Run by 16 visitors from Gütersloh's 6 Supply Regiment, the installation is commanded by Capt Rob Loftus and has seen two significant improvements.

Fuel flat racks give the option of providing a mobile 12,000-litre fuel tanker on a DROPS vehicle, or an instant refuelling point on the ground.

It was a facility much appreciated, but from the drivers' point of view a more welcome delivery was 24 new multi-wheel-

drive tankers which replaced the previous 20-year-old fleet of vehicles.

The heated seat in the Army's newest truck is a boon, as is a sleeping area in the back of the cab, but both LCpl Andy Atkins and Cpl Mark Ticker

were even more impressed by the quadraphonic music system.

As the divisional rear supply depot, Lipa's 43 Supply Sqn held 800 tons of ammunition and 1,500 tons of defence stores but 30 per cent was thinned out in recognition of the purely military situation and also in preparation for an expected reduction in forces.

"Soldiers rarely get a chance to work with live ammunition in Germany but in Bosnia there are artillery, grenades and Milans to store and maintain in different ways," said Capt Rufus McNeil.

They accumulated a large amount of experience, many becoming ammunition supervisors.

Progressing in grade from B3 to B2 means extra trade pay, and a good 90 per cent of first-tour soldiers have gained some sort of qualification, said Capt McNeil.

On exercise in Germany, the logisticians are expected to operate only over a small divisional supply area. To cover the 11,000



Above - Thumbs up: Pte Martin Jones and LCpl Scotty Pape of 2 Sqn Fuel and Ration Troop approve of the new 20,000-litre tanker

Left - Post haste: LCpl Mandy Fenemer deals with parcels for UK while LCpls George McPaul and Tony Horsburch sort letters

Headquartered in Split, the 25 Regulars from Gütersloh had to be supplemented by TA and reservists to deal with mail from 25 countries.

Because Britain is the lead nation in ARRC, 98 PC Sqn is required to provide a service for 25 nations, including 18 at Zagreb.

Delivering post is easier than sending it out: the posties can always guess which country the mail has come from by the stamp.

All units, however, use British stamps when sending their mail home, and it is difficult to distinguish script from countries such as Jordan, Pakistan, Malaysia and the Ukraine.

In its first four months the squadron dealt with 187,000kg of mail, with soldiers sending nearly two million free blueys and receiving nearly half a million.

As well as keeping the machinery of a divisional area well lubricated with oil and water, 1 GS Regt endeared itself to neighbouring communities.

The 44 members of 98 Postal and Courier Squadron had their fingers very close to the pulse of morale in theatre.

Administration donations into projects ranging from kindergartens to old folks' homes.

They had only a comparatively brief window of opportunity to carry out their projects before the onset of winter.

Although the regiment was busy with its primary task of logistic support for the division, it was still keen to do something tangible to help the communities, said the commanding officer, Lt Col John Kane.

"We drive about the whole area and see far more than the average British soldier of the general state of the country and degree of devastation and misery of the people, and I think there is something of the natural British determination to help the underdog," said the CO.

"Our younger soldiers have never seen anything like it and don't think people should have to live like this, and when little kids come out begging for sweets and biscuits they really get quite upset."

"Projects like rebuilding the central Bosnian electricity system, refurbishing medical centres, local post offices, schools and street lighting are not particularly spectacular in themselves but the net effect is to make the basis here for a working community."

"The attitude has changed from fairly disinterested to being very positive, and if you go through town people will smile and wave and say 'hello'."



Above - Board meeting: Col Simon Porter, Chief G3 Ops, briefs Spanish, Belgian, German, French and American staff in the HQ ARRC Ops Room

Right - Cpl Mark Smith leads his patrol across the bridge to Iliča, in Sarajevo



Network Bosnia

A MURDEROUS sniper fire used to rake the streets in Sarajevo that British soldiers have strolled along for the past few months.

It was a place where nobody moved unless they had to, where mortar rounds were deliberately aimed at crowded markets and where secret tunnels were used to move food during the siege of the city.

When the Dayton Peace was established, Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) soldiers moved in to separate the combatants and silence the snipers.

A year on from then, IFOR foot patrols sent out by 1 (UK) Signal Brigade wore no flak jackets and their weapons were not carried aggressively; the patrols did not expect trouble.

"Some people are still hostile but others invite you to their bistro to have a coffee and a chinwag with them," said Cpl Mark Smith of 170 Pioneer Squadron, RLC.

The streets are not peaceful: the patrols work their way along pavements that are once again busy with the bustle of fruit markets and a flourishing cafe culture.

Patrols were welcomed as a reassuring sign that the killing is past.

The Defence Troop of 1 (UK) Signal Brigade's support battalion had a very clearly-defined responsibility round the suburb of Iliča and the main headquarters of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in a hotel complex on the former confrontation line.

Initially a responsibility of the French

Multi-National Division South West, the local protection of the ARRC's main headquarters was delegated to Britain in September.

Britain is the framework nation for the ARRC but defence duties were shared with many other nations.

The British-led ARRC has now completed a year of providing the higher headquarters for the British, French and American divisions in former Yugoslavia.

Formed in April 1995, 1 (UK) Signal Brigade is one of two signal brigades assigned to the ARRC for operations.

It comprises 7 and 16 Signal Regiments, from Krefeld and Rheindahlen, plus elements of 14 Signal Regiment (EW), and the integral Support Battalion, HQ ARRC, also from Rheindahlen, which is made up of 14 Transport Squadron, RLC and 170 Pioneer Squadron, RLC.

NATO's first operational deployment also led to the first deployment of a British Signal Brigade on operations when 1 Sig Bde was tasked with providing all communications and information systems as well as life support, including transport, catering and defence.

It had to build a main HQ at Iliča, a rear at Kiseljak, and, unusually, a forward headquarters in Split as Communication

Zone Forward for higher command in HQ Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples.

As well as providing communications with the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force operations centre at Vicenza, northern Italy,

Ptarmigan had to operate back to Rheindahlen and the peace locations of 1 (UK) Division in Germany and its brigades, and back to Wilton and HQ Land Command.

The VSC 501 satellite ground terminal system to carry Ptarmigan, first used in the Gulf, was augmented by an air-based station satellite system provided by the US Air Force, which proved interesting for soldiers from 7 Sig Regt to master from scratch.

"It has been the most complex communications and information systems network that has ever been deployed, because it is interfaced to all NATO's fixed networks throughout Europe," said the commander, Brig James Shaw.

"We deployed with 1,600 soldiers but after the first three very dark, cold winter months from December to February we were able to develop a rotation system which allowed a number of soldiers to return to their peacetime locations in Germany for three months, to go on career courses, take leave and be with their families, as well as maintain equipment in Ger-

many," said Brig Shaw. Manpower latterly hovered around 1,200 and most soldiers served in theatre for eight months before handing over to the German-led Land Centre at the end of November.

A tactical headquarters deployed three times but because of the relatively static nature of the operation, it was possible to bring in a significant number of commercial telephone network systems. The brigade built its own private network so that it did not have to deploy quite as many tactical systems.

During the year a very clearly-defined task evolved into a much more complex role as it took on the new dimension of "nation building".

The biggest innovation was the development of the military equivalent of the Internet.

A massive increase in data communications meant that 85 per cent of the information flowing between the headquarters within the Corps was by E-mail over commercial satellite with dedicated routing systems so that it would not go over Ptarmigan.

"It was a rare challenge and a great tribute to the professional expertise of the technicians, who literally opened books, read them, and made it work," said the brigadier.

During the September elections the



Cpl Geoff Richards on Ptarmigan

communications systems were so comprehensive that the ARRC headquarters was the focus for all the key leaders.

They could reach right across the country and down through the chain of command to the lowest level.

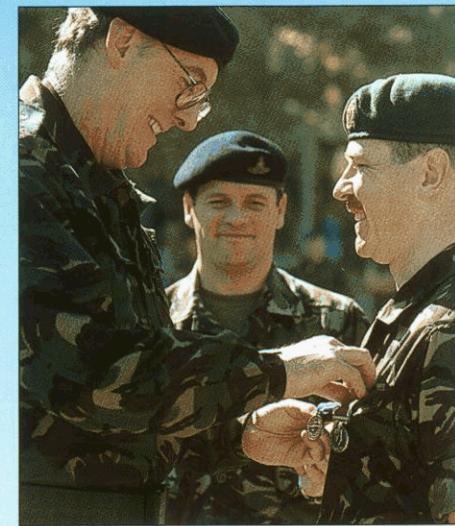
The international atmosphere was stimulating, and gratifying when one could see the relative success of the British system in relation to that of other nations.

Staff could draw satisfaction from being well ahead of the game in having interfaced Ptarmigan digitally to the American equivalent four years earlier than it was due.



Above - Ssgt Steven Stewart, 1st Combat Coms, with Cpl Morgan Kiely, 7 Sigs

Right - Brig James Shaw pins the NATO and LSGC medals on WO1 Bob Lochinger



The first deployment in a multi-national formation for peace support operations also meant the stimulus of working with other nations, particularly from the former Warsaw Pact.

The UK element of the headquarters staff manning the ARRC was about 60 per cent, with the staff of the commander, Lt Gen Sir Mike Walker, including several British officers in key positions.

The value of an integral support battalion for the administration of the headquarters was clearly demonstrated. A large percentage of the brigade was made up by the Territorial Army, which made a significant contribution, with the expertise of some proving a godsend in setting up certain facets of the HQ.

British chefs, as ever, provided a morale factor far above their numbers. By common consent the best food in Bosnia is where UK chefs rule the roost.

At home, the immense fortitude of wives and families supporting the soldiers in Sarajevo deserved the deepest respect, said Brig Shaw.

Those carrying out their last patrols of Sarajevo before returning to Germany and Britain could reflect that their presence has been a calming influence on a community trying to return to normal.

The divided communities which Cpl Smith and the pioneers patrolled have settled down and they can hand over a peaceful administrative task to their successors.

Last of his

MAJ GEN Bryan Dutton enjoys one of the world's most spectacular views from the windows which line two walls of his office in the Prince of Wales Building on Hong Kong's waterfront.

Far below, a conveyor belt of Star ferries bob across the harbour to and from Kowloon. A succession of aircraft sparkle briefly in bright sunshine before disappearing dramatically behind tower blocks on the descent to Kai Tak's busy runway.

On the horizon rise the mountains that mark the start of the New Territories. Beyond them lies mainland China.

In barely six months Kowloon and the New Territories will be very much part of that mainland, and Gen Dutton's room with a view will have a new occupant – a senior officer of the People's Liberation Army of China.

Gen Dutton is the last general to hold the appointment of Commander British Forces Hong Kong; in fact, he is the last British general anywhere in the Far East.

Since his arrival in the garrison in July 1994, Gen Dutton has been exposed to the corridors of power in a city state, roughly the size of the Isle of Wight, that ranks seventh among the world's trading nations.

He has found the exposure to the business of government, and the interface with business, fascinating . . . "a great privilege".

At the same time he has had to maintain morale in a garrison preoccupied with its own demise, and make meaningful contact with the military forces of a new sovereign power. It has been, in his own words, "a very interesting challenge both to myself and the other commanders here."

Effective measures

That the garrison still has an obvious sense of purpose suggests the measures he has taken have been effective. His command, nearly 10,000-strong when he arrived, now fewer than 3,000 and diminishing fast, has been kept informed to reduce uncertainty while the professional challenge of soldiering and the quality of life have been maintained. Welfare support and sporting facilities have remained in place beyond the point dictated by pure economics.

Gen Dutton is proud of what the garrison has achieved. "Our job has been to be the manifestation of British sovereignty."

"We have a high-profile British governor, but we also have a British garrison here which flies the Union Jack, is seen around in British military uniforms, plays a role in the community, both operationally and in

much wider ways, and is an accepted part of the fabric of the place.

"It has dawned on me that the only British organisation being replaced by a Chinese organisation in Hong Kong is the British garrison. We are, literally, being lifted out to be replaced by a garrison of

various key barracks which have great memories for the British Army . . . like Stanley Fort, the various barracks in Sek Kong, Malaya Lines, Cassino, Gallipoli, Kohima. In Kowloon we are handing over Gun Club Hill Barracks and Osborn Barracks, and Stonecutters – no longer an island – plus ranges and other training facilities.

"I have given away between 50 and 90 billion dollars worth of real estate to the Hong Kong Government for them to redevelop.

