

# ARMED SOLDIERS

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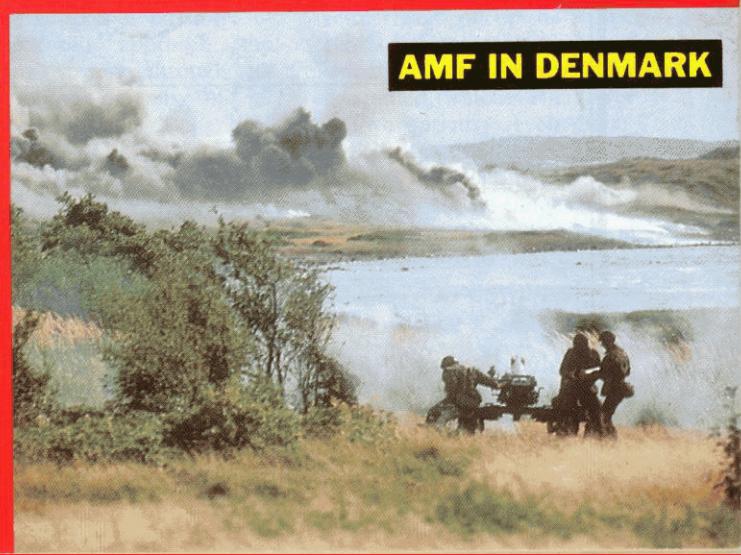
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NOVEMBER 11  
1991  
EVERY  
FORTNIGHT  
50p



**PARA  
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*Report inside*

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## Para signal celebration

One for the squadron album. The Princess Royal seated with (left) the OC 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, Maj Ian Foxley, and Master of Signals Maj Gen Archie Birtwhistle during her golden jubilee visit. Full story in Page 23.



Picture: Mike Perring

# Cheaper mortgages

MORTGAGES at preferential rates will become available to full-time members of the Armed Forces on November 11.

Under the scheme, announced by Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton at the end of the defence debate in

the House of Commons, discounts will be honoured for the duration of the mortgage and will not depend on continued employment in the Services.

The preferential scheme will be operated by a leading financial institution, details of

which can be obtained from unit admin offices. Potential borrowers need not give details of their rank to the institution, and will be asked to use a private address if possible.

They can approach the building society through its head office or any of its

branches located throughout Britain.

Any full-time member of the Armed Forces is eligible to apply for a new mortgage or a re-mortgage of up to 95 per cent of the purchase price or valuation of the property concerned, whichever is lower.

Two options are on offer:

- A discount of 0.75 per cent off the society's prevailing private house dwelling rate for the term of the mortgage; or

- Turn to Page 5

**FRONT COVER – Mask of a Pathfinder. LCpl Steve Brown all dressed up for a visit by the Princess Royal to 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron. See Page 23 and picture above (Picture: Mike Perring). Lower picture: ACE Mobile Force gunners in Denmark put on a show. See Page 25 (Picture: Sgt Matt Timbers)**

## SOLDIER

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# District revamp begins

REORGANISATION of the British Army's district structure as a result of Options for Change has begun with the amalgamation of North-West and Western Districts.

They are to be joined on November 29 by Wales, creating Wales and Western District under the command of Maj Gen Peter Bonnet and based at Shrewsbury.

Under the shake up, Headquarters North West District at Fulwood Barracks in Preston has been downgraded to 42 (North West) Brigade under the command of Brig Euan Morrison.

Staff from 42 (Infantry) Brigade in Chester Castle have moved to Fulwood Barracks.

Wales and Western District will consist of:

- 42 (North West) Brigade based at Preston.
- 143 (West Midlands) Brigade based at Shrewsbury.
- 160 (Wales) Brigade based at Brecon.

A new Eastern District to replace the existing Eastern and North-East Districts will become effective next April. Announcing the change during the debate on the defence cuts, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton said the new headquarters would be located in York.

He also confirmed that London District will remain unchanged.

## Cheaper mortgages

### From Page 3

● A discount of 1 per cent off the society's private dwelling house rate for the first three years of the mortgage and a discount of 0.25 per cent for the remainder of the term.

Mortgages under the scheme will not be awarded automatically to Service personnel, but will depend upon the applicant satisfying the society of his credit-worthiness in the normal manner.

Borrowers will be required to open a savings account with the society out of which mortgage repayments must be made. A choice of repayment methods is



**FORMER WO2 George Howard, who was senior instructor on field ovens at St Omer Barracks in 1967-68, checks that the new generation is getting it right during a golden jubilee reunion of the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot. SSgt Stewart Mason (left), ex-ACC but on detachment to the Army School of Catering from The Gibraltar Regiment, has every confidence in Pte Bridget Hall, who has just completed her course and is awaiting her first posting.**

## Farewell to Soltau

THE BRITISH Army will stop exercising on the Soltau-Luneberg training area by mid-1994.

Under new agreements reached with the German Government, the withdrawal

will begin next year with the exclusion of the military from a major area south west of Luneburg, and a substantial extension of the summer break.

In 1993 the Army will withdraw from east of Bundesautobahn 7 and the extended summer break, designed to protect flora and fauna, will be maintained.

In the final phases of the withdrawal, all military training on the 130-square mile Soltau-Luneberg area will cease by mid-1994. The British Army will be allowed to exercise on German training grounds.

During Exercise Certain Shield, the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, Gen Sir Peter Inge, told SOLDIER that the Army would be happy to give up Soltau if adequate training space could be found elsewhere. He said it was too early to say if extensive exercise areas formerly used by the Soviets in what was East Germany would be made available.

available - endowment policy, capital and interest repayment, pension plan or personal equity plan (PEP).

When an application is made, the society will require formal confirmation of details such as earnings and length of service from the applicant's local pay office.

The scheme does not apply to mortgages taken out in Northern Ireland, where a preferential rate is already available.

The decision to take out a mortgage under the scheme rests with the individual, as it does with a mortgage taken out

with any other company. The Ministry of Defence has pointed out that it will regard the transaction as a private arrangement between building society and individual and will accept no liability.

The Inland Revenue is considering the tax implications of the lower mortgage rate, but it is thought that because of tax relief and concessions most people would be unaffected if it was decided the preferential rate was a taxable benefit.

Service personnel will usually be allowed to let property mortgaged under the scheme, but need to tell the society.

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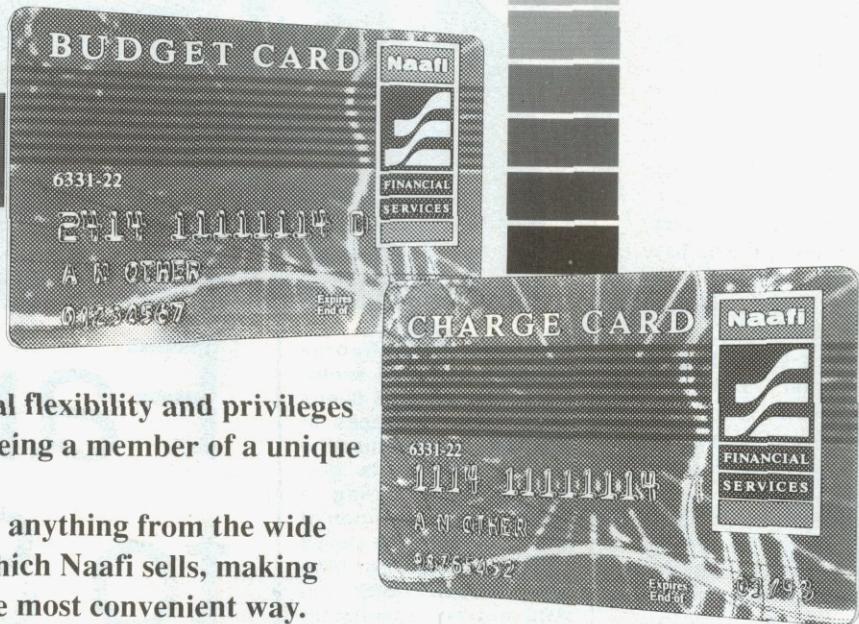
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B Coy, 2 Yorks team leader 2nd Lt Lee Bridgeman, receives the Martial Merlin Trophy from Maj Gen Mike Walker, GOC North East District and 2 Infantry Division

# Yorks make Merlin magic

MILITARY skills of Territorial Army soldiers serving with 15 Infantry Brigade were tested to the full in a two-day competition on Catterick Training Area.

Code-named Martial Merlin, the exercise involved 560 competitors in 44 teams from as far afield as Liverpool, Sheffield and Morpeth. Nearly 400 staff were involved.

Tests included first aid, communications, shooting, field craft, map reading and a tactical water crossing followed by a difficult seven-hour night navigation exercise through 22 check points across the moors.

Final stage was a gruelling early morning 6km speed march.

The Martial Merlin Trophy, donated by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, was presented by Maj Gen Mike Walker, GOC North East District and 2nd Infantry Division to B Company, 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers from Hull.

First three places in the final run were filled by the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V), which also claimed second and third places in the overall results.

Newton Aycliffe-based 223 Field Ambulance RAMC (V) were third.

won the medical section of the competition.

The exercise was visited by Gen Sir John Waters, C-in-C UKLF.

Brigade Commander Brig Anthony Leask, said: "As a Regular Commander, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to know that the TA soldier is every bit as fit for his role in the defence of this country as his Regular Army counterpart.

"Martial Merlin has been a very testing exercise and all the competitors, wherever their placings in the final results, can be proud of their achievements this weekend."

## Scots petition House

CAMPAIGNERS petitioning against the amalgamation of Scottish regiments under Options for Change handed in boxes containing more than 800,000 signatures to the House of Commons during the Armed Services debate.

Under the defence cuts four regiments are to be amalgamated and one, the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, is to go into suspended animation.

The Keep Our Scottish Battalions campaign is fighting to stop the merger of The Royal Scots with The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and The Queen's Own Highlanders with The Gordon Highlanders.

## Trainees create a haven

TRAINEE sappers have completed a two-year landscaping project that has transformed Oakington Barracks in Cambridgeshire.

In Exercise Forest Oak, 230 trainees from the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, moved 120,000 cubic metres of material.

Eventual result will be a lake in pleasant surroundings which, as well as providing a training ground for members of the Royal Engineers, will create leisure facilities and a water-borne training area for the resident 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

It will also be a haven for wildlife similar to a previous project at Bassingbourn, which has a lake stocked with 5,000 fish and is popular with many wildfowl species.

## Scapa dive

TWELVE soldiers from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment travelled to Scapa Flow in the Orkneys to dive on ships of the German fleet scuttled there in 1919.

Among the wrecks they reached were the Dresden, the Köln and a German motor torpedo boat.

## Hat trick by 42 Sqn RCT

WINNERS for the third year running of the UKLF road safety and skilled driving competition at the Army School of Mechanical Transport, Leconfield, was a team from 42 Squadron RCT based at Bulford.

The received the Kenning Car and Van Rental Shield, beating 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt RCT from Catterick into second place. Cambridge-based 254 Fd Amb RAMC (V) were third.

Following a series of elimination rounds in the districts, 30 teams, each made up of a captain, a LGV driver and a Land Rover driver, took part in the final.

The event, organised by WO1 Haydn Gordon, Master Driver ASMT, was supported by a wide range of driving and transport-related stands, and was attended by the Director General of Transport and Movements, Maj Gen John MacDonald.

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# Gurkha brigade celebrates golden jubilee

MASSED Gurkha Pipes and Drums celebrated the golden jubilee of the Hong Kong-based 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade by performing in front of a backdrop depicting the brigade's present units and past activities.

The 50th anniversary was

marked at Borneo Lines, Sek Kong, with an elaborate musical pageant which included the bands of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, the Brigade of Gurkhas, and the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), as well as the Pipes and

Drums of four Gurkha units.

The brigade was formed in India in 1941 under Brig Sir John Smyth VC. Soldiers attached to the 48 Brigade won five Victoria Crosses during the Burma campaign. In 1954, after five years' service in the Malaya Emergency, 48 Brigade

moved to its present home at Sek Kong in Hong Kong's New Territories. More than 90 different units from the Royal Armoured Corps, the Royal Artillery, the Infantry and other arms and services have been a part of its order of battle.

## Colony workmen unearth muzzle loaders

CONTRACTORS constructing an underground car park on the western fringes of Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island have unearthed a battery of 19th century guns which were once part of the defences of the fledgling colony.

In Hong Kong's early days as a British possession the site, next to the headquarters of the Royal Hong Kong Police, was known as Wellington Battery. It was one of the gun emplacements that flanked the settlement in what are now the Central and Western Districts.

The first gun to be dug up was a 12-ton rifled muzzle-loader with a calibre of nine inches. Lt Col Herbert Abela, one of the few artillery officers at HQ British Forces, said it appeared to be of a type first issued in the late 1860s.

An Army vehicle recovery team from 50 Hong Kong Workshop, REME supervised its loading on to a truck provided by the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Soon afterwards, workmen found three more small muzzle-loading guns with a seven inch calibre.

