

SOLDIER

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

FEBRUARY 5 1996

60p

- Small Systems Group
- Green Line gunners
- 1 RGBW in Kuwait



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Incorporating the Territorial Army magazine
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Infantry win Rugby League encounter



Picture: Mike Perrin

Maj Stewart Mills, OC B Coy 2 LI, comes to an amicable agreement with Enes Glumac of the BiH after an illegal roadblock had been dismantled

Warriors win roadblock stand-off

TACISYS

Hermitage map-makers take hi-tech 3-D system to Bosnia – Page 5

GOING IN

How the loggies coped – Page 16

WARRIOR armoured fighting vehicles of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry took the heat out of a tricky situation near Sanski Most in Bosnia when local forces put up an illegal roadblock.

The message had been received in the B Company Operations Room: Royal Engineers route reconnaissance vehicles had been stopped at a checkpoint by local troops, writes Gordon Skilling.

Sensibly, the sappers did not try to force the issue in their Spartan and 432 vehicles.

The atmosphere was tense as the OC, Maj Stewart Mills, listened to what had happened.

Two Warriors were sent to investigate and, if necessary, push their way through.

"We have complete freedom of movement throughout the area," he said. "Nobody argues with a Warrior."

Accompanied by an interpreter, his sergeant major and a bodyguard, Maj Mills politely but firmly established that there had been a misunder-

standing. Orders were not clear and a mistake had been made, he was told. The engineers could pass.

The iron fist in the velvet glove was effective. Maj Mills and his entourage spent the next hour drinking coffee with the local commander and his staff.

"My company straddles both sides of the Bosnian Federation/Serb confrontation line and there is no doubt that the former warring factions clearly understand what our mandate is," said Maj Mills.

"Our reception has been extremely good. The speed with which they have complied with everything has surprised us after our experiences on Mount Igman as part of UNPROFOR."

WO2 Tony Semley believed

the checkpoint would be erected again.

"You have to remember that we are only a few weeks into the peace implementation and local forces feel vulnerable. They still want to monitor their own people but we have made the point that if they attempt to stop us entering the area again, we will drive straight through their checkpoint."

Most of the problems encountered have been minor. Even the incident (Soldier, Jan 22) in which a burst of 20 rounds was fired in the direction of a tactical air control post near a 2 LI vehicle was relatively trivial in comparison with what went on in the area before the change to NATO command.

The local brigade command-
● Turn to next page



Army to place £200m orders for utility vehicles – Page 4

Around the Houses

A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

Threat to RWF soldier condemned

BOSNIAN Serbs made an isolated death threat against one of the Royal Welch Fusiliers held hostage last May, it was stated in the Commons.

Reports have been forwarded to the war crimes tribunal investigating the detention of UN personnel, Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames said in a written reply.

Answering questions from MPs about psychological torture and the training given to deal with it, the minister said: "There is no evidence that the British Service personnel who were taken hostage by the Bosnian Serbs in May 1995 were physically tortured or subjected to a campaign of psychological abuse.

"While the conditions in which they were held were far from

THE ARMY SPENDS
£125,000 a year on soup.
— Parliamentary reply.

ideal, they were generally treated satisfactorily.

"However, in an isolated incident, one British soldier had a threat made against his life by his captors. This was totally unacceptable conduct by the Bosnian Serbs and we strongly condemn it. All UK hostages were debriefed on their release and reports have been forwarded to the UN war crimes tribunal which is investigating the detention of UN personnel."

Answering separate questions about mine clearance in Bosnia, the minister said on January 15 that the UK's contribution to IFOR included 42 Service personnel specially trained in EOD.

Average cost of recruiting an entrant to the Army in 1994-95 was £4,638, the Armed Forces Minister told MPs.

The figure does not include recruiting costs incurred by individual regiments.



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Land Rover preferred for ambulance contract

New utility trucks 'ready for Bosnia'

THE MoD is to place orders worth more than £200m for thousands of new vehicles to meet the Army's utility truck and ambulance needs.

Trucks and ambulances, made by Land Rover, are expected to enter service this summer, making them available for deployment with UK Forces deployed with NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in former Yugoslavia.

There was a pressing need to replace about half the Army's current fleet of Land Rover utility vehicles, many of which had reached the end of their operational lives, Defence Procurement Minister James Arbuthnot told the House of Commons.

The MoD intends to place an order with Land Rover for around 8,000 of its Defender XD vehicles, to meet the Army's light and medium utility truck requirement.

A £4m order for 65 Pinzgauer vehicles is also to be placed with the Austrian company Steyr Daimler Puch as an extension to the contract awarded to them in 1994 for 394 vehicles already meeting the Army's heavy duty medium truck requirement.

The British and Austrian companies had both been in contention for the contract, but the order for 800 ambulances was won by Land Rover.

Both vehicles demonstrated excellent technical qualities.

"The Land Rover, however, provides, in particular, excel-



Land Rover's Defender XD 130 ambulance which the Army is to buy subject to the satisfactory conclusion of contract negotiations

lent working conditions for the medical crew and commonality both with the new utility vehicles and the in-service Land Rover fleet. Also, its acquisition cost is lower than the Steyr," said Mr Arbuthnot.

Derived from the four-wheel-drive Defender general purpose vehicles, the new ambulances are each capable of carrying four stretchers.

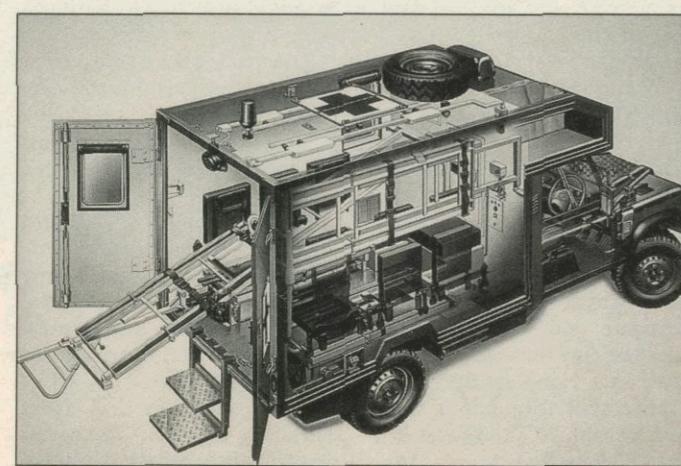
• The MoD is also to award a contract for the provision of administrative vehicles – cars, vans, minibuses, trucks and coaches – for British Forces Germany to Ryder plc and its sub-contractor PHH plc.

Warrior

• From Page 3

der whose men had been responsible for the burst of fire was escorted to the 2 LI headquarters by two Scimitars and given a dressing-down by the CO, Lt Col Ben Barry.

He was left in no doubt of the dangers of confronting British soldiers now serving with IFOR.



The military ambulance: how it looks inside



Picture: Mike Weston

Cambridge says farewell to Aldershot

A section of the 130 officers and soldiers from Army Medical Services in Aldershot marches through the town in a parade to mark the closure of Cambridge Military Hospital.

The Cambridge has served the military and civilian population of Aldershot and surrounding areas for the past 117 years.

Lt Col Mick French, administrative officer of the

Cambridge, led the parade, designed to demonstrate the medics' appreciation for local support over the years.

The joint salute was taken by Maj Gen Brian Hayes, Director Army Medical Services, and Mrs Pat Devereux, Lady Mayor of Rushmoor. Guests included former commanding officers, matrons and administrative officers of the Cambridge.

BFG medical cover split into five areas

Bosnia medics soon bounce into action

BRITISH Army medics are working with a Dutch Navy team in a "bouncy castle" at Jesero in central Bosnia.

The Dutch unit's heated, portable building is erected by inflating its ribs with air.

Equipped with its own floor, a small laboratory, and a crash bay for stabilising and resuscitating casualties, the unit can be made ready for its first patient within 30 minutes of arriving on a bare site.

The Anglo-Dutch regimental aid post at Jesero is housed in an old factory building.

HOSPITAL care in British Forces Germany is to be split into five locations, following agreement with the Health Alliance, the consortium which will look after the peacetime medical care of Service personnel and their dependants in Germany.

Hannover Henriettstiftung and Hannover Auf der Bult will deal with patients in Hohne under the new BFG

Health Service, while in Paderborn the selected hospital is St Vincenz.

Bielefeld Gilead will cover Herford and Gütersloh, and the medical needs of families in Osnabrück (including Wulfen and Dülmen) will be provided by Osnabrück Städtische Kliniken and Kinder Hospital Osnabrück. West of the Rhine, the choice has gone to Allgemeines Krankenhaus Viersen.

All seven hospitals have been visited by the BFG Health Commission to confirm they can provide the service needed by the community.

"Travelling times to hospital will be substantially reduced for most people in BFG," said Crispin Kirkman, the commission's acting director.

He, Col Ian Rees, ACOS G(1) and Bob Wilcox, chief executive of the Health Alliance, gave briefings on the new agreements at roadshows covering Army garrisons and RAF bases across BFG.

The Health Alliance contract is for five years from April 1.

• RAF Hospital Wegberg will close this year, although the building will be maintained as a health centre, leaving Rinteln – due to close in autumn 1997 – as the sole British military hospital in Germany.

Bosnia mapped out – in 3-D

SOLDIERS and officers from 42 Survey Engineer Group deployed with the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia have taken with them the Tacisys mapping system.

Developed at their Hermitage, Berkshire, base, the

hi-tech equipment can visualise a map into a three-dimensional view, enabling commanders to "fly a map" on a computer.

The system can produce maps imprinted with the latest recce data and information such as line-of-sight calculations.

Many of the members from 42 Group – which is providing support to all NATO nations in former Yugoslavia and has personnel deployed with French and American forces – have served there before as part of six-month deployments undertaken by the group since 1991.

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Gurkhas and Kiwis on final parade

TO MARK an alliance stretching back eight decades between the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR), soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles paraded with their Kiwi counterparts for the final time at Malaya Lines, Hong Kong.

Principal Inspecting Officer

was Col David Maloney, Honorary Colonel of 2/1 RNZIR, accompanied by Lt Col Nick Hinton, CO 1 RGR, representing the Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas. Also attending the parade was Lt Col Charles Abbott, CO of 2/1 RNZIR.

Gurkhas and New Zealand soldiers from 1/6 and 2/10

Gurkha Rifles and 2/1 RNZIR took part in the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915, and fought alongside one another in Italy campaign during the Second World War.

Although this was their last joint parade in Hong Kong, both Gurkhas and Kiwis hope to retain their links with exercises in Borneo.

Army teams offer military advice in Africa



Above: WO2 (CSM) Brian Gilfillan BW supervises live grenade throwing in Lesotho

Right: Lt Col Peter Mills, Colm Gds (left), OC BATT Mauritius, with members of Mauritius STTT and staff of the training wing. From left (front) are WO2 George Brews, Hldrs; Cpl Cavarree, SMP; Maj Gokhool, SMF; (back) Cpl Nagawa, SMF; WO1 Rab Hastie SASC; Capt Danny Boath, Staffords



Training, in short, pays off overseas

SEVERAL short-term training teams (STTTs) from the MoD have been deployed in Africa to assist national armies and civilian organisations in military matters.

Maj James Cowan and WO2 Brian Gilfillan, both Black Watch, and CSgt Lorimer, 3 R Irish, were sent to Lesotho, the small kingdom surrounded by South Africa.

Their task was to identify and select 14 officer cadets from the Royal Lesotho Defence Force (RLDF) for possible officer training at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

They were assisted by Lt Col

Andy Mackie, OC British Army Training Team (BATT) Lesotho, who was awarded the MBE after he evacuated BATT families from the barracks to another part of town in 1994 when rival groups within the RLDF mortared each other.

Two infantrymen and one Small Arms School Corps specialist were sent to assist Lt Col Peter Mills, OC BATT Mauritius, run a skills updating course for the Police Special Mobile Force (SMF).

Although there is no army as such in Mauritius, the SMF, which has had a UK adviser since independence, has the ability to respond to most situations.

Other STTTs were deployed simultaneously in Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

It's a fact

AVERAGE weekly rent paid by other ranks for Service families' accommodation in England, Scotland and Wales is just under £30, compared with almost £24 five years ago. The figures for officers are £47 now and just over £37 in 1991. — Parliamentary reply



TANKS crewed by women could be spearheading British Army attacks within three years following a study of the Israeli defence force's use of female crews. — *Sunday Express*

□ An underwater survey of the munitions disposal ground between Scotland and Ireland has disclosed that many explosives were wrongly dumped in shallow inshore waters. — *Guardian*

□ Sgt Vic Ferguson, a clerk at ARRC HQ in Sarajevo, has raised £2,500 to pay for treatment to a 12-year-old crippled Bosnian orphan. — *Sun*

□ The Royal British Legion has urged the Government to invite an American group investigating Gulf War syndrome to take evidence from British veterans. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Doctors have demanded an independent study into deformities among British babies born to veterans of the Gulf War to determine whether modern warfare caused the abnormalities. — *Sunday Times*

□ SAS "godfathers" have set up a special committee in a desperate attempt to protect the élite regiment's secrets following the publication of "sensitive information" in a series of books. — *Mail on Sunday*

□ Tpr Mark Campbell, the first black trooper to join the Life Guards, is to leave the Army. — *Sun*

Army moves into Brawdy

THE Royal Air Force base at Brawdy in Wales has been handed over to the Army.

Although a small RAF presence has remained there since pilot training at the base — now renamed Cawdor Barracks — ceased in 1992, 14 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) is the new occupant.

Field observers

THREE members of 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital RAMC (V) acted as UK observers in a field hospital exercise carried out by Danish medics.

May the horse be with you ...

Picture: Mike Perring



Ron Starkey (second left), with LCpl of Horse James Reason and Tpr Martin Ireland (holding horse), were among those who played host to 36 handicapped children from the Nuneaton area who visited

the Household Cavalry Barracks in London. They were shown the stables, forge and saddle shop before being treated to lunch.

Logging in



Keeping warm during wintry weather, courtesy of the British Army, was Winnie Wright, from Scotton, north Yorkshire.

Her home and 11 others in the village were the recipients of three hundredweight of logs from the soldiers and staff at the FIBUA (fighting in built-up area) complex at Whinney Hill, Catterick Garrison.

The idea of distributing the wood, felled as part of a land management programme, came from Lt Col Morris Felton, Commandant, Catterick Army Field Training Centre and put into action by FIBUA manager WO1 Graham Prince (in picture).

Para gon(e)!

Retiring after 45 continuous years of service to the Crown was Col Pat Hopper, secretary of the East Anglia TAVRA.

During his Army career, which began with a commission into the Suffolk Regiment in 1951 and included service with the Regulars until his retirement in 1978, Pat was attached to the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and took part in the last operational jump by British Forces in action in Suez.

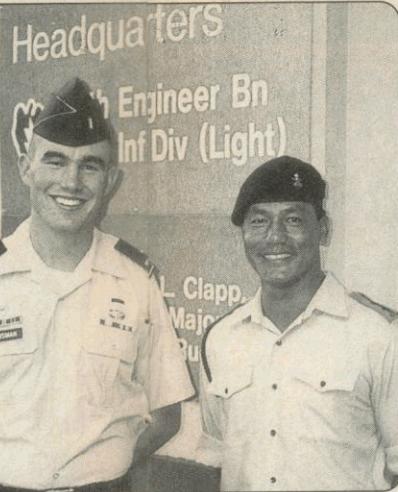
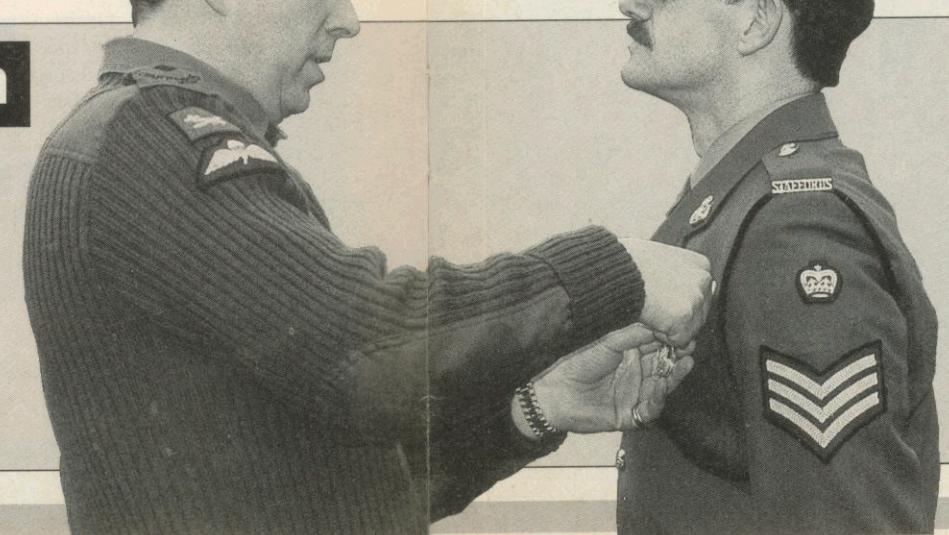
Guests at his dining-out included the lord lieutenants of three English counties.



Medal man

The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment, presents a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sgt Dave Chuter, one of six soldiers from the 1st Battalion who received the medals during a visit by the Prince to Newry and Ballykinler.

The battalion is due to complete a two-year tour of Northern Ireland soon before undertaking an extensive training programme and deploying to Hong Kong in September.



All change

Swapping one island for another for six weeks was Lt (QGO) Krishnadhaj Sahi, one of two members of 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn, QGE, who were selected to take part in an annual exchange exercise between personnel from British Forces Hong Kong and US Service personnel based in Hawaii. With him is 1st Lt Patrick Klinsman of the US 65th Engineer Battalion, sponsor for the six-week visit. During their stay, the two QGE sappers (the other was Cpl Gunbahadur Gurung) trained with 2 Platoon, B Company of the 65th and attended military operations and air assault courses.

PEOPLE

DRAC THE LAD ...

