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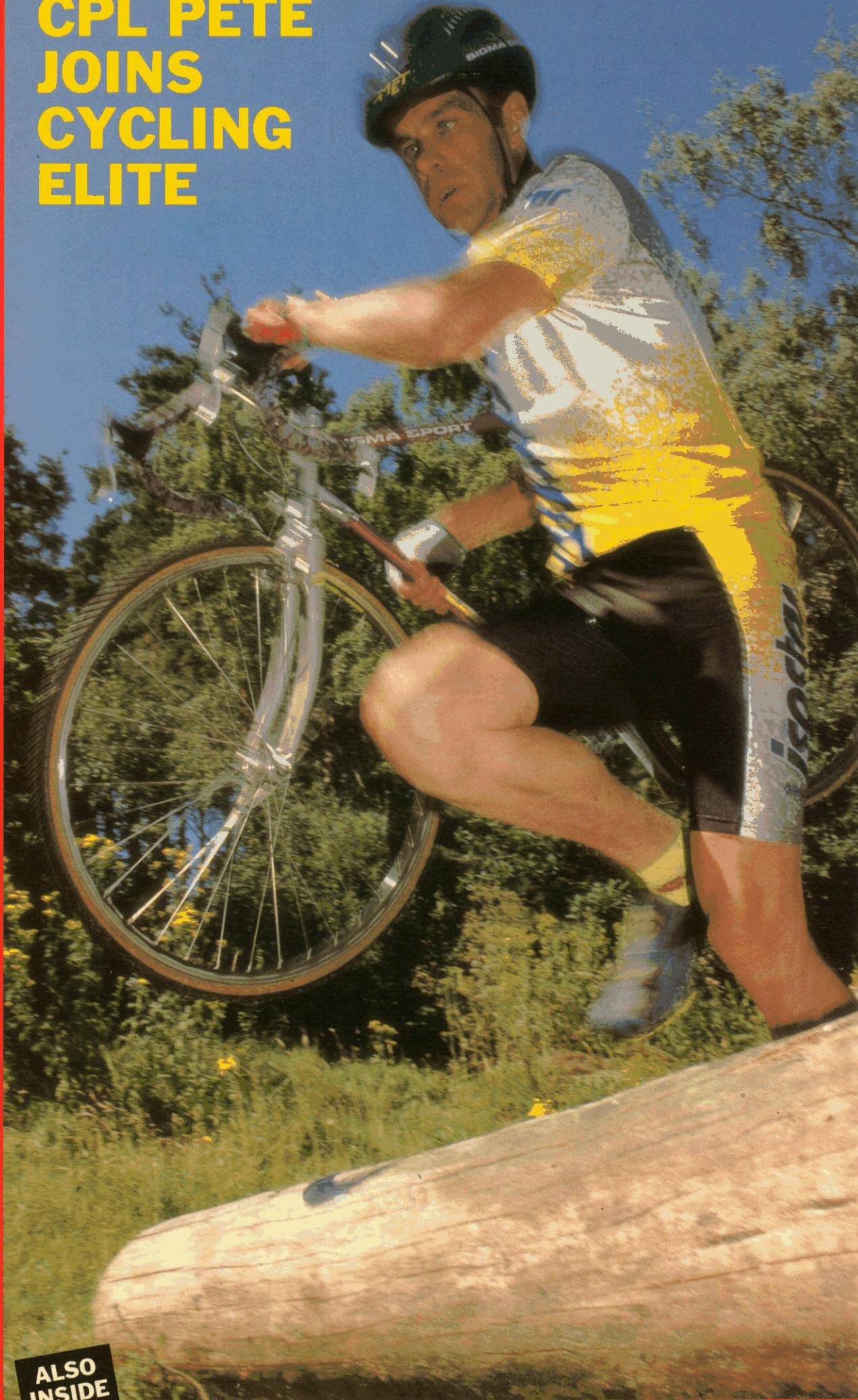
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September 4, 1995
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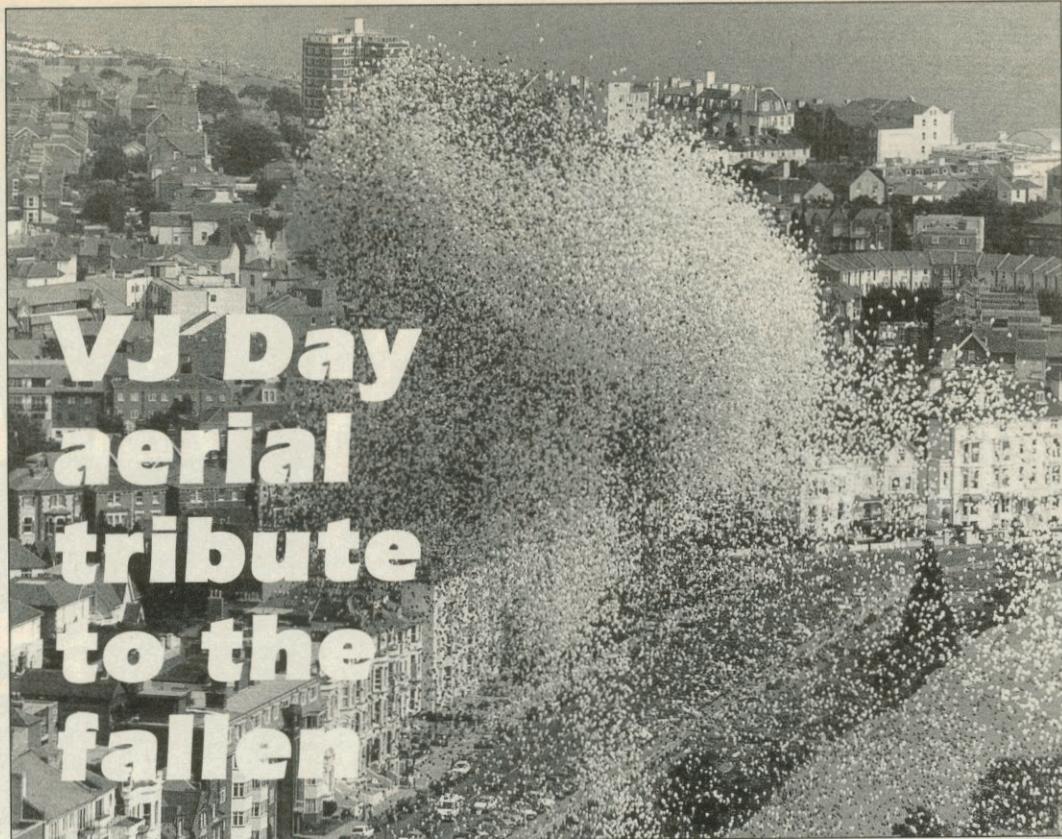
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COVER: Since taking up the sport of cyclo-cross in 1988, Cpl Pete Rice, serving at ASPT Aldershot, has developed into one of the top ten competitors in Britain. Full story in the sport pages. (Picture: Mike Perring)



Picture: Mike Weston

MORE than 270,000 red, white and blue balloons rise above Southsea Common, as the 50th anniversary of VJ Day and the official end of the Second World War was marked in spectacular fashion by the Royal British Legion.

Parachutists LCpl David Alexander from the Red Devils parachute display team and Sgt Les Carroll from the Joint Services Parachute Centre launched the event by jumping from a 667 Sqn Army Air

Corps Lynx helicopter piloted by Lt Col Peter Wood and WO2 Kyle Webster. An emotional service of commemoration for the 468,000 British men, women and children who died during the war was conducted by the Rev Ted Ward, before Capt Ganju Lama VC fired a cannon to launch the balloons. Each one raised £1 for the Royal British Legion.

● Coverage of the nation's major VJ Day celebrations will appear in the next issue.

CDS inspects Sovereign's Parade



Picture: Mike Weston

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Fd Marshal Sir Peter Inge, inspects officer cadets during the 118th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Some 212 cadets passed out from commissioning course 943, with Junior Under Officer Zachary Stenning (now RE) winning the Sword of Honour. The Queen's Medal was awarded to JUO Christopher Bell, who has joined the Scots Guards.

Londonderry tour earns peace prize

THE 1995 Wilkinson Sword of Peace has been awarded to the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment for "its outstanding contribution towards developing community relations in Londonderry" during its recent tour of duty in the city.

The battalion deployed to Northern Ireland under the command of Lt Col Dennis Flynn in August 1992 and adopted an imaginative

approach to enhancing links between the Army and the community.

From their base in Ebrington Barracks, 1 Kings Own Border established credibility with both sides of the sectarian divide and vigorously encouraged cross-community projects.

Since leaving Londonderry in April the battalion has been based at Catterick. It is now under the command of Lt Col Tony Schumacher.

Soldiers are there when you need them...



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

Please be there when they need you

The Army Benevolent Fund provides help to any man or woman and their families if they are serving or have served in the British Army and are in real need. This help is given in two ways: through grants to supplement Corps or Regimental aid and by financial support to over 70 national charities providing for the special needs of those in distress.

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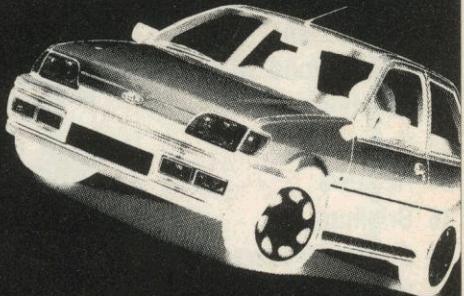
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Princess returns to present Dragoons' Guidon

THE Light Dragoons received a new Guidon from the Princess of Wales during a ceremony at their Bergen-Höhne base in Germany.

The presentation marked the final act of an amalgamation process which began on December 1, 1992 when the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) joined with 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars to form the new armoured reconnaissance regiment.

The Princess, in her role of Colonel-in-Chief, expressed a particular desire to return for this symbolic occasion when she last visited the regiment two years ago.

After the old Guidons had been trooped through the ranks for the last time, the commanding officer, Lt Col Robert Webb-Bowen, called on the parade to form a hollow square. The new Guidon was laid across piled drums to be blessed by the Chaplain General, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin.

After a short service, the Princess of Wales presented the new Guidon.

She told the Dragoons: "Moments ago this Guidon was just a wonderful example of the embroiderer's art. Now it has been transformed into a potent symbol of those principles which our regiment holds dear: duty, loyalty and honour."

Afterwards, the Princess met the Bürgermeister and other



The Princess of Wales enjoys the company of Old Comrades from the Regimental Association. Seated immediately to her left is the CO, Lt Col Robert Webb-Owen

local dignitaries before signing the Golden Book of Stadt Bergen. She then presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to soldiers, and a Queen's Commendation for Bravery to Cpl John Henry.

She also met members of the Regimental Old Comrades' Association and families.

Guidons are the light cavalry equivalent of the Colours carried by infantry regiments. The LD Guidon is a flag of crimson silk with the regimental battle honours emblazoned on it and a regimental emblem embroidered in the centre.

Rush of blood

Soldiers and families from Joint HQ Rheindahlen responded for a second time to an urgent call for blood by the German Red Cross. More than 200 personnel, including the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps' commander, Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, attended the donor session.

Posy for RHF princess

FALLINGBOSTEL-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers hosted the first visit by its Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Margaret, since the battalion was posted to Germany.

Having recently returned from a six-month tour of duty in Bosnia, the regiment chose to put on a display with an Operation Grapple theme.

The Princess met the crew of a Warrior infantry fighting vehicle who had served in the region, and was briefed on the regiment's activities there by commanding officer Lt Col John Edwardes.

Princess Margaret also met 1 RHF families and was presented with a posy by eight-year-old Natalie Hillhouse.

Worthy move by educators

WHAT do Buchanan Castle, Alton Towers, Bodmin and Beaconsfield all have in common?

Answer: they were all once home to the Army School of Education, which has just moved to Worthy Down to become part of the Adjutant General's Corps Training Centre.

The school, commanded by Maj Alex Thomson AGC (ETS), has two wings providing specialist courses for the Army. The Technical Wing organises classes in mathematics and electronics for the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, REME and the Royal

Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

A Sandhurst Development Wing runs two long courses. The Potential Officer Development (POD) course is for soldiers who wish to gain a commission and who are recommended by the pre-Regular Commissioning Board at Westbury. The other, a pre-Sandhurst Academic course, runs parallel to the Rowallan Company course at Sandhurst to improve individuals before they begin the RMAS common commissioning course itself.

Staff at the Army School of Education, which was first established in the 1920s, are now establishing a specialist library and resources centre, as well as a mess for POD students.

Army freight move

THE MoD has invited tenders from civilian road haulage companies to take over distribution of freight across Britain and Continental Europe from the tri-Service Freight Distribution System. The five-year contract would include movement of Army ammunitions and explosives, fuel and weapons.

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Pre-Nijmegen training cuts drop-out rate

SOUND preparation and tough pre-qualifying stages run in the United Kingdom and Germany paid dividends in the 79th Nijmegen international four-day marches in Holland.

A record low overall drop-out rate of two per cent for the 11 UK-based Regular Army teams and six per cent overall for all 47 participating Army teams – caused mainly by blisters – spoke for itself.

Marching in full webbing

and most carrying 10kg dead-weight, the Regular, Reservist and cadet teams maintained the good reputation which the British military have earned at Nijmegen for disciplined and smart marching, with fine, if somewhat irreverent, vocal accompaniment.

Best Army team prize for the event, in which 43,000 marchers from all over the world took part, went to the Glasgow-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (V), with Nijmegen Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards a close second.

Edinburgh Academy CCF carried off the best cadet team prize. It was only the second time it had been wrested from the Air Cadets.

British troops were also part of a 75-strong team from Multinational Division Central (Airmobile). Headquarters United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) mustered a support element from RAF and Germany-based Army units to administer the British military contingent. Medical cover was provided by Osnabrück-based 2 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC.

RRF on fire standby in Merseyside

THREE hundred infantry soldiers from the Chester-based 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers deployed to Territorial Army centres throughout the Merseyside area to man Green Goddess fire engines after local fire crews took industrial action.

More than 15 emergency calls were dealt with on the first of several planned one-day strikes.

The 40-year-old Green Goddesses were last used in 1977.



The 3 RHF(V) team, winners of the Army prize at Nijmegen

Birmingham Gunners go North-East

THE Birmingham Gunners – 39 Regiment Royal Artillery – ended a 35-year unbroken run of service at Paderborn in Germany when they moved back

to Britain and into their new base in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

To mark their departure, the regiment marched through Paderborn, exercising the Freedom granted at the height of the Cold War in 1980.

Twenty-five old comrades from the Midlands branch of the Royal Artillery Association joined hundreds of spectators thronging the town square where the troops were addressed by Burgermeister Wilhelm Luke and the Master Gunner St James' Park, Gen Sir Martin Farndale.

The gunner regiment was presented with a *Fahnenband* pennant of the Federal Republic of Germany by Brig Gen Heinrich Boehr in recognition of services performed by 39 Regiment during the Cold War.

The regiment's departure does not bring to an end the gunners' links with Paderborn because 12 Regiment RA will soon be moving to the town from its current base in Dortmund.



Gunners of 39 Regiment RA march through the centre of Paderborn, Germany with bayonets fixed

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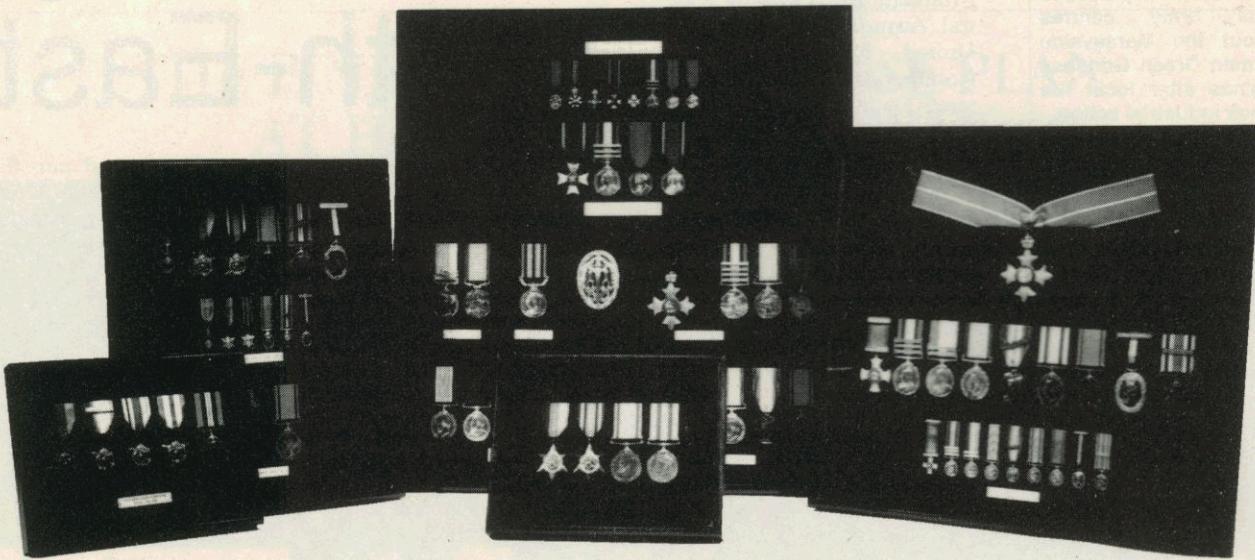
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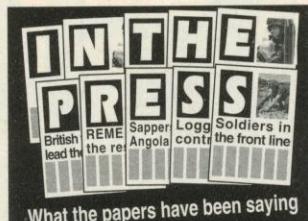
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Insect bites linked to Gulf War syndrome

INSECT bites may have caused some cases of Gulf War syndrome, scientists said. Clones of genetic material were used in America to test for the parasite, *Leishmania tropica*. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Former Light Dragoons corporal Mark Lund, 31, made redundant from the Army in February, shared a £5.1million lottery jackpot with his wife, Rachael. – *Sun*

□ Wounded British soldiers were shot dead by their own officers in Burma to stop them falling into the hands of the Japanese, according



to former Chindit Richard Rhodes-James. – *Sunday Express*

□ Publication of a second book about the Gulf War by former SAS sergeant Andy McNab, author of the best-selling *Bravo Two Zero*,

was suspended following a legal challenge by the MoD to "avoid damage to national security and future operations, and to protect the lives of serving personnel". – *Daily Telegraph*

(Should SAS thrillers escape net? – Page 35)

□ Tpr Mark Campbell, the first black member of the Life Guards, was presented with the Jackson Shield for being best turned-out cavalryman during his 20-week training. – *Daily Express*

□ The German army is to cease training its Panzer tank troops at

Castlemartin, Dyfed, after 1996 because of a 50 per cent reduction in manpower. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ A disused 100-year-old Elim Pentecostalist chapel in Salisbury is to be moved to Pangbourne College in Berkshire to become a memorial for the dead of the Falklands War. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment has been given a nickname. In thinking circles it is now being referred to as "the M4 Rifles". – *Daily Telegraph*.