"Those figures don't really mean anything, but they are a great gift from the British military back to the Hong Kong Government, which is building a new naval base for the PLA and a new military hospital in Gun Club Hill Barracks, plus a storage site and movement facility at the new airport.

"When I thought about the job in England before I came here, I realised it was wrong that there wasn't a direct liaison between the commander here and, ideally, the future commander, or at least with the PLA on the other side of the border.

Friendly border

"Publicly and privately I laid it out as an objective from the start that a liaison should be developed as part of the normal liaison between the armed forces of two friendly nations across a friendly border."

Gen Dutton's opportunity came when Gen Liu Zhenwu was named by the media



Maj Gen Bryan Dutton talks to John Elliott

Chinese. That will be their manifestation of sovereignty."

It will mark the end of a British presence stretching back more than 140 years.

Commander British Forces has played an intimate role in smoothing the way for China's defence forces.

Garrison sites to be taken over by the People's Liberation Army, and others to be developed by the Hong Kong Government, were negotiated under a defence lands agreement.

"We are going to hand over 14 sites to the PLA on June 30, including this headquarters, including my house, including



Historic handshake: Gen Dutton with Gen Liu Zhenwu, the People's Liberation Army commander who will head the garrison in Hong Kong when China assumes sovereignty on July 1



Commander British Forces pays tribute to the fallen at Hong Kong's final Remembrance Sunday parade. The guard in the background is provided by soldiers of 1 Staffords

as the future PLA garrison commander.

"I wrote him a letter of congratulations and had it delivered through the diplomatic channels, saying that I was willing to call on him at any time, and in fact would like to do so."

There was no immediate reply, but when CBF wrote again on another matter, he received a letter – now a treasured item in his scrapbook – from Gen Liu inviting him to the PLA's regional headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen. He and two staff officers were warmly received.

"That was in May. We had a return visit by them, which got very considerable publicity, in July, and a longer visit, again led by Gen Liu Zhenwu. It was a working visit – the sort of recce that I would want to do as a commander – with his key staff officers, for about ten days in August. I am hoping that we will be able to have further visits, particularly with his naval and air commanders, soon.

"We needed to inform the PLA of the realities of life here and to get them as far as possible integrated into Hong Kong society, so one thing they would not be able to turn around and say was 'well the British did not help'."

"They certainly won't be able to say that."

The high-profile meetings had the added effect of boosting public confidence in Hong Kong. People told CBF how good it was to see a British general and a Chinese general obviously getting on well together.

Gen Dutton has been learning to speak Mandarin. "Their use of language is totally different to ours. It has meant that sometimes when I feel they might have been being rude, I can understand that actually

Sound bites

On being asked what is the British Garrison's legacy to Hong Kong . . .

"I think the fact that we have a lot to be proud of . . . that the British Garrison here has made a major contribution to Hong Kong. In some respects that is only coming to be realised now as people appreciate the stability which has existed here through British rule, of which the garrison has been a major part, and that they are looking to the future and wondering whether there will be such stability."

On the PLA . . .

"They are a very different army. They are acutely aware of their international image, they want to use Hong Kong as a window on the world . . . these are their words to me. They want to use it to rehabilitate the world's image of them. They said: 'We want to demonstrate to the world that we are a mature, modern, professional army, and Hong Kong gives us that opportunity.'"

On the direction of British military influence in the Far East . . .

"It will change in its nature but I don't think it will change in its impact. It shouldn't, because we have good links with the Five Power Defence Arrangement countries, we have our alliance with America, we have a bilateral agreement with the Philippines, we have our defence agreements with Brunei, and there are many other nations with which we have friendly relationships in this part of the world."

"We are the single largest European investor in this region by a long way."

On joint military exercises behind the Bamboo Curtain . . .

"I think our relationship has a long way to go before that happens. I think that is alien to the Chinese way of doing things. The idea of others coming and actually exercising with them in their own country is not something that they practise yet with anyone."

On his anxieties for the next few months . . .

"I think there is a lot of hard work, hard arguing and hard negotiating to come . . . and a lot of getting it right for the night. But I am confident that we will get out of here in good order having met our remit with a show that people will feel proud of when they watch it back in the UK."

On the honouring of British memorials . . .

"The majority of the memorials are in cemeteries run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and they will be honoured. The normal arrangements will be put in hand for that."

As preparations began for their 1997 season, the Royal Signals White Helmets motor-cycle display team invited *Soldier* to take an exclusive look as aspiring members reached the end of their initial week of testing – with a female captain at the helm for the first time in the team's 70-year history

Roar recruits

"LAY-DEES and gentlemen – the White Helmets!" said the announcer over the public address system.

A drum-roll, and, sure enough, into the spotlight at Earls Court, several white helmets did emerge.

The only snag was they had been bowled in by their owners – as a final-night joke at last year's Royal Tournament...

Seconds later, however, to the time-honoured cacophony of 26 unsilenced Triumph 750cc motor cycles, the members of the team roared into the arena and were soon putting on their renowned display – including crossover rides at closing speeds of 60mph.

Despite their apparent momentary lapse, any member of the White Helmets will confirm that the business of putting on a "faster, slicker show, with a bigger impact every season" is taken very seriously indeed.

Survivors of the demanding team selection course which *Soldier* attended on the tank training area at Dorset's Bovington Camp will no doubt agree.

Watching the nine "hopefuls" was Capt Lisa Giles, who, in this special year – the team's 70th in existence – will be the White Helmets' first female captain.

Asked if this was a token appointment for the anniversary, she firmly pointed out that all the riders were volunteers, and she was no exception.

Like many other potential team members, Capt Giles had never previously ridden a motorbike.

A member of the Royal Corps of Signals for five years, her diverse posts before moving to Blandford – home of the White Helmets – in an officer recruiting role were as a troop commander with 2 Div Signal Regiment in York, ADC to Gen Sir Jeremy MacKenzie, Deputy SACEUR with SHAPE in Belgium, and 2iC to a squadron in 1 Div at Herford.

"I rode a bike for the first time yesterday," she said. "It was expletives all the way

Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

to begin with, but it was brilliant – even though my legs are now black and blue.

"My role in the show will be mainly commenting, but I'd like to ride as much as I possibly can."

The aim of the two-week selection course is to see how much "bottle" and ability the potential members have got, and to build up their confidence, co-ordination and balance, explained Sgt Don Brebner, team sergeant.

"This is the 'bread and butter week': show training next week is the real test," he said, as several rookie riders negotiated the steep slope leading from Bovington's "dustbowl" on their 500cc Armstrongs.

Indeed, in the second week of training – held outside the Tank Museum at Bovington – selection course members would find themselves trying to perfect the specialised skills of riding very close to another motor cyclist, and at the same speed.



As you bike it: riders show off their skills at Bovington



Above – Capt Lisa Giles, new White Helmets captain, with existing and would-be team members. With her is Capt Simon Parry, who has handed over to her following a two-and-a-half year stint, and is leaving the Army after 12 years

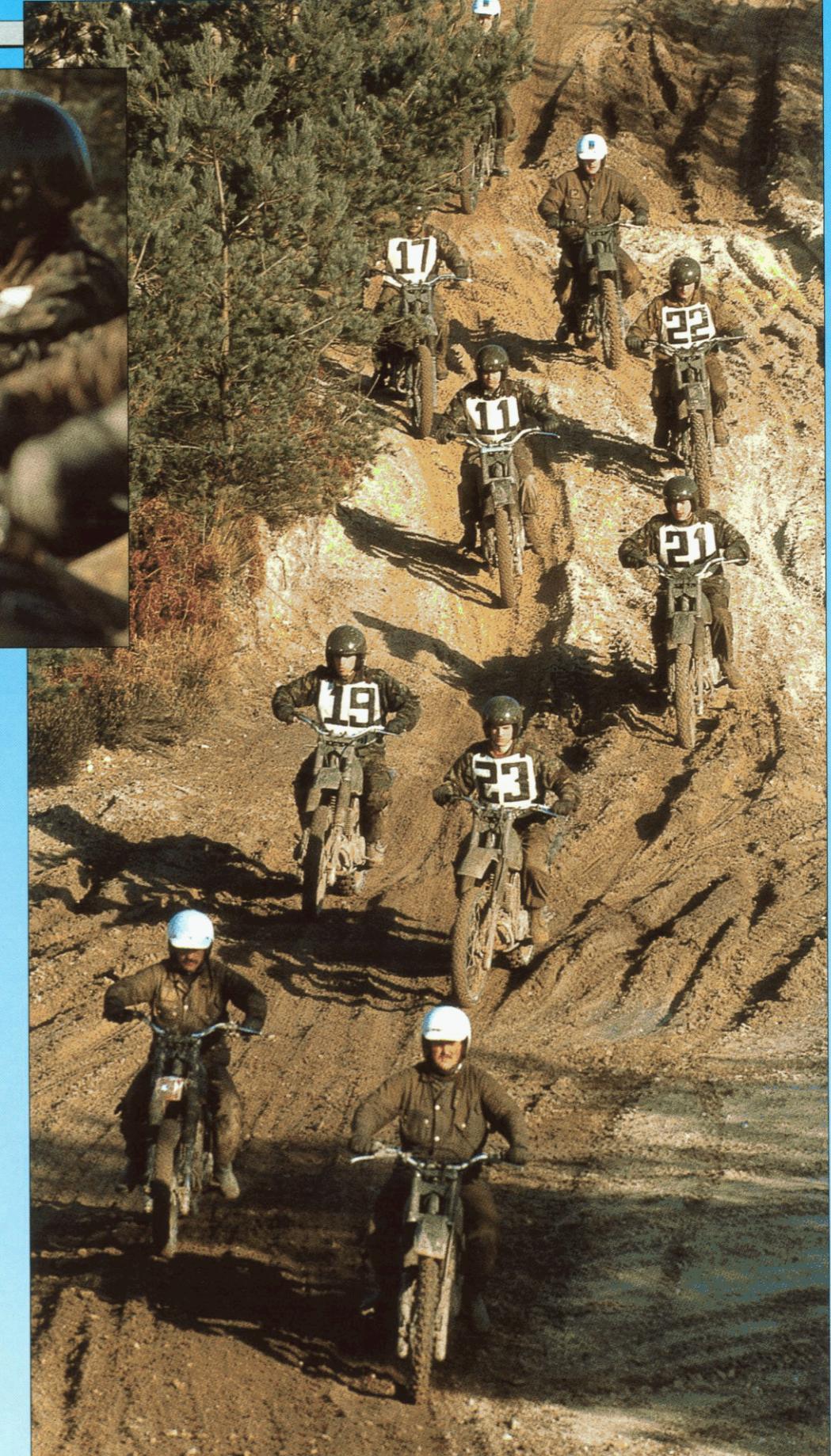
ON YOUR BIKE

● OLDEST motorcycle display team in the world, the Royal Signals White Helmets were formed in 1927 as a combined display of horsemanship and motor-cycle riding skills by the Corps' despatch riders. The team adopted its current name in 1963.

● LEAST-wanted trophy in the first week's training is... the Pink Helmet, awarded to the unofficial worst rider on the course.

● BOOTS, helmets, tyres and brake pads are among items paid for by the team's all-important sponsors. The Army merely pays the riders' wages.

● A "fail-proof" sequence of instructions – strictly adhered to – is taught to team members attempting the fire jump: "Approach in second gear, stand up, lock knees, accelerate off end of ramp".



Rough ter-raining: potential team members in the dustbowl at Bovington Camp's tank training area

a couple of minutes, and successfully completing a fire jump."

Training for successful course members starts in earnest this month, when they will learn the secrets of reverse riding, "Cos-sacks", tableaux and "angel and eagle".

At Blandford in April – first show of the new season – they will mark their debut as official members of the display team when,

in the two-wheeled equivalent of a pass-off, they will be presented with those much-prized white helmets.

Then, in the words of the song which traditionally introduces the team's performances, they can count themselves "Simply the best".

● At the end of the fortnight, only two of

the nine would-be members were unsuccessful, one with a damaged arm, the second not reaching the required standard – "a particularly good course," said Sgt Brebner. Capt Giles achieved her ultimate ambition, successfully completing a fire jump, along with four others, in a show put on for the White Helmets' OC, Maj Keith Russell, on the final day of the course.

The people (and freight) movers

EVERY person and virtually every piece of equipment that goes into or out of the Hong Kong Garrison passes through the hands of the Joint Movements Unit (JMU).

Every week its staff handle a minimum of 200 passengers and 7.5 tonnes of freight. And they are getting busier.