What the guns were doing buried in the ground is a matter of speculation. One theory is that they were dumped as obsolete and used as landfill when the area in front of Wellington Battery was reclaimed from the sea late last century.

● Hong Kong welcome — Page 35



The Duke of Kent, escorted by Lt Col Charles Cooper, commanding officer of the 4th Battalion, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, inspects the battalion



The largest of the guns about to be loaded on to a Queen's Gurkha Engineer truck at the site of the old Wellington Battery

## 4 D and D receives colours

THE DUKE of Kent has presented the 4th Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment with its first stand of Colours.

More than 1,000 members of the regiment, of which the Duke is Colonel-in-Chief, attended the ceremony in Wyvern Barracks, Exeter. They included men of the Regular 1st Battalion stationed in Germany.

The 450-strong 4th Battalion, reformed in 1987, is commanded by Lt Col Charles Cooper. It has companies in Plymouth, Paignton, Exeter and Dorchester.

The parade was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, currently GOC Northern Ireland, and the new Colours were consecrated by the Rev John Vernon, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, South West District.

# Stylish exits

Venerable vehicles were used to carry off two senior officers as they said farewell to their commands.

At Aldershot Brig **Wardle Barker**, Commander Training Group RCT, left his Buller Barracks headquarters in the Corps coach, a 100-year-old park drag drawn by a team of four Welsh cobs owned and driven by Mr John Seear. Brig Barker is to become secretary of the Yorkshire and Humberside TAVRA.

And at Shrewsbury, Lt Col **Nick Jenkins** rode out in a 1925 Rolls Royce Silver Phantom at the end of three years in command of the 5th (Shropshire and Hereford) Battalion, The Light Infantry. His next appointment is in HQ Western District.

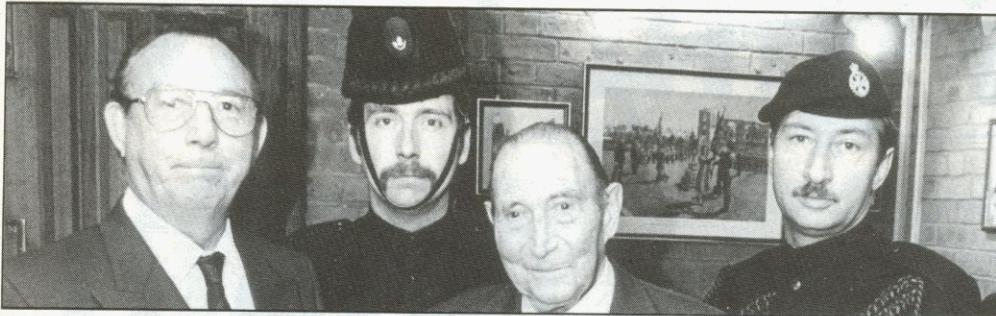


# Centenarian Joe's story

The oldest Greenjacket of them all, 102-year-old **Joe Beard**, has presented his memoirs for inclusion in the archives of the regimental museum.

His birthday was marked at Mansfield TA Centre by a ceremony attended by nearly 100 veterans of The Royal Green Jackets. Joe, who lives in Warsop, was presented with a statue of a bugler, a tankard, regimental and association ties, a beret and a cake from RGJ regimental headquarters at Winchester.

He reported for training at Winchester in September 1914 and was badly wounded at the Battle of Loos.



**OLDEST GREENJACKET:** Bob Beech (left) of the Riflemen's Aid Society with Joe Beard and Sgt Robert Rogers and CSgt Steven Pedrick (right) from the Army Careers Information Office in Mansfield.

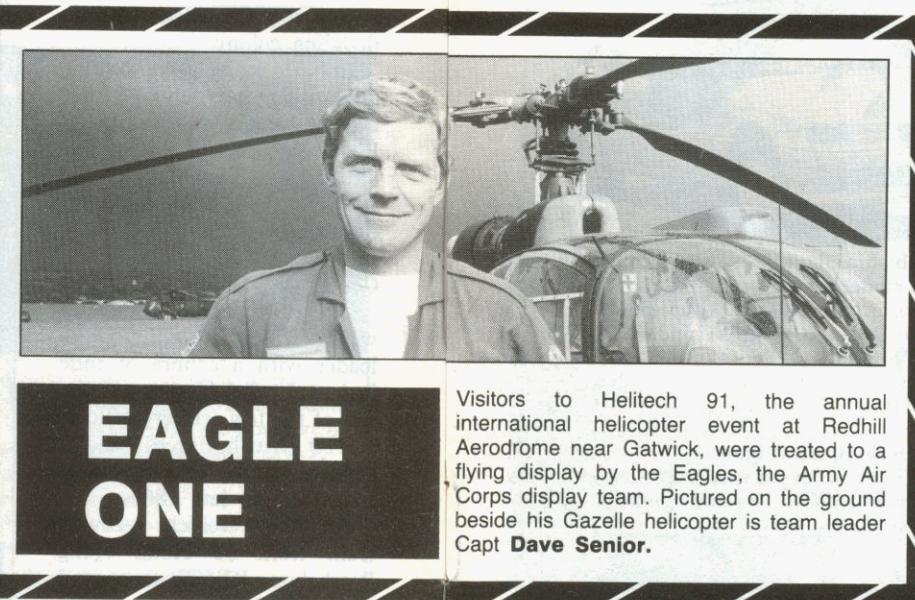
## New GOC

Maj Gen **Michael Walker** (pictured) has taken over from Maj Gen **Michael Rose** as GOC North East District and Commander 2nd Infantry Division. Commissioned into the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian regiment in 1966, Gen Walker later commanded the battalion, and most recently was in command of 20th Armoured Brigade in Germany.



Fifteen Service and four civilian personnel line up for a proud picture with Maj Gen **Christopher Wallace**, GOC 3rd Armoured Division, and members of their families after receiving Op Granby commendations for outstanding contributions during the war.

# PEOPLE



Visitors to Helitech 91, the annual international helicopter event at Redhill Aerodrome near Gatwick, were treated to a flying display by the Eagles, the Army Air Corps display team. Pictured on the ground beside his Gazelle helicopter is team leader Capt **Dave Senior**.



## Yeomen tackle spiky problem

WO2 **Dave Smith** and Cfn **Iain Davies** erect a hedgehog warning sign at The Royal Yeomanry's A2 Echelon during Exercise Certain Shield in Germany. Visiting drivers were baffled by the sign, but it wasn't a new password, just a warning after two of the four baby hedgehogs in the farmyard location had perished.

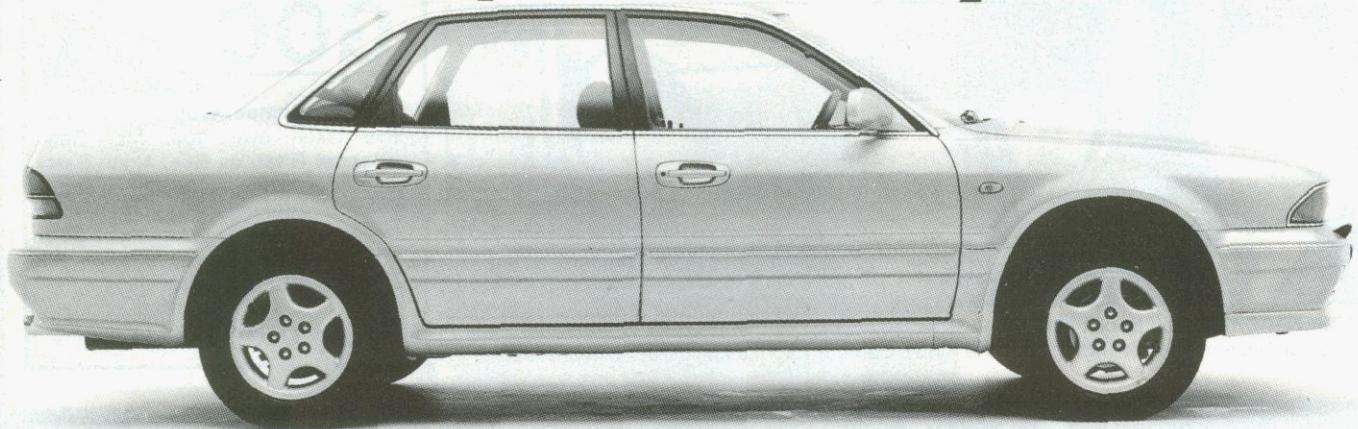
## Nurses on call

Eight nurses who served in the Gulf War line up for a photocall on the Embankment in London to publicise the opening of a special Gulf nursing exhibition at the Florence Nightingale Museum in Lambeth Palace Road. From left to right are **Mary Richardson** of the Red Cross, **Barbara Russell** of the Order of St John, Cpl **Wendy Lax**, Maj **Kay Foster**, Sgt **Mel Hartwell**, Sgt **Nerys Davies**, Sgt **Dean Hems** and Lt **Jackie Clarke**.



Picture: Bdr Doug Legge

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Brize Norton's PCAU aims to keep . . .

# One jump ahead of the enemy

Words:  
Gordon Skilling  
Pictures:  
Mike Weston

IF A parachutist cannot get his act together within minutes of landing in hostile country, he may as well have gone by bus, say the staff of the Parachute Course Administrative Unit (PCAU) at RAF Brize Norton.

The whole purpose of being dropped is surprise and speed, principles which have not changed since the first trainees received their coveted parachute wings at Ringway Airport, Manchester, in 1940.

More than 166,000 trainees have now experienced the stomach-lurching plummet, the bliss of a properly deployed 'chute, and the fierce pride on receiving their wings.

The PCAU is an 11-man detachment from the Parachute Regiment Depot, responsible for liaison between No.1 Parachute Training School and the three Services. On the 1,000th Basic Parachute Course this summer were 13 different cap badges ranging from Royal

Marines and Army Catering Corps to the RAF Regiment.

The unit can accommodate 180 on its courses, which include a two-week adventure training free-fall course, the popular two-day water jump open to any soldier or civil servant, and military high altitude free-fall and steerable courses for recce troops and other specialists.

At Brize Norton the RAF teaches soldiers to parachute and the PCAU teaches them how to apply that skill to the battlefield.

Commanded for the first time by a non-Para, Maj Keith McQuilton, REME, the PCAU works closely with No 1 Parachute Training School, whose RAF Parachute Jump Instructors have a thoroughly professional approach which quickly wins the trainees' approval.

So does their black humour: "If the reserve chute doesn't deploy don't worry, the ground will arrest your fall," is a typical example.

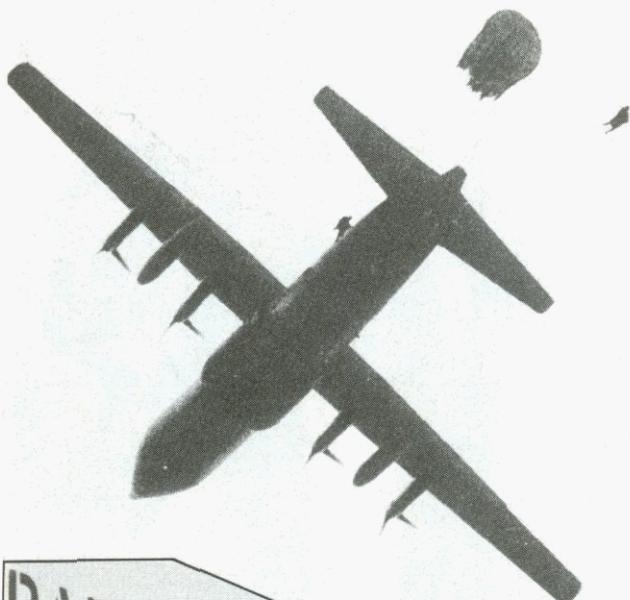
Wings are won only after the student has mastered the more exacting discipline of military parachuting, not just the art of parachuting.

It is not a sport, explained Sgt Bob Ferguson. "It is not fun, and when you have stood there for ages in the heat with all the kit on you can't get out quickly enough."

Dropping from 800ft does not leave much time for reflection. Another 500 parachutists can be in the air about you, and there is no guarantee that the 60ft radius the planners have allocated you will not be invaded by another parachutist.

It is best to avoid him as he

● Turn to next page



Maj Keith McQuilton REME, the first non-para officer commanding of the PCAU

# One jump

● From Page 13

could be carrying up to 120lb of kit. Trainees start with clean fatigue jumping, with no equipment. After three jumps from an aircraft some pieces are strapped to them - like a regular jerrycan filled with stones for weight.

For operations they are so loaded down with three days' worth of kit and ammunition that they can hardly move.

"This is why para selection is so rigorous and why only the toughest soldiers can achieve it," said RSM Barry Norman, a man with long practical experience including Goose Green, where he was with Lt Col H Jones when he was killed.