Staffords company heads for the USA



A hundred soldiers from the Northern Ireland-based A Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, led by 2nd Lt Sandy Roberts, Lt Andrew Dobson and Sgt Wayne Dugmore (front) have joined forces with Canadian and American soldiers training alongside troops from 14 other nations in the United States. More than 4,000

troops, including forces from Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, Albania and Uzbekistan, are taking part in Exercise Co-operative Nugget 95 at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The exercise promotes co-operation and interoperability between NATO and Partnership for Peace nations in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations

Showtime for 4 Bde

IN A high-profile event, 100 senior officers and military attachés from countries including Hungary, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bulgaria, USA, Guyana and Sweden were given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the British Field Army.

Hosted this year by 4 Armoured Brigade, the pur-

pose of the visit to Germany by students from the Royal College of Defence Studies was to demonstrate the quality and professionalism of the British Army and introduce to them its main equipments.

Highlights of the day-long demonstration and display on Osnabrück's Achmer training area were a combined arms

demonstration of an assault obstacle crossing run and a static vehicle display by The King's Royal Hussars.

Also taking part in the assault were 3 Coy, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards; 77 Armoured Squadron from 32 Engineer Regiment; and a Forward Observation Party from 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

The students, on a year-long course at the college, had an opportunity to drive Challenger, Warrior and Scimitar vehicles.

Hot Rock for TA loggies

TA SOLDIERS from 237 Squadron RLC based in the Midlands warmed to their work on Exercise Marble Tor in Gibraltar.

The 100 soldiers from West Bromwich and Stoke on Trent were hard at it from early morning to late evening in temperatures reaching 100F – invaluable in helping them prepare for hot climates as the role of the TA in world-wide operations continues to be developed.

Their programme involved a full range of military skills, including fighting in built-up areas, marksmanship and fitness and using the Rock's tunnels for night fighting. Each day began with a run along a beach.

The unit also took the opportunity to develop individual confidence, teamwork and leadership through a series of water-based adventurous training activities and rock climbing.

Soldiers from 237 Sqn also contributed to local community projects. They built a ramp to allow access by disabled children to a beach and carried out maintenance work on a library and on guns on the Upper Rock.

● CSgt Eddie Asquez, Port Sergeant, received the keys to Gibraltar from the Governor, Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple, after soldiers from The Gibraltar Regiment had trooped their Colour at a Queen's Birthday Parade on the Rock.

BIG BLOW: Sappers from 201 Headquarters Squadron, 75 Engineer Regiment demolished a pier at Anglesey. The soldiers used more than 2½ tons of explosive to blow up the formidable 70-metre structure, which had concrete legs containing steel beams and thick reinforcing bars.

The Sharpe end



Actor **Sean Bean** (right foreground), who plays Capt Sharpe in the television series which follows his exploits in command of the 95th Rifles, took time out from filming to meet present-day counterparts – riflemen from the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

The London-based unit put him and fellow actor **Lydon Davis** (on his right), who plays Rfn Perkins in the series, through their paces on much more modern weapons and equipment.

Top Catts!

Proud recipients of Cadet Forces Medals were Capt (QM) **John Catt** and his wife SSI **Donna Catt**, both of Suffolk Army Cadet Force.

John, who joined the force in 1982 after 22 years' service in the Queen's Regiment, where he was a WO1 (RSM), took up the appointment of Cadet QM in 1990.

Donna followed him into the ACF in 1982, and her catering experience soon proved of benefit to the cadets, both at their centre, on field exercises and as bar steward at annual camp.



Peak of fitness

Meet four members of the 72-strong team which has been taking part in a month-long Army Cadet Force expedition in the Himalayas.

Among them are **Corinna Bates** (crouching, right), who is only the second female Cadet RSM in Britain.

Like all the other participants, she and (left to right) **Rebecca Hewes**, **Paul Simmonds** and **Louisa Hanson** had to undergo a series of gruelling tests and exercises in varying conditions in locations from Devon to the Scottish Highlands before being accepted.



SANDHURST SOUVENIR

Springing a surprise on two of his Sandhurst contemporaries from more than 20 years ago was WO1 "Perry" **Mason**, GSM London District (centre).

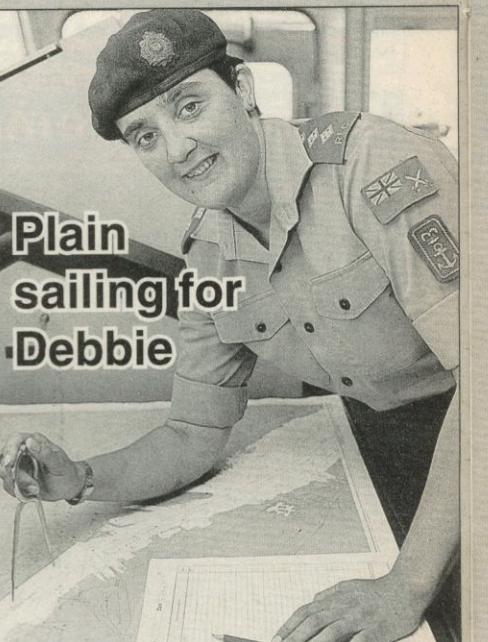
As a party of multi-national staff officers from HQ ARRC, on a reconnaissance exercise to the UK and Normandy, waited in London's Wellington Barracks for the Changing of the Guard ceremony, GSM Mason recognised his old platoon commander from his RMA Sandhurst days, and one of the officer cadets from the same platoon.

He immediately produced photographic evidence of the last time the trio was together - a picture of 5 Platoon, Normandy Company, Standard Military Course Number 5 in 1974. Maj Gen **Mike Willcocks**, Chief of Staff HQ ARRC, is on his right, former Officer Cadet (now Maj) **Jonathan Thorn** to his left.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Pay load...

Regimental Admin Officer, Capt Jim Oliver, AG (SPS) (left) gets a briefing on flight deck routine from US Air Force Capt Mike Shepherd. Jim, whose job includes the role of unit paymaster, was among more than 100 troops from York-based 2 Signal Regiment being flown by C-141B Starlifter heavy aircraft to Split in Croatia. In the operation, codenamed Quick Lift, thousands of British and Dutch troops and their equipment were flown to reinforce the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia.



Staking her claim as the first and only female maritime-trained Army Officer is Capt **Debbie Farleigh**, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, who qualified as an Ocean Watchkeeper earlier this year.

She was pictured just before setting sail for the war zone of former Yugoslavia aboard HMAS *Ardennes*, a Landing Craft Logistic class vessel, which was carrying a cargo of sustainment stores to Ploce, Croatia, in support of British forces deployed in former Yugoslavia.

Picture: Mike Weston



Picture: Mike Weston

Come back soon, Daddy

Saying farewell to his six-month-old son, **Alexander**, before leaving his Colchester Barracks with other members of 24 Airmobile Brigade for Bosnia was Capt **Eze Ugwuzor**, RLC.



Picture: Mike Weston



BRAVE CHAP

Sgt **William Graham** AGC (SPS), who serves at British Forces Headquarters in Germany, receives a well-deserved Queen's Commendation for Bravery from Air Vice Marshal **Rocky Goodall**, OC No 2 Group RAF.

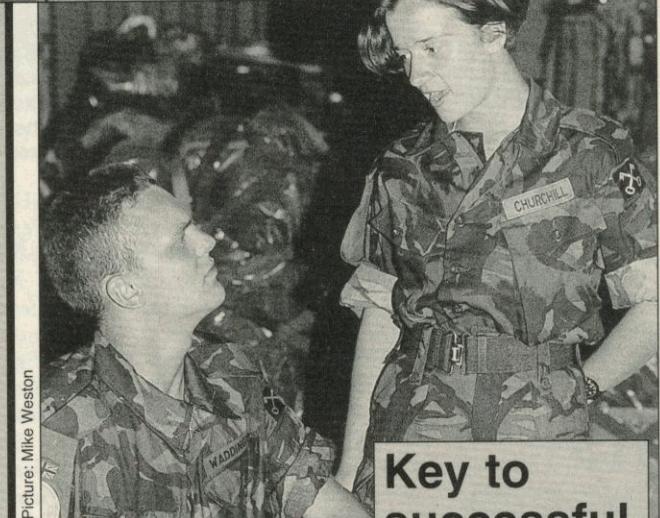
William, along with Cpl Peter Mitchell, RAF, saved the life of a teenage girl by pulling her from the burning wreckage of a car in which four other young people died.

Driving towards the HQ last October, he came on the scene of a serious accident, where a car driven by a young soldier had struck a tree and was burning fiercely.

Despite flames and heat which made the vehicle almost impossible to touch, and thick smoke, he and Cpl Mitchell managed to pull the young female free through the driver's open window.

Both men received burns in the course of the rescue.

The girl has since made a complete recovery.



Picture: Mike Weston

Key to successful lift ...

Signallers **Tony Waddington** and **Claire Churchill** pause for a chat in the massive cargo bay of an American Starlifter aircraft being used to ferry British reinforcements to Croatia during Operation Quick Lift. For Tony, it was his first flight in a military aircraft since joining the Army. He qualified as a stores accountant before being posted to 2 Signal Regiment last year. Both soldiers are wearing the Crossed Keys formation badge of 2nd Division.

PEOPLE

Bound for hot spot

Capt **James Purcell** DWR (second from right) takes delivery of a stock of obsolete fire fighting equipment from West Yorkshire Chief Fire Officer **Jim Manuel**. Watching are LCpl **John Lumb** (left) and Station Officer **Michael Fielding**. The old kit, including jackets, trousers, boots and gloves, was later being sent by 3 DWR to Bosnian firemen in Bugojno, where Capt Purcell served with 1 DWR.



How 24 Bde moved in on Ploce

BRITISH soldiers have doubled the population of Ploce, an Adriatic coastal town in southern Croatia, transforming much of its dockyard with their tented camps, vehicles, equipment and helicopters, writes **Maj Gerry Bartlett**.

The town's 4,000 inhabitants have watched the rapid birth of a military "town", known as Ploce Dockyard Camp (PDC), home to 24 Airmobile Brigade and other units.

Brigade commander Brig Robin Brims said: "Our engineers have done a magnificent job of converting this complex in a relatively short period of time. Conditions are spartan, but will improve as the various

camps take shape and troops acclimatise."

Most of the military personnel in Ploce are members of 24 Bde, predominantly from Colchester, with elements from Wattisham, Ripon and Thorney Island.

The brigade's artillery asset, **• British and Ukrainian troops are to be withdrawn from the UN safe haven of Gorazde this month. In April, Britain told the UN it would not replace 180 Royal Welch Fusiliers based in the town. The UN will defend Gorazde by airpower.**

19 Regiment RA, now part of the Multinational Brigade (MNB) of the UN's Rapid Reaction Force, is dug in on Mount Igman. Larkhill-based

19/5 Battery RA has given up its normal role in support of the AMF(L), and is attached to the airmobile formation.

Additional fire support control and co-ordination, headed by the AMF's Force Artillery commander, has been provided to Brigade Headquarters. Another artillery unit, 21 Battery RA from Thorney Island, has been drafted in to provide air defence.

Only one of the brigade's infantry battalions, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, has deployed, and, alongside 3 Regiment AAC, makes up two balanced combined arms battlegroups.

These could quickly be reinforced if 1 LI and 4 Regt AAC, now on standby, were ordered to deploy. Backing up the brigade is a dedicated Combat Service Support Battalion from Colchester.

First to arrive at the camp was the Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment Group, which had the mammoth task of transforming a working port into a home for the soldiers.

A week later, the first 24 Bde unit – 51 Field Squadron RE – arrived to help prepare the administrative base before the arrival of the main body.

Another fortnight passed before the CSS Battalion disembarked to take over administration of the camp. A priority was to establish a cookhouse which prepares food for nearly 5,000 troops. Postal facilities are being provided by a detachment from 80 Postal and Courier Squadron from South Cerney.

The brigade works hand-in-hand with the RAF Support Helicopter Force (SHF), consisting of Chinook and Puma transport helicopters from RAF Odiham, Benson and Laarbruch.

SHF personnel arrived with 24 Brigade and 1 Squadron RAF Regiment (also from Laarbruch) took on the internal defence and the Ground Defence Operation Centre (GDOC). Within days, the two headquarters, 24 Bde commanded by Brig Brims and the



Displaying United Nations markings, two Lynx helicopters from 3 Regiment Army Air Corps make a last flight over the Suffolk countryside before deploying to the former Yugoslavia. Twenty-seven Lynx and Gazelle helicopters from the Wattisham-based regiment are now stationed in Croatia with 24 Airmobile Brigade

Brothers in arms



Twins Alex and Mark Rowe meet for the first time in three years. Both are serving in the former Yugoslavia, where Alex (left) is a sergeant in the French Foreign Legion. Mark is a sapper corporal serving with 35 Engineer Regiment.

Both men had wanted to become soldiers since childhood, but when they tried to enlist into the British Army, Mark was accepted while Alex was rejected because of an old eye-injury. He joined the For-

ign Legion and has seen active service in Chad, Djibouti and Sarajevo, where, two years ago, he was awarded the Valeur Militaire. Their proud parents, Jennifer and Mike Rowe, from Stroud, Gloucestershire, are both Territorial Army officers serving with the 1st Cadet Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, ACF.

• More than 100 British nationals are serving in the ranks of the French Foreign Legion in Bosnia.

SHF commanded by Gp Capt Peter Crawford, were in operation.

Most of 2 Signal Regiment (from York) and two detachments from 30 Signal Regiment (from Bramcote), deployed to set up the all-important communications systems.

Included in the advance parties arriving in Croatia were one half of 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) providing comms for the SHF and 210 Signal Squadron in support of 24 Airmobile Brigade.

Maintenance of Army helicopters is being provided by 72 Aircraft Workshop and 132 Aviation Support Squadron RLC, both elements detached from their parent unit, 7 Battalion REME at Wattisham.

Advance parties from 45 Field Support Squadron RE from Liebenau, Germany and

Gunners dig in

"WE ARE now well-established on Mount Igman and are relishing the challenge," says Lt Col Dick Applegate, CO 19 Regiment RA.

His 105mm light guns, backed by a company of Warriors from 1 D and D, were deployed on the mountain to protect UN convoys to Sarajevo and to stop attacks on UN personnel in the area.

Col Applegate describes the Anglo-French operation, the first for many years, as exciting.

"The regiment co-ordinates all indirect fire assets in and around Sarajevo, and we have had a number of contacts. The level of violence has dropped dramatically.

"We are receiving superb back-up from our Foreign

Sorted – by the sappers

THE small matter of how to dispose of 24,000 empty drink cans was not the most pressing problem facing British sappers when they arrived at Ploce.

But the need to establish some sort of order and prepare a tented camp for more than 3,000 British troops was, writes **Maj Betty Dawson**.

"We started work immediately," said the OC of 45 Fd Spt Sqn, Maj Mark Cox. "We needed more than 100,000 tons of hardcore, 100,000 square metres of matting, four km of military trackway, 24 operating pads for refuelling helicopters and 12,000 tents."

Helped by soldiers from the Combat Service Support Group, his men had two days to get the cargo stored before the USS *Cape Race* docked.

OC of 51 Fd Sqn, Maj Dickie Davis, said his men initially erected a tented camp for 1,400. By the time their work is completed, there will be three camps at Ploce, each capable of holding 2,000 troops.

Portable buildings house ablution and catering facilities.

• Fus Darren Walley of 1 RWF, who was hit in the upper thigh by a sniper at Gorazde, has been evacuated to a hospital in Britain.

• FOUR British soldiers serving with 24 Airmobile Brigade died when a Lynx helicopter crashed off the Croatian coast on August 20. A fifth soldier was rescued from the sea by the crew of a local fishing boat. The men, all members of 3 Regiment AAC, were on a training flight from Ploce to Split. The dead soldiers were named as Sgt Martin Osborne, Cpl Ian McDonald and Air Tprs Roger Willingdale and Graham Witherstone.

COMMONS DEFENCE COMMITTEE

Army too small to do the job – MPs

MEMBERS of the all-party Defence Committee have expressed their concern at the "inadequacy of the size of the Army for its current tasks".

In a report on the Defence White Paper, the MPs reiterate their worry last year at the "apparent transformation of the 24-month *minimum* target interval between operational tours into an *average* level".

Seven of the 13 infantry battalions deployed on full battalion tours in 1994-95 and two of the five artillery regiments similarly deployed had operational tour intervals of fewer than 24 months, they say. This included several of the units deployed to Bosnia.

The average 1995-96 operational tour interval for the infantry was to have been 24 months, says the report. The deployment of 24 Airmobile Brigade would reduce the average interval for the infantry, since both battalions would have intervals below 24 months. Therefore there could again be seven battalions deploying with an interval of fewer than 24 months.

"That so many of the battalions deployed in the recent past, and those currently deploying, have operational tour intervals of fewer than 24 months is a measure ... of the inadequacy of the size of the Army for its current tasks."