Bidding farewell to the King's Royal Hussars after 32 years was Maj Brian Draper, known by everyone as "Drac", after being nicknamed Dracula when he attempted to bite off an opponent's ear in a school rugby game!

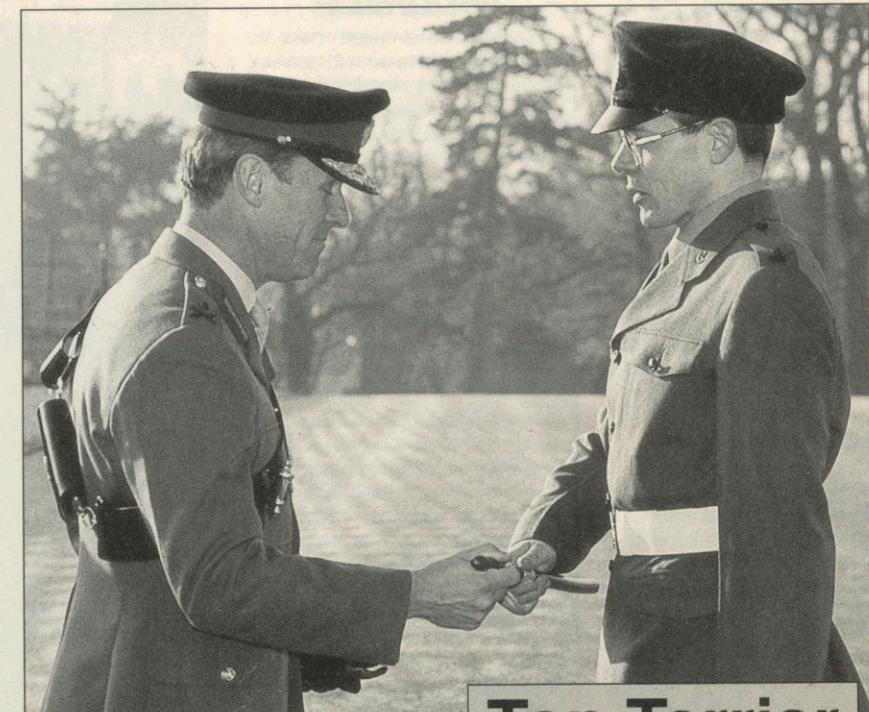
Brian, who joined the 14th/20th King's Hussars as a trooper in 1963, has served in Benghazi, Germany, Singapore, Cyprus, Canada, Northern Ireland and the Gulf on operational tours, gleaning the regimental medal and bar, a Mention in Despatches (Northern Ireland) and an MBE along the way.

Last post for the legendary Drac, who, his regiment assures *Soldier*, has been an avid reader of the magazine "since time began", was five years as the KRHs' Quartermaster before leaving in December to become the QM (T) in British Army Training Unit Suffield in Canada.



When a Saxon armoured personnel carrier rolled up to transport him in style from Fulwood Barracks, Preston on his retirement, Brig Jeremy Gaskell, Commander 42 (NW) Brigade, paid little heed to who was driving it.

Until it turned out to be his wife Jaquine, that is... It was all part of a fiendish plot by colleagues of the brigadier, who has taken up a school post, having handed over to his successor, Brig David Shaw.



Top Terrier

Proud 2nd Lt James Shackleton, 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, receives the Cane of Honour from Maj Gen Jack Deverell, Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in

recognition of his coming top of the RMA's Territorial Army commissioning course.

Staff work against clock to pay war widows' pensions

EXTRA staff have been taken on to cope with almost 12,000 claims for reinstatement of war widows' pensions following new legislation passed last year.

Under the Pension Act 1995 which became law in July, war widows who had their pension withdrawn on remarriage can claim it back on second widowhood, on divorce or on judicial separation.

By mid-January, payments were in the pipeline for more than 2,000 of those entitled while others, though not all the remainder, had been informed about forthcoming payments.

The figures were given in the House of Lords by Social Security Minister Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish after Baroness Strange referred in questions to "about 8,000 ladies who have not heard one way or another and are still in limbo".

END OF MARCH

The minister added that 60 staff at the War Pensions Agency in Blackpool would be working on the task with the aim of paying all the pensions by the end of March.

"I am aware of the pressure on us to pay these pensions as quickly as we can, but we have to make some checks," he said.

Reason for the interval between decision and payment was that once entitlement had been determined, enquiries had to be made whether other benefits already being paid needed to be taken into account before the new pension payment could be made.

A retirement pension (category A) would not be affected by the restored £140 payment, he said, but a pension based on a late husband's contributions (category B) would be taken into account, as would, for example, income support.

In answer to a question the previous day, Lord Craig of Radley was told that working practices at the War Pensions Agency were already going through major reorganisation when this further significant change was implemented, three months earlier than expected.

It required new procedures, the recruitment and training of new staff, and the re-programming of the computer to handle the claims, at a time when the agency's resources were already fully stretched.

AT THE risk of being a bore I really have to return to the subject of Service wives and unemployment benefit.

I still get letters from women who think the matter has been resolved in their favour and are then outraged when their claims are disallowed.

They believe they have the right to unemployment benefit when they have to leave a job because their husband has been posted.

As I see it, the situation is as follows. Each case is judged on its merits by adjudication officers. Once that judgement has been made, an appeal has to be put through a procedure by staff at the Benefits Office.

There is, as I understand it, no formal guidance or line which staff are bound to take, which may mean that, even at the same office, two claimants have different experiences even if they consider their circumstances to be identical. In the past this has obviously led to grievances.

When Benefits Agency staff respond to questions, their answers can only reflect the situation. Some women think they are being fobbed off with platitudes about no two cases being the same, but that is the reality.

We have always been given to understand that any change in the situation would require a change in legislation, but I am not sure this is the case.

VOLUNTEERS

Some means-tested benefits allow claimants to earn £5 a week before they are penalised. In the case of volunteers for services which benefit the community – such as volunteer fire-fighters – the threshold is raised to £15 because the work they are doing is for the good of everyone.

This ruling is contained in a Guidance Note to staff at the Benefits Agency. Issuing a Guidance Note doesn't imply a change in the law. At least, that's what I deduct from my preliminary investigations. I am open to correction.

If Benefits Agency staff can make this concession under a Guidance Note issued by the Ministry, why can't a Guidance Note be used to allow Service wives with proof of posting to apply successfully for unemployment benefit? It would allow adjudicators to refer to the note when making their decision, thus absolving them of worries they might have about the rightfulness of a claim.

You could argue that it would open the floodgates, but can it really pose such a huge problem when you consider the national scale of claims for unemployment benefit? I don't think so.

Some might say Service wives are in the same position as the

How about some fresh Guidance on benefit rights?



Cari's column

wives of men who work for international businesses. But consider this. Service people do not "work for" the Armed Forces. They are the Armed Forces.

They cannot resign in a fit of pique... and they cannot refuse to take an overseas job because there is a chance they may be shot at.

Service wives – and, these days, husbands – are a special case. Like the volunteer fire-fighter, they are part of a pledge to protect and support the community.

It is a matter of duty.

An old-fashioned concept, I know, but one that is still alive.

As an Army wife I lived through what the Chinese curse would call "interesting times". There were threats to our safety and, tragically, some wives have lost their lives because of their association with the military.

Wives stationed all over the world serve their peers by running advice centres and support groups.

They help when things go wrong. They spend time with the

lonely, the bereaved and the depressed.

In Germany their task has been made more difficult by the fragmentation of a once-cohesive military community.

Unsung, unrecognised and undermined, they are saving the nation a fortune in the cost of caring. A feminist friend tells me women shouldn't do anything for nothing because "they" – the powers that be – should be investing money in welfare.

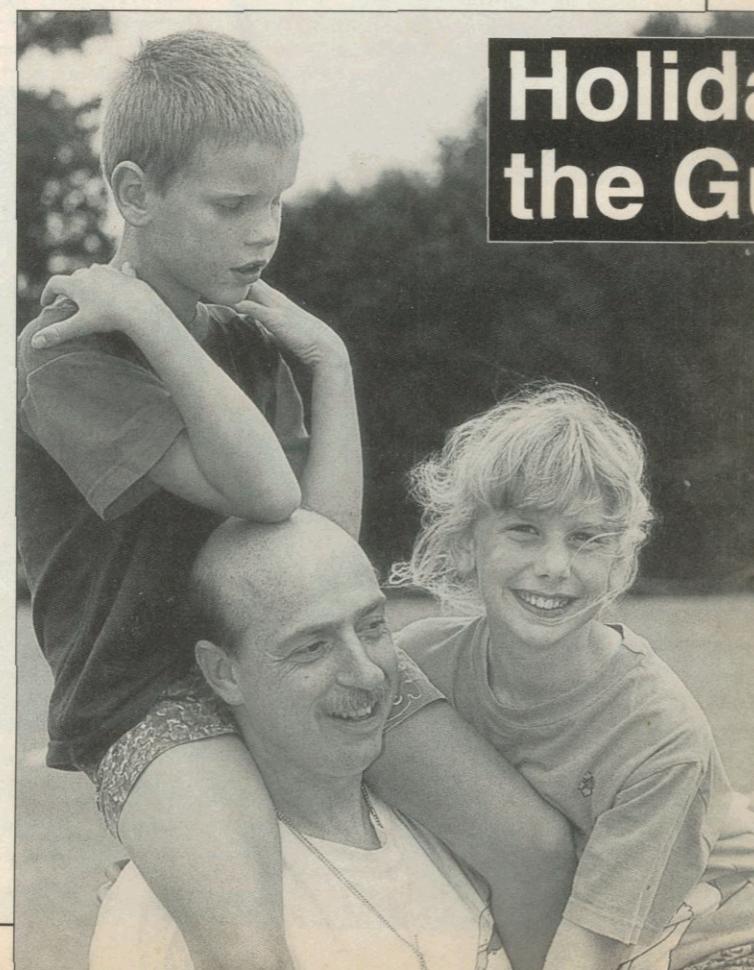
When Anne Armstrong – an example of a woman who spent her life serving others – died, one of the loose threads she left was the matter of unemployment benefit and Service wives. Let's get it tied up in 1996.

I shall continue to investigate the possibility of changing the guidance given to Benefits Agency staff. To help me, I need as many comments as possible.

If you have views or first-hand experience, please get in touch.

Confidentiality is assured.

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



Dialling into lots of lovely Lottery lolly



These lucky members of an 18-strong syndicate from the telephone exchange and communications centre at HQ 5th Division at Shrewsbury scooped more than £250,000 on the National Lottery. They each received nearly £14,000.

Syndicate organiser Lynn O'Callaghan said the 13 women and five men were all planning to indulge in a few little luxuries, including dream hol-

days and new cars. From left (back row) are Lynn O'Callaghan, Julie Lewis, Mary Hands and Jan Mason; (middle) Veronica Pryce, Pat Peplow, Sandra Crundell and Cheryl Brown; (front) Sylvia Bedford and Dot Moseley. Missing from the photograph are Jan Oliver, Peter Berridge, Gill Evans, Lynette Fife, Ted Madgewick, Brian Lewis, Don Dennis and Nigel Stallard

□ **Thames Valley Enterprise**, the Training and Enterprise Council for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and the Henley-on-Thames region of Oxfordshire, has joined with the Services Employment Network to help Service leavers seeking to live and work in the Thames Valley. For details on what the organisation can offer, call their free Know-How information line on 0800 775566 or write to Thames Valley Enterprise, Freepost (RG761), Reading, Berkshire RG1 1 BR.

□ **The Institute of Advanced Motorists** is offering test vouchers worth more than £1 million to encourage youngsters to take its advanced test. The initiative will mark the IAM's 40th anniversary year and help reduce the accident rate among this high-risk group of road users. The 1½-hour IAM advanced test usually costs £27.

The database will include advice on appropriate state benefits and other ex-Service organisations. The number to call is 0345 725 725. With the reintroduction of letters on to telephone dialling pads, the last six digits will read "RBL RBL". The low-call number can be reached from anywhere in the country for the cost of a local call.

Researcher takes a singular viewpoint SOCIAL science researcher Paul Higate is looking for interviewees to complete a three-year investigation into the success or otherwise in the housing and employment markets of newly discharged single Servicemen and women. For his PhD thesis, he requires individuals for interview before, and six months after, discharge. He is also involved with work by the Homeless Fund on the problem of the single ex-Service homeless.

Paul can be contacted at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD (tel 01904 433481).

Stress experts move to Catterick

THE officers leading a new psychiatric unit just established at the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital in Catterick Garrison are experts in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The 35-bed Defence Services Psychiatric Centre, which will accept military patients worldwide, is headed by Maj Martin Baggaley, a former senior lecturer in military psychiatry at the Royal Army Medical College, Millbank.

"The military is very active in treating stress disorders and we take them very seriously," said Maj Baggaley, who has extensive experience of treating veterans of the Falklands and Gulf wars.

Sqn Ldr Leigh Neal, 2iC of the unit, said: "We will be doing extensive research into psychiatric injuries in military personnel."

A consultant psychiatrist, he comes from the RAF hospital at Wroughton, near Swindon, where he helped hostages who had been held captive in the Lebanon.

Ex-Services' RBL helpline

THE ROYAL British Legion is teaming up with sugar giants Tate and Lyle to set up a national helpline for the ex-Service community.

Both the Legion and Tate and Lyle are celebrating their 75th anniversaries during 1996.

Based in the RBL's Jobson House in Brixton, South London, the helpline unit staff of six will provide a wide range of information about the Legion and issues important to the ex-Service community which is reckoned to be about 16 million, nearly a third of the population.

The database will include advice on appropriate state benefits and other ex-Service organisations.

The number to call is 0345 725 725. With the reintroduction of letters on to telephone dialling pads, the last six digits will read "RBL RBL". The low-call number can be reached from anywhere in the country for the cost of a local call.

Baby battalion says thanks

A "baby boom" within a regiment serving in Ballykinler has not only increased the patter of tiny feet on the parade ground, but has boosted the coffers of the Northern Ireland Mother and Baby Appeal.

Since arriving for a tour of duty in Northern Ireland two years ago, more than 60 "young recruits" have been born to families with the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment.

Most of the babies were born in local hospitals and, as a way of saying thank you for the medical care and after-service, the battalion made a donation of more than £600 to the Northern Ireland Mother and Baby Appeal.

□ □ □

Special lights and equipment to create a warmer and more cosy atmosphere in a room at the School for Handicapped Children in Rheindahlen are to be provided, thanks to a donation of DM1,500 raised at charity functions by locally-based 16 Signal Regiment – currently deployed in Bosnia as part of the NATO force.

□ □ □

The British Heart Foundation is appealing for members of military units to join the Heart Runners team in this year's London Marathon on April 21. Phone Freecall 0500 300445 for details of a pack, which includes a free T-shirt or running vest.

□ □ □

Four members of 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment, Bexleyheath, are set to follow the trail which the Crusaders set 900 years ago – this time by bike.

The ride, which will stretch from Accra on the Mediterranean to Massada on the Dead Sea, is the regiment's main fund-raising event this year.

Proceeds raised will benefit the Great Ormond Street Hos-



Lt Col Simon Knapper, CO 1 Staffords, presents a "thank you" cheque to Sandra Kelso-Robb of the Northern Ireland Mother and Baby Appeal. Looking on are some of the battalion's new recruits with their parents



Willing walkers

These sixth-formers from Welbeck College, the Army's sixth-form college for future officers in the technical corps, took part in a 70-mile walk along Hadrian's Wall, amassing £200 for the Royal British Legion

pital for Sick Children (GOSH).

But before WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell, SSgt Rod Cowan, SSgt "Q" Rose and LCpl Dutch Holland can attempt the journey in May, GOSH, which is assisting the project by organising transport

to and from Israel, requires pledges from the regiment totalling £7,200 (£1,800 per person) – to be with the unit by March 22, prior to forwarding to GOSH.

"Every little amount helps, and will be very much appreciated," says SSgt Cowan, who



Lt Col Geoff Fryatt presents a cheque to Charles Foster of BFBS Wireless For The Blind

can be contacted on Woolwich Mil (769) 5178.

□ □ □

A sponsored 25-mile walk from RAF Akrotiri to Parekklisha, a small village east of Limassol, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the



Redcaps yomp for hospital

Military policemen from Aldershot-based 160 Provost Company marched 60 miles to bring a smile to the faces of seriously ill children at nearby Frimley Park Hospital. They yomped from Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, to present a cheque for £1,090 to Clr John Hiscock, deputy mayor of Rushmoor. The Redcaps also collected toys for children in the Special Care Unit and children's ward at Frimley Park

Phinikaria to Parekklisha – route of the club's first walk in 1970 – by Air Vice Marshal Peter Millar, Commander British Forces Cyprus, his wife and 70 club members.

□ □ □

Children from two orphanages in the Münster area enjoyed ten superb cakes – including one featuring a Challenger tank – after judging had taken place for a cake competition organised by Lt Rick Kalewski, Families Officer of the locally-based King's Royal Hussars. Winner was Cpl George Bradley RLC.

□ □ □

Twenty cadets from Cleveland ACF took a wintry dip in the North Sea to raise funds for the five-year-old sister of one of their instructors. They hope to collect £1,000 for the young leukaemia sufferer.

□ □ □

Nearly £4,000 raised by Exeter and Bristol University OTC, HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade, 211 and 219 Fd Hospitals, 4 D and D and 6 (Somerset and Cornwall) LI has been given to St Loyes College rehabilitation and training centre.