"Realistically you wouldn't go in with much less, but we are now at the maximum limit. We have had lads taken off parachuting because their own weight combined with their kit was too heavy."

Heavy equipment is no problem for Pte Diane Butler, one of the three red beret drivers on the staff. When she was posted in she had no thoughts of parachuting, but then decided to do the free-fall course.

In bright overalls, trainers and a teeny parachute, she can enjoy the delights of parachuting without all the hassle the men have to go through.

"I did the water jump and loved it, and I want to do it again. You don't need to be able to swim and you don't feel the cold water because you're so hyped up and enjoying it," she said.

"Hanging underneath a parachute is an absolute joy," said Maj McQuilton, "but getting there can be extremely uncomfortable. You can hardly move, your stomach's going because it's low level, and it's hot and stuffy and extremely cramped."

"With a full aircraft load the PJIs need more time to get you ready, which means standing up for a long time. Believe me, there are times when you are praying just to get out."

Carrying the kit and jumping is the easy bit. Fighting the battle at the other end is what they have come for.

Dropping zone drills are the most important part of the course, and if the trainees don't get them right on the playing fields of Brize, the mission will fail when it comes to landing in the dark under fire.



Pte Dennis Rhule contemplates the difference in military parachuting and sport parachuting, as illustrated by Pte Diane Butler



Many cap badges train as parachutists

# LET'S TAKE IT A STEP AT A TIME

AT RAF Brize Norton the operational dimension of parachuting is introduced only after the basics have been learned. All potential trainees must pass the All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (P Company) at Depot Para in Aldershot to establish their stamina, determination and sense of humour. They will need all three.

The Basic Parachute Course comprises four weeks of ground training in flight, landing and aircraft drills. Some training devices are like fairground thrills - or instruments of torture.

Trainees progress from a mock Hercules fuselage and

ramp to a "wheel trainer" from which they are suspended, swung, then released to perform a controlled or (as it is more realistically termed) "sack of spuds" landing.

Learning how to exit correctly leads to the first proper jump: from a cage suspended 800ft up under a close relative of a Second World War barrage balloon. By now, reactions to the command "GO" are becoming instinctive. If the confidence-building measures have not yet instilled this, or the trainee unwisely looks down, this is when he might decide that jumping is not for him.

He might be convinced of this as he plummets 200ft, the longest three seconds of his life, they say, until a static line opens the parachute and an indescribable sense of relief floods over him. He promptly reviews the situation, and decides to stay for the real thing . . . from an aircraft.

The noise, smell of fuel, smell of mates and the slipstream enter the equation as the queue of students congas to the door.

Sticks of six leaping from one door every second are increased to sticks of nine. Then comes a staggered exit from both sides, followed by the whole "Chalk"

of 90 when training has been completed.

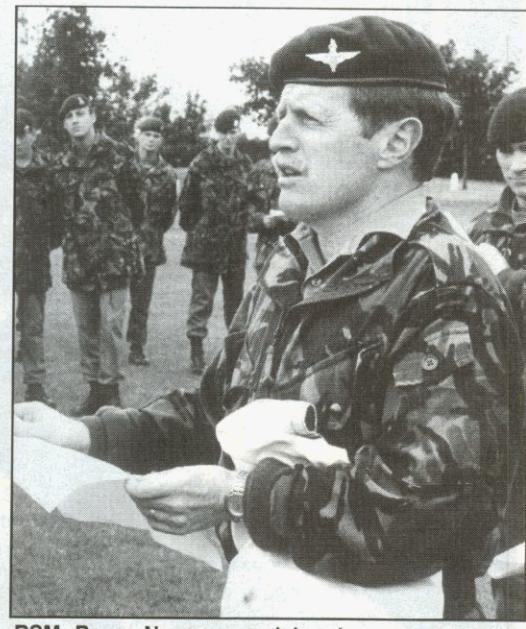
Next on the agenda is the night descent, with its added interest of the jumper being unable to see the ground.

All this is to no avail if, when the troops have landed, they cannot move quickly to their objective. Planning the chalks tactically is essential if all the vital eggs are to go into one basket.

"Up to now it has all been in a nice, clean training environment, with lots of room and lots of time," says Maj McQuilton. "With operational jumping we say what it is really about: a nasty, uncomfortable time."



Chalk Commander SSgt Ian Swan gives his briefing



RSM Barry Norman explains how to get organised on the Dropping Zone.

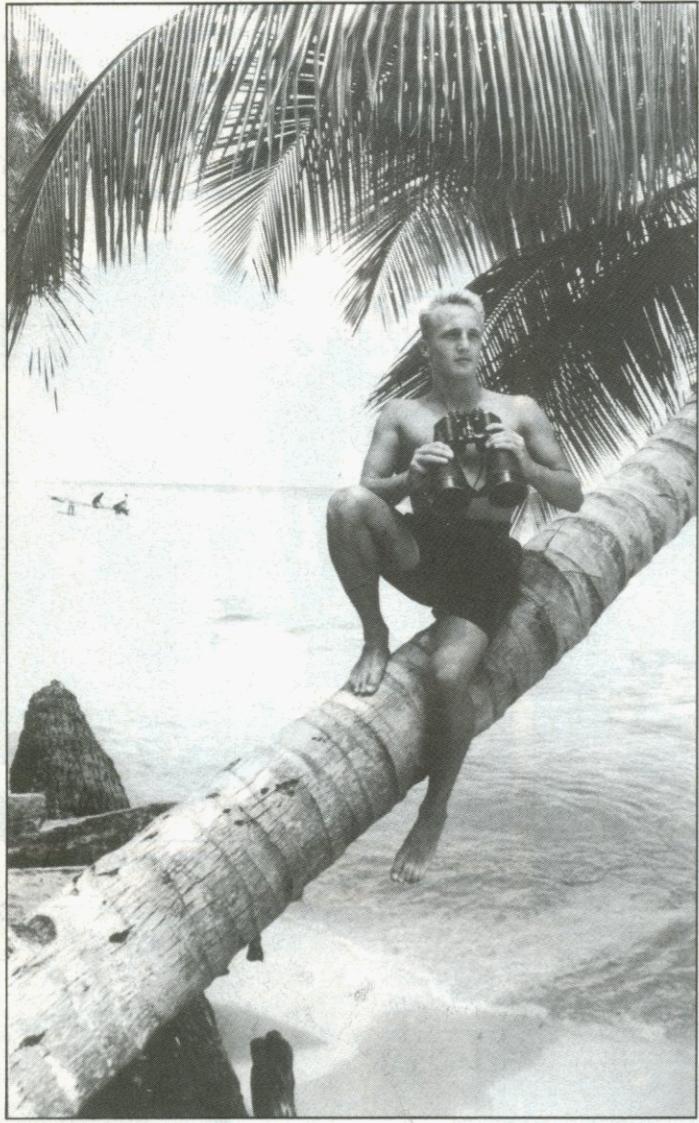


Sgt Bob Ferguson demonstrates the equipment to be taken

CSgt Chris Davey supervises the stores

Photo: D. J. G. / PA

# Kings Own Border on jungle assignment



Pte Jason Noble at Hunting Cay OP



The regimental corps of Drums performing at the Belizean Agricultural Fair at Belmopan

WHILE the spotlight was on 1 Armoured Division in the Gulf, the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, was preparing under winter conditions for a six-month tour in Belize.

It flew out in April to take over from 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment the many patrol, observation post and guard duties that make up the Infantry Battalion's commitment to British Forces Belize.

Priority was to train everyone to survive and fight in the tropics. Two jungle warfare schools were set up and run by a team of officers and NCOs who had attended the Jungle Warfare Instructor's Course in Brunei.

"In many ways the environment is much harsher than in Brunei," said Capt Damian Taylor, who ran Jungle Warfare School North. "The jungle is denser and it is hotter and more humid. At least there are no leeches in Belize."

Soldiers quickly adapted to the conditions, although the first night out under the jungle canopy in a hammock was for many an unnerving experience.

The battalion was split among four locations. Based at Rideau Camp in the south was Headquarters and a rifle company. Another rifle company lived in splendid isolation at Salamanca Camp, an old

loggers camp cut out of the jungle, while Support Company spent the whole tour at Holdfast Camp, in the more open farmland in the centre of Belize.

The other rifle company worked at Airport Camp alongside the rest of British Forces Belize.

A soldier's life in Belize is varied. When not on patrol, he may be guarding Harrier hides, manning a border observation post or adventure training on the Caribbean coast.

There is, though, a requirement to keep a permanent patrol presence on the ground. Section and platoon strength patrols go out on foot, having been dropped by helicopter, or travel in boats or by vehicle for up to a fortnight, visiting villages and checking tracks along the border. This is an excellent opportunity for junior commanders to practise their leadership skills and to carry out realistic training as well as doing their operational tasks.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the patrols," said Lt Ed Waterhouse of Burma Company. "We plan them ourselves and, with a bit of preparation, we set up our own live firing ranges. There is no chance to do that in the UK."

The Rideau company provided manpower for two observation posts in the south. Cadenas OP is set on an isolated



Sgt Trevor Barrow meets a local family in Jalacte village on the border between Guatemala and Belize

hill overlooking the Guatemalan border and Hunting Caye is on an idyllic Caribbean island covering the eastern sea approaches – surely the best outpost in the whole British Army.

Lt Col Tim Jarvis-Bicknell, commanding officer, believes Belize is the ideal environment for a man to come to terms with himself and for teaching young, inexperienced commanders what leadership really entails.

"For the battalion, it has provided a unique opportunity for us all to get to grips with hard, rigorous and realistic training, and to appreciate the importance of All Arms and tri-Service co-operation."

In addition to the main operational tasks, 1 Kings Own Border became closely involved with the civil community. The Regimental Band and the Corps of Drums played at ceremonial occasions and village fairs.

WO2 (TQMS) Peter Dixon helped forge closer links with the community by arranging a collection for a local worker whose home had burnt down and Sgt Trevor Barrow, while visiting a village on patrol, found a child with gangrene and arranged for her immediate evacuation by helicopter to hospital.

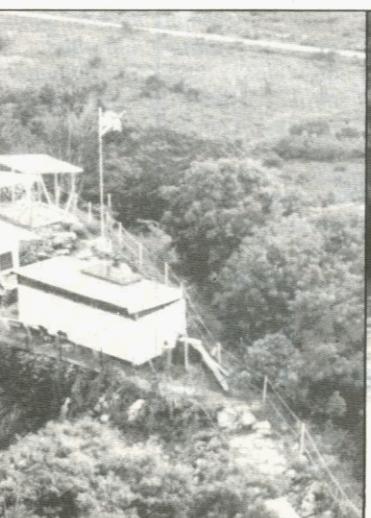
Soldiers enjoyed the facilities provided by the battalion's adventure training centre at

Placencia, with many learning how to waterski and sail as well as snorkelling and fishing for barracuda. During their two weeks' leave, soldiers visited many parts of the USA and at weekends were able to travel to Cancun, the popular Mexican beach resort.

Last month Kings Own Border handed over to 7th Gurkha Rifles. The battalion's next trip abroad is a six-week exercise in Kenya in February.

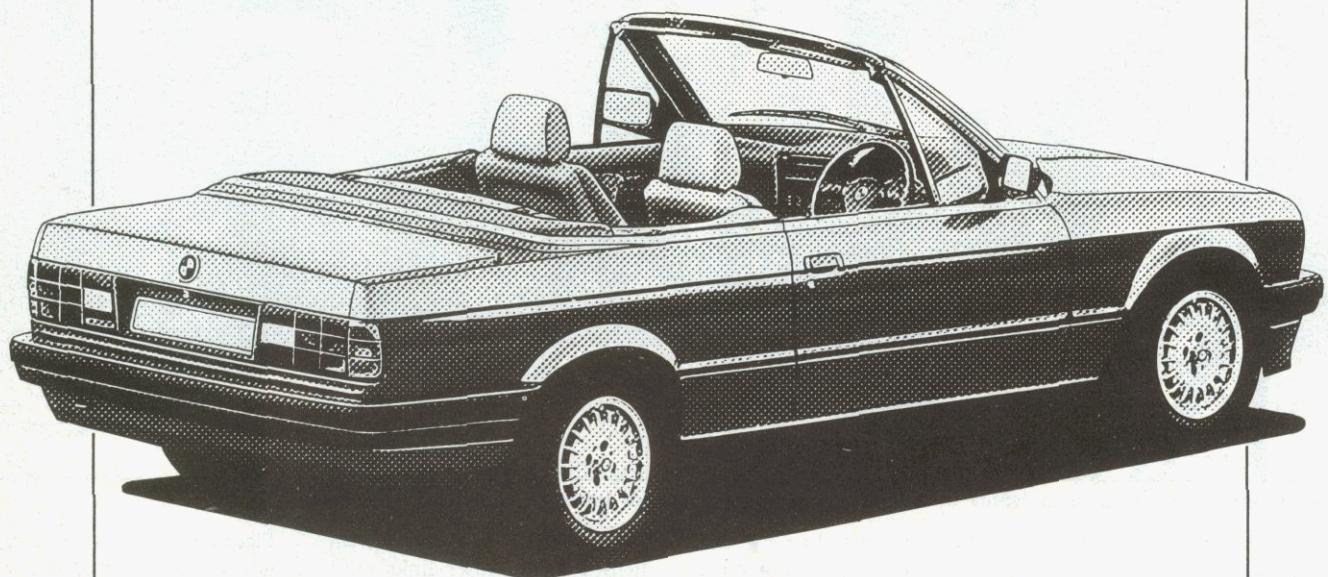


Cadenas OP overlooking the border



River patrol – Lt Andrew Collins with Ptes Craig Goodfellow, Leon McCormick and John Gibbons

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# QLR speeds Stuart on his way

SSGT Eric Taylor decided to lend a hand when his local pub near Wootton Barracks at Preston "adopted" a young muscular dystrophy sufferer with the intention of giving him a holiday in the Florida sunshine.

