

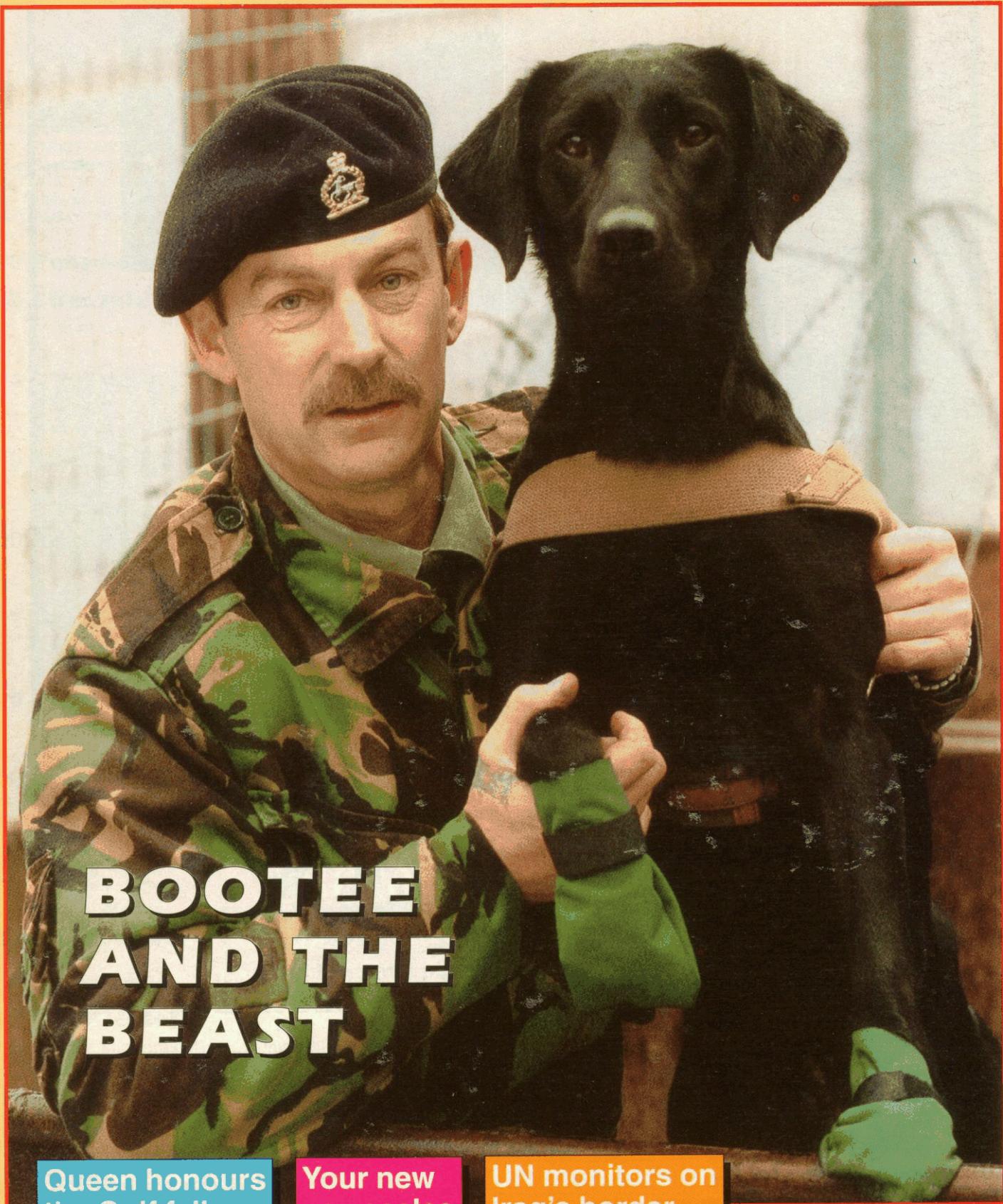
SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

MARCH 18 1996

60p

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine
March 18, 1996 Vol 52/6

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Ceremonial guard makes way



Picture: Mike Weston

A soldier of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards dressed in combat gear patrols the forecourt of Buckingham Palace as heightened security measures against IRA attacks were introduced in London. RDG deploys – Page 8

EARLY MOVES ON BETT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Army - a career for the 21st century

FIVE-STAR ranks in peacetime have been abolished and performance-related pay will be introduced to the Armed Forces as a result of the Bett Review.

These were among early conclusions by the MoD which were announced by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames ahead of a more definitive range of decisions in the summer.

Recommendations by Bett in areas ranging from career predictability and family stability to pensions are being considered in detail, with an eye on

the recruiting and retention needs of the next century.

The Bett report, published last April, called for several ranks to be scrapped, including lieutenant general, brigadier and colonel.

Apart from the decision to abolish field marshals and their equivalents in peacetime, only minor changes to officer ranks and some streamlining of other

ranks were now being planned although this would be kept under review, said the minister.

"We agree on the importance of using the minimum number of ranks and layers in non-operational organisations," he said.

But performance-related pay and private sector-style personnel management methods

● Turn to Page 5

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QLR in position

THE 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment has replaced the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers as one of the two British infantry battalions dedicated to the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force in former Yugoslavia.

Commanded by Lt Col Grahame Flood, Tidworth-based 1 QLR is deployed in central Bosnia where it will help to monitor the peace between former combatants and support humanitarian work.

● First proving flight into an airfield near the largest Bosnia Serb town, Banja Luka, was carried out at the end of February when a C-130 Hercules landed there.

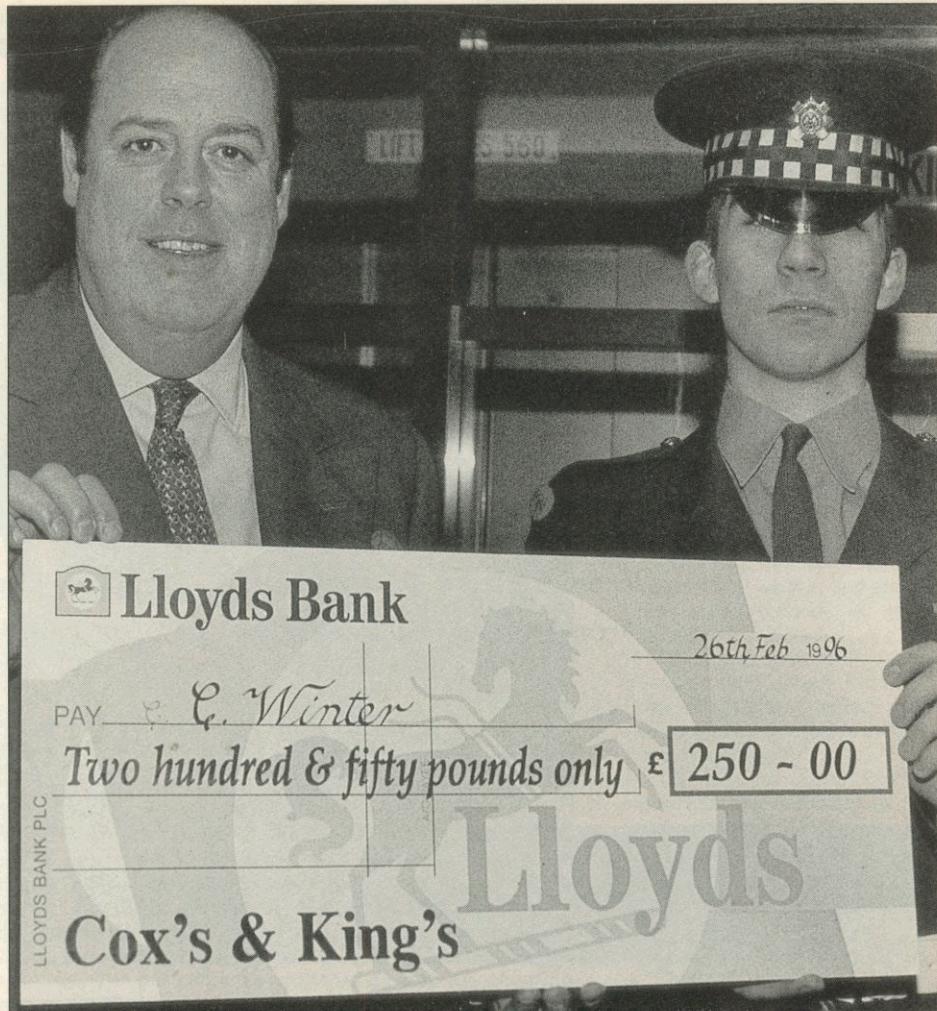
BIG GUNS

● The big guns of the Royal Artillery fired over the Balkans for the first time at the end of February – but not in anger. AS90s of 26 Regiment RA carried out a live-firing exercise on a former Yugoslav Army range near Glamoc, where 52 Battery is based.

● Pte Simon Leslie Fox of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, died at Sanski Most from an accidental shot from an SA 80. No hostile action was involved.

● The 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment has completed large-scale armoured vehicle manoeuvre and live-fire training at Castle-martin in preparation for a possible six-month deployment to the Balkans.

● A map showing locations of major units on Op Resolute appears on Pages 24 and 25.



Cheque mate . . .

Gdsm Christopher Winter signed up a mate and earned himself a cheque for £250 . . . and the personal thanks of Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames. Gdsm Winter, of the 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards, was the first soldier to persuade a friend to join up under the Satisfied Soldier Scheme introduced by the Ministry of Defence to boost recruiting figures

Picture: Mike Weston

A career for the 21st century

● From Page 3

will be introduced and the principle of a tri-Service agency to manage personnel administration and pay delivery systems has been endorsed.

In terms of postings and turbulence, there is a pledge to try to achieve greater predictability in career management and improved family stability for personnel.

The need to support greater individual choice in areas such as home ownership and accompanied service will also be given serious consideration.

Sir Michael Bett's independent review of Armed Forces' manpower, career and remuneration structures made the

setting-up of a Services personnel board the first priority.

This management group has already been established under the chairmanship of the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, and is developing a personal strategy to help shape future terms and conditions of service.

As well as all individual Service chiefs it will also include an external member with relevant personnel management experience.

Early work has concentrated on career and rank structures, the balance between mobility

and stability, policies on accompanied and unaccompanied service and related issues.

"The rank structure must be driven by operational considerations, including the need for continuity of command in the face of casualties," said Mr Soames.

"Account also needs to be taken of the increasingly multinational nature of operations and the need therefore for the United Kingdom rank structure to fit together with that of other countries.

"In the light of these considerations, we have decided not

to implement the full package of changes proposed."

Mr Soames said changes resulting from the review were expected to be "broadly neutral in cost terms – this is not a savings exercise."

He added: "At the same time, we will be looking to achieve reductions in the longer-term resource cost of manpower and increased value for money, as Sir Michael envisaged, through better management of our people."

Further study of the recommendations and development work are continuing with the intention of making a "definitive announcement" in the summer.

SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Telephone: Ald Mil plus extension; Civil 01252 347 plus last three digits of extension



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

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It's shoppers' showtime in Belfast



Belfast city centre shoppers were given an unexpected musical treat when bandmen of the Highland Division joined the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers for an impromptu concert.

Despite the end of the cease-fire, the musicians were determined to accept a long-standing invitation from the Lord Mayor of Belfast to a reception at the City Hall. The bandmen had been touring schools and hospitals in Northern Ireland and took the opportunity to show shoppers another side of soldiering with a pageant of piping and dancing.

The performance attracted a clapping, cheering audience of thousands.

Generals' pay awards rise by 3.9 per cent

GENERALs and field marshals have been awarded a pay rise of 3.9 per cent to be made in two stages.

From April 1 they will get an extra 2.9 per cent, with the balance due on December 1.

Lieutenant generals will get 5.6 per cent, also staged, with 4.6 per cent from April 1 and the rest from December, and major generals will get a staged 4.4 per cent (3.4 from April 1).

The Government accepted the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) Report, which maintains the permanent minimum ten per cent differential between one-star and two-star officers introduced in January last year.

In the light of the Bett Review, the SSRB postponed work on performance and London pay announced in 1995.

Pay scales – Pages 14-17

APPRENTICES from the Army School of Catering, Aldershot, went away with 23 of the 43 awards gained by the school at this year's Hotelympia catering competition in London.

Over the week of the event, the St Omer Barracks-based unit won five gold, ten silver and seven bronze medals, 13

certificates of merit, five best-in-class and two special awards, and a best team prize.

App Ryan Wearne won a gold medal in the junior cook-and-serve competition and also made up half of the two-man team who struck bronze in the inter-Service cook-and-serve event.

Gen Wilsey steps down



GEN Sir John Wilsey (above) retired on March 1 after three years at the helm of Land Command and Joint Commander of Op Resolute, the British military support of NATO's Implementation Force in the Balkans.

He presided over the transition from UK Land Forces to Land Command on April 1 last year, when his HQ at Wilton, near Salisbury, became the single focus centre for all the Army's worldwide operations.

Gen Wilsey has been succeeded by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, himself replaced as GOC Northern Ireland by Lt Gen Sir Rupert Smith.

Army chefs cook up winner at Olympia

A senior team from the ASC, consisting of five experienced instructors augmented by App Wearne, competed against 24 national and international teams working in shifts to provide up to 75 meals at a time, ending with a double victory as gold medal winners and best team.

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Pensions system is 'unfair'

VISCOUNT SLIM called in the Lords for a complete overhaul of Britain's "grossly unfair" military pension system.

"The way that length of service, time of service and similar rank are treated is most inequitable," he said.

"Whatever the Bett report decides, is it not time that the overall system of military pensions was completely revamped and modernised?"

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall asked for an assurance that any new scheme would be "properly funded and independently administered" and would "cor-

New research into Gulf War health issues, announced by the Government in January, is expected to take between two and three years.

This indication of the timescale was given in the House of Lords by Defence minister Earl Howe in answer to the Countess of Mar, who is patron of the Gulf Veterans' Association.

The minister again urged those who believe they are suffering to come forward.

rect some of the anomalies of uneven application which have for so long brought the present scheme into disrepute".

Defence minister Earl Howe said pensions were being considered by the post-Bett study.

"Taken overall, the value of the benefits of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme is considerably greater than most other public service schemes.

"In addition to that scheme, generous benefits are paid under the DSS war pensions scheme in cases of death or injury as a result of military service."

• A review of death and invaliding benefits for Service personnel is being undertaken as part of the post-Bett study. – Commons written reply.

After a review of requirements, 36 Army careers offices due for closure during the current financial year are to remain, and five new offices will be opened in areas where recruiting has been buoyant in the past.

RDG moved to Northern Ireland as a 'precaution'

A SECOND major unit has returned to Northern Ireland as a further precautionary measure to ensure the Armed Forces are able to provide support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary should the situation require it.

Three major units – 5 and 40 Regiments RA and 40 Commando RM – left the Province following the IRA cease-fire.

The Royal Dragoon Guards deployed at the end of February, following the 500 men of

the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, who flew to the Province earlier in the month.

A third unit remains on stand-by to deploy.

Deployment of the Paderborn-based RDG followed news that security measures had been re-introduced as a prudent move in some areas of Belfast. These include occasional low-key, local security patrols to protect bases. An Army spokesman said the patrols remained under review

and were purely precautionary to ensure the safety of bases.

Military sources emphasised the measures involved joint RUC-Army patrolling around Security Force bases and did not mean troops would return to the streets of Belfast in support of the RUC at pre-ceasefire levels.

The Royal Dragoon Guards, some 400 strong, were due to go to Northern Ireland on a six-month emergency tour but remained at their barracks in

Paderborn, Germany on short-notice stand-by to deploy.

Although the locations where the regiment will be based were not being disclosed for operational reasons, it was expected to be available to provide support to the RUC in the greater Belfast area.

The deployment was described by military sources as a prudent move which would not mean a large-scale increase in military patrol activity in the Province.

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RESERVISTS among Britain's contribution to the Bosnian Implementation Force (IFOR) total 3.6 per cent. – Parliamentary answer

Boots, dogs sniffer, for the use of



Picture: Terry Champion

Luke the sniffer dog balances on a "glass-covered" wall while modelling the new boots at Aldershot

Ex-soldier driver hurt in bus explosion

BUS driver Bob Newitt, badly injured in the London double-decker wrecked by an IRA bomb on February 18, had spent ten years in the Coldstream Guards.

He served in Aden and completed three tours in Northern Ireland with the 1st Battalion before leaving the Army in 1975.

Mr Newitt was covering for a sick colleague when he took the No 171 bus out. He was treated for back, chest and pelvic injuries in the intensive care unit at University College Hospital, London.

Mr Newitt was moved to a general ward on February 22 and is expected to be transferred soon to a hospital nearer his home.