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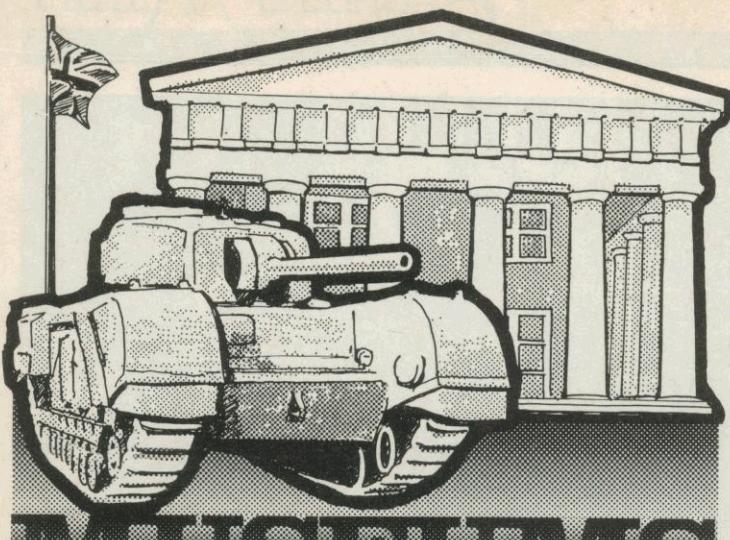
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DORSET

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RN. Telephone 01258 482248. Open 10.00-17.00 Monday to Friday all year, weekends 10.00-16.00 (June to September). Admission: Adults £2.00, OAPs £1.50 and children £1.00.

HAMPSHIRE

ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

Evelyn Woods Road, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LG. Tel: 01252 314598.

Aldershot Museum takes a behind the scenes look at daily life over the past 140 years in the Home of the British Army. Photographs, models and displays - including a recreated 1900 barrack room - tell the story. A second gallery explores the local history of Aldershot and Farnborough. Guns and armoured vehicles are displayed outside.

Open daily: Mar to Oct 10.00 - 17.00
Nov to Feb 10.00 - 16.30
Adults £1.50, OAPs and children £1.00.

AIRBORNE FORCES MUSEUM

Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants. Telephone 01252 349619. The story of Airborne Forces from 1940 to the present day. Open Monday to Sunday 10.00-16.30. Admission: Adults £2.50, children and OAPs £1.00.

ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS ASSOCIATION

Fox Lines, c/o ASPT, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2LB. Telephone: 01252 347168
Open Mon to Fri 09.00 - 16.00. Weekends and Bank Holidays by appointment only.

THE GURKHA MUSEUM

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TS. Tableaux, dioramas, shop and mail order. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 - 17.00 (last admission 16.30) and Bank Holiday Mondays. FREE PARKING. Admission: Adults £1.50, children/senior citizens 75p.

KENT

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT AND QUEEN'S MUSEUM

Open all year 10.00 - 16.00 winter 10.00 - 18.00 summer.

Over four centuries of living history, over 200,000 visitors last year. Exhibition includes: World War One trench experience; Interactive videos of World War II; Medal display and the story of the Victoria Cross (56 awarded); one of the largest portable Drum displays in the army for hire; the story of the 12 forebear regiments of the PWRR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free.

LANCASHIRE

THE QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

Incorporating the collectibles and archives of The East Lancashire Regiment, The South Lancashire Regiment, The Loyal (North) Lancashire Regiment, The Lancashire Regiment, Militia, Volunteers and Territorials. Fulwood Bks, Preston, Lancs PR2 4AA. Telephone 01772 260362.

Open Tuesday to Thursday 09.30-16.30, or by appointment.

THE LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS Regimental Museum

Discover the history of this famous British Regiment from its foundation in 1688, and its connection with Wolfe, Wellington and Napoleon.

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. 09.30 to 16.30. Admission: Adults £1.00, OAPs & children 50p Wellington Barracks, Bolton Rd, Bury BL8 2PL. Telephone: 0161-764 2208.

SUSSEX

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS MUSEUM

Sussex Combined Services Museum, The Redoubt Fortress, Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AQ. Tel: 01323 410300

Open 4 April - 5 November 1996, 1000-1730
Admission: Adults £1.80, family ticket (2+2) £5.00, under 16/over 60's £1.15.

For further information phone
Major P J Timmons 0171-414 8782.

SCOTLAND

THE BLACK WATCH MUSEUM

Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR. Telephone 0131-310 8530. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-16.30 (May to Sept, closed last Sat in Jun), Mon-Fri 10.00-15.30 (Oct to Apr). Admission free (all donations to museum fund).

TYNE & WEAR

15th/19th THE KING'S ROYAL HUSSARS AND NORTHUMBERLAND HUSSARS

"A Soldier's Life", Newcastle Discovery, Tyne & Wear Museums, Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 4JA. Telephone 0191-232 6789. Open Mon to Sat 10.00 - 17.00 and Public Holidays (excluding Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day).

WALES

THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2AY. Tel: 01286 673362. Open 9.30-16.00 Mon-Sat (until 24 Mar 96) and daily 9.30-18.30 (25 Mar to 26 Oct 96). Entrance to museum free. Admission to Castle: Adults £3.80, senior citizens and children £2.80, family ticket (2 adults & 3 children) £10.00.

WARWICKSHIRE

THE QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS MUSEUM

 Lord Leycester Hospital, High Street, Warwick CV34 4BH. Tel: 01926 492035. Open winter 1000-1730 & summer 1000-1700 (closed Mondays and Christmas Day). Admission: Adults £2.50, OAPs & students £1.75 and children £1.25. For further information phone Major P J Timmons 0171-414 8782.

SOUTH WALES BORDERERS MUSEUM

The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB. Telephone (01874) 613310. 300 years of history. Zulu wars. Large medal collection and armoury. Open Oct to Mar (weekdays only) and Apr to Sept (daily), 0900 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00.

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A Queen's Royal Hussars Challenger rattles off the Ukrainian ship Yuriy Maksaryov as two squadrons arrive in Croatia before deploying north



Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring

D-DAY IN THE BALKANS

MAJ GEN Mike Jackson noticed a certain edge to the atmosphere in his Multi-National Division South West headquarters in Gornji Vakuf on the morning of December 20. A definite air of tension pervaded the operations room.

Brig Francis Dannatt also detected the buzz at his 4 Brigade headquarters in Sipovo, and the signallers, dragoons, infantrymen and gunners waiting in their vehicles south of the confrontation line were keyed up for what they knew could be a testing day.

It was D-Day, on which authority was transferred from the United Nations to NATO, the day when soldiers who had been the butt of abuse for more than three years were going to assert themselves and

start calling the shots. It was hoped there would be no shots, but no one other than unarmed observers had been allowed into the Division's objectives - deep in the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic.

SSgt Ken Snell of 4 Bde's 204 Signal Sqn Forward Troop wanted radio rebroadcast stations deployed in advance to help communications in the deep valleys he would pass through on the way to Banja Luka, where an armoured forward headquarters would be set up.

Political sensitivities forbade this, so it was not until 0700 that the first vehicles moved over the line.

A key rebro station vehicle threw a track on the way to its location but this did not stop the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment

of Fusiliers, securing a crossing point and allowing The Light Dragoons to exploit north.

The following day, the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, thrust north towards Prijedor, another former no-go area.

At one stage, RMP Cpl Andy Smith struggled to keep his cool. The Serbs thought he was part of the Bosnian government BiH forces, while the BiH thought he was Serb.

"Shots were raining over us until the BiH realised we were IFOR and stopped shooting," he said.

Another crisis came when he saw an anti-tank mine on the road. He tried to stop an engineer vehicle following him but its driver

● Turn to next page



RMP Cpl Kevin Grace of 4 Brigade Provost Unit watches for traffic as 3 RHA's Cymbeline Troop moves from Sarajevo in the east to Sanski Most in the west

D-DAY

• From Page 15

was injured when he drove over a second, concealed, mine.

But in the one Serbo-Croat catch-phrase learned by most squaddies, there was generally "nemo problemo", no problem.

Despite the tension on the cease-fire line, said the 2iC of the First Fusiliers, Maj Andrew Marriott, there had been an incredible amount of understanding by commanders on both sides.

"We are not prepared to tolerate wild 'celebratory' firing but we all recognise it for what it is," he said.

It was gratifying for the Fusiliers to watch the transition from war to peace and see Serbs and Croats drinking together.

Both infantry units forming the core of UK Brigade had suffered under UN auspices. The Fusiliers had a difficult time with the Bosnian Serb Army when a company took over from Bangla Deshi troops in dire straits at Bihac; the Light Infantry on Mt Igman saw the build up of tension there and had a fair idea of how they would be received in a potentially hot area.

The brigade had to go through a quite fundamental transformation overnight from UN Protection Force to Implementation Force, said Brig Dannatt.

"It is a remarkable testament to everybody's hard work that on D-Day we were able to conduct effectively a fairly large armoured brigade field training exercise and move all the parts of our combat power from their previous positions to a new part of Bosnia to dominate completely both sides of the confrontation line," he said.

It was no small achievement, and that alone justified all the field training exercises regularly practised by the Army in Britain and Germany.

"We needed to change gear overnight and show we were not standing any nonsense at checkpoints. The force had a clear mission and robust rules of engagement, and if anybody stepped out of line we would use force."

As ever, the British soldiers were determined to be even-handed, and were relieved to discover that former combatants were compliant and eager to carry out their obligations.

A few days after the operation, Brig Dannatt was slightly more than cautiously optimistic. Gen Jackson was greatly encouraged by the initial response.

"People did not know what to expect, because their impression from the media did not show the Serbs in a good light," said Gen Jackson.

"But we found a very warm welcome on the ground and soldiers are being made to feel pretty much at home."

Several Serbs told the general they were particularly pleased to have British troops operating in their area.

After talks with the commanders of all five corps in his area of responsibility, Gen Jackson had a positive feel that things were pretty much on track.

He had encountered nothing like previous levels of former communist prevarication and intransigence.

"We are teaching them that is not the way we do business," he said.

It all falls into place - thanks to loggies

THE scene was set in Split for the arrival of two squadrons of Britain's armoured might as part of the Peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

The Army's sailors on HMAV *Arakan* were on hand with breathing equipment in case fumes affected anyone on the badly-ventilated Ukrainian ship which had arrived the night before with 500 vehicles.

Arakan also carried equipment for 38 extra stevedores flown in to help the detachment of 52 port operators from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment with the unloading, and was providing extra accommodation for people from Marchwood.

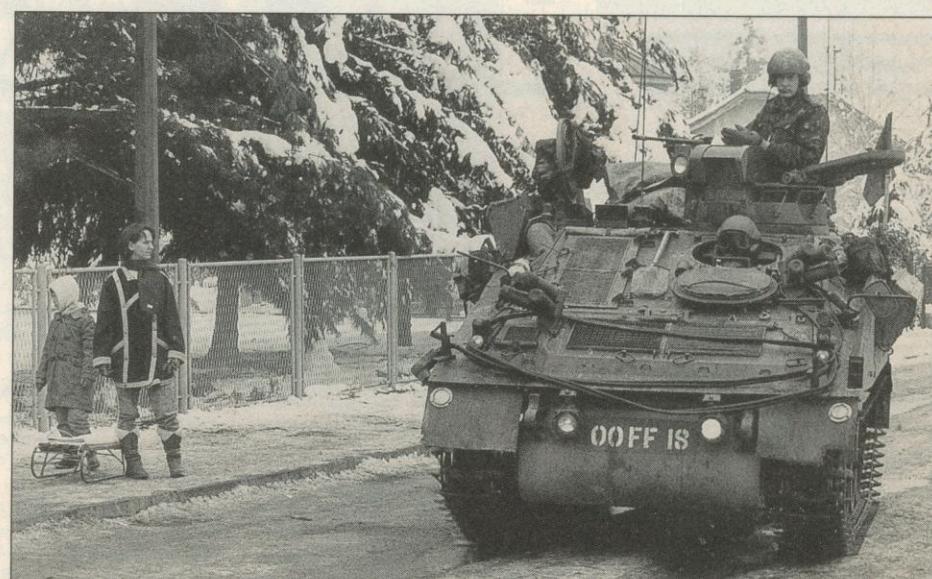
In preparation for the influx of several thousand extra troops, 14 Regiment RLC's logistic battalion had shed its equipment and medical support responsibilities and had extended its logistic support capacity. With around 850 personnel on strength, it was now one of the biggest regiments in theatre.

Based at the Dalma warehouse in Split,



Above - A highly visible presence: a Queen's Royal Hussars Challenger is hauled up from the Dalmatian coast by a 3 Tank Transporter Squadron Scammell Commander

Left - Pte Peter Ellis checks the breathing apparatus of LCpl Ian Mitchell on HMAV *Arakan*



A Light Dragoons Spartan from 5 Troop moves from its base with the Light Infantry near Prijedor

the regiment comprised its HQ, echelon, a new pioneer squadron, an enhanced postal and courier service, a transport squadron, a supply squadron, a port and maritime squadron and a new tank transporter squadron.

Before the arrival of a second logistic regiment, 14 Regt was doing the work of two, and in three months had moved more containers than previous regiments had done in six months.

The regiment runs the reception process for new arrivals, off-loading ships, meeting aircraft, and feeding and accommodating newcomers before marrying them up with their vehicles.

It is responsible for moving all IFOR equipment into Bosnia from Split and is a theatre holding area for all materiel, spares, clothing, fuel, ammunition and whatever else flows into the Balkans.

At Kupres, a three-hour drive north into Herzegovina, a recent arrival was 4 Regiment RLC, which had set up a Forward Assembly Area to "bomb up" the tanks. They would be fuelled, take on ammunition, and put on winter tracks before driving to their locations.

In addition, 4 Regt provides the close support squadron for 4 Armoured Brigade at Sipovo, a squadron in the divisional supply area and another squadron detached to Split to help deal with the arrival of the Implementation Force's main bodies.

More than 13,000 British soldiers will eventually be deployed in the former Yugoslavia, a massive undertaking which requires nearly 2,000 logisticians and a further 2,000 engineers and medics in support of the troops monitoring the zones of separation between former combatants.

Also lending facilities to British loggies in Split were the support elements of the Dutch battle group, which is based near Vitez and comes under command of 4 Brigade.

Dutch and British have worked closely together many times in the past, and Dutch tank transporters were on hand to assist 3 Tank Transporter Squadron's powerful Scammell Commanders. They were needed to haul the 70-ton tanks over the Dinaric Alps.

Already in position were 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron sappers, who knew there were some heavy bridging tasks to be

completed before the tanks could arrive at their locations. Transporters picked up bridging kit from the squadron at Mrkonjic-Grad and moved it to span a river to allow the heavy tanks to cross.

Capt Ian Sinclair was confident there would be no problem; 36 Engr Regt replaced one bridge at Mostar in September, 1994 while he was RSM, and it had survived continual traffic and floods which washed out a nearby French camp.

An appreciative CO of The Queen's Royal Hussars commented that one of the lessons of recent history was that despite all the effort it takes to get tanks into position in terms of deployment, recovery and engineering support, the dividends far outweighed the difficulties in getting them there.

"These efforts will get a few tanks up to different positions and they will have a disproportionate effect in terms of deterrence," said Lt Col Nigel Beer.

After delivering the Challengers the loggies had more work to do. There were AS 90s to be unloaded and moved north...

(Sm)all systems go!

Responsibilities of the Small Systems Group are:

- o To provide initial advice to users and potential users and investigate their requirements;
- o To produce functional specifications;
- o To develop or arrange development of software applications;
- o To produce system documentation and operating instructions;
- o To oversee the initial system installation and provide back-up support when necessary;



WO1 Carl Sabellini and SSgt Peter Bliss, members of Maj Robin Stangroom's team

- o To provide basic automation products for internal and external users, from a standard range of commercial hardware and software, and to assist with initial training and equipment installation. For internal users, to provide support for electronic presentation aids;

- o To provide ongoing support for the stand-alone PC systems and small network systems already implemented, including the Army careers information offices, regimental headquarters and the Gurkha pension systems in Nepal and Hong Kong.

A team of experts at Worthy Down, Hampshire, is meeting the IT needs for technical expertise in the Army across the world in the continually expanding area of microcomputers

THERE CANNOT be many places in the Army where a soldier is handed a piece of equipment and immediately asked to break it and put it back together.

That is precisely the opportunity which members of the Small Systems Group (SSG) at the Directorate of 'A' Information Systems (Army) offer.

"We want to prove to users that the items in question – personal computers – are nothing to be frightened of," says the group's Maj Robin Stangroom.

"Inside, they are only bits of wire, and once people realise this it gives them much more confidence in using them."

He and his team – who all attend courses to learn how to build a PC – are dedicated to supporting PC users in local and wide area networks, developing and maintaining applications and advising on the procurement, installation and operation of small systems in the administration area of the Army.

Projects may be as far afield as Nepal, Cyprus or Hong Kong or, nearer home, the Army Medals Office at Droitwich and, indeed, *Soldier* itself.

"Most of our work is out on the ground," says Maj Stangroom. "The boys get out and deal with the customers. We provide the 'tool', and the whole idea is to help the customer perform better by using the systems." It is vital, however, that the user gets involved: it is not just a question of saying "give me a computer" and then sitting back.

A new network still needs someone to feed it, Maj Stangroom points out, and if just one customer says "It's all in the computer, can we throw the book away now?" he knows the SSG is winning.

Each project is different, and the length of time involved varies.

"No two customers have the same experience in using computers, so we could have to go from teaching how to switch the machine on to how to put information onto a new database."

The group, which to date has installed everything from the Army payroll system to the drugs testing database and the "inherited" PCs used recently by the Second World War Commemoration Team, is also closely involved with "troubleshooting".

Panic calls from the likes of the nationwide Army Careers Information Offices – all

Report:
Phil Wilcox
Pictures:
Terry Champion

installed with an SSG package – are more often than not quickly dealt with to the customer's satisfaction over the telephone.

But the team members, with more than 300 projects on the books, 45 of which are "live" at the moment, also travel extensively throughout the UK and overseas.

"When using contractors, we act as an intermediary between customer and supplier and go in and try to co-ordinate all aspects of the project," says Maj Stangroom. "Quite often we have to say to the user: 'Did you really mean that?' We can get very involved."