"With the drawdown from Hong Kong, work has been a series of peaks and troughs," said Sqn Ldr Lee Doherty, the officer commanding JMU. "But the troughs have been getting progressively shallower, and the peaks steeper."

The unit's first major peak followed closure of garrison schools and the departure of UK families in June and July.

"We are now in the final phase of the Gurkhas' departure, and when that's out of the way, there is the Arms Plot move of 1 RGR to the UK, the Staffords leaving Hong Kong and being replaced by the Black Watch... and then we'll be moving the rest of the families back to the UK."

"Of the 323 families still in theatre, only 25 or so still have to confirm their arrangements," said Sqn Ldr Doherty. "Whereas it

doesn't make a lot of difference to an individual family planning eight months ahead if they leave a day or so sooner or later, it makes the world of difference to us. We have to work months ahead and plan carefully."

The unit will be one of the last to leave on June 30. "Our programme consists of one event after another until that day, when we have to effect an orderly and dignified withdrawal of all the remaining personnel in the Territory."

JMU – a tri-Service unit – is divided into two sections, air and surface, which work closely together. Air Movements Flight (AMF), under the control of WO Tony Dunphy RAF, is subdivided into a booking cell, people handling and cargo handling. Surface Movements Section (SMS) is commanded by WO1 Chris Harris RLC.

First point of contact for people moving in and out of Hong Kong is likely to be the booking cell, the garrison's own travel agent, led by Flt Sgt Ed Stout.

"Most of the work is full- and part-charter flights through British Airways to the UK, and Royal Brunei to Brunei and Nepal. But there are also quite a few civil air bookings," he said.

These are mostly handled by Sukla Mukhopadhyay, a locally-engaged civilian.

Her expertise saves the garrison a small fortune. On one flight alone, she saved HK\$26,000 (more than £2,000) with a triangular booking for a passenger who flew from Hong Kong to the UK to Australia and back to Hong Kong.

Colleague Pauline Price, however, is arguably the most popular person in the garrison. She is in charge of the indulgence cell, which offers spare chartered seats to MoD personnel at a fraction of the commercial price.

Nepal charters are the responsibility of Robin Shrestha (nicknamed "Mr Sulu"), a sergeant with the Royal Gurkha Rifles. His talents have been stretched to the limits over the past few months as he organises flights for the Gurkhas' final departure from Hong Kong. He still has about 400 passages yet to book – including his own.

"Come March, having seen all my brethren depart, I return to Nepal for my long leave. I am then going to Brunei for a two-year posting, and expect to be in the UK by the year 2000."

The passenger-handling section is led by Sgt Mel Sykes, ably assisted by Cpl Gus

Turney, Nick Latham and Simon Gill. It is responsible for all aspects of passenger-handling in Hong Kong once flights have been booked. Staff meet and greet at the airport, ensuring that transit passengers know where to go, accommodation has been arranged, and departure tax coupons have been distributed.

They are responsible for dealing with VIP passengers, visits from schoolchildren and aero-med cases, and have someone permanently on call to handle compassionate cases. "These take precedence over anything else," said Cpl Turney.

The third section of Air Movements Flight deals with freight. AMF is the only handler authorised to take items directly from incoming aircraft at Kai Tak airport to its own, secure yard.

Run by Sgt Bob Dickman, AMF's cargo handling section has five Servicemen working on a shift system and two Chinese labourers.

Between them, Chu Kum Kwok and "Sailor" Yuen She Man will have completed more than 44 years' service with the garrison by the end of June. "They will remain until the end," said WO Tony Dunphy, "as we simply cannot manage without them."

The section also deals with US and foreign and Commonwealth military flights on a reciprocal basis.

JMU has a Surface Movements Section (SMS), based in Osborn Barracks in Kowloon. Headed by WO1 Chris Harris RLC, the SMS is responsible for the movement of all surface freight and unaccompanied baggage. Most stores and equipment arrive on container ships.

The section ensures that families' personal belongings arrive safely at their destination.

"We've had a very busy couple of months,

giving us a foretaste of what's to come," said WO1 Harris.

Underpinning virtually everything the garrison does is the Logistic Support Branch. If a unit wants something, it goes to Log Sp; from the purchase of stationery items to the storage of ammunition; from the procurement of fuel to the disposal of surplus equipment; from the hire of additional ferries to the purchase of silk for flags for the final ceremonies.

"We are responsible for all aspects of tri-Service logistics, with a couple of highly-specialised exceptions, such as engineering for ships and aircraft," explained Lt Col Philip Bell, Chief of Log Sp. "We have the garrison's largest budget after manpower, and we manage hundreds of contracts; from the cutting of Gurkhas' hair to the making of uniforms."

As drawdown continues, their role will become increasingly important, for theirs is the responsibility of ensuring the garrison makes an orderly and dignified withdrawal from Hong Kong. At the same time, of course, the branch has to manage its own drawdown and has reduced by more than 50 per cent over the past 18 months.



"They're all mine..." Sqn Ldr Doherty greets the regular BA charter flight carrying 25 official passengers from the UK

Right – WO1 Chris Harris supervises the loading of the last box in a container. Foreman Tony Chow (in white), has worked in Surface Movements Section for more than 40 years

Sgt Robin Shrestha, busy with final departures, organises a Gurkha flight to Kathmandu



Pauline Price at work dealing with garrison indulgence flights

Left – The oldest labourer on the team is 74-year-old Yip Muk, who for the last quarter of a century has been demonstrating his strength to the rest of the team. Despite an uncanny resemblance to British comedian Arthur Askey, he is nicknamed "Rambo".



Above - Leading from the front:
Lt Col Robbie Scott-Bowden,
CO Royal Scots

Left - Lynx battlefield helicopters of 3 Regiment AAC return troops to the air mounting base at Sculthorpe after a night assault 100 miles away

Royal Scots take to the air

Report:
Pete Brown
Pictures:
Chris Fletcher

SOLDIERS of The Royal Scots proved themselves ready for their new role as air-mobile troops during a wintry night assault staged over Norfolk's flat fields.

In July, after five years at Fort George, the battalion, commanded by Lt Col Robbie Scott-Bowden, moved to Colchester, Essex to begin a new role with 24 Air-mobile Brigade.

There was considerable upheaval for the families as they relocated to a part of the country unfamiliar to most of them; however, the Royal Scots are very much an

extended family and the move was accomplished with customary cheerfulness. It is perhaps fitting that the Army's oldest regiment is now based in England's "oldest recorded town".

A formation unique within the British Army, 24 Airmobile Brigade is part of the Multi-National Division (Central) assigned to NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Lightly-equipped and highly-mobile, the brigade is capable of rapid deployment anywhere in the world.

Since joining the brigade, the Jocks have been training hard for their new role, familiarising themselves with the helicopters that would carry them into battle, and the vehicles with which they are equipped, such as the lightweight All-Terrain Mobile Platform and the Light Strike Vehicle, with Milan missile launcher.

Use of the third dimension - air - both for conducting combat operations from assault helicopters and for moving combat units, gives the force the ability to cover large distances rapidly.



A Royal Scots' rifle section moves across the flat North Norfolk landscape under a rain-laden November sky



Above - Sgt Billy Lamb and his A Company platoon wait in a chilling wind for their Chinook

Below - The Milan anti-tank platoon, from the battalion's Support Company, embarks in a Chinook at the former RAF Sculthorpe airfield



The battalion completed Gryphon's Wing, a brigade exercise over north Norfolk, during the coldest week of November. The Jocks put into practice what everyone had been preparing for, a helicopter assault on a target more than 100 miles away.

As they waited for the helicopters in lashing rain and freezing conditions, the Royal Scots could have been forgiven for wondering if working with aircraft was such a good idea...

But the Chinook and Puma helicopters of the RAF Support Helicopter Force were soon racing in at low level as ground controllers brought them in to land. With pinpoint precision the huge Chinooks settled on the ground, their twin rotors setting up a fierce downdraft.

The rear doors of the Chinooks opened and the battalion quickly loaded its equipment, men and vehicles swallowed by the helicopters. As the Chinooks moved away, other vehicles were plucked into the air, in underslung straps.

Meanwhile, Pumas were picking up the guns of 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Highland Gunners) to provide covering fire for the force. These weapons were in action last year on Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo.

The airborne-assault, spearheaded by tank-busting Lynx helicopters of the Army Air Corps, was a success, and the battalion can now look forward to deploying with 24 Brigade. This year it leaves for Kenya and six weeks of jungle and bush training. Next year it will be bound for the United States.



Picture: Capt Kevin Harvey

Bedside manna: Two Territorial Army officers received achievement awards while touring medical facilities offered by 1 Armoured Field Ambulance at Sipovo in Bosnia. Maj Christine Hunter (right) and Capt Carine Horsburgh are pictured

Leek landmark goes quietly ...

A 52ft-high chimney at the Army's Leek Training Camp has been removed to make way for a new pollution-free heating system.

The seven-ton, rocket-like tower had been a feature on the landscape for 13 years, familiar to drivers, cyclists and ramblers who use the A53 Leek to Buxton road and the surrounding moorlands.

... unlike an island's relic of Gallipoli

Meanwhile, a group of combat sappers based in the North West made their mark on Anglesey by blowing up a concrete pier intended for the Gallipoli landings in 1915.

Forty men and women from 201 Headquarters Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment (V), based in Manchester, used more than three tonnes of the latest commercial plastic explosive to demolish the pier, which, built on a concrete barge, was designed to be towed to the Dardanelles for the ill-fated First World War campaign.

The blast, at Trwyn Penmon Point, opposite Puffin Island, was heard ten miles away. A smaller charge was detonated first to scare away fish and fowl.

Honouring the fallen, through thick and thin

IN THE face of vandalism, civil unrest and climatic excesses, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission continues to protect and honour the last resting places of Servicemen and women all over the world.

The latest annual report of the Commission lists the triumphs – of which there were many during a year of high-profile anniversaries – and the disasters.

Floods in South Africa and Italy, graffiti in France, theft in Rome and Maidenhead, unrest in Asia – the Commission's dedicated staff in 147 countries coped with it all. They also found new ways to make their already immaculate cemeteries and memorials – 1,694,999 of them – even more pleasing to the eye.

Not all problems were surmountable. The Commission was obliged to exhume ten war casualties from Bathurst European Cemetery in the Gambia because the land was required for a local authority development. The remains were interred in Fajara War Cemetery.

Now the hospice has one, hand-crafted from Irish oak, in its north Belfast headquarters. The regiment is on a six-month tour based at Girdwood Barracks.

The 1995-6 annual report notes: "The Commission strongly

opposes the disturbance of remains, but very occasionally it is forced to comply when overriding public necessity for the removal can be demonstrated by the relevant authorities."

By and large, it adds, staff and representatives were able to go about their business near and far with remarkably little hindrance.

On the technical front, 1.7 million names were added to the Commission's new system of computerised records, greatly speeding up the "search and find" processes, and the organisation's ability to supply more complex information.

When soldiers of 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery learned that the Northern Ireland Hospice was trying to track down a cabinet to house a Book of Remembrance, they volunteered to help.

Now the hospice has one, hand-crafted from Irish oak, in its north Belfast headquarters. The regiment is on a six-month tour based at Girdwood Barracks.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1947

CHIPPY CHAPPY
Victory in the race to open the British Army's first fish-and-chip restaurant in Europe is claimed by Trieste in Italy. Hamburg, Germany, has one on the way. Pete's Fish and Fry (named after Maj Peter Coode, a welfare officer) is run by Cpl Free, Coldm Gds, a former fish-and-chip shop proprietor from Chelmsford.

Although food is served in paper and not on plates, regulations forbid troops eating in the street.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1972

GOODBYE GULF
A British military presence spanning two centuries in the Persian Gulf ended last month when Headquarters British Forces withdrew from Bahrain. A month earlier the last major unit, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, had left Sharjah for home.

Last-gasp victory ...

A TEAM from Osnabrück-based 21 Engineer Regiment triumphed in the 1996 Medium Girder Bridge competition on the River Weser at Hameln, despite the fact that trucks from the rival 35 and 32 Engineer Regiments had crossed their bridges first.

When time penalties were taken into consideration, 21's well-judged effort of 9min 22sec was found to have won the day.

Just Great, Manchester

THREE out of six Lord Lieutenant's Certificates awarded in the North West Territorial Association area ended up in Greater Manchester.

