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ARMED FORCES MAGAZINE

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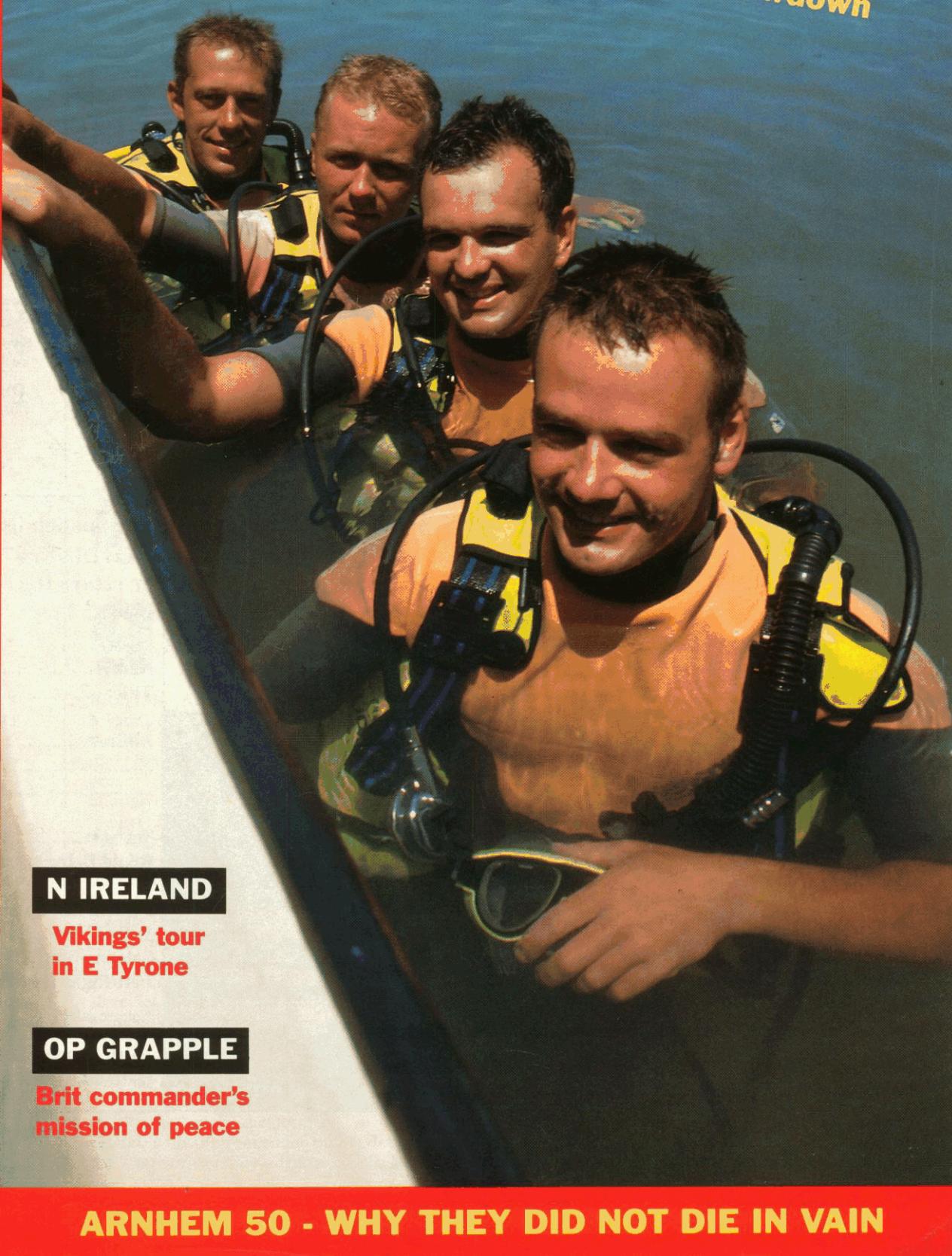
N IRELAND

Vikings' tour
in E Tyrone

OP GRAPPLE

Brit commander's
mission of peace

BELIZE
After the drawdown



ARNHEM 50 - WHY THEY DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

September 5, 1994

Vol 50/18

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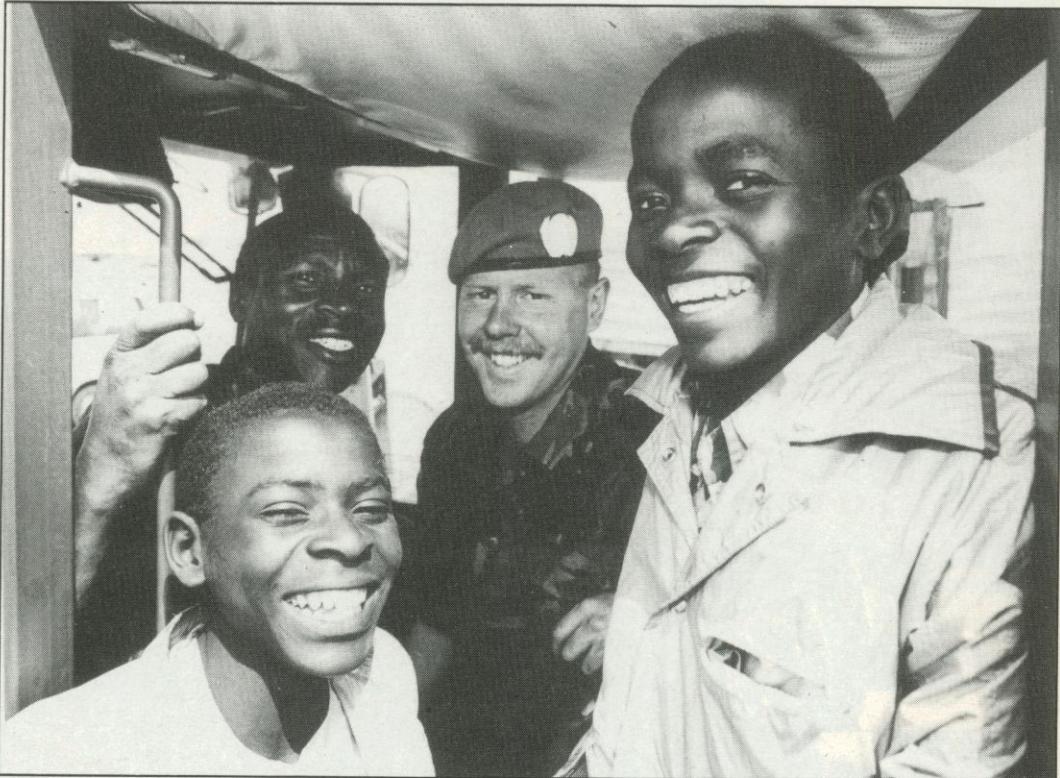
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FRONT COVER: Happy divers at the Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre in Belize are LCpl John Farrell, Capt Phil Ashcroft, LCpl Si Mead and Cfn Dave Standridge. A feature on the drawdown of the British garrison and the creation of the British Army Training Support Unit Belize is in Pages 18-23.

- **RWANDA:** British soldiers soon start "making a difference". *This page and Page 5.*
- **N IRELAND:** The Vikings show a friendly face in East Tyrone. *Pages 13-15.*
- **BOSNIA:** British commander
- **ARNHEM:** Special 50th anniversary feature, book reviews. *Pages 36-39.*
- **FAMILIES:** Cari Roberts on the stresses of break-up – and how SSAFA is helping. *Page 29.*



Coming up smiling: Cpl Andy Shoreman, RLC 82 Airborne Supply Specialist, with fortunate locals in Rwanda. His job during his first few days in the country was to move stores in the Kigali Airfield area

Rwanda team gets to work

BRITISH troops deployed to Rwanda on Operation Gabriel, the UN refugee relief operation, have established a temporary base at Kigali's international airport.

First in theatre were the British commanding officer, Lt Col Mike Wharmby, and 15 staff drawn from 5 Airborne Brigade, 29 Regiment RLC, 30 Signal Regiment and Army public relations.

They had endured a 24-hour flight from RAF Lyneham in a Hercules C130 aircraft that included refuelling stops in Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

By the end of the first day, 25 personnel and four trucks were on the ground in the former capital, with the remainder of the 60-strong pre-advance party arriving within days.

A makeshift camp was set up

Report: Siobhan Kenny
Pictures: WO2 Kevin Capon,
PlInfo, HQ UKLF

at Kigali airport, where the terminal bears the scars of recent fighting. An exploding mortar had left a large crater in the centre of the viewing platform and small arms fire had pock-marked walls around the airport.

Few windows were intact and soldiers spent some time clearing floors of shattered glass before being able to lay out their sleeping bags.

At night fruit bats, mosquitoes and other exotic creatures shared the accommodation with exhausted troops.

A satellite communications detachment from 30 Signal Regiment established a comms link back to the UK.

Some troops reconnoitred

sites for a more permanent base. In one, a former football stadium, a football boot was found with sun-bleached tibia and fibula still in place lying on the turf. The clear-up operation there would have been daunting – 10,000 refugees had made the ground their temporary home.

Other soldiers have been to Ruhengeri, where the main field ambulance is being set up, and Burumba, where sappers have been working on the water supply. Other Royal Engineers, from 9 Parachute Squadron RE, repaired a bridge in the no-man's land at Gatuna between the Rwandan and Ugandan borders, to facilitate the passage of aid and other vehicles.

Most mornings, the British contingent is wakened by the

● Turn to Page 5

Top Gun Shogun.



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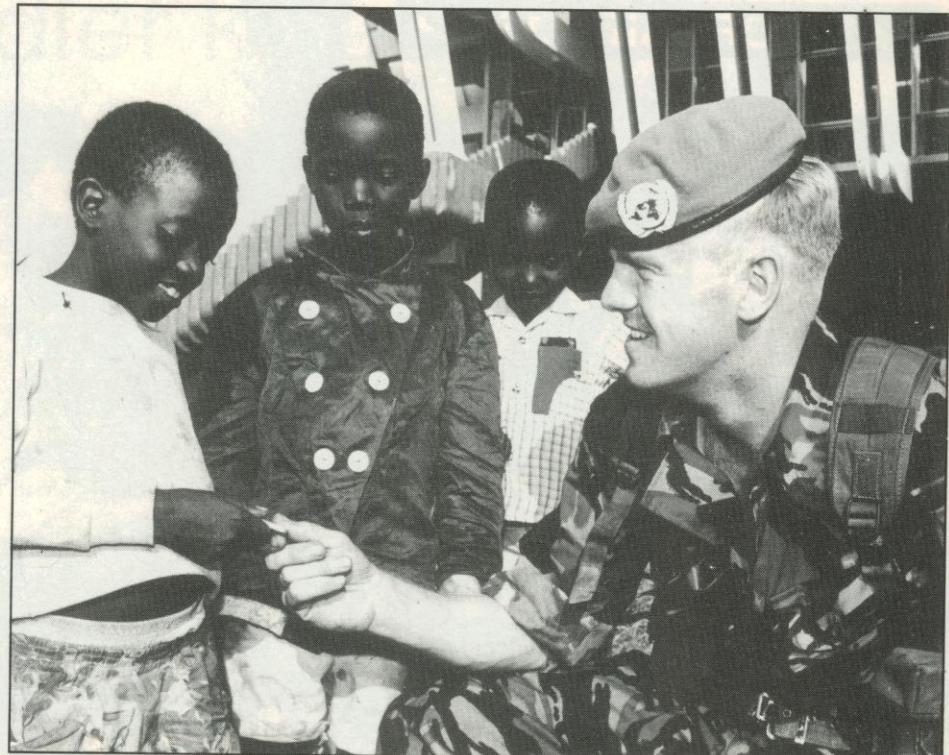


DESIGNED TO BE DRIVEN

Op Gabriel gets under way

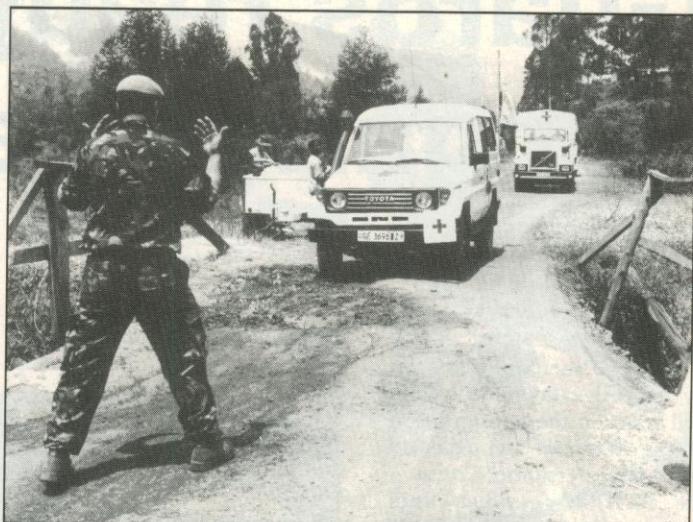


At Rwanda Airport, Cpl Mark Harris, a Royal Logistic Corps supply controller serving with 82 Airborne General Support Squadron, checks bottled water destined for use by British troops in Rwanda



Above – The hand of friendship: REME vehicle mechanic from 10 Airborne Workshops, Cfn Hadrian Summerscales, pals up with a few youngsters in Kigali

Left – On an Overseas Development Agency-sponsored visit to the region, Liberal Democrat MP Sir David Steel received a briefing from the Commander British Forces in Rwanda, Lt Col Mike Wharmby



Above – A sapper guides the first vehicles across the bridge. They are part of an International Red Cross convoy carrying urgently needed medical supplies

Left – Sappers of 9 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers race against time to repair a damaged bridge so that UN convoys can deliver aid

From Page 3

haunting sound of chanting from the Rwandan Patriotic Army scouting through Kigali looking for recruits.

The Britons share the airport building with Canadian and American troops deployed as part of UNAMIR (United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda). Facilities are basic. There is no running water and infrequent electric power.

A civilian contractor has taken on the task of clearing

the football stadium, using local labour. Until then, a makeshift camp has been established in a field alongside.

More medics from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance have been arriving in theatre. Immediately on landing, they were being driven 80km north to Ruhengeri to help establish an Army medical centre.

Up to 2,000 refugees stream by daily, all suffering different states of exhaustion or malnutrition. The town had the third

largest hospital in Rwanda before the civil war, with 800 beds and more than 1,000 staff. Operations officer, Capt Ian Johnson RAMC, couldn't believe his luck when he saw the deserted building.

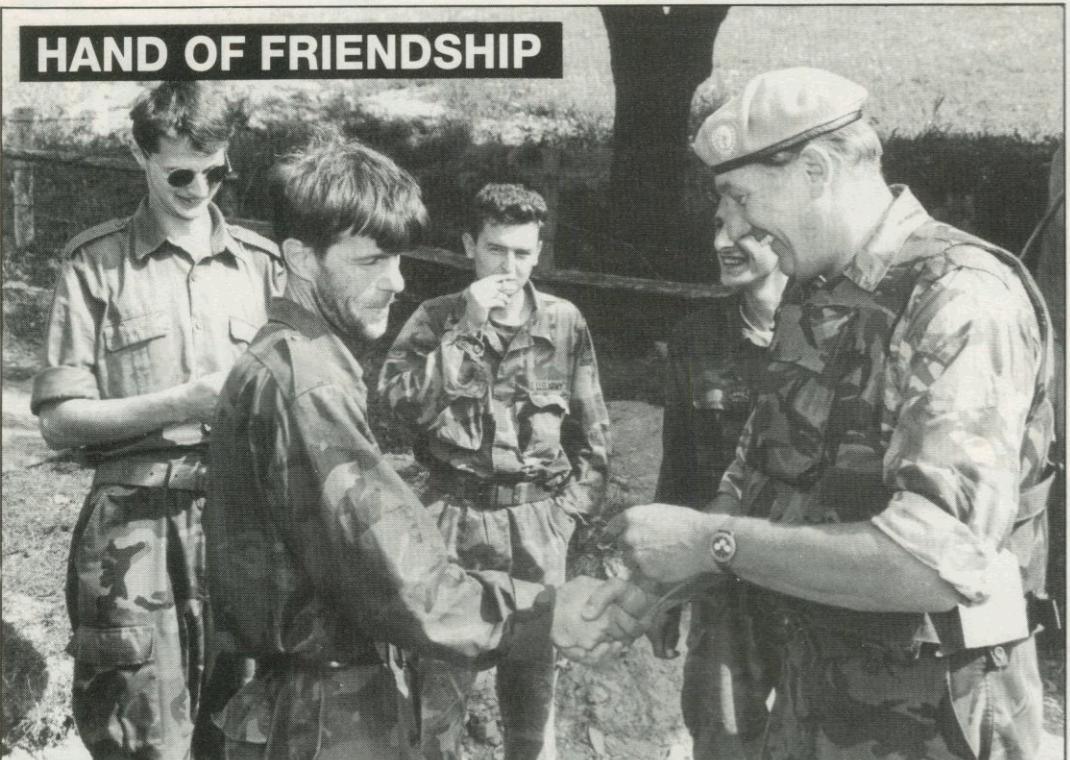
"Although it was filthy, it had running water and plenty of space for our 150-strong team," he said. "We found a child abandoned by the hospital gate. We named her Gabriel after the operation, and a local family is looking after her."

Some 600 soldiers have deployed on Op Gabriel. They have been drawn from a number of units including 9 Parachute Squadron RE, 23 Parachute Field RAMC, 10 Airborne Workshop REME, 63 Airborne Close Support Squadron RLC and 82 Airborne General Support Squadron RLC, as well as elements of 5 Airborne Brigade's Logistic Battalion.

● **Rwanda paras miss Arnhem – Page 9**

HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

Picture: Mike Perring



A air of normality is returning to central Bosnia and the hand of friendship is being extended everywhere. Here the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, hands out 2 R Anglian Poacher badges to Bosnian soldiers during a visit to British troops serving with the United Nations

Guards ready for Hungarian Venture

GUARDSMEN from 7 Company, Coldstream Guards will exercise with the former Hungarian Army south of Budapest from September 5-25.

The 140 men, commanded by Maj Alexander Matheson, will train on the latest version of the Warsaw Pact wheeled Armoured Personnel Carrier - the BTR 80 - which until recently they were ready to fight.

Training with 62 Mechanised Brigade will include conventional operations with T55 tanks and flying in Hip helicopters before working with a new Hungarian Home Defence Forces Peace Keeping Company practising United Nations-type duties.

The exercise, Hungarian Venture, is the fruit of hard work by the Defence Attaché, Col Bill Ibbetson, and the Hungarian Col Laszlo Sterbinzky.

It re-establishes an ancient link: the Saxon royal family sheltered in Hungary during the Norman conquest and one, the Scottish saint Queen Margaret, is reputed to have

brought part of the Cross back - and founded Holyrood in Edinburgh.

Over the same period, 45 members of S Company, Scots Guards will train at the Polish

Armed Forces Peace Keeping Training Centre.

A platoon and company headquarters will operate with Ukrainian, Romanian and Dutch soldiers.



Picture: Mike Weston

Pte Marvin Grange and LCpl Steven Tisbury (right) show Kiwis of the 1st Bn Royal NZ Inf Regt and Queen Alexandra's Rifles the chalk kiwi left by New Zealanders stationed at Bulford during the First World War. Both battalions were undergoing training for Bosnia

KIWIS MEET KIWI

KIWIS from the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and Queen Alexandra's Rifles were given a hard time when they met soldiers of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment on Salisbury Plain.

They were training for Bosnia and had to learn to react to hostile civilians - provided by 1 RGBW.

The 180 Kiwis, who deployed to Bosnia in mid-August, completed a 12-day package covering urban security, mine recognition, convoy drills and patrolling.

Weapons skills were brushed up at Bulford under the gaze of a kiwi dug into the chalk hill at the end of the First World War. The bird likeness and a Kiwi pub recall a short but friendly association.