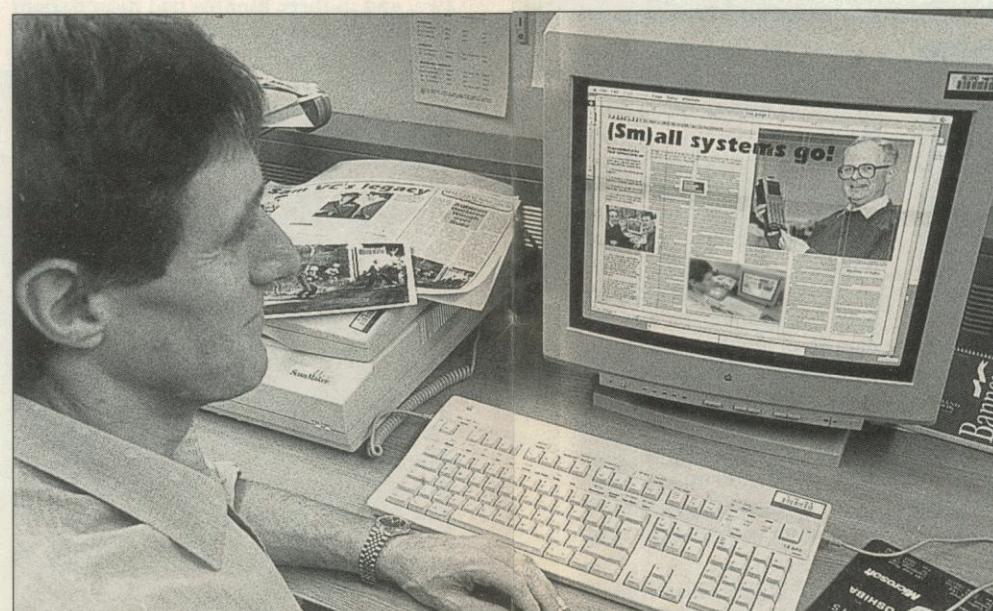
The SSG's overseas projects include the Gurkha pensions and records project.

Gurkha widows, daughters and sons frequently make enquiries about entitlements. The details are kept on deteriorating, dog-eared files – some dating from 1931 – which we are planning to transfer onto a document imaging processing system. This involves scanning the paper into images which are then held on CD-ROM."

Maj Stangroom hopes to see the dusty records – so vulnerable to fire and vermin – saved on these CD-ROMs, copies of which may be held in, say, the British Museum with appropriate access.

"That would not only help the Nepalis from a records point of view, it would help us retain the history of these superb soldiers," he says.

A project close to his heart is the Field



Soldier art editor Les Gwyer designs this feature on a desktop publishing system acquired with the advice and support of SSG



Record Support System, currently in use in Bosnia. "Many soldiers should be aware of the point-of-disembarkation system, deployed for registering the arrival of an individual in theatre, where information is obtained instantaneously by 'swiping' an ID card," says the major.

One of the seven other parts of the system, demonstrated to *Soldier*, is for keeping track of captured prisoners-of-war, who can be tagged, using a handheld computer and a wristband into which is entered details of unit, nationality, rank, sex, time and date.

"This is designed to maintain the identity of the individual while we have control of them," Maj Stangroom explains. "The data can then be used for transferring PoW information under the Geneva convention."

Closer to home, one of the group's more offbeat projects has been computer monitoring of the movement and breeding patterns of deer herds on British Army ranges, while one of the most difficult – involving nearly every member of the 13-strong SSG team – has been the installation of a database system, to a tight deadline, on 89 PCs at the Regular Commissions Board at Westbury.

One of Maj Stangroom's biggest regrets is that, having started dealing with computers back in 1973, he is no longer involved in programming: he doesn't have the time.

"The customers are the pressure which keeps us all going."

"As long as there is someone who wants to know what a spreadsheet is, for example, there is someone in the group who can come up with the answer to most problems."

Maj Robin Stangroom with hand-held computer and wrist band used for keeping track of prisoners-of-war

'Worthy' of note

□ The Small Systems Group currently has 13 staff: Maj Stangroom and one other major, two WO1s, two WO2s, two staff sergeants, a corporal and four civilian employees.

□ The first generation MARCH system, installed at SGS in 1987 and used to set up the computerised system in the Army Recruiting Offices, is not an acronym for "Manning And Recruitment etc". It stands for the rather more prosaic "Martin Allen Ray Ching Hargreave" who initiated the original software . . .

□ Suspect discs can be taken to a facility desk in the SSG's office to be checked for computer viruses.

□ An office in Nepal where the group had made an installation telephoned SSG staff and asked them to listen to a popping noise coming from the computer monitor. The long-distance diagnosis? Termites . . . which had crawled into the machine from a window frame on a cold night for warmth.



Above - Gnr Martin Long, 9 Bty and Cpl Dave Pincott, 7 Transport Regt RLC are part of the Sector Reserve. Behind is the Ledra Palace Hotel exchange point

Right - Working together: Sgt Phil Ellison, Britain, Cpl Jorge Romon Aquino, Argentina and LCpl Edward Idehen, Austria are playing their part in the UN operation



Right - WO2 (BSM) Paul Mills (top right) with members of Headquarters and 12 (Minden) Batteries



Gnr H Hallam and LBdr Jim McCabe patrol the cease-fire line in Nicosia. One disused cafe still has glasses on the tables and upturned chairs after its customers fled the 1974 Turkish Invasion



A hand-painted UN badge is a distinctive feature in a courtyard at Maple House in the heart of Nicosia. RLC chef, LCpl Andy Bolt (front) is pictured with LBdr Lee Greaves and Jim McCabe, Bdr Tim Gray, LBdr Neil Harrison and Gnr John Hearn, all of 9 Battery RA

The thin Green Line

GUNNERS of 12 Regiment, Royal Artillery have laid aside their newly-issued self-propelled high velocity missile (SPHVM) systems while they complete a six-month tour of duty with the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The Paderborn-based regiment, commanded by Lt Col Andrew Snowdon, took over responsibility for Sector 2 on the Green Line from 29 Commando Regiment RA.

Their patch, which stretches into the Omorphita Plain and Kokkino Ridge, is centred on the old walled city of Nicosia, said to be the last divided capital in the world.

With the Cyprus "problem" now more than 20 years old, the divide between Greek and Turkish Cypriot is still as wide as ever.

While Turkey and Cyprus have expressed a wish to join the European Union and there are signs of progress towards finding a political settlement, the realisation that a settlement has to be found

has led to a heightening of tension along the demarcation zone.

The gunners had to step in to prevent clashes between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on the south side of the Green Line, especially in Nicosia. During demonstrations in November, several soldiers were injured.

"Having spent the past 18 months converting from the old Rapier air defence system to HVM, the deployment provides a terrific opportunity for us to get our teeth into an operational tour," said Col Snowdon.

Two batteries - 9 (Plassey) and 12 (Minden) - and part of HQ Battery moved to Cyprus, while 58 (Eyes) Battery, still converting to HVM, remained at 12 Regiment's home base, Dempsey Barracks in Paderborn.



Lt Col Andrew Snowdon

Col Snowdon was quick to dismiss that the deployment was just another "sunshine" tour.

"There is a real job to do here and UNFICYP has clearly been a success story in military terms, at least," he said.

The opposing forces have been kept apart and the danger of further encroachments across the Green Line has been reduced, paving the way for a political solution."

The first few days of the tour were particularly eventful. Several shooting incidents were reported and the gunners patrolled the buffer zone to defuse the situation.

"I spent three hours conferring with one of the Turkish commanders to prevent his men from reoccupying part of the

demilitarised area on the Green Line," revealed Col Snowdon.

"As new arrivals in Nicosia, my men are being tested, but they know it and are alert. It is a real operational role as the opposing forces are not just sitting there, but being provocative and trying to alter the status quo by reclaiming land."

"My dictum is to be firm but fair - with sufficient emphasis on the firm."

The Green Line's three sectors are manned by Austrian, British and Argentinian contingents. The British soldiers quickly established an excellent relationship with Argentinian troops despite having fought on opposite sides in the 1982 Falklands War.

The regiment, which earned itself the nickname "Crack-flak" for its outstanding service in Northern Ireland in 1973, deployed two Rapier batteries to the Falklands. Several senior NCOs were there at the time, as were some now in the Argentinian contingent.

Story of supreme sacrifice

OATES was his own man. He could never, in any circumstances, have been anyone else's victim . . .

This appraisal of Lawrence Edward Grace Oates, the self-sacrificing hero of Capt Robert Scott's Antarctic Expedition of 1911-12, is made in *Captain Oates: Soldier and Explorer* by Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley, now, in the rank of major general, the General Officer Commanding 2 Division. First published in 1982, the revised edition is available in paperback.

Sue Limb's fascination with Oates began when she saw Herbert Ponting's film *90 Degrees South*, shot in the first year of Scott's polar attempt. She met and was befriended by Frank Debenham, one of Scott's geologists who later founded the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Following that meeting the idea emerged for an Oates biography based on help from Debenham and Violet Oates, who had secretly copied extracts from her brother's diary before her mother ordered the papers to be destroyed. Aware that it would need more military research, Limb

THE BOOK

• *Captain Oates: Soldier and Explorer* by Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley. Pen and Sword, paperback, £9.95.

shelved the project until 1979 when Patrick Cordingley, serving in Oates's old regiment and who had given a series of lectures on the subject, proposed a collaboration.

Lawrence Oates was born on March 17, 1880 into a life of privilege. In 1900 he was commissioned into the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons. He welcomed a posting to South Africa during the Boer War as "an invitation to a glorious romp", but a shattered thigh from a Boer bullet left him with a limp for the rest of his life.

Horses were Oates's business and his pleasure. It was a passion that was to take him to the Antarctic and his death.

His job on Scott's expedition was to manage the ponies which were to be used for sledge-hauling for the first time under polar conditions. Oates's sole qualifications for this bold experiment were his enthusiasm and love of horses.

But the task of purchasing dogs and ponies in Siberia was entrusted to Cecil Mears, who "knew his dogs but not much about horseflesh". It was a considerable mistake on Scott's part.

The poor condition of the ponies was largely the cause of disharmony between Oates and Scott.

The memory of Oates is aptly summed up in this book: "Oates had lived in obscurity. When he died, he became the world's property: a dead hero, his name a touchstone for certain values, his death an example which thrills the imagination . . . We need heroes, especially heroes who are explorers, for a very simple reason. We are all travelling irrevocably towards 'that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns' . . ."

THE OFFICE of the 2nd Division's GOC at Imphal Barracks, York, is a modest, comfortable room with an orderly array of the trophies and memorabilia of a distinguished military career displayed on walls and desk.

"I have just been for some dental treatment. Something I really hate," confessed the man behind the desk.

Divisional commanders are busy people, so we quickly got down to the business in hand: to discover why his recently re-released book should be concerned with an adventure of 85 years ago and not, as might be expected, with his own much more recent involvement in the Gulf War where he won the DSO while commanding the 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats.

"I became interested in how people acted when in small groups under adverse conditions," explained Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, co-author of a recently re-issued book on Capt Lawrence Oates, the man who walked into an Antarctic blizzard, and certain death, and became a national hero.

"The Antarctic is a perfect setting for the study of such groups. Obviously in those early days the groups had to be small because of the nature of things - you could

enemy, or in this instance the task, is identified, you have to set about getting the logistics in place, forming a sound and sensible plan, and making certain you have a mission.

"There is always a danger in that some people will liken war to playing a game and that is very wrong.

Having been through war yourself, you will know what a deadly game it is, with horrible consequences. In the Antarctic the consequences were just as dramatic when their logistics let them down.

"By logistics in this instance, I really mean medical and dietary preparation. It is almost certain that it was scurvy that killed them as much as malnutrition. It is arguable which was the main cause."

BJ: Are you saying Scott was negligent?

PC: "I think it would be very difficult to blame Scott. There is no doubt people were aware that there was a problem with vitamin depletion, but in Scott's case, when you have a real problem about the amount of food you could carry on the sledge, you might not appreciate that carrying whatever it was that provided Vitamin C was equally if not more important than chunks of butter."

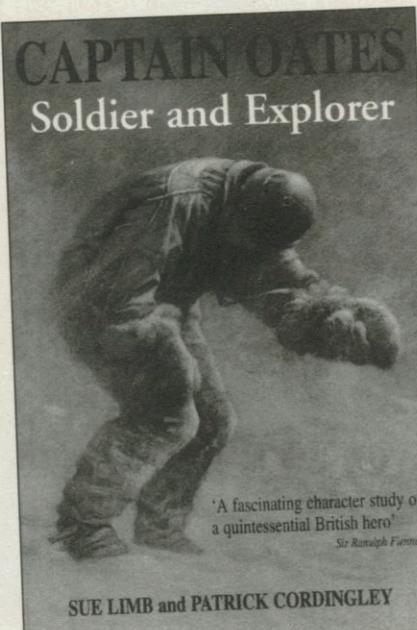
BJ: Is it correct to assume that your part in the authorship of the book was concerned mainly with Oates's military life, and that the research on the

expedition was by Sue Limb?

PC: "The answer to that must be yes and no. When we started to collaborate we felt it necessary to re-research everything. The work on Oates's military career was obviously undertaken by myself, whereas Sue's work, because she had known Violet Oates, Lawrence's sister, had to be on the other aspects of his life. However, I did have the enthusiasm to go through all the Antarctic material."

BJ: How did your interest in Oates begin?

PC: "Ever since joining the regiment [5 Innis DG] I was aware of the importance of the memory of this man played in our regimental life, and was very conscious of his example to us. However, it was not until the late 1970s that I took a special interest in the man and the polar expedition."



The general: soldier-author Patrick Cordingley, then a brigadier, pictured in Germany a few days before he flew to Saudi Arabia to lead the Desert Rats in the Gulf War

BJ: How is Lawrence Oates remembered and commemorated in the Inniskillings?

PC: "Every year on the Sunday nearest his death, March 17, we remember his example by having a church service and parade. On the preceding Sunday there is a commemorative service in the lovely church at Chelsea Hospital, and that is very special, with the Pensioners in their scarlet uniforms."

"I am quite content in my own mind that it was totally in character. You might go on

Expedition hopes to find Scott's lost motor sledge

DURING the interview, Gen Cordingley revealed that he is involved with an expedition which will attempt to recover one of Scott's Vickers motor sledges from the frozen seas of Antarctica.

The sledge, one of three, sunk while the expedition's equipment was being taken ashore at Cape Evans below Mount Erebus. While being dragged from Terra Nova, the expedition ship, on January 8, 1912, it plunged through the ice.

"We know very accurately where it must have gone through the ice, but we don't know how many fathoms it might be lying in. It is likely that with the temperatures down there, it will not have deteriorated too

badly," said Gen Cordingley. "We will need a mini-submarine twice - once to find it and again for the recovery."

"Preparations are progressing and it may well happen in late 1996 or early 1997. Whether I actually go on the attempt is hard to say at the moment."

Gen Cordingley's latest writing project is a book about his experiences during the Gulf War five years ago, when he commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, in the battle to liberate Kuwait.

On the day of his interview with *Soldier* he had put the final touches to the last chapter and he is now looking for a publisher.

BJ: Would you say Oates was a man of his time?

PC: "I would, because he had a lot of Victorian ideals. For instance, he thought nothing of being unmarried at the age of 32. Honour and chivalry were second nature to him, because they were imbued in the people at that time. The idea of service to his country came naturally to him."

"I think he was a man of his time, but he was in many respects timeless and in some ways seems to represent middle England today."

"He had the good fortune to be very wealthy but would never let that colour his judgement. He had to be quite deferential to his mother - she held the purse-strings. I think it would have been difficult for him to find a girl who could pass muster under his mother's eagle eye."

BJ: There is an implied question in your book: Did he jump or was he pushed?

PC: "I hope that anyone reading the book will come to the conclusion, as we did, that he jumped. It is fundamental to what we are trying to achieve throughout. He was the sort of person who would jump. However, it is right and proper to raise the question because none of us were there."

"Hungford said in his book that there was an 'encouragement' for Oates to make the sacrifice. We would say, 'Hang on, the type of person he was, the way he lived, and the moral climate that existed at that time, means to us that what he did, or rather what Scott said he did, was probably true.'

"I am quite content in my own mind that it was totally in character. You might go on



The captain: "I am just going outside and I may be some time," the final words of the heroic Lawrence Oates, 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons

to ask why he didn't do it before and I would argue that here was someone of great strength and character, with companions who would have said, 'Hey, your time is not up yet, mate. You're going to get through'. That in itself must have caused mental conflict, your friends telling you to battle on in a true British stiff-upper-lip way, and you telling yourself that it was not going to work.

"The critical moment when the decision was taken is very difficult to pinpoint."

BJ: On that unhappy return from the Pole, we have the protracted demise of Chief Petty Officer Evans. That must have been a great handicap with an adverse effect on the party.

PC: "Oh yes. But there is an interesting difference between Oates's death and that of Evans, something almost akin to an officer-soldier relationship. It is complicated. Evans appears to have left the others feeling he had lost the desire to achieve, which caused them not to wish to support him in the same way they supported Oates."

"I think Evans may have lost faith in Scott, his leader. You get the situation of this man's sole reason for being there is his leader's complete confidence in this brick of a Welshman. That goes and the bond that existed between Scott and Evans is broken. I think you will agree that Evans was not really a man to be on that party. However, Scott wanted a lower-deck man at the Pole; Evans was the only one available and had the advantage of being on the previous expedition."

BJ: Do you think the virtue of self-sacrifice has any relevance today, and have you come across many examples in your military career?

PC: "An interesting question. I was recently asked something similar, not in military terms, about what would be an example of self-sacrifice today. I am sure there can be no finer conduct than a man laying down his life so his companions have a greater chance of survival."

Battle debris adds realism to desert exercise

GUNFIRE again broke the silence of old Gulf War battlefields as British, American and Kuwaiti soldiers expended hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition during a combined arms live-fire exercise in Kuwait.