Eric, OiC of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment's Light Aid Detachment,

roped in most of the Headquarters Company departments, Support Company and a number of Western District units for what developed into a full-scale gala day opened by ventriloquist Keith Harris and Orville and attended by QLR families and visitors from the surrounding areas.

He was assisted by Sgt

Gordon Smith and Cpl Alan Illsley of the REME Light Aid Detachment.

The Transport section laid on cross-country driving on the Saxon training circuit, there were "tank" rides in a Queen's Own Yeomanry Spartan, 75 Engineer Regiment's LAD devised skill tests using their 40-ton remote control recovery vehicle, .22

shooting, regimental static displays and police dog displays, competitions galore and a barbecue.

In four hours £1,600 was raised, bringing to £3,300 the amount collected for young Stuart Bagwell's holiday of a lifetime. That cost £2,800, so it was decided to present the extra £500 to the Army Benevolent Fund.

# Dash for cash

A TEAM OF runners from Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment Workshop REME dashed across the Channel to raise money for the paediatric heart unit at the Brompton Hospital in London.

The cash will go towards a trans-oesophageal heart probe.

Led by Cpl Ken Coppard, the team completed a gruelling 500-mile relay across Germany, through Belgium, over the Channel and on to the hospital in Chelsea.

The regiment hopes to collect £12,000 for the hospital where Ken's five-year-old son Lee is a regular out-patient following open heart surgery. Last year the regiment raised £1,500 by organising a 500-mile run around Hameln.

SSgt Ian Gowler, who was involved with both events, said a number of children from Service families had received treatment at Brompton Hspt. It has four sabre (or superting) squadrons and is equipped with Fox armoured cars and Spartan CVR(T)s. The is armed with a 30mm gun cannon and both vehicles are powered by a gas engine.

The regiment has five Regt flung squadrons and a band. A (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Squadron is based in Swindon and Trowbridge, B (Wiltshire Yeomanry)



Cpl Ken Coppard (holding plaque) and the 35 Engr Wksp REME runners celebrate their arrival at Brompton Hospital with a member of staff and a young patient

the sets, but had to put off the presentation when he was deployed on Op Granby.

★ ★ ★

Sgt Frank Smith of C Coy, 2 Wessex put his Territorial Army training to good effect when he completed a ten-mile sponsored march bet-



The crew of a Fox armoured car of the Royal Yeomanry awaits orders to move following a lull in the battle

Squadron at Nottingham, C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron in Croydon, while D (North Irish Horse) Squadron has its home in Belfast. The Headquarters (Westminster Dragoons) and the Band (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) are both based in London.

During Certain Shield the

Workshop's WOs' and Sergeants' Mess played a charity football match against an XI raised by Forces' DJ Mark Page. It turned out to be the Bulkhaul works team, and when the soldiers collected DM2,000, company chairman

Steve Gibson doubled it.

The money will be used to treat more than

regiment was tasked to carry out operational reconnaissance for the commander of the multinational Gold force. This involved seeking information on enemy movements and strengths.

Recces troops have to be masters of fieldcraft and stealth to remain undetected. Firepower is a minor consideration

Oxford to the site of a new hospice in Barnstaple, North Devon.

Led by Sgt Trevor Bowman, APTC, the team handed over £900 for the project.

★ ★ ★

SSAFA is to receive £200 from 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC - thanks to the Almost Great North Run.

Several part-time medics, were able to practise their operational role within the setting of a major Nato exercise and against a live enemy, the multinational NORTHAG Airmobile Division (MNAD).

"I've been told the regiment is highly regarded by our international Gold force allies. We also appear to have made quite an impact on the MNAD because all of their headquarters were attacked as a result of our missions," said Col Day.



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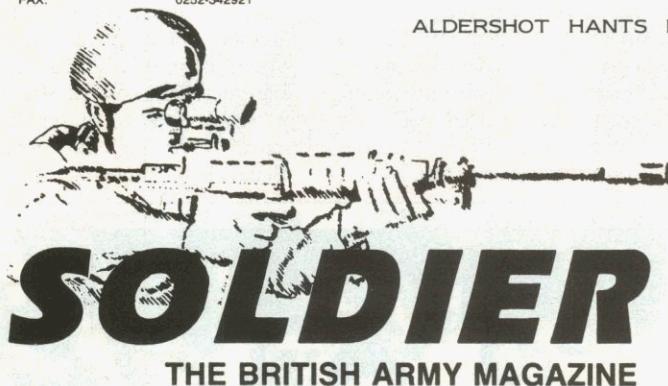
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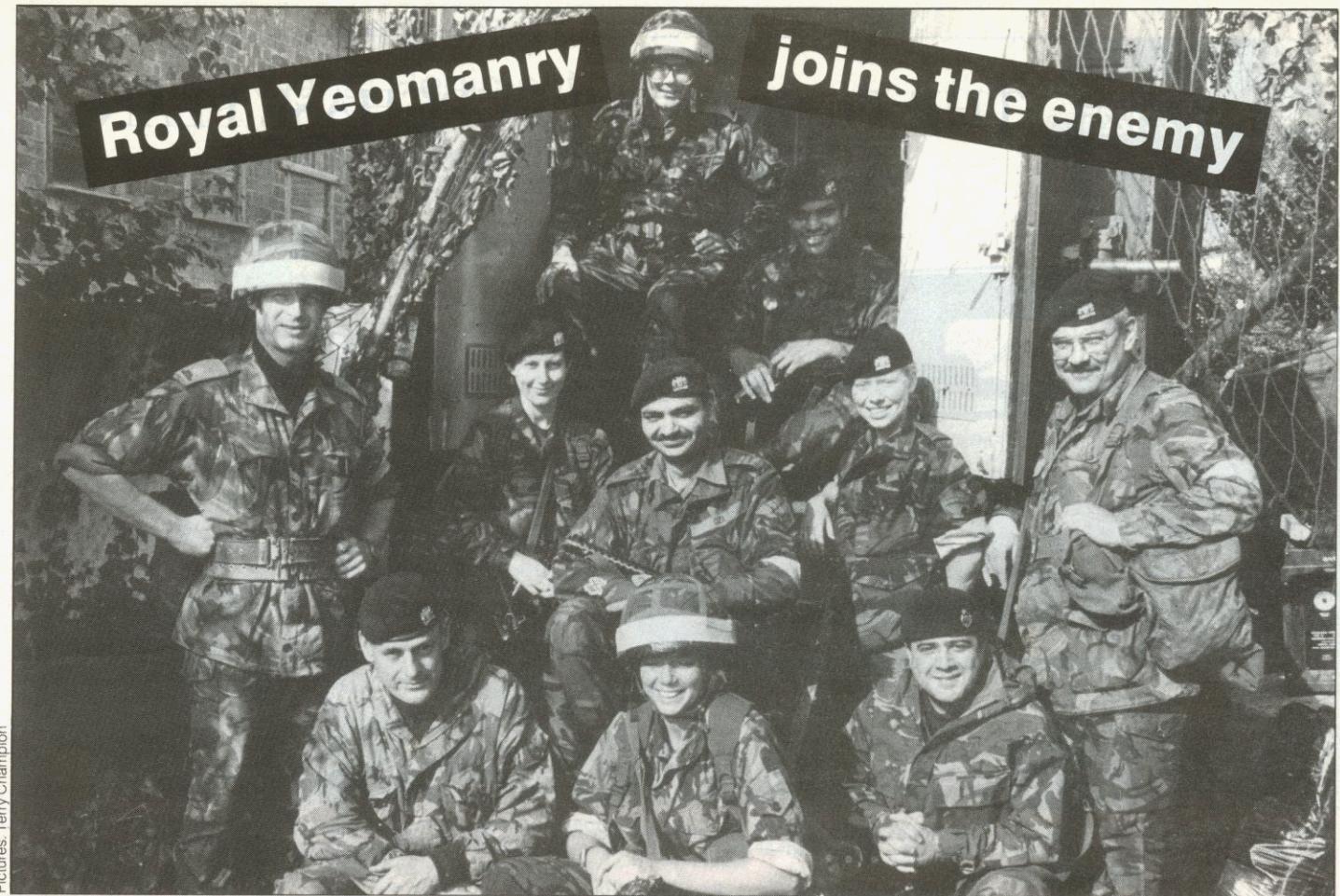
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Pictures: Terry Champion

**Maj Murray Hammick (left) with members of the A2 Echelon, Royal Yeomanry. Middle row, second right is OCdt Phillida de la Billière, daughter of Gen Sir Peter de la Billière who commanded British Forces in the Gulf War**

# Going for Gold

THE only Territorial Army unit taking part in Exercise Certain Shield was The Royal Yeomanry, whose predecessors have for the past 200 years demonstrated their loyalty to the Crown, writes Laurie Manton.

During that time it has suppressed riots, quelled mutinies and fought with distinction in two world wars. On Certain Shield things were different... the regiment found itself under the command of an enemy force.

The Royal Yeomanry, senior TA regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps, is one of two medium reconnaissance regiments committed in support of Nato. It has four sabre (or fighting) squadrons and is equipped with Fox armoured cars and Spartan CVR(T)s. The Fox is armed with a 30mm Rarden cannon and both vehicles are powered by a Jaguar engine.

The regiment has five far-flung squadrons and a band. A (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Squadron is based at Swindon and Trowbridge, B (Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry)



**The crew of a Fox armoured car of the Royal Yeomanry awaits orders to move following during a lull in the battle**

Squadron at Nottingham, C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron in Croydon, while D (North Irish Horse) Squadron has its home in Belfast. The Headquarters (Westminster Dragoons) and the Band (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) are both based in London.

During Certain Shield the

*joins the enemy*

regiment was tasked to carry out operational reconnaissance for the commander of the multinational Gold force. This involved seeking information on enemy movements and strengths.

Recces troops have to be masters of fieldcraft and stealth to remain undetected. Firepower is a minor consideration

because use of weapons would only betray their presence to the enemy.

Said the CO, Lt Col Chris Day: "We had successes during both phases of the exercise when we provided deep reconnaissance up to 20km ahead of our main force, and were able to identify all Blue's main defensive areas. This included one divisional and two brigade headquarters, and we later carried out a raid on the Belgian Para Commando Regiment."

The Royal Yeomanry was well pleased with its annual camp, the exercise providing excellent training. With Gold forces having a free rein, they were able to practise their operational role within the setting of a major Nato exercise and against a live enemy, the Multinational NORTHAG Air-mobile Division (MNAD).

"I've been told the regiment is highly regarded by our international Gold force allies. We also appear to have made quite an impact on the MNAD because all of their headquarters were attacked as a result of our missions," said Col Day.

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## Golden jubilee gift for 216 Parachute Signal Regiment



Cpl Colin Wood explains the specialised parachute equipment worn by LCpl Steve Brown to the Princess Royal during her visit to 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron on Hankley Common. On the right is the OC, Maj Ian Foxley. Both Cpl Wood and LCpl Brown are signallers on permanent detachment to the Pathfinders

Picture: Mike Perring

# Airborne signallers get their name back

WHEN the Princess Royal visited 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron at Hankley Common near Aldershot she took a keen interest in the specialised gear worn by LCpl Steve Brown.

His face mask and breathing apparatus marked him as a member of the elite, 31-strong Pathfinders unit, equipped with a high altitude-low opening parachute.

The Pathfinders, drawn from a variety of cap badges, work ahead of 5 Airborne Brigade, marking out dropping zones and carrying out recce tasks. To reduce their chances of alerting the enemy they jump from 25,000 ft, opening their GQ 360 ramair 'chutes just 2,500 ft above the ground.

LCpl Brown's equipment included an M16 rifle, two altimeters, an oxygen mask and bottle containing a ten-minute supply, and a rucksack of



Princess Anne presents medals to (from left) Sgt Chris Hamill, SSgt John Richards and SSgt Andy Grattidge

specialised equipment weighing 135lb.