The New Zealand Expeditionary Force began building Sling Barracks, Bulford, in 1914 before moving to Alexandria to train for Gallipoli. Bulford became the base for the 4th NZ Inf Bde Reserve Camp and Kiwis were trained there before service in France and Flanders. A convalescent camp was part of the NZ command depot, and 66 graves remain in Codford St Mary.

Eighth soldier killed in Bosnia

A ROYAL Engineers bomb disposal soldier serving in Bosnia has been killed helping local forces clear mines near Gornji Vakuf.

Spr Barry John Nicholas, 20, single, and a member of 21 Field Squadron (EOD), 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) based at Wimbish, Essex, was killed on August 16 while supervising the clearing of a minefield in the village of Bistrice. Two Bosnian Croat soldiers were

also killed, and a third was wounded.

Spr Nicholas's commanding officer, Lt Col Chris Saxon, said: "We are deeply distressed at the loss of a fine soldier and a colleague. The regiment has great sympathy for his family."

Spr Nicholas is the eighth British Serviceman to die in the former Yugoslavia since troops were deployed there in 1992. He is the second member of the regiment to be killed in Bosnia. Cpl Barney Warburton

died last March after an improvised mine detonated during clearance in Stari Vitez.

In Northern Ireland, an off-duty soldier has been murdered by IRA terrorists. Cpl Telford Withers, 46, was a part-time member of the 3rd (County Down and County Armagh) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

He was shot by two terrorists in his family butcher's shop at Crossgar, Co Down on August 8. Cpl Withers was married

with five children.

In Canada, 18-year-old Pte James Stewart Willson, single, of 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, was killed during a training exercise involving a Warrior vehicle. Two other soldiers were slightly injured in the incident on July 20.

Pte Willson was the fourth British soldier to be killed this year during battle group training at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield.

Central Bosnia feature: Pages 25-27

Anti-sniper turrets for Saxons

SAXON armoured vehicles in Bosnia have been fitted with an armoured turret to counter the threat of sniper attack against vehicle commanders.

Previously, commanders stood up in an open hatch. Now they have enhanced protection in the form of an L37 turret which is fitted with a general purpose machine-gun (GPMG). This will enable vehicles to return fire in self-

DRA develops vehicle shield

ARMOUR plating and glass has been sent to Bosnia to protect British soldiers from sniper fire and shell fragments.

The armour, to be fitted to eight types of vehicle, ranging from Land Rovers to trucks, was developed after attacks on UN convoys.

Produced by the Defence Research Agency in Farnborough in preference to the Chobham armour used on tanks, it gives full protection without affecting drivers' vision or performance.

Specially toughened windscreens will also be fitted, with steel visors to give added protection to drivers and front-seat passengers.

Project manager Mr Richard Rawlins said that the protection was completed from concept to prototype in 12 weeks, despite a change in requirement halfway through.

defence if they are attacked.

The turrets are the same as those fitted to the old FV 430 series of armoured personnel carriers. As the APCs were withdrawn from units stationed in Germany, turrets were removed and put into store. It is these stocks that are providing enhanced protection to Saxon commanders serving with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The new system is also being fitted with a modified wirecutter to protect crew members from wires stretched across roads and tracks.

The original single wire cutter has been removed from the front of the vehicle and replaced by a double cutting system mounted on the turret immediately in front of the commander's hatch. The modification was produced in theatre.

Turrets and wirecutters were fitted at Bugojno by two REME equipment support teams from Vitez and Split, and the REME light detachment of 1 DWR.

Turrets have also been fitted to a number of Saxon vehicles in service with UK-based units. They will be used by units undergoing pre-Bosnia training.

The Saxon entered service in 1983. Described as a battlefield taxi, it is capable of travelling across very rough terrain and fording more than 3ft of water.



A snug fit! Pte Anthony Simpson, 1 DWR tries out the first L37 turret fitted to Saxon in Bosnia. Note the angled wire-cutting device in front of his hatch and the smoke dischargers

Stanley Fort flag lowered

THE FLAG was lowered over Stanley Fort, Hong Kong, for the last time by the rearguard of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, before its move to Purbright. Also returning to the UK was the Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Sir

John Foley, who will become Chief of Defence Intelligence at MoD. He has been replaced by Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, former Director of Infantry, who will hand over to the commander of the People's Liberation Army in 1997.

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Rwanda paras miss Arnhem

A NUMBER of British airborne soldiers have had to give up the chance of taking part in a 50th anniversary parachute drop at Arnhem because they have been sent to assist the United Nations humanitarian relief efforts in Rwanda.

However, the Army has still gathered 800 paras from all airborne units.

They are to lead the commemoration of Operation Market Garden in Holland with a spectacular massed drop from RAF Hercules aircraft onto the original wartime drop zone (DZ) at Ginkel Heath, watched by the Prince of Wales and the Queen of the Netherlands.

Their landing will be preceded by a jump of 18 VIP paratroopers from a single Dakota of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. About 200,000 spectators are expected.

After the main drop, six aircraft, including three Dakotas, will discharge their cargo of Second World War veteran paratroopers in two waves. Solo jumpers will exit the aircraft at 2,500ft, while tandem-jumps will be made from a height of 4,500ft.

The same afternoon, a marchpast of Arnhem veterans will culminate in a moving ceremony at Oosterbeek. Each soldier will walk hand-in-hand with two schoolchildren from the Hartenstein Airborne Museum to the bank of the River Rhine.

Four new bells have been installed at Arnhem's Eusebius Church. The largest, one of the biggest made in Europe, has been bought by public subscription in Britain. The 18,000lb bell is inscribed with a Pegasus, a symbol of The Parachute Regiment, and the words: "The best way to suppose



Nijmegen remembered: At the formation parade in London of Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards, the Duke of Edinburgh meets veterans of the battle after which the new unit is named. The taking of the bridge at Nijmegen 50 years ago this month produced one of the regiment's principal battle honours of the Second World War. Behind the Duke, who is the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, is his equerry, Capt Jonny Walker, Gren Gds. Nijmegen Company will carry the Colours of the 2nd Battalion, which goes into suspended animation in November under the Options for Change cuts

what may come is to remember what is past 1944-45."

Hundreds of veterans are expected to attend a service of remembrance at Oosterbeek war cemetery, attended by the Prince of Wales, where local children will lay flowers on each grave.

Main events planned for the Commemoration of Operation Market Garden are:

Thursday, Sept 15. Service to commemorate the battle of Arnhem in the Eusebius Church.

Friday, Sept 16. Memorial Service at Willem III barracks in Apeldoorn. Memorial service followed by military parade in Nijmegen.

Saturday, Sept 17: Parachute drops at former DZs in the Arnhem/Oosterbeek

area, followed by a marchpast accompanied by vintage military vehicles; flypast of Second World War aircraft in the Nijmegen/Groesbeek area; several memorial services at various monuments in the area; marchpast at Arnhem Town Hall; reunion of veterans at Rijnhal, Arnhem.

Sunday, Sept 18. Several commemoration services in churches at Arnhem, Nijmegen, Oosterbeek and Driel. Firework display at the Waal bridge, Nijmegen. Prince Charles will attend services at Oosterbeek war cemetery.

Tuesday, Sept 20: commemoration of historical Waal-crossing and a farewell party for all veterans at Nijmegen.

● Arnhem 50 – Page 36

5 Airborne in Poland

THE contribution of Polish paratroopers to operations at Arnhem 50 years ago will be recalled when 60 members of 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters jump into Poland for a short exercise with the Polish 6th Air Assault Brigade.

Soldiers from both brigades will train together for a few days before the British and Polish paras jump together at Arnhem in mid-September.

AID TO AFRICA

KEYS to five Land Rovers and trailers – previously earmarked for disposal by the British Army – were handed over by Lt Col Jonathon Clough, Commander Logistic Support British Forces, Hong Kong, to the international charity Médecins sans Frontières for use in Rwanda.

A team of 18 soldiers and 20 civilians from the Logistic Sup-

port Regiment worked for four days to overhaul the vehicles and paint them white, before they were flown to Entebbe in Uganda.

Each was packed with 40 water-carrying cans, and one trailer held a 150-gallon water pod.

Bundles of blankets, vehicle spares and medical supplies were also included.

HORSE POWER

THE Ministry of Defence is purchasing a new specialist role vehicle to fill a need for a heavy duty, medium utility truck for Britain's Joint Rapid Deployment Force.

Austrian company Steyr-Daimler Puch has been awarded a contract to provide 394 Pinzgauer 4×4 light trucks.

Some will replace the One Tonne Land Rover, in service

with the British Army for many years. The remainder will be issued to 5 Airborne Brigade, 3 Commando Brigade and 24 Airmobile Brigade.

The Pinzgauer will be used to support frontline units during airborne, airmobile and amphibious operations.

Named after an alpine work horse, the vehicle has been in production for almost 25 years.



From his lofty position way above Hong Kong's impressive skyline, Sgt Ho Chi Kau of the Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron dismantles part of the communications equipment which the Royal Navy has no further need for since its move to a new base on Stonecutters Island.



Me and my shadows...

Over on an exchange visit for a couple of weeks were Sgts Al Williams (left) and Michael Blount from the American National Guard, who were shadowing permanent staff instructor SSgt Alan Foster of Manchester-based 201 (HQ) Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment RE (V), who were their hosts. Not only did the pair claim to be impressed by the "discipline and dedication of the unit personnel" but found that British sappers had to be more versatile in the operations they could perform. Nice thinking, guys.

Transport of delight...

Catrina Poxon is used to creating a bit of history. Two years ago, she set the trend by becoming the first female soldier applicant to pass a class 3 Driver RLC (Specialist) Tank Transporter Course with 7 Transport Regiment RLC. Now, Catrina – a section commander with Sennelager-based 3 Tank Transporter Squadron – and husband Sam, a fellow lance corporal with the squadron, have created a corps and regimental first by becoming the original "Mr and Mrs Tank Transporter". Both served together in the regiment on a six-month Bosnian tour last year.



Happily displaying the American Legion of honour award which he had just received from Brig Andrew Gadsby, Commander RAC Centre, is LTC Harry Owens with daughter Elizabeth and wife Beverley. Harry, who was recognised for the "exemplary work" he has done as Deputy Commander of the Royal Armoured Corps Gunnery School, Lulworth, is returning to America to the Reserve Officers' Corps in Pennsylvania.



Museum's marvellous minis



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Pride of place in Nottinghamshire's newest museum – the Territorial Army Royal Artillery unit's museum in Bulwell – goes to a display of miniature historic fighting vehicles, lovingly crafted by former gunner Reg Cutter over thousands of hours. Centrepiece of the exhibits, some of which can be seen with Reg and (left to right) Gnr Greg Revelle, LBdr Darren Tabbott and Gnr Perry Coppins, is a model of the 25-pounder field gun and tractor used during the Second World War.



Two minds with a single Fort...

Fighting a battle of a different kind these days are former Regulars Sgt Bill McGeorge and Cpl Colin Richardson, who were both involved in the Falklands campaign. Now members of 7th Light Infantry's B Company, they were pictured at Fort George, Inver-Brigade's FTX. "Tactics have changed since the Falklands," says Bill, "and there are all sorts of new attack formations."



PEOPLE PEOPLE PEOPLE

Plane sailing for Steve

Drummer Steve Gibson of 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, found himself in a tri-Service situation when he visited the regiment's affiliated ship, HMS *Illustrious*. The vessel was playing host to three Harrier GR7 dedicated ground attack aircraft – normally based at the RAF Strike Attack Operational Evaluation Unit, Boscombe Down – which were carrying out trials.

Picture: PO(Phot) Everitt, HMS *Illustrious*



Having a splashing time

It's the calm before the storm as kids from the Paddington Play Centre prepare to do battle on the pole with members of 22 Field Hospital, Aldershot. Facing the children – members of a party of 40 co-hosted by the Variety Club of Great Britain who were taking part in an "It's a Knockout" series of events – are LCpl Sharron Skully, Pte Stuart Sylvester, LCpl Andy Hardy and Pte Lee Fogg.

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Cpls Keith Taylor and Tim Newton take stock of a search. The battalion made many worthwhile finds

Vikings show a friendly face

CHRISTMAS came late for Sgt Steve Woffindin of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

He and his colleagues arrived in Dungannon in mid-December for a six-month roulement tour as the East Tyrone battalion, so his family kept its surprises for the summer holidays following his return to Colchester.

The battalion deployed with its headquarters and two companies at Dungannon, and a third company at Cookstown.

Under operational control was 22 (Gibraltar) Battery, Royal Artillery from 32 Regiment. It was based in Auch-

nacloy. The wisdom of being alert from the outset was proved when a proxy bomb arrived at the front gate of the Cookstown Security Forces base very soon after the Vikings' arrival. It failed to go off.

"We had to practise proxy bomb and fire alarms anyway," said Lt Adam McRae.

The "ground holding" company, with nine multiples at Dungannon and two detached to Coalisland, was A Company.

The family of the officer

commanding, Maj Robert Knox, once owned the whole of Dungannon, having moved from Glasgow during the plantations of Protestants in the 17th century. The site of the

family home is now the Royal 1 School, and it was poignant for Maj Knox

to see the gatehouse and streets named after his ancestors. His family left Dungannon between the wars and the next three generations served in The Northamptonshire Regiment.

A Company looked after the

security of the camp but was also constantly on the ground to carry out vehicle checks, interfacing with the public and trying to deter the few terrorists.

"I like to look on us as the friendly face of the Security Forces, out on the streets every day," said Maj Knox.

Finds of bomb-making equipment were very much the result of methodically going through an area and applying the drills they had been taught.

Also based at Dungannon was the operations company. It did no guard duties but was

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring

1 R ANGLIAN
IN E TYRONE

● Turn to next page



Vikings show friendly face

From Page 13

regularly on patrol. Over one five-week period it was on operations every day.

The battalion made a dozen worthwhile finds, ranging from a magazine to 1,500lb of home-made explosives. During one patrol LCpl Lea Lewis investigated a track away from the search area and found explosives, and Pte Tristan Green found 500lb more, plus booster charges and detonators when he searched the attic of a derelict building.

Rural Dungannon proved harder work for Pte Green than Londonderry in 1991 when he completed a tour with the old second battalion before amalgamation. There was much more walking then.

Just before he went on leave, Pte "Bomber" Brown struck lucky when he uncovered two large barrels with ammunition, detonators and firing packs.

At Cookstown, C Company was reinforced by 21 soldiers from Battalion HQ and 30 more from the mortar platoon. It operated seven multiples, with another two in Pomeroy.

Areas where activity could be expected were carefully mapped out and the company "searched its heart out," according to Company Sergeant Major WO2 Gary Webb.

With a sensitive finger on the battalion pulse, the Ops staff in HQ under Capt James Hart



Salamanca claims another victim

CAPT Ian Astley is the only serving soldier to have fallen at Salamanca!

The famous battle, fought against the French during the Peninsular War in 1813, claimed its latest victim when the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment celebrated the victory with an officers' mess dinner in Dungannon during which Capt Astley fell and broke his wrist.

He had earlier covered himself in glory by reciting "A Pompadour's Poem", which he had written to extol the exploits of the 22nd Essex



The commanding officer, Lt Col Roger Brunt

Left: While Pte Mark Luckman keeps guard, Pte Ian Buckles wears his beret to check cars at Cookstown

Right: Spr Gareth Walton watched by Sgt Tony Gauci of 25 Engr Regt examines a disused well which was drained after bomb making equipment was found in it



Above: Ptes Andy Mitchell, Tris Green, Tim Tawse and Rick Jones pack their kit before going on patrol

Below: Cpl Pte Ward and Pte Dave Mitchell on patrol



were always ready to reflect the situation on the ground with tactical signs on the operations map.

The regiment was one of the first to merge three battalions into two under Options for Change. Since the 1950s seven regiments had contracted to the present two battalions, and the new first battalion, with its "Vikings" nickname restored by the regiment, endeavoured to keep the best of a varied history alive.

Sub units were marked on the operations room map by different icons. Horned helmets indicated Vikings locations and activity on Lough Neagh was shown by a longship. Top cover was shown by

a Pompadours' eagle in memory of the old 3rd Battalion.

A tam-o'-shanter depicted visiting King's Own Scottish Border units, and a twisted knot the Staffords. If things became depressing there was a "morale cloud" ... soon dispersed when the Vikings looked at pairs of boots surmounted by bearskins, indicating that the Scots Guards were soon to replace them.

There was much less pressure on younger soldiers when the RSM, WO1 Bob Grenfell, patrolled at Dungannon 20 years ago. With him in 3 Platoon of A Company were the present regimental signals warrant officer, WO2 Mick Hamil-

ton, and the messes manager, CSgt Rob Neal.

"As a young lance corporal it was a real fun place to be because you were given your head," said the RSM.

Instructions then were simple. A patrol section of eight men would be "given" Dungannon for four hours and told to get on with it. The approach was often unsophisticated, soldiers carrying out searches with pitchforks and scythes.

Today, highly trained searchers have technical equipment, and most movement is by helicopter rather than road.

Old-fashioned courtesy is now a potent weapon. The original A Company members

knew areas where two-year-old children would automatically make rude gestures. Twenty years ago it was unheard of for old men to talk to soldiers, unlike today, said the RSM.

"People just want to see the back end of it all," he said.

Last time they were in Northern Ireland, the Vikings were told they would be back in south Armagh in 14 months. There was much better news for them in Dungannon - they learned they would exercise in America, then in Kenya the following year.

This was a real tonic for his soldiers, said RSM Grenfell. Over the past six years many of them had alternated between Colchester and south Armagh,

County Fermanagh and east Tyrone. To know they were bound for America was a great incentive.

When RSM Grenfell joined in 1972 his first tour was after 30 months and the second five years later.

Despite day-to-day pressures and very long hours, CSgt Neal was happy to have his sons Steve and Andy serving with him in Dungannon. He has seen big changes in them as old heads developed on young shoulders.

"Soldiering is still good fun," he said. "If you've joined for good wages, you are in the wrong profession, but if you joined to see life, you are right."

than 24 months, it cut down training time for primary war-fighting skills.

"We went at it very hard for six months at the right level of intensity, kept the lid on and had one or two good finds and very good arrests," he said.

There had been a subtle change in attitude since he was in Londonderry in 1981 and he found it very encouraging to detect a feeling that terrorism could be stopped.

"Any battalion worth its salt will welcome the challenge of a roulement tour because we joined to wage war on the Queen's enemies," he said. "We now have a unique catalogue of skills no other army in the world can match."

Catterick's big future

FOR THE next two years or so, Catterick Garrison is going to be, as its commander, Brig Peter Lyddon, puts it, "one big building site".

But any inconvenience will be to good purpose, as the Yorkshire establishment prepares to take on the mantle of the largest garrison town in the British Army.

By April 1995 there will have been a total of 24 moves of units into, out of, and within the garrison since March this year and around £100m will have been spent on 28 major projects.

"By 1996, our overall numbers will be about 13½ thousand," said Royal Green Jacket Brig Lyddon, "making us, I believe, the biggest garrison in the UK and one of the biggest in Europe."

"I think I am right in saying that Osnabrück at its height was only 12½ thousand."

The transformation at Catterick, brought about as a result of Options for Change, began with the closure of 11 Signal Regiment last spring and the handing-over of Helles Barracks by them to the Infantry Training Battalion – a new unit formed from the Guards and Parachute Regimental Depots to carry out Phase Two training.

Additional living accommodation had to be provided for the unit.

Colburn Barracks, on the disbandment of 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, and the move of 60 Squadron to Colchester, was handed over to 15 Field Workshops, REME, who moved in from Ypres Lines and re-roled as armoured close support workshops.

Other changes have involved, among several other locations within the garrison, Gaza Barracks.