The report says that the December 1993 addback of trained frontline manpower had worked out at nearer 2,200 than the figure of 3,000 given at the time of the announcement.

"Welcome as that is, we therefore hope that some thought will be given to further reductions in cadreisation as a result of the market testing of the RAC Training Regiment task."

Bosnia: Reporting on its visit in March, the committee says: "We returned greatly impressed by the professionalism of all our Forces, by their adaptability to the constantly changing demands put upon them and by the sense of uncertainty as to the future direction of the force."

Equipment: The report tells of "alarmingly low availability rates for modern equipment".

Rules of Engagement: "We look to ministers to ensure that the Rules of Engagement for our forces in Bosnia are as robust as possible, that they are as close as possible to those of our allies, par-

ticularly the other nations participating in the Multinational Brigade, and that, while observing the UN mandate, our forces are not unduly circumscribed by UN constraints."

Training: The report notes that the Army training organisation is due to become an agency on April 1, 1996 under the ultimate control of the Adjutant General, and expresses concern at the dissolution of the Inspectorate General Doctrine and Training.

Shooting skills: The committee is disturbed to note the number of soldiers who did not take the mandatory annual personal weapons test (AWPT) in 1993-94.

"When this is taken into consideration, the overall pass rate is reduced to 84.6 per cent for the infantry and a less than impressive 67.5 per cent for the Army Medical Service."

"In the Tickle Skill at Arms Competition, 14 infantry battalions took part in 1993-94 as against 26 in 1992-93." The AWPT was changed in April 1995. Whereas the previous test could be fired by either the self-loading rifle or the SA80 the new test is aimed at the SA80 and pistol, says the report.

Friend or Foe: "We are disappointed," say the MPs, "that there is still no agreed solution within NATO on Air Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) and that there is no prospect for almost a decade of an effective Battlefield Identification Friend or Foe (BIFF) system, let alone a common approach to the issue."

"It is appalling that NATO forces cannot operate together without a significant risk of fratricide; what this implies for the feasibility of operations involving non-NATO forces is even more disturbing."

Vehicles: "We propose to examine a number of aspects of procurement of support vehicles and similar equipment in the course of the coming session."

Recruiting: "It is a matter of serious concern that the 'smaller but better' forces of the later 1990s may suffer from similar shortages of manpower to those experienced in the 1980s".

Ethnic monitoring: The report called for a "more robust approach" by MoD to the process of ethnic monitoring in the future.

(See also Page 31)

They're best of enemies

WHEN THE men from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment meet their counterparts from 1 RTR on the dusty plains of Canada this year, it is not as allies, but as temporary foes.

Both are involved on exercise at British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), but the soldiers of 2 RTR constitute the opposing force (OPFOR) – trying to make it as difficult as possible for their regimental colleagues.

Based at Fallingbostel, Germany, 2 RTR are no strangers to Suffield.

Nor, indeed, to innovation.

Two years ago, for instance, they were the first battlegroup to deploy to Canada using Challenger 1.

This year, they will be the pioneers among full-time units

in using the new Tactical Engagement Simulator (TES) – the two-way system which uses lasers to indicate "hits" on tanks and humans alike – at BATUS.

And, to add to the tally of "firsts", in 1994 they became the first British regiment to be deployed with the UN in Nicosia since the EOKA uprising.

"The regiment really took to that experience in a big way," said former Lt Col Stephen White, who has just handed over the commanding officer's reins, on promotion, to Lt Col Nigel Aylwin-Foster.

"Working in one of the more sensitive areas, there was a sufficient level of potential to get it wrong, but the boys enjoyed the high profile and took to it

very well – particularly the junior leaders."

Their posting to the island last year, however, which followed a stint at BATUS, had a knock-on effect: on their return, they had to squeeze a season's worth of training into a mere four months.

Par for the course for an organisation which, since its amalgamation with 3 RTR in 1992, has had a "very full programme in Royal Armoured Corps terms compared with

every other armoured regiment".

RAC regiments in general are taking on roles other than their proven armoury role, Col White, formerly of 4 RTR, told *Soldier*.

Earlier this year, he added, one third of the corps was actually on operations – a higher proportion than any other in the Army.

He found setting up and running the OPFOR fascinating.

"I relish the idea of providing a realistic, representative and well-organised enemy force."

"Of course, it will make us unpopular, because we will be in the business of fighting our fellow regiments, but we will try to provide the battlegroups with the most demanding enemy groups. After all, we are only there to help them with their training", he said.

The principles were that the OPFOR clearly had to represent something that was different – totally outside the British experience.

It should also constitute the most demanding enemy a unit could face: of Premier League, rather than Second Division standard, and should provide training appropriate to the different levels of battlegroup.

A sandtable, representing the territory at Suffield, was all part of the training at Fallingbostel, allowing commanders a bird's eye view in miniature of where, for example, vehicles needed to be placed to achieve certain objectives.

In the reality of BATUS itself, some of 2 RTR's tanks have been carefully adapted for use by the OPFOR to replicate T80s – the current Russian main battle tanks – with unfamiliar features which provide a challenge for all concerned.

Scimitar and Scorpion CVRTs have similarly been



Caught on camera were (left to right) F Sqn's Cpl David Kelly, Tpr Joe Pasquale and Tpr "Joke" Kerr



Tankies' trophies: members of 2 RTR's rugby squad at Fallingbostel with the trophies which they had amassed during a very successful year, including the RAC Cup and the Vickers Trophy. They produced the goods despite being constantly either overseas or on the ranges, and trying their families' patience, said coach Capt Bob Gamble (right)

Report: Phil Wilcox
Pictures: Mike Weston

modified to masquerade as Soviet BMP2s.

As part of the TES, laser

simulators were tuned very

precisely to replicate the

characteristics of those vehicles.

"With TES, there is a much

broader range of threats of all

types, simultaneously," said

the former commanding officer.

"By responding to one

threat, the OPFOR make

themselves more vulnerable to

another. With dense blanket

smoke and so on, I can envisage

a situation where the bat-

tle group discovers the

OPFOR's presence and

mounts an attack before the

force has found its tank guns

and artillery weapons."

A post-action review by the

OPFOR representative with

will follow for 2 RTR, the second armoured regiment to receive the new tank.

An ongoing training pro-

gramme for craftsmen to

become Challenger 2 drivers

and gunners, together with

the whole process of all com-

manders being converted on to

the new vehicle, will take the

regiment into late 1997, by which

time 2 RTR should be effective

as a Type 38 regiment.

As for Stephen White, who

has now returned to the UK on

promotion to colonel to take

command of the new

Armoured Fighting Vehicle

Training Unit at RAC Head-

quarters, Bovington, his phi-

losophy is: "I'll be happy if at

the end of the BATUS season,

TES and the regiment have got

a good press".

Two further tranches of 15

Höhne sappers put on the war paint for Canada

SAPPERS from 31 Armoured Engineer Regiment based at Höhne put on the warpaint for an icy task in Canada.

Exercise Warpaint annually involves refurbishment of ranges for the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Alberta.

This year 31 Armoured Engineer Regt was detailed for the job – and it proved a cold start, with their arrival coinciding with temperatures as low as minus 35C.

BATUS staff consider the exercise essential for repairing damage caused by the use of the range facilities during the previous season's Medicine Man battlegroup exercise. Without this work, the following year's training would be seriously curtailed.

In the past, this has involved anything from trench repair and revetting to small construction projects.

This year, an extra work load was put on the sappers for a number of reasons:

- More extensive damage had been inflicted on the training facilities by Warrior than the FV 432 armoured personnel carriers it replaced;

- Some exercises needed to be rewritten after the introduction of Tactical Equipment Simulation (TES) to train troops;

- All trench systems needed to be revetted for safety purposes.

Two of the biggest jobs involved the stripping out and filling of Linklater Peak, a 1.5 km Soviet-style trench system, and the construction of two non-equipment bridges.

To build the latter, which will be partially blown up during every exercise, Support Troop had to excavate huge amounts of earth in order for the bridge abutments to be laid and then back-filled.

WITH a strength of more than 1,300 men and women, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment is the biggest infantry battalion in the British Army.

Before the ceasefire, soldiers had been working 60-70 hours a week, but, as the commanding officer, Lt Col Rob Andrew, says, it would be quite wrong to assume that the members of his battalion are bored in these quieter times.

"I think what shocked everyone was that we have remained so busy. We are now working

Now, the battle for the hearts and minds

an average of 55 hours a week. That's really not much of a decrease."

The Royal Irish Regiment as a whole has had a difficult task in the past few months of relative calm.

A recent community attitudes survey reported that the regiment was perhaps the most unpopular aspect of the Security Forces in Northern Ireland.

The battle to redress this situation is on.

"The ceasefire has given us the chance to erode misconceptions about the regiment, to remind people that we are not a bunch of bigoted Protestants. That is far from the truth of the matter," said Col Andrew.

The need to foster good community relations is vitally important to the battalion. They hold

the unofficial "record" for the most positive PR profile of any regiment in Northern Ireland. Not easy for a regiment that is based in Portadown, one of the main centres of terrorist violence during the Troubles.

It was something of a coup, therefore, to be invited to take part in this year's Lakeland Carnival in Craigavon.

Craigavon is sandwiched

between Portadown and Lurgan, two towns which have borne the brunt of terrorist violence over the years.

The carnival took place between two of the predominantly Nationalist housing estates in the area.

Last year, these estates were being patrolled by the very soldiers who entertained the residents at the annual carnival.

"This was", said Maj Jerry Eaton, "a very significant step forward for the regiment in terms of community relations."

Irish eyes are smiling

"Look! There's the Army," said a woman to her husband as two Royal Marines fast assault boats made their entrance across the lake and disembarked their cargo of soldiers in full battle order.

Wielding guns, their faces were smeared with cam cream as they charged past the spectators. It was a scene that would have inspired tension a few short months ago, but now there were smiles all round from the watching crowd.

The spectacular battle scene staged by F Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment was the highlight of this year's Craigavon Council Lakeland Carnival.

As the carnival organiser, Kieran Cahoon, said: "We had been looking for something to replace last year's star turn - the Gladiators - and this was it!"

British Army and RAF helicopters swooped low over the crowds as soldiers abseiled down at high speed from a helicopter of 5 Regiment Army Air Corps. Other units from around Northern Ireland "donated" their men to parachute down into a smoke-filled drop zone.

Children gasped and a woman was heard to declare that she "wouldn't do that if I were paid a million pounds" when a Royal Irish Greenfinch, 2Lt Jackie Logan, emerged



Above - The Pipes and Drums entertained crowds at the Craigavon Council Lakeland Carnival



The Royal Irish storm ashore from assault boats



Right - CSgt Chris Duff (second right) and fellow abseilers earned the admiration of spectators at the carnival

from a low-flying Wessex helicopter.

It had to be kept to a minimum for security reasons, but it worked.

This was the first time that a regiment had put on a display of this scale anywhere in Northern Ireland. It was still a risk to take and the pre-public-

to be extracted from the showground.

The Mayor of Craigavon, Cllr Meta Crozier, enjoyed the display.

"It was brilliant. Everyone really enjoyed it. It just shows

how the Army have been welcomed back into the community. Things have changed so much, and it's nice to see the Royal Irish Regiment wanting to be part of what is going on in the Borough."



LCpl Stephen Fraser of 8 Platoon keeps watch as an RAF Wessex helicopter comes in to land

Not for real, but it's good training

"IF YOU hear an explosion, it's probably the cookhouse," said a part-time soldier from E Company, 3 R Irish.

Volunteers from A and E Companies were struggling to get to grips with the cooker in the makeshift "hotel" on the first day of Exercise Black Thunder.

They were also struggling with their role as "terrorists" holed up in a safe

house, plotting mayhem for the soldiers of C Company. The OC C Company, Maj Leo Callow, had designed a series of simulated operations to give an edge to the company's internal security drills.

The ceasefire has given 3 R Irish more training opportunities than they have enjoyed before. As Col Andrew puts it, "If the ceasefire does break and

I hope it won't, at least we will be a far better trained unit than ever before."

Exercise Black Thunder, an eight-day training package, was designed to put as much stress on the men as possible. The company was forced to deal with attacks from terrorist gunmen and bombers. They had to interrogate suspects,

● Turn to next page



CO 3 R Irish, Lt Col Rob Andrew

Below - Exercise control: Making decisions are the Ops Officer, Capt Philip Morrison and Flt Lt Donald Frost, 72 Squadron RAF. LCpl Tom Withers looks on



LCpl Blunt Sharp (right) and Ptes Sean McGuiness and Conan Trimble crash out from base on Exercise Red Guard, part of the Black Thunder package



Not for real, but it's good training

● From Page 17

search for weapons, and liaise with the police, ATO and the RAF, as well as incident investigation teams. They even had to contend with media attention in the form of a roving video crew intent on presenting a PR trap.

Having to deal with real life situations in such a heavily simulated exercise was difficult, but as Sgt David O'Neil said: "The guys are using all their training on this one and they're getting fit as well." It was, he felt, certainly real

enough for him. On a hill shrouded in dense mist and rain, 8 Platoon were trying to get snatches of sleep in a forest.

Exercise Rural Revenge was their task. Finding the helicopter pick-up point was the main difficulty. The terrain was difficult and the weather added to their problems, but the platoon insisted they were actually enjoying the challenge.

The OC "enemy", Capt Ronny Graham, was relishing his role organising a mortar



They went that way. Decision time for this 3 R Irish commander

attack on the quick reaction force. "We are having to try to think as the terrorist might think, which, believe it or not, does help our training - in a preventative capacity at least," he said.

Back at exercise control, the ops officer, Capt Phillip Morrison, was co-ordinating the exercise. It may not have been

the real thing, but the men were well aware of how real it all was just a year ago.

"It is something that we had to deal with every day of the week before the ceasefire. Seeing this exercise come together is good news. You put it down on paper and when it all comes together, it's very rewarding."

LCpls Rod Robb, 1 PWRR and Chalky White, 3 Para during training on Milan



Excellence is Warminster's watchword

NESTLING in the Wiltshire countryside on the far western edge of the Salisbury Plain Training Area is the Infantry Training Centre Warminster.

Here, as his career progresses, an infantry soldier undergoes a series of Phase 3 training courses that, dependent on specialism, qualify him as an expert in mortars, anti-tank weapons and signals.

Put in the simplest terms, ITC Warminster delivers high-quality, trained infantrymen to

the Field Army to ensure it can meet its operational commitments.

The centre's commandant, Col Christopher Darnell, told *Soldier* that, under the rationalisation of the Army's training bases, Director of Infantry had sought to establish three centres of excellence - Infantry Training Centres Catterick, Wales and Warminster.

"The reorganisation has

brought a better focus to bear on infantry training. At Warminster, I am tasked with training platoon commanders on their battle course, signallers in the whole range of communications, and infantry mortarmen and anti-tankers.

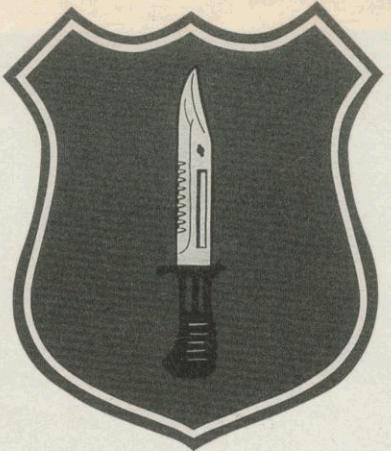
"I also have responsibility for setting the standards and monitoring the output of jungle training for all arms and services which is carried out by

the Training Team Brunei, and administering the British Army's Northern Ireland Training Wing," said Col Darnell.

In Brunei, a jungle warfare school trains officers and NCOs to instruct on the subject. Another course trains infantry reconnaissance platoons and others how to carry out long range patrols in a jungle environment. Tracking is also taught, giving soldiers

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Report: Laurie Manton Pictures: Terry Champion, Mike Perring



Left - LCpls David Simpson, 1 DWR and Adam Oswald, 1 RGBW prepare to fire an 81mm mortar

Below - Live rounds are sent down the range during the platoon commanders battle course by Lts Simon Roberts, 9 R Irish, and James Coates, 3 Para



Capt Jonathan Sear RM briefs Milan students on an intended area of operation

Excellence the watchword

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the ability to follow an enemy through the jungle.

The ITC also runs a platoon commander's battle course which aims to provide the young infantry officer with the knowledge of his Arm and the skill necessary to command and train a rifle platoon for operations in an all arms battle.

Chief instructor of Mortar Division is Maj Andrew Morton, WFR. Until last May, the division was part of Support Weapons Wing at Netheravon which closed under Options for Change.

Students, striving to qualify as mortar officers, section commanders or mortar fire controllers, are taken right from the basics



Col Christopher Darnell, Commandant ITC Warminster

through to firing a part 3 shoot in support of a battle group.

Mortar Division has a mix of officers and SASC, Para and Royal Marines senior NCOs who carry out the bulk of the teaching. Most of the tuition is carried out on the ranges, but a

unit fire control simulator is available in a classroom. It simulates indirect fire to allow budding mortar fire controllers to practise sending orders back to their mortar sections.

"During peacetime training and exercises, it is easy to forget that, in war, mortars are such a useful and flexible weapon."

At Anti-Tank Division, Maj Chris Finch, Para is in charge. His department trains all Milan platoon, section and detachment commanders across the Infantry and Royal Marines.

"It is important for officers



Maj Andrew Morton, Mortar Division



Maj Chris Finch, Anti-tank Division

"Our main business is qualifying these people in all aspects of their operational role," he said. "Not only tactically deploying the weapon system to maximum effect in all operations of war, but also instructing soldiers in their own battalion on their return from the course.

"The end of each course coincides with the Combined Arms Training Centre's Exercise Phantom Bugle, which gives our students, at all three levels, an opportunity to exercise in all aspects of



Flash photography highlights this Milan section boarding a Wessex helicopter during night manoeuvres

battle procedures, tactical deployment and in all phases of war as part of a full combined arms battle group."