The area also takes in Cumbria, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cheshire and the Isle of Man.

Coveted awards went to SSM Peter Roden, now retired, of D (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Squadron; SSgt Denis Bradley, REME Workshop, 75 Engineer Regiment; and Sgt Russell Goulding of C (The Manchester) Company, 5/8 Kings.

WO2 Joseph Harris, serving with 4 QLR, was Lancashire's only recipient.

WO1 Thomas Lamb, RSM of the Merseyside Army Cadet Force, and Capt George Spurling, RMP CVHQ SIB Branch, also received awards.

Embroidering the jerboa legend

ORIGINS of the ubiquitous shoulder flash of the Desert Rats were recalled by Salisbury councillor Colin Duller while he was looking through a 1976 copy of the *Salisbury Journal*.

Lamb, author of *War in a Stringbag*, was a Fleet Air Arm aviator in the Mediterranean, one of Creagh's Dekheila Boys, so-called because they often provided an aerial escort when the general was piloting his Avro 504 about the desert.

She was the widow of Gen Sir Michael "Dickie" Creagh, much-

loved commander of the 7th Armoured Division in the Western Desert during the Second World War.

Lamb recalled that while com-

plaining in a letter to Lady Helen that his division had no shoulder flash, Creagh added the words "... all we see out here are jerboas, the desert rats that are the bane of our existence ...".

Lady Helen promptly drew a picture of a jerboa sitting on its hindquarters, had it embroidered in red velvet and posted it to her husband in Egypt. The legend of the Desert Rats was born.

Hong Kong ... as you recollect it

WHAT IS your favourite – or least favourite – memory about service in Hong Kong?

Contributions would be welcomed for a special commemoration issue of *Soldier* to mark the end of British sovereignty in the Territory and a military presence spanning nearly a century and a half.

If you have an anecdote or story that reflects life in Hong Kong and the New Territories, please send it to the Editor. But keep it brief – no more than 150 words.

Funny or sad, ancient or modern, garrison tour or just passing through ... put pen to paper and share the memory with us.

Please include your rank and unit at the time, and a head-and-shoulders photograph if possible.

● Some service: Ninety soldiers from the Royal Logistic Corps based at Deepcut, Surrey, collected £9,000 for the Poppy Appeal at Clacket Lane service area on the M25.

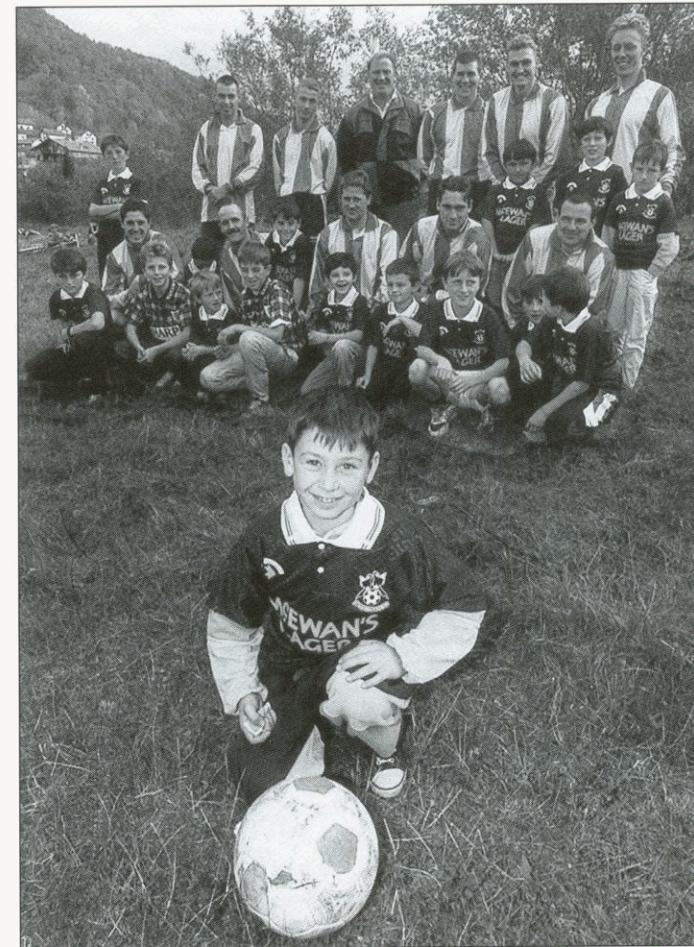
REUNIONS

APTC Association functions: SW Branch at Falfield, near Gloucester, on February 7 (details: Bob Marshall, 01747 860207); NW Branch at Blackpool on March 14 (details: Jim Blackley, 0151 9285102); Eastern Branch on April 4 (details: Frank Turnell, 01473 785291); NE (York) Branch on May 16 (details: Rocky Holling, 01226 207046); SE Branch at Aldershot on May 31 (details: Steve Monk, 01252 834274).

11th Squadron RCT (1973-77): Reunion scheduled for September 6 in Cannock, Staffordshire. Details from M G Wedlake, 87 Lagan Road, South Godstone, Surrey RH9 8HF (01342 893071).

Personnel involved in the Dhofar campaign, 1968-75, Southern Oman, sought by author researching for a book about the campaign. Richard Bowyer, 84 Hartwell Drive, Kempston, Bedford (tel 01234 843218) wants to hear about personal experiences.

Band of 8th KRI Hussars: Ex-members interested in proposed reunion in 1998 are asked to contact Colin Ridgers, 117 Vanner Road, Witney OX8 6LL (01993 774694).



Nine-year-old Dalibor Lakic (front) of Mrkonjic Grad, Bosnia, and his mates proudly wear a new football strip donated by Notts County football club. With them are soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment football team who presented the equipment to children in the town

SEARCHLINE

National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association is setting up a southern area branch based in Southampton. Contact David Smith (former 2 RGR), Woodglade, Beaulieu Road, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton, Hants SO45 4JF with name, address, telephone number, unit, date served and sas.

W I Reeves, P O Box 893, Scotburgh 4180, Republic of South Africa, is trying to re-establish contact with a long-lost branch of the family and wishes to contact his cousin, Maj Nigel (possibly N P) Notley, at one time believed to be an officer in the Devonshire Regi-

DATES

JULY

15-27: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets on 0171 244-0244 from January 6.

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

Showtime for gunners

HIGHLIGHTS of the 1997 Royal Tournament will include a history of the Royal Artillery portrayed by gunners in period costume.

Public demand has forced the organisers to include an extra Sunday matinée on July 27. More special effects than ever are promised for the 107th show.

Old favourites such as the musical drive of the King's Troop, the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Navy's field gun competition will return, there will be a Maori display from New Zealand, and music courtesy of the Massed Bands of the Household Cavalry.

Also on show will be the Household Cavalry, the Flying Gunners motor-cycle team, an RAF motor-sports competition, and the ever-popular dog displays.

Seat prices range from £5 to £25. For booking details, see Dates panel above.

CLOSURES

Relocation of REME MRO, RLC(S) MRO and RPO Leicester to the APC Glasgow in March will result in the closure of the Glen Parva Officers' Mess at South Wigston on March 31. Anyone who donated an item of property to the mess is requested to state their wishes regarding its return or disposal.

Where no instructions are received by January 31, items will be disposed of in an appropriate manner. Contact Maj J Coleman REME, REME MRO, 51 Saffron Road, South Wigston, Leicester LE18 4US (tel Leicester Mil 745 3586 or civ 0116 2759586).

ment and ADC to the Governor of Gibraltar. His service number may have been P43030398.

Rita M Gayford wishes to hear from anyone who served with her late father, **Sgt Harold (Harry) Gayford**, RAOC, who was stationed in Malines, Belgium from the end of 1944 to October 1945, then posted to Egypt until 1947. Replies to 6 Berkeley Road, Crouch End, London N8 8RY.

News sought of **Robert (Jock) McGann**, last heard of in Stephenson, Ayrshire. He served with AA Command School of Technical Instruction REME 1949-51 in Lydd, Kent. Call Sid (Taffy) Drake on 01873 855667.

Terse verse, fine lines and absurd words

The Faber Book of War Poetry
edited by Kenneth Baker. Hardback, £20.

AN ANONYMOUS ditty circulating in the US Army in the Second World War was short and to the point.

It ran: *Soldiers who wish to be a hero/Are practically zero./But those who wish to be civilians,/Jesus, they run into millions.*

This is one of the shorter and more witty selections in this 600-page anthology. The former Home Secretary was a National Service officer in the Royal Artillery from 1953 to 1956 and at one time instructed the Libyan Army in the gunner's skills.

He dedicates his imaginative and often moving collection to all National Servicemen – particularly those who were with him in 181 Independent Light Battery RA.

The sweep is wide, from the ancients through to the 20th century, and the reader is led easily into each of his 66 sections by an intelligently succinct introduction.

Most of the verse is sublime, but one must reluctantly concede that no such collection would be complete without the ridiculous also (as in the four-liner quoted above). Or, indeed, such relentlessly obscene words as have been chanted by centuries of soldiers as an "aid to morale" and adopted gratuitously by the trend-setters of the modern entertainment industry as a substitute for the creative process.

Kenneth Baker himself illustrates his introduction to a section entitled *The Consolations of Obscenity* with a tale about his National Service padre.

This reverend gentleman assured his flock that a certain Anglo-Saxon word had, correctly, not derived from the Latin "to do" but was an acronym for "Felonious Use of Carnal Knowledge". – CH

Plumbing canyon's Grand depths

Spectacular photographs such as this, most taken by the author, are part of the joy of *Roof of the Americas*, in which Welsh Guards officer John Warburton-Lee tells the amazing story of the 15-month Services relay expedition from Alaska to Cape Horn. With a foreword by the venture's

patron, the Prince of Wales, this minutely detailed and comprehensive account is published by Air-life in hardback at £19.95. The picture shows one of the teams dwarfed by the awe-inspiring depths of the inner Grand Canyon, at this point more than a mile below the surface of the surrounding country



HOWARD BRODIE has been described by CBS newsmen Dan Rather as one of the best war artists of all time and by the legendary Walter Cronkite as "the ultimate journalist".

His Second World War drawings appeared in *Yank*, the American equivalent of *Soldier*, and he built on that early reputation in Korea and Vietnam and with courtroom scenes for TV from the Charles Manson and Watergate trials, among others.

A wider public can now judge for themselves. This Korean war portrait of "Dogface" – US soldier Marion Gray, later killed in action – is one of 70 remarkable battlefield sketches in *Drawing Fire: A Combat Artist at War*, and Brodie's own favourite.

Drawing Fire, a real collector's item dedicated to "the soldier, friend and foe, then and now", is available at £16, inc surface mail, from Portola Press, PO Box 911, Los Altos, CA 94023, USA (tel/fax 415-967 6011).

Drawn from life – and death

Korea, 1951 and Vietnam, 1965. Gen Colin Powell told Brodie: "Your words are as moving as your skilful drawings."

This book reproduces some of those articles and explains the political and social implications of the day. – JM

Withering fire – and that's just the media

War Correspondents: The Anglo Zulu War by Prof John Laband and Ian Knight. Sutton Publishing, hardback, £18.99.

APART from one or two exceptions, war correspondents have long been viewed with suspicion and resentment by the military.

Friction was evident during and after the Falklands War in 1982 as it was in the Zulu War of 1879.

Generally speaking, journalists have been regarded by those in command as something between a necessary evil and a running sore.

Certainly, Lt Gen Lord Chelmsford, commander of the British forces in the war against the Zulus of 1879, considered the numerous newspaper reporters a scourge on his ability as a commander.

In *The Anglo Zulu War*, Prof John Laband and Ian Knight tell not only of the battles Chelmsford and his army endured against the Zulus, but also of his running fight with the "special correspondents" of scores of newspapers.

The reports were so critical of Chelmsford's conduct of the war that the Government asked him point-blank why it was taking so long to polish off a bunch of untrained natives.

He responded with a letter to his superiors attacking the false impressions created by the correspondents' reports, "either intentionally or ignorantly".

But most of these journalists had little or no experience of war and were under extreme pressure from editors to file their stories.

Dr Parkinson has gone back to original sources, interview-



BAOR's Beetlemania

THE story of the Volkswagen Beetle, brainchild of the legendary Ferdinand Porsche, is unique in motoring history.

It all began in 1931 with Porsche's design office working on ideas for an inexpensive car for the mass-market. First prototypes appeared in 1934, inspiring Hitler's dream of a "people's car" that all Third Reich workers could afford.