The desert manoeuvres marked the end of Intrinsic Action, latest phase of a tripartite defence co-operation exercise that began after the Gulf War.

Men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment deployed from Cyprus to provide the British contingent.

The battalion was also granted permission to exercise on Failaka Island off the Kuwaiti coast and was airlifted there by Kuwaiti Air Force Puma helicopters.

"Failaka was abandoned by its 5,000 inhabitants during the Iraqi invasion and never re-occupied," said commanding officer Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston. "Houses, many damaged by the Iraqis, still contain furniture. Paintings and photographs hang on the walls and toys and teddy bears lie scattered in children's bedrooms."

"The island offered us a superb training facility. For more than 24 hours we were able to carry out intensive operations within a scenario of realism that British FIBUA villages could not possibly provide."

The battalion exercised in three phases, beginning with company-level training which included day and night live-firing packages, and culminating in a 7km advance during which the British troops were supported by mortars, US Army M109 self-propelled guns and A10 "tank-buster" aircraft.

A week-long battalion field training exercise that followed gave soldiers a chance to construct trenches and defensive positions – a skill that cannot be practised on Cyprus training areas.

Later, 1 RGBW carried



out a battalion road move which included driving around the perimeter of Kuwait City.

Some cross-training was also achieved. The battalion's recce platoon worked with US Special Forces, an attached engineer troop taught Kuwaiti troops demolition skills, and RGBW mortar instructors helped Kuwaiti commandos on the 81mm mortar.

During the early stages of Intrinsic Action, B Company deployed into the desert, with soldiers carrying weapons and more than 60lb of equipment on their backs.



Lt Col Patrick Davidson-Houston, CO 1 RGBW (left), and C Coy Commander, Maj Farren Drury

"It was strenuous," said company commander Maj Farren Drury. "We shot our individual weapons, as well as high explosive, smoke and illuminating rounds from 51mm light mortars. We also fired 94mm HEAT rounds at a derelict T72 tank."

A close-quarter battle range course constructed across steep-sided sand dunes gave the soldiers an opportunity to carry out a reactive shoot in pairs.

Most found doubling across deep, loose sand very tiring and some soldiers were reduced to crawling on hands and knees over the dunes. They had a chance

Left – B Company soldiers clamber over an Iraqi Army vehicle during a recognition class. It was one of hundreds in four desert graveyards

Right – Support Company's Pte Rob Roper prepares to fire an 81mm mortar. LCpl Reg Green and Pte Si Ward assist

to test their marksmanship in a novel way – firing from a moving vehicle. Hitting a target while bouncing around in the back of a bucking Humvee vehicle is a tall order, but the 1 RGBW soldiers managed to score with regularity.

Following the Gulf War, hundreds of Iraqi tank hulls and wrecked trucks were dragged off the Basra Road into vehicle graveyards in the desert.

Five years later, they provided splendid enemy vehicle recognition aids for 1 RGBW personnel.

It took soldiers more than an hour to walk down the rows of battered armour. A close look at the scale of destruction that could be caused by the battalion's Milan anti-tank systems proved a sobering experience.

The desert has started to reclaim the armour. Sand covers road wheels and tank tracks and fills the interiors of some armoured personnel carriers. Vegetation has started to get a hold on the hulls of others. One T55 had obviously been recovered from an oilfield. Its covering of sand gave it the appearance of a large pastille sweet.

Col Davidson-Houston said Intrinsic Action was the one opportunity he had had to take his whole battalion away from other duties in Cyprus to meet its collective training requirements.

"Since arriving in Cyprus, last April, we have been busy training for our internal security duties with Episkopi Garrison. Restructuring the battalion from mechanised to light [wheeled] role, and catching up with specialist training we were unable to do during the six-month Bosnia tour which preceded our move to the island.

"When we get back, more than 200 of my soldiers begin training for a four-month deployment to the Falklands in March. With leave, it will be August before they return to the battalion," he said.



Range detail: C Company soldiers clear their weapons before leaving the range



Report:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Weston

Sam VC's legacy



IN OCTOBER 1840 a 16-year-old ensign sailed from Portsmouth to join a regiment of the Hon East India Company's forces in Delhi.

When he finally returned home 44 years later as Gen Sir Sam Browne, he had gained a VC, lost an arm, and devised the belt that became adopted by the British, Indian and Colonial armies, and later by those of foreign powers.

Popular legend has it that the belt was designed for a one-armed wearer, after Sam had lost his arm in the Indian Mutiny. This is a fallacy, as his own memoirs make clear.

Some years ago I was fortunate to contact Sam's direct descendant, a Capt Sam Browne, who gave me access to those memoirs (printed for private circulation).

Swinging swords

In 1852 Sam was serving on India's North-West Frontier in command of the regiment later to be widely known as Sam Browne's Cavalry. When not occupied with chasing Pathan tribesmen, his mind dwelt on the clumsy, unpractical regulation method of carrying personal arms.

At that date all mounted troops carried their swords dangling by slings from a simple waistbelt, which meant that at a gallop they swung wildly about, clouting the horses' flanks (this method is still in use with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment on their ceremonial duties – but they are not required to gallop).

When dismounted, the sword had to be hooked up to the belt, or held by the left hand. If the officer was armed with a pistol (not always) this was stowed as best he could – stuffed into the waistbelt or slung by a strap over his shoulder.

While escorting Sir Henry Lawrence and Lord Stanley at Banu on the Frontier the latter commented on the variety of weapons with which Sam had encumbered himself. He had devised a new belt, he explained, and was experimenting with the best way of carrying them.

Having perfected the design in 1856 he went on home leave and took it to a Piccadilly saddler to be made up. Mr R Garden, wrote Sam, "was the only maker who used to make my belts properly. He used to seat the purchaser on a horse block and fitted him exactly, seeing to the proper lie of the revolver and the hang of the sword."

The innovation of the Sam Browne belt was the method of carrying the sword in a frog attached to the waistbelt, the pistol



Left – Modelling Sam Browne: Earl Mountbatten of Burma, visiting Detmold in 1975 as Colonel of the Life Guards, talks to the CO of the regiment, Lt Col Simon Cooper. The latter, as Maj Gen Sir Simon, is now the Master of the Queen's Household

infantry officers discarded their obsolete swords, so that they too adopted the single shoulder strap, and in due course the Sam Browne of today became familiar to officers of most of the world's armed forces, even though they may not know it as such.

What of Sam himself? Oddly, apart from the entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography* wherein he is described as "well known in military circles as the inventor of the sword belt", there is no published biography – a curious omission, for Sam's career was studded with action, incident and controversy.

After leading a successful column through the Khyber during the Second Afghan War, he received the new Amir at Gandamak and negotiated a peace treaty on British terms.

On returning to India Sam was met not by congratulations from the autocratic and egocentric Viceroy, Lord Lytton, but by fulminations for the shambles of the commissariat column, due to a shortage of mules – not Sam's responsibility.

Viceroy's vendetta

As Military Member of the Viceroy's Council he had already fallen foul of his political master and resigned. Now he was relegated to a base appointment as GOC Lahore District. While his friend Lord Roberts marched victoriously into Kabul and Kandahar, Sam was left to chafe back in Lahore.

This snub continued to rankle. In 1884 he resigned his post and retired to the peaceful environs of Ryde in the Isle of Wight. Here he died in 1901, as Gen Sir Sam Browne, VC, GCB, KCSI.

Nowadays few wearers of the Sam Browne could tell you anything about its inventor – unless they happen to be old sahibs of the former Sam Browne's Cavalry, today an armoured unit of the Pakistan Army with the unrevealing title 12th Cavalry (Frontier Force).

Assuredly, if his belt had not been adopted by the British Army in 1899, Sam Browne would be just another of those doughty warriors of the Victorian Raj whose names are known only to the select few.

● An extended version of this account, with further details of Sam's career, was published in *Blackwood's Magazine* for May 1978.

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SUEZ CANAL ZONE 1951-53 Worth Campaign Status?

● The headline in *Medal News*

Auberon declares Waugh over Suez

World War commando, who wrote the *Sword of Honour* military trilogy.

A

General Service Medal for Suez 1951-53, he recalled, was first proposed by the Commander-in-Chief, Gen Sir Brian Robertson, in January 1952, after 33 of his troops had been killed and 69 wounded in the war against terrorism in the Canal Zone.

"It was refused – four years before the Suez invasion – for fear of annoying the Egyptians, and has been refused solidly ever since on the same grounds."

Waugh's comments appear to be a slight departure from the puckishly satirical style he inherited from his novelist father Evelyn, a Second

Over the years, the case for a medal has been taken to the Army Board, MPs, the Prime Minister, and even the Queen. In each case there has been disappointment for the veterans.

There seems little hope that the latest publicity will lead to a different result. Or will it?

continue his campaign until recognition is granted or sound reasons given to show that defending the British base against a united and armed local population, encouraged by a charismatic leader [Col Nasser], was less hazardous than the dozen other campaigns granted GSM status since the end of the Second World War."

Unsolicited, regular *Soldier* correspondents reacted swiftly to the renewed publicity.

"If ever there were any doubts in anyone's mind as to whether or not a medal should be awarded, these have now surely been dispelled," wrote the self-styled "Suezvet".

Long-time reader Len Oliver, of Colchester, another Suez Canal Zone veteran, said: "I do hope the top brass . . . will take appropriate action."

Over the years, the case for a medal has been taken to the Army Board, MPs, the Prime Minister, and even the Queen. In each case there has been disappointment for the veterans.

There seems little hope that the latest publicity will lead to a different result. Or will it?



January 1952: Lancashire Fusiliers attack at the double during the six-hour battle in Ismailia between 900 auxiliary police and troops who also included Royal Dragoon Guards and Lincolns

Fighting capability vital - CDS

IT is vital that Britain's Armed Forces maintain the capability to fight a war.

"Once that is lost, it takes years and years to get back in terms of expertise and equipment," said Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, addressing the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies in London.

To retain the multi-capability on which the country relied, the need to recruit and retain top quality Servicemen and women was "absolutely fundamental," he said, as was the retention of a modern forward equipment programme.

Equally important were training, military intelligence and quality of life - ensuring that the right balance was struck between the amount of time soldiers spent on operations, training and with their families.

It's a fact

THE ARMY has almost halved the redundancies it proposed in its last phase in 1995. It has cut the number from 500 to about 280, of which 234 are volunteers. - Parliamentary reply.



Cpl Ian Savage

Corporal's coverage

While he was with Australia's 1 Armoured Regiment, putting their Leopard tanks through their paces as part of Exercise Long Look, Osnabrück-based Cpl Ian Savage, Queen's Royal Lancers, was "snapped" for the down-under Army's tabloid equivalent to *Soldier*. Here's the result, making it a pictorial double for the photo-genic soldier...

Heading for a Fall

Twenty-nine members of Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps spent four weeks in a remote area of Venezuela with the aim of reaching the top of the Angel Falls, which plummets 3,000ft off the side of Auyantepui (Devil Mountain) in the Gran Sabana region.

The climbers, who took more than a year to plan the expedition, set off from base camp at Kavak with hired Pemon Indian guides.

Auyantepui creates its own clouds which produce vast amounts of rain: to make matters worse, the students had timed their visit in the rainy season, and were continually drenched.

Terrain across the top of the mountain varied from thigh-deep bog to impenetrable jungle, which the OTC members navigated using a combination of GPS, trigonometry and "lots of guesswork".

Food supplies began to run low at the end of the second week, but the expedition



pressed on through a torrential storm, reaching the edge of the mountain where, in the morning, the cloud cleared sufficiently to reveal Angel Falls just 20 minutes away.

The return journey was considerably easier, with the team following the path they had cut on the way in.

The members of Auyantepui Blue on the top of Angel Falls: it took 15 days to cover 15km and cut almost 20km of path

Patagonian Parks and 'orrible 'urricanes...

AFTER a hard tour of the Falklands, sappers from 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers, returned to base at Plymouth.

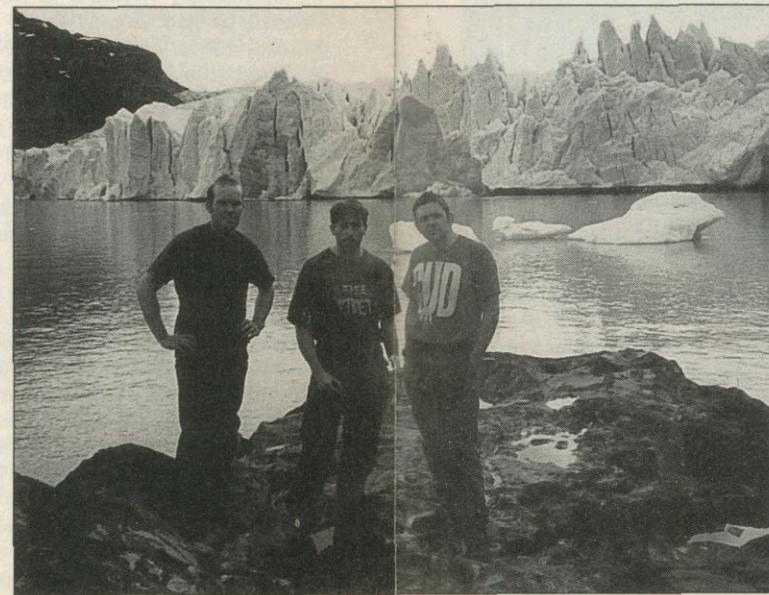
With a few exceptions, that is...

LCpl Billy Evans and five others set off from Stanley International Airport for a two-week climbing expedition in Chile's Torres del Paine national park, just recovering from its worst winter for half a century.

"It was well worth going to the other side of the world for," said LCpl Evans.

With the serious climbing side of the expedition having to be shelved due to poor snow conditions, a change of plans was necessary. Instead they headed for one of the climbing wonders of the world, the Towers of Paine.

While the rest of their 59 Sqn colleagues were 8,000 miles away in the Falklands, Capt Piers Noble and the squadron's Recce Troop were



Cpl Wally Walton, Cpl Jack Gannon and LCpl Bonny Evans of 59 Indep Cdo Sqn, RE, pictured in front of an impressive glacier in Torres del Paine national park

holding the fort in Plymouth.

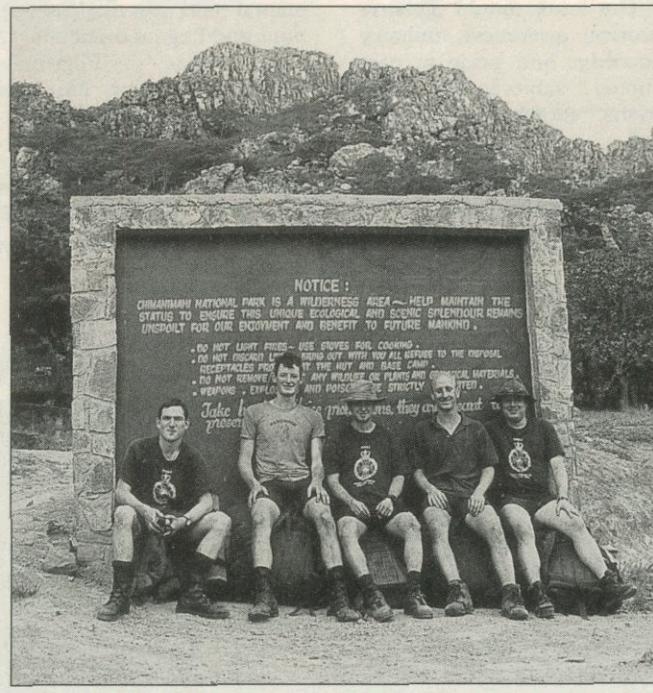
They found themselves as the only Regular commando engineer troop deployed to

support the Commando Logistic Regiment RM in Operation Harlech, a military support operation to Montserrat in the

Green jackets reach the heights



Making waves: Jubilant members of the southern team (above) on the Zambezi and (below) northern team members pause for a photograph in the Chimanimanis



main effort would be on Montserrat. A plan to improve sanitation, hygiene and conditions in the emergency shelters was devised, including the rebuilding and refurbishment of a derelict house as an administration centre.

It was obvious the troop would require further engineer support, so 12 more sappers from the squadron were flown out, two of whom were TA personnel from 131 Indep Cdo Sqn, and the Assault Engineer Troop from 42 Commando.

Before reinforcements could arrive, Hurricane Luis struck, closing the island down for 72

TEN riflemen from 4th (V) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets had two aims during Green Chimanimani, an adventurous training expedition to Zimbabwe: to tackle the rugged and inhospitable Chimanimani Mountains unsupported and climb the 12 highest peaks within ten days; and, accompanied by professional guides, to raft 16 rapids on the Zambezi.

The team moved into the mountains with each member carrying 80lb. To speed things up the team split into two, with 2iC LCpl Jonathan Whittle heading north and climbing seven peaks, while Capt Terry Sparks travelled south to climb the remaining five.

Progress was extremely difficult in intense heat for the southern party but, by day five, with four mountains down and one to go, the heavens opened and they actually enjoyed the wet and cold conditions before Capt Sparks and Rfn Andrew Galer tackled the final summit.

At the main base camp on day eight, the range warden handed over a note saying that the northern team had also achieved their objectives.

Their journey had not been without its problems, mainly due to malfunctioning fuel cookers, but, like the southern team, they had achieved their objective three days early.

The white water rafting phase was carried out in the gorges below the Victoria Falls during the course of a day.

hours. The troop split into three to clear houses, roofs, trees and powerlines from the roads.

As soon as the new team arrived, they set about repairing the shelters and temporary hospital.

But there were further terrestrial upsets to come, including another hurricane, Marilyn, just six days after the soldiers had cleared up after Luis.

Three days later, after repair work had been completed, and the troops had endured almost daily emissions from the volcano and four large earthquakes, they were withdrawn.

Pilgrimage scheme to run on

Grant-in-aid extended for another three years

A GRANT-IN-AID scheme which helps war widows to visit their husbands' graves and memorials overseas has been extended for another three years.