Essex victory

A THIRTY-MAN team from C (Essex) Company of 6 R Anglian won an inter-battalion military skills competition at Thetford Training Area, Norfolk.

Lt Mark Gothard received the trophy from CO Lt Col Charles Thomas.

Footwear solves problem of paws on broken glass

LUKE the labrador was pleased as Punch when he showed off his new boots at Aldershot. The three-year-old search dog has been carrying out trials on protective footwear for the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Maj Neil Smith said the idea for the paw protectors came to him after he had seen film of the aftermath of the Canary Wharf bombing. "When I saw the carpet of glass covering the streets, my first thought was that a sniffer dog couldn't be used without its paws being cut to ribbons and that we would have to come up with a method of protecting their feet."

A company in Norwich, which produces protective pouches for sledge dogs, adapted several pairs for Army sniffer dogs to test.

Luke's handler, WO2 Jeffrey Pedrick, said the pouches had taken some getting used to. "We started by putting them on at mealtimes because that is a time he enjoys. Now he gets

Signallers head south

EIGHTY members of 1 (UK) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment are deploying to the Falklands for a six-month tour.

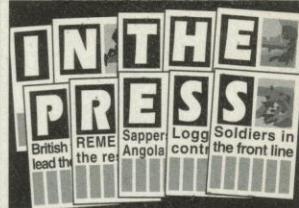
The Herford-based signallers, most of them drawn from 208 Signal Squadron, will form the Army element of the tri-Service Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCUI) under the command of Maj Mike Shaw, R Signals.

Defence Secretary Michael Portillo met his German counterpart, Herr Volker Ruhe, for talks at the Ministry of Defence on February 21.

BFG signs for new vehicle fleet

in the UK and Germany, and PHH, which specialises in smaller vehicles and cars.

Maj Gen Christopher Drewry, GOC United Kingdom Support Command (Germany), was present at the signing of the contract, which is expected to save the MoD about £2 million a year. The Army's present fleet in Germany, part-owned and part-leased, will be sold off or returned to the lessor.



British is best, says French president

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac, announcing a shake-up of France's military establishment, said: "Like the best armies in the world, like the British, it [the French Army] will be able to deploy quickly and efficiently. We are currently a long way from the quality of the British Army. In six years' time we will have an army which is at least as capable as the British." – *Guardian*

The Princess of Wales will remain colonel-in-chief of two regiments – The Light Dragoons and The Princess Of Wales's Royal Regiment – after her divorce has gone through, Army sources said. – *Times*

An egg producer in Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland, has been awarded compensation against the MoD after his hens stopped laying because they were frightened by low-flying Army helicopters. – *Independent*

Soldiers have no legal duty to look after their comrades in battle, the Appeal Court has ruled in the case of a Gulf War veteran who was told he cannot sue for compensation from the MoD for damaged hearing sustained during an artillery bombardment. The veteran had issued a writ against a sergeant who ordered the gun to be fired when he was standing in an unsafe position. – *Daily Telegraph*

The contracting out of the fleet is part of a wider market-testing process which included provision of health services in Germany.

Ryder already provides tank transporters, most of them now in Bosnia, to the British Army in Germany. It is to extend its service centre in Hannover and build new ones at Mönchengladbach and Bielefeld.



GRACIE'S LAST STAND!

When Lt Col Bill Gracie – seen with an engraved 105mm cartridge case presented by the QM's department on his departure – handed over command of 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment RA (V), he did so in some style.

About 300 members of the regiment, not to mention two heavy pieces of artillery, occupied one of the stands and lined the touchline at St James's Park – home of current Carling Premiership favourites Newcastle United – to give him a memorable send-off.

Bill, who joined the regiment as a gunner in 1967, has been succeeded by Lt Col Bob Jammes RA.



Over to you . . . (Mk 1)

With the handover of the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Groups taking place in Warminster, insignia of office in the shape of mobile phones and the commitments diary are handed over from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. Back row (from left) are WO2 (QMSI) Dins Rudsdale RE, WO2 John Lonsdale, Maj Bill Willmott, Maj Mark Thurlow, WO2 Paul Wood and Cpl Skinny Lowth; (front) Cpl Danny Cockram AGC (SPS), Polly the dog and Cpl Kev Clark AGC (SPS).

Over to you . . . (Mk 2)

Sgt Keith Armstrong (left) of 1 RRF briefs Capt Mark Kenyon of 1 QLR on what to expect when the Lancastrians replace the Fusiliers in March as one of two British infantry battalions deployed with the Implementation Force (IFOR) in former Yugoslavia. Behind them are 1 RRF's Saxon vehicles.



Jamie's well motor-vated



It's a fair cop for Cpl Sam Scott (right) of 521 EOD Squadron, Catterick's bomb disposal unit. He beat 132 other students to become Lancashire Police's Advanced Student Driver of 1994.

Pictured with driving instructor Paul Dixon, Sam was presented with his trophy at the county's police HQ in Preston.

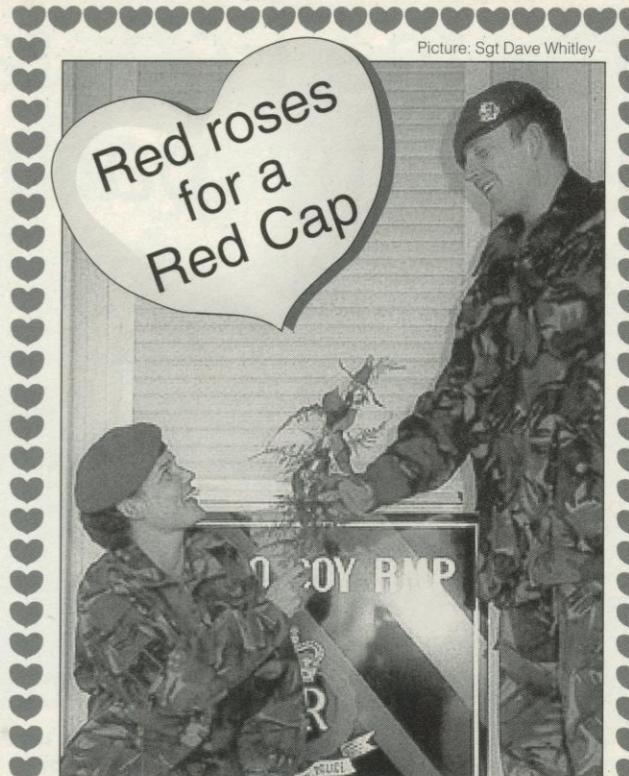
As a driver with 521 Sqn, part of 11 (EOD) Regiment RLC, Sam has to respond to emergency calls over a wide area in all sorts of conditions.

Why so long before he received the trophy? Before the award is confirmed the winner has to complete 12 months of blame-free motoring from the end of the course.

PEOPLE

Army skier Lt Jamie Clarke from ATR Pirbright performed consistently on the Army and Inter-Service Alpine circuit despite a lack of pre-season training because of work commitments. But, backed by Leyland Trucks Ltd, he never had any problems in getting to meetings, winning the slalom championship at Divisional level and taking third spot in the individual combination.

Jamie was fifth in the Army Alpine combination and was the only RLC representative in the Army team which won the international and Inter-Service



Royal Military Policewoman Cpl Diane Brooks goes down on one knee to propose to RMP Cpl Steve Mahood at the Split HQ of the British military police with IFOR in the Balkans. Both are with 101 Pro Coy. Diane made the Leap Year proposal because she didn't think boyfriend Steve would ask for fear of being turned down. Lucky Steve also celebrated his 24th birthday on February 29. When Diane confronted him in the crowded unit bar, spontaneous applause greeted his gallant "Yes!"

Edinburgh nurse Angela McGinley got her man, Sgt John McGeogh RAMC, on February 29 via a "live" proposal to him in Croatia over BFBS radio.



Last of the line

WO1 Keith Sumner is, by his own admission, a "dinosaur".

When Royal Army Medical Corps clerks, with those from other affected corps and regiments, were absorbed into the Adjutant General's Corps after its formation, Warrant Officers with 16 years' service were offered the opportunity to stay with their units.

Along with others, Keith, Staff Assistant at the Royal Army Military College in London – his second posting there – chose to stay in the same post and at the same rank, relinquishing the opportunity for any further postings or promotion.

Before leaving the Service at the end of this month (to pursue a career, he hopes, in new surroundings on the Isle of Wight), he was the last surviving RAMC clerk . . .



Gladiator Trojan won the hearts of female soldiers when he paid a flying Valentine's Day visit to IFOR units at HQ Multi-National Division South-West in Bosnia. The television game show star left many of them treasuring a single red rose and memories of his heroic smile. Unfortunately, the ladies were too busy giving Trojan their names to share them with the photographer!

Picture: Sgt Dave Whitley

Why the Federation's new title will mean this Army 'partner' is no longer excluded

THE decision by the Federation of Army Wives to change its name to the Army Families Federation signals a new approach to supporting the Services.

These days we have to view the Service person as a package. If it is a man, we have to consider the needs of his wife or partner and any children. If the serving person is a woman we have to consider her husband or partner and their children . . . or her status as a single mother.

We have to consider these factors. Whether we approve or disapprove of their choice is immaterial.

It is no longer possible for the Army to shield itself from the turbulence of modern trends in society. While MoD may think itself beyond the reach of reality there are now forces operating which can, and will, make it pay for putting off policy decisions.

The bill for damages paid out to women dismissed on pregnancy now stands at around £55 million. If the Ministry had heeded warnings sounded at a very early stage and braced itself for a change in the rules we would be looking at a much smaller figure.

In a rather satisfying twist of the tale, two years ago an RAF officer was given a £6,500 settlement because he claimed that a rule concerning women and marriage discriminated against men.

At the moment Servicewomen have a right to leave the Forces prematurely when they marry. The squadron leader – whose identity

has not been disclosed – took action against the MoD claiming that the rule was unfair because it didn't apply to men.

The MoD denied liability but it did pay him the money. It seems that the case has moved the Ministry to think again. Premature Voluntary Release on Marriage will cease on March 8.

But it isn't just about who has the right to what. There is now a lot of effort being put into recruitment and retention. We're seeing soldiers being offered bonuses for helping to persuade a friend to sign up. I g a t h e r there are campaigns on the way which will highlight the benefits of staying in the Services.

The challenge is to make sure that potential recruits and serving people see that the Army is providing a mature and sensible environment in which to live and work. The withdrawal of PVR on Marriage for women is actually a very positive step.

If the playing field is to be levelled then it must be truly level and not tilted to give women an advantage. There are more steps that

must be taken which will cause intermittent outrage. But they must be taken and their implications must be considered now.

We will have to wait until later in the year for the Government's full response to the Bett Review but we are already hearing some of the likely reactions.

Despite all Michael Bett's pleas for the Ministry to resist cherry-picking his proposals I think it was inevitable that it would happen.

At the moment the reactions seem to be dwelling on rank and career structure. I wonder how long it is before attention falls on Chapter 7, which deals with Conditions of Service.

Forgive me for quoting, but I would like to highlight one potential legal minefield. The following recommendation seems, at first glance, to be something which could be put on the back burner. I hope someone is preparing a reason why the recommendation can be dismissed against the day when a case comes up in court.

"A more flexible approach will be needed to meet the expecta-

tions of future generations. Revised definitions will need to be drawn up to reflect entitlements to allowances, accommodation, and other areas which were the preserve of the formally married.

"We urge the MoD to grasp this nettle early, rather than be forced into a precipitate and undignified retreat if legislation, or poor retention, force a change."

The important part of that excerpt is the final sentence. Whether or not one thinks it right and proper for people to live together without being married and whether or not it is going to be practical, the fact has to be faced that MoD may be confronted by a legal challenge and a big bill if it gets it wrong.

The main objection is going to centre on how a "partner" is defined. Objectors will say that allowing people to be quartered as a couple will open the floodgates for Service people to move their boyfriends and girlfriends in and out of quarters in a fairly indiscriminate way.

There is also the question of entitlement to medical and dental treatment and allowances, particularly overseas.

There will have to be some way of ensuring that "partners" are not casual visitors.

Difficult though it will be, I hope that someone, somewhere is working on a solution. It will not be good enough simply to dismiss the problem.

Any change in entitlement will make life more pleasant for sever-

al people I know. At least three couples of my acquaintance formalised long relationships with a marriage ceremony which neither of them really wanted because one of them was posted overseas and the other couldn't follow without it.

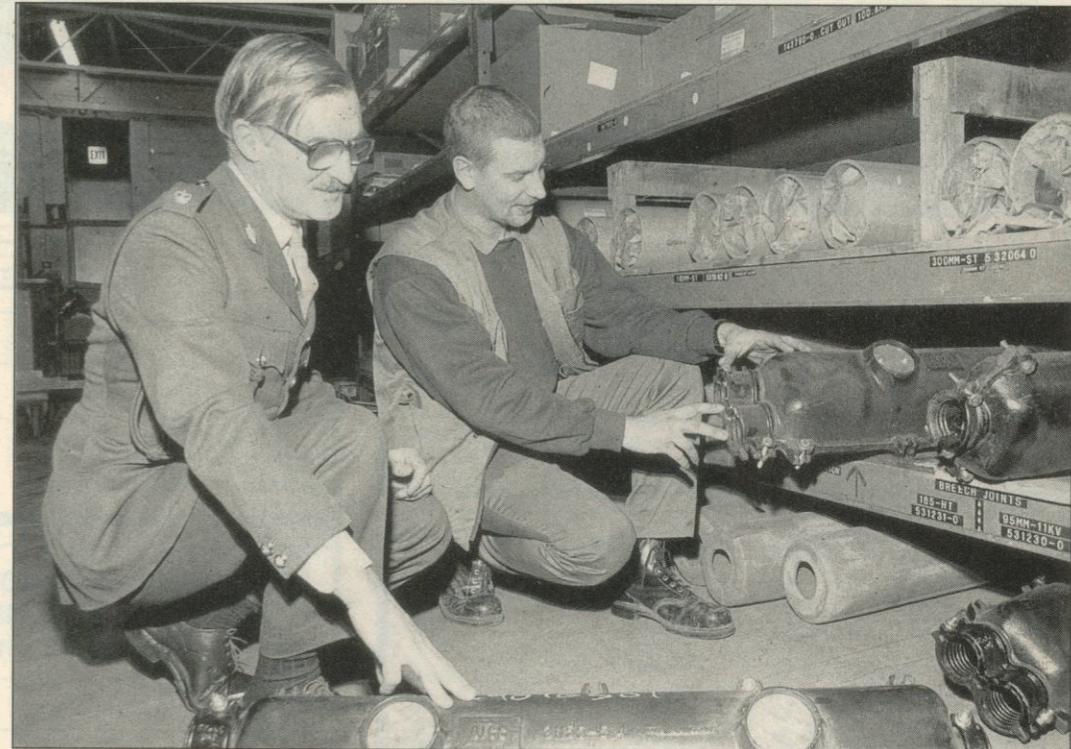
It's not the best way of staying together and it doesn't help to create a relaxed and mutually supportive home environment. It also meant that both partners had to compromise their firmly-held beliefs, which has changed the whole nature of their relationship one to the other.

A change in the climate has already benefited the woman who wrote to me recently. She has been the partner of a soldier for two years and he is now away on an operational tour. They are engaged to be married but she feels isolated from the Army, as if she doesn't belong because they aren't actually married.

I've suggested she get in touch with the Federation of Army Wives. At the moment the organisation's title effectively excludes her.

In a few months' time, when it officially becomes the Army Families Federation, she'll know that she is included because she is already part of the Service family by being part of a Serviceman's life.

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



On the job: Maj Oliver Hackett with stores manager Chris Swift at East Midlands Electricity in Lincoln

We've got the talent says infantry officer

MAJ Oliver Hackett's been there and done it.

The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment officer, currently working with the Service Leavers Support Team in Nottingham, has completed an attachment with East Midlands Electricity (EME).

"I will have more credibility when advising Service leavers if I have actually been and seen for myself," he explained. "Having spent three days with East Midlands Electricity, I can honestly say there are a great many similarities between EME's procedures and those we have in the Army."

Accompanied on the first day of the attachment by WO1 Mike Adams, also from SLST Nottingham, Maj Hackett was given a tour of EME's headquarters in Lincoln and briefed on the industry.

He learned how electricity companies recruit staff, train them and monitor their career development. He also found out more about pay

using private-sector principles and funding to replace the present "intrinsically flawed" system.

As well as recommending measures to reduce time spent by personnel on deployment, the task force calls for more child care services, better financial management, counselling and improvement of training, education and fitness facilities.

It also says "space-available travel" (the equivalent of our indulgence flights) should be expanded for unaccompanied and accompanied family members.

The project, thought to be one of the largest catering contracts ever

School's mark of quality

THE ARMY's School of Equipment Support (SES(A)) has been awarded quality assurance certification by the British Standards Institute (BSI).