There, in the early part of last year, 24 Air Mobile Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron departed for Colchester and did a straight swap with 19 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, which was converted from an infantry to a mechanised unit.

Also based at Gaza is Headquarters 19 Brigade, which,



Brig Peter Lyddon, Commander Headquarters Catterick Garrison

too, came in from Colchester and is now based in newly-refurbished accommodation, and their support unit, the armoured 24 Field Ambulance RAMC.

At the end of the year, 8 Signal Regiment moves to Blandford when the advance party for the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) moves into the garrison.

Man with the main responsibility for juggling the training review, changes in budgetary structures, a catering strategy study, the handing over of 2,100 married quarters to a housing trust by April 1995

"It's good news for the local population in Richmond, Darlington and north Yorkshire," said Brig Lyddon.

"They are delighted the garrison is expanding, although they and we shall be sad to see the Royal Signals go."

With the transfer of RAF Catterick to Army control in June, when it became Marne Barracks, the main garrison and its surrounding training areas of Feldom and Bellerby now cover almost 34 square miles of land.

There is accommodation for more than 6,000 single personnel and, spread across 21 estates, more than 2,000 married quarters, many of which will have extensive modernisation.

"A pretty sizeable proportion of the Army is recruiting from the north east, and people do seem to enjoy it here," Brig

Lyddon – who himself started as a trooper with The Royal Hussars at Catterick back in 1963 – explained.

With the arrival of new units, changes in role and new and additional training requirements, facilities at the Catterick Training Centre are being upgraded.

On the Feldom training area, a permanent defensive position is being prepared by Royal Engineers to provide training facilities for the ITC.

At Bellerby, two extra ranges are to be provided and, on the Catterick training area, the track system is being improved and upgraded to take armoured vehicles, for low level deployment training.

Man with the main responsibility for juggling the training review, changes in budgetary structures, a catering strategy study, the handing over of 2,100 married quarters to a housing trust by April 1995

and the move of all three infantry battalions currently based at Catterick later in the year is Lt Col Mike Dent, Chief of Staff at Garrison Headquarters.

Like the commander, he frequently finds himself working seven days a week "trying to find the time and space for all that is going on".

Apart from the major projects (total value about £100 million) and the training area work (£11 million-plus), he has been up to his neck in market testing. The garrison is the first such establishment to be involved.

"Our property management budget last year was £30 million: you are looking at a big investment in cash," he said.

"We needed to upgrade these barracks – it is not being done for the sake of it."

In October next year, it will be 80 years since the first huts at the new "semi-permanent" training centre designed for 40,000 troops on the orders of Lord Kitchener were occupied on the site.

Gen (now Fd Marshal) Sir Peter Inge, visiting the garrison in his former capacity of Chief of the General Staff, described it as "the showpiece of the 90s Army". As Lt Col Dent says:

"Some people think that Catterick is a sleepy, quiet backwater. It may have been in the past. It certainly isn't now."



Above – All going according to plan: Col Steve Knowles RE (right) discusses the next stage of development at the Megiddo Lines construction site with Stephen Ball, project manager of White Young Ltd

Below – Hectic life: Lt Col Mike Dent, Chief of Staff at Garrison Headquarters



Catterick Garrison projects under way and unit moves

Vimy/Helles Barracks Cessation of training by 8 Signal Regiment in October; regiment will close in December, hand over barracks to advance party of ITC Catterick. ITC, comprising a headquarters, two training battalions based in Vimy Barracks and training support battalion in Helles Barracks, will open on April 3, 1995 and be fully established by July. Construction of new living accommodation for more than 200 soldiers, a junior ranks' mess and physical training complex under way, plus modernisation of existing buildings. ITC's annual throughput will be some 12,400 Regular and TA trainees undergoing Phase 2 training.

Gaza Barracks Conversion includes new garage and workshop facilities.

Alma Barracks Current home for newly-formed 1st Battalion, Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, due to depart in January 95 to be replaced by 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment.

Somme Barracks 1 Green Howards depart in August, replaced by 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, coming from Warminster.

Bourlon Barracks Currently being rebuilt to house Warrior-equipped armoured infantry battalion by April 95. Barracks will be taken over by 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who arrive in Wathgill Camp in January. Temporarily accommodated there until work completed.

Cambrai Barracks The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards re-roling (due for completion by November) to become armoured regiment equipped with 50 Chieftain main battle tanks. Depart this month, replaced by The Queen's Royal Hussars from Fallingbostel, who will eventually convert to being Challenger-equipped regiment, based on 38 MBTs.

Marne Barracks Formerly RAF Catterick. 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery moved in June from temporary accommodation at Strensall, to be joined by 8 Artillery Support Regiment RLC, coming in from Munster. Work includes provision of large parking area for DROPS vehicles and new build vehicle workshop for REME, who support both regiments.

Beach Head/Ypres Lines Approx £3.15 million being spent to adapt and extend the living, office and working accommodation to provide facilities required for expanded Provost Company.

LAST TOUR

LAST Infantry battalion to serve a roulement tour in Belize was the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, commanded by Lt Col William Shuttlewood.

For the first part of its tour, the battalion manned observation posts and patrolled along the Guatemalan border, while establishing a presence within Belize itself.

Recce Platoon underwent intensive specialist training before deploying into the jungle.

After successfully mounting a series of operations, its commander, Capt Simon Gilderson, was awarded a commendation from the Commander British Forces, Brig Iain Johnstone.

When Britain formally ended its operational commit-

ment to Belize at the beginning of this year, the 2nd Goorkhas became involved in drawing down the Belize military estate and its subsequent handover to the Belize Defence Force.

The BDF has been increased to battalion strength and 2 GR was committed to run a series of courses on its behalf.

Belizean soldiers were put through sniper and GPMG (sustained fire) cadres, while senior NCOs took a platoon sergeant's battle course.

The wide expanse of land comprising the Baldy Beacon range area proved ideal for a live-firing mortar exercise.

During this period, the Gurkhas moved out of Rideau and Holdfast Camps, which were handed over to the BDF, and took up residence at Air-

port Camp. There, Rfn Kajiram Thapa patrolling with guard dog Duke showed great personal courage and devotion to duty when he came across four intruders, one armed with a large machete.

He managed to arrest two of the men without having to release his dog.

The other two were arrested subsequently by civil police. Rfn Thapa later received a well-deserved commendation.

On returning to Hong Kong, 2 GR amalgamated with the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles to form 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

BELIZE



DRAWDOWN

QLR will be first on the nature trail

WITH COMPANY-level training in central America being offered to UK-based units later this year, a small support unit is in the process of being formed in Belize to look after the administrative needs of visiting units.

The British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) will be commanded by Lt Col John Sylvester, DERR. He told *Soldier* that Belize offered a tremendous training potential to United Kingdom Land Forces.

"The training packages will be known as Exercise Nature Trail and the first starts in November with the arrival of a company from 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

"My establishment will be only 48-strong, so units will be bringing their own jungle warfare instructors with them, but

I will have three of my own who will be able to assist with training."

The soldiers will spend much of their time up-country taking part in jungle warfare training at Gwokamalo Bridge, before moving to Baldy Beacon ranges for live-firing sessions. Afterwards, they will spend four days at the Joint Services adventurous training centre on St George's Caye. At the end of the six-week exercise, troops will be given two days R and R.

BATSUB will be based at Airport Camp, by then taken over by the Belize Defence Force. The majority of its staff will be multi-hatted. For example, the pay warrant officer will be acting as paymaster and unit accountant with responsibility for all matters financial.

Other members of the support unit will take responsibility for maintaining vehicles and



Lt Col John Sylvester will command the British Army Training Support Unit in Belize

preparing them for the annual Periodic REME Inspection (PRE).

"The lines of communication back to the UK are very long. We have to be able to fend for ourselves," said Col Sylvester.

The exercise will run for most of each year, and there will be joint training exercises with the Belize Defence Force from time to time.



Sgt Raj Bahadur Gurung points out the plan of attack on a relief model of Baldy Beacon range

All down to the last five

RESPONSIBILITY for drawdown in Belize has fallen on the shoulders of five British soldiers who make up the Theatre Drawdown Team.

Tasked with running down British Forces Belize by the end of September, they have had to organise the withdrawal of more than 1,500 personnel and the removal of 1,100 tonnes of ammunition, 150 tonnes of stores and 500 vehicles.

Fifteen bases, ranging from Salamanca Camp to firing ranges and Rapier short range air defence sites, have been returned to the Government of Belize.

Perhaps the most exotic location handed back was Hunting Caye, a small island that offered British squaddies a



Holdfast Camp is handed over to the BDF by the OC Theatre Drawdown Team, Maj Gary Littlechild (centre). The event is witnessed by BDF Quartermaster, Maj Mike Gleeson and the 2nd Goorkhas QM, Capt Milanichandra Gurung

taste of the Robinson Crusoe existence.

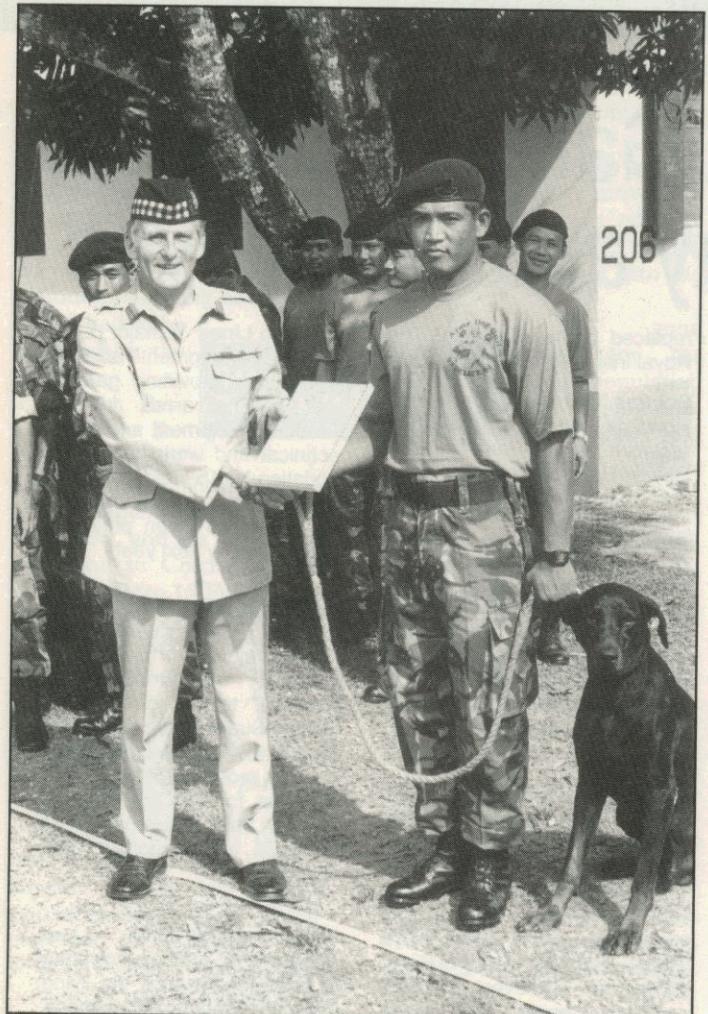
Thirteen soldiers had been sent there to man OPs and establish a presence on an island claimed by neighbouring Guatemala. They also logged shipping and patrolled nearby islands.

The OC, Maj Gary Littlechild and Capt John Balding, Sgt Dave Gilbert, LCpl Stan Lawrence and Pte Mark Mears are co-ordinating the move of the remaining personnel on a trickle basis. This operation

should be completed next month.

They have produced an equipment table for BATSUB and have ensured that the support unit will have first choice of in-theatre equipment. The rest will be loaded on to three Royal Fleet Auxiliary logistic landing ships and returned to the United Kingdom.

Following Parliamentary approval, a separate "gifting package" of trucks and equipment will be handed over to the Belize Defence Force.



The Commander British Forces Belize, Brig Iain Johnstone, hands a commendation to Rfn Kajiram Thapa, who showed great personal courage when he apprehended two intruders



Army and RAF chefs have been taught how to make proper Gurkha curries by LCpl Aran Kuma Gurung (front right)



LCpl Allyson Collier (left) assists Maj Jane Belford in extracting teeth from a patient at a hospital in the Belizean capital, Belmopan

See you later, alligator . . .

. . . and the jaguars, barracudas, lobsters, dolphins and moray eels

FOLLOWING the British Government's decision to pull out of Belize, garrison staff have spent the past few months organising their own withdrawal from the former British colony and establishing an Army training team at Airport Camp.

The Royal Logistic Corps' 78 Supply Squadron had been responsible for maintaining stocks of combat supplies and materiel for use by British troops in Belize. It looked after the garrison's reserve of stores, vehicles and ammunitions.

Once stocks have been run down, soldiers from the squadron will depart, leaving behind a nucleus of ten men to provide a small supply section for the newly-created British Army Support Team which will conduct training for infantry companies visiting from the United Kingdom.

Before the last roulement battalion - 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles - left Belize, its cooks taught the RLC chefs how to make a proper Gurkha curry. The Force Catering Warrant Officer, WO1 Mark Golden,

explained that while his chefs tended to use curry powder from a packet, the Gurkhas took a lot of trouble to make up their own sauces using herbs and spices ground down to a powder.

There are two types of Gurkha curry. One for the "Sahibs" (intended for British troops) which has no bones. With the other, Gurkha soldiers themselves just cut up a whole chicken including head and feet and boil it up. There is no wastage, but as WO1 Golden pointed out, the average British soldier would probably be upset to find a chicken claw on his plate . . .

On occasions, there have been difficulties for the squadron's catering staff. The bulk of the rations came from America or the UK. Belizean products such as oranges and bananas are shipped to Miami and have to be bought back in again by the Army.

"It is a case of 'when the boat comes in,'" said WO1 Golden. If, for example, we need tomato sauce, bacon and sausages for breakfast, they are not dispatched until the ship-

ping container is filled. We have to order in advance to make sure supplies don't run out."

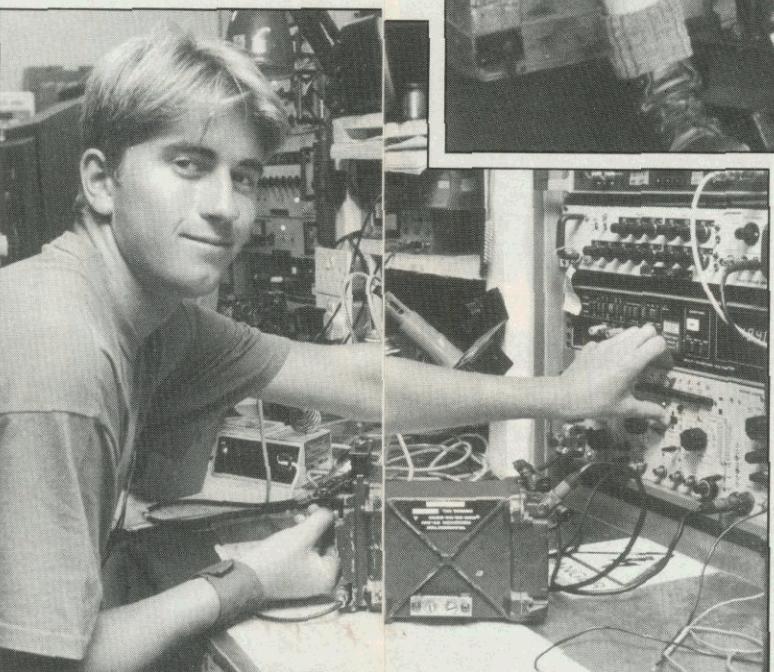
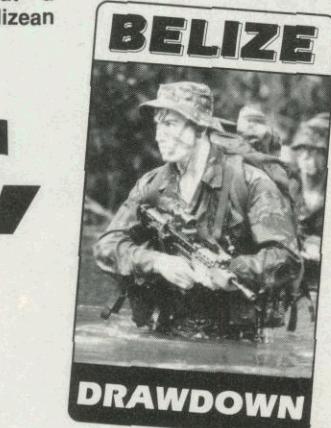
One element of British Forces Belize staying put is the Joint Service Adventurous Training Centre (JSATC) based at St Georges Caye, which offers courses in canoeing and diving, and, with additional instructors, can also provide training on windsurfing and dinghy sailing.

"Adventurous training is of great benefit to soldiers," said the centre's chief instructor, SSgt Simon Lynn. "It instils leadership qualities and encourages self-reliance."

"I believe the Services get good value for money from it."

Students also have an opportunity to view some of the wildlife. Schools of dolphins, barracuda, lobster and moray eels are a common sight in the waters around the centre.

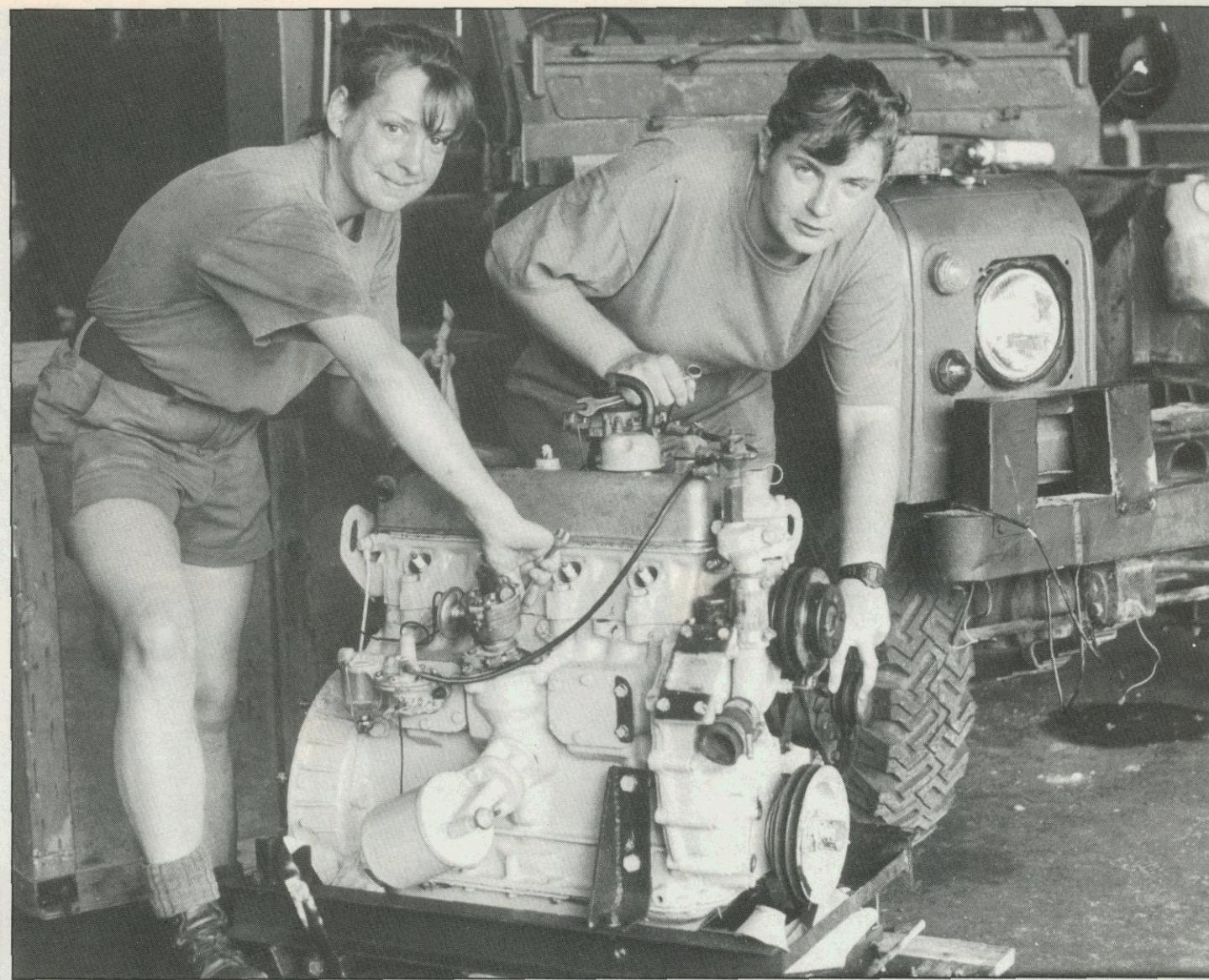
Away from the breezy offshore cayes, sappers from 34 Field Squadron Royal Engineers have been hard at work in one of the more remote jungle areas constructing a scientific research station for the British



Optronics technician Cpl Des Brewer

Natural History Museum and the Belizean Forestry Commission. The 140ft long wooden building's laboratories will enable 16 scientists at a time to study a variety of research projects, including trees and moths.