Under the scheme, the Government provides seven-eighths of the cost of pilgrimages. Widows who have remarried are equally eligible to apply, and the concession is available to all women who lost their husbands overseas between 1914 and 1967.

Men whose wives died on military service are also eligible, although only one widow has applied since 1985.

The War Graves Pilgrimage scheme, organised by the Royal British Legion's Pilgrimage Department in Ashford, Kent will now run until April 1, 1999. More than 3,000

widows have taken advantage of the grants since they were introduced 12 years ago.

This year, the Legion has organised 20 pilgrimages to 12 different countries, ranging from Malta to Ypres and Italy to Burma.

Its pilgrimage team, headed by Piers Storie-Pugh, has been

praised by Prime Minister John Major for its "hard and meticulous work".

Travel-and-learn guided tours for schools have been expanded and will include special tours for Combined and Army Cadet Forces.

"The tours should increase historical awareness, military knowledge and pride in past national achievements and actions," explained Mr Storie-Pugh.

Venues include the trenches

A video, *Pilgrims Progress*, captures the work of the Pilgrimage Department on slides and archive film. Copies are available for a minimum donation of £10. Cheques should be made payable to the Royal British Legion.



Accompanied by her husband Fred, Doris Crisp pays tribute at her brother's grave in a Normandy war cemetery. The couple are regular travellers on Royal British Legion pilgrimages

of Flanders, D-Day beaches in Normandy, and Arnhem.

The RBL also organises group visits on behalf of regimental and Service associations and Legion branches.

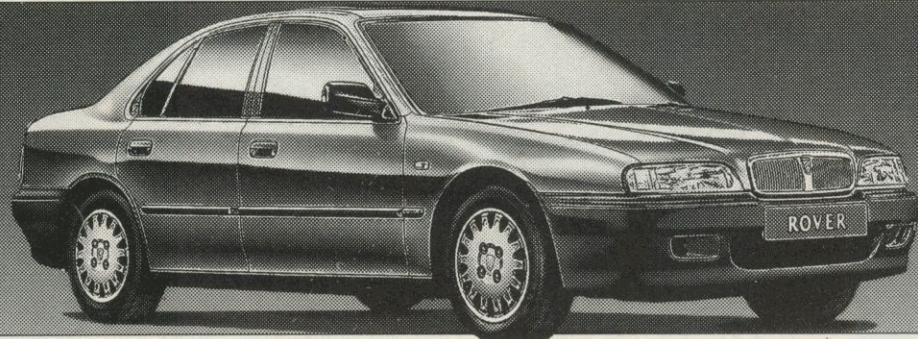
A Friends of Pilgrimage Travel Association has been formed to help pilgrims to keep in touch. For a £5 subscription, members will receive

a newsletter, priority bookings and invitations to annual reunions.

Copies of the 1996 pilgrimage brochure are available from The Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (tel: 01622 716729; fax 01622 715768).

RBL Helpline - see Page 11

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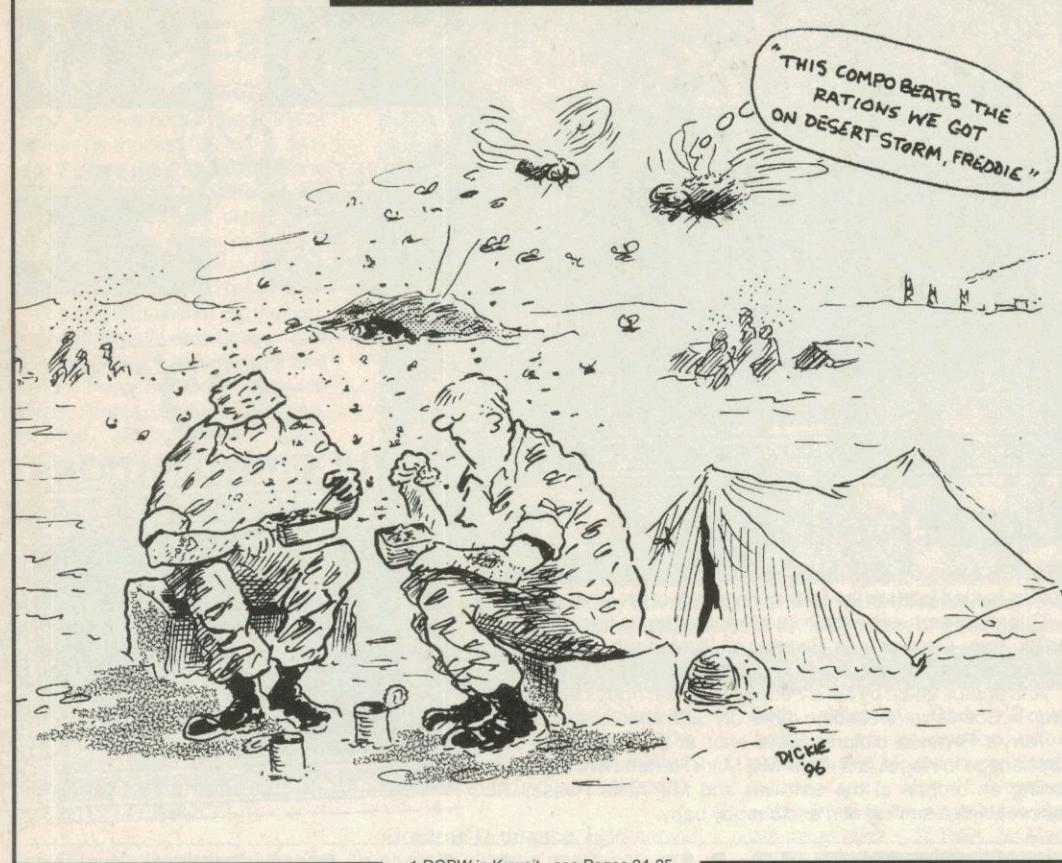
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BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



1 RGBW in Kuwait - see Pages 24-25

Cyprus force also deserved a medal

I HAVE been reading with interest the long-running debate about who should have what medal, in particular in relation to service in the Suez Canal Zone.

I served from 1951-78 and never once heard anyone con-

sidering the Canal Zone worthy of a medal.

In the case of the later ill-fated Suez Confrontation of Anthony Eden, I believe it was correct that the service was recognised.

Equally, the tripartite force

based in Cyprus in 1962-63 should be recognised for separating Greek and Turk, thereby preventing wholesale genocide.

It was galling to know that later units, under the banner of the United Nations, received recognition by the UN *after* the basic work had been done. There must be many more anomalies.

The British system of issuing decorations and medals is not perfect, but it does have the virtue of making them worth having.

I believe the Royal British Legion helped the situation by rejecting at its national conference in Plymouth a motion calling for support for a medal for those who fought in the Suez, and at the same time accepting donations and advertisements from companies promoting the National Service medal, and others, which will never have official recognition. — Ron Bishop, Stroud.

Pikes belonged to Look, Duck and Vanish Brigade

WHEN the Local Defence Volunteers formed in May 1940 it was pretty much a ragtag and bobtail affair and known affectionately as the Look, Duck and Vanish Brigade.

Men turned up at reporting centres with personal shotguns, clubs and spears.

But by July of that year it had been transformed into the Home Guard, its activities and duties were more official, and it held 250,000 rifles and other weapons, including Lewis guns.

Perhaps M F Reid (Letters, Dec 11) and Co can produce evidence of pikes being officially issued or, failing that, a photograph of a warrior waving this weapon at the threatening Wehrmacht.

Incidentally, when I joined the Home Guard in 1940 I lied about my age. I was 16 at the time. It should be remembered that most members were expecting to join the Armed Forces shortly or were veterans who were experienced and physically capable of fighting for King and Country. — H D Pickles, Blackburn.

Time to think of returning our dead

WHAT impact will British and Commonwealth war graves abroad have in the next century when even the most distant relatives have departed this earth?

We should consider closing overseas cemeteries and bringing back to Britain the remains of our fallen, to be interred in a National Heritage garden cemetery.

I know it would be a huge undertaking, but it could be done over a period of 20 years and paid for by the National Lottery.

So many of our soldiers' graves are scattered around the world, known only to local people. They are our heritage and we should not forget them.

— John Clarke, Secretary, The Monte Cassino Veterans Association (The Impossible Victory), Manchester.

Assault engineers

AN article in the November 13 issue made reference to "82 Armoured Assault Squadron" which set off on D-Day. The unit's correct title at the time was 82 Assault Squadron RE, changing later to 82 Armoured Engineer Squadron. A minor point, I know, but probably not to anyone who served in 82. — F McClellan, Warrington.

Scottish RBL plea

HELP! We need our own premises for regular meetings. We've been turned down by the National Lottery and there is no community centre or other facility available. The Riddrie-Carntyne and Glasgow East Branch of the Royal British Legion (Scotland) would be grateful for any suggestions. — J Meighan (Secretary), 20 Corston Street, High Carntyne, Glasgow G33 2EZ (tel 0141 770 0812).

Arty-crafty Cuneo had last laugh

TERENCE CUNEO, the renowned military and ceremonial artist, who died last month aged 88, had an impish sense of humour – particularly when it came to his famous mouse trademark.

Indeed, *Soldier*, which commissioned a D-Day scene from him in 1964, subsequently became a victim of the great man's leg-pulling after the Gulf War in 1991.

The story goes that he adopted the "signature" when his cat deposited a fieldmouse at his feet while he was committing to a huge canvas his impressions of the 1953 Coronation in Westminster Abbey.

Thereafter the mouse appeared in all his paintings but he became irritated when, rather than appreciating the artistic merits, people studied his magnificent works at close quarters just to be the first to spot the tiny creature.

He once put 12 mice in a painting, only to remove all but one at the last moment then derive much amusement as those who had been led to believe there were a dozen searched in vain for the other eleven.

But the Gulf War painting commissioned from him in 1991 to aid the Army Benevolent Fund clearly shows two little rodents scuttling out of the path of a British tank.

When *Soldier*, which reproduced the painting, coaxed the artist for an explanation he acknowledged one but firmly denied the existence of the other. "It's a phantom," he said. "People are always imagining they see mice that aren't there!"

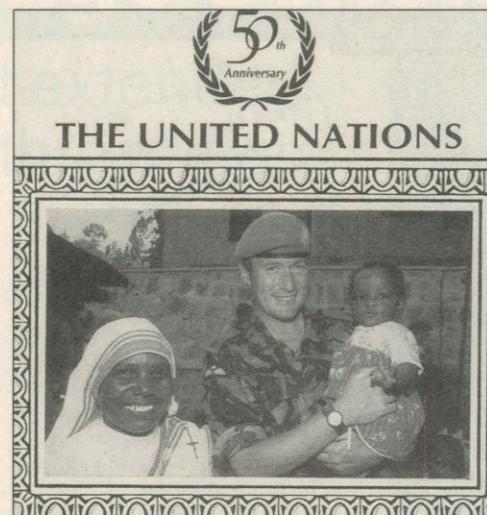
MONTY'S DOUBLE: Sculptress Vivien Mallock is well on the way to completing a bronze of Fd Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein in her Hampshire studio.

Commissioned by the Normandy Veterans Association, it will be unveiled in Colleville-Montgomery on June 6, 52nd anniversary of D-Day. The Normandy

CLOSURES

Due to the closure of 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME on Nov 30 under the drawdown, anyone who has presented an item to the unit and would like it returned should contact Drawdown Project Officer, 50 Hong Kong Workshop REME, Malaya Lines, BFPO 1.

67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn QGE will disband under the drawdown on Dec 31. Anyone who has presented property to the **Jago Arms** (70 Sp Sqn QGE) or the **Sim Simme Bar** (67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn QGE) and would like it returned should contact the SSM, 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn QGE, Malaya Lines, BFPO 1 by May 1.



Cover story

IMAGES taken by *Soldier* photographers have graced first-day covers issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Guernsey and Jersey both chose photographs taken by picture editor Terry Champion in Rwanda to illustrate the humanitarian role of soldiers wearing the blue beret of the United Nations.

And photos taken by Mike Perring of British troops helping children in Bosnia were used on other UN 50th anniversary covers.

Terry's Rwanda pictures were shot at the Sisters of Mercy Orphanage in Kagali and show Maj Mark Hiskett RRF (right) comforting an orphan of the civil war and Maj Mike Russell RLC (above) with a smiling nun and chubby baby.

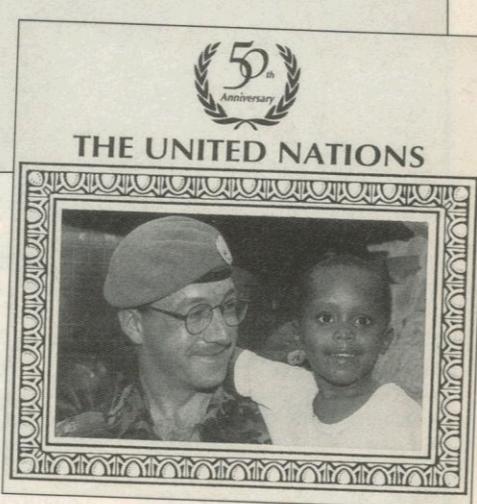


Picture: Cpl Mick Heselden PWRR

Navania's class act

NAVANIA Edema's classmates enjoyed a day out with 30 Army Youth Team at Shorncliffe, Dover... thanks to her prowess as a war correspondent.

A pupil at Grey Coat Hospital School in Sloane Square, London, Navania won first prize in the *Soldier*-National Army Museum junior reporter competition held in conjunction with the magazine's special 50th anniversary exhibition in the museum. Her winning entry



village changed its name from Colleville-sur-Orne in honour of Monty after its liberation by the 3rd (Infantry) Division. Monty landed at Colleville on D+2.

A second cast of the 2m-high statue is to be erected outside the D-Day Museum in Southsea.

Veterans have raised £9,000 towards the £15,000 cost of the Colleville project. Contributions would be welcomed by NVA general secretary Mr Eddie Hannan, 53 Normandy Road, Cleethorpes, South Humberside DN35 9JE.

WEL-DONE: An ethnic minority delegation from Lancashire paid a visit to Welbeck, the Army's sixth form college in Nottingham, and declared the trip an unqualified success. Asif Iqbal of the Blackburn-based Ethnic Minorities Development Association said: "Welbeck College won our hearts. The Army is seriously under-marketed in my opinion, especially in ethnic communities, and yet Welbeck encapsulates so many of the ethical values we hold dear."

IN COMMAND: BT's Own – 81 Squadron, Royal Signals – featured in the last issue, is not the only Territorial Army unit with a corporate bias. We hear that four officers with the Hull-based 150 Transport Regiment RLC (V) hold senior positions in the Thomson Barrett Organisation.

Gulf veteran Maj Godfrey Bloom and Maj Robin Fox, both managing directors, Maj Roy Rodgers, a company secretary, and Capt Kevin Haig, a stress consultant, boast 68 years of military service between them.

GARDENING FACELIFT: The memorial garden on the site of Bordon's old "Tin Tabernacle" – St George's Church – has been spruced up by the SEME Regiment with the support of Lloyds Bank. Dedicated to Canadian Servicemen who lost their lives in two world wars, the garden was created in the Hampshire village in 1985 following the demolition of St George's. A re-dedication service was led by Garrison chaplain the Rev John Hooley.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 2, 1946

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED! WHEN the emergency road bridge across the Rhine at Wesel is opened it will be the only one unaffected by ice or flooding until the Cologne bridge is finished.

But it is only an emergency bridge, and if traffic lights and spacing instructions are ignored, then THE BRIDGE MAY COLLAPSE!

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February, 1971

EASTERN UPS AND DOWNS IN SINGAPORE, it is run-up and run-down. Run-up is the British contribution to the defence of the area after 1971. Run-down is the closing of the great base which grew to cater for vanished imperial commitments.

A long haul from the Far East

LT COL Kestrel Simson QRH chose to drive home at the end of his tour as the last CO in the 141-year history of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

When the RHKR disbanded, Col Simson set off for London in the regiment's last fund-raising effort for the people of Hong Kong.

The TransEurAsian Expedition, involving three Land-Rovers and 11 members of the RHKR and Hong Kong Military Service Corps, drove north to Beijing, followed Marco Polo's route across the world's second highest road pass, crossed the old Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union and headed for Moscow.

They finally arrived in the UK on Le Shuttle never having had to ship the vehicles across water during the 15,000-mile journey.



Lt Col Kestrel Simson (centre) in London with members of the TransEurAsian expedition. They hope to raise £84,600 for good causes

REUNIONS

APTC Association (South West Branch): Reunion on February 2 at Gables Hotel, Falfield, Bristol Road, Glos. Details from Bob Marshall on 01747 860207.

The Queen's Regimental Association: Annual all ranks reunion on March 9 at Victory Services Club, London. Tickets (£8.50) from Secretary, RHQ on 01227 818054 or 818056.

218 OCA RE: 50th and final reunion will take place on March 16 at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London. Details: J Wilkinson, 182 Fulbourne Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4EU (tel 01255 473272).

138th (City of London) Fd Regt RA Association: Reunion on April 29 at Victory Services Club, London. Details from Frank Flack, 22 Camberwell Way, Hounslow, Mddx TW5 0PW (tel 0181 570 5267). Members' news welcomed.

12 Squadron RCT, Gulf War: Anyone who served with the squadron in SHQ, Münster, Bunde or Bicester Troops is asked to con-

tact Simon Cullen who is arranging a reunion on May 25. SAE for details to Kilduff House, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 5BD.

Airborne Ordnance: Fifth annual all ranks airborne reunion on June 14-15 at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. Details from Sgt Kev Lambert, 82 AB GS Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AU (tel Aldershot Mil (722) 4693 or civil 01252 349693).

SEARCHLINE

J Thomson seeks details of the coloured slip-on bands worn around epaulettes on the battle-dress blouse by squadrons of the Royal Signals training regiments in the 1950s, particularly 1 to 4 Trg Regts. Replies to 52 Grove Street, Edinburgh EH3 8AT.