A sign on a wall at the centre defines a good battle shot - a fit, trained soldier who, under all conditions of combat, can, with his personal weapon, use ground for movement and fire,

keep his weapon in action, detect the enemy and shoot accurately and fast.

Aptly, ITC Warminster provides a focus for the Army's operational shooting, having the Army Rifle Association as part of its ORBAT, as is the

Headquarters of the Small Arms School Corps, whose range officers number the running of the British Army's rifle championship at Bisley among their particular

fields of expertise.

According to Lt Col Bryan Watters, Cheshire, there are a number of important issues facing ITC Warminster.

"We have to validate and develop our training to meet the ever-changing needs of modern operations," he said. "New tactical doctrine pamphlets being published include tactics of battle groups in all phases of war and jungle operations.

"Training implications for a proposed communications system, Bowman, which is integrated with a global positioning system (GPS); a mid-life enhancement to the Army's 81mm mortar system incorporating GPS and laser-designation; and the introduction of the TRIGAT medium range anti-tank missile system which will be capable of defeating all known main battle tanks, are just some of the key issues facing us in the future."

Israel Experience pays off for Colin

FORCED by injury to lay off triathlon competition for eight months, Capt Colin Coull, OIC Regimental Training Wing, 5 TA Training Regiment RLC in Grantham, was contemplating a long bicycle ride to ease himself back to fitness.

By chance, he read an article about the Israel Experience – a 250-mile sponsored bike ride across that country in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

A flurry of letters ensued to raise the minimum sponsorship of £1,500 and, permission obtained from the regiment's CO, Lt Col Charles Jackson, he was on his way.

From Tel Aviv, Colin travelled to Hagoshirim in the foothills of Mt Hermon in the north of Israel, where the ride began.

Over the next three days, he crossed the Sea of Galilee, cycled along the banks of the River Jordan and to the Dead Sea.

To reach the final destination at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital, Colin and the other participants had to climb 2,000ft over a 15-mile stretch.

After five days in the saddle,



Capt Colin Coull, temporarily bike-less, at the bottom of the Roman Camp at the famous fortress of Massada

he had the satisfaction of knowing that the Heart Foundation was almost £2,380 better off.

* * *

Members of the Royal Military Police took to the road

on bicycles to raise funds for Cpl Philip Main, a colleague injured in a terrorist incident in Newry, Northern Ireland last July – a month before the IRA cease-fire was announced.

Starting from Colchester and ending in Edinburgh, the team from Cpl Main's old unit – 172 Provost Company in Northern Ireland – cycled 700 miles around all ten mainland RMP bases.

"Our bike ride is our own special way of doing something for Philip, who is a very close friend," said SSgt Paul Jones, his platoon commander.

"He is already getting terrific support from the Army, but we want to show him we also care about him and his future. He's a great guy: he's one of us."

Cpl Main, who has been diagnosed a quadriplegic, is currently being nursed back to health in a Glasgow hospital.

His fellow RMPs hope to raise enough money to enable him to buy items such as a business computer, in addition to the wheelchair and special vehicle bought through the Army and SSAFA.

* * *

More than £1,000 was raised for various charities, including the Army Benevolent Fund by the first Princess Mary RAF Hospital charity bed push held at RAF Akrotiri.

Among nine teams helping out were the "Scouser Sailors" of 259 Signals Regiment, who eventually left many of the others standing.

The initial target of £500 sterling was easily surpassed.

* * *

A day spent with the Army Training Regiment, Winchester was a much coveted lot in an auction held by the nearby Compton School Association to help refurbish its playground.

Lucky buyers of the £150 lot were Charlie and Jane Dalglish and Lucy Jefferson, a teacher at the school.

After basic instruction from QMSI Paul Williams, they

Picture: Mike Perrin

Setting out from Aldershot during their sponsored ride for Cpl Philip Main are (from left) Sgt Stuart Reilly and Cpl Calvin

Brewer, Danny Brewer and Rob Clifton. Seeing them off on their journey are RSM Alan Salkeld and SSgt Paul Jones

Picture: Mike Weston



CLIC-king into place: Maj Glyn Edwards, OC 160 Provost Coy, hands over a cheque to Una Yeates of the Hampshire branch of Cancer and Leukaemia In Childhood (CLIC). The money was raised by a team including chef Cpl Andy Hay and, next to him, SSgt Steve Small, AGC (RMP), which entered the 40th international police rally in Liege, Belgium. They finished fifth in their class and raised more than £1,000

spent an hour on the climbing wall before canoeing in the pool and trying their hand at the small arms trainer and SA80 firing.

Grand finale of the day was an assault course challenge, cheered on by pupils from the school.

* * *

Also spending a day with the Army as a result of an auction were Neill (6) and Ross (5) Hutchinson, whose parents outbid 100 other parents from Portadown College to buy their sons a day with the 3rd



Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. They marched with G Company, learned soldiers' basic skills, abseiled, and conducted the battalion's pipes and drums.

The auction raised £250 for the Blue Peter Well Water appeal.

* * *

More than 100 young people from Northern Ireland were given their first taste of nauti-

cal life, thanks to a promise kept by soldiers from 40 Regiment RA.

The gunners had pledged to bring the 59ft ketch *British Steel* to Northern Ireland while they were on a tour of duty in Belfast, but the regi-

Over the past two years, ex-soldiers Reg Shickle and Bert Gregory with their Service and non-Service affiliated groups have collected more than £17,000 for the residents of the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey.

They would welcome invitations to collect at functions. Every penny collected goes to the home, says Bert, who can be contacted on 01784 250960.



Knot a laughing matter? All tied up in the name of charity were soldiers from the Transport and Movement department at York's Imphal Barracks who had run 65 miles dressed as Vikings to raise funds for the Macmillan Nurses Appeal. Left to right are Macmillan Nurse Becky Kelly, Sgt Rick Hunt, WO Mick Jessermino, Cpl Alyson Clark, SSgt Dave Waite and Macmillan fundraiser Allan Dougill



Left – Air-raising: LCpl Cliff Gilfoyle of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, makes the first descent down Broadcasting House, Belfast as part of a day-long abseil from the roof organised by the men from 2 Para's Holywood-based barracks. More than 60 volunteers, most of them abseiling for the first time, raised £3,000 for Action Research

ment was re-deployed back to Germany.

True to their word, however, Maj Robin Bolton of the Royal Artillery Yacht Club sailed to Bangor ahead of the Tall Ships Race so that Belfast and North Down youngsters could take to the high seas.

* * *

A team from 1st Battalion,

day's events, which included plenty of "hands-on" experience with the regiment's equipment, included photographer LCpl Carl Kurstein and Cpl Stan Matthews (front, left), "Fletch" Fletcher (front centre) and, next to him, Pauline Heron

Grenadier Guards have entered the Army marathon in September to raise money for Thomas McDowell, four-year-old son of LCpl McDowell, Scots Guards, and his wife, who are serving at RHQ Scots Guards.

Donations for Thomas, who suffers from the life-threatening metabolic disease called non-ketotic hyperglycinaemia, should be sent to The Thomas McDowell Appeal, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards 1995 Marathon Team, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.



ATR Winchester's Cpl Shaun McGerley, QMSI Paul Williams and Maj David Nichols were on hand to see (front, from left) Charlie and Jane Dalglish and Lucy Jefferson through their assault course paces

Fire support role for rapid-reaction 5 RGJ

VOLUNTEER soldiers from 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets have completed a two-week intensive training package on Sennybridge Training Area in Wales in preparation for their new specialist role with NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps.

Commanded by Lt Col Robert Martin, the battalion is to re-role over the next two years to become one of four new fire support battalions in the TA. As a result, 5 RGJ is to comprise two heavy weapons companies, each with a mortar, Milan and machine-gun platoon.

Each of the three specialist weapons could be used in support of traditional infantry battalions, with platoon-sized groups from 5 RGJ being deployed with infantry companies.

As well as weapon training, the part-time soldiers took part in adventurous training that included abseiling, white-water canoeing and rock climbing.

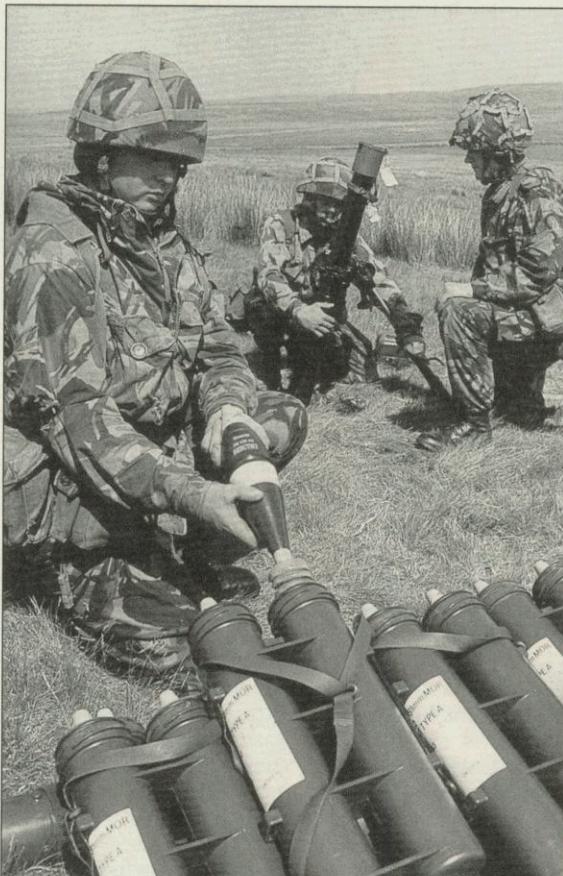
Priority now switches to training the chain of command, with officers and NCOs attending specialist courses to prepare them to lead their new platoons. 5 RGJ aims to become operational in its new role by April 1, 1997.

The battalion, which has elements based in Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Oxford, has been busy in other areas too. So far this year it has exercised the Freedom of Oxford, contributed soldiers for a guard of honour when the Queen officially opened Headquarters Land Command at Wilton, and raised more than £7,000 for local charities.

The Army's recent reorganisation brought good news for the battalion's Waterloo Band which has finally become established. Its programme this year is busier than ever, and its summer schedule, in particular, rarely has a weekend



Above - Milan training at Sennybridge. Rfn Alastair Clark and Sgt Mark Coomber take aim



Left - Rfn Shaun Wright extracts a round as Rfn Andrew Dee and Michael Hilliard site a mortar tube during a live firing exercise at Sennybridge

Below - CSgt Dave Moloney puts Rfn Phil Taylor and Harvey Lyon of Sustained Fire Platoon through their paces



without at least one, and usually two, engagements. The bandsmen completed their summer camp by taking part in the Queen's Birthday

Parade celebrations in Cyprus.

Other globe-trotting members of 5 RGJ have been on exercise in Norway and

Jordan with the regiment's Regular 1st and 2nd Battalions, and more were due to go later this summer to Canada, Morocco and Bosnia.



Trumpets voluntary in full fanfare at Kneller Hall

TUNES

OF GLORY

EVER since Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down, soldiers have been accompanied into war by trumpets, drums, pipes and sundry musical instruments which have steeled them for the fray and dismayed the enemy.

Ancient Celtic war horns put the wind up Caesar but after the Crimean war British bands also thoroughly shocked their own commander in chief by playing the National Anthem at different speeds and in many different keys.

The Duke of Cambridge decreed that a Royal Military School of Music be formed to set standards and since its formation in 1857, Kneller Hall has become the Mecca for wind bands.

Raising Army music to a new

peak has been a painful process over recent years as bands have had to cope both with Options for Change and with producing more acceptable band performances.

Regiments lost their cherished show-pieces, the number of Regular Army bands reduced from 69 to 30 with some of the most famous military bands disappearing for ever, and musicians were cut from 2,000 to little over 1,000.

But gone, too, are the embarrassing days when a small, line regiment band on a windy square with a limited repertoire could

How the Army faced the Options music and came out playing even sweeter

Report: Gordon Skilling
Pictures: Mike Perring

hardly be heard. The Army is now in a better position to produce fully-manned bands with all the instrumental capabilities for first-class performances.

Standards have also been raised. Mediocre musicians kept on to swell numbers and because they were good administrators can be eased out. Remaining members derive much greater satisfaction from playing with

other quality instrumentalists who can tackle anything from Beethoven to Bacharach and Bach again.

With the formation last Sep-

tember of the Corps of Army Music a centralised system controls career paths and standards of musicianship. This regularises music throughout the Army so that there is no difference in the capability or performance of bands.

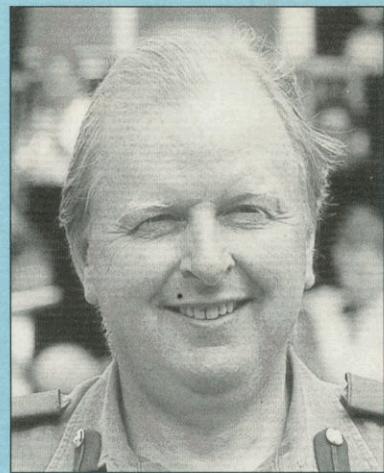
"Before the reorganisation, there was not always a guarantee that audiences would get a band of sufficient size and capability to guarantee always to make brilliant music," said the Commandant, Col Tim Hoggart.

There was also a general perception in the Army that musicians can only play regimental marches, Alford and Sousa-type music and perform on tattoos and dinner nights with repertoires from Gilbert and Sullivan and *The Sound of*

● Turn to next page



Students come from all corners of the globe to study at Kneller Hall



The Commandant, Col Tim Hoggarth



Foundation course director Capt Ian Peaple gets to grips with a serpent wind instrument. With him is Maj (Retd) Roger Swift, museum curator and bandmasters' course director

TUNES OF GLORY

• From Page 25

Music

With their new establishments of 35 or 49, bands can produce anything from chamber music to swing via string ensembles, woodwind symphonic groups and trad jazz.

Inspecting the Band of the Life Guards, Col Hoggarth was delighted to see them put down their instruments and launch into a barbershop routine for their finale.

Visiting the Regular bands and 24 Territorial Army bands is one of the delights of his job, though he admits parts of it are not always so pleasant for musicians.

There are three elements in the inspection: as well as demonstrating their versatility in a concert, bands are rigorously tested in a formal parade ground inspection which covers their turnout as well as how they perform as a band.

They also have to go through the "torture chamber", where the principal director of music for the Army, Lt Col Chris Ross, puts them through their professional musical paces in theory from scales and sight reading to directing traditional hymns.

It is hard work and a high standard is demanded. Musicians are required to achieve the

innovation and the corps now also has control over postings, bringing it into line with the rest of the Army and ending the previous piecemeal approach of students being administered by several organisations with different standards and promotion opportunities.

Musicians are encouraged to progress within their own bands, but if no promotion opportunities are immediately available they may switch to another.

Associated Board of Music's grade eight in their primary instrument and grade five in their secondary. From the next academic year the achievement of bandmasters will be recognised by a degree in performing arts from Kingston University.

Two main courses are provided at Kneller Hall, lasting one year for recruits or those converting to another instrument, or three years to become a bandmaster.

Promotion courses are an



Bandmasters will be commissioned into the corps rather than into individual regiments but both they and directors of music must take pot luck for their future employment, being posted to whichever band has a vacancy at the time, and wearing its uniform.

With music so deeply ingrained into the ethos of the Army, transferring from one band to another presents a unique problem, said Capt Ian Peaple, foundation course director.

"From the moment you first walk into your new unit, you are expected to take on all its traditions and history and effectively forget what you have represented for the previous five years with other regiments," he said.

This can be difficult if you are from Southampton and become director of music for the Black Watch, which happened to Capt Peaple after first having moved from the Royal Regiment of Artillery to the Queen's Regiment.

When he was commissioned he had to learn a different language and know immediately

about spats, hose, sgian dubhs, dirks, feathered bonnets and tam-o'-shanters.

So did Lt Guy Jarvis, of Bournemouth, when he joined the Queen's Own Highlanders from the Life Guards. He knuckled down and soon had the band singing *The March of the Cameron Men* in Gaelic accompanied by the clarsach (Celtic harp).

Teaching how to make a band sparkle is the task of Maj (Retd) Roger Swift, who runs the three-year courses for bandmasters.

The longest course in the Army, it can take four or five exceptional musicians to the rank of WO1 eight years before other Arms and Services.

Their first year is made deliberately hectic to establish that students can cope with the pressure. They must learn not only to compose, transpose, orchestrate and arrange music, but to administer bands as well as grasp the finer points of choral singing and be able to blend in the great Highland warpipes with their pentatonic scales.

Maj Swift, a former director of music of the Coldstream



Above – Kirsty Butler from Tiffin Girls School, Kingston, gets valuable work experience with Ms Keith Williamson

Left – Bandsman Andrew Maycock follows the musical trail of his father, Senior Instructor Maj Ray Maycock

Guards, is also curator of the corps museum. Among its priceless artefacts are Trumpet Major Gray's bugle, which probably sounded at the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, and a poignant music book stained with the blood of a drummer boy who died at Waterloo.

The use of unusual or historic instruments enlivens a series of summer concerts held at Kneller Hall as a training vehicle to give student bandmasters the opportunity to practise preparing concerts and performing in front of large audiences – 5,000 attend the final night.

The programme is always varied but as well as excellent quality wind band music, a special effort is made to provide light relief. During one concert the deep, fruity parp of an early serpent joined a quavering dissonant oompah of an ophicleide, the forerunner of the tuba.

Developing the panache and confidence to carry off such performances can be difficult for students. They must be showmen and have to work hard to project themselves if naturally reticent.

Maj Ray Maycock brings a long tradition of ebullient music-making to his post as senior instructor. His grandfa-

ther played with the first Salvation Army band in 1865 and his son, Andrew, is on his foundation course at Kneller Hall – and has to put up with a certain amount of banter.