The Princess Royal, who watched a display of airborne communication skills, visited the squadron to mark its 50th anniversary. The squadron was formed in 1941 and is directly descended from the 1st and 6th

Airborne Divisional Signal Regiments.

Subsequently renamed 216 Squadron (the 1 and 6 denoting its origins), the title was suspended on the formation of Field Force Headquarters in 1976. Now, as a 50th birthday present, the Royal Corps of

Signals has granted it permission to call itself 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.

Its full title is 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216 Parachute).

The change of name was announced by the Master of Signals, Maj Gen Archie Birtwhistle, at the golden jubilee airborne signals reunion dinner on the evening of the Princess Royal's visit.

The Princess was met at Hankley Common by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, senior members of the Royal Corps of Signals, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief, and the squadron OC, Maj Ian Foxley.

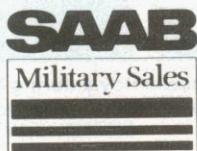
She spoke to soldiers taking part in the display and later presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to SSgts John Richards and Andy Grattidge, both R Signals, and Sgt Chris Hamill, REME.



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Pictures: Sgt Matt Timbers

The victorious team from 249 Signals Squadron who won the NATO 'Non-Infantry' Challenge Cup during Action Express 91. Holding the cup is Signaller 'Robbo' Robson (18) from Hartlepool.

# AMF fights on a united front

FLAGS of eight nations flew above the field headquarters of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force during Exercise Action Express 91 in Denmark in an impressive display of Nato solidarity, writes Capt Chris Robinson.

The host nation had brought the three-week long exercise package together with the help of Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA to test the military and logistic capability of its forces.

A full scale artillery fire-power demonstration, with air support, got things started. Next day Queen Margrethe II visited a gruelling march and shoot competition for the Nato Challenge Cup.

That set the tone for Action Express 91, which became a highly publicised, keenly supported military spectacle for the Danish public.

AMF Commander Maj Gen Peter Carstens of the German Army remarked on the genuine welcome given to the AMF by their Danish hosts. "It is an indication of how firm such

nations stand in the Alliance," he said.

Following a big parade at Vearlose Air Base, near Copenhagen, the AMF moved in a day-long convoy to the southern Danish islands of Falster and Lolland to begin the combat phase.

The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment provided the British infantry focus for the land component, AMF(L). Among its exploits as "friendly forces" was digging-in, defending bridges, bringing down mortar fire, carrying out casualty simulation drills to test first aid skills, and continually repelling "enemy" attacks from forces dropped in by helicopter or by amphibious landing on the many beaches in the area.

Another vital component was provided by 249 Signal Squadron AMF(L). Its role was to supply and maintain Force-level communications to all AMF troops. Clansman radios were used by all, and the squadron's professionalism and reliability were highly praised. They also carried off the Non-Infantry Challenge Cup –

an achievement not lost on the Germans, whose Parachute Battalion teams won both the trophies for best team and overall winners.

One of the most impressive contributions to Action Express 91 was the British-led AMF(L) Logistic Unit from Bulford. It supplied everything from "compo" and fresh rations, equipment spares, ground and aviation fuels, ammunition, and vehicle repairs, to local contract facilities, administration – and even a field bakery.

Master Baker WO2 (SQMS) Peter King commented: "Denmark is a great place to exercise. I've been here a lot and they're very friendly and easy to work with – and fresh bread on exercise makes us very popular!"

Italian trucks were fixed by British and Belgian mechanics; Dutch ammunition technicians serviced American M16 rifles;

and German fuel suppliers poured thousands of litres of gasoline or diesel into a vast array of tracked and wheeled wagons. Co-ordinated by the British, the "loggies" demonstrated integration and interoperability to great advantage.

Two units serving in the Gulf War performed the same kind of function in the green and wet terrain of Denmark as they did in the deserts of northern Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait. C Squadron of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards was the

AMF recce unit, and 42 Squadron RCT was tasked as the Forward Logistic Support Unit (FLSC).

Other British units among the loggies included the Field Cash Office, Forces Post Office, and 16 Field Ambulance. Spiritual support was supplied by AMF's "vicar on a motorbike", Padre Geoff Sussex.



Padre Geoff Sussex



Abbot guns, left behind at Mansergh Barracks when the regiment went to the Gulf, outside the hangers. They are to be replaced by M109s

## Gunner survived direct hit

Gnr Paul Sydenham shows off the remains of his sub machine gun. He had a remarkable escape during the Gulf War when his Spartan APC was struck by a shell fired by a British tank.

"I didn't hear the round hit. First I knew of it was when my vehicle commander, Bdr Terry York, tapped me on the shoulder and told me to get out because I was on fire.

"I leapt out of the driver's compartment with the back of my NBC suit ablaze. One of the REME lads extinguished it."

As the two men lay on the sand, another round hit a



Spartan just a short distance away.

"I actually saw it hit home. There was a pink flash and then it just exploded."

Gnr Sydenham continued the war on another vehicle but later went back in search of his possessions.

"The Spartan was wasted. There was a big hole in it as if a giant can-opener had ripped off the side. The roof was caved in and it was burnt out. A friend pulled out the remains of my SMG from the wreckage."

"All of my kit had been destroyed and all I had left was the uniform I was wearing."

Words:  
Laurie Manton  
Pictures:  
Terry Champion

# Time of change for the Sussex Gunners

TWO YEARS ago, our visit to the gunners of 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery coincided with the fall of the Berlin Wall. At the time the Gutersloh-based unit were looking forward to being the first unit in BAOR to replace its ageing Abbot guns with the new hard-hitting AS 90.

Since then, the Gulf War, the demise of the Warsaw Pact, and Options for Change have led to changes throughout the Royal Regiment of Artillery from which 26 Field is not exempt.

The Sussex Gunners have survived the cutbacks but will undergo a number of changes in the process. They will now be equipped with M109 self-propelled howitzers and are to lose their air defence capability.

Next summer 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyd's Company) is to be posted back to the United Kingdom. It will re-form within 47 Field Regiment at Thorney



Lt Col Mark Corbet Burcher



WO1 (RSM) Robert Bannister

Island. The Hampshire-based regiment is to change to an air defence role in April 1993. BAOR-based 10 Air Defence Battery is also to be transferred to the new regiment.

During the war, 43 Battery reinforced 10 Air Defence Battery in 7 Armoured Brigade and 46 AD Battery in 4 Brigade. It also provided men as battle casualty replacements (BCRs) for V Battery, an air

defence BCR battery that was eventually to deploy in its own right.

Equipped with tracked and towed Rapier, and javelin aiming units, it provided air defence cover around the Forward Force Maintenance Area. In the event, V Battery was never called upon. Such was the air supremacy of the Allies that air defence never engaged the enemy.

Of the remaining three field batteries 17 (Corunna) Field Battery was split in half to bring 16 Field Battery (Sandham's Company) and 159 (Colenso) Field Battery up to war establishment.

For the role as the general support regiment, both gun batteries manned six M109 guns and an OP party for flank protection.

After a number of false starts, 26 Field Regiment finally went into action on February 21, bombarding a

variety of Iraqi positions including an infantry platoon, an anti-tank unit and a brigade command post.

The commanding officer, Lt Col Mark Corbet Burcher, described the moment thus: "At exactly 1215, the 12 guns opened up. It was the first time the regiment had fired in anger since the Second World War."

After they returned, 17 (Corunna) Field Battery spent five weeks in Canada with the British Army Training Unit at Suffield where they supported the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards battle group.

Battery commander Maj Charlie Ross said the training they did at BATUS was remarkably similar to how they had operated in the Gulf.

After the war, several members of the regiment received awards and commendations for bravery and meritorious service, including a Queen's Commendation for



Members of 26 Field Regiment RA commended after the Gulf War included (standing, left to right) WO2 (BSM) John Dixon BEM, Gnr David Simpson, LBdr George Eastham and Bdr Robert Martin QCBC. Kneeling: Sgt Guy Vincent, Bdr

Brave Conduct awarded to Bdr Robert Martin.

The citation in the London Gazette for Bdr Martin's gallantry award is the shortest in the list of Gulf awards, simply stating that he risked his life to ensure members of his detachment could escape when fire destroyed his field gun.

Col Corbet Burcher provided fuller details of the episode.

"We were practising night

raids, which was a new technique. It involved filling the whole gun with ammunition and sneaking forward at night to a firing point. Once there, we would blaze away and then scoot out again.

"The guns operated closed down to offer an element of protection, and it was during one such operation that the accident happened. It was the result of British ammunition

being slightly bigger than the American shells, and when the turret rotated, the pickup scraped over close to the top of the shells which were stacked at the back of the gun. A spark then arced across and ignited a charge bag."

One crewman leapt out of the front as the M109 "brewed up". Two others tried to get out of the rear door but it had

● Turn to Page 28

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Bdr Colm Craig and Steve Dridge hold up a Saddam Hussein clock found in an Iraqi dugout. Both number among a small band of gunners who now hold two British medals for service in the Gulf. The first was a General Service Medal with the Gulf clasp awarded for providing close-air defence while attached to the Royal Navy's Armilla patrol three years ago

## Sussex Gunners

From Page 27

jammed. Bdr Martin could have jumped straight out of his own hatch, but did not.

"He went down and kicked open the door, and all three fell out of the back. In effect, he saved the two men because the turret then became a raging inferno," said Col Corbet Burcher.

The exploits of 26 Field Regiment during Operation Granby could fill a book. Indeed, they have, for the Gutersloh-based gunners have published their own informal diary of the war.

Described by one journalist as "the smallest and busiest British unit in the Gulf", the

regiment was the last to arrive and one of the first into action.

It played a prominent part in the deception plan which led the Iraqis to believe that the coalition forces would attack directly into southern Kuwait.

It was visited by a press party that included Kate Adie of the BBC, and filmed with the sea providing a background to the guns. Iraqi intelligence agents seeing the next day's press coverage would have been misled into believing that the 1 (UK) Armoured Division was massing to attack on the eastern coast near the border with Kuwait.

But the bulk of the Allied armies had moved under radio silence to a concentration area more than 200km to the west, beyond Wadi al Batin, close to the Iraqi border, from where the resulting attack took the Iraqi army by surprise.

## Close encounters

THE war diary of 26 Field Regiment RA recounts many a story. One of the more humorous is the tale of a gunner sentry who one night observed what appeared to be a patrol of about 20 men carrying large backpacks, moving slowly and silently towards him.

He called out the password, but there was no reply. Before he could

open fire one of the "patrol" turned slightly, revealing its true shape, before spitting and grunting at the sentry. Another began to eat a set of webbing on the ground.

The camels moved on, but the regimental diarist was moved to log the incident as a close encounter of the herd kind.

## How a dead camel left its mark

BRITISH Army formation badges are usually worn with pride and lend dignity to unit transport.

There was a time, however, when such a logo was seen as punishment.

Towards the end of 1943 King Farouk returned to Suez after visiting King Ibn Saud, who had given the Egyptian ruler six camels.

While being unloaded by 1003 Docks Company RE one of the camels fell out of the sling and broke its neck.

The CO of the Suez area decided the people concerned should be punished for such negligence and the vehicle plates were painted black with an upside-down camel picked out in yellow.

From then on when sappers congregated, the taunting cry was: "Who killed the camel?" — Charles Meacher, Glenrothes, Fife.

## No need to reduce regiments

THE furore about the amalgamation of certain regiments need never have arisen. Reducing numbers does not necessarily mean reducing regiments.

During the Second World War, a battalion strength was supposed to be 1,014. That figure was never reached; going into action, a battalion would be most fortunate to have 500 men or even four companies. The norm was for D Company to be the "filler" company and provide reinforcements to C Company.

So why not reduce companies to three, platoons to three, and sections to two. In time of need, reservists could always make up the extra numbers.

Historically British Army divisions have always been larger than those of allies or enemies. — John Clarke, Manchester.

### BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



## Don't cut RAF Regt

UNDER the heading "Better ways to reduce Army" (September 30), W A West suggested that the RAF Regiment should disband and airfield defence should be taken over by the Infantry.

As a gunner in the RAF Regiment with over 11 years' service, I totally disagree, as I am sure many other gunners do too.

This special RAF trade does not just protect airfields and other installations against ground and low-level air attack. It also trains RAF personnel in ground defence and provides

advisers in a number of specialist fields.

Formed in February 1942, the RAF Regiment is fairly young. It nevertheless has seen active service — more recently in the Falklands in 1982 and in the Gulf this year when it deployed three squadrons for air defence as well as two CVRT squadrons and an element to helicopter support. Part of No 1 Squadron, RAF Regt pushed through into Kuwait with the rest of the Army units.

The RAF Regt provides air defence 365 days a year in the

Falklands as well as in Belize. It also has a squadron carrying out airfield defence in Northern Ireland, so that the Army can carry out IS duties without being too pushed for manpower.

The regiment also includes the Queen's Colour Squadron, one of the finest drill squadrons, and No 2 Squadron (Para), which exists for rapid overseas deployment.