A year of hard work by a team formed under school commandant Col Richard Rickard achieved the required standard and the certificate was presented last month by BSI regional manager Angus McLean.

Present at the award ceremony at SES(A) were the Commandant REME Training Group, Brig John Palmer, and Maj Gen Phillip Corp, a previous commandant of the school and now Director General of Equipment Support (Army).

Officers hone management development

HIGH-FLYING Army officers will be among those honing their management skills in a new personal development scheme starting this summer.

The MoD has placed a three-year contract with Hertfordshire-based Ashridge to design and deliver a series of tailored programmes for newly-promoted managers.

About 200 senior and middle managers, mostly civil servants but including uniformed officers, will take part each year.

As the Government prepares its Bett Review decisions . . .

Oz Service families join revolution (and the Yanks are not far behind)

IN ITS most significant review of personnel policy since the Second World War, the Australian Defence Force is introducing sweeping changes designed to help soldiers and their families.

The initiatives, covering pay, careers, families, employment conditions, training and reserves were described by a government minister as "a revolution of radical change".

They come as the British Ministry of Defence prepares its full response to the Bett Review and the United States Defence community considers a report on the quality of military life.

The three-phase measures resulting from the Australian Glenn Review, which seeks to replace outdated personnel management practices, include the following immediate moves:

★ A commitment towards greater recognition and equality for single

people, including greater choice of accommodation.

★ Doubling the maximum subsidised loan available under the Defence Home Owners Scheme to \$80,000 (about £40,000), representing a saving of about \$200 a month (£100) in interest subsidy.

★ A strategy to help spouses get jobs and pursue careers.

★ Establishment of the best and most flexible child-care system in Australia, covering long-day care, occasional care and family day care.

★ Enhancements to travel enti-

lements for Service personnel and their families.

Australian Army personnel chief Col Peter Bysouth said the review addressed the concerns of Servicemen and women and their families.

"All ranks have families with special needs – all spouses seek employment," he told the Australian Army newspaper.

"In fact, it could be argued that it is critical in the junior ranks for the spouses to seek employment."

He added that his department would like to have seen even

greater benefits for soldiers but was limited by the cost.

In the United States, recommendations covering a broad military area have been issued by a "Quality of Life" task force after a year-long study.

Its report says: "Housing, pace of life, and community and family services within the military are keys to the quality of life in the Armed Forces."

Recommendations include urgent action to correct a \$20 billion backlog in housing maintenance and a new housing authority

Catering team prepares its bid

AN in-house bid is being prepared by a British Army (Germany) Catering and Mess Services team in preparation for the market test planned later this year.

The project, thought to be one of the largest catering contracts ever

YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

ADDITIONAL PAY (continued)

Army flying pay reserve band			1/4/96	1/12/96
Aircrew – Effective April 1	£	£		
Initial rate	4.62			
Middle rate	10.17			
Top rate	11.96	10.17		
Aircrew – Effective December 1	£	£		
Initial rate	4.66			
Middle rate	10.27			
Top rate	12.08	10.27		
SAS – Effective April 1	£	£		
Lower rate		Higher rate		
Officers and WO1	15.59	21.85		
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	12.51	18.73		
Cpl and below	10.16	16.36		
SAS – Effective December 1	£	£		
Lower rate		Higher rate		
All officers and WO1	15.74	22.06		
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	12.63	18.91		
Cpl and below	10.26	16.52		
	1/4/96	1/12/96		
Work of an objectionable nature	£	£		
All ranks	Basic rate			
	4.00			
	Higher rate			
	11.73	11.84		
South Georgia	£	£		
All ranks	4.23	4.27		
Northern Ireland	£	£		
All ranks	4.23	4.27		

Gurkha Service			£	£
Lt Col and above			5.25	
Major			4.58	
Capt			3.90	
Lt/2nd Lt			3.30	
Gurkha Language	£	£		
Lower rate	0.53	0.54		
Higher rate	0.92	0.93		
Experimental	£	£		
All ranks per test	1.77	1.79		
Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst	£	£		
	6.24	6.30		
Divers (all ranks)	Category	£	£	
ACAD	1	2.68	2.71	
UDS:Army	2	5.41	5.46	
AAD	3	7.72	7.80	
ADS	4	13.14	13.27	
ADI	4	13.14	13.27	
Separation allowance	£	£		
Outside NW Europe	3.84	3.88		
Within NW Europe	2.99	3.02		
Work in unpleasant conditions	£	£		
Soldiers only	0.61	0.62		
London pay	£	£		
	Inner	Outer		
Basic rate	2.70	1.52		
Additional housing rate	4.18	2.11		

ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Daily rates with effect from April 1

Unless otherwise stated, the daily accommodation charge is inclusive of water/sewerage charges but exclusive of council tax

Families Quarters

Type	England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas				Northern Ireland					
	Grade	1	2	3	4	Grade	1	2	3	
I	F	11.14	10.13	6.88	4.23	Northern Ireland	8.39	7.00	3.43	0.52
	HF	10.46	9.52	6.45	3.97		7.99	6.65	3.25	0.50
	UF	9.78	8.91	6.01	3.71		7.57	6.32	3.08	0.47
II	F	10.06	9.13	6.22	3.84	Northern Ireland	7.27	6.04	2.97	0.46
	HF	9.45	8.58	5.83	3.61		6.90	5.74	2.82	0.43
	UF	8.83	8.02	5.45	3.38		6.54	5.43	2.66	0.41
III	F	8.82	8.03	5.49	3.44	Northern Ireland	4.66	3.77	1.60	0.00
	HF	8.30	7.56	5.17	3.24		4.43	3.58	1.52	0.00
	UF	7.78	7.10	4.83	3.04		4.19	3.39	1.43	0.00
IV	F	7.55	6.86	4.86	3.03	Northern Ireland	3.93	3.17	1.40	0.00
	HF	7.06	6.43	4.55	2.84		3.72	3.00	1.32	0.00
	UF	6.59	5.99	4.23	2.66		3.50	2.82	1.24	0.00
V	F	6.61	6.03	4.22	2.73	Northern Ireland	3.46	2.80	1.22	0.00
	HF	6.19	5.65	3.96	2.56		3.27	2.65	1.15	0.00
	UF	5.75	5.27	3.68	2.39		3.08	2.50	1.08	0.00
D/WO	F	5.19	4.74	3.41	2.17	Northern Ireland	2.98	2.44	1.16	0.00
	HF	4.90	4.47	3.23	2.06		2.83	2.32	1.11	0.00
	UF	4.61	4.22	3.04	1.95		2.69	2.20	1.05	0.00
C	F	4.80	4.38	3.14	2.04	Northern Ireland	2.74	2.25	1.06	0.00
	HF	4.55	4.16	2.98	1.94		2.62	2.15	1.01	0.00
	UF	4.30	3.94	2.83	1.85		2.49	2.05	0.97	0.00
B	F	4.44	4.05	2.92	1.89	Northern Ireland	2.48	2.04	0.97	0.00
	HF	4.23	3.87	2.78	1.81		2.38	1.95	0.93	0.00
	UF	4.02	3.67	2.65	1.73		2.28	1.87	0.89	0.00
A	F	3.39	3.10	2.26	1.55	Northern Ireland	1.93	1.58	0.76	0.00
	HF	3.22	2.95	2.15	1.48		1.84	1.51	0.72	0.00
	UF	3.06	2.80	2.05	1.41		1.76	1.44	0.69	0.00

In excess of four bedrooms – from April 1 (applies all areas)

In excess of four bedrooms – from December 1 (applies all areas)

ORs	F	0.20	0.18	0.14	0.07		0.21	0.19	0.14	0.07
	HF	0.18	0.16	0.13	0.06		0.18	0.16	0.13	0.06
	UF	0.16	0.14	0.11	0.05		0.16	0.14	0.11	0.05
Officers	F	0.47	0.42	0.32	0.16		0.49	0.43	0.33	0.16
	HF	0.44	0.39	0.30	0.14		0.46	0.40	0.31	0.14
	UF	0.41	0.37	0.28	0.13		0.43	0.38	0.29	0.13

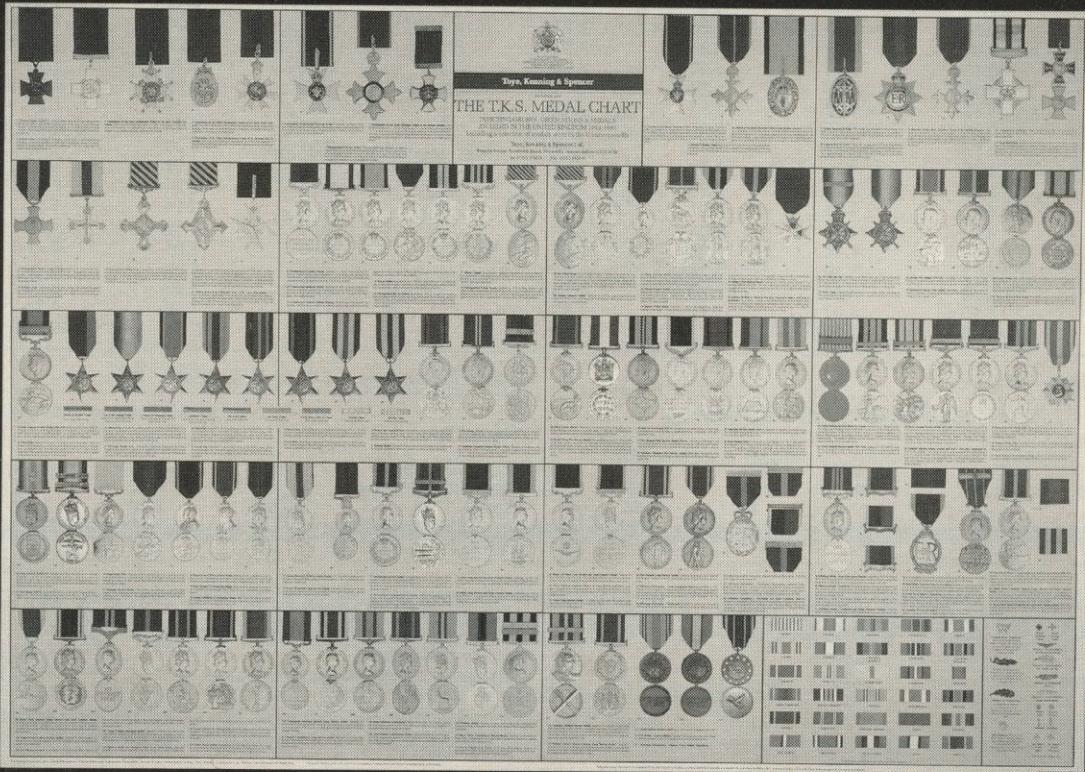
ACCOMMODATION CHARGES (continued)

Daily rates with effect from December 1

Families Quarters		England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas								Northern Ireland			
Type	Grade	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1			

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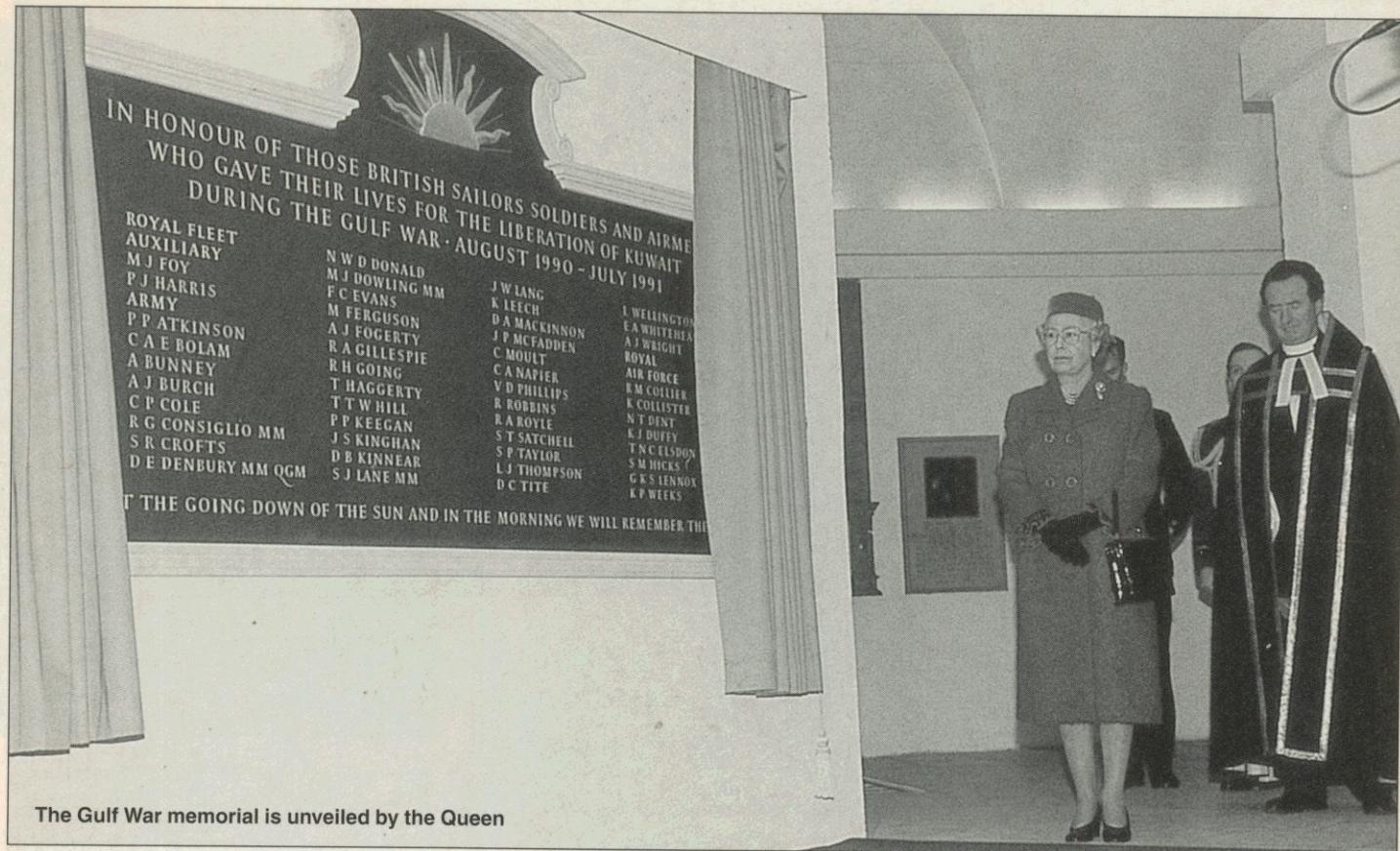
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The Gulf War memorial is unveiled by the Queen

Queen unveils nation's tribute to Gulf fallen



Fusilier veterans of the Gulf War wait outside St Paul's Cathedral before the memorial service

FIVE years after the Gulf War, a memorial to 47 British Servicemen who died has been unveiled by the Queen in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

More than 1,200 people, including families of those who died, members of the Royal Family and political and military leaders, were present for the service of dedication.

After the Westmoreland slate memorial, by sculptor Martin Jennings, had been unveiled by the Queen, the Kuwaiti ambassador, Khalid Al-Duwaisan, laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Kuwait.

David Kinghan, 15, whose father James, a major in the Royal Engineers, was killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia, read one of the lessons.

Maj Kinghan had been responsible for masterminding the construction of a 62-mile pipeline across the desert. He died shortly before it was completed and it was named the Kinghan Line in his honour.

The memorial plaque records the names of 37 soldiers, two Royal Fleet Auxiliary sailors and eight members of

the Royal Air Force who died in the Gulf. Ten soldiers whose names appear were killed by an American pilot in a "friendly fire" incident.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, dedicated the memorial "in honour of all who fought in the Gulf War and to the memory of all who gave their lives."

Piper Pte John Todd of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots played as the Queen walked to the crypt for the unveiling, and the Regimental Band of the Scots Guards, directed by Lt Col David Price, played a selection of tunes before the service.

The Gulf War memorial was funded by the British Memorial Fund - Kuwait, formed in 1991.

Supported mostly by British expatriates and Kuwaiti families, it achieved its objectives of placing a commemorative plaque in St Paul's Anglican Church in Ahmadi, Kuwait, and of providing a supportive organisation for bereaved families.

Fund members also offered prayers for hundreds of Kuwaiti citizens who are still missing. Many are thought to be in Iraqi prisons.



Two of the Gulf War commanders meet again: Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley and retired Brig Christopher Hammerbeck commanded 7 and 4 Armoured Brigades respectively



The Brick Factory, Kiseljak . . . now home from home for the Geographic Support Group

Nomadic surveyors find home in Bosnia

MORE than a month after arriving in former Yugoslavia, the Geographic Support Group eventually found somewhere to settle down.