D Mayhew, ex-corporal 67 Gurkha Field Squadron RE (1948-50) in Malaya and Hong Kong would like to hear from others who served in the unit at that time. Replies to 1 Croft Villas, Croft Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AY (tel 01378 116664).

Wendy Atherton seeks war records, medals, details, photographs of her late grandfather, Pte Walter James Major, who served briefly with 6th Airborne and broke both legs while training for the Arnhem operation, trans-

DATES

February

14-16: RM Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall. Ticket office 01705 547205.

25: Battlefields Trust study day on Common Soldier in British Battles, Europe House, London. Bookings: 01203 350763.

28: Dedication service for memorial to those killed in the Gulf War, St Paul's Cathedral. Ticket applications (by Feb 12) to PS12(A), Room 6/76, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL.

March

2: Taking of Pegasus Bridge, a talk by Maj John Howard DSO, Ox and Bucks LI, Airborne Forces Museum (details: 01252 349619).

9: Victorian Military Society fair, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

May

4-6: Aldershot Show, Rushmoor 11-12: Army centenary international military culinary competition and open day, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, 1000.

June

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

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

July

9-20: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

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

ferred to transport, fought on the beaches on D-Day, and was present at the liberation of Belsen. Replies to 3 Mersey Mount, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral L42 3UN.

R J MacCormack, who served with in Malaya with 2 RWF (1954-57) and in Cyprus with 1 RWF (1958-59) seeks large-scale operational maps of the time of southern Malaya (Johore, Seremban, Port Dickson) and northern Cyprus (Nicosia, Kyrenia, Lefka). Replies to No 2, The Smyth Flat, The Masters House, St John's WTB, St John's Street, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 6PB (tel 01543 410249).

Roy Reay, who served with 1st Bn, Durham Light Infantry in Korea, wishes to hear from old comrades. Contact him through his son, Victor Reay, 32 Balmoral Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3HY.

Grandson and daughter of late Dvr Danny Marshall, RAC then 156 Regt and 52nd Trg Regt (joined 5 RTR in June 1943 and served in North Africa, Italy and Germany) want to trace his war record and would like to hear from anyone who knew him. Replies to Mrs Margaret Lowery, 500 Canterbury Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4ED (tel 01438 353385).

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Equipment shortcomings sold SAS short

IT IS not known what the Army's élite thinks about *SAS Gulf Warriors*, a new book detailing their activities in the Gulf War, although a surprising amount of detail about what they did has emerged during recent TV reconstructions of the war.

While much of this account by Steve Crawford would probably be acceptable to them, it's likely they will not be pleased at some of the allegations he makes about the equipping of the eight-man Bravo Two Zero Scud-busting team, made famous by the book of the same name written by team leader Sgt Andy McNab.

Writing about this episode, Crawford claims, among what he describes as "glar-

SAS Gulf Warriors by Steve Crawford. Simon and Schuster, £16.99.

ing anomalies", that the team were unable to get silenced pistols which they felt they needed. There were none in the QM stores, he says. Similarly, he alleges cold-weather clothing was not available to them because they were going into a desert and it "won't be cold there". (Two of the team died of hypothermia during the mission).

He says the team's first issue of escape maps was dated 1928, but that they were later exchanged for updated copies.

He reports that the team had to make up

their own anti-personnel mines from "plastic boxes and nuts and bolts" because none were obtainable and describes this as "an unbelievable state of affairs". As for the SA80 rifle, this, alleges Crawford, is "held in contempt by the men of the regiment, who consider it to be unreliable, prone to stoppages and of poor quality".

While there is much more in this chapter about the alleged shortcomings of equipping McNab's team and the reasons for the subsequent failure of the mission, eight other chapters, supplemented by maps and colour photographs, tell a readable story of the part played by the SAS in the Allied victory. - JM

Witty, gritty and humane

"A SERVING soldier visiting the county during the early 1970s might well have asked: 'Where has everyone gone?' The days of the Regimental District with a headquarters, depot, and a couple of Territorial battalions parading the name of the regiment in the main towns were no more . . .

"This period was the low point of representation of the Prince of Wales's Own in the county from which it draws virtually all its recruits."

This wry comment is from *With The Prince of Wales's Own*, a history of this regiment from the time of amalgamation of the old West and East Yorkshire Regiments in 1958 until the end of 1994.

The author, Maj Gen H M Tillotson, served with the regiment in Aden, Cyprus and Germany, commanding the 1st Battalion between 1969 and 1971. He was Colonel of the Regiment from 1979 to 1986.

The Duchess of Kent, the Colonel-in-Chief, in her foreword, commends the book to those men and women who served with the Prince of Wales's Own: "The author tells a lively tale, which combines close personal experience with critical analysis and wry humour."

Yes, there is humour.

With the Prince of Wales's Own: The Story of a Yorkshire Regiment 1958-1994 by H M Tillotson. Published by Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd. Available from Regimental Museum, 3 Tower Street, York YO1 1SB, hardback, £13.90 (£16.05 inc p&p).

Among others we read of Tommy Wall, the RSM between 1962 and 1965, who "...regarded the Army rather like a pantomime - something to be tackled very professionally but thoroughly enjoyed".

Yorkshire directness is frequently in evidence, for example in the account of the user-trials of "the uniform of the 80s" - an olive green outfit with "chocolate éclair-type epaulettes, and with a raincoat rudely dubbed 'Flasher-mac'.

"... a handful of volunteers - carefully selected by the Regimental Sergeant Major in the light of their recent conduct - were sent out to test the reactions of the citizens of Amesbury and Salisbury . . . Two such volunteers never returned from their mission."

The new uniform was abandoned when, with Yorkshire candour, a PWO soldier told the Adjutant General, no less, that it was "Rubbish, sir, just rubbish".

Appendices include a roll of honour with eight names, honorary and regimental appointments, battalion locations, honours and awards and sporting achievements.

Instead of a chronological

format, which is conventional for a regimental history, the author deals in turn with each theatre of war in which the regiment has served since 1958.

This treatment results in commentaries on British defence policy from the end of the colonial era in South Arabia, through the years of the Cold War in Germany, to the various phases of the Northern Ireland emergency in which the 1st Battalion was the first to be employed on the streets of Ulster.

For the 90s there are chapters on the Gulf War and on Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the 1st Battalion served as part of the United Nations Protection Force in 1993.

Considerable attention is given, naturally, to the regiment's Territorial Army battalion - restored in 1993 - whose ties with Yorkshire go back to 1859; to sporting activities which the author considers one of the more exhilarating aspects of his research; and to the care taken to bring wives and children into the regimental family.

The new uniform was abandoned when, with Yorkshire candour, a PWO soldier told the Adjutant General, no less, that it was "Rubbish, sir, just rubbish".

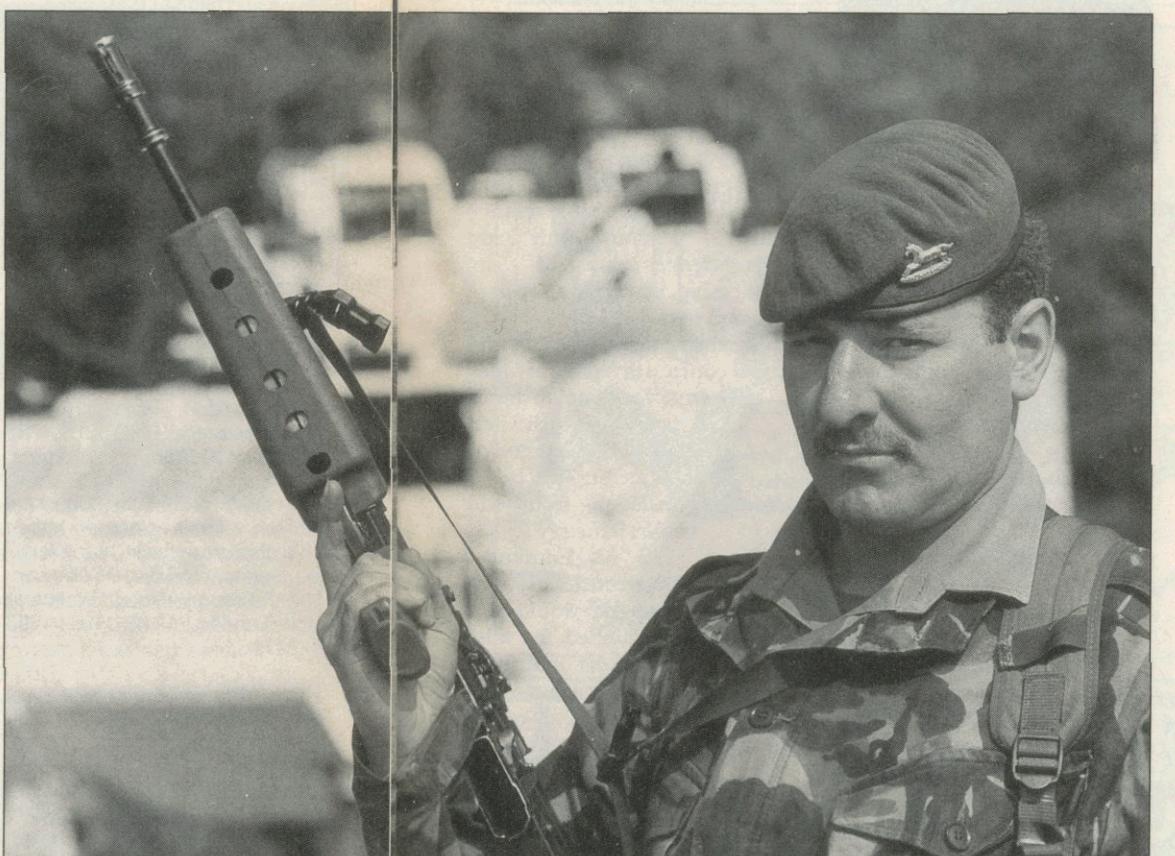
Gritty look from Pte Chris Birmingham of 1 PWO as he stands ready to escort humanitarian aid convoys in Bosnia in 1993

Gen Tillotson's appraisal of the Prince of Wales's Own will be appreciated by all who are serving or have served with the regiment:

"Throughout the period, the character of the Yorkshire soldier has stood undiminished. Although he can be perversely glum on the sunniest day, blunt of speech and scornful of pomp and show, his caustic wit inspires that final effort when the going really gets rough, while his resourcefulness and grit are surpassed only by a gentle humanity." - BJ

Appendices include a roll of honour with eight names, honorary and regimental appointments, battalion locations, honours and awards and sporting achievements.

Instead of a chronological



Facing up to fear in the front line

Fear is the Foe by Stanley Whitehouse and George B Bennett. Robert Hale, hardback, £16.99.

While there is much more in this chapter about the alleged shortcomings of equipping McNab's team and the reasons for the subsequent failure of the mission, eight other chapters, supplemented by maps and colour photographs, tell a readable story of the part played by the SAS in the Allied victory. - JM

His story, written with co-author George B Bennett, is a tale of everyday front-line soldiering where death and injury are constant. And he sees both in sickening abundance.

Gradually the horrors of the battlefield get to him and fear becomes ever-present to the extent where he contemplates deliberately injuring himself, even if it means facing a court martial - anything to extract himself from the terror of the front line.

Whitehouse was still only 17 and among the youngest involved in the landings.

Having falsified his personal papers when he applied to enlist in 1942, being only 16 at the time, by the war's end he was just 21. He had spent three years in northern Europe and for two more years, he would be in Burma and Malaya.

This is the story of an ordinary footslogger's life under fire; of seeing his pals blown up by bombs and mown down by machine-guns; of hidden microphones - "mechanical men" - which betrayed their positions to enemy mortar teams, yielding a rain of bombs.

He tells how several Gordons were killed when a line of Germans with their hands up in surrender came walking towards them. The Jocks lowered their weapons and were unprepared when a second line of Germans appeared and opened up with automatics, killing at least 40.

This is a harrowing but heroic story of British infantry in the thick of the fight for Europe in 1944. - JM

Victory for Royal Tournament

THE year of 50th anniversary celebrations for victory was marked by relevant displays and music at Earl's Court as well as throughout the rest of the country, and Michael Parker, I'm told, pulled out all the stops for this very special Royal Tournament.

Bands from the Royal Air Force under Wing Cdr Rob Wilkinson were joined by others from the Canadian, Indian, Malaysian and Australian Air Forces, and from the US Army, Russian Army and the French Foreign Legion, with the Army Air Corps as house band.

Unfortunately, you won't hear them performing from the Earl's Court arena for they were recorded at RAF Uxbridge and Middle Wallop.

The music, though, will no doubt recall the arena events for those who attended the 1995 Royal Tournament, or will serve as an accompaniment for those who enjoy a fireside singalong.

Every Second World War song I can think of, and several more from earlier days, represent what is probably the very last occasion on which they will appear on disc. For 25 years anyway.

Suitable music is played for the arena spectacles War is Declared, The Blitz, Unbroken Spirit of London, France, Victory, and Victory Parade, and the annual musical drive, dog display, field gun contest, and individual displays by the bands.

Exploding myth of skulking generals

Bloody Red Tabs by Frank Davies and Graham Maddocks. Leo Cooper, £17.95.

SHOULD top brass lead from the front in war or stay back from the action to direct operations? Former RAF apprentice Frank Davies and school teacher Graham Maddocks have no doubts they should be well behind the line where they can apply their knowledge and skills.

In *Bloody Red Tabs*, they set out, somewhat shrilly at first, to rout once and for all the "myth" of the "chateaux generals" of the 1914-18 war.

They have a go at pretty well everyone - politicians, authors and journalists, even TV's *Blackadder* and the film *Oh! What a Lovely War*, describing them as "scurrilous" and "reprehensible". Anyone, in fact, who doubted - or still doubts - the "unbelievable bravery" of the men who led the British Army during the war to end all wars.

They have avoided commenting on the competence or otherwise of the generals, which led to criticism in the first place, but confine themselves to defending the senior officers against the common perception that they were skulking in luxury far from danger "with polished boots, eating caviar and drinking champagne . . ."

Their aim, they say, is to "restore justice to the memory of senior officers who could not fight back after so many years".

According to Davies and Maddocks, at least 232 senior officers died in front-line service, supporting their contention that, despite being ordered not to visit the fronts, many did so on a regular basis to assess situations at first-hand and to demonstrate personal leadership to their men.

Over the years much derision has been levelled at the 1914 brass. Whether the authors can reverse this remains to be seen. But they certainly have a good try. - JM

SO WHO REALLY WROTE THE KOHIMA EPITAPH?

*When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today.*

MUCH has been written over the years about the authorship of the Kohima Epitaph, whose moving words, which also appear on countless other memorials, were quoted to such great effect during last year's VJ ceremonies. There is now enough evidence, writes **George S Mackenzie**, to refute all previous theories and give credit to the true originator

MOST PEOPLE who took part in a recent debate about the origins of the Kohima Epitaph, conducted in the journals of two ex-Service organisations, seem to have been misinformed.

The general belief among those veterans [and indeed of *Soldier*, Aug 7, 1995] was that the words were derived directly from a Greek epigram written some 2,400 years ago.

Describing the selfless bravery of the 300 Spartans who fought to the last man against the Persians of Xerxes at the Pass of Thermopylae in 480

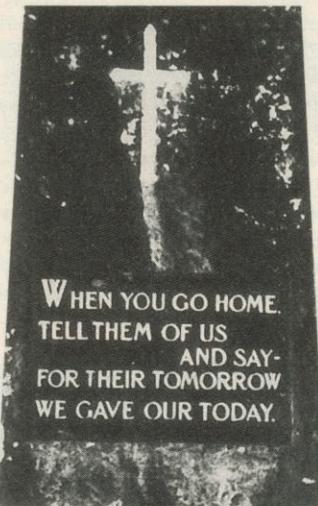
BC, Simonides of Ceos wrote (after translation):

*Go tell the Spartans, you who pass by
That here, obedient to their laws, we lie.*

An alternative version, referring to Lacadaemon, another name for Sparta (capital of Laconia) reads:

*Tell them in Lacedaemon, passer-by,
That here obedient to their word we lie.*

Sir Arthur Hockaday, a former director-general of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, researched the



The original epitaph engraved on the Kohima memorial

matter some years ago.

● **He confirmed** the substantial difference, even before translation, between the Kohima epitaph and the Simonides epigram.

● **He established** that the epitaph, though similar in the circumstances under which it was composed, has no direct connection with the Simonides epigram.

● **He discovered** that the lines engraved on the 2nd Division Memorial at Kohima are clearly attributed to the Cambridge classical scholar J Maxwell Edmonds.

● **He acknowledged** that, given his background, Edmonds would certainly have been acquainted with the epigram, which quite possibly influenced his creative process when composing the Kohima Epitaph.

Another piece of information brought to light is that the initial inscription on the Kohima Memorial ran:

When you go home, tell them of us and say

For their tomorrow we gave our today.

It was later felt that the word "their" should have been "your". An amended plaque was put in place in 1963.

Alas, it now appears that even the amended version is not correct, according to a Cambridge don who lunched

regularly with Edmonds for 30 years. The don's wife, Mrs M Brittain, gave permission for an extract to be reprinted from her husband's book, *It's A Don's Life*, in issue 117 of *Dekho*, journal of the Burma Star Association. I quote:

"During the war of 1914-18 Edmonds contributed a number of striking epitaphs to the columns of *The Times* and *Times Literary Supplement*.

"One of them, for a British graveyard in France, has achieved world-wide fame, being frequently quoted in books, painted in memorial windows throughout the English-speaking world, and carved on innumerable memorials - seldom with any acknowledgement of its authorship, or request for permission to use it.

"Perhaps this neglect of the usual courtesies was sometimes due to its air of timelessness, which led many borrowers to imagine it to be a translation from the *Greek Anthology* . . .

"J M Edmonds, always courteous, used to say he would not have minded the misattributions of authorship, or breaches of his copyright, if only the text had not been commonly misquoted, as it is (for instance) on the Kohima Memorial and even in the Ashenden Press edition of his epitaphs . . ."