While Kneller Hall is known as the pinnacle of wind music achievement, there is a healthy respect for military bands of other nations. The earliest modern bandmasters were German civilians who introduced many national features. American, French and Russian bands are admired for their technical ability.

Each has a special trade mark and none can capture the way others play. British Army poise, dignity and precision are admired, but a slightly envious eye is sometimes cast at the lively presentations of other bands.

"Everybody else seems a lot more relaxed but there is something about a British Army band which nobody else can match for its dress, very dignified movements and sheer pomp," said Capt Peaple.

"Americans do a lot of bebop and go down on their knees. It is great to watch but I don't think it would look right if we tried it in full ceremonial kit with bearskin or busby. We tend to dress up for spots like that."

Being in the London area is a tremendous advantage because the school can draw on the cream of the capital's orchestras for its teachers. They are the top professors of their generation and can impart years of experience in teaching and performing. Col Hoggarth swears he learned more in three piano lessons than in six years of struggle as a schoolboy.

The true professionalism of bandmen shines through on the very odd occasion when they have to commit musical heresy. Sometimes, music has to be cut off abruptly as soon as an inspecting officer reaches the end of the troops being inspected, or to allow commands to be given.

It grates on musicians' ears

when this happens with only a few notes left to play.

"We try never to cut off in the middle of a phrase because it is so unmusical, but sometimes music has to take second place in the interests of co-ordinating people marching," said Maj Maycock.

"If you are marching troops round and round a square, it is more important that they hear the words of command and halt together than that we carry on to the end of the music!"

Perhaps the Duke of Cambridge would approve.

Arthur's exploits behind the lines with the SAS

RETIRED Norwich schoolmaster Arthur Wood has a secret. He once dropped behind enemy lines with the SAS.

Arthur, 74, joined a young soldiers' battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1940. When he was 20, he asked to go to the Grenadier Guards, but was sent instead to the Royal Corps of Signals.

After completing training as a wireless operator, he was posted to F Squadron, 3 GHQ Liaison Regiment.

Known as Phantom, the unit was tasked to roam the battlefield, gathering intelligence and information which was transmitted directly back to senior commanders.

Its soldiers wore a letter P on their uniform sleeve. It always attracted attention and, at first, Phantom troops were told not to reveal its meaning. Many ordinary soldiers believed it indicated the wearer was Polish.

F Squadron was often detached to serve with other parts of the British Army.

"I've worn all the different berets," said Arthur. "First we were posted to the Commandos and did all their training. Then, for a time, to 1 Corps, who were tasked to run up the beaches on D-Day. We became expert in waterproofing vehicles."

After 1 Corps, the squadron faced disbandment but was given instead a special task by the War Office which entailed volunteering for parachute training.

As a result 90 of them were posted to Scotland to join the Special Air Service, which was re-forming after returning from the Western Desert. Parachute training was carried out at Manchester Ringway and the men were formed into Phantom patrols and attached to the 1st SAS Regiment, which was to be dropped into occupied France. Arthur Wood was posted to A Squadron.

A fortnight before D-Day, the soldiers travelled to Fairford aerodrome in Gloucestershire. There, sealed off from the outside world and surrounded by barbed wire patrolled by sentries, they received detailed briefings on their mission.

Arthur flew with the advance party of Operation Houndsorth, first in and tasked with establishing a camp and then signalling England to bring in the rest of the squadron.

"Unfortunately, for nearly a week, we were lost. The weather was so bad – low cloud, gale force winds and pitch black – the aircraft's crew couldn't find the dropping zone. In the end they decided to fly us on dead reckoning for about one minute and then turf us out."

The advance party, which included an SOE agent hitching a lift, was scattered over a wide area. Arthur Wood had pre-arranged with his patrol officer, Lt Moore,



Arthur Wood displays a silk handkerchief that he carried with him in France. Printed upon it is a complete list of codewords used to fox enemy radio interception stations when he sent messages back to Britain

to flash a torch occasionally and they managed to home in on him. Maj Bill Fraser, the squadron commander, and the others dropped on the other side of a hill and went their own way.

"After six days, two of our number went into a village to scrounge food. I stayed behind with the others and we were spotted by an old peasant farmer. One of his sons went away and returned 30 minutes later

with the local Maquis, with whom we should have met up originally.

"They put us in the back of a truck, strapped up its canvas canopy and told us not to look out. We were driven to our original RV and were able to signal back for the remainder of the squadron to be parachuted in."

Arthur was responsible for getting fresh supplies of food, explosives, ammunition and petrol dropped in by parachute. Even jeeps were delivered the same way.

"I would receive a coded message each morning about the re-supply flights. Every night, I would be out on the DZ tapping out a recognition letter to guide the aircraft in."

"Very often the tail gunner would flash V for Victory on his Aldis lamp.

"We were never bothered by Germans, although there was a garrison of them on the other side of the mountain."

The SAS force was in France to cut German supply lines. After Rommel returned from the desert, he took charge of a number of German Panzer divisions based in the south of the country to counter an Allied invasion there.

When Allied troops landed in Normandy, Rommel ordered his tanks to be loaded on to trains to move north to help counter the invasion. The SAS soldiers destroyed railway lines and bridges to stop the German reinforcements.

"Afterwards," said Arthur, "A Squadron turned to other targets, using a light gun and mortars to knock out a synthetic oil factory."

"I used to send targets back to the RAF. The Maquis would arrive and tell of a petrol train standing in a particular station. Once a grid reference was confirmed, I would signal back and then our bombers would fly over and bomb the target."

"One day, I was told that Rommel had taken over a certain chateau as his headquarters. Maj Fraser wanted to lay on a diversionary air raid, while he and two jeep-loads of men went in and captured Rommel. He said that, as the radio operator, I should go with him. There would be a medal in it for me, if I survived."

In the event, Allied commanders vetoed the plan, but the bombing raid went ahead. Rommel was not there at the time.

After the St Nazaire raid in 1942, Hitler



This grainy photograph records a moment in history, when Maj Bill Fraser and his advance party of Operation Houndsorth, together with men of SOE Mission Isaac, prepared to board the aircraft that would drop them behind enemy lines. Names of the party recorded in Arthur's photograph album are (far left to 7th from left): Rfn Ken Ralli, Phantom; Tpr Babington and Furness, 1st SAS; Lt (later Capt) Moore, Pte Jeff Brinton, Cpl Arthur Wood and Tpr George Harris, all Phantom. Maj Fraser (2nd right) stands next to Lt Col James "Hastings" of the SOE (far right). The latter, it is said, had undergone plastic surgery and changed his name to conceal his identity which was known to the Germans. His real name was Hutchinson.

Arthur Wood The SOLDIER interview

had ordered that captured commandos or similar troops should be executed if captured.

"Just to the west of us, more than 20 soldiers deployed on Operation Bullbasket were betrayed to the Germans and captured. The body of one of my friends, a sergeant, was found half-buried. The Germans had tried to burn his body to hide the fact that he had been tortured by them."

"In the early stages of our operation we were short of medics. Our sergeant major, Reg Seekings, was shot in the head. He had won the Distinguished Conduct Medal in the Western Desert with Col David Stirling. I remember him, with a bullet lodged in his head, walking into the camp with the back of his battledress soaked in blood."

"They couldn't operate on him in case it did more damage, so he carried the bullet in his head, right through our mission. He did survive!"

Two SAS soldiers, including Capt Roy Bradford, were killed after driving round a corner and meeting a German convoy. Three others escaped.

Sadly, there was a tragic price to pay for the SAS operations. A large unit of Russian PoWs who had volunteered to serve their

captors had been burning houses and taking Resistance sympathisers hostage.

After a successful SAS mission to free the hostages, which left dozens of Russians dead, half of the village of Montsauche was burned and 13 villagers shot.

Despite this tragedy, Houndsorth proved highly successful. In three months its force of 18 officers and 126 soldiers blew up the main railway line in the area 22 times. It also took 132 prisoners, killed or wounded 220 Germans and reported 30 bombing targets to the RAF.

After a period of leave in the UK, the Special Air Service was re-grouped and sent to Germany. After crossing the Rhine, SAS soldiers carried out the dangerous task of forward reconnaissance until the German surrender. Later Arthur's unit was flown to Norway to round up German forces who had been based there.

When the Special Air Service was disbanded in October 1945, Arthur Wood was posted back to Phantom. In September 1946, he was demobbed, almost precisely six years to the day after he enlisted.

For his gallantry during Operation Houndsorth, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre with silver star and a Mention in Despatches.

Now the treasurer of the local branch of the Normandy Veterans Association, he still retains a number of reminders of his time behind enemy lines with the SAS – a collar stud containing a simple compass to aid escape and evasion; a handful of letters sent by the military authorities to his wife, notifying her that he was on a secret mission and was perfectly well; a Phantom formation badge, his group of medals, a photograph of his wife dropped to him by the RAF during a resupply mission; and, most of all, his memories.

There can be few more memorable



Croix de Guerre winner, Sgt Arthur Wood. This photograph appeared in *Soldier* in June 1946, when full details of the exploits of Phantom were revealed in the magazine

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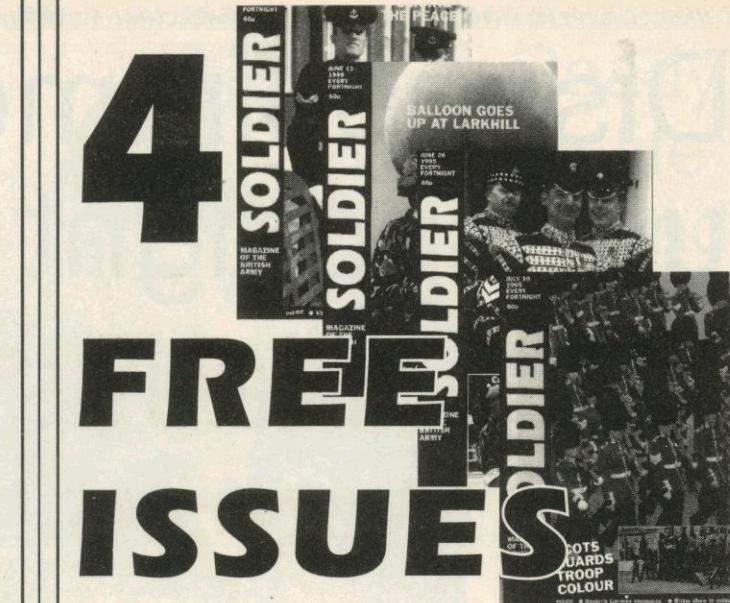
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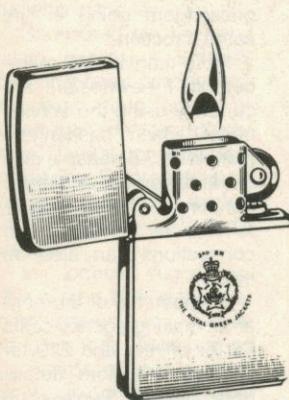
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It depends which Megiddo you mean

YOUR article on Megiddo Lines (July 10) reported that it was named after the oldest battle of all, in 1469 BC.

True, Megiddo I was the very first in 1469 BC and Megiddo II was next in 609 BC – neither of them, of course, British battles but Egyptian, which we are not normally given to celebrating.

Read on: Megiddo III took place in September 1918 in Palestine. The appropriate battle honour was awarded to seven British yeomanry, ten Indian, 15 Australian and nine New Zealand cavalry or mounted rifles regiments as well as the three Indian Engineer regiments and 27 British infantry, 27 Indian, four Gurkha and one South African infantry regiments.

Surely, I submit, the Megiddo last mentioned would be a more appropriate honour to designate the lines for an armoured cavalry establishment. – **John Gaylor (Hon Secretary, The Military Historical Society), Bromley, Kent.**

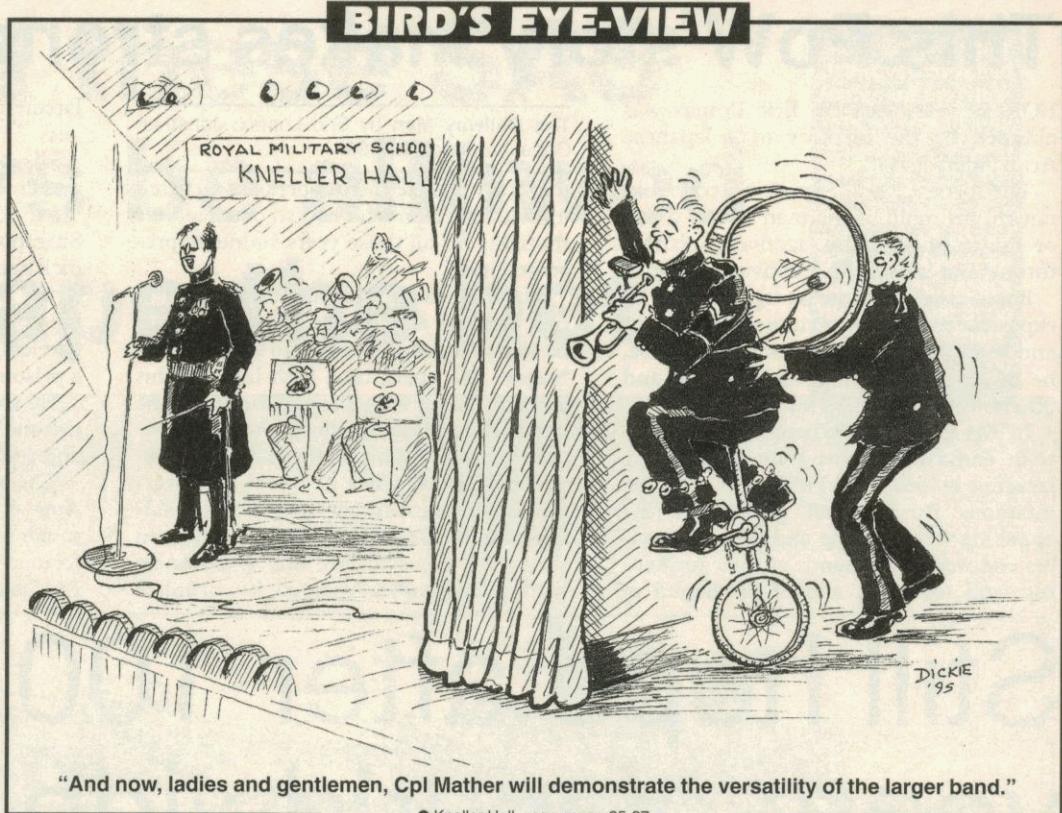
• Quite correct. The reference to the "oldest recorded battle" when referring to Megiddo Lines was one of association only. – **Editor**

Dulwich Colours

ETON College, Cheltenham College and the Duke of York's Royal Military School have so far been named as having their own Colours. I can add to the list.

I attended Dulwich College, where I was a staff sergeant in the Army section of its Combined Cadet Force. Not only did we have our own Colours, but we prided ourselves in our origins as the Dulwich College Volunteer Rifle Corps, making us older than the others mentioned.

What is more, our senior NCOs and officers had their own mess and museum! – **James Scruby, East Molesey, Surrey.**



• Kneller Hall – see pages 25-27

How the 14th Army became the 12th

YOUR VJ commemoration feature brought back many memories, happy and sad.

I must however correct the impression given that the men of the 14th Army "did not finish the job" but were sent back to train for the invasion of Malaysia and Japan.

They certainly did do the

job, and did it well. The West Kents joined the 14th Army and were involved in the fighting in the Arakan when they were suddenly flown to Dimapur in Assam and sent to defend Kohima against the Japanese advance.

They held the siege of Kohima until fresh troops

came up from India to relieve them. Reinforced back to battalion strength, they and the rest of the 14th Army then proceeded to push the Japanese back out of Burma.

Somewhere around Pegu it was decided to let the Japanese know that fresh troops had arrived to take over from the 14th Army.

The men of the 14th were ordered to remove all identifying flashes from their uniforms and equipment – and so the 12th Army was born. It was just a big con and it worked. The West Kents fought on and entered Rangoon.

If your implication is correct and the 14th Army was withdrawn to central India then for the past 50 years I appear to have been living under an illusion. Maybe I was not wounded by a hand grenade thrown by a Japanese at Mocshewa, just outside Rangoon, but by a wad thrown by an angry charwallah somewhere in Bihar!

The 14th did finish the job, and deserve the credit. – **Ted Stevens (ex-4th Bn, Royal West Kent Regt), Kiriemuir, Angus.**

KRH and FR cipher

CONGRATULATIONS on the first notes and pictures of cavalry badges. They are very good and I look forward to the rest of the series.

What is the significance of the cipher "FR" on the King's Royal Hussars badge? Is it to do with the old 14th, once the Duchess of York's Own?

The 20th were rather proudly) Nobody's Own and the 10th and 11th were The Prince of Wales's and Prince Albert's Own, respectively. – **Michael B Potter, Bedford.**

• Douglas Hill, historian for 14/20 (KRH) confirms that "FR", denoting *Frederica Rex*, was the royal cipher of the Prussian Household. – **Editor**

THE caption under the cap badge of my regiment (Back cover, Aug 7) contained inaccuracies.

The regimental motto, *Viret et Aeternum*, is "May their name flourish forever" and 13/18H formed in April 1922, not November. Battle honours shared by the two regiments include Peninsula, Waterloo, Mons and NW Europe 1940. – **Capt GE Locker, HHQ The Light Dragoons.**

• An incorrect motto translation was provided by Home Headquarters and the date of formation was taken from two respected handbooks and guides to British regiments. Blame for the wrong battle honours lies with us. – **Editor**

This PoW story makes strong men cry

FOR 50 years ex-PoW Eric Lomax was haunted by the memory of a Japanese Army interrogator.

The former Royal Signals officer could not rid his mind of the man's face, voice, or the location of his agonising distress throughout his years in captivity.

Recollections of the savage cruelty he experienced stayed with him day and night and he swore that, if the opportunity arose, he would take revenge on this man and others who had ruined his life.