The 107-strong group is made up of Mönchengladbach-based 14 (UK) Independent Topographic Squadron and 19 (UK) Specialist Team from Hermitage, reinforced by soldiers from 42 Survey Engineer Group, also from Hermitage.

Originally expecting to deploy to Sarajevo to be close to HQ ARRC – their primary customer – the military surveyors were unable to find anywhere to live, leaving 14 Sqn stuck in Split.

They earned the title Gipsy Squadron when they had to move their vehicles three times in four weeks, and their accommodation twice.

Finally a "home", complete with superb views of the Adriatic, was found, just before the squadron was ordered to move to the Brick Factory at Kiseljak.

The group is responsible for the provision of geographic support to IFOR, including map supply, field survey, terrain analysis and printing.

In the front line are detachments at HQ 1 (US) Armoured Division in Tuzla, and HQ 6 (French) Division, in Sarajevo, and a third located with HQ 3 (UK) Division in Gornji Vakuf. All three detachments have sophisticated mapping and printing systems mounted on four-tonne trucks, and up to five soldiers.

The field surveyors of 19 (UK) STRE have been busy supporting 3 (UK) Div's gunners and helping to mark boundaries. They have a reinforced section, commanded by Capt Vicky Bealby, permanently based in Gornji to support the Royal Artillery.

A second section is spread around the 3 Div area assisting with boundary-marking, and the third section is liaising with 6 (French) Div under Capt John Taylor.

Largest single element is Geo Troop under Capt Andy Page. His team is responsible for terrain analysis and reprographic production. Its varied output includes theatre pay and allowance cards and IFOR dispositions and route maps.

Map distribution

Map Supply Troop under WO1 Mark Huish is divided into two elements, one headed by SSgt Bryn Chetwynd in Split, the other based in Kiseljak.

The Split unit runs the Corps Reserve Map Depot, the first in-theatre link in the map supply chain. Kiseljak looks after the Corps Map Distribution Point.

But the group's busiest man is probably Cpl Dave Garwood, the 14 Sqn electrician. A member of Support Troop which keeps the surveyors fed and watered on the road, he is working miracles with an erratic power supply to keep the teams serviced with light and heating.



Above – Insignia of rank: A field marshal's baton is the personal gift of the Sovereign. Made by the Crown Jewellers, Garrard and Co, each one is covered in red velvet and studded with 18 gold lions. The top features a gold mount with two rings of roses, thistles and shamrocks surmounted by St George and the Dragon. The name of the recipient is engraved on the base

Right – July 1994: Eight field marshals enter Founders Court at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for a drumhead service to mark the 50th anniversary of the Army Benevolent Fund



Passing of the baton

THE HIGHEST ranks in the Armed Forces are to be abolished during peacetime, except in exceptional circumstances.

Field Marshal and its equivalent in the other Services, Admiral of the Fleet and Marshal of the Royal Air Force, will be filled only when the country is at war, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

However, every ten years or so, a senior British officer is appointed chairman of NATO's Military Committee. He may still be promoted field marshal to give him sufficient "seniority" for the role, writes Laurie Manton.

Designed to cut costs and bring the Services' rank structure more into line with Britain's partners in multinational operations, the move was heralded by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames in a Parliamentary written answer giving an interim appraisal of the Bett Review of Armed Forces' pay and conditions.

There are currently 11 field marshals, including the Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge. Future Chiefs of the Defence Staff will be appointed at



Last in his line: Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, is briefed by Capt Frazer Ross RE during his visit to the Falkland Islands in January

the four-star rank of general or equivalent.

Although still on the Army's active list, the other ten field marshals have no command and are on half pay. A field marshal's

full annual salary is about £128,000.

Others to hold the rank are the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir James Cassels, Lord Carver, Sir Roland Gibbs, Lord Bramall,

Sir John Stanier, Sir Nigel Bagnall, Sir Richard Vincent, Sir John Chapple and the Duke of Kent. The Dukes of Edinburgh and Kent are unpaid.

Wilfred Rundle recorded in his book, *The Baton*, that the rank and title of field marshal was created by King George II in 1736 when he appointed the Earl of Orkney and the Duke of Argyll.

Later in his reign, the King made eight more, including George Wade (1743), whose name is associated with the roads he built in the Scottish Highlands for military purposes, and John, Earl of Ligonier (1757) who was at one time Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

During the 210 years from 1736 to the end of 1946, 117 British field marshals were created. Of these, 14 were either sovereigns or members of the British Royal Family, eight were foreign sovereigns and one a foreign general – Marshal Ferdinand Foch (1919).

Three were struck off the roll – Kaiser Wilhelm II, Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria and Emperor Hirohito of Japan.



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Journey home was broken by shipwreck

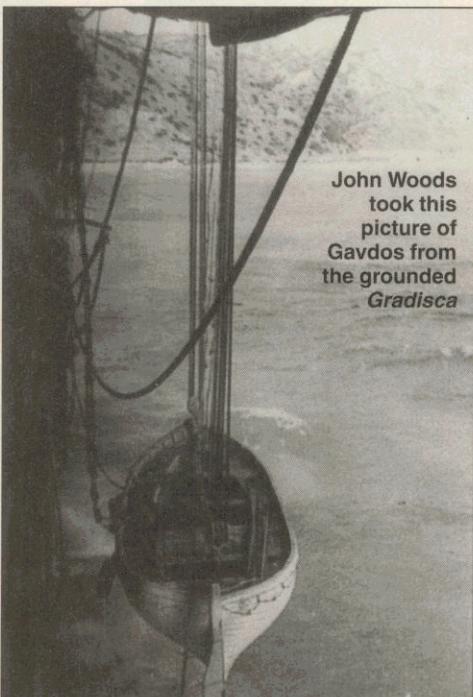
JOHN WOODS'S journey home from the Levant at the end of the Second World War was not uneventful. It was broken, quite literally, on rocks off Crete when the crew of the troop ship *Gradisca* deliberately ran her aground in protest over decisions to refit the vessel on the Clyde rather than Genoa and pay them in lira rather than sterling.

In January 1946 Capt John Woods KRRC, adjutant at the Palestine Training Depot, Rehovoth, joined the *Gradisca*, an Italian prize of war hospital ship complete with Italian crew, at Port Said.

The 1,180 troops on board were woken in the early hours of January 23 by a thump. The ship had been wedged on the sands of a pretty bay on Gavdos, the most southerly island in Europe.

With no one in immediate danger, many men went back to bed to await rescue. This came in the form of several ships, including the frigate HMS *Fancy*, the cruiser HMS *Orion*, HM tug *Brigand*, and HM aircraft carrier *Trumpeter* returning to Plymouth from the East.

Many years later John was working in a shipyard near Marchwood Military Port when he discovered the shipyard general manager had been an engineer in the *Trumpeter* during the rescue. In a further coincidence, it turned out that one of the yard riggers had pumped 500 tons of concrete into the *Gradisca*, forcing the water out and sealing the hull before she was towed to Piraeus to be scrapped.



John Woods took this picture of Gavdos from the grounded *Gradisca*

Journey home was broken by shipwreck

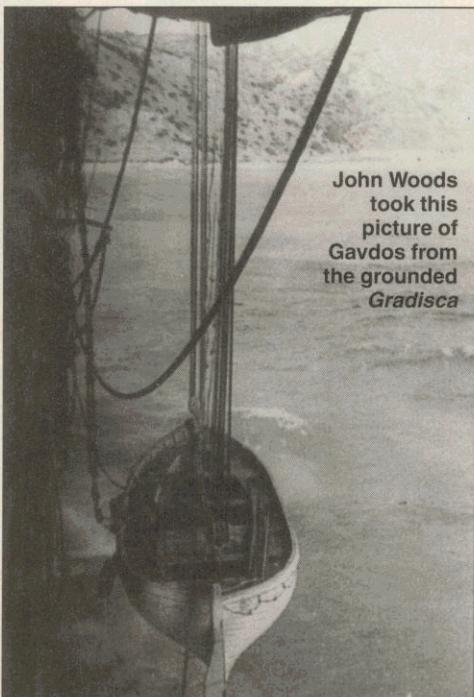
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John Woods took this picture of Gavdos from the grounded *Gradisca*



The window unveiled by Maj Gen Pett

THE last two-star Director of Infantry, Maj Gen Ray Pett, late King's Own Border, was chaired out of the Warminster Training Centre on the Bisley Chair in recognition of his contribution to the shooting skills of the 6th Battalion, The Queen's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Soldiers from every infantry regiment lined the route as the Drums Platoon of 1 Kings Own Border led him away. His last duty before leaving was to unveil an Infantry Window displaying all the regimental crests post Options for Change.

The window commemorates the demise of Headquarters Divisions of Infantry. The divisions themselves will

continue, and the functions previously carried out by their individual headquarters have passed to Headquarters Infantry and the Infantry Manning and Records branches.

Window shines light on Infantry



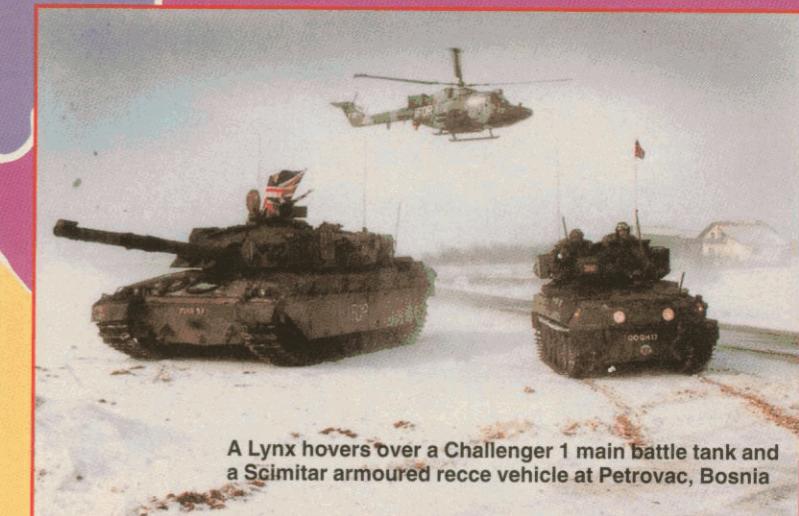
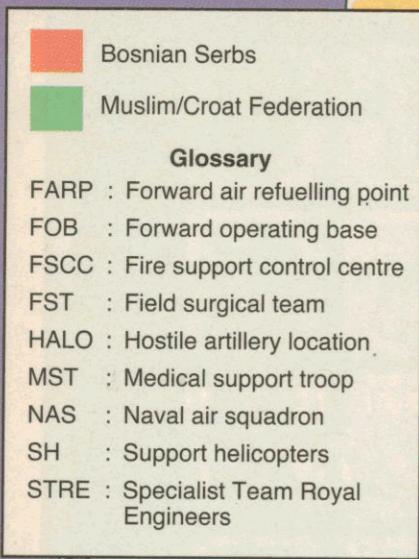
Maj Gen Ray Pett

The position of Director of Infantry has been regraded to brigadier in line with other Arms, and the new director is Brig Mark Strudwick, late RS.

Where British Army's Resolute troops are based

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

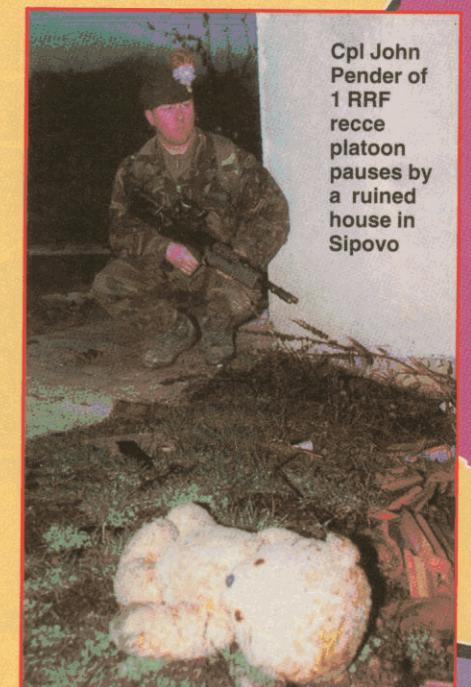


BRITISH soldiers deployed on Operation Resolute in former Yugoslavia are a major element of NATO's first ground force operation, which leads the Dayton Peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

The majority of Britain's 10,000 troops, including heavy armour and guns, are dedicated to the Multi-National Division (South West) based at Gornji Vakuf and commanded by Maj Gen Mike Jackson.

MND(SW) comprises 4 Armoured Brigade with a Dutch mechanised battalion, plus a Canadian-led brigade which includes a composite British battalion, Malaysians and Czechs.

As the framework nation of NATO's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps based in Sarajevo, Britain provides 60 per cent of personnel and the ARRC commander, Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker. A substantial National Support Element is based in Split, Croatia.



Room with a view: Capt Mark Chivers REME in an OP at the November 4 patrol base which stands beside the main Kuwait to Baghdad highway



Snakes, scorpions and kamikaze locusts

(not to mention the mind-numbing heat)

A newly-arrived United Nations military observer watching the entrance to Iraq's only deep sea harbour, Umm Qasr, caused a stir when he reported that an Iraqi Navy submarine was trying to enter the port.

The alert ended when another UN soldier pointed out that the conning tower of the "submarine" was actually the superstructure of a sunken tanker jutting out of the water.

Given that the temperature in the November One observation tower had reached a mind-numbing 61 degrees, it was a mistake anyone could have made.

Thirty-three nations contribute military observers to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) based along the 200km-long Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), on the border of the two countries. It extends 10km into Iraq and 5km into Kuwait.

Britain provides 15 observers, a dozen of whom are Army officers. They each serve a year-long unaccompanied tour, and receive a United Nations daily allowance of \$115 (US). Senior British officer of the group is Col Simon Hill, late Para, who serves as military assistant to the Force Commander.

Home for UNIKOM's northern headquarters is a former Iraqi naval hospital at Umm Qasr. Observers spend the first six months at desert patrol bases in the DMZ. The rest of their tour is spent at one of the headquarters supporting the bases.

DAILY HAZARD

Capt Sandy McLennan Fordyce, Scots DG, who has almost completed his tour of duty talked about the scorpions, snakes and locusts that are a daily hazard for those serving in the patrol bases.

"In the summer, snakes and scorpions crawl from under rocks around the base. If you leave your office to walk to the shower, you have to watch where you step. We counted 28 scorpions during just one evening.

"Huge locusts crash *kamikaze*-style against the door all night, and when they have gone, the flies arrive... The heat can be unbearable. In one patrol base, it topped 60 degrees. We drink lots of water, avoid physical effort and make sure the air-conditioning is working," he said.

In high summer, observers have to shower by 5am. Any later in the day and water in the tanks has been heated by the sun to scalding point.

But it's not all doom and gloom, said Capt McLennan Fordyce. "Serving with so many other nationalities in this environment has been a rewarding experience. I've enjoyed my time with UNIKOM." Observers cater for themselves, and four times a month drive into

Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston



Sign here: Capt Sandy McLennan Fordyce beside a distinctive UN signpost in the demilitarised zone. UNIKOM's main headquarters is on the Iraqi side of the DMZ

Right – Partnership for peace as Capt Daniel O'Donnell RGR (right) and Lt Cdr Janic Darmos, Polish Navy, share watch-keeping duties



Left – Doing their duty for UNIKOM are (left to right) Capts Daniel O'Donnell RGR and Gareth Watson REME, Flt Lt Tim Uren, RAF Regt, Maj Andrew Harrison, Para, and Capts Sandy McLennan Fordyce, Scots DG and Mark Chivers REME

Kuwait City to shop for food. UNIKOM's 253 observers are supported by a Bangladeshi mechanised infantry battalion, a contingent of Argentine Army engineers, Austrian logisticians, German medics and two Bangla Deshi helicopters used for aerial surveillance, reconnaissance and casualty evacuation.

When the Mission was first established in

1991, Canadian Army engineers cleared more than 1,500km of roads and tracks within the DMZ.

Fortunately, a Norwegian field hospital with surgical facilities was established in the area at the time, because the Iraqi authorities tried to clear their own areas of mines using untrained personnel. Twenty died and more than 130 were injured by

العراق
IRAQ

قيادة اليونيكوم
UNIKOM HQ

"This is not a book for the Politically Correct, neither is it for the squeamish, but it is great fun..."

Round Cuddly Trucker's guide to Army speak

Soldier Talk - A Squaddies' Handbook, by Simon Cullen. Leo Cooper, £6.95.

ACRONYMS abound in the Army. Naafi and many more are familiar to all Servicemen and women.

They are part of an everyday military language and, like the constantly evolving slang and jargon, they conspire to baffle the uninitiated.