An enormous factory was built but only a few hundred cars materialised before the Second World War, when the capacity was used to build military versions of the vehicle. By the end of the war the factory was virtually a shell, turning out ten to 12 vehicles a day.

Stadt des Kdf Wagens, a town of 25,000 people, later to be renamed Wolfsburg, and the Kdf factory were occupied by the US Army but the area was to become part of the

British occupation zone.

Ironically, it was the British, in particular an Army officer, who increased production of this most German of cars.

In *Volkswagen Beetle: The Rise from the Ashes of War*, Simon Parkinson relates the remarkable story of Volkswagen in the years 1945-49. From the austere vehicles of the early post-war years it became the world's most popular car.

"At the time of writing, over 21,000,000 Beetles had been built and, even though the car's basic design is fifty years old, it is still in production in Mexico and Brazil. The Beetle has been around for half the life of the internal combustion engine itself," writes the author.

Dr Parkinson has gone back to original sources, interview-

ing the people who were there at the time, including Maj Ivan Hirst, who was responsible for VW's resurrection.

When Hirst arrived at the factory in autumn 1945 he found Kubelwagens (the military version of the VW) still being painted in the German Army's desert sand colour.

When he asked why, he was informed that nobody had told the workers to stop.

Initially, production was confined to the Kubelwagen, but a Beetle – Käfer as it was then called – was demonstrated at British Army of the Rhine HQ and in September 1945 the Military Government placed an order for 20,000 cars, all for the occupying forces.

The new Volkswagen was up and running, although ham-

Memory men in wartime roll-call

Marching to the Sound of Gunfire: North West Europe 1944-5 by Patrick Delaforce. Sutton Publishing, hardback, £16.99.

JUST about every British Army regiment and corps which took part in the battle for north-west Europe after the D-Day landings gets a mention in *Marching to the Sound of Gunfire*.

For this is a collection of mostly brief memories of the officers and men who actually fought in those final months of the Second World War.

Some of the accounts are mildly humorous, such as the one where a "big red-faced" Irish batman of the 2nd East Yorkshires shot himself through the foot while waiting with his officer in a trench for the order to advance.

Others – for example, an officer's description of a tank turret after being hit by an armour-piercing shell and the effect on the crew – are decidedly unfunny. – JM

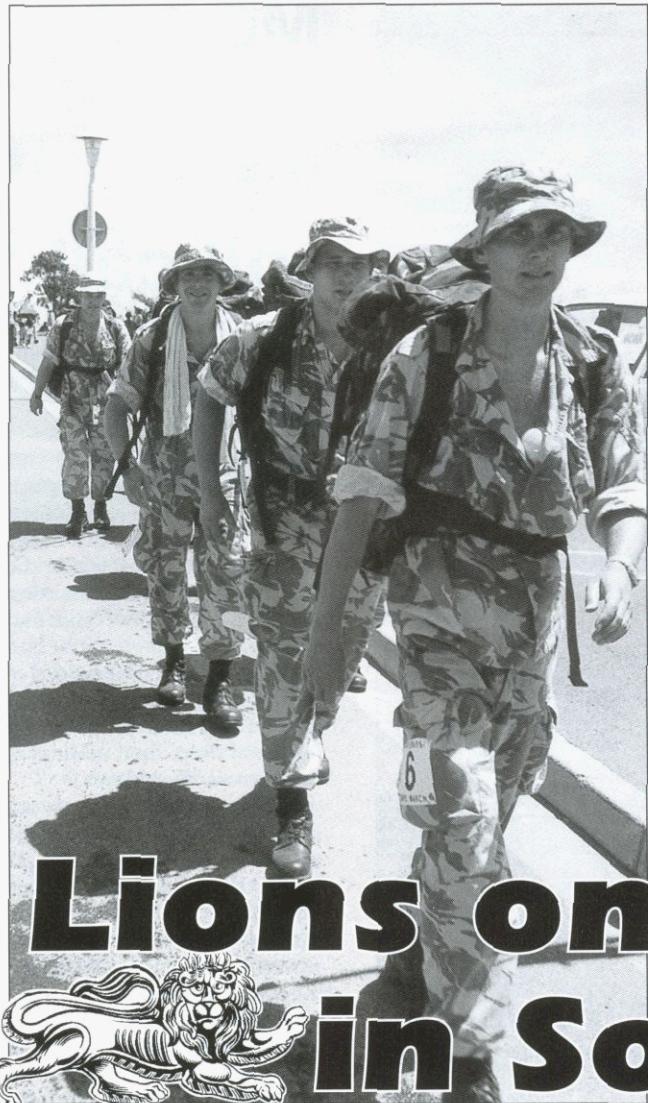
pered by all sorts of problems, such as the dismissal of key managers because of their Nazi affiliations.

Volkswagens were delivered for use by the German civil authorities, the police, Red Cross and postal service.

It is surprising that in Britain the Beetle was given a thumbs-down. Suggestions were made that the car could be of interest to the British motor industry, and three VWs were acquired for detailed examination.

"The Humber company performed this assessment and came up with a rather uncomplimentary report..."

This is an excellent book about a remarkable car, if the reader overlooks a misleading error on Page 8 which puts a stage in the Beetle development no less than 60 years late. There is plenty for the military historian to absorb. – BJ



Above: Members of Recce Platoon, 1 RGBW, take part in the Cape Town city-centre parade which marked the end of the marching competition

Left – Striding out and still smiling (from front), Pte David Tranter, Pte Lee Ashcroft and Cpl Dave Berwick of 4 Kings Own Border

Lions on the prowl in South Africa

RECCE PLATOON of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, and 12 part-time soldiers from the 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment were among British military teams which took part in the international Cape Town march.

Nicknamed the Lions because of their distinctive cap badge, the 4 Kings Own Border "yompers" completed weeks of training for the prestigious competition sponsored by the South African Defence Force (SADF).

An annual event, it attracted 197 military and civilian teams of ten who speed-marched along a 50-mile course over a picturesque route in the Cape Peninsula including slopes of Table Mountain.

As the temperature began to rise sharply at the 30km stage, cramp and dehydration became a problem for some marchers.

Day two was over a distance of 37 kilometres, ending in the centre of Cape Town. The 1 RGBW team, seventh at the half-way stage, eventually finished 11th overall in 11hr 40min, while the Kings Own Borderers were 58th in 13hr 48min, a good result for their first time in the event.

A Royal Marines Logistic Battalion team was the only British Armed Forces' entry to finish ahead of the

RGBW, and that by a mere four minutes.

Later there was time for rest and recreation visits to Table Mountain and the wine-growing area of Stellenbosch. Some members of Terriers were more adventurous, aiming to swim with sharks at the Cape of Good Hope. But the sea was too rough and their adventure was called off. Others visited Kruger National Park and the Eastern Transvaal.

Several enjoyable "braais" – Afrikaans



Well done: Pte David Tranter, 4 Kings Own Border, receives his competition medal from the Senior Regimental Sergeant Major of the South African Army. In the background is Cpl Mike Milburn

for barbecues – were hosted by the 9th South African Infantry and the Cape Town Highlanders.

Meanwhile, the 1 RGBW contingent was hosted by The Cape Town Rifles (The Dukes), an affiliated regiment since 1930.

As the guests of the SADF, the British Army marchers were accommodated at infantry barracks in Khayelitsha, outside Cape Town. The RGBW soldiers trained in the Hermanus Mountains with Lt Col Brian Davison, a former CO of The Dukes, and were entertained at the homes of liaison officer Maj Brian Sterne and current CO Lt Col Jimmy Gerstner.

After the march, they relaxed with visits including the South African Infantry School and the Kango Caves.

A silver sphinx and dragon was presented to the Cape Town Rifles' WOs' and Sergeants' Mess by the RGBW soldiers, who are looking forward to hosting the Dukes at Colchester.

Capt Max Hutton, the Kings Own Border team leader, said: "It was a very worthwhile event and justified the distance and time spent getting there."

Lt Col Tom Cobley, commanding officer of the 4th Battalion, added: "The team was the first Territorial Army unit to participate in the event and they should be proud of their place and finishing time."

Help us find the 'forgotten' veterans of Korea

DURING the Remembrance Sunday march-past of ex-Servicemen and women at the Cenotaph in London, a television commentator described one group as "veterans of a forgotten war".

He was referring to those who served during the Korean conflict of 1950-53, the first war fought in the name of the United Nations.

More than 65,000 members of the British Armed Forces served in Korea, and 1,078 gave their lives. For the past 15 years the aim of the British Korean Veterans' Association has been to promote the interests of all those involved in this conflict.

The year 2000 marks the 50th anniversary of the start of the war, when many commemorative events will take place

● Points in Question – Page 33

here, in Korea itself, and in the other 21 countries around the world which volunteered contingents in support of the UN.

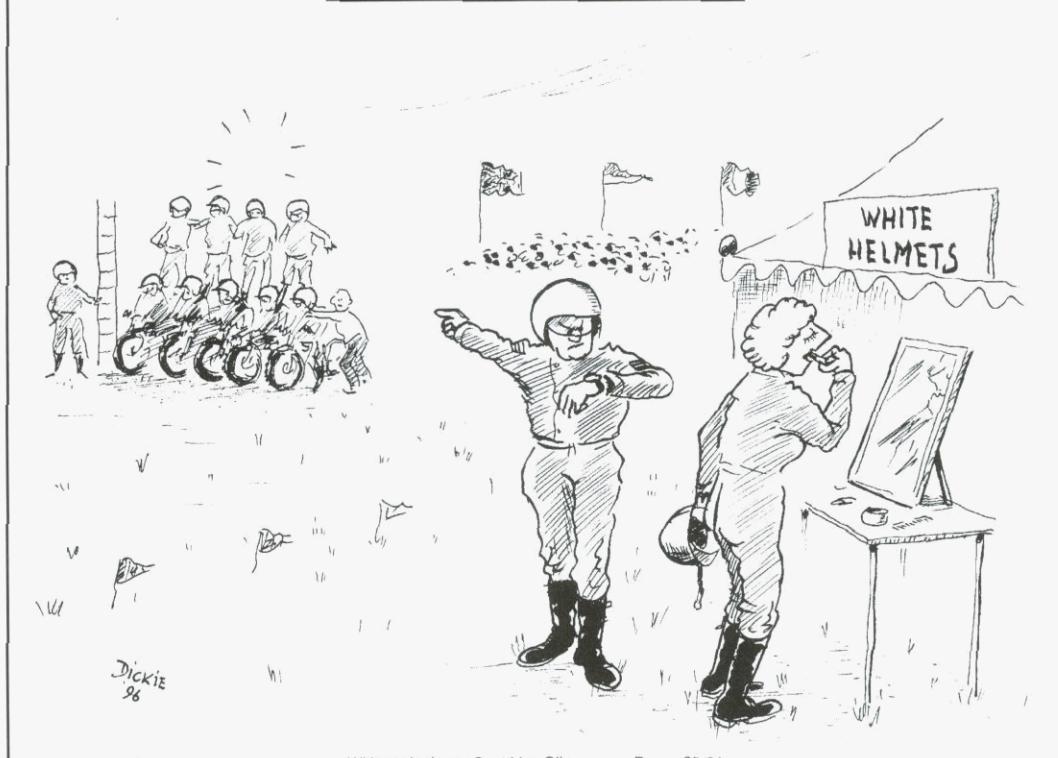
In the run-up to this occasion the BKVA is undertaking a number of projects. One is to establish a permanent memorial to each one of the British war dead. Another is a national survey of surviving veterans of the war.

Thirdly, to provide opportunities for more veterans to revisit Korea, the association has introduced a programme of two-week pilgrimages starting next year.

To assist the survey, 1950-53 veterans, members of the subsequent peacekeeping force, or widows, are invited to write to me.

Information about pilgrimages can be obtained by writing to Tony Leah, Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire SK1 3ER, enclosing sae, or telephoning on 0161 477 4521. – **Sam Mercer, BKVA National Vice-Chairman, 99 Heybridge Avenue, Streatham Common, London SW16 3DS.**

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



With apologies to Capt Lisa Giles – see Pages 20-21

Welsh Cavalry . . . you're the greatest

BY THE time this letter reaches *Soldier*, officers and men of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards will be back with their families and friends in the United Kingdom and Germany.

Those of us with the UN's International Police Task Force (IPTF) who had the pleasure of knowing and working with the QDG in Bosnia and Herzegovina send our sincere appreciation for all their help.