In *The Railway Man* (ironically he was a train enthusiast in his younger days) he recounts his years as a PoW, of work on the infamous Burma-Siam railway, of the appalling treatment he and fellow prisoners endured at the hands of their tormentors and torturers, and of his hatred of

The Railway Man by Eric Lomax. Jonathan Cape, hardback, £15.99.

them. By chance the opportunity to catch up with the man who had so occupied his thoughts for all those years suddenly presented itself.

But what to do? His intent was murderous. Revenge is said to be sweet. But when he visited Japan, came face to face with Mr Nagase and spent time with him and his wife, he "never felt a flash of the anger" he had harboured for all those years.

In fact he read his former captor a letter which said that while he could not forget the inhuman treatment he and others suffered on the Death Railway in 1943, when they were smashed into unconsciousness with pick handles wielded by drunken

Japanese soldiers, he would offer forgiveness.

His offer was accepted with gratitude and emotion by his former enemy.

Mr Lomax had been captured when Singapore fell in 1942. The subsequent pick handle beating left him with a broken wrist, fractured forearms and a smashed hip for being involved in making a tiny wireless receiver and drawing a map while a prisoner at Kanburi.

He was eventually sent to Outram Road prison, Singapore, where disease, brutality and starvation were the norm.

The story, dramatised by BBC TV on August 15, is strong enough to make tough men weep. When he read the book, former Middle East hostage John McCarthy did just that. — JM

Still hope after 100 years of worldwide warfare

IMAGINE the challenge to cover, in just 429 pages, nearly 160 large and small wars that have occurred since the beginning of the century.

Since the end of the Second World War there have been 121 conflicts of various types and 21 of them are still going on.

Charles Messenger, in *The Century of Warfare: Worldwide Conflict from 1900 to the Present Day*, based on a 26-part BBC television series, has responded to the challenge well.

It is appropriate that as we approach a new century – and a new millennium for that matter – there should be an attempt to understand why in the past 100 years war has been such a widespread condition, bringing enormous loss of life and human misery despite so many well-meaning efforts at peace-keeping and peace-making.

The ill-fated League of Nations and the modern United Nations have for three-quarters of a century sought to argue and demonstrate the futility of war.

Many conflicts of the 20th century have their roots deep in ancient grievances. The current war in former Yugoslavia and the troubles in Northern Ireland are but two examples examined by the author.

However, it is the two world wars on which the book is finely focused, with 12 of its 25 chapters dedicated to the two great

conflicts. *The Century of Warfare* also presents an overall view of aggression in all forms, from conventional warfare to guerrilla and terrorist activity.

Messenger describes the causes and execution of wars,

The Century of Warfare: Worldwide Conflict from 1900 to the Present Day by Charles Messenger. HarperCollins, hardback, £20.

as well as the processes of bringing hostilities to an end. He also shows how in many cases the peace-making agencies have actually been the cause of continued conflict.

In an appendix the author describes how filming of war has progressed since Thomas Edison recreated battle scenes between Spain and the United States in 1898.

Cameras also covered the 1900 Boxer Revolt and the Boer War, where British soldiers were costumed to act the part of the Boers. But it was not until the relatively static Western Front that cameramen filmed actual fighting.

Despite official censorship, the reality of battle has become increasingly familiar to those at home, reaching a high point in the Gulf War when the portable dish enabled television journal-

ists to make immediate satellite link-ups with their stations. But, as the author points out, "real time" news has a down side. A lens can cover only a small angle of battle and in a multi-sided war, such as that in Bosnia, it is easy for audiences to gain a false appreciation of the situation.

We have heard complaints that vivid news coverage can harden views to the brutality of war, but Messenger takes the opposite opinion "... the combat cameraman has throughout the century played an important role in reminding humankind of its inhumanity to itself... This may well help to reduce the level of conflict throughout the world."

This note of optimism is balanced by another of caution elsewhere in the book where we are reminded that the world of the mid-1990s is much more uncertain than that of 1900, although in some ways the clock has been turned back to reveal the very same potential causes of war as existed then.

We must hope that when the time comes in the mid-2000s for another author to write the retrospective story of international and internal relationships over the previous 100 years, the book may be a good deal shorter. In Messenger's words, "Humankind may yet find the means of living in peace with itself". — BJ

Rites of passage for boy grocer

AT FIRST glance, some book titles may appear obscure.

Take Raymond Leeming's account of his Army days, *And Maybe A Man*, subtitled *With the Royal Signals Sixth Airborne Division 1943-46*.

A callow 17-year-old grocer's boy in 1941, he lied about his

And Maybe A Man – With the Royal Signals Sixth Airborne Division 1943-46 by Raymond Leeming. Parapress, hardback, £15.95.

age to volunteer for the Army. But he soon had the rough edges knocked off him by the training and emerged a man – hence the title.

He landed in a Horsa glider on D-Day and fought with his division from Normandy to the Seine, but particularly interesting is his description of his unit's "police support" role in Palestine in 1946.

Such were his feelings about the way the British were running things that he destroyed the form on which he should have claimed his war medals.

However, he must have had a change of heart, for there is a photograph showing him festooned with medals, accompanied by his wife and Lt Gen Sir Napier Crookenden, his brigade major in Normandy on June 6, 1944. — JM

Should these SAS thrillers be allowed to escape the net?

CHRIS RYAN'S *The One That Got Away* must rank with the great escape stories of modern military history.

He certainly has a gripping tale to tell of his escape and evasion inside Iraq during the Gulf War while operating with 22 SAS.

Sub-title on the cover of this best-selling book is "The true hero of the *Bravo Two Zero* mission tells his own story."

It would spoil the story to give details of his exploits. Suffice it to say he was one of an eight-man patrol inserted behind enemy lines by helicopter to locate Scud missiles.

The patrol was immediately discovered by Iraqi troops on landing and after a fire fight tried to evade and escape on foot. In the process the party inadvertently split into groups of three and five. Ryan was with the smaller, which gradually reduced to just himself – hence the title of the book.

The story of his 200-mile walk over ten days, surviving on two packets of biscuits and very little water through freezing cold weather during which he lost 36lb in weight, is a classic which should be read in full and not abbreviated here.

He tells the story in his vernacular and fortunately gives a glossary of Army terms such as "Rupert = officer", but some readers may also need a dictionary of modern slang to interpret some phrases containing four-letter words.

He is also very frank about his own mistakes and failings. "If anyone says he's not frightened in a fire fight I don't believe him. I was shit scared and so was everyone else," he writes, which is refreshing but also a little melodramatic, as is his description of his killing an Iraqi with his bare hands – "There was a muffled crack and he died instantaneously" – which is a pity.

His criticism of the operational and administrative planning by 22 SAS is, however, another matter. He claims he



and his comrades were unable to communicate with their base because they had been given the wrong radio frequencies and dismissed this "simply as a mistake, probably due to the speed

The One That Got Away by Chris Ryan. Century London, hardback, £14.99.

at which we had to prepare".

But as the whole mission depended on communication there would appear to have been something seriously wrong in the operational planning.

Ryan also criticises certain

administrative inadequacies such as lack of warm clothing, and intelligence inaccuracies about the terrain and weather.

What is even more worrying is that Ryan gives details of SAS operational procedures and gives the impression that some of his fellow patrol members were no more than ill-trained recruits.

It is surprising that the text was authorised by the MoD and the SAS. Indeed, of great concern also is the spate of books by ex-SAS soldiers, including Andy McNab's *Bravo Two Zero*, which is based on the exploits of

the other party of five from the same patrol.

Is the mystique of the SAS being destroyed and should there be a clampdown on the activities of what was previously the "silent service"?

Whatever the merits of these books, however, Ryan, who was awarded the Military Medal, thoroughly deserves the accolade from Fd Marshal Lord Bramall: "Your personal bravery, sound judgment and quite outstanding resolve were an example to all SAS soldiers... your escape is a classic of its kind". — PSN

Adding shine to regimental pride

OFFICIAL records and personal memories of all ranks covering just eight years have been combined to produce a substantial tribute to a regiment which finally passed into history three years ago.

Robin Medley's *Cap Badge* tells the story of four battalions of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and the Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) between 1939 and 1947.

The accounts of the battalions at war will excite all who

Cap Badge by Robin Medley. Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

like a good read about the war years – especially former foot-sloggers of rival regiments who are bound to draw comparisons. They will also interest many others.

However, while paying tribute to "other infantry cap badges in the British Army" by acknowledging that similar stories can be told of them, the author, a former major in the

regiment, declares with full regimental fervour that the men of his regiment are "men who experienced war at the sharp end".

One important quibble: the only images in this book of the cap badges of these famous infantry regiments, which were operational for more than 300 years, are black outlines printed on the yellow dust cover. Their inscriptions are difficult to discern without a magnifying glass.

SOLDIER to Soldier

Old Irish Guards are singing . . .

THERE is neither a Barbirolli nor a Pavarotti among its ranks, but what you will hear is 90 minutes of music sung by an "Old Soldiers' Chorus", warts an' all.

That's how John Hyland, secretary of the Irish Guards Association Singers, describes their first recording, made to commemorate the VE and VJ anniversaries.

Produced and financed by themselves and recorded over a six-month period at their home base – a church in Liverpool – the association's cassettes contain a full 90 minutes of songs and hymns.

"The renditions are maybe lacking in finesse, but never on enthusiasm, fervour and passion," says Mr Hyland.

Further details on the cassettes, priced at £3.99 plus 50p postage for one cassette and an additional 25p per extra tape, are available from him on 0151-423 3004.

Staffs vets find it's so good to talk

WHEN veterans from the 59th Staffordshire Division and residents of the village of Epron, France, wanted something typically British as a permanent reminder of the links of friendship forged since the days of the Second World War, they hit on something quite novel.

A traditional K6 British red telephone kiosk, to be placed outside Epron's *mairie* (town hall) was suggested.

The hefty cost of purchasing such an object was solved by some nifty teamwork by British Telecom – who provided not one, but two kiosks (the other to be presented to the Military Museum in Bayeux in recognition of all the Servicemen and civilians who took part in the liberation of France), as well as transportation on one of their vehicles.

And any worries the Staffordshire veterans might have had about shipping the historic items to France were resolved by Stena Sealink, who donated a free return passage from Southampton to Cherbourg.

The idea came about after the veterans had been given a warm



Ida – soldiers' favourite

TRIBUTES to Ida Lupino, who died in August aged 81, rightly praised her achievements as a film actress and director, but to the British Army in 1945 she had another claim to fame. This London-born star was *Soldier*'s first pin-up. Wearing a figure-hugging jumper, hotpants and fishnet stockings, she took up almost half a page in the launch issue of March 19, 1945. The daughter of Cockney stage and film comedian Stanley Lupino and his wife, actress Connie Emerald, one of her greatest screen successes was in Humphrey Bogart's *High Sierra* in 1941.

MILITARIA

Granby War Studies: Autumn term starts September 12 (enrolment before September 4), with the emphasis on lesser-known wars between 1833 and 1965. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings at the Granby Community Centre, Ainsty Road, Harrogate. Details from Brian Jewell, 30 Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AG (tel 01423 500704).

Your Naafi memories

ALL serving and retired Service personnel have their own opinions and recollections of life with the Naafi. Whatever they may be, the institution is part of military history and has earned a special place in folk memory.

The acronym has long since been absorbed into the military

vocabulary in such terms as "Naafi break".

Now is the chance to air those Naafi stories. Next year the organisation celebrates its 75th anniversary and a book is being commissioned to mark the occasion.

Editor Don Bridge wants personal anecdotes, humorous or poignant, from serving and ex-Service people.

Contributions have already been received from showbiz, sports and political personalities.

Soldier readers may send their memories to Naafi 75th Anniversary Book, Army Quarterly and Defence Journal, 1 West Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8DS.

Headstone for a VC

MORE THAN 100 years after Victoria Cross winner Pte John Divane was buried in an unmarked grave, former members of the King's Royal Rifle Corps gathered in Cornwall to witness



Picture: John Redman

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, the senior King's Royal Rifleman, lays a wreath at the newly-marked grave of Pte John Divane VC

the placing of a headstone over the gallant soldier's remains.

Divane's was one of seven VCs awarded to members of 1 KRRC who took part in an assault at Delhi in 1857 to capture the last remaining battery of mutineers' guns outside the city walls.

He lost a leg and was discharged, becoming a fish hawker in Penzance before dying in poverty in 1888.

Retired headmaster Ted Lever, of St Ives, Cornwall, researched local records to pinpoint the pauper's grave, and the senior King's Royal Rifleman, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, unveiled the headstone on behalf of the regimental association, who met the cost of the memorial.

DIARY

Until the autumn: *Soldier* 50th anniversary exhibition, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea. Admission free.

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Berwick Military Tattoo in aid of SSAFA.

4: Royal Signals 75th anniversary fair, Bergen-Hohne, Germany.

7-10: Disabled Ex-Services Invitation World Games, Gateshead Stadium.

17: Winchester and District Militaria Society fair and exhibition, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500 hours.

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

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: S M A Lee – To MoD, July 31.

Colonels: J C Longfield – To be Comdt RSA, July 31; T G Scriven – To be PM HQ Land, July 31; K M Tutt – To MoD, July 31.

Lt Cols: N R F Aylwin-Foster RTR – To be CO 2RTR, August 1; A B Barton RLC – To HQ ARRC, August 1; M W Burdick RA – To Brit Appts (USA), August 4; L S Burr RLC – To SHAPE Staff

(BAE), July 31; N A Clissitt RA – To be CO 39 Regt RA, August 1; R C Goodall RRW – To MoD, July 31; P H Gullan Para – To be MA Oslo, August 1; M N Pountain RA – To SHAPE (BAE), July 31; D J Wake PWRR – To BDS Washington, August 4.

Retirements

Colonel: C B Hughes, late Int Corps, August 1.



Called up: Veterans from the 59th Staffordshire Division in front of the British phone box in Epron, France

WE STAND CORRECTED!



ALTHOUGH our use of the Staffords' collar badge in place of the capbadge was pointed out by a correspondent (Letters, August 7), we felt we could not ignore a note from the regimental sergeant major himself. WO1 (RSM) N P Whitehouse, RSM of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, currently serving in Northern Ireland, sent us a copy of the capbadge (pictured), a simple Knot with its Holland back- ing and surmounted by the Prince of Wales's plumes and incorporating a coronet and motto. The collar badge is widely employed on regimental notepaper and barrack signs.

welcome when they returned to Epron last year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

After handing over the first kiosk and a commemorative plaque, and enjoying the hospitality of the people of Epron, the old soldiers travelled on to Bayeux Memorial Museum to present the second striking red kiosk.

With an estimated 100,000 anglophone visitors to the museum, it promises to prove a great attraction.

REUNIONS

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association: Annual reunion at Defence Animal Centre on September 3. Details from RHQ RAVC, DAC, Melton Mowbray LE13 0SL (tel 01664 411811).

Air Despatch: 11th annual Air Despatch reunion takes place at AMC, 29 Regiment RLC, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester, on September 30. Ticket only. Details: Secretary, Air Despatch Association, 23 Calne Road, Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts (tel 01249 890412).

Association of Artificers RA: 49th post-war reunion will be held at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on October 21. Details: W E Woods, 49 Marlborough View Cove, Farnborough, Hants GU14 9YA (tel 01252 512065).

5 Kings/2 T Force OCA: Annual meeting October 23-26. Details: Secretary R Walker, 15 Wedgwood Road, Barlaston Park, Stoke on Trent ST12 9BB.

Christmas Island reunion: Reunion planned October 27-30 for members of all three Services who took part in British nuclear tests in the 1950s. Details and

SEARCHLINE

Sniping: Author researching book would like to hear from British Servicemen who have been involved in sniping (including being sniped at) from Second World War to the present. Contact Adrian Gilbert, 71 Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4AQ (tel 01442 67186).

Ex-members of 105 Provost Company RMP (Austria): Interested in a reunion are asked to contact Bill Taylor on 01252 524826 or 01252 548693.

19 Air Formation Signals Regiment: formed Kirkburton 1944, disbanded Singapore 1971, is holding its third reunion in London, September 14. Contact Mr A W Fordyce, 10 Woodstock Place, Edinburgh EH16 6BE.

Charlie Ball: of 37-8471 Ryan Road, Richmond BC, V7A 2E8, Canada, formerly a motor cycle squad police sergeant in Vancouver, wishes to contact personnel involved with Knight-class RFAs unloading equipment for **Suffield, Canada**, in the late 60s-early 70s, particularly CSM Frank Swift and his wife, Judy, and a young RE officer (name not recalled) heading for Pitcairn Island as OC a wharf-building project.

Ray Attfield wishes to hear from anyone who served in **Sgt Bedford's** squad, **Coldstream Guards** Depot, Caterham 1948-49; 3 Bn, Windsor 1949-50; bookings on 01934 622548.

The Cheshire Regiment Association: Birkenhead and District Branch annual social will be held at the Royal British Legion Club, Hesketh Hall, Port Sunlight, on November 10. Details from Bill York, 60 The Channel, Burbo Way, Wallasey (tel 0151-630 2917).

Cyprus Services Rambling Club: celebrates its 25th anniversary in November. Details for former members wishing to attend from Phlyn Simpson, EEF, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 57 (tel 010 357 5 27 6611). 1996

Coldstream Guards No 4 Company: Fourth annual reunion dinner takes place in Birmingham on April 13, 1996. Anyone who served in the 3rd Battalion between 1950-55 is welcome. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

Royal Tank Regiment: Ex-WOs of the regiment interested in a reunion in Meriden, near Birmingham on a date to be decided in 1996, please contact J "Charlie" Welchman, 29 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4EE (tel 01929 553466).

Tripoli, Tel-el-Kebir, Fayid, HQ 1st Gds Bde 1950-53: Replies to 32 Chetwode Place, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4BS.

Derek C Scholfield: Secretary, RA Association, Exeter Branch, wishes to hear from anyone who made a video or sound recording of the Massed Bands which Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade in June in the presence of Prince Michael of Kent. Replies to 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AH (tel 01392 58267).