To help decipher this gobbledegook (written and spoken), ex-soldier Simon Cullen, a veteran of the Gulf War and its aftermath and a "casualty" of Options for Change, has produced *Soldier Talk - A Squaddies' Handbook*.

This dictionary, along with *Militarisms* (Award Productions 1995), reviewed in *Soldier* in December, might enable outsiders as well as recruits to take part in a military conversation and actually understand what is being discussed.

KOKKY-OLLY BIRDS

By dipping into its hand-sized pages they will learn who The Kokky-Olly Birds and the BUBs are; what a chocolate drop factory and a Tate & Lyle are (nothing sweet about these); and what kind of person drinks like a budgie with a chipped tooth.

They will find 21 slang terms to describe the REME (not all of them complimentary) and 24 for the WRAC (for most of which the user could probably be sued for compensation).

They will discover where to go to find the Practical Jokes Department, the Tin Kickers, and Spider Hill.

Who knows, they could even baffle the bafflers by asking them what a PONTI is. It could have their shirts going up



COLOUR OF WAR

According to the authors of *There Once Was A War: The Collected Colour Photography of World War II* most people remember it as a conflict fought in black and white.

Helping to prove otherwise, this book contains such examples as the picture reproduced above, of Eighth Army gunners manning a 40mm Bofors near Monte Cassino during the bloody Italian campaign.

Although colour film had been readily available from the mid-1930s, much of the professional still and movie film of the period was shot in black and white. The professionals were

There Once Was A War: The Collected Colour Photography of World War II edited by Jeffrey Ethell, text by Chuck Yeager and Bud Anderson. Hamish Hamilton, £17.99.

reluctant to rely on the sometimes unstable colour film available. Another problem for them was the slowness of film emulsion, which made it difficult to capture moving objects.

But most of the images reproduced in Jeffrey Ethell's book - many of them depicting the US air services at war -

IN BRIEF

Don't Forget to Write by Alfred Howarth. Entertaining, moving paperback account of life in the Second World War with the 71st Searchlight Regiment RA in Italy, Beirut and Greece. From the author, 12 Welbeck Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 2SL, price £5.50 inc p and p.

Return With Honor by Capt Scott O'Grady with Jeff Coplon. Shot down by a missile at 27,000ft on June 2 last year, F-16 pilot O'Grady eluded the Bosnian Serbs for six days and nights before being rescued by US marines. This is his story. Bloomsbury, hardback, £14.99.

The Imperial War Museum Book of the War at Sea 1939-1945 by Julian Thompson. The author, who commanded 3 Cdo Bde in the Falklands, has drawn on memoirs, letters and taped interviews to help make this story come alive. Sidgwick & Jackson, hardback, £25.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque. New translation from the German by Brian Murdoch of Remarque's classic story of soldiers in the 1914-18 trenches. Vintage, paperback, £5.99.

Under Hitler's Banner: Serving the Third Reich by Edmund Blandford. Stories of Germans who reached adulthood in the Third Reich. Airlife Publishing Ltd, hardback, £17.95.

were taken by ordinary soldiers and airmen. These amateur photographers, unconcerned about the technical niceties, snapped away in colour.

The result is a stunning array of images. This book gives others the chance to delve into the author's wonderful private collection.

Text is contributed by two of America's most famous military pilots, Brig Gen Charles E "Chuck" Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier, and Col Clarence E "Bud" Anderson, who shot down 16 enemy aircraft during the Second World War. - TC

their backs like a roller blind!

As the dust-jacket warns us, this is not a book for the Politically Correct.

And even though it was compiled by a former Round Cuddly Trucker (Cullen is ex-RCT), neither is it for the squeamish.

The author, who has been

working on the compilation since 1987 and is asking readers for additions for an expanded volume in the future, knows what he is talking about when he warns: "As a word of caution, it may not be wise to reel out the nicknames of various regiments in their presence." He certainly possesses a native

talent for under-statement.

There are one or two puzzlers (is the headdress of The Royal Irish Regiment really spelled corbeen?) but, setting aside all sensitivities resulting from the gratuitously offensive nature of most Army slang this book, like others of its type, is great fun.

Handicapped by a cloud of secrecy

ONE observation made at a First World War court martial may well have sent a young officer to the firing squad.

"The accused did not look as if he was afraid or in a funk," said a junior ranker in evidence. "He looked as if he wanted to get out of it."

The officer was 21-year-old temporary Sub Lt. Edwin Dyett, of Nelson Battalion, 53rd (Royal Navy) Division, who was being tried for desertion in the face of the enemy at Beaumont-Hamel in the battle of Ancre in November 16.

In *For God's Sake Shoot Straight!* (the title among Dyett's last words) Leonard Sellers, a Southend police sergeant, has subjected the case to detailed examination of such surviving evidence as is now available for public inspection.

But he admits he has been handicapped by the cloud of secrecy which for years has enveloped all documents relating to First World War courts martial.

Dyett's father was a distant cousin of Sir John French, commander-in-chief of the British Expeditionary Force in France. Although the author does not enlarge on the point, it can perhaps be speculated that the court's Guilty verdict

and the fact that the death sen-



Sub Lt Edwin Dyett. He told his executioners to shoot straight

tence was not commuted (as it was in most cases) may have stemmed from a wish to avoid accusations of nepotism.

Commander Walter Dyett tried for years to clear his son's name but, frustrated and embittered, eventually emigrated with his family to America.

For the action on the Ancre, Edwin Dyett, who had admitted fear to his commanding

officer, was left out of battle but was quickly ordered to rejoin his hard-pressed and depleted unit. Two days later he reported back to his battalion HQ and was arrested after a fellow sub lieutenant reported that he had refused an order. The officer is said to have been Dyett's only enemy in the formation.

The author invites his readers to decide whether Dyett received justice, citing the court martial's lack of questions, doubt, or necessity for clarification of any point.

He is also suspicious about the absence of a summary in the court martial file, although his concern about legal propriety is not shared in a foreword by Anthony Babington, author of an earlier book on all 346 officers and men condemned to death and executed during the war.

That aside, the book does raise certain questions. Not least is why British governments have refused to grant a full review of courts martial files on those who were executed - and why many of the files have simply disappeared.

In 1992, Andrew Mackinlay, MP for Thurrock, began a

campaign to obtain pardons for the executed officers and men. In a letter on February 10, 1993, Prime Minister John Major said: "... I have reflected long and hard but I have reached the conclusion that we cannot rewrite history by substituting our latter-day judgment for that of contemporaries, whatever we might think. With the passage of time, attitudes and values change..."

This did not deter Mackinlay from presenting a Private Members' Bill for the pardon of soldiers and this was ordered to be read for a second time on November 11 1993.

In Sellers's words, "... it now just sits on the Table, awaiting time that is unlikely to be granted..."

Similar inactivity awaited a petition presented to the House in July 1994 signed by more than 25,000 people asking for the granting of posthumous pardons. But still, says Sellers, "the suspicion will remain..."

It is a suspicion strengthened by the mystery of why the Government refuses after these long years to review the court martial files of Dyett and the

MAKING THE RIGHT OVERTURES

OPERATIC overtures and concert overtures were once meat and drink to the military band, along with "selections from" and waltzes.

They are not so much meat and drink nowadays as special tidbits for special occasions, being usually more difficult and requiring rehearsal time which is probably unavailable anyway.

So it is good to have a programme devoted wholly to overtures - overtures of all types, from a band which managed to find enough rehearsal time - or very nearly!

The old war horses known to anyone of a certain age are *Light Cavalry*, *The Bronze Horse*, and *Zampa*, which could survive

MUSIC/RODNEY BASHFORD

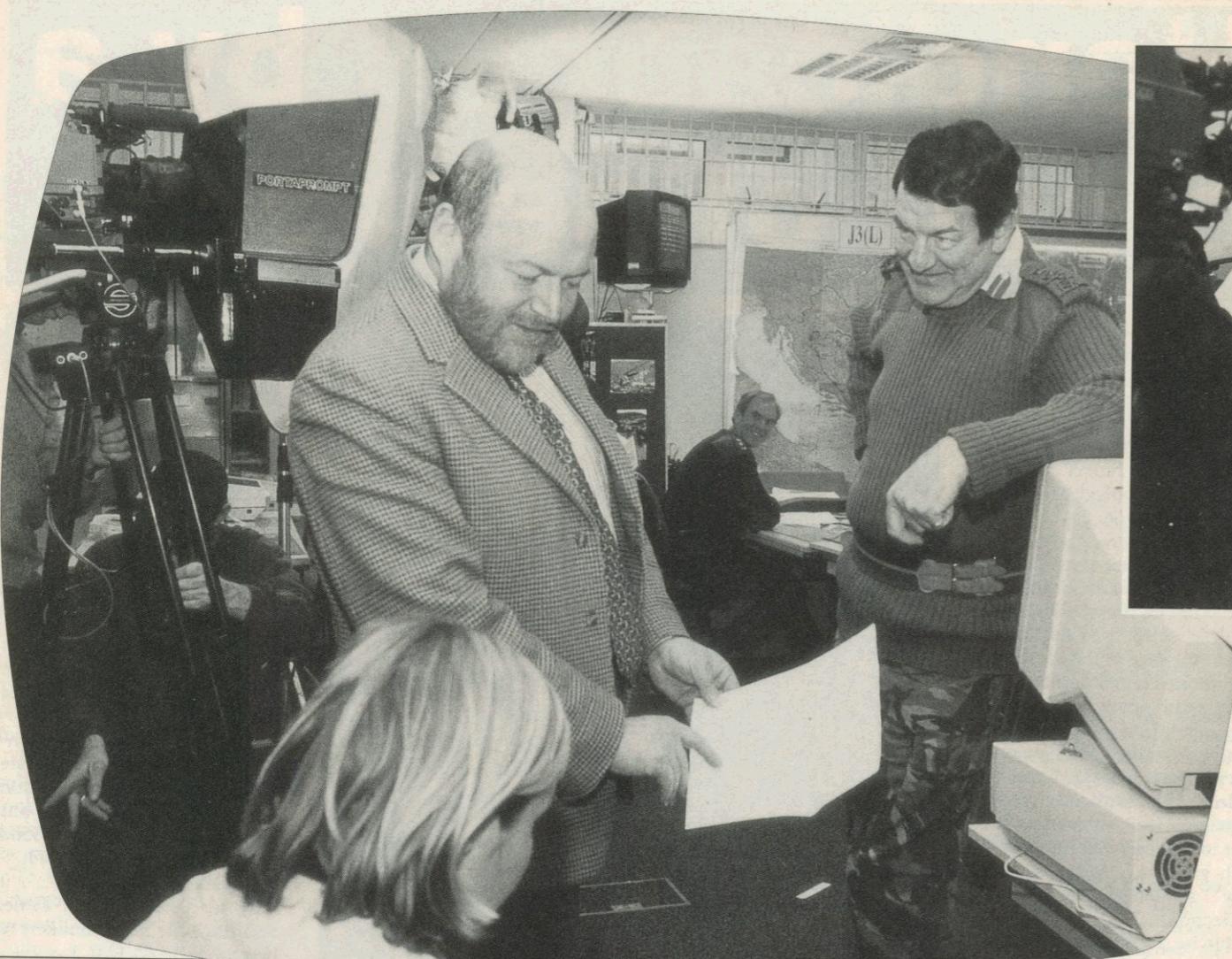
OVERTURE! Band of the Royal Artillery. Conductor: Major T S Davis. Bandleader CD BNA 5121 £12.00, cassette £7.60 from Sound & Picture Co, PO Box 177, Dorking, Surrey.

much of the ill-treatment meted out to them over the years. *The Marriage of Figaro* was treated with more respect by sensible bandmasters and never quite made it to band programmes.

The Drum Major's Daughter belongs to one of Offenbach's frothy operettas, but *Hampton Court* by Montague Phillips, *A Festive Overture* by Alfred Reed, and an overture from Gordon Jacob's *Music for a*

Festival were written specially for concert performance, having no operative provenance.

Which leaves two more to discuss, Leonard Bernstein's overture to his comic operetta *Candide* and Kabalevsky's opera *Colas Breugnon*. Both have entered the brass band repertoire but have been avoided by Army bands until now, for both require virtuoso performance if wind instruments are to be convincing. I'm not yet convinced, and probably never will be; both marvellous works need to go at a speed requiring virtuosos in every department, and Army bands rarely if ever achieve that kind of luck. A programme, however, to be relished by all band buffs.



Coming soon to a screen near you . . .

UNITS world-wide will soon be receiving copies of a new Army video diary.

Result of a pilot scheme run last year by Brig Philip Trousdale, Director of Public Relations (Army), the 1995 diary aims to show every soldier what is going on in the Army.

Made - with the exception of three short pieces borrowed from the BBC - by the Army Mobile News Team (MNT), the diary features the previous year's events.

Operational up-dates, major exercises, policy changes, new equipment and major sporting achievements are all covered.

Commentary for the diary is provided by BBC presenter Michael Collie in his role as a Territorial Army Public Information Officer.

Tidworth-based 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, provided the backdrop for the final day's filming, where the MNT accompanied Brig Trousdale and Grosvenor Television Productions, producers

of the diary. The QLR soldiers are no strangers to the attentions of the media. They were the first to receive the Army's new Combat Soldier '95 range of gear, and modelled it on *The Clothes Show* television fashion programme.

British middle distance champion Sgt Kelly Holmes interrupted her Olympic training to be interviewed in 1 QLR's gym by Capt Collie as a contribution to the diary.

Final stage of filming was at the Joint Service Operations Centre at HQ Land Command in Wiltshire, where the Commander-in-Chief, Gen Sir John Wilsey, recorded an introductory message.

It is hoped that every soldier will get the opportunity to see the video diary.

Soldiers who feel they have something to contribute to the next one should contact one of the two Mobile News Teams, based at HQNI and HQ Land Command, to arrange coverage.



Above - Olympic hopeful Sgt Kelly Holmes says her piece to camera in 1 QLR's gymnasium

Left - Gen Sir John Wilsey, Commander-in-Chief HQ Land Command, watches as producer Des Good of Grosvenor Television Productions checks a detail during filming at Joint Service Operations Centre

Below - Finishing touches: Capt Alex Roche, Army Presentation Team (standing, right) in the editing suite with video diary producer Des Good (standing, left) and editing staff

Sappers beat the clock after camp site is swamped

SAPPERS from Maidstone had to sit around for two weeks when torrential rains interrupted their plans to build a three-room accommodation block in Kenya's Aberdare National Park.

With everything in position, the 45-strong team based on 1 Troop, 20 Field Squadron, part of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment, were set to start work the following day when the heavens opened, turning the construction site into a muddy bog.

Lt Andrew Teeton, officer commanding 1 Troop, said: "It was sunny while we set up camp, but once it started raining it was more like Sennybridge than Africa."

So heavy was the rain that dirt roads were swamped, making it impossible for the sappers to bring in heavy vehicles, men and materials to the site. The camp, at an altitude of 8,000ft, was about 10km from the nearest tarred road and a four-hour drive from Nairobi.

By cutting back on adventurous training and R and R, the engineers, under the eye of clerk of works SSgt Tom Dooley, caught up on their timetable and finished the building ahead of schedule.

Hardcore and a concrete pad were laid before the troop brickies, working flat out under Cpl Ian Auger, made the base of the outer shell. Then the carpenters, led by



Lt Andrew Teeton shakes hands with a member of the Kenya Wild Life Services at the hand-over of the accommodation block in Aberdare National Park

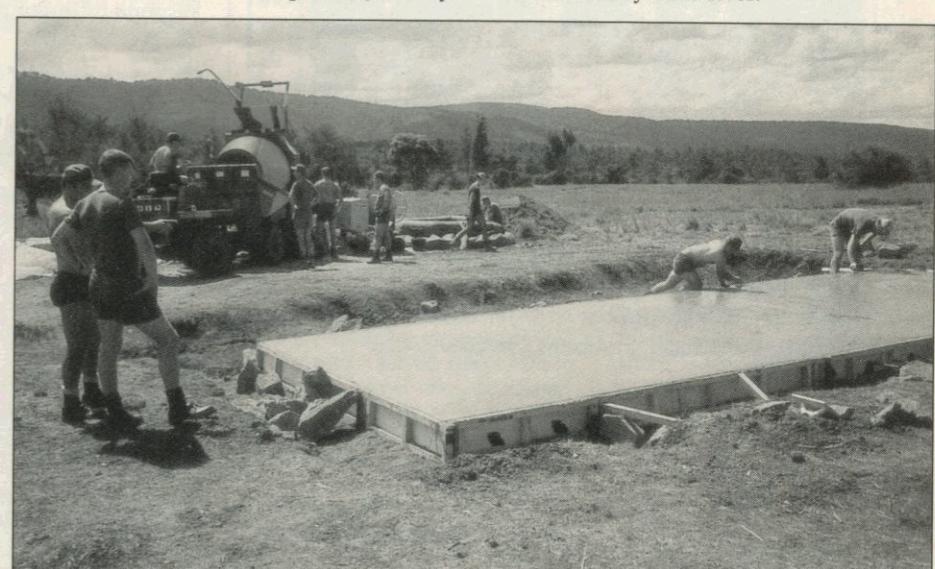
Cpl Dean Firman, constructed the wooden framework for the block.