The sappers, normally based at Waterbeach, faced attack from jaguars as they made their way along a jungle track from the construction site to their nearby tented accommodation. Soldiers had to travel in pairs



Vehicle mechanics Kate Eden and Louise Sincock prepare to fit a Land Rover engine

wrights to work on the landing and supply craft once held on garrison strength. Under drawdown, the field workshop will reduce and provide an artificer sergeant major and eight soldiers to an equipment support detachment for BATSUB. Vehicle dependency will drop from more than 500 to less than 90.

"It has been quite difficult keeping vehicles serviceable because steering and suspensions take a real battering due to the horrendous state of the roads in Belize," said the OC, Maj Bill Taylor. "But our policy of 'total quality' has seen my workshop staff respond to any emergency. Getting the job done right first time is very important."

The garrison ammunition store adjacent to the main airport found it had an intruder on site. An alligator had taken up residence in a small pond at the store. But it was not a big problem . . .

"It is only small and we tend to ignore it," ammunition technician, Cpl Steve Fallon, said with a shrug.

Military staff at 24 Trans-

port Squadron RLC include a movement control detachment of a sergeant and two NCOs. Working alongside RAF movers at the administrative hangar, the soldiers have been kept busy dealing with all aspects of movement, including roulement flights for infantry units, standard trooping flights by RAF VC10 aircraft and the movement of shipping containers by sea.

The squadron also maintains a postal and courier detachment which provides a post officer counter service six days a week.

The squadron has employed a fleet of Bedford trucks to ferry soldiers around the local training areas. Until earlier this year, its maritime troop was equipped with ramp-powered lighters which supplied the Army's Battlegroup South.

Alpha Troop and ten attached TA drivers took part in Exercise Great Descent, an expedition culminating in an abseil down a 1,000ft waterfall. Previously the soldiers climbed the 3,000ft Victoria Peak, which is said to have been the first point seen by Columbus.

So inaccessible is it that it took troops four days to approach from their drop-off point.

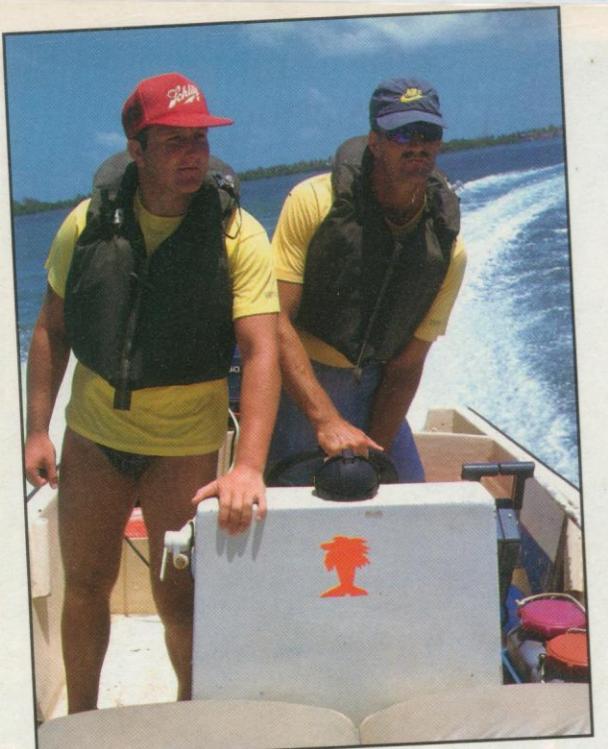
The Army Air Corps 25 Flight is equipped with Gazelle helicopters, and added the RAF's main flying role to its responsibilities last month. It has its own REME detachment. WO2 (AQMS) Trevor Taylor has five aircraft and two avionics technicians working in his department, plus an RLC NCO in the First Aid Aircraft Office (FAACO) and a technical storeman who is responsible for tools and test equipment.

The Royal Military Police provost detachment on Belize, commanded by WO2 (CSM) John MacDonald, has three four-man shifts which are kept busy dealing with petty theft, robbery and other offences committed against Servicemen and women.

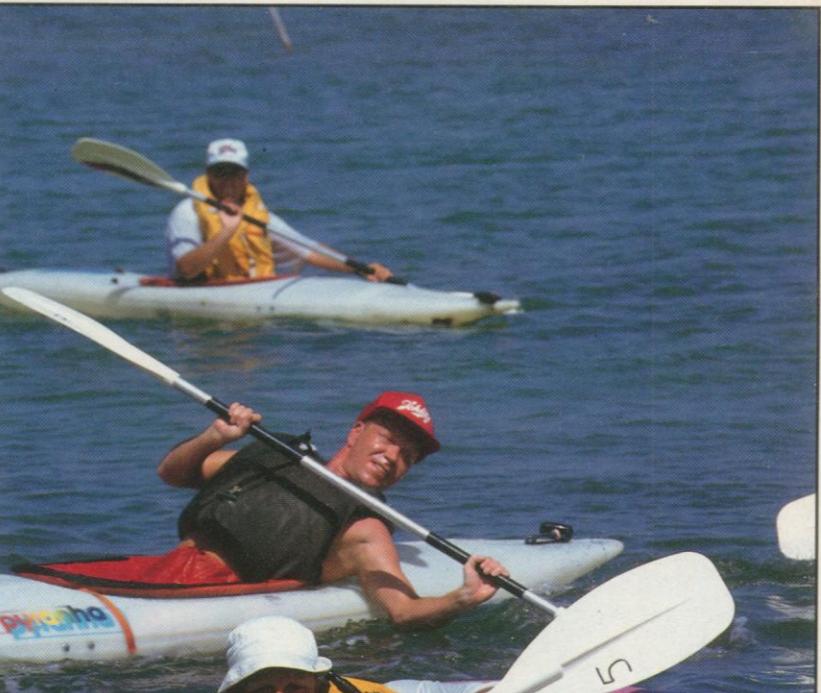
A Serviceman was shot by muggers in one of the more dangerous areas of Belize City.

Perhaps that's why they have nicknamed the detachment the "Caribbean Precinct" . . .

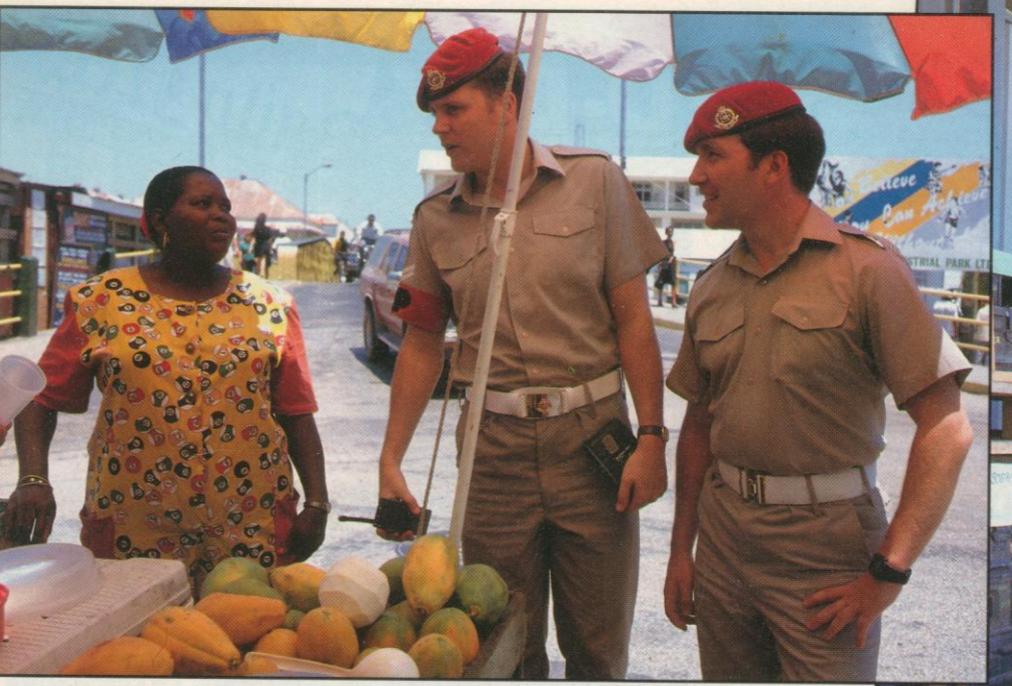
• More pictures on next page



LCpl David Short and chief instructor, SSgt Simon Lynn steer a fast boat along St George's Caye



Three happy students prepare to practise their capsise drills

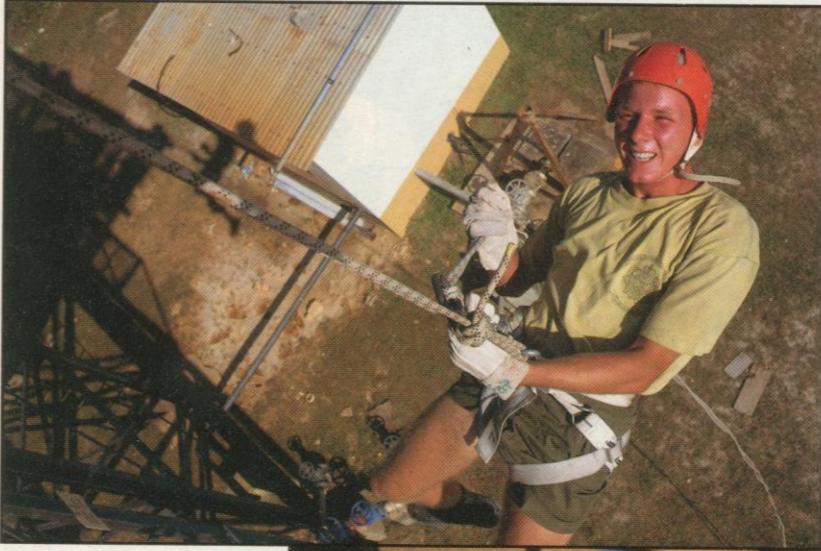


RMP corporals Paul Pollock and Jacko Jackson patrol in Belize City

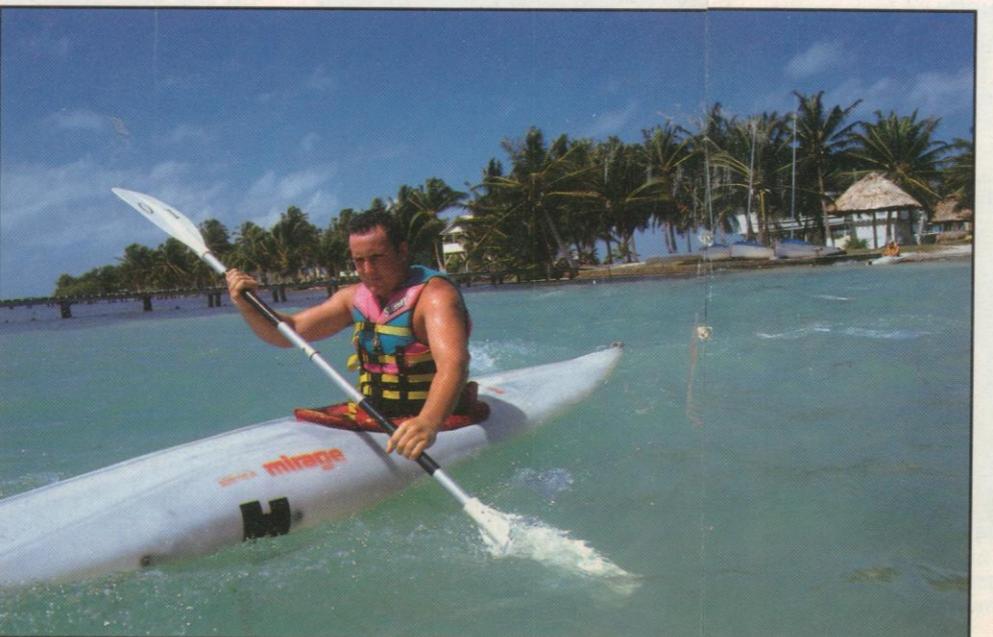


Above - Cpl Steve Fallan checks stocks of ammunition before it is returned to the UK

Left - A 24 Transport Squadron driver about to abseil at Airport Camp

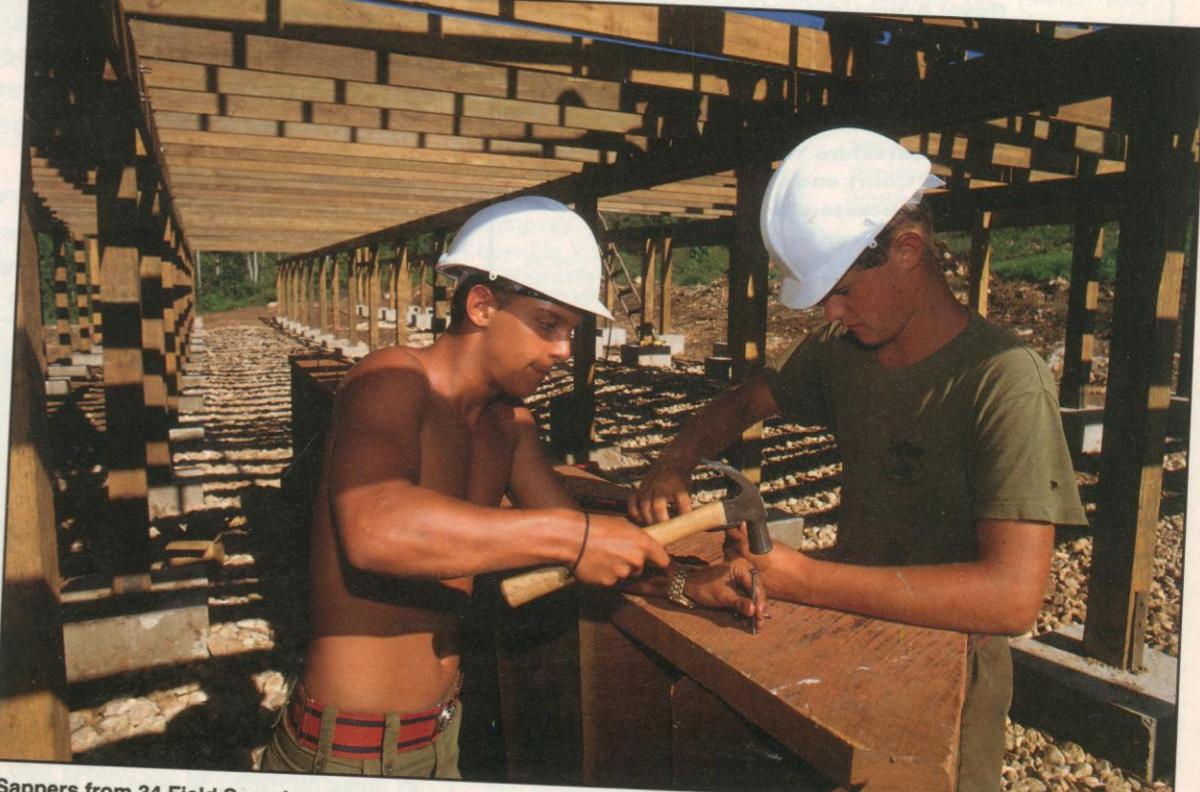


Belize Scrapbook



Above - WO2 (AQMS) Trev Taylor (front) and the 25 Flight AAC REME detachment. Rear from left are Cpl Steve Currie, Sgt Eddie Leach, and Cpl Andy Ravenhill, Conie Lumsden and Frankie Vaughan

Right - Behind canoe instructor, LCpl David Short lies the exotic St George's Caye which is home to the Joint Service Adventurous Training Centre



Sappers from 34 Field Squadron RE constructing a scientific research station for the Natural History Museum at Las Cuevas

G.D. Golding

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Trouble-shooting around the table of peace

SOLDIERS who served on earlier Op Grapple tours would be surprised at the level of peace existing in central Bosnia as a result of a ceasefire agreement between Bosnian Croats and Muslims that came into force earlier this year.

No longer do the two sides fight across the streets of Gornji Vakuf and the Muslims have ceased trying to capture the Croatian enclave of Vitez. Towns and villages that once echoed with violence are now mostly calm.

As the agreement was implemented, the British commander of UNPROFOR's Bosnia-Hercegovina command, Gen Sir Michael Rose, quickly realised his area of responsibility was too large and contained too many troops to be effectively controlled by a single headquarters.

So he divided his command into three sectors, Sector North East centred around Tuzla, Sector Sarajevo, and Sector South West based at Gornji Vakuf.

Briton in charge of keeping



The United Nations commander of Sector South West is Brig Andrew Ridgway. His "Round Table" concept for Joint Commission meetings has paid dividends

the peace around Sector South West is Brig Andrew Ridgway, who has 8,500 troops under his command, drawn primarily from Britain, Canada, Spain, Malaya and Turkey.

There are also Belgians and a newly-arrived company of New Zealand infantry soldiers who will serve with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, providing an extra company to BRITBAT 1 based in Vitez.

Normally Brig Ridgway commands the 7th Armoured Brigade in Germany. In Bosnia-Hercegovina, he is responsible for an area of 12,500 square kilometres covering most of central

Bosnia from Maglaj in the north to Mostar in the south. Within it lies more than 80km of confrontation line – both between the Serbs and the Bosnia Government Confederation Forces, and along the former confrontation line between Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

He told *Soldier* that he also had troops stationed in the Gorazde pocket. "To deter

Serbian attacks on the disputed Muslim-held area, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment has been deployed as the UN's Gorazde Force," he said.

"Their battalion headquarters and two infantry companies have been joined by a Ukrainian company, Norwegian medics and some Royal Engineers.

"They have done a fantastic job under extremely difficult circumstances."

The brigadier also commands all the British Forces in the former Yugoslavia. Understandably, he finds himself quite tied to his UN duties where the focus remains on forward operations. Much of his work as COMBRITFOR has fallen to his deputy commander, Col Chris Lunn, and chief of staff, Maj Nick Eeles.

Since the agreement was

Report: Laurie Manton
Pictures: Mike Perring



Cpl Ian Johnson and LCpl Terry Crossley of 1 DWR on patrol in Gornji Vakuf. This picture would not have been possible earlier this year because the town was the scene of bitter fighting

Central Bosnia steps out into the light

From Page 25

signed, the sector headquarters has been heavily involved in implementing the peace.

Said Brig Ridgway: "We are constantly engaged in negotiations – often at a low level, dealing with minor issues on the ground, and often at a high level.

"The key to our success is the Joint Commission that was set up by senior military and civilian leaders in Sarajevo. Authority to develop the peace in central Bosnia was first delegated to my predecessor, Brig John Reith and his 4th Armoured Brigade troops who did so much to establish this headquarters and sector, and then to me.

"I chair the Commission's policy committee which consists of the leaders of the new Confederation's joint Army Staff and military and civil leaders from both sides."