The correct version runs:

When you go home, tell them of us, and say

For your tomorrow these gave their today.

While it is unlikely after all these years that the hundreds of memorials and plaques will have their misquoted epitaph amended, it remains to be seen whether the correct version will ever be used in the spoken form at future memorial services.

Personally, I prefer the misquoted version. It has a better ring to it.

*When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.*

(Adapted - J Maxwell Edmonds)



A SOLDIER COMPETITION

TEN BOOKS TO BE WON

In conjunction with PSL Books, **Soldier** has ten copies of Terry Gander's new book, *Britain's Modern Army*, to give away as prizes.

All you have to do is send your answers to the following questions on a postcard to **Soldier** by February 29. The first ten correct entries drawn will be the winners.

1 What is the Army Air Corps' oldest aircraft type?

2 Pick the odd one out: Scimitar, Sultan, Scorpion, Sabre, Spartan, Samaritan, Striker.

3 What cap badge do members of the former Royal Pioneer Corps wear now?

Entries on a postcard, please, to:

Soldier Competition,
Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
to arrive by Thursday, February 29, 1996.

No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.
The names of the winners will be published at a later date



COMPETITION 629

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

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the March 18 issue.

Name : (Give rank or title)

Address :

Competition No 626 (December 11 issue): Congratulations to Sgt Jim Ellis, of Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit, RAF Headley Court, Epsom, Surrey, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr H Gault, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, and John Crombie, of Clarkston, Glasgow.

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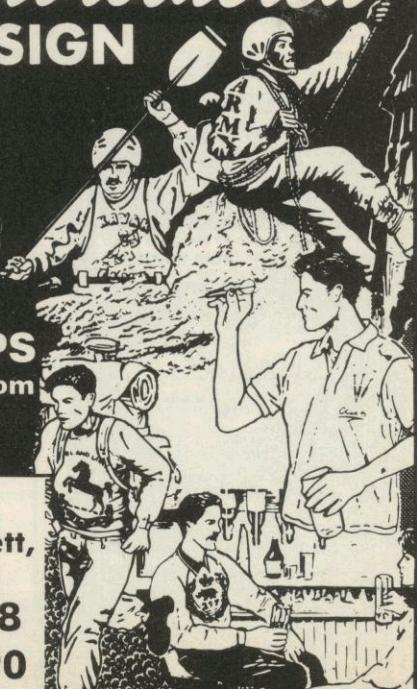
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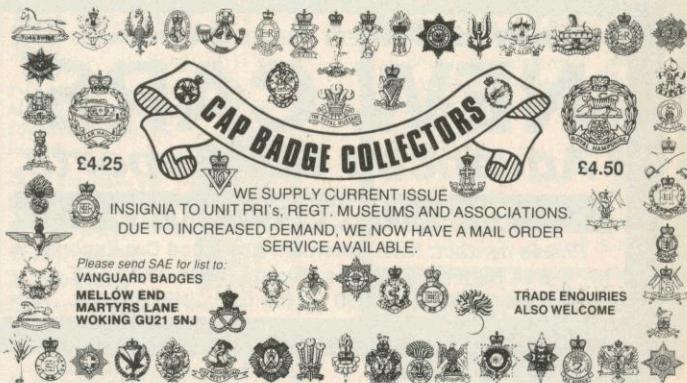
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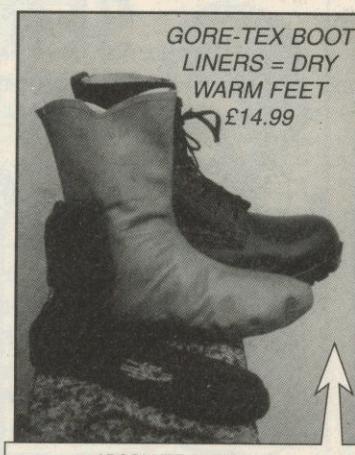
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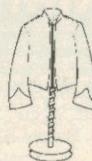
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D7

Notices

The JSSRM formerly HMS Tamar, Hong Kong now Prince of Wales Barracks will close on 27 February 1996. Any individual who made a presentation to the JSSRM must contact:

WO1 (GSM) V Bell, HQBE,
Prince of Wales Barracks,

BFPO 1

Before February 27, 1996

D8

MESS CLOSURES

The WOs' and Sgts' mess, RAF SEK KONG, formerly the British WOs' and Sgts' mess, Borneo Lines, will close during July 1996. Anyone who made a presentation to the mess and would like it returned should contact:

The Mess Secretary, Sgt C J Robins,
RAF SEK KONG, BFPO 1,
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JANUARY 6, 1996

Four-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,250 each): Cpl M A Breach, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Ldr W J Schofield, 3 RHA, Topcliffe; Gnr S Smith, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill; Ssgt A Thubron, 157 Tpt Regt RLC (V), Bridgend.

15-way tie for fifth prize (19 goals, £66.67 each): Sgt B Banks, BATUS, BFPO 14; LCpl S P Birchall, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Sgt P K Brown, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Bawdsey; Cpl J A Cairns, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40; Lt Col A J Creswell, MoD DGWES; Sgt P Davies-Shuck, 37 Cadet Trg Team, Sutton Coldfield; Bdr J J Ferris, 5 Regt RA, Catterick; Cpl B T Gardner, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30; Cpl W Kilby, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; Cpl S A Nash, 1 RRW, BFPO 802; Ssgt C B Oliver, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36; Cpl C R Stanley-Jones, 1 (UK) ADSR, BFPO 15; Lt Col R M Thornley, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, BFPO 15; WO1 H R

Williams, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Preston; Cpl J Wooldridge, QRL, BFPO 36.

JANUARY 13, 1996

Two-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,925 each): WO2 P H Daniels, Rhine Area Sp Unit, BFPO 40; Sgt D W Scott, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Four-way tie for third prize (19 goals, £537.50 each): Pte A J Grant, 1 RGBW, BFPO 53; Capt N P Latham-Boal, 16 Regt RLC, Bicester; LCpl N A Thomas, 1 Coldrm Gds, BFPO 17; Capt M F Thompson, 1 RHF, BFPO 38.

NB: Only 6 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

Please note that with immediate effect, qualifying football matches will also include games played in European competitions (eg Anglo-Italian Cup). Friendly matches will not count.

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D3

Navy's heavy pack dictates U21 outcome

Royal Navy U21 19, Army U21 11
SELECTION problems, now accepted as "normal" when cobbling together a Service team, were exacerbated for the Army's Under 21 rugby match against the Royal Navy by the deployment to Bosnia of Britain's IFOR units, writes **Tom Wye**.

The Army drew blood in the first minute of the game at Portsmouth when Spr Griffiths stroked over a penalty, only for the Navy to reciprocate with two of their own in the next ten minutes.

Blue jerseys dominated the set pieces, particularly the line-outs, and it was against the run of play when Griffiths levelled the scores at 6-6 with a second penalty.

The Navy responded by narrowly missing a drop goal attempt before their third successful penalty gave them a deserved 9-6 lead at half time.

Things did not go well for the Army in the opening minutes of the second half. First Pte Clay and Spr Windle were injured and had to be replaced by Fus Jones and Fus Kemble. The Senior Service exploited the temporary confusion in the red ranks while the two substitutes were feeling their way into the game and opened up a ten-point lead.

But Army spirit came to the fore and the meagre ball pried from the Navy's dominant pack was well used. Spr Green, making his debut, scored the try of the match.

Determined, if at times ill-disciplined, play by the visitors appeared to have won the game when scrumhalf Rfn Taylor weaved his way between the posts in a fine solo effort, only for it to be disallowed when the referee's attention was drawn by the linesman to an earlier infringement.

Minutes later the process was repeated when an Army penalty, awarded within goal-kicking range, was reversed and the Navy booted the ball up the field and out of danger.

But another successful Navy

penalty in the closing minutes sealed their victory.

Although the final score was a fair reflection of the quality of ball won by the big Navy pack, the Army backs spoiled well and even managed to use their own ragged possession effectively.

Imber race forms now available

THE Imber half marathon, which takes runners over the Salisbury Plain Training Area to the time capsule village of Imber, is to be held on March 3. Imber was closed to the public during the Second World War and its buildings have remained as they were in 1939.

Warminster Training Centre and Warminster Running Club are putting on the event and entry forms can be obtained by ringing 01985 218463 or 214656.

It's rough, it's tough... it's cyclo-cross

EVEN in the ultra-hard world of top-class cycling, cyclo-cross riders are regarded as a breed apart for their physical and mental toughness.

World ranked cyclo-cross riders are bracketed with the best cross country skiers as the group having the most developed cardio-vascular capacity of all sportsmen.

Cyclo-cross - basically a cycle race on more or less conventional racing bikes, but held on gruelling cross country courses, combines riding and running, the latter usually with the bike slung over the competitor's shoulder.

A typical hour-long cyclo-cross competition would reduce even the best Tour de France racers to a state of exhaustion.

During the past four years cyclo-cross has grown rapidly in Army circles, and during that period the Service has sent a representative team of six to most major championships in Britain and a few classic competitions in Europe.

Best-known of the Army's

riders is Great Britain representative LCpl Pete Rice (1 IG).

With the 1996-97 season in mind, the Army Cycling Union wants to attract fit and determined men and women to the sport. The ACU would particularly like to hear from cross country skiers and runners, and from cyclists.

To promote the sport, the ACU is holding a cyclo-cross seminar in Aldershot on March 2 to discuss training, equipment, events and team selection. More details are available from secretary LCpl Dave Farrow on Chatham Mil (766) 2411.

The Army Spring Cup ten and 25-mile time trials are due to be held near Poole, Dorset, on March 23-24. Sgt D Parker RE, D & M School, RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JA has the details.

And there will be separate civilian and military competitions during a criterium road race at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, on May 19. LCpl Farrow has the details.



LCpl Pete Rice, 1 IG, the Army's leading cyclo-cross rider

Services edge past Pompey youngsters

TWO tough matches in five days gave Combined Services a gruelling start to their preparations for the 1996 Kentish Cup campaign against the Belgian and Dutch Armed Forces, writes **Derrick Bly**.

They opened with a win over a young Portsmouth Football Club side at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, beating the visitors 3-2 in a close encounter.

Their next test involved a journey to the West Country to take on a semi-professional Football Association XI. Despite several changes in the Services' line-up, they were beaten by only a single goal conceded early in the second half.

Injuries, peace-keeping operations in Bosnia and other duties meant that of the Army contenders for the Combined Services squad, only LBdr

Toots Tootill, Cpl Lee Innes and Cpl Tosh Williams joined the team in the West Country.

The Association side was made up of contract players from Yeovil Town, Gloucester City and Cheltenham Town.

Combined Services are hoping for the return of injured Army players in time for their next match against the ICIS (Isthmian) League at Worthing on February 7.

Novice bobbers on trial at Igls

ARMY coach WO2 Peter Gunn AAC and Great Britain ice coach Horst Hornlein led a 50-strong novice training week for the Army Bobsleigh Association at Igls, the former Winter Olympics venue in Austria.

Several Royal Navy and Royal Air Force athletes also took part.

While not on the track, physical assessments were done in the Olympic Stadium gymnasium in nearby Innsbruck.

By the end of the week, most of those on the course had driven from the top of the track - no mean feat in itself - and expressed a desire to continue with the sport.

The party of 50 represented 13 corps and regiments and made 400 attempts down the track.

Army bobsleigh will be sponsored during the season by Pol Roger Champagne and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace UK.

World triathlon charge ends with a bang

A HIGH-speed crash wrecked Capt James Amy's chances of a top finish at the triathlon world championships in Mexico.

Amy, an Infantry recruit training instructor at ATR Winchester, was a member of the Great Britain team which took part in the championships staged around the holiday resort of Cancun.

More than 5,000 of the world's top triathletes took part in conditions which included high humidity and temperatures hovering around 40 degrees.

In the closing stages of the cycle event he sprinted through a gap which opened among the leaders as his large group of riders closed on a smaller bunch.

But the manoeuvre ended in

disaster when another cyclist chopped across him, causing three riders, including Amy, to fall. Although his cycle was badly damaged in the 30mph crash, he still managed to complete the event and ran strongly to finish 33rd.

"Overall I was very pleased with how I raced. It was disappointing to crash, but I am in my first season in triathlon and I am still learning with every race.

"With the continued support of the Army I can look forward to another successful year and, hopefully, a better placing in the next world championships."

The swimming event on Mexico's Caribbean coast was watched by an estimated 30,000 spectators.



Triathlete Capt James Amy Li

RACE ACE...

EX-PARA Paul Burns (34), who lost his legs in the 1979 Ulster Warren Point massacre, has signed up for the world's toughest yacht race, the BT Global Challenge. He and BLESMA colleague Nigel Smith, ex-RN, have signed up for *Time & Tide*, which will have a crew of disabled volunteers. To secure their berths they need to raise £18,750 each. Paul was with 2 Para when he was crippled in the explosion which killed 18 of his comrades.



Col Ian Jones, secretary of the British Army (Germany) Sport Board, was delighted to hand over the keys of a new Peugeot 405 Estate to offshore sailing and skeleton bob. The car company also provided a minibus for use by both sports

cle was given to the Sport Board as part of the Peugeot sponsorship of Army offshore sailing and skeleton bob. The car company also provided a minibus for use by both sports

Infantry takes Rugby League opener

FOUR corps representative sides are leading the burgeoning enthusiasm for Rugby League in the Army.

The Infantry, RE, REME and Royal Signals have started a merit table programme under which they will play each other home and away.

First game in the series matched the Infantry against the Royal Signals at Aldershot, with the Infantry winning 20-10.

Despite a heavy, muddy pitch, the game was played at a furious pace. The Infantry took advantage of a slow start by their hosts, opening up an early lead through some excellent individual work by full-back Cpl Bob Hinton.

With both defences solid, the Infantry scored a second try but had to be content with a 8-0 lead at the interval. After the



Pt Gus Glasgow (1 Para) heels the ball to Cpl Richard Turner as the Infantry team starts another attack

break the signallers attacked hard under Cpl Brad Braddock and their pressure paid dividends with two tries and a conversion. But the Infantry came back strongly and scored three more tries before the whistle.

Hockey star wins national acclaim



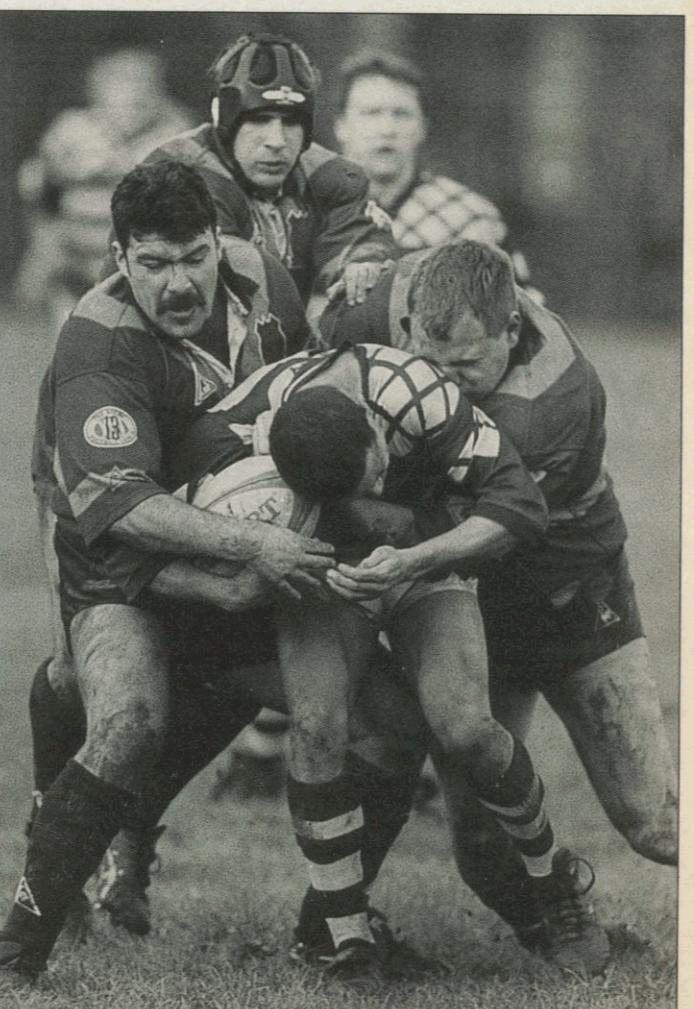
SSGT Ian Jennings (APTC) has been named the *Hockey Digest* 1995 UK Player of the Year following the annual ballot by the Hockey Writers' Club.

Jennings (pictured), currently attached to 5 AB Logistic Battalion at Aldershot, won nine full England caps and played 29 times indoors for his country.

In recent years he has had a tremendous impact on club hockey, particularly with National League side Guildford where he is player-coach.

Last season he finished joint top goal-scorer in the league and led his side to fourth place.

He also led Guildford to success in the Hockey Association Cup final, and with it a place in this season's European Cup Winners' Cup competition in The Hague at Easter.



Gotcha! Royal Signals defenders close in as an Infantry attacker attempts to breach their lines during their Inter-Corps Rugby League merit table clash at Aldershot



Cpl Rob Hinton (1 Para), supported by Cpl Dicko Dickson (2 RRF), evades Sig Steve Fox as the Infantry Rugby League team attacks the Royal Signals in a Rugby League match. SSgt Kevin Tunstall is on the right

Below - SSgt Mark Curry (left) and Sgt Tony Thompson, both of the AAC, take their leave of a turbine Pilatus Porter at 13,000ft over Zephyrhills in Florida. The two men were members of a Northern Ireland Services Freefall Club intensive training exercise which took advantage of Florida's warm climate and blue skies



Warriors of 2 LI exercise their freedom of movement in Bosnia after forcing Serbs to remove a road block. Story in Pages 15-17.

Picture Mike Perring

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