The sappers also built an ablution block on the site. Exercise Crab Apple gave the engineers an opportunity to carry out a construction project in the field while at the same time building something useful for the local community.

The accommodation block will be used by visitors to the park and Kenya Wild Life Services.

While one team was building, another was upgrading a rough earth road in nearby forest. Cpl Roger Padley's section installed a culvert to prevent the road being washed away.

Most members of the squadron were able to get two days' leave at the Aberdare Country Club or to go white water rafting on the nearby Tana river.



Clerk of works Sgt Tom Dooley and Sgt Jed Egan watch as the first concrete pad is skinned

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WRITE TO

SOLDIER ORDNANCE ROAD ALDERSHOT HANTS GU11 2DU

Hampton Court, an MP and that old pike myth . . .

PAGE CROFT MP, whom it was said "was kept in his seat by the stuffy old ladies of Bournemouth", was not noted for speech-making in the House.

However in 1940 he said "Arm them with pikes" during a debate on the shortage of weapons for the new Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). This caused a great deal of hilarity at the time, as can be

Why not a British regiment for Sikhs?

WITH the recent increase of Sikhs and other Indian personnel in the British Forces may I suggest that the MoD create new regiments consisting entirely of Indian minority groups?

Apart from producing units with high morale this idea would also benefit recruiting.

Sikhs and others tend to be raised strictly and may be able to accept Forces discipline better than the average British teenager.

Some serving officers and old campaigners may disagree with my views, but I would respond by quoting the success of the Gurkhas. – **Huw M Youd (4 RGJ, 1982-85), Wheatley, Oxon.**

EPITAPH EPILOGUE

ON THE subject of the authorship of the Kohima Epitaph (Feb 5), between 1987 and 1993 I carried out a great deal of detailed research into the Kohima/Imphal campaign for a proposed book; this included the memorial.

While J Maxwell Edmonds's epitaph was the inspiration for the above, it was in fact composed by Maj John Etty-Leal, the GSO II of 2nd (British) Infantry Division.

Some years previously he had read the series of epitaphs

imagined. Shortly after this speech Hampton Court took down all the displays of weapons from its walls for safe keeping and, you guessed it, along with swords and flintlock pistols, pikes which had been formed in the shape of an enormous star were suddenly missing.

What a godsend to the newspapers of the day – perhaps they had gone to the LDV! There was much more hilarity at the time, but somehow it passed into mythology that they had been distributed.

I hope this clears things up in the debate about whether the LDV or Home Guard were ever issued with pikes. I was 16 at the time and living in Bournemouth, so can remember it well. – **Nina M Bishop, Stroud, Glos.**

... or is it?

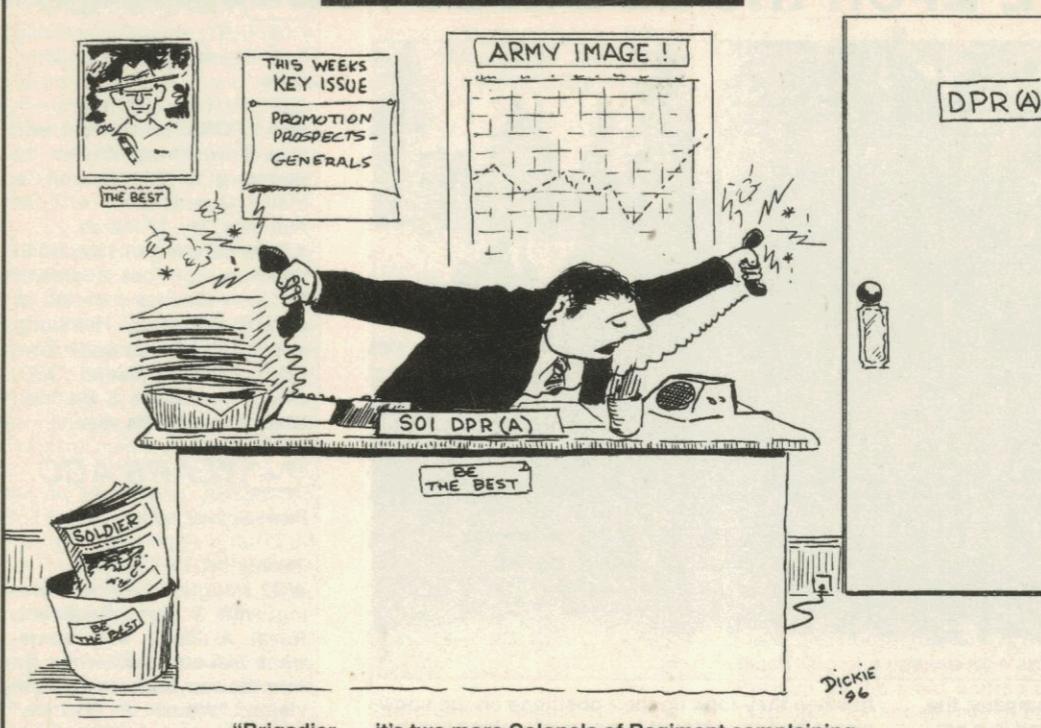
I WAS delighted to see Robert Waddington's letter of confirmation (Feb 19), in the face of ribald comments from other readers, that pikes were issued to the Home Guard. Although I am 80 years of age my military memory is still very sharp and we did not drill with the pikes but merely conveyed them to a collection point. This was in 1940.

Perhaps some old soldier will recall seeing Russian soldiers passing through London with snow on their boots – who knows! – **J C McCarthy, Liverpool.**

composed by Maxwell Edmonds intended for use after the First World War. – **Nigel L Rylatt, Military Historian, Huddersfield, W Yorks.**

● *Mr A J Andrews (ex-RA, 6th Inf Bde, 2 Div) has written from Burghfield Common, Reading, with a copy of SEAC Newspaper's report in November 1944 of the memorial unveiling service, which says that the original epitaph read: "When you go home/Tell them of us and say/For your tomorrow/We gave our today." – Editor.*

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"Brigadier... it's two more Colonels of Regiment complaining that their regiments do not feature in your video!"

Army video diary – see Pages 30-31

Sappers deserve the credit for Sipovo work

YOUR article highlighting the work of the Royal Signals in the "Sipovo Hotel" (Feb 19) was a gross misrepresentation of exactly what went on in that area, particularly with regard to restoring essential services.

While members of the Royal Signals may have been employed to assist Royal Engineers, your article implies that they did the bulk of the work. This is not the case.

Royal Engineers tradesmen restored power, heat and sewerage facilities to the Sipovo Hotel under arduous conditions and with limited resources.

The credit for this work should therefore go to them and not the unit simply occupying the building.

In addition it is hoped that the Royal Signals staff sergeant standing in front of a domestic electricity distribution panel is a qualified electrician, because the picture implies that he has been carrying out the work of one.

The only corps that trains and employs domestic electricians is the Royal Engineers. The implication that unquali-

fied personnel are carrying out this type of work may have serious repercussions in the event of an accident. – **SSgt C B Smith RE, 527 STRE (Wks), Operation Resolute, Gornji Vakuf (PF), BFPO 548.**

● **The Editor writes:** Capt M Bazley RE, RHQ 38 Engineer Regiment, Gornji Vakuf has also written on this subject, pleading that the sappers be given credit for their efforts.

"Bosnia is currently employing more than two regiments-worth of sappers," he writes. "We are not here for the good of our health and have spent an incredible effort trying to improve the living standards of soldiers out here with us.

"We don't work for praise but where credit is due it would be nice if it went to those who deserve it." A subtly different slant

Soldier

READERS who know of visually handicapped persons who would appreciate receiving audio tapes of extracts from *Soldier* are asked to contact the Managing Editor, with a view to a service being started.

on tape

WELL SAID, CARI!

HAVING previously congratulated you on the excellence of the magazine may I now say how outstandingly good I think "Cari's Column" is.

It always seems to be a model of journalistic writing – succinct, well thought through and of great clarity. Any would-be young journalist could learn a lot here, so thank you very much, Cari Roberts.

Cari recently wrote a very fine article on what we owe our serving men and women and I think she deserves a far wider audience for the thoughts she articulates so well for many of us. – **John Miles, Bexhill-on-Sea, E Sussex.**

Post haste

IN HER piece on lost or delayed kit (Lifestyle, Feb 19), Cari Roberts should have added the advice that you should never pack Kiwi Blood Red Polish (Sam Browne for the use of) if you are posted to a hot climate.

In 1945 I was sent to Shaiba in the Middle East and my personal kit went astray for eight weeks.

When at last it did turn up, my mess kit shirts had lovely red stains all over them from the polish melting in the 120-degree heat (in the shade).

You live and learn. The next time my kit moved it went via the Royal Air Force with the words "Careful, High Explosives" written on the manifest (you got away with anything in those happy days).

It got there right quick that time, I can tell you. – **Don Smith, Telford, Salop.**

Lancs a lot

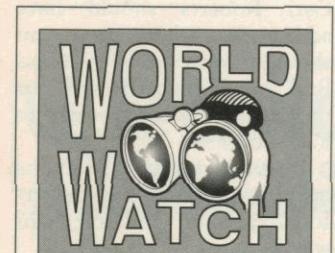
I CANNOT thank you enough for confirming that The Queen's Lancashire Regiment has most battle honours in the British infantry (Letters, Feb 19). I had tried for years to get this information, and you got it in one go, just for me. – **Edward Gardiner (ex-Lancs Regt), St Keverne, Cornwall.**

A Company, 2 LI on the airwaves



The voices of these soldiers from A Company, the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry featured in a programme broadcast on BBC Radio 4. The 40-minute *Pity the Peacekeepers*, a World Tonight Special, followed the 160 officers and men of A Coy, 2 LI and their Warrior armoured fighting vehicles during their first five weeks in former Yugoslavia.

Presenter Simon Diring lived and worked with the men of A Coy from the time they landed at Split



An occasional series on what other armies' journals are saying

From Army newspaper (Australia): The Australian Army is claiming world leadership in research to improve the safety of soldiers being transported in the rear of military vehicles. Roll-over protection and seat-belt systems may be retro-fitted to in-service vehicles.

From Army Reserve magazine (USA): In a bid to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of training, the US Army Reserve is re-structuring its training divisions and schools, cutting the number of divisions from nine to seven. — Army Reserve magazine, United States.

From *Salut* magazine (South Africa): At a forward-looking seminar the Chief of the South African Army, Lt Gen Reg Otto, warned against cutting down the size of the army to a point where it could no longer carry out its functions.

Battling colonel takes field

AN appeal has been launched by the Battlefield Trust for funds to purchase a field astride the Langport-Somerton road. It is the site of the 17th century Battle of Langport, and its boundaries were defined with the help of a retired colonel.

Col Graham Edwards served with the Welch Regiment from 1944 to 1948, and with the RAEC from 1951 to 1975. His research into 17th century history and the development of war helped place the spot where Fairfax's New Model Army defeated the Royalists under Lord Goring at Langport in 1645.

The field over which the Parliamentary army routed the Royalist cavalry lies on the edge of the town, and one of the current owners has agreed to sell about two acres to the trust.

Donations over £5 will receive a certificate, and those over £100 will be recorded on a plaque on the battlefield. The Battlefield Trust can be contacted c/o Meadow Cottage, 33 High Green, Brooke, Norwich NR15 1HR.

ATTENTION all poets: The National Library of Poetry in Maryland, USA is offering \$24,000 in prizes to more than 250 poets in the North American



Historian Col Graham Edwards

Open Poetry Contest

Contributors should send one original poem of no more than 20 lines, in any style and on any subject, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Drive, P O Box 704-1943, Owings Mills, MD 21117, USA, to arrive by March 31. Name and address on the top of the page. A new contest opens on April 1.

Italy PoWs' church rebuilt

A CHURCH built by British, Australian and New Zealand prisoners of war in Italy during the Second World War is to be re-dedicated on the morning of Sunday, April 28.

Anyone who was involved with the church in PoW Camp 57 at Grupignano (now known as Pre-

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 23, 1946

AIR-TIGHT SHAMROCK
SHAMROCK in air-tight tins was flown from Dublin to Hamburg for distribution to Irish Guardsmen on St Patrick's Day, 17 March.

Now carrying out the traditional role of Foot Guards, 2 Bn Irish Guards paraded at Estorff Barracks, Hamburg, and received shamrock from Brig J O E Vandeleur DSO, who commanded 3 Bn Irish Guards during the war.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 1971

PROBLEM PRIZE
WO2 Douglas Clewlow, serving with 5 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, was somewhat disconcerted when he won the star prize on the television "Wheel of Fortune" show. It was a £450 fitted kitchen unit — but he already has a fitted kitchen in his married quarter in Bulford. He has decided to put his prize into store until he leaves the Army next year.

mariacco) near Udine in northeast Italy will be welcome at the ceremony, which will be attended by representatives from the British Embassy in Rome.

The church, built on the site of the PoW camp, had suffered years of neglect before local people raised the money to restore it over a four-year period.

Half century of service

MAJ John Jessop has joined that small band of soldiers who can claim 50 years of service to king, Queen and Country.

He joined up as a boy trumpeter in 1946, switched to the RAEC three years later, and retired from active service in 1985.

However, his connection with the Army did not end then. Since 1987 John has worked as a retired officer in the Educational and Training Services at 2nd Division's Imphal Barracks in York, and it was from there that he retired at the age of 65.

Fluent in KiSwahili, German and Gurkha, he helped the Gurkhas rewrite their education scheme and reorganise recruiting procedures in Nepal. He is also York Branch secretary, treasurer and Poppy Day organiser for the Royal British Legion.

John will be logging up a few more years for the Army. He is to continue his work as deputy curator and treasurer of the Kohima Museum at Imphal Barracks.

REUNIONS

Coldstream Guards (1950-55): 4 Coy fourth reunion dinner in Birmingham on April 13. If you served in the 3rd Battalion between 1950-55 and would like to attend, contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeye Park, Hull HU4 7QE (01482 503649).

159 (Welsh) Fd Amb RAMC (TA) 1939-47: Reunion in Swansea on April 24. Details from Frank Margeritts, 41 Summerland Park, Upper Killay, Swansea SA2 7HX (01792 208720).

Commando Association: 50th annual reunion in London on April 27. All members welcome. Second World War commandos eligible but not members are invited to apply for details to the General Secretary, Commando Association, PO Box 1544, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 434784).

Defence NBC Centre WOs' and Sgts' Mess: Past and Present dinner, May 11. Details from Sgt A Millward, DNBCC, Winterbourne Gunner, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6HU (01722 436248).

201 (RCZ) Workshops (V) REME: 25th anniversary reunion, May 11 at Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Details from Maj Ron Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool (0151-928 4493).

RGJ Association (London Branch): Cup Final night reunion, May 11, members only or join at the door. Partners welcome. Details: Ted Fox on 0171-384 2476.

Middlesex Regiment (DCO): Annual reunion will be held in London on May 11. Details from Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (0181-949 7605).

RE Rowing Club: A 150th anniversary reunion will be held for past and present oarsmen and women at Henley Royal Regatta on July 5. Details from Lt Col J M Heron, 73 Engr Regt (V), TA

CLOSURES

Due to the disbandment of the HKMSC on December 31, 1996, the WOs' and Sgts' Mess HKMSC will close in July. Anyone who has made a presentation to the mess and would like it returned should contact WO2 (RQMS) N Hone PWRR, HKMSC, Stonecutters Island, BFPO 1. Also seeking to return donated items are the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, RAF Sek Kong, formerly the British WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Borneo Lines (contact Mess Secretary, Sgt C J Robins, RAF Sek Kong, BFPO 1 and the Combined Services Golf Society Hong Kong (contact WO2 (YoS) Steve Bertram, Vice Captain CSGS, Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron, BFPO 1).

Mrs Doris Maguire wishes to hear from anyone who served with her late father, Sgt Louis Alfred Gouédard RASC, who joined up at Huddersfield in 1945 as a driver and served in Egypt around 1956. Replies to 3 Thomas Edge Place, Tunnell Street, St Helier, Jersey J24 LU.

Doctoral student (ex Regular RAMC/TA RAPC) researching early military garrison New South

Crowning glory



BADGE enthusiasts will be intrigued by a new example from our cousins in the Australian Army Public Relations Service.