RAF manpower as a whole is already being cut considerably with various flying squadrons already being or about to be disbanded, many of which have also seen active service in the Gulf.

As a result of Options for Change some squadrons of the regiment are to be disbanded as various overseas air bases close.

To disband the regiment altogether would mean that RAF manpower would suffer even more, so that the Army could keep some of its regiments. It would be like asking the Navy to disband the Commandos or the Army to disband the Paras. How would they feel? — Concerned gunner, RAF Brize Norton.

## Bound for the archives

THANK you for your excellent coverage of the Gulf War. And now for the unfortunate Options.

Arrival of SOLDIER here is always looked forward to and the magazine devoured with alacrity. I even use the advertisements to mail-order goods from the UK. Also I have resumed the practice I carried on prolifically when I was a teenager, namely cutting out

pictures and articles for filing. The fruits of all my teenage efforts, stuck into a lot of scrapbooks, now reside in the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives (King's College, University of London), which was established there by my old schoolmate, Prof Sir Michael Howard. — W A Ewbank, Capt RE (Retd), Professor Emeritus, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.

Good news for dependant employees . . .

# What a bonus!

DEPENDANT employees in Germany are to receive a Christmas bonus this year, delegates at the third annual conference of the Federation of Army Wives (BAOR) at Bielefeld were told.

Mr David Jones, Civil Secretary to BFG, announced three positive steps in the improvement of dependant employment conditions:

• The Christmas bonus which will be three per cent of pay, paid at the end of November to all employees in the job for six months or more;

• With effect from October 1, dependant pay has been increased selectively to bring total earnings closer to Directly Employed Labour (DEL) pay - H Grades to receive up to four per cent more, K Grades up to five per cent more and C Grades up to ten per cent more;

• An end-of-service gratuity scheme will be introduced from January 1 under which dependant employees who have completed two years' service or more will be entitled to a third of a month's pay for each completed year of reckonable service.

Mr Jones said much had been done to bring dependant employees' pay and conditions in line with those offered to DELS.

The policy now was to employ dependants

wherever possible.

Commander Medical BAOR, Maj Gen Brian Mayes, spoke on changes in medical facilities planned for the next few years, including the closures of BMHs Hannover and Iserlohn, and the creation of forward out-patient clinics in outlying areas.

## FAW(BAOR) 1991 annual conference

travel with her from posting to posting, is intended to build up into a complete dossier of vaccinations, cervical smear tests, operations, X-rays and so on, providing at a glance an invaluable family medical history.

Col James Aldous from HQ UKLF told delegates how his headquarters planned to cope with the return of so many Service families from abroad as the Army is restructured under Options for Change.

He spoke at length on the complex problem of housing and stressed that all Service families should be aware that local authority housing was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

He hoped the shortfall of doctors and dentists would be rectified when the changes had been implemented.

Gen Mayes explained the implications of the Access to Health Records Act to Service families.

Details would appear in a Defence Council Instruction.

FAW (BAOR) is hoping

the issue to families in the UK of the new Services Personal Medical Record booklet will be extended quickly to those living in Germany.

The booklet, which belongs to the wife and will

be affected by redundancy.

The centres, at strategic locations throughout the country and controlled from London, would put together teams to advise ex-Servicemen on housing, jobs, training and welfare as they readjusted to civilian life.

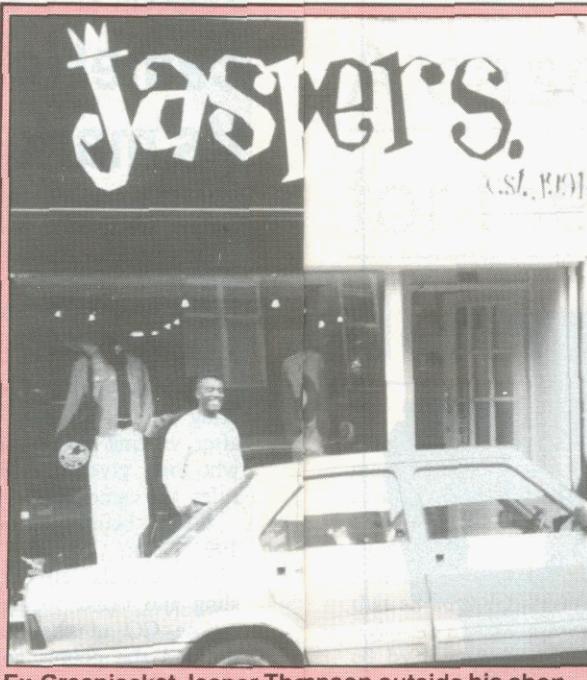
Delegates were given a clear view of redundancy, the numbers affected and how they will be selected, by the Director General of Army Manning and Recruiting, Maj Gen James Johnston.

He confirmed that terms for Phase One had been officially agreed for Phases Two and Three, and said that 10,000 extra copies of DCI (Army) 79 1991, which details the redundancy situation, had been printed to ensure a wide distribution and readership.

Questions posed by wives revealed that their major concerns are with housing, both in and out of the Army, education, resettlement, and the timescale in which Options is to take place. The Corps Commander, Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, asked Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, who spent the morning at the conference, to convey to London the feelings he had heard expressed.

BAOR, he said, was in need of urgent answers to dispel the uncertainty and anxiety felt by so many.

**Anne writes:** Soldiers taking PVR or voluntary redundancy must check



Ex-Greenjacket Jasper Thompson outside his shop

# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone: 0276 29653



## Legal advice caution

THE MoD is advising Service personnel who plan to use the Forces Legal Assistance Group that should proceedings have to be issued, the matter would have to be handed to solicitors.

While a bona fide organisation, the FLAG is not a firm of solicitors, and the Law Society has pointed out that unqualified persons are prevented by the Solicitors Act 1974 from issuing proceedings for third parties for fee, gain or reward.

The Senior Claims Officer in PL(LS) Claims says a claimant using such an organisation would have no legal redress if his case was badly or incorrectly handled and strongly urges Service personnel wishing to pursue a claim against the MoD to seek the advice of a solicitor.

## Bulletin expands

TO MAKE Service personnel more aware of other ways to find affordable housing, the blank sheets at the back of the Resettlement Bulletin are to be used to disseminate housing information.

Bulletin No 116 (October 16) started by carrying addresses for self-build, modular homes, the Royal British Legion Housing Association, Haig Homes, the National Federation of Housing Associations and the Housing Corporation.

My wife should be able to get a job but doing all this long distance is very difficult if not impossible. Can you send me some contacts please?

**Anne writes:** First check with the DCI entitled *Resettlement, Briefings and Courses Provision*, or with Education Resettlement Officers or with Resettlement Bulletins. The Army agents Holts and Cox's can help with specific financial advice. Ring Mike Alder or Kevin Farmer at Holts on 0252 521975 or Tim Woodcock at Cox's on 071-389 5238. They can give advice on: financial self-assessment, investment, commutation, taxation, insurances and personal financial planning.

## Sick pay freephone

RETURNING from overseas and want to know about claiming DSS benefits? For Statutory Sick Pay and Unemployment Benefit ring freephone 0800 666555. The benefit enquiry line for adults and children with disabilities is 0800 882200 (9am-4.30pm).

## Jasper plans to stay in business

JASPER Thompson is living proof that there can be life after the Army.

The 33-year-old former Royal Green Jacket left the Army in 1990 after 12 years in uniform to set up his own business in Bristol, and is grateful for the help and advice he received.

When he decided to make the break, Jasper was serving in Gibraltar with the 3rd Battalion, and his intention was to open a clothes shop on the Rock.

After work experience in Gib he took a business course at South London

Poly. After leaving the Army he decided to locate his shop in Bristol following an offer of help from the city's Black Business Association.

"Finance was crucial," said Jasper. "During my 12 years in the Army I had made regular savings, but the bulk of my contribution came from my gratuity."

Help came from the Royal British Legion in the form of a £2,500 loan repayable over five years, and an £80-a-fortnight grant under the Government Enterprise Allowance

Scheme. Jasper's local county council provided him with a rent grant and a £1,000 loan, and the Black Business Association granted him a further £1,000.

"Good planning is the essence," he said. "It's very hard work, but if I can get through the recession I should be all right."

"I would encourage anybody thinking of leaving the Army and wanting to set up their own business to go for it. With proper planning anything is possible."

vice identity;  
• Agree to Direct Debit billing;

• Get your commanding officer to countersign the application.

**Dear Anne,**

Is it true that if we move into a married quarter with no telephone we have to pay a deposit of £100?

**Anne writes:** Happily, the answer is no. The deposit had been a bone of contention for years, but following an MoD agreement with BT, has now been waived.

And, if I am made redundant while serving in BAOR, will I be allowed to return to the UK for a month or two to find a house and job?

**Anne writes:** The MoD

hopes to process redundancy monies within three

days but advises personnel

to allow up to 14 days for

payment. It is looking into

• Provide proof of Ser-

## YOUR LETTERS ANSWERED

**Dear Anne,**

I had a shock when my council said I was not eligible for a council house, even though I was on the list, because I had made myself and my family intentionally homeless by taking Premature Voluntary Retirement.

They might house me after a court order and eviction, but we will go to the back of the queue. I've got a job to go to, but nowhere to live.

**Anne writes:** Soldiers taking PVR or voluntary redundancy must check

first with the local authority that it will not alter their status on the housing list. Many authorities regard those who PVR as having made themselves intentionally homeless.

Incidentally, a redundancy payment up to £30,000

is tax-free as long as it is not an ex-gratia payment

as part of an early pension or retirement scheme. The DoE leaflet PL 808 entitled *Redundancy Payments* explains the position.

**Dear Anne,**

I've been told I will not be paid redundancy money for

28 days after my discharge date. Is this true and will there be a period of grace between the discharge date and my becoming an irregular occupant and so liable for increased rent charges?

And, if I am made redundant while serving in BAOR, will I be allowed to return to the UK for a month or two to find a house and job?

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The Department of Employment's Code 2 Circular 10 dated June 1991 contains the stricter rules on the payment and export of Unemployment Benefit when a claimant has left work to live elsewhere in the European Community.

The Commissioners' ruling will apply whatever the occupation of the claimant's spouse or partner, including members of the Armed Forces posted overseas at short notice.

This interpretation of the law will not, however, apply to claimants who leave work to accompany their spouses or partners on job moves to other EC member states are unlikely to be allowed to export their Unemployment Benefits. They are also unlikely to be allowed to export Unemployment

Benefit payment under the special rules for people seeking work elsewhere in the Community.

The Commissioners' ruling will apply whatever the occupation of the claimant's spouse or partner, including members of the Armed Forces posted overseas at short notice.

Claimants should never anticipate a decision of the adjudicators or predict the outcome of a claim. If the benefit position is undecided no decision about the transfer of benefits can be made until it has been established whether Unemployment Benefit is payable.

The effect of waiving the four-week rule means that

the Department of Employment's Code 2 Circular 10 dated June 1991 contains the stricter rules on the payment and export of Unemployment Benefit when a claimant has left work to live elsewhere in the European Community.

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FD SD11/11

# Haig: A case for the defence

IN February we reviewed *Haig's Command: A Reassessment*, in which Denis Winter carried out something of a character assassination of the First World War Field Marshal. It was believed then that an admirer of Haig would welcome the challenge presented by Winter, but it was not known that a book taking a different viewpoint was already in the publishing pipeline.

This new work is *Field Marshal Earl Haig* by Philip Warner, who rightly declares that his subject is probably the most controversial figure in military history. The book is claimed to be neither a eulogy nor a condemnation of Haig, but an attempt to assess his task objectively "and to decide whether he was better or worse at it than he might have been".

In the author's view, "It is Haig's misfortune to be remembered by posterity not for his victories, but for the cost of them. He defeated what was until then the most powerful army in the world. He did so because whatever the circumstances, he never lost his nerve."

Of course, that could have been because Haig was insensitive and aloof. In this regard it is worth recalling a cruel joke that went the rounds about the time of Haig's death on January 29, 1928: "There was once a cavalry officer who was so stupid that his brother officers noticed it."

It is perhaps fortunate that this cavalry officer (Haig's regiment was the 7th Hussars) was dead by the time the "literature of disillusionment" about the Great War generalship started to flood the bookshops.

Haig started the war as commander of I Corps and replaced Sir John French as Commander-in-Chief of the BEF on December 17, 1915.

## IN BRIEF

**General Reflections: A Military Man at Large** by Gen Sir Michael Gow. A further selection of lighthearted memoirs and anecdotes from the author of *Jottings in a General's Notebook* and the best-selling *Trooping the Colour*. Refreshing charm and humour. Souvenir Press, hardback, £15.95.

**The Anatomy of a Raid** by Tony Spagnoli, edited by Ted Smith. Well-researched and illustrated account of one of the lesser-known mistakes of the First World War – the tragic advance by a small group of young Australians on Celtic Wood in Ypres Salient in October 1917. Multidream Publications, 21 Taggs Island, Hampton TW12 2HA, hardback, £17.95.