It meets every second week at the brigadier's headquarters to formulate policy for developing the peace. To ensure there are no arguments about who sits where, he tasked the Royal Engineers to construct an Arthurian-style round table. In place of knights' coats of arms, the sappers have affixed the badges of the Bosnian Muslim, Croat and United Nations committee members.

"I also have two executive committees which are in permanent session as trouble-shooters. Personnel from both sides live on camp and operate daily entering negotiations and solving problems," he said.



One of the United Nations' main mandates for being in Bosnia-Herzegovina is to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. Until earlier this year, troops were heavily engaged in escorting and protecting convoys.

During consecutive Op Grapple tours, the Cheshires, 1 PWO and the Coldstream Guards sent armoured vehicles out virtually every day on escort duties. It proved difficult and dangerous work.

Primary aid is no longer escorted. UNHCR convoys now take aid to its warehouses alone. Virtually all secondary distribution is also unescorted.

"This is a dramatic change from a few months ago, when everything brought in had to be escorted every step of the way," said Brig Ridgway.

"The fact is that the peace process in central Bosnia has been so successful, not only does aid move freely, but so does commercial traffic.

"There is virtually nothing you cannot buy in the shops, including fruit and vegetables, and you can buy petrol in Sarajevo cheaper than you can in



At a joint checkpoint near Gornji Vakuf, Cpl Pete MacKay makes friends with BiH policeman Amir Cehaja and HVO police officer Ivo Pavic

Germany. We are having problems with banditry, that will have to be addressed."

But sector staff are not resting on their laurels.

"We are constantly striving

for improvement. You wouldn't recognise this country compared with a few months ago. Then it really was hell on earth. It was dark and cold. There were no facilities, no traffic moved and there was no food available other than aid that was delivered or what people grew themselves.

"Now, as a result of the Joint Commission, power has been



Above – On the heights of a medieval fort in Maglaj, Canadian Master Cpl Mike Poitras (left) points out a landmark to Lt Mark Polhill, Cpl Dwayne Johnson and LCpl Keith Norman

Left – A United Nations Sector Southwest morning conference at Gornji Vakuf sees Brig Andrew Ridgway and his multi-national staff surround the "bird table"



British troops have started manning UN checkpoints along the former confrontation line

restored across the region. Water is freely available, and the sewers are working. The schools are re-opening, primary health care is being brought back and the lives of the Bosnians have been transformed.

"These improvements are a fundamental military activity to keep people out of the trenches. We are working hard with humanitarian organisations to show residents they now have something worth living for.

"They have found out to their cost that war is a pretty unpleasant experience. We want them to realise that if they go back in the trenches, they will lose everything. They won't be able to take a bath, have electric light or send their

children to school."

Admittedly there are still some tensions, but the changes are noticeable. British soldiers wearing blue berets instead of helmets are now patrolling Gornji Vakuf across what was the old front line. Bosnian Croats and Muslims, once at war, are talking to each other on the streets.

In the Maglaj finger, the Light Dragoons and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment have now established bases in some of the previously inaccessible areas of central Bosnia.

There remains much to be done, but Brig Andrew Ridgway and his soldiers continue their work. They have achieved a lot and they are proud of it.



Gornji Vakuf liaison officer, Capt Robert Schofield, QRH holds the symbolic connector of HVO and BiH communications wires. The historic link-up means both sides can pick up their field telephones and talk to each other. In this way, problems can be sorted out without resorting to fighting



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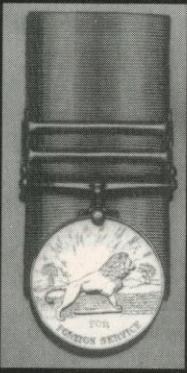
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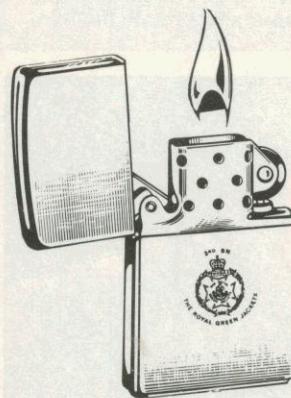
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Ready, teddy, gone!

Lincoln success

NEW briefings and seminars will be added to the already successful programme of the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Resettlement Group during its second year of operation.

The partnership between Business and Armed Forces was successful in the first year, and many more employers were becoming aware of the high employment potential of Service leavers, said Maj Oliver Hackett of 49 (E Mid) Brigade.

Group offer

THE UK 200 Group of practising chartered accountants is offering a free initial meeting with Service leavers to discuss financial and tax matters. Anyone interested in the offer should contact Sally Wise or David Turnbull on 0252 333511. The group has offices in many parts of the UK.

Discount holes

SPECIAL holiday discounts are available for Service personnel, ex-Service organisations and MoD civilians at selected hotels, camping centres and summer houses in Denmark. Details from The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP (tel/fax: 0692 651086).

MPs visit Naafi

THREE Members of Parliament visited Naafi Headquarters at Amesbury, Wiltshire on August 4 to learn about the role of the organisation as part of a programme to educate them about Britain's Armed Forces as members of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme.

Interest down

From September 1, interest charged on the accounts of Naafi's 100,000 budget and charge card holders fell from 2 per cent to 1.8 per cent for accounts paid by direct debit or salary deduction and from 2.2 per cent to 2 per cent for accounts paid by other means.



Friends in high places: Tommy with the Prince

IT IS ALL too much to bear for SSAFA's Tyne and Wear Office in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Tommy, one of four fund-raising teddies from the branch, has gone AWOL while on a four month temporary tour of duty with the Army.

Normally housed in a bottle-green flight bag complete with his documents –

including an autograph book signed by Prince Charles – Tommy was last seen in the Army Public Relations Office in London at the end of July.

Described as being about 12 inches tall, made of golden mohair and wearing a red scarf and sweater with two SSAFA badges attached, he is urgently needed to report for his

next mission later this month, when he is scheduled to descend by parachute with the veterans into Arnhem.

Anyone who has any knowledge of Tommy's current whereabouts should contact Diane Hurley, SSAFA's Teds Liaison Officer, on 0670 353446 or *Soldier Magazine* as soon as possible.

Anne's influence still guides us . . .

Cari Roberts

→ COUNTERPOINT ←



IT'S GOOD to see that the new *Army Wives Guide* carries a dedication to the late Anne Armstrong MBE.

As the wording says, she worked in support of Army families – as well as the Servicemen and women and the wives and families of the other three Services.

Much of her work centred on improving the channel of communication between the chains of command and the families. That channel is hardly ever more vital than when a family structure breaks down and the wife – and possibly the children – have to leave the Service community to begin life again in the civilian world.

To civilian eyes the sudden cessation of entitlements and privileges seems brutal. In fact, if you're in that situation, it probably feels just as heartless.

Many women, now living without the Services, have said as much to me or to the people who care for them. Their language is loaded with judgements. "The Families Officer and his side-kick . . ." said one of the staff she had dealt with.

Others dredge up the clichés of Service life that are no longer universally true. Being addressed as "wife of", having to cite your husband's "last three" and having no privacy are among the complaints that always come up.

Yet, if you look at the

results of Continuous Attitude Surveys it's often the hidden prejudices that cause the most distress.

One wife was moved to remark that just because her husband wasn't an officer, she was expected to drink lager, read the *Sun* and play bingo. Not that there's anything wrong with any of those – they just weren't her style.

In a time of crisis, such as the break-up of a family, it's vital that no one becomes the victim of another's prejudice. It's also vital that women who have tried to sustain their family despite the difficulties of Service life are helped back into the civilian world. If being cast out of your MQ and refused entry to the barracks feels brutal I don't think it can compare to the chill of civilian incompetence and indifference.

SSAFA's Stepping Stone project, which now has two houses in Newcastle and Cambridgeshire, is making an excellent contribution to this kind of resettlement.

Fenlands Lodge in Cambridgeshire, which has been running for some

has to be faced, and faced realistically.

She also hinted that there may be more news time, has just had its official opening.

Speaking on *Counterpoint* on BFBS Pam Evans, from Fenlands Lodge, said that the women who arrive there are in quite a traumatised state. Many had never had any contact with the DSS before and found the whole process very difficult. Many women travel great distances to come to the Lodge but, once there, they find that the mutual support of each other's company a great help.

There has been a lot of discussion about the stresses placed on marriage and family by life with the services. Pam highlighted the problem of the men going away frequently, often just having time to catch their breath before the next duty.

Jessica Lawlor, from SSAFA HQ, welcomed the success of Fenlands and said that it's a shame there's the need for such places because their success comes from people's distress – but the situation

later in the year about more projects of the same kind.

• • •

Finally, a quick note about a new book called *Arrive Alive* (see Book Reviews, August 8). Written by Graham Yuill, an ex-RMP who now trains people in the skills of defensive driving, it is a mixture of the more mundane, but vital, aspects of personal safety when out on the road and the dramatic, but increasingly frequent, action needed if you're attacked.

I would heartily recommend the book to anyone who spends long spells driving.

When Graham appeared on *Counterpoint* I asked him if he thought Service and ex-Service people made better drivers than civilians.

He said he did and highlighted the fact that, if a Service person broke the rules of the road the consequences were likely to be more severe, and more likely to affect his personal life, than if he was a civilian. It's an interesting thought.

• • •

You can get in touch with Cari c/o *Soldier* or by writing to her at BFBS, BFPO 786.

'Clichés of Service life no longer true'

Bear necessities of life in Canada

"IF YOU run, you're dead," was the advice given to A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, by Maj Quinn Hough, RE(V) during six weeks in Western Canada on Ex Pond Jump West.

He was not changing battle drills - he was advising on what not to do if they encountered a bear during five days' adventurous training in one of the world's most ruggedly beautiful areas.

Despite the dangers of attracting the interest of these furry beasts, the fusiliers agreed Maj Hough had the best job in the Army.

His task as Adventurous Train-



Rock climbing instructor Cpl Dave Fermor of Recce Pln

ing Liaison Officer at the Jasper National Park was to organise a wide range of activities for visiting soldiers.

These included white water rafting, mountain biking, horse riding, abseiling, ice climbing and canoeing, all of which were designed to provide "a challenge, and even a fright for soldiers under strictly controlled circumstances."

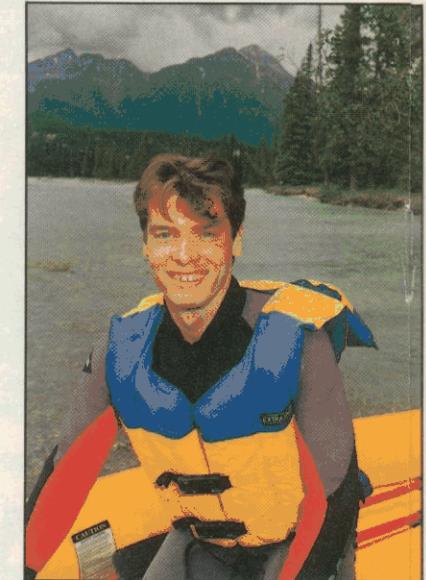
Rafting on the 1,000-mile Fraser river took soldiers over grade four rapids by the "Rearguard Falls" just inside the provincial border of British Columbia.

The fact that the river was fed by glaciers did not bother Fus Steven

McCabe. "It was brilliant," he said. "We got a good soaking, but when you're wearing a wet suit, waterproof, life jacket and helmet, you don't get cold."

Cpl Dave Fermor of the battalion recce platoon was top rope and abseiling instructor for a group of soldiers mostly new to the concept of descending a vast slab of rock and dropping directly into a swirling river.

A 20-strong party of canoeists was taken through fast, tricky waters under supervision of Cpl Mark Wood and three instructors in kayaks. After a familiarisation lesson on the lake next to their tented forest camp, the soldiers were launched on a 10km white-water canoe run in two-man teams. Footloggers turned donkey wallopers under Lt Huw Nightingale, who took 14

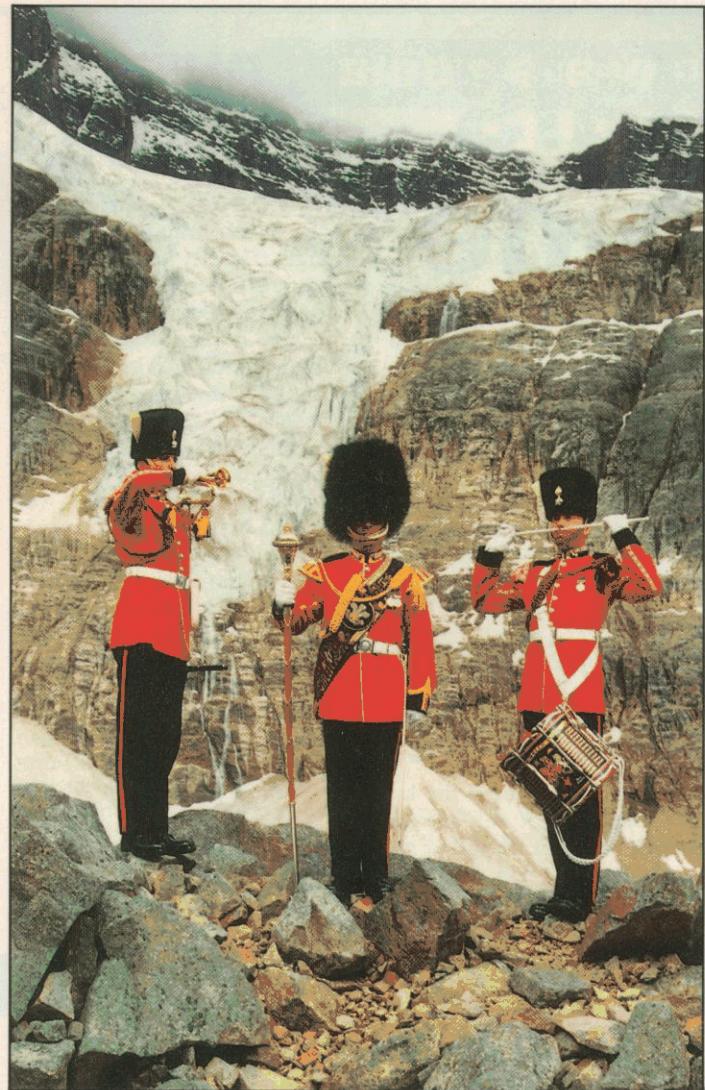


Fus Michael Jones of A Coy takes a break from canoeing on the Athabasca river

Fusiliers out riding. As the new Welsh cavalry unit set out on its 10km patrol, CSM Mike Donnelly was heard muttering to himself in despair.

Mountain biking took another party past the thunderous Athabasca Falls, where Fus Tony Dean, a TA member of the 3rd battalion, was amazed at the spectacular scenery and friendly people.

But despite the thrill of the wild outdoors, the highlight for many Welshmen was on the rugby pitch, where the Jasper rugby team were given a thrashing of 48 points to nil.



A British Columbian icefield is a striking backdrop for LCpl Wayne Roberts, Drum Major Iain Blair and Fus Gareth Hughes of the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers

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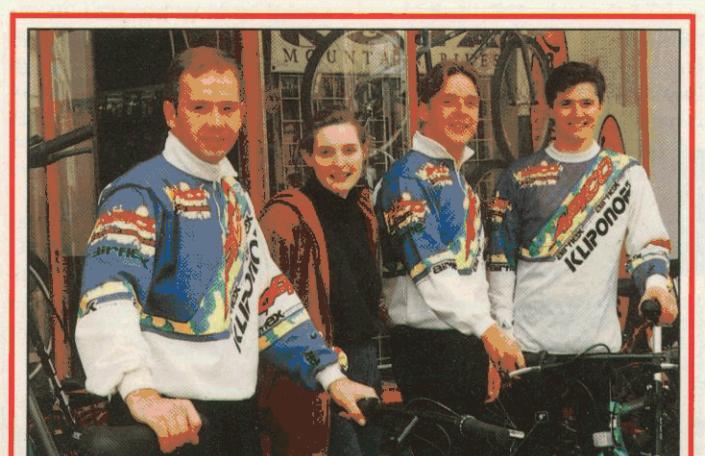
Sappers in Sardinia base check

CHECKING essential services at the BAOR Expeditionary Base in Sardinia was the task offered to seven members of 522 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works) from Hameln.

The team had to re-evaluate the basic water and power supply as well as the drainage system of the villa, which is just ten metres from the sea.

The villa is used by the permanent staff of one officer, one NCO and seven men, with only the communal area, bar and ablutions being used by expeditionary troops.

Ablutions consisted of one wash basin, two WCs and two working showers, but could be required by up to 72 soldiers at



Recruits at the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright, will have more scope during their external adventurous training week at Fremington, Devon, now that the regiment has bought 12 mountain bikes. Taking delivery of the bikes from shop assistant Leila are LSgt Gary Smith, LCoH Paul Walsh and Cpl Mark Hughes

one time. The water supply was contaminated by kitchen waste, and the electrics were inadequate for the demands of even the permanent staff, who were often left without power when the system shorted.

The team found time to enjoy windsurfing, scuba diving and snorkelling, as well as the hospitality of HMS Nottingham, which was docked at Cagliari, the capital of the island.

Army know-how helps Op Raleigh

ARMY experience gained by SSgt Neil Allamby, who recently took redundancy from The Royal Signals, and Capt Ted Tombling, who retired from The Queen's Regiment, is being put to good use by the youth development charity, Raleigh International, during an expedition to Alaska.

The venturers can work on two or more projects involving the environment, and one community project. Along with hard work, expeditions involve kayaking, trekking, glacier walking and ice climbing.

Some may have the chance to tackle an assault on Mt McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America.

Germany, gives climbing instruction to venturers - groups of young people aged from 17-25 - while Capt Tombling is project manager and guides them towards achieving their aims.

The venturers can work on two or more projects involving the environment, and one community project. Along with hard work, expeditions involve kayaking, trekking, glacier walking and ice climbing.

Some may have the chance to tackle an assault on Mt McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America.

RLC's Eagle has landed in Poland

THE POLISH eagle returned to its homeland on British Army berets when 7 Transport Regiment RLC carried out an adventurous training exercise near Krakow.

The emotive emblem is the cap badge of the regiment, which employed many Poles on tank transporter squadrons as part of the Mixed Service Organisation after the Second World War.

Led by 2nd Lt Sarah Delap and WO2 (SSM) Brian Hughes, both from 16 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC in Fallingsbostel, the 12 soldiers had to contend with major flooding after heavy snow.

A party of climbers scaled a number of peaks over 2,000m in the Tatra mountains as well as completing many quality rock climbs and some spectacular ridge walks.

The main phase was canoeing 150km of the river Donajec in under five days to raise money for a minibus for a Polish rehabilitation and orthopaedic centre for sick children.

Directed by Cpl Eric Perry, the soldiers had to fight a 15ft rise in water level on the river Donajec.

Before the exercise 7 Tpt Regt RLC raised more than £2,000 for the centre, and after their exertions, the soldiers visited it and distributed toys and sweets.

The expedition, understood to be the first adventurous training foray into Poland, is the start of what may become a permanent link with the Zakopane region.

The tank transporter squadrons descend from the Poles who survived Nazi concentration camps and prisons only to be displaced by the Soviet communist regime. Many Poles joined transporter units in 1947, and gave 40 years of exceptionally loyal service until disbanded in 1987.

Both 16 Sqn and 3 Sqn, which inherited the Polish mantle of 617 Sqn in Hamm, have been proud to continue the tradition and Poles who served at Hamm still work with the regiment as civilians.

The regiment hopes to return at regular intervals, starting with a second visit in the autumn to present the minibus once it has been reconditioned with money from the sponsored canoe expedition.

Service medals should combine

I SHOULD like to suggest that the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal be merged with the Meritorious Service Medal.