With the QDG in support, the IPTF began to be taken seriously. Indeed, for the local "hard cases", as for many of us, it was something of a revelation to find out that a wagon weighed 70 tons. There are new faces at Barrachi, Bihac, Bosanski Petrovac, Kljuc, Kulen Vakuf, and White Fang, but the ground rules are the ones set by the QDG.

For those of us without means to defend ourselves, life in the Bihac Pocket and the Anvil is a much safer proposition for the QDG's having

served there. Much of our appreciation must go to the CO, Lt Col Hamish Macdonald, and his capable staff. Without their understanding and drive the IPTF, at least in this region, would still be in the first stages of its mission.

Their no-nonsense approach to the many problems we faced early on helped put the IPTF well on the way toward achieving many of the goals set by the Dayton Accords. We owe them for their leadership.

We owe a good deal, as well, to the many people who helped make life bearable . . . the chefs who made us feel welcome, the clerks who helped us keep in touch with home, and all those who never hesitated to ask if we needed something. Most of all, we owe them for their cheerfulness.

From the IPTF team posted to Bosanski Petrovac, special thanks go to the squadron commander, Maj Gil Baldwin, and all the Welsh Cavalry who

operated out of the IFOR base across the road. They were the tops! – **John Richter, Bosanski Petrovac Team, Banja Luka Region, UNIPTF.**

Missing chapter

THE BOOK *A Fighting Retreat – The British Empire 1947-97* by Robin Neillands, reviewed in the November 25 issue, should have included a piece in the Canal Zone section by Col Pip Newton.

This is not buttering up a senior officer . . . everyone knows he is the authority on that theatre during the Emergency. Perhaps he could be prevailed upon by the author to write a foreword in any reprint.

Regarding the 25 per cent discount on the book price applicable to contributors. This should be extended to all soldiers who took part in these actions – they were contributors too. – **C L Golder, Bolton.**

● Other letters in a similar vein have been received from W H D Podd, of Oulton Broad, Suffolk, and L Oliver, of Colchester.

Soldier welcomes letters for publication from all readers, whatever their status. Letters must be brief, typed or written clearly and include the correspondent's name and address in block capitals, not necessarily for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to edit for length, clarity or style.



Two British Army Land Rovers cross a tributary of the Zambezi by manually-operated ferry at the end of their long trip from Kenya

Southern cross

TWELVE British soldiers have completed the trip of a lifetime – and made a significant contribution to animal conservation in Africa.

They volunteered to drive four Army Land Rovers from Nairobi in Kenya to Harare in Zimbabwe, a distance of 2,500km, and contributed £500 of their own money towards the cost of flights to Africa, petrol and food.

The Series 3 vehicles had been in service for 12 years for military training in Kenya. All had been “around the clock” and were about to be replaced by a more up-to-date model. Normally they would have been sold off locally at a fraction of their true value as it costs too much to return them to the United Kingdom.

After their marathon journey through Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the slightly-dishevelled Land Rovers were donated to the Zambezi Society by the British High Commissioner in Harare. They will be used for wildlife conservation projects in the Zambezi valley.

The gift of the vehicles came about thanks to the efforts of team leader Lt Col Roddy Shaw-Brown, a member of the Zambezi Society,

which has a branch in the UK. Among its achievements are the creation of an internationally-recognised rhino survival campaign.

Thanks to the high quality of regular ser-

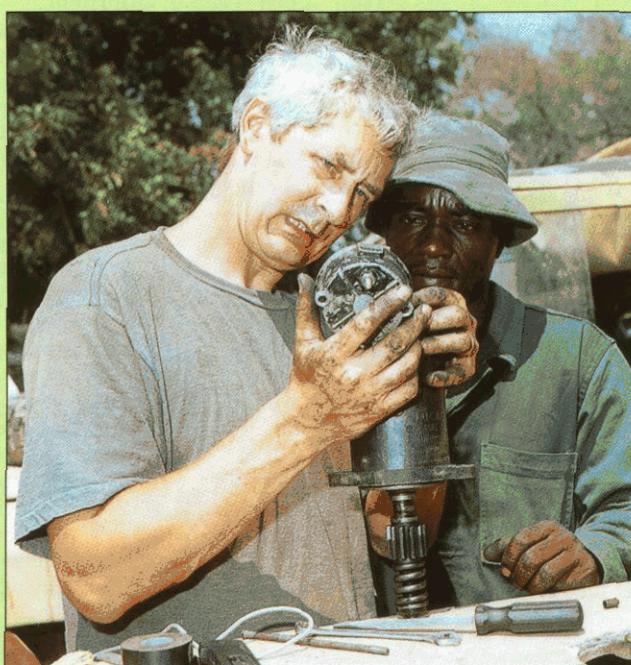
vicing they have received in the Army, the Land Rovers compared favourably with many more recent models the soldiers came across in Africa.

As well as handing over the vehicles, priceless commodities in conservation work, the soldiers – most of whom are in the REME – repaired and serviced vehicles in the wildlife parks where they stayed.

They also carried out repair work in the Manna Pools conservation park in northern Zimbabwe. One of the trucks they serviced had been donated by the British Army at the end of a similar expedition two years ago. It had covered thousands of miles, proof that the gift of four more Land Rovers, however old, will be of real value within the country's game parks.

Many of the roads they encountered were dirt tracks which disappeared in clouds of dust in the intense heat. The soldiers slept under shelter improvised on the sides of their vehicles.

But it was not all hard work: expedition members saw large numbers of spectacular wildlife at close quarters, enjoyed a river safari on the Zambezi, and visited the Victoria Falls.



Sgt Alaistair 'Dusty' Miller helps a game warden at Manna Pools Conservation Park in Northern Zimbabwe

A 13-part postcard series on the new regiments and corps of the British Army of the 1990s

THE LIGHT DRAGOONS

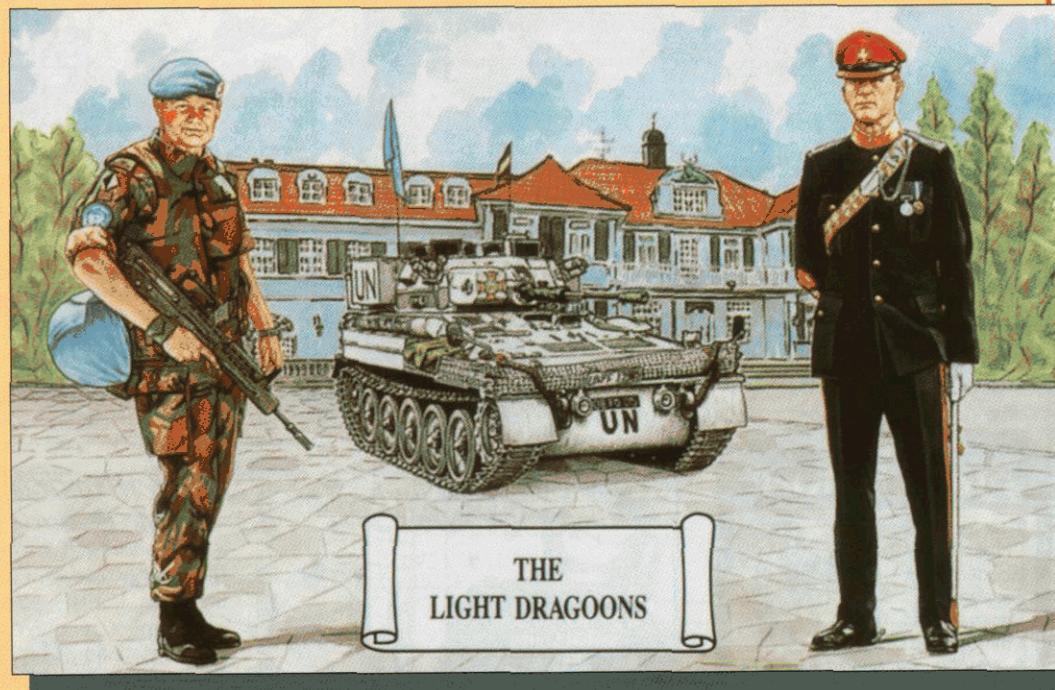
THE Light Dragoons were created from the amalgamation of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars on December 1, 1992.

Of the new regiment's predecessors, the 13th/18th dates back to November 1922, when the 13th Hussars amalgamated with the 18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own). The 15th/19th formed in April 1922 on the combination of 15th The King's Hussars with 19th Royal Hussars (Queen Alexandra's Own).

Since December 1992, the regiment, which has an armoured reconnaissance role, has been involved with the international peacekeeping mission in former Yugoslavia. All four Sabre squadrons, supported by HQ Squadron and joined by RHQ, have served in Bosnia.

The postcard illustrated was reproduced from a water-colour painting by Simon McCouaig. It shows:

- Lance corporal: combat dress, UN Bosnia.



- Regimental sergeant major: No 1 dress (ceremonial).
- Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicle.
- Background: Schloss Bredebeck, Germany.

The diamond-shaped South African flash of the 13th/18th in the illustration is worn by the lance corporal in combat dress, while the RSM wears the Royal Crest or cipher of the 15th/19th under his rank

badge and a scarlet forage cap with gold braided peak (originally a Heavy Cavalry distinction).

An elephant surmounted by Assaye and Niagra is worn on his cross belt.

For details of this and other postcards depicting regiments and corps of the British Army, send SAE to: Geoff White Ltd., 19, Rushmoor Lane, Backwell, Bristol, BS19 3JA.

● Who owns film copyright?

Q: An agency is advertising in a military journal for film or video for a TV documentary. Respondents are reminded that photographs and film taken on operations and exercises automatically becomes the property of the MoD, and that prosecutions are likely over unauthorised use.

Would the 30-year rule apply here? Or must I assume that my photographic collection from the Korean War, preserved over 45 years, and to which I claim copyright, is in reality MoD property? – **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

A: Copyright applies only to film or photographs taken by Service or MoD official cameramen in the course of their duty. – **Editor.**



Q: Why are there no medals for the wounded?

A: REFERENCE Cpl W Hibbert's letter (Nov 11), may I explain what the German rules were for their medal? The Wounded badge was instituted in March 3, 1918 and reconstituted by Hitler for the Spanish campaign on March 22, 1939.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, a new design was

introduced showing the later type steel helmet.

As in the First World War, there were three types: black (wounded once or twice); silver (wounded three or four times); and gold (wounded five times or more).

Silver could be conferred for the loss of hand, foot or eye, or in cases of deafness. The badges were not issued for illness or disability contracted on active service, although frostbite was an exception. The award



Spanish badge



Second World War badge

was worn on the left hand breast pocket. In 1957 the award was reintroduced for veterans, this time minus the swastika. Miniature versions may also be worn in a ribbon bar. – **WO1 (RSM) Coverdale, 252 Pro Coy RMP (V), Stockton on Tees.**

Q: Who was Mad Jack of Army Commando fame?

A: R D Chambers said in Points in Question (Nov 11) that Lt Col Jack Churchill was so-called "Mad Jack". I doubt this. There were two Churchills in the commandos, but Jackie – J M T Churchill – was in the Manchester Regiment, and on the outbreak of war was a lieutenant in D Company at Aldershot.

His brother was my company commander in A Company. We went to France with the 2nd Division, and on the retreat Jackie was awarded the MC, later gaining the DSO in Italy and a bar to the DSO in Yugoslavia. But he was never in Norway.

While in France, he is said to have killed a pig with his bow and arrow, with which he was an expert. He was also a competent player of the bagpipes, and rode across India on a motor cycle in the Thirties. Quite a man. He died earlier this year. – **John Sullivan, Calverton, Notts.**

For the record

For "Sandy's" read Sandes

IN response to Mr J White of Lancaster (Letters, Dec 9), I can assure him that Sandes – or "Sandy's" as he recalled it – at Balbykinler certainly does exist and is still providing good food and comfortable surroundings for the men, women and families who live and work there.

A new Sandes (pictured) was built in 1973 after the bombing by

the IRA a year earlier of the centre Mr White would have known. Incidentally, Sandes has just opened its latest centre in Bulford Garrison, one of Mr White's later postings with the Royal Artillery.