**Shirts of Steel** by Mehmet Ali Birand. Unique study of the 800,000-strong Turkish Army by one of the country's most distinguished journalists. I B Tauris, hardback, £35.

*Five new titles under the Osprey Military imprint:*

**Afrikacorps 1941-43** by Gordon Williamson and Ron Volstad; and **The Texas Rangers** by Dr Stephen Hardin

and Richard Hook. Elite Series, £7.50 each. **Kaiserschlacht 1918, The Final German Offensive** by Randal Gray; and **Culloden 1746, The Highland Clans' Last Charge** by Peter Harrington. Campaign Series, £7.50 each. **Foreign Volunteers of the Allied Forces 1939-45** by Nigel Thomas and Simon McCouaig. Men-At-Arms Series, £5.99.

**Chink** by Lavinia Greacen. Paperback reissue of the acclaimed biography of the enigmatic Maj Gen Eric Dorman-Smith, idolised by Hemingway and sacked by Churchill from the Eighth Army after the First Battle of Alamein. Papermac, £12.99.

**Craufurd's Light Division** by Ian Fletcher. Known as "Black Bob" because of his fiery temper, Robert Craufurd was one of the finest, as well as the most controversial, of Wellington's Peninsular War generals. This gloriously-illustrated biography brings his dramatic story to life. Spellmount, hardback, £25.

**Talking About the War** by Anne Valery. An outspoken personal view of the Second

World War in Britain, with a strong chapter on propaganda and censorship and splendid photographs from the Popper-photo archives. Michael Joseph, hardback, £17.99.

**Handbook on Japanese Military Forces.** Reprint of the US War Department's 1944 technical manual, described in a new introduction as still "the best single reference source on the wartime Japanese military available in the English language." Greenhill Books, £25.

**Tiger and King Tiger Tanks** by Walter J Spielberger. Long-awaited English language edition of a comprehensive study by a man closely involved with German Second World War tank development. First in a series on German fighting vehicles. Haynes Publishing Group, hardback, £27.50.

**SAS: Secret War in South-East Asia, 1963-66** by Peter Dickens. New edition of the 1983 book, originally titled *SAS: The Jungle Frontier*. Perceptive picture re-created by talking to those who were there – including a young officer called Peter de la Billière. Greenhill Books, hardback, £15.95.

"The difference between the thinking of the two men was that French was an optimist who believed that victory could be brought immediately by superior numbers who would smash a hole through the enemy defences, whereas Haig had now come to believe that a limited advance, in small stages – which would also be costly in casualties but would at least achieve results – was the only possible formula."

Haig set out his troops like chessmen on a board, and some readers of this book will be unconvinced that this is not how he thought of them.

Of the costly failure of the Battle of Loos, the author has no doubt that French was to blame: "Haig was so confident that the general reserve would be arriving quickly on the scene that he had thrown all his own

reserves into the attack.

"French's view was that he needed time to assess the battle before bringing forward the inexperienced II Corps, which had scarcely been in France a fortnight . . . Joffre too must be in the dock. This is not only because he withheld vital information on the second day of the battle, but also because his whole concept was based on false hopes."

They were all to blame, it seems, except Haig – who wrote to Kitchener to tell him so! According to the author, Haig was not condemning his C-in-C solely because he wanted his job, "He was condemning Sir John French because he believed he was hopelessly unsuited for the task."

A very subtle difference, one would think!

Much of the responsibility

for the debacle of the Somme is taken off Haig's shoulders. "Undoubtedly, much of the slaughter of the British infantry had been the result of a combination of stupidity and over-confidence at a much lower level than that of the Commander-in-Chief." One wonders how many of the 19,290 killed on the first day alone would agree.

The author takes somewhat less of an advocacy stand when it comes to Passchendaele.

Haig embarked on that battle "without the knowledge that, even if he reached the ridge within the time provisionally allotted, he would soon afterwards be confronted with a battle consuming even more time and manpower.

"In the end he did not reach the ridge in time to press forward before the winter rains set in, so the strength of the Flandern Stellung was never tested."

*Field Marshal Earl Haig* may not be a eulogy but it does extend justification for most of Haig's actions. – BJ

**Field Marshal Earl Haig** by Philip Warner. The Bodley Head, hardback, £15.99.



Ed Marshal Haig

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## Covers to assist VC's son

FIRST-DAY covers of the British Gallantry Awards issue are being sold to help a Gurkha VC holder pay for his son's university education.

LCpl Rambahadur Limbu, 10th Gurkha Rifles, won his VC at Serekin, Borneo, in 1965 when his platoon attacked a strong enemy position on a steep hill under intense automatic fire.

He retired in 1985 as a captain (QGO) after 27 years in the British Army. On completion of his last appointment as Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer he was made a member of the Victorian Order. He is now serving with the Sultan of Brunei's Gurkha Reserve Unit in Brunei.

Rambahadur's youngest son, Bhanbhakta, recently gained a



Capt Rambahadur Limbu VC

place at Manchester University to read mechanical engineering.

To raise funds towards his educational expenses the 10th Gurkhas are selling a limited number of first-day covers. All are signed by Rambahadur, some are also signed by Maj Kit Maunsell MC, who won his award in the same action, and others are additionally signed by Lt Col Peter Myers OBE MC and Bar, who commanded 2/10 GR at the time.

A five-stamp cover signed by Rambahadur and Maunsell costs £6.50; five-stamp cover signed by Rambahadur £5; single-stamp cover signed by Rambahadur, Maunsell and Myers £7.50; and single-stamp cover signed by Rambahadur £3.

Purchasers should apply to Lt Col R Litherland 10 GR, Ministry of Defence Main Building (Room 8207), Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (tel: 071-218 7581). Cheques are payable to "10 GR Regimental Trust".

## DIARY

**November 9:** Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

**November 20-26:** Armed Forces Art Society annual exhibition at National Army Museum, Chelsea. (Hanging-in days Nov 9 and 11. For entry forms send SAE to Capt W Blake, D Block, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 4SE.)

### 1992 DATES

**February 8:** Victorian Military Society annual military fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. The 1992 theme will be

Highland regiments. Further details of the event can be obtained from Richard Caike on 0424 437103.

**May 8-10:** Middle Wallop International Air Show, Stockbridge, Hants.

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

**July 8-28:** The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box Office tel: 071-373 8141).

**July 17-25:** Nijmegen Marches, Holland.

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

## Hong Kong club welcomes you

DON'T be put off by the name – the facilities of the China Fleet Club in Hong Kong are not restricted to members of the Royal Navy.

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All enquiries should be directed to the General Manager, China Fleet Club, c/o HMS Tamar, BFPO 1.

## Association's Parade plea

THE British Army Association, formed in 1988 to complement other organisations by giving a base to all ranks, corps and regiments under one roof, has now expanded to Australia. A branch has been formed there by ex-pats wishing to keep esprit de corps.

Meanwhile, back at home, the association has approached the Home Office to seek a place in the

## REUNIONS

● **HQ FMA (Gulf):** The first anniversary of the formation of HQ Force Maintenance Area (Gulf) on Op Granby was marked by a dinner at Arborfield attended by 24 officers who were part of the original deployment. It is intended to make the reunion an annual event and officers concerned should contact Lt Col A M Campbell, REME on 0734 763485 ext 2485.

● **Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association:** Annual reunion and Hot-Pot will be held at the Forbes House Drill Hall, Childwall, Liverpool, on November 22. Details from the Secretary, Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum, Forbes House, Score Lane, Childwall, Liverpool 16 (tel: 051-722 7711).

● **Royal Signals Old Comrades** reunion will be held at Fulham House, 87 Fulham High Street (adjacent to Putney Bridge Underground Station) for those who served in units based at Fulham House, on Friday November 8 from 7.30 p.m. Details from Maj J W G Cocke (081-946 4618) or Rodney Perry (081-393 5977).

● **RA Association (Exeter Branch):** Annual dinner dance takes place at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter, on November 16. Details from D A Goodheart, 20a Burnhouse Lane, Exeter EX2 6BH (tel: 0392 73862).

## SEARCHLINE

● **Sgt Jack Chartis:** Mrs Claudette Bartlett of 74 Bray Road, Lawton, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia is trying to trace her schoolfriend Helenora, daughter of Sgt Jack Chartis, Royal Artillery, last known to be serving at Sennybridge, Brecon in 1961-2.

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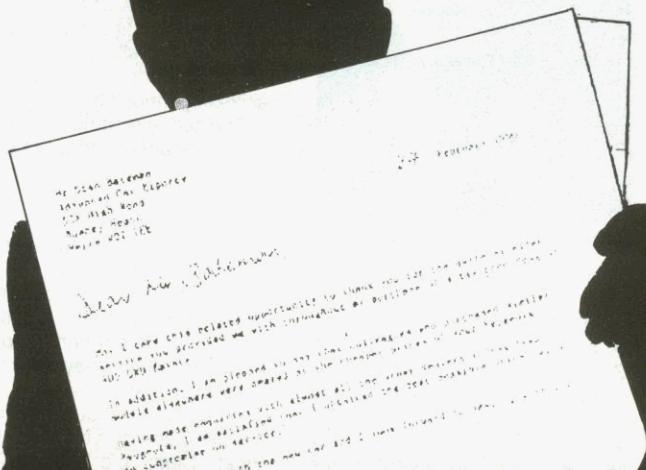
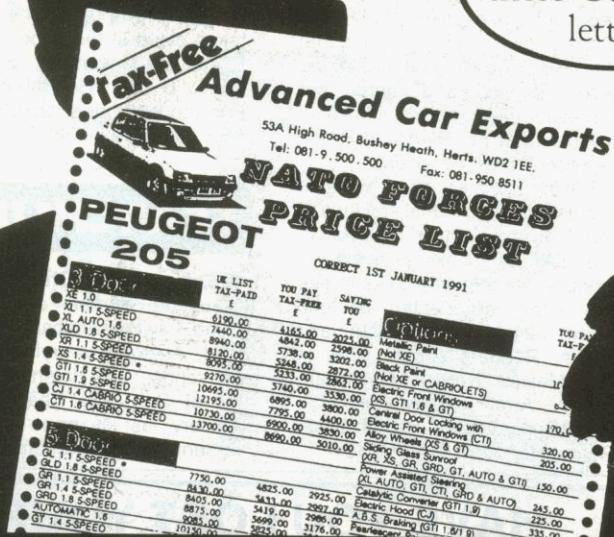
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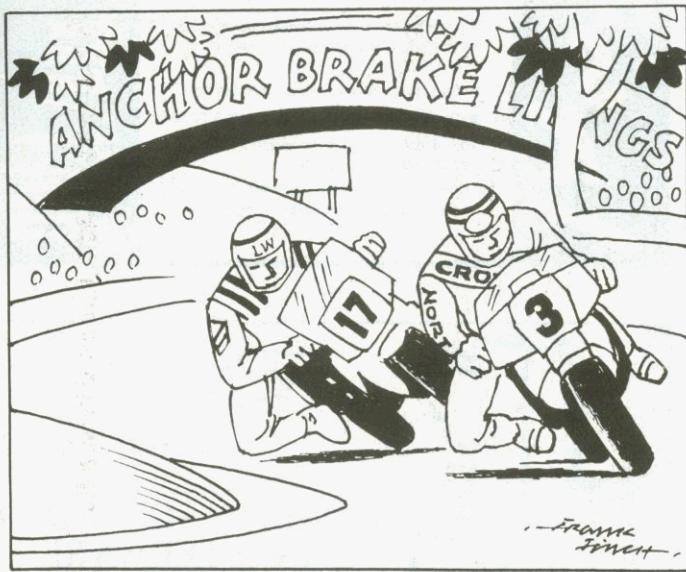
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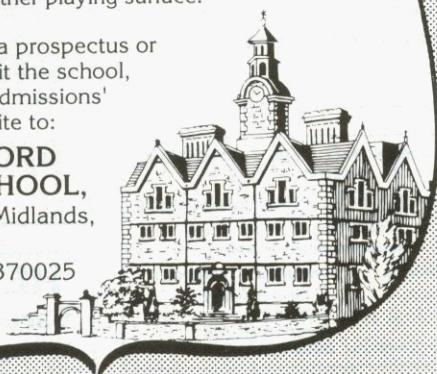
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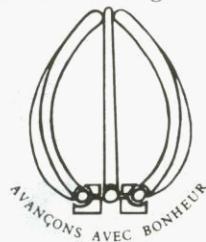
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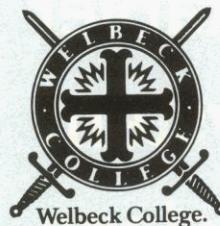
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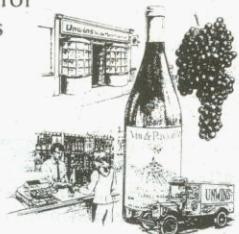
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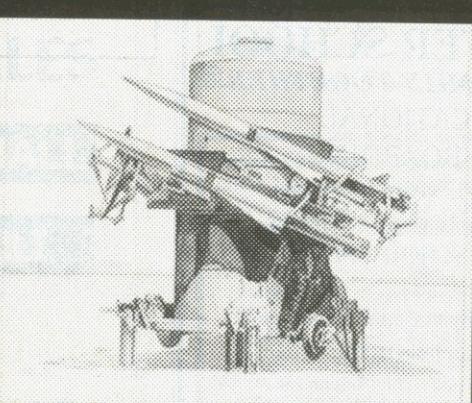