The latter is at present awarded only to even longer-serving member of the Armed Forces. Nowadays the MSM is no more than an extension to the LS and GC. Another few

years of service with the usual CO's recommendation suffice – normally a total of about 25 years. Needless to say, this ruling could also apply to any other force with entitlement to LS and GC medals, such as the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, WRVS, and Red Cross.

After all, if I may say so, any

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal sounds to me like a Sunday School or Cub Scouts' good attendance and good behaviour award, whereas an MSM is by far better-sounding and more worthy to the Armed Forces. – **Capt (QM) (Retd) Richard A Steward, LS and GC (late IEME/REME), Sidmouth, Devon.**

BAYONETS IN CHURCH

I DON'T know if it is the custom of any other British regiment to carry weapons in church (Letters, July 25). I can only speak for my own.

During the tercentenary of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment on July 7, 1989, when the Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince of Wales, presented new Colours, they were escorted up the aisle of Chester Cathedral with bayonets fixed.

I am sure other regiments have done the same when old Colours were laid up in the local church or cathedral. – **Eddie Dean, Winsford, Cheshire.**

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PLENTY IN RESERVE

I CANNOT equal Maj Ken Smith's multi-capbadged career (People, July 25).

But as a Reservist I completed 40 years of unpaid Crown service in the Royal Naval Mine Watching Service, the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service, the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Observer Corps, the Special Constabulary and HM Auxiliary Coastguard (in which I am still serving).

On another topic, could you give further details of the new Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, which replaces the CGM (Letters, July 25). – **M P Cocker, Cleveleys, Lancs.**

• Although the CGC has been approved by the Queen, a Royal Warrant cannot be issued until the design of the medal and ribbon are also approved. Further details of the medal will be announced later. – **Editor**

Three days when the Gordons met

AS A SON of the regiment, I can confirm that the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Gordon Highlanders did meet at Gibraltar early in 1935 (Turkey 1920, Malta 1921, Turkey 1922, Malta 1923-24, Egypt 1924, India 1925-33, and Palestine 1934-35).

One was at Ladysmith in September 1900 – the 2nd Battalion at the Siege and the 1st at the Relief. There is a painting of the occasion by Snaffles.

According to *The Life of a Regiment* (Vol 2, Page 309) the regiment united for the first time on October 3, 1898 at Deolali. The 2nd Battalion had just arrived in India; the 1st were homeward bound from Gharail.

Tribute to Hampshires

YOU mentioned (June 27) that veteran Albert Louis Burton had his ashes committed to the sea off Normandy on June 6.

Another veteran, Mr Ron Thomas, of Ryston, expressed a wish to have his ashes scattered on the beach at Asnelles/Le Hamel (Gold beach), where he landed on D-

Day with the 1st Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment. His wish was carried out by his ex-CO, Brig Nelson Smith, on June 5.

Ron was a pre-war Territorial with the regiment and transferred to the commandos serving with Mid East Commandos and Layforce until injury resulted in his transfer back to The Hampshire Regiment.

May I thank you for your excellent coverage of the D-Day commemorations. It is a shame that the 50th anniversary of the Salerno landings on September 9, 1993, were not afforded any media coverage, which proved a very sore point for the veterans who visited Italy for this event.

In fact the commune at Pontecagnano Faiano, Salerno, erected a plaque in Via Mar Adriatico to The Hampshire Regiment, calling it "Hampshire Lane", an honour indeed. – **John H Evans, Hon Secretary, Southampton Branch, The Royal Hampshire Regiment Comrades' Association.**

NIJMEGEN THANKS

MAY I, through *Soldier*, pass on my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Army personnel involved in this year's Nijmegen Four Days Marches.

I am particularly grateful to those who assisted my Sgt Phil Underwood on day three when he collapsed through heat stroke. I am equally grateful, however, to those who worked tirelessly providing refreshment to prevent the rest of us suffering the same fate.

May I finally congratulate those who had an "easy life" just strolling around for four days to collect a medal, and commiserations to those who didn't quite make it on what was my seventh and hardest time. – **Inspector Geoffrey R Phillips, Addlestone Division, Surrey Police.**

How could they die so young?

A CEMETERY in Dover has some graves marked "Aged 16 years – died of wounds received in Belgium or France, 1940".

Reports of anniversaries and commemorations show graves and memorials marked "Aged 16 or 17 years". One stone in Normandy is marked "Aged 16 years – Army Air Corps".

How could this be, for such a specialised service?

The relaxation of the age rule for service in the First World War was not allowed from 1939 – the minimum age to go into action being 19 years.

During 1940 parents were known to protest about sons being sent out before the age of 19. – **Alf Blake, Northfleet, Kent.**

Drumming up information

IN THE course of correspondence with the military artist Douglas Anderson on the film *The Four Feathers* he sent me a cutting from the Gordons' regimental journal recording that 100 men of the regiment had taken part in *The Drum* and had filmed in Wales.

This surprised me as the terrain in the film seemed so authentic. The Dolgellau area archivist officer, however, told me the film was shot in the Cwm Bychan area and Llanber in 1937.

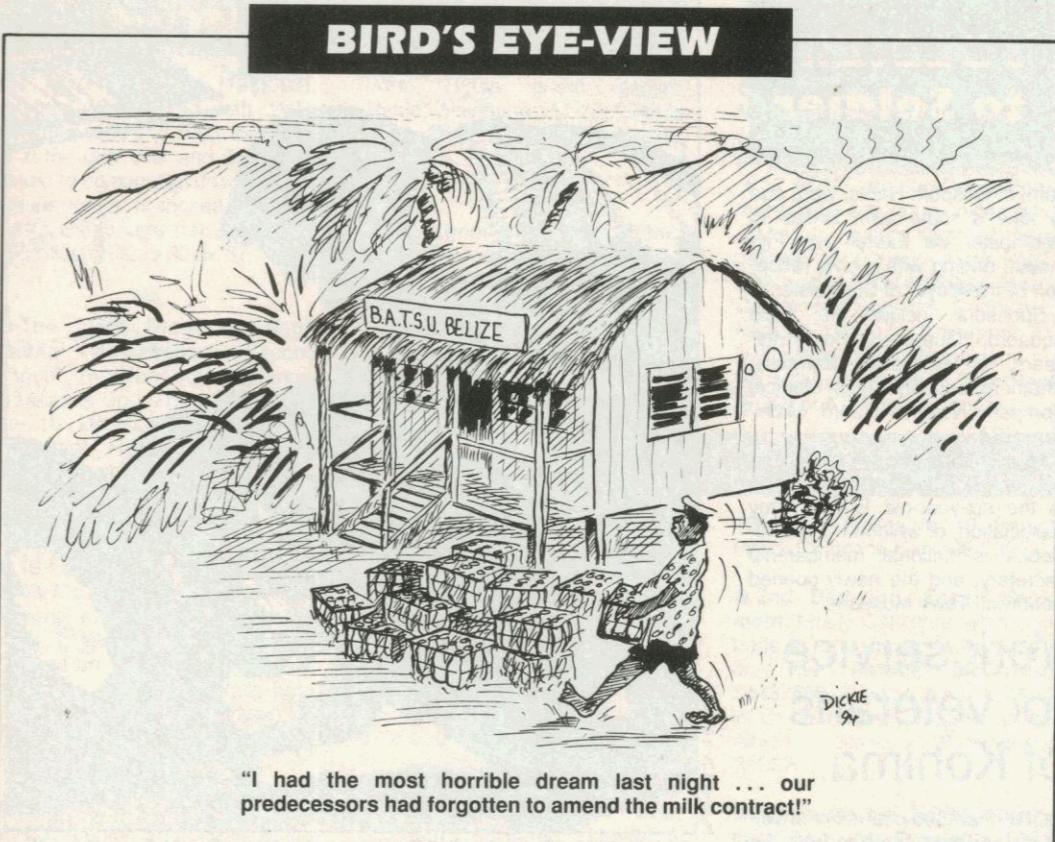
According to an album of cuttings in the Meirionnydd County Library, the London Scottish was also involved, although there is no mention where the Indian troops came from.

Does any reader have this information? – **George Robinson, Edinburgh.**

SCOTTISH STABLE BELTS

I CAN assure Mr A A Bolland (*Soldier*, July 11) that Scottish regiments do have their own regimental stable belts, each one depicting their respective tartan.

I write as a former member



The plaque erected in Via Mar Adriatico ("Hampshire Lane") in Pontecagnano Faiano, Salerno, in honour of The Hampshire Regiment's role in the Italy Campaign

Australia looks back with thanks

FROM Australia and Canada comes news which will be a great morale-booster for those who feel they have been unfairly deprived of recognition for service to their country.

Mr Hal Bowden writes to *Soldier* from Melbourne detailing his Government's agreement to award medals for past efforts to tens of thousands of ex-Service personnel and civilians hitherto unrecognised for their contribution to Australia's defence.

The decisions, resulting from a review of all aspects of the Australian system of honours and awards, were described by Defence Minister Gary Punch as "belated but heartfelt thanks from a grateful nation".

They include the establishment of a new Australian Service Medal 1945-75 recognising "service in prescribed peacekeeping and non-warlike operations" and a Civilian Service Medal 1939-45.

More good news for veterans came in the Australian budget, with the administration of war widows' and widowers' support pensions being transferred from Social Security to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Also welcomed was a new Repatriation Medical Authority set up to streamline claims resulting from the link between veterans' diseases and injuries and war service.

Coincidentally, British medal campaigner "Suezvet" (name and address supplied), has written enclosing a cutting from the Canadian Forces Personnel Newsletter.

He says: "The Canadians have introduced a Special Service Medal and issue it to members of their armed forces who have performed a service 'under exceptional circumstances, in a clearly defined locality for a specific duration, not necessarily in a theatre of active operations'."

"Retrospective claims are considered and I have been informed that a NATO bar has been given for service over 40 years ago."

A similar award initiated by the MoD would solve at a stroke the wrangle over the Suez Emergency Medal and quite a few other grievances where troops feel their efforts have been overlooked."

Sandwich course . . .

TWO former soldiers were planning to walk 200 miles in the West country in late August with the aim of raising £2,000.

Mr John Holland-Hobbs, of Sandwich, Kent, and Mr Ian East-

SOLDIER to Soldier

ham, of Gosport, Hants, were due to take a route from Bristol to Dorchester via Exeter and Plymouth, ending with a civic reception by the Mayor of Dorchester.

Sponsors include 69 Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, of Kitchener Barracks, Chatham, and the 2071st Medical Company National Guard, Michigan, USA.

Money raised by the trek, between August 21 and 31, will go to the six-year-old British Army Association, of which Mr Holland-Hobbs is national membership secretary, and the newly-opened Sandwich Town Museum.

York service for veterans of Kohima

MORE than 500 international veterans and their families from the "Forgotten Army" of the Second World War's Far East campaign gathered in York to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima.

Culmination of a nostalgic weekend for the old soldiers of the Second Division, who gathered at the city's Imphal Barracks, was a service in York Minster.

Among those inside the historic building, where the veterans were addressed by the Rev Gus Claxton - himself the chaplain of the Second Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment in 1944 - were Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge; Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie; and GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley.

The previous evening, Fd Marshal Inge had announced to the delighted old campaigners that Headquarters Eastern District, based at Imphal Barracks, would in future be known as Headquarters Second Division.

Eulogy to the 8th

SO STRONG is the bond between one former soldier and his old regiment that he has put his emotions on paper under the title "Eulogy".

Subject of Mr Richard Napier's black-edged tribute to the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars ("the finest regiment in the British Army", he adds).

The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, as it became known in 1958, amalgamated with The Queen's Own Hussars last September to become The Queen's Royal



Picture: Chris Barker

Poignant moment as Khodao Yantan, a Naga Scout from the 14th Army who had worked alongside the British in 1944, lays a wreath in tribute at the Kohima memorial in York Minster gardens

Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish).

Mr Napier, whose autobiography *From Horses to Chieftains* was published in 1992, chronicles the regiment's history through to Korea, lists the distinguished commanding officers under whom he served, and ends:

"With amalgamation on amalgamation, is one expected to forget those glorious years? Well, I can't and I will not."

Sapper VCs for museum

TWO Victoria Crosses and a George Cross will be added to the Royal Engineers Museum medal collection on September 6.

They will join 22 VCs and two GCs already on display at the museum in Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

The VCs were won by Maj (later Maj Gen) William Trevor in Bhutan in 1865 and Lt Claud Raymond in Burma in 1945.

Lt Raymond, most recent sapper to be awarded the VC, was a member of D Force raiding behind Japanese lines in Burma.

He succeeded in clearing the Japanese positions but died of his wounds 12 hours later on the hospital ship *Karoa*.

The George Cross was awarded to 2nd Lt Alexander Campbell, a bomb disposal officer, for his gallantry in dealing with an unexploded 250 kg bomb which fell on

the Triumph factory in Coventry on October 15, 1940.

After working for 48 hours to expose the bomb he found it was fitted with a delayed action fuse which could not be extracted. Accepting the extreme danger involved, he removed the bomb by lorry to a safe place while he lay alongside it listening for activity from the fuse. Sadly he was killed the next day - October 18 - while dealing with another bomb.

Raymond's VC, which is being lent to the museum by his nephew, and the other two medals, which are bequests from relatives, will be received on behalf of the Corps of Royal Engineers by Maj Gen F G Sugden, chairman of the museum trustees.

Discovering war secrets

GEN Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, former C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe, is one of the military experts contributing to a new satellite television series about the covert developments of war technology.

Starting on September 1 on the Discovery Channel, *Secret Weapons* has 13 parts, each examining a physical or tactical weapon of modern war, and recounts some of the successes and failures.

The series is hosted by Desmond Hammill, the former ITN Northern Ireland veteran and chief foreign correspondent.

REUNIONS

● 1 Tp, 3 Fd Sqn RE (1989-93): Anyone who served with 1 Tp between 1989 and 1993, especially in the Gulf War and Bosnia, is asked to contact Sgt Jason Till for details of a proposed reunion. ACIO Cambridge (tel: Camb Mil 765 5030 or 0223 301673).

● The Light Dragoons Regimental Association: Second annual reunion dinner-dance, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, September 10. Details from Regimental Secretary, HHQ The Light Dragoons, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE2 4NP (tel: 091-239 3140/3141).

● 19 Air Formation Signals 1943-71: Reunion September 15. Anyone who served in the regiment is eligible to join the 19 Signal Regiment Association and attend the reunion. Details from the Secretary, Mr F Fordyce, 10 Woodstock Place, Edinburgh EH16 6BE.

● RAVC Association: 66th annual reunion and dinner at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL on September 24. Details from Regt Secretary c/o DAC (tel: 0664 63281 ext 8646).

● 209 Support Workshop REME (V): 12th annual reunion dinner-dance, Wilmslow Moat House Hotel (ex-Valley Lodge), Cheshire, September 24, 7 pm. Details from Ray Patterson, 1 Haddon Grove, Sale, Cheshire M33 1TT (tel: 061-976 2084).

● 56 Signal Sqn (V), Eastbourne: All ranks past and present reunion dinner, October 7. Details from PSAO, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN22 7NL.

● Air Despatch: Tenth annual Air Despatch reunion takes place on October 8-9 at the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney. This reunion will have the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem as its theme and will include a drumhead service of commemoration on Sunday, October 9. Former air despatchers who would like to attend should contact WO2 (SSM) P Lovell, 47 Air Despatch Squadron RLC, RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 4PZ (tel: Lyneham Mil 6515 or 0249 890381 ext 6515).

● 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards: Annual Cardiff dinner will take place on October 21. Details from Regt Secretary, Home HQ, QDG, Maindy Bks, Cardiff (tel: 0222 227611 ext 8213).

● Small Arms School Corps and ex-permanent staff, Small Arms

Wing, Hythe, grand reunion, Hythe, November 11-13. Details from Fred Gray, Blaenblodau, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA32 8RN (tel: 0558 668719).

● 71 Signal Regt LAD REME: 25th anniversary reunion, TA Centre, Bexleyheath, December 10. Details from SSgt Pallett, LAD REME, 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt, Phoenix House, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ (tel: 0322 529225).

SEARCHLINE

● Former military ship's company of HMHS *Oxfordshire* sought for reunion. RAMC personnel, medical officers and nursing sisters served aboard while the ship was used by the military between January and June 1946. Replies to Harry Mitchell, 3 Florence Road, Southsea, Hants PO5 2ND (tel: 0705 830158).

● J H A Smith wishes to contact former colleagues in TBRE Chatham (189 Party), 1935-36; 5 Fd Coy RE, 1936-40; 84 CW Coy RE, 1941-42; D Sqn, Glider Pilot Regt, 1942-45; TBRE Lockerbie, 1946-47; 12 SME Regt, 1951-52, Army Recruiting Staff, Chatham, B13EA.

● Any member of JLRRA, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, 1981 intake who remembers Gnr Puma Reid is asked to contact Mr V P I Vjatschslav, 134 Kintore Avenue, Linwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA3 3JB.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

5-11: Farnborough International Airshow.

10-11: First Berwick Military Tattoo in aid of SSAFA, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, 8pm. Tickets from 0289 304493/330733.

18: Winchester Military Society militaria exhibition and fair, The Guildhall, Winchester.

NOVEMBER

17-19: Army Arts Society Festival, Rheindahlen (entry forms from HIVES).

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier - W R Short - To be Comd Med HQ UKLF, Aug 19.

Colonel - M C Dorward - To be Comdt PMC, Aug 8.

Lt Cols - R A D Applegate RA - To be CO 19 Regt RA, Aug 8; J M Kane RLC - To be CO 1 GS Regt RLC, Aug 8; C L Le Gallais, R Signals - To MoD, Aug 9; P C C Molyneux RA - To MoD, Aug 8; J A Ris RE - To MoD, Aug 8; R C A Thwaites, R Signals - To MoD, Aug 8; M H G Croft RE - To be CO 75 Engr Regt, Aug 14; P J Waterman REME - To SEME, Aug 8; D S C Gamble RAMC - To BMH Rinteln, Aug 12.

B Armitage RA - To HQ Chilwell Station, Aug 15; S J P Clifton AGC(ETS) - To RAS, Aug 21; M W B Faulkner RDG - To be CO RDG, Aug 16; C Greasley

● ITB Strensall, formerly The Depot Kings Division, will be drawing down by July 1995. Units or individuals who have made a presentation to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and who would like it returned are asked to contact the WO2 (RQMS) D S Quinton at the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, ITB Strensall, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, York YO3 5SW. All postage, packing and insurance costs will be paid for by those requesting return of presentation.

● The British WOs' and Sgts' Mess, and QOGTR British Officers' Mess, Gun Club Hill Bks, Hong Kong, BFPO 1, will close in October 1994. Units or individuals who require presentation items to be returned are asked to contact the QM, Maj (QM) D J Winkle (tel: HK 7322181). Packaging and postage will be paid for by unit/individual. Items not claimed by October 1994 will be transferred to 10 Tpt Regt in Colchester.

● The QOGTR Gurkha WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Gun Club Hill Bks, Hong Kong, BFPO 1, will close in October 1994. Units or individuals who require presentation items to be returned are asked to contact the PMC, WO2 (RQMS) Narendrakumar Tamang (tel: HK 7322184). Packaging and postage to be paid for by unit/individual. Items not claimed by October 1994 will be transferred to 10 Tpt Regt in Colchester.

● 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Officers' Mess, Hong Kong, will close in October 1994. Those who presented an item to the mess are asked to contact Capt M A Thompson REME, 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME, Malaya Lines, BFPO 1 to inform him of their wishes on its disposal. Some items will be transferred to the new Station Mess though the bulk, assuming donors agree, will be given to the Gurkha Museum or disposed of locally. Those who wish to claim back items are asked to establish their bona fides and pay for the return.