Sorry I can't help on the matter of the Christmas Day menu, but I don't imagine it has changed very much in 50 years. – **Hazel M Knox, General Secretary of Sandes, Belfast.**





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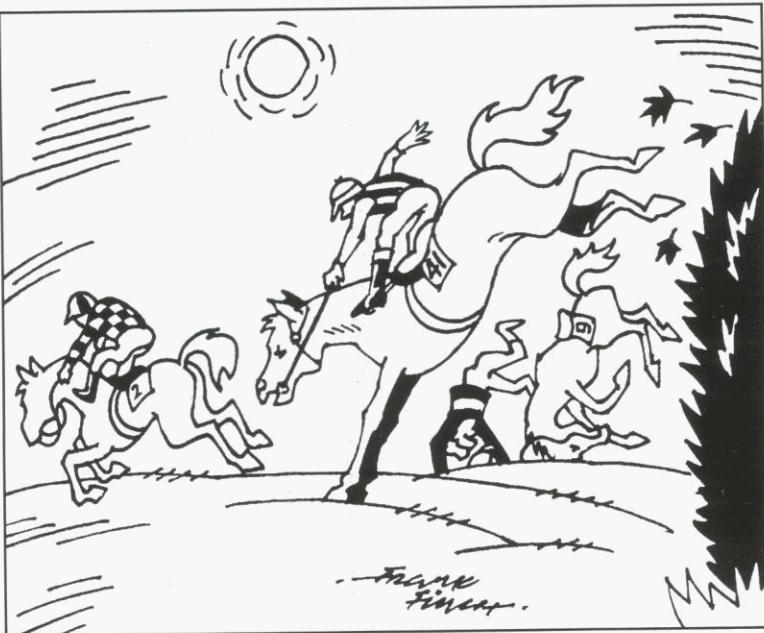


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else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the February 17 issue.

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Competition No 649 (Nov 11 issue): First correct entry drawn was sent in by Mr G L Massey, of Solihull, W Midlands, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr K J Whitehouse, of Cheltenham, Glos, and Pte D Wall, of 1 Bn REME, CS Coy MT Section, Sipovo, Op Resolute, BFPO 538. The differences were: "E" in sign; canteen assistant's hair, lapel, left arm, buttons; rail joint; soldier's sideburn, bicep; chef's bow; toad held by chef.



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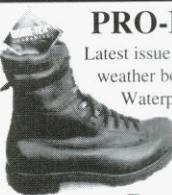


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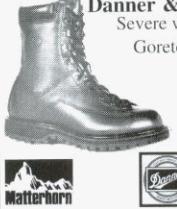


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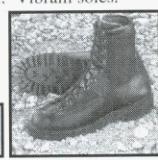
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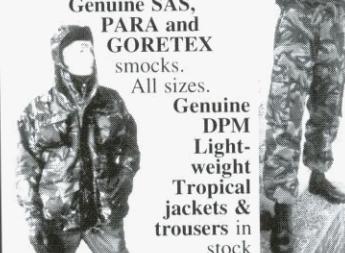


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Nikki, 24, 5'7", strawberry blonde with freckles. She is cheerful and lively and enjoys the gym, music, clubbing and reading. Seeking pen pals aged 25+. **P886**

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Jennie, 27, 5'6", a student teacher who enjoys the gym, walking, reading, music, the theatre and cinema. Seeking male pen pals aged 28-32. **P888**

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Jackie, 39, 5'4", slim and attractive. Interests include eating, swimming and listening to music (all types). Would like to correspond with someone aged 35-70 as a friend. **P893**

Rebecca, 23, 5'6", with crazy curly hair and brown eyes. Enjoys socialising, laughing and enjoying life. Seeking male pen pals of any age. **P890**

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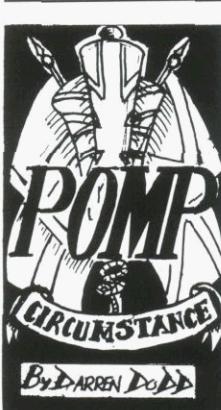
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Berry, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down;

Sgt GA Black, The London Regt (V);

Sgt JMN Bobbett, 2 CS Regt RLC,

BFPO 47; Sgt TJ Boggs, 4 R IRISH,

BFPO 804; SSgt MJ Boston, 14 Signal

Regt (EW), Brawdy; Cpl PM Brenton,

QG SIGNALS, BFPO 1; Cpl S Mincher,

1 GH, BFPO 36; Sgt RJ Mitchell, HQ Aldershot

Garrison; Cpl AL Morgan, HQ RMP

Cyprus, BFPO 53; Cpl DPF Murphy, 2

CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47; Cpl

Narendrakumar Tamang, QG

SIGNALS, BFPO 1; Spr K Neill, 38 Engr

Regt, Ripon; Lt Col DJ Norton, HQ

QMG, Andover; Cpl DG O'Callaghan,

HQBFB Cyprus, BFPO 53; SSgt LP Ord,

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Paull, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38; SSgt A

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Perham Down; Cpl DR Rainey, 175

Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 801; W02 NJ

Rothery, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; LCpl

TL Sallis, 14 Signal Regt (EW); Capt

RA Scott, 1 Signal Sqn (V), Bedford;

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Storey, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; W02

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Welfare, HQ LAND ES (Avn),

Netheravon; LTR Whiteoak, JSPI, RAF

Wyton; SSgt A Woodley, 233 Signal

Sqn, BFPO 801; Maj AEH Worsley, 1

RGJ, Bulford.

NOVEMBER 30, 1996

TWO-way tie for first prize (22 goals,

£1,875 each): Cpl M Cummings,

SHAPE, BFPO 26; Sgt GLG Lavis,

School of Army Avn,

Middle Wallop;

FOUR-way tie for third prize (21 goals,

£487.50 each): W02 GC Birch, 1

RSME Regt, Chatham; Maj DN

Hamilton, 35 Engr Regt, BFPO 31;

SCpl LJ Kibble, HCR, Windsor; Sgt CS

Riach, Dhekelia Garrison Wksp, BFPO

58;

ELEVEN-way tie for seventh prize (20

goals, £27.27 each): Gnr IDJ

Acraman, 26 Regt RA, BFPO 113; Maj

EJ Dawson, MAS (A), Guildford; WO1

KJ Finnimore, 1 D and D, BFPO 22;

Bdr I Hoggan, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich;

Cpl AR Kennedy, Royal

School of Signals, Blandford; CSgt SG

Kilpatrick, The London Regt (V); SSgt

S King, 15 Signal Regt, BFPO 801; Sgt

PR Lamont, 115 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO

15; SSgt DJ Lang, ITC Catterick; Sgt

GKG Lavis, School of Army Avn,

Middle Wallop; WO1 WR Lindsay,

HCR, Windsor; Cpl DN Lowe, 1

CHESHIRE, BFPO 802; WO2 Mancini,

1 RHA, Tidworth; Sgt NB Matthews, 7

R IRISH, BFPO 801; LCpl J McBride,

2 Armd Fd Amb, BFPO 36.

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RESULTS**Football**

Massey Trophy: AMS 0, Infantry 5; RE 4, AMS 0; AGC 1, APTC 2; APTC 0, Infantry 3; RLC 8, AAC 0; Infantry 3, REME 0; AAC 1, AGC 1; AMS 2, RLC 9.

Angling

Inter-Corps coarse championships: 1, Infantry A; 2, RE; 3, RLC A; 4, REME A; 5, R Signals. Individual: Cpl Evans, RLC, 15lb 11oz.

Martial arts

Army championships, karate

Kumite: Black belt Tpr S Webster, R Anglian; brown belt, SSgt M Jerrard, APTC; 4th/5th Kyu, SSgt M Wibberley, REME; novice, LCpl S Bullard, R Irish; women, Capt H Thompson, RAMC. Team - 32 Armd Engr Regt.

Kata: Black belt, LCpl T Cashmore, RE; brown belt, OCdt R Streathfield, RMAS; 4th/5th Kyu, Cfn C Davies, REME, novice, Cpl S Elsdon, RLC; women, OCdt F Robinson, RMAS. Team - 1 RTR.

Tae kwon do: Senior, LCpl A Tate, HCMR; junior, Sig G Hardman, R Signals; women, LCpl J France, AGC (RMP). Patterns: senior, LCpl E Walker, REME; junior, Sig G Hardman, R Signals; women, Sig P Hardy.

President's Cup: LCpl T Cashmore, RE; **Mejin Trophy:** LCpl E Walker, REME.

Judo

Army championships

Men - Under 65kg/U60kg, LCpl Jones, 5 Regt AAC; U71kg, Pte Ghio, Gibraltar Regt; U86kg, Sig Betts, 11 Sig Regt; U95kg/O95kg, Pte Rawlinson, Gibraltar Regt. Team: 1, 1 RRF A; 2, 1 RRF B; 3, 1 R Anglian and 11 Sig Regt.

Intermediate: 1, Sig Gray, 11 Sig Regt; 2, Sig Douglas, 11 Sig Regt; 3, Cpl Waterhouse, Para and Sgt Brown, 23 Pnr Regt.

Women - Intermediate: 1, Sig Hardy, 11 Sig Regt; 2, LCpl Couper, Gibraltar Regt; 3, Cfn Lam, SEAE and Pte Petty, 2 CS Regt.



Gloves off: These 13 young soldiers from the Royal Logistic Corps returned victorious from boxing against the United States Marine Corps and US Navy in Norfolk, Virginia. They won seven of the 12 bouts on the first night of the competition, and five out of seven on the last night. Manager Lt Mike Scannell said their success was due to intensive training supervised by coach Sgt Lee Panter.

Lucky Sussex gallop away on a gift horse

Army U21 12, Sussex U21 24

A YOUNG Army rugby union team had the game all but won at half time by holding Sussex 5-5 when they had the benefit of a strong wind at their backs, **writes Tom Wye**.

But the Army gifted the visitors the softest of interceptions, which turned the game on its head. Army heads dropped and Sussex found the bounce back in their stride.

Sussex scored two more tries before the soldiers got their act together. They then spent the

last ten minutes on the Sussex line, were awarded a penalty try and were on the verge of another when the final whistle blew. For the soldiers it was a missed chance to chalk up a win in the championships.

Spr Green (35 Engr Regt), who played for Sussex before he enlisted, scored a fine opening try.

There was, however, one happy soldier after the game. Maj Colin Bowes-Crick, assistant chairman of the ARU U21s, is also the Sussex chairman.

White-hot nerve holds out

BEATTIE third. Only first barrel kills went towards the all-round total.

By the final event, the 100 skeet, the 36 guns were feeling the strain of three days of competition. Scores suffered and the result rested on the last round after Lumsden had shot a 93. White forced a shoot-off for the all-round title which he won, finishing ahead of Lumsden with Beattie third.

RUSSIAN BLAST

History was made when 15 members of the British Army clay target shooting team visited Russia to take part in a com-

petition at the Russian Military Hunting Society's shooting ground, built for the Moscow Olympics.

The team had a chance to blast off large quantities of "Russian thumpers", 28-gm East German-made, soft lead cartridges, leaving many with aching shoulders.

It soon became clear that this was no ordinary Russian team... and it turned out that the Army was shooting against the country's Olympic squad.

But, at the end, the difference in scores was a creditable 60 clays.

Csjt Darrel White (1 LI) won the sporting championship with 89, two ahead of RSM Gordon Lumsden (RS). WO2 David Beattie (R Irish) was third after a shoot off.

The down-the-line event produced some upsets and the event was won by RSM Lumsden. Sgt Simon Arbuckle (RMP) was second with WO2

Second best

Army 0, Royal Navy 2

THE Royal Navy made good progress in their quest to retain football's South West Counties Championship by outplaying the Army at Aldershot Military Stadium, **writes Derrick Bly**.

The sailors controlled the game and the 2-0 score-line flattened the home side.

LBdr Lee Bluck, Cpl Lee Innes and LCpl Darren Glenister attempted to get their attack moving but the Army midfield spent much of the first 45 minutes trying to stem the flowing football of the champions.

The Navy took the lead on the stroke of half time when a cross from the left was not cleared and Thwaites hammered a left foot drive past goalkeeper Cpl Ian Elliott. The visitors increased their lead 15 minutes into the second half, Johnson dispossessing WO2 Kevin Parkins and setting up the chance for Haigh.

Army coach QMSI Duncan Russell introduced Bdr Gary Tootill and Sig Johnston in place of Sgt Gary Williams and Glaister, but the Navy should have scored again when Thwaites missed from six yards.

Army 2, TA 1

The Army, jet-lagged from their Nepal tour, took on the Territorial Army at Aldershot and, in an epic struggle, emerged victors by the odd goal in three.