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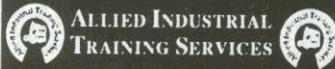
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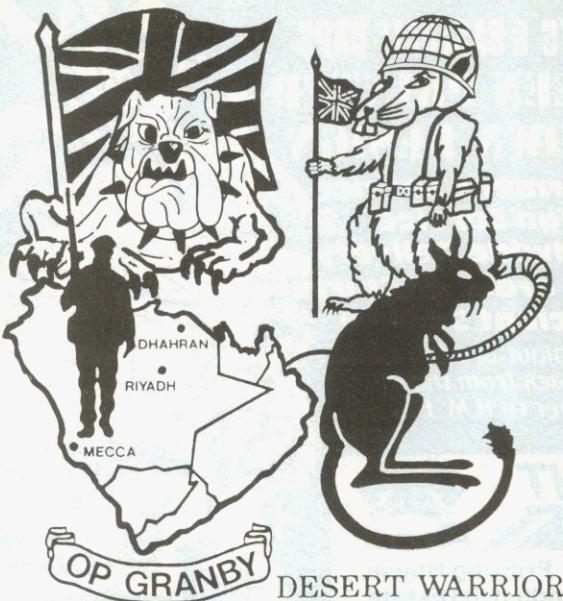
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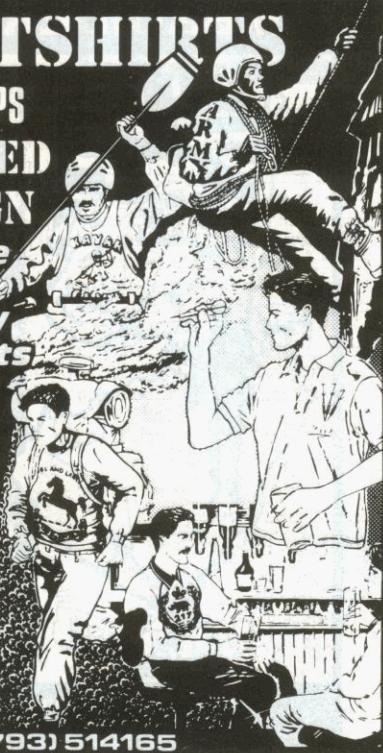
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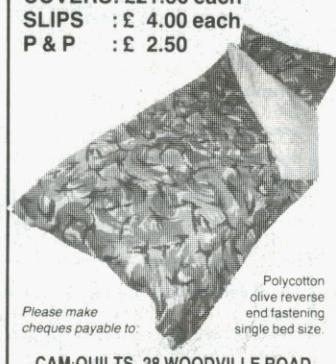
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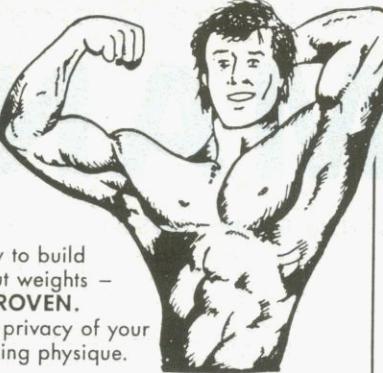
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- 'A male sex pheromone which has a scent that attracts females' - Time (Vol. 115. No.2)
- Pheromones are known to influence human behaviour in a subtle way. They are thought to prime women to be more sexually receptive and help to make their menstrual cycle regular. - Daily Telegraph, 7.12.90.
- 'And now the Pheromone has been marketed, we've tested it - and good grief, it works' - Knave.
- 'The stuff attracts women like you would not believe.' - Colorado Telegraph.
- Lowell Ponte, a former consultant on exotic weapons and a Readers Digest science writer, said in an interview that 'use of the recently discovered chemical Pheromone should be banned - congress should pass a law making it a crime to use this chemical to influence voters by making politicians appear more lovable' - San Francisco Chronicle.
- 'It's something women don't consciously smell, it works in the olfactory nerves. The woman finds the man attractive but she doesn't know why.' - Lifestyle.

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HOCKEY FOOTBALL MARATHON ANLING

SPORT

# Gunners still champions of Corps hockey

THE Royal Artillery, led by Capt Jimmy Cotterill, retained the Inter-Corps hockey tournament staged on the artificial pitch at Aldershot.

After three days of play involving 11 teams and 28 matches, the gunners met REME in the final and beat them 4-0.

The championship sets up the gunners perfectly for their

## Joe's catch wins again

FORTY FIVE fishermen registered for the 1991 Group 5 boat angling championships, but the winner, for the fourth consecutive year, was Sgt Joe Holland of Catterick-based 150 Pro Coy RMP. Second was Cpl Kevin Stace (RAC Trg Centre, Catterick) and third Sgt Dave Wilde (4 Para).

Heaviest fish, a 16lb 4oz tope, was caught by Holland, and he and WO2 Doug Shepherd (ACIO Ashington) shared the prize for landing the most species.

Group 5 takes in the whole of the north of Britain, from South Humberside to Scotland, and the competition is fished in five rounds at different venues down the coast.

## Royal Welch in charge

IT WAS a case of better late than never when the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers beat 25 Engineer Regiment by 30 points to three in Berlin to become the 1st Armoured Division rugby champions.

Until last year Berlin came under 4 Armd Div, so it was the first time 1 RWF had won the 1 Armd Div trophy.

because of the sappers' Op Granby commitments and the fact that the Royal Welch were involved in the BAOR championships and had eight players in the BAOR side.

The match was held over from the end of last season



Mrs Ann Raynor, swimming instructor at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington Camp receives a cheque from commanding officer Lt Col Howard Fairman, 14/20 H and a cheer from some of her students to speed her on her way to the world triathlon championships in Brisbane, Australia. Ann is a member of the Great Britain team taking part in the triathlon, which involves a 1,500m open-water swim, a 40km cycle ride and a 10km run.

Members of the regimental triathlon team in the front row are (from left) Sgt Bob Shiels (R Hamps), Sgt Pegs Pegler (3 RTR), Sgt Steve Carter (4/7 DG), and Sgt Daniel Whitehead (RAPC).

# Martin inspires runaway victory

WITH ten Army runners finishing in the first 14 in the Inter-Services marathon at RAF Swinderby there was absolutely no doubt about the overall result. It was the Army's sixth consecutive victory.

It was also a day of records for Sgt Jeff Martin, first past the post for the third time in three years. Martin took the race by the scruff of the neck, pounding out a lead of more than two minutes by halfway, then holding it to win in 2hr 27min 45sec.

Martin also motivated his School of Signals team to an outstanding win in the Army Major Units category. His presence made all the difference as the Blandford signallers got home in 7hr 47min 36sec, more than half an hour ahead of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of

Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, who were attempting to win their fifth consecutive title.

The School of Signals runners dedicated the victory to WO2 (CSM) Peter Griffin, their teammate who died in a road accident during the summer.

Third in the Major Units race were 36 Engineer Regiment, followed by the Royal School of Artillery, SEE and 16/5 L. As expected from horses FOD Dulmen (7hr 59min 54sec) won the Minor Units trophy, beating NCOs Tactical Wing and ACS Eastern District.

WO2 Terry Hazell from Larkhill-based 14 Fd Regt RA, a newcomer to the Services marathon scene, was second for the Army and fourth overall in 2hr 34min 38sec.

Sgt Dougie Collins (FOD Dulmen) took third place in the Army championships and was fifth overall, stopping the clock at 2hr 35min 38sec. Filling the next seven places in the Army championships were Maj Nick Bateson (HQ 1 (BR) Corps), Cpl Nick Withers (School of Signals), WO2 Paul Margison (1 PWO), Csgt Paul Gwilym (NCOs Tact Wing), LCpl William "Elvis" Burke (Depot R Irish), Capt Pete Marsh (AVSD) who was the first veteran, and Sgt Dave Wright (FOD Dulmen).

Martin's reward is to lead an Army team in the Hong Kong marathon on February 9. Included in the team, managed by Maj Roy Hunter (HQ 15 Inf Bde), are Hazell, Collins, Bateson and Withers, with Margison, Gwilym and Burke as reserves.

Maj Gen Bernard Gordon-Lennox, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Grenadier Guards, presented the cup and medals and the match was sponsored by Gore Creative Technologies Worldwide.

# Penalty power halts the Met

The Army 3  
Met Police 3

(Army win 4-2 on penalties)

THE ARMY retained the Grenadier Guards Cup when they beat the Metropolitan Police in a penalty shoot-out after the sides had shared six goals in regular time, writes Pat Massey.

Cpl Sean Gilman (RAOC) gave the hosts a great start when he ran on to a back-heeled pass from Cpl Dave Maynard. Although his first shot was saved, he followed up and squeezed in the rebound.

When Maynard was brought down in the Met area 12 minutes later skipper Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals) made no mistake from the spot.

The usually safe Sgt Nigel Wiscombe failed to gather a corner kick soon after the interval and the ball ended in the back of his net, and minutes later the Army were outflanked for Ken McKenzie to head the visitors level.

With the Army enjoying a territorial advantage, Gilman and Maynard both had shots saved before the latter converted a chance set up by Sig Paul Brown (R Signals) and Gilman.

A 30-yard blockbuster tied it for the policemen.

When Higgins failed with the Army's first attempt in the penalty shoot-out that followed, the home side looked in trouble.

But Cpl Steve Bates (RHA), Sgt Mick Johnson (APTC), Maynard and Brown were successful, and with Wiscombe restoring the balance with a fine save, the trophy was retained.

Maj Gen Bernard Gordon-Lennox, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Grenadier Guards, presented the cup and medals and the match was sponsored by Gore Creative Technologies Worldwide.

# SKI SAPPER!

## Nine RE members selected for GB

SAPPER domination of Army skiing has not been uncommon in recent years, but now that the British Olympic squads have been selected, the pre-eminence of Royal Engineers at international level has become evident.

Out of 14 British Olympic skiers in the Nordic teams (biathlon and cross country) undergoing rigorous training high on the Hintertux Glacier in Austria this autumn, seven were Royal Engineers – four from Hameln, the remainder based at Iserlohn.

In addition, there are two more sappers in the overall British skiing squad for the Winter Olympics in France in February, a downhiller and the biathlon team manager.

Those selected for the cross country squad are Cpl Neil Danby and LCpl Mark Palmer of 28 Amph Engr Regt, and LCpl Ed Nichol of 35 Engr Regt. In the biathlon team are Sgt Michael Dixon (35 Engr) and Cpl Ian Woods, LCpl Paul Ryan and LCpl Jason Sklenar of 26 Engr Regt. Their manager is Capt Eddy Lowe, RE.

Capt Hugh Hutchinson RE (1 Trg Regt) is in the downhill freestyle team.



**Olympic-bound sappers.** Standing (from left) Capt Eddy Lowe, LCpl Mark Palmer, LCpl Ed Nichol, Capt Hugh Hutchinson, Cpl Ian Woods and Sgt Michael Dixon. Kneeling, LCpl Jason Sklenar and LCpl Paul Ryan. Ninth member of the team is Cpl Neil Danby

# Wee George joins League

CPL George Graham, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Scottish B prop, has signed professional rugby

league forms with Carlisle for an undisclosed sum, writes John Quin.

Wee George, currently serving in Edinburgh, has represented the Army and Combined Services at every level.

He intends to serve on until his next option date which makes him one of the few players of the modern era to serve in the Army at the same time as earning a bob or two playing Rugby League.

George's move across to the professional code throws open once more his eligibility to play Rugby Union for the Army. There has been, since the days of National Service, an RFU decree that League members serving full-time in Her Majesty's Forces may play

union at representative level for the Services.

Although National Service is long gone, the ruling has not been changed, so it will be interesting to see how things develop. There have been many previous cases from all three Services of players coming into the Forces from the Leagues and turning out at HQ for their Service XV.

There have, however, been very few in recent memory of George's calibre, who have made the switch while serving.

Besides his great talent on the field, Wee George is a popular young player and those who know him will join the ARU, who he has served so well at Colts, U21 and Senior level, in wishing him good luck.

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The city of Londonderry and the River Foyle provide a backdrop to the men of 2 Platoon, A Company of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. The Anglians took over at Ebrington Barracks from The Royal Hampshire Regiment in June as resident battalion on a two-year tour

Picture: Cpl Bill Andrews RAOC