PILGRIMAGES

● A memorial to RASC Air Despatchers who lost their lives while attempting to re-supply Airborne Forces at Arnhem in September 1944 will be unveiled and dedicated at 1600 hours by Gen Sir John Hackett on Sunday, September 18 (not November 18 as previously stated). Location of the memorial is 200m from the entrance to Oosterkerke Cemetery. Details from Maj W M Carlisle RLC on RAF Lyneham 6515 or 0249 890381 ext 6515.

RETIREMENTS

Colonels - L J Masterson, late RADC, Aug 9; A G Witheridge, late 15/19H, Aug 16.

Market Garden: They did not die in vain

Fifty years ago this month, Montgomery's plan to shorten the war – Operation Market Garden – proved a costly and bloody failure.

"Market" involved the landing of three carpets of airborne troops in Holland to seize and secure key strategic crossing points over rivers and canals. "Garden" intended that ground troops from the British 30 Corps thrust forward up what became known as Hell's Highway through Nijmegen and link up with the airborne troops in Arnhem.

In recent years, the events have been shrouded in controversy as today's military historians rake over the still smouldering arguments.

One year after the Battle of Arnhem, *Soldier* staff writer Capt J W Shaw wrote of the bravery of the 1st Airborne Division.

This is his story . . .



One of the first pictures sent back from Arnhem was this study of Cpl Tierney of 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment and his 3in mortar team of 1 Border manning their position on the western side of the Oosterbeek perimeter. The photograph was taken by a member of the Army Film and Photographic Unit. An AFPU photographer wrote: "It is the fourth day of fighting and camera work is almost out of the question. All day we have been under shell, mortar and machine-gun fire".

A YEAR AGO, for eight days in September, the men of 1 Airborne Division fought in a grim attempt to force the end of the war by the following Christmas.

Their final objective was not achieved, but Arnhem was not a failure. The men of 1 Airborne did not fight and die in vain.

The war ended five months after expectation, but the heroic stand of the Division unquestionably shortened it. They so disrupted the enemy's rear that the main body of the British Second Army swept forward 50 miles to Nijmegen, from where, later, the great Maas-Rhine push was to be mounted.

This was the position by September 16: The Siegfried Line was to be turned and the great Rhineland rivers crossed in one bold thrust. The Second Army would surge forward and link up with three sky-borne forces, set down like stepping stones on the way. The places selected were Eindhoven, Nijmegen, and Arnhem.

A daring plan perhaps, but its designers calculated that the Boche, so disorganised by the airborne landing in his midst, would not be able to halt the main drive,

which could be expected to join up with the furthest force in about 48 hours.

Two American airborne divisions – the 82 and 101 – were chosen for the Eindhoven and Nijmegen landings. Britain's 1 Airborne would be landed at Arnhem.

On the Sunday morning of September 16, 1944, people in eastern Britain going home from church saw the start of the glorious adventure. Dakotas, Stirlings and Halifaxes; tug-planes with their gliders; the fighter screen. More than 3,000 aircraft of all types made up the great air armada. They came up from 25 airfields, from Lincolnshire southwards. Operation "Market" was on for 1 Airborne.

Arnhem is a compact town, about two miles across, lying on the northern banks of the Lower Rhine. Because of heavy flak in the area, it was decided to make the landings about eight miles west of Arnhem.

The strength of 1 Airborne Division was two parachute brigades, one airlanding brigade and divisional troops consisting of an independent parachute company, a reconnaissance squadron, two anti-tank batteries RA, a light regiment RA, divisional signals, provost company and elements of RASC Supply Company, REME workshops, RAOC and field security personnel.

Each parachute brigade comprised Brigade HQ, three battalions of The Parachute Regiment, a Parachute Squadron RE and Parachute Field Ambulance. The Airlanding Brigade was made up of a battalion from each of KOSB, Border Regiment and South Staffordshire Regiment, with a Field Company RE, Field ambulance and the men of Glider Pilot Regiment. A Polish Parachute Brigade Group was in support. Altogether nearly 8,000 men went in.

Because of the shortage of aircraft the whole division could not be put down in one day. It was flown in on three lifts. One Parachute Brigade and the Airlanding Brigade with Div HQ went in on the first day.

The drop went well. The Independent Parachute Company leapt some minutes beforehand and set out their ground indicators to mark the dropping and landing zones.

From 1330 onwards they came in. Multi-coloured parachutes like bunches of giant flowers, red, blue, yellow and white, sailed down bringing men and stores. The Brigade battle-cry "Whoa Mahomet", picked up from the Arabs in Tunisia hailing each other and their cattle, ran through the air. Gliders skimmed the tree-tops to make perfect landings. Casualties were negligible.

The Red Devils were in Holland.

The Parachute Brigade soon formed up at their rendezvous and set out by three



Led by their teachers, schoolchildren from Arnhem and Oosterbeek file past the graves before laying flowers in 1946. More than 600 next-of-kin wanted to make this, the first Arnhem pilgrimage organised by the Airborne Forces Security Fund, but there was room for only 100. More were able to attend in subsequent years

roughly parallel routes towards the town. Light opposition was encountered at first, but they soon came under heavy fire.

On the way a company was dropped off to seize the railway bridge and send a party round to the southern end of the main bridge. Some were on the bridge when the enemy blew it.

Instead of encountering only static administration and Ack-Ack troops they were faced within a few hours of landing, by elements of two German Panzer Divisions which, unknown to us, were refitting in the area to the north of Arnhem. They were moved into the battle fairly early and outweighed the paratroopers who only had 6-pounder anti-tank guns and PIATs to drive them off.

At 1945 the first troops reached the northern end of the main bridge – Brigade HQ, remnants of one battalion, REs, Field Ambulance, RASC, and Signals, not more than 600 men. They were equipped with 6-pounders and PIATs.

A column of enemy horsed transport was crossing the main bridge when they got there. A platoon was sent to reach the southern side under its cover, but they were seen and had to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties. A compact defen-

sive perimeter was then formed in the buildings covering the brigade's northern approach.

The two other battalions meanwhile were fighting fiercely on the outskirts of the town but could not break through. The gap in the German defences had been

closed. The fighting lasted for two days. They were gradually split up into small groups, suffered grievous casualties and were for the most part overwhelmed.

Bad weather in England delayed the arrival of the second Parachute Brigade. by the time they came in during the afternoon the defenders were closely engaged round the perimeter of the dropping zone.

News had been received that the bridgehead party were having a tough time. One of the reinforcing parachute battalions and another from Airlanding Brigade set out to try to relieve them. They were unable to get through.

On the night of Tuesday September 19, it became clear that the original plan could not be implemented. The Polish

gliders had come in during the afternoon with fresh supplies. The remnants of the Division were scattered over a wide area and were in danger of being broken up into tiny pockets. It was therefore decided

to form a small, solid bridgehead about three miles west of Arnhem in the Oosterbeek region. There was no alternative but to leave the men at the main bridgehead to their fate until relief came from the Second Army's advance.

Repeated German attacks were held off, but a heavy bombardment caused many casualties. A further attack across the bridge by armoured cars and half-tracks was equally unsuccessful. Then from the east came tanks and self-propelled guns of the Panzer Divisions.

The PIATs were waiting. Many wrecks were left behind when the others turned tail.

Through the night infantry tried to infiltrate. Attacks increased in vigour next day. Ammunition ran low. There were no PIAT bombs left. Tanks and SP guns approached to within a few yards of the houses and systematically pumped shells into them. The six-barrelled Nebelwerfers were never silent; phosphorous bombs were used to burn the house down one by one.

When the fires cooled down the Germans rushed the temporarily vacant buildings. Counter-attacks drove them out but it was a costly method of defence. Attacks were intensified on the Wednesday and many key buildings had to be evacuated.

The paratroopers withdrew to slit trenches dug in gardens.

That night of September 20, some 300 wounded huddled in the cellars of a big

● Turn to next page

50
ARNHEM
anniversary

REVIEWS

Words that anger those who fought at Arnhem

ARNHEM was the last major battle lost by the British Army. If successful, it would probably have ended the war in Europe by Christmas 1944.

It was not – and of the airborne force of 11,920 taking part, almost 1,500 were killed or died of wounds. Another 6,500 were captured or left evading capture.

In *Arnhem 1944: The Airborne Battle*, Martin Middlebrook combines detailed study of historical documents with first-hand accounts of many of those involved.

According to the author, the men who fought there are angered by the facile use of the phrase "the failure at Arnhem". If it is recognised, he says, that the strategic concept of Operation Market Garden was sound, then the tactical defeat at Arnhem was mostly the result of actions taken by others; few errors can be laid at the door of the airborne soldiers who fought and fell at Arnhem, Oosterbeek and Driel.

Arnhem 1944: The Airborne Battle by Martin Middlebrook. Viking, hardback, £18.

Market Garden: They fought like lions

● From Page 37

house. Two medical officers worked in most appalling conditions, dressing wounds, saving lives. The house caught fire. A truce was called to surrender the wounded. Enemy infantry infiltrated into the gardens so that the positions could no longer be held. Withdrawal was made to a nearby warehouse. That was soon surrounded. Only 100 men were left. Most were captured. A few survivors got back to England three months later.

In the Oosterbeek perimeter a tremendous battle went on until the following Monday, September 25. The Germans continually attacked. The British were thin on the ground. All specialist divisional troops were now fighting to make up the strength. The few anti-tanks guns were knocked out. Smaller weapons were not sufficient but despite that they bagged some 25 tanks and SP guns. Slowly the

He suggests a number of reasons for the failure of the operation, among them the fact that the 1st Airborne Division was not adequately warned of the danger from the known presence of two Panzer divisions, denying units the opportunity to substitute anti-tank weapons for other parts of their load, and the Royal Air Force's refusal to fly two lifts on the first day.

Also criticised are the 1st Airborne commanders who failed to impart to unit commanders of the 1st Parachute Brigade the absolute necessity of relentless speed and dash in moving towards the Arnhem road bridge in the first hours of the operation. That omission has haunted The Parachute Regiment ever since.

Arnhem 1944 will be read avidly, not only by veterans, but by anyone interested in the heroism of British Forces. – LJM



not complied with. The casualties of 30 Corps were less than 1,500 compared with more than 8,000 British and Polish at Arnhem.

The personal accounts of battle are riveting. The gallantry of the RAF pilots and aircrew attempting to drop supplies to the beleaguered force is particularly noteworthy.

Arnhem 1944 will be read avidly, not only by veterans, but by anyone interested in the heroism of British Forces. – LJM

Arnhem 1944: The Airborne Battle by Martin Middlebrook. Viking, hardback, £18.

themselves strong in houses and gardens. Every window became a fire-spitting fortress, every basement a machine-gun nest. Only when the roof crashed in, the tall walls crumbled, and the whole house was about to be devoured by a sheet of flame did they leave these strongpoints. They were the most hardy warriors we have met in the whole invasion. They resisted to the end with knives and pistols.

The battleground of the Red Devils at Arnhem remains today almost untouched. Their red berets still lie in the scarred fields. White crosses mark the graves of some 1,100 men who fell. Our friends the Dutch tend them; fresh flowers token their gratitude.

In the words of Mr Winston Churchill, late Prime Minister: "Not in Vain" may be the pride of those who survived and the epitaph of those who fell.

German observers wrote: "The British paratroopers fought like lions. They made

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 594

Name: (Give rank or title)

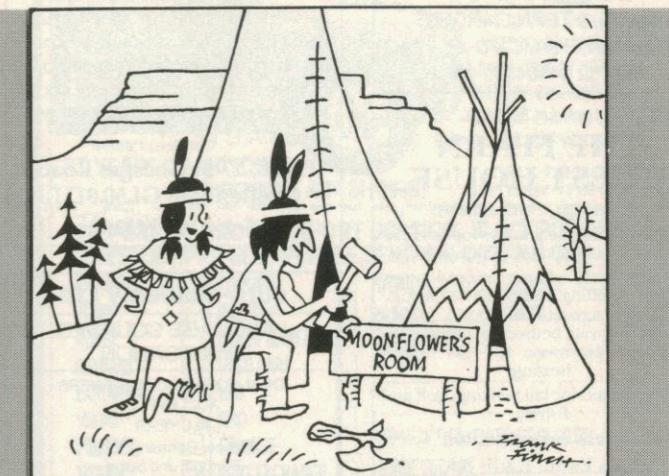
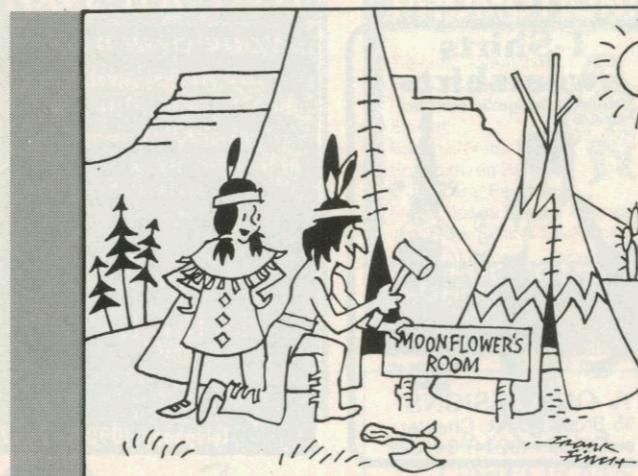
Address:

WIN £50

The pictures here are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 594, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by Sept 23. Do not include anything else in

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the October 17 issue.



Competition No 591 (July 25 issue): Congratulations to WO2 Anderson, of C Coy, 6 R Anglian, TAC Chelmsford, Essex, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Pte J C Corstain, of Mortar Plt, D (Sp) Coy, 2 R Anglian, Vitez School, BFPO 547 and Cpl Cole, MT Section, 157 Tpt Regt RLC, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

Anonymous report points the finger

SEPTEMBER 17, 1944 is burned into the annals of 2 Para's regimental history.

On that day 31 officers and 478 ORs parachuted into Holland for the start of operation Market Garden and the heroic fight for the bridges of

Arnhem. Within a few days all, except 17 ORs who were eventually rescued, were either dead or captured. The battalion was annihilated.

The report then proceeds to blame the ground army for being late... "considerable blame must attach to the planners and possibly the commanders and troops connected with this failure..."

The book, we are told, contains "a substantial amount" of previously unpublished material by the late Maj Gen John Frost, who gave permission for his war diaries to be used.

It also includes the personal stories of many paras as well as a wealth of maps and other illustrations, and places on record the history of 2 Para in North Africa, where it also suffered enormous casualties.

The report concludes: "No one has the courage to speak openly or to act." A name on that report, though, might have lent considerable enhancement to those thoughts. – JM

Without Tradition – 2 Para 1941-45 by Robert Peatling. Published in hardback by and available from the author at 36 Park Lane, Wimborne Minster, Dorset BH21 1LD. Price £16.95 plus £2 postage.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

We Were Soldiers Once... And Young by Lt Gen Harold G Moore USA (Retd) and Joseph L Gallo. Commander and journalist's devastating account of Ia Drang – "the battle that changed the war in Vietnam". Airlife Publishing, Shrewsbury, hardback, £18.95.

Ragged War by Leroy Thompson. Vietnam veteran's country-by-country study of unconventional and counter-revolutionary warfare. Arms and Armour, hardback, £14.99.

Irregular Soldier by Col M G M (Bing) Crosby. Completed shortly before his death last November, this remarkable but modest autobiography by a highly-decorated former SOE man tells of risky operations in Norway, North Africa, occupied France, Burma and Korea. Published by XB Publishing, £8.50.

Yarmuk 636AD by David Nicolle, £9.99; Campaign 32 – **Antietam 1862** by Norman S Stevens, £9.99; Campaign 33 – **Aspern and Wagram 1809** by Ian Castle, £9.99. Warrior 7 – **Samurai 1550-1600** by Anthony J Bryant, illustrator Angus McBride, £8.50; Warrior 8 – **British Cavalryman 1792-1815** by Philip Haythornthwaite, illustrator Richard Hook, £8.50.

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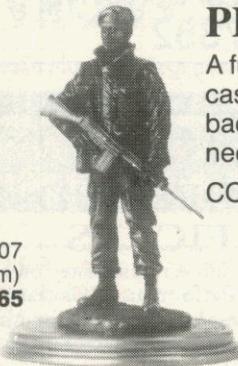
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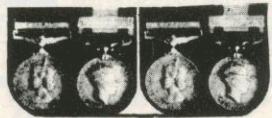
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will close in October 94. Units or individuals who require presentation items to be returned are asked to contact the PMC, WO2 (RQMS) Narendrakumar Tamang, Tel: 7322184. Packaging and postage to be paid for by unit/individual. Items not claimed by October 1994 will be transferred to 10 Tpt Regt in Colchester.

D7

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Ref: RLB-154106-SC (RB1)

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Copies of the proposed Scheme will be supplied on written request to the Charity Commissioners (quoting the reference above) and may also be seen at the following address: RHQ, WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA.

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D4

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

AUGUST 6, 1994

First (372 runs, £2,000) WO1 H. Shearer, ACIO Inverness.

Second (357 runs, £1,000) Sgt A E Parsonage, BFPO 825.

Third (353 runs, £500) Sgt C Sweeney, BFPO 804.

Fourth (351 runs, £400) Sgt W A M Little, ACIO Norwich.

Fifth (348 runs, £300) LCpl G W Cooper, 7 Bn REME, BFPO 41.

Sixth (347 runs, £200) Cpl M A Concepcion, 249 Signal Sqn, Bulford.

Seventh (345 runs, £100) Cpl M A Willson, 3 RSME Regt, Blackwater.

AUGUST 13, 1994

First (375 runs, £2,000) WO2 J R Elvin, RPO Chester.

Second (337 runs, £1,000) Lt P G Nicoll, 1 BW, Pirbright.

Third (329 runs, £500) Cpl K D Meadows, 2 Bn REME, BFPO 38.

Fourth (326 runs, £400) C Sgt R Dewar, Belize Log Bn, BFPO 12.

Fifth (323 runs, £300) Pte L Dalton, 1 RGBW, Catterick.

Sixth (318 runs, £200) LCpl J Thompson, HQ 2 Inf Bde, Shorncliffe.

Seventh equal (312 runs, £50) WO2 R Atkinson, 25 Engr Regt, BFPO 808.

Seventh equal (312 runs, £50) SSgt M J N Erskine, Scottish Tpt Regt RLC (V), Dunfermline.

D6

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D3



Picture: Mike Perring
Cpl Kelly Holmes: European silver in Helsinki

Kelly canters to silver

ALDERSHOT-based PTI Cpl Kelly Holmes put in a strong burst metres from the line to deprive Russia's Yekaterina Podkopayeva of a silver in the 1,500m final in the European athletics championships in Helsinki.

Hers was the first medal won by a British woman over the distance at a European championships. After returning

briefly to barracks, she was flying out to Victoria to participate in the Commonwealth Games.

After that, Holmes will have a tough choice to make. She is due to begin a sergeant's course later in the year, but said: "I feel now that I could be world number one in this event - I shall make a decision on my career on my return."

Holmes has made a dramatic impact on British women's athletics during the past two years, and currently holds the national 800m record of 1min 58.64sec.

At the start of this summer she switched to the four-lap distance and almost immediately made her mark by setting one of the fastest 1,500m times in the world.

SIGNALS' SUCCESS!

ROYAL Signals continued to dominate the Army Inter-Unit athletics team championships despite the absence, through injury, of a number of their Army and Combined Services stars.

Strength in depth, a firm tradition in discovering talent such as Kris Akabusi, Clarence Calendar and Les Wood, and a hard training regime continue to pay dividends.

At the end the signallers ran out winners in the Major and women's competitions and were second and third overall in the Minor Units Cup.

Best performances of the day came in the shorter events. OCdt Alderson (RMAS) a former signaller, who could not find a commission with the favoured corps, won both the 200m (22.3sec) and 400m (48.3sec) - an excellent time. He looks set for a fine athletics career once he reaches the outside world.