Anyone who served with **5 Kings/2 T Force** in north west Europe 1944-48 is asked to contact K V G Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP (tel 01692 651086).

Carole Foley (née Hazelgrove) would like to hear from "survivors" of **No 2 Platoon, No 1 Trg Coy, WRAC Training Centre, Guildford**, April-May 1980 and members of **8 Squad, Trg Bn and Depot ACC, St Omer Barracks, May-October 1980**. Replies to 10 Bankside, Chatham, Kent ME5 0BY.

Calling photographic interpreter-imagery analysts: If you qualified as a Phil/IA, why not join the Medmenham Club and keep in contact with colleagues and friends? The club celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. Details on 01480 860755 (evenings).

SAVO Milosevic, Ruud Gullit, Andrea Silenzi... Not, until comparatively recently, the most obvious names one would have associated with British football clubs. But they were among the players signed

(for Aston Villa, Chelsea and Nottingham Forest respectively) during the summer, before the first ball of the new season was kicked in earnest.

A contrast to 1945, when the likes of 19-year-old Nat Lofthouse of

Bolton Wanderers, according to *Soldier* sports writer Sgt Paul Irwin, was a player one "would be hearing a lot more about", and a young former Royal Armoured Corps and 9th Lancers trooper by the name of Tom(my) Finney

was already being described as successor to Stanley Matthews.

In September of that year, Paul Irwin previewed the pick of the players football managers had their eyes on as a semblance of normal life returned to Britain.

Sign(ing)s of the times

ALTHOUGH apostles of gloom were saying few new football stars had come out of the war, he wrote, big-time clubs were bargaining in the transfer market – even though the first peacetime season in six years was only a week old.

With League managers ready to write out cheques for young players who had matured during the war years, it was pretty obvious that the latest crop of performers couldn't be too bad, said Irwin.

"Investigations show a promising lot of up-and-coming performers. Given the chance, they'll develop into top-class players in the boom seasons which are certain to follow the war's end.

"Look at some of them. Straightway I think of John Harris, the tousle-headed Scot who captained Chelsea when they won the League South Cup last April. Here's a good 'un, to be sure. He is on the books of Wolverhampton Wanderers. A ready-made deputy for Stan Cullis, if it weren't for the fact manager Ted Vizard thinks he has one just as good in Angus McLean.

"Now Harris plays in the Cullis manner. He is sound in defence, isn't afraid to come upfield to set his forwards going with long, shrewd through-passes, and is among the best when the ball is in the air. The same goes for McLean.

"So the Wolves have three more than useful centre half-backs at their command. What will the club do? My bet is that they'll agree to let John Harris leave Molyneux - at the right price."

(Irwin's hunch proved correct: Chelsea later purchased Harris from Wolverhampton for £5,000).

"Harry Hibbs, now the soccer boss at Walsall, has the most recent tenant of the England goalkeeping position on his books. The boy's name is Bert Williams," Paul Irwin wrote.

"I saw Williams in action against France and was impressed by his clean handling and lengthy left-foot kicking. A grand prospect, yet Harry Hibbs is ready to sell



Chisholm of Spurs (centre), one of Paul Irwin's tips (seen playing in a League South match) was a candidate for the England team. Below – John Harris before Chelsea transfer



him away to another club. The 'reserve' price is fixed at £5,000.

"You see, the Walsall manager believes he has another 'keeper just as good as Williams in Harold Hinks, whom he discovered with a Castle Bromwich works team."

Harry Kinsell, the West Bromwich Albion left-back, had come along to give George Hardwick, the Middlesbrough defender, a run for his England position, said Irwin.

An Army representative match had thrust Kinsell before the FA selectors, who had given him his chance on a recent Swiss tour. He took it like a seasoned performer.

"Other fine full-backs around and about are Stephen, the Bradford professional, regarded as Scotland's answer to Stanley Matthews, and McPhee, a Falkirk lad who has been guesting for Lovell's Athletic."

Chisholm (Spurs), Franklin (Stoke City), Brown (Huddersfield), Willie Corbett (Celtic), Thyne (Darlington), Hamlett (Bolton) and Harry Johnston (Blackpool) were among the half-backs Irwin tipped.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to take over the job which Cullis had done so brilliantly until his Army posting in Italy, the selectors had tried Flewin (Portsmouth), Bernard Joy (Arsenal) and Franklin. "None quite filled the bill, which isn't really surprising. There's only one Cullis; no youngster should be judged by that standard".

Among the wing half-backs, Blackpool had a sound proposition in Harry Johnston, Irwin stated.

"Forward, I can give you Shackleton (Bradford), Stanley Mortensen (Blackpool), Maurice Edelston (Reading), Tommy Woodward and Lofthouse (Bolton) and Bill Rees (Cardiff City).

Bill Rees, a Bevin Boy whom manager Cyril Spears was grooming for stardom, had been given his chance against England by the Welsh selectors the previous season. A "severe test", but Rees had shaken Franklin and Co. via his tearaway tactics.

"So it goes," Paul Irwin's article concluded. "Mark down the names I have given for future watching. There are others. All of them will show that the wartime soccer crop isn't so poor as some would have it – not by a long way."

It would seem that 50 years ago, footballing talent was being sought out and signed just as eagerly as today.

The main difference, apart from the exotic names of their nineties counterparts, is that their transfer fees were nearer to four figures than seven . . .

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU? COMPETITION 619

These pictures are from our Frank Finch cartoon archives. Find ten differences in detail and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Circle the differences in the right-hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 619, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by September 22. Do not include any-

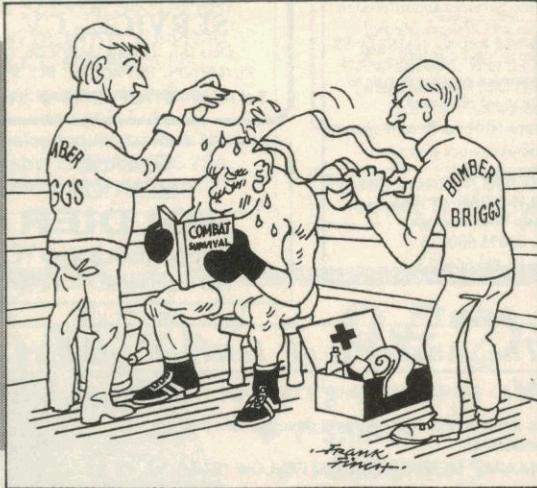
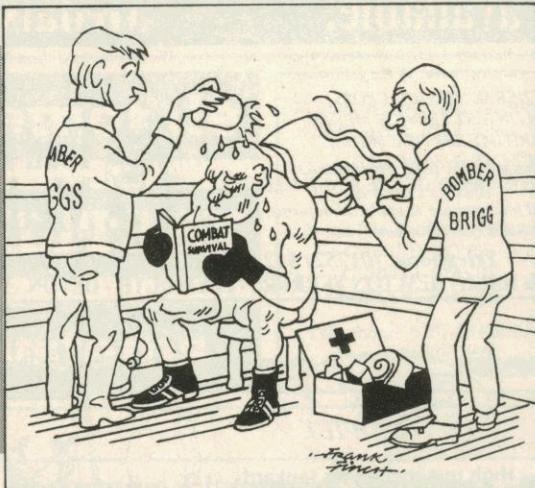
thing else in your envelope. More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted. The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up (awarded book prizes) will be announced in the October 16 issue.

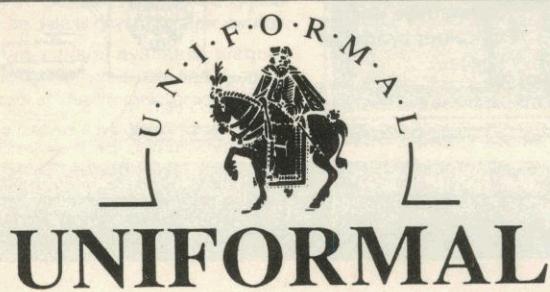
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Competition No 616 (July 24 issue): Congratulations to Mr C Diamond, of London SE3, who wins £50. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr B Burden, of Bordon, Hants, and Mrs J M Giles, of Basingstoke, Hants.



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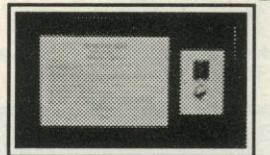
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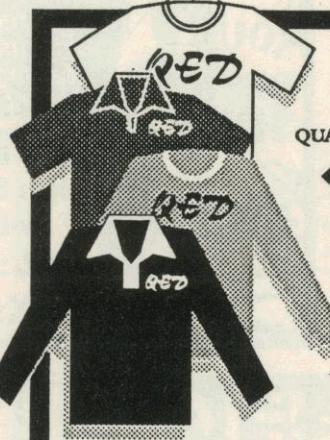
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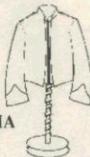
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Katherine, 28, 5'4", medium build with blue eyes and brown hair. Interests include going to the cinema, reading, horse riding, swimming and eating out. I live in South Wales and work as a Buyer for a large company. P473

18/95

Female, aged 35, tall with dark hair and green eyes. I enjoy socialising, keep fit, music, films and eating out. I would like to hear from tall, kind hearted soldiers from anywhere. Must like children. Photo appreciated. P474

18/95

Anna, 29, 5'4", redhead. I am a single mum, and am training to be a Beauty Therapist. I enjoy good company, Motown, walking, and cycling. I am looking for pen pals aged 30 to 40. Photo appreciated. P475

18/95

Rosie, 26, a student nurse living in Portsmouth. I would like pen pals aged 25 to 30 with gsoh who enjoy films, music, going out, and having a good time. I promise to reply to all letters so get writing! P476

18/95

Carol, 31, 5'3". Holding out for a hero. Are you the one? If you are 25+ and would like regular correspondence with a fun-loving gal write now! All letters answered. P477

18/95

Female, 27, looking to write to someone on a friendship basis only. I have many interests and like to have lots of fun. So if you're of similar age put pen to paper, I'd love to hear from you. P478

18/95

Single female seeks short, chunky single soldier to write long letters to. Must have extremely good sense of humour! All letters answered, photo appreciated. P479

18/95

Cathy, 22, 5'6", gsoh. Brown eyes, long fair hair. I like music, football, cinema, writing letters, reading, animals and pubs, and would like to hear from sincere unattached pen pals aged 22 to 30. Photo appreciated. P480

18/95

Karen, 27, divorced with one son. Long summer nights with nothing to do, so if you're lonely write to me and let's see what happens. Photo please. P481

18/95

Carole, 48, 5'6". Slim brunette, non-smoker. Independent and genuine, with a lively personality. I enjoy hiking, music, Sci-fi, football and good food. I would like to hear from sincere non-smokers aged 45+. Photo appreciated. P482

18/95

Catherine, 23, 5'4", Single with green blue eyes and light brown hair. My interests include good music, good food and late nights! I would like to hear from any singles aged 20 to 35. P483

18/95

Monica, 27, single. Seeks male pen pals aged 27+. Interests include working, reading, writing, most sports. Find out more in next letter. P484

18/95

Gill, 28, 5'2". Blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys socialising, going to the cinema, letter writing and competitions. I am a professional person with own home and car, and am looking for pen pals aged 25 to 40. P485

18/95

Jayne, 31, 5'2" with medium brown hair and green eyes. Interests include reading, step workout, socialising, all kinds of music, and travel. I have a gsoh, and am looking for pen pals aged 26 to 35. Photo appreciated. P486

18/95

Jacqueline, 28, 5'6". Attractive with long dark hair and green eyes. I have a good sense of humour and enjoy music, sport, pubs and clubs. Would like pen pals aged 25 plus. P487

18/95

Divorcée, 33, seeks male pen pal. Likes music, dancing, cinema, and reading. Would like to hear from genuine correspondent with good sense of humour and similar interests. Photo appreciated. All letters answered. P488

18/95

Joanne and Ann-Marie, both aged 27 are looking to write to two guys that are friends. We both like the good things in life: eating out, travel, and generally having a good time. So drop us a line. P489

18/95

Carol, 35, 5'2" with blonde hair and gsoh. Would like to hear from anyone aged 34+. Photo appreciated but not essential. Please write to P490

18/95

Julie, 38, bubbly, attractive, caring with gsoh. Interests include socialising, writing and receiving letters, going to the movies, watching videos and travelling. All letters answered. P491

18/95

Amy, 24, 5'2" with brown hair and brown eyes. I love music, cars, aerobics and going on holiday. I would like to hear from dark haired soldiers aged 25. P492

18/95

Pretty, slim, friendly female, 30's, 5'4", single with long hair. Enjoys travelling, cinema and swimming. Own home and car, teenage/older children. I would like to hear from divorced or single soldiers aged 34 to 49. P493

18/95

Tammy, young looking 28-year-old, brown eyes and brown hair. I am a single mum with a 3½-year-old daughter, and a nine month old dog. Interests include horses and going to pubs. P494

18/95

Wacky "thirty something" redhead with grey eyes, gsoh and occasional bouts of normality would like to exchange letters with a tall, fit serviceman with a chatting and caring personality. P495

18/95

Mature, free and single, 46, slim, bodywork in good condition. Honest, outgoing and gsoh. Interests include: driving, music, travelling, dancing, horse riding, nature and animals. Would like to correspond with servicemen any age. P496

18/95

Carol, 35, 5'4", attractive with brown hair and green/grey eyes. Slim. Interests: Reading thriller/science fiction novels, music, cooking, aerobics, gardening and art. P497

18/95

Tricia, late 30's, 5'10", slim brunette. Career girl. Interests include all sports, socialising, eating and clubbing. Seeks pen pals in late 30's early 40's. P498

18/95

Janet, 31. Large lady with a big heart looking to correspond with soldiers of similar age. I have a friendly personality, a good sense of humour and enjoy watching most sports. P499

18/95

Books

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18-23

Military History Books. SAE for catalogue. Purchase of books in good condition on land warfare. Free specialist booksearch. John McKenzie, Carpenters, Cary Road, North Cadbury, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7DE. Tel: 01963 440557.

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D8

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13-21

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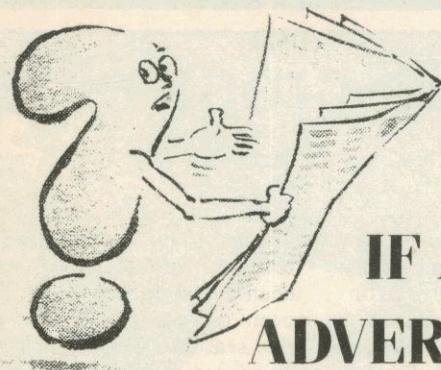
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Fourth (515 runs, £500) SSgt M R Falconer, BFPO 825.

Fifth (510 runs, £400) Sgt M P Hibbs, 1 RRW, BFPO 802.

Sixth (504 runs, £300) SSgt W Burke, 2 CS Regt RLC, BFPO 47.

Seventh (501 runs, £200) Lt Col T J Checketts, HQ ARRC, BFPO 40.

Eighth (497 runs, £100) SSgt K Baxter, 237 Sig Sqn, Chippenham.

AUGUST 12, 1995

First (489 runs, £2,500) Maj C M Evans, HQ REME TA, Bordon.

Second (453 runs, £1,250) LCpl M J Monks, 1 Coldm Gds, BFPO 17.

Third (452 runs, £750) Maj P Regan, MoD A Man S, W Byfleet.

Fourth (450 runs, £500) LCpl M J Lang, 1 SG Windsor.

Fifth (435 runs, £400) Pte B S Dickson, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot.

Sixth (432 runs, £300) Maj I D Fisk, 6 LI (V), Bath.

Seventh (423 runs, £200) Cpl I P Bowerman, 3 BAD RLC, BFPO 40.

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D3

Aldershot soldier joins cyclo-cross élite

WHILE most people are content just to ride a bicycle, Aldershot-based Army cyclist Cpl Pete Rice (see front cover) is not averse to slinging his over a shoulder while running along muddy paths, jumping water-filled ditches and climbing slippery banks.

All in the cause of his gruelling sport...

Since taking up cyclo-cross in 1988, Rice, 30, currently serving at the Army School of

Physical Training, has become one of the country's top ten cyclo-cross competitors.

A PTI in the Irish Guards, he makes full use of any difficult terrain in local training areas.

"Races normally take place over a mile-long circuit through parks or woodland", he said. "Despite the conditions, riders try to stay on their bikes as long as possible to conserve energy, but there are

times when competitors have to dismount and carry their bikes across the obstacles."

Rice is also captain of this year's Army road racing team, a discipline of the sport run on open roads or closed circuits.

He has earned enough points to be classified as a "first category" rider and is now in Holland for three weeks, taking part in city centre cycle races (kermesses) to build up his speed and stamina for the cyclo-cross season.

His aim is to be selected by Great Britain for the forthcoming world cyclo-cross championships. Cpl Rice has been invited to take part in this season's World Cup circuit, open only to top professional riders and a few talented amateurs.

His ambition is to finish in the top 15 in the world championships.

Jones puts airmen on a winning wicket

PT INSTRUCTOR Adrian Jones from RAF Locking scored 78 against the Army and 94 against the Royal Navy to lead the Royal Air Force to a fourth consecutive Inter-Services cricket title.

The Army were always going to be stretched against the strong RAF side at sun-baked Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, and were restricted early in their 55-over innings by fast and accurate bowling.

Two incidents changed the course of the match. First, LCpl Martyn Hutton (RDG), elevated in the order, had scored 26 off 32 balls when he was forced to leave the field with blurred vision which turned out to be a severe migraine.

Then the in-form Lt Chris St George (Coldm Gds) was run out by a superlative piece of fielding by John Riddell, who hit the stumps direct from the boundary.

Runs were a struggle after that and the Army's 201 was not a demanding target.