Journalists are represented on the insignia by a quill over a sword representing the written word, and photographers by the black ring of a camera lens and the sun as the main source of their light. Extended rays of the sun at the four compass points denote NEWS.

The initials AAPRS are inscribed on a boomerang at the base and the whole is surmounted by a crown.

SEARCHLINE

Roy W Brown, 1113 Mecklen Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 USA wishes to hear from anyone who knew a soldier, first name Mervyn, who was based with the 11th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment at Hornsea from Feb 1941 to Feb 1942. Battalion later deployed to India and was re-roled as a regiment of artillery.

Ex-SSgt David Evans RE wishes to hear from comrades who served in 509 or 587 Cos RE, 4 Indep Coy (Norway), and 155 and 206 Railway Wksp. Replies to 67 Pacific Palms, Burpengary, Queensland, Australia 4505

D C Fletcher wishes to contact anyone who knew his late half-brother, Peter William Gale, who arrived in Singapore with, he believes, 5 Beds and Herts, days before the surrender to the Japanese. He worked on the Death Railway and was repatriated from Rangoon in 1945. Replies to 42 Middleton Road, Felpham, Bognor Regis, W Sussex PO22 6BT.

Mrs Doris Maguire wishes to hear from anyone who served with her late father, Sgt Louis Alfred Gouédard RASC, who joined up at Huddersfield in 1945 as a driver and served in Egypt around 1956. Replies to 3 Thomas Edge Place, Tunnell Street, St Helier, Jersey J24 LU.

Doctoral student (ex Regular RAMC/TA RAPC) researching early military garrison New South

DATES

April

13-14: British Army (Germany) show jumping and hunter trial two-day event, Moosdorf, sponsored by 1 QDG.

21: Surrey Military Collectors Society militaria fair, Donyngs Recreation Centre, Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey (details: 01737 552304).

May 3-5: Rheindahlen Show.

4-6: Aldershot Show.

25-27: Rhine Army Summer Show, Paderborn.

25-27: Overlord '96 military vehicle rally, Southsea, Hants.

11: RBL 75th anniversary Big Band dance, Dunstable (tickets: 01582 603326).

11-12: International military culinary competition, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot.

June

5-6: Floodlit Beating Retreat by massed bands of Household Division, Horse Guards, 2130.

15: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards. Colour to be trooped by 1 IG (rehearsals June 1 and 8).

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

July

5: RE Rowing Club 150th anniversary row-past and reunion, Royal Henley.

9-20: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

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

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

SEK KONG APPEAL

Telling tales out of school

IF YOU went to Sek Kong School in Hong Kong and have a story to tell about your time there, it could end up in a book . . . but you will need to hurry.

To mark the school's closure in July after 41 years, children in Years 5/6 are planning to publish a history of Sek Kong School.

They are anxious to trace former pupils and staff and want to hear any interesting or amusing stories or incidents about the place. Old photographs would be particularly well received (and they will be returned if requested).

It is the school's intention to send all contributors a free copy of the completed book.

But response needs to be urgent. To meet publication deadlines, any contributions should reach Sek Kong School, Sek Kong, Hong Kong, BFPO 1 by March 15.

MILITARIA

International Military Music Society, secretary Eileen Pearson, 76a Lawrence Road, Hove, W Sussex BN3 5QD. Corps of Drums Society, secretary R J Davenport, 50 Station Road, Hailsham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7DJ. Piobaireachd Society (for serious students of Highland bagpipe history), c/o The College of Piping, 16-24 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JH.

Cadets raise a tide-y sum for Army charity

THE Army Benevolent Fund and Newcastle children's charity The Yellow Brick Road will each be £900 better off, thanks to the efforts of ten sturdy members of the **Northumbrian Universities Officers' Training Corps**.

Led by 2nd Lt George Bidulph, who will be joining the King's Royal Hussars, the Exercise Argonaut team took two days to paddle their canoes the 60 scenic miles from Kielder Water to HMS *Example*, the university Royal Naval unit in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Despite unexpectedly low water levels on the North Tyne and Tyne between white water stretches, he and the others negotiated exposed rocks and overcame a final two hours pitted against a strong incoming tide to achieve far more than their original target of £1,000.

Other members of the expedition included Woman Officer Cadets Flo Burrows and Emily Stewart, Permanent Staff Instructor WO2 (BSM) Ian Corr and Capt Ian Banks, a Territorial Army officer from the 7th Battalion, The Light Infantry serving with the OTC.

Militia's trek was just child's play



Blisters picked up on the Taff-Ely Challenge walk – an arduous 21-mile trek with some steep ascents along the way – were forgotten as the tenacity of 12 volunteers from Monmouth-based 101 Headquarters Squadron (Militia), who undertook the task with Maj John Charles, paid off.

The Territorial Army soldiers raised more than

£380 for the Wyesham Mothers and Toddlers Group to purchase new toys, hence the happy smiles from (left to right) the group's Bridget Palmer with Jane Ord, wife of the squadron's Permanent Staff Instructor, SSgt Phil Ord (one of the event's organisers), Sgt Gary Joy, Spr Andrea Lesley and Sgt John Lewis.



You're never too young to hand over a cheque – especially when you have grateful parents – as six-week-old Calum Lister proves.

The £200 which he, dad SSgt Keith Litster, and mum Noelle (right) presented to Staff Nurse Fiona Rolf came from sergeants' mess funds at York's Imphal Barracks and will go towards a £20,000

ventilator for premature babies in the special care unit at the York District Hospital.

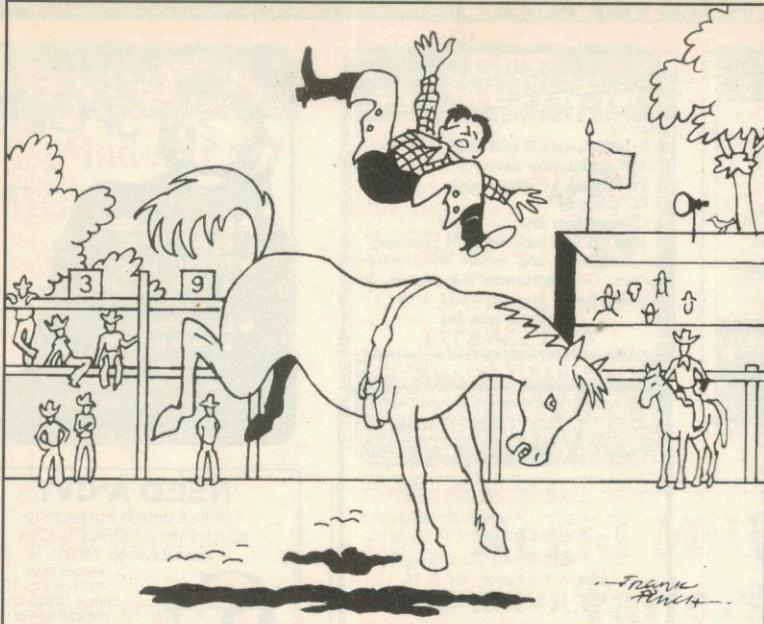
"When Calum was born, he had difficulty breathing and spent a week in the unit. Although he made only a brief visit, we appreciated the skill of the staff and the fact that they were there," said Keith, a member of locally-based 2 Signal Regiment.

EOD team carries on for MS

A CHEQUE for £1,400 has been given to the Multiple Sclerosis Research Centre by Saffron Walden-based 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal).

The money was raised last summer during a sponsored wheelchair carry to the top of Mount Snowdon. It took the team 2 hours 14 minutes to complete the climb in heavy rain and force six winds.

Another 33 Engr Regt team will be attempting the charity climb for MS research in June, again led by WO2 (QMSI) Tony Mims. "We aim to top that amount this time and we hope other military teams will keep us company and help raise money," he said.



COMPETITION 632

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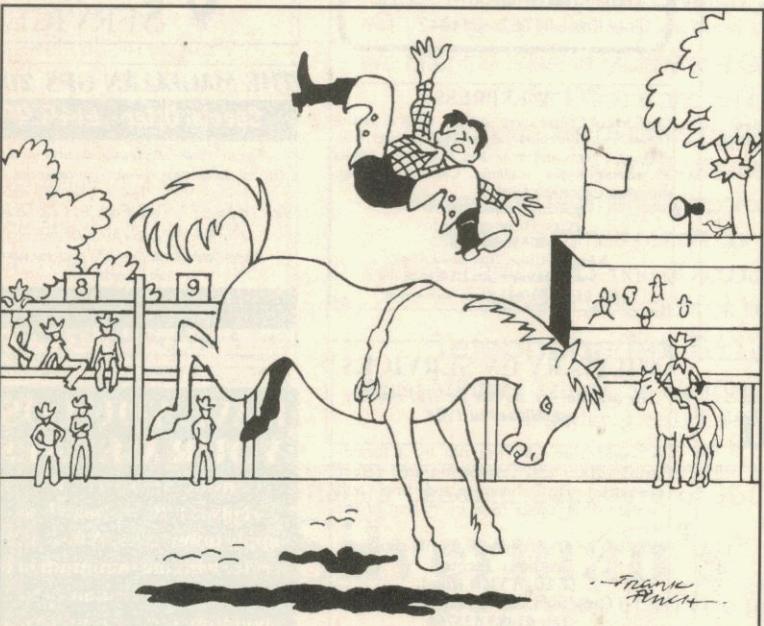
in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the April 29 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 629 (Feb 5): Congratulations to Mr Harold Tomlinson, of Halifax, W Yorks, who wins £50. Book prizes go to Mrs B Wright, of Tring, Herts, and Maj L Brown, of Harwich, Essex.



Glencorse's first-time abseilers snap up £650

RECRUITS from Normandy Platoon, ATR Glencorse, completed a 200ft abseil of the Kielder dam tower in Northumberland although few of them had ever abseiled before.

The platoon, led by Sgt Eric Innes DWR, and consisting of 60 recruits of both Scottish and King's Divisions, raised £650 for the Penicuik Community Association to buy a soft play facility to be used by local children with special needs.

Assisting with the abseil, which was part of the recruits' week-long adventurous training package at Otterburn Camp, was Bob Cardy of the

Glencorse gym staff. First down the rope was Lt Col Andrew Campbell, A and SH, commanding officer of ATR Glencorse.

Sgt Innes was well qualified to lead the project. His previous posting was to the Army Adventurous Training School in Wales.

Other events during the week included mountain biking and white water rafting at Teeside.

□ □ □

In a reversal of the usual charity role, a £1,000 cheque has been handed over to the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V) by the Mental Health Fund and the

Institute of Cancer Research as a mark of gratitude for the London-based unit's services.

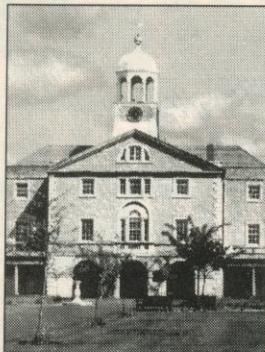
Over a 12-month period, the part-timers helped raise more than £100,000 for various charities and ensured that several charity abseils were carried out safely. Last year the part-time paras broke a world record for the distance abseiled in eight hours.

The cheque was received by commanding officer Lt Col Anthony Malkin and abseil team leader CSgt John Tovey.

Neither had expected any reward for the battalion's charity efforts. The money will be used to buy equipment for the abseilers.



Rct Elliott Baird from ATR Glencorse pauses 200ft up Kielder Dam tower



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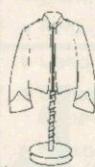
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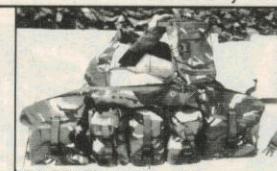
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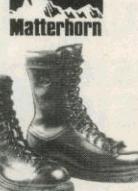


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Lynn, 29, 5'4". Interests include swimming, working out at the gym, rugby, hockey and reading. Seeking pen pals aged 25-39. All letters answered. **P642** 06/96

Suzanne, 29, slim, long brown hair and blue eyes. Loves cars, driving, clubbing and generally having fun. Also loves Dobermanns. Fun loving girl waiting to hear from you soldiers out there aged 20-30, so get writing. Photo please. **P643** 06/96

Karen, 19, 5'8", long brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys clubbing, socialising, keep-fit, music and concerts. Seeking pen pals aged 20-25. Lots of letters please. **P644** 06/96

Samantha, 27, 5'6", long brown hair and blue eyes. Interests include pen palling, pubs, clubs and music. Would like to write to pen pals aged 25-35. I promise to answer all letters. **P645** 06/96

Lisa, 17, 5'5", blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys pubs, pool and most types of music. Has one sister called Jayne. Would like to correspond with pen pals aged 17-20. **P646** 06/96

Julie, 23, 5'2", petite. Divorced single mother with a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. Interests include music, socialising, cinema and swimming. Seeking pen pals aged 20-30, all letters replied to. **P647** 06/96

Sue, 38, 5'8", slim, blue eyes and short hair. Interests include pop music, sport and television. I am a secretary, divorced with three teenage boys and seeking pen pals aged 30-40. **P648** 06/96

Female, 29, 5'6", from an army background. Enjoys music, cinema, socialising, baseball and travelling. Seeks genuine soldier to correspond with, tall, NCO, 28-34. Photo if possible. **P649** 06/96

Female, 17, 5'8", from an army background. Interests include music, travel, cinema and socialising. Seeking soldier to correspond with, tall, GSOH, 18-25. Photo if possible. **P650** 06/96

Julia, 30, 5'9". Recently moved to Somerset. Seeks correspondence from tall, sporty guys, any age, to exchange news and views. Be nice if you're a rugger player (not vital!). **P651** 06/96

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Below-strength county pay penalty

CS U-21 15, Middlesex U-21 10
SOLID running, tenacious tackling, powerful forward play and inspired leadership by skipper Kemble (Army) ensured the Combined Services Under-21 rugby team reached half time against Middlesex with a well-deserved 12-3 lead, writes Tom Wye.

Four reach ABA finals

THREE Army boxers are through to the finals of the England ABA championships, each by a different route.

Light-flyweight Pte Peter Charlton (1 PWRR) was given a walkover, welterweight LCpl Jason Gardner (Int Corps) progressed via a disqualification at Portsmouth, and super-heavyweight Spr Danny Watts (36 Engr Regt) won impressively at Birmingham.

Gardner must have wondered what he had got himself into against Richie Murray of NW Counties. After several minutes of an appalling contest, Murray was thrown out for persistent holding.

The fight was stopped with Murray manhandling Gardner over the ropes, an incident which caused the young Scot a painful back injury.

Watts, unimpressive in his quarter-final, responded to the "mother and father" of a telling off by Army coach WO2 Andy Edwards APTC, and dismissed Sunderland's Gavin McGinn in one round.

Watts avoided a series of hooks from McGinn before throwing a right-hand "bomb" over the top, and finishing the fight in brilliant form.

Lightweight Cpl Viny Powell (3 RSME) has reached the finals of the Welsh ABAs. Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Tpt Regt RLC), the British light-middleweight champion, is not involved in the ABAs. He is preparing for the Europeans, where a good showing would stamp his Olympic ticket.

The county, who drew players from Harlequins, London Irish, Saracens, Wasps and Rosslyn Park, paid the price for turning up three short, and their numbers were made up by Army substitutes White, Cunvin and Siddell.

The Army supplied seven players to the Services' XV,

the Royal Navy six and the Royal Air Force two.

Middlesex changed their tactics at the interval and went on to dominate large phases of the game. Their big pack got further on top when Brown (Army) had to go off with a leg injury.

A Middlesex try jolted the

home team into renewed action and they spent much of the final quarter camped in the county 22, a penalty extending the Combined Services' lead to five points.

It was an impressive victory for the young Servicemen over good opposition who are likely to be at full strength next year.



LBdr Al Pearson (19 Regt RA) in action during the Land Command (UK) Alpine ski championships at Monêtier in France. He finished fourth in the Alpine combination

Sport Board in the money

THE British Army (Germany) Sport Board has received a cheque for DM50,000 (about £23,000) from the Rover Car Group, which also gives substantial vehicle sponsorship.

The cheque was received at JHQ Rheindahlen by Maj Gen Christopher Drewry, GOC United Kingdom Support Command (Germany), from Gill Biddlecome and Tony Goody of Rover.

JUDO DATES: Fox Gym, APTC Aldershot hosts the Army open team and individual championships on March 16, the Inter-Service team event on April 19 and the Inter-Service individuals on April 20.

Bielefeld truckies retain novice boxing title

BIELEFELD-based 7 Transport Regiment RLC retained the British Army (Germany) novice grade 3 Major Unit team boxing championship at an exciting final in Catterick Barracks, Bielefeld, against the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers from Falling-

Icy piste tests Army's finest

THE CREAM of Army skiing took part in the Christchurch Insurance Army Alpine ski championships at the French resort of Serre Chevalier.