LCpl John Smith (2 Sig Regt) cruised the 800m (A string) while Cpl Boston, (2 Sig Regt) surged through to take both the 800m (B string) and 1,500m (A string) in quick succession.

The hurdles, a technical event at 110m and a maulkiler at 400m, was dominated by the Army and Inter-Services champion Cpl Tim Tompkinson (2 Sig Regt), his time of 14.6sec being just outside the Army record.

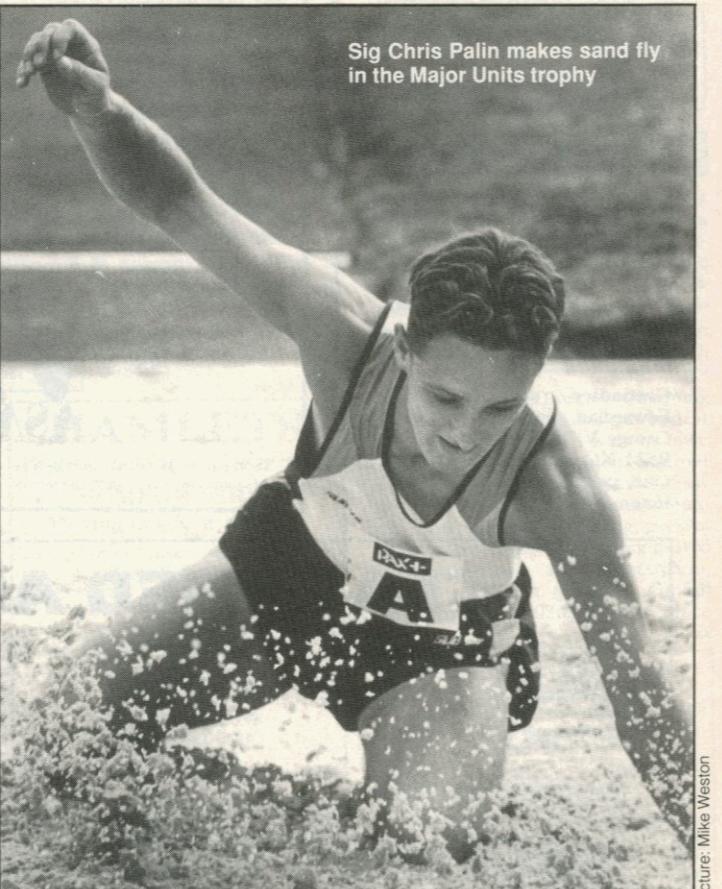
Cpl Carl Richardson complemented Tompkinson by winning the 110m (B string) and running 55.9sec to win, by a street, the 400m hurdles.

It was encouraging to see, after an absence of many years, The Cheshire Regiment in the Army finals. Like the Royal Signals, the battalion has a fine tradition in Army athletics and it is to be hoped they will regain the standards which made them the team to fear in the late 1950s and 60s.

For the Cheshire, Lt Gill won the pole vault (3.40m) while Pte Dunn won the javelin with a respectable throw of 48.22m - a distance incidentally bettered by Cpl Taff Dunbar of 200 Sig Sqn, who threw 50.88m.

RMAS Sandhurst cadets came second in both the Major and women's team championships. The cadets are largely unseasoned and have little time to train properly during their busy Sandhurst course. Their raw talent and spirit on the day bodes well for the future of Army athletics.

The Minor Units competition was convincingly won by BAD Kineton from 21 Signal



Picture: Mike Weston

Regiment (Air Support). Kineton athletes were seldom out of the first three in each event and dominated the field events.

Cpl Cairns (ATR Bassingbourn) won the 1,500m (4min 4sec) and 5,000m

(15min 32sec) - no mean feat on the same day - while LCpl Bretherwick (Comms and Sy Gp) won the 3,000m steeple-chase in 9min 44sec - an excellent time and 12 seconds faster than the Major Units winner.

RESULTS

Men, Major Units:

100m (A) LCpl Dick (7 Sig Regt). (B) LCpl Francis (1 UK) ADSR). 200m (A) OCdt Alderson (RMAS). (B) Sig Hoole (1 UK) ADSR).

400m (A) OCdt Alderson (RMAS). (B) LCpl Brown (12 Regt RA). 800m (A) LCpl Smith (2 Sig Regt). (B) Cpl Boston (2 Sig Regt).

1,500m (run with Minor Units) Cpl Boston (2 Sig Regt). 5,000m (with minor units) Sgt Bailey (2 Sig Regt). 110m H (A) Cpl Tomkinson (2 Sig Regt). (B) Cpl Richardson (2 Sig Regt). 400m H (A) Cpl Richardson (2 Sig Regt). (B) Cpl Tomkinson (2 Sig Regt).

3,000m SC Sig Ellis (2 Sig Regt).

High/long/triple jumps Cpl Love (7 Sig Regt); Grn Campbell (12 Regt RA); Grn Campbell (12 Regt RA). Pole vault Lt Gill (1 Cheshire). Discus Cpl Curtis (2 Sig Regt).

Hammer Cpl Jones (2 Sig Regt). Javelin Pte Dunn (1 Cheshire). Shot SSgt Killen (2 Sig Regt).

4x100m relay 1, 2 Sig Regt, 44.5secs; 2, 1

Team - 1, BAD Kineton, 90; 2, 21 Sig Regt, 69; 3, 200 Sig Sqn, 64; 4, 12 Spt Regt RLC, 53; 5, ATR Bassingbourn, 49% (2 wins); 6, ASPT, 49% (1 win); 7, Comms & Sy (UK), 44.

Men, Minor Units:

100m Cpl Williams (21 Sig Regt). 200m SSgt Tyler (12 Spt Regt RLC). 400m Pte Arliss (BAD Kineton). 800m Sgt McCullum (ASPT). 1,500m/5,000m (run with Major Units) Cpl Cairns (ATR Bassingbourn). 400m H LCpl Rutherford (BAD Kineton). 3,000m SC LCpl Bretherick (Comms & Sy (UK)). High/long/triple jumps Cpl Pearce (BAD Kineton). Javelin LCpl Hunt (27 Tpt Regt RLC). Shot Sig Judge (8 Sig Regt). 4x100m relay 1, 8 Sig Regt; 2, RMAS; 3, 27 Tpt Regt RLC.

Teams - 1, 8 Sig Regt, 75; 2, RMAS, 72; 3, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, 61; 4, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, 55; 5, 1 (UK) ADSR, 37; 6, York Garrison, 32; 7, 14 Sig Regt (E.W.), 30.

4x400m relay 1, BAD Kineton; 2, 21 Sig Regt; 3, 200 Sig Sqn.

Cavalry keeps up appearances

THE RHINE Army Polo Association (RAPA) beat Chiemsee in the final of the German low goal (0-4) championships in Berlin.

RAPA, who could raise only a 0-goal team, struggled in the first two chukkas as Chiemsee's Tommy Winter (+4) forced Maj Richard Pinney (QRL) and Capt Henry Bouskell (QDG) to go on the

defensive. Despite some RAPA ponies having to play twice in the last chukka, the game opened up and Lt Tom Moon (LD) scored a winning goal from the sidelines in the closing minutes - securing RAPA's victory by 41/2-3 in a cliff-hanger of a match.

The tournament, traditionally a British event, was organised for the first time

exclusively by the Berliner Polo Club. Set on the Maifeld, it remains the most prestigious event and attracted eight sponsored teams from all over Germany.

Thanks largely to a run of goals by Lt Martin French Blake (QLR), RAPA won all their preliminary games over the two weekends to earn their place in the final. The players

were from three BAOR-based cavalry regiments.

Because of RAPA's links with local clubs, there is plenty of scope for British officers and NCOs who want to play. The future for British polo in Germany is bright, with a full fixture list for the rest of the season and another cavalry regiment, The Scots Dragoon Guards, arriving next year.

Clean sweep for the Army

TWO shrewd decisions by outgoing coach WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson APTC were instrumental in the Army diving team winning all four major trophies and titles in both the men's and women's events in this year's Inter-Services diving championships.

Immediately after the Army championships, Kempson opted to divide the men's training up for the competition, so that all four members of the team concentrated on one board only.

So while Lt Christiaan Munro (2 RTR) and ATPr Neil Wilson (4 AAC) compet-

ed on the three-metre springboard for the second consecutive year, a clear 20 points (165.5) ahead of Mandi Bridgeland (RN), with Lt Susie Griffin (3 AEC) third (120.0 pts).

Davies quickly followed her initial success by winning the highboard with 133.4 points, with Griffin close on her heels in second place (121.0 pts), scoring well on her newly-learnt inward 1½ somersaults.

The men's highboard team continued the Army's winning ways, with title holder Amos Greenfield - who started diving in 1988 when he was one of Mike Kempson's PTIs with 22 AD Regt RA - ensuring first place (303.55 pts), a clear 37 points ahead of Chris Brisley (RN). Kempson himself collected the bronze with



Seven up! The victorious men's diving team show off the inter-Services men's shield which they have just won for the seventh year in succession. Left to right: ATPr Neil Wilson, Lt Christiaan Munro, WO2 (QMSI) Mike Kempson, Sgt (Sl) Amos Greenfield

made it three in a row by lifting the Tina Childs Trophy for the women scoring the most points throughout the competition in the two women's events.

The men's highboard team continued the Army's winning ways, with title holder Amos Greenfield - who started diving in 1988 when he was one of Mike Kempson's PTIs with 22 AD Regt RA - ensuring first place (303.55 pts), a clear 37 points ahead of Chris Brisley (RN). Kempson himself collected the bronze with

259.7 points. Diving for the last time for the Army, 23 years after his debut, Kempson wanted to leave the Inter-Services championships on a high note with a good dive.

To scores of 8s and 7½s from the judges, and rapturous applause from the spectators, he achieved just that, with a back dive piked to near perfection, helping to bring home the men's team shield for the seventh year in succession.

Results: Women: Army 21, RAF 12, RN 5. Men: Army 20, RAF 10, RN 10.

Although WO2 Kempson is due to leave the Army in March 1995 - with any luck to take up the appointment of national diving coach in Cyprus - he will not be forgotten. He has donated a cup in his name, for the highest scoring dive, including degree of difficulty, performed in the men's competition.

In a close contest to be first recipient, Christiaan Munro just had the edge over Sgt Greenfield, who is taking over as Army diving team coach.

CRICKET

DESPITE totals of 105 and 54 respectively by Ian Redfern and Christopher St George (both 7 Coy Coldstream Gds), the rest of the Army side, chasing quick runs against the MCC YC at Shenley Park, succumbed to 241-9. With the last six wickets only realising 26 runs, the strong MCC YC batting saw them through to a win with ten overs to spare. On a "pudding" pitch and a wet out-

field at Bath, the Army's score of 191-9 in 55 was a fair total, but the Civil Service never looked in trouble, needing 24 runs off eight overs, with six wickets standing. But some excellent fielding and accurate bowling produced an exciting finish, with four runs needed off the last ball and the last man in. A boundary settled the matter.

(RAF victory - Page 50)

Upsets and discoveries

THE 74th Army lawn tennis championships, held over six days on the lawns at the site of the former Royal Aldershot Officers' Club, heralded some excellent, hard-fought tennis, some dramatic upsets and the discovery of new and hidden talent, writes Martin Rose.

As if in response to the glorious sunshine with which the 111 competitors taking part in the 14 separate events were blessed for much of the time, the tennis was of a high standard and played with much enthusiasm and in the tradition of good sportsmanship.

The men's open singles event was, as ever, keenly contested between the 62 competitors.

The final brought a repeat of last year's encounter between nine-times champion Capt Nigel Watts and the young pretender, Spr David Ingram.

With Watts unbeaten on the Aldershot lawns and the sapper recalling his narrow defeat in the 1993 final, the match was destined to be a close and, at times, tense affair.

It took Ingham two sets (6-4, 6-3) to wrest the title away from the long-standing champion and lift the singles trophy.

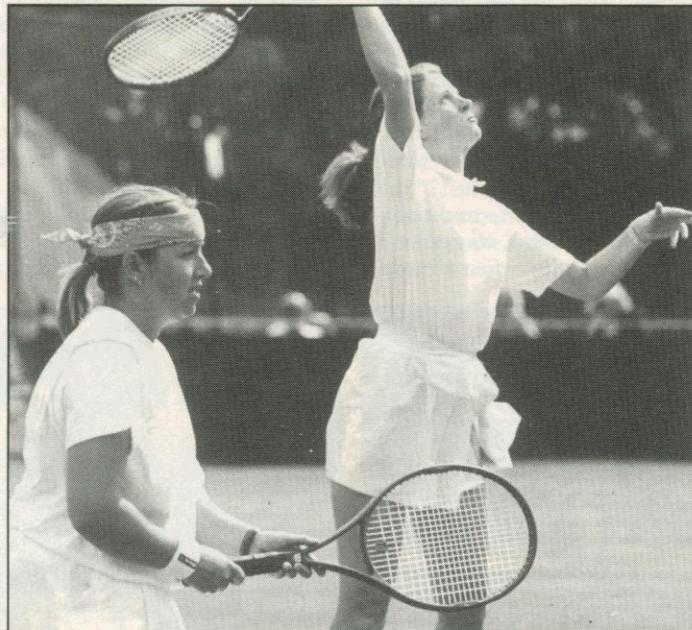
Two rounds earlier, Ingham had had to negotiate a strong challenge from OCdt Ralph Holah, a newcomer who looks certain to make his mark on Army tennis.

As in his other matches, Holah played with flair and with flowing shots which earned him the award of Most Promising Player of the championships.

Forgetting their rivalry in the singles, Watts and Ingham paired up for a second year to provide a formidable doubles partnership in the men's open doubles, fighting off the challenge of Maj Alan Butterfield and Capt Richard Determeyer in the final.

In the Inter-Arms and Corps doubles, the duo of Watts and Capt Bill Herlihy, in a hotly-contested victory (6-4, 4-6, 6-1) against Butterfield and WO1 Steve James, succeeded in bringing the magnificent silver trophy back to the AAC - a fifth time for the corps and a third for this combination.

The ladies' competition con-



LCpl Clare Whitney (left), who proved she was a force to be reckoned with by taking the open singles title and, with Capt Anna Swayne, the ladies doubles crown.

firmed LCpl Clare Whitney as a force to be reckoned with, as she took the open singles and, with Capt Anna Swayne, the ladies' doubles honours.

Maj Kirsty Richards (formerly Philips) underlined her consistency and gritty play by appearing in the singles, doubles and mixed doubles finals, achieving her sole success in this final category, winning 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 with Butterfield as partner.

Once again, the veterans' tournament was well-supported, with the introduction of a round-robin competition in the open doubles proving a popular innovation.

ans handicap singles final the following day when he confronted title-holder Brig Barry Reeves.

The champion kept his hold on the trophy with a 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 victory in very hot conditions before partnering Lt Col David Hughes to the veterans open doubles title over former champions Lt Col John Woodliffe and Mr Paul Weaver.

The junior Army entry for the championships was well down on the extraordinarily large numbers of last year.

However, thanks to the sterling efforts of Bernie Freeman and Lt Lorna Hambly, Princess Marina College, Arborfield and the AAC, Harrogate fielded enthusiastic squads.

Having to return to training by Monday of the championships, the juniors competed in all three events (including a plate event) during the first two days' play.

AT Dunstone from Arborfield won the junior Army singles title, beating his fellow apprentice from PMC, AT Cook. Along with AT LCpl Joyce, he also lifted the junior Army inter-unit doubles trophy for PMC.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, Army Lawn Tennis Association president Gen Sir Charles Guthrie said that the Army Tennis Centre was fast becoming a reality and commended this excellent facility for Aldershot and for Army tennis in particular.

Swim team's winning smiles

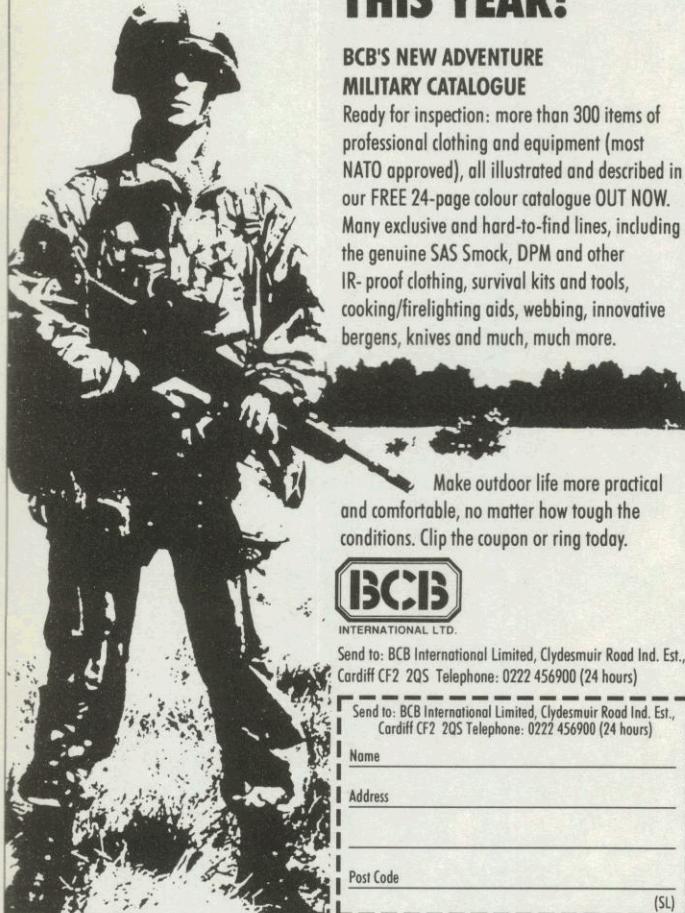
The successful RMAS members who won the Army women team competition at the Army swimming championships. Minor unit team winners were 22 Field Hospital RAMC; major unit winners were 21 Engineer Regiment; water polo champions were 36 Engineer Regiment, who defeated 3 RSME Regiment

Airmen claim cricket crown

The Royal Air Force beat both the Royal Navy and the Army in thrilling finishes at Aldershot to win the Inter-Services. Details in next issue.



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D5

Wavell's ger

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'Leaving the Army was a big step for me. The resettlement advice in **SOLDIER** really helped to make my start in civilian life easier'



IT HAS taken 52 years for an impartial assessment of Britain's first Second World War commander-in-chief in the Middle East to appear. It was an infantry officer in

1940-41, w
resounding
cesses.

It seems disputable that the seeds of Sir Archibald Percival Wavell's "fall from grace" as the British Commander in the Middle East were sown in



'The competitions are fun and always worth entering. I sent in an observation test and won £50!'

Room for
a few more
in Normandy

SO MANY veterans are plan
to return to Normandy for
D-Day celebrations next year.
most local hoteliers have
filled their books for the week
June 6.

From Rouen to Bayeux the message is the same: the accommodation left for the troops. But according to Andrea Daly, who owns a pub in Bayeux, there are websites and mobile home for smaller parties.

They are offering a

location-finding service

D-Day Logement, charge

£5 a person, and can be cont

c/o The Black Swan Mill, B

14401 Bayeux CEDEX,

France (tel: (010 33)

'I lost contact with a bunch of good mates I served with during World War 2 - I couldn't believe it when Searchline got us back in touch!'



Wearing the uniform of Honorary Commodore of the Royal Naval Reserve, Prince Michael of Kent represented the Queen at the 115th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on August 5. To the left of the picture are the Commandant, Maj Gen Hew Pike, the Academy Sergeant Major, WO1 David Cox Gren Gds, who retired from the Army after the parade, and Capt Charles Whittaker LD, Prince Michael's equerry.

Picture: Mike Weston



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