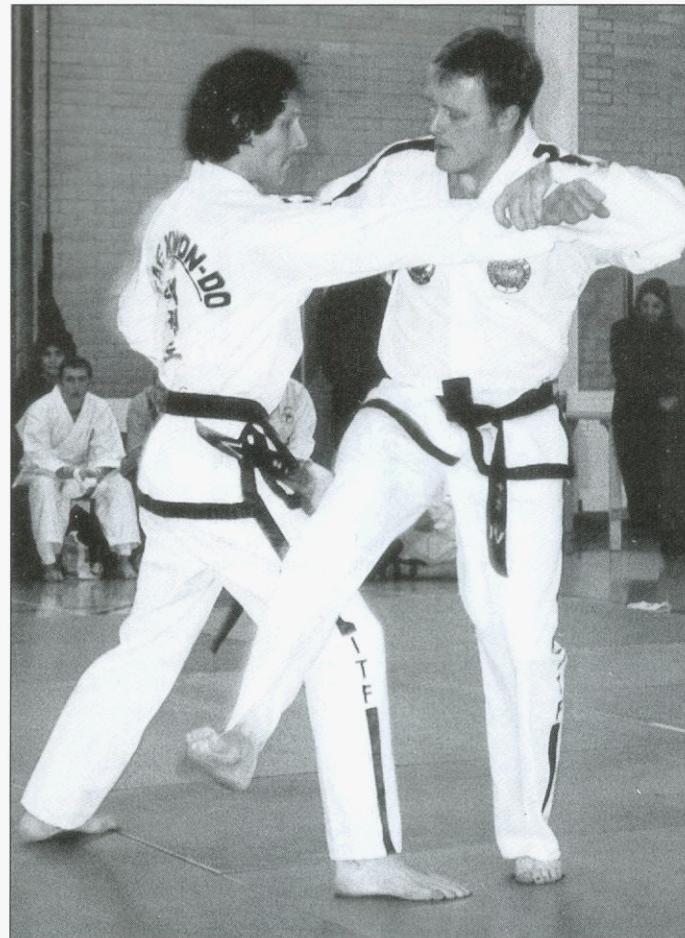
It turned out to be a high-scoring spectacle enjoyed by a large and partisan crowd at the London Welsh ground.

It was also quite an occasion for two sets of brothers who represented the Army - Sid and Calum Zaloumas (both RLC), and the Davies brothers (30 and 88) of the Welsh Guards.

Skipper Spr Hughes got the soldiers off to a flying start by going over under the posts. Sid Zaloumas intercepted to score under the posts and, although the Exiles responded, the visitors led 10-5 at the interval.

Following a Welsh score in the opening minutes of the second half, Hughes crashed over for his second try. The home team responded with a try of their own before Hughes weaved his way across the line to complete his hat trick.

With the Army leading 20-17 and the whistle overdue, a famous victory looked possible. But after nearly ten minutes of injury time the Exiles ran in a fine try to win 24-20.



Tae kwon do 5th Dan Ray O'Neill (left) demonstrates a move

Kick start for the Army's martial artists

SIXTY-TWO soldiers from as far afield as Cyprus, Germany and Northern Ireland took part in the first Army martial arts championship at Bulford, **writes Rob Howells**.

In the karate finals, SSgt Marty Jerrard (APTC) did well to keep his cool and defeat WO2 Michael Riley to win the brown belt title. In an earlier heat, Riley had thrilled spectators with a spectacular take-down of an opponent who had been attacking him with an axe kick. The black belt final saw

Staff Cpl Anthony Tate (HCMR) won the senior tae kwon do final, despite some spectacular reverse spinning kicks by LCpl Rastha Kuma Rai. After a slow start in the women's open event, LCpl Jenny France (RMP) made

REME snatch the advantage

OPENING day of the annual Inter-Corps badminton championship at Beaconsfield was dominated by teams from the Adjutant General's Corps and REME.

An even contest throughout the two-day competition was anticipated, but the Royal Sig-

nals were unable to release their best players until the second day, the sappers lost their first pairing, and the RLC struggled throughout to retain their three pairings.

Despite the problems, there were plenty of good signs for the future, with several very

Triathlete squad triumph

A TALENTED Army squad swept to victory at the Inter-Service triathlon championships.

As reigning men's champions, the soldiers were keen to retain the title and improve on recent efforts in the over 35s and women's categories.

The Royal Air Force beat the Army over 35s into second place and the Army women were also runners up in their category.

Individually, Capt Phil Dove saw off the Marines' usually unbeatable top triathlete, while Cpl Des Hutton and Pte Nick Saunders both figured strongly.

RSM Al Roberts easily won the veteran event, while LCpl Sonia Hurst continued her improving form to finish third female overall.

It has been a good season for Army athletes. Seven soldiers were chosen to represent Great Britain at the world triathlon championships in America, and two went to the world duathlons in Italy.

good use of her height advantage to wear down Sig Pam Hardy.

The President's Cup, awarded to the competitor who demonstrated the highest technical merit on the day, went to LCpl Tony Cashmore (RE), while LCpl Elliot Walker (REME) won the Mejin Shield for the most spirited performance.

Minor injuries are inevitable in this sort of competition, and Sig Arwyn Efans (R Sigs) left with two mementos, the runner-up trophy in the novice karate category, and a broken nose.

Following the successful debut of the championships and official recognition of martial arts by the RAF, organisers hope to put on an inter-Service event in the spring.

New tennis centre opens for service

THE DUKE of Kent opened the Army Lawn Tennis Association's new £1 million indoor tennis complex at Aldershot.

The sporting venue, which is open to the public as well as the military personnel, has four indoor courts, and 12 outdoor

courts are under construction.

Work on the project, which is being built in partnership with the Hampshire LTA, began in 1994 and should be completed next summer.

After the Duke had unveiled a commemorative tablet, Gen

Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff and president of the Army LTA, said the building had been the dream of Army tennis players for many years.

"We are building a first-class facility for the Army, for

Hampshire and for tennis players of all ages in this area."

The complex, which will contain a fitness suite, shop, viewing gallery and restaurant, was financed by sources including Army Central Funds, Vickers plc and the Nuffield Trust.

Robbie and Co squash Police hopes

EIGHT frustrating years of unsuccessful attempts were forgotten when the Army's squash squad finally broke the Police stranglehold and won the annual quadrangular tournament at Nottingham.

The soldiers had played second fiddle to the strong Police every year since 1988.

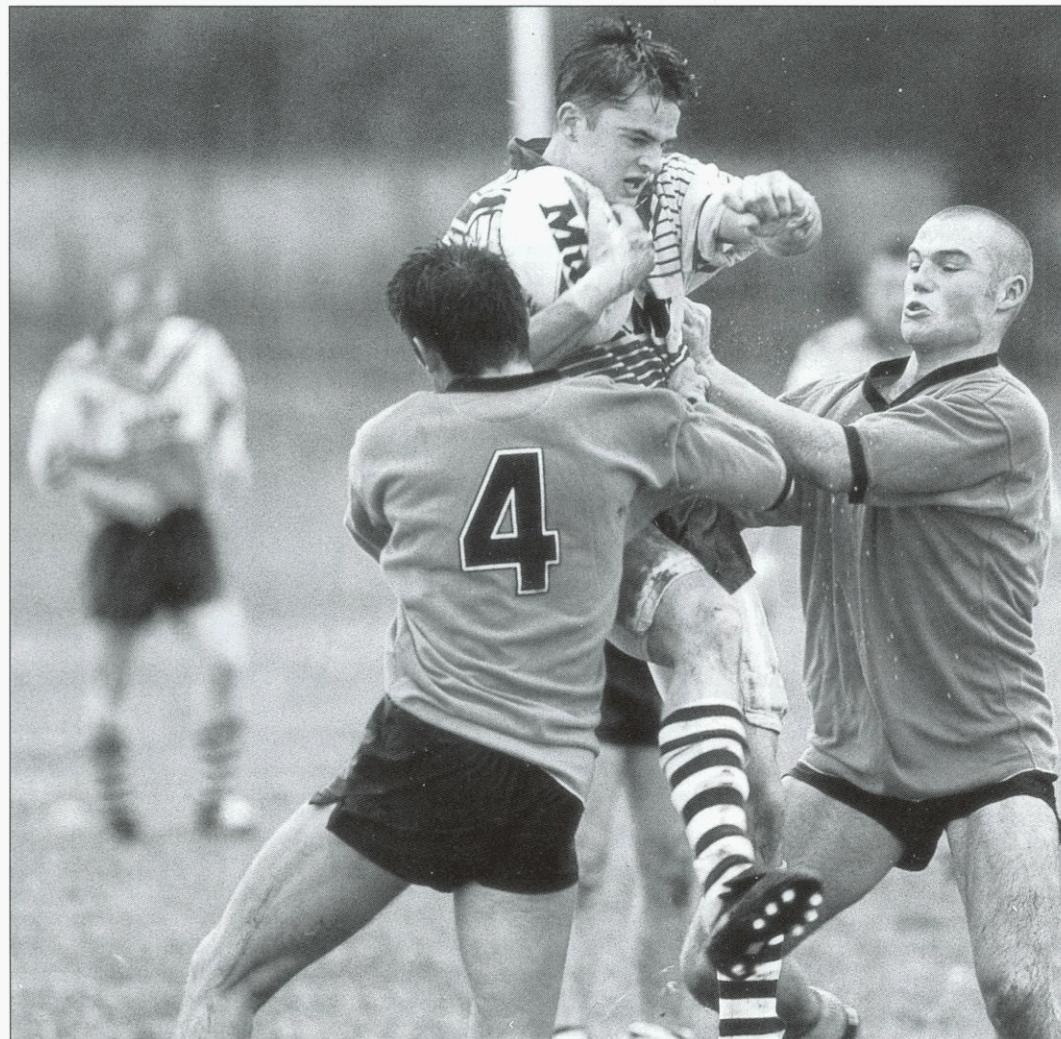
Their first match did not produce many dramas and the Army came out 5-0 winners, with only No 4 Maj Peter Ratcliffe being extended.

Result of the match against the Royal Navy was even more convincing as all five players won in straight games to set up a decider against the Police.

WO2 Chris Wilson took a 2-0 lead but lost 2-3, while SSgt Nigel Hissey struggled against a very experienced opponent and lost by the same margin.

Army champion SSgt Gary Clarke gave a command performance to win 3-1 and Maj Peter Ratcliffe pulled another back with a 3-1 win.

Veteran Maj Robbie Robinson, for many years the Army champion, completed the triumph in a final which looked as if it might go either way. But Robinson proved why he is still regarded as one of the Service's best players and powered his way to a 3-1 victory to clinch the tournament title.



Cfn O'Dell hurls himself against two defenders in the match with the London Broncos development side

Broncos throw young guns

Army U21 9, London Broncos Academy 15

THE ARMY's young rugby league stars were given a tough baptism of fire when the Under-21 team played its inaugural fixture against the London Broncos Academy.

Early pace was set by the Army with three drop goals from scrum half and captain Tpr Mark O'Fee (RDG). But the Broncos surged back with a

try late in the first half and another early in the second.

With 20 minutes remaining, some outstanding work by Cfn Fisher (SEAE) and Cfn Adams (SEME) in the forwards led to the Army's only try, scored by Tpr Hickinson (RDG).

With five minutes left, the Broncos scored again to make it 15-9.

The Army did well to run the London Broncos, the young

pretenders of an up-and-coming Super League club, so close in their first match. With a return game planned for the future, the Army is in training for its next fixture against Hull RLFC's academy side.

Players who want to take part in the next U21 trials should contact SSgt Dave Heppell on 725 2699 or fax 725 2698. Coaches and managers are also asked to submit names.

COMING SOON IN SOLDIER

ITEMS being prepared for forthcoming issues include: ● Northern Ireland

photographic competition
● Rodney Bashford on a lifetime of responding to

bugle calls ● C Company, 1 RGBW in Jordan ● Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow

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SOLDIER



Holding the fort: Four soldiers of D Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment line the ramparts on the Kong Shan observation post overlooking the Chinese border from the New Territories. It is known as the "OP of a Thousand Steps" because of the very long climb from, and descent to, the nearest road. From left are Pte Simon Baker, LCpl Paul Howell, Cpl Mark Ball, Sgt Dave Edkins and Pte Colin Jackson. The Staffords are due to be relieved in Hong Kong by the Black Watch in February.

Picture: Terry Champion