Ten women and 104 male racers representing 22 regiments competed over international standard courses having qualified through the Divisional championships.

The downhill race, in particular, tested nerve and determination through 28 gates on a drop of 650m over an icy piste used for the women's World Cup. The fastest skier and overall winner, 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintzov, reached 85mph across the finishing line, and even the last-placed skiers were travelling at more than 70mph.

Fortunately, there were no more serious injuries than a broken finger.

LBdr Al Pearson, who finished fifth, left 19 Regiment RA two weeks before the end of a six-month tour in Bosnia to take part in the racing season. Although he spent time on Mount Igman during a period of particular tension, he reckoned the start of the downhill frightened him more than service in Bosnia.

Event administrator Maj Mike Liddicoat said: "To race at those speeds takes guts and determination. Developing that is the ideal of adventure

training. Qualities we have seen at Serre Chevalier are exactly those required in our best soldiers."

It was the fifth year in succession that the Army event has been held at the French resort. Gen Sir John Wilsey, C-in-C Land Command and president of the Army Winter Sports Association, presented prizes.

Results

Individual giant slalom – 1, 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintzov (2 AAC); 2, Lt Will Fanshawe (3 AAC); 3, Capt Richard Determeyer (3 AAC). **Team** – 1, 3 AAC; 2, QRH; 3, 35 Engr Regt.

Ind slalom – 1, 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintzov; 2, LBdr Al Pearson (19 Regt RA); 3, Maj Tim Lai (1 R Irish). **Team** – 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, QRH; 3, 3 AAC.

Ind downhill – 1, 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintzov; 2, SSgt Ian Dryden (QRH); 3, Tpr Stuart Skidmore (QRH). **Team** – 1, QRH; 2, 1 (UK) ADSR; 3, 3 AAC.

Ind Super G – 1, 2nd Lt Sasha Zvegintzov; 2, Sgt Craig Bonnington (RAF); 3, Maj Tim Lai. **Team** – 1, 35 Engr Regt; 2, QRH; 3, 1 (UK) ADSR.

Women

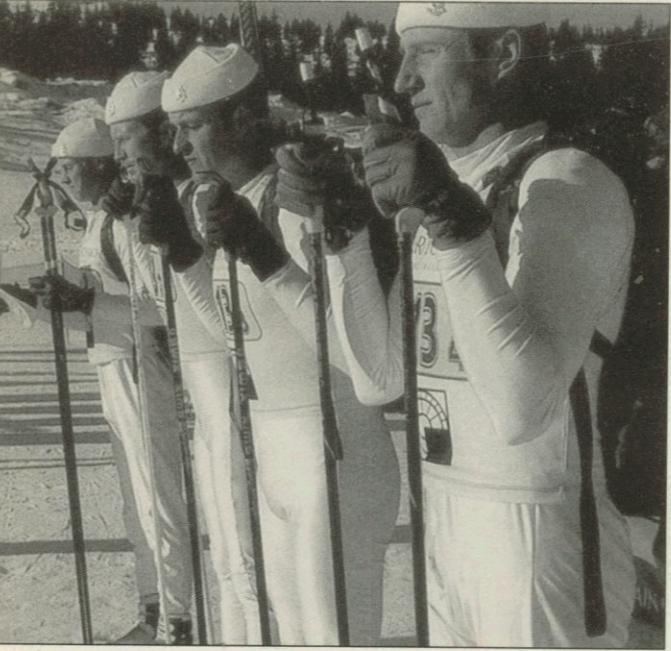
Ind giant slalom – 1, Sgt Jude Shenton (3 RSME); 2, Capt Emma Watson-Mack (39 Regt RA); 3, Lt Di Liddell (16 Tk Tpt Sqn). **Ind slalom** – 1, Sgt Jude Shenton; 2, Lt Di Liddell; 3, Capt Emma Watson-Mack. **Ind Super G** – 1, Sgt Jude Shenton; 2, Capt Emma Watson-Mack; 3, Lt Di Liddell.

bostel. Although the home team, who are due to meet 1 DWR in the semi-finals of the Army novice championships, won by seven bouts to two, most of the contests were well matched.

Pte Keane, Pte Hewlett, LCpl Stock, Cpl Earl, LCpl

Evans, LCpl Rutherford and LCpl Howie won for 7 Tpt Regt, and Fus Hayward and Fus Trotter for 1 RHF.

Maj Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, GOC 1 (UK) Armd Div presented the trophies, and a special prize to most promising novice Rutherford.



Surprise patrol race winners 7 (Para) RHA line up for the prize-giving

Patrol race honours go to 7 RHA

ALDERSHOT-based 7 (Para) RHA beat pre-race favourites 45 Cdo RM and 35 Engr Regt to win the 1996 patrol race, the blue riband event which brings the British, Inter-Service and Army Nordic ski championships to a climax.

The 35 Engr Regt team beat 1 GS Regt RLC for third by finishing 59 seconds faster in their "run time".

But the loggies lodged a protest about one of their targets. The race jury upheld it after six hours of deliberation and removed a 60-second time penalty, giving 1 GS Regt third spot by a second.

In fourth were 1 Kings Own Border and 1 Hldrs were fifth.

The Royal Marines were several minutes faster over the 30km course but could not make up for a poor performance on the range. They finished second.

Each patrol, camouflaged and carrying rifles, ammunition and up to 40kg of equipment, consists of an officer, a senior NCO and two junior skiers. At Les Saisies, venue for the 1992 Winter Olympics, they were confronted by one of the most technically demanding circuits in Europe. The

long drag up to the range made accurate shooting difficult. Patrols also had to cope with a gully and a Super G course.

The 7 RHA foursome were Lt Adam Spaul, Sgt Michael Kelly, LBdr Peter Armstrong and LBdr Mark Austin.

Only one women's team, London UOTC, took part and, despite skiing with determination, failed to overhaul their male counterparts.

SAPPERS HOLD OFF RLC

THERE was no shortage of competitors or skill at the Army's Nordic ski championships, despite the Service's operational commitments.

Twenty eight teams took part in the Nordic disciplines at the Olympic Centre in Les Saisies, with the combination for the champion ski unit of the British Army attracting 11 teams.

Fifth and sixth places were filled by 3 RHA and 1 Hldrs.

In the Princess Marina Challenge, 35 Engr dropped

AAC in form at Monêtier

THE men's competition at the Land Command (UK) Alpine ski championships at Serre Chevalier was dominated by 3 Regiment AAC which won all four team races, writes Stephen Harris.

Racing was divided between two villages, Monêtier and Villeneuve, with the 4 Division, London District and Northern Ireland championships at Monêtier where 95 racers registered.

Of these, 27 qualified for the Army championships, with the top four maintaining their form to be selected for the Army team.

Snow conditions were outstanding and skiers raced on well-prepared pistes. L'Ecole de Ski again provided an outstanding service, competitors being offered a full programme of six high quality championship races plus a seeding race.

With 3 AAC heading the team races, competition for the other places was tight, 1 BW finishing second ahead of 1 Hldrs; 3, HCR.

Alpine combination – 1, Lt Fanshawe; 2, Capt Determeyer; 3, Lt Clarke.

Team slalom – 1, 3 AAC; 2, 1 Hldrs; 3, 3 RSME Regt. **Ind** – 1, LBdr Pearson; 2, Lt Fanshawe; 3, Lt Clarke.

Ind downhill – 1, LBdr Pearson; 2, Capt Determeyer; 3, Lt Clarke. **Team** – 1, 3 AAC; 2, 1 Hldrs; 3, HCR.

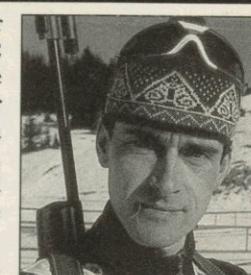
Team competitions

4 Div – 1, 3 AAC; 2, 1 BW; 3, RSME. **London Dist** – 1, London UOTC; 2, HCR; 3, 1 IG. **NI** – 1 Hldrs. **Guests** – 1, HQ Land A; 2, AGC; 3, HQ Land B.

mando RM, was the re-emergence of five infantry battalions, two of which performed well in both Nordic and Alpine events.

Olympic and World Cup skier Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt) regained his British championship title and Sgt Dave Belam (3 RHA), another Olympian, pushed his team to extraordinary heights of athletic ability.

The Army team of Dixon, Belam, Cpl A Simpson (1 GS Regt RLC), LCpl P Walker (1 GS Regt RLC), LCpl M Gee (2 RTR) and Tpr W Kennan (QRH) won the Inter-Service Nordic championship.



Olympic and World Cup competitor Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr Regt), who retained the Inter-Services Nordic title



Polo paddlers

Army canoe polo players limber up for the Inter-Services tournament at Edinburgh. The Army A team of OCdt Jon Elliott (RMAS), Sgt Harry Harris (RA), Cpl Andy Beegan (RE), captain LBdr Keith Brigstock (RA), and Gnr Rob Maidment (RA) finished runners-up to the Royal Navy.

But the Army women's team went one better, winning their competition. They were represented by Cpl Babs Falton (RMP), Cfn Bethan Rees (REME), Gnr Clare Lawrence (RA) and Pte Sarah Moorhouse (AMS).

The Army will host the 1996 championships at Devizes on June 29-30. Paddlers of any standard wishing to be considered are asked to contact LBdr Brigstock, 1st Battery, 14 Regt

Army on course to meet Navy in counties' final

Army 2, Middlesex 1

THEIR third win in three outings pushed the Army football team to the top of their South West Counties Championships group table with points and games in hand over their nearest rivals.

Middlesex scored first at the Military Stadium in Aldershot and the Army missed numerous chances before Cpl Lee Innes scored twice in as many minutes.

The three points could be vital in the Army's bid to qualify as group winners, an achievement which would earn them a place in the final tie against the Royal Navy, winners of the other South West Counties group.

CS 1, Netherlands AF 1

With the phasing out of National Service in Holland its final stages, the Dutch Armed Forces squad included only five professional players for their annual Kentish Cup clash against British Combined Services.

LBdr Gary Toothill's defence-splitting pass in the eighth minute allowed RAF striker McGuire time to run on and thrash the ball into the visitors' net. But a minute into the second half the Dutch were level after the Belgian referee had mistakenly awarded them a corner.

The ball was floated across and bounced around in the area until a Dutch boot tucked it, via a deflection, into the corner of the net.

Army representatives in the team were SSgt Alan Higgins, Pte Steve Bowey, Cpl Tosh Williams, goalkeeper SSI Nigel Wiscombe and Cpl Lee Innes.

Army XI 4, Portsmouth XI 0

An Army team travelled to Havant to take on a Pompey XI made up of managerial staff, reserve and junior players in a game to raise funds for five-year-old amputee Stephanie Lush, a local girl who lost both legs following a serious illness.

Watched by Lt Gen Sam Cowan, Maj Gen David Burden and other members of the AFA executive committee, the players raised £1,000 for Stephanie.

Infantry 16, AAC 1

ATpr Ronnie Peters scored for the Army Air Corps after 15 minutes, an occurrence which spurred the Infantry into instant retaliation. By

half-time they had a 4-1 lead.

In the second half the Infantry ran riot, scoring six times in the last ten minutes. LCpl James McIlvogue (WG) 5, Pte Simon Yeo (Cheshires) 5, LSgt Paul Fagin (IG) 2, Cpl John Greechan (Hldrs) 2, including a penalty; Pte Stephen Bird (Cheshires) and Cpl Billy Miller (ITC Catterick) were all on target.

RUGBY RAIDERS

Taking HMS *Cumberland* by storm when she berthed in the Thames were the Army's three international rugby players – (left to right) Scottish skipper and Army doctor Capt Rob Wainwright RAMC; new England lock Sig Gareth Archer of the Royal Signals; and England loose forward Capt Tim Rodber, Green Howards.

The three stars joined RAF international Flt Lt Rory Underwood on board to launch the Willis Corroon Inter-Service championship. The games, all at Twickenham, kick off with the Army-Royal Navy on March 30, followed by RN v RAF on April 10, and RAF v Army on April 17.

Tickets are available from the ARU, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot GU11 2BG (tel 01252 348575).

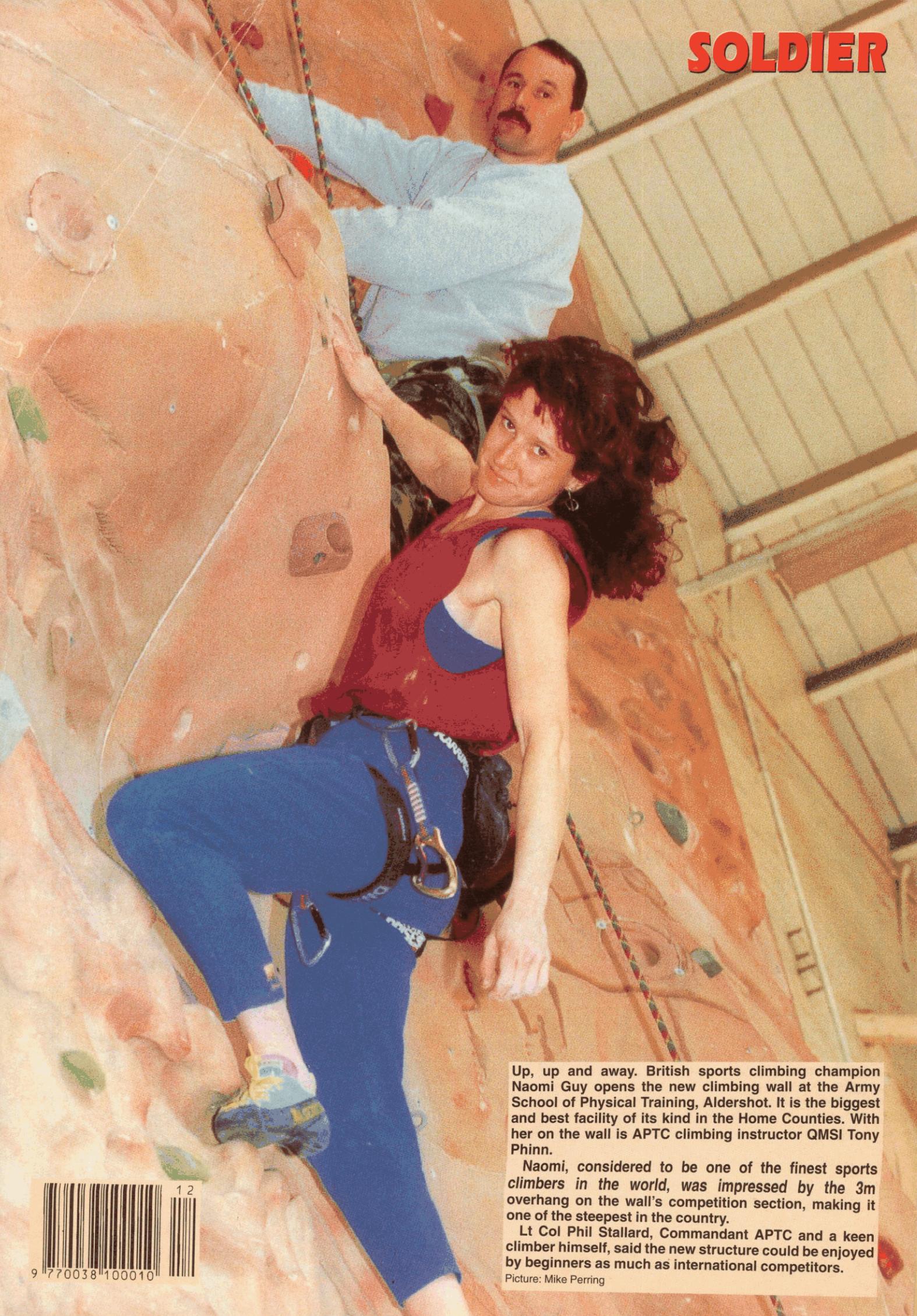


Flat out: Lt Will Fanshawe (3 AAC) shows the form that won him the Monétier title at the Land Command (UK) Alpine championships. Report in Page 45.



Dead still: Biathlon team members of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders on the range during the Army Nordic ski championships. Report in Page 45.

SOLDIER

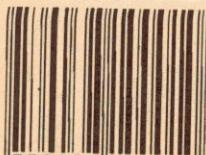


Up, up and away. British sports climbing champion Naomi Guy opens the new climbing wall at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. It is the biggest and best facility of its kind in the Home Counties. With her on the wall is APTC climbing instructor QMSI Tony Phinn.

Naomi, considered to be one of the finest sports climbers in the world, was impressed by the 3m overhang on the wall's competition section, making it one of the steepest in the country.

Lt Col Phil Stallard, Commandant APTC and a keen climber himself, said the new structure could be enjoyed by beginners as much as international competitors.

Picture: Mike Perring



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