But the Army bowlers made the RAF fight hard and Capt Peter Germain (RMCS) pulled off a superb one-handed

Sgt Neil Cresswell (front) of 1 WFR and Capt Paul Hepworth RLC (HQ QMG), representing Land Command (UK), on their way to the double at the Army canoe slalom championships over the artificial course at Hildesheim in Germany.

Having won the Canadian doubles at the Land

Command championships in Wales earlier in the summer, they went on to dominate UKSC(G) opposition on the technically demanding man-made slalom course at Hildesheim.

with 11 overs remaining.

Royal Navy 164 (Matthews 2-12, Cornhill 2-20, St George 3-19, Cotterill 1-22). Army 166-5 (Greatorex 63, Palmer 49). Army won by 5 wickets.

The airmen made sure of retaining the championship when they scored 273-7 against the Navy although the seamen came back strongly from a hopeless position to end just 20 runs adrift. Jones's 94 earned him the man of the festival nomination.

An abysmal performance by the Army led to an eight-wicket thrashing by MCC Young Cricketers at Shenley Park. Bowled out for 117 after electing to bat on a scorching day, the Army could do nothing to stop the lads knocking off the runs in just 19 overs.

Combined Services scored an extraordinary three-wicket win over a very strong MCC side at US Portsmouth.

Having contained the visi-

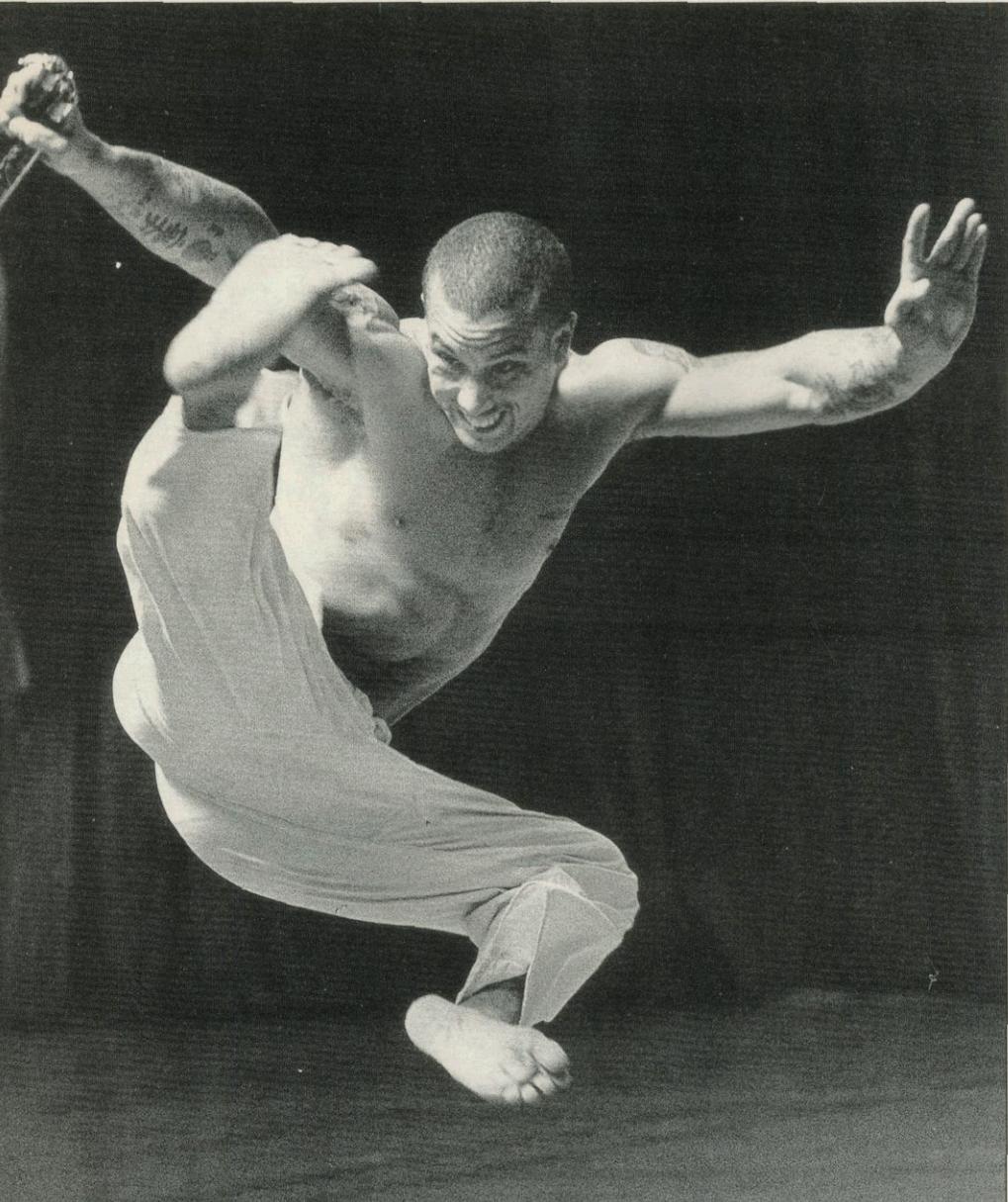
tors to 218-6, the Services defied a quick, hostile MCC attack, Nick Palmer producing an authoritative and powerful innings of 106.

St George scored 24 in a superb finale to the season and a fitting farewell to skipper Richard Greatorex who leaves the Army in March.

• A week earlier the Combined Services lost by four wickets to the Civil Service at Aldershot.

Greatorex produced his best innings of the season to score 92, Palmer made 41 and St George 43. Only Steve Cornhill (3-39) was really on target when Services bowled, and a succession of extras helped CS on their way. They needed a single off the final ball – and got it.

• A thunderstorm curtailed the Combined Services v NAYC match at Aldershot after St George had scored an excellent 102.



Picture: Mike Perring

LCpl John Miller gives a dramatic display of the art of kung-fu during a demonstration of sports put on at a passing out parade at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot

York soldiers swim to victory

York-based distance swimmers (from left to right) WO Danny Bryan, Lt Helen Tyrner, Maj Colin Morgan and Capt Ken Lonergan take a break from early morning training at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire.

Representing the Army and 15 (NE) Brigade, they were among six soldiers serving at York who braved the icy waters of Lake Bala in Wales and took home four first prizes in the Inter-Service long distance swimming championships.

Morgan (HQ 15 (NE) Bde) won both the Inter-Service and Inter-Unit breaststroke and freestyle events while Turner (2 Sig Regt) took the Inter-Unit women's freestyle.

Maj Ru Watkins (HQ 15 (NE) Bde) was second in both Inter-Service and Inter-Unit freestyle events.

Also in the team was Maj Nick Hubberstey (HQ 2 Div).



Picture: Chris Barker

KELLY WINS SILVER

SGT Kelly Holmes returned from the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, with silver and bronze medals.

The world-class Army athlete became the first British woman to win medals at both 800m and 1,500m in the same competition at this level since Ann Packer in 1964.

Holmes was pipped for the gold in the 1,500m by Algerian Hassiba Boulmerka, and went on to take a brave third place in the 800m in which she smashed the British record with a run of 1min 56.95sec.

Queen's silverware

QUEEN'S University Officers' Training Corps has won the Queen's Challenge Cup, the annual award for sport in the Territorial Army.

Points gained in a range of sports at district, national and representative levels throughout the year count towards the trophy.

Sports include football, rugby, hockey, squash, tennis, badminton, volleyball, basketball, orienteering, cross country, skiing, shooting and golf.

The magnificent Challenge Cup, presented originally by King George VI in 1939, was handed over to the OTC by Lt Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, GOC Northern Ireland, during their annual camp at Barry Buddon.

QLR in league of their own ...

LEIGH Rugby League Football team are a little wiser, and a lot fitter, after a weekend of "beasting" by WO2 Steve Tranter and a team of trainers at Tidworth-based 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

The tough league squad was put through a stamina and character-testing programme of fitness and endurance tests, including an assault course, boxing, log race, two-man tug of war and gymnasium work.



Picture: Mike Weston

Whiteside sets the standard

FORMER Olympic modern pentathlete SSgt Peter Whiteside (pictured left) is fast becoming the best triathlete in the country in his age group.

In his first season in the 40-44 division he finished second in the national championships at Windsor, a result that earned him his place in the British team to compete in the

world championships scheduled for Mexico in November.

Whiteside (REME), who works at the Army Modern Pentathlon Centre of Excellence at Arborfield, was the first veteran in this year's Army sprint and Olympic distance championships, and first in the Inter-Service Olympic distance event.

His 19th overall at the Inter-Services helped the Army to regain the trophy won by the Royal Navy last year.

A member of the British modern pentathlon team at the 1980 Olympics, Whiteside is looking for sponsorship to help him compete and train for competition at the highest level of his sport.

Advantage Watts

MAJ Nigel Watts took advantage of the injury-enforced absence of 1994 champion and top seed Spr David Ingham to reclaim the Army tennis title he relinquished last year.

In the men's open singles final, Watts, nine times the champion, beat Maj Alan Butterfield 6-4, 6-4 after his opponent had taken the lead in the early stages of both sets.

The 75th championship was staged in glorious weather at the former Royal Aldershot Officers' Club, although a torrential thunderstorm forced play briefly on the second day into the Army Tennis Centre.

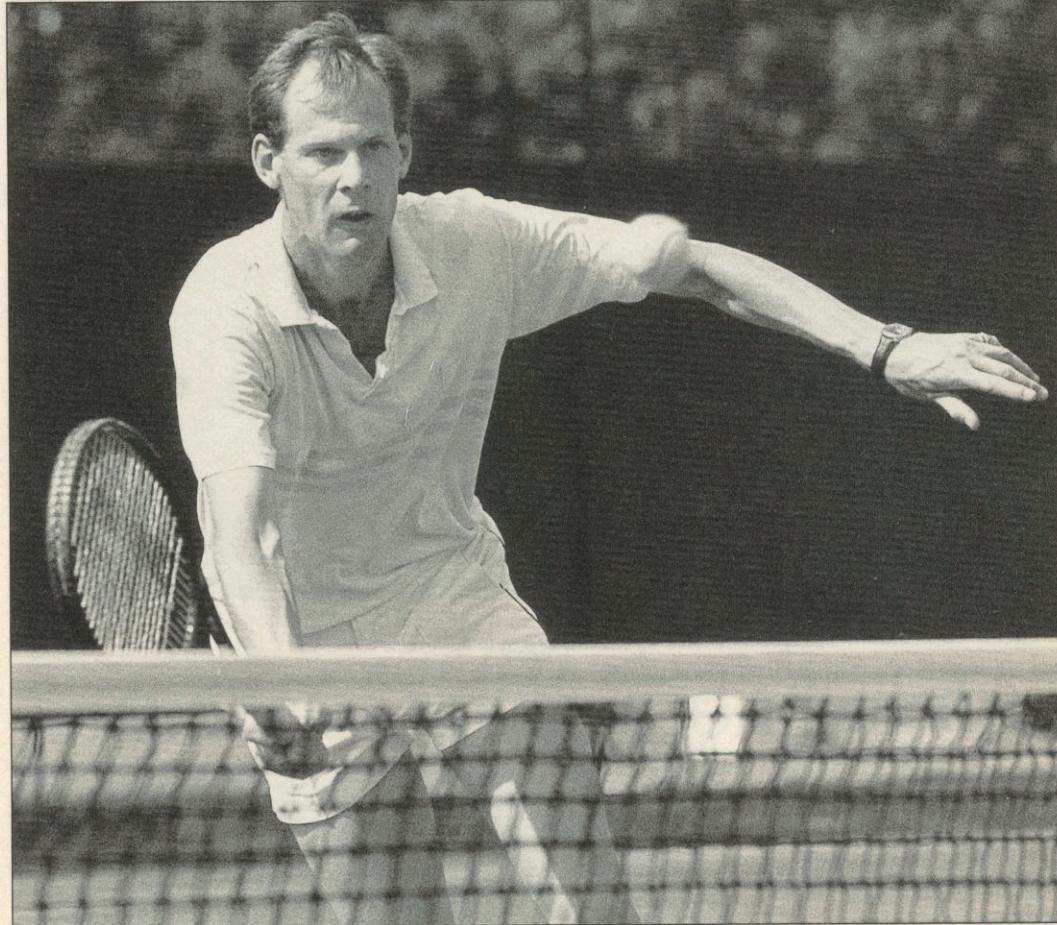
In the absence of Ingham, Watts successfully defended the open doubles title through a hastily forged partnership with Lt Col Andy Westcott. They beat Lt Ralph Hollah and Sgt Eric Simpson 7-6, 6-4 in a tense match.

But the formidable AAC partnership of Watts and Capt Bill Herlihy met their match in the Inter-Arms and Corps doubles, Butterfield and WO1 Steve James of the AGC lifting the trophy after a highly charged 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory.

In the well supported mixed doubles, Butterfield teamed up with Maj Kirsty Richards for their third consecutive championship victory, by 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 over James and Cpl Helen McChlery.

Lcpl Clare Whitney underlined what a force in the game she is by retaining the women's singles title. In the final she fought off the challenge of Capt Lorna Wood (née Hambley), a previous champion, 6-3, 6-3.

Sgt Heather McNair and Sig Suzanne Steele beat Richards and Wood 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 in the



Maj Nigel Watts on his way to yet another Army tennis championship

play-off for the women's doubles title, run as a round-robin because of the low number of entries.

The women's plate competition produced a marathon tussle between Capt Sue Greenwood and Sgt Stapley, the former winning 7-6, 6-7, 7-9 in a match that lasted 15 minutes short of five hours.

A well-supported veterans' tournament (it attracted Maj Roger Morse from Kathmandu) was won by Maj Clyde Aylin for the second year. He

defeated Mr Paul Weaver 6-1, 6-1 in the final. But Brig Barry Reeves retained the veterans' handicap final 6-2, 6-2 in an absorbing final against Aylin.

Reeves and Lt Col David Hughes were too strong for Col Brian Hopkin and Weaver in the veterans' open doubles, winning 6-4, 7-6.

At the prize-giving ceremony, ALTA President Gen Sir Charles Guthrie reported a very healthy Junior Army entry from Princess Marina College, Arborfield and the Apprentices

Wing of RSME, Minley. Particularly encouraging was the return of junior women to the championships.

AT Burton (Arborfield) won the junior singles, beating fellow apprentice AT Dunstone 7-5, 6-4 in the final. Dunstone and AT LCpl Butcher also lifted the junior Inter-Unit doubles for PMC. AT LCpl McKenzie was too strong for the opposition in the round-robin competition for the junior women's singles, winning all her six rubbers.

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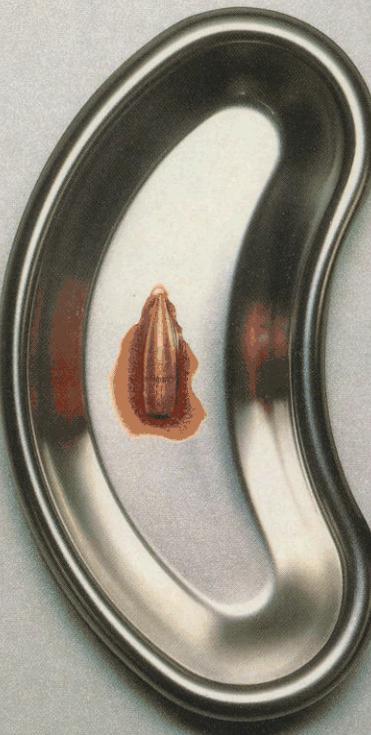
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The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment

The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment was formed by amalgamation of The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) on April 27, 1994. The capbadge, backed by a Brandywine flash, consists of a silver cross patee, charged with a gold sphinx couchant upon a pedestal inscribed Egypt. The flash marks

a defiant gesture of the 49th in dyeing their hackles when American revolutionaries swore to kill them after a daring bayonet attack. The unique Glosers' honour of a back capbadge is retained, consisting of sphinx on a pedestal inscribed Egypt within a laurel wreath. The regimental quick march is *The Sphinx and the Dragon*. The Glosers were raised as Gibson's Foot in 1694. In 1881 the regiment linked up with the 61st to form The Gloucestershire Regiment. The regiment's Sphinx badge derived from an incident in which the 28th fought back to back against the French at Alexandria in 1801. This affair was commemorated by a small badge on the back of the beret. The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment was formed in 1959 from The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's). Shared battle honours include Louisburg, Somme 1916, and Baghdad.



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The British Army Magazine



The Gloucestershire Regiment



The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire)

The Royal Irish Regiment

27th (Inniskilling), 83rd, 87th and The Ulster Defence Regiment

The Royal Irish Regiment was formed by the amalgamation of The Royal Irish Rangers and The Ulster Defence Regiment on July 1, 1992. The regiment's uniform reflects the traditions of its four former regiments. The green hackle was the traditional plume colour of The Royal Irish Fusiliers; the castle collar badges are the original badge of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; the black buttons represent the connection with The Royal Ulster Rifles; and the harp and crown badge was worn by The Ulster Defence Regiment. The capbadge of this, the British Army's largest infantry regiment, is an Irish Harp and Crown surrounded by a wreath of shamrock with the regimental title inscribed. The regimental quick march is *The Regimental March of The Royal Irish Regiment, Killaloe*. The Royal Irish Rangers were formed on July 1, 1968, when the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Royal Ulster Rifles and Royal Irish Fusiliers amalgamated. The Rangers could trace their antecedents back to the raising of Col Tiffin's

Inniskilling Regiment at Enniskillen Castle in 1689. The Ulster Defence Regiment formed on April 1, 1970, tasked with the role of "protecting the border and the State against sabotage and armed attack". The UDR earned more than 1,000 honours and awards during its 22-year history.

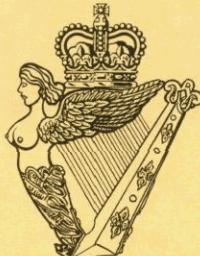


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The Royal Irish Rangers



The Ulster Defence Regiment